

## GI SPECIAL 7A16:



# Imperial Slaughterhouse Afghanistan:

Obama Regime “Will Put More  
Emphasis On Waging War Than  
On Development, Senior  
Administration Officials Said”  
U.S. Troops To “Focus On The Fight  
Against Insurgents”

Missile Attacks On Pakistan To Continue

January 27, 2009 By HELENE COOPER and THOM SHANKER, The New York Times Company & By Anne Gearan, Associated Press [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON — President Obama intends to adopt a tougher line toward Hamid Karzai, the Afghan president, as part of a new American approach to Afghanistan that will put more emphasis on waging war than on development, senior administration officials said Tuesday.

They said that the Obama administration would work with provincial leaders as an alternative to the central government, and that it would leave economic development and nation-building increasingly to European allies, so that American forces could focus on the fight against insurgents.

NATO has not met its pledges for combat troops, transport helicopters, military trainers and other support personnel in Afghanistan, and Mr. Gates has openly criticized the United States' NATO allies for not fulfilling their promises.

Mr. Obama is preparing to increase the number of American troops in Afghanistan over the next two years, perhaps to more than 60,000 from about 34,000 now.

He outlined plans for an increase of about 12,000 troops by midsummer but cautioned that any decision on more troops beyond that might have to wait until late 2009, given the need for barracks and other infrastructure.

With the forces of the Taliban and Al Qaeda mounting more aggressive operations in eastern and southern Afghanistan, administration officials said they saw little option but to focus on the military campaign.

"There is little doubt that our greatest military challenge right now is Afghanistan," Gates said, marking the formal shift in priorities away from Iraq in his first congressional testimony as Pentagon chief under President Obama.

**Gates joined US fortunes in Afghanistan to the related struggle against extremism in Pakistan, but signaled no reduction in US missile strikes or other raids that infuriate both populations and besmirch the US-backed governments in Kabul and Islamabad.**

**MORE:**

## **3,000 US Troops Diverted From Iraq To Afghanistan**

[Thanks to Sandy Kelson, Military Project & Veterans For Peace, who sent this in.]

(Jan. 27) By FISNIK ABRASHI, AP

Thousands of U.S. troops originally destined for Iraq have deployed south of Afghanistan's capital in the first illustration of a new military focus on the increasingly difficult fight in the South Asian nation, NATO said Tuesday.

Nearly 3,000 American soldiers with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Drum, New York, moved into the provinces of Logar and Wardak to the south of Kabul, the military alliance said. They will serve as part of the 55,000-strong NATO force in the country.

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

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

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

**BEEN ON THE JOB TOO LONG:  
ALL HOME, NOW**



U.S. soldiers of 1-14 Infantry Battalion inside their armoured vehicle on the way back to the U.S. military Camp Taji after a mission near Baghdad, January 1, 2009.  
REUTERS/Erik de Castro

---

# AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

## Two U.S. Marines Killed In Helmand

January 28 U.S. Department of Defense News Release 2009 No. 063-09

The following Marines died Jan. 27 while supporting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan:

Sgt. David W. Wallace III, 25, of Sharpsville, Pa.

Sgt. Trevor J. Johnson, 23, of Forsyth, Mont.

The Marines were assigned to the 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

---

## Resistance Action

Jan 27, 2009 FISNIK ABRASHI, Associated Press Writer & Jan 28, 2009 AP & (KUNA)  
& By Mohammed Al Dulaimy, McClatchy Newspapers

**Taliban insurgents captured nine workers of a private construction company in a raid in western Afghanistan, the Interior Ministry said on Wednesday. The militants also burnt down rooms housing the employees of the firm along with their equipment in the attack on Tuesday in Robat Sangi district of Herat province, the ministry said in a statement.**

The workers were constructing a border police post in the area.

\*\*\*\*\*

A roadside bomb struck a police patrol and wounded two officers on Tuesday in southern Kandahar province. The bomb went off in the center of Kandahar city, the provincial capital, said provincial Police Chief Matiullah Khan Qateh.

An Iraqi officer and a soldier were killed Wednesday as they were attacked by insurgents at a polling station in the district of Tuz Khurmatu, southern Kirkuk in northern Iraq.

A roadside bomb targeted a police vehicle in New Mosul neighborhood in Mosul city killing one policeman and injuring another.

---

## TROOP NEWS

# **Another Soldier Reported “Severely Burned” In Iraq By KBR War Profiteers: Earlier Death “Initially Considered Accidental, Has Now Been Classified As ‘Negligent Homicide’ Caused By KBR”**

January 27, 2009 By Kimberly Hefling, The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - An Army military police officer from Hamburg, Pa., says he was knocked unconscious and severely burned by an electric shock in a shower trailer in Iraq that was installed by the same contractor an Army criminal investigation has pegged in an electrocution death.

Pfc. Justin Shults, 21, said Monday that he suffered his injuries last October in a shower trailer that KBR Inc. had delivered to his unit. Shults, who is recovering in an outpatient unit at Fort Sam Houston in Texas, said in a telephone interview he has burns on his limbs and groin.

Shults said he turned on the water and, finding it still too cold in the shower, adjusted a wall heating and air conditioner unit. He was knocked out by an extreme electric shock, he said, and was taken for medical treatment by other soldiers who noticed severe burns on his leg.

“It was red and parts of it were bleeding out,” said Shults.

The incident was first reported Monday by the San Antonio Express-News.

