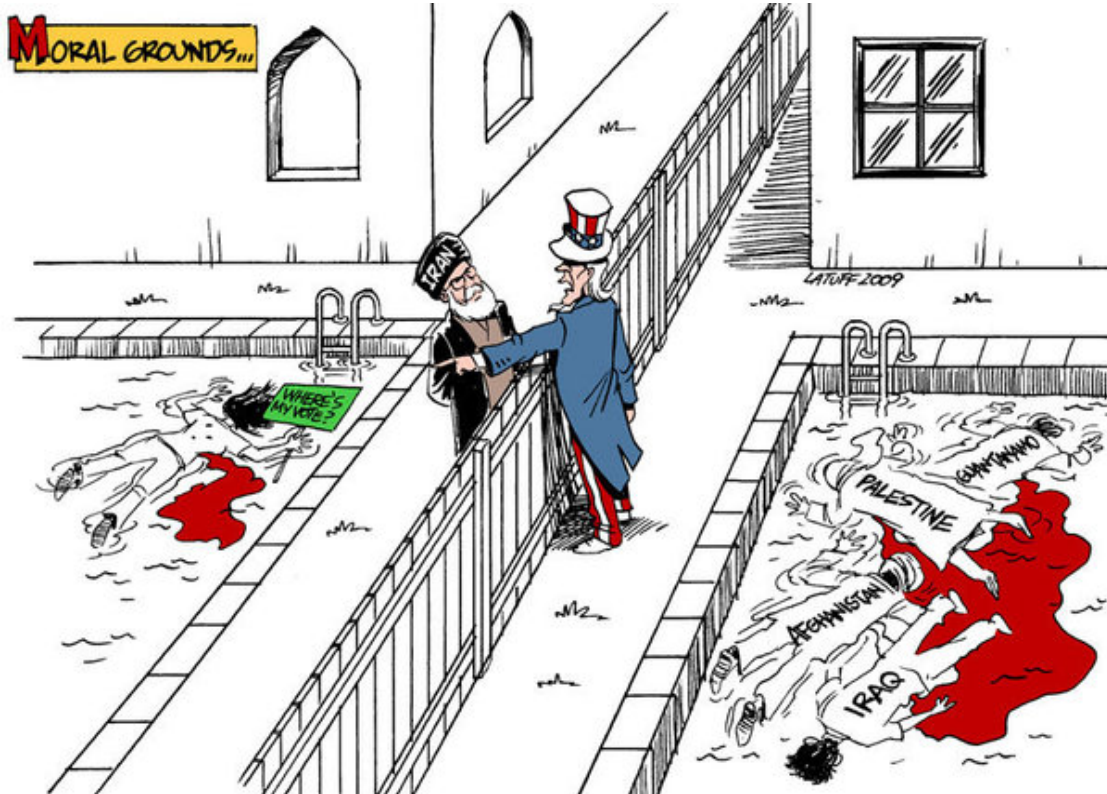


GI SPECIAL 7G1:

BLOOD BROTHERS



**More Mind-Numbing Lies
And Stupid Bullshit:
As Politicians Announce Withdrawal
Of U.S. Troops From Iraq Cities,
Odious Odierno Refuses To Say How
Many U.S. Troops Will Continue To
Occupy Iraq Cities:**

“We Will Be Here, We Are Not Leaving”

29 June 2009 BBC & 30 June 2009 Martin Chulov in Baghdad, Guardian News and Media Limited & AP

Iraqis have held a giant party in a Baghdad park as US troops approach their deadline for withdrawing from cities and towns to their bases.

Some 131,000 US troops remain in Iraq, including 12 combat brigades, and the total is not expected to drop below 128,000 until after the Iraqi national election next January.

Some US convoys will still be seen on the streets of towns and cities here, but they will be used almost exclusively to clear mines and improvised bombs laid along routes between US bases [well, not quote “almost exclusively” -- see below].

Some U.S. troops will remain in the cities to train and advise Iraqi forces.

The U.S. has not said how many troops will be in the cities in advisory roles.

U.S. commander in Iraq Gen. Ray Odierno declined to say how many would remain in cities as trainers and advisers.

“We will be here, we are not leaving,” he said. “

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

U.S. Iraq Casualties Rise To 72,293

June 17, 2009 MMMIL

US military occupation forces in Iraq under Commander-in-Chief Obama suffered 13 combat casualties in the week ending June 16 as the official total rose to at least 72,293.

The total includes 34,808 dead and wounded from what the Pentagon classifies as “hostile” causes and more than 37,485 dead and medically evacuated (last reported April 4) from “non-hostile” causes.

The actual total is over 100,000 because the Pentagon chooses not to count as “Iraq casualties” the more than 30,000 veterans whose injuries-mainly brain trauma from explosions and PTSD - diagnosed only after they had left Iraq.

US media divert attention from the actual cost in American life and limb by occasionally reporting only the total killed (4,315 as of June 16) but rarely mentioning the 31,354 wounded in combat.

To further minimize public perception of the cost, they cover for the Pentagon by ignoring the 36,624 (as of April 4) military victims of accidents and illness serious enough to require medical air evacuation, although the 4,315 reported deaths include 861 (no change) who died from those same causes, including at least 18 from faulty electrical work by KBR and 177 suicides through 2008.

