

Military Resistance 8F10



Small People

From: Dennis Serdel
To: Military Resistance
Sent: June 18, 2010
Subject: Small People

Written by Dennis Serdel, Military Resistance 2010; Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade; United Auto Workers GM Retiree

Small People

Small Soldiers, don't you know
that you look just like ants
according to Presidents,

Prime Ministers and Kings
who use your lives
in their evil games.
Small Soldiers, when you die
you can be replaced
by another Small Soldier
stepped on by their government
by Big People Leaders
who cover their small people's
caskets with their flags
You say it's just a saying
but America never knew,
all they know is that
they are Small People
Small Soldiers
like they were told on TV
who let it slip out
But Small Soldiers
you have all the weapons
that you need to bring
down the Big People and
make a Government
for all the Small People
One that is fair and
ends joblessness, hunger,
racism, go For The Works
as the Wobbly's say
Jobs run by the Workers
and not CEO's who
presently look at Small People
from their Lear Jets
with Congressman
and Senators
along for the ride

MORE:

**Twenty-Two Reasons Why
American Working People Hate
The Government:
“The Real Issue Is Not That People
Are Anti-State, But That The State Is
Anti The Majority Of The People”**

“The Absence Of An Anti-Statist Left Has Opened The Door For The Rise Of A Mass Based ‘New Right’”

The state in its multiple activities, whether in law enforcement, military recruitment, tax and expenditure polices, environmental, pension and retirement legislation and administration, systematically favors the upper class and corporate elite against wage, salaried and small business people.

While liberal-progressives’ remain embedded in ‘neo-Keynesian’ statist ideology, outmoded in the face of a state thoroughly embedded in corporate networks, the New Right’s “anti-statist” rhetoric resonates with the feelings, experiences and reasoning of important sectors of wage and salaried workers and small businesspeople.

June 19, 2010 by James Petras, Global Research

Why does the rightwing attack on “Big Government” increasingly resonate with working people?

Liberals claim wage and salaried workers are acting against their “self-interest”, citing government welfare programs like social security and unemployment payments.

Progressives argue that workers hostile to the state are ‘racists’, “fundamentalists” and/or irrational, blinded by misplaced fears of threats to individual freedoms.

I will argue there are many sound, rational, material reasons for working people to be in revolt against the state.

Twenty-Two Reasons Why Working People Hate the State

- 1.) Most wage and salaried workers pay disproportionately higher taxes than the corporate rich and therefore, millions of Americans work in the “underground economy” to make ends meet; thus subjecting themselves to arrest, and prosecution by the state for trying to make a living by avoiding onerous taxes.
- 2.) The state provides generous multi-year tax exemptions for corporations thus raising the tax rate for wage and salaried workers or eliminating vital services. The state’s inequitable tax revenue policies provoke resentment,.
- 3.) High taxes combined with fewer and more expensive public services, include growing costs of public higher education and higher health charges, feed popular antagonism and frustration that they and their children are being denied opportunities to get ahead and stay healthy.
- 4.) Many working people resent the fact that their tax money is being spent by the state on endless distant wars and to finance bailouts of Wall Street instead of investing it in

reindustrializing America to create well paying jobs or to aid unemployed or underemployed workers unable to meet mortgage payments and facing eviction or homelessness.

Most workers reject the inequitable budget expenditures that privilege the rich and deny the working people.

5.) Working people are appalled by the states hypocrisy and double standards in prosecuting “welfare cheats” for taking hundreds but overlooking corporate and banking swindlers, and Pentagon military cost overruns of hundreds of billions.

Few working people believe there is equality before the law, implicitly rejecting its claims of legitimacy.

6.) Many working class families resent the fact that the state recruits their sons and daughters for wars, leading to death and crippling injuries instead of public service jobs, while the children of the rich and affluent pursue civilian careers.

7.) The state subsidizes and upgrades public infrastructure – roads, parks and utilities in upper end neighborhoods while ignoring the demands for improvements of low income communities. Moreover the state locates contaminants – incinerators, high polluting industries etc. – in close proximity to workers housing and schools.

8.) The state holds the minimum wage below increases in the cost of living but encourages and promotes excess profits.

9.) Law enforcement is strict in high end neighborhoods and lax in low income communities resulting in higher rates of homicides and robberies.

10.) State imposes constraints on labor organizations struggling to secure wages and benefits and ignores corporate intimidation and arbitrary firings of workers. The state encourages corporate mergers and acquisitions leading to monopolies but discourages collective action from below.

11.) State economic institutions recruit policymakers from banks and financial houses who make decisions favoring their former employers, while wage and salaried workers are excluded and have no representation in economic policy positions.

