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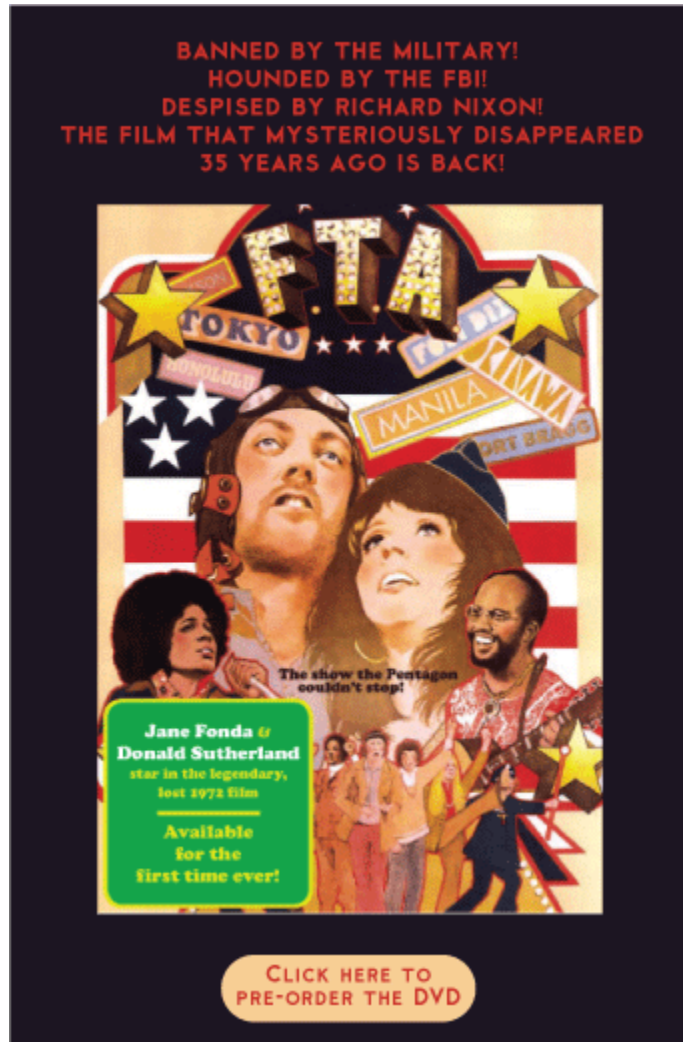


Pin, Vietnam Days: T

FTA Is Back!

“The Extraordinary Air Of Dissent That Rises Out Of ‘FTA’ Provides A Rare Glimpse Into An Unhappy And Demoralized Fighting Force Stuck In A War Which They Did Not Believe In”

“The Film’s True Power Comes In The Frank, Often Rude Comments From The Servicemen And Women Who Openly Question The Purpose And Planning Of The American Involvement In Vietnam”



Premiere Screenings of FTA in Los Angeles and New York

Friday, January 30:

7:30 pm at the American Cinematheque in Los Angeles

[FTA Cast Members Q&A After Screening](#)

Monday, February 2:

7:00 pm at the IFC Center in New York

[Q&A with Jane Fonda After Screening](#)

Broadcast Premiere February 23

On the Sundance Channel

FTA Trailer

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4HlkqPCgU7g&eurl=http://imgineaworldof.blogspot.com/&feature=player_embedded

**FINALLY, AFTER 35-YEARS IN EXILE
FTA IS BACK! AVAILABLE FEBRUARY 24
EXCLUSIVELY ON DVD
FROM DISPLACED FILMS AND
NEW VIDEO/ DOCURAMA**

FTA:

Ultra-Rare! F.T.A. (aka FREE THE ARMY aka FUN, TRAVEL, ADVENTURE), 1972, Displaced Films, 97 min. Dir. Francine Parker.

F.T.A. was originally released by American-International but pulled from distribution after only one week, with rumors of pressure from the Pentagon.

– Phil Hall, Film Threat

About The Film:

11.13.2001 Movie Review By Phil Hall, Filmthreat.com [Excerpts]

Directed by Francine Parker, produced by Francine Parker, Jane Fonda and Donald Sutherland, written by Robin Merken, Michael Alimo, Rita Martinson, Holly Near, Len Chandler, Pamela Donegan and Dalton Trumbo

Starring Jane Fonda, Donald Sutherland and Holly Near

1972. Rated R. Running time: 1 hour 37 minutes. An American International Release

During the Vietnam War, Hollywood maintained a curiously stony silence about the conflict in Indochina and the violently split reactions at home.

Except for the John Wayne insanity "The Green Berets" and the cinema verite depiction of the 1968 protests outside the Democratic National Convention in "Medium Cool," the war was nowhere to be seen on the screen.

"FTA," a documentary produced by and starring Jane Fonda, was the rare film which bluntly addressed the Vietnam War and the policies behind the U.S. involvement.

But unfortunately, it was a little too rare: the film was abruptly withdrawn after only one week in release.