For U.S. Soldiers Killed By Something Or Other Somewhere Or Other In Iraq [Trying To Pretend War Is Over, U.S. Occupation Command Refuses To Provide Information, As Usual]

June 30, 2009 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE
No. 20090630-3

BAGHDAD – Four Multi-National Division–Baghdad Soldiers died June 29 as the result of combat related injuries. The Soldiers' names are being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

U.S. Soldier Killed By Something Or Other Somewhere Or Other

June 29, 2009 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE
No. 20090629-02 [

BAGHDAD – A Multi-National Division–Baghdad Soldier died June 28 as the result of combat related injuries.

U.S. Base Mortared Somewhere Or Other

June 2009 Martin Chulov in Baghdad, Guardian News and Media Limited

An American base in the east of the capital was barraged by mortars on Sunday night.

Bakersfield-Born Soldier Escorts His Brother's Body Home From Iraq

Jun 25 2009 BY SARAH REINECKE, Californian staff writer; The Bakersfield Californian

Josh and Shane Soto were just kids when their mother and grandfather were killed in a car accident. All they had was each other.

Shane, two years older, helped raise his little brother, trying to be a good role model.

Both of them joined the military. They looked after one another's families.

"Basically it was just those two trying to look out for each other," said Shane's wife, Joanna.

Shane looked after his brother one last time Thursday, accompanying his body home to Bakersfield from Iraq.

Army Sgt. Josh Soto, 25, was killed in action in Iraq June 16 when a roadside bomb exploded near his vehicle. It was his third tour of duty.

Family and friends gathered Thursday at Meadows Field Airport in Bakersfield, waiting for him to come home.

Friends and family describe Army Sgt. Josh Soto as silly and goofy.

The Bakersfield native was also an athlete who had determination, motivation and a lot of heart.

"He wasn't just another soldier," Shane said. "He was one of the best -- he was the best at what he did."

Josh is survived by his wife, Thelma, and 9-month-old son Jayden and extended family.

Soto grew up mostly in Bakersfield and attended Centennial High School for one year before moving to Avenal, in Kings County. Immediately following graduation from Avenal High School in 2002, Soto enlisted in the Army.

His brother said the military came natural to him.

"The military helped Josh find himself," his brother said. "He liked being with his brothers and doing the job. He just wanted to make sure all of his soldiers got back safe."

Soto received a purple heart on his first tour of duty after being shot in the leg. He received a purple heart and bronze star for his third and final deployment.

Shane said the brothers had an unwritten promise to each other -- to be their "brother's keeper." Josh moved in with sister-in-law, Joanna, and nephews in El Paso while Shane was deployed.

Joanna Soto said her brother-in-law was her "bodyguard" while her husband was deployed. Shane wanted to make sure his family was safe. Josh helped with her sons, now 5 and 3. If she went out, Josh went with her.

She said Josh was built for structure, and the Army gave him that. His brothers in infantry gave him a feel of family and everyone says he loved his job. He had a break in service after his first deployment, but realized civilian life wasn't for him.

She said he was a "kid at heart." Soto was close to his nephews and developed a tight bond with the oldest, Santiago. At graduation from pre-K, Santiago said he wanted to be in the Army, just like his "tio."

"My kids were so close to him," Joanna Soto said.

"My five year old keeps saying, 'No, he's not gone mommy. He's not gone.' It's so hard. It's like I know he's gone but it hasn't really hit me."

Family members say he loved playing with kids. His brother says his son Jayden was his "happiness" and "joy."

"To Josh, that was his greatest achievement," he said.

Resistance Action

June 28 (Reuters) & June 29, 2009 By Laith Hammoudi, Jenan Hussein and Sahar Issa; McClATCHY NEWSPAPERS & (Reuters) & By Sahar Issa, McClatchy Newspapers

A car bomb wounded seven policemen when it exploded in the car park of a police training centre in western Baghdad, police said.

A car bomb exploded in the parking lot of a police academy in western Baghdad, killing one police officer and wounding six others, police said, speaking on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to speak to the media.

A roadside bomb killed a member of the Sunni Iraqi Islamic [collaborator] Party and wounded his son when it struck their car in Ramadi, 100 km (60 miles) west of Baghdad, on Sunday, police said.

Two policemen were killed and three others were wounded when their patrol was ambushed at a booby-trapped bridge in the small town of Hammam al-Alil, 25 km (15 miles) south of Mosul, police said.

A parked car bomb targeted a police patrol near the general hospital in the town of Hamdaniyah, 17 km to the east of Mosul at 2.30 p.m. Monday killing nine policemen including one Asayesh (Kurd intelligence) and injuring two policemen and nine civilians.

Insurgents targeted a policeman and shot him dead in Jalowlaa district to the northeast of Baquba Monday morning.

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

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

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

634 U.S. Military Deaths In Afghanistan

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

June 22, 2009 By The Associated Press

As of Sunday, June 21, 2009, at least 634 members of the U.S. military had died in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan as a result of the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001, according to the Defense Department. The department last updated its figures Friday at 10 a.m. EDT.

Of those, the military reports 468 were killed by hostile action.

Four U.S. Soldiers Killed By Jalrez IED

29th June, 2009 (IANS)

Four foreign soldiers were killed Monday in a roadside bombing outside Kabul, said a spokesman for the government of Maidan Wardak province.

