

## **GI SPECIAL 3D14:**

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



U.S. Air Force personnel load a wounded American soldier onto a cargo plane in Balad, Nov. 9, 2005. The soldier will fly with other wounded to Germany for further treatment. (AP Photo/Jacob Silberberg)

**“Let Them Put Their  
Strong Message Out To  
America”**

**“The Greatest Help We Can Be To  
End This War Is To Stand Behind  
These Iraq/Afghan Vets”**

From: ter

To: Vietnam Veterans Against The War Net

Sent: November 12, 2005

**Subject: GI Special 3D11: Iraq Vets Front And Center**

**I second Mike [Hastie] on his call for the Vietnam vets to pass the baton to our vets of Iraq/Afghanistan. I've been privileged to work on several occasions with these younger brothers and sisters. They're outstanding and give me great hope about the future despite all the dark days that may lie ahead.**

**Kelly Dougherty, Jeff Englehart and Joe Hatcher are only three of many Iraq vets that have impressed me with their strength and passion about ending the madness. I bring them up because they're here in Colorado living in the bastion of military presence, Colorado Springs.**

**They recently spoke in Denver at a community gathering as a panel of vets to testify about their experiences.**

I can tell you the crowd of 75-100 left the place with great insight of what the vets have experienced.

All three put their hearts out there for people to see the horrors they have seen.

I was also honored to meet Mike Cuzzhort of New Orleans down in Covington, LA. Mike led countless trips of VFP folks into NOLA to bring relief supplies to survivors of Katrina. We later met again in DC for the rally. Again, an outstanding person who represents Iraq vets with walking the walk.

**I think the greatest help we can be to end this war is to stand behind these Iraq/Afghan vets and let them put their strong message out to America.**

**To all of the IVAW folks and VFP Iraq/Afghan vets - welcome home and thanks for standing up.**

**As brother, Bob Marley said... "don't give up the fight".**

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **II MEF Soldier Dies In Accident Near Rawah**

11/13/05 MNF

**CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – A Soldier assigned to Regimental Combat Team 2, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), died in a non-hostile vehicle accident Nov. 12, near Rawah, Iraq.**

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# Two Marines Killed By Al Amiriyah IED

11/13/05 MNF Release A05113d

**CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – Two Marines assigned to Regimental Combat Team 8, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), were killed in action when their vehicle was attacked with an improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations against the enemy in Al Amiriyah Nov. 12.**

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## **[THIS IS NOT A SATIRE:] U.S. Likely To Renew Efforts To Secure Baghdad**

November 10, 2005 Inside The Pentagon

**The Bush administration will likely direct the U.S. military in Iraq to make Baghdad more secure as a lead element of its new strategy to better protect the population from insurgent attacks, according to government officials in Washington and in the Persian Gulf region.**

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### **LETHAL ENVIRONMENT: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



11.4.05: US soldiers during a patrol of western Baghdad. (AFP/David Furst)

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## TROOP NEWS

# NOT ONE MORE

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

From: Rose Gentle  
To: GI Special  
Sent: November 13, 2005

### NOT ONE MORE

TO DAY WE AGREED THE DAY AFTER THE 100 BRITISH TROOP IS KILLIED IN IRAQ, WE WILL HOLD A PEACE VIGIL AT 5,30 PM TO REMEMBER THE TROOPS. WE HOPE AND PRAY WE DONT HAVE TO DO THIS.

THIS VIGIL WILL BE ALL OVER GB, TONY BLAIR WILL NOT REMEMBER THEM.

TO DAY IS REMEMBERINS SUNDAY, AND I HOPE TONY BLAIR REMEMBERD MY BOY THE ONE HE KILLIED IN IRAQ. TONY BLAIR WILL REMEMBER GORDON GENTLE AS LONG AS I CONTINUE THE TROOPS OUT, AS I HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT GORDON WILL NOT BE HOME, CHRISTMAS WILL BE SOON, AND SO WILL GORDONS 21RST BIRTHDAY ON THE 23RD OF DECEMBER,

SO ON CHRISTMAS DAY LETS REMEMBER OUR LOVED ONES AND ALL THAT ARE STILL IN IRAQ, LETS SEND BUSH AND BLAIR A XMAS CARD, WITH ALL THE NAMES OF THE TROOPS THAT WE HAVE LOST,

LET BUSH AND BLAIR'S XMAS BE ONE THAY WILL NOT FOR GET,

BRING THE TROOPS HOME, FOR CHRISTMAS,

ROSE GENTLE

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## Iraq Vets “Sharply Criticized The Bush Administration”

November 12, 2005 Wayne Madsen, Rense.com [Excerpts]

A group of veterans of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Desert Storm sharply criticized the Bush administration today at an event sponsored by Veterans for Common Sense in Washington, DC. Dave Debatto.

**Iraq war veteran Garrett Repenhagen said that Abu Ghraib changed things in Iraq. He said that after news of the abuse became public, many Iraqis shifted their support to the insurgency.**

**One starving Iraqi youngster who used to accept a daily meals ready to eat (MRE) package from Repenhagen refused it after the news from Abu Ghraib became known.**

Frank Ford, a 32-year veteran of military and counter-intelligence assignments, served in Samara, said at the outset of his assignment in Samara his unit was witnessing 105-100 walk-ins of intelligence sources per day. The only problem was recording and reporting on all the intelligence being provided.

**After the May 2004 "Wedding Day Massacre" by US troops of a wedding party in the village of Mukaradeeb in western Iraq, near the Syrian border, Ford said things "went south real fast." He said there was an immediate response from the Iraqis. The soured relations with the Iraqis resulted in walk-in intelligence sources dropping from 105 to 110 a day to 2 to 3, and soon to zero.**

**Immediately, U.S. troops in Samara were besieged.**

**The U.S. response was to pick up all males between the ages of 10 and 100 whereupon they were "bagged, tagged, and brutalized." These clean sweeps were conducted in 120 degree temperatures. The new American tactic resulted in an escalation of insurgent attacks.**

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## **Anti-War Soldier Is Going To Court**

November 10, 2005 San Antonio Express-News

By the time the country observes Veterans Day on Friday, one local soldier opposed to war might know if she wins a battle to leave the military.

