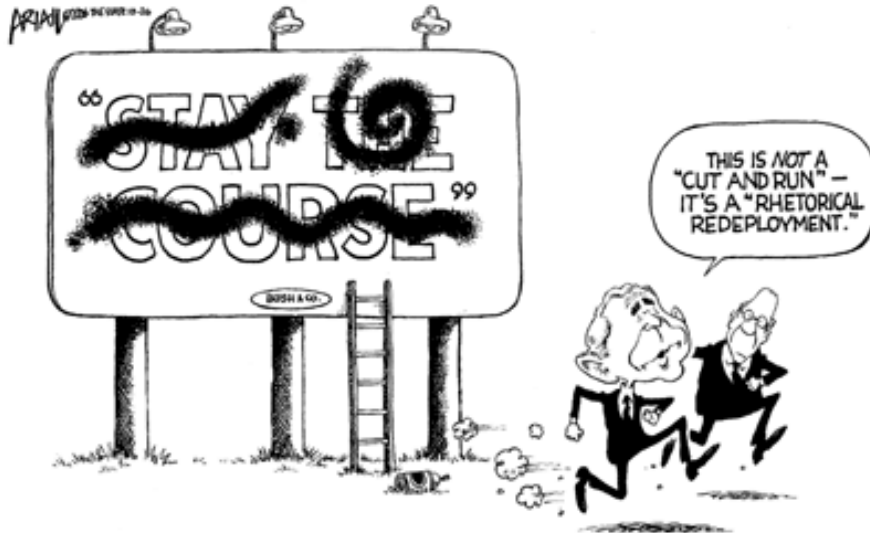


## GI SPECIAL 4K15:



© The State. Dist. by UFS and NEA, Inc.

[Thanks to David Honish, Veteran, who sent this in.]

# Spc. Says “You Couldn’t Do Much Worse Than The Way Things Are Going Now In Iraq”

November 08, 2006 By Gordon Lubold, Army Times Staff writer & November 09, 2006 Army Times Staff Report [Excerpt]

“For us, the civilians and soldiers, it’s fantastic news,” said Spc. Jason Hartley, of the New York National Guard’s 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment. “You couldn’t do much worse than the way things are going now in Iraq.”

Hartley said he’s excited to see how things will move forward, especially now that the elections have shifted the balance of power in Congress.

**“I have a sneaking suspicion that things are going to continue to be horrible in Iraq, but I’m open to any new ideas,” he said.**

“Failing in a new way is at least trying. The whole ‘staying the course’ thing is not trying.”

“Had the man [Rumsfeld] listened to his generals we would either A, not have gone to Iraq in the first place, or B, not still be there because we would have committed 400,000 troops from the beginning,” said the officer.

**“Maybe I wouldn’t have had to go there twice and miss the birth of my first child. Maybe a lot of guys wouldn’t have been blown up. There is a high price for such arrogance.”**

**What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send to [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org):. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential. Same to unsubscribe.**

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **Tennessee Soldier Killed In Samarra**



U.S. Army 1st Lt. Michael A. Cerrone, 24, of Clarksville, Tenn., who died Nov. 12, 2006, from injuries suffered when a car bomb exploded near his vehicle during combat operations in Samarra, Iraq. Cerrone was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 505th

Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 82nd Airborne Division out of Fort Bragg, N.C. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

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## **Florida Soldier Killed In Samarra**



U.S. Army Spc. Harry A. Winkler III, 32, of Jacksonville, Fla., died Nov. 12, 2006, from injuries suffered when a car bomb exploded near his vehicle during combat operations in Samarra, Iraq. Winkler III was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 82nd Airborne Division out of Fort Bragg, N.C. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

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## **Georgia Marine Killed In “Non-Hostile Incident”**

November 15, 2006 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 1161-06

Lance Cpl. Kristopher C. Warren, 19, of Resaca, Ga., died Nov. 9 from a non-hostile incident in Al Anbar province, Iraq. He was assigned to 4th Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Chattanooga, Tenn.

The incident is currently under investigation.

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## **Three Marines, One Soldier Killed In Al Anbar**

Nov. 15, 2006 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20061115-03A

FALLUJAH, Iraq: One Soldier assigned to 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division and three Marines assigned to Regimental Combat Team 7 died Tuesday from wounds sustained due to enemy action while operating in Al Anbar Province.

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



A U.S. soldier at the scene of a car bomb attack in Baghdad October 23, 2006.  
(Mahmoud Raouf Mahmoud/Reuters)

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## **2 Baghdad Soldiers Killed By IED**

15 November 2006 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory  
RELEASE No. 20061115-05

BAGHDAD: Two Multi National Division Baghdad Soldiers were killed at approximately 11:30 p.m. Nov. 14 when their vehicle was struck by an improvised-explosive device in northwest Baghdad while conducting combat operations.

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## **British Soldier Wounded In Basra**

15 Nov 2006 Reuters

British forces killed an insurgent when they came under fire from a house in Basra, said Captain Tane Dunlop, a spokesman for the British forces. He said a British soldier was wounded by the insurgent.

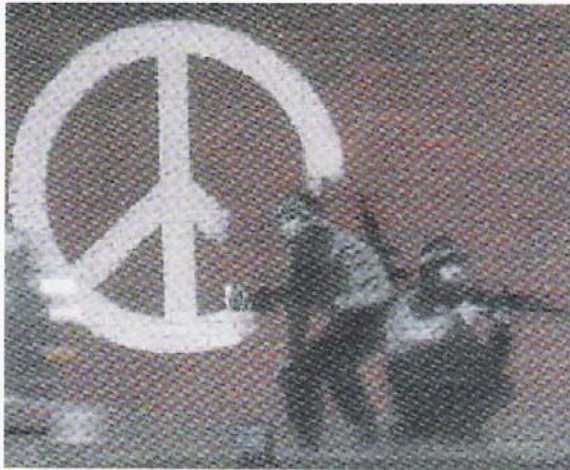
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## TROOP NEWS

### **RESISTANCE WHERE IT COUNTS:**

HOW ANTI-WAR SOLDIERS WHO SERVED IN IRAQ  
ORGANIZED AGAINST THE WAR ON THE FRONT LINES

**JEFF ENGLEHART, JOE HATCHER and GARETT REPPENHAGEN**  
**1st Infantry Division, Diyala Province, Iraq, 2004 - 2005**



THERE HAS TO BE A POINT  
WHEN WE REACH A HIGH  
ENOUGH NUMBER OF TROOPS IN  
OUR PEACE EFFORT THAT A  
UNIFIED BOYCOTT OF ALL  
MILITARY ACTION WILL HAVE  
A DESIRED EFFECT

- SOLDIER X

***Find out what you can do to  
support the G.I. Movement!***

JUDSON MEMORIAL CHURCH  
55 WASHINGTON SQUARE SOUTH, NEW YORK CITY  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2006 AT 7:00 P.M.

