

Military Resistance 8G3

Milford Soldier Dies In Iraq: “I Support The Right Of Protesters Because An Unchallenged And Fearless Government Soon Will Become A Harsh Tyrant Of Its People”



Army Spc. Jacob P. Dohrenwend, 20, died Monday in Iraq. Provided

June 23, 2010 By Jennifer Baker and Barrett J. Brunsman, The Enquirer

MILFORD - Army Spc. Jacob P. Dohrenwend of Clermont County died Monday in Balad, Iraq, of injuries unrelated to combat, the U.S. Department of Defense announced Wednesday. The circumstances surrounding the death of Dohrenwend, 20, a 2008 graduate of Milford High School, remain under investigation, military officials said.

"Jake was a happy, smiling student at Milford High School," said Tim Ackermann, spokesman for Milford schools. "He was an overall great kid, according to his teachers."

Dohrenwend was on his first deployment overseas. He enlisted as an infantryman in the Army on May 29, 2008, according to the military.

After completing basic training, he was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the 1st Infantry Division in Fort Riley, Kan.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with Specialist Dohrenwend's family," said Sgt. Jake A. Newman, a spokesman for the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. "We share in their loss."

Survivors include his parents, Shannon Abernathy and Jim Dohrenwend of Milford; a 13-year-old brother, Jack Dohrenwend of Milford; and a sister, Andrea Back of West Chester Township, said Clermont County Commissioner Bob Proud, who met with family members Wednesday to offer his condolences.

The family didn't want to speak publicly about the tragedy, but members agreed to share in an e-mail for the public their thoughts on what made Dohrenwend special, Proud said.

"He was a wonderful brother, son, and friend," his family members wrote.

"He loved his family, friends, his country, and the Army. When he wasn't playing video games with friends, he was serving the community by volunteering at the library or a nursing home." One of his battalion commanders called the family and "told us that Jacob was very concerned about the children of Iraq and used his own money to buy them whatever he could," the e-mail said.

The family included with the e-mail a letter Dohrenwend wrote before he left for Iraq.

"I joined the Army not for adventure or money but because I feel it is my duty to defend the freedoms I hold so dear," Dohrenwend wrote.

"I'm proud to fight for people who would disagree with me or (have) ideas different from mine. ...

"I support the right of protesters," he added, "because an unchallenged and fearless government soon will become a harsh tyrant of its people. ...

"My life is nothing compared to the repercussions of weakening or losing any of these freedoms."

Three former students of the Milford school district have died in Iraq, Proud said. Dohrenwend was the second Milford High graduate to die there.

Marine Lance Cpl. Bryan Taylor, 20, had served in Iraq five weeks when he was fatally shot April 6, 2006, by an Iraqi Army soldier trained by U.S. troops.

Marine Lance Cpl. William Spencer, who had attended Milford High School before moving with his family to Tennessee, was killed during a combat mission in Al Anbar province on Dec. 28, 2006.

"I am devastated," said Allison Willson of Loveland, Dohrenwend's 11th-grade English teacher at Milford High School. "I've been in a funk all day. He will be truly missed by the Milford community."

She said he was one of five Milford graduates who served in the military in Iraq and Afghanistan over the past year.

"One of them came back in April," she said. "We have three currently over there right now, including two brothers. It kind of makes you send out an extra prayer for them, to make sure that they come home safely. It's devastating."

As word of Dohrenwend's death spread Wednesday, flags at government buildings in Milford, Miami Township and elsewhere in Clermont County were lowered to half-staff in his honor.

A Facebook page was launched Wednesday in memory of Dohrenwend. His friends held a candlelight vigil at Miami Meadows Park in Miami Township. The soldier's family attended.

Catherine Perry, one of Dohrenwend's friends who set up the Facebook page, described him as "one of the kindest and funniest guys I have ever met in my life."

"His personality was so addicting to anyone who met him because it was the little things he did that made everyone around him - no matter how upset we were - so happy," she said.

She knew Dohrenwend, one of her best friends, since they met in the seventh grade.

