

Military Resistance 8A12



NOTICE: Suspension Of Publication

In order to permit a road trip to the Midwest, Military Resistance will suspend publication until Jan. 24, 2010.

It will not be possible to reply to emails during most of that time.

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IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Resistance Attacks U.S. Occupation Base With Flying Bomb: Three U.S. Soldiers Wounded

January 15, 2010 By Hannah Allam, McClatchy Newspapers

BAGHDAD — U.S. troops stationed at an outpost in southern Iraq heard a chilling whistle, and then a 60-pound airborne bomb punched through a concrete blast wall and sent shrapnel flying, wounding three Americans.

Explosions are commonplace in Iraq, but this was no ordinary attack. The U.S. military said Friday that militants who launched the Jan. 12 attack on a joint U.S.-Iraqi compound used an unusual weapon called an IRAM, for Improvised Rocket-Assisted Munition.

Sometimes called “flying IEDs,” IRAMs are a potentially deadlier incarnation of the garden-variety Improvised Explosive Devices in Iraq and Afghanistan — they’re short-range projectiles that catapult toward unsuspecting targets.

Two IRAMs flew into the outpost in the city of Amarah in a puzzling reappearance of a weapon that’s been used only 14 times since the U.S. invaded Iraq in 2003, according to the U.S. military.

Most of the earlier attacks occurred in eastern Baghdad more than 18 months ago, at the height of violence related to Shiite Muslim militias. The more recent attacks, however, were launched in southern Iraq’s Maysan Province, which borders Iran.

In the most recent incident, only one of the IRAMs exploded, leaving a 12-foot crater in the ground, said Maj. Myles Caggins, a spokesman for the 4th Brigade of the Army’s 1st Armored Division, which is based in Fort Bliss, Texas, and is operating in Maysan.

The other was a dud that’s now being investigated by American and Iraqi forensics teams to determine its components and origins. Previous IRAMs have been linked to the Mahdi Army of volatile Shiite cleric Moqtada al Sadr and other Iranian-backed militias in Iraq.

“I’d never heard of it — not before it blew up on us,” said Spc. Robert B. Walsh, 27, of Venice, Fla., who survived an IRAM blast last summer at the same place as the latest attack. Walsh said his only clue before the blast was “a poof sound.” In the seconds before impact, Walsh used his radio to alert other soldiers to possible incoming fire.

The IRAM zipped over the wall “like a big bottle rocket,” Walsh said. It passed his guard tower and blew up next to a kitchen and barracks where American troops were sleeping.

The other two Purple Heart recipients received shrapnel wounds when windows and doors blew into their quarters, cutting their faces and hands. Several vehicles were damaged or destroyed, and the force of the explosion cracked the foundation and shifted the roof of the concrete building.

“It threw me about three or four feet and knocked me unconscious,” Walsh said. “When I woke up, everything was on fire and there was debris all over the ground. It left a hole with a 15-foot radius, and it was 4 1/2 feet deep.”

Still, Walsh considers himself fortunate. There were at least two others IRAMs in the truck, he said, but the blast from the first one knocked others off their railing and burned out the ignition wire.

“Only one of them had gone airborne,” Walsh said. “We were lucky, I guess, if you look at it that way.”

More Resistance Action



A damaged police vehicle at the site of a bomb attack in Najaf, 160 km (100 miles) south of Baghdad, January 14, 2010.



Another damaged police vehicle at the site of a bomb attack in Najaf, 160 km (100 miles) south of Baghdad, January 14, 2010. REUTERS/Ali Abu Shish

Jan 16 (Reuters)

Insurgents killed two policemen inside their vehicle in the Saidiya district of western Baghdad, police said.

Insurgents shot dead an employee of the Trade Ministry inside his car in eastern Baghdad, police said.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

2 British Soldiers Killed In Sangin

01/16/10 Ministry of Defence

It is with great sadness that the Ministry of Defence must confirm that two British soldiers from 3rd Battalion The Rifles were killed in Afghanistan yesterday, Friday 15 January 2009.

The soldiers were killed as a result of an IED explosion near Sangin, in Helmand Province, yesterday evening.

U.S. Soldier Killed By IED Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan Friday

15 January 2010 BBC

An American soldier has been killed in a southern Afghanistan in an explosion set off by Taliban militants, Nato-led forces said.

The blast was caused by an improvised explosive device (IED). No further details about the incident were given.

U.S. Soldier Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan Saturday

Jan. 17 IJC Public Affairs Office

An ISAF service member from the United States died of wounds yesterday as a result of an engagement with insurgents in eastern Afghanistan.

Sergeant With Edmonton-Based Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Killed In Nakhoney

January 16, 2010 By Matthew Fisher and Ken Meaney, Canwest News Service

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — “A career soldier” and “family man” from Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., has become the first Canadian killed in action in Afghanistan in 2010.

Sgt. John Wayne Faught, from the Edmonton-based 1 Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, stepped on a homemade landmine early Saturday afternoon while leading his section on a joint foot patrol with Afghan army troops, about 15 kilometres southwest of Kandahar City.

The 44-year-old infantryman died near the village of Nakhoney in Panjwahi District, which Canadian forces seized from Taliban-control without a fight late last year. The security patrol he led was to learn more about what villagers needed to build the local economy.

Back home in Sault Ste. Marie, Faught's uncle, Ron, said his nephew was on his third tour in Afghanistan and was due to return home in June.

Faught leaves behind his mother, Donna, a sister in Toronto and a girlfriend in Thunder Bay, Ont.

