

GI SPECIAL 3C45:



Behold, The Words Of Prophecy

From: Z
To: GI Special
Sent: September 05, 2005

Let us suppose for a moment—but only a moment!—that our top political and corporate leaders are a bloody bunch of brutal barbarians. If that were the case, we might witness the following sight:

A long procession of people is winding its way to the capital of the Free World. It consists of men, women, children, babies, and old folks. Most of them are poor. Leading the way are over twenty thousand Afghans. Shuffling along behind them come more than one hundred thousand Iraqis. Bringing up the rear are thousands of Americans, some of them soldiers and the rest civilians.

Upon reaching the capital, the people are divided into groups of manageable size and invited to sit down and wait.

Some will eventually be conducted to the Capitol Rotunda, others to the White House lawn.

There they will be sacrificed to the gods of freedom, democracy, and corporate prosperity.

Some will have their hearts ripped out or their heads torn off, some will be dismembered and some will be crushed.

Some will be shot, burned, or shredded by shrapnel. Some will be allowed to die from exposure, malnutrition, or illness. And some will be drowned in filthy water.

Now, as everyone knows, we shall never witness such a hideous scene because our top political and corporate leaders are most emphatically not a bloody bunch of brutal barbarians.

For one thing, our leaders are always impeccably dressed and coifed, and no one has ever seen a well dressed barbarian. What's more, their words are soft-spoken, reasonable, rich in vocabulary, and grammatically correct, when we all know that barbarians can't even speak English, much less speak it properly.

But more importantly, our leaders would never even dream of bringing so many tens of thousands of innocent people to the capital of the Free World and killing them in such a cruel fashion. This is not their style at all, and they are above all a people of exquisite refinement and style. They are, in a word, civilized.

Our leaders truly hate to shed blood and if they cannot help doing it, they invariably prefer to carry out the disagreeable deed at a discreet distance.

If they speak of bloodshed at all, they do so in a tone of sincere regret and, much to their credit, never fail to apologize for any loss of innocent life. Most important of all, they themselves have never been known to kill anyone directly. That part is always left to nature, destiny, or to the rest of us, thus demonstrating yet again that these genuine aristocrats are admirably suited to be our leaders.

For how could it be otherwise? How could we possibly survive without the dependable comfort and guidance of their paternal wisdom and compassion? Whom would we work for, whom would we sell our lives to? Without our betters to lead and profit from us, we would no doubt be as lost as helpless babes, and soon make a terrible mess of things.

Just in case any doubting Thomas still needs convincing, here is the ultimate proof of our benefactors' fundamental goodness: If our top leaders were anything less than civilized, or even remotely comparable to a bloody bunch of brutal barbarians, would not the White House, the Capitol, and sundry corporate headquarters be surrounded by millions of outraged Americans brandishing the modern-day equivalents of Transylvanian pitchforks?

Well, wouldn't they?

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

2 TASK FORCE BAGHDAD SOLDIERS KILLED

September 6, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
Release Number: 05-09-06C

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- Two Task Force Baghdad Soldiers were killed when their vehicle rolled over after striking an improvised explosive device around 10 a.m. Sept. 6 in central Baghdad.

Two other Soldiers were wounded.

SOLDIER KILLED IN TAL AFAR IED ATTACK

September 6, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
Release Number: 05-09-05C

TAL AFAR, Iraq – A Task Force Freedom Soldier died when the vehicle he was in was struck by an improvised explosive device in Tal Afar Sept. 5.

SOLDIER KILLED BY RAMADI IED

September 6, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
Release Number: 05-09-07C

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – A Soldier assigned to 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), was killed in action when the vehicle he was in hit an improvised explosive device Sept. 5. The incident occurred during combat operations in Ar Ramadi, Iraq.

7th Cav Soldier Dead In Rollover

September 6, 2005 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 918-05

Spc. Luke C. Williams, 35, of Knoxville, Tenn., died on Sept. 5, 2005 in Baghdad, Iraq, when the HMMWV he was riding in accidentally rolled over into a ditch. Williams was assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga.

Six US Soldiers Wounded By Qiam IED

06 September 2005 New Kerala

In the border city of Qiam, west of Iraq, a US humvee was destroyed after striking a roadside bomb, police said, adding that six US soldiers were injured in the blast.

Burlington Guardsman Terry Grant In Danger Of Losing Arm; Roadside Bomb Defense Tank Blown Up By Roadside Bomb

September 6, 2005 The Hawk Eye

An Iowa National Guardsman from Burlington was severely injured Thursday when a bomb he was trying to remove from a roadside detonated.

Spec. Terry Grant, 40, a member of Company A of the 224th Engineers, based in Burlington, was expected to arrive soon in Germany for further treatment of his injuries. His sister, Christine Grant of Burlington, said Monday that family members locally still were waiting to hear whether surgeons would be able to save the soldier's left arm.

Christine Grant said her brother had three close calls in March, escaping injury in incidents that left other members of the 224th dead or injured.

"This time he got it," she said.

The incident occurred Thursday afternoon local time in Baghdad, where Terry Grant, his sister said, was driving a vehicle she called a buffalo tank that is used to retrieve roadside bombs. One such device exploded, ripping into the vehicle and injuring Grant severely.

In addition to a concussion and wounds in his back, Christine Grant said her brother lost a portion of his bicep and the bone was broken. The arm was not completely severed, however, she said.

In his civilian life, Terry Grant works at Borghi USA in West Burlington. He has a daughter, Kiley Grant, 10, and is the son of Jim Grant and Sandy Higdon, both of Burlington.

