

## GI SPECIAL 6H18:



**The Traitor Bush At It  
Again:  
Every Iraq Or Afghanistan  
Veteran To Become A Terrorism  
Suspect:**

**“Factors That Could Trigger An Inquiry Would Include Travel To Regions Of The World Known For Terrorist Activity And Access To Weapons Or Military Training”  
Bush “Preparing To Give The F.B.I. Broad New Authority To Investigate Americans — Without Any Clear Basis For Suspicion That They Are Committing A Crime”**



The shit-eating rat traitor Bush lies about everything, as usual, to the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Convention in Orlando, Florida, on August 20, 2008.  
(AFP/File/Jim Watson)

**The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the rules, said factors that could trigger an inquiry would include travel to regions of the world known for terrorist activity and access to weapons or military training, along with the person's race or ethnicity.**

8.22.08 By LARA JAKES JORDAN WASHINGTON & The New York Times

**There is apparently no limit to the Bush administration's desire to invade Americans' privacy in the name of national security.**

**According to members of Congress, Attorney General Michael Mukasey is preparing to give the F.B.I. broad new authority to investigate Americans — without any clear basis for suspicion that they are committing a crime.**

Mr. Mukasey has not revealed the new guidelines. But according to senators whose staff have been given limited briefings, the rules may also authorize the F.B.I. to use an array of problematic investigative techniques.

**Among these are pretext interviews, in which agents do not honestly represent themselves while questioning a subject's neighbors and work colleagues.**

Currently, the FBI must have evidence or allegations of wrongdoing before opening an investigation of U.S. citizens or legal residents from other countries.

As described by some law enforcement officials, the new policy would let agents open preliminary terrorism investigations after mining public records and intelligence to build a profile of traits that, taken together, were deemed suspicious.

**The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the rules, said factors that could trigger an inquiry would include travel to regions of the world known for terrorist activity and access to weapons or military training, along with the person's race or ethnicity.**

Four Democratic Senators — Russ Feingold of Wisconsin, Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island, Richard Durbin of Illinois and Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts — have written to Mr. Mukasey and urged him not to sign the guidelines until they are publicly announced and national security and civil liberties experts have had a chance to analyze them.

Following their briefings, the four Democrats said the guidelines would:

**-- Let the FBI use "a variety of intrusive investigative techniques" with no evidence of possible wrongdoing. The techniques could include: long-term FBI surveillance, interviewing neighbors and work-mates, recruiting informants and searching commercial databases for information on people "all without any basis for suspicion."**

"We are particularly concerned that the draft guidelines might permit an innocent American to be subjected to such intrusive surveillance based in part on race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or on protected First Amendment activities," the senators wrote.

-- Allow the government to collect foreign intelligence information inside the United States without current legal protections for U.S. citizens or legal residents. The senators noted that the broad term "foreign intelligence" would cover any information relating to the activities of a foreign government, organization or person.

-- Allow the information gathered to be broadly shared among government agencies. "We have serious questions about the scope of information sharing as it relates to U.S. persons who are under no suspicion of wrongdoing," the senators wrote.

Earlier this week, Senate Judiciary Chairman Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., and the panel's top Republican, Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, also called for delaying the guidelines.

**The guidelines are expected to be finalized next week. They do not require congressional approval.**

Clearly, the Bush administration cannot be trusted to get the balance between law enforcement and civil liberties right.

It has repeatedly engaged in improper and illegal domestic spying — notably in the National Security Agency's warrantless eavesdropping program.

**The F.B.I. and the White House no doubt want to push the changes through before a new president is elected.**

**MORE:**

## **After 16 Years In The Army, Gulf War Veteran Blacklisted By Homeland Security Scum; Employer Threatening To Fire Him: "Repeatedly Subjected To Searches, Questioning And Detention At Airports And Border Crossings Since 2006"**

**"We have a problem when a law-abiding combat veteran is about to lose his job because the government has placed him on a terrorist watch list but refuses to tell him why," said Harrisburg lawyer Amy C. Foerster, who is working with the Pennsylvania chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union on the case.**

Aug 22, 2008 By Peter Jackson - The Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. — A former Army pilot and convert to Islam who said his name is on the U.S. government's secret terrorist watch list has fought back, filing a federal lawsuit against the Homeland Security Department and various other federal agencies.

Erich Scherfen said unless his name is removed from the list, he faces losing not only his job as a commercial airline pilot but the ability to make a living in his chosen profession.

“My livelihood depends on being off this list,” Scherfen told reporters Tuesday after his lawyers filed the lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Harrisburg.

