

## Iran's stance versus Afghan peace process



Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, while addressing parliament members in Tehran on Sunday, said “we do not accept a peace in the foreigners’ favor in Afghanistan,” and will not subscribe. However, on September 8, this year, after the clashes between the Taliban and the Americans, Javad Zarif wrote on his Twitter account, “I am deeply concerned about Afghanistan: failed foreigners must leave and fratricide must be stopped, especially as foreigners can exploit this situation and launch new bloodshed” He added that Iran was ready to do its best to bring lasting peace to Afghanistan, Following on September 17, the Taliban's four-member delegation led by Abdul Salam Hanafi, a deputy of the Taliban's Political office in Qatar, traveled to Tehran and had meetings with senior Iranian officials. This analysis is about the evaluation of Iran's position on Afghan peace process in the light of strained relations with the Taliban and the United States.



## **Iran's convulsive relations with US and Taliban**

The history of Iran's strained relations with the US dates back to 1979-1981, when a group of young men stormed the US embassy and some Americans were Hostage. This act Absolute interruption Iran's diplomatic relations with the United States, In the years after 9/11, Iran's nuclear program was a point of contention with the United States and its allies, which continues to this day. Despite the seizure in Iran-US relations, opportunities have arisen, albeit rare, to foster US-Iran cooperation. One of these opportunities was a US attack on Afghanistan, Iran's relations with the Taliban have not been very welcoming since the establishment of the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan, Iran views Taliban as Sunni extremist group that will not align with Shia Iran, But coldness of ties peaked when nine Iranian diplomats killed by Taliban in Balkh province, After the event, Iran did not hesitate to contribute to the North's resistance to the Taliban. Due to broken ties with Taliban, 9/11 attacks on Afghanistan and overthrow of Taliban regime approved by Iranian government, in addition to welcoming the overthrow of the Taliban regime, Iran sought to create a climate of trust with the United States and open new fields of cooperation between the two countries through intelligence cooperation Anti-Taliban.

## **Alter the outlook or force of unpleasant season**

Iran's efforts to establish cooperation chains with the US It didn't work out, Especially when the debate over Iran's nuclear program became controversial and Iran faced severe economic sanctions, This has led Iran to seek more influence in the countries of the region by relying on military and intelligence solutions And find new allies, Establishment of ISIL in Iraq, Syria prompts Iran to seek faster allies in search of new allies and. ISIL soon established the Khorasan branch in Afghanistan, This group is generally composed of young people who regard themselves as Salafi And this spectrum of youth can pose a strategic threat to Shia Iran on its eastern borders, Iran Concerned If war Continues That Same, Soon ISIL Becomes Stronger Force on Afghan soil. In this way, the Taliban, who have been opposed to ISIL since its inception; have become a good candidate for Iranian friendship. According to published reports, intelligence cooperation with Taliban over 2014 years, But Iran was hiding its relations with the Taliban until peace talks began, but after the peace talks Taliban-Iran talks began, both revealed diplomatic ties with each other. Taliban

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wanting to gain more points at US-led table talks see public relations with Iran as better position, Similarly, Iran, which has strained relations with the United States, has sought to make the United States understand that it has influence over and can use it against US interests by publicizing its ties with the Taliban and accepting delegations into its territory. As such, Iran's relations with the Taliban have emerged from the shadow of a tense shadow and established by new realities and coercion.

### **Worry about the future**

Selection of Taliban as a small threat with the comparison of a big threat (ISIS) is not the only reason for changing the Iranian view of the Taliban. Both Iran and Taliban agree on Americans leaving Afghanistan and establishing a new government in Kabul, but what about a government? This is something Iran is worried about; Iran's concern with the Taliban's religious thinking is still in place, Iran has made clear in secret talks with the United States that after talks with the Taliban, it has come to the conclusion that the Taliban are no less satisfied than the Islamic Emirate's complete turnaround, In a speech in India, Mohammad Javad Zarif has said that a peaceful future in Afghanistan would not be possible without Taliban involvement, But the Taliban should not be the absolute ruler and take control of everything, In short, Iran wants the Taliban's share in the future government, but in no way wants to do so at the expense of all the Taliban's centralization of powers, To this end, Iran's emphasis on peace talks among all aspects of the Afghan government is central to the Afghan government.

### **Relations with Taliban and its impact on the peace process**

Although it is not clear that Iran is true about its assertion that the Taliban insist on the full return of the Islamic Emirate, it is clear that Iran is using its relations with the Taliban to create a second Shi'ite channel with the United States and to warn ISIL and their supporters. Iran, by displaying its relations with the Taliban, wants on one hand to support ISIL in Afghanistan, to support the Taliban, who are fierce opposition to ISIS, and on the other hand to let the US know that it has good relations with the group and can Brings them to the negotiating table and avoids stressing unacceptable demands for America, It is not clear how far Iran's influence over the Taliban is. The United States does not accept that it can play a role in



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negotiating the Taliban with Iran or have common goals with the United States. That is why Zalmay Khalilzad, even among the countries in the region, has made no mention of Iran's participation in the peace talks. What would happen if Iran were to leave the peace process alone? The right answer to this question may come when the extent of Iran-Taliban relations and how Iran's influence on the leadership of this group is known, what is clear is that Iran wants to contribute to the peace of Afghanistan if it has not benefited from the war.

