

GI SPECIAL 612:

Candidates Demand Immediate Withdrawal From Iraq



**Green Party Nominee Cynthia
McKinney and Running Mate Rosa
Clemente Say Bring Them All
Home Now!**

July 21, 2008 Democracy Now! [Excerpts]

AMY GOODMAN: The Green Party made history last week when it nominated the first all-women-of-color presidential ticket in US history. Former Democratic Congress member Cynthia McKinney, the first African American woman elected to Congress in Georgia, won the Green Party's nomination last Monday. She named longtime community organizer, journalist and former director of the Hip Hop Caucus, Rosa Clemente, as her running mate.

We're joined now by Green Party presidential and vice-presidential candidates. Cynthia McKinney joins us from Washington, D.C. Rosa Clemente joins us from Charlotte, North Carolina. We welcome you both to Democracy Now!

Cynthia McKinney, let's begin with you in Washington, D.C. If you were elected president, what would be your first act?

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: Of course, the first act would be to assemble a team in the Pentagon that believed in peace and the efficacy of diplomacy.

And therefore, we would make sure that we put together an orderly withdrawal, but immediate withdrawal, of all of our young men and women, not just from Iraq and Afghanistan, but from the more than 100 countries around the world in which our soldiers are stationed.

I would just like to say something about your headlines, your opening headlines. Amy, I came into this room this morning full of hope and enthusiasm for the fact that the Green Party have provided an opportunity for Rosa and me to kickstart the kind of movement that this country needs.

And yet, these headlines from this morning — torture, war, violence, murder, hate crimes — I think it's clear that not only does our country need a new set of values at the helm, our country needs an opposition party like the Green Party, that has the values of the Green Party, so that we can finally see the values that I believe are the majority values of the American people implemented in our public policy.

AMY GOODMAN: Cynthia McKinney, right now there's a lot of talk about who the Democratic and Republican presidential candidates will choose as their vice-presidential candidates. Can you talk about your criteria on why you chose Rosa Clemente?

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: I've known Rosa for a very long time. Rosa has participated in many of the congressional briefings and brain trusts that we held with respect to the counterintelligence program COINTELPRO.

And the impact of the kind of disclosures that we saw from the ACLU with respect to Maryland's surveillance of people who dared to dissent, she has done that really as a lifelong activist with the hip hop generation and understands the potentialities associated with being active and dissenting from the status quo powers and the policies of them.

Rosa represents everything that is good and right about young people in this country.

I'm reminded of the fact that it was high school students, university students, that changed my life in the civil rights movement. They were unafraid to challenge the status quo. Rosa comes from that very same kind of commitment and tradition.

AMY GOODMAN: Rosa Clemente, it's great to have you with us. Can you talk about what it means to be the Green Party's vice-presidential candidate, to be a vice-presidential candidate here in the United States?

ROSA CLEMENTE: I mean, thank you for having me, Amy. It's a humbling experience, first and foremost.

But, I mean, I'm a South Bronx Puerto Rican-born girl, 1972. I was in the South Bronx when hip hop, which is still now the voice of multi-racial young people all over the world, began.

So I'm humbled, but I'm ready for the work. I've been in a great tradition of student activists coming from the State University of New York at Albany in the early '90s to getting my Master's at Cornell University under the mentorship of Dr. James Turner and being a community organizer with the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, but again under mentorship of the great late Richie Perez.

So I'm humbled, but I'm also excited, because I feel that many African American, indigenous, Asian, Latino youth in this country, mostly working class, are completely disenfranchised and marginalized from a two-party system.

There's over 40 percent of young people that still have not registered to vote, which shows their dissatisfaction with both the Republicans and Democrats.

And I really want to bring the face of what hip hop has always been for me, a voice of the voiceless, the mic that speaks truth to power but also uses these elements to act against the status quo or the powers that be.

AMY GOODMAN: Cynthia McKinney, the other issues that you feel are critical right now, that you're campaigning on?

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: I'll be back in New York on September 11th with the wonderful organization wearechange.org, who are planning a candlelight vigil for — at Ground Zero on September 11th, and after that, a benefit — a series of benefits, actually, for the first responders, who of course have been neglected and who have health effects now stemming from their activities in recovery and cleanup of the site.

Now, I think it's important for us to note that our national leaders have decided that it's OK to spend \$720 million every day for war and occupation. That number is according to the American Friends Service Committee.

\$720 million a day at the expense of a single-payer healthcare system in this country, like, for example, Medicare for all; like, for example, subsidizing education so that, as Rosa said, no university student graduates \$100,000 in debt, as is the case with my cousin.

We need to make sure that our young people are actually graduating from high school. We need to make sure that we are investing in our infrastructure and greening our economy, making sure that we are providing jobs and that there's job training and that those jobs are at a livable wage.

These are not the things that the Democratic majority in Congress has ensured for all of us in public policy.

Yet they have continued to vote to fund war and occupation.

And so, on my birthday, in front of the Pentagon March 17 of last year, I declared my independence.

And I would just like to say that it's interesting that I declared my independence from the national leadership that gave us these kinds of policies and a failure to roll back the PATRIOT Acts, the Secret Evidence Act, the Military Commissions Act, a failure even to provide election integrity for us in face of the fact that we understand that we've got voter caging that's going on literally right now that would deny people the opportunity to cast a vote.

