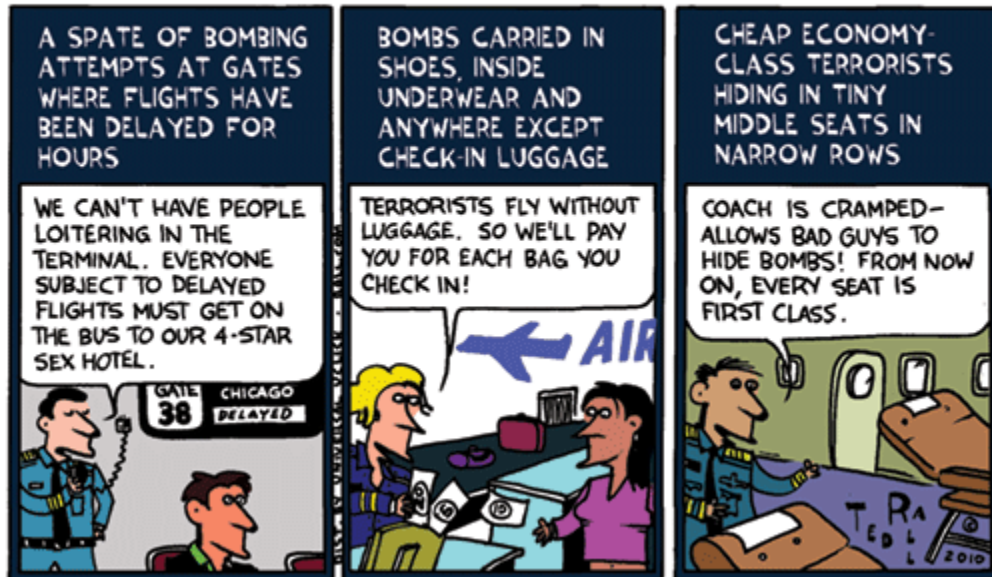


Military Resistance 8A11

EACH TERROR PLOT INSPIRES A BAN ON THE SAME EXACT ACT THE TERRORIST ATTEMPTED: LIQUIDS, SHOES, WALKING AROUND THE PLANE. SOON AL QAEDA WILL WIN OVER AMERICAN HEARTS AND MINDS WITH
TERROR PLOTS WE COULD REALLY USE



Haiti:

**The Reality Behind The Bullshit:
The Media Say “The Government
Was Completely Unprepared To
Deal With The Crisis”**

“But They Left Out Why”

**“The U.S. Government And Other
Powers Have Aided The Haitian Elite In
Subjecting The Country To Neoliberal**

Economic Plans That Have Impoverished The Masses, Deforested The Land, Wrecked The Infrastructure And Incapacitated The Government”

January 14th, 2010 by Ashley Smith, Dissident Voice [Excerpts]

A devastating earthquake, the worst in 200 years, struck Port-au-Prince on Tuesday, laying waste to the city and killing untold numbers of people.

The weak Préval government was unable to respond to the crisis, and the United Nations — which occupies Haiti with close to 9,000 troops — was completely unprepared to manage the situation.

Many UN leaders and troops died in buildings that collapsed, including their own headquarters.

International Red Cross spokesman Paul Conneally said that 3 million out of Haiti's 9 million people would need international emergency aid in the coming weeks just to survive. The UN, U.S., European Union, Canada and countless non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have promised humanitarian aid.

The corporate media at least reported that shifting tectonic plates along a fault line underneath Port-au-Prince caused the earthquake — and that Haiti's poverty and the incapacity of the Préval government made the disaster so much worse. But they didn't delve below the surface.

“The media coverage of the earthquake is marked by an almost complete divorce of the disaster from the social and political history of Haiti,” Canadian Haiti solidarity activist Yves Engler said in an interview.

“They repeatedly state that the government was completely unprepared to deal with the crisis.

“This is true. But they left out why.”

Why were 60 percent of the buildings in Port-au-Prince shoddily constructed and unsafe in normal circumstances, according to the city's mayor?

Why are there no building regulations in a city that sits on a fault line? Why has Port-au-Prince swelled from a small town of 50,000 in the 1950s to a population of two million desperately poor people today? Why was the state completely overwhelmed by the disaster?

To understand these facts, we have to look at a second fault line — US imperial policy toward Haiti.

The US government, the UN, and other powers have aided the Haitian elite in subjecting the country to neoliberal economic plans that have impoverished the masses, deforested the land, wrecked the infrastructure and incapacitated the government.

The fault line of U.S. imperialism interacted with the geological one to turn the natural disaster into a social catastrophe.

During the Cold War, the U.S. supported the dictatorships of Papa Doc Duvalier and then Baby Doc Duvalier — which ruled the country from 1957 to 1986 — as an anti-communist counterweight to Castro's Cuba nearby.

Under guidance from Washington, Baby Doc Duvalier opened the Haitian economy up to US capital in the 1970s and 1980s.

Floods of US agricultural imports destroyed peasant agriculture. As a result, hundreds of thousands of people flocked to the teeming slums of Port-au-Prince to labor for pitifully low wages in sweatshops located in US export processing zones.

