

Military Resistance 8C11

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?



Feb. 9, 2010: A wounded U.S. Marine receives treatment by a U.S. Army flight medic while airborne in an army medevac helicopter, shortly after the Marine was wounded, in Helmand province, southern Afghanistan. The Marine Sgt., who agreed to have photos of himself published, sustained shrapnel injuries to the left side of his body, face and eye when an improvised explosive device detonated below him while he was on a foot patrol. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)



Airborne in a Black Hawk helicopter, a U.S. Army flight medic attends to a U.S. Marine wounded in a rocket-propelled grenade attack, over Marjah, Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, Feb. 13, 2010. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)



Feb. 18, 2010: U.S. Marines rush a wounded comrade to a U.S. Army Task Force Pegasus helicopter on a medevac mission, in Marjah, Helmand province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)



Feb 21, 2010: A flight medic, right, leads Marines carrying the body of a U.S. Marine killed in action to a U.S. medevac helicopter, in Helmand province, Afghanistan. While Pegasus crews' primary mission is the fast medical evacuation of wounded combatants and civilians, they also provide transport when service members are killed in action. Pegasus crews refer to service members killed in action as 'Angels,' and many describe it an honor to transport them. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)



March 1, 2010: U.S. Army Task Force Pegasus Crew carry the body of a U.S. Marine killed earlier by an IED blast, following his evacuation from the battlefield in Helmand province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)



March 4, 2010: U.S. Army flight medics direct U.S. Marines as they prepare one of two wounded comrades for transport to a waiting medical helicopter, during a medevac mission by the 82nd Airborne's Task Force Pegasus, in Helmand province, Afghanistan. One of the two wounded Marines died later of his wounds, incurred when his armored vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)



During a medevac mission by the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne's Task Force Pegasus, U.S. Marines help a wounded comrade onto a Black Hawk helicopter, left, as a chase helicopter flies for security in the background, at right, in Helmand province, Afghanistan on March 5, 2010. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)



During a medevac mission by the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne's Task Force Pegasus, an army flight medic treats a U.S. Marine while aboard a Black Hawk helicopter, in Marjah, Helmand province, Afghanistan, March 7, 2010. The Marine was among two who suffered shrapnel wounds following an IED blast. Pegasus crews provide the fast medical evacuation of wounded combatants and civilians. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

What A Surprise! “A Striking Trend In Iraqi Politics” “A Collapse In Support For Many Former Exiles Who Collaborated With The United States After The 2003 Invasion”

March 16, 2010 By ANTHONY SHADID, New York Times [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD — The followers of Moktada al-Sadr, a radical cleric who led the Shiite insurgency against the American occupation, have emerged as Iraq's equivalent of Lazarus in elections last week, defying ritual predictions of their demise and now threatening to realign the nation's balance of power.

Their apparent success in the March 7 vote for Parliament — perhaps second only to the followers of Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki as the largest Shiite bloc — underscores a striking trend in Iraqi politics: a collapse in support for many former exiles who collaborated with the United States after the 2003 invasion.

After years of defeats, fragmentation and doubt even by its own clerics about its prospects in this election, the movement has embraced the political process, while remaining steadfast in opposition to any ties with the United States.

Since 2003, the Sadrists have refused any contact with the American military or diplomats.

“It would be helpful if they would change their policy,” one American official lamented Tuesday.

But America's loss will not necessarily be Iran's gain.

In a vivid illustration of Iranian power here, Iran cajoled the Sadrists to join the Supreme Council in their election coalition, even though the two fought in the streets a few years before. The two still air their feuds in public.

But many politicians believe the Sadrists, long seen as more nationalist than other religious Shiite parties, will prove less pliable for Iran.

Mr. Sadr “is not the easiest of customers for Iran to deal with,” the diplomat said.

MORE:

U.S. Occupation Allies Crushed In Anbar Voting

March 17, 2010 EU News Network

The Awakening List of Sunni tribal groups running in Iraqi parliamentary elections made a poor showing despite a U.S. courtship in 2007, results indicate.

The Unity of Iraq list, which includes Awakening members, received less than 32,000 votes, giving the secular Iraqiya list of former Prime Minister Iyad Allawi a decisive victory with 78 percent of the votes tallied in Anbar province.

