



[Publishing the Humanitarian Abuses that should never go unnoticed](#)

« [Thousands of bloggers silenced](#)

Afghanistan Conflict brings fear of Human Rights Abuses

The conflict in Afghanistan is one which is generally surrounded by argument wherever it is mentioned. In the UK, there is a strong feeling that the human cost of the war is far too high, and that British Forces should be withdrawn. This feeling is echoed in many countries, with some going so far as to reduce the levels of manpower they provide. There's also currently little political appetite for supporting the conflict, with politicians pledging to bring troops home very soon.

However, does this lack of commitment pose its own dangers?

Amnesty International [believe that it does](#), following plans to create a peace process with the Taleban. Although doing so would certainly bring the conflict to a close far more quickly, the view of many (including Freedom4All) is that to do so would be to abandon the women and children of Afghanistan.

Most would agree that it is now very unlikely that the Afghan Taleban would ever again shelter terrorist organisations such as al-Qaeda, they've clearly seen that the cost is far too high to be worth the risk. This view *does not*, however, take a holistic view of the situation.

Whilst Taleban support of terrorist organisations is the one activity that posed a risk to Western nations, we have to accept responsibility for ensuring that the human rights of Afghan citizens are respected. We simply cannot withdraw our forces in the knowledge that women and children will be once again subjected to the draconian Taleban rules.

The Taleban have a record of committing human rights abuses and abuses against women in particular and if they want to be brought back

into the government then they should demonstrate that they will improve their conduct.

Amnesty International has written an open letter to representatives of more than 70 partner countries involved in the Afghan conflict. The letter highlights that even today, with coalition forces occupying much of Afghanistan, the Taleban continue to curtail the rights of Women and girls. In areas still controlled by the Taleban, Women and girls are denied;

- Education
- Freedom of Movement
- Employment
- Political Participation and Representation

Could you live knowing that you were denied these rights purely on the basis of your gender? Many Afghan women have had to, and many continue to do so. We've shown many that this is not the only way to live, how can we withdraw knowing that these rights will once again be taken away?

Having invaded Afghanistan in order to remove the Taleban from power, **we cannot leave knowing that these abuses will continue.**

The Taleban insurgents fighting coalition forces also show little or no regard for Human rights or rules of engagement. They deliberately and systematically target civilians, Aid workers and schools (Girls schools in particular).

In their letter, *Amnesty International* has made the following recommendations;

- Human rights, including women's rights, must be guaranteed and monitored in all reconciliation strategies;
- Any agreement must include verifiable benchmarks for the parties' conformity with their human rights obligations;
- Afghan women are meaningfully represented in the planning stages and during the reconciliation talks, in keeping with UN Security Council Resolution 1325;
- Reconciliation talks should not result in impunity for serious violations of human rights and war crimes.

Whilst the political appetite for the war is currently very weak, and support within those nations providing forces is waning, we must ensure that we do the right thing. There's a widespread western opinion that it's OK for human rights abuses to occur, so long as they happen on the other side of the world and don't impact on surrounding countries. **This has to stop.**

The western world took responsibility for the welfare of the Afghan people when coalition forces first set foot in the country. If we make a deal with the Taleban in order to expedite our withdrawal, we become party to that abuse. As *Amnesty International* have stated, we must at the very least, seek assurances from the

Taliban **that the abuse stops now**. Those who have committed abuse must be brought to justice, and those who abuse in the future must be treated as criminals.

The war has taken its toll on the Coalition forces, who bravely strive to better the lives of those around them. We've lost a lot of brave and courageous men, but if we allow the abuse to continue, then they will have died in vain.

Write to your MP today, urge them to ensure that the Government treats the memory of the dead with respect. These heroes died fighting for a better Afghanistan, and we simply cannot allow a lack of political appetite to undermine that. Blood has been shed in order that the Afghan people may lead their lives safe in the knowledge that their human rights are protected, by leaving before our task is complete, we ensure that this cannot happen.

We'll leave you now with the words of *Amnesty International's* Sam Zarifi, they say exactly what needs to be said.

We should remember that the repeated experience of peace without justice and human rights in Afghanistan has led to further conflict and grave human rights violations over the past three decades. Peace without justice or human rights is not real peace. The route to real and lasting security can only come through the promotion of human rights and rule of law.

Tags: [Afghanistan](#), [Amnesty](#), [Amnesty International](#), [Army](#), [Coalition](#), [Coalition Forces](#), [Discrimination](#), [Forces](#), [Freedom of Expression](#), [Freedom of Movement](#), [Freedom of Speech](#), [Heroes](#), [Human Rights](#), [Islam](#), [Open Letter](#), [Taliban](#), [Troops](#), [Withdrawal](#), [Womens Rights](#)

This entry was posted on Wednesday, July 21st, 2010 at 11:41 am and is filed under [Afghanistan](#), [Amnesty International](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0](#) feed. You can [leave a response](#), or [trackback](#) from your own site. [Edit this entry](#).

Leave a Reply

Logged in as [Freedom](#). [Log out »](#)

Submit Comment

- Search for:
-

• Pages

- [About](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Our Aims](#)
- [Linking to Freedom4All](#)
- [Donations and Funding](#)
- [Our Anonymity](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)

• Archives

- [July 2010](#)
- [June 2010](#)

• Categories

- [Amnesty International](#) (5)
- [Freedom of Speech](#) (11)
- [Freedom4All](#) (3)
- [Gay Rights](#) (1)
- [Governmental Abuse](#) (16)
 - [Afghanistan](#) (1)
 - [Argentina](#) (1)
 - [Australia](#) (2)
 - [Capital Punishment](#) (1)
 - [China](#) (2)
 - [Egypt](#) (1)
 - [France](#) (1)
 - [Gaza](#) (2)
 - [Iran](#) (1)
 - [Israel](#) (2)
 - [Kenya](#) (1)
 - [Pakistan](#) (2)
 - [Russia](#) (1)
 - [South Africa](#) (1)
 - [Tunisia](#) (1)
 - [United Kingdom](#) (4)
- [News](#) (7)

- [Old Content Restored](#) (2)

-

All content Copyright Freedom4All.org.uk