

## GI SPECIAL 3B89:



[Thanks to David Honish, Vets For Peace]

***“It's Only Isolated  
Pockets Of Problems”:  
“Pentagon Officials Do Their  
Best To Make War Sound Wise  
And Noble. Most Of All, They  
Lie”***

[Thanks to James Starowicz, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, who sent this in.  
He writes:

**[“This is a military leader who is supposed to care about the men/women he commands before sending them into conflict, and he went right on talking points that have long ago become stale with the lies they were built on!!**

**[“This is a cold hearted opportunist of power and greed, as those he has joined in this inhumanity!! It made me sick to watch his smug self righteous performance!!”]**

July 13, 2005 By NORMAN SOLOMON, CounterPunch. This excerpt is from Norman Solomon's new book War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death, published in July 2005.

**In front of TV cameras, Pentagon officials do their best to make war sound wise and noble. Most of all, they lie.**

Sometimes they do it with bold assertions, other times with intentionally tangled syntax. But those who give the orders that consign young soldiers to participation in horror must assure the folks back home that all the carnage is under control. The officials strive to project an aura of calm about the unspeakable; they mumble clichés about grief that cannot touch it.

**For the most powerful war-makers in Washington, the most dangerous potential enemies are the citizens of the United States who might insist on an end to taxpayer subsidies for mass slaughter.**

To forestall such a calamity, officials proclaim endlessly that the war's worst days have passed and the future looks increasingly bright for the ravaged land and for the freedom-loving invaders whose invasion has ravaged it.

**And so, on Tuesday night, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff glibly responded to questions from Jim Lehrer on the PBS "NewsHour." And while the historic disrepute of the phrase "light at the end of the tunnel" precluded using it in the interview, Gen. Richard Myers was close to chirpy.**

**Along the way, he tried to make the war in Iraq sound like an uplifting exercise in civic engagement, inevitably headed toward triumph.**

The general was tap dancing in the footsteps of many who came before him -- during another long war based on deception and the assumption that the USA must keep killing in order to be credible on the world stage.

When Defense Secretary Robert McNamara visited Vietnam for the first time, he came back and told the press that he'd seen "nothing but progress and hopeful indications of further progress in the future." McNamara made that statement in May 1962.

More than four years later, in October 1966, McNamara held a news conference at Andrews Air Force Base after returning from a trip to Vietnam. Again he spoke with enthusiasm about the progress he'd seen there. But former Pentagon aide Daniel Ellsberg has recounted that McNamara made that presentation to the press "minutes after telling me that everything was much worse than the year before."

**Of course the commander in chief is not to be outdone. He is, among his other duties, the commander of war lies. And so, as with George W. Bush today, Lyndon Johnson professed to be grandly optimistic when he proclaimed in early 1967: "Peace is more within our reach than at any time in this century."**

Fifteen months ago, at a turning point when resistance to the occupation erupted with fury in a number of Iraqi cities, the response from American officials was to put happy-face stickers on the carnage. "We have isolated pockets where we are encountering problems," said Dan Senior, a spokesperson for the top U.S. manipulator in Iraq, Paul Bremer.

**A week later, on April 13, 2004, President Bush declared: "It's not a popular uprising. Most of Iraq is relatively stable."**

**These kinds of statements may seem like mere pep talks or, in retrospect, miscalculations. But they're integral to the war-making process -- continually speaking of light that's just over the horizon, while corpses pile up in grisly shadows alongside the lies that keep a war going on top of the lies that got it started.**

**On Tuesday night, host Jim Lehrer asked Gen. Myers: "Do you consider Iraq a success from your point of view?" The general replied: "I do now, I do. I mean I don't know why I said now. I do, absolutely; I think it's a success." A couple of minutes later he was exuding confidence about the future: "It's going to be a difficult fight, but we're going to be successful in this fight."**

Washington's warriors insist that Iraq is not Vietnam. Any geographer would certainly agree.

**But imperial wars share similar characteristics -- including the profound fact that the people who live in a country are more committed to it than the invaders are.**

**This war can't be won for reasons that have everything to do with why it's wrong. The occupiers are on the lowest moral ground. No amount of fake optimism in Washington can change such realities in Iraq.**

**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**

### **Car Bomb Kills U.S. Soldier In Baghdad,**

# **Three Wounded: U.S. Sgt. Catches Lt. Col. In Stupid Lie**

**It remains to be determined why the American soldiers - who, according to their own account, had asked the population to stay indoors before the attack on account of the danger - started to distribute candy to the children rather than dissuading them from remaining standing around them like so many pathetic human shields.**

Jul. 13, 2005 Reuters & July 13, 2005 By KIRK SEMPLE, The New York Times Company & AP & By G.T. (with agencies), Libération

**Twenty-four people were killed and at least 18 wounded by a car bomb on Wednesday at 10:50 a.m. in east Baghdad near U.S. forces, police sources said.**

**U.S. troops said one U.S. soldier was killed by the blast.**

**Three U.S. Soldiers were wounded in the attack, which also set a nearby house on fire.**

**"The Task Force Baghdad unit on the site reported that the vehicle, laden with explosives, drove up to a Humvee before detonating," the statement said.**

**Residents said American soldiers had passed through the neighborhood earlier in the day issuing warnings through a loudspeaker that the area might be a target of a car bomb.**

**Lt. Col. Clifford Kent, the public affairs officer for the Third Infantry Division denied that the soldiers were distributing candy and small toys to the children at the time of the blast, though he did not disclose the nature of the unit's mission.**

**"Children gathered around the Americans who were handing out sweets. Suddenly a suicide car bomber drove around from a side street and blew himself up," Sergeant David Abrams told AFP.**

**Last Friday, Maj. Gen. William G. Webster Jr., commander of U.S. forces in Baghdad, said American and Iraqi troops soldiers have "mostly eliminated" the ability of insurgents to conduct sustained, high-intensity attacks in the capital.**

**It remains to be determined why the American soldiers - who, according to their own account, had asked the population to stay indoors before the attack on account of the danger - started to distribute candy to the children rather than dissuading them from remaining standing around them like so many pathetic human shields.**

# Land Mine Kills Soldier From The Ozarks; He's Four Years Out Of Fordland High School



Sgt. T.J. Sutton

7/13/05 By: KY3 News

FORDLAND, Mo. -- A soldier who grew up in near here died in Baghdad, Iraq, on Monday. Sgt. T.J. Sutton, 22, was driving a Humvee when it hit a land mine.

