

## **GI SPECIAL 7A8:**

### **ONE NATION, FROM THE RIVER TO THE SEA**



Faris Fa'iq Odeh, a few days before his 15th birthday, near the Muntar/Karni checkpoint in Gaza, Palestine. He was shot in the neck November 9, 2000 and left to bleed to death by the Zionists. Ten days earlier he was photographed throwing stones at an Israeli tank.

In spite of all the sufferings and oppression and against all the odds, the Palestinian determination to win liberation has never been defeated.

One nation, from the river to the sea.

**“A Jew to Zionist Fighters,  
1988”  
Do You Really Want To Be The  
New Gestapo?  
The New Wehrmacht?  
The New SA And SS?**

[From GI Special 4H14]

[Thanks to JM, who sent this in. She writes:]

**Have you heard of Erich Fried who is often referred to as the greatest modern,  
Jewish, poet?**

**He was born in Vienna in 1921 and escaped to England, with his mother, after his  
father was tortured to death by the Gestapo, in 1938.**

**Because of his experiences with racism and Fascism he became involved in the  
Palestinian cause.**

**He was a leader in the fight against both Fascism and Zionism.**

**I'm sending a copy of his best poem, in my opinion. It was first published in 1988  
just before he died. Please take the time to read it. I think it's wonderful.**

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**A Jew to Zionist Fighters, 1988**

**What do you actually want?  
Do you really want to outdo  
those who trod you down  
a generation ago  
into your own blood  
and into your own excrement  
Do you want to pass on the old torture  
to others now  
in all its bloody and dirty detail  
with all the brutal delight of torturers  
as suffered by your fathers?  
Do you really want to be the new Gestapo  
the new Wehrmacht  
the new SA and SS**

and turn the Palestinians  
into the new Jews?  
Well then I too want,  
having fifty years ago  
myself been tormented for being a Jewboy  
by your tormentors,  
to be a new Jew with these new Jews  
you are making of the Palestinians  
And I want to help lead them as a free people  
into their own land of Palestine  
from whence you have driven them or in which you plague them  
you apprentices of the Swastika  
you fools and changelings of history  
whose Star of David on your flags  
turns ever quicker  
into that damned symbol with its four feet  
that you just do not want to see  
but whose path you are following today

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## **“Apprentices Of The Swastika” In Action: Six And A Horse Against A Boy “Suspected Of Throwing Stones”**



A Palestinian man tries to prevent Israeli border police from taking his son, who was suspected of throwing stones during scuffles, in occupied Jerusalem, Palestine, January 16, 2009. Photo: REUTERS/Ammar Awad

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# Zionism:

## “The Zionist Regime Must Be Destroyed, And Zionism Cease To Be Embodied In A Government That Proclaims That Those Who Are Not Zionists Are Inferiors”



Thousands marched in downtown L.A. against the U.S. backed Israeli war on Lebanon Aug. 12, 2006. Photo from Cornelius Cardew

[From GI Special 4H14]

Comment: T

**Zionism is not a religion.**

**Zionism has nothing to do with religion.**

**Zionism is a racist political tendency, combining the most vicious expansionist nationalism with force of arms.**

**Neo-Nazis would like the world to think that all Jews are Zionists.**

**That is a despicable lie.**

**Zionists would like the world to think that all Jews are Zionists.**

**That is another despicable lie.**

**There have always been, and are to this day, political tendencies among Jews all over the world that have fought Zionism implacably, and still fight Zionism for the evil it is: nothing but a reactionary, odious, bloodthirsty politics that says a bunch of people can walk into Palestine, slaughter the people living there, reduce the survivors to objects of scorn and abuse, and stuff them in huge open air concentration camps, where they may be killed more conveniently.**

**Zionism, like fascism, or any other form of expansionist militarized nationalism, has nothing whatever progressive or redeeming about it.**

**It is no more possible to defend the politics of Zionism than to defend the slaveholders in the United States who formed a regime founded on similar principles of structured inequality: The Confederate States Of America.**

**As finally occurred in South Africa, where a regime founded on similar murderous racist tyranny eventually was destroyed by mass resistance, it may be hoped that one day, the area comprised now by every inch of Israel, including every inch of the occupied territories, will form one political entity, with one person, one vote, and where all, regardless of their background, have equal rights, including the right of the Palestinians to return to their homes.**

**In order for that to happen, the Zionist regime must be destroyed, and Zionism cease to be embodied in a government that proclaims that those who are not Zionists are inferiors, just as for change to come to South Africa, the racist regime that ruled there had to be destroyed.**

**Nothing less will end the bloodshed, just as nothing less could end the bloodshed in South Africa generated by a regime openly proclaiming that the Master Race should rule, and all others bow down before it.**

**Yes, the Bush regime is composed of filth who have the same bloodthirsty nationalism at the heart of their politics as do the Zionists. The slaughter of Iraqis is merely a current instance. Yes, that bloodthirsty nationalism has a long history. Not only Vietnam and Hiroshima, but long before that.**

**So do many other expansionist predatory Imperial or wanna be Imperial states.**

**And the people who use their power and wealth to control governments and order their armed forces to butcher others in order to expand their wealth are filth, and nothing but filth, and that is a mild term for their status.**

**How fortunate that hundreds of millions of our species all over the world are resisting them for what they are: the enemies of the vast majority of us who have no interest whatever in Imperial conquest, large, as with the U.S., or smaller, as with Israel.**

**As for the USA being a democracy? That depends on how much money you have. Political campaigns are for those who have the money; they choose who is offered to the electorate, and fund the campaigns. “We” have nothing to say about that.**

**For decades most Americans have been in favor of universal health care. But those who rule in America are not. Therefore, there is no universal health care. That is merely one illustration. This is the form of democracy where money votes. Some have it. Others do not. Those who do not must act in the streets. That’s how we vote and produce change for the better.**

