

## GI SPECIAL 3B43:



Army Times 5.30.05

# “STOP THIS SENSELESS KILLING AND MADNESS”.

“There Is Nothing More Important  
Than Building Links, Giving Aid And  
Comfort To The Troops Turning  
Against The War”

TO: GI Special  
FROM: Katherine G  
SENT: 5.27.05DA  
SUBJECT: Military Project, New Member

*[Stanley Howard, our new member--one of the Death Row 10 in Illinois, who is still locked up for b.s. charges--wrote this letter. Beautiful stuff. K]*

May 4, 2005

Now that I'm able to write again I'm frantic to thank you and let you know that I'm so honored at the offer to be a member of the Military Project.

**Without a doubt or second thought, I gratefully accept the offer, and wholeheartedly vow to do whatever within my control to assist in this most righteous movement.**

**Why?**

**Because I believe nobody should be invested with the power to send men, women, and children onto battlefields to shed each other's blood, regardless of the reasons -- esp. a patriotic one when the whole earth belongs to all of us. I fully support bringing the troops home now to stop this senseless killing and madness.**

Please find enclosed my signed application form.

**Now that this crazy lockdown is over, I'm going to start asking around to see if there are any vets here (there has to be), and if they're willing to tell their stories or willing to help start a chapter.**

**I'm 100% in agreement with you-there is nothing more important than building links, giving aid and comfort to the troops turning against the war -- they have the power and the voice to rally the American people against these bloody warmongers.**

And if they were visible in large numbers before and during the last election -- the Republicans and Democrats wouldn't have been able to trick the people with that b.s. propaganda -- because the people would have really been able to cast a "support the troops" vote.

**I really wish I could've been at the March 19<sup>th</sup> [Fayetteville] event -- I'm sure it was most productive and moving.** And speaking of moving -- I bet the spirits of all lives lost on those Civil War battlefields were screaming out to you -- those are must visit sites for you to see.

Yes, times are changing for the best-and after 30 more years-things will be a lot better and not so much in terms of "two nations: one white and one Black" because the truth about racism is being revealed and its ignorance rejected.

**Here's a question I'm always asking and not putting on the table to express a point: "What have Black folk ever did to deserve the hatred we received and receiving from others?" The reason why no one can ever give a legitimate reason is because there are no legitimate reasons.**

Well, I better close for now to get this in the mail to you -- please know that I'm in good health and still fighting.

**Life is so hectic around here that it is beginning to cause a lot of problems between the prisoners and staff -- causing unnecessary lockdowns, no commissary shopping, and more stress and frustration! Regardless of how peaceful the prisoners remain and how much we actively push for better conditions and needed programs -- the very structure and nature of these**

**insensitive officers and the entire system (to oppress and keep the recidivism level high) is going to make for another long, crazy summer.**

I'm so sorry for starting off this letter in this manner, but it's hurting me to know that we (prisoners) have the power in our hands to create change, and that power is being oppressed -- causing stress and frustration-which eventually is obviously going to create a negative and probably violent chain reaction -- and which always plays into the system's favor of wrongfully proving "prisoners don't deserve" humane conditions, programs, or special considerations for extra taxpayers' dollars.

In Peace,  
Stan

**MORE:**

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

The Military Project  
Contact@militaryproject.org

*[Based on a statement by David Cortright, Vietnam Veteran and armed forces resistance organizer.]*

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

**The maintenance of a massive, interventionist-oriented military establishment is based on the need to protect multinational investment and preserve regimes friendly to American capital.**

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

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

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

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

To sustain and strengthen this challenge we must continue to build political opposition to interventionism and support those within the armed services, including national guard and reserves, who defy the goals and program of Empire.

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

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

## IRAQ WAR REPORTS

### **MARINE KILLED IN HADITHAH**

May 27, 2005 NEWS RELEASE HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL  
COMMAND Number: 05-05-35C

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – A Marine assigned to II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) was killed May 26 by a rocket-propelled grenade explosion during Operation New Market, a combat operation in Hadithah.

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### **Sgt. Dies Of Mosul Wounds**

May 27, 2005 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 528-05

Sgt. First Class Randy D. Collins, 36, of Long Beach, Calif., died May 24 at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., of injuries sustained in Mosul, Iraq, May 4 during a mortar attack. Collins was assigned to the Army's 11<sup>th</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Irwin, Calif.

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***Local Patriots Refuse To Help  
Foreign Occupation:  
Pointless Mission “Disheartening”  
For U.S. Troops***

**The incessant anti-insurgent operations in Haditha and the tough Euphrates River towns west of Baghdad have grown disheartening for U.S. troops. They seized this city only months ago and now are fighting for it again.**

May 27, 2005 By Antonio Castaneda, Associated Press

HADITHA, Iraq — It didn't take the Marines long to work out why they were back in this town, squatting in a bullet-pocked building and taking cover from gunfire.

Until it was looted and abandoned, the building was the local police station.

**The Marines, charging back into Haditha for the second military offensive against local insurgents in three months, are again trying to beat back the rebels so the beleaguered Iraqi police can return.**

It's not clear how effective the operation will be. **[From this story it's very clear. Totally ineffective. See the information below: looks like everybody in town is for liberating their country and the local patriots won't do shit for the foreign occupation.]**

**Iraqi police and troops have been ineffective and remain largely absent.** In Haditha insurgents assassinated the police chief and devastated his force.

**The incessant anti-insurgent operations in Haditha and the tough Euphrates River towns west of Baghdad have grown disheartening for U.S. troops. They seized this city only months ago and now are fighting for it again.**

**"It's frustrating that we can't keep more of a presence here," said Marine Maj. Steve Lawson, a company commander in the 25th Marine Regiment's 3rd Battalion. "You wish you could spend more time in these areas." [The resistance is everywhere. It doesn't matter where the Major spends his time. Wherever he isn't, they rule. Read up on what happened to the German army in Yugoslavia, the French army in Algeria, or the U.S. army in Vietnam. An aroused people will fight for their freedom, regardless of who the foreign occupier is. They are right to do so. And you'd damn well do the same thing if your country were invaded and occupied by a corrupt foreign government intent on ripping off your nations' wealth, inevitably killing the citizens wholesale.]**

Many of the Marines currently in Haditha went door-to-door through the city in March, searching nearly every building, seizing weapons caches. They met light resistance.

