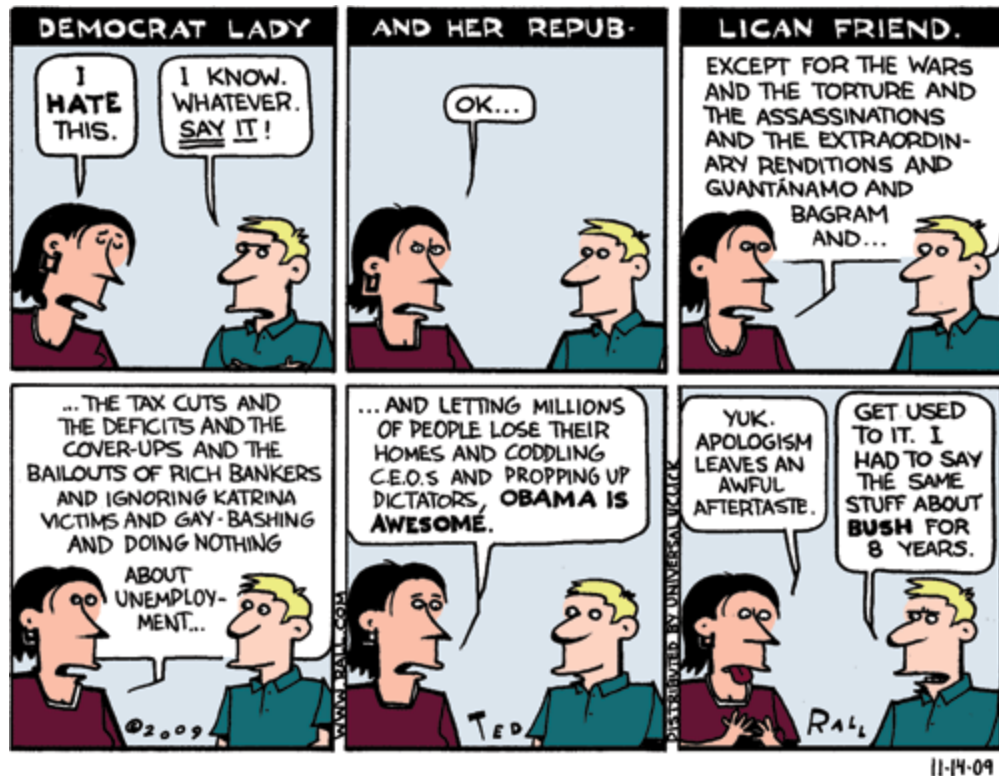


## Military Resistance 7K17



**Pants-Pissing Cowards In  
Command Terrified By IVAW T-  
Shirts:**

**IVAW Members Thrown Out Of  
Fort Hood Medical Center:**

**“I Will Kick Your Ass If I Ever See  
You Wearing That Shirt Ever Again”**

# “Last Time I Spoke To This Soldier He Was Still Wearing It And Is Filing Complainants Against His Chain Of Command!”



11/20/2009 By Michael Kern, Iraq Veterans Against The War

**Branch of service:** United States Army (USA)

**Unit:** 1st WTB Bco

**Rank:** Spc

**Home:** Killeen, Texas

**Served in:** FOB Rustamiyah, Iraq

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**Michael Kern**

During a meeting at Under the Hood cafe, the chapter was informed that one of our members was admitted to the Carl R Darnell Medical Facility, for supposed suicidal tendency's.

We had just seen this member not to long ago and knew he was having problems with his chain of command for wearin a IVAW shirt on post.

The chain of command told to soldier to report to staff duty and once he got there was placed on line of sight and taken to the ER because (according to the chain of command) someone had “called” staff duty to tell them that there soldier was going to kill himself.

Our member was shocked by this news went along peacefully making sure to say that he was NOT suicidal but would get evaluated to put his chain of command worries at ease...

The rest of the chapter got the news of this and was concerned, and wanted to see if they could help so five of us piled into a car and went down there to the ER.

At the ER our member was not in the waiting room so after asking if he had been admitted we told a seat and sat quietly to wait for the arrival of our friend.

Apparently we were not allowed sit in there waiting to see if our friend was ok...

the police told us that the hospitals standard operating procedure was to only allow family and chain of command in there, which is false, but we left respectfully after the police said that we were trying to make a statement, witch for the record we were not! long story short a group of veterans can't sit in the hospital wearing IAW shirts lol.

