

## GI SPECIAL 6A4:



Thanks to John Gingerich]

**Huckabee And Obama:  
The Wall St. Journal  
Understands Perfectly:  
“The Votes Turned Back  
Establishment Candidates”  
“An Antiestablishment Theme  
Rippled Across The Iowa Landscape”  
“Clearly There Is An Insurgency Theme”  
“The Flames Of Change”**

## **COMMENT: T**

**Huckabee and Obama.**

**Amidst the tedious, boring blather criticizing each, especially the boring blathering criticism from the left, it took the Wall St. Journal to get it right about the meaning of the Iowa contest.**

**Not only is Marx dead; so, it would appear, are those who wrap themselves in his mantle: stale pedants, clueless as to what it means to “describe the present as history.” Instead, effluvia are churned out saying “Huckabee has the following 12 horrible positions on the following twelve political issues – ooohhh he’s soooo bad!” and “Obama has the following really awful views on the following issues” [insert list here] ooohhh he’s soooo bad too.”**

**As the Wall St. Journal understood, the Iowa contest had little to do with the details of the candidates’ political positions on anything at all.**

**Given the control those with the wealth and power exert over the election system and the government as a whole, what electoral contests can do and what the Iowa contest did so clearly is serve as a thermometer to measure the heat coming up from below, from those who do not possess the wealth and power.**

**What this thermometer reads, as the Wall St. Journal reporter alone has noticed, is “antiestablishment” “anti-Wall St.” rage below, flames below, an “insurgency” seeking a path to expression.**

**For now, the only path that appears to be open is the electoral system.**

**Should the Party establishments manage to exert sufficient forces behind the scenes to crush the Huckabee and Obama campaigns, so much more gasoline thrown on the fire.**

**When the 2008 election is over, and, as usual, all the lying promises about “change” turn into cheap betrayals, regardless of who wins, the electoral fog will lift and it will become clear once again that the enemies domestic own and operate the government, as usual.**

**The more hope people have placed in this or that candidate to be their savior, the greater the rage to come at the inevitable betrayal.**

**Then the boiling rage from below, muted and filtered now through convoluted electoral structures, but nonetheless finding expression in Iowa so clearly that the Wall St. Journal puts it on the front page -- that rage from below must and will find other, direct avenues of expression, in the streets.**

**Then, above all, we will need our troops by our sides, fighting for our common liberation. Now, we need people who will work to build that alliance.**

**Here are excerpts from the Wall St. Journal front page article Jan. 5:**

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1.5.08 Wall St. Journal, By Laura Meckler [Excerpts]

**Having reshaped both parties' nomination races, Iowa's victors – Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Mike Huckabee – brought their antiestablishment message to New Hampshire.**

**In both Republican and Democratic races, the votes turned back establishment candidates and picked men running as outsiders who promised to challenge convention.**

**Mr. Huckabee, the former Baptist preacher and Arkansas governor, ran against central tenets of his own Republican Party, delivering a populist, anti-Wall Street economic message and a rebuke of the Bush administration's foreign policy.**

Mr. Obama, the Democrat and first-term senator from Illinois, and an African-American, promised to challenge Washington.

Most of Mr. Huckabee's Iowa support came from apolitically resurgent evangelical community.

**But here too, an antiestablishment theme rippled across the Iowa landscape. Most high-profile religious leaders picked candidates they thought more likely to win, not Mr. Huckabee, who trailed in the polls for much of the contest.**

The rank and file thought differently.

**"Clearly there is an insurgency theme," said Andrew Kohut, president of the Pew Research Center, an independent opinion research group.**

"On both sides this is going to be a contest between the party establishment and their respective bases," said Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, which promotes conservative social issues."

**"If the parties continue to ignore the concerns of their core constituency it will only fan the flames of change."**

**MORE:**

***IOWA:***

**"Cory McKevitt Of Okaboji, Iowa  
Just Finished Basic Training..."**

**McKevitt Is Frustrated - So Much So That He's Unsure Whether Or Not He'll Even Vote"**

**"I Want To Get This War Over - That's My Main Thing," He Said.**

**"We Went Over There, And Did What We Had To Do, And Now We Just Need To Get Out"**

**"A Common Theme Among The Veterans We Interviewed: Disgust With The American Political System In General"**

**"This Bogus War Is Not What These Units Were Set Up To Do, Nor What The Members Volunteered For"**

January 1, 2008 By Dan Treul, Huffingtonpost.co [Excerpts]

Iowa veterans have some advice for the presidential contenders: The Republicans should no longer take the military vote for granted, and candidates from both parties should be wary of politicizing the war in Iraq.

