

## GI SPECIAL 7D18:



**"War is a criminal enterprise, so i'll fight it with criminals."**

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

**Stop Stoploss Before  
Stoploss Stops You!  
On May 9th IVAW Ft. Lewis Will  
Begin Its Stoploss Campaign:  
Participants Will Meet At Noon On  
May 9th To Assemble"**

# **They Will Then Proceed To A Rally Outside The Gates Of Fort Lewis: Other Groups From The Anti War- Community Need To Show Service People And Their Families That They Are Not Suffering Alone**



**04/24/2009 By Seth Manzel [Iraq Veterans Against The War]**

**Branch of service:** United States Army (USA)

**Unit:** Aco 1-5 Inf (25 ID)

**Rank:** E5

**Home:** Lakewood, Washington

**Served in:** Iraq Ft. Lewis

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**On May 9th IVAW Ft. Lewis will begin its Stoploss Campaign.**

**Right now Fort Lewis, the largest military base on the West Coast, will be deploying three infantry brigades to Iraq and Afghanistan over the next four months.**

**This means that 10,000 soldiers will be leaving to serve in occupations in the Middle East.**

IVAW will assemble with other groups in the community to rally against the systematic mistreatment of soldiers that is necessary to maintain the military's current op-tempo.

These injustices include:

**Stoploss-** When soldiers join the Army they sign a contract that indentures them for a selected number of years. Often soldiers who are ready to leave the Army are involuntarily extended so that they can deploy for an additional year or more.

**The practice of stoploss is evidence that soldiers are not willing to fight in these wars.**

**It is our responsibility to demonstrate to these soldiers that the community supports them, even if the army wishes to put them in harms way against their will.**

**Mental and Medical Health Care-** Given the fast pace of training and deployment, commanders often discourage soldiers from seeking mental and medical health care.

Many soldiers who have wounds and mental issues from previous deployments are denied access to the health care that they desperately need. Absent of mental and medical health care, many soldiers self-medicate to alleviate the mental and physical pain from which they suffer. This leads to drunk driving, arrests, and disciplinary action against soldiers.

**Military Sexual Trauma-** According to the Department of Defense, one in three women are sexually assaulted in the course of their military careers. The DOD acknowledges that sexual assault is underreported. The Army goes to great pains to keep instances of sexual assault quiet.

**On Fort Lewis, if a victim reports the incident to anyone outside of her chain of command, the victimizer will be notified.**

**This practice ensures that victims rarely speak out, protecting commanders and sexual predators from scrutiny.**

**IVAW Fort Lewis will be joining with other groups from the community to hold a rally outside the gates of Fort Lewis to demonstrate our support of these soldiers who are being exploited by the military.**

**The anti war-community needs to show service people and their families that they are not suffering alone.**

**Participants will meet at COFFEE STRONG at noon on May 9th to assemble.**

**They will then proceed to Freedom Bridge which leads to the gates of Fort Lewis where they will rally in support of GI Rights.**

The event will conclude at COFFEE STRONG where soldiers and participants will be entertained by fire dancers and live music.

COFFEE STRONG is located off of exit 122 on I-5, just across the interstate from Fort Lewis.

COFFEE STRONG  
15109 Union Ave SW

Lakewood, WA 98499  
253-581-1565  
<http://www.coffeestrong.com>

## **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**

### **U.S. Soldier Killed On Patrol (Tikrit)**

25 April 2009 Multi-National Division – North PAO

TIKRIT, Iraq – A Multi-National Division – North Soldier died from injuries sustained following an attack on a patrol in the Kirkuk Province of northern Iraq, April 25.

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### **Two Iraqi Generals Arrested When U.S. Military Kills Without Prior Notice To Their Government**

April 26th 2009 AFP & THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iraq detained two of its own army commanders on Sunday after the US military carried out a deadly house raid without the knowledge of the Iraqi government, the defence ministry said.

Defence ministry spokesman Major General Mohammed al-Askari told AFP the two provincial commanders stand accused of “permitting an American military force to carry out a security operation after 1:00 am (2200 GMT) without the knowledge of the defence ministry or the Iraqi government.”

A landmark security pact signed with the United States in November requires that all military operations in Iraq be conducted with the agreement of the Iraqi government and be “fully coordinated” with Iraqi authorities.

In Sunday’s pre-dawn incident a woman and a policeman were shot dead during a US raid on a house in the southern town of Kut near the Iranian border.

An Iraqi security official confirmed the deaths and said another five people were arrested in the raid.

“American forces detained five people, including a police captain and a tribal leader, during the raid, which was carried out at 2:30 am (2330 GMT),” the official said on condition of anonymity.

A medic at a nearby hospital said it had received the body of a woman who had been shot in the stomach and the shoulder and a man who had been shot in the head.

A US military spokesman confirmed that a woman was killed during the raid, saying “she was in the area during the engagement with a suspect, moved into the line of fire, and was struck by gunfire.”

Hundreds of demonstrators are gathering outside a morgue to demand an investigation into the deadly raid involving U.S. forces.

