

## ROLE OF ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN IN THE WORLD AGAINST VIOLENCE AND EXTREMISM

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Abstract. Islamic Republic of Iran has proceeded directly on two occasions submitting resolution to UN Court so that both options have been in favor of promoting culture of peace, compromise, and peaceful existence. In these resolutions, which are concentrated on promotion of human rights and its production, the emphasis is on prevention from violence and extremism. Hence, the task of independent governments is to prepare the field for negotiation and finding logical solution for international conflicts and benefit from this opportunity to prevent from violence and extremism that might lead to terrorism, war, threatening international peace and security. Study of legal activities of Islamic Republic of Iran at international level indicates the matter that use of military force to fight against violence and extremism itself leads to violence and extremism.

Keywords: peaceful existence, human rights, violence and extremism

### 1. Introduction

If objectives and principles contained in United Nation Charter are implemented based on legal aspects, they are holy and sublime objectives. However, experiences indicate that governments have had failures in implementation of these principles and objectives. Despite that government's claim of having policy in line with principles and objectives of UN charter, they tend to maximize their individual interests and this matter is imposed against others using military force and economic pressures. Islamic Republic of Iran, as an independent country in international scene far away from any kind of profit-driven view over West and East blocks, has announced its slogan as realization of principles and objectives of UN Charter. Resolution of Dialogue of Civilization during discussions and debates related to Huntington's Clash of Civilizations Theory in western scientific and politic associations and resolution of the World against Violence and Extremism during past three decades (both resolutions were approved in United Nations General Assembly based on consensus) indicated policy and belief of Islamic Republic of Iran in case of facing events related to international policies. Since various articles and dissertations have been written in detail about the Resolution of Dialogue of Civilizations, this matter is not studied herein; whereas, the international legal of the Resolution of the World against Violence and Extremism, its plan and achievements are examined in this study due to novelty and importance of this document. Resolution of the world against violence and extremism is an extensive resolution in terms of its domain of subjects. This resolution can be legally considered as one of important resolutions in General Assembly in terms of human rights, international peace and security. Fundamentalism raised from promoted violence at national and international levels is a trigger that military action or force is not the only solution for it in view of the Resolution of the world against violence and extremism, because the planner of this resolution assumes that violence creates violence. Accordingly, another solution except for military solution. The content of the Resolution of world against violence and extremism emphasizes on options regardless of military solution and these options are reviewed herein.

### 2. Resolution of A WORLD AGAINST VIOLENCE AND EXTRIMISM (WAVE) and emphasis of objectives and principles of UN Charter

Resolution of A WORLD AGAINST VIOLENCE AND EXTRIMISM (WAVE), which was designed by Islamic Republic of Iran for first time, is one of the most important direct and precise resolutions of General Assembly in field of violence and extremism. The content of this resolution was the agenda number 15 assessed in 68<sup>th</sup> session of assembly and approved through consensus without opposition of any country. This resolution consists of 28 clauses including various subjects that each of them is capable of facing extremism. The issuance reason base of this resolution, as it is mentioned in clause 1 of resolution, is requirements contained in UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In other words, the assembly reemphasizes all of resolutions issued about violence and extremism, which are indeed originated from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in this resolution explicitly. Study of this resolution indicates that it concentrates on three basic subjects. Although it is not a new subject to review this resolution, it depicts that General Assembly has considers violence and extremism as reasons rooted in governments' behaviors.

#### 2.1 Commitment of countries to respect for Fundamental Human Rights

"Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people" has been considered by United Nations. One of major considerations in Resolution of a WORLD AGAINST VIOLENCE AND EXTRIMISM is to encourage governments to support and implement regulations related to human rights (Cordell and Wolf, 2014). Clause one of this resolution is about to illustrate a trend followed by assembly mentioning relevant resolutions issued by General Assembly in past.

In viewpoint of UN General Assembly, respect for human rights and outbreak of violence and extremism are directly related to each other. However, the human rights considered by General Assembly are not just consisted of values raised from western culture as some of member states claim, because clause 2 of this resolution and previous resolutions have concentrated on necessity of respect for "Cultural Rights" that are often considered by countries against western human rights measures. In this regard, clause 6 reminds commitment of state members of organizations mentioning necessity of respect for human rights and immediately clause 7 warns about consequences of lack of respect for fundamental freedoms. According to the mentioned clause of the resolution, member states are persuaded that war and armed conflicts might lead to fundamentalism, violent extremisms, failure in promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms. In this regard, "the first and most important responsibility of governments is ensuring a life full of peace free from violence for citizens living in the country. The result of adherence to such responsibility would lead to peaceful coexistence of government with neighbors leading to international peace and security (Shariat Nia, 2010)".