Over the past three days, citizen journalists from OffTheBus checked in with more than 30 VFW and American Legion posts around Iowa. They interviewed some of America's most vigilant members of the military about the role foreign policy credentials might play in Thursday's caucuses.

An uneasiness seems to permeate VFW Post 5256 in Keokuk, Iowa. Harold Price, a disabled Vietnam veteran, said he believes the candidates are "taking it seriously" this election cycle, but that he and many of the veterans at his post are concerned - mostly over the war in Iraq and the healthcare system.

"We don't believe in being in Iraq," said Price. "It's another Vietnam." Although respectful of the fragility of the situation he said "There's just no end to it. I would like to see, and I think the other officers would, a gradual pullout. "Don't keep sending them back to Iraq when it's a lost cause."

Price declined to comment on specific candidates, although his discontent with the current leadership was unmistakable.

**Cory McKeivitt of Okaboji, Iowa just finished basic training with the Iowa National Guard. He is 18. Not even alive at the time Price was fighting in Vietnam, McKeivitt is frustrated - so much so that he's unsure whether or not he'll even vote.**

"I want to get this war over - that's my main thing," he said. "We went over there, and did what we had to do, and now we just need to get out."

**As a soldier in the Guard, McKeivitt was similarly uncomfortable naming candidates that appealed to him.**

**But he was clear in his assertion that the next president of the United States must bring the troops home.**

**Pat Brimeyer, who served in Army Special Services in Vietnam, wants the troops home. Her husband Charlie served with the 4th Army Engineers in the same conflict and is now the executive director of the Dubuque County Veterans Commission Office.**

**"Individuals, families, employers and the state of Iowa are suffering," said Brimeyer. "We've had a high proportion of misuse of our (National Guard and Reserve) units here in Iowa.**

**"This bogus war is not what these units were set up to do, nor what the members volunteered for."**

Like Price in Keokuk, Brimeyer too speaks with contempt for the manner in which veterans' benefits are being handled.

**"The biggest complaint is about the length of time veterans have to wait for results regarding their veterans' benefits," she said. "The high rate of Iowa military personnel serving in the Middle East has meant a higher rate of benefits claims.**

Des Moines," she said, "can no longer handle the load so it has been 'farmed out' to other states, who don't really want to do it.

**"What is really sad," said Brimeyer, "is when people die while waiting for their claims to be completed and the families are left with nothing."**

**The man's comment highlights a common theme among the veterans we interviewed: disgust with the American political system in general - a sentiment that seems to be working in the Democrats' favor.**

**“Nothing makes us more angry than politicians using military members and veterans as political pawns,” said Brimeyer.**

**“Vietnam vets were used as government ‘whipping boys’ and Iraq vets are used as ‘weapons’ to support patriotic fervor for whatever reason...”**

## **DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE SERVICE?**

**Forward GI Special along, or send us the address if you wish and we’ll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657**

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **Diyala IED Kills U.S. Soldier**

1.5.08 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20080106-02

TIKRIT, Iraq – A Multi-National Division – North Soldier died from injuries sustained from an improvised explosive device detonation near his vehicle while conducting operations in Diyala Province, Jan. 5.

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### **Iraqi Soldier Kills 2 US Servicemen In Ninewah**

05 January 2008 VOA News

The U.S. military in Iraq says an Iraqi soldier opened fire on U.S. troops during a joint patrol last week, killing two American soldiers.

A military statement issued Saturday said the incident happened in Ninewah province on December 26, when U.S. and Iraqi Army soldiers were setting up a combat outpost.

It said three other American soldiers and a civilian interpreter were wounded in the shooting and that an investigation is underway.

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# Soldier Killed In Iraq Ambush



December 27, 2007 TurnTo23.com.

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. -- A local soldier and Stockdale High graduate was killed in an ambush in Mosul, Iraq.

Sgt. Benjamin Brian Portell, 27, died from injuries he received in a battle with insurgents on Wednesday. He is one of three brothers who have served in Iraq.

According to the family's pastor, Portell was on patrol in Mosul on Wednesday when his unit was ambushed. Portell and another soldier were fatally wounded by small arms fire.

Four other soldiers were injured in the fight.

Portell's older brother Mike, also in Iraq, is now coming home. Their younger brother, Jeff, also served in Iraq.

Pastor Brian Murphy from Riverlakes Community Church said he believes Portell was starting his second tour in Iraq and hadn't been in the country very long. Murphy said, "He grew up in youth ministry. I think church family just hearing about it, grieving over loss, certainly upholding family in prayer, now and days ahead."

Portell was married last May to his wife Michelle. She is coming to Bakersfield from New York.

The family is waiting for the military to release his body.