**\*\* ATTENTION \*\***

**the member has since been released from the hospital and now is restricted to post and told not to wear his IAW shirt anymore, by the same chain of command that threatened the soldier saying “i will kick your ass if i ever see you wearing that shirt ever again”**

**Last time I spoke to this soldier he was still wearing it and is filing complainants against his chain of command!**



## **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

## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Texas Soldier Killed In Kandahar**



U.S. Army Spc. Joseph M. Lewis, 26, of Terrell, Texas. The Fort Lewis Washington soldier died Nov. 17, 2009 in Kandahar, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when his vehicle hit an improvised explosive device. (AP Photo/US Army)

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### **RMP Soldier Killed In Afghanistan On 18 November**

18 Nov 09 Ministry of Defence

It is with sadness that the Ministry of Defence must confirm the death of a soldier from the Royal Military Police (RMP) in Afghanistan today.

The soldier was killed as a result of small arms fire in the Babaji area of central Helmand province during the morning of 18 November 2009.

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### **Danish Soldier Dies Of Afghan Wounds**

18. November 2009 Nordvestnyt.dk

The 22-year-old constable Rune Westye Zacharias Nielsen was hit by an explosive device. It happened while he was on footpatrol in Afghanistan.

The 22-year-old constable Rune Westye Zacharias Nielsen, Kalundborg, died Tuesday evening at the National Hospital of injuries he suffered on 31 October in Afghanistan.

Gen Niels Henrik Bundgaard, Chief of Army Operational Command said in a statement:

I regret with sorrow to announce that we are on Tuesday 17 November lost one of our soldiers as constable Rune Westye Zacharias Nielsen died of his injuries at Rigshospitalet.

Rune Westye Zacharias Nielsen belonged 2, scouting department in 2nd facilitate opklaringseskadron compiled on Bornholm and a part of Gardehusarregimentet from Antvorskov Barracks

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## **FUTILE EXERCISE: ALL HOME NOW!**



U.S. Army soldiers of 3/509PIR infantry 4BDE25ID Task Force Geronimo near Tillman camp in Patikra Province November 8, 2009. REUTERS/Bruno Domingos

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## **Rocket Attack Hits Luxury Hotel For Foreign Occupiers**

11.21.09 AFP

A rocket attack that hit the luxury Serena Hotel in Kabul has injured four people, including two members of the Afghan security forces, a spokesman for Afghanistan's health ministry said Saturday.

One rocket hit the wall of the five-star hotel in downtown Kabul at 6.15 pm (1345 GMT), Ahmad Farid Raaid, health ministry spokesman, told AFP.

It is Kabul's only five-star hotel and has been heavily-fortified since the 2008 attack. It is the hotel of choice for visiting VIPs.

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## **TROOP NEWS**

**THIS IS HOW OBAMA BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME:  
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE**



The hearse containing the body of Army Reservist Spc. Christopher James Coffland following a funeral Mass at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, Nov. 21, 2009, in Baltimore. Coffland, 43, died Nov. 13, 2009 in a roadside bombing in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Rob Carr)

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**G.I. Voice Rally Outside Ft. Lewis:**



**“Military Passersby Responded  
Enthusiastically To A Banner  
Protesting The Afghanistan War”  
“As Soon As The Soldiers Saw That  
Sign In Particular, They Were  
Waving”  
“They Were Giving Peace Signs”**



Seth Manzel, left, and Andrew VanDenBergh, Iraq vets who oppose the war, reach out to weary soldiers at their cafe outside the Ft. Lewis base in Washington. (Kim Murphy / Los Angeles Times)

**“Another case,” Manzel recalled, “a guy came in and said, ‘I’m gonna kill my platoon sergeant.’ He said, ‘I just came from the psychiatrist. I told him this and they said I was deployable.’**

**“He showed us the paperwork. . . . It said, ‘Latent hostility towards chain of command.’**

November 16, 2009 By Kim Murphy, Los Angeles Times [Excerpts]

Reporting from Lakewood, Wash. - For an Army weary from war, they offer tea and sympathy -- along with double tall lattes, caramel macchiatos and leads on civilian jobs.

At Coffee Strong, outside the gates of the sprawling Ft. Lewis Army base, the brew is served up by veterans and comes with a shot of solidarity.

“There’s no way you can spend five years of your life being deployed in Iraq and be a normal human being when you come back to the United States. You’re pretty far gone by that time,” Seth Manzel, who spent two years in Iraq with the Army’s 1st Stryker Brigade, said as he poured free drinks Wednesday in honor of Veterans Day. “We wanted to get involved in something that would help.”

Business was light -- Ft. Lewis has 18,000 soldiers deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq, and many of the rest took advantage of the holiday to sleep in. But a typical morning at the coffeehouse sees tables filled with men and women in fatigues, sipping drinks, scanning computers free of charge and reading newspapers.

Schubert played over the sound system that sometimes features live folk concerts, hip-hop performances or someone banging on the piano under the “Support War Resisters” poster that spans much of one wall.

During the Vietnam War, GI coffeehouses sprang up to provide a support system for disillusioned veterans returning to a hostile public. Now they are making a comeback among active military and combat veterans frustrated with what they consider a lack of access to medical and counseling services, and former soldiers convinced that the best way to help their comrades is to end the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Most people think of this war as very abstract, as something about military and foreign policy in Washington, D.C.,” said Zoltan Grossman, a geography professor at Evergreen State College in nearby Olympia, Wash. “But here we see and hear the war every day.

