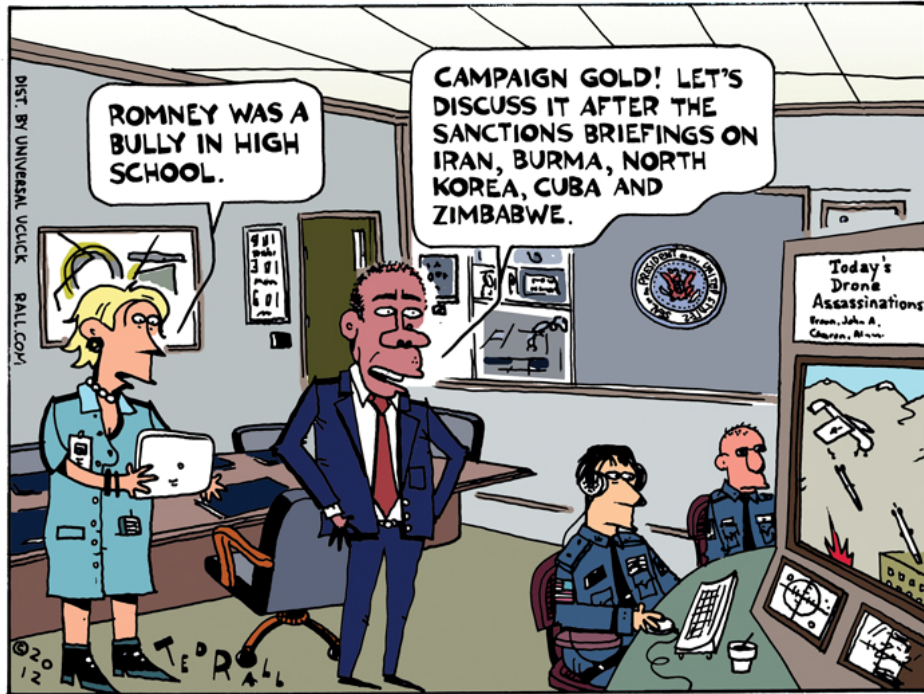


Military Resistance 10E11



**Majority Of Americans Reject
New US-Afghan Security Pact
“That Will Include A US Troop
Presence And Billions Of
Dollars In Monetary Support For
Afghan Forces In The Decade
After 2014”**

“Pew’s Most Recent Poll In Mid-April Found A 60 To 32 Split For Leaving Now”
The DC Imperial Dictators Could Care Less:
“The Popular Unhappiness Has Few Immediately Discernable Political Consequences”

However, with few national politicians dissenting on the broad outlines of the Afghanistan policy, the popular unhappiness has few immediately discernable political consequences.

May 8, 2012 By Ben Arnoldy, Staff Writer; The Christian Science Monitor

A large majority of Americans do not favor the new strategic partnership with Afghanistan signed during a surprise visit to Kabul last week by President Obama.

By a margin of 63 percent disapproval to 33 percent approval, respondents rejected a description of the deal that will include a US troop presence and billions of dollars in monetary support for Afghan forces in the decade after 2014, according to a Monitor/TIPP poll conducted April 27 to May 4.

Unusually for a key issue facing Americans in an election year, the lack of support was bipartisan, showing only small differences across the ideological spectrum.

However, with few national politicians dissenting on the broad outlines of the Afghanistan policy, the popular unhappiness has few immediately discernable political consequences.

Since the summer of 2010, however, tracking polls from the Pew Research Center show a majority of Americans want US troops to come home from Afghanistan “as soon as possible” rather than stay “until the situation is stabilized.”

Pew’s most recent poll in mid-April found a 60 to 32 split for leaving now. That split resembles closely the new Monitor/TIPP poll on the strategic partnership deal.

Few discernible trends were noted between races, genders, or types of hometown.

Older Americans were substantially more likely to strongly disapprove of the deal. Cohorts under age 45 registered strong disapproval in the 30 percent range, while more than 50 percent of those over 45 strongly disapproved.

