

GI SPECIAL 7E3:



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

**“There Are Now Taliban
In Every Village”
“Many Of Them Have Rejoined
The Movement After The
Savage Attacks Carried Out By
Americans”**

“The People Who Are Fighting With The Taliban Are The Brothers, Uncles And Relatives Of Those Killed By The Americans”

“They Have Joined The Taliban And Are Fighting Because They Want To Avenge Their Brothers, Fathers Or Cousins”

Obama has shifted the deadly burden of air strikes onto Pakistani border Pashtun tribe people. This would seem to be an especially flawed tactic insofar as most Pashtuns adhere to the code of Pashtunwali where a mal deed against a family member requires revenge. In other words, such attacks causing civilian injury or death are creating an endless supply of new resistance fighters.

April 30, 2009 Marc W. Herold, RAWA News [Excerpts]

“Today the people in this region hate the Americans whereas they were welcomed when they arrived in 2001”

- Raza Nawaz Tani, head of an association of tribal chiefs in Khost Province

The Taliban in Afghanistan rejected the Obama offer of reconciliation labeling it as “lunatic” and reiterating from a position of strength that the withdrawal of foreign troops was the only way to end the war in Afghanistan.

Why would the Taliban give up anything in order to join with a failing, corrupt, dysfunctional regime in Kabul?

Reconciliation might have worked in 2003 when the Karzai regime still had the upper hand.

The latest report (December 2008) of the International Council on Security and Development (ICOS), a European think-tank, says the Taliban now hold a permanent presence in 72% of Afghanistan, up from 54% a year ago.

The lead researcher at ICOS, Norine MacDonald, is emphatic, “The Taliban are now controlling the political and military dynamic in Afghanistan.”

The informal spokesman of the so-called moderate Taliban, Mullah Abdul Salem Zaeff himself said that the Obama troop surge would merely serve to attract jihadis to the country and moreover the Taliban movement was united.

Counterinsurgency doctrine posits 20-25 troops per 1,000 of a country’s population, precisely the ratio which existed in the basket case called Kosovo in

2008. Richard Pape stated that for a successful occupation, one needs about one combat soldier for every 40 people in the country, or 25 soldiers per 1,000 inhabitants.

What that equates to in Afghanistan would be well over a quarter million Western combat forces in Afghanistan.

The Afghan ratio in 2008 was a mere 5.2 and with the Obama surge will only reach 6.4.

If we assume the only hostility comes from the 14 mn Pashtuns in Afghanistan, the ratio would still be 14.5, a far cry from the suggested 25.

The evidence is overwhelming that Obama's military "solution" – his surge – is a pitiful half-measure and as the Strasbourg NATO meeting in April demonstrated, Europe is unwilling to pick up the slack.

Two hundred thousand Pashtuns cross the 2,640 km long border with Pakistan daily. Clearly, such a border cannot be sealed.

The chimera of building up the Afghan National Police needs to be recognized.

According to the U.S. Government Accountability Office report of June 2008, the \$6.2 bn already spent on creating a functioning Afghan National Police force has not resulted in a single police unit capable of fulfilling its mission.

Ann Jones presents a sobering account by inspectors general of the Pentagon and State Department of U.S. efforts to train the Afghan police,

"They found the number of men trained (about 30,000) to be less than half the number reported by the administration (70,000). The training had lasted eight weeks at most, with no in-the-field experience whatsoever. Only about half the equipment assigned to the police -- including thousands of trucks -- could be accounted for, and the men trained were then deemed "incapable of carrying out routine law enforcement work."

Mullah Zubiallah Akhund, a Taliban leader in Uruzgan, believes that foreign attacks helped turn their fight against the foreigners into a nationwide popular struggle,

"The people who are fighting with the Taliban are the brothers, uncles and relatives of those killed by the Americans. They have joined the Taliban and are fighting because they want to avenge their brothers, fathers or cousins.

"There are now Taliban in every village; many of them have rejoined the movement after the savage attacks carried out by Americans."

Obama has shifted the deadly burden of air strikes onto Pakistani border Pashtun tribe people.

This would seem to be an especially flawed tactic insofar as most Pashtuns adhere to the code of Pashtunwali where a mal deed against a family member requires revenge.

In other words, such attacks causing civilian injury or death are creating an endless supply of new resistance fighters.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Two U.S. Soldiers Killed, Three Wounded In Ninewa Province (Mosul)

May 2, 2009 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20090502-02

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, TIKRIT, Iraq – Two Multi-National Division – North Soldiers were killed and three wounded during a small arms fire attack at a combat outpost south of Mosul early this evening.

According to initial reports, an individual dressed in an Iraqi Army uniform fired on the Coalition forces and was killed in the incident.

Hood Soldier Shot On Dismounted Patrol In Iraq

Apr 29, 2009 The Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — An Army soldier who grew up in Iowa has died after being shot in Iraq, the military said. The Department of Defense said Sgt. LeRoy O. Webster, 28, was shot April 25 while on patrol near Kirkuk.