He alleged that the government’s actions have violated his and his wife’s constitutional rights. The suit seeks a hearing and a decision before he is scheduled to lose his job Sept. 1.

Scherfen, 37, who served 16 years in the Army, said he believes his name was placed on a watch list because he converted to Islam in 1994 — even though he is a 1991 Persian Gulf War combat veteran.

Both he and his Pakistan-born wife, who is also a Muslim, said they have no criminal records or ties to terrorists.

In their lawsuit, the couple said they have been repeatedly subjected to searches, questioning and detention at airports and border crossings since 2006.

Ticket agents and others have made vague references to their names being on lists, but there was no clear explanation for the extra scrutiny.

Scherfen said he learned that he was a “positive match” on a list maintained by the Transportation Security Administration in April, when his employer, Colgan Air Inc., suspended him for that reason. The Virginia-based regional carrier continued to pay him for the first two weeks of his suspension, but he is currently on unpaid leave and expects to lose his job if his name is not taken off the list by the end of this month.

Scherfen had worked for the airline for about a year when he was suspended, a Colgan spokesman confirmed.

The couple said their attempts to resolve the situation through the government have been unsuccessful.

Transportation Security Administration spokeswoman Ann Davis said the TSA gets watch lists from the FBI and requires airlines to cross-check the lists before issuing passengers boarding passes.

While declining comment on the lawsuit, Davis said “religious and political affiliation does not impact whether an individual is placed” on a list.

The Justice Department declined comment on the lawsuit and said in a statement that the FBI’s Terrorist Screening Center, “for both national security and personal privacy reasons,” does not confirm or deny the existence of any name on the watch lists that it maintains.

“We have a problem when a law-abiding combat veteran is about to lose his job because the government has placed him on a terrorist watch list but refuses to tell him why,” said

Harrisburg lawyer Amy C. Foerster, who is working with the Pennsylvania chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union on the case.

**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**

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **Franklin Heights Grad Killed In Iraq**

August 20, 2008 By Rick Rouan, THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

There was a calm to James Hale, a U.S. Army corporal and Franklin Heights High School graduate, before his and his family's worlds were shaken.

The calm was in his voice, his mother said, two weeks before an explosive device detonated underneath the Humvee in which he was riding.

"I really believe he knew," Virgie Fox said of her son. "He had something in his spirit that knew something was going to happen."

Hale, 23, a military policeman since 2003, died last Wednesday in Baghdad, about six weeks after starting his second tour of duty in Iraq. He was a member of the 978th Military Police Co. helping to train Iraqi police.

He was in high school in Naperville, Ill., on Sept. 11, 2001. He decided then that he would join the Army after graduation.

"When 9/11 happened he felt like he had to protect me and his country," Fox said.

He moved to Columbus, where he finished his senior year at Franklin Heights High School.

Fox said her son didn't make many close friends in Columbus because he wasn't here long before leaving for basic training. But he did meet Jessica, his wife-to-be.

The two married when Hale returned from basic training. They have three children: Jayden, 4, Jesse, 2, and Jordan, 4 weeks. The family lives at Fort Bliss near El Paso, Texas, where Hale was based.

Hale never got to hold Jordan, although he saw him via a Web cam, Fox said.

She described her son as spiritual, quiet and dutiful.

Hale's funeral will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at the Rock of Ages Church, 1309 Madison St., Maywood, Ill. Visitation will begin an hour before the service.

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## **BEEN ON THE JOB TOO LONG: COME ON HOME, NOW**



A U.S. soldier of the 1st Armour Division after a patrol in Baghdad's Sadr City July 13, 2008. (Damir Sagolj/Reuters)

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Military Base Supply Helicopter Down In Kunar; One Dead, Three Wounded, Nationality Not Announced**

24 Aug 2008 KABUL, Aug 24 (Reuters)

A NATO-chartered helicopter crashed on Sunday in Afghanistan's eastern province of Kunar near the border with Pakistan, causing one death, a spokesman for the alliance said.

The civilian helicopter crashed soon after taking off from a military base in an area of the rugged province, the spokesman said, ruling out any hostile action.

He had no details about the type of the helicopter, number of people on board or identity of the casualties.

NATO in a statement said the helicopter was an Mi-8 supply helicopter, contracted by the alliance's International Security Assistance Forces.

"One person on board the aircraft died and three were wounded during the incident," it added without elaborating on the nationality of the casualties.

A spokesman for the Taliban said the group had shot down the helicopter.

