

GI SPECIAL 6E17:

“STOP LOSS”



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)

ACTION REPORTS

Fleet Week & Railroad Station:

“All In All A Good, Productive Weekend”

From: Alan Stolzer.. The Military Project
To: Military Project & GI Special
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2008 10:19 AM
Subject: Fleet Week& Railroad Station

Friday night, 5/23, Sally D. and I made rounds of the midtown area which is usually jammed with sailors/marines at this time of year. Much to our surprise the sidewalks in front of the bars troops drank in past years (you weren't able to walk by) were clear of military as well as the bars.

We expanded our route and began seeing pairs and threesomes of troops. We approached as many as we saw and distributed our Fleet Week Package which consisted to the Fleet Week wrapper (designed by Katherine G. last year) along with the GI Rights pamphlet and Traveling Soldier.

As per usual we were well received and were also able to dispense directions and site advice since we live in the area.

Sunday was even better, spiritually if nothing else.

VFP Chapter 34 had voted to outreach in the Times Square area after the memorial service near the Staten Island Ferry Sunday morning. 8-10 of us went up by subway afterward and gathered on 8th Ave. and 44th St. (Smiths Bar was headquarters as it turned out).

VFP members and associates, their first time outreaching, took to it like wildfire.

The Chapter president was seen racing across 8th Ave. to access sailors we otherwise would have missed.

A VFP associate was heard telling sailors “we love you guys.”

Bars and snack restaurants were invaded as well in a very energetic fashion. Dozens of handouts were made and the participants will be contacted for our next Harlem outreach in July.

Lillian U. and I were well received at [XXXXX] Station on Monday giving out 5 packets of GI Rights pamphlets, Traveling Soldiers and GI Specials.

I managed to hand out more of the same on 6th Ave. yesterday between Bryant and Central Parks.

All in all a good, productive weekend.

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

IED Kills U.S. Soldier In Salah Ad-Din; Two More Wounded

May 26, 2008 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE
No. 20080526-01 & Associated Press

TIKRIT, Iraq – A Coalition force Soldier was killed as a result of injuries sustained from an improvised explosive device in Salah ad-Din Province, north of Baghdad, May 26.

Two Soldiers were wounded as a result of the same attack and transported to a Coalition medical facility for treatment.

U.S. Soldier Killed In Al-Shamiya, Two More Wounded

May 26 (Reuters)

One U.S. soldier was killed and two wounded on Sunday when their patrol was hit by a roadside bomb in the town of al-Shamiya, 180 km (95 miles) south of Baghdad, the U.S. military said.

Fort Campbell Soldier Killed In Iraq, Family Says



Sgt. Blake Evans, of Rockford, Ill. (AP Photo/City of Rockford)

May. 27, 2008 The Associated Press

ROCKFORD, Ill. --A married father of two from Rockford on his second tour of duty in Iraq was killed by an improvised explosive device over the weekend, a family member

and the military said Tuesday. Mike Belk said his nephew, Sgt. Blake Evans, was killed while on patrol Sunday.

Evans was an infantryman with the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky., according to Belk and a statement put out by the city of Rockford. Evans' mother, Judy Belk, is an employee with the Rockford Police Department, and his stepfather, Craig Belk, is an assistant 911 shift supervisor with the city's fire department.

Belk said his nephew's tour was scheduled to end in December and that Evans was looking forward to returning home on leave next month to spend time with his wife, Shannon, and his two children, the youngest of whom Belk said is turning 2 years old next week.

Belk said he did not know exactly what Evans was doing in recent days but that the tour of duty had been particularly trying.

"There was a lot of death, a lot of fighting, that sort of thing," he said.

Belk said Evans had hoped both to further his education and make the military his career. Evans was a 2002 graduate of Guilford High School in Rockford, according to Marilyn Hartzog, a guidance counselor at the school.

Brother Says Soldier From Ohio Dies In Iraq

May 27, 2008 BELLE VALLEY (AP)

A soldier from eastern Ohio who was wounded by a roadside bomb in Iraq has died from his injuries, his brother said Monday.

Kyle Phillip Norris, 22, was struck by an improvised explosive device on Thursday in Iskandariyah, a town 30 miles south of Baghdad, and died later in a hospital in Iraq before he could be flown to a military hospital in Germany, Michael Norris said.

Family members in this town 90 miles east of Columbus were notified of the death on Friday, he said.

Norris attended Muskingum Christian Academy in Zanesville for several years and was also homeschooled. He joined the Army three years ago, arrived in Iraq in October and was recently promoted to specialist, his brother said.

U.S. Armored Vehicle Blown Up In Sadr City



5.26.08: A roadside bomb struck a U.S. mine-resistant armored vehicle on the southern edge of Sadr City, Baghdad, engulfing it in flames and smoke. The U.S. military said there were no casualties. (Thaier al-Sudani/Reuters)

REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: ALL HOME NOW



A U.S. soldier at the scene of a rocket attack in Baghdad March 23, 2008.
REUTERS/Ceerwan Aziz

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

British Soldier Killed Near Sangin; Two More Wounded

26 May 08 Ministry of Defence

It is with deep regret that the Ministry of Defence must confirm that a British Serviceperson was killed in Afghanistan yesterday, Sunday 25 May 2008.

