

GI SPECIAL 7C2:



Love, Dad

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special
Sent: March 03, 2009
Subject: Love, Dad

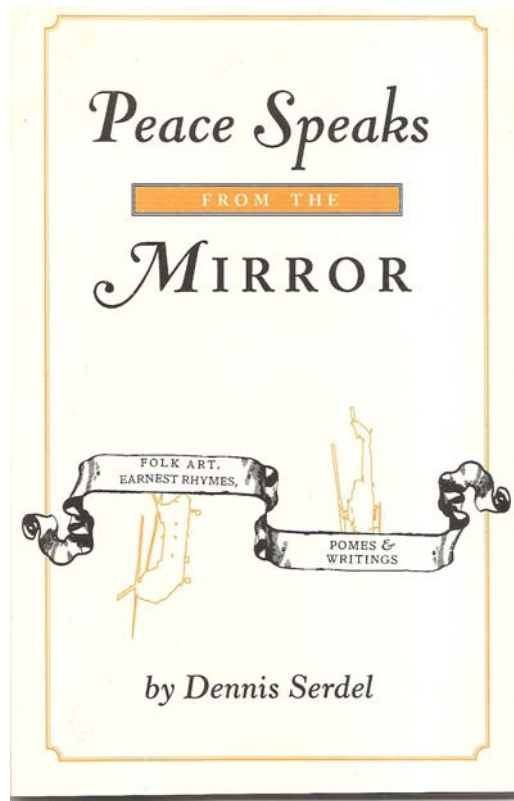
By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50 Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan

Love, Dad

Son, we can't send you
any packages
like we have sent you before
because the shop
that I worked for for 27 years
has just went bankrupt
my pension money is gone
didn't get severance pay
after all those years
and I would have to pay
Cobra for health care but
I don't have money for that
they didn't even give me
my vacation pay
they gave me nothing
nothing at all
I took our savings and paid off
our home but now all I get is
unemployment checks
and food stamps
that will stop in months
I don't know what I will do then,
I'm old and nobody will hire me
but even the young
can't find any jobs
Soon they will take our car
turn off electricity
and turn off the heat
Son, I know you have troubles
of your own in Iraq
but I think you are fighting
the wrong enemy over there
I think all of you should come home
fight the government
the corporations
and defend us from
the bill collectors
kill the white shirt bank criminals
the oil company criminals
kill all the Madoof's
that have taken over our country
because nothing works
over here anymore.
Love, Dad

MORE:

**Get Some While There Still Are Some To
Get:**



Books are \$12 plus \$4 for postage and mailer = \$16 due.

Make Money Orders or Checks payable to:

Dennis Serdel
339 Oakwood Lane
Perry,
Michigan 48872

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

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

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

Let me know.

Dennis Serdel

Walt Whitman
Carl Sandburg
Allan Ginsberg
Now: Dennis Serdel
T

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

Attack In Mosul Kills U.S. Soldier

03/03/09 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory

A Multi-National Division-North Soldier died from injuries sustained during an indirect fire attack in Mosul, Iraq, Mar. 3.

U.S. Soldier Killed By Something Or Other Somewhere Or Other In Iraq

March 2, 2009 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE
No. 20090302-02

BAGHDAD – A Multi-National Division–Baghdad Soldier died March 2 from combat related injuries while conducting a patrol north of Baghdad.

A Truth Telling General Nails The Bullshit

[So much for Obama's lying speech last weekend about withdrawing "all combat soldiers" from Iraq -- with 30,000 to 50,000 U.S. soldiers left behind "to protect U.S. interests" and "fight terrorists."]

March 3rd, 2009 By LARA JAKES, Associated Press Writer

DAWR, Iraq:

"All soldiers are combat soldiers," Maj. Gen. David G. Perkins told reporters Monday in Baghdad.

The Bankrupt Empire Imitates An Earlier Model: "Washington Is Following Exactly The Same Control Model The British Empire Used To Rule Iraq"

March 1, 2009 By ERIC MARGOLIS, Edmonton Sun [Excerpts]

At a time when the U.S. is bankrupt and faces a \$1.75 trillion deficit, the Pentagon's gargantuan \$664 billion budget (50% of total global military spending) will grow in 2009 and 2010 by another \$200 billion to pay for the occupation of Iraq and Obama's expanded war in Afghanistan.

Throw in another \$40 billion to \$50 billion for the CIA and other intelligence agencies.

In short, contrary to all Obama's high-blown rhetoric about pulling out of Iraq, Washington clearly intends it will remain a U.S. military, political and economic protectorate.

Washington is following exactly the same control model the British Empire used to rule Iraq, and exploit its oil: Install a figurehead ruler, keep him in power using a "native" army (read today's Iraqis army and police).

RAF units based in Iraq (read U.S. air bases) bomb any rebellious areas.

Smaller British ground units based in non-urban areas are on call to put down attempted coups against the king.

The U.S. plan for Iraq is identical.

Mounting Accusations Of Fraud In Iraq's Elections; "Violations Included Ballot Boxes That Went Missing And Later Reappeared During Polling"

March 2, 2009 By Abeer Mohammed and Neil Arun, Institute for War and Peace Reporting [Excerpts]

Iraq's election commission is fighting back against claims that it failed to take account of grave violations in tightly contested provincial polls.

Last week it released final results from the January 31 election, confirming Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's allies came top in ten of 14 provinces where polls were held.

It also released details of electoral violations, confirming that none of the 20 cases of serious fraud it had investigated were severe enough to affect the overall outcome.

Undeterred and angry, some of Maliki's rivals have accused the commission of bias and are threatening to challenge its conclusions in court.

