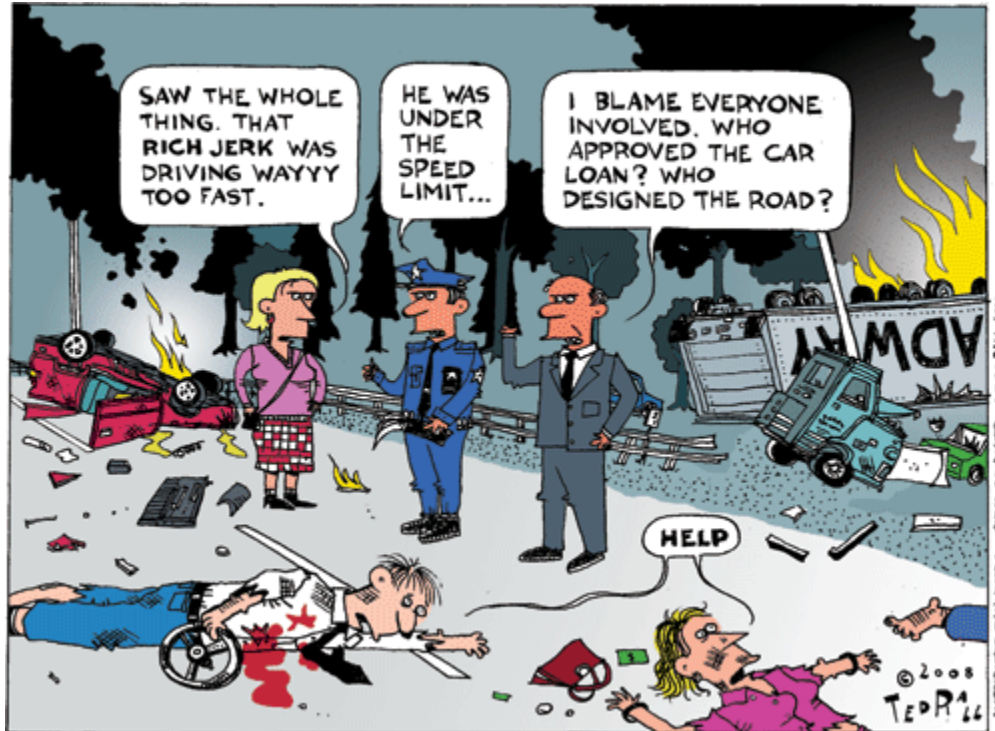


GI SPECIAL 6K17:



Thanks

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special
Sent: November 26, 2008
Subject: Thanks 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

Thanks

Let's thank Columbus for finding India
thank the Indians for giving us their country
sure, some of them didn't, so we had to kill them

Let's give thanks to the Puritans for giving us
crazy Evangelists like today
Thank the British for giving us their colony
as we gave up on Vietnam too
much later in time
Let us give thanks to Washington
and the Revolutionaries
as the Elite took control afterwards
Let us give thanks for a Paradise
that we plundered cutting down
virgin lumber, gold and silver and coal
as the immigrants came over with the slave ships
to build plantations and pick cotton
as their Masters threw them pig guts to eat
Let us give thanks for the North
who fought in the Civil War
killing Johnny Rebel killing thousands
in just one day
Let us give thanks for the Louisiana Purchase
from the French which was not theirs to sell
give thanks for the Mexican land
killing Mexicans like we still do today
Let us give thanks to the Mormons
those gay haters who live by the salt cult
Then let us give thanks for Industry
as the steel mills stink their orange lava flows
as Henry Ford made the Model T
Then there was World War I that a lying President
said we'd never see there is peace
then there is war.
Let us give thanks for Wall Street crashing down
then the Depression like today
when everybody was broke except the rich man
who drove his expensive car
and let the dust blow all over
Then there was WWII that we made money on
selling the British war supplies
until they were almost broke
so we jumped in as the Japanese
bombed Pearl Harbor so we dropped
2 atom bombs and we dropped so many
regular bombs on Europe
destroying ancient cities hundreds and
thousands of years old
Then Korea and you have to wonder
what we are so grateful for

**There is just peace and then war
there is just peace and then Vietnam
there is just peace then there is war
there is peace then there is Iraq
there is peace then there is war
there is peace then there is Afghanistan
and one wonders what we
are so grateful for**

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 WAR REPORTS

U.S. Marine And U.S. Military Transition Team Soldier Killed Near Biaj

25 November 2008 VOA News & AP & Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office,
Camp Victory & Nov 26 (Reuters)

One U.S. Marine and an U.S. Military Transition team Soldier were killed in a small-arms fire attack near Biaj.

The U.S. military says two men opened fire on the American servicemen west of the city of Mosul. The military says one of the attackers appeared to be wearing an Iraqi uniform, but it did not know if the man was an Iraqi soldier or an insurgent in disguise.

Two Marines and three civilians were also wounded in the attack.

While in the midst of the unit conducting the mission the unit came under fire by two men, one of whom
The shooter opened fire from about 50-100 yards away.

He appeared to be alone and fled the scene after the attack, the U.S. official said, adding that an investigation was under way.

An Iraqi policeman and a news report claimed an American serviceman had slapped a woman.

A roadside bomb wounded five policemen when it struck their patrol in eastern Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded four policemen when it struck a patrol in central Baghdad, police said. The patrol specialises in guarding Iraq's oil industry.