In the 1980s, masses of Haitians rose up to drive the Duvaliers from power — later, they elected reformer Jean-Bertrand Aristide to be president on a platform of land reform, aid to peasants, reforestation, investment in infrastructure for the people, and increased wages and union rights for sweatshop workers.

The U.S. in turn backed a coup that drove Aristide from power in 1991.

Eventually, the elected president was restored to power in 1994 when Bill Clinton sent US troops to the island — but on the condition that he implement the US neoliberal plan — which Haitians called the “plan of death.”

Aristide resisted parts of the US program for Haiti, but implemented other provisions, undermining his hoped-for reforms. Eventually, though, the US grew impatient with Aristide's failure to obey completely, especially when he demanded \$21 billion in reparations during his final year in office. The U.S. imposed an economic embargo that strangled the country, driving peasants and workers even deeper into poverty.

In 2004, Washington collaborated with Haiti's ruling elite to back death squads that toppled the government, kidnapped and deported Aristide.

The United Nations sent troops to occupy the country, and the puppet government of Gérard Latortue was installed to continue Washington's neoliberal plans.

Latortue's brief regime was utterly corrupt — he and his cronies pocketed large portions of the \$4 billion poured into the country by the U.S. and other powers when they ended their embargo.

The regime dismantled the mild reforms Aristide had managed to implement. Thus, the pattern of impoverishment and degradation of the country's infrastructure accelerated.

In the 2006 elections, the Haitian masses voted in longtime Aristide ally René Prével as president. But Prével has been a weak figure who collaborated with U.S. plans for the country and failed to address the growing social crisis.

In fact, the U.S., UN and other imperial powers effectively bypassed the Prével government and instead poured money into NGOs.

“Haiti now has the highest per capita presence of NGOs in the world,” says Yves Engler. The Prével government has become a political fig leaf, behind which the real decisions are made by the imperial powers, and implemented through their chosen international NGOs.

The real state power isn't the Prével government, but the US-backed United Nations occupation.

Under Brazilian leadership, UN forces have protected the rich and collaborated with — or turned a blind eye to — right-wing death squads who terrorize supporters of Aristide and his Lavalas Party.

The occupiers have done nothing to address the poverty, wrecked infrastructure and massive deforestation that have exacerbated the effects of a series of natural disasters — severe hurricanes in 2004 and 2008, and now the Port-au-Prince earthquake.

Instead, they merely police a social catastrophe, and in so doing, have committed the normal crimes characteristic of all police forces.

As Dan Beeton wrote in NACLA Report on the Americas, “The UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), which began its mission in June 2004, has been marred by scandals of killings, rape and other violence by its troops almost since it began.”

First the Bush administration and now the Obama administration have used the coup and social and natural crises to expand the US's neoliberal economic plans.

Under Obama, the U.S. has granted Haiti \$1.2 billion in debt relief, but it hasn't canceled all of Haiti's debt — the country still pays huge sums to the Inter-American Development Bank. The debt relief is classic window dressing for Obama's real Haiti policy, which is the same old Haiti policy.

In close collaboration with the new UN Special Envoy to Haiti, former President Bill Clinton, Obama has pushed for an economic program familiar to much of the rest of the Caribbean — tourism, textile sweatshops and weakening of state control of the economy through privatization and deregulation.

In particular, Clinton has orchestrated a plan for turning the north of Haiti into a tourist playground, as far away as possible from the teeming slums of Port-au-Prince. Clinton lured Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines into investing \$55 million to build a pier along the coastline of Labadee, which it has leased until 2050.

From there, Haiti's tourist industry hopes to lead expeditions to the mountaintop fortress Citadelle and the Palace of Sans Souci, both built by Henri Christophe, one of the leaders of Haiti's slave revolution.

According to the Miami Herald:

"The \$40 million plan involved transforming the now quaint town of Milot, home to the Citadelle and Palace of Sans Souci ruin, into a vibrant tourist village, with arts and crafts markets, restaurants and stoned streets. Guests would be ferried past a congested Cap-Haïtien to a bay, then transported by bus past peasant plantations. Once in Milot, they would either hike or horseback to the Citadelle . . . named a world heritage site in 1982 . . .

"Eco-tourism, archaeological exploration and voyeuristic visits to Vodou rituals are all being touted by Haiti's struggling boutique tourism industry, as Royal Caribbean plans to bring the world largest cruise ship here, sparking the need for excursions."

At the same time, Clinton's plans for Haiti include an expansion of the sweatshop industry to take advantage of cheap labor available from the urban masses. The U.S. granted duty-free treatment for Haitian apparel exports to make it easy for sweatshops to return to Haiti.

Clinton celebrated the possibilities of sweatshop development during a whirlwind tour of a textile plant owned and operated by the infamous Cintas Corp. He announced that George Soros had offered \$50 million for a new industrial park of sweatshops that could create 25,000 jobs in the garment industry. Clinton explained at a press conference that Haiti's government could create "more jobs by lowering the cost of doing business, including the cost of rent."

As TransAfrica founder Randall Robinson told Democracy Now! "That isn't the kind of investment that Haiti needs. It needs capital investment. It needs investment so that it can be self-sufficient. It needs investment so that it can feed itself."

