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Local peace movement strong

Monterey County's peace movement just became more visible with the largest-ever rally at Window on the Bay. Demonstrators from a cross section of political persuasions reflected the majority American view that it's time to end the wars. Outrage was expressed at the ruinous cost in lives and treasure to the United States, at the continuing contravention of our laws and international covenants and at the loss of freedom through the Patriot Act.

It's time to say no to the wanton destruction of other people's lives and land. Security will not grow out of war; it will be nurtured by listening to others and helping with their aspirations.

In December, President Barack Obama evaluates the plan for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan in July 2011. Generals are advising postponement until 2014. That is unacceptable.

What is acceptable is negotiation with Afghan leaders, leading to the proposed July 2011 drawdown of troops. As Assemblyman Bill Monning stated at Saturday's rally, every war ends at the negotiating table. Why delay?

The rally encouraged us to join together and raise our voices to be heard in Washington. Information is available at the Peace Resource Center www.peacecentral.org and from the Peace Coalition www.peacemonterey.org.

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