**Spc. Katherine Jashinski, a member of the Texas Army National Guard stationed at Fort Sam Houston, will be in federal court this week seeking to stay in San Antonio until a judge decides whether the military should grant her a full discharge based on conscientious objector status. She is under orders to ship out Saturday for Fort Benning, Ga., to prepare for Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.**

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# **Veterans For Peace Chapter 110 Appeal: Katrina Survivors Abandoned**

**The supplies to the area have dwindled to almost nothing, and volunteers are about non-existent.**

**Everyone wanted to help when it was on the news everyday, but now everyone has gone on with their lives, while the people down there cannot go on with theirs. Organize your neighborhoods, chapters, grocery stores, churches....please send supplies (list attached) to:**

From: Kathie & Dan Kelly

Sent: Wednesday, November 09, 2005

For about a month now we have been trying, along with some other groups, to get a van from Bellingham, WA to the New Orleans area unsuccessfully. We have now found it a home with a clinic through our friends with SOS. What we need now are drivers, hopefully two. But what we would really like to do is to set up another caravan and include this van. That way, the people who drive the van can come back with the others who go. VFP Chapter 110, Caravans of Hope is more than willing to the help with funds for gas if needed, and of course the gas for the van.

Anyone interested in making this trip, please call me ASAP as we want it on the road yesterday! It must go to Mobile, AL first because SOS needs to transfer the title, insurance etc at that point, then it will go to a clinic I believe in Gulfport, a city still in complete devastation.

Please, please help us, there is still so much to be done down there and SOS needs not only this vehicle, but many volunteers also. They are still distributing food, doing clean-up and construction, establishing clinics and cannot do it alone.

**The supplies to the area have dwindled to almost nothing, and volunteers are about non-existent.**

**Everyone wanted to help when it was on the news everyday, but now everyone has gone on with their lives, while the people down there cannot go on with theirs. Organize your neighborhoods, chapters, grocery stores, churches....please send supplies (list attached) to:**

Saving Our Selves (SOS)  
100 Bessemer Avenue  
Prichard, AL 36610  
Contact: 1-866-372-9SOS (9767)

**For anyone wanting to go down and volunteer, you will be housed in homes in Mobile, not the greatest, but certainly better than the refugees have.** Please bring a tent and sleeping bag in case you are sent to work in an area without housing. There is

volunteer housing being set up in Slidell (between Mobile and New Orleans), but is not operational yet.

**The need is so great and the pool of supplies and volunteers so small now.**

**Believe it or not there are still areas the government is not helping.**

**And others, like the Rainbow Kitchen in Washington Square Park New Orleans, where the government says there is no need and they are closing them down. Guess feeding over 2100 people per day, three times per day, is not needed. Ask that of the ones receiving the food.**

**These are people coming home to New Orleans to try to regain their homes before big business gets them.**

Fortunately, they are going to move the kitchen to another location, but they need food and cooking supplies, some of which our fund has before and is going to purchase for them. That's just one example of how screwed up the government is down there. And how much need there is!

We need to raise money to help these people, not just with the regular supplies, but in helping them to get their homes back in living order.

**Please go to our web page and help if you can, [www.vfpchapter110.org](http://www.vfpchapter110.org) . Yes, I know, you've already given, or you've given to the Red Cross (God forbid), but if you can see through to reaching deeper to help, please trust that it will go to needs of the hurricane victims.**

***Please forward this message on to anyone you can think might want to help!***

Dan & Kathie Kelly  
Camp Covington & Beyond Caravans of Hope-Hurricane Relief  
Veterans For Peace, Chapter 110 Orange County, CA  
kellysbiz@cox.net  
(949)830-3604  
[www.vfpchapter110.org](http://www.vfpchapter110.org)  
[www.vfp.typepad.com](http://www.vfp.typepad.com)

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## **More Pentagon Corruption: Firm's Links To Lawmakers Shed Light On How System Works**

USA Today, November 9 2005

The rise and fall of government contractor MZM opened a window into the world of classified Pentagon spending and how Congress monitors it.

Each year, billions of dollars are spent on classified projects that have little, if any, public oversight. A USA Today analysis of MZM-related campaign contributions showed how the company's growth and its political activities became intertwined at key moments.

In more than 30 instances, donations from MZM's political action committee or company employees went to two members of the House Appropriations Committee in the days surrounding key votes or contract awards that helped MZM grow.

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## **Whistleblower Engineer Faces Pentagon Suspension: [No Honest Deed Goes Unpunished]**

Washington Post, November 9, 2005

A government worker who monitors performance on Pentagon contracts and who has criticized Lockheed Martin planes is facing suspension for not cooperating in an internal leak investigation.

**Kenneth Pedeleose, an industrial engineer with the Defense Contract Management Agency, was told by a superior Oct. 18 that he would be suspended for 30 days without pay for refusing to be interviewed.**

Pedeleose sent documents to Sen. John McCain about alleged problems in the C-130J transport plane.

### **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](http://www.ivaw.net))

## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Assorted Resistance Action**



11/11/05 Reuters & Aljazeera & 13 November 2005 FOCUS News Agency & Reuters & KUNA

**Baghdad.** An explosion blasted in the Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone, RIA Novosti reported. Clouds of smoke are rising above the scene. According to the reports, Russian Security Council's Secretary Igor Ivanov and Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Ibrahim al Jaafari were holding a joint press conference at the time of the explosion.

**KIRKUK** - One Iraqi policeman was killed and another seriously wounded when armed fighters attacked their patrol in the northern oil city of Kirkuk, police said.

**BAGHDAD** - One Iraqi policeman was killed and another wounded on Friday when insurgents attacked their patrol in a western district of the capital, police said.

