

Military Resistance 10E10

UP TO THEIR NECKS IN BLOOD



This graphic is dedicated, with limitless contempt, to the dishonorable apologists for the Obama Imperial Government, which is busily killing U.S. troops and Afghani citizens.

These political lice may be easily identified.

They post an endless succession of horrified, shrieking, whining articles and comments condemning the assorted doings of various Republican politicians, national and local.

But they are deathly silent about the four years and continuing mass murders by the Emperor Obama, whose ass they kiss, and who spills the blood they lick up.

They prefer to blame the slaughter in Afghanistan on "NATO," rather than the Imperial government in Washington DC.

The stench of shameless hypocrisy follows them everywhere they go.

Afghanistan is Obama's war, front and center, top to bottom, side to side, and nothing less.

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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: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Rolla's Fallen Soldier



This undated photo provided by the U.S. Army shows Pfc. Richard L. McNulty III. U.S. Army Alaska officials identified McNulty of Rolla, Mo. as one of two military policemen who died in Afghanistan after their vehicle hit a roadside bomb. Three other soldiers were wounded when their vehicle hit the bomb Sunday, May 13, 2012 in Bowri Tana, Khost Province, Afghanistan. AP Photo/U.S. Army

May 17, 2012 By Shannon Beck, The Rolla Daily News

Rolla, Mo. —

The man who recruited Pfc. Richard McNulty III., 22, of Rolla, into the army spoke out about the young man's outstanding character Wednesday — one day after his death was confirmed by the Department of Defense.

"Out of the 250 people I've dealt with during my recruiting time, he was one of my favorites," Sgt. Terry Ford said.

According to the information released by the DOD Wednesday, McNulty joined the army in August 2010.

He died Sunday in Bowri Tana, Afghanistan when the vehicle he was driving hit an improvised explosive device.

One other soldier, Sgt. Brian L. Walker, 25, of Lucerne Valley, Calif., also lost his life. Three additional soldiers were wounded.

The soldiers were assigned to the 425th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska.

Ford said he is not privy to the details of McNulty's assignment, but, based on his position as military police, it is likely he was either on a patrol or escorting a convoy.

"He said he wanted to be an MP, which I was able to get him at the time because it was fairly easy to get MP back then," Ford said.

That was just shy of two years ago.

Ford said he met McNulty following the young man's first year of college. That one year was all McNulty needed to know that college was not the right move for him.

He came to the office hoping to find a better fit in the military. Ford says he was dedicated to his plans from the beginning.

"He knew from the point that he walked into the office that he wanted to join the Army," Ford said.

Ford described McNulty as a person with charisma and firm character.

"He had a great attitude," Ford said. "He never got down. Whenever he needed to accomplish a task he got it done and did whatever he had to do to push forward and make it happen."

Ford did not know how long McNulty had been in Afghanistan, but saw him in Rolla late last summer.

McNulty came to a military appreciation football game at the Missouri University of Science and Technology to talk to potential recruits about what the military had done for him.

Ford had his photo taken with McNulty that day, and has proudly displayed it on his Facebook page since word of McNulty's death began to spread early this week.

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

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

Afghans Trained By U.S. Command Become The Enemy: “The Shooters Were Close” “His First Thought: ‘Are Taliban Inside The Wire?’ But It Was Not The Taliban” “Interviews Conducted During A Week At This Outpost Provided A Rare And Detailed Account Of The Violence”

[Thanks to Phil Gasper, who sent this in.]

May 15, 2012 By MATTHEW ROSENBERG, New York Times [Excerpts]

COMBAT OUTPOST SANGESAR, Afghanistan —

A burst of gunfire snapped First Sgt. Joseph Hissong awake. Then came another, and another, all with the familiar three-round bursts of an American assault rifle — and the unfamiliar sound of its rounds being fired in his direction.

The shooters were close.

His first thought: “Are Taliban inside the wire?” But it was not the Taliban.

Over the next 52 minutes, as his company of paratroopers braved bullets and rocket-propelled grenades in the predawn darkness to retake one of their own guard towers in southern Afghanistan, they found themselves facing what has become a more pernicious threat: the Afghan soldiers who live and fight alongside the Americans.

The attack on Sergeant Hissong’s company, on March 1 at Combat Outpost Sangesar, left two Americans dead along with two Afghan assailants, but it was not the first time that Afghan soldiers had attacked forces from the American-led coalition, nor would it be the last of what the military calls “green on blue” attacks.

Already this year, 22 coalition service members have been killed by men in Afghan uniform, compared with 35 for all of last year, according to coalition officials.

Yet with the coalition as a matter of policy offering only the barest of details about the attacks — the episode at Sangesar, for instance, was disclosed in a 71-word

coalition statement — interviews conducted during a week at this outpost provided a rare and detailed account of the violence.

The attacks, and the personal animosity that officials believe have driven most of them, are threatening the joint-training model that is one of the remaining imperatives of the Western mission in Afghanistan.