One of the reasons why Clinton could be so unabashed in celebrating sweatshops is that the US-backed coup repressed any and all resistance.

It got rid of Aristide and his troublesome habit of raising the minimum wage.

It banished him from the country, terrorized his remaining allies and barred his political party, Fanmi Lavalas, the most popular in the country, from running for office.

The coup regime also attacked union organizers within the sweatshops themselves.

As a result, Clinton could state to business leaders: “Your political risk in Haiti is lower than it has ever been in my lifetime.”

Thus, as previous US presidencies have done before, the Obama administration has worked to aid Haiti’s elite, sponsor international corporations taking advantage of cheap labor, weaken the ability of the Haitian state to regulate the society, and repress any political resistance to that agenda.

These policies led directly to the incapacitated Haitian state, dilapidated infrastructure, poorly constructed buildings and desperate poverty that combined with the hurricanes and now the earthquake to turn natural disasters into social catastrophes.

While everyone should support the current outpouring of aid to help Haiti, no one should do so with political blinders on.

As Engler said:

Aid in Haiti has always been used to further imperial interests. This is obvious when you “look at how the U.S. and Canada treated the Aristide government in contrast to the coup regime. The U.S. and Canada starved Aristide of almost all aid. But then after the coup, they opened a floodgate of money to back some of the most reactionary forces in Haitian society.”

We should therefore agitate against any attempt by the U.S. and other powers to use this crisis to further impose their program on a prostrate country.

We should also be wary of the role of international NGOs.

While many NGOs are trying to address the crisis, the U.S. and other governments are funneling aid to them in order to undermine Haitians’ democratic right to self-determination.

The international NGOs are unaccountable to either the Haitian state or Haitian population. So the aid funneled through them further weakens what little hold Haitians have on their own society.

The Obama administration should also immediately lift the ban against Aristide’s return to Haiti, as well as the political ban on his party, Fanmi Lavalas, from participating in the electoral process.

After all, a known drug criminal and coup leader, Guy Philippe, and his Front for National Reconstruction (FRN) party has been allowed to participate in the electoral process. Aristide and his party, by contrast, are still the most popular political force in the country and should have the right to participate in an open and fair vote.

The U.S. should also stop deportations of Haitians who have fled their crisis-torn country and grant Temporary Protected Status to Haitian refugees. That would allow any Haitians who have fled the political and social crisis since the coup, the hurricanes and now the earthquake to remain legally in the U.S.

On top of that, we must demand that the U.S. stop imposing its neoliberal plans.

The U.S. has plundered Haitian society for decades.

Instead of Haiti owing any debt to the U.S., other countries or international financial institutions, the reverse is the case. The U.S., France, Canada and the UN owe the people of Haiti reparations to redress the imperial plunder of the country.

With these funds and political space, Haitians would be finally able to begin shaping their own political and economic future—the dream of the great slave revolution 200 years ago.

What You Can Do

The American solidarity organization Haiti Action [<http://www.haitiaction.net/>] is committed to raising money for Haiti's grassroots movement — including labor unions, women's groups, educators and human rights activists, support committees for prisoners, and agricultural cooperatives — to distribute to those in need.

You can make a donation to the Haiti Emergency Relief Fund online at:
<http://www.haitiaction.net/About/HERF/HERF.html>

MORE:

Why In Haiti



Medevac helicopter in my military unit in An Khe, Vietnam 1970

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance

Sent: January 16, 2010
Subject: Why In Haiti

Why In Haiti

It never ceases to amaze me concerning the intelligence of the U.S. Government-Military when it comes to saving lives in a major catastrophic event like the earthquake in Haiti four days ago.

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates has the nerve to tell the world that dropping food, water and medical supplies by air would have been a big mistake.

Does he think we are all stupid?

Does he think we are all stupid?

Gates makes a statement that doing so would do nothing but cause riots.

Riots?

Riots?

Does he think the Haitian people are little children, or African descendants of people who wouldn't know cotton from a corn stalk?

Here we go again.

New Orleans!!

One more time the U.S. Government acts like poor people are stupid.

In reality, the Haitian people are very intelligent people.

If emergency supplies had been dropped by air early, I am absolutely sure the people there would know how to share those life saving goods.

That's because they know how to love their families and neighbors.

It is kind of a universal thing that people do all over the world.

I believe the issue here is CONTROL.

I realize the earthquake hit an hour before dark, but these supplies should have been flown in the following morning.

You do this early in a disaster to prevent panic.

Getting heavy equipment in immediately to dig for survivors may be another thing.

But, flying in First Aid Equipment, and Food and Water is a must.

As a medic in Vietnam, who saw supplies flown in by a Chinook Helicopter, I know this can be done.

Dropping supplies by parachute is no different.

It's a No Brainer.

It's a done deal.

When people are dying by the tens of thousands, and you only have a small window of time to save their lives, you get very aggressive.

You drop mass quantities of supplies to save mass quantities of people.

**Do not underestimate the sensibilities of people on the ground.
Most people can act with profound decency.
I wonder what our rich politicians in Washington, D.C. would
have done if all those people in Port-au-Prince had been
their relatives dying in those first few hours?**

**Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
Jan. 16, 2010**

Photograph by Mike Hastie:
Medevac helicopter in my military unit in An Khe, Vietnam 1970.