**Change for the better has come and will come when people below have had enough, and organize to fight back against the torment and death inflicted by the predators who use their money to control the power in the society, and decide who lives and who dies.**

**The essential difference is not one between different peoples. The essential difference is class.**

**We are indeed responsible for taking action to fight back.**

**And in fighting back, it is impossible to be too hard not merely on the temporary Bush regime, but the whole Imperial class that sustains the U.S. Empires’ bloody wars of conquest, as much Democrat as Republican let us not forget, just as it is impossible to be too hard on the Zionist movement, which is the political expression of a virulent, murderous nationalism no less intent on the slaughter and domination of those it chooses to plunder.**

**They are brothers in blood.**

**We must be sisters and brothers to everyone in the resistance everywhere in the world.**

**That’s what solidarity is.**

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## **Hamas Remains:**

# “Billions Of People Have Seen Us As A Blood-Dripping Monster” “The Hamas Regime In The Gaza Strip Still Stands”



Palestinian defiance against Israel's military attack on Gaza, in the city of Ramallah, Palestine Jan. 16, 2009. Some 1,100 Palestinians have been killed since the war began on Dec. 27, including 346 children, according to U.N. figures. Thirteen Israelis have been killed, nine soldiers and four civilians by rocket fire. (AP Photo/Letteris Pitarakis)

17.01.09 By Uri Avnery, Gush Shalom [Excerpts]

According to the classic military definition, the winner in a battle is the army that remains on the battlefield when it's over.

Hamas remains.

The Hamas regime in the Gaza Strip still stands, in spite of all the efforts to eliminate it. That is a significant achievement.

Hamas will also point out that the Israeli army was not eager to enter the Palestinian towns, in which their fighters were entrenched. And indeed: the army told the government that the conquest of Gaza city could cost the lives of about 200 soldiers, and no politician was ready for that on the eve of elections.

**The very fact that a guerrilla force of a few thousand lightly armed fighters held out for long weeks against one of the world's mightiest armies with enormous**

**firepower, will look to millions of Palestinians and other Arabs and Muslims, and not only to them, like an unqualified victory.**

HOWEVER, THE worst results of this war are still invisible and will make themselves felt only in years to come: Israel has imprinted on world consciousness a terrible image of itself. **[Not “the worst results.” The best results.]**

Billions of people have seen us as a blood-dripping monster.

They will never again see Israel as a state that seeks justice, progress and peace.

Even worse is the impact on hundreds of millions of Arabs around us: not only will they see the Hamas fighters as the heroes of the Arab nation, but they will also see their own regimes in their nakedness: cringing, ignominious, corrupt and treacherous. **[Not “even worse.” Even better.]**



Steve Bell

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## **A New GI Special Feature: Traitors' Gate**

Wikipedia:



The name Traitors' Gate has been used since the early seventeenth century, prisoners were brought by barge along the Thames, passing under London Bridge, where the heads of recently executed prisoners were displayed on pikes. The prisoners were shocked by the sight of the heads of the recently executed stuck on spikes on the stone gate houses.



The Traitors' Gate, London

MORE:

## **Today's "Traitor's Gate" Award Goes To "United For Peace And Justice"**

**Despicable Rats Support The  
Zionist Slaughter In Gaza:  
They Back UN Resolution That Israeli  
Newspaper Points Out "Does Not Dictate  
Halting The Israeli Operation Nor Does It  
Demand The Immediate Pullout Of Israel  
Defense Forces Troops"**

The UN resolution is geared to the interests of the aggressors in this conflict--designed to disarm the Palestinian people who are legitimately resisting Israel's aggression. As such, it is a shameful document that no serious antiwar forces can support.

January 15, 2009 By Paul D'Amato, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

Many liberal voices in the antiwar movement have sided with not taking up the issue of Palestine--including leaders of the main national antiwar coalition, United for Peace and Justice (UFPJ). UFPJ's response to Israel's latest onslaught shows the problems with this approach.

**UFPJ has issued statements deploring the humanitarian crisis in Gaza today, but it has stopped short of demanding an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza.**

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**On its Web page, it instead calls for “an immediate cease-fire,” and explicitly supports UN Security Council Resolution 1680, passed on January 8, by a 14-0 margin, with the U.S. abstaining.**

The resolution “condemns all acts of violence and terror directed against civilians and all acts of terrorism.”

In addition, it “calls upon member states to intensify efforts to provide arrangements and guarantees in Gaza in order to sustain a durable cease-fire and calm, including to prevent illicit trafficking in arms and ammunition and to ensure the sustained reopening of the crossing points on the basis of the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access between the Palestinian Authority and Israel, and in this regard, welcomes the Egyptian initiative, and other regional and international efforts that are underway.”

The Egyptian initiative referred to in the resolution is the plan of Egyptian dictator Hosni Mubarak and French President Nicholas Sarkozy, supported also by Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas as well as the Israelis, for a cease-fire, an end to Hamas rocket attacks, internationally supervised border “security” to prevent arms from reaching Gaza, the opening of the Egyptian border crossing at Rafah to relief supplies, and new talks aimed at compelling Hamas to agree to let the Palestinian Authority back into Gaza.

**In short, Egypt's “peace” proposal reflects Israel's war aims.**

UFPJ claims that the U.S. decision to abstain, rather than veto the resolution, indicates that “our collective pressure is being heeded, and we are forcing a change in U.S. policy.”

WHAT'S WRONG with this picture?

First of all, the Security Council plan comes 13 days after the start of Israel's attack, after hundreds of people have already been slaughtered.

It is not so much a plan to stop Israel's attack, but to let Israel finish its work and for the UN to step in at the right moment to broker peace terms favorable to Israel.

