

Friends and Comrades,

I hope by now you may have heard of the courageous young men (some still in the "boys" category) from Bamiyan, Afghanistan.

Over the last week as I've worked and traveled with them here in Kabul and elsewhere, they have given me real hope. Their work is truly a case of doing the absolute best even when you have damn near nothing to work with, and continuing to figure out how to do more.

The message below invites you to join with people, literally from every part of the world, to participate in that "something more."

We're not asking for your money. Only a few minutes of your time...and your heartstrings.

Peace and Love from Kabul, Afghanistan

Mike Ferner

"Dear Afghanistan:" A New Year's Call for Peace

While the US may be the world's single super power in military terms, it faces another super power: the voices of war-weary millions who detest violence and killing. In Afghanistan, in the United States, and among the populations of countries whose governments have joined the NATO coalition, millions of people are calling for an end to war in Afghanistan.

On New Year's Day, 01/01/11, people around the world are invited to raise their voices, through Facebook, Twitter, Free Conference calls, Skype, and blogs at several websites in a massive refusal to accept this war any longer. Let your New Year's resolution be to stand for the people and end wars by sending a digital or spoken peacemaking message to people in Afghanistan. By amassing millions of messages calling for peace, we can create yet another indication that ordinary people within and beyond Afghanistan have had enough of war.

Afghanistan's people need food not bombs, health care not warfare and courage for peace, not war. In the words of Abdulai, an Afghan teenager whose father was killed by the Taliban, the "Dear Afghanistan" campaign offers an alternative to the Obama administration's most recent review of the war. Abdulai's experiences of impoverishment, bereavement, and discrimination highlight realities that Afghans face every day. The U.S. government's December review paid no attention to these conditions.

You can let Afghan people know that their lives matter as much as yours. Assure them that the U.S. government's war is unacceptable to you and that you are working to end it. We can catch courage from one another, sparking a New Year's momentum to put an end to war.

Follow the steps below to communicate the simple yet crucial demand: Stop the Killing in Afghanistan.

On New Year's Day 2011, from 7.05 pm Eastern Standard Time on the 31st of December 2010 to 7.05 pm Eastern Standard Time on the 1st of January 2011, from wherever in the world, you can:

- Call from your Mobile or Home phone by dialing (661) 673-8600 & access code: 295191#. Please arrange to talk by sending an email to CallAfghanistan@gmail.com
- SKYPE: Please arrange to call Afghanistan by sending your Skype ID in an email to CallAfghanistan@gmail.com
- Send an email message to DearAfghanistan@gmail.com
- Text or sms by mobile at +93 7791 84146 or +1 727-248-0308 (001-727-248-0308 if text messaging from outside U.S.)
- Facebook: Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers
- @DearAfghanistan on Twitter

For more information: Search online for "Dear Afghanistan"

A note on timings for the NEW YEAR CALL:

Place Time Date

London 12.05 am to 12.05 am 1st Jan to 2nd Jan
EST 7.05 pm to 7.05 pm 31st Dec to 1st Jan
Pacific Std 4.05 pm to 4.05 pm 31st Dec to 1st Jan
Jordan 2.05 am to 2.05 am 1st Jan to 2nd Jan
Afghanistan 4.35am to 4.35 am 1st Jan to 2nd Jan

