

GI SPECIAL 7H24:

Honorable Anniversary: August 28, 2008



Iraq Veterans Against The War, Denver [www.ivaw.org/]

**“Soldiers In Uniform Began The
Four-Mile March To The Pepsi
Center In Downtown Denver To
Protest The Iraq War”**



Members of Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) march in downtown Denver, leading several thousands activists towards The Pepsi Center. (Photo: Rocky Mountain News)

“Support GI Resistance”



Protesters march behind Iraq Veterans Against the War Wednesday from the Denver Coliseum to the Pepsi Center after a concert by Rage Against the Machine. Tim Hussin: The Rocky Mountain News

[From GI Special 6H20: 8.29.08]

The thing that stays with me is the sight of those troops looking worried but determined in the face of police force and possible public hostility, trying to make their statement for peace, and how, at the last moment, the whole, huge crowd of civilians had joined them, lifting up their little march and transforming it into an enormous, uplifting show of support.

August 28, 2008 By Ruth Conniff, The Progressive & By Patti Thorn, Rocky Mountain News (Colorado) &lvaw.org/ & By Paul A. Anthony, Rocky Mountain News [Excerpts]

It started as a modest sized march.

Two squads of 25 IVAW members each formed up outside the venue and began marching to the Pepsi center.

From the Rage Against the Machine concert at the Denver Coliseum, about 150 soldiers in uniform began the four-mile march to the Pepsi Center in downtown Denver to protest the Iraq War.

The squads were led by members in dress uniforms and combat uniforms, with thousands of supporters marching behind them in support.

The group of mostly young people walked behind a banner that said: “Support GI Resistance.”

Though the event, co-sponsored by the anti-war group Tent State University and Iraq Veterans Against the War, was unpermitted, the parade proceeded peacefully.

Behind the troops, who marched calling cadence and chanting antiwar slogans, came a larger group in civilian clothes, cheering and waving signs, and growing larger and larger as the marchers wended their way through the downtown.

Wearing T-shirts and stickers with slogans such as “Arrest Bush” and “Make Out Not War,” they sang rolling chants, Marine- style. “Tell Me What We’re Marching For,” sang one group. “Stop the torture, stop the war,” answered another.

People lined the streets to watch, most approvingly.

As the marchers wound their way through the neighborhoods west of the coliseum, they found solidarity with a group of Latinos holding up an anti-war sign and cheering them on.

“Si, se puede!” shouted some young marchers. “Yes, we can!”

Not everyone was as respectful.

From the balcony of an apartment complex, a man yelled at the throngs of protesters to move on. “Don’t come back here,” he said.

But one protester had the last word: He suggested the man join the Army.

As they drew near the heavily guarded convention center, cops in riot gear lined the street, and helicopters buzzed overhead. At an intersection, the group stopped facing squad cars with lights on and a phalanx of black-clad police.

“We can go on here or not,” one of the march’s organizers told the troops through a megaphone. The march was unauthorized and it was unclear whether the police intended to have a confrontation.

She seemed to be trying to calm everyone for a moment, pointing out that the Denver police so far have not been “prone to violence.”

The march continued, and the civilians bringing up the rear cheered.

It was quite a spectacle: the soldiers in dress uniform and fatigues, and the cops in riot gear watching them from the sidelines.

The soldiers chanted:

“Everywhere we go
People want to know
Who we are
Where we came from.
We are the veterans
Iraq War veterans
Antiwar veterans
Pissed-off veterans”

At an intersection, the group stopped to read a letter to Barack Obama asking that he agree to three core principles: the immediate withdrawal of troops from Iraq, full and adequate health care for all returning U.S. service members, and reparations to the Iraqi people.

The letter also upbraided the Democratic Party for their “initial and continued” support for the war.

The police presence intensified. I passed a cop videotaping the marchers and a marcher in a green “copwatch” vest videotaping him right back.

Over the long course, from the outskirts of town into the denser downtown, the energy from the crowd seemed to build. The marchers chanting had a hypnotic effect.

