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**Part -5**

# **A Glance at the cause of failure of two Decades US Occupation of Afghanistan**

## **A glance over the situation after the Taliban in Kabul,**

- Why is Pakistan is lobbying for recognition of the Taliban's administration?
- Why Pakistan is interested in the release of Afghanistan's money?
- Kabul university professor Faizullah Jalal debates on Afghanistan's current issues
- Taliban are busy in destroying the cultural values and the Farsi – Dari language which is the dominant language of 90 percent of population in Afghanistan.
- The Taliban burn books
- Print conditional religious books
- Prohibition of the activities of women writers
- Pakistan is the only exporter of books to Afghanistan
- Arrest of women writers
- Collect books from bookstores
- Declining culture and art

## **People killed in Afghanistan in 20 years:**

Prior wars and civil conflict in the country have made Afghan society extremely vulnerable to the reverberating effects of the current war. Those war effects

include elevated rates of disease due to lack of clean drinking water, malnutrition, and reduced access to health care. Nearly every factor associated with premature death — poverty, malnutrition, poor sanitation, lack of access to health care, environmental degradation — is exacerbated by the current war. More than 241,000 people have been killed in the Afghanistan war zone since 2001. More than 71,000 of those killed have been civilians. As of April 2021, more than 71,000 Afghan civilians are estimated to have died as a direct result of the war. The plain Afghanistan is contaminated with unexploded ordnance, which kills and injures tens of thousands of Afghans, especially children, as they travel and go about their daily chores.

The number of people killed in Afghanistan from the US and its ally's invasion till the withdrawal of troops is estimated over 2500000. However, the actual data is not known but it much more than reported.

The war in Afghanistan continues destroying lives, due to the direct consequences of violence and the war-induced breakdown of public health, security, and infrastructure. Civilians were killed by crossfire, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), assassinations, bombings, and night raids into houses of suspected insurgents and airstrikes which resulted in massive civilian casualties.

#### **Situation after Taliban presence in Kabul:**

The Taliban have been occupying Kabul palace for three months after entering Kabul without resistance and in a conspiracy organized by fake and fugitive President Ashraf Ghani, US envoy to the so-called Doha peace talks Zalmay Khalilzad, the former President Hamid Karzai, a major supporter of the Taliban in collaboration with the Pakistani intelligence service. Since then, the Afghan people are living in a state of uncertainty and misery.

Khalilzad played the role of the viceroy of ancient colonialism in selling Afghanistan to Pakistan. He is considered by the people of Afghanistan, a national traitor, a foreign agent and a representative of the UNOCAL Company. He is originally known as Afghanistan's sales representative to Pakistan. He also caused destruction, murder and bloodshed through his wrong and biased advice since the start of the chaotic situation after the pro - soviet PDPA coup de tat in 1979, especially in the last twenty years. Behind the scenes, Khalilzad had secret plots with the Taliban, but the Afghan people were kept uninformed of the details of the peace talks. He has repeatedly prevaricated to the Afghan people and to the US officials about the Taliban extremists because of his ethnic and racial affiliation with them. Nowadays, Khalilzad shamelessly, to justify his previous misleading advice, claiming that the Taliban's mentality have changed compared

to twenty years ago about women rights, girls' schools, the rights of other ethnicities and residents of Afghanistan. Khalilzad is totally wrong because the Taliban has not changed at all. Nonetheless, they have become more radical and crueller than before. Khalilzad now reappears in media and wants to acquit himself. People witnessed the re-emergence of the Taliban. Khalilzad interview here and there in media to cover up his blunders and his treacherous callous undertakings.

According to the people of Afghanistan, he is desperately attempting to justify his betrayal in an attempt as if sitting firmly after releasing a loud fart and stomach wind. But it is too late and the people hate to see him talking nonsense on media after exposing the Afghan nation to a dangerously chaotic situation. He is fully responsible for the status quo in Afghanistan. He should be sued and investigated for his actions. Otherwise, the USA administration bears responsibility for the terrorists that were born in Pakistan and exported to Afghanistan under the name of Taliban.