The circumstances of Shults' injuries are similar to those that led to the death of Staff Sgt. Ryan Maseth, 24, a Green Beret from Pittsburgh who was electrocuted in January 2008 while showering in his barracks in Baghdad.

Last week, The Associated Press reported that Maseth's death, initially considered accidental, has now been classified as “negligent homicide” caused by KBR and two of its supervisors. An Army investigator said the contractor failed to ensure that “qualified electricians and plumbers” did the work.

Shults said he knew the shower trailer where he was injured was from KBR because he talked to workers who delivered it a few months earlier, and they were wearing KBR uniforms.

Shults, who was serving with the 411th Military Police Company, based at Fort Hood, Texas, in Tarmiyah, Iraq, said the soldiers had had limited shower access, so it was a happy occasion when the shower trailer was delivered.

Shults, who plans to remain in the Army, said he blames KBR for what happened.

“We have to worry about getting blown up by IEDs and getting in gun fights and everything,” Shults said. “You don't expect to get burned from a shower trailer.”

---

## **Scumbag Commanders Defy DoD Regulations; Throw Troops Out “For A Personality Disorder — Even Though A New Defense Department Regulation Requires Such Cases Be Approved By A Service Surgeon General” “Regulations Are Not Being Applied In The Field”**

**“These cases really burn me up,” said Kerry Baker, associate national legislative director for Disabled American Veterans.**

1.26.09 By Kelly Kennedy, Army Times [Excerpts]

**Just a day after a Fort Bragg, N.C., soldier diagnosed with posttraumatic stress disorder was discharged from the Army for a “pattern of misconduct,” another soldier, at Fort Hood, Texas, faced a similar fate, and a third, at Fort Campbell, Ky., was in danger of continuing the pattern.**

**And a former Army lawyer who now helps service members with their disability retirement cases said he’s working with a Marine at Cherry Point, N.C., who is also being processed out for a personality disorder — even though a new Defense Department regulation requires such cases be approved by a service surgeon general.**

That regulation was issued in August in the wake of reports that troops were receiving administrative discharges, without health benefits, for pre-existing personality disorders — even after they had received formal diagnoses of combat-related PTSD.

Jason Perry, a lawyer and former soldier who runs the Web site [www.pebforum.com](http://www.pebforum.com), said it appears that important aspects of new disability retirement regulations are not being applied in the field.

Advocates for service members say most cases seem to be coming from the Army, partially because it is dealing with the most cases of PTSD.

But word is finally spreading, said Chuck Luther of Military Spouses for Change.

In one case at Fort Campbell, Luther notified Army officials of a regulation barring administrative discharge of troops whose misconduct may have resulted from PTSD. Army officials investigated further and found the soldier had not been screened for PTSD or traumatic brain injury.

**But Sgt. Adam Boyle, a former psychological operations sergeant with Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, was discharged in spite of his diagnosis of combat-induced PTSD because, according to command spokesman Lt. Col. John Clearwater, a soldier accused of misconduct shouldn't be allowed to represent special operations forces.**

**Clearwater said everyone in Boyle's chain of command, as well as his doctor, were called in to help make the decision.**

**However, Boyle's doctor had recommended that the soldier be medically discharged, allowing him to maintain his health benefits while still removing him from the special forces.**

**Because of the nature of his discharge, Boyle will have to prove his PTSD is combat-related and file a claim for benefits with the Department of Veterans Affairs — a process that could take months.**

**In the meantime, he must go without counseling unless he pays for it himself.**

Luther is working with a second soldier, Spc. Matthew Muff, at Fort Hood. He also was diagnosed with PTSD and TBI, and his doctors recommended three times that he go before a medical evaluation board to see if he should be medically retired.

Muff said he went absent without leave to seek civilian help after his return from Iraq, and when he later asked to go to the Warrior Transition Unit, was told it was full.

He was charged with a "pattern of misconduct" because of two AWOL charges, Luther said. Muff began processing out on Jan. 13.

**"These cases really burn me up," said Kerry Baker, associate national legislative director for Disabled American Veterans.**

"This is why people are afraid to seek help." Baker described a case he called especially "egregious" in which a Fort Knox soldier was diagnosed with PTSD after serving in Iraq and spent two months in a psychiatric ward where, in counseling sessions, he told his doctor he had been physically abused as a child.

He also deployed to Iraq twice, where he saw two friends die and was involved in an improvised explosive device attack.

His doctor said he had severe PTSD related to combat, Baker said.

But Baker said the soldier's first sergeant wrote a counseling statement saying the soldier was being discharged for pre-existing mental health conditions.

Baker is still helping the soldier fight the case.

#### **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

## **Facts**

January 14, 2009 By Helen Benedic, Huffington Post [Excerpt]

Take the fact that half of all Army soldiers and Marine recruits report having been physically abused as children, while half of the women and about one-sixth of the men report say they were sexually abused, according to two significant veteran studies published in 1996 and 2005 respectively.

Most people inside the military know this.

Most outsiders don't.

---

**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"

<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>

## **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

## **OOPS: U.S. Troops' Personal Data Found On Junk Shop Flash Drive**

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Military Project & Traveling Soldier, who sent this in. He writes: "SIGNS OF A NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT: "shopkeepers outside the Bagram base said they were selling flash drives with U.S. military information that had been stolen by some of the 2,000 Afghans employed as cleaners, office staff and laborers at Bagram."]