The abstention by the U.S. is an indication that it supports Israel's continued assault, and it is not yet ready to step in and wind it down. The idea that a change in policy is being “forced” on the U.S. is at best naïve, and at worst deliberately deceptive.

The unanimous resolutions passed in both houses of Congress in support of Israel should be proof enough that U.S. policy is not changing.

**Second, the UN resolution, as one analyst supportive of the attack on Gaza wrote in the Israeli newspaper Ha'aretz, "does not dictate halting the Israeli operation nor does it demand the immediate pullout of Israel Defense Forces troops."**

**It merely calls for a cease-fire.**

**Worse, while the resolution fails to call for any disarming of Israel--the fourth-largest military in the world and the biggest recipient of U.S. military aid--it does call for stopping arms from reaching Hamas.**

Can we really call this a plan for a "cease-fire"?

A proposal demanding that an oppressed people--enduring squalid conditions as a result of the Israeli blockade, unable to come or go without Israel's okay, subject to daily violence by the Israelis--be deprived of any means of resisting the military onslaught?

If so, then it is the victor's peace--creating a wasteland, to paraphrase Tacitus, and calling it peace.

**Also, the resolution, rather than condemning Israel's relentless pounding of Gaza, condemns violence and "terrorism" against all civilians--a formulation designed to refer to Israelis who might be affected by rockets fired by Palestinians.**

**As if an attack on a defenseless, blockaded and occupied refugee population by the world's fourth most powerful army is equivalent to the firing of ineffectual rockets by forces resisting that occupation.**

The resolution presents the wildly disproportionate violence as if there were a struggle between relatively equal forces. Thus, one UN Security Council press release, for example, writes of "two weeks of escalating violence and suffering in Gaza and southern Israel."

**The UN resolution is geared to the interests of the aggressors in this conflict--designed to disarm the Palestinian people who are legitimately resisting Israel's aggression. As such, it is a shameful document that no serious antiwar forces can support.**

THAT UFPJ nevertheless supports this resolution is not surprising.

In deference to the Democratic Party, which took control of Congress in 2006, and to President-elect Obama, it has not called a national demonstration against the Iraq war in close to two years.

Moreover, because of UFPJ's close association with liberal supporters of Israel, it has been loath to include the issue of Palestine in organizing efforts. In the past, it has claimed to exclude demands relating to Palestine on the grounds that this would make it

“possible for the largest and widest array of people to come together in opposition to the war.”

As Lance Selfa wrote some years ago in Socialist Worker, “What UFPJ doesn't say is that the people it is more worried about alienating are Zionists in their ranks and Democratic Party politicians, whose support for Israel is a given.

**‘UFPJ's leaders would rather sideline thousands of Arabs and Muslims who have been the targets of state repression than a handful of Democrats and their liberal supporters.’**

If the argument to limit the movement's demands was spurious when UFPJ made it in 2005, it is even more so now, when tens of thousands of people are in the streets protesting Israel's genocide against Gaza.

**Now, the issue of Israel and its assault on Palestinians is at center stage, and it is high time that the antiwar movement move decisively to take up the cause of Palestinian liberation.**

“Palestine not an abstract question peripheral to the war in Iraq,” Selfa wrote.

**“In fact, as this newspaper has demonstrated in numerous articles, U.S. support for Israel's occupation of Palestine can't be separated from the Iraq occupation. Not only do they flow from the same plan of U.S.-Israeli domination of the Middle East, but Israel has actually advised the U.S. on every aspect of the occupation of Iraq, from training Kurdish militias to the torturers in Abu Ghraib.”**

**The link between these wars--meticulously denied by liberal antiwar forces--is openly proclaimed in the U.S. press.**

**Israel is seen as a strategic partner in U.S. efforts to reshape the Middle East, an effort that includes occupying Iraq, going after Syria and Iran, and smashing Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Palestine.**

**The antiwar movement must link these issues together--Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine--and acknowledge that we cannot build a united antiwar movement that fails to take on anti-Arab and anti-Muslim racism or the issue of Palestine.**

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**So Much For That Stupid Lying  
Bullshit About How Israel Is “The  
Only Democracy In The Middle East”  
Israel Bans Arab Parties from Running In  
Upcoming Elections**

**One of the parties, Balad, likewise made enemies by explicitly calling for equal rights for all citizens of Israel, regardless of national or ethnic identity, which the ruling Kadima Party said would “undermine Israel’s identity as a Jewish state.”**

Jan/ 12, 2008 AP & Antiwar.com & January 15, 2009 By Shahar Ilan and Roni Singer-Heruti, Haaretz Correspondents and The Associated Press

The Central Elections Committee (CEC) yesterday banned Arab political parties from running in next month's parliamentary elections amid accusations of racism from Arab MKs.

The two bans will prevent more than half of the current Arab members of Israel's Parliament, the Knesset, from running for reelection.

Arab faction delegates in the CEC walked out of the hall before the vote, shouting, “this is a fascist, racist state.”

The requests to ban the Arab parties were filed by two ultra right parties Yisrael Beiteinu and National Union-National Religious Party.

The ruling, made by the body that oversees the elections, reflected the heightened tensions between Israel's Jewish majority and Arab minority caused by Israel's offensive in the Gaza Strip.

Israeli Arabs have held a series of demonstrations against the offensive.

**One of the parties, Balad, likewise made enemies by explicitly calling for equal rights for all citizens of Israel, regardless of national or ethnic identity, which the ruling Kadima Party said would “undermine Israel’s identity as a Jewish state.”**

The 37-member committee is composed of representatives from Israel's major political parties. The measure was proposed by two ultranationalist parties but received widespread support.

Roughly one-fifth of Israel's 7 million citizens are Arabs.

