

GI SPECIAL 5F10:

**HE SERVED IN IRAQ:
THE MARINE CORPS RATS IN COMMAND HATE
HIS FREEDOM;
AND OURS TOO**



**“The Military Is Trying
To Suppress The Guys
Who Are Over There And
Saw What The War Is”**

[Thanks to Katherine GY, who sent this in.]

June 8, By Christopher Loh, bostonnow.com

Clad in a black T-shirt emblazoned with “Iraq Veterans Against the War,” an Iraq war veteran could lose his honorable discharge status for speaking his mind.

Sgt. Liam Madden, 22, stood on the steps of the Statehouse Thursday afternoon and claimed the Marine Corps was trying to “silence the free speech and assault the First Amendment rights” of veterans.

The North End resident said he was being charged by the Marine Corps with wearing a part of his uniform at a Washington D.C. war protest in March. Madden said is also charged with making disloyal statements at a protest in New York City in February.

Madden said that because he is listed as “inactive,” he is free to speak his opinions.

A June 1 Marine Corps letter reads, “Sgt. Liam Madden is facing administrative action for unauthorized wear of the military uniform and disloyal statement.”

Those statements, Madden said, were that “(President Bush) has betrayed U.S. service members by committing them to a war crime.” Madden said that if he is found guilty of the charges, his “honorable” discharge status will be changed to “other than honorable” resulting in the loss of all military benefits including pay and healthcare.

The Marine Corps said the letter sent to Madden was only a notification that his actions were being investigated and that no charges have officially been filed. The change in status to “other than honorable discharge” for Madden, as repercussion of a decision against him, were not confirmed by the Marine Corps. Such a punishment was one possible outcome, the spokesman said.

“I think they’re trying to intimidate others from speaking out,” said Vietnam veteran Nate Goldslag. “I think it is outrageous that the military is trying to suppress the guys who are over there and saw what the war is.”



**FUNDS NEEDED FOR THE MADDEN-KOKESH
LEGAL DEFENSE TEAM:
Iraq Veterans Against The War**

www.ivaw.org/

[Do not send funds anywhere else. T]

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, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

**UNREMITTING HELL ON EARTH;
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**

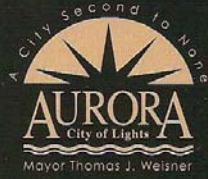


Thanks to Kevin Ramirez, CCCO. He writes: Pics showing what happens when US bases get mortared/rocketed. Obviously taken by a GI. I found them online, and don't know who took them.

TROOP NEWS

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This exhibition was funded in part by the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

[Thanks to Katherine GY, The Military Project]

Scum Running Cruel Scam To Get IDs From Military Family Members

6.11.07 Army Times

The American Red Cross is warning military families to beware of a scam in which callers tell family members their service member has been injured in Iraq, with the apparent goal of getting the service member's Social Security number and date of birth.

Several people have reported to different groups that they have received such phone calls, said Red Cross spokeswoman Devorah Goldberg.

The Red Cross does not report any type of casualty information to family members; the military services contact family members directly.

Family members who receive a suspicious call should ask for the name and telephone number of the caller for verification. They should call their family readiness group or military personnel flight, Red Cross officials said.

175 From Indiana & 170 From Kentucky Off To Bush's Imperial Slaughterhouse

6.11.07 Army Times

About 175 soldiers of the Indiana National Guard's F Company, 151st Light Anti-Tank Battalion, will leave in early June to mobilize at Fort Dix, N.J.

In Iraq, members of the unit will staff guard towers and conduct patrols.

The Kentucky National Guard planned to say farewell to B Battery, 138th Field Artillery, during a June 4 ceremony, according to a Guard press release.

The unit's 170 soldiers are expected to provide convoy security and force protection in Iraq. They will train first at Camp Shelby, Miss.

***A Letter To The Traitor Cheney:
"I Attended My Cousin's Son's
Graduation From West Point"
"My Cousin's Son, The Graduating
Cadet, Has Said He Feels The Iraq
War Is Wrong"***

**“During Your Speech, I Felt I Was In
The Presence Of Pure Evil”
“Almost Everyone I Spoke With
Concerning Your Speech Said They
Believe You Are Mentally Deranged”**

Cheney's Pals at Halliburton etc. Get Hundreds of Millions in Iraq No-bid Contracts



[Thanks to Bennett Weiss, who sent this in. He writes: Take a moment to read a perspective from inside the gates of West Point on graduation day.]

From: Michael Flynn
To: vice_president@whitehouse.gov
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2007 10:54 AM
Subject: West Point speech

Dear Mr. Cheney,

I attended my cousin's son's graduation from West Point on Saturday. I sat in the parents section behind the band.

