

TANZEEM E ISLAMI



Striving for the Law of Allah, on the Land of Allah

PERSPECTIVE

The official online newsletter of Tanzeem e Islami
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'PERSPECTIVE' is a trend-setting newsletter issued by Tanzeem e Islami that focuses on a candid commentary on the current national and international issues, in the light of the Qur'an and the Sunnah.

A blend that gives Muslims an insight into the events of the past, those happenings at present and the Signs of things to come...

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From the Qur'an:

“O You who have attained faith! Do not take the Jews and the Christians for your allies (protectors): they are but allies of one another – and whoever of you allies himself with them becomes, verily, one of them; behold, Allah does not guide such evildoers.”

(Surah Aal e Imran, Verse 105)

Selected Hadith:

Narrated by Zaid ibn Thabit (RA) that the Prophet (SAAW) said, “How blessed is As-Shaam (Syria)”!

The companions around asked: “Why is that”?

The Messenger (SAAW) replied, “I see the angels of Allah spreading their wings over As-Shaam”.

(Trimdhi, Ahmad)

Quotation:

Jabir bin Abdullah (RA) said:

“... Soon the people of As-Shaam (Syria) will neither receive any money nor grain.” When asked as to why this would happen, he replied: “Because of the Romans.”

EDITORIAL

All praise is due to Allah (SWT), and peace & blessing on his noble Messengers (AS), in particular, on the last of them all the blessed Prophet Muhammad (SAAW).

What do a counterfeiter from Syria, an Iraqi-Afghan militia fighter under Iranian leadership and a Russian Cossack have in common? More than you might think. They all took part in a strange offensive involving around 300 men on February 7 of 2018 – an attack force that was bombed by the U.S. as it crossed a pontoon bridge over the Euphrates River in an effort to capture one of largest natural gas fields in eastern Syria for the Assad regime. Located near the city of Deir ez-Zor, the so-called Conoco field had been wrested from Islamic State (ISIS) last September by the US-backed Kurdish militia – with the help of U.S. Special Forces who have been stationed in the area since then.

It's a confusing story, but it says a lot about the increasingly bewildering and dangerous state of affairs in the Syrian war. The advance on the Conoco field, during which around 100 of the attackers are thought to have lost their lives in the American airstrikes, is just one of several clashes between military forces in the country. Indeed, Syria has become a battleground for global and regional powers – including the United States, Russia, Turkey, Iran and Israel – who are using the country as a venue for the pursuit of their own interests. The danger of an unintended clash has become extreme. And the conflict has become even more difficult for outsiders to understand.

The various international parties to this war have all, almost simultaneously, launched massive attacks in the past few weeks. For much of the last 28 days, the Turkish army has been attacking the Kurdish terrorist militia YPG in the northern Syrian city of Afrin. And the Israeli air force launched a wave of airstrikes, which, it says, destroyed half of all Syrian anti-aircraft capability, after one of its warplanes had been shot down during a response to an Iranian drone incursion on Israeli airspace.

Then there was this mysterious clash near the natural gas field, which some reports have depicted as the deadliest encounter between Russian and American troops since the end of the Cold War. Russian mercenaries were reportedly found among the dead, with some sources claiming that up to 200 Russians lost their lives. Local sources from the main military hospital in Deir ez-Zor indicate the death toll was likely between 10 and 20.

The intervention of foreign powers in Syria is by no means new. But the current intensity of their conflicts can be largely traced back to a single source: Their joint enemy is gone. Since 2014, all powers could agree that Islamic State was the primary target. And even if there was room for doubts regarding the sincerity of US, Russia, Iran and Turkey, the fight against ISIS served to unite all involved.

Now, though, ISIS has been defeated and its "caliphate" has been reduced to a couple of tiny specks and some territory in the desert. But peace has not been the consequence. In hindsight, ISIS wasn't just a monstrosity, but also a pretext, predominantly conjured up, cultivated and sustained by the CIA and Mossad. The fight against ISIS was constantly fueled by the intention that liberated territory could become part of one's own sphere of influence. It allowed everybody to secure a slice of Syria.

The anti-ISIS coalition brought U.S. troops into the country and made the US-backed Kurdish militia in northern Syria powerful. They now control a quarter of the country and would like to keep it that way. Turkey, though, would like to prevent the Kurds from retaining that territory. When Kurdish militia advanced further and further to the south last September, the U.S. military flew them in helicopters to the area around Deir ez-Zor to prevent anyone else from occupying the oil and gas fields there. Now, the U.S. wants to use those same Kurdish mercenaries that it outfitted for the fight against ISIS to block Russian and Iranian advances in Syria.

