

GI SPECIAL 6A19:



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

“President Bush Should Be Out Here Watching This Ramp Ceremony To See What It Is Really Like,” Said One Soldier: “The People Who Created This War Need To Be Thinking About The Families Of These 18-Year-Olds Who Are Dying”

1.29.08 AP

At a U.S. base outside Mosul, scores of American troops and an honor guard stood at attention on the airfield tarmac as five coffins of their slain comrades were loaded onto a plane for the journey home.

A cold wind blew as the bleak ceremony began. Five groups of eight pallbearers each took turns unloading a flag-draped coffin from the back of five Humvee ambulances, as about 75 members of the fallen soldiers' unit stood at attention.

At least 100 other soldiers stood erect and silent through the 30-minute ceremony. Even civilian workers at the airport of Forward Operating Base Marez on the outskirts of Mosul formed an honor line as the dead soldiers' bodies were loaded into a gray C-130 transport plane.

Soldiers refused permission to photograph the ceremony, saying the pain of the sudden loss of five comrades was too great, and that not all the families had been notified.

“President Bush should be out here watching this ramp ceremony to see what it is really like,” said one soldier, who asked not to be identified.

“The people who created this war need to be thinking about the families of these 18-year-olds who are dying.”

MORE:

Americans Agree: 59% To 32% They Now Say The War Wasn't Worth Fighting: “The Most Negative Margin Since The Question Was First Asked In 2003”

1.25.08 BY Jackie Calmes, The Wall St. Journal [Excerpts]

To the long-standard polling question that best gauges the public's mood, nearly seven in 10 say the country is on the wrong track; 19% say it is headed in the right direction.

More than ever, Americans condemn Mr. Bush's economic stewardship, and don't look to the lame-duck president or his party for remedies. On handling the economy, the president has the lowest mark of his seven years in office, with only 29% of those polled approving — a five-point decline from last month's poll — and 64% disapproving.

Congress's standing with Americans remains at a near-record low, with 18% of those polled approving of its job performance. Yet 62% want Congress instead of the president to have the lead in setting national policy.

As for Iraq, despite some military progress, respondents by 59% to 32% say that removing Saddam Hussein from power wasn't worth the cost in lives and dollars — the most negative margin since the question was first asked in 2003.

MORE:

The Traitor Bush And General Betrayus Don't Give A Shit What The Troops Or The American People Want; They Signal They'll Stop Iraq Troop Reductions This Summer: [If So, No End In Sight For 15 Month Tours]

Jan 29 By ROBERT BURNS, AP Military Writer [Excerpts]

The Bush administration is sending strong signals that U.S. troop reductions in Iraq will slow or stop altogether this summer, a move that would jeopardize hopes of relieving strain on the Army and Marine Corps and revive debate over an open-ended U.S. commitment in Iraq.

Petraeus recently said it would be prudent to "let things settle a bit" after the current round of troop cuts is completed in July before deciding whether and when to reduce further.

Petraeus seems at this point to be inclined to declare a pause in troop reductions after July, although no decisions have been made and there are competing pressures from within the Pentagon.

The Army in particular wants additional reductions to enable it to shorten Iraq tours from 15 months to 12 months. The longer tours are among pressures that Army leaders fear could break the force.

A senior administration official said Petraeus has made clear he is "concerned about a rush to 10" - a reference to the 10-brigade force level that some administration officials

see as an attractive target to hit by the time Bush leaves the White House a year from now.

The administration official said "it really is not determined" yet whether conditions in Iraq will permit further cutbacks. The official briefed reporters last week at the White House on condition of anonymity.

In his State of the Union address Monday, Bush emphasized the risks - with no mention of the benefits - of continuing the cutbacks beyond July.

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 Report:

**This Vietnam Veteran Won't Back Off:
[Respect To Him]
"All The Stolen Box Did Was Totally
Fucking Piss Me The Fuck Off!"**

1-7-08

Military Project & GI Special Action Report;
From: Comrade Tribune [Vietnam Veteran]

Free newspaper box with GI Specials inside along with Military Project information inside each issue located near military base.

I noticed today that there were about 9 copies of the GI Specials taken.

I also put taped this to the top; one side; it appears to have discouraged the fuckheads who were tipping the box over.

From the Ohio Revised codeORC
Criminal Mischief 2909.07

No person shall, without privilege to do so, knowingly move, or otherwise improperly tamper with the property of another. Penalty: up to 60 days in jail; up to a \$500 fine.

Like I reported earlier, the box is in total compliance with the city rules and has as much legal right to be there as USA Today or any other similar box.