“It’s alright
Its OK
Remember MLK
He tried to lead the way
But he was shot one day
early in the morning”

Thus far, the march has been peaceful and well received, as residents along the route sprayed the marchers with hoses and provided water from their homes and businesses.

More and more people joined the march, until, suddenly, looking back as the group crossed a bridge and then paused right outside the Pepsi Center, you could see several thousand people in a line stretching as far as the eye could see.

As the group passed into the perimeter of the convention hall, the police presence grew more threatening. "Hey, those ones have masks," someone pointed out. A group of police in gas masks were pulling on thick gloves and grabbing their batons.

A white van with police in black flak jackets hanging off it rolled alongside the marchers.

The feeling of the whole, thousands-strong group was moving. "It's beautiful," one marcher said, looking back at the crowd in the late afternoon sun.

Joey Minicucci, 18, of Littleton, noted that his brother was in the military and would soon be sent to Iraq. That was one of the reasons he was going to the march.

Anne Hill, of Montrose, had other reasons. "I'm marching because it seems to be the last vestiges of our free speech and because people have demands and our government's not listening," she said.

The march came to a standstill at the perimeter of the Pepsi Center around 6:30 p.m., at which time the veterans attempted to have their statement delivered to Obama.

Tension with police seemed to escalate, until several veterans stepped forward and saluted police. "We are your brothers and sisters in arms," said one.

"We don't want to hurt you. We don't want you to hurt us."

With that, the standoff melted away and soon an appropriate aide was contacted.

"I figured as long as we kept things peaceful, they would hear us, and they did," said Army veteran Jeffrey Wood.

Nancy Pelosi, meanwhile, was answering tough questions from the founder of Digg on CNN about why the Democrats in Congress have failed to pull the troops out of Iraq.

The thing that stays with me is the sight of those troops looking worried but determined in the face of police force and possible public hostility, trying to make their statement for peace, and how, at the last moment, the whole, huge crowd of civilians had joined them, lifting up their little march and transforming it into an enormous, uplifting show of support.

<p>DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?</p>

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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Baghdad IED Kills Two U.S. Soldiers

August 28, 2009 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE
No. 20090828-01

BAGHDAD – Two 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Soldiers died of wounds suffered following an improvised explosive device in eastern Baghdad Aug. 28 at approximately 2:30 a.m.

Resistance Action

Aug 25 (Reuters) & Aug 26 (Reuters) & By CHELSEA J. CARTER (AP) & Aug 27 (Reuters) & Aug 28 (Reuters) & Aug 29 By HAMID AHMED, Associated Press Writer & Mujahid Mohammed, AFP

Saturday at about 8 a.m. a truck bomber attacked a small police station in the remote village of Hamad north of Baghdad, killing six police, said officials from the Iraqi army and police.

13 policemen were injured in the morning attack.

Police attempted to stop the truck, opening fire and forcing the attacker to change direction and slam into a concrete barrier near a market, they said. The blast damaged the police station and a number of nearby homes and shops, the officials said. Fifteen people were also wounded in the attack, said the police official.

Hamad lies on the edge of Shirqat, a town between Tikrit and Mosul.

The attack comes three days after Iraqi police defused a car bomb in the same area, said Shirqat's police chief, Ali al-Jubouri.

A roadside bomb targeting an Iraqi army patrol wounded a soldier in northern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad on Thursday, police said.

A roadside bomb killed a policeman and wounded another when it struck a police patrol in northern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Insurgents in a speeding car attacked a police foot patrol in central Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, killing a policeman and wounding another, late on Wednesday, police said.

A car bomb patrol wounded two policemen, in eastern Baghdad, police said.

Insurgents shot dead a policeman at a checkpoint in Abu Ghraib late on Monday, police said.

A bomb attached to a car wounded a municipal official, along with three of his bodyguards, in Baghdad's central Karrada district, police said.

A roadside bomb killed one policeman and wounded another when it struck a police patrol in central Samarra, 100 km (62 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded four policemen in central Baghdad, police said.

