

Military Resistance 7K12



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

To Our Brothers And Sisters Around The World: Somebody Or Other In 93 Countries Is Reading Military Resistance: OK, Let's Hear From You!

The Military Resistance website keeps stats on where people are who visit it.

In the month on October, people in 93 different countries visited, including, most intriguingly, 9 from Afghanistan.

And two from Burkina Faso.

It's understandable if readers in Afghanistan would prefer to remain in the shadows.

But, hey, could you please send something from Burkina Faso? Or how about from China, which comes in second after the USA?

Let's have some international solidarity.

Especially if you're in the armed forces.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Resistance Action

Nov 8 (Reuters) & Nov 11 (Reuters) & Nov 12 (Reuters) & 11/13/09 AP & Nov 14 (Reuters)

Militants shot dead a government employee in northern Mosul, police said.

A militant hurled a hand grenade at a police patrol in eastern Mosul, wounding two policemen.

Guerrilla fighters killed a policeman and wounded three others at a checkpoint near Balad, 80 km (50 miles) north of Baghdad on Wednesday, police said.

Guerrilla fighters wounded a policeman in a drive-by shooting on Wednesday in southern Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Three prisoners accused of carrying out militant attacks escaped on Wednesday from a prison in central Basra, 420 km (260 miles) southeast of Baghdad, police said.

Two militants shot and wounded a policeman in western Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad. They were later arrested by police.

One attacker was killed and a policeman wounded when suspected insurgents attacked an Iraqi police checkpoint in Falluja, 50 km (32 miles) west of Baghdad, on Saturday night, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded one police officer in western Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Militants shot dead a government-backed militia leader and his bodyguard in Khan Bani Saad, 30 km (20 miles) northeast of Baghdad on Thursday, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting an Iraqi army patrol wounded three soldiers in Garma, 30 km (20 miles) northwest of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting an Iraqi police patrol wounded two policemen in eastern Baghdad, police said.

Insurgents in a speeding car shot dead a policeman and his brother in northern Baghdad's Shaab District on Friday night, police said.

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

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

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Two U.S. Soldiers Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan

Nov 14 (AFP)

Three Americans including two members of the NATO-led force in Afghanistan have been killed by homemade bombs, the military said Saturday.

The other casualty was a civilian worker, it said without giving further detail.

One of the soldiers died in an improvised explosive device (IED) blast in southern Afghanistan, the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said in a statement.

"In a separate incident an ISAF service member and a civilian contractor, both from the United States, died in an IED strike in eastern Afghanistan," the statement said, without elaborating.

California Marine Killed In Helmand

November 12, 2009 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 887-09

Lance Cpl. Justin J. Swanson, 21, of Anaheim, Calif., died Nov. 10 while supporting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

U.S. Soldiers Wounded In Attack On Convoy Near Camp Phoenix



The site of an attack near a US military base in Kabul on Friday, wounding foreign soldiers and Afghan civilians. (AFP/Massoud Hossaini)

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

Nov 13 (AFP) & AP & Press TV

A bomber struck near a US military base in Kabul on Friday, wounding foreign soldiers.

Initial reports said a bomber in a white car struck a coalition forces vehicle on its way to the base, where Afghan forces are trained.

Sources said suspected Taliban militants exchanged heavy fire with the NATO troops and fought a pitched battle following the blast.

NATO said the bombing occurred at 8 a.m. (0330 GMT) on the Jalalabad road, which is used extensively by international forces and frequently attacked.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.

NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in a statement said "nine ISAF service members, 10 civilian contractors and several Afghans" were injured in the bombing.

"No ISAF service members were killed," it said, though the nationality of the soldiers and contractors was not given.

Earlier, Abdul Ghasar Aayedzada, criminal police investigation chief for Kabul, said that three foreign soldiers, possibly Americans, had been injured.

He said the attack occurred around 7:45 am (0315 GMT) when a bomber in a car blew himself up alongside a coalition forces vehicle heading toward Camp Phoenix on the road between Kabul and the eastern town of Jalalabad.

A witness, who gave his name only as Mohammed, said he was sitting in his truck drinking tea when a small convoy of foreign troops passed.

"I saw a grey Corolla and a man driving it with a white hat on. He blew himself up and there was a huge cloud of dust," the trucker said.

The blast was heard across the capital, including by an AFP reporter more than five kilometres (three miles) away in central Kabul.

The attack struck about 400 metres from the camp's main gate. The explosives blew the bomber's car to pieces, spreading debris around the road and damaging several other vehicles, an AFP reporter at the scene said.

