



**American Friends
Service Committee**

Quaker values in action

Afghanistan is Not The Good War. There is No Good War.

Eight Years is Enough!

On October 7, stand with us to mark the eighth anniversary of the war in Afghanistan. Though it's been called a "good war," it's not. There is no good war.

Whether you join a vigil or another peace event, help AFSC and the United for Peace and Justice coalition bear witness to the human and economic cost of the Afghanistan war.

The latest opinion polls show that almost 57% of Americans are already against this war. With every soldier and civilian death in Afghanistan, public support lessens—here and in Europe. The United States top three NATO allies—Britain, France and Germany—want to reassess the mission.

Add your voice to our call for:

- A timeline for withdrawal of U.S./NATO forces
- No additional troops sent to Afghanistan
- Pursue talks with all parties to the conflict
- Provide generous civilian-led development funds



DIE-IN

To Memorialize
Afghan Casualties
Instructions for a Simple
Action to Help People
Understand the Civilian
Death Toll of the War in
Afghanistan

Description of Action

One hundred plus people all lie down in a grid pattern and cover themselves with white sheets. Names of the Afghan dead are read over a sound system and volunteers place red carnations on the bodies.

Ideal Location

A large area with significant foot traffic – a plaza or city park, quad or open area at a college campus, etc.

Risk of arrest

This can be done as a permitted or nonpermitted action, with varying degrees of risk for those who take part. If you obtain a permit for the area you will be using to stage the event, your participants should not be at risk for arrest. If you choose not to obtain a permit, you can decide as a group whether or not you will

disperse when asked to do so by the police. This action was done once in Chicago without a permit and the police allowed us to complete the action without asking us to disperse.

Materials Needed

- White sheets (preferably fitted, they work better as people lie down). You can ask volunteers to bring their own, but it is helpful to have some extra onsite for those who didn't bring them. Most thrift stores will have white sheets for sale for \$1-2.
- Red carnations to place on the bodies. You might be able to have these donated.
- Signage for passersby: "These bodies represent the civilian casualties of the war in Afghanistan."
- A flyer that volunteers can hand out that explains what you are doing and why.
- Loudspeaker system, bull horn or half-mile for reading of the names.

Outreach

We had success reaching our usual crowd of people involved with peace events, but also students and members of Quaker meetings and churches. People affiliated with an organization may find it more appealing to attend an action

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like this with others from their group. We used flyers, email messages and phone calls to spread the word. It is a good idea to ask people to RSVP you somehow so that you have an idea of how many people plan to participate.

Affinity Groups

You can ask people to participate either as individuals, or as an affinity group. An affinity group works together to support and protect each other during an action, especially if there is a risk of arrest. Each affinity group will probably also want to have one or two people not participating in the action, just in case there are arrests. If your action is permitted, the group can serve just as an emotional support for those participating, and as an organizing tool so that individuals who want to be involved take the responsibility of recruiting more folks to participate to form a group.

Roles

You may want to have people assigned to the following roles-

- police negotiator
- media spokesperson
- leafletters
- sign holders
- photographer
- volunteer coordinator (someone to organize the volunteers on-site)
- Legal observer (we encourage you to work with your local National Lawyers Guild rep)

The Day of the Action

You should walk or drive by your site before the action, just to make sure that it will work that day if you do not have a permit. Set a place for your volunteers to meet offsite, so that you can clearly outline your plan for them and all walk to the site together. Go over Action Details and Non-Violence Guidelines with the volunteers before the action.

Action Details for volunteers

We will meet first at (location) at (time) to organize ourselves before we walk over to (location for action). At the plaza, (name of coordinator) will organize you into a grid pattern. We will ask everyone to lie down and cover themselves with a white sheet to represent dead Afghans. Volunteers will walk around and straighten your sheet and place a single red carnation over your body. We (do/

do not) have a permit to be at (location), so there (is/ is not) a risk of arrest for this action. (However, there will be National Lawyers Guild volunteers on hand to act as police negotiators and protect your rights).

While you are on the ground, there will be several support people around the plaza distributing leaflets about what the action represents and others will be holding signs. A volunteer will be singing the names of the Iraqi dead to pay respect for the lives we are memorializing through this action. After about 30 minutes, we will give the call that you may get up. If you need to get up before the call is made, please do so.

Wear a white shirt, bring a white, fitted sheet and make sure you'll be warm enough.

Non-violence Guidelines

1. We will act nonviolently, with respect for all people we encounter. We will express our feelings without verbally or physically abusing anyone.
2. We will not bring alcohol or other non-prescription drugs.
3. We will not bring any weapons.
4. We will not run.
5. We will not destroy property at this action.

REPRESENTING U.S. & AFGHAN DEATHS

Reading of the Names

You can request a list of the U.S. soldiers killed in Afghanistan (even broken down by state) and a list of 100 Afghan names to read at an event. We suggest altering U.S. names with Afghan ones.



Origami Gold Stars

Gold Stars, the symbol for lost soldiers, can commemorate those who have been lost and to represent our desire for peace. Find patterns and details at <http://www.afsc.org/Iraq/ht/d/ContentDetails/i/2957>.

Memorial Ribbon Project

Black ribbons in your community will show mourning for the troops lost and our desire for them to come home. Read more about how to do this from our archive of the 3000th U.S. casualty project <http://www.afsc.org/Iraq/ht/d/ContentDetails/i/2951>.

Eyes Wide Open exhibit

The exhibit features a pair of empty combat boots for each of the soldiers killed in Afghanistan and a display of shoes representing Afghan civilian casualties. To host this exhibit, please contact Mary Zerkel at 312.427.2533.

Candles & Flags

Each of these can be used to represent the casualties. Display them at State Buildings, in churches, on



campuses and other public spaces.

CANDLELIGHT VIGILS

A candlelight vigil is a both a powerful statement and easy to organize. The vigil builds power from its simplicity and show of solidarity.

Organizers should bring extra candles and lighters. Also, download and print out signs and posters for your vigilgoers. That will help passersby know why you are at the vigil.

We recommend a vigil last for about 45 minutes. You could discuss this with your group members and decide together on an amount of time before the start of the vigil. Some candlelight vigils are silent. Most a quiet, followed by a prayer or song.

PRAYERS & MEDITATIONS

Religious resources from



several religions for vigils and services can be found here <http://www.afsc.org/Iraq/ht/d/ContentDetails/i/2955>.

MEET WITH CONGRESS

Set up a meeting with your senator's or representative's district office. Visit www.congress.org to find an office.