**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)**

MORE:

**Pourquoi Aristide Ne Rentrerait-Il
Pas Chez Lui?:
“Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Comme Tout
Citoyen Haïtien, A Le Droit De
Rentrer Chez Lui Si Bon Lui Semble”
“S'il A Besoin D'une Autorisation, Il A
Celle De 9 Millions d'Haïtiens”**

From: Claude Ribbe
To: Military Resistance
Sent: January 16, 2010
Subject: Pourquoi Aristide ne rentrerait-il pas chez lui ?

Jean-Bertrand Aristide vient d'exprimer son intention de rentrer chez lui après 6 ans d'exil forcé en Afrique du sud sous la protection de la Caricom et de l'OUA.

Des “journalistes”, qui me semblent confondre information et propagande raciste, ont immédiatement ressorti les calomnies préparées en 2004 dans les officines de MM. Bush et de Villepin. Sous leur plume, l'enlèvement d'un président démocratiquement élu par les forces spéciales devient une “démission”.

La déstabilisation et le coup d'Etat organisé par 40 mercenaires pour 2 millions de dollars (dont deux seulement ont été versés par les pingres commanditaires, ce qui a sauvé la vie du président) deviennent une "victoire de l'opposition". M. Eric Bosc, "diplomate" français spécialisé dans les basses-oeuvres, qui vient d'être expulsé de son poste au Togo pour ingérence dans les affaires du pays et qui servait précédemment à Port au Prince dans le rôle peu glorieux de manipulateur de la presse française, pourrait certainement apporter un témoignage intéressant sur le rôle de Paris dans cette sale affaire.

Véronique Albanel, née de Villepin, actuellement dame patronnesse à Sciences Po, pourrait également nous éclairer sur la partie qu'elle a jouée, envoyée qu'elle était chez les "nègres" par son frère telle une nouvelle Pauline Bonaparte.

Le plus répugnant était certainement Régis Debray, aujourd'hui apôtre de la fraternité et conférencier, pour vendre sa prose nulle et ampoulée, dans les obédiences maçonniques, naguère petit mercenaire chiraquien chargé de rallier au coup d'Etat les "intellectuels" haïtiens qui allaient accepter de cracher sur leur pays pour quelques misérables contrats d'édition, quelques visas, quelques postes dans l'université française, quelques déjeuners dans l'hôtel particulier de Mme Véronique Rossillon, rue Las Cases à Paris, où se croisait, sous la houlette de l'ambassadeur de France à Port-au-Prince, M. Thierry Burkard, terrorisé par les prétendus "sortilèges vaudous" et les "messes noires", la fine fleur de ces apprentis-comploteurs.

Aux côtés de ces gens de peu, on trouvait un Marcel Dorigny, un Jacky Dahomay, "nègre de service" censé représenter la Guadeloupe.

Le coup d'Etat a été préparé par M. de Villepin chez Edouard Glissant, en Martinique, lors de la Noël 2003. Glissant, récompensé ensuite par une sinécure, était chargé de mettre en contact les békés de la Martinique dont l'épouse de M. de Villepin faisait partie, avec Aimé Césaire. On redoutait les réactions de ce dernier, mais, du fait de son grand âge, il ne comprit rien à ce qui se passait et donna au coup d'Etat une apparence de bénédiction.

Pouah! Pour les analyses, on se reportera au livre majeur de Peter Hallward : *Damming the Flood* (Versobooks) et à celui de Randall Robinson, "An Unbroken Agony" qui sera bientôt traduit en français.

J'ai assisté aux péripéties de ce coup d'Etat qui n'avait pour autre but que d'éviter la célébration du bicentenaire d'Haïti et d'écartier un homme qui voulait sincèrement sortir son pays de la misère et de la dépendance internationale.

Le coup d'Etat de 2004 a fait 50 000 morts.

Autant que le tremblement de terre de 2010. M. Aristide, calomnié par ceux qui ont peur de son retour, ne fait à ma connaissance l'objet d'aucune condamnation ni d'aucune procédure.

Les lettres de cachet, qui permettaient, sous l'ancien régime en France, de condamner et d'exiler sans jugement ont été abolies en 1789.

Jean-Bertrand Aristide, comme tout citoyen haïtien, a le droit de rentrer chez lui si bon lui semble.

S'il a besoin d'une autorisation, il a celle de 9 millions d'Haïtiens.

S'il veut apporter son aide à la reconstruction de son pays en arrivant à Port-au-Prince avec un avion chargé de vivres et de médicaments, quoi de choquant ?

Et s'il veut continuer à participer à la vie politique de son pays, cela ne peut déranger que ceux qui craignent sa popularité.

Je ne pense pas qu'un pays puisse se reconstruire en écartant le parti dominant, en manipulant les élections et en tirant à l'arme automatique, comment on le fait depuis six ans, sur les partisans d'un homme politique.

