

**GI SPECIAL 5L13:**



**“From My Experience, A Majority Of Troops I’ve Encountered Oppose This War”**

# **“I Know That They Serve With Honor; I Simply Know That That Honor Is Being Betrayed”**



**We see a lot more than most: from Dick Cheney ‘staging’ reenlistments behind him while speaking so that he could make a point about people eager to go back to Iraq (the soldiers, of course, chosen at random from the audience and not reenlisting in fact at all) to a comment I heard from another NCO when Bush came to speak to us.**

**"Someone should shoot /him/ with an RPG" she said.**

12/11/2007 by Army Sergeant, Iraq Veterans Against The War ([www.ivaw.org/](http://www.ivaw.org/))

Branch of service: United States Army (USA)

Rank: SGT

Home: Maryland

While in the NCO corps, you rarely get termed by it unless you're being talked to by an overenthusiastic first sergeant or platoon sergeant, the fact remains that when it comes down to it, every soldier currently serving in the military is a troop.

That goes from the guy standing behind Bush at a photo op to the active duty soldier getting arrested in DC because he believed this war was wrong.

You can't exactly pick and choose; "I Support The Troops Who Believe Wholeheartedly In The Iraq War" doesn't really fit on a bumper sticker or an outraged counter-protest sign, and you'd probably actually be supporting a minority anyway.

**From my experience, a majority of troops I've encountered oppose this war, and the leadership who is sending their brothers to die for political purposes, hamstringing them in order that their poll figures might go up.**

**We see a lot more than most: from Dick Cheney 'staging' reenlistments behind him while speaking so that he could make a point about people eager to go back to Iraq (the soldiers, of course, chosen at random from the audience and not reenlisting in fact at all) to a comment I heard from another NCO when Bush came to speak to us.**

**"Someone should shoot /him/ with an RPG" she said.**

**A hooah, gung-ho soldier and NCO, but one who, like me, felt betrayed by the way this war has been handled.**

**And there are, again, a lot of us.**

**Not everyone speaks up.**

**It's too deeply ingrained into military culture for most to raise their voice against leaders to those outside of the service.**

**That's why I hear it more than you do or ever will-because having enlisted and re-enlisted to serve my country, other soldiers know that I'm committed.**

**They know I'm not going to take their words as being somehow anti-military.**

**I know that they serve with honor; I simply know that that honor is being betrayed.**

**Those soldiers and veterans who do speak up are showing the ultimate bravery.**

**They are taking the hard right over the easy wrong, they are doing the right thing even when they are condemned for it.**

**But what I find truly amazing is looking at those people who tend to be the first to condemn them.**

**Most of them claim to support the troops.**

**Most of them have not served themselves, but claim to enthusiastically support those that do.**

**Yet when they see a soldier speaking out, legally and rightfully, against abuses they see or have seen, or speaking out their own personal political feelings on the war, somehow they become enraged.**

**They call us traitors, and sometimes cowards.**

**I have a buddy with more shrapnel in him than any airport metal detector will accept, yet somehow that man is a coward if he believes this war is wrong.**

**How does this happen?**

**How is this accepted?**

Just like soldiers come in all races, both sexes, all sizes and ages, soldiers also come in all political brands.

Many soldiers want to end this war.

Some soldiers believe we were tricked into this war, but we may as well end it while we're there.

There are even a few who believe in it-but I don't discount their service just because they hold an opinion different than mine.

A lot of these chickenhawks, who have not served but yet want to accuse those who have of not being patriotic enough, like to quote a familiar saying. "Freedom isn't free."

That's right, it's not.

Freedom is guaranteed by soldiers-but not this war, not this time.

And it was not guaranteed by the soldiers who laid down their lives in wars previously so that their successors would be unable to enjoy it.

They wished everyone to rejoice in the freedom that America offered-that America is a strong enough country to listen to all views by all people, and consider them reasonably.

So try, for once, really supporting the troops. Don't bother readjusting your magnetic yellow ribbon one more time, or attending another Gathering of Eagles rally, or watching your TV and calling out to your spouse how those dirty, un-American freaks should just leave if they don't like it here.

Because we love it here. We love America.

We loved America enough to sign our name on the dotted line and defend it. Try supporting us with understanding, or listening. Try supporting us by accepting that you may disagree with someone's opinion, but that doesn't call their service into question.

Try supporting us by understanding that the people who have sacrificed for something have a unique perspective no one will ever know, and that they are giving you a precious gift when they share that perspective with you.

**Or at least have the courage to admit that you don't support the troops, take that yellow sticker off, and say it aloud.**

**We're not the ones who hate America and what it stands for.**

**You are.**

<p><b>DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE SERVICE?</b></p>
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**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**

## **ACTION REPORTS**

### **[New Jersey Army National Guard]**

From: Elaine Brower, The Military Project  
To: GI Special  
Sent: December 15, 2007  
Subject: Outreach To Army National Guard, New Jersey

Reporting back on our armory outreach last night to Army National Guard, New Jersey. [XXXXXX] is an extremely out of the way armory, and a really beautiful structure on a hill. It took me a long time to find it, but it was well worth it.

We all planned on meeting there about 6:15 PM. We had a contingent of 5 brave souls out in the cold night weather, stepping in icy water! It was so dark, of course, New Jersey doesn't believe in street lights.

