

## GI SPECIAL 7B13:

OSAMA FLEW THE COOP YEARS AGO, BUT THERE'S STILL PLENTY OF WORK TO DO AT THE CROSS-ROADS BETWEEN SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA. WE STILL NEED YOU TO JOIN OBAMA'S CRUSADE TO

### **RE-INVADE AFGHANISTAN!**

CHOOSE FROM ANY OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING GLORIOUS TASKS:



# Obama Sends 17,000 More U.S. Troops To Die In His Afghan Imperial Slaughterhouse

“An Unspecified Residual Force” Will Also Continue Iraq Occupation:

**In Latest Poll, Barely 34% Of  
Americans Say U.S. Forces In  
Afghanistan Should Be Increased;  
“In A Recent ABC-BBC-ARD Poll Of  
Afghans, Just 18% Said The United  
States And NATO Should Increase  
Their Troop Levels, And More Than  
Twice That Number, 44%, Wanted  
Fewer Outside Forces”  
[Who Gives A Shit What The Afghans  
Want? It’s Obama’s Country, Not Their  
Country. Fuck Them, Right?]**

**Comment: T**

**Only 18% of Afghans want more U.S. troops? Too bad. Whose country do they think Afghanistan is anyway? That’s how we teach them democracy.**

**As for the grieving families of our troops killed there, no doubt they will be consoled because this is change they can believe in.**

**44%% of Afghans are reported to want fewer U.S. troops. And without the slightest doubt a huge number of them, maybe 10 or 15 million, will do their best to reduce their numbers, by armed force, defending the independence of their country. Patrick Henry and Tom Paine would understand that sentiment perfectly, and applaud it. Duh.]**

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February 18, 2009 By Karen DeYoung, Washington Post Staff Writer [Excerpts]

President Obama has ordered the first combat deployments of his presidency, saying yesterday that he had authorized an additional 17,000 U.S. troops "to stabilize a deteriorating situation" in Afghanistan.

The new deployments, to begin in May, will increase the U.S. force in Afghanistan by nearly 50 percent, bringing it to 55,000 by mid-summer, along with 32,000 non-U.S. NATO troops.

Taliban attacks and U.S. and NATO casualties last year, including 155 U.S. deaths, reached the highest levels of the seven-year war. War-related civilian Afghan deaths increased nearly 40 percent to 2,118 in 2008, according to a U.N. report released yesterday.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai was informed of the new deployments in a telephone call from Obama yesterday. Karzai, whose government Obama criticized last week as "detached" from what is going on in Afghanistan, publicly complained over the weekend that he had not yet heard from the new U.S. president.

**The first additional U.S. contingent, the 8,000-strong 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade from Camp LeJeune, N.C., will arrive in late May.**

**The Army's 5th Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division from Fort Lewis, Wash., will arrive with 4,000 troops in late July, along with an additional 5,000 troops in still-undesignated smaller units.**

The new troops will move into southern and eastern Afghanistan for combat expected to increase with the arrival of warmer weather, in addition to providing additional training for the Afghan army and security for national elections scheduled for August.

**The administration sought yesterday to couch the orders as what the senior official called "the beginning of the drawdown of troops in Iraq," where both units had been scheduled to deploy.**

**While that is technically true, White House decisions on Afghanistan and Iraq are proceeding on parallel but not necessarily overlapping tracks.**

During the presidential campaign, Obama pledged to draw down the U.S. presence in Iraq -- currently at 146,000 troops -- at a rate of one brigade a month for what he said would be a complete combat withdrawal within 16 months, with an unspecified "residual force" remaining.

The situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan has been discussed in separate presidential meetings with top national security and military officials who are contributing to the strategic review. In the meantime, however, commanders warned that deployment decisions would have to be made now if troops were to arrive in Afghanistan in time to meet urgent security needs.

Obama recognizes that "there is a grave situation in certain parts of the country," the White House official said. "We know . . . how negative it would be if the elections didn't come off.

**"It's also well acknowledged that the effort in Afghanistan suffered from being under-resourced, with a lack of attention and strategic direction."**

White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said yesterday that the deployment decision "does not prejudice the outcome of the review process but . . . allows us instead to meet an urgent need for more troops."

Beginning his first week in office, Obama held a series of meetings on the subject with civilian and military officials, including McKiernan; Gen. David H. Petraeus, head of U.S. Central Command; Adm. Michael Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates; and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

On Feb. 10, Gates recommended that Obama authorize the 17,000-troop deployment.

The recommendation was discussed at a National Security Council meeting Friday, and Obama informed Gates of his decision Monday. Gates signed the deployment orders for the 12,000 troops of the two brigades yesterday, with designation of the additional 5,000 still to come.