In this field, complying regulations related to human rights is the first demand of General Assembly to cope with violence and extremism and this demand will not be met unless through academic and purposeful promotion and education of human rights and compromise culture among community members. In this case, Resolution of "A WORLD AGAINST VIOLENCE AND EXTRIMISM" has considered relative comprehensive clauses to promote human rights; of that, Articles 8 and 10 can be named as examples. The perspective of UN members about

education as a mean to cope with extremism is reflected as follows:

“Underlines the vital importance of education, including human rights education, as the most effective means of promoting tolerance, in preventing the spread of extremism by instilling respect for life and promoting the practice of non-violence, moderation, dialogue and cooperation, and encourages all States, the specialized agencies of the United Nations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute actively to this endeavor by, inter alia, placing emphasis on civic education and life skills as well as democratic principles and practices at all levels of formal, informal and non-formal education” and “calls upon Member States to advocate for and disseminate information on tolerance and mutual respect, and underlines the potential contribution of the media and new communications technologies, including the Internet, to promoting respect for all human rights, to developing a better understanding among all religions, beliefs, cultures and peoples, to enhancing tolerance and mutual respect and thus to strengthening the rejection of violent extremism”.

Underlying citizens' education is indeed one of the most basic and fundamental human rights considered in other international documents. According to Clause 2 of Article 26 of Universal Declaration of Human Rights, “Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace”.

This subject has a wider domain in International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Approved on 16 December 1966: “states member of this covenant recognize the right of everyone to free education. This is to be directed towards “the full development of the human personality and the sense of its dignity”, and enable all persons to participate effectively in society. These states believe that education should spread friendship and understanding among all nations, races and religious or ethnic groups developing UN activities in order to protect peace”( Ziaee Bigdeli, 2012).

However, about 77 billion children have existed in the world without any access educational facilities until 2010. Credible reports indicated the fact that more than half of these children are living in countries with war or semi-war conditions. These countries have had either racist, religious, ethnic conflicts or have been attacked by foreign countries. Wrong beliefs are one of the most important reasons for limited access to education at national level. The implication of such constraint is lack of awareness of citizens in problem solving in society that leads to outbreak of violence and extremism (Adami, 2012).

## 2.2 Refrain from threat or use of force in international relations

According to Clause 4 of Article 2 of Charter, “All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations”. According to the explicit content of this Article, use of military force in international community is not accepted as it is not consistent with the Charter of United Nations and social security. “Use of force and formulation of use of coercive force in international community is so ambiguous that is one of the most perplex subjects for lawyers and international law” (Grover, 2011). In fact, this regulation is a complementary for Clause 3 of Article 2 in which, government are asked to “All Members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered”. Despite the emphasis of Charter on non-use of

force in international relations, we still see the force used by powerful countries. For instance, the campaign of USA against Iraq has been opposed to the UN Charter and Security Council Resolutions in opinion of many of international lawyers.

The purpose of this introduction was to study resolution of a World against Violence and Extremism and its emphasis on non-use of force. Resolution of a World against Violence and Extremism has highlighted the subject in its clause 3 that “state members shall not use force in international relations” and considers outbreak of violence and armed conflicts between governments as a reason for promotion of violence and extremism. “As it is mentioned by Iranian Agent in Organization General Assembly, if states just emphasize on issuance of resolution in UN to convict violent activities regardless of circumstances leading to such behaviors, we will fail to cope with violence and terrorism” (Rosenne, 2004).

Obviously, a more extensive concept should be adopted to study “threat or use of force in international relations”. It means the attitude toward traditional use of force in international relations should be changed. Nowadays, countries rarely use force in international scene; however, use of modern means such as political intervention, economic intervention, and cyber-attacks have been considered by many of countries to influence on other countries over the recent decades. If a country commits political, religious, or racist conflicts supporting a specific political group in a country, violent implications of such intervention is more significant than military confrontation between two countries. “Racist conflicts that its implication was genocide of Rwanda, 1994 were the result of explicit interference of Belgium Government in unbalancing political forces of Rwanda Government” (Goldrick, 2004).

“Nowadays, the concept of use of force has faced a challenge considering doctrine of humanitarian intervention. In viewpoint of majority of humanitarian intervention proponents, humanitarian intervention is the only way of preventing from extensive violations of human rights in some countries; however, humanitarian intervention consists of some criteria and regulations that are not discussed herein. This intervention has not been successful due to hidden political purposes of countries”.