“Soldiers understand the people that are in their command, that are supposedly . . . going to help them, that’s not actually their job,” said Coffee Strong’s manager, Andrew VanDenBergh, 27. The onetime Marine, who was stationed at Twentynine Palms, was part of the initial assault on Iraq in 2004.

“A first sergeant’s job, in theory, is to help out their soldiers. But really they’re working all day doing all kinds of other things -- planning, training, doing logistics. And at the end of the day, they need to move numbers with names attached to them from one column to the other column. And if your medical condition is getting in the way, that’s not going to stop them.”

One former military policewoman sought help at Coffee Strong because her arm had been injured during an initial tour in Afghanistan. The Army was preparing to redeploy her -- before having needed surgery -- until the shop staff put her in touch with a soldiers medical advocates organization.

**“Another case,” Manzel recalled, “a guy came in and said, ‘I’m gonna kill my platoon sergeant.’**

We said, ‘You should seek mental help.’ He said, ‘I just came from the psychiatrist. I told him this and they said I was deployable.’



**“He showed us the paperwork. . . . It said, ‘Latent hostility towards chain of command.’**

“I’m telling you, it’s systemic,” Manzel said. “They have to do this to keep the numbers up. The Army cannot take care of soldiers the way it says it will and keep a force that’s able to support wars on two fronts. It’s just not possible.”

The staff at Coffee Strong said it had found a receptive audience among Ft. Lewis’ 31,000 military personnel -- at least among those who have wandered into the shop.

Most young service members join not because they want to go to war but because they have few other good options, said Manzel, 30, who wears a black T-shirt declaring his opposition to the Iraq war. “I joined the Army after 9/11, when the economy took a downturn. I was working in a gun store. I had a daughter and a wife to support. . . . The Army was a good fit,” he said.

“Being in Iraq pretty much solidified my view that the war was wrong. At first, I thought maybe there’s some good that can be done. But once I saw the overall strategy . . . I could see there’s no way Iraq is going to be able to pull out in the foreseeable future.”

Nearly 200 Ft. Lewis soldiers have died in Iraq, and at least 46 in Afghanistan and the Philippines.

Soldiers, Manzel said, “need to know there’s support in the community. “They need to know if they get in trouble for refusing an illegal order, by God, the community’s going to get together and get them a lawyer.”

G.I. Voice recently held a rally outside Ft. Lewis in support of two soldiers incarcerated there, one for resisting deployment to Afghanistan and one for leaving his unit to help find his family a place to live.

Grossman said military passersby responded enthusiastically to a banner protesting the Afghanistan war.

“As soon as the soldiers saw that sign in particular, they were waving,” he said. “They were giving peace signs.”



**“I’m Not Going To Hide Behind  
False Brotherhood”**

**“He Said Hatley Betrayed His  
Soldiers That Day”**

**After Sgt. Reports Murders Of Iraqi  
Detainees, Shit-Eating Scumbag  
Lawyer For A Murderer Threatens  
Him With Death:**

**“If I Were Sgt. Cunningham, I’d Be  
Worried That, Having Broken The Band  
Of Brothers, Something Might Happen  
To Me”**

[99.99% of those who have served in Iraq are not freaks who murder detainees in cold blood. When the lawyer says those soldiers are “brothers” to Hartley, he throws his filth on them all. T]

**A CNN documentary reports on the murders of four Iraqis by three decorated Army sergeants. Soldiers speak out about what happened.**

**Watch Saturday and Sunday at 8 and 11 p.m. ET on CNN.**

November 20, 2009 By Abbie Boudreau and Scott Zamost, CNN Special Investigations Unit [Excerpts]

Bakersfield, California (CNN) -- A former Army sergeant who revealed the murders of four Iraqis at a canal in 2007 says he has no regrets about breaking his silence.

“I did the right thing,” Jess Cunningham told CNN’s “AC360” “I’m not going to hide behind false brotherhood.”

Nine months after the March 2007 murders, Cunningham told his Army lawyer what had happened at the canal. Eventually, three sergeants would be convicted of premeditated murder and conspiracy to commit premeditated murder.

“These men are not heroes. They’re not saviors,” Cunningham said.

First Sgt. John Hatley, Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Mayo and Sgt. Michael Leahy are all serving terms at the U.S. military prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

A CNN investigation revealed that Hatley was frustrated with the rules for taking in detainees, which spelled out what was needed to gather evidence. By all accounts, Hatley believed the four Iraqis would be released from a detention facility because there was not enough evidence to hold them.