SPONSORED BY: THE MILITARY PROJECT,  
NEW YORK CITY LABOR AGAINST THE WAR (NYCLAW) AND  
IRAQ VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR (IVAW) -NYC CHAPTER

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AFTER DOWNING STREET, BRING THE RUCKUS (NYC), THE BROOKLYN GREENS/GREEN PARTY,  
CONSUMERSFORPEACE.ORG, INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST ORGANIZATION, LEFT TURN, NOT IN OUR NAME  
(NYC), RAGING GRANNIES, WAR RESISTERS LEAGUE, WORLD CAN'T WAIT - DRIVE OUT THE BUSH REGIME

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FOR MORE INFORMATION: [CONTACT@MILITARYPROJECT.ORG](mailto:CONTACT@MILITARYPROJECT.ORG)



Joe Hatcher, Jeff Englehart and Garrett Reppenhagen: Germany 2005

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



The casket of Spc. Carl Eason is loaded onto a fire truck during a funeral service, Nov. 2, 2006, in Lovelady, Texas. Eason, who was killed last month while serving in Iraq, was also a volunteer firefighter in Lovelady. (AP Photo/David J. Phillip)

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# Iraq Attacks: “Why Did She Have To Die For Such A Silly Cause?”

[Thanks to JM, who sent this in.]

15 November 2006 By Terri Judd and Kim Sengupta, The Independent (UK)

A week ago Ted Elliott opened up a surprise parcel to find a pair of silk-lined gloves, an early Christmas present posted by his daughter as she set off for Iraq.

It was typical of Staff Sergeant Sharron Elliott, 34, her family said yesterday after learning of her death on Sunday in Iraq, to be so thoughtful. She had noticed that Parkinson's disease had left her father's hand permanently frozen and in the flurry of pre-deployment had remembered to send the present.

"She was just such a lovely girl, so sensible and kind. We were just waiting to find out her new address so we could send something to her," Mr Elliott's wife said yesterday.

"Ted is utterly heartbroken. It was his only daughter. You just don't expect them to go before you.

**"When she said she was going to Iraq I said I didn't believe in them being sent over there. She was just treating it as a job she had to do. She had been to many difficult places, but I don't think she liked this one. Why did she have to die for such a silly cause?" added Mrs Elliott.**

Sharron Elliott, who was one of four soldiers killed in an attack on a boat on the Shatt al-Arab waterway, bringing the total number of British troops killed since the end of the war to 125, had had a difficult life.

Her cousin, 22-year-old Judith Pattison, was killed in the 1989 Kegworth air crash when a plane bound for Belfast crashed into the M1. Then her fiancé, also a soldier, died in a motorcycle crash before their wedding.

Before deploying to Iraq, Sgt Elliott had been caring for a close friend suffering from cancer. Her letters home from Basra were full of concern about her father.

Her mother, Elsie Manning, said at her home in South Shields: "Sharron was the most beautiful, caring person in the world. She was very strong-minded and very compassionate.

"She had lots of friends and used to look after one of them who had cancer so that her husband could have a break - that is the sort of person she was. She loved cooking and used to take over the kitchen when she came home, whipping up all kinds of exotic

dishes for us all to try. She was very close to her four stepbrothers and was 'best man' at her stepbrother David's wedding. She was delighted to become an auntie again last year to her little nephew Bradley.

"Sharron deployed to Iraq just over a week ago. Her life was the Army and she had served all over the world. It is of some comfort to the family that she died doing what she loved.

"We all loved her so much - she has left such a big hole in our lives. She was the most fantastic person, she was just amazing and touched the hearts of everyone she met. We can never replace her."

The Army had been Sharron's life from the moment she was born and grew up in the small Suffolk town of Hadleigh. Her father had served in the forces, two of her elder stepbrothers went on to do so, and so did cousins and other relatives. Ted Elliott was fiercely proud of his girl taking up the mantle.

Neighbours remember a beautifully behaved child growing up among the small group of simple redbrick homes surrounding a green, where she played with her stepbrothers Michael, Gary and David.

She joined the Army at the age of 18. She spent her early career in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, becoming the first woman in the Army to qualify as an aircraft technician.

Her history teacher, Penny Cook, said last night: "We are devastated by what has happened. What is so poignant is that it also happened on Remembrance Sunday.

"I remember she had a desire to go into the forces. For many young people it's a career they can get training in and make a living out of."

Sgt Elliott's godmother, 72-year-old Maureen Holland, recalled: "She met her boyfriend on a course where they were learning to repair helicopters. I saw her when she came back to look for a wedding dress. But then her fiancé died tragically. People asked if she would be giving up the Army afterwards, but she said she wouldn't, and she would finish the course because she wanted to do it for him. She was a very caring person and when her fiancé died, I remember her saying that she was going to stay with his parents to be with them.

"She was very determined and she was the first woman to pass this particular course. She was just so dedicated to her life in the Army.

"She was an absolutely lovely girl. Her parents must be really proud."

After six years in the Army, Sgt Elliott transferred to the Intelligence Corps, subsequently serving in Northern Ireland and Kosovo before being posted to Iraq.

Part of her training was at the 15 (UK) Psychological Operations Group headquarters at Chicksands in Bedfordshire, where students are encouraged to study the local culture and customs at postings abroad. Students are also taught to question perceived wisdom and to question policy and disagree with the official view if necessary.