Shahidullah Shahid said the troopers died when their convoy was hit by a roadside bomb in the Jalrez district, about 40 km west of Kabul.

At least one vehicle was destroyed in the blast, Shahid said.

A Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, claimed a higher death toll, saying five US soldiers were killed in the attack.

U.S. Soldier Killed By Wardak IED

June 30, 2009 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 469-09

Sgt. Terry J. Lynch, 22, of Shepherd, Mont., died June 29 in Wardak Province, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. He was assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 71st Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), Fort Drum, N.Y.

Wisconsin Soldier Dies From Afghanistan Combat Wounds

June 29, 2009 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 463-09

Pvt. Steven T. Drees, 19, of Peshtigo, Wis., died June 28 at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, in Landstuhl, Germany, of injuries sustained June 24 in Konar Province, Afghanistan, when insurgents attacked his unit using small arms fire and a rocket-propelled-grenade launcher.

He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colo.

Zephyrhills Soldier Loses Fight For Life

June 18, 2009 By Lisa Buie, St. Petersburg Times

ZEPHYRHILLS

Army Spec. Jonathan C. O'Neill had three weeks left in Afghanistan. He was heading home, but still mulling over what to do next.

"Deployments almost over and wondering what to do next," he wrote on his Facebook profile page. "Do I stay at Ft. Stewart or ask to go to Korea? hmm."

On June 2, the 22-year-old graduate of Zephyrhills High School was badly burned when a roadside bomb blew up near his vehicle. He died Monday at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas.

O'Neill had been assigned to the 549th Military Police Company, 385th Military Police Battalion, 16th Military Police Brigade (Airborne) out of Fort Stewart, Ga. He suffered burns over 40 percent to 45 percent of his body, said his mother, Jackie Godfrey O'Neill.

"He was a wonderful kid," said his mother. "They say you have problems with children in the teenage years, but that certainly was not the case with Jonathan."

Friends and family described a young man who was serious but still liked to have fun. He graduated from Zephyrhills in 2004 and was active in Junior ROTC. He served in the color guard, drill and rifle teams, and was battalion commander his senior year, according to the yearbook.

During high school, he worked at Publix and Lowe's in Zephyrhills.

In 2007, he joined the Army.

"He enlisted after the war started, so he knew what he was getting himself into," said Mrs. O'Neill, who moved from Zephyrhills to Tennessee in 2006.

His final posting on Facebook on May 29 urged friends to contact him via e-mail. He also took the quiz "Which Friends character are you" and came up as Joey:

"You are completely lost in a conversation so you just nod and laugh along. You are constantly bringing home a new girl to your apartment just to make them pancakes and forget their name! You are fun to be around and always good for a laugh!"

After her son was wounded, Mrs. O'Neill kept his 93 other Facebook friends up to date on his progress via regular posts to his page.

He endured surgeries in which doctors took skin grafts to repair the burns. He needed 30 units of blood; the doctor said that was the most any patient of his ever needed, his mother said. His blood pressure fluctuated, and he had an infection in his blood.

On June 8, "I looked at his swollen head and body and I saw my little boy beneath all of the scrapes and burns," his mother wrote on Facebook. "I pray that God eases some of his pain and helps him through all of this. . . . please pray for him. He needs all of us right now."

Two days later, she looked at her son and for the first time saw a man.

"All these years he has been my 'baby', my 'boy', my 'boo' (don't ask) but today he is now my 'son', my 'friend', my 'Soldier, my 'HERO'..... I am so very proud of the man that he has become. I don't know what I ever have done to deserve such a gift."

On Wednesday Mrs. O'Neill said she learned that her son had received a Purple Heart from President Barack Obama, who was visiting the hospital in Germany where O'Neill was being treated before being transferred to the United States.

"They tried to keep him awake but he wasn't because of all the medication he was on."

Officials took photos and will send them to the family.

"That will be something to keep," his mother said.

New Zealand Patrol Bombed

Jun 29, 2009 APN Holdings

A New Zealand military patrol in Afghanistan has escaped unscathed after a bomb was triggered in front of a vehicle travelling in a convoy.

A patrol from the New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team (NZPRT) in Afghanistan triggered the improvised explosive device in the north west of Bamyán Province last night.

This followed an incident involving another PRT patrol last week in the same area where an exchange of small arms fire with suspected insurgents occurred, the New Zealand Defence Force said.

The explosive device was reportedly detonated in front of a vehicle in the convoy, but resulted in no injury to personnel or damage to the vehicle.

The patrol cleared the area of immediate threat and withdrew to a secure base at a local township.

Insurgents Closing In On U.S. Main Base At Bagram: [Can You Read Between The Lines?]

Jun 29 By PATRICK QUINN, Associated Press Writer

Afghanistan has cleared two-thirds of the country of deadly mines over the past two decades, and had hoped to get rid of the rest by 2013. But experts fear Afghanistan can no longer meet its goals because of an increase in fighting and a drop in international funding. The result is more danger to both soldiers and civilians, with 50 people a month killed or maimed by mines.

Violence has closed off many of Afghanistan's provinces to trained de-miners, who are increasingly targeted and killed by militants. Last year, according to the United Nations Mine Action Center, insurgents shot and killed six de-miners on one day and two the next.