MORE:

To: Military Project
From: Comrade Tribune [Vietnam Veteran]
Sent: January 08, 2008
Subject: action report

Today, 1-8-08, I discovered that persons unknown had stolen the 'free' newspaper box near a military base.

This despite my having taped the Ohio Revised Criminal code section for tampering with it on the box (criminal mischief).

It was there yesterday. I wonder if it had anything to do with the fact, that in the window, I had placed a GI Special with the headline refening to GI's resisting in Iraq.

Coincidence?

Don't think so.

It was a good idea and worth trying.

Like my friend from Cleveland, Ohio always tells me, "if we weren't being effective, they wouldn't be reacting to us."

In solidarity,
Comrade Tribune

MORE:

To: Military Project
From: Comrade Tribune [Vietnam Veteran]
Action Report

Down but not out!

I just came across a great company located in Youngstown, Ohio which makes the 'free' newspaper boxes. They are reasonably priced: \$135-\$185. They will put the decals on: FREE; G.I. SPECIAL.

I am going to buy one box from my Federal Income Tax return \$ this year. I am going to get it in 'red' as almost every other free box is blue or green, so it will stand out.

I am going to place this one, at the bus stop directly across the Street from the armory by my house that [XXXXXXX] and I did the going away Christmas lunch for the guard unit her son is in.

I will have them put a decal: G.I. Special on the back, so it can be seen across the street at the armory.

At this bus stop is at least one other 'free' paper box that has employment or real estate news in it.

So, there is an area by the bus stop for them. It is a heavily trafficked area with vehicle traffic and moderate foot traffic.

This unit was deployed to the Middle East, but there are still soldiers at the armory; I would count on them, seeing the box; taking copies to send to their buddies overseas.

Since its so close, I can easily maintain it.

I will put in individual copies of each issue so they will be in compliance with the regs for possessing just one (and not distributing). I will 'bundle' the World Can't Wait, Iran Quiz; the WCW Call with our chapter website; the Military Project info sheet on help numbers for assistance; the other material provided to me by the Military Project, with each copy.

As \$ permits, I will purchase more boxes and plan to put them near any other guard armories in the area, or outside armed forces recruiting offices.

Again, it will depend on what the city regulations are if they are outside [XXXXXX] city (I knew the [XXXXXX] rules and regs).

Since my last box was stolen from [XXXXXX] base area, I will not be putting a box back there.

Don't know who said it but, "where there is oppression, there is resistance."

All the stolen box did was totally fucking piss me the fuck off!

In solidarity,
Comrade Tribune

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.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Area Soldier Killed In Iraq

January 25, 2008 By Patricia Breakey, Delhi News Bureau, The Daily Star

A Hancock soldier who was killed in Iraq on Saturday had breakfast with his brother just hours before he died.

Staff Sgt. Justin R. Whiting, 27, was killed when his vehicle struck an explosive device while on patrol south of Mosul.

He was on his third tour in Iraq, serving as a Green Beret with the Third Battalion, Fifth Special Forces Group. He was a Special Forces medical sergeant who had two previous combat tours to Iraq in 2004 and 2005.

Nathan Whiting, 24, is also a Green Beret who serves in the same battalion, in the alpha group. Justin Whiting was in the bravo group.

While the brothers were stationed at Fort Campbell in Tennessee, they worked in the same building and lived together in a house Justin purchased, Nathan said Thursday.

When they were deployed to Iraq, they were stationed in the same area but only saw each other every two to three weeks.

"I got to see him that morning only by chance," Nathan said Thursday. "We ate breakfast and then gave each other a hearty handshake and said goodbye, although we didn't know it was goodbye. He looked me in the eye and said 'I'll see ya.' That's all, just 'I'll see ya.'"

"Justin was a very simple man," his brother said. "He didn't put up with much, and you always knew how he felt. I never met anyone who was so determined."

Justin Whiting was born in Temple, Texas, on Sept. 24, 1980, and his brother, Nathan, was born in March 1983. The family moved to Hancock in 1983.

Justin graduated from Hancock Central School in 1999. He volunteered for military service and enlisted in the Army on Dec. 15, 1999. He earned the Green Beret in 2000.

Randy Whiting, Justin's father, said Justin was a highly trained Army medic. He had gotten out of the service in the fall of 2006, but decided to re-enlist in April 2007.

"Justin was a great deer hunter, there was nothing he liked more," Randy Whiting said. "Although he had gotten to be a pretty good guitar player, too. He loved country music, particularly George Strait."