Webster was born in 1980 in Spencer and grew up in Hartley, said Lt. Col. Greg Hapgood, spokesman for the Iowa National Guard. He graduated from Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn High School in 1999.

Webster joined the military as a member of the Iowa National Guard, Hapgood said. In 2002, he was called to duty with an Algona-based National Guard unit that provided security at a Department of Defense installation in Newport, Ind.

In 2004 and 2005, he served in Afghanistan with a Council Bluffs-based unit.

After that deployment, Webster moved to Sioux Falls, S.D., and transferred to active duty Army in 2006, Hapgood said.

From October 2006 to January 2008, he served with the Army in Baghdad.

Webster's last deployment to Iraq began in January, Hapgood said. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division out of Fort Hood, Texas.

Webster is survived by his wife, Jessica, three daughters, and his parents.

"LeRoy was a wonderful husband and terrific dad to his three beautiful daughters. He was proud to serve in the United States Army," the family said in a statement Monday night.

Guthrie Soldier Wounded In Iraq

May 2, 2009 TULSA, Okla. (AP)

Oklahoma National Guard officials say an Army National Guard soldier from Guthrie is recovering at the Walter Reed Medical Center after he was shot in Iraq.

Cpl. Adam Schuster was in a dismounted patrol in Ramadi, Iraq, when he was shot in the neck and jaw with a small-caliber gun by an insurgent. Schuster underwent surgery on Wednesday and is expected to undergo several more operations before he fully recovers.

Schuster is the first casualty among the Enid-based 45th Fires Brigade, which deployed 800 troops to Iraq in August. The soldiers are scheduled to return home this August.

Schuster is a member of Battery B, 1st Battalion of the 158th Field Artillery in Duncan.

The Guard said the soldier's immediate family, including his father, Dan Schuster, and two sisters were flown to Washington this week to be with him.

The War In Iraq Over At Last! Only 343 March IED Attacks Kill Or Wound Only 49 Foreign Troops

5.1.09 By Tom Vanden Brook, USA TODAY [Excerpt]

Attack data show that for the first time the number of IED attacks in Afghanistan has exceeded those in Iraq.

In March, there were 361 incidents in Afghanistan compared with 343 in Iraq.

In Iraq it takes seven bombs to wound or kill coalition troops. [Do the math.]

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

IED Blast Kills Topekan, 21, In Afghanistan



April 21, 2009 By Ann Marie Bush, CJOnline

Bob DeWater didn't want his son to join the military. Ultimately, he gave his blessing.

"I wanted to say no in hopes it would stop him," DeWater said. "But he asked me like a man. I couldn't say no."

Department of Defense officials said Pfc. Richard A. DeWater, 21, of Topeka, was on a dismounted U.S. Army patrol as a part of Operation Enduring Freedom near Korengal Valley, Afghanistan, when he was fatally wounded by an improvised explosive device on April 15.

DeWater, who doesn't support the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, takes consolation knowing his son died doing what he loved — serving his country.

DeWater spoke with The Topeka Capital-Journal on Tuesday about his son, who was slated to return home in June.

"When he was 4, he said he wanted to be (in the military)," he said. "It lit a spark in him. It was a dream of his."

Richard "Rick" DeWater moved to Topeka with his father in May 2007. He was born in San Diego. He and his wife, Valerie, were married in Topeka in June 2008.

His son was deployed in July. Bob couldn't bear the thought of losing his son, but he tried to support him in every way possible.

"What do you think when you learn your firstborn is going to the most deadliest place in the Middle East?" he asked. "We talked on the phone or online as much as possible. Missions were really tough on me. I kept thinking, 'Something is happening.' But Rick said no news is good news. I just kept that in mind."

A FATHER'S LOVE

My son, Rick, he is a hero as well!! I have 2 sons, Nicholas, my youngest. They both probably dunno it, but they are the apples of my eye, I love them both more than life itself !! This sucks, i know what im thinking / feeling, i just cant seem to get it out. — Bob DeWater, written on his myspace.com page

A day or so before his son was killed, DeWater was online at Yahoo chatting with some friends. He noticed his son's name flash up on his computer, indicating Rick was online, too.

"I missed him," DeWater said he realized. "I thought, 'I'll just catch him next time.' I didn't know there wasn't going to be a next time."

The last time the two spoke on the phone was right after April 10. Rick seemed "jazzed" about something, his father said.

"He said he couldn't talk about it," DeWater said. "But he also said he was looking forward to coming home. Too many of them look forward to coming home, and they don't."

That would be the last time he would hear his son's voice.

Rick was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, of Fort Hood, Texas. DeWater said he believes his son was engaged in battle on or about April 10 when his platoon ambushed a Taliban unit.

An article written by C.J. Chivers with the New York Times confirmed Rick's platoon had indeed ambushed a Taliban unit a few days before his death, killing at least 13 insurgents.