Such broad dissent raises questions about whether the president has a democratic mandate to commit the US to a long-term deal.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



U.S. soldier in Beijia 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.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

**Two Foreign Occupation
“Servicemembers” Killed Somewhere Or
Other In Afghanistan:**

Nationality Not Announced

May 20, 2012 ITV

Two foreign servicemembers have been killed in an insurgent attack in southern Afghanistan.

The deaths bring the number of foreign troops killed this month to 24.

A total of 156 troops have been killed this year.

Carson-Based Soldier Killed In Afghanistan

May 13, 2012 The Associated Press

PHOENIX — A 30-year-old soldier from Arizona has been killed while serving in Afghanistan.

Gov. Jan Brewer's office says Army 1st Lt. Alejo Thompson was killed Friday in Parwan Province. Based at Fort Carson, Colo., he was assigned to the A Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division.

A native of Yuma, Thompson died of injuries sustained when his unit came under fire while on patrol.

Brewer issued a statement Sunday and asked that people hold Thompson's family in their hearts as they gather for Mother's Day. She acknowledged that many Arizona families are incomplete as mothers, fathers, sons and daughters continue to serve in far-off places.

Brewer has ordered flags to fly at half-staff from sunrise to sunset Monday in honor of Thompson. The governor's office says funeral arrangements for Thompson are pending.

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

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

“The Government Not Only Doesn’t Care About Us” “They Want To Destroy Us” “The Land They Were Living On Was Taken Over By Corrupt Officials For Their Own Ends”

May 13, 2012 By Allen Pizzey, CBS Interactive Inc. [Excerpts]

Afghan leaders said today they’ll take over security in areas that make up 75 percent of the nation’s population in six months. CBS News correspondent Allen Pizzey reports the transition leaves many Afghans in limbo.

The polite name for an overcrowded collection of mud huts is “informal settlement”. As many as 35,000 people live in one such place around Kabul alone, according to U.N. figures.

Some of the people in one of the informal settlements have already been moved once to make way for commercial development.

They claim the land they were living on was taken over by corrupt officials for their own ends, and now they’ve being told to move again.

About \$60 billion worth of humanitarian aid has poured into Afghanistan in the past ten years. But much of it has been earmarked for crises, and since the problems in the squatter camps are chronic and long-standing, they don’t qualify for it.

“The government not only doesn’t care about us,” Nour Mohammed said. “They want to destroy us.”

More than one-third of Afghans live in absolute poverty, and most of the others aren’t much better off.

The population of Kabul has more than tripled to five million people over the past ten years as people flee rural areas looking for both security and jobs.

There are no hard unemployment figures, but the lack of opportunity is obvious, which is where the Taliban comes in.

It pays fighters up to \$20 per day, a serious reason to consider what’s next for Afghanistan’s economy when U.S. and other troops leave.

**NEW GENERAL ORDER NO. 1:
PACK UP
GO HOME
THIS IS NOT A PRODUCTIVE USE OF TIME**



U.S. soldiers from 5-20 infantry Regiment attached to 82nd Airborne enter a barn while on patrol in Zharay district in Kandahar province, April 26, 2012. REUTERS/Baz Ratner

MILITARY NEWS

**Veterans Who Have Served In Iraq
And Afghanistan Threw Away
Their Service Medals In Chicago
Sunday To Express Their
Opposition To America's Role In
These Conflicts
"There's No Honor In These Wars"**

“There’s Just Shame”



Military veterans participate in an anti-war demonstration at the intersection of Cermak Road and Michigan Avenue. — E. Jason Wambsgans, Chicago Tribune, May 20, 2012



An Iraq war veteran throws away his medal during a ceremony at Cermak Road and Michigan Avenue following a march through the city. — Nancy Stone, Chicago Tribune, May 20, 2012

05/21/2012 Huffington Post & JA Myerson, Truthout [Excerpts]

Veterans who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan threw away their service medals in Chicago Sunday to express their opposition to America's role in these conflicts, and to demand better care for returning forces.

The local ABC news affiliate in Chicago produced an exemplary story, which highlighted the ceremony in which Afghanistan and Iraq veterans threw back their medals, giving veterans the center stage they deserved for telling their stories.

