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## Preface

According to reports and researches by international migration organization, the process of migration is significantly speeded up in the entire world and specifically, citizens of a lot of countries tries to go to the European countries. A large part of these migrants is consisted of Afghans. Considering the report of UNHCR, fleeing of Afghans afraid of extension of war in the country has significantly increased, and Afghans want to reach to European countries through every possible mean.

Extension of war and the rise in unemployment are the reasons that make Afghans to go to Europe enduring hard conditions and accepting incredible risks during their journey. Besides that, some agreements on Afghan refugees residents in Iran and Pakistan are made with authorities of these countries, but, a large number of Afghan refugees are being made to leave Iran and Pakistan; however, the refugees face a lot of problems after they return to Afghanistan. You are going to read about the reasons behind migration of Afghans to Europe and their numbers that are increasing day by day. Also, you will read about the situation of Afghan migrants in the world in this issue of Weekly Analysis.

In the second part of the Analysis, you will read about the returning of American and British Special Forces into Afghanistan and reinitiating the 'night raids' and intractable operations. As the combat mission of NATO forces have officially been ended, however, from several months, they are conducting operations and killing and arresting people in different parts of the country benefiting the name of Daesh (ISIS). According to the reports, a number of British Fresh Special Forces are back in Afghanistan in order to participate in the military operations, however, the government of Afghanistan has not expressed any reaction yet.

These are the issues which will be discussed in details in this issue of weekly analysis.

## The Migration Crisis and the Situation of Afghan Migrants in the World



According to a research conducted by EU, the numbers of migrants at the EU's borders have reached a record high of 107,500 in July, 2015.<sup>1</sup> For the first time, the number of illegal migrants has surpassed the 100,000 mark in a single month. According to this research, Afghans are the third highest source of immigration to Europe. The 2015 *Trafficking in Persons Report* released by the US State of Department considered the condition of these migrants “very bad” and it considered Afghanistan among those countries whose governments do not fully comply with minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so.<sup>2</sup>

The series of migration is increased in the world at all, and most of the migrants are migrating from Asia, Middle East and Africa to Europe. We would discuss about the factors behind the International Migration and the situation of Afghan migrants in the world here.

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<sup>1</sup> See online:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/08/record-influx-migrants-europe-mediterranean-eu-150819022218296.html>

<sup>2</sup> see online:

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/245365.pdf>

## Factors behind the surge Immigration into Europe

The series of migration toward Europe is intensified; the immigration routes to Europe are including Eastern, Western and Central Mediterranean and Balkans. There are two reasons behind the increasing migration: Push and Pull factors.

Push factors are those that force the individual to move involuntary, and in many cases, they are forced because the individual risk something if they stay. Push factors may include civil war, dictator regimes, political intolerance, disobedience of human rights norms, various diseases and etc.

On the other side, pull factors can be named as economic, security, political and etc.; however, here are the reasons why migrants from Middle East, Africa and Asia flew into Europe:

- **Syria's Civil War:** The civil war of Syria which started in 2011, made Syrian nation as the most migrated nation in the world by 2014.<sup>3</sup> It has more than 4 million immigrants. 66698 people fled into Europe through sea in 2014. Syrian people were on the top among the illegal immigrants to Europe in the first six months of 2015.
- **Iraq's Civil War and ISIS Group:** After the withdrawal of Americans from Iraq, Civil War was erupted in this country and is going on and so some people flew to Europe. After ISIS's emergence in Iraq, a large number of Yazidi people flew to Europe from this country. There is not a concrete record of how many Yazidis flew to Europe after ISIS took power in Iraq; However, Turkey opened its borders to Yazidis in September of 2014 and there are now about 30 thousands Yazidi refugees in Turkey; perhaps, a number of them might gone to Europe through turkish illegal human trafficking routes.
- **Afghanistan:** Insecurity and Unemployment are the main factors which make Afghans to migrate to Europe (the matter of Afghanistan is discussed with details in the upcoming paragraphs)
- **Various Reasons for African Countries:** Last year, 170000 people went to Europe from Africa and about 21000 Africans reached to Europe from the start of 2015 up to April; however, more than 900 of them died from this caravan in Mediterranean Sea. Poverty, tyrant governments and civil wars in African countries are the reasons that make Africans to migrate.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> see online:

<http://1tvnews.af/en/news/afghanistan/17186-syrians-replace-afghans-as-largest-refugee-population>

<sup>4</sup> see online:

## The European Migration Crisis

The series of migration to Europe is turned into a crisis now. Here, the reasons that turned migration into a crisis in Europe are:

**First:** Conflicts occurred between the present migrants and native residents in European countries and hence movements against migrants are established. For example, England's National Party, French's National Front, Sweden's Democrat, Germany's Pegeda and other parties.

