

GI SPECIAL 7G21:

WELCOME TO OBAMAWORLD: WHERE EVERY DEATH IN COMBAT ACCOMPLISHES NOTHING AT ALL



U.S. Marines walk from their base near Now Zad in Afghanistan's Helmand province on their way to visit the nearby village of Khwaja Jamal June 22, 2009. (AP Photo/David Guttenfelder)

My God Has Horns

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special
Sent: July 27, 2009
Subject: My God Has Horns

By Dennis Serdel, 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

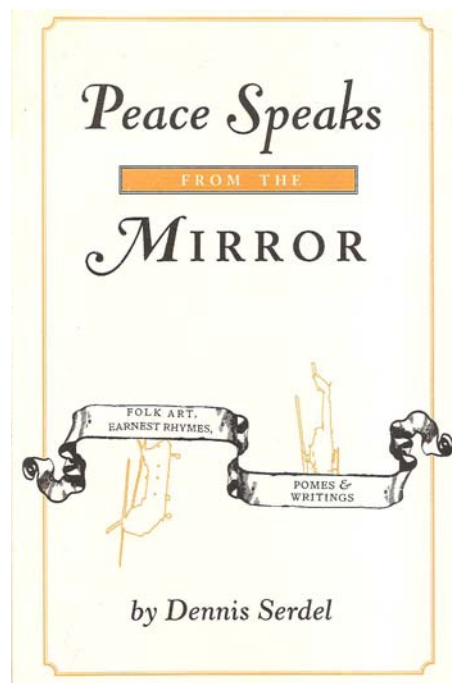
My God Has Horns

**Obama Obama there is two of you
one stumped for peace
while the other is for War
Americans would cheer when you said
you would end the Iraq War
but now you are acting like a Crip
or a Blood a Gangster of Rap
the Soldiers are still Flying home dead
in their now photographed
flag draped coffins thanks To you
Obama Obama one of you is a lie
and one is the truth as you laugh
at the fools Who voted for you
Voting is like playing the slot machines
the House the White House wins
most of the time but One Obama
will toss you A little stimulus money
so you think democracy works and voting
is just change In your pocket but
Obama Obama is like rolling dice
snake eyes With one winking
while The other stays the same
as a double for Bush but talking
smoother not like a hick
as the two Imperialist Wars
continue as One Obama in
the White House is thinking and acting
like Bush running for a third term is all
One Obama smiles for the cameras
while the Other Obama angrily kicks
dead Soldiers into their graves A maniac
screaming How in the hell are we
going to win this way as One Obama stands
at the podium smiling hand picking
the next news Reporter as the Other Obama
picks up a tank and throws it at an IED
and screams die you're no good in the
mountains of Afghanistan anyway
as One Obama mumbles sheepishly stupidly
while the Other Obama screams
at his Generals Why can't you beat
these rag tag Taliban towel heads
who amount to nothing
like rats with guns while we have
the finest Military in the world and then
the Other Obama steps off Air Force One**

and waves Friendly to the cameras while
the Other Obama with a scratchy
throat rumbles into the War Room
and says we will keep Soldiers in Iraq until
all the oil is gone as two Secret Service
goons pin a General against the wall
as Obama slaps him screaming into his face
I want this Bin Laden and all of them now
do you hear Me you little punk
the General nods his head up And down
as Obama throws his trash on his
uniform Down to the floor while
stars and ribbons scatter and bounce
like Crayons and marbles
I'll torture you if you don't
then at a press conference Just hours
from this the Other Obama never sweating
says it will Take awhile for all this to Work
be patient and cash your unemployment
checks as the Other Obama
in his White War Room House says
My God has horns and we will win
dead Soldiers dead Afghan civilians
mean nothing To me
I sleep sound at Night while Voters
And Soldiers have Oh No bad dreams.

MORE OF DENNIS SERDEL'S WORK IN PEACE SPEAKS FROM THE MIRROR:

Get Some While There Still Are Some To Get:



Books are \$15 Post Paid:
Check or Money Order Payable to Dennis Serdel:

From:
Dennis Serdel
339 Oakwood Lane
Perry,
Michigan 48872

Walt Whitman
Carl Sandburg
Allan Ginsberg
Dennis Serdel
T

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Resistance Action

July 27, 2009 Aswat Al Iraq & (Reuters) & DPA & (KUNA)

ANBAR: The director of the emergency police in Amiriyat al-Falluja district has been killed in an improvised explosive device (IED) blast in Ramadi city, according to a local source.

“On Monday noon, Captain Ibahim Khayrallah was killed when a sticky IED targeted his vehicle near the residential compound in Amiriyat al-Falluja district, southern Ramadi,” Maj. Yasseen Mohammed told Aswat al-Iraq news agency. “One of the director’s companions was wounded as a result of the explosion,” the major pointed out.

NINEWA: A U.S.-allied chieftain on Monday was killed in Ninewa and his driver was wounded when a sticky bomb attached to their car went off in central Mosul city, a police source said.

