

## **Military Resistance 10C7**

# **U.S. Soldier Slaughters 16 Afghan Civilians In Panjwai District: “Samad Khan, A Farmer, Lost All 11 Members Of His Family, Including Women And Children” “No Taliban Were Here. No Gunbattle Was Going On”**

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

11 March 2012 By Taimoor Shah and Graham Bowley, The New York Times & AP  
[Excerpts]

A United States soldier walked out of a military base in a rural district of southern Afghanistan on Sunday and opened fire on three nearby houses, killing at least 16 civilians, including several children, local villagers and provincial officials said.

The American Embassy in Afghanistan quickly issued a statement on Sunday urging calm.

The soldier, reported to be an Army staff sergeant, returned to his base after the spree and is said to have turned himself in. US officials have confirmed he is in custody.

**Gul Bashra, the mother of the two-year-old who died, told the Associated Press:  
“They killed a child, who was two-years-old. Was this child a Taliban?”**

**“Believe me, I have not seen a two-year-old Taliban yet. There is no Taliban here. They are always threatening us with dogs and helicopters during night raids.”**

The incident took place in two villages in the Panjwai district of southern Kandahar province. The villages — Balandi and Alkozai — are about 500 yards away from a U.S. base. The shooting started around 3 a.m., said Asadullah Khalid, the government representative for southern Afghanistan and a member of the delegation that went to investigate the incident.

A resident of the village of Alkozai, Abdul Baqi, told the AP that, based on accounts of his neighbors, the American gunman went into three different houses and opened fire.

“When it was happening in the middle of the night, we were inside our houses. I heard gunshots and then silence and then gunshots again,” Baqi said.

Villagers in Belandi in the Panjway district of Kandahar, where the shooting took place, said the service member had attacked three houses, killing at least 16 in total. Five other villagers were wounded, they said.

Twelve of the dead were from Belandi, said Samad Khan, a farmer who lost all 11 members of his family, including women and children.

Khan was away from the village when the incident occurred and returned to find his family members shot and burned. One of his neighbors was also killed, he said.

“This is an anti-human and anti-Islamic act,” said Khan. “Nobody is allowed in any religion in the world to kill children and women.”

Khan demanded that Karzai punish the American shooter.

“Otherwise we will make a decision,” said Khan. “He should be handed over to us.”

The four people killed in the village were all from one family, said a female relative who was shouting in anger. She did not give her name because of the conservative nature of local society.

“No Taliban were here. No gunbattle was going on,” said the woman. “We don’t know why this foreign soldier came and killed our innocent family members. Either he was drunk or he was enjoying killing civilians.”

Afghan President Hamid Karzai says 16 people were killed in the shooting, including nine children and three women.

After the killings, villagers collected the bodies, and drove them to a nearby American military base to protest. Burn marks could be seen on some of the bodies, and the villagers said that five of the dead were young girls, age 6 or younger.

Panjway, a rural suburb of Kandahar, was traditionally a Taliban stronghold. It was a focus of the United States surge in 2010 and was the scene of heavy fighting.

The governor of Kandahar Province, Tooryalai Wesa, condemned the shooting, although he could not immediately confirm the number of people killed. A coalition spokesman in Kabul, Capt. Justin Brockhoff, said that it was not clear what had led to the incident. He said the civilians wounded in the shooting were taken to a coalition hospital where they were being treated.

One of the houses attacked in the village belonged to a tribal elder, according to a person from the village. “We don’t know why he killed people,” said the villager, Aminullah, who like many Afghans goes by a single name. Aminullah said the soldier was alone. “There was no fighting or attacks.”

In the statement, the United States military raced to head off Afghan outrage. “This is a deeply regrettable incident and we extend our thoughts and concerns to the families involved,” the statement said. In its comments, the American Embassy also sought to ease tensions, offering “its deepest condolences to the families of the victims of today’s tragic shooting.” “We are saddened by this violent act against our Afghan friends,” the statement said.

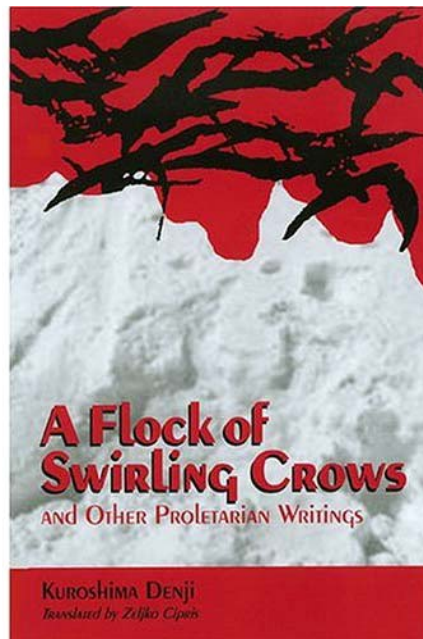
The Taliban called the shootings the latest sign that international forces are working against the Afghan people. “The so-called American peace keepers have once again quenched their thirst with the blood of innocent Afghan civilians in Kandahar province,” the Taliban said in a statement posted on a website used by the insurgent group.

