

Military Resistance: 7J4
[GI Special]



U.S. Marine at dawn inside a small patrol base in Nawa district, Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, Sept. 30, 2009. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

**Outreach Action West Point:
“We All Were Very Surprised At The
Numbers Of People Who Gave Us
Thumbs Up, Honked Horns Or
Showed Other Signs Of Approval”**

“We Did Not Receive This Warmth At Earlier Anti-War Protests At The Same Spot”



Photo graciously provided by Andy Courtney.

From: Nick Mottern
To: Military Resistance
Sent: October 05, 2009
Subject: REPORT OF WEST POINT RALLY, MORE COMING

Hello Friends:

Please try to attend the next “Army - Don’t Go to Iraqistan” rally to be held this coming Saturday, Oct. 10 at West Point to address people arriving for the Army-Vanderbilt football game.

We will gather at 10:30 a.m. in Highland Falls by the clock at the southern most tip of the public park at Main Street and West Point Highway, just south of West Point’s Thayer Gate. The rally will end at noon, kickoff time.

Eleven of us attended the rally there this last Saturday, and we found the experience very worthwhile.

We came to West Point because it is the nation’s top training center for young people entering Army leadership and because it is a way to reach out to people who are directly affected by the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

We all were very surprised at the numbers of people who gave us thumbs up, honked horns or showed other signs of approval.

For example, when we got into town we set up shop across from the park on the shoulder of the road.

A man, who seemed to be from Highland Falls because he knew the name of the person in front of whose driveway we were standing, stopped his car and suggested that we move to the park because this would increase our visibility and would put us on public property, thus avoiding a complaint by the driveway owner, who, the motorist told us, could be quite contrary.

We did not receive this warmth at earlier anti-war protests at the same spot. We also got some of the customary signs of disapproval, but this was outweighed by the positive responses.

In addition, we found the Highland Falls police extremely cordial and agreeable to our presence in the park; they asked only if the park was where we intended to hold the rally. A police car stood by during the event, and at one point a man stopped to talk to the officer in the car, pointing at us. But nothing was said to us by the police beyond our initial encounter.

As we prepared to depart at noon, Chuck Bell suggested that we shout out Margaret Eberle's name and then shout "Presente", which we did three times; for although she has passed from us we felt her very much with us on Saturday and continue to do so.

This is a link to a report of the rally appearing on the MidHudson News website:
http://www.midhudsonnews.com/News/2009/October09/04/Anti_war-04Oct09.htm

Again, we urge you to attend the next rally this coming Saturday.

If we have enough people, we will set up a rally point at West Point's Stony Lonesome Gate off of 9W, just north of Highland Falls, where people also enter to attend the game. You will feel that you are making a difference.

Please RSVP if you will be able to attend. [nickmottern@earthlink.net]

Note that we plan to hold similar rallies on Oct. 23 and Nov. 14, also home games for Army.

In solidarity, Nick Mottern

MORE:

ACTION REPORTS WANTED: FROM YOU!

An effective way to encourage others to support members of the armed forces organizing to resist the Imperial war is to report what you do.

If you've carried out organized contact with troops on active duty, at base gates, airports, or anywhere else, send a report in to Military Resistance for the Action Reports section.

Same for contact with National Guard and/or Reserve components.

They don't have to be long. Just clear, and direct action reports about what work was done and how.

If there were favorable responses, say so. If there were unfavorable responses or problems, don't leave them out.

If you are not planning or engaging in outreach to the troops, you have nothing to report.

NOTE WELL:

Do not make public any information that could compromise the work.

All identifying information – locations, personnel – will be omitted from the reports.

If accidentally included, that information will not be published.

Whether you are serving in the armed forces or not, do not in any way identify members of the armed forces organizing to stop the wars.

The sole exception: occasions when a member of the armed services explicitly directs identifying information be published in reporting on the action.