Yousuf Ahmadi, a Taliban spokesman, told AFP in a telephone call from an undisclosed location that the group carried out the attack.

At the scene Nabi, a taxi driver, said he was driving down the road when he heard a "big bang."

"Everything went dark," said Nabi, who like many Afghans uses one name. "I just managed to take myself out of the area. I don't know what happened then, but the attack was on the foreigners."

Camp Phoenix, on the outskirts of Kabul, is run by US forces but other NATO member nations also maintain a presence there.

German Soldier Wounded By Chardara IED

Nov. 11 (Xinhua)

A German soldier was injured Wednesday as a clash erupted in Chardara district of Kunduz province in north Afghanistan, a spokesman with German troops in the province Nasir Alkozai said.

"Coalition forces and Afghan soldiers launched a cleanup operation in Qasab and Gulbagh villages of Chardara district this morning and one German soldier has been injured," Alkozai told Xinhua.

He also added that the operation will continue until the area is secured. But he did not comment if there were any casualties on the insurgents.

Meantime, locals say that a mine planted by Taliban insurgents struck an Armored Personnel Carrier (APC).

Two Swedish Soldiers 'Unstable' After Afghanistan Explosion

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

12 Nov 09 The Local Europe AB

The conditions of two of the soldiers injured in a bomb explosion in Afghanistan on Wednesday are reported to have deteriorated overnight.

In a statement, the Swedish Armed Forces revealed that a 22-year-old stationed in the Torne Valley and a 30 years old from Luleå, both in northern Sweden, are in an unstable condition.

Head of press Torbjörn F. Gustafsson was unable to confirm whether their injuries are life-threatening.

"Doctors say their situation is unstable," he told news agency TT.

"Unstable means that they have become worse."

Two aircraft with medical personnel have been dispatched to bring home four of the five Swedish soldiers involved in the incident and fly them directly to Uppsala University Hospital.

"The goal is to get them home as quickly as possible," said Bertil Starfelt, staff doctor at Sweden's military headquarters.

The soldiers were on patrol at around 10am Swedish time on Wednesday when they hit a roadside bomb west of Mazar-e-Sharif, where Swedish troops are stationed.

Occupation Military Vehicle Hit In Zabul; Casualties Not Announced

A bomber targeted a convoy of NATO-led forces in Zabul province south of Afghanistan Wednesday killing two civilians and destroyed a military vehicle, military officer at the site of incident Ghulam Jilani Khan said.

"A convoy of international forces was passing Shahjoi district this morning and suddenly a man riding a motorbike blew himself up next to the convoy killing two passersby on the spot and damaging a military vehicle," Jilani told Xinhua.

Afghan Occupation Fuel Convoy Attacked; Five Tank Trucks Destroyed



Oil tankers carry fuel for occupation forces in neighboring Afghanistan, are set on fire by militants in Much near Quetta, Pakistan on Nov. 13, 2009. Attackers fired rockets at a group of tankers that were delivering fuel to U.S. Five tankers were torched, a local police chief said. (AP Photo/Arshad Butt)

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

Nov. 13 (Xinhua)

Five oil tankers carrying fuel for North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) forces in Afghanistan were set on fire by unknown persons Friday in southwest Pakistan's Balochistan province, local TV channel reported.

One driver of an oil tanker was killed in the incident, the private TV Express reported.

Police sources said the fuel convoy, on way to Afghanistan from Karachi, the port city in southern Pakistan, was set on fire by unknown persons in Gattani area of district Bolan.

Police and law enforcement agencies have cordoned off the area but attackers managed to escape.

Want To Buy Stolen U.S. Military Wares In Afghanistan? “It Is Obama Market Now”

“Bush Is Finished” Stalls Are Offering: “Cases Of MREs, New-In-The-Box Military Cots, Military ID Holders, Tactical Goggles Like Those Used By US Troops, A Sophisticated ‘Red-Dot’ Optical Rifle Sight”

[Thanks to Pham Binh & Mark Shapiro, Military Resistance, who sent this in.]

Nov 11 By Jay Price, The Christian Science Monitor

Kabul, Afghanistan – First came the Brezhnev Market.

Then the Bush Market.

Now Afghans are beginning to call their notorious bazaar full of chow and supplies bought or stolen from the vast US military bases by the name of the current American president, a modest counterweight to his Nobel Peace Prize.

“It is Obama Market now,” pronounced Haji Tor, a rotund shopkeeper who acts as kind of an unofficial chamber of commerce president for the market in the Afghan capital.