Two police officials say a parked car bomb exploded Thursday near a U.S. military base north of Baghdad, killing one and wounding six people.

Three car bombs exploded in northern Baghdad, wounding four police officers. Another car bomb also struck a police patrol in eastern Baghdad.

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

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

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

IED Kills U.S. Soldier Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan

August 28, 2009 U.S. Department of Defense News Release

Pfc. Matthew E. Wildes, 18, of Hammond, La., died Aug. 27 in Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked his vehicle with an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colo.

Small Arms Fire Kills U.S. Soldier Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan

August 28, 2009 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 663-09

Staff Sgt. Kurt R. Curtiss, 27, of Murray, Utah, died Aug. 26 in Paktika Province, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when he was shot while his unit was supporting Afghan security forces during an enemy attack. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, Fort Richardson, Alaska.

British Royal Marine Killed By Explosion Near Gereshk

29 Aug 09 Ministry of Defence

It is with great sadness that the Ministry of Defence has confirmed that a Royal Marine has died following an explosion whilst on a foot patrol near Gereshk in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, in the early hours of this morning, Saturday 29 August 2009.

U.S. Soldier Killed In Logar; CBS Reporter Wounded

Aug. 28, 2009 (CBS)

CBS News Correspondent Cami McCormick was injured today in Logar Province, Afghanistan, while on assignment for CBS Radio News.

McCormick was traveling with members of the United States Army when the vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device (IED).

An American soldier in the same vehicle was killed.

Resistance Destroys Border Guard Base At The Main Khyber Pass Crossing For Convoys Ferrying Supplies To U.S. Troops In Afghanistan



Destroyed border guard base at the main Khyber Pass crossing at Pakistani border town of Torkham along the Afghanistan border Aug. 28, 2009. A bomber attacked the main border crossing for convoys ferrying supplies to U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Mohammad Sajjad)

August 28, 2009 BY RIAZ KHAN, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS & (AFP)

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — A bomber attacked the main border crossing for convoys ferrying supplies to U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan on Thursday, killing at 22 security officers and wounding 15 others.

The strike will raise fears the Pakistani Taliban is regrouping and making good on its word to carry out revenge attacks following the slaying of its leader, Baitullah Mehsud, in a CIA missile strike earlier this month.

The attacker got into barracks at the Torkham checkpoint in the Khyber region and detonated his explosives, local police officer Sadiq Khan said. The victims were breaking their daylong fast during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. The border had closed for the day a few hours earlier.

Ali Raza, an official in the administration office, said he heard a huge explosion in the building next door.

"We rushed out and saw destruction all around," Raza said.

The Torkham checkpoint marks the main border crossing from Pakistan's Khyber Pass into Afghanistan.

U.S. troops in landlocked Afghanistan rely on the supply line for food and fuel.

"We claim responsibility for the blast," Azam Tariq, spokesman for Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), said in a telephone call from an unknown location.

He said "the victims of the attack were all those supporting the United States. Anybody supporting the US is our enemy."

Three U.S. Troops Wounded In Shahjoy Convoy Attack

29 August 2009 Quqnoos

A bomber attacked a convoy of US troops in Zabul province earlier today.

The bomber detonated the explosives strapped in his body when a convoy of US military was passing by a crowded bazaar in the remote district of Shahjoy, said Zabul Police Chief Gen Abdul Rahman Sarjang.

At least 23 Afghan civilians and three US soldiers were injured in the huge blast occurred in volatile southern Afghan province today morning, the police official further said.

A purported Taliban spokesman, Qari Yousuf Ahmadi, speaking from an undisclosed location claimed responsibility for the attack.

The bomber named Mirwais, rammed his motorbike into a convoy of foreign troops and blew up the explosives rigged in the motorcycle, the Taliban spokesman told Quqnoos.

Surviving US soldiers have cordoned off the blast scene in the bazaar.

The bomber attacked a vehicle of district intelligence head but he survived the attempt on his life.

Resistance Action

Aug 28 (Reuters) & Aug 29 (Reuters)

Taliban insurgents ambushed a convoy of Afghan counter-narcotics police, killing three and wounding 23 others on the outskirts of Ghazni city southwest of Kabul, provincial police chief Khial Baz Sherzai said.

