

## GI SPECIAL 615:

### THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

# “The Army Should Be Ashamed Of Itself”

8.8.08 Army Times Forum  
Re: Mold At Ft. Sill

Anybody who has ever stayed in any Army transient billeting knows the conditions are pretty poor.

I'm sure for these soldiers to speak out like this the conditions at Fort Sill must have been very very bad.

The Army should be ashamed of itself for allowing our wounded veterans to live like this.

— Billeting sucks

## **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**

### **Arvada Soldier Killed In Iraq**



Staff Sgt. Kenneth Mayne

September 5, 2008 Rocky Mountain News

Staff Sgt. Kenneth Mayne talked to his mother two hours before he was killed early Thursday in Iraq.

“He was tired,” Michelle Benavidez, 47 of Arvada, said of her son. “He wanted to know where his beef jerky was. We would make beef jerky and send it to him, along with candy and toys.”

Mayne, 29, was killed when his Humvee was hit by an roadside bomb outside of Baghdad. He was assigned to the 4th Infantry Division, based at Fort Hood, Texas.

Born in Bellflower, Calif., he moved to Colorado when he was 2 years old. He graduated from Arvada West High School in 1997.

He joined the Army at his mother’s insistence when he turned 18 .

“He wasn’t really good at high school and I told him, ‘You need to pick a branch of the military,’ and he picked the Army,” Benavidez said. “He loved it and decided to make a career out of it. He loved the military and he was very proud to serve his country,” she said.

Mayne was originally assigned to the 101st Airborne, and was first deployed to Iraq in 2003, as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

He returned after a year, and was stationed in various states. He switch to the 4th Infantry because the division was to be transferred to Fort Carson after the latest deployment.

“He had been in the South for 11 years and he wanted to come home,” said his mother. “He loved being in Colorado.”

Mayne was deployed to Iraq in March this year, and had come home on leave in July.

“We went golfing and fishing a lot,” recalled Benavidez.

Mayne would call his mother several times a week when he was deployed overseas. In their conversation Thursday, he also talked about his plans to take his parents to Jamaica for a week after he returned.

Benavidez also said she had talked to her son about the dangers of being in Iraq.

“He said he was trained, and he believed in what he did,” she said. “If he had to, he was willing to die for his men, or for the people of Iraq, if that was what he needed to do.” Mayne was especially fond of the children he would meet while on patrol. “He loved giving toys to kids,” said Benavidez. “I would send him Hot Wheels, soccer balls and coloring books. He had great empathy for the children of Iraq.”

Benavidez said the family was devastated by Mayne’s death. “He was a hero,” she said. “He believed what he was doing over there. Regardless of why we went into the war, he believed he was doing good with the Iraqi people.”

Services for Mayne will be in Colorado, although a date has not been set.

Besides his mother, he is survived by his stepfather, Dan Benavidez, sisters Christina Biederman and Jennifer Morman, and a brother, Danny Benavidez, all of Arvada.

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**BAD IDEA:  
NO MISSION;  
POINTLESS WAR:  
ALL HOME NOW**



A U.S. Navy bomb disposal technician in a cave in the Hamrin mountains near Qara Tapa, north of Baghdad in Diyala province July 22, 2008. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

**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/))**

## AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

### “Where Normal People See An Angry Old Woman, Politicians And The Brass See A Terrorist”



An Afghan woman shouts anti US slogans in front of her destroyed home in Azizabad the village in Shindand district of Herat province, Afghanistan, Saturday, Aug 23, 2008.. Afghanistan's Ministry of Interior says that 76 civilians were killed in strikes in the Shindand district of Herat province. (AP Photo/Fraidoon Pooyaa) [Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier & The Military Project, who sent this in.]

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## TROOP NEWS



# **“A Sailor Who Claimed Conscientious Objector Status And Refused To Deploy To Iraq Spent Weeks Pulling Weeds In A Vacant Lot Until His Hands Bled” “A Soldier Convicted Of Prisoner Abuse In Iraq Was Allowed To Work In A Post Gym”**

September 08, 2008 By Kelly Kennedy, Army Times [Excerpts]

For 35 days this summer, Pvt. John Suarez worked from 9 a.m. until midnight in a Kevlar helmet, full body armor and a packed ruck, digging foxholes at Fort Lewis, Wash.

His hands turned to sandpaper. His lower back felt like someone had kicked him. Every time he swung his pickax, soreness flooded his wrists.

“It was pretty exhausting,” said Suarez, 20, who was sentenced to 45 days’ hard labor in a summary court-martial after a urinalysis test came up positive for cocaine. “It was like dirt and rock. The soil here is pretty bad.”

His first sergeant told him that his battalion commander, Lt. Col. Richard Demaree, of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, 5th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, had ordered that Suarez could not do goal-oriented work; the foxholes were for naught.

On weekdays, he did morning physical training with his unit, then reported for hole-digging. On weekends, he dug from 6 a.m. to midnight. Every day, he laid out a square from pick handle to pick handle, and then dug until he could stand in the hole up to his nametag.

Fortunately, he said, he’s only 5-foot-6.

At night, he had five or six hours to shower, do laundry and sleep.

“I heard it was the first time they’d had hard labor at Fort Lewis since World War II,” he said.

The Uniform Code of Military Justice says unit commanders determine the form of hard labor without confinement, which can be given only to enlisted troops, not officers. But

the UCMJ and service regulations offer little guidance on such issues as hours or safety guidelines.

That has led to what lawyers call inequitable inconsistencies.

