

GRÜNE FRIEDENSINITIATIVE



Bring the troops home from Afghanistan!

Unter diesem Motto demonstrieren heute die britischen GRÜNEN in London mit der Friedensbewegung für den sofortigen Rückzug der NATO-Truppen aus Afghanistan.

Wer sich mit Außenpolitik beschäftigt, sollte Englisch können. Das gilt nicht nur für Guido Westerwelle, sondern auch für GRÜNE. Wir können von den englischen Grünen lernen wie man friedenspolitisch Oppositionspolitik macht!

Deshalb hier die Position der britischen Grünen, auf der Rückseite ein Brief Farid Bakht, International Coordinator der britischen Grünen.



Greens support Afghanistan march in London on Saturday

This Saturday in London, there will be a national demonstration against the war in Afghanistan, calling for UK troops to be withdrawn. The demonstration will start from Hyde Park (12pm), and proceed to Trafalgar Square (speeches at roughly 230pm).

Farid Bakht, joint International Coordinator of the Green Party, will be a speaker at this Saturday's demonstration.

In advance of the march, Farid commented: "**At its last conference in September, the Green Party called for an immediate withdrawal of UK and NATO forces from Afghanistan.** It also demanded a peace agreement, involving the UN, with the active participation of Afghanistan's neighbouring countries. We need to stop this unjust and unnecessary war."

"The war in Afghanistan has now entered its ninth year, and the majority of the population in this country is against our involvement in that war. Our generals lost the 'hearts and minds' of the Afghan people long ago. The leaders of the three main political parties have now also lost the 'hearts and minds' in this country."

"To the Afghan people, it looks like NATO forces are propping up the regime despite massive levels of corruption and election fraud. The Presidential elections are now set for a run-off in the first week of November. Turnout could be less than the 40% turnout in the first round. The entire process has been damaging both for democratic credibility and legitimacy, and also for the morale of our troops. And the war has now spread from Afghanistan into Pakistan, a nuclear armed state."

"If Gordon Brown wants to make the streets of London safe, and if he wants to keep our soldiers safe, the best thing he can do is to bring the troops home."

Setzen auch wir ein Signal für den Frieden und unterstützen die britischen Grünen!

Bei der Afghanistanabstimmung besteht dazu morgen eine Gelegenheit.

Für einen friedenspolitischen Aufbruch: Abzug der NATO aus Afghanistan!

Die britischen Grünen erreichten bei der Europawahl 2009 13,36 % und stellen 2 Abgeordnete im Europaparlament.

**Ein Brief von Farid Bakht International Coordinator
Green Party of England & Wales**

Dear Wilhelm,

I received your message from Joseph Healey and am pleased to make your acquaintance.

Thank you for your support to the anti-war movement in the U.K.

I would like to extend our solidarity with the German peace movement, which is more in tune with the wishes of the German people than many political parties.

It is unfortunate that the German Green Party is at odds with the Green Party of England & Wales on the matter of war. As you may know, in September we passed a resolution demanding the immediate withdrawal of UK and NATO forces from Afghanistan and a peace agreement to be arranged with the active participation of the neighbouring countries.

We appreciate that each European country will have a different perspective.

The shameful colonial presence of the British Empire in South Asia is well known and we understand some quarters would like to re-live that historical mission of meddling in Asian affairs. The consensus of the main British political parties in following America into its wars and invasions is embarrassing and a source of deep resentment.

We are aware of the geo-politics of gas pipelines via Russia or by-passing Russia and how Germany has legitimate energy security concerns.

Many here are surprised when they hear that Germany has had extensive involvement in Afghanistan, early in the 1900s (Niedermayer-Hentig expeditions) and the extensive financial & technical assistance in the 1920s and 1930s. It therefore does have a role to play in the region.

Unfortunately, taking part in an occupying force (at least as seen by the Afghani population) with European partners is not the way to go.

It harms Germany's reputation and ruins the good work done before the Iraq invasion of 2003, when Germany stood up to a bullying Bush-Rumsfeld administration.

More than 60% of the German population do not believe this war is about re-construction or nation-building - in similar numbers to the British people. Not when aid money is being stolen by one of the most corrupt regimes in the world in Kabul.

The argument that this is about democracy is laughable when Hamid Karzai can preside over widespread electoral fraud. The regime that we are propping up steals votes and Aid from its own people.

We can ignore the other stated reasons such as the US concern about women's rights, when it is happy to support Saudi sheikhs and sell weapons to them, ignoring the position of women there.

Is it not strange that NATO can claim that it is fighting terrorism but does nothing against Saudi Arabia which funds the Taliban?

Or that the West is keeping the Pakistani military afloat, even though its Intelligence unit (ISI) trains Taliban fighters, who then go and attack NATO soldiers.

We need an honest debate in both countries that this has a lot to do with gas supplies and pipelines.

That Afghanistan is a giant airbase from which NATO forces can pressure Russia and China. i.e. old fashioned geo-politics and power projection.

When this is all over, the states of Afghanistan and Pakistan will probably not remain as whole entities.

Can we afford to create new Somalias - with one having nuclear weapons?

Whether we like it or not, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation will have a leading role in the years ahead, especially as China effectively keeps the US dollar afloat (but for how long?)

Indeed, we would accuse the governments who continue this war of not adjusting to the new realities of the 21st century. The so-called realists are behind the times.

The generals who suggest our armies will be in Afghanistan for 'forty years' ignore the economic conditions in the world economy.

That with the inexorable transfer of economic power to East Asia will eventually go political power.

Do we really believe they want NATO forces deep in the heart of Asia for several decades to come?

We must continue to engage with our respective peoples and also with each other to demand honesty, integrity and common sense from our leaders.

This is not a war for the German people nor the British people.

After thirty years of Russian and American led aggression, the Afghan people deserve peace, compensation and the chance to build a society of their own choice.

Best regards

Farid Bakht
International Coordinator (joint)
Green Party of England & Wales
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