

Commentary

AKS OR SPADES?: AL-QAEDA, AL-SHABAAB, BOKO HARAM AND ISIS AND ITS THREAT TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract: Al-Qaeda, Al-Shabaab, Boko Haram and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) are regarded as terror organizations that pose a threat to the peace and stability of their respective geopolitical areas. Their armed struggle and commitment to violence and radical change through deeds of terror definitely hamper any form of sustainable development in their respective regions. Their ideological and idiosyncratic beliefsystems necessitate that law enforcement agencies worldwide, must not only act in a proactive manner to identify and prevent these members from executing their terror plans, but it also requires that the public, who must benefit from sustainable development, need to assist those responsible for maintaining social order and not be influenced in any manner whatsoever to also join the jihadist struggle to establish a worldwide Islamic Caliphate.

Keywords: Al-Qaeda; Al-Shabaab; Boko Haram; ISIS; Sustainable Development

Introduction

From a safety and security perspective, sustainable development is only possible when there is no war and violence; only peace and stability. After the tragic events of 9/11 (Ras, 2010a, p. 1) the world has been characterized by continuous terror and counter-terror attacks all around the globe. The focus on Al-Qaeda and its affiliates, especially the followers of Osama Bin Laden (Ras, 2012b, pp. 134-136) and Ayman al-Zawahiri (Ras, 2012b, pp. 136-140), were especially targeted through ground and air strikes wherever they were in hiding. The United States of America and its allies have been hunting all terrorists down wherever human and electronic intelligence and surveillance technology and experts have led them to believe they would find them (Ras, 2010b, Vol. 2:111-112).

Drones and Boots

The use of drones (Williams & Plaw, 2009, pp. 7-25; ISS Paper 248, 2013, p. 4; Doward, 2013) and boots on the ground have forced many members of the Taliban in Afghanistan and Pakistan who support Al-Qaeda to throw down their cellphones in order to avoid being tracked down electronically, and flee across these geographic areas to avoid capture. Many have moved to Yemen and other countries closer to the Horn of Africa. The development of a northern Africa terrorist belt *inter alia* across Sahel-Sahara (including the old salt route) that is anti-American, anti-French, anti-British, anti-Western, anti-Semitic and anti-everything that looks or smells like any form of colonialism and Western or foreign influences, is typical of what can be expected from those who are driven by a jihadist zeal, and who strive to become one or other *shaheed* (martyr – Calvert, 2007; Ras, 2010b, p. 113) for one or other idiosyncratic Islamic cause. The presence of war and violence on the ground makes it impossible for any form of sustainable development to take place.

Al-Qaeda

Al-Qaeda is no longer a dominant religio-militant local Peshawarian organization (Ras, 2010a, pp. 11-12, 61-62). Instead it has become an ideological force (Bergen 2006) whose ideology have crossed all continents. It has influenced diverse people in different countries to do their own form of jihad in order to draw attention to their own cause and to experience one or other psychological form of catharsis, self-actualization or feeling of importance

(Ras, 2010a, p. 19-21). The biggest influence that Al-Qaeda as an organization today has on members is that it is known to those who are anti-Al-Qaeda as an international terror organization that must be eliminated, and to those that are pro-Al-Qaeda, as a historical example for its followers and executioners of the sixth pillar of the Islamic faith, namely, the holy jihad or war (Ras, 2010a, p. 249).