"That was his platoon," DeWater said. "I know he was there. They wanted revenge on my son's platoon. My son died for a reason. He saved all of their lives. People have to know my son. They can't know him now, but they can know who he was."

That is the reason DeWater hasn't been reluctant to talk to the media. In fact, photographs accompanying Chivers' article show the last few minutes of his son's life. The photos don't bother DeWater, he said, because it gives him a chance to see his son in action.

As i sit here on this easter sunday, i find myself thinking yet again. I really dont know much, but i do know i feel very empty. Every since my two sons left i have been feeling this way, first my youngest, now 18, went to georgia to live with his mom and step dad,

then my oldest last year left for the army at 21. now, proud as i am, i still cant help but feel empty inside. — Bob DeWater, written on his Myspace.com page

DeWater, who works at the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. plant, received a phone call at 8 p.m. April 15 that shook him to the core. He was fixing himself some food in his kitchen in North Topeka when it came.

“My ex-wife told me to sit down,” DeWater said. “It dawned on me, and I said, ‘Oh God, please tell me it’s not Rick.’ I don’t remember much after that. Now, I’m wondering. There’s anger. Hate. Everything recycles. The what ifs. The how comes. It sucks for it to happen to anyone. It sucks even more it was my son. But I can’t wish this on anyone. I can’t have someone else go through this.”

DeWater received word Tuesday that his son’s body was being released. It will be flown to Oregon, where a military ceremony will be conducted at Roseburg National Cemetery. Rick considered Grants Pass, Ore., his home.

“He has earned everything I can do for him and then some,” DeWater said. “Today has been a hellish day of waiting. I don’t know when anything will happen.”

His son will be cremated after the military ceremony.

“I have sacrificed a son, but what have I gained?” DeWater asked with tears in his eyes. “But there has to be a plan. I don’t understand it now, but hopefully, one day, I can. He was amazing. He had a personality that would draw you in. He loved fishing. He loved guns. He loved what he was doing. He dedicated himself to it. He believed in what he was doing.

“It (the war in Afghanistan) has been drug out too long, and we’re losing money. But I support all of our troops.”

Friends will miss the fallen soldier, too.

Ryan Burge, 23, of Topeka, said he and several of Rick’s friends met Sunday at Echo Cliff near Dover to remember their friend.

“He was a great guy,” Burge said. “He was always set on going into the military. It is a shock that he is gone.”

Bob said his son’s wife is struggling with the death but is dealing with it day by day. She remains in Fort Hood, Texas, where the couple lived.

DeWater also is taking his life day by day and has undertaken the burden of planning his son’s funeral.

“Rick was my world,” he said. “How am I getting through? I don’t know that I am getting through this. I guess I’m just getting.”

Notes From A Lost War:

**““Do You Have Any Help Here, Or
Are You All Alone?’ Mullen Asked”
“Naseri Replied That The Provincial
Government Consisted Of Him And
Four Other Afghans”
“There Are Only 13 U.S. Civilian
Development Experts In All Of Southern
Afghanistan”**

May 1, 2009 By Greg Jaffe, Washington Post Staff Writer [Excerpts]

ZABOL, Afghanistan -- In this impoverished province on the Pakistani border, the U.S. military's most senior officer came face to face with the consequences of nearly eight years of American indifference and neglect in Afghanistan.

Adm. Mike Mullen, the Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, sat across from Gov. Mohammad Ashraf Naseri, who nervously stroked his salt-and-pepper beard and ran through his problems.

“Do you have any help here, or are you all alone?” Mullen asked during a visit last week.

Naseri replied that the provincial government consisted of him and four other Afghans.

There was no money coming from the central government in Kabul.

In the next few months, the Obama administration plans to move more than 20,000 U.S. soldiers into southern Afghanistan in an effort to drive the Taliban from places such as the southeastern province of Zabol.

The new strategy, however, is hampered by the heavy demand in Iraq and Afghanistan for civilian and military reconstruction experts.

There are only 13 U.S. civilian development experts in all of southern Afghanistan, where the Taliban movement is strongest and the local economy is almost entirely dependent on opium production.

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

U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR; RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS



Foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. search an Afghan citizens house during a home invasion in Nerkh district of Wardak province in west of Kabul, Afghanistan, , May 1, 2009. (AP Photo/Rafiq Maqbool)

[There's nothing quite like invading somebody else's country and busting into their houses by force to arouse an intense desire to kill you in the patriotic, self-respecting civilians who live there.

[But your commanders know that, don't they? Don't they?]

Afghan citizens have no right to resist home invasions by occupation soldiers from the USA. If they do, they may be arrested, wounded, or killed.

One of the squadron's great successes over the past year, says Lt. Col. Kolenda, has been weaning less-committed local boys away from the hard-liners through jobs, schooling and support for the elders.

He says the young men of Mirdish village, for instance, joined the insurgency because a couple of years ago American troops kicked down some doors and searched some homes.

