

GI SPECIAL 7A17:



FTA IS BACK: SEE BELOW

The Golden Toilet

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special
Sent: January 28, 2009
Subject: The Golden Toilet by Dennis

The Golden Toilet

The Empire is falling like towers
the roads are in need of repair
the Workers are losing their jobs
like dominoes falling down
while Wall Street is living like millionaires
and trillions have been spent on the war
Businesses are going out of business
cities and states are going broke too
What about the 50 Billion dollar thief
who can go back to his penthouse
while another man gets 20 years
for robbing a 711
The Pentagon is robbing the country

using 911 because that was so
embarrassing by a ragtag bunch
so they torture not for information
but just for payback
Congress always gives them
a blank check for their war but
even so they have their black budget
Bush is now living in his five million
dollar home in Dallas
sitting like a king upon a throne
but there is still traces on his mouth
when he was sucking on that toilet
While Americans are losing their homes
they call it a Great Recession
but it looks like a dust bowl again
The billions here and billions there
have been spent on the war
while a foreclosed family
is living in their car
because of Iraq and Afghanistan
American trillion billions millions
have been flushed down the toilet
like a drug dealer
flushing down drugs
while the police who are always late
are knocking on his door
Two plus two equals war
between the economy and the truth
but millions of people
don't see it that way
all they see is their empty pockets
Hungry looking for a meal
in need of a bail out
with no questions asked
while the Soldiers are dying
for money.

MORE:

Get Some: The Poems Of Dennis Serdel

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339 Oakwood Lane
Perry,

Michigan 48872

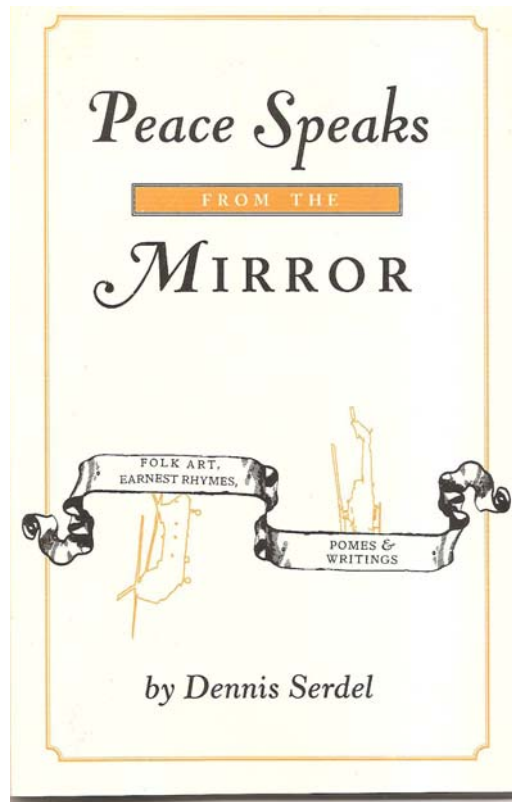
Money Orders sent next day, Personal Checks after 3 days.

Over Seas Orders, please write first and I will send the Postal costs. Let me know if you want USA Postal costs, Western Union Perry Michigan, Money Gram, Fed Ex, Pink Japanese International Money Order.

Or payment can be made by well hidden American dollars in a Registered Mailing.

Let me know.

Dennis Serdel



DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?

Forward GI Special along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the wars, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Phone: 917.677.8057

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

U.S. Soldier Killed In Salahudin, Another Wounded

Jan. 30 (Xinhua)

An Iraqi insurgent shot dead a U.S. soldier and wounded another at a town in Salahudin province on Friday, a provincial police source said.

“Osama Hashim, a young man fetched his AK-47 assault rifle from his house and opened fire in the afternoon on U.S. soldiers who dismounted their patrol's vehicles in front of his house in the town of Baiji, some 200 km north of Baghdad,” the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The U.S. soldiers fired back and killed Hashim before they stormed his house and detained his brother inside, the source said.

Would You Believe It?

“There’s A Higher Power In This Pseudo-Sovereign Nation”

“All The Suffering Of The People Is Because Of The Occupation, And If The Country Is Ruled By Honest Men, They Can Leave, But If It Is Still These Men, There Will Be Massacres”

January 29, 2009 Leila Fadel, McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpts]

BAQOUBA, Iraq - The trip from Baghdad to Diyala province, a land of mostly farmers and shepherds that connects the mountains of northern Iraq to the fields, crosses a landscape of dust and devastation.

