

GI SPECIAL 3B61:



SOMETIMES CARTOONS JUST CAN'T CUT IT.

6-9-05-A

[Thanks to David Honish, Vets For Peace, who sent this in.]

“Dad To My Honorable Son”

From: Jack
Sent: June 15, 2005
Subject: Dad - to my honorable son

My son is a Major in the U.S. Army. He has been in Iraq once in 2004 and may go back.- Officer Jack McLamb, Ret.

From: Jack
To: Jack
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2005 10:12 AM
Subject: **Dad to my honorable son**

You probably already know this history son, but it is a most important history every soldier should know.

At 17 years of age the government told me that I should go to Vietnam and "kill little oriental people to save our nation and it's freedoms for all my countrymen." It was a lie then....as it is today in Afghanistan, Iraq, and it will be a lie when we are in Iran, Syria, Lebanon, etc., etc..

One of my favorite quotes is H.L. Mencken's - "To die for an idea is unquestionably noble, be how much more noble it would be if men died for ideas that were true."

I pray that one day we soldiers will once again serve, and if need be die, for ideas that are true.

Son, I am proud of you for your earnest service and dedication to our nation and it's people.

**Love and prayers,
Dad**

IRAQ WAR REPORTS



In a photo provided by his family Army Sgt. Larry R. Kuhns Jr. of Austintown, Ohio is shown. Kuhns, 24 died Monday in Ramadi when their military vehicle came under a grenade attack, the Department of Defense said Wednesday. (AP Photo/Family Photo via The Vindicator)

Marine Killed By IED Near Fallujah

June 15, 2005 MNF Release A0506015b

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq -- **A Marine assigned to Regimental Combat Team-8, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), was killed June 14 by an improvised explosive device. The incident took place during combat operations near Fallujah , Iraq .**

Marine Killed By IED Ar Rutbah

June 15, 2005 MNF Release A050615d

CAMP FALLUJAH , Iraq – **A Marine assigned to Regimental Combat Team 2, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), died June 14 from wounds sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. The incident took place during combat operations near Ar Rutbah, Iraq .**

Jacksonville Marine Dies

June 15, 2005 IBS, JACKSONVILLE, Fla.

Family, friends and a church family are grieving for a 20-year-old Marine private from Jacksonville who was killed Tuesday when an roadside bomb went off near his convoy in Iraq.

Pfc. Nathan Clemons was a graduate of Terry Parker High School and an active member of the University Boulevard Church of the Nazarene.

"It was just such a shock for all of us, and then to break that news," said Clemons pastor, Mike Jackson.

Friends said Clemons -- they called him Call Nate or Nate-Dog -- joined the Marine Corps after graduation and was passionate about the military.

Clemons' father said Nathan had called him the morning before Tuesday's mission. He said he had a feeling that day's mission in the al-Anbar province would be dangerous, so he called to tell his parents he loved them.

Clemons was due home in the fall.

Camp Lejeune Marine Killed

Jun 15, 2005 The Associated Press

EASTON, Pa. -- A Marine from the Easton area was killed in Iraq on Monday by shrapnel from a roadside bomb, his family said.

Joshua Klinger, 21, of Williams Township, was killed in Anbar province about 5 p.m. Monday, said his mother, Sharon Klinger. He was a member of the 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment based at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

After graduating from Wilson Area High School in 2002, Klinger took computer classes and held a few odd jobs before enlisting at age 20. He had been in Iraq since March.

"He wanted to see the world," Sharon Klinger said. "He wanted to make something of his life, and he had been thinking about the military since high school. He wanted to make us proud of him, and we are so proud of him and his choices."

Klinger's job was to hunt for roadside bombs and weapons caches. In conversations with his family he described the conditions in Iraq as "terrible," with buzzing flies and garbage rotting in the streets.

"He said he hated it, couldn't wait to get home. But then he'd say it wasn't that bad," his mother said.

Although quiet, he expressed himself through music. He spent hours composing songs at a computer in the family room. He also played guitar and piano and could pick up any song by ear.

"He could bare his soul to the keys, and nobody would talk back," Sharon Klinger said. "It was a wonderful outlet for him."

Along with his parents, he is survived by a sister and brother.

Funeral plans were incomplete.

Two Bulgarian Soldiers Killed In Wreck

June 15, 2005 (AP) & Focus 1 News & MNF & Novinite Ltd

Two Bulgarian soldiers were killed and another injured late Tuesday when the Bulgarian BRDM-2 slid from a dike into a canal and turned on its side about 55 kilometres southeast Diwaniya, a city in south-central Iraq where about 400 Bulgarian soldiers are serving.

In spite of intense care two of them - private Tsvetan Stoyanov Kamov and private Paun Stoyanov Georgiev - died.

The two Bulgarian rangers who died in Iraq last night were posthumously promoted in rank to Junior Sergeants with an order by the Minister of Defense Nikolay Svinarov, announce for FOCUS Agency the spokesman of the Defense Ministry Vladislav Prelezov. They have also been rewarded with honorary sign for true service under the flags.

The relatives of the deceased will get BGN 2,000 each for arrangement of mourning ceremonies.

The third Bulgarian soldier who was wounded in the June 14 Iraq accident is in critical condition, Vladislav Prelesov, spokesman of the Defence Ministry announced.

Corporal Marin Milev Milev, was transported by Medical Evacuation to a hospital in Baghdad, where he breathing through artificial respiration. General Stoyan Tonev, who heads Bulgaria's Military Medical Academy is in constant contact with the medics in the Baghdad hospital.

Corporal Milev has swallowed water after falling in the canal.

Private Dimcho Stamov, who was the fourth member of the crew, managed to get out of the vehicle and has no serious wounds.



Two Servicemen Perished in Iraq

Several British Soldiers Wounded In Baghdad Bomb Attack

Jun 15 AFP News

Several British soldiers were wounded, one seriously, when a roadside bomb went off in Baghdad.

The bomb blew up in the path of a British military vehicle in the west of the capital, US Lieutenant Jamie Davis told AFP on Wednesday.

It was unclear where the convoy was headed, since British troops are based in southern Iraq.

Humvee Destroyed In Baghdad



June 15, 2005, Iraqi policemen look at the wreckage of a U.S. Humvee after it was destroyed by a roadside bomb in Baghdad. Photo by Mohammed Ameen/Reuters

General Says Resistance Has Sophisticated New Weapons And Effective Command And Control

The IED Defeat Task Force has determined that IED networks comprised numerous cells with separate command, production, transportation and emplacement elements. *The insurgents have also been conducting surveillance on U.S. combat units to facilitate plans for IED strikes.*

06/15/05 OL Staff, omegaletter

Officials said insurgents in Iraq have been developing increasingly powerful improvised explosive devices, the leading cause of U.S. military casualties in that Arab country.