Before he was deployed to Iraq, they discussed how his funeral arrangements should be handled if he died.

"He told me that he didn't want people in black because that was never his thing," she said. "He made me promise that I would do something where all the girls and guys would wear lots of colors, especially orange."

A memorial service will be held at Milford First United Methodist Church once Dohrenwend's body is returned, Proud said. That's expected to take about a week. The body is now at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware.

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

The U.S. “Reconstruction” Fraud Unravels: “It Has Been Nothing But A Curse”

July 3, 2010 By TIMOTHY WILLIAMS, New York Times [Excerpts]

After two devastating battles between American forces and insurgents in 2004, this city needed almost everything — new roads, clean water, electricity, health care.

The American reconstruction authorities decided, however, that the first big rebuilding project to win hearts and minds would be a citywide sewage treatment system.

Now, after more than six years of work, \$104 million spent, and without having connected a single house, American reconstruction officials have decided to leave the troubled system only partly finished, infuriating many city residents.

In Baghdad and Salahuddin Provinces, local officials say Americans have simply walked away from partly completed police stations, schools, government buildings and water projects during the past several months without explanation.

And in Dhi Qar and Babil Provinces, there are complaints that roads and buildings recently completed by the Americans do not meet basic construction standards.

In Hilla, the capital of Babil Province, extensive cracking has been cited in a \$7.4 million road built less than a year ago.

Here in Falluja, in Anbar Province, the sewage treatment system has left some of the city’s busiest streets lined with open trenches for more than three years and engendered widespread resentment.

The news that it will be left unfinished has provoked anger.

The project was conceived to treat waste for all of Falluja’s 200,000 residents and to build in additional capacity for the city to grow by 50 percent.

But the new, diminished system will serve only 4,300 homes, or about one-sixth of Falluja’s population, according to American and Iraqi officials.

Further, because both the project’s scope and efficiency have been reduced so dramatically, American officials acknowledge that the system may emit a foul odor if it ever does become functional.

“This project was supposed to be a mercy,” said Ali Abed al-Karim, the owner of a store where an open trench out front prevents most customers from entering. “But it has been nothing but a curse.”

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Oklahoma Soldier Killed In Afghanistan

July 03, 2010 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 575-10

Pfc. Ryan J. Grady, 25, of Bristow, Okla., died July 1 at Bagram, Afghanistan, of wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his unit using an improvised-explosive device. He was assigned to the Special Troops Battalion, 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Bradford, Vt.

Lexington Native Killed In Explosion In Afghanistan



Staff Sgt. James Hunter had served twice in Iraq and became engaged on Valentine's Day.

Jun. 20, 2010 By Jim Warren, Kentucky.com

Staff Sgt. James Hunter loved his country, loved the U.S. Army and "had a heart for trying to help wherever he was needed," his father said.

Hunter, 25, who was born in Lexington and loved Kentucky even though he grew up in Northern Ohio, was trying to help in Afghanistan on Friday when he was killed in an insurgent bomb blast, said his father, William "Tom" Hunter, of Winchester.

James Hunter was a member of the Fort Campbell-based 101st Airborne Division, 3rd Brigade Combat Team. Another soldier died in the same incident.

"They were on a foot patrol," Tom Hunter said Saturday. "There is still an investigation going on, but apparently James and another soldier were wounded when a bomb

exploded. I don't know if it was a roadside bomb or an IED (improvised explosive device)."

Tom Hunter was informed of his son's death late Friday afternoon, when five uniformed Army representatives from Fort Knox drove up to his Winchester home.

"Being a veteran myself, when I saw them I knew the news couldn't be good," Tom Hunter said.

The 101st Airborne only recently arrived in Afghanistan, but already has suffered casualties. The Army said a member of the division from New York was killed earlier in the week when his unit was hit by small arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades in eastern Afghanistan.

James Hunter had been in Afghanistan one week short of a month. But he already was a war veteran, having served two previous combat tours in Iraq, his father said.

