

**GI SPECIAL 614:**

# **WELCOME TO OCCUPIED HAITI: UN Occupation Forces Massacre Poor In Port-Au-Prince**



Lying in blood on the floor of the modest home were Mr. Romelus's wife, 22 year-old Sonia Romelus who was killed by the same bullet that passed through the body of her 1 year-old infant son Nelson.

**[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in.]**

July 8, 2005 HaitiAction.net

On Wednesday morning, July 6th, at approximately 3:00 AM, UN occupation forces in Haiti carried out a major military operation in the working-class neighborhood of Cite Soleil, one of the poorest in Port-au-Prince and also a stronghold of support for Haiti's majority political party Lavalas and President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Presumably, the purpose of the operation was to crack down on illegal "gang activity", in particular on "gang" leader Dread Wilme. In actuality, a US trade union and human

rights delegation in Port-au-Prince discovered evidence of a massacre conducted by the UN forces, targeting the larger community itself.

According to accounts from many different members of the community, many of whom chose to remain anonymous, as well as from journalists who were on the scene during the operation, UN forces surrounded two neighborhoods within Cite Soleil, Boisneuf and Project Drouillard, sealing off the alleys with tanks and troops.

Two helicopters flew overhead. At 4:30 AM, UN forces launched the offensive, shooting into houses, shacks, a church, and a school with machine guns, tank fire, and tear gas. Eyewitnesses reported that when people fled to escape the tear gas, UN troops gunned them down from the back.

UN forces shot out electric transformers in the neighborhood.

People were killed in their homes and also just outside of their homes, on the way to work.

According to journalists and eyewitnesses, one man named Leon Cherry, age 46, was shot and killed on his way to work for a flower company. Another man, Mones Belizaire, was shot as he got ready to go work in a local sweatshop and subsequently died from a stomach infection. A woman who was a street vendor was shot in the head and killed instantly.

One man was shot in his ribs while he was trying to brush his teeth. Another man was shot in the jaw as he left his house to try and get some money for his wife's medical costs; he endured a slow death. Yet another man named Mira was shot and killed while urinating in his home.

A mother, Sena Romelus, and her two young children were killed in their home, either by bullets or by a 83-CC grenade UN forces threw. Film footage of many of these deaths was shared with the US human rights delegation.

**Eyewitnesses claimed that the offensive overwhelmed the community and that there was not a "firefight", but rather a slaughter. The operation was primarily conducted by UN forces, with the Haitian National Police this time taking a back seat.**

Seth Donnelly, a member of the US human rights delegation in Port-au-Prince, visited Cite Soleil with Haitian human rights workers on Thursday afternoon, July 7th. The team gathered testimony from many members of the community, young and old, men, women, and youth. All verified the previous statements we had received from journalists and other eyewitness accounts.

These community members spoke of how they had been surrounded by tanks and troops that sealed off exits from the neighborhoods and then proceeded to assault the civilian population.

The community allowed the team to film the evidence of the massacre, showing the homes -- in some cases made of tin and cardboard -- that had been riddled by bullets,

tank fire and helicopter ammunition, as well as showing the team some of the corpses still there, including a mother and her two children.

The team also filmed a church and a school that had been riddled by ammunition. Reportedly, a preacher was among the victims killed. Some community members allowed the team to interview them, but not to film their faces for fear of their lives. People were traumatized and, in the cases of loved ones of victims, hysterical.

Many community members -- again young and old, men and women -- spoke highly of Dread Wilme, referring to him as their "protector" or "father", and expressed fear for the future.

Multiple community people indicated that they had counted at least 23 bodies of people killed by the UN forces. Community members claimed that UN forces had taken away some of the bodies.

Published estimates indicate that upwards of 50 may have been killed and an indeterminate number wounded, and that more than 300 heavily armed UN troops took part in the assault on this densely populated residential neighborhood.

**"There was systematic firing on civilians," said one eyewitness to the killing.**

**"All exits were cut off. The community was choked off, surrounded -- facing tanks coming from different angles, and overhead, helicopters with machine guns fired down on the people. The citizens were under attack from all sides and from the air. It was war on a community."**

The Labor/Human Rights Delegation from the United States, sponsored by the San Francisco Labor Council, had been in Haiti since late last month to attend the Congress of the Confederation of Haitian Workers (CTH), the country's largest labor organization, and interviewed hundreds of Haitian workers, farmers and professionals about the current labor and human rights situation in Haiti.

**MORE:**

**"They Have Taken Up A Campaign  
Of Extermination Against The  
Poor"**

**"Today All The Popular  
Neighborhoods Are Under Attack"**

## **“Neighborhoods Like Cite Soleil, Bel Air And Solino Have Been Turned Into Cemeteries”**



**The HIP video shows 31 year-old Leonce Chery moments after a headshot ripped through his jaw. Chery was clearly unarmed as he lay bleeding to death in a pool of his own blood. In fact, the majority of the victims shown on the video were unarmed falling prey to a single shot to the head.**

HaitiAction.net

Port au Prince, Haiti (HIP) In the early morning hours of July 6, more than 350 UN troops stormed the seaside shantytown of Cite Soleil in a military operation with the stated purpose of halting violence in Haiti.