One reason is that the mines provide raw materials for militants to repurpose and use against U.S. and NATO forces. The mines are used to make roadside bombs, or what the military calls improvised explosive devices or IEDs, the main killer of U.S. forces in nearby Iraq.

"There is a huge problem here in Afghanistan," said Richard Evans, a de-mining officer with the HALO trust, a British charity that specializes in the removal of land mines and other debris of war.

Evans said his team eliminates about 75 mines a day near Bagram air base, slowly clearing areas to eventually allow families to return.

But he said the work has become increasingly difficult because there are now some areas where his team cannot go because of the violence.

Guards Trained By U.S. Troops Kill General In Command Of Kandahar Province Police: “A Taliban Spokesman, Yousuf Ahmadi, Claimed Men From His Militia Had Deliberately Sparked The Clash” 9 More Policemen, Including Another Senior Officer, Also Killed

“This attack was really surprising, because these guards were like special-operations forces,” said another political leader by phone from Kandahar. “They were highly trained and highly paid and very smart.

“Unless they were ordered, it is hard to imagine them doing such a thing.”

Jun 29 by Nasrat Shoib, (AFP) & Jun. 30, 2009 COLIN FREEZE, Globe and Mail & By Pamela Constable, Washington Post Foreign Service

An Afghan provincial police chief and up to nine of his men were killed in a shoot-out with armed guards from a private security company in the southern city of Kandahar Monday, authorities said.

The Canadian military characterized the gunmen more precisely: “An Afghan special unit that supports U.S. counterterrorism” but which acted “on their own volition, without orders.”

That portrayal speaks to a clandestine squad trained to operate in the shadows, but that ended up achieving global notoriety for gunning down police in public.

The gunfight erupted outside the offices of the provincial attorney general in Kandahar, which has suffered heavily from violence linked to a Taliban-led insurgency.

The Afghan guards went to the offices to free a prisoner when the attorney general's staff called for police help, said interior ministry spokesman Zemarai Bashary.

"The Kandahar police chief came to the area to assess the situation himself," Bashary told AFP.

"As he arrives, these armed men open fire and start a clash as a result of which the police chief, the police criminal investigation chief and two other policemen have been killed," he said.

Five more policemen were wounded, he added.

The head of the Kandahar provincial council, Ahmad Wali Karzai, put the death toll at 10 policemen, including the two senior officers.

"In a shoot-out between Afghan private security guards and police, 10 policemen including Kandahar police chief Mutaiullah Khan Qateh and the criminal investigation police chief have been killed," said Karzai.

The guards had been trained by US soldiers, said Karzai, a brother of President Hamid Karzai.

Qateh, believed to be in his mid-50s, held the rank of general. He was appointed Kandahar police chief about a year ago after a Taliban attack on Kandahar city jail that allowed hundreds of inmates to escape.

A Taliban spokesman, Yousuf Ahmadi, claimed men from his militia had deliberately sparked the clash between the Afghan forces but this was not confirmed.

Now, the world will be watching to find out more about these men, how they were trained and why they may have acted so contemptuously toward law enforcement. None of the suspects have been identified. It is anticipated they will face a military trial.

Witnesses said that before noon, dozens of armed men in uniforms pulled up in pickup trucks to the criminal-justice complex in Kandahar City, surrounding the building in a coordinated fashion, and storming inside.

A man who claimed to be in the justice complex at the time told The Globe and Mail the gunmen spoke directly to Kandahar's top prosecutor, demanding the immediate release of the prisoner.

The reply was along the lines that the Afghan constitution wouldn't permit that. The Afghan National Police were called in, but a heated verbal exchange was quickly followed by an exchange of gunfire.

Other sources in Kandahar, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said there were several other possible motives for the attack, including a shooting incident among Afghan security guards at a U.S. base several years ago and a custody dispute between Afghan and American officials over a recently captured senior Taliban commander.

“This attack was really surprising, because these guards were like special-operations forces,” said another political leader by phone from Kandahar. “They were highly trained and highly paid and very smart.

“Unless they were ordered, it is hard to imagine them doing such a thing.”

Resistance Action



A destroyed police vehicle following an attack in Behsud district of Nangarhar province, east of Kabul, Afghanistan, June 28, 2009. Nine were wounded, Afghan police officials said. (AP Photo/Rahmat Gul)

June 28 (Reuters)

Five policemen were killed when Taliban insurgents attacked a checkpoint in the Posht-e-Rud district of western Farah province on Saturday, said Mohammad Nadi Popal, provincial director of security. Seven insurgents were also killed in the fighting, he said.

Two policemen were killed and two wounded when Taliban fighters ambushed a police checkpoint in Farah's Bala Boluk district on Saturday, said Abdelbasir Ghuri, a spokesman for the Afghan army in the province. Five insurgents were also killed in the clash, he said.

**THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO COMPREHENSIBLE
REASON TO BE IN THIS EXTREMELY HIGH RISK
LOCATION AT THIS TIME, EXCEPT THAT THE
PACK OF TRAITORS THAT RUN THE**

**GOVERNMENT IN D.C. WANT YOU THERE TO
DEFEND THEIR IMPERIAL DREAMS:
That is not a good enough reason.**



U.S. Marines patrol in the Golestan district of Farah province, Afghanistan, April 30, 2009. REUTERS/Goran Tomasevic

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Somali Rebels Threaten To Seize Arms Sent By U.S. Government To Prop Up Occupation Regime

29 Jun (AP)

MOGADISHU, Somalia

An Islamic group in Somalia has threatened to seize weapons and ammunition the U.S. has supplied to the nation's embattled government.

