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Security Worsens: The Failure of the Escalation Strategy in Afghanistan

When President Obama ordered massive troop increases in Afghanistan throughout 2009, he and his advisors said that the new troops would lead to increased security for the Afghan people. **They were wrong.**

64%

Increase in insurgent-initiated attacks between 2009 and 2010.

2,421

Afghan civilians **killed** in war-related violence in 2010.

3,270

Afghan civilians **injured** in war-related violence in 2010.[1]

Broken Promises

"...The 30,000 additional troops that I'm announcing tonight will...target the insurgency and **secure key population centers**."
--*President Barack Obama's West Point Speech, December 1, 2009.*

"[O]ur extended security presence must -- and will -- **improve security for the Afghan people and limit both future civilian and military casualties**."
--*Admiral Mike Mullen, Congressional Testimony, December 2, 2009.*

"We will help the Afghan people win by **securing them, by protecting them from intimidation, violence and abuse**..."
--*U.S. Gen. Stanley McChrystal's Counterinsurgency Strategic Guidance, November 10, 2009.*

"...American forces and our allied forces are going in with a couple of key missions in mind. **First is protecting the population...**"
--*Undersecretary for Defense Michelle Flournoy, White House Press Briefing, March 27, 2009.*

[1] The Afghanistan NGO Safety Office, "ANSO Quarterly Data Report, Q.4 2010."

What You Can Do: Call your Member of Congress at 202.224.3121 and tell them you want them to act now to bring troops home. *Leaflet with this one-pager to help convince your neighbors it's time to bring troops home. Encourage them to watch the* Rethink Afghanistan *documentary online for free at RethinkAfghanistan.com.*