

## GI SPECIAL 7D7:



**The Truly Mass  
Murderers Live Right  
Here In The USA:  
DC Traitors At It Again:  
Now The Obama Regime Wants  
Funding For 200,000 Troops To  
Fight In Iraq And Afghanistan This  
Year:**

# **\$83.4 Billion Demanded To Pay For Killing More U.S. Troops, Iraqis And Afghans;**

**Gates Says “The Alternative To The Supplemental Is A Sudden And Precipitous Withdrawal Of The United States From Both Places, And I Don't Know Anybody Who Thinks That's A Good Idea”**



[Thanks to Phil G]

According to the documents, obtained by The Associated Press, the request would fund an average force level in Iraq of 140,000 U.S. troops. It would also finance Obama's initiative to boost troop levels in Afghanistan to more than 60,000 from the current 39,000.

April 9, 2009 By ANDREW TAYLOR Associated Press Writer

**President Barack Obama is seeking \$83.4 billion for U.S. military and diplomatic operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, pressing for special troop funding that he opposed two years ago when he was senator and George W. Bush was president.**

Obama's request, including money to send thousands more troops to Afghanistan, would push the costs of the two wars to almost \$1 trillion since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, according to the Congressional Research Service. The additional money would cover operations into the fall.

Robert Gibbs, the White House press secretary, acknowledged that Obama has been critical of Bush's use of similar special legislation to pay for the wars.

**The request is likely to win easy approval from the Democratic-controlled Congress.**

**[Of course. These rats, and the scum propagandists who still defend them to this day, have killed more than Osama Bin Laden ever dreamed of. Under Bush, Democrat politicians refused to block money for the wars. Now they lead the wars.**

**[The heaps of dead in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the members of the U.S. armed services KIA, show who the truly mass murderers are: they live right here in the USA. They control Congress and the White House. Now. Duh. T]**

**According to the documents, obtained by The Associated Press, the request would fund an average force level in Iraq of 140,000 U.S. troops.**

**It would also finance Obama's initiative to boost troop levels in Afghanistan to more than 60,000 from the current 39,000.**

[H]ouse GOP Leader John Boehner of Ohio predicted Republicans would overwhelmingly support the request, provided congressional Democrats don't seek to "micromanage" the war by adding a timeline or other restrictions on the ability of military officials to carry on the fight.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates, a holdover from the Bush administration, said, "The reality is the alternative to the supplemental is a sudden and precipitous withdrawal of the United States from both places, and I don't know anybody who thinks that's a good idea."

**Obama was a harsh critic of the Iraq war as a presidential candidate, a stance that attracted support from the Democratic Party's liberal base and helped him secure his party's nomination.**

**He opposed an infusion of war funding in 2007 after Bush used a veto to force Congress to remove a withdrawal timeline from the \$99 billion measure.**

**But he supported a war funding bill last year that also included about \$25 billion for domestic programs.**

Obama also voted for war funding in 2006, before he announced his candidacy for president.

## Mass Murderers Busy Busy Busy



International terrorists Gates and Obama April 9, 2009 meet in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building on the White House campus in Washington to plan ways to slaughter more U.S. troops, Iraqis, Afghans and Pakistanis in Imperial war. (AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)

### MORE:

**“Obama Is In A Position To Greatly Advance The Interests Of Empire”  
“He Is Able To Build Much Wider Support For Policies That Are Essentially A Continuation Of Those Implemented By Bush”**

April 9, 2009 By JEREMY SCAHILL, CounterPunch [Excerpts]

Here is an undeniable fact: Obama is substantially increasing US military spending, by at least \$21 billion from Bush-era levels, including a significant ratcheting up of Afghanistan war spending, as well as more money for unmanned attack drones, which are increasingly being used in attacks on Pakistan.

Obama's budget of \$534 billion to the Department of Defense “represents roughly a 4-percent increase over the \$513 billion allocated to the Pentagon in FY2009 under the