Your speech was pure fear mongering.

As you spoke, the parents around me looked stricken, knowing that their child may get killed in Iraq because of the fraud the Bush administration perpetrated.

My cousin's son, the graduating cadet, has said he feels the Iraq war is wrong.

During your speech, I felt I was in the presence of pure evil.

It was unbelievable to hear you deliver your hate filled speech in front of 1,000 of our best and brightest, knowing that some of them will get killed or worse, because of your greed, ineptitude and naiveté.

Almost everyone I spoke with concerning your speech said they believe you are mentally deranged.

I believe you are mentally deranged, that you are dragging the country and the world down further by the guilt you feel for each injured and dead Iraqi and American. How could you not be affected by the suffering you have caused.

So you continue to lie about the situation in Iraq rather than face the reality that you made one of the greatest blunders in world history.

Mr. Cheney, I support your removal from office, stripping you of your money from Halliburton, and trying you for the Iraq war.

I would appreciate a personal response from whoever it is that reads this email for Mr. Cheney.

Of course, my desire is that Mr. Cheney personally receives this message.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Flynn
290 North Main Street
Hudson, Ohio 44236

Troops Invited:

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email contact@militaryproject.org:. Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe.

1st Cav To Be Outsourced,

New Name: 1st Caballeros



[Thanks to Katherine GY, The Military Project, who sent this in.]

Armywrong.net

The armed forces, already struggling to meet recruiting goals, is expected to announce soon that the 1st Cavalry Division has been outsourced, according to Pentagon insiders. This is part of a new recruiting strategy to expand the number of noncitizens in the ranks and put more immigrants on the fast track to US citizenship.

The idea of signing up foreigners who are seeking US citizenship gained traction as a way to address a critical need for the Pentagon, especially in light of the dismal volunteer record among “neocons”, while helping providing a helping hand to Latin Americans who want to enter the United States.

“For years we’ve been providing military aid and training to Central and South America,” says Pentagon spokesman Benedict Arugula. “Now we can get something back.”

Expected to be drawn heavily from volunteers in El Salvador and Nicaragua, the new 1st Cav - or “1st Caballeros” - will be a highly mobile force for future military misadventures.

Currently, Pentagon policy stipulates that only immigrants legally residing in the United States are eligible to enlist. There are currently about 30,000 noncitizens who serve in the US armed forces, making up about 2 percent of the active-duty force, according to statistics from the military and the Council on Foreign Relations. About 100 noncitizens have died in Iraq and Afghanistan.

With today's demands placing such a high strain on our service members, it becomes more crucial than ever that we work to alleviate their burden," said Representative Ike Skelton , a Missouri Democrat who is set to chair the House Armed Services Committee, and who has been calling for a larger Army for more than a decade.

But it would take years and billions of dollars to recruit, train, and equip the 30,000 troops and 5,000 Marines the Pentagon says it needs. And military recruiters, fighting the perception that signing up means a ticket to Baghdad, have had to rely on financial incentives and lower standards to meet their quotas.

Officials dismiss criticism from groups such as the National Council of La Raza that claims the plan sends the wrong message that Americans themselves are not willing to sacrifice to defend their country.

"During the Civil War, at least 20 percent of Union soldiers were immigrants, and many of them had just stepped off the boat before donning a blue uniform. There were even entire units, like the 15th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry (the Scandinavian Regiment) and General Louis Blenker's German Division, where English was hardly spoken."

"The military would do well today to open its ranks not only to legal immigrants but also to illegal ones and, as important, to untold numbers of young men and women who are not here now but would like to come," Boot added.

[The writer might have mentioned that many of the Civil War volunteers from Germany were revolutionaries, who got their politics from a European organizer and writer named Karl Marx, and who saw the war against slavery as an important and necessary step towards wiping out capitalism. They were a bit early, but their hearts were in the right place. T]

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

<p>"What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms." Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787.</p>

Fighting Back: "We Do Not Need More Self- Proclaimed 'Patriots' Re-Enacting

Pages From A History Book---We Need Revolutionaries”



By Monica Benderman, Choiceamericanetwork.com

“These are the times that try men’s souls: the summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it NOW, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly...” (Thomas Paine, The American Crisis. Dec. 19, 1776.)

In the 1700’s a group of angry patriots dared to sparked a revolution.

They did all they could by diplomatic standards – going so far as to leave the “civilized” country they were born and raised in, simply wanting to live in peace unencumbered by the insecurities of a ruling class who sought to restrain their dreams.

Willing to migrate across treacherous seas, to trade the “comforts of home” for a wilderness setting filled with unknowns, these rebels had a cause; a desire for freedom from tyranny, taxation and the oppressive rule of a king who cared little for his subjects and all for his capital gains.