12.) The state increasingly infringes on individual freedoms of social activists via the Patriot Act, arbitrary arrests, and grants impunity to police violence and punishes whistle blowers, rejecting citizen reviews with punitive powers.

13.) The state is highly responsive to and increases funding for the military-industrial complex, the relocation of MNC overseas and the high income Israel lobby while cutting funding for public investment in productive activity, applied technology and high tech job training for US workers and salaried employees and their children.

14.) State policies have increased inequalities between the top 10% and the bottom 50% for decades, turning the US into the industrial country with the greatest inequalities.

15.) State policies have led to declining living standards as wage and salary earners work longer hours with less job security, for a greater number of years before receiving pensions and social security and under greater environmental hazards.

16.) Elected state officials break most campaign promises to working people while fulfilling promises for the upper class/corporate banking elite.

17.) State officials pay greater attention and are more responsive to a few big financial contributors than to millions of voters.

18.) State officials are more responsive to payoffs from corporate lobbies protecting corporate profits than to the health, educational and income needs of the electorate.

19.) State-corporate links lead to deregulation, which results in contamination of the environment leading to the bankruptcy of small businesses and loss of many jobs, as well as the loss of recreational areas, spoiling rest and recreation for working people.

20.) The state increases the retirement age rather than increase the social security payments by the rich, with the result that workers in unhealthy work environments will enjoy fewer years of retirement in good health.

21.) The state judicial system is more likely to render favorable decisions to wealthy plaintiffs with high paid, politically connected lawyers against workers defended by inexperienced public defenders.

22.) State tax collectors are more likely to pursue wage and salary tax payers than upper class corporate executives employing accountants with expert knowledge in tax loopholes and tax free shelters.

Conclusion

The state in its multiple activities, whether in law enforcement, military recruitment, tax and expenditure policies, environmental, pension and retirement legislation and administration, systematically favors the upper class and corporate elite against wage, salaried and small business people.

The state is permissive with the rich and repressive of the working and salaried employees, defending the privileges of the corporations and the impunity of the police state while infringing on the individual freedoms of the working people.

State policies increasingly extract more from the workers in terms of tax revenues and provide less in social payments, while lessening tax payments from Wall Street and inflating state transfers.

Popular perceptions of a hostile and exploitative state correspond to their everyday practical experiences; their anti-state behavior is selective and rational; most wage and salaried workers support social security and unemployment benefits and oppose higher taxes because they know or intuit that they are unfair.

Liberal academics and experts who claim workers are “irrational” are themselves practitioners of highly selective criticisms – pointing to (shrinking) state social benefits

while ignoring the unjust, inequitable tax system and the biased behavior of the judicial, law enforcement, legislative and regulatory system.

State personnel, policy makers and enforcement officials are attentive to and responsive and deferential to the rich and hostile and indifferent or arrogant toward workers.

In summary the real issue is not that people are anti-state, but that the state is anti the majority of the people.

In the face of the economic crises and prolonged imperial wars, the state becomes more brazenly aggressive in slashing living standards in order to channel record levels of public funds toward Wall Street speculators and the military industrial complex.

While liberal-progressives' remain embedded in 'neo-Keynesian' statist ideology, outmoded in the face of a state thoroughly embedded in corporate networks, the New Right's "anti-statist" rhetoric resonates with the feelings, experiences and reasoning of important sectors of wage and salaried workers and small businesspeople.

The attempt by liberals and progressives to discredit this popular revolt against the state, by pointing to the corporate financing and rightwing manipulation behind the anti-statist movement is doomed to failure, because it fails to deal with the profound injustices experienced by working people today in their daily dealings with a state, largely administered by liberal corporate-militarists.

The absence of an anti-statist left has opened the door for the rise of a mass based 'New Right'.

A 'new left' will emerge from civil society when it recognizes the pernicious exploitative role of the state, and is capable of dealing with the powerful ties between liberalism-militarism-corporate "welfarism".

The revival and expansion of the debilitated public welfare programs for working people can only take place by dismantling the current state apparatus, and that depends on a complete break with both corporate parties and an agenda that 'revolutionizes' the way in which politics works in America.

MORE:

**“The Enemy Is Always The
Government”**

**“If Progressives Really Desire Direct
Confrontation With The Evildoers
Who Control Our Country, They Will**

**Have To Accept That The People
Must Be Armed, Trained, And Have
An Understanding Of Who Their
Enemy Is”
“Blackstone Wrote That Whenever
Government Broke Free Of The
Constraints Placed On It By Civil Liberty,
The ‘Last Right Of The Subject Is Having
Arms For Their Defense’”**

6/17/10 By Paul Craig Roberts, OpEdNews [Excerpts]

Progressive William Rivers Pitt has lost patience with the Obama regime and with British Petroleum (“Enough of This Crap,” June 15, Truthout).