But we were well equipped with flashlights and battery-operated candles.

There were 3 of us from MFSO, me, AB, and MM, all from the Bergen-Essex chapter of MFSO. We were joined by 2 IVAW [Iraq Veterans against The War] members, one is the daughter of MM, which was so nice to see, both part of the newly formed NJ IVAW chapter.

MM prepared 100 packages of literature, neatly folded Appeal for Redress, MFSO pamphlet, "Why We are here" statement, and information concerning a lawsuit being filed in New Jersey on behalf of veterans.

MM also made brownies and we had 25 copies of "Sir, No, Sir!" The driveway gate was very similar to the [XXXXX] armory. Only one entrance/exit, narrow driveway area, flanked by a curb and sidewalk. The driveway led into the armory up a very steep hill.

At first we thought we would just go into the parking lot, but decided better of it. So we stood outside on the pavement, 2 on one side and 3 on the other. Of course, as soon as the first car turned in, they stopped, wondering what the hell these people were doing out in the dark and cold night. They had to be there, we had the need to be there!

At about 6:20PM, the rush started. Car after car pulling into the driveway, but they couldn't escape us. My friends from the NJ MFSO chapter, who had been very nervous about their first outreach, jumped right up to the car windows, packages in hand, telling

them they were members of Military Families Speak Out, were in total support of the troops, and were handing out some informative literature, a movie and special home baked brownies.

The soldiers were extremely happy to see us. They all stopped and took the handouts immediately, and smiled and with large grins thanked us all for being there "especially in the cold!"

About 10 minutes passed, and we were all just so busy handing out packages since there was a rush to get to drill, that a Staff Sgt. pulled over and got out of his car.

Prior to our outreach we had decided that MM would be the spokesperson if anyone came over to us to inquire as to our presence there. So she walked up to him and told him exactly who we were, that her daughter was there and a member of IVAW, and her friend was also a member of IVAW, and that me and AB were military moms.

He stood and spoke with her about 15 minutes.

I couldn't hear the entire conversation, but I knew he was happy to see us, and I found out he was against the war in Iraq, however, felt that we should keep a small presence there. He said that "Next time we decided to do this, we should wear reflective vests!" He waved at us all and drove back into the armory.

I guess it was about 6:45 PM when 4 police cars showed up. I was surprised it took them that long to get there.

We handed out most of the brownies by then, and all the DVD's, we still had envelopes with lit. Six police officers got out of the vehicles they pulled into the narrow driveway and of course the first words are always "So what are you doing?" Like they didn't know.

MM again approached them and told them who we were and offered them some literature to read. Of course, they declined and told us we were blocking traffic. We got the usual speech about how they were there to protect us from getting hit by a car, or causing a car accident in the road.

We were not on the main road, but we just smiled at them. MM was very diplomatic and asked where we could stand. They told us only on the sidewalk, and we were NOT allowed to step into the driveway and hand out literature.

Of course we ignored them, all six.

Every time a car came into the driveway, now they had to stop because there were 5 of us and 6 of them with 4 police cars lights flashing. Gave us a great advantage.

So we kept handing out literature, and the soldiers took it with a smile and a small laugh.

The entire time the police were kind of scratching their heads, not knowing what to do, except they kept admonishing us.

Telling us to move our cars, telling us to keep out of the driveway. Oh, well, the literature kept on going.

Right about 7:00 PM that Staff Sgt. came back. He got out of his car and talked to the police officer in charge. He asked them why they were there. The officer said we were blocking traffic and could cause an accident.

Then the Staff Sgt. walked over to me and ignored the police.

He said "Hey, you have anymore of those DVD's you were giving out?" I felt so bad since I didn't have one left. I told him to contact us at the email address in the envelope and I would send him as many as he wanted.

He said ok, thanked me and walked back to his car.

At that point the police officer standing next to his car asked him what his name was. The Staff Sgt. told him "Staff Sgt. XXXXX" and he then spelled it for him saying "Txxxxx, got it?"

Got in his car and drove off waving to us.

I have to say once again we had a very successful outreach experience, and the MFSO and IVAW members there were so gratified and energized by the experience.

My friend said to me "This is a lot easier than I thought! And so much fun."

She kept running up to the cars introducing herself, telling them about her son, and they were equally happy to meet her.

It felt so good to be there with them, I smiled all the way home!

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## **MORE ACTION REPORTS WANTED: FROM YOU!**

**An effective way to encourage others to support members of the armed forces organizing to resist the Imperial war is to report what you do.**

**If you've carried out organized contact with troops on active duty, at base gates, airports, or anywhere else, send a report in to GI Special for the Action Reports section.**

**Same for contact with National Guard and/or Reserve components.**

**They don't have to be long. Just clear, and direct action reports about what work was done and how.**

**If there were favorable responses, say so. If there were unfavorable responses or problems, don't leave them out.**

**If you are not planning or engaging in outreach to the troops, you have nothing to report.**

**NOTE WELL:**

**Do not make public any information that could compromise the work.**

**Whether you are serving in the armed forces or not, do not in any way identify members of the armed forces organizing to stop the war.**

**If accidentally included, that information will not be published.**

**The sole exception: occasions when a member of the armed services explicitly directs his or her name be listed as reporting on the action.**

**“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**

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

# **MNC-I Soldier Dies From Non-Combat Injury Near Camp Taji**

December 17, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20071217-05

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – A U.S. Soldier died as a result of a non-combat related injury in the vicinity of Camp Taji, Iraq, today.