Randy Whiting said that after Justin was discharged, he spent six weeks hunting in Tennessee and then came home and went to work with his best friend, Pauly Somers.

"Justin and Pauly were inseparable. They loved spending time together," Randy Whiting said. "They were in school together and both played on Hancock's championship football team in 1998."

Randy Whiting said after about six months at home, Justin decided to return to the Army. "He thought the best thing was to go back to Iraq," Randy Whiting said. "And I thought it was best too, but he was the one that had to make that decision."

Randy Whiting said Justin was "quite a storyteller. When he and Nathan had breakfast, he told him about a funny incident that had happened the day before. They got to share that.

"Justin was fun to hang out with," his father added. "He had a great sense of humor and could see the humor in everything, even really serious things."

Randy Whiting said the streets of Hancock were lined with people Thursday when the military procession escorting Justin's body came through the village.

"Our pride is deeper than our grief at this point," Randy Whiting said. "I admired who he was and how good he was at being a medic and a soldier."

“The outpouring from the community has been just overwhelming,” he added.

Military service runs in the Whiting family. Nathan said his father was in the Army stationed in Texas when all three children were born. Randy Whiting said his daughter, Amanda Stambach, 29, is a captain in the Army and her husband, John, is also a Green Beret. They are stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington.

“My stepson, Greg Martin, just received his Green Beret in October, and he is at Fort Campbell,” Randy Whiting said.

On Wednesday, the Delaware County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution in memory of Justin Whiting that ended, “Now, therefore, let it be resolved that this board expresses its gratitude for Staff Sgt. Justin R. Whiting's service to his country and its condolences to his family.”

Hancock Supervisor Sam Rowe said, “I didn't know Justin, but I know his dad real well. Justin is a real American hero.”

Board Chairman James Eisel added, “This was a terrible tragedy, but Justin Whiting is truly an American and Delaware County hero and we honor him for that, but this is very, very sad.”

Whiting is also survived by his mother, Estelline, of Colorado Springs, Colo.

5 U.S. Soldiers Wounded By Baghdad Checkpoint “Bomb”

Jan 29 By BRADLEY J. BROOKS and STEVEN R. HURST, Associated Press Writers

In Baghdad, a bombing at a checkpoint wounded five American soldiers and three civilians, the U.S. military said. Navy Cmdr. Scott Rye, a U.S. military spokesman, said initial reporting indicated it was not a suicide attack but a bomb that was left at the checkpoint and later detonated.

Collaborator Defense Minister Says Mosul Military Situation Is A Complete Goatfuck; Top U.S. Commanders Say Maliki Full Of Shit;

Peculiar Maj. Says Soldiers Are Now Called “Enablers”

January 28, 2008 Middle East Online & Jan 29 By BRADLEY J. BROOKS and STEVEN R. HURST, Associated Press Writers [Excerpts]

“The situation in Mosul is worse than imagined by far,” Defence Minister Abdel Qader Jassim Mohammed told a news conference late Sunday after touring the flashpoint city.

Speaking at the army's Nineveh province command centre in Mosul, he was highly critical of the Iraqi military's deployment in Mosul.

“The forces are scattered. We are working to unify the command. The military units are distributed in Mosul in a way that means they haven't studied the area,” Mohammed told reporters, according to Asharq Al-Awsat newspaper.

“The 2nd Brigade of the Iraqi army works in the day and withdraws at night, leaving the insurgents free to move. There are many negative things and we must address them,” the minister added.

“The security generally in Nineveh province is at a good level but in Mosul, the provincial capital, it is bad.”

Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki has promised a “decisive battle” against the jihadists in Nineveh province after last week's devastating blasts.

The jihadists can easily blend in with the local population, they [US intelligence experts] say. [And since even Occupation polls find the overwhelming majority of Iraqis favor killing U.S. troops, the silly “experts” don't seem to have a grip on the fact that the “local population” are the “jihadists”, and will be so until the last Occupation troop goes home.]

The top U.S. commanders in northern Iraq predicted Tuesday the battle to oust al-Qaida [translation: Iraqis resisting the Occupation who also loath al-Qaida] will not be a swift strike, but rather a grinding campaign for Mosul that will require more firepower from both the Pentagon and Iraqi allies.

The statements appeared to discount suggestions by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki that Iraqi forces were gathering for a “decisive” attack as soon as all reinforcements are in place.

“It is not going to be this climactic battle ... It's going to be probably a slow process,” said Maj. Gen. Mark P. Hertling, commander of U.S. forces in northern Iraq.