They said insurgents have produced shaped-charge explosives that could penetrate the U.S. Army M1A2 main battle tank and Bradley fighting vehicle.

Brig. Gen. Joseph Votel, director of the U.S. Army IED Defeat Task Force said insurgents have quickly learned the vulnerable points of even the most heavily-armored of U.S. combat vehicles.

Votel, director of the U.S. Army IED Defeat Task Force, told the Washington-based Lexington Institute that Iraqi insurgents have sought to compensate for the up-arming of U.S. combat vehicles.

Officials said the army appears to have reached a stalemate in the war against IEDs, 40 percent of which have been neutralized by U.S. forces. They said Iraqi insurgents increased their IED strikes and developed more advanced bombs.

The IED Defeat Task Force has determined that IED networks comprised numerous cells with separate command, production, transportation and emplacement elements. The insurgents have also been conducting surveillance on U.S. combat units to facilitate plans for IED strikes.

Votel said suicide bombers detonate two-thirds of car bombs in Iraq. **He said the army doesn't understand how suicide bombers are recruited. [Hint: Try reading Patrick Henry. You remember; "Give me liberty or give me death"??]**

In April 2005, the U.S. Marine Corps launched a facility outside Baghdad to produce Humvees equipped with advanced armor. The facility contains contractors from such companies as Honeywell, KBR and Oshkosh.



Jun 15: US soldiers seen securing the area of a burning US military vehicle following a roadside bomb in southeast Baghdad. (AFP)

TROOP NEWS

Sgt. Kevin Benderman At Risk: **Malicious Fools In Command Plan** **Legal Lynching**

[What a priceless combination of malice and sheer stupidity. They might as well buy some TV time and run "Fuck Justice, We Intend To Hang Him" commercials. They've let the whole world know just how rotten their fake Military Justice system really is, and just how rotten they are individually. And the dimwits don't have a clue what they've done. Like previous brain dead petty tyrants throughout history, the officers responsible for this blunder have made sure Benderman becomes a national symbol of resistance, honor, and common decency in the face of official officer corps dishonor and indecency. So much the worse for them. This will not go away.]

Jun 14 By RUSS BYNUM Associated Press Writer, SAVANNAH, Ga.

A soldier who refused to go to Iraq will be court-martialed for accepting unearned combat pay, despite an Army investigator's conclusion that an accounting error was to blame.

Larceny charges were added against Sgt. Kevin Benderman, 40, who was already awaiting trial on charges that included desertion. The larceny charges raise the possible penalty from seven years to 17. A trial date has not been set.

"It's an outrage," Benderman's attorney William Cassara said Tuesday. "They said up to 100 soldiers at Fort Stewart received that money improperly, and he's the only one facing any disciplinary action."

Benderman, an Army mechanic, refused to go to Iraq with his 3rd Infantry Division unit for a second tour of duty Jan. 8, days after he told commanders he was seeking a discharge as a conscientious objector.

An officer assigned to investigate Benderman's case recommended dismissing the larceny charges.

Soldiers not in combat zones commonly receive extra pay because of accounting glitches, a Fort Stewart finance officer said at a hearing.

Benderman's attorneys have said he should not be charged with a crime more serious than being absent without leave, a lesser charge than desertion, because he reported for duty the Monday after his unit was sent to Iraq.

“I Wonder If They Are Attacking Us Now.”

“I Would Be.”

June 15, 2005 by Joseph L. Galloway, Knight-Ridder

WASHINGTON - The Internet has brought us another remarkable soldier's story from Iraq worth reading and thinking about.

The story below is told by Sgt. Zachary Scott-Singley, 24, who grew up in Washington state and is an Arabic language translator serving in Iraq with the 3rd Infantry Division.

The sergeant has been in the Army for five years.

He fought in the invasion of Iraq in 2003 and was about to leave the Army late last year when he was caught in a "stop-loss," an involuntary extension of his enlistment so he could be sent to Iraq for another year of combat duty.

The event he writes about took place in 2003 near Abu Ghraib in the suburbs of Baghdad. He gave us permission to share the story. It has been edited. The full story and the sergeant's Web log can be read at: www.misoldierthoughts.blogspot.com.

By -Sgt. Zachary Scott-Singley

"It was still dark. I dressed in that darkness. When I was ready I grabbed an MRE (meal ready to eat) and got in the truck. The targets were three houses where RPG (rocket-propelled grenade) attacks had come from a few days before.

Sitting there listening to the briefing I let my mind wander and said a prayer. 'Just one more day, God, let me live one more day and we will go from there ... ' It was the same prayer I said every day.

"There were different people to meet each day. There were some who would kill you if they could ... you could see the hate in their eyes. I also met people who would have given me everything they owned ... so thankful because we had rid them of Saddam.

"After the briefing we convoyed to the raid site. I was to go in directly after the military police who would clear the buildings. The raid began without a hitch. I was inside the courtyard of a house questioning a woman when I heard gunfire. Ducking next to the stone wall I yelled at the woman to get inside.

"When the gunfire stopped I peeked around the front gate. I saw a soldier pulling rear security who was still aiming his M249 machine gun at a black truck off in the distance. His was the weapon I had heard.

"I ran up and overheard the captain asking what had happened and why this soldier had opened fire. The soldier answered that he had seen a man holding an AK-47 in the back of the black truck. I was among the four, including the soldier who had fired, selected to go check on that truck.

"We were out of breath when we got to the gun-truck nearest to the black civilian truck. There were four Iraqis walking towards us from the black truck.

They were carrying a body, a small boy no more than 3 years old. His head was cocked at the wrong angle and there was blood. So much blood. The Iraqi men were crying and asking me WHY?

"Someone behind me started screaming for a medic. It was the young soldier who had fired. He screamed for a medic until he was hoarse. A medic came just to tell us what we already knew: The boy was dead.

"I stood there looking at that little child, someone's child just like mine, and seeing how red the clean white shirt of the man holding the boy was turning. Then I realized I was speaking to them, speaking in a voice that sounded so very far away. I heard my voice telling them how sorry we were. My mouth was saying this but all my mind could focus on was the hole in the child's head. The white shirt covered in bright red blood. I couldn't stop looking even as I kept telling them how sorry we were.

"I can still see it all to this day. There were no weapons found and we accomplished nothing besides killing a child. I stayed as long as I could, talking to the man holding the child. I couldn't leave because I needed to know who they were. I wanted to remember. The man was the child's uncle, minding him for his father who had gone to the market. They were carpenters and what the soldier who had fired on the truck had seen was one of the Iraqi men standing in the truck bed, holding a piece of wood.