#### **Khalilzad's treacherous record in Afghanistan:**

Looking at some published clauses of the US agreement with the Taliban reveals Khalilzad's betrayal of the Afghan people. The important question is how in the United States, was not aware of a political scandal and security infiltration in which a person like Khalilzad has further disgraced the US government in the eyes of the world in order to achieve his chauvinist aspirations.

A look at the performance of Zalmay Khalilzad, the former US envoy to Afghanistan over the past 20 years, shows that he did substantial destructive work against Afghanistan during. The result was the return of the Taliban to power and the fall of the republic and the destruction of all twenty years achievements. Khalilzad's role in US negotiations with the Taliban should be considered as a Taliban infiltrator who destroyed a nation with his wrong and evil policies. Khalilzad, in collaboration with Ashraf Ghani, has been so successful in implementing the plan to restore the absolute sovereignty of the Pashtuns in Afghanistan and exclude all other ethnic groups. The people of Afghanistan realise that they a victim of a betrayal Khalilzad and Ashraf Ghani committed against them. After the outcome of the US-Taliban talks enveloped in conspiracy was revealed the US government officials realized what a big hat Khalilzad has put on US government officials. He caused the US to fail in the world, no excuse could save Khalilzad. And as the first political victim of the US government's defeat in Afghanistan, he was humiliatingly fired.

Khalilzad, with some political and cultural knowledge of the Afghan people, was versed in the psychology of Afghan leaders. Without firing a single shot, Kabul was handed over safely to the Taliban. Some Afghan army commanders say Khalilzad contacted them and advised them to lay down their weapons and not fight because the issue is over and the front line is left to the Taliban. It seems that all the agents of the western countries and neighbours in the last 20 years had the duty to sweep Kabul and the whole of Afghanistan and then to hand over the power to the Taliban again by the order of Khalilzad, better than 20 years ago.

Today Afghanistan is totally different from 20 years ago because billions of dollars have been spent on rebuilding it. Now that the United States has left Afghanistan in a desecrated status, Khalilzad in his latest interview with the Financial Times said: "Ashraf Ghani, by fleeing Afghanistan, thwarted all plans for a peaceful transfer of power. Ashraf Ghani was supposed to stay for a while. As the Qatari peace talks failed, he continued to run the Afghan government, but before the talks ended, he fled Afghanistan, and with his escape, all our plans became ineffective. Ashraf Ghani knew that it was no longer in Afghan politics. He will not be president because it was a precondition for the Taliban to continue the peace talks and our agreement with the Taliban was that they would not enter Kabul until the talks were concluded, but Ashraf Ghani did not take the risk and fled due to the threat of death. Ghani preferred to resist, and with the collapse of the Afghan presidential palace, the security forces did not take responsibility for securing Kabul, and the army collapsed all at once."

Although Khalilzad has tried to clear himself of the accusation in this interview, from the very beginning Khalilzad's compromising approach to the Taliban reinforced the idea that Khalilzad was seeking to restore absolute power to the Pashtuns under the guise of recruiting the Taliban. The Taliban were reactivated. Otherwise, in any negotiations, such power could not be handed over to the Pashtuns purely and without the participation of other people and ethnicities. From the beginning of his presence in Afghanistan in 2002, Khalilzad undertook the plan to eliminate influential political figures, especially jihadi leaders and commanders, and he knew well what he was doing. He created a situation in which no influential figure could stand up to the Taliban's return to power. He created tensions in Herat and made Ismail Khan, a powerful jihadi commander, he became passive in west Afghanistan after his transfer to Kabul. Khalilzad also worked to eliminate the powerful forces of northern Afghanistan and to create divisions among the forces of the Jamiat-e-Islami party.

