



EMERGENCY USA

LIFE SUPPORT FOR CIVILIAN
VICTIMS OF WAR AND POVERTY

1016 Lincoln Boulevard, Suite 211
San Francisco, CA 94129

www.emergencyusa.org
info@emergencyusa.org

1-888-501-EUSA

New York Times Magazine Cover Story Provides Insight into *EMERGENCY*'s Surgical Centers for War Victims in Afghanistan

EMERGENCY USA brings attention to civilian victims of war

EMERGENCY USA is amplifying the voices of civilian victims of war in Afghanistan by providing Americans insight into the daily realities of war, as seen by those most affected: the Afghan civilian population. A recent New York Times Magazine cover story by Luke Mogelson gives those caught in the crossfire a megaphone. It is a wake-up call to the American people, whose tax dollars support this war.

Pacifists in the Crossfire: The Kabul Hospital That Treats All Sides highlights the complexities of providing medical support in theaters of war. *EMERGENCY* goes to great lengths to maintain neutrality, treating all patients regardless of nationality, gender, religion, ethnicity, and political alignment. Most often, the patients are civilian victims, up to 90-percent, and more than one third are children under age fourteen. *EMERGENCY*'s hospitals in Kabul, Lashkargah and Anabah are constantly working at maximum capacity. Every year, for the past decade, more than 30,000 men, women and children, victims of mines, explosions and gunfire have filled our hospital wards; all have received free, high quality treatment.

Pacifists in the Cross-Fire is, at times, quite graphic. Mogelson describes in vivid detail what he has witnessed in war-torn Afghanistan, including the carnage following a suicide bombing that injured and killed many civilians. Mogelson states: "It's easy enough to dismiss pacifism as quixotic or naïve. But nowhere does it appeal more strongly to reason than among the wounded and the maimed."

The greatest gift the New York Times Magazine article bestows is bringing to public consciousness, and conscience, the reality behind the daily lives of civilians. While some lead the public to believe that the war is going well, *Pacifists in the Cross-Fire* states that in 2011 more than 3,000 civilians were killed by the war, more than any year since 2001. As true pacifists caught in the crossfire, *EMERGENCY* has provided free of charge high quality treatment to over 3 million people in Afghanistan since 1999.

We invite members of the press to contact us for questions or to schedule interviews.

EMERGENCY USA is an independent nonprofit organization established for the purpose of raising awareness through education about a culture of peace and respect for human dignity, and raising funds and community support for medical care for victims of wars and poverty. The programs we support provide free-of-charge, high-standard medical and surgical care in war-torn areas. All facilities are designed, built and managed by the Italian NGO *EMERGENCY* where specialized international staff is committed to training local medical personnel.

Since 1994, *EMERGENCY* has treated over 4.7 million people in war-torn areas with high standard and free of charge medical and surgical care, promoting a culture of peace, solidarity and respect for human rights worldwide. In addition to the program staff, over 4,000 volunteers in Italy, US, UK, Switzerland, Japan and recently in Brussels, Belgium help make this work possible.

Contact: Eric Talbert, Executive Director
EMERGENCY USA - Life Support for Civilian Victims of War and Poverty
888-501-3872 - www.emergencyusa.org

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