

GI SPECIAL 3B23:



THIS ONE DEMANDS IMMEDIATE PAYBACK: Stupid Shit-Eating Assholes Punish High School Student For Talking To Soldier Mom Serving In Iraq

[Thanks to Liz Burbank, who posted this.]

05/06/05 COLUMBUS, Ga. (AP)

A high school student was suspended for 10 days for refusing to end a mobile phone call with his mother, a soldier serving in Iraq, school officials said.

The 10-day suspension was issued because Kevin Francois was “defiant and disorderly” and was imposed in lieu of an arrest, Spencer High School assistant principal Alfred Parham said. [Good. We need more defiant and disorderly people like Kevin Francois.]

The confrontation Wednesday began after the 17-year-old junior got a call at lunchtime from his mother, Sgt. 1st Class Monique Bates, who left in January for a one-year tour with the 203rd Forward Support Battalion.

Mobile phones are allowed on campus but may not be used during school hours.

When a teacher told him to hang up, he refused. He said he told the teacher, “This is my mom in Iraq. I’m not about to hang up on my mom.”

Parham said the teen’s suspension was based on his reaction to the teacher’s request. He said the teen used profanity when taken to the office. **[Better and better. Hopefully it wasn’t just “hell no.”]**

“Kevin got **defiant and disorderly**,” Parham said. “When a kid becomes **out of control** like that they can either be arrested or suspended for 10 days. Now being that his mother is in Iraq, **we’re not trying to cause her any undue hardship; he was suspended for 10 days.**”

[Check the words this piece of shit Parham uses. “Out of control” for instance. To the police state mind, saying no is “out of control.” Parham is the one out of control. And then there’s “defiant” and “disorderly.” Refusing to hang up on his mom in Iraq is “defiant” and rightly so. But “disorderly?” These teachers and administrators think they’re thug cops. Time for some vets to give them some instructive lessons in how to behave. They think the student is “defiant and disorderly?” Fine. Let them get a taste of the real thing. Whip their ass out of town complete with tar, feathers, and a rail.]

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Platoon Patrolling Karmah For IEDs Finds Them

May 7, 2005 By Sandra Jontz, Stars And Stripes

On Wednesday, 1st Platoon, Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, resumed its 24-hour patrolling of two of the most dangerous highways in Iraq, Main Service Road Michigan and Main Service Road Mobile.

The company was pulled off the detail to provide security for the battalion's weekend sweep of the city of Karmah.

Marines and Iraqi Security Forces had descended on the city of 70,000 to search every house and business for suspected insurgents and weapons.

During the raid, Marines from Combat Logistics Battalion 8 shifted over to patrol Michigan and Mobile. **The routes are not Battalion 8's normal territory and battalion members don't know the hot spots where insurgents plant roadside and car bombs, said the battalion's executive officer, Maj. Larry Miller.**

"We expected the worst, but because the elements who had taken over did a great job, when we went back out we weren't so adversely affected," said Weapons Company Commander Capt. Ed Nevglowski.

"But we did find several new holes," Nevglowski said, seemingly freshly dug for possible hiding spots.

In their nearly four months of patrols here, 1st Platoon alone has come across 16 improvised explosive devices, or IEDs — more than any other of the five platoons within Weapons Company.

Of the 16, half were direct hits in which some Marines sustained minor wounds. The remaining eight were spotted, cordoned off and destroyed before insurgents could hit the trigger, Cooper said.

MORE:

US Marine Killed In Karmah Bomb Attack

May 7 (Xinhuanet)

The marine, assigned to Regimental Combat Team-8, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, died of wounds sustained in bomb blast during combat operations in Karmah, 80 km west of Baghdad.

“Elite” Collaborator Commandos Run Away From Ramadi:

“They Were Defeated” U.S. Officer Says

Sporting a red beret, another commando on the search, Khathan Abdul Wahid, chatted with residents *and helped himself to the contents of their refrigerators.*

He said he felt unwelcome in Ramadi, where people "think we are spies, agents and traitors to our country because we are working with the Americans." [Don't have to get all dramatic about it. How about seeing you as just one more rotten thieving low-life asshole working for the occupation while busily stealing food out of refrigerators? Wow, that really wins hearts and minds.]

May 7, 2005 By Ann Scott Tyson, Washington Post Staff Writer

RAMADI, Iraq -- At a checkpoint on a bridge into this volatile Sunni Muslim city, an Iraqi platoon frisked a row of men and rummaged through their cars and trucks for explosives. The men scowled silently, making the soldiers uneasy.

"Of course they don't like us," said one of the soldiers, Anwar Abas, whose unit is overwhelmingly Shiite Muslim. "They don't like people from the south, so when we search them, they make faces at us." Abas and his fellow soldiers were recruited from tribes in the cities of Najaf and Diwaniyah, both more than 100 miles to the south.

"You get a Shiite outsider shooting a local policeman, and with a big incident like that, you can see the whole city rising up," said Capt. Bart Nagle, an intelligence officer with the 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment in Ramadi. "This is the new dynamic, the new stage. I don't expect a quiet summer."

"All these units came out of the woodwork after the elections" on Jan. 30, said Col. Edward Cardon, whose 3rd Infantry Division brigade is stationed in central Baghdad. "This is sort of a militia society."

Resistance to the outside forces is simmering in Ramadi, including among some prominent Iraqi officials and segments of the public.

"There may be fighting between Ramadi people and these outside forces," Faisal Raikan Nijres Gaood, 59, warned over tea in his heavily fortified Ramadi office, which insurgents regularly target with mortars. Gaood served as temporary governor of Anbar province until this week.

Gaood complained that outside Iraqi forces abuse Ramadi residents by swearing at them and calling them terrorists. Unfamiliar with Ramadi's streets, U.S. and outside Iraqi forces "can't make Ramadi safe, even if they stay here 10 years," he said. "It will be easy for terrorists to kill them."

