

GI SPECIAL 4F14:

FUTILE EXERCISE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE



U.S. soldiers at the location where a parked car packed with explosives hit a police patrol in the northern city of Mosul in Iraq, killing at least five policemen and wounding 14, May 31, 2006. (AP Photo/Mohammed Ibrahim)

U.S. Death Toll In Iraq Reaches 2,500: 18,490 U.S. Troops Have Been Wounded

June 15, 2006 Reuters

WASHINGTON - The number of U.S. military deaths in the Iraq war has reached 2,500, the Pentagon said Thursday, more than three years into a conflict that finds U.S. and allied foreign forces locked in a struggle with a resilient insurgency.

In addition, the Pentagon said 18,490 U.S. troops have been wounded in the war, which began in March 2003 with a U.S.-led invasion

Tens of thousands of Iraqis have been killed.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Blast Kills Winnemucca Soldier



Crombie: Army combat medic lived in Winnemucca for about six months (HANDOUT)

6/9/2006 ALEX NEWMAN, RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL

A 19-year-old Winnemucca soldier was killed Wednesday in Iraq when an improvised explosive device detonated near his Humvee during combat operations, officials said Thursday.

Army Pfc. David N. Crombie, a 2004 graduate of Cibola High School in Yuma, Ariz., was a combat medic in the 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, based in Baumholder, Germany.

Family members, notified Thursday, said Crombie had been deployed to Kuwait for about a month and was part of a convoy when he was killed.

Crombie's stepfather, Dennis Laybourn, and mother Jennifer Laybourn, both of Winnemucca, said Crombie always wanted to join the military.

"He went for a short time to college at Northern Arizona University, but then he joined the Army after that," Dennis Laybourn said. "It was just something he wanted to do. He always wanted to join the Army."

He left June 15, 2005, for basic training.

Crombie, a drummer, studied music for one semester at NAU, played the snare drum in his high school marching band and formed several garage bands with friends during his teens.

"I don't know if he really knew what he wanted to do once this Army thing was over," said Dennis Laybourn, who fought back tears as he talked.

An avid hunter since childhood, the soldier sent weekly letters to his mother and stepfather and communicated through e-mail.

Laybourn said Crombie moved to Winnemucca after graduating from high school and lived there for about six months.

The family is planning a memorial service in Yuma. The stepfather said Crombie will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Crombie is also survived by brothers Dan Crombie, 23, of Tucson, Ariz., and Jason Laybourn, 13, of Winnemucca.

He is the 34th Nevadan and the first from Winnemucca killed in the war on terrorism.

Guardsman "Had A Killer Jump Shot"

June 9, 2006 Steve Rubenstein, Chronicle Staff Writer

National Guard Spc. Isaac Lawson loved jogging, playing computer games and beating his stepson at one-on-one basketball.

"He was quicker than me," his stepson, Curtis Goldwire, recalled Thursday. "He had a killer jump shot, too. He could hit that shot from 15 feet all the time."

Lawson also loved serving his country, although he didn't speak about it in so many words.

"You don't really want to talk about it," said Goldwire, himself a Navy petty officer. "You just go and do your job."

On Monday, Lawson, 35, died after a roadside bomb exploded while he was on patrol in Baghdad. Lawson, assigned to the Guard's 49th Military Police Brigade based in Fairfield, was the 2,482nd member of the U.S. military to die in the Iraq war.

Lawson was a native of Sacramento and a graduate of suburban Elk Grove High School. He enlisted in the Army in 1991 and served in the first Gulf War.

He left the Army and worked for two years as an insurance claims adjuster in Sacramento before his National Guard unit was activated in 2004. He was sent to Iraq in April 2005, his stepson said, leaving a wife and young daughter behind in the Central Valley.

On his trips home, including a two-week visit over Easter, Lawson enjoyed sitting down in front of his computer and playing football or the battle simulation game "Ghost Recon" with Goldwire.

"I couldn't touch him at that," his 24-year-old stepson said. "He was always going at it, and he was really good."

At other times, Lawson -- whose family and friends called him Shaun -- would put on his jogging shorts and take off on long runs through Sacramento. He also enjoyed following the Oakland Raiders and the Los Angeles Lakers. He was active in the Destiny Church of Sacramento.

He set up a computer Webcam so he and his wife could communicate with voice and pictures while he was overseas. The two of them talked whenever Lawson could find time at a computer -- often several times a week.

"He was a real family man," said his friend Ebony Strain. "He loved his daughter. He loved fixing things around the house. It wasn't a big deal to him, he just did it."

Goldwire said his stepfather "was always so lovable, so joyful and so positive. Everybody liked him. And he really helped me with my own military career."

Lawson is survived by his wife of seven years, Suzzettee; a 3-year-old daughter, Chiara; and two children from a previous marriage.

Plans for a funeral in Sacramento are pending.

Ellis County Resident Injured By Explosion

06/15/06 SHERRY LONG, The Ellis County Press

United States Marine PFC Roy Van Wey was severely injured Friday in Iraq when the Humvee he was riding in was attacked.