But Uganda, a key U.S. ally in the region, praised the arms shipment.

Both were responding to an announcement by U.S. officials last week that the Obama administration had supplied arms and provided military training worth just under \$10 million to the east African country's shaky official government.

The Obama's administration's goal is to provide the faltering Somali government with weapons and to help armies in several neighboring African nations train Somali forces.

But experts have expressed concern that the arms may end up diverted to insurgent groups.

Sheik Hassan Ya'qub, a spokesman for the militant group al-Shabab in the port town of Kismayo, said late Sunday: "The weapons sent to the so-called government will only escalate violence in Somalia and we, the holy warriors, believe that we will eventually seize them."

The group, which controls much of southern Somalia, is trying to drive out the government

"I welcome (the) U.S.A.'s sending of weapons to Somalia," said Yoweri Museveni, the president of Uganda, a major contributor of troops to the African Union force in the Somali capital.

The African Union and the U.N. "support Somalia's government, and if the U.S. comes out to support it, it is a good gesture," Museveni told reporters in the Ugandan port town of Entebbe on Monday.

Over the past two months, Somali President Sheik Sharif Sheik Ahmed's government has come under heavy attacks from Islamic insurgents pounding government positions with mortars and targeting senior officials in attacks. During an intense two-week period of fighting in the capital in May about 200 civilians were killed.

It is unclear how al-Shabab, an Islamic group fighting to overthrow the government, will follow through on its threat to seize the arms.

U.S. officials said last week that the arms were supplied through the African Union force in the Somali capital, which has firm control of Mogadishu's main air and sea port even though Al-Shabab controls other parts of Mogadishu.

In May, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development — a group of seven countries in the Horn of Africa region that has led past peace talks on Somalia — imposed a sea and air blockade to stop military supplies reaching the Islamic insurgents in Somalia.

It is not clear whether the blockade has been effective.

Obama Buddies In Collaborator Government Shelling Civilians In Somalia Capital

6/28/2009 MOGADISHU (Sh. M. Network)

The TFG president Sharif Sheik Ahmed has held a press conference in the Somalia capital Mogadishu on Sunday and said that the clashes against his government are led by Sheik Hassan Dahir Aweys and planned by Eritrean officials in Somalia.

The president held the press conference in the presidential palace, Vila Somalia in Mogadishu and talked more on the current situation of the country saying that the fighting in the Somali capital Mogadishu is led by the chairman of Hisbul Islam leader, Sheik Aweys pointing out that they are organized by an Eritrean officials in Somalia.

Asked about the reason and why the government soldiers and AMISOM forces target shelling and heavy weapons in the capital, the president said that their forces or AMISOM fire their weapons to limited areas pointing out those zones are strongholds of what he called Al-Qaeda [so this is where George W. Bush got a job.].

President Sharif had reiterated that members of Al-Qaeda invaded to the country and lastly he thanked to African Union forces AMISOM in Somalia saying that they also hope another African forces to join them to be completed to support the transitional government which he said that it is in a hard time.

The statement of the transitional government president Sharif Sheik Ahmed comes as more government shelling targeted to the civilians areas in parts of Haodan district in the capital.

GI Special Available In PDF Format

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

TROOP NEWS

**While He Fights In Iraq,
Government Plans To Deport His
Wife:**

**“I’m On My Second Deployment. I’ve
Been Gone For Most Of My Kids’
Lives”**

“And This Is How I’m Repaid? Who Will Be There When I Come Home?”



Spc. Moonsammy Narinesammy mans his post during a mission near Tikrit, Iraq, in January. Courtesy photo / Moonsammy Narinesammy

[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: “Which door has the lion? How soon until this GI joins the resistance?”]

June 25, 2009 By Leo Shane III, Stars and Stripes [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON –

Spc. Moonsammy Narinesammy isn't worried about dying in Iraq.

He's worried about spending the rest of his life in Guyana.

Narinesammy, 31, who has months left on his deployment, spends all of his free time between missions trying to solve his wife's citizenship problems.

Immigration and Naturalization Services officials are finalizing deportation paperwork for Ratashwarie, while she waits nervously in New York.

“I don't know if somebody is going to knock on the door one day and haul me away while my daughter is out at school,” she said.

She faces a possible lifetime banishment from the United States for entering the country on a forged passport in 2000. Moonsammy said the only relatives she has in Guyana live in poor, dangerous slums, in an area where neither wants to raise their two young daughters.

“All I want to do is come back home to my family, but I don't know what's going to happen,” said Moonsammy, himself a naturalized U.S. citizen. “I have a wonderful family, but it's getting ripped apart.”

Immigration experts say it's not an unusual story.

“I probably get one of these calls a week,” said Lt. Col. Margaret Stock, an Army reservist who works with the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

“It’s a military readiness problem. The spouses are over there, stressing out about what’s happening back home. They can’t focus because they’re worried about where their wives will end up.”

In recent years, Congress has offered an easier path to citizenship for immigrants who serve in the military, allowing them to apply for citizenship within days of enlisting — even if they entered the country illegally.