Four Afghan police officers were killed when their military vehicle struck a roadside bomb in the eastern Ali Sher district of Khost province on Thursday, said Sher Ahmad, a district police officer.

Three rockets landed in Kabul late on Friday, said Abdul Ghafar Sayed Zada, chief of the criminal investigations department of the city police. He said he was not aware of any casualties. Reuters correspondents heard the blasts.

A roadside bomb killed one Afghan policeman and wounded eleven others, including six civilians, on the outskirts of Kandahar city on Friday, senior police officer Mohammad Shah Khan said.

Three insurgents and one local guard were killed when Taliban fighters ambushed NATO's supply trucks in the Qara Bagh district of Ghazni, southwest of Kabul, a local police officer said.

Insurgents killed one local employee of a explosives clearing agency and wounded four others in an attack on the outskirts of the provincial capital, Lashkar Gah, supervisor Farhad Noori said. Six others workers are missing.

NEW GENERAL ORDER NO. 1: PACK UP GO HOME



After an eight-hour firefight against Taliban forces, US. Marines rest in the room of a home that they turned into a command center, in the village of Dahaneh Aug. 12, 2009, in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Julie Jacobson) [Thanks to JM, who sent this in.]

Good News For The Afghan Resistance!!

U.S. Occupation Commands' Stupid Tactics Recruit Even More Fighters To Kill U.S. Troops



Foreign occupation soldiers from the USA humiliate Afghan citizens in the road of their own village by stopping them at gunpoint and forcing them submit to searching in Dahaneh, Helmand Province, Afghanistan, Aug. 28, 2009. (AP Photo/Julie Jacobson)

[Fair is fair. Let's bring 50,000 Afghan troops over here to the USA. They can kill people at checkpoints, bust into their houses with force and violence, butcher their families, overthrow the government, put a new one in office they like better and call it "sovereign," and "detain" anybody who doesn't like it in some prison without any charges being filed against them, or any trial.]

[Those Afghans are sure a bunch of backward primitives. They actually resent this help, have the absurd notion that it's bad their country is occupied by a foreign military dictatorship, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to grab their country.]

[What a bunch of silly people. How fortunate they are to live under a military dictatorship run by Barrack Obama. Why, how could anybody not love that? You'd want that in your home town, right?]

TROOP NEWS

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS



Aug. 19, 2009: Soldiers of the U.S. Army's Apache Company, 2nd Battalion 87th Infantry Regiment, part of the 3rd Combat Brigade 10th Mountain Division based out of Fort Drum, N.Y., evacuate a wounded soldier after their armored vehicle hit an improvised explosive device in the Tangi Valley of Afghanistan's Wardak Province. (AP Photo/David Goldman)

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

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

**Australia's Highest Court Ruled
Wednesday That The Country's**

Military Justice System Is Unconstitutional; “Judges Are Not Independent Of The Military Command”

[Comment, Mike Woloshin, Vietnam Veterans Against The War: “Shouldn’t American ‘Military Justice’ be conducted by an independent authority, in which judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys are not selected by the ‘convening authority’ and in which the possibility of ‘command influence’ does not exist to taint the outcome of a trial!]

August 26, 2009 (AP)

Australia’s highest court ruled Wednesday that the country’s military justice system is unconstitutional because its judges are not independent of the military command -- throwing into doubt 171 cases judged in the past two years.

The previous government created the Australian Military Court in October 2007 as a modern means of enforcing military discipline, replacing the systems of courts-martial and military magistrates.

But the High Court upheld a challenge by former sailor Brian Lane that the military court was unconstitutional, saying the judges were not independent of the military chain of command.

Lane has been charged with assault of a superior officer. The charge has not been resolved.

Defense Minister John Faulkner said 171 military discipline cases had been dealt with by the court since 2007, some ending in jail sentences.

“As a result of the decision of the High Court of Australia today, the validity of the decisions made by the AMC during its existence will be reviewed,” Faulkner told reporters.