“Sheikh Mohammed Fadil al-Hayiali was killed at al-Dowasa neighborhood, central Mosul,” the source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency. The incident took place near a restaurant in the area,” he said. The source pointed out that the wounded driver was admitted to hospital while the chieftain’s corpse was delivered to the city’s morgue.

“Sheikh al-Hayiali is one of the supporters of the Sahwa (awakening) councils in Ninewa,” he noted.

Mosul, the capital city of Ninewa province, lies 405 km north of Baghdad.

Six policemen were injured when an improvised bomb targeting a police patrol exploded in Yarmuk area west of Mosul

A roadside bomb wounded one policeman in central Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Police found the body of policeman who had been shot in the head and chest near Kirkuk, police said.

A bombing that targetted a police patrol in the central Mosul district of Karaj Baghdad, killed a policeman.

Insurgents shot and killed a policeman in Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A sticky bomb killed a local tribal leader and wounded his driver in Mosul, police said. Police had earlier said three people were wounded in the blast, but later said only the driver had been hurt.

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

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Two Soldiers Killed In Helmand

27 Jul 09 Ministry of Defence

It is with great sadness that the Ministry of Defence must confirm that two soldiers have been killed in two separate incidents in Afghanistan today, Monday 27 July 2009.

In the first incident, a soldier from The Light Dragoons was killed as a result of an explosion that happened whilst on a vehicle patrol in Lashkar Gah district, central Helmand province.

In the other incident, a soldier from 5th Regiment Royal Artillery was killed as a result of an explosion that happened whilst on a foot patrol in Sangin district, Helmand province.

Bombardier Craig Hopson Killed In Babaji Area

27 Jul 09 Ministry of Defence

It is with great regret that the Ministry of Defence must confirm that Bombardier Craig Hopson from 40th Regiment Royal Artillery (The Lowland Gunners) was killed in Afghanistan on Saturday 25 July 2009.

Bombardier Hopson was killed when the Jackal vehicle in which he was travelling struck an improvised explosive device while taking part in Operation PANCHAI PALANG.

Bombardier Hopson was part of a patrol in the Babaji area of Helmand province, tasked to recce a suitable area for a polling station in the forthcoming Afghan presidential elections.

Roadside Bomb Damages Occupation Military Vehicle In Wardak; Casualties Not Announced

July 27, 2009 People's Daily Online

A roadside bomb struck military convoy of the international troops in Wardak province, 40 km west of Afghan capital Kabul, Monday damaging one military vehicle, spokesman of provincial administration Shahidullah Shahid said.

"The incident occurred between provincial capital Maidan and Jalriz district at 08:00 a.m. local time (0330 GMT) damaging an armored personnel carrier," Shahid told Xinhua.

However, he did not say if there were any casualties.

Taliban New Rules: "The Mujahideen Have To Behave Well And Show Proper Treatment To The Nation, In Order To Bring The Hearts Of Civilian Muslims Closer To Them"

July 27, 2009 Al Jazeera

The Taliban in Afghanistan has issued a book laying down a code of conduct for its fighters.

Al Jazeera has obtained a copy of the book, which further indicates that Mullah Omar, the movement's leader, wants to centralise its operations.

The book, with 13 chapters and 67 articles, lays out what one of the most secretive organisations in the world today, can and cannot do.

It talks of limiting suicide attacks, avoiding civilian casualties and winning the battle for the hearts and minds of the local civilian population.

Al Jazeera's James Bays, reporting from the capital, Kabul, said every fighter is being issued the pocket book entitled "The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan Rules for Mujahideen".

The book sheds considerable light on the structure, organisation and aims of the group, he said.

"If unofficial groups or irregular battalions refuse to join the formal structure, they should be disbanded," Omar says.

While the Taliban have repeatedly used suicide bombings across Afghanistan, the book now says that they should be used only on high and important targets."

"A brave son of Islam should not be used for lower and useless targets. The utmost effort should be made to avoid civilian casualties," the book says.

There are now clear guidelines on how the Taliban will treat its prisoners as well.

"Whenever any official, soldier, contractor or worker of the slave government is captured, these prisoners cannot be attacked or harmed," it says.

"The decision on whether to seek a prisoner exchange or to release the prisoner with strong guarantees will be made by the provincial leader.

"Releasing prisoners in exchange for money is strictly prohibited."

The book further states that if a "military infidel" is captured, the decision on whether to kill, release or exchange the hostage is only to be made by the Imam, a reference to Mullah Omar, or deputy Imam.

The book makes it clear that it is the duty of every fighter to win over the local population.

"The mujahideen have to behave well and show proper treatment to the nation, in order to bring the hearts of civilian Muslims closer to them.

"The mujahideen must avoid discrimination based on tribal roots, language or geographic background."

Our correspondent said the reference to winning over the hearts of the Afghan people is very similar to language used by Nato-led military forces in the country.