U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR; RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS



Foreign occupation soldiers from the US Army in an Iraqi citizen's house during an armed home invasion in Masariyah neighborhood, northwestern Mosul, Nov. 20, 2008. (AP Photo/Petros Giannakouris)

[There's nothing quite like invading somebody else's country and busting into their houses by force to arouse an intense desire to kill you in the patriotic, self-respecting civilians who live there.

[But your commanders know that, don't they? Don't they?]

“In the States, if police burst into your house, kicking down doors and swearing at you, you would call your lawyer and file a lawsuit,” said Wood, 42, from Iowa, who did not accompany Halladay’s Charlie Company, from his battalion, on Thursday’s raid. “Here, there are no lawyers. Their resources are limited, so they plant IEDs (improvised explosive devices) instead.”

**FUTILE EXERCISE:
ONLY 5 MILLION MORE TO GO:
AND THEY’LL NEVER FORGET THIS:
ALL TROOPS HOME NOW!**



An American soldier stands guard, as blindfolded and handcuffed suspected insurgents arrested during recent operations wait to be questioned in Fadhilah, eastern Baghdad, Iraq, on Oct. 22, 2008. (AP Photo/Petros Giannakouris)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

British Marine Alexander Lucas Killed Near Kajaki

25 Nov 08 Ministry of Defence

It is with deep regret that the Ministry of Defence must confirm the death of Marine Alexander Lucas from Victor Company, 45 Commando Royal Marines, in Afghanistan on Monday 24 November 2008.

Victor Company was conducting an operation around Kajaki, alongside Afghan National Army troops, to clear Improvised Explosive Devices posing a dangerous threat to British forces and the local Afghan population.

Marine Lucas was a specialist Royal Marine Assault Engineer and his role within Victor Company placed him at the vanguard of troop action. With his specialist skills he provided intimate engineer support to the front line of the fighting troops. As a consequence, he was often the first man into dangerous situations and vulnerable areas, clearing the way for his colleagues to follow. It was in such a situation that Marine Lucas was killed by an enemy Improvised Explosive Device.

Despite all the efforts of those around him, Marine Lucas was killed in action and tragically died from his injuries on board the medical helicopter en route to Camp Bastion hospital.

Notes From A Lost War:

**“There’s Always This Shadow
Factor,” Said An American
Paratrooper:**

**“I Feel It More In Winter Than In Summer,
Though -- That Sense Of Being Hunkered
Down, That It’s Hard To Know What’s
Happening Out There Around Us”**

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

November 23, 2008 By Laura King, Los Angeles Times [Excerpts]

Reporting from Kabul, Afghanistan

In recent years, the first snow falling on the jagged mountain peaks of Afghanistan has ushered in a seasonal slowdown in fighting between insurgents and the Western forces that overthrew the Taliban in 2001.

This winter looks to be different. Snow and icy terrain aside, both sides have made it clear that they plan to keep fighting, each contending that the harsh conditions favor them more than their enemy.

As the temperature drops, both sides are factoring winter conditions into their tactical thinking. Western strategists say snow and extreme cold make it far more difficult for Taliban fighters to use infiltration routes through high mountain passes between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

But if winter storms hamper the militants' movements, they also erode some of the coalition's key advantages, particularly airstrikes and aerial surveillance.

To an unprecedented degree, the coalition is relying on air power to turn the tables when Western troops are ambushed by militants in the hinterlands.

Without close air support, many little-reported skirmishes could have had very different outcomes, as when a U.S. Black Hawk helicopter was shot down last month in Wardak province, not far from Kabul, the capital. Swift airstrikes against militants who were rapidly closing in allowed the crew to escape and the sophisticated craft to be recovered the next day.

Commanders quietly acknowledge that when air power is compromised by bad weather, small patrols and remote outposts are more vulnerable.

And in winter, living conditions for troops in small, lightly manned bases in the rugged mountains, already primitive, will become even more difficult.

"There's always this shadow factor," said an American paratrooper who has served in several forward bases close to the frontier with Pakistan.

"I feel it more in winter than in summer, though -- that sense of being hunkered down, that it's hard to know what's happening out there around us."

Rarely do more than a few days pass without news of roadside bombing fatalities -- and for coalition troops, road patrols are a year-round necessity.

The growing danger of travel outside the capital, coupled with the prospect of rough seasonal conditions on Afghanistan's poorly maintained roads, is heightening a feeling of separation between Kabul and the surrounding provinces.

"I used to feel I could travel home whenever I wished," said Rahim Ahmed Khan, whose extended family lives outside Gardez, south of Kabul.

"But between the insecurity and the bad weather that is on the way, I think it may be spring before I see them all again. I feel isolated."

Early this month, militants killed two Spanish soldiers in western Afghanistan, a relatively peaceful part of the country. It was a little-noticed event in the United States but generated huge headlines in Spain.

The newspaper El Pais reported on the hotly revived debate over whether Spain should keep its 700-troop presence here.

Notes From A Lost War:

**The Lt. Col. Got It Right:
“Frankly, We Can Carry On Killing The
Enemy And They Can Carry On Trying
To Kill Us For As Long As They Like, But
We’re Not Achieving Anything”**

[Thanks to JM, who sent this in.]