**CNN obtained 23½ hours of extraordinary Army interrogation tapes in which soldiers who were at the canal that day detail what happened. The tapes include a confession by Leahy, who admits he killed one detainee and shot another.**

**Cunningham told his attorney about the murders when he was facing military discipline in late 2008 for assaulting Leahy and being disrespectful to an officer.**

He said he waited to break his silence until he returned to his military base in Schweinfurt, Germany. He said he was afraid of reporting the crime while he was in Iraq, fearing his fellow soldiers would turn on him. Based on Cunningham's information, the Army launched an investigation in January 2008.

**Asked why he did not report the crime earlier, Cunningham said, "Retaliation. Fear of being alone, fear of being the only one that had a problem with it, fear of so many things that could have happened to me."**

Cunningham was among 13 soldiers at the canal. He and another sergeant were charged with conspiracy to commit premeditated murder, but the charges were dropped. Cunningham received immunity for testifying.

David Court, who is Hatley's attorney, said Cunningham "did not come forward for any altruistic motive. He only mentioned this because he thought it would get him less punishment. He didn't do it because he thought, 'I've got to blow the whistle.' "

Court said, "If I were Sgt. Cunningham, I'd be worried that, having broken the band of brothers, something might happen to me."

Cunningham said that is exactly why he did not come forward earlier.

"I don't really care what other people think of me," he said. "I don't worry. I'm not gonna lose any sleep. I did the right thing that day."

**He said Hatley betrayed his soldiers that day.**

**"He betrayed the military, and you can't sit there and tell people what's right and wrong when you go out there and do the wrong thing, but it's all right because you do it (for) the better good."**

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**Charges By Intelligence Officers  
Rock Canadian War Regime:  
He Launches A Crushing Attack  
On Government's Stupid Lies  
About Afghan Prisoners:  
"The Information Was Being  
Concealed Not From The Taliban, But  
From Nato, The Red Cross And The  
Canadian Public"  
"He Repeatedly Warned Senior Canadian  
Officials In Ottawa That Detainees Were  
Being Tortured"**

**"If we go into a village and take away three Afghans, everyone in the village knows exactly who we have taken," he explained.**

**"In practice, the information was being concealed not from the Taliban, but from NATO, the Red Cross and the Canadian public."**

11.21.09 By David Pugliese, The Ottawa Citizen & 20 November 2009 Julian Borger in Halifax, Guardian News [Excerpts]. [Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Resistance.. who sent this in.]

Canadian soldiers may have turned over as many as 580 detainees to Afghan security forces in the first 18 months of operations in Kandahar.

The Department of National Defence has refused to provide information on the number of Afghans taken into custody by Canadian troops, claiming that releasing such details would aid the Taliban.

However, the British government doesn't see a need for such secrecy and has informed its parliament that in the period from the beginning of 2006 to the summer of 2007 its soldiers took into custody 97 Afghans.

The detainees were briefly held before being transferred to Afghan authorities.

Foreign Affairs official Richard Colvin testified at a Canadian House of Commons committee on Thursday that as of May 2007, Canada had transferred to Afghan authorities six times as many detainees as the British.

**Defence Minister Peter MacKay acknowledged that Canada detains more Afghans than other nations but said that “is a tribute to the good work being done by the Canadian Armed Forces in Afghanistan today.”**

**Many of the Afghans detained by Canadian soldiers were of little or no value in providing information about insurgent activities, said Colvin, who dealt with detainee and intelligence issues in Afghanistan.**

He is now the deputy head of the intelligence liaison office at the Canadian Embassy in Washington.

**“Some of these Afghans may have been footsoldiers or day fighters, but many were just local people, farmers, truck drivers, tailors, peasants, random human beings in the wrong place at the wrong time, young men in their fields and villages, who were completely innocent, but were nevertheless rounded up,” Colvin testified.**

**“In other words, we detained, and handed over for severe torture, a lot of innocent people.”**

Colvin said his complaints about the torture of Afghans were “mostly ignored” for a year.

**After that he was told by government officials to keep quiet and to express his concerns by telephone rather than put them on paper.**

For the second straight day, the Conservative government continued with its attacks on the public servant, questioning his credibility and how he did his job in Afghanistan.

Echoing claims by MacKay and Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke MP Cheryl Gallant, Transport Minister and Ottawa West-Nepean MP John Baird suggested Friday that Colvin had been duped by the Taliban.

Opposition MPs have countered with questions about why Colvin was promoted to his Washington job if his reports from the field were not credible.

MacKay has also acknowledged that Colvin’s concerns about prisoner abuse did lead to changes being made that improved how detainees were being treated.

Neither the Canadian government nor military has provided a full explanation on why the militaries of some other countries, such as Britain, release details about the number of detainees being captured. As of this month, the British military notes it has detained more than 480 Afghans.

