



'Why We Fight,' a poem by slain Canadian soldier Cpl. Andrew Grenon

The following poem, entitled "**Why We Fight**," was written in Afghanistan in 2006 by Cpl. Andrew Grenon of Windsor, Ont., one of three Canadian soldiers who died September 3rd, in an ambush in the volatile Zhari district. It was released following day by members of Grenon's family.

## **Why We Fight**

*I've often asked myself why we are here. Why my government actually agreed to send troops to this God-forsaken place. There are no natural resources. No oil, gold, or silver. Just people.*

*People who have been at war for the last 40 plus years. People who want nothing more than their children to be safe. People who will do anything for money; even give their own life.*

*I look into the eyes of these people. I see hate, destruction and depression. I see love, warmth, kindness and appreciation.*

*Why do we fight? For in this country, there are monsters. Monsters we could easily fight on a different battlefield, at a different time. Monsters that could easily take the fight to us.*

*Surrounding these mud walls and huts is a country in turmoil. A country that is unable to rebuild itself. A country that cannot guarantee a bright future for its youth.*

*Why do we fight? Because, if we don't fight today, on THIS battlefield, then our children will be forced to face these monsters on our own battlefield.*

*I fight because I'm a soldier.*

*I fight because I'm ordered.*

*I fight, so my children won't have to.*