

## GI SPECIAL 5J3:



# SEPTEMBER USA KIA: BE ADVISED: LIARS AT WORK

## HERE IS LIE #1:

“10.1 Reuters

“The U.S. military death toll in September was also the lowest monthly total this year, with 62 killed according to the Web site [icasualties.org](http://icasualties.org), which tracks military deaths in Iraq.”

Here is the information from the web site referenced: <http://icasualties.org/oif/>

**US KIA:**

**9-2007 66**

**HERE IS LIE #2:  
Dramatic September 2007 drop in U.S. KIA**

Here again is the information from the web site referenced: <http://icasualties.org/oif/>

**9-2007 66 KIA                      DOWN 8.4% from 2006 KIA. Repeat: 8.4%**

**9-2007 66 KIA                      UP 34.6% from 2005 KIA**

**[9-2006 72 KIA]**

**[9-2005 49 KIA]**

---

**IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

**Illinois Soldier Killed In Baghdad**



U.S. Army Pfc. Randol Shelton, of Shciller Park, Ill., 22, died Sept. 4, 2007, in Baghdad from wounds inflicted by an improvised explosive device. Shelton was assigned to Fort Riley, Kan. (AP Photo/Illinois Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn's Office)

---

## **Illinois Soldier Killed In Baghdad**



U.S. Army Spc. Keith Nurnberg, of McHenry, Ill., 26, died Sept. 5, 2007, in Baghdad when insurgents attacked his unit during combat. Nurnberg was assigned to Fort Benning, Ga. (AP Photo/Illinois Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn's Office)

---

## **IED Attack Near Bayji Kills U.S. Soldier, Three More Wounded**

October 5, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20071005-22

BAYJI, Iraq – One Multi-National Corps - Iraq Soldier was killed and three were wounded in Salah Ad Din province today when an improvised explosive device was detonated near their vehicle.

---

## **Baghdad IED Kills Two U.S. Soldier, Two More Wounded**

October 5, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20071005-23

BAGHDAD – Two Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldiers were killed and two others were wounded when an improvised explosive device detonated during operations in the southeastern region of the Iraqi capital Oct. 5.

---

## Paratrooper Took On Responsibility Far Beyond That Of Someone His Age



Army Cpl. Anthony K. Bento, a Clairemont High School graduate. Courtesy photo

September 27, 2007 By Rick Rogers, UNION-TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

**SAN DIEGO – Army Cpl. Anthony K. Bento was supposed to arrive home from Iraq in July. Then his combat tour was extended by 90 days.**

**During that extension, Bento, a father and respected combat veteran at just 23, was killed in a small-arms attack by insurgents.**

He was due home at the end of October.

Bento, a Clairemont High School graduate in 2002 and an 82nd Airborne Division paratrooper, died Monday in the north-central city of Beiji.

“The news of his death was completely devastating because he was due home in 26 days after 13 months of time in Iraq,” said his wife, Colleen.

Survivors also include his 13-month-old son, Anthony, and his parents, Anthony and Penny Bento, all of whom live in San Diego.

Bento’s platoon leader, 1st Lt. Timothy Ball, remembered him for his professionalism and care for his family.

“Corporal Bento was a paratrooper who’d accepted more responsibility early in his life than most people accept before they’re 30,” Ball said in a statement issued yesterday. “His wife and his son were the primary focus in his life.”

Colleen Bento described her husband as having “the most fun-loving personality and an untamed spirit that not even the Army or war could break.”

Bento joined the Army in early 2005 and that September became part of the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C.

“He dedicated himself to taking care of his brothers in the platoon, and he died doing just that – taking a knee outside the truck, making sure that his gunner’s backside was covered,” Ball added. “He will be missed by all of us.” With Bento’s death, at least 44 service members from San Diego County have died in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Friends turned Bento’s MySpace page into a makeshift Internet memorial site.

“You died in the most honorable way imaginable and we all admire you for your courage,” wrote one friend. “Your legacy will always live on through your wife and son.”

The most heart-felt message might have come from Anthony himself, who wrote on his MySpace page: “My family is the best thing that’s ever happened to me. I thank the Lord every day for blessing me with my awesome wife and a perfect son. Without them, I would be nothing.”

The last message Colleen Bento ever sent her husband was published on the page Sept. 20, four days before his death.

“I got your text messages this morning and you are soooo sweet! I love you so, so, so, so much! Only a few weeks left until I get to see you and give you kisses and move into our house and buy furniture. I’m so excited I can’t stand it! Stay Safe.”

---

## **Soldier’s Death Brings War Home At Novato High; “It’s Just An Unnecessary Death”**

09/21/2007 Joe Wolfcale, Marin Independent Journal

Novato High School junior Lexi Thompson could tell from the tone of the voice as the public address announcement began that it was bad news.

But the 16-year-old never imagined it was word that a former Novato student had been killed fighting in Iraq.

“It just isn’t right,” said Thompson, standing on the sidewalk near the campus with friend Jordan Ranis. “Now the war has reached us. It’s affected someone in our family.”

“I hope the next person who becomes president cleans it up.”

Assistant Principal Dan Curtaz delivered the news Thursday that former Novato student Nicholas Olson, 22, died Tuesday in Iraq when a bomb blew up near his unit in the city of Muqdadiyah. Olson was a specialist with a Stryker Brigade based in Fort Lewis, Wash.