The Awakening groups formed part of the so-called surge in 2007 that saw U.S. forces incorporate former militants in their fight against a rising insurgency in Iraq.

Marc Lynch, an Iraq analyst writing for Foreign Policy magazine, notes that Awakening leaders "may not have found a path to national political power through the ballot box after all."

"Being America's man in Anbar doesn't carry quite the weight that it once did, not in the atmosphere of Iraqi nationalism which has permeated the election campaign," he adds.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

“After Dark The City Is Like The Kingdom Of The Taliban”

“The Taliban And The Marja Residents All Have Beards And Turbans So It's Impossible To Distinguish Them”

“They Still Have A Lot Of Sympathy Among The People”

The Taliban Have “Complete Freedom Of Movement After Dark”

Homemade bombs still appear every night on roads traveled by the military. Gunfire can be heard many evenings in the center of town.

Earlier this week, a Marine foot patrol hit a bomb planted near the district center, seriously wounding several of them.

March 17, 2010 By ROD NORDLAND, The New York Times & By HEIDI VOGT, Associated Press Writer [Excerpts]

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban have begun waging a campaign of intimidation in Marja that some local Afghan leaders worry has jeopardized the success of an American-led offensive there meant as an early test of a revised military approach in Afghanistan.

While the Afghan government and its NATO allies have far greater force, the Taliban are locals and a proven threat.

The Marines refuse to give precise time frames, saying they’ll be here as long as they’re needed.

But commanders and Afghan officials also acknowledge that they only have a short time to win over the population.

"If this takes six to seven months, that gives a big enough window to the Taliban," said Lt. Col. Calvert Worth Jr., commander of the 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment operating in central Marjah.

Though Marja has an occupation force numbering more than one coalition soldier or police officer for every eight residents, Taliban agitators have been able to wage an underground campaign of subversion, which residents say has intensified in the past two weeks.

Homemade bombs still appear every night on roads traveled by the military. Gunfire can be heard many evenings in the center of town.

Earlier this week, a Marine foot patrol hit a bomb planted near the district center, seriously wounding several of them.

New cell phone towers brought phone service to Marjah a little over a week ago. But the service doesn’t work at night because the Taliban threaten or bribe tower operators to shut off the network, presumably to prevent people from alerting troops and police as they plant bombs after dark.

The new governor of Marja, Haji Abdul Zahir, said the militants were now holding meetings in randomly selected homes roughly every other night, gathering residents

together and demanding that they turn over the names of anyone cooperating with the authorities.

“At the same time, they still have a lot of sympathy among the people.”

"They are part of the community down here, so it is very easy for them to influence people," Zahir said.

He said it was impossible to estimate how many Taliban fighters remained in the city.

“It’s like an ant hole,” he said.

“When you look into an ant hole, who knows how many ants there are?”

A tribal elder living in Marja, who spoke on condition of anonymity out of fear of the Taliban, declared that in his area, called Block 5, the Taliban had complete freedom of movement after dark. He said he believed that was true in many other parts of the city as well.

“After dark the city is like the kingdom of the Taliban,” the elder said, adding that he had heard of several other beheadings. “The government and international forces cannot defend anyone even one kilometer from their bases.”

Mr. Zahir dismissed reports of beheadings as rumors.

The Afghan member of Parliament for Marja and the surrounding Nad Ali District, Walid Jan Sabir, said he had heard reports from Marja elders visiting his office in Kabul this week of two other beheadings of other pro-government elders, both members of the government’s Community Development Council.

Mr. Sabir scoffed at Mr. Zahir’s denial of beheadings, saying, “He is not from the area and he is only staying in his office so he doesn’t know what is happening.”

The Marja elder also said there were many accounts of the Taliban forcing residents to attend night meetings where they threatened retaliation against anyone cooperating with the government or NATO and warned that anyone who took even a low-paid government job would have his earnings confiscated.

Mr. Zahir said there were many accounts of such confiscations from new employees in government work programs.

Mr. Sabir was critical of American and Afghan forces for surrendering the night.

Since many tribal leaders had fled out of fear, and many of the Afghan officials coming in now were not from Marja, it was difficult for them to know who the Taliban activists were.

“The Taliban and the Marja residents all have beards and turbans so it’s impossible to distinguish them,” he said.

