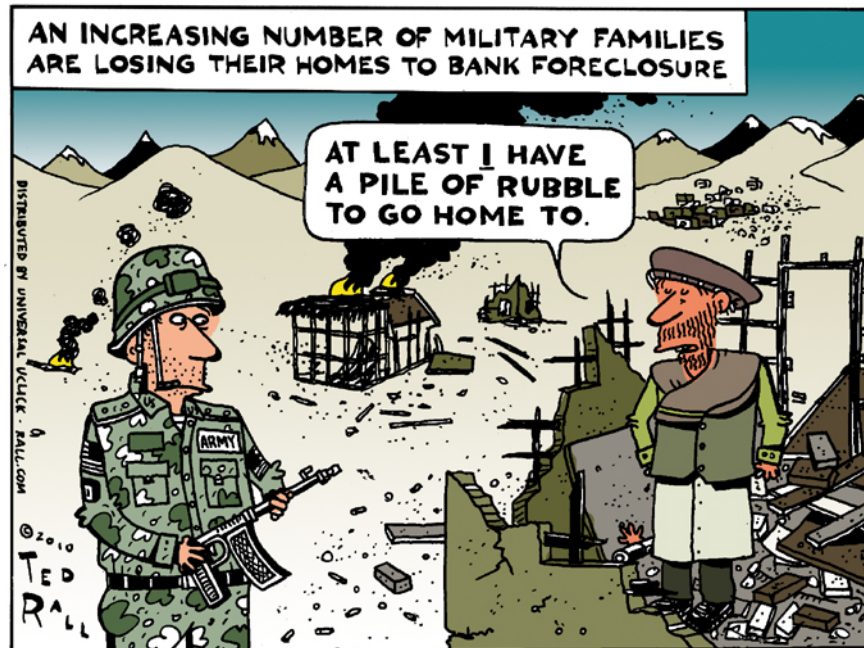


## Military Resistance 8D14



**Keystone Cops At War On The  
Deck Of The Titanic:  
U.S. Ambassador Argues That  
McChrystal's Stupid Plan To Win  
Kandahar Won't Work:  
McChrystal Argues U.S.  
Ambassador's Stupid Plan To Win  
Kandahar Won't Work:  
[They're Both Right: Nothing Will Work]**

*"This isn't a counterinsurgency strategy."*

***“This is absurdity to the extreme.***

***“But it will get the corporate mentality US Army officers their medals, promotions, and industry consulting jobs.***

***That is why the military has become such a fan of the Obama Administration - the money just keeps on rolling in.”***

***[Comment posted on the Washington Post discussion board for the article below.]***

April 23, 2010 By Rajiv Chandrasekaran, Washington Post Staff Writer [Excerpts]

KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN -- U.S. military commanders and senior diplomats are locked in a dispute over the best way to bring more electricity to Afghanistan's second-largest city, complicating a major campaign to win over the population of Kandahar and push out the Taliban.

The standoff has reached the top two U.S. officials in Afghanistan, Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal and Ambassador Karl W. Eikenberry, illuminating the sometimes-sharp differences between the military and civilian officials over how to stabilize this nation.

**Convinced that expanding the electricity supply will build popular support for the Afghan government and sap the Taliban's influence, some officers want to spend \$200 million over the next few months to buy more generators and millions of gallons of diesel fuel.**

Although they acknowledge that the project will be costly and inefficient, they say President Obama's pledge to begin withdrawing troops by July 2011 has increased pressure to demonstrate rapid results in their counterinsurgency efforts, even if it means embracing less-than-ideal solutions to provide basic public services.

“This is not about development -- it's about counterinsurgency,” said a U.S. military official at the NATO headquarters in Kandahar, advocating rapid action to help Afghan officials boost the power supply. “If we don't give them more fuel, we'll lose a very narrow window of opportunity.”

**U.S. diplomats and reconstruction specialists, who do not face the same looming drawdown, have opposed the military's plan because of concerns that the Afghan government will not be able to afford the fuel to sustain the generators.**

**“Proposals to buy generators and diesel fuel for Kandahar would be expensive, unsustainable and unlikely to have the counterinsurgency impact desired,” Eikenberry wrote in a cable to the State Department in Washington this month.**

Embassy officials contend that they have won the battle because their plan, which calls for small-scale improvements but no diesel or generator acquisitions, received tacit approval at a planning session in Kabul this month from Gen. David H. Petraeus, the head of U.S. Central Command, and Richard C. Holbrooke, the U.S. special representative to the region. Both men would have to sign off on any large purchases.

But military officials have not given up.

McChrystal and his top deputies still are considering a variety of proposals to increase the power supply in Kandahar, including the purchase of more generators and fuel, according to senior military officials.

The military is also examining ways to provide more diesel to the municipal generators already in place. Those units are operating at about 40 percent of capacity because the Finance Ministry in Kabul has not given the city enough money to buy the fuel it needs.

As a consequence, Kandahar residents fortunate enough to have their homes and shops connected to the city's rickety network of electricity wires typically receive about six hours of power a day.

But there are days and nights without a flicker of light, the whirl of a fan, the distraction of television. Frequent blackouts have shut down factories and kept people locked indoors after sunset.

"We keep praying for some light at night," said Mohammed Jan, a carpet merchant in the main bazaar. "If there was more electricity, there would be more security."