\*\*\*\*\*

Jan 27 The Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand – A New Zealand man who bought an MP3 player from a thrift shop in Oklahoma found it held 60 U.S. military files, including names and telephone numbers for American soldiers, a media report said Tuesday.

TV One News said the 60 files contained personal details of U.S. soldiers, including some who had served in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Similar breaches occurred in Afghanistan in 2006, when U.S. investigators reportedly bought back stolen flash drives that contained sensitive military data from shops outside a main U.S. base in the Afghan city of Bagram.

Chris Ogle, 29, from the northern New Zealand city of Whangarei, said he bought the music player at a thrift shop in Oklahoma, and that he found the files when he linked the \$18 device to his computer, TV One News reported.

**The private information about troops included U.S. Social Security numbers and even which female troops were pregnant, TV One reported.**

**Details of equipment deployed to bases in Afghanistan and a mission briefing were also found on some files, the report said, displaying names like “Bagram,” a main U.S. base in Afghanistan, from the files on screen.**

**A TV One News reporter called some of the phone numbers listed in the files and found that some of them were still active.**

Some of the files included a warning that the release of its contents is “prohibited by federal law.”

Ogle told TV One News he would hand the files to U.S. officials if asked.

“The more I look at it, the more I see and the less I think I should be” looking, Ogle said.

It's not the first time such data files have surfaced in public.

In 2006, shopkeepers outside the Bagram base said they were selling flash drives with U.S. military information that had been stolen by some of the 2,000 Afghans employed as cleaners, office staff and laborers at Bagram.

Included on some memory drives seen by AP at the time were the Social Security numbers of hundreds of soldiers, including four generals, and lists of troops who had completed nuclear, chemical and biological warfare training.

The Los Angeles Times also reported that some drives had classified military secrets, including maps, charts and intelligence reports.

---

## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

# Resistance Action

Jan 25 (Reuters) & Jan 26 (Reuters) & By KIM GAMEL, Associated Press Writer & (Reuters)

A roadside bomb wounded two Iraqi soldiers, when it struck an Iraqi army patrol in Karrada district, central Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb killed a civilian and wounded two other people, including a policeman, when it blew up near a police patrol on Saturday in Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb struck a police patrol in west Baghdad's Mansour district, wounding 11 policemen, three seriously, police said.

A car bomb exploded near a Kurdish party's office Tuesday in Mosul, killing at least three Iraqi soldiers. The blast in Mosul, 225 miles northwest of Baghdad, occurred near the offices of the Kurdish Democratic Party, or KDP, which is headed by Kurdish leader Massoud Barzani. Iraqi security forces became suspicious of the vehicle, which blew up as a team approached to inspect it, an army officer said. The officer said two soldiers and a civilian also were wounded.

Police Major General Ahmed al-Attiya, head of Iraqi customs, escaped unharmed after a roadside bomb exploded near his convoy in the Karrada district of central Baghdad, police said. Three of his security guards were wounded in the blast.

A car bomb killed one Iraqi soldier and wounded three people, including two soldiers, when it targeted an army patrol in eastern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

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

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

## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

**“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.**

“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

## FTA Is Back!

“The Film Provides A Rare Glimpse  
Into The Revolt From Below That  
Ultimately Forced The Pentagon To  
Withdraw In Defeat From Vietnam”

BANNED BY THE MILITARY!  
HOUNDED BY THE FBI!  
DESPISED BY RICHARD NIXON!  
THE FILM THAT MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED  
35 YEARS AGO IS BACK!

The show the Pentagon couldn't stop!

Jane Fonda & Donald Sutherland star in the legendary, lost 1972 film.  
Available for the first time ever!

CLICK HERE TO PRE-ORDER THE DVD

# 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=4HlkgPCgU7g&eurl=http://imageaworldof.blogspot.com/&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4HlkgPCgU7g&eurl=http://imageaworldof.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:



**THE UNITED STATES  
SERVICEMEN'S FUND**  
presents

**'A SHOW THE GI MOVEMENT  
CAN CALL ITS OWN'**

**F.T.A.**

★ JANE FONDA ★  
★ DONALD SUTHERLAND ★  
★ DICK GREGORY ★  
★ FAYE DUNAWAY ★  
★ HARRIS YULIN ★  
and Special Guest Star  
★ NINA SIMONE ★

Proceeds from this benefit will help  
send the F.T.A. Show to GI's in South-  
east Asia this Christmas.

**PHILHARMONIC HALL**  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21 AT 7:30 P. M.

TICKETS: ~~\$2.50, 5.00, 7.50~~, 10.00 (Special  
\$100.00 Patron Tickets Available).  
Tickets at Philharmonic Hall box office  
and all TICKETRON outlets.

Box Office: TR 4-2424/Ticketron: 644-4400/  
U.S.S.F.: 924-8032, 924-4336.

*For further information & contributions  
(Donations are Tax-Deductible)*

**U.S.S.F.**  
44 GREENWICH AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10011  
(212) 924-8032

May 13, 2005 Review by Eric Ruder, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

F.T.A., directed by Francine Parker, starring Jane Fonda and Donald Sutherland.

IN 1972, Jane Fonda, Donald Sutherland and others toured their "Fuck the Army" (F.T.A.) stage show to U.S. military bases in the Pacific Rim. The documentary F.T.A., originally released in 1972, follows that tour.