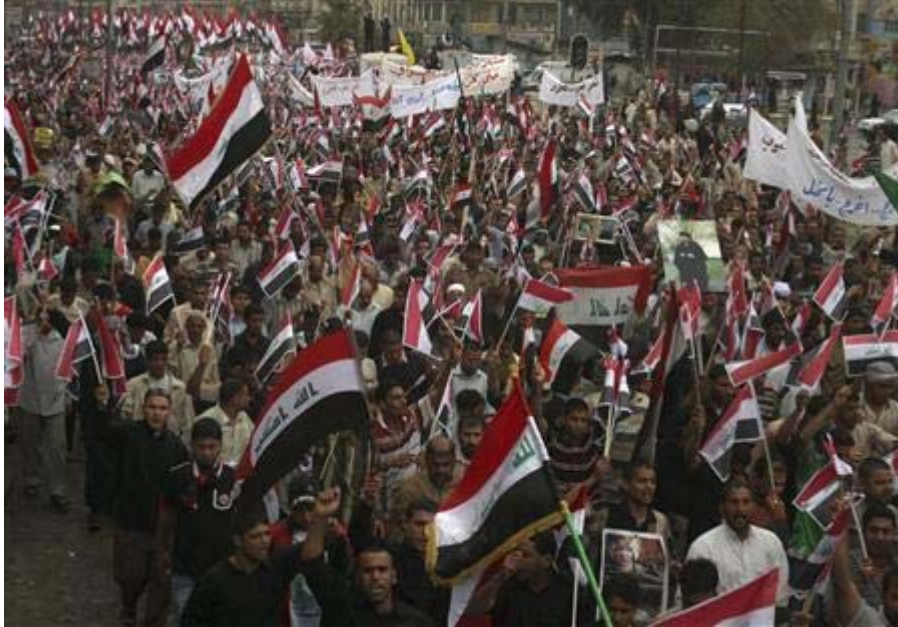
Bush administration, and \$6.7 billion more than the outgoing administration's projections for FY 2010," bragged Lawrence Korb, author of the Center for American Progress' report supporting Obama's escalation of the war in Afghanistan, in an article called, "Obama's Defense Budget Is on Target."

This truly is one of the most important trends to watch with the Obama presidency, particularly as it relates to war policy.

Obama is in a position to greatly advance the interests of empire, precisely because he is able to build much wider support for policies that are essentially a continuation of those implemented by Bush.

**MORE:**

**“Down, Down USA”  
Huge Demonstration Three  
Miles Long Condemns The U.S.  
Occupation And Demands U.S.  
Troops Get Out Now:  
“Iraq Has Experience Of  
Occupation. It Will Only End  
Through The Sword”  
“Make Our Country Free From The  
Occupier. Make Us The Liberators Of  
Our Land”  
“When America Came, They Didn't Do  
Anything For Iraq – They Moved Saddam  
Out, But He Was Their Servant, And The  
People Who Are In Power Now Are Their  
Servants, Too”**



Iraqi citizens wave national flags as they march in a street during the march against the occupation in Baghdad April 9, 2009. REUTERS/Kahtan al-Mesiary

[Thanks to many readers who sent this in.]

Apr 9, 2009 Reuters & AP & Jim Muir, BBC & By Jane Arraf, Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

**Tens of thousands of Iraqi nationalists thronged Baghdad on Thursday to mark the sixth anniversary of the city's fall to U.S. troops, and to demand they leave immediately.**

**The crowds stretched from the giant Sadr City slum in northeast Baghdad to the square around 5 km (3 miles) away.**

**Protesters carrying Iraqi flags chanted slogans such as “No, no America - Yes, yes Iraq” and “No, no to America; no, no to Israel.”**

“Down, down USA,” the demonstrators chanted as Ali al-Marwani, a nationalist speaker, denounced the U.S. occupation of Iraq that began with the fall of Baghdad on April 9, 2003, and the toppling of Saddam Hussein's statue in Firdos Square.

“This is not democracy,” says Nahab Nehme, a hospital worker.

“When America came, they didn't do anything for Iraq – they moved Saddam out, but he was their servant, and the people who are in power now are their servants, too.”

The demonstrators in Firdos Square were mostly young men, jubilant despite the pouring rain.

Halfway up the decaying green concrete sculpture that replaced the towering image of Saddam Hussein, high school student Karar Abdul Hussein, himself symbolic of the new Iraq, clambered up to get a better view and wave an Iraqi flag.

“We were so happy when they brought down the statue, but now we want the occupation to end. The Americans are very tough against the Iraqis,” he says after being persuaded to climb back down and talk.

At the age of 20, Mr. Abdul Hussein is working in a restaurant while finishing high school. His father, a member of Mr. Moqtada al-Sadr's militant Mahdi Army, has been in detention since being arrested by US forces three years ago.

The local Sadr office supports the family by paying them about \$65 a month – more than the Iraqi government does for them.

Protesters burnt an effigy featuring the face of former U.S. President George W. Bush, who ordered the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, and also the face of Saddam.

“God, unite us, return our riches, free the prisoners from the prisons, return sovereignty to our country ... make our country free from the occupier, and prevent the occupier from stealing our oil,” Moqtada al-Sadr said in a message read by a nationalist movement aide Asaad al-Nassiri.

**“God, make us the liberators of our land,” the message said, drawing roars of approval from the crowd, many clutching or wearing Iraqi flags, and some wearing Iraqi national team tracksuits in a show of nationalist sentiment.**

An aide read a statement from him on the sixth anniversary of the regime's toppling, describing the American presence here as a “crime against all Iraqis.”