**Instead of buying new generators, the U.S. Embassy wants the United States and its NATO partners to focus on refurbishing the Kajaki Dam, a large hydroelectric power plant in the mountains of Helmand province that has been a symbol of unfulfilled American ambition in Afghanistan from almost the day it was inaugurated half a century ago.**

The dam, about 100 miles northwest of Kandahar, was built in the early 1950s by the U.S. construction firm Morrison-Knudsen. In 1975, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) installed two generators in the dam's spillway, but they fell into disrepair after the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1979.

In 2003, USAID hired the Louis Berger Group, a Washington-based engineering firm, to rehabilitate the two turbines. The agency later hired a state-owned Chinese firm to install a third.

But the Chinese did not start working on the project in earnest until 2007, and by then it was too dangerous to move the turbine parts up the 30-mile road to the dam, which USAID officials began to call "Hell's Canyon."

In September 2008, 4,000 British troops were reassigned to Kajaki to escort a large convoy of trucks bearing parts of the turbine. After the British left, security deteriorated along the road, preventing delivery of the cement needed to emplace the turbine. The Chinese contractors departed soon thereafter, and Louis Berger was forced to use helicopters to bring in the supplies to finish its work.

The dam produces about 33 megawatts of electricity with the two rehabilitated turbines, of which about 30 percent reaches Kandahar. As much as 40 percent of the electricity is lost to theft and transmission inefficiencies.

Frank Kenefick, a former USAID project manager who worked on the dam, said the agency rejected a proposal from a German firm to install the third turbine before violence closed the road.

**USAID, which has spent \$47 million on the dam thus far, also did not take advantage of the relative calm in the early part of the decade to put up new transmission lines needed to convey the additional electricity -- something the agency wants to do now but cannot because of security concerns.**

“The strategic planning was a complete failure,” Kenefick said.

**Although military officials support efforts to fix the dam once violence abates in the area, they view a reliance on repairs as incongruous with the prevailing security situation.**

**“The dam may be the answer at some point in the future,” said a U.S. reconstruction expert advising the NATO headquarters in Kandahar.**

**“But right now, you'll get killed if you try to drive up there.”**

USAID officials have asked military commanders to deploy more troops to the Kajaki area so construction can resume.

But the question of whether the dam should be a focus for military forces centers on different interpretations of what it means to protect the population, the buzz phrase of counterinsurgency strategy.

To the military, it means concentrating troops where the people are -- in and around Kandahar. But to some civilians, it makes sense to put forces in less-populous areas if they can secure an important public resource.

Military and civilian officials also remain divided over whether increasing electricity in Kandahar will have a substantial effect on the security situation there.

**Military officers in southern Afghanistan maintain that if residents' power supply increases, they will have a better opinion of their government and employment will increase, which will help to marginalize the Taliban.**

**The top NATO commander in southern Afghanistan, British Maj. Gen. Nick Carter, said increasing power in the city will produce a “head-turning moment” among residents and will lead them to rally behind the Afghan government.**

**But embassy and USAID officials contend that Kandahar residents are more concerned about the lack of a credible justice system and the dearth of employment.**

Civilian officials say small generators could be used to reopen factories and run cold-storage facilities, but they worry that increasing electricity across the board will lead more people to buy air conditioners and refrigerators, resulting in a continued shortage.

Instead of buying fuel, Eikenberry and other embassy personnel want the electric utility in Kandahar to do a better job of collecting fees and to use the money to buy fuel for the generators it already has, which would increase supply but not eliminate the shortage. USAID is offering help through its Afghanistan Clean Energy Program, a \$100 million effort to promote “green” power in the war zone.

The agency plans to install solar-powered streetlights in the city this year. It is also paying for repairs to some of the existing generators, but it will not buy diesel for them.

The city, which is home to about 850,000 people, receives about 16 megawatts of power. Military officials estimate demand at about 50 megawatts, a target they think they can achieve within three months by buying new generators and more fuel.

By contrast, generators at the sprawling NATO base at the Kandahar airport produce more than 100 megawatts of power, which is used to operate thousands of air conditioners, computers and floodlights.

If the embassy and USAID will not pay for generators and fuel, military officials want to ask other nations, particularly oil-rich Persian Gulf states, for help.

But the embassy has opposed a separate entreaty out of concern that it will compete with other requests for reconstruction assistance.

As he sat in a well-lit pizzeria on the base, a stabilization expert working for the NATO command in Kandahar called the lack of electricity in the city “the principal symbol of the government’s inability to deliver services to the people.”

“We’ve been here for eight years, and we’ve been building things like this,” he said, pointing around him. “It’s time we helped the people inside the city.”

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

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

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

**A Surge Of Their Own:**

# “They Seem To Be Going In The Thousands And Will Set Afghanistan On Fire”



Taliban fighters on a hillside at Maydan Shahr, west of Kabul, Afghanistan, 04/04/09.  
(photo: AFP/Getty)

24 April 2010 By Ron Moreau and Sami Yousafzai, Newsweek

All night, every night, an endless caravan of old cars and pickup trucks rolls through the dusty Pakistani town of Datta Khel in North Waziristan's lawless tribal area.

