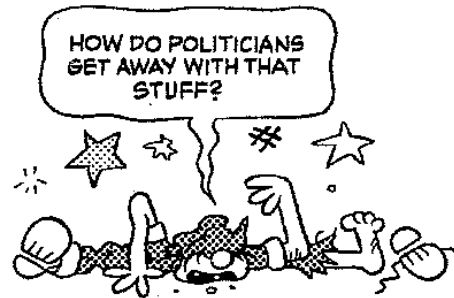


## GI SPECIAL 7D13:



# Pay 'Stop-Lossed' IRR

Letter To The Editor  
April 20, 2009  
Army Times

There are many soldiers who have served their active duty, National Guard and Army Reserve contracts, left the military and were subsequently called back to active duty from Individual Ready Reserve status to serve another tour at war.

Wouldn't you consider this a stop-loss ... to their lives?

These soldiers who have been called back from the IRR should be qualified for the stop-loss pay for every month they serve.

Of course, there should be stipulations — soldiers who have served out their previous contracts and been honorably discharged to the IRR should be the ones compensated.

I am an activated IRR soldier with the 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, a unit from Pennsylvania. I'm from California, and there are more IRR soldiers who have been attached to this unit that are from various parts of the U.S. who have served their contracts and wouldn't mind compensation for their lives being stop-lossed.

Spc. Kris Quinones  
Camp Taji, Iraq

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## IRAQ WAR REPORTS

# Insurgents Shell Green Zone

19 April 2009 (AP)

BAGHDAD – Militants shelled Baghdad's protected Green Zone on Saturday in the first such bombardment in more than three months.

The back-to-back strikes reverberated across the Tigris River to a popular promenade, sending families packing up from fish restaurants and abruptly halting a party at a club.

The U.S. military said the Green Zone was hit by two "indirect fire" rounds — which typically means either rockets or mortars — but there were no casualties or damage reported.

A police official says the rounds were fired from eastern Baghdad.

The attack came during a light sandstorm, which prevents helicopter patrols and gives militants cover.

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## GET THE MESSAGE?



Tens of thousands thronged Baghdad to mark the sixth anniversary of the city's fall to U.S. troops, and to demand they leave immediately April 9, 2009. (AP Photo/Karim Kadim)

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# **Some Good News: “Nationalist Suspicion Of Foreign Involvement In The Country's Oil Sector” Might Drive Top Operators Away**

Apr 19 (AFP)

The development of Iraq's massive oil and gas reserves could be hampered by its chaotic politics and lack of interest in proposed projects, an economic newsletter warned on Sunday.

“Politics -- international, domestic, ethnic and party-based -- has dominated every aspect of discussions of Iraq's post-invasion oil development,” the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said in its weekly report.

The report said companies have warned that “nationalist suspicion of foreign involvement in the country's oil sector” has had a negative effect on the bidding process and might drive top operators away.

The country has the world's third largest proven reserves of oil, with more than 115 billion barrels, behind only Saudi Arabia and Iran.

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Family Mourns Hopewell Airman Slain In Afghanistan**

April 7, 2009 By Reed Williams, Richmond Times-Dispatch

The mother of an Air Force sergeant whose body was returned from war Sunday said she is glad news media coverage will allow Americans to see how respectfully the military honors its dead.

Staff Sgt. Phillip Myers of Hopewell died Saturday from an explosion near Helmand province in Afghanistan. With his family's permission, the military allowed the media to cover the arrival at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware, the first public return since the Pentagon lifted its 18-year ban on coverage of returning war dead.

Myers' mother, Treasa Hamilton of Polkton, N.C., said yesterday that such media coverage will allow Americans to visualize better what is happening overseas.

"They hear 30 people killed in Iraq -- they've gotten used to it," Hamilton said.

"This brings it back to the forefront. They can actually see the soldiers coming home."

Myers' wife, Aimee Myers, permitted the coverage because her husband believed in his role overseas and would want the public to witness the dignity with which the war dead are returned home, Hamilton said. Aimee Myers was unavailable for comment.

"It was all very well done," Hamilton said of Sunday evening's ceremony in Dover. "It was very respectful."

Myers, a 30-year-old father of two children, had been scheduled to leave Afghanistan in mid-May and would have been moved to Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico, Hamilton said.

She said her son told her last week that he wanted to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery if he were killed, a request he had made previously. She said yesterday that Myers will be buried there but that a date had not been set.

Myers was assigned to the 48th Civil Engineer Squadron with the Royal Air Force in Lankenhath, England, a base that is used by the U.S. Air Force.

He was a member of an explosive ordnance disposal team, and part of his job was to disarm improvised explosive devices, his mother said. She said she didn't know whether he had been trying to disarm the IED that killed him.

"It took a lot of courage and nerves of steel, because he was constantly handling explosives and on the lookout for explosives," Hamilton said.

She said Myers had served in Iraq and Kuwait, as well as in Afghanistan, and that he had conducted bomb sweeps in Washington to protect then-President George W. Bush.