Yet laws for family members of troops haven’t kept pace.

Last year, the House debated a measure which would have offered broader protection for military spouses against deportation, including allowing some illegal resident family members of troops to seek citizenship.

But the legislation did not pass the House last session, largely due to opposition from groups worried about a loosening of immigration laws.

The bill’s sponsor, Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif., said she hopes to reintroduce the measure this summer.

Stock said most of the issues she hears about from servicemembers stem from violations under the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996.

That update of immigration laws included language that prohibited waivers for immigrants seeking permanent residence on any prior offense, including illegal border crossing.

That’s why Ratashwarie is facing deportation: INS officials say they have no record of her legally entering the country in 2000, and have ordered her to produce documents proving that if she wants to stay in America.

She freely admits that she can’t.

“I had documentation to get into the country, but it wasn’t mine,” she said. “A broker gave me someone else’s passport to fly from Trinidad to Puerto Rico, and collected all of the paperwork once I got to New York.”

Ratashwarie, now 27, said her family arranged for her to come to America to help pull them out of poverty, hoping she could get a better job and send money back to them.

Before she left, her mother paid a hefty fee to a broker for what they thought was a legal, temporary work visa to enter the U.S. When she received the fake passport in Trinidad, she realized it wasn’t legal. By then, too much money had been invested in her trip to turn back.

“The only bad thing I’ve ever done is enter this country illegally,” she said.

Moonsammy came to New York legally from Guyana with his parents in 1992, when he was a teenager.

He met Ratashwarie in 2002. She told him she wasn't interested in short men, but his charm and persistence eventually won him a phone number and a first date.

They married three years later.

He decided to join the Army as a way to support their family, became an infantryman, and eventually deployed to Iraq. Just days before his unit left in November 2006, Moonsammy finished his naturalization paperwork and was sworn in as a U.S. citizen.

"I love this country, and I love the pride of knowing that I am serving my country," he said. "I had other jobs, but this is different. I want to go to warrant officer school, make a career out of this."

The pair had hoped that his status as a citizen would provide the protection Ratashwarie needed to eventually become a citizen herself. Stock said it's a common mistake.

"If you make a mistake filing the paperwork, or if there's a prior problem, it doesn't matter," she said.

"Being married to an American doesn't guarantee anything."

By the time Moonsammy left for Iraq with the 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment last fall, the couple had already been contacted by the INS to prove she wasn't living in the country illegally.

They've hired several lawyers in the hopes that someone can find a solution for them. Moonsammy even was sent home in April for two weeks by his unit to try to sort it out, because his superiors worried it was becoming a distraction.

"But I've exhausted what we can do," he said. "Now we're just waiting to see what happens next."

Stock has not reviewed the Narinesammys' case, but said similar ones she's handled usually have predictable outcomes. If the immigrant is found to have used a fake or stolen U.S. passport to get into the country, they're banned from America for life.

Ratashwarie said the passport she used was from Trinidad, although she cannot produce any documents to back that up.

Stock said in some cases with foreign passports, lawyers have more leeway to argue for leniency, especially if the foreign national was duped into thinking they had proper paperwork to enter the country.

But often those individuals still face deportation and a 10-year ban from the country before they are allowed to apply for a temporary visa again.

Meanwhile, Moonsammy waits in Iraq for more information on what will happen to his wife. He said he has struggled to push the deportation threat out of his mind, but lately the thought of losing his wife has become a constant fear.

“It’s real difficult to keep in a sane mood,” he said. “I’m on my second deployment. I’ve been gone for most of my kids’ lives. And this is how I’m repaid? Who will be there when I come home?”



Narinesammy’s wife, Ratashwarie, center, poses with daughters Alisha, 1, and Tiffanie, 4, last winter. Courtesy Photo / Moonsammy Narinesammy

**NOT ANOTHER DAY
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR
NOT ANOTHER LIE
NOT ANOTHER LIFE**



The coffin of U.S. Army Sgt. Jasper Obakrairur, 26, of Palau at the Palau Capital building in Melekeok, June 16, 2009. Obakrairur is the first Palauan to be killed in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Itsuo Inouye)

Police Say Man Threatened To Blow Up Army Recruiting Stations

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

June 28, 2009 The Spokesman-Review

A man was arrested Saturday afternoon after police said he threatened to “blow up” the U.S. Army recruiting tent set up in Riverfront Park for Hoopfest.

Keith M. Stroupe, 40, was booked into Spokane County Jail on suspicion of felony harassment, said Senior Patrolman Timothy Moses of the Spokane Police Department.

The original call came in just before noon, Moses said.

Stroupe also made threats at a second Army recruiting station at Spokane Falls Boulevard and Washington Street, Moses said. Though Stroupe disappeared into the crowd, one of the recruiters had filmed him with his cell phone, enabling police to identify him in the crowd two hours later, Moses said.

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

I say that when troops cannot be counted on to follow orders because they see the utility and immorality of them THAT is the real key to ending a war.

-- Al Jaccoma, Veterans For Peace

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

-- Eugene V. Debs

“What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.”

Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787.

“The mighty are only mighty because we are on our knees. Let us rise!”

-- Camille Desmoulins

“When someone says my son died fighting for his country, I say, “No, the suicide bomber who killed my son died fighting for his country.”