The vehicles, headed for Afghanistan, are filled with jihadist recruits going to join the fight against U.S. forces; the insurgents come mostly from the numerous mud-walled compounds that serve as training-and-rest camps in the surrounding countryside, which locals say is controlled largely by Afghan and Pakistani militants.

**“I think at least one male from every family around here is going to Afghanistan,” says a villager who asked to remain anonymous for his safety.**

“They seem to be going in the thousands and will set Afghanistan on fire.”

The influx appears to be a conscious militant “surge” that's bigger than any similar seasonal movement in the past.

The new fighters are intended to bolster Afghanistan's insurgent forces in the south, which will soon face the additional 30,000 combat troops that President Obama is dispatching to the contested region.

This movement through North Waziristan is only part of the Taliban's buildup for the heavy combat that's expected in the months ahead.

**Thousands of veteran Afghan Taliban fighters and new Afghan recruits who have spent the winter in refugee camps in northwestern Pakistan or western Baluchistan province - or who have been undergoing religious and ideological training in madrassas scattered across Pakistan - are also making their way to the conflict zone.**

According to the Pakistani military, there are 100,000 regular and paramilitary troops stationed along the border to stop the flow. These security forces man more than 900 small mud-and-rock outposts and roadside checkpoints along the frontier.

Yet their efforts don't appear to be paying off.

In the near-border towns of Miran Shah and Mir Ali, armed insurgents seem to be in charge.

They hang out in the fly-blown restaurants and crude Internet cafés, drive around in green Ford Ranger pickup trucks stolen from the Afghan police, and openly carry weapons - all in the shadow of large Pakistani military encampments.

Signing up new recruits for the Afghan jihad isn't hard, says a senior Taliban operative, who agreed to talk to NEWSWEEK on condition of anonymity.

Uneducated, unemployed tribal youths, angry at the American presence in the region and at the increase in U.S. drone-missile attacks on suspected terrorists, are easy marks for Taliban propaganda.

"You can find many youths who will be ready to go in 20 minutes," says the operative.

**A Helmand district commander named Abdul Malik says the new recruits have bolstered the morale of local fighters: "Their presence gives us a big psychological boost."**

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## Trucks Carrying Supplies To Foreign Soldiers Burn



Trucks carrying supplies to foreign soldiers burn after hundreds of people blocked a main road and set them on fire to protest civilian deaths in Logar province, west of Kabul, Afghanistan, April 25, 2010. They gathered hours after foreign troops killed what they said were several insurgents. (AP Photo/Mohammed Obaid Ormur)

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## **“Attacks On U.S. Contractors, Construction Companies And Aid Organizations Have Been Rising” “Of Course The Taliban Are Against Any Of These People Working For The Afghan Government Or The Americans Or Other Foreigners”**

4.24.2010 By NOOR KHAN and TIM SULLIVAN (AP) [Excerpts]

Attacks on U.S. contractors, construction companies and aid organizations have been rising just as the United States pushes faster development of Afghanistan, one of the world's poorest countries, as a priority in its strategy to counter the insurgency.

Of the 289 civilians working for U.S. contractors killed between the start of the Afghanistan war in late 2001 and the end of last year, 100 died in just the last six months of 2009, according to a report by the Congressional Research Service.

“The insurgents are trying to say 'You can't do it,'” Gen. Stanley McChrystal said in a speech last week in Paris, shortly after two bombings shook Kandahar. “I think we'll see that for months as they make an effort to stop progress. But I don't think that they'll be successful.”

In some ways, though, they already have been successful.

Contractors say they are staying in the country, but they have been forced to retreat even further behind blast walls and heavily armed security perimeters. The security drives up costs, making interaction with regular Afghans harder and slowing reconstruction projects.

That doesn't surprise Gulali, a tribal elder from Kandahar province. “Of course the Taliban are against any of these people working for the Afghan government or the Americans or other foreigners,” said the elder, who also uses only one name.

He believes many of the recent attacks are by militants simply looking for softer targets. While nearly all foreign companies in Afghanistan now work out of guarded compounds,



they do not have the massive fortifications and overwhelming firepower found at nearly any American military installation.

The Taliban “want to use the easiest option,” he said.

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## **Guess Who Doesn't Need A \$5 Billion Training Program And Thousands Of U.S. Army “Mentors”**



Taliban insurgents and civilians look at what appears to be a blood stain at the site where fighting took place between German soldiers and Taliban in Isaa Khail village of Char Dara district of the northern Kunduz Province April 3, 2010. Three German soldiers were killed and five others seriously injured in fighting in Kunduz, the German Army Command in Potsdam said on Friday.  
REUTERS/Wahdat

### **Troops Invited:**

**Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email to [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 888.711.2550**

# **NEW GENERAL ORDER NO. 1: PACK UP GO HOME**



U.S. Marines 6th Marines patrol around Karez-e-Sayyidi, in Helmand province, April 4, 2010. REUTERS/Asmaa Waguih

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## **SOMALIA WAR REPORTS**

4/24/2010 Aljazeera & Sh. M. Network

Somalia's al-Shabab group, which has vowed to topple the UN-backed government, has seized three towns in the central Galgudud region from the pro-government Ahlu Sunna movement, witnesses said.

Al-Shabab took control of the towns of El Der, Masagaway and Galad towns on Friday reportedly without any resistance from the rival group.

The three towns lie on the road linking Mogadishu, the capital, and eastern Somalia, which is considered to be al-Shabab's power base.

