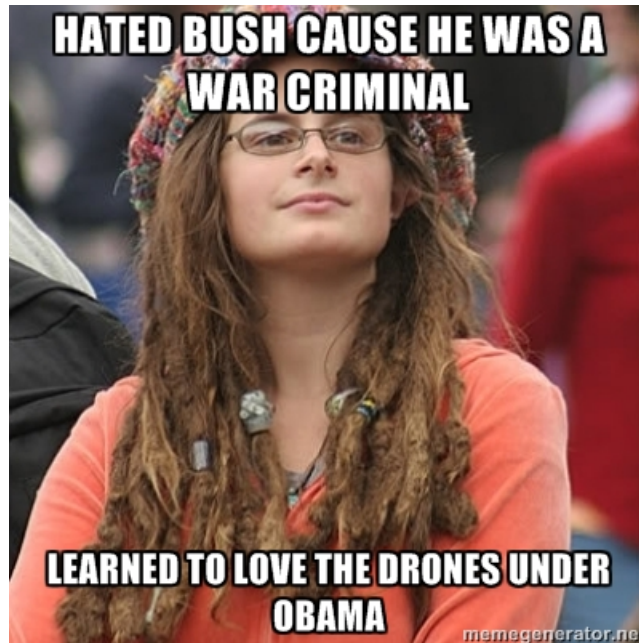


## **Military Resistance 11A8**



### **Legally Wed To Wife Killed In Action, Widow Finds System Can Shut Out Same-Sex Spouses:**

**“Sandra Johnson, Mother Of Army  
National Guard Staff Sgt. Donna  
Johnson, Made Sure Her  
Daughter-In-Law Was Able To  
Accompany Her Wife’s Casket  
Home From Dover”**

**“‘A Marriage Is A Marriage,’ She Said  
‘It Was Holy In Their World. That’s  
How I Perceived It’”  
“Other Army Wives Also Have Been  
Supportive And Protective”**



Donna Johnson, left, and Tracy Dice married last Valentine's Day in the District of Columbia, where same-sex marriage is legal. FAMILY PHOTO



Sandra Johnson, mother of Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Donna Johnson, made sure her daughter-in-law was able to accompany her wife's casket home from Dover

**The situation could have been much worse, she said, if she wasn't in uniform herself, if Johnson's mother hadn't stood up for the rights of her daughter and Dice, and if the military hadn't done everything possible within the confines of the law.**

RAEFORD, N.C. — Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Tracy Dice is facing the same painful milestones as any other grieving military widow — first holidays alone, delivery of the headstone, and every other reminder, large and small, of her loss.

But there's one way in which Dice is unique among military widows: She's mourning the loss of her wife, 29-year-old Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Donna Johnson, one of three soldiers killed Oct. 1 in Afghanistan by a suicide bomber.

As far as is known, Dice and Johnson are the first same-sex married military couple to have suffered a casualty since the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell," said Stephen Peters, executive director of the American Military Partner Association.

**And that makes Dice unique in another way, as well: She's ineligible for a number of benefits normally provided to widows because of the Defense of Marriage Act, which prohibits the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriages.**

**For example, the government pays travel costs of heterosexual spouses to Dover Air Force Base, Del., when fallen troops return to American soil.**

Dice was not eligible for those allowances solely through her status as a same-sex widow. But the military did arrange to cover her travel expenses to Dover in the company of the Johnson family — though Dice is unsure how.

"Tracy Dice never received any benefits as a spouse; she received benefits as a soldier or as a friend of (Johnson's) family," said North Carolina National Guard spokesman Capt. Matthew Boyle.

Dice is also shut out of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, a Veterans Affairs Department program that pays \$1,215 a month to heterosexual spouses of service members who die on active duty.

She's also left out of other notable benefits, such as the Survivor Benefit Plan and VA education benefits.

In the long term, she won't receive Tricare health coverage as other widows do, although, as a National Guardsman, she is eligible for the premium-based Tricare Reserve Select program. She'll continue to receive other benefits, such as commissary, exchange and other base privileges, by virtue of own National Guard status.

"We married out of love, not (for) benefits. I am not a victim," Dice said.

Still, she said, "It's a sad statement that three soldiers lost their lives and all three were married, but one of the spouses was treated as if she was single."