-- Michael M. Phillips, Wall St. Journal, 7.18.08



[images.google.com]

English soldiers search an American settler's house (1770's)

Declared Bill Ehrhart, a marine in Vietnam:

In grade school we learned about the redcoats, the nasty British soldiers that tried to stifle our freedom. Subconsciously, but not very subconsciously, I began increasingly to have the feeling that I was a redcoat. I think it was one of the most staggering realizations of my life.

In March “For The First Time, The Number Of IED Attacks In Afghanistan Has Exceeded Those In Iraq” “The Attacks In Afghanistan Are Also More Lethal”

5.1.09 By Tom Vanden Brook, USA TODAY [Excerpts]

The growing number of roadside bomb attacks in Afghanistan led commanders there to dramatically increase requests for armored vehicles needed to replace Humvees, according to documents and interviews with U.S. defense officials.

“You’ve got a huge country, much larger than Iraq,” [Army Lt. Gen. Thomas] Metz said in an interview. “Very rural. Very few paved roads.”

“So the enemy’s got lots of time and space to put in IEDs. He generally does it by digging holes in unpaved roads and burying them for underbelly attacks. There are thousands of culverts, so he’ll take advantage of the culverts to pack in a lot of explosives.”

Attack data show that for the first time the number of IED attacks in Afghanistan has exceeded those in Iraq.

In March, there were 361 incidents in Afghanistan compared with 343 in Iraq.

The attacks in Afghanistan are also more lethal.

Insurgents cause one casualty for every three bombs they plant there; in Iraq it takes seven bombs to wound or kill coalition troops, Metz said.

Welcome To Liberated Afghanistan: “Torture Is Commonplace In Afghan Detention Facilities” “Fewer Than 20% Of Afghan Law- Enforcement Officials Are Aware It’s Illegal To Torture Someone”

May 1, 2009 STEVEN CHASE, The Globe and Mail

OTTAWA -- Fewer than 20 per cent of Afghan law-enforcement officials are aware it’s illegal to torture someone accused of a crime in that country, a report by a Canadian government-supported human-rights watchdog says.

The Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, whose mandate comes from the Afghan constitution, also says “torture and cruel, inhumane and belittling behaviour” is widespread among that country’s law-enforcement agencies. It says Afghan police are alleged to be responsible for more than 65 per cent of the incidents in its study.

The rights body’s report, which surveyed 92 Afghan law-enforcement officials and 398 alleged victims of torture in detention, found that only 17.4 per cent of officials were aware of legal rights in Afghanistan affording the accused protection from torture.

Only 12 per cent of those surveyed, who included prosecutors, police and court officials, recognized the rights of the accused as outlined in the Afghan constitution. Article 29 of the constitution prohibits torture and declares information obtained through it unusable.

The study, titled *The Reasons for Torture by Law Enforcement Agencies*, reported that only about 58 per cent of law-enforcement officials felt an accused should not be tortured for any reason.

Human-rights groups have said torture is commonplace in Afghan detention facilities despite Kabul's claim that abuses are isolated.

More Notes From A Lost War:

\$250,000: Typical Salary Of Foreign Consultants In Afghanistan: “To Travel To A Part Of Afghanistan Deemed Wholly Free Of Taliban By Afghans, She Had To Go By Helicopter And Then Be Taken To Where She Wanted To Go In An Armoured Vehicle”

May 1, 2009 By Patrick Cockburn in Kabul, Independent News and Media [Excerpts]

Vast sums of money are being lavished by Western aid agencies on their own officials in Afghanistan at a time when extreme poverty is driving young Afghans to fight for the Taliban.

Whole districts of Kabul have already been taken over or rebuilt to accommodate Westerners working for aid agencies or embassies.

“I have just rented out this building for \$30,000 a month to an aid organisation,” said Torialai Bahadery, the director of Property Consulting Afghanistan, which specialises in renting to foreigners. “It was so expensive because it has 24 rooms with en-suite bathrooms as well as armoured doors and bullet-proof windows,” he explained, pointing to a picture of a cavernous mansion.

Though 77 per cent of Afghans lack access to clean water, Mr Bahadery said that aid agencies and the foreign contractors who work for them insist that every bedroom should have an en-suite bathroom and this often doubles the cost of accommodation.

In addition to the expensive housing the expatriates in Kabul are invariably protected by high-priced security companies and each house is converted into a fortress. The freedom of movement of foreigners is very limited.

“I am not even allowed to go into Kabul's best hotel,” complained one woman working for a foreign government aid organisation. She added that to travel to a part of Afghanistan

deemed wholly free of Taliban by Afghans, she had to go by helicopter and then be taken to where she wanted to go in an armoured vehicle.

This means that many foreigners sent to Afghanistan to help rebuild the country and the state machinery seldom meet Afghans aside from their drivers and a few Afghans with whom they work.

The effectiveness of foreign advisers and experts in Iraq is often further reduced by the very short time they stay in the country. "Many people move on after six months," said one expatriate who did not want to be named.

