

Reconciliation of Civil Hearts The ordinary voice of peace from Afghanistan

Salam, 'aleikum! -- سلام عليكم!

With all due honor to Bamiyan Governor Dr Sarobi, Head of UNAMA Bamiyan Heren Song and our international friends from the UN family and NGOs, Eric the US Representative in Bamiyan and other distinguished friends, we welcome you and the possibility of peace to this forgotten but gorgeous place.

We thank you for your hearts of peace in joining us today.

We, the ordinary youth of Afghanistan, have a message of peace for you, for all the respected leaders of our disconnected world and in particular, for the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize Winner President Obama.

We are struggling because it seems that nowadays, the voice of war has its space and its rights; we wonder if the voice of peace has equal space and rights. We wish to raise our voice of peace to give it a chance, without fear or shame.



Bamiyan Peace Park, Afghanistan, October 22, 2009

We are the youth of the mountains who do not represent any political or religious views except for those views which make us truly human, capable of acting in love and truth, in good times as well as in tragedy.

We are tired of war and we desire peace as peace truly means in the souls of men.

We have great problems indeed but we also have courage because we have with us the great Afghan outdoors like this and we have within us an even greater desire for creative, non-violent solutions.

We desire reconciliation. It's time to struggle for a reconciliation of civil hearts instead of fueling a clash or confrontation of civilizations. We wish to converse as equal, fellow human beings, without the need for guns and bombs.

We desire to patiently build our nation. So, while we appreciate your friendship and partnership, we desire just as much to trek on our own paths, build our own parks and choose which of our own mountains to climb.

We desire the dignity of working with our own hands and walking with our own legs. We ask for assistance that builds factories, industries, roads and an economy that would help us to stand on our own.

We desire justice and truth. So, we ask for your support in denying space to corruption, fraud, lies and deceptions and in quenching the abusive greed for power and money that are destroying our society and humanity as much as violence and war are.

Many of us are suffering at the expense of a few, so though the few rich and powerful are loud and dominant, their monopoly is neither moral nor democratic. We may be suffering, but suffering eyes can still see, not with the sight that sees only appearances, but with the insight that sees beyond words to raw but real meanings.

Perhaps, we have deeper anger, hatred and fears but we believe that Man cannot overcome such giants with bloodshed. We learn to overcome them when we understand each other, so we ask for the nurturing of wide-scale, local and international humane relationships that would empathize with our shared human condition, restore trust, and tear down barriers.

Part 2 - Reconciliation of Civil Hearts: From Youth Peace Volunteers of Afghanistan on OurJourneyToSmile.com

We need to explore human relationships and non-violent options like we pursue science, so that we can fulfill the enormous generational responsibility spelled out in the original charter of the United Nations :

“We, the peoples of the United Nations, determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war... And for these ends to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbors...have resolved to combine our efforts to accomplish these aims.”

Preamble, Charter of the United Nations

We're not willing for one more international soldier, one more Afghan soldier or one more of our countrymen to die a violent death.

The world should not move along the unilateral, one-track path of violence and militarism anymore. We cannot cope; no human can. We should work together to walk along the multiple treks that lead us to beauty, to dreams and to those values, virtues and thoughtful conversations that every heart longs for.

So please, we ask that the world shifts her engagement with our sovereign country to a predominantly civilian approach. We should have as many civil forums, as many civil negotiations, as many civil discussions and as many civil occasions for relationship-building as are imaginatively possible. We believe that these civil efforts cannot be done through either our local military or any foreign military because Mankind cannot build relations with weapons.

We desire the security that other peaceful nations have. We desire for the peace and security which we've had in Bamiyan for the past 8 years to spread throughout Afghanistan. We believe that neither foreign nor local military escalation would bring victory for anyone, as that would be going towards failure, if not a military failure, then a civilizational failure of our very souls.

We do not accept the violent actions or solutions that the world seems to be counting on. We have become a terror to one another, in our inconsiderate actions and in our cowardly silence, and this must stop.

We wish to refuse the 'insurgent' any further excuse to hurt us; brothers killing brothers, friends killing friends, humans killing one another.

Thus, we trust that the heart of peace in President Obama and in all men would help Afghanistan and the world towards true peace and reconciliation. Thank you very much or as we say in Afghanistan, **یک جهان تشکر**, a world of thanks!

From the bottom of our hearts,

شجاع باشید! Be courageous!
خوش باشید! Be happy!
سلامت باشید! And be at peace!

*The [Youth Peace Volunteers](#) of Afghanistan
... on [Our Journey to Smile](#)*