**As hard as this process has been for her, Dice believes it would be much harder for other same-sex spouses who may not have the same high level of support she has received from Johnson's family and from the military itself.**

**The situation could have been much worse, she said, if she wasn't in uniform herself, if Johnson's mother hadn't stood up for the rights of her daughter and**

**Dice, and if the military hadn't done everything possible within the confines of the law.**

"Everybody — the casualty assistance officer, my unit, her unit — everybody I've come in personal contact with has really stood up and done the right thing," she said, adding that other Army wives also have been supportive and protective.

"If other gay spouses have to go through this and don't have the family support, and are not in the military, it's too easy for them to get shut out and not have any rights whatsoever," Dice said.

**The Johnson family's support has been critical to her emotional well-being, Dice said.**

**Along with working to get her to Dover, they helped her receive a flag and set of awards, in addition to the flag Donna Johnson's mother received at the burial.**

**The family also asked that Dice be assigned as a military escort when Johnson's remains were flown from Dover to Raeford, near Fort Bragg.**

**"That was a great honor, to be able to escort my wife back home," Dice said.**

**Sandra Johnson, Donna's mother, said she felt it was important to include Dice in the family's arrangements.**

**"A marriage is a marriage," she said during a visit to Dice's home in Raeford.**

**"It was holy in their world. That's how I perceived it."**

Dice said she and Johnson both knew what they were getting into when they married last year on Valentine's Day during a whirlwind two-day trip to Washington, D.C., where gay marriage is allowed.

"We knew the laws, we knew the rules, we knew the regulations," she said.

Dice's face brightens when she describes her wife — the natural athlete who loved family and holidays, loved riding motorcycles to the beach, loved their dogs, loved renovating their home, loved to laugh.

"I wanted to get married because I love the sanctity of the union of marriage," Dice said.

It was also important to Donna Johnson because of her parents, married nearly 40 years.

"I knew how much marriage truly meant to her," Dice said.

Johnson deployed to Afghanistan in August with the North Carolina National Guard's 514th Military Police Company, helping train Afghan police.

Dice, who has served for four years with the North Carolina National Guard's 430th Ordnance Company, previously served four years on active Army duty. She was

scheduled to deploy with the 430th, but got bumped at the last minute for medical reasons.

Both had deployed earlier to Iraq, returning in 2008.

Dice and Johnson last talked Sept. 30 and agreed Johnson would call again the next day.

### **“That Call Didn’t Come”**

When that call didn’t come, Dice began to panic. Her fears deepened after she read an online report about the deaths of three soldiers in Khowst, Afghanistan.

After calling the family readiness group and friends who are wives of soldiers in the unit, she realized a communications blackout was in effect because no one had answers. She called Johnson’s family and urged them to answer all phone calls.

She then waited.

About 45 minutes later, Johnson’s sister called and said the military was at their house, and she needed to come there.

**Although a spouse is generally the first to be notified, and Johnson had listed Dice on her Record of Emergency Data for notification, technically Johnson’s immediate biological family had to be notified first.**

**Unlike other widowed spouses, Dice was not assigned a casualty assistance officer.**

“But [the Johnson family’s CAO did an awesome job,” she said. “He did everything he could possibly do for me.”

Troops control some military benefits. For example, they can designate anyone as beneficiaries of their Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance policy, as well as the military’s \$100,000 death gratuity.

“I can’t go into details, but I can tell you that Donna treated the two most important women in her life equally,” Dice said. “That speaks volumes in and of itself, especially with how close she was with her family.”

But because Johnson was a single soldier under federal law, other issues have been more difficult for Dice.

Johnson had her will with her in Afghanistan, so it was included with her personal effects after she died. Dice said she was told the personal effects can go only to next of kin, and she was legally fourth in line after Johnson’s biological family.

Johnson named Dice executor of her estate, and the will has to be certified in court.

For someone who didn’t have a family as supportive as the Johnsons, Dice said, “Who knows what could have happened ... how easy it would be for that will to disappear?”

Some grief counseling is available to Dice by virtue of her Guard status. That would not necessarily be the case for other same-sex spouses with no military ties, at least through government channels.

But other organizations, such as Give an Hour and Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, provide grief counseling and support to same-sex partners.

The American Military Partner Association has been a source of support for Dice, who connected with them even before Johnson died. The organization provides some counseling for partners, and helps put them in touch with other counseling resources.

### **“Sandra Knows ... How Much I Miss Her”**

Dice's heart was not into decorating for the holidays this year, a stark contrast to the elaborate decorations she and Johnson put up last year.