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: 888.711.2550

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Resistance Action

Oct 5 (Reuters)

A bomb wounded 30 Kurdish Peshmerga soldiers close to the district of Rabia, northwest of Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, a local Peshmerga official who declined to be named said, adding that initial reports indicated the explosion was caused by a parked car bomb.

A roadside bomb wounded two policemen when it struck their patrol in northern Mosul, police said.

Clashes between insurgents and police wounded one civilian in central Mosul, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded two Iraqi soldiers, when it exploded near an Iraqi army patrol in central Falluja, 50 km (35 miles) west of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded one policeman, when it went off near a police patrol in Baghdad's central al-Nidhal Street, police said.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

U.S. Service Member Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan

5 Oct. 2009 ISAF Public Affairs Office

One International Security Assistance Force service member died of wounds sustained in an insurgent attack in southern Afghanistan Oct. 4. The service member was from the U.S.

Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan; Nationality Not Announced

5 Oct. 2009 ISAF Public Affairs Office

One ISAF service member died of wounds inflicted in an IED attack in southern Afghanistan today.

German Soldier Dies 14 Months After Wounded In Afghanistan

05 Oct 2009 DPA

Berlin- A 24-year-old German soldier has died of his wounds, nearly 14 months after a bombing in Afghanistan, a German Defence Ministry spokesman in Berlin said Monday. He was one of the three soldiers injured in an attack on August 6, 2008. The spokesman did not immediately specify the medical problems that led to the death of the soldier, a member of a parachute regiment.

BEEN ON THE JOB TOO LONG: COME ON HOME, NOW



A member of the U.S. Army's 3rd Battalion, 509th Infantry Regiment (Airborne), based at Fort Richardson, Alaska, Zerok District, East Paktika province in Afghanistan, Sept. 23, 2009. (AP Photo/Dima Gavrysh)



Sept. 28, 2009: Soldiers from the U.S. Army's 4th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery Regiment, based at Fort Drum, N.Y., after a long patrol in the Jalrez Valley in Afghanistan's Wardak Province. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)



Soldiers from the U.S. Army's Charlie troop, 371 Cavalry, 3rd brigade of 10th Mountain Division based in Fort Drum, New York, patrol in Kherwar district in Logar province October 2, 2009. REUTERS/Nikola Solic



A U.S. Marine, right, with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion 5th Marines in a joint patrol with Afghan National Army soldiers, in Nawa district, Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, Oct. 3, 2009. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

“Soldiers Here Say The Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected Vehicles (MRAPS) Are Not All They’re Cracked Up To Be”
“They Roll Over And Get Stuck, Which Leaves Us Vulnerable Until We Can Get A Tow”
“The Vehicles Are Nearly Impossible To Navigate On The Narrow Dirt Roads - And They’re Not Impenetrable”
“We Can Make Bigger Trucks, But They Just Make Bigger Bombs”



An armored U.S. Marine MRAP vehicle sits disabled after it ran over a Taliban roadside bomb earlier this year. Moore/Getty

September 28th 2009 BY Stephanie Gaskell In Afghanistan, DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER [Excerpts]

FORWARD OPERATING BASE AIRBORNE, Afghanistan - They're billed as lifesavers, but soldiers here say the mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicles (MRAPs) are not all they're cracked up to be.

Many soldiers here with the upstate Fort Drum-based 10th Mountain Division say the vehicles are nearly impossible to navigate on the narrow dirt roads - and they're not impenetrable.

Several soldiers here have been killed by roadside bombs while riding in MRAPs.

"We can make bigger trucks, but they just make bigger bombs," a soldier who asked not to be identified told the Daily News.

"Many of these roads are hard to pass in the summer, let alone the winter," another soldier said. "And they roll over and get stuck, which leaves us vulnerable until we can get a tow."

"Is it safer than a Humvee? Yes. Can we drive anywhere we want? No," a third soldier said.

"The MRAPs were built for Iraq, where they have better roads," the soldier added.

Many of the MRAPs are equipped with a virtual gunner system called a CROW, or common remotely operated weapons system. It allows the gunner to stay inside the vehicle while watching what's going on outside on a computer screen.

