

Socialist Alliance policy

<http://www.socialist-alliance.org>



Afghanistan War

The Socialist Alliance recognises that there was never any legal or moral justification for the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001: this is not a “good war”.

The war is being prosecuted by the US-NATO forces as part of the US imperialism’s long-term strategic political and economic interests in the region under the guise of being a “war on terror”.

Bipartisan Australian support for the invasion and occupation is both a product of the US-Australia war alliance and Australia’s own economic interests in that region.

Australia’s military presence does not act as a positive counterweight to the US military: not only does it provide political legitimacy to the US-NATO command. Australian troops have been involved in the shooting of civilians, including children.

It’s clear from all the social and development statistics that after nearly nine years of war, life for ordinary Afghan civilians has dramatically deteriorated.

Women have not been liberated. The increasing number of civilian casualties, including women and children, is another feature of this war. We also note the increasing number of US-NATO military casualties and applaud those soldiers who have taken a stand against the war.

The Socialist Alliance believes that there can be no democracy, or significant economic and social development, for peoples subjected to an occupying power.

Further, laws instituted by puppet regimes, at the behest of those occupying powers, do little to further the political and economic rights of the vast majority in Afghanistan.

We also oppose this war being spread into Pakistan, and support the brave efforts of democratic forces in Afghanistan and Pakistan to build a political current to counter the reactionary fundamentalists and the occupation forces.

Therefore, the Socialist Alliance calls on the Australian government to:

- Immediately withdraw the Australian troops.
- Pay war reparations and send aid for civilian-based reconstruction efforts.
- End support for the US war plans in the region. This includes any extension of the war into Pakistan and any US plans to attack Iran, and Yemen.

The Socialist Alliance condemns the use of private contractors, including mercenaries, in Afghanistan and other war zones. We call on the Australian government to cease using private contractors and to protest against countries such as US, British interests using these contractors.