Her commanding officer in Iraq, Lt Col Andrew Park, said she was "never afraid to challenge the status quo, she would always give her opinion. Dedicated and professional, Staff Sergeant Elliott was an inspiration to all she worked with."

The other victims

\* Warrant Officer Lee Hopkins, 35, from Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, was just five weeks into a six-month tour of Iraq, but had already made an "immediate impact", his commanding officer said. Lt-Col Andrew Park also paid tribute to the soldier as a "dedicated family man". He leaves a wife, Amanda, to whom he was married for 10 years, and a son aged three. "He led from the front with a quiet authority and paid attention to every detail," Lt-Col Park said.

\* Corporal Ben Nowak, 27, of 45 Commando Royal Marines, was described by his uncle as "as an extraordinary soldier and an extraordinary young man". A promising young footballer, Cpl Nowak, of Speke in Merseyside, had trials with Southampton. But he joined the Royal Marines at 17 and became a rifleman, later qualifying as a physical training instructor. His uncle, Michael McEvatt, added: "He was so proud of what he did."

\* Marine Jason Hylton, 33, of 539 Assault Squadron Royal Marines, was a divorced father of two teenage sons who lived with his parents in Swadlincote, Derbyshire. He had volunteered for a tour of duty in Iraq. His brother Daz, 37, said: "He loved the marine life and thoroughly enjoyed his job."

But Marine Hylton's girlfriend, Sasha Martin, said: "He should never have been sent to Iraq, and it was not even his boat that he was on when he died."

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Assorted Resistance Action**

14 Nov 2006 Reuters & 15 Nov 2006 Reuters

A bomber blew himself up in Tikrit, wounding three policemen and three civilians, according to the Joint Coordination Centre for Iraqi and U.S. security forces.

Gunmen attacked the convoy of Salama al-Khafagi, a former member of the governing Council, wounding a bodyguard in the western Jamiaa district of Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said.

Two mortar rounds landed near a police station in the city of Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

The morgue in Mosul received the bodies of two policemen, hospital sources said.

Guerrillas ambushed a vehicle carrying a group of construction workers, killing two and wounding three, who were working at a police station and killed a traffic police officer in the oil city Kirkuk, 255 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad.



Police vehicle destroyed by a resistance car bomb attack, Baghdad, November 15, 2006. REUTERS/Thaier al- Sudani

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

## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation's ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke. For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake. Frederick Douglas, 1852

**“Thousands Of American GIs Who  
Rebelled Against The Vietnam  
War, Changing The Course Of U.S.  
History”**



4/2/2006 Unsigned, Back By Popular Demand, Fightbackunitedstates.spaces

I went with a friend of mine, a new friend, to see this movie Sir No Sir, this is a film by David Zeiger, Displaced Films and Balcony Release.

**This is a very much suppressed story of the VietNam conflict, (WAR), and the thousands of American GIs who rebelled against the VietNam War, changing the course of U.S. history, and society.**

**Being a veteran of this war, I was most curious about what it may reveal. I knew at the time that I was in the military that these events were taking place, but I had no idea of the magnitude of this movement.**

So if you think that the Iraq war is troubled with a new breed of torturous troops, think again, and if you think that the incidents of the Iraq war are isolated incidents, being undertaken for the amusement of the GIs involved, think again, they are all following orders.

War is hell, and if you are fighting a war, for whatever reason, then fight the war, play by the rules of engagement that the enemy plays by, and if you get caught doing inhumane things to captured enemy forces, or suspected enemy forces, be advised that the Commander in Chief, and all subordinates all the way down, and back up the chain of command, are going to deny that those orders were ever issued, so make sure that you have it in writing, and or well documented. Lt. William Calley didn't, and he paid the price.

**Sir! No Sir!:**  
**At A Theatre Near You!**  
To find it: <http://www.sirnosir.com/>

**The Sir! No Sir! DVD is on sale now, exclusively at  
[www.sirnosir.com](http://www.sirnosir.com).**

Also available will be a Soundtrack CD (which includes the entire song from the FTA Show, "Soldier We Love You"), theatrical posters, tee shirts, and the DVD of "A Night of Ferocious Joy," a film about the first hip-hop antiwar concert against the "War on Terror."

**Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward GI Special 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 or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657**

## **White House Punks**

From: Dennis Serdel  
To: GI Special  
Sent: November 15, 2006  
Subject: White House Punks

By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, Veterans For Peace, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan

### **White House Punks**

**What Kind of war is this ?  
Americans have finally voted down  
makes you feel kind of proud  
old students all remember  
another war like this.  
It sent a message to our Soldiers,  
sent a message to the World,  
this war is just like Vietnam  
time to end it, bring them home.**

What Kind of war is this ?  
Can't even get a flak jacket  
when you're wounded and you're down  
soldiers have to pay for their meals.  
What Kind of war is this ?  
In a Humvee driving round  
soldiers welding extra steel  
putting sandbags on the floor.  
What kind of war is this ?  
Doing tour after tour  
a cat just has so many lives  
until he's hit and dead.  
What Kind of war is this ?  
Run by cowards who ran away from war,  
hypocrites in the White House  
patting dead soldiers on their backs.  
What Kind of war is this ?  
Criminals making money by the billions  
while soldiers on the ground  
have targets on their heads.  
It's time to end this war  
pinch Bush like a pimple off your ass  
toss hanging ropes over limbs  
hang 'em next to the butcher of Baghdad.

---

***Can You Handle The Truth:***  
**Meeting On Staten Island Will Hear**  
**Iraq Veterans, Mothers Of Soldiers**  
**Against The War:**  
**2 Vets And 2 Mothers, Including One**  
**Who Lost Son**

11.13.06 STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

Two veterans and two mothers, one of whom lost her son in the war in Iraq, will discuss how the Middle East conflict has affected them on Nov. 16 at the College of Staten Island. The forum, which is free and open to the public, will take place at 7:30 p.m. in CSI's Center for the Arts, z800 Victory Blvd., Willowbrook.