Obama's deployment decision came without clear majority support from the public. While most Americans consider winning in Afghanistan essential to victory in the broader fight against terrorism, in the latest Washington Post-ABC News poll, barely more than a third, 34 percent, said the number of U.S. military forces in that country should be increased. About as many would opt for a decrease (29 percent) or no change at all (32 percent).

In Afghanistan, public opinion is even more unwelcoming. In a recent ABC-BBC-ARD poll of Afghans, just 18 percent said the United States and NATO should increase their troop levels, and more than twice that number, 44 percent, wanted fewer outside forces.

## **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?**

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

## IRAQ WAR REPORTS

### **Massachusetts Soldier Killed In Mosul**



U.S. Army Pfc. Jonathan R. Roberge, 22, of Leominster, Mass., died Feb. 9, 2009, in Mosul, Iraq, of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

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### **Tulsa Soldier Killed In Iraq**



Stephen Thompson, 23, was killed Friday when he suffered a gunshot wound while in Iraq.

2/17/2009 By MANNY GAMALLO World Staff Writer, Tulsa World

A Tulsa soldier described as a nice, average person who joined the military to better himself was killed last week in Iraq, according to his family.

Army Cpl. Stephen Scott Thompson, 23, was shot in Baghdad, his father, Philip Thompson, said Tuesday.

The Department of Defense notified the media late Tuesday that Thompson died Saturday. His father said he was notified by the military on Sunday morning.

However, the father said he doesn't know the circumstances of his son's death — whether he was on patrol or in a vehicle when he was shot.

Stephen Thompson grew up in Tulsa and was a 2004 graduate of Memorial High School.

Philip Thompson said his son joined the military three years ago to improve himself.

"I am so proud of my son. Stephen became a man the day he joined. This young man changed overnight. I remember when I went to his graduation from boot camp, I couldn't hardly believe who the person that was standing in front of me," Philip Thompson said in an e-mail to the Tulsa World.

"From the moment he arrived in Iraq he never faltered calling home. In fact I heard from him nearly everyday. I last spoke with him on Thursday the 12th, and he told me everything was going pretty well, just the usual stuff.

He was extremely excited about coming home. All he could talk about was what he wanted to do when he got back.

"Stephen had many friends. He was the class clown. He was your go-to guy. If you needed anything, Stephen would be sure you had everything that you needed. He would give you the shirt off his back. He made sure you were good before any thought of himself."

On his MySpace site, Stephen Thompson wrote that he was counting the days until his tour of duty in Iraq ended. He wrote that he probably would make the military a career and eventually go to Germany.

"But I am still undecided," he wrote, "because I have a lot to be thankful for back home."

Thompson wrote that he loved to hunt, fish and ride dirt bikes.

He described himself as very social and easy to get along with.

He also wrote that he has a red-nose pit bull, "and he is my boy."

Sara Wilson at Fort Hood, near Killeen, Texas, had known Thompson since he was stationed there and described him as an awesome young man with a delightful sense of humor.

Wilson said she was shocked when she learned of his death Monday.

Wilson said Thompson and her husband, Sgt. Joseph Wilson, were close at Fort Hood and also in Iraq and were part of the 1/22nd Infantry.

She said the battalion left for Iraq last March for a year's deployment and was due to return home to Fort Hood in a matter of weeks.

Wilson said Thompson was a forward observer with the battalion and that his death in Iraq was combat-related.

"I knew something had happened," Wilson said.

She said her husband calls her every night from Iraq, but he didn't call Saturday or Sunday.

When she finally spoke to him on Monday, she said, he avoided the subject of Thompson's death because of the pain he felt.

"Stephen and my husband were very close," she said.

They worked together at Fort Hood, where Thompson was a radio-telephone operator, she said.

"Stephen was one of my closest friends," Wilson said. "I'm an only child, so he was more like a brother to me.

"He was an outstanding young man, hilarious to be around. Oh, God, he had the greatest sense of humor. He could always bring a smile to my face," she said.

"Before he left for Iraq, I asked him, 'What am I going to do without you?' " Wilson said.

"He looked at me and said, 'You better hire a circus clown.'

"You would never meet anyone like Stephen Thompson in your life, and he would tell you that."

Wilson said Thompson, who had two brothers, talked fondly of his father.

"Stephen spent Thanksgiving 2007 at our house," she said, and she remembered his father calling that day and thanking the Wilson family for taking care of his son.

And he was always talking of going hunting and working on his old Camaro, which he sold before he went to Iraq, she said.