F.T.A. performances were a vibrant part of the GI coffeehouse movement--the loose network of coffeehouses that had sprung up around U.S. military bases as a way for GIs to plug into the movement in the U.S. against the Vietnam War.

The film crew follows the F.T.A. players as they take their show to Hawaii, Okinawa and the Philippines, performing before enthusiastic crowds of soldiers, sailors and airmen. Sandwiched between interviews with GIs, the stage show takes aim at the military brass with satirical skits, folksy sing-alongs and powerful monologues. The audience responses to the skits are as interesting as the show itself.

In one of the first scenes, Sutherland assumes the persona of a sportscaster, giving a play-by-play account of a battle between the Viet Cong and the U.S. Marines. But the battle ends quickly, as Sutherland explains in horror that U.S. planes drop napalm on the Marines, leading to "penalty flags all over the field."

**The film provides a rare glimpse into the revolt from below that ultimately forced the Pentagon to withdraw in defeat from Vietnam.**

**In one skit, GIs cheer a scene in which soldiers refuse a colonel's order to retrieve a stranded Army vehicle from the jungle--and force their commander at gunpoint to communicate their "respectful decline to the colonel's invitation."**

Fonda has spent decades apologizing for her trip to Hanoi--and still right-wing veterans attack her. But if Fonda could only recall the gripping closing monologue of F.T.A., she would have no trouble answering her critics.

**"Remember this well, you people who plan for war," proclaims a somber Sutherland.**

**"Remember this, you patriots, you fierce ones, you spawners of hate, you inventors of slogans...We are men of peace, we are men who work, and we want no quarrel... But if you try to range us one against the other, we will know what to do. If you tell us to make the world safe for democracy, we will take you seriously..."**

**"We will use the guns you forced upon us...to defend our very lives, and the menace to our lives does not lie on the other side of a no-man's land set apart without our consent. It lies within our own boundaries..."**

**"Put the guns into our hands, and we will use them...Give us the slogans, and we'll turn them into realities...And we will live."**

This film is well worth seeking out ... and showing to antiwar audiences today.

## **To Get Your Copy Of FTA:**

[http://militarylies.typepad.com/military\\_lies/2009/01/preorder-fta-from-displaced-films.html](http://militarylies.typepad.com/military_lies/2009/01/preorder-fta-from-displaced-films.html)

**Happy Anniversary: January 28,  
1989  
To The Committee Of Soldiers'  
Mothers Of Russia:  
“Hundreds Of Mothers Organised By  
CSMR Went To Chechnya To Take  
Their Sons Away From The War”**



Carl Bunin Peace History

“...for their courage in upholding the common humanity of Russians and Chechens and opposing the militarism and violence in Chechnya”

**CSMR was founded in 1989 and officially registered the same year by 300 mothers of soldiers, whose initial aim was to campaign for their sons to return home early from military service in order to resume their studies.**

**They succeeded in bringing home nearly 180,000 young men for this purpose.**

The mothers had been horrified by what they saw and learned about conditions in the armed forces: the regular beatings, abuse and humiliations, the lack of food or other necessities, the effective slavery imposed in the ‘construction’ battalions which comprised about 30 per cent of military manpower.

Their demands were for thorough reform of military structures, reform of the armed forces on a democratic basis, an end to forced labour in the construction battalions, demilitarisation on the justice system, the establishment of effective civil control over the military and legislation to provide for an alternative civil service.



In 1990 some of these demands, including partial demobilisation of the construction battalions, were conceded by President Gorbachev, but in general the situation did not improve.

CSMR set up a Rehabilitation Centre for soldiers who left the army for health reasons. Its activities expanded and diversified to include the organisation of human rights education for conscripts and their parents, dealing with individual complaints concerning human rights violations, regular inspections of military units, the working out of legislative proposals and the organisation of non-violent public protests.

**In November 1994 the war in Chechnya broke out and, as CSMR put it, “the peaceful time for the Committee was over”.**

They opposed the war from the start, both in itself and for the threat it posed to the new Russian democracy.

Their new activities included dealing with individual complaints from soldiers and their mothers, running a weekly ‘School for Conscripts’, supervising the special military unit for the rehabilitation of so-called ‘deserters’, which is under the aegis of the CSMR, as well as participating in working groups of the State Duma (parliament).

In the first six months of the war, the Committee received letters from up to 200 people a day and in the same period nearly 10,000 people brought their complaints in person.

**Hundreds of mothers organised by CSMR went to Chechnya to take their sons away from the war. They negotiated with the Chechen army and obtained the release of ‘prisoners of war’.**

**CSMR organised a remarkable ‘March of Mothers’ Compassion’, bombarded the Russian government with statements and petitions, and campaigned for the young men who refused to serve in Chechnya, declaring themselves conscientious objectors.**

**Most controversially, they started a campaign encouraging mothers to support the right of their sons to refuse military service - and they travelled abroad to support the idea of an International Tribunal on Chechnya.**

The founders of CSMR were five women - two engineers, a journalist, a teacher and an economist. An all-volunteer organisation with no regular budget, CSMR now acts as the umbrella group for 50 regional organisations of soldiers’ mothers and liaises with others.

In 1995, CSMR received the Sean MacBride Award from the International Peace Bureau and an award from the Norwegian Committee on Human Rights.

