

## Military Resistance 8F13



**“I Wish We Had Generals Who Remembered What It Was Like When They Were Down In A Platoon”**

**“There Is A Palpable And Building Sense Of Unease Among Troops”**

# **Petraeus “Faces Problems From A Constituency As Important As His Bosses And That No Commander Wants To Lose: His Own Troops” “The Discomfort And Anger About The Rules Had Reached A High Pitch”**

**Troops complain about food, equipment, lack of sleep, delays in their transportation and the weather where they work. Complaints about how they are allowed to fight are another matter and can be read as a sign of deeper disaffection and strains within the military over policy choices.**

June 22, 2010 By C. J. CHIVERS, New York Times [Excerpts]

Riding shotgun in an armored vehicle as it passed through the heat and confusion of southern Afghanistan this month, an Army sergeant spoke into his headset, summarizing a sentiment often heard in the field this year.

“I wish we had generals who remembered what it was like when they were down in a platoon,” he said to a reporter in the back.

“Either they never have been in real fighting, or they forgot what it’s like.”

The sergeant was speaking of Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal and the circle of counterinsurgents who since last year have been running the Afghan war, and who have, as a matter of both policy and practice, made it much more difficult for troops to use airstrikes and artillery in the fight against the Taliban.

No matter the outcome of his meeting on Wednesday in Washington over caustic comments he and his staff made about President Obama and his national security team, the general, or his successor, faces problems from a constituency as important as his bosses and that no commander wants to lose: his own troops.

As levels of violence in Afghanistan climb, there is a palpable and building sense of unease among troops surrounding one of the most confounding questions about how to wage the war: when and how lethal force should be used.

Since last year, the counterinsurgency doctrine championed by those now leading the campaign has assumed an almost unchallenged supremacy in the ranks of the American military’s career officers. The doctrine, which has been supported by both the Bush and Obama administrations, rests on core assumptions, including that using lethal force against an insurgency intermingled with a civilian population is often counterproductive.

Since General McChrystal assumed command, he has been a central face and salesman of this idea, and he has applied it to warfare in a tangible way: by further tightening rules guiding the use of Western firepower — airstrikes and guided rocket attacks, artillery barrages and even mortar fire — to support troops on the ground.

But the new rules have also come with costs, including a perception now frequently heard among troops that the effort to limit risks to civilians has swung too far, and endangers the lives of Afghan and Western soldiers caught in firefights with insurgents who need not observe any rules at all.

It is an axiom of military service that troops gripe; venting is part of barracks and battlefield life.

Troops complain about food, equipment, lack of sleep, delays in their transportation and the weather where they work.

Complaints about how they are allowed to fight are another matter and can be read as a sign of deeper disaffection and strains within the military over policy choices. One Army colonel, in a conversation this month, said the discomfort and anger about the rules had reached a high pitch.

“The troops hate it,” he said. “Right now we’re losing the tactical-level fight in the chase for a strategic victory. How long can that be sustained?”

No one wants to advocate loosening rules that might see more civilians killed. But no one wants to explain whether the restrictions are increasing the number of coffins arriving at Dover Air Force Base, and seeding disillusionment among those sent to fight.

**MORE:**

**No Surprise:  
Troops Happy McChrystal Gone:  
“Hey Man, You Did Great Work. All  
The Guys In My Company Think It’s  
Good McChrystal Is Not There  
Because He Was Putting Our Lives At  
Risk”  
After He Met With Soldiers “I Had A  
Quote From A Soldier Saying, ‘We Don’t**

# Even Want McChrystal To Come Here' Which I Didn't Include In The Story"

[Thanks to Pham Binh & Elaine Brower, Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in with the headline.]

06-25-10 By Marcus Baram, Huffington Post [Excerpts]

**The Rolling Stone correspondent whose profile of Gen. Stanley McChrystal upended America's Afghan war leadership says that soldiers on the ground are happy that the brash and sometimes reckless general was ousted by President Obama.**

Michael Hastings tells Huffington Post in a phone interview from Afghanistan, where he is embedded with U.S. troops: "Over here, soldiers were happy that he got fired. I've had a number of people come up to me, I got an email from a Marine this morning (Thursday): 'Hey man, you did great work. All the guys in my company think it's good McChrystal is not there because he was putting or lives at risk."

Hastings also paints a grim picture of the major U.S. offensive in Kandahar. "I think it's in trouble, in serious trouble," he says. "The fighting is really, really heavy and they've postponed the heaviest fighting till the fall. But it's going to be nasty."

