



IN THE SUMMER of 2010, the first bilateral military exercise with the US Air Force took place in the North of Sweden. Norrbotten, with its mountains and vast open spaces, was similar to Afghanistan, one Senior Officer in charge of the operation remarked. Many Afghan refugees struggle hard to get permission to stay in Sweden. Some went on hunger strike in the middle of Stockholm some years ago.

When I was invited to speak at the demonstration in Luleå against this joint war exercise with the US, the connection was obvious to me. Having read the novel and seen the movie Kite Runner, I brought an "Afghan" kite with me for the occasion.

While taking some short video clips for an upcoming video, with the kite against the background of the public entrance to the Air Force base, we were arrested and charged for trespassing. The video disc which was confiscated, was anyhow returned later on. Some seconds of a flying kite became the seed to numerous of short videos.

These videos connected me even deeper in friendship to the videos and dedicated network of the [Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers](http://www.AfghanYouthPeaceVolunteers.org) and the monthly [Global Days of Listening](http://www.GlobalDaysOfListening.org).

Mountains can not reach Mountains. Only People can reach People, an old Afghan proverb says.

It is my Wish that these videos will bring an Understanding and Awareness between People, by an Appeal to the Heart.

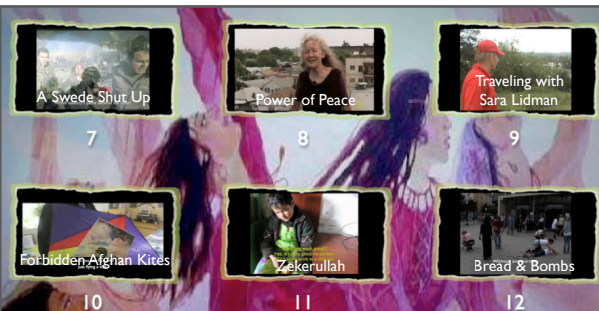
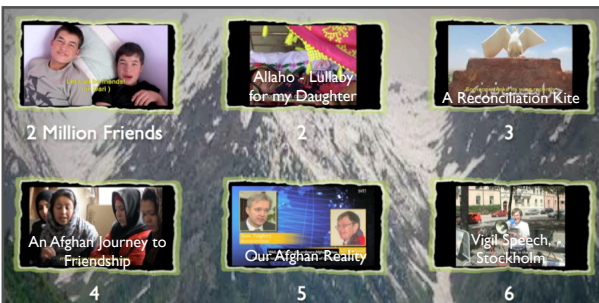
Sincerely,

JAN VIKLUND • GANDHI TODAY • [www.GandhiToday.org](http://www.GandhiToday.org)



# AFGHANISTAN CAN'T WAIT

## OUR JOURNEY TO FRIENDSHIP



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*We are Afghan college students and youth who started this journey in 2008.*

*The Afghan Peace Volunteers are a grassroots group of ordinary, multi-ethnic Afghans seeking a life of nonviolence, the unity of all people, equality, and self-reliance. We seek non-military solutions for Afghanistan, and do not work for the benefit of any political group or religion.*

*We are ordinary Afghans who have built relationships with ordinary people in other parts of the world, including with international peace builders.*

*Internationals have volunteered to organize groups to visit Afghanistan in bearing witness to the ground realities. Internationals have also used available resources and on-line tools to create person to person connections and opportunities for genuine education about Afghanistan and the world, in order to 'awaken' the world's conscience about a true and humanitarian approach to the challenges facing our common humanity.*

*To date, through the Global Days of Listening program ([www.globaldaysoflistening.org](http://www.globaldaysoflistening.org)), the Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers have conversed and nurtured relationships with international friends from the the United States, Canada, Sweden, Australia, Singapore, Cambodia, Vietnam, Germany, Italy, South Sudan, South Africa, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Israel/Palestine, Denmark, Poland, Czech Republic, France, Mexico, Pakistan, Iraq, Iran, India, and others.*