Khalilzad's political doctrine was that power should once again be completely in the hands of the Pashtuns, and that Pashtun hegemony in Afghanistan should be the undeniable principle of power, and that he had sought to fulfill this inherent desire through various plans. Khalilzad's other service as a Republican in favour

of his party paved the way for the Democrats to lose the next US election because of Afghanistan's scandal.

From a few months ago, when the Americans began negotiations with the Taliban and practically recognized them and a treaty was signed between them, it was clear that Washington's attitude towards the Taliban was changing. Khalilzad's stance changed dramatically, recognizing the Taliban as a de facto government. A clause in the Doha agreement states that the Taliban should not issue visas to US opponents. In fact, a year ago, the Taliban was recognized by the United States as a government, and it was clear from that time that new plans were being drawn up. The dimensions of Khalilzad's betrayal of the Afghan people are so wide that the passage of time and the clarification of some facts will reveal the depth of the tragedy.

**The Taliban are hostile not only to the Afghan people but to all women making half of the country's population. They are still at war with non-Pashtun people, even with the patriotic Pashtuns.**

- The Haqqani group has been a tool of Pakistan's proxy wars. Gen. Pervez Musharraf addressed former Pakistani President, Haqqani the ring leader of Taliban, "Haqqani is our hero.! »

**For 20 years, suicide bombings, assassinations, kidnappings, car and roadside bombings, and serial assassinations have all been targeted by the Taliban. They have close ties to ISIS and al-Qaeda, as well as other terrorist groups.**

- The other group is the Kandahar Taliban, led by Mullah Baradar and Mullah Yaqub (son of Mullah Omar, the first Pakistani- made Taliban leader). This group follows the extremist Salafi and Wahhabi Islam, which is financially, politically, economically and religiously supported by Saudi Arabia. This group, too, with their self-made nonsense Islam, considers all other religions of Islam and the people of Afghanistan obligatory to be killed without the command and injunction of the holy Qur'an. Taliban committed vicious crimes in Kandahar recently as a small example that these extremist and radical groups will never be reformed for the better, but the worse.

- The third group of the Taliban are those who were trained in the extremist Islamic schools of Pakistan. They have emanated with narrow and limited views, considering all people as infidels and or affiliated with infidel countries.

Thus, the Taliban have taken the Afghan population hostage and in a state of oppression, starvation and destruction. The savage Taliban do not abide by any humanitarian, Islamic or international law, and their actions are directed towards the destruction of culture, language and the exclusion of women from society and ruling through the barrel of a gun.

Afghanistan in the course of history has been invaded incessantly by foreign aggressors. Our people unitedly defended their freedom, independence, and territorial integrity, but after defeating foreign enemies, they have been denied the right to choose their destiny by foreign interference one way or another. In the past twenty years, the people have been held hostage by unpopular regimes and national traitors who were installed or predominated by foreign powers over the will of the people. The regimes pretended under false themes as supporters of justice and carers of people. Unilateralism and extremism have been used as tools for divisiveness and dissension among various ethnic groups, as a tragic tactic in the history of Afghanistan. That stands as a major factor in the long history that hinders national unity, social progress, common and humanitarian interests among ethnic groups. Sustaining lasting peace in Afghanistan is difficult without region and international cooperation.

Today, Afghanistan is on the verge of a difficult and historic test. At this crucial moment, the people find themselves within the grip of a violent administration, the regime of Taliban after the fugitive corrupt regime of Ashraf Ghani and its team collapsed in a conspiracy. The corrupt regime of Ashraf Ghani was of the ring of slaves to the United States and its allies. Those mercenaries deprived people of their rights to life and forced them to survive in poverty and starvation, plundered billions of dollars donated by foreign nations.

People are worried about the Taliban's increasing violence, especially against women, artists, musicians, ethnic groups because their participation in social, economic, and political activities are suppressed brutally. The Taliban will do whatever they want in the name of the people but without the people's will. This policy continues with dangerous consequences for the future of the country. The Taliban has forgotten that Afghanistan was occupied for twenty years due to their stubbornness and ignorance. The Taliban should realize that the people of Afghanistan still look at the politicians of the last twenty years with hatred and at the Taliban as the mercenaries of Pakistan.