But she and her mother-in-law did make a “grave blanket,” with Christmas holly, berries, flowers and greenery, which covers the width and length of Johnson's grave.

And in the wee hours when Dice needs to talk to someone about the love of her life, she calls her mother-in-law.

“Sandra knows ... how much I miss her,” Dice said.

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

# **Afghan Soldier Kills British Soldier, Wounds 6; 1st ‘Insider Attack’ Of 2013**

January 7 By Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — An Afghan soldier turned his weapon against foreign and Afghan troops in a southern province, killing one British soldier, another attack by a member of Afghanistan's military against its foreign allies, officials said Tuesday.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the shooting, the first insider attack of 2013. Several British soldiers were also reported wounded.

NATO command spokesman Brig. Gen. Gunter Katz identified the dead soldier in Monday's shooting as British, but his name was not released.

“Yesterday, a suspected member of the Afghan national army shot and killed a British (NATO) soldier,” Katz told a news conference.

He said the shooting occurred at a patrol base in Nahri Sarraj district of Helmand province and that the shooter fired at both Afghan and British troops.

An Afghan Defense Ministry official said the shooter was an enlisted soldier, and six British soldiers were wounded.

A Taliban spokesman, Qari Yousef Ahmadi, said in an email that “an infiltrator” staged the attack and managed to escape from the scene but was then shot and killed after opening fire on a checkpoint. The Taliban have used the term “infiltrator” in the past to refer to members who have enlisted in the military to conduct such an attack. They identified the assailant as Mohammad Qasim Faroq.

In London, the Ministry of Defense said the soldier, who was attached to the 21 Engineer Regiment, was killed by small arms fire at Patrol Base Hazrat.

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## **Brockport Soldier Staff Sgt. Nicholas Reid Laid To Rest**



The coffin of U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Nicholas J. Reid is carried out of the sanctuary at The Father's House on Paul Road in Chili following funeral services. ADRIAN KRAUS. The Democrat And Chronicle.

Dec 29, 2012 The Democrat And Chronicle

A Brockport soldier who died after an enemy attack in Afghanistan was laid to rest Saturday.

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Nicholas J. Reid died Dec. 13 in Landstuhl, Germany, of injuries suffered in the Dec. 9 explosion of an improvised explosive device in Sperwan Village, Afghanistan.

Staff Sgt. Reid, a 2004 graduate of Brockport High School, entered the Army in August 2006. He was assigned to the 53rd Ordnance Company of the 3rd Ordnance Battalion based at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington state.

His unit deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in September, and he was on his second deployment when the explosion occurred.

His funeral service was held at The Father's House, 715 Paul Road, Chili.

The Reid family declined to comment publicly. The family did ask in a paid obituary that those wishing to remember Staff Sgt. Reid consider donating to the EOD Memorial at [www.eodmemorial.org](http://www.eodmemorial.org).

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## **MILITARY NEWS**

# **Army Prosecutor Links Bradley Manning Case To Civil War Espionage: [No, Not From The Duffle Blog, The Onion, Or A Bad Bath Salts Trip]**





[www.bradleymanning](http://www.bradleymanning)

Jan 9, 2013 By David Dishneau - The Associated Press [Excerpts]

FORT MEADE, Md. — Prosecutors are using a Civil War court-martial to advance their case that an Army private charged with sending hundreds of thousands of classified documents to the secret-spilling website WikiLeaks aided al-Qaida.

Lawyers for Pfc. Bradley Manning refute the government's claim that Manning's case parallels that of Pvt. Henry Vanderwater, a Union soldier convicted in 1863 of aiding the enemy by giving an Alexandria, Va., newspaper a command roster that was then published.

Vanderwater, a member of the 1st District of Columbia Volunteers, was sentenced to three months of hard labor and a dishonorable discharge.

The 25-year-old Manning could get life in prison if he's convicted of indirectly aiding the enemy by leaking U.S. secrets while working as an intelligence analyst in Baghdad in 2009 and 2010.

The government must prove at a trial beginning June 3 that Manning knew al-Qaida members would see what WikiLeaks published; and that he knew or should have known that the material he allegedly leaked could harm the United States or help a foreign power.

Prosecutor Capt. Joe Morrow said during a pretrial hearing Wednesday that the government plans to introduce evidence that al-Qaida members, including Osama bin Laden, saw the war logs and State Department cables Manning allegedly sent to WikiLeaks.