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## U.S. Soldier Wounded, 5 Collaborators Killed In Baquba

05 January 2008 By VOA News

Five Iraqi soldiers were killed and two wounded by an improvised explosive device that went off as they searched a house north of Baquba.

Officials said the troops were searching Thursday for al-Qaida members in the village of Abu Tamur when the device was triggered.

The military said one American soldier was also wounded

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## **British Basra Base Attacked**

Jan 4 (KUNA)

Basra Airport, used as a military base by the British forces stationed in southern Iraq, came under missile attack by unknown militants late Thursday.

In a statement on Friday, a spokesman for the British forces in the area said unknown militants attacked the military base at the airport late last night, but no human or material losses were sustained. This is the first attack against British troops in Iraq since the beginning of this year.

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## **REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



A U.S. soldier of Bravo company, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, during a night patrol at the Zafraniya neighborhood, southeast of Baghdad September 4, 2007. REUTERS/Carlos Barria

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**



# **S.C. Guardsman Killed In Afghanistan**

Jan 4, 2008 The Associated Press

SPARTANBURG, S.C. — A National Guard soldier from Wellford died Wednesday in Afghanistan after his vehicle struck a bomb, according to the Defense Department.

Sgt. Shawn F. Hill, 37, joined the National Guard 12 years ago and was serving his second tour overseas, his wife Julie said.

“He was a good father, soldier and husband, and he died doing what he loved to do, and there’s not a person who ever met him that didn’t love him,” Julie Hill said.

Hill, who was assigned to the 178th Engineer Battalion, 218th Infantry Brigade, based in Rock Hill, joined the National Guard to provide for his family as he studied electrical engineering and continued to serve after becoming an electrician, his wife said.

He was home for Thanksgiving before returning to Afghanistan.

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## **TROOP NEWS**

### **Family Notes Improvement In Soldier’s Condition; Hauser Moved His Head And Portions Of His Limbs**

01/04/08 By Lou Michel, NEWS STAFF REPORTER

Spc. Michael D. Hauser of Cheektowaga, seriously wounded in a suicide attack in Iraq in November, has opened his eyes and moved his head as he continues to show signs of improvement in Walter Reed Medical Center.

Hauser moved his head and portions of his limbs when examined by the medical staff in the Washington, D.C., hospital, according to Ray Hauser, the father of the soldier.

Perhaps the most promising indication the 23-year-old soldier is improving came when his father called out his name in the hospital room.

"I called Mike's name a few times, and he opened his eyes and looked at me a few minutes. Nice birthday gift," the father wrote in an e-mail, referring to his 62nd birthday earlier this week.

"Margie and Rachel saw Mike turn his head slightly and supported his head by himself. No support of a towel. Margie says his grip on [his] right hand is much stronger," Ray Hauser added of observations made by his wife, Margaret, and Rachel, the soldier's wife.

When family members informed two Walter Reed neurologists of the developments, Hauser said, the specialists were encouraging.

"They were unaware of what Mike's been doing. They say those are good signs. If inner cranial pressure stays down and brain fluid stays normal, Mike may not need brain surgery," Hauser wrote.

Brain surgery is under consideration for removal of tissue and installation of a shunt. A piece of shrapnel remains in a section of the soldier's brain that is considered an inoperable area.

An exam by a doctor also produced some of the same signs family members noted.

". . . the doctor called out 'Michael.' He opened his eyes and slightly moved his head. doctor pressed on right fingernail, and he moved his right hand. ... doctor pressed Mike's left toenail and he brought his left knee up," Hauser stated.

And in what is considered another sign that the soldier has been stabilized, tubes have been removed from the young man's mouth and nose and a feeding tube has been attached to his stomach.

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## Thieving 10th Mountain Captain Going To Prison

Jan 4, 2008 The Associated Press

FORT DRUM, N.Y. — A 10th Mountain Division captain faces up to 15 years in prison for taking a bribe to steer Army contracts and stealing military property while stationed in Iraq.

Austin Key, 27, of Watertown, is scheduled to be sentenced in U.S. District Court in Manhattan on June 27. Key was freed on a \$500,000 bond, with restrictions imposed on his travel.

Key must also forfeit at least \$108,000 in illegal profits and faces a fine of up to \$250,000.

He pleaded guilty to six criminal counts, according to court documents filed Dec. 19.

Among other wrongdoing, Key admitted demanding a \$50,000 bribe from a businessman while he was in charge of procurement at Camp Liberty in Baghdad.

According to the court documents, he also admitted:

Accepting tens of thousands of dollars in cash in exchange for accompanying contractors' trucks to obtain fuel they weren't entitled to from a depot at Camp Liberty.

Stealing several hundred dollars from an Army petty cash fund at the camp.

