

1 NATO is not bringing peace to Afghanistan. In 2008 there was a 40 per cent increase in civilian casualties as NATO bombs killed more people than at any point since the invasion in 2001. Resistance to the occupation increases with every new soldier sent to the war zone. The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace states, "The mere presence of foreign soldiers fighting a war in Afghanistan is probably the single most important factor in the resurgence of the Taliban."

2 Women's rights have not improved for most women in the country. Honour killings and attacks on women continue to rise. The newly passed family law allows husbands to refuse food to their wives if they refuse sex and forces women to ask permission to leave the house or find employment. As Afghan MP Malalai Joya says: The government of Afghanistan is a "photocopy" of the Taliban when it comes to women's rights.

3 The war is un-winnable. Every attempt to occupy Afghanistan has ended in a humiliating defeat for the foreign forces. The British, Russians and now the US and Canada have all been unable to control the country.

4 The war doesn't make us safer from terrorist attack. On the contrary, Canada is now seen as part of a hostile coalition and every day we stay in Afghanistan the chances of attacks at home increase. Canada continues to transfer Afghan detainees to be tortured and held indefinitely by the Afghan National Army and at Bagram Air Force Base - known as "Guantanamo's evil twin".

***"The war in Afghanistan is not reducing the terrorist risk, far from improving Afghan lives it is bringing death and devastation to their country."***

***Afghan War Veteran, Lance Corporal Joe Glenton  
In a letter to Gordon Brown***

5 The government of Afghanistan is dominated by warlords that are responsible for killing thousands of Afghan civilians during the civil war from 1992-1996.

6 Western policy towards Afghanistan has always been influenced by the need to secure energy corridors – that is pipeline routes from the massive gas fields of the Caspian region through Afghanistan to Pakistan and India. One of the first things Hamid Karzai did after being appointed is to renew the plans to build a pipeline through the country.

### THE PROPOSED TURKMENISTAN-AFGHANISTAN-PAKISTAN-INDIA PIPELINE



Source: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives Report:  
"A Pipeline Through a Troubled Land" By John Foster  
<http://www.policyalternatives.ca/reports/2008/06/ReportsStudies1906/>

**7** There is little reconstruction in Afghanistan. The Government of Canada currently employs four times as many people to do public relations work than to do reconstruction. Many areas of the country are still destroyed 8 years after the war started. NATO drops more than 100 tons of bombs a month (that doesn't include missile strikes) which destroy houses and infrastructure.

**8** Opium production, which was largely eradicated in 2001, is now the chief business in the country. The government ministries in charge of halting opium production are run by some of the country's biggest drug lords such as General Mohammed Daoud. Hamid Karzai's brother Walid is a well known opium trafficker.

**9** The war has already cost Canadian taxpayers \$18 billion and the Conservative government has decided they will not make public the future costs of the war. The war is also being used to justify huge increases in military spending. The Canada First Defence Strategy, the military policy paper of the Harper government, proposes spending \$490 billion on the military over the next 20 years - that's more than \$16,000 per person.

**10** The war is spreading and could engulf the entire region. Attacks by the US continue across the border in Pakistan, bringing open war to a nuclear armed nation of 170 million people.

All of the initial justifications for the war are being proven false. The Afghan people continue to live with poverty and violence and the war is worsening with each new NATO deployment. How many more people will be killed before Canada and the other NATO countries leave? **It's time to bring the troops home.**

For more information on the war in Afghanistan and how you can help bring the troops home now contact the Canadian Peace Alliance at: [www.acp-cpa.ca](http://www.acp-cpa.ca)  
[cpa@web.ca](mailto:cpa@web.ca)



## Top Ten Reasons to Bring the Troops Home From Afghanistan Now

The Government of Canada and its NATO partners argue that we need to stay in Afghanistan to build democracy, support women's rights and to stop terrorists. But if you scratch the surface of those claims, we find a very different picture emerges about what impacts the war is having on the country and its people. Here are a few of the many reasons why the western countries need to remove the troops from Afghanistan.



*"No nation can donate liberation to another nation. These values must be fought for and won by the people themselves. They can only grow and flourish when they are planted by the people in their own soil and watered by their own blood and tears."* Afghan MP Malalai Joya