Over the last few weeks, IWPR-trained journalists have gathered several reports of alleged violations, ranging from ballot boxes going temporarily missing to family members voting for absent relatives.

The strongest allegations of fraud so far have come from the Iraqiya list of former prime minister Ayad Allawi.

"The majority of violations occurred in Baghdad, Salahaddin and Anbar," said Ali Nesaif, a member of parliament with Allawi's list. "Some boxes were stolen from polling centers in Salahaddin as well as Diyala."

Iraqiya polled a very close second to a Sunni Islamist party in Salahaddin province.

"We are not satisfied with the final results -- particularly in Baghdad and Basra," Kadhim Turki, an Allawi ally, told IWPR.

The Iraqiya list came fourth in Baghdad, close behind a list loyal to anti-American Shia cleric, Muqtada al-Sadr. In Basra, Iraqiya polled fifth, again falling behind the Sadrists.

Jamal Betekh, a spokesman for Iraqiya, earlier this month accused "powerful parties" of rigging the votes. He told the Aswat al-Iraq news agency that IHEC was "anything but independent because it takes its orders from the state".

The Sadrist bloc has also voiced anger at the election commission's findings.

"We have been mistreated in this election. IHEC was not fair -- it was biased in favor of other lists," Amir Tahar al-Kinani, the leader of a list backing Sadr told IWPR.

He pointed out that initial results showed the party was in second place in Maysan province, followed by the Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council, SIIC.

"In the final results, we dropped to third position, while SIIC took second place. How can that happen?" asked Kinani.

"Our bloc and SIIC won an approximately equal number of votes in Maysan -- yet we only got seven seats, while they got eight."

Kinani said his bloc had noted a suspicious drop in its share of votes in Baghdad after the final results were announced. He also accused IHEC of making late changes to the law that effectively raised the threshold for severe violations.

A number of other alliances have also reportedly complained of electoral fraud, though it is unclear if they too will now pursue a formal inquiry into the election commission's results.

At a press conference in Baghdad on February 18, election commission officials said they were following up more than 1,000 complaints of irregularities, including 20 serious allegations of fraud.

IHEC official Karim al-Tamimi said the 20 serious irregularities "would not affect the results".

Hamdiya al-Husseini, an election commission official, told IWPR serious violations had been reported in Anbar, Diyala, Mosul, Muthana and in Baghdad's Resafa sector.

The alleged violations included ballot boxes that went missing and later reappeared during polling, said Husseini.

Sadr and Allawi loyalists claimed members of the security forces, who were allowed to cast their ballots early, voted twice. IHEC official Tamimi said six of the 20 serious irregularities had occurred during early voting.

The most prevalent complaint -- that citizens could not vote because their names were missing from polling station registries -- was not considered a violation.

Ballot officials have repeatedly insisted that the problem was not widespread, contrary to claims by voters, party leaders and some election observers.

Joost Hiltermann of the International Crisis Group, a non-profit body that monitors conflicts, told IWPR the "electoral commission has a vested interest in playing down the phenomenon."

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Bolton Marine Injured In Afghan Blast

2nd March 2009 By Lucy Ewing, The Bolton News

ROYAL Marine from Westhoughton may never be able to walk again after being seriously injured in a bomb blast in Afghanistan.

Aaron Moon was driving an armoured vehicle near Lashkagar, when an explosive device went off. The 21-year-old suffered a fractured shoulder, vertebra, pelvis, hip, heel and legs in the blast on February 17.

He also suffered a ruptured spleen, damaged both his knee caps and has cuts and bruises all over his body.

Aaron was flown back to England and is now recovering in hospital in Birmingham but his family do not know whether he will walk again.

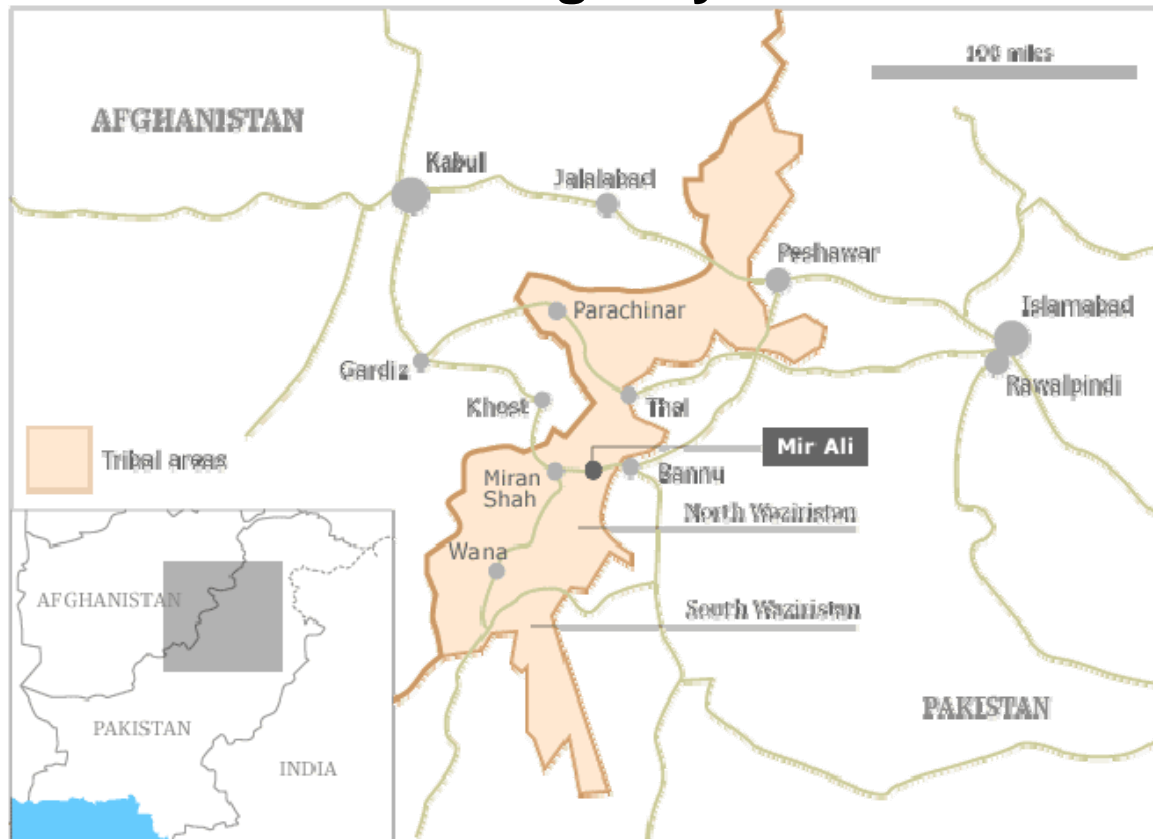
His parents, Graham and Janice, spoke of their pride for their son, whom they described as "more than a hero".