He was the 139th Canadian soldier and the 38th Patricia to die in Afghanistan since the Chretien government first sent troops to the country soon after the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

Rocket Attack Hits Foreign Embassy District

January 15 AFP & January 16, 2010 By Amir Shah, Associated Press

KABUL -- A rocket slammed into a Kabul district housing several embassies yesterday, the latest in a series of attacks in the Afghan capital despite heavy security measures.

No casualties were reported in the nighttime blast, which occurred in the Wazir Akbar Khan district that includes the German, Japanese and British embassies.

An AFP photographer on the scene said a rocket landed near the German embassy at about 8:05 pm (1535 GMT).

A police officer on the scene told an AFP photographer that a rocket had fallen on a private house.

Rocket attacks are not unusual in Kabul, according to residents and diplomats.

Afghan District Chief, 5 Police Die In Ambush

Jan 17 Reuters

An Afghan district governor and five police were killed on Sunday in a Taliban ambush in the western province of Herat, the province's police chief said.

A Taliban spokesman, Qari Mohammad Yousuf, said by telephone from an undisclosed location that Taliban fighters had carried out the attack.

The latest attack happened as the officials were driving in a vehicle on a road in the remote Chesht Sharif district of the province, the provincial police chief, Esmatullah Alizai, told Reuters by phone.

One policeman was wounded.

Tuesday U.S. Troops Kill Civilians Protesting The Occupation: Fearful Of A Man With A Stick, They Open Fire Again Wednesday: Also Two More Afghan Civilians Killed In Kandahar Province For Motorcycle Riding

January 15, Reuters & DPA & Jan 16 AFP

NATO revealed that five Afghan civilians were wounded two days before when U.S. Marines and Afghan forces opened fire during a protest outside a military base in southern Afghanistan, suggesting mounting civil unrest in a part of the country where US Marines under Nato command made major advances last year.

“ANA and ISAF forces warned a crowd of between 200 and 400 assembled civilians to keep its distance from the outpost,” a NATO statement said.

ISAF is manned in the area by US Marines.

“A number of civilians in the crowd disregarded instructions, resulting in forces firing warning shots.

Deliberative escalation of force procedures were followed, but one individual continued to ignore instructions, striking members of the combined force with a stick,” the statement said.

Lieutenant-Colonel Todd Bresseale said both Afghan troops and the US Marines subsequently fired at the crowd.

It was the second demonstration last week in the Garmsir district of the southern Helmand province, an area expected to be a major focus of President Barack Obama’s troop surge.

Six people were killed Tuesday in another demonstration in the same place.

In southern Kandahar province, two men were killed by NATO forces after those had been struck by a roadside bomb, the alliance military said in a statement.

The statement did not say the men were insurgents.

A police official in the province, who declined to be named, said the men on motorcycles were civilians.

Japan Ends 8-Year Naval Refueling Mission For US-Led Forces Fighting In Afghanistan: “All Naval Ships And Their Hundreds Of Personnel To Return Home”

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

1.15.10 Pravda.ru

Japan’s Democratic party-led government in an unprecedented decision has ended its nearly a decade-long refueling mission of the US-led forces in Afghanistan.

Incoming reports say Defense Minister Tishimi Kitazawar ordered all naval ships and their hundreds of personnel to return home after nine years of helping supply oil to vessels used by foreign forces that are engaged in a controversial war in landlocked Afghanistan.

Kitazawa is also expected to issue an official order that will totally terminate refueling operation in the Indian Ocean on Friday.

Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force has been refueling the US mission since the Afghan war began in 2001.

Reports say Japanese ships have provided more than 500,000 liters of oil to vessels from 12 countries, including the US, France, Britain and Pakistan since last December.

A defense ministry tally shows the fuel cost has gone above 26 million dollars.

Diplomatic ties between Japan and the US have recently witnessed a low over a previously signed deal to relocate an American base on Okinawa.

The premier has suggested that the US military bases should be moved off the island of Okinawa or even outside of Japan altogether.

Hatoyama says he will press for more equal ties with the United States.

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



US soldiers load onto a Chinook helicopter during an operation in Khost province on January 4. (AFP/File/David Furst)

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

TROOP NEWS

**NOT ANOTHER DAY
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR
NOT ANOTHER LIFE**



Family members wipe tears during a deployment ceremony in Essex Junction, Vt., Friday, Jan. 8, 2010. Two hundred more Afghanistan-bound troops from the Vermont National Guard are shipping out. They are members of a special training unit of the 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team based in Rutland. (AP Photo/Toby Talbot)

**On Getting By:
“When These Sources Are Taken
At Face Value, War Veterans Are
Invariably Crazy, Depressive,
Easily Startled, Quick To Anger
And Alcoholics”**

“We Come From Broken Homes, Trying To Escape Jailtime And Were Too Dumb Or Poor To Go To College After High School”

“The Best Way To Combat These Silly Notions Is To Let People Get To Know You, The Person, Before You, The Veteran”

January 13, 2010 Posted by Alex, Army Of Dude [Excerpts]

Special thanks to Mendi, Jeff, Josh, Justin, Clinton and Jason for their candid and thoughtful responses that helped formulate the content of this post.

In my previous post, I outlined some basic principles needed to successfully navigate the murky waters of education under the GI Bill.

The challenges in dealing with the VA for education benefits are considerable, yet veterans new to college face an unfamiliar, unpredictable and strange environment on campus.

If taken all at once, these hurdles can quickly overwhelm a student veteran and distract from the overall goal: to finish a degree on time with benefits to spare.