Van Wey, a Navy corpsman and two other Marines were patrolling the streets of Iraq when an antitank device hit them.

Van Wey was the only one to survive the blast.

"He should be okay," said Raymond Van Wey, Roy's younger brother.

Raymond asked that the community remember his brother and family in their prayers.

Midway Baptist Church pastor Doug Childers said the family live in the small community of India near Ferris and received news of their son's injuries while attending church Friday evening.

Van Wey suffered third-degree burns on his back, arms, legs and abdomen and second-degree burns to his face and head, according to the family's pastor.

Since his lungs got burned during the blast, doctors were keeping him on a ventilator.

Van Wey was transported to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany before being flown to the Brook Army Medical Center in San Antonio where he remains in critical condition and was supposed to have undergone surgery on Tuesday.

After graduating from Ferris High School in 2003, Van Wey followed the family tradition of serving his country; he joined the Marine Corp. "We've all joined at one point or another," said Raymond Van Wey, currently stationed stateside. All five of the Van Wey boys have worn the Marine Corp. uniform at one point or another over the years. Married less than a year, Childers said, Roy Van Wey and his bride were married late last fall during his short trip home from Iraq.

While Van Wey's medical expenses would be covered by the military, an account at Commercial State Bank was set to help the family with traveling expenses so they could be near him. Donations could be made in Ferris or Palmer for the Roy Van Wey Benefit Fund.

[This shit again. Let no family ever have to scratch and beg for money to visit a wounded soldier. The rats in DC have billions to hand out to Halliburton and the rest of their war profiteer buddies, but won't pay the travel expenses for a family like this? Looks like the only war worth fighting now is class war against the Imperial politicians and their greedy friends. Let's bring *that* on. T]

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Two New York Soldiers Dead

6/14/2006 The Associated Press

Two Fort Drum soldiers were killed Tuesday in Afghanistan, military officials said.

The soldiers, who have not been identified, died in separate incidents while conducting combat operations for the 10th Mountain Division, said Fort Drum spokesman Ben Abel.

SA Soldier Killed In Afghanistan

Jun 1 KSAT

A 29-year-old soldier from San Antonio was killed in Afghanistan this week.

Sgt. Roger Pena Jr., 29, a Harlandale High School graduate, was deployed to the region three months ago and had survived an ambush three weeks ago, the victim's father said.

"They sent him back to the same mission," said Roger Pena Sr., the soldier's father. "He didn't come back. And I've got a big empty hole in my heart.

"He did what he loved. He joined the service on his own free will to protect this country. Protect all of us, because that's what he believed in."

Sgt. Pena was scheduled to visit San Antonio in November, when he planned on taking his wife and their two sons to Disneyland.

The soldier joined the service three years ago after attending the University of Texas at Austin.

Funeral arrangements are pending.

Northwest Suburban Soldier Wounded

Jun 15, 2006 By Brandon Coutre, (Northwest Herald)

HUNTLEY, Ill. A soldier and former quarterback from Huntley High School was seriously wounded in Afghanistan and in intensive care at a hospital in Germany on Wednesday.

"He received very serious wounds," said Marguerite Homuth of her grandson, Jeremiah Homuth.

His parents flew to California on Wednesday to be with their other son, Josh Homuth, who is in the Navy, she said.

"They went to California so they could all be together," the grandmother said.

From there, the family will wait to see whether Homuth will be sent back to the U.S. or if they will fly to Germany to be with him.

"That's still debatable," she said.

The family learned of the news Tuesday, but it was unclear exactly when the attack happened.

He was traveling in a Humvee when his unit was attacked, family and friends said.

“All through high school, he always wanted to be in the military,” said Brad Kalsow, his friend since childhood. “I hope he gets home safely because I want to hear his voice again.”

Homuth, 20, graduated from Huntley High School in 2004, where he played as quarterback for the football team.

The Northwest Herald chose Homuth as an honorable mention for all-area in football in 2003. That year he had 1,750 yards passing and 11 touchdowns as a senior.

Homuth joined the Army in August and went to Afghanistan in March after training at Fort Polk in Louisiana, his grandmother said.

He was based in Kandahar, she said, and a member of the 10th Mountain Division, a task force warrior.

More than 450 armed forces have been wounded fighting in Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom, according to the U.S. Department of Defense.

Resistance Blows Up Military Base Bus; Ten Dead: “We Have Access To Even Highly Guarded Government Places”

15 June 2006 By Benjamin, VOA & JOHN COTTER, Canadian Press

At least ten people were killed and 15 others seriously wounded when a bomb destroyed a bus taking Afghan workers to a U.S.-led coalition military base in the southern city of Kandahar.

Local police say the bomb was apparently hidden inside the packed bus. It exploded early Thursday morning.

Military officials say the attack was clearly directed at Afghans working with coalition forces.

The Taliban have taken responsibility for the bomb, police and military officials said.

The insurgents made the claim through a statement to the Afghan Islamic Press. “Taliban planted an explosive device in the vehicle of those airport employees working with the Americans,” said the statement from Taliban commander Mullah Hayat Khan.

