

Military Resistance 8C17

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



Feb 21, 2010: The body of a U.S. Marine killed in action is placed into a U.S. Army Task Force Pegasus medevac helicopter, in Helmand province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

**Marines “Can Barely Conceal
Their Contempt For The Afghan
Soldiers Who Live Alongside
The Americans”
“Fuck Those Guys”**

“They Don’t Give A Fuck. They’re Leaving Tomorrow”

“An Afghan Soldier Was Caught Trying To Steal A Care Package For A Marine Sent From The United States”

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

March 24, 2010 By Dion Nissenbaum, McClatchy Newspapers

MARJAH, Afghanistan — If the U.S. Marines at Combat Outpost Turbett have any problems with their Afghan colleagues, they’re with the Afghan soldiers who followed them into battle against Taliban fighters, not with the elite police officers who’ve stepped in to help fill the security vacuum.

While the Marines praise the Afghan National Civil Order Police force, they can barely conceal their contempt for the Afghan soldiers who live alongside the Americans in this one-time drug den in Marjah.

Marines routinely disparage soldiers in the Afghan National Army as lazy and incompetent. One platoon leader recently avoided taking Afghan soldiers on patrol in favor of ANCOF officers because the soldiers were hours away from ending their tour of duty.

“I’m not fucking with the ANA,” the platoon leader said. “Fuck those guys. They don’t give a fuck. They’re leaving tomorrow.”

He asked not to be identified because of the sensitivity of the issue.

The simmering frustrations boiled over last weekend as the Afghan force that fought alongside the Marines prepared to hand things over to a new batch of incoming soldiers.

During the transition, an Afghan soldier was caught trying to steal a care package for a Marine sent from the United States.

One of the new arrivals collapsed from a suspected heroin overdose and had to be spirited away on a helicopter.

On their last day, the departing Afghans refused to clean up their cluttered living space, prompting the Marines to threaten to seize the Afghan soldiers’ ammunition until they complied.

Covert hashish use among the Afghan soldiers was so prevalent that the Marines adopted a “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy unless they were directly confronted with the problem.

Tim Coderre, a sheriff’s deputy from Wilmington, N.C., who’s working with the Marines as a law enforcement adviser, spent part of the weekend trying to figure out how to reimburse a local storekeeper after discovering that an Afghan soldier apparently had stolen cell phones and SIM cards from the shop.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

“The Electoral Campaign Has Made Clear The Strong Nationalist Current In Iraqi Politics”

“No Request For An Extension Of The US Presence Or A Renegotiation Of The Agreement Dictating Troops Depart By The End Of 2012 Is Likely To Be Forthcoming”

Iraqi Politicians Declared “General David Petraeus A ‘Baathist,’ And General Raymond Odierno, The Commander Of US Forces, Openly Accusing Them In Turn Of Being Iranian Pawns”

March 25, 2010 By Marc Lynch The National [Excerpts] Marc Lynch is an associate professor at the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University and the editor of Foreign Policy magazine’s Middle East Channel.

Contrary to the persistent worries of outside observers, Iraq is not unravelling.

Indeed, the results suggest that Iraqi nationalism is becoming a more potent force than sectarianism and that most voters have no trouble accepting a strong central government.

Both of the leading lists – al Maliki's Shiite-dominated "party of state" and Allawi's avowedly nonsectarian alliance – claimed to represent Iraqi nationalism, and both potential prime ministers have reputations for the forceful exercise of state power.

Meanwhile, lists identified with sectarian, Iranian or American interests fared poorly.

Prominent symbols of the American-backed Sunni "Awakening" in Anbar Province were wiped out in the elections, capturing only a handful of seats.

Within the Shiite Iraqi National Alliance, candidates affiliated with Muqtada al Sadr far outpaced those hailing from the Islamic Supreme Council in Iraq; while both have ties to Iran, where al Sadr himself resides.

ISCI is closer to the leadership in Tehran while the Sadrists tend to be more deeply rooted in the Shiite underclass and to voice a more pugnacious Iraqi nationalism.

Mithal al Alousi, a pro-American politician known for his outspoken views, failed to win a single seat.

And a number of leading members of the post-2003 ruling elite were undone by the open-list voting system, which allowed Iraqis to select their preferred candidates from among each electoral list rather than accepting the rankings carefully negotiated in advance by party leaders.