The successful goal of the mission was to assassinate a 31 year-old man and his lieutenants that Haiti's rightwing media and reactionary business community had labeled a bandit and armed of supporter of ousted president Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

According to residents, Emmanuel "Dread" Wilmer and four others were felled in a hail of gunfire that came from all directions including a circling helicopter.

According to the Associated Press, a military spokesman for the UN peacekeeping mission in Haiti, Colonel Eloufi Boulbars stated, "Armed bandits who had tried to resist were either killed or wounded."

**On July 6 in Cite Soleil, a weeping Fredi Romelus, recounted how UN troops lobbed a red smoke grenade into his house and then opened fire killing his wife and two children.**

**“They surrounded our house this morning and I ran thinking my wife and the children were behind me. They couldn’t get out and the UN fired into the house.”**

**Exclusive video footage from a HIP reporter captured the interview as well as the images of the three victims. Lying in blood on the floor of the modest home were Mr. Romelus’s wife, 22 year-old Sonia Romelus who was killed by the same bullet that passed through the body of her 1 year-old infant son Nelson. She was apparently holding the child as the UN opened fire. Next to them was her four year-old son Stanley Romelus who was killed by a single shot to the head.**

Officially, the UN has responded that they only opened fire after being fired upon and have discounted non-combatant casualties.

**The international medical group Doctors without Borders, reported 26 people from Cite Soleil were treated for gunshot wounds at St. Joseph’s hospital following the UN operation on July 6.**

**According to reports, 20 of the injured were women and children and one pregnant woman lost her child during surgery.**

Many wounded and untreated victims of gunshot wounds are reported to be hiding in Cite Soleil. They fear leaving the area to seek medical treatment for fear of reprisal by the UN and the Haitian police.

**In an exclusive interview in Cite Soleil following the UN operation, Jean Jorel, a Lavalas representative and member of the Fanmi Lavalas Political Commission commented, “Today all the popular neighborhoods are under attack.” Jorel continued, “These neighborhoods represent the poor and the majority of the Haitian people.**

**“Neighborhoods like Cite Soleil, Bel Air and Solino have been turned into cemeteries. Since the coup of Feb. 29, 2004, the international community has never concerned themselves with creating programs for the poor.**

“Instead they have taken up a campaign of extermination against the poor at the request of Reginald Boulos, Charles Henry Baker, and Andy Apaid.

“We ask the international community to end their hypocrisy. We ask them to stop the killing!

“We ask them to stop supporting this unelected government and realize that the majority, who are the poor, are committed to the return of Jean-Bertrand Aristide.”

**The U.S. State Department and Haiti’s wealthy elite had called for the UN to take tougher action against supporters of Aristide’s political movement known as Lavalas.**

Dr. Reginald Boulos, the president of the Haitian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, called on the UN to step up its military operations against the “bandits” on May 27.

**Meanwhile, the term “bandits” has become a code word to signify Lavalas supporters in the Haitian elite-run media.**

In response, the U.N. and the Police Nationale d’Haiti (PNH) launched a major offensive against Cite Soleil on May 31.

At least 3 people were killed and scores injured after U.N. and PNH security forces reportedly entered the area with “guns shooting everywhere” according to residents.

**This was followed by a four-day siege of the pro-Aristide neighborhood of Bel Air that began on June 2.**

**At least 30 people were killed and more than 15 homes were reportedly burned to the ground.**

**Human rights observers described the tactics being employed by the Haitian police during the raids as a “scorched earth” policy.**

**The Haitian police moved against Bel Air again on June 17 killing at least 10 people in another bloody raid.**

**Among the first victims shot by the police that day was 17 year-old Natalie Luzius.**

**She was clutching her 6 month-old son Fritznel Luzius to protect him at the moment a police bullet struck her in the head and killed her.**



The Haitian police moved against Bel Air again on June 17 killing at least 10 people in another bloody raid. Among the first victims shot by the police that day was 17 year-old Natalie Luzius. She was clutching her 6 month-old son Fritznel Luzius to protect him at the moment a police bullet struck her in the head and killed her.

UN forces carried out a large military operation in Bel Air on June 29 stating that only combatants were killed.

Residents claim the UN shot and killed unarmed bystanders during the course of that operation as well.

This apparent strategy of alternating attacks by the Haitian police and UN military forces on pro-Aristide communities continues.

### **The U.S. State department responded by adding its support to the anti-Lavalas crusade.**

Roger Noreiga, assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere affairs, directly accused Aristide on June 24 of personally fomenting violence in Haiti.

Noreiga asserted in a Miami Herald interview, "We believe that his people are receiving instructions directly from his voice and indirectly through his acolytes that communicate with him personally in South Africa."

On July 4, U.S. Ambassador James Foley gave the green light for violently clamping down on Haiti's majority political party, "Today in Haiti they are burning houses, they are burning stores, they are attacking means of transportation and communication links. They are kidnapping people of all social classes. They are assassinating, torturing and raping. All of this has a name: The use of violence against civilians for political purposes is the very definition of terrorism."

