

GI SPECIAL 3C55:

**THIS IS HOW BUSH BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE**



Photo: Iraqwar.mirror

New Norwegian Government Getting Troops Out Of Iraq

September 16, 2005 Boston Globe & September 15, 2005 Union-Tribune Publishing Co.

Norwegian Labor Party leader Jens Stoltenberg, who is set to become premier after winning an election this week, told President Bush that Norway will pull its soldiers out of Iraq.

Norway did not support the U.S.-led war in Iraq, saying there was no clear U.N. mandate for an invasion, but sent soldiers after Washington said the war had ended.

“President Bush called Mr Stoltenberg to congratulate him on the election victory, and they discussed cooperation on the war on terror and Stoltenberg said we would bring the soldiers in Iraq home,” Stoltenberg’s spokesman Torbjoern Eriksen said.

Stoltenberg's 'Red-Green' alliance with the Socialist Left and rural Centre party won Norway's Sept. 12 parliamentary elections to oust the centre-right government of Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

II MEF MARINE KILLED AT RAMADI

September 16, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND
NEWS RELEASE Number: 05-09-10C

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – A Marine assigned to 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), was killed Sept. 15 from an indirect fire explosion.

The incident occurred at Forward Operating Base Camp Ramadi, Iraq.

Two U.S. Troops Wounded In Baghdad Bridge Ambush

Sept 16 (KUNA)

A number of US soldiers were injured on Friday.

According to witnesses, a US army convoy was attacked with machine-guns and RPG missiles while it was crossing one of the capital's bridges, which led to destroying one of the caravan's trucks.

While witnesses said two US soldiers were injured, no information was provided by US forces that circulated the attack's area and banned reporters from entering it.

Local Soldier Hurt in Baghdad Explosions

09/17/05 WCIA

A family from Danville says its on standby after their son was hurt in an attack in Iraq.

They say 25-year-old National Guardsman Joshua "Jake" Denney was airlifted to Germany this morning after an explosion near Baghdad earlier this week.

He and six other soldiers were on foot patrol when a car bomb sent shrapnel into his body. The family says right now he's in serious condition.

Denney is a National Guardsman in the 130th Infantry out of Mattoon.

REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



U.S. soldiers from the third battalion of the seventh infantry division search a house for a sniper in Baghdad August 2, 2005. REUTERS/Andrea Comas

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Ghazni IED Wounds Two U.S. Soldiers

16 September 2005 Aljazeera

On Friday, the US military disclosed that a roadside bomb had killed an Afghan interpreter and wounded two US soldiers during a security patrol for this weekend's milestone parliamentary polls.

The blast hit their vehicle late on Thursday in the central province of Ghazni as "the unit was conducting a combat patrol in order to disrupt enemy operations aimed at affecting the elections", it said in a statement.

"Both service members were medically evacuated to Kandahar airfield and are in stable condition," the statement said.

“Slowly, Slowly, Morale Is Going Down”

16 September 2005 By Somini Sengupta, The New York Times

Taliban leaflets known as "night letters," left at markets and mosques in several southern provinces, have issued warnings against anyone who participates in elections.

In Khost, to the east, a bomb went off inside a mosque being used for voter registration. In the eastern city of Jalalabad, the convoy of a parliamentary candidate, Safia Sadiqi, was fired on, injuring two campaign workers.

In Helmand, to the west, gunmen ranged across villages threatening to kill anyone who dared go to the polls. Officials with the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission said they suspected local officials, rather than insurgents, were responsible.

In parts of central and northern Afghanistan, the reason for fear is less because of the Taliban than the powerful former mujahedeen commanders, who supposedly have been disarmed and removed from public office, but who continue to wield considerable influence in their territory, especially in the countryside.

"People are afraid that those commanders and those who governed by force of weapons, will again win seats and return to power," said Abdul Azim Azimi, a local election observer in the northern town of Mazar-i-Sharif.

And in Shajoy, a market town two hours up the road, some men wondered aloud how many townspeople would have the courage to travel a couple of miles through Taliban redoubts to cast their votes in Sunday's election. Never mind the women; the men said they did not expect any polling places to be open for women anyway.

Since presidential elections last fall, life in the south increasingly has become precarious and the exercise of politics clouded by growing insecurity, voters and candidates in Zabul and Kandahar Provinces said in interviews this week.

"Slowly, slowly, morale is going down," said Talatbek Masadykov, the chief of the southern region for the United Nations Mission in Afghanistan, based in Kandahar. One reason, he said, is, "the security is not improving," adding, "the central and provincial government cannot deliver assistance to people in very remote areas."

In Shajoy, Muhammad Aziz, a shopkeeper, predicted that only men who live in the town would vote. His relatives two miles away would be unlikely to try to travel into town unless security improved.

Abdul Zahir, a farmer, said that during last year's presidential elections, the men of his village, a couple of miles away, had come to Shajoy to vote, but those farther out of town did not. "This time," he said, "God only knows."

As part of their efforts to reinforce security in the days leading up to elections, an American Army convoy pulled in to Shajoy one morning this week to donate wheat seeds to the local government and hand out radios and clothes to the children.

But to Mr. Zahir, the additional patrols, by American and Afghan soldiers alike, made little difference. "In the daytime, this government is coming to us, and in the nighttime the Taliban are coming to us," he said. "We're stuck in the middle."

"The people of Afghanistan have brave hearts," said Mullah Gul, a police commander in Kandahar whose men found the body of the last candidate killed in the campaign. "They don't care about death." **[Which is precisely why the resistance is growing and spreading.]**

Assorted Resistance Action

14 & 16 September, Aljazeera & 9.16.05 Reuters

Suspected Taliban fighters have shot dead a candidate for Afghanistan's landmark parliamentary elections, the seventh candidate to be killed before the weekend poll, a provincial official said.