An Iraqi police official says the wife of a local clan leader was killed in the pre-dawn raid. They also say the clan leader was arrested.

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Resistance Action**

April 26 (KUNA) & By RAHIM FAIEZ, Associated Press Writer

A roadside bomb killed three Afghan border police in southeastern Afghanistan, police said. The blast took place in Khost province. The policemen were patrolling the border area when their vehicle hit their car last night, a local police officer said. He added that three policemen were killed and three others injured while their vehicle was completely destroyed. Khost province is located close to the border with Pakistan.

A roadside bombing in Afghanistan killed two members of a new U.S.-funded civil defense force Sunday. The two guards from the Afghan Public Protection Force were the first members of the new program to die in the line of duty, said Shahidullah Shahid, the spokesman for Wardak province’s governor. Three vehicles were patrolling in Nirkh district of Wardak when the explosion ripped through one truck, he said.

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**NEW GENERAL ORDER NO. 1:  
PACK UP  
GO HOME:  
THIS IS USELESS, LETHAL BULLSHIT**



A U.S. soldier of 3rd Platoon Cherokee Troop from the 3rd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division patrols in Logar province April 13, 2009. REUTERS/Ahmad Masood

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**TROOP NEWS**

**New Progress In The Old Hood:  
“Those Familiar With The Area Might  
Laugh At Using Metal Detectors In Open  
Fields And Clearing The Palm Groves”**

April 19, 2009 By Alex, Army Of Dude; [armyofdude.blogspot.com/](http://armyofdude.blogspot.com/)

A recent piece on C-SPAN features a reporter embedded with a Stryker unit in Baqubah, the old stomping grounds of my unit and nearly every Stryker brigade since we left.

Those familiar with the area might laugh at using metal detectors in open fields and clearing the palm groves.

Again.

Money quote: "It's a little bit difficult to figure out exactly who's the most honest people over in Iraq, but the soldiers are pretty much willing to deal with anyone who's not an insurgent."

### 3 Comments:

bigD said...

Holla! All the honest people in the hizzy put your damn hands up!

April 19, 2009 10:04 PM

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The Usual Suspect said...

Leave them all to their own country, devoid of our presence, and let the shit fall where it may. Call me radical.

"But omfg newfag, we made this mess for them!" says random person.

Pfffffffffffffffffffffffffffft. The dude who caused that shit had only one gunman to worry about, and that was his Vice President.

Anyone who would want to argue with me on that point, well I'd gladly invite them to start their own Save Iraq Crusa- I mean "Campaign", all SIC-like, and I mean motherfuckin' HANDS ON, Doc Marten's on the ground, passing out the Phish and phreedom.

Enjoy the massive flies and the aroma of stir-fried shit.

Motherfuckers want to tie a pretty bow around a dog turd. It doesn't work.

Also: how's it going, Alex?

April 22, 2009 3:41 PM

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Alex said...  
Ryan,

I've always been a believer in the sink-or-swim method of success. If they sink in their shit pool, oh well - we tried, and they really didn't. I'm tired of being their training wheels.

April 22, 2009 4:02 PM

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**NOT ANOTHER DAY**

**NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR  
NOT ANOTHER LIFE**



The remains of Sgt. Raul Moncada, at Dover Air Force Base, Del. April 15, 2009. Moncada, 29, of Madera, Calif., died April 13 near Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds sustained when an explosive device detonated near his vehicle. (AP Photo/Rob Carr)

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**“But I’m Sure You’ve Seen It From  
The Outside Yourself: Soldiers  
Will Give You The Peace Sign”  
“They’re Telling You, ‘Good Job,  
Keep Protesting, Because We Don’t  
Have That Right””  
“It’s As Wrong As Slavery Was Against  
The Black People In The 1800s, And  
Everyone Deserves To Be Free,  
Especially Afghani People Who Have For  
So Long Been Occupied”**





U.S. Sergeant Matthias Chiroux and Afghan activist Malalai Joya join hands in peace on April 5, 2009 at the “No to NATO” Congress in Strasbourg, France. (Photo: MalalaiJoya.com)

April 15, 2009 Common Dreams [Excerpts]

On April 21st, 2009, U.S. Sergeant Matthias Chiroux, 25, faces Army prosecution in St. Louis, Missouri for publicly refusing to deploy to Iraq last summer. Like many other resisters, Chiroux was in military service for many years before he came to the conclusion that the wars and occupations in Iraq and in Afghanistan are wrong and found the courage to speak out.

Since last summer he has been a key activist in the U.S. veterans’ organization, Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW).

On April 4th, at a large demonstration in Strasbourg, France, Chiroux planned to publicly apologize to Afghan peace activist Malalai Joya for participating in the occupation of her country; however, before he could do so, the demonstration was disrupted by attacks of the French police.

He made his apology instead on April 5, 2009, at the NATO Congress in Strasbourg.

Malalai Joya, 31, is the youngest person to become a member of the Afghan Parliament (one of 68 women elected to the 249-seat National Assembly, or Wolesi Jirga, in 2005); after she spoke out against the fundamentalists and former warlords in parliament, she was suspended.