The Soldier was taken to a nearby Coalition Forces medical facility for emergency life-support treatment and was subsequently pronounced dead by the attending medical official there.

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**REALLY BAD IDEA:  
NO MISSION;  
POINTLESS WAR:  
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



U.S. soldiers patrol a village in Ramadi, west of Baghdad, December 8, 2007.  
(Stringer/Reuters)

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**TROOP NEWS**

***Amazing News!***  
**“Most Of The British Soldiers Will Be Happy  
If They Never See Basra City”**

12.17.07 Washington Post

Three months after the last of its troops withdrew from violence-plagued Basra city to an airport base three miles west of town, the British military is struggling to help bring security to a city it no longer enters or fully understands. British officials cannot meet with many of the Iraqis they are supposed to train. Commanders are forced to rely on questionable statistics from Iraqi security forces to quantify the level of violence.

And most of the 4,700 British soldiers there, who serve six-month rotations in Iraq, will be happy if they never see Basra city.

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# **New Tests Prove M4 A Worthless Deadly Piece Of Shit In Desert Conditions: “Army Officials Say There Is No Movement Toward Replacing The M4” “Army Officials Continue To Stand By The Current Carbine”**

Dec 17, 2007 By Matthew Cox, Army Times [Excerpts]

The M4 carbine, the weapon soldiers depend on in combat, finished last in a recent “extreme dust test” to demonstrate the M4’s reliability compared to three newer carbines.

Weapons officials at the Army Test and Evaluation Command at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., exposed Colt Defense LLC’s M4, along with the Heckler & Koch XM8, FNH USA’s Special Operations Forces Combat Assault Rifle and the H&K 416 to sandstorm conditions from late September to late November, firing 6,000 rounds through each test weapon.

When the test was completed, ATEC officials found that the M4 performed “significantly worse” than the other three weapons, sources told Army Times.

Officials tested 10 each of the four carbine models, firing a total of 60,000 rounds per model. Here’s how they ranked, according to the total number of times each model stopped firing:

- **XM8: 127 stoppages.**
- **MK16 SCAR Light: 226 stoppages.**
- **416: 233 stoppages.**
- **M4: 882 stoppages.**

**The results of the test were “a wake-up call,” but Army officials continue to stand by the current carbine, said Brig. Gen. Mark Brown, commander of Program Executive Office Soldier, the command that is responsible for equipping soldiers.**

The M4, like its predecessor, the M16, uses a gas tube system, which relies on the gas created when a bullet is fired to cycle the weapon. Some weapons experts maintain the

M4's system of blowing gas directly into the firing mechanism of the weapon spews carbon residue that can lead to fouling and heat that dries up lubrication, causing excessive wear on parts.

The other contenders in the dust test — the XM8, SCAR and 416 — use a piston-style operating system, which relies on a gas-driven piston rod to cycle the weapon during firing. The gas is vented without funneling through the firing mechanism.

**The Army's Delta Force replaced its M4s with the H&K 416 in 2004 after tests revealed that the piston operating system significantly reduces malfunctions while increasing the life of parts. The elite unit collaborated with the German arms maker to develop the new carbine.**

**U.S. Special Operations Command has also revised its small-arms requirements. In November 2004, SOCom awarded a developmental contract to FN Herstal to develop its new SCAR to replace its weapons from the M16 family.**

**Despite the last-place showing, Army officials say there is no movement toward replacing the M4.**

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## **CSM Relieved Amid Allegations Of Misconduct**

Dec 17, 2007 By Gina Cavallaro – Army Times Staff writer [Excerpts]

The command sergeant major at the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy has been temporarily relieved of his responsibilities amid allegations of misconduct.

Command Sgt. Maj. Lonny Wright was temporarily relieved Dec. 5 by Lt. Gen. William Caldwell, commanding general of the Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth, Kan., the academy's higher education headquarters.

The action came following a 15-6 administrative investigation launched by Maj. Gen. Robert Lennox, commanding general of Fort Bliss, Texas, where the academy is located, after unspecified allegations were brought against Wright. Wright has been in the position since June.

Wright may face full relief for cause or other Uniform Code of Military Justice action, but no decision has been made, according to a Fort Bliss statement.

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## **60 Sexual Predator Chaplains Reported;**

# Some Abused Military Children

December 24, 2007 Newsweek

Up to 60 military chaplains have been convicted or at least are strongly suspected of committing sexual abuse over the past four decades, sometimes against the kids of military personnel, according to court filings and an archive recently published by the group Bishop Accountability.

Their cases are a side act to the broader scandal of sex-abusing priests in the Catholic Church, but there may be a correlation.

