

# Why Oppose the Occupation of Afghanistan?

## Impact on the U.S.

- Nearly 100,000 soldiers from the U.S., 50,000 from NATO, and 104,000 private military contractors are occupying Afghanistan.
- The U.S. has spent \$172.9 billion on the occupation of Afghanistan since 2001.
- U.S. casualties are increasing with more than 900 dead and 4,400 wounded.
- Soldiers are forced to go to the Middle East for up to 5 deployments.
- One in five soldiers suffers from post-traumatic stress syndrome.
- Over half of the people in the U.S. oppose continuing the Afghan war.
- The U.S. does not have the right to occupy other countries.
- Such occupations create hostility toward the U.S. and threaten our security.
- The endless war environment in the U.S. is used to attack Constitutional rights.

## Impact on Afghanistan and Pakistan

- At least 18,000 Afghans have been killed and 10's of 1000's wounded since the U.S. invasion. U.S. bombs have killed over 3,800 Afghan civilians.
- The U.S. supports the unpopular Karzai government, with a long history of corruption. It recently sponsored elections with undisputable, widespread fraud.
- U.S. drone attacks in Afghanistan and Pakistan kill civilians and alienate the people of both countries.
- U.S. attacks in Pakistan are destabilizing the country—and it has nuclear weapons.
- The U.S. imprisons hundreds of Afghans without charges. Many have been tortured.
- The war strews radioactive debris and other deadly substances across Afghanistan--and contributes to global warming.
- Women's rights have not been protected by the U.S. backed government.

## So why are U.S. Troops there?

- The U.S. estimates that fewer than 100 Al Qaeda members live in isolated areas of Afghanistan, giving lie to the idea that they are the main reason for the occupation.
- U.S. goals are to gain control of the region for planned natural gas pipelines, to maintain strategic military positions to pressure surrounding countries such as Iran, and to expand its empire for corporate interests – not the interests of working people in the U.S, Afghanistan, Pakistan or elsewhere.

**Join the Central Jersey Coalition Against Endless War**

[www.AgainstEndlessWar.org](http://www.AgainstEndlessWar.org)

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