Myers attended Hopewell High School and joined the Air Force in 1999, Hamilton said. Relatives described him as a dedicated military man who believed he was protecting his friends, his family and his country.

He was especially protective of his children and would make sure his daughter, 5-year-old Dakotah, wouldn't watch TV shows with bad language, family members said.

His 2-year-old son, Kaiden, likes to build things with Legos just as his father did when he was little, Hamilton said. Once, Kaiden built a pretend gun. "He said, 'Now I have a gun like Daddy for the bad guys,'" Hamilton said.

A ceremony to honor Myers is planned for Thursday in England, Hamilton said. Hopewell Mayor Brenda S. Pelham said the city also would like to have a service for Myers if his family wishes it.

"My heart just hurts every time I see a young person" killed overseas, Pelham said.

Myers is survived by his wife and children, as well as his mother, father, brother and stepfather.

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# Community Gathers To Honor Fallen Marine



April 8, 2009 (WSYR-TV)

The parents of fallen Oneida County Marine Lance Corporal Blaise Oleski are in Dover, Delaware Wednesday night, awaiting the return of their son's body.

Oleski is the second Marine from the Rome area to be killed in Afghanistan in less than three weeks.

Oleski was a 2004 graduate of Holland Patent High School and served in the same unit as Lance Corporal Daniel Geary, who was killed March 20.

In Floyd, Oleski's hometown, neighbors are doing what they can Wednesday night to honor him.

The flag at Floyd Town Hall has been lowered to half-staff in honor of the 22-year old who died doing what he was meant to do.

Guidance counselors at Holland Patent High School say from day one, Blaise Oleski wanted to join the service.

Volunteer firefighters set out to show their respects for the fallen Marine as well.

"The ultimate sacrifice for our community, for our country -- it's just our little bit of showing our respect for him," says John Stark Sr. of the Floyd Fire Department.

Floyd is the type of community that's small enough to care about each and every member, even if they don't know each and every member.

"It saddens us. Really saddens us," says Stark.

Oleski's parents got the news at 5:00 Wednesday morning, and headed to Dover soon after. There, they will deal with what is by far the most difficult task a parent faces -- the death of their child.

"It's just terrible," Stark says. "No way else to put it. Just terrible."

In many respects, the war has taken a back seat to the economy -- it seems far away and removed. But to the Floyd community, it's now far too close.

"They know what they got to do...hopefully they make it back safe. It's a terrible travesty," Stark says.

Rome mayor James Brown says he's already spoken with the police and fire departments, as well as the VFW. They want to show the same outpouring they did for the funeral of Lance Corp. Daniel Geary.

A family friend says Oleski's body should be back in Dover Thursday, and must remain there for three days before returning to Floyd.

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## Resistance Action

4.18.09 Associated Press & (AFP) & Apr 19 (AFP)

**Dozens of armed Taliban militants stormed a police post in southwestern Afghanistan overnight, killing five policemen, an official said Sunday.**

The post, manned by a small number of policemen, was overpowered after the rebels attacked it near the town of Farah in the remote province of the same name, said Mohammad Younus Rasouli, deputy provincial governor.

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A roadside bomb targeted a police vehicle in Kandahar city. The bomb was placed on a bicycle close to the city's main hospital. Two police officers were wounded, and one of the injured civilians was being held as a suspect in the attack, Mr. Khan said.

In Parwan, a province north of the capital Kabul, five bank security guards were killed and five were wounded in a shootout involving unknown attackers, the province's governor Abdul Jabar Taqwa said. The guards came under attack late Friday night as they returned from delivering money in the central province of Bamiyan, Taqwa said.

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## ***Good News For The Afghan Resistance!!***

# **U.S. Occupation Commands' Stupid Tactics Recruit Even More Fighters To Kill U.S. Troops**



Foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. soldiers stop an Afghan citizen at gunpoint, force him out of his car, and search the car and his body during a patrol in Logar province April 13, 2009. REUTERS/Ahmad Masood

**[Fair is fair. Let's bring 50,000 Afghan troops over here to the USA. They can kill people at checkpoints, bust into their houses with force and violence, butcher their families, overthrow the government, put a new one in office they like better and call it "sovereign," and "detain" anybody who doesn't like it in some prison without any charges being filed against them, or any trial.]**

**[Those Afghans are sure a bunch of backward primitives. They actually resent this help, have the absurd notion that it's bad their country is occupied by a foreign military dictatorship, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to grab their country.]**

**What a bunch of silly people. How fortunate they are to live under a military dictatorship run by Barrack Obama. Why, how could anybody not love that? You'd want that in your home town, right?]**

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## **Taliban Kill Informer For CIA Drone Attacks**

April 19, 2009 Daily Times Monitor

LAHORE: In a video released last week, the Taliban are seen shooting a 19-year-old after he confesses to planting small transmitter chips that guide CIA's drones to their targets.