Tom Hunter spoke by telephone Saturday afternoon from Dover, Del., where he is waiting for his son's body at Dover Air Force Base, the arrival station for American troops killed in Afghanistan and Iraq. Other family members on hand are James Hunter's mother, Patricia Phillips of Birmingham, Ohio; James' oldest brother; and James' fiancée, Candice Clark of Illinois. James and Candice became engaged on Valentine's Day, atop the Gateway Arch in St. Louis.

"We're just up here to honor him when they take him off the aircraft," Tom Hunter said.

According to the family, James Hunter's body is expected to arrive at Dover on Sunday, but may remain there for military processing until Wednesday.

Tom Hunter said the body will be moved to Northern Ohio for a stop of about 72 hours, and then transferred to Winchester for funeral services there. Funeral information is not yet available.

Burial will be in the veterans' section of the Lexington Cemetery.

"That was his wish," Tom Hunter said.

Tom Hunter said his son would have celebrated his seventh anniversary in the Army next September.

He said James loved Kentucky, although he spent relatively little time here.

"He sure loved Kentucky, and Kentucky basketball. He was absolutely ecstatic about John Calipari. I wish he had gotten a chance to meet him."

"He loved being in the Army," Tom Hunter said. "He was only 25, but he was a very young and inspiring non-commissioned officer."

"He really wanted to help people. Even though a lot of people now don't think we're getting anywhere in Afghanistan, James was very positive about trying to help the people that are impoverished over there, and making a better life for them."

Afghan Bomb Kills Saratoga Springs Soldier

June 23, 2010 By DENNIS YUSKO, Staff writer; Times Union

SARATOGA SPRINGS -- A 19-year-old Saratoga Springs man became the second soldier from the Capital Region to be killed in Afghanistan in the last week, city school district officials said Tuesday.

David Taylor Miller, who was known by his middle name, and another soldier were killed Monday by a bomb thrown by an Afghan, a family friend told an ABC news station in Virginia. Miller had moved to Gansevoort with his family from Virginia a few years ago. Official information on how and when Miller was killed could not be confirmed with the Department of Defense Tuesday.

Miller had played two years of varsity football for the Saratoga Springs Blue Streaks before graduating from the district in 2009. He joined the Army right out of high school last July, according to his Facebook page.

"A bright young man with so much potential was taken from our community," Janice White, superintendent of Saratoga Springs schools, said in a statement. "We grieve with his family in their profound sorrow."

Miller is the second Capital Region soldier to die in as many weeks.

His hometown was Amherst, Va., according to his Facebook page, where he is pictured in an Army vest.

Miller served in the Army as a designated marksman, and landed in Afghanistan in April, according to the web page.

He had played lineman for the Saratoga Springs football team, his former coach Terry Jones said. He came to practice every day, had perfect manners and was well respected by teammates, Jones said. "What I remember most is his beautiful, large smile," the coach said. "It's a tragedy. He will certainly be missed."

The Department of Defense has not released information about the latest casualty report from overseas. The military waits 24 hours after all next of kin are notified before confirming deaths. But word got out at the school, prompting White to release a five-sentence statement.

"Less than one year ago, David crossed the stage at graduation. We graduate young men and women to be courageous and of good character. David Miller's service to our country has humbled us," White wrote.

Miller's death is part of a burst of violence that has recently hit service members in Afghanistan, where American troops have been stationed since 2001. American deaths in the country have increased every year since 2003, with 521 reported in 2009. At least 287 coalition members have been killed so far this year, with at least 67 occurring this month, according to casualty websites.

On June 15, Army Spc. Benjamin D. Osborn of Queensbury died in an insurgent attack in Afghanistan. He was shot twice, and will be buried Thursday in the Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery. The Virginia-based ABC news station reported Tuesday that Miller would be buried near his former home in Arlington National Cemetery.

TROOP NEWS

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?