Speakers will explain why they have taken a stand against the war at the forum, titled "The Personal Impact of the War in Iraq: Veterans and Military Family Members Speak Out."

The panelists include Elaine Brower, mother of a U.S. Marine who recently returned from Fallujah, Iraq; Christian Bustamante, who enlisted in the Army National Guard in 1999 before applying for conscientious objector status due to his personal beliefs against the war in Iraq; Josh Middleton, who completed his enlistment in May, and Celeste Zappala, mother of National Guardsman Sgt. Sherwood Baker, who was killed in Baghdad in April 2004.

The event is sponsored by the CSJ Psychology Department Social Issues Committee, Peace Action of Staten Island and the CSI Program Development Committee.

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## **Rumsfeld? “He Should Clean Latrines For The Duration Of This War, Until Every Brave Soldier Returns Home”**

[Thanks to Alan Stolzer, The Military Project, who sent this in.]

11.10.06 The New York Daily News, By John G. Hallahan

Manhattan: Not that I'm not glad to see him go, but how dare Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld resign from a war he helped start?

**After almost 3,000 soldiers have died, and with thousands still in harm's way, this poor excuse for a human being gets to walk off into the sunset to enjoy his millions of dollars and wait for his cronies to join him on the golf course in two years.**

Disgusting!

He should clean latrines for the duration of this war, until every brave soldier returns home.

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## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

# **The Murder Machine: Made In Washington DC**

**[As you read this, never forget that even before Baghdad fell, the Badr Brigades were among the strongest backers of the invasion, and were favored by the Bush people in Baghdad, who helped protect them.**

**[They're the military wing of an Iraqi political party, The Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, which continues to fill leading positions in the collaborator government. And they're a pack of traitors as bloody as any that have ever tormented Iraq and its people to satisfy their own personal lust for power and wealth.**

**[When Falluja and Najaf rose against the Occupation in 2004, and fought back, the Badr Brigades organized death squads, under Occupation clandestine supervision, to help Bush & Co. hold on.**

**[They continue their wholesale slaughtering to this day, still protected by the Occupation command. While churning out propaganda denouncing Sadr's Mahdi for every crime on the face of the earth, and launching military attacks against them, killing civilians wholesale as they do it, not a finger is lifted against these murderous dogs by the Occupation command. Why not? Because they are, for now, allies of the Occupation. Duh. T]**

07 November Channel 4.com [Excerpts]

Deborah Davies reports from inside Baghdad

Standing in a large family house in the Hurriya district of Baghdad a little boy, no more than ten years old, with huge round eyes silently points out the bullet holes in each of the bedrooms. He goes from room to room, pointing out the marks in the wardrobe door, in the bed-frame, in the wall - he knows where they all are. It's the kind of knowledge no child should be burdened with.

Downstairs, six almost identical figures in black robes, sit in a row holding large pictures of their murdered men-folk, with a clutter of children on their laps.

These six women - all of them members of the same family, all of them recently widowed - have not been back into their bedrooms since last November, when a convoy of police cars drew up outside their home in the early hours and dozens of uniformed men burst in.

**Another of the children, Hanin, was asleep in her parents' bed. She's almost matter of fact as she describes what happened next. 'I heard a gunshot so I cuddled my Dad. They came into our room and I told them not to kill my Daddy but the man threatened to shoot me. They shot Daddy and then they shot my Uncle.'**

Five men were shot dead that night - a sixth had been killed in the street three weeks earlier.

Their crime?

The head of the family, Sheik Khadem Sarheed, was leader of a well-known Sunni tribe. Now he's dead, along with four of his adult sons and one son-in-law. One of the sons

was a policeman and recognised the killers. 'He told them he was a policeman like them', says his widow, 'But they shot him in the neck and in the stomach'.

Neighbours saw the police cars parked outside the house and recognised the uniforms of the notorious police commandos.

**They're highly trained, heavily armed officers, more like soldiers than ordinary policemen. And they report directly to the Ministry of the Interior. Over the last eighteen months these commandos - who are almost exclusively Shia Muslims - have been implicated in rounding up and killing thousands of ordinary Sunni civilians.**

### **A Hundred Dead Bodies A Day**

Up to a hundred bodies a day are found dumped on waste ground and rubbish tips around Baghdad. They've usually been dreadfully tortured. Acid and electric drills are the favorite methods and many of the bodies are still wearing police handcuffs.

As we discovered, there is even compelling evidence that the secret prisons of Saddam's day are back - stinking hell-holes where hundreds of victims are herded together to be raped, tortured and maimed for no crime other than belonging to the wrong sect.

**And it's all happening under the eyes of US commanders, who seem unwilling or unable to intervene.**

**These are the chilling findings of a special investigation, filmed for a Channel 4 documentary, The Death Squads that reveals how one of the most senior ministers in Iraq's new administration stands accused of presiding over a campaign to torture, maim and execute his enemies.**

**And this is the dossier that utterly explodes the myth that peace and a liberal democracy are blossoming in the new 'liberated' Iraq.**

In the bloody mayhem of Baghdad it's very difficult to untangle exactly who's who amongst the various death squads who now rule the streets. There are organised criminal gangs, kidnapping and killing for ransom money, and there are private militia groups loyal to particular clerics or clan leaders.

**But there is no question that among the most efficient of the death squads are the police commandos.**

**As part of our investigation, we traced how these commando units have been deliberately infiltrated and taken over by one of the most militant Islamic groups, the Badr Brigade.**

**They're the military wing of an Iraqi political party, The Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq.**



**SCIRI was set up in the early 80's in exile in Iran and its aim was always to overthrow Saddam and his Sunni government and replace them with a Shia government. Now, very helpfully, the Americans have done that for them.**

### **Return Of The Badr Brigade**

Immediately after Saddam was toppled in the Spring of 2003 thousands of Badr Brigade militiamen flooded back across the border from Iran, along with their political leaders who'd spent years waiting for this moment. They wanted the new Iraq to become a pro-Iranian, Islamic country where the Shia, who are 60% of Iraq's population, would also be the dominant political force.

They soon discovered that the best way to achieve this has been to infiltrate Iraq's new police force - right under the eyes the American administration.

