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## Greetings of Peace-And a Measure of the Costs of Wars

Salam and Ramazan Kareem,

This latest letter is another appeal to end the war and occupation of Afghanistan. This appeal as others in the past has been directed to all sides to the war; for war is not the solution and the Afghan people, and we know also that most Afghans in the diaspora, do not accept the occupation of Afghanistan. This war has been illegal, highly costly and will not end in any way other than a peaceful solution that require end of war, end of any form of occupation, a new structure for better governance, compensation for the innocent victims of this war, long term commitment by the peaceful international community to assist Afghanistan to stand on its own, be independent, neutral, and growing economically and provide a fair share and participation in the development of the Afghan economy for all Afghans.

**These goals sound difficult under the present conditions. But, they are not impossible to achieve with the right people and the needed resources. Afghanistan's interests and the interests of the Afghan people would have to have priority over personal, party, and ethnic or regional interests.**

The cost of the war against Afghanistan and Iraq have had much research and writing about them by economists and other social scientist at Harvard and Boston and Brown Universities since 2011.

These measures have been from the point of view of the US, not the victims of the wars.

Here our immediate concern is the cost of wars to Afghanistan and the Afghan people. A measure is offered here for the costs of both invasions ( Soviet 1979, and US led NATO 2001) in the works that I have done so far. If one were to summarize the results of these studies in a brief statement it would be that: the average life expectancy in Afghanistan is lower by 15 years than all the neighboring Muslim countries and this can only be explained in terms of the real costs of war, which ever way that is monetized.

In fact, what is offered is a new measure of the costs of wars in real terms. Unless some one can proof that some other significant factor is involved in the differnces between the life expectancy of an Afghan and all the Muslim neighbors of Afghanistan , this explanation offered as an argument backed by the the UN statistics on this would have to stand and we need to recognize that people lose more than life and property as a result of wars.

Respectfully submitted, comments are welcome,