AMY GOODMAN: Rosa Clemente, Wyclef Jean, Kanye West, they're going to be performing at the Democratic Convention. Your response?

ROSA CLEMENTE: They're on the wrong side.

You know, I respect many other rappers in the hip hop community, but hip hop is bigger than rappers.

It's bigger than recorded artists who perform and make millions of dollars.

I understand the historical nature of a Barack Obama, but I also understand the historical nature of a Cynthia McKinney or Rosa Clemente, especially being Puerto Rican and understanding the colonial relationship that my island and my people have with this country and remembering being at Vieques on May 1, 2005, when we kicked the US Navy out.

If Barack Obama is not going to talk about the issues that are affecting the people that look like him, if he's not going to talk about the freedom of political prisoners in this country, and if he's not going to acknowledge the hip hop generation, which he really hasn't, then we as a generation must be very clear.

Are we picking someone based on emotion or what symbolism looks like, or are we picking the Green Party? You know, and I encourage everyone to pick up the platform. This platform includes social justice, an end to police brutality, and the list goes on and on.

So I'm encouraged by a lot of young people who have not registered to vote who have been emailing me, over 4,000 hits on my website in less than a week, saying that they're going to join the Green Party.

So that's my response. We'll be at the DNC; we just won't be inside. We'll be recruiting those people that are still disaffected. And we'll be at the RNC also. So look out for us.

But what we really have to remain focused on is the fact that this country is in dire need of an opposition party.

People who have values of economic opportunity, social justice, ecological wisdom need to have — and peace, of course, need to have a place to rest their vote in so that their vote reflects their values.

Right now, that is the Green Party. The Green Party is the opposition party. With over 200 elected officials, we know that the Green Party can only grow, particularly in this environment where we see positions change from issue to issue, from month to month, from week to week.

We understand that there is very little that is consistent and static with the corporate parties. However, with the Green Party, the Green Party is grounded in its values. Now, why is it that we participate in the political process, to start with?

It's not about a horse race. It's not about a fashion show. It's not about a beauty contest. It's not about popularity. It's about making sure that our values are reflected in public policy.

And that's why I've decided that it is now time — past time, it was — past time for me not only to declare my independence, as the women who were the suffragists declared their independence from the current political order in order to create something new, it was time for me to leave the Democratic Party, which no longer reflected my values.

And I think that the contradictions between what the Democratic Party says and what it does are very clear now before the American people.

Now, what are we supposed to do? Give up on our values? No. We press our values in the political system through the process that is made available to us. The Green Party has made it possible for us to press our values. In very much the same way that the Democratic presumptive nominee went before the Cuban American National Foundation and enunciated a certain set of values, in very much the same way that the Democratic presumptive nominee went before AIPAC, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, and enunciated certain values that will be reflected in public policy, it is incumbent upon those of us who share these values, rooted in the founding principles of the Green Party, to press our values in the political system.

And that's what we're doing.

AMY GOODMAN: What do you make of Senator Obama's trip to Iraq and Afghanistan to talking about a timetable for pullout ...

CYNTHIA McKINNEY: Well, of course, we understand bombast.

And that's what we're going to be subjected with throughout the remaining period of this election, is a lot of bombast.

At the end of the day, though, I think that what Maliki was saying is that nobody wants to see their country occupied. And so, the withdrawal as quickly as possible from Iraq, also withdrawal from Afghanistan—as Rosa has pointed out, this withdrawal is not really a withdrawal, it's just a shift over to Afghanistan.

So, let's understand exactly what we are dealing with. We need a different foreign policy. We need a foreign policy that is grounded in the respect for human rights, that respects self-determination, that respects democracy and the will of the people. That is the foundation for a peaceful, forward deployment of US assets and resources around the world in such a way that we are actually helping people, lifting people up. We do not have to deliver bombs and missiles and military technology and nuclear technology to countries in order to submit—make them submit to US will in fear. We can make friends with peace.

AMY GOODMAN: Will you be campaigning in swing states like Ohio and in Florida that could perhaps have a one or two percentage point difference between the candidates?

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: I will go wherever there are marginalized, alienated and disenfranchised people who need the voice and the message of the Green Party.

AMY GOODMAN: Are you concerned about helping McCain beat Obama?

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: Don't look at the Green Party and suspect that the Green Party is doing anything other than exercising its obligation to provide voters choice.

AMY GOODMAN: And what kind of response have you gotten, Rosa Clemente, from the hip hop community, now that you're nominated as a vice-presidential candidate?

ROSA CLEMENTE: I mean, it's been varied. I mean, from people who are activists and progressives in that movement, the response has been phenomenal. We have people all over every state ready to do some work. And in fact, on July 31st to August 3rd, we will be in Las Vegas, Nevada with the National Hip Hop Political Convention.

There have been some people caught up in Obama-mania, as I call it and other people, that are upset, but they don't understand, I think, right now the situation that we're in.

They don't understand that the Democrats and Republicans joined forces to keep the Green Party off the ballot.

They don't understand that we are being whited out of every mainstream and even some progressive media.