Haiti's latest wave of violence and insecurity began after the Haitian police fired on peaceful marches in the capital demanding the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide on Feb. 28 and April 27.

At least 11 unarmed demonstrators were killed in the two attacks prompting U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan to echo demands by human rights organizations for an official investigation.

The U.S.-installed government of Gerard Latortue has dismissed allegations against the police despite statements made by Brazilian General Heleno Ribera and video footage taken by a local television station confirming the unprovoked attacks.

The video footage also shows members of Haiti's police force planting guns on corpses to justify the slayings on April 27.

Since then, there have been almost daily kidnappings and killings that U.S. Ambassador James B. Foley and the local Haitian business elite blame on a small and violent minority claiming allegiance to Aristide.

The fact that eight Haitian police officers have been implicated and arrested in the recent spate of kidnappings has not softened the rhetoric of the U.S. and Haiti's wealthy elite who continue to call for retribution and violence against pro-Aristide neighborhoods.



This latest deadly raid by the Haiti's police comes on the heels of a large demonstration last Tuesday against police violence in another purported bastion of support for Aristide, the seaside shantytown of Cite Soleil.

Thousands of residents took the streets on June 14 to demand the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, to free Lavalas political prisoners, and to condemn the violence against their communities.

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## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **Baghdad IED Kills Two U.S. Soldiers**

Sept. 4, 2008 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20080904-03 & AP

BAGHDAD: Two Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers were killed while on patrol as a result of an attack using an improvised explosive device in eastern Baghdad at approximately 12:15 p.m. Sept. 4.

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### **Injured Mass. Soldier Describes Deadly IED Attack In Baghdad**

Sep 04, 2008 By Aaron Wasserman, Milford Daily News



There were times at his base in Iraq when Brian Scott said he heard nearby gunfire while smoking a cigarette outside. But nothing was as dangerous as what happened last week on his way to a Baghdad police station where Scott, 28, an Army reservist and Bellingham native, trained local officers.

On Aug. 28, a roadside bomb exploded in front of his convoy's lead Humvee, he recalled yesterday from his bed in a military hospital in Germany. No one was injured, but everyone stopped to secure the area and wait for an explosives division to come.

Then, as his Humvee drove to the back of the scene, with a translator on board to stop civilians from passing through, there was another explosion.

"It was aimed directly toward the turret and my gunner was up in the turret checking the entire area," Scott said from the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. Sounding understandably a bit tired in an evening interview, Scott detailed the attack, which left him seriously injured and Spc. Michael L. Gonzalez dead.

"What happened initially was it knocked me out for about 30 seconds to a minute and completely destroyed my vehicle. I woke up and noticed pieces of turret on the ground."

After reviving from the second blast, he said he used his only free arm to try to rescue Gonzalez, a gunner, who had been knocked down into the Humvee and had metal and armor lying on top of him. But Scott said he quickly realized how grave the situation was.

"I grabbed his wrist and there was no pulse. He was dead," Scott recounted. "There was nothing I could do to save him."

After others removed Scott from the vehicle, another person returned to rescue Gonzalez, Scott said. He said the team leader, upon realizing Gonzalez had died, looked back at them.

"His eyes were wide open as if it was something he couldn't believe. He didn't know it was that serious," Scott said. "There was silence for about 30 seconds. He got back on the radio - and he said it kind of quietly because he didn't believe it at first - and said, 'Spc. Gonzalez is no longer with us. He's passed away.'"

Gonzalez, who came from Spotswood, N.J., was 20.

On the trip to the hospital, Scott said, "Blood was pouring out of my head. I was blacking out. My memory was messed up. I couldn't remember anyone's names, the road we were on. I couldn't even remember my own name."

After being transported to a few hospitals in Iraq, Scott said he is now in Germany recovering from head and back injuries, and is scheduled to arrive at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., in a few days.

Scott praised Gonzalez yesterday as "an amazing gunner, the best one in the company," a fast learner who knew how to protect his team in the convoy.

A military police sergeant, Scott was deployed to Iraq for the first time in July to train Iraqi police. He has served in the Army Reserve since 2003. Before that, he was on active duty for four years, working as a tank mechanic.

For security reasons, Scott did not want to disclose yesterday where in Baghdad he was working with local police. He said in addition to training, he accompanied police on convoys, distributed fliers in the neighborhood about the water and sewer systems and services the Iraqi government offers, and encouraged people to call Iraqi police.

Because of the hospitable reception Scott said he and other American troops received - he also sometimes played soccer with neighborhood kids - he believes "the people who attacked us weren't from that neighborhood."

From the time he arrived at the hospital, Scott said he remembers few details, aside from being transferred to other hospitals in Iraq and then to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, which he said is "the most amazing hospital I've been to."

He said he is recovering slowly from a back injury, with pain down his spine to his knees, and cuts to his face and hands.

In Washington, he said he likely will have surgery to remove metal still lodged in his head.

Scott's mother, Phyllis Cerel of Medway, said she is very proud of her son and everyone else in the 340th Military Police Company.