**Arab lawmakers Ahmed Tibi and Jamal Zahalka, political rivals who head the two Arab blocs in the Knesset, joined together in condemning Monday’s decision.**

**“It was a political trial led by a group of Fascists and racists who are willing to see the Knesset without Arabs and want to see the country without Arabs,” said Tibi.**

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## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

# Concord Soldier Remembered As Loyal Friend, 'Goofball' Who Found Self In Army

01/09/2009 By John Simerman, Contra Costa Times

The goofball grew up fast.

The cutup who could never just smile for the camera, the metal band screamer who serenaded his girlfriend at full belt, the comedy movie hound who toggled between “Dumb and Dumber” crude and “You’ve Got Mail” sappy, the mop-top who went mullet for graduation, the defensive lineman who rushed from one empty job to the next — suddenly, Ben Tollefson found a purpose.

Signing his Army enlistment papers in summer, 2007 sealed it, say friends and family who shared memories this week of the Concord infantryman, new father and husband who became the last of 314 U.S. soldiers to die in Iraq in 2008.

Injuries from a mortar blast killed 22-year-old Army Pfc. Benjamin B. Tollefson on Dec. 31. His body returned home Thursday on a charter jet from Dover Air Force Base in Delaware, slipping through the haze onto a runway at Buchanan Field. A memorial and military funeral comes Saturday.

Tollefson, a 2005 graduate of Berean Christian High School in Walnut Creek, remained the same devoted friend after he enlisted, the same unrepentant goof — the word they all use to describe him. But aimless Ben, they say, disappeared.

“He went to San Jose, took a test, signed up and came home a different kid,” recalled his father, Charles Tollefson. “He was 20 and he knew what he wanted to do with his life. He matured ... just overnight.”

It marked the start of a whirlwind for the youngest of Charles and Mary's three children. Natalie, his high school sweetheart, discovered she was pregnant while Tollefson was sequestered 2,500 miles away at boot camp in Georgia. Then came a quickly planned wedding in December, the move to Kansas for training, the birth of Mac James in April, with Tollefson arriving 45 minutes before the birth. Then deployment to Iraq in late September, for a 12-month tour that would last three.

“I’m just so proud of him for, without hesitating, deciding to do the right thing,” Mary said. “He said, I’m going to marry her, raise Mac. This is what I’m going to do.”

As high school juniors, Natalie Hartley didn't think much of her future husband. But Ben offered a matter-of-fact prediction by a row of flowers outside the gym.

“We weren't dating yet. I didn't even like him that much like that, and he told me he was going to marry me,” said Natalie. “He said, 'I don't know, there's something about you.' I was like, 'Whatever. I don't know about you.'”

But he made her laugh. The studious cheerleader hit it off with the school-averse football lineman and low-register screamer in a band called "Shattered Screams." At conservative Berean Christian, they would skip class to smoke cigarettes. After high school, Natalie moved to San Diego for college. Ben's brother, Jeffrey, was there too, and Ben followed. It was 2006 when he first told her he wanted to join the Army.

"I don't know why exactly," she said. "He looked up to them, to the soldiers. He always thought it was badass what they did."

Natalie, who now lives with 8-month-old Mac at her parents' house in Clayton, said she supported the decision, for the discipline and stability. He was floating from job to job: Starbucks in San Diego. Green Pro Landscaping in Concord. A loan company.

"He was always job-hopping, always broke," she said. "The fact he was willing to put himself into the position of not having choices was very mature."

But Tollefson's 11th-grade prediction was in doubt. "We were off and on. We still saw each other, still loved each other. But we were trying to be off," Natalie said. "I knew he was going. We tried to detach and go our separate ways."

Then, from boot camp, he wrote he was sorry. He wanted to support her, have kids. Days later, she learned she was pregnant.

"He was so ecstatic. Everything he did at that point was for me and the baby," she said. "I was nervous as hell. I didn't plan getting pregnant."

They married Dec. 6, 2007, just before he left for training at Fort Riley, Kan., in case something happened. After Mac's birth on April 28, she joined him. They spent three months as a new family in the Midwest. Ben would hold Mac like a football, legs dangling over his pale, farmboy forearm.

"I don't think I've seen anybody more committed, or who loves somebody like Ben loved Natalie," said Natalie's friend, Ashelee Belmont.

His attitude about going to war changed, Natalie said. But he never hesitated. He was nervous about freezing up in combat, she said. Then, from Iraq, he sent e-mails declaring himself "the best gunner they got."

"He said it was the biggest adrenaline rush of his life," Natalie said.

Just where it came from, and why Tollefson chose to enlist in wartime, remain vague to his distraught family, who struggled to support his decision. But it was neither sudden nor totally surprising. Witness the Army T-shirts he wore in high school, the Army screen saver, the recruiters knocking at the door when he was a high school junior.

Laughing, his older sister, Jaime, traced it back to the Ghostbusters jumpsuit onesie he wore as a tyke, or maybe the gun noises he made. His parents remember him playing soccer at 10 and loving the glory, even if he feigned injury under pressure. And as a defensive linemen, he was a vocal spark in the huddle.

“His passion was that 'band of brothers,’” said his father. “The whole concept of a platoon, having a job to do. That's what floated his boat.”

Close friend Kevin Goe, Jr., said Ben saw the Army as a strong path to a career in law enforcement, a way to rise quickly. He talked about someday protecting dignitaries.

On one thing they all agree: It wasn't politics that dressed him in Army green.

“Ben is not political. He wanted to be in the military. He's not over to fight for a cause,” said Jaime.

“He looked at it as his job for Natalie and Mac,” added cousin Kenny Calhoun.

“That was his cause.”