Stealing several thousand rounds of ammunition from the camp and selling them to a contractor for about \$400.

Stealing about 150 gallons of oil to sell to a contractor.

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Resistance Action**



Iraqi Army soldiers lay dead and wounded moments after an attack on a celebration marking Army Day in the Karradah neighborhood of central Baghdad Jan. 6, 2008. Eleven were killed. 1.5.08 Reuters

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# A Happy Iraqi Citizen Expresses His Profound Thanks To George W. Bush



A happy Iraqi citizen expresses his profound thanks that the Bush government is occupying his country to a U.S. soldier from 82nd Airborne on patrol in Baghdad's Adhamiya district January 5, 2008.

He told the soldier that Iraqis are a laughing, fun loving but simple people, who like to play basketball and dance a lot, but are completely incapable of running Iraq themselves, and that they are so pleased with the U.S. military control of Iraq that they wish to give all their oil to United States business interests.

"We wouldn't know what to do with all that smelly stuff ourselves." he said.

He went on to say that he feels special gratitude to the U.S. army for helping solve one of Iraq's most difficult problems. "Before the invasion, we had huge numbers of people who were very poor, had no work, and were a burden on everyone. Now we have a much smaller population to worry about."

Photo: REUTERS; Mahmoud Raouf Mahmoud.

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

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

**“What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.”  
Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787.**

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

**“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**

## **THE DOUBLE CROSS**

From: Dennis Serdel  
To: GI Special  
Sent: January 05, 2008  
Subject: THE DOUBLE CROSS BY DENNIS

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

### **THE DOUBLE CROSS**

**tom is sweating, jim humping  
the jungle is scratching dave  
then they find out  
that what they are fighting for  
what they are trying to give  
so they won't have to live  
under communism  
that the vietnamese don't even want**

so they turn on them  
burn their whole village down  
and six more and somehow  
this makes them feel good  
that if these good boys  
have to sleep with the bugs  
and hard ground  
then they have to too  
because they are really  
fighting all of them  
from the little ones to the old men  
because steve is filled with anger  
and paul hates them all  
because they do not want  
what they were told  
they were giving them  
it's like when sam pours his heart  
out to a woman back home  
and gets a dear john letter  
that says i am sorry  
but i don't want you  
so that is the heartbreak  
their government has given them  
emotionally disturbed now  
they don't want to fight  
all they care about  
are land mines, booby traps  
and ied's  
trying to survive like a blur  
all the months in a row  
then go back home  
all changed by the war

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**“5,000 Armed Vietnam Combat  
Veterans Sat At The Great Lakes  
Naval Training Center And Didn't  
Go On The Streets - Can You  
Imagine What Would Have**

# **Happened If Even 20 Of Them Had Joined The Demonstrators On TV?”**

**“They Didn’t Know How Many Of The  
Guys Would Actually Carry Out The  
Threat Of Public Mutiny, And They  
Couldn’t Take The Risk”**

**“They Changed The History Of That War  
Forever, Because Soldiers Everywhere  
Knew Who They Were And What They’d  
Done”**

From: Thomas Cleaver  
To: GI Special  
Sent: January 02, 2008  
Subject: 40 years ago

Here we are, the first day of 2008, 40 years after the first day of 1968, a year that is still as recent to me as yesterday.

I came down with hepatitis on New Years’ Day 1968, and ended up spending two months at home, the longest time I’d spent there since I left 2 days after I graduated from high school 6 years earlier.

**I ended up watching the Vietnamese people overturn the world’s greatest military and arguing with my father that we weren’t going to win a war we didn’t deserve to win, telling him for the first time about what I had learned 4 years earlier, at the outset of the war, as a participant in the Tonkin Gulf “Incident.”**

Three years later, when we next talked, he told me that it took him a year to come to believe what I had told him was the truth - a year spent being harassed by the FBI for the crime of being my father - and coming to see what he thought was the truth was a lie.

He was never the same after that. (In a good way)

I got back to Berkeley after what the doctor called one of the fastest recoveries he’d ever seen, in time to watch the Prague Spring of democratic socialism and human possibility

crushed under the treads of Soviet tanks, and a week later Martin Luther King was assassinated.

I remember sitting in a car on Grizzly Peak Boulevard, getting really high on some good Cambodian Red with my girlfriend as we waited to see the flames break out down in Oakland (the one major city in America where there wasn't a riot that night) while the nation's capitol experienced the worst fire since the British burned it down in 1814. And then a month later we watched the revolution break out in France, and saw it come to what seemed at the time a bad end.