"We have overrun the militants who tried to stop the efforts to spread Islam in Somalia. With the power of Allah we have taken control of three districts in Galgudud region," Sheik Yusuf Kabokudukade, a senior al-Shabab official in the region, said.

"We will not stop until we take control of the whole region from the enemy of Allah," he said.

The loss of the three towns will be a blow to Ahlu Sunna and the government, which signed a deal last month to work together against al-Shabab.

**The transitional government has little real control over the country, holding only a few parts of the capital despite assistance from an international peacekeeping [translation: U.S.-backed occupation] force.**

Land mine blast targeted to the government soldiers traveling around Ex-control Afgoi checkpoint in out of Mogadishu has killed two soldiers, wounding another, official told Shabelle radio on Saturday.

Witnesses around where the blast occurred confirmed to Shabelle radio that the explosion was a remote controlled land mine blast adding that it was attacked by Mohamed Qatatow, a commander of the transitional government and his troops as they were passing near the checkpoint, a base for the government troops in out of Mogadishu.

Mr. Qatatow, the commander also told Shabelle radio that he escaped from the explosion, but killed two of his forces while another was injured as it exploded.

Harakat Al-shabab Mujahideen officials had claimed the responsibility of the blast shortly after the blast happened pointing out they killed some of the government troops.

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## **TROOP NEWS**

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



March 1, 2010: U.S. Army Task Force Pegasus crew and Navy hospital corpsmen carry to a field clinic 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)

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**“14 Months After Getting Home  
From The First Deployment, The  
National Guard Wanted To Send  
Me Off Again”**

**“I Fought For Months Because I Was  
Told I Have Two Years Of Non-  
Deployable Status”**

**“The National Guard Doesn't Honor That-  
-Only Active Army (Or So My Unit Says)”**

Letters To The Editor  
Socialist Worker  
April 20, 2010

REGARDING “COMING home to another battle”:[April 6, 2010]

Thanks to Phil Aliff for bringing this up.

I was in the National Guard and deployed, and one of my non-commissioned officers warned me about trying to find a job while being in. I didn't believe him. He was right.

Well, I got here to Orlando and was lucky enough to find a decent job with a great employer.

**But sure enough, 14 months after getting home from the first deployment, the National Guard wanted to send me off again.**

**I fought for months because I was told I have two years of non-deployable status.**

**But guess what?**

**The National Guard doesn't honor that--only active Army (or so my unit says).**

Now they are trying to kick me out because I refused to go on pre-deployment training that would have made me take 30 days away from my job.

Of course, this 30 days was after we already did a week of training.

How the hell am I, as an employee, supposed to be able to do my job when the National Guard wants me to leave for a week here, a month there, and then a year?

It's impossible, and my employer, who could have employed anyone, chose me, and he feels the brunt of the loss as he is without an essential employee for five weeks. He can't just take on another paid employee because I'm in the Guard. That's not fair.

But units don't give a damn--or mine didn't.

**So now I'm facing the charges of being “less than honorable,” when, on my first deployment, I received an Army Achievement medal and a Good Conduct medal after only two years of service. I have definitely been honorable.**

Unfortunately, I bought a home and got married, and I have to worry about paying the mortgage and providing for my family long after the deployment is done.

I love what the Guard and Army has done for me, it has truly made me a man. But this shit is unfair, and I'm glad someone has brought it up.

Steven Dyson, Orlando, Fla.

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## **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.”**

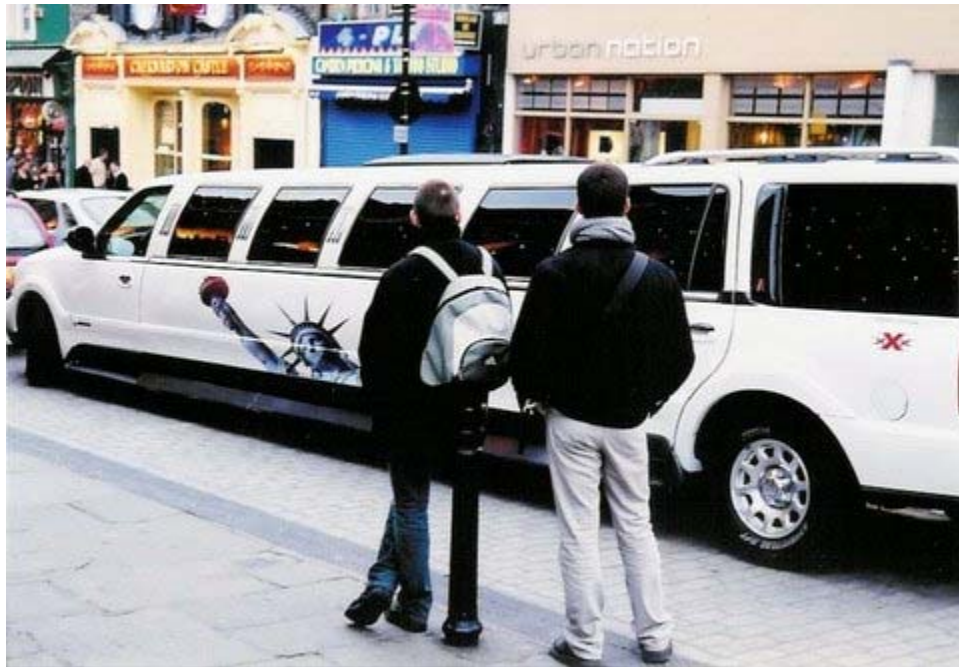
**Frederick Douglass, 1852**

**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**

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

## **Tracer Rounds**



Photograph by Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie  
To: Military Resistance  
Sent: April 24, 2010  
Subject: Tracer Rounds