November 23 2008 Mark Townsend, Guardian News and Media Limited [Excerpts]

Gurkha soldiers refused to leave a dead comrade behind enemy lines even though they knew they would face ‘extreme fire’ from Taliban forces.

Braving withering fire from fortified Taliban positions, men from the 2nd Battalion, the Royal Gurkha Rifles, located the body of Rifleman Yubraj Rai and then carried it more than 100m across open ground.

The battle continued to rage for another six hours. The Gurkhas were later joined by Warrior armoured vehicles which pushed the Taliban 2km back in skirmishes that went on throughout the night and into the following morning. Still enduring fierce enemy resistance, British troops inside the Warriors cleared 10 Taliban-occupied compounds, discovering a cache of explosives and weapons.

Captain Kit Kyte said: ‘Despite the heavy weight of fire from the enemy, we were able to dismount [from the Warriors] and clear a lot of compounds at very close quarters.’

‘Frankly, we can carry on killing the enemy and they can carry on trying to kill us for as long as they like, but we’re not achieving anything,’ said Lieutenant-Colonel Chris Darby, commanding officer of 2nd Battalion.

**Obama Gets What He Wants From
The Pentagon!
Minimum 8,500 More U.S. Troops
Deploying To Die In Afghanistan**

Nov 21, 2008 By Anne Gearan; The Associated Press

The Bush administration has announced plans to send 3,500 additional Marines to Afghanistan before year's end and then an Army brigade of about 5,000 soldiers early in 2009.

As many as three additional Army brigades could follow in the months after that.

The increases are in line with promises President-elect Barack Obama made during the campaign this year to pull forces out of what he calls a misbegotten Iraq war and concentrate on a neglected Afghanistan.

More than twice as many Americans have died in Afghanistan than in Iraq since May, even though there are more than five times the number of U.S. troops in Iraq.

U.S. Occupation Commands' Blind, Stupid Terrorist Tactics Recruit Ever More Fighters To Kill U.S. Troops: "Afghans All Over The Country Fear The Night Because Of Bombings And House Raids, The President Said"

In a sign of the mood of Afghan journalists in the room, NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer was asked what NATO had accomplished over the years, given that violence "has reached the gates of Kabul." He sidestepped the question.

November 26, 2008 The Associated Press

Afghanistan's president sharply critiqued the seven-year Afghan war Wednesday, complaining that U.S. and NATO troops haven't made life better. The criticism came a day after he accused foreign forces of undermining him with a "parallel government" in the countryside.

During a meeting Tuesday with a U.N. Security Council delegation, Karzai called for the international community to set a timeline for ending the war, although he didn't mention a specific date.

He asked how — given the number of countries involved and the amount of money spent in Afghanistan — "a little force like the Taliban can continue to exist, continue to flourish." **Right. And King George asked the same question about George Washington's army]**

He said he visited Wednesday with Afghans from a village in Herat province where an Aug. 22 U.S. raid killed at least several dozen civilians.

One villager, Karzai said, asked how the president would feel if he had to take his wife and son and flee his home every night for fear it would be hit by an airstrike.

“They get their children and leave their houses and look for a safe place,” Karzai said. “Let’s imagine that we are those people, suffering from those fears. If our children are being bloodied because of the fighting, we cannot come up with words for it.”

Afghans all over the country fear the night because of bombings and house raids, the president said. He has long argued that civilian deaths anger the public and weaken support for the campaign against the Taliban.

In a sign of the mood of Afghan journalists in the room, NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer was asked what NATO had accomplished over the years, given that violence “has reached the gates of Kabul.”

He sidestepped the question.

Pakistani Army Practices Shooting Down U.S. Drones From Afghanistan Killing Their Citizens: “Attacks A Violation Of Pakistan’s Sovereignty And Territorial Integrity”

Nov 21, 2008 Kyodo via The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan’s army has conducted a military exercise to shoot down drones, the Defense Ministry said Friday in the wake of repeated incidents involving unmanned U.S. drones flying across the border from Afghanistan targeting militant hideouts.

The ministry, in a statement, said the army’s air defense wing used surface-to-air Anza missiles and radar-controlled guns in the exercise conducted at Khudai range at Muzaffar Garh, about 480 kilometers southwest of Islamabad in Punjab province, which concluded Friday.

“The elements of Army Air Defense demonstrated their shooting skills by targeting the drones flying at different altitudes. The aim of the exercise was to provide live fire experience on air defense guns and short-range missiles under near tactical environment and handling of weapons and equipment during firing,” it said.

The statement comes a day after U.S. Ambassador Anne Patterson was summoned to the Foreign Ministry to receive a strong protest over a missile attack carried out by U.S.

drones Wednesday on a residential compound in Bannu district, well inside North-West Frontier Province, killing six people and injuring seven others.

“It was underscored to the U.S. Ambassador that such attacks were a violation of Pakistan’s sovereignty and territorial integrity,” the ministry said in a statement, adding that continued drone attacks would undermine public support for the government’s counterterrorism efforts.

TROOP NEWS

**NOT ANOTHER DAY
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR
NOT ANOTHER LIFE**



The casket of Sgt. James Clay 11.18.08. Sgt. Clay, a member of the 224th Maintenance Company, was killed in Iraq last week. (Baxter Bulletin Photo by Kevin Pieper)

3,000 Troops From The 159th Off To Bush’s Imperial Slaughterhouse

12/01/2008 Army Times

The 159th Combat Aviation Brigade, also known as “Thunder Brigade,” cased its colors during a Nov. 18 ceremony that signaled the beginning of a 12-month de-ployment to Afghanistan.