-- Father of American Soldier Chase Beattie, KIA in Iraq

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

Mike Hastie

U.S. Army Medic

Vietnam 1970-71

December 13, 2004

Brothers

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special
Sent: December 09, 2006
Subject: Brothers

By Dennis Serdel, Author; *Peace Speaks From The Mirror*; Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour)
Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50
Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in
Perry, Michigan

Brothers

**It is hell to fight
when you are a soldier dunked in oil
grabbing a raghead to wipe off the oil
from goggles so he can see
through goggles darkly
blowing his nose out so he can breathe
takes a woman's scarf
to clean the oil from his lips and face
then the brutal desert wind
stirs up the sand
he points his 16 at an old man's head
to see if it still works
but his rifle needs cleaning
blows up in front of him
then he steps on a landmine
that blows off both feet
he is covered with his blood
oil and sand
as a sniper takes aim
and shoots off his hand
so he shifts his 16
as Iraqi kids stone him
one hits his chin
as a woman screams at him
his face is blood oil and sand
as he moves on the ground
an old man sets him on fire
as his buddies shoot the kids
the woman and old man
but farther away
they hear cheers for the martyrs
but the soldiers are Not fighting**

for America or Iraq
they are Not fighting
for Democracy or Oil
they are just fighting
for each other.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

NICOLAS SARKOZY SAYS ISLAMIC VEILS ARE NOT WELCOME IN FRANCE



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

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

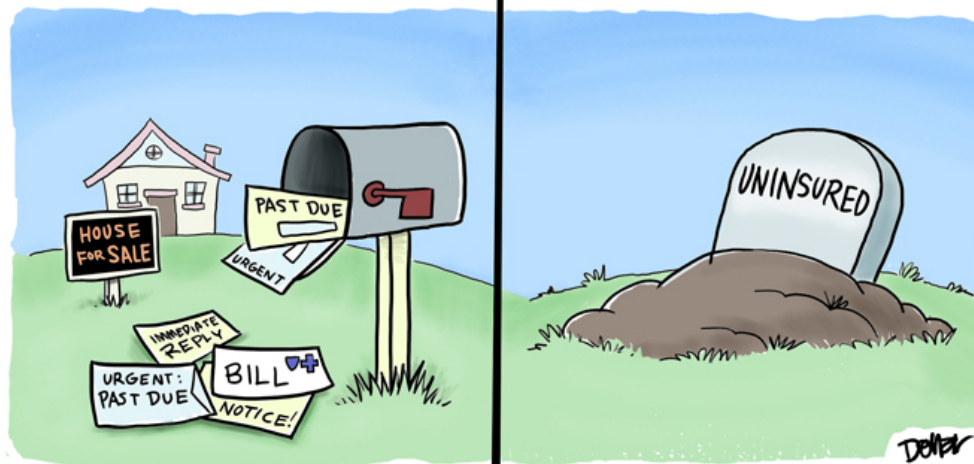
**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WARS**

CLASS WAR REPORTS

U.S. HEALTH CARE OPTIONS

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OR BUY THE FARM



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

**“Spontaneous Marches Took
Place In South Tehran, A
Decidedly Poorer Section Of Town
And Supposedly A Stronghold For
Ahmadinejad”**

“Workers Resented The 24% Annual Inflation That Robbed Them Of Real Wage Increases”

“Independent Trade Unionists Had Been Fighting For Decent Wages And For The Right To Organize”

June 28, 2009 By Reese Erlich, ZSpace

Iran is not undergoing a Twitter Revolution.

The term simultaneously mischaracterizes and trivializes the important mass movement developing in Iran.

Here's how it all began. The Iranian government prohibited foreign reporters from traveling outside Tehran without special permission, and later confined them to their hotel rooms and offices. CNN and other cable networks were particularly desperate to find ways to show the large demonstrations and government repression. So they turned to Internet sites such as Facebook and Twitter in a frantic effort to get information. Since reporters were getting most of their information from Tweets and You Tube video clips, the notion of a “Twitter Revolution” was born.

We reporters love a catch phrase and, Twitter being all a flutter in the west, it seemed to fit. It's a catchy phrase but highly misleading.

First of all the vast majority of Iranians have no access to Twitter.

While reporting in Tehran, I personally didn't encounter anyone who used it regularly. A relatively small number of young, economically well off Iranians do use Twitter. A larger number have access to the Internet.

However, in the beginning, most demonstrations were organized through word of mouth, mobile phone calls and text messaging.

But somehow “Text Messaging Revolution” doesn't have that modern, sexy ring, especially if you have to type it with your thumbs on a tiny keyboard.

More importantly, by focusing on the latest in Internet communications, cable TV networks intentionally or unintentionally characterize a genuine mass movement as something supported mainly by the Twittering classes.

I witnessed tens of thousands of mostly young people coming out into the streets in spontaneous campaign rallies in the days leading up to the election - most of whom had never heard of Twitter.

They shared a common joy not only campaigning for reformist Mirhossein Mousavi, but in being able to freely express themselves for the first time in many years. When the government announced an overwhelming victory for hardliner Mahmoud Ahmadinejad only two hours after the polls closed, people became furious.

Over the next few days, hundreds of thousands of Iranians poured into the streets in Tehran and cities around the country. They organized silent marches through word of mouth and phone calls since the government had shut down text messaging just prior to the election.