**THIS ENVIRONMENT IS HAZARDOUS TO YOUR
HEALTH;
ALL HOME NOW**



U.S. soldiers with 32nd Infantry Regiment, adjust a 120-mm mortar at a new position at Panich camp, Kunar Province, eastern Afghanistan February 14, 2009. REUTERS/Oleg Popov

Resistance Rivals Unite To Fight U.S. Troops; “Liberate Afghanistan From The Occupation Forces” “A Move Likely To Intensify The Insurgency”



Waziristan [Guardian graphic]

[Thanks to JM, who sent this in.]

3 March 2009 Saeed Shah in Peshawar, The Guardian [Excerpts]

Three rival Pakistani Taliban groups have agreed to form a united front against international forces in Afghanistan in a move likely to intensify the insurgency just as

thousands of extra US soldiers begin pouring into the country as part of Barack Obama's surge plan.

The Guardian has learned that three of the most powerful warlords in the region have settled their differences and come together under a grouping calling itself Shura Ittihad-ul-Mujahideen, or Council of United Holy Warriors.

NATO officers fear that the new extremist partnership in Waziristan, Pakistan's tribal area, will significantly increase the cross-border influx of fighters and bombers - a move that could undermine the US president's Afghanistan strategy before it is formulated.

The unity among the militants comes after a call by Mullah Omar, the cleric who leads the Afghan Taliban, telling Pakistani militants to stop fighting at home in order to join the battle to "liberate Afghanistan from the occupation forces".

The Pakistani Taliban movement was split between a powerful group led by the warlord Baitullah Mehsud and his bitter rivals, Maulvi Nazir and Gul Bahadur. While Mehsud has targeted Pakistan itself in a campaign of violence and is accused of being behind the assassination of the former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, Nazir and Bahadur sent men to fight alongside other insurgents in Afghanistan.

The move potentially provides short-term relief in Pakistan but imperils Nato forces, especially those stationed in southern and eastern Afghanistan, including the British, close to the Pakistani border.

"It's of concern to us when we see a grouping like that," said a western security official in Pakistan. "This can't be ignored."

A western military adviser, also based in Pakistan, said a Pakistani Taliban alliance would cement the grip of the militants over Waziristan.

The Obama administration in Washington has announced 17,000 extra troops for Afghanistan.

American forces will concentrate on areas close to the Pakistani border, which are seen as the most troublesome.

In an apparent response to the augmented US challenge, Mullah Omar has directed Pakistani militants in Waziristan to halt attacks on Pakistani forces.

"If anybody really wants to wage jihad, he must fight the occupation forces inside Afghanistan," Mullah Omar told Pakistani militants in a letter. "Attacks on the Pakistani security forces and killing of fellow Muslims by the militants in the tribal areas and elsewhere in Pakistan is bringing a bad name to mujahideen and harming the war against the US and Nato forces in Afghanistan."

The Pakistani Taliban recognise Mullah Omar, founder of the Taliban movement in Afghanistan, as their ultimate leader, although operationally they work independently.

While Pakistani forces claim to have "won" in Bajaur, they show no appetite for taking the war to Waziristan.

While western countries want to see the Pakistani army take the fight to Waziristan, Pakistani forces have been repeatedly defeated there.

Major General Athar Abbas, chief spokesman for the Pakistan army, said that there was “no plan” to start operations in Waziristan. “It’s the government that decides these things,” he added.

Afghan Politician Admits Occupation Forces Only Control 10% Of Country

February 28, 2009 Archie McLean, Canwest News Service

KANDAHAR -- President Hamid Karzai declared Saturday that Afghanistan’s presidential election should be held within the next two months, in keeping with the country’s constitution.

Haji Agha Lalai, a member of the provincial council and head of independent reconciliation office in Kandahar, said it would be a disaster if they hold the election in April.

“I can bravely say only 10 per cent of the population will take part in the election, because of insecurity and frustration,” Lalai said.

Lalai said people have little faith that the government can protect them at the polling stations.

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

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

TROOP NEWS

Dwell Time Cut For 4th Stryker: Off To Obama’s Afghan Slaughterhouse

Mar 2 (AP)

The Defense Department says the 4th Stryker Brigade at Fort Lewis will deploy to Iraq this fall several months ahead of the original schedule.

The Army said Monday the deployment was moved up to replace the 5th Stryker Brigade, also based at Fort Lewis. It was given a new mission last month to join the surge of 17,000 troops this summer in Afghanistan.