Freedom doesn’t come easily, nor can it be given.

The early American revolutionaries did not rely on the efforts of others; they did not wait for a savior to rescue them from their plight.

They saw the futility of holding out for the empty promises of the ruling parties in their fatherland and took matters in their own hands knowing the standards and principles on which they based their actions were worthy of the sacrifice.

Fear struck the hearts of the sophisticated gentry who had been left behind as they came to realize they might have to learn to fend for themselves; to make their beds, clean their yards, tend their children – give up the “good life” for the reality of Life.

As red coated aristocrats stepped across open fields with arrogance befitting the ignorance of those highly pampered elitists who believed their money left them invincible and able to conquer and manipulate a world which must have been created for their pleasure, the carefully laid rebellion began in earnest; lessons of survival adding to the strength of will of those who had tasted freedom for themselves and understood what was needed to remain free.

What the leaders of the lords of London failed to recognize were the character and strength of the rebels whose disrespect to the “king” they had hoped to quell.

They could not understand the drive and commitment these rebels held for preserving their individual freedoms. They had little respect for the meaning of those freedoms; their sense of freedom having been bought, not earned.

Yet the fear they held for the strength of men they did not understand caused them to raise their weapons to destroy what they feared, and freedom loving revolutionaries were left with no other option but to defend themselves in kind, even as they continued to hope for peace.

“It is easy to perceive that individuals by agreeing to erect forms of government, (for the better security of themselves) must give up some part of their liberty for that purpose; and it is the particular business of a Constitution to mark out how much they shall give up. “ (Thomas Paine, Letter IV, Four Letters of Interesting Subjects, 1776.)

It was not an ill-conceived love of country or nationalist pride that gave these revolutionaries the right to be called patriots. They were patriots for having laid a foundation for the way of life they envisioned, and believed in it enough to be willing to defend it with a commitment only others like them could understand.

They worked tirelessly to create a set of laws which would serve as a guideline for their vision, Laws of Humanity incorporated into a Constitution which they believed to be just and fair to all even as the authors admitted to flaws which would only be tempered by time.

Each was willing to give up something so that all could live in the greatest freedom possible. They were patriots because they stood their ground for the right to live with their own high standards and principles, and their individual sacrifices were deserving of their expectation that those standards be maintained in the actions of all who chose to live in the new nation founded on their blood.

Where Have All The Patriots Gone?

We have hired defenders for every action under the sun; lobbyists in Congress, advocates in business, in school, in healthcare, and soldiers at war. What was once a new country formed by the vision of independent thinkers is now a nation of followers passing the buck to anyone who craves publicity – although today's "buck" barely scratches the surface of the price followers pay for someone else to be their voice of "truth."

The patriots of 1776 were willing to fight with all they had for the freedoms defined in their newly penned Constitution simply because it had been their hands which had done the work to establish the nation whose laws were represented by that constitution; they were their own voice of Truth.

They did the work and earned the right to *declare their freedom.*

Now, with every day that passes United States citizens lose a little more of their freedom, at least on paper.

But did they have that freedom to begin with? Certainly not the freedom they demanded, nor had they earned; not as a nation and not in recent history.

United States citizens have been living with the illusion of freedom for generations now.

With nothing much more than a slap on the wrist, they allow the administration's actions of corruption and deception to continue; "sunshine patriots" and "summer soldiers" giving lip-service to the words of the Constitution but little attention to their meaning, willingly conceding more of their freedom to avoid the hard work required to deserve what freedom really means.

Freedom is not free – and United States citizens are losing more of their freedom every day as they freely choose to allow others to make their decisions for them; justifying their actions from the safety of their living rooms saying "it's not that we don't care, it's that we don't know what else to do."

What Else To Do?

STAND UP AND FIGHT!!!!!!

Fight back with a willingness to sacrifice comfort for the principles of law which give us all our freedom.

Fight for what you have earned. Wait. What has been earned? This freedom you speak of has no meaning, no value; it remains illusion – words spoken from the podiums of a thousand different protests and a hundred different congressional caucuses as if giving a dramatic soliloquy from the center of a spotlight on an otherwise dimly lit stage – freedom earned by the sweat of those on the frontlines is only real to those willing to sweat. Oh, how Americans seem to be so afraid to sweat.

Our soldiers are dying, our veterans have suffered the lasting effects of fighting for an unjust, undefined cause. Our country is fading from a once proud new nation of rebels with revolutionary ideas, willing to sacrifice their luxuries for the right to live in freedom, to a land of elitists willing to sacrifice their freedoms for the right to live in luxury.

Where Are The Revolutionaries?

