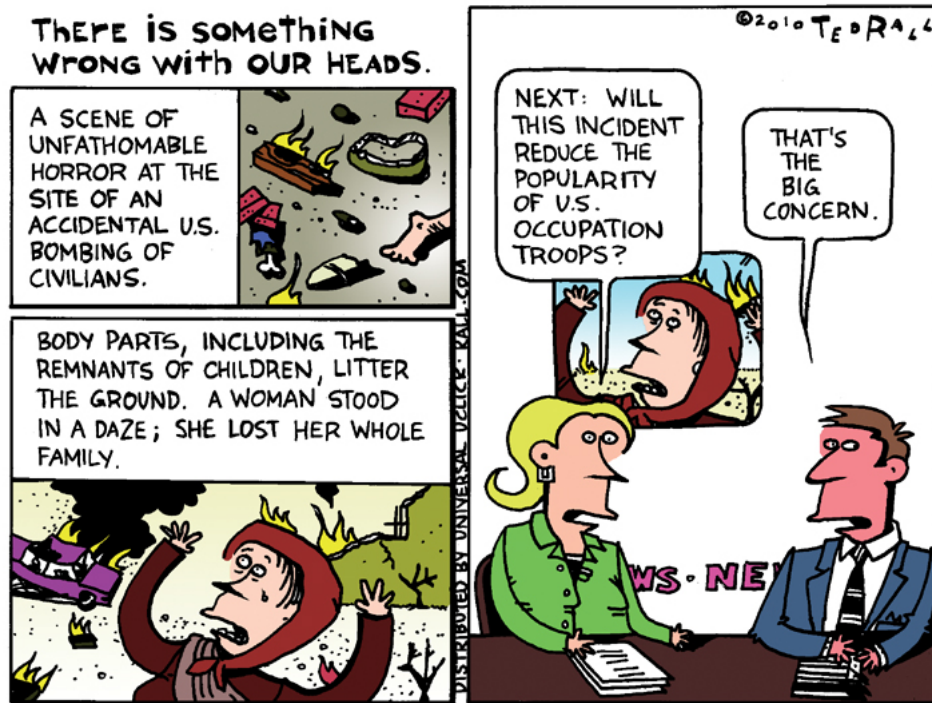


Military Resistance 8E5



**The Situation In German Army
AO “Is Not Stable And Not
Secure. It Has Been
Deteriorating For More Than A
Year”**

**“The Provincial Governor Is A
Liar” “He Sits In His Chair And
Says He Controls The Province”**

**“In The Face Of Government Weakness And Corruption Taleban Groups Quickly Achieved Local Dominance In Several Districts”
“Recent Opinion Polls Have Put German Public Opposition To The Country’s 5,000-Strong Afghan Deployment At 62%”**

May 3, 2010 By Tom Coghlan, The Times [Excerpts]

German troops are fighting the first pitched battles witnessed by the Bundeswehr since 1945 in the face of a growing Taleban insurgency in the north of Afghanistan.

Security has deteriorated in areas such as Badghis province in the northwest, Kunduz, Baghlan and some parts of Takhar and Badakhshan provinces.

Recent opinion polls have put German public opposition to the country’s 5,000-strong Afghan deployment at 62 per cent.

A spokesman for the German forces in Kunduz told The Times this weekend: “It was intensive fighting in April. The situation is not stable and not secure. It has been deteriorating for more than a year.”

Since the Bundeswehr entered Afghanistan in 2002, 39 soldiers have been killed. The contingent is the third-biggest after the US and British forces.

What is alarming for Western commanders and the Afghan Government are signs that the northern insurgency is gaining a hold outside the Pashtun ethnic community. Pashtuns are a minority in the Tajik-dominated north.

General Stanley McChrystal, the Nato commander, is to send 5,000 extra US troops under German command to the north by September and announced last week that 56 helicopters would be sent to the area. Speaking in Germany, General McChrystal warned ten days ago: “The situation in the north will become dangerous, in parts very dangerous.”

On a tree-lined road in Khanabad, bordering the Taleban-held Chardara district, The Times found a group of armed local men.

Their commander said that his force had cleared their area but after five months had yet to be paid.

“The provincial governor is a liar,” he said. “He sits in his chair and says he controls the province.”

Nizamuddin Nashir, the district governor of Khanabad, warned that the militias were beginning to turn to crime, extracting a 10 per cent tithe on local goods and patting down road users for bribes.

“If it continues like this, people will hate the militias,” he said. Many of the militias are the same ones that were disarmed at a cost of hundreds of millions of dollars by the UN disarmament scheme after 2001.

In the face of government weakness and corruption Taleban groups quickly achieved local dominance in several districts before any concerted response was mounted.

Local officials report that the insurgents have made some inroads with non-Pashtun groups — Uzbeks, Turkomans, Afghan Arabs and even Tajiks.

Several officials claimed that Uzbek fighters from the al-Qaeda-linked Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) were working among the Uzbek and Turkoman communities. Several hundred IMU fighters took refuge in Pakistan after the collapse of the Taleban in 2001, and have moved back.

“They are sending Pashtun Taleban to the Pashtun districts,” Engineer Mohammad Omar, the provincial governor, said.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

‘Coe Daddy’ Sacrificed His Life For His Men

April 30, 2010 By SHOSHANA WALTER, THE LEDGER

LAKELAND: His men called him “Coe Daddy.”