During 1971 and 1972, Jane Fonda and Donald Sutherland led a quasi-USO tour that played in towns outside of U.S. military bases along the West Coast and throughout the Pacific.

Fonda referred to the tour as “political vaudeville” and the show itself was called “FTA” (the acronym standing for “Free the Army” and “Fuck the Army”).

The audiences were primarily the men and women of the U.S. armed services, and during the tour Fonda and her company interviewed the various soldiers, sailors and marines regarding their thoughts on the Indochina slaughterhouse.

Viewing “FTA” today is like opening a long-forgotten time capsule.

The film’s true power comes in the frank, often rude comments from the servicemen and women who openly question the purpose and planning of the American involvement in Vietnam.

Most memorable here are the members of the U.S.S. Coral Sea, who presented a petition to their superiors demanding a halt to the bombing in Vietnam; African-American soldiers and marines who angrily decried racist attitudes among the white commanding officers at the U.S. military installations, usually with an upraised fist of the Black Power movement; women serving in the U.S. Air Force who talk unhappily about sexual harassment from their male counterparts; and soldiers who pointedly refer to the dictatorial government in South Vietnam which was being presented as the democracy which they were supposedly defending.

The extraordinary air of dissent that rises out of “FTA” provides a rare glimpse into an unhappy and demoralized fighting force stuck in a war which they did not believe in.

A truly harrowing and heartbreaking vision: a very brief chat with a discharged American soldier who lost an arm in Vietnam and left the service to wander aimlessly through Japan, without a home or a sense of purpose in life. This unfortunate young man appears literally out of nowhere and disappears almost as quickly; his story should have been given a film unto itself.

One sketch offered a nasty sting with Donald Sutherland taking the role of a TV sports commentator providing a play-by-play call on a battle between U.S. forces and the Vietcong (the battle ends prematurely when American fighter planes bomb their own ground troops).

The military audiences at the “FTA” seemed to enjoy the performances, although the film includes a hairy moment when a few hecklers disrupt the show and are ejected by other soldiers.

Fonda speaks about supporting the U.S. service members in Vietnam while criticizing the U.S. government policies which put them into harm’s way.

Having a filmed record of the discontent of that era makes this an important documentary, and one can easily forgive its shortcomings and stumbles when

considering this was the rare production to question the Vietnam War at a time when Hollywood preferred to look the other way.

To Get Your Copy Of FTA:

http://militarylies.typepad.com/military_lies/2009/01/preorder-fta-from-displaced-films.html

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

Four U.S. Soldiers Killed In Multaquia Air Crash

January 26, 2009 By Ned Parker and Caesar Ahmed, Los Angeles Times & Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory

Reporting from Baghdad -- Four U.S. soldiers were killed early today when two U.S. military aircraft crashed near the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk, according to the U.S. military and Iraqi officials.

The incident occurred around 2:15 a.m. in Multaquia, a district 18 miles west of Kirkuk, an Iraqi police official said on condition of anonymity. The officer described the aircraft as a helicopter and also said it did not appear to have been combat-related.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

BAD IDEA:

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



American Army soldiers, thinly spread, patrolled the Afghan village of Tsapowzai recently. Danfung Dennis for The New York Times January 22, 2009

Notes From A Lost War:

**As Taliban Forces Close On Kabul,
Resistance Government Takes
Control Of Countryside:**

**“There Are Now Taliban Shadow
Governors In Almost Every Afghan
Province”**

**“Aslam Estimates That 90 Percent Of
People In Helmand Side With The
Taliban”**

December 27, 2008 By JASON STRAZIUSO and AMIR SHAH, The Associated Press
[Excerpts]

Two months ago, Mohammad Anwar recalls, the Taliban paraded accused thieves through his village, tarred their faces with oil and threw them in jail.

The public punishment was a clear sign to villagers that the Taliban are now in charge. And the province they took over lies just 30 miles from the Afghan capital of Kabul, right on the main highway.

The Taliban has long operated its own shadow government in the most dangerous parts of Afghanistan, but its power is now spreading north to the doorstep of Kabul, according to Associated Press interviews with a dozen government officials, analysts, Taliban commanders and Afghan villagers.

More than seven years after the U.S.-led invasion, the Islamic militia is attempting -- at least in name -- to reconstitute the government by which it ruled Afghanistan in the late 1990s.

Over the past year in Wardak province alone, Taliban fighters have taken over district centers, set up checkpoints on rural highways and captured Afghan soldiers.

The Taliban in Wardak has its own governor and military chief, its own pseudo-court system and its own religious leaders who act as judges. Bands of armed militants in beat-up trucks cruise the countryside, dispensing their own justice against accused spies and thieves.

"After night falls, no police drive through here," the 20-year-old Anwar said, urging an AP journalist to return to Kabul before the militants drove into view.

Two miles down the road, a policeman named Fawad manned a checkpoint, wearing the traditional shalwar kameez robe so he could pretend to be a simple villager in case of a Taliban attack.