After he went to Iraq, Wilson said, Thompson decided to make the military a career as a means to advance himself.

"I was real proud of him for that," Wilson said. "Stephen had an amazing way of doing things," she said.

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Sgt Killed At Operating Base Tillman**



U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Raymond J. Munden, 35, of Texas, an infantryman assigned to B Company, 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team. He joined the Army in August 1991 and arrived at Fort Campbell in January 2002. Munden died Feb. 16, 2009 at Forward Operating Base Tillman, Afghanistan, from injuries sustained when the post came under rocket attack. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

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### **Lance Corporal Stephen Kingscott Killed In Nawa**

2.18.09 Ministry of Defence

It is with deep regret that the Ministry of Defence must confirm the death of Lance Corporal Stephen Kingscott of 1st Battalion The Rifles in Afghanistan on 16 February 2009.

Lance Corporal Kingscott died during the assault of an enemy position during a deliberate operation against insurgents in the Nawa district of Helmand province.

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## **IED Destroys U.S. Military Vehicle In Damman: Casualties Not Announced**



U.S. soldiers with Alpha Company, 32nd Infantry Regiment survey the scene after a roadside bomb attack on one of their armored vehicles in the village of Damman in Kunar Province, eastern Afghanistan, February 16, 2009. (Oleg Popov/Reuters)

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## **Now For The Really Good News For Arriving U.S. Troops: Special Forces Terrorists Murdering Men, Pregnant Women And Children; Twisted Kill Freaks Operating “Outside The Normal Chains Of Command”**

February 17, 2009 By DEXTER FILKINS, The New York Times Company [Excerpts]

One day this month, an old man who called himself Syed Mohammed sat on the floor of his mud-brick hut in the eastern Kabul neighborhood of Hotkheil and recounted how most of his son’s family was wiped out in an American-led raid last September.

Mr. Mohammed said he was awakened in the early morning to the sound of gunfire and explosions. Such sounds were not uncommon; Hotkheil is a Pashtun-dominated area, where sympathies for the Taliban run strong.

In a flash, Mr. Mohammed said, several American and Afghan soldiers kicked open the door of his home.

**The Americans, he said, had beards, an almost certain sign that they belonged to a unit of the Special Forces, which permits uniformed soldiers to grow facial hair.**

“Who are you?” Mr. Mohammed recalled asking the intruders.

“Shut up,” came the reply from one of the Afghan soldiers. “We are the government.”

Mr. Mohammed said he was taken to a nearby base, interrogated for several hours and let go as sunrise neared.

**When he returned home, Mr. Mohammed said, he went next door to his son’s house, only to find that most of his family had been killed: the son, Nurallah, and his pregnant wife and two of his sons, Abdul Basit, age 1, and Mohammed, 2. Only Mr. Mohammed’s 4-year-old grandson, Zarqawi, survived.**

“The soldiers had a right to search our house,” Mr. Mohammed said. “But they didn’t have a right to do this.”

Bullet holes still pockmarked Nurallah’s home more than four months after the attack, and the infant’s cradle still hung from the ceiling.

The day after the attack, a senior Afghan official came to the door and handed Mr. Mohammed \$800.

“If you spent some time here, you would see that we are not the kind of people who would get involved with the Taliban,” Mr. Mohammed said. “Anyway, what was the fault of the babies?”

American military spokesmen in Kabul, Washington and Tampa, Fla., the headquarters of Central Command, did not respond to requests for comment about the civilian deaths.

The newly released United Nations report singled out Special Forces and other military units operating outside the normal chains of command, which, the survey said, frequently could not be held accountable for their actions.

**Special Forces groups like Navy Seals and paramilitary units operated by the C.I.A. often conduct raids in Afghanistan, and often at night.**

**Such groups typically operate outside the normal chains of command, which means that their presence and movements are not always known by regular field commanders.**

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**Obama's War Recruits More  
Armed Resistance Fighters To Kill  
More U.S. Troops:  
Air Attack Butchers Men, Women  
And Children In Gozara:  
"Mangled, Unrecognizable Clumps Of  
Flesh All That Remained Of Several  
People And Dozens Of Animals Killed In  
A Tented Nomad Encampment"**



Afghans dig graves after a U.S. air strike in Gozara district of Herat province killed more Afghan citizens, February 17, 2009. (Stringer/Reuters)

19 February 2009 FOCUS News Agency

Herat. U.S. forces killed at least one child, video footage obtained by Reuters on Wednesday showed, in an air strike in western Afghanistan that police say killed 12 civilians Reuters informed.

Video taken in the Gozara district of Herat province in the aftermath of the attack on Monday showed mangled, unrecognizable clumps of flesh -- all that remained of several people and dozens of animals killed in a tented nomad encampment.

