

GI SPECIAL 6J24:

**The Mask Comes Off:
Odierno Says He Is The Military
Dictator In Command Of All Of Iraq**



**He Will Make The Policy Decisions
And Close Down The Fake Iraqi
Government As He Pleases:
He Will Hold Iraqi Prisoners Hostage
Unless The “Sovereign” Iraqi
Government Agrees To Continue The
Occupation:**

“There’d Be No ‘Disposition Of U.S.-Held Iraqi Convicts’ Without A Security Agreement”

October 27, 2008 By Leila Fadel, McClatchy Newspapers & By SAMEER N. YACOUB, Associated Press Writer [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD — Army Gen. Ray Odierno, the top U.S. military commander in Iraq, informed Iraqi officials last week that if their country doesn’t agree to a new agreement governing American forces in Iraq, it would lose \$6.3 billion in aid for construction, security forces and economic activity and another \$10 billion a year in foreign military sales.

Without a new agreement or a renewed United Nations mandate, the U.S. military presence would become an illegal occupation under international law.

Odierno’s spokesman, Lt. Col. James Hutton, said that the list "provided information as a part of our normal engagements with many in the government of Iraq."

If no new mandate or agreement is in place on Jan. 1, the U.S. would stop sharing intelligence with the Iraqi government and would cease to provide air traffic control, air defense, SWAT team training or advisers in government ministries, according to the document.

The list also says that there’d be no "disposition of U.S.-held Iraqi convicts" without a security agreement.

The U.S. military would stop employing some 200,000 Iraqis and wouldn’t refurbish 8,500 Humvees it’s given to the Security Forces.

The U.S. military controls the Iraqi intelligence services and Iraqi airspace, and Iraqi officials often use American military aircraft to travel safely.

The Iraqi government is unable to monitor air traffic over the country, so commercial airplanes flying over Iraq would have to be rerouted and flights to and from the country would be grounded.

An agreement by Dec. 31 is virtually impossible at this point, Iraqi officials said in interviews this week, and a number of officials have told McClatchy that Maliki won’t sign the current draft of the agreement.

Kurdish lawmaker Mahmoud Othman said the U.S. had submitted papers identifying a number of activities that would stop at the end of the year in the absence of a legal framework. These include not only security operations but also infrastructure improvements and assistance to ministries.

"This is an obvious attempt at blackmail," Othman said. "The aim of this kind of pressure on the Iraqi government is unacceptable."

Troops Invited:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters 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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Local Man Killed In Iraq

October 21, 2008 By BETH FOLEY, The Palestine Herald

PALESTINE — Friends and family members are mourning the loss of a 21-year-old soldier from Brushy Creek who was killed in Iraq last Thursday.

Pfc. Heath Pickard, 21, was killed when his unit was hit by mortar fire and rocket-fired grenades while still inside the perimeter during a pre-mission briefing at Forward Operating Base Warhorse at Baquba Airfield, approximately 40 miles northeast of Baghdad, on Thursday, according to friends of the family.

He is thought to be the first casualty in either Iraq or Afghanistan from Anderson County.

Pickard had been in Iraq as part of forces supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom for about a month and was a member of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division after being transferred to the Middle East from Alaska. He was a 2006 graduate of Frankston High School, where he played varsity football and was a member of the Indian Marching Band.

He and his wife Sara had recently become first-time parents with the birth of their son, Ethan, in June.

Funeral services are pending at Herrington/Land of Memory Funeral Home in Palestine.

Word of his death hit friends, former classmates, teachers and administrators hard.

School officials flew the American flag at half-staff Monday and announced Pickard's passing on the school marquee. The football team planned to dedicate Friday night's home game with Arp to the memory of Pickard, who wore jersey number 2 while on the football team and friends left their condolences on his MySpace page.

For Jacob Whitehurst, who graduated a year after Pickard, news of Pickard's death brought him to tears.

"I've known him since I was 5 years old. He and his brother Chance rode the same bus and he was the first person to talk to me when I started school," Whitehurst said. "He was just a good guy. It really bothers me that this would happen to him. It really hurts."

Pickard was one of those guys you could count on, Whitehurst said.

"He was always there," he said. "If you needed something, he would try. He really cared."

Frankston ISD Superintendent Austin Thacker said he recalled Pickard as an outgoing, popular student.

"He always enjoyed life and being a part of things," Thacker said. "He tried hard with football. The way he was with his friends, with people, he was a well-liked student. He always spoke and he always wanted to be involved with things."