American and Afghan soldiers were back out on joint patrols within a week. Security measures imposed immediately after the attack — like posting armed guards at the American mess hall — had fallen away by the end of the month.

After watching Afghan soldiers kick down doors and clear mud-brick farm compounds, “it’s hard not to like some of those guys,” said First Lt. Nicholas Olivero, 24, of Fairfax, Va.

“But I’d be lying if I said there was trust across the board.”

Yet Afghan soldiers still complain of being kept at a distance by the Americans, figuratively and literally. The Americans, for instance, have put up towering concrete barriers to separate their small, plywood command center from the outpost’s Afghan encampment.

Also still in place is a rule imposed by the Afghan Army after the attack requiring most of its soldiers to lock up their weapons when on base. The Afghan commanding officer keeps the keys.

One American soldier nonetheless advised a visitor to take an armed escort to the Afghan side of the base, which was about 100 feet away, “just in case.”

The Battle For Sangesar:

Sangesar, like hundreds of other coalition outposts scattered across Afghanistan, is split between American and Afghan forces and situated on a few acres in a remote and often hostile area.

Its structures are made of little more than sandbags, heavy-duty tents, plywood huts and Hesco barriers, hulking bales of canvas wrapped in wire mesh and filled with dirt.

The guard towers at Sangesar are essentially wooden frames filled out with sandbags and placed atop the base’s exterior wall of double-stacked Hescos.

Specialist Payton Jones, 19, was alone in one of the towers around 3 a.m. on March 1 when two Afghans sneaked up. They killed him with a bullet to the head.

Within minutes, Staff Sgt. Jordan Bear, 25, who was among the first soldiers on the scene, had been fatally wounded in a volley of fire from the tower.

When Sergeant Hissong, a 35-year-old on his third tour in Afghanistan, arrived moments later, bullets were still smacking into the ground near where Sergeant Bear had fallen.

The two Afghans in the tower — a soldier and a civilian teacher — were in an easily defended position. The only approach was up a funnel-shaped stretch of open turf that gave them a clear field of fire to repulse any counterattack.

Along with assault rifles, the Afghans had an American machine gun and their own rocket-propelled grenades. One RPG obliterated a sandbagged bunker between a pair of mortar pits at the center of the base, just moments after an American officer had dashed out of it.

Despite the gun and RPG fire, Sergeant Hissong and another soldier managed to sneak closer to the tower along a row of Hescos. But they could not take a clear shot at the tower's narrow entrance — its only opening — without dangerously exposing themselves.

They turned to their grenade launchers but were too close to the tower for the grenades to detonate once fired. Most landed with nothing more than a thud. The ones that did explode hit the tower's exterior, inflicting little damage.

Helicopter gunships were soon overhead but could not risk firing their missiles or explosive rounds — the base's fuel tanks were right next to the tower.

The paratroopers on the ground tried approaching the tower in an armored vehicle. But it was disabled with an RPG before it could be positioned to fire its powerful gun.

That left Sergeant Hissong and his comrade. After firing 17 grenades, they were down to their last one. They tried to position themselves so they could get a clear shot into the tower — and enough distance so it would detonate.

Instead, it bounced off a wall and exploded atop a thick fuel line, sparking a fire that quickly shot toward the main fuel supply: a rubber bladder as big as a swimming pool that was now separated from the flames by only a row of Hescos.

Racing to disconnect the line from the main fuel supply, Sergeant Hissong did not realize Company B had finally caught a break: Flames were also climbing the wooden stairs to the tower, filling it with smoke.

The Afghans in the tower pushed out an exterior window, jumped about two stories to the ground and ran. They made it roughly a hundred yards before being cut down by an Apache helicopter.

The fight was over.

But as the Americans and Afghans at the base began to regroup, they soon learned a third conspirator, an Afghan sergeant, remained among their ranks.

At the outset of the attack, the Afghan sergeant had gone to the outpost's entrance and shot the two guards — a fellow Afghan soldier and an American. Then he sneaked back to his bunk to wait out the fighting with the other Afghan soldiers. His undoing: He had not killed either man at the entrance.

The American was hit in the chest plate of his body armor, knocked down and badly bruised, but nothing more. The Afghan guard was shot clean through the shoulder, a serious but not life-threatening wound, and he quickly identified the third conspirator. Afghan forces detained him immediately.

The coalition and Afghan Army would now have a rare opportunity to interrogate an Afghan soldier who had turned on coalition forces; most are quickly killed in ensuing firefights. Why had three men attacked American soldiers they barely knew? Was it a personal grudge against Americans? Or had they turned to the Taliban?

The detainee has since presumably been asked those questions. But in a reflection of the official reticence to discuss green-on-blue attacks, his answers remain shrouded in secrecy. It is not even clear whose custody he is in.