From the early days of the US occupation of Iraq, the warning signs were there.

One of the most senior British police officers sent to Baghdad was the former Deputy Chief Constable of South Yorkshire, Douglas Brand. His brief was very simple - to rebuild the Iraqi police. He wanted to create a professional force dedicated to law and order.

**But the Americans were so keen to build up the numbers they turned a blind eye to who was enlisting. 'They wanted to have the graduation parades, to have them in new uniforms', Douglas Brand told us. 'Nobody was too interested in what happened when they actually went out on the streets'.**

**Douglas Brand says he voiced his concerns, 'Probably ten times a day to whoever would listen, usually two star Generals and above.' He even spoke directly to the US Defence Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, 'But I sensed the subtleties were not understood and if there were consequences down the road, that's something the Iraqis were going to have to handle themselves'.**

Those consequences became clear very quickly. In June 2004 an American soldier, Kevin Maries, was looking through his sights of his sniper rifle from his usual position on the top floor of the Ministry of the Interior building when he saw Iraqi police commandos bring hundreds of prisoners into a Ministry compound directly below him.

He took a series of astonishing photographs through his rifle sight showing what happened. 'They were forced onto their knees, beaten with rubber hoses,' he remembers, 'The beatings got more severe, a metal bar was used and they were beating the soles of their feet'.

**When he thought some of the prisoners might die, Kevin alerted his unit and American troops turned up to stop the torture. But an hour later US Headquarters ordered them to withdraw and leave the prisoners to the mercy of their captors. As far as Kevin knows, most of the prisoners were later moved to an official prison but only after they were beaten again.**

## Reluctance To Intervene

**From the start the US authorities have been reluctant to interfere and that became even more marked when a controversial appointment was made to the Iraqi government. In May 2005, a man named Bayan Jabr was made Minister of the Interior - and thus the man in charge of the police.**

**He was one of SCIRI's most senior figures.**

**Suddenly huge numbers of his own exclusively Shia militiamen from the Badr Brigade were recruited into the police.**

Gerry Burke witnessed that first hand. A senior Massachusetts policeman, seconded as a police adviser to Baghdad, Burke saw a memo from the new Minister authorizing the recruitment of one group of 1,300 men into the Commandos without any obvious qualifications for the job.

**'These were men without any police training, without any background checks', Gerry Burke told us, 'It was just changing uniforms from the Badr Brigade to the police'.**

A few months later, when groups of Sunni men began to be kidnapped, murdered and their bodies dumped in the same spots every day, Gerry Burke tried to organise a surveillance operation to catch the killers.

But the ordinary Iraqi police officers he was working with were too terrified to co-operate. 'They believed the perpetrators were members of the police who would have killed them in retaliation for investigating it'.

But that is by no means the only evidence that Iraq's Minister for the Interior is involved in a covert campaign of terror. One Iraqi MP, accuses Mr Jabr of being behind a network of secret prisons where Sunnis were held without charge and tortured.

Of course, in a land where sectarian rivalries often involve wild allegations, we should treat any such claims with caution. But even with that in mind, the evidence provided to us by a Sunni MP named Mohammed al Dini is profoundly disturbing.

## Torture Videos

Last summer, Al Dini was among a delegation of MPs who turned up unannounced to check one of these suspected illegal sites. He showed us the video his staff took of the inspection. Several hundred men are pictured, crammed into cells.

There are chaotic scenes of jubilation as the prisoners realize outsiders have come to end their ordeal and they all clamor to tell Al Dini their stories. One man is an Imam at a mosque. 'They forced us to talk by raping us', he tells the MP. Eventually prisoners sit patiently on the floor while one by one they display their injuries. Some have been

branded with hot metal bars or had their fingernails ripped out. They lift their shirts to show bruises, scars and burns all over their bodies.

Then Mohammed Al Dini showed us a second video. Three days after he exposed this illegal prison, a group of his relatives visited him in Baghdad. On their way home their minibus was stopped by uniformed men. They were dragged out and executed on the street. The video shows ten bodies, lying on the pavement, in large pools of blood. Yellow leaflets have been scattered round which say, 'Congratulations to those who killed these Sunni extremists.'

Mohammed Al Dini is in no doubt about who murdered his ten cousins. 'They were militiamen operating as death squads inside the police', he says, 'And the attack was ordered by those people I exposed for running the prison.'

We interviewed Al Mohammed Dini in the safety of the Green Zone but he then made an extraordinary offer - to take us to his office and give us more evidence of police atrocities which have taken place while Bayan Jabr was the Minister in charge.

His office was in a district called Yarmuk - a short journey but an incredibly dangerous one.

We discussed it as a team and took the advice of our calm and experienced security man, who's ex-British army. We decided to trust Mohammed Al Dini. We all climbed into his 4 x 4, with two of his own armed guards. As we drove through last checkpoint in the Green Zone and out into Baghdad's wild beyond a dozen more vehicles, four armed guards in each, were waiting.

They swung in to surround us. We were now in a huge convoy which included two pick-up trucks with men stood on the back manning machine guns. We drove past the Jihad district where last July the police and other armed gunman set up unofficial checkpoints. They inspected everyone's ID cards and executed more than forty people with Sunni names.

Then we went past Yarmuk hospital, which was surrounded by police cars. Iraqi hospitals are very dangerous places. We'd spoken to doctors who told us how patients, relatives and medical staff are regularly kidnapped from the treatment rooms by hospital guards and the police. Two doctors - too frightened to meet us - sent us emails. One said 'I'm writing to you crying with tears, they've gone on a wild rampage killing doctors'.

A third doctor, who agreed to be interviewed anonymously, described how an elderly woman was rushed in very ill. When the hospital guards realised she was the wife of a well known Sunni man they shot her.

There was more to come. When we reached Mohammed Al Dini's office, he handed over several CD's full of horrific images of corpses - victims, he claimed, of the death squads. 'Bullet holes?' I asked pointing to a picture of two round wounds. Mohammed Al Dini corrected me. 'No - electric drill holes'.

Then he fished out a five page document from his briefcase.

