

Afghanistan:

IT'S TIME FOR A NON-MILITARY SOLUTION

In 2001, George Bush sent U.S. troops to Afghanistan, saying it was to go after the leaders of Al Qaeda. Many supported the invasion at the time, thinking it would bring Bin Laden to justice and keep America safer. Seven years later:

- Civilian deaths are rising (over 2,000 in 2008);
- We still don't know where Bin Laden is;
- Taliban control is growing again;
- President Obama is increasing U.S. troops to over 50,000;
- U.S. commanders predict at least five more years of bloodshed.



WHY THE TROOPS SHOULD LEAVE:

- 1) **There is no military solution in Afghanistan.** Even President Obama admits we are not winning the war, and that it is more 'complex' than Iraq. The Russians couldn't control Afghanistan with 120,000 troops. And once again Afghans are fighting foreign occupation.
- 2) **The enormous cost of the war** (\$100 million a day) will undermine our ability to address our financial crisis and meet other domestic needs. Winding down the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq would provide billions for healthcare, education, and rebuilding roads and bridges at home.
- 3) **Redevelopment is stalled.** Afghanistan is the 5th poorest country in the world and needs assistance to rebuild. But because foreign aid is now controlled by the U.S. military, aid agencies are targets of the insurgents and aid never reaches the people who need it.
- 4) **Continuing the occupation will deepen the catastrophe.** U.S. bombing kills helpless civilians, turning people against the U.S. and sending them into the arms of the Taliban. Most Afghans were glad to see the Taliban government go, but increasing numbers support whoever effectively fights the U.S. occupation.
- 5) **Destabilizing Pakistan.** Continued U.S. cross-border attacks and bombing in Pakistan threaten to destabilize this nuclear-armed country and pull it into a wider conflict.
- 6) **Negotiation, not force, is the key to safety.** Preventing terrorist attacks in the U.S. requires good will—being seen as a country that uses negotiation rather than force to resolve issues. Obama's election has increased our standing around the world; we shouldn't waste this opportunity by escalating the conflict.

President Obama was elected on a peace platform. He must fulfill his pledge to make the U.S. a respected world leader again. That's a much better strategy than sending more young Americans to die in a war that cannot be won.

Call NY Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, and your local Congressman at 800-828-0498. Call White House Comments at 202-456-1111. **Tell them: No more troops to Afghanistan. Bring all the troops home now.**

Join the antiwar movement to keep pressure on for withdrawal of U.S. troops!

Find out more from Brooklyn For Peace or United for Peace & Justice www.unitedforpeace.org



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