We do not need more self-proclaimed “patriots” re-enacting pages from a history book---we need revolutionaries.

Revolutionaries are determined to maintain high standards, strength of character and demonstrate their respect for others as our Constitution demands, even as they stand for change in a corrupt, increasingly immoral shadow of a country once founded on standards, strength of character and respect for others.

Revolutionaries know they must be, within themselves, all the changes they want to see.

Revolutionaries are willing to fight for their freedom with everything they have, giving up nothing of themselves in the process, earning the right for that freedom by living the cost.

Where Are These Rebels Who Understand The Depth Of The Cause?

“Every man who acts beyond the line of private life must expect to pass through two severe examinations. First, as to his motives, secondly, as to his conduct.”
(Thomas Paine, Letter I, Four Letters of Interesting Subjects, 1776.)

The conduct of United States citizens clearly defines their commitment to the cause – it is past time for a revolution – the final exam is scheduled to begin.

Will our conduct reflect the high standards true freedom demands?

Or are our motives simply a cover to hide the fact that we have not learned what freedom really means?

For More:

<http://bendermandefensetrust.blog.com/>

MORE:

Responsibility:

“We Hear Our So Called Leaders Pay Lip Service To The Sacrifice That Is Made; That They Do Not Want To Continue On With War, Yet That Is Exactly What They Do”



June 05, 2007 By Sgt. Kevin Benderman, Official Blog of the Sgt. Kevin Benderman Defense Trust [bendermandefensetrust.blog.com/]

A few months ago I wrote an article talking about human sacrifice and slavery and how human kind had moved away from those institutions when we had educated ourselves enough to realize that these were not honorable or sane things to do to one another.

The reason I write this today is to further explore the concept that war is slavery and human sacrifice all rolled up into one vile package.

The reason I say it is slavery is that we have trapped ourselves into believing that we cannot live in a world without war because it is and has always been with us.

I believe the people who practiced those two aforementioned subjects said the same thing about them as well.

We have conditioned our minds into believing that we cannot live without war, but I say we can and we must. Look at how war keeps us from attaining the levels of humanity we could achieve if we did not spend so much talent and energy on ways to destroy each other. The lies that we have been told to get us to accept this present war are

another example of our accepting whatever anyone tells us and not using the mind we have been given to think on these matters for ourselves. That is enslavement of the mind and spirit and we have succumbed to it.

I refuse to accept the notion that war is some one else's responsibility and not ours.

We have some in the world who say that war is God's fault or it is Satan's fault, (substitute any deity's name you want here) but it is not either of their faults.

It is ours and ours alone, we thought it up, we created the weapons to do it with and we carry it out on one another on a regular basis.

NO, I refuse to try and wiggle out of the blame that is mine for wanting to experience war and training for it for ten years of my life. That is my responsibility and mine alone. God did not come to me in a dream and say, "Son you must wage war on the people who are different than you".

I entered the military and I received the training that would allow me to physically destroy another human being. I entered the mindset of wanting to do this and accepted the training to do so of my own free will.

I say war is human sacrifice simply because that is what it is.

We train our young people that it is honorable to kill be or be killed.

I trained some of these young people myself on how to be effective in killing other human beings.

I remember training the soldiers under my supervision on how to be effective with the .50 caliber Browning machine gun. I remember being trained on how to be effective with the "ma deuce" as it is known. I remember being trained on how to be effective with the hand grenade, the M16, the bayonet, and a host of other weapons in the U.S. arsenal.

I also recall going in search of other methods of killing that are not taught to most regular soldiers.

I was trained and trained well to sacrifice myself to war and I was also training others to make the same sacrifice.

But what is it all for?

Money for the power elite?

A chance to prove my manhood?

No, in the end all you get if you kill someone is a dead human being or you are dead. That is all there is. There is no glory. There is no honor.

The hardest thing I have done in my life is go to a memorial for a fallen soldier and to see his family grieving his death. I had to see his wife break down, I had to see

his children break down and I realized that I did not want to see another family have to go through this.

This human sacrifice has to stop.

We hear our so called leaders pay lip service to the sacrifice that is made; that they do not want to continue on with war, yet that is exactly what they do.

I can give you a good example of the lip service that comes from the people who claim to be looking out for the welfare of the soldiers.

When I was going through my courts-martial at Ft. Stewart, the garrison commander led one of the ceremonies for a fallen soldier.

He laid it on pretty heavy about how he cared for the soldiers that have given the ultimate sacrifice and that he would continue to respect these people who serve.

After all he had said about taking care of soldiers he did something that would have an adverse effect on them.

