

## GI SPECIAL 6L10:



Photo: Karim Kadim/Associated Press

**“Bridging The Gap”**  
**“People Aren’t Going To Be**  
**Willing To Make The Sacrifices**  
**Asked Of Them When They’re**  
**Being Misused And Abused By**  
**The Military”**

# **“And Once That Happens, The Military Can’t Prosecute These Wars Anymore”**

**“Through Promoting GI Resistance, There Will Come A Day When Commanders Will Not Have The Faith In Their Soldiers To Send Them Out To Do The Immoral Things That They’re Ordering Them To Do”**



IVAW members from around the Northwest at the GI coffeehouse Coffee Strong (Kate Johnson, SW)

**“Generally, soldiers believe that the antiwar movement is hostile to them, and I think this is a good place to bridge that gap between the antiwar movement and soldiers.”**

December 9, 2008: IVAW members Seth Manzel and Michael William interviewed by Kate Johnson about the opening of Coffee Strong and the movement behind it.

**IRAQ VETERANS Against the War (IVAW), GI Voice and Haymarket Books hosted a grand opening fundraiser for Coffee Strong, the GI coffeehouse outside the gates of Fort Lewis in Washington state, on November 15.**

Coffee Strong, a spoof on the “Army Strong” advertising campaign, is the second GI coffeehouse to open in the U.S. since the war in Vietnam. The first, Different Drummer

Café, opened in Watertown, N.Y., outside Fort Drum two years ago, and another, Under the Hood, is scheduled to open soon in Killeen, Texas, outside Fort Hood.

During the war in Vietnam, GI coffeehouses provided a space for veterans and active-duty soldiers to talk openly about the war, the antiwar movement, and GI rights and resistance inside the military, as well as music, art and politics.

**These coffeehouses played an integral role in the massive antiwar movement and GI rebellion that finally forced the U.S. military to withdraw from Vietnam.**

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*Kate Johnson: FIRST OFF, congratulations on this historic moment in the antiwar movement! How did Coffee Strong come together, and who were the driving forces behind it?*

Seth: Thank you. Two years ago, we started to do a feasibility study on how much it would cost to set this thing up, and it ended up being a fair amount more than we thought it would be. Alex Bacon started working on it early on, and then I got involved with IVAW and started fundraising for it pretty aggressively, using Haymarket Books authors. That was basically how we came up with the money to do it.

Then we actually formed the GI Voice Project corporation, which is a nonprofit corporation, and we got a lot of support from the community that helped up put it all together.

Michael: Seth Manzel and Alex Bacon of IVAW have done the majority of the legwork leading up to the acquisition of the property, and I basically committed myself to work as the barista. So I didn't have as much to do with the starting of the business, but I've put in my time to work here. I also did a training in GI rights counseling so that I can be a greater asset behind the counter, so that when troops are coming in, I'll be able to assist them and lead them to further help if that's what they need.

Seth: We founded GI Voice around the same time that I joined IVAW. We have a Web site, [www.givoice.com](http://www.givoice.com), and we've got a radio station, which is not working at the moment, and then the coffee shop.

All three projects are intended to inform soldiers and to promote GI rights and GI resistance.

*HOW DO GI Voice and IVAW work together?*

Seth: They're mutually supportive. IVAW has helped to fundraise and build the movement behind GI Voice, and now GI Voice is providing a space for IVAW to work right outside the base here.

**Coffee Strong is literally steps away from the gates of Fort Lewis.**

*HOW HAS the military community responded to the coffeehouse thus far?*

Michael: Even though we've only been open a week and a half, I started a discussion with someone who was considering joining the National Guard, and I planted a pretty good seed in his mind, so he's at least reconsidering his decision to go through with it. I don't know if I totally dissuaded him, but since my experience with the National Guard was very applicable, I was able to explain to him what you can expect, and that in itself was a success.

But we've also had a number of lower enlisted active-duty members come in, and they seem to be hearing through the grapevine what we're about, and they seem to be very happy about this project. And as we start putting on more programs, we're going to be drawing in a lot more soldiers, and that is the community involvement that matters the most.

*WHAT ROLE do you see Coffee Strong playing in the immediate and long-term future of rebuilding an antiwar movement and ending the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan?*

**Michael: This is going to be a major center of operations for recruiting active-duty members.**

**And that's going to alter the mindset within the military, once you have a growing IVAW membership inside the military.**

**People are going to start thinking differently and standing up for their rights, because people in the military are used to believing that they have no rights.**

**So in the larger scheme of things, we're going to have a huge impact on ending the war within the ranks.**

**People aren't going to be willing to make the sacrifices asked of them when they're being misused and abused by the military.**

But we also we want this to be such a success that it will create incentive for other bases to open up their own GI coffeehouses. We want to have a lot of fun out here, so it can be a good inspiration, and make it something that's inviting to active-duty people and also the antiwar community, so that we're not just helping with their immediate problems if someone is trying to get out of the military.

We can help them with those kinds of problems through GI counseling, but also we can give them a new outlook on life--and the will to regain their rights, which they've been told they don't have.