The remarkable performance of the Iraqiya list, which is headed by Ayad Allawi, a secular Shiite, and includes Tareq al Hashemi, the current Sunni vice president, and a number of other leading Sunni political figures, has been the greatest surprise of the election.

In the last national elections in 2005, Allawi managed only eight per cent of the vote and a mere 25 seats. He spent much of the last four years outside of Iraq, while his party meandered aimlessly through the political landscape.

But in that period, he engaged frequently with disgruntled Sunnis (including, it is alleged, with exiled Baathists) and emerged as a vocal critic of what he called al Maliki's creeping authoritarianism.

As the election campaign unfolded, Allawi cleverly positioned himself as the most plausible alternative to al Maliki. His nationalist, non-sectarian positioning allowed him to appeal to Sunnis, but also to Shiites dissatisfied with sectarianism and frustrated with al Maliki's autocratic and abrasive style. At the same time, Allawi emerged as the clear favorite of Iraq's non-Iranian neighbours, with palpable support from Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

Allawi also clearly benefited from the remarkable "de-Baathification" antics of the Accountability and Justice Commission (AJC) headed by Ahmed Chalabi and Ali Faisal

al Lami. The AJC's sudden disqualification of a vast swathe of politicians, including Saleh al Mutlak from the Al Iraqiya list, from standing on the elections based on undisclosed evidence of Baathist connections turned the election campaign upside down.

The polarization of the election and the focus on the Baathist question, rather than on the "Awakenings" period, helped Al Iraqiya garner the pragmatic support of many Sunnis. Chalabi and al Lami's gambit seems to have backfired, as their Iraqi National Alliance list performed exceedingly poorly – and al Lami himself barely registered votes in the open list system – while sharp questions about the abuse of institutional power and the independence of state institutions will not soon fade.

The moment of truth for Iraq will come if Allawi edges out al Maliki, or if the latter wins a narrow victory but cannot assemble a governing coalition due to the considerable animosity he has generated among his political rivals. Will he peacefully accept the rotation of power?

Iraqis and outside analysts have watched nervously over the last few years as the prime minister centralized power within his office. His warning, pointedly issued as commander-in-chief of the armed forces, that an "illegitimate" electoral result could result in violence further frayed nerves – leading one Saudi newspaper to describe him as "Iraq's Ahmadinejad".

The dozens of lists and parties competing for seats in the Iraqi parliament spent much of the campaign competing with one another to be the loudest advocates of Iraqi nationalism and sovereignty.

When American officials tentatively intervened in the de-Baathification fiasco, Iraqi politicians turned America's carefully modulated complaints into political dynamite, rushing to loudly denounce foreign interference in Iraqi affairs.

It was not an edifying sight to see leading Iraqi politicians declaring General David Petraeus a "Baathist" and General Raymond Odierno, the commander of US forces, openly accusing them in turn of being Iranian pawns.

American analysts, who have a difficult time imagining an Iraq without a large-scale US military presence, are anxiously scanning the political landscape in search of a reason why the United States cannot possibly withdraw its troops. But they miss the wider picture of an Iraqi public which no longer wants or needs their supposedly stabilizing role.

Whatever the private feelings of Iraqi leaders – many of whom may well fear for their political obsolescence, if not their physical safety, after American troops depart – the electoral campaign has made clear the strong nationalist current in Iraqi politics.

No request for an extension of the US presence or a renegotiation of the agreement dictating troops depart by the end of 2012 is likely to be forthcoming.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

**“We Have Shot An Amazing Number Of People, But To My Knowledge, None Has Ever Proven To Be A Threat,” Said Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal:
“The People Are Tired Of All These Cruel Actions By The Foreigners, And We Can’t Suffer It Anymore”
“The People Do Not Have Any Other Choice, They Will Rise Against The Government And Fight Them And The Foreigners”**

March 26, 2010 By RICHARD A. OPPEL Jr., New York Times [Excerpts]

KABUL, Afghanistan — American and NATO troops firing from passing convoys and military checkpoints have killed 30 Afghans and wounded 80 others since last summer, but in no instance did the victims prove to be a danger to troops, according to military officials in Kabul.

