

## **GI SPECIAL 6H16:**

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



The casket of U.S. Army 1st Class Sgt. Jose Enrique Ulloa, killed in Baghdad. Jima Arriba, Santo Domingo, Aug. 21, 2008. (AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

# **The Oak Tree Hangings**

From: Dennis Serdel  
To: GI Special  
Sent: August 17, 2008  
Subject: The Oak Tree Hangings 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

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**The Oak Tree Hangings**

Tie a yellow ribbon around his neck  
put a black bag over his head  
so they all look the same  
now the recruiter of death  
trips the trap door  
sending him to Iraq  
the only training is to aim his M-16  
let his finger do the rest  
Before you know it, he comes back  
but instead of American flags  
they now tie huge yellow ribbons  
around all the coffins  
as a welcome back  
Bush sends a new directive to his staff  
to no longer wear the flag  
on their lapels and dress  
instead he wants everybody  
to wear yellow ribbons on top of their heads  
Not to look like they don't  
"Support the Troops," Congress wears them too  
Obama wears a bigger one,  
not to be out done, McCain  
has dayglow yellow ribbons  
tattooed on his head  
that glow psychedelic under a black light  
Tie a yellow ribbon on a suicide bomber  
yellow ribbons on civilian martyrs slaughtered  
Bin Laden now wears one on his head  
a stretched yellow ribbon across Iraq  
another giant one across Afghanistan  
tie a yellow ribbon around the earth  
loop them around the planets and the stars  
yellow ribbons across the universe  
While another boy on planet earth  
in a yellow ribbon America  
lets a recruiter of death  
tie one around his neck  
Next all he knows is, he is hanging  
in Iraq, dangling in Afghanistan  
yellow ribbons everywhere  
everybody looks the same  
and somebody is about to die

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## IRAQ WAR REPORTS

## Montana Sgt. Dies Of Iraq Wounds



Army Sgt. James A. McHale, 31, of Fairfield, Mont. McHale died July 30, 2008, at the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md., of wounds suffered July 22 in Taji, Iraq, when his vehicle struck an explosive. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

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## REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: ALL HOME NOW



U.S. soldier from the 4th Infantry Division takes cover behind an armored vehicle during in Sadr City in Baghdad, May 13, 2008. (AP Photo/Petr David Josek)

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# Family And Friends Mourn Local Soldier



Sgt. Kenneth Gibson

August 13, 2008 By Lerone Graham, The Roanoke Times

The Christiansburg soldier killed in Iraq on Sunday was a leader and believed in his cause, those close to him said Tuesday.

Sgt. Kenneth B. Gibson, 25, was fatally injured by an improvised explosive device that detonated near him during operations in Tarmiyah, according to the Department of Defense.

He leaves behind a wife, Nikki, to whom he was married for six years; his parents, Athena and Robert Gibson of Christiansburg; and a sister. Pat Davis of Shawsville, the grandmother of Gibson's wife, said though Gibson didn't talk about his work much, he believed in what he was doing. "I do remember asking him one time, I said, 'Kenny, do you really think it is all worth it, for our men and women to be over there?' And he said, 'Oh yes.'" Davis said.

Davis also noted that Gibson cherished her granddaughter.

"He adored his wife. He absolutely adored her, and she him," she said.

Gibson was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

Sgt. 1st Class Manuel Torres of the unit said two other soldiers were injured during the attack, which occurred while they were responding to a different IED. As they were inspecting it, another went off, Torres said.

Gibson joined the Army in March 2002 and was assigned to Schofield Barracks in August of that year.

A teacher at Christiansburg High School, from where Gibson graduated in 2001, said he had always noticed that Gibson possessed leadership qualities.

"His decision to join the Army didn't surprise me at all," said Dan Swafford, who teaches agriculture at the high school.

Gibson was a hard worker who always tended to his assignments and was somewhat quiet, Swafford said.

Swafford said Gibson was a family friend, close to his daughter and stepson in their younger years.

"He was always a good kid. I was saddened to hear" of his death, Swafford said.

Christiansburg High will honor Gibson, who once played football for the Blue Demons, with a moment of silence at its first home game Aug. 22. The marching band will also perform taps and release blue and gold balloons.