The community of Hinesville had a service for the soldiers of Ft. Stewart where they did not have to pay deposits to move into a rental property or pay one for the utilities, this deposit waiver program had been in place since about 1971 or so, give or take a few years.

In 2005 the garrison commander told the people who were running the program that they could no longer offer this service to the soldiers of Ft. Stewart. This is the same commander who cried crocodile tears at a soldier's memorial service. Is this what our people sacrifice themselves for?

As someone who has seen what war is and what it does to people and to know how it made me some what different than before I went, I would like to challenge the people to stand up and to accept the responsibility for war and to stop blaming it on Gods or Devils or who ever else we can try and lay the blame on.

We created it, we own it.

The question is; will we get smart enough to stop it?

For More:

<http://bendermandefensetrust.blog.com/>

“How Could U.S. Insurgents Defeat British Army In 1783?” General Asks:

“The Answer Will Be Familiar To Anybody Who Is Looking At What Is Happening In Iraq Today”

June 02, 2007 Citizens For Legitimate Government [Excerpts]

THERE is “no way” the war in Iraq can be won by the United States and its allies, a former British Army commander said as he called for the troops to be withdrawn.

General Sir Michael Rose, who commanded the United Nations Protection Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina from 1994 to 1995, said coalition forces in Iraq were facing an impossible situation.

“There is no way we are going to win the war and (we should) withdraw and accept defeat because we are going to lose on a more important level if we don’t,” he said.

The retired general who has written a book on the American War of Independence, made comparisons with the 1775-1783 conflict between Britain and the Thirteen Colonies.

He said: “How was it a small and extremely determined body of insurgents, thieves and deserters could inflict such a strategic and potentially disastrous defeat on the most powerful nation in the world?”

“The answer will be familiar to anybody who is looking at what is happening in Iraq today.

“Those who don’t read history are condemned to repeat the mistakes of the past.”

Ask An Occupied Iraqi Citizen: “Sound Familiar?”

[C]omplaints that the American colonists raised against King George and the British in the Declaration of Independence:

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States. . . .

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences.

[From: IRAQ: The Logic Of Withdrawal, By ANTHONY ARNOVE; METROPOLITAN BOOKS, HENRY HOLT AND COMPANY; NEW YORK]

**“To Equate A Resistance
Movement Fighting Against
Enormous Injustice With The
Government Which Enforces That
Injustice Is Absurd”**

**“Does It Mean That People Whose
Dignity Is Being Assaulted Should
Give Up The Fight Because They
Can’t Find Saints To Lead Them Into
Battle?”**

When people take to arms, there is going to be all kinds of violence-revolutionary, lumpen, and outright criminal. The government is responsible for the monstrous situations it creates.

May – June 2007 International Socialist Review

The following interview with ARUNDHA ROY by Shoma Chaudhuri on March 23 was published in the Indian Web weekly, Tehell.com. [Excerpts]

Of course, it’s horrible that fifty-five policemen were killed.

But they’re as much the victims of government policy as anybody else. For the government and the corporations, they’re just cannon fodder. There’s plenty more where they came from.

Crocodile tears will be shed, prim TV anchors will hector us for a while, and then more supplies of fodder will be arranged.

For the Maoist guerrillas, the police and SPOs [Special Police Officers] they killed were the armed personnel of the Indian state, the main perpetrators of repression, torture, custodial killings, false encounters. The ones whose professional duties involve burning villages and raping women.

They're not innocent civilians - if such a thing exists - by any stretch of imagination.

I have no doubt that the Maoists can be agents of terror and coercion, too. I have no doubt they have committed unspeakable atrocities. I have no doubt they cannot lay claim to undisputed support from local people, but who can?

Still, no guerrilla army can survive without local support. That's a logistical impossibility. And the support for Maoists is growing, not diminishing.

That says something. People have no choice but to align themselves on the side of whoever they think is less worse.

But to equate a resistance movement fighting against enormous injustice with the government which enforces that injustice is absurd.

The government has slammed the door in the face of every attempt at nonviolent resistance.

When people take to arms, there is going to be all kinds of violence-revolutionary, lumpen, and outright criminal.

The government is responsible for the monstrous situations it creates.

THE TERM -- Naxals-Maoists. outsiders -- is being used very loosely these days. Can you declutter it?

"OUTSIDERS" IS a generic accusation used in the early stages of repression by governments who have begun to believe their own publicity and can't imagine that people have risen up against them.

That's the stage the Communist Party of India-Marxist - the CPI(M) - is at now in Bengal, though some would say repression in Bengal is not new, it has only moved into higher gear.

In any case what's an outsider?

Who decides the borders?

Are they village boundaries? Tehsil? Block? District? State? Is narrow regional and ethnic politics the new communist mantra?

