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Dear peace loving nation of Afghanistan,

Message of Greetings and Solidarity on the occasion of the "International Day of Peace" on September 21.

With great pleasure we have heard that many thousands of people are again going to gather in the various provinces of Afghanistan on the occasion of the International Day of Peace on 21 September. For that we send you from Germany our best greetings of solidarity.

Few days prior to the infamous September 11, the General Assembly of the United Nations called on the world to lay down all weapons for 24 hours and to promote peace. We support this appeal and call upon all parties involved in the conflict in Afghanistan to lay down all weapons at least on September 21.

Since 2001, the Greens support the international and German efforts to assist the Afghan people after decades of terrible violence in overcoming the damages and destructions of war and building a peaceful life.

The support of civil society and the promotion of women rights are very crucial points to us. Within our party we have been debating intensively over the right way and the role of the military, in particular. We supported the participation of German soldiers in ISAF. We are aware of the big mistakes that were made by the international community during the last years. Some allies do not show consideration for the customs and traditions of the Afghan people. Some were interested in nothing else than fighting the Taliban. The task of rebuilding Afghanistan was enormously underestimated by everybody.

With great concern we are watching the deterioration of the security situation despite - or possibly because - there are more and more

international soldiers. The progress of rebuilding is much slower than necessary and expected. In this precarious situation we do not want to let you, to let Afghanistan down. We do not want another 1992, no return to civil war and the reign of terror.

Therefore we demand from our governments to focus their efforts on reconstruction and the well-being of the people of Afghanistan. Therefore we demand an end of the Operation Enduring Freedom and other operations that much more stir up hatred and violence than curtailing them. Instead of military offensives, we demand a reconstruction offensive.

There are quite a few people in Germany who call for a withdrawal of the German forces from Afghanistan. Many express clear opinions without ever having spoken to somebody in or from Afghanistan. Our recommendation and hope is: Let us initiate a vivid exchange among our countries and among our peoples and construct a bridge to discuss our genuine hopes and expectations.

From the bottom of our heart we wish all of you, your families and the people of Afghanistan the necessary wisdom and energy to proceed on the thorny path to peace. You can count on our support!

We wish to see in the near future peace in every corner of Afghanistan



Claudia Roth



Winfried Nachtwei