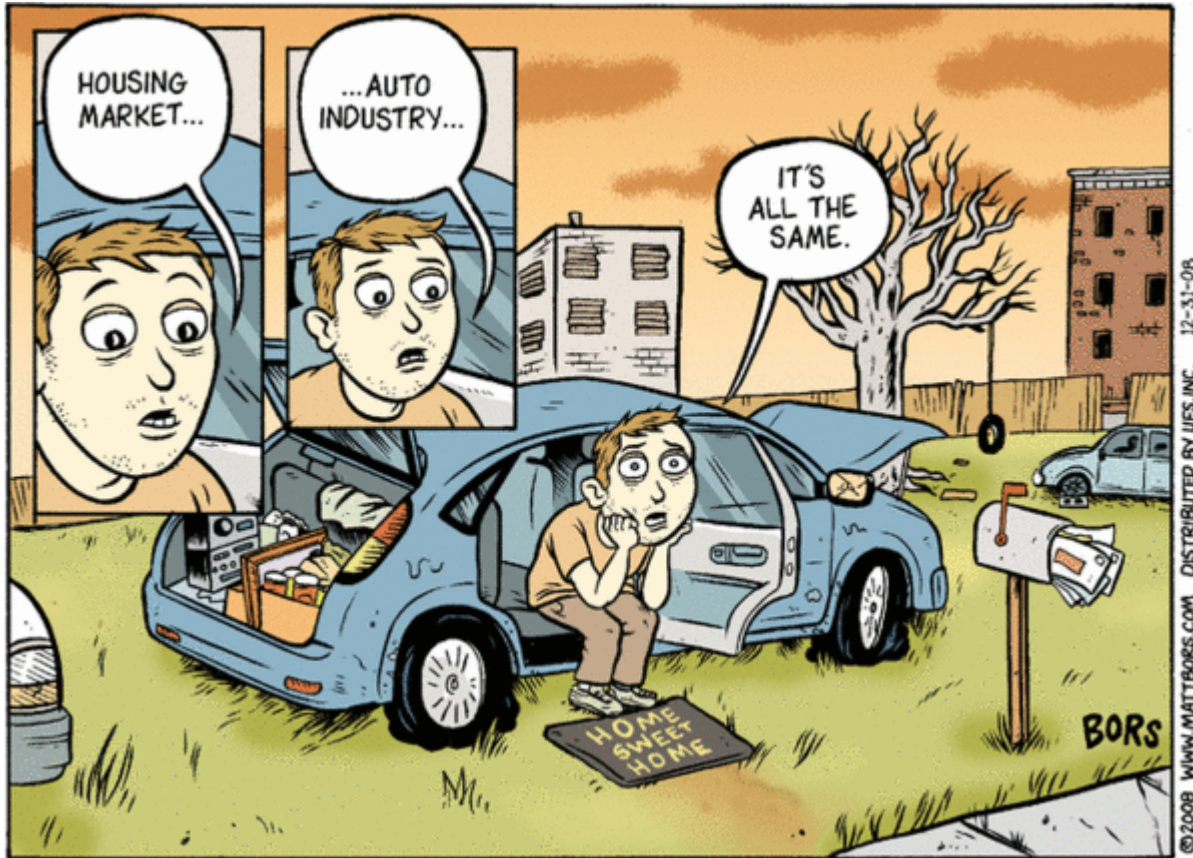


GI SPECIAL 7A7:



“We Can Say No”

**“I Have Been Involuntarily
Activated From The Individual
Ready Reserve By The U.S.
Marine Corps”**

“I Am Ignoring My Orders”

“Active Duty Troops In Iraq Are Discovering That By Disobeying Orders They Are Actually Saving Lives”

“They Are Doing This By Refusing Orders To Patrol Hot Streets Where The Only Mission That Can Be Accomplished Is To Be Wounded Or Killed By An IED Or Pre-Set Ambush With No Stated Goal But ‘A Presence’”



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "I hope he's right."]

After being discharged from the military, veterans are bound only by civilian laws, and there exists no civilian mandate that states they must report for their evaluation.

This means that the military has no formal judiciary measure for bringing criminal charges against an individual that ignores orders and fails to report.

Jan 7 2009 By Benji Lewis, Iraq Veterans Against the War (<http://ivaw.org/>)

Benji Lewis was a Corporal in the U.S. Marine Corp who served in Fallujah and Hadita in 2004 & 2005. He is an IRR resister and community activist in Corvallis, Oregon. He encourages all fellow IRR service members to contact the GI Rights Hotline (1-877-447-4487) with further questions about the IRR and reference www.couragetoresist.org.

Facts Of Involuntary Activation From The IRR

I am Benji Lewis.

I deployed to Iraq twice in 2004 and 2005 and was discharged honorably in 2007.

Recently I have been involuntarily activated from the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) by the U.S. Marine Corps in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, an activation that I have been publicly refusing.

The IRR is an inactive group of service members who still have time remaining on their signing agreements and are eligible to call up in states of emergency. The current state of emergency is the open-ended Global War on Terror that includes the occupation of both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Because of falling reenlistment levels, the United States is finding it difficult to procure sufficient manpower in its efforts overseas.