Indeed, although troops from outside Ramadi live on bases behind cement barricades and are less vulnerable to threats than troops raised locally would be, deadly insurgent attacks have crippled some of their units in recent weeks.

Ramadi's violent reputation has led some Iraqi commanders to call the city hell.

Last month, a Public Order battalion from Baghdad saw 200 men -- a third of its force -- desert when it was ordered to go to Ramadi, U.S. military officers say. The battalion's arrival was delayed while it recruited replacements.

A month ago, the 1st Special Police Commando Battalion "refused to function" after a suicide bomber exploded a vehicle at a checkpoint in eastern Ramadi, killing 11 of its members, said Maj. Steven Alexander, operations officer for the U.S. Army brigade that oversees Ramadi.

"The commandos were an experienced and proven unit, and they were defeated," he said. A second commando battalion recently arrived to replace that unit, but with only 350 of its 700 members.

Ali Hashim, 33, a portly commando fresh from Baghdad, struggled to hoist himself over a wall as he joined U.S. soldiers on a door-to-door search of houses recently in a troubled neighborhood in eastern Ramadi. Hashim, a Shiite, sees Ramadi as hostile territory. "It is a problem that we are Shiite. They think we are all spies," he said, adding that "a lot of Ramadi people are insurgents."

Sporting a red beret, another commando on the search, Khathan Abdul Wahid, chatted with residents and helped himself to the contents of their refrigerators.

He said he felt unwelcome in Ramadi, where people "think we are spies, agents and traitors to our country because we are working with the Americans."

Insurgents in Ramadi are attempting to inflame tensions between residents and external forces. In recent weeks, they have spread leaflets and put up graffiti and posters on 20th Street and near the stadium calling the outside forces "rapists," "Jews" and "dogs of the Americans," said U.S. and Iraqi military officials.

The campaign indicates the continuing influence of insurgents who have held sway in Ramadi in recent months, infiltrating hospitals, robbing banks of millions of dollars in government funds and using threats to suppress voter turnout. Only about 600 to 700 residents here voted in January.

In mid-April, about 500 residents marched to a checkpoint manned by commandos and U.S. soldiers on the city's eastern edge to protest their treatment at the hands of outside forces. Sheiks and lawyers asked U.S. military authorities for a removal of the checkpoints as well as the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Ramadi.

"There's no doubt that some people feel the commandos won't treat them right," said Maj. Greg Sierra, executive officer of the Army's 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, who spoke with the demonstrators. [Fucking brilliant deduction; he must have learned that at West Point. Can it be that stealing food out of peoples' refrigerators might piss them off? But, according to this idiot, only "some" people.]

He said the protest was spurred in part by a few Shiite commandos who posted vengeful signs making statements such as "You crushed us before." "They were inciting religious rivalry," Sierra said. **[Hello? Earth to Sierra? Food? Refrigerators? Get it? Thieving assholes occupying somebody else's town while you back them up? See anything about that? Or do you live in some other word of silly abstraction? Sorry, stupid question. But if 20 or 30 of your pet scumbags end up dead in a ditch with their heads chopped off, you'll be whining about evil terrorists, won't you?]**

FOOD? MONEY? WHAT ELSE CAN WE LIBERATE?



An Iraqi collaborator soldier frisks drivers after their vehicles were stopped at a checkpoint on a Euphrates River bridge that leads into Ramadi. (By Ann Scott Tyson -- The Washington Post)

At Least Four Foreign Mercenaries Blown Up



Iraqi firemen rush to extinguish a fire after a car bomb exploded in a commercial neighborhood of central Baghdad May 7, 2005. (AP Photo/Hadi Mizban) on their participation. (AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

May 7 Agence France Presse & By BUSHRA JUHI, AP & Aljazeera & By Andrew Marshall, Reuters

Four foreigners were among 17 people killed in a huge car bomb blast in central Baghdad, an interior ministry official said, including two American contract workers.

The bomb targeted one of the distinctive convoys used by foreign civilians in Iraq, who usually travel in conspicuous sports utility vehicles protected by armed security guards.

Three Americans were wounded in the attack.

One Western man staggered from the scene with blood pouring from his head. The road was strewn with shattered glass and wreckage.

"When the convoy drove past, a car bomb exploded right beside it," said Mohammed Amir, a policeman at the scene. "There was severe damage to the convoy."

The Americans were traveling through the square in a three-car convoy that was hit on both ends by the bombers, the U.S. military said.

Al-Kindi Hospital in Baghdad said it had received four bodies and 29 wounded victims from the square, which is known for a large statue of Iraqi soldiers breaking through chains to freedom.

Iraqi police initially said the attack involved one suicide car bomb, but U.S. Embassy spokesman Bob Callahan later said there were two.

He said the two Americans killed were security contract workers, but he did not identify the company they worked for.

The car bombs parked on Baghdad's busy Tahrir square went off at 11:05 am (0705 GMT) and struck a convoy of sports utility vehicles, of a sort widely used to escort prominent Iraqis or foreigners.

The bodies of the four foreigners, presumed to be security guards, were completely charred inside the wreckage of their vehicles.

The explosion shook central Baghdad and sent a huge mushroom of smoke billowing into the sky.

Shots were fired as chaos filled the busy square, which commands access to the Jumhuriya bridge leading to the fortified Green Zone administrative enclave.

Resistance Warfighting Skill Wins High Praise From U.S. Generals:

“Very Adept, And Very Smart, Very Learning, Very Innovative”

May 7, 2005 American Forces Press Service

Insurgent IED threats once chiefly consisted of "60 mm, 81 mm mortar kinds of rounds," Brig. Gen. William Cato from Marine Corps Systems Command reported.

Nowadays, he pointed out, insurgents have upped the ante, using 122 to 155 mm artillery shells, 500-pound bombs and double-stacked mines to provide more explosive power for their IEDs.

