

Indiana Green Party

Indiana Green Party Statement on the Events of September 11, 2001

The Indiana Green Party (by a vote of the coordinating council) has issued the following statement:

The Indiana Green Party expresses its shock and sorrow over the acts of unspeakable violence committed on September 11, 2001. Our hearts go out to the loved ones of the victims.

The ensuing days have been trying times for those who are critical of US policies. In this emotional climate, bringing up the hundreds of thousands of Iraqi children who died as a result of US-led sanctions is easily misconstrued as anti-American sentiment. Pointing out that Saddam Hussein, Manuel Noriega, and Osama bin Laden were all at one time supported by the CIA can be misinterpreted as a claim that we somehow deserved this. Of course, no such connotation is intended. The janitors, waitresses, and firefighters who died were innocent. We love America, and we express our patriotism by using the tools of grassroots democracy to turn our country into a better nation, a more just nation, and a safer nation.

It is vital that we realize that the rest of the world does not view the US the same way we view ourselves. We are not seen as a force for compassion: we dominate the world's economy, yet we spend less than 1% of our budget on foreign aid, and we support a system of global corporatization which widens the gap between the absurdly wealthy and the desperately poor. We are not seen as a force for democracy: we have frequently given support to undemocratic and even brutal regimes in the name of fighting communism, fighting the drug war, and keeping oil flowing into our inherently unsustainable fossil-fuel economy. The terrorist attacks have verified a long-held fear of many Greens: ignoring the rest of the world is not only callous, it is dangerous.

In this time of crisis, security is understandably being tightened. The Indiana Green Party asks our elected officials to take great care to protect the civil liberties of both Americans and foreign nationals. We are wary of the slightly Orwellian overtones of founding an Office of Homeland Security, and dubious that such an office will be able to do what the Central Intelligence Agency, Federal Bureau of Investigations, Secret Service, National Security Agency, and United States Marshalls Service could not.

It is essential that neither law enforcement officials nor private citizens stoop to racial profiling. We are sickened by reports of hate crimes against Muslims and Arabs in Indiana, across the country, and around the world. To attack a whole people for the actions of a few is an error which, while not of the same magnitude as that made by the terrorists, is in the same direction. We encourage all Hoosiers to extend hands of friendship and compassion to all of our grieving sisters and brothers, regardless of race, religion, or nationality.

The surviving organizers of the terrorist attacks must be apprehended through legal means, given a fair trial, and put in a place where they can do no further harm. Prevention of future violence, not revenge, must be the spirit of such action. The mixed messages coming from the White House give us reason to worry that an ill-considered attempt to

"wipe out evil" through massive military retaliation will lead to far more unnecessary death and suffering.

If we believe that nothing can justify murdering thousands of innocent civilians by turning planes into bombs -- and we do -- then we must also believe that nothing can justify murdering thousands of innocent people by dropping bombs out of planes.

The Afghan people did not elect their de facto government. Justice will not be served by hurling more munitions at a land-mine-infested country which has already been "bombed back to the stone age" by the Soviets and which already suffers under the oppressive yoke of the (US-funded) Taliban regime.

While it may seem to be a relatively minor issue, it should be noted that war is always an environmental disaster. Emissions from tanks and warplanes are at least as bad as those from cars and civilian aircraft. Wildlife habitats are destroyed. Large quantities of lead and other toxics are introduced into the environment. If unconventional weapons, such as depleted-uranium shells, chemical weapons, biological weapons, or nuclear weapons come into play, the consequences could be catastrophic.

Another war in the Middle East has the potential to escalate into exactly the sort of "West vs Islam" apocalypse which the most radical terrorists seek. Due to lack of foresight, the US economy is dependent on massive quantities of oil flowing from the region. Pakistan, China, India, and Israel are all armed with nuclear weapons; the stability of Pakistan's government is by no means guaranteed. A desire to avenge crimes ancient and modern boils in many hearts. It will be necessary to use every tool of diplomacy, cultural sensitivity, and international law to bring about a peaceful solution.

The Indiana Green Party is based upon the key values of nonviolence, ecological wisdom, grassroots democracy, and social justice. In these trying times, we somberly remember the words of Mahatma Gandhi: "'An eye for an eye' leaves the whole world blind."

[home](#)