He said the government might be able to pass legislation “to ensure that the effect of the sentences passed is validated.”

The government also plans to rush legislation through Parliament to restore the old military justice system of trials by court martial and military magistrates.

“In the interim, it is critical that the Australian Defense Force has a functioning military discipline system, particularly when it is currently engaged in operations overseas,” Faulkner said, referring to deployments including 1,500 troops in Afghanistan.

He said the government will have to examine the High Court ruling and seek legal advice before deciding on a new court model for the future that will comply with the constitution.

The military court deals with disciplinary charges -- such as disobeying orders and going absent without leave -- as well as other charges covered by civil law such as theft and assault.

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 futility and immorality of them THAT is the real key to ending a war.
-- Al Jaccoma, Veterans For Peace

"The mighty are only mighty because we are on our knees. Let us rise!"
-- Camille Desmoulins

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

August 29, 1970: In Memoriam The Los Angeles Police Murder Ruben Salazar As Thousands Of Chicanos Demonstrate Against The War On Vietnam



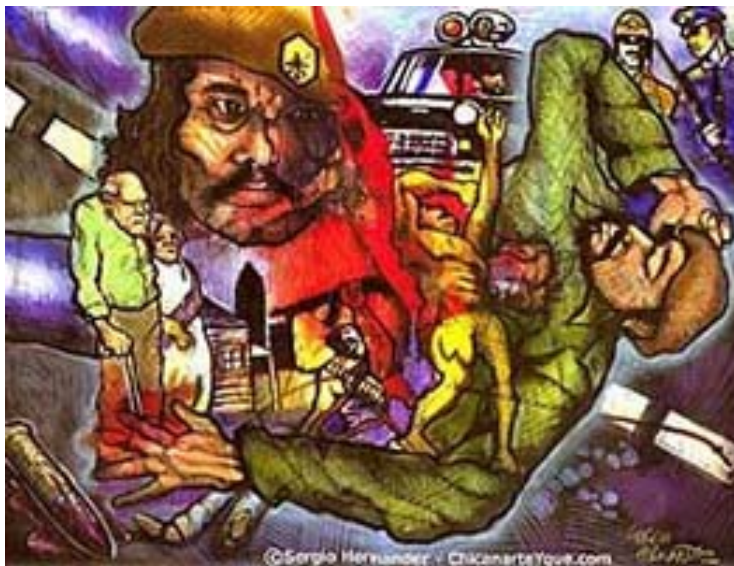
Carl Bunin Peace History Aug 27-Sept 2

Between 15 and 30 thousand predominantly Chicanos (Americans of Mexican descent) gathered in East LA's Laguna Park as the culmination of the Chicano National Moratorium.

It was organized to protest the disproportionate number of deaths of Chicano soldiers in Vietnam (more than double their numbers in the population). There had been more than 20 other such demonstrations across the southwest.

Three died when the anti-war march turned violent.

The Los Angeles Police Department attacked and one gunshot, fired into Silver Dollar Bar, killed Ruben Salazar, a Los Angeles Times columnist and a commentator on KMEX-TV (he had been accused by the LAPD of inciting the Chicano community).



OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**Israel:
“It’s The Ugly Face Of Fascism That
Emerges”**

22/08/09 By Uri Avnery, Gush-Shalom.org [Israel]

MY FIRST thought was: Good God, this man was responsible for the lives of our soldiers!

The second thought was: What's the big surprise? You always knew what kind of person he was! After all, during his years as the army's Chief of Staff he quietly supported the setting up of "illegal" settlement outposts all over the West Bank!

The third thought: And this person is now Vice Prime Minister and a member of the "Sextet" – the six ministers who constitute the real government of Israel.

THE OCCASION for these frightening thoughts was the participation of Moshe ("Bogie") Ya'alon in a gathering of the Jewish Leadership Faction.

"Peace Now is a virus," he said there. And not only they.

"All the media" are also a virus. They influence the public discourse "in a distorted manner, a lying manner".