Curtaz asked the student body, teachers and administration to observe a moment of silence in honor of Olson. The flag flew at half-staff in front of the school.

Officials are waiting to talk with his family before planning any memorial for Olson, who attended Novato High for three years and graduated from Marin Oaks, a Novato continuation school, in 2003.

“It’s just an unnecessary death,” said Ranis, an 18-year-old senior. “It’s too bad because he was somebody’s son, somebody’s brother, somebody’s friend.

“This really brings the war to the homefront. It’s happening in other cities, but now it’s actually hitting this community. There’s no reason at all for this.

“This could become an everyday thing,” Ranis said.

Junior Ryder Metzger, 16, said he has friends in the school’s ROTC program, in which Olson also participated.

“Any one of those kids could be going to Iraq,” Metzger said. “I think the news really hits home hard. Maybe it will evoke some change around here. It’s over in Iraq, not here. Now, it’s here on our campus.”

---

## **Seymour Sergeant Wounded In Iraq: Doctors Amputated Both Legs Above The Knee**

10/4/2007 By: Jake Jost, Investigative Producer, WBIR-TV Knoxville

The parents of a Seymour soldier have just returned from spending a week with him at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where he is recovering from an IED attack.

In September, Sergeant Brian Schar was on patrol in Iraq when a homemade bomb blast tore through his vehicle, seriously injuring his legs, arm, and colon.

The injuries to Sgt. Schar’s legs were more severe than originally thought, and doctors amputated both legs above the knee. Since that attack, he has endured a half-dozen surgeries.

The attack was the second IED blast Schar survived and occurred just two weeks before he was set to leave Baghdad. He survived the first attack in February with a concussion. He was awarded a Purple Heart and quickly returned to combat.

In September, Sgt. Schar's father Ken told 10 News reporter Brittany Bailey that Schar has always been adventurous and signed up for the National Guard when he was 17 years old. He served a tour of duty in Afghanistan and two more in Iraq.

---

**REALLY BAD IDEA:  
NO MISSION;  
HOPELESS WAR;  
MILLIONS OF PISSED OF IRAQIS:  
COME ON HOME NOW**



An Iraqi man sits after he was arrested by U.S. soldiers during a night patrol at the Zafraniya neighborhood, southeast of Baghdad September 4, 2007. REUTERS/Carlos Barria (IRAQ)

---

**U.S. Troops Do The Right Thing:  
Kill Three Iraqi Pro-Occupation  
Traitors**

[Thanks to Pham Binh, The Military Project, who sent this in.]

October 05, 2007 Associated Press

The U.S. military said that it was investigating the deaths of three civilians who were shot by American troops near a checkpoint.

That investigation focused on a shooting Thursday in Abu Lukah, a village just north of Musayyib, about 40 miles south of Baghdad, the military said. The brief announcement did not identify the civilians by sect or provide other details.

But a local police spokesman said those killed were members of the North of Hillah Awakening Council, a group of Iraqis who have turned against insurgents in the area.

Five council members were guarding a deserted road into their village at about 2 a.m. when U.S. troops fired on them from a watchtower at a nearby military base, the spokesman said, speaking condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to release the information.

Three guards were killed, another was wounded and the fifth man fled on foot, the official said.

---

## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Soldier From 1RGR Killed Near Kandahar; Two More Sounded**

5 Oct 07 Ministry of Defence

It is with deep regret that the Ministry of Defence must confirm that a soldier serving with 1st Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles was killed and two others injured yesterday, Thursday 4 October 2007, in southern Afghanistan.

Elements of the battalion were returning to their base at Kandahar airfield after taking part in Operation PALK WAHEL, when a vehicle they were travelling in was caught in an explosion approximately 30 km west of Kandahar.

The casualties were evacuated by helicopter to the ISAF medical facility at Camp Bastion. Sadly one of the soldiers was pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital. The other two soldiers are currently receiving medical treatment for their injuries.

---

### **Occupier Killed In Kunar, Probably U.S. Soldier;**



## **Three More Wounded**

Oct 2, 2007 (AP)

A U.S.-led coalition soldier was killed by gunfire Tuesday morning while conducting combat operations in the northeastern province of Kunar. Three other soldiers were wounded, the coalition said in a statement. The nationalities of the soldiers weren't provided, but most soldiers in eastern Afghanistan are American.

---

## **“Several” Foreign Occupation Troops Wounded In Paktika Province; Nationality Not Announced**

Oct. 5 By Patrick Donahue, (Bloomberg)

Several coalition troops, who used small- arms fire and precision-guided munitions in the operation, were injured in a raid by Afghan and U.S.-led coalition forces on a compound used by militants in Paktika Province, eastern Afghanistan, the American military said.

A group of civilians, including several men, a woman and a child, were killed and two children were found wounded.

---

## **Five Netherlands Soldiers Wounded In Uruzgan**

Oct 3 By AMIR SHAH (AP)

In southern Afghanistan, five Dutch soldiers serving with NATO's International Security Assistance Force were wounded Tuesday night in Uruzgan province after militants opened fire on them, the Dutch Defense Ministry said in a statement.

The five wounded troops were transferred to a Dutch hospital in the force's main base near Tirin Kot, Camp Holland. Their injuries ranged from grazes and back injuries to broken bones, the ministry statement said.