And on Tuesday, Sgt. Keith A. Coe, 30, sacrificed his life for them, said grandmother Dawn Jones.

Defense Department officials say Coe died Tuesday in Khalis, Iraq, of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked his unit with an explosive device.

Coe was the first to step out of the truck when they arrived on scene for a mission, Jones said. Before anyone else could jump out, he was caught in the explosion, she said.

"All the others in the truck were just kids, just out of high school. It was his duty to get out of that truck first because he was the sergeant in charge," Jones said. "Keith saved their lives."

Coe becomes the seventh man with Polk County ties to have been killed in the Mideast since the beginning of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Six were in the military, and one was a civilian security contractor.

Coe, who grew up in Fulton, N.Y., and Winter Haven enlisted in the Army in 2007 and reported to Fort Lewis in Washington state in March 2008. He worked his way up to sergeant in about three years and recently deployed to Iraq.

On Friday, family continued to mourn Coe's death. A prankster with a penchant for adventure, Coe was competitive and enjoyed being the best. But he wasn't always an overachiever, said his brother Matt Coe.

The brothers had a rough childhood in Fulton, frequently moving between homes. They didn't always live together. They also didn't always get along, Matt Coe recalled. The two were very different.

"I'm like, 'Let's go to Blockbuster and get a movie.' And he's like, 'Let's get on top of Blockbuster and make a movie,'" he said. "He kicked the crap out of me for the first 11 years of my life. You know, big brother stuff."

When Jones moved to Winter Haven, the brothers began moving back and forth between states, and Keith Coe dropped out of high school. Even when he wasn't in school, Matt Coe still noticed his older brother's drive.

A teenager without a high school diploma, Keith Coe worked his way up to manager at a fast food restaurant in Winter Haven and convinced his brother to join him. They grew close, and Keith Coe decided to return to school.

"I was up in New York and he was like, 'Come down here. I can get you a job.'"

The brothers, two years apart, enrolled in Lake Region High School as seniors and began renting an apartment together. They graduated together in 2000, but then-19-year-old Keith decided against wearing his cap and gown "because it was his brother's day," Jones recalled.

After some trouble with the law for driving under the influence, Coe met his wife, Katrina, at a restaurant in Clearwater where they worked. The two moved in together in Auburndale and married in 2007. Ever the kidder, Coe and his wife wore grass skirts for their Hawaiian-themed wedding held inside his grandmother's house.

As their family expanded with children, Coe began thinking more about the future. His wife had grown up in a military family, and they both enjoyed traveling.

"He had a job and it was a decent job, but if you're in the military for 20 years, you can retire and get a pension," Matt Coe said. "Not having any college, he started thinking this was the best thing he could do."

For Keith Coe, it was a perfect fit.

He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. His unit deployed last August as part of the 3rd Brigade. Jones said Coe visited home about two months ago to see his family and meet his 7-month-old before returning to Iraq. Coe had four children: Ava, 6, Keith Jr., 5, Killian, 2, and the baby, Clover.

“He was making a career of it,” Jones said. “He didn’t like being separated from his family, but he had a good life.”

After the funeral in Washington state, Matt Coe said his brother will be cremated and brought to Winter Haven, where the family will have a memorial service. Until then, the yellow ribbon Jones tied around an oak tree in her yard in anticipation of her grandson’s return remains.

“When he went in, I thought about it being dangerous, but he was just so determined to do it. I was thinking most of them come back. He’ll come back,” she said. “He’s strong, he’s hard-working, he’s determined. I never dreamt for a moment that he would have to sacrifice his life.”

Resistance Action

May 5 (Reuters) & May 6 (Reuters) & May 8 (Reuters)

A bomb attached to an Iraqi soldier’s car killed him in northern Baghdad, police said.

Insurgents killed an off-duty policeman returning to his house in the Wana district north of Mosul on Friday, police said.

A roadside bomb exploded near a joint patrol of the Iraqi army and a government-backed militia, wounding six soldiers and three militia members, in western Baghdad on Friday, police said.

Insurgents killed a police official who works in the department overseeing Baghdad security checkpoints, in front of his house in Baghdad’s eastern district of Sadr City on Friday, police said.

Insurgents opened fire and killed an off-duty policeman and his friend in central Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Insurgents in a car threw a grenade at a police foot patrol, wounding a policeman, in central Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Police found the body of Abdul Salam Hassan, a manager in the Ministry of National Security, in his car’s trunk on Wednesday in southern Baghdad, police said. He had been handcuffed, blindfolded and shot, police said.

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

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Lewis Master Sgt. Killed By Afghanistan IED Blast

May 6, 2010 Army Times

YAKIMA, Wash. — The Defense Department on Thursday confirmed the death of an Army master sergeant serving in Afghanistan.

Master Sgt. Mark W. Coleman, 40, of Centerville, Wash., died Sunday at Khakrez, Afghanistan, of wounds sustained when his unit was hit with an IED, the Pentagon said. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group, out of Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

Coleman's family told the Yakima Herald-Republic they were informed he was killed while leading a foot patrol in a rugged, rural area of Kandahar province. Coleman was a 22-year veteran of the military and on his third tour in Afghanistan. He joined the Army in 1988 after graduating from Goldendale High School.