*Baram: Where were you when you first started to hear about the story's ripple effects?*

I was in Kandahar. It was Monday and I'd been on an embed all day. I was sun-burned as hell. I was on the Kandahar air base, interviewing pilots, who were basically fighting every day in their helicopters. I went to bed, plugged my phone in to charge and all of a sudden I got this text message saying the AP picked up the story.

Later that night, I went out on a helicopter mission. At 3 a.m., I had to go out and meet these helicopter guys again. Then we went back to base. I had no Internet. I knew that I was getting a lot of phone calls,

On Wednesday evening, I went back to Kabul...

**Sometimes, it's hard to get flights out of military bases, but it was pretty easy this time. They were like, "This ride's for you, man!" I was late to the flight but they got me on the flight anyway.**

And there were soldiers reading the story around me, reading printouts, and they didn't know who I was. That was a strange experience...

*Baram: How is that [Kandahar] offensive going?*

I think it's in trouble, in serious trouble.

The fighting is really, really heavy and they've postponed the heaviest fighting till the fall. But it's going to be nasty. This June has been the deadliest month of the war.

**You have this problem where we told our Afghan partners, if you don't want it , then we don't have to do it, and they said no and we said, well, we're doing it anyway. Now we're in situation where we are eventually going to do it and we don't have the popular support of the locals.**

**Baram: Do you think [firing McChrystal] it was the right decision?**

Obviously, I have significant doubts about the campaign anyway.

The most important decision is not whether I think Obama made the right decision but whether his firing will satisfy the soldiers.

Over here, soldiers were happy that he got fired. I've had a number of people come up to me, I got an email from Marine this morning (Thursday): "Hey man, you did great work. All the guys in my company think it's good McChrystal is not there because he was putting our lives at risk..."

**I have a scene in the story (in which McChrystal goes to meet some soldiers in a unit who were angry with the general for putting them in harm's way by limited their range of responses, which led to the killing of one of their own).**

**The reason those guys are so angry (with McChrystal) is that Corporal Michael Ingram was killed because they weren't allowed to tear down this house (an abandoned home long considered a security risk in the area they were patrolling).**

The trash talking has gotten a lot of attention but the more damaging part for McChrystal was how the soldiers would be portrayed.

He pulled me aside after the meeting (at which McChrystal went to meet with Ingram's unit to hear their concerns and to explain his strategy) and said that for them the wound is still raw.

**They (McChrystal's staff) were under the impression that I would make the soldiers look like they did not understand counterinsurgency but what was clear to me instead is that McChrystal's command had an issue.**

**They thought he won them over but he didn't.**

**He knew they were angry and upset.**

**I had a quote from a soldier saying, 'We don't even want McChrystal to come here' which I didn't include in the story.**

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June 23, 2010 By Michael Hastings, Rolling Stone Magazine [Excerpts]

A number of troops and private contractors have told me what they think of the story. It's small, informal, biased sample, for sure.

But it's generally broken down into two categories of feeling: glee or relief.

McChrystal's new directives — from restricting U.S. forces ability to attack the enemy to banning Burger King — have created a widespread backlash among the soldiers here.

When a private contractor found out that I was the guy who wrote the McChrystal story, he immediately said, "Good."

**Then he directed me to check out a wooden wall covered in graffiti, where the soldiers had apparently vented their frustrations about the new directives, rather graphically.**

**Another soldier told me that the point of view shared by many soldiers was finally being heard — that the rules being handed down from on high aren't working, and that America is not winning the war.**

## **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**

## **ACTION REPORTS**

**“A Rally To Welcome The New  
Class Of Cadets To West Point,  
Asking Them To Bear Witness For  
Immediately Leaving Iraq And  
Afghanistan”**

**“We Will Also Be Making Them  
Aware Of A New Website For Cadets**

# **‘Free West Point!.Org’ That Will Raise Basic Questions About How The U.S. Military Is Being Used” Monday, June 28**

06/18/2010 Nycal.mayfirst.org

Date: Monday, June 28, 2010 - 6:00am - 10:00am

Location: West Point, Thayer Gate & Stony Lonesome Gate, Highland Fall, NY

**Contact:** [nickmottern@earthlink.net](mailto:nickmottern@earthlink.net)

**[Please confirm this is happening before traveling to attend.]**

Dear Friends:

A rally to welcome the new class of cadets to West Point, the Class of 2014, will be held at the two primary entrances to West Point from 6 am to 10 am on Monday, June 28, 2010 - the entrances are: The Thayer Gate in downtown Highland Falls and the Stony Lonesome Gate off of Route 9W, north of Highland Falls.

Why so early?

