

Dear colleagues,

We would like to invite you to the following **KOFF Afghanistan Roundtable**:

## **“Rethinking Conventional Refugee Solutions in Afghanistan: Mobility as a Key Livelihood Strategy”**

**Date: Wednesday, 26 March 2008, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**Location: swisspeace, Sonnenbergstrasse 17, Bern**

**Guest speaker: Alessandro Monsutti, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva**

The roundtable will include a presentation by Alessandro Monsutti, followed by a Question & Answer session and a discussion.

### **☞ About the topic: “Rethinking Conventional Refugee Solutions in Afghanistan: Mobility as a Key Livelihood Strategy”**

During decades of war, Afghanistan has seen millions of people seeking refuge abroad, particularly in Pakistan and Iran. Although many of these refugees have returned after the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001, a considerable number of them continues to live abroad.

Alessandro Monsutti's research found that traditional approaches towards refugees, focussing on refugees displaced by war who will return once the fighting has ceased, do not accurately capture the reality and complexity of the Afghan refugee problem. Rather than simply being driven by conflict, Afghan migration is characterized by on-going back- and forth movements in transnational networks that form part of a larger livelihoods strategy of the Afghan people. The roundtable will seek to analyse and discuss the policy implications of the findings of Monsutti's study.

### **☞ About the guest speaker: Alessandro Monsutti**

Alessandro Monsutti currently teaches social anthropology, migration studies, Middle Eastern studies and methods in social sciences at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva. He is also a research associate at the Refugee Studies Centre (University of Oxford) and at the Laboratoire d'anthropologie des institutions et des organisations sociales (CNRS-EHESS, Paris). He is the author of *War and Migration: Social Networks and Economic Strategies of the Hazaras of Afghanistan* (Routledge, 2005) and the co-editor of *The Other Shiites: From the Mediterranean to Central Asia* (Peter Lang, 2007) and of *Entre ordre et subversion: logiques plurielles, alternatives, écarts, paradoxes* (Karthala, 2007).

A more detailed agenda will be provided at the roundtable.

Please let us ([rahel.fischer@swisspeace.ch](mailto:rahel.fischer@swisspeace.ch)) know **by 12 March** whether you plan to attend the event. Thank you!

Finally, we are happy to inform you that the updated Swiss actors in Afghanistan list has been put on our website: <http://www.swisspeace.ch/typo3/en/peacebuilding-activities/koff/countries/afghanistan/index.html>

We look forward to seeing you in March. Best regards,

Sascha Müller