“Recently the Nato commander here issued a new tactical directive saying that civilians should not be bombed - almost the same words in these regulations to Taliban fighters,” Bays said.

“Both sides trying to win over the civilian population in their area.”

The release of the rule book comes less than a month before Afghans head to the polls for a presidential election, which the Taliban has deemed an illegitimate system imposed by foreigners.

The timing may be just a coincidence, however, as rival presidential candidates detail their manifestos and the Taliban makes an effort to win over the Afghan public.

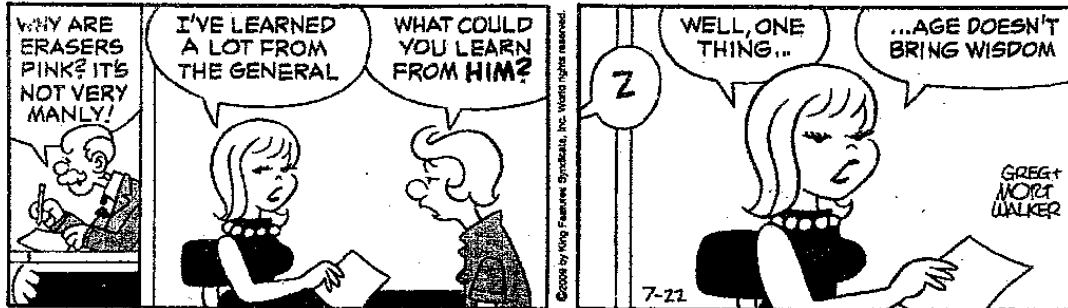
**IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE
END THE OCCUPATIONS**

**THIS ENVIRONMENT IS HAZARDOUS TO YOUR
HEALTH;
ALL HOME, NOW**



A U.S. Marine uses a metal detector to check a road for explosives in Golestan district, Farah province, May 3, 2009. REUTERS/Goran Tomasevic

TROOP NEWS



Cold-Hearted Killers In Command Abandoned Nine U.S. Soldiers At Wanat Base Before They Died:

“Soldiers At The Remote Base Were Short Of Basic Necessities Such As Water And Sandbags And Repeatedly Complained That They Were In A Precarious Position”

“The Platoon Leader Sent Word Up To His Senior Commanders That He Was Worried That A Retaliatory Attack Was Imminent”

“Rather Than Bolstering Security, Officers At Bagram Air Base Ordered

The Withdrawal Of All Intelligence, Surveillance And Reconnaissance Assets From The Area”

July 24, 2009 By Greg Jaffe, Washington Post Staff Writer [Excerpts]

A member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and an Army historian are raising serious questions about the performance of Army commanders prior to an assault that killed nine U.S. soldiers at a remote outpost in eastern Afghanistan last July.

Sen. James Webb (D-Va.) said he has asked the Pentagon's inspector general to conduct a formal examination of the Taliban assault and suggested that the Army may have mishandled an investigation of the incident.

The attack on the outpost in the village of Wanat was among the deadliest of the war in Afghanistan. The Army concluded a few months later that Afghan government leaders in the area had conspired with the enemy before the assault.

The investigation largely absolved senior Army leaders in the area of any serious errors related to the incident.

The attack on the outpost in the village of Wanat was among the deadliest of the war in Afghanistan. The Army concluded a few months later that Afghan government leaders in the area had conspired with the enemy before the assault. The investigation largely absolved senior Army leaders in the area of any serious errors related to the incident.

In a July 9 letter, Webb asked the Pentagon's then-acting inspector general to have his office look into the incident. “I believe a more thorough consideration of senior command accountability is warranted,” the senator wrote.

The letter cites an unreleased draft report written by an Army historian at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., that is sharply critical of the way senior Army leaders in Afghanistan performed before the assault.

Soldiers at the remote base were short of basic necessities such as water and sandbags and repeatedly complained that they were in a precarious position, according to the historian's report.

A few days before the assault, a U.S. helicopter attack mistakenly killed all of the Afghan doctors and nurses from a local clinic, infuriating villagers throughout the area, according to Douglas Cubbison's draft report.

Lt. Jonathan P. Brostrom, the platoon leader who was killed at the Wanat base, sent word up to his senior commanders that he was worried that a retaliatory attack was imminent, the draft report states.

Rather than bolstering security, officers at Bagram air base ordered the withdrawal of all intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance assets from the area.

Brostrom's father, retired Army Col. David. P. Brostrom, alerted Webb's office to the Army historian's report. "After I read the report, I was sick to my stomach," Brostrom said.

The existence of the document was first reported on the Web site of Foreign Policy, which is owned by The Washington Post Co.

Investigation Finds War Profiteer KBR And Incompetent Army Commanding Officers Responsible For Electrocuting Troops In Iraq; "Military Commanders And Key Decision Makers Failed To Ensure That Renovations Were Properly Performed And Did Not Address The Maintenance Situation"

July 27, 2009 By KIMBERLY HEFLING Associated Press [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON — Military leaders and a major military contractor failed to protect a Green Beret who was electrocuted while showering in his barracks in Iraq, the Defense Department's Inspector General determined.