---

## **Three German Soldiers Wounded In Afghanistan Blast**

05.10.2007 DPA

Three German soldiers and their Afghan interpreter were slightly injured in an explosion while on patrol west of the northern Afghan city of Kunduz, according to a statement from the German military.

There were indications that the blast could have been a suicide bomb attack, but the exact cause has yet to be determined, the military spokesman told German press agency DPA.

The soldiers have already been discharged from hospital, the German military said in Afghanistan. But it remained unclear whether the incident was a targeted attack as it could also have been an anti-tank mine, sources added.

---

## **Italian Spy Wounded In Afghanistan Dies**

Oct 4 AP

ROME - An Italian intelligence agent who was kidnapped with a colleague in Afghanistan and wounded during a rescue operation died Thursday, the Defense Ministry said.

The man had been put on a respirator after he was wounded in the NATO-led raid on Sept. 24, a few days after he and the colleague were abducted.

He died in a military hospital in Rome, the ministry said. His colleague was also wounded, although not seriously.

The death was likely to reinforce calls for the withdrawal of Italy's 2,000-strong contingent in Afghanistan.

---

## **Occupation Worker Killed By IED**

Oct 5 (AFP)

An ISAF civilian employee was killed in a roadside bomb blast in eastern Afghanistan on Thursday, the force said, without saying if the worker was Afghan or a foreigner.

---

## **Resistance Action**

Oct 1, 2007 (Reuters) & Oct 2, 2007 (Reuters) & (Xinhua) & (AP) & Oct 3 By AMIR SHAH (AP) & (Reuters) & October 4, 2007 The Associated Press & The Canadian Press

The Kandahar airfield, where many Canadian and other NATO troops are based, was hit several times by rockets Tuesday and yesterday.

Militants attacked a police checkpoint in Arghistan district, also in Kandahar province, wounding three officers on Wednesday, Saqib said. There were no report of militant casualties from that clash.

GHAZNI, Afghanistan: Taliban insurgents ambushed an Afghan government convoy and killed 11 policemen, a provincial official said on Monday. The attack happened on Sunday in Ghazni province to the southwest of Kabul, the official said. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.

Taliban insurgents armed with heavy weapons attacked and briefly took over a district centre in the neighboring province of Ghazni on Tuesday, a provincial official said.

“The Taliban attacked Ajristan district center in Ghazni province, burning the building overnight, killing two Afghan policemen and wounding one other,” said provincial police chief Ali Shah Ahmadzai. “The rest of the district personnel fled to a nearby village.”

Police reinforcements, backed by the U.S.-led coalition, were sent to the remote area on Wednesday, Ahmadzai said.

A bomber killed 12 Afghan police on a bus in Kabul on Tuesday, a police official said, the second such attack in the capital in four days.

The front of the bus was blown apart by the blast at the start of the morning rush hour on a narrow road in a shopping district in the city’s western outskirts.

“The report we have indicates that so far 12 police have been killed and 15 wounded,” said the official who declined to be named.

A Taliban spokesman said the radical Islamic movement, which is fighting to topple the government and drive Western troops out of Afghanistan, was behind the attack.

Ambulances rushed to the scene which was cordoned off by police.

“I was walking down the road when I saw a big explosion. I saw about 20 to 25 people dead on the bus,” said witness Ajmal Shinwari.

Taliban militants killed three policemen and injured five others in Kunar province of eastern Afghanistan, an official said Tuesday.

Some militants attacked a police checkpoint in Sirkana district bordering Pakistan on Monday night, provincial government spokesman Zarghon Shah Khaliqwar told Xinhua.

One policeman was found missing after the conflict, he added.

Militants in Kunar attacked a border security post, killing three police, said Zargun Shah Khaliqyar, the provincial governor’s spokesman.

---

## Canadian Troops Do The Right Thing:

# Open Fire On Collaborator Cops And Mercenaries

Oct 05, 2007 THE CANADIAN PRESS

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – Canadian military police are investigating two shooting incidents involving a Canadian convoy.

The convoy from the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Kandahar city was heading to Kandahar Airfield at approximately 6:30 p.m. Thursday night when a Toyota pick-up truck approached.

The convoy fired on the truck, which turned out to be a patrol of the Afghan National Police. It appears the truck may not have had its headlights on as it drove through the dark toward the Canadian convoy.

Nobody was injured in the incident.

The convoy was on its way back to the reconstruction team base at Camp Nathan Smith in Kandahar city two hours later when it fired upon another vehicle, which belonged to a private security company employed by other coalition countries based at Kandahar Airfield.

Later that night seven Afghan locals showed up at the gate at the base, saying they were victims of the second incident.

---

## TROOP NEWS

### Slovakia To Withdraw Its Last 2 Soldiers In Iraq

October 4, 2007 The Associated Press

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia: The last two Slovak troops remaining in Iraq will return home by the end of the year, Slovakia's Defense Ministry said Thursday.

The decision to call home the two Slovaks was made due to the security situation in Iraq, ministry spokeswoman Sona Baniarova said in a statement.

Slovakia originally deployed about 100 troops in Iraq in 2003, mainly for dismantling land mines. They were stationed under Polish command Hillah, south of Baghdad.

Most troops left earlier this year. The last two have been working at the headquarters of the U.S.-led coalition in Baghdad.