Ces partisans, ce sont les plus pauvres et il est peu probable que les misérables 500 millions de dollars promis, mais non versés, par la "communauté internationale", alors qu'il faudrait au moins 10 milliards pour relever le pays, fassent diminuer leur nombre.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Resistance Action

Jan 13 (Reuters) & By KATHARINE HOURELD, Associated Press Writer & Jan 14 (Reuters)

FALLUJA - A bomber blew up a truck near a police station in the town of Saqlawiya, just north of Falluja, 50 km (30 miles) west of Baghdad, police said. Two of those killed and four of the wounded were police officers, the source added.

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

A bomber detonated a water truck packed with explosives near a building under construction Wednesday, killing two people in Anbar province. The attack struck a building meant for the town council of Saqlawiyah, 45 miles (75 kilometers) west of Baghdad. Five people were wounded.

It was the latest in a resurgence of violence in ahead of the country's crucial March elections. Fallujah police chief Col. Mahmoud al-Issawi said the bomber detonated his explosive-packed truck near blast walls surrounding the future town council building. The chief of police for Saqlawiyah, Capt. Ehab Al-Muhamdi, said the bomber used a truck that usually carried water to mix with cement, so its arrival did not raise suspicion.

“The blast had occurred before the arrival of workers, which helped reduce the casualties,” he said.

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

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

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Four U.S. And One French Soldier Killed In Afghanistan: Two More French Soldiers Wounded, Another Dies Of Previous Wounds

14.01.2010 TREND News Agency & by Sardar Ahmad, AFP

Attacks by militants in Afghanistan have left four US and one French soldier dead on Wednesday, with the US death toll for 2010 now 14, BBC reported.

Two US soldiers died in an IED strike in the east of the country. Another died in fighting, also in the east, and a fourth died of wounds suffered in an IED explosion in the south.

The French defence ministry said an IED killed a non-commissioned officer on the road between the Nijrab and Bagram military bases, the third French soldier to die in as many days. The French soldier had been travelling in a convoy in the Mahmud Raqi region.

Two other French soldiers were wounded in the same attack.

Six international soldiers were killed in Afghanistan as a result of attacks on Monday, the deadliest day for foreign troops there in two months.

They were identified as three Americans, a Briton and two French soldiers. One of the French soldiers was mortally wounded, and died on Tuesday.

Tennessee SFC Killed In Afghanistan



U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Jason O. B. Hickman, of Kingsport, Tenn., died Jan. 7, 2010, from wounds he sustained when enemy forces attacked his unit at a combat outpost in Afghanistan with an improvised explosive device and small arms fire. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

SSG Killed In Afghanistan



USMC Staff Sgt. Matthew N. Ingham was killed fighting in Afghanistan on, Jan. 11, 2010. His platoon commander and family say he saved about 12 Marines by crawling, while wounded, to call in air support, exposing himself to additional fire. (AP Photo/Courtesy of the Ingham family)

Soldier From 11 EOD Regiment Killed In Musa Qaleh

12 Jan 10 Ministry of Defence

It is with great sadness that the Ministry of Defence must confirm the death of a soldier from 11 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps, part of the Counter-IED Task Force, on 11 January 2010.

The soldier was killed as a result of an explosion which happened in the Musa Qaleh area of northern Helmand province.

Last Year The Deadliest For Foreign Forces, With 520 Troop Deaths, Up From 295 For The Year Before: “Conflict Has Intensified And Spread Into Areas That Were Previously Considered Relatively Secure”

Jan 13 by Sardar Ahmad, AFP

Last year was the deadliest for foreign forces fighting the Taliban, with 520 troop deaths, up from 295 for the year before, as the insurgency has escalated and spread from the southern provinces where it began soon after the Taliban regime was overthrown in the 2001 invasion.

While Taliban influence has been spreading to previously peaceful areas -- and now has a footprint across 80 percent of the country, according to the London-based International Council on Security and Development -- the UN said 45 percent of deaths were in the south where the insurgency is concentrated.

Another 45 percent occurred in eastern, western and central Afghanistan, it said, noting that the “conflict has intensified and spread into areas that (were) previously considered relatively secure.”

<p>POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT THE BLOODSHED</p>

THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE WARS

Resistance Action



A police vehicle was hit by a bomb in Ghazni, eastern province of Afghanistan on Jan. 13, 2010. Six Afghan policemen were injured when the remote-controlled bomb exploded near an international aid office. (AP Photo/Rahmatullah Naikzad)

Jan 13 by Sardar Ahmad, AFP & Reuters & CBC News & Daily Times & January 14, 2010, By ROD NORDLAND, The New York Times

Four Afghan military engineers and a civilian were killed when a bomb device they were trying to defuse went off in the eastern province of Khost, said Zahir Wardak, a senior military official.

In southern Kandahar province, a hub of Taliban activity, a militant detonated a truck bomb near government installations in Daman district, injuring three police.

In Khost city, four members of the Afghan National Police and one civilian died while trying to remove an explosive just outside the police barracks.

A remote-controlled bomb hit an Afghan police vehicle, killing one officer and wounding six of his colleagues on Wednesday near an international aid office in Ghazni province, to the southwest of Kabul, officials said.

The Afghan Ministry of Defence also reported that the body of an Afghan National Army soldier captured on Monday in Baghlan province was found Tuesday in northern Afghanistan. The soldier had been stationed in Khost District.

