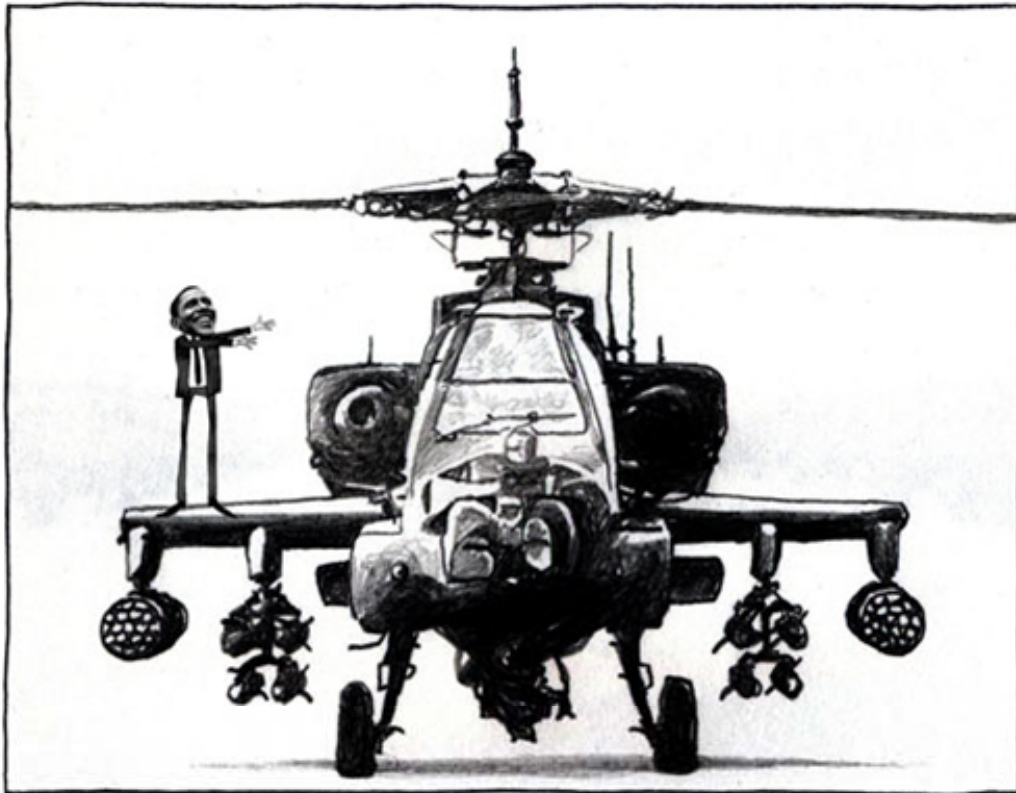


GI SPECIAL 7F13:

A MASS MURDERER YOU CAN BELIEVE IN



*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*

**“The Obama Team Let It Be Known
That It Would Not Object To The
Planned Resupply Of ‘Smart Bombs’
And Other Hi-Tech Ordnance That
Was Already Flowing To Israel’ For
Use In Gaza”**

11 June 2009 By John Pilger, New Statesman [Excerpts]

At 7.30 in the morning on 3 June, a seven-month-old baby died in the intensive care unit of the European Gaza Hospital in the Gaza Strip. His name was Zein Ad-Din Mohammed Zu'rob, and he was suffering from a lung infection which was treatable.

Denied basic equipment, the doctors in Gaza could do nothing.

For weeks, the child's parents had sought a permit from the Israelis to allow them to take him to a hospital in Jerusalem, where he would have been saved. Like many desperately sick people who apply for these permits, the parents were told they had never applied.

"Is it an irresponsible overstatement," asked Richard Falk, the United Nations special rapporteur for human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories and emeritus professor of international law at Princeton University, who is Jewish, "to associate the treatment of Palestinians with criminalised Nazi record of collective atrocity? I think not."

Falk was describing Israel's massacre in December and January of hundreds of helpless civilians in Gaza, many of them children. Reporters called this a "war".

The day after Baby Zu'rob died in Gaza, President Barack Obama made his "historic" speech in Cairo, "reaching out to the Muslim world", reported the BBC.

"Just as it devastates Palestinian families, the continuing humanitarian crisis in Gaza," said Obama, "does not serve Israel's security."

That was all.

The killing of 1,300 people in what is now a concentration camp merited 17 words, cast as concern for the "security" of the killers.

This was understandable.

During the January massacre, Seymour Hersh reported that "the Obama team let it be known that it would not object to the planned resupply of 'smart bombs' and other hi-tech ordnance that was already flowing to Israel" for use in Gaza.

MORE:

Fake "Anti-War" Rats Who Hated Bush Betray The Troops; Won't Attack Obama

06/18/2009 By Joshua Frank, Palestine Chronicle [Excerpts]

Had Bush pushed for more military funds at this stage, the antiwar movement (if you can call it that) would have been organizing opposition weeks in advance, calling out the

neocons for wasting our scarce tax dollars during a recession on a never-ending, directionless war.

But since Obama's a Democrat, a beloved one at that, mums the word.

Obama had the majority of antiwar support shored up while he ran for the presidency, with absolutely no demands put on his candidacy.