“We have shot an amazing number of people, but to my knowledge, none has ever proven to be a threat,” said Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal, who became the senior American and NATO commander in Afghanistan last year. His comments came during a recent videoconference to answer questions from troops in the field about civilian casualties.

Though fewer in number than deaths from airstrikes and Special Forces operations, such shootings have not dropped off, despite new rules from General McChrystal seeking to reduce the killing of innocents. The persistence of deadly convoy and checkpoint shootings has led to growing resentment among Afghans fearful of Western troops and angry at what they see as the impunity with which the troops operate — a friction that has turned villages firmly against the occupation.

Failure to reduce checkpoint and convoy shootings, known in the military as “escalation of force” episodes, has emerged as a major frustration for military commanders who believe that civilian casualties deeply undermine the American and NATO campaign in Afghanistan.

Many of the detainees at the military prison at Bagram Air Base joined the insurgency after the shootings of people they knew, said the senior NATO enlisted man in Afghanistan, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Hall.

“There are stories after stories about how these people are turned into insurgents,” Sergeant Major Hall told troops during the videoconference.

“Every time there is an escalation of force we are finding that innocents are being killed.”

One such case was the death of Mohammed Yonus, a 36-year-old imam and a respected religious authority, who was killed two months ago in eastern Kabul while commuting to a madrasa where he taught 150 students.

A passing military convoy raked his car with bullets, ripping open his chest as his two sons sat in the car. The shooting inflamed residents and turned his neighborhood against the occupation, elders there say.

“The people are tired of all these cruel actions by the foreigners, and we can’t suffer it anymore,” said Naqibullah Samim, a village elder from Hodkail, where Mr. Yonus lived.

“The people do not have any other choice, they will rise against the government and fight them and the foreigners. There are a lot of cases of killing of innocent people.”

And those numbers do not include shooting deaths caused by convoys guarded by private security contractors. Some tallies have put the total number of escalation of force deaths far higher.

A spokesman for the Afghan Interior Ministry, Zemary Bashary, said private security contractors sometimes killed civilians during escalation of force episodes, but he said he did not know the number of instances.

Foreign “Service Member” Killed Saturday Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan; Nationality Not Announced

March 27 AP

KABUL – An foreign service member was killed Saturday by a roadside bomb in southern Afghanistan, NATO said, raising the number of alliance troops who have died in the country this month to at least 36.

A NATO statement did not identify the victim by nationality or provide further details.

Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed In Bombing Friday Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan: Nationality Not Announced

Mar 26 By AMIR SHAH, Associated Press Writer

NATO said a serviceman died Friday in a bombing in southern Afghanistan. The international force did not disclose the nationality of the soldier who died.

Soldier From The Household Cavalry Regiment Killed By Grenade Near Sangin

26 Mar 10 Ministry of Defence

It is with sadness that the Ministry of Defence must confirm the death of a soldier from the Household Cavalry Regiment, serving as part of the Brigade Reconnaissance Force, on the afternoon of 26 March 2010.

The soldier died as a result of a grenade attack which occurred in an area 3kms south of Sangin district centre, in Helmand Province.

Taleban Capture Helmand Town After Days Of Fierce Fighting

24 March 2010 Jerome Starkey in Afghanistan. The Scotsman

A VILLAGE in northern Helmand has been captured by the Taleban after more than three days of heavy fighting, Afghan and Nato officials have told The Scotsman.

More than 50 Afghan policemen were forced to abandon Shah Karez, around nine miles (15km) east of Musa Qala, after five of their comrades were killed and 16 others injured in co-ordinated Taleban attacks. British and NATO forces were not involved.

Local elders said hundreds of Taleban surrounded the village, which has been under government control since late 2007.

“The police held out as long as they could,” said Mullah Abdul Salaam, the district governor, whose family comes from Shah Karez. “Then suddenly they left, because there were too many Taleban. There were Afghan Taleban, Pakistani Taleban and Baluch.”

Many of the dead and wounded were brought to Musa Qala’s town centre. “I myself saw seven dead bodies,” said Haji Amir Mohammed Akhundzada.

“The Taleban now control Shah Karez.”

Helmand’s provincial police chief Assadullah Sherzad claimed 40 insurgents had been killed. He said the police retreated to avoid civilian casualties although he insisted they plan a counter attack.

