

Film Screening of "Rethink Afghanistan" and Discussion with H. Candace Gorman, Lawyer for Two Guantanamo Bay Detainees, and Anthony Wagner, Iraq War Veteran.

On Saturday, December 12, Chicago World Can't Wait hosted a screening of Robert Greenwald's documentary "Rethink Afghanistan" - a hard-hitting film that focuses on the human and financial costs of combat in the Middle East to challenge the notion that Afghanistan is "the good war." The screening was held at the Sulzer Regional Library on Chicago's north side. The room was filled with people from the neighborhood as well as activists. During the screening, the room was hushed. The film contains unforgettable images of the suffering and casualties that have resulted from U.S. bombing in Afghanistan - hopeless children in bombed out villages without shoes, burn victims, broken bodies. Greenwald's film dissects the administration's justifications for this war while forcefully arguing that troop escalation threatens to entrench America in an unwinnable, unwanted war that only empowers the resurgent Taliban.

After the film, Candace Gorman, member of the War Criminals Watch Advisory Board, talked about her experiences as legal counsel for two Guantanamo Bay detainees and shared her concerns regarding human rights abuses at U.S. prisons in Afghanistan. She explained how difficult it was to meet and talk with the detainees that she represents. Sadly, they are still in detention, without charges or trial. Anthony Wagner talked about his experiences as an Iraq War veteran and the difficulties veterans face with post traumatic stress syndrome and getting treatment. The audience asked Candace Gorman and Anthony Wagner many questions. Almost the entire crowd stayed for the discussion long after the film had ended. Most people didn't leave until the library closed. Clearly, this event was very engaging.