

MAKING CORRUPT USE OF RIGHT TO PROTEST TO CONDUCT “COLOR REVOLUTION” IN SOME NATIONS ALL OVER THE WORLD AND PRECLUDING RESOLUTION

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Abstract:

Nowadays, protest is a general socio-political phenomenon in many nations all over the world. The author used analysis/synthesis comparison method to indicate personal viewpoint on awareness of protest, right to protest; analyze the reality of making corrupt use of right to protest in order to conduct “Color Revolution” in some typical nations and all over the world. Also, he pointed out the relation between protest – right to protest and conducting “Color Revolution”, thereby, the author proposed some possible resolutions to cope with these activities. The research findings can be references for strategic planners, scientists and realists who study security science, sociology; if the proposed resolutions are applied, the national security especially in the crucial-target nations of “Peaceful Evolution” strategy and conducting “Color Revolution” will be guaranteed.

Key words: Protest, Right to Protest, Color Revolution, Peaceful Evolution, Precluding.

I. Introduction

Protest, which is a sensitive, complicated issue relating to citizenship and human rights, emerged long time ago in the nations’ political - social life. These days, almost all nations in the world recognize citizens’ right to protest. Nevertheless, the issue of abusing right to protest in order to conduct “Color Revolution” has been happening in some nations all over the world, which causes unstable Social Politics situation, even changes the political regime of those nations. Many nations show interest in research about this issue due to its close relation to national security and stability. The article digs in researching the reality of abusing right to protest to conduct “Color Revolution” in some nations all over the world. This is in the prospective of a scientist, who specializes in guaranteeing national security in socialist countries – the crucial-target of performing “Peaceful Evolution” strategy and conducting “Color Revolution”.

II. Awareness of protest and right to protest

Protest is an easily visible political phenomenon in every modern society model, from dictatorship to democracy. Nonetheless, protest is a complicated notion, each nation has its own approach and different opinions upon protest. Almost all nations recognize the right to protest but cannot give the general definition of protest.

According to Encyclopedia Americana, protest is “*non-violent action of a group of people, aiming to bring to the community a view or a perspective towards a certain issue in the society*”. [1]

Cambridge Dictionary Online defines protest is “*an occasion when people show that they disagree with something by standing somewhere.*” [3]

Great Vietnamese Dictionary edited by Nguyen Nhu Y, at page 165, indicates protest is “*gathering or parading on street in order to express a will, aspiration or praise force, regularly for the purpose of making pressure.*”[4]

Vietnamese Dictionary edited by Professor Hoang Phe gives the notion of protest is “*struggling by gathering into crowds in order to express a will, aspiration and praise general force*”. [5]

Though there are many different notions and definitions with their own characteristics, protest is a way for citizens to show their direct participation in issues of the nation and society. The aim of protest is to express the support, united determination with a view to solving some social issues; or to show the objection in order to demand, protect rights for protest participants or other objects and society. Protest often happens in public, it can be carried out in the form of a group of people marching together through several routes, and afterwards they gather at a particular place, along with some behaviors such as shouting, raising flags and banners, singing protest song, etc. Also, protest can be the action of many people gathering, sitting, lying, standing together, carrying signs showing attitude without any word or action.

On global scale, right to protest is officially recognized to be one of Civil and political rights, is the highest form of freedom and peaceful assembly, is the crucial premise to execute freedom of opinion and expression. This is mentioned in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights(1948), in which clause 1 of Art. 20 records: “*Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association*” [6]. Inheriting and supplementing this provision, Art. 21 in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights continues to announce: “*The right of peaceful assembly shall be recognized. No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of this right other than those imposed in conformity with the law and which are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, public order, the protection of public health or morals or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others*”[7]. In the USA, the right to protest was fixed in the Constitution of United States of America (1787) to be basic right of citizens which is included in the rights to freedom of assembly and a high level of freedom of assembly. Demonstrations are allowed to take place in public places with different sizes and forms, such as organizing marches on streets, assembling demonstrations in park, etc. [8] In Vietnam, right after the success of August Revolution, the right to protest of citizens was stated in Decree 31/SL-CTN promulgated on August 3rd 1945 by President Ho Chi Minh. Throughout many historical periods, the right to protest continued to be directly recognized in the Constitution 1959, 1980, 1992 and current Constitution 2013.