One U.S. Soldier Wounded In Karabila

Sept 6 (Reuters)

The U.S. military said it killed two foreign fighters and detained three in a raid on a house near Karabila. One soldier was wounded. The house was then destroyed by an air strike.

Islander's Nephew Injured

09/06/05 San Juan Islander

Minnie Knych's nephew, Sgt. Richard (Buzz) Robertson, is in intensive care at Walter Reed hospital after he was wounded in Iraq last week. He had shrapnel in his liver and stomach. The worst of his injuries is a lacerated spinal cord.

He serves in Special Operations out of Fort Bragg. His unit was in an up-armored Humvee when they hit a mine near the border of Syria. Several of the men died in the attack.

Knych said, Robertson's wife and baby daughter are visiting him daily - and his mother, Knych's sister, has been with him all week and will stay in Washington DC until they operate on his spine.

She said, "I would like to encourage islanders to let him know that we, as a nation, are grateful for his service and wish him well. Please send him a cheerful get well or thank you card. Thank him for his service. Let him know your thoughts and prayers are with him. He was coming close to 20 years of service in the Army and is a very dedicated and patriotic young man."

Tal Afar Being Destroyed In Order To Save It:

U.S. Command Still Peddling Tired, Stupid "Foreign Fighters" Bullshit

Sep. 06, 2005 ROBERT H. REID, Associated Press & IslamOnline & By Maher al-Thanoon (Reuters)

Thousands of civilians fled Tal Afar, a predominantly ethnic Turkomen city 260 miles northwest of Baghdad where U.S. and Iraqi soldiers are trying to wrest control from insurgents.

Plumes of smoke rose from the city, which sits along a major trade and smuggling route to Syria. Ambulances were seen carrying at least 10 wounded civilians toward nearby Mosul.

Some of those who fled sought refuge in the village of Taha, where local officials scrambled to provide for about 700 families.

Some of the refugees disputed claims by Iraqi officials that foreign fighters had joined local insurgents in the fighting inside Tal Afar.

"We did not see any strangers like Saudis, Syrians or others," said Hazem Mohammed Ali, deputy chairman of a Turkomen association in Tal Afar.

"The people are suffering from lack of food stuff, drinkable water and blankets, because it is getting cold during the night here."

A fresh US and Iraqi offensive into the northern city of Tal Afar has sent 90 percent of its population into panicky flight, while the rest are sending impassioned SOS messages as they were trapped inside homes by imposed curfews.

"We went to the neighboring city of Mosul several days ago as the US offensive was preceded by power and phone outages, the signs of a looming large-scale operation," Abu Nabil told IslamOnline.net Tuesday, September 6.

"I'm deeply concerned at the fate of my relatives and other locals after the US-backed Iraqi troops isolated the city and prevented remaining residents from leaving."

His son Nabil, 24, added that US occupation troops made house-to-house searches and arrested dozens of locals.

The city, which is close to the Syrian borders, has been under fierce US bombing and fire since Sunday, September 4.

Before the bombing, US helicopters dropped leaflets demanding locals to leave the city for their lives, witnesses told Al-Quds press.

US-backed Iraqi troops afterwards razor-wired and shut down city entrances and exits.

On Sunday, the US military said that US F-16 jet fighters dropped two bombs on the city, destroying a mosque and killing at least seven people.

The Sunni Islamic Party said its branch in Mosul, 80 kilometers (50 miles) from Tal Afar, Iraq's main northern city of Mosul, has received scores of Tal Afar people, estimated at 300,000.

It said it has set up an emergency operation room to provide makeshift shelters and aid to the refugees.

A party source told IOL that up to 200 families received aid and were accommodated.

Medics told Al-Quds Press that the Tal Afar hospital cannot cope with the growing number of injured as it badly lacks in doctors and medical stuff.

Television footage showed Iraqi soldiers bursting into houses in Tal Afar searching for weapons, pictures of captured former president Saddam Hussein and video cassettes before leading suspects away.

WINNING UNDYING LOYALTY: TO THE ARMED RESISTANCE, THAT IS



U.S. Army Spc Marcel Baburnic with the 25th Infantry Division kicks open a door while on patrol in the Iraqi city of Rawah, 217 miles northwest of Baghdad, September 5, 2005. (US Army/SSG Kyle Davis/Handout/Reuters)

RECRUITING FOR THE RESISTANCE; PART 2

September 6, 2005 New York Times

A small town 10 miles south of Fallujah, Faris, was recently occupied by the U.S. military. Insurgents responded quickly with a rocket attack that missed the troops and killed a 12-year-old boy and injured eight others.

Some resident directed their anger at the American troops, whose arrival they blame for drawing that attack.

RECRUITING FOR THE RESISTANCE; PART 3: Get Out Of Town

06 September 2005 Aljazeera

US forces set Tuesday afternoon as a deadline for citizens of al-Sarai and Hasan Koi areas to leave their houses, as they plan to launch a vast military operation there, the sources added.

TROOP NEWS

**We Need You Here!
You Need To Be Here!
Tell Them: Bring Us Home Now!
OPEN LETTER TO ALL TROOPS
—Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve**

September 6, 2005 By Stan Goff [Master Sgt., U.S. Army Special Forces (ret'd)],
[Bring Them Home Now, www.bringthemhomenow.com/ Check it out!]

We need you here!

You need to be here!

Email, write or phone your elected officials (Senators, Representatives, Governors) TODAY and tell them that we need the troops back home now. Tell

your families and your friends to start bombarding those elected officials TODAY. Here is the link to get their contact information:

<http://www.firstgov.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>

Then send the things you want to say to the public, but can't because certain ass-kissing brass want to silence you to protect their careers, to the Bring Them Home Now! campaign at <bthn@mfso.org>. We will not print your name unless you specifically request it.