America's Involvement In The War On Terror

The American desert tan combat boots have trampled Al-Qaeda in most parts of Afghanistan and some northern parts of Pakistan, but have not crushed it. While talks between the Al-Qaeda supported Taliban and its affiliates (Fergusson, 2010, pp. 245-258; Ras, 2012b, Vol. 3(4) / Vol. 4(1), p. 119) in the regions of Pakistan are mostly still talks *in nomine*, and one or other conciliatory form of bridge-building or cooperative future partnership is not yet a definite reality *in praxis*, the Republicans have now obtained a majority in the United States' Senate over President Barak Obama's Democrats. They now (November 2014) have 52 seats in the Senate to the 45 of the Democrats (Martosko, 2014). If this majority trend continues in the foreseeable future, then we can expect, in terms of war, more boots, more guns, more drones and more action in the so-called terrorist belts and areas. Patriotic Republicans want action, and action means power. In terms of war it means gunpowder; nitrocellulose gunpowder. And in terms of justice, it means cases; cartridge cases, not legal cases. In terms of economic development it means a move towards a war economy, and in terms of human development, a move towards capacity building to make war and to survive in war zones. The recent beheadings of people (Catholic Online, 2014; Beheadings, 2014) in Iraq and Syria by members of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) (extremist Sunni followers of the holy jihad that want to be more radical than Al-Qaeda), have without doubt awakened allies in the Anglo-Saxon world to be more firm and to step up their attempts to stop these "bloody terrorists". However, the American special forces' boots have become too heavy and too sloppy to wear, and while many Democrats have tried to slow down President Barak Obama's war efforts, so that he, as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States of America, can get out of Iraq and Afghanistan, the opinion of war activists is that they want more camos and boots on the ground. The expectation amongst many private contractors, also from those in South Africa, is that they will again be in private contractual service for the next couple of years for a better financial deal than they can get in their own country (Ras, 2010d, pp. 46-47).

Anti-American Feelings

However, the constant presence of the United States of America and its allied forces in Iraq and Afghanistan and in the north-western parts of Pakistan, has created a situation where the drones in the sky and the intelligence boots on the ground has seemingly turned the populace of these countries totally against the stars and stripes, although that is not necessarily the truth (Williams & Plaw, 2009, pp. 7-25). The negativity of people against the American people is a typical example of a foreign policy that does not succeed. The billions of American dollars that were pumped into the bottomless pit of Afghanistan is simply heartbreaking. The attempt to talk to the Taliban to make lasting peace is regarded with suspicion (Fergusson, 2010) and there is constant debate on Peter Lavelle's *Hard Talk* on Russia Today's television channel (Channel 407) and on Al Jazeera's Channel 406 between analysts and scholars who all have something to say on whether America should or should not be involved in these bullet riddled countries.

Al-Qaeda's Partners

Because Al-Qaeda has become a figurehead or symbol of radical resistance against anything Western and American, a lot of terror groups have connected themselves with the Base (Ras, 2010, p. 4) in one or other way. Prominent groups in Africa include al-Shabaab in Somalia, Boko Haram in Nigeria and Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) while in the terror hotbeds of Iraq and Syria it is the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), also called the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

Al-Shabaab

The Horn of Africa and especially Somalia have also been influenced by the ideology and radicalism of Al-Qaeda. On land the warlords of Somalia have tried to develop and establish themselves, and gain control of as many areas and supplies as possible. Because of the absence of a proper navy, many local Somali fishermen have turned into Somali pirates by hijacking ships to sustain and enrich themselves after their fish stock has been depleted by some Eastern and Western countries. Amidst the existence of these warlords and pirates, Al-Shabaab evolved out of the Islamic Courts Union (ICU) after 2006, and established itself as a local jihadist terror organization –although it seems that they are now losing a lot of ground (Daily Nation, 9 November 2014; BBC News Africa, 16 May 2014; Harper, 2014). *Harakat al-Shabaab al-Mujahideen*, meaning "The Youth" or "The Youngsters" is a jihadist group

