

GI SPECIAL 3B83:

Rumsfeld Explains Billion-dollar Shortfall in Money for Vets' Medical Care



Combat Vets Say Iraqis Right To Fight Occupation

If I was in their position, if a foreign power had occupied the U.S., I would do the same. I don't mean to say that they should kill American soldiers, but if I were an Iraqi I would be fighting alongside my neighbor to free my country and to defend my family, my house.

July 7, 2005 By Paolo Pontoniere, First Person Commentaries, correspondent for Focus, Italy's leading monthly magazine.

Daryl Anderson, 22

I'm from Lawton, Ky.

I was stationed in Eastern Germany with the Army. On Jan. 15, 2004, my contingent was sent to Iraq. We stayed in Baghdad for seven months, where I was wounded and awarded a Purple Heart.

After that I was sent back to Germany, where I trained for six months for another tour of duty in Iraq. On Christmas, on leave in the U.S., I decided that I couldn't go back to Germany and from there to Iraq. If I went back to Baghdad I would have been asked again to kill people, civilians, and I just couldn't do that anymore.

I got in the Army to get an education, to get out of a bad neighborhood. Yes, I eventually got it, but at a great price.

First steps you take in Baghdad, you realize that there's death and destruction all over the place. No weapons of mass destruction in sight.

We're fighting people that we're supposed to help, but in fact they hate you and every time you walk down the street they shoot at you because you occupy their country.

You're asked to get in their houses, in their businesses, block the roads, but you're an occupying power, you're messing up their daily life. You're not a liberator. You raid their houses and kill their family.

If I was in their position, if a foreign power had occupied the U.S., I would do the same. I don't mean to say that they should kill American soldiers, but if I were an Iraqi I would be fighting alongside my neighbor to free my country and to defend my family, my house.

Because you're in Iraq in a kind of war situation and unable to distinguish friends from foe, you adopt these drastic measures. You commit these crimes, these acts that you would never do under normal conditions.

And even though in your unit everybody is against what you're doing, nobody can say anything because you'll end up in jail. That's not what I had imagined when I enlisted.

Ivan Brobeck, 19

I was in the Marines. I joined in June 2003, and after boot camp in March of 2004 I was sent directly to Iraq. This wasn't at all unsettling to me. You see, I went into the Army because I wanted to fight the bad guys.

In school during history classes I learned that the Army and the Marines had done all these wonderful things, and it all sounded so patriotic and I wanted to do the same. I wanted to fight for freedom.

I didn't care, and I still don't care, if I died fighting for a good and noble cause, which is what I wanted to do.

In Iraq, I found myself being the problem instead of the solution.

A problem in a normal town, in the life of normal people, like the people here in Toronto, trying to go about their life and risking getting shot at by me. Innocent people getting killed for misunderstandings, and for even more trivial things. I found myself in situations with my partners where we had to shoot at speeding cars, at people that probably were just trying to get out of our way.

All these insurgents, as they call them, they're not. They're people who have nothing left. There was this guy who was mad at us because we had killed his family. Wife, children, everybody but him had been killed. He was seeking some kind of retribution. That is not an insurgent, that's a desperate man.

My ethnic background is Salvadoran; my mom is from El Salvador. So the fight against tyranny is something that is dear to me, considering the history of El Salvador.

I believed that the war in Iraq was a just war, and it was not. Now, before I get involved again, I really have to see somebody overcoming my country with weapons in hand.

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.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Miss. Soldier Killed When Bomb Hits Vehicle

July 7, 2005 Clarion Ledger

A Mississippi soldier was killed in Iraq this week after his vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb.

Family members say Staff Sgt. Scott Bright, a Jackson native of the Army's 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment based in Fort Carson, Colo., was killed Tuesday. He was 36.

They say they learned of his death hours after receiving an e-mail from him asking about the family's Fourth of July celebration.

"Scotty was a mama's boy. He wasn't a bad boy," said his mother, Blanche Bright. "I never had a minute's trouble out of Scotty. Never had a spanking in his life."

Since operations began in Iraq and Afghanistan, 36 soldiers with Mississippi ties have died.

Scott Bright, a graduate of Lanier High School, spent 15 years in the Army. **It was his second tour of duty in Iraq.**

He was married and had two children, and most recently visited his home state last summer.

"He was just so nice, so kind, you just want to be around him," said his brother, Willie Bright.

Scott Bright's sister, Martha Adams, said he was a respectable man. "I never heard anyone speak a bad word about him," she said. "He truly was a good man."

Adams said her brother enjoyed cooking, especially pecan pies.

Bright's funeral will be held in Jackson, but arrangements are incomplete.

Navajo Soldier Killed

7.7.05 Associated Press

SHIPROCK, N.M. A Navajo soldier has died while serving in Iraq.

Corporal Lyle Cambridge of Shiprock, New Mexico, was killed Tuesday in Baghdad in a bombing.

Cambridge was assigned to the Third Squadron, Third Armored Cavalry Regiment based at Fort Carson, Colorado.

The 23-year-old leaves behind a wife and two young sons.

Cambridge's family gathered yesterday to celebrate the soldier's life in a traditional Navajo way.

Sadr City IED Wounds Two U.S. Soldiers

07 July 2005 Aljazeera.Net

A roadside bomb has struck a US military convoy in eastern Baghdad, wounding two soldiers.

The blast early on Thursday caused a Humvee to slide off the road and flip over into a canal, said Sergeant 1st Class David Abrams, a spokesman for Task Force Baghdad.