I can't tell you to do any more than that without risking being sent to jail.

Remember, you have every right to contact your elected officials, and this is one of the rare times when they have no choice but to listen. Public support for the occupation was already less than 40% and sinking in all major polls when Katrina was just a couple of cottony clouds off the coast of West Africa.

Fox News is probably all you are getting over there right now, so let me be the first to tell you.

Fox News is complicit in one of the most bald-faced cover-ups I have ever seen, and I have seen my share. There has been no heroic attempt to help the victims of Katrina, except by the INDIVIDUALS among the emergency services, and National Guard. The Federal government's response to the Hurricane Katrina has been a disorganized mess on par with any you may have seen in Iraq.

If you are currently deployed in Afghanistan or Iraq, you may not know just how horrifyingly screwed up things are in the Gulf Coast states. Thousands have already died, and most of the bodies haven't even been recovered. Tens of thousands are still suffering from hunger, disease, dehydration, and cold fear for their loved ones. The EPA has already said the toxins can't be cleaned up even spending the equivalent of the US Gross National Product.

Private efforts to get in and help HAVE BEEN TURNED AWAY BY SECURITY as part of the Bush administration "response."

A big part of that colossal snafu is the fact that so many of the traditional first responders to major crises within the US, the National Guard and the Army, have been shipped abroad to kill Arabs for Halliburton -- who by the way has already been handed a no-bid contract for the reconstruction of the Gulf Coast.

That's right. War profiteer Halliburton is now a disaster profiteer, too.

By the way, the 2005 hurricane season is only half over. A few major wildfires, an earthquake, or a nuclear accident and the cost of having 140,000 of you halfway round the world will be too great for the country to bear.

Many of you are surely and justifiably anxious about the fates of the people on the Gulf Coast. Some of you call this region home, and most of you would willingly assist this region in your own country if given the chance.

Some of you are anxious, frustrated, and even angry that you are bottled up in a war based on lies, when you could be helping in places like New Orleans.

Imagine how quickly people could be recovered in New Orleans right now if every helicopter currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan were available. Imagine how many field hospitals could be established. Imagine how many food and water drops could be accomplished. Imagine how many light water craft could be deployed.

Imagine how many poor people who couldn't heed the mandatory evacuation order because they had no automobiles could have been pre-evacuated with the fleet of C-5's, C-17's, C-141's, and C-130's that are currently being employed to occupy and dominate people far, far from your own homes. How many 5-tons, deuce-and-a-halves, military buses, and "cattle trucks" could have been employed to shuttle people to the airport for evacuation.

You see, they KNEW that they needed more than an order. People wrote about it for years, and were warning about it just last year. But the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was downgraded from a cabinet-level position under Bush, placed under the Director of Homeland Security, and had its budget gutted... the same way Bush wanted to gut your benefits, the way this administration closes VA Hospitals.

It neglected the warnings from its own generals that Iraq was a bad idea, just as it ignored the warnings that the levees in New Orleans could stand no more than a Category 3 hurricane.

These are the same guys that sent you into combat based on bullshit stories, with hummers uparmored by scrap metal and prayers substituting for body armor.

The people in charge do not give a damn about you or the victims of this disaster, except in how you can help them pursue the agenda of the day. They only respond to your needs and not their needs when it becomes a political crisis for them.

In the language you understand best, they are unfit for command.

When you see the images of the people still trapped in the Gulf Coast, some of them children slowly dying of dehydration, many of them exposed to unspeakable toxins and pathogens, none of them rich... when you see an absentee President whose administration was ill-prepared because it cared nothing for the actual people there (except for the wealthy, of course)...when you see the President under pressure blurting out brave words about "law and order" instead of rescue... and when you see the President dropping in for a quick photo opportunity using victims as background--by the way, tons of aid supplies were put on hold to provide whirling helicopters as a backdrop for Bush's on-site visit... when you see all this...

Can you see your own reflections there?

Soldiers still trapped in Iraq, troops still dying (for lies and to enrich the war profiteers like Halliburton), exposed to DU and experimental vaccinations, none of you rich... when you remember the same President who read lies off the teleprompter, but wouldn't read his own intelligence briefings, who went on long vacations while you risked everything, who blurted out offensive foolishness like "bring 'em on," with no thought that he was challenging people to kill you, who will not attend your funerals or talk to your loved ones if they asked him what the war is for, and who uses troops as backdrops for publicity stunts... ..

Isn't that your own reflection in the victims of Katrina?

These politicians and CEO's do not care about working class and poor people. They'll offer you a minimum wage job near a toxic dump, as many of the poor, black, white, and Latino have discovered in Louisiana, and if you want out... well, then join the military and kill Muslims for us to help us get control over their oil.

They will use you up in a dangerous or dead-end low-wage job, or use you as cannon fodder in their oil wars. But they use you. That's not caring. They care about you the way Tyson Foods cares about chickens.

Pat you on the head, tell you you're a hero to keep you going, give you some pretty ribbons in exchange for your health, your leg, or your life, and then you can go straight to hell as far as they're concerned.

Ask the (good) people at the VA hospitals who can't deliver timely care because they have been defunded. Bush medical care for vets is a lot like Bush evacuation plans. Recover on your own, or die.

It took George W. Bush almost three days to get off his sorry ass and even appear in public about Katrina, and then with nothing but a photo of him peering out of the window of Air Force One, while he suppressed that mindless sociopathic smirk long enough for the shutter to snap.

He played guitars and cut cakes after the storm, for the cameras, while people were trapped in 125 degree attics by foul stormwater without food or drinkable water.