**“I was given Rs 10,000 to drop chips wrapped in cigarette paper at Al Qaeda and Taliban houses,” he said. “If I was successful, I was told I would be given thousands of dollars ...**

**“The money was good so I started throwing the chips all over. I knew people were dying because of what I was doing, but I needed the money.”**

“We used to watch these planes, but had no idea they were chasing us and taking pictures of our activities,” said a Taliban commander in North Waziristan. “In the early days ... our training camps were visible and people would come and go. We were not so concerned about the security of our locations, but that has all changed now. We abandoned all our old camps and re-located to new places.”

The commander said 40 training camps had been moved because their friends in Afghanistan had tipped them off about planned US attacks.

The commander said that the Americans had then started paying Pakistani and Afghan citizens to identify their locations.

“Finally, with the help of our sources in the Pakistani and Afghan intelligence agencies, we detained two Afghan tribesmen, who after five days of interrogation, confessed to spying for US forces in Afghanistan. They revealed other names and then we knew there were entire networks of spies operating in our areas,” he said.

A government official said the Taliban had recently executed more than 100 alleged spies in North Waziristan.

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

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

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



## **UNREMITTING HELL ON EARTH; ALL HOME NOW**



A roadside bomb exploded in Naad Ali district of the southern Helmand province February 8, 2009 as two U.S. soldiers attempted to defuse the bomb, killing them.  
REUTERS/Stringer

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## **TROOP NEWS**

### **600 From Oregon Guard Off To Obama's Imperial Slaughterhouse**

April 20, 2009 Army Times

Oregon National Guard troops with 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, were expected to ship out to California by April 12 for training at Camp Roberts.

The unit will then be sent to Fort Stewart, Ga., for additional training in May before heading for a yearlong deployment in Iraq in early summer.

There are more than 600 soldiers headed for Iraq.

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# 560 From Minnesota Guard Off To Obama's Imperial Slaughterhouse

April 20, 2009 Army Times

About 560 Minnesota National Guard soldiers of 1st Bat-talion, 151st Field Artillery, are training to support Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The soldiers are scheduled to leave April 19 for training in Texas, and then will head to north-central Kuwait three months later. The troops' duties are expected to include escorting convoys in Iraq.

They're scheduled to return to Minnesota in April 2010.

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## THIS IS HOW OBAMA BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE



The remains of Army Private Second Class Bryce E. Gautier, of Cypress, Ca., at Dover Air Force Base, Del. April 12, 2009. Gautier died April 10, 2009, when his military vehicle was struck by an explosive device in Mosul, Iraq. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

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# Green Bay Reservist Who Refused Iraq Duty Demoted

04/18/2009 Pioneer Press

A Green Bay Army Reservist who initially refused to return to his unit in Iraq because he considered the war immoral has received his punishment.

An Army official said Kristoffer Walker was demoted from specialist to private, fined and placed on temporary confinement at a Missouri base.

Walker, 28, returned to the U.S. for medical reasons Thursday. He is on 45-day base restriction at Fort Leonard Wood and had his pay cut in half for two months.

Army spokesman Lt. Col. Nathan Banks said there would be no further punitive action.

Walker was on two weeks' leave in January when he failed to show up for the return flight and said he would not go back because of his objections to the war.

He reconsidered later and made arrangements to rejoin his unit.

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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 Douglass, 1852**

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## ***The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising*** **April 19, 1943: Solemn Anniversary:** **In Memory Of Those Who Died** **Courageously Resisting An Imperial** **Army Of Occupation, Arms In Hand**



A resistance fighter with a homemade flame thrower during the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.  
[citizenship.typepad]

Carl Bunin Peace History April 13-19

On the eve of Passover, the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising began when Nazi forces attempted to clear out the Jewish ghetto in Warsaw, Poland, to send them to concentration camps.

The destruction of the ghetto had been ordered in February by SS Chief Heinrich Himmler:

“An overall plan for the razing of the ghetto is to be submitted to me. In any case we must achieve the disappearance from sight of the living-space for 500,000 sub-humans (Untermenschen) that has existed up to now, but could never be suitable for Germans,

and reduce the size of this city of millions — Warsaw — which has always been a center of corruption and revolt.”

From: Ushmm.org [Excerpt]:

In the summer of 1942, about 300,000 Jews were deported from Warsaw to Treblinka.

When reports of mass murder in the killing center leaked back to the Warsaw ghetto, a surviving group of mostly young people formed an organization called the Z.O.B. (for the Polish name, Żydowska Organizacja Bojowa, which means Jewish Fighting Organization).

The Z.O.B., led by 23-year-old Mordecai Anielewicz, issued a proclamation calling for the Jewish people to resist going to the railroad cars.

In January 1943, Warsaw ghetto fighters fired upon German troops as they tried to round up another group of ghetto inhabitants for deportation. Fighters used a small supply of weapons that had been smuggled into the ghetto.

After a few days, the troops retreated.

This small victory inspired the ghetto fighters to prepare for future resistance.

**The Nazis began the final liquidation of the ghetto the eve of Passover, April 19, 1943.**

The Warsaw ghetto uprising began after German troops and police entered the ghetto to deport its surviving inhabitants. Seven hundred and fifty fighters fought the heavily armed and well-trained Germans.