They will be relieving the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade.

Col. Ron Lewis, commander of the 159th, said the brigade's responsibilities are to move soldiers by air and avoid improvised explosive devices.

Other jobs are to perform attack missions and support ground soldiers.

The brigade includes about 3,000 troops and will leave over the coming weeks. Their last deployment was to Iraq in 2006.

AWOL Iraq War Veterans Applies For Asylum In Germany: American Soldier Says "After Learning The Truth About The Nature Of My Military's Endeavors, I Refuse To Continue To Be A Part Of This"

24 Nov 2008 Military Counseling Network & IVAW Member, ivaw.germany@gmx.net

Invitation to press conference
27 November, 2008
10:00 Presseclub
Saalgasse 30, Frankfurt/Main

FRANKFURT – An AWOL (Absent Without Leave) American soldier will file his application for German asylum Thursday (27 Nov. 2008) in the Frankfurt area.

He is the first American veteran of the war in Iraq to pursue refugee status in Europe.

A press conference will take place at 10:00 the same day at Presseclub in Frankfurt.

His application cites a European Union regulation providing refugee status to a soldier who is in danger of being prosecuted if military service "would include crimes or acts," which violate international law. The application references the Nuremberg Trials, stating "It is established that a person cannot defend his or her actions by explaining that they had simply been following orders."

In his own words: "We should not be forced to fight an illegal war, nor should we be persecuted for refusing to do so.

"During the past five years we have waged a preemptive, internationally condemned war that was shown to be founded on a series of lies.

“After learning the truth about the nature of my military’s endeavors, I refuse to continue to be a part of this.”

The soldier will make a statement and be accompanied by his legal representation, Frankfurt-based asylum lawyer Dr. Reinhard Marx, who will be available for questions.

For more information:

Tim Huber, Military Counseling Network, +49 622347506

Rudi Friedrich, Connection e.V., +49 6982375534

After Criticism Of Failure To Treat Soldiers With Substance Abuse Problems, Army Hospital Clinical Director Finds Clever Solution:

**Capt. Melissa Lee “Diverted
Soldiers Away From Treatment To
Eliminate The Waiting List”
Then The Same Worthless,
Despicable Piece Of Shit Lee Tried To
Get Complaining Drug Counselor
Fired By Writing A Negative
Evaluation Report:
Counselor’s New Boss Says “In My
Opinion, This Is Tantamount To
Character Assassination”**

In a Nov. 12 letter to Army Secretary Pete Geren that [Senator] McCaskill's staff provided to USA TODAY, McCaskill said the fort's program had been "in shambles" for years.

Nov 21, 2008 By Gregg Zoroya, USA TODAY [Excerpts]

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. — A hospital accreditation team that evaluated the General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital's substance abuse counseling program last year found "waiting lists and a problem with access to care," their report said.

Yet just one month after the review at the base here, there was no longer a waiting list for treatment, says John Speckhals, a drug counselor who was working there at the time.

In an official complaint in March to Maj. Gen. William "Bill" McCoy, then installation commander, Speckhals said that was because the program's clinical director had diverted soldiers away from treatment to eliminate the waiting list.

In his complaint, Speckhals said [the clinical director, Capt. Melissa] Lee was screening out applicants to the program because Col. Theresa Sullivan, then the hospital commander, did not want any waiting lists after the reprimand from the Joint Commission accreditation review in July.

McCoy immediately ordered Lt. Col. Stephen Walker, the fort's inspector general, to investigate.

According to his report, which USA TODAY obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request, he rejected Speckhals' allegation, saying Lee had not intentionally kept troops out of drug treatment.

Instead, Walker wrote, she had consistently filled out a form incorrectly, which made it appear the soldier had a drug problem and needed counseling.

In fact, Walker wrote, she was merely noting in the wrong box why the soldiers had been referred for counseling.

Walker found:

— 168 servicemembers who had been ordered to show up for counseling or voluntarily sought help for drug or alcohol problems did not receive treatment from June 2007 to February 2008.

— 28 soldiers were screened in August 2007 but none were enrolled in the program.

— There were more than 150 cases where Lee had written something in the diagnosis box by mistake. [Which means piece of shit Lee is either guilty of fraud or is completely incompetent to be a clinical director of a dog pound. But read on, the drug consular who complained gets smeared and lied about by guess which rat scumbag officer?]

After Walker finished his report, Speckhals wrote a letter to Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

“I discussed my concerns with Capt. Lee about this diagnosis situation, early in the process (September 2007) but she seemed unconcerned,” Speckhals wrote to McCaskill.

During the nine-month period in which Lee was in charge, only 20 percent of the troops who came to the program were enrolled in counseling, Fort Leonard Wood reports show.

That compares with 52 percent who were admitted in the nine months since March, a figure closer to the Army-wide average, records show.

Several weeks after filing his complaint with McCoy, Speckhals left Fort Leonard Wood for a drug counseling job at an Army installation in Grafenwoehr, Germany.

Speckhals says he had been given excellent performance evaluations in his old job, but shortly after he started his new job, Lee sent a negative evaluation report about Speckhals to the credentialing committee at Grafenwoehr.