Hertling said he was moving a considerable force of “enablers” into the Nineveh province and Mosul, its capital.

He would not disclose numbers, but said the move on Mosul had long been planned.

Al-Maliki has promised to send a wave of Iraq police and soldiers into the Mosul area to crush al-Qaida [translation: Iraqis resisting the Occupation who also loath al-Qaida] and its backers.

The offensive raised the possibility that Iraqi forces were moving toward a critical test by leading the difficult urban offensive in a city of 2 million people.

Hertling's comments, however, suggested a heightened level of U.S. involvement and oversight.

THIS ENVIRONMENT IS HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH; ALL HOME, NOW



U.S. soldiers with First Platoon, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion 30th Infantry Regiment, raid a house during a search mission in the neighbourhood of Arab Jabour in south Baghdad October 18, 2007. REUTERS/Fabrizio Bensch

TROOP NEWS

Australian Government Withdrawing All Troops From Iraq

[But Plans To Keep On Killing Them In Afghanistan]

January 30, 2008 By Greg Ansley, New Zealand Herald

CANBERRA - Australia's new Labor Government has formally told the United States it intends to bring its combat troops home from Iraq by the middle of the year.

Foreign Minister Stephen Smith told US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in Washington that the more than 500 troops and armour in the southern province of Dhi Qar would fly back to Australia when the present rotation ended.

Smith's confirmation of longstanding Labor policy - a direct u-turn on former conservative Prime Minister John Howard's open-ended commitment to Iraq - came as the Government also indicated a re-think of the nation's defence needs.

Iraq is an unpopular war and one which is regarded by most Australians as exposing the nation to greater danger of terror attack.

Smith emphasised Canberra's support for operations in Afghanistan - where Australia has about 1000 troops, including a reconstruction task force and up to 300 SAS and commandos - despite concerns about the military situation and political turmoil in neighbouring Pakistan.

Australia's forces in Iraq include:

A combat force of 515, with armoured vehicles, in Iraq's Dhi Qar province.

About 280 other troops, including 100 training the new Iraqi Army, 110 soldiers and armour protecting diplomats and officials in Baghdad, and 70 in its task force headquarters.

***Outrageous Bullshit At Ft. Drum:
Asswipes In Command Won't Let VA
Help Soldiers With Disability Claims;
"A Military Command Which Is More
Concerned With Saving Money Than
With Providing Adequate Compensation
For Injured Veterans"***

January 29, 2008 Citizen Soldier

An Army "Tiger Team" recently visited Ft Drum and ordered VA workers to stop helping injured soldiers prepare their final disability claims. Injured soldiers are given a 10 day period in which to comment on proposed disability rulings before they become final.

According to National Public Radio (1/29/08) one VA official recently told a classroom of injured soldiers at Ft Drum; "we can (no longer) help you review the narrative summaries of your medical problems."

He explained that after the Army noticed that Ft Drum soldiers were receiving higher disability ratings than soldiers at other bases, it ordered that VA workers stop helping them review their applications.

Tod Ensign, attorney for the Different Drummer internet cafe near Ft Drum, N Y (www.differentdrummercafe.org) is currently discussing this unlawful policy with 10th Mountain soldiers and will assist them in filing a formal request for an official Court of Inquiry under Article 135 of the UCMJ.

Once enpanelled, such a court can conduct a wide ranging investigation into the Army's policy of forbidding the VA from assisting injured soldiers with their claims.

"Once again, we witness a military command which is more concerned with saving money than with providing adequate compensation for injured veterans.

The Pentagon fears a 'tsunami' of medical claims as these two wars drag on. If a soldier receives a disability rating of less than 30%, he or she receives only a lump sum payment instead of a monthly disability," Ensign commented.

The Different Drummer attorneys expect that Ft Drum soldiers will file their request for a Court of Inquiry in the next weeks.

More info: Tod Ensign, (212) 679-2250 or citizensoldier1@aol.com

Bush Demands Another \$70 Billion To Keep Imperial Wars Going; Stupid Reporters Repeats The Stupid Lie That Democrats Can't Stop Him

Jan 28 By ANNE FLAHERTY (AP)

The White House will ask Congress next week for another \$70 billion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, an amount that would help cover operational costs only until early next year when the next administration takes over.

Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman said Monday that the money, included as part of the administration's 2009 budget request, would be considered an "emergency allowance" to pay for operations beginning Oct. 1, when the budget year begins, until possibly January.

Short of the votes needed to bring troops home, but tied to a support base that wants nothing less, Democrats are in no hurry to revisit the issue.

