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Mourning Commute condones neither branding nor dressing chickens up as cowboys

dovetail

FREE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MOURNING COMMUTE COLLECTIVE

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

EMBRACING A NEW ETHIC, AND A NEW CREED:
"LET'S ROLL"

FEBRUARY 2002

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Enduring Freedom... and cluster bombs

A critical look at the war on Afghanistan

By Aaron Kuller

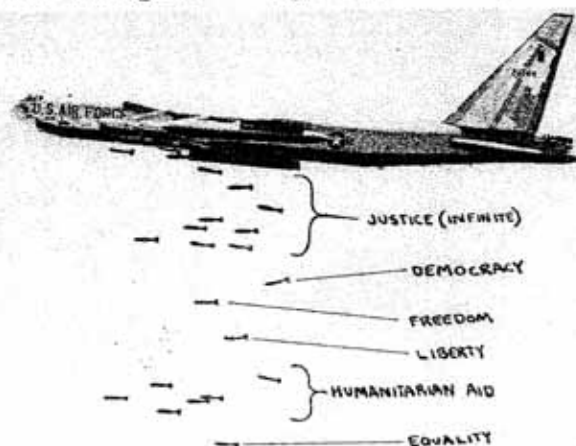
You may recall all the talk about America's new "War on Terrorism" that was unloaded by our President during his State of the Union address. Bush reminds us once again that by bombing Afghanistan we offer them "liberation;" that the evil-doers "will not escape the justice of this nation."

Meanwhile, corporate media has been little more than the washing machine for Bush's dirty war, propagating their own Mickey Mouse sensationalized version of events. The television screen is an abundant source of heroic stories about America's military in Afghanistan, whereas the extensive reports about civilian casualties are conveniently left out of the news programming.

One of the "objective" news anchors on Fox's channel 13 news recently commented that "...it looks as if the war on terror is the savior of the Afghan people..." But is the United States' war in Afghanistan as clean and sparkling as is

reported, or are they spouting crass empty rhetoric?

The White House press team is constantly reminding us that the only targets are "military facilities." For an air war that explicitly targets military installations, the war in Afghanistan has had an absurd number of civilian casualties. In the first eight and a half weeks of the war alone, 3,767 confirmed civilians had died as a direct result of the bombing, the population equivalent of eleven



World Trade Center attacks. Keep in mind that independent human rights observers have asserted that the majority of the casualties have not been counted. The bombing cam-

campaign has severely afflicted the civilian infrastructure. Some of the early civilian targets include a dam power station in Kajaki, a telephone exchange in Kabul, the Kabul media office of Al Jazeera (an applauded Middle East television station), and truckloads of refugees attempting to leave the area.

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ABOUT MOURNING COMMUTE

Operating in the King County and Eastside Seattle areas, we are a group organizing around, expanding on, and propagating the ideals of Social Anarchism. As defined by its history, theory, and practice, Anarchism is the proposal that humanity can and should operate without the negative constraints of domination. Social Anarchists seek to reorganize economic and political institutions in a decentralized and nonhierarchical manner, as to ensure opportunities for all people to participate in decision-making. The building of community-oriented alternatives to current institutions enables society to do away with unnecessary hierarchies.

Our projects are not limited to this newsletter. We invite everyone and anyone to our monthly meeting, the first Thursday of every month.

Next meeting:
March 7th, 6:00 PM
@ Victor's Coffee
(97993 Gilman),

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ON THE WEB: HTTP://MOURNINGCOMMUTE.TRIPOD.COM