"He was just this smiley guy," said Diane Whitehurst, who had seen Pickard grow up over the years with her sons. "He was really excited about going into the Army and going places, doing things, building a life."

"He was a happy guy and he made other people feel happy, too. He loved his football and he gave a million percent."

When Pickard returned home for a visit recently, others noticed positive differences that the Army had made in him.

"He was proud of where he was, his occupation with the military," Frankston High School counselor Cindy Owens said. "It was like he had finally gotten what he had worked for. He wanted a family, honor and respect and he had gotten that. I just hate this."

Frankston Middle School Principal Richard Hamilton, who had taught Pickard's senior English class, said Pickard seemed to have his priorities in place when they spoke during Pickard's last visit in Frankston.

"Heath was one of those kids who was fun to be around in class. He wasn't a troublemaker, he did his work," Hamilton said. "When he was in school, he was a little immature but when he got to the service, that all changed."

"It took him getting into the service to grow up but after he grew up, the time he spent being a man was more than most people get in a lifetime because, to figure out why we're here, he did it in a short period of time. I think that's what I'll always remember about Heath — he knew why he was here, he knew what was important in life and there's a lot of folks who don't figure that out their entire lives."

"Death To Bush The Criminal"

Mideast Nations Condemn U.S. Terror Attack From Iraq That Butchered Syrian Civilians: Arab League Calls For “Those Responsible To Be Held To Account”



Syrians hold a banner that reads: 'Death to Bush the criminal,' as they carry the coffins of relatives who died a day before when U.S. military helicopters launched an attack on Syrian territory during their funeral procession in the Sukkariyeh Farm near the town of Abu Kamal in an area of farms and brick factories about five miles (eight kilometers) inside the Syrian border, on Oct. 27, 2008. U.S. military helicopters launched an attack on Syrian territory killing eight people on Sunday, Oct 26, 2008. Syria says eight of its civilians died. (AP Photo/Hussein Malla)

10/27/08 AFP

US forces in Iraq staged a "successful" raid into Syria against foreign fighters, an American official said on Monday, as a furious Damascus accused Washington of "terrorist aggression."

"We consider this criminal and terrorist aggression," Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Muallem told a news conference in London after talks with British Foreign Secretary David Miliband.

"Killing civilians in international law means a terrorist aggression," added Muallem, whose country's official media said eight civilians were killed, including children.

Asked if Syria would use force if the Americans mounted a similar operation again, he said: "As long as you are saying if, I tell you, if they do it again, we will defend our territories."

The Syrian minister said that four US helicopters had crossed the border on Sunday afternoon. Two landed at a village in northeast Syria while the other two aircraft protected them.

Soldiers emerged after the helicopters landed and started shooting at civilians working on farms, including a father and his three children and a fisherman, he said.

"All of them are civilians, Syrian, unarmed and they are on the Syrian territories," Muallem told reporters.

Official media in Damascus reported earlier that the helicopter-borne troops from Iraq launched an assault on a building site in Al-Sukkiraya village, which lies just eight kilometres (five miles) from the border on the Euphrates river and close to the Iraqi town of Al-Qaim, a stronghold of Al-Qaeda and other insurgents.

Hundreds of villagers took part on Monday in funerals for seven of those killed in the raid, chanting anti-American slogans.

Women in black wept as relatives carried the coffins in a funeral procession in the village of Hamdan, near Al-Sukkiraya.

A crowd of mourners chanted slogans mocking "American democracy" while others carried banners which read: "We will not go down on our knees before the Americans," and "Death to the criminal Bush."

The Arab League condemned the assault as a "violation which does nothing to help stability in the region and can only lead to new tensions," calling for those responsible to be held to account.

In neighbouring Lebanon, Prime Minister Fuad Siniora said the raid "constitutes a violation of Syrian sovereignty and thus is a dangerous, unacceptable attack that we condemn."

Syrian state television broadcast pictures of the scene, showing a building site with bloodstains on the ground, and the bodies of victims in the local morgue.

MORE:

Eyewitness Account Of U.S. Attack On Syria:

**Suad Al-Jassim “Witnessed With My Own Eyes The Death Of My Husband And My Children”
“Soldiers Began Firing On Us Without Justification”
“The Arab League Expressed Full Solidarity With Syria, And Its Legitimate Right To Defend Its Territory And Protect Its People”**



The Funeral Procession

Thanks to JM, who sent this in. She writes:

“I think you’ll be interested to see this.