**“The mothers’ love, the mothers’ aspirations to defend their children, turned very soon into conscious human rights activity... The soldiers’ mothers understood that to defend their children they have to change the State and society. Their call for human rights in all the military power structures meant a call for democracy.”**  
**- Ida Kuklina**

Contact Details:

## **OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

**“The Lethal Onslaught Left 1,314  
Palestinians Dead, Of Which 412 –  
Or Nearly One Third Of The  
Casualties – Were Children”**

**“No Matter How Many Times The  
Israeli Government Tries To Blame  
 Hamas, It Simply Cannot Explain  
 Away The Body Count, Especially  
 That Of The Children”**

**“Hundreds Of Palestinian Citizens Of  
Israel Have Been Arrested For Protesting  
At The Israeli Assault And More Than  
200 Of Them Are Still In Custody”**

January 27, 2009 By YIGAL BRONNER and NEVE GORDON [Excerpts]

Israeli pilots and tank commanders could not really discriminate between the adults and the children who hid in their homes or huddled in the UNRWA shelters, and yet they chose to press the trigger.

Therefore, it is not at all surprising that the lethal onslaught left 1,314 Palestinians dead, of which 412 – or nearly one third of all of the casualties – were children.

No matter how many times the Israeli government tries to blame Hamas for the latest Palestinian civilian deaths it simply cannot explain away the body count, especially that of the children.

In addition to the dead, 1,855 Palestinian children were wounded, and tens of thousands of others have likely been traumatised, many of them for life.

Every child has a story.

A Bedouin friend recently called to tell us about his relatives in Gaza. One cousin allowed her five-year-old daughter to walk to the adjacent house to see whether the neighbours had something left to eat. The girl had been crying from hunger.

The moment she began crossing the street a missile exploded nearby and the flying shrapnel killed her. The mother has since been bedridden, weeping and screaming, "I have let my girl die hungry".

As if the bloody incursion was not enough, the Israeli security forces seem to be keen on spreading the flames of hatred among the Arab population within Israel.

Hundreds of Palestinian citizens of Israel have been arrested for protesting at the Israeli assault and more than 200 of them are still in custody.

One incident is enough to illustrate the psychological effect these arrests will likely have on hundreds more children.

A few days after the ceasefire, several men wearing black ski masks stormed the home of Muhammad Abu Humus. They came to arrest him for protesting against the killings in Gaza.

It was four in the morning and the whole family was asleep when the men banged on the door. After entering the house, they made Abu Humus's wife Wafa and their four children Erfat (12), Shahd (9), Anas (6) and Majd (3) stand in a corner as they searched the house, throwing all the clothes, sheets, toys, and kitchenware on the floor.

With tears in their eyes, the children watched as the armed men then took their father away and left.

Chance would have it that Abu Humus, a long-time peace activist and member of the Fatah party, is a personal friend of ours.

In 2001, he joined Ta'ayush Arab-Jewish Partnership, and since then has selflessly organised countless peace rallies and other joint activities. During the past eight years, we have spent many hours at each other's homes and our children have grown up respecting and liking one other.

It is hard to believe that just one month ago he attended the Bar Mitzvah of Yigal's son in a Jerusalem synagogue.

Muhammad and Wafa Abu Humus have tried over the years to instill in their children a love and desire for peace, and while the security forces may not have destroyed this, the hatred they have generated in one night cannot be underestimated.

Indeed, what, one might ask, will his children think of their Jewish neighbours? What feelings will they harbour?

And what can we expect from those children in Gaza who have witnessed the killing of their parents, siblings, friends and neighbours?

**Got an opinion? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send to [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request identification published.**

**“On January 27th, Honoring The  
Memory Of Our Dead Is For Us  
Inseparable From Honoring More  
Than Sixty Years Of Palestinian  
Survival And Resistance”**

**“Faced With The Threat Of  
Annihilation In Europe, Jews  
Resisted”**

**“Today, From The Ghetto Of Gaza To  
The Bantustans Of The West Bank And  
From The Neighborhoods Of Jaffa And  
Akka To Cities Across The Globe,  
Palestinians Resist Israel's Attempt To  
Destroy Them As A People”**



**Even our dead are not safe. They have been called up, disturbed, dredged from their mass graves and forced to testify against their fellow human beings in pain, to confess a hatred that was alien to them and to offer themselves up as justification for a new cycle of suffering in Palestine.**

**Their ghosts have been enlisted to help displace fellow Jews from Arab homelands, and to bequeath to them that same alien hatred, conscripting those of us descending from Arab lands to become enemies of our own memory and past.**

January 26, 2009 International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network [Excerpts]

*How does the city sit solitary, that was full of people!  
How is she become as a widow!  
She weeps sore into the night, and her tears are on her cheeks:  
among all who loved her she has none to comfort her.  
(Book of Lamentations)*

Last week, after murdering 1400 people - of whom 400 were children - after bombing hospitals and mosques, schools, universities and humanitarian supplies, and tens of thousand of homes, Israel declared a cease-fire.

A shameful parade of European leaders immediately went to Jerusalem to embrace the mass murderers and to pledge their support for the continuing siege of Gaza.

The primary purpose of this massacre was to break the spirit of the Palestinian people until they surrender and accept their fate as lesser human beings.

As former Chief of Staff Moshe Yaalon said in 2002, "The Palestinians must be made to understand in the deepest recesses of their consciousness that they are a defeated people."

European leaders support this goal, as did previous U.S. administrations, as do the ruling elites of Egypt, Jordan and Saudi-Arabia, despite the fury of their peoples.