"There are more and more Taliban this year," said Fawad, who like many Afghans goes by only one name. "The people of the villages are not going to the government courts. The Taliban are warning them that no one can go there."

In a growing number of regions, insurgents have put in place:

-- Militant commanders who serve as self-described governors and police or military chiefs of provinces.

-- A 10 percent "tax" -- a forced payment at gunpoint, Western officials say -- on rich families, or donations by poorer families of food and shelter for fighters.

-- A military draft that forces fighting-age males to join the Taliban for months-long rotations.

-- Manned Taliban or militant checkpoints to demand highway taxes and search vehicles for government employees or foreigners.

Taliban officials and analysts boast that there are now Taliban shadow governors in almost every Afghan province.

“Three years ago the Taliban had no control in Afghanistan. They were spread too thin. Now they have power. They have soldiers. They have governors, district chiefs and judges. It is a very big difference from what you saw in 2003 or even 2005,” said Abdul Salam Zaeef, the Taliban’s former ambassador to Pakistan.

The Afghanistan NGO Safety Office, which provides safety information to aid organizations operating in the country, said that by a conservative estimate, anti-government militants operate in more than 35 percent of the country, and that the number is growing.

In 2007 militants attacked foreign troops only in small formations, worried that bombing runs by fighter aircraft would result in huge battlefield losses.

But over the last year, that has changed.

Recently, some 300 militants massed for an attack in the Bala Murghab district of Badghis province. About 250 insurgents took part in an attack on a government center in Paktika province in late November. And earlier this year some 200 militants attacked a small U.S. outpost in the east and killed nine soldiers.

An hour’s drive south of Kabul in Logar, the Taliban took over the district of Baraki Barak just before the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan in September. They rented shops and armed men wandered the streets, residents say.

“Everyone with links to the government fled the area,” said a shopkeeper in Baraki Barak who spoke only on condition he wasn’t identified for fear of the Taliban.

In Helmand province, perhaps Afghanistan’s most militant-infested region, Mullah Mohammad Qassim was appointed as the Taliban police chief last spring.

Qassim said each of Helmand’s 14 districts has a Taliban government leader and police chief, and courts across the province implement strict Islamic or sharia law.

The Taliban in Helmand have no relations with Karzai’s government, he said. “We are more powerful than them. Even most of the capital of Helmand is under our control.”

Every week Taliban judges hold court after Friday prayers, said tribal elder Mohammad Aslam from the district of Sangin.

In the Kajaki area of Helmand, the site of a large U.S.-funded dam project, militants tax houses with electricity, he said. Trucks using the highways are also taxed.

Echoing a common complaint of Afghans across the country, Mohammad Aslam labeled the Afghan government “corrupt.”

“No one can trust them,” he said of government officials. “Whenever we have a problem, we go to the Taliban and the Taliban court.”

Aslam estimates that 90 percent of people in Helmand side with the Taliban.

Notes From A Lost War:

“It Doesn’t Really Matter What You Do In Kabul Or The Provincial Capitals”

“From The Border Of Kabul To The Iranian Border, There Is Fighting Everywhere”

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

December 19, 2008 By Mark Sappenfield, Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor [Excerpts]

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN - Recent headlines from Afghanistan have read like a history lesson from the Soviet 1980s.

That war “devolved into a fight for control of ... the road network,” concludes a 1995 US Army study. Militants are now stepping up attacks against American supply routes, destroying some 200 trucks in Pakistan this month.

Anti-Soviet militants controlled “the rural areas,” says a former Soviet official. Today’s militants have a “permanent presence” in 72 percent of the country, according to a Dec. 8 study.

There are differences between then and now. Yet 20 years later, many problems are similar: The US and NATO control neither the countryside nor the militants’ hideouts in Pakistan, and as civilian casualties increase, Afghan anger is mounting.

To succeed, America needs solutions that eluded the Soviets. “It doesn’t really matter what you do in Kabul or the provincial capitals,” says David Isby, author of “War in a Distant Country – Afghanistan: Invasion and Resistance.”

The problem, Mr. Isby adds, is that the Soviets “weren’t able to control the grass roots.”

The same thing is happening now, according to Dec. 8 report by the International Council on Security and Development (ICOS).

The pattern of attacks against coalition forces and the Afghan government suggests that militants have significant operations in provinces that make up nearly three-quarters of Afghanistan's area, it argues.

"From the border of Kabul to the Iranian border, there is fighting everywhere," says Mohammed Yunus, an Afghan truck driver.

His tanker truck is one of scores sitting along the highway into Kabul, a miles-long roadside caterpillar of brightly painted metal waiting for 9 p.m., when trucks are allowed through the capital.

He has traversed Afghanistan for 10 years as a truck driver, but "during the past year, violence has gone to its peak," he says.

The ICOS study notes that three of the four major highways out of Kabul are "compromised by Taliban activity."