"Before I left I saw the young soldier who had killed the boy. His eyes were unfocused and he was just standing there, staring off into the distance. My hand went to my canteen and I took a drink of water. That soldier looked so lost, so I offered him a drink. In a hoarse voice he quietly thanked me.

"Later that day we were filling out reports about what we had witnessed. The captain who had led the raid was angry: 'Well, this is just great! Now we have to go give that family bags of money to shut them up ... '

"A family had just lost their beautiful baby boy, and this man is worried about having to pay for a family's grief and sorrow.

"To this day I still think about that raid, that family, that boy.

I wonder if they are attacking us now.

I would be.

If someone took the life of my son or my daughter nothing other than my own death would stop me from killing them.

I still cry when the memory hits me. And I cry when I think of how very far away I am from my family. I am not there, just like the boy's father wasn't there. I have served my time. I have my nightmares. I have enough blood on my hands. Just let me be a father, a husband, a daddy again.

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.

Poland To Cut Iraq Deployment By 300

June 15, 2005 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WARSAW, Poland -- Poland said Wednesday it will cut its 1,700-troop deployment to Iraq this summer by as many as 300 troops.

Defense Minister Jerzy Szmajdzinski said Poland's force in Iraq in the next troop rotation would be "between 1,400 and 1,450."

Rumsfeld Babbles More Inane Bullshit

6.15.05 Telegraph Group Limited

Iraq is "statistically" no safer today than it was at the end of the war, Donald Rumsfeld, US defence secretary, has admitted.

In an interview with Sir David Frost on BBC2's Newsnight last night, Mr Rumsfeld was asked whether the security situation had improved since the day after the war ended.

"Well, statistically no. But clearly it has been getting better as we've gone along," he replied.

Mr Rumsfeld added: "A lot of bad things that could have happened have not happened."

"A lot of bad things that could have happened have not happened."



(iraqwar.mirror-world.ru)

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)

Iraq Vet Happy To See Anti-War Activists

From: Chelsea Neighbors [New York City]
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2005 6:35 AM
Subject: It is time to take a stand

Dear Chelsea Neighbor,

This Tuesday was a brutally hot day on 8th avenue and 24th street. The people who attended the sixth "Chelsea Stand Up Against the War" deserve a special thank you for enabling our weekly Stand Up to continue. They were: Melody, Chloe, Sylvia, Roberto, Jane, Kate, Bob, Miri, Chuck, Jenn, Lula, Maeve, and Miriam.

A special thanks to Ian for videotaping the Stand Up and to Miri for bringing the limeade she made to help keep us all keep going.

We gave out hundreds of fliers, sold some buttons, talked with many people from our neighborhood and those passing through, including a young man safely returned from Iraq recently, who was happy to see us out there.

Mother Of Dead GI Stomps Bush: "Beating A Political Stake In Your Black Heart Will Be The Fulfillment Of My Life"



Cindy Sheehan, left, president of the Gold Star Families for Peace and other touring activists were greeted by supporters after arriving at a rally on the Freedom and Faith tour bus at a lawn on the grounds of the Red Mile track in Lexington, Ky., June 13, 2005. (Pablo Alcalá, Staff)

Jun. 14, 2005 By Frank E. Lockwood, HERALD-LEADER STAFF WRITER

The president of Gold Star Families for Peace, a mother who lost a son in Iraq, criticized the United States' "illegal and unjust war" yesterday during an interfaith rally in Lexington.

Cindy Sheehan of Vacaville, Calif., accused President Bush of lying to the nation about a war which has consumed tens of billions of dollars and claimed more than 1,700 American lives -- including the life of Army Specialist Casey Austin Sheehan.

Sheehan ridiculed Bush for saying that it's "hard work" comforting the widow of a soldier who's been killed in Iraq.

"Hard work is seeing your son's murder on CNN one Sunday evening while you're enjoying the last supper you'll ever truly enjoy again. Hard work is having three

military officers come to your house a few hours later to confirm the aforementioned murder of your son, your first-born, your kind and gentle sweet baby. Hard work is burying your child 46 days before his 25th birthday. Hard work is holding your other three children as they lower the body of their big (brother) into the ground. Hard work is not jumping in the grave with him and having the earth cover you both," she said.

Since her son's death, Sheehan has made opposition to the Bush administration a full-time job.

"We're watching you very carefully and we're going to do everything in our power to have you impeached for misleading the American people," she said, quoting a letter she sent to the White House.

"Beating a political stake in your black heart will be the fulfillment of my life ... ," she said, as the audience of 200 people cheered.

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.

The Tipping Point

[Thanks to PB]

AOL poll, 6.13.05:

Has your opinion about the war in Iraq changed in the past year?

No, I still have a negative view 62%
Yes, I have a less favorable view 21%

No, I still have a positive view 13%
Yes, I have a more positive view 4%

Total Votes: 70,439

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action:

Another “Anti-Terrorist” General Killed



Destroyed vehicle at the scene of a car bomb which detonated near a passing police patrol in the Zaafaraniyah district in southern Baghdad. (AFP/Ali al-Saadi)

June 15, 2005 By PATRICK QUINN (AP) & AFP 7 Reuters & CNN & BBC

Insurgents kidnapped and killed two senior officers Wednesday in Kirkuk's anti-terrorist squad, and the son of one of the men, in the oil rich northern city of Kirkuk. Brig. Gen. Naseh Mohie al-Deen, his son and driver Oqba, and Lt. Col. Khalid Ahmed were found dumped streetside with gunshots to their heads.

A bomber dressed in an Iraqi army uniform walked into an Iraqi mess hall and blew himself up, killing at least 26 Iraqi soldiers and injuring 26.

The mess hall was left in charred ruins after the blast.

The bomber walked into the crowded mess hall in Khalis, 20 kilometres northwest of Baqouba, Iraqi army Col. Saleh al-Obeidi said. Baqouba is 60 kilometres northeast of Baghdad.

Al-Obeidi said the man was wearing an army uniform, was strapped with about 50 kilograms (110 pounds) of explosives, and waited until soldiers had gathered for lunch in the mess hall before blowing himself up. The soldiers belonged to the Al-Salam battalion of the 2nd brigade of the Iraqi army in Diyala province.

According to al-Obeidi, the man was apparently part of a group of construction workers hired to expand the mess hall's kitchen and "that's why he was able to go this far."