**For example, Suarez spent weeks digging holes and then was discharged from the Army for the drug offense.**

**But a Marine convicted of pummeling prisoners in a jail in Iraq had his hard labor disapproved by a two-star general — and, after leaving the Corps, enlisted in the Army.**

**In one case, a sailor who claimed conscientious objector status and refused to deploy to Iraq spent weeks pulling weeds in a vacant lot until his hands bled.**

**But a soldier convicted of prisoner abuse in Iraq was allowed to work in a post gym.**

Petty Officer 3rd Class Pablo Paredes found out just how harsh hard labor could be after he refused to deploy in December 2004 to the Persian Gulf, saying he disagreed with the war in Iraq and war in general.

He was given 90 days of hard labor without confinement after being charged with missing a movement and unauthorized absence.

He said his prosecutor told his lawyer the hard labor essentially would be the same as extra duty. But when it came time for the legal hold unit tasked with administering his punishment to follow through, “everybody was completely confused because they had never heard of” such a sentence, Paredes said.

“They were trying to refer to the courts-martial manual, but it’s not clearly laid out. The commander took it from there.”

Each day, Paredes was taken out to an empty lot in a shipyard at Naval Base San Diego to pull weeds for 15 hours a day.

At first, he said, he was allowed to use a weed trimmer. Then he was told to wear gloves and pull weeds by hand. Finally, he said, they took away his gloves.

“For 2½ weeks, I pulled weeds in an acre-wide area. I had to pick a certain amount every hour. It was pretty intense. There was no water or restroom. This guy would drop me off and then come back to see if I was still alive.”

After his hands began to bleed so much that he had to be taken to the hospital, Paredes called his lawyer, Jeremy Warren.

Warren said Paredes had a pre-trial offer for an other-than-honorable discharge and no court-martial, but Paredes’ command turned it down.

“It showed the command had a political interest in his case,” Warren said. “I think the judge didn’t want to give him jail time, but to just allow him to leave the military would

seem more like a reward for refusing to deploy. The judge probably didn't expect his hard labor to be brutally hard."

Warren called Paredes' command section and said he was told Paredes was being treated no differently than anyone else would be. But in what seems like an after-the-fact move to bolster that claim, Paredes, who initially worked alone in the empty field, subsequently was joined by other sailors who had been charged with various transgressions but had not yet been sentenced, all of them pulling weeds together.

Paredes said he was soon redirected to a different task: working in the barracks chipping "crud off a toilet with a very small pick."

He said he lost 30 pounds during his punishment.

Paredes was discharged after completing his sentence and now works for a nonprofit group that supports service members who are conscientious objectors.

"Hard labor — it's such a dinosaur," he said. "There's nothing clearly written, so they feel they have the discretion to do anything. That vagueness means anyone can play dumb."

Suarez also was separated from service, leaving the Army with a general discharge in late July.

During his punishment, he said he kept digging holes rather than go absent without leave because he figured running would put him in a deeper hole — and also because he knew he had screwed up.

"I was hoping that if I stuck it out, they'd let me stay in."

#### **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**

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**Please say how many you wish sent.**



**NOTE WELL:** They will all be different issues of GI Special to satisfy DOD regs that you may possess copies, *provided you don't have more than one of the same issue.*

## IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

### **Resistance Action: “No To America”**



Demonstrators shout “No to America” during a demonstration in Baghdad’s Sadr City against the occupation September 5, 2008. Thousands of Iraqi Shi’ites protested the U.S. presence on the first Friday of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month, heeding orders from nationalist political leader Moqtada al-Sadr.

REUTERS/Kareem Raheem

Sept 4 (Reuters) & September 5, 2008 By Sahar Issa, McClatchy Newspapers & 9.6.08 Associated Press & Reuters

Two soldiers were wounded when insurgents opened fire at a checkpoint in Mansour district of western Baghdad, police said.

Four policemen were wounded on Wednesday when a roadside bomb exploded near their patrol in the city of Tikrit, 150 km (95 miles) north of Baghdad, a provincial security spokesman said.

Insurgents killed Nabil Abdul-Hassan, a director general at the Transport Ministry, in a drive-by shooting in the Ur district of northeastern Baghdad on Wednesday, police said.

A car bomb targeted head of al-Mutamar al-Watani political party, Ahmed al-Chalabi's motorcade near his party's headquarters Friday evening. Chalabi was not with the motorcade, but the explosion Friday night in the western Baghdad neighborhood of Mansour killed six of his bodyguards, said Ayad Kadhim Sabti, injuring seventeen people including five security personnel.

A car bomb killed Abdul-Amer Gattie, the head of a U.S.-backed neighbourhood patrol group, in the Baghdad district of Saiidiya, police said.

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

**DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**



**19-Year Old In The Twin Cities To  
Protest The War “Because Her  
Brother Was Serving In Iraq”  
Attacked By Cop Scum “And She  
Was Just Standing There”  
Criminal Conspirators At Large On  
Our Streets:  
Armed, Stupid And Dangerous Freaks  
Terrorize Unarmed Civilians**



Enemy combatants roam the streets of St. Paul during the Republican National Convention (Indymedia)

**Responding to accusations that the police took the Wilsons' bus to stifle dissent, police Sgt. William Palmer said the family was “free to go to the protests,” but they “just can't drive this bus to get there.”**

September 5, 2008 By Adam Turl, Socialist Worker [Excerpt]

**THERE WAS a criminal conspiracy engulfing Minnesota's Twin Cities during the Republican National Convention (RNC)--but it didn't involve masked anarchists, as mainstream media outlets warned.**

**The real conspiracy was a plot by 30 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to repress dissent and protests under the rubric of “national security” and the “war on terror.”**

Or example, police in the Twin Cities impounded a bus owned by the family of Delyla and Stan Wilson for “safety violations” after pulling them over on Interstate 94--prior to the large Labor Day march on the Xcel Center, the site of the convention.