As the schedule in the link below shows, cadet candidates have been divided into three groups who are to report, respectively, at 6:30 am; 8 am; and 9:30 am. There will be about 1,300 cadet candidates total and if each brings two parents or relatives, about 3,000 people will be entering West Point from 6 am to 9:30 am. <http://www.west-point.org/parent/wppc-oc/pdfs/WPPC.RDaySchedule2010.pdf>

Monday June 28th is a very big day at West Point, known as R-Day for Reception Day, when the new class of cadets is inducted into the school and the Army and when their parents bid them goodbye as they enter their new lives. As the link shows, the day is devoted to making the cadets and parents welcome to and enfolded by the Army.

It is also the day the cadets enter six weeks of Cadet Basic Training known as "Beast Barracks".

We want to bring a peace witness cadets and their families at a moment when their awareness is likely to be heightened and before they enter the military.

**We will be carrying banners welcoming the cadets to the peace activist community of the Lower Hudson Valley and asking them to bear witness for immediately leaving Iraq and Afghanistan and against attacking Iran.**

**We will also be making them aware of a new website for cadets "Free West Point!.org" that will raise basic questions about how the US military is being used.**

The website will have a Message Board blog that will enable an interchange between people inside and outside West Point. A draft of the website should be completed by June 22.

It is extremely important that we have a good showing of people in their late teens and early twenties with whom the cadets may most readily identify.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you will be able to attend so that we can make specific plans for who will be going to each gate and how many banners and signs we will need.

If you are part of a peace group, please let me know if your group would like to be listed as a sponsor of the event.

In solidarity,  
Nick Mottern

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Two Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan: Nationality Not Announced**

June 26 AP

Two foreign servicemembers died following an IED strike in southern Afghanistan today.

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### **U.S. Soldier Killed By IED**

6.26.2010 AP

A U.S. soldier died in a roadside bomb attack Saturday in southern Afghanistan

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### **British Soldier Wounded In Afghanistan Dies**

6.26.2010 AFP



A British soldier died on Saturday, two weeks after being wounded by an explosion in southern Afghanistan, Britain's Ministry of Defence said.

"It is with sadness that the Ministry of Defence must confirm the death of a soldier from 4th Regiment Royal Artillery, part of Combined Force Nahr-e Saraj North," a statement said.

"The soldier died in RCDM Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, on 26 June 2010 as a result of injuries sustained during an explosion in the Nahr-e Saraj North District of Helmand Province on the afternoon of 10 June 2010."

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



U.S. soldier secures a road covered with road spikes at a temporary checkpoint in Dand district, south of Kandahar, June 21, 2010. REUTERS/Denis Sinyakov

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

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

## TROOP NEWS

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



Funeral services for Connecticut National Guard Staff Sgt. Edwin Rivera at Jordan Cemetery in Waterford, Conn., June 5, 2010. Rivera died at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., on May 25, 2010, five days after he was wounded during a firefight in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Jessica Hill)



The body of Spc. Joshua Tomlinson in front of the First Baptist Church on May 29, 2010 in Minden, La. On May 18, Spc. Joshua Tomlinson, 24, of Dubberly, was killed in Kabul, Afghanistan, when his convoy was attacked with a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device. (AP Photo/The (Shreveport) Times, Henrietta Wildsmith)



The casket of Army Staff Sgt. Scott W. Brunkhorst in Arlington National Cemetery April 13, 2010, during burial services. Brunkhorst, 25, of Fayetteville, N.C.; died March 30 in the Arghandab river valley, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered from an improvised explosive device. (AP Photo/Kevin Wolf)

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**300**



Steve Bell on the 300th British fatality in Afghanistan: 22 June 2010

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**



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

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

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

**Frederick Douglass, 1852**

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

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

**“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**

**The Social-Democrats ideal should not be the trade union secretary, but the tribune of the people who is able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression no matter where it appears no matter what stratum or class of the people it affects; who is able to generalize all these manifestations and produce a single picture of police violence and capitalist exploitation; who is able to take advantage of every event, however small, in order to set forth before all his socialist convictions and his democratic demands, in order to clarify for all and everyone the world-historic significance of the struggle for the emancipation of the proletariat.”**

**-- V. I. Lenin; What Is To Be Done**

**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**

**“Our Petulant President’s Ego Can’t Handle A General Letting Off Steam”**

# **“McChrystal Didn’t Restart America’s Aggression Against Afghanistan. Obama Did”**

[Thanks to Linda O, who sent this in.]