The ghetto fighters were able to hold out for nearly a month, but on May 16, 1943, the revolt ended.

The Germans had slowly crushed the resistance.

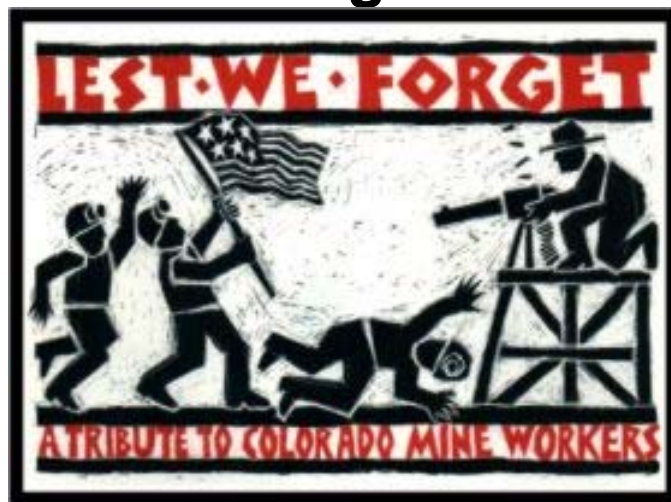
Of the more than 56,000 Jews captured, about 7,000 were shot, and the remainder were deported to killing centers or concentration camps.

**Resisters held off the Nazis for three weeks, using precious few and largely ineffectual weapons, but they were determined to go out fighting, decrease the number of Nazis, and hopefully serve to let the whole world know of the plight of the Jews.**

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## ***The Ludlow Massacre*** **April 20, 1914:**

**Infamous Anniversary:  
Soldiers Dishonor Their Uniforms  
Slaughtering Women And Children  
To Serve The Rich:  
Except For A Few Honorable Soldiers  
Who Resist, The Colorado National  
Guard Becomes Notorious All Over  
The World As Foul, Cowardly Strike-  
Breaking Scum**



**Eighty-two soldiers in a company on a troop train headed for Trinidad refused to go. The men declared they would not engage in the shooting of women and children.**

Carl Bunin Peace History April 16-22 & PBS.org

A lot more than 2,000 miles separated the Rockefeller estate from Southern Colorado when on Monday April 20, 1914, the first shot was fired at Ludlow.

One of history's most dramatic confrontations between capital and labor — the Ludlow massacre — took place at the mines of the Rockefeller-owned Colorado Fuel and Iron Company (CF&I).

**Troops from the Colorado state militia attacked strikers, killing 25 (half women and children), in Ludlow. Two women and eleven children who suffocated in a pit they had dug under their tent.**

Having struck the Rockefeller-owned Colorado Fuel and Iron Company the previous September for improved conditions, better wages, and union recognition, the workers established a tent camp which was fired upon and ultimately torched during the 14-hour siege.

## **The Ludlow Massacre**

[The following was excerpted from Howard Zinn's A PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES (pgs 346-349).]

"... shortly after Woodrow Wilson took office there began in Colorado one of the most bitter and violent struggles between workers and corporate capital in the history of the country.

This was the Colorado coal strike that began in September 1913 and culminated in the 'Ludlow Massacre' of April 1914.

**Eleven thousand miners in southern Colorado ... worked for the Colorado Fuel & Iron Corporation, which was owned by the Rockefeller family.**

**Aroused by the murder of one of their organizers, they went on strike against low pay, dangerous conditions, and feudal domination of their lives in towns completely controlled by the mining companies."**

"When the strike began, the miners were immediately evicted from their shacks in the mining towns. Aided by the United Mine Workers Union, they set up tents in the nearby hills and carried on the strike, the picketing, from these tent colonies.

**The gunmen hired by the Rockefeller interests -- the Baldwin- Felts Detective Agency -- using Gatling guns and rifles, raided the tent colonies.**

**The death list of miners grew, but they hung on, drove back an armored train in a gun battle, fought to keep out strikebreakers.**

**With the miners resisting, refusing to give in, the mines not able to operate, the Colorado governor (referred to by a Rockefeller mine manager as 'our little cowboy governor') called out the National Guard, with the Rockefellers supplying the Guard's wages.**

**"The miners at first thought the Guard was sent to protect them, and greeted its arrival with flags and cheers.**

**They soon found out the Guard was there to destroy the strike.**

The Guard brought strikebreakers in under cover of night, not telling them there was a strike.

**Guardsmen beat miners, arrested them by the hundreds, rode down with their horses parades of women in the streets of Trinidad, the central town in the area.**

And still the miners refused to give in.

When they lasted through the cold winter of 1913-1914, it became clear that extraordinary measures would be needed to break the strike.

**“In April 1914, two National Guard companies were stationed in the hills overlooking the largest tent colony of strikers, the one at Ludlow, housing a thousand men, women, children.**

**On the morning of April 20, a machine gun attack began on the tents.**

**The miners fired back.**

**Their leader was lured up into the hills to discuss a truce, then shot to death by a company of National Guardsmen.**

The women and children dug pits beneath the tents to escape the gunfire.