Members of Iraq Veterans Against the War organized a day-long protest.

Scott Olsen, who was nearly killed by riot police at Occupy Oakland last fall, held four medals in his hand.

"These medals, once upon a time, made me feel good about what I was doing. They made me feel like I was doing the right thing. But I came back to reality and I don't want these any more." Then he threw them into the street.

Zach LaPorte, a 28-year-old mechanical engineer from Milwaukee, who served in Iraq in 2005 and 2006, said, "I witnessed civilian casualties and civilians being arrested in what I consider an illegal occupation of a sovereign nation," Reuters reported.

Former US Army Sgt. Alejandro Villatoro of Chicago, who served during the Iraq 2003 invasion and in Afghanistan in 2011, said: "There's no honor in these wars ... There's just shame."

Jason Hurd returned his medals "in solidarity with the people of Iraq and the people of Afghanistan. I am deeply sorry for the destruction that we have caused in those countries and around the globe. I am proud to stand on this stage with my fellow veterans and my Afghan sisters. These were lies and I'm giving them back."

Militants Open Fire On U.S. Coast Guard Trainers In Yemen, Wounding 1 With Machine Gun

May 21, 2012 (CBS/AP)

SANAA, Yemen - Yemeni security officials say militants have opened fire on three U.S. Coast Guard trainers in western Yemen, wounding one.

The officials say the shooting took place on Sunday in the Red Sea port city of Hodeida in western Yemen. The three Americans were traveling in a car near their hotel when the militants pulled up in another vehicle and sprayed them with machine-gun fire.

The officials had no word on the condition of the wounded American. A spokesperson for the U.S. military's Africa Command declined to comment to CBS News.

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

**A revolution is always distinguished by impoliteness, probably because the ruling classes did not take the trouble in good season to teach the people fine manners.
-- Leon Trotsky, History Of The Russian Revolution**

“Filpo Marches Wearing Camouflage Pants; A US Marine Corps T-Shirt; His Insignia-Laden Dress-Blue Shirt; And, Of Course, His Cover”

“‘It’s The Usual Suspects,’ He Said, ‘Filthy Rich Wall Street Bankers Who Are Sabotaging The Economy And Asset-Stripping And Taking Away Social And Economic Rights From The Rest Of The American People. It’s A Completely Exploitative Relationship’”

His enlistment, which ended in late 1998, ironically felt to Filpo like a socialist utopia, compared with “the civilian world” where “it’s like we’re living in a sick society, where everybody is at each other’s throats.”

10 May 2012 By JA Myerson, Truthout

When Marines get to boot camp, Private First Class Filpo told me, one of the cadences they learn celebrates Marine Corps legends: “It” - the Marine Corps - “was good for Chesty Puller; it was good for Dan Daly; it was good for Smedley Butler and it’s good enough for me.”

Puller is the most decorated Marine in history. Daly and Butler are the Marines’ only two-time recipients of the Medal of Honor for two, separate actions apiece.

Private First Class Filpo carries a sign with just Butler’s face on it at Occupy Wall Street (OWS) events.

He said that if OWS had a “patron saint,” Butler would be it.

Filpo marches wearing camouflage pants; a US Marine Corps T-shirt; his insignia-laden dress-blue shirt; and, of course, his cover.

“It makes me feel like I’m a part of the moment,” he told me. “It’s been a long time coming that there’s this expression of discontent.”

We met on May Day.

"It's the usual suspects," he said, "filthy rich Wall Street bankers who are sabotaging the economy and asset-stripping and taking away social and economic rights from the rest of the American people. It's a completely exploitative relationship."

If he sounds to most people more like a hippie than a Marine, it is because most people don't know about the Marine on Filpo's poster.

It was only a few years ago that Filpo learned more about Butler than what his boot camp cadences taught him, when he caught a television documentary about the White House plot, a little-known episode in American history.

In 1932, thousands of veterans, their lives demolished by Wall Street speculators, set up tent camps in Washington, DC, demanding the US pay them their bonuses due. Butler appeared at the camp and encouraged this so-called Bonus Army.