**But since then, U.S. military officials acknowledge their presence in this riverside city of about 90,000 people has been light — similar to a highway patrol operation, said battalion commander Lt. Col. Lionel Urquhart.**

The commander promised Iraqi troops will take over for the Marines. **[Don't hold your breath. And promised who, his troops? If a commander has to make promises to the troop to keep them going, it's a short step to combat refusal. Check your Vietnam history about that too.]**

**Until then the Marines of Lima Company of 3rd Battalion are again hustling in search of resilient insurgents.**

**After raids and patrols through neighborhoods in sticky weather that surpasses 100 degrees, they pile into stuffy rooms *in a commandeered Iraqi home* [that's called bringing freedom and democracy] that they've tried to transform into comfortable living quarters.**

House rules are already in effect: Everyone knows not to drink out of claimed water bottles with "Snipers" written on the caps. Spots on the floor are marked out with space for machine guns at the feet of hard beds.

**Off-duty Marines trivia games aren't disturbed by the explosions punctuating the night. [Right. Everything's under control. Just kids with firecrackers.]**

**Insurgents have warned city residents against cooperating with the Americans. Earlier this month insurgents paid a bold visit to the local radio station and threatened the manager against broadcasting U.S. military messages.**

**City leaders have also kept their distance. '**

**Urquhart said the local government denies there are insurgents in the city and as of Thursday had not asked for a meeting with the military since operations began.**

**Right now, the only Iraqis traveling with the Marines are four Shiite soldiers — [Damn, there's that reinforcement from the collaborator Iraqi troops sure enough.] three of whom are related — from the faraway southern city of Basra. These Iraqis know little of Sunni Haditha.**

**"What I need most now is someone who can say this is a good guy and this is a bad guy," said Marine Col. Stephen W. Davis, who commands all the troops in Regimental Combat Team 2 in the city. [The British had the same problem in 1776. And it doesn't go away. It just gets worse and worse and worse. Game over. Time to end this fiasco and come home.]**

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## **Disoriented Petraeus Still Obsessed With "Foreign Fighters"**

5.27.05 Associated Press

BAGHDAD You'll see it unfold over the next week -- an offensive called Operation Lightning -- the largest Iraqi-led security operation since the U-S invasion began.

Lieutenant General David Petraeus, who leads the Multi National security transition command in Iraq, tells A-P Radio that 40-thousand Iraqis from an array of police, security and military units will be involved.

General Petraeus says a major aim of this offensive is to flush out the "facilitators" and "enablers." They run what Petraeus calls "an underground railroad of sorts" that funnels foreign fighters in place to execute suicide bombing attacks. [What, he's the only one left who hasn't given up the "foreign fighter" bullshit? Even the Pentagon by now has admitted the resistance is local and nationalist.

[The General wants to find a "foreign fighter"? Try looking in the mirror. Maybe he might see himself through the eyes of an Iraqi patriot. Successful field generals are able to do that. But at the end of the day, it doesn't matter whether he does or not. The troops can. Over and over they say: "If I were in their shoes, and a bunch of foreign troops came in and took over my home town, I'd do the same thing."

[Game over. Time to come home.]

MORE:

## Hello? Earth To Petraeus?

24 May, By Roger Hardy, BBC Middle East analyst

**What is striking, more than two years after the war which toppled Saddam Hussein, is how little the Americans appear to know about their enemy.**

**There are thought to be dozens of insurgent groups, with differing agendas. They sometimes act autonomously, sometimes in loose co-operation.**

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## TROOP NEWS

### 12,000 And Rising

27 May 2005 By David Zucchino, The Los Angeles Times

**The number of service members wounded in Iraq has surged past 12,000, *half of them injured so badly that they cannot return to duty.***

Many of the most critical cases end up here at the National Naval Medical Center, established in the early days of World War II.

**On the worst nights at the Bethesda hospital complex, ambulances and casualty buses deliver up to 100 wounded Marines and sailors from Iraq. Since the invasion of Iraq in March 2003, more than 1,700 have arrived, most of them young**

and suffering from the devastating damage inflicted on human tissue by explosives, bullets and shrapnel.

**MORE:**

## **23 Wounded *Per Day* Coming To Landstuhl**

May 27, 2005 By Matt Moore, Associated Press

LANDSTUHL, Germany — With its quiet, winding halls, Landstuhl Regional Medical Center at first looks like just another community hospital. But it has become a kind of front line in the Iraq and Afghan wars thousands of kilometers away.

The patients — young soldiers with faces lacerated by flying glass and shrapnel from exploding roadside bombs, others missing a leg or arm — shuffle by, heading for an appointment or check-up.

**Some 23 patients arrive on average daily most from Iraq, where more than 12,350 soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen have been injured since March 2003.**

**Fighting in Afghanistan also means more patients to treat. Since troops arrived there in October 2001, 455 have been wounded in action through May 5, 2005,** almost all of them coming to Landstuhl with injuries and wounds not normally found in a civilian hospital.

Sgt. Steven Allen, a 22-year-old from Thawville, Ill., was getting ready to leave for Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington after a five-day stay.

While traveling with his unit in Iraq, the 57th Transport Company, he was hit by gunfire from insurgents that blew a hole in his right arm and shredded his right hand. It was amputated.

“I was out of the kill zone and on a bird within six hours,” he said, his damaged arm swathed in white bandages and cradled in a sling.

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## **“One-Third Of Those Who Have Fought Have Done So More Than One Time”**

2005-05-26 Mark Benjamin, Salon.com

Last month, Salon reported that well over 1 million GIs have served in Iraq and Afghanistan since 9/11.

**And about one-third of those who have fought have done so more than one time.**



**A retired general said the numbers are a sign that the United States is burning through its ground troops at a dangerous clip, threatening to grind down the Army to a level not seen since just after Vietnam.**

## **The Sgt. Crosses The Line:**

**I would rather live for one week fighting to discover the truth for my brothers and sisters in uniform that to live for the rest of my life in silence.**

**By Donna D Stevens (Sergeant First Class U.S. Army, Ret.)** Veterans For Peace Newsletter, Spring 2005

**All those who make the transition from war advocate to peace advocate have their own stories to tell. This is my story.**

I am a retired Army veteran and a proud member of Veterans for Peace.