And then we got involved in getting the Peace and Freedom Party on the ballot here, and we succeeded. 10 days before the election, I was over in San Francisco and saw Bobby Kennedy in Union Square and saw the looks on people's faces, and thought maybe something good would happen. That night of the California primary, we had a party to celebrate we'd gotten on the ballot. I went to the bathroom in the empty bedroom, and when I came out, I watched on the TV playing to the empty room as the news came of Kennedy's assassination. I don't remember how long I stood there, but when I walked back into the front room, where the party was in progress and no TVs were on, a girl looked at me and said "who died?" and I said "Robert Kennedy." And the party was over.

A couple weeks later I met Fred Gardner, who had been the assistant gunnery officer on the Turner Joy back that night the insanity began in 1964. Dr. Peter Dale Scott, a professor at Berkeley who was trying to find the evidence of the lies (that would later all be revealed by Daniel Ellsberg) brought us together to talk.

Fred told me about a project he'd begun, using the money he'd been paid to write "Zabriskie Point" - coffeehouses for GIs to talk about the war and organize to oppose it.

**Ten days later I "got on the boat" with the lady who would later be my wife, and went to Killeen Texas, outside Fort Hood, to run The Oleo Strut Coffeehouse.**

**What an amazing place - the main "riot control base" in America and the main "holding base" for guys coming back from their tour in Vietnam, who had 3-6 months left of their sentence, er, I mean their enlistment.**

**That was a dangerous combination of mission and personnel.**

**Two weeks after we got there, we found out how dangerous, as 1,000 very troubled and worried GIs took a little 2" x 2" yellow sticker with a white hand flashing the peace sign, backed by a black fist, and said they'd put it on their helmets if they were called into the streets of Chicago.**

**The next morning we discovered that 43 decorated Vietnam combat veterans, all black, had refused to get on the airplanes to go to Chicago.**

**The minimum price of that ticket to Palookaville was the Bronze Star; 21 of them not only had the Bronze Star but the Silver Star.**



They were determined the Army couldn't call them cowards as they stated their refusal to bash the heads of their fellow Americans who were fighting for what they'd been told they were fighting for.

That afternoon, we were arrested on the way to the coffeehouse, charged with marijuana possession in a state where a SNCC organizer in Houston had been sentenced to 40 years in Huntsville Prison the week before, for allegedly giving half a joint to an undercover agent.

We were lucky, the small town cops there blew it and didn't plant enough to hold us, just one of us, who they thought was the leader - he wasn't.

The next night we - along with everyone else in America - watched the Chicago police riot on TV at the Democratic Convention.

**We were the only people outside of the Army command who knew how it happened: those stickers.**

**They couldn't find them all and isolate the soldiers who had them, they didn't know how many of the guys would actually carry out the threat of public mutiny, and they couldn't take the risk.**

**So 5,000 armed Vietnam combat veterans sat at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center and didn't go on the streets - can you imagine what would have happened if even 20 of them had joined the demonstrators on TV? - and the CPD knew they had no backup. History knows the result.**

**Then we got to spend 6 weeks watching 43 heroes get court-martialled on bullshit charges and have their lives destroyed (25 of them died over the past 40 years, all before their time).**

**And today nobody knows who they are, or what they did, but they changed the history of that war forever, because soldiers everywhere knew who they were and what they'd done.**

Finally that December we burned out and came back to San Francisco just before Christmas. And on Christmas Eve we sat in my future wife's family living room and saw the Earth as seen from the Moon for the first time any humans ever had, courtesy of Apollo 8. And the world was never the same again in ways we are still finding out today, 40 years later.

**I am particularly hopeful as I consider the number of people who are getting this, who I knew back in those days, who were working back then to get the world to live up to the promise shown in that flickering image at the end of the most astonishing year of the 20th Century.**

**And each of them is still - 40 years later - doing what they can to realize that dream. As is everyone else on this list.**

I think that's good reason for hope, because if there's a year to come that has the possibility of realizing many of those 40-year old hopes and dreams - the dreams of

Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy and the Prague Spring and the Paris May and August in Chicago - 2008 is the year.

I think it's going to be as interesting to see where we are at a year from today as it was back then.

Happy new year, May we all live in very interesting times.

**Troops Invited:**

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org):. Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe.

## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

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



An Iraqi citizen ordered at gunpoint to show his body to foreign occupation soldiers from the USA as he was walking on the street in Baqouba, 60 kilometers (35 miles) northeast of Baghdad Jan. 2, 2008. (AP Photo/Marko Drobnjakovic)

**[61% of Iraqis say they approve of attacks on U.S.-led forces in their country, up from 47 percent in January. A solid majority of Shiite and Sunni Arabs approved of the attacks, according to the poll. 9/27/2006 By BARRY SCHWEID, AP & Program on International Policy Attitudes**

**Iraqis feel about U.S. troops trampling them in the dirt the same way Americans felt about British troops trampling them in the dirt in 1776. They are right to resist by any means necessary. T]**

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

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

## **“Iraq For Iraqis No More”**

January 05, 2008 By Correspondent Hussein; [washingtonbureau.typepad.com/iraq/](http://washingtonbureau.typepad.com/iraq/)  
[Baghdad]

We have a proverb in Iraq saying “that who gets married of your mother, you should call him uncle”.

