

Democratic Labor Party

Queensland Branch

MEDIA RELEASE

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ADF OUT OF AFGHANISTAN

The Queensland Senate Team leader for the Democratic Labor Party has today called for a swift withdrawal of Australian troops from Afghanistan.

“In a war between Muslim ideologies, Christian participation should be minimised and if possible ended,” said Tony Zegenhagen. “The war against the Taliban has honourable motives, but there is no reason why Australians who joined the ADF to defend our nation should be ordered to lay down their lives in an internecine conflict which is not Australia’s war.”

“Australia should call on the UN and NATO to establish an international Islamic army to replace coalition forces currently involved in the conflict. Volunteers could come from a number of Islamic nations to join with volunteers and conscripts from Australia, the US, Britain and Europe. ”

“Many young Moslems around the world should jump at the chance to help re-establish and rebuild a free and democratic Afghanistan after years of turmoil.”

“In the meantime, the Australian Government should amend the CRIMES (FOREIGN INCURSIONS AND RECRUITMENT) ACT 1978 to ensure that Australian citizens may serve against the Taliban in Afghanistan in any capacity, whether under command of NATO or the USA or UK Military or as contractors or as employees of the CIA or of MI6, or in the employ of the legitimate Afghan Government. The Defence Forces should grant leave without pay with no loss of seniority to any member of the ADF who wishes to serve in Afghanistan.”

The international force proposed by the Democratic Labor Party would comprise approximately 200,000 soldiers, under the command of the newly revamped Afghan National Army (ANA) which currently has a force of about 150,000.

Tony Zegenhagen, who served in the RAN as a submariner, and who remains well informed on defence issues, said “The ANA would welcome the support of foreign soldiers of the same faith and culture and at this stage of rebuilding this is the most honest, constructive and compassionate option available to the people of Afghanistan.”

In conclusion, Tony Zegenhagen described the Democratic Labor Party as the party genuinely committed to promoting peace in Afghanistan. “The Greens want Australia out of Afghanistan, because the Greens automatically hope for any victory against Western civilisation.”

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