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Land Mine In Afghanistan Kills 3 Polish Soldiers**

8.21.08 WARSAW (AFP)

A land mine killed three Polish soldiers in Afghanistan Wednesday and seriously injured a fourth member of the patrol, the Polish army told PAP news agency.

The blast happened about 20 kilometers from the soldier's base at Ghazni in central Afghanistan, Major Jacek Poplawski told the agency.

The wounded soldier, part of a 1,200-strong Polish contingent attached to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), was transported by helicopter to another base

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### **Three Canadian Soldiers Killed And Another Injured In Zharey**

August 21, 2008 CEFCOM NR-08.038

OTTAWA – Three Canadian soldiers were killed and one soldier injured after an improvised explosive device detonated near their vehicle, while on patrol, on Highway 1 in Zharey District at approximately 10:30 a.m., Kandahar time, on August 20, 2008.

One of the fallen soldiers is Sergeant Shawn Eades, a combat engineer with 12 Field Squadron, 1 Combat Engineer Regiment from Edmonton, Alberta and attached to the Second Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Battle Group. At the request of the families, the names of the two other soldiers are being withheld temporarily.

The four soldiers were evacuated to Kandahar Air Field's Role 3 Multi-National Medical Facility. Sadly, three soldiers were confirmed dead by medical authorities.

The injured soldier is in serious but stable condition.

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## **Occupation Soldier From Somewhere Or Other Killed By Something Or Other Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan; Possibly American But Maybe Not**

8/20/08 Aug 20 (KUNA)

A soldier of the US-led coalition troops was killed during a combat patrol in western Afghanistan on Wednesday.

A statement from the US military here did not release name and nationality of the soldier. However, the majority of the soldiers serving with the coalition troops are Americans. Also the military did not disclose the exact location of the incident that happened this afternoon.

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## **Family, Friends Mourn Sailor**



August 11, 2008 By Beau Hodai, Pacific Daily News

Family and friends of Petty Officer 2nd Class Anthony M. "Tony" Carbullido gathered at the family's home in Agat yesterday to mark his passing.

Throughout intermittent showers, family members in chairs under an awning recited the rosary.

**Anthony Carbullido, 25, is the 17th serviceman from Guam to die since the outset of the War on Terror in 2001 and the fifth this year. The total number of regional casualties is 29.**

Anthony Carbullido, the sailor's father, said that the family was notified of his son's death early Saturday morning.

The sailor is survived by his wife, Summer, and his daughter, Lexie, both of whom live in Chicago.

According to a statement issued yesterday from the Navy's Public Affairs office, the corpsman died from "injuries he suffered when his convoy vehicle hit an improvised explosive device while serving in Sangatesh, Afghanistan." Lt. Donnell Evans, public affairs director for Naval Forces Marianas, said the sailor died Aug. 8.

Island leaders shared their condolences over the loss of another of Guam's sons.

"We extend our sympathies and prayers to his family, friends and loved ones," said Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo in a statement issued yesterday. "Anthony will rest in the hearts and minds of a grateful people who are humbled by his ultimate sacrifice," said acting Gov. Mike Cruz in a statement yesterday. "I have ordered all government ... agencies to fly all flags at half-staff in honor of Petty Officer 2nd Class Anthony Carbullido."

Those gathered at the Carbullido family home yesterday remembered Anthony M. Carbullido fondly.

"He was a real doer," said Austin Carbullido, the sailor's brother. Austin Carbullido said his brother always approached challenges head-on and that he enlisted in the military because he wanted to be a doctor.

Jermaine Alerta, who had been friends with the sailor since they were in kindergarten together, remembered his friend's sense of humor.

"He was a very funny guy, ... always talking. He was fun to be around," said Alerta. "He was a great guy, just a great guy."

Alerta remembered the corpman's last visit to Guam in March. He was here for two weeks with his wife, Summer whom he had recently married.

"We took him and his wife around and had a good time," said Alerta.

Alerta said the couple talked about how they planned to move back to Guam to raise their family once his tour of duty in Afghanistan was completed.

According to the fallen sailor's father, the corpsman was scheduled to leave Afghanistan in July for the 3rd Marine Reconnaissance Battalion in Okinawa, Japan.

But Anthony M. Carbullido's tour was extended until Aug. 7. His tour was extended yet again, until the end of August. "He was over there so we can have the way of life we always believed in," his father said. "He was the kind of kid that always made the ultimate challenge, and he made this ultimate challenge so we can have freedom anywhere in the world."