Armed men forced Abdul Hadi out of his house in Hazarjoft, a district in the restive southern province of Helmand, and gunned him down late on Thursday, provincial spokesman Mohammed Wali said on Friday.

"The gunmen called at his house and when he came out they opened fire and killed him," he said.

The Taliban, who have denounced the polls, claimed responsibility for killing Hadi.

"He supported the Americans and he was a candidate for the Wolesi Jirga," Taliban spokesman Adbul Latif Hakimi said by telephone from an undisclosed location. The Wolesi Jirga, or House of the People, is the lower house of parliament.

Hakimi denounced the elections as a U.S.-orchestrated "farce" and warned Afghans they would vote at their own risk.

The Taliban have previously said they would not target polling stations, but Hakimi said ordinary Afghans risked being hurt in attacks on foreign "occupation" forces on election day.

"The Taliban shura council appeals to the Afghan people not to take part in the September 18 elections as this election farce is also an American plan," he said, referring to the guerrillas' council of clerics.

"Therefore, not only should the Afghan people stay away from the elections, they should also try to sabotage them," he said.

On Tuesday, Taliban fighters hanged an intelligence official in the southeastern province of Zabul, police said.

"A man named Hamid Allah who works for the district intelligence department was captured and killed by the Taliban. He was hanged," local police chief Ghulam Aidar said.

Last week, Afghan police found the bodies of a parliamentary candidate, a district chief and three others kidnapped by Taliban rebels in the southern province of Kandahar, the stronghold of the former government.

Two other election candidates escaped attacks on Tuesday.

The car of one was blown up by a roadside bomb in the eastern province of Nangarhar while the vehicle of another came under fire in Takhar province, to the north.

However, officials said the victim of the second attack had links with the drugs trade and was likely targeted by rivals.

Success!! Afghan Elections Modeled On US: Many Criminals Running For Election

September 16, 2005 Los Angeles Times & By Patrick Sabatier, Libération

Afghanistan's Electoral Complaints Commission has been largely unable to prevent those accused of crimes from running in Sunday's regional and parliamentary races.

The Karzai regime depends on foreign troops and international aid. It buys stability by tolerating cultivation of the opium poppy - which accounts for 60% of GNP, tribal chieftains' power, warlords' (sometimes narco-traffickers) power, and generalized corruption.

NATO Rejects U.S. Government “Suggestion” To Fight Afghanistan Resistance

September 15, 2005 Baltimore Sun

European allies rejected a U.S. suggestion that NATO take on counterterrorism operations in Afghanistan.

Germany, France and Spain said they would not allow the 11,000 NATO peacekeepers in Afghanistan to become embroiled in the military effort to quell a Taliban-led insurgency.

ANOTHER REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW TOO



U.S. troops from AT2 platoon, B Company 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne during a patrol in Wardak province, southwest of Kabul, September 15, 2005. REUTERS/Ahmad Masood

TROOP NEWS

Chicago City Government Votes Immediate Withdrawal From Iraq: No Support For War

[Thanks to Sam Farber, who sent this in.]

Sep 14 By SARAH FREEMAN, Associated Press Writer

Chicago on Wednesday became the nation's largest city to urge the Bush administration to withdraw U.S. troops from Iraq at once.

The resolution, approved 29-9, seeks an "immediate and orderly" withdrawal. The City Council has 50 aldermen.

Chicago joins other cities — including San Francisco, Santa Cruz, Calif., 50 communities in Vermont and the Chicago suburb of Evanston — in calling for the withdrawal of troops.

The vote followed an hour of emotional debate, including an impassioned speech by Alderman Burton Natarus, who fainted afterward.

"It's time to call a halt to the bloodshed," he said. "It's time to load up the ships, load up the planes and welcome home the troops to a ticker-tape parade in New York and a ticker-tape parade in Chicago."

During the debate, Alderman Bernard Stone said he had backed the invasion of Iraq but changed his mind as the death toll of U.S. troops climbed.

"Do you think we can make the citizens of Iraq accept democracy by having our troops killed in the roads?" he said. "We're not supporting our troops by having them killed."

The President "Killed My Son, Betrayed My Family" Cindy Sheehan Bus Tour Rocks Akron, Ohio

A Black mother of an Iraq war vet told how she left her own church meeting so she could hail the tour members as heroes.

One woman in an American flag T-shirt had to compose herself several times and then said that the President had "killed my son, betrayed my family," denounced him as a murderer: "I want him out, disgraced and if possible- in jail".

9.16.05 By Joe Urgo, Vietnam Veteran, VVAW-AI

I am sending you this note to tell you what happened on my trip to Cleveland to try to get on the Central tour bus. In mid August, I checked the websites of all the groups organizing the tour and did not find any criteria for joining the tour other than being a family member or a veteran. So, I sent out a letter to Vets for Peace and Bring Them Home Now requesting to join the tour and included a biography. The Tour overall was made up of three buses, North, Central and South.

I worked the two days after Labor Day, and took off on Sept 8, and Sept 9 to get ready to leave for Cleveland. I had secured several films about antiwar vets and GIs and was planning to show them everywhere on the tour, to bring this suppressed history to all we met.

It was at this time that I collected \$575 in donations from friends and supporters to help cover the costs of getting on the tour. I flew out on Sat Sept 10 to Akron-Canton airport in Ohio and we immediately drove to Akron. Half of the Central bus was coming to Akron, and the other half were going to speak at Oberlin College.