“In Agenda No. 116 of 60<sup>th</sup> session of General Assembly, Syria Agent declared in his speech that use of force in international community will lead to outbreak of violence, extremism, and even terrorism. For instance, occupation of Palestine by Israel and lack of recognition of it as independent country leads to violence. In this case, Israel has prepared the field for violence in this region supporting terrorist groups”. “In this regard, Israel has created serious implications in production of agricultural products and access to health services, educational institutes, and water resources due to construction of retraining walls so that it would lead to serious dangers in future” (Jnzaekovic, 2006).

## 2.3 International Condemnation of “support for violent behaviors”

International conviction of violent behaviors can be examined at two national and international levels. General Assembly and Security Council Resolutions have examined these two levels at the same time. Stimulation of violent behaviors is a potential threat against international peace and security from the perspective of Security Council. The concept of threat against the peace mentioned in Article 39 of Charter is based on any situation that put the peace in danger. In this regard, the risky crisis for peace has two specifications: first, it is explosive and second, it is the result of violation of international commitment. Explosive crisis has either international or domestic root. The root of explosive crisis is international if the behavior of a crisis-maker country is so aggressive or provocative that threatens its neighbors or poisons international environment so that a small conflict leads to a big hostility. The domestic crisis will be explosive if intolerable domestic policy of a country is

applicable for other international community countries and this intolerance is raised from legal regulations. In opinion of some scholars, explosive crisis will be realized in presence of governments that violate primitive regulations of human rights applying aggressive policies.

In case of international condemnation of support for violent behaviors, the studied resolution expresses in Articles 5, 10, and 12:

Stresses that it is important that States strongly condemn all forms of violence against women and refrain from invoking any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with respect to its elimination, as set out in the Declaration on the "Elimination of Violence against Women". State members are asked to provide field for mutual respect and compromise supporting freedom of information and news.

The other issue about prohibition of violence is the domain of violence should be wider than violence against "human groups". For instance, Resolution for "Freedom of Religion or Belief" dated on 20 December 2012 has considered any kind of destruction or attack to religious places or shrines as an explicit violation of human rights and humanitarian rights in its clause 3 of Article 11. Accordingly, states shall refrain from any support that leads to religious violence or extremism. The other matter related to cope with violence is that discriminative rules existed in domestic laws of countries should be eliminated. It can be stated that General Assembly somewhat has mentioned this demand in each resolution related to "international peace and security" or "violence and extremism".

### **3. Reasons and effects of the project of a World against Violence and Extremism**

In 2013, global and regional conditions and circumstances were so considered by some of countries so that Iran was introduced as the great supporter of violent groups. Almost after September eleven attack and speech of Jorge Bush in which, he introduced three countries named Iran, Syria, and North Korea as the axis of evil. Iranphobia and Shiaphobia became one of propaganda priorities and foreign policy of USA and some other states. This issue was not just confined to anti-Iran propaganda but also it consisted of practical measurements. This subject besides conflicts between West and Iran about nuclear program made Iran to face serious challenges in terms of international relations and economic aspect. Regardless of challenges against Iran, the most important challenging issue of Iran was lack of trust of Security Council in Iran's activity in field of nuclear program and transmission of this opinion to other parts of UN; hence, they tried to prevent from Iran's progress. In such circumstances, a distinguished environment was required to interact with the world. According to such vision and the issue that the first step in international interaction to eliminate concern about "Iranphobia", resolution of a world against violence and extremism was submitted by Iran to General Assembly of United Nation. In the following, details of this resolution are examined herein.

#### **3.1 Necessity and reasons for submission of the Resolution of a World against Violence and Extremism**

As we can see, occurrence of horrendous crimes in Middle East has been expanded over the recent 5 years. Occurrence of revolution in Arabic countries, repetitive aggression of Zionist Regime against Palestine, civil war in Syria, military attack of Saudi Arabia against Yemen and phenomenon of "Daesh" are the most important incidents related to Middle East. In such circumstances, Islamic Republic of Iran is the only country with stable and calm condition in this geographical region. Accordingly, it was expected that Iran could play a key role in creation of peace in this region considering such conditions. One of the initial measurements of Iran was submission of the Resolution of a World against Violence and Extremism to UN General Assembly. In this case, numerous propagandas of

western countries against Iran accusing it of construction of nuclear weapon and creation of insecurity in Middle East, which was not responded through an official and diplomatic reaction, tended to destroy the international face and foreign policy of Iran that have been fluctuating over the years. Accordingly, Islamic Republic of Iran submitted Resolution of a World against Violence and Extremism through understanding of the international fact that "Iranphobia" might impose a high cost to Islamic regime. According to the Author, objectives of Resolution are classified to two following bases:

#### **3.2 Counter with Iranphobia**

"Iran has been superior to its neighbors, in particular southern neighbors, in terms of military and economic power so that this power sometimes have made them concerned, review of contemporary history of foreign relations of Iran indicate that this concern has been existing during history and there has been a fear whenever the power of Iran has been changed. Iran benefits from a considerable power in different power scopes including from population to wide range of resources and geopolitical condition in Middle East and this issue has made other countries concerned. Capabilities of Iran in traditional and modern scopes of power at regional scale have made Iran as the only potential option of regional hegemony. Therefore, the first concerning reason for Iran or Iranphobia is the power of Iran; hence, it cannot be changed due to its structural aspect". Except for factitious conflicts and charges against Islamic Republic of Iran by neighboring countries, the other issue was related to nuclear activities of Iran. Iran's accusation of human rights violation and support for terrorist groups has been more considered after revelation of Iran's progress in peaceful atomic program and modern technologies. Hence, Islamic Republic of Iran submitted resolution of a World against Violence and Extremism to UN General Assembly knowing the combination of atomic activities of Iran with some matters such as human rights in international organizations is only for destruction of international face of Iran government. Official declaration of some positions such as hatred of terrorism, respect for human rights, and governance of law and lack of believe in use of military measures when facing controllable violence could attract the public opinion. Parallel to submission of Resolution of a World against Violence and Extremism, the diplomatic negotiations about nuclear program could achieve suitable results choosing an expert group of lawyers so that these negotiations could lead to reduced Iranphobia. However, it seems that Resolution of a World against Violence and Extremism cannot meet all objectives in this scope during long term due to flow of excuses and sabotages.

#### **3.3 Changes and moderation in international policies of Islamic Republic of Iran**

The other micro-negotiation trend emerged in foreign policy of Islamic Republic of Iran after the rise of eleventh government. This micro-negotiation called moderation based on general negotiation of this government. According to the transformation logic and negotiation cycle of foreign policy of Islamic Republic of Iran, moderate negotiation can be called as "realistic idealism". Central point of moderation is balance that is defined as the balance between ideal and reality, different types of rationalities, Islamic expedients and national interests, objectives of foreign policy, goals and measures of foreign policy, national power elements, use of power and diplomacy, right and task, three principles of dignity, wisdom and expediency, structure of foreign policy and development of foreign relations. Elements and minutes of moderation negotiation consist of idealism, realism, balanced rationalism, result-oriented adherence, constructive engagement, security seeking, and status seeking, peace, justice, transformation-orientation, perfectionism, balanced development-orientation, and balanced multilateralism.

In this case, the moderation that is realized in international scene includes of a calm behavior when facing international issues, in particular in subjects related to international and non-

international conflicts. In other words, full knowledge of quality and reasons for occurrence of an incident before supporting or eliminating it can pave the way to settle disputes and conflicts that are the origin of violence and extremism. Legal doctrine of Islamic Republic of Iran at international level is moderation in making decision on fight against violence and extremism. According to this doctrine, at the start point of conflict, decisions should not be made with opportunity-destroying delay when facing violence and war, because it is harder to control and expanded violence that cope with a primitive violence. Also, the decision not be made as if violent activities of beneficiaries are accepted by others.

#### 4. Conclusion

If objectives and principles contained in United Nation Charter are implemented based on legal aspects, they are holy and sublime objectives. However, the bilateral and interest-oriented approach of permanent members of Security Council, who have numerous authorities, based on the Charter, has created challenges for implementation of these principles. The consequence of changing common principles and objectives, which one of them is use of force in international relations, would expand violence and extremism in international scene. Islamic Republic of Iran is not believed in traditional factions among countries considering that weakening of these principles and objective would lead to violence extremism, and even terrorism and horrendous terrorism. Hence, Iran has tried to invite governments, in international scene and in UN General Assembly in particular, to respect for regulations existing in international agreements such as UN Charter and Universal Declaration of Human Rights, because violence and extremism can be prevented referring to these regulations and documents. Accordingly, Islamic Republic of Iran has considered Violence and Extremism as specific matters. In this regard, Iran has made many efforts to expand the concept of "violence prevention". The result of these efforts include submission of two resolutions to UN General Assembly in order not only draw the attention of states toward prevention but also prevent from political disadvantages for Iran at international level that have been considered lately as Iran Confrontation and Iranphobia.

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