Like other Americans, I grew up with no thought of questioning my government. I trusted the information I learned from the educational system, the media and the entertainment industry. I believed what the American public was told about foreign policy. After high school graduation, I enlisted in the Army, and served for twenty years.

I was so proud of my uniform, my medals, and my service to my country. This experience further shaped my subconscious mind so that my conscious mind easily accepted whatever information I heard as truth. About three years ago I became interested in politics and domestic issues. When the saber rattling for war against Iraq began, I questioned the truth behind America's foreign policy.

I had questions: "why are we targeting Iraq when 15 of the 19 September 11 hijackers were from Saudi Arabia?"

It seemed to me that it would be logical to confront the Saudi Arabians, yet our country turned a blind eye toward the Saudis and went after Iraq.

As I gained more knowledge, my transformation began and continued until I "crossed the line."

As the questions about the war grew, I began to think about joining a peace group. I watched a movie called "Palestine is Still the Issue" which made me want to know more about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and other political issues. This movie gave me the courage to begin questioning everything that I read or saw in the mainstream media. I began to seek out alternative sources of information.

**The things I learned were all new to me. I learned about the School of the Americas and their history of training soldiers to commit atrocities against innocent people. I learned that the CIA had been involved in overthrowing**

**legitimate governments, and that our government sells weapons to many foreign governments with cruel human rights records.**

As a veteran, I feel outraged that American troops are used not to bring democracy and freedom to oppressed countries, but to protect multinational corporations and others who profit from the business of war.

**Many will call me unpatriotic and accuse me of not supporting the troops, but I believe our troops deserve an honest government.**

**Real patriotism is using freedom to learn the truth. Patriotism and support for the military means holding our government accountable to do what is best for the troops and for the country.**

**As a war advocate turned peace advocate, I intend to continue protesting my governments' foreign policy whenever I feel it is wrong.**

**I would rather live for one week fighting to discover the truth for my brothers and sisters in uniform than to live for the rest of my life in silence.**

**My transformation is now complete.**

**I have "crossed the line".**

**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.**

## ***More Asshole Recruiters Cross The Line Too: Insult Thrown At Student Who Resisted; "Opt-Out" Decision Disobeyed***

**"They're becoming more aggressive. I'm assuming because they're missing their quotas," said Andrew Rinaldi, a senior at Edison High School in New Jersey. He said he was called by a recruiter even after he filed an opt-out letter.**

**"I was called a tree-hugger by one of them," he said.**

May 27, 2005 By Maryclaire Dale, Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — A provision of the No Child Left Behind Act requires high schools to give military recruiters student phone numbers and addresses, unless a parent files a written request to “opt out.” But few parents or students seem to know about the rule.

**In leafy, left-leaning Montclair, N.J., more than 80 percent of Montclair High School students have opted out since a student-led campaign began last year.**

But in blighted North Philadelphia, Joshua Gordy said the lure of college money led him to join the Army reserves at 17. Recruiters who visited Kensington High School talked of him earning \$35,000 for college, he recalled Thursday. That hasn't happened. Gordy, now a 20-year-old reservist, said he failed to send in the right paperwork in time. He plans to enroll in community college this fall.

**“Military recruitment doesn't belong in schools. They have more access during school hours than counselors,” said Gordy, who works with a group trying to inform other students in Philadelphia about the opt-out clause.**

As the U.S. conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan continue, the military has missed many of its recruitment goals. **Army Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, said last fall he planned a renewed push to sign up high school and college students.**

**“They're becoming more aggressive. I'm assuming because they're missing their quotas,” said Andrew Rinaldi, a senior at Edison High School in New Jersey. He said he was called by a recruiter even after he filed an opt-out letter.**

**“I was called a tree-hugger by one of them,” he said.**

**MORE:**

## **School Resistance To Recruiters' Abuses Growing: “They'll Challenge Their Patriotism, Their Manhood”**

May 27, 2005 By DIANE D'AMICO Education Writer, Press of Atlantic City

**Egg Harbor Township guidance supervisor Terry Charleton said the school will implement a policy for the 2005-2006 school year that restricts recruiter access to one visit each marking period. They have allowed recruiters to set up a table in the cafeteria or common area, but do not let the recruiters walk around the cafeteria.**

**"They have to wait for a student to come up to them," Charleton said. "They can't walk around."**

**Ocean City used to allow recruiters to set up in the cafeteria. But after a situation in which the recruiter was mingling and talking to students, they moved the table outside the cafeteria and now require students to make the initial contact.**

"We decided that went beyond the intent of what we should do," superintendent Donald Dearborn said.

**Lower Cape May Regional's school board recently requested that the high school stop allowing recruiters to set up outside the cafeteria because that option is not given to colleges, principal Joseph Castellucci said. Now recruiters will have to work through the guidance office, with students making appointments to meet with them.**

Millville High School has no restrictions on how often recruiters can come in. The guidance office coordinates requests and requires students to make appointments to meet with the recruiters.

**"There's no limit to how often they can come, but they can't walk through the halls or go into classrooms or solicit," guidance counselor David LaGamba said. "It's similar to what we do with colleges."**

The high schools do notify parents of the option to remove their child's name from the military notification list. But how they do it varies, as does the response.

Millville and EHT include the information in their student handbook. Both schools said they get little parental response.

LCMR and Oakcrest include the information in a letter to parents at the beginning of the school year. About 100 parents a year opt out at LCMR. **Oakcrest this year removed the names of 482 of about 1,650 students.**

**Parent Stephen Fenichel of Ocean City said even after he asked to have his son's name removed from the notification list, his son still got almost daily calls at home from recruiters.**

**"They won't say how they got his name," he said. "And they are very aggressive with students. They'll challenge their patriotism, their manhood."**

Mahala Gordon, a retired Vineland educator believes parents don't really understand how persistent recruiters can be.

"Some 17-year-olds are really no match for the recruiters," she said.

**Adults find they can be targeted as well. Castellucci said recruiters have offered school guidance counselors trips to mini-boot camps to familiarize them with the military.**

**"They offered to land a helicopter in the field to pick us up," he said.**

## **NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT 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](http://www.ivaw.net))

# **Ignorance In Action: Mother Of Slain U.S. Soldier Rejected By Gold Star Organization**

[Thanks to D, who sent this in.]