“Bush is finished.”

Well, maybe not quite yet. Most of the shopkeepers and customers still call it the Bush Market, but several said that the new name is gradually gaining traction.

The small market, tucked behind a commercial building in the northwest side of the city, is a US taxpayer’s nightmare.

In front of Tor’s shop was a nearly waist-high, three-deep wall of boxed food that apparently had been destined for military chow halls.

There were cases of pre-cooked cheddar gravy sausage biscuits (forbidden to Muslims, who don’t eat pork), and dozens of flats of the Otis Spunkmeyer muffins and white chocolate macadamia cookies that soldiers often get at mealtime.

“I myself like the cookies and cakes,” Tor said.

Inside, two assistants were stacking hundreds of bottles onto a wall of shelves full of Gatorade.

Shelves on the other walls were jammed with Quaker Instant Grits, Aunt Jemima syrup, McCormick spices and the giant cans of vegetables used in chow halls.

All around were stalls offering cases of MREs (meals-ready-to-eat), new-in-the-box military cots and goods usually sold on base stores, such as American-made shampoo, military ID holders and the huge plastic jars of the food supplements used by bodybuilders.

One shop offered an expensive military-issue sleeping bag, tactical goggles like those used by US troops and a stack of plastic footlockers, including one stenciled “Campbell G Co. 10th Mtn Div.”

Another had a sophisticated “red-dot” optical rifle sight of a kind often used by soldiers and contractors.

Some of the items for sale were knock-offs of military boots and packs, and some of the food is past its expiration date.

Tor’s muffin boxes said they were no good after March 9, 2009.

Many of the goods, though, are supplies that were intended for American troops – it’s hard to deny the origins of MREs, for example – and in good condition.

Most apparently originate at the giant Bagram air base north of Kabul, where there’s a similar market just outside the base.

The precise route the stuff takes to market, though, isn’t clear, at least if you ask the shopkeepers.

“The food, some guys working for the company that is making meals for the American forces get it for us,” said Jamshid Ahmadyer, 26, one of Tor’s assistants. “If the foreigners aren’t eating they get it as a gift from their bosses.”

“No, that’s not true,” said Tor. “Actually a translator maybe gets it as a gift, or the soldiers give these things to small villages and the villagers are afraid to eat it, they think that maybe it is forbidden under Islam. Then someone offers it to us.”

NATO officials know about the market, and an ISAF spokesman, Capt. Mike Andrews, said that if any sensitive equipment turned up for sale, security forces would take action.

He declined to say whether anyone regular checks the market.

“Our guys go out for a lot of different things, but for security reasons I can’t really talk about what they do,” he said.

The shopkeeper offering the sleeping bag and knock-offs of clothes favored by security contractors said he bought some things from the sister market in Bagram.

“Now, where they get it, maybe the base, maybe a businessman,” said Sherdil, 28, who, like many Afghans, uses one name. “I don’t know exactly where they get it and I don’t really care.”

Across the way, Wahed Wahedzada was sitting behind the counter of a shop that sells disposable dishes and eating utensils. "People who work on Bagram sell it to people who sell it to us," he said. Then his boss, too, jumped in to correct him.

"No, Maybe of 100 items I have, only two or three are American," said Muhamed Qauem, 35, who then gave a version of the party line in several of the shops; that most of the goods are cheap Chinese-made items and the shopkeepers buy a few things from Bagram as bait to lure customers.

"American businessmen take their products and go to China and make fakes," he said. Most people here can't tell the difference."

His shop, though, was essentially a white cave, its walls lined almost exclusively with huge stacks of disposable plates that were made in Missouri, Solo foam cups and American-made latex gloves of the kind used by food service workers.

"When Afghans see American goods, they want to buy them," he said. "Everybody loves American stuff."

**BAD IDEA:
NO MISSION;
POINTLESS WAR:
ALL HOME NOW**



A member of U.S. special operations forces during a patrol in Shewan, in Afghanistan's Farah province, Nov. 1, 2009. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)



U.S. soldiers fire on Taliban positions as Taliban fighters ambush U.S. soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division during a patrol in the Pech Valley of Afghanistan's Kunar province, Nov. 3, 2009. (AP Photo/David Guttenfelder)



U.S. soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division on a mountain top in the Pech Valley of Afghanistan's Kunar province, Nov. 7, 2009.

TROOP NEWS

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?