**No one knows what these wars are about or why the bankrupt US government is wasting vast sums of money, which it has to borrow from foreigners, in order to murder the citizenry in two countries that have never done anything to us.**

25 June, 2010 By Paul Craig Roberts, Counterpunch [Excerpts]

**Our petulant president’s ego can’t handle a general letting off steam.**

**Neither can any of the spoiled children who comprise “our” government in DC, the capital of the “superpower.”**

**Generals have to fight wars that civilians start, either from the incompetence of their diplomacy or the arrogance of their hubris.**

**Generals have to get young troops killed because of the stupidity or ambition or corruption of civilian government officials.**

**All McChrystal did was to let off steam. A real president would have realized that and let it go.**

**Don’t get me wrong. McChrystal is a militarist, and I am pleased to see him gone.**

**However, McChrystal didn’t restart America’s aggression against Afghanistan. Obama did.**

People elected Obama, because they were tired of Bush’s wars based on lies. So Obama gave us a new war in Pakistan and reignited the Afghan war.

No one knows what these wars are about or why the bankrupt US government is wasting vast sums of money, which it has to borrow from foreigners, in order to murder the citizenry in two countries that have never done anything to us.

Just as Bush/Cheney and their criminal neocon government deceived the world that Saddam Hussein had “weapons of mass destruction” that threatened white people everywhere, Obama has conflated the Taliban with al Qaeda.

Obama has sold the tale to white countries that unless the US determines how Afghanistan is ruled and by whom, white people are in danger of being exterminated by al Qaeda Taliban terrorists.

The most telling aspect of the McChrystal-Obama contretemps is that it has caused no one in the US government, or media, to ask why the US is still killing women and children in Afghanistan after 9 years.

**[U]nnumbered Iraqis were killed, maimed, tortured and displaced by an American invasion based on lies told by the highest officials in the American government. Yet, no one has been held accountable.**

**But Gen. McChrystal is held accountable for letting off steam.**

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**“There Is No Victory To Be Had In  
Afghanistan, Only Grief”**

**“For Us To Even Consider Several  
More Years Of Fighting And Dying In  
Afghanistan Is Demented”**

**“The Difference Between This And A  
Nightmare Is That When You Wake Up  
From A Nightmare It’s Over”**

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

**We’re bulldozing Detroit while at the same time trying to establish model metropolises in Kabul and Kandahar.**

**We’re spending endless billions on this wretched war but can’t extend the unemployment benefits of Americans suffering from the wretched economy here at home.**

June 25, 2010 By BOB HERBERT, The New York Times Company [Excerpts]

President Obama can be applauded for his decisiveness in dispatching the chronically insubordinate Stanley McChrystal, but we are still left with a disaster of a war in Afghanistan that cannot be won and that the country as a whole will not support.

No one in official Washington is leveling with the public about what is really going on.

We hear a lot about counterinsurgency, the latest hot cocktail-hour topic among the BlackBerry-thumbing crowd. But there is no evidence at all that counterinsurgency will work in Afghanistan. It’s not working now.

And even if we managed to put all the proper pieces together, the fiercest counterinsurgency advocates in the military will tell you that something on the order of 10 to 15 years of hard effort would be required for this strategy to bear significant fruit.

We've been in Afghanistan for nearly a decade already. It's one of the most corrupt places on the planet and the epicenter of global opium production. Our ostensible ally, President Hamid Karzai, is convinced that the U.S. cannot prevail in the war and is in hot pursuit of his own deal with the enemy Taliban.

For us to even consider several more years of fighting and dying in Afghanistan — at a cost of heaven knows how many more billions of American taxpayer dollars — is demented.

Those who are so fascinated with counterinsurgency, from its chief advocate, Gen. David Petraeus, all the way down to the cocktail-hour kibitzers inside the Beltway, seem to have lost sight of a fundamental aspect of warfare: You don't go to war half-stepping.

You go to war to crush the enemy. You do this ferociously and as quickly as possible. If you don't want to do it, if you have qualms about it, or don't know how to do it, don't go to war.

The counterinsurgency crowd doesn't want to whack the enemy too hard because of an understandable fear that too many civilian casualties will undermine the "hearts and minds" and nation-building components of the strategy.

In an article this week, The Times quoted a U.S. Army sergeant in southern Afghanistan who was unhappy with the real-world effects of counterinsurgency. "I wish we had generals who remembered what it was like when they were down in a platoon," he said. "Either they never have been in real fighting, or they forgot what it's like."

**In the Rolling Stone article that led to General McChrystal's ouster, reporter Michael Hastings wrote about the backlash that counterinsurgency restraints had provoked among the general's own troops.**

Many feel that "being told to hold their fire" increases their vulnerability. A former Special Forces operator, a veteran of both Iraq and Afghanistan, said of General McChrystal, according to Mr. Hastings, "His rules of engagement put soldiers' lives in even greater danger. Every real soldier will tell you the same thing."