About Naxals and Maoists, well ...

India is about to become a police state in which everybody who disagrees with what's going on risks being called a terrorist.

Islamic terrorists have to be Islamic, so that's not good enough to cover most of us. They need a bigger catchments area.

So leaving the definition loose, undefined, is an effective strategy, because the time is not far off when we'll all be called Maoists or Naxalites, terrorists or terrorist sympathizers, and shut down by people who don't really know - or care - who Maoists or Naxalites are.

In villages, of course, that has begun. Thousands of people are being held in jails across the country, loosely charged with being terrorists trying to overthrow the state.

THE INDIAN state and media largely view the Maoists as an "internal security" threat. Is this the way to look at them?

I'M SURE the Maoists would be flattered to be viewed in this way.

THE MAOISTS want to bring down the state.

Given the autocratic ideology they take their inspiration from, what alternative would they set up? Wouldn't their regime be an exploitative, autocratic, violent one, as well? Isn't their action already exploitative of ordinary people? Do they really have the support of ordinary people?

I THINK it's important for us to acknowledge that both Mao and Stalin are dubious heroes with murderous pasts. Tens of millions of people were killed under their regimes. Apart from what happened in China and the Soviet Union, Pol Pot, with the support of the Chinese Communist Party (while the West looked away discreetly), wiped out two million people in Cambodia and brought millions of people to the brink of extinction from disease and starvation.

Can we pretend that China's Cultural Revolution didn't happen?

Or that that millions of people in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe were not victims of labor camps, torture chambers, the network of spies and informers, the secret police?

The history of these regimes is just as dark as the history of Western imperialism, except for the fact that they had a shorter life span.

We cannot condemn the occupation of Iraq, Palestine, and Kashmir while we remain silent about Tibet and Chechnya.

I would imagine that for the Maoists, the Naxalites as well as the mainstream Left, being honest about the past is important to strengthen people's faith in the future. One hopes the past will not be repeated, but denying that it ever happened doesn't help inspire confidence.

Nevertheless, in this part of the world, the Maoists in Nepal have waged a brave and successful struggle against the monarchy in Nepal.

Right now in India, the Maoists and the various Marxist-Leninist groups are leading the fight against immense injustice in India. They are fighting not just the state, but feudal landlords and their armed militias.

They are the only people who are making a dent. And I admire that.

It may well be that when they come to power they will, as you say, be brutal, unjust, and autocratic, even worse than the present government. Maybe, but I'm not prepared to assume that in advance. If they are, we'll have to fight them, too.

And most likely someone like myself will be the first person they'll string up from the nearest tree.

But right now, it is important to acknowledge that they are bearing the brunt of being at the forefront of resistance.

Many of us are in a position where we are beginning to align ourselves on the side of those who we know have no place for us in their religious or ideological imagination.

It's true that everybody changes radically when they come to power.

Look at Nelson Mandela's African National Congress.

Corrupt, capitalist, bowing to the International Monetary Fund, driving the poor out of their homes, honoring Suharto, the killer of hundreds of thousands of Indonesian communists, with South Africa's highest civilian award.

Who would have thought it could happen?

But does this mean South Africans should have backed away from the struggle against apartheid?

Or that they should regret it now?

Does it mean Algeria should have remained a French colony, that Kashmiris, Iraqis, and Palestinians should accept military occupation?

That people whose dignity is being assaulted should give up the fight because they can't find saints to lead them into battle?

How To Foil A Terrorist Plot In Seven Simple Steps

June 5, 2007 By Nora Ephron, The Huffington Post

1. In order to foil a terrorist plot, you must first find a terrorist plot. This is not easy.
2. Not just anyone can find and then foil a terrorist plot. You must have an incentive.

The best incentive is to be an accused felon, looking at a long prison term. Under such circumstances, your lawyer will explain to you, you may be able to reduce your sentence by acting as an informant in a criminal case, preferably one involving terrorists.

3. The fact that you do not know any actual terrorists should not in any way deter you. Necessity is the mother of invention: if you can find the right raw material -- a sad, sick, lonely, drunk, deranged, disgruntled or just plain anti-American Muslim somewhere in the United States -- you can make your very own terrorist.
4. Now the good part begins.

Money!

The FBI will give you lots of money to take your very own terrorist out to lots of dinners where you, wearing a wire, can record yourself making recommendations to him about possible targets and weapons that might be used in the impending terrorist attack that your very own terrorist is going to mastermind, with your help.

It will even buy you a computer so you can go to Google Earth in order to show your very own terrorist a "top secret" aerial image of the target you have suggested.

5. More money!! The FBI will give you even more money to travel to foreign countries with your very own terrorist, and it will make suggestions about terrorist groups you can meet while in said foreign countries.