"The attacker picked the right time to carry out the attack, when two army groups were supposed to be inside at that hour for lunch. He blew up himself as soon as he entered the hall, avoiding any of the soldiers so they would not recognize that he was a stranger," al-Obeidi said.

He said the explosives were allegedly brought onto the base on Tuesday inside several trucks carrying construction materials.

The blast, he said, was devastating. "I couldn't recognize one body from another, body parts were scattered everywhere, because it was a huge blast, **it is a fortified base, and we never believed any incident to occur inside this base,**" al-Obeidi said.

The injured were being evacuated to a nearby hospital, Iraqi army Maj. Abbas Timimi said.

The BBC's Caroline Hawley in Baghdad says the attack will be extremely worrying for Iraqi security forces.

It marks the second time in four days that a bomber in army uniform has infiltrated an Iraqi military base.

A car bomber slammed into three police cars on patrol Wednesday in eastern Baghdad, killing eight officers, authorities said.

The attack occurred about 4:15 p.m. when a German luxury car struck the cars while they were stopped at an intersection in Baghdad's Za'faraniya area near al-Kubaisi market, a predominantly Shiite area, said police Lt. Thaer Mohamoud and 1st Sgt. Mohhamed Fadhil.

Two police cars were set ablaze and the third was damaged.

A gun battle broke out in Baghdad's western Saydiyah neighbourhood when resistance fighters opened fire on a police patrol, police Lieut. Mohammed al-Heyali said. One Iraqi civilian was killed and six police officers were injured.

A mortar attack killed seven Iraqis, including two policemen and a woman, in the restive northern town of Tal Afar on Wednesday, police said.

Another 15 people were wounded in the attack, which landed close to the police headquarters in the restive city near the regional oil hub of Mosul.

"Rebels launched more than 15 mortar shells on a historic fort north of the city being used as a police headquarters," said police General Najm Abdallah. Two policemen and a woman were among those killed.

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

Pipeline Blown Up, Burning

June 15, 2005 (AP) & AFP

Insurgents blew up a pipeline near Baghdad late Tuesday that transports crude oil between the domestic refineries of Beiji and Dora, a police officer said Wednesday. It was still burning Wednesday, he added.

OCCUPATION REPORT

Iraq Oilfields Fucked

June 15, 2005 London Financial Times,

Two years of sabotage have gutted Iraq's already fragile oil-production infrastructure, driving away investors and possibly causing irreversible damage to its valuable oilfields.

Meantime, international traders and refiners have grown frustrated by delays, cancellations and the deteriorating quality of the oil.

Recruiting Soldiers To Fight The U.S. Occupation Is Hard Work, But The U.S. Command Presses On

They stormed into the home of an elderly couple where the woman had just scrubbed all the floors. The soldiers had been walking down streets flooded with raw sewage, and by the time they left the home without finding anything, every floor was filthy with sludge.

As the soldiers moved on to the next house--eventually finding their target--the old woman sat next to a bucket of dirty water and wept.

15 June 2005 By Kirsten Scharnberg, The Chicago Tribune, MOSUL, Iraq

In the uncertainty created by Iraq's insurgency, anyone might be the enemy.

So with weapons drawn, a dozen U.S. soldiers charged down the ramps of their armored Stryker vehicles, roughly yanked three Iraqi students out of a car by their necks and shoved their faces into a nearby wall.

"What's your name? Where are you going? Don't lie to me!" Lt. Col. Erik Kurilla shouted at the first teenager.

"To my house to study," the trembling young man answered. "We have exams next week."

Kurilla questioned each of the young men separately, twisting their shirt collars around their throats throughout each interrogation.

But the students soon were deemed harmless; everyone had a current university ID and told the same story.

As abruptly as they had appeared, the soldiers from the Army's 1st Battalion of the 24th Infantry Regiment got back into their Strykers to leave. As the ramps clanked shut, the wide-eyed young students stood on the sidewalk, their vehicle stopped in the middle of the street blocking carloads of gawking Iraqis in both directions.

On the receiving end of the U.S. military's increasingly aggressive patrol posture are many apparently law-abiding Iraqis--the college students in Mosul getting shoved face-first into a wall; the retired English teacher in Baiji thrilled to practice his language skills on U.S. soldiers until they barge into his home and search under his beds; the homemaker in Tikrit who begs soldiers with words they don't understand to take off their muddy boots before walking across her carefully maintained pastel carpets.

Many Iraqis complain that their interactions with Americans are frustrating and sometimes downright degrading experiences, that searches feel arbitrary and civil rights have become secondary.

During dozens of raids and patrols in various hot spots in northern Iraq and the volatile region known as the Sunni Triangle over the past two weeks, one result was clear: For every insurgent killed or captured, far more Iraqis were searched, questioned, inconvenienced, manhandled, and detained and later released.

Smiles and fury

Some Iraqis take the treatment better than others--one beaming woman politely told soldiers her house had been searched four times since February, even as her sobbing children huddled around her in fear; one man offered an entire squad of soldiers cold Pepsis after they had messily rummaged through his home.

But others are furious and glare at the young soldiers, telling them that Americans are the real terrorists because of the way they storm through civilian homes without cause.

"The soldiers should not just enter every home in a neighborhood, looking for bad people with no evidence," said Sali Hamdon Malah Alwo, a community leader in Mosul with ties to virtually every ethnic group. "This is not right; this is not freedom. It is not the way to make the good people of Iraq grow to trust and like the Americans."

It is no small thing how the average Iraqi citizen regards the American soldiers they encounter on the streets or at their front doors.

The U.S. military is increasingly relying on civilians to side with coalition forces over the insurgents, to report suspicious people, to decline to give haven to the insurgents. And the military cannot afford to become so hated by the local populace that it ends up creating a new crop of insurgents. **[Do you believe this line? Hello, earth to reporter? It's already happened. You cute little editorial comment is too late. Way, way too late. It's over. There is no chance that after getting treated like shit by a foreign army, any decent, self-respecting Iraqi is going to "side with coalition forces." That's simple lunacy. They hate the occupation now. They fight the occupation. They are right to do so. Just like we were in 1776.]**

"Some days you wonder if you've rounded up one bad guy but created 10 others," a tired Kurilla acknowledged in his Minnesota Vikings-decorated command post the night after stopping the three students in Mosul. "That's the balancing act we're left with at this point. . . .[Wrong. Nothing left to "balance.""]