"In addition some embassy employees receive two weeks off work for every six weeks they are in the country, on top of their usual holidays." **[Sounds good. How about the same deal for the U.S. troops?]**

Some 42 per cent of Afghanistan's 25 million inhabitants live on less than a dollar a day and life expectancy is only 45 years. Overall literacy rate is just 34 per cent and 18 per cent for women.

But much of the aid money goes to foreign companies who then subcontract as many as five times with each subcontractor in turn looking for between 10 per cent and 20 per cent or more profit before any work is done on the project.

The biggest donor in Afghanistan is the US, whose overseas aid department USAID channels nearly half of its aid budget for Afghanistan to five large US contractors.

Examples cited in an Oxfam report include the building of a short road between Kabul city centre and the international airport in 2005 which, after the main US contractor had subcontracted it to an Afghan company, cost \$2.4m a kilometre – or four times the average cost of road construction in Afghanistan.

Often aid is made conditional on spending it in the donor country.

A striking feature of Kabul is that while the main roads are paved, the side streets are often no more than packed earth with high ridges, deep potholes and grey pools of dirty water.

New roads have been built between the cities, such as Kabul and Kandahar, but these are often too dangerous to use because of mobile Taliban checkpoints where anybody connected to the central government is killed on the spot.

\$57: The foreign aid per capita to Afghanistan, compared with \$580 per capita in the aftermath of the Bosnian conflict.

\$250,000: Typical salary of foreign consultants in Afghanistan, including 35 per cent hardship allowance and 35 per cent danger money.

Terrified Collaborator Regime Cancels Annual Holiday Honoring War Veterans:

**“Many People Sacrificed A Lot In The
War, And This Is The Only Day We
Have To Honor Them”**

**“With Thousands Of Foreign Troops
Here, Can’t They Protect One Event?”**

April 29, 2009 By Pamela Constable, Washington Post Foreign Service [Excerpts]

KABUL, April 28 -- The streets of the Afghan capital were deserted Tuesday in a tense, silent observance of an annual holiday that evokes an era of patriotic heroism for some Afghans and a period of brutal, devastating civil war for others.

For the first time in 16 years, there was no military parade through city streets and no cheering crowd of retired mujaheddin donning pie-shaped pakul hats and faded combat jackets in memory of their triumphant guerrilla fight against Soviet occupation forces during the 1980s.

The national stadium and mosque were prepared for the occasion with multicolored banners and posters of the Afghan holy war’s fallen heroes, but the public ceremony was abruptly canceled in favor of a small private remembrance held inside the heavily guarded presidential compound.

Although the government said it had decided to use the parade funds to help victims of a recent earthquake, it was widely assumed that officials were concerned about the possibility of a terrorist attack and felt they could not protect the gathering.

Some Afghans, especially veterans of the grueling 10-year war against the former Soviet Union, saw the cancellation of the public ceremony as an unforgivable slight to the millions of Afghans who were killed, injured, displaced or orphaned by the conflict, which helped speed the demise of Soviet communism.

“I am very disappointed. Many people sacrificed a lot in the war, and this is the only day we have to honor them,” said Mir Agha, 47, a former fighter whose legs are paralyzed from a shrapnel wound.

With a young boy pushing him in a wheelchair, he slowly circled the empty parade ground Tuesday.

Naeem Farahi, a legislator from the United Front Party, which includes many former mujaheddin, said the cancellation was a national disgrace and a sign of the government's weakness. "I lost 18 family members in the war, and I feel shame for the souls of all the martyrs," he said.

"With thousands of foreign troops here, can't they protect one event?"

WELCOME TO VIETNAMISTAN: HAVE A NICE DAY



A U.S. soldier tries to cross an irrigation ditch during an operation in Tangi valley, Wardak province, west of Kabul, Afghanistan, April 28, 2009. (AP Photo/Rafiq Maqbool)

Pakistan Northwest: 56% Describe Afghanistan's Taliban As "Islamic Heroes Fighting Western Occupation" 2.95% Favor U.S.

April 28, 2009 Daily Times via Uruknet

PESHAWAR, PAKISTAN:

Exactly 56 percent respondents described Afghanistan's Taliban as "Islamic heroes fighting western occupation" in a survey [in Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas] conducted by Community Appraisal and Motivation Programme (CAMP) with the help of the British High Commission in Islamabad.

A paltry 12.1 percent called them "a terrorist group".

Just 2.95 percent respondents referred to the US as a "very favourable" country, compared with 66.2 percent who called it "very unfavourable".