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## COMMENT UNNECESSARY



Afghans prepare graves for people killed by a US airstrike on Azizabad village in Herat province. The Afghan religious affairs minister Nematullah Shahrani has told AFP that more than 90 civilians, mostly women and children, were killed by coalition air strikes on Azizabad. (AFP/Reza Shirmohammadi)

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# **Resistance Wins Over Locals At The Gates Of Kabul:**

**“If There Is A Front Line Between  
The Insurgents And The  
Government, It Is Here, Just A  
Dozen Miles South Of The Capital”**

**“There Are Signs That The  
Insurgents Are Penetrating The  
Capital Itself”**

**The Real Strength Of The Insurgents  
“Lies In The Parallel Administration They  
Have Managed To Establish In Huge  
Areas Across The South And East Of  
Afghanistan”**

**'The police know that, if they stay in their station and do nothing, the Taliban leave them alone and only launch attacks in the next district,' said one elder from the small town of Chak.**

August 24 2008 Jason Burke in Maidan Shah, The Guardian [UK] [Excerpts]

Ismatullah stood at the crossroads in the dusty Afghan town of Maidan Shah, squinted in the blinding noon sun and stroked his long, grey beard. 'What the governor said in our meeting was very good,' he said diplomatically. 'He quoted the Koran very correctly.

“But I am not sure how much power he has. Now I am going home - and the Taliban control my district, not him.’

The tribal elder lives only a few miles from Maidan Shah, in a part of Afghanistan which, until a few months ago, was considered under the authority of President Hamid Karzai's central government.

Maidan Shah is a typical Afghan town - a scruffy huddle of mechanics' workshops, stalls selling out-of-date Iranian jam, the charred frames of two fuel trucks burnt out in a recent insurgent attack, and a clutch of battered barrows from which destitute farmers in rags sell bruised apples and tiny brown pomegranates.

A dozen men lie on the flat floor of the single restaurant amid clouds of flies, sip smeared glasses of tea and stare hard at strangers.

Follow the main road back towards the Afghan capital and in 15 minutes you will be at the narrow pass in the ring of craggy, dusty hills around the city known for centuries as 'the Gates of Kabul'.

If there is a front line between the insurgents and the government, it is here, just a dozen miles south of the capital.

There is no clear front line, of course - which is part of the problem.

In the UK, it is the south of Afghanistan, where British troops are fighting, that has received most attention. Yet last week's battle in which 10 French soldiers died took place only an hour's drive from Kabul.

It is in places like Maidan Shah, not remote provincial Helmand, that the struggle for Afghanistan will be won or lost.

'The war in the south is basically a tough, bitterly fought stalemate,' admitted one senior Nato officer last week. 'It is around Kabul that the Taliban must now be stopped.'

Even on the outskirts of Kabul, Westerners and government officials risk attack or kidnap.

Although news bulletins inside and outside Afghanistan are dominated by bomb blasts or clashes, the real strength of the insurgents lies not in their ability to ambush convoys or plant roadside bombs but in the parallel administration they have managed to establish in huge areas across the south and east of Afghanistan.

There they make the law, enforcing a harsh, but sometimes welcome, order while intimidating any dissenters. Their strategy is deliberate and long-term. From this new position of strength, they are building durable networks of support.

What has happened in Wardak province shows how they have done it.

**Most of the province's 800,000 inhabitants, mainly peasants, go to the insurgents for rough but often effective justice.**

**'I can't blame them,' Ishaqzai said. 'A court case in the government system takes five years and many bribes. The Taliban will settle it in an afternoon.'**

Every villager has stories of how the Taliban settle the myriad property disputes which mark Afghan society. In scores of cases, Ishaqzai said, he had convened a traditional tribal council with an Islamic scholar as a judge rather than send cases to higher courts.

'That way at least they get a decision,' he said. The clerics involved are often senior Taliban commanders.

It is not just civil cases.

According to Mohammed Musa Hotak, an MP from Wardak, the Taliban arrived in a village in the southern district of Jalreez last week, arrested three well-known thieves, tarred their faces and paraded them as 'an example'. The men would probably be hanged, Hotak said. Last year human rights groups in Afghanistan estimated that the Taliban had executed between 70 and 90 people in the villages they control and punished thousands more for criminal acts.

Often such acts are popular. According to Hotak, the first act of the Taliban in the villages near his home had been to announce that they would take responsibility for law enforcement.

'They said they were responsible for every chicken,' Hotak said. 'People believe them. When they kill a robber, everyone is happy.'

A government minister talked of how in his own village earlier this month a shopowner had complained to the Taliban after being robbed and had got his goods back after the insurgents simply circulated a 'night letter', one of the pamphlets that have been the Afghan insurgents' favoured means of communication for decades, saying that they knew the thief and would hang him publicly.

