

## GI SPECIAL 4H14:



[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, who sent this in.]

**“No Matter What We Do,  
There Are Insurgents  
Everywhere”**

**“I Don’t Think We Are Making  
Any Progress”**

**“This Message Brought To You By  
‘Death’ — Coming To An OP Near You  
Soon”**

RAMADI, Iraq

At Post 3, when the hours on watch seem to stretch on and the heat gets overwhelming, Lance Cpl. David Hill picks up a walkie-talkie and starts speaking in his best over-the-top local radio announcer voice.

"Good afternoon, all gov center and IP posts. This is WKIL coming to you from the rooftops of Ramadi," Hill intones to his small audience of fellow Marines.

"Hope you are all enjoying yourselves out there. It is about 120 degrees, and the heat has climbed from suicidal to insane."

As the summer wears on in Iraq, the attacks on Ramadi's government center are subsiding. But rising in their place are the heat, the boredom and the complaints — about the sandbags Marines must carry, about the Ramadi mission, about the war.

Marines often brag that their mission is to kill people and break their toys. But for the Marines of Kilo Company, stuck on the roof of Ramadi's government center and Iraqi police headquarters, simply killing insurgents doesn't feel like progress.

And so the frustration rises with the mercury for these troops, most on their second deployment to Iraq and their second summer in Al Anbar province's scorching desert.

Insurgents have regularly attacked the government center, trying to prevent the provincial government from functioning. Kilo Company has fortified the posts on the roof, manned around-the-clock by Marines charged with returning gunfire and killing assailants who fire rockets and plant roadside bombs.

Kilo's commander, Andrew Del Gaudio, a 30-year-old from the Bronx, says the Marines are making a difference. "We are killing people," he says, referring to insurgents. Attacks on the government center have decreased because slain insurgents have not been replaced, he says.

"There are not nearly as many fighters now," Del Gaudio says. "Is that a form of progress? I don't know. Does it allow the governor to meet with his people? Does it allow the Iraqi army time to grow stronger? Yes. Therefore, it is worthwhile."

It would be nice, he says, for Kilo to be able to win the trust of Iraqis, but that is impossible in the neighborhoods around the government center, where the fighting remains fierce and most residents have fled. "It is still a red zone, and it has to be dealt with accordingly," Del Gaudio says. "You can't give a soccer ball to a guy with an AK-47 who wants to kill you."

**The Marines on the roof say they hope Del Gaudio is right about the progress. But their frustration is clear. Few say they intend to reenlist.**

**"I hope I am out before the next war comes," says Lance Cpl. Brodey Vann, a 20-year-old from Pinellas Park, Fla.**

**"No matter what we do, there are insurgents everywhere," Vann says. "I don't think we are making any progress."**

For hours each day, the troops stare at the abandoned buildings that surround the government center. All of the structures have been pockmarked with bullet holes. A few are starting to collapse. The Marines have given many of the crumbling buildings names — "Ghost Hotel" or "Swiss Cheese."

Some Marines count the hours they have stared into the bleak landscape; more than 720. Some try to estimate the hours remaining before they return home.

For others, every day is Groundhog Day. Like the Bill Murray movie, the days here endlessly repeat themselves.

"You know it's not the same day," says Pfc. Brian Terry, a 21-year-old from High Point, N.C., assigned to Kilo's 2nd Platoon. "But it feels like the same day."

Last year the Marines here, part of the 3rd Battalion, 8th Regiment, were stationed in Fallouja and charged with helping rebuild the area after the November 2004 assault.

Terry's partner on post, Lance Cpl. Jerod Zimmerman, a 21-year-old from Charlotte, N.C., misses the reconstruction work and the friendly interaction with residents. Here in Ramadi, he sits on the roof waiting to shoot people who shoot at him.

"Out there, it was easier to see you were helping people," he says. "And you miss that. Well, I miss that. I won't speak for the entire Marine Corps. It is a lot easier to understand why you are there if you are able to see immediate results. Out here, it's different. It's harder to see the influence you have."

The feelings are similar in the 4th Platoon, standing watch on the other shift. At Post 4, the heat is stifling. There is no breeze. The only relief comes from a fan. Lance Cpl. Jay Reed, 21, of Syracuse, N.Y., stares out at the buildings, his eyes never leaving the landscape.

"Last year was a different mission, geared toward building their city and helping the people," Reed says. "So you could see more progress, I guess. This year, this building is our mission, making sure nothing happens to this building.... I am sure someone in this city has seen improvement, but not from this building."

**Reed wears some of his bitterness scrawled on his Kevlar helmet: "Suicide = Solution."**

**"The Kevlar says it all," he declares.**

For Marines, the work at the government center rarely ends. There are multiple long shifts at the guard posts. And when they are off the roof, there are night foot patrols, construction work, cleanup duty and assignments tearing down old outposts and building new ones.

Worst of all is sandbag duty. The troops groan whenever they spot the sandbag truck arrive and dump another load that has to be carried to the roof.

They struggle to find some mental escape. For Reed and his partner, Lance Cpl. Ryan Gianoulis, 23, of Beechwood, N.J., the shift on the roof begins with complaints. When that is over, they talk about how long it is until they go home. Then they talk about women and getting married.

"Then about the last two hours I sing songs," Reed says. "Little duets."

Reed and Gianoulis have renditions of "Jingle Bells," the Eagles' "Take It Easy" and Bon Jovi's "Livin' on a Prayer." But their favorite must be "Jackson." Gianoulis sings the Johnny Cash part. Reed channels June Carter Cash.