To break through the news blackout that BP maintains over the ongoing Gulf of Mexico oil spill, he wants a hundred thousand Americans to “just show the hell up down there and demand access.”

Pitt is correct that this “is the kind of direct action that has been missing from our national narrative, not just in the Gulf but all over.” Obama, he says correctly, is a “narcotic” for progressives.

Apparently, for many progressives having a black man, or a 50% black man, in the White House is what is important, not the fact that he is a continuation of Bush/Cheney.

If a hundred thousand people marched on the Gulf Coast, “big things would happen.”

Pitt writes that “either the people would break through those unconscionable corporate barriers and show the world what is really going on in the Gulf, or the forces BP has arrayed against the truth would react with violence, which would tell us everything we need to know about what is happening, and would be enough to break that God damned criminal corporation finally and forever.”

And don’t think the government wouldn’t kill Americans.

Remember the 100 murdered Branch Davidians that Bill Clinton and Janet Reno dispatched?

The US government has never regretted the million dead Iraqi civilians and the unknown multitude of dead Afghan civilians.

Have you forgotten Kent State where college kids were gunned down by the US National Guard?

YouTube has tens of thousands of videos of cops getting their jollies by body slamming 90-year-old grandmothers and tasing 10-year-old kids.

Just the other day Obama official Dennis Blair announced that he had a list of Americans to assassinate.

It is these people who are the threat to Americans' lives and liberty, not the Taliban and Iranians.

Ever since it became apparent to progressives, despite their faith in government, that the Bush-Cheney regime was an enormous threat to American liberty, to the environment, to truth, and to world peace, progressives have continued their campaigns to disarm the American people and to reduce them to grist for the Bush-Cheney-Obama Police State's mill.

The obvious question is: How can we trust progressives when they are such reliable agents of the Police State?

Perhaps William Rivers Pitt thinks that a massacre of a hundred thousand Americans would send a moral message that would overthrow the Gestapo government in DC.

Even if progressives could realize that the Bush-Cheney-Obama Police State was a far more dangerous entity than Americans permitted to own pistols and semi-automatic rifles, no American is permitted to own the weapons that the oppressive government has.

If progressives really desire direct confrontation with the evildoers who control our country, they will have to accept that the people must be armed, trained, and have an understanding of who their enemy is.

As the Founding Fathers tried to beat into our heads, the enemy is always the government.

Somehow I just can't see progressives getting this far.

They would rather Americans be slaves of the state than armed.

Every civil liberty is reduced to the Second Amendment. This was recognized by our Founding Fathers, especially by Thomas Jefferson, and it was completely understood by William Blackstone, England's greatest jurist.

Blackstone wrote that whenever government broke free of the constraints placed on it by civil liberty, the "last right of the subject is having arms for their defense."

Blackstone wrote in the 18th century that when legal constraints on government fail, physical checks remain:

The right to bear arms expresses the “natural right of resistance and self-preservation when the sanctions of society and laws are found insufficient to restrain the violence of oppression.”

If progressives like William Rivers Pitt want direct action from Americans, they will have to give up their agenda of disarming the citizenry.

It is the conservatives who are armed, and they think the enemies are blacks, Hispanics, pinko-liberal commies, and “terrorists.”

Recently a friend told me that Obama was a marxist.

Really, how did a marxist get elected with the support of the US military-security complex, the support of AIPAC, the insurance industry, Wall Street, Big Oil?

How much money do marxists have with which to make campaign contributions? I mean, really. It is extraordinary that anyone could possibly believe that a stealth marxist could gain the White House. If he did, once he showed his colors, he would be assassinated, and Iran would be blamed, followed by an invasion.

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 Afghanistan, 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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Resistance Attack Blows Up Oil Pipeline

6.18.2010 By SAMEER N. YACOUB, The Associated Press

A bomb struck an oil pipeline near Beiji, 155 miles (250 kilometers) north of Baghdad, filling the sky with thick, black smoke as cleanup crews burned the oil that was leaking into the nearby Tigris River, officials said.

Abdul-Aziz Muslih, an official at the Beiji refinery, said the pipeline links oil fields in Kirkuk with Beiji.

More Resistance Action: Insurgents Attack Bank “At The Forefront Of Efforts To Encourage Foreign Investment In Iraq”



The Trade Bank of Iraq in Baghdad June 20, 2010: Car bombers attacked the Trade Bank of Iraq on Sunday, one of the public sector’s most active financial institutions, which is at the forefront of efforts to encourage foreign investment in Iraq. REUTERS/Saad Shalash

6/17/2010 The Associated Press & June 18 (Reuters) & KUNA & By SAMEER N. YACOUB, The Associated Press & 1.19.10 VOA News & Reuters

Two car bombers struck a crowded area outside a state-run bank Sunday in Baghdad.