**KIRKUK** - Five Iraqi soldiers were wounded when a roadside bomb exploded near their patrol in the northern city of Kirkuk, police said.

**In Mosul, Police found the body of Colonel Mohammad Sheit with several bullet wounds in the head and chest.** According to a Mosul Police source, the colonel was abducted by unknown militants last Friday.(

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

# **“The Hypocrisy Of Loving The Solider Who Obeys And Despising The Soldier Who Tells The Truth”**

11/9/05 By Stan Goff, Master Sergeant, Retired, US Army, Stangoff.com

[The background for the Statement Of Support: Excerpt]

October 19, the Kent State Anti-War Committee (KSAWC), an affiliate of the Campus Antiwar Network (CAN) stood around the Army recruiters, who had brought a rock-climbing wall to entice students over to talk with them.

**A member of IVAW, KSAWC, and former and Iraq War veteran, David Airhart decided to show his opposition against the war by exercising his rights of free speech. After filling out liability forms Airhart climbed the rock wall. Once he reached the top he took out a banner, which he held under his jacket, and draped it over**

the wall. The banner read: Kent, Ohio for Peace. Airhart was forced to climb down the back of the wall because a recruiter was coming up the front, yelling at him. As he was climbing down another recruiter came up the back and proceeded to assault Airhart both verbally and physically by pulling his shirt, forcing him off the wall.

Airhart was fined \$105 by city police for disorderly conduct and told that he will have to go to judicial affairs at the university where he will face probation or expulsion.

**When asked why he wanted to counter-recruit against the military Airhart responded, "I do not feel that the administration should allow the military to recruit their students for an unjust war that is taking the lives of innocent people. They should be protecting their students, not using them for cannon fodder."**

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## **My Statement Of Support:**

**The exercise of solidarity with Dave Airhart is disobedience, because it is only our reticence and fear that grant the establishment its power. That's why they hate his lack of fear, because they know when masses of people lose their fear and begin to disobey, their power evaporates like a puddle of piss.**

By Stan Goff

**There can be no better display of the true nature of imperial militarism than how it treats its soldiers, especially those soldiers who have the audacity to believe that their experience entitles them to speak out, and the audacity to believe that they can tell the truth to the public who signs the checks for war.**

Dave Airhart showed that audacity without hurting a single soul. He was not rewarded for bringing home the truth. He was punished for telling the truth.

The recruiters cannot tell the truth. The cops cannot tell the truth. And the establishment doesn't want to tell the truth.

**They want Dave Airhart to shut the fuck up and carry his experience and his insight inside himself like a shameful secret.**

**He was valued as long as he was willing to kill and maim or to be killed or maimed. He had value as a live killer or a dead mystified icon, but the same imperial militarism that valued him only in this extremely narrow way wants to punish him for exercising his integrity and commitment to the truth.**

**They want to punish him for grasping his full humanity; and they want to punish him for setting the example that shows others they can break these taboos.**

The actions of the recruiters, the cops, and the administration provide no better example of why Dave Airhart was right, and why no one should sign up to do the dirty business of imperial plunder for them.

**And Dave Airhart provides a fine example of what it will take to stop this malicious, racist, imperial oil war. He broke those taboos. I hope people will break a lot more of them.**

**He disobeyed. I hope a lot more people will disobey.**

**This whole episode had elevated the status of Dave Airhart as a human being, and it heaps shame on every coward from the recruiting office to the university administration to the police station who acted so aggressively out of fear of that same truth.**

The irony of where this happened should not be lost on anyone. This is Kent State where four students laid down their lives before the same fear of the truth on May 4th, 1970, to stop another imperial war, fought with bombs and lies, and that was likewise stopped in part through the efforts of those who participated in that war and came home to bear witness to its criminality.

**Dave Airhart is part of a great history — still being made.**

<p><b>A friend once told me that soldiers make good political scientists because politics is a matter of life and death to us. We will not keep that science hermetically sealed up inside a classroom, because it is a science for the street.</b></p>
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**It is the science of sit-ins in congressional offices, the science of strikes, the science of street blockades, the science of graffiti, the science of refusal, the science of ending silence, and the science of banners in prohibited spaces.**

**It is the science of breaking taboos and the science of disobedience, and we need to study this science well. We need to study it in order to break the back of the war today, and break the back of a system that spawns the wars of the future.**

**The exercise of solidarity with Dave Airhart is disobedience, because it is only our reticence and fear that grant the establishment its power. That's why they hate his lack of fear, because they know when masses of people lose their fear and begin to disobey, their power evaporates like a puddle of piss.**

They hate his example, and that is exactly why the efforts for counter-recruitment have to escalate. If they arrest one of us, twenty more have to fill the space. If they arrest twenty, then 500 have to fill the space.

**At some point, people will see what you are doing and they will eventually see the hypocrisy of loving the soldier who obeys and despising the soldier who tells the truth. People will see.**

They saw it with burning buses in Opelika, with fire hoses in Birmingham, with police truncheons in Chicago, and with four dead students right here on the university where you all stand.

**You are all being watched, and I don't just mean by a few cops and administrators. History is watching you right now, and it already smiles on this honest veteran.**

**Some believe that they can sneak up on this system and change it while the ruling class is asleep. But the ruling class never sleeps. We will have to make the revolution right in front of them.**

**Warm regards to all of you from Raleigh, birthplace of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, on the border of the Black Homeland.**

**End the occupations of Iraq, Afghanistan, and Palestine!**

Stan Goff  
Master Sergeant, Retired  
US Army

**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.**

## **Winter Soldier**

From: Mike Hastie  
To: GI Special  
Sent: November 13, 2005  
Subject: Winter Soldier

I went and saw the documentary film, "Winter Soldier," at Cinema 21 Friday night. I have seen excerpts from the film over the years, but never the entire documentary.

To say the film was powerful, would be like saying the bomb over Hiroshima was powerful.