**Ismatullah the elder was clear. 'When the Taliban were in power, you could drive all the way to Kandahar with a bag of money and no one would touch you,' he said.**

**'Now the government are thieves. Since 2001 nothing has changed, except security is worse.'**

The road to Kandahar has certainly seen better days. Ruined by the fighting that racked Afghanistan in the 1990s, rebuilt at a cost of £200m since, it is now pocked with the scars of bomb blasts and many of the new bridges have been destroyed in recent months. Each week government and coalition convoys are attacked - 50 trucks were burnt in one go last month, another dozen last week.

**Minutes after the governor of Wardak, interviewed in his heavily protected office-cum-residence in Maidan Shah, assured The Observer that the road was safe to travel, a convoy carrying a high-ranking government official was shot up 10 minutes' drive away.**

The Taliban patrol openly a few hundred metres from the highway. In the more remote districts, villagers said, the local police often conclude deals with the underpaid, demoralised, poorly equipped Afghan National Police.

**'The police know that, if they stay in their station and do nothing, the Taliban leave them alone and only launch attacks in the next district,' said one elder from the**

[R]efugees who have fled from the province to Kabul said that exploitation of local communities by the Taliban was rare.

'They ask the landowners for food, but not us,' said Roz Ali, 42. 'Anyway we have nothing to give.' However, taxes are sometimes levied on farm production - including opium.

**This parallel government has not come about by chance. It is the result of a careful, four-phase strategy that the Taliban put into practice across much of Afghanistan, first in their southern heartland and later further north.**

First came consolidation.

'Back in 2002 everyone was scared of the coalition forces and hopeful for change,' said Abdul Hadi, an elder from Chak district. 'The Taliban kept a low profile. Many fled to Pakistan.'

By 2005, senior figures began returning to Wardak, reactivating old networks and preaching that a new jihad was necessary to fight the 'Christian invaders'. Exploiting local power struggles, anger at corrupt local authorities and their own authority as educated clerics among an illiterate population, Taliban leaders were able to extend their influence.

**By the end of last year they moved to the next phase: recruitment.**

Though fiercely loyal to the government, Roshanak, the MP, needs close contacts with the Taliban to survive. 'I know a lot of them,' she said. 'There are the old Taliban and the clerics, and then there are now the young guys. They are angry, poor, violent teenagers. They are easy to recruit.'

The younger men provide the foot soldiers and mid-level command that the leadership needs to develop a real presence on the ground.

Overlaid on the network of local Taliban are other groups, too - from neighbouring provinces, the south, even from overseas.

Intelligence estimates obtained by The Observer conservatively place the strength of the Wardak Taliban at about 800 lightly armed men, split into dozens of different factions.

Though significant, such a force should be easy for the 70,000 heavily armed soldiers of the coalition to destroy. But it isn't.

Sitting on a metal bed on a small hill a few miles south of the governor's office, Salim Ali, a 20-year-old policeman, forced a slim smile. With three colleagues, for a pound a day, he guards the road passing through the 'gates of Kabul'. 'There's less traffic these days,' he says. 'People are frightened.'

Indeed, Salim Ali's vigil may already be redundant.

**There are signs that the insurgents are penetrating the capital itself.**

Ten days ago authorities reported a 'rocket strike' on the newly refurbished airport.

Only it was not rockets, which have a range of many miles, that were fired at the terminal but rocket-propelled grenades, launched from 200 metres away. General Mohammed Shah Paktiwal, head of Kabul's CID, said 'terrorists' were responsible.

The incident may have been a one-off - the suicide bombs that hit Kabul last year are less frequent - but the insecurity in the Afghan capital is palpable. Though few genuinely think the Taliban could once again capture the city as long as foreign troops remain in the city, the cries of 'Allahu Akbar' or 'God is great' from pious locals during a nocturnal lunar eclipse last week prompted a major security alert.

The authorities were scared that the Taliban had penetrated Kabul in force.

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## TROOP NEWS



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

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**How It Is:  
#1: U.S. Army**

# “It’s A Shame How The Brigade Is Treating My Soldiers”



Letters To The Editor  
IVAW Sit-Rep Issue #6;  
Summer 2008:

A publication of Iraq Veterans Against the War,  
P.O. Box 8296,  
Philadelphia, PA 19101

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I mobilized in June '05 for deployment to Iraq, and have been “incarcerated” at Ft. Sill, OK since then.