"We got married in a fever, hotter than a pepper sprout," Reed croons. "We've been talking about Jackson, ever since the fire went out."

Late in the shift, the music at Post 3 is often interrupted by Hill's WKIL "broadcast."

Most days, after Hill, a 23-year-old from Tampa, finishes his commentary on the threat level at downtown Ramadi's various OPs, or outposts, he throws in a few "sponsorships," each colored by frustration with the insurgents who attack the Marines or the unending work schedule.

**One recent evening, he closed his broadcast this way:**

**"This message brought to you by 'Death' — coming to an OP near you soon."**

**MORE:**

## **JCS Chair Hears It From Unhappy Troops In Iraq**

Aug 13 AFP News

**[You'll have to cut through the reporter's pro-war propaganda here. You can bet that if this is what's happening in front of the Chair of the Joint Chiefs Of Staff, what the troops are saying to each other less publicly would take the paint off the walls.]**

**[This is a stunning indicator of the coming resistance to this war in the armed forces.]**

The top U.S. general dropped into this volatile city Sunday to hear what was on the minds of Marines doing battle daily with a resilient and deadly insurgency.

Some of what he heard sounded like a sign of creeping doubt — not about the Marines' mission but about the wider purpose it is supposed to be serving as the U.S. war death count tops 2,600. **[What the fuck ever that means. And it's more like full bore flat out galloping fed up with this bullshit doubt, not "creeping" at all.]**

On his first visit to Fallujah as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Marine Gen. Peter Pace stood before 1,300 troops, mostly Marines, and assured them that the American public supports them. And he predicted that Americans would continue to support the war.

**How much more time, one Marine asked, should the Iraqi government be given to achieve the political unity necessary to stabilize the country? [Meaning, "How much more time are we stuck in this shithole for no good reason?"]**

"I guess they have as long as it takes," Pace replied, quickly adding, "Which is not forever." **[Looks like somebody just blinked.]**

Pace argued that setting a deadline by which the United States would withdraw its support would risk pushing the Iraqis into political decisions that are unviable. On the other hand, he said, "You do not want to leave it open ended." **["I'm really dancing now. Hope they don't notice."]**

**Another Marine wanted to know if U.S. troops would stay in Iraq in the event of an all-out civil war.**

Pace repeated what he told a Senate committee last week: a civil war is possible, but not expected.

**He did not say what the United States would do if it actually happened.**

Another asked what the United States would do if the Iraqi government did not support extending the U.N. resolution that authorizes the presence of American and other foreign troops in Iraq. Pace said the Iraqis already have said they favor extending the U.S. mandate, which expires in December.

**One Marine wound up his question about the pace of U.S. troop deployments to Iraq by asking, "Is the war coming to an end?" [There it is. The kind of question that keeps an Imperial General up at night, sweating.]**

***Pace didn't answer directly.* [And everybody there saw it and heard it, and knows exactly what it means when he dodges, ducks, and runs away from that question. He's scared to give a direct answer. As in frightened to give a direct answer. As in pissing his pants. Excellent.]**

He said Pentagon officials and military leaders are trying to keep enough troops in Iraq to achieve the mission of training Iraqi troops to take over the security mission, while avoiding having so many that it creates an Iraqi dependency.

**Pace did not explicitly mention the political debate in Washington over when to withdraw from Iraq, but the senior commander of U.S. forces in western Iraq, Maj. Gen. Richard Zilmer, said in an interview Sunday that he is concerned about the effects of that debate.**

**Asked about the tenor of some of the questions put to Pace by Marines who seemed to harbor doubts about the long-term viability of the U.S. military mission, Zilmer said he is confident that virtually every Marine here is satisfied that their**

**work is noble and just. [What a stupid lie. And everybody knows it's a stupid lie. And every troop who hears it knows why a piece of shit like Zilmer tells such a stupid lie. He's scared too. The truth? He can't handle the truth.]**

"But they are not immune to the discussions they see in public communications," Zilmer said. "Like all of us, they want to be assured that what we're doing is the right thing for the nation. Watching the Iraqi national government develop here has not been easy."

Zilmer noted the calls by some in Congress for a U.S. troop withdrawal to begin this year.

"That plays back here," he said. "People hear that. It does create the question: Is there the national commitment behind what we're doing over here?"

**[Dumb fuck doesn't get it. Remember that poll earlier this year? 79% of the troops in Iraq say they all should come home no later than 12.31.06, and 29% are for immediate withdrawal. Never mind that silly bullshit about "national commitment." Everybody knows that's gone. His problem is the troops see through the bullshit too, and they have had enough. One way, or another, they will be making that known to the Zilmers of the world.]**

**Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward this E-MAIL along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, at home and inside the armed services. Send requests to address up top.**

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **Three U.S. Soldiers Killed, Four Wounded**

13 August 2006 AP

The Associated Press reported Saturday that three Americans were killed and four others were wounded, including a civilian, when militants attacked a U.S. patrol Friday in northeastern Afghanistan.

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### **Slain Austin Marine Remembered As A Proud Father**

8/5/2006 By: Allison Toepperwein, News Channel of Austin

Family members of an Austin Marine say their hearts are broken after learning he was killed in Iraq. Sgt. George M. Ulloa Jr., 23, died Thursday after his tank was hit by a roadside bomb. He was a tank gunner who was on his second tour of duty in Iraq.

His wife, Maria, said she's trying to be strong now that their three children no longer have a father.

