# **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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### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Editorial	1 – 2
Israeli Pharmaceutical Firms Test Medicines on Palestinian Prisoners 2	
Press Releases issued by Tanzeem-e-Islami 3	
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### From the Qur'an:

"Beautified (has been people made) for (humankind) the love of that which they desire - of and sons. women heaped-up sums of gold and silver, fine branded horses, and cattle and tilled land. That is the enjoyment of worldly life, but Allah has with Him the best return."

"Say (O Muhammad!), "Shall I inform you of (something) better than that? For those who fear Allah will be gardens in the presence of their Lord beneath which rivers flow, wherein they (shall) abide eternally, and (shall have) purified spouses and approval from Allah."

> (Surah Aal e Imran: Verses 14 & 15)

#### Selected Hadith:

The Messenger of Allah *(SAAW)* is reported to have said:

"Avoid doing injustice to others, for on the Day of Judgment, it will turn into manifold darkness, and safeguard yourself against miserliness, for it ruined those who were before you. It incited them to murder and treating the unlawful as lawful."

(Sahih Muslim)

# 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*).

It seemed an unlikely prospect. The International Criminal Court has tended to find itself accused of chasing up the inhumane rogues of Africa rather than those from any other continent. It has also been accused of having an overly burdensome machinery and lethargy more caught up with procedure than substance. Critics fearing a behemoth snatching soldiers from the armed forces of various states could rest easy, at least in part.

Law tends to be a manifestation of power and international law, in particular, tends to be a manifestation of consensus. And the powerful rarely give their consent in matters of trying crimes against humanity when it comes to their own citizens. Qualifications and exemptions abound, often cited with a certain sneer.

This explains the sheer fury and curiosity caused by the decision of the ICC's Appeals Chamber on March 5 authorizing Chief Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda to proceed with an investigation into alleged crimes committed in Afghanistan from 2003. The interest was not merely in the commission of crimes by any one force: the various "armed groups" including Daesh, members of the Afghan armed forces and "alleged crimes by the US Forces and the CIA" featured. But the actions of US and Afghan forces was bound to arouse much interest, given a UN report alleging more killings in the first three months of 2019 than attributed to others. (The figures, respectively, were 227 civilians killed by insurgent groups and 305 deaths caused by Afghan and international forces.)

The initial decision of the Pre-Trial Chamber II (April 12 2019) had gone against the Prosecutor's efforts that had commenced in November 2017. While the pre-trial chamber accepted that the brief established a reasonable basis to consider crimes that fell within the jurisdiction of the ICC, time had elapsed since the preliminary examination in 2006 and the evolving political scene in Afghanistan.

As ever, the jurisdiction of war crimes and crimes against humanity is a political thing: to authorize such an investigation, in the words of the 2019 media release, would have diverted "valuable resources prioritizing activities that would have better chances to succeed." Nor had cooperation with the Prosecutor been forthcoming in Afghanistan itself. It was a decision that caused a fair share of consternation among human rights critics and activists. One question kept being asked: Had the ICC folded before pressure from the Trump administration?

The argument of pressure was a hard one to dispel. In 2019, the Trump administration announced that it would revoke or deny visas to any members of the ICC connected with investigating alleged war crimes by US personnel in Afghanistan. That body, charged US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, was "attacking America's rule of law," an interesting formulation suggesting how partial that rule can be for a certain country.

Despite this backdrop of intimidation, the Appeals Chamber had a change of heart. According to presiding judge Piotr Hofmański, "The prosecutor is authorized to commence an investigation into alleged crimes committed on the territory of Afghanistan since May 1, 2003, as well as other alleged crimes that have a nexus to the armed conflict in Afghanistan." The pre-trial chamber had erred in identifying "additional considerations" as to whether the prosecutor could proceed with the investigation. It was not for the body to consider "the interests of justice" as part of that authorization, merely whether there was "a reasonable factual basis to proceed with an investigation, in the sense of whether crimes have been committed, and whether potential cases(s) arising from such (Continued on Page 2) Editorial (Continued from Page 1)

an investigation appear to fall within the Court's jurisdiction."

Pompeo was sufficiently incensed by the decision to call the ruling a "truly breathtaking action by an unaccountable, political institution masquerading as a legal body." He also had the prospects of peace on his mind, considering the ruling disruptive given that it came "just days after the United States signed a historic peace deal on Afghanistan."