“It is our success. It shows we have access to even highly guarded government places and we can do whatever we want.”

The bomb hidden on the bus exploded around 8:30 a.m. at an intersection shortly after the vehicle parked at a nearby bazaar where the workers routinely stop to buy bread, police Colonel Mohammad Hussein said.

“When I heard the explosion I came out of my shop,” said butcher Dil Agha. “I saw the people in a thousand pieces and everyone was running around here and there.”
The blast destroyed the bus on a road in downtown Kandahar.

Afghan workers and other visitors to the Kandahar base are thoroughly frisked by armed soldiers before they are allowed through the gate.

The buses discharge their passengers outside high concrete walls festooned with razor wire. The vehicles are not allowed inside.

Canadian Officials Say Occupation “Not Winning”

June 14, 2006 By Jeffrey Simpson, Globe and Mail [Excerpt]

The New York Times reported on Sunday that the Taliban's springtime offensive is the strongest show of force by the insurgents since U.S. forces chased the Taliban from power in late 2001.

They quoted an unnamed international security official, who in turn cited American and Canadian special-forces officials saying they were "not winning" against the Taliban.

TROOP NEWS

“Basically, Every Morning I Wake Up Angry”

June 4th, 2006 BY CORKY SIEMASZKO, NEW YORK DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER
[Excerpts]

Ten years after the U.S. pulled out of Vietnam, an army of shell-shocked veterans began reporting to homeless shelters.

Now those desperate ranks are being joined by veterans of conflicts where the guns are still blazing - the Iraq and Afghan wars.

Many of the returning vets said they were surprised how quickly they slid into the streets.

"I was proud to be a Marine, I felt I did my part," said former Sgt. Ralph (R.L.) Marcelle, who served in Tikrit and has been crashing on a friend's couch for six weeks. "I can't believe I'm living like this now."

Also, for the first time, there are women in the ranks of the homeless vets. And some, like a 24-year-old Brooklyn woman who asked to only be identified by her first name, Vanessa, have children.

"When I came home, I had nobody to help me," she said. "I would find myself riding the train all day, staying at the McDonald's all afternoon, trying to waste time. It was hard on my son."

Nationwide, about 1,200 veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan have already sought help from homeless-service providers, but only about 200 were "actually homeless," said Peter Dougherty of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"What we are finding through outreach programs are a number of veterans who are living marginally," said Dougherty. "Places like New York, where housing costs are high, can be very tough."

Singh, an Army veteran, said many of the 30 Iraq war vets he's working with are victims of broken promises.

"The Army recruits kids from the poorest neighborhoods and promises to teach them job skills and send them to school," said Singh. "The reality is that for a lot of young people coming out of the service now, all they know how to do is be soldiers."

By the time they arrive at Singh's door, most have exhausted their signing bonuses, gone through their savings and are deeply ashamed.

"Soldiers are not conditioned to ask for help," Singh said. "To them, it's like admitting failure."

Others arrive after having burned bridges with family members who could not handle, or understand, why they were falling apart.

"I'd be sitting at a table having dinner and would just start to shake all over," Brooklyn-native Henry Gomez, who enlisted in the Army after the Sept. 11 attacks and lost his family when he returned home, wrote in a statement for his social worker. "I found the normal things like driving a car difficult. I was swerving around Coke cans in the street when I was driving!"

The Iraq and Afghan vets are still just a fraction of the nearly 200,000 veterans who are homeless on any given night. But they are not being stigmatized the way the Vietnam vets were.

"It's a very different climate from the post-Vietnam days," said Rosanne Haggerty, president of Common Ground. "There is broad consensus that we should be helping the soldiers."

Queens Dad Crippled By War Forced To Fight For Full Pension

Former Army Spec. Milton Rojastibana came back from Iraq with a crippled right shoulder and a head full of horrible memories. But it was nearly ending up homeless that gave him the scare of his life.

"I don't ever want to be begging for anything," said the 35-year-old.

Rojastibana immigrated to Queens from Colombia in 1990 and enlisted a decade later to get an education.

He said he was fighting near Fallujah, west of Baghdad, in 2003 when he was badly shocked by an exploding circuit-breaker box. He was sent home and the Veterans Administration classified him as 60% disabled, his right arm useless.

Unable to work, Rojastibana lived for a while with a sister, then a brother. He pined for his wife, who waited in Colombia while he was overseas. He struggled to make it on a \$973-a-month disability check.

"I was close to ending up in the street," Rojastibana said.

With the help of social workers, he found an apartment he could afford in Corona, Queens. He sent for his wife and children. He began campaigning to get reclassified by the VA so he could get full benefits.

His brother now serves in Iraq, and Rojastibana says worrying about him has revived bad memories. "Normally, I am a calm person but because of the (post-traumatic stress) sometimes I feel like a killing machine."

Iraq Haunted City's Streets

For six months, former Army Pfc. Herold Noel wrestled with his demons in the back of a Jeep Cherokee. He would park in a quiet corner of Flatbush, Brooklyn, stretch out in the back, and "then the nightmares would start."