"The first time I ever saw him cry was that day I walked down the aisle," she said.

Their six-year-old son Victor is known as George Jr. because he takes after his father so much. Five-year-old Luz was nicknamed "light bug," and their youngest daughter, Rosalinda, or "Ro Ro" is one-and-a-half.

"He used to love to rock them. He liked to see them dressed up and he would make them wear pantyhose just because he thought they were cute," Maria said.

Anything George wanted, he tried to find a way to make it happen. That's why he joined the Marines. In late 2004, George was deployed to Iraq. He missed his youngest daughter's birth.

So, when he came home in March 2005, he made up for lost time. He learned how to play soccer so he could coach Victor's team.

It was difficult for the Ulloas to explain to their children why daddy had to leave again this past March.

"He explained to them what he was doing and why he was doing it, and they understood and they were proud of him ... (But) our son doesn't understand. Our oldest daughter is confused. She just wants him home. Our youngest doesn't know," Maria said.

George loved being a Marine. Maria said he sang the kids cadences instead of lullabies. But more than anything, he loved being a father.

"His kids can always be proud of what he did and why he did it. And they can always know they can look up to him. And there's no reason for me to be ashamed or hurt, because he's OK," Maria said.

Maria said she'll tell her kids stories about their father, and said every time she looks at them she sees a reflection of George.

The family has no word on when a memorial service might be held.

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**“Right Now, The Americans Only Control  
The Twenty Metres Around Each  
Humvee”**

8.1.06 by Jon Bright, Open Democracy [Excerpt]

Ghaith Abdul-Ahad, the award-winning photojournalist, talks to openDemocracy about occupation, insurgency, and how his country fell apart.

"Right now, the Americans only control the twenty metres around each humvee. Very soon we're going to come to the situation where the Americans will look at the Shi'a militia as their protectors: the Shi'a are so strong now."

So would it be better for this occupation army to leave?

"As long as you have Americans in Iraq and this scene in Baghdad (of an occupation army), it will create feuds, and it will push people to fire an RPG at this thing."

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## **REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



A U.S. soldier at a bus damaged in a car bomb attack in Kirkuk July 29, 2006.  
REUTERS/Slahaldeen Rasheed (IRAQ)

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Mainer Killed In Afghan Combat**

August 13, 2006 By KELLEY BOUCHARD, Portland Press Herald Writer



A 19-year-old Wiscasset man killed in combat in Afghanistan was remembered Saturday by family and friends for his good humor, his sense of honor and his beautiful smile.

Army Pfc. Andrew Small was killed Friday by hostile fire during a routine platoon patrol, according to a statement from Gov. John Baldacci. Small was with the 10th Mountain Division, based in Fort Drum, N.Y.

Small is the youngest of four sons of Terrence and Cynthia Small of Shea Road in Wiscasset. The couple learned of his death Friday afternoon when an Army official visited their home.

"We're doing as well as can be expected, under the circumstances," Cynthia Small said in a telephone interview Saturday night. "I will miss his big heart and his beautiful smile."

Small said her son had wanted to join the Army since he was a small boy, following in the footsteps of several other family members who served in various branches of the military. He joined the mountain infantry division because he wanted to make a difference.

"I would just as soon he peeled potatoes," his mother said. "Before he left, he said, 'If something should happen to me, I want people to be proud of me.' And we are."

She last spoke with her son on Tuesday, in one of their regular phone conversations. As usual, he told her little about his life and work in Afghanistan. Mostly they talked about what was happening back home in Maine. She updated him on the Red Sox. She told him that his brother, Joshua, a senior at the University of Southern Maine, and his fiancée had recently moved into a Westbrook condominium.

"It was regular chitchat," she said. "He was scratching the belly of a dog that was in camp that he thought was cute."

They ended the conversation with good-byes and I-love-yous.

"Stay safe," she told him.

Hall graduated from Wiscasset High School in 2005, receiving an Army GI Bill award. Friends and classmates remembered Small as a good student and a supportive person.

"We were all praying for him," said Shane Hill of Wiscasset, who had met Small in grade school. "I remember, when we were kids, looking over and seeing him do a cartwheel down a hill. We were always there for each other."

Wiscasset High Principal Susan Poppish said she was heartbroken by the news of Small's death.

"He was an all-around good kid," she said. "He was always smiling. He liked to joke a lot. He was a good friend to a lot of kids. Teachers liked him. He always did the right thing."

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## TROOP NEWS

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



The graveside ceremony for U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Kurt Dechen in Springfield, Vt., Aug. 11, 2006. Dechen was killed by small arms fire on Aug. 3, his 24th birthday, while on foot patrol in the Iraqi city of Fallujah. (AP Photo/Toby Talbot)

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## **War Resisting Marine's Statement Brings On Investigation**

June 17, 2006 Socialist Worker (Canada) [Excerpts]

**War Resister Chris Magaoay, a former US Marine who has come to Canada to seek sanctuary because of his opposition to the Iraq War, has caused the Marine Corps to launch an investigation of a sergeant who was involved in training new recruits on how to behave once they went to Iraq.**

**“The sergeant told us what to do if we should happen to kill a civilian. He said we should place an AK-47 rifle near the corpse and claim that the person was an insurgent.**

He told us that the platoon would back the story, and we wouldn't be punished,” Magaoay said.

Magaoay was speaking to a reporter from the BBC as part of a more general interview on his decision to desert the Marines and come to Canada. “I didn't really think anything

would come out of what I said. But I'm glad the BBC took the issue up with the Pentagon, and there will be an investigation," said Magaoay.