While he doesn't know the exact date yet, the sailor's father said he plans to meet his son's remains when they arrive in Dover, Del.

Aurora Carbullido, the sailor's mother, said that her son's death was the realization of her fears as the mother of a sailor involved in active duty.

"I've seen past pictures and articles (of troops who have died in combat) and it scared me because my son is over there," said Aurora Carbullido.

"This is a hard situation to be in," his father said. "It's hard to believe that this is happening to us."

Aurora Carbullido asked the community to pray for them during their hardship and pray for other servicemen and women serving overseas in Operation Enduring Freedom.

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## **El Paso Native Dies In Afghanistan**

08/10/2008 El Paso Times Staff

EL PASO -- A Texas National Guard soldier has become the latest serviceman with El Paso ties to be killed while serving as part of Operation Enduring Freedom, the Department of Defense confirmed.

Sgt. Jaime Gonzalez, 40, was killed Aug. 3 in Kabul, Afghanistan, of injuries suffered when his vehicle encountered a mine.

He was assigned to the 436th Chemical Company, Texas Army National Guard, in Laredo.

Though he most recently listed Austin as his hometown, Gonzalez was born in El Paso. His mother and sister live in the El Paso area. Gonzalez's sister, Belen Gonzalez, spoke briefly to the El Paso Times about her brother.

"He was born in El Paso, but my dad's a minister and we traveled around a lot," said Gonzalez, who added that her brother graduated from Premont High School in Premont, Texas.



Visitation for Gonzalez is scheduled for 5 to 9 p.m. Wednesday at Sunset Funeral Home at 4631 Hondo Pass, and a prayer service will begin at 7 p.m. The funeral will be at 12:30 p.m. Thursday at Iglesia Bautista Trinity, 201 Cargill, and burial will follow at Fort Bliss National Cemetery.

Gonzalez joined the Texas Army National Guard in 2006 as a private first class, according to the Austin American-Statesman. He is the fifth combat death in the Texas Army National Guard since World War II.

Gonzalez joined the Navy in 1989 and served six years before enlisting in the Navy Reserve. As a guardsman, Gonzalez was promoted to specialist in 2006. He was promoted to sergeant posthumously.

He is survived by his wife, children, brother, sister and parents, the Guard said.

At a page sponsored by the Austin-American States man, a fellow soldier posted: "You are in my thoughts and prayers. I am part of the 436th Chem. Co. and we are all saddened by his loss. We will continue our mission here in his Loving Memory. God Bless All of You!" Spc. DeAnda, Laredo, Texas.

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# **Welcome To Liberated Afghanistan: Where The Local Occupation Regime Terrorizes The Press**

August 19, 2008 By Anand Gopal, Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

Kabul, Afghanistan - Naseer Fayaz, one of Afghanistan's most famous television presenters, is used to fans and other well-wishers coming by the office. The host of a popular weekly program, "The Truth," his exposés of government malfeasance have won him awards as well as a devoted following. But after a recent episode of the show that was especially critical of the government, Mr. Fayaz received unexpected visitors: members of the Afghan secret police.

"They questioned me and the next day arrested me," he says. "I was kept in a cell for two days. They kept telling me I should quit working in the media."

After protests from numerous Afghan media groups and global organizations, such as Amnesty International, Fayaz was released. But media groups say that the incident is the latest in a trend of increasing intimidation of Afghan journalists by the government.

In fact, the Afghan government is responsible for at least 23 of the 45 reported incidents of intimidation, violence, or arrest of journalists between May 2007 and May 2008, according to the Nai Center for Open Media, an Afghan nongovernmental organization.

Only a few weeks ago, authorities arrested Raj – like many Afghans, he goes by only one name – the manager of the independent outlet Nili Radio in Daikundi Province. Mr. Raj told reporters that he was arrested because he did not provide enough coverage of the activities of the local governor.

"Even independent news outlets are under tremendous pressure," says Hafiz Barakzai, assistant director of the National Union of Journalists. "If news directors or editors write something critical of the government, they will be sure to get a call from a government official." Mr. Barakzai adds that dozens of journalists have been fired because they failed to curb their reporting to meet government demands.