There were about 70 people in this small church in Akron. The tour speakers were 5 family members and one Iraq vet. They made heartfelt and angry statements about the war, their relatives who died or were still in Iraq.

As powerful as these speakers were, what Cindy Sheehan has started was concentrated in the audience as well when 7 more family members stood up and told their stories.

Some in quiet voice, others loudly denouncing the betrayal they felt in angry, bitter, tearful statements.

A Black mother of an Iraq war vet told how she left her own church meeting so she could hail the tour members as heroes.

One woman in an American flag T-shirt had to compose herself several times and then said that the President had "killed my son, betrayed my family," denounced him as a murderer: "I want him out, disgraced and if possible- in jail".

Something was rocking," right here in River City"--these were not movement activists, but average working class people who lost their kids or whose relatives are still there.

It was a very powerful afternoon--raw with emotion.

I spoke and linked the betrayal of my youthful ignorance and idealism in going to Vietnam, to the experiences in the room -- especially how this system does not care about people, whether Vietnamese, Iraqi or American GI: look at Agent

Orange, depleted uranium, and now the horror in New Orleans - thousands left to die.

The Bush Regime must be driven out.

Afterwards, 5 of the tour members came up to me to talk and encouraged me to try and get on the tour. [He was not allowed to do so.]

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.

British Troops Fucked: Won't Be Leaving Iraq After All

September 14, 2005 London Times

Proposals to reduce the number of British troops serving in southern Iraq from 8,500 to 3,000 by early next year evidently have been scrapped by the government, as British Defense Secretary John Reid said that troop levels will not be cut unless the security climate improves dramatically.

***Stupidest Idea Of 2005, So Far:* Silly General Thinks U.S. Can Fly Missions In Iraq With Army Gone**

September 14, 2005 Bloomberg.com

The U.S. military will continue to fly missions against insurgents in Iraq for up to five years if needed because it will take that long to develop an effective Iraqi air force, the top U.S. air commander in the Middle East said.

The officer, Lt. Gen. Walter Buchanan, said Army and Air Force units—pilots, ground controllers, pilot trainers and maintenance teams—will remain in Iraq no matter how many other troops are withdrawn as the insurgency diminishes

Military Lacked Critical Gear In Responding To Katrina

September 13, 2005 Newhouse.com

The military response to Hurricane Katrina lacked two critical types of gear that would have cut through the confusion and perhaps saved lives: effective combat radios and unmanned spyplanes.

As National Guard forces poured into the Gulf Coast region, commanders were frantically trying to marshal their troops, coordinate missions and secure logistics lines—using messengers.

Last-Minute Rescue Boosts Searchers' Morale

September 14, 2005 Arizona Daily Star

A California National Guard team of searchers, bypassing a FEMA order not to break into locked houses in New Orleans, rescued a 74-year-old man from his living room 16 days after Hurricane Katrina. The rescue pumped up the spirits of Task Force 5 from Orange County, which had been mostly marking the locations of dead bodies.

Officers Blame Troops For Iraq Prisoner Abuse

September 16, 2005 Los Angeles Times

Army officers in Iraq told their superiors last year that soldiers often lacked the training to handle detainees, did not always understand what constituted abuse and sometimes used techniques against prisoners that they "remembered from movies," according to newly released military records.

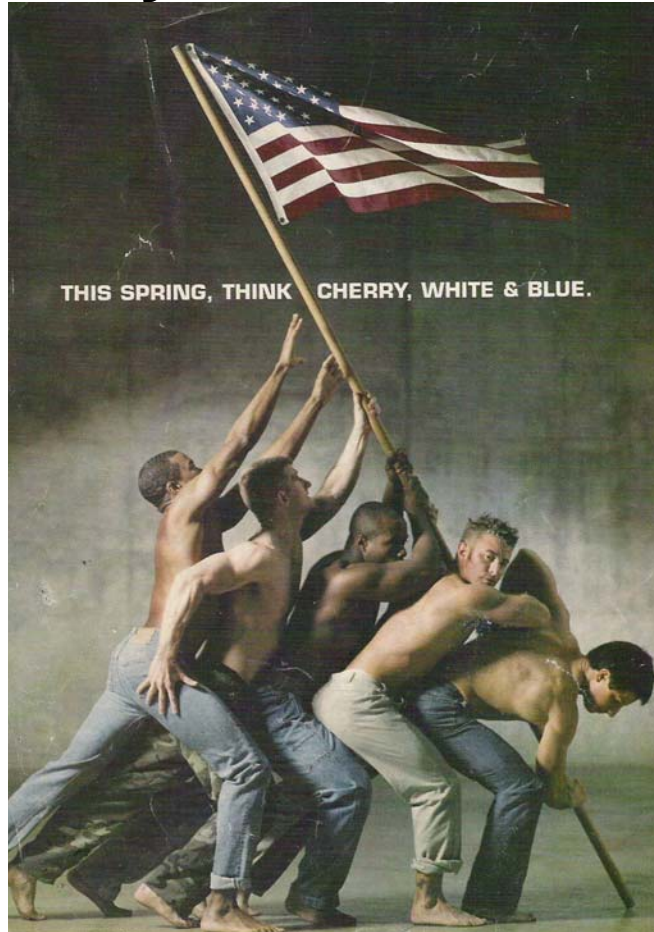
NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

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)

Commanders Ordered Not To Fire Gays Until War's End



[Thanks to PB and Phil G who sent this in.]

The document is significant because of longstanding Pentagon denials that the military requires gays to serve during wartime, only to fire them once peacetime returns.