“It’s an article from a Syrian newspaper translated, from the Arabic, by Google.

“By now you will know that the people killed were not all construction workers. The wife of the security guard and four children were killed.

“One report also says a man fishing in the near by river was shot and wounded as he tried to escape.

“What would happen if this happened in America? There’d be an enormous reprisal attack with many revenge deaths.

“This is a crime that should be punished severely, but will it be?”

28 October 2008 October Newspaper, Damascus, Syria [Excerpts]

Albuqmal buried in the city on the American victims of terrorist aggression on the town of Sugar on border with Iraq.

Was accompanied by thousands of people of the region until the funeral procession arrived in the village of Hamdan, Loret, where the bodies of the victims were laid to rest.

The American aggression on the village of Sugar has caused eight martyrs and a number of injuries.

Witnesses and relatives of the victims told people how the U.S. aircraft violated Syrian airspace, they flatly refuted the allegations put forward by the U.S. to justify this crime.

Suad Al-Jassim the wife of one of the victims, who narrowly survived the U.S. massacre, witnessed with my own eyes the death of my husband and my children, also injuring one.

Adding: we were surprised at about five in the afternoon, landing two helicopter at our staying place, and then they got a number of American soldiers who speak Arabic, and entered Tent where I live with my children and my husband who was working as a guard for the building project.



“Tent where I live with my children and my husband who was working as a guard for the building project. “

Suad Jassim said her children were panicked and tried to escape, said: "When and once tried to calm them soldiers began firing on us without justification, bearing in mind that there was no threat, and then started to fire on workers in the building under construction.

Suad Jassim said panic-stricken situation fainting Tstvq not only is in the hospital.



And that all relatives of the victims of crime who the U.S. targeted are construction workers and the target is a recent farm, and under construction parallel to the Euphrates River directly, pointing out that all the neighboring areas is agricultural land and all residents working in agriculture.

The Arab League condemned in an official statement asserting that the American attack does not help stability in the region, and it opens the door to new tensions and destroy the credibility of the movement towards peace in Iraq and its neighbors.

The Arab League expressed full solidarity with Syria, and its legitimate right to defend its territory and protect its people.

France expressed its deep concern and regret for Syrian civilian casualties and confirmed its full respect for the territorial integrity of States and calls for restraint.

A statement issued by the French presidency said France hoped for revealing the truth about this process, which has claimed many of the people, including children.

The statement said that French President Nicolas Sarkozy sends warm condolences to the families of the victims and their relatives.

A statement issued by the National Conference of the Arab and Islamic National Conference and the General Conference of Arab parties condemned the U.S.

aggression on the village of Sugar, stressing that it constitutes a flagrant violation of Syrian sovereignty and Arab national security.

Lebanon condemned the parties, forces and figures behind the blatant American aggression on Syrian sovereignty, asserting that a form of terrorism is practiced by the U.S. administration on the peoples of the region to serve U.S. colonial projects.

In turn, the Secretariat of the Federation of Arab Trade Unions condemned perfidious U.S. aggression. It said in a statement: It is a form of state terrorism and violation of all international laws and norms.

The Arab workers assured support for Syria in its national and called on the Arab world to support it, and the international community in order to preserve international peace and security to put an end to the policy of using force



Syrians mourn over the coffins of their relatives killed by US military in the village of Al-Sukkariya, Syria on October 27, 2008. (AFP/File/Ramzi Haidar)

MORE:

**A House In A Syrian Town:
“Is Iraq Going To Become A Launching
Pad For Blatant American Aggressions
Upon Targets In Neighbouring
Countries?”**

October 27, 2008 by Sahar IIS, "Inside Iraq"

A house in a Syrian town hit.

People killed.

A woman injured but alive, told the story on al-Hurra TV.

Al-Arabiya breaking news subtitle: Washington confirms that U.S. aircraft raided a location inside the Syrian border.

OUR problem is that it was done from "sovereign" Iraqi soil.

And the U.S. military tell us, "Still no information available."

Unilateral job? Joint American – Iraqi job? Does it really matter?

Is Iraq going to become a launching pad for blatant American aggressions upon targets in neighbouring countries?

The Status of Forces Agreement is still in a no-man's-land; doesn't the U.S. want the Iraqi people to support it?

If they do, they're certainly not going about it the right way.

REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: ALL HOME NOW



U.S. soldiers patrol in Baquba, in Diyala province some 65 km (40 miles) northeast of Baghdad, October 21, 2008. REUTERS/Goran Tomasevic

Good News For The Iraqi Resistance!!

U.S. Occupation Commands' Stupid Terror Tactics Recruit Even More Fighters To Kill U.S. Troops



A foreign occupation soldier from the USA enters Iraqi citizens' house without their consent to search through their personal belongings during an armed home invasion in a village near Baquba, in Diyala province, some 65 km (40 miles) northeast of Baghdad, October 26, 2008. REUTERS/Goran Tomasevic

[Fair is fair. Let's bring 150,000 Iraqi troops over here to the USA. They can kill people at checkpoints, bust into their houses with force and violence, butcher their families, overthrow the government, put a new one in office they like better and call it "sovereign," and "detain" anybody who doesn't like it in some prison without any charges being filed against them, or any trial.]

[Those Iraqis are sure a bunch of backward primitives. They actually resent this help, have the absurd notion that it's bad their country is occupied by a foreign military dictatorship, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to grab their country. What a bunch of silly people. How fortunate they are to live under a military dictatorship run by George Bush. Why, how could anybody not love that? You'd want that in your home town, right?]

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

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Two U.S. Soldiers Killed In Pul-E-Khumri; Three More Wounded



A dead U.S. soldier lies on the ground in Pul-e-Khumri, Baghlan, Afghanistan, on Monday after a bomber blew himself up at a police station. October 27, 2008. By Reuters

Oct 27 (Reuters) & CNN

A bomber wearing a police uniform blew himself up inside a police station in northern Afghanistan on Monday, killing two American soldiers, and wounding three others.

The bomber entered a police station in Pul-e-Khumri, the capital of Baghlan province, 100 miles northeast of Kabul, while Afghan officials were meeting with U.S. troops advising a police training program, provincial police chief Gen. Abdul Rahman Sayed Kheil said.

The blast killed two American soldiers, a U.S. military spokesman said.

Four Afghan security officers were wounded, Kheil said.

It was not immediately clear if the bomber was a policeman or just wearing the police uniform.

Zabiullah Mujahid, a Taliban spokesman, claimed responsibility for the blast in a phone call to an Associated Press reporter. Mujahid said the bomber's name was Abdul Had and that he was from Baghlan province.

Provincial Governor Abdul Jabar Haqbeen said a man wearing a police uniform detonated his explosive-filled vest when Afghan and American soldiers stopped him from entering the police chief's office.

The chief and his American advisers were meeting inside at the time, Haqbeen said.

Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan, Nationality Not Announced

Oct 27 (Reuters)

A soldier from the U.S.-led coalition was killed when his vehicle struck a roadside bomb in western Afghanistan, the U.S. military said. It did not release the nationality of the soldier.

Massachusetts Soldier Killed In Afghanistan



October 16, 2008 By John R. Ellement, Boston Globe staff

BEVERLY -- A 25-year-old soldier with Massachusetts roots died after his vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb this week in Afghanistan, his mother said.

Army Specialist Stephen Fortunato, who was trained as a Humvee gunner, had been home on leave for three weeks in September, said his mother, Elizabeth Crawford. He was killed after volunteering to go out on a patrol Monday while serving with the First Infantry Division.

Relatives said Fortunato had varied motivations when he enlisted in the Army in 2005. He wanted to use the GI Bill to pay for college and he wanted real-life experience of combat to see how well it matched up to the military-themed video games he loved to play throughout his teen years -- and he wanted to defend his country after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Fortunato's mother said she supported her son from his 2005 enlistment and through his most recent visits to Boston. She was worried, but not overly much, when he was sent to Korea. But this July, when she took him to Logan International Airport, everything was different.

"I knew I was sending him back to a war zone," she said. "It was the hardest thing I ever did in my life. I didn't want them to have my son. But the other part of me said this is what he wanted to do. He was a soldier. This was his job."

Fortunato was the oldest of three boys, and his two younger siblings were at their mother's side today offering support and their views about their brother.

"He was my role model, my hero," said Anthony Fortunato, 20, the youngest. "I just want to make my brother proud of me. I just want to do everything great so that some day, I will see him again."

Joseph Fortunato, 23, said he and his extended family are still reeling from his brother's death. "I never thought it would happen to our family," he said.