And not surprisingly, antiwar progressives have little to show for their fawning support.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Parents Pay Tribute To Fallen Soldier



6/10/2009 By: Kevin Rowson & Cal Callaway; WATL-TV

MORROW, GA -- One of three Georgia soldiers killed in Afghanistan Thursday was born and raised in Riverdale. Staff Sgt. John Beale's father, who lives in Morrow, says his son was born to be a soldier.

William Beale, who worked for 31 years for Delta Air Lines, says his son played with army men as a child. "He liked for me to bring home magazines from Delta's cabin service and he would clip out the military stuff in there," Beale said.

Staff Sgt. Beale graduated from Riverdale High School where he was on the drill team and in ROTC. He served in Desert Storm and then left the Army to raise a family. His father says as his children grew, his son got the itch to go back into the Army.

Last month, the Georgia Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 108th Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Target Acquisition Squadron left for Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

William Beale says he noticed something different in his son this time. "He seemed like a little bit hesitant about going over there as he got closer to it," he said. This time his son was leaving a family behind. Staff Sgt. Beale lives in McDonough with his wife Crystal, his son Christopher, 13, and daughter Calye, 8.

Beale remembers telling his son something a marine once told him, "Do what you're told and your chances of coming back are real good." "John was not the type to not do what he was told, so I guess he just got unlucky," Beale said.

Staff Sgt. Beale, Maj. Kevin Jenrette of Lula and Specialist Jeffrey Jordan of Rome were killed according to the Georgia National Guard. "They died June 4 near Kapisa, Afghanistan of wounds sustained from an improvised explosive device and small arms fire," said a press release from the Georgia National Guard.

William Beale's first wife, who helped him raise three boys, died. He remarried nine years ago. Dolly Beale is the boy's step-mother. "I got very close to him the last nine years," she said. "It feels like my kid, it hurts as much as if he was."

Beale says he has good moments and bad moments after an officer and chaplain came to his home. His son's wife and their two children flew to Dover, Delaware to meet his son's body when it arrives in the states. A full military funeral will be held in McDonough but arrangements haven't been made yet.

William Beale says he has one wish. "I hope he didn't die in vain," he said. "I think that's the main thing any father or a mother wants is to know that their son didn't die in vain."

What he wants people to know about his son is much simpler.

"That he was just and all American boy," he said. "John was just a normal kid."

What more can any parent ask of their son.

Rocket Attack On Main U.S. Base At Bagram Kills Two U.S. Troops, Six More Americans Wounded

6.21.09 KABUL (AP)

A rare rocket attack on the main U.S. base in Afghanistan early Sunday killed two U.S. troops and wounded six other Americans, including two civilians, officials said.

Bagram Air Base, which lies 25 miles northeast of Kabul, is surrounded by high mountains and long stretches of desert from which militants could fire rockets. But such attacks, particularly lethal ones, are relatively rare.

Two U.S. troops died and six Americans were wounded, including four military personnel and two civilians, said Lt. Cmdr. Christine Sidenstricker, a U.S. military spokeswoman.

The top government official in Bagram, Kabir Ahmad, said several rockets were fired at the base early Sunday. A spokesman with NATO's International Security Assistance Force said that three rounds landed inside Bagram and one landed outside. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't the office's top spokesman.

ENOUGH OF THIS SHIT; ALL HOME NOW



U.S. army soldiers from the 225th Engineer Brigade on board a U.S. air force cargo aircraft that will transport them to Afghanistan in Baghdad, Iraq, April 23, 2009. Only in Iraq a few weeks, nearly 500 U.S. Army combat engineers who specialize in clearing roads of explosives learned they were being shipped off to southern Afghanistan, one of the clearest signs of America's shifting wartime priorities. (AP Photo/Marko Drobnjakovic)

“There’s Always Someone Talking About Getting Us,” The Solider Adds

June 10, 2009 By Tom Bowman, NPR [Excerpts]

The Special Forces convoy departs Azizabad and heads farther south. To avoid roadside bombs, the Green Berets abandon the roads and cut across the desert.

The enemy is nearby, as evidenced by transmissions on the radio. It is the Taliban. They are watching the Americans.

“Hey, we’re hearing some chatter on the radio,” a soldier says.

“They’re asking each other which direction we are going in. Those are the questions they are asking each other,” a translator says.

The ATVs speed across the desert ahead of the convoy and disappear in a cloud of dust. The armored vehicles lumber behind, like elephants, until the next stop.

“There’s always someone talking about getting us,” the soldier adds.

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

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

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

“Fighting Between Government Soldiers And The Islamist Forces Was Continuing In The North Of Mogadishu”

6/20/2009 MOGADISHU (Sh. M. Network)

A Somali MP has been killed in Karan district in the north of the Somali capital Mogadishu as heavy fighting between government soldiers and the Islamist forces was continuing in the north of Mogadishu, officials told Shabelle radio on Friday.

Some of the TFG officials confirmed the death of Engineer Mohamed Husein Adow, a Somali MP who was died in Karan district in the north of the Somali capital as heavy fighting between the government soldiers and the Islamist forces was continuing the parts of Karan district in north Mogadishu.

Unreliable reports say that the deceased MP was part of the fighting between both rival sides that started in Karan district in the north Mogadishu where government soldiers were manning earlier.

The killing of the Somali MP Ingeer Adow comes as more the Somali transitional MPs were separately killed in many different parts in the country recently.

