

Program of the international Afghanistan Conference

First announcement (as of August 8)



Afghanistan 2014 – Challenges for Peace and Development

11.-13. October 2013, Strasbourg, CIARUS

Organizers:

International Network No to War – No to NATO

In Cooperation with:

Cooperation for Peace (Germany), German-Afghan Peace Network, Collectif national OTAN-Afghanistan (France), and Mouvement de la Paix (France)

With the Support of:

Rosa Luxemburg Foundation and European Left

Supported by numerous Afghan Organizations and Initiatives from Europe and Afghanistan:

Committee Defense of Human Rights in Afghanistan (Germany)
Federation of Afghan Journalists (Afghanistan)
Humanitarian Aid for Afghanistan, Freiburg (Germany)
Independent Organization for the support of Afghans, Alsace (France)
Afghan Islamic Centre (Netherlands)
Afghan Islamic Society, Hamburg (Germany)
Afghanistan Committee for Peace, Reconstruction and Culture, Berlin (Germany)
Ensemble of Afghan Cultural Organizations in Hamburg (Germany)
Lawyers of Kabul's Organization for Justice (Afghanistan)
Islamic Alliance of Afghans in France (France)
Islamic Committee of Independent Journalists in Afghanistan (Afghanistan)
Commission for Alliance and Understanding
Cultural Committee of Afghans in Baden-Wurttemberg (Germany)
Student Body of the University of Kabul (Afghanistan)
Organization of Afghans in Bremen (Germany)
Organization of Afghan Refugees in Berlin (Germany)
Organization for Women's Rights in Afghanistan (Germany)
Coalition of Democratic and Progressive Organizations of Afghanistan (Afghanistan)
Ayenda Movement of Afghanistan (Afghanistan)
Association for Afghan Refugees in Europe
Commission for Peace and Freedom in Afghanistan (Germany)
Progressive Community of Afghanistan, Heidelberg (Germany)
Afghan Peace Makers, Hamburg (Germany)

Statement of Intent

2014 could be a key year for the future development in Afghanistan. The war in Afghanistan has taken a terrible toll on its people. Over the last 33 years, no Afghan presumably within or outside of Afghanistan has been affected to be impacted by the war.

We know the situation in Afghanistan - war-like and brutal – is created by domestic and foreign governments. It can be reversed by the will and the actions of the (Afghan) people. Together we will continue to work for the right to self-determination, peace and freedom and for a life in harmony with nature. We know that the pre-condition for this is to end the occupation by foreign troops and the war. For this reason we are once again calling for the withdrawal of foreign troops, immediate cease fire and respect to Afghanistan's sovereignty. The proposed reduction of the NATO troops is not a withdrawal of the interventional forces.

The future of Afghanistan must lie in the hands of Afghan people. It should be achieved through peace in line with their culture and United Nations human rights declarations. The started negotiations and coalition building between the different societal and religious groups should be increased. Only together they find ways to peace in their country and the region.

We need a solution for peace not only for Afghanistan but for the region as a whole; all countries of the region have to be engaged.

We know very well that the path to peace is not an easy one, it has its challenges and is not going to be achieved without sacrifices.

We are convinced that peace in a free and self-determined, gender-just Afghanistan can only be achieved through active participation of civil society, especially including women. Further it needs to be supported by wide international peace solidarity. For this, a close partnership among all peace and freedom loving people (in and outside Afghanistan and their organizations) is vital; any sectarian divide is very harmful.

The base of any fruitful help to Afghanistan must be the wishes of the Afghans and coordinated with local and regional communities. It should be help to self-help and channeled through a legitimate government in line with the country's culture, human rights, decentralized, and grass roots structures. Education for girls and boys and health care are of highest priority. Neoliberal influence and plundering by foreign forces/companies must stop; an own path of development has to be taken. Sustainability of development is a must. NATO has to take responsibility for the catastrophic civil, economic and environmental consequences of the war - those who caused the damage have to take liability.

The exile Afghan community in Europe together with organizations of the European peace movement supported by Afghan organizations wants to actively work towards peace in Afghanistan by conducting **a conference Afghanistan 2014 Challenges for peace and development.**

We will develop ideas and activities for a complete withdraw of all foreign troops and for supporting the transition process in Afghanistan for peace and development. Among others, the following questions should be discussed:

What has to be done to empower governmental and non-governmental initiatives and structures for more independent politics to reach the complete withdraw of foreign troops and get back the full sovereignty of the country?

How may a process of peace and reconciliation be shaped in Afghanistan which is inseparable connected with a process of security and cooperation in the region?

Highlight work towards a regional conflict resolution with the integration of governments, national coalitions and civil societies/ peace movements. How may a process of reconciliation be shaped and authoritarian rulers overcome – namely either the government of Karzai, the warlords, or the Taliban or even all of them together (maybe even with Hekmatyār)?

Which role play negotiations with “Taliban” (like among others the Shorish Plan)? How can national coalitions be improved liked the National Front (FATWA against foreign troops) or persons like Faruq Azam?

How can the violence against and suppression of women be stopped, how can emancipation, participation and empowerment of women in Afghanistan be advanced? From the perspective of forces of peace, i.e. from the perspective of anti-neoliberal developing organizations, what can be done to reach a sustainable development in Afghanistan? What does “help for self-help” and independent access to resources mean today?

Do we need a new definition of development in Afghanistan?

How can self-subsistence and food sovereignty be reached?

What does it mean for Afghanistan to overcome the neoliberal developing model?

How can the process of the empowerment of people and especially for the women in Afghanistan be improved?

What can be done internationally to strengthen an independent civil society with its mainly decentralized projects?

Which role should international organizations play, especially the United Nations, after the „post 2014“-process?