**In a number of the cases involving Catholic chaplains, complaints of sexual abuse were made to their churches well before they joined the military, but were never brought to the military's attention.**

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## FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

**"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**

**"When someone says my son died fighting for his country, I say, "No, the suicide bomber who killed my son died fighting for his country."  
-- Father of American Soldier Chase Beattie, KIA in Iraq**

**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**

# WHY?

**Northern Lights**  
MICHIGAN CHAPTER 50 NEWSLETTER  
Bruce & Char Sanderson  
616-582-7592  
VETERANS FOR PEACE, INC.  
Bruce Sanderson - PRESIDENT Chapter #050



Thanks to 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. He comments that "this is how it was one before the internet."

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# Fresh Water



From: Mike Hastie  
To: GI Special  
Sent: December 17, 2007  
Subject: Fresh Water

## Fresh Water

Two young icebergs meet and fall in love.  
90 percent of what they don't know about themselves  
is still underwater.  
They hurt each other but don't know why.  
Years later after the two young icebergs have long  
since broken up,  
they realize their hearts were broken long before  
they ever met each other.  
They betrayed themselves to stay safe,  
because intimacy feels so dangerous.  
Happiness starts when you heal your past,  
and your history is no longer concealed.  
You don't start over,  
nor do you regret the past,  
you simply continue the journey.

Mike Hastie

Vietnam Veteran  
December 17, 2007

Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: ([hastiemike@earthlink.net](mailto:hastiemike@earthlink.net)) T)

**NOT ANOTHER DAY  
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR  
NOT ANOTHER LIFE**



Dazed from pain medication, Jeff Reffner waits for a medevac chopper to Balad Air Force Base in central Iraq, from where he was transported to Landstuhl, Germany. Nov. 23, 2007 Peter van Agtmael, ABC News

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**June 16, 1918:**

# The Most Powerful Speech Against Imperial War In American History: [Part 1]

[Too good to cut, and much too long to run in one GI Special. It frightened the government so badly they threw Debs in prison, where he ran for President, and received 2 million votes in 1920, still in prison.

[In the first part of his speech, below, he attacks German Imperial militarism, and then moves on [in Part 2] to condemn the war for Empire being waged against Germany by the Imperial government in Washington DC. The Wilson government found that part of the speech [in an upcoming GI Special] intolerable and ordered his arrest. T

Via Carl Bunin Peace History December 10-16

Delivered: June 16, 1918

First Published: 1918

Source: The Call

Online Version: E.V. Debs Internet Archive, 2001

Transcribed/HTML Markup: John Metz for the Illinois Socialist Party Debs Archive & David Walters for the Marxists Internet Archive Debs Archive

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June 16, 1918

Comrades, friends and fellow-workers, for this very cordial greeting, this very hearty reception, I thank you all with the fullest appreciation of your interest in and your devotion to the cause for which I am to speak to you this afternoon.

**To speak for labor; to plead the cause of the men and women and children who toil; to serve the working class, has always been to me a high privilege; a duty of love.**

**I have just returned from a visit over yonder [to the prison], where three of our most loyal comrades are paying the penalty for their devotion to the cause of the working class.**

**They have come to realize, as many of us have, that it is extremely dangerous to exercise the constitutional right of free speech in a country fighting to make democracy safe in the world.**

I realize that, in speaking to you this afternoon, there are certain limitations placed upon the right of free speech. I must be exceedingly careful, prudent, as to what I say, and



even more careful and prudent as to how I say it. I may not be able to say all I think; but I am not going to say anything that I do not think.

**I would rather a thousand times be a free soul in jail than to be a sycophant and coward in the streets.**

**They may put those boys in jail — and some of the rest of us in jail — but they can not put the Socialist movement in jail.**

**Those prison bars separate their bodies from ours, but their souls are here this afternoon.**

**They are simply paying the penalty that all men have paid in all the ages of history for standing erect, and for seeking to pave the way to better conditions for mankind.**

If it had not been for the men and women who, in the past, have had the moral courage to go to jail, we would still be in the jungles.

This assemblage is exceedingly good to look upon. I wish it were possible for me to give you what you are giving me this afternoon.

What I say here amounts to but little; what I see here is exceedingly important.

**You workers in Ohio, enlisted in the greatest cause ever organized in the interest of your class, are making history today in the face of threatening opposition of all kinds — history that is going to be read with profound interest by coming generations.**

**There is but one thing you have to be concerned about, and that is that you keep foursquare with the principles of the international Socialist movement. It is only when you begin to compromise that trouble begins.**

So far as I am concerned, it does not matter what others may say, or think, or do, as long as I am sure that I am right with myself and the cause. There are so many who seek refuge in the popular side of a great question. As a Socialist, I have long since learned how to stand alone. For the last month I have been traveling over the Hoosier State; and, let me say to you, that, in all my connection with the Socialist movement, I have never seen such meetings, such enthusiasm, such unity of purpose; never have I seen such a promising outlook as there is today, notwithstanding the statement published repeatedly that our leaders have deserted us.

Well, for myself, I never had much faith in leaders. I am willing to be charged with almost anything, rather than to be charged with being a leader.

**I am suspicious of leaders, and especially of the intellectual variety. Give me the rank and file every day in the week.**

If you go to the city of Washington, and you examine the pages of the Congressional Directory, you will find that almost all of those corporation lawyers and cowardly politicians, members of Congress, and misrepresentatives of the masses — you will find

that almost all of them claim, in glowing terms, that they have risen from the ranks to places of eminence and distinction.