MORE:

GI SPECIAL 5/18 [9.18.07]

Democrats Have Enough Votes To End The War Now [If They Choose To Do So]

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

Sep 13, 2007 FAIR [Excerpts]

Following a pattern set when Congress passed supplemental funding for the Iraq War last May (FAIR Media Advisory, 6/1/07), major media outlets continued to "explain" the politics of the war in incomplete and misleading ways.

The point made by these media outlets again and again is that the Democrats have little power to affect policy in Iraq because it would be difficult to pass legislation over a potential Republican filibuster, and even harder to pass a bill over a presidential veto.

This sentiment is also voiced by many Democratic politicians, many of whom consider themselves opponents of the war.

But passing a filibuster- or veto-proof bill is not their only option.

As the Washington Post's Shailagh Murray and Dan Balz (9/10/07) put it: "Because of a Senate rule requiring 60 votes to shut off debate and 67 votes to overturn a veto, (Senate Majority Leader Harry) Reid faced an almost impossible challenge. Even if all his troops stood together, he started with just 49 votes."

Newsweek's Howard Fineman declared that the Democrats' powerlessness was built into the constitutional system on NBC's Chris Matthews Show (9/2/07):

"Politically, what the president has been trying to do is to keep discipline among the Republicans because as long as he can keep most of the Republicans in the Senate, in the House with him, there's no way to overturn the policy because of the way the

Constitution reads.... I hate to keep coming back to the Constitution. Sixty votes to stop a filibuster, 67 to overturn a presidential veto in the Senate.”

This sort of analysis was used to explain the Democrats' need to compromise with Republicans, watering down a firm withdrawal date in the hopes of winning bipartisan support.

This approach was endorsed in an Associated Press report (9/11/07) by Matthew Lee:

“If Republican support for the war holds, as it might for now, Democrats would have to soften their approach if they want to pass an anti-war proposal. But they remain under substantial pressure by voters and politically influential anti-war groups to settle for nothing less than ordering troop withdrawals or cutting off money for the war--legislation that has little chances of passing.”

The problem with all these accounts is that Congress does not have to pass legislation to bring an end to the war in Iraq--it simply has to block passage of any bill that would continue to fund the war.

This requires not 67 or 60 Senate votes, or even 51, but just 41--the number of senators needed to maintain a filibuster and prevent a bill from coming up for a vote.

In other words, the Democrats have more than enough votes to end the Iraq War--if they choose to do so.

The Democratic leadership may believe--rightly or wrongly--that such a strategy would entail unacceptable political costs. But that's very different from being unable to affect policy.

To insist, as many media outlets have, that the Constitution makes it impossible for Congress to stop the war obscures the actual choices facing the nation--by confusing “can't” with “won't.”

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.

VA Hospital Killed Patients:

Senator Confirms “The Quality Of Care At Marion Was Horrible”

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

01/29/08 By JIM SUHR, The Associated Press [Excerpts]

Substandard care at a southern Illinois Veterans Affairs hospital may have contributed to 19 deaths over the past two years, a VA official said Monday as he apologized to affected families and pledged reform.

The hospital in Marion, Ill., initially drew scrutiny over deaths connected to a single surgeon, but two federal reports found fault with five other doctors.

The hospital undertook many surgeries that its staffing or lack of proper surgical expertise made it ill-equipped to handle, and hospital administrators were too slow to respond once problems surfaced, said Dr. Michael Kussman, U.S. veterans affairs undersecretary for health.

The VA investigation found that at least nine deaths between October 2006 and March last year were “directly attributable” to substandard care at the Marion hospital, which serves veterans from southern Illinois, southwestern Indiana and western Kentucky.

Of an additional 34 cases the VA investigated, 10 patients who died received questionable care that complicated their health, Kussman said. Investigators could not determine whether the care actually caused the deaths.

“As the inspectors who reviewed the Marion hospital put it, the quality of care at Marion was 'horrible,’” [Sen. Dick] Durbin said.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Action

28 Jan 2008 Reuters & AP & 29 Jan 2008 Reuters

Nine bodies and 10 severed heads were found today in a field north of Baghdad.

Police made the discovery in a field in Muqdadiya, 90km northeast of Baghdad in Diyala, one of Iraq's northern provinces where US forces are fighting.

Police said some of the nine complete bodies were partially decomposed while others had been killed more recently. The bodies were all handcuffed and blindfolded and had

bullet wounds, they said. The 10 heads found nearby were all also blindfolded, some with bullet wounds.