The coffin of Army Sgt. Dale Griffin before the start of a Terre Haute Veterans Day Service in Terre Haute, Ind., , Nov. 11, 2009. Griffin was killed Oct. 27 by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Darron Cummings)

Obama's Pick For DoD Weapons Buying Job Refuses To Reveal His Ties To War Profiteers

November 10, 2009 By Jim McElhatton, Washington Times [Excerpts]

President Obama's nominee for a top weapons-buying job at the Pentagon recently served as a paid adviser for a big defense contractor and is declining to disclose whom else he has worked for on a government ethics form designed to help the public guard against potential conflicts of interest.

Frank Kendall III, Mr. Obama's pick for principal deputy undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics, received \$75,000 in consulting fees last year from defense contractor SAIC Inc., according to his recently filed disclosure form. He also reported fees totaling \$8,500 from Centra Technology, another defense contractor.

But he's declined to name six other recent private clients, which were alluded to in the disclosure form but not identified. Federal ethics rules allow nominees to keep clients' identities private in limited circumstances. But ethics analysts say the omission raises questions about whether any of the undisclosed clients are also military contractors.

"It kind of raises a red flag as far as the Obama administration's efforts to keep contractors out of the Department of Defense," Scott Amey, general counsel to the nonpartisan watchdog group Project on Government Oversight, said of Mr. Kendall's defense consulting work.

Mr. Kendall's disclosure doesn't explain why he is keeping the names of his clients confidential.

GET THE MESSAGE



South Korean rally opposing the scheduled visit of Obama in Seoul, South Korea, , Nov. 14, 2009. Protesters opposed the dispatch of South Korean troops to Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT
THE BLOODSHED
THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WARS**

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**

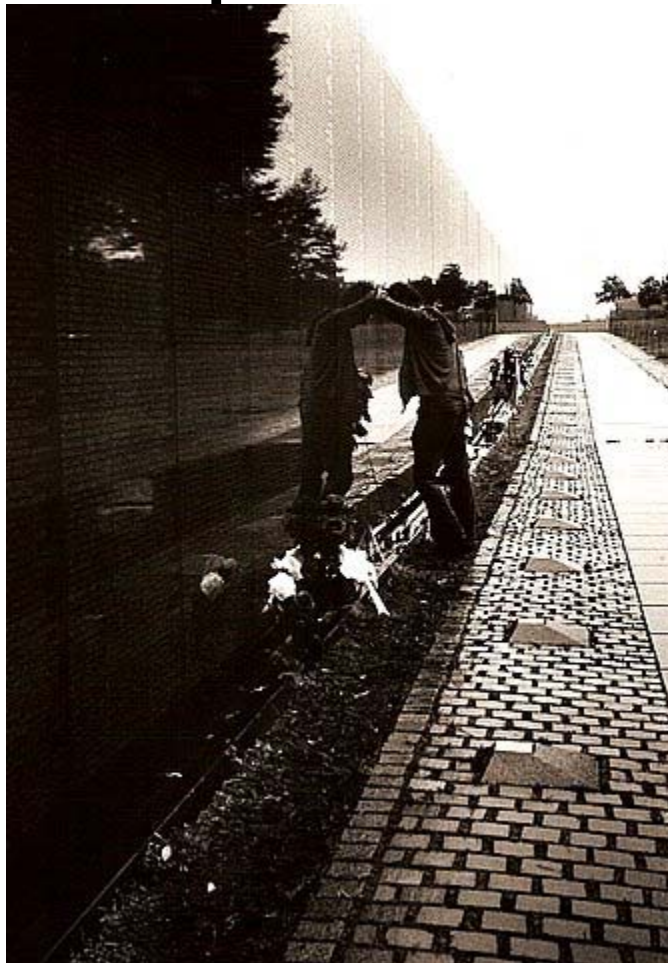
**“While there is a lower class I am in it; while there is a criminal element I am of it; while there is a soul in prison, I am not free”
-- Eugene V. Debs**

**“What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.”
Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787.**

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

**“When someone says my son died fighting for his country, I say, “No, the suicide bomber who killed my son died fighting for his country.”
-- Father of American Soldier Chase Beattie, KIA in Iraq**

The Wall— The Pentagon Wallet Of Expenditures



From: Mike Hastie

To: GI Special
Sent: November 09, 2009
Subject: The Wall--The Pentagon Wallet of Expenditures

The Wall--The Pentagon Wallet of Expenditures

**If there is no American public resistance over Afghanistan,
let alone for the mass destruction of Iraq,
the United States Government will do any
God-damn thing it wants to.**

This is what happens when you give into everything.