The suit he appointed to run the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) - Mike Brown - had no qualification for the job except Republican Party activism. Brown had run horse shows, and had been fired for incompetence, before he got his FEMA appointment.

Kind of like some of the shit that floats to the top of the military hierarchy by kissing the right asses isn't it?

Tell everyone who will listen that you are needed in New Orleans and Biloxi, not Bagram or Baghdad.

Your emails, letters, and calls and those of your friends and families, can become a high pressure front in a new storm.

Because there surely is a storm of anger growing here not only at the incompetence and callousness of the government and but also at the savage racism and killing contempt for poor folk and ordinary working people that underlie the failure to plan, the failure to act, and the failure to care!

Tell them: Bring Us Home Now!

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.

Soldiers Wife Speaks For Him & Others On Active Duty Against The War: No More Heckling In Kansas City

Tammara told us that her husband is stationed at Ft. Hood. His Army unit is scheduled to deploy to Iraq in November. He supports Tammara's involvement with Military Families Speak Out and the peace movement. Tammara told us that her husband's captain and chaplain also support her efforts.

04 September, 2005 Jason Miller, Countercurrents.org. [Excerpt]

Yesterday evening, I left work and headed for the Plaza area of my hometown of Kansas City, anticipating the arrival of one of the Bus Tours from Camp Casey. My excitement was justified.

Three to four hundred anti-war demonstrators gathered to show their support for Cindy Sheehan's group. The caravan from Crawford was a little late, but people found plenty to do as they waited. Petitions circulated. People met, mingled and discussed their disgust with the Bush administration and its imperialistic policies. Many of the demonstrators admired the enormous collage assembled with ribbons bearing the names of each US soldier who has died in Iraq since the illegal occupation began.

Having participated in local anti-war demonstrations before, I was used to getting the finger and hearing insults. Yesterday, I felt awe-struck by the virtually overwhelming support of passers-by. The assembly was situated in a park on the corner of a busy intersection and took place during rush hour. I noticed many people honking, waving, gesturing and smiling with approval. I heard no cursing

and saw no vulgar gestures. Bush's supporters are obviously dwindling and feeling less inclined to express their views publicly.

Deeply tanned by her stint in the hot Texas sun, Tammara Rosenleaf, gratified her eager listeners with her brief bio, news of Camp Casey, anecdotes, and information about the Iraqi occupation. For that hour, we were direct participants in the national movement against the Iraqi debacle.

Tammara told us that her husband is stationed at Ft. Hood. His Army unit is scheduled to deploy to Iraq in November. He supports Tammara's involvement with Military Families Speak Out and the peace movement. Tammara told us that her husband's captain and chaplain also support her efforts.

Tammara emphasized to her audience that the Iraqi occupation also affects many facets of life stateside, for both returning veterans and other working class or poor Americans. In New Orleans, 3,000 National Guardsmen who would have been helping during Katrina are busy occupying Iraq instead. Military helicopters which could have been used to air-lift people out of the city and to help repair the dikes are also in Iraq.

“He Should Have Already Been Home”

September 5th, 2005 by Karen Meredith, Gold Star Families for Peace, Bring Them Home Now Tour [Excerpt]

In Milwaukee, we worked with Vietnam Veterans Against the War, and representatives from organized labor. The speaker from Vietnam Veterans Against the War gave us a quiz based on the similarities between Vietnam and Iraq, instructing us that the answer to every question was “It was a Lie!” He said there was no difference in dying in a hot wet jungle and dying in a hot dry jungle.

When we pulled up in Chicago to our host family tonight, Fox News and Channel 7 were standing in the yard!

They interviewed everyone from the bus – I told them about my son, Army First Lt. Kenneth Ballard, who was killed in action May 30th, 2004 in Najaf, Iraq. Kenneth was my only child, and he was killed 384 days into his time in Iraq – after his tour was extended. He should have already been home.

“We're Over There For A Bullshit-Ass Reason”

From: D
To: GI Special

Sent: September 06, 2005
Subject: "bullshit-ass reason"

Was passing out flyers on campus today and an ROTC student walked by.

I asked her, "what do you think about the war?" and she said, It's "bullshit."

"We're over there for a bullshit-ass reason"

And she took some flyers about our meetings and the national antiwar demonstration in D.C. on Sept. 24. -D

“I’m Extremely Pissed That My Friends Are Fighting And Dying To Make Rich Idiots Richer”

From a review of *Letters From The War Zone; Michael Moore*, by Jesse McLaren, 2.16.05 Socialist Worker, Canada

What the soldiers say:

“The Iraqis don’t want our help. If they did, they would not be trying to kill us.

“We left thinking that we were protecting the Iraqi people and the people of the United States from terrorism. When in truth we are the terrorists.”

”The American administration in Iraq was not a failure. It-did not secure the rights of the Iraqi people, but it did secure other things. The oil fields are secure, and American corporations secured multi billion-dollar government contracts to plunder that Iraqi oil. We should all be proud our right to Iraqi property is secure. Let freedom ring.”

“Your purpose is to collect bullets and fill a body bag.”

“Hell, other than playing dress-up on aircraft carriers, what would he know about serving this nation in uniform?”

“I’m extremely pissed that my friends are fighting and dying to make rich idiots richer.”

Payday Loan Predators Are Criminals

Letters To The Editor
Army Times

September 05, 2005

I was pleased to see that more commanders are taking an active role against payday loan companies and high-interest auto salespeople who see soldiers as easy money and easy targets.