"As we've added armor, they've added greater explosives," Cato told the committee.

Insurgents in Iraq are "very adept, and very smart, very learning, very innovative," said Army Brig. Gen. Joseph Votel, chief of DoD's Joint IED Defeat Task Force. The task force was created in October 2003 as an Army agency. It now has representatives from each of the U.S. armed services, plus British military advisers.

"This is combat, and this is a thinking enemy up against us," noted Marine Lt. Gen. James N. Mattis, commander of Marine Corps Combat Development Command at Quantico, Va., who also attended the hearing.

TROOP NEWS

Woodlander Recovering From Bomb Blast

May 07, 2005 By SHAWBONG FOK/Democrat Staff Writer

Woodlander Sgt. Brandon Huff, whose left leg was taken by a hidden explosive in Mosul, Iraq in April, remains in the intensive care unit at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

Huff's platoon scoured for a reported car bomb on April 20 when the accident occurred. The result was that not only was Huff's leg lost, but shrapnel was sprayed throughout his body.

Huff has been listed as serious but stable condition.

Brandon's father, Don Huff, has been visiting his son this week in Washington, D.C. so was not available for comment. But family members say letters may be sent in care of

Brandon Huff to: Sgt. Brandon Huff, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, 6900 Georgia Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20307-5001.

Brandon, 22, graduated from Woodland High School in 2000.

Name Withheld Pending Notification: A Sad Mother's Day for Some

I have a feeling our mis-leaders will be having a nice day with their moms or their children on Mother's Day. As they are eating their brunches and giving and receiving bouquets of Mother's Day flowers, they probably never even think about the moms in this world that their insanely reckless policies have destroyed. It never enters their wicked brains that they have ruined Mother's Day for so many families. This is a tragedy.

May 07, 2005, By Cindy Sheehan

When I woke up this morning, the "official" death count in Iraq was 1576. The first thing I do in the morning after I boot up my computer is to check the DoD website to see if any more of our nation's precious children were killed in this horror of a nonsensical war.

I was talking to another Gold Star Mom, Celeste Zappala, today and she sadly advised me that the count rose to 1579 (note: the official count is now 1594) while she was out to lunch.

Celeste and I and too many other moms know what the significance of "Pending Notification" means: it means that there are people in our country going through their lives right now not even knowing that they are about to be ambushed with the most devastating news of their lives: "We regret to inform you...."

Somewhere in America, there is a mom (I always think of the moms first) shopping for groceries, driving home from a long week of work, or maybe even planning her soldier's homecoming party. Somewhere, here in our country there is a mother who is hoping that she will receive a Mother's Day card from her soldier, or perhaps, if she is extremely lucky, a rushed telephone call.

There is a mom out there who has been worried sick about her soldier since they arrived in the combat zone. Maybe the mom still supports George Bush and the occupation or maybe the mom is certain if her child is killed in this abomination that her sweet baby, her soldier will have died for lies and betrayals.

In the end, and at that moment, the mom is not going to care about politics or about reasons for invasion and occupation.

She won't care if her child died for freedom and democracy, or to make some people wealthier and more powerful.

All she will see is the *Grim Reaper* in a uniform standing at her door before she collapses on the floor screaming for her child and pleading with the *Grim Reaper* to take her with him.

Somewhere there is a father in America who won't know what hit him and who won't know whom to hit back.

There are brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews, spouses, and children who are about to step on the path of unbearable pain and seemingly endless grief.

Today there are the families and friends of three wonderful human beings who never, until now, knew that the human body could produce so many tears.

Somewhere in America live our fellow citizens who never even knew that a broken heart is not theoretical or symbolic. These most unfortunates are about to find out that a broken heart hurts far worse than a broken limb, and does not heal so readily, if ever at all.

The families of these soldiers are also departing on a long tour of banalities uttered by well-meaning, but let's face it, uninformed people.

I hear these phrases over and over again: "Time heals every thing", "Casey's in a better place", (oh really, I didn't know that home with his mom was such a bad place to be), "Casey wants you to be happy", "Casey died doing what he loved doing", (he did?), or, my favorite, "Casey died defending his country".

Let me assure the reader, phrases like this do not help.

They are clichés for one thing, and for another, none of them are true.

None of them help a grieving family.

If you, the reader, is ever in the situation facing a mom who had her son brutally murdered, God forbid, I will give you hints on what does help: hugs (lots and lots), make sure she eats, make sure she drinks plenty of water (tears are dehydrating), make sure she hears wonderful things about her child, bring boxes of tissues and toilet paper, and bring yourself. Leave your tired and impotent clichés at the door.

Of course, the most tragic thing about the 1579 is that not even *one* should be dead.

Our "president" cheerfully rushed this country into a needlessly horrendous and devastating invasion. Our "president" thinks stolen elections confer a mandate.

Our Congress cheerfully relinquished their Constitutional responsibility to declare war. If they had any courage or honor they would claim that right back and end this travesty.

I have a feeling our mis-leaders will be having a nice day with their moms or their children on Mother's Day. As they are eating their brunches and giving and receiving bouquets of Mother's Day flowers, they probably never even think about the moms in this world that their insanely reckless policies have destroyed. It never enters their wicked brains that they have ruined Mother's Day for so many families. This is a tragedy.

Our media was, and still is, a willing shill for the Administration and has never told the American public the truth. Reporting about Iraq is *a/ways* trumped by such as child molesters, Martha Stewart, Terri Schiavo, Scott Peterson, the American Idol, or now, Runaway Brides! Another tragic thing about this illegal and disastrous invasion and occupation is that there are only 1579 families in this country who even have to think about Iraq. Most Americans probably don't even know where to find Iraq on a map.

The Halliburtons, Bechtels, KBRs, and the oil oligarchs of the world, who are laughing all the way to the bank, think of Iraq with greedy glee each day. Sorrowfully, there are 1579 families in this country who have "Iraq" carved on their hearts and souls for eternity.