**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**

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



the casket of Army Sgt. Michael C. Hardegee, of Villa Rica, Ga., who died earlier this month while serving in Iraq, during funeral services at Arlington National Cemetery. (AP Photo/Lawrence Jackson)

---

## **U.S. Soldiers Confirm Blackwater Kill Freaks Butchered Unarmed Civilians;**

# Military Reports From Scene Say Mercenary Scum Opened Fire Without Provocation In Sept. 16 Incident

Oct 5, 2007 By Sudarsan Raghavan, Joshua Partlow and Karen DeYoung, the Washington Post [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD - U.S. military reports from the scene of the Sept. 16 shooting incident involving the security firm Blackwater USA indicate that its guards opened fire without provocation and used excessive force against Iraqi civilians, according to a senior U.S. military official.

The reports came to light as an Interior Ministry official and five eyewitnesses described a second deadly shooting minutes after the incident in Nisoor Square. The same Blackwater security guards, after driving about 150 yards away from the square, fired into a crush of cars, killing one person and injuring two, the Iraqi official said.

The U.S. military reports appear to corroborate the Iraqi government's contention that Blackwater was at fault in the shooting incident in Nisoor Square, in which hospital records say at least 14 people were killed and 18 were wounded.

"It was obviously excessive, it was obviously wrong," said the U.S. military official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the incident remains the subject of several investigations.

"The civilians that were fired upon, they didn't have any weapons to fire back at them.

And none of the IP or any of the local security forces fired back at them," he added, using a military abbreviation for the Iraqi police.

The Blackwater guards appeared to have fired grenade launchers in addition to machine guns, the official said.

Many U.S. military officials are critical of Blackwater because its guards have a reputation for reckless behavior that officials say reflects poorly on American troops in Iraq. Iraqi citizens often do not distinguish between U.S. soldiers in Humvees and Blackwater guards in armored vehicles.

"They tend to overreact to a lot of things. They maneuver around town very aggressively, they've got weapons pointed at people, they cut people off, of course their speeds -- I mean a whole bunch of things they do fairly consistently. But when it comes to shooting and firing, they tend to shoot quicker than others," the U.S. military official said.

U.S. soldiers have reviewed statements from eyewitnesses and video footage recorded at Nisoor Square, the official said.

Members of a U.S. unit working with Iraqi police were present in the area at the time of the shootings.

U.S. soldiers also helped ferry victims to hospitals.

**MORE:**

***Mad Dogs Stalk Baghdad:  
The Blackwater Murders Up Close  
And Personal:  
One Iraqi Knows What Must Be Done  
In Self-Defense:  
“I Am A Peaceful Person, But I Wished I  
Could Have Shot Those People In The  
Helicopters”***

**[Every Blackwater mercenary recruits more Iraqis to kill U.S. troops every day. Blackwater mercenaries are armed enemy combatants in a war zone. Iraqis and U.S. troops have the right to preserve their own lives. Res ipsa loquiter. T]**

October 4, 2007 By Sudarsan Raghavan, Washington Post Foreign Service [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD, Oct. 3 -- Minutes after noon on Sept. 16, Ali Khalil drove his black motorcycle toward Nisoor Square. Three days earlier, the 54-year-old blacksmith and father of six children had felt safe enough in the capital to reopen his shop.

Osama Fadhil Abbas, a 40-year-old car dealer, was approaching the square in his white truck, on his way to wire \$1,000 to Dubai.

Mehasin Muhsin Kadhum, a 46-year-old doctor, and her eldest son, Ahmed Haitham, 20, were nearing the square in their white sedan, after a morning of errands that included picking up college application forms for Kadhum's daughter.

From the southeast, along a road that leads from the Green Zone, a convoy of four armored Blackwater USA vehicles also made its way to the square.

Fifteen minutes later, the convoy sped away through a thick cloud generated by smoke bombs, leaving behind a tableau of bullet-pocked cars and broken lives.

The victims were as young as 11 and as old as 55, according to hospital records.

They were middle class and poor.

They included college students, day laborers and professionals vital to rebuilding Iraq. There was a mother and her daughter.

The daughter lived. There was a taxi driver, only 25, who was the sole provider for his parents and seven siblings. He died.

**Ten eyewitnesses and Iraqi police officials insisted in interviews that the guards opened fire in the square, unprovoked, and continued shooting even as civilians fled for their lives.**

Hospital records show 14 dead and 18 injured, a toll higher than most previous official tallies.

Almost three weeks later, the collective memory of Iraqis at the scene is raw.

“It was catastrophic. So many innocent people were killed,” recalled Zina Fadhil, 21, a pharmacist.

**That day, she huddled in fear inside her store about 100 yards from the square as Blackwater helicopters hovered above. Like other eyewitnesses, she said she saw Blackwater guards firing down from the helicopters, an allegation the security firm denies.**

**“I am a peaceful person, but I wished I could have shot those people in the helicopters,” Fadhil continued, her soft voice rising.**

Not one of the victims or family members interviewed had been aware that Blackwater was immune to prosecution in Iraq under an order by U.S. administrators after the 2003 invasion.

**“Why is the blood of Iraqis so free for everyone to spill?” asked Sahib Nasr, the father of one of the victims.**

### **Blackwater’s Convoy Enters the Square**

Five months ago, a truck bomb detonated in the tunnel that runs beneath Nisoor Square. The repair work had become a metaphor for an Iraq capable of resurrecting itself.

By Sept. 16, workers had painted pink and yellow flowers on the streets and draped Iraqi flags over railings.