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## **BEEN ON THE JOB TOO LONG: COME ON HOME, NOW**



U.S. soldiers at the airfield in Kandahar province south of Kabul, Afghanistan, Dec. 29, 2008. The Obama administration is preparing to pour at least 30,000 more U.S. troops into the Afghanistan, (AP Photo/Rahmat Gul)

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**



# U.S. Soldier Killed, Six Wounded By Resistance Attack On German Embassy



U.S. and Afghan soldiers at the site after a bomb exploded, setting the German embassy partially in fire and blasting windows of a U.S. military base, in Kabul. SYED JAN, EPA

January 17, 2009 Kim Barker, Chicago Tribune staff reporter & By Laura King, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer

A car bomb attack this morning on a heavily guarded road between the German Embassy and a U.S. military base in the Afghan capital killed a U.S. service member and two Afghan civilians and wounded six U.S. troops and a U.S. civilian, including at least five members of the Illinois National Guard, according to officials.

The five guardsmen, one of whom is said to have been seriously wounded, were from the 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, officials said. One U.S. civilian also was injured.

American soldiers were seen carrying down one injured soldier from a guard post that is positioned above the cement barricades that overlooks the road and the embassy.

The Illinois National Guard has recently deployed about 3,000 soldiers to Afghanistan, the largest deployment for the guard since World War II.

The Kabul explosion, whose thunderous boom reverberated across the city, took place during morning rush hour in an area that houses a number of diplomatic missions and government buildings, but is also a busy commercial district.

The German Embassy shares a small, two-lane road with Camp Eggers, a U.S. base that serves as the headquarters for soldiers training Afghan police and army personnel.

The blast shook the walled embassy compound, shattering windows and sending debris flying inside it.

Several cars and trucks afire, including a sewage tanker, were set afire, sending plumes of foul-smelling smoke billowing into the air.

A maze of checkpoints and blast barriers failed to stop the car bomber. The bomber's car crashed into an American patrol vehicle that was guarding a fuel tanker.

Dozens of armed Afghan security personnel guard the street, and blast walls of concrete and sand-filled mesh-wire boxes line the road.

A spokesman for the German Foreign Ministry in Berlin said "some personnel" were wounded in the blast, but he did not give numbers. He said they had no reports of deaths.

Windows inside the German compound shattered in the explosion, but the wall protecting the compound is still intact, he said.

**A Taliban spokesman, Zabiullah Mujahid, said a Taliban bomber named Shumse Rehman carried out the attack in a Toyota Corolla. He said the bomber targeted two vehicles believed to be carrying German military officers.**

"The Germans have forces in the north of Afghanistan and they are involved in the killing of innocent Afghans. The Taliban will target all those countries who have forces in Afghanistan," he said.

**Mujahid said the Taliban had been monitoring the movements of German vehicles and planned the attack to target officers believed to be inside.**

Germany has 3,200 troops in Afghanistan, mainly in the country's north.

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## **CH-47 Shot Down, U.S. Soldier Killed**

Jan 17, 2009 (Reuters)

One U.S. soldier was killed when a Chinook helicopter made a crash landing in eastern Afghanistan on Saturday, the U.S. military said, adding that small arms fire was involved.

"One service member was killed today when a coalition CH-47 helicopter ... conducted a hard landing in eastern Afghanistan," the U.S. military said in a statement. "Though the cause of the landing is currently undetermined, small arms fire was present at the time of the incident."

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

# OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION ALL TROOPS HOME NOW!

## TROOP NEWS

### **“Patients At VA Health Centers Were Given Incorrect Doses Of Drugs, Had Needed Treatments Delayed And May Have Been Exposed To Other Medical Errors”**

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Project & SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. N writes: “Too much Heparin and a patient could be basically a hemo.” Her comment is in bold, below.]

Jan 14 By HOPE YEN, Associated Press Writer Hope Yen, Associated Press Writer  
[Excerpts]

Patients at VA health centers were given incorrect doses of drugs, had needed treatments delayed and may have been exposed to other medical errors due to the glitches that showed faulty displays of their electronic health records, according to internal documents obtained by The Associated Press under the Freedom of Information Act.

The glitches, which began in August and lingered until last month, were not disclosed to patients by the VA even though they sometimes involved prolonged infusions for drugs such as blood-thinning heparin, which can be life-threatening in excessive doses.

In one case, a patient having chest pains at the VA medical center in Durham, N.C., was given heparin for 11 hours longer than necessary as doctors sought to rule out a heart attack.

Veterans groups were harshly critical, saying the VA's secrecy created a false sense of security.

“It's very serious potentially,” said Dr. Jeffrey A. Linder, an assistant professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School who has studied electronic health systems. “There's a lot of hype out there about electronic health records, that there is some unfettered

good. It's a big piece of the puzzle, but they're not magic. There is also a potential for unintended consequences.”

**The VA's recent glitches involved medical data — vital signs, lab results, active meds — that sometimes popped up under another patient's name on the computer screen.**

**Records also failed to clearly display a doctor's stop order for a treatment, leading to reported cases of unnecessary doses of intravenous drugs such as blood-thinning heparin.**

The VA said there were nine reported cases in which patients at VA medical centers in Milwaukee, Durham, N.C., and Marion, Ind., were given incorrect doses, six of them involving heparin drips for patients with chest pain.

**The other cases involved infusions of either sodium chloride or dextrose mixtures that were prolonged for up to 15 hours past the doctor's prescribed deadline.**

In all, nearly one-third of the VA's 153 medical centers reported seeing some kind of glitch, although the VA said that number could be higher since some facilities may not have filed reports.

Warren[Stephen Warren, the VA's acting assistant secretary for information technology] said the VA was confident that its doctors took the proper precautions to avoid any harm to their patients. But he added, “VA believes that veterans are active partners in their health care, and encourages patients to always follow up with their health care teams to ensure that their treatment options meet their understanding and their health care needs.”