**Retired Gen. Rick Hillier and Brig.-Gen. Peter Atkinson have claimed that releasing such numbers would provide valuable information to the insurgents.**



**But Stephen Henthorne, a NATO senior adviser, said the Taliban are quickly informed by the local population about international military activities so he questioned the secrecy on the actual number of detainees taken into custody over the years.**

Some Canadian military officers privately acknowledge that without specific details about the locations and dates that Afghans were taken prisoner, the number of detainees is of little use to insurgents.

They suggest the issue is more about the military taking steps to avoid any kind of controversy for the government.

**In his testimony, Colvin also said the secrecy around the detainee numbers made little sense.**

**“If we go into a village and take away three Afghans, everyone in the village knows exactly who we have taken,” he explained.**

**“In practice, the information was being concealed not from the Taliban, but from NATO, the Red Cross and the Canadian public.”**

Canada’s detainee policies have alienated Canadian troops from the local population and strengthened the insurgency, he added.

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

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

## **Good News #1: Sgt. Who Abused Troops In Iraq And Then Lied About It Sentenced To Six Months In Jail**

11.21.09 AFP

A US soldier who abused fellow troops in Iraq and then lied about it was on Saturday sentenced to six months in jail, fined almost 6,000 dollars and demoted, the American military said.

Sergeant Jarrett Taylor was one of four US soldiers, all members of B Troop, 2nd Squadron, 13th Cavalry Regiment, based out of Fort Bliss, Texas, who were charged with a range of offences on August 19.

Taylor, 23, was convicted at a court martial in Kuwait of cruelty and maltreatment and of making a false official statement, the military said.

“He was sentenced to confinement for 180 days, reduction to the rank of Private E-1 (the lowest rank in the army), and forfeiture of 933 dollars in pay for six months,” an army statement said.

Taylor, from Edmond, Oklahoma, faced four charges: two of cruelty and maltreatment, one charge of making false official statements, and another of reckless endangerment, according to the indictment issued in August.

The maximum penalty for those charges was eight years’ imprisonment. Taylor could also have been dishonourably discharged from the army and forced to forfeit all pay and allowances.

Of the three other soldiers charged alongside Taylor in August, Specialist Daniel Weber, 24, from Frankenmuth, Michigan, whose offences were unspecified, was discharged in lieu of court martial, the statement said.

Staff Sergeant Bob Clements and Staff Sergeant Enoch Chatman are still awaiting trial, the military added.

Clements, 29, faces nine charges, including four counts of cruelty and maltreatment, three counts of making false official statements, one charge of reckless endangerment and one charge of impeding an investigation.

He faces a maximum penalty of 25 years in a military jail.

Chatman, 30, faces a total of six charges, comprising four counts of cruelty and maltreatment, one charge of making false official statements and another of reckless endangerment.

The maximum penalty for such charges is 10 years in military jail.

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## **Good News #2: Woman Wins \$2.93 Million From KBR For Sexual Assault And Other Harassment In Iraq:**

# Feds Refused To Take Any Action Against State Department Employee Who Attacked Her

Nov. 20, 2009 By DREW SANDHOLM, ABC News [Excerpts]

Tracy Barker, who says a U.S. State Department employee sexually assaulted her in Iraq in 2005 has won \$2.93 million in arbitration from KBR, the military contracting company that employed her.

**As ABC News exclusively reported, the federal government had refused to prosecute the man Barker says attacked her, even though the State Department recommended he be charged.**

"I'm happy with the award," said Barker. "It's enough to cover some of my injuries."

Barker, 38, a mother of five who now lives in Yuma, Ariz., reported that in 2005, State Department employee Ali Mokhtare assaulted her at the company-run camp in Basra, Iraq.

She filed suit against KBR and Halliburton in 2007, and then entered private arbitration after a federal judge dismissed the suit. Halliburton officially severed its connection to KBR in April 2007.

**Mokhtare was a diplomatic official in Basra who first came to Iraq as a Farsi translator interviewing detainees. The U.S. Diplomatic Security Service investigated the allegations against Mokhtare and presented the case to the Justice Department for prosecution, but "the case was declined for prosecution," states a document obtained by ABC News.**

**Investigators also asked that the State Department suspend Mokhtare's security clearance, but according to a handwritten note at the bottom of the document, that request was denied.**

Mokhtare denied that he had attempted to rape Barker, but admitted that he had gone too far with her, and signed a statement to that effect, which ABC News obtained. He "admitted that he pulled her vest and shirt" and that he asked Barker, "What do you have behind there?"

Barker sued KBR and former parent company Halliburton in May 2007. Her suit included allegations of rampant sexual harassment at the Basra camp that began as soon as she arrived.

"When I arrived in Basra, there were about five men that worked on the camp for the company I worked for and they were waiting for me," Barker told ABC News in a 2007 interview.

“I was told they wanted to see what I look like,” she said, “to make sure I was decent looking before they approved my transfer.”