based in Somalia that pledged itself to Al-Qaeda in 2012. These members are connected to some of the warlords and also have connections with the Somali pirates. They are in favour of strict Sharia laws, and they are in constant war against the Somali transitional Federal Government and its Ethiopian military allies. Because of the multi-ethnic nature of this group, there are two dominant groups of Al-Shabaab in Somalia: the national legion, consisting of foot-soldiers that are nationalists and clan or tribal related members under the spiritual leader Hassan Dahir Aweys, and a foreign legion under Moktar Ali Zubeyr “Godane”. In February 2013 Godane pledged alliance to Al-Qaeda, but he was killed on 1 September 2014 in a drone attack. He was succeeded on 6 September 2014 by Ahmad Umar (Laccino, 2014). While the national faction of Al-Shabaab is fighting the Somalian government for power and control, the international faction wants to establish an Islamic Caliphate, which links them to Al-Qaeda. By connecting themselves to each other, both Al-Qaeda and Al-Shabaab believe they will get some form of status and prominence in the Islamist world – something both groups regard as important because it can draw international sympathy, foreign funding and more foot soldiers to carry the black Islamic banners towards one or other rallying point somewhere in their cognitive mindsets (Ras, 2010a, pp. 52, 131).

Boko Haram

The name “Boko Haram” is freely translated as “Western education is a sin”, and is a militant Islamist organization in the north-eastern parts of Nigeria. Their official name is *Jama’atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda’Awati Wal-Jihad*, which means “People committed to the Prophet’s Teachings for Propagation and Jihad.” The group was founded by Mohammed Yusuf in Maiduguri, the capital of the north-eastern Nigerian state of Borno, in 2002 (Sergie & Johnson, 2014; Cook, 2011). His religious school has attracted Muslim families from all over the country and even outside Nigeria and has become a recruitment centre for those who endorse the sixth pillar of the Muslim faith (Ras, 2010a, pp. 170-171). Al-Qaeda had links with Yusuf and conservative Muslim groups in this area that want to replace the existing government. Boko Haram is a Sunni fundamentalist group that at present embraces Wahhabism. They are very strictly anti-Western. Yusuf, a trained Salafist and Islamic fundamentalist (Sergie & Johnson 2014), was arrested and died in custody in 2009, and was succeeded by his second-in-command, Abubakar Shekau. The organization is linked to Al-Qaeda in the Maghreb and seems to be especially active in Niger. Boko Haram operates in northern Cameroon and has also been involved in clashes along the borders of Chad and Niger. They have infiltrated the army and police in Borno, and several deadly attacks have occurred in the past years that have killed and displaced thousands of people cf. Hare 2015). Just like Al-Qaeda and the international faction of Al-Shabaab, the goal of Boko Haram is to establish a world-wide Islamic Caliphate where a caliph will rule the world on behalf of Allah. According to Aminu Abubakar (2014) from Kano, Nigeria, a new Boko Haram video released on 9 November reinforces the idea that Abubakar Shekau indeed has created a caliphate within Nigeria. The killing of 48 children on 10 November 2014 by Boko Haram at the Government Technical Science College in the city of Potiskum (Freeman, 2014) again indicates that this terror group creates a situation where no sustainable development can take place when people live in fear, and no one knows when they are going to become the next victim.

Al-Qaeda In The Islamic Maghreb (AQIM)

The official name of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) is *Qaedat al-Jihad fi Bilad al-Maghrib al-Islami* (Organization of Al-Qaeda in the Land of the Islamic Maghreb). This terror group wants to overthrow the Algerian government and institute an Islamic state, and recruits members from Algerian and local Saharan communities like the Tuaregs and Berbiche clans from Mali and Morocco. Before 2007 they were known as the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC), and were founded in 1998 by Hassan Hattab. In 2003 Hattab was replaced by Sheik Abou Ibrahim Mustapha, who died a year later. Abu Musab Abdel Wadoud then became the leader. AQIM wants to get rid of any Western influences in northern Africa, overthrow the governments of Algeria, Libya, Mali, Mauritania and Tunisia, and instal fundamentalist Sharia law in all the conquered areas (Laub & Masters, 2014). In September 2006 Ayman al-Zawahiri announced a blessed union between AQIM and Al-Qaeda and said that France (the former colonial power that ruled Algeria) is their enemy (Laub & Masters, 2015). This union underlines the sentiments and collaboration between these two groups because of their common belief in the establishment of an Islamic Caliphate.