### Conclusion

Iran is afraid of an Afghanistan that is a growing field of ISIS movements, so he has to choose between two dangers, one that can be controlled as a close friend, Taliban can play the role, with hostility to America, hostility to ISIL and unpleasant relations with Saudi Arabia. But Iran does not want the Taliban to win the battle, that's why Iranian diplomacy has always emphasized the involvement of all sides in the peace process. If US peace talks with Taliban fail to align with Iran's goals, Iran will openly pursue this process. But how effective the effort to segregate the peace process depends on a number of factors, including how Iran is influencing the Taliban and how much they work with them. However, there are claims of Iranian support for the Taliban, But given the Taliban's internal mix and hostile history between the two sides, it is difficult to trust these claims

## An overview of food and nutrition status in Afghanistan



Access to adequate and healthy food is essential for every human being from birth to death, and its growth and strength are closely linked to food. Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms the right of everyone to access to healthy nutrition, with physical capacity and access to places of supply. Unfortunately, Afghanistan is one of the countries that are not up to this level. In this article we will look at the nutritional and food situation in Afghanistan, with a brief overview of some of the statistics and facts. What are the problems against them and what is the solution to these problems? These are the topics we have discussed here.

### **Statistics and facts**

According to several studies and surveys, the rate of poverty has increased in the Government of National Unity, where poverty now stands at 54% of the total population, meaning that about 54 people out of every 100 people earn less than one dollar a day. As noted, food security in the country has weakened with the arrival of

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the Government of National Unity, and 45% of the population is unable to meet their food needs.

According to the national statistics published in 2013, 40.9% of children aged 0-59 months suffer from under-development and malnutrition, an untreated disease. If the child does not reach 80 cm at the age of two years, it is considered malnourished, and cannot be treated and then will arise short, and this situation occurs when the mother does not breastfeed her baby from birth until the age of two enough, where it is necessary for each mother to breastfeed her child for six Months, then add some other nutrients he needs.

According to the survey, 9.5% of children suffer from poor muscle growth due to inadequate nutrition, and 25% of children were found to be underweight. Girls aged 10-19 were assessed for the first time, with 8% being thin, 11.6% being overweight and only 2.7% obese. Among women of gestational age (15-49 years), 9.2% are thin or malnourished.

The 2013 national food statistics report that the proportion of essential nutrients in Afghanistan is low compared to other countries, which is an important challenge. Anemia (low hemoglobin > 11.99 g / dcl) is present in women of childbearing age (40.4%) due to iron deficiency. It causes many problems such as fatigue and fatigue. Also, 45% of children have anemia. Families that their children are appetite less.

### **Food security is a key priority**

Food security is a situation where the entire population in the country has access to healthy, adequate and clean food throughout and at all seasons with the material capacity to buy and the ability to use it to obtain the necessary energy. Food security has four pillars:

1: Every citizen should have access to food in all seasons. If war breaks out in an area, roads are blocked or the market is destroyed, food security is also lacking.

2: If there are no barriers such as war or road blockage, but the necessary foodstuffs are not available in the market or the market does not exist at all, then food security is also imbalanced.



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3: If there are no barriers to access to the market and the availability of various foodstuffs in the market, but the physical condition of the people do not allow them to get the necessary supply, food security is also disturbed.

4: If all of these reasons exist and the population has purchasing power, but the food is not sterilized or the population lacks health systems and services and do not have the basic awareness of healthy nutrition, food security is also imbalanced.

### **Challenges to food security**

1. Poverty and Unemployment
2. Lack of public awareness and lack of practical programs to maintain the stability of food security.
3. Insufficient allocation of the State budget for food security.
4. Lack of agricultural production and non-technical production of crops.
5. Failure to prioritize food security.
6. Lack of attention to the infrastructure of the nutrition and catering sector.
7. Non-technical utilization of natural resources.
8. Weak preventive programs related to malnutrition and insufficient budget allocation.

### **Solutions**

A: Agricultural development and facilitation for the owners of factories and traders of agricultural crops with paving ways to raise the level of national production so that the level of income of the population and have access to basic foodstuffs.

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B: Establishing programs and plans and mechanisms for long-term development of the agricultural sector and its application and the development of modern methods of agriculture (using machinery and machinery), and provide special places for grazing to develop the livestock sector, which is followed by the improvement of the quality of animal crops.

C: Helping farmers to get their crops to market in a timely manner as the government develops paved roads connecting agricultural land and commercial centers.

D. Implement awareness programs by the Ministry of Education to raise awareness among male and female learners alike, and provide food security education programs by school and university teachers to raise awareness among young people.

E: A budget should also be allocated for child malnutrition prevention programs, so that people are adequately aware of the necessary nutrition for children, and are guided by the food available in the country that substitutes for the importation of expensive medicines to treat malnutrition, which is replaced by local food and legumes. And carbohydrates to prevent malnutrition, with the advice of nutritionists.

F: A department should be established to control the quality of food and ensure that it is healthy so that all segments of the population trust the safety of food and compliance with health standards.

G: Scholar and preachers have to show the importance of nutrition from the perspective of Islam, while combating some of the false information that is widespread. They must raise awareness of the importance of feeding children in the first thousand days of their lives in order to grow up healthy and strong.

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