One body that was recognizable was that of a young boy.

"The information we have is 12 civilians, including six women, four men and two children have been killed in the bombardment," General Ikramuddin Yawar, chief of police in western Afghanistan told Reuters.

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## **FUTILE EXERCISE: SUICIDE MISSION: ALL HOME NOW!**



A U.S. soldier with 32nd Infantry Regiment during a patrol at the village of Tutnaw, Kunar Province, eastern Afghanistan February 10, 2009. REUTERS/Oleg Popov

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## **Resistance Action**

15 February 2009 Qoqnoos.com & 16 Feb 2009 DPA & 2.17.09 MURRAY BREWSTER, Canadian Press

Kandahar: Police commander of Kandahar province survived a roadside mine blast today, Feb. 15, 2009. But the blast left two policemen and three civilians wounded. The incident happened close to Kandahar police headquarter when police commander's car was passing the area.

Kabul - Three Afghan construction workers were killed in a roadside blast in eastern Afghanistan. Three other road construction workers were wounded in the attack Monday in the Sarkani district of Kunar province, the Interior Ministry said in a statement.

Over a recent 48-hour period in Kandahar city, at least seven improvised explosive devices were uncovered and defused. And on Sunday, an Afghan police officer was

killed when a wheelbarrow bomb exploded in a failed assassination attempt against the city's police chief.

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

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

## **TROOP NEWS**

### **“Largest Deployment Of Wisconsin National Guard” Off To Obama’s Imperial Slaughterhouse**



Members of the Wisconsin Army National Guard during a send-off ceremony to Iraq on Feb. 17, 2009 at the Dane County Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Madison, Wis. Wisconsin said goodbye Tuesday to National Guard troops bound for Iraq in the largest deployment of Wisconsin National Guard forces since World War II. (AP Photo/Green Bay Press-Gazette, Corey Wilson)

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**NOT ANOTHER DAY  
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR**



## NOT ANOTHER LIFE



The casket bearing the comingled remains of Staff Sgt. Alex Jimenez and Spc. Byron Fouty at Arlington National Cemetery Feb. 17, 2009. The two soldiers, both of the 10th Mountain Division, were killed in Iraq in May 2007. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

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## **Jury Refuses To Convict Vietnam Veteran For Marijuana**

### **Possession:**

**59-Year-Old Arrested After Officers  
From A State 'Drug Task Force'  
Found 25 Pounds Of Pot And 50  
Pounds Of Growing Plants In His  
Home:**

**He "Walks With A Cane, Has Bad Knees  
And Feet And Says He Uses Marijuana  
To Relieve Body Pain, As Well As To  
Help Cope With Post Traumatic Stress"**



Loren Smith, Vietnam Veteran

[Thanks to Ward Reilly, Veterans For Peace, who sent this in.]

01/29/2009 Dan Churney, MyWebTimes.com & January 30, 2009 By Alapoet, Freedomspheenix.com [Excerpts]

**On Wednesday in La Salle County Circuit Court, several jurors shook hands with an emotional Loren J. Swift after finding him not guilty of a marijuana charge that would have sent him to prison.**

"I'm so relieved. I've got my life back. I'm so grateful," a teary Swift told reporters outside the courtroom. "I'm going to dedicate my life to doing what's right," which he explained meant he was going to get himself reinstated in the Jehovah's Witnesses.

The five-woman, seven-man jury deliberated about two hours, giving the verdict at 1:30 p.m.

The 59-year-old Swift, of rural Streator, was charged with possession of marijuana with intent to deliver.

The state police drug task force arrested him Oct. 26, 2007, at his home, saying they found 25 pounds of marijuana and 50 pounds of marijuana plants. He spent 49 days in custody before posting \$10,000 bond. His record included a conviction in 2003 for possession of a small amount of marijuana.

Jurors were chosen Monday and testimony began Tuesday, with Circuit Judge H. Chris Ryan Jr. presiding.

**In the courthouse lobby, after the verdict, two male jurors talked and laughed with Swift and his attorney, Randy Gordon; one of the jurors patted Swift on his back.**

However, one of these jurors refused to admit he was a juror when The Times approached him for comment about the verdict; the other juror didn't deny he was indeed a juror, but nevertheless refused to talk.

Gordon told reporters he believed a key portion of testimony that favored his client was from a prosecution chemist, who didn't know how much of the plants seized could be smoked, with Gordon noting the stalk and sterile seeds of a marijuana plant are not illegal.