For example, Sohaila Wedah Khamoush, a reporter for the independent daily Payman, says she has been repeatedly abused by police and government officials. "I saw police beating protesters in an anti-US demonstration," she says. "When I tried to take pictures I was sent to the attorney general's office and he arrested me. He eventually released me and ordered me not to write the story."

Last month, according to the Nai Center, authorities released Khalil Narmgoy, who had spent 35 days in jail after being accused of writing a satire criticizing President Hamid Karzai.

"The media does not reflect the achievements of the government," Sadeq Mudaber, the deputy director of general policy, told reporters in November. "Although the media law guarantees freedom of press, the national interests of the country should be a priority over anything else."

**Sediqullah Tauhidi, manager of the Nai Center, adds: "The government stance towards media is much different than last year ... because it has grown weaker and lost support. As it grows weaker, it will feel the need to lash out against critical press coverage."**

Television personality Fayaz, meanwhile, has gone into hiding, citing fears for his life.

"My family called me and told me that some mysterious armed men were lurking outside my house," he says. "I'm under risk and I can't continue airing my program. There are a lot of powerful interests against me. If this is how they treat the media, I want to leave Afghanistan and not come back."

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## **About Resistance Attacks On NGO Staff:**

# **“The NGO Is A Good Tool To Divert People And Especially Intellectuals From Struggle Against Occupation”**

## **“NGOs Defuse Political Anger And Turn People Into Dependent Beggars”**

8.19.08 Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan

RAWA never introduces itself as an NGO. It is a political organization for women's rights and human rights. But it does try to meet direct needs and we do run social programs. ...

This is in contrast to the thousands of recently established NGOs in Afghanistan over the past 6-7 years.

It is a good business. You will have some families, with some English and a computer, and they become an NGO with funds, documents, and proposals being produced in their homes.

Most NGOs that are larger, or bigger aid agencies, are funded by governments and influenced by those governments. The smaller ones often get involved in fraud and corruption - they work not for the Afghan people but for their own purposes.

Millions of dollars of funds go to NGOs and are wasted in overhead, salaries, office expenses, and so on. They collect huge salaries, they have no long-term projects, they spend huge amounts for security expenses and vehicles.

**NGO-ism is a policy exercised by the West in Afghanistan; it is not the wish of the Afghan people.**

**The NGO is a good tool to divert people and especially intellectuals from struggle against occupation.**

**NGOs defuse political anger and turn people into dependent beggars.**

**In Afghanistan people say, the US pushed us from Talibanism to NGO-ism!**

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**Yes, This Is For Real;  
Afghan Bush Buddy Lets It All Hang Out  
In Public**

Aug. 21, 2008 Afghanistan's President, Hamid Karzai interviewed by Aryn Baker, Time Magazine [Excerpts]

*Baker: Two years ago you had a governor in Helmand province accused by the British of smuggling drugs: Sher Muhammad Akhunzada. The British forced you to remove him.*

Karzai: Yes, but do we have more drugs now in Helmand, or then?

*He was found with nine tons of opium and heroin in his basement.*

So what?

Now there are hundreds of tons of heroin in basements across Helmand ... Drugs were three times less (under Akhunzada) than they are today.

The province was in our hands. Schools were running, women's associations were running, clinics were running, hospitals were running, girls and boys were going to school. There was peace.

We removed Akhunzada on the allegation of drug-running, and delivered the province to drug runners, the Taliban, to terrorists, to a threefold increase of drugs and poppy cultivation.

To the closing of schools, to women being killed in the street. To complete lawlessness, and complete lack of sovereignty in Helmand for Afghanistan.

Which condition is better?

*Last week I went to Jowzjan province where I met an 11-year-old girl who had been raped about six months ago. Her family had to pay bribes to pursue the case in the courts. Her sister told me that under the Taliban that man would have been executed.*

*"We want the Taliban back," she said, "because they gave us justice."*

The Taliban did provide that sort of justice. They were much better in that way.

Yes, that's true.

*So you are falling behind in a competition for hearts and minds with a regime that was one of the most horrific in recent history?*

Unfortunately, yes.

**MORE:**

## **And Now For The Good News**

August 21, 2008 By Carlotta Gall, International Herald Tribune [Excerpt]

The government newspaper, Anis, warned in a lead article Wednesday that the Afghan people no longer believed in U.S. and British intentions in Afghanistan.