I am very glad I cannot make that claim for myself.

**I would be ashamed to admit that I had risen from the ranks.**

**When I rise it will be with the ranks, and not from the ranks.**

When I came away from Indiana, the comrades said: "When you cross the line and get over into the Buckeye State, tell the comrades there that we are on duty and doing duty. Give them for us, a hearty greeting, and tell them that we are going to make a record this fall that will be read around the world."

The Socialists of Ohio, it appears, are very much alive this year. The party has been killed recently, which, no doubt, accounts for its extraordinary activity. There is nothing that helps the Socialist Party so much as receiving an occasional deathblow. The oftener it is killed the more active, the more energetic, the more powerful it becomes.

**They who have been reading the capitalist newspapers realize what a capacity they have for lying.**

We have been reading them lately. They know all about the Socialist Party — the Socialist movement, except what is true. Only the other day they took an article that I had written — and most of you have read it — most of you members of the party, at least — and they made it appear that I had undergone a marvelous transformation. I had suddenly become changed—had in fact come to my senses; I had ceased to be a wicked Socialist, and had become a respectable Socialist, a patriotic Socialist — as if I had ever been anything else.

What was the purpose of this deliberate misrepresentation?

It is so self-evident that it suggests itself.

The purpose was to sow the seeds of dissension in our ranks; to have it appear that we were divided among ourselves; that we were pitted against each other, to our mutual undoing.

**But Socialists were not born yesterday. They know how to read capitalist newspapers; and to believe exactly the opposite of what they read.**

Why should a Socialist be discouraged on the eve of the greatest triumph in all the history of the Socialist movement?

It is true that these are anxious, trying days for us all — testing days for the women and men who are upholding the banner of labor in the struggle of the working class of all the world against the exploiters of all the world; a time in which the weak and cowardly will falter and fail and desert. They lack the fiber to endure the revolutionary test; they fall away; they disappear as if they had never been.

On the other hand, they who are animated by the unconquerable spirit of the social revolution; they who have the moral courage to stand erect and assert their convictions; stand by them; fight for them; go to jail or to hell for them, if need be — they are writing their names, in this crucial hour — they are writing their names in faceless letters in the history of mankind.

Those boys over yonder — those comrades of ours — and how I love them! Aye, they are my younger brothers; their very names throb in my heart, thrill in my veins, and surge in my soul. I am proud of them; they are there for us; and we are here for them.

Their lips, though temporarily mute, are more eloquent than ever before; and their voice, though silent, is heard around the world.

Are we opposed to Prussian militarism?

Why, we have been fighting it since the day the Socialist movement was born; and we are going to continue to fight it, day and night, until it is wiped from the face of the earth. Between us there is no truce — no compromise.

But, before I proceed along this line, let me recall a little history, in which I think we are all interested.

In 1869 that grand old warrior of the social revolution, the elder Liebknecht, was arrested and sentenced to prison for three months, because of his war, as a Socialist, on the Kaiser and on the Junkers that rule Germany.

In the meantime the Franco-Prussian war broke out.

Liebknecht and Bebel were the Socialist members in the Reichstag. They were the only two who had the courage to protest against taking Alsace-Lorraine from France and annexing it to Germany.

And for this they were sentenced two years to a prison fortress charged with high treason; because, even in that early day, almost fifty years ago, these leaders, these forerunners of the international Socialist movement were fighting the Kaiser and fighting the Junkers of Germany.

They have continued to fight them from that day to this. Multiplied thousands of Socialists have languished in the jails of Germany because of their heroic warfare upon the despotic ruling class of that country.

Let us come down the line a little farther.

You remember that, at the close of Theodore Roosevelt's second term as President, he went over to Africa to make war on some of his ancestors. You remember that, at the close of his expedition, he visited the capitals of Europe; and that he was wined and dined, dignified and glorified by all the Kaisers and Czars and Emperors of the Old World.

He visited Potsdam while the Kaiser was there; and, according to the accounts published in the American newspapers, he and the Kaiser were soon on the most

familiar terms. They were hilariously intimate with each other, and slapped each other on the back.

After Roosevelt had reviewed the Kaiser's troops, according to the same accounts, he became enthusiastic over the Kaiser's legions and said: "If I had that kind of an army, I could conquer the world."

He knew the Kaiser then just as well as he knows him now. He knew that he was the Kaiser, the Beast of Berlin. And yet, he permitted himself to be entertained by that Beast of Berlin; had his feet under the mahogany of the Beast of Berlin; was cheek by jowl with the Beast of Berlin.

And, while Roosevelt was being entertained royally by the German Kaiser, that same Kaiser was putting the leaders of the Socialist Party in jail for fighting the Kaiser and the Junkers of Germany.

**Roosevelt was the guest of honor in the white house of the Kaiser, while the Socialists were in the jails of the Kaiser for fighting the Kaiser.**

**Who then was fighting for democracy? Roosevelt? Roosevelt, who was honored by the Kaiser, or the Socialists who were in jail by order of the Kaiser?**

**"Birds of a feather flock together."**

When the newspapers reported that Kaiser Wilhelm and ex-President Theodore recognized each other at sight, were perfectly intimate with each other at the first touch, they made the admission that is fatal to the claim of Theodore Roosevelt, that he is the friend of the common people and the champion of democracy; they admitted that they were kith and kin; that they were very much alike; that their ideas and ideals were about the same.