Thus the U.S. government is finding it necessary to reactivate members from the IRR to stave off its shortage of personnel.

Thousands of individuals are now being faced with the decision to reactivate and forgo the lives they have built since their discharge.

I am ignoring my orders and encouraging others in the IRR to make an informed decision on whether or not they should do the same.

The most important fact about this decision is that members of the IRR do not fall under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) until they report to the evaluation for activation.

After being discharged from the military, veterans are bound only by civilian laws, and there exists no civilian mandate that states they must report for their evaluation.

This means that the military has no formal judiciary measure for bringing criminal charges against an individual that ignores orders and fails to report.

Of course the military has certain forms of coercion and harassment that it utilizes to 'prompt' persons into reactivation, but these threats have no legal grounds.

For example, if the military sends a veteran a letter that says to report for a court martial or a separations hearing, the military cannot actually hold a court martial or separations hearing unless that person reports for it.

This means that a vet would have to volunteer to be court marshaled under the UCMJ.

In the case of a separations hearing, a vet would have to agree to voluntarily participate, as in the well-known case of IRR resister and fellow IVAW member, Matthis Chiroux.

If members of the IRR ignore all attempts by the military to contact them, through not signing certified letters, or answering their phone calls, then the most probable situation is either a general separation from the IRR citing 'a failure to contact,' or, at worst, an other-than-honorable discharge from the IRR.

What is important to understand is that a discharge from the IRR, in whatever capacity, does not affect a vet's discharge from active duty. That means that at this time no one has incurred any loss of benefits or standing from an original active duty discharge.

An other-than-honorable discharge from the IRR could, however, affect those that apply for a federal job requiring a national security background check, such as a position in the FBI or NSA.

Of the facts surrounding the IRR, it is important to know that about thirty to forty percent of personnel fail to report.

Unfortunately many of them do comply after the military uses scare tactics to get them to reactivate.

About fifty percent file for medical or hardship exemption and about fifty percent of those get approved. Individuals with more than thirty percent disability are most likely to succeed.

The reality is that most service members in the IRR do not even have to file for exemption if they simply fail to report.

Why I Am Refusing To Reactivate

The U.S. claimed that it invaded Iraq in order to liberate the Iraqi people from Saddam. The 'war' ended for America the day Saddam fled into hiding and the Iraqi people were ready to reestablish their futures free from bondage.

The 'war' especially ended when the Kurds found and turned over Saddam to American forces, and the 'war' really should have been over by the time many Iraqis were beginning to discover that though they hated him, their lives were better under Saddam.

Naturally this notion was contrary to stated goals, but exemplifies the fact that the U.S. did not ever really care about the people of Iraq, and was more interested in profiteering and geostrategic positioning.

The Iraq resistance to American presence will not cease until it accomplishes its objectives: U.S. withdrawal of its political and economic influence, and troop presence.

The U.S. has been instrumental in creating the strife in Iraq: from the Reagan administration taking Iraq off the state sponsored terrorism list in 1982 in order to sell it weaponry during the eight year war with Iran (in which Iraq openly used chemical

weapons, utilizing raw chemicals sold by U.S. corporations and approved by the U.S. Department of Commerce), to the baiting of Saddam's invasion of Kuwait, to the Gulf War, to the resulting sanctions, and finally to the U.S. invasion and occupation.

Yet, it is still safe to say that during the last three decades of U.S. involvement in Iraq, the country has never been worse off than it has been under the U.S. occupation. Still, it surprises many people, mostly Americans who get their information from mainstream media outlets, that the Iraqis would be resisting the occupation.

I am resisting activation because the occupation of Iraq has done nothing but proliferate international terrorism, because the results from Afghanistan have been and will continue to do the same, and because the occupation of Iraq has been nothing but detrimental to the Iraqi people, American troops and their loved ones.

It is time for the American public to understand that just because our government and our military state specific goals and visions, it does not mean that those statements reflect their real intentions.

The question for IRR members is whether or not they should leave their new civilian lives behind so soon after being discharged to fight in illegal aggressions and occupation.

The benefit is certainly not for veterans who, if they have not already been so, stand only to get wounded, killed or sustain psychological trauma in the form of PTSD.

I encourage all IRR service members to start questioning what they are being told by a military system that will tell them anything to fill its quotas.

Active duty troops in Iraq are discovering that by disobeying orders they are actually saving lives.

They are doing this by refusing orders to patrol hot streets where the only mission that can be accomplished is to be wounded or killed by an IED or pre-set ambush with no stated goal but 'a presence.'

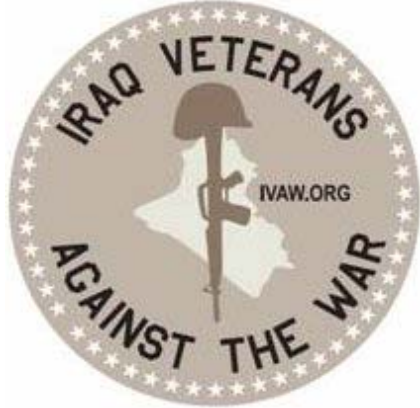
We owe it to active duty service members and vets to question our orders as IRR members.

Together we can deplete the manpower available for this war and force the U.S. to rotate its service members home where they belong.