A policeman was killed and two others were injured in an attack on Monday evening at a police station in Uruzgan province. The bomber detonated his explosives near the gate of the police chief's office in Dihrawud district.

On Thursday, a bomber in Musa Qala, in Helmand, attacked a police patrol in a marketplace, but did not kill anyone else, according to Mullah Salam, the district governor there. One police officer was wounded in the blast, he said. A statement from the international force, however, said one police officer was killed and five were wounded, four of them police officers.

In Khost Province, a roadside bomb detonated, killing a military road construction worker and wounding another. A Taliban spokesman claimed responsibility, putting the death toll at three.

Obama Brings Freedom Of Speech To Afghanistan! Eight Civilians Protesting Against Occupation Night Raid On Village Murdered By “Afghan And Foreign Security Forces”



Afghans rush a wounded man to a hospital in Lashkar Gah, In Helmand province, south of Kabul, Afghanistan, Jan 12, 2010. The man was wounded when protesters clashed with Afghan and foreign security forces on Tuesday in Garmsir district, leaving eight people dead, Afghan officials said. (AP Photo/Abdul Khaleq)

January 12, 2010 By DEXTER FILKINS, New York Times Jan 13 by Sardar Ahmad, AFP & Daily Times

About 2,000 people in Garmsir district of Helmand province, claiming that international troops destroyed copies of the holy Quran, clashed with Afghan and foreign security forces on Tuesday.

At least eight protesters were dead and about a dozen wounded

The protest began when several thousand Afghans gathered in the central bazaar in Garmsir, after reports of abuse by American servicemen during a raid at a nearby village two nights before.

“The Taliban were provoking the people,” Kamal Khan, Helmand Province’s deputy police chief, said in a telephone interview.

“They were telling the people that the Americans and their Afghan partners are killing innocent people, bombing their homes and destroying their mosques and also blaspheming their religion and culture.” [Imagine that! Why, who could possibly believe such things?]

No witnesses to the disputed raid could be located; it took place Sunday night in the village of Darweshan. American officers in Kabul said that Afghan soldiers conducted a nighttime operation in the village, with the Americans in support.

The protesters in Garmsir began shouting “Death to America” and “Death to Kamal Khan” and overturned several cars. They set a school on fire. Then they stormed the local office of the National Directorate of Security, the Afghan domestic intelligence service.

The N.D.S. is sometimes blamed for providing faulty intelligence to the Americans, who then detain the wrong people.

As the crowd moved in, N.D.S. officers opened fire, Mr. Khan said.

As the chaos unfolded, American officials said, a Taliban sniper began firing into a nearby American base, Forward Operating Base Delhi, a few hundred yards away. American officers said they killed the sniper but no one else.

Still, the episode appeared to have soured relations between the Americans and at least some Afghans.

“The Americans are blaspheming the holy Koran and violating and disrespecting our culture,” said Jan Gul, a farmer whose son was killed in the protest. “We cannot tolerate such behavior. We will defend our religion.”

Indeed, some Afghans at the demonstration maintained that the American forces were present with the N.D.S. agents and fired on the crowd.

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



A US soldier heads to a combat outpost in Kunar province on December 11. Protesters took to the streets in Afghanistan on Wednesday, burning an effigy of the US president and shouting “death to Obama” to slam civilian deaths during Western military operations. (AFP/File/Tauseef Mustafa)

TROOP NEWS

**Gen. McChrystal Declares Afghan
Surge A 'Success'
[If Custer Had The Internet, He Would've
Declared Victory Before He And His Men
Were Slaughtered]**

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

January 11, 2010 By Jason Ditz, Antiwar.com [Excerpts]

Somewhat of a shocking development, considering the situation in Afghanistan continues to deteriorate, and most of the “surge” troops won’t even arrive for several months, but General Stanley McChrystal today declared the Afghan surge was already a success which “turned the tide” against the Taliban.

Though Gen. McChrystal conceded that the war isn’t entirely won yet, he insisted that considerable progress has been made, citing territory seized in the most recent Helmand Province offensives.

Interestingly enough, those offensives occurred in late summer and autumn, while the escalation wasn’t even announced by President Obama until early December.

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA’S WARS?



The remains of Marine Lance Cpl. Cody R. Stanley of Rosanky, Texas return at Dover Air Force Base, Del. on Oct. 30, 2009. Lance Cpl. Stanley was killed when an improvised explosive device, or IED, went off while the Marines were patrolling in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)

Many Veterans Missing Out On \$500 A Month In Stop-Loss Pay

[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: “If we don't tell our buddies, we'll get screwed again.”]

01/09/10 TOM PHILPOTT, Tacoma News, Inc.

About 185,000 veterans who were forced by wartime “stop-loss” orders to serve on active duty after enlistment contracts had expired, or past their approved retirement dates, are due a retroactive special payment of \$500 for each extra month they served.

But these veterans must apply by Oct. 21 [2010] to get the extra money set aside in appreciation for the extra time they had to serve. Payments could total \$640 million.