If Theodore Roosevelt is the great champion of democracy — the arch foe of autocracy, what business had he as the guest of honor of the Prussian Kaiser? And when he met the Kaiser, and did honor to the Kaiser, under the terms imputed to him, wasn't it pretty strong proof that he himself was a Kaiser at heart?

**Now, after being the guest of Emperor Wilhelm, the Beast of Berlin, he comes back to this country, and wants you to send ten million men over there to kill the Kaiser; to murder his former friend and pal.**

**Rather queer, isn't it?**

**And yet, he is the patriot, and we are the traitors.**

I challenge you to find a Socialist anywhere on the face of the earth who was ever the guest of the Beast of Berlin, except as an inmate of his prison — the elder Liebknecht and the younger Liebknecht, the heroic son of his immortal sire.

A little more history along the same line.

In 1902 Prince Henry paid a visit to this country. Do you remember him? I do, exceedingly well. Prince Henry is the brother of Emperor Wilhelm.

Prince Henry is another Beast of Berlin, an autocrat, an aristocrat, a Junker of Junkers — very much despised by our American patriots.

He came over here in 1902 as the representative of Kaiser Wilhelm; he was received by Congress and by several state legislatures — among others, by the state legislature of Massachusetts, then in session.

He was invited there by the capitalist captains of that so-called commonwealth.

And when Prince Henry arrived, there was one member of that body who kept his self-respect, put on his hat, and as Henry, the Prince, walked in, that member of the body walked out.

And that was James F. Carey, the Socialist member of that body. All the rest — all the rest of the representatives in the Massachusetts legislature — all, all of them — joined in doing honor, in the most servile spirit, to the high representative of the autocracy of Europe.

**And the only man who left that body, was a Socialist.**

**And yet , and yet they have the hardihood to claim that they are fighting autocracy and that we are in the service of the German government.**

A little more history along the same line. I have a distinct recollection of it. It occurred fifteen years ago when Prince Henry came here.

All of our plutocracy, all of the wealthy representatives living along Fifth Avenue — all, all of them — threw their palace doors wide open and received Prince Henry with open arms. But they were not satisfied with this; they got down and groveled in the dust at his feet.

Our plutocracy — women and men alike — vied with each other to lick the boots of Prince Henry, the brother and representative of the “Beast of Berlin.”

**And still our plutocracy, our Junkers, would have us believe that all the Junkers are confined to Germany.**

**It is precisely because we refuse to believe this that they brand us as disloyalists.**

**They want our eyes focused on the Junkers in Berlin so that we will not see those within our own borders.**

**I hate, I loathe, I despise Junkers and junkerdom. I have no earthly use for the Junkers of Germany, and not one particle more use for the Junkers in the United States.**

<b>Troops Invited:</b>
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**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.**

## **Pentagon Mistakenly Orders Bombing of Baghdad, Kentucky**

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

14 December 2007 The Spooof.com

SHELBY COUNTY, KY -- Residents of tiny Baghdad got a rude awakening at five thirty this morning when U.S. planes dive-bombed and completely destroyed the town.

"We were asleep and suddenly the air raid sirens went off," said one dazed resident. "We thought it was the terrorists comin' to blow us up. Then we found out it was our own planes that bombed us. I guess they took a wrong turn or somethin'. But they're winnin' the War on Terror, right? So I guess it ain't all that bad."

The U.S. Army issued a heartfelt apology to the now mostly dead residents of Baghdad, stating that certain vital pieces of military intelligence got "mixed up" and were sent to a West Virginia-based Air National Guard unit instead of military command in Iraq.

The U.S. Government awarded the few survivors of the bombings season tickets to University of Louisville basketball games and framed autographed photos of President Bush.

### **NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER**

**Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces. Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers.**

**<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! ([www.ivaw.org/](http://www.ivaw.org/))**

## OCCUPATION REPORT

# 60% Of Iraqis Want U.S. Troops Dead: Big Surprise



An elderly Iraqi citizen is forced to sit in the dirt in front of her own home as foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. search her personal belongings in the village of Walush in Diyala province, north of Baghdad, Dec. 9, 2007. (AP Photo/Marko Drobnjakovic)

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

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

**OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

# **“Gazan Citizens Have Been Given A Death Sentence With Israel’s Control Over Borders”**

10 December 2007 By Mohammed Omer, New Statesman [Excerpt]

[S]ince last month at least 31 medical patients have died in Gaza, a result of Israel’s lockdown on borders and preventing of medical access to Israeli, Egyptian and Jordanian hospitals, as well as West Bank hospitals.

Since Hamas took over power in June, this subsequent Israeli lockdown has made it virtually impossible for Palestinians to get out of Gaza. The situation then deteriorated with the closing of Karni crossing, Gaza’s only commercial crossing, only opened for the most basic food essentials. Coupled with Israel’s ground and air attacks, the situation for Palestinians worsened yet further still when Israel last October announced Gaza as a "hostile entity", further allowing Israel to justify its closed-borders policy to the international arena.