Seth: Immediately, it's going to introduce a lot of soldiers, who might otherwise never see any part of the antiwar movement, to the support for them in the antiwar movement.

**Generally, soldiers believe that the antiwar movement is hostile to them, and I think this is a good place to bridge that gap between the antiwar movement and soldiers.**

**Through promoting GI resistance, there will come a day when commanders will not have the faith in their soldiers to send them out to do the immoral things that they're ordering them to do.**

**And once that happens, the military can't prosecute these wars anymore.**

*HOW ARE you keeping Coffee Strong running--as far as donations, staffing and community support? What can supporters do to help?*

Michael: We've received a great amount of financial support just from the antiwar community. We have volunteers that are interested in helping with everything from GI rights counseling to actually getting behind the bar and making coffee.

And just to be clear, this place is run all through contributions from the community. We hope it will eventually become a self-sustaining project, just through the sale of coffee, but right now it's financial contributions.

Seth: The project is pretty fund-intensive. We need about \$3,500 a month to stay above water, so we have to be very aggressive with fundraising, and any little bit that anyone can help us out with will help keep this project funded. Also, we need volunteers and support as far as telling people about what we're doing.

We need volunteers to come in and work the coffeehouse, we need volunteers to help us design things, we need volunteers to help us reach out to other groups and reach out to soldiers.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO**

**Donate to Coffee Strong today by visiting the GI Voice Web site: <http://givoice.org/>  
Or send checks to GI Voice, P.O. Box 99404, Lakewood, WA 98496.**



**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:**

## IRAQ WAR REPORTS

### **Green Zone Came Under Missile Attack As Bush Met To Sign Agreement Extending Occupation; Casualties Not Announced**

Dec 14 (KUNA)

A rocket attack targeted the Green Zone, downtown Baghdad, Sunday evening while visiting U.S. President George W. Bush was holding talks with Iraqi leaders.

Loud explosion of a Katyusha missile was heard at 7:30 pm. (local time) as Bush was set to sign the U.S.-Iraqi Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA), a security official said.

No reports about the possible casualties or of damage resulting from the attack were available so far and the U.S. Army and embassy have yet to comment on it.

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**In Iraqi's Shoe-Hurling Protester,  
Arabs Find a Hero  
(It's Not Bush)  
"This Is From The Widows, The  
Orphans And Those Who Were Killed  
In Iraq"  
"I Swear By God That All Iraqis With  
Their Different Nationalities Are Glad  
About This Act"**



Protesters placed shoes at the end of long poles, waving them high in the air. “It showed the Iraqi feelings, which is to object to the American occupation,” said Qutaiba Rajaa, a 58-year-old physician in Samarra, north of Baghdad. Photo: Karim Kadim/Associated Press

**The Iraqi shoe-thrower had found a far more telling protest than raising a banner or poster showing war victims, she argued.**

**“It’s a sign of empowerment. “He was saying not only that your (Bush’s) legacy is one of disgrace, not only do we see you as lowly, but that we can overpower and defeat you.”**

**Even government-owned newspapers in Cairo praised Zaidi’s actions. “Pelting the American president with shoes was the best way for expressing what Iraqis and Arabs feel toward Bush,” wrote Al-Gomhuria editor Mohammad Ali Ibrahim.**

December 15, 2008 By TIMOTHY WILLIAMS and ABEER MOHAMMED, New York Times & By Alistair Lyon, Reuters & The Telegraph (UK) & BBC & AFP & Dec 16 by Salam Faraj Salam Faraj, (AFP) [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD — Calling someone the “son of a shoe” is one of the worst insults in Iraq.

But the lowly shoe and the Iraqi, Muntader al-Zaidi, who threw both of his at President Bush, with widely admired aim, were embraced around the Arab world on Monday as symbols of rage at a still unpopular war.

The hurling of shoes at U.S. President George W. Bush on his farewell visit to Iraq strikes many in the Middle East as a fittingly furious comment on what they see as his calamitous legacy in the region.

**The response to the incident by Arabs in the street was ecstatic.**

“He deserves to be hit with 100, not just one or two shoes. Who wants him to come here?” said a man in Baghdad.

**Thousands of Iraqis have demanded the release of the local TV reporter who threw his shoes at US President George W Bush at a Baghdad news conference.**

**Crowds gathered in Baghdad’s Sadr City district, calling for “hero” Muntadar al-Zaidi to be freed from custody.**

“Throwing the shoes at Bush was the best goodbye kiss ever... it expresses how Iraqis and other Arabs hate Bush,” wrote Musa Barhoumeh, editor of Jordan’s independent Al-Gahd Arabic newspaper.

“As far as I’m concerned, as long as he hit him using a shoe it’s perfect,” said Cairo shoeshiner Ahmed Ali.

“Al-Zeidi is the man,” said 42-year-old Jordanian businessman Samer Tabalat. “He did what Arab leaders failed to do.”

Ghazi Abu Baker, a 55-year-old shopkeeper in the West Bank town of Jenin said, “This journalist should be elected president of Iraq for what he has done.”

In Saudi Arabia, a newspaper reported that a man had offered \$10 million to buy just one of what has almost certainly become the world’s most famous pair of black dress shoes.