Magaoay, 20, is originally from Hawaii. He joined the Marines more than a year ago, and was receiving the training given just before Marines are sent to Iraq.

"I was really shocked by what this sergeant said. I knew he was telling the truth, because we were just about to get deployed to Iraq, and he wanted us to know what really happens there," Magaoay said. "But I don't think I could live with myself if I acted like that."

Magaoay's comments come at a time when the Marines are dealing with the alleged massacre at Haditha, Iraq, which occurred in November 2005.

Magaoay came to Canada in March 2006 and has been involved with the War Resisters Support Campaign, which assists US Iraq War resisters who come to Canada and advocates for the Canadian Government to grant them sanctuary.

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## Another Recruiting Predator Caught



Sgt. Rickey Steinke

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, who sent this in.]

8/9/2006 By: News 8 Austin Staff

A U.S. Army recruiter from San Marcos is facing criminal charges after investigators say he made sexual advances toward a 17-year-old girl.

**Sgt. Rickey Steinke, 30, is accused of taking a Gary Job Corps student to his office saying he needed to measure her for uniforms, police said. He told her his office was at his apartment.**

Steinke is accused of making sexual advances towards her. He was charged with official oppression since he was acting as a public servant at the time.

Steinke was removed from his recruiting duties.

Anyone with information about this case should call the Criminal Investigations Division at the San Marcos Police Department at (512) 753-2300.

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## British Anti-War Activists Close Down Air Force Base



8.12.06 By Simon, Indymedia.org.uk

**A protest called at very short notice outside the main gates of RAF Brize Norton had the unexpected effect of closing the main gates, and possibly the entire base, to all traffic for nearly two hours.**

Brize Norton is one of the RAF bases reportedly being used to refuel planes delivering bombs from the US to Israel for use in the ongoing massacre of Lebanon.

Meanwhile a peace camp is being established nearby to watch for further such flights.

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## Some Israeli Troops Say They Refuse To Attack Civilians:

# “Taking Part In This War Runs Contrary To The Values Upon Which I Was Brought Up”

Aug 9, 2006 IRIN News

Called up to serve in the conflict against Hezbollah, reserve soldier Israeli Tom Mehagel decided he couldn't fight.

"I don't believe that Hezbollah has any goal but destroying Israel," the artillery staff sergeant told IRIN. "But we shouldn't use our force against civilians."

Mehagel is one of a small group of Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) reservists who have refused to fight against Hezbollah in Lebanon because they don't think it is right. Soldiers in Israel who refuse to fight are known as 'refuseniks'.

Every Jewish Israeli male is required to serve in the IDF for three years from the age of 18. After that, they are called in to train for a month every year, and can be called up to serve, until they are in their forties.

Mehagel was among thousands called up by the IDF when it became clear that the fight against Hezbollah would be prolonged.

About 4,000 Israelis have refused to serve in military campaigns since the birth of the refusenik movement in the 1970s, according to Perets Kitron, author of the book 'Refusenik'. Around a quarter of these were sent to prison for their action.

Whether or not refuseniks are sent to prison depends largely on the mood of their commanding officer, said Kitron, a 73-year-old who refused to serve in occupied territories. If the officer is angry about the refusal, he may send the case to court. If he thinks it is better to avoid the publicity surrounding a jailed refusenik, he may just send the soldier home, he said.

"I didn't want to go into the army. I might have helped people in Haifa or something but I didn't want to open fire," said Mehagel, 29, who lives in Tel Aviv.

Israel's attacks in southern Lebanon, which have killed hundreds of civilians, do not help Israel's cause, he said. "The opposite, in fact. It just fuels extremists."

He chose to do a 'grey refusal' – not openly confronting the commanding officers. "The officers asked me if I was willing to fight and I told them I wasn't sure, that I was confused. After three days they sent me home."

Mehagel also refused to serve two years ago, when manning a roadblock in the West Bank. He said his commanding officer told him the roadblock had no purpose other than punishing the residents of three villages because militants in the area had killed an Israeli soldier 10 months before.

For refusing, Mehagel was sent to jail for 28 days. Refusing can lead not only to a jail sentence but also to bitter conflict with family members and to discrimination in the Israeli job market, Kitron said.

"The number of refuseniks isn't very large but that's not the point. The impact each individual refusenik has is enormous," Kitron said.

On 28 July, reserve Captain Amir Pasteur became the first to be jailed for refusing to fight in Lebanon. He is spending a month in a military prison.

**At his trial, he said, "Taking part in this war runs contrary to the values upon which I was brought up," according to the Yesh Gvul group, which offers support and advice to refuseniks. The group was formed in the early 1980s in reaction to Israel's war with Lebanon; the name in Hebrew means 'There Is a Limit'.**

**Yesh Gvul's spokesman, Ishai Menuchin, said tens more reserve officers and soldiers who have received emergency call-up orders plan to refuse to fight in Lebanon.**

Kitron said, "Pasteur is an officer, he has a prestigious position in the army and by being prepared to go to jail he helps Israel sober up after the initial euphoria of going to war."

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Assorted Resistance Action**



**Local residents shout anti government slogans during a demonstration in Sulaimaniyah, Aug.13, 2006. Frustration has sparked violent demonstrations in northern Iraq as police fired into the air to disperse hundreds of stone-throwing protesters on Sunday protesting against fuel and power shortages. (AP Photo/Yahya Ahmed)**

12 Aug 2006 Reuters & Aug 13 (KUNA) & Reuters

A roadside bomb targeting Iraqi soldiers killed three soldiers in western Ghazaliya district, police said.