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## Interview With A War Resister

Elsa Rassbach, a U.S. filmmaker and journalist living in Berlin, spoke with Matthias Chiroux in Strasbourg and in Frankfurt shortly after the NATO summit. The following is her interview:

*RASSBACH: How did you come to join the U.S. Army?*

CHIROUX: I was a kid living in the Deep South, with a Dad who was proud of his service in the military - and I was a kid who did not always do well in school, so I was fresh meat for the Army recruiters.

In my teens I had some fights with my Dad and wound up living in a tent outside my town. When my money ran out, I joined. I really didn't have any other options. That was in 2002. In basic training, I learned to kill just like everybody else.

I also trained for the 82nd Airborne in North Carolina, but I chose not continue that training, because the 82nd Airborne has a reputation for mindless brutality, both to their own and to the "enemy." My commander said, "Are you Airborne or are you a cocksucker?" I wonder how many people that line actually works on?

They sent me to Army journalism school for seven months. I had a certain knack for writing, because I had written a lot ever since I was a little kid. I had a speech impediment - literally only my mother could understand me - so that's why I wrote so much. I learned photography in the Army.

*RASSBACH: What was it like working as a journalist for the U.S. Army?*

CHIROUX: First they sent me to Tokyo for about two years. Then I was in Heidelberg from May 2005 to August 2007 in the "U.S. Army Europe Command Information Division." My main job was to be a literary and photographic con-artist for the U.S. military in relations with its soldiers and with the civilian populations in Japan, Germany, and elsewhere. I was thought to have some potential in international relations and strategic communications. Mainly I worked with civilians doing press releases and articles for the internet or for military publications like Stars & Stripes and the Army magazine in Europe. I was really happy to be in Japan and Germany, but felt the U.S. had no business in either place.

*RASSBACH: What finally led you to become a war resister?*

CHIROUX: In Japan and in Germany, I was friends with many civilians and hung out with them more than I did with other soldiers. Some friends in Heidelberg - they were not peace activists, just ordinary civilians - looked me in the eye and said, "You know, what you are doing in Iraq and in Afghanistan is genocide."

At first, it pissed me off. I thought "How insensitive; they don't know what my people are going through who have to go and do this fighting." But they said, "You need to understand that there are more types of genocide than simply Nazi fascism. You need to compare what's going on now and what was going on then, because we don't want to see your wars end like ours."

It was especially important to me that my Japanese and German friends had the courage to tie it back to their own history. Yeah, at first it offended me, and I said to them, "How dare you?"

But what they said sat in the back of my head, and I kept thinking about it, and it came to a point where I couldn't deny it any more. So never be afraid to tell it like it is. It was hard to take, but maybe saved my life. I ended up refusing to go to Iraq, very much as a

result of what I'd learned in Heidelberg. I may actually owe my life to some very brave German citizens who were willing to offend me with the truth.

**RASSBACH: How did you and other GIs feel about the demonstrations outside the base in Heidelberg?**

**CHIROUX: Me, I loved it, personally.**

**Most of the soldiers thought it very cool.**

**Some of them made fun and said "damn hippies" and "damn crazies" and "We're here to protect their free speech, but all they want to talk is trash, da, da, da...."**

**These opinions are the loudest, because that's what's accepted in the Army.**

**But I'm sure you've seen it from the outside yourself: soldiers will give you the peace sign. They're telling you, "Good job, keep protesting, because we don't have that right."**

It's important for soldiers to see that another world is possible. GIs don't have this information, especially in Germany. They don't have newspapers from the U.S., don't have U.S. magazines - just a few in the PX. They get almost all their information from the Armed Forces Network (AFN) or from military newspapers or from their commanders.

They don't get information from the outside. That information from the outside forced me to readdress where I was.

*RASSBACH: So what led you, finally, to take a public stance against these wars?*

CHIROUX: I was discharged honorably from the Army in Heidelberg 2007, but there is a provision where you then are part of the Individual Ready Reserves (IRR), and they can recall you at any time. When I left Heidelberg, I'd been overseas so long that I felt like an immigrant coming back to the U.S., so I moved to Brooklyn, a city of immigrants. After various short-term jobs and a brief time on unemployment, I enrolled in Brooklyn College in January 2008. The Army benefits help a little, but at \$1200 a month, they don't even cover my rent in Brooklyn.

Then in February 2008, I received a letter from the Army ordering my return to active duty, for the purpose of mobilization for "Operation Iraqi Freedom." I was depressed and did not know what to do, but in March 2008, I watched the "Winter Soldier" hearing of Iraq Veterans against the War (IVAW) on the internet ([www.ivaw.org/wintersoldier](http://www.ivaw.org/wintersoldier)). This hearing has inspired many soldiers, and IVAW has grown rapidly, with over 1700 members now worldwide. In New York I met IVAW members, like Selena Coppa, who runs the Active Duty Organizing campaign of IVAW and who is now stationed in Wiesbaden. IVAW gave me the backing to stand up and refuse to deploy to support this unconstitutional and illegal occupation that violates all my core values as a human being.