**Tracer Rounds**



The United States Government,  
also known as Wall Street,  
continues on full automatic.  
Making a killing,  
and killing as fast as they can.  
There is no separation between  
the machine gun and the money belt.  
Everyone is a veteran of war profits.  
And when it is all over,  
the ruling class lie about everything,  
while American soldiers and countless  
innocent civilians are bulldozed into  
the same mass grave.

Mike Hastie  
U.S. Army Medic  
Vietnam 1970-71  
April 24, 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](mailto: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

**“Only 25 Percent Of Those Polled  
Said The Government Can Be  
Trusted To Protect The Interests  
Of The American People”**

**“If We Do Not Embrace This Outrage  
And Distrust As Our Own It Will Be**

# **Expressed Through A Terrifying Right-Wing Backlash” “The Hatred Expressed Within Right- Wing Movements For The College- Educated Elite, Who Created Or At Least Did Nothing To Halt The Financial Debacle, Is Not Misplaced”**

Mar 29, 2010 By Chris Hedges, Truthdig.com [Excerpts]

The Democrats and their liberal apologists are so oblivious to the profound personal and economic despair sweeping through this country that they think offering unemployed people the right to keep their unemployed children on their nonexistent health care policies is a step forward.

They think that passing a jobs bill that will give tax credits to corporations is a rational response to an unemployment rate that is, in real terms, close to 20 percent.

They think that making ordinary Americans, one in eight of whom depends on food stamps to eat, fork over trillions in taxpayer dollars to pay for the crimes of Wall Street and war is acceptable.

They think that the refusal to save the estimated 2.4 million people who will be forced out of their homes by foreclosure this year is justified by the bloodless language of fiscal austerity.

The message is clear.

Laws do not apply to the power elite.

Sixty-one percent of Americans believe the country is in decline, according to a recent NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll, and they are right.

**Only 25 percent of those polled said the government can be trusted to protect the interests of the American people.**

**If we do not embrace this outrage and distrust as our own it will be expressed through a terrifying right-wing backlash.**

And the hatred expressed within right-wing movements for the college-educated elite, who created or at least did nothing to halt the financial debacle, is not misplaced.



Our educated elite, wallowing in self-righteousness, wasted its time in the boutique activism of political correctness as tens of millions of workers lost their jobs.

The shouting of racist and bigoted words at black and gay members of Congress, the spitting on a black member of the House, the tossing of bricks through the windows of legislators' offices, are part of the language of rebellion.

It is as much a revolt against the educated elite as it is against the government.

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**Stop Murdering My People:  
“Night Raids, Air Raid ‘Mistakes,’  
Firing On Civilian Buses And Cars At  
Checkpoints — The Occupation  
Finds Many Ways Of Killing The  
People Of Afghanistan”  
“More Than Eight Years Of Occupation  
Have Made Life Bleak, And We Are Tired  
Of Being Pawns In The U.S. And NATO’s  
Game For Control Of Central Asia”**

April 19, 2010 By Malalai Joya, The Daily Beast

Malalai Joya, now 31, was the youngest member of the Afghan parliament, elected in 2005. In 2007 she was suspended from parliament because of her consistent criticism of the warlords and other human-rights abusers in the Karzai regime. Joya has survived five assassination attempts to date, and has written her life story in the book *A Woman Among Warlords* (with Derrick O’Keefe, Scribner, 2009).

She writes from Kabul, Afghanistan.

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**Almost every day, the NATO occupation of our country continues to kill innocent people.**

**Each time, it seems, military officials try to claim that only insurgents are killed, or they completely deny and cover up their crimes.**

The work of a few courageous journalists is the only thing that brings some of these atrocities to light.

For instance, it was only after the reporting of Jerome Starkey of the Times of London that officials admitted to the brutal Feb. 12 murder of two pregnant women, a teenage girl, and several young men in a night raid at a home where a family was celebrating the birth of a child.

Night raids, air raid “mistakes,” firing on civilian buses and cars at checkpoints — the occupation finds many ways of killing the people of Afghanistan.

The excuses and lies for these deaths are like salt in our wounds, and it is no wonder that protests against the U.S. military are growing. The Afghan people have had enough.

In recent weeks, there has been much talk about Hamid Karzai’s threats to join the Taliban and about his supposed differences with the American government.

But for Afghans, Karzai long ago lost all credibility. The joke among our people is that Karzai doesn’t do or say anything without consulting the White House first. No amount of nationalistic rhetoric or demagoguery on his part will change this perception.

**Everyone in Afghanistan knows that Karzai was placed into power with the backing of the United States and its allies, and to this day he relies on their support.**

**His regime would not last a day without it.**

**And Afghans know too well the reality of his corrupt government: It has delivered nothing to the country’s poor other than sorrow and destitution, while filling the pockets of drug traffickers, warlords, and its own corrupt officials.**

Afghanistan has had puppet leaders before, rulers who served only the interests of foreign occupiers, whether British or Soviet.

