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Sudan: Millions displaced, people starve as war escalates and situation **worsens**

- *Fierce fighting in still on, 30 million people face starvation
- *Role of 'foreign hand' suspected, militia gets arms from outside
- *11 million forced to leave homes, seek refuge in other countries

The Asian Tribune
www.asiantribune.net

The ongoing civil war in Sudan has now turned into a major humanitarian crises, as nearly half of the entire country's population is affected due to the war.

Nearly 30 million people are facing crisis due to the violence and food scarcity in Sudan.

Houses and hospitals have been destroyed and aid is not reaching the regions that are worst affected.

People have crossed border to enter Egypt, South Sudan, Chad and other neighboring countries. Cities are in ruins.

Sudanese army led by Abdel Fattah al Burhan is fighting the rapid paramilitary forces. Hamdan Dagalo 'Hamedti', leads the latter.



Photo: Alexander McKinley, Unsplash

Entire country is now split in two parts, as both the sides continue to acquire more weapons and fighting has spread.

The role of certain other countries

in the crisis, especially, sending arms to the fighting militia, has also been in question.

Sudan, a huge country that

has a population of 50 million, is a vast country and its resources are eyed by foreign powers. UN has expressed worry as aid is not reaching the affected people.

HUGE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN SUDAN: A DIVIDED COUNTRY IS ON THE EDGE

The civil war in Sudan began in April 2023 as struggle for power led to the conflict. Sudan Armed Forces came in direct clash with the Rapid Support Forces, a paramilitary group.

The RSF that was formed in 2013, is a remnant of the Janjaweed militia. The former Sudan leader Omar al-Bashir used it to suppress rebellion in Darfur.

Ethnic cleansing in Sudan has shaken the world. In fact

International agencies fear a genocide. Army controls a large part including eastern region on the coast of Red Sea while rival militia controls Western part that includes Darfur.

It was in 2019 that Omar Al-Bashir was ousted after protests over poor economic situation and unemployment. But within a few years, the country is again plunged into chaos—almost on the verge of split.

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Quaid-e-Millat Muhammad Ismail ensured that the political relevance of Muslims remained in South India

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Undoubtedly, Quaid E Millat Muhammad Ismail was one of the most important leaders in modern India.

He played a key role in leadership of Muslim masses after independence and was the foremost statesman and politician in South Indian.

A member of constituent assembly, member parliament and leader of IUML, he was a towering figure who always championed the cause of Muslims, built bridges with other communities and leaders & voiced concerns of the downtrodden, as well as fighting to secure their rights. Often in DMK's events, one finds the big portraits that include photographs of Dr BR Ambedkar and Quaid-e-Millat Muhammad Ismail at the top.

His influence was not limited to Tamil Nadu and Kerala. In Parliament, he questioned government when many other leaders chickened out. Either in debates on rights of minorities or language in constituent Assembly or his lifelong political struggle for equal rights and identity, Muhammad Ismail's role is second to none.

In the era when Muslims were down and depressed, Quaid-e-Millat not only established IUML despite attack by North Indian press, but when Muslim institutions were targeted by right-wingers in the Congress, fought it courageously and set up institutions.

He battled the communal forces, never compromised on identity and from Constituent assembly to Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, he voiced the concerns of Muslims.

Though he is termed as the tallest Muslim leader in South India, he can't be limited to one region. After independence, he led the

Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) and the party emerged as a potent force in erstwhile Madras State.

M Ismail Sahib, who was born in 1896, had taken active part in freedom movement.

He was president of Madras State Muslim League too before independence, he was elected as president of Indian Union Muslim League that was formed after independence and remained its chief till his death.

Later, the party became a formidable force in Kerala. On his 125th anniversary, DMK chief Stalin said that Muhammad Ismail was termed Quaid-e-Millat as he was the guiding light who ensured harmony and state autonomy.

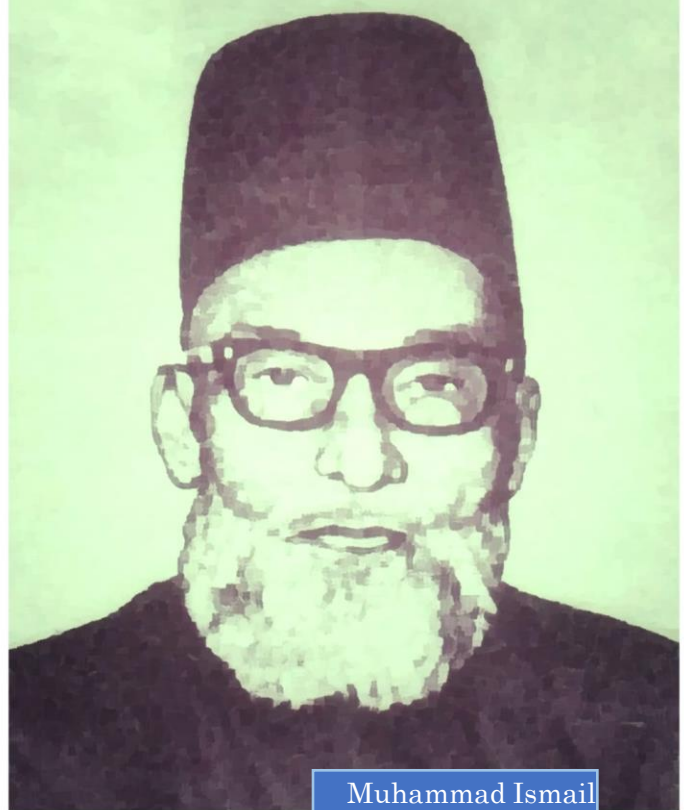
Stalin recalled Quaid-e-Millat's friendship with Periyar and Anna Durai, and how he helped the DMK form the government in Tamil Nadu in 1967.

