

Position on Afghanistan
August 2010

East Bay Citizens for Peace

Bristol, Barrington, East Providence, Portsmouth and Warren, Rhode Island

We do not believe that military action is the solution to the problems in Afghanistan or its neighboring countries. Foreign military involvement in Afghanistan is counterproductive and does not enhance the security of U.S. or other countries. Al-Qaeda does not have a base of operation in Afghanistan. Continued military action will only result in more civilian deaths, suffering and refugees. This will create even more hostility to the U.S., and further destabilize the region.

Therefore, East Bay Citizens for Peace calls for the cessation of all bombing in the area and the creation of a plan for the orderly and prompt withdrawal of all U.S. and foreign military forces from Afghanistan.

To address the problems of the region, we support the use of diplomacy and development efforts in full collaboration with the Afghan people. Specifically, we urge the following:

- Respect Afghanistan's sovereignty and the right of its people to self determination.
- Expand diplomatic talks to include all interested parties in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and neighboring countries as well as international agencies such as the U.N. Take a regional stance in developing strategies to deal with the problems of the entire area, based on diplomacy and cooperation among neighboring nations.
- Provide long-term aid directed at strengthening the economic and civic cultures of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and other countries in the region. Address the real needs of the people, including schools, hospitals, clean water, and security by supporting international development aid groups, both public and private.
- Protect the legal rights and status of all peoples without regard to race, religion, nationality or creed in our diplomatic and political actions.