
Scottish Socialist Party

As more UK troops are killed
in another 'senseless' war

Leave Afghanistan to the Afghans

As the death toll continues to mount in Afghanistan a majority of people in Britain now ask 'What is this war for? Why are hundreds of young British soldiers being killed?'

These are important questions to ask 8 years after the US led invasion began. John Reid the former Labour Defence Secretary famously and foolishly forecast back in 2001 that 'British soldiers will be back home by Christmas and will leave Helmand province without firing a shot.' In fact 4,000,000 shots have been fired and more British soldiers have been killed there than in Iraq.

We were also told back in 2001 that the purpose of the invasion of this sovereign country was to capture and kill Osama Bin Laden, to capture and kill Mullah Omar the leader of the Taliban and to stop terrorist atrocities. All these objectives have been completely missed. Nonetheless eight years later Gordon Brown insists the bloodbath must continue for yet another decade. What kind of catastrophic political strategy is this?

Time to withdraw UK troops Let the Afghans run Afghanistan

The most recent poll, for ITN, shows that for the first time a majority [almost 56%] of the British population want UK troops brought home from Afghanistan believing their presence there does no good and the price of political and military failure is now too high.

It is worth remembering that Tony Blair and George Bush justified their invasion saying it was designed to promote democracy, to halt the opium trade which swarms across so much of the world, and to halt terrorism. All three of these objectives were missed. Instead Bush and Blair installed a thoroughly corrupt, stooge Hamid Karsai as leader via rigged elections. And then they watched as his authority withered and died in weeks overtaken by a resistance movement which now has millions of supporters. Opium production has increased exponentially as the gangsters who run the trade sit bold as brass and beyond the law in Karsai's administration. And of course the terrorist threat has increased rather than decreased since they began this senseless occupation. If all this feels like déjà vu it's because we saw it all before, the same suicidal political failure, in Iraq.

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- Thousands of innocent Afghans have been killed by British and American troops in the past 8 years. Hundreds of thousands more have joined the resistance determined to drive out the 'aliens' they see occupying their country.
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