Countries around the world, especially the United States, are now reluctant to recognize the Taliban in pursuit of covert diplomacy. Senior Taliban officials claim, "We in the next government oppose foreign military bases in Afghanistan. Afghanistan supports an active policy of neutrality, bilateral and multilateral cooperation with the world. We have defeated the United States." Such a great lie. Taliban ambitions and violence are worrying inside and outside Afghanistan. Most importantly the Taliban under the guidance of ISI is interested in strengthening relations with Russia, China, and Iran, and the Central Asian countries. Taliban know that the United States has left Afghanistan after a defeat and are boastful as the winner of the war against the United States, claiming to follow an independent policy and seeking cooperation with countries that oppose the United States.

**Why is Pakistan lobbying for recognition of the Taliban's administration?**

Pakistan as the father of the Taliban is making every effort that the Taliban barbaric administration is officially recognised by the UN, USA and other European countries including China and Russia. According to well-documented evidence, under the Taliban rule from 1996-2001, women were shut out of paid employment, education, public appearance and normally had to cover their faces and be accompanied by a male relative when they left home, as reported by news outlets.

The barbaric action of the Taliban is now going on cunningly but most violently. Taliban administration has been imposed on the people by a conspiracy. The people of Afghanistan have developed a chronic hatred against them. The protest inside and outside of the country stands as a vivid example of people's dejection. Afghanistan's Taliban administration and Pakistan government are pressing for the release of billions of dollars of central bank reserves. The cause of mass starvation and a new migration crisis is the outcome of Taliban occupation with the help of ISI of Pakistan.

Afghanistan parked billions of dollars in assets overseas with the U.S. Federal Reserve and other central banks in Europe should be released.

**Why is Pakistan interested in the release of Afghanistan's money? Is it because Pakistan is worried about the welfare, comfort, and poverty-stricken people of Afghanistan?**

**Off course not, Pakistan has been the main perpetrator of destruction, bloodshed and continuous violence, suicide bombing, unrest in Afghanistan for the last forty years. Pakistan realise that the Taliban is its slaves and want to get easily access to the money of Afghanistan if it is released to the Taliban administration in Kabul. The release of Afghanistan assets by the United States will never reach the ordinary people of Afghanistan and those who are at risk of starvation and malnutrition. The humanitarian assistance should be directly delivered by international organisations and NGOs to people in need and not through the Taliban admiration and should be monitored by the people of Afghanistan and UN personnel. Starvation is threatening the Afghan people who are exposed by the Taliban Totalitarian and racial regime on the verge of human**

**catastrophes.** Taliban administration is dominantly composed of clergy fanatic, radical and Pashtun ethnic groups. They do not know the meaning of inclusive and pluralistic government and they do not represent the whole population. The secret of US covert diplomacy with the Taliban has not yet been yet uncovered.

"These events are destroying culture and art," he said, referring to the current state of culture and art in Afghanistan. In this situation, some people ask me to state my firm position towards the Taliban. It is very strange that a novelist is asked to comment on such a subject with certainty, because the basis of the story is doubt. It is the job of politicians to speak with certainty. **I cannot completely confirm or deny the Taliban, but what seems to be the possible destruction of culture and art. With the advent of the Taliban, culture and the arts, as well as women's activism and rights, are being marginalized, and on the other hand, they say, relative security is to be established. This is acceptable to those sections of society for whom livelihoods and civil liberties are a**

priority, and temporarily alleviates the situation for them. In general, we cannot say for sure about this issue

Let's say that the situation is improving or declining in all directions. "There are different aspects to this issue, the analysis of which is not my job, but culture and art seem to be declining and declining."