Sutton served in the Third Armor Cavalry Regiment, based in Fort Carson, Colo. He graduated from Fordland High School in 2001. He later graduated from the drafting and design program at Ozarks Technical Community College in Springfield.

**This was Sutton's second tour of duty in Iraq.** His first tour started in 2003 and lasted nearly 14 months.

Sutton and his wife, Angela, were married last December. His family says he was an avid hunter and fisherman.

Funeral arrangements are pending.

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## East TN Soldier Injured

7/12/2005 Katie Allison Granju, Online Producer, WBIR-TV Knoxville

An East Tennessee soldier has been injured fighting in Iraq.

Dustin Washam of Huntsville was serving with the Army's Third Infantry Division, and according to his mother, he has been injured and is being flown to Germany for treatment.

Beverly Washam says she still doesn't have many details about her son's injuries, but she has spoken with him on the phone.

Dustin Washam has been in the Army for 18 months, and serving in Iraq since January.

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

# **The Afghan Resistance Re-Launches A Vast Offensive**

12 July 2005 By Françoise Chipaux, Le Monde

In the euphoria of the success of the October 2004 presidential election, American as well as Afghan officials gave up the Taliban as virtually vanquished. Six months later, the "students of religion" and their allies have violently refuted those forecasts.

**The traditional spring offensive has proved to be one of the most deadly in the four years that have followed the overthrow of the Taliban regime.**

**Far from being in disarray, the opponents of the new regime in Kabul have reorganized themselves, and fighters from different Arab countries, present in the region for many years, have gone back into service.**

**All these opponents have divided the Afghan theatre among themselves into four regions - East, South-East, South, and Center-North-West - to organize the fight. Perhaps the newest aspect of this campaign is the degree of organization it has achieved, its management, choice of targets, etc.**

The decapitation Sunday of ten policemen in the Helmand province, which occurred after several other incidents of the same type, again proves the radicalization of the movement.

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## **TROOP NEWS**

# Leonard Clark, Anti-War Soldier, Apparently Released From Arrest

From: James Starowicz  
To: GI Special  
Sent: July 13, 2005  
Subject: Latest On Leonard - Apparently Released

*This is a Recent Update Post over at Daily Kos. The word has been picked up!*

*Haven't been over to Leonards Blog yet, but if you notice most of Steven's recent post is about an article from Arizona paper stating he wasn't under Arrest. [The story from the Arizona Republic newspaper is below.]*

***Yet as Steven had posted this someone went over and caught a Recent Posting Stating that Leonards Wife had called them and said Leonard Called and Was Released From 'Arrest'!!!!!!!!!!!!***

***Here's the Post from Kos, This Is Still Confusing and Working, but Hey It's The Military!!!!***

Lib Soldier Update: AZ Republic Reports Army Investigating Leonard Clark

by Steven D  
Wed Jul 13th, 2005  
Update [2005-7-13 12:19:12 by Steven D]

**Good News! Leonard's blog now reporting he's been released.**

For the first time, a print publication, the Arizona Republic, has published a story about the liberal soldier in Iraq, Leonard Clark, about whom Armando, Jim Staro and I have posted diaries about here at Daily Kos.

Leonard allegedly was placed under arrest by his commanding officer for matters related to his emails and voicemails from Iraq which had been posted for him at this blog created by Kevin Spidel, political director for Progressive Democrats of America.

Leonard's blog has since been scrubbed of all emails and audio files pursuant to his commander's order. Some of Leonard's emails can still be found here.

The Arizona Republic story is significant for several reasons.

**Obviously, it's good to see any print newspaper covering the story, even one who's circulation is primarily limited to the Phoenix, AZ locale.**

**It is significant for another reason, however. The Republic is reporting that Leonard has not been arrested (as was previously reported at Leonard's blog prior**

**to it being scrubbed) but he is under investigation for activities related to the emails and voicemail audio files posted on the internet:**

The good news is that the story is starting to receive more media attention. Yesterday, Eric Alterman posted my email about Leonard's situation at his MSNBC sponsored blog, Altercation. In addition, Jim Staro posted a diary this morning that NPR and Air America had been in contact with Kevin Spidel about Leonard. And stories have appeared at Antiwar.com and at AlterNet about Leonard, as well.

**Let me remind everyone, this story isn't just about Leonard, it's about the silencing of dissent in the ranks.**

**Here's a quote from a soldier's blog, in a diary I previously filed, that lays out what is going on, and how soldiers are being intimidated by the Pentagon:**

***Boots on the Ground***  
***Friday, July 01, 2005***  
***Final Note***

*This is one of my last posts I will put on my blog. I don't intend to convert this blog to a political blog. It will just stay unchanged for a long time for maybe some historian interested in getting information from soldiers from the front has access to my site.*

***Another blow to the military blog community. A 3 star General approved an "order" that all milbloggers have to tell their chain of command about their blog.***

*This is very unfortunate obviously that a lot of people want to see the soldier's side and plus see a lot of what is going on that the news cannot and will not cover.*

**The Bush administration doesn't want us to know that morale is poor, that soldiers are being coerced to re-enlist or face stop loss call ups, and that not every soldier thinks the invasion Iraq had anything to do with going after the terrorists who attacked us on 9/11.**

**The Pentagon doesn't want us to know that the insurgents aren't being defeated, or that soldiers are (to paraphrase Leonard) needlessly dying for oil or for the vanity of one man who can't admit he made a mistake.**

**So keep those cards and letters, phone calls and emails going to the media. The more we demand they cover this story the sooner our soldiers in Iraq will get back their free speech rights and will once again be allowed to provide us back in the States with a truer picture of the war Iraq, rather than being limited to propaganda issuing from the Department of Defense.**

**Postscript: Leonard has apparently been released. Here is the entry from his blog:**

July 13th, 2005 Leonard Update



I just spoke with Leonard's wife (Wednesday morning, July 13, '05) and she informed me that Leonard called her last night and told her he was released from his arrest. This is good news and thanks to all of you that helped get the word out! I have no other details right now, but will keep you posted.