"But I've seen too many of my boys die out there, too many of them bleed out or get burned beyond recognition. I've seen too many limbs blown off. I can't do my work wearing kid gloves because if I do, it'll get soldiers killed." **[Your "work"? Your work is to have command of recruiting for the armed resistance. Every breath you take, ever step you make, just recruits more fighters to kill your troops. You're the reason they're dying, and you don't have a clue. You want to save some American lives? Get the fuck out and go back where you came from. Your big tough guy bit with the students? One of them, at minimum, will be picking up a weapon and going hunting, real soon. But, unfortunately, it's more likely one of your troops will pay in blood for your snotty Imperial arrogance.]**

Kurilla's battalion is an example of how the nature of the insurgency has changed the approach of U.S. soldiers on the ground. When his unit arrived in Mosul last fall, Kurilla often was a walking ambassador of American goodwill. A gregarious man, he would joke with residents that he was going to buy himself "a little flat in old Mosul."

But now, after 11 soldiers were killed and some 140 wounded, Kurilla is unapologetically aggressive on the streets of this city, which has remained a hideout for insurgents. Patrol strategies he and his infantrymen employ can be linked to their experiences.

For example, when soldiers enter any home in Mosul, they do so with weapons drawn, running in teams throughout the house to clear each room. They learned the hard way--after an insurgent suddenly appeared from a balcony to shoot and kill a young soldier earlier this spring--that even in an apparently welcoming home there may be those who will do you harm. **[The whole fucking country wants to "do you harm." And you're all outraged about it? See if you can follow this simple outline. You: invader. They: citizens of invaded country. You: Redcoat. They: Minutemen. They: millions. You: thousands. Game over.]**

Street patrols rely on the same experience. The day before Kurilla pulled over the college students, he and his soldiers stopped another car. The two young men in it--who like the students did not appear suspicious--turned out to be running weapons for a local insurgent cell; their trunk held guns, ammunition and ski masks.

"The tricky part in any insurgency is telling good guys from bad guys, isn't it?" Maj. Gen. David Rodriguez said during a recent patrol through a fruit market in Mosul where merchants have been known to hide guns beneath their wares. "Maybe one guy is really just selling watermelons. Maybe the next guy has weapons hidden at the bottom of that wagon full of watermelons."

With the death toll for U.S. service personnel in Iraq now over 1,700, military commanders have improved methods of safeguarding their troops, even if those methods do not always win the hearts and minds of the Iraqi populace.

For example, as a convoy of vehicles travels a major highway between restive Baiji and Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit, the gunner in the lead Humvee angrily motions for every Iraqi vehicle to pull over so they can speed through. Families, bus drivers and truckers attempting to make their deliveries stop their vehicles at gunpoint so the convoy can pass, then repeat the process five minutes later.

The delays may annoy Iraqis, but troops have good reasons for their actions. Convoys prefer to roll down the center of the two-lane highway because of the prevalence of roadside bombs. **(More than 1,100 have been detonated or discovered around Tikrit since February.)** In addition, frequent car bombs have forced soldiers to treat every oncoming vehicle as if it might be carrying an explosive.

Changing attitudes

Some soldiers are better than others at shifting from an aggressive posture to a more friendly one. Capt. Paul Carron, the Bravo Company commander in Kurilla's battalion, recently pulled over at gunpoint a dump truck that was driving erratically through a field.

When the truck's owner explained that his son, who was learning to drive a stick shift, had been at the wheel, Carron looked at the enormous truck and said, "I feel sorry for him to have to learn on that thing." Five minutes later, after Carron explained to the father that the truck was stopped because the field was a suspected meeting spot for insurgents, everyone was laughing about the travails of fathers teaching sons to drive.

But other times Iraqis get little explanation for soldiers' behavior. Some nights in Mosul, teams of soldiers would set up on the rooftops of homes to survey suspected insurgent hot spots. They would wake entire families and gather everyone under armed guard into one room for as long as the operation lasted.

Despite such tactics, soldiers often express optimism that they can win over the Iraqi people. **[In the field of psychology, this is called a delusional system.]**

"What other army would go back the day after a raid and talk to the neighbors, pay for any damages that happened, explain that these searches are in order to keep their city safe?" asked Capt. Jeff VanAntwerp.

But many Iraqis have a lingering bad taste in their mouths as Americans leave their homes.

On a recent raid in Baiji, soldiers cordoned off dozens of homes as they tried to find the residence of a reputed insurgent financier.

They stormed into the home of an elderly couple where the woman had just scrubbed all the floors. The soldiers had been walking down streets flooded with raw sewage, and by the time they left the home without finding anything, every floor was filthy with sludge.

As the soldiers moved on to the next house--eventually finding their target--the old woman sat next to a bucket of dirty water and wept.

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

The Coming Iranian Class Wars

In short, no matter how many books we may have read or even written about the futility of supporting "reform" movements that in reality buttress the existing order, the world will not change for the better unless we on the left act collectively and consciously in the interests of the working classes, the oppressed, and the poor.

From: Covert Action Quarterly
To: GI Special
Sent: June 11, 2005

When you have a chance, please take a look at this article about Iran.

A very dirty (s)election is going there to which is going to be next Friday.

Hope that you help the Iranians who cannot talk freely by posting this short but telling piece. The author lives in exile and is trusted by us! Many thanks for kind attention.

Yours at CAQ

By Rosa Faiz: Rosa Faiz is an independent writer, researcher and analyst.

The particular shape of the ruling classes in Iran has, for the past one thousand and one years at least, consisted of two major components. In Iran they are referred to as the 'Shah' and the 'Shaykh'; the King and the Cleric.

For those less familiar with the history of Iran, it is instructive to know that the clergy were a most integral part of the ruling classes all the way until 1920s, when the founder of the Pahlavi Dynasty, Reza Shah, summarily stripped the mullahs of almost all their social institutions of power.

From that point on the clergy had to stay content with running the mosques for the most part. Even large land holdings of the organized clergy were confiscated.

As Reza Shah's liking grew for Germans, who built the first railway system in Iran, his occupancy of the Peacock Throne eventually became too intolerable for the British and the Soviets, who jointly invaded Iran in 1941; the British occupying the southern regions and the Soviets occupying the northern regions. So, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi had to watch his father sent to exile, and was himself installed as the king.

Seeing how his father had been hated and feared so fiercely, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi decided to at least start out as a nicer, gentler Pahlavi King, and so, "To assure the public that the dictatorship would not be re-imposed, the new shah granted amnesty to all political prisoners,... and decreed a return of ecclesiastical lands to the religious foundations,..." (Abrahamian). 1

In time, there would shortly come a big turn to the right, big crackdowns would follow, and a huge new wave of dissidents would be created, consisting mostly of the communist sympathizers of the Tudeh Party and the left-nationalist supporters of the National Front led by Dr. Mohammad Mossadegh.