The early 2008 death of Staff Sgt. Ryan Maseth, 24, of Pittsburgh, triggered an investigation by the IG of Maseth's death, but also a review of 17 other electrocution deaths in Iraq. Upward over it also led to the electrical inspections of about 90,000 U.S.-maintained facilities in Iraq, which are ongoing.

The inspector general says in its findings to be released later Monday that "multiple systems and organizations" failed and exposed Maseth to "unacceptable risk."

Maseth was electrocuted while showering when he came in contact with an energized metal shower and hose caused by the failure of an ungrounded water pump located on the roof of the building, the IG said. |

t says Houston-based military contractor KBR Inc. installed the pump and adjacent water tanks.

KBR did not ground equipment during installation or report improperly grounded equipment during routine maintenance, the inspector general said. It also says KBR did not have standard operating procedures for the technical inspection of facilities.

But it also says military commanders and key decision makers failed to ensure that renovations were properly performed and did not address the maintenance situation.

Of the 18 electrocution deaths in Iraq, nine were blamed on touching live electrical wire or cables and didn't warrant further review by the IG, according to the summary. Eight involved possible equipment faults or malfunctioning that caused or contributed to the electrocutions, the IG found.

It says it asked military criminal investigations to reopen investigations into four of the deaths, and is still waiting for the results of the review.

Army Alcohol Abuse Exaggerated “To Benefit Certain Programs”

7.13.09
Email Forum
Army Times

On the new Physical Health Assessment, they ask questions about how often and how much you drink. Almost every person I know that drinks would be considered to have an alcohol problem.

I may drink once a month — when I do it is usually while barbecuing and I may have four or five beers over an eight-hour period.

That many drinks, on one occasion, caused me to be listed as someone who overindulges in alcohol.

There are people in the military with substance abuse problems, and I am not trying to say they don't exist, but the problem is being a bit exaggerated to benefit certain programs.

— ben_army

<p>Troops Invited: Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box</p>
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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

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**

**“No Nation Can Donate
Liberation To Another Nation”**

**“In 2005, I Was The Youngest
Person Elected To The New
Afghan Parliament”**

**“But This Democracy Was A Facade,
And The So-Called Liberation A Big
Lie”**

**“The Afghan People Want Peace, And
History Teaches That We Always Reject
Occupation And Foreign Domination”**

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

I don't believe it is in your interests to see more young people sent off to war, and to have more of your taxpayers' money going to fund an occupation that keeps a gang of corrupt warlords and drug lords in power in Kabul.

25 July 2009 By Malalai Joya, The Guardian

In 2005, I was the youngest person elected to the new Afghan parliament. Women like me, running for office, were held up as an example of how the war in Afghanistan had liberated women.

But this democracy was a facade, and the so-called liberation a big lie.

You must understand that the government headed by Hamid Karzai is full of warlords and extremists who are brothers in creed of the Taliban. Many of these men committed terrible crimes against the Afghan people during the civil war of the 1990s.

For expressing my views I have been expelled from my seat in parliament, and I have survived numerous assassination attempts. The fact that I was kicked out of office while brutal warlords enjoyed immunity from prosecution for their crimes should tell you all you need to know about the “democracy” backed by Nato troops.

So far, Obama has pursued the same policy as Bush in Afghanistan.

Sending more troops and expanding the war into Pakistan will only add fuel to the fire.

Like many other Afghans, I risked my life during the dark years of Taliban rule to teach at underground schools for girls.

Today the situation of women is as bad as ever. Victims of abuse and rape find no justice because the judiciary is dominated by fundamentalists. A growing number of women, seeing no way out of the suffering in their lives, have taken to suicide by self-immolation.

This week, US vice-president Joe Biden asserted that “more loss of life [is] inevitable” in Afghanistan, and that the ongoing occupation is in the “national interests” of both the US and the UK.

I don't believe it is in your interests to see more young people sent off to war, and to have more of your taxpayers' money going to fund an occupation that keeps a gang of corrupt warlords and drug lords in power in Kabul.

What's more, I don't believe it is inevitable that this bloodshed continues forever.

Some say that if foreign troops leave Afghanistan will descend into civil war.

But what about the civil war and catastrophe of today?

The longer this occupation continues, the worse the civil war will be.

The Afghan people want peace, and history teaches that we always reject occupation and foreign domination.

We want a helping hand through international solidarity, but we know that values like human rights must be fought for and won by Afghans themselves.

“The Election Is A Showcase For The US Government To Deceive People Around The World”

24 July 2009 By Becky Branford, BBC News

Despite her own rise within the Afghan electoral system, she [Malalai Joya] says there is no functioning democracy in Afghanistan under current conditions.

“The election is a showcase for the US government to deceive people around the world,” she told the anti-war meeting in London.

“We have a proverb - an old donkey but a new saddle,” she added, to laughter from the audience.

