

End the Longest War in U.S. History: Bring the troops home from Afghanistan

The Cost of the War in Afghanistan.

The direct cost of the war in Afghanistan is \$105 billion this year. But the indirect costs are even greater.

Thousands have been killed in the fighting.

- 1300 U.S. military casualties.
 - Over 20,000 Afghani “declared” civilian casualties.
- Military occupation prevents civilian reconstruction efforts.

- Long-term projects are impossible in war zones.
- The Bagram airbase is soon to undergo a \$60 million expansion to double its size. The prison at Bagram is being expanded to house five times as many prisoners as are presently at Guantanamo.

The war is not helping Afghani women.

- U.S. prioritizes military victory over human and women’s rights.
- U.S.-backed government is as anti-woman and corrupt as the Taliban.
- Increasing numbers of Afghani women are committing suicide by setting fire to themselves to escape difficult lives.

While we waste \$105 Billion each year in Afghanistan, many problems at home in the U.S. remain neglected.

National and NY State unemployment rates are over twice as high as they were in 2001 at 9.7%.

The U.S. infrastructure is deteriorating because of improper funding.

5 years after Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans has not recovered, has poor flood protection, and suffers from unaffordable housing.

Who wants us in Afghanistan?

The invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 was successful because the Taliban was hated by most of the Afghanis. However, the U.S occupation and civilian deaths have turned more Afghani people against the U.S. The U.S government cannot defeat Al-Qaeda militarily while refusing to address the dire underlying conditions that are murdering Afghani civilians every day.

Results of a recent poll of the Afghani people revealed that a majority disliked the Taliban. However, 74% want negotiations not a U.S. occupation to end this conflict?

So why are we still in Afghanistan?

“The United States has discovered nearly \$1 trillion in untapped mineral deposits in Afghanistan, far beyond any previously known reserves and enough to fundamentally alter the Afghan economy and perhaps the Afghan war itself, according to senior American government officials.”

From the NY Times: June 13, 2010:

One of the purposes is to make sure that the United States—not China or any other country gets access to these minerals (and the right to extract them). That is why the U.S. is building permanent bases in Afghanistan. The U.S. is also involved in building the TAPI pipeline from Turkmenistan to Afghanistan to Pakistan and India) to help the oil companies control oil and natural gas. To ensure the profits from the natural resources including oil and gas go to U.S. corporations, the government wants U.S. troops to continue to occupy Iraq, and Afghanistan. The U.S. is now bombing Pakistan and threatening to go into Iran.

Don't Send Your Child & Your Money to protect corporate interests

These wars are about energy: oil, natural gas and pipelines.

They are not about democracy, freedom or preventing terrorism.

Don't sacrifice your child's life, Iraqi lives or Afghani lives for these wars.

In this economic crisis, the people on Staten Island are facing job losses, education and wage cuts, threats to Social Security and Medicare and pension reductions. We should demand that our tax money be spent not on war but on education, jobs, housing and health care for people in the U.S and the people of Afghanistan.

THE COST IS TOO HIGH