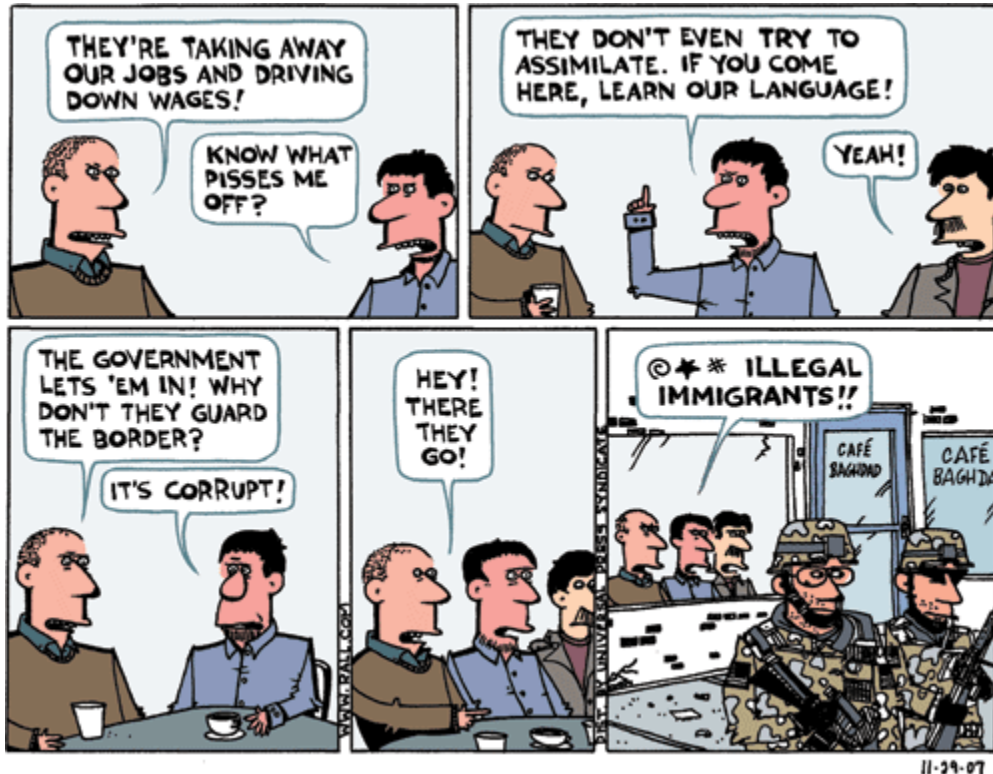


GI SPECIAL 5L4

5:



Soldier Speaks Against The War: He Does Not Want To See Troops “Die For Nothing”

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

12/3/07 By Teresa Mioli, The Daily Texan and Texas Student Publications.

Iraq war veteran Casey Porter told a group of anti-war activists Saturday that he is against the war because he does not want to see soldiers die for nothing.

Specialist Porter, a tank mechanic in the U.S. Army, served in Al-Iskan, Iraq from December 2004 to November 2006. The student group Campus Anti-War Movement to End the Occupation brought Porter to campus to share his story with an audience of about 40 people.

Porter said he joined the Army four years ago, when he was 24, to pay for school. He said he was against the war, but put it in the back of his mind.

He said the Army is sending unqualified soldiers into the war and that many are given inadequate training. He cited the National Training Center in California, where troops train before deployment. He said the center is a waste of government money and time.

Porter presented a video he took at the center.

One soldier on the video said he'd rather be in Iraq than at the center.

Porter said he sustained a knee injury in Iraq and experienced mental issues after returning home, but his health issues were not taken seriously.

He said one member of his company shot himself upon returning to the U.S.

"Walter Reed is not isolated," Porter said, referencing the questionable living conditions at the Army medical center in the U.S. Capitol, which led to a national scandal early this year. "The Army's suffering. Our soldiers are suffering. Their families are suffering. "Divorce, spousal abuse, alcohol, drug abuse - all of these things have spiked," he added.

Porter is currently on stop-loss.

Soldiers in stop-loss are kept in service past their original term end.

Porter said he was supposed to be out of the Army in January. He said realistically he will spend two years in the military past the January leave date.

He said 15 months of the two years will likely be spent in Iraq and that his redeployment date has been pushed back several times.

Porter said he would like to be a non-commissioned officer so he can teach soldiers.

"I do believe that the military should hold itself to a higher standard and that higher standard should be displayed through taking care of its soldiers," Porter said. "If an American is willing to join during a time of war for their family, they may not do it for their country. They may not because they believe in the fight, but they're willing to take that kind of risk for their family; that kind of risk needs to be rewarded."

For speaking out, Porter said he could face jail time, a dishonorable discharge and court martial.

His videos, "What War Looks Like: Redux," "The Story of Two Dogs" and "TENTS" are available online at <http://www.youtube.com/user/CaseyJPorter>.

Neuroscience graduate student and CAMEO member Yazan Alhasan said students are essential to anti-war efforts, citing the Vietnam War resistance movement.

"A lot of what's going on is covered with political ideologies," Alhasan said. "Universities are a main source of where the ideologies come from and where they go. As the Tower says, 'What happens here changes the world,' and it's true."