Next week I will be in class for my fifth semester of higher education, and in my time I have tinkered with a system of how to bring up my veteran status, discussing Iraq and Afghanistan in the classroom and dealing with the myriad reactions fellow students have had.

The system cannot be expected to work for everyone, but as veterans file into classrooms for the first time this spring, these tips could help in the development of a coping system better tailored for you. These should simply help to get you started.

Modesty Is The Best Policy

There are only two kinds of veterans in school: those who prattle on about their time in the military and overseas, and those who do not.

The former will find any opportunity to bring up their time in Afghanistan or Iraq, even if it is not relevant to class discussion.

They forget one of the tenets of military experience - the role of the consummate professional. Joining the military and serving in a time of war are sacred acts and carry a certain degree of respect and modesty. We owe it to our injured buddies and fallen friends not to brag about our exploits overseas.

We have done our fair share of things that set us apart from others in the classroom, and that is exactly why it is best to retain an understated presence among others.

This is a difficult situation as it applies to reintegration, as the chasm between veterans and civilians has never been wider.

From World War II to Vietnam, it would have been a difficult task to know someone that neither served overseas nor had a family member or friend who did. Now there are whole classrooms filled with those people.

As Matthew McConaughey spoke prophetically in *Dazed and Confused*, "I get older, they stay the same age."

An 18 year old in college this year would have been nine years old during the invasion of Afghanistan and eleven years old during the invasion of Iraq.

They have grown up with war to the point of it becoming a mind numbingly prosaic concept. It would be a frustrating battle to try and close the rift with those who don't see a rift at all.

The best thing to do is use your judgment when bringing up your veteran status in the classroom.

I've done it just a few times and felt uncomfortable enough to think twice about the next time. Now I tend to mention it in private conversation, not when I have the floor in public, and even then it is a casual touch on the subject.

When you are ready to talk...

Prepare For A Question Salvo

No matter how much you try to keep it stashed away from students and coworkers, your military experience will come out sooner or later. There are things you simply cannot hide forever, like going to prison or reading *Twilight*.

Once you begin to move past casual conversation, it's only a matter of time before that period of your life is visited.

It usually begins with a discussion of age . When I tell people I'm 24, the followup questions are almost always, "What have you done since high school?" or, "Why did you wait so long to go to school?"

People tend to catch on if you mention extended vacations in the Middle East or recite monologues, so at that point it is best to come clean.

However, be prepared for the questions they are more than willing to hurl your way.

They might not know anyone who has deployed, but our hyperviolent culture has removed any restraint left in the world and enables them to ask any question that comes to mind.

Here is what you can expect, in order of the most frequently asked:

- 1. What's it like?**
- 2. Was it really hot?**
- 3. Did you kill anyone?**
- 4. How hot was it? Like, really hot?**
- 5. Do you regret it?**
- 6. Did you see any camel spiders?**
- 7. Were you in Iran?**

It's hard to get upset at some of those questions, as I find it difficult to think of what I'd ask if the roles were switched. #3 can be blamed on ignorance and apathy, but #5 is the most troubling I've heard. It suggests that there is something shameful about service, duty and sacrifice.

Both questions trivialize an important part of our lives. The best answer to #3 I've heard comes from the The Kitchen Dispatch comment section: "I will forgive you for asking that question if you forgive me for not answering it."

Something that personal should never be asked, only told.

The flip side to some of those cavalier probes are questions that handle the topic with kid gloves.

Once a coworker found out I was in the Army, she asked, "Did you go to...one of those places they send people?"

It was uncomfortable for her just to utter those dirty 'I' and 'A' words, like we were speaking about some subversive topic.

The kind of questions you will get will be all over the map, spanning from a place of genuine interest to the depths of sheer morbidity. Be prepared to answer anything, or politely let them know the subject isn't appropriate for casual banter.

Let The Right Ones In

Popular culture is replete with images of the maladjusted veteran, from Rambo to Travis Bickle to Red Forman.

These characters are ingrained in our national conscious and typically become placeholders in the event someone doesn't personally know a veteran.

When these sources are taken at face value, war veterans are invariably crazy, depressive, easily startled, quick to anger and alcoholics.

We come from broken homes, trying to escape jailtime and were too dumb or poor to go to college after high school.

The best way to combat these silly notions is to let people get to know you, the person, before you, the veteran.

Those stereotypes aren't going anywhere soon, so the best idea is to take the concept of guarding your veteran status in the classroom and carry it over to blossoming relationships. That way your service and overseas experience complement your personality and don't define it.

Revealing too much at one time can damage a friendship before it takes off. Just like in the classroom, take it slow. If they are worth keeping around, they'll understand why. We have met our lifelong friends already; we can afford to be picky.

Try To Keep A Straight Face

There's a huge disparity between what you have been asked to do in the service and what you will be asked to do in school.

At the very basic level you were asked to maintain a clean weapon and uniform. Many of you were tasked with watching the back of your fellow soldiers while in imminent danger or operate complex machinery and vehicles.

At school, you'll be held responsible for showing up and turning in work before deadlines. That's it. Like I mentioned in the earlier post, college seems like an insurmountable gauntlet of crushed dreams when you're in the military.

Once you transition to civilian life and take a few classes, you'll be astounded at the lack of discipline and drive in some of your classmates. It's a big joke, but try to maintain composure.

I'm not saying it's easy the whole way through, but I guarantee you've done something harder than a five page essay. As they say, the rest is downhill.

If you were in active duty, the friends you met along the way are now scattered across the country.

Perhaps I've always been an introvert, but I don't make friends as easy as some people. I've met just two people in fourteen classes that I consider friends, and one of them is an Afghanistan veteran. It's easy to understand why we get along.

