



Against Violence, War and Terrorism

Ten years after 11 September, the Italian Peace Roundtable and September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows are going to Kabul.

Ten years after the attack on September 11, 2001 and the beginning of the war in Afghanistan, the Italian *Tavola della Pace* (Peace Roundtable) and September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows have decided to go Kabul to say enough with the violence, war and terrorism.

The Italian-American delegation will travel to Kabul from August 31 to September 5, 2011 to meet Afghan families of the victims of terrorism and war and the representatives of Afghan civil and international organizations working in the country.

The delegation is composed of **Paul Arpaia**, September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows; **Flavio Lotti**, National Coordinator of *Tavola della Pace*, **Emanuele Giordana**, Coordinator of *Afghana*, **Mario Galasso**, Councilman for Peace and International Cooperation of the Province of Rimini; **Andrea Ferrari**, Alderman for Peace and International Cooperation of the city of Lodi; Fr. **Tonio Dell'Olio**, International Head of *Libera*; **Luisa Morgantini** member of the *Associazione della pace* (Association of Peace); and Fr. **Renato Sacco** of *Pax Christi*.

The peacekeeping mission, organized with the help of *Afghana* and the *Coordinamento Nazionale degli Enti Locali per la Pace e i Diritti Umani* (the Italian National Coordination of Local Authorities for Peace and Human Rights) is taking place on the eve of a historic March for Peace and the Brotherhood of the Peoples from Perugia to Assisi on September 25, 2011.

After ten years of the "war on terrorism", the daily lives of the Afghan people and the

people of the whole region continue to be dominated by violence, poverty and insecurity. Osama bin Laden was killed, and yet, Italy and the United States are still profoundly implicated in this tragedy without knowing how to get out. The Italian and American public hear news about the area when our soldiers die, then little else until more die. We in the *Tavola della Pace* and September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows cannot stop from asking: What has been the results of triggering such a war? Couldn't we have acted differently? And now, what must we do?

The mission intends to follow through on commitments made by Italian civil society during the Afghan Civil Society Conferences organized by *Afghana* in Kabul (March 2011) and Rome (May 2011).

The mission of the *Tavola della Pace* and September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows is meant above all to be a strong gesture of solidarity with the Afghan people and to pay tribute to all victims of war and terrorism. Members will bear the "Light of Assisi," a lamp designed by the Order of St. Francis as a symbol of peace that we must strive to build. At the same time, the delegation will listen to leaders of Afghan civil society and representatives of major international institutions in Kabul in its continuing efforts to collect ideas and proposals aimed at prevailing over this tragic situation.

Perugia (Italy),
New York (USA)

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