May 26, 2005 By JIM FITZGERALD, Associated Press Writer, WHITE PLAINS, N.Y.

Everyone agrees that Ligaya Lagman is a Gold Star mother, part of the long, mournful line of women whose sons or daughters were killed in combat for the U.S. armed services.

**Her 27-year-old son, Army Staff Sgt. Anthony Lagman, was killed last year in Afghanistan when his unit came under fire during a mission to drive out remnants of Taliban and al-Qaida forces.**

**But the largest organization of such mothers, the American Gold Star Mothers Inc., has rejected Lagman for membership because - though a permanent resident and a taxpayer - she is not a U.S. citizen.**

"There's nothing we can do because that's what our organization says: You have to be an American citizen," national President Ann Herd said Thursday. ***"We can't go changing the rules every time the wind blows."*** [Her son is dead in war. That's more than a "wind blowing." At least to some people, but, obviously, not to others.]

**A past president of the mothers' group, Dorothy Oxendine, of Farmingdale, said, "There's no discrimination in a national cemetery. There's no discrimination when they get killed side by side. So how can we discriminate against a mother?"**

Lagman, a Filipino, has lived in the United States for more than 20 years. She was not at home Thursday, apparently tending to her hospitalized husband. But her surviving

son, Chris Lagman, said in Thursday's The Journal News that all she wants "is recognition as the mother of this fallen soldier."

Lagman's application was initiated by Ben Spadaro, a veteran from Yonkers, who said he learned about the citizenship rules of the American Gold Star Mothers while working on a national cemetery committee of the Veterans Administration. When he learned of Anthony Lagman's death and saw that Lagman was a citizen but his mother was not, he thought, "He's buried in a military cemetery, with full honors. She should be able to join."

We decided to tell the absolute truth on the application," he said. "We put down, 'I am not an American citizen.' It was a ploy to get them to reject her, and then we said they should change the rules."

**But the organization's 12-member executive board voted against any change.**

**"We can't go changing the rules every time we turn around," said Herd, the national president. "When we have problems within our organization *with people not abiding by the rules*, we just get it straightened out, we don't change the rules." [Conclusive proof, as if any were needed, that someone who loses a child in war can still behave like a cruel, nasty fool. And there was no warm consolation with regrets offered to Ligaya Lagman by the leadership of this organization, and that is despicable.]**

Oxendine, the former president, said she is sure the general membership would approve a rules change if the board did.

**"I can't believe that 12 intelligent women would ever not have it in their hearts to think about another Gold Star mother," Oxendine said. "You pay a high price to join the American Gold Star Mothers. I figure her dues were paid." [Thank you.]**

Spadaro isn't giving up. He got his brother, a Florida lawyer, to write to the Department of Justice, noting that the mothers' organization has received federal assistance and demanding an investigation.

**And on Monday, during Memorial Day observances at Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2285 in Eastchester, Ligaya Lagman will be presented with a gold necklace bearing a simple gold star.**

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## **Investigators Find DoD Fucking Over Troops Again: Screwing Up Pay While Ignoring Loan Sharks**

**At Fort Drum, N.Y., the board hadn't met in four years, "even though the New York Attorney General had filed two lending-related lawsuits against businesses on**

**behalf of service members and some of their family members at Fort Drum,” the GAO said.**

May 26, 2005 By Vince Crawley, Army Times staff writer

**Congressional investigators say the Pentagon could do more to curb predatory lenders such as payday loan companies and also found cases of incorrect active-duty pay for deployed members, as well as unenforced personal-finance regulations.**

The Government Accountability Office also found uneven enforcement of the disciplinary control boards that recommend placing suspect businesses off-limits to military personnel.

The GAO also found shortcomings with disciplinary control boards, comprised of installation officials who can recommend placing a business off-limits to service members.

**At some bases visited by the GAO, local boards had not met in more than a year.**

**At Fort Drum, N.Y., the board hadn’t met in four years, “even though the New York Attorney General had filed two lending-related lawsuits against businesses on behalf of service members and some of their family members at Fort Drum,” the GAO said.**

**Focus groups also said Defense Department policy on loans can be unclear because some installation newspapers carry ads from payday lenders.**

A separate GAO report on personal finance issues found problems with deployed troops receiving their \$250 per month family-separation allowance.

**Pay records showed that in January, almost 6,000 deployed troops received more than \$250, indicating that they had been underpaid for varying periods of time and were now receiving catch-up payments from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service.**

The GAO said these catch-up payments ran as high as \$3,000 for 11 service members.

**“Families who do not receive this allowance each month may experience financial strain caused by additional expenses such as extra child care,” the GAO said.**

**[Neat bank shot. Withhold pay; families have to borrow; the command does nothing to stop the loan sharks the troops must turn to because the assholes in command didn’t pay them!]**

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

# Pipeline Blown Up At Abu Ghraib

5.27.05 Associated Press, BAGHDAD

**Iraq Militants have attacked an oil pipeline outside Baghdad, destroying several parts of the structure.**

**Video taken by Associated Press Television News shows billowing black clouds of smoke in the area near Abu Ghraib prison.**

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## Resistance Action

5.27.05 Associated Press

**Iraqi authorities report the ambush of a police patrol in the city of Mosul. Two people were killed: a policeman and a bystander caught in the crossfire.**

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## FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

# Rumsfeld Visits Ft. Bragg: “Who Can Fayetteville Call When We Need Protection From The President?”

May 26, 2005 by Lou Plummer, Dissident Voice. Lou Plummer is a member of Military Families Speak Out.

**Donald Rumsfeld's visit to Ft. Bragg gives the local politicians a chance to bring out their banner proclaiming Bragg's sister community, Fayetteville, as America's Most Patriotic City. Were I a card carrying member of the press rather than just a grass roots activist, I'd like to ask those smarmy small town officials to reflect on patriotism.**

**I know what patriotism means to me and the other military families in this community who are tired of empty slogans and photo ops. It doesn't mean anything any more.**

I was born in a brick hospital. What if I told you I believe brick hospitals are superior to all other types of hospitals? Would you feel nervous if I told you people born in brick



hospitals are unique and special? Would you be uncomfortable if you saw me pray publicly and often for God Almighty to especially bless people born in brick hospitals?