**In September, a federal appeals court in New Orleans ruled that a similar lawsuit filed by another ex-contract worker, Jamie Leigh Jones, could go to court instead of arbitration. Like Barker, Jones had signed a contract requiring her to deal with sexual assault allegations through arbitration.**

**Jones filed suit in Beaumont, Texas in 2007 claiming she was drugged and gang-raped by Halliburton and KBR firefighters on her fourth day on the job at a different Iraq facility, Baghdad’s Camp Hope, in 2005.**

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## **Good News #3: Thieving Iraq War Profiteer Gets An Extra 15 Months In Prison For Hiding \$7 Million**

November 20, 2009 Ann McGlynn, The Quad-City Times

**A man who admitted to offering bribes to land multimillion-dollar, Arsenal-Island-based Iraq war contracts but who breached his plea deal with prosecutors by hiding more than \$7 million from federal authorities will spend 15 more months behind bars than his original sentence.**

Mohammad Shabbir Khan went to prison after pleading guilty in June 2006 to fraud, money-laundering conspiracy and making a false statement. Witness-tampering charges were dismissed as part of the plea deal.

However, as Khan’s prison time came to an end, the court ruled the deal Khan struck with officials was violated because he transferred \$7.3 million from a bank in Dubai to a bank account in his brother’s name in Pakistan in August 2006, despite statements to authorities that he could not get access to the money.

He was recently sentenced to 15 more months behind bars by Judge Joe B. McDade in U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois. He originally was sentenced to four years in prison for his crimes, in December 2006.

**He was in the process of being released when the government moved to rescind the plea agreement.**

“While Shabbir Khan was awaiting sentencing in 2006, he planned and executed a sophisticated scheme to obstruct justice by secretly transferring to a family member in Pakistan millions of dollars he was obligated to produce under the terms of his plea agreement. Khan recruited his brother Zahid to assist him, and utilized his son Shazib

and his defense lawyers to deceive the Court, the Probation Office, and the United States Attorney's Office," the prosecution's sentencing memo says.

"Now, even after several years in prison, and a hearing that exposed his fraud, Khan gins up a consultant's report, files a frivolous lawsuit, and gallingly offers this to the Court as evidence of his innocence. Ultimately, what the Court is seeing are the actions of a defendant who is incapable of respecting the rule of law, or conforming his behavior to it."

**Khan, a manager for Tamimi Global Co., provided a KBR manager with a prostitute and \$133,000 in exchange for multimillion-dollar dining hall contracts in Kuwait and Iraq overseen by an office on Arsenal Island, officials said.**

## **NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER**

Telling the truth - about the occupations or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance to Imperial wars inside the armed forces.

Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces.

If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> **And join with Iraq Veterans Against the War to end the occupations and bring all troops home now! ([www.ivaw.org/](http://www.ivaw.org/))**



11-13-09 THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, UNIVERSAL UCCUCK.



## 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**

## ***November 22, 1909*** **Heroic Anniversary: The First General Strike By Women In The U.S.**



Carl Bunin Peace History November 19-25

In New York City, the International Ladies Garment Workers Union went on strike against sweatshop conditions in what became known as the “Uprising of the 20,000” and the “Girl’s Revolt.”

The strikers won the support of other workers and the women’s suffrage movement for their persistence and unity in the face of police brutality and biased courts.

**A judge told arrested pickets: “You are on strike against God.”**

This was the first mass strike by women in the U.S.

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## **“I Am Tired Of Listening To Speakers Who Talk In Generalities” “I Offer A Resolution That A General Strike Be Declared – Now!”**

Excerpt from Forged in Freedom: Shaping the Jewish-American Experience, by Norman H. Finkelstein. (JPS, 2002)

In September 1909, Clara and other women could no longer tolerate their harsh working conditions. They walked out of the Leiserson factory and went on strike.

Within a few days the strike spread to the workers at the nearby Triangle Shirtwaist Company. Day after day the young women strikers picketed the factories to let the public know they were on strike and to prevent replacement workers from entering the factories. They walked up and down the sidewalk in front of the buildings; some carried signs while others chanted and sang.

**The factory owners hired gangs of tough men to frighten the pickets. As the mostly Jewish and Italian teenage girls peacefully walked the picket lines they were threatened and pushed by the ruffians. Women were beaten, punched and thrown to the ground. Many were badly hurt. The police did little to prevent the violence ... During one attack in mid-November Clara and two other young women were so badly beaten the police had to rush them to a hospital.**

Eleven weeks after walking out of the Leiserson and Triangle companies, the women workers saw no end to the bloody strike. While they were on strike they earned no money, and the poor women faced a harsh, hungry and cold winter.

**Union leaders realized that the only quick way to improve working conditions and wages was to shut down every shirtwaist factory in New York.**

On November 22, 1909, thousands of shirtwaist workers gathered in the Cooper Union Auditorium. It was time to make a decision ...