Some even think that their policy was secretly to encourage the Taliban to justify their continued presence in Afghanistan, the paper said.

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## TROOP NEWS



Thanks to Linda Olson, who sent this in. [Military Humor: Tom-phillips.info]

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## IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

**GET THE FUCK OUT  
GO THE FUCK HOME**

## [GET THE MESSAGE?]



Thousands of Iraqis march to denounce the visit of U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and the U.S. occupation of their country in Najaf, 160 km (100 miles) south of Baghdad August 21, 2008. REUTERS/Ali Abu Shish

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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**

## **Two Sides Of The Same Bloody Imperial Coins: “Both Of Them — McCain Explicitly, I Think Obama Implicitly — Endorse The Notion That A Global War On Terror Really Provides The Right Frame For Thinking About US National Security”**

8.20.08 DEMOCRACY NOW! [Excerpts]

Guest: Andrew Bacevich

Retired colonel who spent twenty-three years in the US Army. He is professor of history and international relations at Boston University and writes for a wide spectrum of publications including The Nation, Foreign Affairs, the Los Angeles Times, and The American Conservative.

He became a staunch critic of the Iraq war and Bush's foreign policy and is the author of several books, including The New American Militarism. His latest book is called The Limits of Power: The End of American Exceptionalism.

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ANDREW BACEVICH:

I think there are differences between the two, but I think we should see the differences as differences in operational priorities.

McCain insists that Iraq is the central front in the war on terror and that it must be won, and it's clear that if we, the American people, elect him, that we will be engaged in Iraq for a long, long time.

Senator Obama says, "No, Afghanistan is the central front in the global war on terror. Elect me and will shift our military effort to Afghanistan."

It's a difference, but it's a difference in operational priorities; it's not a difference in strategy.

Both of them — McCain explicitly, I think Obama implicitly — endorse the notion that a global war on terror really provides the right frame for thinking about US national security policy going forward.

A real debate would be one in which we would have one candidate, and certainly it would be McCain, arguing for the global war on terror and an opponent who was questioning whether the global war on terror makes sense.

I don't think it makes sense.

**[I] think the key question is, will the American empire end catastrophically because of our blind insistence that we will not change?**

**Or will we be able to disengage ourselves from and dismantle the American empire in a sensible, reasonable way that will do the least damage to the world and the least damage to ourselves?**

**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. Phone: 917.677.8057**

**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT  
THE BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE  
WAR**



# **“Whilst Large-Scale Industry Preached Freedom And Peace Between Nations It Also Turned The World Into An Armed Camp As Never Before In History”**

From: KARL MARX; The Story of His Life  
By Franz Mehring, 1918  
Translated from the German by Edward Fitzgerald

The capitalist mode of production, an embodied contradiction, both produces and destroys modern states.

It intensifies all national antagonisms to the utmost and at the same time it creates all nations in its own image.

So long as the capitalist mode of production exists these contradictions are insoluble, and therefore the brotherhood of man about which all bourgeois revolutions have sung so sweetly has suffered defeat again and again.

Whilst large-scale industry preached freedom and peace between nations it also turned the world into an armed camp as never before in history.

However, with the disappearance of the capitalist mode of production its contradictions will vanish also. It is true that the proletarian struggle for emancipation must develop on a national basis because the capitalist process of production develops within national limits, and in the beginning therefore the proletariat in each country finds itself face to face with its own bourgeoisie.

Despite this, however, the proletariat need not submit to the merciless competition which has always destroyed all bourgeois dreams of international peace and freedom.

As soon as the workers realize that they must get rid of competition in their own ranks if they are to offer effective resistance to the superior power of capital — and this realization coincides with the first awakening of their class-consciousness — then it is only a step to the deeper realization that competition between the working classes of the various countries must cease too, and still further that the working classes must cooperate internationally if they are to overthrow the international dominance of the bourgeoisie.

Very early in the history of the modern working-class movement therefore, a tendency towards internationalism made itself felt.

What the bourgeoisie, thanks to the narrowing of its horizon by its profit interests, regards as unpatriotic, as ignorance and lack of understanding, is in reality a vital condition for the very existence of the proletarian struggle for emancipation.