The wounded soldiers were evacuated for treatment, he added. The attack occurred at about 7.30am (0330 GMT) in the Sadr City neighbourhood.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

**REAL BAD PLACE TO BE:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



US soldiers patrol in Parwan, north of Kabul. (AFP/File/Shah Marai)

TROOP NEWS

Wounded Guam Son Treated In Burn Facility

July 7, 2005 By Katie Worth, Pacific Daily News

A Guam son has been badly injured in Iraq and is currently being treated in a burn facility in Texas.

Felix Babauta of Ipan, Talofofo, is being treated for serious burns at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Burn Center in San Antonio, Texas, said Joaquin Perez, spokesman for Guam Congressional Delegate Madeleine Bordallo.

Perez said the soldier's wife has already joined Babauta at the Texas clinic, the Army's only burn center.

So far, at least eight men hailing from the Micronesia region have died in the conflict in Iraq, and several others have been seriously injured.

Hispanic Deaths In Iraq

[Thanks to D, who sent this in.]

July 3, 2005 BY CHERYL L. REED Staff Reporter, Chicago Sun-Times

Until now, blacks have had the most recorded deaths in war after whites.

There are more blacks than Hispanics serving in Iraq -- 18 percent of the troops are black, 10 percent are Hispanic, and 70 percent are white.

But current Hispanic deaths in Iraq -- at 187 -- are slightly higher than blacks at 181. White deaths are 1,212.

***Recruited By Fraud:* Government Wants To Send 17 Year Old Girl To Prison For Refusing Induction; Guard Officials Caught In Another Stupid, Silly Lie**

7/7/2005 The Associated Press

NORTHAMPTON, Pa. (AP) — A recent high school graduate who alleged that she was recruited into the National Guard through deceptive practices did not appear

for her entry training Wednesday and now is considered absent without leave, officials said.

Guard officials said they will seek a warrant from a district judge to force Jessica Faustner, 18, of Bath, to go to training at Fort Indiantown Gap, Lebanon County. [This is lying bullshit, and stupid lying bullshit at that. There is no “warrant” that can force anybody, ever, to enter any training, anywhere. She might be prosecuted for refusing induction; that’s it.]

"We will pursue this pretty strongly," said Lt. Col. Chris Cleaver, spokesman for the Pennsylvania National Guard. "We just want soldiers fulfilling their requirements." **[What this asshole wants has no relevance, or importance. The idiot apparently doesn't grasp that Faustner is not a soldier. And he has no power of any kind whatever to force her to become one against her will.]**

Faustner's mother, Joan Koberly, said her daughter had been attending the monthly drill weekends at the Allentown National Guard Armory but stopped in April on the advice of her lawyer, John Roberts.

Roberts said Thursday that a recruiter had told Faustner that the Army National Guard would send her to nursing school after basic training, but instead her unit had been told it had a 90-percent chance of going to Iraq.

"A 17-year-old girl should be thinking about her prom and her graduation, not about going to Iraq. She was just misled all the way around. She's not real sophisticated," said Roberts, who said his client was recruited at Northampton Area High School about six months ago.

He said the recruiter did not give her and her parents complete information, and therefore wants the Guard to release her from the commitment.

"She's not around," Roberts said. "She's prepared to go to jail, if that's what they want."

Cleaver said Faustner's charges were taken "very seriously" and a staff judge advocate investigated, but none of the allegations could be substantiated.

***WHILE SOLDIERS BLED AND
DIED:
U.S. ARMY OFFICER IN IRAQ STOLE
\$1 MILLION!
HIS “RETIREMENT PACKAGE”***

July 7, 2005 Ed Harriman, The Guardian

An Iraqi hospital administrator told me that when he came to sign a contract, the American army officer representing the CPA had crossed out the original price and doubled it. The Iraqi protested that the original price was enough. The American officer explained that the increase (more than \$1m) was his retirement package.

When the Iraqi Governing Council asked Bremer why a contract to repair the Samarah cement factory was costing \$60m rather than the agreed \$20m, the American representative reportedly told them that they should be grateful the coalition had saved them from Saddam.

Pilfering was rife.

Millions of dollars in cash went missing from the Iraqi Central Bank. Between \$11m and \$26m worth of Iraqi property sequestered by the CPA was unaccounted for. The payroll was padded with hundreds of ghost employees.

Millions of dollars were paid to contractors for phantom work. Some \$3,379,505 was billed, for example, for "personnel not in the field performing work" and "other improper charges" on just one oil pipeline repair contract.

So where did the money go? [Looks like a lot of the brass in Iraq helped themselves to "retirement packages." Checking the bank accounts of every one of them, starting with the generals first, and working down the chain of command, would be a most excellent place to start looking.]

You can't see it in Hillah.

The schools, hospitals, water supply and electricity, all of which were supposed to benefit from these funds, are in ruins.

The inescapable conclusion is that many of the American paying agents grabbed large bundles of cash for themselves and made sweet deals with their Iraqi contacts.

“Worrying About The Draft Is An Abstraction”

July 5, 2005 By Frida Berrigan, AlterNet

For many in the counter-recruitment movement, "Is the draft coming back?" is the wrong question.

Marti Hiken, co-chair of the Military Law Taskforce, does not see the draft on the far-off horizon; she sees it as existing reality for hundreds of thousands of Americans.

There is the "poverty draft" of young people who are told the military is their only path to a career; the "backdoor draft" of the Stop-Loss program which mandates soldiers stay in active duty for up to 24 months after their contracts have expired; "the senior draft" in which reservists (who make up 40 percent of the fighting force in Iraq) are compelled back into active military service; and finally, there is the "secret draft" of mercenaries and private military contractors.

For Hiken, worrying about the draft is an abstraction compared to the havoc wreaked by these real but covert forms of compulsory service.