Event attendee and organization member Carl Webb served in the Army and now also protests the Iraq war. Webb said he served seven years of active duty in Korea and Germany. In 2004, Webb said he went absent without official leave, or AWOL, after being ordered to go to Fort Hood and then Iraq. He said he later received an other-than-honorable discharge from the Army.

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

ACTION REPORTS

ANTI-WAR LEAFLET BEING DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE ENOGGERA BARRACKS, AUSTRALIA

**“Make Contact With Those Who Have
Been There.....”**

**“Iraq Veterans Against The War -
www.ivaw.org”**

[Thanks to Max Watts, Australia, who sent this in.] [Excerpts]

From: Ciaron O'Reilly
Sent: October 12, 2007

Subject: Anti-War Leaflet Being Distributed outside Enoggera

The leaflet we are distributing to soldiers and civilians on Fridays outside Enoggera Army barracks.

We have been vigilling at Enoggera on a weekly basis since Easter 07. We are mostly, but not exclusively, radical Catholics.

Peace and Solidarity
Ciaron O'Reilly

We have been maintaining a weekly anti-war vigil outside Enoggera Barracks since Easter '07. We are nurses, teachers, mothers, fathers, nuns, shelter workers, librarians, farmers, IT specialists called to vigil - to stay awake - to what is happening at Enoggera.

We are concerned about the young men and women at Enoggera Barracks being deployed, by the Australian government, to U.S. wars on Iraq and Afghanistan. We are also concerned by the lack of concern in our community for these troops.

We are concerned about the death and destruction wreaked by decades of U.S. policy and military intervention on the people of Iraq and Afghanistan - from U.S. support for Saddam Hussein & Bin Laden in the 1980's to the genocidal sanctions on Iraq of the 1990's to the U.S. invasions and indiscriminate bombings of recent times.

The young people at Enoggera joined the Australian Defence Forces to defend Australia. The U.S. invasions have nothing to do with defending Australia and everything to do with helping the U.S. government and corporations occupy and exploit the resources of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Australia's most significant military contribution to this effort comes from the secretive CIA Pine Gap base, near Alice Springs, used for targeting purposes for U.S. bombing raids from the air and sea.

The risking of Australian ground troops is of an important symbolic value for the U.S. government to market the illegitimate war to its own people at home.

Remember no WMDs were ever found in Iraq and Osama bin Laden and his mountain bunkers were never found in Afghanistan.

Make contact with those who have been there.....

Iraq Veterans Against the War - www.ivaw.org

Courage To Resist - www.couragetoresist.org

Resisters In Canada - www.resisters.ca

The U.S. and Australian governments have lied to the troops at Enoggera and they have lied to us. Many of these lies that marketed the invasions are now exposed. These lies facilitate violence that has killed 1 million people in Iraq (Lancett Report) and created over 4 million refugees.

3,500 U.S. military personnel have been killed thus far - not to count the wounded and disabled and the suicides, homicides and mental illness associated with Post Traumatic Syndrome. The war on Iraq has been described as "immoral" by the Pope, "illegal" by the head of the United Nations and "unwinnable" by a growing number of military Generals and experts.

We answer the call of U.S. Iraq Veterans Against the War www.ivaw.org to non-violently speak out and act up to end this war.

We come to Enoggera to ask Australian troops to join a growing number of U.S. military personnel and REFUSE TO DEPLOY to these illegal wars.

We ask you to be proactive in standing with those who courageously who refuse to deploy.

Quotes from Soldiers:

"I'd rather spend a year in jail than participate in an illegal war and be part of the machine suppressing Iraq" -Sgt. Ricky Closing, US Army.

"I consider it my human right to refuse to kill innocent people." - Specialist Darrell Anderson, fought in U.S. Army in Iraq for 10 months, wounded in combat; refused redeployment to Iraq.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

U.S. Soldier Killed, Two Wounded In Anbar

12.4.04 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20071204-03

AL ASAD, Iraq – A U.S. Soldier was killed as a result of injuries sustained from a vehicle explosion during a vehicle recovery operation in Al Anbar province Dec. 3. Additionally, two other U.S. servicemembers were wounded in the explosion and transported to a Coalition Forces medical facility for further evaluation and treatment.

Houston Soldier Hoped To Be Pilot, Support New Wife

Nov. 30, 2007 By ROSANNA RUIZ, Houston Chronicle

Benjamin J. Garrison had wanted to join the military before he graduated from Elsik High School in 2001.

But his parents, Ed and Martha Garrison, encouraged him to concentrate on getting an education first. The military could wait, they said.

So, he followed their advice and studied at Houston Community College. Last year, he gave in to his desire to serve his country and joined the Army.

Before long he'd decided to make the military a career and provide for his high school sweetheart, Carla, whom he married in May, his family said.

When he deployed to Iraq five months later, he told his bride and his family not to worry. He would be safe.

On Tuesday, Spc. Benjamin Garrison, 25, and his buddy, Pvt. Isaac T. Cortes, 26, of the Bronx, N.Y., died in Amerli, Iraq, of wounds suffered when their vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device.

They were assigned to the 1st Squadron, 71st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), Fort Drum, N.Y.

After she and her husband returned from a funeral home, Martha Garrison was overcome late Thursday by the reality of having to bury the youngest of their two sons.