"I had a buddy who lost his leg over there right in front of me," said Noel, 26. "I saw a baby decapitated when it was run over by a truck. I relived that every night."

But Noel said it's not the Iraqi horrors that embittered him, it was returning home to Brooklyn and finding himself on the street. "I feel like I did all this for nothing," he said.

Just 19 when he enlisted, Noel came home in 2004 to a wife and three kids, but with no job skills. Adding to the anguish, Noel was diagnosed with posttraumatic stress disorder.

For a time, the Noel family lived with in-laws, sleeping four to a bed. After Herold Noel was turned down by the city housing agency, he began sleeping in his SUV while his family crashed with other kin around the city.

Noel's plight became the subject of the award-winning documentary "When I Came Home" by New York filmmaker Dan Lohaus.

An anonymous donor, moved by Noel's story, offered the vet a Bronx apartment and paid a year's rent. Noel's wife and one of his kids live with him now. He is back in school. As for the Jeep, it was towed for nonpayment of parking tickets. And the bitterness lingers.

"Basically, every morning I wake up angry," Noel said. "I fought for my country and my country spat on me."

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



Marine honor guard carries the body of Cpl. Ryan Cummings, who was killed in Iraq, from his funeral to a hearse in Schaumburg, Illinois, June 13, 2006. REUTERS/John Gress (UNITED STATES)

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

GET THE MESSAGE?



6.15.06: Iraqis demonstrate against the U.S. occupation in Karbala. Karbala's provincial chief was arrested in a US operation on charges of supporting terrorism [translation: opposing the foreign military dictatorship occupying his country] police said, sparking street demonstrations and a protest from the governor. (AFP/Mohammed Sawaf)

OK, LET'S TRY AGAIN. HOW ABOUT NOW? CLEAR ENOUGH?



6.15.06: Iraqis burn Israeli and US flags as they demonstrate against the U.S. occupation in the holy city of Karbala. (AFP/Mohammed Sawaf)

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

Assorted Resistance Action

June 15 (Reuters) & (CNN)

Guerrillas shot dead police Colonel Ali Shakir Mahmoud, director of units protecting oil installations in Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) north of Baghdad.

Three roadside bombs targeting Iraqi army patrols killed five soldiers and injured other six in the town of Tal Afar, about 420 km (260 miles) northwest of Baghdad.

Guerrillas shot dead an Iraqi soldier in the city of Haweeja near the city of Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad.

Militants opened fire Wednesday on a car carrying a member of the Muqdadia town council, killing him and one of his guards, according to a Baquba police official. A bystander also was wounded. Muqdadia is about 25 miles (40 kilometers) north of Baquba, the capital of Diyala province, north of Baghdad.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

“When The Leaders Of The West Today Talk About ‘Human Rights’, The Only Human Right They Really Care For Is The Right To Property”

**Al-Intiqad's Interview With Swedish Activist And
Writer Jan Myrdal:**

Part 1

If a struggle for reclaiming stolen agricultural land in some country in Africa leaves 10 White settlers dead that becomes a major human rights issue in the West whereas 100 000 dead African children are uninteresting; they are just a normality.

Intiqad.com/english/

Summary: Jan Myrdal, born in 1927, is one of the most renowned intellectuals and writers in Sweden in the last 40 years and is also an important voice in Leftist circles in Western Europe.

Jan Myrdal has earned himself a name as a writer engaged in questions concerning the Third World, National Liberation struggles, anti-imperialism, as a vehement critic of the US so called “War against Terrorism”, and also as a writer engaged on issues of freedom of speech and intellectual freedom. Jan Myrdal has written 80 books and countless of articles on this and other subjects and has on several occasions been confronted by the repressive forces of the Zionist thought police.

Jan Myrdal stems from a family who has made huge imprints in modern Swedish society: his father Gunnar Myrdal was a professor of International Economics, Minister of Commerce and a Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences in 1974 (sharing the so called “Nobel Prize of Economics”). Jan Myrdal’s mother Alva Myrdal, on the other hand, was also a politician, top ranking UN diplomat and peace activist, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1982. The elder Myrdal couple were also something of the founding fathers of the visions of the Social-Democratic Party, the leading political party in Sweden.

It is a great honour to present Al-Intiqad’s exclusive interview with Jan Myrdal, where he to our readers speaks out on important current issues such as the Palestinian question, the imperialist schemes against the Middle East and the Moslem world, and the need to resist these strategies.

AL-INTIQAD: *Welcome Mr Jan Myrdal and thank you for this interview in Al-Intiqad.*

JAN MYRDAL: I am glad to have this opportunity to discuss with and express my opinions on general questions to an anti-imperialistic, Moslem audience. I am not a Moslem; it is important to state that from the very beginning because there is a very strong imperialistic propaganda saying that there is an unbridgeable gap between people like me and the Moslems. I hold that this is not so.

I am now by this discussion trying to continue what I have tried to say at different conferences in Stockholm, Paris, Istanbul and in Jordan: the present conflicts are not a clash of civilisations, a war of cultures.

Let me be concrete.