The 4th Brigade was previously in Iraq from April 2007 to June 2008 as part of the troop surge. It has reset personnel and equipment and is beginning training. The commander, Col. John Norris, says about 2,500 of the 4,000 soldiers are Iraq war veterans.

**NOT ANOTHER DAY
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR
NOT ANOTHER LIE
NOT ANOTHER LIFE**



The co-mingled remains of Staff Sgt. Alex Jimenez of Lawrence, Mass., and Spc. Byron Fouty of Waterford, Mich., are buried at Arlington National Cemetery Feb. 17, 2009. Jimenez and Fouty, both of the 10th Mountain Division in Ft. Drum, N.Y., were killed in Iraq in May 2007. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

**“North Carolina Mother Who
Reported For Army Duty With Her
Two Young Children Will Be
Discharged From The Military”**

“She Doesn’t Have, And Cannot Have, An Adequate Family Care For Her Two Young Children”

March 2, 2009 By MARTHA WAGGONER, The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — The North Carolina mother who reported for Army duty with her two young children will be discharged from the military, her attorney said Monday.

Attorney Mark Waple of Fayetteville said it wasn't yet clear if Lisa Pagan would receive an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions. It also wasn't certain when she would be discharged.

The reason for the discharge will be that she doesn't have, and cannot have, an adequate family care for her two young children, he said.

“There is definitely some feeling of relief, especially since she has been led to believe that the command at Fort Benning is going to do everything to expedite this so she can return to Charlotte, North Carolina, with her children,” Waple said of Pagan's reaction to the decision. She has received no time line “except they are trying to process it as quickly as possible,” he said.

Fort Benning spokesman Bob Purtiman could not confirm Monday whether Pagan's commanders were discharging her. He said she was being issued a uniform, undergoing medical and dental screenings and filling out paperwork like any other soldier.

“As far as her disposition, right now the case is being reviewed by the chain of command,” Purtiman said. “Specific actions the chain of command are considering will not be discussed because that would violate her privacy rights.”

Pagan was recalled to the Army four years after being released from active duty, which is allowed under the military's “individual ready reserve” program. But she says she had no one to care for her children.

Soldiers can appeal, and some have won permission to remain in civilian life. Pagan filed several appeals, arguing that because her husband travels for business, no one else can take care of her kids. Her appeals were rejected.

So she reported for duty Monday at Fort Benning, Ga., with her children, 5-year-old Elizabeth and 3-year-old Eric.

Pagan is among thousands of former service members recalled after leaving duty since the Sept. 11 attacks because they're on “individual ready reserve” status, meaning they have time left on their original enlistment contracts and can be recalled at any time.

“2,191 Days And Counting” Iraq Veterans Against The War New York City Benefit



**Saturday, March 7th at 6PM
Powerhouse Arena - 37 Main Street, DUMBO, Brooklyn.
(It is easy to get to by subway on the 2, 3, 4, 5, A, C, and F trains.)**

For \$10 at the door enjoy gourmet food, beverages and performances, including IVAW members speaking about the Winter Soldier project.

For more information read the description below.

Join photojournalists and artists Jim Nachtwey, Joyce Kozloff, Joan Snyder, David Opdyke, Martha Rosler, Steve McCurry and Joy Garnett, Iraqi and veteran artists and new talent at a benefit exhibit/ performance at Powerhouse Arena on March 7th from 6-10 PM, Benefiting Iraq Veterans Against the War's Winter Soldier Project*

One kilogram of ashes from burnt books collected from the library at the College of Fine Arts in Baghdad lies in three glass cylinders, on which Qais Al-Sindy, a 42-year-old Iraqi artist, etched calligraphy verses from a poem about death and renewal.

Al-Sindy, who now lives in San Diego, also created a video of the burning of the precious historic collection which he witnessed in 2003.

Drew Cameron, a 26-year-old Army artillery soldier now living in Burlington, Vt., cut up his uniform, turning it into pulp paper, on which he depicted a degraded image of his memories of Chinooks and Apaches landing in the desert at sunrise (he launched "Combat Paper Project," a series of workshops which have helped 65 other vets from different wars "deconstruct" their uniforms and synthesize their war experiences in art).

"The story of the fiber, the blood, sweat and tears, the months of hardship and brutal violence are held within those old uniforms," he says.

Wafaa Bilal's provocative video game/art exhibit, Domestic Tension (80 million hits), grew out of the killing of his younger brother by American air-ground missile.

Two stills from the project -- one of them with him ducking to avoid being shot -- reflect the impersonal nature and the trauma of war. Bilal, who now teaches at NYU, will also read from his book, -- Shoot an Iraqi: Art Life and Resistance Under the Gun -- at the reception on March 7th.

The universality of tea -- and the sheer generosity of Iraqi nationals brewing tea for exhausted American Army truck drivers -- inspired Aaron Hughes, a 26-year-old veteran (now living in Evanston, Ill.) who served in the 1244th Transportation Company to create "Tea," his three-part project (installation/performance/dialogue) using styrofoam cups.

He tells the story of Chris Arent who "was not familiar with Muslim culture" but he learned that they don't draw the human form, maybe not any creatures, but they draw a lot of flowers. They would cover the cups with flowers."

These pieces of art, inspired by two concurrent wars -- as well as well-known works, Jim Nachwey's photograph from "The Sacrifice," David Opdyke's "Freedom," Joyce Kozloff "Rocking the Cradle," a Martha Rosler photomontage and Joan's Snyder's moving image of a mother hugging her child --will be on exhibit at Powerhouse Arena in Brooklyn.

It opens March 5th and closes March 22nd.

The reception and evening of performance will be on Saturday March 7, from 6-10 PM.