There were reports of protests in Panjwai following the shooting and the U.S. embassy warned travelers in Kandahar province to “exercise caution.”

In a separate incident, four Afghans were killed and three wounded on Friday when coalition helicopters apparently hunting Taliban insurgents fired instead on villagers in Kapisa province in eastern Afghanistan, according to Abdul Hakim Akhondzada, governor of Tagab district in Kapisa.

Taimoor Shah from reported from Panjway, Kandahar Province, and Graham Bowley from Kabul.

**MORE:**



**Ishikawa and Kuroshima would understand: insert troops into a hell on earth and there’s no way to prevent atrocities. Yet the real fiends in their capital suites are never spattered with a single drop of blood. Solidarity, Z**

MORE:

**Afghanistan: Panjwai Massacre**  
**Vietnam: My Lai Massacre:**  
**Same Old Same Old:**  
**“They Started The War And They**  
**Know You Never Have A War**  
**Without Atrocities”**



[Vietnam GI, June 1970]

# MY LAI

## “C” Company the Goat ?

# Vietnam GI

Because when you come right down to it, the wrong people are on trial for atrocities.

Nixon, Westmoreland, Abrams and Mendal Rivers, the very bullshitters who are most eager to see Charlie Co. brought to justice, are finally the men most responsible for My Lai. They were the ones telling us that Ky and Thieu's corrupt government is worth dying for. They are the ones who taught us to kill, who put us over here in this mind-fucking shit hole and told us to go to it. In short, they started the war and they know you never have a war without atrocities.

[Vietnam GI, June 1970]

Laughin', Cryin',  
Livin', Dyin'  
Hee Haw  
Who's the jackass now?

Charlie Co. is the jackass. From Nixon and Abrams on down to all sorts of deluded fat ass lifers and selfrighteous civi-pigs there is a feeling that Charlie Co. really blew it. They didn't give candy bars to the kids of My Lai. They didn't pass out soap to the women. Instead they blew off the village.

*So the men of Charlie Co. fucked up. They didn't act like your friendly neighborhood Peace Corpsman. They acted instead like the ordinary sons of ordinary people.*

They acted like an outfit of short-timers and Purple Heart winners who'd been in the shit, who'd lived it and breathed it for a long time. They acted like men who

were taught to believe in and respect officers like Lt. Calley, who awarded himself an extra 7 days leave while his platoon was being chopped to shit in a minefield. They acted like men who were given the bullshit line about getting their GED's and going to an Army school and then were dumped into the infantry.

The men of Charlie Co. conducted themselves like men whose personal knowledge of the Vietnamese people came from encounters with whores, pimps, begging kids, black market operators, thieves, and of course the VC. They acted like men, a tight group of men, who for two months had seen their brothers getting mangled in mine fields and ripped off by snipers and who'd rarely seen anybody to shoot back at.

Sound familiar so far?

Then pay attention.

Charlie Co. is ordered by Lt. Col. Barker to hit My Lai 4. He tells Medina there's a crack VC battalion in the village. They are supposed to destroy it, then burn out the village.

Next day they move in. No VC. But a few of the villagers panic and run. The men, fucked over, psyched up, looking for revenge, open fire.

A lot of people fall.

The rest of them are too scared to move.

Next we see Snot Calley ordering his men to herd the people into ditches and to start cutting them down. Some do and dig it. Some get pissed off and sickened by the whole thing.

*Calley and Medina make a bullshit body count, find a few imaginary weapons, and pull out. A few days later Westmoreland commends Medina for doing a good job. The real story gets hushed up for the obvious reasons that nobody in the Army wanted the publicity*

But after 20 months word does get out. And as the story gets pieced together by the CID, the press takes it up. The Establishment is surprised, shocked and outraged... both because there was a massacre ("How could our boys have done such a thing?"), and because the Army covered it up.

After showing that their hearts were in the right place, they gave up the stage to the Brass with parting remarks to the effect of "well, if you are just men, you will not sweep this under the rug... you will see to it that the guilty are punished."

Enter the Brass, anxious to prove that they are indeed, just men.

How do they do it?

**They tell the ex-GIs of Charlie Co. that they want them to come to Washington, all expenses paid, to tell their version of the massacre so they can get the goods on Calley.**

**Half of the company gets sucked in. Now that the Brass has the whole story of My Lai, what do they do?**

*The two-faced bastards turn around and announce their intention to prosecute the whole company. But you say most of the guys are civilians now, so they are out of the reach of military "justice"? Well, not exactly... the latest is that the JAG is trying to find a way to extradite them to SVN for trial.*

**The Brass is really pissed at Charlie Co. But it's not because they give a fuck about the killing of innocent people.**

**If that were true they'd be a little more careful where they ordered air and artillery strikes. They'd also find it a little harder to just shrug when they hit our own men and say, "Well, accidents happen you know."**

**What they are pissed about is that news of the massacre has made them and their war look worse than they ever have before. So they know what they have to do. Put the screws to Charlie Co., to make it look to people back home and around the world that they believe in-fighting a good clean war.**