Resistance against the ICC from the United States is far from new. Henry Kissinger feared it, and said so, suggesting it would preside in thuggish majesty and impunity citing universal jurisdiction as its basis of operation. His views were rebuked by former Nuremberg war crimes prosecutor Benjamin B. Ferencz. "The innocent," he remarked pointedly, "need not fear the rule of law."

But fear and loathing for the ICC has been a recurrent theme. In 2018, then national security adviser John R. Bolton, famed for his opposition to international institutions, insisted that the US would not "cooperate with the ICC. We will provide no assistance to the ICC. And we certainly will not join the ICC. We let the ICC die on its own."

Such a view sits in that particularly odd canon of US political thinking that dismisses aspects of international law – notably those involving breaches of human rights – as matters of convenience and sentiment. Such a view holds that Washington's enemies deserve trial and punishment at the hands of international law; alleged offences by US forces should be a matter of US jurisdiction.

It also bucks the idea put forth by US prosecutor Robert H. Jackson at the Nuremberg war crimes trials in November 1945 that international tribunals are not products "of abstract speculations nor ... created to vindicate legalistic theories." Jackson's enunciated views would see US officials participate, extensively, in the creation of tribunals in the Balkans and Rwanda. Indeed, as Ferencz observed in 2001, numerous former presidents of the American Society of International Law and the American Bar Association acknowledged that "it would be in the best interests of the United States and its military personnel of the United States to accept" such a body.

The serious flaws in the US criminal-justice system, too, become evident, especially when it comes to detaining 'prisoners of war' as well as those found 'guilty' of violating the 'US National Interests' and the 'Patriot Act' in penitentiaries styled as concentration camp, such as the one in Guantanamo. The preposterous indictment and sentence of Dr. Aafia Siddique and the brutal detention of Saifullah Paracha are cases in point, where the defendants were not given even a semblance of fair trial.

While it is hard to see the US surrendering any soldiers for trial before judges of the ICC, the very acceptance that it has jurisdiction to investigate alleged crimes committed by such personnel enlarges its traditional and cautious scope. International law has seen a turn up for the books!

#### Signing off...

Dr. Absar Ahmad (Chief Editor)

## Israeli Pharmaceutical Firms Test Medicines on Palestinian Prisoners

Israeli Professor Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian has revealed that the Israeli occupation authorities issues permits to large pharmaceutical firms to carry out tests on Palestinian and Arab prisoners, Felesteen.ps reported.

The Hebrew University lecturer also revealed that the Israeli military firms are testing weapons on Palestinian children and carry out these tests in the Palestinian neighborhoods of occupied Jerusalem.

Speaking in Columbia University in New York City, Shalhoub-Kevorkian said that she collected the data while carrying out a research project for the Hebrew University.

"Palestinian spaces are laboratories," she said. "The invention of products and services of state-sponsored security corporations are fueled by long-term curfews and Palestinian oppression by the Israeli army."

In her talk, entitled "Disturbing Spaces – Violent Technologies in Palestinian Jerusalem", the professor added: "They check for which bombs to use, gas bombs or stink bombs. Whether to put plastic sacks or cloth sacks. To beat us with their rifles or to kick us with boots."

In 2019, Israeli authorities refused to hand over the body of Fares Baroud, who passed away inside Israeli prisons after suffering from a number of diseases. His family feared that he could have been used for such tests and Israel was afraid this could be revealed through forensic investigations.

In July 1997, Israeli newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth reported remarks for Dalia Itzik, chairman of a parliamentary committee, acknowledged that the Israeli Ministry of Health had given pharmaceutical firms permits to test their new drugs of inmates, noting that 5,000 tests had already been carried out.

Robrecht Vanderbeeken, the cultural secretary of Belgium's ACOD trade union, warned in August 2018 the population of the Gaza Strip is being "starved to death, poisoned, and children are kidnapped and murdered for their organs."

This follows previous warnings from Palestinian Ambassador to the United Nations Riyad Mansour who said the bodies of Palestinians killed by Israeli security forces "were returned with missing corneas and other organs, further confirming past reports about organ harvesting by the occupying power."

# Press Releases issued by Tanzeem-e-Islami

## Date: 13 March 2020

# Lahore (PR): "According to the Islamic Shariah, it is correct to lockdown an area in case of the spread of a deadly contagious disease."

