

GI SPECIAL 618:

NEW GENERAL ORDER NO. 1: PACK UP GO HOME

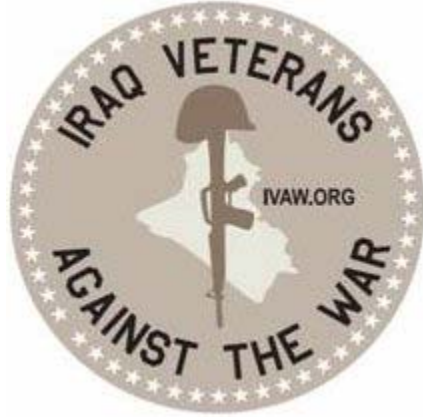


U.S. Army soldiers from Second Stryker Cavalry Regiment near Qara Tappah, Diyala province, July 21, 2008. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

So, I'm Up Late Again, Thinking About Iraq:

**"I Think About Others Who Had No
Other Option But To Kill Someone
Who Was Defending Their Land, And
How Much Worse It Must Be For
Them"**

“Someday I Hope I Can Put My Memories Behind Me And Lay Down And Just Sleep”



07/16/2008 By Reagan Sullivan [Iraq Veterans Against the War] [Excerpts]

Branch: United States Army (USA)

Home: New Mexico

3 years in the ARNG, 3 years active duty. Spent one year in Iraq (OIF1).

One MidNite pill and a couple sprays of Rescue Sleep a couple hours before I go to bed. Sometimes it kicks in fast, sometimes it takes a long time.

Sometimes it doesn't work.

I have tried many methods of being able to get solid hours of sleep DURING the night, before, I could only sleep during the day most of the time, or I would just go 24-36 hours without sleep and then only be able to sleep for four hours.

Then I figured I could take a couple Excedrin PM and sleep well, but too long and feel groggy all day. Then I switched to melatonin, which should have worked every time, but alas, still no long term success. I managed to get a prescription for Flexoril and the same thing would happen, I feel like shit all day after sleeping for 12 hours.

A few times I managed to get into a normal sleeping pattern, but only for a few days, then it is back to the usual, up all night, even after laying down and not being able to fall asleep.

This has been a major problem in my marriage, it has affected my school attendance, and made me miss out on a lot.

So what is it about laying down and not being able to sleep.

My thoughts, I can only count the number of nights I had lied down to sleep and didn't think about Iraq on my hand.

I think about being shot at, "what if" situations that may have gotten me killed, mortars, seeing a non-combat related accident that almost killed a fellow soldier, the child I almost ran over after crossing the border into Iraq, all the latest news from Iraq, all the troops that have been killed or injured, why it can't end now, and how stupid it is to stay there.

It makes me mad and when I am mad I cannot sleep, and I can't figure out how to stop thinking about it without the use of supplements.

I think about others who had no other option but to kill someone who was defending their land, and how much worse it must be for them.

I have only had people in my sights part of me wanting something to happen so I get a "kill" and now my other half revealing itself relieved I never had to pull that trigger. I only kill in my nightmares.

Someday I hope I can put my memories behind me and lay down and just sleep, no assistance, just a kiss goodnight from my wife and a cat or two crowding me.

For now though, it's the unreliable products that make me sleep too much.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Lakeview Grad Killed In Iraq



Bryan Thomas, a 2004 Lakeview graduate, was killed in Iraq on Thursday, a family friend said.

September 8, 2008 The Enquirer

Pfc. Bryan Thomas, a 2004 Lakeview High School graduate, was one of two U.S. Army soldiers to die Thursday when a improvised explosive device detonated in a market in Baghdad, the U.S. Department of Defense confirmed today.

Laura Stewart, a family friend whom Thomas referred to as an aunt, said a military liaison officer told her and Thomas's mother, Pam Sikora, that the 22-year-old Thomas was the victim of a suicide bomber.

The explosion occurred when Thomas and Sgt. Kenneth Mayne, of Fort Benning, Ga., were traveling in a vehicle, the Defense Department said.

Thomas, a former student at Kellogg Community College, was home just three weeks ago before traveling to Iraq as part of the U.S. Army, Stewart said.

"It's kind of surreal," Stewart, of Battle Creek, said. "You keep expecting him to walk through the door."

Services for Thomas will be held at St. Joseph Catholic Church later this week. A date and time have not yet been set.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Roadside Bomb Kills Dutch Soldier In Uruzgan, Five More Wounded

Sep 7, 2008 By ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Dutch Defense Ministry said one of its troops was killed and five were wounded by a roadside bomb in southern Afghanistan on Sunday.

The fatal attack brings to 17 the number of Dutch troops killed in Afghanistan since August 2006, when the government took the unpopular step of sending 1,650 troops to serve with the NATO-led force.

Dutch defense chief Gen. Peter van Uhm told reporters in Hague that the attack happened Sunday afternoon in a restive valley in the southern province of Uruzgan.

Van Uhm said the soldier killed was 21-year-old Jos ten Brinke. One of the injured soldiers was in critical but stable condition while the other four suffered only slight injuries.