He provided a copy of the evaluation report to USA TODAY.

One complaint in the review was that Speckhals had poor interpersonal skills and cited as an example his pointing of his finger at a colleague during a discussion, the evaluation report says.

Speckhals’ new clinical director in Germany, Ken Peterson, wrote a letter in June defending him.

“In my opinion, this is tantamount to character assassination,” he wrote.

[And filth like Lee keep right on getting their DoD paychecks, while lying scum like Walker keep right on giving them a pass to fuck over more soldiers down the road.]

The Army requires one drug counselor for every 2,000 soldiers, yet is currently operating with one for 3,100 soldiers, a chronic shortage exacerbated by the increase in substance abuse cases.

The problem has been more severe at Fort Leonard Wood, where three counselors had been serving 14,000 soldiers and 1,000 Marines — one for every 5,000 troops. In recent months, three more counselors joined the staff.

Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., is demanding a review of the program after her staff investigated allegations that more than 150 troops at the training installation here were denied substance abuse counseling because of a staff shortage.

In a Nov. 12 letter to Army Secretary Pete Geren that McCaskill’s staff provided to USA TODAY, McCaskill said the fort’s program had been “in shambles” for years.

“How is it that a program can so deteriorate at a time when drug use and alcohol abuse is known to be closely tied to PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder), suicides, criminal behavior, divorce and domestic abuse, all of which have substantially increased in recent years in the Army?” McCaskill wrote.

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. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 917.677.8057

**Seven Years In Guantanamo
Prison For Nothing:
“Justice Comes Too Late For
These Five Men”
Judge Orders Release Of Prisoners
Bush Bragged About Capturing;
“Judge Leon Lays Bare The Scandalous
Basis On Which Guantánamo Has Been
Based”**

November 20, 2008 By WILLIAM GLABERSON, New York Times [Excerpts]

A federal judge issued the Bush administration a sharp setback on Thursday, ruling that five Algerian men have been held unlawfully at the Guantánamo Bay detention camp for nearly seven years and ordering their release.

It was the first hearing on the government’s evidence for holding detainees at Guantánamo. The judge, Richard J. Leon of Federal District Court in Washington, said the government’s secret evidence in the case had been weak: what he described as “a classified document from an unnamed source” for its central claim against the men, with little way to measure credibility.

“To rest on so thin a reed would be inconsistent with this court’s obligation,” Judge Leon said. He urged the government not to appeal and said the men should be released “forthwith.”

A weeklong hearing for the Algerians, in which all of the evidence was heard in proceedings that were closed to the public, was the first in which the Justice Department was required to present its full justification for holding specific detainees since the Supreme Court ruling.

Judge Leon, in a ruling from the bench, said the information gathered on the men had been sufficient for intelligence purposes but not for the court.

He said the government’s case, which contended that the five men planned to travel to Afghanistan and take up arms against the United States, relied exclusively on information obtained from the single unnamed source.

Robert C. Kirsch, one of the six detainees’ lawyers from the law firm Wilmer Hale, said the case showed “the human cost of what can happen when mistakes are made at the highest levels of our government, and no one has the courage to acknowledge those mistakes.”

“The decision by Judge Leon lays bare the scandalous basis on which Guantánamo has been based — slim evidence of dubious quality,” said Zachary Katznelson, legal director at Reprieve, a British legal group that represents detainees.

In 2002, Mr. Bush made the accusations against the six men a showcase. He said in his State of the Union address that they had been planning a bomb attack on the American Embassy in Sarajevo, Bosnia. But last month, Justice Department lawyers said they were no longer relying on those accusations.

J. Wells Dixon, a detainees’ lawyer at the Center for Constitutional Rights, said the ruling made clear that Guantánamo had failed. But, he said, “Justice comes too late for these five men.”

Guantanamo Torture-Lovers Lose Again; “Confession” No Good; No Case Left

11/20/2008 By DAVID McFADDEN, The Associated Press

A U.S. military judge has blocked Pentagon prosecutors from using a Guantanamo prisoner’s statements to U.S. authorities as trial evidence, saying they were tainted by an earlier confession tortured out of the suspect by Afghan officials.

Mohammed Jawad's confession to U.S. authorities in Afghanistan following his capture in 2002 was the last incriminating statement available to prosecutors for the Afghan's war-crimes trial at Guantanamo Bay, his military defense attorney, Air Force Maj. David Frakt, said Thursday.

Wednesday's dismissal of Jawad's confession in U.S. custody decimates the government's case against the Afghan prisoner at Guantanamo Bay, according to the former prosecutor, who quit several weeks ago in a dispute over the handling of the case.

Wow! What A Big Surprise!

November 21, 2008 Rowan Scarborough, Washington Times

President-elect Barack Obama will not move for months, and perhaps not until 2010, to ask Congress to end the military's decades-old ban on open homosexuals in the ranks, two people who have advised the Obama transition team on this issue say.

Repealing the ban was an Obama campaign promise.

The Obama transition team did not reply to a request for comment.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Action

Nov 23 (Reuters) & Nov 24 REUTERS & By BUSHRA JUHI, Associated Press Writer

A parked car bomb wounded one Iraqi soldier when it blew up next to an army patrol in southern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Insurgents wounded two policemen in a drive-by shooting on their checkpoint just south of Tikrit, 150 km (95 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A bomb blast wounded one policeman in Yarmouk district in western Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb killed 13 employees of the Trade Ministry and wounded seven others, when it blew up their bus in the district of New Baghdad in eastern Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded three policemen, when it struck their patrol in Karrada district in central Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb targeted a police patrol around 10:30 a.m. near Technology University in eastern Baghdad. Two police officers were injured.