A senior officer in the Iraqi Police was assassinated Sunday morning. Iraqi Police announced that the Colonel Mahjoob Khalaf, from the oil buildings protection unit, was shot by militants who were speedily driving a car in Salah Al-Din province north of Baghdad.

A source from the police said Khalaf died immediately.

Three policemen were wounded when a roadside bomb went off near their patrol in Baquba, police said.

The governor of Mosul, Duraid Mohammed Kashmula, escaped an assassination attempt when gunmen attacked him while he was supervising the distribution of fuel in a gas station in Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, officials said. A bodyguard was wounded in the attack, the source added.

An insurgent was killed and four policemen and an insurgent were wounded on Saturday during clashes erupted in a small town near Hilla, 100 km (62 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb targeted a Baghdad police patrol. Three officers were wounded.

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## **Occupation Raids Health Ministry; Arrests Guards: Staff Go On Open-Ended Strike**

08-12-2006 (AFP)

Iraqi and US troops hunting alleged kidnappers raided the health ministry, arresting five suspects.

Following the arrests, ministry workers mounted a small non-violent anti-American protest outside their offices to demand the release of the detainees, described by one official as guards attached to the ministry.

**Ministry spokesman Qasim Yahya denounced the raid and said staff had launched an open-ended strike in protest. He demanded that Maliki's cabinet reign in US forces and threatened to lodge a complaint before an Iraqi court.**

**"We are demanding the five kidnapped bodyguards be freed. They were just protecting the ministry... This raid targeted a humanitarian institution," he said, branding the reports of kidnapping as "lies".**



Yahiya said that doors and furniture had been damaged in the security operation and that troops had also searched an official's private home.



Armed Iraqis during an anti-American rally in front of the Health Ministry in Baghdad. Health ministry officials accused US and Iraqi troops of storming their offices over night, arresting seven bodyguards and taking Iraqi dinars worth 34,000 dollars. (AFP/Karim Sahib )

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

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

**FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

**Zionism:  
Comment And Comment And Poem**

From: J  
To: GI Special



Sent: August 13, 2006  
Subject: GI SPECIAL 4H13:

Thanks for "An interview with Resister Kyle Snyder". It's good to hear that this young man has thought through his experiences and taken responsibility for his life into his own hands.

**I have to call you on "Zionist Filth Green Light UN Relief Convoy; Then They Attack And Kill".**

**This kind of talk is not good. Zionist Jews are like Americans are like Palestinians are like everyone else on this earth. There are no essential differences. At any given instant of history some people are behaving well and others are not, to put it mildly.**

Politics is about behavior. I have no idea what goes on in your head, really, nor you in mine. In fact, in retrospect I find that I often lie to myself about my own motivations. I have no chance of accurately knowing those of others. In the political world they are immaterial.

Religion is about these questions with no answers, about dogmatic assertions. Religion is often used as fence that puts "us" inside and "them" outside. We have to realize that as human beings and stand up to it.

The Israelis have been on a bender of bad behavior ever since the founding of Israel. The stories they tell themselves, we are history's victims, everyone is ant-Semitic, we are god's chosen people, allow them to circle the wagons and to do things outside their circle that are truly shameful.

But the US is doing the same thing to the "ragheads" in Iraq. Did the same thing to the "gooks" in Viet Nam. Incinerated a hundred thousand in seconds at Hiroshima. We are all of us equally capable of depravity. If you want to talk about "filth" then talk about our filthy species, for we're all the same.

I felt I had to write this because this kind of talk quickly gets out of hand. We need to ally ourselves with the Israeli refuseniks and to work together to end this forty-year, US/Israeli rampage in the Middle East.

A lot of people in this world are pretty fed up with American "filth" at this point as well. I don't like to hear it, but "our" country is still a democracy and we have allowed the cabal in Washington to seize power. We are ultimately responsible.

Our job is to end funding for these Middle Eastern wars. Cut off funding for the war in Iraq, cut off all funding for the Israeli Entitlement Program. No money no war. Once the bad behavior stops we can work on our humanity.

I also enjoyed Israeli Air Force reserve Lt. Col. Israel Israeli's reflections on his work too. The Israelis are behaving very, very badly indeed.

Peace. Solidarity.

**COMMENT IN RESPONSE: T**



Thousands marched in downtown L.A. against the U.S. backed Israeli war on Lebanon Aug. 12, 2006. Photo from Cornelius Cardew

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## **Zionism**

Zionism is not a religion.

Zionism has nothing to do with religion.

Zionism is a racist political tendency, combining the most vicious expansionist nationalism with force of arms.

Neo-Nazis would like the world to think that all Jews are Zionist.

That is a despicable lie.

Zionists would like the world to think that all Jews are Zionists.

That is another despicable lie.

There have always been, and are to this day, political tendencies among Jews all over the world that have fought Zionism implacably, and still fight Zionism for the evil it is: nothing but a reactionary, odious, bloodthirsty politics that says a bunch of people can walk into Palestine, slaughter the people living there, reduce the survivors to objects of scorn and abuse, and stuff them in huge open air concentration camps, where they may be killed more conveniently.

Zionism, like fascism, or any other form of expansionist militarized nationalism, has nothing whatever progressive or redeeming about it.