Canadian Soldier Killed, 7 Wounded In Panjwaii

September 7, 2008 CBC News

One Canadian soldier was killed and seven others wounded Sunday during a roadside bomb explosion in the Panjwaii district of Kandahar province, a military official said.

Sgt. Scott Shipway died after his armoured vehicle struck an improvised explosive device during a security patrol around 12:30 p.m. local time, said Brig.-Gen. Denis Thompson.

The wounded soldiers were reported in good condition and were well enough to telephone their families.

Shipway was with the 2nd Battalion of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, based in Shilo, Man. He was on his second tour of duty in Afghanistan and was only one week away from returning home, military officials said.

Resistance Action; Two Police Killed, 37 Wounded In Kandahar HQ Attack

Sept 6 (KUNA) & (AFP) & September 7, 2008 The Associated Press

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan: Two attackers detonated their bombs inside the police headquarters in Afghanistan's second-largest city Sunday, killing at least two police and wounding 37 people, officials said.

The two bombers targeted Gen. Abdul Raziq, a border police commander, two police officers at the scene in Kandahar said. The blasts went off within a minute of each other, one on a ground floor and one on an upper floor, officials said.

The governor's spokesman, Najib Pervaiz, said two police were killed and 29 police and eight civilians were wounded. He said 16 of the wounded were in critical condition.

"The bomber wanted to get close to Gen. Raziq, but his guards stopped him," Karim Agha, a police officer wounded in the attack, told The Associated Press from his hospital bed. "After that I don't know what happened. I went unconscious."

One high-ranking officer, who asked not to be identified because he wasn't authorized to speak to the media, said six police were killed and 13 wounded, including Raziq. It wasn't immediately possible to reconcile the different figures.

Canadian troops and Afghan soldiers surrounded the police headquarters shortly after the explosions.

A bomber disguised as a beggar blew himself up inside a government building in Afghanistan Saturday, killing a state prosecutor and five other people, a provincial governor said. The explosion took place in office of an intelligence attorney in Nimroz province.

The bomber had explosives strapped to his body. Once inside, he blew himself up, bringing down the whole single-storey building, Governor Ghulam Dastgir Azad said.

"We have recovered so far six bodies," he said. The dead were provincial attorney Anwar Shah Khan, who had worked on intelligence matters, his 20-year-old son, and his deputy and three civilians, Azad said.

"The whole building has collapsed. There might be more casualties," the governor said.

The bomber evaded the security guards at the entrance of the office because they guards had taken refuge from the sandstorm in a nearby cabin.

Police said they had found body of a district governor who was captured by unidentified armed men three days back. Governor of Zurmat district of Paktia province was captured three days ago. His body were recovered this morning, said a police official.

The Helmand province police chief said militants attacked a police patrol Saturday and wounded four officers.

Ooops: They Did Massacre 60 Kids: Idiots In U.S. Command Relied On Fox News Reporter To Deny Afghan Eyewitness Reports

September 8, 2008 The Times [Excerpts]

As the doctor walks between rows of bodies, people lift funeral shrouds to reveal the faces of children and babies, some with severe head injuries.

Women are heard wailing in the background. "Oh God, this is just a child," shouts one villager. Another cries: "My mother, my mother."

The grainy video eight-minute footage, seen exclusively by The Times, is the most compelling evidence to emerge of what may be the biggest loss of civilian life during the Afghanistan war.

These are the images that have forced the Pentagon into a rare U-turn.

Until yesterday the US military had insisted that only seven civilians were killed in Nawabad on the night of August 21.

Last night the Pentagon announced that it was reopening the investigation in the light of "emerging evidence" and was sending an officer to Nawabad to review its previous inquiry. Villagers and the UN insist that 92 were killed, including as many as 60 children. Locals say that the US and Afghan troops who came into the village looking for a Taleban commander, with US air support, used excessive force.

In the video scores of bodies are seen laid out in a building that villagers say is used as a mosque; the people were killed apparently during a combined operation by US special forces and Afghan army commandos in western Afghanistan. The film was shot on a mobile phone by an Afghan doctor who arrived the next morning.

Local people say that US forces bombed preparations for a memorial ceremony for a tribal leader. Residential compounds were levelled by US attack helicopters, armed drones and a cannon-armed C130 Spectre gunship.

However, US commanders and Pentagon officials have said repeatedly that seven civilians died alongside 35 Taleban militants during a legitimate combat operation, the target of which was a meeting of Taleban leaders.

The villagers' accounts have been supported by separate investigations conducted by the UN, by Afghanistan's leading human rights organisation and by an Afghan government delegation. Two Afghan army officers involved in the operation have been dismissed.

The US military said that its findings were corroborated by an independent journalist embedded with the US force. He was named as the Fox News correspondent Oliver North, who came to prominence in the 1980s Iran-Contra affair, when he was an army colonel.

Sources close to one of the investigations said that a video film was shot by Afghan officials the morning after the attack. It corroborates the doctor's footage but has not been made public.