Do your best to find other veterans in your class and say hello. Talking to them will come easier than the 18 year old hipster next to you, with his passion for ironic hat.

Find out if there is a veteran's organization on campus, but be wary of their motives. While some will join to find support and befriend fellow veterans, others will use it for recognition (see principle #1: don't be a douche).

Enjoy The Ride

Besides getting a degree or learning new skills, people go to college to meet new people and to experience a different life. If you've served since Sept. 12, 2001, you've already had a bit of each.

But don't let that stop you from enjoying everything school has to offer.

It's the last time very little will be expected of you, unless you get another government job. Then you're golden.

Army Spc. Marc Hall Sits In Jail Over "Stop-Loss" Song: How You Can Help Spc. Hall



Army Specialist Marc Hall

Iraq Veterans Against the War [Excerpts]

After over a month of confinement, Army Specialist Marc Hall still sits incarcerated in the Liberty County Jail near Fort Stewart, GA. The U.S. Army jailed Hall on December 11, claiming that the lyrics of his hip-hop song, "Stop-loss" amount to the "communication of a threat." Hall, an Iraq War veteran, recorded the song last summer, expressing his anger over the Army's Stop-Loss policy, which involuntarily extended his contract for a

second Iraq deployment. We believe that Spc. Hall's right to free speech is being violated with the Army's actions.

How you can help Spc. Hall

IVAW and Courage to Resist are working together to raise awareness about Marc's situation and demand his immediate release. Here's how you can help Marc today:

1) Write a letter to Marc in jail letting him know he has your support. Send letters to:

**Marc Hall
Liberty County Jail
180 Paul Sikes Dr.
Hinesville, GA 31310**

**2) Donate to Marc's legal defense fund by clicking here:
<https://co.clickandpledge.com/sp/d1/default.aspx?wid=30624>**

Spc. Hall planned to leave the military at the end of his contract (Feb 2010) to spend more time with his family, but the Army issued a stop-loss order last summer preventing his separation. He recorded the song "Stop-loss" and mailed it directly to the Pentagon sometime in July. Hall claims the Army took little action at first.

In a recent statement Marc said, "My first sergeant called me into his office to discuss the song's nature. I explained to him that the hardcore rap song was a free expression of how people feel about the Army and its stop-loss policy. I explained that the song was neither a physical threat nor any threat whatsoever. I told him it was just hip-hop." Marc goes on to say,

"My first sergeant said he actually liked the song and that he did not take it as a threat. He and my commander at the time just recommended me for mental counseling and evaluation."

Over the next few months Hall continued expressing uncomfortable feelings to his chain of command about his upcoming Iraq deployment.

When he returned from two weeks leave on Dec. 7, 2009 he informed his chain of command that he could not in good conscience deploy again to Iraq.

Four days later the Army placed him in the Liberty County Jail in Hinesville, GA claiming that hi hip-hop lyrics amounted to the "communication of a threat."

Jim Klimaski, a Washington D.C. attorney closely following the case, argues that Hall's chain of command took excessive action in the wake of the Fort Hood shootings and those actions against Hall violate his first amendment right to free speech.

"(The Army) decided they didn't want to send him back to Iraq, but didn't want to admit that they should let go. So they created this situation; I think Hall's commanders overreacted when they listened to the song and put him in jail. Music is a powerful

means of communication but a song is not going to destroy the American military, particularly this song.”

Specialist Hall’s unit deployed to Iraq without him in mid-December. The Army is currently deciding whether it will keep Marc Hall incarcerated until his court martial in five months. As Specialist Hall awaits that decision, the Army continues to implement its stop-loss policy despite President Obama’s promise to end the unfair practice. According to the Pentagon 120,000 soldiers have been affected by stop-loss since 2001 and 13,000 are currently serving under stop-loss orders.



**Worthless Piece Of Shit SecDef
Gates “Says That ‘Security’
Concerns Are Impeding The
Delivery Of Aid” To Haiti”
Eyewitnesses On The Ground
Contradict His Stupid Lies:
“In The Large Sites, And In The Nice
Neighborhoods, And Where The
Press Can Be Found, There Would Be
Teams From Every Country
Imaginable”**

“Meanwhile, In The Poor Neighborhoods, Awash In Rubble, There Was Not A Foreigner In Sight”



Steve Bell

“News crews are looking for the story of desperate Haitians who are in hysterics.

“When in reality, it is more often the Haitians who are acting calmly while the international community, the elite and politicians have melted down over the issue, and none seem to have the remotest idea what is going on.”

January 15, 2010 By Roger Annis, a coordinator of the Canada Haiti Action Network, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

EVIDENCE OF monstrous neglect of the Haitian people is mounting following the catastrophic earthquake on January 12.

As life-saving medical supplies, food, water purification chemicals and vehicles pile up at the airport in Port-au-Prince, and as news networks report a massive international effort to deliver emergency aid, people in the shattered city are wondering when they will see help.

As of January 15, the BBC World Service reported that Haitian officials now fear the death toll could rise to 140,000. Three million people are homeless.

BBC reporter Andy Gallagher said that he had traveled “extensively” in Port-au-Prince during the day and saw little sign of aid delivery.

He said he was shown nothing but courtesy by the Haitians he encountered.

Everywhere he went, he was taken by residents to see what had happened to their neighborhood, their homes and their lives. Then they asked, “Where is the help?”

“When the rescue teams arrive,” Gallagher said, “they will be welcomed with open arms.”