The Prime Minister Mr. Nouri Al-Maliki arrived in Iraq today after a week of being in London for medical treatment.

The news is still good to have our prime in Iraq with his people to do his responsibility, but the strange thing is to have blocked streets having some people raising the prime minister's pictures in hands and shouting for his long live welcoming his coming back home to show off the people's love of their beloved prime minister while the real Iraqi people were in some other blocked streets which are blocked for security reasons as they heard or to have celebrated people of the coming of their prime minister .

**The people in the blocked streets were upset to make them stuck without reaching their destination for no reasonable purpose, but for showing off a celebration or having the prime minister in Iraq.**

**This thing reminds us of the former regime during Saddam's reign when that regime used to have demonstrations and celebrations of such kinds forcing people to be in streets to make the world see them trying to convince them that the government is from the people and for them.**

I think the Iraqi people are smart enough to know who made this small demonstration and for what reason.

**Also the Iraqi people fed up with celebrations and speeches having one thing to be achieved which is Iraq for Iraqis no more.**

I am not against such kinds of celebrations of ceremonies if they just like the one done in the Baghdad airport by the ministers and officials to receive the prime minister, but the price is too much as all the roads near the BIAP (Baghdad International Air Port) are closed making people in trouble having one excuse in mind that they want to secure the officials convoys from terrorists attacks.

Thus, there is no difference of our past than the present time.

**MORE:**

## **“We Have Many Small Saddams Who Were Brought By The USA”**

December 20, 2007; [washingtonbureau.typepad.com/iraq/](http://washingtonbureau.typepad.com/iraq/) [Baghdad]

We have a proverb that says “a broken heart can’t be mended” and that is what I experienced yesterday when I was going back home.

I hired a taxi and the taxi driver was asking me about the road that we have to go through. I told him about my daily route and he said “its too far man. Why don’t we go through the airport street through Adil?”. I was like “what! No way man, I still need my life”.

He said “calm down man. I’m a Shiite guy and I have been there about two hours ago.” I answered him “well, its up to you because its your life but for me, I have a son to live for”. After he accepted to go through the street I chose, we found a very bad traffic then he said “Is this the smooth street you told me about?” I told him “at least its safe” and that was the point when the politics talk started.

He said “people now started fighting Al Qaida and they are awakened now. They formed awakening council in many Sunni neighborhoods including Adil”

I laughed sarcastically and said “why are they awakened? Were they sleeping when Al Qaida killed thousands of innocent people?”

At that point, I can say the political struggle started. We argued for about 30 minutes.

After a long fight, we agreed on one point. We agreed that so many promises were made by the American administration and by the Iraqi government - so many promises that were never fulfilled.

He started laughing and said "I feel so sorry because I participated in the election. I thought that Saddam's days were over but now I feel sorry because we have many small Saddams who were brought by the USA."

"The old Saddam had been kicked out by the Americans but who will help us to end the days of the new Saddams if the USA keeps supporting them".

I didn't answer him because I couldn't find an answer.

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## **OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

### **There's No Place Like Home -- Israeli Style**



Khan Younis, Gaza Strip: Palestinians inspect a house destroyed by Israeli bulldozers and tanks. Photograph: Abid Katib/Getty Images. [Thanks to JM who sent this in, with the headline.]

[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**

# **“For All Those Who Are Against These Racist Acts Of Injustice, Come Out To Brooklyn Criminal Court Jan. 7 (Room AP6) And Show Your Support”**

Date: 3 Jan 2008 Via New York City Labor Against The War  
From: Julissa Santiago juliandindio@yahoo.com

**Familia,**

**Many of you have heard about the 32 Bushwick students who were wrongfully arrested in May while on their way to mourn the loss of a friend.**

**Police assumed that they were gang members who had weapons but after arresting them found notes from parents and teachers explaining that they were attending a funeral.**

**Rather than admitting their mistake, they kept them in jail for 40 hours and charged them with unlawful assembly and a few other bogus charges.**

**In spite of the fact that we have an overwhelming amount of evidence to prove their innocence, most of the students have court appointed lawyers who are clearly not fighting for them so it is imperative the community come out and show support.**

**As many of you already know, our brothers Jesus Gonzalez from Make the Road New York, Nkulueko from Uhuru, Mario Cox from Bushwick Community High School and the Student Coalition Against Racial Profiling, and Brian Favors, teacher at Bushwick Community High School and Sankofa Community Empowerment were attacked and arrested in the court by officers which means that we have more cases involving police misconduct.**

**All four of these leaders have been working tirelessly for positive change in the community over the years. Please come and support Jesus and Mario this Monday by packing the courtroom.**

**When: this Monday, January 7th, 9am**

**Where: 120 Schermerhorn in downtown Brooklyn, room AP6 on the 6th floor**

If you can't make it, keep us in prayer, send us light and spread the word. God Bless and we hope to see you!

