Avrupa mülteci sınavından geçecek mi?

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Will Europe pass the refugee test?

Harun Yahya

Last week we saw tragic images from Macedonia of refugees trying to cross the border. Thousands of poor people stunned on the frontier apparently never imagined they would be met with violence from the Macedonian police or rather we intended to stop them crossing. These people had fled countries where wars were taking place and set off on voyages of death on four-up boats to Greece.

The words relayed by the media, but more than 2,000 migrants have died on the Mediterranean, the main route of the journey. Just as they were fleeing from war and death, they were unable to complete the voyage which was expected to be well closed in such away by an European Union (EU) country.

We are speaking about Syrian, Eritrean, Somalian, Iraqi and Afghan refugees headed for Germany in order to guarantee their lives. They have left their countries, not for a better life or due to poverty, but to save lives.

The words of one young refugee from the Macedonian border town of Gevgelija clarify the situation. "Any country is better than my country. In my country, there is war and killings." Risking death to escape death is a huge statement of despair. Yet, not to say, for people living in a nation now ravaged by war, it is a right to seek asylum.

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The words of one young refugee from the Macedonian border town of Gevgelija clarify the situation. "Any country is better than my country. In my country, there is war and killings." Risking death to escape death is a huge statement of despair. Yet, not to say, for people living in a nation now ravaged by war, it is a right to seek asylum.

While speaking about this subject. Although the issue of good conclusions are being raised and the great majority of European people rush to help the refugees, some European leaders still seem not to have realized the "refugees" are not a problem, but an obligation.

The failure of Great Britain, France and Germany to agree on a solution and the rejection by European countries of proposed solutions from Brussels have made the situation much worse. Each EU country is determined to allow in only a limited number of refugees.

The quota proposed by the EU suggested that the 28 member countries would receive their share of refugees based on their economic power and population. However, this has been shelved due to countries objecting to the idea.

While Hungary has been constructing a giant wall to prevent refugees entering the country, other countries, such as Slovakia and the Czech Republic, have again revealed the terrifying scale of the European refugees crisis by announcing they will only take limited numbers of "Christian" migrants.

Although Slovakia has since retracted this, these words from Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico, who rejected a request from the EU to accept 2,000 migrants, serve as a reminder of the other questions which need to be answered by European nations in North Africa and Middle East.

It was the US that ruined the Afghan war, and Assad that started the war in Syria. Yet neither Pakistan nor Turkey, Lebanon or Jordan ever asked who started the war as they admitted almost 4 million refugees. Those countries were aware that they were looking at a humanitarian crisis.

Turkey is currently the country that has admitted the most refugees in the world. The flow of refugees, 1.8 million according to official figures or 2.5 million unofficially, is without doubt a problem for Turkey whose revenues are much lower than those of European countries. Yet Turkey never made this problem, like to anyone.

Nobody ever thought about the great responsibility undertaken by Turkey as it spent US$4 billion from its own budget on refugees and allowed 350,000 refugees a day into the country during the attack on Kobani. Yet all the society in Europe now is all over 200,000 refugees who have arrived in the 2015 since July. Twenty-eight countries should not be the strongest economies in the world, refuse to assume responsibility for looking after 200,000 people.

It is a fact that the reason for this conflict slow broke out of the potential of just 40,000 migrants in recent months, and no resolution was achieved. European Parliament Group Chairman Gianni Pittella said this on the subject.

"The fact that Member States have failed to reach an agreement on the relocation of just 40,000 refugees after five months is ludicrous [...] While countries EU Member States bicker over whether to take 160 or 255 refugees, Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan have taken over 3.6 million. This is both a measure to these countries' humanity and solidarity and an indictment of Europe's lack of either. Slow camera still claim to be the cradle of humanity in the world."

Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi reacted in a similar manner. "If you do not agree with the figure of 40,000 asylum seekers, you do not deserve to call yourself Europeans. If you are your idea of Europe, you can keep it. Either there's solidarity or don't be near our cities!"

Europe's fear that the flow of refugees in the world's eight richest countries reaching a is certainly understandable. Yet there is a solution to it, it would be easy enough to establish refugees' identities and settlement.

However, to forget that wretched people who have fled their own countries are human and to regard them as a burden, we are guilty of "greed and fear." Yes, we are guilty of that "burden", our sin too is a terrible tragedy that may defame Europe's name as a moral society.

Europe can only achieve true civilization when it regards refugees fleeing death as guests from God and looks on the refugees, not as a problem, but as an opportunity to contribute to humanity.

Lovely Europe with its fine people, democracy and culture, must be a union of freedom and civilization that our humanity shows all sides, rather than a union of an elite frightened of refugees.

