



Final Resolution of Committee for 10 days activism on Promotion of Peace in Afghanistan

30 September, 2012

**Peace is not just absence of war;
true peace must be based on justice and understanding**

We, participants of the 10 days Activism on Promotion of Peace in Afghanistan,

Emphasising that peace in Afghanistan is facing increasing threats and challenges, i.e. from terrorism, war, poverty, injustice, domination syndrome, political, economic and cultural power-mongering; that besides the Government as the main responsible body, all the *ulema*, elite and NGOs and civil organisations must take seriously their responsibilities toward those threats;

- Expressing solidarity with families of victims and survivors of the terrorist incidents in the past four decades;
- Declaring that it is necessary to identify comprehensively the roots and causes of terrorism in order to remedy and uproot it;
- Declaring opposition to all instrumentalising, double-edged, selective or unilateral action;
- Denouncing the violation of the lawfully established rights of the citizens;
- Determined to adopt solutions based on rationality and justice to counter threats to peace, and to achieve a prosperous future for all;

- Emphasising the central role of education for creating a climate of peace and friendship, and countering discrimination, violence and terrorism;
- Commending the civil, research and media institutions;

Express our agreement with the following and urge the Government, political parties and the international community to implement them:

1. We support the notion of just peace as a common discourse based on culture, laws and ethnical criteria. We emphasise that peace shall be sustainable and benefit Afghans only when it is based on justice and human dignity. Thus, we urge you not to support the presence of criminals in power seats; and to prepare the ground for their fair trial with consideration for the legitimate demands of the victims!

Short-sighted solutions and quick fixes shall once again create a safe haven for terrorist activities at the heart of Asia and their consequences shall be more harmful and more dangerous for the people of Afghanistan and the world than the past.

2. Set up transitional justice mechanisms and combat impunity; all the violators of human rights, human rights conventions and the Constitution must be investigated and prosecuted. Many of those perpetrators are now occupying positions that enable them to commit more human rights violations. Therefore, mechanisms of inspection and accountability must be enhanced within the State institutions. The victims must be compensated.

Those are essential elements for success of a strong and democratic Afghanistan in the future. Rights of victims to truth, justice and compensation must be respected and properly implemented.

3. Enhance the institutions of justice and implement true separation of powers of the State; strong support for democratic institutions and elected bodies as well as proper and functioning separation of powers are essential. The justice system is devoid of adequate resources, human power and education and is perpetually plagued with political interference at all levels. In particular, a comprehensive revision of the powers of the Supreme Court and the Attorney General is essential to fully sever the close ties between the Judiciary and the Executive. Deteriorating conditions of the formal justice system has stirred up the insurgency, weakened all other institutions, as well remarkably given influence to the informal justice system that does not abide by human rights and Constitutional tenets, without guarantees for basic rights, in particular women's rights. Perpetual commitment to the rule of law throughout the country and

the international treaties, to which Afghanistan is a State party, must be implemented through legislation and development of the security and judicial sectors.

4. International conventions must govern the rights of migrants; several million Afghans are living in neighbouring countries, in particular in Pakistan and Iran, where they do not enjoy their legitimate rights, e.g. rights to education, work, health, electing and getting elected, social protection against bullies and violators of human rights. They are instrumentalised. The Government of Afghanistan must pay serious attention to the issue, prevent victimisation of those Afghans and prepare the ground for their return home.
5. We condemn the inhuman and violent actions against the people of Afghanistan and interference of other governments in Afghanistan, which we regard as clear violation of basic human rights and a serious threat to peace in the region and worldwide. We stress that calm and security can be achieved through rallying around a just peace.
6. We demand a change in the structure of the Afghanistan High Council of Peace; it has demonstrated in the past few years that it lacks the required capability and trust of the people; it cannot progress to achieve what it was established for. A new structure is required to allow the Afghan citizens to identify with it and to include the elite, well-reputed, just persons dedicated to homeland, and to incorporate people from different walks of life, e.g. victims, women, *ulema* and the young.
7. Emphasising the need to support the rights of victims of terrorism, it is essential to take action to prevent and eliminate terrorism through prosecution and punishment of all persons and groups involved in all forms of atrocities, based on standards of fair trial, human dignity and respect for the fundamental human rights.
8. Education based on outstanding human values is essential for achieving affirmative peace. To achieve it, it is necessary for the Government to provide for healthy education of all members of the society, men and women included, on equal basis within a safe society. The Government is required to extend serious support to children, because a large number of street children are victims of terrorist attacks (in the latest incident, four sporting children were martyred in a terrorist incident), are sexually abused and work in difficult jobs.
9. We declare our support for exchanges and dialogue among the elite and the NGOs aiming to establish an effective coalition to identify and encounter the threats to a just peace in Afghanistan.

Why a just peace?

One of the principal reasons for the failure of past efforts to achieve a lasting and pervasive peace in contemporary Afghanistan is that peace theories and discourses were centred on transition and expediency. This has enabled some of the actors involved to use peace against the people, law and order and to utilise it for their sectarian and personal ends.

A just peace must be pursued because it is based on foundations away from the power structure and personal interests of the actors and focuses on humans and human dignity as its focal point. A just peace is a framework for individual and social justice. Thus, it does not suffice to establish calm, but leads the unjust aspects within the society toward justice, just and humane relations.

Hence, a just peace is a discourse that can resolve the shortcomings of the past and present discourses of peace and offer a fundamental step toward a pervasive universal peace in Afghanistan for all humans.

For further information: cpd.afg@gmail.com