We have sacrificed more than the \$1.99 it costs to buy a "Support the Troops" magnet for our cars. We have had a violent amputation. Even if our fellow citizens don't realize it, by allowing this occupation to continue, they are also losing a very important part of themselves: their humanity.

My heart, my prayers, and my love go to the three families who are now embarking on this mournful, unnecessary journey. We at Gold Star Families for Peace are here for them. I hope they find comfort in what I know now seems like a comfortless world. Peace.

Love and Peace!!!

Cindy Sheehan

[Casey's Peace Page](#)

Mother of Hero: Spc Casey Austin Sheehan KIA 04/04/04

Cofounder of Gold Star Families For Peace

www.GSFP.org

Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward this E-MAIL along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on 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, at home and inside the armed services. Send requests to address up top.

"It's Been A Mean Week This Week"

“Received From A Military Family Today”

From: Lietta Ruger -- Feature Writer: Topic, Military Families, Impact with Loved Ones Deployed To Iraq
Sent: May 06, 2005

Received From A Military Family Today:

Lietta,

I just got phone call from my 'loved one' in Iraq who was told will have to be involuntarily extended ('retained') an additional 6 months in Iraq; all Lieutenants service commitments have and are being extended because retention of troops numbers are 'down' .

End

I'd say this points strongly to re-enlistment issues, recruitment crisis issues, retention issues and is an indicator of how desperate the situation for our military is becoming.

One of my growing private concerns has been that as military recruitment numbers are on the decline for the 4th month running, that our already deployed and about to be deployed loved ones would have to somehow take up the slack with even more burden than they are already carrying.

The disproportionate weight grows while media blackout continues to shield the American public from vital information about the well being of their own troops.

The administration HAS to know just how large a problem the shortfalls are in manpower (no gender sleight intended), armour, vehicles, equipment. Yet the administration is busily sending out upbeat reports as quickly as we get any information that shows how large the problem has become.

This is not the time to take a back seat, if anything, this is the time to do whatever can be done to get the information spread as far as it can be spread given the limitations (barriers?) to media's willingness to report.

Look, I don't want to see a 'draft' or more of our young being deceptively recruited and sent to Iraq and yet neither do I want to see our already deployed having to take on even more because of shortages.

We simply cannot continue to expect our troops to sustain given the present conditions and shortfalls.

Extended tours in combat, repeat tours in combat (just this morning another military family was telling me about her loved one's 3rd deployment to Iraq), 70 %

of our troops deaths and wounded are result of IED's, 1 million have already served in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan and on and on goes the list.

In my opinion, the problem is substantial enough to warrant a full-blown demand to know the realities and conditions for our troops now, not 6 months from now or years from now in some sort of rational historical dissection and reflection of the war in Iraq.

Something has to be done, the irresponsibility and outright neglect in actually supporting our troops deployed in combat is an American problem; a citizen's problem; a political problem; a spiritual/religious problem; a military problem; and a cultural problem.

It belongs center stage in the dialogue Now!

And if we can't gain any ground in our message to bring the troops home, at the very least, we can try to look out for their welfare while they are deployed and that is simply not being done by the parties most responsible and accountable to look out for our military troops.

When I learn as I did this week, from a reliable source, that Rumsfeld is planning a visit to the unit about to be deployed to Iraq and is told by the CO 'Do not ask Rumsfeld about uparmored humvees on threat of an Article 15' it makes me wonder just where the troops can turn when their own CO is more concerned about the politics of the situation than the troops welfare.

When I learn that a political decision was made to use the unarmored humvee because it was less intimidating to the Iraqi people than other military vehicles, it becomes outrageous that a decision made at the beginning of the war when a different outcome was the expectation is still in place 2 + years later when it is clear the expected outcome did not happen.

Then I further learn that it may be 'less expensive' to use the humvee than a more appropriately armoured vehicle, one has to wonder who is looking out for who.

I then learn in the same week that it is possible to use 5 ton armored gun trucks in Iraq, not unlike those used in Vietnam and there are only 31 of those in use in Iraq, with an example cited of how they are saving lives. One such truck endured an IED explosion and no lives were lost and all lives on that truck survived with relatively minor injuries.

Then I learn in the same week that it is possible to send the troops jammers that interfere with the detonation of IED explosions and the administration is just now getting around to sending those jammers to the troops.

We aren't technologically advanced enough to have figured this out months ago?? Yet it is explained away as budget problem, not enough money thus the need for the supplemental appropriation. Meanwhile millions of unaccountable funds are not explained at all.

It's so upside down, and the most immediately affected are the troops who pay for all of this dancing around the issues with their lives, with the incredibly severe

damage they sustain in multiple lost limbs, brain trauma injuries and it doesn't even speak to what the Iraqis are suffering in the midst of all of this carnage.

We know PTSD is and will continue to be an issue; meanwhile just this week I learn there are to be cuts to the care of returning Iraqi and Afghanistan veterans.

It's been a mean week this week.

Lietta Ruger, a MFSO Pacific Northwest family
PO Box 335
Bay Center, WA, 98527
[website Military Families Speak Out, Pacific Northwest](#)
[my blog: Dying to Preserve the Lies](#)

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT THE NEW TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces. Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! (www.ivaw.net)

Rose Gentle Says: “Keep Up The Fight”

Rose Gentle, the mother of a British soldier killed in Iraq, said yesterday: "The soldiers' families are seriously concerned that not only were they fighting an illegal war but also fighting for regime change rather than to remove WMDs. The attorney general had specifically advised that that would be unlawful. This just compounds the anger that we feel that our loved ones died for no good or lawful reason" 06 May 2005 Richard Norton-Taylor, The Guardian

To: GI Special
From: Rose Gentle
Sent: May 07, 2005
Subject: Re: GI Special 3B22: "Bush Belongs In Prison"

FAKED DATA TO BACK IRAQ WAR.

