Iraq and the Mercenary States

Prof Sattar Kassem

In the old days, it was individuals who worked as mercenaries, but at the present time it is the states. History is in a state of flux, and the United States is leading historical changes and imposing new trends. In history books of different nations including those of the US, mercenaries are viewed as degraded animals whose greed leads them toward blood-shed. Together with their wage masters, they exchange principle for expedience and overlook human values for the sake of limited private interest.

From the very beginning, it was thought that the US will defeat the Iraqi regular army in a face to face battle, but so many Arab intellectuals questioned the American ability to achieve stability and gain total Iraqi cooperation. The Americans thought, as was propagated in their mass media, that they will be received by the Iraqis as liberators with roses and carnations, but it was to their surprise that few hundred people participated in the ceremony of toppling Saddam's statue in a main Baghdad square.

It was not that the Iraqis like Saddam, but because their hatred of the US is not less than that of Saddam. Actually, the US is so much hated in most Arab states, and even so many Gulfian Arabs look at the Americans with suspicion and disgust. That is why it was thought that the US will be facing hard times in Iraq after the war. So many Arabs and Moslems welcomed the advent of the Americans to Iraq because, according to them, that eased the intricacies of the confrontation. Instead of going to the US homeland to carry out bombings, the US came to them.

So many Arabs and Moslems love to die in a holy war against the US, and got themselves ready from the very beginning for a guerilla warfare that will bring the US administration under domestic pressure and threaten the political future of the American president. So many Arabs think that it is an excellent opportunity to take revenge from those who have been exploiting the wealth of the Arabs, supporting Arab dictators and extending all kinds of assistance to Israel. That is why people like me wrote that the war in Iraq will start after the American army occupies Iraq, and only then the US will not have a choice but to hire the soldiers of other states.

The attacks against the American soldiers awakened the Americans who primarily were happy for a computer game war and forced them to think about the causes of the war. Now, an increasing number of the Americans is questioning the whole morality of the war particularly that all Arab states friendly to the US are dictatorships. This leaves the American president with one choice; i.e., to have the soldiers of other nations die in Iraq instead of the Americans, and he is ready to pay for that. Many small states such as Hinduras have responded positively, and under the temptations of financial aid some others will sacrifice their beloved soldiers under the doubted slogan of international peace and cooperation.

Although some Arab states will appreciate the efforts of mercenary states, but they themselves are not going to send soldiers because Arab leaders and their American masters know before hand that Arab soldiers will help the Iraqi fighters against the Americans and the hired international soldiers. In most of the Arab homeland, sending troops at the request of the Americans is viewed by the public as an act of aggression against the Arabs, and it would be dumb for any state to make such a sacrifice in return of a handful of American dollars.

I am sure that Korean heritage and culture is characterized by dignity and self-respect and confidence, and that the Koreans would not get involved in an activity in which they sacrifice their worriers for the oil benefits of the US or for the sake of Israel. The Arabs, in general, have so much respect for the peoples of East Asia particularly the Koreans, and I do not think that the Koreans should jeopardize this. Sending Korean troops to Iraq will seriously damage this traditional image, and put the Arab friends of the Koreans in a very embarrassing situation. So, I strongly believe that, by sending troops, the Korean government will be against Korean interests.

I must warn that sending a Korean fighting unit to Iraq is an act of aggression against the Iraqi Resistance, and the members of this unit will be a legitimate target. Soldiers of this unit might get killed or injured. It is highly possible that those who will be fare-welled today with applauses will be received tomorrow dead with pains and tears. Parents of American soldiers are learning the lessons now, and I think that Korean parents should be more intelligent.