Contrary to popular perception, these gatherings included women in chadors, workers and clerics - not just the Twittering classes.

Spontaneous marches took place in south Tehran, a decidedly poorer section of town and supposedly a stronghold for Ahmadinejad.

It's a genuine Iranian mass movement made up of students, workers, women, and middle class folks. It may not be strong enough to topple the system today but is sowing the seeds for future struggles.

Iranians initially protested what they perceived as massive vote fraud, but that quickly evolved as the protests grew in size and breadth. In the week after the June 14 election, millions of Iranians vented 30 years of pent up anger at a repressive system.

Iranian youth particularly resented President Ahmadinejad's support for religious militia attacks on unmarried young men and women walking together and against women not covering enough hair with their hijab.

Workers resented the 24 percent annual inflation that robbed them of real wage increases. Independent trade unionists had been fighting for decent wages and for the right to organize.

Some demonstrators wanted a more moderate Islamic government. Others advocated a separation of mosque and state, and a return to parliamentary democracy. They are well aware that when Iran had a genuine parliamentary system under Prime Minister Mossadegh, the CIA overthrew it in 1953 in order to promote the Shah as dictator.

I didn't meet any Iranians calling for U.S. intervention; that's strictly a debate inside the Washington beltway.

Some Iranian friends have asked me why Supreme Leader Sayyed Ali Khamenei would throw his support behind Ahmadinejad when his presidency was so clearly damaging the country at home and abroad. Initially, Khamenei supported the president because they share common ideological and political positions.

Later, the top clerical leaders saw the mass movement that coalesced around Mousavi's campaign as a direct threat to government stability and their future rule.

Since June 21, the top clerics, military and intelligence services have mobilized their entire apparatus to crush the movement for social and economic change.

The mass movement that sprang forth in the past few weeks has been 30 years in coming.

It's not a Twitter Revolution, nor even a "velvet revolution" like those in Eastern Europe.

**The Labor-Hating Filth Who
Govern Iran:
“Ahmadinejad’s Regime, Despite
All His Populist Rhetoric, Has
Worked Hand-In-Hand With IMF
Privatizers”
This Is Who They Are And What They
Do:
No Solidarity; No Compromise With The
Scum Who Defend Them**

June 28th, 2009 by Billy Wharton, Dissident Voice [Excerpts]

Pro-market privatizations have been combined with harsh restrictions on worker’s ability to organize in order to advance Ahmadinejad’s neo-liberal restructuring of Iran.

Although Iran is technically a member of the International Labor Organization, and thereby mandated to allow free trade unions, workers are restricted from forming independent unions.

Under the constitution, they are only allowed to join ideologically-centered Islamic Worker’s Councils, which hold no right to deal with worksite issues or collectively bargain.

Despite these legal restrictions, privatization and soaring inflation have resulted in a series of escalating confrontations between workers and security forces.

In March 2007, thousands of schoolteachers spilled out into the streets in front of Parliament demanding that their collective grievances be heard and their salaries increased.

They were attacked by security forces and their leaders received prison sentences of up to five years.

Such repression did not deter Mahmoud Salehi, a baker, from making his annual demand to celebrate May Day.

Salehi was found guilty of “acting against national security” and imprisoned.

This year, in a small preview of the post-election street protests, Ahmadinejad’s security apparatus was used to repress 2,000 workers who attempted to organize a May Day celebration.

But the real foil to Ahmadinejad’s pro-market policies is a middle-aged bus driver from Tehran.

Mansour Osanloo, acting as the president of the 17,000 worker-strong Syndicate of Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company, led a 2005 strike in which drivers refused to accept fares in protest of working conditions and rising fares.

The strike was immediately criminalized with Osanloo and fellow leaders placed under arrest.

Undeterred, Osanloo led another strike attempt in 2006.

He was again arrested and today sits in a cell in Iran’s notorious Evin prison — a living testament to both the courage of Iranian workers and the repressive nature of the regime.

Automotive workers at Khodro Automobile Company have pledged resistance, university students are conducting sit-ins, and the Bus Drivers Union has issued a call for international solidarity.

Meanwhile, somewhere deep inside Evin prison, clandestine communications may be being initiated between a jailed bus driver and a newly minted student radical or an ailing baker and young rock-throwing worker.

These actors need little help in understanding that Ahmadinejad’s regime, despite all his populist rhetoric, has worked hand-in-hand with IMF privatizers. After failing to deliver on his populist rhetoric, Ahmadinejad has stolen the election.

Now, his only recourse is state repression.

“To Believe That ‘Western Puppets’ Are Crying Allah-O Akbar All Over Iran's Rooftops Is Criminally Absurd”

June 22, 2009 By Pepe Escobar, Asia Times [Excerpts]

Blame foreign “terrorists”, blame the United States, Britain, France and Germany - the theo-political oligarchy's panicky reaction is totally beside the point.

As are vast, proselytizing sectors of the Western progressive left - bound by the iron chains and faulty logic of “everyone fighting US imperialism is my friend”.

They have been duped - uncritically swallowing regime propaganda, blind to the complexities of Iranian society, and unable to identify a completely new political equation for what it is.

To believe that “Western puppets” are crying Allah-O Akbar all over Iran's rooftops, or being shot at by Basiji in the streets, is criminally absurd.

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