-Julissa

**The article below gives a description about what happened the day of their arrest:**

## **'Bushwick 32' Supporters Arrested On Phony Charges**

Dec 9, 2007 By Tyneisha Bowens, Brooklyn, N.Y.

On Nov. 30 than 20 Black students were in the Criminal Court of Brooklyn, N.Y., facing charges from their arrest in May while walking peacefully to the wake of a fellow student and friend.

The charges they face include "unlawful assembly," although the students had permission to attend the wake from both their parents and the administration of their high school. Originally these students were the "Bushwick 32" but some of the students had their charges dropped or had been to court before Nov. 30.

The Bushwick youths have had support from fellow students, community members, organizations like Student Coalition Against Racial Profiling and Make the Road since the May arrest, and had planned a news conference for Nov. 30...

During the court proceedings four supporters of the Bushwick students --- John Mekins, Brian Favors, Mario Cox, and Jesus Gonzalez --- were forced out of the courtroom for attempting to have counsel with one of the students' lawyers and calling out injustice when they saw the court's treatment of fellow supporters.

Once in the hall a fight between the supporters and the court officers broke out. "We could hear what was going on in the hallway but when we wanted to go out and stop it we were told to sit down before the same thing happened to us," said one of the Bushwick youths on trial at the time.

The four men were arrested in the hall and held in the courthouse. During the initial time of their holding, Brian Favors' spouse and Mario Cox's mother were not allowed to see their loved ones and were unaware of the charges and details of the incident. Due to the circumstances of the case and the arrest of the students' supporters, the Bushwick youths' case was moved to Dec. 7.

On Dec. 1, the four supporters were arraigned in the same courthouse where they had been the previous day standing up against racial profiling and the racism of the entire judicial system. More than 60 supporters of the four men packed the courtroom...

Mekins, Favors, Cox, and Gonzalez were accused of starting the altercation with court officers and resisting arrest during the prosecution's statement. The defense teams for the four men used character statements about them to prove that they had no intention

of or interest in causing an altercation with the officers and that doing so would have stood in contrast to their community work and past behavior.

Cox, a high school student, was scheduled to take the SAT at the very time he was in court. Favors is a teacher and a trusted advisor to the Bushwick students and their parents. Gonzalez is a dedicated community organizer and college student. And Mekins' removal from the courtroom was a case of mistaken identity which was cleared up by Favors before the arrest..

The four defendants had visible bruises during the arraignment. They had been taken to the hospital for their injuries after the fight. All four men were released without bail, but the charges were not dropped. Cox and Gonzalez will be in court on Jan. 7, and Mekins and Favors on Dec. 12.

After their release the four pillars of the community greeted and thanked each of their supporters outside of the courtroom. The defense team and defendants spoke to supporters outside the courthouse.

Ray Boudreaux of the San Francisco 8, members of the Black Panther Party and political prisoners, came out in support of these men and had this to say: "They attacked these brothers because they are organizers for our community.... This is the whole U.S. government that we are up against and what we need is a revolution."

The defendants let tears run down their faces as more supporters joined the crowd outside.

For all those who are against these racist acts of injustice, come out to Criminal Court... Jan. 7 (room AP6) and show your support.

\*\*\*\*\*

**For more information, contact:**

**Julissa Gonzalez Santiago on her cell at 347-743-8322 or  
Jesus Gonzalez on his cell at 718-812-3760**

**Note: All contacts on this email are personal friends and family of Jesus Gonzalez and Julissa Santiago**

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**“Support Members Of Our  
Communities And Their Families  
Who Have Been Attacked Or  
Murdered By The NYPD;  
WE NEED YOUR HELP!!”**



# Trial Dates That Need Your Support.

January 05, 2008  
Justice Committee, Inc.  
PO 1885 New York, NY 10159-1885  
justicecommittee@ gmail.com  
Via New York City Labor Against The War

Sign up for a day or a shift to support members of our communities and their families who have been attacked or murdered by the NYPD during their trials. Respond to this email with the date and times you can attend with your contact info. Contact info is very important as sometimes rooms and cancellations can happen.