Esther Duran Lumm

**The newspaper story:**

## **Guardisman Faces Probe Over Blog Comments**

July 13, 2005 By Billy House, The Arizona Republic

**An Arizona Army National Guardsman whose Web log comments have criticized the Iraq war and who has filed papers to run for the U.S. Senate seat held by Jon Kyl, is the subject of a military investigation in Iraq, the Army said Tuesday.**

**What exactly Leonard A. Clark is being investigated for is unclear.**

Clark, 40, of Glendale, is a kindergarten teacher, activist and perennial candidate for public office, and holds the rank of specialist in Arizona's 860th Military Police Company.

**"Specialist Clark is under investigation, but not under arrest,"** confirmed Army Capt. Patricia Brewer, a spokeswoman with the military's combined press information office in Baghdad.

Campaigning for public office without permission from the secretary of defense while on active duty in the Armed Forces is a violation of Defense Department regulations.

Clark and others in the 860th MP Company have been deployed in Iraq since March, and are not expected to return to the state until next March.

Even so, on April 7, the Federal Election Commission officially received Clark's "statement of candidacy" to run next year for the Senate seat now held by Republican Kyl. In that filing by mail, Clark designates his principal campaign committee as "Arizonans for Leonard Clark."

**Clark's case also illustrates how the military is wrestling with an explosion of opinionated soldier Web logs or "blogs," and their content at a time when polls show rising public opposition to the war.**

**The military recently has adopted a rule requiring soldiers to register their blogs with their chain of command, and subject these sites to regular review. Clark has been critical in his posted blog comments of the Bush administration, saying he believes U.S. soldiers are being killed needlessly.**

***“Fight non-violently for the just and righteous cause of Not One More American Soldier’s Life Being Lost. N.O. M.A.S.!” he urged in a June 30 e-mail posting.***

Maj. Eileen Bienz, a spokeswoman with the state Army National Guard, said guard officials in Arizona have been advised that Clark is under investigation, but that no formal charges have been filed.

**However, Bienz noted that about one week ago she received “inquiries” from outside of Arizona about Clark’s blog postings critical of the war.**

**“His blogging activities were brought to my attention. So I made some inquiries asking, so what is the policy?” Bienz said. “I was told then that it (Clark’s blogging) had been brought to the attention of his commander (in Iraq).”**

Whatever the specific focus of the Army’s investigation — and regardless of whether Clark intentionally may have instigated this controversy to gain more attention for himself — the intensity of the Internet chatter about his situation is giving him some national notice.

For instance, the online magazine Daily Kos has been providing updates.

Clark previously has run for the Arizona House of Representatives in 1998, 2002 and 2004, and for the state Senate in 2000.

District 12 Democrats in Arizona, on their way into a meeting in Litchfield Park on Monday evening, declined to discuss Clark.

**Clark’s wife, Marisela, said her husband called her Tuesday morning to say he “was not arrested anymore” and told her not to worry about him.**

**“He sounded very different and very sad, but he said, ‘I’m OK,’ “ she said. “But I am really afraid for him.” She said he told her he was arrested for “having a big mouth about his politics.”**

In a phone call to The Republic in early June, Clark declared, “If I come back alive, I will challenge him (Kyl).” He said then that he opposed the war, but felt he needed to serve out of duty to his country.

Kevin Spidel of Litchfield Park, who says he is Clark’s friend and who also is the national political director for Progressive Democrats of America, said he was abruptly advised by Clark in an e-mail on Monday that he’d been ordered by his commander not to publish any more comments on the Web.

Spidel said Clark’s blog never revealed information that would jeopardize himself or his fellow soldiers.

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

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

## The Mysterious Death Of Another Soldier



July 12, 2005 TheWBALChannel

**BALTIMORE -- A soldier who tirelessly patrolled Iraq couldn't wait to come home to his pregnant wife in Baltimore.**

**WBAL-TV 11 News reporter Rena Ninan said Sgt. Juwan Johnson left the war zone for check-out in Germany and that's where things went terribly wrong. She reported his family is left searching for answers about what caused his mysterious death.**

"I'd like to know what happened to my baby," said Stephanie Cockrell, mother of Sgt. Johnson.

**Johnson had successfully completed an 18-month tour of duty in Iraq where he survived a mine explosion that killed others in his unit. He was even awarded a purple heart.**

**Ninan said his heart was in Baltimore, where his wife is expecting their first child in November.**

"When we found out we were going to have a baby, he really wanted to come home," his wife, Knika, said.

Johnson was just weeks away from being released from active military duty. He planned on working as a recruiter for the National Guard. He was in Germany getting ready to come home when he was found dead in his barracks on July 4.

**"How you make it out of Iraq, but found dead in bed on Independence Day?" his mother asked.**

**Johnson's family says he was a health nut who exercised regularly. The night before his death, he complained to his wife that he wasn't feeling well.**

Now, a week after his death, the family is still waiting for answers.

**"Every time I call, they tell me they haven't had report or it's still pending." Knika said.**

An autopsy was performed last week at Dover Air Force base and the Department of Defense won't comment until it's completed. But a military newspaper said initial reports showed no evidence of alcohol, drugs, suicide or foul play.

**"Ultimately, we know God takes you at sometime. I got that," his mother said. "But by what means were you taken? Did you suffer? They are important to me."**

The family plans to bury Johnson in uniform followed by a 21-gun salute. Funeral services have been set for Wednesday at 11 a.m.

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## **Sgt. Recovering After Iraq Wreck**

July 13, 2005 By Rick Phelps -- Brownwood Bulletin

**Sgt. Kevin Cox, a National Guard soldier who deployed to Iraq from Brownwood earlier this year, will be heading home in the near future.**

**Cox, along with two fellow soldiers, Sgt. Roberto Villareal and Spc. Justin Purcell, were injured in a vehicle accident when their humvee rolled several times during a routine convoy escort mission on June 30.**

**"I am not sure how many times --but I know she (the humvee) rolled a bunch," Cox said Tuesday in a telephone interview from his hospital room at Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston.**

The 45-year-old Brownwood native has already undergone numerous surgeries. He was scheduled to have an operation later today on his left elbow.

In an earlier surgery, Cox had a procedure done to reconstruct his right wrist. Other injuries he suffered included a broken big toe on his right foot, broken ribs and several lacerations and bruises.

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# **Strykers Are Death-Traps For Troops: Waste Money Needed For Real Problems**

Spring 2005, By John Zutz, The Veteran, Published by Vietnam Veterans Against The War. JOHN ZUTZ IS A VVAW NATIONAL COORDINATOR AND MEMBER OF THE MILWAUKEE CHAPTER.