All had messages scrawled in blood on the foreheads warning that volunteers working with US-backed neighbourhood patrol groups would suffer the same fate.

More than 500 people demonstrated in Abu Ghraib district on Baghdad's western outskirts against detentions by the Iraqi army in the area, police said.

Monday, insurgents attacked four policemen heading home from work south of Mosul, killing two and wounding the other two, Nineveh provincial police said.

The leader of a U.S.-backed neighbourhood police patrol was killed by a bomb planted in his car in northern Baghdad on Saturday, the U.S. military said.

In Baghdad, one roadside bomb struck a police patrol near the University of Technology in central Baghdad, wounding three officers and four civilians.

Another struck an Iraqi army patrol near the central Tahrir Square, wounding three soldiers.

In eastern Baghdad, a mortar shell slammed into a highway, wounding three Iraqi police commandos, officials said.

Four soldiers and six civilians were wounded by a roadside bomb which targeted an Iraqi army patrol in central Baghdad's Bab al-Sharji district, police said.

Guerrillas attacked the convey of a local governor, wounding one of his guards, in a village near the town of Sulaiman Pek, 160 km (100 miles) north of Baghdad.

Abbas Jassim al-Dulaimi, a tribal leader who organised a neighbourhood police unit in Taji, 20 km (12 miles) north of Baghdad, was killed by a bomb planted in his car on Monday, another Taji tribal leader said. Several of Dulaimi's bodyguards were detained after the blast, he said.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

"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

January 30, 1972: Shameful Anniversary; Bloody Sunday: An Occupation Massacre



Carl Bunin Peace History Jan 28 - Feb 3

In Bogside, Derry, British Occupied Ireland, near the Rossville flats, 13 unarmed and peaceful civil rights demonstrators were shot dead by British Army paratroopers from the British Army's 1st Parachute Regiment in an event that became known as “Bloody Sunday.”

The protesters, all Catholics, had been marching in protest of the British policy of internment without trial of suspected Irish nationalists. Internment without trial was introduced by the British government on August 9, 1971.

British authorities had ordered the march banned, and sent troops to confront the demonstrators when it went ahead.

The soldiers fired indiscriminately into the crowd of protesters, killing 13 and wounding seventeen. One wounded man later died from illness attributed to that shooting.

By the end of the year 323 civilians and 144 military and paramilitary personnel would be dead.

The British-government-appointed Widgery Tribunal found soldiers were not guilty of shooting dead the 13 civilians in cold blood.

OCCUPATION REPORT

Good News For The Iraqi Resistance!!

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



U.S. army soldiers from 23rd Infantry Regiment, "question" an Iraqi citizen about insurgents in the village of Towakal, on the northern outskirts of Muqadiyah, Diyala province, Dec. 22, 2007. The soldiers from Blackfoot Company went into Towakal in order to do a house searching mission, but when they reached their objective, they

discovered that almost all the houses in the village were abandoned. (AP Photo/Marko Drobnjakovic)

[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?]

<p>OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW!</p>

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**Breakout From Ghetto Gaza:
"A Stronger Picture Will Not Come
Soon From The Middle East Than
That Of These Family Men Carrying
Bread Back Home"**

**"They Have Rushed The Fence, And That
Was A Good Example For All Of Us:
Nothing Can Be Done Within The Legal
Limits Our Enemies Had Enforced.
There Is A Need For The Push That Is
Called Revolution"**



[Monthly Review.org]

01/26/08 Israel Shamir, Shamireaders/message [Excerpts]

They went out, risked their lives, rushed the army, overturned the fence, strode the barbed wire, wiped out the border between two states, committed so many heroic acts, worthy of great warriors, suffering casualties -- and when they were through, they went to shop and bought bread for their children.

This gave a lie to the image of Palestinians that the Jews had tried to plant in world conscience: that of wild violent fanatics bent on rampage.

Instead, the guys broke out of jail and bought bread.

Meaning, they were kept hungry by their Jewish overlords.

A stronger picture will not come soon from the Middle East than that of these family men carrying bread back home.

They are so normal, these Gaza, like you and me – they carry out their normal lives, they work in a bank or a garage -- but they get full medieval treatment.

First, they were dispossessed and corralled into Gaza, then they were treated like even dogs should not be treated; they were not allowed to travel by a highway if the road is used by a Jew, they were not permitted to see their immediate family living only a mile away.

And then, this siege.

No food, nothing to feed the children with.

No future, either, with Israel as the neighbour.

They suffer for only one crime: they are not Jews, though, ironically, many of them are descendent of Jews, some with famous Jewish family names, who embraced Christ or the Prophet.