A white banner read: “Creators of Life are Always Victorious.”

On that day, the Blackwater convoy was responding to a bombing near a State Department convoy about a mile away. As the Blackwater armored vehicles entered the square, a heavily guarded area near Baghdad’s affluent Mansour neighborhood, Iraqi police officers moved to stop traffic.

**Kadhum, the doctor, and her son Haitham, who were in the flow of cars the officers were trying to stop, didn’t react quickly enough.**



**A Blackwater guard fired, striking Haitham as he sat in the driver's seat, three witnesses said.**

**"The bullet went through the windshield and split his head open," recalled traffic police officer Sarhan Thiab. "His mother was holding him, screaming for help."**

The car, which had an automatic transmission, kept rolling.

Another officer, Ali Khalaf, tried to stop the vehicle as another spray of bullets killed Kadhum.

Thiab fled first, then Khalaf, followed by bullets that struck a traffic light pole, a billboard and their police guard post.

Then the Blackwater guards escalated their firepower, engulfing the sedan in flames.

**In sworn statements to State Department investigators reported by ABC News, four Blackwater guards said they fired upon the sedan because it was traveling at high speed and would not stop.**

**Khalaf and other eyewitnesses said it was moving slowly and posed no threat.**

Within moments, bullets flew in every direction, said witnesses and police officials.

Scores sought cover in a nearby embankment. Others abandoned their vehicles. "They were shooting from four cars," said Ahmed Ali Jassim, 19, a maintenance worker, referring to the Blackwater guards.

"People were fleeing, but where could they go?"

## **Trapped in Traffic and Under Fire**

Abbas, the car dealer, was in his stopped Volkswagen box truck, crouched next to his friend Majid Salman. Their vehicle was two cars behind and one lane over from the white sedan. The men had witnessed Kadhum and her son get shot, then burn as their car caught fire.

The night before, Abbas, a barrel-chested father of four, read the Koran as is traditional during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan. That morning, he cracked jokes with his two young sons, Mohammed and Ahmed, they later recalled, before he left to send money to Dubai.

Now, Abbas and Salman were trapped in traffic as Western gunmen fired automatic weapons toward them roughly 25 yards in front of their truck.

Within seconds, bullets punctured the black car in front of their truck. Gripped by fear, Salman, 48, pushed open the passenger-side door and stumbled out. He was immediately shot in the leg and abdomen, and fell to the pavement.

“Osama told me to get back in the car,” Salman recalled. “I tried to climb back in, but I couldn’t, so I crawled away on the ground.”

Salman looked back and saw Abbas pushing open his door. As he stepped out, he was shot multiple times.

Moments later, weakened by his wounds, Salman passed out.

## **People ‘Trying to Save Themselves’**

About half a mile away, traffic police officer Hussam Abdul Rahman, 25, heard his co-worker Thiab’s frantic voice over the radio asking for backup and ambulances. So he drove his motorcycle toward Nisoor Square from the west. As he neared dozens of stalled cars, he swerved to avoid gunfire and was thrown off the motorcycle, scraping his left elbow. He hid behind a concrete barrier, watching the chaos unfold.

“Whoever stepped out of his car was shot at immediately,” Rahman said.

**He saw the Blackwater guards firing at a red bus. In their statements, one guard said they were coming under fire from the bus. Rahman disputed this account, saying the passengers were breaking windows to jump out.**

**“People were trying to save themselves,” he said.**

After the convoy sped away, Rahman recognized an olive-green car with the driver’s door open. The seat was empty. The car belonged to his cousin Mahdi Sahib, a taxi driver.

The short, mustachioed soccer fan’s 10-member family lived off Sahib’s \$480 monthly income. Too poor to fix a broken windshield wiper, he had wrapped a ball of pink cloth at the tip of the rod.

“All his hopes in life were to get married,” said his brother Ali Sahib, 23. “But he could never afford it.”

Rahman called his cousin’s cellphone. A stranger answered and informed him that Sahib had been injured. Rahman found him at a hospital in the Kadimiyah neighborhood, shot through his upper left side and bleeding internally.

The motorcycle of Ali Khalil, the blacksmith, was found at the edge of the square. He had been shot several times in the chest and taken, still alive, to Yarmouk Hospital, said Khalaf, the traffic officer.

Before he left that morning, recalled his wife, Fawzia Sharif, their grandson had woken up. Khalil had picked him up and kissed him. “Grandson, I am so happy I have seen you before I leave,” he said.

## **Hospital Scenes of Sadness and Loss**

After the shooting stopped, Zina Fadhil cautiously walked out of her pharmacy. Cars with blown-out tires were moving slowly. For a few minutes, an eerie silence filled the air.

Then she saw police pickup trucks fly by, carrying the wounded and dead, stacked on top of one another.

"I could see only their legs," she recalled.

At Yarmouk Hospital, already short on staff, doctors and nurses were overwhelmed by the wounded.

At least two children of elementary-school age had bullet wounds, said two emergency room doctors who were present that day. They, like other hospital staff, asked that their names not be used because kidnappers often target doctors.

**In one room, hospital workers registered the possessions of the dead and injured -- inexpensive watches, cheap slippers, thin wallets, small amounts of money, even a bag of vegetables.**

**"These were simple people," said a young doctor overseeing the task.**

Victims' cellphones rang constantly as people tried to reach them.

Doctors tried to revive Khalil, but he died within minutes. A relative called his wife, Sharif, and told her to come to the hospital. She brought along bedsheets, pillows and a water jug to comfort him. When she arrived, she was sent to the morgue.

A neighbor who witnessed the shootings called Firoz Fadhil Abbas, Osama's brother. He was blunt. "Look, your brother is dead. Please come right away." Firoz claimed Osama's body, shot in the head and upper back.

In a nearby ward, his friend Salman regained consciousness. "I thought of Osama," he recalled. "I felt right then that he wasn't alive."

**A few miles away, at Kadimiyah Hospital, parents and siblings stood by the bedside of Sahib, the taxi driver. The doctors could not stop his internal bleeding. And over three hours, Sahib slowly lost consciousness. Relatives took turns holding his hands.**

**"Don't leave me alone," Sahib said, seconds before he died.**

## **A Charred Sedan, Numbers in the Sand**

**Haitham Ahmed, the husband of Kadhum and the father of Ahmed Haitham, was growing concerned. He had repeatedly called their cellphones without getting through. At 5 p.m., he called his brother Raad Ahmed, a dialysis specialist at Yarmouk Hospital.**

**Raad Ahmed had left the hospital when the shootings erupted. Now he went back. Among the dead, he spotted two bodies -- a woman and a man -- burned beyond recognition.**

**“I had my doubts,” Ahmed recalled. “My heart didn’t want to believe it.”**

**So he and his wife drove up the road to Nisoor Square, where they spotted a charred white sedan. The license plate had been removed. His wife saw numbers printed in the sand next to the car. Ahmed knelt to the ground, then called his brother.**

**Ahmed began to read him the numbers: “2 . . . 9 . . . 9,” he said, before choking up.**

**It was the family’s car.**

**At the morgue, Haitham Ahmed recognized his son’s shoe and his wife’s dental bridge.**

### **‘In the Hands of God’**

Dressed in a black head-to-toe abaya, Sharif visited the police headquarters at Nisoor Square last week, carrying a folder filled with documents to prove her identity. She had come to pick up Khalil’s motorcycle.

Two years ago, insurgents displaced them from their home in Baghdad’s Dora neighborhood. They were living with Khalil’s brother. Now, she has neither a pension nor savings, she said.

“An entire family has been destroyed,” she said, her eyes welling with pain.

She plans to file a complaint at a local police station in Yarmouk -- the first step to compensation, national police officials told her. But she has little faith in such promises. “Everything is in the hands of God,” she said, staring out at the square.

Sahib Nasr, father of taxi driver Mahdi Sahib, has already filed complaints with the Yarmouk police and a local court. The 60-year-old patriarch said he wants compensation for his loss, nothing less. “I cannot work at this age,” he said.

“I blame the government,” added Mahdi’s brother Ali, his voice suddenly brimming with anger.

**“If it wasn’t for the government allowing Blackwater to go around free, they will not kill innocent people like that.”**

**“We want Blackwater to be tried,” he said.**

### **Questions of Accountability**

On Monday, inside his spacious cream-colored house in Baghdad's Khadisiya neighborhood, Firoz Fadhil Abbas questioned whether anyone would be held accountable for the shootings.

He has met several times with U.S. military investigators, and every time they apologized for his brother's death, he said. But such words have done little to ease the clan's loss.

**"It looks like everything is back to normal. The company is back in operation," Abbas said. "And we've lost the head of our family. There's no justice here."**

Mohammed Osama Fadhil, Osama's 14-year-old son, quietly listened to the conversation. Seated near him was his brother, Ahmed, a solemn 7-year-old. Finally, Mohammed spoke, focusing on Blackwater.

"They killed many others before," he said. "Have they done anything to help those people, so that we can expect something?"

Around the corner, his father's Volkswagen truck was parked in the driveway of a neighbor's house. A huge hole was gouged in the driver's door, surrounded by smaller bullet holes.

On the top of the cab was another gaping hole, seemingly from powerful bullets fired from above. The windshield was shattered into hundreds of honeycomb patterns.

### **'They Were Innocent'**

Ten minutes away, Kadhum's charred white sedan sat at a bus stop on the fringes of Nisoor Square. Her husband, Haitham Ahmed, said he wants it left there until justice is served.

In the days following the deaths of his wife and son, he petitioned Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to hold Blackwater accountable. The mild-mannered pathologist still has not been contacted by Iraqi or U.S. officials.

"They have killed my beloveds. They were innocent," he lamented on Wednesday. "We don't have any contacts with any party, any side. We are all doctors."

"What I want is the law to prevail," he added. "I hope that this act will not go without punishment."

There were opportunities, he said, for his family to flee Iraq. But he and his wife believed in the promise of a new Iraq. "I feel pain when I see doctors leaving Iraq," he said.

His son was going to follow in his footsteps. In his third year of medical school, the soccer-loving, multilingual Ahmed planned to become a surgeon.

Now, he said, his two other children, Mariam, 18, and Haidar, 16, are concerned about his safety. "Enough of the pain, enough of death in Iraq."

Mariam was born in the last phases of the Iran-Iraq conflict.

Her eyes filling with tears, she said she wanted to leave: "I was born in one war, I don't want to die in another."