**In early April, the small town of Kewaskum, near Milwaukee, was forced to hold a referendum to allow the school board to exceed spending limits by \$430,000 for five years. The money was to be spent on new textbooks and computer systems for the schools. It barely passed.**

**To discover what this has to do with military spending, please examine one of our newest military purchases: the Stryker interim armored vehicle.**

**The Army signed a \$4 billion contract to produce just over 2,100 Strykers (about \$1.9 million apiece).**

They weigh about 19 tons, have eight-wheel drive, will go 60 miles per hour and travel 300 miles on a tank of gas (5.5 miles per gallon).

The basic steel hull will protect the internal areas from 7.62 mm bullets. The Stryker's tires can be inflated or deflated from inside the vehicle to adapt to surfaces ranging from deep mud to hardtop, and it has run-flat tires, a built-in fire-suppression system, and self-recovery winch. They weigh around 38,000 pounds, which allows them to theoretically be transportable in a C-130.

Sounds like a pretty good deal, right? Three hundred and eleven Strykers are in service in Iraq today—supporting our troops. And it probably would be a pretty good deal, except for some minor problems.

**The 126 pieces of crew-installable appliqué ceramic-steel armor increases the protection to .50 caliber armor-piercing rounds, RPG-7, and 152 mm artillery airbursts, but adds 7,000 pounds. The Stryker's Caterpillar engine struggles to move the extra weight, so the armor isn't normally in use.**

**In order to accommodate the weight of the extra armor, the tires are inflated to 90 pounds and the central inflation system is disconnected. This causes the Stryker to bog down when surface conditions change. That would be bad enough, but the Stryker's winch isn't sufficiently strong to recover it with the external armor.**

**There are some major flaws in the Stryker design as well.**

**The Stryker needs a waiver from the Air Force to be carried on a C- 130. The waiver is necessary because the vehicle is too wide to accommodate the 14-inch safety aisle around all sides that is required by the Air Force for the loadmaster.**

**Additionally, due to it's weight, only a portion of the Stryker crew may fly in the same aircraft. The infantry carrier variant requires multiple alterations to fit into a C-130.**

**The weapon system doesn't shoot accurately when the vehicle is moving. Computer and other systems malfunction because of air conditioning problems.**

**Troops can't fasten their seat belts when wearing body armor. We'll be paying billions more in the future to update and refit these lemons.**

Still, the Stryker is a piker when it comes to cost. A few of the Pentagon's favorites:

Abrams main battle tank:

10,000+ made, \$4.3 million each, 1,100 in Iraq, 69 tons, over 80 damaged so badly by improvised explosive devices they needed to be shipped back to be rebuilt.

Bradley fighting vehicle: 1600+made, \$3.2 million each, 25 tons.

Tomahawk cruise missile: 4000+ made, \$1.4 million each.

B1B bomber: 100 made, \$200 million+ each.

Nimitz class aircraft carrier: 12 in service, average life-cycle cost \$444 million annually, 50-year lifespan.

**I'm not saying we shouldn't have some of these things. I do think we could get by with fewer, so the kids in Kewaskum and other small towns can have modern textbooks.**

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## **Open Season On Generals At Ft. Campbell?**

July 12, 2005 By Jimmy Settle, The (Clarksville, Tenn) Leaf-Chronicle

**A small number of wild hogs are running loose in remote areas of Fort Campbell, prompting concerns about the possible spread of animal-borne diseases.**

**Agricultural Extension Agent John Bartee said he didn't know about the wild hogs, and he said it was cause for some alarm.**

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# Religious Fanatic Assholes Insult Troops

**A former Marine who said that about half of the eight chaplains he came into contact with in his military career tried to convince him to abandon his Mormon faith, telling him it was "wicked" or "Satanic."**

July 12, 2005 By LAURIE GOODSTEIN, The New York Times Company

Figures provided by the Air Force show that from 1994 to 2005 the number of chaplains from many evangelical and Pentecostal churches rose, some doubling. For example, chaplains from the Full Gospel Fellowship of Churches and Ministries International increased to 10 from none. The Church of the Nazarene rose to 12 from 6.

At the same time, the number of chaplains from the Roman Catholic Church declined to 94 from 167, and there were declines in more liberal, mainline Protestant churches: the United Church of Christ to 3 from 11, the United Methodist Church to 50 from 64.

The change mirrors the Air Force as a whole, where representation is rising from evangelical churches. But there are also increasing numbers of enlistees from minority religions as well as atheists. It has all created a complicated environment and caused tensions over tolerance and the role of the military chaplain.

Certainly, the religious environment encountered by the chaplains is complex. Statistics on enlistees provided by the Air Force show there are now about 3,500 who say they are either Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims, pagans, druids or shamans. There are 1,600 who say they are atheists and about 50,000 who say they have no religious preference, out of a total of 280,000. Roman Catholics number about 60,000.

Other branches of the military did not make available similar statistics, but officials say they are seeing the same trend.

**A former Marine who said that about half of the eight chaplains he came into contact with in his military career tried to convince him to abandon his Mormon faith, telling him it was "wicked" or "Satanic."**

**Chaplain Gordon James Klingenschmitt, of the Evangelical Episcopal Church, says he was warned by commanders that his approach to the ministry was not inclusive enough.**

**When a Catholic sailor on his ship died, Lieutenant Klingenschmitt said he preached at a memorial service and emphasized that for those who did not accept Jesus, "God's wrath remains upon him."**

For the Mormon in the Marine Corps, interactions with chaplains made him decide to become one himself. A 29-year-old who left the service in the late 1990's, he is now applying to become a military chaplain with the intent, he said, of providing the troops a

more "inclusive" form of pastoring. He insisted on anonymity so as not to undermine his application.

**He said that his faith was frequently denigrated by fellow marines, and even by some of his commanders.**

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

# **“End Your Occupation Of Our Homeland!”**

[Thanks to PB, who sent this in.]

10 Jul 2005 By Iman as-Saadun, Albasrah [Excerpt]

**I'm sending this letter to the British people and in particular to the residents of London.**

For a period of hours, you have lived through moments of desperate anxiety and horror. In those hours you lost a member of your family or a friend, and we wish to tell you in total honesty that we too grieve when human lives pass away. I cannot tell you how much we hurt when we see desperation and pain on the face of another person. For we have lived through this situation - and continue to live through it every day - since your country and the United States formed an alliance and laid plans to attack Iraq.

