

ONE MAN'S TERRORIST IS ANOTHER MAN'S FREEDOM FIGHTER ^{Date:}

OUTLINE

1) Introduction

The perspective according to which a man labels a body of persons depends if they are fighting for or against the man's objective. Fighting for achieving the man's objectives make them freedom fighters and going against them earn them a title of terrorist.

2) Manifestations from World where One man's Terrorist is another Man's Freedom Fighter.

(a) Fighters of War of Independence of 1857 are freedom fighters for locals but terrorist for the Britishers.

(b) Nelson Mandela was terrorist for apartheid government but freedom fighter for Blacks and world.

(c) Afghan Mujahed are terrorist for USSR but freedom fighter for the West.

(d) Afghan Taliban are freedom fighter for Afghans but terrorist for the West.

- (e) Kashmiri Mujadeen are freedom fighters in the eyes of Kashmiris but terrorist for Indians
- (f) Mukti Bani is terrorist for Pakistan but freedom fighter for Bangladesh
- (g) Hamas is freedom fighter for Palestinians but terrorist for the West and Israel
- (h) Houthis in Yemen are freedom fighters for locals but terrorist for the West and others.
- (i) BLA fighters are legitimate for affected Balochi families but terrorist in state's perspective.
- (j) Tamil Tigers are freedom fighter for many Tamils but terrorist in state's view.
- (k) Kurdish fighters are freedom fighters for Kurds but state label them as terrorist.

(3) Conclusion

Different opinions exist in the world regarding things. It is natural that all the people cannot have same opinion about one particular thing. The opinion of different people about one particular thing reflects gains and interest attached to that view point. Same is the case with different conflicts of the world and people who are linked to it. One party labels others as terrorists and opponents label them as freedom fighters. Freedom fighters are those who fight for their rights, independence and liberation from occupying forces. During this course of fight, opponents call them terrorist. Terrorists are the group of people who want to achieve their political objectives by the dint of force. There are many examples in the world that prove this fact. This includes labelling of fighters of war of independence of 1957 as freedom fighters by Muslims and Hindus but terrorist by the state. Other example is labelling of Nelson Mandela as terrorist by apartheid

government but world gave them a title of freedom fighter. Thus, the perspective according to which a man labels a body of persons depends if they are fighting for or against the man's objective. Fighting for achieving the man's objective make them freedom fighters and going against it earns them a title of terrorist.

These are many examples in the world that proves the one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter. One of them is labelling of fighters of war of independence of 1857 as freedom fighters by Hindu and Muslim of India but they got the title of terrorist by colonial rulers. At that time, India was under British Raj. Britishers were considering them as a second citizens. They were excluded from government affairs, administrative positions and elite jobs. India was Muslims and Hindu's land but it was occupied by the Britishers who came for trade. Muslims and Hindus fought the war of independence of 1857 to gain freedom from British ruler. As a

result, Britishers emerged as victorious. They labelled all the freedom fighters as terrorist. They were subjected to inequalities, harsh treatment, cruelties and excluded from all the state's affairs. They are heroes for Muslims and Hindus because they were fighting for right perspective. Hence, Muslims and Hindus freedom fighters are terrorist for the Britishers.

Moreover, Nelson Mandela was terrorist in apartheid government's view point but he is labelled as freedom fighter by the Black community and the world. At that time, South Africa was ruled by apartheid government who was completely blind to the plight of the Black people of South Africa. South Africa's population mix at time was like 65% black people, 30% white people and 5% are other. Majority was ruled by minority. Black people are disgraced at the hands of white people. All the national resources are under white people's control. Nelson Mandela fought for the cause of the Black people. He was successful in creating the inclusive government that represented

all the communities of South Africa. He was labelled as champion of the rights of the Black community by the Black people and world but he was considered terrorist by apartheid government. Therefore, Nelson Mandela is a hero for the Black community but he is villain for apartheid government.

Besides, Afghan Mujahdeen who fought against the USSR are freedom fighters in the West's perspective but they are terrorist in USSR's view point. During the episode of cold war in 1970's, the fight to spread communism and capitalism was at its peak. USSR invaded Afghanistan who is its immediate neighbour to establish USSR pro government and spread communism in the region. To stop USSR from achieving its objective, USA created Afghan Mujahdeen. USA trained them with the help of the Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. USA gave them financial assistance and ammunition. At last USA succeeded and USSR had to retreat. Afghan Mujahdeen who helped USA in achieving its objective were freedom fighters who were protecting their homeland from

USSR but for USSR, they are not freedom fighters but they were terrorist because they were fulfilling American's objective. Therefore, there is contrast in titles that Afghan Mujahideen received from USA and USSR.

