

February , 2011

Dear President Barack Obama,

It has now been more than 9 years since our nation became embroiled in Afghanistan, the longest war on foreign soil in our nation's history.

The toll already has been unacceptable. According to the Washington Post, nearly 1400 American families will never see their loved one again, and many times that number have had relatives permanently and seriously harmed, physically or psychologically. From 2001 to the present, the war in Afghanistan has caused the deaths of thousands of Afghan civilians, directly from insurgent and foreign military action, or indirectly as a consequence of displacement, starvation, disease, exposure, lack of medical treatment, crime and lawlessness resulting from the war. The bitterness caused by all these civilian deaths will clearly reduce our security in the long term by fostering the recruitment of terrorists.

Prosecuting the war with high altitude drones has serious moral challenges (as well as creating practical problems in collecting intelligence and understanding the local cultures). This war has already cost the US more than \$372 billion according to the National Priorities Project, money that could have created jobs rebuilding America's bridges, schools, and other institutions and reducing debt. Furthermore, the long-term costs of the war will be staggering considering the care of returning US Veterans and interest on the related debt.

The people of both the United States and Afghanistan want the war to end. We can no longer accept the death, pain, suffering and mayhem caused by our continued presence in Afghanistan.

Our request is that our government will quickly cease in 2011 the vain attempt to intervene militarily in Afghanistan. At the same time we ask our country to develop a plan to give generous support to non-government and multilateral aid agencies that can help Afghanistan to address its peoples' many needs.

Sincerely yours,

address: