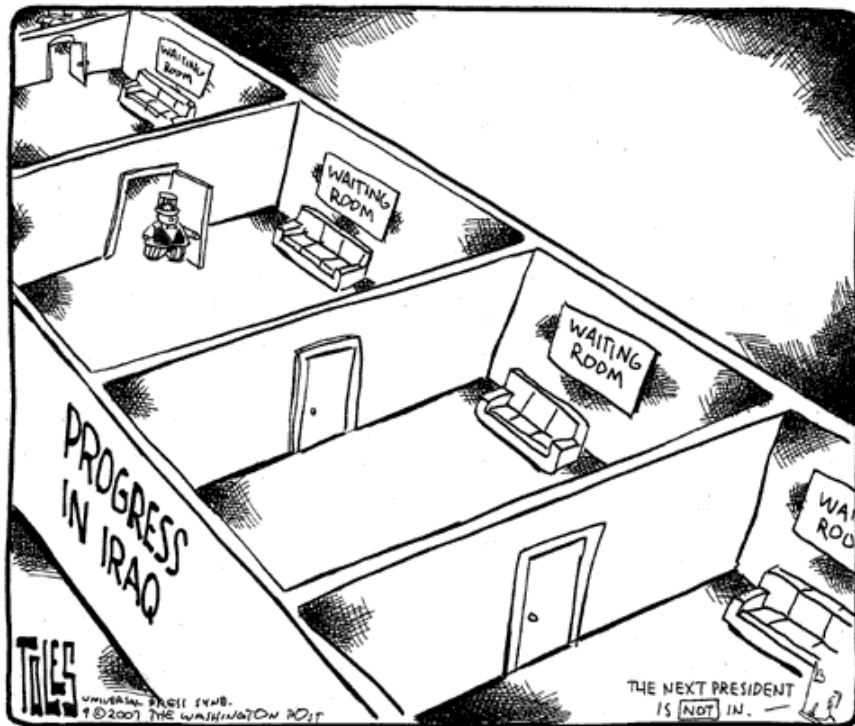


GI SPECIAL 5J8:



**“Thanks Man - The Army
Stinks”**

**“This War Sucks - George Bush
Is Nuts”**

**“It’s Often Said Soldiers Aren’t
‘Political’ But I Damn Well Saw That
They Are”**

“The Police Coming Into The Smoking Room Set Off Two Of The Soldiers. ‘They Should Let You Hand Them Out - This Is Supposed To Be A Free Country Isn’t It’”

They know the Army is fucked up - they know the war is fucked up - they know the system is fucked up. We owe it to them to provide an option. Think about the one GI you give the paper to who could become a lifelong activist for Peace and Justice.

From: Mark Shapiro
To: GI Special
Sent: October 08, 2007
Subject: Dulles Airport Report

A brief report back from Dulles Airport in Washington - took the copies of ‘GI Special’ on my flight to DC - had 3 hours between my connecting flight home to London.

The first place I went was the USO lounge on the arrivals level by the baggage carousel.

I handed out about a half a dozen to GI’s going in. Four said thanks I’ll read it but two seemed really pleased to receive copies.

One took a look at the paper and said ‘Thanks Man - the Army Stinks’ and walked into the lounge with his copy.

The second, an Army Sgt in uniform immediately said (exactly) ‘This war sucks - George Bush is Nuts’ - told him I couldn’t agree more.

We went outside the building and had a smoke and a chat.

He told me he served in Iraq and had had it with the Army and was planning to retire in a few years and was going to ‘tread water until it was over’.

He said ‘Black men have no chance in the USA, most are either flipping hamburgers, unemployed or in prison’.

I was a bit surprised at his comments to a total stranger. I didn’t expect him to be so candid

I asked him why on earth he was prepared to die for a country that gives him no chance and he looked at me straight in the eye and said ‘I don’t know, and you are right, I’ve never spoken to an ‘War Protester’ before’.

I doubt if anyone had ever asked him that question before and from that look in his eyes he might still be thinking about the question and his reply in his mind.

We spent about 10 minutes talking and he asked me if I had ever been in the military myself. I said yes, the Army and I served in Vietnam and 'retired' - well sort of retired - I Deserted.

His face lit up and he said 'Wow - A Deserter - you've made my day'.

Don't know what he really meant by that but he gave me a crushing hand shake and a big smile and off he went off with a big grin on his face and a 'GIS' in Army issue back-pack.

Who knows - in a few years time that Sgt. may be the one handing out the paper himself in Dulles.

My luck quickly came to an abrupt conclusion. I handed a 'GIS' to another GI, he had a quick look and nearly exploded - 'what the fuck are you doing here' he asked, waiting for a flight I said, 'you should be arrested handing out shit like this' he said and went into the lounge shaking his head.

About 5 minutes later 4 rather menacing looking policeman arrived looking like something right out of a Gestapo film, they told me abruptly 'you can't hand out anything down here and if you don't stop we'll arrest you'.

Not looking to end up as that poor woman did (dead) in Police custody in Phoenix recently I said thank you for letting me know and pushing my luck asked would any of you guys like a copy to read holding out a few in my hand. 'Put those papers away'. No takers this time. Thought it best not to piss these monkey's off any further. They had guns and handcuffs and I was old enough to be the youngest ones grandfather.

Time was passing and I went back inside and through security to catch my flight.

Next stop the smoking room and started to hand out 'GIS' again. Got a nice little debate going about the War in Iraq and handed out a few more papers - then deja vu - about 20 minutes later 3 more policemen showed up.

They were very agitated and pissed off. They took me outside the smoking room and said 'this is public property and you can't distribute anything here.'

I always thought you couldn't distribute on private property not public property but then I thought shit, this isn't the right time for a debate on Civil Liberties and these goons wouldn't understand anyway and will arrest me if I try to pull the 'smart ass' routine. I told them no problem guys, I understand I'll put them away.

The three of them kept walking past the smoking room for the next 45 minutes as though my little pile of 'GIS' was a potential security threat - the dumb asses - and I didn't hand out any more - well I did hand out one more.

The police coming into the smoking room set off two of the soldiers. 'They should let you hand them out - this is supposed to be a free country isn't it' - the room sits about 25 and was nearly full.

Dulles is loaded with soldiers and the smoking room was full of them.

Not one soldier had a positive comment about the war or George Bush and the whole room reacted with a great deal of enthusiasm to the debate.

Surprisingly one guy who said he was a 'contractor (read mercenary) 'it's fucked up over there - we shouldn't be there - this is all about people making money, that's the only reason I'm there - I'm not political but I agree with you' and then he went into a rant about how IED's were killing everyone and the US had no chance to stop it and 'we can't win this stupid war, and everyday more people hate us there'.

I gave him a copy of 'GIS' and he told me he would read it on his flight; for all I know he could have taken it with him or dropped it in the bin - the important thing though were his comments - even these ass-hole Blackwater types know the score

For that idiot 'contractor' with his silvered sun-glasses hanging on a rope around his neck to admit the game's up and he's only in it for the money, how did those young soldier's feel knowing many of them will soon be dead as door-nails fighting a war for the likes of George Bush and the Fat Cats who profit from their death that they can't win anyway.

When I left to catch my flight a few of them were still talking about the war.

It's often said soldiers aren't 'political' but I damn well saw that they are.

Not a very exciting story really, it was pretty 'boring' on the scale of protests but the insight I gained packed a real punch.

If each of us who subscribes to 'GIS' made a point of giving one copy to a soldier at least once a week imagine the results.

These young men and woman are completely starved of real information, and it's not difficult to win over a serving soldier.

They know the Army is fucked up - they know the war is fucked up - they know the system is fucked up.

We owe it to them to provide an option.

Think about the one GI you give the paper to who could become a lifelong activist for Peace and Justice.

The American War in Vietnam made me what I am - Iraq or Afghanistan probably made you what you are - give those 'kids' a chance to see the light - give them a GI Special to read!

In closing I'd like to add that I think we all owe a great deal of gratitude to everyone who made GI Special the remarkable paper that it is. Their commitment, courage, dedication and vision is absolutely remarkable - astonishing actually. T and the Military Project deserve more than a big thank you - they deserves a Hell of a Big Thank You from all of us!

Well done and keep up the great work –

All the Best - Mark

MORE:

**OK, You Read That:
Now Do You Get It?
[Just In Case It Blew Past You Last Time,
Here It Is Again]**

[From GI SPECIAL 5J4, 10.6.07]

***D.C. Protests Shrink While Antiwar Sentiment Grows;
“Organizers Feud, Participants Question The Effectiveness”***

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier & Military Project, who sent this in.]

Oct 7, 2007 (Reuters) [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON, Oct 3 (Reuters) - Crowds at antiwar rallies in Washington have dwindled even as U.S. opinion has turned against the war in Iraq, as organizers feud and participants question the effectiveness of the street protests.

Rival antiwar groups, which in years past jointly sponsored massive rallies on the National Mall, have promoted separate protests recently or decided to steer clear of the capital altogether.

Antiwar rallies drew hundreds of thousands of people at the war's start in 2003, although only 23 percent of Americans then said the invasion was a mistake, according to a USA Today/Gallup Poll. That figure is now 58 percent.

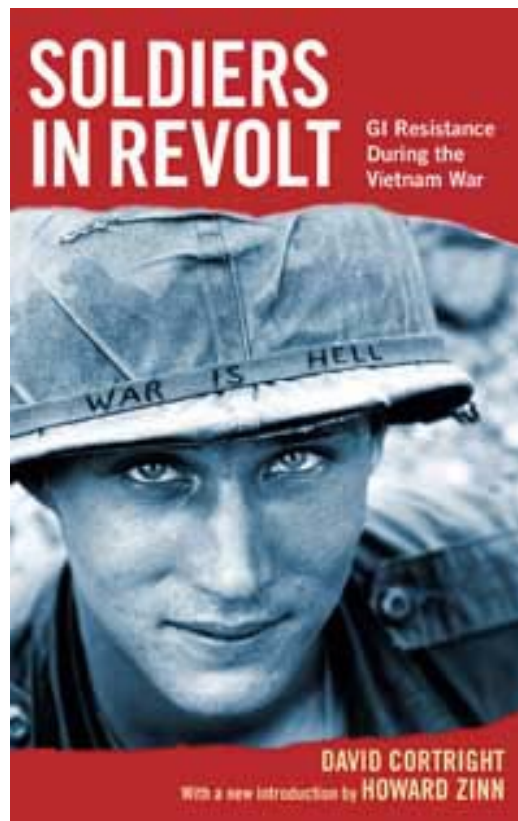
Comment: T

“During the American war on Vietnam, at exactly the time the movement against the war was spreading and gathering force inside the armed forces - the movement that stopped the war when it became predominant - civilian marches and rallies against the war were bringing out fewer and fewer people.

“It didn’t help that various fools from opposing political groups organizing the DC bullshit made sure to have rallies that competed with each other for public support, instead of all showing up on the same day.

“By the early 1970’s, everybody knew that the majority of Americans opposed the war, and saw that marching around in DC appealing to the Imperial politicians wasn’t stopping it. Duh.

“Those in the movement who were reaching out to anti-war troops, and helping them organize the resistance inside the armed forces that stopped the war, got it right.”



MORE

From: GI SPECIAL 5H7: 8.7.07

**Oh Please,
Not Another Useless Pilgrimage
To DC**



Father Georgi Apollonievich Gapon [wikimedia.org]

Bloody Sunday (Russian: Кровавое воскресенье) was an incident on 22 January 1905 in St. Petersburg, Russia, where unarmed, peaceful demonstrators marching to present a petition to Tsar Nicholas II were gunned down. The event was organized by Father Gapon, who told the Russian working class that the Czar and his government would be moved by their march, their opposition to the Imperial war against Japan, and their requests for reforms. The Tsar's dictatorship ended in 1917, when the Russian working class and soldiers in the Russian army rose in revolution. After the revolution the Czar, whose entry into World War I killed 2 million Russian citizens, was executed.

Well, the usual crew are out there planning a whole assortment of trips to DC to beg the politicians to stop the war.

Repeatedly.

August, September, October; whenever. Talk about a blind obsession, like moths to a flame.

What a fascination with standing around in the presence of power, and feeling important going in some Senator's office, or tromping back and forth on the mall, or both.

What a pathetic farce, the merest pretense of action, the faint shadow of action.

Someone said a long time ago, "Law is but the recognition of material reality. It represents a written armistice between class forces and competing interests."

So, if you change material reality, the law, which is all there is in DC, follows along.

The people that tell us to go beg on our knees in DC before the thrones of the powerful – politely called lobbying these days -- have hold of the wrong end of the stick, if they could stop kissing DC political butt long enough to hold a stick that is.

Material reality is the army, turning hard against the war. You may be assured that when they break loose and decide to do some marching on Washington, that will hit like a hammer.

The silly self-appointed movement leaders, instead of spending their time and money reaching out to members of the armed forces turning against the war, think that if they show up in Washington again, and again, and again, they will have a significant effect on those that hold the power and run the Empire.

What pretentious delusions. They have no power at all, except the power to amuse some, and briefly annoy some others.

The soldiers, however, are a different matter.

Someone noted a couple hundred years ago “I expect something good only of that prince whose head is sore from the buffetings of his people and whose palace windows are crashing in under the stones of the revolution.”

T

“The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops.” Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War

“The military are the final, essential weak point of Bush and Cheney.”
David McReynolds 9.29.07

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

HQ U.S. Forces In Iraq Attacked:

2 Dead, 40 More Wounded At Camp Victory

Oct 11 By KIM CURTIS, Associated Press Writer

A series of rockets or mortar rounds struck Camp Victory, killing two members of the U.S.-led coalition and wounding 40 other people on the sprawling headquarters for U.S. forces in Iraq near Baghdad's airport, the military said Thursday.

Most troops stationed at the base are American but there are small contingents from other countries.

The military said those wounded in Wednesday's attack included two "third-country nationals," meaning they were not Americans or Iraqis.

U.S. bases in Iraq frequently face so-called "indirect fire," the military's term for a rocket or mortar attack, but Camp Victory is well-entrenched on the capital's western outskirts and such heavy casualties are rare.

Texas Soldier Killed In Baghdad



Sgt. Joseph B. Milledge, 23, of Pointblank, Texas, died Oct. 5 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his unit during combat operations. He was assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, in Vilseck, Germany. (AP Photo/Milledge family)

U.S. Soldier Killed In Eastern Baghdad

10.11.07 Public Affairs Office, [Whatever is left of] Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20071011-04

BAGHDAD – One MNC-I Soldier died of wounds suffered during combat operations in eastern Baghdad Oct. 10.

Humvee Hit By Baghdad IED; No Report On Casualties Yet



A damaged humvee is seen after a roadside bomb exploded in Karradah, central Baghdad Oct, 10, 2007. No immediate information about casualties, police said. (AP Photo/Khalid Mohammed)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

**Big Surprise:
Canadian Military Says Afghanistan
Occupation Command Lying About
Killing Of Civilian**

10/09/07 Dene Moore, The Canadian Press [Excerpt]

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan - A Canadian military convoy was rolling through downtown Kandahar Tuesday when a motorcycle approached. A weapon went off.

The Afghan motorcyclist was shot dead and his passenger, a boy, was injured.

Afghan National Police arranged for the victims to be taken to the local hospital, where the driver was pronounced dead.

"Why did they do this?" the injured boy's distraught uncle said as he stood beside his nephew's bed at Mirwais Hospital. "Canadians are acting like enemies ... they are not here to help. They are destroying us."

The statement by the NATO's International Security Assistance Force said the patrol "experienced an equipment malfunction, which resulted in an accidental discharge from a weapon system."

However, Canadian military officials said it is too early to determine whether an equipment malfunction was involved.

Lubbock Navy Serviceman Killed In Afghanistan



10/3/07 KCBD

A Lubbock father is mourning the loss of his only son to the War on Terror.

31-year-old Mark Russell Cannon was shot in the chest Tuesday, while on ground patrol in Afghanistan.

Cannon served in the Navy, but had been reassigned to the Marines as a medic.

Mark's father, Thomas Cannon, told NewsChannel 11 he couldn't be prouder of his son and the sacrifice he made to this country. Cannon is understandably emotional and asked to not be put on camera, but he did want to share more about his son, a hero.

Mark's father says 9-11 really impacted Mark and he decided to leave his career as a nurse's aid at Covenant Medical Center and join the Navy.

His dad says public service was in Mark's blood. Thomas Cannon is a former court at law judge and his mom, Becky Cannon, who passed away after a brave fight against cancer in 2006, was the executive director of the Lubbock Rape Crisis Center in Lubbock for 30 years. Mark was their only child.

He graduated from Coronado High School in 1994 and took courses at South Plains College.

After joining the Navy, Mark was stationed in Hawaii and served in Iraq for seven months as a medic. He then volunteered to be a part of this special operation in Afghanistan. He had only been there since mid July.

At 6'5" Mark was a big guy but his dad says he had an even bigger heart and was honored to have the chance to serve his country.

His dad says the thing he will miss most is his son's laugh and love for life. Mark's body is being flown here from Germany so his dad is still unsure of when funeral services will be held.

Over 1,300 Attacks On UK Troops In Afghanistan In Past Year

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier & Military Project, who sent this in.]

October 09, 2007 IRNA

British soldiers in Afghanistan have come under attack more than 1,300 times from enemy forces in the past year, according to the last government figures. In a written reply to parliament, published Tuesday, Defence Secretary Des Browne revealed that there had been 1,359 attacks on British troops between October 2006 and August this year.

The list showed a fluctuation between 181 attacks carried out in March to 52 in April compared to a monthly average of 123, the equivalent of more than four a day.

A separate parliamentary statement issued by Defence Minister Derek Twigg showed that manpower the British Army was failing to keep pace with the number of soldiers leaving the service.

In the year to February 2007, the inflow of regular soldiers was just 4,030 compared with an outflow of 4,930 during the same period.

Occupation Forces “Losing Control Of Afghanistan”

October 10, 2007 The Sydney Morning Herald [Excerpts]

"Eight weeks ago, Karzai and Bush were at Camp David telling American press that the Taliban were on the run. Karzai said it was a defeated force, a spent force. Both of them said they would finish them off," Saikal said. [Professor Amin Saikal, director of the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies at the Australian National University] [

"The reality is very different.

"The Taliban have managed to expand their networks, both in Afghanistan and Pakistan. And now they [Karzai and Bush] want to negotiate with these people they call terrorists.

It makes a mockery of their so-called war on terrorism."

More than six years after the September 11 attacks spawned the "war on terrorism", Karzai's hamfisted efforts to sue for peace are perhaps the most striking evidence that the NATO-led coalition is losing control of Afghanistan.

Corruption permeates all levels of government and, as security deteriorates, the reconstruction projects so vital to the future of Afghanistan are progressing too slowly.

While British commanders like Brigadier John Lorimer talk about a 30-year "marathon" to bring peace and stability in Afghanistan, other countries are looking at looking at winding down their presence, or refusing to be deployed to the dangerous provinces down south.

As countries - including the Dutch, who are providing military overwatch for Australian forces - vacillate over their continuing commitments, the Taliban have increased their attacks hoping to further unnerve Western political leaders wary of a seemingly unending conflict offering the promise of only more casualties.

Australia's 1000-strong contingent in Oruzgan province has felt the brunt of the surge in insurgent activity. Roadside bombings, mortars and rocket-propelled grenades, conventional arms fire - Australian forces have been hit regularly as they undertake reconstruction projects and training young Afghans at Tarin Kowt.

The Australian troops have managed to hit back at the Taliban with some success. But the death this week of Trooper David Pearce was a tragedy many had been expecting for months.

Underpinning the military malaise in Afghanistan is a familiar refrain: troop levels and equipment are inadequate. There are 50,000 foreign troops in Afghanistan - half of them American - and that's "not enough" said Neil James, the executive director of the Australian Defence Association.

"Because there are not enough ground troops, we rely too much on air power and that means you have more collateral damage which goes against the hearts and minds part of the campaign," he said.

The high number of civilian casualties has enraged many Afghans, including Karzai. These deaths have also been ruthlessly exploited by the Taliban searching for more recruits.

A lack of helicopter support means that troops rely heavily on road transport, leaving them vulnerable to increasingly deadly roadside bombing attacks.

In the longer term the consensus is that security has deteriorated markedly since 2002, when the US-backed Karzai assumed power following the 2001 invasion that routed the Taliban. The United Nation's special envoy to Afghanistan, Tom Koenig, urged Karzai to again try to forge some kind of reconciliation with the Taliban at the weekend.

The US, too, has quietly endorsed Karzai's approach.

The Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Kurt Volker, said the US backed the policy of reaching out to radical Afghan groups. "Those who formerly were fighters who want to return to society ought to be able to do so," he said last week. The idea was to split off more "moderate" elements of the Taliban and bring them into the fold with the lure of the spoils of office, James said.

But Saikal ridiculed the strategy, saying Omar, the leader of the Taliban when it was in power, could hardly be described as a moderate.

"If the Karzai Government enters a coalition with the Taliban, it will not only amount to the defeat of what the US and its Afghan and non-Afghan allies have been promising ... but (it) also runs the risk of igniting a savage ethnic conflict in the country," he said.

Resistance Action

Oct 7 The Associated Press & 10/11/07 The Canadian Press

Two officers were killed and two others were wounded when a bomb exploded under their car in Yaqoubi district in Khost province on Saturday, police chief Wazir Pacha said.

Also in eastern Afghanistan, a Taliban ambush in Nuristan province left two other officers dead, police officer Mohammad Daud said.

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

TROOP NEWS

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



The casket of Army Spc. Camy Florexil of Philadelphia at Arlington Cemetery Oct. 5, 2007. Florexil was killed in July after an explosive device detonated near his vehicle in Baghdad. (AP Photos/Susan Walsh)

**WELCOME TO IRAQNAM:
HAVE A NICE DAY**



Soldiers from Delta Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment near Youssifiyah, 12 miles (20 kilometers) south of Baghdad. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Insurgent Groups Announced The Formation Of A Political Council Aimed At Liberating Iraq From U.S. Occupation

10/11/07 AP

CAIRO, Egypt - Six main Iraqi insurgent groups announced the formation of a political council aimed at liberating Iraq from U.S. occupation in a video aired Thursday on Al-Jazeera television.

In the video aired on Al-Jazeera, a man identified as the council's spokesman — wearing traditional Iraqi garb, with his face blacked out — announced the council's formation and a "political program to liberate Iraq."

He said the program was based on two principles.

"First, the occupation is an oppression and aggression, rejected by Islamic Sharia law and tradition. Resistance of occupation is a right guaranteed by all religions and laws," he said.

"Second, the armed resistance ... is the legitimate representative of Iraq. It is the one that bears responsibility for the leadership of the people to achieve its legitimate hope."

The groups forming the council include the Islamic Army of Iraq, the Mujahideen Army, Ansar al-Sunna, the Fatiheen Army, the Islamic Front for the Iraqi Resistance (Jami) and the Islamic Movement of Hamas-Iraq.

Earlier this year, other groups — the Islamic Army of Iraq, the main faction of the Mujahideen Army, a branch of Ansar al-Sunna and the Fatiheen Army — formed a coalition called the Jihad and Reform Front opposed to al-Qaida in Iraq, though they have continued attacks on U.S. and Iraqi forces.

<p>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</p>

Resistance Action



Baiji Oct. 9, 2007. Attackers drove a minibus laden with explosives into the house of a local police chief and detonated an explosives-packed Toyota Land Cruiser outside the home of a leading member of the local Awakening Council, a group of Iraqis who support U.S. Occupation troops in the area. At least 19 people were killed in the attack and 28 wounded, police said. (AP Photo / Bassem Daham)

09 Oct Reuters & (KUNA) & AP & 10.10.07 AP & (Reuters) & Oct 11 By KIM CURTIS, Associated Press Writer & Reuters & KUNA

An Iraqi officer was killed and three others were injured when two booby-trapped cars exploded at army bases in Kirkuk city northern Iraq, a security source said on Thursday.

The source revealed that one of the cars, loaded with plaster material, exploded yesterday at a military base for the army injuring three officers and causing damage to properties nearby.

One of the officers died while he was at hospital, indicated the source, adding that another attack on a base in Abbasi area led to property damage.

Two car bombs killed at least 22 people in northern Iraq on Tuesday in attacks targeting a police chief and a tribal leader working with U.S. forces. The police chief was wounded and the condition of the tribal leader was unclear, officials said.

The bomb was in a pick-up truck aimed at Baiji's police chief, Colonel Saad Nifous, who was wounded in the blast. There was confusion about which tribal leader was targeted but both people mentioned by different police sources were senior members of Sunni Arab "Awakening" [collaborator] councils in the area.

The spokesman for U.S. troops in northern Iraq said that while the Baiji police chief had not been killed, the condition of the tribal leader was unclear.

The deputy police chief of Nineveh province was killed by guerrillas in the city of Mosul and the head of police intelligence in Kirkuk was wounded in a drive-by shooting.

Guerrillas killed Abdul-Aali Thenoon, the deputy police chief of Nineveh Province, and wounded his driver in a drive-by shooting in the city of Mosul, and wounded Abdul-Amir Mahmoud, the head of police intelligence in Kirkuk.

One Iraqi soldier were killed in clashes in Mosul on Monday, police said. Another four soldiers were wounded.

A policeman was assassinated in a motorcycle drive-by shooting while he stood outside his home in the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk, police said.

An Iraqi policeman was killed and an intelligence officer was injured Tuesday in two separate violent incidents in Kirkuk north of the country, the Iraqi police said.

A source at the joint coordination center of the Iraqi police in Kirkuk told KUNA that a bomb exploded killing policeman Muneef Jumaa Faisal and injured his colleague.

Furthermore, the source added that insurgents opened fire at Lieutenant General Abdelamir Mahmoud, Director of Information and National Investigations Bureau of Al-Wasetti area in Kirkuk wounding him along with two of his aides.

In Tikrit Oct. 10, 2007 a parked car bomb exploded near a market killing a policeman and a civilian, and wounding another policeman.

In Baqouba' Oct, 11, 2007 a police officer was killed when insurgents opened fire on policemen. During the ensuing clash, four policemen were injured and one insurgent killed, police said.

A parked car bomb exploded in a commercial area in the Khulani district of Baghdad, Iraq, wounding four traffic policemen.

Guerrillas killed two policemen in separate incidents in the city of Diwaniya, 180 km (110 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

One person was killed and five wounded when gunmen attacked a small bus carrying government workers in the Bayaa district of southwestern Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol wounded two policemen and two civilians in eastern Baghdad, police said.

A truck bomber killed one Iraqi soldier and wounded five others in an attack on an Iraqi army base in the town of Zaab, 70 km (45 miles) southwest of Kirkuk, a police official said.

Fighting between guerrillas and police at checkpoints near Baqouba killed at least one officer and wounded two others. The pre-dawn attacks lasted about three hours and occurred at two checkpoints in Abbara, north of Baqouba, which is about 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, according to police.

Just east of Baqouba, guerrillas took control of five villages, killing two police officers and wounding five others, a police official said.

The attacks, which began Wednesday evening and continued until Thursday morning, happened two days after U.S. forces had cleared the village of insurgents, the official said.

A car bombing in a Kirkuk market attacked a three-car police convoy carrying the traffic police chief and his guards, police said. Three of the policemen were among the dead and the chief was wounded.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

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

**"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.**

**"The mighty are only mighty because we are on our knees. Let us rise!"
--Camille Desmoulins**

“Mexican Haters Should Work Side By Side With The Mexicans And Take These Jobs”

October 11, 2007

From: Dennis Serdel

Subject: March for Immigrant Rights on Friday, October 12 - Southwest Detroit

By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50 Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan

Dear Humanity,

Having grown up in Southwest Michigan which is full of orchards, I picked blueberries, plums, strawberries, you name it, along side the Mexicans who came each year to harvest the crops.