We must allow the Iraqis to rebuild their nation without interference from biased U.S. policy makers and corporations.

It is impossible to honor those fallen in an unjustifiable aggression by continuing to fill body bags.

We can say no.



MORE:

“French Muslim Soldiers Have Refused To Serve In Afghanistan”

01-15-09 AFP

PARIS (AFP)--French Muslim soldiers have refused to serve in Afghanistan, saying their faith forbids them from fighting fellow Muslims, a military spokesman confirmed to AFP.

“The refusal to be assigned to a mission for religious reasons is a micro- phenomenon concerning fewer than five cases per year,” said Colonel Benoit Royal, confirming a report on the Web site of left-wing daily Liberation.

Liberation's respected “Defense Secret” blog reported Wednesday that an infantry soldier in eastern France had in October refused to be stationed in Afghanistan but later agreed, after meeting a Muslim chaplain.

Soldiers who refuse a mission face disciplinary action and in most cases are discharged from the army, Royal said.

The army spokesman said the refusal by some soldiers showed a “lack of understanding of their commitment which is to bear arms for France to defend its interests and values at all times and everywhere.”

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?

Forward GI Special along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the wars, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to:

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

U.S. Soldier Killed By Baghdad IED Attack

Jan. 16, 2009 RELEASE No. 20090116-09 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs
Office, Camp Victory

BAGHDAD – A Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldier died of wounds at
approximately 3 p.m. Jan. 16 following an improvised-explosive device attack on his
patrol in Baghdad.

Iraqi Who Threw Shoes At Bush “Restored The Honor Of The Iraqi People” Al-Zeidi Proud Of His Action

1.16.09 (AP)

The Iraqi journalist detained after throwing his shoes at President George W. Bush is in
good shape and was allowed to meet with his brother on Friday, although he has been
denied access to his lawyer, his family said.

Muntadhar al-Zeidi, who gained widespread support in Iraq and other Muslim countries
when he hurled both his shoes at Bush during a news conference, met with his brother
Maitham for two hours in his cell at a detention center in the Green Zone.

One of the journalist's other brothers, Dhargham, was not at the Friday meeting but
described what happened between his brother Maitham, who he said was not discussing
the incident at this time with the media, and their imprisoned journalist brother.

“Muntadhar was in a good shape, his wounds were healed and his morale was high.

**“Yesterday was his birthday and some patriotic officers there organized a party
for him and brought birthday cake,” his other brother Dhargham told The
Associated Press.**

“Some officers told him that half of the Iraqis were against him. But he was very happy when he heard that all the Iraqis support him.

“He even cried when he heard that there were even demonstrations on his behalf in the United States,” Dhargham al-Zeidi said.

The visit followed a New York Times report that al-Zeidi has only been allowed two visitors since his detention.

Defense lawyer Dhia al-Saadi told AP he has only been allowed to meet his client once. “I submitted many petitions to the Judge of the case and I expect to meet Muntadhar next week,” he said.

The journalist is being held alone in a comfortable room with a bed and a TV set, his brother said. “He is being visited frequently by doctors. The food is very good,” the brother added.

Al-Zeidi stood by his action against Bush.

He stressed that he meant no offense to the Iraqi prime minister but didn't want to miss his chance to send a message to Bush, the brother said.

“He said he could not wait until al-Maliki left the room to throw his shoes because then Bush would also leave and that historic opportunity would be lost,” he said.

Muntadhar al-Zeidi actually feared he would be killed by guards after throwing his shoes and read his last prayers before going to the news conference, his brother said.

“So for him it does not matter for how long he would be imprisoned ... because the important thing is that he restored the honor of the Iraqi people,” his brother said.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Two British Troops Killed In Gereshk; Two More Wounded

Jan 15 & Jan. 16, Ministry of Defence

It is with great regret that the Ministry of Defence must announce that a soldier from 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery and a Royal Marine from 45 Commando Royal Marines were killed in Afghanistan yesterday, 14 January 2009.

Both were killed in an explosion while taking part in a joint operation with a Danish Battle Group and the Afghan National Army north east of Gereshk in central Helmand. They were members of a fire support team that was engaged in an operation to clear compounds in a known Taliban stronghold. Two other members of the patrol were injured in the explosion.

Resistance Using More And Bigger IEDs To Attack Occupation Troops

January 15, 2009 Darah Hansen, Vancouver Sun

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Using bigger and better homemade bombs to kill and to maim coalition soldiers is now the signature combat strategy for Taliban militants operating in Kandahar province, according to a Canadian military bomb expert.

According to military figures, NATO soldiers based in the province - including Canada's 2,700 troops - have been the target of more than double the number of IED attacks this winter over last.

About 180 attacks were recorded between September and December 2008, compared to 75 over the same period in 2007.

Key Collaborator General and Command Staff Killed In Adraskan MI-17 Crash

Jan 15 By RAHIM FAIEZ, Associated Press Writer & RTÉ

Jan 15 KABUL, Afghanistan – A top Afghan army general was killed Thursday in a helicopter crash in western Afghanistan. All 12 others aboard were also killed, the statement said.

Gen. Fazaludin Sayar was one of the Afghan army's four regional commanders, in charge of the entire west of the country.