Arkansas Marine Killed In Helmand

May 07, 2010 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 372-10

Lance Cpl. Richard R. Penny, 21, of Fayetteville, Ark., died May 6 while supporting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Solider With Maine Ties Killed In Afghanistan

May 7, 2010 WMTW

WATERVILLE, Maine -- A soldier with ties to Maine has been killed in Afghanistan.

Spc. Wade Slack, of Waterville, died Thursday while serving in the Wardak Province with the U.S. Army's 707th Ordinance Battalion from Fort Lewis, Washington.

"We can never take for granted the service of our men and women in uniform," Gov. John Baldacci said. "They are the best among us and sacrifice for their country and their communities. Our prayers go out to Spc. Slack's family and friends."

Baldacci will order flags lowered to half-staff on the day of Slack's funeral.

Fallen Carson Soldier Was Due Home This Month

April 30, 2010 LANCE BENZEL, THE GAZETTE

A Fort Carson soldier with less than a month remaining in a yearlong tour in Afghanistan was shot to death Tuesday while on a patrol, family members said.

Sgt. Nathan P. Kennedy, 24, of Claysville, Pa., was reportedly the only person wounded in the attack. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

"He was just a typical American boy," said his grandmother, Mary Lou Kennedy, also of Claysville. Family members said he was set to return to Colorado on May 25.

Kennedy was a 2004 graduate of McGuffey High School in Claysville, where he was a standout on the wrestling team.

He joined the Army after attending one semester of college and deciding it wasn't for him, Mary Lou Kennedy said.

Family members said he flourished in the service, earning a coveted Ranger tab and completing the Army's sniper school. He is a two-time recipient of both the Army Commendation Medal and the Army Achievement Medal. Kennedy re-enlisted in November with the goal of joining the Special Forces.

Despite his accomplishments, Kennedy kept the war stories to himself, changing the subject when anyone asked about Afghanistan or his previous 14-month tour in Iraq, from 2006 to 2007. "He was just doing what he thought was right for the country," said his father, Joe Kennedy of Claysville.

He is also survived by two sisters and a brother. His mother, Penelope Kennedy, died in 2001.

The family last saw Kennedy in February. He passed up the chance to take leave from Afghanistan over Christmas so that he could be home for the birth of his twin sister's first child in Pennsylvania, his grandmother said.

Mary Lou Kennedy said her grandson was a prankster who used to disguise his voice when he called from Afghanistan, sometimes posing as a salesman. She never let on that her caller ID always gave him away.

“That’s the kind of kid that he was – happy-go-lucky,” she said.

This was the second report of a Fort Carson death in Afghanistan in two days.

Sgt. Grant A. Wichmann, 27, of Golden, died Saturday at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C. after a March 12 gunfire attack at Outpost Bari Alai, Afghanistan.

The 3,500-soldier 4th Brigade Combat Team began returning this week and should be back on post by mid-June, Fort Carson said.

The brigade has accounted for 45 of the 49 Fort Carson deaths in Afghanistan so far. Two hundred and fifty six soldiers have died in Iraq.

Militants Have “Turned Their Attention From Agriculture To Attacking NATO And Afghan Forces” “The Taliban Have A Strong Presence In Maiwand, Zhari, And Panjwai, With The Latter Two Districts Almost Entirely Under Their Control”

May 8, 2010 By Sebastian Abbot, Associated Press [Excerpts]

GHUNDY GHAR, Afghanistan — The gunfire and explosions echoing across this Taliban-infested district in southern Afghanistan yesterday signaled the end of the opium poppy harvest as militants again turned their attention from agriculture to attacking NATO and Afghan forces.

US Army soldiers perched on this small hilltop base in Kandahar Province’s Zhari district had a ringside seat to the early morning fighting. It snapped a lull in violence that had lasted almost three weeks while the Taliban focused on taxing the poppy crop, one of their main sources of revenue.

“This is the most gunfire that has happened in weeks,” said Staff Sergeant Aaron Christensen, looking down from Strong Point Ghundy Ghar as helicopter gunships pounded Taliban militants who had attacked a US patrol about 1 1/2 miles away. “The poppy harvest is definitely over.”

The morning dawned with a roadside bomb attack against Afghan Army troops as they traveled along the main highway that runs through Kandahar about a mile north of Ghundy Ghar, said Lieutenant Jonathan Lessman, the commander of First Platoon. The blast triggered a firefight that lasted nearly 10 minutes.

About an hour later, militants holed up in a mud compound attacked a US platoon that had set up a temporary observation post east of Ghundy Ghar, Lessman said. Over the next 30 minutes, the soldiers responded with a barrage of grenades and gunfire, while Kiowa helicopters pounded the militants with rockets, sending up clouds of dust and smoke.

It was unclear whether there were any casualties from the two attacks.

The US soldiers who were attacked were based at another small outpost in Zhari called Strong Point Lako Khel, which has been a favorite target of Taliban militants because it doesn't have the same defensive hilltop position as Ghundy Ghar.

Both outposts fall under the command of Second Battalion, First Infantry Regiment, which has responsibility for providing security in western Zhari and Maiwand.

The Taliban have a strong presence in Maiwand, Zhari, and Panjwai, with the latter two districts almost entirely under their control.