The wreckage of an Iraqi police vehicle at the scene of a roadside bomb, in Firdous Square, central Baghdad, Nov. 26, 2008. (AP Photo/Khalid Mohammed)



Nov 24: A damaged police vehicle, right, following a bomb outside the heavily-guarded Green Zone in central Baghdad. (AFP/Ali Yusef)

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

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Agent Orange Survivor



From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: November 09, 2008
Subject: Agent Orange Survivor

This 21 year-old Vietnamese woman is a third generation victim of one of the most deadly weapons ever used in war. I photographed her at an American Legion building in Pittsburgh, PA. I have decided not to give her name, because she represents millions of Vietnamese people who have suffered and died as a result of the Agent Orange War Crimes committed by the United States Government.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71

“The American Use Of Agent Orange In Vietnam Was One Of The Worst War Crimes Ever Committed In World History”

[Comment By Mike Hastie]

I find my mind going back to Vietnam a lot. I was in a military unit that had a lot of firepower. We thought we were the good guys.

Little did I realize, America was the devil in Vietnam.

The U.S. military was a non-stop killing machine in Southeast Asia. We did not care about anything that was not American.

That pain has resurfaced on a daily basis with me.

Recently I was involved with the Agent Orange delegation from Vietnam. I met them in Pittsburgh and Portland, Oregon.

Seeing them brought back all of the shame I have felt, felt, felt, over the past 37 years since I came back from Vietnam.

The American use of Agent Orange in Vietnam was one of the worst war crimes ever committed in world history.

As I have said many times before in my writings, the entire Vietnam War was an atrocity.

The United States bombed everything in Vietnam.

The United States dropped napalm on everything in Vietnam.

The United States fired artillery at everything in Vietnam.

Vietnamese civilians WERE military targets!

Anyone who does not believe that, has a lot of gut wrenching research to do.

I say to all those who don't believe it, to read until you cry your eyes out.

Read it until you throw up in the bathroom.

Read it until you are ashamed to be an American.

Read it until you find yourself driving your car, and you don't know where you are.

Read it until you can't read it anymore.

Read it until your mind and your body become one.

Read it until you feel the pain in every muscle and fiber in your body.

Read it until your all-American body tells you the truth.

Read it until you understand why an American veteran would want to blow his brains out.

Now, you are a veteran of truth.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
November 9, 2008

Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: (hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)

November 27, 1969: Fast Against The War “Spread To Units All Over Vietnam”

Carl Bunin Peace History Dec 26 - Dec 3

Over one hundred members of the U.S. 71st Evacuation Hospital and the 44th Medical Detachment at Pleiku, Vietnam, organized a protest fast called the “John Turkey movement.”

In *Home Before Morning: The Story of an Army Nurse in Vietnam*, nurse Lynda Van Devanter recalled her change in attitude.

“Earlier in my tour, when I had heard about the war protesters, I had felt angry at them for not supporting us. Now I wished I could march with them. . .

“Most others in Pleiku felt the same way.

“We even held our own Thanksgiving Day fast—the John Turkey movement — as a show of support for those who were trying to end the war through protests and moratoriums.

We heard that the fast had spread to units all over Vietnam.”

The fast received considerable media coverage when Denise Murray, a nurse at Pleiku and daughter of a distinguished admiral, made antiwar statements to the press.

**“IF THEY SEND US TO AFRICA:
IF IT’S WHITE, WE SHOOT IT”
[509TH AIRBN INF: NOV 1975]**

[From Max Watts, who began helping GIs resisting the Vietnam War in the 1960's.]

[From a time the U.S. government considered sending U.S. troops to assist the racist government of South African in killing African resistance fighters.]

From: Max Watts, Sent: October 20, 2008

509TH AIRBN INF: NOV 1975:

“WE DON’T KNOW NOTHING ABOUT MPLA, UNITA, OR.. BUT IF THEY SEND US TO AFRICA: IF IT’S WHITE, WE SHOOT IT,” WHICH LEFT THE SOUTH AFRICANS AT LUANDA “BETRAYED” BY U.S.

- NO BACKUP...

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**“PUT AND END TO ZIONIST STATE
TERRORISM!!”**

**“This Wicked Rogue Ethnocratic State
Must Be Dismantled And The Rights Of
The Palestinians Restored!”**

**[URGENT STATEMENT BY ANTI-ZIONIST
ORTHODOX JEWS WORLDWIDE]**

23 Nov. '08

NETUREI KARTA of THE ORTHODOX JEWRY of PALESTINE

P. O. Box 5053 JERUSALEM, PALESTINE

E-mail: NKp@neto.bezeqint.net

How long will Jewish and non-Jewish leaders who claim the mantle of civilization and morality remain silent in the face of the ongoing state terrorism practiced by the Zionist state against the Palestinian People, most visibly today in Gaza, where the Zionists believe they can starve the Palestinians into submission in violation of all tenets of international law, all religious values in general, INCLUDING the values of the Jewish faith???!?

