

Funds continue to be raised to help youth in orphanage

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Green-on-blue attacks have occurred throughout the NATO-sanctioned mission in Afghanistan. I disagree with policies that limit

the ability of coalition soldiers to defend themselves while working with Afghan security. In 2014, my initial embed was cancelled

when I refused to have my coalition security changed to Afghan security. This was a new request by the Afghan government, and one that I disagreed with vigorously.

A few months later, Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist Anja Niedringhaus was shot and killed by her Afghan security. Her Canadian assistant was badly wounded. The Afghan commander who shot the unarmed women is in a Kabul prison.

That was the first time that I visited Camp Marmal, and I secured myself. The German base was very helpful. I did not have International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) or Afghan security on that trip. However, the Hungarian soldiers did provide me with protection when I was documenting at the Afghan border.

These are the flaws in the ongoing mission in Afghanistan. Journalists/media need to be secured by coalition and NATO



Contributed photo

Some of the 80 children at an orphanage in Mazar-e-Sharif, which Alison MacLean visited.

forces only. Political correctness costs lives in war zones.

Visiting the orphanage and delivering the aid to the 80 children and some families there was great. The kids had grown since my last trip, and some of them were speaking English to me.

I was able to do a proper needs assessment, as to how to continue helping the kids going forward.

I am currently raising funds to pay for mobile

Internet sticks, at a cost of US\$25 per month. I would like to purchase four mobile sticks per year, to ensure that the kids have access to computers and Wi-Fi. At this time, the director is using her phone to access Wi-Fi.

I have arranged to send in nutritional supplements and protein powders and vitamins to improve the children's nutritional needs.

My visit to the Afghan police base enabled me to deliver the body armour and uniforms. The officers were very happy with the vests.

They were surprised by the comfort. This gift from the Surrey Gang Task Force was gratefully received.

The policewomen need to have their footwear updated. They require 150 pairs of shoes, and a local supplier will provide the footwear for US\$25 per pair. Supporting local business is integral to the economy.

When *Burkas2Bullets* is released in 2017, some of the funds from the video-on-demand and broadcast sales will be used to support the orphanage and the

police women. While writing this article in Dubai, I was able to think about my endgame for Afghanistan.

I will continue to use my camera as a tool to counter the insurgent radicalization that has spread on social-media sites. Factual documentation is very important to counter the posting of false news stories and propaganda.

We are living in very dangerous times. Afghan women and children are the catalyst of change in their country.

They are the real success story behind the NATO mission. They need world support for another generation.

Then we will see true change and progress.

Burkas2Bullets will premiere at Vancity Theatre in Vancouver on Feb. 2 at 7 p.m. Admission is free, but donations will be accepted at the door for the orphanage.

For further information, or to donate to the 2017 shipment, email tombboy_productions@yahoo.ca or visit www.tombboyproductions.tv or the *Burkas2Bullets* Facebook page.

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WHITE ROCK City News

Holiday Hours at City Facilities

City Hall will be closed from Saturday, December 24 to Monday, January 2. Regular work hours will resume on Tuesday, January 3.

Operations
The Engineering and Municipal Operations building will be closed on December 26, 27 and January 2.

Recreation Facilities
Centennial Park Leisure Centre office, Kent Street Activity Centre, Centre for Active Living, and White Rock Community Centre:

- 19 - 23 December - 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- 24 - 27 December - Closed
- 28 - 30 December - 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- December 31 - 2 January - Closed

Regular operating hours return on Tuesday, January 3. Please note that Centennial Arena will be open different hours to accommodate Holiday Break Skates

Green Waste, Recycling and Garbage Collection Schedule

The Engineering and Municipal Operations building will be closed on Monday, December 26, Tuesday, December 27 and Monday, January 2. There will be no residential solid waste collection provided on these days. Regularly scheduled residential curbside solid waste collection for **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27** will be collected one day later on **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28**. There is no change in the solid waste collection schedule for the rest of the week. Information on collections in White Rock is available at: www.whiterockcity.ca/recycle

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