Through December, only about 15,000 veterans and current members had applied for “Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay.” The average lump sum payment made to eligible Army veterans so far is \$4,500, said Army spokeswoman Jill Mueller. That suggests an average stop-loss period of nine months, considerably longer than was needed by any other service.

The Army is the only service that still uses stop loss.

As of Dec. 1, about 8,700 soldiers were serving in stop-loss status, derisively referred to as a “back door” draft. The stop-loss breakdown was 4,723 active duty soldiers, 3,694 Army National Guard members and 279 Army Reserve personnel.

Starting this month, the Army no longer expects to have to deploy units using stop-loss orders. Army Reserve and Guard units began mobilizing without stop loss last August and September. The last units with stop-loss soldiers should return from combat theaters in 2011.

Service officials are urging former stop-loss veterans to file claims and readers of this column should help spread the word.

Information for filing retroactive stop-loss claims is found at these Web sites or by sending e-mail:

Army: www.stoplosspay.army.mil or send an e-mail to: RetroStopLossPay@CONUS.Army.Mil.

Navy: E-mail [NXAG_N132C @navy.mil](mailto:NXAG_N132C@navy.mil).

Marines: www.manpower.usmc.mil/stoploss or send e-mail to stoploss@usmc.mil.

Air Force: www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/stoploss/claims.asp.

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/)

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

**“The Rich, In America, Have
Never, Ever, Been As Rich As
They Are Now”**

**“The Elites Made It. They Are Rich
And Powerful”**

**“Democratic Party Elected Leaders,
As A Group, Are Members Of This
Elite”**

**“They Have No Intention Of Engaging In
Radical Change Which Threatens Elite,
Which Is To Say, Their, Prosperity And
Power”**

January 4, 2010 by Ian Welsh, Common Dreams [Excerpts]

Forty-five percent of the Democratic base now says they aren't going to vote in 2010 or are thinking of not voting. This is a direct result of Democrats in Congress and the Presidency doing things the base disagrees with or not doing things the base wants to see done.

It appears politically stupid to act as they have, and yet, they did. So why?

Elected Democrats at the Federal level are members of the national elite.

If they weren't a member when they were elected, they are quickly brought into the fold. They are surrounded by lobbyists, other members and staffers who were lobbyists, as a rule. They learn they need to raise immense amounts of money in the off years when normal people aren't giving, and that the only way to raise that money is for corporate interests and rich people to write the checks.

They also receive the benefits of elite status, very quickly. It's not an accident that the every Senator except Bernie Sanders is wealthy.

Whatever Americans think, whether they support a public option or single payer; whether they're for or against Iraq or Afghanistan; whether they agree with bailing out banks or not, elite consensus is much much narrower than American public opinion.

It starts at the center right and heads over to reactionary (repeal the entire progressive movement and the New Deal, taking America back to the 1890s).

The elites are convinced they know what has to be done. Not necessarily what's "best", but what is possible given the constraints they believe America operates under and the pressures which elected officials work with.

The same thing is true of the financial crisis. The banks may be technically insolvent, but the idea of nationalizing them all, or shutting them down and shifting the lending to other entities would mean that the most profitable (in theory, not in reality) sector of the economy would largely be wiped out.

Add to that the fact that Obama was the largest recipient of Wall Street cash of the major candidates for the Presidency, and the immense influence the banks wield through their alumni who are placed throughout the Federal Reserve, the Treasury and other departments, and the idea of actually radically reforming the banking system becomes unthinkable.

Virtually every technocrat giving Obama, or most Senators advice, will be against it.

Shut that down and what's going to replace it?

How are you going to avoid a large part of the elite being wiped out?

You or I may have answers to that, except to wiping out a large chunk of the elite, which is something which needs to be done, but those who grew up under the system, who believe in the system, and who ran the system don't.

What they've done all their lives is what they understand.

And more to the point the system has been good to them. The last 35 years may have been a bad time to be an ordinary American, but the elite has seen their wealth and income soar to levels even greater than the gilded age.

The rich, in America, have never, ever, been as rich as they are now.

And if you're a member of the elite, your friends, your family, your colleagues- everyone you really care about, is a member of the elite or attached to it as a valued and very well paid retainer.

For you, for everyone you care about, the system has worked.

Perhaps, intellectually, you know it hasn't worked for ordinary people, but you aren't one of them, you aren't friends with them, and however much you care in theory about them, it's a bloodless intellectual empathy, not one born of shared experience, sacrifice and the bonds of friendship or love.

So when a big crisis comes, all of your instincts scream to protect your friends, your family, and the system which you grew up under, prospered under and which has been good to you.

Moreover, you understand that system, or you think you do, and you believe that with a twiddle here and an adjustment there, it's a system you can make work again. Doing something radical, like single payer or nationalizing the banks or letting the banks fail and doing lending direct through the Fed and through credit unions: that's just crazy talk.

Who knows how it would work, or if it would work? Why take a chance?

And so, until disaster turns into absolute catastrophe, the elites will fiddle with the dials, rather than engaging in radical change.

When the time comes when it becomes clear even to them that radical change is required, they are far more likely to go with their preconceived notions of what's wrong with the US, which are very reactionary, than to go with liberal or progressive solutions.