The incident, in which two other personnel were injured, happened at approximately 1250hrs, two kilometres north of Sangin, when the vehicle they were travelling in was caught in an explosion. The UK personnel were returning to their operating base following operations in the Musa Qaleh area.

The two injured Service personnel were airlifted to Camp Bastion for medical treatment.

After U.S. Forces Butcher Villagers, Survivors Vow To Join Resistance And Kill U.S. Troops:

**“There Were No Taliban Fighters
Here. But There Will Be Now”**

**“The Americans Are Driving Our
Young Men To The Insurgents”**

**“The Men Are Angry And They Will Go
Over To The Taliban. They Are Looking
To Be Recruited To Fight Against The
Foreigners”**



Khale Faram villagers prepare to bury the remains of one of three men killed during a U.S. military operation in the village, east of Jalalabad in Nangarhar province, Afghanistan, May 10, 2008. Photo: RAHMAT GUL/AP

May 24, 2008 04:30 AM Rosie DiManno, Columnist, Toronto Star [Excerpts]

KHALE FARAM, Nangarhar Province—It's an eerily quiet village, almost a ghost hamlet.

A dozen armed men, among those who've stayed to guard the community, block the road when an unknown vehicle approaches. They've already turned away a delegation of investigators from Kabul, sent by the president himself.

Afghan National Police dare not tread into the area, afraid for their lives.

"We're not going any further," the captain of the district highway patrol declares, as two police jeeps pull to a halt at the turnoff to Khale Faram, still three kilometres distant, deep into farmland. Finally, village elders wave us through to tell their story.

The murky events in Khale Faram – either a disastrous military cock-up or a legitimate raid that resulted in the death of three insurgents – make a story that needs to be told.

Because Khale Faram is every village in Afghanistan where the population is seething over civilian deaths caused by foreign troops conducting military operations.

"There were no Taliban fighters here," insists Haji Halim, head of the youth council in Old Marcoh, the nearest town to the village, some 40 kilometres east of Jalalabad, the provincial capital and thoroughly Pashtun.

"But there will be now.

“The Americans are driving our young men to the insurgents by coming into our villages in the middle of the night, invading our homes, shooting innocent people. This is how you make enemies, not friends.”

Shah Raji Durshi, a former jihad commander, wants the story out.

“Tell them what happened here,” says the erstwhile militant, who spent two years imprisoned by the Americans at their detention facility in Bagram, pulling out the “certificate for release” card provided upon his being set free.

“Tell them our families have fled because they're scared. The village will die if they don't come back.

‘But the men are angry and they will go over to the Taliban. They are looking to be recruited to fight against the foreigners.’

This much is certain: Three Afghan males were killed in the early morning hours of May 10. They are: cousins Jalil and Jahangir, 28 and 26; and Haji Gulmir, 80.

“Haji was sleeping right here,” says Durshi, pointing to a terrace area just outside the village mosque.

“He heard the shooting. He got up to see what was happening and he was shot. This is where he died, an old man who wasn't hurting anybody.”

Sahilan, 25, picks up the tale.

“It was 2 o'clock in the morning. Suddenly, there was gunfire. I came outside and there were American troops everywhere. They rounded up all the men, me and my three brothers too. They made us kneel down and they tied our wrists together.”

The cousins, adds another villager, were shot in their compound, located just behind the mosque.

Several of the males were taken away, says Durshi, the rest left as they were, huddled on the ground under an awning next to the mosque, a kind of hospitality area for travellers passing through.

Shankil Ahmad, just 17, lifts his wrists to show the bruising from the tight rubber cuffs. Haji Gulmir was his grandfather, he says.

“While we were here kneeling, the soldiers went into our homes. They stole our money, they stole our women's jewellery.”

Someone else suggests, no, it wasn't the soldiers who did the thieving; it was bandits who crept upon the village when the men-folk were still tied up.

“I think maybe the robbers were the same ones who gave the Americans wrong information about our village, that we were hiding fighters,” offers Sayeed Amir, 45, stroking his long black beard.

“This is common in Afghanistan. Somebody doesn't like you, maybe they have a dispute with some families, and they go tell stories about the Taliban to the Americans. And the Americans, they don't know who's who.

“Why do they trust this information? Why didn't they come to us and ask? We want the name of this person who gave them the information. We want the government to put this person in jail.”

There had been, Amir adds, an aerial bombardment of nearby compounds, only two days before the nighttime raid, in which no one was apparently injured.

“First they bomb us, then they come back and shoot us.”

“In that same area, militants had previously engaged us,” Sgt. First Class Mark Swart, spokesperson for Combined Task Force 101 – the vast U.S. military element in Regional Command East – told the Toronto Star, explaining why the action was launched. “We have nothing further to add to the information that was released.”