HOW LONG WILL THIS BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE??

WE URGENTLY PLEA TO THE WORLD COMMUNITY AND WORLD LEADERS TO
PUT AND END TO ZIONIST STATE TERRORISM!!
IN THE NAME OF G-D!
IN THE NAME OF HUMANITY!

The terrorist regime of the State of Israel has been repressing, expelling and persecuting Palestinians for 60 years, and expects the Palestinians to simply sit with their arms folded while this goes on!

Are the Palestinians supposed to be collaborators in their own destruction?

Are they simply supposedly to surrender in order to compensate the Zionists for what happened during World War II thousands of miles away?

It is time for leaders with a sense of morality and courage to stand up and finally declare ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!! The State of Israel must no long be granted a blank check to commit crimes!

This wicked rogue ethnocratic state must be dismantled and the rights of the Palestinians restored!

We pray that our appeal will find its way into the hearts and minds of those who have the power to put an end to the madness unleashed by the State of Israel, which is armed to teeth with the most sophisticated weaponry used on the Palestinians, and held over the rest of the Middle East as the Zionists demand the entire world surrender to their agenda!

The Zionists know that their state is on the threshold of disintegration, and they are prepared to take millions of Jews and non-Jews down with them!! The world is in grave danger if the Zionists are not stopped!!

May G-d in Heaven hear our prayer!

Rabbi Meir Hirsh
Neturei Karta Palestine

“A Jew to Zionist Fighters, 1988”

Do You Really Want To Be The New Gestapo? The New Wehrmacht? The New SA And SS?



Photo: REUTERS/Morteza Nikoubazl

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

Something very different: a poem.

Have you heard of Erich Fried who is often referred to as the greatest modern, Jewish, poet?

He was born in Vienna in 1921 and escaped to England, with his mother, after his father was tortured to death by the Gestapo, in 1938.

Because of his experiences with racism and Fascism he became involved in the Palestinian cause.

He was a leader in the fight against both Fascism and Zionism.

I'm sending a copy of his best poem, in my opinion. It was first published in 1988 just before he died.

Please take the time to read it. I think it's wonderful.

A Jew to Zionist Fighters, 1988

What do you actually want?

Do you really want to outdo
those who trod you down
a generation ago
into your own blood
and into your own excrement
Do you want to pass on the old torture
to others now
in all its bloody and dirty detail
with all the brutal delight of torturers
as suffered by your fathers?
Do you really want to be the new Gestapo
the new Wehrmacht
the new SA and SS
and turn the Palestinians
into the new Jews?
Well then I too want,
having fifty years ago
myself been tormented for being a Jewboy
by your tormentors,
to be a new Jew with these new Jews
you are making of the Palestinians
And I want to help lead them as a free people
into their own land of Palestine
from whence you have driven them or in which you plague them
you apprentices of the Swastika
you fools and changelings of history
whose Star of David on your flags
turns ever quicker
into that damned symbol with its four feet
that you just do not want to see
but whose path you are following today

[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."]

“It Is Not Acceptable For The Arabs And Palestinians To Bear The Burden Or Responsibility For What The Nazis Perpetrated”

11.17.08 by Karin Leukefeld, MR Zine [Excerpt]

From An Interview with Nawaf al-Moussawi. Nawaf al-Moussawi is Deputy Secretary and a member of the Politburo of Hezbollah in Lebanon. Al-Moussawi, a Doctor of Philosophy, is Hezbollah's spokesman for international relations.

"Everyone knows that the Germans have a guilt complex toward Israel. This naturally has to do with what happened under National Socialism, and that, I think, suffices to explain this attitude.

However, I would add that it is not acceptable for the Arabs and Palestinians to bear the burden or responsibility for what the Nazis perpetrated. For example, shouldn't Israel have the right -- as reparation for what the Nazis did in the Holocaust -- to ask for a state on German soil?

Why then should they have the right to build a state on Arab soil, on Palestinian soil?

Abbé Pierre and Bishop Desmond Tutu have said that the Europeans committed crimes against the Jews and that the Arabs and Palestinians are paying the price for them today. So today we are paying the price for the crimes committed by others, not us.

Therefore, I believe that the Europeans have moral responsibility to repair the crimes that Israel perpetrated against the Palestinians.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

IT WAS A CREED WRITTEN INTO THE CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION THAT DECLARED THE DESTINY OF GAY MARRIAGE: **NO WE CAN'T**. IT WAS WHISPERED BY POLITICIANS AS THEY PUSHED UPWARD AND NEEDED THE VOTES OF BIGOTS: **NO WE CAN'T**. **NO WE CAN'T** TO JUSTICE AND EQUALITY. **NO WE CAN'T** TAKE UNPOPULAR POSITIONS. GAYS KNOW THE BATTLE AHEAD WILL BE LONG, BUT ALWAYS REMEMBER: I AM AN OBSTACLE STANDING IN THE WAY OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE CALLING FOR CHANGE. YOU HAVE BEEN TOLD MARRIAGE IS BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN BY A CHORUS OF COWARDS... WE WILL ONLY GROW LOUDER. I WILL ASK YOU TO PAUSE FOR A REALITY CHECK. I WILL WARN AGAINST OFFERING GAYS IN THIS NATION FALSE HOPE. BECAUSE IN THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, THERE IS NEVER ANYTHING WRONG WITH DEFERRING TO "STATES' RIGHTS." NOW THE HOPES OF A LESBIAN WHO GOES TO THE COURTHOUSE IN CONNECTICUT WON'T BE THE SAME AS THOSE OF A GAY MAN WHO FALLS IN LOVE ON THE STREETS OF L.A. WE WILL REMEMBER THERE IS SOMETHING HAPPENING IN AMERICA, BUT I WILL SIT ON THE SIDELINES OF THE NEXT GREAT CHAPTER IN THE GAY RIGHTS MOVEMENT WITH THREE WORDS THAT WILL RING FROM COAST TO COAST, FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA:

NO WE CAN'T!