"Your kids are not supposed to go before you," Martha Garrison said through tears as she stood outside her home.

Before he went to Iraq, Benjamin Garrison had a plan for his life.

He wanted to move up the ranks and one day become a helicopter pilot.

"He said 'I want to serve my country, use the military's college plan and provide for my family,' " his mother said.

Funeral arrangements are pending.

Amazing News From Iraq!

“It’s more a cease-fire than a peace,” said Deputy Prime Minister Barham Salih, a Kurd, in words that were repeated by Qassim Daoud, a Shiite. ALISSA J. RUBIN, New York Times, 12.5.07

Odious O At It Again: Says No Let Up In 15 Month Combat Tours

12.5.07 By ROBERT BURNS, AP Military Writer [Excerpt]

WASHINGTON - The No. 2 U.S. commander in Iraq said Tuesday that 15-month combat tours are too long for U.S. soldiers but probably cannot be shortened until next fall as troop levels decline.

"The units now that are leaving have all done 15-month tours and I'm very pleased with how they handled it," Army Lt. Gen. Ray Odierno said in an Associated Press interview by telephone from his headquarters in Baghdad.

ENOUGH OF THIS SHIT; COME HOME NOW



U.S. soldier, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment searches, a house during a patrol in the neighbourhood of Muhalla 834 in Baghdad November 13, 2007. REUTERS/Stefano

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

UK Soldier Killed In Sangin

2007/12/04 BBC NEWS & AP

A British soldier has been killed in an explosion in southern Afghanistan, the Ministry of Defence said.

The soldier was serving with the Brigade Reconnaissance Force, 5 Regiment, Royal Artillery, it added.

The soldier, a member of a reconnaissance brigade in the 5 Regiment Royal Artillery, was conducting a tactical patrol north of Sangin, in Afghanistan's violence-wracked Helmand Province, when his vehicle was caught in an explosion just after 1 p.m. local time, Britain's Ministry of Defense said in a statement.

Next of kin have been notified. Two other British soldiers were injured in the blast.

In Southwestern Afghanistan, Support For Occupation Forces “Has Plummeted To 45 %”

December 3, 2007 The Associated Press

In southwestern Afghanistan, support for NATO-led forces has plummeted to 45 percent this year, from 83 percent a year ago, a survey found.

The survey, conducted for ABC News, the BBC and the German public TV station ARD said "Civilian casualties blamed on these forces is a prime complaint."

TROOP NEWS

Arab-American Paratrooper Faces Deportation After Afghan Service

[Thanks to Michael Letwin, NY City Labor Against The War & Mark Shapiro, who sent this in.]

December 3, 2007 Ed Pilkington in New York, The Guardian

A highly decorated Arab-American sergeant in the US army, who is currently serving as a paratrooper in Afghanistan, faces deportation on his return to the United States because of an irregularity in his immigration papers.

Sgt Hicham Benkabbou has been served with an order to stand trial for deportation as soon as he arrives home, despite the fact that he has been on active service in Afghanistan for almost two years with the 508th parachute infantry regiment, known as the Red Devils.

His lawyers say his treatment illustrates the harsh justice meted out to Arab-Americans by the US immigration authorities.

Benkabbou came to the US from his native Morocco in 1987, and was granted permanent residency four years ago. But when he applied to become a naturalised US citizen in 2005 - by which time he was already serving in the army - immigration officials discovered that he had failed to register his first marriage and alleged that the ceremony had been arranged fraudulently to get him into the country.

Benkabbou says that the marriage was annulled and argues it is therefore irrelevant to his immigration status.

The aggressive prosecution of the case has surprised immigration lawyers who point to a directive that advises officials against pressing to deport acting military personnel unless they have been involved in drug trafficking, crimes against children or violence, or unless they pose a danger to the public.

Benkabbou's irregularity over his marriage falls into no such categories.

His lawyer in Atlanta, Georgia, Paul Ford, said the only explanation he could find was that his client was a Muslim, "which sets off all the buzzers. There is no question that Arab-Americans are given a totally different treatment."

Ford said that Benkabbou had been accused of being a terrorist by officials from the immigration enforcement agency, ICE.

"In court, ICE lawyers called Morocco a terrorist country, which I found astonishing."

**“I Wonder, If My Son Had Survived,
Would I Be Dealing With Some Of The**

Horror Stories Concerning Recovering Vets?”

“I Just Received An E-Mail Stating That The National Guard Armory In Teaneck Is Desperately Requesting Newborn Diapers For Guard Families”

[Thanks to Elaine Brower, The Military Project, who sent this in]

November 30, 2007 North Jersey Media Group Inc.

While the draft-dodging George Bush claims that he supports the troops, I just received an e-mail stating that the National Guard Armory in Teaneck is desperately requesting newborn diapers for Guard families.

Diapers and juice boxes.

Does anyone else think that this is despicable?

Why not just put the families of those serving out on a street corner to beg for food and money?

That way we would not have to bother those rich people about possibly giving up some of their Bush tax cuts.

No, we must not do that because we might slow down the economy. The Guard and our troops all make enough money, and they all volunteered anyway.

Nineteen months after the death of my son, I am still dealing with grief and the fact that none of this makes sense to me.