6. Months and even years will pass in this fashion, while you essentially get the FBI to pay for everything you do. (Incidentally, be sure your lawyer negotiates your expense account well in advance, or you may be forced -- as the informant was in the Buffalo terrorist case -- to protest your inadequate remuneration by setting yourself on fire in front of the White House.)

7. At a certain point, something will go wrong.

You may have trouble recruiting other people to collaborate with your very own terrorist, who is, as you yourself know, just an ordinary guy in a really bad mood.

Or, alternatively, the terrorist cell you have carefully cobbled together may malfunction and fail to move forward -- probably as a result of sheer incompetence or of simply not having been genuinely serious about the acts of terrorism you were urging it to commit.

At this point, you may worry that the FBI is going to realize that there isn't much of a terrorist plot going on here at all, just a case of entrapment.

Do not despair: the FBI is way ahead of you.

The FBI knows perfectly well what's going on. The FBI has as much at stake as you do. So before it can be obvious to the world that there's no case, the FBI will arrest your very own terrorist, hold a press conference and announce that a huge terrorist plot has been foiled.

It will of course be forced to admit that this plot did not proceed beyond the pre-planning stage, that no actual weapons or money were involved, and that the plot itself was "not technically feasible," but that will not stop the story from becoming a front-page episode all over America and, within hours, boilerplate for all the Republican politicians who believe that you need to arrest a "homegrown" terrorist now and then to justify the continuing war in Iraq.

Everyone will be happy, except for the schmuck you shmikeled into becoming a terrorist, and no one really cares about him anyway.

So congratulations. You have foiled a terrorist plot. Way to go.

OCCUPATION REPORT

Bush's Imperial Embassy In Baghdad Built With Forced Labor; Armed Guard Threatens To Kill Protesting Workers; "Chapman Said 7 Workers From India, Pakistan And The Philippines 'Just Disappeared'"

<p>When drinking water was scarce in the blistering heat, coolers were filled at the banks of the Tigris, a river rife with waterborne disease, sewage and sometimes floating bodies. Many worked without safety harnesses when off the ground and had no hardhats or boots. Work clothes were dirty and tattered. Those that had them had only one set of work clothes so they were rarely washed. They became dirty and tattered, causing rashes and sores.</p>

[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

Jun 8 By David Phinney (IPS) [Excerpts]

The U.S. Justice Department is actively investigating allegations of forced labour and other abuses by the Kuwaiti contractor now rushing to complete the sprawling 592-million-dollar U.S. embassy project in Baghdad, numerous sources have revealed.

Rumors of forced labour in Iraq have plagued First Kuwaiti General Trading and Contracting for several years, but U.S. government officials have discounted such allegations by workers from Nepal and the Philippines in the past, even as the company continued to rack up contracts now totaling several billion dollars from the Pentagon and U.S. State Department.

Late last year, several U.S. citizens also said they boarded separate chartered jets in Kuwait loaded with work crews from the Philippines, India, Pakistan and Africa holding boarding passes to Dubai, but the planes then flew directly to Baghdad.

More recently, another U.S. citizen told IPS that he was told by workers from Ghana on the embassy site that they thought they would have jobs in Dubai but were then taken to work in Iraq.

Since landing the Baghdad project, First Kuwaiti has won additional contracts worth roughly 200 million dollars more for embassy projects in Africa, India and Indonesia. The company also is believed to be competing for another large new U.S. embassy in Lebanon.

Soon after the State Department awarded the Iraq embassy contract to First Kuwaiti in July 2005, thousands of low-paid migrant workers recruited from South Asia, the Philippines and other nations poured into Baghdad to begin building the gargantuan new embassy within two years time.

But during First Kuwaiti's frenzied rush to the finish the project on schedule, U.S. managers and specialists involved with the project began protesting about the living and working conditions of lower-paid workers sequestered and largely unseen behind security walls bordering the embassy project inside the U.S.-controlled Green Zone.

Among those complaints: construction crews lived in crowded quarters, ate sub-standard food, and had little medical care.

When drinking water was scarce in the blistering heat, coolers were filled at the banks of the Tigris, a river rife with waterborne disease, sewage and sometimes floating bodies.

Others questioned why First Kuwaiti held the passports of workers. Was it to keep them from escaping?

Some labourers had turned up "missing" with little investigation.

One U.S. citizen said labourers told him they had been misled about their job location. When recruited, they were unaware they were heading for war-torn Iraq.

After hearing similar allegations during much of 2006, Howard J. Krongard, the State Department's inspector general, flew to Baghdad for what he describes as a "brief" review on Sep. 15. His review was recently made public after inquires from Aljazeera

about the embassy for an upcoming hour-long documentary, and he reported that the complaints had no substance.