**This is when the goose step
takes a giant step for mankind.**

**Mike Hastie
Vietnam Veteran
November 8, 2009**

**Photograph by Mike Hastie
Vietnam Veterans Memorial
Washington, D.C. 1986**

**Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of
Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work,
contact at: (hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)**

**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**

**“Something’s Happening In AfPak,
But You Don’t Know What It Is, Do
You Mr Beltway Think-Tanker?”
“Pashtun National Liberation Is At
Fever Pitch”**

“Pashtuns Living On Both Sides Of The Border Have Seized The Opportunity And Started To Look To The Taliban As A Convenient Facilitator For The Emergence Of Pashtunistan”

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

Nov 6, 2009 By Pepe Escobar, Asia Times [Excerpts]

*There must be some way out of here
Said the joker to the thief
There's too much confusion
I can't get no relief
- Bob Dylan, All Along the Watchtower*

PARIS - Something's happening in AfPak, but you don't know what it is, do you Mr Beltway think-tanker?

As Washington mashes up the “Taliban” - be they Afghan neo-Taliban or Pakistani Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP) - in Empire of Chaos logic to justify perennial United States/North Atlantic Treaty Organization troops stationed in AfPak, an increasing number of Pashtuns living on both sides of the border have seized the opportunity and started to look to the Taliban as a convenient facilitator for the emergence of Pashtunistan.

Tribal Pashtuns (from eastern Afghanistan to western Pakistan) have never given up on being united again.

Everyone familiar with AfPak knows the region is still paying the price for the fateful and - what else - divide-and-rule British imperial decision in 1897 to split tribal Pashtuns through the artificial Durand Line.

The line remains the artificial border between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Anyone who ever crossed it at, for instance, Torkham, at the foot of the Khyber pass, knows it is meaningless; people swarming on both sides are all cousins who never stopped dreaming of a pre-colonial, Afghan Durrani empire that straddled a great deal of contemporary Pakistan.

Few have noticed that Pashtuns were recently insisting on a very basic demand - that North-West Frontier Province (NWFP) in Pakistan have its name changed to Pakhtunkhwa (“Land of the Pashtuns”).

The demand was shot down this past September by the dominant Punjabis in Pakistan. Pashtun nationalists protested en masse in fabled Peshawar, the NWFP capital. Pashtun national liberation is at fever pitch.

Pashtun Guevaras are already issuing a call to arms.

If we follow the money, we see that the TTP in Pakistan is now being financed mostly by wealthy, pious Gulf businessmen and not anymore by Islamabad. The financiers are more interested in jihad than in Pashtun nationalism, and that undermines the legitimacy of the Taliban as vehicles for Pashtun nationalism.

At the same time, if the TTP and its Pashtun allies manage to establish full control over a strategic corridor straddling eastern Afghanistan and western Pakistan, with or without jihadi support, and for example with a partial control of Peshawar thrown in, the public relations coup couldn't be bigger: that means an Islamic emirate for all practical purposes constituted as Pashtunistan.

Other factors apart from the TTP facilitate the drive towards Pashtunistan.

The West's economic and aid packages to AfPak are pitiful and never trickle down to the average Pashtun.

The "revelation" in the US of what was never a secret in Afghanistan, that Ahmed Wali Karzai, brother of the "winner" of the soiled Afghan presidential election, has been on the Central Intelligence Agency's payroll for years, erased any possibility of Pashtuns believing in anything emanating from Kabul.

United States corporate media dabbles on the Afghan presidential election kabuki (with rice) while ignoring that what passes for US and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) intelligence is bribing top warlords for on-the-ground "security" (a swell business for them) coupled with bribing the Taliban for a license not be killed by their explosive devices.

And bribing itself just won't do; the Taliban, via their former foreign minister, Mullah Muttawakkil, have just refused an American offer of eight permanent NATO bases for six provincial Taliban governorships. They want their Kabuli rice - and eat it too.

Islamabad's military and security establishment, a state within a state, remains an annex of Washington's; Pashtuns see the current offensive in Waziristan as Zardari selling out to Washington - same as "Busharraf", president Pervez Musharraf, before.

A Pakistani failed government, this one or any other one, has zero chance to control what are de facto Afghan lands on the Pakistan side of the Durand Line.

In 2009 alone, more than two million Pashtuns have been forced to become refugees; there's ample talk of a "Pashtun genocide".

A rough beast, its hour come at last, Pashtunistan is already being born.

To start with, those "cousins" on both sides of the border are all tribal Pashtuns, mostly rural.

