



AS NEW YORKERS *not a day goes by that we don't think about the events of September 11 and the horrific attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Our neighborhoods lost firefighters, rescue workers, office workers of all kinds, maintenance people, restaurant staff, mothers, fathers, sons and daughters.*
We grieve for all those who were lost.

AS WE STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE, WE ENVISION A LASTING PEACE
To end the threat of terrorism, people from all around the world must redouble our efforts to achieve a just and sustainable peace. Militarism and war will not provide justice or security.

We condemn these criminal attacks and demand that those responsible be held accountable and brought to justice. Make public the evidence against suspects and seek help from all nations in gaining their arrests and putting them on trial.

We are deeply concerned for our friends and neighbors who feel threatened because of their race, nationality and religion. We must be alert to bigotry and violence against Arabs, Muslims and immigrants and intervene when confronted by such sentiments.

We urge people to be vigilant in supporting our civil liberties, which are always vulnerable during times of conflict. Critical, open and honest civic debate about our past and future policy is essential to a solid and lasting democracy.

We oppose U.S. military intervention in Afghanistan and other countries and call for an immediate end to the bombings. Innocent civilians are being killed every day, humanitarian aid facilities have been demolished, and aid has been cut off to a suffering population. The

bombings have inspired a growth in anti-American feelings, as the soil for new terrorism is being watered and fertilized with each bomb dropped.

U.S. foreign policy must undergo fundamental change to policies firmly based on economic and social justice. We must redirect our vast resources away from producing more weapons and towards eradicating the poverty, disease and ignorance that foster despair and insecurity for most of the world's people. Immediate changes in U.S. foreign policy must include:

- Support all UN mechanisms for dispute resolution by insisting that nation-states immediately stop all violence against people living within their territories and engage in full-time, good-faith negotiations, particularly for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the civil war in Columbia.
- Ending the economic sanctions against Iraq which have resulted in the death of over a half million innocent Iraqi children and civilians.
- End the arms trade. The U.S. is the Number 1 seller of arms throughout the world.

I ask our nation's leaders not to take the path that leads to more widespread hatreds—that makes my husband's death just one more in an unending spiral of killing. I call on our national leaders to find the courage to respond to this incomprehensible tragedy by breaking the cycle of violence. I call on them to marshal this great nation's skills and resources to lead a worldwide dialogue on freedom from terror and hate.

A Widow's Plea for Non-Violence by Amber Amundson, whose husband, working for the U.S. Army, was killed at the Pentagon. (Chicago Tribune, September 25, 2001)

Vigil for Peace, Thursdays, 5-7 pm, 7th Avenue and Flatbush, Q - 7th Ave. stop
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