A Human Rights Watch report due to be published today is highly critical of US and Nato forces in Afghanistan for the number of civilians killed in airstrikes. It gives warning that repeated instances of Western forces killing Afghan civilians have led to a collapse in popular support for the international presence.

Maulavi Gul Ahmad, an Afghan MP who was part of a government delegation that investigated the Nawabad attack, told The Times: "We are not only blaming America – this is destroying the reputation of the international community and undermining their presence in Afghanistan."

Other Afghan investigators alleged that US forces had been duped into attacking the village by tribal figures involved in a local feud.

TROOP NEWS

Danger: Sneak Attack: Iraq Veteran Says "If Obama Wins, We Can't Let Him Forget The Important Stuff" "Remember, He's Still A Politician And Will Sneak Stuff Past Us"



September 2, 2008 By Ashley Smith and Eric Ruder, Socialist Worker Excerpts]

Patti McCann, a Chicago member of IVAW [Iraq Veterans Against The War], started her day of protest even before most demonstrators had arrived, marching in formation with 60 other IVAW members from the State Capitol to deliver a letter to John McCain, calling on him to withdraw the troops and provide adequate health services to veterans and active-duty troops.

After negotiating with police, IVAW member Wes Davey was allowed through the security perimeter to request an audience with a representative of the McCain campaign.

Davey returned after several minutes to report that the McCain campaign refused to send a representative to accept IVAW's letter.

"I want to hold people accountable for the war, the hurricane and the war at home," explained McCann. "I want to see money for education. In Chicago, I see students I know who end up joining the military to fight this war in order to get an education."

"I want an end to this war budget for Iraq and Afghanistan," McCann continued.

"I want to see New Orleans rebuilt. I feel the last eight years have totally wrecked all of my dreams. I want to see a better world come out of this election.

"I think we have to keep fighting whoever wins--definitely McCain, but if Obama wins, we can't let him forget the important stuff.

"Remember, he's still a politician and will sneak stuff past us."

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 RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Action

9.7.08 By Jomana Karadsheh, CNN & AP & Sept 8 (Reuters)

The head of security for Iraq's minister of justice was wounded in an explosion in Baghdad. Lt. Safiih al-Zaboun was driving to his home when an explosive device attached to his car detonated, the Interior Ministry official said.

In Baghdad on Sunday, four roadside bombs wounded police officers. One blast occurred at 9:10 a.m. Sunday along Palestine Street near Beirut Square injuring five people including three policemen, officials said. The other bomb exploded nearly an hour later on the Mohammed al-Qassim Highway, also in eastern Baghdad, wounding three policemen, police said.

North of Baghdad, in Diyala's provincial capital of Baquba, a roadside bomb targeting an Iraqi police patrol killed one policeman Saturday morning.

A roadside bomb wounded two policemen in the Zaafaraniya district of southeastern Baghdad, police said.

Two roadside bombs wounded eight people, including three policemen, on Palestine street in eastern Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded three traffic policemen in the Zayouna district of eastern Baghdad, police said.

Militants captured the leader of a U.S.-funded neighbourhood patrol unit near the town of Muqdadiya in an early morning raid on his house, the army said. An army source said three Iraqi soldiers were then wounded by a roadside bomb as they drove in pursuit.

Insurgents killed an Iraqi army officer in a drive-by shooting just outside a mosque in northern Mosul, police said.

A parked car bomb wounded two policemen in northern Mosul, police said.

An explosives-laden pick-up truck wounded an Iraqi army officer when it blew up on Sunday in Qaiyara, 290 km (180 miles) north of Baghdad, the U.S. military said in a statement.

A roadside bomb killed two policemen and wounded another when it struck their patrol in central Tikrit on Sunday, 150 km (95 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A parked car bomb killed one policeman and wounded four civilians in western Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A body of a policeman was found shot dead in central Mosul, police said.

A roadside bomb killed two Iraqi soldiers and wounded four others when it struck their patrol just south of Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) northeast of Baghdad, police said.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

The Freedom Of IT

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special
Sent: September 02, 2008
Subject: The Freedom Of IT by Dennis

By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade,
purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50 Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against The War,
United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan

The Freedom Of IT

Andy doesn't care about anything anymore
he wishes there was some way to get out of here
All he sees is dead bodies in front of him
that lay flat like dominoes with red bullet holes
the next day he sees wooden coffins in the air
he keeps looking for a door to get out of here
When Andy comes back he can't let it all go
he never thought war was like what he had seen
he was booted out of the Army when he told them
There is no glory just IED's twisted metal
twisted bodies twisted logic where home was
He doesn't shave and bath much anymore
he can't remember when he brushed his yellow teeth
and his hair looks like a rainbow oil slick
Now he has to listen to a preacher who says he isn't saved
before they give him food and a worn out bed upstairs
where he smells their wine and their crack
as they get out of here, their families forgot them long ago
In the morning he walks down to the blood bank
gives some blood for a 17 dollar check
He goes to a dive to drink some beer
where he meets another Iraq Vet sitting on a stool
his name is Miles and he has lost another job
he tells Andy he is running out of meth
might have to rob someone to get out of here
After awhile the black Iraq Vet leaves
Andy drinks some more beer all alone
He doesn't care about anything anymore
he wishes there was some way to get out of here
this wretched existence they call war
has broken his brain and he gives up
After getting quite drunk on the cheap draft beer
Andy walks down to the railroad tracks
throws himself in front of a train
Drivers on the second shift are getting all upset
the train blocks the crossings so they can't go home
as the police process the suicide
it shouldn't take too long because IT's just a bum
A black and white cat is eating a part of his heart
that landed a 100 feet down the track
just pick up the big pieces, spray it down a little
and let the animals have the rest