**It was a top secret report from Military Intelligence describing how they had caught eighteen policemen in the act of kidnapping two Sunni civilians. The police had confessed that they'd been ordered to pick up the men by their own senior officers who were members of the Badr Brigade. They were paid for each captive they handed over and they knew of at least nine men who'd later been found dead.**

***Mohammed Al Dini told me this all started when Bayan Jabr became Interior Minister - he was later promoted to Finance Minister, a role he continues to hold.***

'There's a great deal of evidence against him, he's been involved in many human rights breaches in Iraq', he says.

Could one of the most senior figures in Iraq's new administration be presiding over a regime of terror every bit as savage as that under Saddam?

We wrote to Bayan Jabr to ask for his response to all these allegations - but so far he hasn't replied.

**One thing is for sure: life in 'liberated' modern day Iraq is every bit as terrifying as it was under Saddam - perhaps even more so.**

The videos that Mohammed Al Dini gave us were only part of a huge collection we built up during our time in Baghdad. Human rights organisations gave us hours and hours of material. One mass funeral after another, lines of coffins, crowds of wailing relatives.

But among the most heartbreaking tapes are ones the women in the 'House Of Six Widows' gave us. One shows the immediate aftermath of the killings - the Sheik and his sons covered in blood stained blankets. Another video is of the funeral.

The only certain thing is that tonight and every night for the foreseeable future, the death squads will be roaming the streets.

And many of them will be so-called policemen.

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***A Classic Account Of Imperial  
Arrogance And Stupidity:  
Because Iraqi Citizen Won't  
Believe His Silly Promise Of  
"Protection," Asshole U.S. Officer***

# Calls Him “A Coward” And “A Dirt-Bag”

November 15, 2006 By Doug Smith. L.A. Times Staff Writer

SOLDIERS of the U.S. Army's Tomahawk Battalion had found witnesses to a mass kidnapping and killing that probably involved Iraqi police officers, but to get Iraqis to talk they would need a guide. They turned to a man who, until two years ago, had been running a pizza franchise in Canada.

When he saw an ad in a Detroit newspaper seeking interpreters for the U.S. military, the tall, bearded Iraqi native gave up his business, left his wife and three children in Canada and returned to a country he hadn't seen since 1989.

Now he wears a combat jersey with the name "Nash" emblazoned on the pocket. It is a pseudonym, but in Iraq he answers to nothing else.

Nash's mother, brother and sister live in Baghdad, where he was born. But in the 22 months he has worked with the U.S. military, he has not dared visit them, making do with phone calls. A visit could be his mother's death sentence. For the same security reasons, he guards his identity.

Often his perfectly inflected Arabic and intimate knowledge of Iraqi domestic rituals make the difference between a blundering intrusion and a successful outing. Those skills have made Nash a valuable aide to the battalion and, in particular, to its commanding officer, Lt. Col. John Norris, a 43-year-old native of Louisville, Ky., and a father of two.

Norris' soldiers had located two witnesses to the slayings of six Sunni Arab Muslim men, but neither had agreed to testify. So the Americans were stepping up their effort to get the witnesses to come forward — bringing in Nash and Norris.

The first witness was a woman, Aisha, who had said her husband would not let her testify. Norris and Nash approached the husband, slender, in his 30s, wearing a mauve sweatsuit with the word "Puppy" printed on it.

"Is this your house?" Norris asked, speaking through Nash. The man nodded.

"Is your wife here today?" Norris asked. "Is it possible that I could talk to her without putting you all in danger?"

The man squirmed and said he would prefer that he didn't, but Norris, with Nash's help, persisted. After a minute or two, the man opened the gate leading to a tiny courtyard, where a living room couch sat on the front porch. He gestured for Norris to sit. Several other soldiers, including Julia Thompson, a private from Whittier, stood nearby.

Aisha came out of the house, two girls clutching her simple white robe. The girls smiled at the soldiers and waved their fingers. Aisha stood stiffly, looking at Norris intently but with confusion in her eyes.

In a pocket on the sleeve of his combat uniform, Norris had identification photos of each of the senior officers of the Iraqi national police unit that had been patrolling the neighborhood. It's a largely Shiite Muslim force. Norris suspected some of the officers of involvement in the slayings. He handed Aisha the pictures.

She turned the pages, studying each face.

The woman put a thumb on an officer's gold embroidery. "The uniforms looked like this, but it wasn't these people," she said.

"I was wondering, would you be willing to provide a testimony, an eyewitness account for us?" Norris asked.

The man answered for his wife: He did not want her to testify. "She didn't really notice everything," he said.

**"We can protect you and protect your family, and we can also provide a reward if we can convict these individuals and send them to prison so we can stop all this," Norris said. [Ugh. Offer natives money. Tell them silly stuff about "protecting" them. They too stupid to know U.S. Asshole Officer can't protect anybody. They too dumb to know how many corpses piling up every day. They just simple ignorant natives, don't know U.S. Army can't protect own soldiers, let alone Iraqi civilians.]**

Nash relayed the American's offer, then the Iraqi's reply:

"She cannot testify," he said. "Our culture won't allow it." **[Trying not to piss off primitive U.S. officer by telling him everybody knows the offer of protection is a silly lie.]**

"If Iraq is to improve," Norris said, with growing impatience, "we need Iraqi citizens to stand up and say 'no' to more crime."

**"If she testifies, we will be the target of both sides," the husband answered. [Exactly the point. No more about "our culture. The foreigner isn't getting it; have to try making it simple for his tiny brain.]**

"Your identity will be protected," Norris said. "What if they come back and take your daughters?" **[Same stupid lie again, plus telling natives somebody going to mess with their daughters. U.S. officer read some book about how natives panic when somebody mentions their daughters. And who, exactly, is he threatening will mess with their daughters if the witness won't testify? Hmmm?]**

Aisha edged closer to Norris, looking him in the eyes. But she didn't speak.

"I'm really sorry," the husband said. "Even if they take my own kids or my relatives, I will not tell." **[OK dumbshit, is that plain enough for you?]**

In disgust, Norris rose and pointed at the man's chest.

