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IBPP Research Associates - Perspective from Ghana on Terrorism

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---No Peace in Isolation

Global Issues, either big or small, always have an uncanny way of travelling beyond their original locations to some far-away and, sometimes, very unlikely places due mainly to modern-day technological advancement in mass communication. The realization that the world has become a global village grows larger and larger with each passing day to the discomfiture, as it often happens, of nations and people, if it is war or violent conflict. It is worse, in certain perspectives, such as when the Issue has its roots in terrorism or is inspired by sectarian or religious fanaticism as being evidenced in the war between Russia and Chechen rebels while the rest of world looks on as a mere spectator.

Secular governments in Algeria and Egypt, in the midst of predominantly Islamic citizenry, are still in the throes of defending the status quo with so much bloodshed, not to talk about the cost in material terms which could otherwise be used to advance the cause of social and economic benefits. Available information points the accusing finger at terrorism and terrorists whose apostles and agents are in full rein in Chechnya, fighting a war they cannot win but will also not give up as long as possible, no matter what the cost in civilian casualties.

Most keen and critical observers of the Chechen situation agree that the Western countries, particularly the United States, Britain and France will have to back their declared aim of exterminating terrorism with some active support to Russia in this war if world peace and security are to be anything worth talking about. Since 1994 when the crisis developed over the independence of Chechnya, many western countries have, by deeds and words, considered the matter as an isolated Issue between Russia and, its former constituent republic and nothing else but it is now very clear that terrorism and terrorists have much to do with the crisis than any nationalistic outpourings.

The declaration by the Taliban movement that Chechnya must be recognized as an independent state proves beyond doubt that the Taliban have been fighting alongside the Chechen rebels as allied all the time and that their denials of involvement were a sham. Given the much speculated opinion that the Taliban movement has intimate relations with the notorious Osama bin Laden, the Saudi businessman who provides funds and training facilities for terrorist activities and perhaps, the world's most wanted man, can anyone fail to see stark realities of the Chechen situation? Osama bin Laden's territory of Afghanistan is used for the training of various extremist organizations including those to be found in Central Asian countries, in Kashmir, in Kosovo, Yugoslavia, and the Taliban movement, in particular, is suspected to be implicated in international crimes such as narcotics, illegal arms sales and fake currency deals.

Strangely enough, the movement enjoys friendly relations with countries like Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates as against international sanctions imposed on it. Stubborn fact must be faced.

International Bulletin of Political Psychology

Terrorism can spread like a wild-fire or an epidemic. It is a global Issue. (Keywords: Ghana, Globalization, Terrorism.)