September 9, 1971: Heroic Anniversary The Attica State Penitentiary Revolt



Carl Bunin Peace History September 3-9

The interracial revolt was led by blacks but featured cooperation between prisoners of different racial and ethnic backgrounds.

It was finally brutally suppressed by the state five days later, upon orders from Gov. Nelson Rockefeller who refused to become directly involved.

29 prisoners and 10 guards were shot and killed by attacking state troopers in the bloodiest prison confrontation in U.S. history.

The prisoners had been demanding improvements in their living and working conditions at the increasingly overcrowded facility.

PBS.org/ [Excerpts]

On the morning of Monday, September 13, 1971, Governor Nelson Rockefeller arrived at his Fifth Avenue apartment for a meeting with some of his advisors. It had been a tough weekend, but he had finally reached a decision. It was, he told them, “a matter of principle.”

The Attica State Penitentiary — the scene of an inmate uprising just five days earlier — was to be retaken by force.

Trouble was in the air in the summer of 1971. The Vietnam war, court-ordered busing of students to integrate schools racially, and student protests had shaken the country.

Prisons were seeing a surge in the pressure — both from within and from without prison walls -- to recognize the rights of inmates, fueled in part by racial unrest. In the imposing Attica State Penitentiary, a maximum-security facility 30 miles south of Buffalo, New York, the tension had been particularly palpable for months.

Inmates, who were predominantly African American and Puerto Rican, were incensed at the deteriorating living conditions — among them the fact that they were only entitled to one shower a week and one roll of toilet paper a month.

Overcrowding had also become a source of resentment in a facility where the capacity limit had been exceeded by almost forty percent.

It was this pent-up unrest that prompted one of the guards to forcefully suppress a scuffle between two prisoners on September 9, 1971. The two inmates were taken to isolation cells. Rumors circulated that they would be tortured.

Confrontations escalated between the prisoners and the guards.

More than one thousand strong, the inmates quickly took control of the prison and set fire to several of its buildings. By the time the state police was summoned and managed to recapture part of the facility that afternoon, the inmates had regrouped in one of the yards and were holding 40 hostages in a ring of wooden benches.

Their demands were soon made public: federal takeover of the prison, better conditions, amnesty and the removal of the prison’s superintendent.

In their statement, they criticized the “unmitigated oppression wrought by the racist administrative network of this prison throughout the year,” and the “ruthless brutalization and disregard for the lives of the prisoners here and throughout the United States.”

Those words had a troubling ring for Nelson Rockefeller, who in his last years as governor had toughened his stand on crime and political dissent.

He believed that the rebellion was led by revolutionaries, and that any sign of compromise would have a domino effect throughout the nation. Having sent one of his closest aides to the scene, he retreated to the Rockefeller estate in Pocantico Hills, just a few miles outside of New York City.

Four hundred miles upstate, things were quickly heating up. A group of observers had been trying in vain to come up with a compromise package.

On Sunday, three days after the outbreak, they issued a statement, calling on Rockefeller to come to the prison to avert a “massacre... so we can spend time and not lives in an attempt to resolve the issues before us.”

The pressure on the governor to come to Attica was mounting, as the inmates and even the Commissioner of Correctional Services, Russell Oswald, urged him to address the situation in person.

“We must have Rockefeller,” said one of the inmates’ leaders. “We got to have Rockefeller here to save our lives and those of his hostages. ... I say his hostages because he created this situation.”

But Rockefeller wouldn’t budge.

Saying that his physical presence on the site would not “contribute to a peaceful settlement,” he vowed to stand fast and rely on his aides on the scene, among them Robert Douglass.

“In life it’s not easy to face a hard decision, particularly when human lives are involved,” he told Commissioner Oswald, “But I think we have to look at these things not only in terms of the immediate but in terms of the larger implication of what we are doing in our society.”

By Sunday night, hopes for a non-violent compromise solution were wearing thin, and on Monday morning Rockefeller, determined to appear firm, authorized the operation to reclaim the facility.

It was 9:46am when a state police helicopter started dropping tear gas over the yard and walkways where the inmates were holding the hostages at knife-point.

Gunfire broke out, and within 6 minutes, 2,200 lethal missiles were discharged.

The use of shotguns, with their imprecise range, increased the bloodshed.

Ten hostages and twenty-nine inmates died — a horrific toll that was especially appalling after it was revealed that all the hostages had died from gunshots inflicted by state troopers and guards.

Rockefeller was also spared the sight of the capture’s grim aftermath.