Times being what they were, Hoover couldn't afford any of Mayor Bloomberg's eviction tact, so he had the camps destroyed by the Army cavalry. Four veterans were killed, more than 1,000 injured.

The next part is a bit hazy, largely due to official secrecy. It seems very likely that a number of men of extreme wealth, including Wall Street financiers, were toying with the idea of a large-scale fascist march on Washington - this to help organize veterans into a coup which they hoped would overthrow President Roosevelt. It also seems very likely that in 1934, Gerald C. MacGuire, a bond salesman and member of the right-wing American Legion, reached out to Butler, who was very influential among veterans - not least because of his presence with the Bonus Army - and encouraged him to lead the coup.

Butler exposed this to the McCormack-Dickstein committee, which was the House Committee on Un-American Activities before the cold war turned its focus squarely to the Red Menace.

Butler grew more and more outspokenly anti-war and anti-capitalist, publishing "War Is a Racket" (1935), an exposé on the profit motive propelling the American military's imperial adventures, some of which he had led.

"He saved democracy," Private First Class Filpo said, by turning in the coup plotters. He considers this event one of the turning points in American history, saying of Butler,

"He should be as well known as George Washington and Abraham Lincoln." Now, Filpo essentially evangelizes the gospel of patron Saint Smedley at protests. When people recognize the photo and when they don't and ask whose face it is, Filpo distributes oral biographies to protesters, passersby and the press.

After all, it was reading about the Bonus Army that drove Filpo to OWS.

After witnessing some scuffles between protesters and police, he vowed that he was going to go home, put on his dress blues and then show up at the next Wall Street rally. "And suddenly, I got this idea like - Holy crap!"

"It's my job, it's my duty to my country to embrace my military background and use it as a vehicle for my participation in civic activities," he said. "I always vote; I always go to jury duty and I participate in the Occupy Wall Street movement," which he considers "among the highest civic priorities that I have."

Private First Class Filpo went from Infantry Rifleman 0311 to corporal of the guard at Camp David, when he was a Marine.

It would seem there is a military in-joke that, whatever rank anyone has attained, "once you become a civilian, you get promoted to the greatest rank of all: PFC."

Not to be confused with private first class, this rank indicates that Filpo is a "Private Fucking Citizen" in the "1st Civ Div," or 1st Civilian Division where "your commanding officers are Captain Crunch and General Motors." Returning to civilian life was like "being reborn" as a private first class of the 1st Civ Div, according to "Filpo," his military nickname, a shorter version of his long last name.

His enlistment, which ended in late 1998, ironically felt to Filpo like a socialist utopia, compared with "the civilian world" where "it's like we're living in a sick society, where everybody is at each other's throats."

Suddenly, in the military, "everybody from the lowliest recruit to the highest general - at least in theory - is subject to the same degree of military care and protection under military law." This is not only imperfect in practice, but also skewed by who is allowed to, or targeted to, enlist. Nevertheless, "the lowest rank gets fed first, and the commanding officer of that unit gets fed last."

Unit cohesion gave Filpo a taste of solidarity. Units must be properly equipped and trained for possible situations. "Translated into the civilian world, this to me means education, health care, some kind of safety net." The term used for that in the military, he informs me, is "troop welfare."

Occasionally, Marines on the street chide Private First Class Filpo for "disrespecting" the uniform he wears, but he has found other Marines and military personnel in the movement who have his back.

One antagonist, said Filpo, was an on-duty New York police officer/Marine Corps reservist. "I thought there was going to be a fistfight," Filpo told me, between the protester-Marine in his civvies who was with him and the officer. "The police officer's supervisor had to come over and tell the officer to stand down, very sternly."

Private First Class Filpo is not conflict averse.

It was good for Smedley Butler, and it's good enough for him.

Love, Dad

From: Dennis Serdel

To: GI Special
Sent: March 03, 2009
Subject: Love, Dad

By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade,
purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50 Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against The War,
United Auto Workers GM Retiree.

Love, Dad

**Son, we can't send you
any packages
like we have sent you before
because the shop
that I worked for for 27 years
has just went bankrupt
my pension money is gone
didn't get severance pay
after all those years
and I would have to pay
Cobra for health care but
I don't have money for that
they didn't even give me
my vacation pay
they gave me nothing
nothing at all
I took our savings and paid off
our home but now all I get is
unemployment checks
and food stamps
that will stop in months
I don't know what I will do then,
I'm old and nobody will hire me
but even the young
can't find any jobs
Soon they will take our car
turn off electricity
and turn off the heat
Son, I know you have troubles
of your own in Iraq
but I think you are fighting
the wrong enemy over there
I think all of you should come home
fight the government
the corporations
and defend us from
the bill collectors
kill the white shirt bank criminals
the oil company criminals**

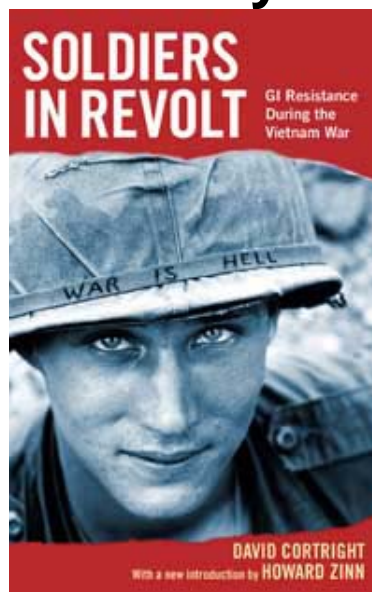
kill all the Madoof's
that have taken over our country
because nothing works
over here anymore.
Love, Dad

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.

**“People Need Not Be Helpless
Before The Power Of Illegitimate
Authority”**

**“By Getting Together And Acting Upon
Their Convictions People Can Change
Society And, In Effect, Make Their Own
History”**



From: SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT, Anchor Press/Doubleday, Garden City, New York, 1975. Now available in paperback from Haymarket Books. [Excerpts]

In the final analysis the stationing of American forces abroad serves not the national interest but the class interest of the corporate and political elite.

The maintenance of a massive, interventionist-oriented military establishment is based not on the nation's legitimate defense requirements but on the need to protect multinational investment and preserve regimes friendly to American capital.

Imperialism is at the heart of the national-security system and is the force fundamentally responsible for the counterrevolutionary, repressive aims of U.S. policy.

Only if we confront this reality and challenge it throughout society and within the ranks can we restore democratic control of the military.

Of course nothing can be accomplished without citizen involvement and active political struggle.

During the Vietnam era enlisted servicemen created massive pressures for change, despite severe repression, and significantly altered the course of the war and subsequent military policy.

To sustain and strengthen this challenge we must continue to build political opposition to interventionism and support those who defy military service.

To this end the patriots who resisted the Indochina war should be granted universal and unconditional amnesty, as a sign of our agreement with their acts and as the first step toward restructuring the military and legitimatizing resistance to illegal war.

The central lesson of the GI movement — and, I hope, of this book — is that people need not be helpless before the power of illegitimate authority, that by getting together and acting upon their convictions people can change society and, in effect, make their own history.

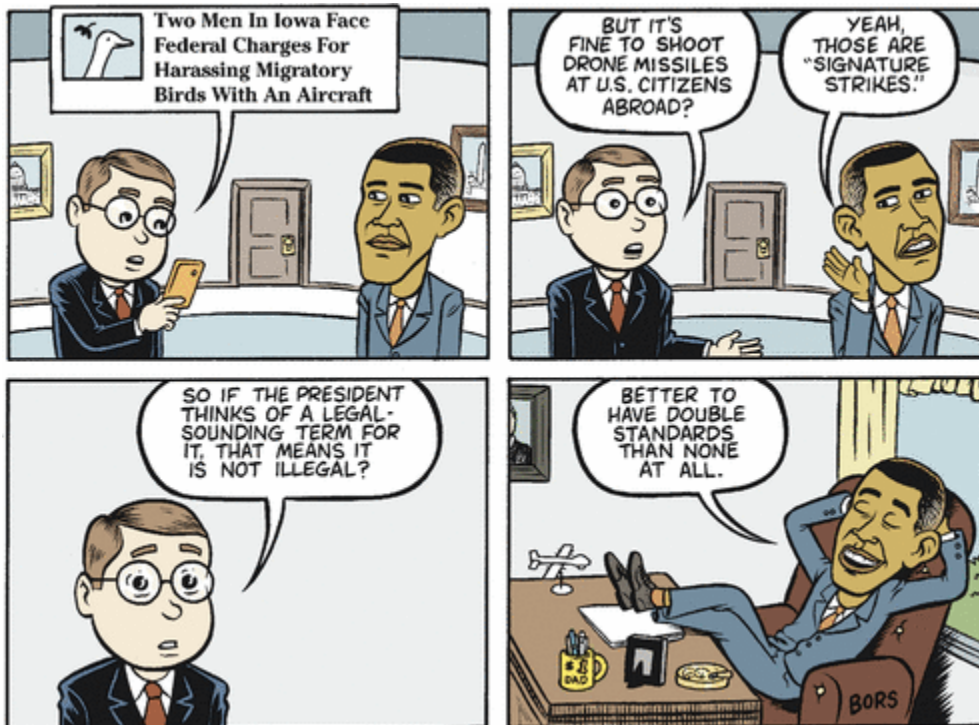
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DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



**Enemy Combatants At Work In Mississippi:
Mississippi Teens Jailed After Video Recording Police From Their Home:
"Karen Madison Was On The Phone With Her Daughter When She Said She Heard**

The Officers Burst Through Her Apartment Door And Begin Cursing Her Children”

May 3, 2012 By Carlos Miller, Pixiq

Two Mississippi teenagers were arrested after video recording a police investigation from their balcony Tuesday.

Pearl Police, who charged up the stairs to arrest the teens and burst through their apartment door without a warrant after a shooting took place in the parking lot below, charged the teens with disorderly conduct.

Terrell Madison and his twin sister Shanell were jailed for several hours before they were released.

Police returned their phone but kept their SIM card, which is unlawful to do without a subpoena.

According to WLBT:

“The Colony Park Apartment resident said she and her twin brother Terrell were on their apartment balcony when Tuesday’s tragic police shooting unfolded.

“But she said minutes later they were being manhandled by officers after they saw her brother recording the scene with his cell phone.

“The police came up here after they took his phone. They slammed him down and arrested him, and I’m like ‘Why are y’all arresting him’, and then they grabbed me and slammed me also and arrested me,” said Shanell Madison.

“She said they didn’t know why they were targeted in their own home.

“Basically it’s retaliation,” said Shanell’s mother.

“Karen Madison was on the phone with her daughter when she said she heard the officers burst through her apartment door and begin cursing her children.”

“The Most Powerful Court In The Country Outside The Supreme Court — Has Made Up Its Mind

**That Henceforth Nobody In
Guantánamo Bay Should Be
Considered Innocent”
“Only Five People Out Of The 779
Guantánamo Detainees Have Been
Convicted Of A Criminal Offense”
“Prisoners Remain In Indefinite
Detention After Being Affirmatively
Cleared For Release”**

I visited some of the prisoners in Guantánamo two weeks ago. It is a place of deathly depression, which is hardly surprising.

I am no expert on Soviet-era gulags, but I can't think of another prison — certainly not in the modern, developed world — where most of the prisoners remained in indefinite detention after being affirmatively cleared for release.

May 13, 2012 By Clive Stafford Smith, The Daily Beast [Excerpts]

Upon taking office in 2009, President Barack Obama pledged to close the prison at Guantánamo Bay within the year.

We all know how that turned out.

Now, a decade into the sad experiment that is Guantánamo, we discover that the United States — supposedly a nation of laws — isn't simply holding prisoners year after year without charge, but is rejecting their habeas corpus petitions almost out of hand.

A new study out of Seton Hall University School of Law finds that the federal district courts in Washington, D.C., granted 56 percent of the habeas petitions filed by detainees after the Supreme Court permitted the petitions in 2008.

But since July 2010, the courts have rejected all but one.