But as I said, before I met IVAW, I had already come to the conclusion that these wars are wrong from my talks with Japanese and German friends.

*RASSBACH: What is at stake in your hearing on April 21st, and how can we here in Germany help you?*

CHIROUX: Most likely I'll be discharged from the military. It is unlikely the Army will attempt any further action as I have been quite public and am part of a growing pool of IRR Soldiers who have refused deployment in similar or more private fashions.

More than a dozen members of the U.S. Congress have signed a statement supporting my refusal to go to Iraq. Even my father, who twice voted for Bush, supports me now. People in Germany can help me by continuing to support those like me.

Work to help André Shepherd, who also refused to go to Iraq, gain asylum in Germany. Demonstrate in front of more military bases.

Talk to more young soldiers like me who need to know the truth in no uncertain terms.

Call my unit (HRC-St. Louis) at 314-592-0708 and tell them German people stand in solidarity with IRR resisters like myself: tell them they should refuse to prosecute soldiers of conscience. Add me on Facebook, check out my Website, but most importantly, continue the struggle.

*RASSBACH: Was it hard for you to apologize to Malalai Joya?*

CHIROUX: it was hard for me to go to Afghanistan in denial of the true nature of what I was doing, the suffering that I caused, not only that I caused to other people, but also that I caused to myself by going to Afghanistan. It's hard to say the words in the moment, but it was absolutely necessary. Those words have been sitting dormant, waiting to rip out of my soul for years now.

And I'm just so honored that they could come out to someone like Malalai, someone whom I have so much respect for and so much admiration for. And I really do believe that she is the living embodiment of hope for the Afghan people.

**And I won't stop struggling to free them, because they are enslaved right now by the U.S., and its as wrong as slavery was against the black people in the 1800s, and everyone deserves to be free, especially Afghani people who have for so long been occupied.**

**This is the way forward. This is definitely the way forward.**



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**“We Never Planned For Her To  
Deploy”  
“But Then The Dang War Never Quit”  
“She Tells Me, ‘Daddy, I Hate Your Job,’”  
Gallagher Says**

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

2009/04/19 By Baylie Evans, & By Bill McCarthy, 2009/04/18 Wyoming Tribune-Eagle

Today, Wyoming has about 900 fewer people than it did last week.

All over the state, soldiers boarded airplanes bound for Fort Hood, Texas, the first stop on the way to Iraq and Kuwait.

The 115th Fires Brigade's deployment was the largest in Wyoming history.

About 700 soldiers are deploying from Wyoming, along with about 250 from other states who will serve with the Wyoming Army Guard unit.

In Cheyenne, the first group of about 30 soldiers left Monday, the day after Easter, without ceremony or fanfare.

Once in Iraq and Kuwait, after a few months of additional training in Texas, they are tasked with base camp command, as well as convoy and force protection.

Running convoys in and out of Iraq is one of the most dangerous jobs the soldiers can do.

They will be away from home for about 400 days, and the impact of that separation will be felt both here and in the Middle East.

These are just two of their stories.

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**Saul Family Never Thought Mom Would Deploy**

With a wave, she disappears into the belly of the C-130 airplane looming on the tarmac.

War still seems a world away, but it has just gotten a lot closer.

She still has to sit in the dark of the big windowless airplane for about three hours before she arrives at Fort Hood, Texas, where she will spend the next 80 days.

After that, the war a world away will become home away from home.

Heather Saul of Lingle has two titles: Mrs. Eastern Wyoming 2008 and staff sergeant.

She joined the Wyoming Army National Guard nine years ago to pay for college.

“I was just a weekend warrior,” she says with her infectious beauty queen smile. “Never once when I signed that dotted line did I think the National Guard would go fight.”

Now she hesitates a moment before she says she would do it all again.

At home the week before her deployment, she is surrounded by her husband, David, and three daughters, Madison, 3; Kelcie, 7; and Anyssa, 10.

The family recently moved into a three-bedroom rental house in Lingle. It is smaller than they are used to, but Dave insisted. The less dusting he has to do, the better.

He can handle almost everything while Heather is away, he says, from calving on his ranch to cooking breakfast for his girls.

But “I can honestly say I never thought I’d be at home playing Mr. Mom for a year,” he admits. “I’m not really built for that.”

Soon after the family found out about Heather’s deployment, Dave dreamt about trying to do his youngest daughter’s hair for her first day of school.

“We never planned for her to deploy,” he says. “But then the dang war never quit.”

A small album holds photographs of Heather in evening gowns and swimsuits, her head high and smile bright.

She does pageants because she likes the competition and she wants to prove to her girls that they can do anything they want, she says.

“Just because I do this doesn’t mean I can’t do that,” she says. “And vice versa.”

Anyssa is old enough to know that a year is a long time.

Heather tells her girls to think about how long ago last Easter was. Mommy will be back around next Easter.