In the Baghdad neighborhood of Sadr City, people calling for an immediate American withdrawal removed their footwear and placed the shoes and sandals at the end of long poles, waving them high in the air.

**And in the southern Iraqi city of Najaf, people threw their shoes at a passing American convoy.**

In street-corner conversations, on television and in Internet chat rooms, the subject of shoes was inescapable throughout much of the Middle East on Monday, as was the defiant act that inspired the interest: a huge and spontaneous eruption of anger at President Bush on Sunday in his final visit here.

“Iraq considers Sunday as the international day for shoes,” said a text message circulating around the Saudi capital Riyadh.

**“Although that action was not expressed in a civilized manner, it showed the Iraqi feelings, which is to object to the American occupation,” said Qutaiba Rajaa, a 58-year-old physician in Samarra, a Sunni stronghold north of Baghdad.**



**But many more expressed undiluted pleasure. “I swear by God that all Iraqis with their different nationalities are glad about this act,” said Yaareb Yousif Matti, a 45-year-old teacher from Mosul, in northern Iraq.**

Mr. Zaidi, who remained in custody Monday, provided a rare moment of unity in a region often at odds with itself.

Glee, even if thinly veiled, could be discerned in much of the reporting, especially in places where anti-American sentiment runs deepest.

In Lebanon, reactions varied by political affiliation, but curiosity about the episode was universal. An American visitor to a school in Beirut’s southern suburb, where the Shiite militant group Hezbollah is popular, was besieged with questions from teachers and students alike, who wanted to know what Americans thought about the insult.

“It’s the talk of the city,” said Ibrahim Mousawi, a Beirut journalist and political analyst affiliated with Hezbollah.

**“Everyone is proud of this man, and they’re saying he did it in our name.”**

**“The Iraqi journalist is a true and free Baghdadi,” said a Saudi private sector employee who gave his name as Abu Faisal. “He was brave and did us proud. Bush destroyed (Iraq) so surely he deserved to be beaten with a shoe”.**

Some Palestinians, whose hopes of independent statehood have withered in the eight-year Bush era, relished the moment.

“A shoe company in Hebron claimed the attack on Bush and they will give the attacker shoes all his life,” runs one joke being exchanged on mobile telephones in the Gaza Strip.

The instantly mythic moment took place Sunday night at a news conference by President Bush and Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki in Baghdad’s Green Zone, a session meant partly to trumpet recent security gains in Iraq.

As Mr. Bush was speaking, Mr. Zaidi rose abruptly from about 12 feet away, reared his right arm and fired a shoe at the president’s head while shouting in Arabic: “This is a gift from the Iraqis; this is the farewell kiss, you dog!”

“This is from the widows, the orphans and those who were killed in Iraq!”

During an interview in Sadr City, a brother of Muntader al-Zaidi’s, Maythem al-Zaidi, 28, said Muntader had been offered representation, free, by more than 100 lawyers from around the world, including one who had represented Saddam Hussein.

He mentioned that his brother had been detained early this year for several hours by the United States military, but he described him as apolitical and said the act had been spontaneous.

“I am proud of my brother,” he said, “as all Iraqis would be.”

But Saif al-Deen, 25, a copy editor at the television network, said Mr. Zaidi had been planning some sort of protest against Mr. Bush for nearly a year.

**“I remember at the end of 2007,” Mr. Deen said, “he told me, ‘You will see how I will take revenge on the criminal Bush in my personal way about the crimes that he has committed against innocent Iraqi people.’ ”**

Mr. Deen said that he had tried to talk his friend out of doing anything, but that Mr. Zaidi had “insisted he would do it.”

Mr. Zaidi’s hero status continued to grow on Monday.

In Damascus, a 34-year-old shop owner, who gave his name only as Muhammad, said he was on his way to celebrate the shoe-throwing incident with friends.

“This is like a holiday,” he said. “This is just what we needed for revenge.”

Egyptian independent daily Al-Badeel carried a frontpage caricature of the US flag with the sole of a shoe replacing the stars in the top corner.

Even government-owned newspapers in Cairo praised Zaidi’s actions. “Pelting the American president with shoes was the best way for expressing what Iraqis and Arabs feel toward Bush,” wrote Al-Gomhuria editor Mohammad Ali Ibrahim.

Arabs have long fumed at American support for Israel in its conflict with the Palestinians, but Bush’s war in Iraq created a new source of anger and instability in the Middle East.

“It’s a sore, open and bleeding wound, just as the Palestine issue is,” said Amal Saad-Ghorayeb, an expert on Hezbollah.

**The Iraqi shoe-thrower had found a far more telling protest than raising a banner or poster showing war victims, she argued.**

**“It’s a sign of empowerment.**

**“He was saying not only that your (Bush’s) legacy is one of disgrace, not only do we see you as lowly, but that we can overpower and defeat you.”**

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## **Thousands Rally In Iraq To Support Bush Shoe Thrower: “Bush, Bush, Listen Well: Two Shoes On Your Head”**

## “In The Holy City Of Najaf, The Crowds Chanted ‘Down With America’”



A man waved a defaced poster of President Bush during a protest in Najaf. Photo: Alaa Al-marjani/Associated Press

12.15.08 AFP & CBC News & Dec. 16 (Xinhua)

Thousands of Iraqis have taken to streets on Tuesday for second day to demand the release of an Iraqi journalist who threw his shoes at U.S. President George W. Bush during a news conference two days ago.

