

Afghanistan Ceasefire Needed

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**It takes time to wind down a war.
Negotiations can't wait.**

Other countries surrounding and near to Afghanistan including Pakistan, India, China, Russia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, met recently in Turkey to begin discussions on how to achieve a stable Afghanistan after the US withdrawal.

Current U.S. efforts toward peace negotiations seem doomed to failure. They are described by the administration as Fight/Negotiate/Build. The Pentagon and CIA are going all out during the next three years to weaken the various Taliban groups through warfare and then expecting negotiations to suddenly succeed.

Instead the US should be seeking to establish a ceasefire now among all armed groups in Afghanistan, including those of US military, NATO, the Taliban groups, the Afghanistan government, and the various anti-Taliban warlords. With this as a goal, peace negotiations would at least have a chance.

The Vigil for Peace was initiated by the Albany Friends Meeting and Peace Action.
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