The body of Marine Cpl. Michael C. Bailey is carried to Bailey's burial site, June 25, 2010, in Leadwood, Mo. Bailey, 29, died June 16 after he was shot while on patrol in Helmand province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Jeff Roberson)

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

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Lied To By Recruiter: Betrayed By The Army: Veteran Facing Deportation

Jun 28, 2010 By Gerald Ensley, Tallahassee (Fla.) Democrat [Excerpts]

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Axel Runtschke is blond and blue-eyed. He hunts and fishes. He listens to country music and watches NASCAR.

He spent three years in the Army, is married and has three kids.

He's a regular American guy.

Except that he's an illegal immigrant.

And though he has been in the United States for 20 years after moving here from his native Germany as a child, he has been unable to gain legal residency status — even though he said the Army promised him they would take care of it when he enlisted in 1997.

So he is unable to get a job, is running out of money and his home is being foreclosed.

The stress is overwhelming.

“I don’t sleep, it’s a constant headache. I’m at my wit’s end,” said Runtschke, 32. “I made a commitment to this country and I fulfilled it honorably. I just want them to recognize this.”

Tallahassee lawyers Neil Rambana and Elizabeth Ricci, who specialize in immigration law, are working to gain Runtschke a green card as a permanent resident, if not full-fledged citizenship.

The lawyers, who are working the case for free, have filed two petitions with Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services. They have asked for relief from the Army Review Board. They have sought help from Florida’s U.S. senators. They have started a fund to collect money for Runtschke’s family.

“I think we’re going to prevail. We just need someone who has the authority in these agencies to make it right,” Rambana said. “We need someone to realize the wait has been unconscionable for this young man.”

Runtschke came to the U.S. with his German mother when he was 12. He graduated from Dixie Hollins High School in St. Petersburg, Fla., where he was a cadet major in Junior ROTC.

He lost his German accent early and no one ever knew he was not American “unless I told them.”

When he was 16, his mother married an American and Runtschke gained “conditional residency” status. Conditional residency is good for two years, and immigrants have 90 days on either side of their two-year anniversary to apply for permanent status.

After high school, Runtschke enlisted in the Army before that two-year anniversary.

He spent three years on active duty and five years in the reserves. After leaving active duty in 2000, he moved to Tallahassee and worked in construction.

When he enlisted, he asked the recruiter about his immigration status — and he said the recruiter told him the Army would obtain his green card, certifying permanent residency status.

It never did — as Runtschke discovered in 2006 when he lost his wallet.

When he replaced his Social Security card, he discovered he had never received permanent resident status and was no longer eligible to work in the U.S. He has survived since on odd jobs that pay in cash.

In 2009, his lawyers filed an application for permanent residency, which was denied because he had not filed in a “timely manner,” meaning in 1998 when his conditional residency expired.

His lawyers applied again, citing the fact he was on “armed conflict” status as a reserve (though he wasn’t sent to war), a condition that fast-tracks applications for citizenship. But his application was denied because he was not on active duty while on “armed conflict” status.

In February, his lawyers filed for him be naturalized as a citizen because he had lived in the U.S. the required five years. He went to Jacksonville, Fla., “aced” the citizenship test and was told he would be sworn in that day because of his military service — until the examiner realized Runtschke had never received permanent resident status and denied his application for citizenship.

“I was trembling with excitement,” Runtschke said. “Then he said, ‘We have a problem.’ ”

Runtschke and his lawyers say his problem stems from the Army’s failure to follow through on the recruiter’s promise.

Army officials say no recruiter would promise a recruit a green card. “I’m not saying the Army has no responsibility to a soldier in applying for citizenship,” said Douglas Smith, public affairs officer at Army Recruiting Command. “But it wouldn’t be appropriate for us to tell a recruit (citizenship) will automatically be taken care of. It’s the individual’s responsibility to pursue it.” **[And that has to be the stupidest lie of 2010, so far. We’re supposed to think that “no recruiter” would tell a lie to sign up a 17 year old kid? Recruiters have been found guilty of statutory rape, child molesting, forging medical reports, telling recruits to lie about their criminal records, but oh no, they would never ever lie to a kid about getting a green card. “Army officials” quoted here eat shit three times a day minimum. T]**

Runtschke insists the recruiter did make such a promise — and his lawyers say the Army should make good on that promise.

