

HANA *forum*



Hjelm Wallén



Wardak



Fridolin



Kouvo

AFGHANISTAN – How does one build peace?

Hanasaari – the Swedish-Finnish Cultural Centre
United Nations Day, Saturday 24 October 2009 2:00pm - 4:00 pm

Afghanistan has been torn asunder by war and totalitarian regimes for decades. Since the Taliban regime lost power following the invasion of the United States in 2001, there has been a great international effort to establish peace and democracy in the country. Tens of countries are involved in this effort to strengthen Afghanistan's civil society. The conflict in Afghanistan has become a touchstone for how international conflicts can be resolved. A military victory does not guarantee peaceful development, which the example of Afghanistan clearly shows. It requires work on a broad front and at many levels in order to build a functioning society. Civil crisis management is the key to permanent improvement.

Hanaforum endeavours to shed light on the conflict resolution process in Afghanistan by discussing the contributions in civil crisis management made by small countries, such as Sweden and Finland. Do Sweden and Finland possess some special expertise? What is the current situation in Afghanistan and does the international peace mission have any possibility of achieving permanent peace? Has civil crisis management fallen into the shadow of the more comprehensive military mission? How much of the public's trust does Afghanistan's political leadership and administration enjoy? The process surrounding Afghanistan's parliamentary elections in September provides a natural opening for discussion.

Welcome

Gunvor Kronman

Director, Hanasaari – the Swedish-Finnish Cultural Center

Speakers

Lena Hjelm-Wallén, former President of Swedish Committee for Afghanistan, former Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mirwais Wardak, Programme Director at Cooperation for Peace and Unity, Afghanistan

Sari Kouvo, Head of Afghanistan Program at International center for transnational justice

Gustav Fridolin (moderator), Journalist, Writer and Teacher, former Member of the parliament (Green Party)

Language: The language of the seminar is English.

Attendance is free but requires advance registration by 20 October. Please register at www.hanaholmen.fi.

Queries: Hanasaari – the Swedish-Finnish Culture Centre,

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Organizers: Hanaforum is organised by the Swedish-Finnish Cultural Centre in Hanasaari in co-operation with the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and Finnish United Nations Association and Globsol 2009.



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