**Second:** Start of civil war in the Middle East after Arab Spring, Tyrant governments, diseases and economic problems in some African counties and insecurity in Afghanistan made a lot of international migrants to go to Europe and this number increases as these recently-mentioned factors increase. 100000 migrants entered Europe just in July, 2015 and the German government had earlier forecast that 450,000 asylum seekers could arrive in 2015, but is now set to increase that to 650,000 or higher.<sup>5</sup>

**Third:** Migrants' ships were sunk in Mediterranean Sea and caused 3072 people die in 2014 alone.<sup>6</sup> According to Telegraph, this number is increased by 2000 in ongoing year. Last week, a ship was sunk in the Mediterranean Sea that claimed 49 dead. This situation has turned the series of migrations into a crisis.<sup>7</sup>

**Fourth:** Most of the countries have launched anti-immigrant policies and they, to a large extent, do not accept illegal migrants. For example, Hungary has planted barbed wire alongside its border with Serbia. Besides that, Europe's economic crisis has played its role in this process, also.

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<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-24583286>

<sup>5</sup> see online:

[http://www.bbc.com/pashto/world/2015/08/150818\\_gn\\_germany\\_to\\_expect\\_750000\\_refugees\\_in\\_2015\\_report](http://www.bbc.com/pashto/world/2015/08/150818_gn_germany_to_expect_750000_refugees_in_2015_report)

<sup>6</sup> see online:

<http://www.unhcr.org/print/552e603f9.html>

<sup>7</sup> see online:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/italy/11782584/More-than-2000-migrant-deaths-in-Mediterranean-in-2015-says-monitoring-group.html>

## Reasons for Migration from Afghanistan

If we consider records of the past two years, it would become clear that most of Afghans have migrated to Europe through illegal means. However, it is too hard to learn about the exact number of people which fled from Afghanistan toward Europe; but then, some administrations has conducted surveys, and according to one survey, about 26215 people were asylum seekers in Europe in 2013. This number reached to 41370 in 2014 and by 2015, in which the factors that forces migration has increased, and this would further forces a number of people to leave the country.<sup>8</sup>

The following are the main reasons which have forced Afghans to leave the country:

- 1- Insecurity and War:** If we considers the past 15 years, the war is intensifying every year; however, the war has intensified more than ever in the last one year. A few months ago, after the BSA between Kabul and Washington were signed, a serious of deadly explosions started in Kabul, and now and again, they have been reinitiated after the death announcement of Mullah Mohammad Omar. Moreover, the establishment of the Unity Government caused the war to be extended from Southern provinces to Northern provinces and mysterious emergence of ISIS group, complicated this situation more than ever. According to a survey conducted by UNAMA, about 5000 civilians are killed as a result of various explosions and fighting between January 1 and June of 2015.<sup>9</sup> Insecurity and fighting in four corners of the country and civilians casualties caused by them make a lot of people to migrate.
- 2- Unemployment:** Is another main reason for making people to flee the country. Millions of youth that do not have access to work opportunities, prefer to go to Europe in order to fulfill their economic needs.
- 3- Easy Acceptance Conditions in some European Countries:** This and above-mentioned factors motivate our people to go to Europe. We had interviewed many immigrants in this regard in the past ten days, and as a result, majority of them were eager to go to Germany, Italy and Sweden.
- 4- Economic Problems:** Afghanistan is a poor country and most of its people live under the line of poverty, so its youth in order to fulfill their economic needs prefer to go to the most developed and industrial countries in the world.

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<sup>8</sup> see online:

[http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/File:Countries\\_of\\_origin\\_of\\_\(non-EU\)\\_asylum\\_seekers\\_in\\_the\\_EU-28\\_Member\\_States,\\_2013\\_and\\_2014\\_YB15\\_III.png](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/File:Countries_of_origin_of_(non-EU)_asylum_seekers_in_the_EU-28_Member_States,_2013_and_2014_YB15_III.png)

<sup>9</sup> see online:

<http://www.rt.com/news/311650-afghanistan-death-toll-2015/>

## Situation of Afghan Migrants

There are three kind of Afghan migrants: refugees in Iran, refugees in Pakistan and immigrants in Europe.