The counterinsurgency zealots in the military want more troops sent to Afghanistan, and they want the president to completely scrap his already shaky July 2011 timetable for the beginning of a withdrawal.

We're like a compulsive gambler plunging ever more deeply into debt in order to wager on a rigged game.

There is no victory to be had in Afghanistan, only grief.

We're bulldozing Detroit while at the same time trying to establish model metropolises in Kabul and Kandahar. We're spending endless billions on this wretched war but can't



extend the unemployment benefits of Americans suffering from the wretched economy here at home.

**The difference between this and a nightmare is that when you wake up from a nightmare it's over.**

**This is all too tragically real.**

**Troops Invited:**

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

## **OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

# **Palestinian Forces Attack Zionist Patrol That Crosses Into Gaza**

25/06/2010 Ma'an

A Palestinian military group attacked an Israeli patrol that entered the northern Gaza Strip on Thursday.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine's Abu Ali Mustafa Brigades said its forces fired several mortar shells toward an Israeli unit that penetrated the Erez area of northern Gaza near Beit Hanoun.

The group said in a statement that its operatives would continue to confront "the occupation and its crimes."

An Israeli military spokeswoman confirmed that Palestinians opened fire in the same general area. The official told Ma'an that Israeli forces returned fire near the border fence in northern Gaza.

The military spokeswoman also confirmed that mortar shells were fired from the same general area. She said seven of them landed inside Israeli territory and five landed inside Gaza.

There were no reports of injury among Israel's forces nor damage from the shells, she said.

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

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## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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**“THE U.S. Supreme Court Has Upheld A Part Of The USA PATRIOT Act That Criminalizes Free Speech As ‘Terrorism’”**

**“The Obama Administration Is Celebrating The Decision As A Victory”**

**“The FBI has questioned people it suspected as being sources for a New York Times article about terrorism, and threatened to arrest them for providing material support.”**

June 23, 2010 Editorial, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

THE U.S. Supreme Court has upheld a part of the USA PATRIOT Act that criminalizes free speech as "terrorism"--and the Obama administration, which was expected to stop its predecessor's assault on the Constitution, is celebrating the decision as a victory. The 6-3 decision of the court, announced June 21, upholds a portion of the 2001 Patriot Act that classifies some speech and other "intangible assistance" as material aid to terrorists.

The justices agreed with the arguments of the Obama administration--specifically, its choice to sit on the Supreme Court, former Solicitor General Elena Kagan, who made the White House's case before the court.

The administration opposed a lawsuit brought by the Humanitarian Law Project that challenged the law's provision that prohibits material support--specifically the giving of "expert advice or assistance"--to groups designated as "terrorist" by the U.S. State Department.

**The law project wanted to provide advice to two groups--the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and the Kurdistan Workers' Party--on peacefully resolving disputes and working with the United Nations.**

**But in his opinion justifying the decision, Chief Justice John Roberts said that the motives of the Humanitarian Law Project didn't matter, and any assistance to a group on the State Department's terrorism list represented "material support."**

The consequences of the ruling are far-ranging, as the New York Times pointed out:

**“The court at least clarified that acts had to be coordinated with terror groups to be illegal, but many forms of assistance may still be a criminal act, including filing a brief against the government in a terror-group lawsuit.**

**“Academic researchers doing field work in conflict zones could be arrested for meeting with terror groups and discussing their research, as could journalists who write about the activities and motivations of these groups, or the journalists' sources.**

“The FBI has questioned people it suspected as being sources for a New York Times article about terrorism, and threatened to arrest them for providing material support.”

In a strong dissent, Justice Stephen Breyer, supported by Sonia Sotomayor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg, said the court's majority was too willing to believe the government's argument that national security concerns required restrictions on speech and had "failed to insist upon specific evidence, rather than general assertion."

As David Cole, a lawyer with the Center for Constitutional Rights, told the Times, "This decision basically says the First Amendment allows making peacemaking and human rights advocacy a crime."

**But the lawyers who argued the case pointed out that the impact goes further--the Patriot Act's material-support provision is so vague that humanitarian groups and journalists and their sources can be ensnared.**

**Some legal theorists believe the law is so broad that it could be interpreted as criminalizing any speech that could be said to give legitimacy to a terrorist group--for example, those who support the right of Hamas to lead the Palestinian Authority (after being democratically elected), even though the organization is on the State Department list.**

That's because, as Breyer pointed out in his dissent, the law could have made a distinction between "when the defendant knows or intends that those activities will assist the organization's unlawful terrorist actions" and when they don't--but it fails to do so.