Police began tailing the Wilson family--who were leading a demonstration in favor of sustainable gardening, recycling and water conservation--after deciding that their gardening and environmental tools could be used as weapons.

**Responding to accusations that the police took the Wilsons’ bus to stifle dissent, police Sgt. William Palmer said the family was “free to go to the protests,” but they “just can’t drive this bus to get there.”**

**The [New York] Times reported that Jerah Plucker, a documentary filmmaker, was swept up by police--along with several others--while listening to music in a park along the Mississippi River.**

“Over the loudspeaker (the police) are saying, ‘You are being arrested.’” Plucker told reporters. “They’re telling us, ‘Sit down, put your hands on your head.’”

Many others--both protesters and bystanders--had similar experiences.

**A 17-year-old youth was arrested trying to get into a concert on Monday on Harriet Island. He was soon released, but not before his photo was broadcast on television identifying him as an “anarchist” bent on “disrupting the convention.”**

**Dylan Asplen was charged with “felony riot”--and spoke to his mother on the phone from jail. His mother, Annette told reporters that they “arrested him for walking down the street. He said he didn’t do anything. I am so mad, you have no idea...It’s a police state.”**

**Anita Betancourt, speaking outside the Ramsey County Law Enforcement Center days after Monday’s arrests, told MPR she was waiting for her 19-year old daughter, who had been in the Twin Cities to protest the war and convention because her brother was serving in Iraq.**

**As MPR reported, Betancourt’s daughter told her mother in a phone call that “the police just shot her and arrested her, and she was just standing there. She told Betancourt that everything--all of a sudden--was just chaos all around her. They started pushing and shooting people, and the gas and pepper spray and all that stuff.”**

Attorney Matthew Ludt--who has represented some of arrestees--told MPR that “not only were they trying to keep demonstrators, protesters, people who want to get their message across off the streets...they swept up everybody else, which was bystanders as well as journalists.”

REPORTERS APPEAR to have been systematically targeted by law enforcement during the protests. Democracy Now! host Amy Goodman was arrested and physically assaulted September 1 and charged with obstruction of a peace officer, as were DN! producers Sharif Kouddous and Nicole Salazar.

**Kouddous and Salazar were reporting on one of the protests against the convention. Goodman was then arrested for the “crime” of asking after her wrongfully arrested colleagues.**

During the demonstration in which the Democracy Now! team was arrested, law enforcement officers used pepper spray, rubber bullets, concussion grenades and excessive force against protesters and journalists.

Several demonstrators were arrested during this action, as was a photographer from the Associated Press.

Other independent journalists were also arrested, including Chicago-based freelance reporter Nathan Weber, who was thrown to the ground and received blows to the back of his head.

Four journalists from a student newspaper in Kentucky were detained as well. The student-journalists were charged with rioting while covering Monday’s protests. Like Weber and the DN! producers, the Kentucky students showed their media credentials--but were arrested anyway.

One was still in jail as of September 3.

On September 3, following a Rage Against the Machine concert at the Target Center, 102 people were arrested for the “crime” of marching through the streets and chanting about “democracy.” According to reports, police fired “two rounds from what appeared to be either a beanbag or a pellet gun” and pepper-sprayed people as they left the concert.

**Even before the concert began--at around 7 p.m.--an activist campaigning for presidential candidate Ralph Nader was arrested outside the Target Center.**

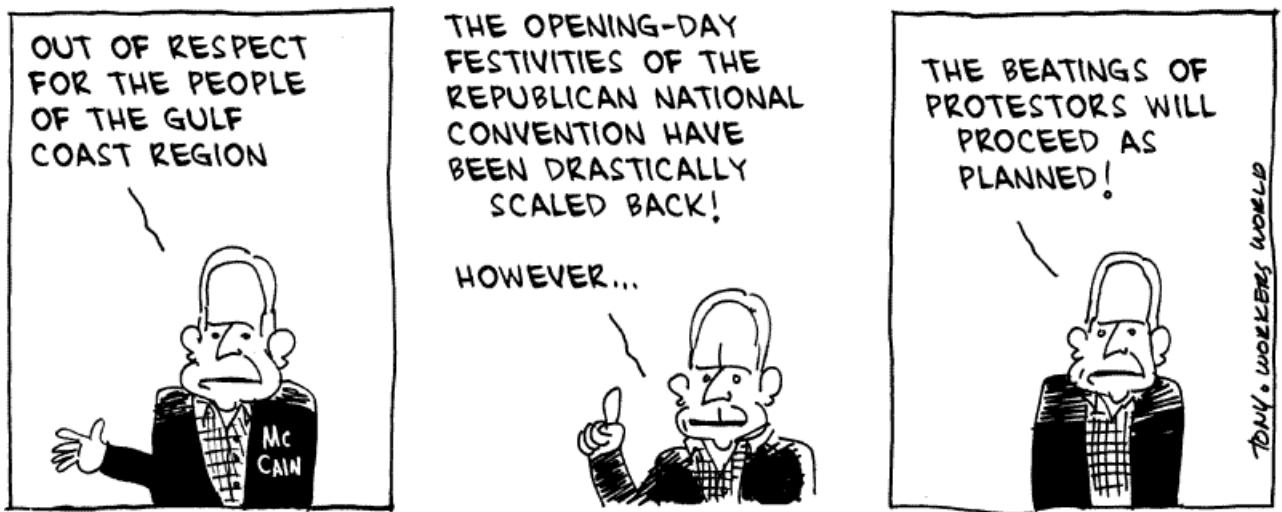
**His crime? Informing people about an upcoming Nader campaign rally.**

The point of the raids--and the repression since--is clearly to intimidate radicals and progressives. But the issues that led thousands to protest the Republican convention in the Twin Cities--as well as the Democratic National Convention in Denver--aren’t going away. Nor are the growing expectations that something must be done to address these injustices.