The gunner can also shoot from inside the MRAP.

"What it does for us is it doesn't expose the gunner," said Lt. Col. Thomas Gukeisen, squad commander for the 3rd Brigade Combat Team's 3rd Squadron, 71st Cavalry Regiment in Logar Province.

"It allows him to positively ID friendly or enemy forces. And it extends his range and lets him select his shot."

But some gunners told The News that while the system allows them to come down from the turret, the virtual system isn't a replacement for human eyes or ears.

"It limits your situational awareness," one gunner said.

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

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

**TALIBAN 24 HOURS FROM VICTORY
WITHOUT OCCUPATION TROOPS TO
FIGHT FOR DIEM, ER MAKE THAT
KARZAI**

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier, who sent this in, with the headline.]

Oct 1 Peter Bergen, Time Inc [Excerpt]

A senior Afghan politician told me that the Taliban would be in Kabul within 24 hours without the presence of international forces.

This is not because the Taliban is so strong; generous estimates suggest it numbers no more than 20,000 fighters. It is because the Afghan government and the 90,000-man Afghan army are still so weak.

**“The Afghan Scoffed At Mahard
And Ordered His Soldiers To
Return To Base, Leaving The
Americans To Complete The
Mission Alone”**

**“There Are A Lot Of These Guys Who
Are Completely Useless”**

**“If We Weren't Here, I Don't Think They
Could Do Much To Keep The Taliban
From Waltzing Back In”**

After nearly eight years of war, Afghanistan's security forces are still plagued by corruption, high levels of absenteeism, a lack of proper training and an excessive dependence on their American counterparts, U.S. commanders and troops in the field say.

10.1.09 By Aamer Madhani, USA TODAY [Excerpts]

BARAKI BARAK, Afghanistan — It was a golden opportunity for the Afghan police to make themselves look good and the Taliban look bad.

Earlier this month, Taliban fighters had set fire to an electrical generator donated by the U.S. military to a nearby village. So U.S. Army Capt. Paul Shepard suggested that Afghan police send over a patrol. "It's a chance to show the people you are still concerned, while the Taliban aren't going to do anything for them," he said.

The Afghan commander, Col. Anamullah, who like many other Afghans goes by just one name, apologetically replied that he didn't have any officers to spare. Shepard pressed again, arguing that even sending just a few men was worth the trouble.

After an awkward moment, one of the local politicians in the room, Yasin Lodin, spoke up: "You should just tell him," he advised Anamullah.

"It is not safe to send the police there by themselves."

No patrol was sent, illustrating the difficulties the U.S. military is having as it tries to produce a competent and fully independent Afghan army and police force.

After nearly eight years of war, Afghanistan's security forces are still plagued by corruption, high levels of absenteeism, a lack of proper training and an excessive dependence on their American counterparts, U.S. commanders and troops in the field say.

They tell of being abandoned by Afghan units while out on patrol, and of Afghan police and soldiers who steal cellphones and other items.

Shepard, the Army captain, says that at any given time, 25% of the Afghan police unit in his district is either on leave or AWOL.

"Some of these (Afghan) guys I've worked with are pretty good," says Sgt. Matthew Gibson, who is on his second tour in Afghanistan.

"But then there are a lot of these guys who are completely useless," he says.

"If we weren't here, I don't think they could do much to keep the Taliban from waltzing back in."

When a USA TODAY reporter visited Baraki Barak this month, Afghan troops and police often could be seen wearing mismatched uniforms or carrying aging, Soviet-era Kalashnikov rifles.

The troops rarely wore the body armor they had been issued by the government, and many lacked basic soldiering skills, such as how to hold a weapon properly or stay in formation.

Meanwhile, U.S. soldiers are finding limits to how much confidence they can build as long as the mission has a mostly American face.

First Lt. Sean Mahard, a platoon leader, visited with a village elder to tell him that Mahard wanted to give him some supplies to spruce up his mosque.

The elder, Naik Mohammed, was ecstatic at the offer and told Mahard he was grateful for his assistance.