"Instead," as lawyer Wendy Kaminer noted in The Atlantic, "the majority gave the administration a blank check to criminalize political speech specifically intended to advance peace."

**The ruling also fails to acknowledge that there are almost no checks on the ability of the State Department, under the direction of the Secretary of State, to designate groups as "terrorist"--and that those decisions are often based on political calculations.**

THIS RULING will be seen as another win for the Supreme Court's right wing, now led by Chief Justice Roberts, a Bush appointee. But it's also claimed as a victory by the Obama administration--and in particular, its former Solicitor General and current Supreme Court nominee Elena Kagan, who argued the government's case in February.

Barack Obama was expected by millions of people who voted for him to challenge George Bush's shredding of the Constitution.

But a year and a half into his presidency, not only is the U.S. prison camp at Guantánamo Bay still up and running, but the Obama White House has explicitly upheld Bush administration policies on trial by military commissions, rendition of prisoners to allied regimes where torture is legal, warrantless wiretapping and the use of executive powers to hinder the prosecution of U.S. officials for illegal acts.

One of the latest outrages is the case of Yemeni detainee Mohamed Hassan Odaini.

**The government has concluded that Odaini did nothing wrong--but the Obama administration has refused to release him, and instead has fought vehemently in court to keep him imprisoned at Guantánamo.**

As Salon.com's Glenn Greenwald wrote:

**"[T]he Obama administration is knowingly imprisoning a completely innocent human being who has been kept in a cage in an island prison, thousands of miles**

from his home, for the last eight years, since he's 18 years old, despite having done absolutely nothing wrong...

**“If you're willing to work to keep a person whom you know is innocent imprisoned, what aren't you willing to do?”**

“What decent human being wouldn't be repulsed by this? I don't care how many times someone chants 'Pragmatism' or 'The Long Game' or whatever other all-purpose justifying mantras have been marketed to venerate the current president; these are repellent acts that have no justification.

“Of course, none of this is new for the Obama administration; it's consistent with their course of conduct from the start.”

**The lesson here is that Barack Obama and the Democrats may have talked a different talk about civil liberties on the campaign trail, but they are committed to the same vicious policies as their predecessors.**

The Obama administration is willing to curtail all of our civil liberties in the name of what was once Bush's "war on terror"--but is now wholly Obama's.

**More:**

## **How Many American Citizens Will The Obama Regime Traitors Target For Assassination? Obama Has Said “The President Lacks The Power Merely To Detain U.S. Citizens Without Charges” But “He Claims The Power To Assassinate Them Without Charges”**

Suffice to say -- and I'm asking this literally -- if you're someone who believes, or are at least willing to acquiesce to the claim, that the U.S. President has the power to target your fellow citizens for assassination without a whiff of due process, what unchecked presidential powers wouldn't you support or acquiesce to?

Jun 25 By Glenn Greenwald, Salon.com [Excerpts]

When The Washington Post's Dana Priest first revealed (in passing) back in January that the Obama administration had compiled a hit list of American citizens targeted for

assassination, she wrote that "as of several months ago, the CIA list included three U.S. citizens."

In April, both the Post and the NYT confirmed that the administration had specifically authorized the assassination of Anwar al-Awlaki.

**Today, The Washington Times' Eli Lake has an interview with Obama's top Terrorism adviser John Brennan in which Brennan strongly suggests that the number of U.S. citizens targeted for assassination could actually be "dozens":**

"Dozens of Americans have joined terrorist groups and are posing a threat to the United States and its interests abroad, the president's most senior adviser on counterterrorism and homeland security said Thursday. . . . 'There are, in my mind, dozens of U.S. persons who are in different parts of the world, and they are very concerning to us,' said John O. Brennan, deputy White House national security adviser for homeland security and counterterrorism. . . .

"'If a person is a U.S. citizen, and he is on the battlefield in Afghanistan or Iraq trying to attack our troops, he will face the full brunt of the U.S. military response,' Mr. Brennan said. 'If an American person or citizen is in a Yemen or in a Pakistan or in Somalia or another place, and they are trying to carry out attacks against U.S. interests, they also will face the full brunt of a U.S. response. And it can take many forms.'"

Indeed, Brennan explicitly identified two indistinguishable groups of American citizens who "will face the full brunt of a U.S. response": (1) those "on the battlefield in Afghanistan or Iraq"; and (2) those "in a Yemen or in a Pakistan or in Somalia or another place."

In other words, the entire world is a "battlefield" -- countries where there is a war and countries where there isn't -- and the President's "battlefield" powers, which are unlimited, extend everywhere.