Another prosecutor, Capt. Angel Overgaard, cited the Vanderwater case among others Tuesday during the hearing at Fort Meade, near Baltimore.

She said military courts have recognized that "publishing information in a newspaper" can "indirectly convey information to the enemy" and constitute aiding the enemy.

**Civilian defense attorney David Coombs countered that the Civil War-era cases involved coded messages disguised as advertisements.**

**He said all modern cases involve military members who gave the enemy information directly.**

**“There’s been no case in the entire history of military jurisprudence that dealt with somebody providing information to a legitimate journalistic organization and having them publish it and that involved dealing with the enemy,” Coombs said.**

The issue arose during arguments over a government motion to bar the defense from using evidence of Manning’s motive.

The military judge, Col. Denise Lind, said she would rule on that motion at a hearing starting Jan. 16. Lind said she also will rule then on another prosecution motion seeking to block evidence that the U.S. government overclassifies information.

Coombs said barring such evidence would cripple the defense’s ability to argue that Manning selectively leaked information he believed couldn’t help the enemy.

Manning allegedly told an online confidant-turned-government informant, Adrian Lamo, that he leaked the material because “I want people to see the truth” and “information should be free.”

Coombs called the charge that Manning indirectly aided the enemy unprecedented.

Air Force Lt. Col. David J. R. Frakt, who teaches military law at the University of Pittsburgh, agreed.

“It’s very rare and there hasn’t been anything in a long time — and probably nothing in the Internet area,” Frakt said.

He said it may be a stretch for prosecutors to cite a Civil War case, but he added, “Just because it’s unprecedented doesn’t mean they can’t make their case.”

**On Wednesday, Manning offered to plead guilty to reduced charges for two of 22 counts he faces.**

Both allege violations of the federal Computer Fraud and Abuse Act. Lind may consider the proffers at a hearing starting Feb. 26, along with similar previous offers involving eight other counts.

Coombs has said the pleas would enable Manning to take responsibility for the leaks. The reduced charges for the 10 counts would be military infractions with combined prison sentences of up to 20 years versus 100 years for the original felony charges.

Manning, of Crescent, Okla., is accused of leaking classified Iraq and Afghanistan war logs and more than 250,000 diplomatic cables while working as an intelligence analyst in Baghdad in 2009 and 2010.

He also is charged with leaking 2007 video of a U.S. helicopter crew gunning down 11 men, including a Reuters news photographer and his driver.

The Pentagon concluded the troops acted appropriately, having mistaken the camera equipment for weapons.

Manning supporters consider him a whistleblower whose actions exposed war crimes and helped trigger the pro-democracy Arab Spring uprisings in late 2010.

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## **NOT ANOTHER DAY NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR NOT ANOTHER LIFE**



The remains of Spc. Tyler J. Orgaard Dec. 5, 2012, at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Orgaard, 20, of Bismarck, N.D., died Dec. 3, 2012, in Lashkar Gah City, Helmand province, Afghanistan, of wounds sustained from an improvised explosive device. Bismarck Tribune

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE  
BLOODSHED**

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

## 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**

**People do not make revolutions eagerly any more than they do war. There is this difference, however, that in war compulsion plays the decisive role, in revolution there is no compulsion except that of circumstances.**

**A revolution takes place only when there is no other way out. And the insurrection, which rises above a revolution like a peak in the mountain chain of its events, can be no more evoked at will than the revolution as a whole. The masses advance and retreat several times before they make up their minds to the final assault.**

**-- Leon Trotsky; The History of the Russian Revolution**

# Service Members Beware

From: Sanford Kelson [Veteran & Attorney

To: Military Resistance Newsletter

Subject: Service Members Beware: Arrests may result in unlawful pretrial punishment, more specifically, torture. Be afraid of your command. Your command does not have respect for the troops or their rights. Troops are cannon fodder.

Date: Jan 8, 2013 11:02 PM

**Service Members Beware: Arrests may result in unlawful pretrial punishment, more specifically, torture.**

**Be afraid of your command.**

**Your command does not have respect for the troops or their rights.**

**Troops are cannon fodder.**

**Judge: Manning endured unlawful pretrial punishment:**

The military court grants the soldier 112 days sentencing credit but does not drop his charges

<http://is.gd/2xPNIW>

## **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 war 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.**

# New Study Shows PTSD, Alcohol Lead To Increased Sexual Performance



9 January 2013 by G-Had, The Duffle Blog

WASHINGTON, D.C. – A new study released last week suggests that Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) can not only be cured through copious amounts of alcohol consumption, but over the long term actually leads to increased sexual performance.