THIS ENVIRONMENT IS HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH; ALL HOME, NOW



U.S. Army dog handler Aaron Yoder is treated by Private first class Cody Groninger from Alpha troop 4-73 Cavalry Regiment, 4th brigade 82nd Airborne division after sustaining injuries during a fire exchange with Taliban fighters while on a mission in the Maiwand district in Kandahar province, April 9, 2012. REUTERS/Baz Ratner

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

MILITARY NEWS

“Veterans Of The Occupations Of Iraq And Afghanistan Are Now Challenging The Occupation Of Chicago”

“Don’t Stand With These Generals That Continuously Abuse Their Own Service Members And Then Talk About Building Democracy And Promoting Freedom”

17 May 2012 By Amy Goodman, NationofChange [Excerpts]

Veterans of the occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan are now challenging the occupation of Chicago.

The unprecedented police mobilization, which will include, in addition to the Chicago police, at least the Secret Service, federal agents, and the Illinois National Guard, also may include extensive surveillance and infiltration.

Documents obtained through Freedom of Information requests by the activist legal organization Partnership for Civil Justice (PCJ) indicate what the group calls “a mass intelligence network including fusion centers, saturated with ‘anti-terrorism’ funding, that mobilizes thousands of local and federal officers and agents to investigate and monitor the social-justice movement.”

PCJ says the documents clearly refute Department of Homeland Security claims that there was never a centralized, federal coordination of crackdowns on the Occupy Wall Street movement.

Aaron Hughes and the other vets understand armed security, having provided it themselves in the past.

He told me the message he’ll carry to the military and the police deployed across Chicago: “Don’t stand with the global 1 percent. Don’t stand with these generals that continuously abuse their own service members and then talk about building democracy and promoting freedom.”

**Soldiers Had Their PTSD
Diagnoses Reversed “Because Of
The Costs Of Caring For Them”
“I Find That I Can No Longer Work In
A System That Requires Me To
Sacrifice My Professional And Moral
Principles To Political Expediency”
“The Army Clearly Realizes They Have A
Nationwide, Systematic Problem On
Their Hands”**

May 16 By Steve Vogel, Washington Post Company [Excerpts]

The Army launched a review Wednesday of its handling of post-traumatic stress disorder and other behavioral health evaluations at all of its medical facilities since 2001, in response to fears that some soldiers had their diagnoses reversed because of the costs of caring for them.

The review, ordered by Secretary of the Army John M. McHugh and Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno, follows disclosures that some soldiers found to be suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder had that diagnosis rejected during subsequent evaluations at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington state.

In reviewing those evaluations this year, Army investigators have found cases in which “the original PTSD diagnoses were more accurate,” according to an Army statement.

The Army will review diagnoses and evaluations made at all of its medical facilities.

Army leaders also have ordered an independent review by the service’s inspector general into whether the disability evaluation system affects the behavioral health diagnoses given to soldiers and whether the command climate or other non-medical factors affect the diagnoses, according to information given Wednesday to members of Congress.

The diagnoses are the first step in evaluating the amount of disability benefits a soldier receives.

In addition, the Army auditor general has been ordered to audit the Army Medical Command Ombudsman Program, which was set up to mediate for soldiers and family

members in the wake of the scandal over conditions at the former Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

“The Army clearly realizes they have a nationwide, systematic problem on their hands,” said Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.), chairman of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee, who requested the review at Lewis-McChord.

The Army’s review of 400 cases at Lewis-McChord has led to more than 100 service members having their PTSD diagnoses restored.

The controversy stems from the work of a special forensic psychiatric team that in 2007 began evaluating mental health diagnoses of service members preparing to leave the military.

The screening team reversed at least 290 PTSD diagnoses made by the military or the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Service members with such diagnoses are entitled to a 50 percent disability rating, a level at which the military is responsible for considerable medical benefits after retirement.

The Army is investigating whether the Lewis-McChord team used the cost of a PTSD diagnosis as a consideration in their evaluations, according to Murray’s office.

Three officers have been placed on leave while the investigation continues, including Col. Dallas Homas, the hospital commander, and William Keppler, the head of the psychiatry team.

A PowerPoint presentation that Keppler gave to staff members emphasized that every diagnosis of PTSD costs the military \$1.5 million in health benefits and pension payments.

Juliana Ellis-Billingsley, a member of the screening team, resigned in February. “I find that I can no longer work in a system that requires me to sacrifice my professional and moral principles to political expediency,” Ellis-Billingsley wrote in her resignation letter.

Army leaders had told Murray that the problem was isolated, but the decision to order a nationwide review indicates otherwise, the senator said.

“The Army clearly realizes they have a nationwide, systematic problem on their hands,”

**DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR
RELATIVE IN MILITARY SERVICE?**

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the address if you wish and we’ll send it regularly.

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 wars and economic injustice, inside the armed services and at home.

Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Phone: 888.711.2550

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.

“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.

“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

The Nixon administration claimed and received great credit for withdrawing the Army from Vietnam, but it was the rebellion of low-ranking GIs that forced the government to abandon a hopeless suicidal policy.
-- David Cortright; *Soldiers In Revolt*

“Autoworkers Under The Gun: A Shop-Floor View Of The End Of The American Dream”

[Book Review]

“Its Aim Was To Expose The Fraud Of The Employer And The Collusion Of The Union Bureaucrats While Spreading Ideas Of How To Resist Worsening Conditions On The Shop Floor”

Gregg Shotwell, *Autoworkers Under the Gun: A Shop-Floor View of the End of the American Dream*. Haymarket Books, 2012, 200 pages, \$17.