“It's not important who is voting, but who is counting the votes.”

She said her own case was indicative of the poor state of the democratic system in Afghanistan.

She pointed out that she had been barred from parliament, effectively shut out from the Afghan media, and was in constant danger - so much so that she needed to wear an all-encompassing burka when in public in Afghanistan, to hide her identity.

But at the same time, she said, many parliamentary seats were occupied by “criminal warlords” who should never have been allowed to stand for election in the first place.

And she said the advances claimed for women following the overthrow of the Taliban were largely illusory.

“No nation can donate liberation to another nation,” Ms Joya said, to loud applause from the audience.

This Is Where We Take Our Stand: A Web Series About Winter Soldier: “The Very Policies And Strategic Goals Put In Place By The Bush Administration In The Gulf Region Stand Fundamentally Unchallenged And Unchanged By The Obama Administration”

[Thanks to Sandy Kelson, Veterans For Peace and Military Project, who sent this in.]

18 July 2009 By David Zeiger, The Rag Blog.

[David Zeiger is an award-winning film producer and director whose highly-acclaimed film Sir! No Sir! documented the little-known GI resistance to the Vietnam War. His production company is Displaced Films.]

I am more than pleased to announce to Rag Blog readers that the web series produced by Bestor Cram and me about last year's Winter Soldier Iraq and Afghanistan Investigation is finally starting.

Throughout the summer we will be posting six episodes of This is Where We Take Our Stand, one every two weeks, at www.thisiswherewetakeourstand.com.

Episode one is available now, along with the trailer for the series, and I want to urge all of you to not only watch but post, promote, and help spread the series throughout the internet.

Why this series, and why now? you may ask.

Good question.

Last year we spent three months following and filming the complicated, intense and emotional process of bringing two hundred and fifty veterans and active duty soldiers to Washington, DC, to expose the realities of America's occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan from their own experience. With strong support from the antiwar and progressive funding community, we hoped and expected to have a film available in six months.

But surprise! Along came Barack Obama and suddenly that support was dust in the wind. I won't go into details -- I think you know the reasons.

In my view, there is no better time than now to present this series.

In the name of "not looking backward," the very policies and strategic goals put in place by the Bush administration in the Gulf region stand fundamentally unchallenged and unchanged by the Obama administration.

Am I overstating the case here?

Yes, the rhetoric is different, and Obama has even called the invasion of Iraq a mistake. A mistake?!

If it's a "mistake," that means the goals are valid and righteous, they're just being pursued with the wrong tactics-as Obama has repeatedly said in the name of "supporting the troops."

Well, I beg to differ.

At the risk of stating the obvious, if these wars were illegal and immoral under Bush, by what logic are they not illegal and immoral under Obama?

Below is the statement about the series written by Bestor and me.

I hope that our series will do a little to rattle the sleep out of many people's eyes, as these occupations continue and, in the case of Afghanistan, expand.

Please help us make that happen.

This is Where We Take Our Stand:

The series that tells the riveting and timely story of the hundreds of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans who testified at last year's Winter Soldier investigation, has now begun. We hope to reach thousands, even millions worldwide as the six episodes are released throughout the summer:

Episode One: For Those Who Would Judge Me available now. See above or [click here](#).

Episode Two: Rules of Engagement will launch July 27, 2009.

Episode Three: Why We Fight will launch August 10, 2009.

Episode Four: Broken Soldier will launch August 24, 2009.

Episode Five: This is Not Human Nature will launch September 7, 2009.

Episode Six: No Longer a Monster will launch September 20, 2009.

Where's the debate?

Are we watching passively while Barack Obama carries out the same policies as George W. Bush?

When an American bombing raid this May killed over two hundred civilians in a village in Afghanistan, it was met with a deafening silence. When Obama's promised "withdrawal" from Iraq leaves 130,000 troops there for at least two more years and 50,000 permanently, it's hailed as an end to the occupation.

And who is demanding to know just what the mission really is when 30,000 more troops are sent to Afghanistan?

Where's the debate?

In March of 2008, two hundred and fifty veterans and active duty soldiers marked the fifth anniversary of the invasion of Iraq by gathering in Washington, DC, to testify from their own experience about the nature of the occupations of Afghanistan and Iraq.

It was chilling, horrifying, and challenging for all who witnessed it. Against tremendous odds, they brought the voices of the veterans themselves into the debate. That was then.

This is now.

Today, we present to you This is Where We Take Our Stand, the inside story of those three days and the courageous men and women who testified. And we present this story today, told in six episodes, because we believe it is as relevant now as it was one year ago. Maybe more.

Here is our challenge to you: Watch the series; spread it far and wide; and ask yourself,

Is this about the past, or the present and future? Then add your voice.

If you are a veteran or active duty, present your own testimony.

If you are not, but you are still a living, breathing member of the human race, then do whatever you can to join and fan the flames of debate.