The majority of viewpoints attributes that demonstration is an objective phenomenon in a state-run society. It is one of the form for citizens to express their will, reflect their opinion, send to the government publicly; is one of the human’s right of democracy and freedom. Therefore, guaranteeing the right to protest of citizens is the responsibility of government, mainly implementing by laws for everyone; at the same time, this ensures social order and safety for themselves. Protest and right to protest are the two sides of an issue, they have close relationship that cannot be separated, but not completely homogenize together. Right to protest is the outside appearance, which is shown by legal regulations promulgated by government. Protest is the content of right to protest by means of protest activities in reality.

Protest is an important human right, but there are some certain limitations, such as in the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, and freedom of speech. Thereby, right to protest is temperately performed, not for the purpose of insulting, separating or inciting violent behaviors and discrimination. No one is allowed to make corrupt use of right to protest in order to propagandize war; to cause national, racial and religious hostile; to incite discrimination and violence. Right to protest is a limited right and can be suspended in emergency situation of a country.

III. Making corrupt use of right to protest to carry out “Color revolution” in some nations in the world.

In the reality, performing the right to protest always has many problems affecting the national security and public safety, public order. In recent years, many nations in the world had to cope up with hostile forces using the right to protest as a way of opposing the government with various scales and forms. These demonstrations start from the social conflict, they may arise inside the country itself or may be the consequences of agitation and intervention from outside. That is a challenge for the community and the nation, which leads to social and political crisis, kindles many other negative consequences. It also has a bad direct impact on the national benefit, on the right and legal benefit of people, on both local and worldwide peace.

“Color Revolution” is the notion indicating non-armed riots and political violence which are held by opposing organization in order to subvert the present government, at the same time, to create a new ruling apparatus of opposing forces backed-up by hostile forces from outside that country. “Color Revolution” is also known as “Rose Revolution”, “Tulip Revolution”, “Orange Revolution”, “Arab Spring”, “Jasmine Revolution”, etc[9]. “Color Revolution” is a political movement with its core is non-governmental organizations, especially the civil society organizations led by youngsters. This force draws, assembles protesters to cause street fighting non-violently or combine with violence in many different levels. Their aim is to subvert or replace the nation leadership or constitutional and legal government by using some guises such as the fight against corruption, injustice and electoral fraud; the way to restore social justice, etc. with a new government.

Right to protest is a legal citizen right which is officially recognized by almost all nations. However, there is an extremely faint boundary between legal demonstration and illegal riot following “Color Revolution”, especially with the intervention of hostile forces. “Color Revolution” has the general feature is that the opposing force gather a massive quantity of people, mainly the youngsters, non-governmental organizations; with the form of demonstration which is big in both scale and time. At the beginning, the protest may be non-violent struggle (possibly using violence if necessary) to subvert the subjects who they attribute to be corrupt and dictatorial, and then set up a new authority.

Recently, the reality of implementing “Color Revolution” in some countries is usually done with these typical modalities below:

Firstly, making use of protest to propagandize-propagandist and agitate, creating excuses to conduct “Color Revolution”.

“Color Revolution” often gathers many people demonstrating and parading. Therefore, the opposing forces take advantage of complicated political and social issues in local, nation and all over the world. They promote propaganda, agitation, create excuses to conduct “Color Revolution”, including both direct way (by words of mouth) and indirect way (by distributing

documents, leaflets, slogans, hostile radio stations and especially through the Internet). Many types of online service, mainly the social network, blogs, video sharing devices are fully utilized in propagandizing activities to agitate demonstration. In parallel, by means of social media, the opposing forces raise the unreal doubts towards incumbent government, and then change people's awareness of the future and direct their misbehaviors.

Typically, the demonstration with slogan against corruption in March 2017 was held by Anti-Corruption Fund in Russia. The director of this fund is A. Navalnyi, an object of extreme political opposition in Russian Federation. He changed the operation model, took advantage of the name of fighting against corruption and provoked demonstration in order to discredit Russia's government right before the national election day in September 2017. Not long ago, on March 2nd 2017, there was a documentary film investigating the "huge" and "unclear" assets of D. Medvedev, the incumbent Party Chairman of United Russia and incumbent Prime Minister of the Russian Federation. This film was translated into 5 languages with 22 million views, according an unofficial statistics. The opposing force "skillfully" linked the discrete events, gave a sense of a reliable investigation, thereby incited people to go down the streets to protest the current administration.