**[Anyone sick enough to need a Heparin drip is probably not on top of it enough to know when that drip should be DC'd. And patients usually don't get to look at the values of their lab tests, either.]**

Veterans groups questioned the VA's decision to keep the problems quiet.

“This is disturbing on a number of levels because of what could have happened,” said Veterans of Foreign Wars National Commander Glen Gardner.

“Being told that no patients were harmed still does not absolve the VA from its responsibility to forewarn patients that something is amiss. Trust is paramount in doctor-patient relationships, and nothing should ever be allowed to undermine that confidence.”

According to interviews and the VA's internal memos, the glitches began after the VA distributed its annual software upgrade last August.

By early October, hospitals began reporting the troubling problems: When doctors pulled up electronic records of different patients within 10 minutes of each other to offer treatment advice, the medical information of the first patient sometimes displayed under the second person's name.

In some records, a doctor's stop order for intravenous injections also failed to clearly display.

"Patients can ... be at risk for delay in treatment changes or possible medication errors," according to one internal memo dated Oct. 31. "These changes have resulted in reported delays for stopping continuous infusion orders (e.g., stopping IV heparin drips)."

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**“Hundreds Of Disabled Nigerian Civil War Veterans Living Under Bridges For The Last Ten Years”**

**“The War We Have Been Waging Against The Government For Our Pensions Has Proved To Be Tougher Than The Civil War”**

**“The Military Pensions Board Has Refused To Recognize Most Of Us, In Spite Of The Fact That We Have Documents Categorizing Us As Medically Boarded Ex-Soldiers”**

[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes We are not alone.

15 January 2009 Ibraheem A. Fatai, Daily Trust

Disabled veterans of the Nigerian civil war living under pedestrian bridges for the last ten years in Abuja have become veterans of the seemingly unending war for their pensions and gratuities, as they languish in abject neglect.

Retired Sergeant Sunday Iliya was born in 1948, and joined the Nigerian Army some years after. When the unfortunate Nigerian civil war broke out on July 9, 1967, Iliya was just 19 years old. Although very young, he did not hesitate to pick up his rifle in defense of his father land, with the sole aim of keeping it united. With youthful exuberance, enthusiasm and agility, he fought like the Trojan.

But, few months to the end of the war, young Iliya became a victim of bomb explosion, planted by the Biafran soldiers. The young soldier sustained terminal injuries and lost his Achilles tendon, making it difficult for him to walk properly like other human beings.

Worse still, the Delta-born ex-soldier left the Military Rehabilitation Centre with partial insanity.

After the war, he was discharged from the Nigerian Army on medical grounds.

From then till date, Iliya is waiting for his entitlements.

Today, the man who fought for the unity of this Country more than three decades ago, is living under the pedestrian bridge at Wuse Zone 3 Shopping Complex, Abuja, begging for bread and butter from passersby.

Private Agbale Pius (Rtd) joined the Army in the 60s, while his age mates were pursuing deferent careers in Agriculture, Engineering and other professions prevalent during his time. His desire to wear the military uniform was unparalleled. So, when the civil war broke out, the 19-year soldier did not waste any time to join his colleagues in the war front. But, for a stroke of luck, Pius would have been decimated by a land mine.

The injuries sustained by the Edo-born soldier were so serious that the Nigeria military had no option but to discharge him from the force on medical grounds. Up till this moment, this patriotic Nigerian has not received a dime from the Military Pensions Board.

Now Pius is 60 years old, unable to fend for himself, let alone his family.

“When I was at the war front, I thought that there was not going to be a tougher war than the civil war. I was wounded in the war and discharged from the military in 1980. Since 1980 till date, I have not received anything from the country which I fought to keep united. You can now see that I am wrong, because the war we have been waging against the government of the country for our pensions and gratuities has proved to be tougher than the civil war,” lamented Agbale Pius.

Emmanuel Omoregieve (Rtd). Omoregieve too has since joined his civil war veterans under the pedestrian bridge, keeping his fingers crossed that one day he and his colleagues will be remembered and, even if not honoured, given their gratuities and pensions.

Iliya, Pius and Omoregieve's sickening accounts could melt all the ice in the polar region of the earth.

The three angry soldiers are among the hundreds of ex-service men living under the pedestrian bridge at Wuse Zone 3.

These old men, who spent their youthful ages fighting for the unity of this country, are now regretting their decisions to join the military in the first instance, and going to the war in the second.

Some of them have been fighting one form of disabilities or the other since when they were discharged from the army about three decades.

A trip to where these unsung heroes are living will reveal a lot of horrendous things.

They do not have a cover over their heads, dress in tattered clothes, feed on food brought by good Samaritans and sleep on bare floor.

Because of their advanced ages and the horrible weather conditions (hamattan, rain and sweltering sun) which they are often exposed to, some of these uncelebrated heroes have lost their lives under the bridge.

They died in deafening silence with nobody to mourn or wail. The living among them take care of the dead, and are hopefully waiting to receive their entitlements or get killed under the bridge like chickens.

Immediately after the war, those found unfit to continue serving in the Nigerian Army due to the incapacitating injuries they sustained in the war were discharged. Some spent months in the military rehabilitating centers and left there with permanent disabilities. Gratuities were paid to some of them, while thousands of them have not received anything since they were discharged.

In 1999, when they had almost forgotten that the country owed them gratuities and pensions, they were called upon by Rtd. General Olusegun Obasanjo (a civil war veteran) for the payment of their gratuities and pensions.

In a jiffy, the front of the Directorate of Military Pensions in Ikoyi, Lagos was massively thronged ex-service men.