But the residents of Khale Faram were so infuriated by what they claim were innocent civilians killed that they later staged a protest on the highway – joined by some 2,000 local Afghans – shutting down traffic to and from the border.

A clash ensued when the Afghan National Army tried to break up the demonstration, with allegedly two more people killed and seven wounded.

“We have our own laws here,” says Haji Halim, as the Star pulls away from the village.

“We are not ruled from Kabul. We can keep our area secure, free of Taliban fighters. But we want the Americans to leave.”

After The Triumphant Happy Talk, A Cold Shot Of Reality:

**“After A Month In The Region, The
Marines Have Secured Only Half
Of A 10 Square Kilometer Area
South Of Garmser”**

**“The Taliban Were Already Infiltrating
Back”**

“Taliban Operating Out Of Two Villages Are Still Attacking Their Southern Flank”

May 26, 2008 By Carlotta Gall, International Herald Tribune [Excerpts]

GARMSER, Afghanistan: For two years British troops staked out a presence in this small district center in southern Afghanistan and fended off attacks from the Taliban. The constant firefights left it a ghost town, its bazaar broken and empty but for one baker, its houses and orchards reduced to rubble and weeds.

But it took the U.S. Marines, specifically the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, about 96 hours to clear out the Taliban in a fierce battle in the past month and push them back 10 kilometers, or six kilometers.

The marines' drive against the Taliban in this large farming region is certainly not finished, and the Taliban have often been pushed out of areas in Afghanistan only to return in force. But for the British forces and for Afghan residents, the result of the recent operation has been palpable.

The district chief returned to his job from his refuge in the provincial capital within days of the battle. Two hundred people - including 100 elders of the community - gathered for a meeting with him and the British to plan the regeneration of the town.

Villagers were refusing foreign aid because the Taliban were already infiltrating back and threatening anyone who took it, said Matzke, the first lieutenant of Charlie Company.

After a month in the region, the marines have secured only half of a 10 square kilometer area south of Garmser, and Taliban operating out of two villages are still attacking their southern flank and even creeping up to fire at British positions on the edge of the town.

But the bigger test will come in the next few weeks as the marines move on, the Afghans take over, supported by the British, and the Taliban try to blend in with the returning population and orchestrate attacks, as everyone here expects them to do.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Give This Man A Teaching Post At West Point

[On Conducting Insurgency Warfare Against Foreign Occupation]

May 27 By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA, Associated Press Writer

A man identifying himself as a spokesman for the Islamic State of Iraq in Ninevah province, which includes Mosul, said in a videotape posted online that insurgents were at “full strength” despite the Mosul sweeps and were just waiting for the proper time to counterattack.

“We are the ones who control the hour to start the initiative and we will choose the time for retaliation or engagement,” said the unidentified spokesman, whose face was covered.

Resistance Action



Iraqi soldiers flee the site of a roadside bomb after it exploded in Baghdad 5.26.08 near an Iraqi army checkpoint on the road to Baghdad international airport. (AP Photo/Khalid Mohammed)

5,26,08 AP & Reuters & May 27 (Reuters) & By Ned Parker, Los Angeles Times

There was a rare roadside bombing near an Iraqi army checkpoint on the heavily guarded road that leads to the Baghdad International Airport. An Iraqi soldier was wounded, police said.

A bomber on a motorcycle killed at least six members of a U.S.-backed neighborhood patrol and wounded 18 others on Monday, police said. The attack took place at a checkpoint in Tarmiya, a town just north of Baghdad. The bomber tried yesterday to

blow up the house of a tribal leader, Sheik Said Jassim, whose son heads a paramilitary unit that fights alongside the Americans. The bomber detonated his explosives at the last checkpoint about 60 yards from the sheik's house, said a member of the paramilitary group.

One Iraqi soldier was killed and eight others wounded when a car bomb hit their army patrol in Hurriya district, northwest Baghdad.

The body of a prison warden was found with bullets in the head and chest in Mosul, 390 km (240 miles), north of Baghdad, police said.

A grenade tossed at a police patrol wounded one policeman, in central Mosul, police said.

DIYALA PROVINCE - An explosive device in a house killed a member of the U.S.-backed neighbourhood patrol and wounded four others, as well as an Iraqi soldier and a civilian, who is suspected of being involved in the blast, the U.S. military said.

A pipe bomb attached to a car exploded near a U.S.-backed neighbourhood patrol in Adhamiya, northern Baghdad, wounding one of the patrol's members, police said.

Insurgents attacked and killed a policeman in a crowded area in Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

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

**Iraqi Oil Workers Unions Call
For “Your Support And
Solidarity To Help Us End The
Military And Economic
Occupation Of Our Country”
“We Demand An Immediate
Withdrawal Of All Foreign Troops
From Our Country, And Utterly Reject
The Agreement Being Negotiated**

With The USA For Long-Term Bases And A Military Presence”

[Via New York City Labor Against The War:

In the name of our “liberation,” more than a million of our citizens have been killed or wounded, our nation's schools, hospitals and other infrastructure have been destroyed, our neighbourhoods have been bombed, our homes have been broken into, our children have been traumatized, many of our family members and neighbours have been assaulted and arrested, our national treasures have been looted, and nearly twenty percent of our people have been turned into refugees.