Taleban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi said just two insurgents had been killed in five days of fighting. He said the Taleban captured Shah Karez late on Saturday – seizing abandoned guns and pick-up trucks

The town was retaken during a massive US, British and Afghan offensive, Operation Snakebite, in December 2007. Mullah Salaam – a former Taleban commander who swapped sides – was installed as the district governor.

British and Afghan troops have been trying to expand a “security bubble” north and south of the town ever since. Nonetheless, Mullah Salaam’s hometown to the east is largely beyond their reach and his relationship with British troops remains fractious, at best.

“There have been 50 or 60 police in Shah Karez for two years,” he told The Scotsman in a satellite phone call.

“The Taleban attacked many times and I always asked the government for more troops, but they never came.”

Most of the policemen in Shah Karez were drawn from Mullah Salaam’s private militia. While they occasionally wear uniforms and technically answer to the interior ministry, they have been accused of various abuses in the past and rarely enjoy support from Musa Qala’s rival power broker, police chief Commander Koka.

British forces in Musa Qala have started handing over to US marines, to focus on targets in the centre of the province. Earlier Mullah Salaam blamed the British for failing to support him

NGO Attacked In Khost

Mar 26 By AMIR SHAH, Associated Press Writer

An insurgent attacked a group of German and Afghan aid workers inspecting a high school under renovation in eastern Afghanistan on Friday, killing one person and injuring several others, officials said.

One of those wounded in the attack in Khost province was a German citizen, said a spokesman for the German Foreign Office, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with department policy. The person who was killed was Afghan.

The attacker opened fire from a vehicle as he approached the site in Khost City and then fled to a nearby house, where he engaged police in a gunbattle that was ongoing Friday evening, said acting provincial Gov. Taher Khan Sabari.

A total of three people were wounded in the initial attack, including the German and two Afghans, said the German spokesman and a local police official, Gulam Mohammad. Several others were wounded in the gunbattle that followed the initial assault.

Local hospital official Amir Pacha said a total of nine people were being treated for injuries, including three police.

Khost is located along the volatile border with Pakistan

MORE:

Resistance Attacks NGOs: Colin Powell Explains Why They Are Right To Do So

World Vision and Human Rights Watch argued for military intervention against Serbia to protect Muslims in Srebrenica. Oxfam argued for the NATO attack against Serbia to stop ethnic cleansing in Kosovo.

The United States has been happy to incorporate such NGOs into military planning, operations, and postwar occupations.

U.S. Secretary of State Cohn Powell declared that humanitarian NGOs in Afghanistan were a “force multiplier for us, an important part of our combat team.”

-- Ashley Smith in “Humanitarian Imperialism And Its Apologists,” International Socialist Review September-October 2009.

**THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO COMPREHENSIBLE REASON TO BE IN THIS EXTREMELY HIGH RISK LOCATION AT THIS TIME, EXCEPT THAT THE PACK OF TRAITORS THAT RUN THE GOVERNMENT IN D.C. WANT YOU THERE TO DEFEND THEIR IMPERIAL DREAMS:
That is not a good enough reason.**



A U.S. convoy makes a day-long drive to deliver supplies to a remote U.S. Marine base in Helmand province, Afghanistan, March 6, 2010. REUTERS/Shamil Zhumatov



A U.S. Army National Guard soldier searches for a trigger wire near a MRAP armored vehicle hit by road side bomb while delivering supplies to the remote U.S. Marine base in Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, March 6, 2010. REUTERS/Shamil Zhumatov



U.S. Marines with the First Battalion, Sixth Marine Regiment, take cover as they are fired on by insurgents during a patrol in Marjah, Afghanistan, March 19, 2010. (AP Photo/Dusan Vranic)

TROOP NEWS

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



March 2, 2010: U.S. Army flight medic closes the door of a medevac helicopter in preparation for takeoff with a wounded U.S. Marine, during an ongoing firefight, in Helmand province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

**“The Flag Represents The U.S. But
It Does Not Represent Us”**

**“The Flag Represents The State, A
Tool The Ruling Class Uses To
Further Its Interests”**

**“May Many More Burning Flags Light
The Path To A World Without War”**



Our primary enemies are domestic – a ruling class that exploits our labor for profit and channels our love for our homeland to have us kill our sisters and brothers in other parts of the world.