May 16, 2012 By Jenna Woloshyn, Socialist Worker

If you believed the media during the bailout of General Motors and Chrysler during 2009, overpaid, greedy autoworkers and unreasonable contracts were the cause of the U.S. auto industry's demise. That's what the 1 percent wants us to believe. Thankfully, there have always been fighters among the 99 percent to give us the shop-floor view.

Gregg Shotwell is one of those fighters. He helped create and organize a rank-and-file network in the United Auto Workers (UAW) called Soldiers of Solidarity and produced Live Bait and Ammo, a newsletter for fellow union members.

Autoworkers Under the Gun is a collection of articles from that newsletter, spanning 1999 to 2009, that chronicles Delphi Automotive Systems' spin-off from GM, its subsequent bankruptcy, and the crisis of the Big Three (GM, Chrysler and Ford) after the hit of the Great Recession.

The strength of this book is revealed in its subtitle: *A Shop-Floor View of the End of the American Dream*.

Shotwell's newsletter was unapologetically pro-union, and its aim was to expose the fraud of the employer and the collusion of the union bureaucrats while spreading ideas of how to resist worsening conditions on the shop floor.

Put together into a single volume, it is part working-class history and part riveting memoir.

Thanks to the author's gift for language, the book often reads like a novel, complete with heroes, villains and ultimately betrayal by people the protagonist should be able to trust.

Unfortunately, it's not a novel; we know the ending, and it's not happy.

Aside from the details revealed in the excerpts, readers are given only the bare bones of background information. But one need not be an auto industry history buff to understand the lessons behind this tale. It's the same story known by workers in industries across the board: offshoring and bankruptcy used as an excuse to scare workers into accepting increased production standards and concessions (i.e., union busting).

The book begins in 1999 at the UAW bargaining convention. The issue of the day was GM's plan to spin off its entire parts division into Delphi.

Shotwell was there, acting as both journalist and rank-and-file activist.

His reports included numerous testimonies from delegates passionately arguing for a fightback against this plan, as well dealing with other grievances built up over the years.

His own speech, like others, included practical ideas of how to preserve union power through this transition:

"Stop the Delphi spin-off dead in its tracks or just come out and tell us the truth now...If it is a done deal, we demand a national pattern contract for all parts plants, no matter what name they go by or how they are reconfigured on paper. We need wage and benefit parity--not prevailing wage, which is nothing more than a code name for wage cut.

"How can we hope to organize parts plants if all we have to offer is prevailing wage? They've got prevailing wage and it stinks. We want parity with the Big Three for all parts plants. Furthermore, we must demand portable pensions that travel with us wherever we go without losing credit, because we don't know who we will be working for tomorrow, or what name they will go by, or where or how they will dislocate us.

"Brothers and sisters, if you work for one of the Big Three today, beware."

The union leadership refused to take his and others' advice, and his warning wasn't heeded. What follows is a heart-wrenching story of concessions and betrayal, twice-- first at the hands of Delphi, then at the hands of the Big Three.

In April 1999, Shotwell wrote, "If you want to predict the future, you study history. In light of the wisdom gained thereby, you examine the present. The seeds of the future are evident in the here and now. Delphi plans to grow the business by gutting the union." Their tools for such an endeavor? Offshoring and bankruptcy.

When GM spun off Delphi, Delphi received all their machinery, property and patents for free. The pensions were fully funded, and they had no retirees. Start-up costs were virtually zero. Then they continued making and selling the same amount of parts using fewer workers.

How did they go bankrupt within six years? They purposefully underfunded the pensions, siphoned their profits to investments overseas, and then pleaded poverty. In bankruptcy court, their offshore investments were protected.

Shotwell explains:

“Because bankruptcy is easier than working for a living, it’s easier to profit by evading debt and responsibility to workers and retirees than by practicing innovative design, production and marketing techniques.

“Delphi is the test case. If the court allows Delphi to bankrupt U.S. operations while sheltering assets overseas, other multinationals will follow suit. When the smoke clears, they will return under another name.

“I worked 27 years for the same company. First it was called GM, then Delco, then AC Rochester, then Delphi. Management never changed. I may have forgotten a few of the aliases, but you get the picture; this isn’t a shakeout, it’s a shakedown.”

Union busting is the main problem causing declining unionization rates and working conditions for autoworkers, not offshoring jobs.

As Shotwell notes, “In the United States, there are more jobs in the Independent Parts Supply (IPS) sector today than there were in 1979 when membership in the UAW peaked at one and a half million. Profits, as well as jobs, are up in IPS. But wages are down.”

But the top brass of the union refuses to put up a fight. They sell concessionary contracts in exchange for job security. The problem is that layoffs continue even after workers accept the concessions. “Job security” turns out to be smoke and mirrors.