And my question to them is always, or my response: if we are not telling the truth, if we are not about empowering the majority of the American people, why are forces that are worth \$200 million, \$300 million not only keeping us off the ballots, but not even talking about us.

And again, in the progressive press, we've been whited out, whether it's the Huffington Post or Air America.

It's only been Pacifica and Democracy Now! and a couple other — I don't even call you "alternative" anymore.

I think we are the mainstream.

But why are we not being allowed to even voice our opinions?

So it's been a wonderful response, I think, in general for the hip hop generation right now.

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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Greenwood Soldier Killed In Iraq.



George Staniel

August 25, 2008 By Nicklaus Lovelady, The Clarion-Ledger

Services will be Saturday for a Greenwood soldier who was killed last week in Iraq.

Sgt. 1st Class George Staniel was killed Aug. 19 when the base he was at came under mortar attack.

Staniel, the only soldier killed in the attack, was assigned to the 370th Engineer Company, 54th Engineer Battalion, 18th Engineer Brigade in Bamberg, Germany.

Family members recall Staniel as an ideal protector, provider and inspiration.

Staniel's cousin, Sonja Staniel, lived with him while she was growing up. Just a few years older than her, George Staniel exerted himself as a father figure for her family.

"He was the one who kept the Staniel household together. He always wanted us to do what's right and told us to strive forward even when nobody else told us to," she said. "What he did - died fighting for his country - he did the same thing for his family."

Sonja Staniel said everyone knew whom to go to for wise words, advice or help lifting their spirits - the man with the unforgettable smile.

"He wanted all of us to be successful in life, and he wanted all of us to be proud of him because he was proud of us," she said. "He was a hero to us."

Staniel had been in the U.S. Army for nearly 19 years and was on his second tour in Iraq.

His wife, Shequita Staniel, said the two were looking forward to him retiring in three years and being able to spend more time with their 11-year-old son and 8-year-old daughter.

Shequita Staniel holds tight to the memory of the last time she sat down and talked with her husband. It was in May when he looked at her and told her everything would be all right. He promised to return from Iraq.

She then thinks about the many times her husband told her, "I love you all the time."

That phrase started off as an inside joke, she said, but it has meant so much to her over the years.

"Even after we would have an argument, he said that to let me know that he loved me no matter what," Shequita Staniel said.

**THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO COMPREHENSIBLE
REASON TO BE IN THIS EXTREMELY HIGH RISK
LOCATION AT THIS TIME, EXCEPT THAT A PACK
OF TRAITORS IN D.C. WANT YOU THERE
That is not a good enough reason.**



U.S. soldiers of 1st Armored Division inspect a damaged army vehicle (MRAP) following a roadside bomb explosion targeting an American patrol, in Al Talibiyah street, Baghdad, Iraq, June 19, 2008. There was no injuries of the explosion the U.S. army said. (AP Photo/Petros Giannakouris)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

3 Canadian Soldiers Killed, 5 Wounded In Zhari

September 3, 2008 CBC News & Scott Deveau, Canwest News Service

Three Canadian soldiers were killed and five wounded during an attack on their armoured vehicle in the Zhari district of Afghanistan's southern Kandahar province on Wednesday morning, the military announced.

Cpl. Andrew Grenon, Cpl. Mike Seggie and Pte. Chad Horn were killed, the military said.

The Taliban have already taken credit for the attack Wednesday morning that took his life.

All eight were evacuated by helicopter to Kandahar Air Field, where one is in critical condition and another is serious, but stable condition. Two others are also still in hospital and said to be in "good condition," while the final soldier has been treated and returned to duty later Wednesday.

All five were coming close to the end of their tour.

Nine Australian Soldiers Wounded In Oruzgan Ambush: Silly Commander Says “I Guess We Were Ambushed”

September 4, 2008 Jonathan Pearlman Defence Correspondent, The Sydney Morning Herald

AN ambush of Australian troops in Afghanistan has left nine special forces soldiers injured - including one fighting for his life - in a battle that resulted in more casualties than any encounter since the Vietnam War.

The Chief of the Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Houston, said yesterday the Taliban in Afghanistan was “a very determined adversary” and that fighting tended to intensify before colder weather.

“It is a very dangerous place,” he said. “I guess we were ambushed and this is what happens. We have seen we are getting towards the end of the campaign season as they call it.”

The battle occurred on Tuesday evening in the Oruzgan province, where most of Australia’s 1080 troops are based.

A Defence spokesman, Brigadier Brian Dawson, said the troops were ambushed by Taliban militants armed with guns and rocket-propelled grenades. Five were seriously injured, three were wounded lightly and one was left with life-threatening injuries.

“This is the largest number of casualties suffered in a single contact since the Vietnam War,” he said.

Brigadier Dawson said the soldiers with serious injuries had been evacuated to a medical facility run by Dutch forces in Tarin Kowt. The soldiers’ families have been informed.

He would not say where the battle occurred or which cities the Australian troops were from.

U.S. Government Sponsored Terrorists Attack Pakistan;

Stupid Traitors Slaughter Woman And Children: “General Abbas Said There Was Now A Great Risk Of An Uprising By The Tribesmen”

September 3, 2008 By PIR ZUBAIR SHAH and JANE PERLEZ, New York Times
[Excerpts]

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan — Two helicopters carrying American-led international forces landed in a Pakistani village in South Waziristan near the border with Afghanistan in the early hours of Wednesday morning and the soldiers opened fire on villagers, killing seven people, according to a spokesman for the Pakistani military.