The provincial council is largely defunct: Eight of its members were killed, and two were detained.

“For us, for me, it [the election] means the rising of the sun on a new day, on a new era,” said Sabah Bashir Hassan, the leader of the Sahwa (Awakening) committees in the province.

Hassan’s optimism, though, comes from a dark corner.

He’s a man on the run. Known as Abu Talib, he leads thousands of Sunni Arab men in Diyala. The government has issued four arrest warrants for him and for others in the movement.

One of his men, Bashir al-Jowrani, was beaten and died in custody, he said.

He hasn’t seen his wife and children in weeks but still, he said, he’ll vote Saturday.

“We are hounded and we are threatened and we run,” he said. “Why, after all that we have done for the province, they say you are terrorists? . . . One way or the other, (the government) will end.”

The pink, marble-laced building of the Iraqi High Electoral Commission in Baqouba sits next to a building where the dead are washed according to Muslim tradition.

As Amer Latif, the head of the commission office in Diyala, took complaints on his cell phone one recent afternoon, a family next door washed the corpse of a dead relative. Out of fear, they refused to say how he’d died.

He knows, however, that if the political parties reject a shift in power, the government won’t be able to calm the province, and that if the security forces also fail, there’s a higher power in this pseudo-sovereign nation.

“There are bigger forces that can enforce law,” he said, referring to the U.S. military. “The security has not been handed over here.”

New Baqouba, a fledgling party, claims that it will win a number of seats. It calls itself “The Solution,” and its ranks are filled with former members of Saddam’s army.

At the party’s headquarters, across the street from bullet-scarred buildings, Abdul Rahman Jassem Nasser sat on a high-backed sofa in the meeting room.

“We oppose the occupation. The destruction of this country is because of the occupation,” he said.

He’s pragmatic, though: He once supported armed resistance against the U.S. occupation, but it’s no longer the time for that, he said. Al-Qaida in Iraq, which many resistance fighters once deemed an ally in the fight, grew cruel, and many then chose to work with an enemy that was less cruel, the United States.

“Diyala is the key to Iraq,” he said. “Anyone that will control Diyala will control Baghdad. I will stay away from sectarianism, but if the other side controls Diyala, the Iranians will enter to Baghdad.”

The face of this father of 13 was tired. The battle for survival has been long. He survived a series of assassination attempts when he led the battle against al-Qaida in Iraq in southern Baqouba.

The killing isn't over. On Thursday, a party member named Abbas Farhan al-Jubouri was kidnapped with his brother and cousin. The three were later found dead in a village east of Baqouba.

“They gave us promises, and they were all lies,” Nasser said, referring to the U.S. vows to bring freedom and security.

“All the suffering of the people is because of the occupation, and if the country is ruled by honest men, they can leave, but if it is still these men, there will be massacres.”

Many in Diyala, however, agree that if the election doesn't alter the balance of power, the result will be another round of violence.

“This is what we hope: that these elections will set us free,” Nasser said.

“If there is no change, a disaster will fall upon us.”

Welcome To Liberated Iraq: “Guards Used Their Hands And The Butt Of Their Rifles To Hit Reporters And Photographers”

January 28, 2009 Baghdad Observer

Today was special voting day. Prisoners with a term of five years or less, hospital employees and security forces went to the polls on Wednesday in advance of Saturday's provincial elections in Iraq.

It was also a small glimpse of what is to come.

According to a local organization to protect journalist rights 64 journalists rights were violated across the nation.

In Basra, Babil and Anbar journalists were beaten or prevented from entering polling sites by security forces. Their camera equipment was confiscated and in many cases they were cursed at with foul language.

In the southern port city of Basra at Al Mina center where prisoners were voting 15 journalists tried to cover the vote. They were beaten and guards cursed them as they forcibly confiscated or destroyed their equipment, the journalist association reported.

Faisal Binwan, a photographer for the Associated Press said he was beaten and cursed at when he tried to take pictures. Guards used their hands and the butt of their rifles to hit reporters and photographers. For an hour and a half they detained the men and finally allowed them to take pictures of one prisoner voting.

“We demanded to shoot other detainees then they got angry and attacked us by cursing and beating us and they destroyed some cameras,” he said.

The journalists were finally forced to leave.

In Baghdad 20 journalists were stopped from entering polling centers by the Iraqi Army, in Fallujah the Iraqi Army beat and cursed at journalists at at least one polling center if they didn't stay 100 meters away from the site. Those are a few of the incidents we know of.