But when Mahard asked Mohammed to submit to an eye scan and fingerprints — a unit requirement so they can track who they were distributing materials to — the old man balked.

“I don’t want the people around here to think I’m too close to the Americans,” Mohammed says.

Even when enough resources are available, other barriers emerge.

Mahard, the platoon leader, said he was recently on a joint patrol with the Afghan army unit here when the Afghan officer in charge told him he wanted to cut a scheduled patrol by several hours.

The reason: His soldiers wanted to go back to their base and eat. The incident occurred in the midst of the holy month of Ramadan, when Muslims fast during daylight hours.

Mahard said he told the Afghan officer that he sympathized with him, but that they had a responsibility to complete their mission.

The Afghan scoffed at Mahard and ordered his soldiers to return to base, leaving the Americans to complete the mission alone.

Corruption is another major issue. Gibson said that his unit had problems with Afghan soldiers and police stealing cellphones from motorists they stopped at checkpoints.

A police officer at a checkpoint outside Kabul recently demanded that a USA TODAY reporter give him body armor the reporter was carrying. (The officer later backed down.)

SSG Christopher Bentley: “I Feel Like We Haven’t Done The Right Thing On Our Part, You Know?”

Excerpt from Robert Greenwald’s film, Rethink Afghanistan, premiering in New York.

SSG. CHRISTOPHER BENTLEY: I feel like we haven't done the right thing on our part, you know?

We spend so much money over here, but we don't spend it the right way.

You know, we have HESCO barriers shipped in from the United States. We probably pay more on the shipping to get that over here than we could pay local people to build a wall around this base.

AHMED RASHID: These enormous funds that did go out to Afghanistan, but they were given — the money was given to contractors, who subsequently subcontracted and subcontracted.

And by the time you get to how much money reaches the ground, maybe 40 or 50 percent of that money actually reached the ground for the projects, because all these subcontractors were taking ten percent off as profit.

ANAND GOPAL: Let me give you an example.

The United States recently spent \$160 million on building roads and digging wells and this sort of thing in one province here in Afghanistan.

But the way that works is they are giving that \$160 million to a preferred contractor, who then goes and subcontracts this out to a local Afghan company. And the Afghan company will maybe get ten percent of that.

And everything in between is just pocketed by that middle company.

So this is a massive amount of waste for American taxpayers.

But also, there's no oversight for the projects that are actually being constructed.

I've talked to construction contractors that go and take — who are tasked with the job of building a well, for example, and they'll go and take a picture of some well out there that they've already — that has already been built and show it to the Americans and say, "This is the well that we've built."

And they'll say, "OK, thank you very much. And here's your money."

There's no oversight, no accountability. Nothing whatsoever.

SSG. CHRISTOPHER BENTLEY: Those wells, like those handpump wells you see everywhere, how much did you say? That it's like \$700 to \$1,000 to build one of those?

US SOLDIER: Mm-hmm. Yeah, to build.

SSG. CHRISTOPHER BENTLEY: We've been paying like ten grand per well.

TROOP NEWS

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS



A U.S. soldier, wounded by sniper fire, is evacuated in the village of Bargematal, Nuristan province, August 25, 2009. REUTERS/Oleg Popov

Crooked War Profiteer Planned To Kill Witnesses

10.5.09 Army Times

A military contractor under investigation on allegations he overbilled and did faulty repair work on Army and Navy aircraft has been indicted on charges he attempted to kill two witnesses in the case.

A federal grand jury Sept. 23 handed up the indictment against Keith Shaw, 55, the owner of Shaw Aero Instruments in Louisville, Ky.

Witnesses have testified that Shaw offered to pay his son \$100,000 to kill two former employees, because the pair were providing information to law enforcement officers.

Sri Lanka Army Discharges 20,220 Deserters

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

October 02, 2009 By Olindhi Jayasundere, Wijeya Newspapers Ltd.

“There are 20,220 deserters in the Army and we are pleased to inform that they have all now been officially discharged,” a [Sri Lanka] Army spokesman said.