The study “PABST and PTSD” was published in the *Annals of Infantry Medicine*, a publication sponsored by the Textbooks of Military Medicine and Anheuser-Busch InBev.

It has already been endorsed by the Surgeon General of the United States and the Food and Drug Administration.

Drawing on eleven years of surveys conducted on US service-members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, the study measured test subjects in several categories: mental stability, physical prowess, marital and family life, job retention, and high-speed stunt driving.

“No matter what category we looked at, people suffering from PTSD who drank heavily scored at the top of the charts over all other types of veterans and many other civilians,” said Dr. William Beasley, an Army physician at the Tripler Army Medical Center.

The main reason, according to the study, is alcohol’s remarkable inhibitor on what are popularly called “lifestyle choices”.

For example, while many people are unable or unwilling to properly exercise, one PTSD-afflicted veteran was observed one night running naked through the streets of Tampa for at least seven hours. This is well above and beyond the Surgeon General's recommended two and a half weekly exercise hours.

Dr. Tyler Smith, a psychiatrist at Bethesda Naval Medical Center, said he's seen similar improvements on employment.

"One of our reservist JAG officers was having trouble dealing with an IED attack that wounded him and killed his best friend. But with copious amounts of alcohol, as well as us repeatedly reminding him that failure would be just like letting his dead friend down again, he managed to write a 200-page legal brief in just thirty minutes."

Some military personnel have said the study only confirms what they've long-suspected.

"Most of my Marines do their absolute best on their physical fitness test or rifle range when they're intoxicated," said Staff Sergeant Alan Winters. "All these years I've been telling my guys to avoid drinking to solve their problems. Now I know better."

The most amazing part of the study, though, was on married life and more specifically, sexual activity.

"My husband used to have serious performance issues, especially after he got back from Iraq," said Marsha Summers. "But after he drank a whole bottle of Stolli, all I had to do was blast the opening beach scene from Saving Private Ryan, and he went ALL NIGHT!"

The study is not without its critics.

Some detractors claim the study is obviously biased, due to its sponsorship by a beer company.

inBev spokesmen have responded that the study was exclusively conducted by Army Medics and Navy Corpsmen, "who obviously know something about the rigors of modern medical testing."

Others have questioned the integrity of the Anals of Infantry Medisin, pointing to other studies it has published like "Prolonging Health With Barroom Brawls" and "Solve All Your Problems By Suicide".

Further studies will be conducted on the effects of PTSD and alcohol on mountain climbing and deep sea diving.

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## **OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

**Israeli Veterans Describe  
“Invading Houses, Harassing  
Civilians, Destroying Private  
Property, Opening Fire On  
Unarmed Targets”  
“Testimonies Collected In Our Harsh  
Logic: Israeli Soldiers’ Testimonies  
From The Occupied Territories, 2000–  
2010”  
“They Will Tell You, In Grim And  
Granular Detail, Is How Degrading And  
Demeaning Upholding The Occupation  
Has Been”**

December 24, by Eyal Press, The Nation

A decade ago, a Palestinian farmer approached an Israeli soldier stationed in Qalqilya, a West Bank city located near the Green Line along the Israeli border, with an urgent appeal.

The farmer’s land was about to be bulldozed to make way for Israel’s separation barrier, laying waste to his fig orchard. “I planted this grove for ten years, I waited ten years for it to bear fruit, I enjoyed it for one year, and now they’re uprooting it,” said the farmer, fighting back tears.

The tears soon started flowing, not because the soldier was unsympathetic — watching the farmer break down as his trees were felled was “heartbreaking,” he later said — but because his orders were to protect the surveyors.

How degrading and demeaning has living under military occupation been to Palestinians such as that farmer?

The testimonies collected in *Our Harsh Logic: Israeli Soldiers’ Testimonies From the Occupied Territories, 2000–2010* (Metropolitan; \$32), a volume of 145 interviews gathered by the Israeli NGO Breaking the Silence, won’t tell you.



What they will tell you, in grim and granular detail, is how degrading and demeaning upholding the occupation has been to Israelis.

The book's narrators are veterans of the Israel Defense Forces who were sent to serve in the occupied territories in the decade after the second intifada, ostensibly to prevent violent attacks by Palestinians.