Besides the commander, the dead included the corps operations chief, its telecommunications chief, five bodyguards, four crew and the commander's chief of staff, he said.

His Mi-17 helicopter hit bad weather in the morning and went down in the Adraskan district of Herat province, the ministry said in a statement.

But a report quoted an anonymous official who said it was still unclear whether the helicopter was brought down by bad weather or enemy fire.

A Taliban spokesman, Qari Yousuf Ahmadi, claimed militants shot down the helicopter in a phone call to an AP reporter in southern Afghanistan.

The helicopter had been headed to neighboring Farah province.

Forbidding mountainous terrain, lack of roads coupled with insurgent attacks on ground convoys have forced local and international authorities to rely heavily on the use of helicopters and other aircraft for movement.

U.S. Black Hawk Down Near Kabul



A crashed U.S. Black Hawk helicopter north of Kabul January 16, 2009.
REUTERS/Omar Sobhani

1.16.09 (RTTNews)

The U.S. military in Afghanistan said Friday that one of its Black Hawk helicopters had made a forced landing near the Afghan capital of Kabul, adding that no one was injured in the incident.

“The crew and passengers are safe and secure, and enemy activity was not involved,” a U.S. military statement said, adding that the cause of the crash was being investigated.

“The helicopter was en route to a medical evacuation mission with seven people aboard,” the statement said, adding that all seven of the crew and passengers on board were safely evacuated from the site of the crash landing.

Collaborator Killed And Hung From Tree In Kapisa

2009-01-15 (Xinhua)

An Afghan contractor, who worked on road construction projects for the NATO-led occupation, was found killed three days after being captured by insurgents in Kapisa Province, some 80 km north from capital city of Kabul, said an ISAF statement released here on Thursday.

The contractor was captured on Jan. 6. Afghan police found the contractor's body hanging from a tree near Feroza district on Jan. 9. The contractor was part of a road construction project in the Afghanya valley of Kapisa.

**REALLY BAD IDEA:
NO MISSION;
POINTLESS WAR:
ALL HOME NOW**



U.S. Marines in Helmand province south of Kabul, Afghanistan, Dec. 10, 2008. (AP Photo/DoD)

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Liberation!
Resistance Forces Capture The
Capital, Mogadishu:

Nationalist Government Restored: Somalis Celebrate Withdrawal Of U.S.- Backed Ethiopian Occupation Troops



A resistance fighter stands guard as a crowd gathers in Mogadishu soccer stadium, Jan. 16, 2009 to celebrate the withdrawal of U.S. sponsored Ethiopian troops. About 3,000 people, mainly women and children marched through the streets of the war-scarred Somali capital celebrating the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops. The marchers weaved their way through different districts of Mogadishu on Friday. They then converged at the city's main football stadium.

Only two days ago, the stadium was a base for Ethiopian troops. (AP Photo/Farah Abdi Warsameh)

1.16.09: MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) & Radio Netherlands & IRN

In the Somali capital Mogadishu nationalist militias have taken over strategic positions after they had been vacated by Ethiopian troops.

Fighters of the Islamic Courts Union, the government before the invasion, appear to have filled the power vacuum.

There are also reports that militias in the port of Kismayo have executed a politician for collaborating with the Ethiopians.

Supported by the Bush Administration, Ethiopian troops invaded Somalia and overthrew the government, driving the nationalist Islamist government out of Mogadishu and other parts of Somalia two years ago.

About 3,000 Somalis marched through the streets of the war-scarred capital on Friday, celebrating the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops and appealing for peace in a city where thousands of people have died in fighting over the past two years.

Waving twigs as a sign of peace and chanting slogans appealing for peace, the marchers from different districts and converged at the city's main football stadium, which only two days ago was a base for Ethiopian troops.

The Bush Administration backed Ethiopians in December 2006 ousted the Council of Islamic Courts, the umbrella Islamic group that controlled Mogadishu and southern Somalia for six months that year.

The Ethiopian army was viewed by many Somalis as abusive and heavy-handed.

Sheik Abdiqadir Ali Omar, a member of the Council of Islamic Courts, called Friday for Islamic fighters to lay down their arms.

"Now it is time to rebuild what has been destroyed," said Omar. "It is time for the displaced people to return."

The last Ethiopian troops left Mogadishu on Thursday after a two-year deployment.

Islamist militiamen from different groups took control of the bases the Ethiopians vacated. No fighting was reported Thursday or Friday.

The Al-Shabab, which the Bush Administration considers a terrorist organization with links to al-Qaida, says it wants to establish an Islamic state in Somalia.

The group says it will now focus its attacks on the African Union peacekeepers [translation: U.S. supported foreign occupation troops] in Mogadishu.

MORE:

Insurgents Took Somali Port City Without a Fight [Background]

November 13, 2008 By JEFFREY GETTLEMAN, New York Times [Excerpts]

NAIROBI, Kenya — Another major city in Somalia fell without a shot to insurgents on Wednesday, with guerrilla fighters seizing the strategic port of Merka, residents and Somali officials said.

The Islamists are now in control of a large and rapidly growing swath of south-central Somalia, and the weak transitional government seems too paralyzed by infighting to do much about it.