**During the trial, Swift testified he smoked marijuana to relieve physical pain, as well as to cope with posttraumatic stress syndrome.**

**Swift served aboard an aircraft carrier for 10 months in 1970 off shore of Vietnam during the conflict there, involved with the landing and launching of helicopters. He also flew helicopter missions to Vietnam to deliver supplies.**

Swift denied he sold marijuana, as Prosecutor Pete Siena alleged.

Jurors interrupted their deliberations at one point, to re-enter the courtroom and look at evidence, including containers of marijuana, scales and a heat vacuum sealer that were set in the middle of the courtroom.

They then returned to the jury room, delivering the verdict shortly after.

**Police and the prosecutor alleged the scales and sealer showed Swift packaged marijuana for sale, but admitted they found no records, small plastic bags or phone numbers that also would have suggested Swift sold the drug.**

Police testified that after they went to Swift's home in 2007, Swift invited them inside his house, leading them through rooms where he had marijuana, including a cedar-lined room Swift used for drying marijuana. He also showed them a garden overgrown with weeds, in which marijuana plants were hidden.

State's Attorney Brian Towne said the seized marijuana and plants would be taken to a state facility, where drugs seized by police anywhere in Illinois are burned.

He added police had seized 80 pounds of marijuana from Swift, but the state laboratory only had time to process 25 pounds as evidence.

Swift wore a suit and tie during his trial, as he did at almost every previous court hearing. At recent hearings and at trial, he walked hunched, used a cane and wore a medical-style boot on his right foot.

**One of the male jurors who congratulated Swift in the lobby, also used a cane, having an artificial leg.**

**After the trial, a courthouse security officer found this juror had carried a cell phone into the courtroom inside the leg, although cell phones are prohibited in courtrooms.**

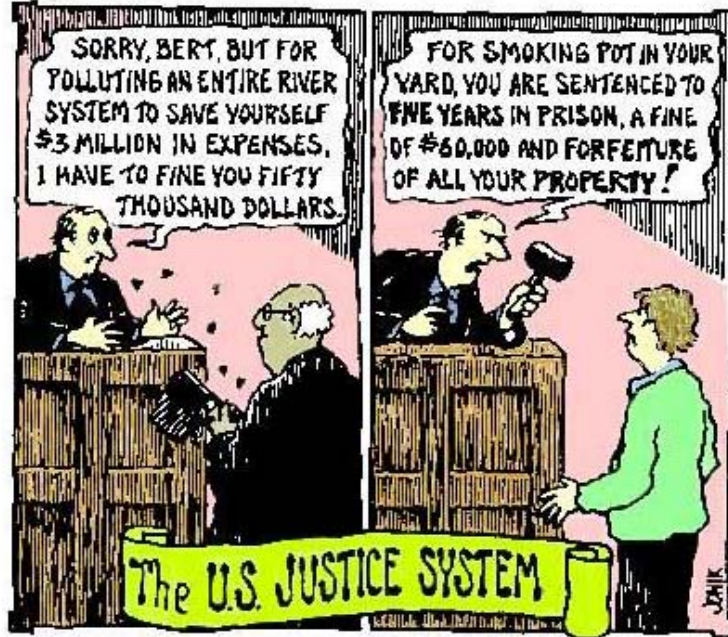
**A couple of courthouse observers speculated after the verdict that jurors had engaged in "jury nullification," meaning jurors believed Swift was guilty, but did not believe he deserved punishment, so voted not guilty.**

After a reporter asked Gordon if he believed jurors ruled for Swift out of sympathy, Gordon said they should have ruled for Swift, because Swift was not guilty.

The Vietnam veteran walks with a cane, has bad knees and feet and says he uses marijuana to relieve body pain, as well as to help cope with post traumatic stress.



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[www.dopesmoke.com](http://www.dopesmoke.com)

**This jury exercised their right of jury nullification.**

**Judges and prosecutors never tell you this, but when you serve on a jury, it's not just the defendant on trial. It's the law as well.**

**If you don't like the law and think applying it in this particular case would be unjust, then you don't have to find the defendant guilty, even if the evidence clearly indicates guilt.**

In jury nullification, a jury in a criminal case effectively nullifies a law by acquitting a defendant regardless of the weight of evidence against him or her. There is intense pressure within the legal system to keep this power under wraps.

But the fact of the matter is that when laws are deemed unjust, there is the right of the jury not to convict.

Jury nullification is crucially important because until our national politicians show some backbone on the issue of marijuana law reform, it's one of the only ways to avoid imposing hideously cruel "mandatory minimum" penalties on marijuana users who don't deserve to go to prison.

Prosecuting and jailing people for marijuana wastes valuable resources, including court and police time and tax dollars.