They follow the same conservative religious rituals, enshrined by the ultra-reactionary South Asian Deobandi school of Sunni Islam and propagated by a vast network of made-in-Pakistan madrassas (seminaries).

Their business is thriving, as can be attested by a visit to Spinbaldak, in southern Afghanistan, on the way between Kandahar and Quetta; the big fish thrive on smuggling and the narco-trade, and everyone else thrives on transportation or the timber business. The cash flow, in and out, is massive, especially out of remittances from Pashtun workers toiling around the Gulf and beyond.

Politically, the Pashtuns are represented by parties such as the Jamaat-e-Ulema-e-Islami (JUI). Diplomatically, they are very well connected to the Persian Gulf and to most of the Organization of the Islamic Conference countries. From a military point of view, they are represented by myriad Taliban groups, not only the TTP. And strategically, they perform a delicious irony: a rural, ultra-religious, nationalist movement fighting tooth-and-nail a corrupt, urban-based government as if they were a post-colonial fantasy of the noble tribal savage - a la Rousseau - fighting the colonialist West.

This may not be what leftist, relatively secular Pashtun intellectuals had in mind; they maintain that the Punjabi-infested security agencies control both the Taliban and the Pakistani army, and they would rather get rid of both.

A nationalist group such as the Pashtun Awareness Movement believes Pashtuns themselves should get rid of the Taliban, not the Pakistani army under the boot of the Pentagon.

As for the predominantly Pashtun Awami National Party, which is in power in NWFP and has to compose somewhat with Islamabad, its dream of a more balanced Pashtunistan is still a long way away.

There may be only one thing missing for Pashtunistan to come of age: a passport. It's not hard to see who will profit from it.

MORE:

**“Conquering Pashtun Hearts And
Minds Westmoreland, Sorry,
McChrystal-Style Is A No-Win
Proposition”**

**“There’s Nothing McChrystal’s Non-
Pashto Speaking Soldiers Can Say Or Do
To Counteract A Simple Taliban-To-**

Villager One-Liner: ‘We’re In A Jihad To Throw Out The Foreigners’”

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

Nov 7, 2009 By Pepe Escobar, Asia Times [Excerpts]

PARIS - “The horror ... the horror.” General Stanley McChrystal, the Pentagon supremo in Afghanistan, is being massively sold in the US as a Zen warrior - a 21st-century stalwart incarnation of the “best and the brightest”.

But he may be a warrior intellectual more like Colonel Kurz than Captain Willard in Francis Ford Coppola’s *Apocalypse Now*.

He led an elite death squad in Iraq and, for all of his Confucius-meets-counter-insurgency social engineering schemes, still appears not to understand what Pashtuns are really all about.

McChrystal remains bemused about why, in Afghanistan, most young Pashtuns decide to become Taliban.

Because Kabul is immensely corrupt; because the Americans have bombed their houses or killed their families and friends; because they can improve their social status. They simply won’t sell out for (devalued) American dollars. Their infinite drive is geared towards throwing the occupiers out - and re-establishing the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, governed by sharia law.

In this sense, McChrystal’s soldiers are the new Soviets, no different from the Red Army that waged war in Afghanistan during the 1980s.

McChrystal - with all his “secure the population” talk - cannot possibly level with the American public about the Taliban.

Afghans know that if you don’t mess with the Taliban, the Taliban don’t mess with you. If you’re an opium poppy grower, the Taliban just collect a little bit of tax on it.

Conquering Pashtun hearts and minds Westmoreland, sorry, McChrystal-style is a no-win proposition.

There’s nothing McChrystal’s non-Pashto speaking soldiers can say or do to counteract a simple Taliban-to-villager one-liner “we’re in a jihad to throw out the foreigners”.

As for the Taliban/al-Qaeda nexus, the Taliban nowadays simply don’t need al-Qaeda, and vice-versa. Al-Qaeda is closely linked with Pakistani outfits, not Afghan, such as Lashkar-e-Taiba.

If McChrystal wants to find al-Qaeda jihadis, he should set up shop in Karachi, not in the Hindu Kush.

Over the summer of 2009 alone, 20,000 US and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) troops, practicing the iron dogma of “clear, hold and build”, were able to secure only a third of desert Helmand province.

The Taliban control at least 11 provinces in Afghanistan.

It's easy to do the math on what it would take to “secure” the other 10 provinces, not to mention the whole country until, well, 2050, as the British high command has been speculating.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?