So, for the most part, the second King of the Pahlavi 'dynasty' set his priorities in line with the Cold War-dictated aims and goals of his enablers in the West, and participated wholeheartedly in pursuing the leftists and making them into public enemy number one.

A most telling episode of a Pahlavi-era union between the Shah and the Shaykh, harkening back to the good old days when the two ruled harmoniously together, came in the wake of the social struggles of 1951-1953, which pit different factions of Iranian bourgeoisie against each other: the monarchist-comprador bourgeoisie and the feudal landowners against the nationalist factions, led by Mossadegh, the Prime Minister who successfully nationalized the Iranian oil industry.

The struggle between these two factions naturally opened up the political arena to a wider participation on the part of other segments of society with other political inclinations, most significantly other nationalist-democrats as well as leftists.

It is instructive to see how Khomeini's mentor, Ayatollah Kashani, acted in the fight between the nationalist and the comprador (i.e. imperialist lackey) factions of the Iranian bourgeoisie. At the height of the struggle, Ayatollah Kashani, a leading clergy of that time, openly sided with the absolutist monarch, inciting his followers to oppose Mossadegh, who, according to Ayatollah Kashani, was clearly a communist/atheist lover; which he was not.

We must take a slight detour here, in connection with the coup organized by the CIA to overthrow Mossadegh, a pleasing event not only to the monarchist-comprador factions, but also the clergy. The point of the detour being to show how thoroughly the imperialists plan when it comes to clearly marking their strategic friends and their strategic enemies.

According to documents released by the National Security Archives, in June 2004, there were plans drawn up by the CIA in late 1952, early 1953 to train and arm a guerilla army in southern Iran, as a contingency backup in case of the failure of Operation AJAX, which was the covert coup carried out by the CIA and the British intelligence, in August

1953, securing Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's installment as an absolute monarch servile to the U.K. and the U.S. interests.

At the time the coup organizers were planning, one point of anxiety was the possibility of failure; in which case, they calculated, the communists (Tudeh Party), utilizing their popularity and influence among the rank and file of the National Front (Mossadegh's party), plus using their own sizable social support, would gain the upper hand and seize some or all state power.

For this contingency, the coup organizers needed a guerilla army (death squads) that would literally target communists. Although this back-up plan was eventually shelved (the coup was successful enough), it served as a clear prototype for what the U.S. later did in Guatemala, the Bay of Pigs invasion, the Contras attacks against Nicaragua, and other death squads funded, trained and sustained in Central America throughout the 1980s.

Kermit Roosevelt, the operations-manager for Operation AJAX, in his book, *Counter Coup: The Struggle for the Control of Iran*, recounts that after the completion of the coup, and as he was giving his oral report to John Foster Dulles, he noticed something eerie, "Despite his posture [leaning back in his chair], he was anything but sleepy. His eyes were gleaming; he seemed to be purring like a giant cat. Clearly, he was not only enjoying what he was hearing, but my instincts told me that he was planning as well." And sure enough, "Within weeks I was offered command of a Guatemalan undertaking already in preparation ... ," (*Counter Coup*, p. 209-210).

Then Came the White Revolution

So, the relations between the Shah and Shaykh were somewhat smoothed out during the reign of our second Pahlavi so-called king. Until, that is, the White Revolution, which was a package of social reforms instigated by the Kennedy administration and implemented by Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. Chief among these reforms was a land redistribution law, as well as laws recognizing suffrage for women, along with other measures such as health and education corps to be sent to all rural areas of Iran.

These reform measures either took the mullahs' and their traditional social allies' lands, which alone caused extreme alarm, or else cut into areas such as education in rural areas where they had enjoyed a de facto position of hegemony. The mullahs were also voicing a loud opposition to those parts of the reforms that gave women some rights previously denied them.

So, by modernizing the performance of all social functions that the clergy might have had a traditional role in, the White Revolution would codify into law the cutting of the hands of the clergy from essential spheres of social control outside the actual running of the mosques. Naturally, the mullahs were not going to take this sitting down, and though a sizeable segment manning the state-sponsored mosques dared not enter the fray, others such as Ayatollah Khomeini did come out in open rebellion against the so-called White Revolution.

As a result of this package of reforms, therefore, large sections of the traditional classes (the feudal landlords, as well as significant segments of the clergy) became the enemies

of the state. The enemies of the monarchist bourgeois state, therefore, consisted not only of those on the left, but also of those solidly on the reactionary side of the fence.

And strange as it may sound, the Iranian bourgeois 'liberals' have historically been able to work with both factions of the ruling classes, whether the immediate rulers came in the uniforms of the monarchists or the robes of the clergy, or a combination of both.

And this, better than anything else, proves the incapacity of the Iranian liberals for consistency and adherence to their own supposed ideals when it comes to two of the most fundamental cornerstones of bourgeois liberalism: 1) commitment to the separation of religion from governance (an absolute minimum), neglected by the 'liberals' who comfortably work inside the clerical regime; and 2) commitment to democracy, neglected by the 'liberals' who find it unproblematic to work with the monarchists.

So, in effect, any true nationalist, or any true liberal in Iran has no place left to go, politically speaking, but to the socialists!! It is only a socialist program that can satisfy the most basic social demands of both the liberal and democratic segments of the so-called middle classes (the professional class), as well as liberate the rest of the working classes in Iran.

The Next Round of History

The monarchists who are now lining up again for another ride on Uncle Sam's Magic Bus Ride, have adopted a new slogan, a 'democratic' one in which, the Newly Improved Reza Pahlavi, has been espousing a funny neo-monarchist slogan: I want to be the King of all Iranians! Implying, inadvertently of course, that his father was a bit of a despot who chose to be the king of only a few!!

It is more-than-slightly embarrassing, of course, to enunciate such a position at all. Does not every king worthy of the title take it for granted that he is the king of all his subjects?

We must repeat that with or without the imperialist invasion by the US-British-Israeli axis, the liberation of the Iranian peoples of all nationalities remains in our own hands.

As such, those of us the people of Iran who will yield neither to the Shah nor to the Shaykh, will have to make an unambiguous stance:

Anybody who, for the purpose of taking the state power, is collaborating with the imperialists including U.S., U.K. or Israeli colonialists, you are a traitor to the country, and as such, a pimp who is selling the future of generations of your fellow country men and women, for the price of a temporary taste of political power; meaning, you have earned yourselves an eternal entry into the large ledger of historical traitors to community, and will forever be placed in Lower Hell, on the ninth circle to be exact, on the lake of ice called Cocytus, on the inner circle Antenora, where the Traitors to Their Country are housed, if Dante's map constructed from his memory, after his journey with Virgil, is to be trusted. 2

Weapons of Mass Destruction or not, next on the agenda for another century of barbarity is if and when and how to attack Iran. The 'if' relates to whether or not the imperialists can get 'their man' at the helm of the power in Iran. That man is said to be Akbar

Rafsanjani, aka Akbar shah. He is well known to have very cordial relations with institutions such as the World Bank and the IMF, and is the author of a 'privatization' plan very popular with Western investors. He is known as a 'pragmatist' for very good reasons.