The turning point was a case called *Al-Adahi v. Obama*, decided by the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The study's authors, two law professors, say this shows that the D.C. Circuit — generally considered the most powerful court in the country outside the Supreme

Court — has made up its mind that henceforth nobody in Guantánamo Bay should be considered innocent.

In Al-Adahi, the court essentially said that an error rate of 56 percent is intolerable, but rather than eliminating errors by actually eliminating them, it simply decided they didn't exist.

“After Al-Adahi, the practice of careful judicial fact-finding was replaced by judicial deference to the government's allegations,” the authors write. “Now the government wins every petition.”

Let's put this in context: Normally, when someone in America is charged with a crime, the first question the judicial system seeks to answer is not how to kill him.

Rather, it is whether he has, in fact, committed the crime the government alleges.

Back in 2003, Donald Rumsfeld purportedly said that the prisoners in Guantánamo Bay were all captured on the Afghanistan battlefield, and were the “worst of the worst” terrorists in the world.

Over the months and years, that evidence began to seep out, calling Mr. Rumsfeld's assertions into question.

First, his good friend, the Pakistan dictator General Pervez Musharraf, penned an autobiography, In the Line of Fire, bragging that fully half of the Guantánamo prisoners had not been captured in Afghanistan, let alone on a battlefield.

They were Arabs who had been seized in Pakistan and sold to the U.S. for a bounty.

Next, the U.S. military started making their own assessment. To date, they have released 610 of the 779 prisoners from Guantánamo—in other words, almost four out of five (78%) were no threat to the United States.

Only a very small number of the Gitmo prisoners have ever resorted to the courts for a writ of habeas corpus, a legal remedy that tests the legality of someone's detention.

In the first 34 cases, a District Court judge ruled for the prisoner 56 percent of the time.

In effect, the judges were saying that, even after several years spent trying to sort the terrorist wheat from the bystander chaff, and after winnowing out hundreds of the more obviously innocent, the probability that military intelligence had identified an enemy correctly was still less than a coin-toss.

So in Al-Adahi, the court set an impossible standard. Now, the district courts routinely deny habeas petitions, and when they do grant them, the circuit reverses them.

The professors' theory is that this ruling was intended to intimidate the lower court judges into curtailing their liberal nonsense. That is, the Guantánamo prisoners were getting too much justice.

It is important to understand that the habeas hearings are not deciding anything so mundane as whether the men in Guantánamo actually committed a crime. Indeed, only five people out of the 779 Guantánamo detainees have been convicted of a criminal offense; more than 99% have not.

Rather, the question in a habeas proceeding is whether a prisoner has done anything that might — under a minimal burden of proof, with what is essentially a presumption of guilt supported by secret evidence — indicate an association with those who the government tars as terrorists.

Of course, I myself could be indefinitely detained under this standard, as could every other lawyer involved in the defense of Guantánamo prisoners. In this light it is astounding that federal district court judges find anyone wholly innocent, as has happened so often.

I visited some of the prisoners in Guantánamo two weeks ago.

It is a place of deathly depression, which is hardly surprising.

The same government that fights to prevent judges from embarrassing the military in court has, in a separate administrative proceeding in Guantánamo, “cleared” 87 of 169 prisoners who remain for release.

In other words, the military has itself decided that slightly more than half (51%) of the remaining prisoners are no threat to the United States.

Some were cleared seven years ago, yet they remain incarcerated in a maximum-security prison, essentially unreachable by American courts.

I am no expert on Soviet-era gulags, but I can't think of another prison — certainly not in the modern, developed world — where most of the prisoners remained in indefinite detention after being affirmatively cleared for release.

If the courts refuse to do their job, and if President Obama reneges on his 2009 promise, what hope does an innocent detainee have?