Although this struggle can solve the antagonism between nationalism and internationalism, whilst the bourgeoisie is condemned to writhe under it as long as it lives, the workers possess no magic wand in this respect any more than in any other, and they are not able to turn the hard and difficult climb into a level and easy path.

The modern working class has to fight its battles under conditions created by historical development.

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## OCCUPATION REPORT

# U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR; RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS



An Iraqi woman pleads with foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. to go away as they search her house during an armed home invasion in Diyala province August 20, 2008.  
REUTERS/Andrea Comas

[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?]

Iraqi citizens have no right to resist home invasions by occupation soldiers from the USA. If they do, they may be arrested, wounded, or killed.

**"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."**



[images.google.com]

**English soldiers search an American settler's house (1770's)**

**Declared Bill Ehrhart, a marine in Vietnam:**

**In grade school we learned about the redcoats, the nasty British soldiers that tried to stifle our freedom. Subconsciously, but not very subconsciously, I began increasingly to have the feeling that I was a redcoat. I think it was one of the most staggering realizations of my life.**

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

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

**END THE OCCUPATION**

## **FIVE YEARS AND \$50 BILLION LATER, U.S. TRAINED IRAQI SOLDIERS IN ACTION FOR BUSH AND THE EMPIRE**



8.21.08: U.S. trained Iraqi soldiers take combat position during a search for insurgents in a rural area south of Baquba earlier this month. (AFP/File/Ali Yussef)

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## **Collaborator Drooling Idiot Tells Reporter Of Plans To Imprison 99,000 Militia Members Armed By U.S. Occupation Command**

August 21, 2008 By Leila Fadel, McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD — The top U.S. commander in Iraq, Army Gen. David H. Petraeus, said Thursday that the Iraqi government had been purposefully slow in absorbing into its security forces tens of thousands of mostly former Sunni insurgents who'd joined U.S.-financed militias.

When asked if the U.S.-backed Iraqi government had created stumbling blocks to absorb the now roughly 99,000 men known as the Sons of Iraq or Awakening councils, Petraeus confirmed that it had.

[A] security official in the Ministry of Defense told McClatchy that if the militia members were not absorbed later this year there were plans to detain the men, who the U.S. military consider a major factor in calming violence in the country.

## 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

## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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## **CLASS WAR REPORTS**

### ***Criminals In Uniform***



Chicago, San Francisco and Oakland cops taking a break from law breaking.  
[Wolfstad.com]

## **#1: Chicago Rat Cop Scum Break Law To Torment Immigrants**

August 12, 2008 Sarah Macaraeg and Nikolai Diaz, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

CHALLENGING THE gap between words and deeds in the city of Chicago's immigrant sanctuary policy, immigrant rights activists picketed City Hall August 5 as hearings were held on the Chicago police's collaboration with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

**Since 1985, city employees have been prohibited from enforcing federal immigration laws via an executive order issued by then-Mayor Harold Washington, later affirmed by the current mayor, Richard Daley. The policy was subsequently turned into law in 2006.**

**Despite this, however, at least 59 Latino residents have been placed in jail for months on "immigration hold" by ICE--after being initially stopped by the Chicago Police Department (CPD).**

Chanting "We are humans, not aliens" and carrying signs demanding "Free our families from ICE," family members of those detained, plus activists from the March 10 Movement, Jewish Council on Urban Affairs, Chicago Sanctuary Alliance, RadioArte and International Socialist Organization marched prior to City Council hearings on police-migra connection.

**"We're doing this to be vigilant on the immigrant families who are under attack from the police, who are illegally working with immigration," said Rev. José Landaverde, pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission, at a vigil the night before the hearings.**

The police-ICE relationship, often referred to as the "poli-migra" by activists, has torn apart the lives of dozens of Latinos, some who have now been in jail for over five months after being stopped for traffic violations or booked on misdemeanors.

As the testimony showed, the poli-migra often trumped up charges to utilize loopholes in the sanctuary law, which allows for notifying ICE with arrests on felony charges, but not misdemeanors.

As Jorge Mújica, an activist with the March 10 Movement, explained at the hearing:

**"We have uncovered cases of harsh accusations, such as a DUI to a person who was not driving a vehicle, and "criminal trespass" to a worker after a gate was opened to him to enter a workplace. These kind of accusations imply that an immigrant who would have been freed on a \$100 bond at the police station ends up instead in Cook County jail, where bonds are not accepted once ICE learns they are non-citizens."**

This practice clearly has little to do with enforcing the law.