We grieve with the people of Gaza. We see the faces of the children, of the women and the men; we hear their voices.

We also hear the silence of the leaders of Western countries, intermittently broken by evasive platitudes.

And we are reminded of the time when the world turned a blind eye while our forebearers, our families, were slaughtered.

100,000 Palestinians were made homeless in Gaza this month.

Most of them became refugees in 1948 when they were expelled at gunpoint from their towns and villages. Now they are homeless again, even in their land of exile, and at risk of being driven out from Palestine altogether.

**Yet on January 27, Holocaust Remembrance Day, the leaders of the U.S. and Europe will be joined in honoring the memory of our dead.**

**Even as we seek to remember and to honor the immensity of that loss, we struggle to find words to convey the hypocrisy of these ceremonies, in which those who are silent today pay homage to the victims of yesterday's silence.**

The radical Jewish writer Walter Benjamin, who died while fleeing the Nazis, wrote, “not even the dead will be safe from the enemy, if he is victorious. And this enemy has not ceased to be victorious.”

The Third Reich was defeated, and yet, “the enemy has not ceased to be victorious.”

Racism, mass murder, and genocide continue to be accepted tools of statecraft.

**Even our dead are not safe. They have been called up, disturbed, dredged from their mass graves and forced to testify against their fellow human beings in pain, to confess a hatred that was alien to them and to offer themselves up as justification for a new cycle of suffering in Palestine.**

**Their ghosts have been enlisted to help displace fellow Jews from Arab homelands, and to bequeath to them that same alien hatred, conscripting those of us descending from Arab lands to become enemies of our own memory and past.**

**The Jewish British MP Gerald Kaufman spoke in anguish while the massacres in Gaza were taking place: “My grandmother did not die to provide cover for Israeli soldiers murdering Palestinian grandmothers in Gaza.”**

**We share and echo that refusal.**

**Let not the memory of Jews murdered by the Nazi regime serve as cover for the attempted destruction of the Palestinian people!**

Although the guns are relatively silent, this genocidal assault on the Palestinian people isn't over.

The siege, the lack of food and fresh water, the disease-threatening broken sewage system, and economic collapse and humanitarian crisis persist in Gaza with the full support of the U.S., Europe and the Egyptian government.

As the siege of Gaza continues, so does the slow ethnic cleansing of the West Bank and East Jerusalem, the home demolitions, the building of the apartheid wall, the settlement build-up, the economic devastation of the towns and villages strangled by checkpoints, the assault on Palestinian neighborhoods in Jaffa, Akka, Lydda, the Galille and the Negev, the mass imprisonment of Palestinians (over 11,000), and all the large and small ways by which Israel is seeking to crush the spirit and erase the presence of the Palestinian people in their homeland.

**Faced with the threat of annihilation in Europe, Jews resisted.**

**From ghettos to concentration camps and within countries under occupation, Jews led resistance to the Nazi regime.**

**Today, from the ghetto of Gaza to the Bantustans of the West Bank and from the neighborhoods of Jaffa and Akka to cities across the globe, Palestinians resist Israel's attempt to destroy them as a people.**

**On January 27th, honoring the memory of our dead is for us inseparable from honoring more than sixty years of Palestinian survival and resistance.**

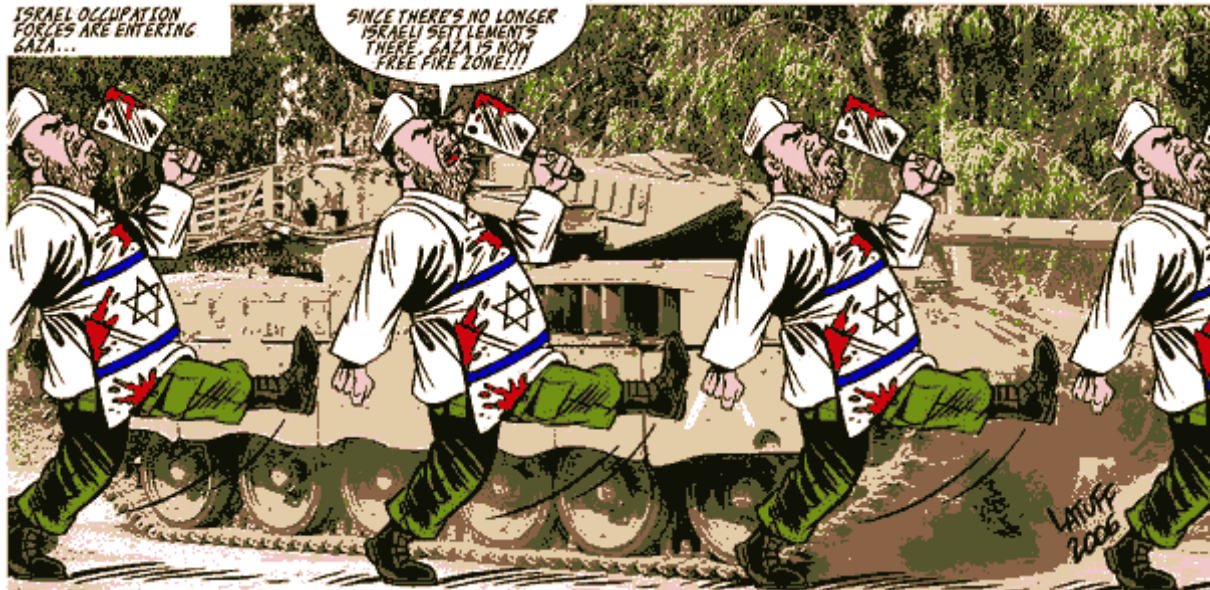
Only when the Palestinian people regain their freedom will the dead rest safely.

