

Children: Casualties of the Wars

Source: "Homeless children: the hard times generation" by Scott Pelley, CBS 60 Minutes, 3/6/11; "The Cost of US Terrorism in Afghanistan: Incalculable" by Kathy Kelly, commondreams, 3/4/11



Amid the Great Recession, the endless wars in Afghanistan and Iraq continue, costing human lives and draining \$1.16 trillion, so far.

Children have become the most vulnerable casualties of the wars. **Almost 1 in 4 children in this country lives in poverty.** (60 Minutes, 3/6/11)

Our government can spend \$300,000 every MINUTE on the wars, but can't afford to feed 16 million poor children at home.

It is heartbreaking to hear kids speaking about what it's like to feel hungry. Listen to a student from Casselberry Elementary School, FL:

"You can't sleep. You just wait, you just go to sleep for like five minutes and you wake up again. And your stomach hurts, and you're thinking 'I can't sleep. I'm going to try and sleep, I'm going to try and sleep,' but you can't 'cause your stomach's hurting. And it's cause it doesn't have any food in it." (60 Minutes, 3/6/11)

While 16 million children go hungry at home, countless children in Afghanistan are being killed or maimed by U.S. bombs in many raids.

On March 1st, two U.S. helicopter gunships hovered over a group of children and **shot at them "one after another," killing nine children** in Afghanistan's Kumar province.

Four of the boys were seven years old; three were eight, one was nine and the oldest was twelve. The children were gathering wood under a tree in the mountains near a village in the district to help their families survive. **They're children like our own.**

Can we in good conscience ignore the suffering of children in the U.S. and Afghanistan? What is the purpose of fighting the two wars? Who died? Who profited? Who paid? Why do we let the suffering continue for so long?



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