For every covert draft, Hiken sees grassroots groups countering and gaining traction.

A lot of the energy is focused on the outrages of Stop-Loss, which has been legally challenged eight times so far. One suit, brought by Emiliano Santiago in Oregon, climbed to the Supreme Court before it was rejected and Santiago was shipped off to Afghanistan to re-join his unit. Representative Jim McDermott (D-WA) championed Santiago's case, saying on the floor of the House, "Santiago's plight should be known and feared by every high school junior and senior across the country.

"The ugly little secret in the Pentagon is that Emiliano Santiago's voluntary service is involuntary."

Hiken says that even though Santiago lost his case, the ruling "fanned the fires of counter-recruitment work," and made people "think twice before signing up for the military," playing a "critical role in lowering enlistment levels."

Another case, on behalf of soldier David W. Qualls and seven John Does, was filed in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C. in December and is still in the motions phase. Overall, Hiken says, "I have not seen a grassroots movement like the one we have now. In every community people are fighting."

Rick Jahnkow, an organizer with the Committee Opposed to Militarism and the Draft, thinks more people should be joining those fights rather than wringing their hands about a possible draft.

"We have to reverse the militarization of school, campus and society," says Jahnkow, listing "military recruitment, the poverty draft, the militarization of curriculum through Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (J-ROTC)" as important targets. He worries that young people's acculturation to the military will make a future draft easier. "We need to undermine and delegitimize those programs, make them unwelcome," he says.

That is exactly what people are doing in communities around the country.

Kevin Ramirez, an organizer with Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors, catalogues recent actions making the military very unwelcome in schools and on campuses.

These movements sustain hope and save lives, while hinting at what a de-militarized United States would look like. These movements prove that we don't have to wait for a draft to have an impact.

Frida Berrigan serves on the National Committee of the War Resisters League.

California National Guard Officers Order Spying On Anti-War Protesters

July 8, 2005 By Elizabeth Schulte, Socialist Worker

THE CALIFORNIA National Guard is under investigation--for spying on Californians. According to press reports, National Guard personnel monitored a Mother's Day rally at the state capitol building sponsored by antiwar groups, which include the families of slain American soldiers.

Guard officials deny the charge, but according to e-mails obtained by the San Jose Mercury News, the unit was tracking the protest under the auspices of California's "Information Synchronization, Knowledge Management and Intelligence Fusion" program.

According to the e-mails, three days before the rally, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's press office alerted the Guard about the event. The information went up the chain of command to then-National Guard leader Major Gen. Thomas Eres, who established a special intelligence unit within the Guard last year, and to Col. Jeff Davis, who oversaw the unit.

"Sir," Guard chief of staff Col. John Moorman wrote in the e-mail to Eres that was copied to Davis and other top commanders. "Information you wanted on Sunday's demonstration at the Capitol." "Thanks," Davis responding. "Forwarding same to our Intell. folks who continue to monitor."

The protest was organized by the groups Gold Star Families for Peace, Raging Grannies and CodePink. "Our median age is 72--we are not threatening," Raging Grannies co-chair Ruth Robertson told the Associated Press. "We are all about peace." Robertson suspects her group was targeted because it tries to convince people not to enlist in the Army.

Eres formed the special intelligence unit following the September 11 attacks, giving it "broad authority" to monitor, analyze and distribute information on terrorist threats. There are rules barring the military from gathering information on American citizens, and California Guard officials deny that they have violated these restrictions.

"I think it's because we come so close to the truth," Cindy Sheehan of the Gold Star Families for Peace told Socialist Worker. "If they were so concerned about protecting American citizens from terrorism, they should start with the

administration. They are responsible for so many deaths since taking office. The hypocrisy is so stunning.”

Just Like Vietnam, Greatest Opposition To War? Young & Working Class!

July 05, 2005 by Jeffrey M. Jones, GALLUP NEWS SERVICE

Iraq Opinion by Subgroup

The following table shows how members of key demographic subgroups fall into the four categories of Iraq opinion.

Group	<i>Pro-war: War not a mistake/ Keep troops</i>	<i>Losing patience: War not a mistake/ Set timetable</i>	<i>Feeling boxed in: War a mistake/ Keep troops</i>	<i>Anti-war: War a mistake/ Set timetable</i>
		%	%	%
Male		35	12	19
Female		25	17	10
White		34	15	14
Nonwhite		14	11	15
18-29 yrs old		20	17	13
30-49 yrs old		34	19	12
50-64 yrs old		31	12	15
65 yrs and older		28	8	20
HS or less		24	14	14
Some college		32	17	14
College grad		37	15	14
Postgraduate		33	10	19

Pentagon Incompetents Helps Predators Rip Off Troops With Insurance Fraud

July 1, 2005 New York Times

An extensive study by the Government Accountability Office confirmed that Pentagon rules intended to protect service members from high-pressure or deceptive life insurance sales have been repeatedly violated in recent years.

The study also concluded that the Defense Department failed to effectively address the violations, and it warned that new rules proposed by the Pentagon this summer do not go far enough to repair the weaknesses.

'Palm Beach Post' Unveils Interactive Map Of U.S. War Casualties

[Thanks to PB, who sent this in.]

July 5, 2005 By E&P Staff, Editor and Publisher

NEW YORK The Palm Beach Post in West Palm Beach, Fla., paid tribute to America's armed forces on Monday by featuring an interactive U.S. map of American servicemen and women killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The color-coded map first appeared Monday as part of the Post's Fourth of July package. It shows the casualties of war by city and state and even notes how many from a particular town were killed.

Click on one of the dots and a soldier's name, age, gender, rank, and branch appear in a pop-up window, along with the date they died and the operation in which they served.