During the Istanbul Tribunal on the Iraq war Bush and Blair were found to be guilty of the type of crimes that were condemned in the Nuremberg Trials against the Nazi leaders. Both of these political leaders often talk about their beliefs and ideals; Bush is what is called a reborn Christian and Blair is said to have prayed before taking the decision to go to war. But their actions are not expressions of any Christian faith. If nothing else they are hypocrites.

Their war is not a religious Christian war against Islam. My late grandmother was a devout Christian. We have millions like her in our countries. These Christian believers are not enemies of your countries and your peoples, they are not the ones going to war.

Bush and Blair and their likes have an agenda which is very simple. Theirs is a struggle for keeping domination, for economic supremacy and for securing natural resources; in your countries specifically oil.

In this the present situation is not very different from earlier modern history during the 19th and 20th centuries. You in your countries as well as we in our countries must see it clearly, for what it is.

We should not let us be fooled, talking as if the policies of Bush were decided by his interest in “human rights” or “democracy” or his Christian religious beliefs.

Because that is what it is not; it is a question of oil and power, economics and military might. Halliburton gets tremendous income from this war in Iraq as you all know.

This must be clearly borne in mind.

Let me remind you that Cheney, the present vice president of the United States (and the former chief of Halliburton) in May 2001 presented a report on the oil security of the United States. According to Cheney the internal production would fall from then 8,5 million barrels per day to 7 million per day in 2020, at the same time consumption would increase from 19,5 million barrels to 22,5 million barrels.

Securing these energy resources would have to be the top priority in the United States foreign policy.

We all know and you have felt it on your own persons, how these policies have been implemented. If you on a world map mark the 570 military installations of the United States you will see how they are clustered around oil reserves and pipe lines all over the world.

Of course the leaders of the predatory United States try to cloud the issue. As the Moslem countries of the Middle East are rich in oil they try to mask their struggle for this oil in an anti-Moslem campaign or a “war between cultures” (“a Crusade”, as Bush said or “installing democracy and respect for human rights” as Blair could put it).

That campaign against Islam as a religion and Moslems as believers is a reality. It colours the mass media and the political discussions in our countries. It is used in internal politics against minorities in our countries in Europe (the people of the

“banlieus” in France for instance). That is why it is necessary for us through articles, discussions, conferences to show that it is a false ideology.

Let's go back.

If you go to the history books you will read about the wars of religion in Europe in the 16th, 17th centuries.

True there was much talk of religion. In the propaganda the Swedish king Gustavus Adolphus, the big Protestant hero from the North entered Germany for the sake of religion. But did he?

Well, he said so, and he was a Protestant, he fought against Catholic generals but he did so in the pay of Cardinal Richelieu of France. That Catholic Cardinal used the Protestant Swedish king in his struggle against the Catholic German Emperor in Vienna.

The truth behind that facade of a religious war is that it was a new phase of the power struggle for supremacy in Europe!

I'm saying this because we should be clear about the fact that it is not the Christians as such (the millions in Europe - and other parts of the world - who are believing Christians like my grandmother was) but imperial powers, who in their selfish interest are utilising different ideologies.

They call it “human rights”, they can talk – as the religious ultra-Right in the United States – about their religion, but in fact it is a question of profit, domination and natural resources.

This means that the common people in the West in reality have the same interest of peace and respectful co-operation - not predatory war - as those in your countries. It is up to us as writers and intellectuals to clarify this and go against the false consciousness.

Let me take another example to make this clear. Sweden has a rather small population, but we are sitting on 15 % of the worlds uranium resources. We have politically decided not to use this. The United States even once put great pressure on us not to develop our - at that time scientifically interesting - own atomic technology programme but to stay dependent on them. As I said in 1964: If Sweden tries to go her own way the United States and the Soviet Union will unite to bomb us!

But at a certain stage, the United States – when the oil resources are running low and their energy needs remain high - will surely try to grab these Swedish uranium deposits. Prospecting is already going on despite local protests.

If we do not accept to let the United States utilise our natural resources in their own interest and for their own profit but stand on our right to national independence and do not have prepared a real defence that can (like North Korea!) deter them the United States will surely try to get hold of our ore.

They could use one pretext or another.

For instance they could say that Sweden for more than seventy years has had a more or less middle of the road Social-Democratic government that according to them was lacking in respect for private property and that Swedes needed to be liberated into a true market economy.

Or - as the uranium deposits are in the North - they could point out that the Same people (the indigenous ethnic minority in Sweden) is being oppressed and has to be helped by the United States military might to build an independent national state.

I say this because you must understand that you are not the only ones being subjected to their policies. Look at Yugoslavia!

As long as the United States during the Cold War had use for Tito against the Soviet Union they supported Yugoslavia politically as well as economically and praised the Yugoslav state. When they had won that cold war they changed policy. It was in their interest - together with that of Germany - to divide the Yugoslav state. Divide and rule!

AL-INTIQAD: By which strategies do imperial powers of today exert their control and dominance, indirectly by local agents or through direct rule, and by which slogans do they try to mask their dominative ambitions?

