

Afghanistan Needs A Peace Strategy, Not A New War Strategy

More than 100,000 foreign soldiers are presently serving at war in Afghanistan. The US Government and Obama Administration want to send 30,000 additional troops to the Hindu Kush. They demand more soldiers and more weapons from NATO and from their European allies, especially from France, Great Britain and Germany. At the Afghanistan International Conference held in London, on the 28th of January, a change in the strategy will be introduced. It is planned to engage the civil services into the warfare. This is no strategy for peace. Instead, this is a strategy that will be traduced in a war escalation.

The Party of the European Left condemns this imperialist strategy. The Executive Board and the Council of Chairpersons stand for a strategy of conciliation, peace and civil development.

Every single day the war continues, human lives are destroyed and hatred is fomented. Every single day the war continues, the Taliban are strengthened and the resources which Afghanistan needs for its reconstruction are destroyed. Foreign troops did not and will not bring democracy or women's rights to Afghanistan. Foreign troops do not protect construction workers, but endanger their lives, their physical integrity, and the results of their hard work.

The road to a solution is not civil and military, but civil instead of military. The Afghani men and women wish for peace. In Afghanistan peace is possible. Peace will come from within Afghanistan itself. The Peace-Jirgas, the regional and clan meetings for peace, encourage and support this statement.

The next step forward is to silence all firearms. But this will only be possible if all the foreign troops are removed. The deployment of additional soldiers must not be legitimized. There is no military solution. As the situation gets even worse, the aim should, currently, be to support the fully reconstruction of Afghanistan, socially, economically, institutionally and politically. The country needs infrastructures, education, democratic rights and women's rights, and last but not least, an agricultural system that will not produce the most heroin in the world but that, once again, would be able to feed its people.

Freedom in Afghanistan requires, in addition to protection and support, cooperation with neighbouring countries such as Pakistan, Iran, China, Russia, the central Asian nations, and India. In particular, Iran and the Atomic Weapons nations, India and Pakistan, must play an active role in deliberation with each other. The partnership processes are essential to relieve the tensions in this region. Europe must develop its own policy, independent of both US and NATO, in order to end war strategy and, within the framework of UN, to give peace a chance.

The War on Terror must end in Afghanistan. If this is not achieved, this war will become permanent. Presently, there is a large threat that the war could progress on to Yemen. This must be prevented. The Party of the European Left calls for support of the protests for freedom in Afghanistan, on January 28th. We demand that, all European nations, movements and unions, national governments, national parliaments, and also the European Parliament, support the removal of foreign troops from Afghanistan. The Party of the European Left emphasizes: Afghanistan needs a new freedom strategy, NOT a new war strategy.