
Here is the link to all the newsletters archived in the OMNI web site.
http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/ For views and information not found in the mainstream media

Instead of Defense Department, Say War Department
Instead of War on Terror, Say US War to Dominate World
Instead of Taliban, Say Afghan Resistance to Occupation

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Letter to Representatives
Barbara Lee/Walter Jones: Sign on to Letter to President Obama: Expedite Withdrawal from Afghanistan

Representative Barbara Lee and Walter Jones are circulating a letter calling on President Obama to expedite US military withdrawal from Afghanistan ahead of the NATO summit in Chicago. Urge your Rep. to sign.

http://www.justforeignpolicy.org/node/1210

What will lead to a just and lasting peace in Afghanistan?

Mary Zerkel and Peter Lems, American Friends Service Committee

actioncenter@afsc.org via uark.edu to jbennet  May 2, 2012

Help us raise a challenge to the President's vision for Afghanistan by sending a letter to the editor of your local paper now. https://secure2.convio.net/afsc/site/LteUser?lte.user=lte_resolve_zip&lte_id=20001

Dear James,

In his televised address from Afghanistan last night, President Obama announced the signing of a pact with the government of Afghanistan to extend the U.S. presence for 10 years beyond the scheduled removal of foreign troops in 2014. It is a vision backed up by a pledge to continue creating a powerful and outsized Afghan security force to be financially, technically, and physically trained by the international community. The president also pledged to designate Afghanistan as a major non-NATO ally. This effectively puts the country under the umbrella of the NATO military alliance. After three decades of deadly violence Afghans want an end to these wars. Soviet troops, warlords, Mujahideen armies, Taliban forces, and the armies of NATO have all attempted to rule through force. Another military alliance is not the solution. Thirty years of fighting has led to one of the largest and most protracted refugee crises in the world, huge numbers of traumatized people, and untold deaths. It has also led to the belief that uniforms do not matter. People with guns continue to terrorize Afghanistan. Help us raise a challenge to this vision by sending a letter to the editor of your local paper. The people of Afghanistan and of the United States deserve better. Studies by the World Bank show that almost 90 percent of the revenue available in Afghanistan comes from the international community. Almost all of it is military. Instead of a new and open-ended military alliance with its reliance on arms transfers and
targeted killings by special forces, Afghans need stability. Stability will only come through a comprehensive peace process that includes Afghan civil society, all the involved armed groups, the government of Afghanistan, and those of neighboring countries. Building Afghan-led institutions that can help people recover from the trauma of war should be the first priority. It is a long process that requires a transparent commitment by the U.S., but it is the first step towards lasting peace.

Wage peace,
Mary Zerkel and Peter Lems
American Friends Service Committee

What Did We Get for 381 U.S Dead Since the Death of bin Laden?, JustForeignPolicy, May 2, 2012
According to icasualties.org, 381 U.S. soldiers have died in Afghanistan since Osama bin Laden was killed a year ago on May 2, 2011. How much safer are we as a result of that sacrifice? Can we say that the increase in safety justified the sacrifice? If by May 2, 2013, another 381 U.S. soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan, will we be able to say that the sacrifice was justified?
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-naiman/obama-afghanistan_b_1470191.html

Kevin Martin, Peace Action
peaceact@mail.democracyinaction.org

Dear James,

The President’s speech from Afghanistan yesterday has played in the media as the ‘turning of a page’ instead of ‘quagmire light’, committing the US to a costly presence in Afghanistan for 12 more years. If a page has indeed turned, let's write the next page in Chicago when we make our presence known at the NATO summit in less than three weeks.

Peace Action is working with our allies to organize an action oriented Counter-Summit conference, and a march of veterans of the Afghanistan war returning their medals to NATO officials. We will demand an end to our country’s longest war and just treatment for returning veterans and the people of Afghanistan who have suffered immeasurably over the last several decades of nearly endless wars. Read More

I hope you will join us in Chicago May 18-20.
Humbly for Peace,
Kevin Martin
Difficult Days Ahead in Afghanistan and at Home

On May 1 in a televised address from Afghanistan President Obama said, “There will be difficult days ahead. The enormous sacrifices of our men and women are not over.”

That’s an understatement.

May 18-19 Chicago: Vision and Organizing

When US officials met in Brussels with NATO countries to prepare for the May NATO Summit in Chicago, Australia announced it would withdraw its troops from Afghanistan a year earlier than planned. Depending on the outcome of the French presidential elections, France may do the same.

Take Action Now To Bring Our Troops Home From Afghanistan

The President just sneaked in and out of Afghanistan during the cover of night to sign an agreement that could take the U.S. down a path of having 20,000 - 30,000 troops in harms way until 2024. With the majority of Americans wanting troops home as soon as possible, Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) has organized a letter asking the President to announce at the upcoming NATO summit in Chicago a more accelerated transition. So far she has 47 colleagues signing the letter.

Please take a moment now and call your Representative at 202-224-3121. Ask them to sign Rep. Lee’s letter to bring the troops home from Afghanistan sooner and vote for any upcoming amendments saying the same thing. Then click to our blog and tell us what they said.

Working for Peace and Justice
Memoirs of an Activist Intellectual

Equal parts activist and intellectual, Peace Action Board member, Larry Wittner has written an excellent book chronicling his amazing career as an activist and witness to some of the most pivotal events in peace and justice history in the past several decades. This is a great book! Here's a link to purchase a copy.
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Get your copy of 'Working for Peace and Justice
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Text of Obama's speech in Afghanistan
http://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/02/world/asia/text-obamas-speech-in-afghanistan.html

Text of the U.S.-Afghanistan agreement
http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/2012.06.01u.s.-afghanistansignedtext.pdf

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You have 3 new messages.

Rights Groups Hold International Drone Summit in Washington, DC
News Report, Center for Constitutional Rights, April 29, 2012: “We’re dragging this secretive drone program out of the shadows and into the light of day,” said Medea Benjamin, one of the Summit organizers and author of the new book Drone Warfare: Killing by Remote Control. “It’s time for the American public to know the true extent—and consequences—of the killing and spying being done in our name.” Lawyers representing Pakistani drone-strike victims and journalists investigating the attacks shared their experiences of these events in Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen. New footage of interviews with victims was aired. READ  |
Text of Obama's speech in Afghanistan
http://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/02/world/asia/text-obamas-speech-in-afghanistan.html

Text of the U.S.-Afghanistan agreement
http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/2012.06.01u.s.-afgahanistanspasignedtext.pdf

Gareth Porter: Finding Bin Laden: The Truth Behind the Official Story
Porter: in Abbottabad, bin Laden was not the functioning head of al-Qaeda, but an isolated figurehead who had become irrelevant to the actual operations of the organization; bin Laden was in Abbottabad because he had been forced into exile by the al-Qaeda leadership; intensive focus on the compound in Abbottabad was the result of crucial intelligence provided by the ISI.