May 28, 2008

To: The Shareholders of ExxonMobil and Chevron Corporations and All Peace Loving People of the World

From: Hassan Juma'a Awad, President, Iraqi Federation of Oil Unions (IFOU)

We call upon the governments, corporations and other institutions behind the ongoing occupation of Iraq to respond to our demands for real democracy, true sovereignty and self-determination, free of all foreign interference.

Five years of invasion, war and occupation have brought nothing but death, destruction, misery and suffering to our people.

In the name of our “liberation,” more than a million of our citizens have been killed or wounded, our nation's schools, hospitals and other infrastructure have been destroyed, our neighbourhoods have been bombed, our homes have been broken into, our children have been traumatized, many of our family members and neighbours have been assaulted and arrested, our national treasures have been looted, and nearly twenty percent of our people have been turned into refugees.

The continued occupation fuels the violence in Iraq rather than alleviating it. The occupation has helped to foment and then exploit sectarian divisions and terror attacks where there had been none.

The Ba'athist legislation of 1987, which banned trade unions in the public sector and public enterprises (80% of all workers), is still in effect and continues to be enforced against us.

Our union offices have been raided.

Union property has been seized and destroyed. Our bank accounts have been frozen.

Our leaders have been beaten, arrested, abducted and assassinated.

Our rights as workers are routinely violated.

This is an attack on our rights and the basic precepts of a democratic society. It is a grim reminder of the shadow of dictatorship still stalking our country.

We call upon you and all the world's peace-loving peoples to help us to end the nightmare of occupation and restore our sovereignty and national independence so that we can chart our own course to the future.

1. We demand an immediate withdrawal of all foreign troops from our country, and utterly reject the agreement being negotiated with the USA for long-term bases and a military presence.

Iraq must be returned to full sovereignty.

2. We demand the passage of a labour law promised by our Constitution, that adheres to ILO principles to protect the rights of workers to organize, bargain and strike, independent of state control and interference and on which Iraqi trade unionists have been fully consulted.

3. We demand an end to meddling in our sovereign economic affairs by the International Monetary Fund, the USA and UK, and multinational energy corporations, and recognition that no major economic decisions concerning our services and resources can be made while foreign troops occupy our country.

4. We demand that the US government, oil companies and others immediately cease lobbying for the oil law which would fracture the country and hand control over our oil to multinational companies like ExxonMobil and Chevron. We demand that all oil companies be prevented from entering into any long-term agreement concerning oil while Iraq remains occupied. The Iraqi government must tear up the current draft of the oil law, and begin to develop a legitimate oil policy based on full and genuine consultation with the Iraqi people. Only after all occupation forces are gone should a long term plan for the development of our oil resources be adopted.

We seek your support and solidarity to help us end the military and economic occupation of our country.

We look forward to the day when we have a world based on co-operation and solidarity.

We look forward to a world free from war, sectarianism, competition and exploitation.

Contact: Michael Eisenscher 510-698-6276 or 510-693-7314,
nationalcoordinator@uslaboragainstar.org

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

1915: True Then, True Now: “The Cheap Optimism Of The Conscienceless Prophets, Both Political And Military Who, Boldly Promising Victory, Prolong The War”

From: Human Smoke; The Beginnings of World War II, By Nicholson Baker, Simon & Schuster; New York 2008

STEFAN ZWEIG was at the eastern front, gathering Russian war proclamations for the Austrian archives. It was the spring of 1915.

Zweig boarded a freight car on a hospital train.

“One crude stretcher stood next to the other,” he wrote, “and all were occupied by moaning, sweating, deathly pale men, who were gasping for breath in the thick atmosphere of excrement and iodoform.” There were several dead among the living.

The doctor, in despair, asked Zweig to get water. He had no morphine and no clean bandages, and they were still twenty hours from Budapest.

When Zweig got back to Vienna, he began a pacifist play, Jeremiah.

“I had recognized,” Zweig wrote, “the foe I was to fight — false heroism that prefers to send others to suffering and death, the cheap optimism of the conscienceless prophets, both political and military who, boldly promising victory, prolong the war, and behind them the hired chorus, the ‘word makers of war’ as Werfel has pilloried them in his beautiful poem.”

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. Phone: 917.677.8057

OCCUPATION REPORT

Good News For The Iraqi Resistance!!

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



Foreign occupation soldiers from the search an Iraqi citizen's house during an armed home invasion in the Sheik Marouf neighborhood, Karkh district , Baghdad, Iraq, May 23, 2008. (AP Photo/Petros Giannakouris)

[There's nothing quite like invading somebody else's country and busting into their houses by force to arouse an intense desire to kill you in the patriotic, self-respecting civilians who live there.

[But your commanders know that, don't they? Don't they?]

"In the States, if police burst into your house, kicking down doors and swearing at you, you would call your lawyer and file a lawsuit," said Wood, 42, from Iowa, who did not accompany Halladay's Charlie Company, from his battalion, on Thursday's raid. "Here, there are no lawyers. Their resources are limited, so they plant IEDs (improvised explosive devices) instead."

