

# QUESTIONS FOR CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

The following are questions to ask your Representative and Senators regarding the on-going U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. These are suggested questions and the form in which they are phrased may need to differ from one Congressional District or State to the next. Please let the Peaceable Assembly Campaign know of any responses which you receive to these and other questions which you may pose to your elected representatives. You can email responses to: [pac@vcnv.org](mailto:pac@vcnv.org) or mail them to Voices for Creative Nonviolence; 1249 W Argyle St; Chicago, IL 60640

## QUESTIONS WE WANT ANSWERED ABOUT THE AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN & IRAQ WARS

- 1) What do you believe can be accomplished in each of these wars that will be beneficial to the people of each country, and to ordinary people in the United States, and in our state in particular?
- 2) Will you share with us any special information or evidence that convinces you that these goals can be accomplished for each country?
- 3) What do you expect or project to be the cost in American lives, in citizen lives for each of the countries, and in financial cost to the American people for accomplishing these goals? What is the estimated cost for each country to date? What is the per capita cost prorated for each U.S. citizen?
- 4) If these goals can in fact be accomplished, what makes you believe that they are worth the cost in human lives and social wealth to the countries involved, and to the people of the United States?
- 5) If one goal is strategic access and control, through allied governments, to the oil, gas and other resources of the region, might it not be more effective and less costly for a country committed to the philosophy of free market economy to simply pay for such resources the market price believed to be appropriate and feasible by the national governments or other owners in the countries involved?
- 6) If one goal is a strategic military presence to counterbalance the presence and influence of Russia and China in the region, might it not be more realistic and less costly to reach agreement with these powers on balances of influence in the region, and to invest the wealth currently devoted to military presence to developing secure energy conservation and alternative sources of energy potentially available on our own continent?
- 7) If the real goal was ever to capture or kill Osama bin Laden and other Al Qaeda leaders and disable their organizational networks, considering the hundreds of billions of dollars spent by U.S. intelligence and military forces, how is it that this has not been accomplished in almost eight years of military presence? Why is it useful to concentrate 68,000 U.S. troops, plus 32,000 allied troops, in Afghanistan to accomplish this goal, when we are told that the fugitives are probably in Pakistan? If this strategy was effective, why are allied forces now facing organized resistance throughout southern Afghanistan and northwestern Pakistan?
- 8) For each country, are there more or fewer Taliban or Al Qaeda associated resistance fighters operating than there were in each country before these wars were started in 2001 and 2003? Is U.S. military presence throughout the region aiding recruiting and fostering the development of militant fundamentalist resistance organizations in the region?

9) If one goal is to encourage and foster electoral processes and democratic selection of leadership in the region, might it not be more practical, more feasible and more democratic to pull out U.S. forces and let the people and the existing political forces in each country sort out issues of governance in their own way, in their own countries, and take full responsibility for their own political futures? Do popular majorities in each country, when polled, say that they want the United States to monitor and secure the political futures of their countries? Are the people of the United States responsible for securing the political futures of these countries?

10) If it is essential to fully support U.S. armed forces already committed in the field, can this be accomplished by mandating that they be gotten out of harm's way, in a safe and orderly manner, as promptly as possible, and to appropriate the funds to provide them with complete transitional assistance, and the best possible mental health and medical health care, as needed, and for as long as it is needed?

11) Will you vote for or against authorizations and appropriations to continue or escalate military operations in each of these countries?

12) Will you vote for or against authorizations and appropriations to provide full educational, mental health and medical health benefits for all military veterans of these conflicts, in the field, and after they leave the armed forces?

13) Will you vote for or against appropriations to provide compensation, reparations, and reconstruction, to attempt to repair damage done to the civilian populations and economic infrastructure by U.S. military forces in each of these countries?

We want to hear each of these questions answered forthrightly and in as much detail as may be appropriate and necessary. We will be happy to read and consider specialized information, or citations to sources of information, that you have used to reach conclusions on these questions.

We want to emphasize that we regard generalized answers such as, "I share your concerns, and will do everything in my power to work for peace and success", as unresponsive, inadequate, and as insults to our intelligence and our rights to accountability, as citizens and electors.



**Voices for Creative Nonviolence**

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