

Fighting terror with terror.

Attacks on innocent civilians can never be justified. The murder of thousands of civilians in the USA on September 11th cannot be remedied by killing even more innocent Afghans. The US and British governments claim to be conducting a "war against terrorism", but their bombs and missiles kill just as surely as the weapons of their enemies. At best, high altitude bombing and cluster bombs are indiscriminate, striking civilians just as easily as their targets; at worst, civilians are themselves the targets.

Why the bombing must stop

CamSAW is a collective body of students opposed to the war in Afghanistan. This leaflet does not necessarily represent the views of all those involved in the campaign.

Afghanistan needs food, not bombs.

Afghanistan is one of the world's poorest countries, ravaged by years of civil war, drought and famine. Millions of its people depend on food aid for survival, and the critical winter period is fast approaching. Convoys delivering wheat to ensure people survive the winter have been stopped repeatedly since September 11th, and warehouses used by aid agencies to store food have been destroyed in the bombing. The bombing and famine are forcing thousands of people to flee their homes, most of whom are still trapped behind Afghanistan's closed borders.

If America succeeds in deposing the Taliban regime, there is a risk of civil war - the humanitarian cost of this is potentially enormous. The Northern Alliance, an anti-Taliban group which could form a subsequent administration has a reputation as 'a second Taliban'. The US has already shown doubts about its

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War will not put an end to terrorism.

Even in the unlikely event the al-Qaeda network is destroyed, terrorism will not be eliminated from the world. The roots of the problem will remain, and the bombing of Afghanistan will only inspire further animosity towards the West. This cycle of violence and vengeance will continue unless a peaceful solution is sought.

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Peaceful solutions have not been fully explored.

The Taliban regime is presented as if it has rejected US offers to resolve the crisis peacefully, and refused to extradite suspected terrorists. In fact, the Taliban merely demanded evidence of Osama bin Laden's guilt, which has not been supplied. On October 1st a deal was reached for bin Laden to be extradited for trial in Pakistan. Nevertheless the US government has refused to negotiate with the Taliban, and now claims that there is no alternative to war.

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