In my opinion, it is the most damaging truth about the Vietnam War. It is the awful hidden secret that is a fault line under this entire nation. I have spent a lot of time researching atrocities committed in Vietnam by the United States Government.

This film validated every tear I ever shed, and made a fool out of every pro-war person who ever called me a liar. If you want to know what is happening in Iraq, this film is the window that will allow you that view. The truth is not cheap.

**This film needs to be resurrected, and sent to every city in America. This film would make Iraq and Vietnam official bookends. The horror has raised its head in America again.**

The American Eagle is a terrorist once again. History is now in the moment, where it never left.

"Those who fail to study the past, are condemned to repeat it." George Santayana

Mike Hastie  
US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71

**THIS IS THE ORIGINAL NOTICE**  
[Thanks to Joe Urgo, VVAW-AI, for making this available.]



## WINTER SOLDIER INVESTIGATION

**WHAT:** An inquiry into U.S. Military Policy in Indochina.

**WHEN:** January 31, February 1 and 2, 1971.

**WHERE:** Howard Johnson's New Center Motor Lodge, Detroit, Michigan.

The Winter Soldiers of the American Revolution, unlike the "summer soldiers and sunshine patriots" referred to by Tom Paine, faced up to their responsibility during the long winter at Valley Forge. After our time spent in Vietnam we know that the most difficult and painful part of our service begins now - in telling Americans what is being done in their name.

Join us - former enlisted men and officers from all branches of the military - in sponsoring the investigation. If you have testimony to offer, contact us so that we may arrange for you to come to Detroit on January 31st, 1971.

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Please add my name to the list of supporters of the Winter Soldier  
Investigation. I am a veteran and I have served in Vietnam.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (please print) Address  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone No. Period of Service Outfit  
in Vietnam  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature  
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I have testimony to offer. Please contact me about arrangements  
for travel to Detroit.

Mail to: Winter Soldier Investigation, 987 Emerson Street,  
Detroit, Michigan 48215  
or call collect - (313) 822-7700

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## “Melting The Skin Off Of Children In Order To Give Them Freedom”

Now, I know that we may be melting the skin off of children in order to give them freedom, or to prevent Saddam Hussein from possibly melting the skins off of those children at some future date. These are good and noble things to bring children, especially the ones who have not been killed by melting their skin.

November 9, 2005 Hunter, Daily Kos

*In a documentary to be broadcast by RAI, the Italian state broadcaster, this morning, a former American soldier who fought at Fallujah says: "I heard the order to pay attention because they were going to use white phosphorus on Fallujah. In military jargon it's known as Willy Pete.*

*"Phosphorus burns bodies, in fact it melts the flesh all the way down to the bone ... I saw the burned bodies of women and children. Phosphorus explodes and forms a cloud. Anyone within a radius of 150 metres is done for." -- The Independent, US forces 'used chemical weapons' during assault on city of Fallujah*

*"WP (i.e., white phosphorus rounds) proved to be an effective and versatile munition. We used it for screening missions at two breeches and, later in the fight, as a potent psychological weapon against the insurgents in trench lines and spider holes when we could not get effects on them with HE. We fired 'shake and bake' missions at the insurgents, using WP to flush them out and HE to take them out." -- Field Artillery Magazine, via Steven D*

**I think we need to take a step back from the newest Fallujah revelations. There's been a lot of confusion over what is or isn't a "chemical weapon" vs. an "incendiary"; what aspects of the Geneva conventions the United States is or is**

**not signatory to; and whether or not the United States is still bound by rules of warfare that they are not direct signatories to.**

**Allow me to try to clear things up, if I can.**

**First, I think it should be a stated goal of United States policy to not melt the skin off of children.**

As a natural corollary to this goal, I think the United States should avoid dropping munitions on civilian neighborhoods which, as a side effect, melt the skin off of children.

You can call them "chemical weapons" if you must, or far more preferably by the more proper name of "incendiaries". The munitions may or may not precisely melt the skin off of children by setting them on fire; they do melt the skin off of children, however, through robust oxidation of said skin on said children, which is indeed colloquially known as "burning".

But let's try to avoid, for now, the debate over the scientific phenomenon of exactly how the skin is melted, burned, or caramelized off of the aforementioned children. I feel quite confident that others have put more thought into the matter of how to melt the skin off of children than I have, and will trust their judgment on the matter.

**Now, I know that we may be melting the skin off of children in order to give them freedom, or to prevent Saddam Hussein from possibly melting the skins off of those children at some future date. These are good and noble things to bring children, especially the ones who have not been killed by melting their skin.**

I know, as well, that we do not drop "chemical weapons" on Iraq.

We may, in the course of fighting insurgents in civilian neighborhoods, drop "incendiaries" or other airborne weaponry which may melt the skins off of children as an accidental side effect of illuminating their neighborhoods or melting the skins off their neighbors.

In that this still can be classified as melting the skins off of children, I feel comfortable in stating that the United States should not condone the practice. (This may mean, when fighting in civilian neighborhoods, we take nuanced steps to avoid melting the skin off of children, such as not dropping munitions that melt the skin off of children.)

**And I know it is true, there is some confusion over whether the United States was a signatory to the Do Not Melt The Skin Off Of Children part of the Geneva conventions, and whether or not that means we are permitted to melt the skin off of children, or merely are silent on the whole issue of melting the skin off of children.**

**But all that aside, there are very good reasons, even in a time of war, not to melt the skin off of children.**

**First, because the insurgency will inevitably be hardened by tales of American forces melting the skin off of children.**

**Second, because the civilian population will harbor considerable resentment towards Americans for melting the skin off of their children.**

**Third, BECAUSE IT FUCKING MELTS THE SKIN OFF OF CHILDREN.**

And, unless Saddam Hussein had a brigade or two consisting of six year olds, we can presume that children, like perhaps nine tenths or more of their immediate families, are civilians.