"It is no real surprise that the current strategy tries to control the cities and towns, but it is reminiscent of the Soviet era," writes Larry Goodson, a professor at the US Army War College in Carlisle, Pa., in an e-mail.

"By the mid-1980s, the USSR concentrated on controlling the urban areas ... and the major road network, conceding the countryside," he adds.

Still, the major threat to American convoys has arisen not here but in Pakistan, where militant groups have found sanctuary.

It is a renewal of tactics used in the 1980s.

The Soviet Army's "ultimate survival depended on its ability to resupply itself," according to the 1995 study by Lester Grau of the Foreign Military Studies Office in Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

"Afghan guerrillas learned to ambush supply convoys and cut the roads," he adds.

From the perspective of Zamir Kabulov, the former Soviet official, President-elect Barack Obama's proposed troops surge for Afghanistan is not enough.

The Russian diplomat has perhaps a unique view on Afghan history. He was in Kabul at the height of the Soviet-backed Communist regime in the mid-1980s. He returned to see the government fall to the mujahideen in 1992. Now, he is Russia's ambassador to Afghanistan.

The Soviets had nearly 400,000 Soviet and Afghan soldiers at their disposal – more than twice what the US and NATO have here – and yet they still failed, he notes.

The coalition's stretched resources have created an unwanted echo of the worst of Soviet times, Professor Goodson says.

“As the war ... went on, the Soviets realized they had to get at the mujahideen in the countryside and so began a genocidal policy toward the rural villages and households,” he says.

Today, “every incident of inadvertent civilian casualties ... awakens bad memories for the Afghans.”

TROOP NEWS

Who Could Possibly Have Believed It?

JCS Chief Casey Tells Military Audience That “Iraq And Afghanistan Are Not Going To Go Away”

“Also In Question Is Whether Obama Will Stick To His Campaign Promise Of Withdrawing Troops From Iraq Within 16 Months Of His Oath Of Office”

1.26.09 By Gina Cavallaro & By Michelle Tan, Army Times [Excerpts]

The Army chief of staff projects a “slight increase” in the number of soldiers deployed between now and mid-2010, as a planned shift of combat troops to Afghanistan takes shape at the same time most soldiers are still deployed in Iraq.

Gen. George Casey, who made his remarks at a Jan. 14 meeting of the Association of the U.S. Army in Arlington, Va., gave few details about what sort of increase he foresees, indicating a holding pattern of sorts with the change of command at the White House.

As of Jan. 13, there were 23,500 soldiers in Afghanistan and 103,700 in Iraq, with another 10,400 soldiers in Kuwait and Qatar in support of operations in the war zones, according to the Army G-3 plans and operations center.

Casey told his audience that “Iraq and Afghanistan are not going to go away” and said he does not yet know how decisions made by the incoming Obama administration will impact the Army.

“We don’t know where this is going to come out, but I don’t see much reduction until the middle of 2010,” Casey said.

“We’re probably not going to have everything out of Iraq on the timelines we need to have it in Afghanistan. So I think maybe a slight increase,” Casey said, in reference to a previously announced increase in forces in Afghanistan by 30,000 by this summer.

Also in question is whether Obama will stick to his campaign promise of withdrawing troops from Iraq within 16 months of his oath of office.

At the end of the day, the senior planner said, everyone acknowledges that the Army is operating at capacity.

Casey, who had said he is eager to get troops up to a minimum of 18 months’ dwell time, said he didn’t expect the deployment of additional soldiers through 2010 to disrupt the progress the Army is making in providing more swell time for soldiers.

Still, he said, the plan to get soldiers back to more than 18 months dwell time is not yet in place and won’t be for at least two years.

40 From North Dakota National Guard Off To Obama’s Imperial Slaughterhouse

1.26.09 Army Times

About 40 soldiers with the North Dakota National Guard’s 188th Air Defense Artillery will deploy to Afghanistan in early February. The deployment will last a year.

Before arriving in Afghanistan, the troops will go to Fort Hood, Texas.

The mission tasks will include monitoring camera systems, radar and acoustic sensor systems and fiber sensors, and conducting security missions.

MORE:

300 From Fort Bragg Off To Obama’s Imperial Slaughterhouse

1.26.09 Army Times

About 300 soldiers will deploy from Fort Bragg to Afghanistan by early February to support Operation Enduring Freedom.

Troops with 1st Battalion, 321st Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, will be deployed for a year. Their duties will include providing artillery fire and radar support.

MORE:

450 From Nevada National Guard Off To Obama's Imperial Slaughterhouse

1.26.09 Army Times

About 450 soldiers in the National Guard's 1st Squadron, 221st Cavalry, are preparing for a spring deployment to Afghanistan. The soldiers will provide security for a reconstruction team that is rebuilding the country, and will also conduct combat and infantry missions in Laghman province.

This deployment will be the Nevada Guard's largest international deployment of one unit since World War II. This deployment to Afghanistan will be the fourth major mission for the unit since 2001.