**In the densely-populated region starved of medical supplies, and now facing the shutdown of clinics, Gazan citizens have been given a death sentence with Israel’s control over borders.**

**Yahya Al Jamal 53, one case among hundreds of people, has cancer and is in serious need of medical care at well-equipped hospitals. For more than two months now he has been refused entry to Israel for treatment.**

**His agonized father reported that his son will die in the coming days if he does not get the medication he needs, an outcome of Israel’s mass denial of the luxury of critical healthcare.**

**Insult upon injuries, cement – already scarce for building – is no longer available even for graves of the many recently dead.**

**MORE:**

***Zionist Terror Up Close And Personal:***

**"What Do You Call Sending Dozens Of Gaza Patients To A Slow Death**



# Because They Are Refused Treatment?" Naim Said

Since June, Naim said, more than three dozen Palestinians seeking treatment for cancer and other critical illnesses at Israel's more advanced hospitals were rejected for passage by Israeli security agencies.

December 15, 2007 By Scott Wilson, Washington Post Foreign Service [Excerpts]

**GAZA CITY -- The batteries are the size of a button on a man's shirt, small silvery dots that power hearing aids for several hundred Palestinian students taught by the Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children in Gaza City.**

**Now the batteries, marketed by Radio Shack, are all but used up. The few that are left are losing power, turning voices into unintelligible echoes in the ears of Hala Abu Saif's 20 first-grade students.**

**The Israeli government is increasingly restricting the import into the Gaza Strip of batteries, anesthesia drugs, antibiotics, tobacco, coffee, gasoline, diesel fuel and other basic items, including chocolate and compressed air to make soft drinks.**

**"I hold every man, woman and child in Israel responsible for this," said Geraldine Shawa, 64, the Chicago-born director of the Atfaluna Society.**

A tall, imposing woman who has lived in Gaza for 36 years, Shawa has watched the fortunes of her pupils squeezed in recent months by what she calls Israel's practice of collective punishment.

**"I hold each of them responsible, just as they obviously seem to hold all of us responsible," Shawa said of the Israelis. "If the Israeli government really has the power and the desire to change, well, this is pushing me in exactly the opposite way -- over the edge."**

Moamen Ayash, a frail, 6-year-old Palestinian boy in navy blue slacks and a pressed dress shirt, walked to the whiteboard at the front of his tidy classroom to work through some simple sign phrases.

Moamen has not had a working hearing aid for three months.

The inability to hear even the faintest sounds, which hearing aids sometimes make possible for the deaf, hinders children such as Moamen from acquiring spoken language.

Because few of the estimated 20,000 Gazans suffering from hearing loss know even rudimentary sign language, the deaf here represent an isolated collective, dependent for funding largely on the kindness of strangers and the proceeds of their own crafts shop.

Work is rare. Food is scarce. Gasoline is so hard to come by that Mahmoud al-Khozendar, 49, has hung an effigy of a man in a suit above the empty gas pumps at his station. The sign pinned to the hanging man's chest reads: "The Man in Charge."

**In the rank, crowded wards of Gaza City's Shifa Hospital, the dispensary is out of 85 essential medicines and close to using up almost 150 others.**

**Dialysis treatment has been cut back from three to two times a week for even the most critically ill kidney patients, roughly 900 in all.**

**A stack of nearly two dozen blood-cleaning machines gathers dust in a corner, awaiting spare parts that Palestinian doctors say have not been allowed through the border crossings between Gaza and Israel.**

The minister of health, Bassem Naim, said in an interview last week that he is husbanding a two-week stock of anesthetic at a time when Israel is threatening to mount a broad military offensive into Gaza to end the rocket fire.

"They have turned Gaza into an animal farm -- we only are allowed to get what keeps us alive," he said.

**Since June, Naim said, more than three dozen Palestinians seeking treatment for cancer and other critical illnesses at Israel's more advanced hospitals were rejected for passage by Israeli security agencies.**

**According to Naim, at least 29 patients have died since June, including 12-year-old Tamer al-Yazji, who Palestinian health officials said was denied entry into Israel after developing acute complications from encephalitis.**

**Of the patients who approached Physicians for Human Rights for help, seven died before being granted passage to Israel, according to the organization.**

**"What do you call sending dozens of Gaza patients to a slow death because they are refused treatment?" Naim said. "That's not a humanitarian crisis. That's a war crime."**