We are shipping out at the end of August. The National Guard soldiers here are locked down, unable to leave post or wear civilian clothes and, until yesterday, we did not get three hot meals a day.

It’s a shame how the brigade is treating my soldiers.

From the belly of the beast,  
SSG C[XXXX]

**MORE:**

## **#2: Russian Army “We Simple Soldiers Are Slaves”**

8.21.08 By Yaroslav Trofimov, wall St. journal [Excerpts]

“You are in the wrong. Why are you here, taking away our land? This is Georgian land, not Russian,” 78-year-old Gurarn Psuturi harangued a Russian soldier he encountered on the city’s main square, dominated by a giant statue of the Gori-born Soviet dictator Josef Stalin.

“When are you going to leave here?” shouted an old woman nearby.

The soldier, who declined to give his name but said he hails from Chechnya, itself the target of Russian military might in the past, responded with an embarrassed smile.

“How can I know when we leave? This is all up to the governments — we simple soldiers are slaves and do what we’re told,” he said before getting into his truck and driving away.

**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**

**Army Veteran Turned Away By  
Bronx VA Hospital “After He  
Refused To Participate In A  
Human Subject Experiment”  
“Nothing Could Have Saved Joe, But  
The Care There Was Hateful And  
Incompetent”  
VA Researchers Wanted “To Observe  
The Natural And Ravaging Course Of  
The Disease And His Eventual Death”**

August 22, 2008 Audrey Hudson, Washington Times [Excerpts]

An Army veteran seeking treatment for his sudden loss of motor skills was turned away from a veterans hospital in the Bronx, N.Y., in May 2007 after he refused to participate in a human subject experiment on Alzheimer's disease.

Joe Fitzgerald, 74, died of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease - the human form of mad cow disease - less than a month after being dismissed without diagnosis from James J. Peters VA Medical Center.

His widow is demanding answers from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as to whether human research testing is taking a priority over the health care of veterans at its hospitals.

"I want them to be held accountable for this, to prevent this from happening to someone else," Aimee Fitzgerald said. "Nothing could have saved Joe, but the care there was hateful and incompetent."

Mrs. Fitzgerald said the research study doctor, Christine Bergmann, told the family that her husband's participation in the study would enable researchers to make a quicker diagnosis of his condition.

But VA officials said Dr. Bergmann did not have the authority to offer a diagnosis.

"(The study) has very little to do with their diagnosis, and it is not consistent with what occurred," said MaryAnn Musumeci, director of the Bronx hospital.

**"That's mind-boggling. That's not true," Mrs. Fitzgerald said. "Dr. Bergmann made it very clear to us that the benefit of signing up for the study would be that she would develop an individual profile of Joe that would help them to arrive at a diagnosis faster."**

**The VA made several officials available for comment, but not Dr. Bergmann.**

VA officials and the Fitzgerald family also differ over the circumstances of Mr. Fitzgerald's discharge and whether the hospital provided care.

Miss Musumeci said Mr. Fitzgerald was admitted only for testing and clinical evaluation and that he was referred back to his physician at Castle Point VA Hospital for further care and testing.

"He was released because his work-up was complete. We did all the tests we could have done," Miss Musumeci said.

In an interview with The Washington Times, VA officials said they knew Mr. Fitzgerald was suffering from a rapidly debilitating disease.

**Asked why the hospital released instead of treating the veteran, Miss Musumeci said, "He was in need of hospice care, and that is what Castle Point provides."**

**Castle Point VA Hospital, a part of the VA Hudson Valley Healthcare System in Dutchess County, N.Y., does not identify itself as a hospice facility and does not advertise its hospice care among its patient services.**



Mrs. Fitzgerald said she was advised to keep future testing appointments with Castle Point and that the Bronx hospital never recommended hospice care or said they knew her husband's health was deteriorating.

**Mr. Fitzgerald's discharge papers stated that he was in stable condition.**

Arthur Caplan, one of the nation's premier medical ethicists and director of the Center for Bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania, said the first obligation of any caregiver is to treat the patient.

"It is only when there is no therapy, or the therapy that is available is of doubtful utility, that someone can be recruited to research," Mr. Caplan said.

"Every researcher and every institution that does research must be sure to make an accurate diagnosis of a patient, to then offer them whatever therapy is available at the institution, to give them all their options in terms of treatment anywhere else and then and only then to pursue the possibility of trying something new in a research study," Mr. Caplan said.

**"No one should ever be penalized for failing to volunteer for a study, ever," Mr. Caplan said.**

"The goal of any medical encounter must be first and foremost to provide the latest and best care when care is available," Mr. Caplan said. "The chance to participate as a subject in research has to take a secondary role to receiving care as a patient."