The Trade Bank of Iraq which is at the forefront of efforts to encourage foreign investment in Iraq.

The blast, which tore the glass facade off the three-story Trade Bank of Iraq building, leaving chairs and desks exposed, occurred shortly after 11 a.m. as the area was packed with people at the start of the local work week.

Security forces swarmed through the debris while cleanup crews used forklifts to move the charred wreckage of several vehicles destroyed by the blast.

The chairman of the Trade Bank of Iraq said five guards were among the dead and six others were wounded.

The bank is in a commercial area surrounding Nisoor Square that includes a government agency that issues national identification cards and the telephone exchange building.

“It was a tremendous explosion that shook the building and shattered all the glass. We were all in a panic and left our offices immediately,” one bank employee who was working at the time of the attack said, declining to give his name for security reasons.

A man was shot dead on Thursday by his son and a nephew who regarded him as a traitor because he worked as an interpreter for the U.S. military in Samarra, 100 km (62 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Hameed al-Daraji was shot in the chest in his house in Samarra, 60 miles (95 kilometers) north of Baghdad, police Lt. Emad Muhsin said.

Muhsin said al-Daraji worked as a contractor and translator for the U.S. military since 2003 against the wishes of his family. His relatives were constantly fighting with al-Daraji to give up working with the Americans, but he ignored their pleas, he added.

Al-Daraji’s son and nephew were arrested after the attack and confessed to being members of a militant organization that sanctioned the killing, Muhsin said, adding that police were searching for a second son suspected of being an accomplice.

A series of bombings and a rocket attack also struck the capital late Saturday, killing five people, officials said.

A shooting by insurgents near the Syrian border killed seven Iraqi soldiers.

Iraqi Police said that four Iraqis were killed and eight others were injured when a rocket fell on homes Abu Ghraib area, west Baghdad early Friday. **Sources from the police said the rocket might have missed its target, as militant often target a base of the Iraqi Army which is close to that area.**

Friday, two rockets slammed into a group of houses near the Baghdad International Airport, killing two people and wounding eight, police said.

An Iraqi and members of his family in a town west of Baghdad. Brig. Mahmoud al-Issawi says the family was sleeping early Thursday in their garden in a village near Fallujah, 40 miles (65 kilometers) west of Baghdad, when armed men broke in. They killed the man, his wife, two daughters and one son. Another son was injured.

The official says that Khudr al-Issawi had fought with the government-backed militia known as the Awakening Councils against insurgents.

A parked car bomb went off near a police captain’s house, wounding at least 30 people, including six members of his family, in Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) northeast of Baghdad, police said.

Militants wearing army uniforms stormed a house and killed an off-duty policeman in a town west of Mosul, police said.

A parked car bomb exploded near the house of a provincial council official, killing five people and wounding 45, in Tuz Khurmato, 170 km (105 miles) north of Baghdad, police and hospital sources said.

A roadside bomb exploded in Baghdad's southern Saidiya district on Friday, police said. A second bomb exploded when police arrived to investigate, wounding five policemen.

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

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

“Improvised Bomb Incidents Up 94% In Afghanistan” “An Alarming Trend”

[Thanks to Alan Stolzer, Military Resistance, who sent this in.]

Jun 19 AFP & By ROBERT H. REID, Associated Press Writer

Afghanistan has seen an “alarming” 94 percent increase in incidents involving homemade bombs in a year, a report by the United Nations secretary general said on Saturday.

“The rise in incidents involving improvised explosive devices constitutes an alarming trend, with the first four months of 2010 recording a 94 percent increase compared to the same period in 2009,” the report to the UN security council said.

Moreover, assassinations of Afghan government officials jumped 45 percent, mostly in the ethnic Pashtun south, he said. Complex attacks employing bombers, rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire were running about two a month, double the number in 2009, he added.

The overall U.N. assessment contrasted with the tone set last Wednesday by Defense Secretary Robert Gates, who told a Senate panel that the U.S.-led force was making progress in Afghanistan.

Gates complained about negative perceptions about the war taking root in Washington.

Three U.S. Troops Killed Friday

June 18, 2010

Three American troops died in fighting Friday in Afghanistan, raising to 34 the number of U.S. troops killed in the war so far this month.

Two Americans died in an insurgent attack and another died in a roadside bomb explosion. The U.S. command confirmed their nationalities but did not specify where they died.