Resistance Announces “Operation Al-Faath” Will Begin May 10

May 8 AFP

The Taliban announced a new campaign of attacks on “foreigners and their surrogates” in Afghanistan on Saturday, a day before President Hamid Karzai leaves on a crucial visit to Washington.

A statement emailed to AFP said the operation would begin on May 10 and would target diplomats, members of the Afghan parliament and foreign contractors as well as foreign forces operating in Afghanistan.

“The Islamic Emirate announces this spring operation by the name of Al-Faath (victory), to be launched against Americans, NATO members and their surrogates,” said the statement, using the official name of the Taliban.

“The Al-Faath jihadic operations will start in 10th May 2010 this year to include operations against the defeated foreigners and their surrogates all over the country.”

**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 soldier from the U.S. Army's 2-1 Infantry Battalion, 5/2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team near a disabled armored vehicle during an operation in Maiwand District, Kandahar Province, April 20, 2010. REUTERS/Tim Wimborne

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

**Leader Of Somalia's Islamist Militia
Accused The United States Of Trying
To Kill Him In A Deadly Weekend
Bomb Attack:
"If You Plot To Harm Us, We Too Will Kill
You"**

5.7.10 AFP

MOGADISHU, Somalia — A leader of Somalia's Islamist Shebab militia accused the United States Friday of trying to kill him in a deadly weekend bomb attack and vowed revenge strikes against American citizens.

The threat was issued by Fu'ad Shongole, the head of mobilisation for the Al-Qaeda-inspired group, who was injured in the twin bombing in the capital Mogadishu on May 1 that killed at least 32 people.

"We are sending the following message to Americans and their allies: they take aim at us, we will target them... we will cut their throats wherever we find them", said Fu'ad Shongole.

"After having failed in their war against Muslims in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Americans are starting to plant bombs in mosques and densely populated areas", he said.

"If you plot to harm us, we too will kill you".

The explosions ripped through the mosque just as Fu'ad Shongole was addressing new recruits. He was wounded in the arm and two other Shebab commanders were killed, the group said.

TROOP NEWS

Two Pennsylvania National Guard Iraq Veterans Fire Bomb Armory

May 07, 2010 By Dennis J. Wright, The Mercury

PHOENIXVILLE — Two Royersford men were ordered to stand trial in Phoenixville District Court Thursday afternoon on charges they allegedly set fire to the Pennsylvania National Guard Armory along Rapps Dam Road on April 15.

Dominic Toye Majors and Guy Carlton Jones, both 20 of Royersford, are charged with arson, burglary, possession of explosive/incendiary material, criminal mischief, risking catastrophe, institutional vandalism, criminal trespass and recklessly endangering another person.

Majors and Jones are members of the 56th Stryker Brigade, 111th Infantry, which returned from a year in Iraq last September and is based at the East Pikeland armory.

Close to 30 family members and friends of both Majors and Jones were in the courtroom of District Judge Ted Michaels. Majors was represented by attorney Chris Hoey while Jones was represented by Joseph Malley.

Chester County Assistant District Attorney Thomas Ost-Prisco is prosecuting the case, and amended the charges prior to the preliminary hearing to add conspiracy to all charges.

The Armory sustained \$1.25 million in damages in the 4:10 a.m. fire on April 15, according to Kimberton Fire Chief Doug Gable.

Firefighters from Phoenixville, Kimberton, Valley Forge, Liberty Fire, Ridge and Lionville responded to the blaze and had the fire under control within 45 minutes, he said.

Investigators from state police at Embreeville and the Chester County fire marshal determined the blaze was arson and that fires appeared to have been set by people breaking into the building.

According to court testimony, East Pikeland Police Officer Joe Heyman said he was notified by a township employee of a suspicious vehicle parked next to the covered bridge a short distance from the armory around 3:21 a.m. April 15.

“The vehicle was backed in next to the covered bridge and the brake lights were on,” Heyman said. “The keys were still in the ignition and I didn’t see anyone.”

Heyman noticed a green Chevrolet Cavalier and a vehicle registration check revealed the vehicle was registered to Dana R. Majors, 44, of Coatesville.

After searching the area for any occupants of the vehicle, Heyman was dispatched to a general alarm at the armory, 1159 Rapps Dam Road, around 4:10 a.m.

Heyman said he discovered heavy smoke throughout the building, and advised Chester County Radio of the building fire.

“I observed the far west door of the building was propped open, and there were foot tracks in the west grass that led north toward the creek and the covered bridge,” he said. “We followed the footprints until the wooden area. There are paths that go to the covered bridge.”

Heyman testified that heavy smoke and fire was observed venting from second floor windows. “Firefighters had to cut into the roof,” he said. “They had trouble cutting it because it was two layers.”

Sgt. Steven David Coulter, company readiness officer, Bravo Company, said that Majors and Jones were on Third Platoon and were not permitted to be at the armory on April 15 since there was no duty or drill on that day.

“I haven’t seen them since October when we got back from Iraq,” Coulter said.

He testified that he received information that a urinalysis was scheduled in March and both Majors and Jones were called to participate.

"They didn't go to the room, and they left the building," Coulter said. "I told their sergeant that he could send police to their residence or mark them as AWOL (absent without leave) for that drill."