**If we are to continue organizing and speaking out, we must stand behind all the victims of this police conspiracy to stifle dissent.**

**MORE:**

**396 Arrested During Thursday Demonstrations:**  
**“700 Demonstrators Had A Permit To Rally And March. They Were Angry The Permit Expired At 5 P.M., Before John McCain’s Acceptance Speech”**  
**“Among Those Arrested Were Two Associated Press Reporters And More Than A Dozen Other Members Of The Media”**



Workers World Sep 3, 2008

September 5, 2008 By CURT BROWN, TERRY COLLINS, RANDY FURST and HERÓN MÁRQUEZ ESTRADA, Star Tribune [Excerpts]

Police arrested scores more people Thursday night after another series of tense showdowns with protesters on the final night of the Republican National Convention in St. Paul.

Sweeping into the State Capitol grounds in riot gear, police used snowplows, horses and dump trucks to seal off downtown from antiwar demonstrators attempting a march to the Xcel Energy Center.

"They chose not to leave when told to do so and now everyone's paying the price," said one officer on the scene.

This morning, the Joint Information Center said 396 people were arrested during Thursday's demonstrations, and a total of 818 people were arrested during the four-day convention. The numbers are preliminary; an official count will be released later today, said a spokeswoman for the center, which has been providing information about arrests and security during the convention.

**A group of more than 700 demonstrators had a permit to rally and march.**

**But they were angry the permit expired at 5 p.m., before delegates began arriving at the Xcel Energy Center for GOP presidential nominee John McCain's acceptance speech.**

**Among those arrested were two Associated Press reporters covering the event. They were issued a citation and detained, along with a KARE-11 TV photographer and more than a dozen other members of the media.**

**All were released later in the evening.**

**MORE:**

## **Journalists Targeted By FBI In St. Paul**

August 30, 2008 By Mary Turck , TC Daily Planet [Excerpts]

**According to I-Witness reporter Eileen Clancy, an FBI agent came to Mike Whalen's house on Iglehart Avenue this morning, looking for an individual who was not present at the time.**

**This afternoon, police broke into the house with guns drawn, detaining Whalen and the journalists for hours as dozens of reporters from all over the country stood outside, kept on the opposite side of the street by police orders.**

**The six people inside the house—and one legal observer who came outside to try to talk to police—were handcuffed during the search of the house.**

Journalists inside the home included Clancy and Elizabeth Press, a news producer for Democracy Now. Journalists outside included Amy Goodman, host of Democracy Now and a camera crew.

Kim, who lives next door, voiced her strong objections to the police proceedings, praising Mike Whalen as "a good neighbor, a very nice neighbor for ten years. He has never caused a problem."

She said anyone should be allowed to protest, though “I’m a Jehovah’s Witness so I don’t give a crap about Republicans or Democrats,” but said that anyone should be allowed to protest.

Eventually, she invited the crowd of journalists into her back yard, where they interviewed Mike Whalen and Eileen Clancy over the back fence, as police watched in obvious, mute discomfort.

**“They look through materials and copy materials, but you are not arrested,” said Clancy. “If you sue later, the court thinks it wasn’t a big deal, because you were not held very long.”**

**“They cannot raid a news office without a subpoena – but they did. This is journalists’ work product.”**

**Police eventually produced a subpoena, similar to the ones that have been used in all of the half-dozen raids during the past 18 hours.**

**“These are pre-emptive raids,” Clancy insisted. “Police are targeting people who are here to protect free speech rights.”**

Eventually, Amy Goodman and a camera crew climbed over the fence.

Police tried to get them to leave, with no success.

**Police on the scene would make no comment, saying that a public relations officer would talk to reporters. They were unable, however, to say who the public relations officer was, or where that person might be found.**

In the end, the police released all of the people detained at the Iglehart address.

At the same time that the I-Witness reporters were being detained on Iglehart, police followed, stopped and detained two other I-Witness reporters and a friend as they biked down Marshall Avenue in St. Paul. They searched the trio’s belongings and detained them there until the raid at Iglehart ended.

**MORE:**

## **“Police At The Igelhart Street House Stormed In, Pointing An Automatic Handgun At The People Inside”**

1 Sep 2008 by Rachel Mattson, Witnessvideo.info [Excerpts]

The work of the I-Witness Video collective was interrupted this past Saturday, August 30, 2008, when St. Paul police detained 7 members of the group (along with an



assortment of other individuals) for several hours. The NYC-based video collective is in St. Paul to document the policing of the protests at the Republican National Convention.

The incident began in the late morning when an FBI agent and a Wisconsin Deputy Sheriff showed up on the doorstep of the house in which members were staying (on Igelhart St.), interrupting a collective planning meeting.

