

Re-affirming human values

MUHAMMAD RAMZAN, on the occasion of International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination observed on March 21, says that the 'superior' nations should realise the dignity of human beings

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Racial discrimination has assumed grave and brutal forms. Some of these races are of the self-acquired and self-imposed belief that they are superior to others in colour, culture, caste and creed. This biased thinking has virtually developed hatred, intolerance and disharmony by racists instead of fraternity, mutuality, harmony and friendship. During a conference held in Africa some time ago, president Thabo Mbeki passed very interesting, but thought-provoking remarks in a critical way, he said:

"If you are white, you're all right; if you are brown, stick around; if you are black, get back, get back, get back".

This feeling of superiority, prejudice and dislike by one race against the others is commonly called racial discrimination. It provokes human indignity in different ugly and shabby ways including enslavement, trade of human beings, forcible occupation of the land, usurpation of resources of the weaker races by the stronger ones and migration of the oppressed people from their native lands. Racists devise and spread theories, averse to the internationally accepted fundamental human rights, propagating that some nations are superior to others. Thus racial hatred is inevitable and unavoidable. This has led to barbarity, genocide, brutalities, poverty and forced migration of masses.

Race is an anthropological term. People of the same origin and possessing distinctive inherited features i.e. colour of skin (white, grey, black), hair, eyes, shape of nose and lips belong to one race or the other. There are three basic races in the world: the Europeans, who are white, the Mongolians, who are yellow and the Negroid or Africans, who are black. However, conceptions of race, nation and language are wrong to be equated. Racists have divided human races into "superior" and "inferior" ones. The races that believe themselves to be superior, are of the opinion that progress is only possible by the efforts of superior races. This is a deep-rooted and ill-founded thinking amongst the Americans and the Europeans.

History is replete with race-struggles, mostly leading to and resulting in the domination of so-called superior races over inferior ones. It took long time for the inferior races to throw off the hegemonic yoke of the stronger races. Whites' barbarous role in subjugating and ruling over the coloured races has throughout been awfully heinous as in the case of apartheid in Africa and black slaves brought from African countries in chains to America. Apartheid was based on the idea of racial superiority of a 'chosen people' (whites - the rulers). Political and civil rights of a person were determined on his racial origin. Apartheid caused harassment, terror, mass extermination, illegal confinements,

severe punishments and legal repression.

Claiming justice by the blacks on the basis of equity with the whites was legislatively a crime of grave magnitude. Likewise the poor Palestinians have been converted into a race lacking security, honour, human dignity and right to live as an independent nation in their own native home-land, Palestine. The racial state of Israel, duly supported and sponsored by the United States of America, is responsible for all these inhuman treatments meted out to the poor Palestinians. Israel is void and devoid of human and humane feelings and is ruthlessly committing all types of atrocities in Palestine, bulldozing and setting ablaze houses of the Palestinians, molesting their women and forcibly occupying and usurping their lands. This is the worst type of racial discrimination, which the world has had ever witnessed.

Israel was installed as a racial state of Jews and Zionists in the heart of the Arab world by America and the Europe to provide a haven to them at the cost of Arabs especially the Palestinians. Hitler made a general slaughter of Jews for several known and unknown reasons, mainly because of the Jews' plans to destabilise Germany by conspiring with America in World War-II and in the end to rule over the entire world. America and other European countries then did not come to their rescue. However, they pledged that they would help in providing land in the Middle East to enable the Jews to establish an independent state if the allied forces won World War-II. Thus the emergence of Israel is the fulfilment of that commitment of America and the West.

Hinduism is another type of racism or hidden apartheid. According to Hindu Caste System God did not create human beings with equal rights and status. He created distinct orders of them as distinct species of animals and plants. Thus they are born to be Brahmans, *Kashatris* (soldiers), *Waish* (farmers) and the *Shooder* (the Dalits and Harjans). Dalits, being the lowest in status in the Hindu caste system are the targets of all types of hate and humiliation in society and can never achieve a social status at par with those belonging to higher

castes. Brahmans belong to the highest caste in that caste system and since they are in majority in the cabinet and the national assembly, they have lot of superiority complex. Their religious prejudice is reflected in their every day's dealings and practices. They have no regard for minorities, Sikhs, Christians, Budhists and especially the Muslims.

Destruction and demolition of Babri Mosque in Ayudhia, Golden Temple of Sikhs in Amritsar, churches of Christians and religious places of minorities is the order of the day in India. India in line with its racial and chauvinistic policy is all-out in butchering the poor Kashmiris in the Occupied Kashmir, burning their dwellings and business centres, and dishonouring their women. In doing so they have no respect or regard for international laws, UN Human Rights Charter and morals. Now-a-days Hindu militants and hard-liners are at liberty to kill the Muslims, loot their assets and destroy their belongings. India claims itself as the biggest democracy but like Israel, India, being horrendously a caste ridden state, has badly failed in maintaining the basic human rights of its minorities, low caste Hindus and allowing the Kashmiris to exercise their right of self determination as guaranteed under the UN's resolutions.

We must re-affirm our faith in fundamental human rights, human dignity, respect of every person and equal rights of men, women and of all large or small nations. People must not be categorised as inferior and superior on the basis of their colour, creed, caste, language and religion. Presently when stronger races and nations are violating basic human rights of the weak races and nations, it becomes incumbent, more than ever before, upon the United Nations, the world community and the International Human Rights organisations to come forward to save the basic rights of the weak races and nations. As mostly the Muslims are being victimised in the four corners of the world, the Islamic world must come out of their deep slumber and evolve a common strategy to get their rights restored and let them live with honour and dignity.