“When he enlisted, he was 17 and was told it would be taken care of. When you’re 17, you take it at face value and move on,” said Ricci, one of his lawyers. “It may be the recruiter shouldn’t have said that. But he did, and Axel relied on it.”

Runtschke and his wife, Daniella, 24, were married in May after four years together. They live in a mobile home in rural Jefferson County with his son and daughter, 13 and 10, from a previous marriage and the couple’s 2-year-old son. Daniella, who is taking college courses online, works for the Florida Department of Health but doesn’t make enough to support the family.

The couple is three months behind on their mortgage and facing foreclosure.

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 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

**“Democracy Does Not Exist In The
United States, Where Finance
Capital And Its Extracting,
Hoarding, Manipulating Energy
Cousin, Rule”**

**“Every Element Of The American
Political Process Is Firmly In The
Hands Of The Oligarchy”**

**“The U.S. Government Is Divorced From
The People Because It Is A Creature Of
Capital”**



Worse than simply being on their own, the people face the same oligarchic enemy at the commanding heights of both the public and private sectors: the Democrat and the banks, the Republican and Big Oil, and vice versa – and all of them aligned with the military complex.

06/23/2010 By Glen Ford, Executive Editor, Black Agenda Report [Excerpts]

The United States can no longer engage effectively in “nation-building” in the one place on Earth it has a right and duty to do so: at home.

These are the lessons of the 2010 Gulf oil catastrophe, the 2008 financial meltdown and the 2005 Katrina horror – disasters that history will rightfully conflate as symptomatic of the fundamental crisis of the rule of Capital.

The U.S. has become a company town of speculative and extraction enterprises whose social and physical geography the rulers relentlessly appropriate, monetize and despoil - all with obscene abandon.

At the core of the 100 or so activists that gathered in New Orleans for an Emergency Summit to Stop the Gulf Oil Catastrophe, last weekend, were veterans of the ravages of Disaster Capitalism following Hurricane Katrina. They had seen up close how Capital and its servants at all levels of government organized themselves as a public-private mob to drive Black and poor people from the city.

They were witnesses to the crafting of a corporate consensus that the exiled poor should have no rights that conflicted with the imperatives of Capital – no right to return, no right to reclaim their lives, no rights that cannot be superseded by the claims and ambitions of the oligarchs.

They had watched as finance Capital’s urban gentrification agenda was near-instantaneously put on fast-forward in New Orleans to ensure the permanent purging of the poor.

A kind of perverse anthem seemed to rise from each corporate celebration of the city’s imminent and profitable rebirth: “Free the land – of Black people!”

Now the land and bayous and sea are made hostile to all life by the depraved indifference of voracious extractors who monetized, securitized and derivitized the Gulf's most deeply buried oil deposits years before the accursed Deepwater Horizon rig made its last, fatal thrust. The super-deep reservoirs of the Gulf were sold and their oil futures already leveraged to finance yet more assaults on man and nature, even before President Obama's flip-flop on off-shore drilling in August, 2008, when he had the Democratic nomination in the bag.

Such world-shaping dealings have nothing to do with you and me, nothing to do with notions of democracy, because democracy does not exist in the United States, where finance capital and its extracting, hoarding, manipulating energy cousin, rule.

There is no evidence of democracy anywhere that counts – not in the \$14-plus trillion transferred directly to Wall Street, mostly by the quasi-public Federal Reserve, while the real economy in general and Black America in particular were stripped and gutted.

No notions of an American social compact could deter the ruling class from acting out its pathologies on its own citizens when Katrina presented the opportunity. And no amount of public disgust at BP has moved Obama to behave as if he is beholden to the majority that elected him – for the simple reason that he is not.

Every element of the American political process is firmly in the hands of the oligarchy.

The public only became aware of Barack Obama's existence after he had been thoroughly vetted by corporate mechanisms of all kinds, including but by no means limited to the corporatist Democratic Leadership Council (see Bruce Dixon, Black Commentator, June 5, 2003).