On getting there, they were told to go to Central Army Records (CAR) in Lokoja for verification, before they would be paid. From 1999 to 2008, verification exercises have become the order of the day.

Some have been paid; some have lost their lives while on queue waiting to be paid.

The majority of those that are yet to be paid have formed a hungry and fuming army whose garrison is located under the pedestrian bridge at Wuse.

None of them decided to leave their families to be living under the bridge. They decided to take the horrible place for their home, because they do not have money to transport themselves back to their respective homes.

**“We came to Abuja for our entitlements, but due to reasons best known to the Military Pensions Board (MPB), we have not been paid.**

**“They keep on telling us to go back to our different homes and that our monies would be paid to our banks accounts. But none of the promises has been fulfilled,” lamented L/Cpl. Roland Bello, who was discharged in 1979, but yet to be paid.**

However, the chairman of the Military Pensions Board, Brigadier-General BVT Kwaji, said that the genuine ex-soldiers have been paid and that those still staying under the bridge are “fake soldiers”. He went further to warn well-meaning Nigerians to call a halt to giving food, clothes, money, drugs and the like to the ex-service men.

Although, President Umaru Musa Yar'adua has ordered that all the medical boarded ex-soldiers be placed on pension, hundreds of them are yet to enjoy the presidential generosity of spirit.

Although, it was predictable that Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, together with whom they fought the civil war, would get to the bottom of their problems, it was Yar'adua who brought some succor to the ex-service men.

“We are in very high spirits with President Umaru Musa Yar'adua, who, although did not fight the civil war with us, was moved by our pitiable conditions and consequently ordered that we all be placed on monthly pensions, irrespective of whether we spent the mandatory 15 years or not.

**“The problem we now have is the Military Pensions Board, which has refused to recognize most of us, in spite of the fact that we have documents categorizing us as medically boarded ex-soldiers,” said Private John Agho (Rtd).**

“It is not our wish to be living under the bridge like the destitute. Our youthful dream of fighting for the unity of our dear country was realized. But the other dream of enjoying our old age after the war has been shattered. Before the erstwhile president Olusegun Obasanjo invited all the ex-servicemen for their gratuities and pensions, no ex-soldier was staying under the pedestrian bridge.

**“For more than eight years now, we have been staying under this bridge, hoping that God will send a leader who will remember and give us our due entitlements,” said Private Paul Kwaji (Rtd) in a melancholic voice.**

**After the civil war Nigeria was governed by six military heads of States, who equally fought in the civil war, but none was able to remember the ex-service men.**

Now, there is hardly any one of the ex-soldiers who is less than 60 years old. The question is if they are paid now, for how long can they enjoy whatever is giving to them before they breathe their last.

“Some of us have broken homes, because we cannot discharge our responsibilities as husbands and breadwinners. Some of our wives have divorced us; our children do not respect us because we cannot pay their school fees and discharge other fatherly responsibilities; our friends and relations have deserted us.

“We did not just decide not to work after we were discharged from the force, but the problem is that some of us cannot work, because we are disabled as a result of injuries we sustained during the civil war. Tell me, if some of us are paid now, how many years do we have left to enjoy whatever is given to us?” the Vice Chairman of the ex-servicemen, Cpl. Stephen Ajua, queried.



Kudos should, however, be given to some sympathetic Nigerians who have been assisting the ex-soldiers for the past eight years now.

**If some Nigerians, moved by sheer compassion, can do all these to the unsung heroes with their hard-earned resources, what stops the government, with the resources at its disposal, from helping these men get out from under the bridge?**

The men have always been unswerving with their promise to leave the bridge for their respective homes as soon as they are paid. There is no reason why the government cannot take advantage of this promise by taking steps that will help put an end to the unfortunate sojourn of these medically-boarded soldiers.

Our reporter's investigation revealed that in the time past for any soldier to be qualified for pension, he or she must have spent not less than 15 years in the force.

**At the same time, Section 24 of Nigerian Army Act of 1960 confers the status of pensioner on soldiers that are medically discharged from the service, even if they did not spend up to the mandatory 15 years.**

It is this section of the act that majority of the ex-service men are relying on.

**Albeit, the Military Pensions Board did not disagree with the section, but the stringent conditions laid down and other technicalities put in place, make it difficult for many ex-service men to be able to assess their pensions.**

The issue of technicality apart, one thing that is very clear is that most of the old men, if not all, staying under the bridge are ex-service men whose youthful ages were decimated by the civil war.

**Based on this, it is high time the authority stopped punishing these ex-soldiers. What-ever is due for them should be given to them before death catches up with them under the bridge.**

#### **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**

**“The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops.” Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War**

## IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

### **GET THE MESSAGE?**



Iraqis burn the U.S. flag as they protest Israeli military operations in the Gaza Strip, Palestine, during Friday prayers in Sadr City, Baghdad, Iraq, Jan. 16, 2009. (AP Photo/Adil al-Khazali)

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## OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**“A Small Elite Profits From The  
Political Instability And Insecurity”  
“A Truly Staggering Economic  
Dependence On The Way Of The Gun”**

11 January 2009 By Khaled Diab, Guardian News and Media Limited [Excerpts]

In fact, for the past few years, Israel has enjoyed one of the highest economic growth rates in the world, and is still registering healthy growth even as western economies falter. Much of this growth has been fuelled by the high-tech “Silicon Wadi” sector, much of it security-related technologies, and arms.

According to the Israel Export and International Co-operation Institute, security and homeland security exports reached \$3bn in 2005. In 2007, Israel overtook Britain to become the world's exporter, selling a total of \$4bn in arms.

On top of that, since the bursting of the dot-com bubble, Israel has boosted its military spending, partly to help salvage high-tech firms.