**The Prime Minister of your country, Tony Blair, said that those who carried out the explosions did so in the name of Islam. The Secretary of State of the United States, Condoleezza Rice, described the bombings as an act of barbarism. The United Nations Security Council met and unanimously condemned the event.**

**I would like to ask you, the free British people, to allow me to inquire: in whose name was our country blockaded for 12 years? In whose name were our cities bombed using internationally prohibited weapons? In whose name did the British army kill Iraqis and torture them? Was that in your name? Or in the name of religion? Or humanity? Or freedom? Or democracy?**

What do you call the killing of more than two million children? What do you call the pollution of the soil and the water with depleted uranium and other lethal substances?

What do you call what happened in the prisons in Iraq - in Abu Ghraib, Camp Bucca and the many other prison camps? What do you call the torture of men, women, and children? Does the word "barbaric" adequately describe the behavior of your troops in Iraq?



May we ask why the Security Council did not condemn the massacre in al-Amiriyah and what happened in al-Fallujah, Tal'afar, Sadr City, and an-Najaf?

**Why does the world watch as our people are killed and tortured and not condemn the crimes being committed against us?**

**Are you human beings and we something less? Do you think that only you can feel pain and we can't? In fact it is we who are most aware of how intense is the pain of the mother who has lost her child, or the father who has lost his family. We know very well how painful it is to lose those you love.**

**You don't know our martyrs, but we know them. You don't remember them, but we remember them. You don't cry over them, but we cry over them.**

**Have you heard the name of the little girl Hannan Salih Matrud? Or of the boy Ahmad Jabir Karim? Or Sa'id Shabram?**

**Yes, our dead have names too. They have faces and stories and memories. There was a time when they were among us, laughing and playing. They had dreams, just as you have. They had a tomorrow awaiting them. But today they sleep among us with no tomorrow on which to wake.**

We don't hate the British people or the peoples of the world.

**This war was imposed upon us, but we are now fighting it in defense of our selves. Because we want to live in our homeland - the free land of Iraq - and to live as we want to live, not as your government or the American government wish.**

**Let the families of those killed know that responsibility for the Thursday morning London bombings lies with Tony Blair and his policies. Stop your war against our people! Stop the daily killing that your troops commit! End your occupation of our homeland!**

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## **Assorted Resistance Action**

July 13, 2005 By KIRK SEMPLE, The New York Times Company & Aljazeera & FOCUS News Agency & By Bassem Mroue, AP & Agence France Presse

**An Iraqi Army officer and an enlisted soldier were killed when guerrillas opened fire on their car as they were driving through the middle-class neighborhood of Bayaa in western Baghdad, according to an official in the Interior Ministry.**

**Abdul Karem Altalakani, the mayor of the Rashidiya district in northern Baghdad, was attacked by guerrillas as he was driving home from work, according to a police officer in the Interior Ministry who requested anonymity for fear of reprisals. Mr. Altalakani escaped unharmed but four of his guards were wounded, the official said.**

In Kirkuk, armed men opened fire with machine guns on the convoy of Jamal Shakoor, a top city administrator and prominent member of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, according to Col. Adel Zain Al-Abedeem of the Kirkuk police force. Mr. Shakoor was unhurt but two of his guards were seriously wounded, Mr. Al-Abedeem said. It was the second assassination attempt on Mr. Shakoor this week.

A vehicle of the Greek embassy in Iraq was fired at by unidentified persons in capital Baghdad, announced RIA Novosti, citing the official representative of the Greek embassy Iorgos Kumutsakos.

The Greek diplomat said that only the driver of the car was inside at the moment of the attack and he was not injured.

Four members of Iraqi security forces were among six killed and six people wounded, including three police and one lieutenant, in a series of attacks in the capital and to the north.

The commander of a Rapid Intervention Forces unit in Diyala province, Colonel Shalan Abd al-Khaliq, died of injuries he sustained a few days ago when fighters attacked his car.

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

## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

"When the same man, or set of men, holds the sword and the purse, there is an end of liberty." ~ George Mason

"The sinews of war are endless profits." ~ Cicero, Orations Philippic (c. 60 B.C.)

[Thanks to John Gingerich, Veterans For Peace]

# **“The Power That Active Duty Personnel Hold In Stopping The War”**

June 30, 2005 Martin Smith, Out-Of-Service, USMC. Presentation given at the International Socialist Organization Summer Conference, Chicago, July 2, 2005

To start with, I want to say what an honor it is to speak on a panel with Camilo. Camilo is a hero within our movement—and not just for his bold courage in opposing the latest illegal and immoral war launched by the U.S. but also for his words of inspiration, which have helped mobilize activists, military families, and I would dare say even active duty military personnel.

What I'd like to do today is discuss my experience in the military with troop resistance, then look at the composition of today's military to suggest we can locate the power that active duty personnel hold in stopping the war, and then finally look at the history of GI resistance, particularly during the Vietnam War to suggest lessons we can learn about how to move from individual resistance by troops into collective action and ultimately bring the troops home now.

Now, while I am a member of Iraq Veterans Against the War, I can neither claim to have served in Iraq nor was I confronted with the decision to follow my conscience during wartime. I was discharged shortly after 9/11, after having served my "time," we speak of it like a prison sentence, in Hawaii—though I can assure you that the military can find a way to spoil paradise.

In fact while I didn't serve during the war, I remember numerous instances of individual refusals within the Marine Corps during my own service during so-called peacetime. In fact, one of my first memories of boot camp, beyond standing on the yellow footsteps when I arrived in San Diego and screaming at the top of my lungs—kill, kill, kill!, Was when one nameless recruit refused to shout, "kill," the phrase we were ordered to say after every command.

I will never forget the way the drill instructors surrounded him and called him every foul name imaginable—but the young recruit, fresh out of high school stood his ground. This young recruit and his actions were too threatening and he had to be isolated at once so that the rest of us didn't get any ideas. He was rushed off supposedly to the brig for disobeying an order, and we never saw him again.

**I'll also never forget LCpl Kevin Smith, who while we were both stationed at San Angelo, Texas was gay-bashed outside of the local gay bar in town. Rather than going after his attackers, however, the military was more concerned with prosecuting LCpl Smith for violating the "don't ask, don't tell" policy.**

Yet LCpl Smith fought back and worked with the Servicemembers' Legal Defense Network to change the official policy. Because of Kevin, if a military member is now similarly attacked—their sexual orientation cannot be used as an excuse to not prosecute the alleged perpetrators of the crime. And I could go on and on with more stories like these, and I can assure you we veterans love to tell stories...