ISIL / ISIS

Since the death of their leader, Bin Laden, Al-Qaeda has tried to forge links with other radical terror organizations in order to remain the leading terror group in the world, but this has been seriously challenged and surpassed by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), also called the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). ISIL or ISIS was

originally known as Al-Qaeda in Iraq and traced its origin back to 1999 when it was formed under the name *Jama'at al-Tawid wal-Jihad*, which later became known as *Tanzim Qaidat al-Jihad fi Bilad al-Rafidayn*.

Eight years ago Al-Qaeda members in Iraq joined other Sunni rebel groups to form the Mujahideen Shura Council. This council later led to the establishment of the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI). ISI got involved with the Syrian war, and its expansion into Iraq and Syria has led to the formation of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was responsible for its significant growth. Both ISIL and Al-Qaeda want to establish a worldwide Islamic caliphate, but in February 2014 Al-Qaeda cut its ties with ISIL after an eight-month power struggle. A worldwide caliphate was proclaimed on 29 June 2014 (Lock, 2014), and Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, better known as Amir Al-Mu'minin, Caliph Ibrahim, was named as its caliph. It proclaims religious authority over all Muslims worldwide, and aims to bring most traditionally Muslim inhabited regions of the world under its political control, beginning with the Levant region. The Levant region covers Syria, Jordan, Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Cyprus and part of southern Turkey. This group has been designated as a terrorist organization by the United Nations, the European Union, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Australia, Canada, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia and Israel. The United Nations and Amnesty International have found it guilty of ethnic cleaning on a historical scale.

Ayman Al-Zawahiri

The present leader of Al-Qaeda, Ayman al-Zawahiri (Ras, 2010a, pp.140-143), has been for many years in hiding. His present attempts to remain undetected and his lack of zeal and physical presence in the present war zones of Syria and Iraq contribute to the perception that Al-Qaeda is no longer the most dominant international terrorist group. Al-Zawahiri is not seen as the physical leading figure in the present expansion of radical and extremist foot soldiers on the ground. The war in Syria has led to a huge upsurge in foreign fighters joining the fight against the present Syrian regime of President Bashar Hafez al-Assad. The fact that ISIL could expand so much in such a short time under the leadership of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, as well as his self-proclaimed leadership as caliph, indicates that al-Baghdadi regards himself as the most important radical Muslim leader.

The Belief-System Of Al-Baghdadi

Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi is *me judice* driven by the same five beliefs as former Osama Bin Laden. These beliefs are: that all Muslims must believe in the holy jihad; that violence is the only option for change; that people must be shocked through psychologically terrifying terrorists deeds; that the West (USA), the Jews (Israel) and Christians are bad and evil and need to be removed from the holy land (Saudi Arabia) and its surroundings; and the belief that they (Al-Qaeda / ISIL) are pleasing God through fighting Allah's war (jihad) on earth (Bergen, 2006; Ras, 2010a:29-33).

The Beliefs Of All Jihadis

The jihadis are Muslims who practise jihad and who believe in the establishment of a world-wide Islamic caliphate. Members of Al-Qaeda, Al-Shabaab, Boko Haram and ISIL / ISIS are all united through an erroneous fundamentalistic interpretation of the Quran (Ras, 2010a, pp.7-8, 42-43; 2012). They all share radical beliefs. Although it seems that all of them want to establish an Islamic Caliphate (Ras, 2010a, pp. 33-36) these militants are not really religiously driven as if they were highly spiritual and committed believers of Allah. The majority of them are jobless, poor, marginalized and simply "nobodies" who "someday" want to be "somebodies". The struggle to establish an Islamic Caliphate is just an opportunity for them to do something that they regard as meaningful to them in their present underdeveloped circumstances. The idea of an Islamic caliphate, so they believe, is for them just something that directs their existential frustrated and meaningless lives into something bigger than themselves (Ras, 2010a, pp. 46, 104).