Gul Sahed said his neighborhood is still not safe. There is fighting nearly every day and the Taliban say they'll be beaten if they leave their homes at night.

They just want to be left alone to farm. The Taliban mostly left them alone.

"I can't take any money because I'm afraid for my life," said Borjan, a rough-skinned farmer who owns a house that has been taken over by a Marine platoon until they can build their own outpost.

He seems to want compensation: he lists equipment and field supplies that have been damaged but refuses to discuss how much it is worth.

He just wants them out of the house, which is occupied by a son.

"My sense is that the Taliban will reinfiltate in due course as the Afghan government fails to live up to the modest expectations NATO has of it," says Mervyn Patterson, a former U.N. political affairs expert in Afghanistan.

"I do not think that the Taliban have been weakened in Helmand by the loss of Marjah. They have been having ups and downs, and this was a modest down, but not something that is significant, in and of itself. I expect they will gradually return to Marjah."

2 Soldiers From The Royal Anglian Regiment Killed In Helmand

17 Mar 10 Ministry of Defence

It is with sadness that the Ministry of Defence must announce that two soldiers from 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment, part of the Household Cavalry Regiment Battle Group, were killed in Afghanistan yesterday, Tuesday 16 March 2010.

The soldiers were killed as a result of an explosion which occurred in an area approximately 20km north of Musa Qal'ah district centre, Helmand province, yesterday afternoon.

U.S. Marine Dies Of Wounds Sustained In Afghanistan March 6

March 18, 2010 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 217-10

Gunnery Sgt. Robert L. Gilbert II, 28, of Richfield, Ohio, died March 16 of wounds sustained March 8 while supporting combat operations in Badghis province, Afghanistan. He was assigned to 2nd Marine Special Operations Battalion, Marine

Rocket Attack Kills One Person At U.S. Base In Afghanistan: Nationality Not Announced

March 15 Arab Times

A rocket attack on the largest U.S. military hub in Afghanistan killed one person Monday, NATO said.

The rocket attack targeted the sprawling Bagram Air Field, north of the capital, Kabul. A NATO spokesman would not say whether the victim was a service member or a civilian.

Abdullah Adil, the police chief in the Bagram district of Parwan province, said one rocket was fired onto the grounds of the base at about 4 a.m. A Taliban spokesman told The Associated Press that two rockets were fired on the base.

Bagram is home to some 24,000 military personnel and civilian contractors supporting the war against the Taliban insurgency.

While well protected and located in a relatively quiet area, the more than 5,000-acre (2,000-hectare) base is still susceptible to rocket and mortar attacks. Last year, insurgents launched more than a dozen attacks on Bagram, killing at least four people.

The main air field is being expanded to accommodate some of the 30,000 new American troops that President Barack Obama has ordered to Afghanistan to try to turn the tide of the war.

Six Foreigners Die In Shah Walikot Blast

16 March 2010 Quqnoos

At least six foreigners were killed in an explosion in Kandahar province on Monday, a spokesman for the provincial government said

"The incident occurred in Shah Walikot district as a result six foreigners were killed," the spokesman added.

He did not disclose the identity of the foreign nationals.

Afghan Interior Minister Mohammad Hanif Atmar also visited the province on Monday to inspect the situation and take necessary steps to improve security there.

Five Australian Soldiers Wounded By Chora Valley IED

March 18, 2010 The Australian

FIVE Australian soldiers have been wounded, three of them seriously, after their vehicle struck a roadside bomb in Afghanistan.

The Department of Defence said all five were conscious and had been in contact with their families.

Some were expected to return to Australia within days for rehabilitation.

A Defence statement issued yesterday said the incident happened on Tuesday, Afghanistan time.

The soldiers were from the 1st Mentoring Taskforce, and were conducting a routine patrol in the Chora Valley area of Oruzgan province on their Bushmaster vehicle when it struck the bomb.

The wounded were evacuated to a medical centre within an hour, Defence said, and were then transferred to a larger medical facility in Kandahar.

Marine With Minnesota Ties Killed In Afghanistan

February 26, 2010 By CHAO XIONG, Star Tribune

A U.S. Marine with Minnesota family ties has been killed in Afghanistan.