The account by the spokesman, Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas, broadcast on Pakistani television on Wednesday evening, described what appeared to be a first commando attack by NATO forces against the Taliban inside Pakistan.

Pakistan has lodged a “strong protest” to the American government and reserved the right of “self defense and retaliation,” the general said.

According to an earlier description of the military action Wednesday given by a Taliban commander and local residents, the latest attack was aimed at three houses in the village of Jalal Khel in the Angoor Adda area of South Waziristan.

The governor of the North-West Frontier Province, Owais Ahmed Ghani, said the helicopter attack occurred at about 3 a.m. and killed 20 people.

The governor, the most powerful civilian leader in the province which abuts South Waziristan, condemned the attacks and called for retaliation by Pakistan.

An American military spokesman at Bagram airbase declined to comment on the reports. The spokesman did not deny that the attack had occurred. Often, a statement of no comment by American and NATO spokesmen in Afghanistan indicates that the coalition forces were involved in a cross-border attack.

General Abbas said the Pakistani military was angered by the coalition forces because it created “new problems” for the army in the region.

In a telephone interview, General Abbas said the soldiers from the International Security Assistance Force, which is made up of NATO and American forces, had created “new problems” for the Pakistani soldiers based along the border.

By killing civilians, General Abbas said there was now a great risk of an uprising by the tribesmen who supported the Pakistani soldiers in the border area. These

tribesmen, who were opposed to the Taliban and supportive of the Pakistani forces, would now be extremely angry, he said.

“Such action are completely counter productive and can result in huge losses because it gives the civilians a cause to rise against the Pakistani military,” he said.

The Taliban commander, known by the nom de guerre Commander Malang, said the attack took place close to a Pakistani military position on the border and killed 15 people. But the Pakistani military took no action, he said.

According to Commander Malang, three helicopters flew into the Pakistani side of the border and one of them, carrying soldiers, landed.

Soldiers who came out of the helicopter opened fire on people in the village, he said, while the other two helicopters hovered overhead.

The soldiers “killed innocent people” in the village located adjacent to a security post of the Pakistani Frontier Corps.

Sher Khan, a phone company employee in Angoor Adda, said in a telephone interview that 19 people were killed in the raid.

He said most of the dead were women and children.

Notes From A Lost War:

It Takes Only 4000 Occupation Soldiers To Deliver A Turbine To A Dam; Op Casualty Numbers Covered-Up By Command

Sep 3 2008 AEST

Four thousand troops fought off insurgents in one of Afghanistan’s most unstable regions to deliver a massive electric turbine to the country’s biggest power station, NATO officials say.

General Marc Lessard, regional commander of the NATO force, said in a statement that the turbine was delivered to Kajaki dam despite the convoy coming under attack.

Paths were specially built for the 200-tonne turbine, which was accompanied on its 180-kilometre journey from the Pakistani border by soldiers from Britain, the United States, Canada, Denmark and Australia as well as Afghan troops.

General Richard Blanchette, spokesman for the International Security Assistance Force, told AFP that their troops had to fight off attackers, but did not say how many or what casualties were involved.

The troops were headed for the Kajaki hydro-electric power dam, built more than 30 years ago, to repair one of its two existing turbines and install a third, allowing it to generate enough power to serve much of the country's south.

TROOP NEWS

Imprisoned For “Refusal To Serve In The Israeli Army Of Occupation” First Prison Term For Sahar Vardi



From: Raia E
To: GI Special
Sent: August 30, 2008
Subject: Sahar Vardi

A comrade of mine from IndymediaBulgaria, currently living in Israel, is publishing articles about the resistance movement in Israel.

Here is the website for this 18-year-old girl, who refused to join the army.

Being in this position I am sure she needs a lot of support, especially from people actively working with military resisters.

I just thought Military Project might be interested.

I know how important your support was to Jeff, while being in Iraq and even now, 3 years later.

25/08/2008 New Profile [Excerpts]

Dear Friends,

CO Sahar Vardi, 18, from Jerusalem, has been sentenced today (25 Aug) to 7 days in military prison (more will likely follow after she is released).

Sahar is the third conscientious objector, and the first woman, to be imprisoned among a new group of high school seniors, who signed a collective declaration of refusal to serve in the Israeli army of occupation, and in the work of organising which she has been very strongly involved.

While she stresses the importance of resisting the occupation of Palestine as a motive for her refusal, Sahar's conscientious objection is also rooted in a wider pacifist position. In a letter to the Minister of Defence, declaring her refusal to serve in the military, she wrote:

"I have been to the occupied Palestinian territory many times, and even though I realize that the soldier at the checkpoint is not responsible for the wretched policy of the oppressor towards civilians, I am unable to relieve that soldier of responsibility for his conduct ... I mean the human responsibility of not causing another human being to suffer. The bloody times in which I live (consisting of assassinations, aggression, bombings, shootings) results in increasing numbers of victims on both sides. It is a vicious circle that emanates from the fact that both sides elect to engage in violence. This choice I refuse to take part in."