We'll see what Saturday brings.

**NEW GENERAL ORDER NO. 1:
PACK UP, GO HOME
[IT'S NOT OBAMA'S OIL]
[IT'S THEIR OIL]
[WHAT THE FUCK ARE RISKING YOUR LIFE GUARDING
IT FOR?]**



A U.S. soldier of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, Infantry Division stands guard at Baiji oil refinery north of Baghdad, January 22, 2009. (Thaier al-Sudani/Reuters)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

“It Landed Within The Boundaries Of The Base And That Was Quite An Eye-Opener. The Base Was Quite Small”

29/01/2009 By Sam Reeves in Helmand Province, The Press And Journal

AN ANGUS woman helping save lives on the front line has described how she had a narrow escape from a hail of rockets in southern Afghanistan.

Medical assistant (MA) Lisa Hickie, 26, from Forfar, was stationed at a base in Helmand province when the Taliban struck.

She was sitting down to eat dinner with the Royal Gurkha Rifles at Forward Operating Base Keenan when insurgents fired three rockets at the compound.

One made it inside and exploded not far from the mess tent – but everyone on the base escaped injury.

MA Hickie, who has been in Afghanistan since September, said: “It landed within the boundaries of the base and that was quite an eye-opener. The base was quite small.”

The medic, who is stationed at Royal Marines Commando Training Centre in Lympstone, Devon, went on: “It happened around a meal time and everyone was sitting in the same place.

“If it had landed where we were eating our meals, it would have been catastrophic. We were lucky it didn’t.”

Notes From A Lost War:

“That’s 10 Of Us, Covering An Area That’s Probably Easily The Size Of Chicago”

January 29, 2009 Kim Barker, Chicago Tribune [Excerpts]

MIR BACHA KOT, Afghanistan - For James Tadrowski, a police officer from Berwyn, Ill., watching Mohammad Asif Ahmad handle a gun is a stark reminder of just how far he is from home.

Ahmad, an Afghan cop, had jammed the butt of his AK-47 assault rifle between his knees, pointed the barrel at several people's heads, and inexplicably dug his fingers inside the magazine well, which, thankfully, was empty.

Here on the front lines of the war on terror, the awkward scene summed up the challenge for Tadrowski and his team of police trainers from the Illinois National Guard.

The Illinois troops are sprinkled throughout Afghanistan, from the 11 soldiers who cook their own food in a remote post in southern Afghanistan to about 650 who live at headquarters in Camp Phoenix, where Pizza Hut delivers. They are in the cities of Gardez, Jalalabad, Mazar-e-Sharif, Kandahar and Herat, and spread out along the troublesome border with Pakistan.

The Guard runs three police mentor teams in Kabul province with 30 soldiers altogether. Those three teams are responsible for overseeing the training of about 6,000 police in 30 police districts in the province.

"Up north, our team has got six police districts," said 1st Lt. Bryan Addington, 35, the leader of the team, who runs a motorcycle dealership back in Carbondale. "That's 10 of us, covering an area that's probably easily the size of Chicago."

Watching the Afghan police train can be almost painful. The Illinois soldiers lined up 14 officers in a parking lot on a recent Thursday.

Six did not have weapons, because they were not qualified to have weapons. Of the other eight, only three said they had been to the police training center. And one of those was most likely mistaken; he appeared to have no idea what he was doing and answered yes to any question.

Ahmad, 31, a police officer for seven years, said he did not need training.

"I know everything," he said, adding that he once fought the Taliban. "I know every kind of weapon and how to use it. I'm a weapons expert."

One officer, carrying a loaded gun, jumped over razor wire, his finger on the trigger. Another, his finger also on the trigger, leaned on his loaded weapon, muzzle resting on top of his boot.

At a debriefing after the session, some of the Illinois soldiers were frustrated.

"I know the last police district, we asked them, 'Do you ever arrest anybody?' They said no," said Sgt. Michael Corcoran, 30, of Lake in the Hills.

"We asked, 'What do you do?' They're like eating, sleeping, nothing. I mean, what are they policing?"

Fake Government Delays Fake Election Until More Occupation Troops Arrive: Resistance Too Strong

January 29, 2009 CBC News & Ken Fireman, (Bloomberg)

Afghanistan will delay holding presidential elections until Aug. 20 to give international forces more time to beef up security in the country, the head of the election commission said Thursday.

President Hamid Karzai's five-year term officially ends on May 22, but officials have said they will make provisions for interim leadership until the vote takes place.