So you're far more likely to see Medicare and Social Security gutted, than you are to see the military budget cut in a third or Medicare-for-all enacted. You're far more likely to see a movement to a flat tax (supported by idiot right wing populists) than you are to see a return to high marginal taxation.

To the elites, ordinary Americans are pretty much parasites.

It's not the bankers, with their multi-trillion dollar bailouts who are the problem, it's old people with their Social Security and Medicare.

The elites made it. They are rich and powerful. They believe that their success is due entirely to themselves (even if they inherited the money or position). If you didn't, then that means you don't deserve it.

Democratic party elected leaders, as a group, are members of this elite, or are henchmen (and some women) of this elite.

They believe what the elites believe, and they live within a world whose boundaries are formed by those beliefs.

They have no intention of engaging in radical change which threatens elite, which is to say, their, prosperity and power.

The financial industry must be saved, the medical industry must be saved. Social Security and Medicare, which they don't need and don't benefit from, not so much.

The military, which funnels huge amounts of money to them, must continue to expand (in real terms military spending is now twice what it was in 2000.)

As long as elected Democrats at the Federal level are members of this elite, or identify with the elite they are not going to make fundamental changes against the interests of that elite.

And so, no, there is no "change" you can believe in from this class of Democrats. There is no "hope" of an America which is better for ordinary people.

That doesn't mean things are hopeless, but it does mean there's little hope for anything radical from this Congress or President.

As Adam Smith pointed out, there's a lot of ruin in a nation. America's going to have to endure a lot more of it before things actually change.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE



[Photo by Rob Mulford, Veterans For Peace, via Sandy Kelson, Military Resistance]

Quote from Mahmoud Darwish Poet Lauriat of Palestine at Aida Camp, occupied Palestine.

Israel Prevents 17 Sight-Impaired Gazans From Leaving For Cornea Transplant Operations On Time: Donation Of Dozens Of Corneas For Them Wasted

Jan 9, 2010 Physicians for Human Rights- Israel

The Israeli authorities at Erez checkpoint this week prevented the exit of 17 sight-impaired patients, suffering from various eye diseases, from the Gaza Strip in order to undergo cornea transplants, a treatment that is not available in the Gaza health system.

Because of this delay, the medical window of opportunity to perform the transplants for these patients was closed, because corneas can be transplanted only within the shortest time frame (24-48 hours after they are extracted from the donor's body).

The patients from Gaza whose exit was prevented will therefore have to wait for another donation, which may or may not happen.

At the beginning of the week Physicians for Human Rights – Israel (PHR-Israel) received an appeal from the Musallam Medical Center in Gaza. According to the appeal, a large group of 14 patients from Gaza, who were invited to Ramallah for cornea transplants from Sunday to Wednesday this week (January 3-5, 2010), did not reach their destination. Three other patients approached PHR-Israel separately.

The group of patients includes some who were waiting weeks or even months for cornea transplants.

The longest wait was 31-year-old S.A., who has been waiting for this operation for three years.

The main Musallam Medical Center in Ramallah this week received two deliveries from the US with dozens of corneas, donated by Tissue Bank International, an American organization that facilitates cornea and tissue transplants.

Every year corneas are sent during Christmas break, during which such operations do not take place in the US, as a donation to the Palestinian health system, and dedicated especially to eye patients from Gaza.

The inquiry by the medical center in Ramallah raised the concern that the exit of the patients from Gaza was being prevented by the Israeli authorities, and accordingly PHR-Israel on Sunday made an urgent request to the DCO in Gaza, responsible for issuing exit permits to patients.

In its appeal to the DCO, PHR warned that preventing the exit of the vision-impaired patients for eye operations this week will necessarily cause them to lose the opportunity for cornea transplants in the near future, if ever, because the corneas designated for the transplants have a very short expiration date.

Despite this request, the Israeli authorities prevented the exit of the 17 patients for the operation on time.

Five patients were not given any answer; two patients were summoned to investigations by the General Security Service (GSS), scheduled for dates later than the cornea expiration dates; two requests were rejected; and eight requests were approved only after media intervention, but after the corneas had already expired.

This case, with its far-reaching consequences for the vision-impaired patients who now lost the opportunity to repair their eyesight, illustrates the many difficulties that face the residents of Gaza who need medical care that is not available in the Gaza Strip.

The delays, apathy and rejection by the Israeli authorities, which every month curtail the access of dozens of patients to medical care, had particularly severe significance in this case, because prevention of these patients' exit from Gaza caused the loss of the corneas (which can be transplanted within no more than 48 hours from the moment of donation).

Now the patients will have to wait for another cornea donation, at an unknown time and likelihood.

Therefore, PHR-Israel strongly protests the blatant disregard of the Erez checkpoint authorities for the medical urgency of allowing the exit of patients for cornea transplant operations.

For more information, please contact Ran Yaron at ranyaron@phr.org.il or +972-54-7577696

MORE:

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

[From GI Special 4H14 August 14,2006]

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

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

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

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

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

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

A Jew to Zionist Fighters, 1988

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

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

Troops Invited:

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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

CLASS WAR REPORTS



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "Guns v butter. Vets and the things they need are butter. Its time for the butter to fight back."]

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