#### **The Outcome of Taliban administration after 102 days:**

The Taliban ISI- installed terror administration in Kabul, people is witness of lawlessness, suppression of women and freedom of speech, there are numerous examples of killings, abductions, threatening and violence leaked despite strict censorship of media. Whoever points out the barbaric attitude of Taliban towards Afghans citizens their safety will be at stake.

**Kabul university professor Faizullah Jalal often appeared in debates on Afghanistan's issues being known as a blunt and outspoken critic of the country's leadership mismanagement being responsible for the current chaotic situation.**

Since being put in power on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August 2021, the Taliban terror group has waged a deadly crackdown on opposition, violently dispersing peaceful protesters, detaining and beating journalists, photographers, civil activists, and suppressing cruelly women voices, killing artists, comedians, musicians and teachers.

In his most recent interview on TOLO TV Professor Jalal excoriated the new Taliban regime actions. He expressed the opinion of the overwhelming majority of people of Afghanistan. Many people applauded him and showed solidarity with him for expressing their opinion frankly and boldly.

On 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2021, professor Jalal denounced the Taliban of monopolizing power and stifling free speech. He said, "I feel pain because of the current situation in Kabul. People do not have anything to eat. What kind of security is this? No one is allowed to say anything. You are annihilating people. Ruling a country cannot be done through using stick, and bat, terror, intimidation and bullying."

In response to the Taliban spokesman, Mr Naeem Wardak, Professor Jalal added, "You should speak properly. With such thoughts, actions, terrorising, you think that you are the think-tank of all, but you're not". Addressing the Interviewer, Jalal continued, "They think that they are independent, but they are not. They are destroying the country. We know the reality and see what is going on in Afghanistan. Whatever I am saying is the truth nothing but the truth."

I am a witness and saw with my own eyes. At the time of Hamid Karzai, hundreds of cars loaded with Pakistani people were going to the North of Afghanistan, and on return only the drivers were seen in their cars. The passengers disappeared in the north. This country belongs to all citizens. This is not the country of one ethnicity. This is not the country of a group. This is not a country of four people. They do not know the definition

of national interest. Is national interest, opposing to the European countries, China, India, Iran, Arab nations, western countries? Being opposed to all the countries in the world, is it for the national interest? We have an erroneous definition of national interest. The national interest is defined in the interest of all people of Afghanistan. It covers national, regional and international aspects in which there should be people, regional, international and superpowers support consent and agreement.

Mr Naeem was imprudent and not able to present a convincing reason to the audiences on the chaotic situation created by the Terror group of the Taliban, the mercenaries of Pakistan. So, he abruptly alleged professor Jalal of being a communist. After that insult, professor called him a calf, meaning naïve and nonsensical. That is likely to expose him as target of vengeance.

The ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2021, issued a new eight-point set of “religious guidance” for Afghan media, suppressing country’s free press.

**Recognition of Taliban Regime:** Recognition of Taliban regime means appreciation of a terror group who are not bound to any humane principle. Recognition of Taliban will be nothing but officially emboldening the ISIS, Al-Qaeda and other terror groups for the destruction of approximately 35 million population of Afghanistan. If the world powers want to maintain their interest in Afghanistan and in the region, they need to work out to bring a government in which the whole people of Afghanistan feel themselves involved without any discrimination of racial, linguistic, gender and ethnic affiliation. But relying on a bunch of fanatics, racist hooligans who committed horrific crimes to killing thousands of people in Afghanistan, no peace and security will be ensured.

Taliban are busy in destroying the cultural values and the Farsi – Dari language which is the dominant language of 90 percent of population in Afghanistan.

**What is the Taliban doing about the Afghan book market?**

- All the books written by women have been collected from bookstore. It has been prohibited to publish books written by women. Mohammad Karimi was born in Iran as an Afghan refugee but has been back in Afghanistan for five years because of his father's job. He says he has always loved reading various Farsi-Dari novels and stories. In a previous interview with Karimi, he said: "Every time I walk the streets of Herat and Kabul and see bookstores, I go back to a time when we longed for a storybook and the Taliban would not let us and burn books. "But those hard days are over, and now wherever I walk and, in every bookstore, I go, I can see and buy Persian (Farsi- Dari) books and go to the world of fiction and fantasy that I have always enjoyed.", Mr Karimi added.