Sometimes I wonder, if my son had survived, would I be dealing with some of the horror stories concerning recovering vets?

For any family to have a member injured and then have to go through further hell is completely unacceptable.

I know of one family whose son suffered ear damage from an explosion in Afghanistan, has been fitted with a hearing aid and is being sent back to Afghanistan.

For any Guard family to have to get basic needs from the pantry at the armory while their loved ones are serving our country and risking their lives daily is a national disgrace.

Our troops have gone beyond any reasonable expectation of service and should be brought home -- brought home to love and provide for their families.

John Fenton

Little Ferry, Nov. 28

The writer is associated with Military Families Speak Out.



Special Musical Event For Ft. Drum Soldiers At The Different Drummer Cafe, Watertown, New York Dec. 7th

From: Citizen Soldier
December 04, 2007

Special Musical Event!

Watertown area's "Your Guts, Our Glory" a rock band with a unique point of view and Rob Hirschev, acoustic performer, will appear

**Friday, December 7th, starting at 7:00 pm
At the Different Drummer Internet Cafe, 12 Paddock Arcade, Watertown NY**

Don't Miss Out on what will be a Historic Music Event!

Yeah, This Iraq Book Sounds Real: “Served Under A Commander Being Investigated For Misconduct” “Sent On Jobs For Which She Had No Training Or Experience”

[Thanks to William Bowles who sent this in. Check out his work at:
<http://williambowles.info/>]

) December 1, 2001 PRWEB [Excerpts]

Gripping New Journal Follows a Young Female Soldier in Iraq

In the Company of Soldiers by Melia Meichelbock is the stunning account of a woman's real-life service in Iraq.

Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. (PRWEB) December 1, 2001 -- In the Company of Soldiers, a new book by Melia Meichelbock, chronicles the author's struggles as a soldier and a woman while serving in the U.S. Army in northern and central Iraq.

The war in Iraq is always in the news. But while the media has presented many stories of male soldiers, the war from the perspective of a female is not often heard. All that is about to change. Melia Meichelbock's In the Company of Soldiers is a brutal, honest and from-the-hip account of her time serving her country in Iraq.

Deployed directly to Baghdad, Meichelbock soon found herself in a battalion where she knew no one and served under a commander being investigated for misconduct. Sent on jobs for which she had no training or experience, the author soon found a comfort zone through her work, village visits and the few friends she managed to make.

The Troops Are Not The Problem; It's The Scumbags In Command

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

December 4, 2007 By Nathaniel Frank, Los Angeles Times

A Zogby poll from December 2006 found that 72% of returning Iraq and Afghanistan war vets are "personally comfortable" with gays, and an Annenberg poll from 2004

concluded that, for the first time, a majority of junior enlisted personnel favor letting gays serve openly.

This Is Not A Satire:
“For Troops Overseas, Online Discount Mart Is Offering A Seed Kit That Will Grow Into A Christmas Tree”

[Thanks to William Bowles who sent this in. He writes: would you believe it, garden crap!] [Check out his work at: <http://williambowles.info/>]

4 December 2007 (PRWEB) [Excerpts]

Online Discount Mart (www.onlinediscountmart.com), a leading retailer for Home & Garden products, is offering Christmas gifts to our troops and their families this holiday season.

"In previous years, we've donated money and products through Operation Gratitude, but this year we wanted to do something special to thank the troops for their service and thought this would be a great way to show our thanks," said Johann Erickson, owner of Online Discount Mart.

To show their appreciation, Online Discount Mart is offering a choice of gifts for troops and their families. There is a choice between a Christmas tree seed kit or a choice between two types of stuffed reindeers.

For troops overseas, Online Discount Mart is offering a seed kit that will grow into a Christmas Tree. This can be sent to a soldier overseas and if ordered before December 12th, should arrive in time for Christmas. It could be planted there or kept in its container and allowed to grow.

"We thought a seed kit was a perfect metaphor for our goal over in Iraq and Afghanistan, to try and bring peace to that part of the world," said Erickson.

"We hope that many soldiers and their families take advantage of this offer, but remember that we are a small business and supplies are limited. Customers can get further details by visiting our website," said Erickson.

Shit In Human Form Take An Ass-Whipping:

Jury Refuses To Convict Anti-War MD Of Free Speech; “Both The Campus Cops And The Ann Arbor PD Conducted Themselves In A Manner That Should Have Resulted, Should Still Result, In Officers Being Disciplined Or Dismissed”

Seven weeks after the November 2006 incident the campus police compiled a report stuffed with lies, designed to persuade the credulous that at least six armed police enforcers, somehow stood at risk from Wilkerson, as one of their number--a hulking brute--sadistically inflicted PPCT tactics on his physically slight and unresisting captive.

December 4, 2007 By ALEXANDER COCKBURN, CounterPunch [Excerpts]

A jury in Ann Arbor, Michigan took four and a half hours on the evening of December 3 to acquit Catherine Wilkerson of two criminal misdemeanor charges stemming from an incident in November 2006.

Wilkerson's alleged "crimes" consisted of intervening to assist an unconscious man who in her estimate was in grave risk of asphyxiation after an Ann Arbor cop had inflicted unnecessary and sadistic force, and a paramedic had compounded the brutality by breaking three ampoules of ammonia under the unconscious man's nose, saying, "You don't like that, do you."