But Karzai may be the most hated puppet in our history; he has empowered some of the most brutal internal enemies of ordinary Afghans, warlords of the Northern Alliance like Sayyaf, Dr. Abdullah, Rabbani, Mohaqiq, Ismael Kahn, Dostum and many others.

Even his two vice presidents, Fahim Qasim and Karim Khalili, are notorious fundamentalist warlords. The president’s brother in Kandahar, Ahmed Wali Karzai, is another thug in power whose links to the drug trade and the CIA have been widely reported.

Karzai made headlines by threatening to “join the Taliban,” but the reality is that for more than eight years he has had no problem working with fundamentalists who are the ideological brothers of the anti-women Taliban.

In fact, Karzai himself used to support the Taliban when he was a minor tribal leader in Kandahar in the 1990s, and for years he has been negotiating to bring Taliban leaders into his puppet regime. Some of them are already serving in his regime, and the U.S.

government has been encouraging these negotiations by creating the false categories of “moderate” and “extremist” Taliban.

He has also been reaching out to that most brutal warlord and criminal, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a mujahideen leader known for killing civilians and currently designated a terrorist by the U.S. government.

Karzai recently appointed Abdul Hadi Arghandewal, an infamous leader of Hekmatyar’s party, as his minister in charge of the economy.

These negotiations and flexible alliances by Karzai and the U.S. government are nothing new. For three decades, the U.S. has backed these criminals: Hekmatyar, al Qaeda and other fundamentalists in the 1980s, the Taliban in the 1990s, and now Karzai and his warlord allies.

Progressive-minded Afghans want to break out of this circle of warlordism once and for all.

**It is ironic that Karzai talks about the possibility that a “national resistance” could develop in Afghanistan. He should know that the prime target of such a movement will be his own regime and its foreign supporters.**

Our people are deeply fed up.

They have organized many anti-U.S. protests in the past months and if the occupation continues, the resistance will only grow.

More than eight years of occupation have made life bleak, and we are tired of being pawns in the U.S. and NATO’s game for control of Central Asia.

**We can no longer bear the killing of our pregnant mothers, the killing of our teenagers and young children, the killing of so many Afghan men and women. We can no longer bear these “accidents” and these “apologies” for the deaths of the innocent.**

**We salute the anti-war movements in the NATO countries. Here, we will struggle to our last breath to stop this war that is tearing apart our beloved Afghanistan.**

## **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**

# ***April 25, 1974: Portugal Most Honorable Anniversary Soldiers Rise And Overthrow A Dictator***



Socialist Worker.co.uk

Carl Bunin Peace History April 23-29

A peaceful uprising by army and civilians, known as the carnation revolution (Revolução dos Cravos), ended 48 years of fascism in Portugal.

The regime killed four before giving into the popular resistance.

25 April 2004 By Manny Thain, Socialist World.net [Excerpts]

**It started at 12.25 am on Thursday 25 April 1974 when the rebel song, Grandola Vila Morena, played on the radio.**

**By early evening the end of dictatorship was announced.**

**The Movimento das Forças Armadas (MFA), radical mid-ranking officers, had executed the plan devised by Captain Otelo de Carvalho. Troops secured Lisbon and the second city, Porto. Key installations were taken, ministers arrested.**

**THE news of the regime's downfall spread like wildfire.**

**People flooded the streets.**

**MFA vehicles were mobbed by adoring crowds.**

**Thousands of school students marched, shouting "Down with fascism".**

**Red carnations, the symbol of the revolution, blossomed in rifle barrels and festooned the streets in this festival of freedom.**

The ex-dictator, Marcello Caetano, cowered in National Guard barracks.

He was the successor to the fascist regime consolidated in the early 1930s by António Salazar. Paramilitary groups terrorised left-wing and industrial militants. Independent trade unions and the right to strike were illegal.

The secret police had a massive network of agents and informers.

Torture was systemic.

But it was the armed African liberation struggles - especially Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique - begun in the early 1960s, which drove the final nails into the coffin of the fascist regime.

**Many mid-ranked officers had been influenced by the Marxism they read in counter-insurgency training.**

Radicalisation continued in Africa with the brutal repression meted out to the people fighting for their freedom. A policy of fast-tracking new officers fuelled the anger.

The MFA set up a 'junta of national salvation' to rule until a provisional government was formed. Elections were promised within a year. It announced freedom of association and expression, and an amnesty for political prisoners.

Having suffered at the hands of bosses and landowners linked to the regime, workers drove them out of the factories and off the land. The editor of the daily, *Diário de Notícias*, was forced out on 7 June after print workers seized the presses, publishing a front-page article exposing his fascist connections.

Homeless people occupied empty properties. Shipyard and underground workers went on strike for a 50% pay rise. Car workers won a 40-hour week. Bakery and textile workers struck. Train and tram conductors refused to collect fares.

General António de Spínola was made acting president. The son of a friend of Salazar, Spínola had impeccable fascist credentials. He had, however, called for the easing of direct colonial rule, which gave him a certain amount of support.

Spínola made one more pathetic bid for power, on 11 March 1975.

**But the paratroopers he mobilised mutinied.**

The fact that six members of the Espirito Santo banking family were implicated in the coup fiasco fuelled further outrage.