MR BLAIR HAS 9 DAYS LEFT TO ANSWER THE LETTER
WE HANDED IN TO HIM, WE ARE GOING TO DO ALL WE CAN,
TO GET HIM IN TO COURT, FOR WAR CRIMES, WE HAVE 15
FAMILYS DOING IT NOW,
AND HOPE TO HAVE MORE
GO ON GET BUSH TOO., GO ON LETS GET THE SCUM, OR *BETTER*
STILL, HAND THEM TO THE PARENTS OF THE KILLED TROOPS
KEEP UP THE FIGHT,
ROSE, GENTLE.

MILITARY RESISTERS CALL FOR NATIONAL ACTION:

PABLO PAREDES PLEADS NOT GUILTY & PLANS TO CHALLENGE THE LEGALITY OF THE WAR

05/04/2005

Navy petty officer Pablo Paredes has formally entered a plea of "not guilty" to charges of unauthorized absence and missing movement stemming from his refusal to board the Iraq-bound ship USS Bonhomme Richard on December 6, 2004. Paredes will face a special court martial set for May 11.

At today's preliminary proceedings, Paredes civilian attorney, Jeremy Warren, submitted a motion to dismiss the unauthorized absence charge, since it is already included in the more serious missing movement charge based on military case law. Under the double jeopardy clause, a person cannot be punished twice for the same conduct.

Prosecutor Lt. Brandon Hale in turn submitted a motion to exclude all evidence pertaining to the legitimacy of the current war in Iraq. The prosecution is using the doctrine of "nonjusticiability" which says that certain policy decisions are made by Congress and the President, and that a judge cannot overrule these political bodies in the exercise of foreign policy.

The presiding judge, Lt. Commander C. Reismeier, decided to reserve ruling on both motions until the actual special court martial begins next week.

In explaining the rationale for his not guilty plea, Pablo Paredes explains: "Like all members of the military, I have been trained to recognize my personal responsibility for participating in war crimes. Since the war is itself illegal and has been characterized by repeated and consistent violations of international laws and treaties, of the Geneva Convention rules of war, and of generally accepted standards of human rights, I have a reasonable belief that my training required me to avoid participating in these crimes."

When Paredes appeared at 32nd Street Naval Station last December, he spoke to members of the media who were there to cover the departure of Expeditionary Strike Group Five with a complement of some 2,800 Marines heading for Iraq. He announced his opposition to war in general, to the Iraq war in particular, and to being a party to the death and destruction of which the Marines would be both victims and perpetrators.

According to Paredes, he fully expected to be taken into custody and was surprised when the Command Duty Officer told him to "get out of here." Paredes then left the base and returned on December 18.

Shortly after returning to the base, Paredes submitted a formal request for discharge as a conscientious objector. After receiving favorable recommendations from two interviewing officers, a third officer recommended that his application be rejected. Paredes submitted a rebuttal to the negative recommendation. That recommendation is currently being reviewed based on the rebuttal, and no decision on the request has been reached.

While his CO discharge request was in process, the Navy decided to charge Paredes with violations of two articles of the Uniform Code of Military Justice and to refer the charges to a special court martial.

Paredes then requested a discharge in lieu of court martial. Such a discharge would be characterized as "other than honorable." Although accepted by the prosecutor, this request was rejected by Paredes' command, and the stage was set for the special court martial to proceed.

Paredes faces a maximum punishment of 12 months confinement, forfeiture of pay, reduction in rank, and a bad conduct discharge.

After rejecting his request for discharge in lieu of court martial, prosecutors offered Paredes a plea bargain in which he would be guaranteed a maximum confinement of 6 months and no forfeiture of pay or reduction in rank in exchange for a "guilty" plea. Paredes rejected that offer.

Paredes says that he intends to "put the war on trial. After all, it's the real crime here."

But he is realistic and would not be surprised if the judge limits his ability to introduce evidence regarding the legality of the war.

Navy jags have attended Pablo's public speaking engagements and have provided sworn statements that will be used against him in his Special Court Martial.

KEY CONTACT:

Main Press Contact:

Victor Paredes (917) 864-9179 vicparedes@msn.com

"All The People You Have Killed, All The Lies You Have Told Have Come Back To Haunt You" Galloway Wins In AntiWar Election Upset

May 06, 2005 Fintan Dunne, BreakForNews.com

George Galloway has scored a major victory for the antiwar movement in Britain, stealing the supposedly safe Labour seat of Bethnal Green and Bow which the ruling party has held unbroken since 1945.

The former Glasgow Labour MP -who was ejected from the party over his stance on the Iraq invasion- is the founder of anti-war party Respect

His stunning win over Labour's Oona King, overturned a Labor majority of 10,000 at the last election by almost a 1,000 vote margin.

Galloway denounced Blair in his victory speech, telling the Prime Minister: **"All the people you have killed, all the lies you have told have come back to haunt you"**

Blair, knowing well that the Labour party is totally unrepresentative of Labour supporters, in his own early morning speech to supporters used the leftist catchphrase words "solidarity" and "comrades" to try put a grassroots veneer on his party's return to government.

The win is a tremendous boost for Britain's antiwar movement. It gives them a voice in Parliament -where no party currently reflects their views.

The election has seen Labour's vote cut, but the modest scale of that ebb in support is no reflection of antiwar sentiment in Britain. The lack of a national political alternative to Labour proved to be the party's key defense. Most of the electorate who had antiwar views ended up voting for Labour because of this democratic deficit.

King Of Jordan Threatens To Attack U.S. Occupation In Iraq

May 7 By JAMAL HALABY, Associated Press

Jordan's King Abdullah II vowed Saturday to do all he can to "quash" terrorists targeting neighboring Iraq as Iraqi President Jalal Talabani made his first foreign visit since becoming president last month.