JAN MYRDAL: In your countries as in our country there will always be certain groups who make a profit on imperialist domination. They were called "Compradors" in colonial times in China and other countries. They were called "Collaborators" in Occupied France. Intellectuals and businessmen directly linked to the ruling colonial or occupying power.

If you look at the colonial history of India you will see there was always a large segment of Indian society that was closely bound to British Imperialism and profited by it; feudal princes, mercenaries, bureaucrats, businessmen. This you have had in all your countries.

These social groups still exist and we of course have similar groups too. In certain situations they can be extremely dangerous. Today they will probably dress themselves, more or less consciously, in terms like "NGO:s for human rights" etc. The history of the break up of the former Soviet Union and the role of foreign funded "human rights groups" is very enlightening.

As for human rights, you should remember that when the leaders of the West today talk about "human rights", the only human right they really care for is the right to property but not in the sense of individual property (a house, a savings account, a small shop) but of private control of natural resources and banks, monopolies, trusts.

They are quite prepared to imprison and torture outside any legal framework as long as these their property rights are held sacred.

Take their campaign against Cuba as an example. The leaders of the United States have never forgiven the Cubans that they lost the dominant United States suzerainty over Cuba (and that the brothels and gambling houses they owned there were closed

down). But then you can look at the survival rate of Cuban children. The Cuban children live because the United States influence was abrogated (and their collaborators thrown out).

Which is the main human right? The main human right is the right to exist, the right to survival.

You can see the horrors of the Neo-liberal agenda all around the world. See poor Russia – I was not very fond of the Soviet polices as you might know – but now the decline of population has become a real genocide!

But the leaders of the West call the fate of the Russian people - how their common wealth was stolen by a handful of corrupt individuals, and the life expectancy of common Russians drastically fell - after the implementation of the market economy a triumph of Democracy and Human Rights!

One should thus be very careful with “human rights”.

They are valid in the struggle against torture and exploitation, illness and poverty, for the right to survive and for a decent life. These are human rights.

But those who now more or less openly and consciously are serving imperial interests will today dress up their intrigues as “Human rights”, “Democracy” or whatever you have.

***AL-INTIQAD:** Are not these so-called “human rights” issues very selective, that some people according to the West are more worth than others?*

JAN MYRDAL: Of course.

If a struggle for reclaiming stolen agricultural land in some country in Africa leaves 10 White settlers dead that becomes a major human rights issue in the West whereas 100 000 dead African children are uninteresting; they are just a normality.

If you own the patent of a drug for a common deadly illness you make a tremendous profit. You keep the price up. You don't allow cheap drugs that can make the children survive. If a country in the Third World begins to make the drug itself to save its population from illness and death the United States government screams against this crime and will use all the instruments in its power against this thieving country.

The very simple truth is that some small groups in the imperialist powers in the West (to which also countries like Japan and small predatory powers like Sweden have to be counted) profit from oppression and exploitation (both directly and through what is euphemistically called “terms of trade”) in what is called the Third World.

In saying this I once more want to point out that you have to see the difference between the common people of our countries and the ruling circles.

***AL-INTIQAD:** What is your perception of the question of Palestine?*

JAN MYRDAL: This is a very serious question. What did we on the Left in Europe say before and during the Second World War? What we at that time thought was that when the anti-colonial struggle got the British out of Palestine there would be a Palestine for the people of different religions Christians, Moslems, Jews – a unified Palestine – liberated from the British.

This is not what happened.

The reasons for this are to be sought in what in legal terms is called a pactum turpe - a dirty political deal you could say - specially between the United States at the time, and the Soviet Union who both but for different reasons wanted to disrupt and supplant what was still the British Empire.

Some leaders of what was becoming the Socialist camp had the strange illusion that a Zionist state would be them a socialist friend. The United States realistically counted on such a state to become a faithful beach head.

There is also something you in your countries have to understand.

There was a cynical use of the latent anti-Semitism in Europe in order to create a mass emigration to Palestine. Jews who had survived the German persecution were in Western Europe held in camps for Displaced Persons in miserable conditions. There were shameful pogroms in Poland and of the 80,000 surviving Jews in Poland. 30,000 had already a year after the end of the war fled westward to these camps.

No country in Europe - and decidedly not the United States - wanted the multitudes in the camps of DP:s. Of the 335,000 Jews in Romania and the 200,000 in Hungary the majority were destitute and - despite official governmental phraseology - were being pushed out towards Palestine. These poor and oppressed multitudes were used as tools to open Palestine for mass immigration. It was an extremely cynical policy.

The result has been that the new state was not created as a post-colonial state for the population of Palestine - people of different faiths - but as an artificial and racially defined colonial and dependent entity whose original population was driven out. The Palestinian people became refugees or subjugated natives. Israel thus was made into a strange racist state in perpetual conflict and expansion. This is an extremely unstable situation.

It has already led to a continuing war in several phases. In 1967 when I, after the Six Days War, spoke on this at the protest meeting we held in Stockholm, I pointed out that this war could last for 100 years or more.

One should always remember that whatever we hope there are also negative possibilities.

