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THE WINDOW

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CHECHNYA: THE ISSUE OF THIS DECADE

In 1722 Peter The Great invaded Daghestan, but the inhabitants did not accept him gracefully. They fought against those Russian invaders for about hundred and fifty years and still they are fighting. Muslims under the legendary leadership of Sheikh Mansoor built up a fierce resistance against Russian military incursion in seventeenth century. Mansoor died in the closing days of the eighteenth century. The Daghestani *mujahids* under the leadership of Imam Shamyl and with the assistance of Imam Jhilum Khan continued to resist Russian incursion (1839—1859). In 1859 mass agitation and political unrest prevailed in the whole Caucasia when the Russians arrested Imam Shamyl. The Caucasian Muslims established an independent state named Daghestan. Turkey, Germany and later Russia recognized Daghestan. In 1921 at the initiative of Soviet leader Joseph Stalin a conference was held in the capital of Caucasia. It was then decided that the hilly region of Caucasia will be an independent republic and it will be ruled according to Islamic Laws and Caucasian culture. The republic was formed and Imam Shamyl was accepted as the national hero. But within few years the communists in violation of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Daghestan, through treachery, destroyed mosques and *madrasas*, killed the *ulama* and entrepreneurs. As a result in 1937 Caucasia had begun a war of liberation. The communist leaders subjugated this upheaval with military might. One million Muslims were killed and million of Muslims were exiled in Siberia.

The area of Caucasia is 1,66,177 square miles and the population is about twenty-five million. Caucasia is in the Central Asia. Russia always had a desire to invade the Central Asia. Russia occupied almost the whole of Central Asia between 1885 and nineteenth century. In 1916 the Kazakhs rebelled. But Russia subjugated them ruthlessly. The interests of the people of Central Asia were never in accord with those of Moscow. In this situation a Muslim government was formed in Kokand. But the Red Force of Soviet Union subjugated this government with an iron hand.

Lenin uprooted the Khiba rulers in 1919 and the Khans of Bokhara in 1920. The Red Force faced a life threatening protest from the Basmachi guerilla supporters of Khan rulers. The national hero of Turkey Anwar Pasha sacrificed his life in this crusade.

The people of Daghestan started a war against Russia for freedom in 1999. The Russians, to make Daghestani efforts void, started mal propaganda. They attacked Chechnya in this excuse that the Chechens were helping the Daghestanis. Russia started this invasion as a retaliation of the war of 1994. The national hero of Chechnya Shamyl Bashayev is fighting staking his life. It is our moral duty to help those freedom fighters in this *jihad*.

In this context a question rises. What we are doing for our Chechen brethren? In general we, Bangladeshis, have a view that we have nothing to do staying so far away. In fact we are afraid of being in acrimonious relation with Russia and therefore the government of Bangladesh failed to protest the ongoing

atrocities and violation of human rights in Chechnya. It is a matter of great shame and regret that the *Muslim Ummah*, particularly OIC, has not made any meaningful protest against the Russian aggression. The leaders of the Muslim governments across the globe are the camp followers of the West. We have no identity and are not having a desire to possess any identity. We are the so-called Muslims and use our Muslim names only to rule over the Muslim nations. Muslims today are not afraid of being questioned on the day of judgement by Allah for being inactive in a situation like this. We look for guidance from the West if any issue arises.

We can conclude saying that we do not have as much spiritual strength as our ancestors had. We Muslims are not united and we have become the blind followers of the West. Probably we have forgotten the saying of our Prophet *Muhammad* (peace be upon him), “ Muslims are like a body, if a part of the body is hurt, the whole of the body is afflicted with pain.” Indeed now we have no other alternative than to help Chechen *mujahids*. The Muslims are not less than anyone in prestige and spirit. If we can strengthen our spiritual power i.e., *Iman* and do fulfil our responsibilities we will *inshAllah* be successful. Muslims should break silence and help Chechens as well as take necessary steps to enliven Islam there. History testifies that a nation so determined can not be defeated or destroyed. Let us therefore speak in one voice expressing our solidarity of *Muslim Ummah* with the just struggle of the Chechen people so that further loss of life and property can be avoided. This is the moral duty of Muslims now. That day is not far away when Muslims will rule over the whole world *inshAllah* provided we make sincere efforts imbued with the spirit of Islam.

Written by: Hasanul Karim and Mostafa Khaled

Editorial

Dear Brothers,

The holocaust of Chechen Muslims by President Boris Yeltsin, the so-called Father of Democracy in Russia is the worst genocide of human history in Caucasus region. The Chechens are still putting up a fierce resistance against the fury of the advancing huge Russian armed force. Despite the Russian superiority in terms of military equipment and technology the brave Chechens are still defiant. We firmly believe that Russians shall never succeed. Death and destruction have failed to weaken the Chechen resolve. They have created a unique history. Let us pray for our brothers who are sacrificing their lives in this blood feud.

Ma As Salam.

-----Editors

An Announcement

Dear Fellows,

We are in need of articles in English (not more than of 800 words) involving *Quran, Sunnah*, Teachings of Islam, Islamic Laws and International Issues of Islam. So it is your responsibility to help us writing articles to publish this magazine. We (ABISC) are a branch of Witness & Pioneer, which are groups of Islamic Scholars and competent students and which started their journey towards the revelation of truth and divinity holding the hands of our beloved uncle Shah Abdul Hannan. We are ever grateful to him.

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