**At dusk, the Guard moved down from the hills with torches, set fire to the tents, and the families fled into the hills; thirteen people were killed by gunfire.**

**“The following day, a telephone linesman going through the ruins of the Ludlow tent colony lifted an iron cot covering a pit in one of the tents and found the charred, twisted bodies of eleven children and two women.**

This became known as the Ludlow Massacre.

“The news spread quickly over the country.

**In Denver, the United Mine Workers issued a ‘Call to Arms’ -- ‘Gather together for defensive purposes all arms and ammunition legally available.’ Three hundred armed strikers marched from other tent colonies into the Ludlow area, cut telephone and telegraph wires, and prepared for battle.**

**Railroad workers refused to take soldiers from Trinidad to Ludlow.**

**At Colorado Springs, three hundred union miners walked off their jobs and headed for the Trinidad district, carrying revolvers, rifles, shotguns.**

**“In Trinidad itself, miners attended a funeral service for the twenty-six dead at Ludlow, then walked from the funeral to a nearby building, where arms were stacked for them.**

**They picked up rifles and moved into the hills, destroying mines, killing mine guards, exploding mine shafts.**



The press reported that 'the hills in every direction seem suddenly to be alive with men.'

**"In Denver, eighty-two soldiers in a company on a troop train headed for Trinidad refused to go. The press reported: 'The men declared they would not engage in the shooting of women and children.**

**They hissed the 350 men who did start and shouted imprecations at them.**

"Five thousand people demonstrated in the rain on the lawn in front of the state capital at Denver asking that the National Guard officers at Ludlow be tried for murder, denouncing the governor as an accessory.

The Denver Cigar Makers Union voted to send five hundred armed men to Ludlow and Trinidad.

Women in the United Garment Workers Union in Denver announced four hundred of their members had volunteered as nurses to help the strikers.

"All over the country there were meetings, demonstrations.

Pickets marched in front of the Rockefeller office at 26 Broadway, New York City.

A minister protested in front of the church where Rockefeller sometimes gave sermons, and was clubbed by the police.

"The New York Times carried an editorial on the events in Colorado, which were not attracting international attention.

The Times emphasis was not on the atrocity that had occurred, but on the mistake in tactics that had been made.

Its editorial on the Ludlow Massacre began: 'Somebody blundered ... '

Two days later, with the miners armed and in the hills of the mine district, the Times wrote: 'With the deadliest weapons of civilization in the hands of savage-mined men, there can be no telling to what lengths the war in Colorado will go unless it is quelled by force ... The President should turn his attention from Mexico long enough to take stern measures in Colorado.'

"The governor of Colorado asked for federal troops to restore order, and Woodrow Wilson complied.

This accomplished, the strike petered out.

**Congressional committees came in and took thousands of pages of testimony.**

**The union had not won recognition.**

**Sixty-six men, women, and children had been killed.**

**Not one militiaman or mine guard had been indicted for crime.**

“The Times had referred to Mexico.

**On the morning that the bodies were discovered in the tent pit at Ludlow, American warships were attacking Vera Cruz, a city on the coast of Mexico--bombarding it, occupying it, leaving a hundred Mexicans dead--because Mexico had arrested American sailors and refused to apologize to the United States with a twenty-one gun salute.**

Could patriotic fervor and the military spirit cover up class struggle?

Unemployment, hard times, were growing in 1914.

Could guns divert attention and create some national consensus against an external enemy?

It surely was a coincidence--the bombardment of Vera Cruz, the attack on the Ludlow colony.

Or perhaps it was, as someone once described human history, ‘the natural selection of accidents.’

Perhaps the affair in Mexico was an instinctual response of the system for its own survival, to create a unity of fighting purpose among a people torn by internal conflict.

“The bombardment of Vera Cruz was a small incident.

But in four months the First World War would begin in Europe.

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## **OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

**Unarmed Palestinian Civilian  
Murdered By Zionist Storm Troopers  
At Non-Violent Demonstration  
Against Ghetto Wall;  
“The Soldiers Shot Bassem As He Was  
Imploring The Soldiers To Stop Shooting**

## As The Protest A Peaceful One And There Were Children Present”



Local youth rushing Bassem Abu Rahmah to the ambulance after soldiers shot him on Friday – Photo by IMEMC's Haytham Al Khateeb

April 17, 2009 by Ghassan Bannoura, IMEMC News

A Palestinian man was killed and dozens more injured on Friday during the weekly nonviolent protest in Bil'in village, near the central west Bank city of Ramallah.

Local sources told IMEMC that Bassem Ibrahim Abu Rahmah, 30, died when soldiers shot him in the chest with a tear gas bomb.

The residents of Bil'in village marched towards the wall today after Friday prayers. The protest was joined by Israeli and international activists.

Protesters' held banners condemning Israel's ongoing policies and violence against civilians and demanding the release of the Palestinian political prisoners held by the Israeli army.