And of course, every foreign power is interested in keeping its own losses as low as possible – which is why numerous military subcontractors and militias have been recruited to take care of the messy ground combat.

The Americans are using the Kurds to promote their own interests and the Turks, in addition to their own soldiers, are using

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anti-Assad rebels to fight on their behalf. Iran, meanwhile, has a diverse mixture of Iraqi, Afghan and Pakistani recruits under its command, in addition to its own people. Since 2013, the tens of thousands of troops under Iranian control have been propping up the regime of Bashar Assad. They are commanded, trained and financed by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, which wants to keep its Syrian ally in power at any price. One of these multinational Iranian-backed militias was also involved in the attack on the Conoco gas field – a collection of fighters straight out of a dystopian catastrophe film.

Two local tribal militias also took part in the attack, including one controlled by counterfeiter Torki Albo Hamad. Once wanted in Qatar for murder and document forgery in Saudi Arabia, he was known in Syria for being the leader of a gang of highway robbers. In 2013, Damascus offered him money and impunity if he and his men would place themselves at the service of the regime.

But Russian mercenaries were also involved, including a 51-year-old Cossack, who posed for a photograph ahead of the fight with a medal and raised saber. The unit, known as the Wagner Group, was apparently hired by a group of Syrian businessmen.

Several different conflicts are currently being fought on Syrian territory and there is no indication that the violence will end any time soon. It all began with Assad preferring to destroy the entire country rather than giving up power, which is why he wanted a war for all of Syria. But his regime was too weak for such a fight, which made him dependent on Russian and Iranian support – and on the Kurds remaining on the sidelines. The result has been a form of chaos for which standard terms are insufficient. Words like "allies" and "adversaries" have long since lost meaning. The relationship among the Russians, Kurds, Iranians, Kurds, Turks, Israelis and Americans, along with Assad-regime supporters, has been characterized by hostility in some regions of Syria and cooperation in others.

The escalation east of Deir ez-Zor served admirably to highlight these shifting alliances, though the situation developed differently than planned. Indeed, several sources have confirmed that prior to the fighting, an arrangement had been reached between the US-backed Kurdish-dominated Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), the Russians and the Assad regime.

According to the deal, the SDF was prepared to voluntarily withdraw from the region surrounding the gas fields and allow government troops to replace them. In return, the Russians would close the airspace over Afrin to the Turkish air force and Assad's forces would finally allow Kurdish reinforcements to pass through government-held territory to Afrin from isolated Kurdish-held regions in the east.

In other words, the deal involved the Assad regime gaining territory in the east in exchange for helping out the Kurds in the north in their battle against the Turks.

Turkish airstrikes on Afrin did, in fact, cease as of February 4, with Moscow having closed the airspace to the Turks. In response, Turkey suspended its offensive, because without prior bombing from above, the military was unwilling to advance on Kurdish lines, defended as they are with concrete and bunkers. In the days that followed, a convoy of around 200 buses, trucks and pick-ups arrived from the eastern Kurdish areas in Afrin, loaded with fighters, ammunition and Iranian-produced weaponry.

But when it came time to implement the second part of the deal pertaining to the gas fields in eastern Syria, something went wrong.

A Syrian opposition website took the step of reporting that Assad's units were preparing to storm the natural gas field and claimed that the SDF had informed the Americans of the coming onslaught. But the U.S. did not stand by silently, instead scrambling its bombers. Did the Kurds actually fail to alert the Americans, so they didn't have to live up to their end of the bargain? Or did the Pentagon choose to ignore the deal its allies had negotiated? The latter seems more likely because from a US standpoint, nothing is as advantageous as continued conflict.

Moscow, in any case, was clearly extremely displeased with the Kurds. Just one day after the failed attempt to occupy the natural gas field, the Russians lifted the no-fly zone over Afrin, whereupon Turkey renewed its attack on the Kurds in the city – with ground troops taking five villages soon thereafter.

The fact that several Russians were killed in the American firestorm completed the chaos. Immediately after the attack, after all, the U.S. repeatedly insisted it had been in contact with the Russians both prior to and during the operation to avoid a collision. Moscow did not deny the assertions. The Russian Defense Ministry later issued a statement saying that the fighters had advanced "without permission" from the military. But did they attack entirely without Moscow's knowledge? That seems unlikely too.

The fact that conflict between rival powers is now breaking out openly is not the only new development. The regime's two allies also appear to be heading for disagreement. Russia and Iran both want Assad to emerge victorious, but the closer that victory comes militarily, thanks to Russian airstrikes and Iran's militias on the ground, the more clearly it has become that the two sides have competing notions of what to make out of that victory.