A demonstration was organised to join Sahar before she goes into the Induction Base to refuse enlistment.

About 80 people came, in a not very late hour of the morning. Media coverage was also significant. A small counter-demonstration organised by a pro-military group confronted us (quite violently - head-butting one of the demonstrators on our side in the fact, driving a motorcycle into the crowd and nearly running over an elderly demonstrator). But all in all, Sahar went there in high spirits.

Sahar decided to refuse to wear a military uniform in prison, and has put in the Isolation Ward of the prison. The Isolation Wards of military prisons in Israel are often the cite of various minor or less minor forms of abuse, so Sahar will need a lot of support.

She is due to be released from prison on 31 Aug. but is likely to be imprisoned again soon afterwards.

Recommended Action

First of all, please circulate this message and the information contained in it as widely as possible, not only through e-mail, but also on websites, conventional media, by word of mouth, etc.

Sending Letters of Support

Send your letters of support and encouragement to Sahar via e-mail to shministim@gmail.com, and they will be printed out and delivered to her during visits.

Letters to Authorities

It is recommended to send letters of protest on Sahar's behalf, preferably by fax, to:

Mr. Ehud Barak,
Minister of Defence,
Ministry of Defence,
37 Kaplan St.,
Tel-Aviv 61909,
Israel.

E-mail: sar@mod.gov.il or pniot@mod.gov.il

Fax: ++972-3-696-27-57 / ++972-3-691-69-40 / ++972-3-691-79-15

Copies of your letters can also be sent to the commander of the military prison at:

Commander of Military Prison No. 400,
Military Prison No. 400,
Military postal number 02447, IDF
Israel.

Fax: ++972-3-9579389

Another useful address for sending copies would be the Military Attorney General:

Avichai Mandelblit,
Chief Military Attorney
Military postal code 9605, IDF
Israel

Fax: ++972-3-569-43-70

It would be especially useful to send your appeals to the Commander of the Induction Base in Tel-HaShomer. It is this officer that ultimately decides whether an objector is to be exempted from military service or sent to another round in prison, and it is the same officer who is ultimately in charge of the military Conscience Committee:

Gadi Agmon,
Commander of Induction Base,
Meitav, Tel-HaShomer
Military Postal Code 02718, IDF
Israel.
Fax: ++972-3-737-60-52

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Action

9.2.08 AP & (AFP) & (Reuters) & Sept 3 (Reuters)

Monday, a U.S.-funded awakening leader in a nearby province, Imad al-Mashhdani, was wounded when a suicide bomber blew himself up near the sheik's home 30 miles north of Baghdad, police said. U.S. officials said one person was killed and six others were wounded along with the sheik.

An improvised explosive device detonated near Al-Kendi hospital in central Baghdad, killing a policeman.

A roadside bomb killed two people and wounded three policemen in the Nahda district of central Baghdad, police said.

A car bomber targeting an Iraqi army patrol killed one soldier and wounded three on Tuesday in Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Two Iraqi soldiers were wounded when a roadside bomb exploded near their patrol in western Mosul, police said.

Insurgents killed an Iraqi soldier in western Mosul on Tuesday, police said.

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| <p>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</p> |
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FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Anarchy At The RNC

From: Dennis Serdel

To: GI Special
Sent: September 03, 2008
Subject: Anarchy At The RNC 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

Anarchy At The RNC

**Pigs on the left Pigs on the right
Pigs everywhere What you going to do ?
Fight Back Fight Back
Throw eggs on their Pig black uniforms
The hell with the Gestapo
Police State Marshal Law in the whole USA
Peaceful won't do throw eggs on their faces
fight violence with violence that's all they understand
bust up the stores slash some tires
wear your gas masks throw the canisters back
Fight Back Fight Back
Non-violence works just like this :
The Pigs smash your face into the concrete
kick you in the side hit you with their club
throw handcuffs on tight
drag you to their van and throw you in jail
for starting a riot
The hell with that, Fight Back because you are the riot
Burn the Constitution it doesn't mean a thing
the Pigs think it's funny when you act non-violently
So Fight Back Oh Baby Fight Back
Cover your faces just like they do
fill the streets with hate fight them in the night time
so they can't see so good
There is no freedom of speech or to assemble
So Fight Back Fight Back
Bring Anarchy to the streets set some cars on fire
trash their Piggie RNC wear some heavy cloths
so when they shoot rubber bullets
it won't hurt much throw more eggs
so they smell like Piggies do
in between the eggs throw some rocks
Fight Back Oh Baby Fight Back
There is Nothing Wrong with That
They will just call you**

Soldier Vs. Cop: Which Side Are You On?

September 03, 2008 by Laith, "Inside Iraq"

It is summer in Iraq as it is in the northern half of earth but summer in Iraq is something different.

Its not hot because the world hot is not strong enough to describe our summer. So, let me say it is like hell. Yes, we practice hell every minute during summer in Iraq with a temperature of 107 degrees.

Furthermore, Ramadan started. Today is the second day of Ramadan. As so many people know; fasting is ordinance. That means to control myself from dawn until sunset. I must not eat or drink and I have also to control my nerves because fast means more than feeling hungry or thirsty.

It means to feel the suffering of poor people and to behave like real good people.