Soldier From Royal Dragoon Guards Killed In Helmand

18 Jun 10 Ministry of Defence

It is with sadness that the Ministry of Defence must announce that a soldier from The Royal Dragoon Guards has been killed in an explosion in Afghanistan, today, Friday 18 June 2010.

The soldier, serving as part of Combined Force Nahr-e Saraj (South), was providing security to his colleagues during a task to improve the field of view around a Check Point when the incident occurred this afternoon.

French Soldier Killed By Indirect Fire In Kapisa

06/19/10 defense.gouv.fr

Friday, June 18, a French soldier was killed and an Afghan civilian and seriously wounded by an insurgent indirect fire that struck the position advanced combat (Combat outpost - COP) Hutnik, Tagab Valley in Kapisa.

By early evening, an indirect fire hit the COP Hutnik where about 150 French soldiers deployed. A French military has been very seriously injured. An Afghan civilian working as an interpreter with the French forces, was also seriously injured.

The French military and Afghan civilian were evacuated by helicopter to the French military hospital in Kabul where the French military has succumbed to his injuries. He belonged to the 1st Parachute Hussar Regiment of Tarbes.

Roadside Bombs Injure Six German Soldiers In Afghanistan

Jun 20, 2010 DPA

Kunduz, Afghanistan - Six German soldiers were injured by roadside bombs in relatively peaceful northern Afghanistan, officials said Sunday.

An armoured military vehicle was struck by a bomb in Chardarah district of Kunduz province Sunday morning, causing damage but causing no casualties, Abdul Wahid Omarkhel, the district governor said.

Around two hours later, another German military vehicle was hit by bomb as the soldiers were trying to transport the damaged vehicle, Mohammad Omar, the provincial governor, said. 'Three German soldiers were injured in the second blast,' he said.

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid took responsibility for the attacks by phone from an undisclosed location.

On Saturday, a bomb in the northern province of Badakhshan injured three German soldiers, local officials and a source from the German military in the region confirmed Sunday.

Resistance Action

Jun 17, 2010 DPA & By AMIR SHAH, The Associated Press & Jun 19, 2010 DPA & By ROBERT H. REID, Associated Press Writer & 6.20.10 DPA

A bomber on Thursday targeted a district headquarters in southern Afghanistan, killing a police constable and wounding six people, the Interior Ministry said. The bomber was identified by police as he was trying to enter the district headquarters of Andar in Ghazni province, the ministry said in a statement.

Despite being shot several times by police, the bomber managed to detonate his explosive-packed vest, killing the constable and wounding three more police officers and three civilians, it said.

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the attack. He said the bomber was disguised in a police uniform and contradicted the ministry's account by claiming the bomber was driving a police vehicle filled with explosives.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for a car bombing Thursday morning outside a district police headquarters in southeastern Afghanistan that wounded four Afghan policemen, one critically.

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said the bomber used a stolen police vehicle to conduct the attack in the Andar district of Ghazni province. Deputy Police Chief Nawroz Ali Nawroz said police saw the vehicle speeding toward them and opened fire before the bomber detonated his explosives, injuring the policemen and damaging the building.

In Ghazni province, three Afghans working for a private security company were killed when their vehicle struck a roadside bomb in Muqar district, the deputy police chief said.

A roadside bomb killed two police and injured one more policeman Saturday in southern Afghanistan. The bomb was remotely detonated in Deh Rawood district of Uruzgan province as police vehicle was passing, Juma Gul Hemat, the provincial police chief said.

Saturday, police said militants assassinated a relative of a powerbroker in Kandahar the night before. The victim, Hamayun Khan, was a relative of Gul Alai, one of the Pashtun warlords who drove the Taliban from Kandahar in 2001, police said.

Three Afghan soldiers were killed and two others wounded by a roadside bomb Friday in Paktia province in southeastern Afghanistan, according to the deputy provincial police chief, Ghulam Dastagir.

North of Lashkar Gah on Saturday, two Afghan policemen were killed and five others were wounded when their vehicle hit a roadside bomb in Gereshk district, the interior ministry said.

More Civilians Butchered, As Usual



An Afghan girl awaits treatment in a Herat hospital after being wounded by Afghan government forces in Badghis June 20, 2010. More than 30 Afghan civilians were wounded killed and wounded by police in northwestern Badghis province on Sunday. REUTERS/ Mohammad Shoiab

June 20, 2010 Associated Press

In western Afghanistan, three Taliban militants were killed and 33 others were wounded in a clash with police Sunday morning, according to Sarajuddin Najebi, a spokesman for the provincial governor of Badghis province.

He said the fighting occurred after local residents complained that insurgents were demanding taxes from farmers as they harvested their crops. He said that after a civilian was killed in the fighting, residents requested help from Afghan security forces who attacked and killed the militants.