September 13, 2005, by 365Gay.com Newscenter Staff

(Santa Barbara, California) Scholars studying military personnel policy have discovered a document halting the discharge of gay soldiers in units that are about to be mobilized.

The document was made public Tuesday by Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military (CSSMM), a think tank at the University of California, Santa Barbara. It was found during research for a story for the ABC news program Nightline.

The regulation was contained in a 1999 "Reserve Component Unit Commander's Handbook" and is still in effect, according to the Center.

It states that if a discharge for homosexual conduct is requested "prior to the unit's receipt of alert notification, discharge isn't authorized. Member will enter AD (active duty) with the unit."

The document is significant because of longstanding Pentagon denials that the military requires gays to serve during wartime, only to fire them once peacetime returns.

According to the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, gays and lesbians must be discharged whether or not the country is at war.

Gay soldiers and legal groups have reported for years that known gays are sent into combat, and then discharged when the conflicts end. Discharge statistics corroborate a pattern of rising expulsions during peacetime and plummeting rates during military conflicts, and Pentagon statistics confirm that, as has been the case in every war since World War II, gay discharges have declined during the current conflict in the Middle East.

But the Pentagon has consistently denied that, when mobilization requires bolstering troop strength, it sends gays to fight despite the existence of a gay ban, and some observers have insisted there is no evidence of such a practice. During the first Gulf War, Pentagon spokesman, Bill Caldwell, said the military would "absolutely not" send gays to war and discharge them when the conflict ends.

Shortly after the terrorist attacks of 9/11, a Pentagon spokesman said that the military was not modifying its regulations on gay troops. And a May, 2005 study by the Congressional Research Service says that although gay discharges do decline during wartime, the decrease is the result of "random fluctuations in the data," not an intentional Pentagon policy of retaining gays during wars".

In July, the Williams Project at the UCLA School of Law issued a report showing that if the ban on gays serving openly were lifted the military would gain 41,000 troops.

Especially in the wake of Katrina, as some have concluded that a National Guard stretched thin by deployments abroad was limited in its ability to respond to a catastrophe here at home, the added strength of more than 40,000 recruits has the potential of making a significant difference," Steve Ralls, spokesperson for the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network told 365Gay.com.

"And, as we've seen Coast Guardsmen rescuing the trapped in New Orleans, it begs the question: Did those being rescued really care about the sexual orientation of those men and women who came to save them?"

RIT Anti War Stands Up To Marine Recruiters, Marines Retreat

September 16, 2005 By Joshua Karpoff, Rochester Institute of Technology Anti War, Organizer

ROCHESTER, NY- When members of RIT Anti War, the student antiwar group and Campus Antiwar Network chapter at the Rochester Institute of Technology found out that six Marine Corps recruiters had set up a table in front of the Student Alumni Union, RIT Anti War knew this could not be left unchallenged.

Within a half hour of first encountering the recruiters, a group of 5 activists had come together and using the Counter Recruitment Rapid Response kit, was fully armed with CR literature, RIT Anti War sign up sheets, meeting flyers and signs.

The recruiters had setup their table against a wall in the small plaza area in front of the Student Alumni Union. They came with tons of trinkets to give away, and were challenging students to do certain amounts of push ups or pull ups to get a free t-shirt. In addition the Marine Corps was offering free helicopter rides for students, which according to one student who was interested in the free ride, but not joining the Marines, was just a place to be a captive audience for a high pressure sales pitch.

The activists from RIT Anti War setup a table in the middle of the plaza and formed a semi circle screen around the Marines.

Equipped with a 5-foot tall picket sign reading "Occupation is a crime from Iraq to Palestine! Troops Out Now!" on one side and "No to War, No to Racism!" on the other, a good many students passing by were interested enough to stop and see what was going on. At one point the counter-recruiters strength had grown to 12 people, one of them who just joined in, having never been involved in any actions before.

Members of RIT Anti War approached people in conversation with the recruiters and handed them counter recruitment literature to counter the lies the recruiters were spewing. Within a half hour RIT Anti War was so effective that no one approached their table anymore, because the recruiters were entirely blocked from the view of passing students. Another 20 minutes later the recruiters decided to pack it in and head out when they realized that the counter-recruiters were staying even through the next class change.

This was the first successful counter-recruitment effort at RIT and represented a major step forward on this ROTC and CIA dominated campus.

This action represents the new opportunities of the antiwar movement, when people can be attracted randomly off the street to join in a counter recruitment action.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action

September 16, 2005 CNN & News Limited & Reuters & Aljazeera & September 15, 2005, Azzaman

The attack on Tal Affar has worsened security conditions in the country. There has been an upsurge in car bomb explosions and attacks in Baghdad which have killed and wounded hundreds of people.

The attack has exacerbated conditions in the nearby Mosul, Iraq's third largest city, where anti-U.S. forces have increased attacks and operations in the past few days.

The U.S. military hails its latest offensive in Iraq as a great success, but militants have captured the headlines with a bloody wave of attacks in Baghdad.

AN explosion has been heard inside the heavily fortified Green Zone in central Baghdad, where Iraqi government buildings and several foreign embassies are located.

Immediately after the blast, a plume of smoke could be seen rising from the helicopter landing pad area inside the Green Zone, the Associated Press reported.

In Iskandariya, about 30 miles south of Baghdad, armed fighters stormed the residence of the district mayor Amer Mohammad al-Khafaji in a night raid on his home, killing him and four of his bodyguards. Two other guards were wounded.

Two other bodyguards were wounded in the attack after 1 a.m.

A car bomb was detonated near a police patrol about three miles away in the neighboring suburb of al-Hashwe at around 9:45 a.m. Three police were killed and six more were hurt in the attack.