Sherri Favaloro, whom Stephen Fortunato married in 2006, said today that the couple's marriage had been stressed by his Army service. But, she said, they were in constant contact over the telephone and the Internet and were starting to patch things up, especially during the three weeks he spent in Beverly on leave in September.

"He had brown hair, green eyes, and the biggest smile in the world," she said. "He was a loving person. He loved his family. He loved his mother. He stayed strong for them. He was a hero."

Fortunato is from a well-known Beverly family. His great uncle, Peter, was mayor of the North Shore city in the late 1970s and early 1980s and a second great-uncle, Armand, was superintendent of the city's school system.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete, the family said.

U.S. Chinook Helicopter Shot Down

In Wardak Province; Number Of Wounded Not Announced

Oct 27 (Reuters) & CNN & 10/28/08 AFP:

Insurgents shot down a U.S. helicopter in Maydan Wardak province, 80 km (50 miles) southwest of Kabul, after exchanging fire with its crew in central Afghanistan on Monday, but none of the 10 soldiers on board were killed, according to a U.S. military spokesman.

He could not say if any were injured.

The Taliban claimed that its fighters used a rocket-propelled grenade launcher to shoot down the U.S. Chinook helicopter. A rocket-propelled grenade struck the tail, the US-led coalition in Afghanistan said in a statement.

The crew of the helicopter, forced down in a province neighboring Kabul, were rescued and troops were "in the process of recovering" the aircraft," said Lt. Cmdr. Walter Matthews, a U.S. military spokesman.

"The helicopter crew exchanged fire with the enemy before the damage brought the helicopter down," Matthews said.

Occupation General Whining Again

October 27, 2008 By JASON STRAZIUSO Associated Press Writer

NATO's top commander in Afghanistan is tired of negative headlines, and he is on an offensive to counter what he sees as a wave of unwarranted pessimism in news reports coming out of the country.

U.S. Gen. David McKiernan's public relations push comes at a time when more U.S. and NATO troops have died than in any other year since the 2001 U.S. invasion, in part because Taliban militants are launching increasingly complex and deadly attacks.

TROOP NEWS

All Polish Troops Withdrawn From Iraq Now

Oct 29, 2008 DPA

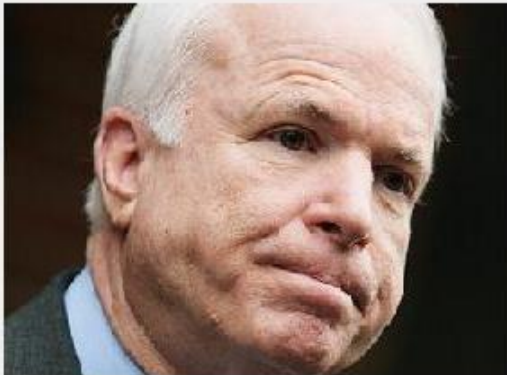
Warsaw - Poland marked the end of its mission in Iraq with a ceremony on Wednesday to welcome the last returning contingent of soldiers in the northwestern city of Szczecin.

Some 100 Polish soldiers landed Tuesday morning at a nearby airport, marking the end of the country's five-year mission.

Prime Minister Donald Tusk had promised a quick withdrawal during his election campaign.

The New Issue Of Traveling Soldier Is Out, Featuring:

Hate the war? Try voting against it



This man is for the war:

- Said staying in Iraq for 100 years would be "fine with me"
- Sang "Bomb bomb bomb bomb bomb Iran"
- Agreed with Cheney that the Iraq war would be easy, cheap, and that U.S. forces would be "greeted as liberators"



This man is for the war:

- Plans to keep at least 80,000 troops in Iraq permanently
- Wants to withdraw troops from Iraq and send them to Afghanistan to establish a permanent occupation
- Voted for all war-funding bills until he started running for president

1. Hate the war? Try voting against it. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/10.08.4war.php>
2. Vote Against the War, Vote Iraq Veteran Hermann. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/10.08.vote.php>
3. "If They Don't Have Soldiers To Fight The War, They Can't Fight The War No Matter How Much Money They Have" says Iraq vet Jason Hurd. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/10.08.impact.php>
4. Anti-War Vets Set Up Coffeehouse at Ft. Lewis to Reach Troops. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/10.08.coffee.php>
5. Download the new Traveling Soldier to pass it out at your school, workplace, or at nearby base. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/TS20.pdf>

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?