Even as a first lieutenant who should have known better, I fell prey. I needed a computer and needed one fast. I filled out all of the proper paperwork to get my allotment started. As of September 2004, I was getting \$179 deducted a month until I paid off \$4,492.83 for a Sony Vaio desktop system.

According to my paperwork, I should still owe \$2,523.83.

I never received a monthly statement from the finance company. When I went back to the kiosk with all my leave and earning statements in hand, the store had been renamed and the staff gave me what could only be described as the thousand-yard stare. When I contacted the finance company, it claimed I still have \$3,247.13 left to pay.

I may have had to take "A history of math" for my college equivalent, but I can still successfully balance a checkbook, and something smells rotten to the tune of \$723.30.

Both companies seem to be pointing the finger at the other as far as blame is concerned, but I am not any richer for it.

I have seen these computer kiosks staffed by attractive women who target young men who are obviously servicemen assigned to the military installations nearby.

They ask for all of your pay information upfront and for all of the information on the soldier's chain of command, obviously very shrewdly gaining all the resources to get hold of the soldier or the soldier's immediate supervisors if he is delinquent in pay. But these companies do not provide the service member, who is rightfully their customer, with an equally easy method to find out answers.

The store that was quite happy to assist in running up my debt did not seem the least bit helpful as to how to provide a solution when I showed it, with all the corroborating paperwork, what I had paid to the company and what the financing company says I still owe.

Commanders, as an officer I admit my folly in trusting a company such as this.

I have the financial means to recover from this, no matter what the outcome. The average E-1 through E-3 just graduated from Advanced Individual Training, however, does not.

These companies prey on the soldier as easily as the strip bars or the local dealer.

Just because going to one of these retailers isn't punishable by the Uniform Code of Military Justice, doesn't mean what the stores are doing to a soldier's finances isn't a crime.

Capt. Brian Ellis
Cameron, N.C.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Attack Cuts Baiji-Baghdad Pipeline

Sept 6 (Reuters)

SAMARRA - Iraq's North Oil Company said an oil pipeline west of Samarra was set on fire late on Monday. The line carried crude from Baiji to Baghdad.

Attack Near Falluja Kills Four Collaborator Troops, 5 Wounded

06 September 2005 (KUNA)

Seven Iraqis, including four soldiers, were killed in a bomb blast near Fallujah in western Iraq on Tuesday, the Iraqi police said.

A police source said in a statement an explosive device went off near a vehicle of the Iraqi army.

The blast was followed by clashes between the Iraqi soldiers and armed fighters near Fallujah.

The attack killed four soldiers and three civilians, as well as wounding five soldiers, and the US forces cordoned off the area and arrested 13 suspects, said the source.

Assorted Resistance Action

06 September 2005 Aljazeera & New Kerala & (Reuters) & Associated Press

On Monday, armed men seized one of the sons of the governor of al-Anbar province, Mamoun Sami Rashid al-Alwani, officials said on condition of anonymity for fear of fighters' reprisals.

The abduction occurred in the provincial capital of Ramadi, west of Baghdad.

In the northern city of Mosul, insurgents killed two Kurdish Peshmurga fighters.

Insurgents opened fire late Monday on Mohammed Ramadan and Mahrous Sadiq of the Peshmurga militia, which is affiliated to the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan party led by Iraqi President Jalal Talabani. The men were killed instantly.

DHULUIYA - An Iraqi army officer was shot dead by armed fighters while returning home from work on Monday in Dhuluiya, 40 km (25 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Armed fighters launched multiple attacks Sunday against U.S. and Iraqi targets in Hit, 85 miles west of Baghdad. Twelve people — including 11 civilians, an Iraqi soldier and three bombers — died in the Hit attacks

The attacks in the Hit area began Sunday when two car bombs exploded at security barricades on the northwest side of town, a Marine statement said.

A car bomb also exploded on the Hit bridge across the Euphrates River, rendering it impassable, the Marines said.

The Marine statement said three insurgents and one Iraqi soldier died in the attacks. The government in Baghdad said eight civilians also died.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

“Doesn't Make Sense To Me”

September 06, 2005 By David McCreynolds [Excerpt]

To say "don't play the blame game" is another way of saying that the federal government should be let off the hook for this kind of thing.

It is like saying, of the horrific Iraq War, "let's not discuss how we got into it, but trust the leadership which got us in to get us out" Doesn't make sense to me.

And let's be really honest and realize that if the thousands and thousands in the Dome were white and rich they would have been rescued.

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.

OCCUPATION REPORT

Welcome To Liberated Iraq: **COLLABORATORS SEIZE UNIONS' MONEY**

25th Aug 05 By Ken Ferguson, Via Occupation Watch

The rising tempo of union organisation in occupied Iraq is clearly worrying the US-backed administration.

The Iraqi government is attempting to control trade union activity by overturning an agreement that allowed unions to operate without any undue interference or harassment from the state.

A new decree adopted by the Iraqi Council of Ministers stated that the government would be "taking control of all monies belonging to the trade unions to prevent them from dispensing any such monies".

Ominously the decree also says that new proposals on how trade unions should function, operate and organise will be prepared.

The proposals have drawn protests from UK trade unions.

TUC general secretary Brendan Barber has written to both the Iraqi embassy and Foreign Secretary Jack Straw opposing the move.

"If the government of Iraq wishes to revise the arrangements under which trade unions operate they should be discussing that with the trade unions themselves rather than closing them down."

UNISON general secretary Dave Prentis told Straw that the decree represents a major attack on the ability of independent and democratic trade unions to organise.

"I am concerned that this decree, and especially the measures relating to trade union financial assets, is an attempt to curb the growth of free trade unions in Iraq," he said.