The Impact Of Violence On The Environment

There is no doubt that the war and violence in the operational areas of these militant groups create a situation where no sustainable development can take place. No country like Iraq, Syria, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Somalia, or north-eastern Nigeria, for example, can be built in a constructive manner if it is constantly torn apart through bombs, bullets and militancy, and where people live in constant fear (Grau & Gress, 2002; Jalali & Grau, 2001). What meaningful and constructive human, economic, cultural and social developments can take place in a hostile environment? If there is no lasting peace in a region then there simply can be no sustainable development, only destruction of environmental, economic and human resources (Lapping, 2006, pp.107-110).

Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is a term that incorporates *inter alia* economic, social, cultural and human development, and also environmental protection. Development normally addresses rural (Cloke, Marsden & Mooney, 2006) and urban issues but most recently there is a bigger shift towards urban issues (Gleeson, 2014; Janssens, Pinelli, Reymen & Wallman, 2009; van Dijk, 2006; Lin & Mele, 2005). Human development includes issues like education, public health and standard of living. Just as in health psychology (Ras, 2014), it is all about a quality life. If one sits with illiterate people, no human rights for a country's inhabitants, women who are suppressed because of archaic patriarchal systems based on religious intolerance, male chauvinism and androgenic superiority, then something is drastically wrong. The militant, violent and radical nature of bomb attacks, suicide explosions, roadside bombings and improved explosive devices, drive-by shootings, sabotage, kidnappings, beheadings, ethnic cleansing and intolerance towards people from other religious and cultural and racial groups, are not only shocking examples of gross abuse of basic human rights, but also underline the fact that sustainable development is not possible in areas where these atrocities take place. Jawad Ullah (2012, pp. 168-169) has correctly pointed out that the 9/11 events have greatly affected the mode of world politics. The USA first attacked Afghanistan and then moved to the tribal areas of Pakistan. Because of these attacks by the USA and its allies, "...millions of people migrated from their ancestral villages to Peshawar and other cities of the Frontier Province, and it was the largest ever internal displacement of people in history." No person can grow, no child can develop. No learning, no knowledge accumulation and dissemination can take place in times of militant activity or war. In Nigeria's north-east all Western education is regarded as evil, and is forbidden by followers of Boko Haram. In Somalia warlords are fighting for control, and no decent and sustainable developments are taking place. In Syria and Iraq people are running away and cut off from their loved ones because of beheadings, murders, rape and all kinds of gross human violations that are mind-boggling and quite incomprehensible for people not living during the Dark Ages and the time of the crusades (Praamsma, 1979, pp. 242-244, 261-272). In Afghanistan and Pakistan most women cannot read or write, no education takes place, development is slow, and in many parts of the country opium poppy and heroin are ten times more important than the planting of sustainable agricultural products. Drugs are more important than food. AK assault rifles are symbols for men that they are mature. In war-torn areas like Afghanistan and Pakistan an AK47 is more important than a spade, a rake or a watering-can. Males are still regarded as more important than females. Child soldiers are recruited and used in most countries where there is conflict. Even acid attacks on females in many parts of Pakistan and India are simply regarded as normal. Sustainable economic and agricultural development is not really taking place. South Africa is flooded by people from all over Africa and Asia, all trying to make a better living through the selling and fixing of cellphones, food, clothes, textiles, or whatever product seems to be working. These people have left their countries of birth behind, and come here to try and make a better living. Why? Although there may be many reasons, most of the time it is simply because of war, warlords, unemployment, poverty, limited opportunities, too many people back home, political intolerance, cultural and ethnic differences, limited natural resources, corruption, no hope that the country or their circumstances will improve, or simply because life is too hard where they come from. Zimbabwe's political situation led a few years ago to an economic crisis that has brought millions of Zimbabweans to South Africa. They all came with the hope of finding work to earn some money to send back home. Worldwide refugees, asylum seekers and illegal immigrants cost countries billions of dollars each year to deal with their needs and requests, and repatriate them. In almost every world city there are shanty towns like "little Mogadishu, little Brazzaville, little Lagos, Chinatown" or "little Lahore". In order to survive many foreigners group together in flats in urban or rural areas. Here they rent and subrent houses and rooms in order to stay cheap until they are financially strong enough to rent their own house in order to subrent it. In South Africa the presence of foreigners in the urban townships and even in the remote rural areas *inter alia* has led in the past to serious and violent xenophobic attacks, new rules and regulations when it comes to foreigners, changes in visa applications, and so forth. All these things affect sustainable development and growth in one or other way.