“Bush, Bush, listen well: Two shoes on your head,” Baghdad protesters chanted in unison.

Iraqis across the country hailed the journalist Muntadhar al-Zaidi, who worked for Cairo-based Baghdadia television, and praised his act of throwing shoes at Bush as a heroic action.

In Iraq’s northern city of Mosul, hundreds of protestors gathered outside the building of the city university carrying banners and chanted slogans, demanding release of the reporter and describing him as a national hero.

In Nassriyah city, the capital of Dhi Qar province in southern Iraq, dozens of people from local civil organizations of the Zaidiya tribe, where the reporter’s family belongs, demonstrated in central city and also demanded the release of Zaidi.

In the holy city of Najaf, the crowds chanted “Down with America.”

Several more demonstrations have taken the streets in other cities of Salahudin, Hilla and Fallujah.

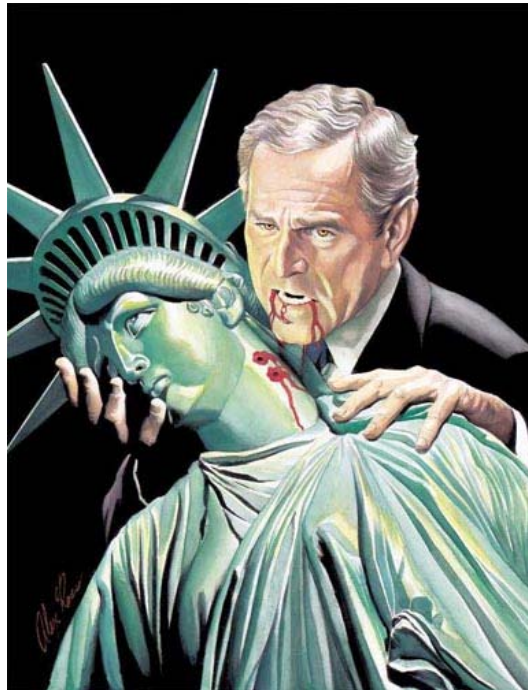
Also on Tuesday, the Union of Iraqi Lawyers announced in a statement obtained by Xinhua, that it supports Zaidi and it is preparing a group of lawyers for defending him if being prosecuted.

“Misdemeanor, according to the Iraqi law, could take sentences ranging from three months to three years in prison, but for Zaidi it could be easier than that because the court may consider Zaidi’s act was expressing his rejection for the U.S. soldiers crimes to Iraqis,” Ali al-Dulaimi, a lawyer, told Xinhua.

“Bush, Bush, listen well: Two shoes on your head,” the protesters chanted in unison.

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## “People Go To Hajj To Throw Stones On The Devil To Be Close To God, Throwing Shoes On George Bush Works The Same”



**SATAN**

Dec 15, 2008 Roads To Iraq [Excerpts]

**The most important thing is that Iraqi Resistance group “Jihad and Reform” reacted on the Iraqi journalist act saying: “This is the referendum (on the Security Agreement) you asked for, you saw it with your own eyes”.**

Ruba Al-Husari on Syria of Tomorrow:

People go to Hajj to throw stones on the devil to be close to God, throwing shoes on George Bush works the same.

Atwan on Al-Quds Al-Arabi: “suitable farewell for a war criminal”

Although it is unprofessional journalism but we understand it from an Iraqi journalist. The new Iraq’s Bush turned into a mass grave and a killing field. Five million fled from this democracy. Talabani, in his speech called Bush “A great friend of the Iraqi people who liberated the country”, with such a friend who needs enemies.

Khalid Sagiyah in Al-Akhbar:

“This is a farewell kiss, you dog”, an Iraqi journalist said this ... A line will be repeated again and again. A one day it be said to the last American soldier leaves Iraq “This is a farewell kiss, you .....”.

Syrian Al-Watan:

A scene reflects the pride and dignity Iraqis, shows what Bush eight years rules means.

Barhooma on Jordanian Al-Ghad:

If stones were the weapon of the Palestinian Intifada, then shoes are the weapon of the oppressed people around the globe. The American already threw their shoes on Bush by electing Obama.

George Hajoj Syria of Tomorrow:

People tried everything with Bush but the man lacks the common sense, the Iraqi journalist thought “lets try to correct him with the shoes”.

**MORE:**

# **The Shoes: Comments From Iraq #1 No To Shoe Throwing, But --- “I Can’t Blame The Journalist For Hating The U.S. President Because I Agree With All The Iraqis That Bush’s Policy Destroyed Our Country”**

December 15, 2008 By Laith, Inside Iraq

Like any event happens in Iraq, the incident of throwing shoes at the President Bush became the main topic of all the nation. When I arrived the office, the useless discussion was already started. Some of our guys started making jokes about the incident. I decided a long time ago not to get involved in any kind of political discussion with any of my colleagues because I know that every Iraqi believes he or she is completely right and the others should accept his or her point of view more like a verse of Quran that shouldn't be discussed. Yet, I was drawn into a discussion.