Hundreds of fighters rolled into Merka around 8 a.m. on Wednesday in heavily armed pickup trucks, meeting no resistance because government-allied militias had fled the night before, according to residents. Merka is only 60 miles south of Mogadishu, Somalia's bullet-pocked capital, and Somali officials warned that the Islamists were now planning to lay siege to Mogadishu.

The Islamists have been steadily gobbling up territory — Merka, Kismayu, Bulo Marer, El Dheer and Qoryooley — and now control many strategic areas across the country.

They seem to be fast approaching Mogadishu, from the north and from the south.

[M]any Somalis are so eager for law and order that they are embracing the Islamists. On Wednesday, residents in Merka said they poured into the streets to welcome the Islamist soldiers.

"I am very happy with them," said Axmed Warfaa, an elder in the town. "I am Muslim, and our religion is fair."

The Islamist fighters, part of a group called the Shabab, which the Bush administration has designated a terrorist organization [translation: a nationalist organization fighting to liberate their country from the U.S. Empire] quickly took over Merka's police station and government buildings, residents said.

The fighters seemed organized, with many wearing green uniforms. They addressed a crowd that gathered in one of Merka's public squares, telling people to stay calm and to put aside clan differences and unite under the banner of Islam, according to accounts from residents. Merka's previous officials fled to a suburb of Mogadishu.

Ethiopian officials are blaming Somalia's leaders for not making peace with Islamist clerics, who enjoy a large degree of popular support.

When the Islamists briefly ruled much of Somalia in 2006, many Somalis considered that period the most peaceful era since the central government imploded in 1991.

The Ethiopians, with American help [translation: bribed by Bush], overthrew the Islamists in 2006, and an intense guerrilla war has raged ever since, with thousands of civilians killed.

Complicating matters is the fact that Merka has been home to a major United Nations operation to bring in food. Somalia has been on the brink of a famine for much of the past year, because of drought, conflict-related displacement and high global food prices. Millions of people need emergency rations to survive.

United Nations officials said on Wednesday that Merka's port was crucial to keeping people alive. More than 24 million pounds of food passed through the port in October alone, feeding as many as 850,000 people.

Peter Smerdon, a spokesman for the United Nations World Food Program, said local United Nations employees in Merka were trying to speak to the new Islamist authorities about continuing the life-saving operations. The United Nations does work in several other areas in Somalia controlled by the Islamists.

In the past, United Nations officials have said they faced less interference in some Islamist areas than in those under nominal government control.

TROOP NEWS

“Oh, Yes, Shirley, I Have Grown So Much Since That SOB Caught Me In The Shower!”

[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes:

“This was on the evening radio news tonight.

“Sounds like sipping a few beers and telling war stories at the VFW. Will the women be expected to talk about their command rapes over tea?

“Hey, you've been looking good lately, Martha.”

“Oh, yes, Shirley, I have grown so much since that SOB caught me in the shower!”

Gimme a break!

(2009-01-12) B Addie Goss, WPR News

LARAMIE, WY: A Post Traumatic Stress Disorder prevention program for the Wyoming Army National Guard may be the first of its kind in the country.

Psychiatrist David Fohrman with the Cheyenne Veterans Administration is teaching a method called “natural debriefing” to 24-hundred soldiers from Wyoming and four other states.

The soldiers deploy to Kuwait in April.

Before they go, they'll practice talking about their traumatic experiences with others.

Fohrman says soldiers can protect themselves against P-T-S-D by learning to see traumatic events as opportunities for positive growth:

“As a result of negative experiences, no matter how horrific they are, the most common outcome long-term is positive change.”

Fohrman has already taught debriefing methods to National Guard senior leadership.

He expects to teach the rest of the soldiers this spring.

WIA Ex-Soldiers Plan Riot To Get Promised Benefits: “Just Because Of Selfishness And Wickedness From The High-Ranking Officers They Are Treating Us Like A Slaves Or Animals”

[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in.]

15 January 2009 By Alhassan Bah, Concord Times (Freetown, Sierra Leone)

Freetown — Former soldiers who were wounded in action while serving in the Sierra Leone army are threatening to riot if they do not receive their benefits soon.

One of the affected soldiers, 18168156 Robert Koroma, was already serving in the army when the civil war started in 1991. He was injured when he was shot in the body and the legs.

“After the fighting period, the defenses headquarter called for all victimized soldiers through the civil war to report for immediate medical attention,” he said.

The government promised to pay soldiers who were wounded in action and had to leave the military.

Koroma says he has not yet received any money. He blames corruption in the military.

Some of the former soldiers received a payment in September last year.

Koroma alleges that high-ranking officers were asking for bribes to short list people for payment. The soldier's numbers are being changed on the list so that other people will get the money, he added.

He also said the WIA ex-soldiers are being included with mentally ill soldiers, who receive smaller benefit packages.

Another angry ex-soldier, Isaac Kamara, served the Sierra Leone army for 10 years. Like Koroma, he was shot in the legs.

“As I was victimized during the 10 years of the civil war in Sierra Leone I was now to receive my benefit, but just because of selfishness and wickedness from the high-ranking officers they are treating us like a slaves or animals,” he said.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP



(Graphic: London Financial Times)

Resistance Action

Jan 15 (Reuters) & 1.16.09 By MAZIN YAHYA, Associated Press Writer & Reuters

An Iraqi soldier and three civilians were wounded by a roadside bomb in Nidhal Street, central Baghdad, police said.