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## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



NEW POLL ON HOW AMERICANS FEEL ABOUT BIG GOVERNMENT

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## **Obama's Great Healthcare Fraud**

**“An Estimated 100,000 People Will  
Be Left To Die Between Now And  
2014 For Lack Of Healthcare”**

**“Many Will Find Policies Too  
Expenses To Afford, Or, If They Do  
Buy Them, Too Expensive To Use**

# **Because Of The High Co-Pays And Deductibles”**

## **“The Obama Bill Explicitly Allows Insurance Companies To Unilaterally Raise Prices Without Ceilings Or Caps”**

### **Millions Will Be “Driven Into Dire Poverty”**

The bill does not prohibit the private insurance companies from dropping people in individual plans when they get sick. If people with pre-existing conditions manage to get health insurance, they can always be dropped later.

Dr. Marcia Angell, editor emeritus of the prestigious New England Journal of Medicine, told the Bill Moyers Journal (PBS, March 5) that, “the commercial insurance industry will be able to charge whatever they like.”

Asked by Moyers about the cost-regulation measures vaunted by the Obama plan proponents, Dr. Angell replied, “If these companies are regulated in some way that cuts into their profits, all they have to do is just raise their premiums. And they’ll do that.”

April 14, 2010 Statement by the Editorial Board of The Organizer Newspaper: The World Organization for the Right of the People to Health Care” Inc. [Excerpts]

The healthcare reform bill adopted by the House of Representatives on March 21 and signed into law by President Obama on March 23 has been hailed widely as an historic victory for working people.

Some have gone so far as to compare it to the adoption of the Social Security and Medicare bills years ago. Even those who criticize aspects of the bill argue that it marks a step forward that warrants our support.

No one could be opposed to a healthcare reform bill, however incremental, if it represented even a small step in the right direction. But is this really the case?

### **Will 32 Million People Get Access to Healthcare?**

The main claim put forward by the proponents of the Obama healthcare bill is that 32 million people in the United States will finally have access to healthcare. This fact alone is historic, we are told.

**Putting aside the fact that 15 million of the current 47 million Americans without healthcare insurance will not be covered under this bill, the expansion of healthcare coverage to these 32 million people will not take effect until 2014.**

**This means that, based on current patterns, an estimated 100,000 people will be left to die between now and 2014 for lack of healthcare, while millions more are driven into dire poverty or desperation in their quest to fund their medical needs – all this at a time when unemployment has reached Depression-era levels.**

True, the bill's proponents say, but 32 million people – even with this built-in delay — is huge.

It would be huge if these 32 million were actually to receive healthcare. But this is not the case. As Rose Ann DeMoro, executive director of National Nurses United and member of the Executive Council of the AFL-CIO, stated, this is an “insurance bill” — not a “healthcare reform bill.”

Low-income people will get government subsidies to purchase healthcare insurance from private companies, while middle-income people will be pressured to buy commercial health insurance policies, or else face a stiff penalty on their taxes.

But this does not mean that these erstwhile 32 million uninsured people will actually get access to healthcare. These are two separate questions.

**Families who cannot pay the high premiums, deductibles and co-payments charged by the private insurance companies — estimated to be between 15% and 18% of most family incomes — will have no choice but to default, thus returning to the ranks of the uninsured.**

**Millions of middle-income people will have to fork over an estimated 9.5% of their income to pay for healthcare coverage, but, according to the Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP), this insurance will cover an average of only 70% of their medical expenses.**

**“This will leave them vulnerable to financial ruin if they become seriously ill,” notes the March 23 PNHP statement.**

“Many will find such policies too expensive to afford, or, if they do buy them, too expensive to use because of the high co-pays and deductibles.”

Firedoglake.com — a website that has done a careful study of the Obama healthcare bill — points out the following:

“The bill will impose a financial hardship on middle-class Americans who will be forced to buy a product that they can't afford to use. A family of four making \$66,370, for example, will be forced to pay \$5,243 per year for insurance. → In addition they will have to pay \$5,882 in annual out-of-pocket medical expenses.”

The Obama healthcare plan is modeled closely on the Massachusetts plan. It is worth looking at the Massachusetts model to understand what we can expect to get nationwide. A 2009 study by the state of Massachusetts found that 21% of residents



forgo medical treatment because they can't afford it. They have health insurance, but they can't afford to use it.

### **Will the Obama Bill Contain Healthcare Costs?**

This may have been true in Massachusetts, the Obama healthcare proponents reply, but under the Obama bill, healthcare costs will be contained.

**They argue that the Obama bill will stop insurance companies from hiking rates 30% to 40% per year.**

**This is another myth.**

**The Obama bill explicitly allows insurance companies to unilaterally raise prices without ceilings or caps – as well as to monopolize local markets to shut out competitors.**

**Dr. Marcia Angell, editor emeritus of the prestigious New England Journal of Medicine, told the Bill Moyers Journal (PBS, March 5) that, “the commercial insurance industry will be able to charge whatever they like.”**

Asked by Moyers about the cost-regulation measures vaunted by the Obama plan proponents, Dr. Angell replied, “If these companies are regulated in some way that cuts into their profits, all they have to do is just raise their premiums. And they'll do that.”

But even these regulations will have little to no effect. A main problem with the Obama bill is lack of enforcement.

