

Bring War \$\$ Home!

Sources: "With Cuts, Cuomo Offers Shrunken Budget" by N. Confessore and T. Kaplan, the New York Times, 2/1/11; "Analysis of the Fiscal Year 2012 Pentagon Spending Request" costofwar.com, 2/15/11; "Politicians, Filmmakers Campaign for End to Afghanistan War" by Nadia Prupis, Truthout, 2/19/11.



"Defence Spending" by Paresh Nath, the Khaleej Times, UAE, 2/19/11

NY Gov. Andrew Cuomo proposed a \$132.9 billion budget on Feb 1.

To close a \$9 billion deficit, Mr. Cuomo refused to extend a surcharge on millionaires; instead he put the heaviest burden on the most vulnerable citizens.

Cuomo's budget would reduce school aid spending by \$1.54 billion and cut Medicaid spending by almost \$1 billion.

Why is Mr. Cuomo not demanding the president withdraw troops from Afghanistan and make the savings available as fiscal aid to states?

After all, 72 percent of Americans favored a swifter withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan, based on a recent Gallup poll (Feb. 2).

Ending the Afghanistan War altogether would save taxpayers in New York \$9.6 billion this year alone, enough to cover the entire NY state deficit.

Some may ask "How would ending the Afghanistan War pay for that?" Keep in mind that state budgets are tangled with federal spending, especially over the past couple of years, as state budgets have relied on federal Recovery Act funds to balance their books during the recession. For example, NY State loses more than \$5 billion for Medicaid in enhanced federal dollars. So the war does have a significant impact on state budgets.

There's simply no justification for continuing to spend \$6 billion a month on a futile, brutal war while cutting programs that educate our young, take care of our old, and help the most basic needs of the poor.

Call Gov. Cuomo to bring the war dollars home. No more wasting of human lives and our taxes by the war in Afghanistan.



Join our 432nd Peace Vigil to end the wars!
Every Saturday, 1-3 pm, at Rte. 59 & Middletown Rd. in Nanuet, NY

For info: www.rocklandaction.org

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Rockland Coalition for Peace & Justice