The wave of violence that engulfed Israel a decade ago was indeed calamitous, but anyone who thinks the IDF limits itself to confiscating weapons and punishing terrorists when patrolling the occupied territories would do well to consider what its own members say.

**“We go into the houses of innocent people. Every day, all the time,” says one soldier. Another describes tossing stun grenades into a village in the middle of the day, a policy known as “demonstrating a presence” that, according to the soldier, is often unconnected to a specific security threat and equally routine.**

None of these soldiers are named, and many were interviewed only after they completed their military service, inviting the question of why, if they were so bothered by such things, they didn't speak out and identify themselves at the time.

One reason is that many weren't bothered, owing to how habituated and anesthetized they became while carrying out orders.

“I didn't get that I was doing something wrong,” says a soldier whose unit set about wrecking the streets of a neighborhood one day by driving armored Hummers over cars, pulling out the passengers and beating them.

“You could do whatever you like and no one asked any questions.” Another says he is most disturbed by “the things I have the privilege of doing on a daily basis and becoming immune to.”

Invading houses, harassing civilians, destroying private property, opening fire on unarmed targets: the blasé tone with which such acts are recounted chillingly conveys what wielding absolute power over a civilian population has done to an army that has long prided itself on its values.

And yet that power is not quite absolute.

There are limits, as when a soldier patrolling a neighborhood in Hebron spots a boy throwing a rock at another boy walking with his father. “If an Arab boy picked up a rock against a Jewish boy, then we'd probably have to handcuff him, blindfold him, send him wherever, follow the orders,” he says.

But on this occasion, the soldier does nothing, since the perpetrator of the assault is a Jewish settler, whom he cannot threaten.

“Look what they're doing to us,” says the father of the Palestinian boy who was attacked. “Other than lower my head in shame, there's nothing I can do,” the soldier says.

A decade ago, such a story might well have induced shame in most Israelis. This assumption is increasingly tenuous today. The Israeli left is small and deflated. Having watched Hamas gain power in the Gaza Strip and Benjamin Netanyahu's popularity in Israel soar, many Israeli moderates have grown apathetic and resigned. Other former moderates have drifted into the ranks of the Israeli right, whose most strident members view the colonization of the West Bank with pride.

If their dream of annexing this territory is realized, 69 percent of Jewish Israelis would deny granting Palestinians voting rights, according to a recent survey conducted by Dialog, and 74 percent would support separate roads for Jews—in effect, an apartheid system. Right-wing views increasingly pervade the IDF, where soldiers raised in settlements and educated in yeshivas dominate many of the units in the territories.

As *Our Harsh Logic* shows, the idea that there is nothing wrong with ruling permanently over millions of people deprived of basic rights is not universally shared in Israel. The book also shows the impressive freedom Israelis have to speak out about things their government would prefer to keep hushed.

Yet here, too, there are worrisome signs. Like many Israeli human rights organizations, *Breaking the Silence*, founded in 2004, has seen the political climate turn increasingly inhospitable. In 2009, after the group published a book of controversial testimonies on Operation Cast Lead — a three-week invasion of the Gaza Strip that began in December 2008 — Israel's Foreign Ministry called on Spain, the Netherlands and other foreign governments to cut off funding for the organization.

"There is no silence to break," complained Netanyahu. "What are they talking about?"

Yet if this book is any indication, the biggest challenge *Breaking the Silence* faces today is not finding soldiers who will speak out or keeping itself financially afloat; it is being heard. The act of bearing witness can make an impact only if there is an audience, after all.

What the soldiers in *Our Harsh Logic* are talking about is a morally untenable situation that has gone on for forty-five years. They have come forward to rouse the conscience of their fellow citizens. But is anybody listening?

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## **Assad Regime Kills Nine Palestinian Refugees Including A Woman And Three Kids; Also Kills Two Little Girls In Mortar Attack On Husseiniyeh Camp.**

January 7, 2013

The Palestinian Information Center

DAMASCUS (PIC) -- Nine Palestinian refugees, including a woman and three kids aged five to seven years, were killed on Saturday after the fall of mortar shells on the camps of Yarmouk, Husseiniya, Sabina and Sayeda Zeinab in the south of the Syrian capital Damascus.

The action group for Palestinians in Syria said the Syrian regime army is still imposing a tight blockade on Yarmouk refugee camp for the 14th consecutive day.