Hammering home the nationalist message, Nassiri exhorted the demonstrators to shake hands with each other and Iraqi police and soldiers overseeing the march.

Under a bilateral security agreement signed with Bush, all U.S. troops must withdraw from Iraq by the end of 2011.

**Many at the demonstration did not trust the United States to live up to the commitment to withdraw.**

**“Iraq has experience of occupation ... No country has emerged from it through politics and transparency. It will only end through the sword,” said demonstrator Khalid al-Ibadi, referring to uprisings against British and Ottoman rule of Iraq.**

“There's still a noble uprising, there's no freeze,” said demonstrator Abu Hijran Qassim, wearing an Iraqi flag as a shirt.

“Business is good – a lot of people are renovating,” says Ghanam Ghazi, overseeing painters at a new men's clothing store.

**He and his coworker, Ahmed Thamer, say they have little faith in Obama, and want proof that US forces are leaving.**

**Mr. Thamer says that his childhood friend, Ahmed Ismael, was shot dead by US forces in 2004 when his car got in the way of an armored convoy in Baghdad.**



Iraqi citizens against the occupation gather in Firdous Square in central Baghdad, Iraq, April 9, 2009. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

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

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

# **Truck Bomb Kills 5 U.S. Soldiers In Mosul; Two More Wounded**

April 10, 2009 Reuters

A bomber detonated a truck packed with explosives outside an Iraqi base in the northern city of Mosul on Friday, killing five U.S. soldiers and two Iraqi policemen, the U.S. military said.



Two U.S. soldiers and 20 members of the Iraqi security forces were wounded in the blast, the U.S. military said.

The blast destroyed five Iraqi and two U.S. armoured vehicles.

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## **U.S. Soldier Wounded In Salahuddin**

9 April 2009 By Hussein Kadhim, McClatchy Newspapers

A round 1:30 p.m. an insurgent threw a thermal grenade on a US convoy on the main road of Tikrit-Beiji in Salahuddin province on Thursday. One American soldier was wounded with one vehicle damaged.

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# **The Bullshitter Fakes It: Obama Doesn't Visit Iraq: "No Red Zone Obama - Not Even Green Zone Obama" "It Was Pentagon Zone Obama All The Way"**

[Thanks to Carl Foster, Military Project And Veterans For Peace]

Apr 9, 2009 By Pepe Escobar, Asia Times [Excerpts]

United States President Barack Obama's up-to-the-last-minute secret Iraq drop-in was as virtual as a Nevada-based Predator drone pilot's visit to the tribal areas in Pakistan.

Iraqis have every reason to say the president did not see Iraq - but the Pentagon in Iraq.

To prove his point, made rhetorically in Ankara at the Turkish parliament, that "the United States is not, and will never be, at war with Islam", Obama could have hit the definitive home run by going to Firdous Square and delivering a rousing speech to real, flesh-and-blood suffering Iraqis, Sunni and Shi'ites alike.

Meeting a joyous 600 among the 139,000 US troops still occupying Iraq doesn't even come close.

From the minute Air Force One landed at Baghdad International at 4.42pm local time this Tuesday, the whole stunt spelled out "security ops".

Air Force One only touched down after the whole airport was shut down.

**Amid ultra-hardcore security, Obama met with General Ray Odierno, the top US commander in Iraq, entered a SUV and stepped down at Camp Victory, the top US military base in Iraq, which happens to be contiguous to the airport.**

Not even a glimpse of real-life, messy, dangerous Red Zone Baghdad.

**Obama was then supposed to board a helicopter to visit the Green Zone citadel. But even the Green Zone was deemed a supreme security risk.**

**According to White House spin, the trip was canceled because of a “sandstorm”.**

Instead of flying to the Green Zone, Obama was greeted with a no-risk wait for Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's motorcade to visit him at Camp Victory.

The highway linking the Green Zone to the airport was, of course, totally blocked.

So no Red Zone Obama - not even Green Zone Obama.

It was Pentagon Zone Obama all the way.

Under these circumstances, for Obama to speak of “political progress” sounded a bit of a stretch. (“It's important for us to use all of our influence to encourage the parties to resolve these issues in ways that are equitable. I think that my presence here can help do that.”)

Obama, for all his charisma, is still the president of an occupying power.

**And what are they supposed to make of these Obama words for the occupying troops:**

**“You have given Iraq the opportunity to stand on its own as a democratic country. That is an extraordinary achievement.”**

**Is this Obamaspeak for the classic Bushspeak: “We'll bomb you to democracy, whether you like it or not?”**

It also doesn't help that Obama in his Ankara speech said, “Peace in the region will also be advanced if Iran forgoes any nuclear-weapons ambitions.”

