

Open Letter to Afghan Mothers,

Address to the Afghan mothers whose children are fighting in the lineup of Taliban!

My sister! I address you, as you are a mother like me.

Me, and you have raised these children with all the problems caused by the war and poverty, misery, immigration and homelessness, but while we wish to live peacefully in their shadow for a few days, they go to war; they kill or get killed.

If they are killed, you and me will be saddened, and on the other hand, if he may have a child left who will never feel the gladness of having a father. And a young woman becomes a widow, like you and me raises her children to a thousand difficulties and later suffer the same fate. If they kill; the other mother will suffer the same fate, another woman will become widow, and their children become orphans. Unfortunately, the same story will be often repeated.

Like you, I also have a son who lives, studies and works in this country. Your son is an Afghan and my son is also an Afghan. You are the mother of this country and I am also the mother of this country.

I accept that your love for your son is not less than my love for my son. They are our children and with no difference. Both are from the same land and from the same nation, and certainly preserving the life of a child is one of the most fundamental desires and ambitions of a mother.

Never forget that if your son is deceived and killed in the name of Jihad, martyrdom or other names; consequently, my son is also killed in suicide attacks, explosions and military attacks due to the continuation of the war. This is killing of one Afghan by another Afghan; as a result, it is you and I who grieve, weep, cry, and mourn for the loss of our beloved sons, the sons we raised with a lot of difficulties and we remain grieving. Who can understand the pain of a grieving mother? I ask you, who can except a mother! You and I can understand each other's pain better than anyone else.

Our youth should work for development, as well as, preserving independence and territorial integrity of this land. Mine and your children must heal the long-standing wounds of her homeland, however, see blood sheds on daily basis in both sides of the battlefield, schools, mosques and hospitals and leave all his dreams.

Sadly! See how fearlessly they have benefited from our dispersal, and have brought our children against each other on both sides of the battlefield in the name of enemy, so that they fulfill their personal wills and build their house.

As we have common roots, we also have common pain and feelings. Just as you send your children to a journey or in the name of jihad with fear and pray for their safe return, I also send my children to school, madrasa and work with a fearful heart, and pray many times for their safe return. You know that many times neither my children nor your children have returned. Do not

you see that as much as you and I weep in the grief of our lost children, our ruthless enemies benefit and enjoy?!

My sister! We mothers have a duty and responsibility in raising our children. You know that every mother is a school, so let us take the responsibility of our children and do not let them be used consciously or unconsciously against their country and their people.

Have you ever seen the children of your leaders in the war zone to suffer, starve, get cold and heat like your children and finally become dust and roll in their blood?

We see that the children of these warlords live in the best conditions, study and enjoy life? Meanwhile, why should my child and you be killed in such a vain way?

As mothers of this land, we must know and be aware that there is no good intention behind the war that has been started in our land. Therefore, it is compulsory on our children to cut off the hands of human mafia, drug mafia, as well as, mining and enemies of our country from their shoulders. As the war that has sacrificed several generations of this homeland for more than forty years and this vicious cycle is repeated.

Isn't it time to make ready our children for peace?

Today, with the beginning of the peace process, a historic opportunity has been created to save our children, their future and our common home (dear Afghanistan), so it is up to you and me to guide our children to peace. Undoubtedly in peace, good and prosperity is for all of us and our children.

Our children should study, gain knowledge and enjoy a better life and be useful people for their community.

It is up to us, as the first and most compassionate mentor and guide and encourage children to accept peace. And we shall not allow them to continue killing their brothers. Remind them to resolve their differences through negotiation and understanding, respect intra-Afghan talks and accept a ceasefire in honor of peace.

And save their tired and suffering land from the fire of war and destruction.

Enough war! Let's join hands and heal the wounds of the motherland, and this is not impossible. Let's test our motherhood

Let us, we women, we mothers of this land (the constant victims of this war) ask our children with a strong plan and determination to end the forty-year war in Afghanistan and misery of this land. Certainly, we beside our children have the ability to make and keep peace.

It is time for the mothers of this land to come together from south to north and from east to west to bring peace.

Life in peace is beautiful. Our children should have a better and more dignified life in the shadow of peace. The people of Afghanistan and our children have the right to live in peace and without fear.

May Allah grant us success!

Afghan Women's Network (AWN)

Afghanistan Women's Coalition for Peace "Our Voice,for Our Future"

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