And if the imperialists can subjugate a nation and make it crawl, by finding compliant national leaders who like to live on their knees and beg for dependency, then why go through all the mess of a war to get what they want?

But, again, imperialists are thorough. All contingencies must be accounted for and a plan A and a plan B for all such contingencies must be drawn up.

Times are strange indeed. There are some Iranians, who would like to lend a hand to occupying rapists. Such Iranians both inside and outside Iran are rubbing their miserable and well-manicured hands together, salivating over the prospects of the rewards for being a U.S. poodle dog. Count in this group Reza Pahlavi and his allies.

There are other types of Iranians, too, some of whom we can safely and accurately call fools, who think that the U.S. will fire a few shots allowing them to storm the streets and overthrow the tyrannical regime, and once the Iranian tyrants are overthrown, the U.S. tyrants too will go back home, only to send postcards from afar. These Iranians, much like first-time gangsters, with shaky fingers, filled with nervous adrenaline, can't wait to get some action going.

Then there are, of course, those Iranians inside and outside Iran who constitute the business classes, and they are nervous too. But only to a degree. They are mostly busy counting these days. Counting their assets, that is. They are also counting the possibilities, and counting the costs of each possibility.

Not least, we have the Iranian tyrants running the state apparatuses, who are very nervous right now. They know that their particular political leaning, religious orientation, or actual plans or possible actions are not at issue, and that is why they are very nervous. Because they know very well how they got to be the current rulers in the first place: Like the Pahlavis, they are imperialist assisted too with an expiration date!

Yet, in all their nervousness, the current tyrants are uplifted as well. Partly because they can once again puff up their chests, brandish their armor, get the public to tighten up their lips and shut up, and sing macho songs of war in defense of "Dear Islam."

Back in 1980, when Iraq invaded Iran, Khomeini is well known to have called it a blessing, for it provided the perfect opportunity for him to advocate a march all the way to Basra, Najaf, Karbala, and Baghdad, and beyond that, to Jerusalem, to bring about a more powerful Islamic Republic (he may yet achieve this posthumously thanks to the Yanks). Expansionism was writ large into the spirit of Khomeini's designs, and here was a genuine chance for actual international gains. In the cause of heavens what matter that people die in unimaginable numbers?

Does this not sound like the 'moral' calculations espoused by the Bush administration? The two are made for each other, and in fact are from the same cloth. And both are taking all of us for a vicious ride.

The other reason for the more frequent smiles on the mullahs' faces these days is more sinister, and involves the same calculative immorality that gives Bush and his gangster fellows their biggest satisfaction. Some of the more adventurous indeed calculate:

About 70 million people live in Iran. Most people simply wish to be left alone and not harassed, therefore a politically unknown factor. We do know, however, that about 15-20% of the population is solidly with the regime; as in, their status, privileges, petty-powers and income -- hence physical and social survival -- depends on this theocratic state apparatus. A further 10-15% may also be bought or coerced into cooperation through a carefully designed regime of carrots and sticks.

So, what does that come to? To about 10 million people whose lives physically and socially depend on the existence of this regime; no mere conscripts. And then, there is also the regular army. So, as pertains to the mere quantitative side of things, on top of all the military equipment, the Iranian regime can count on at least a few million hardcore supporters to cushion the blows dealt by Uncle Sam.

For the mullahs therefore the question is very crude yet basic: How many millions of its citizens is Uncle Sam willing to stake on this bet?

And it will be a bet. No guarantees for anybody.

Some Iranian mullahs may look even gleefully at the American soldiers in Iraq trembling at the thought of another patrol, another foray into the chaotic hell that they themselves (at the order of their superiors) have created.

They see the American soldiers already fatigued, breaking down at the mere thought of going back to Iraq for another tour of duty, or even for another day. The adventurous see this and think, "Bring it on then! We'll make things into such a hell that they will wish they had never left their mama's home!"

And the truly scary part is that the U.S. administration of George Bush and his gang of high-stake rapists count on this kind of thinking.

Hence the open talk of attacks on Iran, which have only been toned down while waiting for the [Iranian] election results. And hence the handy leaks for Seymour Hersh's article, *The Coming Wars: What the Pentagon Can Now Do in Secret*, in *The New Yorker* (Jan 24, 2005), which constituted the opening salvo in the psychological phase of the 'Iranian campaign'.

Should the US imperial planners fail to get their man in the seat of power, we can expect an attack on Iran, either directly by the U.S. or, as Vice President, Dick Cheney, has remarked, "Israelis might well decide to act first and let the rest of the world worry about cleaning up the diplomatic mess afterwards." Or is the U.S. trying to convince Pakistan to start a war with Iran, 'inviting' the Americans to fight along with them?

Oh, the possibilities! The possibilities and their cost-benefit studies must be delectable to consider and mull over!

The Possibilities not Endless

In the fog of the current 'war on terror' it is easy to forget that Khomeini, the cunning master politician that he was, knowing the imperialists' liking for abundance of possibilities, benefited from the favors rendered him by imperialists, who, in turn, saw in Khomeini a great anti-communist like they would not see too frequently, a person whom Zbigniew Brzezinski called a 'strategic ally'. 3

This should not come as a surprise in view of the historical landscape of the Iranian ruling classes' particular components as shown above. The mullahs, in their latest occupancy of what they consider their rightful place in the seat of power have been extremely helpful to the imperialists, by wiping out at least two generations' worth of leftist achievements in Iran, sending an entire social movement into exile, into jails, or executed in thousands.

In spite of all the belligerent talk by the Bush and his Gang against the Iranian Islamic regime, pursuing all alternatives is a must-follow element of the proven protocols of the U.S. ruling classes.

And so it is that in following protocol, the imperialists' choice among the mullahs for Iranian President, Rafsanjani, is getting a lot of positive media attention in the Western capitals, especially in Washington, DC. Item: as reported in Al-Sharq al-Awsat of Feb 24, 2005, Rafsanjani had communicated with the White House, as well as with European and Arab leaders, to seek out their views on the possibility of his running for president. And consider, if you will, International Crisis Group, a Soros/CIA front, which, before Rafsanjani even announced his candidacy, was calling for him to run for president, and has been advertising for him ever since.