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation Radio One’s As It Happens broadcast an interview on January 15 with a spokesperson for the International Committee of the Red Cross. He said he spent the morning touring one of the hardest hit areas of the city (the district was not named), in the hills that rise from the flat plain on which sits historic Port-au-Prince.

“In three hours, I didn’t see a single rescue team,” the spokesperson said.

The BBC report contrasts starkly with warnings of looting and violence that fill the airwaves of news channels such as CNN and that were voiced by U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates.

He was asked by the media in Washington why relief supplies were not being delivered by air and answered, “It seems to me that air drops will simply lead to riots.”

Gates says that “security” concerns are impeding the delivery of aid.

But Gallagher responded directly to that in his report, saying, “I’m not experiencing that.”

Describing the airport, Gallagher reported, “There are plenty of materials on the ground and plenty of people there. I don’t know what the problem is with delivery.”

Nan Buzard, a spokesperson for the American Red Cross, was interviewed on the same BBC broadcast about the problem with aid delivery. She implied that there were not, in fact, many supplies at the airport to be moved--that many of the planes that have been landing were filled with people, not supplies.

When pressed by the BBC host about why aid was not being moved into the city, Buzard conceded she was “surprised” that it was not being airlifted in.

THE BBC’s is not the only report to contradict exaggerated security concerns.

The daily report on the Web site of Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) one day after the earthquake said, “Some parts of the city are without electricity,

and people have gathered outside, lighting fires in the street, and trying to help and comfort each other.

“When they saw that I was from MSF, they were asking for help, particularly to treat their wounded. There was strong solidarity among people in the streets.”

An e-mailed report received by the Canada Haiti Action Network describes a city largely bereft of international aid:

“Thus far, the rescue teams cluster at the high-profile and safer walled sites and were literally afraid to enter the barrios. They gravitated to the sites where they had secure compounds and big buildings.

“Meanwhile, the neighborhoods where the damage appears to be much wider, and anywhere there were loose crowds, they avoided.

In the large sites, and in the nice neighborhoods, and where the press can be found, there would be teams from every country imaginable.

Dogs and extraction units with more arriving, yet with 90 percent or more of them just sitting around.”

“Meanwhile, in the poor neighborhoods, awash in rubble, there was not a foreigner in sight.

“News crews are looking for the story of desperate Haitians who are in hysterics.

“When in reality, it is more often the Haitians who are acting calmly while the international community, the elite and politicians have melted down over the issue, and none seem to have the remotest idea what is going on.”

The report says that most of the staff of the U.S. embassy and U.S. Agency for International Development complex (located a stone's throw from the oceanfront) have fled, and buildings are largely empty, even though the streets in the area are clear.

Yesterday, BBC broadcast an interview with Mark Stuart, a director of an orphanage in Jacmel, a city of 50,000 on Haiti's south coast, 50 kilometers south of Port-au-Prince. Aerial footage showed catastrophic damage.

Stuart appealed for international relief, saying that food and water supplies would soon run out, and no aid whatsoever had arrived.

An article on the Web site of a Chicago publication says a trickle of aid arrived today, but the road between Port and Prince and Jacmel is impassable.

Aid authorities must be urged to speed up their efforts to flood the earthquake zone with food, water, supplies and medical personnel.

A network of relief centers fanning out from the port and airport, including airlifts and parachute drops, would seem an obvious step.

Donations to relief efforts, especially to those already delivering services such as Partners in Health and Doctors Without Borders, are crucially important.

What you can do:

Donations and aid are desperately needed in Haiti. Here are some organizations with connections to the grassroots movements in the country.

The Haiti Emergency Relief Fund [2], organized by the solidarity organization Haiti Action, delivers resources directly to grassroots organizations. It was founded in 2004 after the coup d'etat that forced President Jean-Bertrand Aristide out of office.

For more information, including a telephone contact, go to the Canada Haiti Action Network [3] Web site.

The Zanmi Lasante Medical Center [4] is located in the Central Plateau of Haiti and delivers health care through a network of clinics. The health center survived the earthquake and delivering aid to the disaster zone. You can donate to the center through the U.S. non-profit organization Partners in Health [5].

SOPUDEP is a pioneering school [6] in Petionville. The resources of the school and its teachers are being mobilized to assist the neighboring population. You can support the school via the Canadian-based Sawatzky Family Foundation [7].

[1] <http://canadahaitiaction.ca/>

[2] http://www.haitiaction.net/About/HERF/1_12_10.html

[3] <http://canadahaitiaction.ca/>

[4] <http://www.pih.org/home.html>

[5] <http://www.pih.org/home.html>

[6] <http://www.sopudep.org/donate>

[7] <http://www.sopudep.org/donate>

MORE:

Katrina Survivor Asks Why No Air Drops Of Food, Water, Medical Supplies For Haiti?

“The White House Ruled Out Direct Air Drops Today In An

Announcement Because ‘It Would Cause Riots And Looting’” [Better To Let Them Die So They Aren’t Victims Of Looting, Right?]

From: Mike Howells [New Orleans]
Subject: Why no food and water air drops in Haiti or N.O.?
To: nola_c3_discussion@yahoogroups.com
Date: January 15, 2010

Dwelling upon the horror now unfolding in Haiti I feel compelled to ask the question of why those forces in a position to do so refrain from conducting mass air drops of food, water and basic medicines in the most devastated areas of the country?

It’s abundantly clear that the devastation wrought by the earthquake has produced many obstacles to providing emergency supplies by way of truck, car or foot.