But never really knowing what you're in for when you join the military, makes enlisting like playing a game of Russian roulette—most don't know what their job will be, you never know where you may be stationed at, who the commanding officers might be and if they'll be assholes—most of them are I assure you, or more importantly, whether you will be serving during war or peacetime, in the combat zone or out of harm's way—so that when you pull that trigger called enlistment, you sign up with that recruiter that makes false promises of fun, travel, and adventure—one person's hope to perhaps find themselves, get money for education, gain a marketable job skill, escape the lack of

opportunities at home, or even find refuge from a troubled past or abusive family—can explode into the realities that the recruiters so desperately want to conceal—the very real possibility of post-traumatic stress disorder, exposure to poison from depleted uranium or chemical weapons, and the very real chance that one may become maimed or even a casualty in a needless war.

The military has been called a slice of the American pie—but if it is a pie it has been cut very unevenly.

A survey of the American military paints a picture of a fighting force that is anything but a cross section of America. As a New York Times article in 2003 put it, “With minorities overrepresented and the wealthy and essentially absent, with political conservatism ascendant in the officer corps...America's 1.4 million-strong military seems to resemble the makeup of a two-year commuter or trade school outside Birmingham...far more than a four-year university in Boston.”

Blacks make up 12% of the population, but constitute about 22 per cent of enlisted personnel and black women now outnumber white women in the Army...Latinos are underrepresented in the military, but their numbers are rapidly growing.

Over the last decade, the number of Latinos in uniform grew 30%. And of course, it's important to note that there are more than 37,000 non-citizens, including “green card” soldiers who join up in the hope of expediting their citizenship—my best friend in the Marines, Cpl Aguilar, was from El Salvador and was one of this swelling number whom the military can trust with a rifle to promote U.S. empire but wouldn't trust at home with a driver's license to get back and forth from work and live in dignity.

**Thus, the military is the most integrated institution in the U.S. and it is ironic that the ONE place minorities and people of color can find equal opportunity—is when they are given the chance to die on the battlefield. But if we discuss how that pie is sliced some more—we realize that it is a piece not of America—but rather a section of the working class.**

And I think as socialists, that this is an important revelation, because it means that we realize the potential power of troops to stop the war machine. Because just as troops may in time of war carry out the orders of their officers to kill or may during peacetime scream kill as they sweat through boot camp--it also means that these same troops have the potential to question their orders, to see their interests as separate from those of their superiors, and even for these very same troops to refuse, resist, and rebel—and perhaps, even be won over to our side.

I think the question then is how we move from individual resistance into collective action. And I think that really is the challenge for us here today. I think a large part of this question can be answered by learning from our history—that is, the history of GI resistance.

**There have been instances of combat refusals, desertions, and even the killing of officers who lead their troops in harm's way in almost every war fought by the U.S. But the Vietnam War brought dissent by troops to a level never before experienced by the U.S. military. In the latter years of the war, roughly 1968-73,**

**individual combat refusals that numbered in the hundreds led to large-scale mutinies.**

**According to David Cortright, author of *Soldiers In Revolt*, soon to be republished by Haymarket, we know of 10 such mutinies by company size units in the Army. No longer killing machines, these troops instead wanted to save their own lives and return to the world, the GI's expression for coming home.**

**Other examples of collective action included soldiers would go out to a safe perimeter and sack out and smoke pot and call in false coordinates, making their own "peace from below." In a 1970 NY Times article, Fred Gardner claims that thousands of troops used this tactic in Vietnam. Other troops simply refused to fight. According to the same article by Gardner, individual refusals to fight became so widespread at the army base camp at Cu Chi, located 25 miles of Saigon, the military set up a unique company for such men. A soldier explained in the article:**

"They have set up separate companies for men who have refused to go out to the field. It is no big thing here anymore to refuse to go. If a man is ordered to go such and such place he no longer goes through the hassle of refusing; he just packs his shirt and goes visit some buddies at another base camp..."

"Many guys don't even put on their uniforms anymore. I am almost always wearing a pair of keds, a blue tie-dye shirt and army pants I made into cut-offs. I put in an appearance at work sometimes to see if I've gotten any mail."

One act of resistance that primarily occurred in the base camps was the act of "fragging," slang for the murder or threat of attack on NCOs and officers, known as lifers, by throwing a smoke or explosive grenade in their quarters. Fragging and threats of fragging were, in fact, acts of "intimidation," and a means to discipline the brass and the lifers that were too "gung ho," GI slang for soldiers who are extremely motivated for combat duty.

The Army, realizing the growing unrest, officially began counting these incidents in 1969 and reported that fraggings increased from 126 in 1969, 271 in 1970, and to 238 in the first seven months of 1971. The elite Americal division alone averaged one fragging per week during 1971.

In a Defense Department Appropriations Hearing in 1971, a military official admitted that due to the nature of combat, it is impossible to have an accurate account of all fragging incidents and that, perhaps, only about ten percent actually ended up in court. Army judge Captain Barry Steinberg admitted that once an officer was intimidated by the threat of fragging, he could no longer carry out orders and that all officers and NCOs had to take into account the possibility of fraggings before passing out orders. Moreover the reaction by troops, as evidenced by military records, suggests that fraggings were not simply spontaneous individual acts of anger.

**According to Marine historian Colonel Heintz in a famous 1971 *Armed Forces Journal* article, the news of deaths of officers would bring cheers at troop movies and around base campus. Soldiers put bounties on officers' heads, which were collected jointly, and then given to the soldier who carried out the collective**

**decision. Such affirmation suggests there was widespread anger and dissent shared by many troops. Soldiers placed a bounty of \$10,000 on the head of Lieutenant Colonel Weldon Honeycutt, after he had ordered the attack known as “Hamburger Hill,” which killed 84 grunts after 11 attempts to advance up the terrain, according to Heinl. [Hackworth was merely for arresting him, with court martial to follow. T]**

For those companies who continued their missions in the field, a new command technique was established called “working it out,” it which troops and officers would negotiate orders before carrying them out.