Obama's informal – but quite binding – “contracts” with the oligarchs were concluded before he set foot in the U.S. Senate.

The public was the last to know that the obscure politician Obama had become a “viable” prospect by corporate acclimation in the only “race” that counts – the early, business fund-raising contest.

(The corporate consensus included BP, which gave Obama more money than any other candidate, and Wall Street, which was even more generous to the Nation's First Black President.)

The U.S. government is divorced from the people because it is a creature of Capital.

The three recent mega-crises are both the products and the illuminators of that wholly corrupt relationship.

We are living in the late stages of overwhelming dominance (hegemony) of finance capital – and, secondarily, the oil and gas money-machines.

It is a period characterized by destruction of the domestic manufacturing base and frenzied predation of the public sector. The mission of Capital's servants in government is, therefore, to assist Wall Street and the energy sector in the fastest possible conversion of natural and social resources to private exploitation.

Those among the public and media that still harbor the illusion that government is there to serve the people, despite seeing so much evidence to the contrary, speak of a national “malaise,” a loss of purpose, a temporary failure or flaw in the national character.

What nonsense!

What we are witnessing is the destructive behavior of a predatory class that sees its future in trillion-dollar derivative bets; commodification of every conceivable resource (food, water, air?) and manipulation of every commodity market; privatization of every possible state function (schools, safety nets); constant expansion of the “market” in the maintenance of empire; and the “primitive accumulation” of the spoils of war.

For such a class, there is no room, rhyme or reason for anything resembling domestic nation-building, and they will not assign their servants in government to any such project.

Worse than simply being on their own, the people face the same oligarchic enemy at the commanding heights of both the public and private sectors: the Democrat and the banks, the Republican and Big Oil, and vice versa – and all of them aligned with the military complex.

The pace of disaster-making is quickening in America, which indicates something very much like “the end is near.”

Maybe these overlapping pyrotechnics of horror – Katrina, the Crash of 2008, the Great Gusher in the Gulf – are necessary to teach Americans the nature of class war, that it is, indeed, hell.

At any rate, the oligarchs can be counted on to accelerate the processes of their own demise. It is up to the people to save themselves, through organizing; there are no guarantees.

The DC Dictatorship That Rules America

July 19, 2010 Senator Tom Harkin, The Nation.

The filibuster rule has become an absurd and destructive anachronism.

As few as forty-one senators, potentially representing less than 15 percent of the population, have the power to block any bill, amendment or nominee.

1915: World War I

“The Struggle Against The Government That Conducts The Imperialist War Must Not Halt In Any Country Before The Possibility Of That Country’s Defeat”

March 29, 1915, V.I. Ulyanov, Sostial Demokrat [The writer used the pen name “Lenin” to keep the government from terrorizing his family. Excerpts]

Some of the means employed to fool the working class are pacifism and the abstract preachment of peace.

A propaganda of peace at the present time, if not accompanied by a call to revolutionary mass actions, is only capable of spreading illusions, of demoralizing the proletariat by imbuing it with confidence in the humanitarianism of the bourgeoisie, and of making it a plaything in the hands of the secret diplomacy of the belligerent countries.

In particular, the idea of the possibility of a so-called democratic peace without a series of revolutions is deeply erroneous.

The struggle against the government that conducts the imperialist war must not halt in any country before the possibility of that country’s defeat in consequence of revolutionary propaganda.

The defeat of the governmental army weakens the government, aids the liberation of the nationalities oppressed by it, and makes civil war against the ruling classes easier.

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

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Zionist Soldiers Seized A High-School Student, Held Burning Cigarettes To His

Forehead And Hands And Cut His Cheek With A Penknife

01.07.10 By Gideon Levy, Haaretz Newspaper, Israel

The scars speak for themselves: a scorched hole in the middle of his forehead, like a mark of Cain, two more burn holes on his right hand and one on his left arm.

The scratches on his face and arm have already healed.

That's what remains from the night on which soldiers decided to have a little fun with Salah Rajabi, a student in the 12th grade at the Tareq School in Hebron.