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

TROOP NEWS

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



The remains of US Army Spc. Israel Candelaria Mejias of Puerto Rico, at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware. The 28-year old soldier was killed in Iraq. (AFP/Getty Images/Mark Wilson)

"i know family's in America

still have there love ones that are in Iraq, but we will not for get them”

[This is a message to Americans from Rose Gentle. Her son Gordon was killed in Iraq. She leads a campaign to bring all troops home now. Her words carry more weight, and contain more truth, than 5000 pages of bullshit from the politicians.
T]

From: Rose Gentle
To: GI Special
Sent: May 01, 2009 6:28 AM

to day as i was watching news
to see the British force end there time in Iraq
i sat with tears in my eyes and my hart broken,
to know that my boy was there and did not come home,
i was angry and happy for the family's with love ones that are on there way home,
my boy was killed for the lies our government
then tony Blair
the puppet for george bush,
i know family's in America
still have there love ones that are in Iraq,
but we will not for get them
our harts are still with them
and hope thy will all be home soon,
now that our troops are home
and not at war with a country
that we should never of went to,
we are calling on our government to have a public enquiry,
into the legality of the war
the truth has to come out
and lets hope this will help the American people to
we are all so thinking of all the forces in Afghanistan

rose gentle
MFAW IN THE UK

Semper Traitorous: How Lejeune Marine Corps Command Knowingly, Repeatedly

Poisoned Troops And Military Families; And How They Lied About It

April 29, 2009 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Key events in the investigation of contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune, N.C.:

October 1980: Tests through March 1981 show water at the Hadnot Point treatment plant is “highly contaminated” with chlorinated hydrocarbons. A lab chemist urges further analysis.

Officials do not test individual wells to find the contamination source.

May and July 1982: Tests identify TCE and PCE as contaminants in water systems for Hadnot Point and Tarawa Terrace, which served housing, schools, other buildings and swimming pools at Camp Lejeune.

July 1984: The base begins testing individual wells and by February 1985 shuts down 10 contaminated wells.

One drinking water sample measured 1,400 parts per billion of TCE. The U.S. government eventually set 5 parts per billion as the maximum safe level for TCE at the tap.

January 1985: A fuel spill closes a clean water system. Homes and a school are connected on an emergency basis to the Hadnot Point system for 12 days. They receive contaminated water.

March through April 1985: A contaminated well that had been shut down is turned on to pump water to residents on four nights to ease a temporary water shortage.

April 1985: The base commander, Maj. Gen. L.H. Buehl, urges families in Tarawa Terrace to conserve water.

He says wells were closed as a precaution over “minute” amounts of organic chemicals.

He does not mention that contamination exceeded maximum recommended exposure limits several times over.

March 1987: The water treatment system for Tarawa Terrace is shut down and homes are connected to a new water treatment plant.

October 1989: Camp Lejeune is added to the Superfund list of the nation’s highly contaminated hazardous waste sites.

August 1997: The U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry concludes that adults had little or no increased cancer risk from the past contaminated water, but raised concern about effects on developing fetuses. It recommended studies on the fetal effects.

August 1998: The health agency finds a link between toxic water and low birth-weight babies born to some women at Camp Lejeune during the years of contamination.

The study undercounts mothers who were exposed because it assumes a clean treatment plant provided water for four years before it was constructed.

1999: The health agency begins searching for leukemia cases and birth defects among babies who were in utero at the base from 1968, when birth records first were computerized, until 1985, when contaminated wells were believed to have been shut down.

2003: The health agency begins to study whether Camp Lejeune's contaminated water is linked to birth defects and elevated leukemia rates in its survey of 12,600 children.

October 2004: An outside panel convened by the Marines determines that Camp Lejeune did not understand the significance of its water contamination early on and that Navy environmental advisers were "not aggressive" in assisting them.

However, the panel concludes that Marine leadership acted responsibly and provided water quality consistent with general practices at the time.

April 2005: Criminal investigators from the Environmental Protection Agency find no illegal actions or cover-up in Camp Lejeune's handling of its water contamination. The Justice Department declines to prosecute.

June 2007: House Energy and Commerce Committee hears testimony from what it calls "poisoned patriots," families who blame their cancers on Camp Lejeune water.

October 2007: The Senate directs the military to find former Camp Lejeune residents and workers and notify them they may have been exposed to contaminated drinking water.

June 2008: The federal health agency concludes it is feasible to do cancer and mortality studies of adults who were exposed to the tainted water. The agency is laying groundwork for the studies while completing its study of fetal health effects.

April 28, 2009: The health agency withdraws its 1997 public health assessment, stating it contains omissions and inaccuracies.

Troops Invited:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box

126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 917.677.8057

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Two Elderly Palestinian Farmers Brutally Attacked By Zionist Rats; “Three Settlers Held Him Down And Repeatedly Smashed His Head With Stones”

April 27th, 2009 Palestine Solidarity Project.org

On April 26th, 2009 at 1:15pm, Israeli settlers beat two elderly Palestinian farmers with stones and sticks while they were working their lands close to Bet Ayn settlement, located in the southern West Bank. The attack occurred shortly after Israeli soldiers, having observed the two farmers, left the area. They did not reappear even after the attack.

Both farmers are from the village of Beit Ommar, with lands in Saffa, close to the illegal Israeli settlement. Abdullah Soleiby, aged 80, sustained two hair-line fractures and received ten stitches to the top of his head after three settlers held him down and repeatedly smashed his head with stones.