Afghanistan's constitution states the election must take place in late April, before the incumbent president's term expires, but Independent Election Commission president Azizullah Lodin said the security situation is not strong enough.

In addition, the electoral commission is still far short of the \$272 million required to hold the presidential and provincial council votes, Lodin said.

U.S.-backed President Hamid Karzai has been unable to extend his authority much beyond the capital, Kabul, which itself is now menaced by the Taliban.

TROOP NEWS

4000 From Pennsylvania Guard Off To Obama's Imperial Slaughterhouse

2.1.09 Army Times

More than 4,000 soldiers with the National Guard's 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team began deploying to Iraq in mid-January. The 56th, the only Stryker brigade in the National Guard, is expected to be deployed until September.

This reportedly marks the state's largest Guard deployment since the Kore-an War.

Army Recalls Body Armor: “Bullet-Blocking Plates In The Vests Failed Testing” “Audit Says The Army Didn’t Perform Or Score Tests Consistently” “Three Of The Eight Ballistic Insert Designs That Passed First Article Testing Actually Failed”

[Same old story. War profiteering rats like the Armor Works corporation – no, the name is not a satire – get their officer co-conspirators in the Army to look the other way, fake the tests of military equipment, and approve shit that kills troops. After all, with a \$57 million contract at stake, what are some dead or maimed soldiers? They know their priorities, killing troops for corporate greed, whether in starting wars like Iraq and Afghanistan, or in smaller day-to-day ways, like taking huge profits for equipping soldiers with worthless deadly shit. T

Jan. 29, 2009 The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - U.S. Army Secretary Pete Geren has ordered the recall of more than 16,000 sets of body armor following an audit that concluded the bullet-blocking plates in the vests failed testing and may not provide soldiers with adequate protection.

The audit by the office of the Defense Department inspector general, not yet made public but obtained by The Associated Press, faults the Army for flawed testing procedures before awarding a contract for the armor.

The audit by the inspector general’s office was the second requested by Rep. Louise Slaughter. She first asked the watchdog agency to look into the acquisition of the ballistic vests in 2006 after she read newspaper reports saying inadequate body armor was causing U.S. casualties.

The first audit was completed last year, but Slaughter said it wasn’t thorough enough.

Slaughter said Wednesday she’s satisfied with the latest report but remains concerned the Army has not changed its contracting methods to ensure the troops are getting the best gear.

“I’m not through,” she said. “I really want to know which contracts are bad.”

Auditors focused on a step called first article testing. These tests are to confirm the product meets the Army's specifications. But the audit says the Army didn't perform or score the tests consistently.

"Consequently, we believe that three of the eight ballistic insert designs that passed first article testing actually failed," the audit says.

The contract examined by the inspector general's office is listed in the audit only as W91CRB-04-D-0040. An Aug, 20, 2004, an announcement on the Defense Department's Web site states a contract under that designation was awarded to Armor Works of Chandler, Ariz.

The Army bought 51,334 sets of the protective inserts under the contract for just over \$57 million, according to the inspector general.

A call to Armor Works was not immediately returned.

Army Suicide Rate At 3-Decade High: Greater Than Civilian Rate For First Time Since Imperial Wars Began

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier & Military Project, and SSG N (ret'd), who sent this in.

[SSG N (ret'd) writes: "The best help would be to bring soldiers home and keep them here.]

January 29, 2009 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS & By Courtney Kube and Alex Johnson, NBC News [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON — Suicides among U.S. soldiers rose last year to the highest level in decades, the Army announced today.

At least 128 soldiers killed themselves in 2008. But the final count is likely to be considerably higher because 15 more suspicious deaths are still being investigated and could also turn out to be self-inflicted, the Army said.

The new suicide figure compares with 115 in 2007 and 102 in 2006 and is the highest since record keeping began in 1980.

Officials calculate the deaths at a rate of roughly 20.2 per 100,000 soldiers -- which is higher than the adjusted civilian rate for the first time since the Vietnam War, officials told a Pentagon news conference.

Officials have said that troops are under tremendous and unprecedented stress because of repeated and long tours of duty due to the simultaneous wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Army Brig. Gen. Loree K. Sutton, director of the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury, said active-duty service members were under tremendous strain.

“They’ve lost buddies,” Sutton said. “They’ve been exposed to the most corrosive environment known to warfare — physically, psychologically, spiritually and morally.”