So, why not airdrop emergency supplies en masse in areas of Haiti rendered largely inaccessible except by air? True some supplies would be damaged falling to the ground and some supplies would be monopolized by unscrupulous hoarders.

Still I can’t help but feel that many earthquake survivors would benefit enormously from food and medicine airdrops.

As a Katrina Survivor in New Orleans after the storm I often wondered why authorities refused to conduct food and air drops here at the height of the crisis.

Air drops of food and water would have given me and surely many other survivors on the ground a boost both materially and emotionally.

But then again the welfare of those in crisis zones doesn’t seem to be a matter of much concern to the people who run this country.

Reply from Ward Reilly [Veterans For Peace, Louisiana]

The White House ruled out direct air drops today in an announcement because “it would cause riots and looting”.

Better to let them die so they aren’t victims of looting.

Sound familiar, N.O.?

Army Releases December Suicide Data

Comment: T

What none of the Pentagon hacks want to mention is how a soldier feels knowing he or she has been betrayed and the reason they went to war is nothing but lies.

Depression in general and suicide in particular are rage turned inward.

SSG N (ret'd) sends in this resource:

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

January 15, 2010 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 036-10

The Army released suicide data today for the month of December. Among active-duty soldiers, there were ten potential suicides: one has been confirmed as suicide, and nine remain under investigation.

For November, the Army reported 11 potential suicides among active-duty soldiers. Since the release of that report, three have been confirmed as suicides, and eight remain under investigation.

There were 160 reported active-duty Army suicides during 2009. Of these, 114 have been confirmed, and 46 are pending determination of manner of death.

During 2008, there were 140 suicides among active-duty soldiers.

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

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DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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

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Problems of the Rich



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/)

Racist Freaks Find A Happy Home In The Springfield, Mass. Police Department:

Shit-Bag Asher And Other Coward Scum Party It Up To Celebrate Beatings And Killings: Police Say “Congratulate Don On A Job Well Done (Keep Up The Good Work)” To A Homicidal Maniac



Melvin Jones III

In addition to Asher, one of the officers accused of beating Greer was “James L. Shewchuck, accused of helping to organize a support party for another officer ultimately cleared in the fatal shooting of a Black motorist who was driving a van falsely reported stolen in 1994,” Masslive.com reported.

The party was for Officer Donald Brown, who was accused of shooting to death Benjamin Schoolfield, an unarmed 20-year-old Black man. The charges against Brown were dropped, as well--and the city later settled with Schoolfield’s family for \$700,000.

January 14, 2010 By Gary Lapon, Excerpts]

A VIDEO released last week shows how a routine traffic stop by local police for a dragging muffler last November turned into a nightmare for Melvin Jones III.

Jones, an African American and resident of Springfield, Mass., was pulled over on November 27--and ended up in the hospital with severe injuries to his face, after he was beaten by Jeffrey Asher, a white police officer with a history of brutality against African Americans.

The video, which was posted online, was only just released after being quietly held “in the hands of law enforcement and city officials for several weeks,” according to Masslive.com/The Republican newspaper.

It shows Asher striking Jones, who was unarmed, repeatedly with a flashlight, at least 18 times, according to my count.

Although not visible on tape after that point, it appears that police continued to beat Jones, since a bystander can be heard to exclaim, “They’re still...they’re beating him with the flashlight.”

A woman, possibly his companion Malika Barnett, the driver of the car, can be heard yelling, “Please don’t” and one of the officers apparently called Jones a “nigger”--a male bystander can be heard saying “Somebody called him a fucking nigger.”

The arc of the light and the loud, sickening “thwack” from each blow of the flashlight suggest that Asher was hitting Jones, who was being restrained by multiple white officers, with full force.

Asher resumes hitting Jones multiple times, for a total of at least four separate stretches of beatings.

While an injured, possibly unconscious Jones is lying motionless on the ground, surrounded by six police officers, one of the officers yells, likely about Barnett, “Fuck her, lock her up, too!”

Finally, paramedics arrive to take Jones to the hospital.

Jones suffered a broken finger and fractures to the bones in his face, which required reconstructive surgery and left him partially blind in one eye.

According to Masslive.com, “Jones is charged with three counts of felony narcotics possession, resisting arrest and assault and battery on a police officer.

“The police report of the incident says the struggle ensued when Jones, who acted suspiciously during a traffic stop on Rifle Street, attempted to flee and then grabbed one of the officer’s guns. The report states that Asher struck Jones with his flashlight in order to ‘disorientate him’ as the officers attempted to take him into custody.”

But this conflicts with the video evidence showing Asher repeatedly hitting Jones while Jones is surrounded by several officers, apparently restrained. What’s more, Masslive reported, the police report “doesn’t indicate any injuries to the officers.”

Jones' father, Melvin Jones Jr., told Masslive.com, "The way they wrote the report is not the way the video shows it, and it's not the way that it was told to me by various people who were witnesses."

Jones Jr. continued, "They beat him like a wild animal...I counted 17 or 18 times they clubbed him with that flashlight. Those officers have no regard for human life."

THIS ISN'T the first time that Officer Jeffrey Asher, who is under internal investigation for this incident, has been accused of brutality against African Americans.

Nor is it the first time that other officers of the Springfield Police Department have been involved in cases of racist attacks on African American residents.

According to Masslive.com, Asher, who was president of his class at the police academy, was accused of beating Michael J. Cuzzone after the man's friend got into an argument with Asher's father.

The city settled with Cuzzone for \$75,000.

In 1997, Asher "was caught on videotape" (as shown here in local news footage) kicking Roy Parker, another African American victim who was brutalized while he was already handcuffed and held down by other officers.