Army Spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara said yesterday that the de-listing process which began in May was completed on September 30. Navy acting spokesman, Captain Athula Senaratne said yesterday that the application for the de-listing process in the Navy began from August 10 to September 10.

“There are about 6,000 Navy deserters in the island out of whom only 3,000 have surrendered. We want to give others too this opportunity as well,” he said.

Captain Senaratne said that the Navy holds a deserters’ list and each deserter would be removed once they got involved in the de-listing process. “Then they will be officially removed from the Navy,” he said.

Air Force Spokesman, Janaka Nanayakkara told the Daily Mirror that there were about 3,000 deserters in the Air Force and the de-listing process which began in August was still underway.

“There are a number of people who have raised loans and the like. We have to ensure that the process is carried out without any complications,” he 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 futility and immorality of them THAT is the real key to ending a war.

-- Al Jaccoma, Veterans For Peace

“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

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**

Firearms are second only to the Constitution in importance; they are the peoples’ liberty’s teeth.

-- George Washington

More Military Resistance Comments: [For The Announcement These Comments Reference, See Below The Comments:]

1. “The New Name Fits So Much Better”

From: Johanna Pettit
To: military resistance
Sent: September 22, 2009 9:01 AM
Subject: Re: National Guard outreach 9.19

When I read this I see how the new name fits so much better. I can't believe how much the project has grown.

I get videos and hear the speeches from the Iraq Vets and they have the crowd in tears.

They are doing such a great job.

Having them work with the unions is great. I see people joining together and that is their strength. I was surprised to see it happening in S America.

You have done so much.

You put it all together.

peace and love

Johanna

2. “Farewell GI Special, And Bring On The Military Resistance!”

From: Ward Reilly
To: Military Resistance
Sent: September 20, 2009 5:29 PM
Subject: RE: Military Resistance 717: Goodbye GI Special

Dear GI Special,

I know you will still be here as the "Military Resistance", but for the record, and for posterity, I want to say that the GI Special will go down as THE definitive voice of clarity in the GI and veterans movement to get us out of the nightmare that IS our occupations in the Middle East.

The GI Special has saved me on many a gloomy day, and continues to give me hope that someday we can achieve sanity.

I thank ALL of you that have worked so hard and selflessly to bring us the truth EVERY day with this outstanding publication.

Farewell GI Special, and bring on the Military Resistance!

Peace from Ward Reilly,
Infantry veteran in the GI Resistance, 1971-1974.

3. The Announcement:

NOTICE:

9.13.09 Military Resistance: 714:

Beginning with this issue, GI Special becomes Military Resistance.

The numbering will remain as was, to avoid confusion.

In April 2003, GI Special was the best name for a new publication that could be thought of. Not good enough anymore.

Military resistance to the government's wars of occupation is here, now, and not limited to the Army, as implied by the term "GI".

The resistance inside the armed forces and among veterans of today's Imperial wars is increasing in numbers and dedication to the cause.

Without laying an organized foundation for more and better resistance actions through face-to-face contact between members of the armed forces considering or engaged in resistance and civilians ready to step up and support them, nothing will change; the wars will go on.

Presidents come and go, but the push for Empire is the fixed policy of those who own the government and buy the politicians in Washington DC to operate their government.

The Imperial politicians care nothing for the members of the armed services or the majority of civilians, except to use them as tools to accumulate wealth and power for themselves and their masters.

Incompetent doctors treat the symptoms of disease and ignore the disease itself.

The disease is the economic system that expresses itself in the drive for Empire and the wars of conquest used to extend the Empire: only today Iraq and Afghanistan.

The first step towards achieving our liberation from the common bondage imposed upon us by those no longer competent to rule society is the mass refusal of members of the armed forces to die for them in their Imperial wars.

Laying the foundation for future armed forces mass resistance means taking action now, working now to organize a network of armed forces members, veterans and civilians explicitly committed to that cause.