The virus also includes "the elite" in general.

In addition, the "politicians" are to blame. "Every time the politicians bring in the dove of peace, we, the army, have to clean up after it."

His summing up: "The Jews have a right to settle in any place throughout Eretz Israel."

And if this upsets the Americans, Ya'alon has a ready answer: "I am not afraid of the Americans!"

All this was said a few days after Ya'alon paid a well publicized visit to the occupied territories, accompanied by Shas leader Eli Yishai and several other ministers of the extreme Right. This band visited the settlement outposts, which the Israeli government long ago promised the Americans to dismantle, and expressed total opposition to their evacuation.

They concluded their visit in Homesh, the West Bank settlement evacuated by Ariel Sharon in the course of the "disengagement". Ya'alon demanded the resettlement of the place.

THESE TONES come together in a frightening melody, a tune we know all too well.

It is anthem of fascism.

First: the term "elite". In the jargon of the Israeli extreme Right, this includes everybody they hate: the intellectuals, the universities, the liberal politicians, the Supreme Court, the media.

The term is rooted in the Latin verb "eligere", to pick out, meaning the best, the select.

Since this is an undefined body, the term can be applied to different targets.

When the demagogues address the Oriental Jewish masses, "the elite" clearly consists of the Ashkenazis who rule the country.

When addressing the religious community, “the elite” consist of the secular, the atheist, who are strangers to Jewish Tradition.

When addressing the Russian immigrants, “the elite” consists of the old established Israelis, the native born, who obstruct the path of the new immigrants.

When one bundles all these together, there emerges a picture of “them” and “us”. “Them” – the handful of arrogant old-timers, who occupy all the key positions in the state, and “us” – the simple, honest people, the patriots, the keepers of tradition, the discriminated against, the oppressed.

Every fascist group in the world entertains such a view of “the elite”.

(Never mind that Ya’alon, like most of the other demagogues, himself belongs to the elite. He was born in the country, an Ashkenazi of Ukrainian descent. His original name was Smilansky. He is still officially a member of an “elitist” kibbutz and belongs to the super-privileged senior officers’ corps.)

Second: The traitors.

There is an enemy within. This is no less dangerous than the foreign enemy, indeed, much more dangerous.

When Ya’alon speaks about Peace Now, he means all the peace camp, the liberal and secular section of society.

That is the Fifth Column, the Trojan horse within the walls. They have to be eliminated, before one can turn to fight the foreign foe.

Third: The “politicians”.

The demagogues are, of course, themselves politicians, but they exclude themselves here. Ya’alon paints a picture of “the politicians” who bring in a disgusting peace dove, whose excrement the army has to clean up.

The knavish, scheming, cowardly politicians on the one side, the clean-cut, heroic, loyal army on the other – that is a very familiar picture.

The best known example was current in Germany after World War I.

The “knife in the back” legend was a stepping stone to power for Adolf Hitler: the German army stood up to the enemy and had victory in its sights, when “the politicians”, the Jews, the socialists and the other “November criminals” stuck a knife in the back of the heroic fighters.

The peace dove leaves its droppings and the soldiers are compelled to clean up the filth of peace.

And also: “All the media”.

That is one of the marks of fascism in Israel and throughout the world.

The media are always “leftist”, “anti-national”, they are the “hostile media”.

The journalists and broadcasters are a secret league of Israel-bashers, who spread lies and distort reality in order to undermine national morale, defame the army, besmirch our national values and give comfort to the enemy.

Reality is, of course, very, very different.

The Israeli media slavishly repeat the official propaganda in all national and security matters. They are conformist to a high degree and mobilized from wall to wall.

There is not a single leftist newspaper in the country.

Most political correspondents repeat like parrots the statements of “official sources”; almost all the correspondents for Arab affairs are former army intelligence officers; and almost all military correspondents serve as unofficial army spokesmen. In the news pages and news programs, right-wing terminology reigns supreme.

But because in less important matters the media criticize the government, as they are duty-bound to do in a democratic society, it is easy to portray them as “leftist” and subversive. The same is true for academia.