A lot comes to mind, especially, the phased manner in which he consolidated the party, expanded it and also took care of raising the issues affecting Muslims in North India.

Apart from holding his ground in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, he kept in touch with leaders and repeatedly visited the cities in Uttar Pradesh to push for a model that could strengthen the political voice of the minorities.

He had to tread carefully as there were opponents and detractors.

C Rajagopalachari alias Raja Ji's famous statement when media groups were trying to create scare after IUML had won seats in the Madras presidency soon after the independence, suggested the clout and connections of Muhammad Ismail, across political spectrum.



Muhammad Ismail

services and leadership role, the impact he had, his statesmanship and the respect he commanded from all sections of the society, requires a long essay.

"When Thiru K Madhavamenon, Minister for Education, by a special order, changed the name of Government Mohammedan College, Mount Road, Madras into Government Arts College, Madras, Quaid e Milleth made forceful plea and requested the Government to honour the rights of minority communities. 'But it fell on deaf ears', mentions the QeM Trust. This strengthened his resolve.

"Quaide-Milleth accepted the challenge with grace and dignity and called upon the community to rise up to the occasion. Within three years Quaid e Milleth was able to establish following erstwhile institutions with the active co-operation and support of the Muslim Philanthropists".

Not just the New College in Madras, Jamal Mohammed College, Trichy & Farookh College (Kerala), he was the driving force behind setting up many institutions--Haji Karutha Rowther Houdia College, Uthamapalayam and Khader Mohideen College, Adirampattinam, Wakf Board College at Madurai, Nawab Abdul Hakeem College, Melvisharam, Sadaqathullah Appa College, Palayamkottai, Mazhar-ul-Uloom College, Ambur and Zakir Hussain College, Ilayangudi.

Today, there are institutions, colleges & schools after his name. A district was named 'Nagapattinam Quaid E Millat', though when districts named after personalities lost their names, it became Nagapattinam. Ismail indeed played a great role & ensured that Muslim community didn't lag behind in South.

Storm over S.I.R: Opposition parties up in arms against Election Commission, citizens' worried

Opposition has criticised ECI and has also termed the S.I.R. as theft of votes.

REAL ISSUE

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The Election Commission of India's decision to conduct Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls has become a major issue in the country.

Opposition parties have criticized the move. However, ECI maintains that the aim is to 'correct' the voter lists. Election Commission says that it wants to add eligible new voters and remove names of the ineligible ones.

In the first round of SIR, more than 68 lakh names were deleted from the electoral rolls in Bihar. Now, ECI is ready for next round of SIR in 12 states and union territories.

The opposition has accused the Election Commission of enabling a process of voter disenfranchisement in a way that would favour the BJP-led NDA alliance.

Activists have also expressed worry and said that it would affect the disadvantaged groups including Muslims.

Congress and RJD have termed the exercised--'vote chori' i.e. stealing the votes. The opposition has said that marginalized sections are targeted.

There is a fear that deletion of name from voter list or rejection could lead to suspicion on a person's citizenship at a later stage.



Political activist Yogendra Yadav has questioned the ECI's move. The Swaraj India leader also says that ECI must tell what it learnt from SIR in Bihar and on what basis the Election Commission is treating 2003 as cutoff year though there was no verification citizenships during the revision then.

Yadav says that if Aadhaar is not accepted as stand-alone document as it is not a citizenship proof, why other 9 documents (except passport and birth certificate) have been accepted as stand alone documents when none of them is a proof of citizenship.

He says that ECI has changed its position several times and it must tell that who exactly gets exemption on the basis of having their name in electoral rolls in 2002-2003? 'They themselves, their children or anyone related to them?'

Political parties like TMC and DMK have also questioned the SIR. Leaders have gone to the extent of calling it an 'electoral fraud' to rig polls and tilt balance in elections with narrow margins.

There are also fears among a few sections that a pan-India exercise can affect millions of

people and it could also be a sort of 'NRC' under a different name.

It is being felt that deleting names or disenfranchising the citizens would be seen as a step towards suspicion on the person's citizenship. This is a point that strikes a chord with people. They term it as yet another 'NRC from backdoor' effort.

Activists have drawn the attention of the Supreme court. Questions about documents like Aadhaar card and ECI's shifting stand, irks a section.

The world needs free media.

Corporate funded media is not free.

Fact-finding team visits Bareilly to assess situation on the ground after arrests and demolition of houses



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Maulana Tawqir Raza Khan was among those arrested and remains in the jail. Bareilly is an important seat of religious scholarship & learning in the sub-continent.

A delegation that included social activists, lawyers and citizens, have visited Uttar Pradesh's Bareilly to take stock of the situation in the wake of the recent police action. The Association for Protection of Civil Rights' members included journalists.

The team met with affected residents, local lawyers, and eyewitnesses to gather detailed information about the police conduct and arrest methods. Participants reported that after a peaceful protest, police entered homes, assaulted civilians and carried

out arbitrary arrests, acts that constitute serious violations of human rights. The representatives assured victims that the organization would provide them with legal assistance and will demand an impartial investigation into the incident. They further stated

that, if necessary, the matter would be taken to the High Court and the Supreme Court. Members emphasized that expressing one's religious sentiments can not be criminalized & the state must act responsibly, to protect citizens' fundamental rights.



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