The audience cheered a succession of speakers, finally focusing their attention on Samuel Gompers, the best-known speaker of the evening. He was the founder and president of America's most powerful union, the American Federation of Labor ...

**After two hours of cautious speeches with no end in site, “a thin wisp of a girl” asked to speak.**

**As she stepped onto the platform, the crowd quieted. Everyone knew Clara Lemlich, the brave union worker who had just been released from the hospital. She still showed signs of the violent beating she received on the picket line. Her words, spoken in clear and passionate Yiddish, echoed through the hall.**

It was a clarion call to action.

**“I have listened to all the speakers, and I have no further patience for talk.**

**“I am a working girl, one of those striking against intolerable conditions.**

**“I am tired of listening to speakers who talk in generalities.**

**“What we are here for is to decide whether or not to strike.**

**“I offer a resolution that a general strike be declared – now!”**

**The audience erupted into wild applause. People jumped from their seats, cheered and waved handkerchiefs. This was the moment they had waited for ...**

**Within two days the entire shirtwaist industry in New York City was shut down.**

No one had predicted the resolve of the strikers. Twenty thousand workers, mainly Jewish and Italian teenage girls and young women, marched in picket lines before factories throughout lower Manhattan ...

Newspapers widely reported on the brutality against the strikers. Other women, wealthy and educated, decided to prevent the brutality and unfair arrests. With great publicity, they joined the poorly dressed and ill-fed immigrant women workers on the picket lines

The brave struggle of Clara Lemlich and the other women workers is known as the “Uprising of the Twenty Thousand.”

**By February 15, 1910, it was over. The strikers won a shorter workweek of fifty-two hours, higher wages and the end of unfair deductions for supplies, chairs and lockers.**

### **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](mailto: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**

## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



## CLASS WAR REPORTS

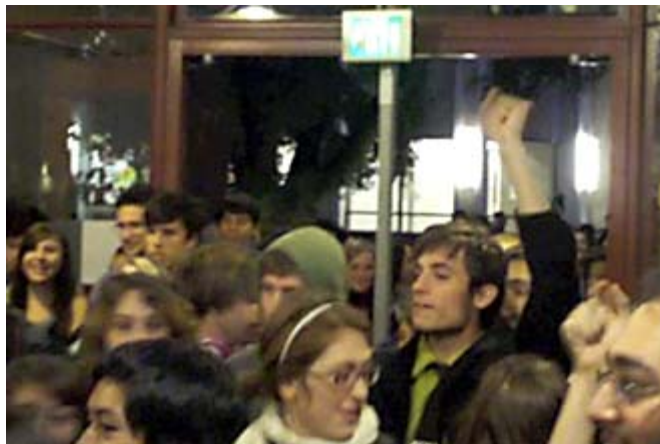


[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Resistance, who sent this in.]



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# **Cut In Library Hours Leads To Library Occupation At University Of California Santa Cruz: “Campus Authorities Tried Everything In Their Power To Prevent The Event From Happening-- Including Lies, Broken Promises, Threats And Intimidation” “Administrators Forced To Back Down”**



UC Santa Cruz students push through the library entrance chanting “Whose university? Our university!” (Indybay.org)

**Crucially, many of those who participated were working-class students who genuinely wanted to use the library to study for coursework and finals. These people represent new forces being drawn into the movement for the first time.**

November 18, 2009 By Ian Steinman, Melissa Cornelius and James Illingworth from University of California Santa Cruz; Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

[A]round 250 students took over the Science and Engineering Library at UC Santa Cruz on the evening of Friday, November 13.

The 24-hour “study-in” to protest restricted library hours was the largest building occupation yet in the growing movement to defend public education.

**Due to the ongoing budget crisis, the library on campus was scheduled to close at 5 p.m. on Friday and remain closed all day Saturday, denying students the opportunity to study in the run-up to finals.**

**In protest, activists organized an inspiring example of mass action and democratic decision-making, and successfully kept the library open until Saturday evening.**

Last Friday's library occupation at Santa Cruz was inspired by an action at UC Berkeley in October, in which over 100 students took over a campus library to protest reduced opening hours.

Students had been planning and publicizing the event for several weeks, and had managed to create a buzz on campus. By November 13, almost 900 people had responded to the event's Facebook page, and thousands more had seen flyers posted on campus.

Plus, by choosing the Science and Engineering Library, the organizers attempted to reach out to a section of the campus population--science students--who had previously not been very active in the movement.

Finally, organizers gave the event a clear and achievable goal--keeping the library open so that students could use it to study.

Throughout the action, students were democratic and inclusive.

By contrast, campus authorities tried everything in their power to prevent the event from happening--including lies, broken promises, threats and intimidation.

ON THE day of the study-in, dozens of students began to gather at the library entrance some two hours before its scheduled closing time.