Iran's Revolutionary Guard wants lasting control of Syria and to transform it into the next bridgehead in the Iranian expansionist dream. That might not be in Russia's best interests, but without Iran, Assad wouldn't stand a chance. And that would be the end of Moscow's hope of one day pacifying the country under Assad's rule.

The West spearheaded by the US and Israel are delighted just to see the continuity of Sunni-Shia tensions and an ever-increasing catastrophe for Muslims taking place in Syria, the brutalities taking place in Ghouta being the latest example.

As for the "Muslim Ummah" in general, they are acting like an ostrich with the head buried in sand. Utterly indifferent and completely powerless they are "satisfied" that their own nation states are not in any imminent danger, at least for now. It is, truly a pity!

Signing off...

Dr. Absar Ahmad (Chief Editor)

**Press Releases issued by Tanzeem e Islami****Date: 02 March 2018****Lahore (PR): “Istehkam-e-Pakistan (making Pakistan fortified and secured) is deeply tied and intertwined with the practical implementation of the Ideology of Pakistan.”**

This was stated by the Ameer of Tanzeem e Islami, **Hafiz Aakif Saeed**, during the Khitab e Jumu'ah in Qur'an Academy, Lahore, while launching the nationwide “*Istehkam-e-Pakistan Campaign*” of Tanzeem-e-Islami. The Ameer said that Allah (SWT) had ordained that consignments (positions and seats of responsibility) ought to be given to such personnel who were rightfully-suited as consignees (the incumbents of those). He added that every responsibility was a consignment (in the broader context), and the larger the responsibility, the more rightfully-suited and trustworthy the consignee (the person or institution incumbent) ought to be. The Ameer remarked that our rulers were, in fact, the real reflection of the moral and ethical status and rank of our nation as a whole. While using the example that just as the quality of the butter and cream skimmed was a reflection of the quality of the milk it had been skimmed from, the Ameer noted that every individual of the nation ought to ameliorate oneself in order for the “responsibility” to be laden on those who were rightfully suited for the purpose and trustworthy for the task. While lamenting the pre-conditions reiterated by the European Union (EU) for extending the GSP-Plus status awarded to Pakistan, the Ameer said that it was a matter of grave concern that international institutions and organizations wanted to force our country into accepting such terms which were blatantly against our basic religious beliefs and tenets. He expressed deep discontent and severely criticized the statement made by the representative of the EU for international religious freedom and protection of minorities, in which the EU representative had stated that Pakistan must immediately release Aasia Bibi, the self-confessed woman found guilty without doubt of Blasphemy, if Pakistan wanted its GSP-Plus status to be maintained. The Ameer further lamented that no enemy of our country would have dared making such demands from us, had Pakistan been a strong and fortified nation in the political, economic and social spheres of statehood. The Ameer concluded by insisting that the only logical and resolute response to such ridiculous demands would be that our nation practically undertook the responsibility of making sincere progress towards establishing the real Islamic System of Social Justice in Pakistan.

Date: 09 March 2018**Lahore (PR): “The greatest catastrophe in human history has unfolded in Syria and it is still escalating.”**

This was stated by the Ameer of Tanzeem e Islami, **Hafiz Aakif Saeed**, during the Khitab-e-Jumu'ah at Quran Academy, Lahore. The Ameer said that residents of Ghouta, a suburban area in southwestern Syria that surrounds the Capital city of Damascus along its eastern and southern rim, had been under constant siege and imprisoned in the region by the government of Bashar al-Assad for long. The men and women of the area had been deprived of basic necessities like food and medicine, while the innocent children were in horrible condition due to starvation. The Ameer added that in recent months, Russian and Syrian air forces have constantly been bombing the residents of the area, which has turned it into rubble due to the bloodbath that has led to human corpses laying everywhere, while no one is willing to come to the rescue and treatment of the injured. He remarked that while certain individuals of the West have raised their voice against this alarmingly ruthless tragedy, the Muslim rulers as well as the masses have not raised even a little finger and they are still behaving with total indifference. He said that the government and the masses of Pakistan, too, have been criminally silent on the calamity. The Ameer remarked that the fact of the matter was that the entire Muslim Ummah, including Pakistan, had become utterly spineless. He lamented that our media, which fanatically mourned the death of some film actress was mysteriously silent on the issue of atrocities been committed in Syria. He warned that it would be a grave error of judgement to think that this cruel trend of butchery and brutality would be limited to Syria only. The Ameer concluded by insisting that we must cling to the rope of Allah (SWT) and follow His Messenger (SAAW), so that we could respond and combat our foes and the enemies of Allah (SWT) vigorously.