03/25/2010 By Victor Agosto, Iraq Veterans Against the War

Branch of service: United States Army (USA)

Unit: C. Company, 57 ESB, 35 Sig BDE

Rank: PVT, I was a SPC before I was demoted.

Home: Miami, Florida

Served in: Fort Jackson, Fort Gordon, Fort Hood, FOB Q'West, Bell County Law Enforcement Center

The flag represents the U.S. but it does not represent us.

The flag represents the state, a tool the ruling class uses to further its interests.

This state has killed its indigenous inhabitants and has enslaved its people.

It is a state which serves the interests of insurance companies rather than the interests of people who are ill. It bails out banks but not hard working people who face foreclosure.

It facilitates corporate exploitation of workers all over the world.

It engages in wars for control and profit.

I am for the people who live within the territorial bounds of the “republic.” I am proud of their struggles for an eight-hour work day, gender equality, racial desegregation, ending child labor, and ending wars.

However, we are not better than the rest of the world’s people. We are all one human family.

Our biggest enemies are not people in foreign lands who speak unintelligible languages.

Our primary enemies are domestic – a ruling class that exploits our labor for profit and channels our love for our homeland to have us kill our sisters and brothers in other parts of the world.

May many more burning flags light the path to a world without war.



Members of the American Legion burn American flags at the Alder Street Park on Flag Day, June 14. Photo by Bob Walter, Eatonsville News,

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

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

This issue features:

1. Against The Giant: "I Really Enjoy Reading The Paper And Knowing There Are Others Out There Who Agree With Us"

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/3.10.giant.php>

2. "If The Regular Civilian Population Could See The Shit That Goes On At Drum, People Would Flip Shit"

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/3.10.drum.php>

3. "When I First Came (Into) The Army, I Didn't Want To Think About Having To Fight Back ... With My Leaders"

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/3.10.leader.php>

4. "I Did Not Expect To Have Traveling Soldier's Presence In Afghanistan Corroborated By A Man In Prison In Illinois" [It Gets Around]

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/3.10.prison.php>

5. Download the new Traveling Soldier to pass it out at your school, workplace, or at nearby base.

<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/)**

**DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE
MILITARY?**

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the wars, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Phone: 888.711.2550

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.

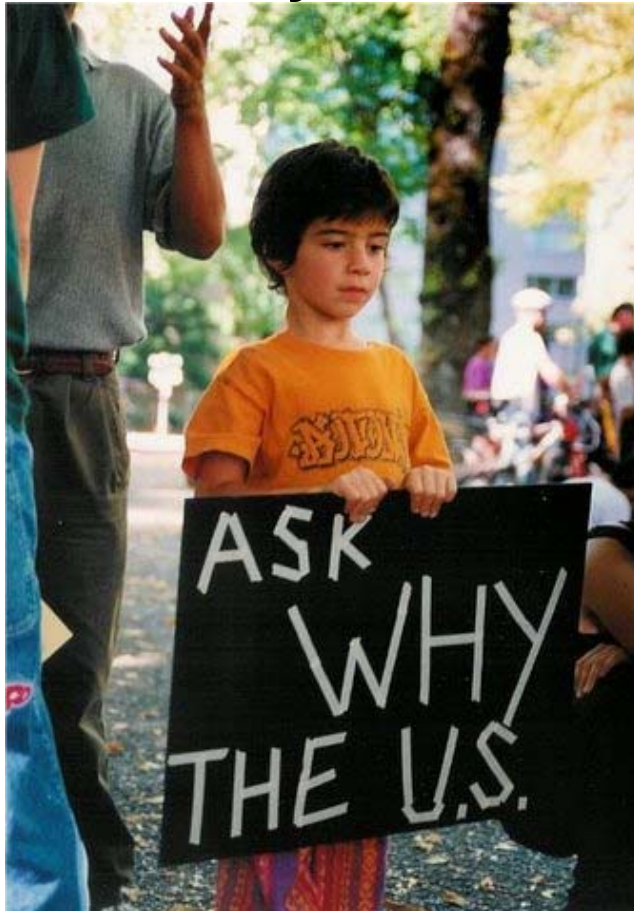
-- Al Jaccoma, Veterans For Peace

“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

A revolution is always distinguished by impoliteness, probably because the ruling classes did not take the trouble in good season to teach the people fine manners.
-- Trotsky, History Of The Russian Revolution

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

Ask Why The U.S.