In addition to that, Afghan Taliban were considered as freedom fighters by locals of Afghanistan but USA labelled them as terrorist at the time of USA invasion of Afghanistan. After the attack on World Trade Center in America, USA asserted that it would fight war against terrorism. The then President of USA conveyed the message to the world to either with them or against them. USA along with NATO invaded Afghanistan to eliminate terrorism. USA brought top war machinery and spend billions of dollar to obliterate Afghan Taliban who was involved in the attack. Afghan Taliban also attacked to the bitter end to protect their land from foreign power. Afghan Taliban were labelled as freedom fighter by some locals of Afghanistan and by religious scholars. However,

the West labelled them as terrorist. Thus, legitimacy of Afghan Taliban is different for different people.

Furthermore, Kashmiri Mujahadeen are freedom fighters for Kashmiris but they are terrorist for India. Kashmir was a Muslim majority state that was ruled by Hindu ruler at the time of Independence of India. Muslim majority population wanted to accede to Pakistan but Hindu ruler annexed it with India that was against the rule of partition. Kashmiri Mujahadeen are fighting for the self-determination and self rule of Kashmiris. India has deployed its army to coerce Kashmiri population and to fight against the rebels. Kashmiri Mujahadeen are freedom fighters for locals because they fighting to liberate Kashmir from illegitimate India's rule. India, on the other hand, consider them as terrorist because to them Kashmir is its own territory.

Moreover, Mukti Bari is considered as fighter by Bangladesh but they are considered as terrorist by Pakistan. Bangladesh came in

Pakistan's part after partition. Bangladesh was known as East Pakistan and West was known as West Pakistan. East Pakistan always had grievances against West Pakistan. There were issues between the two regarding nation language, form of government, political representation, financial share and administrative powers. These issues were peaked during 1971 election. Mukti Bani, who was the proxy of India helped East Pakistan to separate from West Pakistan and create its own country in accordance to their rules. West Pakistan considered them as terrorist who challenged the writ of state but East Pakistan called them as freedom fighters who helped them to achieve their just rights.

Furthermore, Hamas is freedom fighter for Palestinians but it is a terrorist organization for West and Israel. Palestinian has been enduring the cruelties of Israeli forces for decades. Israel, instead of following the International norms and UN's resolution of two state solution, wants to create Greater Israel. Israel considers Hamas as an obstacle in its way to create

the greater Israeli. After the October 7, 2023 attack of Hamas, Israel has started killing innocent Palestinians and depriving them of basic necessities of life. The October 7 attack of Hamas is considered as a revenge of decades old cruelties and atrocities of Israel. For the Muslim Ummah and Palestinians, Hamas is a freedom fighter but the West and Israel calls him terrorist organization.

Moreover, Houthis in Yemen are freedom fighters for locals but terrorist for the West and others. Houthi is considered as proxy of Iran that protects Iran interest. In addition to that Houthis also protect Yemen from the incursion of Israel and USA. USA and Israel wants to establish the puppet government in Yemen that fulfills their interest in the region and protect their trade ships passing through Red Sea. Houthis are obstacles in this way. They are involved in destroying American's and Israel's ship passing through Red Sea as a revenge of Israel's genocidal attempts in Palestine and America for its abettement. Hence

Houthis are freedom fighters for Iran and Yemenis but terrorist for others.

Besides, Balochistan Liberation Army are considered as freedom fighters by affected Baloch's family but the government of Pakistan considers them terrorist. Baloch's have always shown estrangements towards government of Pakistan. They have considered government responsible for depriving them of their fair share in national exchequer. They consider state as responsible for missing person. These grievances give rise to BLA who fights against state because of its poor policy. BLA enjoys full support of local Baloch's but state considers it as a terrorist organization who is funded and supported by foreign actor. Hence, BLA is a freedom fighter for Baloch's but a terrorist organization in state's view.

Moreover, Tamil Tigers are freedom fighters for many Tamils but they are considered as terrorist by the government of Sri Lanka. Tamil Tigers is the group of people that fight against

the government of Sri Lanka to create an independent state for Tamil Tigers. They are of the view the state is blind to their justified share of resources. They want to create their own state in which they can live freely and according to their own policies. Sri Lankan government considers them as terrorist organisation who is challenging the unit of state and going against national policies. Therefore, Tamil Tigers are terrorist for state but freedom fighter for Tamils.

Kurdish fighters are fighters for Kurds but state of Turkey labels them as terrorist. Kurds want to create state within state. They want to establish a separate territory with its own government for Kurds. They consider it as their legitimate right. They are of the view interest of minority Kurds is overridden by majority Turkish. The Turkish government considers them rebels who are destroying national integration. State considers them as traitors who are weakening state. Therefore, Kurdish fighters are freedom fighters for state but they are terrorist from state's perspective.

In a nutshell, labelling person or group of person is subjectively defined. People always consider their vested interest in labelling others. Some may be called as freedom fighters by one school of thought and terrorist by other school of thought. The basis of labelling others can be social, economical, geographical, religious, alliance pleasing or democratic. For example Tamil Tigers and ^{Kurdish} fighters are terrorist for the ^{respected} governments because they do not want to loose the geographical piece of land. America's collusion with Israel in its genocidal attempt is purely alliance pleasing. One can label others either as freedom fighters or terrorist but one should always support right and oppose wrong even if it goes against one's vested interest.