And finally: The “virus”.

The description of political opponents as infectious agents or disgusting vermin is one of the most distinguishing features of the extreme Right.

It is sufficient to remember Dr. Joseph Goebbels’ film “The Eternal Jew”, in which the Jews were shown as rats spreading disease.

If one puts all these features together - the hatred of “the elite”, the glorification of the army, the contempt for “the politicians”, the demonization of the peace camp, the incitement against the media – it’s the ugly face of fascism that emerges.

Here in Israel and all over the world.

NO LESS important are the location and the company.

Ya’alon spoke at a gathering of the “Jewish Leadership Faction”. This is a group of ultra-ultra rightists, who entered the Likud with the declared objective of conquering it from within. It is headed by one Moshe Feiglin, hence its followers are usually called “the Feiglins”.

On the eve of the last elections, Binyamin Netanyahu made an all-out effort, using kosher and not-so-kosher means, to remove Feiglin from the Likud’s list of candidates. He was determined to avoid the Likud being presented as an extreme-Right party. The Likud’s main competitor, Kadima, defined itself as a center or moderate-rightist party and tried very hard to push Netanyahu to the right.

Netanyahu thought that by driving the Feiglins out he could blunt this attack.

The question is whether this was his only aim. If so, why did he raise Benny Begin, a person who personifies the far-right, into a conspicuous place on the list? And why did he enlist and embrace Moshe Ya'alon, who was already known as a person of extreme rightist views? That embrace was very costly, since in the end Kadima, against all expectations, won one seat more than the Likud.

But Netanyahu, a born politician, had more than one objective in mind. He was afraid that Feiglin would one day threaten his hold on the Likud leadership. To forestall this possibility, he denied Feiglin a seat in the Knesset.

And here comes Ya'alon, Netanyahu's pampered protégé, and joins Feiglin of all people.

As the Hebrew saying goes, the swallow went to visit the crow. But it is not quite clear who is the swallow and who the crow. Is Feiglin using Ya'alon – or is Ya'alon intending to use Feiglin in order to position himself as the leader of a big extreme-Right camp?

ONE SHOULD also pay attention to Ya'alon's declaration that "I am not afraid of the Americans".

The Americans demand the freezing of the settlements? To hell with them! Who do they think they are? What, these Goyim are ordering us around? Barack Obama wants to tell us where we can settle and where we can't?

That is another feature of the emerging Israeli fascism: the readiness to engage in an open confrontation with the United States, and especially with President Obama.

Already an Israeli campaign against "Barack Saddam Hussein", the New Hitler, is in full swing. The American Right and the Israeli Right easily find a common language. An Israeli woman in the US is heading the well publicized effort to prove that Obama was not born in the US, that his father never was a US citizen, and that he should therefore be driven out of the White House.

The whole thing borders on madness. Israel is dependent on the US for practically everything: economic assistance, arms, intelligence cooperation, diplomatic support like the veto in the Security Council. Netanyahu is trying to avoid a confrontation by using every trick of deceit and diversion.

And here come Ya'alon & Co. and call for an open revolt against the USA!

There is method in this madness. The Israeli education system glorifies the Zealots, who some 1940 years ago declared war on the Roman Empire. The Zealots became the leaders of the Jewish community in Palestine and launched a revolt that had no chance at all of succeeding. The rebels were defeated, Jerusalem was destroyed, the Temple was burned to the ground.

THE BOGIE HORROR SHOW has wider ramifications.

It presents a picture of a mad group of extremists challenging the moderate, responsible Netanyahu. Netanyahu signals to Obama and his people: Help! If you pressure me on

the freezing of the settlements and the dismantling of the outposts, it will be the end of me! My government will fall, and you will have to deal with the crazies!

That would be more convincing, if Netanyahu had used his legal prerogative and dismissed Ya'alon from the government, even though that represents a political risk.