Six hundred years ago neither the people of what is now called Australia or of North America could envisage that they would (partly as south of what is now the border between Mexico and the United States and totally north of that border and in Australia) be exterminated. But they have been.

The genocide in what is now Mexico was numerically one of the largest in recorded history. The genocide in what is now the United States next to complete. There it was carried on until the beginning of the 20th Century and there are now only small clusters left of the indigenous population.

We should keep in mind that the Palestinians too could be exterminated. A people can disappear. For certain groups in Israel - certain settlers for instance - this disappearance of the Palestinian people is an option. For cultural reasons there is in the United States also a traditional acceptance of such a genocide.

AL-INTIQAD: *How should the Palestinians react in the present to this situation?*

JAN MYRDAL: In this situation it is of course very important for them to make a very careful analysis of the whole situation. The struggle is necessary if they are to survive but struggle and heroism is not enough. Nobody can say that the indigenous population of what is now the United States - the so called Indians - did not struggle and did not conduct a heroic defence.

One difference is that there is now such a factor as international solidarity. The indigenous population of North America did not have strong neighbouring peoples. But the Palestinians do. Also there is a growing understanding in all our countries that what is happening to the Palestinians these last sixty years could happen to any of us.

As John Donne said in 1622 - and Hemingway quoted in his novel from the war of the Spanish people against fascism - "never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee". Solidarity is one factor. But we all know its limits both in our countries and among the ruling circles in the Middle East.

Another factor is time and demography.

The indigenous population in what is now the United States was sparse; they could be eliminated. South of the border the situation was different.

The Palestinians are many - and they multiply like the indigenous population has done in Mexico and Bolivia. An entity such as Israel built on a race theory is not viable in the long run. In a hundred years - or two or three - it will crumble like the Crusader state or the South African republic crumbled. Not in the sense that the people living there will disappear; they will be assimilated as the remnants of the crusaders were assimilated and as the Afrikanders are being assimilated after their statehood vanished.

But for the moment the support for Israel in the United Nations and the European Union seems strong. Even Sweden co-operates militarily with Israel. But as this is against the interest and wishes of the majority of our people, we ought to be able to abrogate this. Thus there can be changes in European policies, there can be changes even in Israel. After all there are social and political contradictions in Israel that are apt to lead to a changing situation. Nothing is certain.

The main international support for the state of Israel comes from the United States. It is now using Israel as a beach head. But there is no friendship, no loyalty, no love, no eternal allies in international politics. If it would be in the

interest of the United States to switch sides in the question of Israel - there are several possible scenarios - Israel would over night lose that support.

AL-INTIQAD: How come Japan and Germany after the Second World War, when occupied, capitulated totally to the occupying power, offering no more resistance, even co-operating with the occupation force. This whereas the Moslem examples of occupied Palestine and Iraq are showing a fierce military and ideological resistance against the occupation power. On which grounds does this difference rest, on the ideology of the countries occupied, on historical factors?

JAN MYRDAL: There is no similarity. The present struggle against the occupation forces in Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine is like the struggle against the German occupiers in Europe, against the Japanese occupiers in Korea, China, Vietnam, Burma. That is these struggles were and are national liberation struggles.

AL-INTIQAD: But why didn't the people of Germany or Japan resist the occupation of their countries?

JAN MYRDAL: The situation was - as I said - totally different. The people had been harshly repressed by the Nazi and imperial rulers. They neither wanted the Hitlerites or the imperial rulers back. At first they thus believed the Western phrases of democratisation.

The ruling circles switched sides and thus kept their position as rulers.

If you look back you will see that it is the same capital circles who are determining in Germany today as during the Nazi era. In Japan too; there the West even kept the war criminal Hirohito as an emperor.

The old rulers and the occupiers also co-operated intensively; the whole United States space program was built by the Nazi specialists. The bacteriological warfare capability of the United States was more than reinforced with bacteriological experts from Japan. The United States did not - like the Soviet Union - bring them to court; they incorporated them and the results of their experiments (also on the tissues from Allied POW:s).

AL-INTIQAD: What is your opinion on the present war in Iraq and the present attempts to occupy that country? What is the grand strategy in this scheme?

JAN MYRDAL: The United States are trying to colonise Iraq and of course certain groups inside Iraq will collaborate with them, because it is profitable.

But they are not stupid enough not to remember the French saying that one can use bayonets for much - except to sit on. They will thus try to instigate the "Balkanization" of Iraq. It is in their interest that Iraq is divided at least into three states, maybe more. In the best of cases, from their point of view, those three states would be in continuous state of tension and maybe war, then their domination would be more or less complete. Balkanization is a method to rule.

I remember when I lived in India, United States officials we considered to be from the CIA - "the Friends" as they were called - used to say that India could be

divided into 16 states. China divided in 6 Chinese states (which explains the violent reaction of the Chinese government to the 1989 Tien-an-men demonstrations) and Iran could be divided into at least 5 entities. These United States officials called it a democratic possibility. But in reality it was a recipe for United States domination. Divide and rule. Create weak states. Client states.