**In this way, search and destroy missions were dismantled and subverted into search and evade missions, in which troops demanded less contact with the enemy. As Captain Uterhahlen, commanding officer of Alpha Company explained in a 1970 Life magazine article, “Charging up hills has gone right out of fashion.”**

**Thus Vietnam produced the breakdown of the U.S. military. As Colonel Heinl wrote in a famous article in the Armed Forces Journal in 1971, obviously not a typical source for leftists, “The Morale, discipline and battleworthiness of the U.S. Armed Forces are lower and worse than at any time in this century and possibly in the history of the United States.**

By every conceivable indicator our army that now remains in Vietnam is in a state approaching collapse.” We know that the defeat of the U.S. war machine was due to three factors—the national liberation movement by Vietnamese, the anti-war movement at home, and the breakdown of the U.S. military. But it’s not just that there were three factors, as if this is some perfect formula for stopping the war—but that between this three factors there was also a connection—an exchange, a give and take—that was important to the success of each. That, I feel is the lesson for us today.

**Soldiers were transformed by the contact with the Vietnamese national liberation movement, the NLF. To begin with, soldiers in Vietnam realized that the lies that our government told them about the Vietnamese fighters—that they were red communist boogie men, didn’t match their own experiences on the ground.**

Soldiers saw that they Vietnamese lived in extreme poverty and were peasant farmers, and troops were often surprised by the dedication and fighting ability of the Vietnamese.

**As Barry Romo of Vietnam Veterans Against the War put it, “I had the utmost respect for the enemy. Next to us, these guys were the best soldiers in the world. How come they’d fight to the death? When they ran out of bullets they’d throw fucking rocks and kick your fucking butts. Saigon troops, that is the troops the U.S. supported, ran away, sold drugs, sold their sisters into prostitutions, were lazy. Why were we fighting for people who wouldn’t fight for themselves?”**

In addition, the National Liberation Front realizing the racial tensions within the U.S. posted signs around the country appealing to black troops not to fight. One such sign read—U.S. Negro Army Men: You are committing the same crimes in Vietnam that the KKK is perpetrating against your family at home.”

**Troops in Vietnam began to make unofficial truces with the other side. No one would fire unless fired upon—some troops even stopped carrying their weapons. Thus, there was a connection between the national liberation movement, which fought for an end to colonial domination, and the U.S. soldiers who demanded the light at the end of the tunnel that was promised.**

There was also a bond between the civilian anti-war movement and the GI Movement. In fact both movements gave confidence to each other. The anti-war movement was given a sense of legitimacy and could cut through the support our boys rhetoric from the Johnson/Nixon administrations when they had large numbers of returning veterans and active duty troops at their rallies.

**Likewise, the GI Movement depended on the support of civilians to help publicize their issues to the media, collect money for legal defense of troops who refused to be sent to the war, to organize GI coffeehouse projects outside bases where troops could learn about radical politics, and to contribute to the production of over 240 underground GI newspapers which flourished stateside, papers like Vietnam GI, Bragg Briefs, the Bond. But in addition to these contributions—the importance for GIs was the infusion of anti-imperialist and anti-racist politics by socialists and the Left. The Left gave confidence to the GI Movement and helped arm it.**

I'd like to point out some of the important examples of how socialists intervened in the GI Movement. In fact, the first major public acts of resistance by troops during the Vietnam War was the refusal in June 1966 of three privates from Fort Hood, TX to ship out to Vietnam, known as the Fort Hood 3, and they were sentenced to three years of hard labor. The Fort Hood Three received much publicity and inspired a series of individual acts of resistance and the slogan--I follow the Fort Hood Three. Who will follow me?-- was used by others.

One of the Fort Hood Three, Private Dennis Mora was then a member of the Communist Party's youth group, the Du Bois club. In 1968, Joe Miles, a member of the Young Socialist Alliance, was drafted and ended up at Fort Jackson where he helped form GI United Against the War, a antiwar protest group formed by soldiers.

On base, he began circulating socialist newspapers and playing tapes of Malcolm X to other black troops. He stated, "The GIs were just sort of bubbling. And all this time, before the first meeting, I'd been talking about the war and about Black Nationalism and giving out copies of the militant and things like that and drawing a group of guys around. And these guys, I'd rap them a little bit harder and say, "Well we ought to do something about the war," and get together and talk about how we could go about it."

And I think it's interesting that soldiers weren't put off by Mile's socialist politics or socialist newspapers but were actually drawn into these meetings which then mushroomed into a petition drive for the rights of GIs to hold a large meeting on base against the war. These same troops also began giving the black power salute to protest the racist conditions on base and as a symbol of the solidarity. Since Fort Jackson was an Army training school and boot camp, members of GIs United decided that wherever they may be shipped out to at their next duty station, they would continue organizing as a means to spread anti-war GI activity. Many of these activists ended up in Vietnam.

After only six weeks at Fort Jackson, Miles was shipped off to Fort Bragg where he formed another chapter of GIs United. Meanwhile, the remaining troops at Fort Jackson held a spontaneous meeting outside the barracks one night that drew almost two hundred soldiers—the command on base took action and arrested members of the group in what became known as the case of the Fort Jackson 8—which sparked civilian support for the cause of GI Rights and GI organizing, mainly by the Socialist Workers Party and resulted in the military dropping all charges against the eight defendants.

Other socialists who were drafted also organized from within, include another YSA member Howard Petrick and Andy Stapp, who attempted to unionize the military with his American Servicemembers' Union, which at its peak claimed 7,000 members, including women in 1969.

In conclusion, we already have a growing insurgency in Iraq, there is now a small anti-war movement here in the U.S. and we know that there is resistance among the troops—we already have our Fort Hood Three—Camilo, Pablo Paredes and Kevin Bendermen. We now of at least two counts of fraggings—including Staff Sgt. Alberto Martinez who killed two senior officers at a U.S. base near Tikrit. There has already been a major combat refusal last fall when 17 members of the 343rd Quartermaster Company refused a suicide mission in Iraq.

**There are already weblogs by soldiers in Iraq who are angry at the war and creating their own form of underground dissent—if you're interested check out [ftssoldier.blogspot.com](http://ftssoldier.blogspot.com).**

The question for us shouldn't just be that there are 3 parts to a perfect formula to stop the war but rather that we need to rebuild the connections between all three—between the resistance by Iraqi's, the antiwar movement at home, and the dissent within the U.S. military. That means supporting troops when they speak out and resist. But that also means interjecting socialist politics in both the anti-war movement and into the new GI Movement.