A candidate for provincial elections was assassinated Friday while campaigning south of Baghdad, officials said. Hashim Al-Husseini was a member of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's Dawa [collaborator] Party and was running on the party's State of Law list for a seat on the Babil provincial council. Insurgents opened fire at about 4 p.m. in the Jbala area near Hillah, killing the candidate and wounding four of his guards.

A roadside bomb wounded an Iraqi soldier on Thursday, when it struck an army patrol in northern Mosul, police said.

Iraqi police found the body of a policeman in Mussayab, 60 km (40 miles) south of Baghdad, on Thursday, police said.

<p>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATIONS</p>
--

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

Pogrom King Congratulates IDF

From: Z
To: GI Special
Sent: January 16, 2009

Israel's Self Defense Forces *have just received a congratulatory telegram from Myasnik Myasnikovitch Myasnikov (also known as Pogrom King, or Butcher), one of the most dreaded pogrom organizers of Tsarist Russia.*

Mr. Myasnikov's current whereabouts are thought to be in the lower depths of hell.

PERMIT ME TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR TERRIFIC WORK. YOU ARE PEERLESS MASTERS OF GHETTO-HAMMERING.

WE TOO DID OUR BEST IN OUR TIME BUT OUR METHODS WERE MUCH TOO PRIMITIVE AND OUR STRATEGY AND TECHNOLOGY WORTHLESS. WE HAD NO ARTILLERY NO TANKS NO AIR FORCE JUST MISERABLE SWORDS AND RIFLES.

COMPARED TO YOU IMPERIAL DISPOSSESSION FORCE PROFESSIONALS WE WERE NOTHING BUT A DISGRACEFUL BUNCH OF DIMWITTED DRUNK COSSACK AMATEURS. YET NOW WE ARE OVERJOYED TO SEE HOW YOU CONTINUE OUR NOBLE WORK ON AN INFINITELY HIGHER PLANE.

WE ADMIRE YOU IMMENSELY AND WE SALUTE YOU. LONG LIVE DEATH AND DESTRUCTION!

[Editor's note: Mr. Myasnikov seems somewhat confused about the meaning of the acronym IDF. Needless to say, IDF does *not* stand for Imperial Dispossession Force.]

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Ten Israeli Soldiers Choose Jail Over Gaza: “The Hatred And Anger We Are Planting In Gaza Will Rebound On Us”

Mr. Netanyahu and Ms. Livni Debate Electoral Issues



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) and Dennis Serdel, Vietnam Veteran, who sent this in.]

01/13/2009 Ma'an News

At least ten soldiers have opted for prison terms rather than going through with their deployment.

The refusals would be the first of their kind since Israel launched its massive air, sea and ground assault on the Gaza Strip,

On “conscience's grounds,” the soldiers refused orders to head to the Gaza Strip, they said.

Preferring a 14-day prison stint and rounding criticism from fellow soldiers and society at large, at least ten are awaiting trial for violations of orders. One said he simply could not go through with the deployment.

No'em Levna, a first lieutenant in Israel's army, refused to serve in Gaza, saying, “We killed 900 Palestinians in 17 days, including hundreds of children.”

“If violence must be used, it should be used minimally, and that isn't what's happening,” he added. “Killing innocent civilians cannot be justified. Nothing justifies this kind of killing. It's devilish.”

“It is Israeli arrogance based on logic. It's saying, 'if we hit more, everything will be okay,’” he said. “But the hatred and anger we are planting in Gaza will rebound on us.”

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



By Steve Bell [Thanks to JM, who sent this in.]

Zionist Terrorists Attack U.N. Headquarters & Destroy Relief Supplies; Foreign Press Headquarters And U.N. School Refugee Sanctuary Also Targeted



A local U.N. worker looks at a fire at the U.N. compound after it was attacked by Israeli occupation troops in Gaza City, Palestine January 15, 2009. (Yasser Qdeah/Reuters)

15 January 2009 By: Ibrahim Barzak and Amy Teibel, The Associated Press

Gaza City, Gaza Strip - Israel shelled the United Nations headquarters in the Gaza Strip on Thursday, engulfing the compound and a warehouse in fire and destroying thousands of pounds of food and humanitarian supplies intended for Palestinian refugees.

U.N. workers and Palestinian firefighters, some wearing bulletproof jackets, struggled to douse the flames and pull bags of food from the debris after the Israeli attack, which was another blow to efforts to ease the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip. Dense smoke billowed from the compound.

Shells also struck a hospital, five high-rise apartment buildings and a building housing media outlets in Gaza City, injuring several journalists.

Bullets also entered another building housing The Associated Press offices, entering a room where two staffers were working but wounding no one.

The Foreign Press Association, representing journalists covering Israel and the Palestinian territories, demanded a halt to attacks on press buildings.



Smoke rises from a building that houses the offices of Reuters and other media organisations in Gaza City, Palestine January 15, 2009. Israeli forces attacked the press building in the city of Gaza that houses the offices of Reuters and other media organisations on Thursday, forcing an evacuation and disrupting coverage of increasingly fierce fighting. (Ramattan Television/Handout/Reuters)

The army had collected the locations of media organizations at the outset of fighting to avoid such attacks.