Forward Military Resistance 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 Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Phone: 888.711.2550

November 13, 1933: American Working-Class Heroes



Carl Bunin, Peace History November 10-16

The first recorded “sit-down” strike in the U.S. was staged by workers at the Hormel Packing Company in Austin, Minnesota. The tactic worked: Hormel agreed to submit wage demands to binding arbitration.

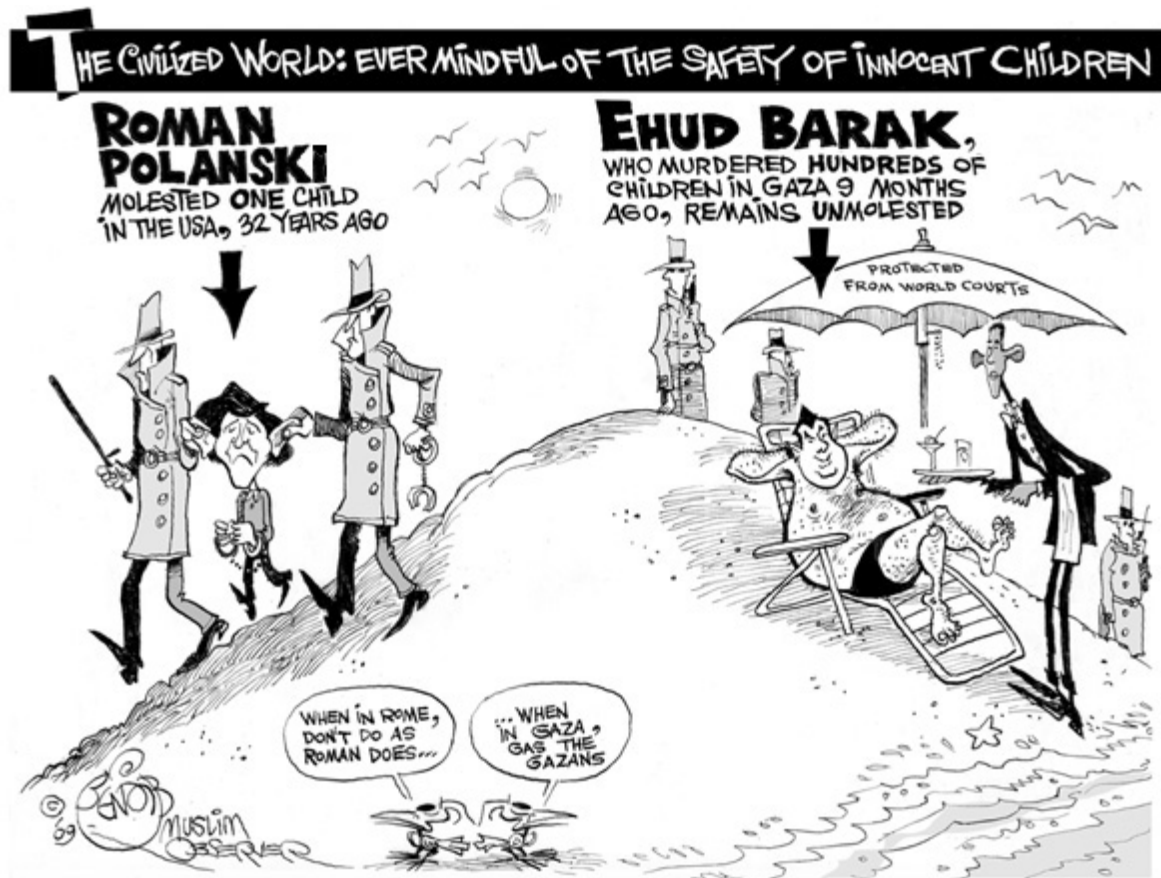
The success of this strike reinvigorated the labor movement, which had been in decline through the 1920s.

“Four hundred men, many of them armed with clubs, sticks and rocks, crashed through the plant entrance, shattering the glass doors and sweeping the guards before them.

“The strikers quickly ran throughout the plant to chase out non-union workers. One . . . group crashed through the doors of a conference room where Jay Hormel and five company executives were meeting and declared “We’re taking possession. So move out!” (Larry Engelmann, “We Were the Poor -- The Hormel Strike of 1933,” Labor History, Fall, 1974.)