"I just think people need to know the war is hitting home, and he exhibited some real bravery under fire," Cerel said yesterday. "Through all this he says he wants to go back to his unit. I don't know what's going to happen, but that's how they all are - they want to go to back to their unit."

Scott said there is a very slim chance that he could be redeployed, but it's too early to know how well he'll recover.

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## **Soldier From O'Fallon Loses Leg In Bomb Blast; Four More Wounded**

Sep. 04, 2008 BY JENNIFER A. BOWEN, News-Democrat [Excerpt]

An O'Fallon soldier is recovering at the Army's Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Landstuhl, Germany, after he was seriously injured when the vehicle he was driving ran over a bomb early Sunday in Mosul, Iraq.

Charles "Chas" Shaffer, 23, a 2003 O'Fallon Township High School graduate, is a combat engineer with the Army's E Company, 1-8 Infantry Battalion, 3rd Infantry

Brigade, 4th Infantry Division out of Fort Carson, Colo. He shipped out to Iraq in December on a 15-month deployment.

Shaffer's right leg was amputated above the knee following the explosion. Field medics were forced to cut off the leg to remove him from the wreckage of the vehicle he was driving, Shaffer's father, Charles "Chip" Shaffer, of O'Fallon, said. Four other men in Shaffer's unit were injured, and one man may lose both legs.

"They actually had to amputate further up than they originally told us," Chip Shaffer said. "He doesn't have any serious concussion, but he is on a ventilator right now. His lungs were very badly bruised from the explosion. No cracked ribs, it just beat the daylight out of him. He has severe shrapnel wounds to his left leg, and at first, they thought they would have to amputate that one too, but luckily, they didn't have to."

**The IED was the fifth bomb of its kind the younger Shaffer had experienced during his tour in Iraq. He escaped four previous explosions without injury.**

"Ironically, I talked to him on Thursday and asked him how many vehicles had been blown out from under him," Chip Shaffer said. "This one was number five. They were basically going down the road and had cleared the road earlier in the day. It went off when they drove over it. They thought they had gotten them all, but, apparently not."

Chas Shaffer is a third-generation veteran. His father is Navy veteran who served in Vietnam, Desert Shield and Desert Storm. His grandfather, Charles Shaffer, is a World War II Army veteran. The three were featured in a News-Democrat story that ran on Father's Day.

"(It) is one of those days that I wish they would take old guys like myself back on active duty," Chip Shaffer said Wednesday. "As a parent, I am experiencing the pain of the unknown. My prayers go out to the all members of the 1-8th."

**More than 30,000 U.S. troops have been injured, many losing limbs or receiving severe head trauma from roadside bombs, since the Iraq war began in 2003, according to the U.S. Department of Defense.**

Chas' sister, Christine, arrived at the hospital in Germany early Wednesday to visit her brother, Chip Shaffer said. She is married to a military man and the couple is based near Landstuhl, Germany.

"They are keeping him very heavily sedated, but tomorrow (Thursday) doctors plan to take him off sedation and are encouraging her to spend a lot of time talking to him and making sure he understands what's going on," Chip Shaffer said.

Doctors woke Chas Shaffer up very briefly Tuesday evening to find out if there was any serious brain injury. They also told him of his injuries before sedating him again, Chip Shaffer said.

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**REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE:**

## **ALL HOME NOW**



A U.S. soldier from 1-22 Infantry Battalion on the edge of Baghdad's neighbourhood of Shulla, May 20, 2008. REUTERS/Oleg Popov

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **British Soldier Killed By Landmine In Sangin**

04 Sep 2008 By Thomas Harding, defence correspondent; Telegraph.co.uk

A British soldier has been killed after he stepped on a landmine in Afghanistan.

The soldier from 1Bn The Royal Irish Regiment was on a foot patrol that had left Sangin district centre when he is thought to have stepped on an anti-personnel mine.

Despite the medical efforts of troops at the scene, the soldier died as a result of his wounds bringing the total British dead in Afghanistan to 117. An Afghan interpreter was also wounded in the explosion.

British forces have now suffered their most deadly period of fighting in Afghanistan since the campaign began, with 20 deaths in less than three months.

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## **Resistance Action**

Sep 2, 2008 AFP & (Xinhua)

Two police officers were killed and two others were injured when a roadside bomb struck their vehicle in Khost province in the east of the country late on Monday (local time), provincial governor Arsala Jamal said. Taliban militants claimed responsibility for that attack.

**Three security guards from a private company were killed Monday after Taliban rebels attacked a convoy supplying international troops in Wardak province, a troubled region just south of the capital Kabul, provincial government spokesman Adam Khan Sirat said.**

Abdul Razek, border police chief in southern Afghan province of Kandahar told Xinhua that workers with a local road construction company were struck by roadside mine planted near their construction site in Spin Boldak district Tuesday morning leaving one dead and another wounded.

In another incident, one police vehicle Monday evening hit IEDs(Improvised Explosive Device) in Trin Kot district, capital of southern Afghanistan's Uruzgan province leaving three policemen occupants seriously wounded, Juma Gul Humat, the provincial police chief said.