Asher was "cleared of any criminal wrongdoing by a judge who said he had used reasonable force," according to Masslive.com.

While he was "suspended for one year and ordered to undergo sensitivity training...a labor arbitrator later reduced Asher's suspension from 12 to six months and awarded him about \$20,000 in back pay" saying he'd been punished "too harshly," the Web site reported.

In 2004, Asher was among four white police officers who beat Douglas Greer, a Black charter school principal, as he suffered a diabetic attack in his car at a Springfield gas station.

According to a 2004 article in The Republican, "a man who said he witnessed the incident told investigators...that he saw police officers beating Greer with a chrome flashlight."

The Police Commission voted 3-2 to find "no probable cause to pursue disciplinary action against" against Asher and the other officers.

The City of Springfield settled a civil lawsuit with Greer in 2007 for \$180,000.

In addition to Asher, one of the officers accused of beating Greer was "James L. Shewchuck, accused of helping to organize a support party for another officer

ultimately cleared in the fatal shooting of a Black motorist who was driving a van falsely reported stolen in 1994,” Masslive.com reported.

The party was for Officer Donald Brown, who was accused of shooting to death Benjamin Schoolfield, an unarmed 20-year-old Black man.

The charges against Brown were dropped, as well--and the city later settled with Schoolfield’s family for \$700,000.

According to a 1994 New York Times article, the Western Massachusetts Order of Black Officers stated that “during the party last month, a ham was presented to (Brown)...a ritual gift of Old South vigilantes.” Rev. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.--then the executive director of the NAACP--told the Times that he heard of the ritual when he was growing up in eastern North Carolina. “It’s something that white vigilantes would be rewarded with sometimes for committing acts of racial violence,” Chavis said.

According to the Times, invitations to the party that were posted at police headquarters read: “Congratulate Don on a job well done (Keep up the good work).”

So Asher is only one high-profile member of a police force that has a long history of wrongdoing and a disturbing culture of tolerance for--if not outright support of--racist violence against African Americans.

For over a month--until Masslive.com published the video of the assault last week--city and police officials in Springfield, who had the video, made no mention of it or the investigation.

This lack of transparency is consistent with the city’s pattern of keeping violent, racist cops on the streets, choosing to spend hundreds of thousands of taxpayers’ dollars to settle with victims and their families rather than firing cops like Asher and Brown when they beat--or in the latter case, kill--African American residents who they claim to “protect and serve.”

The beating of Melvin Jones III by Springfield police is yet another reminder that institutional racism is alive and well in the U.S.--and that police and government officials are unwilling to take concrete steps to reign in police officers who terrorize Black communities.

Too often, African American victims of police brutality end up dead at the hands of police who are not held accountable for their actions. Amadou Diallo, Sean Bell and Oscar Grant III are examples of police killings of Black people thrust into the national spotlight because activists refused to allow their deaths to go unnoticed.

According to a 2006 United Nations Human Rights Committee report, “The ‘War on Terror’ has created a generalized climate of impunity for law enforcement officers, and contributed to the erosion of what few accountability mechanisms exist for civilian control over law enforcement agencies. As a result, police brutality and abuse persist unabated and undeterred across the country.”

MASSLIVE.COM reported that Police Commissioner William J. Fitchet--who has had sole discretion to discipline officers involved in incidents of brutality since the abolition of the Police Commission in 2005--told 150 outraged community members at a forum on Friday, "We will get to the truth...you have got to have faith."

But some Springfield residents aren't taking Fitchet at his word, understanding that unless they take action, Springfield police will continue to terrorize African Americans.

On January 11, about 30 people gathered in front of the Federal building in downtown Springfield to demand justice for Melvin Jones III and call for an end to police brutality. The rally was called by ARISE for Social Justice and joined by members of Out Now, a local LGBTQ youth group; the International Socialist Organization; and Western Mass. Copwatch.

Behzad Samimi, a Springfield resident, connected the beating of Jones to the charges against Jason Vassell, an African American former University of Massachusetts student, who faces decades behind bars if convicted of charges stemming from his self-defense against two white men who attacked him in his dorm room while yelling racial slurs.

"It's a travesty of justice when a victim of a hate crime faces prison while repeat offenders are encouraged and get away with it, over and over," Samimi said. "All of these instances of racial profiling and hate crimes are connected...We the community must speak up and demand accountability and transparency."

Holly Richardson of ARISE, who organized the protest, said that beyond calling for the firing of officer Asher, protesters are demanding "a real, transparent civilian police review board" with the power to discipline police officers when they commit acts of brutality. Currently, "the board can only make recommendations, and they conduct their meetings behind closed doors," Richardson said. "The police end up monitoring themselves, which is never effective."

Richardson said ARISE and its allies plan to continue organizing to keep pressure on the city to hold Asher and the other officers accountable, address the issue of police brutality and "get at the root cause, which is institutionalized racism."

Shortly after the rally, Fitchet and Mayor Dominic Sarno announced guidelines for a "new civilian police commission" that, "if approved, it will have disciplinary authority." This is a step in the right direction, although it remains to be seen if this commission will be representative of those targeted by police brutality, and how transparent and effective it will be in practice.

However, even if it is all of these things, it won't be nearly enough.

None of the officers on the scene at the beating of Melvin Jones III can be seen on the tape making any attempt to stop Asher. Greater civilian oversight is welcome, but further steps are needed to address the racist culture of the Springfield Police Department.