Photograph by Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance
Sent: March 18, 2010

Subject: Ask Why The U.S.

Ask Why The U.S.

**Anti-war rally at Portland State University
just before the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan
on October 7, 2001.**

**This small girl is probably around 17 now.
That is how long this horrible war has been
going on.**

**Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
March 18, 2010**

A nation that year after year spends
more money on national defense than
it does on programs of social uplift is
facing spiritual death.
Martin Luther King Jr.
April 4, 1967

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

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

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

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?

**Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the address if you wish and
we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this
is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to
encouraging news of growing resistance to the wars, inside the armed
services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to:
The Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-
5657. Phone: 888.711.2550**

On The Seventh Anniversary Of The Invasion Of Iraq



From: Displaced Films
To: Military Resistance
Subject: On the seventh anniversary of the invasion of Iraq
Date: Mar 26, 2010

WAR IS PEACE

SILENCE IS HOPE

CHANGE IS ONLY SKIN DEEP



[Click Sir! No Sir! banner above to visit the official Sir! No Sir! Webstore]



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

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Zionist Terrorists Execute Another Palestinian: [The Master Race On The March]

25 March 2010 By Mel Frykberg, The Electronic Intifada

RAMALLAH, occupied West Bank (IPS) –

In early February, 41-year-old Fayez Ahmed Faraj, a father of nine from the city of Hebron, 30 miles south of Jerusalem, in the southern West Bank, was shot dead in his home town by Israeli soldiers after he allegedly tried to stab one of them.

After a preliminary investigation the Israeli military authorities stated that the soldiers had acted in self-defense and had used the necessary force.

The media subsequently reported that the Israeli soldier who shot Faraj dead had acted within reason.

But further investigation by Palestinian and Israeli human rights organizations, and eye-witness reports, dispute the official version of events.

“This is not the first time that Israeli security forces have shot to kill when their lives have been in no danger. We have recorded many such incidents,” says Shawan Jabarin from the Palestinian human rights organization Al-Haq in Ramallah.

“There seems to be a deliberate policy often to kill following the smallest provocation. Palestinian life is cheap for the Israelis,” Jabarin told IPS.

According to eye-witnesses and paramedics following a possible verbal altercation with the soldiers Faraj was shot seven times in the course of an hour even as he lay on the ground seriously wounded and barely able to move.

The witnesses further claim that not only did the Israeli soldiers fail to arrest Faraj but they deliberately framed him by taking a knife from a nearby military jeep and threw it on the ground next to the dying man after they had shot him.

They then took photographs for “evidence.”

Paramedics from the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) also state that when they tried to evacuate the critically injured man to hospital they were held up at gunpoint by Israeli soldiers.

The hospital the paramedics were trying to reach was only a few hundred meters away from where the shooting took place.

Time was of the essence as Faraj had lost copious amounts of blood.

One of the paramedics, Eid Abu Munshar, told Israeli human rights group B’Tselem that one of the Israeli soldiers entered the ambulance and pulled the intravenous drip from Fayez’s arm.

Later an Israeli officer ordered Faraj to be transferred to an Israeli army jeep. He was then placed in an intensive care ambulance where he waited another critical half an hour.

None of these subsequent details made media headlines with the exception of the investigative journalist Gideon Levy from the Israeli daily Haaretz who decided to investigate further.

Further complicating the issue was the fact that several weeks earlier a Palestinian policeman had stabbed an Israeli soldier to death in the West Bank and many believed this to be a copy-cat killing.

Levy’s report raised several other questions regarding the murky circumstances and confusion surrounding Faraj’s death.

After speaking to Faraj's employers and family he established that Faraj had little motivation to carry out a stabbing attack.

He was one of the few Palestinians in possession of a security permit to both enter Israel and sleep overnight something that a Palestinian deemed a security risk by the Israeli military would never have.

Faraj had been employed by the same Israeli company for 15 years in Tel Aviv where he worked as a shoemaker and was described as a happy guy.