Then we will all celebrate another victory for life.

---

**“Around 110 Palestinians Were Moved Into A Single-Residence House. Half Were Children; All Were Told To Stay Indoors”  
“Twenty-Four Hours Later, Israeli Forces Shelled The Home Repeatedly, Killing Approximately 30”**

# “The Red Cross Described The Zeitoun Killings As ‘A Shocking Incident’ And Recounted How Its Staff Found Children Too Weak To Stand And Sitting By The Dead Bodies Of Their Mothers”



Carlos Latuff

[When the Nazis invaded Poland and Russia, they herded Jews into buildings, piled combustibles around the outside, and set them on fire. The method reported below represents a considerable advance in decreasing the quantity of labor hours required for mass murder, although admittedly with some loss of the completeness of the extermination. Eichmann and Heydrich might be critical of the failure to achieve a 100% kill, but would certainly be proud of how their approach to solving the problem of liquidating obstinate, stiff-necked people is being applied by the Zionist storm-troopers in Gaza. T]

[Thanks to JM, who sent this in.]

10 January 2009 Rory McCarthy in Jerusalem and Hazem Balousha in Gaza City, Guardian News and Media Limited [Excerpt]

In the houses at the edge of Zeitoun, a rundown neighbourhood on the outskirts of Gaza City, dozens of Palestinian families woke to discover that Israel's invasion had brought troops and tanks to their doorstep.

In the darkness the military had set up a position in the rubble of a former Jewish settlement. The soldiers ordered out residents from higher buildings and those closest



to the former Netzarim settlement. The soldiers then took up positions on the upper floors.

**In one case around 110 Palestinians were moved into a single-residence house. Half were children; all were told to stay indoors.**

**Yesterday the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs described what happened next: “Twenty-four hours later, Israeli forces shelled the home repeatedly, killing approximately 30.”**

Many more bodies may still be hidden in the rubble of that building.

The killings at Zeitoun happened on Monday but it was only yesterday that the full horror became clear.

According to accounts the strongest among the survivors carried injured children for more than a mile until they found drivers willing to take them to the Shifa hospital in Gaza City.

By the time they arrived, three of the children were dead.

Israel's ground invasion has been littered with many deadly incidents but the UN described Zeitoun as “one of the gravest” and one which the UN's top human rights official said appears to have “all the elements of war crimes”.

One of most compelling accounts of the Zeitoun killings comes from Meysa Samouni, 19.

She told the Israeli human rights group B'Tselem that she and 13 others from her family were ordered at gunpoint out of their home at 9am on Sunday morning by Israeli soldiers who eventually took them to join others in a concrete warehouse. Around 70 neighbours and relatives were in the building, without food or drink.

At around 6am on Monday, she said, four of the men left to bring other relatives to the shelter. “The moment they left the house, a missile or shell hit them,” she said. One was killed instantly, the others were injured.

“My husband went over to them to help and then a shell or missile was fired on to the roof of the warehouse,” she said. She believed from the size of the strike that it was a bomb dropped by a fighter jet.

“When the missile struck, I lay down with my daughter under me. Everything filled up with smoke and dust and I heard screams and crying.”

She said 20 to 30 people were killed - among them her husband Tawfiq, 21, and both her husband's parents, Rashed, 41, and Rabab, 38. Another 20 were injured, some severely.

A piece of shrapnel had sliced off the thumb and two fingers from the left hand of her nine-month-old daughter, Jumana.

Eventually, after two of the men with her were detained and blindfolded by soldiers, she and her daughter made it to hospital. "As far as I know, the dead and wounded who were under the ruins are still there," she said.

Nafaz Samouni, 42, estimated there were around 50 people in the house. "When the shelling started more than half of the people in the house were killed," he said from al-

Ahli hospital in Gaza City, where he was recovering from leg wounds. "Some were decapitated. My cousin and his son died in front of me."

His son Ahmad, 12, was shot in the arm and the chest - doctors said the bullet hit his heart. The boy was due to be transferred to hospital in Egypt.

But Nafaz Samouni could not leave the house until medics from the International Committee of the Red Cross arrived on Wednesday afternoon, when Israel for the first time paused its fighting for three hours to allow in desperately needed aid.

"We spent four days without food. We had just a kerosene lamp and very little water," he said. "As we left we saw dead bodies around us. Dogs were eating them."

The Red Cross described the Zeitoun killings as "a shocking incident" and recounted how its staff found children too weak to stand and sitting by the dead bodies of their mothers.

It was "unacceptable," it said, that the military prevented earlier access by ambulances.

In the second major incident of the week, at least 43 Palestinians were killed in a UN school in Jabalia on Tuesday.

At least three mortar rounds landed in the compound, even though the UN had given Israel the co-ordinates of all its installations in Gaza to prevent any such attack. It was one of several times UN staff or buildings were hit this week, forcing the UN Relief and Works Agency to suspend all movement of its staff.