It is no more possible to defend the politics of Zionism than to defend the slaveholders in the United States who formed a regime founded on similar principles of structured inequality: The Confederate States Of America.

As finally occurred in South Africa, where a regime founded on similar murderous racist tyranny eventually was destroyed by mass resistance, it may be hoped that one day, the area comprised now by every inch of Israel, including every inch of the occupied territories, will form one political entity, with one person, one vote, and where all, regardless of their background, have equal rights, including the right of the Palestinians to return to their homes.

In order for that to happen, the Zionist regime must be destroyed, and Zionism cease to be embodied in a government that proclaims that those who are not Zionists are inferiors, just as for change to come to South Africa, the racist regime that ruled there had to be destroyed. Nothing less will end the bloodshed, just as nothing less could end the bloodshed in South Africa generated by a regime openly proclaiming that the Master Race should rule, and all other bow down before it.

This is not about species. This is about politics.

Yes, the Bush regime is composed of filth who have the same bloodthirsty nationalism at the heart of their politics as do the Zionists. The slaughter of Iraqis is merely a current instance. Yes, that bloodthirsty nationalism has a long history. Not only Vietnam and Hiroshima, but long before that.

So do many other expansionist predatory Imperial or wanna be Imperial states. And the people who use their power and wealth to control governments and order their armed forces to butcher others in order to expand their wealth are filth, and nothing but filth, and that is a mild term for their status.

How fortunate that hundreds of millions of our species all over the world are resisting them for what they are: the enemies of the vast majority of us who have no interest whatever in Imperial conquest, large, as with the U.S., or smaller, as with Israel.

As for the USA being a democracy? That depends on how much money you have. Political campaigns are for those who have the money; they choose who is offered to the electorate, and fund the campaigns. "We" have nothing to say about that.

For decades most Americans have been in favor of universal health care. But those who rule in America are not. Therefore, there is no universal health care. That is merely one illustration. This is the form of democracy where money votes. Some have it. Others do not. Those who do not must act in the streets. That's how we vote and produce change for the better.

Change for the better has come and will come when people below have had enough, and organize to fight back against the torment and death inflicted by the predators who use their money to control the power in the society, and decide who lives and who dies.

The essential difference is not one between different peoples. The essential difference is class.

Yes, agreed, we are indeed responsible for taking action to fight back.

And in fighting back, it is impossible to be too hard not merely on the temporary Bush regime, but the whole Imperial class that sustains the U.S. Empires' bloody wars of conquest, as much Democrat as Republican let us not forget, just as it is impossible to be too hard on the Zionist movement, which is the political expression of a virulent, murderous nationalism no less intent on the slaughter and domination of those it chooses to plunder.

They are brothers in blood.

Agreed, we must be sisters and brothers to everyone in the resistance, everywhere in the world. That's what solidarity is.

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**MORE:**

# **“A Jew to Zionist Fighters, 1988” Do You Really Want To Be The New Gestapo? The New Wehrmacht? The New SA And SS?**

[Thanks to JM, who sent this in. She writes:]

**Something very different: a poem.**

**Have you heard of Erich Fried who is often referred to as the greatest modern, Jewish, poet?**

He was born in Vienna in 1921 and escaped to England, with his mother, after his father was tortured to death by the Gestapo, in 1938.

Because of his experiences with racism and Fascism he became involved in the Palestinian cause.

He was a leader in the fight against both Fascism and Zionism.

I'm sending a copy of his best poem, in my opinion. It was first published in 1988 just before he died.

Please take the time to read it. I think it's wonderful.

\*\*\*\*\*

### A Jew to Zionist Fighters, 1988

What do you actually want?  
Do you really want to outdo  
those who trod you down  
a generation ago  
into your own blood  
and into your own excrement  
Do you want to pass on the old torture  
to others now  
in all its bloody and dirty detail  
with all the brutal delight of torturers  
as suffered by your fathers?  
Do you really want to be the new Gestapo  
the new Wehrmacht  
the new SA and SS  
and turn the Palestinians  
into the new Jews?  
Well then I too want,  
having fifty years ago  
myself been tormented for being a Jewboy  
by your tormentors,  
to be a new Jew with these new Jews  
you are making of the Palestinians  
And I want to help lead them as a free people  
into their own land of Palestine  
from whence you have driven them or in which you plague them  
you apprentices of the Swastika  
you fools and changelings of history  
whose Star of David on your flags  
turns ever quicker  
into that damned symbol with its four feet  
that you just do not want to see  
but whose path you are following today

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org). Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential.

## OCCUPATION PALESTINE/LEBANON

### **“The Deep Divisions In Lebanon Over Hezbollah's Military Presence Before Israel’s Blitz Began Are Rapidly Disappearing”**



Lebanese civil defense rescuers rush the body of a young girl who was taken out of the rubble of a building in the southern suburb of Beirut, Lebanon, Aug. 13, 2006, following an Israeli attack. Israeli warplanes pounded south Beirut with at least 20 missiles in a two-minute period Sunday, minutes after the Israeli government approved a U.N. cease-fire plan that was to go into effect 17 hours later. (AP Photo/Kevin Frayer)

August 14, 2006 By Rashid I. Khalidi, The Nation [Excerpt]

There will be no "destruction" of Hezbollah, and no "uprooting" of its infrastructure or that of Hamas, whatever the results of Israel's siege of Gaza and its merciless attacks against Lebanon.