The 2015 *Trafficking in Persons Report* released by the US State of Department discussed the overall condition of migration in the world. It writes about Afghanistan: Afghanistan is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking. The majority of Afghan trafficking victims are children who end up in carpet marketing and brick factories, domestic servitude, commercial sexual exploitation, beggaing and transitional drug smuggling.<sup>10</sup>

**Iran:** Afghan refugees are not in a good condition in Iran. Some of them are in prisons and some of them are sentenced to death. Besides that, there is news published in domestic and international sources that Afghan refugees in Iran are sent to the war in Syria for the sake of money. This might be the reason that 137803 unregistered Afghan refugees returned to their country through Islam Qala and Meelak Ports between January 1 and June 30, 2015.<sup>11</sup> However, last week, the Iranian officials accepted that Afghan registered and unregistered refugees would be returned to Afghanistan voluntarily.

**Pakistan:** After attack on a military school in Peshawar, Pakistan, the policies on terrorism and Afghan refugees intensified; returning of Afghan refugees from Pakistan is started once again. According to the records of UNHCR, about 91485 Afghans were returned to their country through Torkham and Speen Boldak Ports between January 1 and June 30, 2015. These records show a 418% increase compare to 2014.<sup>12</sup> However, Pakistan had promised the Afghan Minister of Refugees, in his visit to Islamabad that it will start the registration process of unregistered Afghan refugees soon; but this process yet to be started, and considering the latest political changes, this process might not be started in a near future.

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<sup>10</sup> see online:

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/243558.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> see online:

[http://afghanistan.iom.int/sites/default/files/Reports/undocumented\\_afghan\\_returns\\_from\\_iran\\_and\\_pakistan\\_jan-jun\\_2015.pdf](http://afghanistan.iom.int/sites/default/files/Reports/undocumented_afghan_returns_from_iran_and_pakistan_jan-jun_2015.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> see online:

[http://afghanistan.iom.int/sites/default/files/Reports/undocumented\\_afghan\\_returns\\_from\\_iran\\_and\\_pakistan\\_jan-jun\\_2015.pdf](http://afghanistan.iom.int/sites/default/files/Reports/undocumented_afghan_returns_from_iran_and_pakistan_jan-jun_2015.pdf)

Registered refugees are returning to the country, also; however, they are valid to stay in Pakistan until by the end of 2015. Of course, they face an unknown fate by the end of 2015 that whether their cards would be renewed or extended, their fate would be left unknown or would they be forced to return to their country.

**Rest of the World:** The majority of Afghans go to Europe through dangerous ways and most of the time, they became killed by police or their ship is sunk in the waters. However, if they became able to reach to Europe, they, to a large extent, remain without any destination and reside in jungles.



## NATO is Returning!



On September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Afghan national security advisor Hanif Atmar inked the NATO Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) with NATO's senior civilian representative to Afghanistan.

Like BSA agreement with USA, the entire aspects of SOFA agreement with NATO were too not reviewed; and, the esoteric points with multiple meanings and different interpretations and perceptions were not questioned, also. To deceive the public, like every other agreements, only those points were highlighted that were apparently on the benefit of Afghanistan, including "shared commitment" to a sovereign, secure and democratic Afghanistan.

Preface of this agreement states: "Confirming the shared understanding of the Parties of the threat to the international community posed by terrorism and their shared commitment to taking effective action to counter that threat and to ensuring that Afghanistan never again becomes a safe haven for terrorists; Recognizing that the mission of the ISAF will be concluded by the end of 2014;

Recalling the commitment of NATO and other members of the international community to standing with Afghanistan and the Parties' agreement at the NATO Summit in Lisbon

to renewing and building a robust Enduring Partnership complementing their past security cooperation and continuing beyond it; ...”

The end of this preface states: “Reaffirming, finally, the Parties' agreement on the value of NATO leading a non-combat, training, advising and assisting mission in Afghanistan beginning after 2014;...”<sup>13</sup>

### **The Non-combat Mission**

NATO’s officials were always emphasizing that the purpose of NATO presence would not entail a combat mission in the post-2014 Afghanistan, it would only be a 'non-combat' mission.. However, the two clauses of Article 2, is contradictory with the NATO's new 'non-combat' mission, because in the case of shared understanding, NATO forces can have a combat mission in Afghanistan, also.

1. “In acknowledgement of the Parties' shared desire to develop an enduring partnership complementing their past and current security cooperation, the Parties mutually agree upon the importance of NATO’s continuing engagement in support of Afghanistan’s security.
2. The Parties hereby agree to the presence of NATO Forces in Afghanistan for the purpose of the post-2014 NATO non-combat training, advising and assistance mission, as well as for the purpose of all other mutually agreed NATO-led activities...”<sup>14</sup>

On October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014, BBC reported that the last British combatant soldiers had left Afghanistan and the war is over for British forces in Afghanistan.