This was said by the Ameer of Tanzeem-e-Islami, **Hafiz Aakif Saeed**, in a statement. The Ameer noted that the coronavirus has engulfed the entire world today, and while it is absolutely necessary for all of us to take precautionary measures to avoid being infected by the contagion, it is even more crucial for us to reflect on the reasons why such wraths and trials (from Allah *SWT*) are befalling, one after the other, in today's world. He remarked that humans, today, have become utterly immersed in materialism and this blind pursuit of worldly gains alone has made humans completely oblivious of the Lord of the Worlds – Allah *(SWT)*. Therefore, the wrath and trial (from Allah *SWT*) strikes in this way too, leaving most of the world crippled and fallen to its knees, with all forms of 'business of the modern man' totally arrested and halted to a standstill. This, he added, is a sign of warning and a lesson of admonition for the whole of humanity. Even the most developed nations of the world are totally helpless against this virus. The Muslims, in particular, ought to ponder, reflect and grasp that their salvation in this world and in the Hereafter resides only in following the commandments of Allah *(SWT)*, because if they fail to open their eyes and recognize the clear warning even after this wrath and trial (from Allah *SWT*), then they may have to face greater and worse wraths and trials (from Allah *SWT*) in the future.

While commenting on the recommendation made by the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) that the death penalty (capital punishment) for perpetrators found guilty of sex crimes ought to be maintained, the Ameer of Tanzeem-e-Islami remarked that the fact of the matter is that humans have no right to change any punishment that has been decreed for criminals (and sinners) in the Islamic Shariah, according to the edicts of Allah (*SWT*) and His (*SWT*) Messenger (*SAAW*), even in the slightest. One of the basic reasons of Islamic punishments for the guilty is to put a stop to crime (and sin) by making the perpetrators an example of admonition and warning for all. The Ameer concluded by asserting that the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) ought to make public all such laws that are in violation of the Islamic Shariah and ensure that no such law remains enforced in Pakistan that is repugnant to the Qur'an and Sunnah so that Pakistan could be transformed into a model Islamic Welfare State.

Date: 06 March 2020

# Lahore (PR): "The agreement of 'Termination of US Occupation' is a manifest victory for the Afghan Taliban."

The Ameer of Tanzeem-e-Islami, <u>Hafiz Aakif Saeed</u>, has said that the 'peace deal' between USA and the Afghan Taliban is a welcome development and termed it as a manifest victory for the Afghan Taliban. He said that USA invaded Afghanistan with an alliance of 48 countries and even after a long war of 19 years has not been able to gain success of any kind. The ill-equipped Afghan Mujahideen, with the succor of Allah (*SWT*), totally humiliated and embarrassed the superpower of today's world, USA, along with all its allies in the battlefield, that left USA with no other choice but to seek for a 'peace agreement'. While the media is spinning the agreement as a 'peace deal, but it is, in fact, an agreement of the termination of the illegal US occupation of Afghanistan. The history of USA is full of deception, therefore, the Afghan Mujahideen must remain extremely vigilant and watchful against US treachery, despite the current 'peace deal'. We are confident that the Afghan Mujahideen will trounce all nefarious designs of USA, with the 'vision of faith' bestowed upon them by Almighty Allah (*SWT*). *InshaAllah*!

While commenting on the deteriorating situation in India, the Ameer said that labelling the latest campaign of organized genocidal attacks on Muslims in New Delhi as 'communal riots between Hindus and Muslims' is part of the deceitful policy of the Modi regime. The fact of the matter is that this recent and organized drive of genocide of Muslims has been carried out by militant and terrorist Hindu mobs and is an example of the worst kind of fascist Hindu terrorism against Muslims. More than 50 Muslims were targeted and martyred, hundreds of Muslims were seriously wounded, Mosques were demolished and countless houses of Muslims were razed to the ground. The magnitude of the genocidal activities of extremist Hindus was such that even international human rights organizations and the international media could not remain silent. Indonesia, Pakistan and Iran have all vehemently condemned this policy of organized genocide against Muslims being perpetrated by the fascist and extremist Modi regime. The Ameer demanded that all Muslim countries ought to slap combined and cohesive diplomatic, trade and economic sanctions on India. He said that in the present situation, it has become imperative for the Muslims of the world to take the form of a single and unified body (Ummah) and combat their enemies in unison. He concluded by asserting that in order to do so they would have to become genuine practicing Muslims so that they could be eligible for the succor of Allah (*SWT*).

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