The idea of labor-management cooperation is, unfortunately, not unique to the UAW in the labor movement. What is particularly shocking, however, is the length the auto industry has gone to ensure that cooperation. The companies provide direct money to officials for “joint funds” programs.

Shotwell writes:

“While joint funds support many programs negotiated in our national contract, the funds are controlled by a corporation separate from GM and the UAW. GM supplies all the money for this separate corporation, but the method of funding is negotiated in our national contract. Half the board of directors of this tax-exempt corporation are UAW VIPs. These people control the programs and the money.

“About a third of our International staff receives salaries, allotments and expenses from this separate corporation. In other words, GM funnels money into the hands of UAW reps through the conduit of this separate corporation.”

If your union officials are so far in bed with the bosses that all you can see are indistinguishable lumps under the sheets, it would be easy to get demoralized.

Not Shotwell. Instead he fought back, urged members to do the same, and helped create the Soldiers of Solidarity.

His newsletter was not just working-class journalism; it was an organizing tool. He instructed members on work-to-rule methods and helped conduct a “vote no” campaign on substandard contracts. It’s an example from which all union members can learn, no matter what industry they are in. Indeed, his struggle feels rather universal at times.

He writes:

“I am used to fighting with management. I have accepted that it is part of my job to force management to provide us with the tools and the resources we need to manufacture quality products. It’s nonsense, but it’s the Delphi system. I am accustomed to calling out the union to enforce quality standards, safe work practices, and strict adherence to process control instructions.”

Substitute “manufacture quality products” with “teach quality education,” “provide quality health care” or “deliver quality service,” and substitute Delphi with any employer name you like, and that quote is recognizable to any worker.

The nature of the book, composed of individual newsletters, lends itself to some repetition. The most disturbing repetition, however, is that after we finish the story of Delphi, we’re treated to an equally poignant tragedy of the Big Three playing almost the exact same game.

The upside, as Shotwell observes, is that “There’s a fire that burns in the hearts of workers that can’t be snuffed out.”

This is a book for those of us with that fire.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Israel, Already One Of The World’s Most Negatively Viewed Countries, Has Seen Its Reputation Sink Even Lower In 2012

05/15/2012 By Ali Abunimah, ElectronicIntifada

Israel, already one of the world’s most negatively viewed countries, according to an annual BBC survey, has seen its reputation sink even lower in 2012.

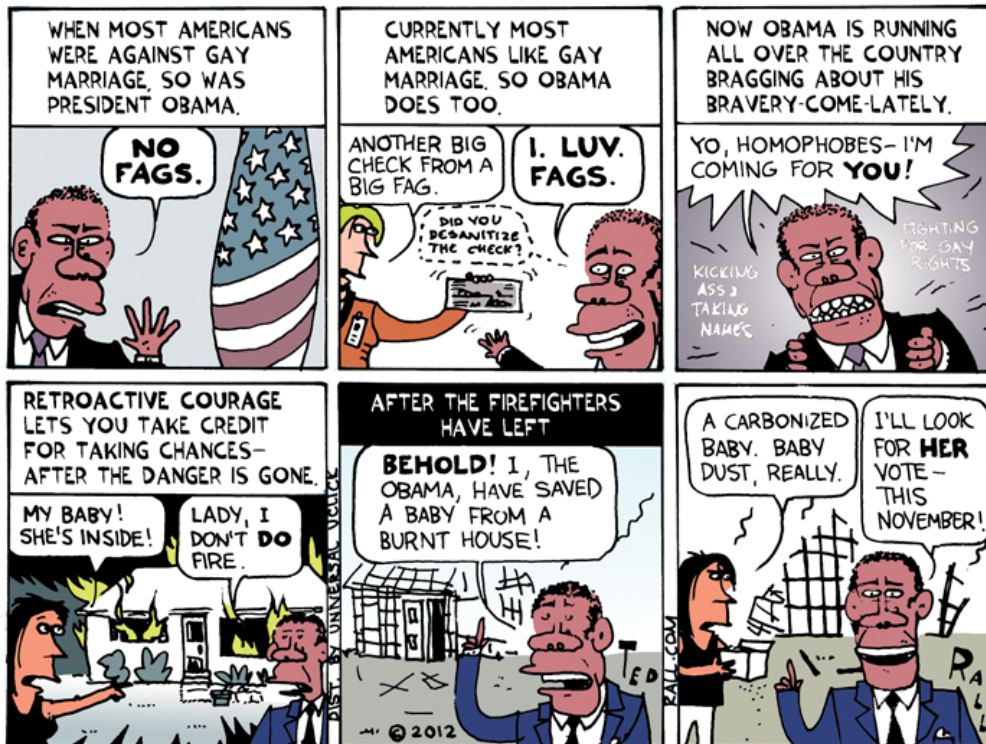
The result will come as a blow to Israeli officials and organizations who have been attempting to improve the country's image through intensive hasbara – propaganda – campaigns.