**For all the administration's overtures to unclench the fists in the US-Iran relationship, Obama keeps implying that Tehran is carrying out a nuclear weapons program - something that the US intelligence establishment itself has admitted on the record is not true.**

## **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

## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **U.S. Marine Killed In Helmand**

April 09, 2009 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 230-09

Lance Cpl. Blaise A. Oleski, 22, of Holland Patent, N.Y., died April 8 while supporting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan. He was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

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### **Swedish Patrol Attacked In Mazar-i-Sharif**

2009-04-10 Stockholm News

A Swedish patrol, part of the international Isaf forces, were shot at near Mazar-i-Sharif in Afghanistan yesterday evening.

The Defence force is very confidential about what happened but it is clear that they were shoot at and that some kind of explosives were involved.

The incident took place thirty kilometers west of Mazar-i-Sharif in the Balkh province during a joint operation with the Afghan police.

The Swedes were unharmed but an Afghan police officer was killed. None of the attackers are reported to have been killed or injured.

**The Defence Force does not know, or does not want to say, who was behind the attack.**

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### **U.S. Occupation Forces Slaughter Civilian Family In Khost**



The body of a baby killed by US troops in Khost province. The US military in Afghanistan admitted Thursday that four people its troops killed in a raid were not “combatants”, after Afghans said they included a mother and her children, with a baby dying afterwards. (AFP/Mohammad Rasool)

09 April 2009 By VOA News & (Reuters)

The U.S. military said U.S. and Afghan troops killed four Afghan civilians, including two women, during an operation in eastern Afghanistan.

The U.S.-led coalition had earlier said militants were killed Wednesday during a raid in Khost province. But Afghan officials disputed the claim, saying civilians, including a baby, were killed.

After an investigation, the U.S.-led coalition confirmed those killed were not involved in militant activities.

The father of a seven-day-old boy said on Thursday his infant son died in an overnight raid.

A female school teacher was also killed during the raid in Ali Daya village in Khost province

Janat Gul, the boy's father, told Reuters he was not at home when the raid happened and was not sure how his newborn child died. His son did not have any bullet wounds but he had died during the raid, Gul said.

Photographs showed the boy's body with trickles of blood from his nostrils and white dust on his forehead.

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## **Notes From A Lost War**

**“The Taliban Exploit The  
Widespread Sense That The  
Government Does Not Serve  
People”**

**“There Are 2,000 Taliban Fighters  
In The Province. They Still  
Exercise The Exact Same Control  
Over These Villages That They  
Had Up Until 2001”**

**“We Don’t Have Any Presence With  
The Civilians,” He Said. “Taliban Live  
With Them 24 Hours A Day”**

**“Residents Take Complaints To Local  
Taliban Leaders, Not The Police, He  
Said”**

April 8, 2009 By RICHARD A. OPPEL Jr. The New York Times Company [Excerpts]  
Sangar Rahimi contributed reporting from Kabul, Afghanistan.

In two weeks of interviews in this mountainous region of poor farmers and shepherds, exasperated American soldiers said it was hard to determine which was their more daunting opponent — the few thousand Taliban who ruled villages through a shadow government of mullahs, or corruption so rife that it had deeply undercut efforts to improve the police and had destroyed many Afghans’ faith in government.

That lack of trust, coupled with the absence of security forces in almost all villages, further strengthens the hand of the Taliban as the only real power here.

Ghazni’s experience shows the challenge that corruption presents to efforts to establish better policing throughout the country.

The list of schemes that undermine law enforcement is long and bewildering, according to American and Afghan officers who cite some examples: police officials who steal truckloads of gasoline; judges and prosecutors who make decisions based on bribes; high-ranking government officials who reap payoffs from hashish and chromite smuggling; and midlevel security and political jobs that are sold, sometimes for more than \$50,000, money the buyers then recoup through still more bribes and theft.

But the frustration was palpable as they described the enormous corruption running the length of the civilian administration in this province of 1.3 million people, whose capital, Ghazni, lies 80 miles southwest of Kabul.

Referring to one corrupt and high-ranking government official he sees routinely, Maj. Randy Schmeling, a 43-year-old Army National Guardsman who commands the American police mentoring teams in Ghazni, said, "I'd like to break down his door, stomp on his chest, point my 9-millimeter at his head and say, 'Stop what you are doing!'"

"In every office there is corruption," said Col. Mohammed Zaman, the departing provincial police chief. "It's not only prosecutors and judges."

"This is the reason no one accepts the rule of law," he said, "because the government is not going by the rule of law."

The result is an ineffective and woefully undersupplied Afghan police force and a frustrating lack of justice for Afghans.

