

For Immediate Release
Veterans For Peace: www.veteransforpeace.org

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UNITED ANTIWAR MOVEMENT TELLS OBAMA: NO ESCALATION!
Letter ties economic pain at home to suffering in Afghanistan
Urges widespread, massive protests day after announcement

Washington, DC - On November 30th, representatives of 34 antiwar groups delivered an open letter to President Obama strongly opposing his anticipated decision to escalate the war in Afghanistan with the commitment of tens of thousands of additional U.S. troops.

The document called increased war spending, in light of the ongoing U.S. economic crisis, an “**utter folly**” and named the war “**a war against ordinary people, both here in the United States and in Afghanistan,**” which “**if continued, will result in the deaths of hundreds if not thousands of U.S. troops and untold thousands of Afghans**” and “**cause other people in other lands to despise the U.S.**” as “**the world’s richest nation making war on one of the world’s very poorest.**”

The signatories pledged “**to keep opposing this war in every nonviolent way possible. We will urge elected representatives to cut all funding for war. Some of us will be led to withhold our taxes, practice civil resistance, and promote slowdowns and strikes at schools and workplaces.**”

Signed by veterans and peace activists, religious leaders and labor organizers, the document represents one of the most widespread antiwar coalitions in decades, including many of the organizations which, in 2003, brought millions onto the streets to oppose the U.S.-Iraq war. Signers to the letter are urging their colleagues to participate in local demonstrations the day after an announcement of troop escalations is made.

The letter ends by warning President Obama, “**we will do everything in our power, as nonviolent peace activists, to build the kind of massive movement -- which today represents the sentiments of a majority of the American people -- that will play a key role in ending U.S. war in Afghanistan. Such is the folly of your decision and such is the depth of our opposition to the death and suffering it will cause.**”

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Founded in 1985, Veterans For Peace is a national organization of men and women veterans of all eras and duty stations spanning the Spanish Civil War (1936-39), World War II, the Korean, Vietnam, Gulf and current Iraq wars as well as other conflicts cold or hot. It has chapters in nearly every state in the union and is headquartered in St. Louis, MO. Our collective experience tells us wars are easy to start and hard to stop and that those hurt are often the innocent. Thus, other means of problem solving are necessary. Veterans For Peace is an official Non- Governmental Organization (NGO) represented at the U.N.

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