How can already existing cooperation of fragmented forces in exile communities as well as in Afghanistan be enlarged to include new forces and coalitions for “participation and democracy, peace and development”. Does this need an international platform too?

The preparation of the conference is an open process. You are kindly invited to support and to participate in this process and to take the opportunity provided by the conference in Strasbourg.

PROGRAM

Friday, October 11th

18:30 - 21:30

Opening:

by Reiner Braun (IALANA, IPB) and Claire Chastain (No to War – No to NATO)

18:45 - 21:30

Plenary: Afghanistan at the Cross Road

Sharifa Zurmati Wardak (Federation of Afghanistan’s Civil Society, President of Support Afghan women organisation), Faruq Azam (Mediator), Karim Popal

(Lawyer of the victims of Kundus massacre, IALANA), Wahid Mozhdha (National Coalition against foreign troops in Afghanistan)

Moderation: Wahida Kabir, Farida Seleman, Rahim Safi

Round table: The -Role of the international Peace Movement – struggling against foreign Troops and supporting Development for Peace

Reiner Braun, Yves-Jeans Gallas (Mouvement de la Paix), Claudia Haydt (European Left), Ludo de Brabander (vrede vzw, Belgium)

Moderation: Hannelore Tölke (German-Afghan Peace Network)

Saturday, October 12th

10:00 - 12:30

Demonstration: Peace in Afghanistan – Withdrawal of all Troops

From Main train station to Place Kléber

Among others with: Francis Wurtz, Marie-Christine Vergiat, Tobias Pflüger, Karim Popal, Sharifa Zurmati Wardak, Faruq Azam, Scheyhnan Ahadzada

13:30 Continuation of the Conference

13:30 - 15:00

Panel: Ways to a peaceful and democratic Afghanistan

Mullah Saeef (former ambassador of Taliban to Pakistan, former press speaker of Taliban), **Hafi-Zullah Rasekh** (Solidarity Party), **Fahim Ada** (Coalition of Democratic and Progressive Organizations of Afghanistan), Amin Karim (Islamic Party Afghanistan), **Naquibullah Shorish** (Representative of the Kharoti), **Otto Jäckel** (IALANA)

Moderation: Kathrin Vogler (MdB, Die Linke), Marie-Christine Vergiat (MEP, GUE-NGL)

15:30 - 17:00

Working Groups: Visions for a peaceful, participative, sustainable, and democratic Future of Afghanistan

(with responsible persons and contact details, descriptions of the Working Groups will be online on September 10)

- **2014: Future of Women Rights – Participation of Women**
(Wahida Kabir, wahidakabir@hotmail.com, Kristine Karch, Kristine@kkarch.de)
- **Peace and Human Rights**
(Sohaila Alekozai, Karim Popal, info@kanzlei-popal.de, Dr Taraqi)
- **Visions of the Youth**
(Fawad Zazai, Daud Seleman, david_seleman@hotmail.com)
- **Corruption and socio-economic Development**
(Saber Seleman, dr.s.seleman@hotmail.de)
- **Process of Transformation: Afghanistan after 2014**
(Nohman Manawi, manawi@voila.fr, Nader Kabiri, zhairkabiri@hotmail.de)
- **Sustainable economic and agricultural Development – but how?**
(Lucas Wirl, l.wirl@gmx.net)
- **Afghanistan in its Region**
(Claire Chastain, claire.chastain@gmail.com, Bashir Wared, ward@email.de)
- **Civil Aid – but how?**
(Farida Seleman, farida.seleman@hotmail.de)
- **Democracy – Reconciliation – Islam**
(Saber Seleman, Azim Abromand, azim.abromand@gmail.com)

17:15 - 19:00

Presentation of Afghan Organisations (three minutes each and poster session; for further information contact Karim Popal, info@kanzlei-popal.de)

Moderation: Reiner Braun, Karim Popal

Saturday Evening, October 12th

20:00 Cultural Event

Music by: Khalid Khalwat, Delagah Surood

The cultural evening includes poster sessions and (Afghan) dinner

Sunday, October 13th

9:30 - 10:30

Lectures:

Satar Sirat (Former Minister of Justice, Presidential Candidate 2004): *Peace in Afghanistan – The peace plan for 2014*

Fazel Ghani Modjadedi (Afghan Peace Movement in USA): *Protests against the war in Afghanistan in the USA*

Matin Baraki (University of Marburg): *What can the international civil society/NGOs do for supporting peace and development in Afghanistan?*

Moderation: Kristine Karch (German-Afghan Peace Network) / Jaques Fath (PCF)

10:45 - 12:15

Continuation of Working Groups on Visions for a peaceful, participative, sustainable, and democratic Future of Afghanistan

12:30 - 13:45

Reports of the Working Groups

Conveners of the working groups (main points, concrete ideas, proposals)

Moderation: Wahida Kabir, Lucas Wirl (INES)

13:45

Closing Remarks

Jeannick Lepretre (Mouvement de la Paix), Karim Popal

14:00 END

Organizational details:

Contact: No to War – No to NATO
c/o IALANA

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Registration: registration@afghanistanprotest.eu

Website: www.afghanistanprotest.eu

Fee: 20 Euro (reduced 5 Euro)

Conference Location: CIARUS, 7 rue Finkmatt, 6700 Strasbourg, France /
www.ciarus.com

Translation: Conference language is English. We aim at providing translation for Dari / Pashto, French, and German. Translation in the working groups is not provided.

Cultural Event: We will ask for a fee of 5 Euro for the cultural event for persons not participating in the conference.

Information:

In May 2013 peace activists from Germany travelled to Kabul. Please find a travel report an pictures in English, German, and French here:

www.afghanistanprotest.eu/afghanistan/

Donation needed:

Name: IALANA

Account Number.: 1 000 668 083

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