**These are, admittedly, nuanced points. "But Hunter", I can hear many Americans say, "isn't it a natural byproduct of a war of preemption, er, I mean liberation, to melt the skin off of children?"**

**Why yes, yes it is.**

Melting the skin off of children is an inevitable part of urban warfare, which is one of the reasons that most military planners and foreign policy leaders prefer to avoid putting themselves in positions where melting the skin off of children comes into play.

George Herbert Walker Bush, when contemplating whether or not to engage in the urban warfare that would, in all likelihood, melt the skin off of children by exposing United States forces to a situation where city defenders would be interspersed with those said civilians, chose the course of not putting his forces in a position where melting the skin off of children would prove necessary.

**In any event, street fighting in neighborhoods where there are, indeed, children -- as is evidenced by their skin, lying over there -- may or may not be a wise military decision. But it is certainly true that the whole child-melting decision, pro or con, should be treated with some gravity, and perhaps methods of combat which do not melt the skin off of children should be considered.**

Because melting the skin off of children, as it turns out, is a very good way to turn the opinion of the American population against a war in general:

**So in conclusion, I am going to come out, to the continuing consternation of Rush Limbaugh and pro-war supporters everywhere, as being anti-children-melting, as a matter of general policy.**

**Furthermore, I would suggest to the President of the United States that if you find yourself in the position where your on-the-ground forces find melting the skin off of children to be the preferable of all available options, your military outlook is well and truly fucked, and you might perhaps start considering alternative means of stabilizing the country.**

Thank you for your time.

**What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to**



contact@militaryproject.org. Name, I.D., withheld on request.  
Replies confidential.

# The Great French Army Mutiny Of 1917

11.11.2000 By Eric Margolis, Ericmargolis.com [Excerpts]

16 April 1917

The message went out to the French troops: 'The hour has come! Courage, confidence. Nivelle.'

Thousands of French heavy guns, including 405mm monsters, poured massed fire and gas shells on the German positions in the biggest bombardment seen on the Western Front since Verdun and the Somme. A steady rain of shells deluged the German lines, churning up the earth like a giant plough. The French were convinced no enemy troops could have survived the titanic bombardment.

Tough and cocky as always, Gen. Mangin, proclaimed: 'the day after tomorrow, my headquarters will be in Laon.'

At dawn, hundreds of thousands of French infantry went over the top, preceded by Nivelle's 'secret weapon' of rolling barrages 100 meters ahead of the advancing troops, and some 200 tanks. Not since the heady days of the battle of the frontiers in 1914 had regiments of blue-uniformed 'poilus' charged forward with such glorious 'elan', sword bayonets fixed, battle standards unfurled, bugles calling, drums beating, crying, 'Vive la France!'

**In war, a clever enemy is rarely surprised more than once by innovative tactics. The Germans, well aware of Nivelle's impending offensive, secretly abandoned their front lines. The huge French artillery barrages thus fell on empty trenches and thin air.**

The regiments of French infantry surged like a vast tidal wave of blue across half a mile across no-man's-land, reached German forward defenses on the Aisne, and found them... empty.

**As the confused French milled about, or sought shelter in the ruined trenches, thousands of concealed German Maxim machine guns and hundreds of batteries of artillery dug in above on the Chemin des Dames opened murderous fire into the packed French ranks. German gunners knocked out 150 French tanks. The French attack, now halted, became a monstrous massacre.**

Caught in the open on a 50-mile front, entire battalions were mowed down; whole regiments were turned into bloody pulp by German shrapnel. Attempts by valiant French

units to storm the Chemin des Dames and silence the murderous German machine guns were halted by a wall of steel.

By the next day, the French had lost 120,000 casualties, twice the British losses on the first two days of the catastrophe of the Somme. Nivelle had predicted only 10,000 dead and wounded, and planning medical support accordingly.

**Wounded French soldiers stormed the few field hospitals in the rear.**

**Undeterred by human mercy or military sense, and heedless of cost, Nivelle and 'Butcher' Mangin kept hurling their men at the Chemin des Dames.**

After a month of fruitless attacks, French casualties in what became known as the Second Battle of the Aisne reached 187,000.

To the northwest, in the ugly coal fields and slag heaps of Flanders, the Canadian Corps sought to draw off German forces reinforcing the Aisne front by launching large-scale frontal attacks against heavily fortified German positions on Hill 70 near Lens. In this bloody, but almost forgotten action, over 10,000 Canadians died or were wounded, toll exceeded only by the 16,000 casualties at Canada's Calvary, Passchendaele.

Nivelle finally conceded defeat and was replaced by Gen. Philippe Petain, who had rallied the army in the darkest days of Verdun.

**But Nivelle had broken the French Army on the wheel of the Chemin des Dames. Troops being marched to the front began singing rebellious songs and baa'ing like sheep going to slaughter.**

**Early in May, as stories of the massacre on the Aisne spread, the veteran 21st Div., which fought heroically at Verdun, mutinied and refused to go into battle.**

**The division was decimated in the old Roman form of unit punishment, mutiny ringleaders were summarily shot or sent to Devil's Island. The 21st returned to battle on the Aisne - and was slaughtered.**

**This horror ignited massive mutiny along the entire front. By June, 54 divisions - half France's Army - had mutinied and refused to fight.** Only two reliable divisions stood between the Germans and Paris. Incredibly, German intelligence never learned of the mutinies until months later -the greatest intelligence failure of World War I.

**The mutinies were ruthlessly put down by Gen. Petain. To this day, France still keeps secret the number of mutineers executed in 1917 'to give courage to the others.'**

**The figures range from hundreds up to 50,000. According to some reports, entire mutinous battalions were ringed by field guns and massacred at point-blank range.**

**Tragically, had Germany learned of the mutinies, the war might have ended in 1917 by negotiations or a German drive on Paris. All sides were exhausted and war-weary, but no one dared make the first move towards peace.**

Had the war ended in a draw in 1917, Germany's collapse and defeat the following year would have been averted - and along with it, the cruel injustice of the Versailles Treaty, and the post-war rapacity of the victorious allies.