Instead, "Bibi" summoned "Bogie", like a headmaster who summons a boy and orders him to write a hundred times "I shall be a good boy". So Ya'alon remains Vice Prime Minister, Minister in Charge of Strategic Affairs and a member of the governing Sextet of Ministers (the others being Avigdor Lieberman, Benny Begin, Eli Yishai, Dan Meridor and Binyamin Netanyahu himself.)

This being so, Netanyahu cannot evade responsibility for everything Ya'alon does and says.

MORE:

“A Jew to Zionist Fighters, 1988” Do You Really Want To Be The New Gestapo? The New Wehrmacht? The New SA And SS?

[From GI Special 4H14: 8.14.06]

[Thanks to JM, who sent this in. She writes:]

Something very different: a poem.

Have you heard of Erich Fried who is often referred to as the greatest modern, Jewish, poet?

He was born in Vienna in 1921 and escaped to England, with his mother, after his father was tortured to death by the Gestapo, in 1938.

Because of his experiences with racism and Fascism he became involved in the Palestinian cause.

He was a leader in the fight against both Fascism and Zionism.

I'm sending a copy of his best poem, in my opinion. It was first published in 1988 just before he died. Please take the time to read it. I think it's wonderful.

A Jew to Zionist Fighters, 1988

**What do you actually want?
Do you really want to outdo
those who trod you down
a generation ago
into your own blood
and into your own excrement
Do you want to pass on the old torture
to others now
in all its bloody and dirty detail
with all the brutal delight of torturers
as suffered by your fathers?
Do you really want to be the new Gestapo
the new Wehrmacht
the new SA and SS
and turn the Palestinians
into the new Jews?
Well then I too want,
having fifty years ago
myself been tormented for being a Jewboy
by your tormentors,
to be a new Jew with these new Jews
you are making of the Palestinians
And I want to help lead them as a free people
into their own land of Palestine
from whence you have driven them or in which you plague them
you apprentices of the Swastika
you fools and changelings of history
whose Star of David on your flags
turns ever quicker
into that damned symbol with its four feet
that you just do not want to see
but whose path you are following today**

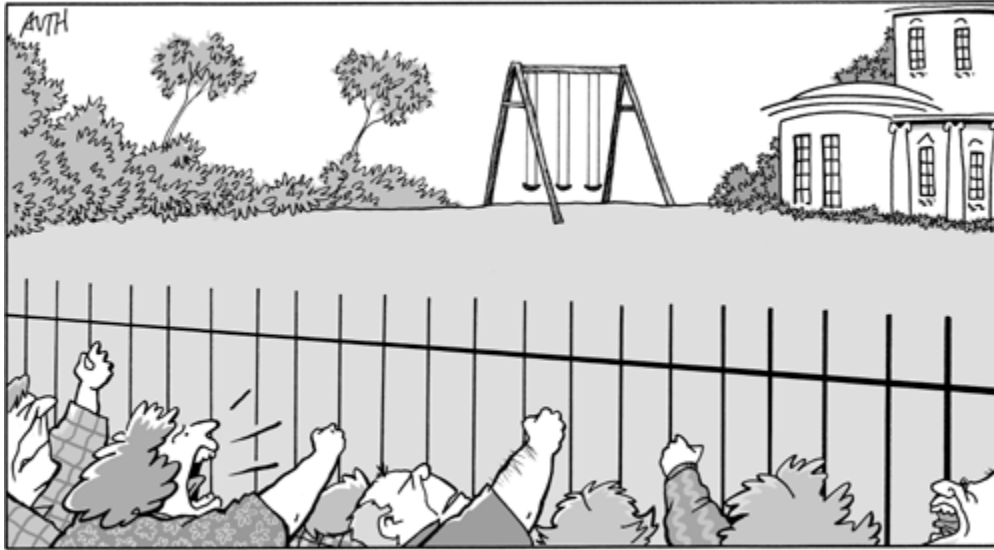
[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by foreign terrorists, go to: www.rafahtoday.org The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."]

Troops Invited:

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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/)**

"The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops." Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War

CLASS WAR REPORTS

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Subject: kia
Date: Aug 29, 2009 12:43 AM

bring them home only after we win

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