MORE:

**“The Weak Government Controls
Only A Few Blocks Of The Capital
And A Border Town”
U.S. Government Supported Somalia
Traitors Begging For Foreign Troops To
Invade And Occupy Their Country Again**

6.20.09 MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)

Somali lawmakers pleaded Saturday for international military intervention to help fight Islamic insurgents in the lawless African nation, where heavy fighting left at least 10 people dead in the capital.

Parliament passed a resolution saying it needed foreign countries to send troops immediately, Speaker Sheik Adam Mohamed Nor told journalists, without giving details of the vote. President Sheik Sharif Sheik Ahmed, who is also a member of parliament, did not take part.

“We have, as a parliament, decided to ask the regional governments — like Kenya, Ethiopia and Djibouti — as well as the international community to intervene militarily in Somalia within 24 hours to help the Somali nation,” Nor said.

Fierce battles between the insurgents and government troops since Friday have left at least 10 people dead in the capital, according to witnesses, and forced the Parliament to hold its session Saturday in the presidential palace rather than its usual venue in northern Mogadishu.

Separately, the government on Saturday called for a state of emergency to be declared in the country.

The president must announce the state of emergency before it can begin, though it is unlikely to change much as the weak government controls only a few blocks of the capital and a border town.

It was unclear whether parliament’s resolution Saturday would persuade Somalia’s neighbors — Djibouti, Ethiopia and Kenya — to send in troops.

Ethiopia deployed troops for two years in Somalia to support the fragile, Western-backed [translation: U.S. Empire backed] government. They were withdrawn under an intricate peace deal in January following the election as president of moderate [translation: friendly to the U.S. Empire] Islamist Sheik Sharif Sheik Ahmed, who had objected to the Ethiopians' presence in Somalia.

Last month Ethiopia sent in troops to the border regions of Somalia.

There is already an African Union force in Mogadishu but its mandate is restricted to guarding key government officials and installations.

TROOP NEWS

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



The remains of Army Staff Sgt. Esau I. Delapena-Hernandez at Dover Air Force Base, Del., May 17, 2009. Delapena-Hernandez of LaPuente, Calif., was killed in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

Sanity Board For Soldier At Ft Drum Is Challenged By GI Rights Group;

Scumsucking Rat Calls Offer By Soldiers' Doctor To Testify For Him "Ridiculous"

June 16, 2009 Citizen Soldier (CitizenSoldier1@aol.com)

Dr. David Ogren, a clinical psychologist from Houston, TX with fifteen years' experience treating victims of mental trauma, spent hours examining and testing Specialist Trevor Loope, 23, of Austin TX. Loope, who spent fifteen months in Afghanistan with the 10th Mountain Division, left Ft Drum in late 2007 because he was unable to obtain therapy for his PTSD and depression at the base.

Dr. Ogren prepared a detailed eleven page psychiatric evaluation which concluded that Loope suffered from "severe Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and a Major Depression"

Ft Drum commanders scheduled a "sanity board" to assess Loope's mental health status on June 19th 10:00 am at Ft Drum's Mental Health facility.

They also preferred criminal charges against Loope for AWOL with trial by a Special Court Martial set for July 1st.

Two weeks ago, Dr. Ogren telephoned Ft Drum's mental health chief, Dr. Todd Benham offering to serve as an expert witness before the sanity board. Ogren's offer involved no expense to the military, since he is willing to pay his own travel expenses from Houston.

On Monday, June 15th, Dr. Benham finally returned Ogren's call, asking him why he had phoned.

When Ogren told him of his desire to testify at Loope's hearing, Benham remarked that that this was "ridiculous" and that since it was a closed hearing, he didn't think that Ogren would be allowed to testify.

Tod Ensign, Esq., Director, of Citizen Soldier, a GI advocacy group, and civilian attorney assisting Specialist Loope, will challenge the legality of this "sanity board" if Dr. Ogren is not allowed to testify.

According to the Rules for Court Martial (706 (c)(2) which establishes the rules for these boards, one of the four key questions that a panel must answer is, "what is the clinical diagnosis" for the soldier being examined?

Also, the sanity board is "required to fairly and impartially examine the accused."

Ensign will argue that Dr. Benham's apparent bias against Dr. Ogren's participation jeopardizes the panel's ability to render a fair and dispassionate opinion in this case.

Finally, Ensign will urge that Loope's sanity board be dissolved and be reconstituted at Walter Reed Army Medical Center where objective panelists can be found.

More info: Tod Ensign, Esq.
(917) 647-5676 (cell)
(212) 679-2250 (O)

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

60% Of Suicides Carried Out By First-Time Deployers

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

June 2009 By Sgt. Lindsey Bradford, Multi-National Corps-Iraq Public Affairs Office, (Army News Service)

BAGHDAD, Iraq: As the number of Soldiers committing suicide continues to rise, the Army's suicide prevention campaign shifts its focus to junior leaders in an effort to arm them with the tools they need to help their Soldiers before a problem reaches a tragic end.

A recent Army study shows that 60 percent of suicides are carried out by first-time deployers.

Pentagon Announces Amazing, Liberating New Policy On Freedom Of Speech!

“In 2008, Ammerman Implied That Four Presidential Candidates Should Be ‘Arrested, Quickly Tried And Hanged’”

“The Department Of Defense Confirms That Ammerman’s Statements Were Determined To Be Within The Bounds Of Free Speech”

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

Jun 19, 2009 By Kathryn Joyce, Newsweek [Excerpts]

Ever since former president George W. Bush referred to the war on terror as a “crusade” in the days after the September 11 attacks, many have charged that the United States was conducting a holy war, pitting a Christian America against the Muslim world.