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 wars, 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



(Graphic: London Financial Times)

Resistance Action

October 25, 2008 Associated Press & (KUNA) & 26 Oct 2008 Reuters & 27 Oct 2008 Reuters & By HAMID AHMED Associated Press Writer & 10.28.08 (AP) & (Reuters) & 29 October 2008 Reuters & (KUNA)

Police report two bombings that killed a brigadier general of the Iraqi army and an Iraqi soldier.

Sources told KUNA that a bomb exploded at the municipalities intersection, eastern Baghdad, as a police patrol was passing, causing the injury of four police officers and serious damage to their vehicle.

Meanwhile in Northern Baghdad, a bomb exploded near the Ministry of Health, injuring five employees.

A roadside bomb wounded two policemen when it targeted their patrol in the district of Baladiyat in eastern Baghdad, police said.

Insurgents killed one policeman in a drive-by shooting on his checkpoint in eastern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded two policemen when it targeted their patrol in southern Mosul, police said.

A roadside bomb killed a government employee and wounded six others when it struck a minibus in Dour, a small town near Tikrit, 150 km (100 miles) north of Baghdad, police Captain Anwar Mohammed said.

A car bomber, targeting a police checkpoint in western Mosul, wounded one policeman.

An Iraqi soldier was killed on Monday by a bomb that had been planted on his personal car in Tuz Khurmato, 170 km (105 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A bomb hidden under the car of a director-general in the Trade Ministry exploded in the garage of a hospital he was visiting, seriously wounding the official and a civilian, according to police and hospital officials.

Police say four policemen have been killed and five others wounded in a drive-by shooting in the turbulent northern city of Mosul. Insurgents opened fire on the eight off-duty policemen while traveling in two civilian cars to work Tuesday morning. The attack took place in al-Amil, a Sunni neighborhood in the western side of the city.

A body of a policeman was found with gunshot wounds to the head in central Hilla, 100 km (60 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

Four Iraqi state employees were severely injured Wednesday as an explosive device detonated in a town in north Baghdad, police sources said. An Improvised Explosive Device (IED) was planted on a roadside and went off as a bus transporting Iraqi Ministry of Education staff approached. The explosion severely wounded the four employees who were in the vehicle and caused material damage to other nearby cars.

In Diyala province, northeast of Baghdad, three people were killed when armed men attacked the house of a leader of a U.S. backed militia. A security official said they attacked Abdel Karim Hassan's house in Dahalka village, east of the provincial capital Baquba, and his father, daughter and a son-in-law were killed in a firefight. Hassan was wounded along with 13 other members of his family, including his wife, he said.

Insurgents shot dead two police intelligence officers in the central Shi'ite city of Hilla as they visited friends, police Lieutenant Kadhim al-Khafazi said. Two other officers were wounded.

IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATIONS

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

**“The Truth Is America Has
Become A Plutocracy Run By And
For The Wealthy”
“America Is No Longer A
Democracy”
“Voting Is Irrelevant”**

[Thanks to Dennis Serdel, Vietnam Veteran, who sent this in.]

Oct. 20, 2008 By Paul B. Farrell, MarketWatch [Excerpts]

Greed, arrogance and incompetence create a massive bubble, cost trillions, and still Wall Street comes out smelling like roses, richer and more powerful!

Congress surrendered the powers we entrusted to it with very little fight. Congress simply handed over voting power and the keys to trillions in the Treasury to Wall Street's new "Disaster Capitalists" who now control "democracy."

Three decades of influence peddling in Washington has built an army of 42,000 special-interest lobbyists representing corporations and the wealthy. Today these lobbyists manipulate America's 537 elected officials with massive campaign contributions that fund candidates who vote their agenda.

This historic buildup accelerated under Reaganomics and went into hyperspeed under Bushonomics, both totally committed to a new disaster capitalism run privately by Wall Street and Corporate America. No-bid contracts in wars and hurricanes.

America is no longer a democracy.

Voting is irrelevant.

Best case scenario: We're a plutocracy, a government ruled by the wealthy, the richest 1%, the Forbes 400, the influential wealthy elite, while the other 99% are their "servants."

Meanwhile, the inflation-adjusted income of wage-earners has declined for three decades.

Worst case scenario: America's no democracy and as a result of the meltdown and the surrender of our power to Wall Street's new Disaster Capitalism we are morphing into what one WWII dictator called "corporatism," a "merger of state and corporate power," kind of like what's going on now with Goldman Sachs' ex-boss as de facto president.

