

Those who live in glass houses...

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After the QUAD, the G20 bonhomie, 2+2 confabulations and all that, comes the dampener of US umbrage at the presumed action by the Indian intelligence in trying to neutralize the proclaimed terrorist Pannun on the American soil. Coming as it does after the Canadian charge of ‘convincing allegation’ an oxymoron that made Justin Trudeau the laughing stock of the academic and diplomatic community, it gives enemies of India a handle that had best been avoided. As per their version, India chose to ignore the matter put up earlier in closed meetings and so it was revealed to the world.

Now that it’s done, the intention behind it needs to be explored. The ‘victim’ in this case is the known terrorist who recently threatened Air India. In the past, he has openly threatened PM Modi and Indian embassy personnel. The first question that the episode begs is how come a criminal of that stature came to obtain the American/Canadian citizenship. And if his criminal credentials came to the fore later, why is he not being deported despite diplomatic outreach by India? By not doing so, America has also brought focus on to itself for the numerous transgressions of international law that it has done since the Second World War.

American duplicity in dealing with terrorists is too obvious to be recounted. It has had a long history of interfering in the domestic affairs of Japan, Korea, Indonesia, Vietnam, Afghanistan, and many other countries in the world. Fast forward to our times and the killing of Osama Bin Laden in Pakistan and Al Zawahiri in Afghanistan are not so old as to be forgotten. However, the self-appointed World Cop has not been able to lay hand on the UN Security Council-designated terrorists based in Pakistan like Masood Azhar, Dawood Ibrahim, and even Zaki-Ur-Rahman Lakhvi – mastermind behind 26/11 Mumbai attack in which several American were also killed. Why is a known terrorist like Pannun who should have been hauled up before a US court, at least, for his open threats to Indian personnel and interests, and who is accessible to American agencies, is not being picked up, and is rather being protected by the US needs to be answered?

Clearly, the US wants to keep the witches’ soup boiling to keep India down, for not supporting America over Ukraine. What it wants is to control the actions of Indian government and a strong government under Prime Minister Modi is not to its liking despite the outward show of bonhomie and real-time collaboration between the two countries happening on several other fronts. In this, it is also reportedly supported by forces

represented by the likes of George Soros, Rockefeller Foundation, Melinda Bill Gates Foundation, etc. This is not the first time that India is at the receiving end. Another strong leader Indira Gandhi had talked oftentimes of the 'foreign hand' creating mischief. While Canada invokes the memory of ban on supplying vital equipment after the nuclear explosion by India in 1974, America is remembered for not delivering the super computer in 1987. There are any number of instances supporting this assertion.

"After such knowledge, what forgiveness?" asked T.S. Eliot in his famous poem "Gerontion". The knowledge of history cannot completely compete with lived experience, so that while it is alright to talk theoretically of national sovereignty and non-interference, the realpolitik is a different ballgame. The conclusion is that might is right in international politics, so that what America does to others is not to be the example for India to follow! The present face-off over supposed RAW action against Pannun is based on the tenuous premise of link between an Indian official and a drug-dealer based in Europe. How the inquiry disentangles it is yet to be seen. Swept under the carpet is the collective responsibility of the countries of the world under the UN charter to fight terrorism that is sought to be treated as a mere pious platitude. Meanwhile, this episode will stick out like a sore thumb in the India-US relationship.

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