Although President Obama addressed the Muslim world this month in an attempt to undo the Bush administration’s legacy of militant Christian rhetoric that often antagonized Muslim countries, several recent stories have framed the issue as a wider problem of an evangelical military culture that sees spreading Christianity as part of its mission.

A May article in Harper’s by Jeff Sharlet illustrated a military engaged in an internal battle over religious practice.

Later in May, Al-Jazeera broadcast clips filmed in 2008 showing stacks of Bibles translated into Pashto and Dari at the U.S. air base in Bagram and featuring the chief of U.S. military chaplains in Afghanistan, Lt. Col. Gary Hensley, telling soldiers to “hunt people for Jesus.”

The Bible initiative was handled by former Army chaplain Jim Ammerman, the 83-year-old founder of the Chaplaincy of Full Gospel Churches (CFGF), an organization in charge of endorsing 270 chaplains and chaplain candidates for the armed services.

Ammerman worked with an evangelical group based in Arkansas, the International Missions Network Center, to distribute the Bibles through the efforts of his 40 active-duty chaplains in Iraq.

A 2003 newsletter for the group said of the effort, “The goal is to establish a wedge for the kingdom of God in the Middle East, directly affecting the Islamic world.”

Historian Anne C. Loveland attributes the shift to the Vietnam War, when many liberal churches opposed to the war supplied fewer chaplains, creating a vacuum filled by conservative churches.

This imbalance was exacerbated by regulation revisions in the 1980s that helped create hundreds of new “endorsing agencies” that brought a flood of evangelical chaplains into the military and by the simple fact that evangelical and Pentecostal churches are the fastest-growing in the U.S.

Among the “endorsing agencies” is CFGC, which represents a conglomeration of independent Pentecostal churches outside established denominations.

In a 2008 sermon, Ammerman described a CFGC chaplain at Fort Riley, Kans., who demanded the 42 chaplains below him “speak up for Jesus” or leave his outfit.

In a video for an organization called the Prophecy Club, CFGC chaplain Maj. James Linzey called mainstream Protestant churches “demonic, dastardly creatures from the pit of hell,” that should be “(stomped) out.”

But the primary target of CFGC’s ire is Islam.

A 2001 CFGC newsletter asserted that the real enemy of the U.S. wasn’t Osama bin Laden, but Allah, whom the newsletter called “Lucifer.”

A 2006 issue argued that all Muslim-Americans should be treated with suspicion, as they “obviously can’t be good Americans.” In a 2008 sermon, Ammerman called Islam “a killer religion” and Muslims “the devil.”

Ammerman and chaplain Linzey have espoused conspiracy theories about “Satanic forces” at work in the U.S. government facilitating a military takeover by foreign troops;

Ammerman even appears in a video favored by militia groups titled The Imminent Military Takeover of the USA.

In 2008, Ammerman implied that four presidential candidates should be “arrested, quickly tried and hanged” for not voting to designate English America’s official language, and speculated that Barack Obama would be assassinated as a secret Muslim.

Among the Pentagon directives MRFF [Military Religious Freedom Foundation] charges CFGC or its chaplains have violated are the command that chaplaincies express willingness for interfaith cooperation; that they be bona fide religious organizations with a primary mission beyond the military; that they not join organizations with religious or nationalist supremacist causes or that espouse violence; and that active military personnel not utter disloyal or contemptuous statements about officials or the country.

The last two underlay a 1997 call by Lt. Gen. Normand Lezy for the Pentagon to investigate the CFGC, due largely to Ammerman’s video and radio statements concerning military overthrow of the U.S.

The Department of Defense confirms that a review was conducted, but that Ammerman's statements were determined to be within the bounds of free speech. "That review found Mr. Ammerman's opinions and statements did not transgress beyond that normally considered protected by Constitutional free-speech standards," explains Pentagon spokeswoman Eileen Lainez, "nor was a specific connection established between Mr. Ammerman's organization and prohibited activities—a necessary requirement in justifying the revocation of one's status as an ecclesiastical endorser."

Ammerman has not changed his rhetoric or agenda since the '90s, and he will not comment further, saying his record stands on its own.

"I know the three chiefs of chaplains," he says, "and they know me, and know that I give them the best chaplains."

MRFF is calling, in a letter to Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, to strip the CFGC of its endorsing authority and to investigate its chaplains for various code violations.

But they fear the Obama administration will not press this issue given the announced replacement of Army Secretary Pete Geren with Rep. John McHugh, a New York Republican with a conservative record on church-state separation issues.

MORE STUPID ARMY RULES: Army Umbrella Ban Makes Perfect Sense: "They Scare The Horses"

Letters To The Editor
Army Times
June 22, 2009

The ancient Army tradition against carrying umbrellas ("No brainer," June 1) has a very practical basis. They scare the horses.

Does any soldier today want to be responsible for panicking an Army remount station or a cavalry regiment by simply opening an umbrella? Of course not.

Had the Taliban realized the anti-horse capability of the umbrella in 2001, they would have been able to defeat those Special Forces cavalry charges in Afghanistan easily by employing the umbrella in the defense. A line of rapidly opening and closing umbrellas is a fearsome sight.