Train drivers have faced a number of attacks and ASLEF leader Keith Norman said:

“ASLEF demands no less for Iraqi workers and their trade unions than it does for British workers.

“That is to be able to elect their leaders, control their funds, be free of government interference and enjoy the rights laid down by the International Labour Organisation.”

The moves to restrict union activity come against a background of continuing growth in union membership. There have been attacks on numerous trade union members, including a number of train drivers.

This process of organisation is being assisted by UK unions such as UNISON, which has recently been providing training for activists in Jordan who then deploy their skills in Iraq.

One example of the growing union activity saw health care workers in the hospital and medical centres in Kirkuk and its suburban cities organising a two-hour general strike against pay cuts imposed by the Health Ministry.

The workers explained: “After two and half years of the downfall of the former regime, we the health care workers who are considered the most important part of the society do not enjoy our most basic rights.

“However, the ministry, instead of appreciating our work, issued a resolution to decrease our pay that we earned through years of struggle.

“Iraq is a very rich country and has all resources that are able to bring prosperity and welfare for every Iraqi.”

Alongside opposing pay cuts, they are seeking extra payments for weekend working, for working in areas where epidemics are present, and a link between pay and inflation.

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

**SCUM TORMENT FLOOD
SURVIVORS:**

**“The Official Relief Effort Was
Callous, Inept And Racist”
“Lives Were Lost That Did Not
Need To Be Lost”
“We Were Hiding From The
Police And Sheriffs With Their
Martial Law, Curfew And Shoot-
To-Kill Policies”**

[Thanks to Phil G and Joel G who sent this in. There were news reports that some cops had killed themselves. Obviously not enough. Equally obviously, survivors who broke into weapons stores and armed themselves had excellent reason to do so: self-defense from the filth with badges described below. What we really need is our troops home from Iraq to protect us from them. Lesson learned.]

As we approached the bridge, armed sheriffs formed a line across the foot of the bridge. Before we were close enough to speak, they began firing their weapons over our heads.

Just as dusk set in, a sheriff showed up, jumped out of his patrol vehicle, aimed his gun at our faces and screamed, “Get off the fucking freeway.” A helicopter arrived and used the wind from its blades to blow away our flimsy structures. As we retreated, *the sheriff loaded up his truck with our food and water.* [Which makes him an armed looter, who may be shot on sight.]

September 9, 2005 Socialist Worker Online

LARRY BRADSHAW and LORRIE BETH SLONSKY are emergency medical services (EMS) workers from San Francisco and contributors to Socialist Worker. They were attending an EMS conference in New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina struck. They spent most of the next week trapped by the flooding--and the martial law cordon around the city. Here, they tell their story.

TWO DAYS after Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans, the Walgreens store at the corner of Royal and Iberville Streets in the city’s historic French Quarter remained

locked. The dairy display case was clearly visible through the widows. It was now 48 hours without electricity, running water, plumbing, and the milk, yogurt, and cheeses were beginning to spoil in the 90-degree heat.

The owners and managers had locked up the food, water, pampers and prescriptions, and fled the city. Outside Walgreens' windows, residents and tourists grew increasingly thirsty and hungry. The much-promised federal, state and local aid never materialized, and the windows at Walgreens gave way to the looters.

There was an alternative. The cops could have broken one small window and distributed the nuts, fruit juices and bottled water in an organized and systematic manner. But they did not. Instead, they spent hours playing cat and mouse, temporarily chasing away the looters.

We were finally airlifted out of New Orleans two days ago and arrived home on Saturday. We have yet to see any of the TV coverage or look at a newspaper.

We are willing to guess that there were no video images or front-page pictures of European or affluent white tourists looting the Walgreens in the French Quarter.

We also suspect the media will have been inundated with "hero" images of the National Guard, the troops and police struggling to help the "victims" of the hurricane.

What you will not see, but what we witnessed, were the real heroes and sheroes of the hurricane relief effort: the working class of New Orleans.

The maintenance workers who used a forklift to carry the sick and disabled. The engineers who rigged, nurtured and kept the generators running. The electricians who improvised thick extension cords stretching over blocks to share the little electricity we had in order to free cars stuck on rooftop parking lots.

Nurses who took over for mechanical ventilators and spent many hours on end manually forcing air into the lungs of unconscious patients to keep them alive. Doormen who rescued folks stuck in elevators.

Refinery workers who broke into boat yards, "stealing" boats to rescue their neighbors clinging to their roofs in flood waters. Mechanics who helped hotwire any car that could be found to ferry people out of the city. And the food service workers who scoured the commercial kitchens, improvising communal meals for hundreds of those stranded.

Most of these workers had lost their homes and had not heard from members of their families. Yet they stayed and provided the only infrastructure for the 20 percent of New Orleans that was not under water.

ON DAY Two, there were approximately 500 of us left in the hotels in the French Quarter. We were a mix of foreign tourists, conference attendees like ourselves and locals who had checked into hotels for safety and shelter from Katrina.

Some of us had cell phone contact with family and friends outside of New Orleans.

We were repeatedly told that all sorts of resources, including the National Guard and scores of buses, were pouring into the city. The buses and the other resources must have been invisible, because none of us had seen them.

We decided we had to save ourselves. So we pooled our money and came up with \$25,000 to have ten buses come and take us out of the city. Those who didn't have the requisite \$45 each were subsidized by those who did have extra money.

We waited for 48 hours for the buses, spending the last 12 hours standing outside, sharing the limited water, food and clothes we had. We created a priority boarding area for the sick, elderly and newborn babies. We waited late into the night for the "imminent" arrival of the buses.

The buses never arrived. We later learned that the minute they arrived at the city limits, they were commandeered by the military.