At the Chemin des Dames, tragedy heaps on tragedy. It was all very long ago, but we should still weep today, both for the brave soldiers who fell on both sides, and for suffering mankind.

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## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

### **Vacation In Beautiful Iraq (But Have Weapons Ready)**

November 9, 2005 Hussein Al-alak, The Iraq Solidarity Campaign [Excerpts]

Amongst the bloodshed, continued occupation, high levels of illiteracy and malnutrition among Iraqi children, it has now been decided that Iraq's future lies with a wide range of Mickey Mouse ideas, which are being projected by the US backed Iraqi government.

**It appears, that due to the increase of Iraqi returnees and contractors to the occupied country, a business opportunity has arisen in the form of travel and tourism.**

According to the Independent on 7/11/2005, there are now plans to build in Baghdad a five star 23 storey hotel, transform "an opulent palace complex" into a theme park, along with golf clubs and conference centres.

**There are also plans to turn Saddams palaces in Tikrit, into a "themed" tourist spot, where "international visitors will also be able to see the kind of life style Saddam enjoyed".**

All of this is being planned by Iraqi businessmen, who have been "donated" the land by the ever generous Iraqi government.

The Iraqi government has already declared one part of Iraq as being open for business.

<p><b>The area is Basra but eager tourists must take the following points on board, as clearly stated by an Iraqi official. "Tourists should dress like locals and maybe dye their hair. And they should have armed guards and always be vigilant."</b></p>
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# **“Every One Of Those Detainees Becomes Our Enemy”**

10 November 2005 Jen Banbury interviews Brig. Gen. Janis Karpinski - former commander at Abu Ghraib [Excerpt]

I thought, "How can we hold hundreds or thousands of these people in Iraq? We'll never get out of here." But that was the plan.

And Gen. Wodjakowski said, "I don't care if we're holding 15,000 innocent Iraqis, we're winning the war."

And I said to him, "No, sir, not inside the wire you're not, because every one of those detainees becomes our enemy when they're released, and they will be released one day."

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

## **“A Dead Family Member Brings \$2,500”**

## **“They Came With Violence And Destruction”**

## **“That Is Why So Many Iraqis Are Fighting Against The Occupation”**

Sergeant Jeffery Mubarak, a 37-year-old veteran of four US wars, is one of the soldiers processing compensation in Rawah. "Do I think we're paying the man enough money," he said, "No, I don't. But I just work here. I don't set the rates.

"I try to stay removed from it all and I'm trying to get the man what money I can. That doesn't mean I think it's fair."

8 Nov 2005 PHIL SANDS IN RAWAH, The Scotsman

**HAMEED Hassan sat in the remains of his car, next to his dead wife, and watched his four-year-old son begin to bleed to death.**

**The family had been on the way to buy clothes in Rawah's small market when the American soldiers opened fire. A helicopter gunship joined in the attack, cutting the car and two of its occupants to pieces.**

Hassan's wife, Basima Taha, died almost immediately . His youngest son, Mahmoud Muhsin, was not as lucky. Hit in the torso, his abdomen was torn open, a wound that would prove fatal.

They were outside the main government building in Rawah, a town on the Euphrates River about 90km from the Syrian border, deep in Sunni al-Anbar province, when Hassan turned his car around. He drove down a side street, alongside the civic centre, and found himself heading towards a group of US soldiers - engaged at that time in a major anti-insurgent offensive.

"They started shooting straight away," he said, "I saw no signal, no warning, just the bullets hitting my car. The helicopter joined in. I saw my wife was killed."

The soldiers drove off, leaving the family in the street.

The US military has not apologised for the incident. But it has agreed to pay compensation for the killings, an acceptance that innocent lives were lost.

**Under the US "consequence management" system, there is a maximum payout of \$2,500 per claim. A dead wife and a dead son are equivalent to two claims; meaning Hassan is in line to receive a total of \$5,000 in cash.**

**Sergeant Jeffery Mubarak, a 37-year-old veteran of four US wars, is one of the soldiers processing compensation in Rawah. "Do I think we're paying the man enough money," he said, "No, I don't. But I just work here. I don't set the rates.**

**"I try to stay removed from it all and I'm trying to get the man what money I can. That doesn't mean I think it's fair."**

**The claims are investigated and, if found to be legitimate, payments are made according to a sliding scale. A damaged high-value car or dead family member brings \$2,500, while a television destroyed by a hand-grenade is valued at \$350.**

One entry in the 4/14 Cavalry compensation log reads: "blown-up house, pay \$1,300". Another: "destroyed boat, \$20". Others include a blown-up potato field and irrigation equipment (\$2,000), a damaged door in a hospital (\$50) and a burned-down store (\$2,500).

During the past two months about \$100,000 has been paid out to residents of the Rawah region for damages caused by the 4/14 Cavalry and its predecessors.

In one incident, seven civilians were killed and five wounded when 25 high-explosive mortars were fired on a Bedouin pastoral area: a total of \$30,000 was paid out to the families.

Hassan, now a father of one, said: "The money isn't compensation. You can't pay someone for a life, life doesn't have a money value. How can money make up for what

I've lost? I feel bad about even taking the money and I wasn't going to ask for it. But my friends told me 'you have to look after your son now, you can help his schooling and keep him warm with the money, take it'."

And US infantry soldiers patrolling the ground report the Bedouin area hit by the mortars has seen an upswing in bomb attacks since the incident.

**One officer said, on condition of anonymity: "What else can you expect? If you kill an innocent family accidentally or through negligence you're bound to get consequences; it's bound to turn people against you. It's only natural."**

And among some claimants waiting for their compensation in the Rawah government building, anger at US forces remains undiminished.

