



Rockland Coalition  
for Peace & Justice

# Diplomacy Not War

Source: "We failed to follow bombing rules: Pentagon" by Agence France Presse, June 9, 2009; "Noam Chomsky on US Expansion of Afghan Occupation" Democracy Now, April 3, 2009



**Civilian casualties -- often from US air power -- have caused growing outrage in Afghanistan.**

**The Kabul government says 140 civilians died from US air strikes** in the western Farah province on May 4 during a clash with Taliban insurgents, making it one of the deadliest such incidents since the US-led invasion in 2001.

American bombings in Afghanistan are so ineffective and counterproductive that even the puppet president Karzai is consistently and publicly campaigning against the air strikes.

Two leading specialists on Afghanistan, Barnett Rubin and Ahmed Rashid, wrote in the Foreign Affairs magazine last year that the United States should give up the idea that military victory is the answer to everything.

They said that **the United States should reorient its policy to aim for a regional solution** in which the concerned countries-- including, crucially, Iran, but also India, Russia, China—are involved. And the Afghans should work out a settlement among themselves.

In fact, Western-run polls showed that **about 75 percent of Afghans are in favor of negotiations among Afghans**, which includes the Taliban, who are Afghans.

**Let's put down the weapons and start diplomatic engagement. Turn the war budget into humanitarian aid, so that the Taliban cannot use basic food as a power to dominate the impoverished Afghans.**



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**Every Saturday, 1-3pm, at Rte. 59 & N. Middletown Rd. in Nanuet, NY**

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6/20/09

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