"I put my life and the lives of my soldiers on the line to protect your family, and you're not willing to make any sacrifice to help your neighborhood," he said, striding out of the courtyard.

[Now this piece of shit whines about how hard it is to come to somebody else's country, take it over for his asshole boss in the White House, kill the people who live there by the tens of thousands, and he gets all cranky because they won't appreciate *he's "protecting your family"!*

[There is not one single person in Iraq, for or against the occupation, who thinks that the reason Bush invaded and occupied Iraq was to protect some Iraqi family. Either Norris is too stupid to live, or the worst silly liar on the face of the earth. What a disgrace to the uniform he wears: "*What if they come back and take your daughters?*" He's in the wrong army. He would have been more at home serving King George in 1776, or Stalin in 1945, or Hitler in 1940, but the U.S. army in 2006? Oh, sorry, wrong about that. This is an Imperial war of conquest and occupation too.]

Nash did not translate. [At least Nash isn't brain-dead.]

*On the street, Norris erupted. "He's a dirt bag," he said. "He's a coward."*

Norris was deeply frustrated that he had apparently lost a promising witness. But something had happened outside his notice.

As Norris had spoken to the husband, Aisha had passed a note to Thompson, the platoon's informal liaison to Iraqi women. The note said she would testify. **[And Aisha's no fool. She sees the stupid occupation commander in a rage. She's afraid of what he might do next. She's trying to protect her family. His barely veiled threat about her daughters was translated. She's trying to cool him down. And of course, she never will testify. Because there never will be a trial. Because the people who did the deed are well protected by the Iraqi collaborators in the local government that Norris is in Iraq to prop up. If by some miracle there ever is a trial, Aisha and her family will be in the wind, long gone where the enemy can't find them. Norris, that is.]**

[Wish her well, and Norris in hell.]

<p><b>OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW!</b></p>
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**DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

# **Democrat Leader Reid Pledges To Vote For Money To Keep The War Going: Dead Troops? Dead Iraqis? Tough Shit**

**[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in. He writes: Pushing him to spend more money, that is.]**

November 15, 2006 By Jonathan Weisman, Washington Post Staff Writer

Harry M. Reid (D-Nev.), who was elected Senate majority leader yesterday, said last night that President Bush still has not grasped the urgent need to change course in Iraq.

**To that end, he said, one of the first acts of the new Democratic Congress will be a \$75 billion boost to the military budget to try to get the Army's diminished units back into combat shape.**

**Democrats will not try, Reid pledged, to play the strongest hand they have -- using Congress's power of the purse to starve the war effort of money and force the president to move.**

To the casual observer, Reid comes across as a reserved, soft-spoken, deferential politician who appears more comfortable in the backrooms of the Capitol than in the spotlight. But to those who have watched him close up, Reid's reputation is quite different -- that of a brawler who moves with the alacrity he acquired in his days as an amateur boxer.

A \$400,000 land purchase in Clark County, Nev., that Reid made in 1998 with a friend and business partner grabbed headlines in October when the senator had to amend four years of ethics reports to Congress to more fully explain the transaction. The sale brought in \$1.1 million, netting a \$700,000 profit in six years.

This week, the Los Angeles Times published a report suggesting that the \$18 million that Reid secured for a bridge connecting Laughlin, Nev., to Bullhead City, Ariz., may have boosted the value of land Reid owns nearby.

Reid's loyalty to the mining industry, which plays an important role in his state's economy, has created run-ins with fellow Democrats who seek to raise royalty fees on federal land and impose stronger environmental standards.

Yet, Senate Democrats have strong faith in their leader. **["Yet"? What "yet"? He's a perfect role model for every thieving rat running the government in DC. What's some more dead troops compared with the sublime importance of stuffing pockets with cash?]**



"We went through combat together; and when you go through combat together, you learn everything," said Sen. Charles E. Schumer (N.Y.), who heads the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, which helped Democrats take control of the Senate. [And that's what these assholes call "combat."]

**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))



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

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**CLASS WAR REPORTS**

**Resistance Movement Elects  
Governing Council For Oaxaca:  
Mexican Delegates Meet As Death  
Squads Kill More**

November 14, 2006 By Nancy Davies, Narco News [Excerpts]

Three thousand Oaxaqueños responded to the first call of the Asamblea Popular de Pueblos de Oaxaca (Popular Assembly of the Peoples' of Oaxaca, or APPO) on Friday, November 10, to forge a new constitution for Oaxaca. The APPO sprang into life in the two days following the attempted eviction of striking teachers from their zocalo encampment on June 14, 2006.

It has guided the social movement in Oaxaca since then, and now self-dissolves in favor of a permanent structure of government which includes an executive and legislative branch. The provisional directorship dissolved on formally initiating the work of the constitutive congress.

**The new organ is the State Council of the Popular Assembly of the Peoples of Oaxaca (CEAPPO, in its Spanish initials). It consists of 260 representatives of all the seven regions of Oaxaca.**

**Forty seats were assigned to the democratic teachers union. The CEAPPO also includes merchants, students, bus and taxi drivers, unions, women, non-governmental organizations, political parties and social groups. Honorific spaces were reserved for the political prisoners.**

**All members of CEAPPO have the same rights and obligations.**

**Between 800 and 1000 (depending on sources) delegates from neighborhoods and barricades, political and social organizations joined arrivals from the seven regions of the state.**

Another 100 invited persons joined them, wearing yellow guest badges. The sixty or so national and international press people who also showed up were not permitted into the working sessions headed by members of APPO's provisional directors, which include Flavio Sosa Villavicencio, Zenén Bravo Castellano, Rosendo Ramírez Sánchez and Marcos Leyva Madrid. Zenén Bravo was selected as president of the council. The men were nominated by a plenary, along with two vice-presidents and four recorders.

CEAPPO has formed in the face of the extreme repression currently underway by the governor Ulises Ruiz Ortiz, who operates both through his PRI and paid henchmen and police in civilian clothes. The spirit of the CEAPPO is revolutionary, in a pacific, democratic and humanistic stance which is openly anti neoliberal and based on the traditional people power shown in usos y costumbres ("uses and customs"), a method of governing which is open and face to face.