**That theory -- the whole world is a battlefield, even the U.S. -- was the core premise that spawned 8 years of Bush/Cheney radicalism, and it has been adopted in full by the Obama administration (indeed, it was that "whole-world-is-a-battlefield" theory which Elena Kagan explicitly endorsed during her confirmation hearing for Solicitor General).**

**Anyone who doubts that the Obama administration has adopted the core Terrorism policies of Bush/Cheney should listen to the concession -- or boast -- which Brennan himself made in his interview with Lake:**

"Mr. Brennan toward the end of the interview acknowledged that, despite some differences, there is considerable continuity between the counterterrorism policies of President Bush and President Obama.

"'There has been a lot of continuity of effort here from the previous administration to this one,' he said. 'There are some important distinctions, but sometimes there is too much made of those distinctions. We are building upon some of the good foundational work that has been done.'"

**I would really like never to hear again the complaint that comparing Bush and Obama's Terrorism and civil liberties policies is unfair, invalid or hyperbolic given that Obama's top Terrorism adviser himself touts that comparison.**

And that's anything but a surprise, given that Brennan was a Bush-era CIA official who defended many of the most controversial Bush/Cheney Terrorism policies.

I've written at length about the reasons why targeting American citizens for assassination who are far away from a "battlefield" is so odious and tyrannical, and I won't repeat those arguments here.

**Suffice to say -- and I'm asking this literally -- if you're someone who believes, or are at least willing to acquiesce to the claim, that the U.S. President has the power to target your fellow citizens for assassination without a whiff of due process, what unchecked presidential powers wouldn't you support or acquiesce to?**

I'd really like to hear an answer to that.

That's the question Al Gore asked about George Bush in a 2006 speech condemning Bush's claimed powers merely to eavesdrop on and imprison American citizens without charges, let alone assassinate them: "If the answer is yes, then under the theory by which these acts are committed, are there any acts that can on their face be prohibited? . . . If the president has th(is) inherent authority. . . . then what can't he do?"

Can anyone defending this Obama policy answer that question?

What makes all this most remarkable is the level of screeching protests Democrats engaged in when Bush merely wanted to eavesdrop on and detain Americans without any judicial oversight or due process. Remember all that?

**Yet here is Barack Obama doing far worse to them than that without any due process or judicial oversight -- he's targeting them for assassination -- and there is barely a peep of protest from the same Party that spent years depicting "mere" warrantless eavesdropping and due-process-free detention to be the acts of a savage, lawless tyrant.**

And, of course, Obama himself back then joined in those orgies of condemnation, as reflected by this December, 2008, answer he gave to Charlie Savage, then of The Boston Globe, regarding his views of executive power:

"5. Does the Constitution permit a president to detain US citizens without charges as unlawful enemy combatants?"

"(Obama): No. I reject the Bush Administration's claim that the President has plenary authority under the Constitution to detain U.S. citizens without charges as unlawful enemy combatants."

So back then, Obama said the President lacks the power merely to detain U.S. citizens without charges; indeed, when asked if "the Constitution permit(s)" that, he responded: "no." Yet now, as President, he claims the power to assassinate them without charges.

Could even his hardest-core loyalists try to reconcile that with a straight face? As Spencer Ackerman documented in April, not even John Yoo claimed that the President possessed the power Obama is claiming here.

Given Brennan's strong suggestion that there are not merely three but "dozens" of Americans who are being targeted or at least could be ("they also will face the full brunt of a U.S. response") -- and given the huge number of times the Government has falsely accused individuals of Terrorism and its demonstrated willingness to imprison knowingly innocent detainees -- is it time yet to have a debate about whether we think the President should be able to exercise a power like this?

## **DOMESTIC ENEMY OF THE LIBERTIES OF AMERICAN CITIZENS**



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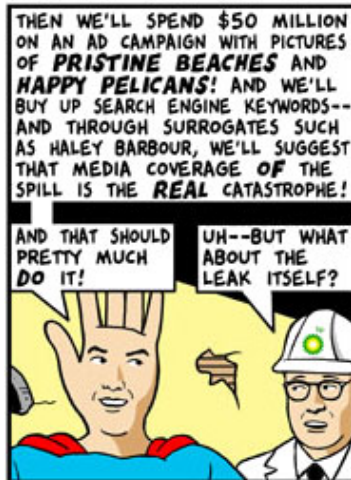
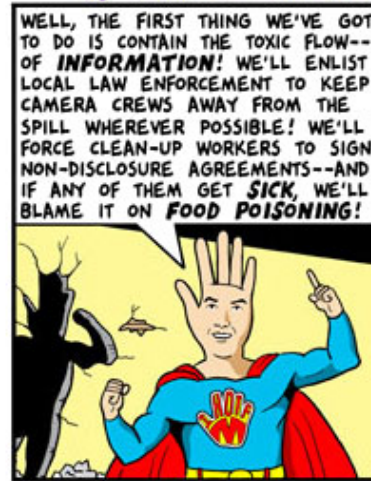
**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE  
WARS**