### **But, British Special Forces are Back in Helmand**

According to this agreement, NATO, apparently, has ended their war in Afghanistan and was supposed to return to their countries, however, it did not happened; American Special Forces have continued their military operations in the villages of Afghanistan and recently, the British forces have also joined them.

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<sup>13</sup> See online:  
<http://mfa.gov.af/Content/files/SOFA%20ENGLISH.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> Previous source

According to English newspaper, “Mirror”, the British Special Forces are back to war in Afghanistan, fighting both Islamic State's terrorists and the Taliban. However, the exact numbers of these troops are not yet known, but, Taliban claims in its statement regarding the 96<sup>th</sup> Independence Day that recently more than 2000 fresh British soldiers have arrived in Afghanistan”<sup>15</sup>

“Mirror” quoting senior defense sources says that the British Special Forces are planning and leading counter-terrorist operations in Afghanistan. A senior British military source has told “Mirror”: “In the last six months the British special forces have gone from training Afghan commando units to kicking down doors and arresting Taliban suspects.

### **The Emergence of “Daesh” in Afghanistan**

When NATO announced that it is going to change its combat mission to a non-combat one and would only be training, advising and assisting the Afghan security forces, and American officials declared that from now onwards they do not recognize Taliban as their enemy anymore, and the war of Afghan forces against the Taliban, is related to themselves. NATO carries out the non-combat training, advising and assistance mission only.

Since last year, the suspicious movement under the banner of Daesh has taken place in Eastern Afghanistan, and the Afghan officials have also propagated about this this new group. Now, some political analysts think that the emergence of this group is a subterfuge for foreign forces to return to Afghanistan and to continue their military activities. American and British forces that were busy in the 'night raids' and and killing and arresting suspicious people by the name of Taliban in the past is now doing the same due to Daesh . However, this time the new government is silent and does not criticize their actions.

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<sup>15</sup> See online:

<http://alemara1.org/?p=24581>

## Opium Trade

Some analysts believe that the return of British troops has connection to narcotics.

Gordon Duff, a senior editor in Veterans Today, in one of his analysts said that the United States wants to stay in Afghanistan in order to keep its profitable heroin business in the country. In his interview with the Press TV, he said: “The only reason the United States would stay there, frankly, is to keep its multi-hundred-billion-dollar heroin business. The 'opium' has always been a portion of Afghanistan's trade.

When the United States went came to Afghanistan in 2001, Afghanistan had almost ended every aspect of narcotics production,” Duff said. “As of last week, Afghanistan was producing 98 percent of the world’s heroin. Cultivation of opium poppies, which are processed into heroin, amounting to 209,000 hectares that causes Afghanistan to remain as the world's largest opium producer, He added.<sup>16</sup>

Abby Martin, in his article “How Opium is Keeping US in Afghanistan: CIA’s Shady History of Drug Trafficking” wrote: “War has always been about resources and control.”<sup>17</sup>

He said, as reported by Global Research: *“Immediately following the October 2001 invasion, opium markets were restored...By early 2002, the opium price (in dollars/kg) was almost 10 times higher than in 2000.”* The writer said, back in the fifties, the CIA turned blind eye to drug trafficking and *flew the drugs all over Southeast Asia*; during the eighties, the CIA financially and logistically backed anti-communist contras (well-known as Iran-Contra) in Nicaragua who also happened to be international drug traffickers. CIA is busy with this job in Afghanistan, also, he added.

Though, analysts' considering the return of British troops to Sangin District of Helmand Province in Afghanistan solely due to drugs and opium cannot be considered as a reason for the return of British troops, because the British servicemen, besides fighting the armed oppositions, were responsible for tackling the narcotics in the past 13 years, also; however, they were not that much successful in its war on drugs.

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<sup>16</sup> see online:

<http://www.presstv.com/detail/2013/12/06/338440/us-aims-to-stay-in-afghanistan-for-heroin/>

<sup>17</sup> see online:

<http://mediaroots.org/opium-what-afghanistan-is-really-about/#>

## Reasons and Consequences

Return of British fresh troops in Afghanistan is an effort to re-extend their military presence in the country with different subterfuges including fighting the Islamic State group of terrorists. In the case, they, in the past 13 years, could not control the activities of anti-government elements (AGEs) in the areas of its responsibility (mission).

This time, NATO would have fewer forces in Afghanistan, and the combat activities would be conducted by drones to a large extent, after that, however, the return of the American and British Special Forces in Afghanistan, and carrying night raids on Afghan houses and aimless assaults on residential areas could, once again, affect the public opinion in Afghanistan negatively.

Therefore, the people expect the government to control the recent presence of these forces in a way that they would not be able to conduct operations other than what is mentioned in the agreements.

The End

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