

The Wars Impoverish Us

Source: "Assassination in Kandahar Further Erodes Afghans' Faith in the Government," by R. A. Oppel Jr., the New York Times (4/21/10)

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"Afghanistan Buildup" by Jimmy Margulies (12/2/09). Reprinted by permission

Rockland communities have been shaken by the hardships of school budgets, layoffs, and program cuts, while still requiring tax hikes.

It is the first time BOCES has cut staff in 20 years!

How sad it is to watch people "squabble over crumbs," while so much local money pours into the two wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Each family in Rockland County has already paid \$22,000 for the two wars, so far!

(www.nationalpriorities.org)

The wars devastate our soldiers not only physically, but also mentally. Every day, 18 veterans commit suicide.

In Afghanistan, the mounting civilian deaths caused by the U.S. and NATO militaries at checkpoints, from night raids, and from drone attacks, have ignited angry anti-American demonstrations in Afghanistan.

But why did we invade and occupy Afghanistan? Over the past eight-and-a-half years, the reason has shifted from catching Osama bin-Laden, to killing Al Qaeda, and now to wiping out the Taliban.

As American and NATO troops prepare for a summer offensive in Kandahar, the U.S. Army recently commissioned a survey of the Kandaharis in areas which were not under Taliban control. **The survey has revealed that 94 percent of respondents support negotiating with the Taliban over military confrontation with the insurgent group and 85 percent regard the Taliban as "our Afghan brothers".**

Clearly the Afghanistan people want us out of their country. We have no business waging war there. We need to pull our troops out of Afghanistan now, to end the pointless bloodshed, to care for our suffering soldiers, and to rebuild our battered country.



Join our 392nd Peace Vigil to end the wars!
Every Saturday, 1-3pm, at Rte. 59 & N. Middletown Rd. in Nanuet, NY

For info: www.rocklandaction.org

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Rockland Coalition for Peace & Justice