#### **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](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org):. Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe.**

## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Poland's "Ambassador" To Iraq Blown Up In Baghdad**



Poland's ambassador to Iraq, General Edward Pietrzyk, in his underwear, is evacuated from the scene of a bomb attack in Baghdad October 3, 2007. REUTERS/Ceerwan Aziz

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

10/04/07 By SINAN SALAHEDDIN, Associated Press Writer

General Pietrzyk, who was commander of ground forces in Poland before taking the ambassador post in April, suffered minor burns over 20 percent of his body, including his head and right arm and leg, said Polish Charge d'Affaires Waldemar Figaj.

"They were waiting for us," Figaj told The Associated Press.

Poland, a staunch U.S. ally, contributed combat troops to the 2003 U.S.-led invasion and has since led a multinational division south of Baghdad.

Authorities at the scene confiscated an AP Television News videotape that contained scenes of the wounded being evacuated.

U.S. military spokesman Lt. Col. Scott Bleichwehl told the AP Thursday that the tape was in the hands of the U.S. military and would be returned to the AP shortly.

The camera operator said he was handcuffed and detained by the U.S. troops at the scene for 40 minutes. He said he was kept inside an American Humvee, then released. He said the Americans took the tape but returned his camera upon his release.

---

## Resistance Action

Oct 2 (KUNA) & Reuters & VOL & 03 Oct 2007 Reuters & (KUNA) & 10/04/07 AP & (Xinhua) & Reuters & VOI & October 4, 2007 By Hussein Kadhim, McClatchy Newspapers & Reuters & 10.5 Reuters

In Salahuddin next to Diyala, police said Sheikh Muawiya Jebara, a Sunni Arab tribal leader, who had worked with U.S. forces in forming local police units to fight nationalist insurgents, had died of wounds suffered in a bomb attack on Thursday.

Wednesday noon, a roadside bomb targeted a police patrol in downtown Kirkuk killing one policeman.

Two guerrillas on a motorbike killed a policeman near his house west of Kut, 170 km (105 miles) south east of Baghdad, police said.

A motorbike bomb wounded one Iraqi soldier when it exploded near his patrol in the town of Riyadh, 60 km (40 miles) south west of Baghdad, police said.

The [pro-Occupation] mayor of Iskandariyah was killed along with four of his guards in a roadside bomb attack Thursday, police said.

Abbas Hassan Hamza, who belonged to Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's Dawa party, was killed about 10:30 a.m. as he headed to work about 30 miles south of Baghdad. Hamza's convoy was targeted by the blast, which also wounded a fifth guard, police said.

The powerful blast destroyed two vehicles of Khafaji's convoy, including his vehicle, the source said.

Also in Iskandriya, guerrillas shot dead late on Wednesday night Brigadier Ihsan al-Tai, an police officer in the town, the source added.

Six Iraqi policemen were killed in three separate incidents in cities of Salahaddin province, north of Baghdad, an Iraqi police source said Thursday.

Militants on Thursday morning shot dead three Iraqi police officers in the Sharqat area in the northern tip of the province, senior officer Hassan Ahmed said.

Before escaping, the militants set fire to the officers' car with the policemen's bodies still inside, Ahmed added.

Further south in Samarra, the Iraqi police found the decapitated body of another officer, a day after he had been captured on his way home in the town of Duluiyah, 70 kilometres north of Baghdad.

In the town of Dawr, about 10 kilometres east of Tikrit, guerrillas attacked a police station killing two policemen.

Two nationalists on a motorbike killed a policeman near his house west of Kut, 170 km (105 miles) south east of Baghdad, police said.

Two police officers were killed and 10 others were injured when a booby-trapped car exploded in Al-Khalis city, north of Baquba in Diyala Province, targeting an Iraqi-manned checkpoint, police sources said Tuesday.

Colonel Abdul-Rahman Al-Tamimi said a suicidal bomber blew himself up in a car at a police checkpoint at a motorway leading to Al-Khalis.

A roadside bomb wounded three policemen, when it blew up near government offices issuing passports in eastern Baghdad's Zayouna district, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol killed one policeman and wounded five in Madaen, about 45 km (25 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

Guerrillas wounded a policeman in the city of Hilla, 100 km (62 miles) south of Baghdad. They had targeted a small group of policemen.

One militant killed and one policeman wounded in clashes between insurgents and Iraqi police in the town of Abbasi, 70 km (45 miles) southwest of Kirkuk, police said.

An explosive charge went off Wednesday near an Iraqi police patrol in east Kirkuk, killing one policeman and wounding three others, senior officer Ahmed Shmerani said.

Nationalists attacked a police patrol, killing a police captain and wounding two others in Tikrit, 175 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

The body of a lieutenant in the traffic police was found in Ishaqi, 100 km (60 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.



A roadside bomb killed one policeman and wounded another when it targeted their patrol in northern Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

An army officer was shot dead in Mosul while a policeman was killed in a bomb attack in Kirkuk, north Iraq, Wednesday. The insurgents who were in a speeding killed an army lieutenant in Al-Jazaer district, east Mosul city, a police source told KUNA here.

A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol on Cornish St., Kirkuk, killed a policeman and damaged the vehicle of the patrol, the source added.

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

## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

### **“School Integration Is Strongly Supported By A Majority Of The Public”**

September October 2007 By GILLIAN RUSSOM, INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST  
REVIEW [Excerpt]

Despite high profile court challenges brought by a small number of white parents, school integration is strongly supported by a majority of the public.