The Public

Worldwide, in developed countries like Britain, Canada and the USA, and in developing countries, the public have easy access to almost everything that the media can offer: radio, television, social media, Whatsup, Facebook, You Tube, the internet with search engines like Google, Yahoo, Alta Vista, Hot Bottom, Lycos and so forth - not to mention all the different television channels. As a result of this, people can easily be negatively influenced by those

who use the media for their own pernicious reasons, like propaganda, persuading people to join them in the jihadist struggle or simply to support them financially.

Government Agencies

Despite the right to freedom of expression and the press, government agencies and decision-makers have stepped in in order to regulate the media to *inter alia* ensure that militancy or radicalism is not electronically fed to the masses. Dean, Bell and Newman (2012, pp. 107-126) have correctly pointed out that members of the public can be equipped for terror activities through Web. 2.0 social media technologies. These technologies, especially, have allowed terrorism to become a massive “dot.com” presence on the internet. According to them more than 7000 terrorist sites could be identified on the internet in 2006 (Dean, Bell & Newman, 2012, Vol. 3, pp. 107-126). You Tube, for example, has created new opportunities for terrorist organizations. Terrorists can use the social media to recruit, communicate, train and fund “online terrorists”. On You Tube, for example, viewers can see how to field strip an AK47, through Facebook invitations can be sent to people who terror groups want to recruit, and through Twitter instant communication can be made if necessary to do so – especially during a time of the execution of an attack, like during the Mumbai attack when 164 people were killed and more than 300 injured (Dean, Bell & Newman, 2012, pp. 107-112). Because the internet has become a security threat, Dean, Bell and Newman (2012) especially recommend the concept and practice of knowledge-managed policing that they describe as highly relevant, timely and necessary (Dean, Bell & Newman, 2012, Vol. 3, p. 118). It needs to be considered in order to stop the recruitment of terrorists that threatens fragile democracies and human rights, because a breakdown in democracy and human rights certainly hampers sustainable development and growth.

The Psychological Impact Of Armed Conflict On Children

I was struck by the moving description of Jawad Ullah (2010:169) of the psychological impact of armed conflict on the children of Pakistan when he was busy doing field observations while in charge of rehabilitation and working as a cluster coordinator for the Save the Children Alliance in 2009 in the emergency post-operation situation:

“The threatening statements of [the] Taliban, roaring of gunships helicopters and mortar guns, public slaughtering and hanging of persons were witnessed by children which created a lot of psychological problems.... The hardships being faced during the displacements, totally change the environment, i.e. from house to communal living in tents, school buildings or with host families, lack of facilities, long queues to register and receive relief goods, no access to education, harsh weather conditions...non-availability of electricity led to severe traumatic symptoms amongst the majority of children. The children suffered from stress... display a wide range of symptoms including increased separation, anxiety and developmental delays, sleep disturbances and nightmares, lack of appetite, withdrawn behavior, lack of interest in play, and, in younger children, learning difficulties. In older children and adolescents, responses to stress can include anxious or aggressive behavior and depression....”

The remarks of Ullah (2010, p. 169) encapsulate typical psychological symptoms that children in war zones develop – something that makes any form of development, not to mention sustainable development, a real challenge for development practitioners.

Kalashnikovs Or Spades?