# CLASS WAR REPORTS

## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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### Troops Invited:

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

# EGYPT: Thousand March Against The Dictatorship After Police Murder A Citizen



Friday's protest in Alexandria (BBC photo)

25 Jun 2010 PRESSTV

Thousands of demonstrators have taken to the streets in Cairo and Alexandria to protest the brutal killing of an unarmed man by Egyptian police.

The demonstration in Alexandria, which was held after Friday prayers, drew a crowd of approximately 5,000, with Nobel peace prize laureate and former director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency Mohamed ElBaradei participating in the demonstration, The Guardian reported.

Witnesses say that Khaled Said, 28, was beaten by plainclothes police officers after he questioned them when they demanded to see people's ID cards at an internet café in Sidi Gaber, Alexandria on June 6.

They subsequently smashed his head against a marble shelf before driving off with Said in their car and returning to dump his dead body into the street outside of the café.

The murder of Said was an "egregious humanitarian violation" and reveals the Egyptian government's "lack of sanctity of human life," stated ElBaradei.

Police officials have stated that Said was a wanted criminal and had in fact died from asphyxiation after swallowing a packet of narcotics hidden under his tongue, an allegation which his family adamantly denies.

The murder of Said by officers Mahmoud Alfallah and Awaad Elmokhber, who remain on active duty, has sparked a series of protests as the public decided to use the incident to also call for the revocation of the emergency law.

After the assassination of former President Anwar Sadat in 1981, President Hosni Mubarak's government imposed the emergency law, which has put in place a state of emergency in Egypt for nearly 30 years, allowing the police to search and imprison individuals for virtually no reason.

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## **Venezuelan Oil Union Leader Condemns Chavez Regime's Rotten Deal With "Imperialist Pirates BP" "The Transnationals Only Carry Away Our Riches"**

**"The oil installations of the PDVSA are falling apart, but the ultra-capitalist PDVSA is squeezing every penny and scraping the bottom to maintain a bourgeois nationalist project"**

[Thanks to Les Evenchick for posting]

Jun 26 EL NUEVO TOPO: Translated by Earl Gilman

The Secretary General of the Venezuelan Oil Workers Union, Jose Bodas, denounced B.T. which has petroleum drilling concessions along the coast of the State of Monagas and along the Orinoco.

**"This company whose negligence which has produced the worst environmental disaster in the last decades, is co-partner with the Venezuelan State and has contracts for oil exploitation in our country."**

Bodas believes it is necessary to cancel the contracts between the mixed enterprises between the State and BP and other transnationals.

The leader of the Petroleum Workers Union is a leader of the United Left Socialist Party (trotskyist) and candidate for the Venezuelan congress.

He states: "the government has said the imperialist transnationals are our partners and has created expectations in respect that our country will develop and at the same time handing over our sovereignty...The transnationals only carry away our riches and funds we need to solve the grave problems of workers and the Venezuelan people, but also expose our people to disasters such as Chevron in the Ecuadorian jungle and BP in the Gulf of Mexico...

"Not only do they damage our sovereignty...they put in danger our water and fishing resources in the Orinoco River..."

"Only a petroleum industry 100% owned by Venezuela, whose profits would be under the democratic administration of the workers and people, can be the lever to solve wage misery, hunger, and obtain health, decent housing and permit the economic and social development of our country. It is important that the industry should be under workers control, and not be stingy in the costs of preventing disasters."

"This week we had a toxic gas escape in the Jose plant in Anzoategui...In Lake Maracaibo there was an oil spill and the bureaucracy refuses to give explanations."

**"The oil installations of the PDVSA are falling apart, but the ultra-capitalist PDVSA is squeezing every penny and scraping the bottom to maintain a bourgeois nationalist project that does not offer genuine solutions for the peoples' problems, social environmental and sovereignty considerations are not a priority."**

"We have to fight for a different petroleum model.

**"We have to begin by expelling the imperialist pirates BP, Chevron, Repsol, Mitsubishi, and the other transnationals associated with the Venezuelan State through mixed enterprises and advance towards the total nationalization of petroleum exploitation and refining with workers control..."**

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