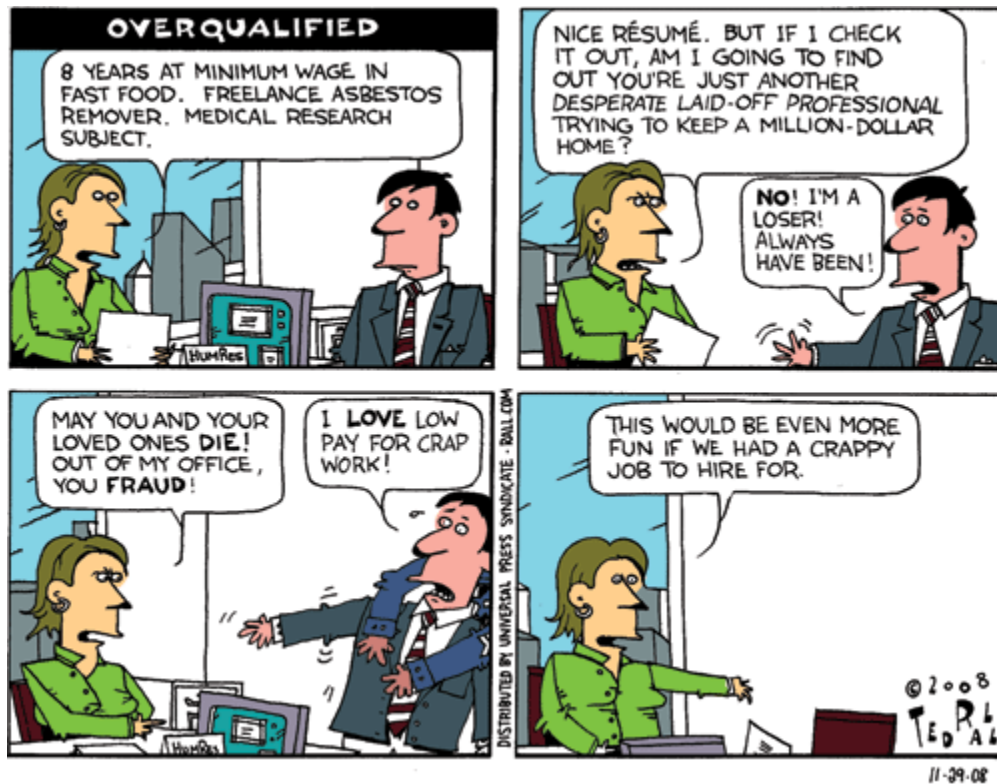
The Israeli military said an initial inquiry had shown that several mortar shells were fired at Israeli forces from within the school. It released a video on YouTube of a mortar being fired from a UN school to support its case - but the footage dated back to October 2007.

However, the UN insisted the Israeli account was wrong. "I am very confident now that there was no militant activity. If anybody has evidence to the contrary, then let's bring it forward," said John Ging, director of Gaza operations for UNRWA.

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

---

## **CLASS WAR REPORTS**



## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

# Obama Even More Awesome Than Originally Thought: Tops Leprechauns, Unicorns In New Poll

January 27, 2009 The Borowitz Report

(Editor's Note: Recently, The Borowitz Report has received a number of letters from readers complaining about columns that have seemed to satirize the nation's 44th president. These readers have pointed out that with all of the challenges facing President Obama, the time for such juvenile shenanigans is over. At The Borowitz Report, our response couldn't be clearer: "We hear you.")

(In keeping with the nation's new, post-satirical spirit, we offer the following column, which represents the new and more positive direction we intend to adopt for the next four years.)

One week into his Presidency, Barack Obama gets high marks in a new poll, with a majority of Americans agreeing with the statement, "Barack Obama is even more awesome than I originally thought."

The percentage of voters who believe that Mr. Obama is awesome surged during his first week in office, with 82% thinking he is awesome now compared to 77% who deemed him awesome last week.

And in the latest measure of his popularity, Mr. Obama receives higher approval ratings in the new poll than either leprechauns or unicorns, mythical beings that almost everyone agrees are totally awesome.

In a head-to-head contest, Mr. Obama beats leprechauns and unicorns combined, garnering 64% compared to 21% for leprechauns, 14% for unicorns, and 1% for Congressman Ron Paul.

---

## **RECEIVED**

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

#### **Laughner Ordered to Stand Trial on Feb. 2**

January 28, 2009 NOLA\_C3\_Discussion

Judge Karen Herman of Orleans Parish Criminal Court I ordered Jamie “Bork” Laughner to stand trial on 9am Monday(Feb. 2nd).

The Orleans DA is seeking to railroad Bork on a bogus charge of possessing a false explosive device. The charge against Bork arises from her peaceful occupation at the B.W. Cooper Housing Development that brought a halt to demolition activity at the complex on December 19, 2007.

If convicted, Bork faces up to five years in prison.

**The progressive community is urged to show up to court on Monday as a show of solidarity with Bork and the struggle for affordable housing.**

Mike Howells

PLEASE FORWARD THIS MESSAGE ASAP.”

It should be noted that the “false explosive device” was a standard device used by peace activists to attach themselves to buildings.



### **GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out**

GI Special issues are archived at website <http://www.militaryproject.org> .

The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:

<http://williambowles.info/gispecial/2008/index.html>;

[http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi\\_special/](http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/);

GI Special distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupation of Iraq. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **GI Special has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is GI Special endorsed or sponsored by the originators. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research, education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice.** Go to: [www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml](http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml) for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

---

**If printed out, this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.**