The entire case is a parable of current trends: the criminalization of free speech; prosecutions intended to chill lawful protest; out-of-control police conduct; a spaniel press; and most sinister of all, a witch-hunting posture towards anything a cop or a prosecutor can construe as "radical terrorism".

Although Wilkerson was acquitted we should note that she spent unpleasant months awaiting her days in court, aware that a guilty verdict could have grave professional consequences.

In a just world the president of the University of Michigan, Mary Sue Coleman, who signed off on this malicious witch hunt by her campus cops, working in cahoots with the Ann Arbor PD, would now spend as many months as Wilkerson wondering whether she had a professional future.

Both the campus cops and the Ann Arbor PD conducted themselves in a manner that should have resulted, should still result, in officers being disciplined or dismissed.

Seven weeks after the November 2006 incident the campus police compiled a report stuffed with lies, designed to persuade the credulous that at least six armed police enforcers, somehow stood at risk from Wilkerson, as one of their number--a hulking brute--sadistically inflicted PPCT tactics on his physically slight and unresisting captive.

"PPCT" stands for Pressure Point Control Tactics, the application of pressure to selected points on the victim's head and neck.

As complacently described on one site, "The application of these pressure points is to control passive or defensive resistance and are highly effective no matter what the size or strength level of the officer." "Passive resistance" in this case meant no resistance at all, a state duly rewarded by the punitive application of ammonia to the victim by a medical tech complicit in this exercise of "law enforcement".

The jackboot state in its local guise here took the form of the Washtenaw County Prosecutor, Brian Mackie, and assistant prosecutor Margaret Connors who, incredibly, tried to add additional charges before and during the trial.

Remember that this entire legal arsenal was brought to bear on a woman who at no point did anything other than offer verbal medical advice aimed at protecting the life of an unconscious man in danger of asphyxiation.

During the trial Connors made frequent efforts to demonstrate to the jury that defense witnesses bore the taint of having been involved in radical activities--otherwise known as lawful exercise of rights of free speech and assembly, including efforts to defend Wilkerson's rights.

To quote from the Committee to Defend's daily web report,

"During cross-examination of the witnesses who came to protest last year, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Margaret Connors highlighted the political motivations of this prosecution by frequently asking protesters about their protest history as if regularly exercising your First Amendment rights somehow makes you an untrustworthy 'repeat offender.'

This is a police state mentality, pure and simple, one where criticizing the government makes you a suspect when your testimony contradicts the official story of police and prosecutor.

At times, Connors' courtroom antics have been laughable but there is nothing funny about the (mis)use of state power to silence or punish government critics.

One witness was also excluded at the prosecution's request due to involvement with these updates and defendwilkerson.org, demonstrating what we already knew-police and prosecutors cruise the internet and use it to collect 'criminal intelligence.'

The defense seems to have been fortunate in having a reasonable judge, Elizabeth Pollard-Hines, and--above all--a jury which had no difficulty in throwing out the absurd charges and discounting Connors' accusations and inferences.

Wilkerson's lead attorney Buck Davis opened his final speech to the jury about telling them they should thank Wilkerson for giving them opportunity to defend the US constitution and that the University of Michigan and Washtenaw County Prosecutor Brian Mackie were trying to criminalize speech and protest.

There are many lessons in the Wilkerson case and her victory -- of which the central one is solidarity: Wilkerson's fidelity to her medical principles; her supporters' efforts in her defense; overall, solidarity in support of the First Amendment and the Bill of Rights against its many assailants.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Action

04 Dec 2007 Reuters & By Laith Hammoudi, McClatchy Newspapers & AP

A roadside bomb killed one policeman and wounded three others in Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, on Monday, police said.

Insurgents attacked the home of Iraqi Electricity Minister Karim Waheed, killing one of his bodyguards and wounding another, a member of Waheed's security detachment said. Police said three guards were wounded.

A security officer was killed and his brother wounded when unknown armed men opened fire on the officer's private car in the town of Tuz Khurmato, 180 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Patrols of the 5th brigade of the Iraqi army found on Sunday evening three bodies nearby Ali Soltan village, part of Reyadh town west of Kirkuk. A source in the Iraqi police said that the bodies are for soldier from the 3rd battalion of the 6th brigade of the Iraqi army and there were signs of shooting on the bodies.