MORE:

3,500 From 25th ID Off To Obama's Imperial Slaughterhouse

1.26.09 By Gina Cavallero, Army Times [Excerpts]

A 12-month deployment to Afghanistan for 3,500 soldiers with the 25th Infantry Division was announced Jan. 16 by the Army. The 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), the "Spartan Brigade," was stood up in the fall of 2005 and in October 2006 deployed to Iraq to become part of the 3rd Infantry Division's Task Force Marne and Multi-National Division-Center.

The unit returned in December 2007, so it will have had about 14 months of dwell time when it deploys next month.

The Spartan Brigade will have a deployment ceremony at its home base of Fort Richardson, Alaska, on Feb. 2 and begin deploying thereafter, Army spokesman Lt. Col. Lee Packnett said.

The brigade will replace the 101st Airborne Division's 4th BCT, which has been in southeastern Afghanistan at Forward Operating Base Salerno since March 2008. This could mean that the 4/101 will redeploy three months early. The Army would not confirm the brigades' redeployment date.

Expectations are that more brigades with deployment orders for Iraq will be diverted to Afghanistan because the Defense Department has announced a 30,000-troop increase there by next summer.

The Army has not said which units may be diverted.

The 4th BCT, a light brigade has six battalions:

1st Battalion, 501st Infantry;
3rd Battalion, 509th Infantry;
1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry;
2nd Battalion, 377th Field Artillery;
425th Brigade Special Troops Battalion;
725th Brigade Support Battalion.

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER: The New Issue Of Traveling Soldier Is Out!

This issue features:

1. "I Could Not, In Good Conscience, Continue To Serve In The U.S. Army" says Andre Sheppard.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/1.08.shepherd.php>

2. "We cannot allow any president to shift focus to Afghanistan" says Iraq vet Camilo Mejia.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/1.08.afghanistan.php>

3. "I could not live with myself if I kept my head down and went into another deployment without taking any action" says active-duty soldier Casey Porter.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/1.08.porter.php>

4. D.o.D. Says Toxic Chemicals Safe to Inhale

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/1.08.toxic.php>

5. "It Amazes Me That Officials Say It's Not Hazardous, Yet Somehow You Mysteriously Develop These Problems After You Get There" says

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/1.08.letters.php>

6. Download the new Traveling Soldier to pass it out at your school, workplace, or at nearby base.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/TS21.pdf>

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 Douglass, 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**

**“When someone says my son died fighting for his country, I say, “No, the suicide bomber who killed my son died fighting for his country.”
-- Father of American Soldier Chase Beattie, KIA in Iraq**

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**

“He’ll Be Sending Israel The Money, Guns, Planes, And Bombs That Make Those Raids Possible”

January 21, 2009 By Binh, Prisonerofstarvation.blogspot.com

As Obama took the oath of office, Israel ended its slaughter of Palestinians in Gaza, withdrawing its last soldier on Bam’s first day in office. Israel’s blitzkrieg killed 1,400 Palestinians in three weeks, a bloody end to the mass murder that characterized Bush’s presidency.

Israel’s politicians seem to have had two aims in mind: bury their 2006 defeat in Lebanon under a pile of Palestinian skulls before the most one-sided pro-Israel president in American history is out of office, and use the war for electoral gain (their elections are in February and Arab parties have been banned).

In the course of the assault, U.N. facilities were attacked and white phosphorus was used to bombard heavily populated civilian areas, both clear violations of international law.

Israeli soldiers, those defenders of the Middle East’s “only democracy,” scribbled messages on the rubble to welcome homeless Palestinians: “Arabs need 2 die,” “no Arabs in the State of Israel,” and “one down and 999,999 to go.”

Imitation is the highest form of flattery and surely Eichmann, Rommel, and Co. would be flattered by Israel’s adoption of methods they perfected.

No one hoping for a change in U.S. policy toward Israel should hold their breath.

During the siege of Gaza, Obama spoke out - against Hamas' pathetic rocket attacks that managed to kill only four Israelis: "If somebody was sending rockets into my house where my two daughters sleep at night, I would do everything to stop that, and would expect Israel to do the same thing."

Apparently, Obama wouldn't give a damn if a superpower were using white phosphorus on his kids, bulldozing houses in his neighborhood to set up settlements, or starving his kids with an economic blockade.

Maybe Hamas should invest in some F-16s and a state-of-the-art navy to avoid Obama's wrath next time around since apparently he has a thing for rocket attacks that hardly kill anyone.

While millions of Americans hope that Obama will bring the change he promised, Palestinians are painfully aware that the president whose middle name is Hussein does not give a damn about them.

As Leila Khalil put it, "Obama won't bring my husband back to life. He was martyred and left me with six children to feed on my own. And Obama won't repair our house that was damaged in the (air) raids."

Worse yet, he'll be sending Israel the money, guns, planes, and bombs that make those raids possible.