It's not the first time soldiers have beaten him up. There have been no fewer than 12 previous attacks.

The most serious of them occurred in 2006, when soldiers broke the boy's shoulder and he was hospitalized. In December 2008, he was arrested with his two brothers on suspicion of stone throwing and released after 10 days. On another occasion he was arrested and released on bail of NIS 1,000.

But this was the scariest attack of all, with the burning cigarettes on his flesh, the penknife that cut into his face and a mysterious pill the soldiers made him swallow by force, which frightened him more than anything else.

Another "Clockwork Orange" night in Hebron, in Israeli-controlled Area H2, which has been almost totally abandoned by the Palestinian residents for fear of the settlers and the Israel Defense Forces.

Another display of wildness by soldiers, who thought that undercover of darkness they could do as they pleased.

The IDF Spokesman made do this week with an appallingly laconic response: "The complaint that was filed with the police will be transmitted to the office of the military advocate general and after it is examined a decision will be made on how to proceed."

Whatever.

Rajabi, 19, is trying to complete his matriculation exams. He comes from a poor family of 19 children, from two mothers. Every day after school he goes to his sweets stand, peddling cheap baklava in front of his house. He was there on June 14, too. There was no school that day, because of the exams. In the afternoon he went to his stand and by 10 P.M. he had sold all his wares. He then set out to visit his sister, who, like her husband, is deaf and mute.

He is a hefty young man, muscular but shy, his voice soft. His older brother, Kaad, sits next to him, to support him. His sister's home isn't far from where he lives.

As he walked up the street, which is partially lit and partially dark, an IDF Jeep, coming from the direction of the stonemasons' industrial zone, suddenly pulled up next to him. The soldier sitting next to the driver opened the door and asked to see his ID card.

The driver recognized him immediately. "Is it you?" he asked.

Maybe he's considered a troublemaker, though he has never been convicted of anything. Two other soldiers, who were sitting in the back seat, got out of the Jeep and moved toward him. They pushed him forcefully into the vehicle.

Rajabi says he did not resist. He was frightened. They made him sit on the floor of the Jeep, in the back, but did not tie his hands or blindfold him, which is standard procedure in making an arrest.

The soldiers lit cigarettes: four soldiers and four cigarettes in one military Jeep with a Palestinian detainee on the floor, driving through the streets of Hebron, which overnight turned into Marlboro country.

The Jeep kept moving, when suddenly one of the soldiers sitting in the back placed the burning cigarette against Rajabi's forehead.

While Rajabi was trying to recover from the pain and shock, the soldier sitting next to the driver pulled Rajabi's arm forward and stuck his cigarette twice into the palm of the youth's right hand.

Here are the holes.

The soldiers cursed him; he's ashamed to repeat what they said. Then the other soldier in the back seat grabbed his left arm and jabbed his burning cigarette deep into it. Here is the hole.

Only the driver puffed away tranquilly and did nothing.

Like all games, it's not over till it's over. Now the soldier in the back who was the first to brand Rajabi with a cigarette took out a penknife, one of those with which soldiers pierce the plastic handcuffs of their prisoners, and held it against Rajabi's right cheek. Rajabi was deathly afraid.

The soldier cut his cheek across its whole length and then worked on his left arm as well. Not a very deep cut, but blood flowed from his face. He wiped it away with his shirt.

Throughout, the Jeep kept going. They reached a dark, empty lot in the Jebel Juhar area. The driver stopped and turned off the engine.

The four soldiers got out and ordered their victim to kneel on the ground. He did as they commanded.

They grabbed his head and forced his mouth open, Rajabi relates. One soldier took out a pill and stuffed it into Rajabi's mouth. They held his mouth open until they were certain he had swallowed the bitter pill. Then they threw him to the ground, got into the Jeep and sped off.

Rajabi lay there in the dark, exhausted and in a panic, blood on his face and arm. In a few minutes he pulled himself together, got up and made his way to the home of relatives about 300 meters from the empty lot. It was midnight.

He knocked on the door. His shirt was dirty from the ground and stained with his blood.