There is a \$10 cover charge at the door, which includes the performance, food and beverages. All proceeds will be donated to IVAW's Winter Soldier Project to collect soldiers' firsthand accounts of both wars. All veterans can take part, regardless of their politics, regardless of whether the soldiers are pro or anti war, and the project will provide them with much needed legal and mental health support.

As the nation nears the six-year anniversary of the wars, the Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) is working diligently to raise accountability and expose the true facts.

In 1971, courageous Vietnam veterans came forward to testify at Winter Soldier, fueling the anti-war movement.

Last March, the Iraq Veterans Against the War (www.ivaw.org), launched a similar event, called Winter Soldier: Iraq and Afghanistan.

In organizing the high profile benefit exhibit and performance, -- 2,191 Days and Counting -- IVAW hopes to expose true narratives while encouraging debate aimed at ending these wars.

See you ALL on March 7th...

New York City Chapter
Iraq Veterans Against the War
<http://www.ivaw.org>
nyc@ivaw.org

Contact:
Email - ivawbenefit@gmail.com
Chere Krakovsky - (917) 406-9415
Maya Joseph-Goteiner - (646) 279-1164

Drugging Soldiers Condemned: “With Drugs, Very Rarely Are You Dealing With The Real Problem. You’re Numbing It”

March 2, 2009 By Kelly Kennedy, Army Times [Excerpts]

The Army surgeon general sent out a memo in February allowing clinical psychologists to prescribe medications — a privilege that 48 states still prohibit.

But Gerald Davison, a professor of gerontology and psychology at the University of Southern California, as well as an adviser for Psychologists Opposed to Prescription Privileges for Psychologists, said there are several reasons why his group, as well as the American Psychiatric Association, oppose the idea.

“The main reason is patient safety,” he said. “To really understand all that could go wrong, you need a deep, broad medical background.” Psychiatrists are medical doctors, while psychologists have doctorates in behavioral health.

And he said he fears that drugs too often are prescribed instead of, rather than in addition to, counseling and therapy, because medication is faster and cheaper.

“That’s a very compelling argument,” he said. “But how are you defining cost? Getting the soldier back into combat and letting someone else take care of him later?”

“With drugs, very rarely are you dealing with the real problem. You’re numbing it.”

Troops Invited:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you

request publication. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone:
917.677.8057

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



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

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

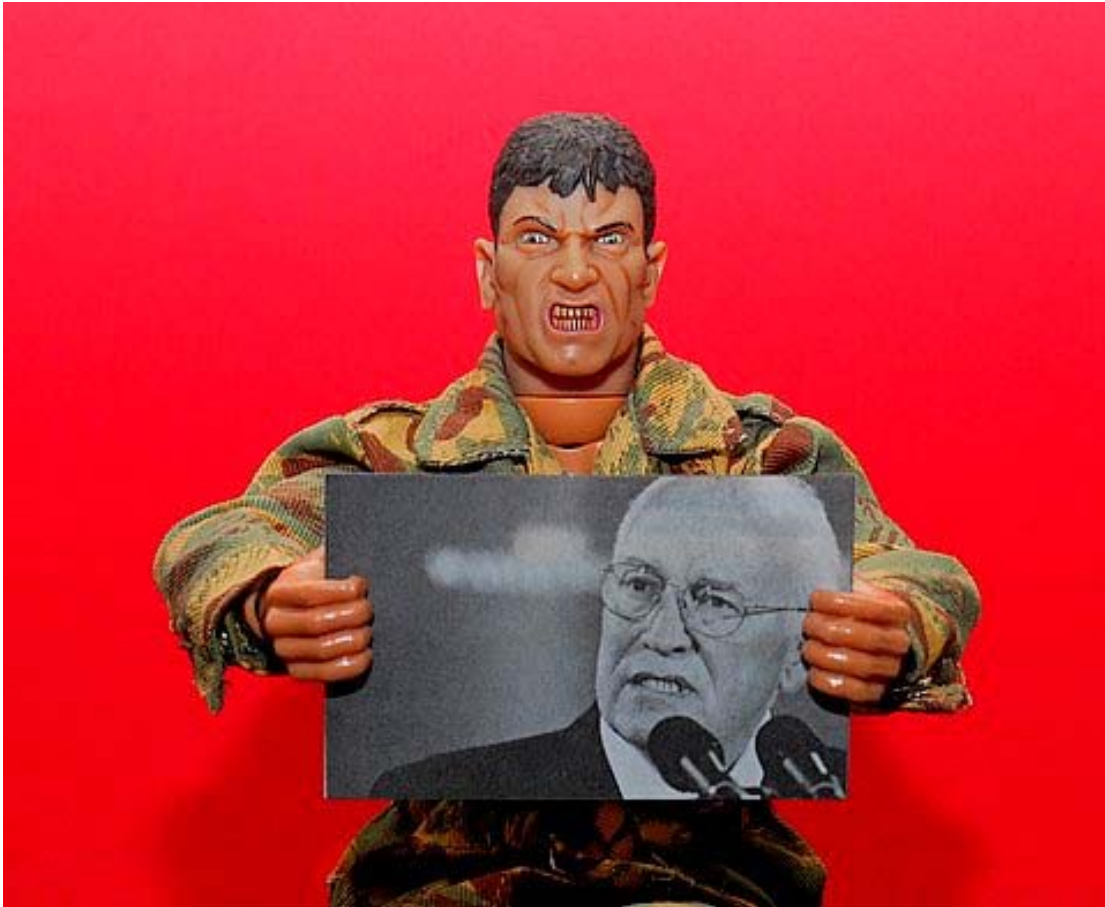
“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

“What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.”
Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787.