Secondly, take advantage of protest to gather forces, create a "flag" for "Color Revolution".

The opposing forces are the core ones who carry out the "Color Revolution". They fully prepare the "leading flag" for their forces. A typical "Color Revolution" is in Ukraine, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan; the USA and EU regularly set conditions and pressure on the incumbent government and support opposing forces in these countries, through the state relation in the fields of politics, diplomacy, economics and commerce. Simultaneously, the USA and EU, by means of non-governmental organizations, direct construction to implement plans to subvert the current government. Financially, foreign hostile forces regularly transfer aid to the domestic opposition, create facility conditions for opposing activities in the name of international organizations, funds and a number of NGOs.

The "Color Revolution" movement is often carried out by some expediences below:

Primarily: Making use of right to protest to hold demonstration publicizing opposing organizations. In several countries, many illegal groups and organizations took unfair advantage of right to protest to represent, organize march and attribute this is a way to publicize, spread their reputation with the aim to appeal the masses.

Additionally: Making use of right to protest to incite the masses to take part in the organization. Opposing groups and organizations exploited the right to organize to send their members to participate in demonstrations, then agitated, propagandized, incited people to be a part of the organization. For example, in the "Orange Revolution" in Ukraine (2004), just several hours right after the election result was announced in favor of Viktor Yanukovich, protest march broke out despite the cold weather. On the streets, there were anti-cold tents built for protesters to stay still in a long period of time. The protesters, including a large number of college students, were efficiently supplied with food, drugs and warm clothes. They were also allowed to use mobile phone to keep in touch with their families during the protest period, what's more, they received daily allowances as well. In this way, the opposition mobilized a large force of protesters for a long time to put pressure on the cancellation of the election result.

Last but not least: The political and diplomatic support, flag building, force gathering, training, path directing, especially financial support for political events under the guise of training or supporting programs.

Thirdly, take unfair advantage of right to protest to hold the demonstration against government in form of “Color Revolution”.

With foreign support, the opposing political forces find a way to “start the fire”. They hold small, normal demonstration, and gradually sour to a strong wave of violence against the incumbent authority by deliberately inflating the national issues of social frustration or religious and ethnic conflict. There are several typical names must be mentioned such as “Arab Spring” wave in the Middle East - North Africa, or the Maidan protest movement in Ukraine, and most recently is the conflict in Syria.

Specifically, the wave of violence and instability - “Arab Spring” in the Middle East - North Africa started from the dissatisfaction of Arabians with single and particular affair in society, and the opposite opinions upon government’s behavior. Initially, the disagreement was unprompted without any political or religious signs. Then negative political and religious parties considered demonstrations as a good opportunity to develop their position, along with agitated intervention from the outside and communication elements caused the strong spread of “Arab Spring” to many countries in just a short time. The "Arab Spring" wave in the Middle East - North Africa indicated the institutional deficiencies of these countries. Spontaneous protests could subvert political institutions, change the previous regime that was only possible to be done by using military coups or outside military intervention.

In fact, the most appropriate time to carry out “Color Revolution” is usually the election period; thereby “technology” of election is closely associated with “technology” street revolution in the form of both internal and external agitation. On the outside, forces who support the opposition influence voters’ psychology at any price, by both promises and threats. Accordingly, if the incumbent government fails to ensure the democratic standards in election, political and diplomatic sanctions will be applied and foreign countries will support everything when the opposing-force leader comes to power. Inside the problem, protest marches will be widely launched and prolonged that will cause social instability, lead to negative atmosphere during the election period. In the event that these activities do not bring the opposing forces victory, the second phase will be carried out on the grounds of "election fraud", followed by the denial of the election results and demand for re-election. Some elections in Kyrgyzstan or Ukraine was in the situation that the opposition turned the tide to win the government through elections.

IV. Precluding the reality of abusing right to protest for carrying out “Color Revolution” in order to guarantee the national security.

The situation of protests and taking advantage of the right to protest for conducting "Color Revolution" has been going on complicatedly in many countries all over the world. This becomes a serious threat to national security, requiring all nations, especially the developing countries and the socialist countries [10]. They have to identify the matter and consider it as an important issue needs solving rapidly, not only ensure the democratic rights of citizens but also eliminate the threats to national security in the future.