Lance Cpl. Eric L. Ward, 19, of Redmond, Wash., was part of a security mission in the southern province of Helmand when an improvised explosive device killed him and another Marine Sunday, Ward's mother, Monica McNeal, said by phone Friday night from her home in Washington.

Ward attended kindergarten and first grade in the Twin Cities area when his family lived in Chanhassen. The family then moved to California and Washington, but Ward visited Minnesota every year because of his mother's family ties in Winthrop, Minn., his mother said.

He was a fourth-generation Marine who always strove to be his best, she said, noting that even when Eric was a child, his love for the Marines was clear: His bedroom was draped with camouflage.

"Eric loved life," McNeal said. "He kind of lived life on the edge of the sandbox. He pushed the limit. He made people laugh."

Ward was a competitive baseball and football player in high school, but had a sensitive side, too. His mother said one morning he arrived early to class and put a Hershey's kiss chocolate on every student's desk.

He joined the Marines in July 2008 and was deployed in October 2009. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force at Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

"He was just ready to serve," his mother said. "And he was a really giving person."

While in Afghanistan, Ward spoke often with his mother via cell phone or Facebook, where a memorial page with more than 1,200 fans now has sprung up. He never talked about safety concerns, instead reassuring his mother that he was fine and focusing on stories about the Afghan children he encountered and how eager they were to receive pens and pencils from soldiers.

"On Facebook, he said, 'Mom, I'm safe. Don't worry. I love you,' " McNeal said.

Washington Gov. Chris Gregoire has directed that flags at Washington state buildings fly at half staff Monday in memory of Ward. A memorial service will be held March 13 at his high school in Washington. He will be buried March 19 at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

Ward is also survived by his father and five siblings.

"As a parent, you only want your child to do the things that make them very happy, and I'm proud that he chose this career knowing that death was part of being a Marine during wartime, and I'm proud to be his mom," McNeal said.

**“All The Survivors Interviewed
Insisted That Americans, Who They
Said Were Not In Uniform, Conducted
The Raid And The Killings”**

**“They Say A Large Number Of People
Had Gathered For A Party In Honor Of
The Birth Of A Grandson Of The Owner
Of The House, Hajji Sharaf Udin”**

March 15, 2010 By RICHARD A. OPPEL Jr. and ROD NORDLAND, The New York Times [Excerpt]

On Feb. 12 in a village near Gardez, in Paktia Province, Afghan police special forces paired with American Special Operations forces raided a house late at night looking for two Taliban suspects, and instead killed a local police chief and a district prosecutor when they came out, armed with Kalashnikov rifles, to investigate.

Three women who came to their aid, according to interviews with family members and friends, were also killed; one was a pregnant mother of 10, the other a pregnant mother of 6.

A press release from the International Security Assistance Force, as NATO's force here is known, said at first that the three women had been discovered bound and gagged, apparently killed execution style. NATO officials now say their bodies were wrapped in traditional manner before burial. Admiral Smith said Afghan forces fired the shots in the compound.

"The regret is that two innocent males died," Admiral Smith said. "The women, I'm not sure anyone will ever know how they died."

He added, however, "I don't know that there are any forensics that show bullet penetrations of the women or blood from the women."

He said they showed signs of puncture and slashing wounds from a knife, and appeared to have died several hours before the arrival of the assault force. In respect for Afghan customs, autopsies are not carried out on civilian victims, he said.

Interviews with relatives and family friends give a starkly different account and described an American cover-up.

They say a large number of people had gathered for a party in honor of the birth of a grandson of the owner of the house, Hajji Sharaf Udin. After most had gone to sleep, the police commander, Mr. Udin's son, Mohammed Daoud, went out to investigate the arrival of armed men and was shot fatally.

When a second son, Mohammed Zahir, went out to talk to the Americans because he spoke some English, he too was shot and killed.