The officers left after a short conversation with members through a locked front door.

**Two hours later, around 30 police surrounded the house. Two people who left the house were detained in handcuffs; several others, who were inside, were told that if they left, they would be also be detained. Around the same time, three other I-Witness Video members who had left the house on bikes and two others who were riding in a car across town were also detained by police.**



**Two hours later, after the search warrant arrived, police at the Igelhart Street house stormed in, pointing an automatic handgun at the people inside.**

**They handcuffed all the individuals inside, collected their personal information, and corralled them in the back garden.**

After completing their search, the police finally uncuffed everyone and departed. Within about two hours, the other I-Witness Video groups--who had been detained on bikes and in a car, all of whom also had their identifications verified and had undergone searches of various kinds--were also released.

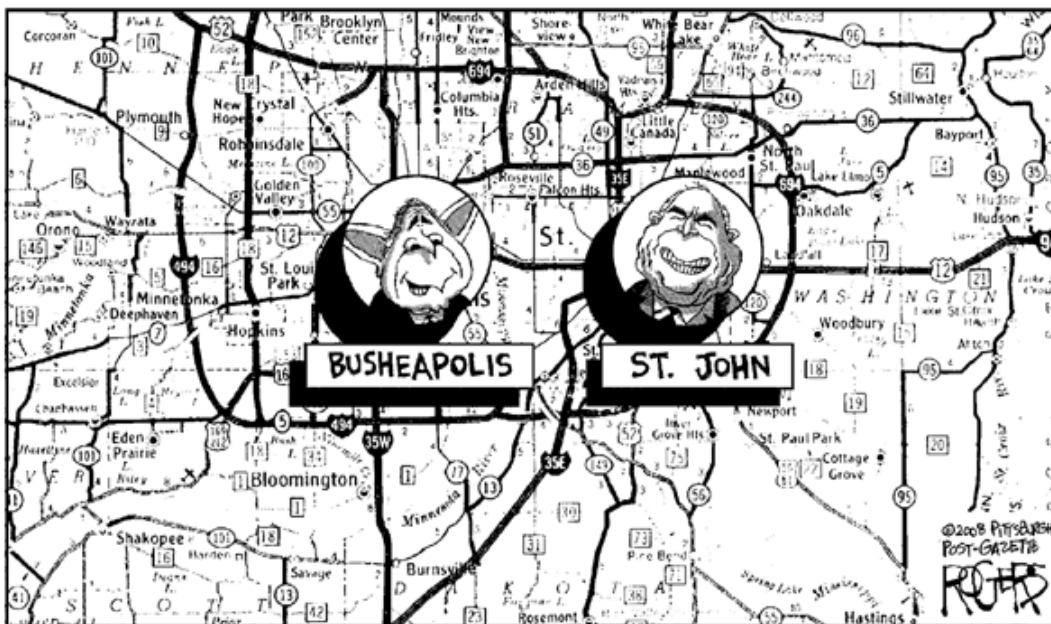
During the raids, members of I-Witness Video managed to send out several email and text messages to supporters, legal support, and press. In response, hundreds of people called the office of the St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman.

This was a clear effort to intimidate and undermine the work of I-Witness Video--a group that was remarkably successful in exposing police misconduct and outright perjury by police during the 2004 RNC.

MORE:

## “It’s Like We Don’t Have Rights. Like We Don’t Even Live Here”

THE TWIN CITIES



September 3, 2008 By Liliana Segura, AlterNet

Sitting outside the Black Dog cafe in lower St. Paul late Tuesday morning, a lanky kid in dreadlocks and a black Bob Marley T-shirt stopped, asked me for a light, and sat down next to me. It was drizzly and gray, and eerily quiet. The night before, nearly 300 people had been arrested by Minnesota police in a sweeping display of brute force. Among them were journalist Amy Goodman and two Democracy Now! producers, both of whom were physically assaulted.

With helicopters overhead and the National Guard out, it felt like a city under siege.

I asked the guy if he lived in St. Paul. “Yeah.” It turned out he lives next door, in the building where I’ve been staying, an artist’s co-op on Broadway Street.

I was about to ask him what he thought about the scene here when he sort of laughed and said, “Yeah, you know -- I was just arrested.”

At around 9:45 that morning, John, 20, was walking home from the bank a few blocks away when he spotted what he thought was a police riot club -- a ubiquitous weapon on the streets here. "It was right off of West 7th Street in, like, a planter; I checked it out but it ended up being a broomstick."

He put it down and kept walking, when suddenly he was surrounded by police officers -- "three squad for sure, maybe four" -- one of whom was a woman.

"She was like, 'Get on your stomach or I'm gonna tase you!'" He asked them what he had done, but they wouldn't say.

Instead, they asked him leading questions about other people they'd just arrested. "They said, 'so, who was in the white van you were associated with?' "I was like, white van? I don't know what you're talking about."

John said he hasn't done any anti-war organizing -- "I'd like to" -- but since the arrival of the RNC and the protesters against it, he has been checking out the scene around town. "Yesterday I was just cruising around. I was in the Funk the War march -- they had this huge Gandhi statue and a globe ..." But despite the mostly peaceful protests, when it comes to security, "it's been crazy." He showed me videos he'd taken on his phone while he skated around, lines of cops in riot gear -- "There was a bunch of people getting maced over there" -- and shots of the buses and unmarked minivans the police have used to detain people and take them away.