The main way of achieving this is to abandon the prejudiced mindset that regards people who flee war and death as a burden and a problem. If Europe's eyes are blinded, it is because of this mindset, and the time has now come to make amends.

Turkey has allowed 350,000 refugees a day into the country.

The writer has author titles on topics in science, politics and religion.

East Timor referendum after 16 years: A new hope

Robinto Wahyono
YOGYAKARTA

Timor Leste on Aug. 30 celebrates the anniversary of a historic referendum that led to its separation from Indonesia 16 years ago.

The euphoria of independence was, however, short-lived. In 1999, the East Timorese voted overwhelmingly in favor of independence, which triggered the mass-scale violence and destruction of the pro-Indonesia militias.

Thousands of East Timorese fled their homes or were displaced to the hinterlands and to West Timor. Between 1975 and 2000 people were killed or disappeared in a series of atrocities.

East Timor's independence could not be separated from rivalry between then Indonesian president BJ Habibie, who took over from long-time ruler Soeharto, and his detractors, the military and civilian political elite.

When then foreign minister Ali Alatas presented the grant of special status to the province of East Timor with the prestige autonomy in 2001, the Cabinet approved the proposed defense.

When Habibie told his Cabinet ministers early in 2001 that Indonesia should make a straight choice between autonomy and independence for East Timor, there were no voices of open dissent, not even from the military members of the Cabinet.

Gen. Wiranto, the defense minister and Armed Forces commander, did not object to the proposed autonomy, if it's properly managed there will be another precedent of peace [...]."

Without hyperbole, we need to accept that this "divorce" geopolitical marriage (forced, rather than jointly) will be an inconvenient affair, at times messy, but at all times so desperately necessary.

Both parties will need to make adjustments to attitude as well as policy, and they will have to do it on their own, together. For where will they find a tougher counselor with experience of this extraordinary field to mediate opposing?

Might there be some silver lining in the dark cloud of Indonesia's (Jakarta's) one possible silver? Myths both sides carry down generations, for instance, about Jakarta's spending. Competing choices have to be made, tough priorities set. The US must accept that if a crisis to do too much globally, it may accomplish little anywhere.

Beijing must accept that if it has half the Bank of China on a death star, an aircraft carrier, it will sink the ideal of lifting up all its people, not just the elite's active. A keen observer of our rudder country, according to Alistair Wilding in 1964. Why did Jakarta's policy go unchallenged? Whatever the answer, the military and other civilian political elites would probably take advantage of Jakarta's lack of leadership.

"Some of Habibie's stronger Islamic ministers were happy to be rid of 600,000 Catholics", as one put it," Richard Woolcott, the Australian ambassador to Indonesia from 1974 to 1979, wrote in 1999.

He wrote that Wiranto would not oppose Habibie in the belief that the latter's policy would fail, so would be simpler to be elected the president. "This would keep Wiranto's own political ambitions alive." Wiranto included ambitions to be the commander-in-chief of the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) in October 2004. President Habibie allowed no accountability speech, which was rejected because, in part, of the breaking away of East Timor from the Unitary State of Indonesia.

In addition, the UN Serious Crimes Unit in 2002 charged, among others, Maj. Gen. Zacky Anwar Makarim (Jakarta), Maj. Gen. Adam Damiri (Bogasari) and Col. Tono Suratman (DIH) with crimes against humanity for their alleged role in the violence surrounding East Timor's 1999 independence referendum.

While the local media blamed the supporting United Nations and Australia for promoting Habibie for a resolution, criticism was aimed by a few Indonesian military officers of Habibie's decision, although they were largely silent on East Timor's chosen option.

It remained a mystery why Wiranto did not overcome the widespread violence and unrest in East Timor.

Perhaps he was aware all of these were orchestrated and designed by his rival within the Army.

Shortly after Habibie was replaced by president Abdurrahman "Gus Dur" Wahid, pressure shifted to the new leader to suspend Wiranto from his Cabinet, pending an inquiry into human rights violence in East Timor.

Then Wiranto's attorney-general, Kiki Antonius, publicly urged Indonesia to prosecute those found guilty of violence and warned that the United Nations would go to set up an international war crimes tribunal if Indonesia did not take the necessary steps.

It was hard for Gus Dur to oust the general, but international pressure was mounting too. This "harmonious" and its aftermath finally came to an end after these figures were no longer in power.

Today, a new chapter of hope has started. Gen. (ret) Lutfi Hamid Pandjaitan, a powerful and new Coordinating Political, Legal and Security Affairs Minister under President John "Jokowi" Widodo, has announced that the government's team is still discussing the solution mechanism, as well as determining the priority cases that it will aim to resolve by the end of Jokowi's five-year term.

The discussion involves seven gross human rights violations, including the massacres in East Timor.