BORS 11-17-08

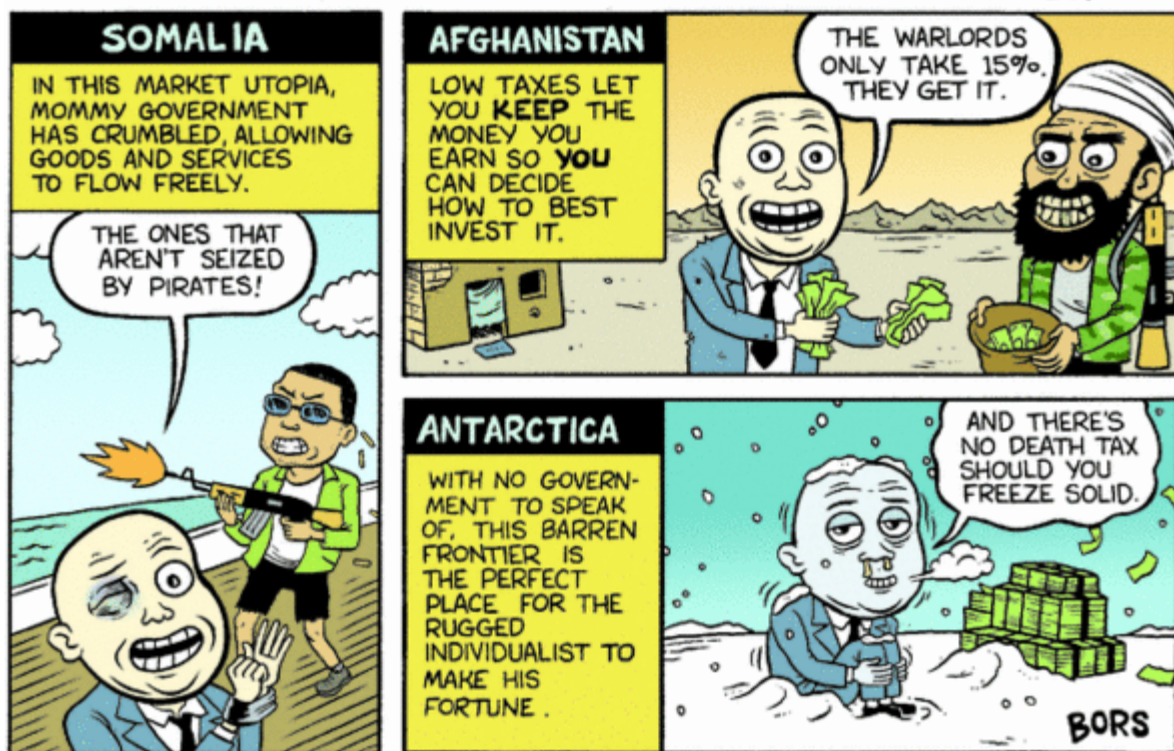
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**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT
THE BLOODSHED**

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

CLASS WAR REPORTS

**HEY, RICH REPUBLICANS! WORRIED THAT COMRADE OBAMA'S 4.6%
TAX INCREASE WILL CRUSH YOUR ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT? ESCAPE
THE OPPRESSION IN A SENSIBLE NATION WHERE FREEDOM THRIVES!**



**“I See A Cloud, No Bigger Than A
Man’s Hand”**

[1 Kings 18:44: New England Bible]

Cost Of Insuring U.S. Government Debt Against Default Up 300% Since July 11

Nov. 26 By Michael Shanahan and Abigail Moses (Bloomberg)

The cost of hedging against losses on U.S. Treasuries surged to an all-time high after the Federal Reserve's new \$800 billion effort to combat the financial crisis raised concern about how the ballooning debt will be funded.

Benchmark 10-year credit-default swaps on U.S. government bonds jumped six basis points to 56, [or \$56,000 per year for five years to insure \$10 million in debt] according to CMA Datavision prices at 12:20 p.m. in London.

The contracts have risen from below two basis points at the start of the credit crisis in July 2007.

The cost of five-year contracts on Treasuries rose 3 basis points to 50.5, after earlier trading as high as 52, CMA prices show.

That's higher than the debt of Finland, Germany and Norway, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Credit-default swaps, contracts conceived to protect bondholders against default, pay the buyer face value in exchange for the underlying securities or the cash equivalent should a country or company fail to adhere to its debt agreements.

A rise indicates deterioration in the perception of credit quality; a decline, the opposite.

July 2008:

Jul 11, 2008 (Reuters)

The cost to insure Treasury debt with credit default swaps jumped to 16.5 basis points, or \$16,500 per year for five years to insure \$10 million in debt, from 8 basis points on Thursday, an analyst said.

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