“The mighty are only mighty because we are on our knees. Let us rise!”
-- Camille Desmoulins

Dick



From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: February 23, 2009
Subject: Dick

Dick

**If you see this man in public,
please call any Afghanistan,
or Iraq veteran.
Thank you.**

**Mike Hastie
Vietnam Veteran
February 23, 2009**

Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

“Gaza Never Had A Chance”



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

How easy is it to forget that substantial numbers of countries throughout the world today only achieved independence after bitter armed struggles against occupation and their colonial masters.

24 February 2009 By Toufic Haddad, The Electronic Intifada [Excerpts]

Toufic Haddad is a Palestinian-American journalist based in the West Bank town of Bethlehem. He is also the co-author of *Between the Lines: Israel, the Palestinians and the US "War on Terror"* with Israeli author Tikva Honig Parnass, published by Haymarket Books, 2007.

All of a sudden the Palestinian question, whose basis is rooted in a classic anti-colonial nationalist struggle having to do with fighting an occupation for freedom and self-determination, is transformed into a pathogen which must be eradicated.

How easy is it to forget that substantial numbers of countries throughout the world today only achieved independence after bitter armed struggles against occupation and their colonial masters. How convenient to elide that Europe itself had to believe in and organize an armed resistance to occupation when Nazism covered more than half of its landmass.

The transformation of the Palestinian struggle from its colonial birth, to its modern day public execution broadcast on CNN is facilitated through an insipid daily process whereby Palestinians, and people who look and sound like them -- non-English speaking Arabs and Muslims -- are constantly imagined and reproduced through a litany of military experts, commentators, Hollywood movies, drama series and even video games.

The goal is to divide, stereotype and dehumanize at all cost, because providing nuance, history and context is the cardinal sin of the current corporate media age. America and Israel need terror to end now.

Arabs and Palestinians need to accept their fate as subhuman entities, who become the object by which other countries erect their deterrence, as though it were a question of national virility.

Gaza never had a chance.

It has always been the slum of slums, with its million and a half residents crammed into a plot of land with no real means of sustaining itself.

After 60 years of dispossession, and 41 years of military occupation, who was really listening to the residents of its eight refugee camps, 40 percent of whom are unemployed, 80 percent of whom live on UN handouts?

Who needs to ask these questions anyway?

Palestinians know they have Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni looking after their best interests.

During the war, she openly declared that what was happening in Gaza was good for the Palestinians.

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



**The First Bombings Of The
AfPak War Under Obama Came
On January 23:
“Bombing A Country Is An Act Of
War” “Congress Had Not Declared
War On Pakistan, Thus Putting
Obama In Clear Violation Of The
Constitution”**

**“The Same Crowd Calling To ‘Indict
Bush’ Should Also Be Calling To
‘Impeach Obama’”**
**“Obama’s Imperialism Will Not Go Away
Despite The Tut-Tutting Of The PC
Crowd — Any More Than His Kowtowing
To The Banksters”**

Similarly Cagan’s United for Peace and Justice, dominated by the “Progressive” Democrats of America (“P”DA) and the “Communist” Party of the U.S.A (“C”PUSA) — more or less the same thing, not because “P”DA is radical but because the “C”PUSA is not — has been all too silent on Obama’s AfPak War.

February 25th, 2009 by John Walsh, Dissident Voice

[Thanks to Ward Reilly for posting.]

In the Wall Street Journal of January 24, the loathsome McCarthyite neocon David Horowitz gazed approvingly on the inauguration of Barack Obama.

To Horowitz it meant the removal of an obstacle to war. Thus he wrote:

“Consider: When President Obama commits this nation to war against the Islamic terrorists, as he already has in Afghanistan, he will take millions of previously alienated and disaffected Americans with him, and they will support our troops in a way that most of his party has refused to support them until now.

“When another liberal, Bill Clinton went to war from the air, there was no anti-war movement in the streets or in his party’s ranks to oppose him. That is an encouraging fact for us . . .”

Horowitz is now locked in fast embrace with Katrina Vanden Heuvel, editor in chief of The Nation and Leslie Cagan and her cohorts at United For Peace and Justice (UFPJ).

Vanden Heuvel’s most recent piece in The Nation runs under a title in the form of a query, “Obama’s War?”

Whose war does she think it is anyway?

Even the mainstream media calls it Obama’s war — sans question mark.

Her piece ran shortly after Obama ordered 17,000 more troops to Afghanistan and almost a month after both Afghan and Pakistani civilians were first bombed at Obama's orders.

She concludes her piece, after citing the deployment of additional troops, "Up to this point the Afghan war belonged to George W. Bush, but Obama's escalation *threatens* to make it his own. There's still time to change direction. President Obama don't make this your war!"

(Emphasis mine. If escalation of the AfPak war (the war on Afghanistan and Pakistan) only "threatens" to make the war Obama's, what will it take to give him ownership?)

Having supported Obama during the election when he was very clear about his coming Crusade in Afghanistan and having made no demands in exchange for their support, the liberals are now reduced, their leverage gone, to begging for a change in course.

Pity, pathos, disgust or a sense of betrayal — it is hard to know what to feel when one encounters this stuff.

Similarly Cagan's United for Peace and Justice, dominated by the "Progressive" Democrats of America ("P"DA) and the "Communist" Party of the U.S.A ("C"PUA) — more or less the same thing, not because "P"DA is radical but because the "C"PUA is not — has been all too silent on Obama's AfPak War.

As a result there have been discordant rumblings among the rank and file about UFPJ's failure to call a national demonstration against the wars flaring from Iraq to Pakistan and refusal to join the only one called, that by ANSWER (Act Now To Stop War and End Racism) for March 21.

The first bombings of the AfPak war under Obama came on January 23, almost a month ago.

Bombing a country is an act of war, and last time I looked Congress had not declared war on Pakistan, thus putting Obama in clear violation of the Constitution.