Some of the guys were happy and they were talking about the bravery of the journalist who threw his shoes at the American president.

**When I tried to explain my opinion, I was trying to tell the guys that I don't agree with the way the journalist behaved, but I was attacked by them.**

**One of them said "come on Laith, Bush destroyed Iraq". Another said "he deserves more" while a third one said "he is an occupier."**

I tried to tell to tell they guys that this is an insult for Maliki.

**As a journalist who believes that his job is to find truth and defend it, I can't blame the journalist for hating the U.S. president because I agree with all the Iraqis (not the politicians of course) that Bush's policy destroyed our country.**

But we can't just blame the Americans for everything. The majority of the Iraqi officials participated in one way or another in destroying this country, either by not fighting the administration's corruption or by neglecting their national duties. The last example was lawmakers who went to hajj (pilgrimage) while the discussion about the SOFA was at the top of the agenda. We can't blame the Americans for wasting and stealing our money in what is called the reconstruction projects.

I just wanted to say that the best action to the destruction made by Bush policy is not throw a shoe or to shout because this is an emotional reaction.

The right reaction is to be loyal to Iraq and to build it, not to spend the time in tours in Europe and some neighboring countries that export death to Iraq.

**MORE:**

## **The Shoes: Comments From Iraq #2 "How Many Iraqis Did Bush Kill In Iraq?? Hundreds Of Thousands" "This Shoe Is Settlement For Only One"**

December 16, 2008 By Sahar IIS, Inside Iraq [Excerpt]

On the phone.

Ammar Mohammed – Admin assistant.

(Laughing) “Of course he’s a hero! He did what no one has been able to do so far: He gave Bush the, criminal what he deserves. Insulting a man is more severe than killing him. It was sooooo funny – and the moron didn’t even get it! But I am glad that it was publicized – it is good - protection for Muntathar: now they can’t make him “disappear”... Or can they?”

Widad Hameed – retired high school teacher.

(Laughing) “Oh my God! It was astounding! I couldn’t believe my eyes! I don’t know whether I would call him a hero, but he certainly did what no one else has dared to do: He stood up strait and told the whole world his opinion about this shameful occupation. They may hurt him, behind closed doors – they may even kill him – but they can never take back that shoe. In history, Bush’s term ends with flying “shoes”.”

Muhenned Ismail – engineer.

(Laughing) “Muntather’s shoes should be put in the museum! Oh my! What a sight! So from now on the Security Council will be prohibiting “shoes” of mass destruction!” (Eyes brimming with tears of laughter)

At the petrol station.

Um Khalid (um = mother of ..)

“How many Iraqis did Bush kill in Iraq?? Hundreds of thousands. This shoe is settlement for only one. How many Muntathars do we need to settle our debt with Bush?”

Abu Abdullah and Abu Eseel

Abu A: No, it’s shameful. To hit a guest with shoes – it is not befitting behavior for a well brought young man. It is not acceptable in our code of ethics.

Abu E: Bush – a guest?? Bush is an occupier, not a guest – he deserves no courtesy.

Abu A: Muntathar could have made his point in a more civilized way. I don’t object to his anger – but shoes.. It’s an insult to Maliki, too..

Abu E: So what? Maliki is Bush’s puppet.

**MORE:**

# **“You Definitely Exited History In Style: Bowing Twice To A Pair Of Humble But Furious Projectiles”**

From: Z  
Sent: Dec 15, 2008  
To: GI Special  
Subject: man wallops satan

**What an excitable guy, this young Iraqi journalist, eh shoeducker?**

**You invade and bomb his country and blow tens of thousands of people to kingdom come and he gets so upset he pelts you with shoes!**

**Can't he take a joke?**

**Well, ducky, you definitely exited history in style: bowing twice to a pair of humble but furious projectiles.**

**So long, farewell, auf Wiedersehn, adieu: the world won't miss a sorry shit like you.**

**Pack up your crap now in a rush -- then take a jump and flush.**

**Z**

**MORE:**

## **The Traitor Bush Pretends Not To Get The Message**

December 15, 2008 Shoobushout.blogspot.com [Excerpt]

By now, most of you have heard about and watched the video of courageous Iraqi journalist, Muntazer Al-Zaidi throwing his shoes at GW Bush at a press conference in Baghdad this past Sunday.

**After this incident, Bush has said “I don't know what his (Al-Zaidi's) beef is” and then, during an interview onboard Air Force 1, he continued to express his ‘confusion’ (excerpt)**

**Reporter: Well, not to belabor the point too much, on this man (Al-Zaidi), but I have a serious question about it. Obviously he's expressing a vein of anger that exists in Iraq, and —**



**Bush:** How do you know? I mean, how do we know what he's expressing? Who

**Reporter:** We had a translator who said he shouted about the widows and orphans.

**Bush:** I don't know. I've heard all kinds of stories. I heard he was representing a Baathist TV station. I don't know the facts, but let's find out the facts...