January 26, 1784: Prophetic Anniversary: Ben Franklin Says The Imperial Eagle Is A Thieving Piece Of Shit



Carl Bunin Peace History January 21-27

Benjamin Franklin, noting the bald eagle was "a bird of bad moral character" who lived "by sharpening and robbing," expressed regret it had been selected to be the

U.S. national symbol. In fact, Franklin was critical of the bald eagle for its habit of scavenging for food and stealing from other birds.

“You may have seen him perched on some dead tree, where, too lazy to fish for himself, he watches the labor of the fishing-hawk, and when that diligent bird has at length taken a fish, and is bearing it to its nest for the support of his mate and young ones, the bald eagle pursues him and takes it from him,” Franklin said.

January 27, 1847: Citizens Defeat Slavehunters



SOJOURNER TRUTH.

Carl Bunin Peace History January 21-27

Since 1832, Michigan had had an active antislavery society.

Quakers in Cass County, Laura Haviland in Adrian and former slave Sojourner Truth in Battle Creek were only a few of the many Michiganians who worked on the Underground Railroad—an informal network that assisted escaping slaves.

Southern concern over the Underground Railroad will lead Congress to pass a more stringent Fugitive Slave Law in 1850. In 1854 opposition to the extension of slavery prompted Michiganians to meet in nearby Jackson to organize the Republican Party.

Several hundred citizens of Marshall, Michigan, helped former slaves escape to Canada rather than be returned to their “owner” by bounty hunters. Adam Crosswhite and his family, escaped Kentucky slaves, were tracked to the abolitionist town of Marshall by Francis Troutman and others.

Both black and white residents detained the bounty hunters and threatened them with tar and feathers.

While Troutman was being charged with assault and fined \$100, the Crosswhites fled to Canada. Back in Kentucky, the slavemaster stirred up intense excitement about “abolitionist mobs” in Michigan.

January 27, 1969: A Strike For Liberation

Carl Bunin Peace History January 21-27

In Detroit, African-American auto workers, known as the Eldon Avenue Axle Plant Revolutionary Union Movement, led a wildcat strike against racism and poor working conditions at Chrysler.

Since the 1967 Detroit riots, African American workers had organized groups in several Detroit auto plants criticizing both the auto companies and the UAW leadership. These groups combined Black-Power nationalism and workplace militancy, and temporarily shut down more than a dozen inner-city plants.

The most well-known of these groups was the Dodge Revolutionary Union Movement, or DRUM. They criticized both the seniority system and grievance procedures as racist. Veterans of this movement went on to lead many of the same local unions.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

**With Only A Week In Office,
Obama’s Body Count -- Of
Civilians – “Already Easily
Exceeds The Number Of Days
He’s Been President”
U.S. Navy Ordered To Intercept And
Search Ships Near Palestine:**

“What Possible Justification Is There For Using The American Military To Patrol The Red Sea In Order To Ensure That Gazans Remain Defenseless?”

Jan. 26, 2009 By Glenn Greenwald, Salon.com [Excerpts]

[T]he Bush administration, just days before it left office, entered into yet another new agreement with Israel pursuant to which the U.S. committed to use its resources to prevent guns and other weapons from entering Gaza.

That agreement cites “the steadfast commitment of the United States to Israel’s security” and “and to preserve and strengthen Israel’s capability to deter and defend itself,” and vows that the U.S. will “address the problem of the supply of arms and related materiel and weapons transfers and shipments to Hamas and other terrorist organizations in Gaza.”

Speaking about that new U.S./Israeli agreement on her show late last week, MSNBC’s Rachel Maddow observed that the Obama administration has enthusiastically expressed its full support for the new Israeli agreement entered into in the last days of Bush’s presidency.

Maddow said

“Also, not particularly change-like, then-President Bush made a deal in his final day in office with Israel about the terms of Israel’s relationship with Gaza. I’m sorry - it wasn’t his last day in office. It was within his last few days in office -- my mistake.

“The U.S. under President Obama is bound by that last-minute agreement between the U.S. and Israel.

“And a statement from Press Secretary Robert Gibbs today says that President Obama supports the agreement fully.”

That new agreement has already led the U.S. Navy last week to take risky and potential illegal actions in intercepting Iranian ships that were transporting arms.

As The Jerusalem Post reported:

“The interception of an Iranian arms ship by the US Navy in the Red Sea last week likely was conducted as a covert operation and is being played down by the US military due to the lack of a clear legal framework for such operations, an American expert on Iran told The Jerusalem Post on Saturday evening.

“International media reported that an Iranian-owned merchant vessel flying a Cypriot flag was boarded early last week by US Navy personnel who discovered artillery shells on board.

“The ship was initially suspected of being en route to delivering its cargo to smugglers in Sinai who would transfer the ammunition to Hamas in Gaza, but the US Navy became uncertain over the identity of the intended recipient since ‘Hamas is not known to use artillery,’ The Associated Press cited a defense official as saying. . . .