By Day Four, our hotels had run out of fuel and water. Sanitation was dangerously bad. As the desperation and despair increased, street crime as well as water levels began to rise.

The hotels turned us out and locked their doors, telling us that "officials" had told us to report to the convention center to wait for more buses. As we entered the center of the city, we finally encountered the National Guard.

The guard members told us we wouldn't be allowed into the Superdome, as the city's primary shelter had descended into a humanitarian and health hellhole. They further told us that the city's only other shelter--the convention center--was also descending into chaos and squalor, and that the police weren't allowing anyone else in.

Quite naturally, we asked, "If we can't go to the only two shelters in the city, what was our alternative?" The guards told us that this was our problem--and no, they didn't have extra water to give to us. This would be the start of our numerous encounters with callous and hostile "law enforcement."

WE WALKED to the police command center at Harrah's on Canal Street and were told the same thing--that we were on our own, and no, they didn't have water to give us. We now numbered several hundred.

We held a mass meeting to decide a course of action. We agreed to camp outside the police command post. We would be plainly visible to the media and constitute a highly visible embarrassment to city officials. The police told us that we couldn't stay. Regardless, we began to settle in and set up camp.

In short order, the police commander came across the street to address our group. He told us he had a solution: we should walk to the Pontchartrain Expressway and cross the greater New Orleans Bridge to the south side of the Mississippi, where the police had buses lined up to take us out of the city.

The crowd cheered and began to move. We called everyone back and explained to the commander that there had been lots of misinformation, so was he sure that there were buses waiting for us. The commander turned to the crowd and stated emphatically, "I swear to you that the buses are there."

We organized ourselves, and the 200 of us set off for the bridge with great excitement and hope. As we marched past the convention center, many locals saw our determined and optimistic group, and asked where we were headed. We told them about the great news.

Families immediately grabbed their few belongings, and quickly, our numbers doubled and then doubled again. Babies in strollers now joined us, as did people using crutches, elderly clasping walkers and other people in wheelchairs. We marched the two to three miles to the freeway and up the steep incline to the bridge. It now began to pour down rain, but it didn't dampen our enthusiasm.

As we approached the bridge, armed sheriffs formed a line across the foot of the bridge. Before we were close enough to speak, they began firing their weapons over our heads. This sent the crowd fleeing in various directions.

As the crowd scattered and dissipated, a few of us inched forward and managed to engage some of the sheriffs in conversation. We told them of our conversation with the police commander and the commander's assurances. The sheriffs informed us that there were no buses waiting. The commander had lied to us to get us to move.

We questioned why we couldn't cross the bridge anyway, especially as there was little traffic on the six-lane highway. They responded that the West Bank was not going to become New Orleans, and there would be no Superdomes in their city. These were code words for: if you are poor and Black, you are not crossing the Mississippi River, and you are not getting out of New Orleans.

OUR SMALL group retreated back down Highway 90 to seek shelter from the rain under an overpass. We debated our options and, in the end, decided to build an encampment in the middle of the Ponchartrain Expressway--on the center divide, between the O'Keefe and Tchoupitoulas exits. We reasoned that we would be visible to everyone, we would have some security being on an elevated freeway, and we could wait and watch for the arrival of the yet-to-be-seen buses.

All day long, we saw other families, individuals and groups make the same trip up the incline in an attempt to cross the bridge, only to be turned away--some chased

away with gunfire, others simply told no, others verbally berated and humiliated. Thousands of New Orleaners were prevented and prohibited from self-evacuating the city on foot.

Meanwhile, the only two city shelters sank further into squalor and disrepair. The only way across the bridge was by vehicle. We saw workers stealing trucks, buses, moving vans, semi-trucks and any car that could be hotwired. All were packed with people trying to escape the misery that New Orleans had become.

Our little encampment began to blossom. Someone stole a water delivery truck and brought it up to us. Let's hear it for looting! A mile or so down the freeway, an Army truck lost a couple of pallets of C-rations on a tight turn. We ferried the food back to our camp in shopping carts.

Now--secure with these two necessities, food and water--cooperation, community and creativity flowered. We organized a clean-up and hung garbage bags from the rebar poles. We made beds from wood pallets and cardboard. We designated a storm drain as the bathroom, and the kids built an elaborate enclosure for privacy out of plastic, broken umbrellas and other scraps. We even organized a food-recycling system where individuals could swap out parts of C-rations (applesauce for babies and candies for kids!).

This was something we saw repeatedly in the aftermath of Katrina. When individuals had to fight to find food or water, it meant looking out for yourself. You had to do whatever it took to find water for your kids or food for your parents. But when these basic needs were met, people began to look out for each other, working together and constructing a community.

If the relief organizations had saturated the city with food and water in the first two or three days, the desperation, frustration and ugliness would not have set in.

Flush with the necessities, we offered food and water to passing families and individuals. Many decided to stay and join us. Our encampment grew to 80 or 90 people.

From a woman with a battery-powered radio, we learned that the media was talking about us. Up in full view on the freeway, every relief and news organizations saw us on their way into the city.

Officials were being asked what they were going to do about all those families living up on the freeway. The officials responded that they were going to take care of us. Some of us got a sinking feeling. "Taking care of us" had an ominous tone to it.

Unfortunately, our sinking feeling (along with the sinking city) was accurate.

Just as dusk set in, a sheriff showed up, jumped out of his patrol vehicle, aimed his gun at our faces and screamed, "Get off the fucking freeway."

A helicopter arrived and used the wind from its blades to blow away our flimsy structures. As we retreated, the sheriff loaded up his truck with our food and water.