Hundreds of thousands of otherwise productive, law-abiding people have been deprived of their freedom, their families, their homes and their jobs. Let's save the jails for real criminals, not pot smokers.

The American public is very near the tipping point where a majority no longer believes the official line coming from Drug Warrior politicians and their friends at the ONDCP, gung-ho narcotics officers protecting their profitable turf, and sensationalistic, scare-mongering news stories used to boost ratings.

They are starting to see through the widening cracks in the wall of denial when it comes to marijuana's salutary medical effects on a host of illnesses and its palliative effects for the terminally ill and permanently disabled.

People are coming to realize that not only have they been sold a lie when it comes to marijuana -- they've been sold a particularly cruel lie, a self-perpetuating falsehood of epic proportions that has controlled U.S. public policy towards the weed for 70 years now.

The extreme cruelty of the lies told about marijuana by drug warriors is in the effects this culture of fear and intolerance has in the real world -- effects like long prison sentences for gentle people who are productive and caring members of society.

Because citizens are coming to this long-delayed realization, we are going to be seeing more and more cases like this where juries have chosen not to punish people for pot.

As this consciousness permeates all levels of society, it is going to get harder and harder for prosecutors to get guilty verdicts in marijuana cases -- and that's a good thing.

Maybe this is how the war on marijuana ends...

Not with a bang, but a whimper, as cousin T.S. would say.

### **What You Can Do:**



If you ever serve on a jury where the defendant is accused of a marijuana crime, don't forget about jury nullification. Tell the other jurors you don't have to convict, even if all the evidence points to guilt, if you don't agree with the application of the law in this instance.

And if you can't swing your peers to your way of thinking, at least you can cause the jury to return a hung verdict.

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU): Drug Policy

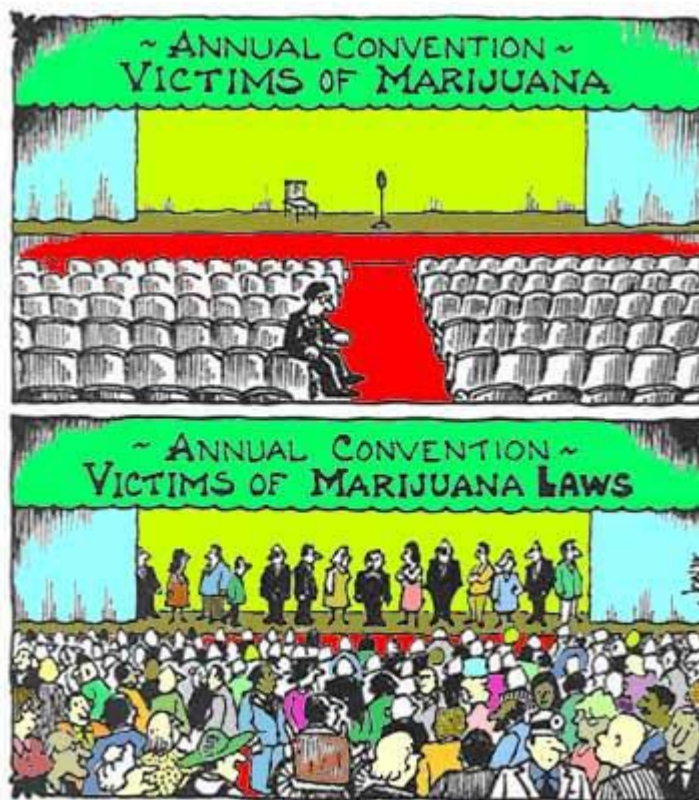
Change The Climate: Time to Tell the Truth About Marijuana

Drug Policy Alliance: Alternatives to Prohibition and the Drug War

Marijuana Policy Project

National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML)

**It is not only the juror's right, but his duty to find the verdict according to his own best understanding, judgment and conscience, though in direct opposition to the instruction of the court." ~ John Adams, 1771**



## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Resistance Action**

Feb 17, 2009 DPA & Reuters & (AP) 2.18.09 By Hussein Kadhim, McClatchy Newspapers

Baghdad- Three policemen on Tuesday were killed and seven injured in a blast that ripped through downtown Baquba city, according to a security source. A bomb was detonated inside a popular restaurant in front of Diyala's police department in downtown Baquba city, the source told Voices of Iraq news agency.

Major-General Salahuddin Rasheed, commander of an Iraqi military division, was lightly wounded when a roadside bomb struck his convoy just south of Tikrit, 150 km (95 miles) north of Baghdad, said Mohammed Anwar, a police captain in Tikrit. Five of the officer's bodyguards were also wounded.