Us kids did it just to have a little spending money, the Mexicans did it to make a living.

It is interesting to note that in California, the farmers are having trouble getting pickers to harvest their crops, many will lose money as crops rot.

The question is, where are all the American workers to do this backbreaking work?

It would seem to me that the Mexican haters should work side by side with the Mexicans and take these jobs.

Is picking for a living too low for the Americans to stoop?

October 10, 2002: Infamous Anniversary



Carl Bunin Peace History October 8-14

The House voted 296-133 to pass the "Joint Resolution to Authorize the Use of United States Armed Forces Against Iraq," giving President George W. Bush broad authority to use military force against Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, with or without U.N. support.

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.

OCCUPATION REPORT

Good News For The Iraqi Resistance!!

U.S. Occupation Commands' Stupid Terror Tactics Recruit Even More Fighters To Kill U.S. Troops



A foreign occupation soldier from the USA forces an elderly Iraqi man and his son to lie with their faces in the dirt as others break into their home and go through their personal belongings. (AFP/File/Alexander Nemenov)

Sometimes we would shred up floors, couches and beds. We'd take all the women, children and old men (that was mostly who was in these houses—women, children and old men), we'd take them outside and throw them into the grass and we'd start yelling at them as to where weapons are, where the men are.

Sometimes, all that we needed was a knife or a gun. It could be something as small as a pistol, to justify taking away all the men in the house.

Mark Wilkerson, Iraq Veterans Against The War

[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!**

Mercenaries Murder More Iraqi Women: "May God Take Revenge On Those Killers" [Church, Say Amen]

October 10, 2007 QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA, Associated Press Writer & CBS/AP

BAGHDAD (AP) - U.S. and Iraqi officials Wednesday were investigating yet another shooting of Iraqi civilians by a heavily armed security firm linked to U.S. government-financed work in Iraq.

The bodies of Marou Awanis and Geneva Jalal, the Christian women killed in the Tuesday shooting, were taken, meanwhile, to Baghdad's Armenian Orthodox Virgin Mary Church for funeral services.

Iraqi authorities blamed the women's deaths on guards working for Unity Resources Group, a security company owned by Australian partners but with headquarters in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates.

Unity provides security services to RTI International, a group based in Research Triangle Park, N.C., that promotes governance projects in Iraq for the U.S. Agency for International Development.

According to the USAID Web site, RTI has about \$450 million in U.S. government contracts to work on local governance projects in Iraq. USAID is a semi-autonomous arm of the U.S. State Department that manages American aide programs.

Marou Awanis was born in 1959, Geneva Jalal in 1977. Awanis' sister-in-law, Anahet Bougous, said the woman had been using her car to drive government employees to work to help raise money for her three daughters. Her husband died during heart surgery last year.

"May God take revenge on those killers," Bougous said, crying outside the police station. "Now, who is going to raise them?"

"These are innocent people killed by people who have no heart or consciousness. The Iraqi people have no value to them," said a man who was part of a group of relatives gathered with a Christian priest at the local police station.

"What is the use of the word 'sorry?'" Nora Jalal, Awanis' daughter and a student at Baghdad's Technology University, cried.

The Rev. Kivork Arshlian urged the government to punish those responsible despite the immunity that has generally been enjoyed by foreign security contractors in Iraq.

"This is a crime against humanity in general and against Iraqis in particular. Many other people were killed in a similar way," he said. "We call upon the government to put an end to these killings."

"This security company should leave the country. Those who committed this crime should be punished because they claimed the lives of two people," he added. "We do not want a trial in Australia, which we would know nothing about."

Arshlian celebrated the funeral Mass, which was held at the Virgin Mary Church. Awanis' three daughters cried and other female relatives wailed over the caskets, adorned only with a golden cross.

U.S. Occupation Military Dictatorship Holds 25,000 Iraqi Citizens In Prison: No Charges, No Trails, But That's The American Way, Right?

October 10, 2007 The Associated Press

The security crackdown in Baghdad has raised the rolls in U.S.-run detention centers to 10,000 more detainees compared to this time last year, worsening already serious backlogs in the court system.

Several men being released Wednesday interrupted the judge's speech to complain that they had been held for months, even years, without cause.

Ashwak Ali Hassan traveled from Dora, a Sunni neighborhood in southern Baghdad, to pick up her 16-year-old son who had been held for more than four months. Her husband remains in custody at Camp Bucca in southern Iraq.

She said father and son were captured because they were in the wrong place at the wrong time after a U.S. convoy was attacked in their neighborhood.

