

Open Letter from Afghan Youth to Our World Leaders

(Excerpted from a Statement by the Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers — full statement available at <http://ourjourneytosmile.com/blog/2010/12/open-letter-from-afghan-youth-to-our-world-leaders-global-day-of-listening-to-afghans/>)

Dear Mr. Obama, Mrs. Clinton, Mr. Petraeus, Mr. Rasmussen, and all our world leaders,

We are Afghans and we ask the world to listen. Like yourselves, we couldn't live without the love of our family and friends.

We were hurt by your criticism of Mr. Karzai for voicing the people's anguished pleas, "Stop your night raids." Please, stop your night raids.

If you could listen, you would have heard 29 NGOs in Afghanistan describe how we now have "Nowhere to Turn." http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/conflict_disasters/nowhere-to-turn-afghanistan.html ... If you could listen, you would have heard the sound of your drones crystallizing the nights of hatred among the Afghan, Pakistani and global masses. Instead, we hear your determination to 'awe, shock and firepower' us with Abrams tanks. We hear distant excitement over your new smart XM25 toy, a weapon you proudly proclaim will leave us with 'nowhere to hide'.

Nowhere to turn and nowhere to hide.

Your actions have unfortunately dimmed our hopes that we the people could turn to you. Along with our Afghan war-makers,

you are making the people cry. Yet, we understand. You are in the same trap we're in, in a corrupt, militarized mania...

And so, we invite you to listen to the people of Afghanistan and to world public opinion on the Global Day of Listening to Afghans, to be internet-broadcast from Kabul this December.

**Global Day of Listening to Afghans
19th December 2010-- Why not listen? Why not love?**

To share the pain of Afghans and people in conflict all over the world, please join us in Afghanistan by taking a few minutes on the 18th & 19th of December 2010 to Skype call us or call us directly, from wherever you are.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gVMVRNrepZY>

Email youthpeacevolunteers@gmail.com

1. To arrange a call on the 18th & 19th of December 2010
OR 2. To support our Open letter from Afghan Youth to our World Leaders, by emailing "YES, Why not listen?"

It is time to listen broadly and deeply to both local and overseas Afghan civil groups and the numerous alternative solutions they have proposed for building a better socio-political, economic and religious/ideological future for Afghanistan.

***Distributed by CT Peace Coalition/ New Haven Sunday 12/5/2010
and Sunday 12/12/2010***

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For more information, email www.vcnv.org or call (773) 878-3815 [Voices for Creative Nonviolence]