- Displaced Films and Northern Light Productions

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

Songs For Obama's Empire

[The words and songs are from a new musical, *Oh Mammon: a Capital Farce*, © by Z, not yet in production, but hopefully soon. T]

"I am Nelson Oliver Nosferatu, CEO, CFO, CGO of the AMF Industries, or as it is more fully known Arbeit Macht Frei Global Industrial Commercial & Financial Juggernaut Consolidated.

"Tonight I feel like singing, my dearest good friends, and I hope you will all join me in one of our very favorite songs.

[To the music of American The Beautiful: words © Z]

O beautiful, our properties
Our lands and woods and grains
Our fields and mines and factories
Our ships and trains and planes!
Accumulate, accumulate! We never get enough
Of profits, income, capital, and other lovely stuff.

O beautiful, our trophy wives
Their diamonds, furs, and shoes
Our speedboats, cars, jets, limousines
Our photos in the news!
Accumulate, accumulate! We never get enough
Of profits, income, capital, and other lovely stuff.

O beautiful, our spacious yachts
That slice across the seas
Our mansions, villas, spas, resorts

Our blessed lives of ease!
Accumulate, accumulate! We never get enough
Of profits, income, capital, and other lovely stuff.

O beautiful, our shining skies
Our water, earth, and air
Our horses, cooks, maids, mistresses,
Chauffeurs, butlers, au pair!
Accumulate, accumulate! We never get enough
Of profits, income, capital, and other lovely stuff!

“Workers of the world, unite!” and all that outdated rubbish.

Well, we have taken over their song, just as we take over anything and everything our miserable enemies come up with and adapt it to our own purposes.

It is now called The Transnationale, and has very different and much better lyrics.

Sing it, gentlemen! If you're too crocked to remember the words, just follow the bouncing ball.

[Off-stage band strikes up the music. Everyone stands up to sing, though not everyone's feet are steady. The voices will be drunk but nevertheless intelligible]

[To the music of The Internationale: words © Z]

We're masters of globalization
The world is under our control
Our goal is wealth accumulation
Greed is great—we want it all!

Marx is dead and so's emancipation
Wake up and smell reality
You're slaves on capital's plantation
And will be for eternity.

So forget your utopia
For our capital has won
The mega-corporations
Will boss you from now on.
While we squeeze you for profit
You will each keep in your place
The corporate dictatorship
Shall rule the human race.

We'll not permit cooperation
You'll sell your lives without a fuss
We'll crush all insubordination
You'll either starve or work for us.

If you're good and do as you are told
We'll let you drink and watch TV
And buy the junk you've made and sold
And make believe that you are free.

So forget your utopia
For our capital has won
The mega-corporations
Will boss you from now on.
While we squeeze you for profit
You will each keep in your place
The corporate dictatorship
Shall rule the human race.

To hell with your rights and desires
To hell with nature and with health
We'll not let losers, fools, and liars
Interfere with our wealth.

Ours is the power and the glory
We own the laws, the nukes, the state
We're writing the official story
To make you resigned to your fate.

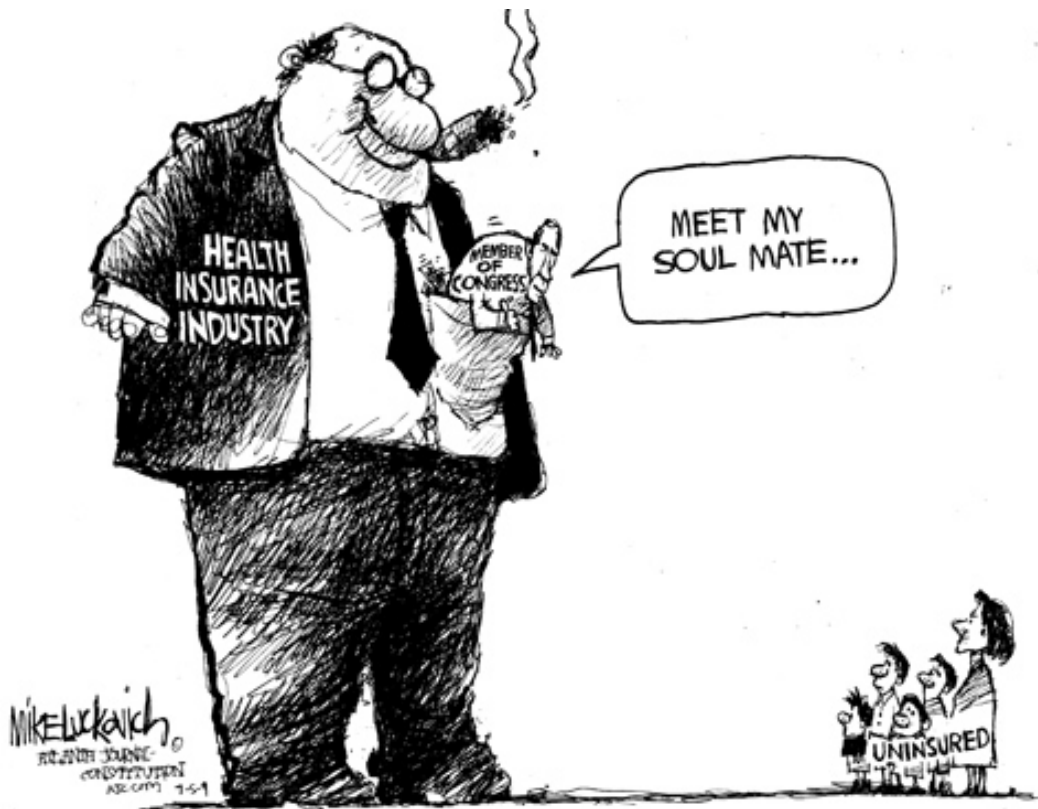
So forget your utopia
For our capital has won
The mega-corporations
Will boss you from now on.
While we squeeze you for profit
You will each keep in your place
The corporate dictatorship
Shall rule the human race.