**Abdul Rahman Mohammad Hamadi, a vet who had his clinic smashed by US forces during fighting, said: "We are given a small amount of money months after our livelihoods are destroyed. This is just evidence the Americans have brought us no benefits. They came with violence and destruction and that is all we have seen. That is why so many Iraqis are fighting against the occupation."**

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

**DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

## **Jim McGovern's Prescription For Continued Imperial Occupation Of Iraq**

**The intentions of the invasion and occupation would not change, just the nationalities of the occupying troops. Washington would still be pulling the strings, although the spoils would have to be shared among those who participated in this charade.**

November 11, 2005 By RON JACOBS, CounterPunch. Ron Jacobs is author of The Way the Wind Blew: a history of the Weather Underground, which is just republished by Verso.

**On November 4, 2005, Democratic Representative Jim McGovern of Massachusetts introduced a bill whose purpose is to "prohibit the use of funds to deploy United States Armed Forces to Iraq." This bill, numbered HR 4232, is co-sponsored by twelve other representatives, including Dennis Kucinich (D-OH), Maxine Waters (D-CA), and Barbara Lee (D-CA).**

The bill was immediately referred to the House Armed Services Committee and the Committee on International Relations, where it will remain until the Speaker decides to bring it to the floor. This in itself makes the likelihood that any full House discussion of this bill will not occur in the near future, if ever. For the sake of argument, however, let's assume that it will make it to the House floor as it is written and it will make it there during this session of Congress.

**Making these assumptions, let's take an honest look at what this bill demands.**

(a) Prohibition- Except as provided in subsection (b), funds appropriated or otherwise made available under any provision of law may not be obligated or expended to deploy or continue to deploy the Armed Forces to the Republic of Iraq.

This portion seems straightforward enough. Plain and simple, it states that no more funds be appropriated or used to send any more US military forces to Iraq. If one opposes the war in Iraq, they certainly can't argue with this provision.

(b) Exception- Subsection (a) shall not apply to the use of funds to--  
(1) provide for the safe and orderly withdrawal of the Armed Forces from Iraq;

This subsection is also hard to argue with. After all, it will cost some money to bring all of the troops home from their bases in Iraq.

**or (2) ensure the security of Iraq and the transition to democratic rule by--**

**This is where the bill begins to become meaningless in terms of an immediate and complete withdrawal of all occupation forces from Iraq.**

**If we read on, we discover that Mr. McGovern's bill as introduced is not really a demand for an end to the foreign occupation of Iraq. Instead, it is just a call to replace US forces with forces from other nations' militaries--nations that would coordinate everything with the US and its intelligence agencies.**

(A) carrying out consultations with the Government of Iraq, other foreign governments, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the United Nations, and other international organizations;

**Which nations might Mr. McGovern have in mind?**

**Why, first and foremost of course, other nations with colonialist histories and potential economic interests in Iraq.**

**By this, I mean the NATO countries, who, despite their differences prior to the US/UK invasion of Iraq in 2003, would all like to have a piece of the oil pie that is part and parcel of what Iraq is to the major capitalist alliance (or NATO).**

As for the UN, its recent history regarding Iraq does not place it in the Iraqi peoples' circle of friends. After all, it was the UN Security Council that enforced the murderous sanctions against that country's people for over ten years and has looked the other way

whenever Washington and London violated their part of any agreement made after the first Gulf War.

Then, of course, there is the so-called government of Iraq. In other words, the government composed of men and women handpicked by the current regime in Washington, completely funded by this same regime, and as recent statements by the Iraqi president regarding US plans to attack Syria from Iraq made clear, unable to act in any meaningful manner without the approval of the men and women in power in DC.

In short, this is where Mr. McGovern's (and his co-sponsors) good intentions fall apart.

**To repeat, this bill, if enacted, would only replace US troops with other occupying forces. Iraq would continue to be occupied and the bloodshed would continue.**

**The intentions of the invasion and occupation would not change, just the nationalities of the occupying troops. Washington would still be pulling the strings, although the spoils would have to be shared among those who participated in this charade.**

Given the nature of the battleground in Iraq, any nation willing to send its troops to replace those the US would withdraw would want an awful big piece of the pie. So, on a very practical level, it is quite unlikely that any government would even volunteer its military for such a role.

**or (B) providing financial assistance or equipment to Iraqi security forces and international forces in Iraq.**

More of the same.

**This provision would continue the funding of the Iraqi military and police forces, including the various death squads and other covert ops groups now in place.**

This means that the mission of the Iraqi forces would change very little, if at all. They would continue to attempt to impose Washington's designs (as expressed through its Iraqi clients) and would be under orders from whatever troops ended up replacing uniformed US forces under provision (A) above.

(c) Rule of Construction- Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit or otherwise restrict the use of funds available to any department or agency of the Government of the United States (other than the Department of Defense) to carry out social and economic reconstruction activities in Iraq.

**This sounds like a caveat to continue any and all covert operations currently going on in Iraq.** Throughout its history, the CIA has operated under the auspices of providing various types of aid to whatever countries it is operating in. Indeed, one of the agency's primary vehicles operates under the acronym of USAID (US Agency for International Development). What this provision does is enable most of the US government in all its disguises to continue business as usual in Iraq. The only agency that would be forbidden to do so is the Department of Defense (DOD). So, any operations deemed necessary to US designs for Iraq and currently operating under the aegis of the DOD would have to be moved to some other agency.



**This includes the huge numbers of so-called security contractors in that country, many of whom are actually in the employ of US intelligence agencies. Like I've said before, it's a shell game.**

Is this bill the real thing?

Should the antiwar movement support it?

Let me put it this way. It's a beginning--albeit a small one.

The members of Congress who have attached their names to the bill include some of Congress' most outspoken opponents of the Iraqi invasion and occupation, which means their intentions are genuine.

But we all know about roads and pavement made of good intentions. Still, the very fact that there is a bill in Congress that even considers the withdrawal of US forces from Iraq is a step in the right direction.