The rhetoric about "terrorism" has mesmerized those who parrot it, blinding them to the fact that Hezbollah and Hamas are deeply rooted popular movements that have developed as a response to occupation; of the West Bank and Gaza for nearly forty years, and of southern Lebanon from 1978 to 2000.

The deep divisions in Lebanon over Hezbollah's military presence before Israel's blitz began are rapidly disappearing.

Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora, Lebanese Speaker Nabih Berri, Saad Hariri (son of assassinated Prime Minister Rafik Hariri), Gen. Michel Aoun, President Émile Lahoud and other major leaders of the country of all sects and all political persuasions and Lebanese public opinion have been horrified at Israel's ravaging of their country's infrastructure and its defenseless civilian population, yet again.

Few indeed will be the Lebanese voices to support the Israeli-US position as this savaging of Lebanon goes on, and just because it is largely absent from US television does not mean that it is invisible to the rest of the world.

The pro-American Arab regimes that initially foolishly aligned themselves with the United States and Israel over the Lebanese crisis have shown their regret by backpedaling as fast as they can.

Public opinion in their countries is massively against their position (Al Jazeera's viewership is way up; that of the Saudi-run Al Arabiya is way down) and is making itself felt.

Fortunately for the Bush Administration and Israel, none of these countries have a functioning democracy. The net result of this crisis, however it comes out, will be a further weakening of these regimes.

They may temporarily increase their dependence on the United States. But they are weaker than they were before this crisis began, and their oppositions, whether in Cairo, Amman or Riyadh, are stronger.

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## **“We Represent The Resistance Of All Lebanese”**

**The mention of Tehran and Damascus's active patronage of the Shiite organization causes him to lift an eyebrow. "What does this Western obsession over Iran and Syria's support for Hezbollah mean? Do their media also go to the trouble of specifying that Israel is supported by the United States and Europe?"**

07 August 2006 By Cécile Hennion, Le Monde [Excerpt]

In the face of the stink coming off the corpses, Sheikh Ahmed is the only one not to protect his face with a surgical mask. Wearing lightly tinted spectacles and a white

turban, this Hezbollah leader in southern Lebanon imperturbably observes the now habitual disorder reigning in front of the Tyre government hospital.

In the face of this spectacle of desolation, the man displays his serenity. "The resistance is doing well," he declares. "Israel's murderous action has contributed to bring the people and Hezbollah closer together. Not only in Lebanon, but also in all the Arab and Muslim countries, every day more numerous in their demonstrations of support."

**The mention of Tehran and Damascus's active patronage of the Shiite organization causes him to lift an eyebrow. "What does this Western obsession over Iran and Syria's support for Hezbollah mean? Do their media also go to the trouble of specifying that Israel is supported by the United States and Europe?"**

**"My answer about Iran and Syria's role," Sheikh Ahmed adds, "is summarized by Condoleezza Rice's speech. She keeps calling for a 'Greater Middle East.' Well then, here it is! "Confronted with the American-Zionist plan for the systematic destruction of Lebanon, the 'Greater Middle East' is reacting in chorus to defend its rights.**

**"Hezbollah's objective has never changed. Since its creation, its role has been to fight against Israeli occupation and aggression in Lebanon. We represent the resistance of all Lebanese. Syria and Iran take our country's fate to heart. That's normal."**

**The Israeli offensive's death toll - over 1,000 deaths according to official figures - has spread hatred of Israelis among even those Lebanese least inclined to support the Shiite Party of God. From that perspective, no one doubts that Hezbollah could enjoy the benefit of relief battalions should that be necessary.**

Aadel, a young man displaced from the south whom I met in Saida, explained that he is "a communist and an atheist to the nth degree." "I already offered my help to Hezbollah," he assured me. "They thanked me and said it wasn't necessary right now. Whenever they want me to, I'll fight ... Hezbollah is the only armed group never to have turned its weapons against other Lebanese communities. Today, it represents our strongest military asset against the enemy. It's logical to support them," he concludes.

On a road not far from Tyre, Hussein, a Hezbollah fighter, transports long metal cylinders in the back of his hatchback. They will contain explosive charges that will be buried and later blow up IDF tanks via a simple remote-control pressure. After he explains these details, he says it will be impossible to photograph the little arsenal.

"We don't mind journalists," Hussein explains, "but we don't trust pictures. Southern Lebanon is infiltrated with spies, and we've had several bad experiences in the past. Our strength consists in preserving military secrecy."

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## **Hezbollah Resistance Sets Back White House Iran Attack Plans**



21 August 2006 By Seymour M. Hersh, The New Yorker [Excerpt]

The surprising strength of Hezbollah's resistance, and its continuing ability to fire rockets into northern Israel in the face of the constant Israeli bombing, the Middle East expert told me, "is a massive setback for those in the White House who want to use force in Iran.

"And those who argue that the bombing will create internal dissent and revolt in Iran are also set back."

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## **“Just Like Hitler, They Want This Area But Use Different Names For Their Taking Of The Land Of Others”**

August 11, 2006 Dr. Sam Hamod, Today's Alternative News

The fact that Israel is trying to destroy all of Lebanon, not just Hezbollah, is clear by their bombing of Christian villages and other infrastructure that has nothing to do with Hezbollah.