KHALIDIYA - Four Iraqi soldiers were killed when a roadside bomb struck their vehicle in the town of Khalidiya, west of Baghdad, policeman Mohammed Abbass said.

South of Baghdad, a bomber killed three policemen and wounded six others after ramming his explosives-packed car into a police convoy on a highway near Hasswa, some 60km from the capital, police said.

Two cars then sped away from the scene. As they left they opened fire on a government vehicle travelling on one of eastern Baghdad's main highways, killing one man and wounding two more, police said.

Earlier, police sources said the third man was a transport ministry employee.

Armed fighters shot dead a government official in a drive-by shooting in Baghdad on Friday. They opened fire on a vehicle carrying officials from the transport ministry, killing one and wounding another, the police said.

On Thursday, At least 25 members of an elite police force were killed in three separate car bomb attacks in southern Baghdad, an Interior Ministry official said.

In Baquba, north of Baghdad, a police commando was killed when a group of armed men attacked his unit, police sources said.

Salahuddin's deputy Abdulla Jabbara, said the provincial authorities and "the people of Salahuddin categorically reject carrying out an attack on Samarra."

He doubted whether military force, no matter how massive, would ever bring peace to the area.

"Previous attacks by U.S. and Iraqi forces on the city have not led to the imposition of security. On the contrary conditions have worsened."

Residents say Samarra is in "deplorable conditions" with no functioning public services and absence of law and order.

Jabbara said the withdrawal of U.S. and Iraqi forces is the only solution to the plight of Samarra's 200,000 people.

<p style="text-align: center;">IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</p>

Protest Over Utilities Spirals Into Violence; First Mass Protests In Kurdish Area

13-Sep-05 Wyrria Hama Tahir, ICR No. 141

Dissatisfaction over inadequate water and electricity supplies led to a recent mass protest in the Kurdish town of Kalar, which left buildings burnt and some 30 people injured in clashes with police.

More than 2,000 residents, most of them in their twenties, marched down the streets of Kalar on September 7, demanding that basic public services be restored to an acceptable level. They also complained about fuel shortages that have been going on for two years.

It is the first time that there have been protests of this size against government services in Iraqi Kurdistan. Such demonstrations have in the past been limited to other parts of the country, like Baghdad.

Awat Sheikh Janab – the top official in Kalar, and a member of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, PUK, which controls the town – said 34 people were wounded in the protests. Six of them were reportedly shot and the others injured by stone-throwers.

The demonstrations in Kalar were organised by two local groups founded two months ago, the Kalar-Rizgary Civil Association and the Change Association.

Prior to the protests, the mayor and eight sub-district commissioners had announced that they would step down if public services weren't improved. But the clashes broke out after the mayor refused to talk to the demonstrators.

Later, the marchers attacked government buildings and other offices, setting some alight. Government officials said property including a car, eight computers, furniture and television sets were burnt, and some 15 million dinars, over 10,000 US dollars, were stolen from a local labour office.

Major-General Hussein Mansour, who heads Kalar's fire service, said 17 of his men were wounded in the clashes.

Brigadier-General Nawshirwan Ahmed, the security chief in Kalar, confirmed that some members of political parties were arrested, including members of the Kurdish Islamic Union and the Kurdistan Democratic Party, KDP.

Local officials blamed the KDP – a longstanding rival of the PUK – for escalating the violence.

But Rebin Taha, a spokesman for the demonstrators, said the protesters were simply asserting their rights, and insisted that none of them was motivated by partisan politics. "There were no saboteurs among us," he said.

Mohammad Abdullah, a local KDP official, denied that his party had played any part in the violence, adding, "There are few services here and the government is negligent."

A day after the demonstrations, the Kalar offices of the PUK and the Kurdistan Islamic Union offices released a joint statement in which they both expressed their support for residents' demands and condemned the violence.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

The Truth--Frozen In Time

From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: September 14, 2005
Subject: The Truth--Frozen in Time

Here is what I see happening in Iraq. Since Hurricane Katrina took a huge chunk out of our oil supply, and will continue to do so for quite awhile, the oil in Iraq is that much more important.

We already have permanent military bases there. Some say fourteen, but who knows. I understand that some of these bases are VERY large. I do not see the United States Government leaving Iraq real soon. When they say they might, if conditions are right with the Iraqi government, the U.S. government is lying. In fact, our government has lied about everything. And, if they didn't, I would suspect they were telling the truth to get from point A, to point B.

When I was in Vietnam, which was for 365 days, the Nixon Government lied every single day I was there.

As I have said to myself before, but it is worth repeating again, I NEVER HAD ONE CONVERSATION WITH ANOTHER SOLDIER IN VIETNAM ABOUT THE MERITS OF BEING IN VIETNAM. That was a joke to even consider. Our main obsession was getting out of Vietnam with our minds and bodies intact.

There were many in my unit who never made it, especially in the mind part. Vietnam was a major mind fuck. The biggest mistake I ever made was not going to Canada, when I got my orders for Vietnam. I was simply too naive and scared to do otherwise.

The military owned me, and 35 years later, that is not easy to admit. I was a nice guy, who thought he was doing the right thing. After all, I was a medic, and I thought I could do some good.

In retrospect, I did a lot of good things, but there were elements in my unit, that did unthinkable things to the Vietnamese civilian population. 155mm Howitzers can clear away a village real quick.

We were not at war with any ideology, we were at war with the Vietnamese people.

And, the more America tried to kill these people in one of the poorest of poor countries, the stronger the Vietnamese people got.