Less than a month after the interview, the Taliban are now on the streets of Herat and Kabul. I went to Karimi again and asked him about the new situation, but this time he said with all his unhappiness and despair: "How different the situation was the day we talked, but now everything changes day by day, for example, a bookstore may be open but will be closed tomorrow. "Now either at the behest of the Taliban or with the fears of the bookseller himself."

He pointed to a bookstore in Herat that always brought new books published in Iran and had a lot of customers. "Slowly I quit my job, I have been trying to get here for 15 years, now I cannot ignore my efforts. About two months later, however, the situation changed, the bookstore was no longer there and it was completely emptied. I followed up through my friends, I found out that he would be arrested after two weeks and then they would force him to empty his shop."

"I am worried that, like in the past when the Taliban were in Afghanistan, all books will be banned and red lines will be given to them again," Karimi said. I am concerned about the literature, culture and art that we have worked so hard for over the years. "All those restrictions are going to come back, and that upsets us all."

"Let me give an example from a friend of mine in Kabul, in the first month after the appearance of the Taliban, they visited bookstores every day and wanted to collect non-religious books, especially fiction and poetry books. I remembered my father's words, he explained about the situation at that time that we should read books secretly and now we are back to the same days."

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Ali Mohammadi, who is active in the publishing field between Iran and Afghanistan, said about the common market of this publication: "If we look at eight or nine years ago, books in the Afghan publishing market were supplied by Iran and many Iranian books - especially the bestsellers in Iran - are bestsellers in Afghanistan. "We have an example among the friends of publishing in Afghanistan and we say that everything that is published in Iran is necessary for us and should be here. We even published our books there due to the good printing conditions in Iran, but now everything is different."

"Let me tell you about the situation now, the situation is very complicated and there are no rules yet as to what book to have and what book not to have," he continued. Everything is just words, for example, they say that books of fiction and poetry and even philosophy should not be in bookstores and should not be published at all, or that currently no books enter Afghanistan from Iran and most books used to come from Iran and then from Pakistan. But now no books come from Iran, unless smuggling enters Afghanistan. Iran is the source of book imports to Afghanistan. The books of this publication are welcomed by the academic community of Afghanistan and are introduced as the main source by professors, but in the technical, engineering or medical fields, according to my observations, Persian sources produced in Iran are not used much. "In the field of novels and stories, Iran is the main point that is introduced to Afghanistan, but nothing can be done at the moment and we have to see what happens in the future."

### The Taliban burn books

Referring to the years of Taliban rule in Afghanistan, Mohammadi said: "We in Afghanistan were under a lot of restrictions until 2000. Because of civil war, there was no real attention paid to the political unrest and severe censorship of the Taliban to the booksellers and publishers. The Taliban set fire to so-called banned books, according to a list of books produced by government agencies. Under these circumstances, the publishing industry could not be developed, and on the other hand, private publishers will never be willing to invest in this field, after 2000, for the following factors:

Freedom of expression, adherence to copyright law and other laws protecting the intellectual property of writers enabled publishers to meet the needs of young people who went to university outdoors, as well as to study for entertainment. "In general, before the re-entry of the Taliban, despite all the economic problems and the continuing political unrest, private publishers were operating in Afghanistan, and the situation had just stabilized, but now we are facing the Taliban again."

### Print conditional religious books

He also referred to the information he received from the Ministry of Information and Culture of Taliban Administration and said: "A friend of mine was working in this ministry and of course he was fired, but with the information I received from him I realized that they want to make many changes in to book publishing industry, like before in 1996, only religious books are allowed to be published and not scientific and other literary books."