In a 2000 University of Kentucky survey, 82 percent of respondents believed that students benefited from a racially integrated school environment. Seventy-seven percent of the parents (and 89 percent of the African-American parents) believed schools should have enrollment guidelines to ensure their children attend school with students of different racial backgrounds.

---

## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

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



10.1.07: Foreign occupation soldiers from the USA soldiers stop an Iraqi citizen at gunpoint on the public streets of Baquba and make him shown them his body. Iraqi citizens who refuse to obey foreigners can be arrested and imprisoned, or shot. (AFP/Alexander Nemenov)

**[Fair is fair. Let's bring 150,000 Iraqi troops over here to the USA. They can kill people at checkpoints, bust into their houses with force and violence, butcher their families, overthrow the government, put a new one in office they like better and call it "sovereign," and "detain" anybody who doesn't like it in some prison without any charges being filed against them, or any trial.]**

**[Those Iraqis are sure a bunch of backward primitives. They actually resent this help, have the absurd notion that it's bad their country is occupied by a foreign military dictatorship, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to grab their country. What a bunch of silly people. How fortunate they are to live under a military dictatorship run by George Bush. Why, how could anybody not love that? You'd want that in your home town, right?]**

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

**CLASS WAR REPORTS**

***Welcome To Occupied America:***

# **Coward Killer Cop Murders Unarmed 14 Year Old In D.C.**

September 28, 2007 By Michele Bollinger, Socialist Worker

**WASHINGTON--The notoriously brutal D.C. police have struck again. September 17, off-duty officer James Haskell shot 14-year old Deonte Rawlings in the head, killing him in cold blood.**

Deonte's murder has devastated his family, friends and members of the Condon Terrace community--in one of the poorest sections of southeast D.C.--and sparked outrage over police brutality throughout the city. Another off-duty officer, Anthony Clay, was with Haskell as they were scouring the neighborhood looking for Haskell's minibike, allegedly stolen by Deonte.

**The cops claim that they spotted Deonte on the bike and were fired on first, but no gun was found at the scene.**

The minibike was not found at the scene either--it was recovered nearly 20 miles away in Upper Marlboro, Md.

**The Washington Post reported that Haskell, not in uniform and driving his personal SUV, fired his gun without identifying himself as a police officer.**

Other D.C. police officers arrived at the scene and found Rawlings' body before Haskell and Clay had called in the shooting.

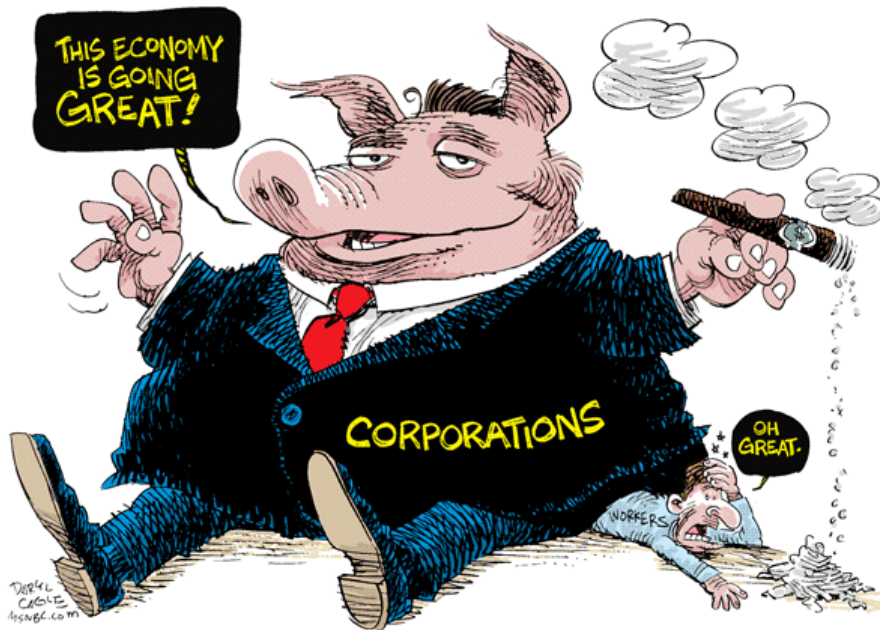
**On top of that, the investigation has shown that Clay left the scene in the SUV before other officers showed up.**

This is crucial, because the only evidence the cops have that someone fired at them is a bullet hole in the side of the SUV.

Routine harassment and brutality by police and the daily humiliation people face at the hands of cops in Southeast D.C. in particular have bred such a deep distrust and resentment of the police that Mayor Adrian Fenty has brought in the FBI and the U.S. attorney to handle the case.

But there is little reason to believe this will mean real justice for Deonte and his family. We need a real campaign to get killer cops behind bars.

**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 to [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org):. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential. Same to unsubscribe.**



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

## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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

**GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out**

GI Special issues are archived at website <http://www.militaryproject.org> .

The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:

<http://www.williambowles.info/qispecial/2006/index.html>;

<http://www.uruknet.info/?p=-6&l=e>; [http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi\\_special/](http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/);

<http://www.albasrah.net/magalat/english/qi-special.htm>

GI Special distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupation of Iraq. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **GI Special has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is GI Special endorsed or sponsored by the originators. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research, education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice.** Go to: [www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml](http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml) for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

---

**If printed out, this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.**