I asked him if he had been read his rights. "No, they didn't read me my Miranda rights at all. ... They cuffed me, and when I complained to one guy about the cuffs being too tight, he was like, 'Oh yeah? Well, let me tighten that up for you.'"

While he kept asking why they were arresting him, John did not resist -- "I was really cooperative; I didn't want to be held" -- but he did remember something he had been given at one of the marches. "Finally I pulled this out," he said, showing me a slip of paper that read, "ACLU Important Contact Information." "Yeah, you should hold onto that," one of the cops told him.

"They held me right down over there," he said, pointing north. "It's, like, the St. Paul police station." They confiscated and searched his belongings but forgot his cell phone in his pocket. "They put me in a cell that had snot and blood all over the wall," he told me, pulling out his phone and showing me footage of the stained white walls. He was given no phone call.

John was held there for about 15 minutes before they had him talk to anyone; two plainclothes investigators interrogated him, asking him what he knew about the demonstrations against the RNC, some of which have led to rioting and destruction of property. "They tried to get me to admit to some involvement ... but I told them that I've just met people and been to peaceful marches." Before leading him back to his cell, they gave him a 612 number to call. "They asked me to report anything I knew."

Googling the number later led me to a FBI homepage, Minneapolis division.

After he was questioned, John was put back in his cell.

He was never told how long they might hold him. "They didn't even tell me what I was being detained for until they opened the door." I asked him what. "Like, suspicion of planting something ... anything that could be used as a weapon, I guess." There was no documentation.

As we were talking, we saw a caravan of unmarked vans led by a police car pull a U-turn in the middle of the intersection at the corner. One of the cars turned on its siren and they sped off.

By then, a group of neighbors were hanging out near us. John greeted them and said, "I was just arrested." How was it? "Awesome," he laughed. "Best day of my life."

"So, you were picking up sticks?" one guy joked, "What were you thinking?"

"I thought I was free!" John laughed.

I asked him what he was up to now. He said he wanted to go to a concert taking place at the Capitol. Dead Prez was scheduled to perform. At the station, he said, "They told me if I got picked up again that I would probably be locked up for the remainder of the RNC. ... They were like, 'You probably shouldn't go outside, because if the same cops see you they're not gonna be happy.'"

He was dropped off across the street by one of the officers. ("He was nice enough to give me a ride back, so that was cool.")

I asked him if he would be relieved when the RNC was over. "Yeah, most definitely. I wasn't looking forward to it coming. ... I feel like I've been profiled since day one." Plus, it's been slow at the Italian restaurant where he works. "At first, at my work, they were like, yeah, this is a good opportunity to get some good business, but instead we're closing early ... because most of (the RNC delegates) have rented out places and they get free drinks; they don't really care about supporting local businesses since they don't live here. They don't give a shit."

**A woman who also lives in the building next door sat down next to us. "I have to say," she said, "this city I live in has so much egg on its face. I'm embarrassed to say I live here. It's just tragic."**

**"The vibe's like they came in and took over our whole city," John said. "It's like we don't have rights. Like we don't even live here."**

**MORE:**

## **Silly Stupid Lying Cops Claim They're "Looking For A Hostage"**

4 Sep 2008 by Eileen Clancy, Witnessvideo.info [Excerpts]

**At about 2:45 this past afternoon (Sept. 3), police wielding batons and a battering ram entered the professional office building on Selby Avenue in St. Paul where I-Witness Video is renting work space.**

Geneva Finn, an attorney with the National Lawyer's Guild went to head off the police. After the police left, she made this statement at an impromptu press conference on the street:

"A few minutes ago, one of our legal observers called me to the door. I saw the St. Paul police unloading a bunch of equipment from their cars and they saw me at the door. They saw me at the door, they motioned me forward. I came forward to their cars.

**"They told me that they had reports that somebody was holding somebody hostage in the building, that there had been a kidnapping. They told me that somebody, an undercover had told them, that the anarchists were holding people hostage in our building.**

"I work for the NLG (National Lawyers Guild) here, we have, we're working at one of our lawyer's offices, I said, "Is it in our law office?" They said "No, it's upstairs."

They then came into the building with me, I showed them what was going on upstairs. They did a pull-up on the frame of I-Witness' door, looked in, saw that there was people in there, nobody was being held hostage.

**"I then asked the police to leave, since no one was obviously being held hostage here, and they refused. Eventually their head sergeant came here, and decided that they could leave the building.**

Anarchists taking hostages?

Kidnapping?

This is extraordinary, folks.

The St. Paul police came after us with unfounded allegations that we were engaged in criminal behavior.

This harassment has interfered with our ability to do the work of documenting the policing of protests that we have come to St. Paul to do.

**They were able to put pressure on the landlord to do something that they could not force under the law.**

**We were informed that, as a result of all of the commotion, our landlord wanted us to leave the premises immediately.**

We packed up our belongings as quickly as possible and were welcomed at the offices of Free Speech TV in St. Paul, for which we are deeply grateful.

**MORE:**

# **“It Is Truly A Police State” Rev. Peter Dougherty & Non-Violent Peacekeeping Team Thrown In Jail: Occupation Regime Sadducees Charge Them With “Unlawful Assembly”**



Rev. Peter Dougherty

September 4, 2008: Michiganpeaceteam.org & September 5, 2008 David Harris, Lansing State Journal

## **Minneapolis, MN**

**Late yesterday (09/03/08), while working to keep people out of harm's way outside a concert at the RNC, Rev. Peter Dougherty of Michigan Peace Team and three members of the Minnesota Peace Team were arrested, handcuffed, detained for almost five hours, and presented with citations along with approximately 150 concert goers and other nonviolent bystanders.**

The arrests occurred at approximately 12:00 a.m. (CST) near the Target Center Basketball Arena in Minneapolis, where Rage Against the Machine was performing.