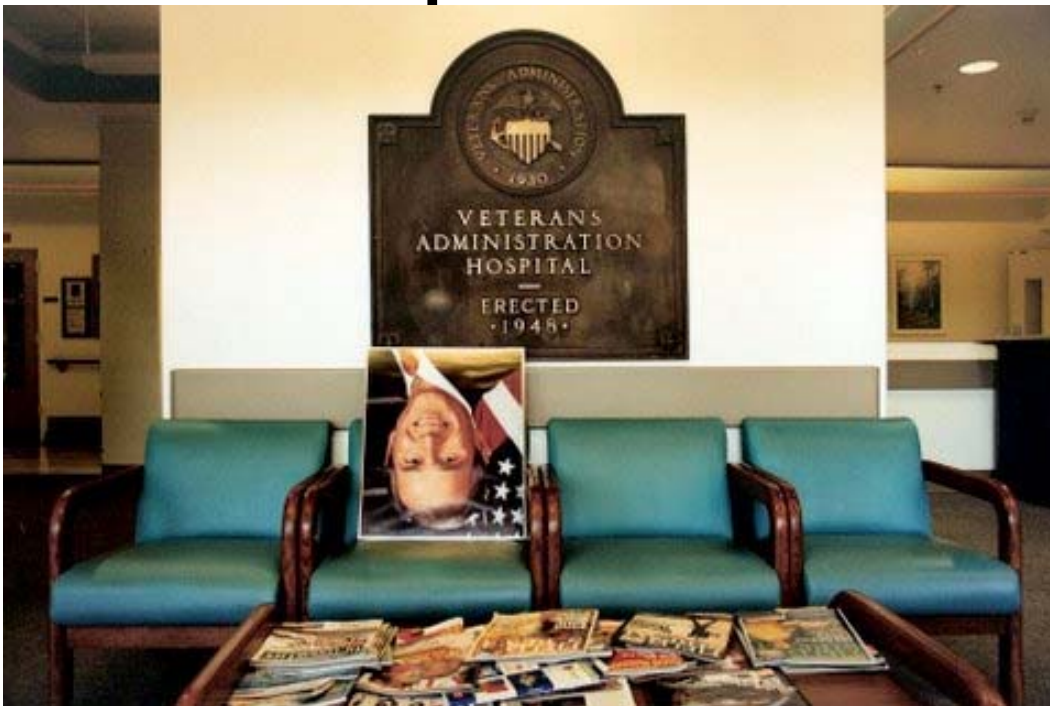
Around 6,00 pm, a bomber attacked Jalawla police station nearby a market in Jalawla town northeast of Baquba city. Bombing occurred as police gathered near the main gate of the station. 2 Kurdish security member known as Asayish, 4 policemen were killed. 5 policemen were wounded.

A security source in Najaf province said that Mun'im Hadi an employee of Diwaniyah city intelligence directorate office was killed by guerrillas in front of his house south Najaf city last Saturday.

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.

Lying Is The Most Powerful Weapon In War



From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: December 03, 2007
Subject: Lying Is The Most Powerful Weapon In War

Lying Is The Most Powerful Weapon In War

American Soldiers killed in Iraq---3,883
American soldiers wounded in Iraq---Secret
American soldiers who have committed suicide
as a result of being in Iraq---Rampant

"Bring 'Em On "
George Bush

July 2, 2003

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) T)

“The Surge Is Working T, Admit It, Will Ya?”

“And We Won In VN Too, Except The Media Forgot To Report The Truth”

From: Ward Reilly [Veterans For Peace]
To: GI Special
Sent: December 01, 2007
Subject: RE: Thanks!!!!

The surge is working T, admit it, will ya?

Doesn't the most U.S. KIAs in a year prove it? Surge means surge in deaths, right?

Get with the program, T, or we might lose the occupation.

And Hillary is an anti war candidate, so please help her win, OK?

And we won in VN too, except the media forgot to report the truth.

I was there in Bangkok, Germany, so I saw it all. And I shot Ho Chi Minh with a .50 sniper rifle from 3 miles away.

And I was a General during WWII. I swear. Really. I was.

Bring Em On!!

Peace from surging, Ward

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 Tactics Recruit Even More Fighters To Kill U.S. Troops



An elderly Iraqi citizen hands over a toy gun found in his room as foreign occupation soldiers from U.S. 1st Battalion, 38 regiment infantry search his house during a home invasion in Baquba, north of Baghdad. (AFP/Gianluigi Guercia)

[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!**

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



[Thanks to Gerald Ali]

**Oh Shit:
Cruel Reality Stabs Bush In The
Back**

#1:

“Given That Chavez’ Referendum Was Defeated At The Ballot Box, We Know That, As A Dictator, Chavez Is A Flop”

“Maybe Chavez Is Not A Dictator”

December 3, 2007 by Greg Palast, GregPalast.com [Excerpts]

The Bush Administration and its press puppies - the same ones who couldn't get enough of the purple thumbs of voters of Iraq - are absolutely livid that this weekend the electorate of Venezuela had the opportunity to vote.

Typical was the mouth-breathing editorial by the San Francisco Chronicle, that the referendum could make Hugo Chavez, Venezuela's President, "a constitutional dictator for life." And no less a freedom fighter than Donald Rumsfeld, from the height of the Washington Post, said that by voting, Venezuela was "receding into dictatorship." Oh, my!

Given that Chavez' referendum was defeated at the ballot box, we know that, as a dictator, Chavez is a flop. Of course, without meaning to gainsay Secretary Rumsfeld, maybe Chavez is not a dictator.

We were not told this weekend's referendum was a vote on term limits, rather, we were told by virtually every US news outlet that the referendum was to make Chavez, "President for Life." The "President for Life" canard was mis-reported by no less than The New York Times.

But ending term limits does not mean winning the term.

As Chavez himself told me, "It's up to the people" whether he gets reelected. And that infuriates the US Powers That Be.

Secondly, beyond ending term limits, the referendum would have loaded the nation's constitution with changes in property law, work hours and so many other complex economic adjustments that the entire referendum sank of its own weight.