**Mrs. Fitzgerald said the VA researchers wanted her husband to enroll in the Alzheimer's experiment to observe the natural and ravaging course of the disease and his eventual death.**

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

# **Prominent U.S.-Allied Politician Killed In Baghdad**

8.24.08 By Erica Goode, THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD -- Kamal Shyaa Abdullah was warned to drive in a guarded convoy when he traveled through the streets of Baghdad -- he was a high-ranking official in the Ministry of Culture and was soon to become a deputy minister. But he disliked all the fuss of bodyguards and extra cars, and he refused protection.

Yesterday, Abdullah, 54, was killed by gunmen as he and his driver headed down the highway toward a public garden where they had planned to relax in the hottest hours of the afternoon.

Akil al-Mendlawi, a spokesman for the Ministry of Culture, said that Abdullah, a well-known scholar and a member of the Communist Party, became friends with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki when both men were in exile in Syria.

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## GET THE MESSAGE?



Iraqis march 8.21.08 in Najaf to denounce the surprise visit of US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to Iraq and the Occupation. (AFP/Qassem Zein)

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## FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

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

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

**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

***Noble Anniversary:  
August 25, 1969***  
**The Rebellion Of Company A;  
“One Of Hundreds Of Mutinies  
Among Troops During The War”**



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

Carl Bunin, Peace History Aug 20-26

**Company A of the 3rd Battalion the 196th Light Brigade refused to advance further into the Songchang Valley of Vietnam after five days of heavy casualties; their number had been reduced from 150 to 60.**

**This was one of hundreds of mutinies among troops during the war.**

*“He (President Nixon) is also carrying on the battle in the belief, or pretense, that the South Vietnamese will really be able to defend their country and our democratic objectives (sic) when we withdraw, and even his own generals don’t believe the South Vietnamese will do it.”*

*James Reston in the New York Times*

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## OCCUPATION REPORT

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



U.S. Private First Class Nathan Hogan from the Second Stryker Cavalry Regiment searches a house during a patrol 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.”

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

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

**DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**



**“The Homeland Security Officials I  
Encountered Were Very Much  
Alive -- Like Vultures Waiting To  
Eat”**

# At JFK Airport, Denying Basic Rights Is Just Another Day At The Office: “Within A Few Hours Of My Arrival, I Saw At Least 10 People Denied The Right To Use The Bathroom”



Courteous Homeland Security staff are eager to give a friendly welcome to U.S. citizens and visitors to the liberated USA. [liv.ac.uk]

August 18, 2008 By Emily Feder, AlterNet

I arrived at JFK Airport two weeks ago after a short vacation to Syria and presented my American passport for re-entry to the United States. After 28 hours of traveling, I had settled into a hazy awareness that this was the last, most familiar leg of a long journey. I exchanged friendly words with the Homeland Security official who was recording my name in his computer.

**He scrolled through my passport, and when his thumb rested on my Syrian visa, he paused. Jerking toward the door of his glass-enclosed booth, he slid my passport into a dingy green plastic folder and walked down the hallway, motioning for me to follow with a flick of his wrist.**

**Where was he taking me, I asked him. “You’ll find out,” he said.**

We got to an enclosed holding area in the arrivals section of the airport. He shoved the folder into my hand and gestured toward four sets of Homeland Security guards sitting at large desks.

Attached to each desk were metal poles capped with red, white and blue siren lights. I approached two guards carrying weapons and wearing uniforms similar to New York City police officers, but they shook their heads, laughed and said, "Over there," pointing in the direction of four overflowing holding pens.

**I approached different desks until I found an official who nodded and shoved my green folder in a crowded metal file holder.**

**When I asked him why I was there, he glared at me, took a sip from his water bottle, bit into a sandwich, and began to dig between his molars with his forefinger.**

I found a seat next to a man who looked about my age -- in his late 20s -- and waited.

Omar (not his real name) finished his fifth year in biomedical engineering at City College in June. He had just arrived from Beirut, where he visited his family and was waiting to go home to the apartment he shared with his brother in Harlem.

Despite his near-perfect English and designer jeans, Omar looked scared.

He rubbed his hands and rocked softly in his seat.

**He had been waiting for hours already, and, as he pointed out, a number of people -- some sick, elderly, pregnant or holding sobbing babies -- had too.**

There were approximately 70 people detained in our cordoned-off section: All were Arab (with the exception of me and the friend I traveled with), and almost all had arrived from Dubai, Amman or Damascus.

Many were U.S. citizens.