The Iraqi population in general and the Iraqi resistance in particular continue to consider the presence in their country of some 160,000 foreign soldiers and paid mercenaries, who do not take their orders from Iraqis, as nothing but a foreign occupation. Their resistance is only likely to continue and grow.

One option open to an aggressor wielding substantial military superiority coupled with moral and ethical bankruptcy has historically been to widen the conflict. Should the need arise at any point, the necessary pretexts will be manufactured as required, and the rape-n-plunder show will continue leaving its blood-drenched trail in our neighborhood.

Considering that the ruling classes in the U.S. are confronting very little opposition of any significance, they can strategize with relative ease of mind. And as messy as the occupation and its reality might be, the business of the occupation seems to have been a profitable production.

Simply look at the graft racked up by merely three US companies; Bechtel, Carlyle Group, and, Dick Cheney's current benefactor (he has millions in stocks), Halliburton. And for the foreseeable future, the looting will remain sweet. The non-handover of authority to the "elected" government, includes a series of edicts, one hundred in total,

signed by Paul Bremer and (until a new constitution arrives) still standing that, among other things, give U.S. soldiers and military contractors immunity from Iraqi laws, provide for 100% repatriation of profits, and cap the taxes at 15% (Ibrahim Warde, Le Monde Diplomatique, May 2004, English edition). So, lacking a willing Islamist servile leader taking the helms in Iran, an eventual military attack will be fully activated as the track to follow.

Many lessons can and should be learned from the U.S. general elections of 2004; in particular from the political behavior of some on the U.S. left who advocated voting for the lesser of two evils, i.e. the Democrat presidential candidate, in a race in which both candidates were pro-war. A key lesson is that radical democrats, socialists and left social democrats must create their own autonomous political institutions.

As long as we stay minimalist and attend only to the minimum necessities, and as long as we do not create the necessary political structures to channel people's demands, most people who could otherwise be in our camp will in fact very easily fall for the sweet talk handed out by the Democratic Party USA, or, in the context of Iran, fall for a "moderate" or a "reformist" mullah, or a "pragmatist leader" all of whom will present themselves as the only alternative to the status quo, or, conversely, as the only alternative to doing nothing.

It is not for no reason that the corporate- or state-owned media all over the world work so hard to turn citizens into well-behaved, TV-conditioned participants when acting politically, merely casting ballots and returning home joyously, feeling good that they delivered on all the democratic duties required of them.

In short, no matter how many books we may have read or even written about the futility of supporting "reform" movements that in reality buttress the existing order, the world will not change for the better unless we on the left act collectively and consciously in the interests of the working classes, the oppressed, and the poor.

In the case of Iran, it is therefore the duty of leftists to insist on a social order and governance that represents and reinforces the true will of the people, who are the true source of all sovereignty, and the only legitimating base for any state.

As progressives in Iran and the leftists worldwide, we must recognize and expose Rafsanjani as the face of U.S./U.K. intervention in Iran.

It is wise to note that the same Belgian court which reviewed the cases brought against "pragmatists" such as Pinochet and Henry Kissinger, has reviewed a similar case against Rafsanjani.

To support a reactionary system in the name of anti-imperialism is as naive as Reza Shah's support for the Germans which ultimately compromised Iran's independence for more than thirty years. As Samir Amin has characterized it, Islamic Fundamentalism is the 'Dream of the Past', something highly appreciated by the CIA as a ready-to-use weapon against the progressive forces of the Muslim countries. 4

We demand that imperialists stay out of our country, and allow us to settle our accounts with the barbaric regime that is choking us and keeping us all down, to the ultimate delight of the imperialists.

An imperialist power that has some thousand of nuclear warheads at the ready, and who daily uses uranium-enriched munitions in Iraq and Afghanistan, thereby exposing all the biological life of the region to radioactive poisoning for the next four billion years (half life of uranium), has no moral authority espousing concern over the offensive capabilities of a nation whose military budget is a mere drop in the ocean that represents the U.S. military expenditure, and who is completely surrounded by the U.S. military presence.

We further demand that the Islamic Republic regime respect the safety and health of the Iranian people and cease its pursuing of nuclear plans for the foreseeable future, until a government is established that exhibits thoroughness of modus operandi.

In a country where the government cannot, yet, publicly account for the serial killings of the most prominent intellectuals and writers; in a country where thousands of political prisoners have vanished without any culpability; in a country where the government manifestly lacks any accountability for its methods and means when it comes to providing for its people (except when it comes to pursuing, terrorizing and killing dissidents); in a resourceful country that almost half of the population lives in poverty, the government that has thus thoroughly proven its incompetence has no right exposing the public to the enormously poisonous hazards of activities as dangerous as nuclear activities.

And for those who believe mistakenly, or advocate maliciously, that nuclear activities bring prosperity, prestige and respect, they need only look at two examples: the case of Chernobyl nuclear accident and the deserted, ghost communities that spread in all directions from it today; and the case of Pakistan, a country that in spite of its nuclear weaponry is still a slave to the designs of the imperialists.

Ali-Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, known to some in Iran as Akbar Shah, and Reza 'Everybody's' Shah are in fact the two faces of the same coin that constitutes the Iranian ruling classes, with one twist; Akbar Shah is also a U.S.-approved alternative to their junior Pahlavi.

Notes:

1. Ervand Abrahamian, *Iran Between Two Revolutions*, Princeton, 1982.
2. For map, see, Dante, *The Divine Comedy*, Vol. 1: *Inferno*, trans. Mark Musa, Penguin, 1971 Indiana University Press edition, p. 352.
3. In an excellent 1991 article, titled, *Iran: Unholy Alliances, Holy Terror*, in *CAQ # 37*, an impressive inventory is listed of favors exchanged between both the U.S. and the Israelis with Iran's Islamic Republic. This, just in case the mere mention of the phrase 'Iran-Contra Affair' is not enough to jog the memory of the reader regarding such behind the scenes collaborations between Khomeini's regime and the imperialists.
4. Samir Amin, *Political Islam*, *CAQ # 71*.



Iranian women wash a soldier's gravestone and place flowers on it at the Behesht-e-Zahra cemetery south of Tehran June 9, 2005. They feel they made the ultimate sacrifice for the Islamic republic, but the mothers of the soldiers killed in Iran's eight-year war with Iraq say the country is now doing little for them.

[Wrong. Not “the country.” The people who are “doing little for them” are the asshole predators who own and operate the country for their own benefit, and don’t give a shit for much that extends beyond their own obscene wealth, power and privilege, which always comes first. Just like right here in the U.S.A.]

If printed out, this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. “Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited.” DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.