“Prof. Raymond Tanter, president of the Washington-based Iran Policy Committee, said, ‘It is not surprising that the US Navy is reluctant to acknowledge the operation, which may have been covert,’ adding that maritime law posed challenges when it came to intercepting ships that fly the flag of a sovereign country. . . .

For the time being, the interceptions and searches are being carried out on the basis of the memorandum of understanding signed between Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni and then-US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on January 16, which is ‘aimed at halting arms smuggling into Gaza as part of efforts to clinch the cease-fire,’ Tanter said.”

And Haaretz reports that preventing Palestinians in Gaza from re-arming itself is now -- for some reason -- an ongoing military operation of the United States:

“A United States naval taskforce has been ordered to hunt down weapons ships sent by Iran to rearm its Islamist ally Hamas in Gaza, The Sunday Times reported.

“Quoting U.S. diplomatic sources, the British daily said that Combined Task Force 151, which is countering pirates in the Gulf of Aden, has been instructed to track Iranian arms shipments.”

What possible justification is there for the U.S. (as opposed to Israel) to use its military and the money of its taxpayers to ensure that the Palestinians remain defenseless?

It's entirely rational for Israel to desire a continuation of that particular state of affairs -- i.e., for only Israel, but not the enemies with whom it has intractable territorial and religious conflicts, to have a real military force.

But what does any of that have to do with the U.S. Navy and the American taxpayer?

What possible justification is there for using American resources -- the American military -- to patrol the Red Sea in order to ensure that Gazans remain defenseless?

That question is particularly pronounced given that the U.S. is already shoveling, and will continue to shovel, billions and billions of dollars to Israel in military and other aid. Why, on top of all of that, are increasingly scarce American resources, rather than Israeli resources, being used to bar Palestinians from obtaining weapons?

With only a week in office, Barack Obama has already fulfilled this Presidential initiation rite, as his body count -- of civilians -- already easily exceeds the number of days he's been President.

Last week, two Drone missile attacks struck Pakistani villages, killing numerous civilians (including children) and maybe -- though maybe not -- a couple of ‘Al Qaeda operatives.’

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

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

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Beginnings



Union activists protest against rising unemployment in Sao Jose dos Campos, Brasil, January 24, 2009. Plunging factory output and mounting job losses show that Latin America's biggest economy is being hit hard, only four months after President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva dismissed the market turmoil as a U.S. problem with the words "what crisis?". The economy lost 655,000 jobs in December, the biggest fall in a decade. REUTERS/Paulo Whitaker

Welcome To The Occupied USA

**Boston Scum Cops Hate Our
Liberties;
“For Knowing Our Rights And Knowing
The Law, We Were Ridiculed,
Manhandled, Cuffed, Tossed In Cells
And Charged With Disorderly Conduct”**



Boston police relax after a hard day at work committing criminal acts. [Photo: Wolfstad.com]

[Instead of dying for the Empire overseas, one more reason to Bring All Our Troops Home Now is so they can defend us against armed domestic enemies at home, and sweep pukes like these Boston Police off the streets once and for all. Facing troops, watch how fast the cowardly slime in blue run away. Payback is overdue. T]

January 21, 2009 Socialist Worker

ON OCTOBER 21, seven members of the Boston branch of the International Socialist Organization who had been having a political meeting in Hyde Square's Junebug Cafe were kicked out by the owner after she saw some sandwiches not made there--despite the fact that we had already paid for the cafe's food and drinks, and that the food from outside was being shared just before leaving to take home.

We immediately and politely left, going outside to finish our discussion for a few minutes before parting ways.

Despite our unequivocal compliance, the owner of Junebug Cafe called the cops.

What may have started off as a bizarre issue over sandwiches became something else when the police couldn't find a law that we were breaking and realized we were socialists.

The cops claimed we were trespassing and ordered us to move, but we were clearly on a public sidewalk and stood our ground.

The police then said that the seven of us, who were in three spread-out groups on a nearly 11 foot-wide and 100 yard-long sidewalk, were blocking it.

Although the charge was absurd, we split up and moved to either edge of the sidewalk, leaving ample space in the middle.

Confounded by our peaceful refusal to be bullied, the officers retreated.

But they couldn't tolerate our confidence in knowing and standing up for our rights and called for back up.

We were told that we were not allowed to leave and were increasingly harassed by what became a total of 10 police officers, who taunted us both during and after the arrest with political comments and jabs.

We were told by the newly arrived sergeant that we needed to be moving if we were forming a picket.

We were sarcastically asked questions like what we thought about marijuana laws in the state of Massachusetts.

We were arrested when we requested a lawful reason for why the police were asking for our IDs.

In fact, when they arrested the first of us without warning, the rest of us immediately gave our IDs up, but were arrested anyway.

Although the police report states refusal to give ID as cause for arrest, the cops had our ID's in hand when we got to the police station.

After the arrest an officer sarcastically sang "We Shall Overcome" to us while laughing as we were being booked. Antiwar and other political flyers were removed from our bags and laughingly passed around between the cops.