A roadside bomb wounded a member of a U.S.-backed neighbourhood patrol in Baghdad's northern district of Adhamiya, police said.

A roadside bomb targeted a police patrol in Suq al Mash in western Mosul. One policeman was killed with damage to his car.

A roadside bomb targeted a security company's ( the 77 company for private security service)patrol on the way between Kirkuk and Tikrit around 2:30 a.m. One member was killed and two others were wounded.

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**



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

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

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

**Frederick Douglas, 1852**

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## **February 19, 1942: A Day That Will Live In Infamy**



Japanese American residents board the bus for Camp Harmony, 1942

Carl Bunin Peace History Peace History February 18-24

Executive Order 9066 was signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt 10 weeks after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, ordering all Japanese Americans (Nisei) evacuated from the West Coast of the U.S. and forcing them to live in concentration camps.

The document authorized the Secretary of War and military commanders “to prescribe military areas...from which any or all persons may be excluded.”

There was strong support from California Attorney General Earl Warren (later U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice), liberal journalist Walter Lippmann and Time magazine—which referred to California as “Japan’s Sudetenland”

112,000 citizens of Japanese ancestry were relocated, losing their businesses, homes, and belongings to whites.

In the entire course of the war, 10 people were convicted of spying for Japan, all of whom were Caucasian.

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## **OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

**“When I Used To Write About The Victims Of Israeli Crimes, I Never Imagined That One Day I’d Be Writing About The Unbearable Misery Of My Own Family”**

**“When We Arrived, We Found The Civil Defense And Ambulances Collecting The Severed Limbs Of The Children And Their Parents”**

February 12, 2009 by Mahmoud Abu Aisha – Palestine, PEOPLE FIRST!, Newsletter Of International Health Workers for People Over Profit

Mahmoud Abu Aisha works at the Gaza Community Mental Health Programme and was the coordinator of GCMHP’s 5th International Conference “Siege and Mental Health: Walls vs. Bridges” October 18-26, 2008.

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When I used to write about the victims of Israeli crimes, I never imagined that one day I’d be writing about the unbearable misery of my own family.

In the first week of Israel’s war against Gaza, our friends phoned to tell us that my cousin’s house had been bombed.

I was in shock. I couldn’t believe it. Fifteen minutes later, another phone call came from relatives asking if we had heard the news and if it was true.

I turned on the radio. The local station confirmed that F16 warplanes had bombed the Abu Aisha home. I fainted.

My brothers roused me, and we rushed to my cousin’s house to help. It was very risky, because the Israelis were targeting all moving vehicles in the darkness.

The house consisted of four floors and a basement. Four families live in this house, and my cousin's family lived on the first floor.

When we arrived, we found the civil defense and ambulances collecting the severed limbs of the children and their parents.

We found the father's corpse laying on the ground, about 50 meters away from the home, with severe injuries and burns. He had two wives, as the first was childless: Nahil, my cousin with four children, of whom the oldest is Dalal, and Sabah, the first wife, who had a child years later.

One of the mothers (we couldn't distinguish which one) was found with her head and shoulder severed from her body.

The fate of the children was even more heart-wrenching.

I wept as I collected their limbs and shredded bodies. The three children were Mohamad, 4 years, Ghaida, 7 years, and Sayed, 10 years. I still feel traumatized by seeing their fingers, flesh and guts spread everywhere.

Only Dalal, 12 years old, survived because she had gone to sleep with her aunt the day before.

When she learned that she had lost her entire family, she crumbled in shock. She was inconsolable, crying, "I am an orphan... what is my sin?... Nothing remains for me..."

It was 10:00 am, and we had to bury the bodies according to Islamic rituals.

However, we couldn't find any part of the other mother.

We thought that the body we found was Sabah, but we later discovered that Sabah had left her home a few days earlier, seeking a safer place.

When Sabah heard about the catastrophe on the radio she fainted. The host family thought she was simply tired. By the time she revived, her family had already buried what they thought was her body. In fact it was Nahil who was buried, not Sabah.

Dalal is consumed with grief at the loss of her family. She cries constantly. The only things left in her home were her school uniform, her cat and some photos of her brothers and sister.

Has the world abandoned us?

Who will stand up for the rights of Palestinian children and their families?

**[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."]**

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## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



### 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 Illusion Of Security:  
“We Heard The Story Of An Airline  
Pilot Who Had His Nail Clippers  
Snatched Away By The TSA Just  
Before Boarding His Plane”**



# “He Then Walked Into A Cockpit Equipped With An Ax”



## **FIRST PICTURES ARE IN! WHAT BROUGHT DOWN THE U. S. AIRWAYS JET!**

[Graphic Via CitizenSoldier February 11, 2009: An old aviator adage: ‘There are bold pilots and old pilots, but no bold, old pilots.’ Tod Ensign]

By Steve Mirsky; January, 2009 Scientific American Inc.