The protest began in the center of the village then headed towards the Apartheid Wall which is being built on Bil'in land.

An Israeli army unit stationed behind the wall prevented the crowd from going through the gate and fired tear gas canisters and rubber-coated steel bullets to break up the crowd.

In addition to the fatal wounding of Bassem, an international supporter was hit in the head and sustained moderate wounds from Israeli fire. Dozens were treated for gas inhalation.

**Abdullah Abu Rahmah, from the local committee against the Wall and Settlements told IMEMC that the soldiers shot Bassem with a new type of gas bomb as he was**

**imploping the soldiers to stop shooting as the protest a peaceful one and there were children present.**

Abdullah Abu Rahmah added that Bassem will be buried on Saturday after the midday prayers.

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by foreign Neo-Nazi terrorists, go to: [www.rafahtoday.org](http://www.rafahtoday.org) The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves “Israeli.”]

**MORE:**

## **Premeditated Murderers At Work**

4.19.09: Richardsilverstein.com/tikun\_olam [Excerpts]

**Every demonstrator knows that the IDF uses the tear gas canisters as a weapon rather than for crowd dispersal.**

**Every demonstrator knows that the IDF fires the canisters directly at them.**

This is not a single incident involving a single misdeed. This is a systemic issue involving the IDF deliberately stepping over the line and seeing how much it can get away with before someone with half a conscience pushes back.

What particularly distresses me about virtually all the media reports on this incident is that they dutifully report the IDF lie that the tear gas was shot in the midst of a violent rock-throwing demonstration.

But no reports refer to the YouTube video footage which clearly testifies to the IDF lie.

Some reports like this one don't even acknowledge the witnesses claim that there was no provocation for the attack and no stone throwing to which the IDF was responding.

Further, AFTER the IDF has fired the fatal shot, a soldier says to one the demonstrators in a threatening tone: “You want more gas?” This is heinous, wanton disregard for human life.

But of course these are Palestinians lives and so to the IDF they are not quite human.

Perhaps somewhere in value between a dog and a human.

So this death isn't really a human death, but rather something like the 3/4 of a vote for which each African-American slave counted according to the original U.S. constitution.

**MORE:**

## **“A Jew to Zionist Fighters, 1988”**

**“Do You Really Want To Be The New  
Gestapo?”  
“The New Wehrmacht?”  
“The New SA And SS?”  
[Now We Know Their Answer Is “Yes!”]**

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

**Something very different: a poem.**

**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.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**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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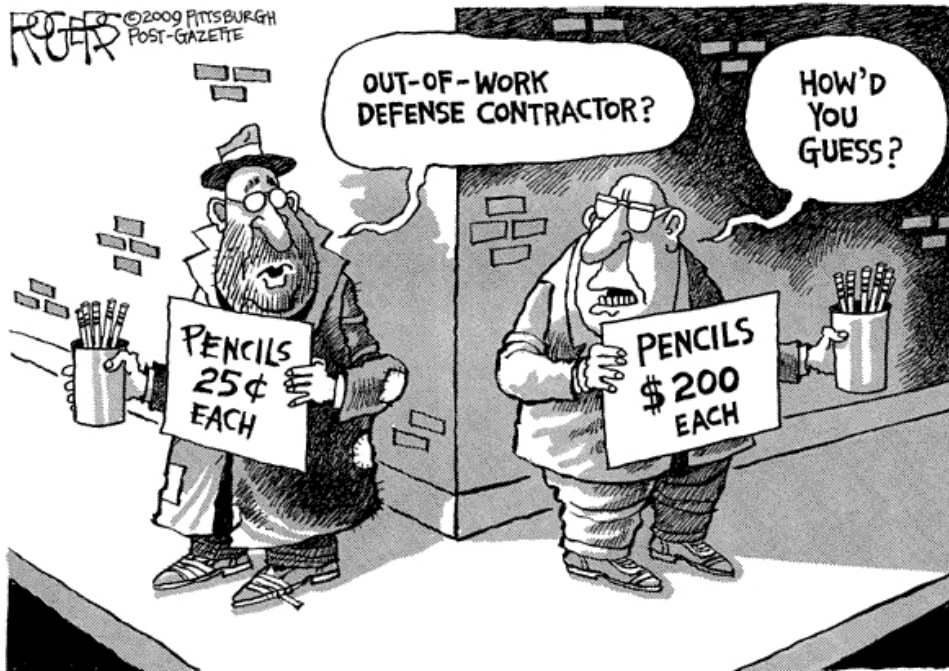
## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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

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## CLASS WAR REPORTS



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

### **Troops Invited:**

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## **THAILAND:**

**“A Growing Class War Between  
The Poor And The Old Elites”**



# **“Ordinary Soldiers, Recruited From Poor Families, Support The Red Shirts”**

## **“The Red Shirts Represent Millions Of Thais Who Are Sick And Tired Of Military And Palace Intervention In Politics”**



Photo: <http://schoenes-thailand.de/>

April 13, 2009 By Giles Ji Ungpakorn, Guardian (UK) [Excerpts]

Giles Ji Ungpakorn is a Thai academic and dissident who was targeted by the government for the supposed crime of “lese majesty”--essentially, “disloyalty” to Thailand's head of state, King Bhumibol. To avoid censorship and a possible prison sentence of 15 years, he fled to Britain earlier this year.