For knowing our rights and knowing the law, we were ridiculed, manhandled, cuffed, tossed in cells and charged with disorderly conduct.

The so-called "justice system" of the courts has so far sided with the police and against any real justice whatsoever. They have denied each plea of "not guilty" and denied our motions to dismiss the charges.

We now have to stand trial on January 28 for this farce.

We are building a defense campaign that is not just about our case, but about opposing police repression against anyone standing up and defending their rights.

This overt attack on a socialist organization is another in a string of attacks on people who speak the truth and stand up against the injustices of the system.

Especially during times of economic crisis and war, the capitalist system wields a heavier hand against those who suffer the most under it--the thousands of Arabs and Muslims who have been locked up and "disappeared" to further the agenda of the "war on terror" or the regular racial profiling faced by people of color. This includes the day-in, day-out repression faced by poor and working people in our neighborhoods. The murder of Oscar Grant at the hands of Oakland police is the latest example of the brutality at the core of the system.

The police harass people, particularly people of color regularly.

For working-class people, police harassment, searches, unwarranted questioning by police is a daily occurrence, leaving working class and people of color feeling defenseless and powerless against the police. Added to this is the organized repression of activists on the left. All designed to rub out attempts at standing up against the status quo.

This arrest was designed to frighten and silence us and others who are beginning to radicalize and become activists, but we will not be silent.

Today, millions of people are disgusted by the Patriot Act; disgusted by the excuses of a system that enriches the few on the backs of the millions.

Opportunities for us to build confident movements are all around.

For that to happen, a strong and united left needs to emerge.

The slogan of the labor movement puts it clearly: "An injury to one is an injury to all."

Signed,

The Hyde Square 7:

Tom Arabia, Becca Bor, Akunna Eneh, Katie Feyh, Brian Kwoba, Alpana Mehta and Keith Rosenthal

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Demand that the state drop all charges against the Hyde Square 7! [Sign and forward a petition](#) for the seven and [join their Facebook page](#).

Come out to support the Hyde Square 7 at their trial on January 28 at 9 a.m., at West Roxbury Court, 445 Arborway (T-stop is Forest Hills). Court starts at 9 a.m., so please come early!

The seven activists are facing legal fees that are expected to amount to between \$6,000 and \$10,000.

Please [make a donation via PayPal](#) to help defray the costs.

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

RECEIVED

**PROTEST TO STOP THE EVICTION OF LAFITTE
HOUSING RESIDENTS:
4:30 PM WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH
CORNER OF N. CLAIBORNE & ORLEANS.
IN THE TREME SECTION OF NEW ORLEANS**

January 26, 2009 NOLA_C3_Discussion

The Housing Authority of New Orleans is planning to evict the residents of the Lafitte Housing Development who managed to return home three years after Hurricane Katrina.

The residents, who returned home last September, have been told by the housing authority that they will have to vacate their homes to make way for the demolition of these residences. The homes that Housing Authority of New Orleans plans to demolish were renovated and reopened last year.

Many residents now living in Lafitte don't want to leave. And there is no good reason why they should have to leave.

All who cherish human rights, and more specifically the right of return, are urged to join with the residents of Lafitte in demanding that HANO post-pone its planned eviction of Lafitte Residents.

What HANO and private contractors want to do at Lafitte is not a redevelopment project, it is a crime against humanity. Bring signs, chants and most importantly, yourself to the protest.

Speakers at the rally will include individuals who will leave for Washington D.C. the following day to meet with key members of the U.S. Congress and the Obama Administration to urge them to halt the planned eviction.

For additional information call Mike at 584-587-0080.

Sponsors of the event include Lafitte residents, C3/Hands Off Iberville & May Day Nola.

“Stand Up For Justice. Stand With Jamie ‘Bork’ Laughner”

January 26, 2009 NOLA_C3_Discussion

A Wednesday court hearing is scheduled for Jamie “Bork” Laughner of the B.W. Cooper II who is facing a trumped up charge of possessing a false explosive device, a felony.

In reality local authorities are trying to railroad Bork as punishment for participating in a peaceful occupation of apartment buildings at the B.W. Cooper Development that were targeted for demolition even as New Orleans endured the worst shortage of affordable housing in the city’s history.

The D.A. is pursuing the absurd argument that the lock box Bork used to chain herself to a BWC apartment building was a false explosive device.

The real intent behind the prosecution of Jamie is to send the message that those who stand up for justice in New Orleans can expect to face repression.

The false explosive device charge exposes Bork, if convicted, to a sentence of up to five years in prison.

Stand up for justice. Stand with Jamie “Bork” Laughner.

Hearing: Court I.

9am Wed.

1/28/09

Orleans Criminal Court

On the corner of Tulane & Broad.

For additional information call Mike at 504-587-0080

PLEASE FORWARD ASAP!!!

GI Special www.militaryproject.org

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BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE.*



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