When I come to office, I pass through the city center. It is an area called Bab al Sharji. Most of the convoys of the officials pass through this area also.

Today and as usual, I reached the area. I found a kind of traffic.

A convoy of one of our (sacred officials) was waiting to pass. Six pick-up trucks of the Iraqi national police and the car of (his majesty the sacred official) is in the middle of them.

I was walking in this hot day while his majesty was in his bullet proof air conditioned vehicle.

I was about to cross the street when one the policemen who shouted "Stop. Wait. Don't pass."

I was like "what you want me to wait in this sunny place for the sake of a man?" I lifted my shirt mocking "see there is not explosive vest."

He didn't talk; he only waved for me with his hand to stop. Before doing or saying a word.

A young soldier from the checkpoint on the side of the street came towards me smiling.

He took my hand and he helped me to cross the street as if he was telling the policeman to be a human being.

The policeman kept watching without saying a word.

I felt I'm a child who can't do anything without the help of an adult. God damn it. What a big size child I am; a 38 years old child. Isn't that funny?

That is really humiliating.

I thanked the soldier and continued my way coming to the office.

With such officials who moves only with protection and air conditioned vehicles and who know nothing about their duty in Iraq and with such a stupid policeman (we have a lot of policemen who are the same as the one who stopped me);with such arrogant, Iraq has no chance to walk one step forward.

Liberation Anniversary; September 3, 1838 “It Is Not Light That Is Needed, But Fire”



Frederick Douglass

Carl Bunin Peace History September 3-9

Frederick Douglass made his escape from slavery in Baltimore and went on in life to become an Abolitionist, journalist, author, and human rights advocate.

[During the Civil War, he pressed relentlessly for the enlistments of former slaves into the U.S. army, and when this was permitted, he served with honor and played an important role in defeating the slave-owning traitors who formed the Confederacy. T]

Frederick Douglass:

“Find out just what people will submit to, and you have found out the exact amount of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them; and these will continue until they are resisted with either words or blows, or both. The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress.”

“Power concedes nothing without demand. It never has and never will.”

“If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom, and deprecate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground, they want rain without thunder and lightning.”

“The thing worse than rebellion is the thing that causes rebellion.”

“I have found that, to make a contented slave, it is necessary to make a thoughtless one.”

“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.”

September 4, 1970: Happy Anniversary: Operation Raw



September 03, 2006 By Carl Bunin, Peace History Sept 4-10, peacebuttons.info

September 4, 1970

Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) began Operation RAW (Rapid American Withdrawal).

Over the following three days more than 200 veterans, assisted by the Philadelphia Guerilla Theater, staged a march from Morristown, New Jersey, to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, reenacting the invasion of small rural hamlets along the way.

MORE:

Operation Raw **From The Days When U.S. Soldiers Rebelled And Stopped A War**

[From GI Special 3D22: 11.22.05]

By Joe Urgo, GI antiwar activist in Vietnam 1968

Letters To The Editor

Revolutionary Worker, April 9, 1985

It was Labor Day weekend 1970 — the end of summer when tradition in America is for friends and family to gather in back yards, beaches, and parks.

It was 10:30 a.m. in Doylestown, Pennsylvania and a company of infantry swept into town, seized and occupied the center of the city, setting up roadblocks and taking civilian prisoners.

Anyone fleeing was killed, the rest were tortured and then killed just for being there. The younger women were particularly manhandled and abused before being killed. At 10:45 a.m., once again on alert, the company marched south of the town, leaving a trail of bloody bodies and survivors standing in their yards and streets, mute with shock, unbelieving eyes fastened on the departing soldiers. Leaflets lay in the streets which said:

“A U.S. INFANTRY COMPANY JUST CAME THROUGH HERE.”

“If you had been Vietnamese:

—We might have burned your house.

—We might have shot your dog.

—We might have shot you.

—We might have raped the women.

—We might have turned you over to your government for torture.

—We might have taken souvenirs from your property.

—We might have shot things up a bit.

—We might have done all these things to you and your whole town.

“If it doesn’t bother you that American soldiers do these things every day to the Vietnamese simply because they are ‘gooks,’ then picture yourself as one of the silent victims. Help us to end the war before they turn your son into a butcher. . . or a corpse. Signed Vietnam Veterans Against the War.”

With No Business As Usual Day fast approaching (and coming by coincidence right before the tenth anniversary of the U.S. defeat in Vietnam), I thought it was just the right time to recount this political action carried out by the Vietnam Veterans Against the War.

This was Operation RAW (Rapid American Withdrawal), a four-day simulated, 90-mile search-and-destroy mission through eleven rural towns and villages from Morristown, New Jersey to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

By the end of four days 125 veterans and a few active-duty GIs had formed four platoons and two recon squads to reenact thirteen “incidents” like described above.

It was “theater,” but these reenactments brought home a powerful political statement that shook up the stultifying atmosphere in the middle-America towns which had largely escaped the mass upsurges of the time.

Formed in 1968 to lobby, this was VVAW’s first breakout action to bring the war home. As Scott Moore, a member of its executive committee, said at a press conference: “The time for talk has come to an end for VVAW. We have been talking for three years to no avail. We are now proceeding on a course of action.” The discussion of planning leading up to it had asked the questions of how to break through the normal business as usual protests that had been going on, to shake things up and expose the truth.