Patriotic Americans have that attitude about their birthplace. Through the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune they believe they are lucky enough to have been born into the greatest country ever. These patriots are prepared to defend their country against all detractors.

It just doesn't make sense.

The Nazis were patriotic. There is little difference in patriotism and nationalism. A feeling of superiority is not an asset but a curse. Pride does not equal self worth. Pride is nothing more than a preoccupation with how others view you, or in this case your country.

**When Americans fail to criticize America, evils are perpetuated. To view this country in black and white leaves out the grayness that is the reality of our national existence.**

America produced Audie Murphy, Billy Graham and Eliot Ness. It also produced Lt. Rusty Calley, the Reverend Jim Jones and Ted Bundy.

**Sometimes great good arises from great malevolence. The evil of sanctioned racism gave Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. the chance to rise to prominence. The greed of the tycoons of the industrial age gave Mother Jones her opportunity to fight for the rights of working people. The melting pot contains more than pure gold.**

In the current age, those who criticize the country are labeled as America-haters. Point out how many soldiers have died in Iraq and your house may be vandalized as happened recently to a Florida woman. A Navy Petty Officer who publicly aired his belief that the war is all about money was charged with disloyalty by the military.

**What is amazing is how many meaningless, superficial acts are associated with patriotism. Standing up with hand over heart at a sporting event is patriotic. Slapping one of those ubiquitous made-in-China magnets on your car is patriotic. "Supporting our troops" (as if that is somehow different than supporting the government) is patriotic. There is no real meaning in any of that.**

**I have noticed that the patriotic act of enlisting in the military is much more popular among people from the bottom of the economic ladder than it is among people at the top. I suppose the rich show their patriotism by advocating for lower taxes.**

Although I shun the word "patriotism" I do see love of the American people manifested by young people who volunteer for programs like Teach for America or Americorps. I see a love of the American people at every antiwar demonstration I've ever been to. And, yes, the kids who are raised in a system that teaches militarism from kindergarten

onward, the kids who go on to enlist (in ever dwindling numbers), these kids love their country too.

**That love soon dissipates for many of them as they are confronted with the reality of Donald Rumsfeld's world.**

**During his last visit to Ft. Bragg, Rumsfeld said, "The world knows why when the president dials 911, it rings right here in Fayetteville."**

**Who can Fayetteville call when we need protection from the president? [Try the troops. Unlike the politicians, they'll defend us from our enemies domestic when they see their duty to protect our liberties, and the occasion arises when action is imperative. And it will arise. And so will they.]**

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## **“The Iraqi Resistance Groups Will Continue To Resist The Occupation Until The U.S. Leaves”**

May 27, 2005

Kurt Nimmo, Another Day in the Empire, [kurtnimmo.com](http://kurtnimmo.com)

**Even so, “the pace of suicide bombings, sabotage and assassinations has shown no signs of abating,” and will not do so until the United States gets out of Iraq, something they keep telling us they will not do, even though it is obvious that with every “sweep” through Iraqi “terrorist strongholds” the resistance not only grows, but increases its deadly effectiveness.**

### **MORE:**

May 2005 Ghali Hassan, Global Research [Excerpts]

According to both the Western mainstream media and the alternative media, the U.S. is "building democracy" and fighting "terrorism" in Iraq.

**Other proponents of the Occupation are those who "opposed" the war, but are in favor of America's imperial vision of "democracy".**

The deceptive argument pushed by the Western media is that the Occupation will lead to "democracy" and help Iraqis. This line of reasoning is also advocated by several alternative media sources. In a recent article in AlterNet which claims to "provide readers with crucial facts and passionate opinions", senior editor of AlterNet, Lakshmi Chaudhry wrote:

*"We can't simply turn our backs on the million of Iraqis – who lack basic necessities like, water electricity food or medical care.... It is immoral for us to leave them to die in the cross fire of a violent civil war fuelled by extremists that we created... We must take the*

*president at his word and force him to deliver on the promise of freedom." (AlterNet, 06 January 2005).*

**In other words, should "Progressives" trust George Bush's "messianic mission" and "stay the course" in Iraq to "promote democracy" and "prevent" civil war; anything short of this, would be "immoral".**

**This lie is from George Bush's own pack of lies. It is not only supported by rightwing pundits and pro-war advocates but also by part of the U.S. Liberal "anti-war" movement, which points to the "insurgents" as the primary source of violence in Iraq. The reality is that the so-called U.S. "democratic occupation", is a euphemism for imperialist occupation and oppression.**

**Western media are only interested in car bombings that kill civilians. The reality is that occasionally the bombs missed their intended targets, which are the U.S military convoys. Anthony Cordesman of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies notes in this regard that 77 percent of all attacks were against military targets of the U.S. and "Coalition Forces", and only 4.2 per cent of these attacks were led in civilian areas.**

**All resistance movements have been required to respond with armed resistance to defend against military aggression and occupation. Iraq is not different.**

**Violent resistance arises from violent military occupation.**

**The Iraqi Resistance targets Iraqi collaborators, who side with the US led Occupation, because they are rightly considered to be "spies and traitors." (Incidentally, this pattern of executing "collaborators" was also followed by the French Resistance during World War II.)**

"([The Resistance] intellectual tendencies are usually described as a mixture of Islamic and pan-Arab ideas that agree on the need to put an end to the US presence in Iraq", wrote Samir Haddad and Mazin Ghazi of the Baghdad weekly Al-Zawra.

"These groups have common denominators, the most important of which perhaps are focusing on killing US soldiers, rejecting the abductions and the killing of hostages, rejecting the attacks on Iraqi policemen, and respecting the beliefs of other religions", added Haddad and Ghazi.