The statement: "If we don't stop them there, we will have to stop them in America," is the biggest infantile lie I have ever heard in my entire life. And, that is exactly the same infantile lie that is being used in Iraq.

America went to war against a country that did absolutely nothing to the American people. The United States is so deep into the Iraq War, it will take a miracle to get out. George Bush and his death squad in the White House are going to try and steal every ounce of oil in Iraq. And, if you are an American citizen who does not approve of this,

and you try to do something about it, your First Amendment Rights will be considered a threat to American Interests.

When it comes to the oil in Iraq, there is no rule of law. It belongs to the oil companies in America and to those countries who support us. This is called, "Shock and Awe Theft." We stole the land from the American Indians, and that was the end of that period in American History.

But, with Iraqi oil, here is the sick part. George Bush is not the only monster here.

The Democratic lawmakers are in the same boat pushing dead bodies out of the way.

There is this illusion that Bush has some kind of opposition. For the most part, the two parties will agree to still call each other names, and insults, and pretend to be enemies, but when it comes to the oil in Iraq, they are in complete agreement.

You steal the land, and you bury the dead.

And, you keep this extremely quiet, especially from the churches in America.

The government must give the illusions that there are Geneva Convention Rules. But the truth is, Geneva Convention Rules are for fools.

In Vietnam, the U.S. Government killed what ever they wanted to. And, that has not changed in Iraq.

Anyone who thinks there is fair play in war, has a library of books to read on "Acceptable Atrocities."

Jesus Christ, when it comes to war, most Americans are playing "patty-cake."

Christians in America who support this war, need to read their Bible!! While they pray for peace, our economy worships war.

In Vietnam, we bombed EVERYTHING!! And, the God damn churches in America are doing nothing to stop this mass killing of innocent people in Iraq.

EVERY DAY THAT I TRY TO HELP STOP THE WAR IN IRAQ, I EXPERIENCE THE PRESENCE OF GOD. AND BECAUSE OF THAT, I KNOW LONGER CARRY ANY GUILT FROM VIETNAM.

VIETNAM AND IRAQ ARE THE SAME LIE, AND THE CONSEQUENCES WILL BE IDENTICAL.

WHEN YOU SEE AN AMERICAN SOLDIER COMMIT SUICIDE IN A WAR ZONE, THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH IS FINALLY FROZEN IN TIME FOREVER.

**Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71**

September 14, 2005

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.

A Flock of Swirling Crows: The Book Banned By Japanese Militarists And U.S. Occupation

Most interesting of all was his depiction, taken from his own brief experience as a soldier, of life in the Imperial Japanese Army during the "Siberian intervention," a little-remembered foray into the then brand-new Soviet Union.

By Donald Cihbm, Special to The Daily Yomiuri

**A Flock of Swirling Crows
By Kuroshima Denji
University of Hawaii, 36 dollars**

Zeljko Cipris has made a major contribution to the study of 20th-century Japanese literature with his outstanding translation of the works of this little-remembered "proletarian" author of the 1920s.

Accorded only the briefest of mentions in Kodansha's Japan Encyclopedia, Denji Kuroshima (1898-1943) is a fascinating figure who has been all but written out of literary studies, firstly by Japanese militarists, then by the fiercely anticommunist U.S. Occupation forces, both of whom banned his work.

A working class intellectual who cheated his way into Waseda University, Kuroshima spent most of his short life engaged in delineating the tough lives of the Japanese peasantry and the many indignities they were continuing to suffer as Japan modernized.

Most interesting of all was his depiction, taken from his own brief experience as a soldier, of life in the Imperial Japanese Army during the "Siberian intervention," a little-remembered foray into the then brand-new Soviet Union.

His depiction of life for the Japanese grunts is grim but vivid, and as with his writings about social injustice at home, it is saved from propagandistic dullness by his unflinching attention to detail.

This is an amazing, revelatory book, as exciting as the discovery of a long-forgotten newsreel. Even in Japan these stories have languished in almost total obscurity, and by translating him Cipris has given this 20th-century master an overdue boost.

OCCUPATION REPORT

Blinding Flash Of The Obvious: U.S. Unable To Defeat Resistance

September 16, 2005 Christian Science Monitor

The inability of American forces to defeat the Iraqi insurgency through offensives such as the current operation in Tal Afar has raised doubts about the possibility of any clear victory in the war.

Famous Last Words

BAGHDAD, 13 Sep 2005 (IRIN)

The decision by the Iraqi authorities to regulate vehicle traffic in an attempt to ease long queues at pumping stations and control jams in the capital, Baghdad, has hindered free movement in the city, local residents said.

Col. Abed Ahmed, a senior officer in the Ministry of Interior, said the law has already had an effect.

“We can see a decrease in car bomb attacks, since the implementation of the new law will (make it) more difficult for the terrorists to move in cars on different dates.” [Oops. Only three days before the endless wave of car bomb attacks in Baghdad. Got to be a job for this fool in DC, maybe Cheney’s office. This is right up there with Cheney’s “last throes” of the resistance.]

U.S. Officers Say Iraqi Army Will Collapse If U.S. Forces Drawn Down: “A Lack Of Willingness To Fight For Something”

September 15, 2005 Inside The Pentagon

A growing number of U.S. military officers in Iraq and those who have returned from the region are voicing concern that the nascent Iraqi army will fall apart if American forces are drawn down in the foreseeable future.

The newly trained forces generally exhibit "a lack of willingness to fight for something," says retired Army Col. Gerry Schumacher, a former Green Beret who was recently in Iraq. [Motivating traitors to fight for a foreign Imperial occupation is often a problem. Duh.]