Worse still, by comparison with the government's exercise of authority, the law imposed by the Taliban is far more certain — quick and clear, if ruthless.

"The appointed officials and elected officials, the people don't trust them, and they don't trust them with good reason," Major Schmeling said. "They take from them and they give nothing back."

He added: "Right now, there is no meritocracy here. It's, 'Hey, your sister has a pretty mouth — do you want to be a general?'"

That culture of corruption affects everything: promotions, assignments, the resolution of cases. As one example, Major Schmeling pointed to a police officer who a year ago was a lowly patrolman and gate guard. Then, he said, the policeman scraped together the money for a new job: a top noncommissioned officer on the provincial police force.

"As long as people are buying themselves into positions like that, the people will never trust the system," the major said.

To those buying jobs, the payments are an investment they intend to recover, along with a profit. Jobs that bring more money, like posts near the Kabul-Kandahar highway that allow opportunities for extorting truckers and smugglers, sell for a premium, soldiers here say.

But in the process, honest officials are passed over or punished.

“You could say that the corruption you are involved in is an investment in your future, and your family’s future,” said First Lt. Craig Porte, a military intelligence officer in Ghazni, who said it was “fairly common to buy your position” in government.

“If you are not involved in corruption, you are seen as an enemy of those who are, which has a tendency to get you fired.”

Many soldiers question whether anything will ever change. “The corruption here is a bigger threat to a stable government than the Taliban,” said First Sgt. John Strain, the senior noncommissioned officer on the American unit training the Ghazni police.

“If we stay here another year, or another 50 years, I think it’ll probably only take two to three years after we are gone until it reverts to the way it was right before we got here,” he added. “To have to admit that when you look at these kids,” he said, referring to Afghanistan’s children, “it really breaks your heart, to think that what you are doing is probably not going to turn out to be a hill of beans.”

Extortion by police officers is common.

But there is fraud and swindling up the chain of command, too. Several police officials are part of a group that has been stealing thousands of gallons of gasoline a month, a major reason some districts receive less than half their allotments, said American officers, who are mostly powerless to do anything but report corruption to their superiors.

As a measure of the corruption, the American officers said, one senior provincial official recently paid \$50,000 to free a kidnapped relative — about five times his annual salary.

**American officers described another Ghazni provincial police official who had a lucrative side business: coercing police officers to sign requisitions for far more weapons than they actually needed.**

**Then the official would keep the extra weapons and sell them, sometimes to the Taliban.**

The official was killed recently, officers said.

**In some places, government officials are believed to have paid off Taliban fighters to limit attacks, allowing smuggling that benefits provincial officials to continue without interference, several American and Afghan officials from Ghazni said.**

In this swindle, provincial “bodyguards” demand protection money from smugglers, anywhere from \$400 to \$2,000 per truck, for safe passage through Ghazni, said a Ghazni police official recently forced out of his job.

“High-ranking officials in Ghazni have immunity from the law,” said the official, who feared retribution and agreed to speak only if he was not identified.

Likening many provincial officials to a criminal mafia, he added, “People have no choice but to go to the Taliban to solve their problems.”

Indeed, in Ghazni's impoverished villages, where the light brown of clay walls and mud homes is broken only by green plots of winter wheat, the Taliban exploit the widespread sense that the government does not serve people.

When the Taliban were in power in the 1990s, corruption and official bribery were more limited.

The lack of competent civilian authority aids the insurgents.

**Afghan Army officers trained by Maj. Daren Runion “don't like the Taliban,” he said. But some believe “that in some ways parts of their rule were better.”**

Police officers from a handful of Ghazni districts have gone through an intensive eight-week training course and returned to their districts to be overseen by American mentors.

But with little support from the government, most police forces remain a trivial presence in villages, marshaling their meager resources just to protect district centers and their small outposts.

Even if the corruption were not so debilitating, American and Afghan forces would still face a sizable enemy. Major Schmeling estimates that there are 2,000 Taliban fighters in the province. “They still exercise the exact same control over these villages that they had up until 2001,” he said.

In Qarabagh, one of the largest districts, the Taliban use 40 villages as bases to dominate hundreds of other villages, said Qarabagh's deputy police chief, Capt. Mohammed Younus.

Police recruits are easy prey. Twenty-four policemen have been killed in Taliban ambushes and roadside bombings in Qarabagh over the past year, Captain Younus said.

“We don't have any presence with the civilians,” he said. “Taliban live with them 24 hours a day.”

Residents take complaints to local Taliban leaders, not the police, he said. “They have a judge and prosecutor. The Taliban is active at the bazaar in each village.”

In Waghaz District, near Qarabagh, there are just 50 permanent Taliban members, among a population of up to 60,000 ethnic Pashtuns and 33,000 Hazara, said Abdul Azim, the subgovernor of Waghaz.