Kelcie says she gets it, but she still asks if five hours is a long time, her dad says. And Madison is much too young to understand.

But they all will miss mommy, Dave says, and he’ll hear about it every day.

He and the girls will get to talk to Heather through an Internet camera regularly. But it's not being there physically that Heather says will be the hardest part. She won't be there to take them shopping or pick out their school clothes.

Dave says he wants to be careful about telling her too much about what's happening at home. He doesn't want to make her sad that she missed the Christmas concert or Kelcie finally losing that front tooth.

But Heather hopes he won't hold back. "I want to know every little thing," she tells him.

Kelcie gave her mom a green stuffed turtle named Homie to take with her. Its plush shell will protect her, Kelcie says.

Heather's voice shakes and she looks away when she talks about leaving her family. But the reality hasn't really hit yet, she says. And she doesn't think it will until she gets on the plane. That's when she thinks she might lose it.

The sun glints off of Heather's wedding ring as she drapes her uniform-clad arm over Kelcie's shoulder.

The gray C-130 looms like a giant shadow under the sun.

Heather has carefully tucked Homie the Turtle into the front pocket of her backpack.

Now all they can do is wait.

Kelcie shows her mom how loose her tooth has gotten, and Madison needs to blow her nose. Anyssa holds her hand out for her youngest sister like an adult.

Dave's nearly constant smile has faded. His big hand occasionally rubs the back of his wife's thin neck.

She smiles a tight-lipped smile, the kind that holds back tears. She stuffs a crumpled tissue into her pocket.

All around them, people are hugging tight, sniffing and rubbing red eyes.

"Ladies and gentlemen," someone shouts. "It's time to go to the plane."

It's the first time that Anyssa has cried today. She hugs her mom's waist, and Heather gently reminds her oldest daughter to be strong.

Anyssa pulls back, pushing her palms into her eyes. Kelcie's tears run down her face as she hugs her mom. Heather touches Madison's face from Dave's arms.

"Mommy will see you soon, raccoon," she coos to her.

Then she reaches for her husband.

"Love you," Dave says, his voice cracking slightly. "Miss you."

She hoists her bag up onto her shoulder and makes her way toward the plane.

Her family watches, waving back when she turns to them. Then she disappears.

They wait until the massive plane flies over their heads and the drone of the engines fade away.

The plane becomes a dot in the blue sky, and Anyssa gives it one last wave goodbye before she turns to go home with her family.

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### **Gallaghers Have Deployment Day Down Pat -- But It Still Isn't Easy**

From the other side of the small gate at the day-care center, 2-year-old Kaycee Gallagher raises her hands to her dad silently.

Maj. Joseph Gallagher lifts her into his arms and kisses her on the cheek. She rests her blond, ponytailed head on his shoulder.

It's just like any other day, except today Gallagher is wearing his blocky green uniform, hat and sunglasses when he drops Kaycee off at day care.

And this morning is the last time he'll drop her off for a long time.

A few days earlier, Gallagher finally has weather that is cooperating. Snow has been ruining his swing set building plans for weeks.

Today, despite the many inches still on the ground, is finally the day.

It's muddy outside, but his wife and two daughters join him in the backyard while he starts the project.

Shannon, 7, pulls Kaycee in a sled and plays in the snow with their two dogs. A somewhat lumpy and melted snowman stands at the foot of the steps.

Gallagher enlisted in the Air Force in the 1990s to pay for college and switched to the Army National Guard so he and his family could stay in Cheyenne.

On his honeymoon with Lorraine in 1998, they learned about his first deployment: a year in Iraq.

Since then, he has been on four deployments to places like Kuwait, Greenland and Germany, including two year-long stints. The other two were shorter deployments.

"(Lorraine) is very independent," Gallagher says of his wife. She is perfectly capable of handling everything at home on her own.

They'll talk on the phone a lot and try not to complain too much.

But this deployment will be the first he'll go on with two children at home.



And this will be the second time he has gotten out of potty training, Lorraine laments with a smile.

The year will go by fast, she adds. She'll be busy.

But fast doesn't mean easy, and they'll miss him.

Shannon says she'll miss having someone to play outside with and someone to play tic-tac-toe with.

Mom will be busy cooking and cleaning a lot, she says, so she'll have to help take care of Kaycee.

Twelve months is a lot of weeks, she says.

"It's a good job," Gallagher says.

The benefits for his family, like insurance and retirement, are unbeatable. "The drawback is that you have to do things like this."

Shannon disagrees.

"She tells me, 'Daddy, I hate your job,'" Gallagher says.

This family has deployment day down pat.

It's 7 a.m. and Gallagher carries both his girls in his arms to the car and buckles them in. It's almost time for school.

The swing set stands mostly finished in the backyard. Lorraine says she can put the roof on herself.

In the car, the blacks and greens of Gallagher's gear and uniform contrast with the pinks and purples of little girls.

The first stop is Kaycee's day-care center.

"You go play, OK?" he tells her as he kisses her and sets her down.

She doesn't cry, and neither does he. But she reaches for him as he leaves.