Just now Washington is leading a new campaign against Iran. If they can invade Iran or once more engineer an overthrow of the Iranian government – like they organised the overthrow of Mossadeq once upon a time – they will do it. Not for ideals or for religion. Only for profit and oil! The reason why they are making such a fuss about the Iranian atomic energy policy is not just because they can fear that Iran is building an atomic bomb but because if Iran enriches its own uranium it will have a greater control over its own energy resources. (Compare with the situation in Sweden!)

I and Gun Kessle lived in Iran during the time of the Shah. We liked and respected the people and the culture but the United States influence was very strong and the social oppression very evident. We believed there would be a revolution at any moment. We were not alone in believing this. Also the Swedish ambassador - Ragnvald Bagge at that time - believed so. But it took many years before it happened. One can never predict exactly what will happen even though one can see certain great lines, and you can also see lines of conflicts.

***AL-INTIQAD:** Will other regional and international powers in silence just watch the United States implement its aggressive policies and expansionism in the region?*

JAN MYRDAL: Neither Russia nor China are happy about United States military bases in Central Asia. It is once more like when Russia and the British Empire were struggling over limiting the other's sphere of influence in Persia, Afghanistan and Tibet. The empires were competing; the British at that time wanted to have the cotton and the trade routes, and Russia wanted trade routes down to the warm sea. This led to three British Afghan wars.

The price the Afghan people had to pay was very high but in all three wars the British militarily lost. And at last - after the third war - the Afghan people managed to regain its full sovereignty.

The imperial ambitions that led to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and then the United States invasion are similar. The popular struggle is also similar and I fully trust that the end result will be similar - but the Afghan people will once more have had to pay a high price.

But neither the tsar nor the British King-Emperor, Bresjnev and Bush had other motives than pure greed. The Afghans fought and the British gentlemen considered them uncivilised and cruel - but they won their independence.

***AL-INTIQAD:** The phenomena of Hezbollah, the phenomena of Islamic resistance in general, how come the United States in its imperialistic ambitions has not met such resistance before?*

JAN MYRDAL: On Hezbollah I think that I in general can say that it is a broad based popular movement that managed to throw back the strong Israeli occupying army. But

there lurks a danger in your question. Hezbollah is valiant. But it is not the first popular movement against US imperialism.

Remember the heroic Philippine armed resistance against the US imperialism after what is called the Spanish American war. Remember the Mexican Revolution. Remember the heroic Korean war against US aggression. Not to speak of the struggles of the South East Asian peoples. At certain times during the last century the US seemed ever-victorious but during later decades the US imperialists have several times been militarily defeated by a people in arms!

The Second World War was both a war between different imperial interests and of people fighting for their independence. In Europe the Norwegians, the French resistance, the guerrillas of Northern Italy struggled for their national liberation as do the Palestinians, Iraqis, Afghans today.

Where there is oppression people will rise in revolt. The ideologies will be different according to the time and the history but if people are oppressed they will react and revolt and their struggle will be just.

[To be continued.]

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.

OCCUPATION REPORT

Comical Collaborators Get Any Tabs They Want: Instant Rangers On Tour

We questioned them right in front of their escorts, but we were always shut down. Nobody seemed to care.

Letters To The Editor
Army Times
June 5, 2006

In regard to the May 15 article, "Iraqi earns 'instant credibility' as graduate of Ranger School," I disagree that it means instant credibility with U.S. forces.

Over 12 months in Baghdad, I came into contact with at least two dozen Iraqi army and Iraqi national guard officers and noncommissioned officers sporting Combat Infantryman Badges, airborne wings, air assault wings and, yes, Ranger tabs on their uniforms. Comical.

Usually these “soldiers” were being escorted by Defense Department, State Department or U.S. military brass.

We questioned them right in front of their escorts, but we were always shut down. Nobody seemed to care.

I am not trying to dismiss Arkan’s achievement. It’s just the simple fact that having that tab on his uniform really won’t distinguish him with U.S. soldiers. His actions will.

Spc. Carlos Herrera
Tucson, Ariz.

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.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

CRAZY AS A SHIT-HOUSE RAT



Cheney, pictured 02 June 2006 in Washington DC, addressing his invisible companion Bezyzym.

Cheney told reporters that Bezymym speaks to him often about the deep love Iraqis have for the Bush government, and how they wish to give all their oil to Cheney's former businesses associates at Halliburton. "It was Bezymym who let me know that for devout Muslims, oil is unclean, a substance associated with the forces of evil, and how happy the Iraqis are that my government has come to remove the accursed substance from their land."

Cheney went on to explain that the Iraqis are a laughing, happy, childlike people, with a natural sense of rhythm, who would prefer to spend their time picking dates, caring for camels, playing basketball, and taking naps than bothering themselves about affairs of government. "They respond well to a firm but fair hand keeping them in order," he said, "and that is what we are providing." "With enough time, and education, someday they may even be capable of governing themselves. Time will tell." (AFP/File/Jim Watson)

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT THE NEW TRAVELING SOLDIER JUST OUT!

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)

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