"Jordan stands by Iraq in all its power and determination to fight terrorism, quash terrorists and those who stand behind them and finance them."

OCCUPATION REPORT

Welcome To Liberated Iraq! Time For Your Torture!!

5/3/2005 By Jill Carroll, The Christian Science Monitor, BAGHDAD

Iraqi special forces soldiers Ali Jabbar and Mohammed Ali insist they mete out justice fairly. They beat only the prisoners they know did something wrong, not the innocent ones.

In March, when a rocket attack on one of their bases missed the target but angered the soldiers, **they searched the area and found two suspects.**

"You want to know the truth? My arms are still tired from hitting those guys," laughs Mr. Jabbar in an interview along with Mr. Ali in Baghdad.

With Iraqis taking a greater role in battling the insurgency and patrolling their own streets as the new government begins work, accusations of human rights abuses are shifting away from the Americans and onto Iraqi police officers and soldiers.

The accusations of abuse range from reports of prisoner torture and death of detainees to the arbitrary arrest and abuse at the hands of inexperienced and untrained police officers.

Jabbar told the Monitor that during a raid he was on in January at a suspected insurgent hideout, three detainees died after being severely beaten by Iraqi security patrols.

In a report issued in January, Human Rights Watch said that torture and abuse by Iraqi authorities had become "routine and commonplace."

The report detailed methods of interrogation in which prisoners were beaten with cables and pipes, shocked, or suspended from their wrists for prolonged periods of time.

In fact, many of the old members of Saddam Hussein's security forces are filling the ranks of the new police units and security forces. "In the long run, with the assistance of the US military unfortunately ... (we are creating) a security force which is very much like the old Saddam security forces," says Robert Perito, an expert on post conflict security at the US Institute of Peace.

But Jabbar and Ali say instinct often takes over when they arrest someone whom they are sure is an insurgent. They also say they're concerned that if they don't exact some justice, no one will.

Jabbar shows little remorse for the January raid on a house in Baghdad's Hurriyah neighborhood, in which, he says, three detainees were beaten so badly that they died.

When he and fellow soldiers broke down the door, they found six men inside. They had cell phones that contained pictures taken surreptitiously of soldiers, which Jabbar and the others took as signs they were marking targets.

"These guys kill our colleagues and friends and we beat them, but they didn't feel anything because they had been drinking. We didn't hit them in the head. Only on the body, and using the donkey stick but three guys died from that," says Jabbar, using the nickname they have given a long stick they often hit detainees with.

<p style="text-align: center;">OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME <u>NOW!</u></p>

OCCUPATION HAITI

Fr. Gerard Jean-Juste Appeals For Help For Haitians

5/3/2005 From: bill Quigley

Dear Friend,

Once more, the peaceful marchers have taken the streets of Port-au-Prince to demand the return to constitutional order with the physical presence of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

By the end of the morning hours, this Saturday April 30, the marchers gathered in big numbers in front of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chapel in Bel-Air and at the Plas Lapè, Delmas 2. They prayed and bravely they marched toward North East Delmas up to Sò An's, Annette Auguste's residence, chanting " Liberty or death, Freedom is not given / we must take it, Titid must come back, Free our political prisoners, No to elections without the mandated, legal President Titid, Yes to elections with Titid..."

Also the marchers sang: "Men I anlè a, I ap vini...", a religious song that is very popular referring to the return of Christ at the end of time. So, People stared at the skies pointing their index finger chanting: Look in the air, Titid is coming...

The cold blood massacre of peaceful marchers this past Wednesday April 27 has still left many of us in shock and awe. Within two month time, this is the third major cold blood killing operated by the thugs within the Haitian Police Department. It is enough.

The de facto, illegal government imposed on us by a sector of the International Community must quit and return the stolen power to President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. **In any democratic nation the members of this illegal government should be judged for crime of high treason, associating themselves with a foreign sector and assailants to overthrow a duly elected president.**

A critical stage has already been reached, many Haitian democracy lovers are not afraid of threats and death at the hands of the puppet, illegal government thugs. Thousands marched again today in Haiti and abroad.

Kenbe fèm ! NJera NJeri

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Eighty-Eight Members Of Congress Call On Bush For Answers On Secret Iraq Plan

5.7.05 Raw News

Eighty-eight members of Congress have signed a letter authored by Rep. John Conyers (D-MI) calling on President Bush to answer questions about a secret U.S.-UK agreement to attack Iraq, Raw Story has learned.

In a letter, Conyers and other members say they are disappointed the mainstream media has not touched the revelations.

"Unfortunately, the mainstream media in the United States was too busy with wall-to-wall coverage of a "runaway bride" to cover a bombshell report out of the British newspapers," Conyers writes.

"The London Times reports that the British government and the United States government had secretly agreed to attack Iraq in 2002, before authorization was sought for such an attack in Congress, and had discussed creating pretextual justifications for doing so."

The Times reports, based on a newly discovered document, that in 2002 British Prime Minister Tony Blair chaired a meeting in which he expressed his support for "regime change" through the use of force in Iraq and was warned by the nation's top lawyer that such an action would be illegal," he adds. "Blair also discussed the need for America to "create" conditions to justify the war."

The members say they are seeking an inquiry.

"This should not be allowed to fall down the memory hole during wall-to-wall coverage of the Michael Jackson trial and a runaway bride," he remarks.

Bush Buddy Makes Saddam Hussein Look Like A Pussy Cat; Ally In "War On Terrorism" Boils Political Critics Alive

The Torturer And The Terrorist Play Kissy Face



President Bush welcomed President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan to the White House in 2002 to form a partnership to combat terrorism. Paul J. Richards/Agence France-Presse

May 1, 2005 By DON VAN NATTA Jr., New York Times

Seven months before Sept. 11, 2001, the State Department issued a human rights report on Uzbekistan. It was a litany of horrors.