Kahn (1994, pp. 82-84) said that people get power when the elected and appointed officials of a county (geographical area) are addressing the needs of poor people through creative action on the part of local government. In his book entitled, “How people get power”, he has made 38 recommendations that basically all emphasized one central key issue, and that is that all people must experience a good quality life. What makes this kind of life a reality are things that we all want for ourselves: jobs, houses, transport systems, day care facilities, vocational training opportunities, comprehensive water and sewerage systems, medical clinics, educational facilities and schools and opportunities, proper roads, police protection and recreational facilities, to mention just a few. When people are carrying Kalashnikovs, RPG-7s, hand grenades or improvised explosive devices, set booby traps, roadside bombs, put on suicide vests, lay ambushes or organize snipers to take out people; then any form of

development, not to mention sustainable development, is simply a myth. Sustainable development is only possible when political and government leaders are committed to implement human rights and to protect those rights and all individuals against any form of terror and from those who do not want to maintain social order. Peace and political stability are critical before any form of economic, social, agricultural, environmental or human development can take place. When Nehemiah and the Jews went to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem in about 445 B. C., he and the men used both their hands. In one hand was a tool to build the wall, and in the other a weapon to defend themselves against their enemies in case they were attacked (NIV, Neh. 4, 1981, pp. 571-572; Wright, 1980, Vol. 4, pp. 404-407). They did not do only one thing when they went back to rebuild their lives and future. They were building and protecting themselves at the same time in order to make progress and build their future. Instead of opting for an AK47 or a spade, it is perhaps better to suggest both. Use the spade to build, but at the same time use the Kalashnikov to guard the development. Militancy and radicalism need to be stopped immediately whenever and wherever they takes place and it is the task of governments worldwide to assist one another to restore peace, to maintain social order, and to govern their countries in an effective manner. The suffering of people, especially women, children, the elderly, the sick and the weak is not negotiable. To protect them is simply the right thing to do. While development normally follows war in the present complex world set-up, it needs to take place at the same time.

Hard Talk And Hard-Ball Ammunition

Worldwide development practitioners realize that their hands are tied behind their back when there is no peace and stability in a country. Political stability and law and order first need to be in place, but practitioners know that this is not always possible. Although it serves no purpose to send a United Nations truck with maize meal onto a road full of landmines and explosive devices while snipers are waiting in ambush with machine guns and RPG-7s (Jalalai & Grau, 2001; Grau & Gress, 2002; Ras, 2002, p. 7; 2003), it is sometimes done because of humanitarian reasons.

Roundtable discussions and hard talk peace negotiations and settlements must always and on a continuous basis take place until a solution is reached between enemies (Fergusson, 2010; Ras, 2012, p. 119), but human sentiments do not stop extremists who behead their enemies and videoe the whole event in order to use it as a propaganda tool on the social media (Beheadings, 2014; Catholic Online, 2014). People who deliberately kill or maim children and women through explosive devices in the name of jihad need hard-ball ammunition to stop them in their tracks (Ras, 2010c).

Decisive Action

Development practitioners must realize that decisive military action and the use of drones and boots on the ground are at this stage in many parts of the world the only solution to end the war on terror (Ras, 2010b; Williams & Plaw, 2009). The after-effects of these actions and the possible animosity that they may breed against those who press the triggers and buttons to stop the violence can be debated and predicted, but it must not be said that good people did nothing while others were crying for help and assistance (Kennedy, Bailey & Piehl, 1989, pp. 389-402, 459-472). There is no room for slackness or for fainthearted people in war zones. In terms of human development, once a war zone is stabilized development practitioners need to climb in and train and develop those left behind to ensure that sustainability is not just a pipe dream but a reality that can again put smiles on the faces of those who now cry and who see no future amidst all the smoke and dust. Politicians, scholars, law enforcement agencies, and ordinary people are all responsible for stopping the violent terror tactics of groups like Al-Qaeda, Al-Shabaab, Boko Haram and ISIS. Let us again see what we can do to stop these senseless wars and prevent beautiful countries going up in bombs and flames. We have to change things not only because it is the right thing to do, but because we have no choice (Ras, 2012, p. 121). No development, whether human, economic, social, or cultural can take place when people have to flee, hide, or dig trenches in order to stay alive.

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