

Women in Black (Vienna)
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Mr. Scott Kilner
Charge d'Affaires a.i.
Embassy of the United States of America
Vienna
Austria, Vienna,

18 May 2009

Sir,

Today, 18 May 2009, a vigil of the Women in Black (Vienna) was held near the U.S. Embassy to protest the indiscriminate bombing of innocent civilians in Afghanistan and Pakistan by U.S. and NATO troops.

We were joined by others who are gravely concerned about the brutal murder of Afghan civilians, including many women and children. The last such attack, which killed 147 civilians in the province of Farah on 7 May, has shocked thousands of people in the area and abroad. It will undoubtedly cause much tension and hostile feelings against the US/NATO presence and result in the rise of extremist views.

Such actions, both in Afghanistan and Pakistan, bring needless tragedy and misery to so many families, and the environmental damage is severe. In addition, places of historical interest and value are also being destroyed -- these can never be replaced.

With our vigil we wish to express our shock at the attacks being carried out by U.S. and NATO troops. We feel they will further destabilize the area and are morally indefensible. It is for this reason that we, Women in Black, and others who are standing here with us today, are protesting these actions. People's views have never been changed by using force and violence and we urge that these military interventions cease in order to avoid further bloodshed.

It would be appreciated if our letter and petition (with signatures) would be communicated to foreign policy officials, the Pentagon and President Obama's office in Washington.

Yours faithfully,

Paula Abrams-Hourani, Member of Women in Black (Vienna)
Brigitte Neubacher, Member of Women in Black (Vienna)

Encl. Petition