**We need to rebuild an anti-imperialist and anti-racist tradition in both so that our movements have a clear footing in realizing that this war isn't an exception or about one far-right president that is rebuilding the evil empire. No, we have to explain that capitalism creates war, and that imperialist war is part and parcel of capitalism—no matter which party is sitting at the throne.**

We also need to discuss anti-racism with the movement—the dehumanization and scapegoating of Arabs and Muslims is the most immediate way that the military is able to convince troops that they are fighting against a people with no humanity.

**Thus, I think our task is great—but that building these connections will mean building the necessary steps so that the troops who serve may also become the very same troops who rebel.**

**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.**

## **“When We Bomb Them Does It Matter If They Die?”**

July 13, 2005 By Julian Coppins, London; Green Left Weekly

Two weeks earlier, in my English language beginners' class for refugees, a middle-aged Iraqi student answered her mobile phone. She lives alone in a bed-and-breakfast near Kings Cross. Her husband is dead, killed by Saddam, and her five children live in Baghdad.

**For the last two years, she has been unsuccessfully trying to get permission from the Home Office for her children to join her in London. When she finished speaking on the phone, she returned to the class in tears. It was her daughter telling her a bomb had gone off that morning in the market in Baghdad — 30 dead so far. She was distraught.**

**Today the first 10-15 pages of every newspaper are devoted to the bombings in London.**

**Unless Western soldiers or contractors are involved, the bombs in Baghdad only get a few paragraphs in the middle.**

Now, the papers are full of eyewitness accounts: dozens of near-miss testimonies — “lucky I had two coffees instead of my usual one”; minute-by-minute accounts from survivors; the tragedy of the dead and their loved ones; the flowers and the memorials; and the stoic Londoners getting on with business. We will be watching and reading all about it for weeks, in London and around the world, thanks to all those TV cameras filming the tube station entrances and the white plastic sheets.

**But, as Respect MP George Galloway said on TV last night, what about the dead in Baghdad and Fallujah? In Mosul, Basra and Tikrit? In Afghanistan? In the refugee camps of the Gaza strip and the West Bank?**

**When the bombs fall from 10 kilometres in the air, so high you can't even hear the planes, and kill thousands, or they rip through busy streets and market places in Baghdad, we don't hear their stories of near escapes, chance decisions or the tragedy and sorrow of their families. We don't see the blurry images from mobile phones.**

**In Baghdad, do they stare out the window of the bus wondering if or when another explosion will bring death to the city? Do they keep away from that bus route, street or market stall for a few days? Or do they lie in bed desperately trying to hear the almost imperceptible rumble of a B-52 miles above? Do the authorities erect white plastic sheets to hide the body parts?**

**When our governments bomb them, do they have hundreds of ambulances, fire engines and police bringing out the wounded and rushing them to hospital, all within 20 minutes? Or do they just bleed to death on the pavement? When we bomb them does it matter if they die?**

**Our bombers have expensive planes and millions of dollars of training, nice uniforms and the advice of expensive lawyers. They are sanctioned by “democratically elected” governments.**

**So now, to paraphrase the Queen Mother, we Londoners can look the people of Baghdad in the eye. But is it really the same?**

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

## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

# **Occupation Terrorists Slaughter More Iraqis**

July 13, 2005 By KIRK SEMPLE, The New York Times Company & Aljazeera & AP

**Early Wednesday, Iraqi security forces stormed several houses across Baghdad, detaining, torturing and killing 13 Sunni Arab men, including a cleric, the Sunni clerical Association of Muslim Scholars said.**

**“All bore torture marks and bullet wounds to the back of the head.”**

At Saba Abkar, a predominantly Sunni Arab district in northern Baghdad, 13 Sunni Arabs, including a cleric from the Malik al-Mulk mosque, were arrested on Sunday by a group of police officers.

**According to the relatives, the victims' bodies appeared two days later, dumped in the Sadr City neighborhood.**

Diaa al-Hadithi, a senior official from the Sunni Endowment, a major Sunni umbrella group, demanded an investigation into the killings.

"We don't refuse to be summoned before the authorities but this should be done in the legal way," he said in a telephone interview.

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# Collaborator Government Stealing Profits From Oil

July 14, 2005 By Howard LaFranchi, Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

First, the good news: With oil prices at record highs, Iraq is on track to bring in \$20 billion or more in oil revenue this year.

**But the bad news is that very little, if any, of that money will actually be used in the country's stalled reconstruction - despite past lofty predictions that oil-rich Iraq would be financially self-sufficient by now.**

Recently, for example, hundreds of millions of dollars in oil revenues were found after they were "misplaced" in unauthorized Iraqi and Jordanian bank accounts, according to some press reports.

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## OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**UNCONQUERED. UNCONQUERABLE.**

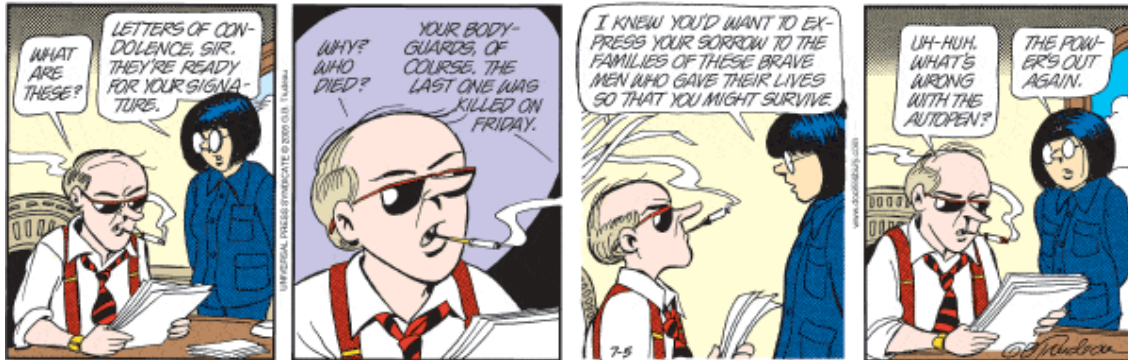


A Palestinian youth hurls stones at Israeli troops in the occupied Palestinian city of Tulkarm July 13, 2005. Israeli occupation troops raided Tulkarm on Wednesday, shooting dead a Palestinian policeman. REUTERS/Abed Omar Qusini

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

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## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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