Despite the amount of Web traffic the paper's Web site was enjoying by Tuesday afternoon, William M. Hartnett, a Palm Beach Post staff writer, said the paper has no plans to keep the map updated; the software used in its creation doesn't allow for that. He added, "To keep it current on a daily basis would be a full-time job."

[To reach the map:

http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/content/news/photos/war_casualties/map/m10000.html]

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

103 Iraqi Parliamentarians Demand Timetable For Withdrawal Of US Troops

July 07, 2005 Juan Cole, Informed Comment

Gilber Achcar kindly shares his translation of an al-Hayat article:

103 members of the National Assembly (the Parliament) have demanded the adoption of a resolution canceling the request made by the Government to the UN Security Council to extend the presence of multinational forces, and urging the Government to put “a clear plan for army building and a timetable for the withdrawal of occupation troops” from Iraq. [These collaborators are feeling the heat from the Iraqi people below, but won’t seriously take on the occupation. They might lose their jobs, and their privileges, like their fat paychecks and the new cars they just voted themselves. Bush could agree with their lame demand: “OK, you want a timetable? How about 2009?” If you don’t say “immediate withdrawal,” you *are* saying you want the occupation to go on. Obviously. Duh.]

Falah Hassan Shneishel MP (of the “Independent National Bloc”) (the INB is the parliamentary bloc of Muqtada al-Sadr’s Current, which plays a prominent role in the organization of the political fight against the occupation) explained that the number of MPs demanding a timetable for the withdrawal of occupation troops has exceeded 103 after more than 20 additional MPs have adopted the statement issued two weeks ago in this regard.

Shneishel threatened to call for popular demonstrations in case “the authorities were not serious about the implementation of the demands of the Iraqis for an end to occupation.” [Easy to say. Time will tell.]

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Blair:
“NOW BLOOD OF INNOCENT

IS BEING SPILT ON OUR STREETS”

[This is a message to Americans from Rose Gentle on the bombings in London today. Her son was killed in Iraq. She leads a campaign to bring all the Scots and other troops home from Iraq, now. T]

**From: Rose Gentle
To: GI Special
Sent: July 07, 2005**

BLAIR MUST GO

NOW BLOOD OF INNOCENT

IS BEING SPILT ON OUR STREETS.

BRITAINS NO. ONE TERRORIST TARGET,

BLAIR NOW HAS BLOOD ON HIS HANS OF HIS HOME TOWN

WE HAVE TO GET THIS MAD MAN OUT.

OR HE WILL KILL MORE PEOPLE. NOT JUST IN IRAQ, BUT

HERE TOO, HE WAS ON TV TO DAY ,THE MAN IS A MONSTER,

**I THINK HIM AND BUSH ARE BRUTHERS, SAME DAD BUT NOT
THE SAME MUM,**

BUSH BUSH WE NO YOU YOUR DADY WAS A KILLIER TO

BLAIR LIED THAY ALL DIED.

WICH COUNTRY WILL BE NEX,

WE HAVE TO GET THE TROOPS

HOME, NOW, NOT NEX YEAR, NOW, GOD I GET SO MAD WHEN

I SEE THIS MONSTER ON T,V, YOU COULD GIVE HIM A GOOD

BOOT UP THE ARS. , TO GET SUM SENS IN TO HIM,
BUT YOU MIGHT GIVE HIM BRAN DAMEG,
BRING THE TROOPS HOME FOR XMAS,

ROSE GENTLE

MORE:

From: Rose Gentle
To: GI Special
Sent: July 07, 2005

HI ITS ROSE

CAN YOU PLEAS PUT THIS ON YOUR WEBSITE

VETERANS OF WAR, CONT.

BIGED4498@YAHOO,CO,UK

THIS GROOP HAS LINK UP WITH ME,

THANK YOU

The Bombings In London: “Mr. Bush And Mr. Blair Bear The Responsibility For This Wretched Act, As Well”

They decided in April of 2002 to start a war based on false pretenses, to fix the intelligence and facts around the policy, and now the whirlwind has come to be reaped. The blood that runs in the streets of London, and in the streets of Baghdad, Fallujah, Tikrit and Mosul, is on their hands.

07 July 2005 By William Rivers Pitt, Truthout Perspective [Excerpts]

In Iraq, they call events like this "Tuesday."

Tens of thousands of people have been killed and wounded in Iraq by way of deadly bombings that have been taking place every single day.

These Iraqi people are no different from the Londoners who perished today. Their skin is darker perhaps, and they pray to a different God, but they have families

and children and dreams and they die just as horribly as their British counterparts.

Yet they earn perhaps a few sentences on the back page of the paper, and virtually no comment from the members of the international community which ginned up the invasion of Iraq in the first place.

The rhetoric about Iraq has been that we are "fighting the terrorists over there so we don't have to fight them over here." Today, "over here" became the streets of London. Where will it be tomorrow?

Mr. Bush and Mr. Blair bear the responsibility for this wretched act, as well.

They decided in April of 2002 to start a war based on false pretenses, to fix the intelligence and facts around the policy, and now the whirlwind has come to be reaped.

The blood that runs in the streets of London, and in the streets of Baghdad, Fallujah, Tikrit and Mosul, is on their hands.

Despite Help From The Imperial Democrats, And Their Followers, Bush Losing The Occupation

No movement has ever been built by surrendering its principles. We have to keep up the pressure on the politicians, not adapt ourselves to their positions--or, in the name of reaching out to some mythical "conservative heartland," dilute our message until we're left with no message at all.