The U.N. compound struck Thursday houses the U.N. Works and Relief Agency, which distributes food aid to hundreds of thousands of destitute Gazans in the tiny seaside territory of 1.4 million people.

“I conveyed my strong protest and outrage to the defense minister and foreign minister and demanded a full explanation,” said Ban [U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon], who arrived in Israel on Thursday morning from Egypt.

It had only that morning become a makeshift shelter for 700 Gaza City residents seeking sanctuary from relentless Israeli shelling, U.N. officials in Gaza said.

John Ging, director of UNRWA operations in Gaza, said the attack at the compound caused a “massive explosion” that wounded three people.

A senior Israeli military officer said troops opened fire after militants inside the compound shot anti-tank weapons and machine guns.

Ging, who was in the compound at the time, dismissed the Israeli account as “nonsense.”

Israeli shells first hit the courtyard filled with refugees, then struck garages and the U.N.'s main warehouse, sending thousands of tons of food aid up in flames, Ging said. Later, fuel supplies went up in flames, sending a thick black plume of smoke into the air.

"It's a total disaster for us," Ging said, adding that the U.N. had warned the Israeli military that the compound was in peril from shelling that had begun overnight.

U.N. officials say they have provided Israel with GPS coordinates of all U.N. installations in Gaza to prevent such attacks.

The refugees were moved to a school away from the immediate fighting, he said.

Separately, Israel shells landed next to a U.N. school in another Gaza City neighborhood, wounding 14 people who had sought sanctuary there, medics and firefighters said.

**Official BS:
[An Exchange Of Views With The
Prime Minister's Office]
"The State Of Israel Has Exercised
Maximum Restraint And Worked
Relentlessly To Achieve A Peaceful
Solution With The Palestinians"**

From: Z
To: GI Special
Sent: January 11, 2009
Subject: official bs

As you can see, got this from Israel's PM's office.

The reply I sent is appended below.

Solidarity,

Z

From: PMO HEB [mailto:PMOH@pmo.gov.il]
Sent: Sun 1/11/2009 6:43 AM
To: Jake Cipris

Subject: Re: Urgent Appeal to Israel's Prime Minister's office

We acknowledge receipt of your e-mail regarding the IDF campaign to protect the residents of southern Israel.

For the past eight years, hundreds of thousands of Israelis have lived under the specter of incessant and indiscriminate rocket attacks from the Gaza Strip. While people in other countries have carried about their normal routines, sending their children to school and walking their dogs in the park, the people of Sderot and its neighboring communities have been denied such luxuries – for fear of being hit by incoming missiles

No sovereign nation should be expected to tolerate the daily targeting of its people, and yet the State of Israel has exercised maximum restraint and worked relentlessly to achieve a peaceful solution with the Palestinians.

Since seizing control of the Gaza Strip by way of a violent coup in June 2007, Hamas – a terrorist organization allied with Iran, Syria and Hizbullah – has escalated its assault on the State of Israel. Even a truce with Israel was abused by Hamas which persisted in attacking Israeli towns, while also conspiring to upgrade its terrorist capabilities, manufacture and smuggle massive quantities of weapons into Gaza and construct a network of underground tunnels for combat purposes.

Now, after Hamas has unilaterally abandoned this ceasefire and expanded the range of its missiles to threaten close to one million Israelis, the State of Israel must act decisively to defend its citizens.

In 2005, the Disengagement plan brought an end to Israel's presence in the Gaza Strip, with the hope and aspiration that its Palestinian residents would begin to govern themselves and prosper.

Israel has no desire to re-establish its hold over Gaza, but has resolved – in self-defense – to gain control over areas from which rockets are being launched on Israeli towns, and to significantly disable the Hamas terrorist infrastructure. Ultimately, Operation Cast Lead aims to produce lasting change in the security predicament affecting residents of Southern Israel, and Israel expects the international community to lend its support in the fight against Hamas terror. Terrorism is terrorism no matter where it occurs.

At the same time, the IDF is taking great pains to direct its activities exclusively against terrorists. Hamas, however, callously places Palestinian civilians in harm's way, using schools, mosques, other public institutions and even private homes as arsenals and bases of operation – effectively taking the Palestinians of Gaza hostage and using them as human shields. Responsibility for injury to civilians in Gaza rests solely with Hamas. In contrast, the State of Israel is doing its utmost to minimize any harm to the Palestinian civilian populace; hundreds of trucks carrying humanitarian aid have been allowed passage into Gaza and this assistance will continue. There is no humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip.

The State of Israel seeks peace and will remain steadfast in its pursuit of a two-state solution that will allow Israelis and Palestinians to live together as neighbors in harmony.

Sincerely,
Prime Minister's Office – E-Correspondence

“Are You Joking With This Bullshit, Or Do You Believe The Rest Of The World To Be Complete Idiots?”

Reply To Prime Minister's Office – E-Correspondence

Are you joking with this bullshit, or do you believe the rest of the world to be complete idiots?

You have stolen Palestinian land, crammed its people into ghettos and bantustans, tormented and killed them by the thousands, and you -- state terrorists armed to the teeth by the US -- pretend to be defending yourselves against their pitiful rockets that have a kill ratio of less than half of one percent?