But it is being used to terrorize the immigrant community.

**As his wife explained at a vigil before the hearings, Adolfo Guzman was arrested by the CPD for alleged battery, despite witnesses' statements exonerating him. Nevertheless, the CPD handed over Guzman to ICE.**

**He isn't even able to attend his court date because of the immigration hold.**

**"One understands that when a law is broken, we have to pay for what we did," Guzman's wife said.**

**"But my husband has done nothing illegal, so his being held prisoner does not make sense."**

UNFORTUNATELY, THERE have been many cases like Guzman's. The net effect has been the loss of homes, tearing apart of families and the suffering of children when the primary breadwinners of their families are illegally detained.

# #2: San Francisco Rat Cop Scum Break Law To Torment Immigrants

August 12, 2008 By Ashley Simmons & Brian Cruz, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

THE STRUGGLE to maintain sanctuary cities for immigrants reached a new stage when the racist Minutemen came to San Francisco City Hall on July 31 to start a nationwide campaign against municipalities that don't cooperate with immigration authorities.

**San Francisco's sanctuary city law prohibits city officials, workers and police from asking about immigration status and reporting immigration status to ICE.**

Like other cities with similar laws, it allows all San Francisco residents to be treated as equals by allowing unfettered access to city services regardless of immigration status.

The Minutemen were quickly outnumbered by more than 200 immigrant rights supporters who mobilized on a day's notice to defend the sanctuary city ordinance. Less than a dozen Minutemen were quickly scattered and forced to the corner when protesters flooded onto the city hall steps.

The multiracial crowd represented many immigrant rights, left and labor organizations, including the Bay Area Immigrants Rights Coalition, Mujeres Unidas, Service Employees International Union Local 1021, AFSCME Local 3299, the International Socialist Organization, the Filipino Community Center, CARECEN, CISPES, the Movement for Unconditional Amnesty, ANSWER Coalition and many others.

**Protesters also called out recent encroachment on the sanctuary city ordinance by Mayor Gavin Newsom and other city officials in the wake of Honduran youth with criminal records being handed directly to ICE.**

Newsom's betrayal and a storm of anti-immigrant scapegoating, stirred up in part during the murder trial of an undocumented worker, Edwin Ramos, gave the Minutemen confidence to come to San Francisco.

**But as an organizer of the anti-Minutemen protest, Maria Poblet, said, "When city officials vacillate and do not defend the sanctuary city, the people will force them to. Let this whole state become a sanctuary for immigrants."**

Newsom's cooperation with ICE has had consequences for the immigrant community, particularly Honduran immigrants, who are being scapegoated.

On the morning of July 31, ICE agents raided a house in the Mission district, kicking down the door before displaying a warrant, and handcuffing everyone in the house while they were questioned and had their documents and cell phones confiscated.



No one was taken into custody, but they may now be under investigation by ICE.

**SFPD cars were sighted driving up and down the street while the raid took place.**

**The SFPD were also targeting immigrants the same day in the Tenderloin district, pulling over people for minor traffic violations such as having a rosary hanging from their mirror and then asking for immigration papers.**

These events display the need to defend sanctuary cities against attacks by both right-wing hate mongers and city officials.

## **#3: Oakland's Finest: Homicidal Maniacs On The Loose Executing Civilians**

**[It's not just about bringing the troops home to keep them alive and stop the Imperial wars. We need them to protect us against filth like this. While they've been stuck in endless deployments overseas, the real terrorists are killing us at home. We need our troops here, to sweep our streets clean and put an end to these murdering cowards permanently. T]**

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August 14, 2008 By Owen Goodwin, Oakland, Calif.

THE POLICE murder of an unarmed African American man, and the subsequent lawsuit against the police by his family, are exposing the deep flaws in Oakland's recent police hiring spree.

Mack "Jody" Woodfox, a 27-year-old African American man, was shot and killed by police after a traffic stop in the early morning hours of July 25 in Fruitvale, a largely Latino and African American neighborhood of Oakland.