July 8, 2005, Editorial, Socialist Worker

GEORGE W. BUSH's June 28 speech to "reassure the American people" about his war for oil and empire in Iraq didn't even convince Republicans. Growing criticism from his own ranks slowed somewhat, but lawmakers like Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) still grumbled that the administration was too slow in training a new Iraqi security force to take over policing the occupation.

Of course, McCain's objection is a symptom of the deeper problem for the U.S.--that the occupation is hated by the vast majority of Iraqis, and active opposition is growing continually.

In particular, the armed resistance--far from being limited to "foreign terrorists" and former members of the regime--is supported by a wide cross-section of Iraqis and has grown much more intense. Asked about Dick Cheney's insistence that the resistance

was in its “last throes,” Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld agreed last month--but then said that the “last throes” might last as long as another 10 years.

All this is pushing questioning of the war to new highs. A recent poll found that six in 10 people think some or all U.S. troops should be withdrawn from Iraq now.

This is a vindication of everyone who protested the occupation from the moment it began. The falling support for the occupation in the polls paints a picture of discontent and suspicion of the administration in stark contrast to the “conservative heartland” that supposedly turned out to vote for Bush last November.

Unfortunately, some leading voices in the antiwar movement, while rightly celebrating the growing antiwar sentiment, are misjudging its source.

Global Exchange cofounder Medea Benjamin, for example, argued recently that this past June would be seen in history as a milestone for the antiwar movement--most of all because “a significant number of Congresspeople started to call for an exit strategy.”

Phyllis Bennis of the Institute for Policy Studies echoed Benjamin’s argument in “talking points” written for the national antiwar coalition United for Peace and Justice (UFPJ). Bennis’ analysis didn’t mention the obvious source of the U.S. crisis in Iraq--the armed resistance among Iraqis, which has caused fits for the Pentagon and its mighty war machine. Instead, she credited “years of careful and intensive local and national organizing,” culminating in “a major tipping point in antiwar sentiment in public opinion, and resulting shifts in Congress.”

This has it exactly backward. The antiwar movement came to a virtual standstill for during last year’s election campaign.

Further, Bennis inflates the importance of the several congressional resolutions on Iraq sponsored by liberal Democrats--which are, in reality, only half-measures. For example, the resolution sponsored by liberal Dennis Kucinich calls for U.S. withdrawal from Iraq to begin in October 2006--more than a year away.

And its Republican co-sponsor, Rep. Walter “Freedom Fries” Jones, emphasizes that the resolution is only for partial withdrawal--thus, maintaining a U.S. military presence to manipulate politics in Iraq.

It’s certainly positive to see some movement among lawmakers in response to the growing public discontent.

But at the same time, it’s undeniable that the majority of Democratic representatives are resolutely pro-war. Thus, when Bush’s demand for another \$82 billion to fund the Iraq and Afghanistan occupation came to a vote in the Senate, it passed unanimously.

The Democratic response to Bush’s late June speech, by Sen. Joe Biden (D-Del.), was explicitly limited to how the occupation could be carried out more effectively, not why it should be ended now.

Likewise, John Kerry echoed his presidential campaign rhetoric in half-defending Bush. Asked after the speech, "Is Bush getting an unfair shake?" Kerry answered, "To some degree, I think that's true. And I've said that publicly. We've made progress."

Kerry's statement reflects the opinion of the bipartisan Washington establishment that Iraq is too important to U.S. interests to lose. Behind the rhetoric, the aim of the two pro-war parties is to find a better puppet government and repackaging the occupation, not ending it.

The Democrats' pro-war election campaign in 2004 was directly responsible for demobilizing the antiwar movement and deflecting wider doubts and questioning of the war. Yet UFPJ and other leading organizations in the antiwar movement are once again looking to the Democrats.

No movement has ever been built by surrendering its principles. We have to keep up the pressure on the politicians, not adapt ourselves to their positions--or, in the name of reaching out to some mythical "conservative heartland," dilute our message until we're left with no message at all.

The mobilization for the national demonstrations on September 24 will provide the opportunity for antiwar activists at the grassroots to reach out even more broadly to new opponents of the war. In September, we need to raise our voices and demand complete U.S. withdrawal from Iraq now.

OCCUPATION REPORT

Capitalism At Work:

Fiji Officers Reveal Iraq Woes; Lied To, Unpaid & Hungry

July 07, 2005 Fiji Times Limited

MORE than 80 local officers recruited by Meridian Services Agency to work as drivers in Iraq have not been paid for the past three months.

The men are calling on the Fiji Government to act on their behalf with Public Warehousing Company and the Iraqi government. One of the officers, who preferred anonymity, claimed that the overseas recruiting company PWC had not abided by signed contracts over wages for work in Iraq.

The source said the 80 men were told to keep driving their trucks and they would be paid later.

They are provided accommodation while in Iraq, but other Fiji officers have to pitch in to buy enough food to support the drivers.

He said 100 men had either been terminated or simply walked off the job in Iraq because of broken promises over conditions.

The rest are still working, he said, but did not receive conditions they had signed up for in Fiji. "We were promised 175 Kuwait Dinars (KD) to 400 KD a month after arriving in Iraq and after 100 days our wages should increase to \$US3500 (\$F6067.96) to \$US6500 (\$F11,269.07) and 100KD whenever we pass the border," he said.

He claimed they were still paid 175KD a month after more than three months in Iraq. He said the truck drivers were only paid half of the amount they were owed for crossing the border and that 50KD payment was always late.

"Out of the 350 officers that are left here, we have quite a few who have been terminated, some have just left the job because they are not being paid and only those that have been paid buy food for the whole group.

"Some of us who could not stand this kind of living have returned to Fiji but the rest are here because we need the money to support our families," he said.