Yet the Taliban do not need a large presence to dominate, he explained. Last year, he said, the Taliban took three men from their homes whom they suspected of helping the government. “They burned the three men and chopped their limbs off with axes,” he said.

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**BAD IDEA:**



## **NO MISSION; POINTLESS WAR: ALL HOME NOW**



March 10 2009: A US Marine UH-1N Huey helicopter flies near a marine troop dug into a hillside in the desert in southern Afghanistan. (AFP/POOL/Jim Hollander)

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## **Resistance Action**

Apr 3 by Sharif Khoram, (AFP) & April 4 (Xinhua) & 09 April 2009 By VOA News & AP & Apr 10 By FISNIK ABRASHI, Associated Press Writer & (AFP)

Two police were killed as a roadside bomb struck their van in Zabul province south of Afghanistan Saturday, a local official said. "A mine planted by militants and detonated by a remote control in Arghandab district this morning killing two policemen and wounding another," deputy police chief of the province Ghulam Jilani Khan told Xinhua.

In the western province of Herat, Taliban attacked a police post on the border with Iran late Thursday, killing a policeman and three civilian customs office clerks, a senior border police official named only Hamidullah said.

A bomb ripped through a vehicle carrying workers for a private road construction company in the central province of Ghazni and killed four men, Ab Band district chief Allah Dad Halimee told AFP.

A bomber struck in southern Afghanistan, killing five people during an attack on a counter-narcotics police convoy in Helmand province. A provincial official, Daud Ahmadi, said two police officers were killed when the bomber struck the convoy in the

town of Lashkar Gah. The blast also wounded four policemen. The members of the force were traveling in a convoy of vehicles headed for nearby districts to eradicate poppies at the time of the blast. A spokesman for the Taliban claimed responsibility for the blast in a phone call to an Associated Press reporter in southern Afghanistan.

Insurgents attacked a police checkpoint in Helmand's Nava district, killing six officers and wounding seven others. The attack occurred just outside the provincial capital of Lashkar Gah, provincial government spokesman Daud Ahmadi said.

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## **TROOP NEWS**

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



Air Force Staff Sgt. Phillip Myers returns to the U.S. at Dover Air Force Base in Dover, Delaware April 5, 2009. Myers, of Hopewell, Virginia, died April 4 near Helmand province, Afghanistan of wounds suffered from an improvised explosive device. REUTERS/Joshua Roberts

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# **Two War Profiteers Charged in Bribery Conspiracy Of Army Officer Related To Contracts in Afghanistan: “The Contracts At Issue Were Intended To Assist U.S. Soldiers Abroad Serving Their Country”**

Apr 9 U.S. Department of Justice Office of Public Affairs [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON: -- Two Department of Defense (DOD) contractors were charged with conspiracy and bribery relating to their roles involving DOD contracts in Afghanistan, the Department of Justice today announced.

A Lebanese contracting company is also charged with participating in the same conspiracy.

The criminal complaint, unsealed today and originally filed on April 3, 2009, in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Va., charges Dinorah Cobos with bribery and conspiracy to commit bribery. Cobos, a U.S. citizen living in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, worked as a contractor with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the Afghanistan Engineer District in Kabul, Afghanistan.

The criminal complaint also charged Afghanistan Engineer District contractor Raymond Azar, a citizen of Lebanon, with conspiracy to commit bribery, and Sima Salazar Group, a Lebanese military contracting company, with bribery and conspiracy to commit bribery.

Cobos and Azar were located in Afghanistan at the time the charges were filed. They were taken into U.S. custody and transferred to the United States, with the authorization of Afghan authorities.

According to the court documents, beginning in 2008, Cobos and Azar conspired to bribe a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers contracting officer in exchange for approval of payment of fraudulent invoices on contracts that Sima Salazar Group held with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Afghanistan.

The court documents allege that Cobos offered to pay the contracting officer up to 1.5 percent of any payments made by U.S. Corps of Army Engineers to Sima Salazar Group and that \$16,789 in bribe money was, in fact, wired to the contracting officer in the United States.

We will aggressively prosecute military contractors who attempt to bribe government officials in order to line their own pockets,” said Scott D. Hammond, Acting Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Department's Antitrust Division. “The alleged conduct

is particularly egregious because the contracts at issue were intended to assist U.S. soldiers abroad serving their country.”

Cobos faces up to 15 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000 or twice the thing of value offered for the bribery count, and Cobos and Azar each face up to five years in prison and a fine of \$250,000 for the conspiracy count. Sima Salazar Group faces fines of up to \$500,000 for bribery and \$500,000 for conspiracy.