**Rev. Dougherty and the other Peace team members were at that location to help ensure that people would not be injured, and that the civil rights of RNC protestors would be respected as concert goers departed from the Center.**

The Peace Team members arrested included Dougherty (74 years old, co-founder of Michigan Peace Team), and Debbie Taylor (age 50), Jim Lannon (age 75), and Jason Hix (age 34) - all from the newly-formed Minnesota Peace Team.

As attendees were streaming out of the concert, Rev. Dougherty and other Peace Team members stationed themselves within the crowd to prevent anyone from getting hurt while fully supporting everyone's right to free speech.

Wearing brightly-colored peace team hats and vests to identify themselves, Team members encouraged the sense of community, collaboration and nonviolence throughout the crowd.

Once the initial assembly had peacefully dispersed, Team members moved to the next street over.

**There, police in riot gear were pushing the crowd back, and then encircled the entire gathering.**

**Everyone, including the Peace Team members and folks that were mere bystanders, was swept up and arrested.**

**Among the bystanders arrested, Dougherty met a veteran who had served two tours in Iraq as part of the U.S.'s self-proclaimed effort to "bring democracy to Iraq".**

DURING THE ARREST AND PROCESSING, fellow arrestees referred to Rev Dougherty as "Peaceful Pete." Later Dougherty was quoted as saying, "The peace team was doing the good work of encouraging peace - - and we were arrested!"

**THIS MORNING, Dougherty and the other peace team members stood outside the jail to call for the release of approximately 300 other protesters who were arrested and detained earlier.**

AT A FOLLOW-UP DEBRIEFING for members of the Peace Teams, William Covert (MI) said, "The Peace Team work outside the Republican National Convention during these past days was awesome, and I believe lives were saved."

Team members reported that they have experienced tear gas and pepper spray as well as percussion/concussion grenades and a general overwhelming police presence.

Dougherty reported "It is truly a police state, but despite all the craziness of feeling like this is a war zone, we have been able to have some very positive impacts and we are mostly well-received by the folks in the streets."

Dougherty concluded by saying, "May this experience deepen our conviction in the power of nonviolence."

Dougherty was detained at a local jail and released in the morning, according to police.

**The misdemeanor is punishable by up to a maximum of 90 days in jail and/or \$1,000 fine.**

**MORE:**

# **It's Not Just Minnesota: More Enemy Combatants Attack Public Service Office In California: Their Pretense: Looking For Dangerous E-mails About Animals**



FBI agents and local police raided the Long Haul Infoshop in Berkeley (Indybay.org)

September 2, 2008 By Sid Patel, Socialist Worker, interviewing Paul B., a member of the Long Haul. [Excerpts]

**On August 27, the FBI, Alameda County sheriff's department and University of California (UC) police raided the Long Haul Infoshop, a community center and anarchist meeting place in south Berkeley.**

**With guns drawn, the officers broke doors, cut locks, searched the lending library logs and seized a dozen computers and other equipment. The FBI and police claim they were looking for evidence of threatening e-mails sent to animal researchers at UC-Berkeley.**

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*SP: DID YOU have any indication this was going to happen? Have the police harassed Long Haul recently?*

NO, WE didn't expect it at all.

Three or four months ago, police officers came here and requested that we contact them to provide some information, but we didn't imagine anything like this happening.



*HOW HAS the raid impacted the Long Haul's ability to organize and help others organize?*

ONE OF the groups that operates out of here is the East Bay Prisoners' Support Group. They lost their computer.

Long Haul also provides services for people, like free Internet stations for people who don't have their own computer to take to a café. Those computers were all taken away. Slingshot, a quarterly publication and organizing calendar, got a computer taken away, and the next issue is not getting published on time.

It's really disruptive if you don't know when police are going to show up, if you don't know when you might get arrested. It's scary.

*WE'VE SEEN stories recently and over the last few years about the consequences of the Patriot Act, the FISA bill, warrantless wiretapping, police infiltration of antiwar groups and the Campaign to End the Death Penalty in Maryland. How do you think the raid at the Long Haul fits in with all of this?*

**IT SEEMS related. They came up with some excuse about suspicious e-mails, but really, they want to see what we're up to. As someone who staffs here, the Long Haul seems relatively benign. We've never been raided for the 25 years we've been around.**

**You hear about things happening to other organizations, but then you think, "Why would the government care about the Long Haul?" The government may think they need to spy on benign groups like us.**

It seems like the government doesn't want open community spaces like the Long Haul.

If there's even that potential for open, grassroots organizing, your group might get raided. I mean, people use the computers at the San Francisco Public Library to send all kinds of crazy e-mails, and no one's raiding the public library.

*WHAT MESSAGE do you want to send to grassroots activists across the country?*

**I NEVER thought the FBI would raid a place like the Long Haul. I see it as a place where people come to get information, to gather. We don't harbor terrorists.**

**I've always heard about the FBI having informants and conducting raids, but when it happens at a place that you care about, where you spend time and that you think is helping out the community, it's weird.**

**It hits you that stuff like this does happen. It's a motivation to do something about it and challenge police surveillance.**

The Long Haul is really a place for different groups to gather, and we provide a lot of things for people who can't have these things otherwise.