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

The Great Interview With The Spokesman Of The Ministry Of Education

May 25, 2008 by Laith [Baghdad] washingtonbureau.typepad.com/iraq/

I believe everyone read the story of Alice in Wonderland but no one could ever travel in his imagination to reach this wonderland or even tried hard to know where this wonderland is but today I think I found the real answer.

I'm like 80% sure that Alice came to Iraq and when she couldn't find reasonable answers for her questions, she called Iraq the Wonderland. You know she has the right to call it so because this is really the wonderland.

Today I m going to write a different story. Im going to call it Laith in the Wonder Ministry.

My assignment today was to join our American colleague Raviya to the ministry of education to finish her story about education in Iraq.

Its still dangerous to go out with an American reporter. Anyway, we reached the ministry after more than one hour trip. We were searched three times in less than 30 meters. I was asked the same question three times (where are you going) and I was always saying shortly (the third floor to meet the spokesman of the ministry) and at last I'm in the room.

The spokesman looked like a young man in his forties. He was talking to someone when I entered his room. I kept silent until he finished his phone call and then I started talking. I introduced myself and Raviya and gave him a very short brief about the story.

I expected to hear anything but not the answer my ears got. The spokesman said "Im not in the mode to talk".

I was about to say (WHAT? Not in the mode to talk Your job is to talk to me and any other journalist) but I was so calm.

To be honest, his answer made me boiling but I had to control myself because I wanted to do the interview.

I was so patient but the man simply ignored me and my colleagues. He kept receiving the phone calls and he was complaining "if only I don't get any phone calls, I would be fine"

I told him simply you can switch your phone off for a while" and I kept talking with the man to convince him t do the interview but the man insisted on neglecting me and he suggested to meet some officials in the other side of Baghdad. He called the guy but he couldn't find him.

Again, I told him that I want to talk with him for ten minutes only because he is the spokesman and he is the one who has the answers but he changed the subject and again he ignored me.

After twenty minutes, I told Raviya that we have to leave because it's useless to talk to the guy because he doesn't want to.

When we left the ministry, Raviya asked me about the conversation between me and the spokesman. I told her about all the details and I even told her about the details of the phone calls. Raviya was completely shocked with the details.

This is one story of the wonderland, Iraq.

Bye till the next story.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Sixty Years On

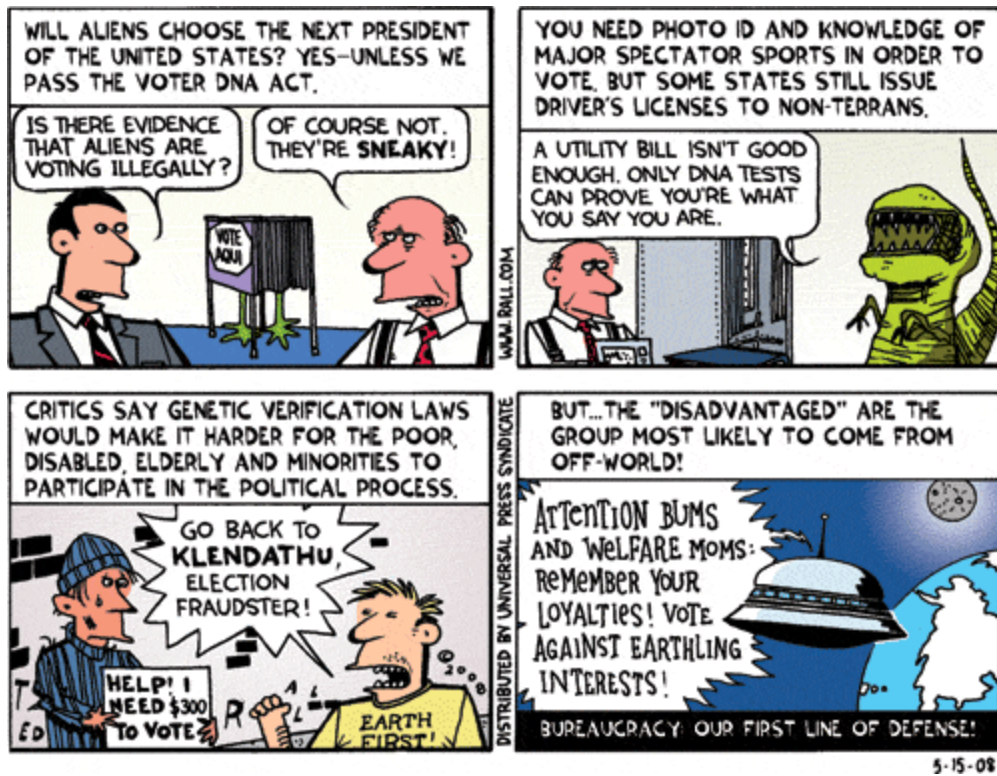
May 24, 2008 By Aida Hasan via Al-Awda

**Sixty years on
against the occupiers wishes
We Exist
sons and daughters
of Ramleh, Haifa, Nasira
Jimzu, Imwas, Deir Yassin
We Remember
the villages destroyed
towns stripped of Arab names
manufactured, renamed, disguised
our homes filled with Palestinian memories
painted over with foreign colors
a bridal shop in Ramleh
selling strangers their happy dreams
in my house on our land
the house great grandfather Ali built
We Continue
We will always continue
Because the land longs for us
Because we long for the land
Because home is a Right
Because it is our Right
Because
We Exist
Because We**

Remember
We will not stop
Until Return.