**Ample provisions for recall of officials, referenda and plebiscites are included in the form of the council.**

In content, CEAPPO supports economic social justice, equality of persons, respect for differences, respect for the rights of women, respect for indigenous people and their autonomy, and development in benefit of the peoples of Oaxaca with high concern for sustainability and renewable resources.

The gathered constitutive congress met for three days. On Friday the work began on the registration of delegates from different organizations and community leaders, as well as participants on the barricades which the APPO designed after June 17. Registration

took the whole day Friday, and so little time was left for work sessions that the meeting adjourned.

At the initial meeting of the first night's constitutive council, which was heavily dominated by men, the women present protested vigorously. Ultimately it was decided that a minimum of 30 percent of the permanent council will be women. The sessions were all lively, with booing down of objectionable suggestions and cheers for good ones – participative democracy.

On Saturday, some 600 delegates defined the statutes, the declaration of principles and the program of action for the new body as well as electing the permanent directors who will function in a role akin to an executive department.

Working Sunday and throughout the night, by dawn the congress had elaborated its new plan of action, which includes continuing the struggle to unseat the governor Ulises Ruiz. The departure of Ruiz is "not negotiable." Activities were outlined, such as putting up more blockades, and renewing the mobile brigades.

**This has to take place within the uncertainty of the occupying forces of Federal Preventive Police (PFP), who may or may not be withdrawn, and with the dirty war underway.**

While the congress was gathering for its first day of meetings, the zocalo was occupied by the Federal Preventive Police, and the tourist area was occupied by the APPO and teachers who won't return to classes while danger exists.

**During the time period of November 1 to November 10, about 49 students and APPO leaders were snatched off the street without warrants by men in civilian clothing who drove unmarked automobiles. Among the apprehended were two minors. Civil rights violations perpetrated by the government included entering private homes without warrant to arrest the highly visible people of the APPO and the teachers.**

Although Human Rights organizations demanded to know where and who was being held, or an account for the dead, it was not offered. Seeking safety, the most visible of the APPO and teachers threatened asked for sanctuary within the church and were granted it by the church official Wilfredo Meyran, who a day later was overridden by the bishop of Oaxaca, Jose Luis Chavez Botello.

**The bishop, in a news conference, declared that the church was devoted to the kingdom of heaven and could not get involved in earthly politics. [He said, involving himself in earthly politics.] Meyran is a long-time ally of former bishop of Chiapas Samuel Ruis, and appeared with him when Ruiz was in Oaxaca in support of the APPO.**

University classes were scheduled to resume on Monday, but many did not due to the violent conditions around the university campus. Some professors decided it wasn't safe; some students made the same decision. At the same time, the static blocking of Radio Universidad continued, and the blockade of University City was maintained, so that in effect the information coming from the APPO was unavailable. The radio

broadcasters were unable to leave University City for fear of their lives, and remained, living inside the autonomous area.

**Radio Ciudadano, also known as Radio Patito, continued broadcasting names of the movement adherents as well as those of teachers, with suggestions to capture or harm them.**

This station is generally regarded as supported by the PRI government. The names of the Radio Universidad broadcasters are well known and have been made public. Human rights protests to prevent the pro-government station from issuing threats have been ignored. By the end of the week, November 10, the Radio Universidad signal was completely blocked.

Although Ulises Ruiz in Oaxaca tries to portray in the mainstream media that all is returning to normal (the PFP boys eat popsicles while standing on guard blocking entry to the zocalo) my personal observation as your commentator is that the movement will remain active and resolute.

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**Received:**

## **WITNESS AGAINST TORTURE; A Campaign To Shut Down Guantánamo**

From: Matthew W. Daloisio  
To: GI Special  
Sent: November 15, 2006  
Subject: Guantanamo

Matt Daloisio from the NY Catholic Worker and WRL (& friend of David McReynolds).

Just a quick note to check in. The GI Special you sent out is quite a great resource..thanks for doing it, it's always an interesting read. And good luck with the event on Friday night, I'm glad WRL was able to sign on. I'll be upstate doing some talks about GTMO, so won't be there, but I am sure it will go well.

**I have attached a letter for a January 11th Guantanamo action we are planning.**

Peace, Matt

## **WITNESS AGAINST TORTURE**

November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2006

Hello friends. We are writing with an important invitation.

**On January 11th, 2002, the first prisoners arrived at Guantánamo. January 11th, 2007, will mark five years of indefinite detention. We are calling for January 11th, 2007, to be an International Day to Shut Down Guantánamo.**

In addition to local demonstrations being organized, we are working with members of the Catholic Worker, Center for Constitutional Rights, War Resisters League, CodePink, The Declaration of Peace, Act Against Torture, and the National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance on a demonstration in Washington, D.C. The day will include a press conference led by lawyers representing the men at Guantánamo and family members of those detained.

We are also hoping to have as many people as there are prisoners, around 430 at last count, risk arrest in an act of nonviolent civil resistance, bringing the names of the men from Guantánamo into US courts. Please consider joining us in DC, or organizing locally in your own communities.

**Members of Witness Against Torture will be available beforehand to meet with you in person to go over the scenario and other details, or you can call or e-mail Frida Berrigan or Matt Daloisio for more information. There will also be a meeting in DC the evening of January 10th, 2007 to go over details and prepare for the day.**

At a recent teach-in hosted by Seton Hall Law School, Joseph Margulies, a lawyer challenging the indefinite detention of the prisoners at Guantánamo, framed the issue: "There is little question of how history will respond to Guantánamo...it will be looked back on with condescension and bemusement. How could we be so foolish, misguided, cruel? How we will respond is a legal question and a political question. But it is most of all a moral question. Will we respond with courage or cowardice? This is our choice."

**Please consider joining this day in any way you can. We ask that you seriously consider coming to DC to stand on behalf of those men who have been denied justice for far too long.**

Peace-

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Matthew W. Daloisio 201.264.4424(c) daloisio@riseup.net

On behalf of Witness Against Torture - [www.witnesstorture.org](http://www.witnesstorture.org)

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