A Gaggle On The Loose

September 16, 2005 Robert Dreyfuss, Tompaine.com. [Excerpt]

No one seemed to understand that the United States is not in fact training an Iraqi army but a gaggle of mostly Shiite and Kurdish militiamen who want nothing more than to lord it over defeated Sunnis in towns like Tikrit, Baquba, Ramadi, Fallujah and Tall Afar.

It was left to Kenneth Katzman, a Middle East expert at the Congressional Research Service, to point out that such a force cannot be sent to patrol Sunni cities and that a major priority is to bring Sunnis into the Iraqi security forces.

Naturally, that is nearly impossible as long as the vast majority of Sunnis bitterly oppose the ersatz regime that Washington is propping up in Baghdad.

NOTES FROM A LOST WAR:

**Breathtaking Stupidity;
Limitless Cruelty;
Tactical Ignorance;
Classic Imperial Arrogance:
And "Another Soldier" Who
Understands Perfectly**

<p>Another soldier, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he said he would be punished by commanders for his criticism, had a more negative view of the sources' performance. "We almost never get anything good from them," he said.</p>

"I think they just pick people from another tribe or people who owe them money or something."

September 13, 2005 By Jonathan Finer, Washington Post Foreign Service

TALL AFAR, Iraq, Sept. 12 -- A masked teenager in an Iraqi army uniform walked slowly through a crowd of 400 detainees captured Monday, studying each face and rendering his verdict with a simple hand gesture, like a Roman emperor deciding the fate of gladiators.

A thumb pointed down meant the suspect was not thought to be an insurgent and would be released by U.S. soldiers. A thumb pointed up meant a man would be removed from the concertina wire-encased pen, handcuffed with tape or plastic ties and taken by truck to a military base to be interrogated.

"Another bad guy right here," an American interpreter shouted when the masked Iraqi singled out a man in a yellow dishdasha, or traditional gown, who shook his head and protested in Turkish. A captive who was spared exhaled with relief and placed his hand on his heart.

This is how the 10-day-old invasion of Tall Afar unfolded Monday. After two days of relatively uneventful patrols in the abandoned neighborhood of Sarai, where commanders had expected insurgents to be massed for a fight, U.S. and Iraqi forces turned north in the morning, to neighborhoods they had already cleared, and found hundreds of men who appeared to be of military age and fighters believed to have slipped through their cordons.

Eventually, 52 men were placed in the open backs of flatbed trucks bound for Camp Sykes, about seven miles south of this northwestern city.

Soldiers with little training relevant to the mission have been forced into roles more traditionally assigned to police: gathering evidence, interrogating witnesses and suspects, and following up on leads.

In searching almost every house in the city's most violent neighborhoods, they have detained hundreds of young men, some because they possessed weapons or insurgent literature, but others solely on the hearsay of local informants often called "sources" by U.S. troops.

Many of the informants are residents of this city of more than 200,000 who now serve in the Iraqi army. Others had family members who were killed by the insurgents and said they wanted to help purge them from their neighborhoods.

The U.S. soldiers who work with them acknowledge knowing little about their backgrounds and motives -- or even their names -- and admit that their reliability varies widely. Some of those named by sources have in turn said their accusers were carrying out tribal or sectarian vendettas, a charge they also level at Iraqi security forces.

The informants "are the first important step in the process of weeding these people out," said Capt. Alan Blackburn, commander of Eagle Troop of the 3rd

Armored Cavalry Regiment, which has led the invasion of Tall Afar. "You obviously can't just go by what they say because they make plenty of mistakes, but since we don't know these places as well as they do, it helps to have them around." **[This bullshit is the first important step in the process of weeding out the foreign armies in Iraq because it's guaranteed to recruit countless more for the armed resistance to take up the fight against Imperial occupation. The Iraqis are right to fight. Imperial terrorists understand nothing but military force.]**

As in the past several days, Iraqi soldiers drawn primarily from the Kurdish pesh merga militia led the operation, joined as always by U.S. Special Operations soldiers, distinctive with their unkempt hair and facial stubble.

Just after 7 a.m., they streamed into the adjoining neighborhoods of Hassan Koy and Uruba, taking every military-age man into custody at a makeshift pen established by U.S. forces along a main road. The U.S. soldiers uncoiled enough concertina wire to hold an expected 50 or so men. But as detainees streamed out from the neighborhoods, the pens were expanded with more coils of wire until the holding area stretched an entire block.

U.S. commanders have praised the performance of the Kurdish forces during the operation, while privately expressing concern that their tactics sometimes verge on being heavy-handed. [Come on now. This pack of Bush terrorists "heavy handed?" Just because the loot, kill, rape, burn and destroy everything they lay their hands on?]

The majority of Tall Afar's residents are Sunni Turkmens, ethnic relatives of the Turks.

By 8 a.m., nearly 400 people were assembled, squatting or seated in the dirt beside the road. Two of the men had bloodied faces and spots of red soaking through their green dishdashas.

"They tried to grab my father, and I said, 'He is old, you don't need to take him,' " said one of the men, whose upper lip and right ear were swollen and bleeding. "They hit us with their fists and their rifles." [Maybe they are just a little bit "heavy handed." Like most cowards, they're really brave around unarmed old folks.]

Many of the men's hands were bound so tightly with plastic cuffs that their circulation was cut off, so U.S. soldiers cut the bindings and instead wrapped their hands with thick green tape. [Yeah, there's that "heavy handed" shit again.]

After about two hours, the informant arrived. Wearing tan camouflage fatigues, a flak jacket, a green ski mask and green helmet, the informant said he was from the neighborhood and was under 20 years old.