The police repeatedly tortured prisoners, State Department officials wrote, noting that the most common techniques were "beating, often with blunt weapons, and asphyxiation with a gas mask."

Separately, international human rights groups had reported that torture in Uzbek jails included boiling of body parts, using electroshock on genitals and plucking off fingernails and toenails with pliers.

Two prisoners were boiled to death, the groups reported.

The February 2001 State Department report stated bluntly, "Uzbekistan is an authoritarian state with limited civil rights."

Immediately after the Sept. 11 attacks, however, the Bush administration turned to Uzbekistan as a partner in fighting global terrorism.

The nation, a former Soviet republic in Central Asia, granted the United States the use of a military base for fighting the Taliban across the border in Afghanistan.

President Bush welcomed President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan to the White House, and the United States has given Uzbekistan more than \$500 million for border control and other security measures.

"If you talk to anyone there, Uzbeks know that torture is used - it's common even in run-of-the-mill criminal cases," said Allison Gill, a researcher for Human Rights Watch who is working inside Uzbekistan. **"Anyone in the United States or Europe who does not know the extent of the torture problem in Uzbekistan is being willfully ignorant."**

Amnesty International and other groups have documented specific cases. In the summer of 2002, Amnesty International reported, Fatima Mukhadirova, a 62-year-old Tashkent shopkeeper, was sentenced to six years of hard labor after denouncing the government for the death of her son, Muzafar Avozov, in a Tashkent prison.

An independent examination of photographs of the body, conducted by the University of Glasgow, showed that Mr. Avozov died after being immersed in boiling water, human rights groups reported. The examination said his head had been beaten and his fingernails removed.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Israeli Soldier Killed By Resistance

5/3/2005 Ha'aretz, Near Tul Karm

Staff Sergeant Dan Talasnikov, 20, of Moshav Nir Galim was killed and another Israel Defense Forces soldier was lightly wounded in a clash yesterday between paratroop commandos and wanted Islamic Jihad operatives near the village of Saida, north of Tul Karm.

A senior Islamic Jihad member, Shafiq Abd al-Ghani, was also killed in the shoot-out and another wanted militant, Abd al-Fatah Ghadad, escaped but was captured six hours later at an army roadblock.

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by a foreign power, go to: www.rafahtoday.org The foreign army is Israeli; the occupied nation is Palestine.]

Received:

A Proposal From Brothers And Sisters In India

From: Neeraj Jain
To: GI Special
Sent: May 05, 2005
Subject: a proposal

Pune, INDIA
May 5, 2005

Dear friend,

Greetings and congratulations on your great work.

We are a group of left activists based in Pune, India. The name of our group is LOKAYAT. We attempt to create awareness and organize people on various issues like communalism, casteism, womens' issues, impact of imperialist-capitalist globalisation on various sectors of the Indian economy, against the US invasion of Iraq, etc.

We actively participated in the ANTI-WAR demonstrations held on 19 March.

We strongly feel that the global movement against the American-British invasion of Iraq must raise the following demands.

OUR DEMANDS

1. Withdraw American and British troops from Iraq immediately.

2. The US must pay full compensation to Iraq for damages done to life and property during the illegal invasion in 1991, the economic sanctions imposed thereafter and the conquest and occupation in 2003.

3. Compel the US to sign the Statute of Rome to accept the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court.

4. File suit against the American President and the British Prime Minister in the International Court of Justice as War Criminals.

5. Do not alter status of ownership and control of any Iraqi nationalized resources in any fashion.

We would like to have your views on such a campaign, whether you agree that such a campaign should be taken up by all of us.

We are especially keen that the demand for filing a suit against the American President and the British Prime Minister in the International Court of Justice as War Criminals should be taken up by the anti-Iraq war movement globally.

And if you agree, then we would like to have your suggestions on what should be done so that it can become a global campaign.

We eagerly await your comments on our proposal.

In solidarity,

Neeraj Jain
D-4 / 18, Guru Ganesh Nagar,
Kothrud, Paud Road,
Pune - 411 038
INDIA
Tel: 91 - 20 - 2528 9187
E mail: neerajjain_61@yahoo.co.in

Neeraj Jain
D-4/18, Guru Ganesh Nagar,
Kothrud, Pune-411029
India.
Tel No:+91-20-25289187

Reply:

Agreed! T

Received:

Basra Oil Union Organises Historic Anti-Privatisation Conference

From: Ewa Jasiewicz freelance@mailworks.org
Sent: May 05, 2005
Subject: Iraqi Oil Workers' anti-privatisation conference

May 25-26 will see Iraqi trade unionists and civil society activists gather at the Oil Institute of Basra for a two-day conference aimed at fighting the privatisation of Iraqi oil.

The organisers of the conference, the General Union of Oil Employees, is a union resolutely opposed to the Occupation, the former regime and current plans to privatise Iraq's oil industry.

Six papers written by six professors from Basra University on the subject of privatisation will be presented and discussed on the first day of the conference.

The following day will be dedicated to international contributions and messages of solidarity.

Naomi Klein and Avi Lewis have dedicated their film 'The Take' to the conference. It will be the Arabic language and Iraq premiere of a film dedicated to the courage, militancy, co-operation and autonomy of a group of workers, not unlike those currently feeling the might of the neo-con free market dictate in Iraq.

The film documents the take-over of an auto-parts factory in Buenos Aires by unemployed workers. Naomi and Avi, as well as the workers featured in the film, currently in translation by Indymedia Beirut, will also send a message of solidarity to the conference, to show and inspire that resistance to privatisation and the neo-con, neo-liberal agenda is possible through workers' self-organisation.

Renowned writer and investigative journalist Linda McQuaig, author of ground-breaking 'It's the Crude Dude: War, Big Oil and the Fight for the Planet' will be sending relevant extracts from her book as a contribution.