According to the study of relevant theoretical and practical issues, the author indicates several resolutions that we should pay attention to:

Firstly, it is necessary to have a more comprehensive and full awareness of protest and the right to protest. In accordance with the constitution and the law, peaceful protest should be considered as a model of democracy, an important dialogue channel, a bridge between government and citizens through which citizens are entitled to express their will, desires, petitions upon controversial affair in present to the authorities.

There are many contradictions in the awareness of protest, right to protest, legal and illegal demonstrations, march against the State and disturbance of security. People are politically insensitive so they are extremely easily incited to participate in anti-state protest movements. Meanwhile, the functional forces are not good at resolving the demonstrations, they cannot clearly identify which protest is normal or against the government.

Opponents and hostiles have been digging into this weak spot to take unfair advantage of the right to protest and conduct activities which infringe the social security and order. Carrying out “Color Revolution” to subvert the present government is one of their movements.

Secondly, there are several methods to actively grasp the situation, resolutely and thoroughly restrict the conditions of abusing the right to protest to conduct "Color Revolution" such as:

Building a consistent and unblemished government, an independent and self-controlling state, enhancing citizens' belief in the state and the government in order to minimize the potential elements of anti-government protests.

Concentrating to grasp the situation of major demonstrating plots and plans of hostile objects both inside and outside the nation, especially the powerful exile organizations. Moreover, comprehensively grasping the situation of complex socio-political issues that may become "triggers" for hostile subjects to provoke demonstrations and then implement "Color Revolution". These “triggers” are various such as disputes and complaints, big and complicated strikes, environmental incidents, etc.

Actively detecting and promptly handling the cases and events covering factors which cause social conflicts; the farmers' landing lawsuits; and the complicated matters of ethnicity, religion, etc. At the same time, the country needs to closely attach the important role of armed forces in maintaining national security and guaranteeing social order and safety.

Thirdly: Reinforcing the state management in not only NGOs but also in the media and press sectors.

NGOs and press media are the two basic elements that are regularly taken advantage of by hostile forces outside the country to ignite and provoke protests, then create a premise that promotes the formation of “Color Revolution”. As a result, it is necessary to well control the function of state management in NGOs, strengthen the inspection and supervision, as well as improve the legal system of state management for NGOs to limit their negative activities to the lowest levels [11].

Furthermore, it is necessary to strengthen the state management in news media in order to orientate the public opinion. The nation needs to invest, pay more attention to quickly enhance the potential and capacity of the press, communication system; to increase the dose of positive information by means of mass media; to limit the negative posts that distort the truth. Concurrently, controlling the operation of the Internet and social networking sites, online services, press systems at national scale [11].

Fourthly, hastily preventing the “Color Revolution” movement right after detecting the corrupt use of right to protest to conduct protests by the opposing objects.

It is of important role in Promoting information and propaganda to raise awareness of citizens, outlining the nature and intentions of opponents. It is necessary to handle well and effectively the elements from outside and inside, the crowded gatherings as well.

Promptly detecting and encircling, blockading the core and leading objects of intrigue. Isolating the crowd and preventing the negative forces from gathering or provoking others to make the situation worse. Coordinating functional agencies with administrations at all levels to adopt guidelines and measures to ensure citizens’ legitimate rights and benefits, meeting their legitimate aspirations. In parallel, penalizing officials who wrongly make mistakes, fixing the shortcomings in the implementation of undertakings and policies, and relieving people’s annoyance.

V. Conclusion

It can be said that the issue of protest, right to protest and the problem of "Color Revolution" have been the common interest of many researchers and scholars in recent years. Vietnam is one of the key goals of the "Peaceful Revolution" theory and "Color Revolution". This article is researched from a Vietnamese citizen’s perspective, so there will be differences when comparing with the scientific works about the same topic of many scholars and researchers in the USA and the West. The author did his utmost to provide the comprehensive and objective research points of view to conclude some common issues about abusing right to protest for "Color Revolution" movement in different nations around the world. He also pointed out the demonstrations, riots and subversions in many countries that left massive consequences and losses for their economy, society and people’s lives. Though there are specific differences in culture, religion, racism, language, political system, economic development model, foreign relations, etc., each nation needs to pay special attention to the awareness of right to protest and the prevention of demonstrations causing socio-political instability. Just by doing so, the government is able to timely prevent possible "Color Revolution" scenarios, especially in socialist or developing countries./.

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