## **PACK THE COURT for Juanita Young Trial**

**Juanita is facing bogus criminal charges from November 2006 when Bronx police entered her home, beat, kicked and arrested her, then held her handcuffed to a Bronx hospital bed,(while suffering from such a severe asthma episode that she could barely breathe!!)**

ONLY TO HAND HER A DESK APPEARANCE TICKET AFTER FOUR TERRIFYING DAYS!!

**When: PACK the court beginning on January 8, 2008:**

Time: 10:00 am-jury selection

Where: Bronx Supreme Court, Part 40

851 Grand Concourse, Bronx (B/D/4 to 161st Street-Yankee Stadium)

## **PACK THE COURT for Fernin Arzu Trial**

Was shot by an off-duty police officer while driving his car in his neighborhood.

**When: January 8th**

Location: Bronx Court (Please let us know if you can go and we will send out the details)

## **PACK THE COURT for Jesus Bracero Trial**

**56 year old Puerto Rican man who was assaulted and arrested in front of his 15 year old daughter while he was dropping her off at school.**

When: The week of January 14th

Location: Manhattan Criminal Court 100 Centre St. (Room TBA)

Time: 9:30am-4pm

Directions: Take the No. 4 or 5 train to the Brooklyn Bridge Station; the C, N, R, 6 train to Canal Street; the 1 train to Franklin Street.

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***Welcome To The Occupied USA:***  
**Rat Scum Cops Arrest Labor Activist**  
**For Handing Out Union Information**  
**On Public Property:**  
**“We Should Pack The Courtroom And**  
**Picket The Plant”**

[Thanks to Dennis Serdel, who sent this in. He writes: Wendy was President of her UAW Union before she retired a year and a half ago.]

From: Gregg Shotwell  
Date: January 5, 2008  
Subject: Wendy Thompson arrested in 3 Rivers

Read the message below from Wendy Thompson. We should pack the courtroom and picket the plant. sos shot

\*\*\*\*\*

By Wendy Thompson

Before the holidays, I wrote to this list and told how Kevin Bushouse from American Axle in 3 Rivers was called into the office because of an article he wrote about quality in Shifting Gears after it had appeared on the Internet.

On Jan. 2, Dianne Feeley and myself drove to 3 Rivers to hand out Shifting Gears to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd shifts.

**At approximately 3:30 pm, Dianne was approached by security at the back of the plant who told her she had to stand on the other side of the public thoroughfare instead of on the side by the American Axle driveway.**

**She said she would not move because she knew she had the right to hand out literature standing on the public property where she was.**

At approximately 10:50 pm, I was standing at the front entrance, at the end of the second driveway of the American Axle plant on Hoffman in 3 Rivers when a police car came up and stopped in the street.

**An officer came up to me and spoke in angry tones telling me I could not stand on company property and had to go to the other side of the street because I was impeding traffic.**

**I told him I understood I was not to be on company property and that I would not impede traffic, but that I felt I has a right to hand out union literature standing on the American Axle side of the street. I asked him why he was speaking to me in such a hostile manner.**

He was upset I would not cross the street and said he believed I would impede traffic and was going to stand by his car and when I did, he was going to arrest me.

I told him I felt he was harassing me. I stood on the left hand side of the drive by the curb. A car came along side of me moving slowly with the passenger side window open and I tossed a leaflet inside and it moved into the driveway.

At that moment, the officer rushed across the street grabbed me by the arm pinching it saying: "That's it, I'm arresting you". I told him I was not resisting arrest and saw no reason for him to handle me in such a rough manner.

He angrily replied: "I didn't say you were resisting arrest did I?" He opened the passenger door and cleared things off the seat. As he did he continued to pitch me on my arm. I again complained saying it was unnecessary.

He took me to the police station where I was given a traffic violation for impeding traffic. Another officer came in and told me that my friend leafleting with me was waiting where I had dropped her in the rear of the plant. I was then driven back to my car and released at approximately 11:30 pm.

**I believe at least 7 American Axle workers witnessed this incident. Some are communicating with me saying they are willing to give statements. I believe I was taken into custody not because I impeded traffic, but because I was handing out union literature which is my legal right.**

**Split shift union meetings occurred the next day and workers discussed the incident for about twenty minutes.**

**They were angry at what management and the police had done and want to support us in our efforts. I will be challenging the ticket at a hearing. The date has not yet been set.**

## **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/))**

## GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

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

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

<http://williambowles.info/gispecial/2007/index.html>; <http://www.uruknet.info/?p=-6&l=e>; [http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi\\_special/](http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi_special/);

<http://www.albasrah.net/pages/mod.php?header=res1&mod=gis&rep=gis>



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