Hoey said despite what the affidavit and news reports state, Majors did not fail a drug test, and when he was asked to submit one in March, he did not submit and walked out.

Hoey asked Coulter if Majors failed a drug test in March, and Coulter answered "No."

Coulter informed the court that Majors failed a drug test in September 2008 prior to deployment, and was still allowed to deploy although the military has a zero tolerance policy.

Hoey asked Coulter how many guardsmen saw action during their time in Iraq, and was told that approximately 80 percent of them had seen action.

Hoey said that Majors was involved in gunfire with the enemy, and assisted in pulling out his wounded superior during a mission.

He asked Coulter if Majors, or anyone from the platoon, was being treated for post traumatic stress disorder.

"No, I'm not a doctor," Coulter replied. "I'm not aware of anyone coming back from the war and doing any irrational acts."

Pennsylvania Deputy State Fire Marshal John Clifford testified he arrived at the armory fire and began an exterior investigation prior to conducting an internal investigation.

Clifford said that he found seven points of origin for the fire, beginning in the front lobby of the armory.

"A Molotov cocktail was thrown there," Clifford said. "It was a Smirnoff vodka bottle. The bottle was shattered. A second point was in the copy/mailroom. On the desk there were portions of broken glass from a green Perrier water bottle. In the main hallway, there was more broken green glass."

Clifford said that on the second floor of the armory, in the center part of the loft was a full Bacardi rum bottle intact, with an odor of gas. He said approximately 20 feet from the loft, a portion of the loft was completely consumed by fire.

He said inside the large drill room, along the east wall was an American flag that was partially consumed by fire.

"There was a shattered Perrier bottle there," Clifford said. "A cocktail was thrown at the flag."

The final point of origin was a large truck in the drill area, Clifford said, that had charred material and fire damage to a spare tire.

Clifford said that investigators were able to locate the Chevrolet Cavalier around 11 a.m. April 15 at Majors residence along the 500 block of Spruce Street, Royersford.

He said a search warrant was obtained for Majors' residence, and as a result of the search, a Wal-Mart receipt was found, dated 4/15/10.

Ost-Prisco entered into evidence a copy of the receipt, along with two photos of Majors and Jones seen inside the WalMart purchasing items and leaving the store.

Items purchased on the receipt include four Perrier water bottles, a two-gallon plastic gasoline container and one plastic funnel.

The search of the Cavalier recovered inside the trunk a two-gallon plastic gasoline container and one Pennsylvania National Guard duffle bag.

"The gasoline container was partially full with suspected gasoline," Clifford said. "The duffle bag contained bottle caps from a Perrier water bottle and a half gallon Smirnoff vodka bottle. A cloth dish towel, which was identical to the cloth of the Molotov cocktail wick recovered at the scene, was found in the duffle bag. The duffle bag had a strong odor of gasoline."

Ost-Prisco also entered into evidence a still photo of Majors purchasing gasoline, along with a copy of the receipt for \$6 from the Wawa, which is located across the street from Wal-Mart in West Norriton.

During closing arguments, Hoey and Malley disputed the prosecution's case against their clients, and both asked that the charges be dismissed.

"There may be evidence that my client purchased items," Hoey said. "It does not mean he was involved in this incident. As it stands, this case has not been presented to determine who set this fire."

"My client never failed a drug test, and it wasn't his mother's car," Malley said. "He was at the store in the middle of the evening. Why would they risk their future? They volunteered to serve their country right out of high school."

Ost-Prisco responded, "The circumstantial evidence is overwhelming. They went AWOL. The Army couldn't locate them. Majors mother's car was found. You have fresh footprints leaving the area. You have both individuals at Wal-Mart and Wawa purchasing items and gas — all items for Molotov cocktails."

After hearing both arguments, Michaels agreed that the circumstantial evidence is overwhelming, and held the charges over for trial.

Both Majors and Jones were remanded back to Chester County Prison in lieu of \$750,000 cash bail each.

As both men were escorted to the holding cell, a brief commotion broke out and constables and officers made their way to the holding cell area while the courtroom was cleared.

Their next court appearance is scheduled for Thursday, May 13, 2010 in the Court of Common Pleas in West Chester.

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



Service for Marine Sgt. David J. Smith at Arlington National Cemetery Feb. 9, 2010. Sgt. Smith was critically wounded Jan. 23 in Helmand province, Afghanistan. He died of his injuries three days later. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**Zionist Secret Police Defeat Terrorist
Clown Threat**

May 6, 2010 Posted by Joshua Holland, AlterNet

Ivan Prado, the most famous clown in Spain, did not expect to be put on a return flight back to Madrid soon after arriving at Ben-Gurion International Airport late last month, after spending six hours with officials from the Shin Bet security service and the Interior Ministry.

The officials accused Prado of having ties to Palestinian terror organizations.

Foreign Ministry officials, meanwhile, say the incident caused grave damage to Israel's image in Spain.

Prado, director of the International Clown Festival in Galicia, arrived at Ben-Gurion Airport on April 26 with a Spanish national of Arab origin.

They planned to go to Ramallah to help organize a similar festival, but at passport control Prado was taken aside by a Shin Bet officer who asked him about his planned visit to the West Bank and about his connections to various Palestinian organizations.