**At the same time they are making the GI's of Charlie look like bloodthirsty freaks. While everyone is talking about what a terrible thing it is they completely forget who is really responsible.**

**Because when you come right down to it, the wrong people are on trial for atrocities.**

**Nixon, Westmoreland, Abrams and Mendal Rivers, the very bullshitters who are most eager to see Charlie Co. brought to justice, are finally the men most responsible for My Lai. They were the ones telling us that Ky and Thieu's corrupt government is worth dying for. They are the ones who taught us to kill, who put us over here in this mind-fucking shit hole and told us to go to it. In short, they started the war and they know you never have a war without atrocities.**

**If you put men in the shit long enough, you're going to have My Lai's.**

**It's as simple as that.**

**If they were really concerned about putting a stop to massacres like My Lai they'd stop the war.**

**But right now their concerns are very clear; easy promotions, soft civilian jobs for retired Brass, and money for the owners of the arms industry. If by making the men of Charlie Co. into the scapegoat they can keep the ball rolling a bit longer you can bet your ass they'll do it.**

## Comment: T

If you're looking for people to blame for the endless evil shit that happens in this dishonorable Imperial war, blame the politicians that put the troops downrange, in an impossible situation.

Everything flows from the act of invasion and conquest ordered up by the greedy Imperial liars and traitors in Washington DC. They are the enemy.

MORE:

## The Body Of A Child Killed By A U.S. Soldier In Panjwai,



An Afghan woman gestures to the body of her grand child killed by a U.S. soldier in Panjwai, Kandahar province south of Kabul, Afghanistan, March. 11, 2012. (AP Photo/Allauddin Khan)

**Ishikawa and Kuroshima would understand: insert troops into a hell on earth and there's no way to prevent atrocities. Yet the real fiends in their capital suites are never spattered with a single drop of blood. Solidarity, Z**

MORE:



# **“Atrocities Were As Common To The Vietnamese Battlefields As Shell Craters And Barbed Wire” “The Thing We Had Done Was A Result Of What The War Had Done To Us”**

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, who sent this in.]

June 9, 2006 By Jason Motlagh, UPI Correspondent [Excerpts]

Allegations that 24 Iraqi civilians were gunned down in cold blood by Marines on a rampage in the town of Haditha have unlocked the demons of Vietnam's My Lai massacre, and other nameless atrocities that exist only in the darkest corners of the minds of former combatants.

Philip Caputo's "A Rumor of War" is a disarmingly honest account of his experiences as a Marine unraveled by violence. Arriving in Vietnam March 1965 with the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, the first U.S. combat unit in Indochina, Lt. Caputo returned home after 16 months spent knee-deep in a brutal war that drove him from reasonable to the unthinkable, earning a court-martial that nearly ended in a murder conviction.

Unlike many war veterans who lapsed into drink and dissolution, Caputo went back to Vietnam in 1975 as a Chicago Tribune correspondent and covered the fall of Saigon. His motive in writing the book was to show that evil is not inherent in certain men as some people are quick to conclude, "except in the sense that the devil dwells in us all."

Rather than describe the ill deeds of others, Caputo lays bare his own descent into murderousness. Mentally and physically depleted after 10 months in the bush, mired in hostile territory, he orders some of his men to go to a nearby village to seize a pair of suspected VC and kill them if they resist.

Half-mad, the GIs execute the pair without provocation, and Caputo finds himself laughing at the sight of one of the victims' head's blown out, only to realize their innocence in a case of mistaken identity, and his own bottomless guilt. His cavalier emphasis to "kill," in effect, was the green-light that sealed their deaths.

Caputo's story is, in the most fundamental sense, cut from the same cloth as My Lai and Haditha: Death tolls may vary, along with the equipment and expertise of the fighting men involved, but the constant is that "war, by its nature, can arouse a psychopathic violence in men of seemingly normal impulses."

“At times, the comradeship that was the war’s only redeeming quality caused some of its worst crimes -- acts of retribution for friends who had been killed,” Caputo continues.

**“Some men could not withstand the stress of guerilla fighting: the hair-trigger alertness constantly demanded of them, the feeling that the enemy was everywhere, the inability to distinguish civilians from combatants created emotional pressures which built to such a point that a trivial provocation could make these men explode with the blind destructiveness of a mortar shell.”**

Caputo testifies in his memoir that “atrocities were as common to the Vietnamese battlefields as shell craters and barbed wire.” If a raft of such incidents has already surfaced in Iraq, it is not a stretch to imagine that others remain buried.

“I could not conceive of the act as one of premeditated murder,” he writes. “It had not been committed in a vacuum. It was a direct result of the war. The thing we had done was a result of what the war had done to us.”