The 2012 Country Ratings Poll, conducted by GlobeScan/PIPA for the BBC among 24,090 people around the world, and published on 10 May, “asks respondents to rate whether the influence of each of 16 countries and the EU is ‘mostly positive’ or ‘mostly negative.’”

The press release accompanying the full report notes briefly that “The most negatively rated countries were, as in previous years, Iran (55% negative), Pakistan (51% negative), and Israel and North Korea (both 50% negative).”

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to: www.rafahtoday.org The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves “Israeli.”]

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



The Criminalization Of America's Schoolchildren: "Twelve-Year-Old Alexa Gonzalez Was Arrested And Handcuffed For Doodling On A Desk"

**"Another Student Was Expelled For
Speaking On A Cell Phone With His
Mother, To Whom He Hadn't Spoken
In A Month Because She Was In Iraq
On A Military Deployment"**

**"What Once Was Looked Upon As
Classically Childish Behavior Such As
Getting Into Food Fights, Playing Tag,
Doodling, Hugging, Kicking And
Throwing Temper Tantrums Is Now
Being Criminalized"**

Young people are now being forcibly removed by police officers from the classroom, arrested, handcuffed, transported in the back of police squad cars, and placed in police holding cells until their frantic parents can get them out.

As a result, these policies are now interpreted so broadly as to crack down on spitwads, Tweetie Bird key chains and Certs breath mints—all of which constitute contraband of one kind or another. In some jurisdictions, carrying cough drops, wearing black lipstick or dying your hair blue are expellable offenses.

May 14, 2012 By John W. Whitehead, Intrepid Report [Excerpts]

About John W. Whitehead: Constitutional attorney and author John W. Whitehead is founder and president of The Rutherford Institute. His new book "The Freedom Wars" (TRI Press) is available online at www.amazon.com. Whitehead can be contacted at

johnw@rutherford.org. Information about The Rutherford Institute is available at
www.rutherford.org.

“(P)ublic school reform is now justified in the dehumanizing language of national security, which increasingly legitimates the transformation of schools into adjuncts of the surveillance and police state . . . students are increasingly subjected to disciplinary apparatuses which limit their capacity for critical thinking, mold them into consumers, test them into submission, strip them of any sense of social responsibility and convince large numbers of poor minority students that they are better off under the jurisdiction of the criminal justice system than by being valued members of the public schools.”

-- Professor Henry Giroux

For those hoping to better understand how and why we arrived at this dismal point in our nation’s history, where individual freedoms, privacy and human dignity have been sacrificed to the gods of security, expediency and corpocracy, look no farther than America’s public schools.

In fact, as director Cevin Soling documents in his insightful, award-winning documentary The War on Kids, which recently aired on the Documentary Channel, the moment young people walk into school, they increasingly find themselves under constant surveillance: they are photographed, fingerprinted, scanned, X-rayed, sniffed and snooped on.

Between metal detectors at the entrances, drug-sniffing dogs in the hallways and surveillance cameras in the classrooms and elsewhere, many of America’s schools look more like prisons than learning facilities.

Indeed, what once was looked upon as classically childish behavior such as getting into food fights, playing tag, doodling, hugging, kicking and throwing temper tantrums is now being criminalized.

Whereas in the past minor behavioral infractions at school such as shooting spitwads may have warranted a trip to the principal’s office, in-school detention or a phone call to one’s parents, today, they are elevated to the level of criminal behavior with all that implies.

Consequently, young people are now being forcibly removed by police officers from the classroom, arrested, handcuffed, transported in the back of police squad cars, and placed in police holding cells until their frantic parents can get them out.

For those unlucky enough to be targeted for such punishment, the experience will stay with them long after they are allowed back at school.

In fact, it will stay with them for the rest of their lives in the form of a criminal record.

For example, in November 2011, a 14-year-old student in Brevard County, Florida, was suspended for hugging a female friend, an act which even the principal acknowledged as innocent.

A 9-year-old in Charlotte, North Carolina, was suspended for sexual harassment after a substitute teacher overheard the child tell another student that the teacher was “cute.”

A 6-year-old in Georgia was arrested, handcuffed and suspended for the remainder of the school year after throwing a temper tantrum in class.

A 6-year-old boy in San Francisco was accused of sexual assault following a game of tag on the playground.

A 6-year-old in Indiana was arrested, handcuffed and charged with battery after kicking a school principal.

Twelve-year-old Alexa Gonzalez was arrested and handcuffed for doodling on a desk.

Another student was expelled for speaking on a cell phone with his mother, to whom he hadn't spoken in a month because she was in Iraq on a military deployment.

Four high school students in Detroit were arrested and handcuffed for participating in a food fight and charged with a misdemeanor with the potential for a 90-day jail sentence and a \$500 fine.

A high school student in Indiana was expelled after sending a profanity-laced tweet through his Twitter account after school hours.

The school had been conducting their own surveillance by tracking the tweeting habits of all students.

These are not isolated incidents.

In 2010, some 300,000 Texas schoolchildren received misdemeanor tickets from police officials.