He and his female companion were held for six hours, during which they were questioned repeatedly, and their passports were confiscated.

They were sent back to Spain after an Interior Ministry official informed them that they would not be permitted into Israel.

After Prado returned to Madrid he launched a media campaign denouncing Israel and comparing the situation of Palestinians in the West Bank with Jews in Poland.

The incident sparked tension between the Israeli Embassy in Madrid and the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, prompted by questions to the embassy from Spanish journalists and fueled by the diplomats' anger at the Foreign Ministry's explanation that Prado was turned away at the airport "for security reasons."

The Shin Bet issued a statement to Haaretz lacking significant details about the reasons behind the decision.

"We recommended to the Interior Ministry to prevent his entry into Israel after the findings of the security check produced suspicions about him," the statement said. "The man declined to provide complete information to the security people, especially in regard to his links with Palestinian terror organizations."

[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."]

Boston Activists Infiltrate Israeli Propaganda Show: Activists "Stealthily Replaced The Event Program With A Duplicate Program, Virtually Identical In Appearance" But Which Highlighted Israeli Terror Against Occupied Palestine

In another positive sign of Israel's increasing marginalization, there were so few people in actual attendance of the lecture that after all the activists had been removed, there was more security present in the auditorium than attendees.

04 May 2010 By Boston BDS Activists; Boston.indymedia.org [Excerpts]

Boston, MA, May 3, 2010 – Local activists protested the so-called “Israeli Innovation Weekend” (IIW) at the Museum of Science in Boston through multiple, disparate actions on Sunday.

IIW's sponsors, including the Consulate General of Israel to New England, were left flummoxed by the activists' efforts and largely unable to prevent their successful, multi-pronged disruption of the event.

Protesters targeted IIW because it was part of a state-sponsored campaign to “greenwash” Israel's discriminatory, apartheid regime and atrocious human rights record.

IIW was officially sponsored by the Israeli Consulate, which also played a major role in funding and planning the event; nearly half of IIW's steering committee was composed of Consulate staff and the Consulate was one of the top donors.

Throughout the day, protesters maintained a visible public presence outside the Museum.

Protesters held signs drawing attention to Israeli “innovation” in technologies of death such as white phosphorus and cluster bombs, parodying the exhibit's slogan, “Healing the World Through Technology.”

Across the street from the Museum, demonstrators also prominently displayed a large Palestinian flag from the adjacent East Cambridge Lechmere Viaduct Bridge.

The protesters' message was seen by hundreds of Museum visitors and passing tour groups, many of whom called out or honked horns in expressions of solidarity.

Meanwhile, inside the Museum, lone activists stealthily replaced the IIW program with a duplicate program, virtually identical in appearance but which highlighted themes of the Israeli science and technology sectors' complicity in water theft and other abuses.

The front of the program named Israel “The World's Leader in Cutting-Edge Apartheid Technologies,” while inside the program, titles of IIW lectures were re-printed with altered titles. For example, “Sunshine and Sustainability: Israeli Leadership in Solar Technology” was renamed “Sustainable Darkness: Israeli Innovations in Torture Technology and Extra-Legal Maneuvering,” while “Sharing Water in the Middle East—Israel's Cross-Border Water Resource Strategy” became “Strategic Water Appropriation in the Middle East: Might Makes Right.”

IIW organizers were overheard multiple times expressing anger and frustration at their inability to determine who was “plastering” the exhibit with this literature.

Activists surreptitiously distributed this material for more than two hours before finally being discovered and asked to leave the Museum.

Yet Museum staff were observed reading the alternative program and several expressed sympathy with the activists' cause as they were escorted out of the Museum.

Finally, yet another group of activists infiltrated the last panel lecture of the day, entitled "Israeli Technology: An Investor's Perspective."

As the panel began, two participants unfurled a giant banner reading "Don't Invest in Israeli Apartheid." After the activists were shouted down by the audience and removed by Museum security, others continued to disrupt the session every five to ten minutes, individually standing up and interrupting the lecture by condemning investment in Israeli technology, calling for justice for Palestinians, or singing liberation songs.

One disrupter referred the audience to the report about war crimes in Gaza by the UN inquiry commission led by South African jurist Richard Goldstone if they truly wanted to know more about Israeli technological innovation.

declared that investing in Israel was investing in the dispossession and genocide of indigenous people. Yet another sang a re-written, Palestine-specific version of Sweet Honey in the Rock's Chile Your Waters Run Red Through Soweto.

In sum, the activists made it impossible for the event to proceed and visibly agitated the audience.

In another positive sign of Israel's increasing marginalization, there were so few people in actual attendance of the lecture that after all the activists had been removed, there was more security present in the auditorium than attendees.

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:

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DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



CLASS WAR REPORTS



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Greece's Workers Revolt: "Robbers, Robbers, Capitalists: Your Profits Cost Human Lives" "The Resistance Continues: Another General Strike Has Been Set For May 10"



May Day protests against austerity measures in Athens, Greece (Panagiotis Tzamaros)

May 7, 2010 By Antonis Davenellos, Socialist Worker Translation by George Yorgos

WITH AN enormous general strike and massive rallies May 5--including a mobilization of more than 200,000 workers in the capital of Athens alone--the working class of Greece gave its answer to austerity measures imposed by the social democratic government of PASOK, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the European Union (EU).