MORE:

Guantanamo Prisoner Held For Ten Years But So Far Charged With Nothing At All:

**He Demands To Be Put On Trial
Now;
“He Was The First Prisoner
Subjected To The Intense
Interrogation Methods That The U.S.
Has Said Included 83 Instances Of
The Simulated Drowning Technique
Known As Waterboarding”
“Under Secrecy Rules, His Attorneys Are
Not Permitted To Disclose Details About
The Prisoner Or The Conditions Of His
Confinement”**

May 10, 2012 By Ben Fox - The Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Lawyers for a Palestinian who has been identified by the Pentagon as one of its “high value detainees” at Guantanamo urged the government Thursday to finally charge the man, saying he deserves a chance to address accusations against him after 10 years in custody.

In a letter to the Convening Authority, a Pentagon legal official who presides over the tribunals known as military commissions at the U.S. base in Cuba, the lawyers for Abu Zubaydah say they have repeatedly sought a “legitimate evaluation” of his case.

“He now requests that the Convening Authority commence prosecution of him before a military commission at the earliest possible date,” said the letter signed by four lawyers for the Guantanamo prisoner.

Zubaydah was captured in March 2002 and held in a secret network of overseas CIA prisons.

He was the first prisoner subjected to the intense interrogation methods that the U.S. has said included 83 instances of the simulated drowning technique known as waterboarding. His lawyers say the treatment amounted to torture.

Joseph Margulies, a lawyer for Zubaydah, says U.S. authorities have since backed off earlier statements that the prisoner was a leader of al-Qaida and senior associate of Osama bin Laden.

He says officials now believe he provided logistical support to militants in Pakistan and Afghanistan, but not people affiliated with the terrorist organization.

“We think one of the reasons he hasn’t been charged is because of the yawning chasm between who they thought he was when he was the poster child for the torture program and who they now understand him to be,” said Margulies, a Professor at Northwestern University School of Law in Chicago.

Since September 2006, Zubaydah has been held with other “high value” prisoners in Camp 7, a top-secret section of the Guantanamo Bay prison, where the U.S. holds a total of 169 men.

Under secrecy rules, his attorneys are not permitted to disclose details about the prisoner or the conditions of his confinement.

Magulies said that he has been experiencing gradual memory loss and can no longer remember the names of his parents or his birth date as a result of his treatment in custody. “We are very concerned about his welfare, about his mental health,” he said.

CLASS WAR REPORTS



Mali Protesters Capture Presidential Palace And Severely Beat New President Chosen By Military Junta



Thousands of Malians gather on in front of the presidential compound in Bamako during a protest against Mali's transition president Diancounda Traore. (AFP Photo/Habibou Kouyate)



Protesters occupy Mali's presidential palace in the capital Bamako, May 21, 2012. Hundreds of protesters entered Mali's presidential palace unopposed on Monday and said they would remain there until interim civilian president Dioncounda Traore resigned, a Reuters witness said. The protesters tore up images of Traore. REUTERS/Adama Diarra

May 21, 2012 Reuters & By Scott Baldauf, Staff Writer, CS Monitor [Excerpts]

Mali's interim president, Dioncounda Traore, has been taken to the hospital, unconscious, after protesters broke into the presidential palace today.

Protesters at the scene objected to the interim president chosen by the military junta that rules Mali.

The injury of President Traore could complicate a deal worked out over the weekend between West African leaders and the head of the military junta, Capt. Amadou Sanogo, who named Mr. Traore interim president until elections can be held.

"They beat him seriously and tore his clothes." "This is a spontaneous crowd. There were three dead and some injured by gunshot amongst the demonstrators. Dioncounda's security shot at people."

Protesters who broke into the palace were heard chanting "We don't want Dioncounda"

Protesters at the scene told Reuters that they would not accept any deal that includes Traore, even if it enjoys the support of the military junta.

"There is no question of Dioncounda staying as president of Mali," says Daouda Diallo, a demonstrator who made it up to the presidential palace.

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"Time Will Tell"

From: David Harris
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: May 20, 2012
Subject: Re: Military Resistance 10E10: Up To Their Necks

I think you're right that this is now Obama's war, but I also think he is now moving to end our involvement as soon and as much as is politically possible.

Those who are cynical may also speculate that he wants to get out of Afghanistan so that we can improve relationships with Pakistan.

Time will tell.

Best regards,
David Harris
VFP 115, Red Wing, MN



“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

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GOT AN OPINION?
Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New

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