“Montgomeryville, PA., September 6, 1500 hours: We liberated a shopping center. The platoon surrounded it front and back and we took seven prisoners from the crowd. We interrogated them, then beat the shit out of them. After they’d been executed, we carried one girl who looked like she was fourteen over to the side of the road and mauled her with the butts of our rifles. Blood streamed down her head and soaked her torso. Maybe 150 cars passed by. Everyone looked, then turned aside. They didn’t look again. No one stopped. They couldn’t stand to look at the bloody little kid” (excerpt from the Camden, NJ Courier Post reporting on the demonstration).

A local guerrilla theater company agreed to play the townspeople in the prearranged skits; towns and roads were mapped in advance so that as the company surrounded a home or a village — with walkie-talkies screaming and vets running all over the place, blood capsules bursting on library steps in front of meat stores — there was a sense of

realism in the air as America's safe hamlets were invaded. There could be no business as usual today.

Though their rifles were toy props, most of the vets were not acting.

In a few cases they had been doing this for real only a short time before, and in several "incidents" they went right to the edge of reality in carrying out their mission.

In town after town, and once by a county fair, homes were mock-burned, free fire zones formed, hostages taken for interrogation, and onlookers were given a taste of what the Vietnamese people were forced to live with.

None of the audience liked being called "round-eyed gooks," offended by the sharp language of the leaflets being handed out. Reactions ranged from disbelief and shock to embarrassed laughter to damning U.S. involvement to some who thought the uniform was being disgraced.

Local communes and peace groups met the vets at different points with banners, signs, cars honking, fists out of windows. On September 5 this march met up with and camped with 60 members of the offshoot of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference called MAN, Making a Nation, who were themselves marching to the UN to protest American failure to sign the antigenocide bill.

The tempo picked up as the march neared the end and word spread of this "forced raid into America." The vets themselves got strong in their determination to see it through. At night the campsites were not drunken beerfests but preparation of another type — political discussion over what was the next step, what should our objectives be, how to reach out to the millions of vets and GIs out there trying to figure this out also.

This was sharp as there was a wide range of opinion — some were just basically opposed to Americans dying, with much discussion about the nature of imperialism, while others were revolutionaries working for the defeat of America. (All this with rotating night patrols on the perimeter -- — the campsite owners had been threatened by a local citizens committee, a car had tried to run someone down and a shotgun had been pointed out the window of a home along the route of march.)

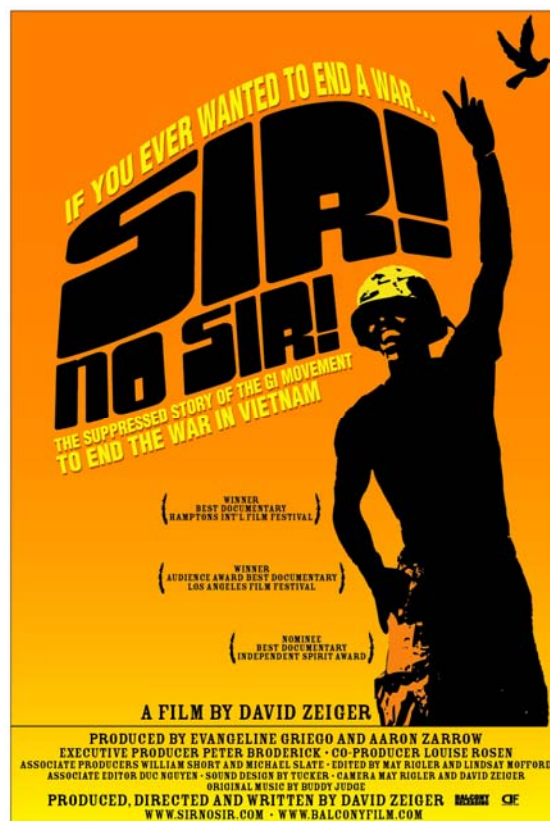
The two sharpest points agreed to were (1) a series of objectives that drew the links between the racism and sexism to what America did around the world and that VVAW work toward getting all American soldiers and CIA out of every country in the world, and (2) a specific call to prepare for a series of war crimes investigations — the famous "Winter Soldier" hearings — to "place the blame where it properly belongs, on administration and military officials and all those who dictate policy and remain silent or profit from war."

As one vet summed up his feelings about the weekend: "the spirit that we would never again fight *for* America — America was the enemy that had to be stopped, that we were fighting as part of and for a different world — this became real on the march for me and became a guide for many vets later on."

By the last day, spirits were high as the vets encountered a last bit of opposition — a pitiful display of what America has to offer — the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), American Legion, and John Birch Society denouncing the vets for not being vets and calling people to god and country.

The vets laughed at this as they reached Valley Forge, Pennsylvania where they formed up on a hilt, single file along the top, “rifles” up for a final assault. They moved down the hill as if back in Vietnam sweeping through a rice paddy — angrily chanting for American withdrawal. For the crowd of 1,500-2,000 at the rally site below — now standing up and cheering — the scene had a chilling’ scary effect — a final sense of what it must have been like to be Vietnamese in Vietnam in 1970.

