

## **Military Resistance 10J11**

# **Soldier Who Died in Afghanistan, Orion Sparks, Was A Gig Harbor Native: “He Didn’t Shirk Any Of His Years”**



October 2, 2012 By Brent Champaco, Gig Harbor Patch

A regular day job couldn't quench Staff Sgt. Orion Sparks' thirst for life.

The Army staff sergeant and Gig Harbor native yearned for adventure. It's why he enlisted in 2003.

Assigned to 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team out of Schweinfurt, Germany, he was an expert at parachuting.

Check that, he was a parachute-jumping master. He became so good he taught other soldiers how to do it.

When on leave from duty, he snowboarded and loved off-roading in his Jeep.

Last Wednesday, Sparks' adventure was cut short when he and another soldier died from a suicide bomber who detonated a vest near their patrol in Pul-E Alam, Afghanistan. Sparks was 29.

On Monday, his mother, Jan Hurnblad Sparks, spoke with Patch over the phone from her Gig Harbor home, at times fighting back tears describing her son.

"I felt honored that he was my son and that I was able to be part of his life for 29 years," she said.

According to the standard issue notification from the Department of Defense, Sparks' connection to the South Sound is almost non-existent. He was assigned overseas, and his hometown is listed as Tucson, AZ. That's where he lived when he joined the Army.

But to anyone who knew him, Sparks was a Gig Harbor native. Born in Tacoma, he attended Purdy Elementary, Harbor Ridge Middle School and finally Peninsula High, where he ran track, wrestled and played football. He, his brown hair and his brown eyes moved to Spokane his junior year, where he got his GED, then to Arizona to live with his father, Garry. He tried junior college for a bit, but he needed something different. He needed something with more adventure.

"Orion, from a young child, was somebody who wanted to go out and have an adventure. He just couldn't wait to get up and go," said Hurnblad Sparks, a traveling massage therapist who works at a hospice house in University Place. "He wasn't ready for college and just wanted to get out. He tried a few jobs that are available, and they didn't really give him much adventure. He checked into the Army and he liked what he saw."

He had served almost a decade in the Army. He had done tours in Iraq and Afghanistan and had re-enlisted twice.

The two uniformed military personnel didn't have to say anything when Hurnblad Sparks opened her door last Wednesday.

Retelling her experience to Patch, she recalled a man and woman getting out of a royal blue van, straightening their uniforms and walking in unison to her front doorstep. Their job was to deliver the news of her son's death.

She opened the door and looked at the woman's face. She immediately broke down.

"I knew this was real bad," Hurnblad Sparks recalled. "I started crying. I just hoped she was going to tell me he was injured. But she didn't. She knew I knew. She let me cry."

That same day, she and Sparks' two brothers – Eric, 31, and Zack, 26 – got on a plane to Dover, DE, where his flag-draped casket would be transferred from a plane. During a layover, she met the family of the other soldier who was killed - Sgt. Jonathan A. Gollnitz.

A few hours after arriving in Dover, Hurnblad Sparks, her two sons, as well as Sparks' father and his wife, got on a bus and arrived at the plane.

A high-ranking officer greeted them and shook her hand: "I looked into your son's record. He is very well-respected and quite a soldier."

Then they saw the flag-covered casket.

"We observed his casket up on the lift as it was taken out of his transport," she said. "They did quite a ceremony and lowered the lift. They hand-carried the casket to a white van waiting for it."

Throughout the trip, all she could do was think about Orion. She remembered him as a little boy, his spark, his sense of humor. It all made her smile.

Afterward, once they got back to their rooms, the family would cry, take a break from crying, then cry again.

On Monday, Jan Hurnblad Sparks was back in Gig Harbor still processing her loss. She is waiting for her son's casket to return via Joint Base Lewis-McChord. She doesn't know when or where he'll be buried, just that he will be back home.

And as we ended our discussion, all she could do is express how proud she was of her son.

"He turned into a man that was loved and for 29 years that he lived, he lived a good life. He didn't shirk any of his years."

"That's what I'm most proud of."

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE  
BLOODSHED**

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

## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

# **U.S. Military Supply Warehouse Attacked And Burned Burnt By Insurgents: Rocket-Propelled Grenades Used On "The Main U.S. Base In Afghanistan"**

October 20, 2012 PanARMENIAN

Insurgents have attacked a warehouse full of food and supplies for troops with rocket-propelled grenades at the main U.S. base in Afghanistan late Friday, Oct 19, sparking a fire that destroyed the warehouse and everything inside, The Associated Press reported.

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said in an email that the fire at the Supreme Group compound destroyed a "large stock of food meant for U.S. troops."

Supreme Group spokeswoman Victoria Frost said no one was injured and the fire was contained by morning, though some areas were still smoldering.

She said they are working to make up for the lost inventory with supplies from other warehouses.

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## **Afghan Policeman Kills Six Colleagues In Helmand: “Had Link With Taliban Militants”**

20th October 2012 By Indo Asian News Service, The New Indian Express

An Afghan policeman killed six of his colleagues in Helmand province Friday night, police spokesman Farid Farhang said Saturday.

"A police constable who had link with Taliban militants and worked as chief in a police checkpoint in Gereshk district opened fire on their colleagues late Friday leaving six police colleagues dead and fled away to join Taliban," Farhang told Xinhua.

The murderer was identified and arrested in the neighboring Musa Qala district Saturday morning.

The green-on-blue attacks by men in Afghan army or police uniform against NATO-led forces have claimed the lives of more than 50 foreign soldiers so far this year.

However, the so-called green-on-blue attacks against Afghan security forces personnel have rarely been reported.

<p><b>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</b></p>
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### **MILITARY NEWS**

**“For The Officers Who Will Make The  
Final Decision To Separate These**

# **Soldiers, Don't Throw Them Out Like Outcasts”**

## **“These Individuals Volunteered To Fight And Protect Our Country In Two Conflicts For Over 10 Years”**

Letters To The Editor  
Army Times  
10.22.12

The article “Cracking down” [Army Times Oct. 8] states the military is now “recommitting itself to retaining and promoting soldiers who are fit to fight and project a professional appearance.”

It is a telling tale that during one of the most trying times our nation has faced, while involved in two major armed conflicts, our military chose to accept and retain people who could not meet basic standards in physical fitness and body fat.

**My concern is that as we begin to separate those who are not meeting the standards that we not forget that these individuals volunteered to fight and protect our country in two conflicts for over 10 years.**

Those who have not served in combat can never fully understand how taxing it is to be in that environment for as much as 15 months at a time; how even when you return from war, it's never over; and the lifelong impact it has on families.

The continuously rising number of suicides among service members, the astounding number of post-traumatic stress disorder cases, and nearly unmanageable number of wounded warriors waiting for the Veterans Affairs Department system to catch up to provide them with the critical support they need are small indicators of how tough war can be.

So for all the citizens who didn't serve to defend this country, do more than post signs that read, “We Support Our Troops.”

Support funding for their medical care, education benefits, protecting their retirement, offer them employment, or whatever it may be.

**For the officers who will make the final decision to separate these soldiers, don't throw them out like outcasts.**

For those who were not criminals but only failed to meet physical standards remember that they volunteered and fought beside you in some of the most demanding environments.

They may not be able to run 2 miles in 16 minutes or fit nicely into a dress uniform, but they were fit enough and courageous enough to fight for their country when the majority of the country was not willing to do so.

Separate them in an honorable manner, showing them the respect they deserve for being part of arguably one of the greatest generations of soldiers.

Maj. Shawn Stanley  
Fort Belvoir, Va.

**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.**

## **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

Wars throughout history have been waged for conquest and plunder and it is the working class who fights all the battles, the working class who makes the supreme sacrifices, the working class who freely sheds their blood and furnishes their corpses, and it is they who have never yet had a voice - in either declaring war or making peace. It is the ruling class that invariably does both. They alone declare war.

They are continually talking about patriotic duty. It is not their patriotic duty but your patriotic duty that they are concerned about. Their patriotic duty never takes them to the firing line or chucks them into the trenches.

-- Eugene V. Debs

**“Even In Constituencies Where There  
Is No Prospect Of Our Candidate  
Being Elected, The Workers Must  
Nevertheless Put Up Candidates In  
Order To Maintain Their  
Independence”**

**“They Must Not Allow Themselves To Be  
Diverted From This Work By The Stock  
Argument That To Split The Vote Of The  
Democrats Means Assisting The  
Reactionary Parties”**

The gist of the matter is this: In case of an attack on a common adversary no special union is necessary; in the fight with such an enemy the interests of both

**parties, the middle-class democrats and the working-class party, coincide for the moment ...**

**This was so in the past, and will be so in the future.**

March 1850 By Karl Marx, Address of the Central Committee to the Communist League [Excerpts]

With a view to checking the power and the growth of big capital, the democratic party demands a reform of the laws of inheritance and legacies, likewise the transfer of the public services and as many industrial undertakings as possible to the state and municipal authorities.

As for the workingmen – well, they should remain wage workers: for whom, however, the democratic party would procure higher wages, better labor conditions, and a secure existence.

The democrats hope to achieve that partly through state and municipal management and through welfare institutions. In short, they hope to bribe the working class into quiescence and thus to weaken their revolutionary spirit by momentary concessions and comforts.

The democratic demands can never satisfy the party of the proletariat.

While the democratic petty bourgeoisie would like to bring the revolution to a close as soon as their demands are more or less complied with, it is our and our task to make the revolution permanent, to keep it going until all the ruling and possessing classes are deprived of power, the governmental machinery occupied by the proletariat, and the organization of the working classes of all lands is so far advanced that all rivalry and competition among themselves has ceased until the more important forces of production are concentrated in the hands of the proletarians

With us it is not a matter of reforming private property, but of abolishing it; not of hushing up class antagonism, but of abolishing the classes; not of ameliorating the existing society, but of establishing a new one.

**Even in constituencies where there is no prospect of our candidate being elected, the workers must nevertheless put up candidates in order to maintain their independence, to steel their forces, to gauge their own strength and to bring their revolutionary position and party views before the public**

**They must not allow themselves to be diverted from this work by the stock argument that to split the vote of the democrats means assisting the reactionary parties.**

**All such talk is but calculated to cheat the proletariat.**

**The advance which the Proletarian Party will make through its independent political attitude is infinitely more important than the disadvantages of having a few more reactionaries in the national representation.**



The gist of the matter is this: In case of an attack on a common adversary no special union is necessary; in the fight with such an enemy the interests of both parties, the middle-class democrats and the working-class party, coincide for the moment, and both parties will carry it on by a temporary understanding.

This was so in the past, and will be so in the future.

It is a matter of course that in the future sanguinary conflicts, as in all previous ones, the workingmen by their courage, resolution, and self-sacrifice, will form the main force in the attainment of victory.

As hitherto, so in the coming struggle, the petty bourgeoisie as a whole will maintain an attitude of delay, irresolution, and inactivity as long as possible, in order that, as soon as victory is assured, they may arrogate it to themselves and call upon the workers to remain quiet, return to work, avoid so-called excesses, and thus to shut off the workers from the fruits of victory.

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## The “Lesser” Evil? “The Lesser Evil Crowd Is Still Impervious To Facts, Immune To Evidence, And Unmoved By Reality”



Photo credit: Mickey Z.

Oct. 18, 2012 By Mickey Z. -- World News Trust [Excerpts]

**“The oppressed are allowed once every few years to decide which particular representatives of the oppressing class are to represent and repress them.”**

**- Karl Marx**

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**Whenever I'd give a talk during 2008, I'd open up by presenting what I called a "public service announcement" and dutifully offer the crowd "some of the many, many reasons why you shouldn't vote for John McCain."**

**It went a little something like this:**

**"He's raised twice as much money from Wall Street as his opponent.**

**“He voted for every Iraq war appropriation bill he faced. He refused to be photographed with San Francisco's mayor for fear it'd be interpreted that he supported gay marriage. He voted against single payer health care. He supports the death penalty, the Israeli war machine, and the fence on the U.S.-Mexican border.**

**“He was asked if there was anything that happened during the Bush-Cheney years that the United States needs to apologize for in terms of foreign policy? His response: ‘No, I don't believe in the United States apologizing.’ He voted to confirm Condoleezza Rice as Secretary of State and to reauthorize the Patriot Act.**

**“He (pause for effect)... oops. Sorry, I messed up. Those are actually some of the many, many reasons you shouldn't vote for Barack Obama. My bad... sometimes I just can't tell 'em apart.”**

This would be kinda funny, of course... if most of you didn't rush out and vote for Mr. Yes We Can.

Fast-forward to 2012:

The Pope of Hope has completed a first term that surely has Henry Kissinger green with envy, but yet the “lesser evil” mythology endures.

**Thus, I have a request for those of you who challenge so much about society but can't seem to bring yourselves to recognize the two-party fraud: PLEASE DEFINE “LESSER”**

#Occupy Evidence

To help you with this simple assignment, I've put together some study notes:

**Romney surely did a lot of questionable shit in the past four years but he didn't, for example, sign the NDAA, wage war on Libya without congressional approval, start a covert drone war in Yemen, escalate the CIA drone war in Pakistan,**

**maintain a presence in Iraq, sharply escalate the war in Afghanistan, and secretly deploy U.S. special forces to 75 countries.**

*Obama did all that so, technically, Mitt is easily the lesser of two evils.*

**Romney's very existence is proof positive that the dominant culture is a virus but he wasn't the one who signed the Patriot Act extension into law, deported a modern-record 1.5 million immigrants, and continued Bush's rendition program.**

*Once again, that would be the guy with his very own kill list and once again, that would make Mitt the lesser evil -- by a mile.*

It's not Mitt who helped coordinate the federal and local assault on the Occupy movement. That was change the 1% can believe in... courtesy of Barack Hussein Obama.

*So yeah, please go ahead and define "lesser" for me.*

#Occupy Urgency

I could go on and on -- and on and on and on -- or merely point you to this catalog of Obamacrime -- but I know better by now.

The lesser evil crowd is still impervious to facts, immune to evidence, and unmoved by reality; the lesser evil crowd still worships JFK and makes excuses for Carter and Clinton; the lesser evil crowd still indulges in what Glen Ford calls the "psycho-babble" of intentions; and the lesser evil crowd still embraces reform (sic) because after all, change can't happen overnight.

Bearing all that in mind, I'll refrain from presenting more evidence and instead ask the only serious question that remains for those who genuinely care about the future of all life on the planet:

*How much time do you think we have?*

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## **The 20 Weirdest Religious Beliefs: Which Strange Belief Belongs To Which Religions?**

October 15, 2012 By Valerie Tarico, AlterNet [Excerpts]

We find it easy to dismiss the fantastical beliefs of people in other times and places, but those that we've been exposed to since childhood seem not so far out.

Virgin birth? Water turning into wine? A fig tree shriveling on the spot? Dead people getting up out of their graves and walking around?

All of the following beliefs are found in respected religions today.

They have been long taught by religions that either are considered part of the American mainstream or are home grown, made in the U.S.A., produced here and exported. Some of these beliefs are enshrined in sacred texts. Others are simply traditional.

All, at one time or another, have had the sanction of the highest church authorities, and many still do.

How many of them can you match up with a familiar religious tradition?

**(The answers are at the bottom.)**

1. The foreskin of (a holy one) may lie safeguarded in reliquaries made of gold and crystal and inlaid with gems--or it may have ascended into the heavens all by itself. (2)
2. A race of giants once roamed the earth, the result of women and demi-gods interbreeding. (1, 6). They lived at the same time as fire breathing dragons. (1)
3. Evil spirits can take control of pigs. (1)
4. A talking donkey scolded a prophet. (1, 3)
5. A righteous man can control his wife's access to eternal paradise. (6)
6. Brown skin is a punishment for disobeying God. (6)
7. A prophet once traveled between two cities on a miniature flying horse with the face of a woman and the tail of a peacock. (4)
8. [The Holy One] forbids a cat or dog receiving a blood transfusion and forbids blood meal being used as garden fertilizer. (7)
9. Sacred underwear protects believers from spiritual contamination and, according to some adherents, from fire and speeding bullets (6)
10. When certain rites are performed beforehand, bread turns into human flesh after it is chewed and swallowed. (2)
11. Invisible supernatural beings reveal themselves in mundane objects like oozing paint or cooking food. (2)
12. In the end times, (the Holy One's) chosen people will be gathered together in Jackson County, Missouri. (6)
13. Believers can drink poison or get bit by snakes without being harmed. (1)
14. Sprinkling water on a newborn, if done correctly, can keep the baby from eons of suffering should he or she die prematurely. (2)
15. Waving a chicken over your head can take away your sins. (3)

16. (A holy one) climbed a mountain and could see the whole earth from the mountain peak. (1, 2)

17. Putting a dirty milk glass and a plate from a roast beef sandwich in the same dishwasher can contaminate your soul. (3)

18. There will be an afterlife in which exactly 144,000 people get to live eternally in Paradise. (8)

19. Each human being contains many alien spirits that were trapped in volcanoes by hydrogen bombs. (5)

20. (A supernatural being) cares tremendously what you do with your penis. (1,2,3,4,6,7,8)

Key: 1-Evangelical or "Bible Believing" Christianity, 2-Catholic Christianity, 3-Judaism, 4-Islam, 5-Scientology, 6-Mormonism, 7-Christian Science, 8-Jehovah's Witness

Each of these beliefs is remarkable in its own way. But the composite goes beyond remarkable to revealing. What it reveals is an underlying belief that is something like this:

The process that produced this world and human life is best unveiled not by the scientific method but by the musings of iron age herdsman (1,2,3,4,7,8) or science fiction writers (5), or con artists (6) whose theories are best judged by examining only assertions that cannot be falsified.

Underlying that belief is a sort of rational swiss cheese that is going to keep cognitive scientists investigating and arguing for decades.

We humans are astoundingly susceptible to handed down nonsense. Human children are dependent on their parents for a decade or even two, which is why nature made children credulous.

When parents say, eat your peas, they're good for you, kids may argue about the eat your peas part but they don't usually question the factual assertion about nutrition. When parents say Noah put all of the animals into the ark, it is the rare child who asks, Why didn't the lion eat the guinea pigs?

Even as adults, we simply can't afford to research everything we hear and read, and so, unless something isn't working for us, we tend to accept what we are told by trusted authority figures. We go with the flow. Religion exploits this tendency by, among other things, establishing hierarchy and by ensuring that believers are in a certain mindset when they encounter religious ideas.

A friend once gave me a button that said, Don't pray in my school and I won't think in your church.

I didn't really want to wear a button that said "I'm an arrogant jerk," but the reality is that even the best of churches aren't optimized for critical thinking. Quite the opposite. The

pacing, the music, the lighting—all are designed for assent and emotion, for a right brain aesthetic experience, for the dominance of what Nobel prize winning psychologist Daniel Kahneman has called System 1 thinking, meaning intuition and gut feel rather than rational, slow, linear analysis.

Some of our ancestors were doing the best they could to understand the world around them but had a very limited set of tools at their disposal.

It would appear that others were simply making stuff up.

Mormonism and Scientology appear to fall in the latter camp.

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## **OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

### **Pirates Attack And Board Gaza-Bound Aid 30 Miles From Coast**



The SV Estelle welcomes on board Greek pro-Palestinian activist Vassilis Pissias and a Greek left coalition Syriza party deputy on October 16.

Oct 20, 2012 Press TV

The Israeli navy forces have attacked and boarded a ship en route to Gaza strip, carrying aid and pro-Palestinian activists who were trying to break Israel's maritime blockade against the region.

The Finnish-flagged Estelle, which left Naples on 7 October with some 20 people of eight different nationalities aboard, was seized by the Israeli forces and taken to the port of Ashdod on Saturday.

**The Estelle, which is reportedly carrying a cargo including cement and medical supplies, was boarded 30 nautical miles off the coast of Gaza, activists said.**

“Israeli warships surrounded the Estelle and the assault on the peaceful ship started,” a statement from Ship to Gaza, an organization affiliated with the mission, said.

The passengers on the ship, the Estelle, included five members of European parliaments and a former Canadian lawmaker. “We have no confirmation from them of how they are, and we may not for some time hear directly from them,” David Heap, an activist connected to the movement said.

The Estelle was the latest of more than a dozen ships that had tried to break the blockade since 2010.

On May 31, 2010, Israeli forces attacked the Gaza-bound humanitarian Freedom Flotilla in international waters in the Mediterranean Sea, killing nine Turkish nationals aboard Turkey’s Mavi Marmara and injuring about 50 other activists who were part of the six-ship convoy.

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## **Heroic Zionists Continue Attacks On Unarmed Fishermen Inside Palestinian Waters**

October 19, 2012 by Saed Bannoura, IMEMC & Agencies

Israeli soldiers attacked, Friday, several Palestinian fishing boats in As-Sudaniyy area and the coastal area west of Gaza City.

Local sources said that the attack did not lead to damages or injuries, but the fishermen were forced back to the shore after the army prevented them from fishing.

The army also opened fire at fishermen west of Gaza.

On October 7, Israeli Naval Forces positioned off Al-Waha resort northwest of Beit Lahia, northern Gaza Strip, and arrested four fishermen while they were fishing 2.5 nautical miles off the shore.

The army chased a fisherman Majed Fadel Baker (51), who was sailing with his three sons Imran (27), Fadi (26), and Mohammad Majed Baker (20).

Israel carries out repeated attacks against the fishermen in Gaza, an issue that led to several casualties; the army also confiscated several fishing boats.

Israel reduced the area of fishing from 20 nautical miles, which was established upon in the agreements signed between Palestinians and Israel, to 6 nautical miles in 2008, but the Israeli navy continued to prevent fishermen from going beyond 3 nautical miles since 2009.

As a result, fishermen are prevented from reaching areas beyond that distance where fish is abundant.

Sometimes, Israeli forces also chase fishermen within the 3 nautical mile area. Consequently, Palestinian fishermen have lost 85% of their source of income, because of the limiting the fishing area.

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**“I Have Nightmares”  
“Sometimes I Dream That The Police  
Are Coming To Take Me, But Then I  
Wake Up To See That I’m Not In  
Prison But In My House”  
Zionist Occupation Regime Arrests  
Twelve-Year-Old 10 Times In Three Years**



Muslim Odeh (Amer Aruri / B'Tselem)



19 October 2012 By Jillian Kestler-D'Amours, The Electronic Intifada

Occupied Jerusalem:

In an unwavering voice, Muslim Odeh recounted how Israeli riot police took him from his bed earlier this week, blindfolded him, subjected him to hours of intense interrogation and held him overnight in a Jerusalem prison compound.

Odeh vomited after Israeli police punched him four times in the stomach on his way to his prison cell.

Odeh's calm demeanor, only days after his ordeal, was evidence of how this was his tenth arrest in three years.

More shocking, however, is the fact that this resident of Silwan in East Jerusalem is only 12-years-old.

"I miss my house," Odeh told The Electronic Intifada, as he stared longingly from the balcony of his uncle's home — where he is under house arrest until next Wednesday, 24 October — onto his family's house below.

"I don't feel comfortable. I miss my friends, my grandmother, my mother," he said. "I don't know if they will arrest me again."

Muslim Odeh was first arrested at the age of nine.

During each arrest, Israeli police have accused him of throwing stones and Molotov cocktails. Today, he is being held under house arrest at his uncle's home in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Jabel Mukaber. If he violates the conditions of his release, he will be re-arrested and forced to pay a fine of 5,000 shekels (\$1,300).

A group of Israeli riot police entered his home with two dogs, the 12-year-old explained, during the most recent arrest.

"I heard dogs near me. I was scared," he said, adding that, moments later, the police brought him blindfolded to an Israeli police station in East Jerusalem.

There, Israeli interrogators accused him of throwing Molotov cocktails and stones, and asked him about the activities of other children in Silwan. While he wasn't physically harmed during the interrogation, the main Israeli investigator yelled and forcibly slammed his hand on the table to scare him, Odeh said.

"I said I didn't do anything," said Odeh, who was interrogated from 5am until 3pm before being transferred to the notorious Russian Compound (Moskobiye, in Arabic) prison compound in West Jerusalem. There, he was held with six other prisoners who, he said, were Palestinian teenagers from the Shuafat refugee camp.

"I was the youngest in the room, in the whole Moskobiye," Odeh added.

According to a report released by Save the Children and the East Jerusalem YMCA Rehabilitation Program in March, the Israeli authorities have arrested and detained over

8,000 Palestinian children in the West Bank and East Jerusalem since 2000 (“The impact of child detention: Occupied Palestinian Territory,” March 2012).

**The report found that most of the children were handcuffed and blindfolded during their arrest — which was most often carried out on suspicion that the children threw stones — and that they were almost always interrogated and held without access to a lawyer or their parents.**

Nearly all children (98 percent) were subjected to physical or psychological violence during their arrest and detention, the report found, and 90 percent of children suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder.

“Children were subjected to isolation and ill-treatment; many developed a fear of dogs used for searching. They suffered from nightmares, sleeping and eating disorders, bedwetting, and feared re-arrest or acquired unhealthy habits such as smoking,” the report stated.

Addameer, the Ramallah-based Palestinian prisoners’ support and human rights association, has reported that as of 1 September this year, some 194 Palestinian children were held in Israeli detention centers, including 30 below the age of 16 (“Key Issues: Children,” Addameer website).

**“Forms of ill-treatment used by the Israeli soldiers during a child’s arrest and interrogation usually include slapping, beating, kicking and violent pushing. Palestinian children are also routinely verbally abused. Despite recommendations by the UN Committee Against Torture in May 2009 that the interrogations should be video recorded, no provisions to this effect have yet been enacted,” Addameer found.**

In July 2009, Israel created a juvenile military court system for Palestinian minors from the West Bank and East Jerusalem. After decades of trying Palestinians over 16-years-old as adults — in violation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which defines children as anyone 18 and under — Israel also recently began treating all Palestinians under 18 as children.

But according to Khaled Quzmar, legal advisor at Defence for Children International-Palestine Section (DCI), these changes are nothing more than “cosmetic” and haven’t really changed the overall system of oppression.

“Israel marketed (these changes to) the world as applying international human rights law and (that) they are going to stop prosecuting children in the Israeli military courts. In fact, on the ground, the same court and the same judges,” Quzmar told The Electronic Intifada.

“In fact, nothing changed. The same campaigns of arrests continued.”

DCI has found that despite putting juvenile courts in place, Israel still treats Palestinian children as adults when it comes to sentencing, bail applications and how long detainees can be denied access to a lawyer, which is set at 90 days for both adults and children (“Children prosecuted in Israeli military courts,” 2 October).

Quzmar added that the arrests of Palestinian children aim to deter resistance to Israeli occupation policies, and in some cases, force families to leave their homes and villages altogether.

“They put pressure on the families by arresting their children or targeting their children, so maybe this policy will force the families to leave the area. This policy is very clear in Jerusalem. The courts used to sentence the children deport the children from their houses so it is a kind of transfer,” he said.

For 12-year-old Muslim Odeh, the psychological impact of his many arrests has been difficult. “I have nightmares,” Odeh said. “Sometimes I dream that the police are coming to take me, but then I wake up to see that I’m not in prison but in my house.”

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

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## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



**Agents Of The “Lesser Evil”  
Regime Attack And Imprison  
Activists For Refusing To Inform  
On Other Activists:  
None Are Accused Of Any Crime Of  
Any Kind. But So What?  
“Duran, Plante And Olejnik Have Not  
Been Accused Of Any Criminal  
Wrongdoing, But They Have Been Held  
In Contempt And Jailed After Refusing  
To Testify”**

**As Plante stated after her second appearance and refusal to answer questions before the federal grand jury, "No, I will not answer their questions. I believe that these hearings are politically motivated. The government wants to use them to collect information that it can use in a campaign of repression. I refuse to have any part of it, I will never answer their questions, I will never speak."**

October 17, 2012 By Johnny Mao, Brit Schulte and Ben Silverman, Socialist Worker  
[Excerpts]

"I do not look forward to what inevitably awaits me today, but I accept it...My convictions are unwavering and will not be shaken by their harassment. Today is October 10, 2012, and I'm ready to go to prison."

Thus wrote 24-year old Leah-Lynn Plante in a statement as she prepared to be jailed.

Plante is the third anarchist activist in the Pacific Northwest to be put behind bars for refusing to testify before a federal grand jury. She could spend as much as 18 months in prison--the full length of the grand jury term.

Plante, along with Matthew Kyle Duran and Katherine "KteeO" Olejnik, have been imprisoned as part of the fallout from a series of raids on July 25 conducted by the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force--supposedly in response to instances of vandalism during this year's May Day protests in Seattle.

**“They Are Trying To Investigate Anarchists And Persecute Them For Their Beliefs. This Is A Fishing Expedition. This Is A Witch-Hunt”**

The Task Force's warrant allowed agents to raid the homes of activists in three cities. The FBI insisted that residents hand over any "anti-government or anarchist literature," along with flags, black clothing, cell phones, hard-drives and address books.

"As if they had taken pointers from Orwell's 1984, they took books, artwork and other various literature as 'evidence,' as well as many other personal belongings, even though they seemed to know that nobody there was even in Seattle on May Day," wrote Plante.

Furthering the government fishing expedition, the three activists received subpoenas requiring them to testify in front of a grand jury, where they were asked questions regarding their political opinions and the political circles and individuals they associate with.

This is a clear case of political leanings being used as proof of criminality.

As Plante wrote, "They are trying to investigate anarchists and persecute them for their beliefs. This is a fishing expedition. This is a witch-hunt."

Matt Duran was the first activist to be imprisoned. On September 12, after refusing to testify, Duran was held in contempt of court and taken into federal custody, where he would spend the next three weeks in isolation at the Sea-Tac Federal Detention Center.

**Before refusing a second attempt to force him to testify on September 26, Duran reportedly experienced what is "normal" for dissenting activists under today's Obama administration: little access to a phone, no access to sunlight or fresh air, and no contact with visitors, fellow inmates or an attorney.**

The presiding judge and prosecuting attorneys have complied with Duran's request to not set another grand jury hearing date until he requests one. On October 3, Duran finally was moved from isolation and into the general population section of the prison, where he is able to make phone calls and socialize with other inmates.

"Whatever happens, I want you to know that you are not alone and are more than capable of handling whatever is thrown at you," said Duran, in a public statement released on September 12. "Do not stop the struggle, keep organizing and fighting, or they will have won."

Katherine "KteeO" Olejnik was the second target of the state, and she also responded by refusing to testify.

On September 27, in the morning before her grand jury hearing, Olejnik and her attorney, Jennifer Kaplan, made a motion challenging the legality of the subpoenas. They argued that the government's subpoenas not only violate the First, Fourth and Fifth Amendments, but also breached the right to judicial oversight in an abuse of power.

But Olejnik was still placed into federal custody and isolation, where she remains.

In a statement before her latest hearing, Olejnik explained:

**“For me choosing to resist a grand jury is about humanity--I cannot and will not say something that could greatly harm a person’s life, and providing information that could lead to long-term incarceration would be doing that.**

“For me choosing to resist a grand jury is about freedom of speech and association--I cannot and will not be a party to a McCarthyist policy that is asking individuals to condemn each other based on political beliefs.”

**Duran, Plante and Olejnik have not been accused of any criminal wrongdoing, but they have been held in contempt and jailed after refusing to testify, because the government offered them immunity from prosecution--stripping them of their legal right to refuse to testify.**

**Describing her opposition to the government's fishing expedition, Plante noted that a Freedom of Information Act request revealed that that the grand jury was convened on March 2, 2012--two months before the actual protests.**

The initial search warrants, first shown to activists in July, cited evidence linked to "destruction of federal property"--leading activists to believe that the FBI was looking for "evidence" about recent May Day protests.

However, this new information reveals the extent to which the FBI have been investigating and monitoring political activists. Meanwhile, the grand jury subpoenas confirm the intent of the FBI: to attack, disrupt and neutralize political dissent.

**As Plante stated after her second appearance and refusal to answer questions before the federal grand jury, "No, I will not answer their questions. I believe that these hearings are politically motivated. The government wants to use them to collect information that it can use in a campaign of repression.**

**“I refuse to have any part of it, I will never answer their questions, I will never speak.”**

### **“The Persecution Of This New Generation Of Radicals Fits Squarely Into The U.S. Government's Tradition Of Squashing Dissent Through Force And Intimidation”**

The persecution of this new generation of radicals fits squarely into the U.S. government's tradition of squashing dissent through force and intimidation.

Recent raids have specifically targeted the Arab and Muslim, as well as antiwar activists. In late September of 2010, the FBI raided eight homes and offices of antiwar activists in Chicago and Minneapolis. Search warrants indicate the agents were looking for connections between activists and groups in Colombia and the Middle East. The warrants authorized agents to seize items such as electronics, videos, photographs, address books and mail.

Despite a Justice Department probe finding that the FBI improperly monitored activist groups and individuals from 2001 to 2006, these raids continued. Eight people were issued subpoenas to appear before a federal grand jury in Chicago. All have refused to testify.

**And of course, this disregard for civil liberties comes courtesy of the Obama administration, the same administration responsible for the National Defense Authorization Act, which allows the president to indefinitely detain U.S. citizens without trial.**

Thankfully, activists have responded to each and every grand jury hearing with demonstrations across the country--locally in Seattle and Portland, and in cities as far as away as Oakland, Calif., and Minneapolis, Minn. In Seattle, four marathon vigils spanning 24 or 48 hours each were held in solidarity with the targeted activists just outside the federal courthouse.

One participant, Travis C., remarked upon the resilience of the grand jury resisters and the implications for future organizing:

“I would say that those three activists are extremely brave individuals who aren't deserving of the treatment they are receiving from the state. Obviously it doesn't seem likely that we'll be able to spring them from prison, but I think the next best thing is that we as a larger community can spread information about this.

If secret grand juries keep crushing social movements--because we forget about this history every time a new generation emerges--the next best thing would be to build a culture of teaching about these grand juries. Solidarity forever to those three.”

As Matthew Kyle Duran said in a statement before beginning his prison sentence in early September, the fight is not over:

“When the Haymarket massacre took place all those years ago and the martyrs were hung for their desire for a better life, the state attempted to crush all radicals. Clearly, this did not work then, and it won't work now. If this was their desire, they have failed in every aspect of it, as I have not seen anything other than flagrant disregard for them across the globe.”

#### **WHAT YOU CAN DO:**

Visit the [Committee Against Political Repression](#) for updates about the case. [You can also donate](#) to help the three with their legal defense fund.

Write to the imprisoned activists. Make sure that your name and return address, as well as the activists' full names and inmate numbers, are included on the envelope and all pages of the letter (Remember that your letter will be read by prison officials.

For tips on how to write to a prisoner for the first time, see ["How to write your first letter to someone in prison."](#):

-- Katherine Olejnik #42592-086, FDC SeaTac, P.O. Box 13900, Seattle, WA 98198

-- Matthew Kyle Duran #42565-086, FDC SeaTac, P.O. Box 13900. Seattle, WA 98198

-- Leah-Lynn Plante #42611-086, FDC SeaTac, P.O. Box 13900, Seattle, WA 98198

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## **CLASS WAR REPORTS**

# **Make More Money! Drug Some Kids Today!! Young Children Were Once Expected To Outgrow Their Issues; Now They're Fed Legal Drugs**

**One thing doctors on both sides of the pediatric drug controversy agree on is that the decision to put a child on drugs will likely sentence him or her to a lifetime of medications. What they disagree about is whether that is a good thing or a bad thing.**

October 18, 2012 By Evelyn Pringle, Martha Rosenberg; Alternet [Excerpts]

**Where do parents and teachers get the idea there's something wrong with kids that only an expensive drug can fix?**

**From Big Pharma's seamless web of ads, subsidized doctors, journals, medical courses and conferences, paid "patient" groups, phony public services messages and reporters willing to serve as stenographers.**

Free stenography for Pharma from sympathetic media includes articles like "One in 40 Infants Experience Baby Blues, Doctors Say," on ABC News and "Preschool Depression: The Importance of Early Detection of Depression in Young Children," on Science Daily .

For many, the face of the drugs-not-hugs message is Harold Koplewicz, author of the pop bestseller *It's Nobody's Fault* , and former head of NYU's prestigious Child Study Center.

In a 1999 Salon article, Koplewicz reiterated his "no-fault" statement, assuring parents that psychiatric illness is not caused by bad parenting. "It is not that your mother got divorced, or that your father didn't wipe you the right way," he said. "It really is DNA roulette: You got blue eyes, blond hair, sometimes a musical ear, but sometimes you get the predisposition for depression."



**Many regard the NYU Child Study Center, which Koplewicz founded and led before leaving in 2009 to start his own facility, as helping to usher in the world of brave new pediatric medicine in which children, toddlers and infants, once expected to outgrow their problems, are now diagnosed with lifelong psychiatric problems.**

**The Child Study Center is “a threat to the health and welfare of children,” and its doctors are “hustlers working to increase their 'client' population and their commercial value to psychotropic drug manufacturers,” charged Vera Sharav , president of the watchdog group, Alliance for Human Research Protection.**

A look at the center's stated mission provides no reassurance.

**Its goal of "eliminating the stigma of being or having a child with a psychiatric disorder," and "influencing child-related public policy," sounds a lot like a Pharma sales plan.**

And its boast about having "a structure that allows recruitment of patients for research studies and then provides 'real-world' testing for successful controlled-environment findings," could send chills down the backs of parents afraid their kids will be guinea pigs or money-making subjects.

In 2007, the fears of the Child Study Center's skeptics were confirmed when it launched an aggressive, scare tactic marketing campaign called Ransom Notes in 2007.

"We have your son," said one ad, created with bits of disparate type like a ransom note from a kidnapper. "We will make sure he will no longer be able to care for himself or interact socially as long as he lives. This is only the beginning...Autism."

"We have your daughter. We are forcing her to throw up after every meal she eats. It's only going to get worse," said another ad signed "Bulimia."

"We are in possession of your son. We are making him squirm and fidget until he is a detriment to himself and those around him. Ignore this and your kid will pay," said another add from "ADHD."

Other ransom ads came from kidnapers named Depression, Asperger's Syndrome and OCD.

Created pro bono by advertising giant BBDO, the ads were planned to run in New York magazine, Newsweek, Parents Education Update, Mental Health News and other publications and on 11 billboards and 200 kiosks, according to the press release.

The hostage campaign drew immediate public outrage and more than a dozen advocacy groups joined together in an online petition calling for an end to it.

“This is a demonstration of the assaultive tactics used by psychiatry today--in particular, academic psychiatrists and university-based medical centers that are under the influence of their pharmaceutical partners,” Vera Sharav wrote in alerts to AHRP's mailing list.

"If Dr. Koplewicz et al. are not stopped, the campaign will be hitting the rest of the country," she warned, and informed readers that the campaign was formulated by BBDO, "a major direct to consumer prescription drug advertising firm," asking the New York State Attorney General's office to investigate.

Days after the backlash, the center revoked the advertising campaign "after the effort drew a strongly negative reaction," reported the New York Times.

Koplewicz told the Times the decision was made by the center with no pressure from New York University and they planned to introduce a new campaign in the next three months.

However, he left the Child Study Center at NYU in 2009 to start his own facility, initially called the Child Study Center Foundation, but changed to the Child Mind Institute, in 2010.

There was more controversy when Koplewicz left the center.

When he announced his resignation, New York University "forbade him from entering his office and it pushed out professors who had said they wanted to join him at Child Mind Institute," reported the New York Times.

Twelve NYU professors nevertheless followed Koplewicz to the Child Mind Institute as well as most of the Child Study Center's influential board of directors, which included Garber Neidich, a chairwoman at the Whitney Museum, the founders of the Tribeca Film Festival founders and some well known financiers.

**The toxic send-off was followed by the New York State Office of Mental Health firing Koplewicz from his job of nearly four years as director of the Nathan Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research, an affiliate of NYU School of Medicine.**

In a chilling interview on Education Update Online , Koplewicz says the reason his institute works closely with schools "is simply that's where the kids are" (bringing to mind Willy Sutton, who robbed banks because "that's where the money is").

**Last month in the Wall Street Journal , Koplewicz wrote that "no studies have examined the effect of long-term use" of ADHD meds, but they "have been in use for 70 years, and there is no evidence that suggests any adverse effects."**

**But there has been a large federal study of the long-term effects of the drugs and it shows they are "ineffective over longer periods," and "that long-term use of the drugs can stunt children's growth," reported the Washington Post. Oops.**

Only one child in 10,000 has pediatric schizophrenia--some say one in 30,000--but for Pharma it is an untapped market. Symptoms of childhood schizophrenia include "social deficits" and "delusions...related to childhood themes," writes Gabriele Masi, in an article titled "Children with Schizophrenia: Clinical Picture and Pharmacological Treatment," in the journal CNS Drugs.

What child doesn't have "social deficits" and "delusions" like imaginary playmates?

Masi has received research funding from Eli Lilly, served as an adviser to the drug company Shire, and been on speakers bureaus for Sanofi Aventis, AstraZeneca, GSK and Janssen, according to the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry.

**Joining Masi in pursuing pediatric pathology is Joan L. Luby, director of the Early Emotional Development Program at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. In an article in the Archives of General Psychiatry, she alerts the world to the problem of "preschool depression."**

Researchers used to believe that "young children were too cognitively and emotionally immature to experience depressive effects," says the paper, which was widely picked up the mainstream press, but they now believe preschoolers can and do suffer from major depressive disorder (MDD).

"The potential public health importance of identification of preschool MDD is underscored by the established unique efficacy of early intervention during the preschool period," says the article.

**Translation: Big Pharma can clean up if kids are diagnosed young.**

Luby "has received grant/research support from Janssen, has given occasional talks sponsored by AstraZeneca, and has served as a consultant for Shire Pharmaceutical," according to a journal article she co-wrote.

Then there is Mani Pavuluri, a doctor who finds deficiencies of mania and bipolar drugs in tots. "Pediatric bipolar disorder (PBD) is complex illness with a chronic course, requiring multiple medications over the longitudinal course of illness, with limited recovery and high relapse rate," she wrote in the journal *Minerva Pediatrica* last year. Pavuluri receives research dollars from GlaxoSmithKline as well as from the National Institutes of Health, aka our tax dollars, according to the *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*.

Two features that characterize the pediatric medicine practiced by the NYU Child Study Center, Koplewicz, Mani, Luby and Pavuluri are they term the "diseases" they identify undertreated and underdiagnosed and they urge early treatment when symptoms first appear. (Before the symptoms go away on their own?)

Yet the very fact that such diseases are lifelong conditions is reason to wait to medicate, said Mark Zimmerman, director of outpatient psychiatry at Rhode Island Hospital at the 2010 American Psychiatric Association annual meeting in New Orleans.

**Nor can parents with medicated children know if their kids even needed the drugs, since symptoms from the drugs are often called the "disease," says Peter Breggin in a recent interview.**

**One thing doctors on both sides of the pediatric drug controversy agree on is that the decision to put a child on drugs will likely sentence him or her to a lifetime of medications.**

**What they disagree about is whether that is a good thing or a bad thing.**

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



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