[Many of the singers stagger off or collapse in drunken stupor]

Got an opinion? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send to contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request identification published.

GI Special Available In PDF Format
If you prefer PDF to Word format, email contact@militaryproject.org

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



**The Traitor Obama Defies Federal
Court Orders And Breaks His
Bullshit Promise:
He Refuses To Free Cleared
Guantanamo Prisoners:
“Seventeen Of The 26 Detainees Who've
Been Cleared For Release By Judges
Remain In Custody”**

Yet that position contrasts sharply with his message in a recent televised speech when he said he accepted judges' rulings that certain prisoners should be

released. **“The courts have spoken,” Mr. Obama said. “We must abide by these rulings.”**

July 22, 2009 Chisun Lee, ProPublica; New York Times [Excerpts]

As the Obama administration and Congress try to forge a legal framework for detaining suspected terrorists, they might want to take a close look at what's happening at the federal district courthouse just a short walk down Pennsylvania Avenue from both the White House and the Capitol.

Trial judges there have quietly decided 31 of some 200 cases brought by Guantánamo inmates seeking freedom.

Dossier by dossier, the jurists have answered the core questions that policy experts have been addressing in theory: When can the president place someone in preventive detention, and how solid does the evidence need to be?

President Obama, like George W. Bush before him, has claimed the power to detain not only Qaeda and Taliban members, but also those who “support” them.

Last year the Supreme Court ruled that the courts can scrutinize these detention decisions and overturn them if they are invalid. But the court didn't say exactly what a valid detention looks like, and Congress hasn't stepped in to make it clear.

Thus the federal judges in Washington have had to develop their own guidelines — functioning, in essence, as the country's national security court.

Twenty-six detainees have won their lawsuits, known as habeas petitions, while five have lost. So far, the Obama administration has filed just one appeal.

Seventeen of the 26 detainees who've been cleared for release by judges remain in custody.

Yet that position contrasts sharply with his message in a recent televised speech when he said he accepted judges' rulings that certain prisoners should be released.

“The courts have spoken,” Mr. Obama said. “We must abide by these rulings.”

**TRAITOR
DOMESTIC ENEMY:
UNFIT FOR COMMAND;
UNWORTHY OF OBEDIENCE
ENEMY OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS**



May 17, 2009. (AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)

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

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

CLASS WAR REPORTS

The Real U.S. Unemployment Rate Hits A 68-Year High

July 25, 2009 by John Miller, Global Research [Excerpts]

Although you have to dig into the statistics to know it, unemployment in the United States is now worse than at any time since the end of the Great Depression.

From December 2007, when the recession began, to May of this year, 6.0 million U.S. workers lost their jobs.

The official unemployment rate hit 9.4% in May—already as high as the peak unemployment rates in all but the 1982 recession, the worst since World War II.

The comprehensive U-6 unemployment rate adjusts the official rate by adding marginally attached workers and workers forced to work part time for economic reasons to the officially unemployed.

The BLS [Bureau Of Labor Statistics] calculates the official unemployment rate, U-3, as the number of unemployed as a percentage of the civilian labor force. The civilian labor force consists of employed workers plus the officially unemployed, those without jobs who are available to work and have looked for a job in the last 4 weeks.

To find the U-6 rate the BLS takes that higher unemployment count and divides it by the official civilian labor force plus the number of marginally attached workers.

Accounting for the large number of marginally attached workers and those working part-time for economic reasons raises the count of unemployed to 24.0 million workers for May 2009.

Those numbers push up the U-6 unemployment rate to 15.9% or a seasonally adjusted rate of 16.4%.

Why is the real unemployment rate so much higher than the official, or U-3, rate?

First, forced part-time work has reached its highest level ever, going all the way back to 1956 and including the 1982 recession.

In May 2009, 8.8 million workers were forced to work part time for economic reasons.

Forced part-timers are concentrated in retail, food services, and construction; about a quarter of them are young workers between 16 and 24.

The number of discouraged workers is high today as well.

In May, the BLS counted 2.2 million “marginally attached” workers. That matches the highest number since 1994, when the agency introduced this measure.