One 12-year-old Texas girl had the police called on her after she sprayed perfume on herself during class.

In Albuquerque, New Mexico, over 90,000 kids were entered into the criminal justice system during the 2009–2010 school year, and over 500 of those were arrested at school.

It is hard to believe that such things—children being handcuffed and carted off to jail for minor incidents—could take place in a so-called “free” country.

However, since the introduction of police, high-tech surveillance systems and zero tolerance policies into the schools, this is the reality with which nearly 50 million students in America's elementary and secondary public schools must contend.

Many of these “say no to drugs/say no to violence”—type policies gained favor after the Columbine school shootings in 1999 and have continued to be adopted by school

districts across the country, even in the wake of research indicating that zero tolerance neither makes schools safer nor discourages violence.

“Ironically, the (Columbine) tragedy occurred as rates of school violence in general and shootings in particular were declining,” writes author Annette Fuentes in *Lockdown High*.

Zero tolerance policies, the driving force behind the criminalization of schoolchildren, punish all offenses severely—no matter how minor.

Disproportionately levied against minority students and students with emotional and behavioral disabilities, these one-size-fits-all disciplinary procedures mandate suspension or expulsion for students who violate the rules, regardless of the student’s intent or the nature of the violation.

School systems began adopting these tough codes after Congress passed the 1994 Gun-Free Schools Act, which required a one-year expulsion for any child bringing a firearm or bomb to school.

Zero tolerance rules in many states also cover fighting, drug or alcohol use and gang activity, as well as relatively minor offenses such as possessing over-the-counter medications and disrespect of authority.

Nearly all American public schools have zero tolerance policies for firearms or other “weapons,” and most have such policies for drugs and alcohol.

In the wake of the Columbine school shootings, legislators and school boards further tightened their zero tolerance policies, creating what some critics call a national intolerance for childish behavior.

As a result, these policies are now interpreted so broadly as to crack down on spitwads, Tweetie Bird key chains and Certs breath mints—all of which constitute contraband of one kind or another. In some jurisdictions, carrying cough drops, wearing black lipstick or dying your hair blue are expellable offenses.

Unfortunately, while expulsion and suspension used to be the worst punishment to be rendered against a child who had run afoul of the system, school officials upped the ante by bringing the police into the picture.

As Judith Browne, co-director of the Advancement Project, notes, “Media hysteria really created this groundswell of support for zero tolerance and folks being scared that it could happen at their school.

Now, we have police officers in every school. He’s not there to be law enforcement. He’s there to lock up kids.”

All the while, in the name of the greater good and in exchange for the phantom promise of security, the government strips away our rights one by one—monitoring our conversations, chilling our expression, searching our bodies and our possessions, doing away with our due process rights, reversing the burden of proof and rendering us suspects in a surveillance state, and on and on.

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CLASS WAR REPORTS



**Oakland Police Killer Cops
Execute Unarmed Teen:
The Oakland Police Department
“Has An Infamous History Of
Terrorizing Oakland’s Black
Communities”**

“OPD-Sponsored Witnesses Said ‘The Suspect’ Was Shooting At Police, And That They ‘Believed The Young Men Had A Concealed Weapon’” “Forensics Tests Show Alan Never Fired A Gun”

May 16, 2012 By Adam Balogh, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

More than 100 San Francisco Bay Area activists and members of the Black community in Oakland, Calif., came together May 12 for a march for justice for Alan DeWayne Blueford, an 18-year-old high school senior gunned down by Oakland police officers at midnight on May 6.

The march was led by several members of Alan’s family and began with a solemn moment of prayer led by his uncle, an ordained minister. But as soon as the march got underway, the tone turned immediately to righteous outrage.

With raised fists and a wheelchair-rigged sound system, marchers called out the racist and murderous practices of the Oakland Police Department (OPD), which has an infamous history of terrorizing Oakland’s Black communities. Chants of “Justice for Alan!” were interrupted by calls to “Jail the killer cops--now!” and to “Stop the war...on the Black community!” as well as “OPD, you can’t hide! We charge you with genocide!”

Under the blaring mid-afternoon sun, the march traveled 20 blocks from the intersection of 92nd Avenue and Birch Street, the site of the police attack that cost Alan his life, to the Eastmont Mall Police Sub-Station at 73rd Avenue and MacArthur Boulevard.

Marchers handed out fliers about Alan’s case to neighbors and stopped motorists along the way, and the motorists responded with a deluge of horn honks in solidarity. A rally was held outside the glass doors of the station, in which family members addressed the multiracial crowd about Alan’s life, the facts of the case and the state of racist police brutality in Black communities.

Alan was a student at Oakland’s Skyline High School. After watching the Mayweather-Cotto boxing match, he and his friends were hanging out at 90th Avenue and Birch Street when two police officers, driving with their lights off, approached the three young men with their firearms drawn.

Fearing a confrontation, Alan ran about two blocks down Birch Street and stopped by a lamppost around some well-lit houses.

The police officers fired three times into Alan's body--including his stomach and leg. After those initial shots, witnesses report hearing a fourth shot. One police officer sustained a bullet wound to the foot and was rushed to the hospital.