Therefore, when it is a question of expending time, energy and funds, the only question is how a given activity does or does not advance achieving that objective.

Anything less is a pointless game of trivial pursuits.

T

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 to contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 888.711.2550

“In All History, There Is No More Hated Warrior, No Soldier More Worthy Of A Violent, Bloody End, Than The One Who Is Perceived As An Invader Or An Occupier”

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

October 03, 2009 by Frank Creel, Antiwar.com [Excerpts]

There are 28 million Afghans, and the vast majority of them despise the foreigners who come into their country in vain attempts to order their affairs.

The British Empire suffered one of its worst military defeats in 19th-century Afghanistan. The Soviets left Afghanistan with their tails between their legs.

A historian would expect Americans, perhaps more than any other nation, to understand how it is possible for a small, relatively poor country to inflict defeat on a world-class imperial power.

That is precisely what we did to the British Empire at the apex of its military might and political prestige.

That is what Vietnam did to us at the height of our military might and political prestige.

There is a common factor in all these historical events. The Brits and the Russians were fighting on Afghan soil. The Brits were fighting on American soil. We were fighting on Vietnamese soil.

There is no magic or strange power in dirt.

The force to be reckoned with in each of these cases is the strong attachment of the inhabitants to their own national dirt.

In all history, there is no more hated warrior, no soldier more worthy of a violent, bloody end, than the one who is perceived as an invader or an occupier.

It makes absolutely no difference how those invading, occupying soldiers perceive themselves. Sure, it will make them feel good if they can honestly tell themselves that they are fighting a global war on terrorism, or exporting democracy, or building a nation.

But feeling good about yourself and your mission will not make much difference if an AK-47 round sneaks through your body armor's arm hole or just under the edge of your helmet.

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

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

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

“Tens Of Thousands” Join In Palestine General Strike: “This Is The First Time There Is Such A Strike”



10.01.09 Sharon Roffe-Ofir, Ynetnews & AFP [Excerpts]

ARABA, Israel — Arab Israelis staged a general strike on Thursday to protest what organisers called “racist” policies and to mark the ninth anniversary of demonstrations at which police killed 13 Arabs.

The strike culminated in a rally in the northern Israel village of Araba, where people chanted “with our blood, with our souls, we will protect you Palestine.”

A woman carried a picture of her young son who died in October 2000 when Israeli police killed 13 Arab Israelis who took part in protests that broke out days after the Palestinian uprising, or intifada, started.

“The government is run by gangsters, not statesmen,” the 58-year-old said.

Stores, schools and other establishments were shuttered in predominantly Arab communities, including the Biblical city of Nazareth, and media reports said the strike was followed by about 90 percent of the Arab Israeli population.

Organisers said the strike was called “to protest the continuation and escalation of racism and incitement against Arabs” and in defence of Arab citizens’ “right to exist and live in dignity in their historic homeland.”

“In recent months, there has been a parallel situation of racist policies in parliament and greater condoning of violence towards Arab citizens by the police and courts,” said Jafar Farah, who heads Mossawa, an Arab-Israeli advocacy group.

“This attitude is feeding down to the streets,” he said.

Tens of thousands arrived in Arraba on Thursday to attend the central rally marking the ninth anniversary of the events of October 2000 amid the first general strike the Arab sector has declared in six years.

The Higher Arab Monitoring Committee said the government's policy towards the Arab public in Israel "contributed to the strike's success."

Arab Knesset members, dignitaries and public figures attended the rally, during which Hadash Chairman MK Muhammad Barakeh said, "The success of the general strike and the high participation in the rally are an important message to the government and the leaders of the racist policy it has been running for decades.

"The Israeli policy will lead to an explosion in the entire Arab population, which is united today around the decision to strike. This is a legitimate protest move, which will be the first step in a line of future measures."

Jamila, the mother of Asil Asala, who was killed in the October 2000 riots along with 12 other Arab Israelis, was at the rally, and told Ynet, "I see the masses that came here and this is encouraging and comforting, but does not ease the pain or the fact that those guilty of murdering my son have yet to be found.