The maximum fine for each of these violations may be increased to twice the gain derived from the crime or twice the loss suffered by the victims of the crime, if either of those amounts is greater than the statutory maximum fine.

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**



(Graphic: London Financial Times)

### **Resistance Action**

4.6.09 Ammar Karim, AFP & Reuters & Apr 7 By KATARINA KRATOVAC, Associated Press Writer & Reuters & 9 April 2009 By Hussein Kadhim, McClatchy Newspapers

A car bomb targeting the convoy of a senior interior ministry official killed one civilian and a policeman and wounded six other policemen in the southeastern neighbourhood of New Baghdad. The official, a brigadier general identified as Sadun, was unhurt.

Two people were killed and seven wounded when a car bomb targeting an Interior Ministry official convoy exploded in eastern Baghdad, police said. One of the dead was a guard in the convoy.

A bomber rammed his car into a police check point and killed three policeman and wounded three policemen, in the southern entrance of the city of Falluja, 50 km (35 miles) west of Baghdad, police said.

Around 4:15 p.m. one construction worker was killed and another wounded by an IED inside Saad Camp for the Iraqi army in eastern Baquba on Thursday.

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

## **OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

### **The Wonder**

“The wonder is not of why some people are sending rockets but of why all people are not firing rockets everyday because they've been locked up for the last 60 years in refuge camps that are no more than open air concentration camps, the entrances of which are guarded by the very same people who on 27 December rained down death's destruction on the million and a half living on this tiny piece of land.”

British MP George Galloway, speaking in San Diego, California

Quoted by Anayat Durrani, AL-AHRAM, 9 - 15 April 2009

[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.”]

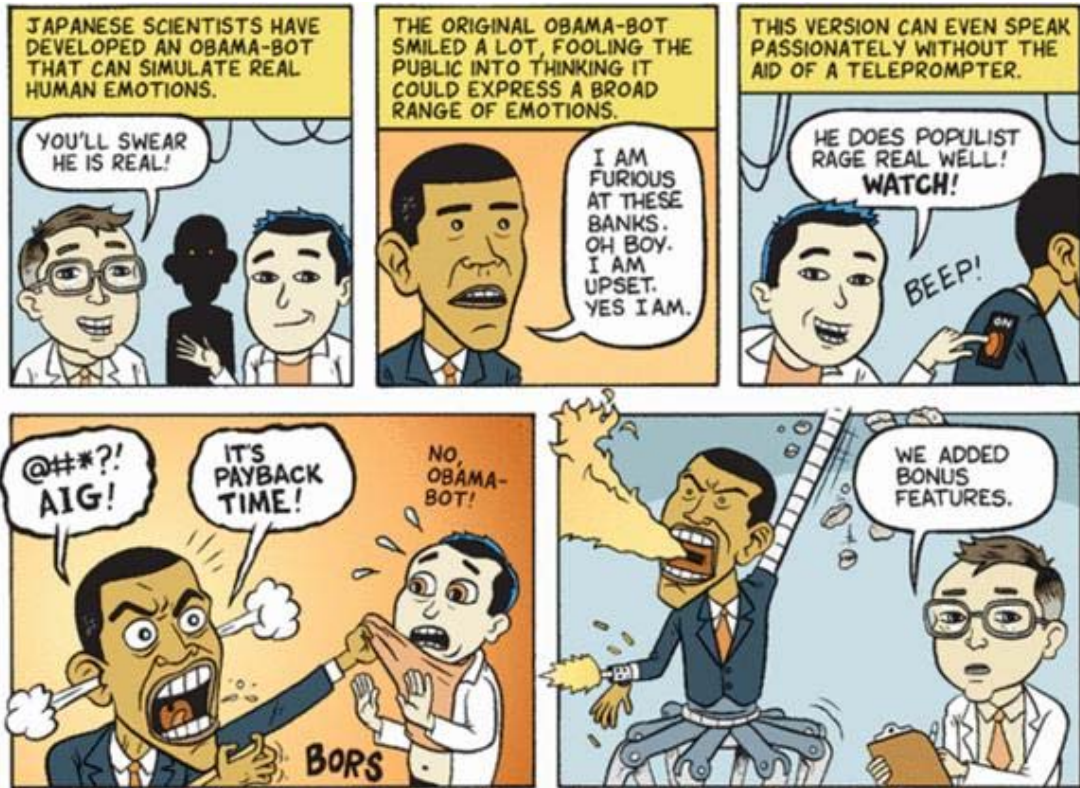
### **NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER**

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

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

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

**DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**



## The Racist Left

Comment: T

The Racist Left repeatedly portrays Obama as a well-meaning but simple fellow who truly wants to do the right thing, but, you see, he's at the mercy of the evil politicians in Washington DC who want to do things like send more troops to die in Afghanistan.