“‘Curiouser and curiouser!’ cried Alice (she was so much surprised, that for the moment she quite forgot how to speak good English). ‘Now I’m opening out like the largest telescope that ever was! Good-by, feet!... Oh, my poor little feet, I wonder who will put on your shoes and stockings for you now, dears?’”

The smart money says that it won’t be the folks from the Transportation Security Administration, who make two million travelers take their shoes off every day at airports in the U.S.

Lewis Carroll’s Alice would have had trouble distinguishing reality from Wonderland had she been with me on the Sunday after Thanksgiving as I watched a TSA officer confiscate my father’s aftershave at the airport in Burlington, Vt.

It was a 3.25-ounce bottle, clearly in violation of the currently permissible three-ounce limit for liquids.

Also clear was the bottle, which was obviously only about a quarter full.

So even the members of some isolated human populations that have never developed sophisticated systems for counting could have determined that the total amount of liquid in the vessel was far less than the arbitrarily standardized three ounces.

But the TSA guy took the aftershave, citing his responsibility to go by the volume listed on the label.

(By the way, the three-ounce rule is expected to be phased out late in 2009. Why not tomorrow? Because of the 300-day-rules-change rule, which I just made up.)

Feeling curiouser, I did a gedankenexperiment:

What if the bottle had been completely empty—would he have taken it then? No, I decided. When empty, the bottle becomes just some plastic in a rather mundane topological configuration.

Not to mention that if you really banned everything with the potential to hold more than three ounces of liquid, you couldn't let me have my shoes back. You also couldn't allow me to bring my hands onboard.

I kept these thoughts to myself, of course, because I wanted to fly home, not spend the rest of the day locked in a security office explaining what a gedankenexperiment was.

I first commented on what I used to call "the illusion of security" in this space in July 2003, after attending a conference on freedom and privacy.

**We heard the story of an airline pilot who had his nail clippers snatched away by the TSA just before boarding his plane. He then walked into a cockpit equipped with an ax.**

(Which is a horrible tool for cutting your nails, although, I have to admit, my dad might try. A former U.S. Marine and builder, he does his manicuring with a foot-long metal carpenter's file and some 80-grit sandpaper. And you wonder how I got to be this way.)

**It used to be that you could bring shaving cream with you when boarding a plane, but they would take away your razor. Now you can carry on a razor, and they take away your shaving cream.**

(They did indeed seize my dad's shaving cream at the airport in Fort Lauderdale the Monday before Thanksgiving.)

Although the mostest curiouser thing has to be when hundreds of people docilely snake through security lines amid announcements that the "threat of a terrorist attack is high."

Compared to what?

The day before, perhaps, when the real threat posed by terrorists to your life was much, much smaller than your chances of dying in the bathtub. And today the threat is only much smaller than your chances of dying in the bathtub.

Here's how you know that the terrorist threat isn't really high: the airport is still open, and your flight hasn't been canceled.

A much better term than "illusion of security" can be found in an article by Jeffrey Goldberg in the November 2008 issue of the Atlantic: "security theater" ([www.theatlantic.com/doc/200811/airport-security](http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200811/airport-security)).

Goldberg holds that TSA agents and passengers go through performances designed to make everybody feel better, but with little effect.

He talks about how he has been able to carry knives and box cutters onto planes — he even got past security with a device on his torso called a Beerbelly, a bladder that holds up to 80 ounces of liquid you can drink from through a tube.

Goldberg didn't fill the thing up, but he did exceed the three-ounce limit by just 21 ounces.

And keep my dad clean-shaven.

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## **CLASS WAR REPORTS**

### **Get The Message?**



An Indonesian holds a mock US flag in Jakarta on February 18, 2009. US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton held talks on Wednesday in Indonesia. (AFP/File/Adek Berry)

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## **NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER**

Telling the truth - about the occupations or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance to Imperial wars inside the armed forces.

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

If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> And join with Iraq Veterans Against the War to end the occupations and bring all troops home now! ([www.ivaw.org/](http://www.ivaw.org/))

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

GI Special issues are archived at website <http://www.militaryproject.org> . The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:  
<http://williambowles.info/gispecial/2008/index.html>;  
[http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi\\_special/](http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/);

# GI Special [www.militaryproject.org](http://www.militaryproject.org)

*This is how Obama brings the troops home,  
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE.*



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