Also, the private insurance companies fought for, and secured, language in the Obama bill that continues to exempt them from anti-trust laws and leaves them free to raise rates without fear of competition.

Healthcare reform advocates had campaigned strongly for a “public option” that would enable people to purchase health insurance directly from the government. They argued that this would be a way to genuinely contain healthcare costs, as it would provide real competition to the insurance companies.

The insurance companies — echoed by the Republicans and many “Blue Dog” Democrats — cried bloody murder.

Clearly the insurance companies feared that the public option, which would not be driven by the profit motive and could therefore keep costs down, would become so popular and would grow so much that eventually they would be iced out of the healthcare equation. And had the public option been included in the plan, these companies could have been driven out of business.

But as early as last summer, President Obama had made a back-room deal with the for-profit hospital industry that the public option would not be part of any final bill voted by the Congress.

**So, while labor was pounding the pavement for the public option last fall, Obama had already made a deal that there would be no public option in the final health reform legislation.**

And this is exactly what happened: There was no public option. Obama betrayed his promise to the labor movement, but kept his promise to the private insurance companies that fund both the Democratic and Republican parties.

### **Will the Bill Stop Coverage Denials for Pre-Existing Conditions?**

What about the claim by proponents of the Obama bill that it will stop the health insurance industry from denying coverage to patients with pre-existing conditions?

The Physicians for a National Health Program March 23 statement explains that “the much-vaunted insurance regulation of ending denials on the basis of pre-existing conditions is riddled with loopholes, thanks to the central role that insurers played in crafting the legislation.”

**One such loophole is this: The bill does not prohibit the private insurance companies from dropping people in individual plans when they get sick. If people with pre-existing conditions manage to get health insurance, they can always be dropped later.**

Again, the main problem is lack of enforcement: The bill does not empower a regulatory body to keep people from being dropped when they're sick.

**There are already many states that have laws on the books prohibiting people from being dropped when they're sick, but without an enforcement mechanism, there is little to hold the insurance companies in check.**

This brings up a number of other fundamental problems with the Obama healthcare bill.

### **Subsidies Through Medicare Cuts and Excise Taxes**

**Under the bill, insurance companies will be handed close to \$500 billion in taxpayer money “to subsidize the purchase of their shoddy products,” as the PNHP statement puts it.**

**“Not only will this enhance their financial and political power, and with it their ability to block future reform,” the PNHP text continues, “but the bill will drain about \$40 billion from Medicare payments to safety-net hospitals, threatening the care of the tens of millions who will remain uninsured.”**

Another totally unacceptable way that the government subsidies for the uninsured will be paid for is by taxing many, if not most, of the employer-based healthcare plans, that is, the so-called “cadillac” union plans. This provision pits low-wage workers against the unionized workforce, sowing tensions and divisions in the working class.

## **Sacrificing Women's Rights and Immigrants' Rights**

If all this were not enough to make it clear that the "Obama bill should not have passed as it will make only make things worse," to quote Dr. Marcia Angell, the bill sacrificed women's reproductive rights for corporate profits. Jane Hamsher, writing in the firedoglake.com website, puts it this way:

"This healthcare legislation is the biggest assault on women's reproductive rights in 35 years. It is a national shame that a Democratic president who pledged the repeal of the Hyde Amendment would proudly issue an executive order affirming it. How far we've come since 2007, when Barack Obama swore that his first act in office would be to sign the Freedom of Choice Act."

And if this were not enough, as NOW President Terry O'Neill writes, "The bill imposes harsh restrictions on the ability of immigrants to access healthcare, imposing a five-year waiting period on permanent, legal residents before they are eligible for assistance such as Medicaid, and prohibiting undocumented workers even to use their own money to purchase health insurance through an exchange. These provisions are counterproductive in terms of controlling health care costs; they are there because of ugly anti-immigrant sentiment."

**In a nutshell, the Obama healthcare reform is NOT good for working people. In fact it marks a big step in the wrong direction. And the main reason for this is that it's a plan based on the very private insurance companies that have created the healthcare fiasco we face today in our country.**

## **Do the Health Insurance Companies Hate This Bill?**

**No. It's not a bill that the insurance companies hate, as so many have claimed. In fact, the bill is almost identical to the plan written by AHIP, the insurance company trade association, in 2009.**

Nationally syndicated columnist E.J. Dionne Jr., in a column published in the March 20 issue of the San Francisco Chronicle, wrote that, "the ultimate paradox of this Great Health Care Showdown" is that, "Democrats have rallied behind a bill built on a series of principles that Republicans espoused for years."

He continues: "Republicans have said that they do not want to destroy the private insurance market. This bill not only preserves that market but strengthens it by bringing in 32 million new customers. The plan before Congress does not call for a government 'takeover' of health care. It provides subsidies so more people can buy private insurance.

## **A Few Concluding Comments**

Yes, there are some good provisions in this legislation such as funding for community health centers and the expansion of Medicaid and SCHIP. But these provisions could

have — and should have — been stand-alone measures had there been the political will to fight for genuine change.

These positive provisions, however, pale in comparison with the poison pills contained throughout the legislation — poison pills that are built into a plan that not only fails to curb the power of the private insurance companies, but in fact further entrenches their power and monopoly over the delivery of healthcare.

## CLASS WAR REPORTS



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

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

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

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



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