**MORE:**

## A Gathering Storm



March 11, 2012: An Afghan soldier faces civilians gathered outside a military base in Panjwai, Kandahar province after a U.S. soldier killed men, women and children in Panjwai. (AP Photo/Allauddin Khan)

**Ishikawa and Kuroshima would understand: insert troops into a hell on earth and there’s no way to prevent atrocities. Yet the real fiends in their capital suites are never spattered with a single drop of blood. Solidarity, Z**

**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT  
THE BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE  
WAR**

## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

**Civilian Occupation Staff Fear  
For Their Lives As Karzai  
Regime Takes Control Of Their  
Mercenary Guards:**

**“Me And My People, We’re Easy  
Pickings; We’re Meat”**

**“He Feared That The New Force  
Would Be Poorly Trained And End Up  
As Little More Than A Militia For The  
Variety Of Power Brokers Who  
Dominate Afghan Politics — Or The  
Taliban”**

**“The Conflict Is Getting Worse. It Will  
Continue To Get Worse.”**

March 10, 2012 By MATTHEW ROSENBERG and GRAHAM BOWLEY, The New York Times [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON — The management at a company that does aid and development work for the American government knows that some of its employees in Afghanistan are keeping weapons in their rooms — and is choosing to look the other way.

An Afghan government plan to abolish private security companies at the end of this month, along with the outbreak of anti-American demonstrations and attacks in the past month, has left the private groups that carry out most of the American-financed development work in Afghanistan scrambling to sort out their operations, imperiling billions of dollars in projects, officials say.

That, in turn, threatens a vital part of the Obama administration's plans for Afghanistan, which envision a continuing development mission after the end of the NATO combat mission in 2014.

Stan Soloway of the Professional Services Council in Washington, which represents about two dozen private aid contractors, said he knew of two companies that had already decided to finish their current projects and pull out, although he would not name them.

"They just made a decision that there was so much uncertainty, so much risk that they were just not going to continue," Mr. Soloway said.

An American employee of one of the aid companies was more blunt. Soldiers are armed and can defend themselves, he said, "but me and my people, we're easy pickings; we're meat." He asked not to be identified because his company told its employees not to speak with reporters about the security situation.

The employee was among the hundreds of civilian "mentors" from companies contracted by the American aid agency to help run the Afghan government who were pulled from their jobs during the unrest.

One of largest companies working for the aid agency said it planned to station security guards with its people who work in Afghan government ministries, according to an executive at the company, which is based in Washington.

The executive acknowledged that the setup was not ideal. The guards would not be allowed into the ministries, and would instead wait out front during the workday, clearly visible to all those who enter, which "isn't the image we want to show to everyday Afghans," the executive said. But "we've got to look out for our people."

Mohammad Hashim Mayar, an adviser to the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief, an umbrella group for nongovernmental aid organizations, said he feared that the new force would be poorly trained and end up as little more than a militia for the variety of power brokers who dominate Afghan politics — or the Taliban.

"Right now we think they will be with the government but I am not sure they are with the Taliban," he said in an interview. "They are working for their own interests."

CARE, for example, has already reduced its staff to about 450 employees from 1,100 six months ago, mostly because international aid is drying up. Budget cutbacks forced the

closing of two of its biggest programs: a teacher-training program aimed in large part at girls' education in the provinces, and a program of works projects in Kabul.

Most of its staff members are Afghans, but its international staff of 16 has also fallen to about 6, and aid workers who could travel more freely two years ago are now confined to the capital, Kabul, because of intensifying security worries.

Its Afghan employees are also finding the space in which they can safely work increasingly restricted.

**In a central Afghan province close to Kabul, local employees used to be able to reach a project they were working on in the next province by a route that took two hours; now they must make a circuitous 14-hour journey through two other provinces to avoid a widening conflict zone.**

**“It is getting harder,” said Jennifer Rowell, advocacy coordinator for CARE in Afghanistan. “The conflict is getting worse. It will continue to get worse.”**

**IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE  
END THE OCCUPATION**

**BEEN ON THE JOB WAY TOO LONG:  
PACK UP  
GO HOME**



U.S. soldiers from Task Force Bronco return to Forward Operating base Lone Star after a patrol in Pachir wa Agam district in Nangarhar province, eastern Afghanistan March 5, 2012. REUTERS/Erik De Castro

---

## MILITARY NEWS

# **285 At Madigan Had PTSD Diagnoses Reversed: “The Army Is Investigating Whether Madigan Doctors Who Reviewed PTSD Diagnoses Were Influenced By Concerns About The Cost Of Providing Such Benefits”**

March 7, 2012 By Hal Bernton, Seattle Times & Mar 8, 2012 The Associated Press

SEATTLE — The Army has identified 285 more patients at Madigan Army Medical Center in Washington state who had their diagnoses of post-traumatic stress disorder reversed by a forensic psychiatry team in the past five years.

**The investigation at Madigan was triggered, in part, by complaints from soldiers who had previously been diagnosed with PTSD but were later accused by the screening team of exaggerating symptoms and sometimes malingering.**

**The investigation also was spurred by concerns that Madigan doctors involved in the screening were unduly influenced by worries about the escalating costs of paying benefits to those who qualify for medical retirements.**

The Seattle Times reported Wednesday that the patients will be given the option of having their cases reviewed once again to determine if they suffer from PTSD.

Soldiers who are diagnosed with PTSD can qualify for a medical retirement that offers a pension and other benefits.