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What we have been seeing in Thailand since late 2005 is a growing class war between the poor and the old elites.

It is, of course, not a pure class war. Due to a vacuum on the left in the past, millionaire and populist politicians like Taksin Shinawat have managed to provide leadership to the poor.

The urban and rural poor, who form the majority of the electorate, are the Red Shirts. They want the right to choose their own democratically elected government.



**They started out as passive supporters of Thaksin's Thai Rak Thai government. But they have now formed a brand new citizens' movement for what they call "Real Democracy."**

For them, "Real Democracy" means an end to the long-accepted "quiet dictatorship" of the Army generals and the palace.

This situation allowed the generals, the King's advisors in the Privy Council and the conservative elites to act as though they were above the Constitution. Lese majeste laws and intermittent repression have been used to silence opposition.

Ever since 2006, these elites have blatantly acted against election results by staging a military coup, using the courts to twice dissolve Thaksin's party, and backing Yellow Shirt mob violence in the streets. The present misnamed People's Alliance for Democracy government was maneuvered into place by the Army.

Most of those in the Red Shirt movement support Taksin for good reasons. His government put in place many modern pro-poor policies, including Thailand's first-ever universal health care system.

Yet the Red Shirts are not merely Taksin puppets.

There is a dialectical relationship between Taksin and the Red Shirts. His leadership provides encouragement and confidence to fight.

Yet the Red Shirts are self-organized in community groups, and some are showing frustration with Taksin's lack of progressive leadership, especially over his insistence that they continue to be "loyal" to the Crown.

Over the past few days, the Red Shirts have shown signs of self-leadership to such an extent that the old Red Shirt politicians are running to keep up.

A Republican movement is growing.

Many left-leaning Thais like myself are not Taksin supporters. We opposed his human rights abuses. But we are the left wing of the citizens' movement for Real Democracy.

THE YELLOW are conservative Royalists. Some have fascist tendencies. Their guards carry and use firearms.

They supported the 2006 coup, wrecked Government House and blocked the international airports last year.

Behind them was the Army. That is why troops never shot at the Yellow Shirts. That is why the present Oxford- and Eton-educated Thai prime minister has done nothing to punish the Yellow Shirts. After all, he appointed some to his cabinet.

The aims of the Yellow Shirts are to reduce the voting power of the electorate in order to protect the conservative elites and the "bad old ways" of running Thailand. They see increased citizen empowerment as a threat and propose a "New Order" dictatorship,

where people are allowed to vote, but most MPs and public positions are not up for election.

They are supported by the mainstream Thai media, most middle-class academics and even NGO leaders.

The NGOs have disgraced themselves over the last few years by siding with the Yellows or remaining silent in the face of the general attack on democracy. Despite being well-meaning, their lack of politics has let them down, and they have been increasingly drawn to the right.

When we talk about the “palace,” we have to make a distinction between the King and all those who surround him.

The King has always been weak and lacking in any democratic principles. The Palace has been used to legitimize past and present dictatorships.

As a “stabilizing force,” the monarchy has only helped to stabilize the interests of the elite.

The immensely wealthy King is also opposed to any wealth redistribution. The Queen is an extreme reactionary. However, the real people with power among the Thai elites are the Army and high-ranking state officials.

If one is to understand and judge the violent acts which have been taking place in Thailand, we need a sense of history and perspective. Perspective is needed to distinguish between damaging property and injuring or killing people. With this perspective, it is clear that the Yellow Shirts and the Army are the violent ones.

A sense of history helps to explain why Red Shirt citizens are now exploding in anger.

They have had to endure the military jackboot, repeated theft of their democratic rights, continued acts of violence against them and general abuse from the mainstream media and academia.

**If they continue to resist, cracks may appear in the Army. During the past four years, Thai citizens have become highly politicized.**

**Ordinary soldiers, recruited from poor families, support the Red Shirts.**

The stakes are very high. Any compromise has the risk of instability because it will satisfy almost no one.

The old elites might want to do a deal with Thaksin to stop the Red Shirts from becoming totally Republican.

But whatever happens, Thai society cannot go back to the old days.

The Red Shirts represent millions of Thais who are sick and tired of military and palace intervention in politics.

At the very least, they will want a non-political constitutional monarchy. It is hoped that the Red Shirts will continue to move to the left during this round of struggle.

## **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

# **When A Left Activist Is Treated As Sadistically As Other Prisoners Are Every Day, A Writer Is Surprised**

[What he got is par for the course, everyday life inside, and he didn't even get the shit beat out of him, or die from complete lack of medical attention. Visit Prison Legal News: <https://www.prisonlegalnews.org/Default.aspx> But Barrios knew what was waiting. T]

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4/16/0 By David Brotherton, The Guardian (U.K.)