**The only peaceful solution to the chaos in Iraq is the full withdrawal of U.S. forces.**

**Ordinary Iraqis and the Iraqi Resistance groups will continue to resist the Occupation until the U.S. leaves Iraq. No amount of U.S. firepower will quell the desire of the people of Iraq to achieve sovereignty and national independence.**

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## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

# Collaborators Dying By The Dozens

5.21.05 The Associated Press

**It's one of the most dangerous civilian jobs in one of the world's most dangerous countries: translating Arabic for the U.S. military in Iraq.**

**One by one, little noticed in the daily mayhem, dozens of interpreters have been killed — mostly Iraqis but 12 Americans, too. They account for 40% of the 300-plus death claims filed by private contractors with the U.S. Labor Department.**

**Riding in bomb-blasted Humvees, tagging along on foot patrols in Fallujah or dashing into buildings behind Marines, translators are dying on the job, but also facing danger at home: hunted by insurgents who call them pro-American collaborators. [Gee, imagine that.]**

**"If the insurgents catch us, they will cut off our heads because the imams say we are spies," said Mustafa Fahmi, 24, an Iraqi interpreter with Titan Corp., the biggest employer of linguists in Iraq. "I've been threatened like fifteen times, but I won't quit. A neighbor saw me driving and said, 'I am going to kill you.'"**

**The efficiency with which insurgents hunted down Titan contractors worries the U.S. military. As militants killed them in growing numbers, usually in ambushes off base, the Army and others began housing Titan workers on military bases or in Baghdad's fortified Green Zone.**

**"There was a period when it seemed translators were being targeted on a daily basis," said First Sgt. Stephen Valley, a U.S. Army reservist who worked with Arab journalists in Baghdad. "There was virtually no way to protect these people."**

Most Titan linguists now live on U.S. bases.

**More than 4,000 translators work for San Diego, Calif.-based Titan, which supplies the U.S. military with Arabic- and Kurdish-speaking linguists.**

**In April, Titan reported a 23% increase in revenues, or \$559 million, a company record. Titan said its contract with the U.S. Army is its biggest revenue source, worth up to \$657 million by the time it expires.**

**The human cost has been high. The U.S. Labor Department reports 126 death benefit claims for Titan workers in Iraq out of a total 305 for contractors as of mid-May. The Titan death toll includes 12 Americans, and possibly some non-translators, the company said, with another 149 wounded.**

**"This is a war zone. Our people are embedded with literally every military unit in Iraq, facing the same life-threatening dangers as our U.S. combat forces," Titan spokesman**

Wil Williams said. "We have lost more personnel than any other American contractor covered by (U.S. government) insurance because of our unique, critical and dangerous mission,

Titan's toll — which includes both violent deaths and accidents — is far higher than any of the hundreds of civilian contracting firms in Iraq, including those with many more workers.

**Some Iraqis working for Titan said they spent months on the job before being issued helmets, body armor, and ear- and eye-protection given to U.S. troops and foreign contractors.**

**One Titan interpreter said he completed more than 100 missions without body armor and a helmet. The man spoke on condition his name wasn't used because he didn't want to lose his job.**

**This reporter, who spent more than a year in Iraq, was accompanied Iraqi interpreters who wore no body armor or helmets on many U.S. military missions.**

"You look around and see the soldiers and the international press with you, and they're all wearing the proper protection. **What about me? I'm one of the team,**" said the Titan interpreter, who emerged uninjured from two convoys blasted by roadside bombs. **[Wrong. You're cheap labor, easily replaced, so why waste money protecting you? The more spent on you, the less profit for the corporation. That's capitalism. Love it or leave it.]**

As bad as the on-the-job hazards are the dangers commuting to work.

The Titan translator who had to ask for body armor said he alters his route, schedule and the cars he takes to the U.S. base where he works. He never stays more than a few nights in one house. And he wears a black ski mask to hide his identity while on patrol.

**"I stay with neighbors, sometimes with my family, with my wife's family, my uncle, my parents," he said. "If anyone recognizes you, and says, 'Hey, I saw you with the soldiers,' that's when you're done."**

Another Titan contractor, who didn't want his name published for fear of retribution, keeps a pistol in his lap when he drives.

"I don't talk about my job," he said. "If you keep your mouth shut, no one is going to know who you are or what your job is."

Money is the chief reward. The interpreters say monthly salaries start at \$600 and range as high as more than \$1,000 for those who take the most dangerous missions. That pay is big by Iraqi standards, where many survive on less than \$100 a month.

Under those salaries, U.S. government death benefits for families of slain Iraqi translators would range from \$300 to \$700 a month, according to a formula in the Defense Base Act, which sets a maximum payout of less than \$4,190 a month.

Valley said he was amazed Iraqis would show up to replace a translator who'd been killed.

"They were putting their lives on the line for what seemed to me a ridiculously small amount of money, but to them it was the highest salary they had ever earned," Valley said.

Valley said his office helped negotiate a new salary scale that made their translators "some of the best paid Iraqi civilian workers in the country."

**"If we couldn't protect them from the insurgents, we could get them a higher monthly salary," he said. [Huh? This whole article is about how they can't be protected, so what the fuck is this predator talking about?]**

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

## **Filipino Workers In US Camps Go On Strike**

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

27 May 2005 (AFP)

**Some 300 Filipinos employed at a US military camp in Iraq went on strike this week to protest poor working conditions, the foreign ministry said on Friday.**

The workers, under contract from Prime Projects International and Kellog Brown and Root, are based in Camp Cooke in the province of Taji, the ministry said.

**The government last year banned travel to Iraq** and brought home its token contingent serving with coalition forces after a Filipino truck driver was kidnapped.

**The Filipinos were to have been repatriated amid the deadlock, but the Philippine charge d'affaires Ricardo Endaya managed to convince them to enter dialogue and temporarily return to their posts. [The Philippine government also demanded that its' citizens stop working in Iraq, which means Endaya defied his own government to help out the war profiteers assholes fucking over the work force.]**

US-based Kellog manages non-combat related operations of military installations in Iraq, while Prime Projects recruits Filipino workers for them.

Despite a travel ban to Iraq, the Philippines is the biggest supplier of manpower for US-led coalition forces, with an estimated 6,000 Filipinos working in various camps.

**OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION  
BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW!**

**DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

**Rumsfeld Sorry People Can Find Out  
What's Going On:  
Still Pissed Abu G. Torture Not Kept  
Secret**

May 26, 2005 By David B. Caruso, Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — **One of the military's new wartime challenges is dealing with a global media that allows information that may be false or damaging to U.S. interests to spread instantly around the world,** Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Wednesday in a speech to members of the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia.