The same crowd calling to "Indict Bush" should also be calling to "Impeach Obama."

Clearly a national action is called for in protest, but only ANSWER has done so.

In fact until last Friday, Afghanistan was only mentioned in small print on the UFPJ web page.

When ANSWER called for a national mobilization, UFPJ announced local actions for April 4, with no special mention of the AfPak war.

This appears to be an attempt to divert people from the only national action to be called which will be a major embarrassment to Obama if the numbers are large.

And a lot of people on the UFPJ national discussion groups, this writer included, have been told to shut up when protesting UFPJ's inaction.

But Obama's imperialism will not go away despite the tut-tutting of the PC crowd — any more than his kowtowing to the banksters.

Let us be clear. I make no special brief for ANSWER. Their exclusionary politics are really not all that different from UFPJ's, which loves to red bait them.

(That is an amazing thing for those who call themselves “communists” or “progressives” to do.)

But at least ANSWER has not been hypnotized into supporting Empire because the Dems are now in the imperial drivers' seat.

In this act of courage, they resemble the Libertarians and Greens and Naderites and many writers at The American Conservative who are consistent and impassioned in their aversion to war. That tells me we need a new and broad based antiwar movement which is open to one and all with an aversion to empire, no matter their feelings about tax breaks, abortion, national health insurance or anything else.

Clearly UFPJ, the liberal democrats and others of that ilk are incapable of building such a movement — nor do they want to.

We can only hope it will be born. Meanwhile I will be in DC for the ANSWER demonstration on March 21. For the moment it is the only game in a town now ruled by Emperor Obama and the Dems.

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

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

**My Mother Is A Terrorist!
“I Hope They'll Let Me Visit My Mom
In Her Interrogation Cell”
She Thought Her Article Was Satire, But
U.S. Officials Didn't Get The Joke.**

February 26, 2009 By Rosa Brooks, Los Angeles Times

My mother is a terrorist!

Or at least that's what certain unidentified U.S. interrogators seem to suspect.

It all stems from a satirical article called "How to Build Your Own Home H-Bomb" that my mother, Barbara Ehrenreich, wrote with two coauthors 30 years ago.

The article, published in Seven Days magazine, was chock-full of helpful tips for would-be nuclear bomb makers.

For instance, it advised those struggling to enrich uranium to make "a simple home centrifuge. Fill a standard-size bucket one-quarter full of liquid uranium hexafluoride. Attach a six-foot rope to the bucket handle. Now swing the (bucket) around your head as fast as possible. Keep this up for about 45 minutes."

It's a good thing the Iranians haven't discovered this technique.

But don't chuckle. If you're reading this, and you ever admit it (and believe me, if tortured, you'll admit anything), you never know what might happen.

Just ask Binyam Mohamed, who was released from Guantanamo to his home in Britain this week after nearly seven years of detention.

His lawyers believe that he was suspected of being a terrorist, in part, because he confessed to having read my mother's article.

Mohamed, an Ethiopian refugee, moved to Britain with his father in 1994. In June 2001, Mohamed -- then 22 -- traveled to Afghanistan. When the war began there in October 2001, he fled to Pakistan. In April 2002, he tried to fly back to Britain, but his papers weren't in order and he was detained by Pakistani authorities.

According to his lawyers, he was then subjected to brutal interrogation by Pakistani and U.S. agents, who seemed convinced that he was a top Al Qaeda figure in possession of nuclear secrets.

They say he was beaten and threatened with death, then "rendered"-- apparently with CIA cooperation -- in July 2002 to Morocco, where interrogators repeatedly slashed his genitals with a scalpel.

At some point, they say, Mohamed began to confess to an impressive range of sins. Pressed for details about his purported nuclear know-how, for instance, Mohamed admitted that he had, indeed, once read my mother's article on the Web, but said it was just a spoof.

They didn't get the joke.

According to Mohamed's attorneys, who have had access to classified records, the article seems to have been deemed a crucial piece of "evidence" against their client.

An intelligence-community game of Telephone ensued, in which Mohamed's "confession" that he'd read up on the manufacture of nuclear weapons was passed along from interrogator to interrogator, until U.S. authorities convinced themselves that Mohamed was part of a dangerous nuclear plot against the United States.

Mohamed, whose mental health was rapidly deteriorating, was transferred to Guantanamo and charged with conspiracy to aid Al Qaeda.

He asserted that he was not guilty and had confessed only as a result of torture. But when his defense attorneys sought access to the records they believed would exonerate him, the U.S. government refused to turn them over. By 2007, the attorneys said, Mohamed had become so unstable that he was smearing his feces on his cell wall.

Eventually, the frustrated military lawyer assigned to prosecute Mohamed resigned to protest his own office's withholding of crucial evidence, and in the end, all charges were dropped.

This week, Mohamed was finally released from Guantanamo and allowed to return home to Britain a free man.

Still, many details of Mohamed's case remain secret.

The Bush administration agreed to release Mohamed to British authorities only on the condition that details relating to his interrogation remain classified. Mohamed's attorneys went to court over the issue, and on Feb. 4, the British High Court of Justice reluctantly agreed to the continued suppression of details about Mohamed's interrogation.

But the court openly expressed its dismay that "a democracy governed by the rule of law (the U.S.) would expect a court in another democracy (Britain) to suppress ... evidence contained in reports by its own officials ... where the evidence was relevant to allegations of torture, ... politically embarrassing though it might be."

It's definitely embarrassing to be known as a nation that tortured detainees, and for the U.S. officials who authorized Mohamed's torture, the consequences, if made public, could be worse than just embarrassing.

By now, though, U.S. officials are fairly used to this form of political embarrassment.