To their surprise, university authorities demanded that everyone entering the building after 3 p.m. would have to hand over their ID. This raised concerns about potential administrative repression, given that some student activists are already facing disciplinary procedures related to previous actions on campus.

The group as a whole decided to reject this condition for entering the library.

After more than an hour of tense discussions between activists and administrators, an agreement emerged.

People entering the library would show their IDs and sign a list of names to be maintained in the joint custody of a librarian and a student activist. The list would be handed over to students and destroyed once they left the library.

As closing time approached, dozens of students crowded into the library entrance, waiting for the administration to sign a statement formalizing the agreement.

**At the last minute, campus authorities went back on their word and stated that a copy of the list would remain with the head librarian, thus threatening student activists with future reprisals.**

When the growing crowd of students heard about the administration's behavior, the response was unanimous.

**The whole body of 150 students marched into the library, chanting "Whose university? Our university!" and "Whose books? Our books!"**

**More students poured in behind them, bringing the total number in the library to over 200.**

**The campus authorities looked on helplessly.**

A second confrontation began a couple hours later.

**The administration locked the library doors, preventing students who had left to get food from re-entering the building.**

**Students on the inside immediately called an emergency assembly, and over 100 signaled their willingness to engage in direct action to open the doors.**

A heated exchange followed in which the administration refused to open the doors unless all students left at midnight--even though it had already acknowledged the action would continue until 5 p.m. the next day.

**Faced with a demonstration of student resolve, however, the administration gave in and accepted a proposal in which the students as a whole would decide whether or not to stay overnight.**

Amid cheers, chants and an infectious feeling of triumph, the doors were unlocked and another wave of 50 students poured in.

**Soon, 300 students were occupying the library, and the administration was forced to concede defeat. The study-in continued through to the next day, as originally planned.**

Crucially, many of those who participated were working-class students who genuinely wanted to use the library to study for coursework and finals.

These people represent new forces being drawn into the movement for the first time.

The action was successful not only in achieving its stated objectives, but more importantly in mobilizing and radicalizing a broad new layer of students.

It brought together the more radical wing of the movement and a large group of students who were new to activism, and represented a meaningful escalation of the political consciousness of the student body.

By meeting students where they were willing to go, both in action and politics, and then involving them in confrontations with the administration from which they emerged morally and practically victorious, the occupation pointed the way forward for future actions at UC Santa Cruz.

MORE:

## **Firestorm California: 32% University Tuition Hike Meet By Spreading Building Occupations: 2,000 Students Confront The U.C. Board Of Regents**



Student protesters at UCLA have faced tear gas, tasers and arrests

November 20, 2009 By Todd Chretien, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

NEARLY 2,000 students from University of California campuses--including Berkeley, Los Angeles, Santa Cruz, Santa Barbara, Riverside, Irvine and San Diego--converged on UCLA's campus November 19 to confront the UC Board of Regents as it voted to increase tuition by 32 percent next school year.

Several hundred students surrounded the Regents' meeting, chanting, "UC Regents, I see racists!" and "Lay off Yudof," referring to UC President Mark Yudof. Workers and students disrupted the meeting, and 14 people were arrested, as large numbers of police lined up to defend the Regents.

After the Regents voted for the fee hike, students held a die-in, blocking the busy intersection of Wilshire and Westwood for several minutes.

**But protests began earlier in the day, even before the sun came up, when around 30 students occupied Campbell Hall with a banner reading, "In solidarity with university occupations everywhere."**

The action came in the middle of a three-day system-wide protest, anchored around a strike by members of the University Professional and Technical Employees union at UCLA and UC Berkeley, which was supported by Coalition of University Employees union members and others.

**On Wednesday, around 500 students, faculty and staff blockaded the main entrances to UC Santa Cruz, and more than 150 students occupied Kresge Town Hall in solidarity with the actions in LA.**

**On Thursday, over 250 occupied the Clark Kerr administration building.**

At Berkeley, in an ominous development, police have charged a student for “incitement to riot,” which could be a felony charge--and they moved aggressively to break up an attempted occupation of the Engineering Library.

Police also threatened students with arrest if they erected a tent city in historic Sproul Plaza, the birthplace of the Free Speech Movement during the 1960s.

**The police even shut down a planned teach-in in the Bear’s Lair, a campus café--on the grounds that the students were not authorized to use the cafeteria for the purposes of an educational event.**

**In response, students on the strike planning committee have issued an emergency call for a rally and march to the UC police department on Friday to oppose police intimidation.**

**Action also spread beyond the UCs, as around 100 students at San Francisco State University occupied the administration building for the afternoon, disrupting campus business.**

Nearby, over 500 students at City College of San Francisco marched through the campus before confronting the vice chancellor to demand that the administration support the call for a March 4 statewide strike to defend public education.



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END THE OCCUPATIONS**

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ALL TROOPS HOME NOW!**

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