One former labour foreman at the embassy site who recently read Krongard's review called it "bullshit." Another former First Kuwaiti employee viewed it as "a whitewash."

"Most of the allegations (from the U.S. citizens) were true before he arrived," claims Juvencio Lopez, who says he was a high-level project manager under the U.S. State Department over the course of two years.

During a telephone interview, he said that protests over First Kuwaiti's bad food, abusive treatment from managers and unsafe working conditions were routine among many of the 2,700 workers during much of 2005 and 2006.

"There were strikes and sit-downs every month," Lopez said. He left Iraq in November 2006 and is now home in San Antonio, Texas. "Sometimes there were almost riots."

Lopez vividly recalls a First Kuwaiti security guard unholstering his 9mm handgun and walking among the squatting protestors telling them to get back to work.

Had the guard fallen or workers tackled him to the ground, the gun might have gone off. Lopez said he immediately reported the incident to First Kuwaiti. "Someone could gotten killed or injured," he said.

On another occasion, a company manager roughed up a Filipino worker, sources say. All of the other Filipinos nearby began loudly protesting as bewildered workers from other countries watched.

"The workers were from 36 different countries and everyone spoke a different language," Lopez said. They said they had been promised higher pay, shorter hours and days off. "A large majority of workers" from the Indian subcontinent incurred recruiting fees of up to one year's salary.

Paul Chapman, a subcontractor working with First Kuwaiti, said he is also struck by the lack of interest in workers that First Kuwaiti had listed as "missing" on its company rosters.

Now home in South Carolina, Chapman said seven workers from India, Pakistan and the Philippines "just disappeared." Fearing they may have been killed and dumped into the Tigris, he began pressing embassy officials overseeing the project to investigate.

"They told me to forget about it because the workers had probably found other jobs."

Chapman and others also claim that standard safety procedures on the project frequently went unobserved.

Many worked without safety harnesses when off the ground and had no hardhats or boots. Work clothes were dirty and tattered. Those that had them had only one set of work clothes so they were rarely washed. They became dirty and tattered, causing rashes and sores.

Some worked in sandals, others in bare feet. "They had their toes curled around the rebar like birds," Lopez remembers.

"Every U.S. labour law was broken," charged one U.S. foreman, John Owens, who said that he never witnessed a single safety meeting.

Once an Egyptian worker fell and broke his back and was sent home. No one ever heard from him again. "The accident might not have happened if there was a safety programme and he had known how to use a safety harness," said Owen, who left the embassy project last June.

U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR; RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS



An Iraqi child walks behind the broken poster of nationalist leader Muqtada al-Sadr after foreign occupation soldiers from the USA invaded and wrecked his home in a night raid in al Orfali district next to Sadr city eastern Baghdad on June 7, 2007. (AP Photo/Karim Kadim)

[There's nothing quite like invading somebody else's country and busting into their houses by force to arouse an intense desire to kill you in the patriotic, self-respecting civilians who live there.

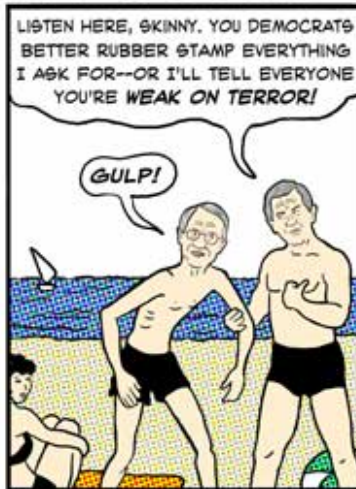
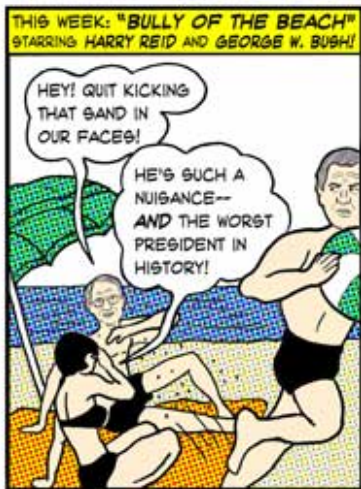
[But your commanders know that, don't they? Don't they?]

"In the States, if police burst into your house, kicking down doors and swearing at you, you would call your lawyer and file a lawsuit," said Wood, 42, from Iowa, who did not accompany Halladay's Charlie Company, from his battalion, on Thursday's raid. "Here, there are no lawyers. Their resources are limited, so they plant IEDs (improvised explosive devices) instead."

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

THIS MODERN WORLD

BY TOM TOMORROW



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[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

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