The Sioux would have made even faster work of Custer had they been armed with umbrellas instead of Remington repeaters.

They also say that the Duke of Wellington, who set military fashion 200 years ago in the English-speaking world, had something to do with the umbrella ban. While fighting Napoleon in Spain, he thought that his young officers set the wrong example by strolling behind the firing lines twirling their umbrellas to ward off the brutal sun.

As we all know, a vital element in the success of the Iraqi surge was ensuring that second lieutenants did not carry umbrellas.

Every soldier should realize that the banning of umbrellas falls under the even more honored Army tradition: "We have no reason; it's just our policy."

Lt. Col. Peter G. Tsouras (ret.)
Alexandria, Va.

MORE:

June 22, 2009 Army Times [Excerpts]

By far the stupidest rule I have seen in my 18.5 years in the Army has to be the "hands in the pocket" rule. Standing in formation in Fort Lewis, Wash., can be very cold October through March.

If the uniform has pockets, why not use them?

— ABRNRGR

June 22, 2009 Army Times

Another stupid Army rule is that you have to wear reflector belts from 1800 'til 0700 even when in the Army Combat Uniform in combat zones.

Why don't we just go ahead and deploy our troops with orange jump suits? That should make it easier for the enemy to spot us in the dark hours of the day.

— supermaus

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

“New Law Gives Extra Time To Most Renters — Including Military Renters — Who Are Forced To Move Because Their Landlord’s Property Has Been Foreclosed”

June 22, 2009 By Karen Jowers, Army Times [Excerpts]

A new law gives extra time to most renters — including military renters — who are forced to move because their landlord’s property has been foreclosed.

Signed into law May 20 by President Barack Obama, the Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act of 2009 allows renters to remain in the property until the end of their lease unless the lender sells the property to a third person who will live in that property.

But even in those cases, tenants must be given 90 days’ notice before they are required to move.

“We need to get the word out,” said Army Col. Shawn Shumake, director of legal policy for the undersecretary of defense for per-sonnel and readiness.

“If the landlord shows up with \$500 as an incentive for you to move, you need to think it through,” he said. “For example, if you’re going to make a (permanent change-of-station move) in the next two or three months, do you really want to move twice?”

Additional protections under the Servicemembers’ Civil Relief Act can buy even more time, he noted. Under the SCRA, a service member can’t be evicted without a valid court order. That applies regardless of whether the service member is deployed, and it applies to family members when the service member is deployed.

A year ago, a law was enacted that allows the military to pay for local moves for service members and families who must move because of a landlord’s foreclosure.

This new law makes it even more important to go to your base legal assistance office to explore your options if you are a military renter whose landlord says he’s facing foreclosure.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



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

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

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

Frederick Douglass, 1852

**“Hope for change doesn’t cut it when you’re still losing buddies.”
-- J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War**

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

THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE WARS

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/)**

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Zionist Troops Proudly Torture Kids:

“The Worst Beatings Were In The Bathrooms”

“They Totally Had A Celebration On The Palestinians: Curses, Humiliation, Pulling Hair And Ears, Kicks, Slaps. These Things Were The Norm”

Colonel Itai Virob, commander of Kfir Brigade, in which he said violence against detained Palestinians was justified in order to accomplish missions.

Two Israeli officers have testified that troops in the West Bank beat, bound and blindfolded Palestinian civilians as young as 14.

The damaging disclosures by two sergeants of the Kfir Brigade include descriptions of abuses they say they witnessed during a search-and-detain operation involving hundreds of troops in Hares village on 26 March.

The testimonies have been seen by The Independent and are expected to add fuel to the controversy over recent remarks by Colonel Itai Virob, commander of Kfir Brigade, in which he said violence against detained Palestinians was justified in order to accomplish missions.

Both the soldiers, from the Harub battalion, highlighted the tight tying of the plastic hand restraints placed on detainees.

“There are people who think you need to tighten the restraints all the way, until no drop of blood will pass from here to there,” one soldier said. “It doesn’t take much time until the hands turn blue. There were a lot of people that you know weren’t feeling anything.”

He said about 150 Palestinians, some as young as 14, were bound, blindfolded and detained at the village school during the operation, which lasted from 3am to 3pm. He was told it was aimed at preventing village youths throwing stones against nearby settler roads.

It was clear many of the people detained had done nothing wrong, but they were held to gather intelligence, he said.

The worst beatings were in the bathrooms, he said. “The soldiers who took (detainees) to the toilet just exploded them with beatings; cursed them with no reason. When they took one Arab to the toilet so that he could urinate, one of them gave him a slap that brought him to the ground. He had been handcuffed from behind with a nylon restraint and blindfolded.

“He wasn’t insolent, he didn’t do anything to get on anyone’s nerves ... just because he’s an Arab. He was something like 15 years old.” The soldier said he saw a lot of soldiers “just knee (Palestinians) because it’s boring, because you stand there 10 hours, you’re not doing anything, so they beat people up.”

A second soldier described a “fanatical atmosphere” during the search operations. “We would go into a house and turn the whole thing upside down,” he recalled, but no weapons were found. “They confiscated kitchen knives.”

The first soldier said involvement was widespread.

“There were a lot of reservists that participated, and they totally had a celebration on the Palestinians: curses, humiliation, pulling hair and ears, kicks, slaps. These things were the norm.”

