



LET'S SWEEP AWAY WAR

**Not one more life, not one more cent
for the war in Afghanistan**

**Bring the troops home
now!**

Over \$350 million is spent daily on the war in Afghanistan, the vast majority by the US and UK, though Italian taxpayers are also footing the bill. Now the Obama administration is asking U.S. Congress for a supplemental \$33.5 billion, while the Italian government is planning to increase its contingent in Afghanistan to 4,000 troops.

All this while governments everywhere claim there is no money for the unemployed, for improving schools or for kick-starting the economy in a time of crisis!

Two more Italian soldiers died in combat on May 17th; on May 25th, five more U.S. soldiers were killed, bringing the loss of life for American troops in Afghanistan to 1,000. British lives lost now total 250. **Over 11,000 Afghan civilians have been killed as well, 70% by NATO troops.**

Polls show that 62% of the Italian population wants their troops home immediately. In Britain, 52% of voters want their troops home now and in the U.S., 57% of those interviewed in a CNN poll declared they were against the war in Afghanistan. President Obama has sought to pacify them by promising a troop withdrawal starting July 2011, but leaked reports show that the U.S. and Britain are planning for 10 more years of occupation. **We must oppose such plans!**

Forty-six congressional candidates and 17 U.S. activist organizations recently released this short, but pertinent, statement: *"The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have cost U.S. citizens over \$1 trillion in direct costs, and over \$3 trillion altogether. At a time when our national debt exceeds \$13 trillion, we can no longer afford these wars. It's time for Congress to reject any funding except to bring all our troops safely home."*

We also call on Obama to **end U.S. military aid to Israel**, responsible for repeated violations of human rights and international law. Since 1976, Israel had been the largest annual recipient of U.S. foreign assistance, and still remains the top recipient of U.S. military and economic assistance. The most recently cited figure is \$3 billion a year in military aid.

TODAY, JUNE 2nd, "ITALIAN REPUBLIC DAY", IS A NATIONAL HOLIDAY MARKED BY AN IMPOSING MILITARY PARADE ALONG VIA DEI FORI IMPERIALI

The Italian armed forces will be showing their muscle by parading tanks and cannons alongside the ancient forums. As the Italian Constitution forbids wars of aggression, the government is claiming that the occupation of Afghanistan is not warfare but simply a "peacekeeping mission." While the Italian government claims the mission is fundamental for Italy, polls show that 90% of the Italian population does not believe a word of this claim.

We, U.S. Citizens for Peace and Justice – Rome, are here at Ponte S. Angelo to join with Italian peace groups comprising the Network Against War* in saying:

NO to the war in Afghanistan, NO to all wars and military occupations!

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