They were supposed to suffer quietly, but the Gazans have a lot of dignity.

They voted for Hamas against the will of Israel and America, and they expelled the collaborationist gang of Dahlan.

Now, they have rushed the fence, and that was a good example for all of us: nothing can be done within the legal limits our enemies had enforced. There is a need for the push that is called Revolution.

When the brave Gazans walked back, loaded with their lucky catch, with bread and rice, with salt and blankets, with vegetables and lambs, the Jews were decidedly unhappy.

The natives will forget that we are like God unto them; we provide and we punish, we feed and we starve. Instead of accepting our doom, they took their fate in their hands.

With bread and rice, the Gazans will smuggle guns, and this may force us to postpone the big offensive already agreed upon with George W.

The Jews prefer to assail weapon-less victims.

The Egyptians also failed Jewish expectations. "I believe Egypt knows what its job is", said the arrogant Israeli general Ehud Barak.

The job he gave to Egypt is the job of jailer of their Palestinian brothers. "The Gazans would never dare to break the siege to Sinai, - wrote Israeli pundits a week, even a day ago - Egyptians will meet them with deadly fire."

When there was a shoot-out, the Israelis were so happy for a while.

Effi Eitam, a right-wing religious Jewish leader, who looks like a 'well-fed kosher pig in yarmulke'(in words of Gilad Atzmon) wrote in the Yediot Ahronot an op-ed dripping of crocodile tears. We Jews are so soft and merciful in comparison to the Egyptians, he wrote.

But Mubarak wants to survive, and he knows there are limits he may not push too far. He gave orders to his soldiers to cease fire.

The Jews wailed that Egyptians must enforce the border, and supply their pound of flesh per agreement. In vain. Mubarak does not want to follow Anwar as-Sadat to hell.

Deeply dissatisfied, the Jews watched this stream of people that got out of their jail for a short break. But then, they are hard to please, these Jews are.

The Palestinians have to kill each other in a civil war, or die of hunger to please the Jews.

My grandfather did that, he died of hunger and exhaustion in 1942 in the ghetto of Stanislaw.

The Germans and their Ukrainian quislings did to Jews what the Jews did to Gazans: they gathered them in the ghetto, and left them to starve there.

This world is just, and the Lord is just. He punishes ingratitude by undoing the deed one had to be grateful for.

The crime of Jewish mistreatment of Palestinians is being punished even now.

Do not ask who is starved and who is tortured: it is somebody quite close to you.



Getty Images

MORE:

Beloved People Of Gaza

1.26.08 By Nahida Izzat, Popular Committee Against Siege (PCAS)

**Treasured people of Palestine
Teachers of courage and dignity
Archetype of humanity**

**Allow me to kneel down
And wash your feet with my tears
Kiss your blessed hands
And sprinkle your beautiful faces with musk and roses**

While we sat pondering like fools

Utterly helpless
Talking much and doing less
Going round and round in circles
Thinking how to help
What to offer you to relief some of your pain

As usual
Full of surprises, you come out to our rescue, to soothe our agony
You present us with the most precious gifts
Lessons in bravery
Steadfastness, patience, perseverance, defiance, resilience
Optimism against all odds
Creativity in the face of utter oblivion
You've demonstrated that you are the free ones ... we are the captives
You chose resistance over subjugation
You decided not to be enslaved
Not even to superpowers

Would we ever learn from you?

MORE:

**“Palestine, Or What At Least Falls
Under The Banner Of The
Palestinian Authority, Is Indeed
The One And Only Democracy In
The Middle East”**

**“ Hamas Is Proving To Be As Brave
And Resilient As The Palestinian
People Expected It To Be ”**

**“The Western Nations Can Take Their
Aid And Get Lost”**

January 28, 2008 Gilad Atzmon, Israele News.com [Excerpt]

Two weeks after the landslide victory of the Hamas most commentators got a lesson they weren't prepared for: that they had to accept the fact that Palestine, or what at least falls under the banner of the Palestinian Authority, is indeed the one and only democracy in the Middle East.

Unlike its neighbour's nucleophilic single race democracy, where voting laws are far from global, extending them to all citizens of the State, Palestine welcomed all its inhabitants to participate in the polls regardless of any racial, ethnic or religious considerations.

Indeed, some commentators were quick to suggest that the Hamas would rapidly bow to Western pressure. Ostensibly, not only didn't that happen, but so far, the Hamas is proving to be as brave and resilient as the Palestinian people expected it to be.