The announcement from the mayor and the police commissioner shows that the city is on the defensive and will grant reforms if pressured. That they waited over a month to take action, and only did so after the tape became public and the community responded

with outrage shows that continued pressure is necessary to hold city and police officials accountable.

For more information on protests and activities in this campaign, call Holly Richardson of ARISE for Social Justice at 413-348-8234.

“Troubled Deal Over Ruddied Waters” “Shameful Tale Of Australia’s Treatment Of Tamil Refugees”



From: Niko Leka, Newcastle No War Collective [Australia]
To: Military Resistance
Sent: January 14, 2010
Subject: Shameful tale of Australia’s treatment of Tamil refugees

Note from Niko Leka: Alex, the spokesperson for people on the boat is cool, level headed considering the Indo’s let his friend die of appendicitis- may be interviewed by phone at +6281 387780889 or tamilassylumseekers@gmail.com -

Global action on the 18th January 2010 marks 100 days since Australian PM Kevin Rudd rang the President Yudhoyono of Indonesia and asked him to detain 254 Tamil refugees on a wooden boat (photo above) en route from Malaysia to Australia.

The refugees have refused to leave the boat. With good reason, they fear being jailed in Indonesia for up to ten years or, and deportation back to Sri Lanka.

Rudd's deal with President Yudhoyono, the "Indonesia Solution", remains secret. It is also murky.

Opposition leader Tony Abbott called on Rudd to "come clean" about it and "tell us exactly what he said to President Yudhoyono because plainly the Indonesians now think these people are our responsibilities, not theirs." (AAP, 30 Dec 2009).

A visit by Australian refugee advocates to several organizations in Indonesia in late December indicates that Abott's statement is justifiable. Several Indonesian authorities expressed dissatisfaction with the deal.

Senior officials from the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said they were unhappy with Rudd's phone call, as it has placed a burden on their country, and they did not want asylum seekers to use Indonesia as a transit country. They were reminded it was Rudd, not the asylum seekers, who made the phone call.

Indonesia National Commission of Human Rights Commissioner Nur Kholis said that refugees were fleeing to Australia and New Zealand because these countries are supposed to protect their rights as refugees.

For Australia to use Indonesia to detain refugees violates their rights, and is inhumane.

Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has not permitted the United Nations refugee agency, UNCHR access to the boat. Over a 100 refugees already have UNCHR status, and the remainder are prevented from applying.

Doctors, media, relatives and supporters are not allowed near the boat.

Several people have fallen seriously ill, and been denied adequate medical care.

A young man, Jacob Christin (photo below) died in agony after some 48 hours of being denied proper care, from a preventable condition.

According to a diagnosis made after desperate asylum seekers phoned Brisbane physician Dr. Brian Senivirante, it was probably appendicitis.

One of the 27 women, Manju is 7 months pregnant. She is in pain after being kicked accidentally in the stomach due to the cramped sleeping conditions. Her 18 month old daughter, one of 31 children, cannot get treated for a serious skin infection.

Australia pays the International Organization for Immigration (IOM) over \$12m a year to care for asylum seekers in Indonesia. The IOM withdrew from the vicinity of the boat in early November.

It restricted medical services to the asylum seekers to reduce costs.

It had Jacob Christin discharged against his will from hospital when he could not even stand up, because it claimed it could not afford the hospital bills and Jacob died within 6 hours of been discharged. .

Jacob Christin was one of 27 Christians on the boat. Catholic priest Father Adrianus Suyadi was not allowed to conduct a service for his death. Nor was he permitted to celebrate a Christmas mass.

The person who has become the unofficial speaker for the group, Alex (Sanjeev Kuhendrarajah) was beaten in the presence of a Director for the Indonesian Dept of Foreign Affairs, when he protested about his friend Jacob's death.

The advocates were not allowed near the boat to handover Australian Humanitarian application forms to the asylum seekers. Forms were left at the hospital instead. They were confiscated.

One man, Sammy, remains under arrest for having some forms in his possession.

Eight asylum seekers left the boat two months ago, believing promises they would get access to the UNHCR. Instead they remain imprisoned in a cell so small they have to take turns to lie down and sleep. They receive only two meals a day, and are not allowed exercise.

Sri Lankan officials were given access to eight of these refugees who are UNHCR recognized refugees. They threaten to deport all those on the boat to Boosa jail in Sri Lanka. This is the fate of Sujendra, who left voluntarily to return to Sri Lanka to look after his sick mother. He was arrested on arrival, and is now held at Boosa.

In a move that coincides with the call for a global day of support for the refugees, the Australian Security organization ASIO announced that four of the Oceanic Viking refugees who just arrived at the Christmas Island detention center, pose a security risk. All four have UNHCR status as refugees.

The Haneef affair revealed that ASIO played a political role, rather than being concerned with security. It is likely its latest claim will only serve to further confirm that role.

The Merak refugees have stated they want the same deal that refugees on the Oceanic Viking received. They also ask that Australia honor its obligations as a signatory to the UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. Honoring the second demand is more likely to provide a bridge for both Rudd and the refugees out of troubled waters.

Postscript-

14 Jan 2010 By Stephen Fitzpatrick and Paul Maley, The Australian [Excerpt]

“INDONESIA will force 240 Sri Lankan asylum-seekers into immigration detention by the end of next week, at gunpoint if necessary, after admitting it has concerns there are former Tamil Tigers militants among the group.

As the opposition stepped up its attack on the government over its decision to bring to Australia four Tamils deemed a security risk by ASIO, Indonesian immigration officials said they suspected the three-month standoff at the port of Merak was being directed by Tamil militants on the boat.”



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