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**“Support For The Insurgents  
Will Grow The Longer The  
Foreign Armies Remain”**

**“We Knew By 1985 That We Could  
Not Win,” He Recalls. “It Then  
Took Moscow Four More Years To  
Extricate Hundreds Of Thousands  
Of Troops”**

**“Canadians And Americans Are  
Learning The Hard Way. You Have**

# **Been There Seven Years And You Have No Prospect Of Early Victory” “If We Wanted Stability We Would Have Needed 800,000 Soldiers”**



Afghan War Memorial: Yekaterinburg, Russia  
[Images.travelpod.com]

**“It’s impossible to conquer the Afghans ... Alexander the Great couldn’t do it, the British couldn’t do it, we couldn’t do it and the Americans won’t do it ... no one can,” said Mr. Grigorevich, still trim and determined not to let the war be forgotten.**

July 12, 2008 PAUL KORING, Globe and Mail [Excerpts]

MOSCOW — Head bowed, exhausted, the statue of a young soldier back from Afghanistan’s killing fields is flanked by long, grim, lists of his dead comrades.

It’s a cautionary monument for Western politicians and generals who boldly boast they will succeed where the Soviets failed.

In Russia, a country chock full of heroic memorials to enormous military sacrifice, the uniquely dejected pose of the helmetless Afghan combat veteran in the Ural city of Yekaterinburg is a sobering reminder that great powers have an unhappy history of overreaching and then being driven ignominiously from Afghanistan.

**“Canadians and Americans are learning the hard way. You have been there seven years and you have no prospect of early victory,” said Ruslan Aushev, a highly decorated combat veteran who served two tours, totalling nearly five years with the Soviet army in Afghanistan.**

**“We knew by 1985 that we could not win,” he recalls.**

**It then took Moscow four more years to extricate hundreds of thousands of troops from Afghanistan, while claiming victory on the way out.**

Afghanistan was plunged into civil war.

In Russia, there's a widespread view that the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan has failed to heed the lessons of history.

"You are just repeating our mistakes," Mr. Aushev said in an elegant, memento-filled office close to the Russian Duma.

**"Most Afghans still live in a feudal society, in villages far from the cities," he said.**

**"For them, there is no difference between being bombed by the Soviets and now being bombed by the Americans ... and it won't succeed."**

Tagged as the Soviet's Vietnam, the Afghan quagmire helped sink the USSR. But the view from Russia – tempered by experience and the passage of two decades that allowed some lessons to sink in – suggest the West may, too, have overestimated its welcome and its capacity to rebuild Afghanistan at the point of a gun.

**"We could take any village, any town and drive the mujahedeen out," Mr. Aushev said, recalling his two combat tours, first as an infantry battalion commander and later in charge of a full Soviet regiment – roughly the size of the Canadian contingent in Afghanistan.**

**"But when we handed ground over to the Afghan army or police they would lose it in a week."**

**If that formula for eventual defeat sounds eerily familiar, so does much of what Mr. Aushev and other Afghan veterans recall about their efforts in Afghanistan.**

Mr. Aushev, 53, is no apologist for Russian military adventurism. In the post-Soviet era, he served as president of Ingushetia for eight years, and during the war in neighbouring Chechnya he decried incursions by Russian soldiers and even threatened to sue the Defence Ministry.

An able soldier – the youngest to reach the four-star rank of lieutenant-general in the Russian army – Mr. Aushev now heads an international organization for veterans. And he is no stranger to dealing with extremists. He helped broker the release of more than two dozen hostages during the bloody Beslan school siege by Islamic terrorists in 2004.

**"The Taliban may not be able to win militarily but they can't be defeated and sooner or later the Western alliance will be forced with pullout," he warned.**

**Support for the insurgents will grow the longer the foreign armies remain in Afghanistan, he said.**

Although the Soviets deployed more than 100,000 soldiers across Afghanistan – roughly double the number of U.S. and North Atlantic Treaty Organization troops currently

deployed – and trained an Afghan army three times the size of Kabul’s current security forces, it was never enough, Mr. Aushev said.

**“If we wanted stability we would have needed 800,000 soldiers,” he said, echoing the estimates of some unheeded American generals who called for much larger occupation forces in Iraq.**

But no matter how many soldiers are sent (and Washington is expected to significantly increase its deployments to Afghanistan next year as the long-awaited drawdown in Iraq frees up some units), Mr. Aushev said, there can be no military solution.

“There will have to be an accord with the Taliban, because at least 50 per cent of the Afghan population supports them,” he said.

The Soviet Union invaded in 1979, setting off a decade-long effort to occupy and pacify Afghanistan.

**Former sergeant Igor Grigorevich, 46, now stands watch over a tiny, seldom-visited museum, tucked away on the ground floor of a hulking building on Moscow’s outskirts.**

Unlike the Great Patriotic War, as Russians refer to the Second World War, there is little about the Afghan war to remember proudly. Instead there are deep scars, both on the national psyche and among hundreds of thousands of largely ignored veterans.

**“It’s impossible to conquer the Afghans ... Alexander the Great couldn’t do it, the British couldn’t do it, we couldn’t do it and the Americans won’t do it ... no one can,” said Mr. Grigorevich, still trim and determined not to let the war be forgotten.**

The museum began largely as a volunteer effort by veterans, although the government now provides some funding.