Once the prison was reclaimed, guards, enraged by the events, ordered the inmates to crawl naked into the yard, beating them with clubs as they passed through.

One of the leaders, Frank Smith, was stripped naked and forced to lie on a table balancing a football under his chin for hours, threatened with being shot if he let it fall to the ground.

The extent of the chaos was not acknowledged by Governor Rockefeller, who said that the state troopers had done “a superb job.”

One year later, an investigative commission would reach a very different conclusion.

Its report stated that the operation had been ill-conceived, poorly executed and probably unnecessary, and stressed the fact that Rockefeller should have gone to Attica, “because his responsibilities as the State’s chief executive made it appropriate that he be present at the scene of the critical decision involving great risk of loss of life.”

In spite of the public outrage, Nelson Rockefeller’s hard-line stance in the Attica crisis made him more palatable to the conservatives who were now in control of the Republican Party.

He never publicly regretted the way he handled the situation, saying only that he wished he had been more aware of the “tremendous need that existed” at the Attica facility.

Yet the impact of the Attica crisis would be long lasting.

In August 2000, almost thirty years after the prisoners’ revolt, the state of New York paid up to \$8 million to the 1,280 men harassed during the attack, after their lawyers filed a class-action lawsuit against prison and state officials in 1974.

The verdict, however, had little echo within the walls of the Attica Correctional Facility, where overcrowding is still a problem.



Troops Invited:

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 917.677.8057

OCCUPATION REPORT

Iraqi Labor Leader Attacked, Beaten, Almost Kidnapped, Shot At, Under Death Threat From Occupation Collaborators

From: US Labor Against the War

On August 24, 2008 the General Federation of Workers Councils and Unions in Iraq (GFWCUI) called for a mass demonstration against the recent decree issued by the Minister of Finance in which he ordered a significant reduction in the wages and benefits for workers.

Government officials asked the workers to send their representatives for negotiations with the minister's representatives.

Subhi Albadri, President of the GFWCUI, was elected to head a delegation of labor leaders to represent workers who took to the street in the thousands.

After the meeting Subhi Albadri was stopped at the exit door of the ministry by a number of guards who belong to the Badr [occupation collaborating dogs] militia. The guards confiscated his personal belongings, beat him up and attempted to kidnap him. The kidnap attempt was thwarted by other workers. The guards, however, shot at brother Subhi, who miraculously escaped the bullets.

Later on the same day, the guards called Saeed Nima, Vice President of the GFWCUI, and vowed to kill President Albadri wherever and whenever they find him.

Please take a few minutes to send a message to the Iraqi Ambassador to the U.S. and the Chief of the Iraqi Mission to the United Nations to express your outrage.

Demand that the Iraqi government assure the safety of Subhi Albadri and other Iraqi labor leaders, and that it adopt a basic labor law that assures Iraqi workers and unions rights to organize and collectively bargain in defense of their interests. These are fundamental rights set forth by the International Labor Organization of the United Nations.

IRAQI UNION MEMBERS ARE PUTTING THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE TO BE ABLE TO EXERCISE BASIC INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED LABOR AND HUMAN RIGHTS.

NOW THEY NEED OUR SUPPORT!

Get more details [HERE www.uslaboragainstar.org](http://www.uslaboragainstar.org) www.uslaboragainstar.org/>
Then send a letter We've made it very easy.

You can use the sample letter we've drafted or modify it to add your own thoughts.

Thanks for taking the time to express your solidarity with the courageous workers of Iraq.

Forward this appeal to others.

<p style="text-align: center;">OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW!</p>
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Cholera Epidemic Strikes Babil Province; Cases Reported In Baghdad

Sep 8, 2008 Sept 8 (Reuters)

Officials in Iraq's Babil province declared a state of emergency on Monday after an outbreak of cholera in the area.

Cholera has killed eight people and infected 20 others in the past three days in Babil, south of Baghdad, officials said at a news conference. Ihsan Jaafar, general director of public health at the Health Ministry in Baghdad, said only two fatalities had been confirmed.

Some 500 other people in the province were suspected to have contracted the disease, which can sometimes kill victims with sudden severe diarrhoea, the local officials said.

Ambulances patrolled Babil markets warning people through loudspeakers to be careful about where they bought their food and drink and how it was prepared, a Reuters witness said.

It was unclear what other measures the state of emergency entailed.