However, Sarajuddin Khan, a tribal leader from the district, gave a different account.

He said that after a private dispute on Saturday, one of the parties requested assistance from Afghan security forces, claiming that they were under attack from Taliban insurgents.

He said 16 people from the remote village, including four women and five children, were killed in the subsequent fighting involving Afghan security forces and another 59 were wounded and taken to a hospital.

Speaking at the hospital in neighboring Herat province, the tribal leader said the injured included 12 children and four women.

In the east, Afghan authorities reported civilian casualties in what NATO claimed was an attack late Friday and Saturday against the Haqqani network, an al-Qaida-linked wing of the Taliban, along the border between Khost and Paktia provinces in southeastern Afghanistan.

NATO said the attack included precision missile strikes against “a large number of armed insurgents.”

Shafiq Mujahid, head of the Khost provincial council, said at least six civilians — five children and one woman — were killed in the airstrike and 13 other civilians were wounded.

**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED
ON TO HALT THE BLOODSHED
THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO
STOP THE WARS**

FUTILE EXERCISE: ALL HOME NOW!



U.S. soldiers with C Troop 1-71 CAV, patrol outside the village of Maruf-Kariz in Dand district, south of Kandahar, June 19, 2010. REUTERS/Denis Sinyakov

TROOP NEWS

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



Coffin containing the remains of Cpl. Parada Rodriguez during a burial ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery May 27, 2010. Cpl. Parada Rodriguez, 29, of Stafford, Va., died May 16, 2010, in Helmand Province, Afghanistan (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

“This Week, Our Commander Told Us That We Would Be Deploying To Logar Province”

“You Can’t Win With An Occupation Because You Don’t Have Any Civilian Support”

“It’s Clear That The People Don’t Want Us There, And Therefore, It Is Easier For The Taliban To Blend In With The Population”

June 17, 2010 By Iraq war veteran Phil Aliff, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

The war effort, while causing political problems for the Obama administration, also has its share of military problems. Soldiers are being deployed numerous times in support of an occupation that seems to be spiraling out of control.

Soldiers on the ground seem to be the only ones who have a real grasp of the situation.

“This week, our commander told us that we would be deploying to Logar Province, and told us that we should expect casualties,” said an active-duty soldier, who requested anonymity for fear of reprisal by his chain of command.

“He was clear that we are going to the belly of the beast, and the beast is hungry.”

He continued:

“You can’t win with an occupation because you don’t have any civilian support.

“It’s clear that the people don’t want us there, and therefore, it is easier for the Taliban to blend in with the population.

“Each of my deployments from 2001 to 2006 quickly deteriorated, and in my opinion, we aren’t in a winning situation.

“We continue to fight a circular battle.

Afghanistan is a little different than Iraq. I quickly learned that we are fighting a different type of insurgency because the Taliban are more willing to come out and fight you. And to make it worse, we are getting a flood of unfit soldiers due to the recession, and it puts their lives at risk because (the military) wants numbers, and not quality soldiers.

“They will deploy you even if you have health problems.

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: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 888.711.2550

Cases Of Fraud By U.S. Army Officers And Contractors In Iraq And Afghanistan Are “Up Dramatically”

6.18.2010 By Aamer Madhani, USA TODAY [Excerpts]

Cases of suspected fraud and other wrongdoing by U.S. troops and contractors overseeing reconstruction and relief projects in Iraq and Afghanistan are up dramatically.

James Burch, the Defense Department’s deputy inspector general for investigations, says his agency is investigating 223 cases — 18% more than a year ago.

Investigators have charged an Army officer with pocketing cash meant to pay Iraqi civilian militiamen, contractors offering an Army officer \$1 million for the inside track on a road project in Afghanistan, and three contractors for an alleged conspiracy to steal hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of fuel from a U.S. base in Baghdad.

Army Maj. John Cockerham was sentenced in December to 17½ years in prison for accepting \$9 million in bribes for contracts to sell water and other supplies to the U.S. military.

In Iraq, investigators have opened 67 fraud cases this year, compared with 69 for all of 2009, according to the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction (SIGIR). In Afghanistan, it’s 42 cases this year vs. four last year.

The U.S. spent more than \$1.2 billion last year on reconstruction and relief in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The funds were paid to local contractors, often in cash, at the discretion of officers in the war zones.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.

“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.