Three more officers were expected to leave the camp today to return to Fiji. Attempts to get comments from Labour Minister Kenneth Zinck and Foreign Affairs Minister Kaliopate Tavola on the issue last night were unsuccessful.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Confessions Of A Human Bomb: **“Our People Must Come To Understand That The Life Of ANY Individual Must Be Subordinate To The Cause Of Freedom From This Occupation”**

<p>We can wait patiently while they pick us off one by one, or we can go out to meet them. I choose to go out to meet them. That is what being a human bomb is about. It is the last resort of those who have exhausted all other avenues.</p>

Nor can it be considered suicide to launch oneself as a weapon AGAINST the enemy. The goal of the action of the human bomb is not his or her own death! The goal is to strike a resounding blow against the enemy. If our own deaths are required, then so be it, but we do not go out seeking our own deaths. Let that be very clear. The act of the human bomb is the ultimate act of protest against the extermination of our people.

6/17/2005

Dear Readers of the Free Arab Voice,

We are proud to present to you a penetrating piece that goes into the personal and political makings of a human bomb. Hujayra al 'Arabi portrays the role a human bomb in the offing to deliver a simple, yet very eloquent, message. She makes no apologies for the state of mind our people have been driven into. Rather, she seeks to drive the point home by avoiding the third person. "It's is I, the human bomb herself, who speaks to you now..." Thus began Hujayra..

**To all our Martyrs, past, present and future:
Your Light cannot be extinguished**

By Hujayra al 'Arabi

Dedicated to my brothers and sisters in Resistance in Iraq and in the Arab Nation

I do not want to die. I am not in love with death. I am not even 'half in love with easeful death' like the English poet.

I want to live. I want to have a home filled with children, and I still want to be a doctor. From the age of about six, I dreamed of becoming a doctor, of being able to save lives. I wanted to do something real that would save the lives of my people.

And yet, I see now that there are many ways of saving lives and that taking lives can be a part of the process of saving lives. That is where I am now, preparing to take lives in order to save my people.

The enemy tries to say that human bombs are cowards, that we want to die, that we do this in order to go to a paradise where virgins will fulfill our every wish. Well, for a start, I can prove them wrong on the virgin issue. I am a woman, and I have no interest whatsoever in being pleased by other virgins, thank you very much.

The fact of the matter is that this is nothing more than stupid propaganda, like so many of the enemy's lies. The young men who become martyrs for our cause are not doing so in order to win virgins in the hereafter. Nor do we do this out of hatred for the enemy, although the hatred is a thousand times deserved. We do it for love of the homeland and for love of our people.

The Prophet Isa, Peace be upon him, said that there is no greater love than the love of a shepherd who is willing to lay down his life for his sheep. I agree that this is a very great act of love, and this is the act of love committed by every human bomb.

We give our lives for our people, for our future, to try to turn a tide of destruction that threatens to sweep away not only our identity and heritage, but our very future.

Sometimes engineers will use a bomb to attempt to change the course of a waterway. That is what the human bomb is doing, using a bomb to try to change the course of a terrible flood that day by day continues to sweep away our homes, our families and our hopes for any future. If we can make any impression at all upon this flood, if little by little, we can slow down its progress, force it into a different path and ultimately stop its flow completely, then we will have succeeded in a very great act of love.

One human bomb may be no more than a voice crying in the wilderness, but many human bombs can change the course of history, strip it of a hundred years of lies and deceit and bring the vision of a future back to Palestine.

Those who listen to the enemy propaganda should ask themselves one question: what does it take to make an ordinary boy or girl into a human bomb? In a different life, in ordinary circumstances, all of us could have been quite ordinary boys and girls. Do not mistake the human bomb for anything other than an ordinary human being forced by circumstance to act in an extraordinary fashion.

It is not easy to become a human bomb. When there is a choice between the high road and the low road, most will opt for the easier of the two. It is often easier for human nature to make excuses for betrayal and collaboration with the enemy than to face reality and know that integrity often requires the ultimate sacrifice.

It is a sad fact that the Zionists continue to be successful in hunting down the leaders of our resistance only because they are betrayed by our own people, by people whose vision is limited to the immediate situation or threat that confronts them. Even though some collaborators may be no more than people who fear for the safety of their families, or who are desperate for food and a safe shelter, collaboration is the ugliest and most despicable crime against our people.

To aid the enemy, whether out of fear or greed is to BECOME the enemy. Furthermore, collaborators and those who do nothing whatsoever, trying to maintain a low profile in order to remain 'safe', must realise that there is no safe shelter as long as the enemy triumphs in our land. I will say it again: the crime of trading the life of your brother or sister for your own illusive safety is one of the worst, whatever its motivation. The man or woman who betrays a freedom fighter for gold or to save his or her skin deserves the punishment of death, for he or she has more power to harm our cause than our avowed enemy.

Cowards and collaborators must learn that it is far better to take the high road and meet death on our own terms than to cower in the shadows until the enemy drags

us out to the slaughter. The result, in physical terms, is the same, but how different the result in its effects upon others and upon the future!

My fiancé used to quote an old Roman saying: 'Media tutissimus ibis', which means that the middle way is best.

He believed it as well and lived according to that belief. He saw good in all people and wanted to believe that, at the end of the day, NO MATTER WHAT, good would have to triumph against evil. He was willing to wait patiently for that day. In that sense, he embodied the old myth of 'oriental fatalism' which the Westerners loved to pretend gave them carte blanche to tear down cultures and civilisations throughout the world and superimpose their visions of glory upon the fabric of the universe.