The exhibits are striking.

If the Soviet army looks vaguely dated, the pictures of Afghan villagers would be instantly familiar to Canadian soldiers now serving in Afghanistan.

So, too, would the lumbering four-engined military transports with honour guards solemnly carrying flag-draped coffins into the waiting holds on Kandahar air field. The Russians called those flights “Black Tulips.”

But there are also poignant reminders of the brutality of a lopsided war that pits the military of a modern superpower against insurgents.

Photos show bombed-out villages, a crayon drawing by a young Afghan boy depicts helicopter gunships unleashing a torrent of death and destruction.

In another corner is a mock-up of a mujahedeen fighter shouldering a U.S.-made Stinger surface-to-air missile that wreaked havoc with Soviet air power and helped tip the balance to the jihadists.



Russian veterans say the huge effort by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency to arm and support the mujahedeen from bases in Pakistan was crucial to the eventual Soviet defeat.

But even without the active backing of a hostile superpower, the current insurgency has new tactics and new funding that the Russians never faced.

Suicide bombers and sophisticated roadside explosives were unknown to Russian occupation forces.

There are other lessons still being learned from the Russian experience in Afghanistan.

A lost war or a war that has lost public support leaves a different set of scars on its veterans, says Zurab Kekelidze, deputy director of the Serbsky psychiatric centre in Moscow. "The Afghan Syndrome," he says, afflicts many of the thousands of Russian veterans, and, he predicts, Canadian and other Western soldiers will similarly suffer.

**"If a society sees a war as a good thing ... then that's a form of therapy that helps," he said at his clinic. Soldiers readjust to society after all the horrors and stresses of battle.**

**"But if a war is unpopular or is seen as lost or pointless, then the situation is reversed and returning soldiers are forced to try and find some justification for what they have done," he added.**

#### **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**

## **TROOP NEWS**

# **Pentagon Brass Caught In Cover-Up Of Sexual Abuse;**

# **They Refuse To Allow Director Of DoD Sex Assault Program To Testify; Protecting Sex Freaks That Pray On Sisters And Brothers, They “Declined To Let Her Appear, Although She Had Met Previously With Lawmakers And Their Staffs Numerous Times”**

September 08, 2008 By William H. McMichael, Army Times [Excerpts]

The director of the Pentagon’s program to prevent and respond to sexual assault in the ranks is not surprised at a government investigation’s conclusion that far more rapes and other sexual assaults are being committed than reports indicate.

It’s one of the nation’s most underreported crimes, period, said Kaye Whitley, director of the Defense Department’s Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office.

The July 31 Government Accountability Office report also questioned other aspects of the military’s approach to sexual assault prevention and response, saying training programs lack consistent effectiveness; some local program coordinators are part-timers; some commanders do not support the program; and the Pentagon’s guidance suffers when applied to deployed and joint environments.

Whitley largely acknowledged the findings, saying she is glad to have the report “because it gives me the backing to get things done. But almost everything they recommended, we were doing something in the area anyway.”

Whitley had been expected to address GAO’s concerns at a July 31 congressional hearing.

**But her boss, Michael Dominguez, the Pentagon’s No. 2 personnel official, declined to let her appear, although she had met previously with lawmakers and their staffs numerous times.**

Whitley stressed the important role played by commanders, who can take judicial, nonjudicial and administrative action when an unrestricted report is made.

But “while most commanders support the program, some do not,” GAO said, noting that some have resisted posting information in barracks and work areas.

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**THIS IS HOW BUSH BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME:**

## **BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE**



The coffin of U.S. Army 1st Class Sgt., Dominican Jose Enrique Ulloa, who was killed in Baghdad, during his funeral service in Jima Arriba, north of Santo Domingo, Aug. 21, 2008. Surrounding the coffin are Ulloa's relatives and friends. (AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

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

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

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

**"When someone says my son died fighting for his country, I say, "No, the suicide bomber who killed my son died fighting for his country."**

-- Father of American Soldier Chase Beattie, KIA in Iraq

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

Mike Hastie  
U.S. Army Medic  
Vietnam 1970-71  
December 13, 2004

# WELCOME TO THE OCCUPIED USA: “They Came In Their Thousands” “Calling In One Voice To End The War In Iraq”



Police fire tear gas at protesters at the 2008 Republican National Convention near the site at the Xcel Energy Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota. They came in their thousands -- veterans, grandmothers, young families and even disgruntled Republicans bearing banners and peace flags, and calling in one voice to end the war in Iraq. (AFP/Getty Images/Eric Thayer)

## **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

# ***September 5, 1917:* *The Palmer Raids Begin* **16,000 ARRESTED IN CAMPAIGN AGAINST RADICALS AND LEFT- WING ORGANIZATIONS****



Arrested for "obstructing World War I: "Big Bill" Haywood

Carl Bunin Peace History September 3-9

In 48 coordinated raids across the country, later known as the Palmer Raids, federal agents seized records, destroyed equipment and books, and arrested hundreds of activists involved with the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), known fondly as the Wobblies.

