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Qualification of Mullah Omar for Next Presidential Election

April 04, 2013

Since the beginning of his second term, President Hamid Karzai has kept a soft instance towards the Taliban insurgents, although they are blamed to have killed his father, Abdul Ahad Karzai in Quetta, Pakistan in 1999 and his brother Ahmad Wali Karzai in Kandahar in 2011. There would be no point of regret, if Taliban too had adopted the same kind of attitude towards President Karzai.

Will their attitude undergo a positive change in the future; there are question marks on this. Nonetheless, to Karzai Taliban are still his ‘annoyed brothers’ and there is no difference between an ordinary Afghan who loves to be in peace and a Taliban insurgent who neither wants a peaceful life for himself nor allows others to have it.

Yet Karzai has moved one step further in showing sympathy to Taliban. Recently, he said that Taliban’s spiritual leader could participate in the presidential election due to be held next year. Taliban leader Mullah Omar could be a 2014 presidential candidate and "give the Afghans the opportunity to vote for him or against him," President Karzai said in the interview to German daily newspaper Sueddeutsche Zeitung. He noted that the Afghan constitution is valid for all Afghans and “the Taliban also should benefit from it.”

In the Constitutional Law of Afghanistan, one of conditions set for being considered an eligible presidential candidate is that a person must not have been convicted of crimes against humanity, a criminal act, or deprivation of civil rights by court – Article 62(3).

Thus, on what ground Mullah Omar would qualify for running in 2014 presidential election. Which court has cleared Mullah Omar who is involved in massacre of minorities especially in massacre of hundreds of people that his men carried out in 1998 in Mazar e Sharif?

Over the last decade, the Taliban under the leadership of Mullah Omar has killed thousands of innocent Afghans, destroyed hundreds of schools and thwarted efforts made for political, economic and social development in this country. There would be no great injustice for the people of Afghanistan than allowing people like Mullah Omar the chance to rule this country once again.

Seemingly the government is trying to include the Taliban in mainstream politics of Afghanistan and share them power to rule the people of Afghanistan. A decade of development in democracy could be compromised in making this attempt successful.