Well, my dear Muhammad, you waited patiently as Zionist metal entered your eye and lung and leg. You waited patiently for the time when you would be allowed through the checkpoint to hospital... a time that did not come, while the wounds festered and finally rotted your flesh with gangrene. Your death was anything but clean. It was a death that is sadly typical of those who allow themselves to become the victims of oppressors.

Patience may be a virtue, but it has to be patience coupled with determination to win this war. Without that determination, we will cease to exist. It is as simple as that. We can wait patiently while they pick us off one by one, or we can go out to meet them.

I choose to go out to meet them.

That is what being a human bomb is about.

It is the last resort of those who have exhausted all other avenues.

Justice is on our side. The law is on our side. Why then are we victims still?

The fact is that the world has not listened to the voice of justice, nor to the voice of international law. It has not listened to the voice of compassion nor to any pleas for humanity. So finally we come to the voice that cannot be ignored: the voice of Immediate Death. The human bomb targets both the lives and the pocketbook of the enemy. The enemy has proven that it will remain deaf to us unless we threaten loss of their lives and loss of their profits.

I do not volunteer for this action to avenge my Muhammad. I do not do this to avenge any of our people who have suffered or died at the hands of the enemy. I do not do this for myself either. As I write this, I can see a letter written by my aunt in England, offering me a home and financial support for a chance to study medicine there. Unlike too many of my Palestinian brothers and sisters, my life is not restricted to the walls of the refugee camp. I have other options.

In a way, it is precisely because I do have other options that I feel that my voice will be more emphatic when it explodes in the midst of the enemy. They cannot pretend that I have no reasons to live. They have not cornered me personally, but they have cornered us as a people and that is what counts at the end of the day.

Shall I go to England, to pursue my dream of saving the lives of some of our people, or should I stay here and pursue the reality of saving our future as a people? Being a Palestinian doctor is doing patchwork, darning and mending the rags of our existence over and over until, like all rags, they finally disintegrate and are thrown out onto the dustheap.

Our people must come to understand that the life of ANY individual must be subordinate to the cause of freedom from this Occupation.

The value of any individual is not what is at issue; it is rather the value of our future as a people that must be supreme, overriding all other considerations in all of our hearts. What good is it to Palestine if any one of us prospers or survives if our people as a whole cease to exist?

What good is the illusive freedom of one individual when the Palestinian people exist in conditions that are far worse than slavery? Unless we can act selflessly, for the good of the cause rather than pursuing individual goals and ambitions, our cause will fail.

The human bomb provides an example of that selflessness, demonstrating unequivocally that no life can be considered more valuable than the future of our people.

The human bomb acts for all, not for himself or herself.

'Use me as a weapon of your will,' the human bomb declares. 'Let my life be sacrificed for the future of all our people.'

This is emphatically not the act of some one committing suicide! Suicide is a selfish act, the act of some one who repudiates life and embraces death as a solution. The human bomb does not repudiate life at all. The human bomb embraces death as a comrade in arms, acting as a weapon for the cause of justice and freedom from Occupation.

Do I believe in the Hereafter? I honestly do not know what lies beyond this existence, because I am nothing more than a human being, whose understanding is limited to our life on this earth. I would like to believe. I do believe in God, and I believe that 'Inna lillahi wa inna illahi rajaoun' that we come from God and to God is our return, but as God is unknowable and unfathomable, so is His Will and any reality beyond this world is beyond my sight.

As far as I am concerned, what counts most is what I do here and now. I want to perform the right action for the right reason, with honour and purity of intent. At this point in history, the best action is that taken by the human bomb.

Holy Qur'an states: 'Wa la taHsabanna alladhina qutillu fi Sabilillahi 'amwatan.' 'Do not think of those who are killed in the way of Allah as being dead.' To me, it is not of the hereafter alone that this verse speaks, but of the fact that the memory of a life sacrificed in the way of justice and truth never dies. It stands as an example to be followed, but more than that, it is an expression of faith in our cause. If I and other human bombs are willing to die in this horrible fashion for our people, does that not prove that hope for our future cannot be lost?

To be killed 'fee Sabilillah', 'in the way or path of Allah', is to die for selfless reasons, in my opinion. That is why the human bomb, along with our other heroic martyrs, is one who truly can be said to have been slain 'fee Sabilillah', because he or she has been slain in the pursuit of justice and freedom from Occupation.

Nor can it be considered suicide to launch oneself as a weapon AGAINST the enemy. The goal of the action of the human bomb is not his or her own death! The goal is to strike a resounding blow against the enemy. If our own deaths are required, then so be it, but we do not go out seeking our own deaths. Let that be very clear. The act of the human bomb is the ultimate act of protest against the extermination of our people.

If our people go to the slaughter without protest, we will cease to exist.

Let the world look to the Zionist actions and see that, whatever fairytales they tell, their actions speak of the need to exterminate us, to wipe us off the face of the homeland. Their entire culture, religion and government is based upon a racist premise, that the Jew and only the Jew belongs on this land.

Despite history, despite any reality that proves their premise unconscionable and unsupported by logic or reason, they do not falter in their goal. Look to it, World, for those who are not Jewish, be they Arab, Gentile or anything else, are not considered their equals and they are not by their morality or religion required to treat you as they do their fellow Jews. Until the Jew decides to join the human race, there can be no dealing of equal with equal. It is written in their Talmud.

Enough of them, though. I must prepare for the ultimate act of resistance against this Occupation and I will not go to my death with ugliness and brutality in my thoughts. I will think instead of the symphony of the sea beating against the rocks... of the perfume of wild thyme rising from sun-baked hills... of the olive tree heavy with fruit that my great grandfather planted but that exists now only in our memories... of my mother's smile, encompassing a world of hope veiled in tears... of the roses, vines and birds she embroidered on my thob... of the Tree of Life and mihrab door to heaven embroidered over my heart... the mystical homeland she created in red, white, green and black, the colours of our land Palestine.