His brother, Hamad Soleiby, aged 72, was also beaten though he managed to put his brother on the back of a donkey and take him to the village, where he was briefly treated before being transferred to the hospital in Hebron.

This is not the first time this family has been the victim of vicious attacks by settlers from Beit Ayn. In 2006, Hamad's head was also fractured by masked settlers while farming in the same area.

The day before on April 25th, Beit Ommar farmers accompanied by international solidarity activists, were able to work lands close to the settlement in the same area.

The army and settlers left the farmers alone, though two carloads of Israeli activists were prevented from entering the village earlier that day to take part in the action.

Zionist Terrorism Hates All Palestinians Equally: Palestinian Christian Attacked And Beaten In Jerusalem



[UrukNet]

May 1, 2009 Ma'an News via UrukNet

Jerusalem – Ma'an – A Palestinian Christian was hospitalized after being severely beaten by Israeli police in East Jerusalem's Old City on Friday.

The Palestinian who lives on Latin Patriarch Street in East Jerusalem, Samer Andrea Karkar, was assaulted near an Italian restaurant and store, both of which he owns, on the same street.

The pope is scheduled to visit the area during his upcoming visit to Jerusalem next Thursday.

Witnesses told Ma'an that Israeli police had prevented Palestinian residents from passing through the street under the pretext that it was being renovated before the pope's visit.

When Samer tried to convince the police to allow his sister and her sleeping children to return home, police ordered him to leave one of them behind, for reasons that were not immediately clear.

Police then told Samer that they “do not want to see him on the entire street” and eventually threw him on the ground, while other police officers beat him so severely that he was ultimately taken for treatment at Hadasa Hospital in Jerusalem.

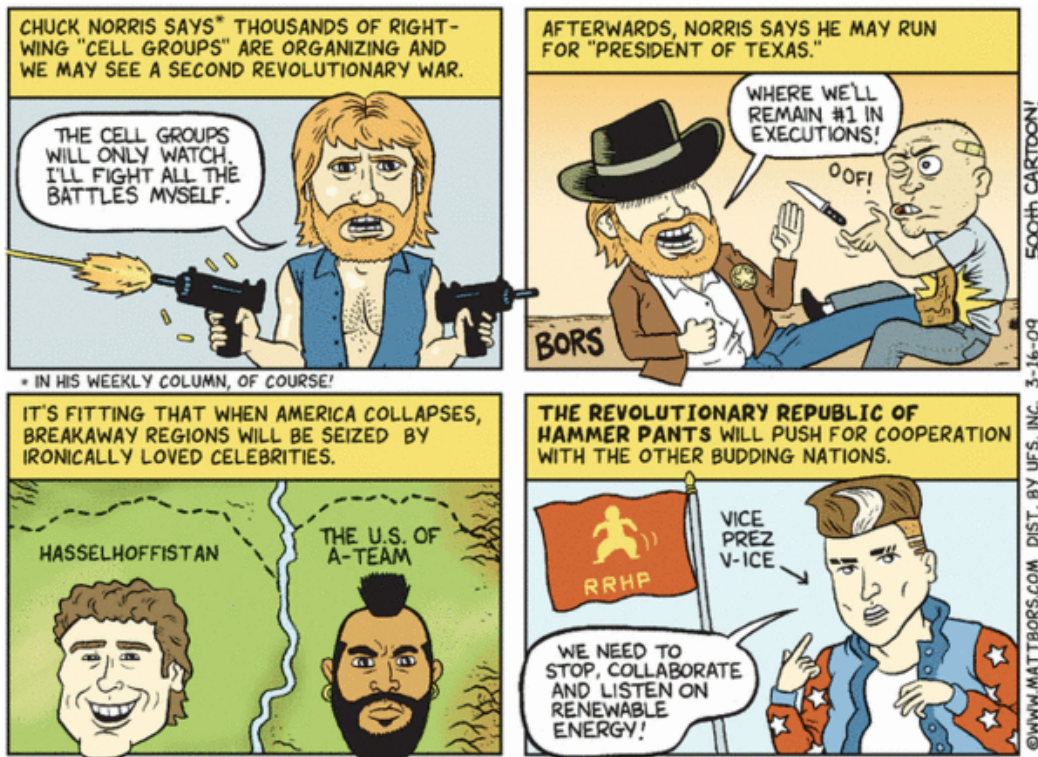
He was also taken into a police station, despite that his restaurant was still open.

As’ad Mazzawi, a lawyer and eyewitness of the incident, went to the police department, but was not allowed inside. After Israeli police interrogated Samer, he was released and transferred to the Israeli hospital for medical exams.

Police have been telling the residents and store owners in the East Jerusalem neighborhood that the area will be shut down for the pope’s visit, and that residents should stay inside their homes for the duration of his visit, without attempting to leave them.

