

To: NATO Heads of State

Monday, June 21, 2004

Dear Excellencies,

We the undersigned humanitarian, human rights and civil society organizations call upon you to redouble the efforts now underway to promote security in Afghanistan at your upcoming Summit in Istanbul, Turkey.

A new Constitution, an additional \$8.2 billion in pledges, and upcoming elections provide positive foundations for Afghanistan's future. That future, however, depends on security. Ultimately, a stable Afghanistan must rely upon a well trained national police and army. However, those institutions are not yet ready to fulfill this task alone.

Last year, eighty NGOs urged NATO to take the steps necessary to improve security throughout the country. Since taking command of ISAF, however, NATO member-states have failed to tackle that challenge. The presence of ISAF troops remains largely confined to Kabul. Efforts to go outside the capital have been limited to Kunduz -- a relatively stable part of Afghanistan -- and have taken the form of Provincial Reconstruction Teams, which have neither the capacity nor the mandate to confront the countrywide security threats now facing the Afghan people.

We urge you to ensure that NATO troops in Afghanistan are located, mandated and resourced to confront the immediate security threats faced by Afghans, to help the disarmament process and to build the capacity of Afghan national security forces in the long term. Announcing your specific plans to accomplish these goals at the Istanbul Summit would demonstrate NATO's firm commitment to overcoming real security threats, not just in Afghanistan, but around the world.

Afghanaid

Afghan Community Islamic Center

Afghan Development Association (ADA)

Afghan Foundation for Culture and Civil Society

Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU)

Agency for Rehabilitation & Energy Conservation in Afghanistan (AREA)

Air Serve

British Agencies Afghanistan Group (BAAG)

British American Security Information Council (BASIC)

CARE International

Children in Crisis

Christian Aid

Christian Children's Fund

Citizens for Global Solutions

Coalition for International Justice

Concern Worldwide

Coordination of Afghan Relief (CoAR)

Counterpart International

CROSSLINES, Essential Field Guide to Afghanistan

Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACCAAR)

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Afghanistan

Help the Afghan Children

Human Rights Watch

ICCO and Global Ministries of the Protestant Church (Netherlands)

International Crisis Group

International Medical Corps

International Peace Operations Association (IPOA)

International Rescue Committee

Mercy Corps

Mercy Corps Scotland

National Peace Corps Association

OXFAM GB

OXFAM International

The Center for Humanitarian Cooperation

The Fund for Peace

Relief International

Sanayee Development Foundation

Save the Children Federation, Inc. (SC/USA)

Save the Children Sweden

Save the Children UK

Swedish Committee for Afghanistan

Medica Mondiale

International Women's Health Coalition

Tearfund Central Asia

Orphans and Widows Association (OWA) San Diego

Church Women United

Danish Afghanistan Committee (DAC)

Goal

Hope Worldwide

ZOA Refugee Care Afghanistan

Norwegian Afghanistan Committee

Norwegian Church Aid

Norwegian Refugee Council

Women's Edge

cc: NATO Heads of State
NATO Permanent Representatives
Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, NATO Secretary-General