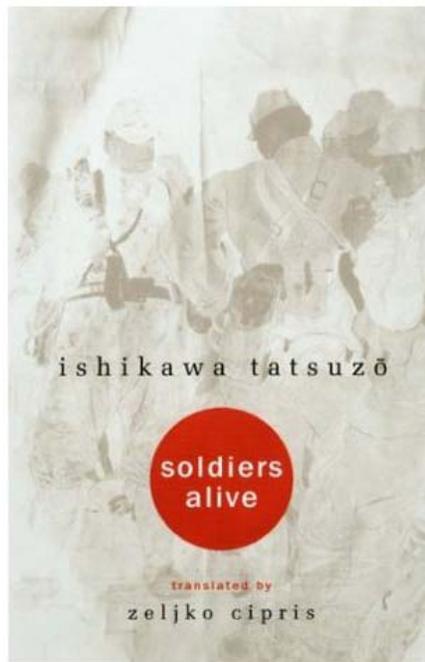
The three women — Mr. Udin's 19-year-old granddaughter, Gulalai; his 37-year-old daughter, Saleha, the mother of 10 children; and his daughter-in-law, Shirin, the mother of six — were all gunned down when they tried to help the victims, these witnesses claimed.

All the survivors interviewed insisted that Americans, who they said were not in uniform, conducted the raid and the killings, and entered the compound before Afghan forces.

Among the witnesses was Sayid Mohammed Mal, vice chancellor of Gardez University, whose son's fiancée, Gulalai, was killed.

“They were killed by the Americans,” he said. “If the government doesn’t listen to us, I have 50 family members, I’ll bring them all to Gardez roundabout and we’ll pour petrol on ourselves and burn ourselves to death.”

Ishikawa and Kuroshima would understand: insert troops into a hell on earth and there’s no way to prevent atrocities. Yet the real fiends in their capital suites are never spattered with a single drop of blood. Solidarity, Z



Resistance Action; Attack Near Marjah

March 15 (Reuters) & 16 March (AKI) & Reuters & The Daily Star & The Associated Press

On Sunday, an Afghan soldier was killed in an insurgent attack near Marjah, the defence ministry said, adding the troops were still clearing the area of "enemies' bombs".

A roadside bomb injured at least three police in eastern Baghdad as they travelled in their patrol car as it drove past Al-Mustansriya University.

A roadside bomb wounded three policemen in northern Baghdad, police said.

A soldier was killed by an insurgent at a checkpoint in western Mosul, police said.

A sticky bomb wounded three members of Iraqi civil defense forces in Baghdad's western Mansour district, police said.

A bomb targeted a police patrol, wounding one policeman in western Mosul, police said.

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

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

**THIS ENVIRONMENT IS HAZARDOUS TO YOUR
HEALTH;
ALL HOME, NOW**



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. from San Antonio, Texas, member of an Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit, checks for concealed bombs in the Badula Qulp area, west of Lashkar Gah in Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, Feb. 23, 2010. (AP Photo/Pier Paolo Cito)



U.S. Marines from 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment patrol in Marjah in Afghanistan's Helmand province Feb. 25, 2010. (AP Photo/David Guttenfelder)



U.S. Marines from 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment guard the entrance to a compound where they stopped for the night in Marjah in Afghanistan's Helmand province on Feb. 27, 2010. (AP Photo/David Guttenfelder)



Remains of U.S. Army's Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) armored vehicles (C) hit by a roadside bomb while providing a route clearance for a convoy delivering supplies to the remote U.S. Marine base in Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, March 6, 2010. REUTERS/Shamil Zhumatov

TROOP NEWS

Unemployment Rate Last Year For Young Iraq And Afghanistan Veterans Hit 21.1 %

[Thanks to Michael Letwin, New York Labor Against The War & Military Resistance, who sent this in.]

March 12, 2010 By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The unemployment rate last year for young Iraq and Afghanistan veterans hit 21.1 percent, the Labor Department said Friday, reflecting a tough obstacle combat veterans face as they make the transition home from war.

The number was well above the 16.6 percent jobless rate for non-veterans of the same ages, 18 to 24.

As of last year, 1.9 million veterans had deployed for the wars since the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

The just-released rate for young veterans was significantly higher than the unemployment rate of young veterans in that age group of 14.1 percent in 2008.

Many of the unemployed are members of the Guard and Reserves who have deployed multiple times, said Joseph Sharpe, director of the economic division at the American Legion.

Sharpe said some come home to find their jobs have been eliminated because the company has downsized. Other companies may not want to hire someone who could deploy again or will have medical appointments because of war-related health problems, he said.

“It’s a horrible environment because if you’re a Reservist and you’re being deployed two or three times in a five-year period, you know you’re less competitive,” Sharpe said. “Many companies that are already hurting are reluctant to hire you and time kind of moves on once you’re deployed.”