The strike paralyzed everything: public and private sector enterprises, small shops, the media. Even taxi drivers were on strike. The following day, several union federations remained on strike, and tens of thousands of demonstrators surrounded the Greek parliament building as representatives voted to approve the measures, which will slash wages and benefits, raise taxes and dramatically lower the working-class standard of living.

And the resistance continues: Another general strike has been set for May 10.

The May 5 strike rally and the march that followed were representative of the mobilization from below. The unions were present not only through the large federations, but union locals in workplaces, which took part under their own banners. This activism set the tone for the day.

Also characteristic of the day was anger.

Tens of thousands workers thundered, “Today and tomorrow, and for as long its needed, we are all strikers.” This fury explains the incredible resilience of the demonstrators, who flooded the center of Athens despite the unprecedented rain of tear gas fired against them by the police.

The demonstration was also exceptionally political. The chants of the revolutionary left were taken up by the overwhelming majority of the demonstrators--for example, “Robbers, robbers, capitalists: Your profits cost human lives.”

Moreover, the social base of social democracy itself--the thousands and thousands of workers who had voted for PASOK--was there, joining with supporters of the left in angrily attacking a government in which they had illusions only a few months before. Now they chanted. “Take ‘em back (the austerity measures) and get out of here” and “Self-illusions are over--either with the capitalists or with the workers.”

This feeling was also openly directed against the trade union leadership.

The chairman of the General Confederation of Greek Workers (GSEE, according to its initials in Greece), who is also a leading member of PASOK, was jeered by the people of his own party and forced to cut his speech short.

UP UNTIL this weeks strikes and protests in Greece, it was only the government and the “markets” speaking about the crisis.

Under the pretext of reducing Greece’s government debt, PASOK has passed one of the harshest programs of austerity that has ever been imposed in a country “under supervision”--in this case, by both the IMF and EU.

Initially, the reaction of working people to the violent economic and social changes was shock and confusion. This created the basis for the theorizing that in a such deep crisis,

people are becoming more conservative, lending further support to opinions--ones very popular in the corporate media--that any resistance is in vain.

The response of the working class in the magnificent strike of May 5 put an end to all this speculation.

Not by accident, the eyes of all Europe were turned to Athens.

The German, French and Spanish unions sent delegations to Athens in order to express their solidarity. In many European countries (among them Hungary, which is well acquainted with the IMF), labor unions and activists organized solidarity events in front Greek embassies.

All the major European media were in Athens to cover the strike.

The ruling classes, as well as the working people of Europe, are closely following developments in Greece in order to assess the possibilities of resistance against similar programs being prepared for all EU member countries.

The idea of an all-European resistance front is maturing.

The May 5 strike was tarnished by the death of three non-striking workers employed in a branch of the private bank Marfin, which was set on fire during the demonstration.

The branch of Marfin in question is situated in one of the most central streets of Athens and along the route of the demonstration. It has been verified that workers in the branch had asked to be allowed off work since their federation was striking. Instead, under the threat of layoffs, management forced them to stay--a fact that in itself became a provocation, since it is well-known that banks become frequent targets during demonstrations.

Demonstrators did attack the Marfin building. But it has still not been verified whether the fire began from Molotov cocktails thrown by demonstrators or tear gas bombs launched by police.

What is clear is that in order to strengthen its fortifications, the bank management had locked down the building. As a result, when the fire began, workers couldn't escape--with the tragic result of the death of three of them.

Such behavior by Marfin managers shouldn't be surprising. Marfin is a fiercely neoliberal bank that has played a leading role in privatizations of government enterprises--including the selloff of Olympic Airlines.

The bank's owner--a frequent guest in corporate media panel discussions--promotes the view that Greece needs a government of "independent personalities" of capital--an attempt to fashion a current in Greek politics styled after Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, the right-wing corporate media baron.

For its part, the PASOK government is attempting to use the tragic death of the three Marfin workers to confront the enormous working-class resistance of May 5 with a hard policy of "law and order."

It is no accident that the government has the full support of the extreme right crypto-fascist party of LAOS in imposing the IMF-EU austerity program. LAOS is even calling on PASOK to enforce this policy with an "iron fist"--including, if needed, revoking the left's legal right to exist.

The target of the far right's attacks is not only the left-wing coalition SYRIZA and organizations of the revolutionary left (as it was during the militant youth demonstrations of December 2008), but also the more moderate Greek Communist Party.

In any case, the big news of the days has been the huge explosion of workers' resistance.

The major newspapers of Athens today are asking: "If on May 5 we had such a strike, what will we experience in the months to follow when the austerity measures actually start taking effect in people's lives?"

The working class has given its first response to the attack.

Already, the struggle is forcing everybody--in Greece and the rest of Europe--to consider in their plans the factor of working-class resistance.

And this is already taking their breath away.