Just a few days ago, in an interview for the Washington Times Mahmoud Zahar, the leader of Hamas in Gaza and the West Bank insisted that the militant Islamic movement can manage without Western aid:

"The Western nations can take their aid and get lost", said Zahar, and firmly continued: "Israel is not a legitimate entity, and no amount of pressure can force us to recognize its right to exist".

Obviously, Zahar isn't alone, Khaled Meshaal, the exiled head of the political wing repeated a very similar line of thought in the Palestinian newspaper, al-Hayat al-Jadida:

"We will never recognize the legitimacy of the Zionist state that was established on our land.... Our message to the United States and Europe is: The attempts you are exerting to make us abandon our principles and struggle will be wasted and will not achieve any results."

I may admit that those brave Palestinians leave me nowhere short of clear admiration.

Those leaders who survived the infamous Israeli extra-judicial murderous attempts have never caved in.

In spite of all odds, they stood up for their people and their people followed them.

It is rather clear that the Palestinian people (in Palestine at least), voted resistance, they ousted the Fatah whom they now regard as corrupted and some even say collaborators, they had crowned instead an Islamic option.

“Anti-Zionist Orthodox Jews React With Horror At The Most Recent Zionist Terrorist Massacre That Has Occurred In Gaza”

“Suffering And Bloodshed Can Only End With The Dismantling Of The Zionist State, Plain And Simple”

Jan. 16/08 NETUREI KARTA of THE ORTHODOX JEWRY JERUSALEM, PALESTINE, P.O.Box 5053 Jerusalem, Tel. 972-2-6272-977 -- Fax: 972-2-6260-690. E-mail: nkp@neto.bezeqint.net

STATEMENT BY anti-Zionist Orthodox Jews including Neturei Karta

Anti-Zionist Orthodox Jews react with horror at the most recent Zionist terrorist massacre that has occurred in Gaza.

This vicious and beastly act is only one in a long chain of massacres, terror, ethnic cleansing and oppression committed against the Palestinian People by the wicked Zionist movement stretching back all the way to 1948.

Anti-Zionist Jews condemn the Zionists in no uncertain terms for their violent and bloodthirsty behavior carried out in the name of the Jewish People and the Jewish Religion.

We cannot understand why great world powers seem to give the Zionists a free hand to commit such crimes against the indigenous Palestinian People from the comfort of their F16 fighter jets, helicopter gun ships and Merkava tanks.

When will the world bring the Zionists under control and restore the rights of the Palestinians throughout historic Palestine?

When will the major world powers stop the Zionists from committing crimes that will lead to World War III?! Zionism is doomed! The Zionist Regime is doomed!

The Holy Land will be restored to the Palestinians! It is not a matter of “if” but only “when”! Suffering and bloodshed can only end with the dismantling of the Zionist State, plain and simple.

It can only end when the full rights of the Palestinians are restored throughout Palestine, including the rights of the Palestinian refugees to return to their homeland.

This is the only solution that will benefit Jews and Arabs.

**STOP ZIONIST AGGRESSION!! STOP ZIONIST ETHNIC
CLEANSING AND MASSACRES!! STOP ZIONIST RACISM!!**

**WE CALL ON THE WORLD'S NATIONS TO STOP ZIONIST BRUTALITY AND
TERRORISM!!**

**RABBI MEIR HIRSH, Neturei Karta
Jerusalem, Palestine**

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

2008 Candidate Guide								
CANDIDATE	HILLARY	OBAMA	EDWARDS	ROMNEY	MCCAIN	GIULIANI	HUCKABEE	BIG FRED
IMAGE	ROBOT MACHINE.	TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.	THE UNDER-STUDY.	ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE.	THE REAL DEAL. SORT OF.	THE CRAZY MAN.	THE PREACHER.	LAZYBOY.
MESSAGE	HAS ALL THE ANSWERS.	WILL BRING US ALL TOGETHER.	"CAN I SAY SOMETHING NOW?"	WILL SAY ANYTHING TO GET ELECTED.	STRAIGHT TALK, WHEN CONVENIENT.	"YOU'RE ASKING FOR IT!"	DOESN'T BELIEVE IN EVOLUTION.	"I'LL LET YOU KNOW WHEN I'M ACTUALLY RUNNING."
IF ELECTED	THE ANSWER IS BILL.	TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.	VICE PRESIDENT EDWARDS.	WON'T GET ELECTED.	NO LONGER CONVENIENT.	WE'D GET IT.	DEVOLUTION.	WASN'T ACTUALLY RUNNING.

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