The national unemployment rate last year was 9.3 percent, the highest since 1983.

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT THE NEW ISSUE OF TRAVELING SOLDIER

Just posted at: <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/TS28.pdf>

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

I say that when troops cannot be counted on to follow orders because they see the futility and immorality of them THAT is the real key to ending a war.

-- Al Jaccoma, Veterans For Peace

“What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.”

-- Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

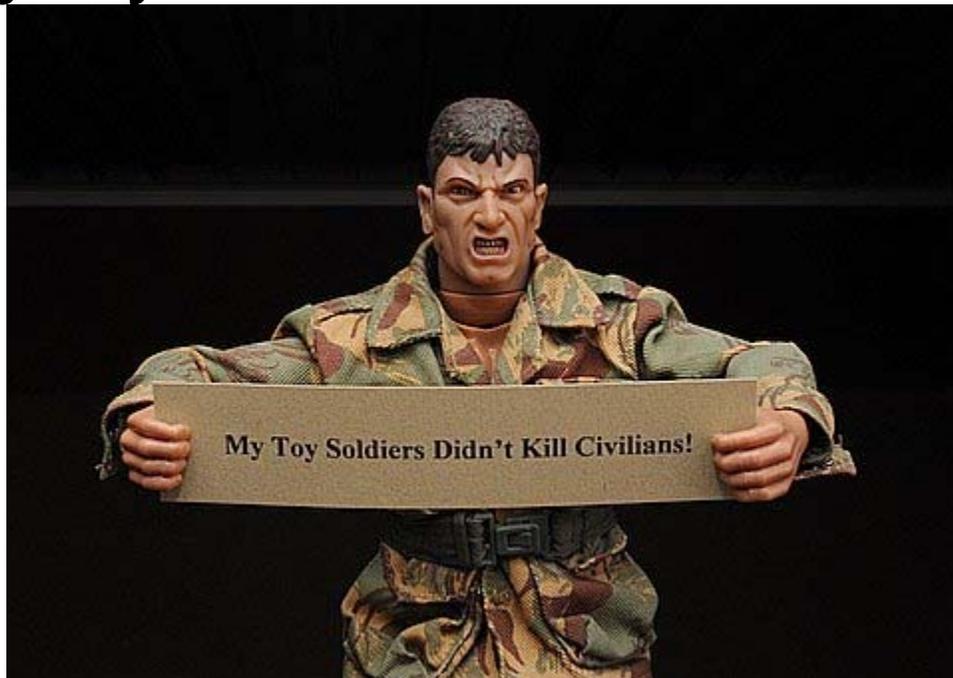
**Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004**

**Firearms are second only to the Constitution in importance; they are the peoples' liberty's teeth.
-- George Washington**

**"The Nixon administration claimed and received great credit for withdrawing the Army from Vietnam, but it was the rebellion of low-ranking GIs that forced the government to abandon a hopeless suicidal policy"
-- David Cortwright; Soldiers In Revolt**

**It is a two class world and the wrong class is running it.
-- Larry Christensen, Soldiers Of Solidarity & United Auto Workers**

My Toy Soldiers Didn't Kill Civilians



An angry G.I. Joe who found out the truth: Photograph by Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance
Sent: March 13, 2010
Subject: My Toy Soldiers Didn't Kill Civilians

My Toy Soldiers Didn't Kill Civilians

This is the great conflict of so many soldiers when they find out the truth about war. The killing of civilians are military targets. This strategy has been used throughout the history of war going back to ancient times. In the age of modern warfare, the killing of civilians is unprecedented. Over 50 million people were killed during World War II, and the vast majority of them were innocent civilians. During the Vietnam War, to include Laos and Cambodia, between 3 and 4 million people were killed. 90% of those killed were civilians. And most of those people were killed with bombs, and artillery. Southeast Asia is the most bombed area in the world. The U.S. dropped three times as many bombs on Southeast Asia as they did in all of World War II. The American War in Vietnam, was all about, "Total War." You drain the swamp to kill all the fish. You carpet bomb to kill everyone. The final death toll of the wars in the Middle East will be unfathomable. These are resource wars. These are oil and water wars. What we will eventually come to see, is that there are only so many chairs around a dinner table. And the rich countries in the world will dictate who will get served. A lot has changed since I played with toy soldiers in my childhood. I never realized that a boy some where in a Third World country would die because of something I thought was true. My toy soldiers didn't kill civilians was a moral code I believed in. I never realized that children and other civilians died because of corporate greed,