[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



Twisted Freaks At Homeland Security Injecting Deportees With Dangerous Psych Drugs: Sadistic Scum Tried To Lie And Cover Up Criminal Acts:

“The Government Has Routinely Ignored Its Own Rules” Huge Doses Of Drug Favored By Stalinist Secret Police Were Administered That Can Cause “Sudden Death And Dangerous Changes In Heart Rhythm”

[One way to make sure this never happens again: cuff and tie down anybody caught doing this, inject them with the same drugs they've been using, and ship their ass to Iraq, where they can show how brave they really air. T]

May 14, 2008 by Amy Goldstein and Dana Priest, Washington Post Staff Writers
[Excerpts]

The U.S. government has injected hundreds of foreigners it has deported with dangerous psychotropic drugs against their will to keep them sedated during the trip back to their home country, according to medical records, internal documents and interviews with people who have been drugged.

The government's forced use of antipsychotic drugs, in people who have no history of mental illness, includes dozens of cases in which the “pre-flight cocktail,” as a document calls it, had such a potent effect that federal guards needed a wheelchair to move the slumped deportee onto an airplane.

“Unsteady gait. Fell onto tarmac,” says a medical note on the deportation of a 38-year-old woman to Costa Rica in late spring 2005.

Another detainee was “dragged down the aisle in handcuffs, semi-comatose,” according to an airline crew member's written account. Repeatedly, documents describe immigration guards “taking down” a reluctant deportee to be tranquilized before heading to an airport.

Such episodes are among more than 250 cases The Washington Post has identified in which the government has, without medical reason, given drugs meant to treat serious psychiatric disorders to people it has shipped out of the United States since 2003 -- the year the Bush administration handed the job of deportation to the Department of Homeland Security's new Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, known as ICE.

Involuntary chemical restraint of detainees, unless there is a medical justification, is a violation of some international human rights codes. The practice is banned by several

countries where, confidential documents make clear, U.S. escorts have been unable to inject deportees with extra doses of drugs during layovers en route to faraway places.

Federal officials have seldom acknowledged publicly that they sedate people for deportation. The few times officials have spoken of the practice, they have understated it, portraying sedation as rare and “an act of last resort.”

Neither is true, records and interviews indicate.

Records show that the government has routinely ignored its own rules, which allow deportees to be sedated only if they have a mental illness requiring the drugs, or if they are so aggressive that they imperil themselves or people around them.

Stung by lawsuits over two sedation cases, the agency changed its policy in June to require a court order before drugging any deportee for behavioral rather than psychiatric reasons.

In at least one instance identified by The Post, the agency appears not to have followed those rules.

After injecting the sedatives, the nurse travels with the deportee and immigration guards to their destination, usually giving more doses along the way.

To recruit medical escorts, the government has sought to glamorize this work. “Do you ever dream of escaping to exotic, exciting locations?” said an item in an agency newsletter. “Want to get away from the office but are strapped for cash? Make your dreams come true by signing up as a Medical Escort for DIHS!” [Could be better. How about “Did you enjoying torturing small animals as a kid? Do you ever have fantasies about raping little boys and girls? Well, here’s a way you can act out your sadistic impulses legally: work for Homeland Security. You’ll feel right at home with us.”]

The nurses are required to fill out step-by-step medical logs for each trip.

Hundreds of logs for the past five years, obtained by The Post, chronicle in vivid detail deviations from the government's sedation rules.

An analysis by The Post of the known sedations during fiscal 2007, ending last October, found that 67 people who got medical escorts had no documented psychiatric reason.

Of the 67, psychiatric drugs were given to 53, 48 of whom had no documented history of violence, though some had managed to thwart an earlier attempt to deport them. These figures do not include two detainees who immigration officials said were given sedatives for behavioral rather than psychiatric reasons before being deported on group charter flights, which are often used to return people to Mexico and Central America.

Even some people who had been violent in the past proved peaceful the day they were sent home. “Dt calm at this time,” says the first entry, using shorthand for “detainee,” in the log for the January 2007 deportation of Yousif Nageib to his native Sudan. In requesting drugs for his deportation, an immigration officer had noted that Nageib, 40,

had once fled to Canada to avoid an assault charge and had helped instigate a detainee uprising while in custody.

But on the morning of his departure, the log says, he “is handcuffed and states he will do what we say.” Still, he was injected in his right buttock with a three-drug cocktail.

When he landed in Lagos, Nigeria, Afolabi Ade was unable to talk.