What Al-Zaidi said was:

"This is a goodbye kiss from the Iraqi people, dog. This is for the widows, the orphans and those who were killed in Iraq."

**TRAITOR  
CRIMINAL  
DOMESTIC ENEMY:  
UNFIT FOR COMMAND;  
UNWORTHY OF OBEDIENCE**



The traitor Bush Lima, Peru, Nov. 23, 2008. (AP Photo/Lawrence Jackson)

**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](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 917.677.8057

## Bush Claims Decision To Invade Iraq Vindicated After U.S. Troops Uncover Arsenal Of Shoes On The Outskirts Of Fallujah



Saddam built a super-shoe to attack Israel

12.15.08 The Daily Mash

PRESIDENT Bush last night claimed his decision to invade Iraq had been vindicated after US troops uncovered an arsenal of shoes on the outskirts of Fallujah.

More than 400 lethal shoes including sandals, pumps, desert boots and a solitary brogue were revealed as Mr Bush paid a final visit to Iraq to see if there was anything left.

A White House spokesman immediately dismissed claims the US invasion had been based on Saddam Hussein's alleged stockpile of chemical and biological weapons, adding: "No we didn't, we said shoes. We did and if you heard weapons of mass destruction, that's your problem. You might want to try using a cotton bud."

The spokesman added: "We believe that many of these shoes would have been built in China with Russian laces, French-made heels and odor-absorbing insoles purchased through back channels via the west African state of Niger."

Prime minister Gordon Brown backed Mr Bush insisting many of Iraq's shoes were slippers that could be activated in less than 45 minutes.

But France denied supplying Iraq with shoe components insisting its only exports to Saddam's regime had been a 1994 shipment of humanitarian espadrilles.

Meanwhile the Kremlin said most of Iraq's shoes had actually been bought from ex-US defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld when he worked for Hush Puppies in the early 1980s.



**THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO COMPREHENSIBLE REASON TO BE IN THIS EXTREMELY HIGH RISK LOCATION AT THIS TIME, EXCEPT THAT A PACK OF TRAITORS IN D.C. WANT YOU THERE**

**That is not a good enough reason.**



U.S. Army soldiers, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment a patrol, in Hay al Tinek neighborhood, northwestern Mosul, Nov. 12, 2008. Two U.S. troops were killed and six wounded in a shooting incident in Mosul, the U.S. army said. (AP Photo/Petros Giannakouris)

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A shoe is raised during a protest against the U.S. president's visit in Sadr City in Baghdad on Monday. An Iraqi journalist threw his shoes at Bush during a news conference on Sunday. (Photo: Karim Kadim/Associated Press)

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# **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

## **Three Canadian Soldiers Killed In Afghanistan**

Dec 13 (Reuters)

Three Canadian soldiers were killed and one wounded in southern Afghanistan on Saturday when an explosive device detonated near the armored car in which they were riding, military officials said.

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## **Soldier From 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery Killed In Afghanistan**

15 Dec 08 Ministry of Defence

It is with great sadness that the Ministry of Defence must confirm that a British soldier from 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery was killed as a result of enemy fire on Monday 15 December 2008.

He was at a Forward Operating Base in the Gereshk area of Helmand province when he was wounded and also where he received immediate medical treatment. He was taken by helicopter to the International Security Assistance Force's military hospital at Kandahar, but despite the best efforts of the medical team, he subsequently died of his wounds.

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## **Resistance Action:**

12.7.08 By NOOR KHAN (AP) & 14 December 2008 By VOA News & Dec 15 (Reuters) & Xinhua & Dec 16 By NOOR KHAN, Associated Press Writer

Five Afghan army troops died in two separate mine explosions, the Defense Ministry said. Four troops died when their vehicle hit a mine in Kunar province, while another was killed when his vehicle hit a mine in Helmand province, the ministry said in a statement.

Afghan officials say a bomb hidden in a wooden cart killed three police officers and wounded at least five other policemen in the southern city of Kandahar. Local officials say the attack Sunday targeted a police vehicle.

Three Afghan government workers were shot dead in southwest Afghanistan on Monday in Ghazni City, about 200 km (125 miles) southwest of Kabul, a local official said.

In Yaqubi district of Khost province, a bomber blew himself up next to an army checkpoint, wounding an Afghan soldier, an army officer in the province Israr Ahmad told Xinhua.

A bomb struck the vehicle of Khayal Mohammad, the director of tribal department, killing his driver and injuring Mohammad and his son

Taliban fighters killed two Afghan police officers in a checkpoint attack in southern Afghanistan, police said Tuesday. One of the attackers also died. Monday night's attack occurred about 2 miles (3 kilometers) south of Helmand province's capital of Lashkar Gah, Police Chief Asadullah Shirzad said.

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## **TROOP NEWS**

### **“The Military Is The One Job Where You Get Arrested If You Choose To Quit,” She Told The City Council**

December 8, 2008 By Adam Sanchez, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

PORTLAND, Ore.--A number of activists from the PDX Peace Coalition went before the Portland City Council on December 3 to advocate for an ordinance that would make the city a sanctuary for military resisters who have decided to go AWOL rather than fight in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

In tear-filled testimony, Megan Brooker from Military Families Speak Out spoke about her brother, who was recently “stop-lossed” for his third tour in Iraq.