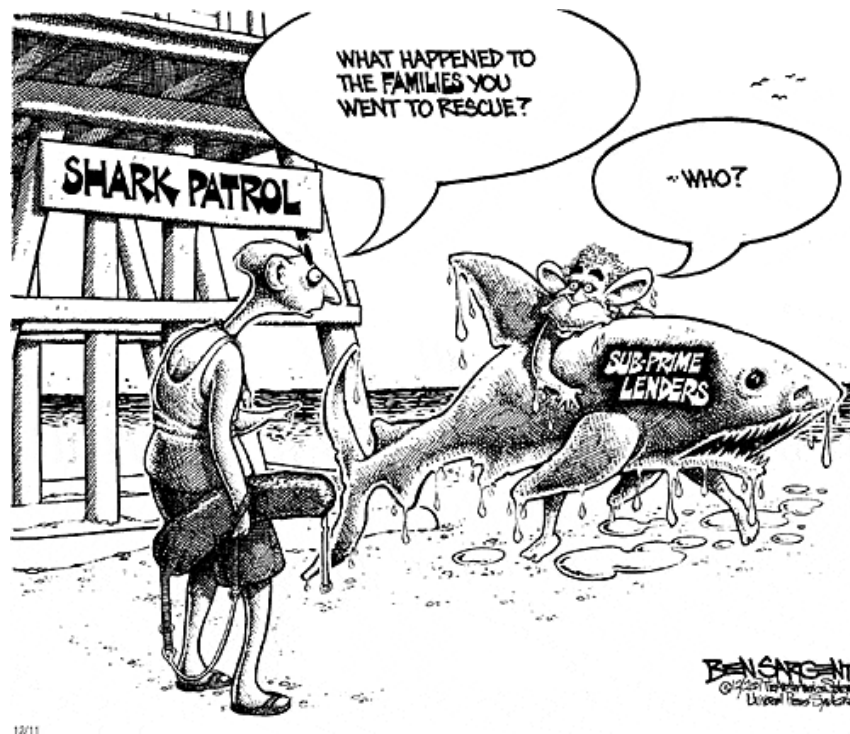
Now rolling blackouts have begun across the strip, partly because the Palestinian Authority refused for days last week to pay the Israeli company that supplies fuel to Gaza.

The strip was receiving only about 24,000 gallons of diesel fuel a day, the lifeblood of the private-sector economy. Before June, the strip received nearly 80,000 gallons of diesel a day.

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

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## CLASS WAR REPORTS



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## ***General Strike Closes Down Greece***

### **“Pro-Business” Government Trying To Cut Workers’ Retirement Benefits: “This Is A Strong Message Of Rage”**

Dec. 12 By Maria Petrakis, (Bloomberg)

Greeks heeded a call by the country’s two biggest unions to strike in protest over plans to change the country’s pension system.

**The Greek General Confederation of Labor, or GSEE, the umbrella union for about 2 million private-sector workers, said participation in the nationwide, general strike ranged from 90 percent to 100 percent.**

"This is a strong message of rage," Yiannis Panagopoulos, GSEE president, said. Stathis Anestis, a spokesman for the union, estimated the number of people at the march in Athens, the capital, at 200,000.

Today's strike shut down most public transport, courts and schools. There were no commercial flights in or out of the country as air traffic controllers walked off the job. At Athens International Airport, the country's biggest, 460 flights were canceled and another 40 were rescheduled, said a spokeswoman who declined to be identified.

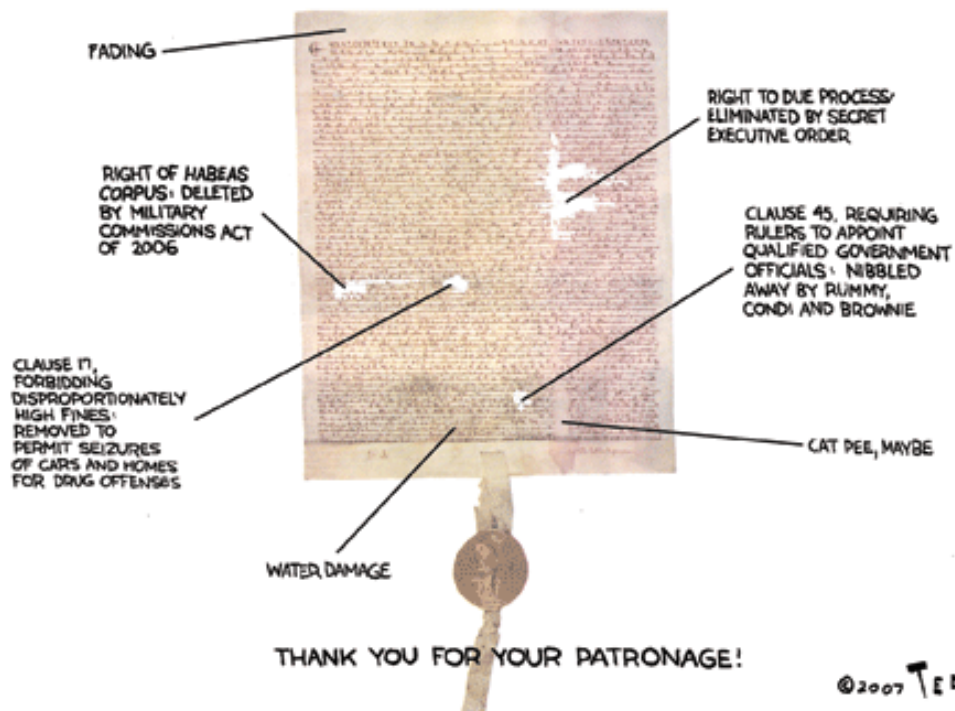
Prime Minister Kostas Karamanlis, whose pro-business New Democracy party was re-elected in September with a slimmer majority, has promised changes to pension rules in the first half of next year. The government plans to reduce the number of pension funds -- there are currently 155 separate funds -- as well as tighten rules for early retirement, and provide incentives for employees to continue working longer.

**The main private-sector union argues that the government should continue to bankroll the social security system and clamp down on employers who fail to pay contributions.**

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