Term limits and work hours in Venezuela? Why was this a crisis for Washington?

Why is the Bush crew so bonkers about Hugo? Is it because Venezuela sits on the world's largest reserve of coconuts?

Like Operation Iraqi Liberation ("OIL") - it's all about the crude, dude. And lots of it.

The US Department of Energy documents I obtained indicate that the guys holding Bush's dipstick figure that Venezuela is sitting on 1.36 trillion barrels of crude, five times the reserves of Saudi Arabia.

Chavez' continuing tenure means that Venezuelans' huge supply of oil will now be in the hands of ... Venezuelans!

As Arturo Quiran, resident of a poor folks' housing complex, told me, "Ten, fifteen years ago ... there was a lot of oil money here in Venezuela but we didn't see it."

Notably, Quiran doesn't particularly agree with Chavez' politics.

But, he thought Americans should understand that under Chavez' Administration, there's a doctor's office in his building with "free operations, x-rays, medicines. Education also. People who never knew how to read and write now know how to sign their own papers."

Big Oil has better ideas for Venezuela, best expressed in several Wall Street Journal articles attacking Chavez for spending his nation's oil wealth on "social programs" rather than on more drilling platforms to better fill the SUVs of Texas.

Chavez has committed other crimes in Washington's eyes.

Not only has this uppity brown man spent Venezuela's oil wealth in Venezuela, he withdrew \$20 billion from the US Federal Reserve. Weirdly, Venezuela's previous leaders, though the nation was dirt poor, lent billions to the US Treasury on crap terms.

Chavez has said, Basta! to this game, and has called for keeping South America's capital in ... South America! Oh, no!

Oh, and did I mention that Chavez told Exxon it had to pay more than a 1% royalty to his nation on the heavy crude the company extracted?

I drove with one opposition candidate, Julio Borges, on a campaign stop to a small town three hours from Caracas. We met his supporters - or, more accurately, his lone supporter. The "rally" was in her kitchen. She served us delicious arepas.

The next day, I returned to that very same town when Chavez arrived. Nearly a thousand screaming fans showed up - and an equal number were turned away.

(The British Telegraph laughably reports that Chavez' boosters appear "under duress.") You'd think they were showing for a taping of "South American Idol." (Well, the Venezuelan President did break into song a few times.)

It's worth noting that Chavez' personal popularity doesn't extend to all his plans for "Bolivarian" socialism.

And that killed his referendum at the ballot box.

I guess Chavez should have asked Jeb Bush how to count votes in a democracy.

So there you have it.

What is the world coming to?

In Orwellian Bush-speak and Times-talk, Chavez' referendum was portrayed before the vote as a trick, Saddam goes Latin.

Maybe their real fear is that Chavez has brought a bit of economic justice through the ballot box, a trend that could spread northward.

Think about it: Chavez is funding full health care for all Venezuelans.

What if that happened here?

MORE:

#2: DC Intel Agencies Expose The Traitor Bush As A Stupid Hysterical Liar: They Report “Iran Halted Its Nuclear Weapons Program In 2003”

U.S. Says Iran Ended Atomic Arms Work

December 3, 2007 By MARK MAZZETTI, New York Times [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3 — A new assessment by American intelligence agencies concludes that Iran halted its nuclear weapons program in 2003 and that the program remains frozen, contradicting judgment two years ago that Tehran was working relentlessly toward building a nuclear bomb.

The conclusions of the new assessment are likely to reshape the final year of the Bush administration, which has made halting Iran's nuclear program a cornerstone of its foreign policy.

[T]he new estimate declares with “high confidence” that a military-run Iranian program intended to transform that raw material into a nuclear weapon has been shut down since 2003, and also says with high confidence that the halt “was directed primarily in response to increasing international scrutiny and pressure.”

Rather than painting Iran as a rogue, irrational nation determined to join the club of nations with the bomb, the estimate states Iran's “decisions are guided by a cost-benefit approach rather than a rush to a weapon irrespective of the political, economic and military costs.”

The administration called new attention to the threat posed by Iran earlier this year when President Bush had suggested in October that a nuclear-armed Iran could lead to “World War III” and Vice President Dick Cheney promised “serious consequences” if the government in Tehran did not abandon its nuclear program.

Yet at the same time officials were airing these dire warnings about the Iranian threat, analysts at the Central Intelligence Agency were secretly concluding that Iran’s nuclear weapons work halted years ago and that international pressure on the Islamic regime in Tehran was working.

**LIAR
TRAITOR
TROOP-KILLER
DOMESTIC ENEMY
UNFIT FOR COMMAND
UNWORTHY OF OBEDIENCE**



(AFP/Jim Watson)

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/)

They Really Do Hate Our Liberties: “Al-Arian Was Engaging In Free Speech” “But, Lo And Behold, Al-Arian Became A Target Of The U.S. Department Of Justice”

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

December 3, 2007 by Russell Mokhiber, CommonDreams. Russell Mokhiber is editor of the Washington, D.C.-based Corporate Crime Reporter.

If it's Sunday night, it's Civics 101 at the Mokhiber household.

Last night, the home schooling Civics topic:

U.S. Constitution.

First Amendment.