“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

**Hope for change doesn’t cut it when you’re still losing buddies.
-- J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War**

**I say that when troops cannot be counted on to follow orders because they see the futility and immorality of them THAT is the real key to ending a war.
-- Al Jaccoma, Veterans For Peace**

“What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.”
-- Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787

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

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

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

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

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

**The Blind Babblers Who Claim
Israel Controls The U.S.
Government Provide A
Smokescreen That Protects Those
Who Own The American Empire:
“It Is Self-Interest, Not Subservience,
Which Explains The Approach To
Israel Of The U.S. Political And**

Business Elite, Reflected In The Mainstream Media”

“The Most Reliable - And Influential - US Supporters Of Israel Are Oil Company Executives: Virtually Without Exception White Anglo-Saxon Protestants”

10 June 2010 By Eamonn McCann, Belfast Telegraph [Excerpts]

What is the nature of the relationship between the United States and Israel?

One account has it that a Jewish lobby is in effective control of US Middle East policy, buying votes in Congress through campaign donations, making or breaking political careers by spin and smear and deployment of the Jewish vote, the meantime manipulating media coverage.

In part, the notion of a sinister conspiracy is rooted in a raging incomprehension that even the most egregious falsehoods disseminated by Israeli spokespersons to explain and justify atrocities perpetrated on Palestinians and their supporters are treated with a show of respect rather than angry impatience by senior US officials and all of the major American media.

Last week was an obvious case in point.

The commando assault on unarmed people on ships flying Turkish, Greek and Irish flags in international waters would have been regarded in any other circumstance as an act of war.

But the Obama administration’s resolute refusal to offer criticism came through in the timorous pronouncement that, “the United States deeply regrets the loss of life and injuries sustained and is currently working to understand the circumstances surrounding the tragedy”.

Meanwhile, in close harmony with the wimpish performance of the White House, on-message media outlets retailed as news the line of Israeli propagandists that the commandos had been intent on peacefully taking control of the flotilla, but had been forced to respond when savagely attacked by armed fanatics.

It is true, too, more generally, that Israel has for decades been by far the largest recipient of US military assistance and that the US routinely either vetoes or uses the threat of veto to dilute UN resolutions critical of Israel, or to ensure that resolutions which have been passed calling for action remain just that: resolutions.

What can explain all this, it is asked, other than the work of a lobby with a capacity both to dictate to the US administration and to control news coverage of its area of interest?

But what explains it, in fact, is something more obvious - US self-interest.

The American president who cemented the US-Israeli relationship was Richard Nixon, elected in November 1968. Any analysis of the period will show that this had nothing to do with Nixon responding to a Jewish lobby or needing Jewish support.

Henry Kissinger recorded that Nixon took it for granted that a majority of US Jews were opposed to his presidency and would never vote for him. But he was as pro- Israeli as any of his successors.

The most comprehensive study of the Jewish lobby, by political scientist Abramo Organski, looked at the attitudes to Israel of congressmen for districts with no Jewish constituency to speak of and who didn't depend on Jewish campaign contributions: they were every bit as supportive of Israel as politicians with some dependency on Jewish support.

Organski titled his study The 36 Billion Dollar Bargain. He was referring to Israel's role in protecting US access to Mid-East oil.

The most reliable - and influential - US supporters of Israel are oil company executives: virtually without exception white Anglo-Saxon Protestants, among whom anti-semitism is not unknown.

Ronald Reagan put it neatly when he said: "With a combat-experienced military, Israel is a force in the Middle East that is a benefit to us. If there were not Israel with that force, we'd have to supply our own, so this isn't just altruism on our part."

It is self-interest, not subservience, which explains the approach to Israel of the US political and business elite, reflected in the mainstream media.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Palestinian Resistance Fighters Kill Occupation Police Officer; Two More Wounded Near Beit Haggai

Jun 14, 2010 Press TV

Unknown armed men have targeted Israeli forces in the south of the occupied West Bank, leaving one officer killed and two others wounded.