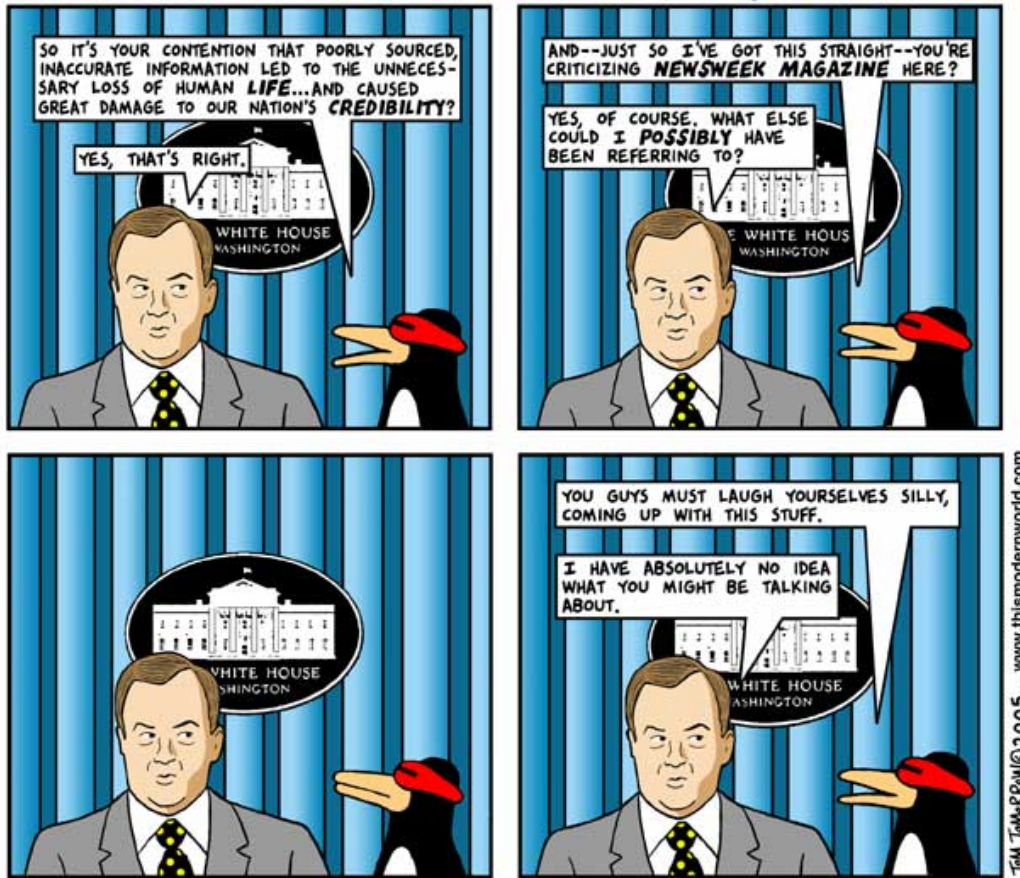
**["False or damaging to U.S. interests"? So, if it's not false, but the information is "damaging to U.S. interests," he's sorry people find out about it. And what he means by "U.S. interests" are the interests of the out-of-control corporate elite that own and control the government, and use it to enrich themselves. You know, the people he, Bush, and Cheney, and the Senators, and the Representatives all work for? The people who hand out the cash that buys the real power in DC, and use that power to promote the various interests of the Evil Empire and send soldiers to die for their lies and their profits.]**

U.S. officials, he said, must also deal with "a global Internet with universal access and no inhibitions, e-mail, cell phones, digital cameras wielded by anyone and everyone" and "a seemingly casual disregard for the protection of classified information, resulting in a near continuous hemorrhage of classified documents, to the detriment of the country." **[To the detriment of Rumsfeld and his gang of criminals for sure, but what's bad for them is very very good for those of us who aren't the elite, and very very good for the country. This egotistical, arrogant, murdering asshole thinks he's the country.]**

***Rumsfeld was initially scheduled to speak before the World Affairs Council last May, but canceled his appearance when he was called before Congress to testify about photographs, broadcast around the world, that showed U.S. soldiers abusing prisoners at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq. [And he's still whining about it.]***

# THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



## CLASS WAR REPORTS

### “Abu Ghraib Is Not An Aberration”

April 28, 2005 Sundiata Acoli, Statement to the Human Rights Conference on Torture

Greetings, IHRI (International Human Rights Initiative) conference!

**Abu Ghraib is not an aberration.**

**Most U.S. prisoners instantly recognized Amerika's fingerprints all over Ghraib; they match its prints in U.S. police stations, jails and prisons.**

**Now for some of my personal experiences with torture:**

**In 1969, New York cops kicked in my door for two other Panthers, Sekou Odinga and Kuwasi Balagoon, and without saying a word beat and stomped me**



**unmercifully. Then they took me to the 32nd Precinct, Harlem, and threw me in the holding tank with Joan Bird, another Harlem Panther, whose lip was so busted and swollen, and eyes so blackened and swollen shut that I barely recognized her.**

She said that at one point during her beating they hung her out of the third floor window by the ankles, made sexual taunts and threatened to drop her if she didn't tell the whereabouts of Sekou and Kuwasi. They didn't find them, and after holding us in jail for a month they released us.

**In 1970 during the New York Panther 21 trial, we defendants were assaulted numerous times while cuffed by Riker's Island jail guards who transported us back and forth to court each day.**

In 1973, after my arrest in the New Jersey Turnpike case, I was held in strict isolation at Middlesex County Jail, N.J. Because of my placement there, and even though I was allowed no visitors except my lawyer, the jail implemented harsh visiting rules on all visitors, which caused the prisoners to protest by refusing to lock in their cells.

