

IRISH ANTI WAR MOVEMENT

Public Meeting: British soldier speaks on why he refuses to go back to serve in Afghanistan.

**Saturday 5th December 2009 at 4pm,
Central Hotel, Dublin**

Some facts on the so-called 'good war':

? The U.S. supported Afghan government of Hamid Karzai has lost all credibility due to its corruption, involvement in the drug trade, its deals with the warlords and its repressive legislation, which is aimed against women in particular. The recent announcement of the re-run of the election offers little hope of serious change. MP Malalai Joya says: *"In a country ruled by warlords, occupation forces, Taliban insurgency, drug money and guns, no one can expect a legitimate or fair vote."*

? Thousands of Afghan civilians have been killed by occupying forces

- According to Trocaire over 2 million refugees fled from the Swat Valley during the U.S. supported military operation by the Pakistani Army.
- Over 200 British soldiers have now died in Afghanistan – more than were killed in six years in Iraq. More Western troops have died between March and August 2009 than in the period from 2001-2004. All four US military commanders in Afghanistan have recently called for more troops amid a "deteriorating" situation.
- Many western advisers are now questioning the madness of the US military strategy and noting that the war is un-winnable and that the Afghan people must achieve a political solution.
- The majority of Afghans do not want the war and occupation. The majority of British people think the troops should come home by Xmas at the latest. In two recent polls 56% (BBC and Guardian) and 59% (ITN) want the troops out.
- Britain has spent £4.6 billion every year on the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq – enough money to create 200,000 graduate jobs annually.
- Ireland is directly implicated in this unjustified war and occupation in Afghanistan, since it has deployed seven officers there in the NATO led International Security Assistance Force (Isaf). Minister Micháel Martin recently stated that more 'advisers' are to be sent. US warplanes also constantly stop over at Shannon Airport.
- The Lisbon Treaty is passed this will pave the way for a broader involvement of Irish Troops in EU Battle Groups in illegitimate wars such as the Afghan War.

The IAWM believes that there needs to be an urgent political solution to the crisis in Afghanistan, which can only be achieved by the Afghan people themselves without external interference. One of the essential pre-requisites for such a solution is the ending of the war and the withdrawal of all foreign troops, including Irish troops and advisers.

For further information see - www.irishantiwar.org or contact: Richard Boyd Barrett, Chair IAWM, Mobile 087 6329511 Jim Roche, Steering Committee IAWM, Mobile 087 6472737