He kisses her again and tells her he loves her. She seems content to watch him go.

The next stop is Shannon's school, where Gallagher and Lorraine walk their daughter to her classroom.

"She was bawling last night," Lorraine whispers.

But today, Shannon has lollipops to give out to all of her classmates, and that makes her happier.

She pulls her dad's dog tags over her head.

"You keep those," Gallagher tells her.

She drops them into her backpack.

He walks her to breakfast, sits down with her briefly and whispers something to her.

She keeps her eyes down as he touches her head and walks away.

Lorraine asks the school principal to keep an eye on their daughter.

At the airport, Gallagher gives Lorraine a quick kiss goodbye before she heads to work. She has a busy day planned.

He lugs his gear inside, into the emotionally charged room of tearful families putting off their last goodbyes.

"This is why I didn't bring everybody in here," he says amid the tears in the crowded room. "It's insanity."

Two hours later, he boards the C-130 with the focused eyes and strong jaw of a seasoned soldier. He doesn't turn back.

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## **OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

# **Zionist Filth Attack Pregnant Palestinian Woman With Sticks And Stones, April '09**

4.09 THE ISRAELI INFORMATION CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Testimony of Roqaya 'Ali Hamdan al-Hazalin, 22, married with one child, is a homemaker and a resident of Umm al-Kheir in Hebron District. Her testimony was given to Musa Abu Hashhash at the witness's house on 18 April 2009.

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I am eight months' pregnant.

On Friday, 10 April, I took my sheep to graze in an area southwest of our village, not far from the cattle farm of the Ma'on settlement. I was with other women from the village, among them Amneh Sallem 'Eid al-Hazalin and Khadrah Suliman al-Hazalin, and a

group of children under the age of 15, among them Tareq Sallem 'Eid al-Hazalin, 13, Musa Suliman al-Hazalin, 12, and 'Omar Suliman al-Hazalin, 10.

Around 8:00 A.M., we arrived to land owned by farmers from Yatta. We grazed the sheep and gathered plants we use for food.

We were more than five hundred meters from the Ma'on settlement. We didn't go close to the settlement. Around 9:00 A.M., we saw four settlers coming toward us from the settlement. Two of them went down into the wadi (valley) and headed to another group of shepherds, and two of them, who were masked, approached us.

The two who came toward us appeared to be young.

They were holding sticks and had pistols on their hips.

Amneh was standing close to me, and Khadrah was relatively far from us. When the settlers got to about thirty meters from us, they shouted at us in Hebrew. Their appearance frightened us, and we began to run away.

The settlers chased us, and continued to shout at us as we ran.

**Being pregnant, I couldn't run fast.**

**After about one hundred meters, the settlers caught me.**

**One of them hit me in my right arm and left leg with his stick.**

**The other settler threw a stone at me, which hit me in the left leg.**

**Then one of them pushed me, and I fell onto some thorns. My arm and leg hurt a lot.**

**When I fell, the two settlers left me and ran toward the farmers and other shepherds. I remained there, crying. I was in terrible pain.**

After a few minutes, Amneh and Khadrah ran over to me and helped me get up. They lifted me up with the help of the children and laid me on the donkey that we had brought with us, and returned me to the village.

I was in such great pain that I thought my arm has been broken. I was still crying when we reached the village.

An Israeli ambulance came and the medical team gave me first-aid. Then the Israeli police and two army jeeps of the Civil Administration arrived. I told them what happened. Around 11:00 A.M., a Palestinian Red Crescent ambulance came and took me to 'Aliyah Government Hospital, in Hebron.

At the hospital, they examined me and X-rayed me. They found that my arm was not broken.

I was very lucky, and the fetus was not harmed. I remained in the hospital for two or three hours, and then went home. My arm swelled up and I am still in pain, a week after the incident.

A Palestinian policeman at the hospital took my complaint. I did not go to the Israeli police because I don't feel well enough, and because I need somebody to accompany me to Kiryat Arba to do that.

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## **About 50 Palestinians Wounded In Confrontations With IOF Troops, Settlers [Yawn. Just One More Boring Day of Zionist Terrorism]**

April 25, 2009 The Palestinian Information Center

NABLUS, (PIC)-- Jewish armed settlers backed by Israeli occupation forces fired at Palestinian citizens in Ourif town, south of Nablus, wounding 13 civilians amidst widespread confrontations between West Bank Palestinians and IOF troops and settlers on Friday.

Local sources in the Ourif village said that six masked settlers opened fire at the citizens wounding six of them, and added that IOF troops then barged into the town, imposed a curfew and fired bullets and teargas canisters wounding seven more citizens.

The IOF command claimed that three guards of the nearby settlement of Yitzhar were wounded when armed Palestinians fired at them.

In Bil'in, Ramallah district, 25 demonstrators were treated for light to medium injuries when IOF soldiers used force to quell a peaceful anti separation wall demonstration.