### Prohibition of the activities of women writers

"After 2000, women in Afghanistan gained a number of freedoms that they had previously been denied due to the presence of the Taliban, such as the right to education, employment and since the Taliban occupied Kabul they are denied of all civil and humane freedom. They cannot upgrade and develop their and skills now. During these years, the number of women writers and educated people, especially in the field of poetry and fiction, has increased significantly. Regular book review meetings were spontaneously held in the form of literary associations without government support. But with the advent of the Taliban again, women are not allowed to be active mentally and physically, being cruelly suppressed. I have heard that all the books written by women have been collected from bookstores, and on the other hand, it has been banned to publish books written by women. The situation is very bad and we cannot predict anything at all

### Pakistan is the only exporter of books to Afghanistan

I asked Mohammadi about the books that are coming to Afghanistan now, and he said, "As far as I know, Pakistan is now exporting books to Afghanistan, books that are all in the field of religion, and of course these religious books cannot be exported from Iran to Afghanistan." The only entry for these books is from Pakistan, and the Taliban have

full control over these books. The next point to note is that a number of booksellers in Kabul and Herat have been captured by the Taliban and are unaccounted for, and their bookstores have either been completely evacuated or, as they say, have collected banned books. "The situation is bad and none of us can really do anything about it."

#### Arrest of women writers

He also referred to the arrest of women writers in the country, saying, "In the first days of the Taliban presence, women protested a lot and as a result, they were arrested. There were several female writers among them and no one knows their fate. I must say with certainty that as long as the Taliban are present in Afghanistan, the situation will be the same and all the efforts we have made over the years will be wasted. In the few years since the Taliban left, we have rebuilt culture and art in our country, but all of a sudden everything seems to fall apart and nothing can be done."

#### Collect books from bookstores

"I was with a friend in Herat a few weeks ago when a few people came into the bookstore and after looking at the books, they started collecting so much of their work," he said. They did it with a coolness that we could not say anything, all the books were collected and only a few religious books remained in the bookstore. Before leaving, they asked my friend to come up with some explanations about some of the books, all of which show that they have no knowledge of the culture and the book, and only think about the limitations they are going to implement.

Do you think that in a society where we have so many young people and students, books should be published with restrictions or books should be smuggled like before and it should be difficult to produce them? The fact that only books come from Pakistan is a sad story in itself. Do you think of young people who love books and now there is no way for them? "On the surface, the Taliban may say we have done nothing and everything continues as before, but this is not really the case, and we can see how many restrictions have been imposed on the few private publishers in Afghanistan."

#### Declining culture and art

Ahmad Mohaqiq is an Afghan writer who won an award in Iran for his book "Russian Songs". "Unfortunately, we are in a vicious cycle and I am sure we will always return to the first point," he said. This is the theme of Russian songs. There is one issue - I addressed it in one chapter of that book - and that was the issue of the Afghan invasion of Isfahan. I am not a historian, I am a novelist, but I have pointed out that our problem, the problem of the people of Afghanistan, is that we are looking for the cause of our problems outside the borders and we do not want to solve the problem inside. "We have been trying to practice democracy for 20 years, but it has failed miserably, and now we are back in 1996, and we can only hope that things do not get worse."

"These events are destroying culture and art," he said, referring to the current state of culture and art in Afghanistan. In this situation, some people ask me to state my firm

position towards the Taliban. It is very strange that a novelist is asked to comment on such a subject with certainty, because the basis of the story is doubt. It is the job of politicians to speak with certainty. What seems to be the possible is destruction of culture and art. With the advent of the Taliban, culture and the arts, as well as women's activism and rights, are being marginalized, and on the other hand, they say, relative security is to be established. But that is not true. The relative security for a short time temporarily alleviates the situation for some people. In general, we can say for sure how the people are living in fear and feel worried about their future.

Let's say that the situation is improving or declining in all directions. "There are different aspects to this issue, the analysis of which is not my job, but culture and art seem to be declining."

To be continued....