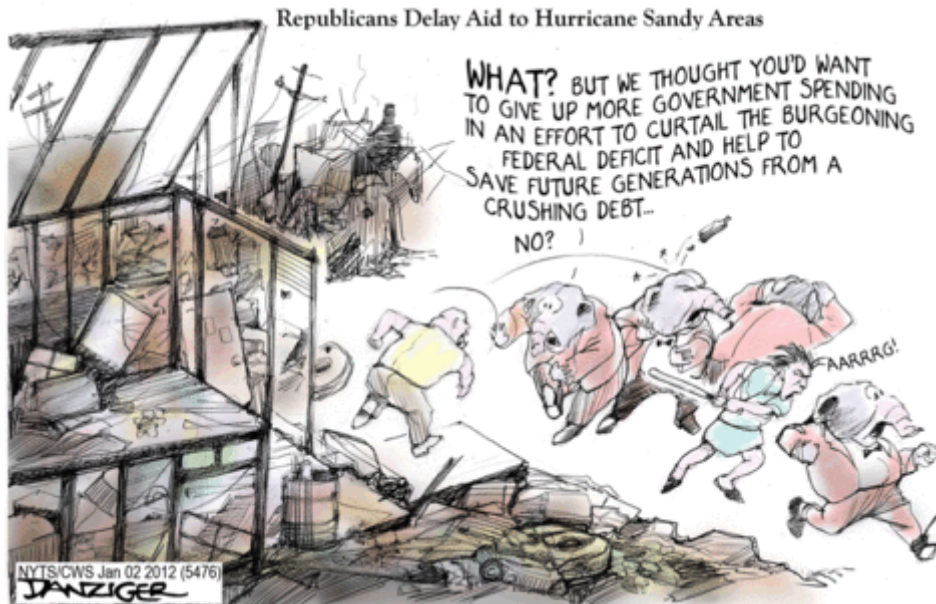
The Syrian regime forces, it added, prevent the entry of individuals and vehicles or the access of any food and medical supplies into Yarmouk camp.

The action group affirmed that two Palestinian young men from the camp were killed and three others were wounded in a mortar attack on 30 street, adding that the refugees are still fleeing Sayeda Zeinab camp because of the ongoing bombing by the Syrian regime army.

The action group also reported that three Palestinian refugee including two little girls were killed in a mortar attack on Husseiniyeh camp.

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## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**



# Obama Regime Filth Send Man To Prison For 10 Years He Did Something That's Legal In His State: Growing Marijuana

January 8, 2013 By Natasha Lennard, AlterNet

A federal court Monday sentenced a California man to ten years in prison for doing something that's legal in his state.

Aaron Sandusky was convicted in October on federal charges of distributing marijuana — he is one of four defendants in the United States who have faced federal prosecutors over medical marijuana dispensaries in states where medical marijuana is legal.

Sandusky, 42, ran three dispensaries in Southern California's Inland Empire area. Medical marijuana dispensaries have been legal according to California state law since 1996.

According to reports, Sandusky told the courtroom Monday, "I want to apologize to those with me and their families who have been victimized by the federal government who has not recognized the voters of this state."

Sandusky's case, like a handful of others in California and one in Montana, highlights some of the harshest fallout to come of the ongoing conflict between federal and state marijuana law.

**As the AP reported, "California's four federal prosecutors launched a coordinated crackdown on the state's medical marijuana industry in 2011 by threatening landlords with property forfeiture actions. Since then, hundreds of pots shops have gone out of business."**

As more and more states decriminalize and legalize marijuana both for medical and personal use, it remains to be seen whether Sandusky will be one of the first or last victims of this state-federal conflict.

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## War Profiteer Paid \$5.28 Million To Former Iraqi Prisoners Tortured At Abu Ghraib:

**One Prisoner “Was Forced To Consume So Much Water That He Began To Vomit Blood”  
“Several Of The Inmates Said They Were Raped, And Many Of The Inmates Said They Were Beaten”  
“No Employee From L-3 Services Was Charged With A Crime In Investigations By The U.S. Justice Department”**

Jan 9, 2013 By Pete Yost - The Associated Press [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON — A defense contractor whose subsidiary was accused in a lawsuit of conspiring to torture detainees at the infamous Abu Ghraib prison has paid \$5.28 million to former prisoners held there and at other U.S.-run detention sites in Iraq during the war.