We were in the front row, sitting a few feet from two guards' desks. They sneered at each bewildered arrival, told jokes in whispers, swiveled in their office chairs and greeted passing guards who stopped to talk -- guards who had a habit of looping their fingers into their holsters. One asked his friend how many nationalities were represented in the room. "About 20. Some of everything today."

No one who had been detained knew precisely why they were there.

A few people were led into private rooms; others were questioned out in the open at desks a few feet from the crowd and then allowed to pass through customs. Some were sent to another section of the holding area with large computer screens and cameras, and then brought back.

The uninformed consensus among the detainees was that some people would be fingerprinted, have their irises scanned and be sent back to the countries from which they had disembarked, regardless of citizenship status; others would be fingerprinted and allowed to stay; and the unlucky ones would be detained indefinitely and moved to a more permanent facility.

There was one British tourist in the group. Paul (also not his real name) was traveling with three friends who had passed through customs soon after their plane landed and were waiting for him on the other side of the metal barrier; he suspected he had been detained because of his dark skin.

**When he asked if he could go to the bathroom, one of the guards said, "I wouldn't." "What if someone has to?" I asked. "They will just have to hold it," the guard responded with a smile.**

Paul began to cry.

**I watched as he, over the course of four hours, went from feeling exuberant about his trip to New York to despising the entire country.**

"I speak the Queen's English," he said to me. "I'm third-generation British. I came to America because I've always wanted to come here, and now they've got me so scared that all I want to do is go home. We're paying for your stupid war anyway."

To be powerless and mocked at the same time makes one feel ashamed, which leads quickly to rage.

**Within a few hours of my arrival, I saw at least 10 people denied the right to use the bathroom or buy food and water.**

I watched my traveling companion duck under a barrier, run to the bathroom and slip back into the holding section -- which, of course, someone of another ethnicity in a state of panic would be very reluctant to do.

The United States is good at naming enemies, but apparently we are even better at making them, especially of individuals.

**I don't know if it's worse for national security -- and more embarrassing for Americans -- that this is the first experience tourists have of our country, or that some U.S. citizens get treated this way upon entering their own country.**

The guard who had been picking his molars for hours quietly mispronounced the names of people whose turn it was to be questioned, muttering each surname three times and then moving on.

When he called Omar from City College to his desk, I moved closer to hear the interview. "Where did you go?" the officer asked. "What is your address in the United States? Is your brother here illegally? Do you support Hezbollah? What do you think of Hezbollah in general? How do you pay for your life here? How many people live with you? Are you sure it's just you and your brother? Who are your friends?"

Omar answered respectfully and emphatically; he was then asked to wait by the side of the desk, from which he was ushered toward one of the rooms.

**After four hours, I finally demanded to speak to the guards' supervisor, and he was called down.**



**I asked if the detainees could file a formal complaint. He said there were complaint forms (which, in English and Spanish, direct one to the Department of Homeland Security's Web site, where one must enter extensive personal information in order to file a "Trip Summary") but initially refused to hand them out or to give me his telephone number.**

"The Department of Homeland Security is understaffed, underfunded, and I have men here who are doing 14-hour days."

**He tried to intimidate me when I wrote down his name -- "So, you're writing down our names. Well, we have more on you" -- and asked me questions about my address and my profession in front of the rest of the people detained.**

**I pointed out a few of the families who had missed their flights and had been waiting seven hours.**

**His voice barely controlled, his lip curled into a smirk, he explained slowly, condescendingly, that they need only go to the ticket counter at Jet Blue and reschedule so they could fly out in an hour.**

**One mother responded with what he must have already known: Jet Blue goes to most destinations only once or twice a day and her whole family would have to sleep in the airport.**

**A large crowd began to gather. Everyone wanted to voice complaints.**

I explained to the supervisor that his guards had been making people afraid.

He flipped through the green files, tossing the American passports to the front of the pile. "You should have gone first, before these people. American citizens first -- that's how it should be." In the face of dozens of requests and questions, he turned and left.

The guards processed me then, ignoring the order of arrivals, if there ever had been one.

**They refused to distribute more complaint forms or call the supervisor back down at the request of Arab families.**

**One officer threatened, "I'm talking politely to you now. If you don't sit down, I won't be talking politely to you anymore."**

**One announced that because "the American girl" had gotten angry, the families would have to wait a few more hours.**

**"The supervisor is not coming back."**

I reassured my Homeland Security interrogator that I did not make any connections with Hezbollah or with anyone I knew to be associated with such an organization. I am not a member of any terrorist group.