“His contract is up. It's expired. He no longer wants to be there. But the military is the one job where you get arrested if you choose to quit,” she told the city council.

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Resistance Action:**

Dec 9 (Reuters) & By Hussein Kadhim, McClatchy Newspapers & Dec. 15 (Xinhua) & Reuters & Dec 16 (Reuters)

Nine policemen were killed and 31 wounded when a suicide bomber drove a car full of explosives at their checkpoint at the main street of the town of Khan Dhari, just west of Baghdad on Monday, as attacks resumed after a period of uncommon calm, a police source said. He said most of the wounded were policemen.

One policeman was seriously wounded when an unknown assailant threw a hand grenade at a police patrol in western Mosul, police said.

A roadside bomb detonated in Zafaraniyah neighborhood (east Baghdad) targeting a police patrol around 6 p.m. One policeman was injured.

A mortar round landed on a police checkpoint at the northern entrance of the city of Fallujah, some 50 km west of Baghdad, wounding three policemen, the source added.

A bomber detonated an explosive vest in the town of Tarmiya, 25 km (15 miles) north of Baghdad, killing the leader of a U.S.-backed neighbourhood patrol, police said. The man's son was also wounded.

A bomb wounded three policemen, when it struck a police patrol near Andalus square in central Baghdad, police said.

The police chief of Rashad town escaped death when a roadside bomb detonated near his convoy and wounded two of his bodyguards, 30 km (20 miles) south of Kirkuk, police said.

A bomber wounded four Iraqi soldiers when he attacked their patrol in Rabea, a town near the Syrian border, on Monday, police said.

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## **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**

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## **Le Déserteur: “Prévenez Vos Gendarmes Que Je Serai En Arme Et Que Je Sais Tirer”**

From: Max Watts  
To: GI Special  
Sent: August 06, 2008  
Subject: The deserter

[Max Watts who began helping GIs resisting the Vietnam War in the 1960’s, and has never stopped helping soldiers resisting Imperial wars.]

\*\*\*\*\*

Le Déserteur, par Boris Vian et Harold Berg

Boris Vian (1920-1959), a French engineer by education, gifted with amazing talents, was at any one time a poet, a novelist, a musician, a jazz trumpeter, a singer, an actor; he also was a pacifist, an anti-power genius with une sensibilité à fleur de peau.

He is remembered for tantalizing finesse, sensitivity, creativity, and originality. From L’Ecume des Jours and L’Arrache-cœur, to L’Automne à Pékin, Boris Vian exemplifies humaneness and solidarity. To listen to a beautiful rendition of Le Déserteur, try Serge Reggiani or Mouloudji, two famous anti-militarist singers.

### **Le Déserteur**

**Monsieur le Président,  
je vous fais une lettre,  
que vous lirez peut-être,  
si vous avez le temps.**

**Je viens de recevoir  
mes papiers militaires**



**pour partir à la guerre  
avant mercredi soir.**

**Monsieur le Président  
je ne veux pas le faire,  
je ne suis pas sur terre  
pour tuer de pauvres gens.**

**C'est pas pour vous fâcher,  
il faut que je vous dise,  
ma décision est prise,  
je m'en vais désertier.**

**Depuis que je suis né,  
j'ai vu mourir mon père,  
j'ai vu partir mes frères,  
et pleurer mes enfants.**

**Ma mère a tant souffert,  
qu'elle est dedans sa tombe,  
et se moque des bombes,  
et se moque des vers.**

**Quand j'étais prisonnier  
on m'a volé ma femme,  
on m'a volé mon âme,  
et tout mon cher passé.**

**Demain de bon matin,  
je fermerai ma porte  
au nez des années mortes  
j'irai sur les chemins.**

**Je mendierai ma vie,  
sur les routes de France,  
de Bretagne en Provence,  
et je crierai aux gens:**

**refusez d'obéir,  
refusez de la faire,  
n'allez pas à la guerre,  
refusez de partir.**

**S'il faut donner son sang,  
allez donner le vôtre,  
vous êtes bon apôtre,  
monsieur le Président.**

**Si vous me poursuivez  
prévenez vos gendarmes  
que je serai en arme**

et que je sais tirer”

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## Yankees Sign Iraqi Hurler: Shoe-Throwing Right-Hander Impresses Scouts



December 14, 2008 The Borowitz Report

In their latest bid to beef up their pitching rotation for the 2009 season, the New York Yankees today signed Iraqi journalist Muntadar al-Zeidi to a three-year deal worth \$32 million.

The right-handed al-Zeidi, 28, impressed the Yankee scouts with his performance in Baghdad yesterday when he threw both of his shoes at President George W. Bush.

While neither of the shoes hit their target, both throws “had great velocity and good movement,” said Yankee owner Hank Steinbrenner.