**New Jersey state troopers came in with shotguns, shot prisoners in the face and torso with bean-bags that broke noses, blackened eyes and bruised ribs, shot teargas that choked, blinded and burned, and drove prisoners back into their cells. I was already under 24/7 lockdown so they simply shot teargas into my cell, turned the water off and heat on, in mid-summer, which left me and similar prisoners to wallow in pain from the sweat-reactivated tear gas, which we had no means to wash off.**

**In 1976 at Trenton State Prison (TSP), NJ, I and other Management Control Unit (MCU) prisoners were subjected to two hours of gunfire by Jersey state troopers raking the Unit back and forth, trying to shoot into our cells.**

**John Andaliwa Clark was killed by a double-ought shotgun blast to the chest, and another prisoner, "Gunner," who came out with his hands in the air, was shot by an M-14 rifle that was aimed at his head but tore through his elbow instead. I and numerous other MCU prisoners were hit by shrapnel from bullets that ricocheted off the bars into our cells.**

**In 1977, MCU guards suddenly began demands to probe the anus of random MCU prisoners during their normal strip-search of us each time we were taken out or returned to our cells. And of course, we refused to submit willingly to such a degrading and asinine demand. All who resisted were jumped by the guards, beaten, wrestled to the floor and anus probed, then charged with assault on the guards, which carried an additional seven-year sentence upon conviction.**

To avoid further anus probes, for the next seven months we refused all family visits, attorney visits, doctor, dental visits or anything else that required us to leave our cells.

**Prison officials then instituted a policy of "random" mandatory cell-changes so that they could continue to subject selected prisoners to "random" beatings, abuse and forced anal probes under the guise of changing our cells.**

The situation became so volatile and our families, attorneys and friends were so alarmed that a federal judge stepped in, forbade the prison to continue anal probes, declared that a metal detector was just as effective as a search tool and that it be used instead of the anal probe and then summarily dismissed all assault charges that had been filed against us MCU prisoners.

**In 1983, at USP Marion, Ill., a federal penitentiary, guards locked down the prison and went on a six-month rampage, roaming the prison and beating prisoners at will and randomly subjecting some to forced anal probes.** During that period I was sent to "the hole" whose floor and walls were covered with feces thrown by prisoners who had been beaten and anal probed. It was mid-summer, the heat was intense, the smell incredible, the windows were closed and I was confined 60 days there without fresh air or relief.

Later in the summer of '83 I was taken by bus in chains to testify at Sekou Odinga's trial in New York where he and other comrades were charged with robbery of a Brinks armored truck and with liberating Assata Shakur from prison. After I dressed out for the bus ride, the guard put a black box over my handcuffs, which is supposedly for high security prisoners.

**Any prisoner who's ever worn it will tell you that after a half-hour the box gnaws into your wrists and sets them on fire with pain. I had to endure the three-day bus ride with the black-box gnawing into my wrists all day,** plus no smoking was permitted on the bus nor at any of its stopovers along the way, which in itself was also torture to me with a then 30-year cigarette habit.

At MCC-NY, the City's federal jail, they put me in isolation wearing only a T-shirt, pants and shower shoes, then turned the air conditioner to near freezing level so that I had no choice but to do push-ups day and night to keep warm. After three days of freezing and going without cigarettes, I testified in Sekou's defense and was immediately put back on the bus, cuffed in the black-box, for another agonizing three-day trip back to Marion, Ill.

In 1988 at USP Leavenworth, Ks., as happened on several occasions during my sojourn in prison, I was caught up as an innocent bystander during a major prison disturbance. In such situations bystanders and participants alike suffer the same abuse by the intervening guards.

This time it happened in the yard when a gang war broke out between the Texas Syndicate and the EMEs, two Mexican street organizations. In the ensuing melee, Rene, leader of the Syndicate, was stabbed to death, and both groups sustained numerous stab wounds. Tower gunfire stopped the carnage as guards moved in to teargas and handcuff everyone, including me and other bystanders, facedown on the blistering summer asphalt, then lifted us by the cuffs and threw us in the dilapidated and condemned "Building 63" without food or water until the whole thing was sorted out days later.

**And last, in 2001, Sept. 11, at USP Allenwood, Pa., I was rounded up, held incommunicado and tortured four months with interrogations about the WTC and the spread of anthrax before being released back into prison population due to the efforts of Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney, my attorneys and many other concerned people.**

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# Pissed Off Bolivians Demonstrate Against Their Government With Dynamite

May 27th, 2005 By Luis Gomez, The Narco News Bulletin

Since early today there have been marches and confrontations in La Paz and El Alto, but a major new wave of protests is expected beginning Monday.

**It was still dark out when the first dynamite blasts began in the La Paz neighborhood of La Portada, which borders the highway and the first neighborhoods of El Alto. The hillside shook for nearly two hours this morning: the rural public school teachers, in a lightning-fast action, blocked the highway in both directions with rocks.**

**The police, unprepared for the attack, were surprised by the teachers, who also razed the tollbooth for the highway connecting La Paz and El Alto.**

There was a confrontation and the police dispersed the teachers with teargas. The confrontation ended with no injuries, but several cars and some buses suffered damage.

In the *altiplano*, the highlands north of El Alto and surrounding Lake Titicaca, the indigenous Aymara peasant farmers' first blockades appeared. **In several parts of the northern provinces, which are loyal to the legendary Aymara leader Felipe Quispe, "El Mallku," the shut-down can already be felt, and agricultural products are not reaching the cities.**

**The rural Aymara, who since yesterday have returned from La Paz to their communities, are not only preparing even more road blockades, but have also announced that they will return to La Paz next Monday, in an attempt to fulfill their demands: hydrocarbon nationalization, the end of the Carlos Mesa administration, and the closure of the National Congress.**

**In El Alto there was a mass workers' march a few hours ago, which culminated in a demonstration in front of the demolished tollbooth.** There will be a general assembly of El Alto neighborhood presidents this afternoon, where they will do an evaluation of the general civic strike called by the Federation of Neighborhood Committees of El Alto (FEJUVE) and draw up new plans for the coming days: at the moment, El Alto, the Aymara city, is shut down in only a few places.

In the city of La Paz there were two marches led by women (today is Mothers Day in Bolivia). The first was a march of urban schoolteachers from the department (equivalent to a state or prefecture) of La Paz, who have been on strike for days. The march had a brief confrontation with the police near Plaza Murillo, where the main government buildings are.

The other march was led by the women of the Bartilina Sisa National Federation of Women Peasant Farmers and the women of the Tropic of Cochabamba (in the Chapare region), who spent the day with alternate senator Román Loayza, who is commanding the MAS's rural sector in these days.

**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.iraq-news.de/>, <http://www.notinourname.net/qi-special/>,

[www.williambowles.info/qispecial](http://www.williambowles.info/qispecial),

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