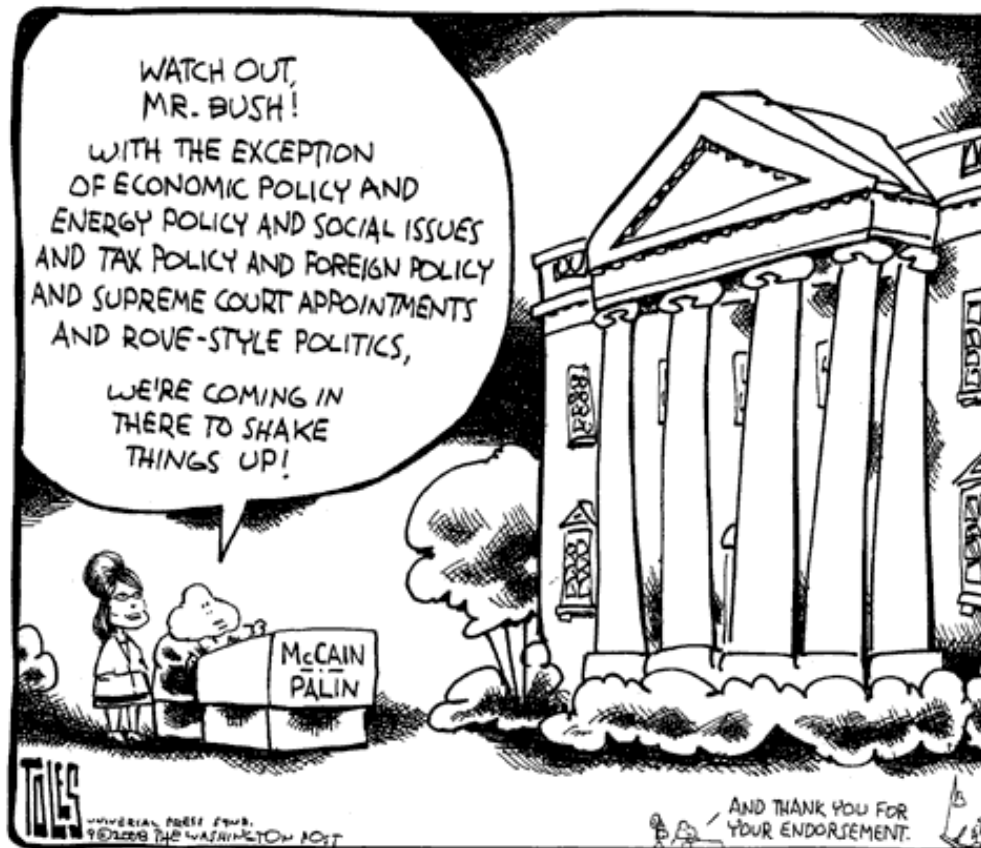
Scarcity of water during Iraq's scorching summer forces many to drink water from unsafe sources. More than 4,000 cases of cholera were confirmed in Iraq last year, killing at least 24.

Babil borders Baghdad, where Jaafar on Sunday said six people had been diagnosed with cholera. The Babil victims brought total infections in Iraq in the past week to 27, including three fatalities, he said.

The dead include a boy who died of the disease in southern Maysan province, where the government said on Monday it had dispatched a delegation from the Environment Ministry to combat its spread.

Cholera is characterised in its most severe form by a sudden onset of acute watery diarrhoea that can sometimes cause death by severe dehydration and kidney failure within hours. It is mainly transmitted through contaminated water and food.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Too Good Not To

Because some email services block GI Special with new live links, they are rarely used.

This one is too good not to.

Thanks to Al Jaccoma, Veteran & Military Project.

<http://www.peteyandpetunia.com/VoteHere/VoteHere.htm>

More Eyewitness Report On Enemy Action In St. Paul, Minnesota:

#1

**“If You Aren’t Willing To Stand Up To
The State In Defense Of Your Most Basic
Human Right, What Are You Willing To
Stand Up For?”**

Sep 04, 2008 By Julian, Daily Kos

I wrote a little something for all the people on Kos:

Friends and fellows,

First of all, I want to thank all those offering their support for me and the hundreds of others swept up in Sheriff Fletcher’s tactics.

I keep reading this stuff over and over and can’t believe that it’s about me, or even occurring on American soil.

People are, as we sit here at our computers, being denied vegan food, being harrassed for having "foreign-sounding" names, and being beaten to the point of concussion inside jail cells.

Inmates are being flat-out denied access to legal aid.

Disabled people in wheelchairs were maced, and a man who was pushing him away from the police lines was arrested and charged with felony conspiracy to riot.

At no point did I "charge" police lines.

I was standing in a permitted area when a line of riot police advanced down the street, attempting to disperse the Funk the War demonstration, when two officers fanned out from the line, seized me by the shoulder, and hurled me face-down into the street.

When I asked what I was being charged with, I was advised to "keep running my fucking mouth."

National Lawyer's Guild observers were batoned and maced.

They are illegally using probable cause holds as punishment for peaceful protestors, and kept me in jail for 45 hours only to release me without charge. The St. Paul Police Department is in possession of my backpack, containing medical supplies, water, and snacks, as well as my glasses, and is purportedly denying me the return of these items until Monday, despite my release without charges.

I was never Mirandized.

I was never brought before a judge.

I was never offered medical treatment for my injuries, nor was I given it upon request.

I did not engage in property destruction.

I have never before been genuinely frightened by the presence of law enforcement officers.

I sheepishly had to ask for a few members of the Coldsnap Legal Collective to walk with me to a safe area to be picked up from jail, due to the presence of swarms of riot police and mounted officers intimidating those who were being released.

The inmates at the Ramsey County Adult Detention Center understand more about freedom and patriotism than most of the keyboard warriors out there.