**According to Lt. Ersie Joyner of the Oakland Police Homicide department, Woodfox was pulled over on suspicion of drunk driving, when he jumped out and made a "furtive movement" that suggested he was reaching for his waistband. Officer Hector Jimenez then opened fire and shot an unarmed Woodfox dead as he tried to flee.**

**While Woodfox was found to be unarmed, a preliminary autopsy revealed that he was shot "numerous times" in his back from approximately 25 feet away.**

**But as reported in the San Francisco Chronicle, Shamika Steele, Woodfox's friend who was riding with him on that night, "struggled to control her emotions as she described how her friend had his hands up when he got out of the car.**

**“The officer started shooting and Woodfox began running across Fruitvale to escape the gunfire. Woodfox was then hit and collapsed in the middle of the street. At the time he was shot, 'he was not reaching for anything,' Steele said.”**

John Burris, a leading civil rights attorney, who is now representing Woodfox's family argued:

**“Woodfox was unarmed, police had no indication a serious crime had been committed, and he possessed no immediate bodily danger to anybody. We have interviewed four witnesses to the shooting and all evidence clearly indicates the officer wrongfully, deliberately and egregiously killed him.”**

**Shockingly, the police officer that killed Woodfox, Hector Jimenez, had shot and killed another man less than eight months previously, and been cleared of all wrongdoing in a case that is chillingly similar.**

**On December 31, 2007, Jimenez pulled over 20-year-old Andrew Moppin. Claiming that Moppin was "reaching for his waistband," Jimenez and another officer opened fire, killing Moppin.**

**Moppin was found to be unarmed, yet as the San Francisco Chronicle reported "a department investigation determined that Jimenez 'acted within our policy,' Assistant Chief Howard Jordan said. After a separate review, Alameda County prosecutors 'did not find any criminal negligence in Officer Jimenez's actions,' he said."**

**[There's nothing "shocking" about it. They're doing their job: killing unarmed civilians. That *is* police policy. The Chief just said so. Duh.]**

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THE OAKLAND police have shot and killed five people this year, already the same number as in all of 2007.

**Others killed this year include the unarmed 15-year-old José Luis Buenrostro-Gonzalez, whose family has since led a protest campaign to fight for his justice.**

This rise in killings by the police is largely a result of the influx of 70 new officers, hired by the Oakland City Council and Democratic Mayor Ron Dellums in an effort to clean up the long-corrupt Oakland Police Department's image and respond to a rising wave of murders this year. The number of inexperienced rookie cops on the streets now is staggering--more than half the officers on the streets in Oakland have less than three years' experience. The cop that shot Woodfox was himself a rookie cop, having graduated from the academy in February 2007.

Rather than spending millions hiring more inexperienced cops, what would make a real difference in tackling crime would be to hit it at its roots--poverty--by rebuilding Oakland's crumbling schools and providing decent paying jobs that would give Black, Latino and poor Oakland residents a real opportunity.

The family of Jody Woodfox is not sitting quietly, however.

Represented by Burris, they have filed a federal wrongful death suit, and are seeking to open a civil rights investigation into the murder.

In 2003, Burris won a class-action lawsuit on behalf of 119 mostly African American plaintiffs against the Oakland police in the Oakland "Riders" case that dramatized the corruption on the police force, and their victimization of Black Oaklanders.

The Oakland "Riders," were a group of corrupt cops who, as described in the Washington Post "were considered the best and the brightest, veterans whom rookie police officers tried to emulate. Their specialty: bringing in reputed drug dealers in record numbers from the crime-plagued streets of West Oakland."

Yet the methods these "war on drugs" star cops used included beatings, planting drugs and falsifying police reports preying on the victims of the system--those who, as John Burris argued, "are the most vulnerable. Who have prior convictions; who have served time in prison; who are on parole. Who are not generally believed to be victims in a case like this."

As a result of the lawsuit, the plaintiffs were awarded \$11 million and 90 drug cases were dropped.

Today Burris is arguing that "we need to see that there are consequences for police when they break the law, too. Serious consequences."

**Like the Riders case, the Woodfox suit promises to shed light on yet another example of how the system targets and scapegoats the most vulnerable, while leaving the massive inequalities and systematic racism that are the real causes of crime, and the heart of capitalism, unchallenged.**

**In standing up to the city and Oakland police, Burris and the Woodfox family are challenging the deep injustice at the center of urban America.**

## **NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT THE NEW 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/))



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