"If the Israeli (government) thinks the Arabs will grow old and eventually forget, it is wrong. We will remember every year and our boys' blood will not be forgotten."

Qasem Hussein, from Kaukab, said during the rally, "This is the first time there is such a strike, even on Land Day we didn't see so many people coming to express their pain. It's not just because of the pain of the October 2000 events, but because the Arab society is on the brink of an explosion."

A number of Jews were also on hand to support the Arab sector.

Tali Fahima, who in the past was tried and convicted for her contacts with Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades commander Zakaria Zubeidi, said, "When you push too much eventually there is an explosion, and those who will pay the price are innocent Jews.

"The Zionist regime is pressuring those who are living under the occupation; it will blow up in your faces; you will pay a heavy, bloody price," she said.

MK Ahmad Tibi (United Arab List-Ta'al) said the rally conveyed a message of "unity in the face of the discrimination," adding, "We are determined to triumph over racism."

[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."]

**NEED SOME TRUTH?
CHECK OUT THE NEW 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/)

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in.]

**The Anti-Republican-War Movement:
“Anti-Republican-War Activists, The
Majority Of Whom Are Much More**

Content With Killing Afghans Now That Such An Articulate And Personable Democrat Is Calling The Shots”

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

October 02, 2009 Distant Ocean [Excerpts]

Having dedicated herself to electing Democrats for the past eight years, Medea Benjamin is now confused about where everybody went:

“We should be there flooding the halls of Congress. It’s a little lonely here The antiwar movement is way too quiet.

“We should be flooding the halls of Congress every day now. This month and the next month are absolutely critical months. We have to be seen. We have to be heard. So I would say that the most important thing is to reactivate the networks that were so active during the Bush years to force Obama to do the right thing, which is to set an exit strategy and bring our troops home.”

What Benjamin (still) doesn’t seem to understand is that “the networks that were so active during the Bush years” were filled with Democratic voters who couldn’t give a rat’s ass what she or anyone else wants them to do now that a Democrat is president and all is therefore right with the world.

The anti-war movement that briefly manifested itself during Bush’s reign was not the homogeneous whole it may have appeared to be, but two separate and distinct entities: 1) a genuine anti-war movement, comprising a relatively small number of people (like Benjamin) who oppose U.S. assaults on other countries no matter who’s waging them, and 2) a much larger group of anti-Republican-war activists, the majority of whom are much more content with killing Afghans now that such an articulate and personable Democrat is calling the shots, while the rest are at least willing to spot Obama a few morgues’ worth of corpses before they’ll decide if the killing he’s doing is likely to “succeed” or not.

“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

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CLASS WAR REPORTS

Terrorists Loose On The Streets Of Pittsburg!!

L.A. Police Chief Says Terrorists Can Be Identified “If You See Someone Wearing Clothes That Are Too Big And Too Heavy For The Season”



Pittsburgh, Sept. 24, G20 Protests

October 3, 2009 WASHINGTON (AP)

The nation's big city police chiefs are backing an anti-terrorism community watch program to educate people about what behavior is truly suspicious and ought to be reported to police.

Police Chief William Bratton of Los Angeles, whose department developed the iWATCH program, calls it the 21st century version of Neighborhood Watch.

Using brochures, public service announcements and meetings with community groups, iWATCH is designed to deliver concrete advice on how the public can follow the oft-repeated post-9/11 recommendation: "If you see something, say something." Program materials list nine types of suspicious behavior that should prompt people to call police and 12 kinds of places to look for it.

Among the indicators:

--If you smell chemicals or other fumes.

--If you see someone wearing clothes that are too big and too heavy for the season.

--If you see strangers asking about building security.

--If you see someone purchasing supplies or equipment that could be used to make bombs.