The stress has placed further burdens on an overwhelmed military health care system also trying to tend to huge numbers of troops suffering from post-traumatic stress, depression and other mental health problems as well as physical wounds and injuries of tens of thousands.

Yearly increases in suicides have been recorded since 2004, when there were 64 -- only about half the number now. And they’ve occurred despite increased training, prevention programs and psychiatric staff.

The statistics released today cover soldiers who killed themselves while they were on active duty -- including National Guard and Reserve troops who had been activated.

The previous year’s rate of suicides -- 18.8 per 100,000 soldiers -- had also been the highest on record.

But the new pace of 20.2 per 100,000 was the first time the rate surpassed the civilian number, when adjusted to reflect the Army’s younger and male-heavy demographics.

The civilian rate is 19.5 per 100,000 when adjusted.

The new estimated rate of 20.2 is more than double the 9.8 in 2002 -- the first full year after the start of the war in Afghanistan.

Officials said the Marine Corps’ rate was 19 per 100,000 Marines in 2008, while for the Air Force, it was 11.5, and for the Navy, it was 11.3. All three rates represented statistically significant rises over the same figures in 2007.

**“They Are Arrogant, Greedy, Overpaid
Mercenaries, Regardless Of Their
Military BackGround”**

From The Forums
Army Times
1.26.09

The problem with Blackwater and the like is that they have in the past had very little consequences for their actions. Mix that in with incredible pay, no Uniform Code of Military Justice, and very little of the “b.s.” we put up with in the military, and it’s understandable why (soldiers) are attracted to it.

Once they trade the uniform for money and free rein, they are no longer patriots.

They believe they are in their own military and therefore act accordingly.

They are arrogant, greedy, overpaid mercenaries, regardless of their military background.

— eichampt1

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

**World War II Veteran Murdered By
The Government Of Bay City,
Michigan:
“They’re Off Fighting The War Of
Terror In The Wrong Place”**

[Thanks to SSG N (ret’d) who sent this in. She writes: “I wonder who’s grandpa this was, and why they’re off fighting the war of terror in the wrong place.]

January 26, 2009 by Tom Gilchrist, The Bay City Times

A pathologist said a 93-year-old Bay City man froze to death inside his home - his body found days after city workers said they limited electricity flowing to the house.

Marvin E. Schur suffered “a slow, painful death” inside his home at 1600 S. Chilson St. on Bay City’s southwest side, said Dr. Kanu Virani, who performed an autopsy on the body.

“Hypothermia shuts the whole system down, slowly,” Virani said. “It’s not easy to die from hypothermia without first realizing your fingers and toes feel like they’re burning.”

Funeral services for Schur, a retired pattern-maker who lived alone, are at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Gephart Funeral Home, 201 W. Midland St. Schur’s wife, retired elementary-school teacher Marian I. (Meisel) Schur, died several years ago, and the couple had no children.

Virani, Oakland County’s deputy chief medical examiner, performs autopsies for Bay County and numerous other Michigan counties.

Of about 15,000 autopsies Virani has conducted, he said Marvin Schur’s autopsy “is the first one I can remember doing on someone who froze to death indoors.”

Virani said the temperature inside Schur’s home was less than 32 degrees when neighbors George A. Pauwels Jr. and his wife, Shannon, found Schur’s body Jan. 17.

George Pauwels Jr. said Schur owed almost \$1,100 in electricity bills to the city of Bay City, though Pauwels said he noticed money clipped to those bills on Schur’s kitchen table the day he found Schur’s body.

Bay City Manager Robert V. Belleman said a worker with Bay City Electric Light & Power placed a “limiter” device outside Schur’s home, between Schur’s electricity meter and electrical service, on Jan. 13.

The device restricts the amount of electricity reaching the home and if a homeowner tries to draw more electricity than the limiter allows, “it blows the limiter, just like blowing a fuse, and then you go outside and reset it,” Belleman said.

Belleman said he doesn’t know if a city worker made one-on-one contact with Schur to explain the limiter’s operation. Virani said he doesn’t know if Schur suffered from dementia, which could have interfered with his ability to know how to reset a limiter.

Pauwels said Schur couldn’t hear well, and said he believed Schur “had a little bit” of dementia.

Belleman said city workers keep the limiter on a residence for 10 days, at which point the city shuts off all electricity if the homeowner hasn’t paid his utility bill or arranged to do so.

Jim Hernden, 41, a neighbor of Marvin Schur, said Bay City Electric Light & Power workers should insist on meeting face to face with a homeowner, or a homeowner’s neighbors, before installing a limiter or shutting off power.

