

Canada and Afghanistan – an Editorial for Television

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Ladies and Gentlemen...

It's time for our Canadian soldiers to get out of Dodge...or in this case, Afghanistan.

Our soldiers joined a multi-national force on the ground in Afghanistan more than four years ago – in a thinly-veiled attempt to bring democracy to the area and to oust the oppressive Taliban regime.

I have just three reasons to support my opinion.

Number One: 143 Canadian soldiers have paid the ultimate price so far. They gave their lives for a conflict that Canada has no reason to support.

We have lost more soldiers in the last three years than we have since 1953 and it has got to stop. It's not in our interest to put our young men and women in harm's way in a struggle that can't be won.

Secondly, Canada has developed a reputation as a peace-loving nation. Ever since 1953 in Korea, Canada has adopted the role of peacekeeper.

We've gone in after several wars have ended and mopped up the messes left by others. That role was further fortified with our soldier's efforts in Somali, Rwanda, Bosnia and now in Afghanistan.

However, our peacekeeping status is being jeopardized because our troops are actually engaging Taliban resistance forces in a conflict that has essentially become a civil war. Clearly, this is not what we signed up for. Our role was to go into the country and to help maintain order.

Our troops are supposed to provide basic services, deliver humanitarian aid, help with border protection, and back national reconciliation efforts.

Lastly, this beloved country of ours is facing a recession. Instead of fighting a war that can never be won, the government's tax dollars are better spent strengthening our economy.

If Afghans truly want a quasi-democratic system and at least some of the freedoms we currently enjoy, then Canada can serve as a resource only – we're not prepared to fight their battles for them.

It only took the Soviet Union 14 years to realize Afghanistan was a lost cause. How long will it take the United States and Canada to come to the same realization?

Our current role in Afghanistan is due to end in 2011 but as far as I'm concerned, it should end a lot sooner than that.