The Army is investigating whether Madigan doctors who reviewed PTSD diagnoses were influenced by concerns about the cost of providing such benefits.

Madigan’s screeners for PTSD were removed from that duty last month while the Army Medical Command investigates why diagnoses were changed.

The investigation was started in January, following complaints from soldiers whose PTSD diagnoses had been reversed. Seventeen soldiers contested their cases, and six had their diagnoses reinstated by doctors at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

---

# **A Growing Number Of Fort Hood Soldiers, Particularly Those With Children, Are Turning Up At Area Food Pantries:**

**“They’re Unable To Make Ends Meet On Their Military Salaries”**

**“We Get A Surge Whenever There Is A Group Returning From Overseas”**

February 26, 2012 The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — A growing number of Fort Hood soldiers, particularly those with children, are turning up at area food pantries because they’re unable to make ends meet on their military salaries, according to a newspaper study.

A review of Defense Commissary Agency reports for Fort Hood and the nation’s military installations show Fort Hood’s food pantry has served nearly 5,000 military families since 2008, and food stamp usage at on-post commissaries has grown from about \$285,000 in 2001 to \$1.4 million last year, the Austin American-Statesman reported Saturday

Lower-ranking enlisted members with families can fall below the federal poverty line, depending on how many children they have, said Jennifer Cernoch, president of the Texas chapter of Operation Homefront. The nonprofit civilian organization provides financial assistance to military families.

“They are not making a lot of money for the bravery they are showing for our country,” she told the American-Statesman.

Fort Hood is home to as many as 50,000 soldiers and the military’s busiest hub over the past 10 years for troop deployments to Iraq. Just outside the main gate is Killeen, a city of about 130,000 residents — many of them military.

The picture there, outside the gate, is just as stark.

Sprinkled throughout a swelling crowd of about 100 people outside the Killeen Food Care Center recently were men and women in U.S. Army uniforms, waiting with the others for their 10 days’ food rations for their families.

In line at the off-post food pantry was Sgt. Sandy Cornet, 28, recently returned Iraq war veteran, who waited in line with her husband and two of their five children.

"I got the information from two other soldiers," she told the American-Statesman.

"It's a lot of them that come here, but they change their clothes because I guess it's embarrassing. A lot don't like to ask for help."

A private first class with four years' experience makes \$23,774 a year in base pay and, if living off-post, housing compensation that can top \$15,000 a year. Even so, a soldier with five children would still be living close to what federal officials regard as impoverishment.

Compounding those woes are high-interest loans many soldiers carry that are offered by payday loan offices near Fort Hood.

"When you look at their resources, they are spending so much on the loans they don't have enough to pay for utilities, gas or rent," Casey Jackson, a financial specialist at Fort Hood who advises soldiers, told the newspaper.

Army Emergency Relief Assistance, an on-post nonprofit, offers interest-free, 15-month loans of up to \$1,500 as well as larger loans at low interest rates. Many soldiers use the service, but many choose to go outside the gates for payday or auto title loans, said Pat Swanner, an Army Emergency Relief specialist at Fort Hood.

The on-post loans require a commander's signature, which offends many soldiers' pride.

"They don't want the command to know," Swanner said.

Jackson, a counselor at Fort Hood's Personal Financial Assistance Center, said: "We are constantly working to change that mindset: It's not a negative, so quit viewing it as such."

Nevertheless, with the return of thousands of troops from overseas deployments, off-post food banks in Killeen are gearing up.

"We get a surge whenever there is a group returning from overseas," said Killeen Food Care Center pantry administrator John Ott.

### **Troops Invited:**

**Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or email [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.**

**Military Resistance Available In PDF Format**

If you prefer PDF to Word format, email: [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org)



**“The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops.”**  
**Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War**

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

# **Happy Anniversary: March 12, 1912 Women Warriors Win Bread And Roses**



IWW organizer Elizabeth Gurley Flynn addresses a strike rally

Carl Bunin Peace History March 12-18

The Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) won the Lawrence, Massachusetts, “Bread & Roses” textile strike after 32,000 workers (mostly young female immigrants who spoke twenty-five different languages) stayed out for nine weeks.

They were striking for better pay, a 54-hour workweek and safer working conditions: the equipment was dangerous and the air quality caused lung disease in nearly one-third of the workers before the age of twenty-five.



Bread & Roses victory parade

**“Bread and Roses,” by James Oppenheimer**

**As we go marching, marching, in the beauty of the day,  
A million darkened kitchens, a thousand mill lots gray  
Are touched with all the radiance that a sudden sun discloses  
For the people hear us singing: bread and roses, bread and roses.**

**As we go marching, marching, we battle, too, for men,  
For they are women’s children and we march with them again.  
Our lives shall not be sweated from birth until life closes;  
Hearts starve as well bodies; give us bread but give us roses.**

**As we go marching, marching, unnumbered women dead  
Go crying through our singing their ancient call for bread.  
Small art and love and beauty their drudging spirits knew;  
Yes, it is bread we fight for, but we fight for roses, too.**

**As we go marching, marching, we bring the greater days;  
The rising of the women means the rising of the race.  
No more the drudge and idler, 10 that toil where one reposes,  
But a sharing of life’s glories: bread and roses, bread and roses.**

January 18, 2002 By ELIZABETH SCHULTE, Socialist Worker

JAMES OPPENHEIMER wrote the song “Bread and Roses” for striking textile workers in Lawrence, Mass.