“We’re a small enough town where someone like Marvin should get a little bit extra care,” he said.

Bay City Police Department officers investigated Schur's death, but declined comment, referring all questions to Belleman.

Pauwels said he blames the city for Marvin Schur's death.

"His furnace was not running - the insides of his windows were full of ice the morning we found him," Pauwels said. "This (limiter) is supposed to regulate the amount of electricity he was using, but still allow enough power to run the furnace. Obviously, it didn't work."

Belleman said city officials will review Electric Light & Power policies in the wake of Schur's death.

Belleman said he doesn't believe the city did anything wrong.

If you have a view about killing a 93 year-old World War II veteran by freezing him to death, "a slow, painful death," you may wish to have a word with the murderers:

City Manager - Robert Belleman: bellemanr@baycitymi.org (989-894-8246)

Deputy City Manager - Dana Muscott: dmuscott@baycitymi.org (989-894-8168)

Electric Utilities - Phillip Newton: (989-894-8348)

Mayor - Charles Brunner: cbrunner@baycitymi.org (989-894-8189)

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Action

January 29, 2009 By Laith Hammoudi, McClatchy Newspapers & The New York Times Company & 30/01/2009 (AP) & AFP

On Friday, a roadside bomb found south of Baghdad killed three officers and wounded 20 others.

Police found the device in downtown Diwaniyah and took it to their station but it exploded as they tried to disarm the bomb, the official said.

Eight Iraqi soldiers were wounded by two roadside bombs that targeted their patrol in Sadiyah town east of Baquba city on Wednesday evening.

A police officer was killed and a policeman was injured when guerrillas attacked one of the election centers (Aisha High School) in Tuz district on Wednesday evening.

A candidate in Diyala, northeast of Baghdad, was pasting his election posters to a wall when he was killed with his brother and another relative. Abbas Farhan al-Azzawi, was a colonel in the former Iraqi Army and a member of the Reform and Development Party. The party includes members of the former security forces and members of the Awakening movement, which has many former insurgents who decided to change sides and work with the Americans.

A candidate assassinated in Mosul, Hazim Salim Ahmed, was a tribal figure from the National Unity List. He was personally close to Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki and accompanied him during his visit there on Thursday.

“Muntazer Is Fasting Until The Sword Breaks His Fast With Blood, Silent Until Our Mouths Speak The Truth” [Translation: If You Think It’s Over, You Are Out Of Your Mind”]



A statue built for Iraqi journalist Muntazer al-Zaidi, who hurled his shoes at former U.S. president George Bush, is seen in Tikrit, January 27, 2009. The sign reads “Muntazer is

fasting until the sword breaks his fast with blood, silent until our mouths speak the truth".
Picture taken January 27, 2009. REUTERS/Sabah al-Bazee

January 29, 2009 (AP)

"This monument ... will remain a present for the forthcoming generations," said Fatin Abdul-Qadir al-Nasiri, director of a Tikrit orphanage whose children helped fashion the sculpture.

"(They) will remember the story of the hero (al-Zeidi) who bid farewell to the U.S. president ... in such a way.

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

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



"At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation's ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.

“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.

“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

Frederick Douglas, 1852

FTA Is Back!

“BANNED BY THE MILITARY” “THE FILM THAT MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED 35 YEARS AGO IS BACK”

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

FTA
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PORT BRAGO

The show the Pentagon couldn't stop!

Jane Fonda & Donald Sutherland
star in the legendary,
lost 1972 film

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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://imgineaworldof.blogspot.com/&feature=player_embedded

**FINALLY, AFTER 35-YEARS IN EXILE
FTA IS BACK! AVAILABLE FEBRUARY 24
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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

To Get Your Copy Of FTA:

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

January 30, 1972: Shameful Anniversary; Bloody Sunday: An Occupation Massacre



Carl Bunin Peace History Jan 28 - Feb 3

In Bogside, Derry, British Occupied Ireland, near the Rossville flats, 13 unarmed and peaceful civil rights demonstrators were shot dead by British Army paratroopers from the British Army's 1st Parachute Regiment in an event that became known as "Bloody Sunday."

The protesters, all Catholics, had been marching in protest of the British policy of internment without trial of suspected Irish nationalists. Internment without trial was introduced by the British government on August 9, 1971.

British authorities had ordered the march banned, and sent troops to confront the demonstrators when it went ahead.