He had Israeli friends, spoke Hebrew fluently and was economically well off.

He was not an Islamic ideologue and as his brother explained to Levy if Faraj had wanted to attack Israelis he had plenty of chances to do so in Tel Aviv.

B'Tselem, too, was not satisfied with the previous conclusions drawn and wrote to Israel's Judge Attorney General asking that the case be thoroughly investigated

"The circumstances of the incident, as they appear from B'Tselem's investigation, contradict the announcements issued by the army," said the group's website.

Al-Haq, meanwhile, raised the following issues.

Fayez was unarmed; the soldiers opened fire on him on three separate occasions; and in the aftermath of the shooting, an Israeli soldier took a knife from his own pocket and threw it down beside the victim.

A military investigation is currently underway. However, Jabarin is skeptical of the results.

"What is particularly problematic for us is that when the Israeli military or settlers attack Palestinians under dubious circumstances and these cases are brought to the attention of the relevant Israeli authorities very few are opened and even fewer lead to a conviction," Jabarin told IPS.

Lior Yavne from the Israeli human rights organization Yesh Din which helps Palestinians to lay charges against Israeli attackers in the occupied West Bank concurs.

"Less than eight percent of cases opened result in any conviction."

"In many instances the police allegedly either 'lose the paper work' or 'can't identify the perpetrators.'

This is not a problem they seem to have when investigating Palestinians accused of crimes against Israelis," Yavne told IPS.



Two Zionist Soldiers Killed In Gaza Fighting, Two Wounded; Three More Wounded In Khan Younis

26/03/2010 Ma'an & PIC [Excerpts]

Two Israeli occupation soldiers were killed Friday in a border clash between the IOF and the Palestinian resistance to the east of Khan Younis. The Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas, claimed responsibility.

Israeli military sources named the two IOF soldiers killed as 32-year-old Major Eliraz Peretz and the other was 21-year-old Staff Sergeant Ilan Sviatkovsky.

Four Palestinians and two Israeli soldiers were also reported injured in the violence, which broke out east of Khan Younis.

Muawiya Hassanein, director of ambulance and emergency services in Gaza, confirmed that two Palestinians were killed.

Ambulances were dispatched to the area but Israeli forces denied them access, Hassanein said.

Palestinian medics said four locals sustained shrapnel wounds after Israeli forces shelled homes in the Abasan Al-Jadida area of Khan Younis. The injured were

evacuated from the scene amid the clashes, which apparently targeted Palestinian operatives in the area.

Among those hurt was a 10-year-old boy who was transferred to the Nasser Hospital from Abasan with serious injuries, Ma'an's correspondent reported from the scene. Medical sources at the hospital described the other injuries as moderate.

Hamas' military wing, the Al-Qassam Brigades, said its forces killed two soldiers and injured another after Israeli forces entered the Gaza Strip for reasons that were not clear.

"Clashes erupted between Al-Qassam resistance fighters and Israeli soldiers, who crossed 500 meters inside the border," said Al-Qassam Brigades spokesman Abu Obeida.

"Brigades responded with heavy shelling and gunfire, causing fatalities and injuries among the soldiers," he told Al-Aqsa TV, the Hamas movement's official television station.

Abu Obeida said Al-Qassam forces acted in self defense after Israeli forces crossed into Gaza. "This was the result of fighting back Israeli forces proceeding inside the border," he said.

Israel's military confirmed that two soldiers were killed during the clashes. They were not identified.

A statement issued by the army said "one IDF officer and one IDF soldier were killed, one moderately injured and one lightly injured in an exchange of fire with terrorists who were planting explosives along the security fence in the southern Gaza Strip."

Following reports that two soldiers were killed, Israeli warplanes shelled open areas east of Khan Younis, while Apache helicopters were spotted overhead. Locals also reported that explosions rattled the Ad-Dughma and Abu Tu'eima neighborhoods of Abasan Al-Jadida.

Clashes were reported throughout the same area, where Fatah's military wing, the Al-Aqsa Brigades, said its forces intervened after an undercover Israeli unit was spotted.

"Brigades fighters are clashing fiercely with Israeli soldiers in Khan Younis, where seven mortar shells were fired on armored Israeli vehicles. Forces confirmed hitting these vehicles directly," a statement said.