**He took the title from the banners of strikers, who demanded not just decent treatment at work, but the right to dignity and a better quality of life.**

The textile bosses in Lawrence had hired women and children because they thought they could pay poverty wages and never face resistance. And they employed

immigrants--who spoke more than 25 different languages--with the aim of keeping workers from uniting and fighting back.

But the bosses were wrong on both counts. More than 20,000 Lawrence workers struck against a 30-cent pay cut in January 1912.

Many workers were lured to Lawrence by advertisements in their home cities--throughout the Balkans and the Mediterranean--showing happy textile workers carrying bags of money home from their jobs. Instead, the new immigrants were greeted with miserable labor at poverty wages.

The strike came as a surprise to bosses, considering that the workers were largely unorganized. Because of its craft orientation and its policy of ignoring immigrant and women workers, the American Federation of Labor (AFL) had few locals in the textile industry.

AFL leaders actually opposed the Lawrence strike and by the end of the struggle had sided with the bosses -- denouncing strikers as anarchists and saboteurs. In contrast, the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), or Wobblies, saw the Lawrence battle as a key struggle in their strategy of organizing all workers into "One Big Union."

ALTHOUGH THE IWW had been organizing in Lawrence since 1905, at times working with the more conservative AFL unions, they accelerated their campaign when one of the largest mills, Atlantic Cotton, struck against speedups in 1911. The Wobblies sent in some of their best organizers--J.P. Thompson, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Big Bill Haywood, Arturo Giovannitti and Joe Ettor, whose ability to speak six languages was a tremendous asset.

But the backbone of the struggle was the workers of Lawrence themselves. In January 1912, Massachusetts passed labor reform legislation that limited women and children from working more than 54 hours a week. In Lawrence, the typical workweek was 56 hours. But because the law didn't have a provision preserving the two hours' pay, bosses instead decided to use the measure to cut wages.

Local 20, the Italian branch of the IWW, called a meeting on January 10 to discuss what action to take on payday. Some 1,000 workers showed up and voted to call workers on strike as soon as they received the checks.

**On January 12, strikers poured out of the mills, some of them forming flying squads to go into factories to bring out other workers. Mill owners ordered their goons to attack workers, hosing them down with freezing water in the subzero January weather. But workers resisted, going into the factories and smashing machinery and windows.**

**The governor used this as an excuse to call out the National Guard, which joined police on the streets in intimidating workers.**

**In the course of the struggle, Lawrence workers devised several new and effective strike tactics. One was the mass picket. Instead of small picket lines, Lawrence strikers organized all their forces to block workplaces.**

In the face of thousands of workers surrounding a factory, neither the bosses' scabs nor the police could do a thing.

And as they marched, sang and chanted in the thousands, workers built solidarity and a sense of their own power. Building solidarity among the different immigrant groups--the largest were Italians, Poles, Russians, Syrians and Lithuanians--was critical to the strike's victory.

Questions in the struggle were debated and decisions made in weekly mass meetings attended by thousands of strikers. After each meeting, workers sang the workers' anthem from the Paris Commune, "The Internationale."

Day-to-day decisions were made by a strike committee, which was made up of elected representatives from each of the different language groups.

THE ROLE of women -- wives of strikers and strikers themselves -- was key to the strike's success, and the IWW did everything it could to foster their participation. The Wobblies organized special meetings for women and encouraged them to take on leadership positions.

**"The women worked in the mills for lower pay and in addition had all the housework and the care of the children," wrote Elizabeth Gurley Flynn. "The old-world attitude of man as the 'lord and master' was strong. We resolutely set out to combat these notions. The women wanted to picket. We knew that to leave them at home alone, isolated from the strike activity, prey to worry...was dangerous for the strike."**

Women proved to be some of the fiercest fighters.

**On one occasion, a group of Italian women found a police officer alone on a bridge. They had taken his gun, club and badge and were in the process of removing his pants before throwing him into the water when he was rescued by the cavalry.**

**"The IWW has been accused of putting the women in the front," wrote Flynn. "The truth is, the IWW does not keep them in the back, and they go to the front."**

So it is no surprise that several women were elected strike committee delegates.

Concrete provisions were made to provide for workers' families. Strikers ran six commissaries and 11 soup kitchens.

**And when the Lawrence schools taught strikers' children that their parents were "un-American" for striking, the IWW's Haywood organized meetings for the kids.**

When the growing threat of violence from police and company goons made strikers fear for their children's safety, the workers devised a brilliant plan. Strike supporters in other parts of the country--mostly from New York City--were called on to house and care for the children for the strike's duration. When supporters gathered to meet the Lawrence children at Grand Central Station, it became a huge labor rally.

