



Author & U.S. Pediatric Surgeon Lt. Col. Dr. Chris Coppola Warns Troop Surge May Hurt Afghan Civilian Population, Particularly Children

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([PRWEB](#)) December 4, 2009 -- Author & U.S. pediatric surgeon Lt. Col. Dr. Chris Coppola warns [troop surge](#) may hurt Afghan civilian population, particularly children.

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Twice-stationed at the 332nd Air Force Theater Hospital in Balad, Iraq, Dr. Coppola bore witness to some of the most appalling aspects of war. After the surge of 2007, Dr. Coppola found that, although casualties to U.S. troops greatly decreased, the numbers of injured Iraqi children skyrocketed as Al Qaeda ramped up efforts to target civilians.

As his fellow surgeon Sal describes in the book, "It's the surge; with more troops we're seeing a lot less violence. However there's a side effect...Now that Al Qaeda can't get to the troops, they've been targeting civilians. It's frightening."

Having returned from Iraq, Dr. Coppola is turning his attention to a non-military effort to provide medical aid to children living in Kabul's largest internally displaced person camp. Due to violence from U.S. efforts to hunt down Taliban, thousands of families have fled Helmand Province. These families are currently living in makeshift camps on the outskirts of Kabul, where open defecation, lack of toilets, and poor sanitation, have accelerated the spread of disease.

For the month of December, 10% of book sales of Dr. Coppola's new memoir, *Coppola: A Pediatric Surgeon* made online at [War Kids Relief's](#) Helmand Children's Medical Fund (HCMF). War Kids Relief has formed a partnership with three children's hospitals in Kabul to create the HCMF, and as little as \$30 may save the life of a child.

Coppola: A Pediatric Surgeon in Iraq, recently featured on NPR's [Weekend Edition](#) and in *ForeWord This Week*, is now available at [www.coppolathebook.com](#). The book will be released nationwide in February. Dr. Pauline Chen, author of *Final Exam: A Surgeon's Reflections on Mortality* and NY Times columnist calls the book, "powerful, thought-provoking and unforgettable," adding, "You will never again look at the Iraq war — or any war for that matter — in quite the same way."

NTI Upstream is a Chicago-based publisher dedicated to the release of nonfiction that advances the conversation about issues of health and social welfare. Additional information can be found at [www.ntiupstream.com](#).

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