

TROOPS OUT of Iraq and Afghanistan

PAN-CANADIAN DAY OF ACTION

Saturday, March 17



12:30 ASSEMBLE AT CORBETT HALL (112 STREET & 82 AVENUE) for 1:00 STREET MARCH
FOLLOWED BY INDOOR RALLY AT ARTS BARN (103 STREET & 84 AVENUE)
EVERYONE WELCOME - FAMILY FRIENDLY - BRING SIGNS & BANNERS

FOR MORE INFO: EDMONTON COALITION AGAINST WAR AND RACISM- WWW.ECAWAR.ORG

All Out On March 17th!

Recently Canada's Minister of Defence Gordon O'Connor came to Edmonton to declare openly that he rejects the rule of law. Like some medieval warlord, he said that Canada is in Afghanistan to seek retribution for the Canadians killed on 9/11. For a Canadian government to base its policy on bloodlust and revenge is both illegal and shameful.

The Harper government has no more respect for sovereignty and the right of Canadians to decide than it does for the rule of law. It plans to make Alberta the secure energy source to fuel this war machine as everything is put at the disposal of the U.S. to fuel its war machine and drive for world domination. It must not pass!

Join us on March 17 – the 4th anniversary of the beginning of the war on Iraq - to say NOT IN OUR NAME! March to end the occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan and Bring the Troops Home! Speak out for the peaceful resolution of conflict on the basis of international law! Join in and raise your voice for peace! Fight for an anti-war government!

10 Good Reasons to Get Canada out of Afghanistan

1. Canada is violating international law – The occupation of Afghanistan violates the spirit and intent of the UN Charter and modern international law which is based on the right of all peoples to self-determination. Furthermore, US-led coalition forces have violated several international treaties including: the 3rd (1949) Geneva Convention on the treatment of prisoners of war; the (1984) Torture Convention, and the (1997) Ottawa Landmines Convention.

2. Canada is committing war crimes - In violation of the Geneva Conventions, Canada's top soldier, General Rick Hillier, signed the Dec. 18th, 2005 Canada – Afghanistan Detainee Agreement to hand over battlefield prisoners to the Afghan authorities knowing that these prisoners could be executed, tortured or rendered to the US authorities. Defence Minister O'Connor then misled Parliament that Canada monitors the fate of these prisoners.

3. Canada is facilitating the execution, torture and abuse of prisoners - From 2002 until 2006, Human Rights Watch estimates that at least 1000 Afghans and other nationals have been arrested and detained by coalition forces. At least six detainees in US custody have been killed. Canada continues to transfer battlefield prisoners to Afghan authorities in violation of the 3rd Geneva Convention, and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (Sect 7). Canadian Armed Forces are currently investigating complaints that Canadian Forces are themselves abusing prisoners.

4. Canada is not supporting a democratic government – The current government of Afghanistan is a government installed and maintained through occupation.

5. Canada is tolerating the use of banned weapons - Canadians are fighting with US and British forces which are known to be using white phosphorous, cluster bombs, landmines, bunker-busting bombs, depleted Uranium shells, Hydra rockets and other anti-personnel weapons.

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6. Canada is not peace-keeping in Afghanistan, it is conducting counter-insurgency warfare - Since October, 2001, some 15, 000 – 18, 000 Afghans have been killed in post-invasion fighting. Human Rights Watch reports that in 2006, 4,400 Afghan died in armed conflict, at least a quarter of whom were civilians with the remainder comprised of those actively resisting foreign occupation.

7. Canada is enforcing US drug policy - Since the overthrow of the Taliban in 2001, Afghanistan is now a narco-state again. Instead of supporting poppy production for licensed medical purposes, Canada is enforcing US-ordered crop eradication policies and creating greater rural poverty.

8. Canada is contributing to hunger and starvation – The UN recently stated that almost 2 million people are at risk of starvation in Afghanistan. Its World Food Programme had previously estimated that 6.5 million Afghans are at risk of hunger. Independent reports such as those of the Senlis Council have recorded that war has reduced the population of Afghanistan to poverty and starvation. Action Aid International estimates that only 14% of US aid has actually gone to reconstruction projects.

9. Canada has become a junior partner in the US war machine – The invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq were pre-planned before the attacks on the World Trade Centre in 2001. Neo-conservatives in Washington had already proposed these invasions in documents such as the Project for the New American Century (1992-2000), and in the National Security Policy Statement (2002). Canada has become a willing pawn of the US in its drive to gain access to cheap and secure sources of energy in Central Asia and the Middle East.

10. Canada has sacrificed its independence in favour of a made-in-Washington foreign policy – Canada’s support for the US “War on Terror” extends far beyond the invasion, occupation and regime change in Afghanistan. The present Canadian government also condones Israeli military aggression against the Palestinians and Lebanese, and the sabotage of democratic elections in Palestine. Canada’s foreign policy is now made in Washington and Canada’s top political and military leaders now identify our national interests with those of the Bush administration. All of Canada’s resources are to be put at the disposal of the U.S. in its drive for world domination.

We Call For:

- All Canadians to work for the creation of an anti-war government in Canada;
- The immediate withdrawal of Canadian forces from Afghanistan - Bring the Troops Home Now!
- Withdrawal of Canada from the aggressive military alliance NATO;
- The use of Canadian forces overseas for peace-keeping rather than for war-mongering;
- Recognition of the right of all peoples to resist the foreign occupation of their lands;
- Recognition of the right of all sovereign nations to self-determination.



EDMONTON COALITION AGAINST WAR & RACISM

Next meeting: March 28th 7:30 pm International Hostel Meeting Room 10647-81 Ave

The Edmonton Coalition Against War and Racism:

ECAWAR was formed prior to the 2003 US invasion and occupation of Iraq. Since then, we have organized street demonstrations, panel discussions, teach-ins and cultural events to publicize our opposition to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and to military aggression against the Palestinians, Lebanese and all occupied peoples. For further information on our organization and activities, check our website at www.ecawar.org. Check the website or sign the wage-peace-announce list for information on our regular meetings and events. To sign up, send an email to wage-peace-announce-subscribe@yahogroups.com. You will receive an email asking for confirmation, to which you must then reply. Everyone is welcome. Join in!

www.ecawar.org