"Our house was closest," she said. The boy, crying and allowing himself to be rocked gently by his mother, said only he was happy to be leaving the prison.

More than 25,000 men remain in U.S. custody at two detention facilities — one at Camp Cropper, near Baghdad's airport and another at Camp Bucca — rounded up for a variety of allegations including acting as lookouts for insurgents, building or planting explosive devices and attacking U.S. forces.

Most detainees are held in limbo where few are ever charged with a specific crime or given a chance before any court or tribunal to argue for their freedom.

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

**Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004**

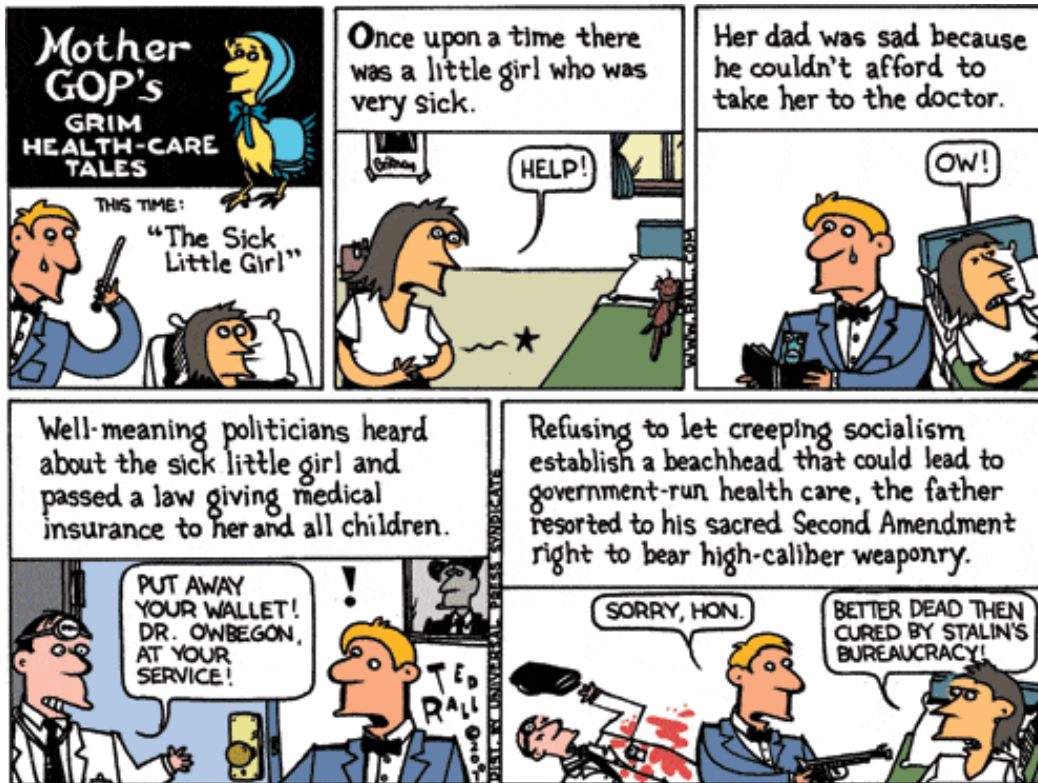
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DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



CLASS WAR REPORTS

41 Million Americans In Working Families Can't Afford Such Basic Necessities As Health Care And Housing

[Who Gives A Shit? Hundreds Of Billions For Wars Of Empire Is What's Important, Right?]

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

10/10/2007 By MarketWatch [Excerpts]

About one in five working American families can't afford basic needs, and many scrape to get by on insufficient income and government aid, policy researchers conclude in a report released today.

Many of these workers earn too much to qualify for "work supports" such as Medicaid and food stamps, while their employer-provided health insurance doesn't cover enough of their basic medical costs, according to the report by the Center for Economic and Policy Research and the Center for Social Policy at the University of Massachusetts.

"We no longer live in a world where having a job means you're automatically able to make ends meet," said Heather Boushey, co-author of the report. "Our work-support policies need to be updated to support the millions of families with earners in bad jobs."

About 41 million people in working families can't afford such basic necessities as health care and housing, according to the report. The study, which examined conditions in nine states and the District of Columbia, found that government programs close about two-fifths of the "hardships gap" -- a measure of the difference between a family's income, including all aid programs, and the local costs of goods and services.

"Families fall into the hardships gap because the low-wage labor market provides meager pay and few employment-based work supports for low- and moderate-wage workers," the report noted.

In 2005, about one-fifth of workers were in "bad jobs" -- those that paid less than the median wage in 1979 in inflation-adjusted dollars and did not offer health insurance or a retirement plan, according to the report.

Employer-based benefits are good for people with access to them, but most low-wage workers aren't offered or can't afford them, the report said.

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:. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential. Same to unsubscribe.

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