**Yet, as I briefly point out here, this bill is not enough. It does not fundamentally change the situation for the people of Iraq. The proposed legislation continues the scenario whereby the US-created government in Baghdad is answerable to Washington and not to the Iraqi people. It replaces one set of foreign troops with another. It enhances the power of the Iraqi military and it allows the continued presence of US covert operators (and private companies in their employ) inside Iraq. Indeed, it makes the likelihood of enhanced use of covert ops more likely in the absence of traditional military assaults.**

Most important of all, this bill continues to deny the Iraqi people their sovereignty.

**The resolution is not about guaranteeing Iraqi self-determination; it's about the continued determination of Iraq's future by Washington and its co-conspirators.**

**To put it bluntly, this bill's only provision should be that the US get out lock, stock and barrel and leave no other occupying military force to replace it.**

**As long as the client government in Iraq depends on outside forces for its support (and not the Iraqi people), not only will it continue to ignore those Iraqis opposed to it, it will never be independent, since the occupier can overrule any of its decisions.**

As I've noted before, if the government had to depend on the Iraqi people for its support, it would be more likely to compromise with its opposition, armed and otherwise. Then the beginnings of a just and representative democracy would have a chance in Iraq.

Don't put away your protest placards yet.

**Indeed, the antiwar movement has momentum on its side, but it risks being maneuvered into a scenario that either replaces one occupying force with another (without any genuine input from the Iraqi people) or, as a Nation editorial called**

for on November 9, 2005, a nebulous demand for a withdrawal as quickly as possible-whatever that means.

We need to repeat until we are heard, the only demand should be immediate and unconditional withdrawal..

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## THE BUSH CODE

November 10, 2005 [Thanks to MR who sent this in.]

After numerous rounds of "We don't know if Osama is still alive," Osama himself decided to send George Bush a letter in his own handwriting to let him know he was still in the game. Bush opened the letter and it appeared to contain a single line of coded message:

370HSSV-0773H

Bush was baffled, so he e-mailed it to Condi Rice. Condi and her aides had no clue either, so they sent it to the FBI. No one could solve it at the FBI so it went to the CIA, then to the NSA.

With no clue as to its meaning they eventually asked Britain's MI-6 for help. Within a minute MI-6 cabled the White House with this reply:

"Tell the President he's holding the message upside down and backwards."

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## CLASS WAR REPORTS

### The Politicians In DC Suck Up To The Rich And Step On The Working Poor, As Usual

[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in]

A hard choice for them would be to cut tax pork, that dizzying list of "tax incentives" they have showered on oil companies and investors, and to halt the repeal of the inheritance tax on large fortunes.

But, no, foster families and hungry kids have to face cuts so we can afford to eliminate taxes altogether on rich sons and daughters inheriting money from the old man or the old lady. There's a work incentive for you.

November 4, 2005 By E.J. Dionne. The Sacramento Bee

**WASHINGTON - The politicians who favor cutting taxes on the wealthy typically proclaim their desire to encourage hard work, personal responsibility and family values.**

**So why are House Republican leaders pushing a budget that, when it comes to our neediest fellow citizens, is a direct assault on ... hard work, personal responsibility and family values?**

**Here are some things those leaders don't want you to know.**

**Their cuts in food stamps would eliminate from the program 225,000 people in working households with children.** According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, some 330,000 children in working families would lose child care assistance because of inadequate funding in the bill.

**Do you honor families who help foster kids? Then why cut \$397 million in foster care payments to relatives who take in children removed from their parents' homes?** Isn't it remarkable that congressional conservatives who think we can afford \$70 billion worth of tax cuts in this budget -- meaning the budget actually increases the deficit -- can't come up with that \$400 million for foster kids? It gives "compassionate conservatism" a whole new meaning.

**And then there are the deep cuts in Medicaid. In their package of \$50 billion in cuts over five years, the House Republicans are proposing \$9.4 billion in Medicaid cuts, which would grow to \$45 billion over the next 10 years. Millions of children - especially those in low-income working families -- could be charged higher co-payments and premiums.**

Studies show such increases in out-of-pocket costs have their greatest impact on Americans toward the bottom of the income scale who go without the health care they need.

**Ah, but don't we have to make "hard choices" to cut the deficit? These cuts may be hard on the poor, but they are not "hard choices" for most House Republicans who are carefully sparing their own constituencies and interest groups.**

**A hard choice for them would be to cut tax pork, that dizzying list of "tax incentives" they have showered on oil companies and investors, and to halt the repeal of the inheritance tax on large fortunes.**

**But, no, foster families and hungry kids have to face cuts so we can afford to eliminate taxes altogether on rich sons and daughters inheriting money from the old man or the old lady. There's a work incentive for you.**

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## France 2005

10 November 2005 by William Bowles, [williambowles.info](http://williambowles.info) [Excerpt]

**Spontaneous uprisings are as old as class societies as any reading of history teaches us from Watt Tyler's Peasants' Revolt in the 13th century through to the dispossessed of the "barrios" of Paris or Caracas.**

**What distinguishes the revolt currently taking place in France is not only the scale of it, sweeping across France from one ghetto to the next but that it reflects the fact that the legacy of colonialism and its benighted descendent, the "neo-liberal" agenda of the IMF and the World Bank has finally come back to haunt the Western world.**

**A suffocating myopia has descended on the West, one that ignores the reality of a world that outside the metropolitan centres is based on sheer brute force of arms and repression whether in Colombia, Iraq, or Palestine, where the uniting factor is an imperialism increasingly desperate in its attempts not only to hold onto what it has stolen but to absorb the fact that the policies of centuries has finally come to a head.**

**That it explodes in the face of a smug and comfortable intelligentsia, whether of the "left" or the right should come as no surprise to us, it is but our just desserts for the centuries of oppression we have inflicted on Fanon's Wretched of the Earth and for ignoring the reality of life in our own "backyard", even as we speed off up the M-25 to some cathedral of consumption to get our fix of fixtures.**

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