Eyewitnesses said that the soldiers fired rubber-coated bullets and tear bombs at the participants in the weekly march, who included Luisa Morgantini, the deputy president of the European parliament, and Mairead Maguire, the Nobel peace laureate.

Four Palestinians were wounded in IOF shooting at a march in Ni'lin, also in Ramallah district, who were marching against the separation wall.

The IOF declared the area a closed military zone before the march started with the participation of 1,000 people including a number of foreign solidarity activists.

The IOF soldiers wounded four Palestinians in Masara village, Bethlehem district, when a massive march, grouping foreign activists including Israelis and Italians, hit the streets of the village while chanting national slogans and calls for bridling IOF crimes.

The soldiers battered the citizens after they removed barbed wires on their way to the separation wall.

Jewish settlers in Al-Khalil district attacked Palestinian farmers in Beit Ummar village while on their way to tend to their farms near the settlement of Gush Etzion.

Locals said that 20 settlers attacked the farmers with batons and other “sharp tools” and blocked their way to their farms.

IOF soldiers rounded up three young men from Nablus city on Friday and four others east of Jenin late Friday night.

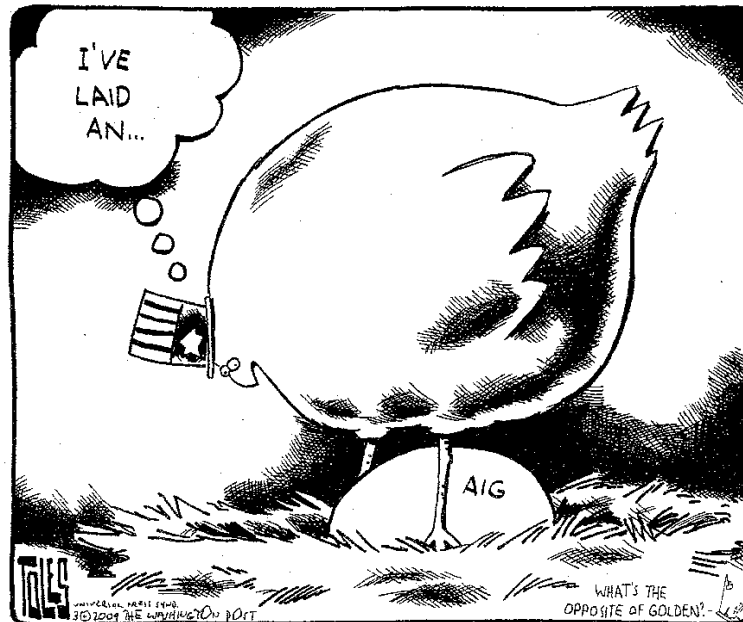
In the Gaza Strip, IOF troops bulldozed cultivated lands in two incursions on Friday in central and northern Gaza.

Local sources told PIC reporter that the soldiers in armored vehicles escorted bulldozers and fired at random before the bulldozers started damaging vast cultivated areas.

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

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## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



# **Honest Republican Leader Praises Obama: “The Present Strategy In Iraq And Afghanistan Is Hardly Distinguishable From The Strategy Of The Previous Administration”**

04/20/09 The Hill

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) on Monday praised the Obama administration's early decisions in Iraq and Afghanistan as "hardly distinguishable" from that of President Bush.

"We're on the right track in both places," said McConnell, who was returning from his first visit to Iraq in three years.

The Republican leader said Obama's February announcement of an August 2010 pullout date for most U.S. troops in Iraq was a wise reversal of his campaign pledge of a quicker withdrawal, and likewise endorsed Obama's decision to send more troops to Afghanistan.

"The present strategy in Iraq and Afghanistan, which from my point of view is hardly distinguishable from the strategy of the previous administration, is the right thing to do and gives us the best chance to avoid another attack here at home," he said.

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

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

**“If The President Can Dedicate  
Hundreds Of Billions To Bank  
Bailouts, He Certainly Has The Power**

# To Offer Real Help To The Unemployed”

April 22, 2009 By Sharon Smith, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

Populist rhetoric aside, Obama’s response to the banking crisis has differed little from Bush’s before him.

The Feds are still throwing hundreds of billions of dollars at the same Wall Street banks that caused the housing crisis, while millions of working-class Americans continue to lose their homes to foreclosure.

Yet Obama warned recently, “There will be more job loss, more foreclosures and more pain” in store for working-class people, as if he could do nothing to prevent it.

On the contrary, if the president can dedicate hundreds of billions to bank bailouts, he certainly has the power to offer real help to the unemployed and those losing their homes--increasingly due to job loss.

## Troops Invited:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 917.677.8057

## CLASS WAR REPORTS



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

## In Iceland, They're Really Pissed At Bankers



A man urinates at a bar in central Reykjavik in toilets plastered with the pictures of former bankers who left the country after the financial crash. (Olivier Morin/AFP/Getty Images) [Thanks to Alan Stolzer, Military Project & James Starowicz, Veterans For Peace, who sent this in.]

