

Before We Go To War

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According to the Los Angeles Times (reported 5/22/2001), in May the Bush administration (represented by Gen. Colin Powell) delivered \$43 million dollars to the Taliban government. It was and is common knowledge that the Taliban are the largest human rights violators on the planet. It was and is also known that the Taliban are knowingly protecting Osama bin Laden, the worlds most notorious terrorist.

With 24 hour a day news coverage on the Attack on America and open discussion about a prolonged war most assuredly involving the death of many in our military as well as innocent civilians, the Bush administration needs to answer the following. Why did you give the Taliban \$43 million dollars and what did they do with the money? I am not being unpatriotic by asking this question. I believe it is unpatriotic NOT to ask this question.

The probable death of our soldiers and innocent civilians should weigh heavy on our minds. It may be unavoidable, in which case I will stand shoulder to shoulder with my fellow Americans and support the action. But the action must be an attempt for justice, not vengeance. Before we act, we still have many questions to be answered. Patriotism is great. But blind patriotism like blind religious fanaticism leads to tragedies like 9/11/2001. Informed patriotism leads to justice, and I believe that deep down we all truly want justice.

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