Yes, I understand many of you have careers and families you are responsible for, but if you aren't willing to stand up to the state in defense of your most basic human right, what are you willing to stand up for?

Solidarity forever,
Julian -----

MORE:

#2: The Domestic Enemy Rules St. Paul, Minnesota:

**“They Immediately Attacked Him,
Throwing Him To The Ground,
Repeatedly Kicking, Beating,
Dragging And Hitting Him”
“Because The People Within Hearing
Distance Responded To His Screams
During The Attack, He Was Later Told
That He Was Being Charged With Felony
Conspiracy To Incite A Riot”**



09/02/2008 By Melissa Smith-Tourville, RUSHPRNEWS [Excerpts]

Just five weeks ago our seventeen-year-old son Keith was being celebrated by our community and beyond as a hometown star. The regional press covered him repeatedly. He single handedly organized the Music for Peace Festival, in Menomonie, Wisconsin which was attended by about 400 people.

The family-friendly event included booths, seven bands and entertainment for all ages. He coordinated the event to raise money for a charity near and dear to his heart; the Red Cedar Peace Initiative. We were very proud of our son then, as we are now.

There are no words to adequately describe how we feel about the horrors that our son experienced today.

Keith may not be a man yet but he has always been true to his beliefs.

Today, while attending the Republican National Convention Protest to demonstrate his personal disapproval of the war in Iraq, five officers from the St. Paul Police Department beat him mercilessly.

When we picked him up we found him bloody, covered in bruises and scrapes, alone and in need of medical attention.

I have always taught my children that the police are there to protect and serve. They care about those in the community and most are decent men and women, doing a really difficult job. After this experience, I only wish that I could continue standing by that belief.

I share from my heart; the heart of a concerned mother, our experience today.

This evening I received a phone call from our minister, Robert (Bob) Bledsoe. Earlier in the day he had picked up our son and taken him to the Republican National Convention Protest. They had an agreement that if they got separated in all the chaos, they would meet in a designated spot at 6pm. Bob called me at 6:20 to notify me that our son had never arrived.

This was very out of character for Keith, so he was worried. Bob continued to search until 7:15 when he was forced to return home without Keith. At that time Bob expressed concern that Keith may have been arrested.

He shared that he had attempted to obtain information from an officer about the possibility of an arrest and despite him having been responsible for our minor child, they refused to discuss the matter with him.

I immediately contacted the St. Paul Police and was directed to the Juvenile Division. The woman who answered the phone refused to search for him in the computer by name, stating that I must be patient and wait because if he had been brought to their department I would be contacted right away and he would NOT be released without a parent present.

I offered my contact information and she assured me that she had placed it into their computer system.

Sometime thereafter, I received the devastating phone call from my son.

He called to let me know that he had been beaten badly by the police, was arrested and brought to the Juvenile Detention Center and with little explanation, was released.

My son has never been in trouble with the law, he is a practicing Buddhist who is dedicated to peaceful resolutions to any problems and I could not imagine what could have possibly caused a police officer, much less FIVE police officers to assault him. I listened intently.

He explained to me that he had followed my instructions to leave the area if riot type behavior began to break out. He explained that he could see the crowd winding up and people beginning to kick over trash cans and act out.

He attempted to remove himself from the crowd when he was sprayed from behind with pepper spray. Determined, he continued to navigate his way out of the crowd.

He found himself several blocks away walking alongside just a few other protesters, who also appeared to be exiting the area because they were only interested in peaceful protesting and some in the crowd were getting worked up.

As he walked along, someone asked him if he had a lighter. He said he didn't think so but he would look and then set his backpack onto the ground and began to look through it.

He explained that almost immediately five police officers surrounded him and demanded that he "put the bag down and put his hands in the air."

He was confused but immediately dropped the bag. Being inexperienced with the police, he did not raise his hands over his head immediately, but rather held his hands out and said, "What? I'm not doing anything!"

They immediately attacked him, throwing him to the ground, repeatedly kicking, beating, dragging and hitting him.

He responded by protecting his body, only to be accused of resisting arrest.

When he was escorted away from the scene he was heavily covered with blood, so the police officers used a shirt to cover his body, possibly to avoid media coverage of the attack.

The officers subsequently arrested those that were within the area who attempted to defend our son.

Apparently because the people within hearing distance responded to his screams during the attack, he was later told that he was being charged with felony conspiracy to incite a riot.

Additionally, he was charged with disorderly conduct, resisting arrest and despite giving his correct name and telling the officers exactly where his wallet was in his backpack so they could see his id, providing false identification.

However, I should add at this time that since he never had his Miranda rights read to him, was never offered a phone call nor were we, his parents, ever notified of his arrest or charges, and when we sought information from the Juvenile Division they refused to give it to us, and since he was not provided with any paperwork indicating what he was

arrested for or ever arraigned in court before being released, we are not entirely certain what the charges against him are.

To our horror, despite his medical needs, he was released from the Juvenile Detention Center, into the darkness of night, alone, without a parent ever having been contacted, to a city that was unfamiliar to him, by the Ramsey County Juvenile Division. He was forced to borrow a stranger's cell phone to call home.