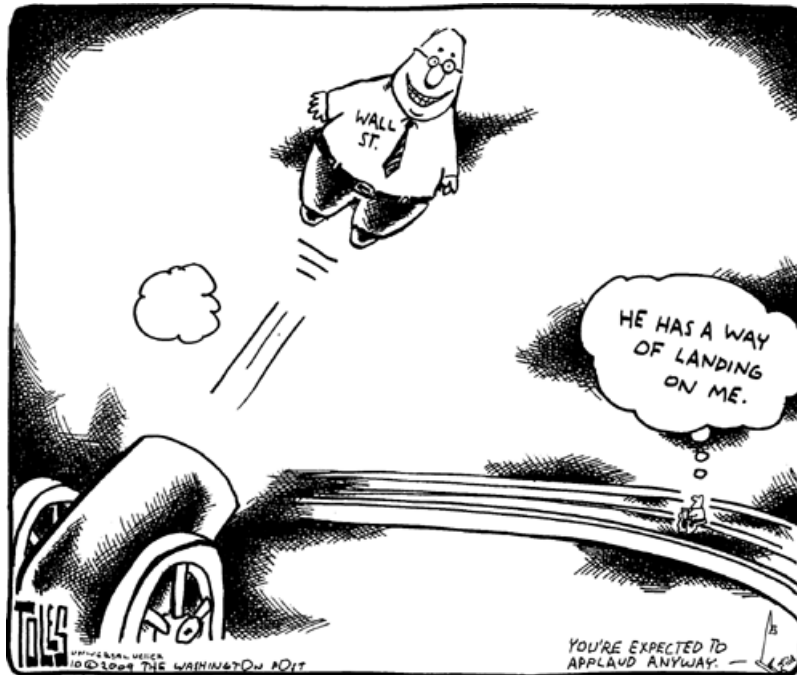
The tactic worked: within four days Hormel agreed to submit wage demands to binding arbitration. The success of this strike reinvigorated the labor movement, which had been in decline throughout the 1920s.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE



[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."]

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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

“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



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

The Dictatorship Of Money That Rules The United States: 237 Millionaires In Congress: “44 Percent Of The Body Compared To About 1 Percent Of Americans Overall”

[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

November 6, 2009 By: Erika Lovley, Capitol News Company

Talk about bad timing.

As Washington reels from the news of 10.2 percent unemployment, the Center for Responsive Politics is out with a new report describing the wealth of members of Congress.

Among the highlights: Two-hundred-and-thirty-seven members of Congress are millionaires.

That's 44 percent of the body – compared to about 1 percent of Americans overall.

CRP says California Republican Rep. Darrell Issa is the richest lawmaker on Capitol Hill, with a net worth estimated at about \$251 million. Next in line: Rep. Jane Harman (D-Calif.), worth about \$244.7 million; Sen. Herb Kohl (D-Wis.), worth about \$214.5 million; Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.), worth about \$209.7 million; and Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.), worth about \$208.8 million.

All told, at least seven lawmakers have net worths greater than \$100 million, according to the Center's 2008 figures.

"Many Americans probably have a sense that members of Congress aren't hurting, even if their government salary alone is in the six figures, much more than most Americans make," said CRP spokesman Dave Levinthal. "What we see through these figures is that many of them have riches well beyond that salary, supplemented with securities, stock holdings, property and other investments."

Senators' estimated median reportable worth sunk to about \$1.79 million from \$2.27 million in 2007. The House's median income was significantly lower and also sank, bottoming out at \$622,254 from \$724,258 in 2007.

But CRP's analysis suggests that some lawmakers did well for themselves between 2007 and 2008, even as many Americans lost jobs and saw their savings and their home values plummet.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) gained about \$9.2 million. Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.) gained about \$3 million, Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii) had an estimated \$2.6 million gain, and Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) gained about \$2.8 million.

Some lawmakers have profited from investments in companies that have received federal bailouts; dozens of lawmakers are invested in Wells Fargo, Citigroup, Goldman Sachs and Bank of America.

Among executive branch officials, CRP says the richest is Securities and Exchange Commission Chairwoman Mary L. Schapiro, with a net worth estimated at \$26 million.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is next, worth an estimated \$21 million. President Barack Obama is the sixth-wealthiest, worth about an estimated \$4 million.

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Vietnam GI: Reprints Available



Vietnam: They Stopped An Imperial War

Not available from anybody else, anywhere

Edited by Vietnam Veteran Jeff Sharlet from 1968 until his death, this newspaper rocked the world, attracting attention even from Time Magazine, and extremely hostile attention from the chain of command. The pages and pages of letters in the paper from troops in Vietnam condemning the war are lost to history, but you can find them here.

The Military Project has copied complete sets of Vietnam GI. The originals were a bit rough, but every page is there. Over 100 pages, full 11x17 size.

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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.

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