"I am doing this because I want to see the fear and violence leave Tall Afar," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

With a U.S. interpreter, he perused the crowd, pausing for less than two seconds to consider each man's fate. He never spoke a word aloud, only whispering occasionally to the interpreter.

"Your source is not good, these are all innocent men," said a detainee wearing a gray dishdasha, who said he was a student in the city of Mosul, 40 miles to the east. "We are all Sunnis. That is why he chose us. He is Shia," he said, referring to the informant.

Another soldier, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he said he would be punished by commanders for his criticism, had a more negative view of the sources' performance. "We almost never get anything good from them," he said. "I think they just pick people from another tribe or people who owe them money or something."

Before boarding trucks and returning to their base, the Kurdish soldiers lined up behind the detainees and posed for digital pictures.

They threw packages of food and bottles of water to a large group of children assembled across the road, *many of whose fathers had been detained.*

Some children picked up the gifts, but several grabbed them and threw them at the departing army vehicles. One truck quickly stopped and a soldier got out and pointed his pistol at the children, causing them to scatter briefly, before he drove away.

Soldiers and some neighborhood children gave the detainees food and water as they waited in the 100-degree heat for trucks to arrive to transport them to Camp Sykes.

A woman in a long purple dress and white head scarf shouted at the remaining soldiers in Turkish, and others began to gather behind her.

"I give this 30 minutes before it gets out of hand," said Sgt. 1st Class Herbet Gadsden, surveying the scene. "We have to get these people out of here before their families go nuts."

At noon, two trucks arrived. Soldiers lined up the detainees, photographed each one with a digital camera and loaded them aboard.

The crowd of family members faded back into their homes. "Another day of making friends," Capt. Noah Hanners said, shaking his head.

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

**Attack On Tal Afar Big Success:
Recruiting For Armed Resistance That Is**



US and Iraqi soldiers search a house in Tal Afar, northern Iraq, September 14, 2005. *Mohammed Younis welcomed a US army patrol outside his house in the formerly rebel-held Iraqi town of Tal Afar, pleading with them to stay. Three days later, they detained him.* (AFP/Ali Khalil)

Withdrawal Key To Sovereignty, Iraqi Report Says

September 14, 2005 Miami Herald

In an attempt to lay the legal groundwork for asking the United States to withdraw its troops, an Iraqi National Assembly committee released a report that said the presence of the American military prevents Iraq from becoming fully sovereign.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

“Fifty-Seven Percent Disapprove Of Bush's Performance”

13 September 2005 By Michael A. Fletcher and Richard Morin, The Washington Post

A new Washington Post-ABC News poll found that clear majorities of Americans disapprove of the way officials at all levels of government are handling the recovery from Katrina.

A 54 percent majority disapproved of Bush's response to Katrina, while an even larger majority - 57 percent - say state and local officials should bear responsibility for the problems.

The bungled response to the hurricane has helped drag down Bush's job-approval rating, which now stands at 42 percent - the lowest of his presidency - in the Post-ABC poll and down three points since the hurricane hit two weeks ago.

Fifty-seven percent disapprove of Bush's performance, a double-digit increase since January.

Even some members of Bush's own party appear to have lost faith in their leader: The president's overall approval rating among Republicans has declined from 91 percent in January to 78 percent in the latest poll.

Overall, half the country now characterizes Bush as a "strong leader" - down 12 points since May of last year. And the proportion who say he can be "trusted in a crisis" likewise has fallen from 60 percent to 49 percent now.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

New Orleans: Racist Lies Vs. Reality, Con't

September 12, 2005 by Jordan Flaherty, via Ed Pearl. [Excerpt] [Jordan Flaherty is a union organizer and an editor of Left Turn Magazine. He is not planning on moving out of New Orleans.]

I asked Okra, in his house off of Piety Street, what the biggest problem has been. He said, "It's been the police - they've lost the last restraints on their behavior they had, and gotten a license to go wild. They can do anything they want. I saw one cop beat a guy so hard that he almost took his ear off. And this was someone just trying to walk home."

According to a report that's been circulated, Denise Young, one of those trapped in the convention center told family members, "yes, there were young men with guns there, but they organized the crowd. They went to Canal Street and 'looted,' and brought back food and water for old people and the babies, because nobody had eaten in days.

“When police rolled down windows and yelled out 'the buses are coming,' the young men with guns organized the crowd in order: old people in front, women and children next, men in the back, just so that when the buses came, there would be priorities of who got out first." But the buses never came.

"Lots of people being dropped off, nobody being picked up. Cops passing by, speeding off. We thought we were being left to die."

Media reports of armed gangs focused on black youth, but New Orleans community activist, Black Panther, and former Green Party candidate for City Council Malik Rahim reported from the West Bank of New Orleans, "There are gangs of white vigilantes near here riding around in pickup trucks, all of them armed."

I also heard similar reports from two of my neighbors - a white gay couple - who i visited on Esplanade Avenue.

Received:

Got That Right

From: JF
To: GI Special
Sent: September 15, 2005
Subject: Israeli Soldiers Who Refused Occupation Duty A Threat To Military

Dear GI Special,

I really enjoyed your story on the Israeli Refuseniks in military prison in Israel in GI SPECIAL 3C53.

These people are years ahead of us in the occupation department so it should not be surprising that they are also years ahead of us in the resistance.

Perhaps the resistance in America and the resistance in Israel and Palestine should make common cause against what is in truth a single war of occupation and expropriation with two or more fronts in the Middle East, in Palestine and Iraq?

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

www.williambowles.info/gispecial,

<http://www.albasrah.net/maqalat/english/gi-special.htm>

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