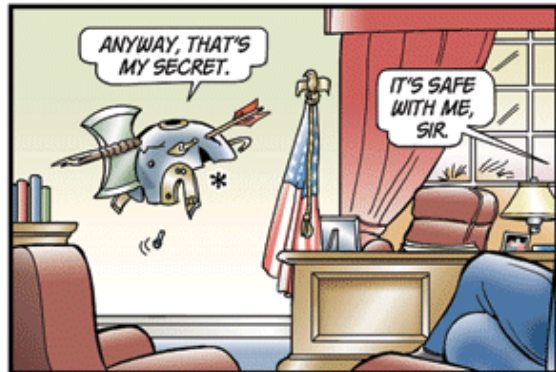
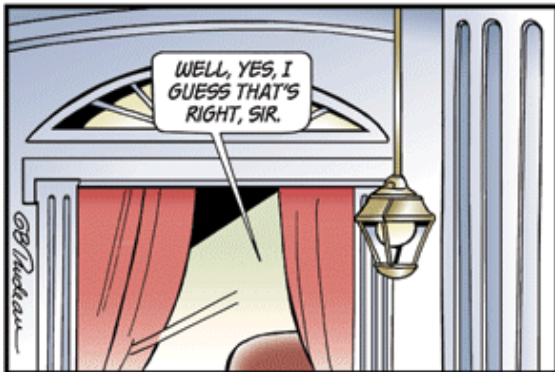
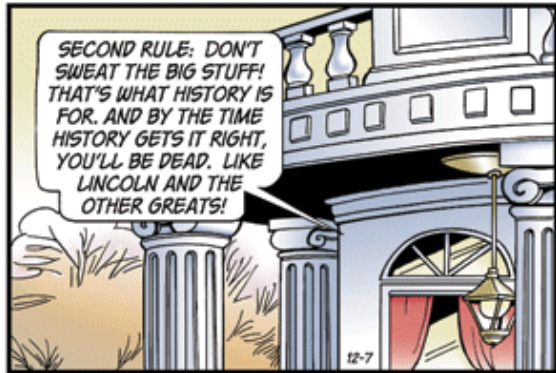
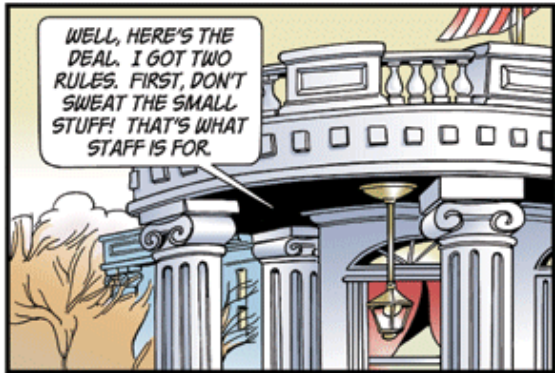
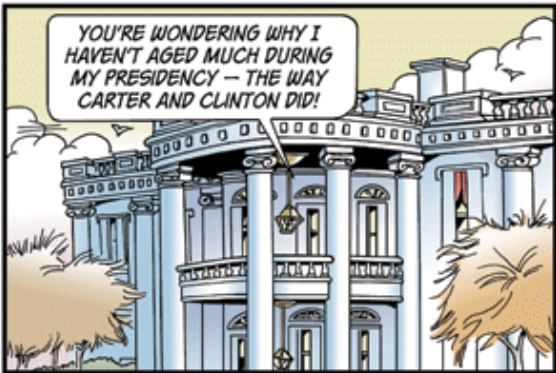
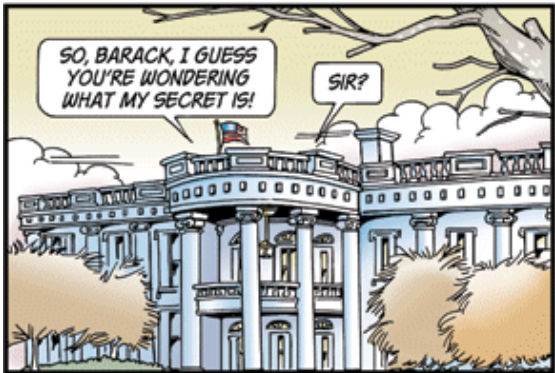
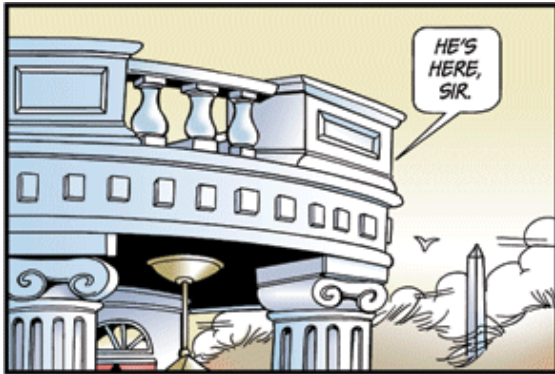
“The first shoe was high and outside but the second one was right down the middle,” Mr. Steinbrenner said.

The Yankee boss said that he was also impressed with Mr. al-Zeidi’s fighting spirit when Secret Service agents tackled him.

“That could come in handy when we have a series with Boston,” he said.

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**DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**



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