Focus on the Global South is dedicating 20 copies of research document "Silent War: The Economic and Ideological Occupation of Iraq".

Messages of solidarity and/or reports and factsheets on the nature and history of privatisation, the operations and ideologies behind institutions like the IMF, WTO and WB plus the dynamics of the international the international debt racket are expected.

We are still awaiting further submissions and messages of solidarity and strategy-building from trade unions, social justice organisations and movements from around the world.

For further information please contact:

Ewa Jasiewicz, UK Contact for the General Union of Oil Employees
freelance@mailworks.org (Polish Mobile until May 16th 0048 887 326 941)

or Munir Chalabi, UK Contact for the General Union of Oil Employees
munir@chalabi.screaming.net

NOTES:

The GUOE was established a month after the invasion of Iraq.

It has 23,000 members in Basra, Amara and Nassiriyah.

The Leadership has a history of opposition to and imprisonment by the Baath regime.

The Union does not belong to any trade union federation in Iraq. It is not organised through or controlled by any political party in Iraq. It is an independent trade union.

Received:

A Response From NF

From: NF
To: GI Special
Sent: May 05, 2005
Subject: Told a Producer & Celebrity at Air America about your story

I contacted a couple of people inside Air America about the "Send your friends to Iraq" story. I think its worth of national news attention -- and I'd like to see soldiers (already doing a really tough job under less than ideal circumstances) stop being harassed.

This is just a heads up in case they contact you. If we are lucky, maybe they'll decide to visit your site regularly. I hope lots of folks give you encouragement.

And thank the soldier. **[Done. T.]**

I've been laughing (in a horrified way) since I read that article. Send your friends to iraq? Jeez ...

I'm working on a low budget Iraq war documentary called Back From Iraq where I interview soldiers who have returned from Iraq. I'm so sick of the "spin" and misinformation I get from the government and the "news" media. (I think two weeks of coverage on the pope was just a tad over the top when there's a war going on).

I figure the vast majority of soldiers share my culture, my values, and they are deployed all over that country. I'll just ask them what's going on.

So you can see why I think your site is so wonderful. **Its one of the few that focuses on information, facts and figures relevant to soldiers.**

Thank you so, so much for putting it online.

You asked for feedback regarding supporting the insurgency in Iraq . . .

That's the crux of a difficult issue. Short of time travel there's no way to undo the war, and that's the option I want.

Maybe, if we left today, militias would control cities (as they have in the Kurdish section) and that might allow stabilization. Over time I suspect the militias could figure out how to work together to build an economy, etc. Iraqi's are as practical, smart, hard working, etc as other folks.

But the US isn't leaving, cause Bush and company really, really, really don't care what anyone thinks about the war.

The President is in control of the armed forces.

They stay until he's out of office or impeached. He and the people who work for him are not "citizens of the US" they are "citizens of the world". They are looking 50 years down the road and saying "we need that oil - lets take it now before Iraq has nukes." So, we are there for at least the next three years.

Now, if the military were to "win" this war in that time, it would be the end of the United States as we know it.

Presidents/congress would never have to be accountable to the people of the US in matters of war and intelligence. That's unacceptable because it would be the start of an "endless" war. If there's not cost to lies and "mistakes" then why should the president and members of congress ever tell the truth?

The president works for us. He can't lie to us, ever. He doesn't own us. We own him.

We don't have a republican democracy if he can lie to us. We have a dictatorship.

<p>But, I'm not worried that we will win this war. When was the last time an "occupation" of this kind succeeded? Israel? Ireland?</p>

150,000 people can't control a country of 15+ million. Conditions worsen every day (electricity, water, disease). The situation is going to get dramatically worse just as the CIA predicted in September.

The occupation will ramp up. Insurgents will become much, much more effective at targeting collaborators, contractors and soldiers.

(Targeting collaborators and contractors forces us to get soldiers away from their camps, back on patrol and supply runs where they are easy to kill. Note that we

don't count collaborators or contractors killed. That number is huge and growing faster every month. The insurgents are acheiving their objectives.)

AND if the war spills out of its borders into Saudi Arabia (as recent attacks indicate it will), oil production will fall dramatically, and our economy will seize.

Thus will the people of the US realize they are a super power ONLY because Saudi Arabia and other nations give us their oil. (Which is why Bush is building the US oil reserve and looking for more places to drill. He is preparing for the worst.)

Some folks in this country are in a position to see the big picture. They know how wars work. They know how the government works. They've been to Iraq so they know they've been lied to. They are trying to warn people . . .

It may be too late.

Though I want the US military to leave Iraq (and aid groups to move in), I can't "support" the insurgency for the same reason I can't support Bush's war.

Killing thousands of civilians for political or material gain is always wrong.

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to contact@militaryproject.org. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential.

Received:

More Comments On Australian War Profiteer Taken Prisoner In Iraq

From: nl
To: GI Special
Sent: May 07, 2005

No response at all regarding suggestion for freeing 'Australian' Mr Woods kidnapped in Iraq from our foreign minister, Alexander Downer- just an "out of office" message. Crap.

I think the bloke worked for Bechtel previously. Maybe they'll send some mercenaries to save him, since his family reputedly stated they wouldn't pay a ransom (although at the same time our foreign minister says he's been unable to make contact with the kidnapers).

If these capitalist pricks are so principled, then I suppose if your beloved president was kidnapped, they wouldn't pay his ransom either.

How I'd relish the opportunity:

"You terrorists have kidnapped the US president? No! We won't negotiate with terrorists!"

No more lies, no more lives,

NL
New South Wales
Australia

Web Copies

For back issues see: GI Special web site at <http://www.militaryproject.org/> .

The following that we know of have also posted issues:

**<http://www.notinourname.net/qi-special/>, www.williambowles.info/qispecial,
<http://www.albasrah.net/magalat/english/qi-special.htm>**

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