The strikers forced the mill bosses to settle in March--and won most of their demands. They got pay increases on a sliding scale, with the lowest-paid workers getting 25 percent raises; time and a quarter for overtime; and a guarantee that no striker would be discriminated against.

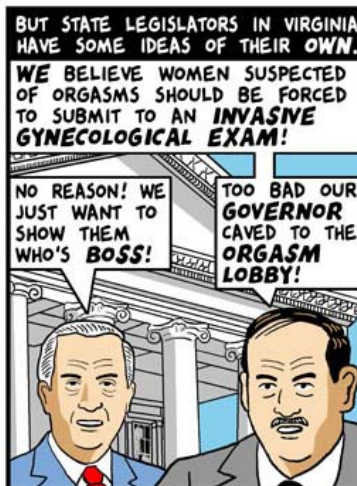
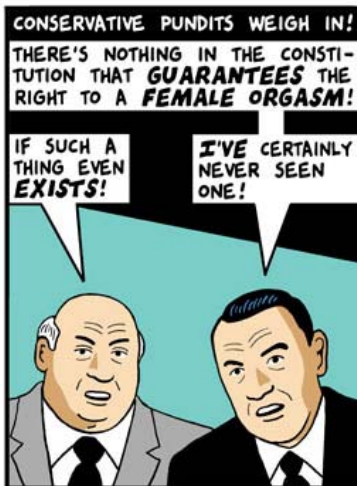
The victory encouraged a wave of strikes in several New England cities. For example, as soon as Wobblies arrived in Lowell, Mass., mill owners offered workers a 5 percent raise.

The history of this amazing struggle--especially its spirit of solidarity among men and women and between different immigrant groups--remains an inspiration today.

## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

### **THIS MODERN WORLD**

by TOM TOMORROW



---

## CLASS WAR REPORTS

# **New Orleans Cop Murders Unarmed Shirtless Youth In His Home During Marijuana Raid: “Eight People, Five Of Them Children, Inside When Police Barged In”**

**“‘I Want That Police Officer Booked On  
Murder, And I Want It Now,’ Said Helen  
Shorty, Allen’s Grandmother”**



Family members protest in front of NOPD headquarters during a news conference Thursday concerning the shooting of Wendell Allen. Allen’s grandmother is at left, his sister Karen Allen is at center, and his aunt Crystal Butler is at right. Ted Jackson, The Times-Picayune



Wendell Allen

March 10, 2012 By Brendan McCarthy, The Times-Picayune [Excerpts]

There were no city officials holding news conferences and no new revelations from police Friday about the city's latest fatal police shooting, the second within a week.

But the lack of news did little to settle a city fixated on the killing by New Orleans police of a 20-year-old unarmed man during a marijuana raid inside a Gentilly home.

Allen's family and supporters have already reached a conclusion: It was murder, they say, and some of them gathered outside police headquarters Friday morning to make themselves heard.

Though what prompted the shooting remains hazy, a more clear picture emerged Friday of the circumstances of the investigation that prompted the police raid that led to the shooting.

Allen was killed Wednesday evening in the stairwell of a Gentilly house by a single gunshot to the chest, fired by Officer Joshua Colclough.

**Police officials have acknowledged that Allen, a former high school basketball standout, was unarmed.**

**While not necessarily the focus of the probe into alleged marijuana dealing at the house, Allen was one of eight people, five of them children, inside when police barged in.**

The plainclothed cops, cloaked in raid jackets, were looking for marijuana inside the two-story, red-brick house at 2651 Prentiss Ave.

They allegedly found 138 grams -- about 4 1/2 ounces, more than what is typically in the possession of a casual user, but hardly the stash of a kingpin. Most of it was hidden in a black backpack inside a bedroom closet.

Initial police reports, warrant applications and court records make clear that the main target of the probe was Troy Deemer.

Deemer, 19, was arrested earlier Wednesday by Jefferson Parish sheriff's deputies. His arrest laid the groundwork for the police search of the Prentiss Avenue residence.

Earlier in the week, a confidential informant had tipped Jefferson Parish deputies off to a man named "Troy" who was allegedly selling marijuana from the Prentiss Avenue home, according to the NOPD's application for a search warrant. The JPSO deputy contacted the NOPD and officers began a joint investigation.

On Wednesday afternoon, investigators allegedly watched Deemer leave the home with a white package and drive away. Deemer, who was charged earlier this year in New Orleans on marijuana charges, was stopped in Jefferson Parish. Investigators allegedly recovered a 1-pound package of marijuana from his car. He was booked there with possession with intent to distribute marijuana.

Based on that arrest, the NOPD obtained a search warrant for the Gentilly property. Less than 30 minutes later, the officers surrounded the house and announced their presence. Receiving no response, they broke through the front door, New Orleans Police Superintendent Ronal Serpas said.

At some point during their search, Colclough fired the shot that felled Allen.

Five children, ranging in age from 1 to 14, as well as two young men, Brandon Boles and Davin Allen, were inside the house.