After much confusion about his location, his father found him and brought him into our hometown hospital for medical treatment.

They treated his multiple wounds, bruises and scrapes, took pictures, wound measurements and after hearing the story, stated that they would record the incident as a criminal assault.

Our family is devastated. The police could not have attacked a more respectful young man.

We are asking anyone who might have been present for the beating to please contact us.

Our son is unsure where he was located at, but he overheard an officer refer to 9th and believes that may be the street he was on or near. He was wearing tight fitting, knee length, dark grey corduroy pants and a dark green and black long sleeve flannel.

The police ripped off his shirt during the attack and replaced it with a white t-shirt with a flag on it that said "Remember 9/11".

We are also interested in any recordings or still photos of the incident.

We are currently seeking legal advice for how to proceed. Any suggestions are appreciated.

In Peace and Sorrow,
Melissa Smith-Tourville
Menomonie, Wisconsin

MORE:

#3: Brave Police Foil Fiends Who Hand Out Vegetarian Food; "Children Were Held At Gunpoint"

02 September 2008 by Marjorie Cohn, Truthout Report [Excerpt]

"I was personally present and saw officers with riot gear and assault rifles, pump action shotguns," said Bruce Nestor, the president of the Minnesota chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, who is representing several of the protesters.

"The neighbor of one of the houses had a gun pointed in her face when she walked out on her back porch to see what was going on. There were children in all of these houses, and children were held at gunpoint."

The raids targeted members of "Food Not Bombs," an antiwar, anti-authoritarian protest group that provides free vegetarian meals every week in hundreds of cities all over the world. They served meals to rescue workers at the World Trade Center after 9/11 and to nearly 20 communities in the Gulf region following Hurricane Katrina.

Nestor said that no violence or illegality has taken place to justify the arrests.

"Seizing boxes of political literature shows the motive of these raids was political," he said.

Further evidence of the political nature of the police action was the boarding up of the Convergence Center, where protesters had gathered, for unspecified code violations. St. Paul City Council member David Thune said, "Normally we only board up buildings that are vacant and ramshackle."

Thune and fellow City Council member Elizabeth Glidden decried "actions that appear excessive and create an atmosphere of fear and intimidation for those who wish to exercise their First Amendment rights."

MORE:

#4

“Slammed Head First Onto The Concrete Sidewalk While Having The Very Angry Officer Screaming At Him And Kneeling On His Already Bleeding Head As Two More Officer Arrived To Arrest Him”

Sep 2, 2008 By Andy Driscoll, Truth to Tell [Excerpt]

While the three of us sat down in an outdoor café at St. Peter and 7th Place, police confronted three young men seeking to search their backpacks.

The young men refused and police pressed their case, calling in St. Paul SWAT Team back-ups, who piled out of a rapidly arriving police van. The men still refused to be searched (meaning that a warrant would be required to do so absent probable cause they represented some immediate danger).

The three began to walk away down the mall between the two outdoor restaurants, but were chased by the SWAT officers.

The men broke into a run, the front two escaping, but the third caught and slammed head first onto the concrete sidewalk while having the very angry officer screaming at him and kneeling on his already bleeding head as two more officer arrived to arrest him.

As the cops went through this extraordinary exercise in the midst of some one hundred diners and pedestrians, several people, clearly RNC delegates, stood up from their table and cheered the violence the officer were inflicting on this mere boy, completely powerless, unarmed and unarmored, unlike his police assailants. The blood-thirstiness of this Roman Coliseum-like display was the far more distressing development of the encounter, and our tempers flared as almost never before.

A pair of diners next to our table kept up the nasty rhetoric, inflaming more anger among those of us who found this crude reaction as dangerous as any police officer's baton.

They dragged the young man with his bleeding head to the van where he was obviously searched.

Twenty minutes later, he walked down the mall a free man, his angry face screwed up into the most contemptuous look at the seated diners (not knowing who was for or again him).

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

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

CLASS WAR REPORTS

**World's Richest Got Even Richer Last
Year;**

**“The Top 1 Percent Of All Households
Owned 35 Percent Of The World's Wealth
Last Year”**

Sep 4, 2008 By Joseph A. Giannone, (Reuters) [Excerpts]

Even as world financial markets broke down last year, personal wealth around the world grew 5 percent to \$109.5 trillion, according to a global wealth report released on Thursday by Boston Consulting Group.

It was the sixth consecutive year of expanding wealth.

That wealth also is increasingly concentrated among the richest.

The top 1 percent of all households owned 35 percent of the world's wealth last year. Meanwhile, the top 0.001 percent, ultra-rich households holding at least \$5 million in assets, commanded \$21 trillion -- a fifth of the world's wealth.

Things will improve over the next five years, BCG said, with personal wealth growing more than 3 percent annually -- well off the 8.5 percent set between 2002 and 2007.

PERFECT UNDERSTANDING



Boeing machinists picket outside the company's Renton, Washington plant September 6, 2008. (Robert Sorbo/Reuters)

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/)



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