**Goldman Sachs Internal Memo:
“So I Ask That, In Celebrating Our
Raping Of The Stock Market, We
Show Restraint”**

**“Let’s Take Down The Giant Scoreboard
That Reads ‘Main Street: Zero. Wall
Street: A Billion Gazillion Bajillion””**



[Thanks to Linda O, who sent this in.]

July 16, 2009 by Farley Katz, The Cartoon Lounge, The New Yorker

After all that federal aid, a resurgent Goldman Sachs is on course to dole out bonuses that could rival the record paydays of the heady bull-market years.

Goldman... announced that it had earmarked \$11.4 billion so far this year to compensate its workers.

At that rate, Goldman employees could, on average, earn roughly \$770,000 each this year.

—*The Times.*

Goldman Sachs Internal Memo

Internal Memorandum No. 8121b

ATTN: Employees of Goldman Sachs

We did it. Bottom of the ninth, down by three, bases loaded, and we cranked another grand slam to the moon. They may have shot Lennon, but nothing can kill the Beatles.

I admit things looked bleak for a minute there.

We had to convert to a bank holding company and were forced to accept a taxpayer bailout.

It felt un-American.

Terribly unbanksmanly.

But we accepted the money, knowing that we could magically weave it into a much larger mountain of money.

We had a few hard months there, didn't we? They regulated our corporate jet so that we could no longer use it to fly from hole to hole on the green.

Dave had to drain his money pool to half capacity.

I stopped injecting gold into my blood.

They don't call it a recession for nothing. One day, we'll look back on the year we received only five-figure bonuses and laugh.

Wanting to celebrate our renewed success is natural, but it's important that we don't go crazy here.

Remember, ten per cent of the non-bank country is unemployed, and even those who are working have "real" jobs, where payment is proportional to the creation of a "product" or a "service."

Those poor bastards.

So I ask that, in celebrating our raping of the stock market, we show restraint in the following ways:

Please limit high-fives and chest bumps to a dozen a day.

Don't wear your crowns, except around the office.

Stop paying for things in Monopoly money—I understand it is the same as real money to us, but there have been some complaints.

For now, let's take down the giant scoreboard that reads "Main Street: zero. Wall Street: a billion gazillion bajillion."

Furthermore, to avoid drawing criticism from the press, this year the bonuses, expected to be comically large, will be distributed in blood diamonds, which can be easily concealed in a briefcase so it looks like we're working.

I'd like to thank everyone who made this possible—for a second time.

Respect to President Obama for keeping us in the green.

Thanks to the big guy upstairs (me).

And let's not forget all the ordinary Americans, who, for some unfathomable reason, have refused to put us behind bars.

We are literally taking money out of their wallets.

Seriously, with these returns we are making Madoff look like a little kid with his hand caught in the cookie jar.

Amateur!

Yours in money,

Lloyd Blankfein,
C.E.O., Goldman Sachs

Minimum Wage Stuck In The 1950s; “Anyone Who Thinks The Minimum Wage Shouldn't Be Raised Should Try Living On It”

July 25, 2009 By Holly Sklar, ZSpace

Are you better off than you were 40 years ago?

Not if you're a minimum wage worker.

It would take \$9.92 today to match the buying power of the minimum wage at its peak in 1968, the year Martin Luther King died fighting for living wages for sanitation workers.

In today's dollars, the 1968 hourly minimum wage adds up to \$20,634 a year working full time.

The new federal minimum wage of \$7.25 comes to just \$15,080.

That's \$ 5,554 in lost wages.

The minimum wage is stuck in the 1950s.

With the [recent] raise, the minimum wage is higher than 1950's inflation-adjusted \$6.71, but lower than the 1956 minimum wage of \$7.93 in today's dollars.

In 1968, the richest 1 percent of Americans had 11 percent of national income. By 2006, they had 23 percent -- the highest share since 1928, right before the Great Depression.

"Anyone who thinks the minimum wage shouldn't be raised should try living on it," says Phillip Rubin, CEO of Computer Software for Professionals in Oakland, Calif.

RECEIVED

A Big Apology To Clancy Sigal

From: Clancy Sigal
To: GI Special
Sent: July 27, 2009 12:53 AM
Subject: ONLY ONE THING WORSE

**ONLY THING WORSE THAN GETTING KICKED IN THE ASS IS A CONTRIBUTOR
HAVING HIS NAME MISSPELLED**

CLANCY S I G A L

Reply: T:

Got that right. This stupidity (Segal) occurred on the front page of the last GI Special; the huge story about U.S. troops in deep shit in Afghanistan that Clancy Sigal sent in.

Now here's the whining excuse: had a film on in the background, Stephen Segal killing up a mess of thieving, polluting coal mine operators.

Guess there was some unconscious fantasy that Clancy Sigal was killing up a mess of thieving, polluting coal mine operators. Well, that excuse just isn't good enough. No excuse would be.

T

**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/)

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