He said the incidents in the toilet were the “extreme” and added that the beatings did not draw blood. They were “dry beatings, but it’s still a beating”.

The second soldier said some troops stole from houses they searched, even though the people were so poor it was hard for them to find anything to take.

Last month, Colonel Virob testified in a military court that hitting detained Palestinians could be justified.

“Standing them against walls, pushing them, a blow that doesn’t cause injury. Certainly, these are things that are commonly used in an attempt to accomplish the mission,” he said.

Despite a reprimand of Colonel Virob by the head of central command, General Shamni, and a disavowal by army chief of staff Lt General Gabi Ashkenazi, the remarks are seen by Breaking the Silence, an organisation that collects testimonies of soldiers, as proof that the alleged abuses in Hares cannot be dismissed as an isolated occurrence or low-level improvisations.

In Hares, Ihab Shamlawi, a university student, recalled watching as a high school pupil asked soldiers permission to go to the bathroom.

“They put him on the floor, they kicked his legs and beat him,” he said. Ten or 15 other soldiers were watching, Mr Shamlawi recalled. “They all laughed,” he said.

Does Israel Really Have A Right To Exist?

“To Be A Jewish (Or Muslim Or Christian) State, Where Privilege Is Accorded To Those Belonging To A Particular Religion At The Expense Of Those Who Do Not Is Not A Right”

“Israel Is A Country That Was Founded By Europeans Who Came To Palestine, Formed Terrorist Gangs

Who Set About A Systematic Ethnic Cleansing Of The Native Palestinians”

“That Israelis Simply Take Property
Belonging To Palestinians Is Not A
Right. That Is Theft”



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

That Israel has employed every imperialistic tactic to subjugate, humiliate, break, and expel an entire nation of principally unarmed civilians because of their religion is not a right. It is a moral obscenity.

June 15th, 2009 by Susan Abulhawa, Dissident Voice

Following Netanyahu’s much anticipated policy speech, politicians and journalists, like mindless automatons, have set about repeating Israel’s tired mantra that Palestinians should recognize Israel’s right to exist.

Never mind the fact that the PLO and Palestine Authority have obliged this ludicrous call, not once, but four times. And never mind that Israel has always denied Palestine’s right to exist, not only as a nation, but as individuals seeking a dignified life in our own homeland.

Does anyone find it interesting that Israel is the only country on the planet going around with this incessant insistence that everyone recognize her right to exist?

Given that we Palestinians are the ones who have been dispossessed, occupied, and oppressed, one might expect that we should be the ones making such a demand. But that isn't the case.

Why? Because our right to exist as a nation is self-evident.

We are the natives of that land!

We know we have that right.

The world knows it.

That's why Palestine doesn't need Israel or any other country to recognize her right to exist.

We are the rightful heirs to that land and this can be verified legally, historically, culturally, and even genetically. And as such, the only true legitimacy Israel will ever have must come from us abdicating our inheritance, our history, and our culture to Israel.

That's why Israel insists we declare she had a right to take everything we ever had — from home and property, cemeteries, churches and mosques, to culture and history and hope.

Israel is a country that was founded by Europeans who came to Palestine, formed terrorist gangs who set about a systematic ethnic cleansing of the native Palestinians from their homes on 78% of Historic Palestine in 1948.

Those Palestinians and their descendants still languish in refugee camps.

Israel attempted a similar scenario in 1967 when they conquered the remainder of Palestine, but Palestinians then couldn't be dislodged from their homes as easily.

This remains true, despite 40 years of Israel's violent and oppressive military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

Despite home demolitions, land confiscations, rapacious building of Jewish-only colonies, endless checkpoints, targeted assassinations, bombings of schools, hospitals, municipal buildings and malls, closures and denials; despite the massive human rights abuses, the imprisonment and torture of men women and children alike, the separation of families, the daily humiliations; despite the massive killings — Palestinians remain.

We still resist.

We still live, love, and have babies.

As much as we can, we rebuild what Israel destroys.

Such are rights!

Rights are inherent and inherently just, like the right to live with dignity and to be masters of one's own fate.

It is a human right not be persecuted and oppressed because you happen to belong to one religion and not another.

That Israelis simply take property belonging to Palestinians is not a right.

That is theft.

That Israel cut off the movement of food, medicine and other basic goods to the Gaza strip, causing massive malnutrition, economic collapse and misery because Palestinians elected particular leaders is not a right.

That is an affront to humanity.

That Israel rain death from the skies on an already battered and starved Gaza, murdering over 3000 human beings and maiming thousands more in a single month is not a right.

It's a war crime.

That Israel has employed every imperialistic tactic to subjugate, humiliate, break, and expel an entire nation of principally unarmed civilians because of their religion is not a right.

It is a moral obscenity.

That every Jew from Europe, Africa, Asia, the Americas, and Australia be entitled to dual citizenship, one in their native country and one in Israel, while the rightful heirs to the land linger as refugees without citizenship anywhere is not a right.

It is an outrage.

I'm sure my words will be twisted in some way to imply that I'm advocating pushing Israelis "into the sea" or some other asinine claim.

So let me be explicit: We all have the right to exist, to live, to be masters of our own destiny.

We all have the right not to be oppressed by others.

Such rights are inherent to every individual living in that land: Jew, Muslim, or Christian.

