

Every month since February 1987 the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation has produced one-hour TV programs on issues related to peace, social justice, economics, the environment, and nonviolence.

The Olympia FOR's program airs several times every week for the entire month on Thurston Community Television (TCTV), channel 22 for Thurston County's cable TV subscribers. You can see TCTV's schedule at www.tctv.net.

You can also watch the program described below (and more than 90 of our previous interview programs and special programs) at the Olympia FOR's website, www.olympiafor.org. Simply click the TV programs link to reach www.olympiafor.org/tv_programs.htm, scroll down, and click the program you want to watch.

Many of our website's TV program listings also include a .pdf document describing the program.

JUNE 2010

“PAKISTAN: WHAT ARE THE REALITIES?”

by GLEN ANDERSON, PRODUCER AND HOST OF THIS TV SERIES

The US war in Iraq seems to have dropped out of the news, but are those problems really solved? Or has a sleight-of-hand maneuver of public relations trickery shifted our attention from the “bad” war in Iraq to the “good” war in Afghanistan?

And why has the US war in Afghanistan escalated into Pakistan, where the US is attacking people – including many innocent civilians – in a country that is supposed to be our ally?

The American people are long overdue in understanding Pakistan and the realities that are baffling the Obama Administration and the Pentagon.

The Olympia FOR's June TV program features two knowledgeable guests with great insights into several parts of the world. Zahid Shariff and Steve Niva clearly explain the historical background and current events regarding Pakistan.

They address the decades of US meddling in Afghanistan and Pakistan, including US funding for the extremist Mujahideen who became the Taliban and al Qaeda, US interference with Pakistan's democracy, US support for its corrupt and abusive military, the futility of the US war in Afghanistan and its escalation into Pakistan, the US drone attacks, and other abuses that have turned Pakistani public opinion overwhelmingly against the US.

The US's war in Afghanistan was going so badly that Obama escalated it into Pakistan. But for several reasons we don't dare put too many actual troops there – at least the US government does not admit to them publicly. Bush started using unmanned “drone”

airplanes to attack targets, but Obama has massively escalated the drone attacks – and started attacking a wider variety of targets. The US has been targeting Pakistani civilians – in many cases not even knowing their names – and has killed between 600 and 1,000 Pakistanis based on mere suspicion, without any trials or any due process. The US military and CIA (which is largely running Obama's war in Pakistan) simply targets people and kills them (and whole neighborhoods) with pilotless drone aircraft flown remotely from a military base in Nevada.

Barack Obama ran for President on a platform of “change,” but he is continuing a great many of George W. Bush's worst policies regarding foreign policy and human rights. For many decades the bipartisan US foreign policy in that region has made things worse for the people there and worse for the world as a whole. Mainstream news media play along with the US-centric worldview and fail to understand realities from other nations' perspectives.

When somebody feels angry and lashes out in violence against someone else, then that person becomes angry and lashes back in violence. The cycle of violence continues.

Military violence kills and disables people, and it bankrupts the countries that practice it. It damages our souls as individuals and as entire societies. We must stop the cycle of violence. Military “solutions” are really the **problem!**