“Look At What Is Actually On The Table Being Set For Us By The Largest Drug And Insurance

Corporations — Waited Upon By Their Front Men In The White Houses”

**“The Health Care Plan Being Designed
By Obama And His Powerful Friends Will
Reduce The Health Care Coverage Of All
Of Us To The Same Low Standards And
Minimum Coverage Of The Original
Medicare”**

October 1, 2009 By MARY LYNN CRAMER, CounterPunch

Mary Lynn Cramer, MA, MSW, LICSW, Senior Citizen, has a background in economics and clinical social work, and considerable personal experience with Medicare. She can be reached at mllynn2@yahoo.com

Even at this late hour it seems progressives do not understand the goal of Obamacare.

They keep repeating the mantra (on every “liberal” talk show from Democracy Now to NPR’s On Point) that the cuts in Medicare will only be from the “wasteful” programs like Medicare Advantage.

That’s right! Medicare Advantage: The plans that make Medicare affordable for most of us senior citizens.

The original Medicare A & B do not begin to cover basic medical needs.

I would be living in a shelter and begging on the streets if I had to depend on Medicare A & B or Medigap (the program that covers the 20% of costs not paid for by Medicare A&B) for my weekly medical expenses and doctor visits.

Progressives who think that “Medicare For All” is the same as Universal Single-Payer, are stuck behind their ideological blinders, swinging their swords at windmills and stabbing senior citizens in the back, all the while pretending they didn’t know low-income seniors are the targeted source of the \$500 billion cost savings that Obama plans to root out of the “wasteful and fraudulent” Medicare Advantage program.

The health care plan being designed by Obama and his powerful friends will reduce the health care coverage of all of us to the same low standards and minimum coverage of the original Medicare.

Yes, we will have “Medicare For All,” the most inadequate and worthless coverage available:

No coverage for physical exams, eye or hearing exams, hearing aids or glasses; no foot care or orthopedic shoes, no chiropractics, no dental care, etc., etc.

(See my article “Progressives Abet Obama Fraud” in the Aug. 18, 2009 at Counterpunch.org).

That is why that wise old man confronted Obama demanding that he “keep the government out of my Medicare Advantage.” Grampy had done his homework long before most of us.

The “Original Medicare (A&B)” and “Medigap” programs are subsidized by the federal government on a cost percentage (of severely limited medical services) in a one-plan-fits-all program.

All the private providers of Medigap insurance must offer the same identical plan---which does not include any drug coverage --- based on the very limited number of services covered in the Original Medicare. This Medicare Supplemental Insurance covers the 20% of costs of services in parts A & B that the Original Medicare does not pay for.

Not so with Medicare Advantage. Each private provider for Medicare Advantage gets a lump sum per enrollee/patient, and covers a wide range of services, with competitive low premiums, no deductibles, and each manages its own costs and programs.

Let me be clear: I am for universal single-payer health care, as they have in France or Canada or at least what they have in England. There are many different ways to do single-payer involving both the private and public sector.

However, that is not what is on the President’s table!

Obama has said repeatedly, there will be no “Trojan Horse” opening the way for an eventual single-payer health plan.

He means it, as you know.

So progressives have to set their idealistic rhetoric aside and look at what is actually on the table being set for us by the largest drug and insurance corporations — waited upon by their front men in the White House and Congress.

Don’t sacrifice the seniors for propaganda purposes.

Thrown Shoe Closes Down International Monetary Fund Conference

October 1, 2009 by Associated Press

ISTANBUL - A student journalist threw a shoe at International Monetary Fund Director Dominique Strauss-Kahn on Thursday and ran toward the stage shouting "IMF get out!" as the finance official answered questions at a university in Istanbul.

The white sports shoe missed the IMF chief and landed on the platform. Strauss-Kahn moved to the side but was not in any danger of being hit, and a security guard rushed to protect him.

Other guards quickly blocked the man - a student and a journalist with a small left-wing newspaper - from reaching the speakers platform. They pushed him to the floor, covered his mouth with their hands and then dragged him from the hall.

A female protester also tried to unfurl a banner while shouting "IMF get out!" but she was escorted out of the conference hall.

The conference was then cut short and the hall evacuated.

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