Both Timor-Leste and Indonesia formed the Commission of Truth and Friendship (CTF) 10 years ago, for which its mandate included establishing the truth about human rights violations that occurred prior to and immediately after the Aug. 30, 1999 popular consultation.

The report was endorsed by then president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, making it the first recognition of the Indonesian government's complicity in human rights violations in East Timor.

However, according to Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 2014 published by the US Department of State, recommendations from the commission regarding a national reparations program have not materialized yet.

The writer, a gross inserve in Yogyakarta, is former Commission of Truth and Friendship (CTF) co-director and Indonesian representative to the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET).

We are now all in the soup together

Tom Plate
LOS ANGELES

China, it seems, cannot win for losing. Exports greatest China is always "heading up", boastful billionaire businessman Donald Trump declaimed yet again on the campaign trail.

But his timing on this point could have been better as last week we at not exactly the best possible moment to hold up China's economy as my world-beast. What with the Mainland's growth rate slowing and its stock markets rolling, the panic seemed headed in a direction more hastening beards than calming them.

It would have been more fun to variety amuse to point out that even when the panda is heating, the bear somehow still takes a "heating".

By the end of last week's China slide, the Dow Jones followed in step, falling to its lowest level since 2011.

(This was not due to Greece!) Suddenly, our Federal Reserve has to rethink its plan to push shortly low US interest rates one a higher level. So we conclude this, no matter what China does (slime or slump) its "heating" of America proceeds apace.

Let us not replace irrational exuberance with irrational pessimism. How to foment a historic Sino-US partnership that could save us all is the forgotten.

For this, we reach back through history for a comedian with Nicolo Machiavelli, historically curious, who wrote: "Men are only fitted to look at the world as it is, not as they might like it to be."

Sure, some Americans would only the contribution in a world dominated, as it were, by one huge Trump Tower looking down on the global minions, including all 1.4 billion Chinese and 1.2 billion Indians. But that is not the world as it is, or as it will be — ever.

The world as it is, and as it will remain for the foreseeable future, is one vast network of co-dependencies (environmental, economic, health) plugged into a common flow.

But judging from the worries like more waiting up from the pit stops of the US presidential trail, adjustments are more evident for Americans than China in the antiquated department.

"We are now all in the soup together," mumbled one of my smartest friends, a Los Angeles-based international banker, hearing to the latest Sino-US market mash-up.

China is not going to vanish no matter how much its markets crumble in the Yangtze.

Its economic downdrafts will be felt as if some the downpours in places as far away as Oklahoma, just as its cheap exports have put strains on the fiscal of children under Oklahoma's Christmas trees for years. The wind will blow in at in both directions. What our Fed does next will be felt in Shanghai.

So what do we make of what we talk about a better Sino-US relationship? Well, it is a bit like talk of the universe's economic cured. Almost no one offers clearer thinking than George Yeo, the former Singapore foreign minister, who in his just published book, the continuously insightful "Gusuji, Banyan and the Bird" writes: "The two countries are now bound together as so many points, a serious regrets a sinuous distinctable.

But it is going to be a very difficult relationship, it will be the single most important relationship for both countries in this century. If it's badly managed there could be war, if it's properly managed there will be another generation of peace [...]."

Without hyperbole, we need to accept that this "divorce" geopolitical marriage (forced, rather than jointly) will be an inconvenient affair, at times messy, but at all times so desperately necessary.

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Adjustments may prove even harder for America than China in the attitude department.

The writer, the distinguished scholar of Asian and Pacific Studies at Loyola Marymount University, is the author of Conversations with Lee Kuan Yew. He also is the Chief Anchorman.

Please send your articles to opinion@thejakartapost.com

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Geçtiğimiz hafta sınırı geçmek isteyen **mültecilerin** trajik görüntülerini **Makedonya'dan** izledik. Sınıra yığılan **binlerce** zavallı **insan**, **Makedonya** polisinin **şiddet** ile karşılık vereceğini, geçişi engellemek için **dikenli tellerle** karşılanacaklarını belki de hiç tahmin etmemişlerdi. Bu **insanlar savaşın** devam ettiği ülkelerinden kaçmış, şişme botlarla **Yunanistan'a** doğru ölüm yolculuğuna çıkmışlardı. Dile kolay, bu maceranın merkezi **Akdeniz 2 binden** fazla **göçmene mezar** olmuştu. **Ölüm** yolculuğunu aşmayı başaran **mülteciler**, tam yolun sonuna geldik derken, **AB ülkelerinden** birinin kapısında bu karşılamayı beklemiyorlardı.

***İsrail'in** en önde gelen günlük gazetesi **Jakarta Post'da Harun Yahya'nın "Avrupa mülteci sınavından geçecek mi?"** adlı makalesi 31 Ağustos 2015 tarihinde yayınlanmıştır.*

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