Cycles of Change works out of here--they work with kids in Oakland to promote sustainable living and bike culture. The East Bay Prisoners' Support Group organizes correspondence with and provides literature for prisoners, and that's important because prison libraries are filled with John Grisham novels, and prisoners need contact with the outside world. The Needle Exchange works out of here, and that's a very practical concern; it's important to get people clean needles.

Food Not Bombs provides food and services to the homeless community.

The events we have vary, because the Long Haul is a free and easy space to set up events, unlike the nearby "public" community center, where you have to put down \$300. There's an anarchist study group that holds meetings here, there are political movie nights, benefits, acupuncture, pilates. All kinds of things--that's what's really nice.

We also have a library with 'zines that aren't widely available, and other radical literature that lots of public libraries just don't carry.

***HOW CAN readers of SocialistWorker.org and the general public help?***

**WE REALLY need legal help right now.**

**Any legal services or assistance would be very much appreciated. Also, while the Long Haul is demanding that the FBI return the computers immediately, we also could use any computers that people could offer us.**

**Other than that, get involved with us, invest time and participate at the Long Haul, use the services here. That will be fruitful in the long term as well.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Check out the Long Haul Infoshop Web site for updates and more information about what you can do to help, or to send messages of solidarity.**

**Long Haul is requesting donations to help with legal expenses.**

**Send checks, payable to "Long Haul," to: Long Haul, 3124 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley, CA 94705.**

**MORE:**

**It's Not Just Minnesota #2:  
Free Speech Rights For Iraq  
Veterans Against The War?  
Not In Occupied Chicago:**

# Enemy Combatants Won't Allow It



**I handed out about 30 flyers at which time I received a call from Paul saying that we should leave because the police were accosting him for simply talking to two guys even though he was not handing out any pamphlets.**

08/16/2008 By Michael Scott Applegate [Iraq Veterans Against The War] [Excerpts]

The city of Chicago traditionally ends the summer with the Air and Water Show which is the biggest military recruiting event of the year. The event takes place on Chicago's lakefront beaches.

The Air and Water show draws approximately 2 million people, so what better opportunity to get the word out about IVAW.

I was accompanied by Paul Muller and his cousin Erica Anderson who is a member of MTV's street team and videotaped the event. Our goal was simple, distribute as many flyers as we could and talk to as many people as possible especially active duty military members and veterans.

By now Paul had met a veteran who is a former Marine interested in IVAW and spoken with him for several minutes and made our first contact of the day. The three of us; Paul, Erica and myself then decided to make our way to a Navy exhibit which featured a portable flight simulator for kids.

Parked next to the flight simulator was an SUV with Navy logos all over it, so I decided to place an IVAW flyer under the wiper blade- just in case.

As we were standing there a few more veterans approached and we took down their contact information as well and gave them our pamphlet. Shortly afterwards we met a veteran who was from Britain, I had asked him if a group like IVAW existed in England and we were told that there wasn't. I gave him a pamphlet and told him he was welcome to come to our next event.

**At this point Paul, Erica and I decided to check out a demonstration area of antiwar protestors that was located by a bridge that stretches over the highway for people to walk over. I had spotted the group when I had first come in.**

As we greeted the demonstrators and introduced ourselves we had noticed a very heavy police presence.

I had spoken to an older woman named Mary who had informed us that they were being barricaded into the “free speech zone” on a public beach. I was inwardly upset by this blatant violation of their First Amendment rights.

***At which point Erica who had been filming our conversation told Paul and myself that the police had asked for her press credentials and stated that she did not have their permission to videotape them.***

**[Note this one well: “permission” and “press credentials” now required in Chicago to videotape the occupiers. T]**

So Paul and I had decided that we should play it cool and put the flyers away in my backpack. With the idea that we pretend to leave and just go somewhere far away potentially hostile area.

I decided to take matters into my own hands by walking about 50 feet away from the “free speech zone” opened my bag and grabbed a handful of flyers handing them out one right after the other.

**As I stood there I began to summon the intestinal fortitude to make my voice heard by saying very audibly, “IRAQ VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR!” it was a small personal victory by exercising the rights that we all have sworn an oath to support, protect and defend.**

**I handed out about 30 flyers at which time I received a call from Paul saying that we should leave because the police were accosting him for simply talking to two guys even though he was not handing out any pamphlets.**

So rather than escalate the situation with the police who were trying to bait us saying we were stepping over an imaginary line we decided to go.

We got the word out and made a few new contacts so it was a good day for IVAW Chicago.

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**MORE:**

## **Hey, “Progressive” Sell-Outs Campaigning For Obama ---**

**Can you find one word of criticism of the government police terror unleashed in Minnesota from your “progressive” candidate?**

**Of course not.**

He's for it.

If he weren't for it, he'd be against it.

Duh.

T

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## “Country First? My Ass!”

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier, who sent this in. He writes: How many years would it take an E-5 to make that kind of money? Country first? My ass!

Sep 5 By MELANIE COFFEE, Associated Press Writer

Friday may be the start of New York's Fashion Week, but couture has been in the Minnesota convention hall all week.

It kicked off on Monday with Cindy McCain and First Lady Laura Bush in Oscar de la Renta.

Vanity Fair editors estimated that McCain's fierce saffron shirt dress with the popped collar, diamond earrings, four-strand pearl necklace, white Chanel watch and strappy shoes totaled up to \$313,100.

And Bush's white sensible suit, Stuart Weitzman heels and pearl stud earrings would ring up to \$4,325.

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

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

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