They babble stupid bullshit about how he really wants peace, but those nasty DC people won't let him do what he really wants.

The fact is that Obama is a master of politics, winning the Presidency in one of the best organized presidential campaigns in U.S. history.

He is arguably the most brilliant political tactician to have emerged in a generation.

He knows exactly what he has done, is doing, and plans to do in the future, including keeping the Empire at war, and killing as many U.S. troops, Afghans, and Iraqis as he believes necessary to preserve it.

Only racist scum could even think, let alone argue publicly, that he is some innocent but dimwitted peacemaker who needs protection against sinister forces.

He *is* the new, fresh, wholesome, smiling sinister force.

*Why, I can smile, and murder whiles I smile,  
And cry 'Content' to that which grieves my heart  
And wet my cheeks with artificial tears,  
And frame my face to all occasions.*

-- Gloucester, "Henry VI" -- Shakespeare

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

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

## CLASS WAR REPORTS

For Their Own Protection, Bankers at G20 Summit Told Don't Look Like Bankers



**“No Neutrals There”**

[Comment: T]

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**Come all you good workers,  
Good news to you I'll tell  
Of how the good old union  
Has come in here to dwell.**

**CHORUS:**

**Which side are you on?  
Which side are you on?  
Which side are you on?  
Which side are you on?**

**My daddy was a miner,  
And I'm a miner's son,  
And I'll stick with the union  
'Til every battle's won.**

**CHORUS**

**Which side are you on?  
Which side are you on?  
Which side are you on?  
Which side are you on?**

**They say in Harlan County  
There are no neutrals there.  
You'll either be a union man  
Or a thug for J. H. Blair.**

**CHORUS**

**Oh workers can you stand it?  
Oh tell me how you can?  
Will you be a lousy scab  
Or will you be a man?**

**CHORUS**

**Don't scab for the bosses,  
Don't listen to their lies.  
Us poor folks haven't got a chance  
Unless we organize.**

**By Florence Reece, Harlan County, Kentucky, 1931**

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A rumor, which may be or, as with most rumors, is most likely not true, quotes someone as saying of this Class War section of GI Special: "I do not approve of class war."

That's like writing that one does not approve of a hurricane.



It's there, it's real, the people on top are fighting it against us every day, one way or another; from cheating on tips for restaurant workers, to forcing through layoffs and pay cuts, while resisting union organizing, and leaving us to die without health care or enough money to live on when we get old, as they plunder the wealth of society and fill their pockets with it.

And what are the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan if not wars begun and continued for the benefit of their Empire?

The class war is on, "an uninterrupted, now hidden, now open fight," as Marx expressed it, and it's on 24/7.

The only question concerning class war that makes any sense is simple: which side are you on?

There is no honor to be found or useful purpose to be served in standing aside.

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**Eugene Debs, who went to prison for opposing World War I, had this to say:**

**"Wars throughout history have been waged for conquest and plunder.**

**"In the Middle Ages when the feudal lords who inhabited the castles whose towers may still be seen along the Rhine concluded to enlarge their domains, to increase their power, their prestige and their wealth they declared war upon one another. But they themselves did not go to war any more than the modern feudal lords, the barons of Wall Street go to war.**

**"The feudal barons of the Middle Ages, the economic predecessors of the capitalists of our day, declared all wars.**

**"And their miserable serfs fought all the battles. The poor, ignorant serfs had been taught to revere their masters; to believe that when their masters declared war upon one another, it was their patriotic duty to fall upon one another and to cut one another's throats for the profit and glory of the lords and barons who held them in contempt.**

**"They have always taught and trained you to believe it to be your patriotic duty to go to war and to have yourselves slaughtered at their command.**

**"But in all the history of the world you, the people, have never had a voice in declaring war, and strange as it certainly appears, no war by any nation in any age has ever been declared by the people."**

**"The master class has always declared the wars; the subject class has always fought the battles.**

**"The master class has had all to gain and nothing to lose, while the subject class has had nothing to gain and all to lose — especially their lives.**

**"And that is war in a nutshell."**

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# American Adults Under 30 Are Essentially Divided: 37% Prefer Capitalism, 33% Socialism,

[This is a huge and rapid change. Looks like a lot of people have an interest in class war, and, as has been so often true through history, the younger generation is far wiser than the older. T]

04.09.09 by Craig Brown, Common Dreams [Excerpts]

Only 53% of American adults believe capitalism is better than socialism.

The latest Rasmussen Reports national telephone survey found that 20% disagree and say socialism is better. Twenty-seven percent (27%) are not sure which is better.

Adults under 30 are essentially evenly divided: 37% prefer capitalism, 33% socialism, and 30% are undecided.

## **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**

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[http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi\\_special/](http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/);

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

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