Imperialism
Supremacy
Racism
Atrocities
Expansionism
Lies

[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.”]

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: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request identification published.

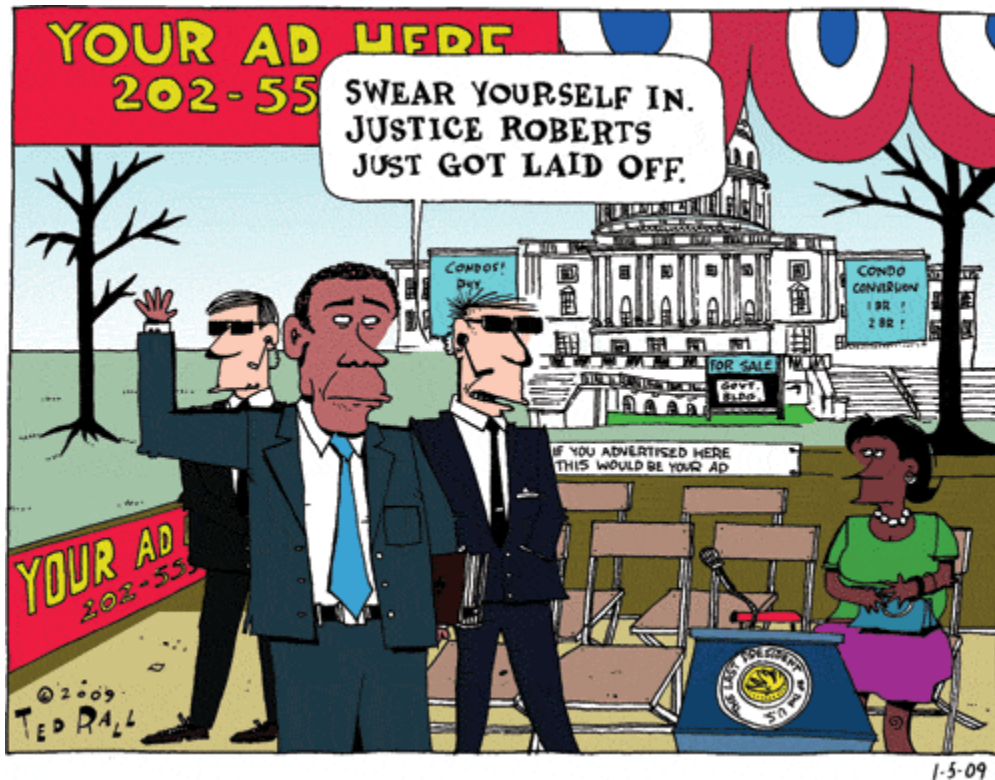
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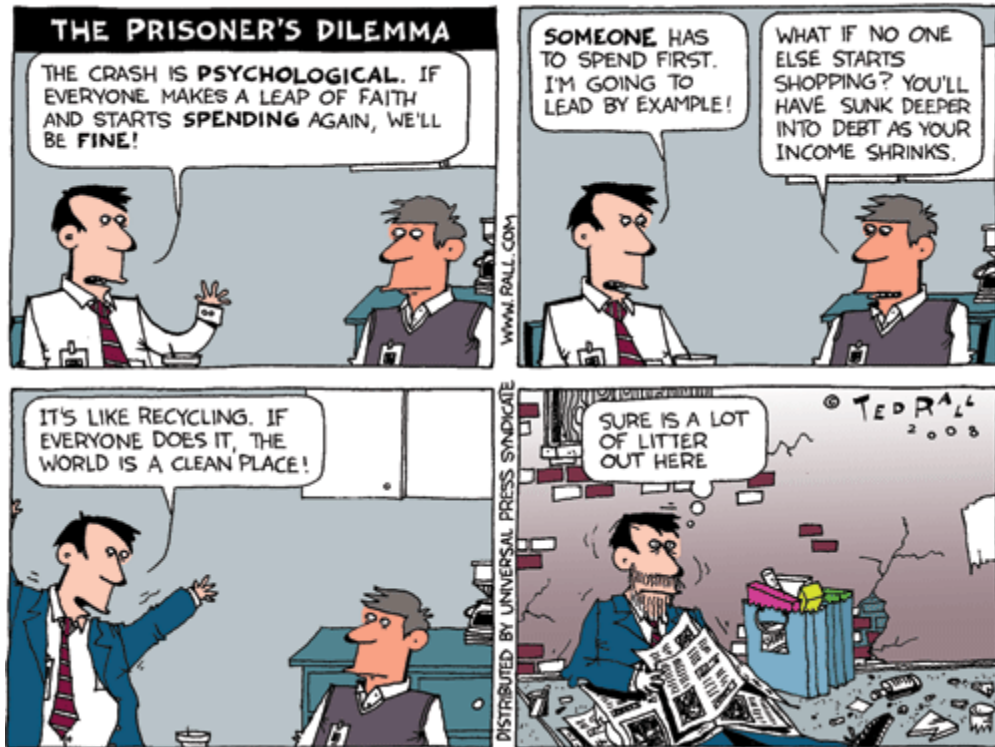
DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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

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

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