The settlement on behalf of 71 former inmates marks the first successful effort by lawyers for former inmates at Abu Ghraib and other detention centers to collect money from a U.S. defense contractor in lawsuits alleging torture.

Another contractor, CACI, is expected to go to trial over similar allegations this summer.

Defense contractor Engility Holdings Inc. of Chantilly, Va., disclosed the payment in a document it filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission two months ago.

The defendant in the lawsuit, L-3 Services Inc., now an Engility subsidiary, provided translators to the U.S. military in Iraq.

In 2006, L-3 Services had more than 6,000 translators in Iraq under a \$450 million-a-year contract, an L-3 executive told an investors conference at the time.

On Tuesday, Baher Azmy, a lawyer for the ex-detainees, said that each of the Iraqis received a portion of the settlement.

Azmy declined to say how the money was distributed among them. He said there was an agreement to keep details of the settlement confidential.

“Private military contractors played a serious but often underreported role in the worst abuses at Abu Ghraib,” said Azmy, legal director at the Center for Constitutional Rights.

“We are pleased that this settlement provides some accountability for one of those contractors and offers some measure of justice for the victims.”

Jennifer Barton, a spokeswoman for L-3 Communications, the former parent company of L-3 Services, said the company does not comment on legal matters.

Eric Ruff, Engility’s director of corporate communications, said the company does not comment on matters involving litigation.

The ex-detainees filed the lawsuit in federal court in Greenbelt, Md., in 2008. It covers torture allegations from 2003 to 2007.

L-3 Services “permitted scores of its employees to participate in torturing and abusing prisoners over an extended period of time throughout Iraq,” the lawsuit stated. The company “willfully failed to report L-3 employees’ repeated assaults and other criminal conduct by its employees to the United States or Iraq authorities.”

**One inmate alleged he was subjected to mock executions by having a gun aimed at his head and the trigger pulled.**

**Another inmate said he was slammed into a wall until he became unconscious.**

**A third was allegedly stripped naked and threatened with rape while his hands and legs were chained and a hood placed on his head.**

**Another said he was forced to consume so much water that he began to vomit blood.**

**Several of the inmates said they were raped, and many of the inmates said they were beaten and kept naked for extended periods of time.**

A military investigation in 2004 identified 44 alleged incidents of detainee abuse at Abu Ghraib.

**No employee from L-3 Services was charged with a crime in investigations by the U.S. Justice Department.**

**Nor did the U.S. military stop the company from working for the government.**

Fifty-two of the 71 Iraqis alleged that they were imprisoned at Abu Ghraib and at other detention facilities. The other 19 Iraqis allege they were detained at detention facilities other than Abu Ghraib.

The Abu Ghraib prison scandal erupted during President George W. Bush’s 2004 re-election campaign when graphic photographs taken by soldiers at the scene were leaked to the news media.

They showed naked inmates piled on top of each other in a prison cell block, inmates handcuffed to their cell bars and hooded and wired for electric shock, among other disturbing scenes.

In the ensuing international uproar, Bush said the practices that had taken place at Abu Ghraib in late 2003 were “abhorrent.” Some Democrats demanded that Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld resign.

Eventually, 11 U.S. soldiers were convicted of crimes including aggravated assault and taking pictures of naked Iraqi prisoners being humiliated.

**Rumsfeld told Congress in 2004 that he had found a way to compensate Iraqi detainees who suffered “grievous and brutal abuse and cruelty at the hands of a few members of the United States armed forces.”**

**But the U.S. Army subsequently has been unable to document a single U.S. government payment for prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib.**

In the aftermath of Abu Ghraib, lawyers for the Iraqis filed a number of lawsuits against L-3 Services and CACI International Inc. of Arlington, Va., but the cases were quickly hung up on an underlying question: whether defense contractors working side by side with the U.S. military can be sued for claims arising in a war zone.

The U.S. government is immune from suits stemming from combatant activities of the military in time of war.

Courts are still sorting out whether contractors in a war zone should be accorded legal immunity from being sued, just as the government is immune.

But a turning point in the cases involving L-3 and CACI came last May. The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Va., ruled 11-3 that more facts must be developed before the appeals court could consider the defense contractor’s request to dismiss the lawsuit.

In the case against CACI, four Iraqis who say they were tortured are seeking compensation from the company, which provided interrogators to the U.S. military during the war.

CACI has chosen to continue its fight against the lawsuit. Azmy said a trial is expected this summer.

## **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.**

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