Yes, a strong charge. But like a lot of our readers, I don't like what's happening to America. I'm a patriot. I volunteered for the Marines. Served four years. Volunteered for Korea. I don't like how our freedoms, rights and value system are being subverted in the name of greed, arrogance, self-righteous intolerance and other false gods.

We know for the last eight years disaster capitalists ignored obvious warnings of a coming meltdown.

The wolf is in sheep's clothing. Wall Street pretends we're a democracy. Yet America more closely resembles the kind of "corporatism" that Laurence W. Britt wrote about five years ago in Free Inquiry magazine.

We adapted his historical analysis of 14 key traits for today's discussion. Notice how they have a huge impact your investments and retirement:

1. Wall Street rich get first priority

Think "bailout." Wall Street's greedy con game spins out of control globally. Millions of homeowners misled, lose. Who gets hundreds of billions first? Wall Street's con men.

2. National security obsession

Think of the expansion of executive powers in the name of national security: Preemptive wars, wiretapping private citizens, Gitmo, torture; driven by a dark wealthy neocon elite.

3. Superpower with massive military

Think of our \$3 trillion Iraq/Afghan War. We outspend all nations, over half the federal budget to strut before the world.

4. Extreme nationalism

Signs are everywhere: Flags, lapel pins, "support the troops" slogans, all to get huge military budgets passed. Challenge them and you're un-American and unpatriotic.

5. Rally the masses by scapegoating enemies

Think "axis of evil," mushroom clouds, "Islamofascists," more terrorist attacks on the homeland. Propaganda creates "enemies" in the public's mind and distracts from real issues.

6. Corruption and cronyism

Think earmarks, no-bid defense contracts, paid mercenaries outnumbering military in Iraq, superlobbyist Jack Abramoff, biofuels, bridge to nowhere, millions donated to campaigns.

7. Obsession with crime

Think of prison-building as just another investment opportunity, rather than focusing on reforming our criminal justice system. Stoke irrational fear of criminals and extremists.

8. Labor and low wages

Think corporate earnings versus the wages paid to workers. No "trickling down," leaves more for tricklers: Rich insiders, stockholders. Wages dropping as CEO salaries skyrocket.

9. Contempt for human rights

Think of abuses of habeas corpus, loss of right to trial, bogus charges, plus "demonizing" the victims, all in the name of national defense and homeland security.

10. Mass media manipulation

Think of leaking false information, Joseph Wilson, Valerie Plame, Scooter Libby, Colin Powell's United Nation's testimony, Condoleezza Rice's mushroom clouds, WMDs, all to suppress the truth.

11. Obsession with sexism

Think of paternalism, antigays, antiabortion, subordinate women -- then codify the system as the law of the land reinforcing a male-dominated society, punish violators.

12. Disdain for intellectuals

Think of conservative intellectuals Francis Fukuyama and Bill Buckley. Contrast them to Sarah Palin and Joe Sixpack conservatism, Bush's funding cuts for arts and science education.

13. Religion in government

Think of all the faith-based programs versus antiscience in drug approvals, creationism vs. evolution, Ten Commandments enshrined in public buildings, public money to churches.

14. Fraudulent elections

Think of police and prosecutorial intimidation and threats to voters, challenging minority voters, ballots disappearing, party election officials committing outright fraud.

Yes, officially America is still a democracy. We have enough signs and rituals to support that illusion.

But the truth is America has become a plutocracy run by and for the wealthy. And since Wall Street's Disaster Capitalism coup de grace, we are rapidly morphing into a dangerous new government.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Terrorists At Work, As Usual



Bedouins carries belongings after their homes were destroyed by Zionists terrorist officials at a Bedouin encampment south of the Occupied Palestinian West Bank city of Hebron October 29, 2008. Five structures were demolished on Wednesday. Photo: REUTERS/Nayef Hashlamoun

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

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CLASS WAR REPORTS



"... GOOD NEWS IS GAS PRICES ARE DOWN...THE BAD NEWS IS
THE CAR WAS REPOSSESSED..."

RECEIVED

YES

From: Meike Capps-Schubert
To: GI Special
Sent: October 27, 2008 4:25 AM
Subject: Re: GI Special 6J23: Bush Regime Attacks Syria

Fucking hell!

This Odious Odierno, Commanding General of Multi-National Force- guy looks scary!
Just like out of a bad movie...

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

THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE WARS



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