The soldiers fired indiscriminately into the crowd of protesters, killing 13 and wounding seventeen. One wounded man later died from illness attributed to that shooting.

By the end of the year 323 civilians and 144 military and paramilitary personnel would be dead.

The British-government-appointed Widgery Tribunal found soldiers were not guilty of shooting dead the 13 civilians in cold blood.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE



[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Project, who sent this in.]

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

“One Of The First Underreported Acts Of President Obama Was To Sign An Order Continuing The Drone

Airstrikes, Resulting In At Least 22 Killed So Far”

“And President Obama Has Made It Clear That The Bombs Will Continue To Drop”

January 30, 2009 By Cynthia McKinney, Candidate For President 2008, Green Party, hiphopnews.yuku.com [Excerpts]

One of the first underreported acts of President Obama was to sign an order continuing the drone airstrikes, resulting in at least 22 killed so far.

For the dead children of Afghanistan or Pakistan or Gaza, it doesn't matter to their parents if the bomb was dropped by Bush or Obama or the client state they support.

And President Obama has made it clear that the bombs will continue to drop; it is up to us – the people of the United States – to stop them.

That's why it was on my birthday, in front of the Pentagon in 2007, that I declared my independence from every bomb dropped, every child killed, every veteran maimed in the name of U.S. wars. I said it, and I meant it, and I knew I was going to have to do something I'd never done before if I was ever going to have something I'd never had before.

So I left the Democratic Party.

My neighborhood in Los Angeles, Watts and South Central, is already a police state. Tonight, 25 to 30 young black men, standing handcuffed, outside the barber shop.

Every night, routine dehumanization is carried out in black and brown neighborhoods by LAPD.

I see it. I never miss it. It's all around me.

Oscar Grant murdered in cold blood by law enforcement. Robert Tolan, murdered in cold blood by law enforcement, for driving his father's car, mistaken for stolen.

Filiberto Ojeda Rios assassinated by the U.S. government; I met his wife and heard the entire story of what happened as he was shot by the FBI and then bled to death.

Innocent black and brown and poor white men on death row. How many Troy Davises and Mumia Abu Jamals will we allow to exist in our country?

Native Americans trying to survive despite genocide and ethnic cleansing, struggle against drug and alcohol abuse and poverty, and try to keep their culture alive.

And yet the likes of Harry Reid, Dick Durbin, Nancy Pelosi, and now Barack Obama say nothing about the pain I see on the mean streets and reservations across our country, and the miscarriages of justice that are its regular feature, but they allow Bush and company to get away with the highest of crimes, involving millions of deaths.

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

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

CLASS WAR REPORTS

New Orleans:

**“Premeditated Actions By Our
Elected Officials Have Led To
Countless Deaths”**

**“Blacks Are Disproportionately
Victimized By Our State Murder Mob”**

**“The Best First Step To Stop The
Violence Would Be To Stop The State
From Killing: To Hold Back The City,
State, And Federal Government, And Put
An End To The Bloody Spree Of
Homicides They Have Committed Here,
Especially Since 2005”**

For every fatal example of armed robbery, a drug dispute, ward beef, deprived greed, hatred, or just plain insanity, there's at least ten more examples of

needless deaths due entirely to the action, or inaction of the state to provide for the basic needs and liberties of its citizens.

1.29.2009 by Darwin BondGraham, darwinbondgraham.blogspot.com. [Excerpts]

Stop the Violence

What will it really take?

New Orleans, I know we can stop the violence.

We must.

All these street marches and vigils against crime, yard signs and “more cops” talk, is this really going to accomplish the change we seek though?

Please understand, my friends and loved ones have been victims too, but I’m afraid all this rhetoric about “personal responsibility,” and individual moral failure is diverting us from the things we can most effectively change through collective action.

I’m going to put it out there first and foremost, the movement against violence has got to be political. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. told us, the movement has got to aim at the “greatest purveyor of violence,” the state.

The best first step to stop the violence, I believe, would be to stop the state from killing: to hold back the city, state, and federal government, and put an end to the bloody spree of homicides they have committed here, especially since 2005.

Homicide?

Yes, let’s call it out for what it is – premeditated actions by our elected officials that have led to countless deaths.

The biggest scene of the crime is Charity Hospital.

The murder weapon has been Baton Rouge’s ability to keep the doors locked and health care in this city virtually paralyzed since Katrina.

Our city leaders have been eager accomplices in this heist. State leaders representing LSU, in cahoots with the Mayor and other local power brokers, have been carrying out a figurative stick-up against the federal government.