Al-Aqsa fighters were "surrounding an undercover Israeli army unit near the Abu Asfur and Abu Iteimah properties in Khan Younis," the statement added.

"A roadside bomb was detonated, after which aircraft landed to evacuate the injured."

Witnesses told Ma'an that three Israeli soldiers were seen being evacuated by helicopter from Khan Younis.

The Al-Quds Brigades, the military wing of Islamic Jihad, said its forces acted after the unit was found.

Al-Quds said its involvement came after operatives discovered an undercover Israeli unit in Abasan Al-Jadida.

Fighters detonated a series of explosives during the ensuing clashes, and Israeli warplanes provided cover for the Israeli unit, a statement said.

The armed group said several operatives were injured in the clashes and that one was still missing. The others returned safely as the violence subsided, but it was not clear whether the missing fighter survived or had been taken into custody.

Israel's army said it opened fire after two Palestinians attempted to plant explosives, although it was not clear where. "After identifying the terrorists planting explosives, the force fired at them and identified killing two of the terrorists," the army statement said.

"The IDF holds Hamas as solely responsible for maintaining peace and quiet in the Gaza Strip," it added.

Meanwhile, witnesses said Palestinians launched mortar shells toward Israeli towns in the western Negev.

In a separate statement, the Israeli military said a projectile struck the Negev Regional Council area, causing no damage or injury. More than 10 such projectiles have been fired into southern Israel over the past week, according to the army.

Separately, a child was injured after Israeli forces reportedly opened fire near northern Gaza's Erez crossing. Saeed Abed Al-Aziz Hamdan, 15, was moderately injured after he sustained gunshot wounds, medics said.

Onlookers told Ma'an that an Israeli watchtower installed near the Erez crossing opened fire at the child, who was collecting stones nearby.

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

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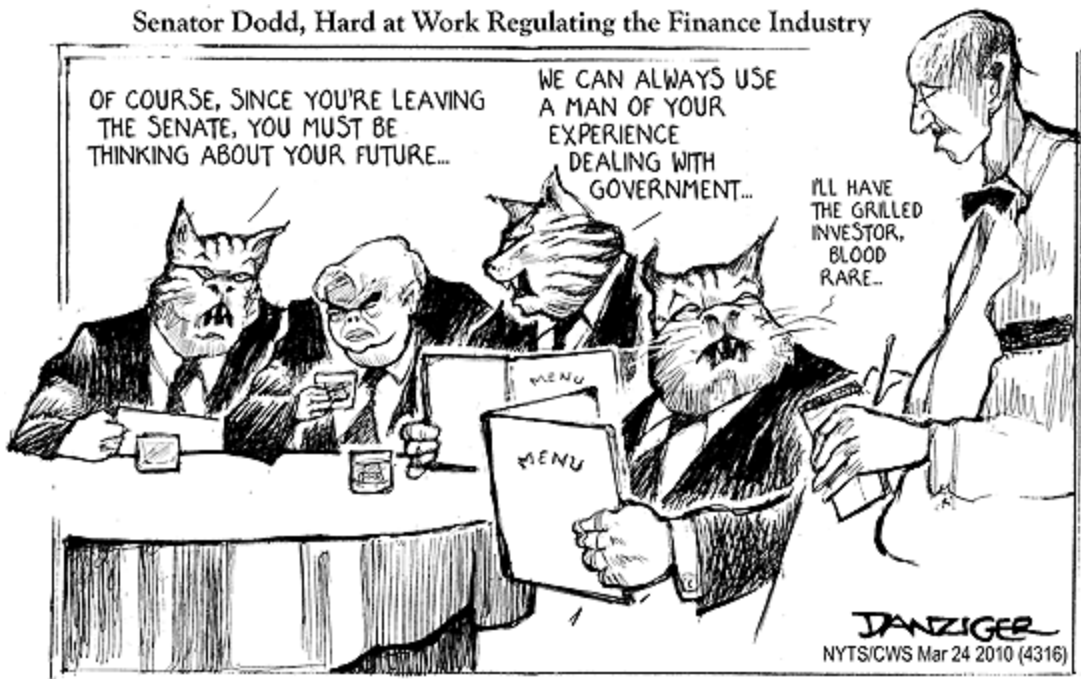
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