Among the arrested was William D. "Big Bill" Haywood, a leader of the IWW, for the "crimes of labor" and "obstructing World War I."

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Spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk

In 1919 Woodrow Wilson appointed A. Mitchell Palmer as his attorney general.

Worried by the revolution that had taken place in Russia, Palmer became convinced that Communist agents were planning to overthrow the American government. His view was reinforced by the discovery of thirty-eight bombs sent to leading politicians and the Italian anarchist who blew himself up outside Palmer's Washington home.

**Palmer recruited John Edgar Hoover as his special assistant and together they used the Espionage Act (1917) and the Sedition Act (1918) to launch a campaign against radicals and left-wing organizations.**

A. Mitchell Palmer claimed that Communist agents from Russia were planning to overthrow the American government.

**On 7th November, 1919, the second anniversary of the Russian Revolution, over 10,000 suspected communists and anarchists were arrested.**

**Palmer and Hoover found no evidence of a proposed revolution but large number of these suspects were held without trial for a long time.**

The vast majority were eventually released but Emma Goldman and 247 other people, were deported to Russia.

**On 2nd January, 1920, another 6,000 were arrested and held without trial.**

These raids took place in several cities and became known as the Palmer Raids.

**A. Mitchell Palmer and John Edgar Hoover found no evidence of a proposed revolution but large number of these suspects, many of them members of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), continued to be held without trial.**

When Palmer announced that the communist revolution was likely to take place on 1st May, mass panic took place. In New York, five elected Socialists were expelled from the legislature.

When the May revolution failed to materialize, attitudes towards Palmer began to change and he was criticised for disregarding people's basic civil liberties.

Some of his opponents claimed that Palmer had devised this Red Scare to help him become the Democratic presidential candidate in 1920.

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**OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

**“Anti-Zionist Orthodox Jews  
Condemn Zionist Pogroms In West  
Bank And Strangulation Of Gaza”  
“We Pray For The Immediate  
Dismantlement Of The Rogue Zionist  
Regime And For The Immediate  
Restoration Of The Inherent Rights Of  
The Palestinians”**

Jul. 10. 2008

NETUREI KARTA of THE ORTHODOX JEWRY  
JERUSALEM, PALESTINE  
P. O. Box 5053 Jerusalem  
nkp@neto.bezeqint.net

Anti-Zionist Orthodox Jews Condemn Zionist Pogroms in West Bank and Strangulation of Gaza

Anti-Zionist Orthodox Jews worldwide condemn the savage pogroms unleashed against the Palestinian people in the West Bank by the Zionist terrorist gang known as the “IDF.” The Zionist terrorists are currently on a rampage throughout the West Bank to terrorize Palestinian civil society as they strengthen their hold on the prison known as Gaza.

We implore the world community not to stand idly by and allow the Palestinian people to be terrorized and sacrificed solely in order to make life comfortable for the Zionist regime.

Where are the peacekeeping troops? Where are the UN declarations? Where are the world summits of the major powers? Where are the declarations and condemnations?

Where are the arms boycotts against the Zionists?

What is the reason for the constant silence in the face of the Zionist miscreants? Is it intimidation and threats to use the term “anti-Semite” against any person or government who dares to criticize their brutality?!

HOW LONG WILL THIS ENDURE?

HOW LONG WILL THE ZIONIST REGIME HAVE A FREE HAND AND A BLANK CHECK TO TERRORIZE AND HUMILIATE THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE?

We also condemn the silence of Jewish leaders and rabbis who call themselves Orthodox and who have either been bribed or intimidated by the Zionists. How long shall you remain silent at the total desecration of the name of G-d and our holy Torah by the vicious Zionist heretics?

You are silent and the word "Jew" is seen among the nations to mean murderer and terrorist!

No person remaining silent shall escape the Day of Judgment because everything is recorded in Heaven!! If you believe in the Torah and follow our Sages then you must not ignore the state-sponsored terrorism committed by the heretical Zionist regime in violation of all international laws and the entire Torah!!

We pray for the immediate dismantlement of the rogue Zionist regime and for the immediate restoration of the inherent rights of the Palestinians throughout historic Palestine!

Rabbi Meir Hirsh  
Neturei Karta  
Jerusalem, Palestine

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by foreign terrorists, go to: [www.rafahtoday.org](http://www.rafahtoday.org) The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."]

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## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

**“I Have Been A Target Of State Police  
Surveillance For Activities That Were  
Legal, Non-Violent, And, So We  
Assumed, Constitutionally  
Protected”**

**“Our Seditious Crimes Reported,  
Involved Such Acts As Planning To Set  
Up A Table At The Local Farmer’s Market  
And Writing Up A Petition”**



July 21, 2008 by Dave Zirin, The Huffington Post [Excerpts]. Dave Zirin is the first sports correspondent for the Nation Magazine.

**Finally, at long last, I have something in common with Muhammad Ali.**

**No, I'm not the heavyweight champion of the world, and haven't been named spokesperson for Raid bug spray.**

**Like "the Greatest" -- not to mention far too many others -- I have been a target of state police surveillance for activities -- in my case against the death penalty -- that were legal, non-violent, and, so we assumed, constitutionally protected.**

In classified reports compiled by the Maryland State Police and the Department of Homeland Security, I am "Dave Z."