My guess is that records of Mohamed's interrogation would show something else that's just as embarrassing for the U.S.: the inability of many of our ace intelligence experts to tell the difference between threats posed by serious terrorist masterminds and the threat posed by a hapless young man who once read a satirical article about how to make nuclear weapons.

I hope they'll let me visit my mom in her interrogation cell.

Comment Posted On This Article:

February 26, 2009 By Syed Salamah Ali Mahdi

“Our ace intelligence experts” are neither intelligent nor experts!

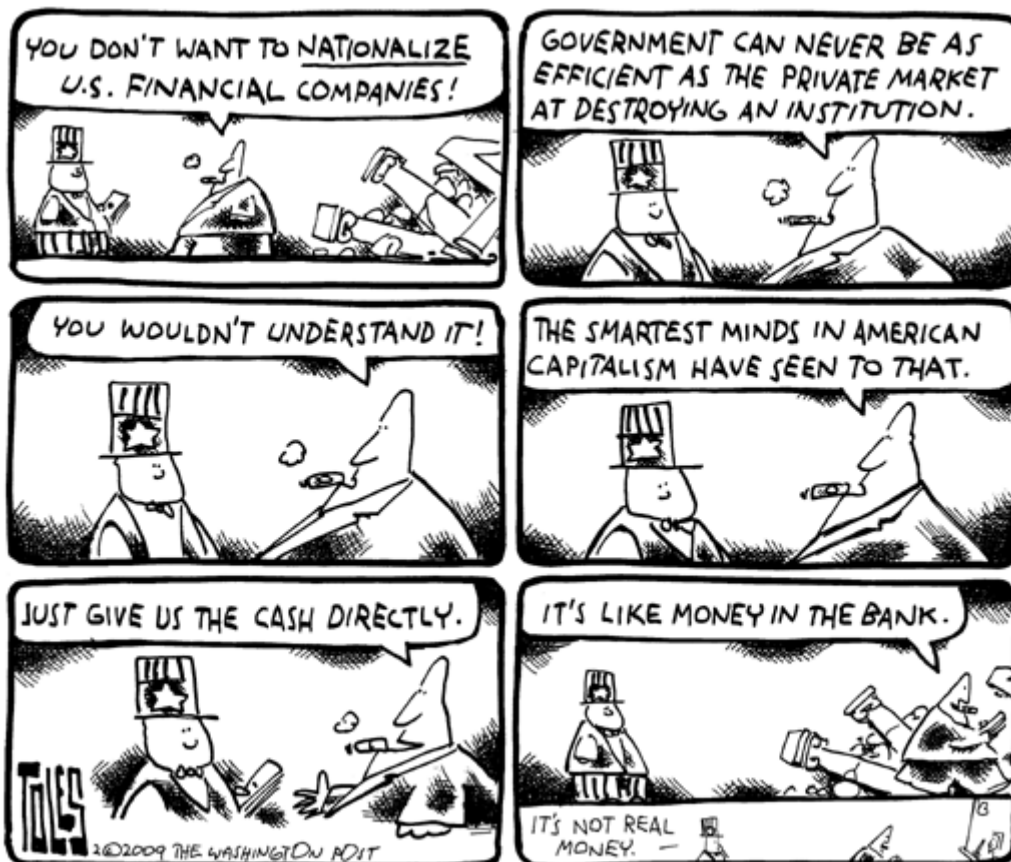
A month or so back, I witnessed a TV report on the discovery of weapons and incendiary bombs in an “Al Qaeda” hide out in Baghdad PLUS “Al Qaeda MANUALS on TERRORIST TACTICS” blah blah blah!

And then the TV CAMERA focused on the MANUAL and what did I see?

The first page of several A4 pages in Arabic, stapled at one corner with the 1st Page titled “MATHEMATICS - Second Year - Higher Secondary (Syllabus)”!

Having seen this, how could I be sure that the pistols and hand grenades shown earlier had not been planted by ... you know who!

CLASS WAR REPORTS



RECEIVED:

LIVE FROM DEATH ROW

Mumia Abu-Jamal, Pennsylvania death row prisoner, from his book *Live from Death Row*

The tour features death row prisoners speaking live via speakerphone. Including:

MUMIA ABU-JAMAL

Pennsylvania death row prisoner, author of *Live from Death Row*, *We Want Freedom* and numerous other books

JOHN BOOTH-EL

On death row in Maryland for 25 years, whose case was heard by the US Supreme Court in 1997

KEVIN COOPER

California death row prisoner who came within 30 hours of being executed before he won a stay of execution

TROY DAVIS

On death row in Georgia and came within hours of execution in 2007 before he won a stay

RENALDO HUDSON

Former death row prisoner in Illinois, whose sentence commuted to life in prison

STANLEY HOWARD

Former death row prisoner and torture victim still imprisoned in Illinois; contributing writer to the *New Abolitionist*

TIMOTHY MCKINNEY

Tennessee death row prisoner whose case was recently heard in the Tennessee Criminal Court of Appeals.

Over 3,500 men and women sit on death row across this country. This national tour will bring you their voices and their struggles.

Tuesday, March 10 7PM

City College

137th St. & Amsterdam
NAC Ballroom

Lawrence Hayes

former NYS death row prisoner

Yusef Salaam

exonerated in the Central Park jogger case

info: nyc@nodeathpenalty.org

**CAMPAIGN TO
END THE DEATH
PENALTY**

nodeathpenalty.org
773-955-4841

Endorsed by: Amnesty International USA, Free Mumia Coalition-NYC, International Socialist Organization, Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights, Prison Radio, Stanley Tookie Williams Legacy Network, The Welfare Poets

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/)



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

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