“Every time I tried to force myself to speak, I couldn’t, because my tongue was . . . twisted. . . . I thought I was going to swallow it,” Ade, 33, recalled in an interview. “I was nauseous. I was dizzy.”

As he was being flown back to Africa, his American wife alerted his parents there that he was on his way. His father was waiting at the Lagos airport. It was the first time in three years that they had seen one another.

Shocked by how woozy the young man was, his father decided not to take him home and frighten the rest of the family. Instead, he checked his son into a hotel.

Ade was in the hotel for four days before the effects of the drugs began to abate.

The effects of those injections are what alarmed Ade’s father after the plane landed in Lagos. Yet the medical log says Ade arrived “alert and oriented.”

His family’s doctor, who visited him on each of the four days his father hid him in the hotel, had a different view. “He was groggy -- somebody under the influence of drugs or drunkenness,” recalled Olakunle Adigun, a general practitioner. He couldn’t figure out what sedatives his patient had been given, so he tried to detoxify him with saline infusions.

Ade’s pulse was dangerously low, and when he tried to walk around the hotel room, “he leaned on the wall,” Adigun said. “He was talking, but a slurred kind of speech.”

Internal government records show that most sedated deportees, such as Ade, received a cocktail of three drugs that included Haldol, also known as haloperidol, a medication normally used to treat schizophrenia and other acute psychotic states.

Of the 53 deportees without a mental illness who were drugged in 2007, The Post’s analysis found, 50 were injected with Haldol, sometimes in large amounts.

Haldol gained notoriety in the Soviet Union, where it was often given to political dissidents imprisoned in psychiatric hospitals.

“In the history of oppression, using haloperidol is kind of like detaining people in Abu Ghraib,” the infamous prison in Iraq, said Nigel Rodley, who teaches international human rights law at the University of Essex in Britain and is a former United Nations special investigator on torture.

For people who are not psychotic, said Philip Seeman, a University of Toronto specialist in psychiatry and pharmacology, “prescribing Haldol . . . is medically and ethically

wrong.” Seeman studied the drug in the 1960s and later discovered the brain receptors on which several antipsychotic drugs work.

The only circumstances in which small amounts of Haldol are appropriate for non-psychotic people, Seeman said, are when a person comes into a hospital emergency room violent and agitated from an overdose of a drug such as PCP, or when someone with severe dementia is delusional or combative.

“You or I wouldn't get it if we were emotionally upset,” he said.

In addition, Seeman said, typical doses to help psychotic patients accustomed to the drug are perhaps five to 15 milligrams a day.

Several deportees were given a total of 30 milligrams, which Seeman characterized as “really high,” especially for people who have never taken the drug before.

Even when used for its intended patients, people with psychosis, Haldol has drawn warnings from the U.S. government.

In September, the Food and Drug Administration issued an alert citing “a number of case reports of sudden death” and other reports of dangerous changes in heart rhythm.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Hospitals Kill Patients For Using Prescribed Medical Marijuana; “They Are Really Killing People Over This”

May 19, 2008 By Stuart Glascock, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer [Excerpts]

SEATTLE -- Should using doctor-prescribed marijuana be a deal-breaker for someone needing an organ transplant? It is not a theoretical question but a pressing and emotional one confronting hospitals and patients in states where medical use of marijuana is legal.

This month, Timothy Garon, 56, a Seattle musician, died after being turned down for a liver transplant. He was rejected partly because he had used medical marijuana.

Now, a second critically ill patient in Washington state says he has been denied a spot in two organ transplant programs because he uses doctor-prescribed marijuana.

Jonathon Simchen, 33, of Fife, a town south of Seattle, is a diabetic whose kidneys and pancreas have failed.

He said he was removed from the transplant program at Virginia Mason Hospital in Seattle because he admitted using medical marijuana. Later, he said, University of Washington Medical Center transplant officials refused to accept him because of the medical marijuana issue.

"I'm just so discouraged," said the community college student, who wants to be a teacher. "I've lost all remnants of hope. I look at my life right now as if it is a prison term. I just have to serve each day."

The lawyer who represented Garon has taken on Simchen's case.

Douglas Hiatt argues that his clients are the victims of a loosely defined transplant policy, one not based on science.

"They are really killing people over this," he said.

Hiatt and advocates of medical marijuana are urging hospitals to adjust their policies after Garon's death May 1. Garon used marijuana with a doctor's approval to ease the symptoms of hepatitis C.

He died without gaining admission to the University of Washington Medical Center's transplant program.

Hiatt wants to negotiate on behalf of Simchen to get him on a transplant list, but he expects he may have to file a lawsuit to get that accomplished. If nothing else, Hiatt intends to compel judicial review of the policy.

"No, it ain't over," Hiatt said. "Jonathon needs help. He's going to get on that list one way or another.

"You cannot treat people like this. There's no rational basis for it."

Although marijuana remains an illegal substance under federal law, about a dozen states, including Washington, Oregon, California and Nevada, allow doctors to prescribe it for medical purposes. It is used for conditions such as glaucoma, diabetes, high blood pressure and AIDS.