“Joe Urgo, GI antiwar activist in Vietnam 1968; former national officer of Vietnam Veterans Against the War; organizer for Winter Soldier Investigation and Dewey Canyon 3, 1971; first Vietnam vet to travel to Hanoi in support of the revolutionary struggle of the Vietnamese people; member of VVAW (Anti-Imperialist).”



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OCCUPATION REPORT

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



Occupation-trained Iraqi police prepare to search a house for booby-traps in the Dora neighborhood of southern Baghdad Sept. 3, 2008. (AP Photo/Loay Hameed)

“Of Course I’m Not Talking About The Millions That Had Been Stolen By The Former Ministers Or Even By The Contractors”

September 03, 2008 By Laith, “Inside Iraq”

I’m not an economist and I have a very limited background about economy since its a very big science but when economy contradicts logic I try to find an explanation.

Today, we received a press release. As a summary for the release, the Iraqi minister of finance received the Italian ambassador in Iraq and they discussed the procedures of ending the subject of the Italian loan to Iraq. The loan (400 million euro) will be used to buy Italian agricultural machines to be distributed to the Iraqi farmers

Until now, everything seems normal and logical. A third world country takes loan money from an industrial country. That would be completely acceptable if this third world country is a poor country but is it acceptable for a country that gained 32 billions dollars only as supplementary budget from the increasing of oil prices?

Why does Iraq need this loan?

Our government wastes millions of dollar everyday in putting more blast walls, renewing pavements and of course in buying new armored vehicles for the enormous and increasing number of Iraqi officials.

We can buy thousands of agricultural machines with the millions that have been wasted for the faked projects. Of course I’m not talking about the millions that had been stolen by the former ministers or even by the contractors.

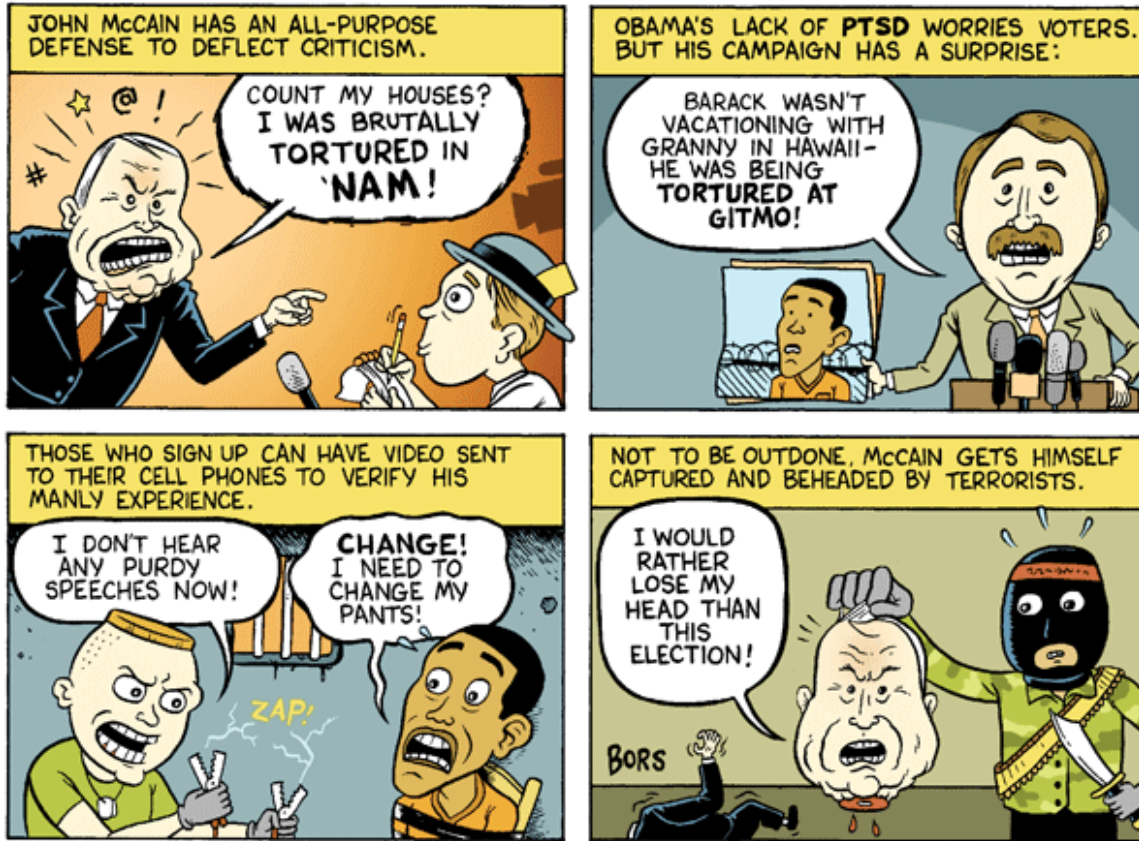
I’m seriously waiting for an answer by an economist because the whole loan seems one more contract in the wallet of someone.

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

**Troops Invited:
What do you think? Comments from service men and women,
and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576**

Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 917.677.8057

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT THE BLOODSHED

THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE WARS

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And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! (www.ivaw.org/)

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