The official OPD story changed several times.

Initially, OPD-sponsored witnesses said “the suspect” was shooting at police, and that they “believed the young men had a concealed weapon.”

Other stories included the claim that Alan died on the porch steps of a house, shooting into the air, and another that he was running down the street, firing randomly. It was later shown that Alan was killed under the lamppost where he had stopped.

The OPD also claimed that a gun was found 30 feet from the body, but forensics tests show Alan never fired a gun.

The OPD's website later admitted that the injured police officer's wound was self-inflicted. He shot himself in the foot and was rushed to the hospital.

The original OPD story stated that Alan was also rushed to the hospital and succumbed to his wounds there, but the reality is that he was left in the street for more than four hours.

Police detained the two men who were with Alan for six hours, and when they were released, the two had the horrifying task of notifying their friend's family of Alan's death.

On the night of Alan's death, his family was watching a breaking story on the news that a “suspect” was killed in a police shootout. According to one family member, they thought, “That's not him. He just hasn't called yet.”

Alan Blueford's family has committed itself to building a movement to fight for justice for Alan. They've called on supporters to join them, and they've teamed up with the families of other victims of racist police violence, like the families of Oscar Grant III and Kenneth Harding, both of whom were killed by Bay Area police officers.

During Saturday's post-march rally, the family continued its calls for justice. Alan's cousin, Tanesha Blye, said:

“The chief of police yesterday, after he was silent since May 6, finally decided to speak, and what he said was that he is ‘fairly certain that his police officer followed proper protocol.’

“Now, let's stop and think, all my intelligent people. At the very least, he was incompetent because he shot himself.

“(The OPD) can say whatever they want,” Alan's mother, Jeralynn Blueford, said, “but we want justice for our baby!”

The family's criticism extended beyond the conditions of Alan's case, drawing ties to the greater attack on Black communities. "Our homes are being invaded," said Alan's uncle. "Our streets are being run over. There is no justice. It's trial and execution."

Alan Blueford's family was clear that, in order to get justice for their own family member, for all victims of racist murder and for the Black community in general, people of color and their allies must build a movement for justice.

Perhaps Alan's grandmother said it best: "I grew up in the 1960s, and this is a repeat history. I want you all to know that we won before, and we'll win again. What we need is unity and prayer. You cannot get complacent. My generation fought for the right. You have to fight for your rights!"

What you can do:

To contact the Blueford family and show your support, you can write to alanblueford@yahoo.ca and visit their Facebook page at [Justice4Alan Blueford](#)

Slaughter Of Unarmed Students By The Tyrant Assad And His Government Of Mass Murderers Turn Even More Syrians Against The Regime:

**“A May 3 Raid By Security Forces On
The University Campus That Left
Four Students Dead”**

**“The Government’s Harsh Response, He
Said, Had ‘Pushed Even The Pro-Assad
Aleppo People To Stand With Peaceful
Students Who Were Demonstrating’”**

May 18, 2012 By RICK GLADSTONE, The New York Times [Excerpts]

Antigovernment anger in Syria escalated on Friday over the harsh repression of students in Aleppo, the country's largest city, where activists reported what they called the most

extensive protests there yet in the 15-month-old nationwide uprising against President Bashar al-Assad.

Many thousands of demonstrators, including some government loyalists, participated in the protests, according to dispatches by activists and witnesses interviewed by telephone.

Sympathy protests for victims of the crackdown on the students were also reported in several other Syrian cities in what organizers called “the heroes of Aleppo University” demonstrations, and in some cases they were broken up by security forces using live ammunition.

The unrest in Aleppo, Syria’s commercial hub, began after a May 3 raid by security forces on the university campus that left four students dead, and it poses a new risk for Mr. Assad’s government because the city has remained a core of support for his governing minority Alawite sect throughout the uprising.

A change of sentiment in Aleppo could spread in Syria.

The government’s worry about such an outcome appeared to be on display on Thursday in Aleppo when security forces used tear gas and beat student protesters in the full view of United Nations cease-fire monitors, with an unknown number of injuries and arrests.

Protesters recorded the beatings and uploaded video to the Internet, including footage shot from inside a cease-fire monitor’s vehicle.

The repression appeared to inflame emotions further on Friday.

“The regime’s brutal crackdown against students was the straw that broke Aleppo’s back,” a 25-year-old anti-Assad activist, who identified himself as Huzaifa, said by telephone.

The government’s harsh response, he said, had “pushed even the pro-Assad Aleppo people to stand with peaceful students who were demonstrating.”

Video uploaded online also appeared to show that many protesters consider the United Nations monitoring mission to be farcical.

One protest sign in English, in the western city of al-Qusair, read: “Dear UN Observers: 15 martyrs fell since your last visit to al-Qusair last Friday. Please don’t visit us again.”

Frustrations confronting the United Nations’ monitors, who have been in Syria for more than a month and have narrowly avoided injury on at least two occasions, were on display as well.

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