



ICC Statement on Afghanistan

The debate on the war in Afghanistan and Pakistan has reached a critical point. Public opinion in countries all around the world have become aware of and opposed to the escalation of the war, which has is being sold as a « new strategy » by the governments of the most influential NATO members. Even the mainstream media now reflects this debate and disillusion.

We know that conflicts are never solved by wars.

The 192 member-countries of the United Nations have been invited to participate in an International Conference about Afghanistan in London on the 28th of January 2010. This conference was called by Gordon Brown after Nicolas Sarkozy and Angela Merkel announced it a few months ago. Probably the only government-representatives who will participate will be those of western countries and their clients. We can expect little more than a renewed public campaign to garner support for their NATO-oriented « new strategy » to the war.

Peace Movements, NGOs for Human Rights, political parties, trade unions and individuals from all over the world who struggle for peace, justice and freedom will meet at this occasion. We have called for organisations and activists from all over the world to join us and to become involved in finding a common and peaceful international response to the dead end in Afghanistan.

An end to the war requires that NATO troops be withdrawn from Afghanistan. Globally we need, and therefore are working for the dissolution and dismantling of NATO in order to contribute to international security. NATO only brings more war. It has never been (and will never be) an organization for protection and security. After almost 9 years of NATO's presence in Afghanistan, the current situation reflects what NATO truly is: a military alliance designed to impose the will of Western elites.

Political and civilian responses to the crisis in Afghanistan and Pakistan are needed. They must respect the Afghan people's decisions and require a regional solution involving all neighbouring countries. These responses should include a non-military program led by the United Nations to replace the military ISAF-mandate in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan now needs a real process of reconstruction, materially, politically and socially, and this cannot be achieved with bullets, bombs and drones.