**What Israel really wants is control of Lebanon by a puppet government, but also covets the Litani River and the lands it irrigates; very good cropland that is the heart of the Bekka Valley, which is the heart of Lebanese agriculture. Israel also wants the electricity the dams and the Litani generate; so that they may use this for more of their "settlements" and, just like Hitler, they want this area but use different names for their taking of the land of others.**

**Ironically, the Western media has given little attention to this matter, but those of us who know the Middle East well know that the Litani and the area of the south is an area that Israel has coveted for years.**

So, the next time you hear that Israel is "defending herself", remember the thousands of Lebanese from the South who have had to leave their homes (most of which have been destroyed by Israel by now), are homeless (with no future except as refugees), all the bridges of Lebanon which have been destroyed, the water and electric facilities and ever other meaningful sign of progress in Lebanon from the last 20 years--all of which Israel has destroyed, and continues to destroy.

**This is a sad day for the Lebanese, and for the world; it is Palestine all over again, with Israel, like Hitler, wanting to expand its territory at the expense of others (the Poles, Hungarians and Russians and others remember this well from the 1930s when Hitler was allowed to attack freely--just as Israel is doing today, while the world stands by and sheds crocodile tears).**

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# **“It’s Only A Question Of Time Before Israel, As Other Colonial-Settler States Have Before, Implodes”**

3 - 9 August 2006 By Serene Assir, AL-AHRAM [Cairo]

**It's only a question of time before Israel, as other colonial-settler states have before, implodes.**

Throughout history, there have been attempts by foreign powers or waves of settlers to expropriate land and to cleanse it of its inherent identity embodied in its indigenous population.

**Of this, Israel is the epitome, not the exception. For not only has Israel appropriated the land, it has also renamed it, while its colonisers have famously sought to teach their children that Palestine was "a land without people for a people without land."**

The brazenness with which the Zionist project has redrawn geopolitical maps according to its own strategic interest -- while simultaneously abusing international goodwill and distorting truth in portraying Israel to Western public opinion as the perpetual victim -- is amazing.

Only if, through endurance, the weak overcome the strong do the heroes and villains of school textbooks reverse roles. What the textbooks tend to miss out, however, is the overall shifting of political parameters against the interests of settlers and a given colonial idea that takes place in the meantime.

Another historical truth, according to one Al-Ahram 's Centre of Political and Strategic Studies analyst: the more violently a given power behaves, the more violent, diverse and effective resistance movements become. This is especially true in the case of occupation.

**"The fundamental historical pattern that Israel, the United States, Europe and even most Arab states have failed to comprehend," Daa Rashwan told Al-Ahram Weekly, "is that occupation creates resistance. And the more violent the occupation, the further the resistance is catalysed. With examples ranging from the American war of independence to Algeria and Vietnam, history proves that no occupation lasts for ever."**

True, the insidiousness of Israeli occupation policy appears to surpass that used by previous empires. The lexicon expounded both by its leaders, past and present, and by those of the states to which it is allied seems to suggest a kind of permanent, or, rather, divine right over the territories it claims.

But according to Rashwan, there is another critical anomaly in the Israel-Palestine-Lebanon crisis that both the US and Israel have sought to grant credence to, and that is the propagation of the belief that resistance movements can be defeated.

**"Resistance movements are part and parcel of the phenomenon of occupation," he said. "The way the US and Israel discuss Hizbullah and Palestinian movements in the media are foolishly erroneous when they indicate that they believe that they can actually defeat it."**

"Israel set out to rid Lebanon of any capacity to resist," Hassan Nafaa, professor of political science at Cairo University, told the Weekly. "Three weeks into the aggression, however, Hizbullah continues to resist."

But as the indiscriminate bombardment of Lebanon continues, it is becoming clearer that Israel is working very hard to bring the Lebanese -- and not just Hizbullah -- to their knees, hence work towards the disarmament of Hizbullah.

**One key to understanding Israeli policy and actions is to invert the rhetoric it expounds on the so-called targets it attacks. For example, when Israel says it's going to bomb terrorist targets, rest assured that what it really wants to do is terrorise civilians.**

**The massacre at Qana is all too dark an example of this. In Lebanon, when Israel says it is going after Hizbullah, it is in fact seeking to wreak as much destruction, chaos and death as it possibly can, hence to try and weaken support for Hizbullah from within.**

The concept, well worn while the British Empire was at its zenith, is called "divide and rule". And because colonial war is precisely about terrorising civilian populations, as well as potential dissidents, into submission, Israel knows its war in Lebanon is not so much about Hizbullah as it is about trying to make sure that no Arab -- Lebanese, Palestinian or otherwise -- is left with even an urge to lift a finger against it ever again.

**Its regionally unparalleled military might, its nuclear capacity, the leeway its destructiveness is granted by the United States -- the world's only superpower -- and its ruthlessness, are sufficient, Israeli leaders believe, to ram the required doses of fear down the throats of potential dissenters and freedom fighters.**

**They're wrong, again.**

**Judging by the dominant mood in the Arab world, Israel's strategy is having the diametrically opposite effect.**

In Cairo, street protests against Israel's crimes in Lebanon are frequent and passionate, albeit not massive. But even many of those who are loath to participating in street politics are very clear about where they stand when it comes to Israel.

"On the one hand it is shocking to see what is happening in Lebanon," says Amr, who works in a baladi coffee shop in Cairo. "However, this is how Israel behaves, and it's

time we acknowledge that. Were it not for our Arab regimes that work collaterally with Israel, the Arab world's response to Israel's aggression would have been very different."

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[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by foreign terrorists, go to: [www.rafahtoday.org](http://www.rafahtoday.org) The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."]

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## CLASS WAR REPORTS

### A Message From Venezuela



Albasrah August 11, 2006

#### **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))

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