At the University of Washington, the transplant committee said it reviewed "behavioral concerns such as a history of substance abuse or dependency. If such a history exists, then the committee looks at the period of abstinence the candidate has demonstrated to date," as well as the patient's efforts to maintain abstinence and potential to abuse again.

Asked why the committee considered marijuana use under a doctor's supervision "a history of substance abuse," a hospital spokesman cited the federal law categorizing marijuana as an illegal drug.

"Medical marijuana is opening a can of worms," said Peggy Stewart, a clinical social worker with the liver transplant program at UCLA Medical Center.

Her studies of transplant centers found discrepancies in eligibility criteria.

She said bias existed in the medical community against marijuana because of the federal law.

Some transplant committee members see it as an illegal substance and as grounds for automatic rejection.

She said many other addictive prescriptions, particularly pain medications, did not automatically disqualify patients from transplant lists because they were not illegal substances under federal law.

The policy debate has done little to soften the grief for family and friends of Garon, the late singer, songwriter and acoustic guitarist.

His death triggered a flood of reaction.

The website Stop the Drug War called it evil to deny transplants to medical marijuana patients.

One Seattle-area alternative newspaper was so outraged that it listed the telephone numbers of University of Washington transplant center staff members.

In an editorial, the Ventura County Star wrote: "So, be warned, medical marijuana -- legal for the last 12 years in California with a doctor's authorization -- could cost you your job. And if you need an organ transplant, it could cost you your life."

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. Phone: 917.677.8057

Received:

In 1981, I Filed A Claim With The VA Which Said, “I STILL WANT TO KILL A LIFER!” On The Front Page”



From: Roger S
To: GI Special
Sent: May 24, 2008
Subject: Re: GI Special 6E14: It's Over

I'm Roger, a comrade of all US veterans, even those he doesn't like. I try to stand up for veterans, if I can, and every service member is a veteran after he or she raises their hand and takes the oath.

My last duty station was the 101st Heroin, Race Riot, and Fragging Division in Phu Bai, Vietnam, in 1972, when we took the 101st ABN DIV flag home, and left the base to the ARVN.

Two months later, the NVA came within a few miles of Phu Bai in the 1972 Eastertide Offensive, but were pushed back by the ARVN and B 52 bombing.

Needless to say, within three years, most of the ARVN were in re-education camps, many millions of Vietnamese and many thousands of Americans were dead, and it was ALL A WASTE, as far as Roger S[XXXX] is concerned.

Let me say that ROGER IS NOT A HERO.

I did not want to be in the military.

I enlisted (after getting my draft notice) because I did not want to lose a leg to a mine in the infantry. When I went in as a really immature 19 year old in 1969, I thought I'd have a civilian-type job in supply and never come home for three years. I was surprised when the Army was teaching us to kill people several months later in 1969.

I also had a knee operation, and HAD I WISHED TO, or EVEN BEEN THE KIND OF PERSON TO THINK SUCH DISHONEST THOUGHTS, I could have gotten a 4 F at the draft physical.

I guess you could say I'm a very average enlistee at that time, as many people enlisted in the Navy, Army, NG or found other ways to avoid conscripted service in the Army infantry or Marines in land war in Vietnam.

I remember that during basic training at Ft Dix, they let us have weekend passes, starting the fourth week of basic training, part of the MODERN Army's attempt to improve the poor morale.

I went home to my parents house in Willingboro, NJ, 35 miles away, and watched my peers jam the NY State Thruway, trying to get to the Woodstock AntiWar Festival. During the weekdays, they were trying to train me to kill people I didn't want to kill, and on the weekends, I was in a civilian society that thought the war was either stupid, or slightly immoral.

I agree, wholeheartedly, with the feelings and opinions expressed in this e mail [GI Special 6E14] forwarded to me by Dan. Thanks, Dan.

PS I have run away and bought a house in a redneck community of Danforth, Maine, along the Canadian border, where I really don't belong. I appreciate this e mail, because I feel isolated up here amidst these white, redneck vets. One veteran has named his black cat, Nigger, and at least he loves his cat. I have German Christian/Ashkenazi Jewish roots, and am a member of the NAACP. I do not feel comfortable with these redneck vets, ALTHOUGH I ADMIRE THEIR SERVICE, and think they made good soldiers.

So I appreciate Dan keeping in touch with me via e mail, and I think he knows that.

PS Please keep me on your mailing list. Roger, isolated in Danforth, Maine.

PS In 1981, I filed a claim with the VA which said, "I STILL WANT TO KILL A LIFER!" on the front page.

Finally, in 1999, I re-applied for compensation, and got my 100% PTSD.

But, I made the mistake of moving to a rural area where I knew nobody, while another Vietnam-type war was starting, and I've isolated myself from the good VA psychiatric help I had in Philadelphia.

Therefore, I feel particularly grateful for this e mail today.

Reply: Honored to be of service; you're on the list. In the immortal words of Gen. Patton, G.C.: "Ne illegitimi carborundum te."

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