

**U**nited For Peace and Justice (a national peace coalition of 1400 groups, of which 8<sup>th</sup> Day is a member) strongly opposes Obama's decision.

Months ago, Afghan President Hamid Karzai called on the U.S. and NATO to draft troop withdrawal plans, hoping to set an 'end-date' in the near-term future. His call, thus far, and the call of large parts of the Afghan people, has been ignored. Obama needs to hear that we expect him to take a new approach to Afghanistan.

### **ACTION**

We urge you to immediately call on President Obama to choose diplomacy, not escalation. We must let him know that a military solution is not the answer in Afghanistan.

Call: 202-456-1111

Write: [www.whitehouse.gov/contact/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/)

Tell the Administration that. . .

1) You oppose the president's decision to send 17,000 more troops to Afghanistan this week.

2) You want to see this administration take a new approach in Afghanistan, which includes:

- Reducing troop levels in Afghanistan and rejecting the idea that there is a

military solution to the region's problems

- Rapidly withdrawing all U.S. troops from Afghanistan
- A commitment to diplomacy involving all major regional players, including major international peace-keeping bodies
- Addressing the real needs of Afghans by funding improvements in health-care, clean water, education, security, etc., through Afghan NGOs, using local labor and services

## **War is Terrorism**

According to UN figures through Sept. 2008, American and NATO forces are responsible for almost half the civilian deaths in Afghanistan.

For more info on Afghanistan, visit [www.unitedforpeace.org/article.php?list=type&type=116](http://www.unitedforpeace.org/article.php?list=type&type=116)

## **Ten Reasons to End the Occupation of Afghanistan**

1. US and NATO occupation creates civilian casualties, angering Afghans.
2. Military occupation has hampered humanitarian aid and reconstruction efforts.
3. Afghan women continue to face violence and oppression under the occupation.
4. US policy has empowered warlords, drug lords and the Taliban.
5. The occupation contributes to violence and destabilization for ordinary Afghans, including refugees.
6. NATO allies and military leaders are questioning the occupation.
7. US troop casualties in Afghanistan are on the rise.
8. Afghans are calling for a negotiated end to the war.
9. Military escalation will only increase the violence, and potentially lead to a wider war involving nuclear-armed Pakistan.
10. Military occupation of Afghanistan does not curb terrorism.

## **Recommendations for a Changed US Policy**

1. Set a swift timetable for the withdrawal of US and NATO military forces, to be substituted by UN forces for short-term security.
2. Immediately cease air strikes on targets in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

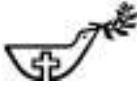
3. Support negotiations between all parties involved in the conflict, including Afghan women leaders.
4. Reform humanitarian aid and reconstruction funding efforts to prioritize Afghan organizations over foreign contractors. Ensure that funded projects address the needs and requests of Afghans and are not simply pet projects of foreign donors.
5. Invest in long-term aid that increases self-reliance such as sustainable agriculture efforts.
6. Immediately discontinue the use of Provincial Reconstruction Teams, which are costly, inefficient, and have militarized the aid process.
7. Standardize, increase, and publicly document compensation to Afghan families and communities affected by US military actions.
8. Sign the treaty to ban cluster bombs, pay for cluster bomb and landmine clean up in Afghanistan, and pledge never to use these weapons again.

Source: "Afghanistan: A Failed Military Policy" [www.unitedforpeace.org/downloads/Afghanistanprimerjan09final.pdf](http://www.unitedforpeace.org/downloads/Afghanistanprimerjan09final.pdf)

**Note:** Other peace leaflets produced by 8<sup>th</sup> Day Center can be found at [www.8thdaycenter.org/resources/leaflets.html](http://www.8thdaycenter.org/resources/leaflets.html) You may wish to use them for your own vigils, in classrooms, etc.

**8th Day Center for Justice**  
*A Catholic Faith-based NGO  
 for Social Change*

205 W. Monroe St.  
 Chicago IL 60606  
 312-641-5151  
[8thday@gmail.com](mailto:8thday@gmail.com) [www.8thdaycenter.org](http://www.8thdaycenter.org)



**Mark your Calendar.**  
**On September 27, 2009,**  
**8th Day Center will gather with all**  
**its friends to celebrate 35 years:**  
**Sowing Seeds,**  
**Transforming Tomorrow.**

Become an Associate of the 8<sup>th</sup> Day Center for Justice by making a donation at [www.8thdaycenter.org/joinus/donation.html](http://www.8thdaycenter.org/joinus/donation.html)  
 Or you may send a check.

By your financial support for our justice work, you will receive *Centerings* -- our quarterly magazine, regular email bulletins on timely issues, our environmental online magazine and the use of our extensive libraries. When you provide monetary support for the 8th Day Center for Justice, the full amount of your gift is income tax deductible to the full extent provided by law.

Local contact:

# AFGHANISTAN: DIPLOMACY NOT MORE TROOPS!!



**A Young Afghan Woman**

Last week, President Obama announced his decision to send 17,000 additional U.S. troops to Afghanistan, on the grounds that "the situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan demands urgent attention." This will bring U.S. troops numbers to 55,000. The U.S. commander there said that he still needs an additional 10,000 troops. He also said, U.S. forces will be in Afghanistan up to five more years. That makes 13 years in total: 2001 - 2014.  
**When will it end?**