Confident European Leaders Meet To Reassure The World Their Debt Crisis Is Over



Spain's Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero leaves a news conference after a Euro Zone leaders summit in Brussels, May 8, 2010.... REUTERS/Francois Lenoir



Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi arrives for a meeting with French President Nicolas Sarkozy prior to an extraordinary EU summit in Brussels. Berlusconi told his peers that the 11-year-old shared currency area was in a “state of emergency” and exceptional measures were required. (AFP/POOL/Michel Euler)



European Central Bank President Jean-Claude Trichet leaves the European Council building after a Euro Zone leaders summit in Brussels, May 8, 2010. Greek lawmakers approved the government’s 30 billion euro (\$40 billion) austerity bill in parliament on Thursday, paving the way for a record bailout from the European Union and International Monetary Fund. REUTERS/Thierry Roge



European Council President Herman Van Rompuy, left, and European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso participate in a media conference after an EU summit in Brussels, Saturday, May 8, 2010. The 16 leaders of the euro zone meet Friday to finalize the Greek rescue plan and assess how such financial crises can be avoided in the future. (AP Photo/Virginia Mayo)



French President Nicolas Sarkozy (L) walks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel prior to an extraordinary European Union summit at the European Council headquarters in Brussels. Euro zone leaders agreed on Saturday to set up a crisis fund for all 16 currency partners among a spate of moves to tackle a “state of emergency” before nervous markets re-open after the weekend. (AFP/POOL/Michel Euler)

“There Is A Danger The Debt Crisis Could Spread To Municipal Debt Issued By U.S. States”

“If The Euro Sinks Individual U.S. States Will Be The Next Step”

May 06, 2010 By Sree Vidya Bhaktavatsalam and Christopher Condon (Bloomberg)
[Excerpts]

Pacific Investment Management Co.'s Mohamed El-Erian and Loomis Sayles & Co.'s Dan Fuss said the European debt crisis may spread across the globe because of investor concern that governments have borrowed too much to revive their economies.

“After morphing into a regional dislocation, the Greek crisis is now going global,” El-Erian, the chief executive officer of Newport Beach, California-based Pimco, said yesterday in an e-mail. El-Erian shares the title of co-chief investment officer of Pimco with Bill Gross, who runs the world's biggest bond fund.

Fuss, whose Loomis Sayles Bond Fund beat 96 percent of competitors in the past year, said the euro crisis had reached a “critical” point.

“It's a liquidity issue, so it's not just over there, it's over here,” Fuss said in an interview.

“The transmission mechanisms for this latest round include disruptions in European inter-bank lines, a flight to quality, and market illiquidity,” El-Erian said.

Europe's debt-ridden nations have to raise almost 2 trillion euros within the next three years to refinance maturing bonds and fund deficits, according to Bank of America Merrill Lynch data.

“The issues in Greece are a global issue,” Axel Merk, president and chief investment officer of Merk Investments LLC in Palo Alto, California, said in an interview. “The recovery priced in that access to credit is available, and cheaply.”

Italy faces the biggest bill, followed by Spain. Greece needs 152.6 billion euros, while Portugal and Ireland each have to raise about 80 billion euros, the data show.

“There may well be some defaults. If not Greece then some other nation,” Merk said. That's “hitting the banking sector particularly hard.”

Europe's fiscal crisis could threaten banks in Portugal, Spain, Italy, Ireland and the U.K. as the risk of contagion grows, Moody's Investors Service said in a report yesterday.

"If Merkel and Trichet don't solve this, if they don't work together, this could potentially mean the dissolution of the euro," Ron Sloan, chief investment officer at Atlanta-based Invesco Ltd.'s U.S. core equity team, said in a telephone interview, referring to German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Sloan added that there is a danger the debt crisis could spread to municipal debt issued by U.S. states that are struggling to balance their budgets.

"It's the whole issue of risk appetite again," he said. "If the euro sinks individual U.S. states will be the next step."

The U.S. federal deficit is forecast to reach \$1.6 trillion this year, or 10.6 percent of the economy, making it the biggest by that measure since World War II.

Sloan manages the \$5.5 billion Invesco Charter Fund, which has outperformed 97 percent of similarly managed funds over the past five years.

Welcome To The Occupied U.S.A.: SWAT Team With Drawn Guns And Riot Gear Evict Man From Foreclosed Home Where He Lived For 20 Years



Wood County Sheriff's deputies forcibly remove Keith Sadler from his Stony Ridge, Ohio, home of 20 years, 05/06/10. (photo: Dave Zapotosky/The Blade)

May 07, 2010 By Laura Rice, Barrington Broadcasting Group [Excerpts]

STONY RIDGE, OHIO --

At about 6:30 Friday morning a special response team from the Wood County Sheriff's Department took a battering ram to the door of Keith Sadler's foreclosed home and arrested the six squatters inside.

Since Sunday afternoon, Sadler and five others had been locked in the home despite an order of eviction after Sadler fell behind on his mortgage payments.

Protestors had been sitting outside the home calling for a moratorium on foreclosures but Wood County Sheriff Mark Wasylyshyn says he had a job to do.

The Toledo Foreclosure League disagrees.

"The Sheriff responded in heavy force with guns drawn, riot gear, as if the peaceful people inside were going to do anything. They cut the power already--we got it turned back on--it's been a very heavy-handed response by the police," said Lance Crandall.

The six squatters were arraigned Friday afternoon on misdemeanor charges of trespassing and obstruction with strict orders not to return to the property.

"I'm proud of these kids, I really am. I think they've taken a stand for what they believe in. The middle class is being destroyed.

"These banks have been bailed out numerous times and they haven't given us any breaks," said John Kutsch, father of one of the arrested people.

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