**inflicted by a powerful military force that
I once thought was on my side.
Lying is the most powerful weapon in war.
When I became a man,
I put away childish things.**

**Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
March 12, 2010**

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)

Bombing Pakistan: [Words Of Prophecy 2001

9.27.01 By Bill Bonner, Daily Reckoning [Excerpt

If Simon de Montfort had had bombers, he would have used them to crush the Cathar heresy in 1208.

Cathars lived in towns in the Southwest of France...where they practiced their form of "pure" Christianity. They believed that work was good but that all matter was evil.

Why were they considered such a threat? Eight hundred years later, it is hard to imagine. Perhaps it was because they did not eat meat; vegetarianism has always been regarded with alarm in France.

Blessed by the Pope, and joined by men in search of paradise in heaven or confiscated lands on earth, Simon de Montfort led a campaign against the heretics.

St. Dominic despaired of trying to talk sense into them. "I have preached, I have entreated, I have wept...the rod must now do the work of benediction."

In the ensuing campaign whole towns were wiped out - with every man, woman, and child put to the sword...many tortured before finally being put to death.

A favorite means of killing heretics was to burn them alive at the stake..."with a small, slow fire," the chroniclers report. Those who escaped ran and hid in the forests. There, they starved...other towns were forbidden to give them food or shelter, under penalty of death.

How could de Montfort tell the difference between heretics and the honest Catholics who lived in the same towns?

He was as ignorant of an individual's guilt or innocence as a smart bomb.

So he killed them all.

"Slay them all," was his instruction (attributed to Papal Legate Arnaud Amaury). "God will recognize his own."

“Nowhere Do ‘Politicians’ Form A More Separate And Powerful Section Of The Nation Than Precisely In North America”

“We Find Here Two Great Gangs Of Political Speculators, Who Alternately Take Possession Of The State Power And Exploit It By The Most Corrupt Means And For The Most Corrupt Ends”

Excerpts from Introduction to The Civil War In France, by Friedrich Engels, March 18, 1891:

From the very outset the Commune [the revolutionary government set up by French workers and soldiers in Paris, 1871] was compelled to recognize that the working class, once come to power, could not go on managing with the old state machine; that in order not to lose again its only just conquered supremacy this working class must, on the one hand, do away with all the old repressive machinery previously used against it itself and, on the other, safeguard itself against its own deputies and officials, by declaring them all, without exception, subject to recall at any moment.

What had been the characteristic attribute of the former state?

Society had created its own organs to look after its common interests, originally through simple division of labor.

But these organs, at whose head was the state power, had in the course of time, in pursuance of their own special interests, transformed themselves from the servants of society into the masters of society.

This can be seen, for example, not only in the hereditary monarchy, but equally so in the democratic republic.

Nowhere do “politicians” form a more separate and powerful section of the nation than precisely in North America.

There each of the two major parties which alternately succeed each other in power is itself in turn controlled by people who make a business of politics, who speculate on seats in the legislative assemblies of the Union as well as of the separate states, or who make a living by carrying on agitation for their party and on its victory are rewarded with positions.

It is well known how the Americans have been trying for thirty years to shake off this yoke, which has become intolerable, and how in spite of it all they continue to sink ever deeper in this swamp of corruption.

It is precisely in America that we see best how there takes place this process of the state power making itself independent in relation to society, whose mere instrument it was originally intended to be. Here there exists no dynasty, no nobility, no standing army, beyond the few men keeping watch on the Indians, no bureaucracy with permanent posts or the right to pensions.

And nevertheless we find here two great gangs of political speculators, who alternately take possession of the state power and exploit it by the most corrupt means and for the most corrupt ends — and the nation is powerless against these two great cartels of politicians, who are ostensibly its servants, but in reality dominate and plunder it.

Against this transformation of the state and the organs of the state from servants of society into masters of society — an inevitable transformation in all previous states — the Commune made use of two infallible means.

In the first place, it filled all posts — administrative, judicial, and educational — by election on the basis of universal suffrage of all concerned, subject to the right of recall at any time by the same electors.