Congress shall pass no law abridging freedom of speech.

Let's go to the DVD.

USA v. Al-Arian.

Let's see if a documentary about the U.S. Constitution can hold the attention of a 13 year-old and a 10 year-old - for 90 minutes.

Sami Al-Arian is the University of South Florida Professor and Palestinian activist.

Al-Arian advocates for the overthrow of the Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza.

As Nelson Mandela advocated for the overthrow of the apartheid regime in South Africa.

As any of us would fight against occupation - if we were occupied.

Al-Arian was engaging in free speech.

But, lo and behold, Al-Arian became a target of the U.S. Department of Justice.

They said he supported Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

They accused him of being a terrorist.

They indicted him and others in Florida and put him on trial.

They tapped thousands of his family's phone conversations.

Including those of his wife ordering pizza.

They used 400 of those phone conversations at trial.

Picking and choosing.

Slicing and dicing.

They flew Israeli victims of bus bombings from Tel Aviv to St. Petersburg, Florida to testify against him.

They spent \$50 million to prosecute Sami Al-Arian.

One problem - the government couldn't establish a link between Al-Arian's advocacy and these violent acts.

Two years ago this week, on December 6, 2005, Sami Al-Arian was found not guilty on eight counts.

The jury hung on the remaining nine counts.

The reporters wanted to know from the jurors - why didn't you convict Sami Al-Arian of being a terrorist?

What was missing from the government's case?

"Evidence," one juror responded wryly while leaving the courthouse.

"Guilty of what?" asked St. Petersburg Times reporter Meg Laughlin.

"Why is he still in jail?" asks my ten-year-old, Nicholas.

Good question.

Pause the DVD.

The jury acquitted Al-Arian of eight counts.

They were unanimous. 12 to 0.

But they deadlock in the remaining nine counts - 10 to 2.

That's called a hung jury.

And when the jury hangs, the prosecutor can come back and try Al-Arian again on those counts.

Which they threatened to do.

But they also held out the carrot.

Plead guilty to one count to non-violent support of Palestine Islamic Jihad.

And we'll recommend time served.

And you'll be deported.

One thing Al-Arian has to be proud of is - his family.

They are the stars of this movie.

His wife Nahla, and children Leila, Leena, Abdullah, Lama, and Ali - are strong, sane, composed, articulate.

Not that they don't have their moments of frustration. They do. Nahla blows a gasket while cutting her son Ali's hair. (Ali doesn't help matters by resisting the hair cut.) Nahla blows again while speaking to Sami - he's on the speaker phone from prison asking her to check some web site. She's busy doing something else. He hangs up on her. She reaches for a couple of unidentified pills.

But never do the Al-Arians blow up at the Norwegian film crew - which is camped out at their home throughout the trial. If they did, the blow up didn't make the final cut.

When federal prosecutors offered Al-Arian the plea deal, he questioned whether to take it.

He would have preferred to fight it.

He figured - hey, I beat the government once, I can beat them again.

But the family wanted none of it.

The family was fed up with our government's harassment, trials, phone-tapping, and right wing attacks.

They wanted out.

Give us our father back and let's move to Egypt.

As Georgetown University Law Professor David Cole puts it - Al-Arian could have fought through another six month trial, and even if he were found not guilty, he would still be facing deportation.

So, Al-Arian pleads guilty to one count.

And the family all drives down to the courthouse for what they thought was one last time to get their father.

But the Judge decides to reject the government's proposed sentence - time served - and hits Al-Arian with the maximum sentence.

Al-Arian stays in jail.

He was due out earlier this year, but then came Gordon Kromberg.

Kromberg is an assistant U.S. Attorney in Virginia.

Kromberg wants to put Al-Arian through a perjury trap.

He wants him to testify before a federal grand jury in Virginia investigating Islamic charities.

This was in direct violation of the plea deal Al-Arian cut with the government.

So, Al-Arian refuses to testify.

Kromberg charges him with contempt and throws him in jail in Virginia.

When Al-Arian's attorneys request a delay of the prison transfer during the holy month, Kromberg shows his stripes when he responds:

"If they can kill each other during Ramadan, they can appear before the grand jury. I am not going to put off Dr. Al-Arian's grand jury appearance just to assist in what is becoming the Islamization of America."

The movie ends before Kromberg enters the picture.

Too bad.

He would have fit well into this little morality play.

Good v. Evil.

Civics 101.

Al-Arian remains in prison in Virginia on civil contempt charges.

As he appeals his case, the government is considering charging him again with criminal contempt.

Earlier this year, Nahla and her two youngest children - Ali and Lama - left the country for Egypt.

The movie - USA v. Al-Arian - will open in Washington, D.C. this Wednesday, December 5, 2007 at the Uptown Theater in Washington, D.C.

After the movie, Democracy Now's Amy Goodman will moderate a roundtable discussion with Georgetown Law Professor David Cole, GWU Law Professor Jonathan Turley, one of Al-Arian's trial attorneys - Linda Moreno - along with the Norwegian director of the movie Line Halvorsen, and Sami's son Abdullah.

If you live in the Washington, D.C. area and you have young children - take them to see this movie.

If not, get a copy of the DVD and show it far and wide.

It's a great crash course in Civics 101.

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