Last year, proved to be yet another record year, with the country's defence budget subsuming a massive 16% of government spending and 7% of GDP. Add to that, the average \$3bn in military aid which Israel receives from the United States each year, and you have a truly staggering economic dependence on the way of the gun.

This is not to say that this is necessarily a war dividend for Israel as a whole, but those involved wield a powerful lobby.

In addition, Israel does not seem to be paying a massive war premium. High-tech industries do not require Israel to be on good terms with its neighbours, while with most western economies, it's business as usual, regardless of the political situation on the ground. The EU, as a whole, remains Israel's main trading partner, with bilateral trade at around €20bn, followed closely by the United States.

Israel has even managed to wean itself off its dependence on Palestinian labour, with the massive influx of Russian Jews who arrived in massive numbers in the 1990s.

This has enabled Israel to close off the Palestinian territories without feeling major economic pain itself. In contrast to Israel, the massive economic deterioration – along with the political deadlock – triggered by the mass closures that began in the Oslo years, suggested to many Palestinians that the quest for peace would not deliver them a dividend, a frustration which culminated in the second intifada.

**In addition, while a small elite profits from the political instability and insecurity, the ongoing conflict serves the additional purpose of distracting ordinary Israelis from the growing levels of poverty into which they are descending – much like Arab leaders have exploited the demise of Palestinians.**

In conclusion, a sort of alignment of convenience has emerged between influential segments of Israel's economic elite and ideological opponents of the peace process.

**Add to that, the revolving door between the military and the upper echelons of politics and industry, and the “war economy” locomotive appears even harder to derail.**

**[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.”]**

## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "The first rule of holes: When you find yourself in one, stop digging. We've got a hell of a way to go to just get back to where we were 8 years ago."]

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

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

**DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE  
MILITARY?**

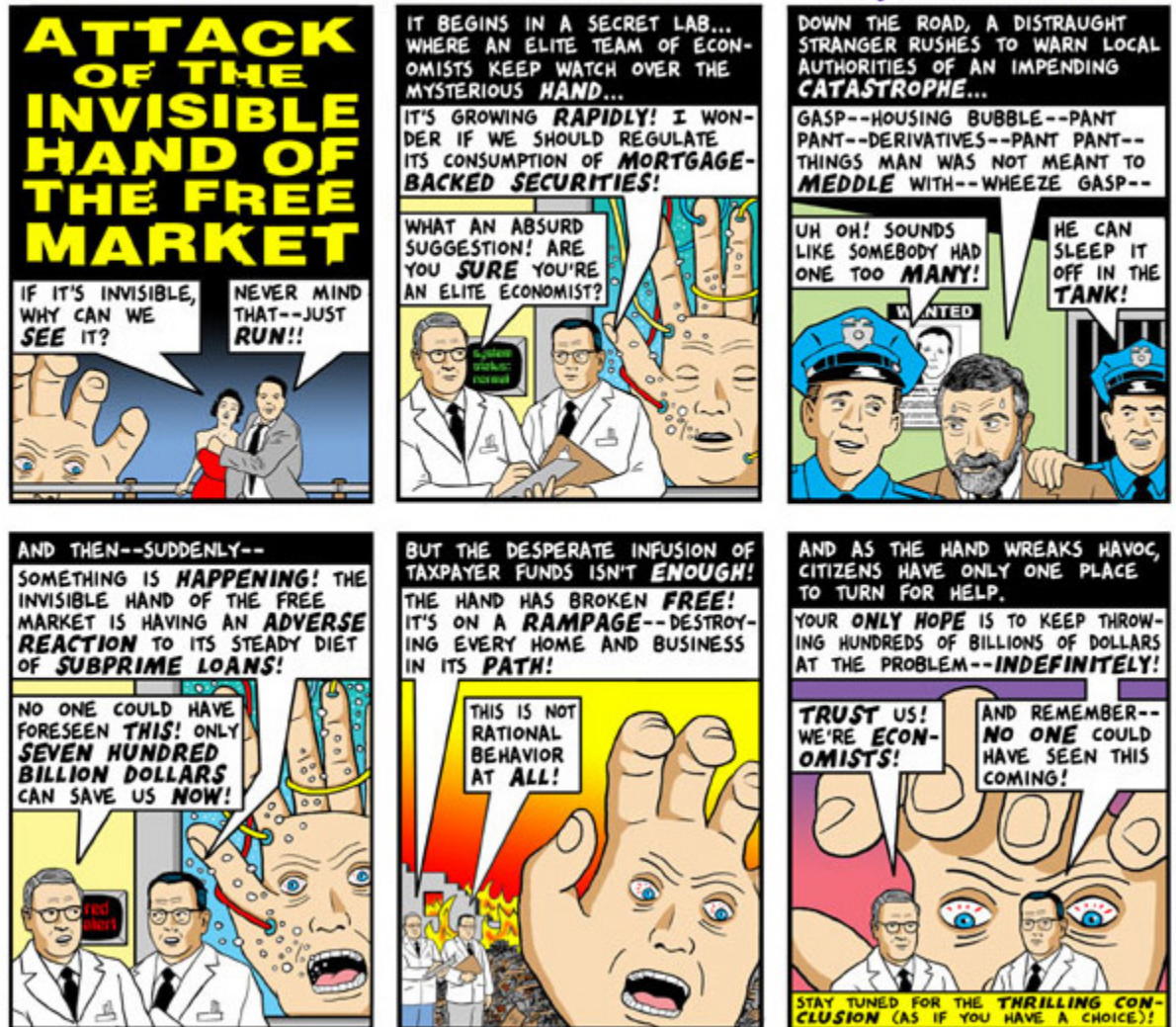
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## CLASS WAR REPORTS

### **THIS MODERN WORLD**

by TOM TOMORROW



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

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