When my colleague Luis Barrios was sent to federal prison five weeks ago, after being convicted of trespassing - a "class B" misdemeanor typically warranting a fine, community service or short-term imprisonment in a county jail - during a protest at the infamous School of the Americas, I said to him: "At least you'll be in Manhattan, at least you'll be near family and friends."

"Yes," he said, "but you never know what will happen. You can go in there for a month and come out in a year."

I smiled uneasily, fully aware of such cases but thinking: "He's a well known Episcopalian priest, a full professor and academic chair at the largest school of criminal justice in the country. He'll be held for 60 days at the Metropolitan Correctional Centre in downtown Manhattan, two blocks from city hall. How risky can it be?" **[No, he's about 800,000 miles from City Hall, in another world.]**

As it turns out, a lot can happen in five weeks.

On 11 April, his wife Minerva got to see her husband for the first time since 9 March, when Luis entered the facility at 150 Park Row, escorted by a smiling member of the prison administration, while 60 of his friends and family shouted support for his courageous stand on behalf of international human rights.

We saluted his efforts to expose the workings of an establishment founded by the US department of defense more than a half-century ago - one that has turned out so many murderous members of the Central and South American military and police to fight subversion in the name of democracy.

Little did we know that the torturous activities Luis was protesting would befall him in that highly organised and rationally-managed facility just 20 minutes from his office in New York City.

I began to worry on 20 March, after Luis had been held for 11 days and I had not received a letter or phone call from him.

As a long-time student of inmates and prisons I was used to hearing from the incarcerated within a few days of their internment.

**During the course of the day my colleagues and I began to piece together a disturbing pattern of abuse by the authorities that has become the norm, rather than the exception, in many of our “correctional facilities”.**

**We learned from his wife that, from his first day in prison, Luis was placed in the Special Housing Unit (SHU) of the maximum security section normally reserved for the most dangerous and unruly inmates. [And for new arrivals, pending evaluation and assignment to general population.]**

He was kept there for the next 10 days. Held in solitary, in a cell measuring 10 feet by six feet with only one small window, for 23 hours a day, he had been caged like an animal. **[That’s what prisons are.]**

At times Luis was given a cellmate with whom to share his dungeon-like experience, a place where you eat the inedible, sleep, sit and emit your human waste while covering yourself with a sheet to maintain a modicum of privacy. We learned that one of his cellmates had already been incarcerated for five years and had become - according to Luis, who is a trained psychologist - a “walking time bomb.”

On the fourth day of his stay in the SHU, Luis became very ill. Vomiting and feverish, he complained of pains in his back and stomach but for 12 hours was refused treatment.

Finally, the resident doctor agreed to examine him and decided to send him to a local hospital emergency room, where he was diagnosed with an infection in one kidney and stones in the other. **[12 hours wait for an examination by an MD is almost a speed record. Some wait days, some weeks, some die in their cells waiting, no trip to the hospital for them.]**

On his way to and from the hospital he was strip-searched, his cavities meticulously examined while his hands and feet were placed in manacles. Luis felt this was the ultimate humiliation, a form of dehumanisation used repeatedly across the “system.”

Almost two weeks into his stay Luis received the first visit from his lawyer, followed by a visit from his fellow priest at St Mary's church in Harlem. After almost three weeks Luis was allowed to make his first five-minute phone call to his wife.

After almost four weeks Luis was visited in his cell in the general population wing by an assistant to the warden, and told that he had a “bad attitude.”

The emissary informed Luis that the warden had received a letter from the president of Luis's college protesting the mistreatment of one of his faculty members. The emissary asked Luis to sign a letter denying that he had received such treatment. Luis replied that the accusations were true and could not oblige.

A couple of days ago Luis received another visit from another emissary and gave him the same answer.

On 6 May, providing Luis's prison term is not extended due to his “bad attitude,” my colleague will emerge from this institution in the centre of what many like to think of as the world's most cosmopolitan and civilized cultural capitals.

In one of Luis's most recent letters from prison, he writes: “Under these circumstances with my dear brother inmates I remain highly motivated. My spirit is still looking for peace with justice. Sometimes I think this system has but one goal: to dehumanise and break you. Believe me, this is not going to happen. I'm a person of faith, vision and action. I came in here with my dignity and although I'll be going out differently my commitment to social justice remains intact.”

Remember, this is what can happen to you as a prisoner of conscience on a misdemeanor. Imagine if instead you had committed a serious felony or - god forbid - robbed a bank that you didn't own?

On 26 January, 2009, in a federal courthouse in Georgia, Luis Barrios, along with four others, received sentences of 60 days in a federal penitentiary while a sixth was sentenced to six months of house arrest. The six were found guilty of carrying their protest against the School of the Americas - renamed the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation in 2001 - onto the Fort Benning military base. They were among thousands who gathered on 22 and 23 November, 2008 outside the gates of Fort Benning to demand the school's closure.

**“While there is a lower class I am in it; while there is a criminal element I am of it; while there is a soul in prison, I am not free”**  
**Eugene Debs**

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