But Israelis do not have the right to create particular religious demographics by causing the demise of the natives.

To be a Jewish (or Muslim or Christian) state, where privilege is accorded to those belonging to a particular religion at the expense of those who do not is not a right.

A nation that discriminates against and oppresses those who do not belong to a particular religious, racial, or ethnic group is not a light onto nations.

It is a blight.

And to recognize such racism as a human or national right goes against every tenet of international law.

It defies the basic sense that the worth of a human being should not be measured by their religion, any more than it should be measured by the color of their skin or the language they speak.

[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."]

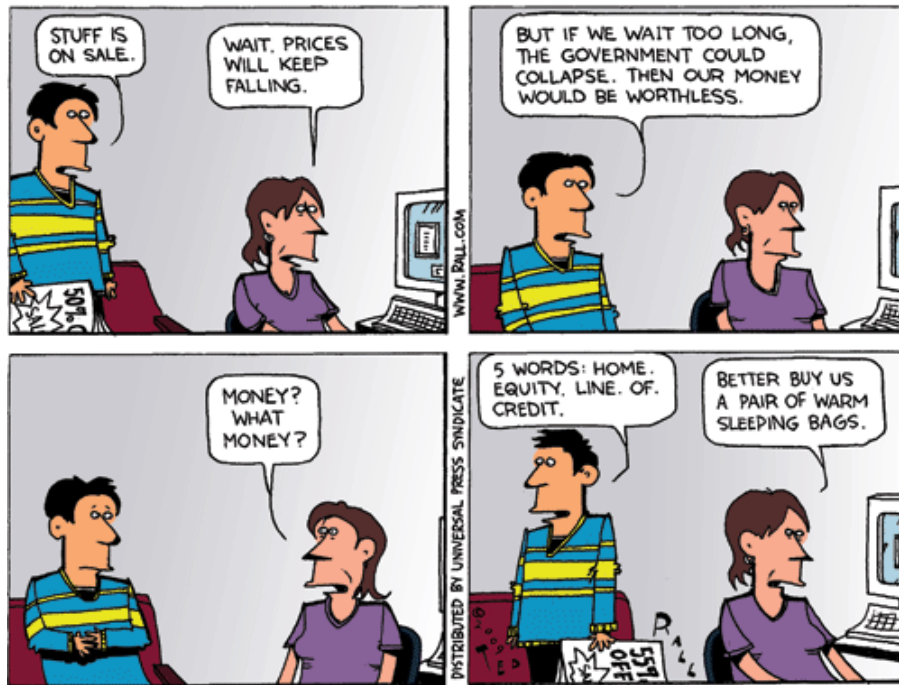
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DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



CLASS WAR REPORTS



Perfect!

From: Dennis Serdel [Vietnam Veteran & United Auto Workers GM Retiree]
To: GI Special
Sent: June 17, 2009
Subject: An Eye for an Eye and a Tooth for a Tooth

After the UAW "Executives" gave back the Eye Care and Dental Care for their retirees, the new slogan by the Militant Retirees is:

"An Eye for an Eye and a Tooth for a Tooth."

"Police Executed My Son. That's Exactly What They Did"
"Plainclothes Officers On Patrol In The Trinidad Neighborhood Of Northeast Washington, D.C., Killed Trey Joyner,

Shooting Him Multiple Times In The Back”

June 18, 2009 By Clinton Clad-Johnson, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

ON JUNE 8, plainclothes officers on patrol in the Trinidad neighborhood of northeast Washington, D.C., killed Trey Joyner, shooting him multiple times in the back.

Trey Joyner will never get to tell his side of the story of what happened. And information seems to be as hard to get out of authorities.

At a community meeting in response to the slaying, Major Jeanne O’Toole of the U.S. Park Police told angry residents, “It’s not taken lightly, that we take a life as a police agency. There’s not a lot about the shooting that I can speak on.” Lt. Paul Wingate of D.C. police homicide unit echoed that sentiment, saying, “There’s things we can’t divulge...You’re just going to have to bear with us on this.”

It seems like every time law enforcement commits some heinous act of violence, the citizens are left having to “bear with us on this.”

Members of the community who gathered at the meeting after the killing to hear an explanation were understandingly livid with the lack of information about the loss of another life.

A schoolmate of Trey Joyner’s, D’Angelo Alford, wondered why Trey was shot in the back, apparently running from police.

“They’re faking in there,” he said as he left. Another man, Yusef Hampton, stayed at the meeting just five minutes, leaving because of the lack of information. “How long do you think the strong black brothers a going to take this?” he said.

That’s a good question that needs to be asked and answered--for Joyner’s death at the hands of police is no isolated incident. Violence in this area’s police departments is a well-documented affair--several are being monitored by the Justice Department.

Not even a week before the Joyner slaying, the chief prosecutor in Prince George’s County, Md., across the border from D.C., announced that he didn’t intend to press charges in the hanging death of Maryland inmate Ronnie White, which was ruled a homicide by the state coroner.

Almost two years have passed since the tragic death of 14-year-old DeOnte Rawlings. Rawlings was killed by off-duty officers who said they were trying to find a stolen mini-bike. The 5-foot-2-inch, 105-pound Rawlings was found shot in the back of the head, with unexplained cuts and bruises from apparent blunt-force trauma to his face, shoulder and back.