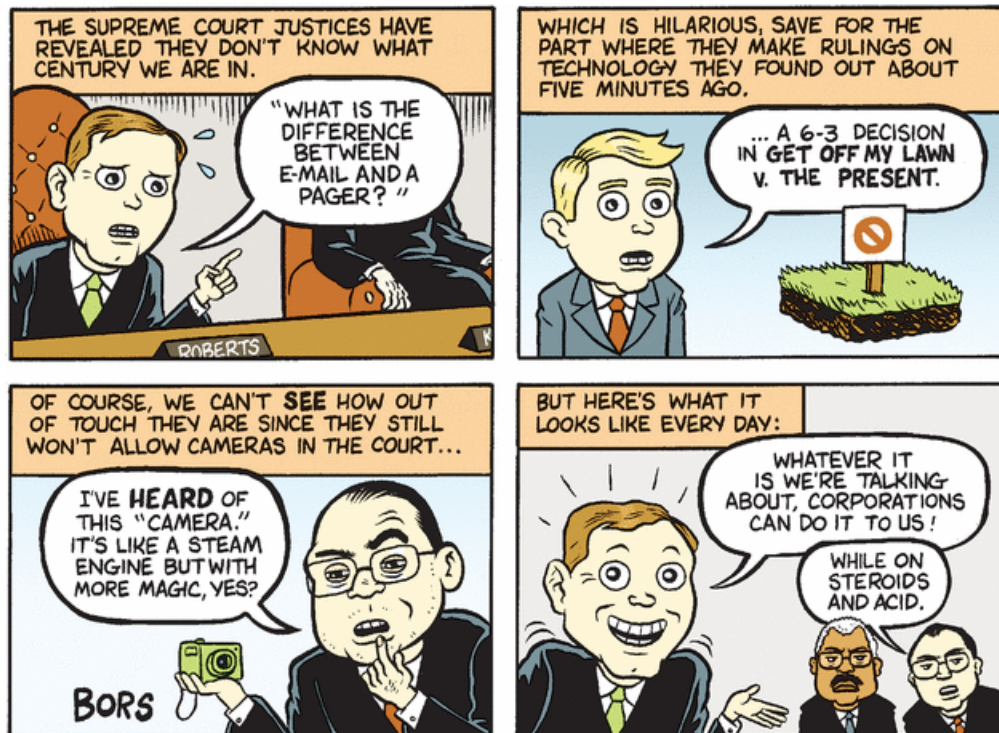
The incident took place on Monday when a group of unidentified persons opened fire on a vehicle near Beit Haggai settlement and the Palestinian refugee camp of al-Fawar, close to al-Khalil (Hebron).

Israeli police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said there were three policemen in the car who were wounded in the attack, blaming the attack on Palestinian resistance fighters.

One of the three later died of the injuries he had sustained in the attack.

Israeli army said it had immediately launched a search in the area and Palestinian sources said roadblocks were set up in the surrounding area.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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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/)

CLASS WAR REPORTS



85-Year-Old War Veteran Fires On Workers About To Tear Down His House

June 13, 2010 Cox Media Group

SPRINGFIELD, Ohio-- An elderly Korean War veteran is in custody, accused of firing four shots at workers who were about to tear down his house.

The shooting happened late Friday afternoon in the 1600 block of West High Street.

According to police, the war vet went to his house because he heard the city was going to demolish it. Officials said the city now owns the house.

Officers said workers were inside the house when the man started to shoot at them with a handgun. One worker escaped by jumping through a window while another worker tried to calm the man down.

Neighbors called police and when they arrived, the man resisted arrest a bit.

Chinese Workers' Resistance Spreads: “They’re Human Beings” “They Don’t Just Need More Money. They Need Human Rights”



Worker Activist Xiao Qing Shan

13 June 2010 By Chris Hogg, BBC News, Shanghai [Excerpts]

A string of suicides at the Foxconn plant in southern China that makes iPads and iPhones for Apple has focused attention on wages and conditions there.

Now the Taiwanese company has said it will more than double the wages of staff by October.

The announcement follows a double-digit pay increase for workers at some of the factories that supply Honda in China following their industrial action.

In the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen, as the sun goes down, the army of youths that staff its factories come out onto the streets.

Few migrant workers have money to spare for anything but essentials.

In a shabby restaurant in the suburbs, a young man in a Foxconn uniform who along with all his colleagues has just been given a 30% pay increase, with a promise of a further 70% to come, agrees to talk about his employer.

It's not the pay rise he wants to talk about. It is conditions at the plant.

"All they do is keep you busy," he complains. "They insult you if aren't working fast enough, or if you pause when there's nothing to do."

"The work is tiring," he says, "the breaks are always late - anything from ten minutes to an hour."

Labour activist Xiao Qing Shan welcomes Foxconn's move to pay its workers more, but warns that unless it treats its staff better the gains will be superficial.

"They're human beings. They don't just need more money. They need human rights," he says.

"They need their dignity. They demand to be treated fairly."

The labour activist Xiao Qing Shan says there is another issue that's been ignored by much of the local and international media.

What he sees as most unfair is that while the double digit increases for the largely youthful workforce at big companies like Foxconn make headlines, millions of other workers are getting left behind.

On the roof of their cramped house, Wang Si Chun and his wife are on their hands and knees sorting out rubbish to sell.

He's as old as communist China. He was born two months after Chairman Mao started the People's Republic. For the last few years the only job he could find was cleaning the streets.

He scoffs at the suggestion that the era of cheap labour is over.

"People like street cleaners, our wages haven't really risen," he says.

"Our bosses will never give up their profits to fund a pay increase. Our pay hasn't changed. There's no sign of a pay rise."

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