This nickname was given by an undercover agent known to us as "Lucy." She sat in our meetings of the Campaign to End the Death Penalty, smiling and engaged, taking copious notes about actions deemed threatening by the Governor of Maryland, Robert Ehrlich.

**Our seditious crimes, as Lucy reported, involved such acts as planning to set up a table at the local farmer's market and writing up a petition.**

Adding a dash of farce to this outrage, she was monitoring us in the liberal enclave of Takoma Park, Maryland, a place known more for vegans than violence, more for tie-dying than terrorism.

Thanks to the Freedom of Information Act and the ACLU, we now know that "Lucy" was only one part of a vast, insidious project.

The Maryland State Police's Department of Homeland Security devoted near 300 hours and thousands of taxpayer dollars from 2005 and 2006 to harassing people whose only crime was dissenting on the question of the war in Iraq and Maryland's use of death row.

My dear friend Mike Stark, a board member of the Campaign to End the Death Penalty is at times referred to in "Lucy's" report as a "socialist" and an "anarchist."

One can only assume this is the pathetic time honored tradition of reducing people to simple caricatures, all the better to garner Homeland Security grant money.

**Veteran peace activist in Baltimore, Max Obuszewski, who initiated the suit, was as well consistently shadowed as he walked down the streets.**

**His "primary crime" (their lingo) was entered into the homeland security database as "terrorism - anti govern(ment)."**

**His "secondary crime" was listed as "terrorism -- anti-war protesters."**

The database is known as the Washington-Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, or HIDTA. Yes, a respected peace organizer of many decades standing is

checked as a terrorist, his actions listed as criminal, for doing nothing more than exercising his rights. It boggles the mind.

**Former police superintendent Tim Hutchins defended these totalitarian practices by saying, “You do what you think is best to protect the general populace of the state.”**

**(The article mentioned that Hutchins is now a federal defense contractor. I guess The Global War on Terror is just the gift that keeps on giving for the Hutchins family.)**

**But “protect the general populace” from what?**

**The surveillance continued even after it was determined that we were planning nothing more dangerous than carrying clipboards in a public place.**

Hutchins and the Ehrlich administration have undertaken an ugly violation of our civil rights, manipulating fears of terrorism to stamp out dissent.

The ACLU, to their credit, is going on the offensive.

As ACLU lawyer David Rocah said at a news conference in Baltimore on Thursday, “To invest this many hours investigating the most all-American of activities without any scintilla of evidence there is anything criminal going on is shocking. It’s Kafkaesque.”

Unfortunately for people like Gov. Ehrlich, it is also “the most All American of activities” to take the constitution and use it as their personal hand wipe.

As the great political philosopher Ice T wrote, “Freedom of Speech.... just watch what you say.”

Well, now is exactly the time not to watch what we say.

I’m angry. I’m angry for my friends, who trusted “Lucy” and others.

I’m angry that my tax dollars went to paying the salaries of people who spy and intimidate those exercising their rights.

I’m angry that Barack Obama just voted to increase the power of the Federal government to disrupt people’s lives.

And I’m angry enough that I’m joining a lawsuit initiated by the ACLU. “Homeland Security” picked on the wrong sports writer. They also picked on the wrong group of activists. We will not be silenced.

[People who want to express their outrage can contact the office of the current Governor Martin O’Malley. We should demand a full investigation of the MSP, public release of all documents obtained through this illegal activity, and a specific commitment that the anti-death penalty and anti-war movement will not be targeted. Call the office of the governor at 1-800-811-8336, or submit a comment online at [www.governor.maryland.gov/mail/](http://www.governor.maryland.gov/mail/)]

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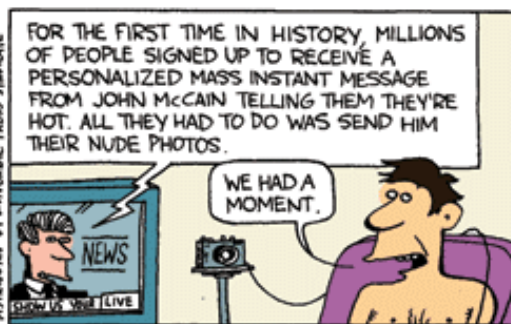
People are willing to pay for the illusion of intimacy with a politician.



They're even willing to give up their private telephone numbers.



Spam, you see, is warmer and fuzzier than TV attack ads.



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

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE WARS**

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

**OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION  
TROOPS HOME NOW!**

**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

### Class War In Panama



Workers demonstrate against the government during a 24-hour nationwide general strike and march called by different organizations to protest against the high prices of staple food and gasoline in Panama City September 4, 2008.

There is a possibility of an indefinite strike if the government does not resolve the high prices. This was announced by the leaders of the different organizations.

Photo: REUTERS/Alberto Lowe

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# GI Special [www.militaryproject.org](http://www.militaryproject.org)

This is how Bush brings the troops home,  
**BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE.**



GI Special is a near-daily news bulletin for service members  
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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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