The officers who killed him said they were fired upon, but no gun was ever found, and the cops at first fled the scene.

The time has come to say enough is enough. It shouldn't have to happen to our own family or friends for us to speak out when sworn defenders become such profane offenders.

Trey Joyner's family members were shaken up and looking for answers after the murder. His mother requested patience in dealing with police, but not everyone felt the same way.

"We are questioning it," Trey's sister, Quston Joyner, said. "We saw his body. He was shot in the back several times." Trey's father, Walter Joyner, said the police "police executed my son. That's exactly what they did."

Though D.C. Police Chief Cathy Lanier says, "Our investigation has only just begun," it's painfully obvious that after we are done "bearing with them," this case will be another example of police officers being cleared of all charges.

Pennsylvania Small Town Defies Big Coal Corporation On Mining Under Their Ground And Destroying Their Homes: "Who Dictates How We Are Going To Live Here?" "Should It Not Be Us?"

"This illegitimate bestowal of civil and political rights upon corporations prevents the administration of laws within Blaine Township and usurps basic human and constitutional rights guaranteed to the people of Blaine Township," says the township's Corporate Rights Ordinance of 2006.

[Thanks to Sandy Kelson, The Military Project, who sent this in.]

June 15, 2009 by Jon Hurdle, Reuters

TAYLORSTOWN, Pennsylvania - A small Pennsylvania town is trying to ban coal mining in a battle being played out across the state as rural communities try to assert control over mining, gas drilling and other businesses.

Blaine Township, a community of 600 about 40 miles southwest of Pittsburgh, hopes to trigger a legal battle that could determine the rights of municipalities throughout the United States to control corporate activity.

Some legal experts say the township is highly unlikely to win that fight. For now the dispute is in federal district court, where major energy companies have sued the township over three ordinances that would ban coal mining and require companies in any business to disclose their activities to local officials.

Penn Ridge Coal LLC, a unit of Alliance Resource Partners, and Allegheny Pittsburgh Coal Co., a unit of Allegheny Energy, say Blaine's laws violate their corporate rights.

The companies say the ordinances would prevent them from mining 10.6 million tons of recoverable coal beneath the township -- enough to supply electricity for 2 million people for a year.

The township has gone further than any of the 120 U.S. municipalities -- most of them in Pennsylvania -- that have passed ordinances to curb corporate activity such as factory farming or spreading sewage sludge, said its lawyer, Tom Linzey of the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund.

Of three townships sued by corporations over their ordinances, only Blaine has refused to back down, Linzey said.

In Blaine, residents are seeking to prevent coal mining -- which they expect to begin there in 2011 -- because they fear it will ruin their houses and disrupt water supplies, as they say it has in surrounding areas.

They want to block longwall mining, a technique that rips tons of coal from underground without putting anything in its place, causing the land above to sag.

The practice, which has been used in coal-rich southwest Pennsylvania since the 1970s, has cracked the walls, roofs and basements of homes and opened fissures in the land, diverting or draining creeks and ponds.

In neighboring Morris Township, Tammy Bowman pointed to a pile of broken wood and concrete -- all that's left of an outbuilding she said was destroyed by shifting ground from mining beneath her 19th century farmhouse.

"It just started to drop and drop," she said. "It got so bad, you couldn't even walk in the door."

One section of her house is held up with mechanical jacks.

Near the village of Graysville, the 62-acre (25-hectare) Duke Lake, once used for fishing and boating, now sits empty after the shifting ground opened a crack in its retaining wall, environmentalists say.

Blaine's three ordinances, passed in 2006, 2007 and 2008, also assert that communities have a right under the U.S. Constitution to control business within their boundaries and that corporations do not have constitutional rights as "persons" to sue municipalities for passing laws that would hurt corporate interests.

"This illegitimate bestowal of civil and political rights upon corporations prevents the administration of laws within Blaine Township and usurps basic human and

constitutional rights guaranteed to the people of Blaine Township,” says the township’s Corporate Rights Ordinance of 2006.

To implement the ordinances, township supervisors are now campaigning for “home rule,” a legal code that transfers some powers from state to local control and is commonly used to raise taxes or increase the number of supervisors on a board.

Blaine supervisors want to use home rule to establish what they say is the township’s constitutional right to control corporate activity. Voters on May 19 approved a plan to set up a commission to study the proposal and recommend whether to adopt it.

A third lawsuit has been brought by Range Resources, a natural gas company, asking the court to invalidate Blaine’s demand that corporations disclose their activities.

Penn Ridge Coal and Allegheny Pittsburgh Coal are asking U.S. Judge Donetta Ambrose of the Western District of Pennsylvania to declare Blaine’s ordinances invalid and unenforceable.

In April, Judge Ambrose denied the township’s motion to dismiss the case. She is expected to rule late this year.

Linzey predicted the case will eventually go to the U.S. Supreme Court because it pits energy companies who want to exploit one of America’s richest coal seams against residents who are determined to resist what they see as rapacious mining.

He conceded the court is unlikely to overturn more than 100 years of established law that gives corporations rights as “persons” under the constitution, but he said the expected outcome would become a springboard for a popular campaign for a constitutional amendment to strip corporations of those rights.

Blaine’s supervisors said they want to establish a principle of local self-government that will inspire other communities.

“Who dictates how we are going to live here?” asked Board spokesman Michael Vacca. “Should it not be us?”

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