In fact, my visit to Syria had been so apolitical and touristy that I felt an embarrassing affinity with the pastel-shirted families waiting by the Air France baggage carousels in the distance, whom I knew I would eventually join.

**As I walked out of the enclosure, some people thanked me, squeezing my arm and putting their hands on my shoulders.**

It was shocking that briefly standing up to someone overseeing an abuse of civil rights -- in JFK airport, in the United States, where we supposedly have laws and a democratic judicial system -- could be perceived as heroic.

I had nothing to lose, but the other people being detained had everything to lose.

In the past five years I have worked for human rights and refugee advocacy organizations in Serbia, Russia and Croatia, including the International Rescue Committee and USAID.

**I have traveled to many different places, some supposedly repressive, and have never seen people treated with the kind of animosity that Homeland Security showed that night.**

In Syria, border control officers were stern but polite. At other borders there have been bureaucracies to contend with -- excruciating for both Americans and other foreign nationals.

**I've met Russian officials with dead, suspicious looks in their eyes and arms tired from stamping so many visas, but in America, the Homeland Security officials I encountered were very much alive -- like vultures waiting to eat.**

## **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/))**

## CLASS WAR REPORTS



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## Special Report From United Auto Workers President: “SMART CARS ARE DUMB”

[Thanks to Dennis Serdel, who sent this in. About Brother 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]

[Introduction by Dennis Serdel:]

Great satire by Gregg Shotwell, Retiree to be in Nov. although I don't think that will stop him.

Gregg and I would go to the UAW Worker Writer's Festival every year and I would lay down some antiwar poems and Gregg would finish them off with his Labor Writing and their reactions told us we just kicked their asses.

Then at night in Detroit, we would cruise back to Perry and Grand Rapids feeling good like two thieves in Gregg's beat up old car.

**With our names on the bill, we would fill up that old Detroit Union Hall until they wanted to listen to lies and we were not invited anymore.**

**But the memories still linger, of blowing into town and kicking some ass and then leaving.**

**Dennis**

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## **Special Report From UAW President: “SMART CARS ARE DUMB”**

Atlantic City -- August 23, 2008 -- APBS Wire -- by Vince Tongue

In a public address to UAW local union officials in Atlantic City, UAW President Ron Gettelfinger set the record straight. “Smart cars are dumb,” he said.

The crowd roared and laughed and clapped. They know a bumper sticker when they hear one.

“‘Smart Cars are Dumb’ will soon replace ‘Buy American’ as the new slogan of politically active autoworkers,” said one such activist with a smudge of liverwurst on his nose.

“We will do all we can to help the company that has always helped us,” Gettelfinger said.

A few of the loyal crew bent their heads between their knees and discretely coughed up lunch between their shoes, but all and all, they took the news like capitalist heroes. They shrugged and wiped their mouths on their shirtsleeves.

“We have stood shoulder to shoulder with our corporate partners against lawmakers and customers. We have defended allegations that our SUVs were unsafe, our fuel efficient standards too low, and our emissions too high. In each case we fought the politicians, Democrat or Republican, that wanted to undermine our attempts to give customers what they really want.”

“We stood up on the steps of the capital and bellowed through our bullhorns: ‘SUVs DON’T ROLL OVER. PEOPLE ROLL OVER’”

“We demanded the right of all Americans to burn gas, drive fast, and support the richest corporations in the history of the world. Just like Americans supported us when we offered our personal version of the sub prime loan — no money down, 0% financing, and \$3,000 discounts.

“If many Americans now find their financing is upside down and they owe more than the vehicle is worth, we will help them take out a bigger loan for a smaller car. It’s that simple. We’re just trying to make money and keep our customers satisfied with a life of debt.”

“Speaking of customers, how you all doing out there? Having a good time? Don’t you just love casinos? We’re thinking of buying one with the VEBA [retirees’ health plan] money. Nothing fancy. Just slots and crap tables.

“We want to honor our roots and be a hard core house for hard core working people who like to invest their money in other people’s pockets.”

“Today, I am going to draw a line in the sand and walk across it. We will open the contract. Heck, yes!

“What good is a binding agreement if you can’t unbind it? What’s the fun of a present if you can’t cut the ribbon and tear the wrapping paper off?

“We are talking about the most important of all American values: the freedom to vote for which concessions you want whenever you want.

“We the leaders of the UAW are ready to step up to the plate and make the kind of concessions that will really goose our company stock. Are you with us?”

“OK. OK. That’s enough applause.

“All in favor say AYE.

“All not in favor say AYE.

“The AYEs have it. Lets go play.

### **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/2008/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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