Louisiana big shots: “Give me you wallet... er, give me \$492 million.”

FEMA: “No.”

Were this the more mundane variety of street robbery it would be Louisiana’s cue to shoot FEMA about now, grab the loot, and sprint away, across Rampart Street to their hideouts in that big garish City Hall hideout.

Instead, the stakes here are different, and Louisiana's leaders, for all their gangsterish ways can't just pop the federal government.

So instead they've grabbed some hostages, a whole city of hostages, and they've been slowly executing them in the countdown to pay-day.

The Kaiser Family Foundation's report "Voices of the Storm: Health Experiences of Low-Income Katrina Survivors" was one of the earliest witness statements against the state's serial killings.

According to KFF, "Individuals who have returned to the city face the challenge of obtaining health care in a changed community with a crippled health care system."

The report's key findings are that post-Katrina health care in New Orleans was woefully inadequate, to the point of sickness and lethality.

That was 2006.

Today, 2009, little has changed in New Orleans, and if LSU, Gov. Jindal, and Mayor Nagin get their way nothing will be different until 2012 (the best case scenario) when construction of their dream hospital wraps up in lower-Mid City.

That of course requires evicting residents and demolishing their homes to make way for the shiny new medical complex.

I believe the police lingo for this is "home invasion robbery."

Several medical studies have objectively demonstrated the lethal effects of our state and city governments' behavior.

Shocked by the obvious increase in obituaries published in the Times-Picayune, several doctors carried out a statistical analysis of deaths after Katrina, and controlling for other factors concluded that excess mortality rates have increased 47% two years after the storm.

Other studies have shown how seniors have borne the greatest burden because of LSU's choices.

One report noted a 12.6% morbidity rate increase at New Orleans area managed care organization hospitals for senior citizens.

This is compared to a national average of just 3.4%.

The mortal consequences of city and state government have mostly affected working class and uninsured New Orleanians.

Blacks are disproportionately victimized by our state murder mob.

According to Dr. Lynda Burton "Morbidity rates among non-white Orleans residents were the highest when compared to other parishes and there was a significant increase in the

prevalence of patients with cardiac diagnoses, congestive heart failure and sleep problems.”

City and state leaders have literally been sacrificing the lives of New Orleanians in their quest to extort money from the federal government to cover the cost of their hospital.

By itself Louisiana simply cannot afford the facility and is short by many hundreds of millions.

Never mind that alternative plans exist.

One coalition of health care advocates, doctors, Mid-City residents, preservationists have shown for over a year now that big Charity Hospital could be gutted, rebuilt, and turned into a modern hospital for hundreds of millions less than LSU's plans for a new building blocks away. The biggest benefit of this coalition's plan is that it would bring health care back to New Orleans much sooner.

But LSU wants a new building, and a powerful network of business leaders has banked on this plan hoping to turn New Orleans into a biosciences center.

The health care industry they envision could make quite a few of them much wealthier, so they press on with their plans, even though the stakes are clearly lethal for this city's working poor and uninsured.

Irregardless of whether the state and city come to their senses and choose the Charity plan over the boondoggle in Mid-City they currently favor, it never had to come to this point.

We never should have become collective hostages of LSU's beef with FEMA.

In the weeks after Katrina LSU could have reopened Charity to an operational capacity, no matter what their long-term plans for rebuilding health care were. They could have gotten Charity back up and running.

Hundreds of thousands of New Orleanians would have been able to receive treatment, mental health services, and affordable medication. Tens of thousands could have accessed emergency care.

Thousands of lives could have been saved.

All of which brings us back to the issue of violence I posed at the outset: how to stop the epidemic violence in New Orleans?

For every fatal example of armed robbery, a drug dispute, ward beef, depraved greed, hatred, or just plain insanity, there's at least ten more examples of needless deaths due entirely to the action, or inaction of the state to provide for the basic needs and liberties of its citizens.

Moreover, these are not entirely exclusive forms of violence. There's an intimate connection.

The government that blatantly denies the value human life through its actions engenders a dog eat dog world among its subjects.

The government which sanctions and facilitates violence and exploitation against the poor to benefit the rich (what else do you think the plans for transforming health care in Louisiana are about?) sets a tone and example for all to follow.

I believe that the violence we see on our city's streets is but only the most visible example of a greater, systematic violence which pervades our every institution and state office.

I also believe this is where we can most effectively take action.

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Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces.

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