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Obama's Support For Bush's Claim Of "Sweeping Executive Secrecy Powers" Rejected; Federal Appeals Court Slaps Down Government Demand To Stop Torture Trial; Allowing Obama Regime "To Shut Down An Entire Lawsuit Would Be A Concentration Of Unchecked Power" And Lead To Abuses"

28 April 2009 By Carol J. Williams, Los Angeles Times & April 29, 2009 By CHARLIE SAVAGE, New York Times [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON — A federal appeals court ruled Tuesday that a lawsuit brought by five men who say they were tortured as part of the Central Intelligence Agency's "extraordinary rendition" program could proceed, dealing a blow to efforts by both the Bush and Obama administrations to claim sweeping executive secrecy powers.

Both former President George W. Bush's and President Obama's Justice Department lawyers had argued before federal courts that a lawsuit brought by former Guantanamo prisoner Binyam Mohamed and four others should be dismissed in the interests of national security.

The lawyers argued that "the very subject matter" of the allegations that U.S. agents kidnapped and tortured terrorism suspects was entitled to the protections of the president's state secrets privilege.

In a move that surprised many human rights groups, the Obama administration declined to revise the Bush lawyers' claims that the case needed to be dismissed to protect national security.

In a 26-page ruling, the court declared that Binyam Mohamed, a British resident of Ethiopian nationality, and four other former detainees could go forward with a civil lawsuit against Jeppesen Dataplan, a Boeing subsidiary.

Mohamed, the lead plaintiff, was released from the U.S. prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in late February after having spent more than six years in U.S. custody, the first

two years in the hands of Moroccan interrogators under CIA guidance and later at the intelligence agency's "black site" in Bagram, Afghanistan.

The former detainees said Jeppesen provided flight support when the C.I.A. transferred them to secret overseas prisons — some run by the agency and others by foreign intelligence services — where, they said, interrogators tortured them.

The Bush administration intervened, asking a judge to throw out the case because its subject matter was a state secret.

The judge dismissed the case, and the men appealed. In a February appeals court hearing, the Obama administration pressed forward with the Bush administration's stance.

But a three-judge panel on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit said Tuesday that the executive branch's position went too far.

The court said the government could ask judges to conduct a case-by-case review of whether the disclosure of specific documents would jeopardize national security.

But allowing the executive branch to shut down an entire lawsuit whenever an official says its subject is classified would be a "concentration of unchecked power" and lead to abuses, it said.

"According to the government's theory, the judiciary should effectively cordon off all secret government actions from judicial scrutiny, immunizing the C.I.A. and its partners from the demands and limits of the law," wrote Judge Michael Daly Hawkins.

Charles Miller, a Justice Department spokesman, said the Obama administration was reviewing the decision.

Rights lawyers hailed the ruling as a breach in the wall of secrecy erected by the Bush administration and thus far maintained by President Obama.

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

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

Comment Unnecessary

April 27, 2009 Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

Nineteen days before Barack Obama was inaugurated as the nation's first African American president, the public execution of a 22-year old Black man, Oscar Grant III, on

a transit station platform in Oakland, Calif., demonstrated that despite the historic significance of Obama's election and what it represented in terms of the changing attitudes about race in this country, racism continues to persist and limit the opportunities of African American men and women.

Moreover, the cold-blooded killing of Grant exemplified the extent to which Black life continues to be expendable in the racist criminal justice system.

For two weeks, the police refused to interview the white transit cop, Johannes Mehserle, who killed Grant, allowing him to flee to Lake Tahoe.

Mehserle was only arrested when authorities were concerned that the continuing demonstrations in Oakland against police brutality and racism would result in rioting.

Despite the national coverage of the Grant killings, Obama and his Justice Department have had nothing to say about this murder.

Yet when four white cops in Oakland were killed several weeks ago, Obama personally sent a letter to the Oakland Police Department to be read aloud at the funeral.

Comment Unnecessary #2



[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Project, who sent this in. He writes: "U\$A Embassy protest London, April 01, 2009"]

CLASS WAR REPORTS



[Thanks to JM, who sent this in.]

French Add A New One To Bossnapping: Commando-Style Raids On Supermarkets, Where People Feast From Shelves Shouting “We Will Not Pay For Your Crisis”

[Well, nobody is sneering at the French anymore. All those assholes that went nuts when they wouldn't attack Iraq look like wimpy little kids compared to people who bossnapp and have a picnic. T]

May 2, 2009 The Guardian [Excerpt]

They are not just marching: universities have ground to a halt for three months over attempts to rewrite the terms of employment contracts for lecturers.

There has been a wave of “bossnappings”, where chief executives arriving at plants to announce layoffs found themselves barred from leaving.

There have been commando-style “picnics” in supermarkets, where people feast from shelves shouting “we will not pay for your crisis”.

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



POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT THE BLOODSHED

THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE WARS

GI Special Available In PDF Format

If you prefer PDF to Word format, email contact@militaryproject.org

GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

GI Special issues are archived at website <http://www.militaryproject.org> .

The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:

<http://williambowles.info/gispecial/2008/index.html>;

http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi_special/; news@uruknet.info;

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

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

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