## So They Vote In The Red Fist





Social-Democrate Party leader and Prime Minister Johanna Sigurdardottir celebrates in Reykjavik. Iceland's interim leftist government won a resounding victory in a snap general election as voters punished the conservative party they blame for the country's economic meltdown seven months ago. (AFP/Olivier Morin)

## **And The Rich Suits Who Lose Feel Something Tightening Around Their Necks**

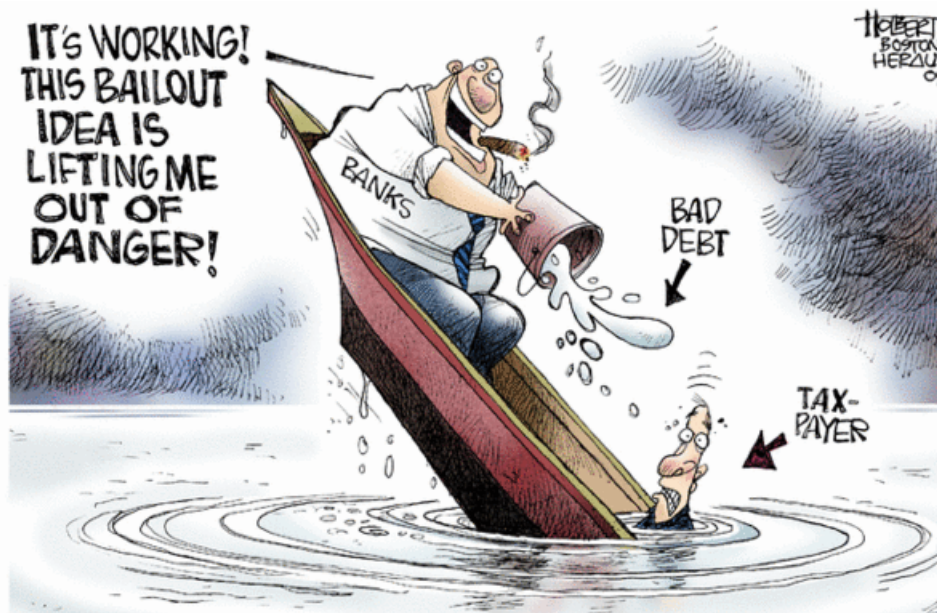


The leader of the Independence Party Bjarni Benediktsson (C) looks at the final results of the elections in Reykjavik. Iceland's interim leftist government won a resounding victory in a snap general election as voters punished the conservative party they blame for the country's economic meltdown seven months ago. (AFP/Olivier Morin)

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**Thieving Rat Bankers Who Took  
Bailout Funds Spent \$10 Million  
Buying Politicians:  
They Used Your Money To Fight  
Limits On Their Own Pay!**

## “It’s Business As Usual With Taxpayers Picking Up The Bill”



April 22, 2009 By Dan Eggen, Washington Post Staff Writer [Excerpts]

**Top recipients of federal bailout money spent more than \$10 million on political lobbying in the first three months of this year, including aggressive efforts aimed at blocking executive pay limits and tougher financial regulations, according to newly filed disclosure records.**

The biggest spenders among major firms in the group included General Motors, which spent nearly \$1 million a month on lobbying, and Citigroup and J.P. Morgan Chase, which together spent more than \$2.5 million in their efforts to sway lawmakers and Obama administration officials on a wide range of financial issues.

**In all, major bailout recipients have spent more than \$22 million on lobbying in the six months since the government began doling out rescue funds, Senate disclosure records show.**

The new lobbying totals come at a time of mounting anger in Congress and among the public over the actions of many bailed-out firms, which have bristled at attempts to cap excessive bonuses and have loudly complained about the restrictions placed on hundreds of billions of dollars in government loans.

**Administration officials said this week that top officials at Chrysler Financial turned away a \$750 million government loan in favor of pricier private financing because executives didn't want to abide by new federal limits on pay.**

The reports revived objections from advocacy groups and some lawmakers, who say firms should not be lobbying against stricter oversight at the same time they are receiving billions from the government through the Troubled Assets Relief Program, or TARP.

“Taxpayers are subsidizing a legislative agenda that is inimical to their interests and offensive to what the whole TARP program is about,” said William Patterson, executive director of CtW Investment Group, which is affiliated with a coalition of labor unions.

“It’s business as usual with taxpayers picking up the bill.”

**The lobbying records do not yet include campaign contributions by corporate lobbyists. Bank of America, for example, which spent \$660,000 on lobbying in the first quarter, also gave more than \$218,000 in campaign contributions through its PAC, according to the Federal Election Commission.**

The Citigroup lobbying report provides a glimpse of the troubled company’s interests in Washington, including credit card rules, student loan policies, and patent and trademark issues.

**Citigroup chief executive Vikram S. Pandit and other company officials lobbied fiercely against a House bill approved in March that would have placed a 90 percent tax on bonuses for traders, executives and bankers earning more than \$250,000 at firms that had been bailed out by taxpayers.**

**The proposal stalled in the Senate.**

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

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

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<http://www.albasrah.net/pages/mod.php?header=res2&mod=newse&lan=1>

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