According to an initial police report, Boles, 19, and Davin Allen, 19, were found on the second floor of the house. Davin Allen, whose relationship to Wendell Allen is not clear, was lying on a bed in the master bedroom. Boles -- who appears to be mistakenly identified in the police report as "Brandon Allen" -- was discovered in another bedroom.

New Orleans Police Detective Ryan Vaught searched the house and found a black backpack "on top of a counter" in a bedroom closet, according to the report. A "vacuum sealable clear plastic bag containing vegetable matter" sat inside the backpack. And next to the backpack, police found a digital scale with marijuana atop it.

Both Boles and Davin Allen were taken to Orleans Parish jail and booked on a count of possessing marijuana with the intent to distribute.

**The initial police report, which includes a short gist of the incident, makes no mention of the shooting.**

Boles doesn't live at the Prentiss Avenue home, but in the 2200 block of Odin Street, according to court records. Deemer has several addresses listed in court records, none of which are on Prentiss Avenue. It's not clear where Davin Allen lives.

Wendell Allen last March entered an "Alford plea" -- a plea deal in which the defendant is adjudicated guilty but does not actually admit guilt -- in a felony case charging him with possessing marijuana with the intent to distribute. He was given a five-year suspended sentence and released.

The NOPD also arrested a 17-year-old juvenile at the Prentiss Avenue home in December 2010 for being a principal to a purse snatching. Serpas said Thursday that



someone in the house advised police that a handgun was “hidden inside the house.” It was recovered late Wednesday, though police have not said it led to the shooting in any way. The NOPD said Friday that the gun has not been reported stolen.

The joint investigation was spearheaded by the 3rd District’s narcotics unit, as opposed to the NOPD’s centralized major case narcotics squad, which usually handles larger busts. In the week prior to the raid, the 3rd District unit investigated several complaints, made a single drug case, confiscated a gun, as well as drugs, according to the NOPD.

The warrant served on the Prentiss Avenue residence didn’t appear to be considered a high-risk raid. In bigger cases, the narcotics units seek assistance from the NOPD’s Special Operations Division and its highly trained tactical unit. Typically, a city ambulance will be on standby, a block or two from the scene.

Police spokeswoman Remi Braden said Friday that no officers, other than Culclough, are under investigation. The other officers on the scene are considered witnesses and are being questioned, Braden said. Also, she said, Culclough has not been involved in any other shootings.

Officers are permitted to use deadly force, such as firing a gun, when they have a reasonable belief that they or somebody else is in imminent danger of death or bodily harm.

Allen’s family has said he was shirtless, wearing pajama bottoms at the time. Braden, the NOPD’s spokeswoman, confirmed that Allen was shirtless, but said evidence shows that he was wearing jeans and sneakers at the time of the shooting.

Several of Allen’s relatives gathered with community activists outside police headquarters Friday morning to decry the shooting, the NOPD’s actions and what they called a corrupt culture within the city.

“There have been egregious wrongs done to the black community of New Orleans,” said W.C. Johnson, of the United New Orleans Front, a conglomerate of several community activist groups.

Several of the protesters, who numbered about 25 in all, called Allen’s death murder.

“I want that police officer booked on murder, and I want it now,” said Helen Shorty, Allen’s grandmother.

“There is no justification,” said Tanya Peters, Allen’s aunt. “Mr. Allen was in his own home.”

Several of the demonstrators also referenced the other recent fatal police shooting, that of Justin Sipp, 20. Sipp allegedly fired on police officers last week during a traffic stop in Mid-City. Two officers -- Michael Asevedo and Anthony Mayfield Jr. -- were badly wounded. Sipp’s brother, Earl, was struck in the leg by a bullet. The NOPD has said the officer’s actions appear justified.

**Community activists raised questions about that incident and talked of grave suspicions about the NOPD, concerns that they said were underscored by the**

Danziger Bridge and Henry Glover cases, in which police were found to have killed civilians and covered it up.

“How can I believe anything the NOPD says when they have a history, a proven history?” Johnson asked rhetorically.

## DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



U.S. soldier in Bejjia village Iraq, Feb. 4, 2008. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the email address if you wish and we'll send it regularly with your best wishes. Whether in Afghanistan or at a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657.

## GET MILITARY RESISTANCE NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

If you wish to receive Military Resistance immediately and directly, send request to [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org). There is no subscription charge.

# Military Resistance [www.militaryproject.org](http://www.militaryproject.org)

*This is how Obama brings the troops home,  
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE.*



*Military Resistance is a near-daily news bulletin for service members  
[www.militaryproject.org](http://www.militaryproject.org)*

## **Military Resistance Looks Even Better Printed Out**

Military Resistance/GI Special are archived at website

<http://www.militaryproject.org> .

The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:

<http://williambowles.info/military-resistance-archives/>; [news@uruknet.info](mailto:news@uruknet.info);

[http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi\\_special/](http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/);

<http://www.albasrah.net/pages/mod.php?header=res1&mod=gis&rep=gis>

Military Resistance distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **Military Resistance has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is Military Resistance endorsed or sponsored by the originators. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research, education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice.** Go to: [www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml](http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml) for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

---

**If printed out, a copy of this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.**