And, in the second place, all officials, high or low, were paid only the wages received by other workers.

In this way an effective barrier to place hunting and careerism was set up, even apart from the binding mandates to delegates to representative bodies which were added besides.

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DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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CLASS WAR REPORTS



Capitalists At Work:

**Karachi Water Mafia Leaves
Pakistanis Parched And Broke:
Corrupt Politicians Allow Businessmen
To Steal As Much As 41% Of The City's
Water Supply And Turn Around And Sell
It At Exorbitant Rates**



A driver stands atop his water tanker as he fills it up with a large blue hose from an illegal hydrant inside a red-brick building on Manghopir Road in Karachi. There are at least 160 illegal hydrants across the city used to siphon water from the city's supply. (Majid Hussain / For The Times / March 15, 2010)

March 16, 2010 By Alex Rodriguez, The Los Angeles Times

Name a cash cow in this sprawling city of ragged slums and glass-walled office buildings and it's almost certain there's an organized crime syndicate behind it.

The illegal operations, routinely referred to as mafias, are everywhere. There's a land mafia that commandeers prime real estate, a sugar mafia that conspires to control sugar prices, and even a railway mafia that forges train tickets and pilfers locomotive parts.

For those on the city's bottom rung, however, the underworld entity they revile the most is the water tanker mafia, a network of trucking firms that teams up with corrupt bureaucrats to turn water into liquid gold worth tens of millions of dollars each year.

The water tanker mafia's prey can be found in slums like Karachi's Gulshan-Sikanderabad neighborhood, where every morning people buy water from the tankers, lug the plastic jugs back to their homes on wooden carts, then come back three or four more times in the afternoon and evening to buy more.

A family that makes \$100 a month can spend as much as a quarter of that on water, which, elsewhere in Pakistan, costs pennies and flows out of household taps.

Water scarcity isn't the cause. Karachi has a steady water supply, and it has the network of pipes to pump ample water into every neighborhood, rich and poor.

But Karachi is also a city of opportunists forever on the prowl for under-the-table wealth.

As municipal officials look the other way, businessmen illegally tap water mains, and use the makeshift hydrants to supply fleets of tankers that then sell water to businesses, factories and neighborhoods at inflated prices. As many as 272 million gallons a day are siphoned off by the trucks.

On a recent sunbaked afternoon, along a dirt lane filled with goats munching on piles of refuse, Momin Khan seethed as he filled another blue jug with water from a cistern replenished every other day by the water tankers.

"We're poor laborers -- we can't spare this much for water," said Khan, 27, a glass factory worker. "The water supply lines come right into this neighborhood, but there's never any water. So I buy the same water that I should be getting through the pipes for free. I've got no choice."

Karachi has nine hydrant locations where water supply companies can legally buy water and fill their tanker trucks. But scattered throughout the city are at least 160 illegal hydrants, said Ashraf Sagar, manager of the Orangi Pilot Project, a private organization that researches water issues in Karachi.

The siphoning takes place around the clock, Sagar said. It's done in the dead of night, but also in broad daylight.

Along Manghopir Road, a bustling Karachi avenue lined with grease-covered car repair stalls and appliance storefronts, it's easy to find a pair of tanker drivers standing on top of their trucks, filling up with a large blue hose from an illegal hydrant inside a red-brick building. Armed guards keep outsiders from meddling.

On average, a tanker fills up six times a day, Sagar said, siphoning as much as 41% of the city's daily water supply, an amount that generates \$43 million annually for tanker owners, according to Orangi.

"With this much money involved, it's clear these are very wealthy people," Sagar said. "They're powerful mafias colluding with corrupt people in the government. So there's really nothing ordinary Pakistanis can do to stop it."

Shahnawaz Jadoon, a deputy administrative chief for the Gulshan-Sikanderabad neighborhood, said it was virtually impossible to clamp down on an enterprise that combines the clout of city government and the wealth of Karachi's powerful business circles.

At times, illegal hydrants are shut down by city officials, only to reopen a week later. Activists said they didn't know of anyone involved ever being arrested.

"The big reason why people don't get the water they're supposed to," said Jadoon, "is that if they did, this whole system, the tanker mafia and this corrupt network, would shut down."

“The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops.” Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War



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