Once again, at gunpoint, we were forced off the freeway.

All the law enforcement agencies appeared threatened when we congregated into groups of 20 or more.

In every congregation of “victims,” they saw “mob” or “riot.” We felt safety in numbers. Our “we must stay together” attitude was impossible because the agencies would force us into small atomized groups.

In the pandemonium of having our camp raided and destroyed, we scattered once again. Reduced to a small group of eight people, in the dark, we sought refuge in an abandoned school bus, under the freeway on Cilo Street.

We were hiding from possible criminal elements, but equally and definitely, we were hiding from the police and sheriffs with their martial law, curfew and shoot-to-kill policies.

The next day, our group of eight walked most of the day, made contact with the New Orleans Fire Department and were eventually airlifted out by an urban search-and-rescue team.

We were dropped off near the airport and managed to catch a ride with the National Guard. The two young guardsmen apologized for the limited response of the Louisiana guards. They explained that a large section of their unit was in Iraq and that meant they were shorthanded and were unable to complete all the tasks they were assigned.

WE ARRIVED at the airport on the day a massive airlift had begun. The airport had become another Superdome. We eight were caught in a press of humanity as flights were delayed for several hours while George Bush landed briefly at the airport for a photo op. After being evacuated on a Coast Guard cargo plane, we arrived in San Antonio, Texas.

There, the humiliation and dehumanization of the official relief effort continued. We were placed on buses and driven to a large field where we were forced to sit for hours and hours. Some of the buses didn't have air conditioners. In the dark, hundreds of us were forced to share two filthy overflowing porta-potties. Those who managed to make it out with any possessions (often a few belongings in tattered plastic bags) were subjected to two different dog-sniffing searches.

Most of us had not eaten all day because our C-rations had been confiscated at the airport--because the rations set off the metal detectors. Yet no food had been provided to the men, women, children, elderly and disabled, as we sat for hours waiting to be “medically screened” to make sure we weren't carrying any communicable diseases.

This official treatment was in sharp contrast to the warm, heartfelt reception given to us by ordinary Texans. We saw one airline worker give her shoes to someone

who was barefoot. Strangers on the street offered us money and toiletries with words of welcome.

Throughout, the official relief effort was callous, inept and racist. There was more suffering than need be. Lives were lost that did not need to be lost.

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

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

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

EXPERTS CALL BUSH PRESIDENCY WORST DISASTER IN NATION'S HISTORY: Cost of Damage Estimated In The Zillions

September 5, 2005 The Borowitz Report

Four and a half years after he was first sworn in as president, experts in the field of disaster assessment today called the presidency of George W. Bush the worst disaster in the history of the United States of America.

The sober assessment came from the University of Minnesota's Enormous Disaster Institute, which studies and attempts to quantify colossal disasters, both natural and manmade.

Dr. Lorraine Cresser, who heads the Institute, said that the University of Minnesota experts decided to place the current administration at the top of the nation's list of huge disasters after assessing the damage the White House has caused over the past four and a half years, both at home and abroad.

"After taking a good look at the wreckage the Bush presidency has created, we would estimate the cost of the damage at somewhere in the mid to high zillions," Dr. Cresser said.

Hours after the University of Minnesota released its findings, House Speaker Dennis Hastert said that given the high price tag, rebuilding the Bush presidency "doesn't make sense to me."

Speaking to reporters on Capitol Hill, Rep. Hastert said that based on what he had seen of the Bush presidency lately, "It looks like a lot of it could be bulldozed."

But hours later, the Speaker backtracked somewhat, telling reporters, "Like most Republicans in Congress, I have been drinking very heavily for the past several days."

Elsewhere, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said today that his department would intensify the search for those missing since Hurricane Katrina hit, including Vice President Dick Cheney.

FROM THE "LET THEM EAT CAKE" DEPARTMENT...

Barbara Bush: Things Working Out "Very Well" For Poor Evacuees From New Orleans

[Thanks to Phil G who sent this in.]

September 05, 2005 By E&P Staff

NEW YORK Accompanying her husband, former President George H.W. Bush, on a tour of hurricane relief centers in Houston, Barbara Bush said today, referring to the poor who had lost everything back home and evacuated, "This is working very well for them."

The former First Lady's remarks were aired this evening on National Public Radio's "Marketplace" program.

She was part of a group in Houston today at the Astrodome that included her husband and former President Bill Clinton, who were chosen by her son, the current president, to head fundraising efforts for the recovery. Sen. Hilary Clinton and Sen. Barack Obama were also present.

In a segment at the top of the show on the surge of evacuees to the Texas city, Barbara Bush said: "Almost everyone I've talked to says we're going to move to Houston."

Then she added: "What I'm hearing is they all want to stay in Texas. Everyone is so overwhelmed by the hospitality.

"And so many of the people in the arena here, you know, were underprivileged anyway, so this--this (she chuckles slightly) is working very well for them."

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Fuck The Poor: We're The People Who Really Matter

[Via David McCreynolds]

9/3/2005 By MARY FOSTER (AP) (Excerpt)

NEW ORLEANS:

At one point Friday, the evacuation was interrupted briefly when school buses rolled up so some 700 guests and employees from the Hyatt Hotel could move to the head of the evacuation line - much to the amazement of those who had been crammed in the stinking Superdome since last Sunday.

“How does this work? They (are) clean, they are dry, they get out ahead of us?” exclaimed Howard Blue, 22, who tried to get in their line. The National Guard blocked him as other guardsmen helped the well-dressed guests with their luggage.

The 700 had been trapped in the hotel, next to the Superdome, but conditions were considerably cleaner, even without running water, than the unsanitary crush inside the dome.

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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