They call us 'terrorists' but it is an absurdity to think that they, who hold the power of life and death over our entire people each and every day, could be terrorised by us.

We have nothing but our determination and our willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice. Our bombs consist of a handful of nails propelled, along with our flesh and bones, by the crudest of explosives. They can and have shown that they are willing to reduce an entire city to rubble in a single day, and make thousands homeless. When they have all the technology that this new century holds, who is the real terrorist in Palestine or indeed, throughout the world?

Yet it is true that the enemy fears Death in a way that we do not fear it. After all, why should we fear to meet the One who created us? The Christians have a beautiful

prayer: 'Hatta idha ajtaztu wadi dhilali al mawt, la akhafu suwan liannaka turafiquni.'
God is the Comrade who never abandons us, even in the valley of the shadow of Death. It is not Death that I fear, but the silence of extinction. Death does not extinguish the flame of our existence. The crown of the Martyr by tradition is Immortality. It is not my own immortality that I seek but that of the cause of our people.

We are a strong people. We are steadfast. That is not enough to prevail against the machinery of Death that has been set in motion against us. The fact that we have survived a century of genocide speaks eloquently of our strength and steadfastness, but how much longer can we endure?

Those who robbed us originally of our land die peacefully in their beds of old age, having spawned another two or three generations of robbers and thieves. Those offspring convince themselves that they bear no responsibility for the continuing deprivation of our people as they invite more robbers into our homeland, while herding more of our people over the bridge to exile. They will not listen to the voice of justice. They speak of 'peace' when they have made the word an obscenity.

Salaam is not simply peace. Salaam is peace with justice. When true peace exists, all is right with the world. When true peace exists, justice has been served and people do not live as slaves or on mere sufferance under an oppressive and foreign occupation. Do not speak to us of your counterfeit Peace.

Salaam is peace but it must be won now through sacrifice. I go now to win that Peace for Palestine.

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

<p>Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said that the insurgencies in Iraq and Afghanistan were forcing the Pentagon to rethink its ability to lie about two wars at the same time. 7.7.05 The Borowitz Report</p>
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Pigs At The Trough: Bush Buddies Get More War Billions

July 6, 2005 Washington Post

The Army has ordered nearly \$5 billion in work from Halliburton Co. to provide logistics support to U.S. troops over the next year. The increase price tag reflects a

growing demand for Halliburton's services as U.S. forces continue to battle a stubborn insurgency.

Year After Court Ruling, Guantanamo Captives Still Can't Get A Hearing: No Judge Has Heard Arguments On Whether Prisoners Legally Detained

June 27, 2005 Miami Herald

It has been a year since the Supreme Court ruled that Guantanamo prisoners are entitled to pursue their cases in federal courts. But after months of procedural battles, no judge has heard the merits of any of the 200 habeas corpus petitions from Guantanamo detainees, some held for more than three years.



Imperial Democrats Make Bush Look Moderate

07-13 July, By Saul Landau, Progreso Weekly

Instead of picking up on the withdrawal demand, before more breakage occurs, foolish Democratic Senators demand that Bush send in more troops. Bush

ironically appears as more moderate as he appeals for patriotic unity in the form of flying the flag on July 4.

What must Iraqis feel at the sight of that flag on July 4? In its name, the U.S. military has destroyed their cities, tortured their people, shot many of them for no reason at checkpoints or wherever the troops happened to be patrolling. Iraqis have scarce electricity, food and water and no secure jobs. Yet, Bush keeps repeating that he "liberated Iraq."

On June 28, addressing the Special Forces at Fort Bragg, Bush asked implying that "our" people had given up a lot to wage his war : "Is the sacrifice worth it?" He quickly answered his own question. "It is worth it...;"

The Iraq war has cost him nothing - perhaps a few hours of missed video golf.

"We have more work to do," he stated.

Yes, Bush stands as a national model of sacrifice and hard work!

And Iraqis must think that those Democrats who ask for more troops are either crazy or stark opportunists. It will take them that much longer to restore some integrity to their broken society.

Received:

Two Salutes To Leonard Clark

#1:

From: Kathy Kelly
To: GI Special
Sent: July 07, 2005
Subject: **Re: GI Special 3B82: Shutting Leonard Down**

Thank you very much for keeping me and my companions here at Voices in the Wilderness informed about Leonard Clark. I'm amazed at your tenacity and deeply moved by Leonard's writing.

Sincerely,
Kathy Kelly

[Honored to be of service, esp. to Voices in the Wilderness: <http://vitw.org/> T]

#2:

From: **JIM STARO, VETERANS FOR PEACE, Vietnam Veteran**
To: GI Special

Sent: July 07, 2005
Subject: RE: Leonard Clark

Thanks, Leonard and any other trying to get out the Message Need the Help and he's getting it from A lot of Fronts!!

God Everytime you Open your Eyes we get Similarities to 'Nam

The Conflict this Country was going to Never Allow Again!

But those who say it's not like 'Nam are Right, to a degree, Multiple Tours In Theater NOT Volunteered for, and this one Puts The Whole Planet In Extreme Trouble, most Guerilla Wars just want the Occupiers Out, i.e. Vietnam, this is a Training Ground for the Disenfranchised even those watching from a distance!!

PEACE BRO, PEACE,
Jim

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

www.williambowles.info/qispecial,

<http://www.albasrah.net/magalat/english/qi-special.htm>

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