

November 28, 2007

**PRESS RELEASE/MEDIA ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Attention: Assignment editor

**CANADA SHOULD RE-ORIENT ITS AFGHAN MISSION TOWARDS
DIPLOMACY, DEVELOPMENT, AND REAL SECURITY FOR AFGHANS –
CANADIAN NGOS SAY.**

A number of Canadian Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) will appear before the Commons Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development on Thursday, November 29th at 11 a.m. to stress a non-military perspective on Canada's role in Afghanistan. They will emphasize the importance of better development, more diplomacy and the separation of the military from the humanitarian and development efforts. They will also present concrete suggestions about what Canada can do to help bring about a negotiated and lasting peace in Afghanistan. Information presented is for input for the Committee's study on Canada's role in Afghanistan, which will be presented to the House of Commons on December 14, 2007.

The presenters are part of the Afghanistan Reference Group, a network of Canadian NGOs with involvement in Afghanistan.

Below are the details for the presentation to the Standing Committee:

What: Representatives from the Afghanistan Reference Group (ARG) present to the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development.

Who: *Emmanuel Isch*, World Vision Canada
Gerry Barr, Canadian Council for International Co-operation
Graeme MacQueen, Centre for Peace Studies, McMaster University
Gerald Ohlsen, Group of 78
Lina Holguin, Oxfam Quebec
Mirwais Nahzat, WUSC
Stefan Lehmeier, Canadian Peacebuilding Coordinating Committee

When: Thursday, November 29 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Where: Parliament Hill, 308 West Block

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All participants will be available for interviews following the event.

For additional information or to schedule an interview, contact:

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