

Sweden's Afghanistan War, the Swedish war in Afghanistan requires a White Paper

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Thagesson G. Peterson, the former defense minister

The costs of the Afghan war is unimaginable and frightening. They have years and years mörkats for parliament and the Swedish taxpayers. It's time for a White Paper on the Swedish war effort, writes former defense minister Thagesson G. Peterson.

Afghanistan war has now been going on for almost twelve years without peace is achieved. The situation in Afghanistan has even gotten worse than when the war started. Civil society has been damaged in the past. Corruption and drug trafficking has increased. Millions of people have been killed, injured and displaced.

In order to clarify ambiguities and misleading descriptions on Sweden's participation in the war is a white paper completely necessary. Both of moral and honorable reasons against the Swedish people. An expert commission must be set up to deal with falsehoods and secrecy.

The motive for the war has constantly shifted; democracy would be strengthened, corruption and drug production would be fought, women's position would be strengthened. When none of this has been achieved has Försvarshögskolan harsh declared that Sweden is the war in order to qualify as a military partner of NATO and the United States for future international military operations. To train Sweden for war in other words!

Started without clear UN mandate

The war started without a clear UN mandate and is also no UN operation. It is NATO's war. The soldiers do not appear in the UN blue berets without NATO's helmets. It was the U.S. and Britain started the war.

It was said that Sweden is in Afghanistan on a peace mission. But that's not true. Parliament's decision was a 'peace enforcement mission, that is, with the right to kill. What Sweden has

done in Afghanistan feels no longer outsiders. The questions are waiting for their response. Several documents, including the so-called incident reports on Swedish ISAF soldiers' involvement in the conflict and perhaps killing, the Armed Forces classified. Something invitation of Swedish participation in the war has not been found in government offices.

Enormous expenses

The costs of the Afghan war is unimaginable and frightening. They have years and years mörkats for parliament and the Swedish taxpayers. Are training costs? Or the extensive renovation costs of the defense expended in Afghanistan? Is the hidden costs of re-prioritizing in materials procurement to? And the cost of the special military helicopters of several billion dollars? Recently it was reported that a newly built base that has never been used, it must be demolished. This increase war costs by 250 million.

National Audit Office has directed a devastating strong criticism that the real costs come to. But it has not bothered parliament, even though it is not about some small sums but about several billion. If you translate the U.S. calculation method to Swedish conditions and assumes that a Swedish soldier costs the same as an American, would Sweden actual costs of Afghan war to amount to well over 30 billion Swedish kronor. An independent review must take place.

There is another important thing to tell the Swedish people. On 3 June last year visited the U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton Sweden for talks with the Swedish government. Data came out after the visit that she would have received assurance of continued Swedish participation in the Afghan war, that is, even after 2014, in what is called the Continuation War. This was partly confirmed by the Defense Enstrom. However, if no formal agreement exists or not we do not know.

AMAZING

On the People and Defence Conference in Salen in years slipped out of NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen when he said that Sweden is already sitting at the negotiating table for a prolonged war. What's the deal with that? I think it's amazing that it does not become a public debate on the Swedish war adventure in Afghanistan and its enormous costs.

Despite the already huge cost Sweden may not save a single penny to rehabilitate and provide economic and social assistance to returning Swedish soldiers and officers, when they will return to a normal civilian life here at home.

Thagesson G. Peterson

Former defense minister