Opening the door in his pajamas, Ahmed Rajabi was appalled to see his distraught relative. He later testified that this was what happened to Musa Abu Hashhash, a fieldworker of B'Tselem, the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories.

"What happened to you?" Ahmed asked Salah Rajabi, and he told him how the soldiers had stopped him, burned him with cigarettes, cut him with a knife and forced him to swallow a pill. The two called Kaad, Salah's brother, who lives close by.

At this stage, Rajabi felt himself losing consciousness. He was certain it was because of the pill. Kaad arrived immediately and took his brother to Aliya Hospital in the city.

On the way, he relates, his brother passed out. In the hospital his stomach was flushed, but the physicians told Kaad they did not have the equipment to determine what the pill was.

When his brother woke up in the morning, Kaad relates, he began to attack everyone in sight in a fit of rage or fear.

Rajabi was injected with a tranquilizer and sent home.

Since then he has not taken any more exams or returned to his baklava stand. Last week he filed a complaint with the Hebron police, complaint no. 230003/2010.

The IDF, as we saw, is looking into it.

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

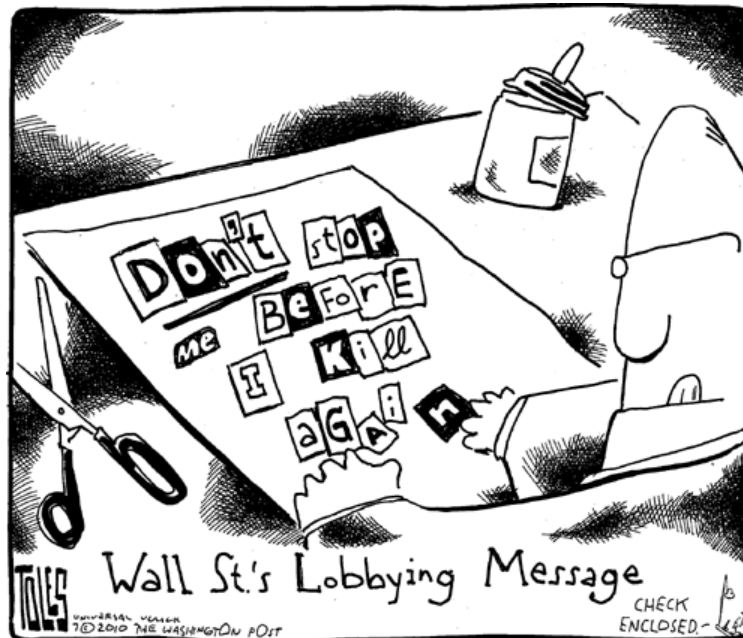
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DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



CLASS WAR REPORTS



Corporate Media Scum Caught Lying Again: “Most Recent Polls Show Far More Public Concern Over Unemployment Than Deficit Spending Or The Federal Debt”

6/24/10 FAIR [Excerpts]

Republicans and conservative Democrats in Congress like to argue that public concern over federal budget deficits makes it impossible to pass a new round of job-creating stimulus spending.

And corporate media like to echo these sentiments, despite there being little evidence that citizens are as concerned about these issues as inside-the-Beltway deficit hawks.

But most recent polls show far more public concern over unemployment than deficit spending or the federal debt.

As FAIR noted (FAIR Blog, 5/19/10), recent surveys from CBS/New York Times and NBC/Wall Street Journal asked voters to rank problems facing the country. Unemployment was more important by a spread of 49 percent to 5 percent in the CBS/NYT poll, 35 percent to 20 percent in the NBC/WSJ survey, and 47 percent to 15 percent from a recent Fox poll.

One recent Gallup survey (6/17/10), for example, found that 60 percent of the public approved of "additional government spending to create jobs and stimulate the economy."

One of the few polls to ask people to choose between jobs and the deficit directly (CBS/NYT, 4/5-12/10) found 50 percent agreeing that "the federal government should spend money to create jobs, even if it means increasing the budget deficit," with 42 percent choosing deficit-reduction over job-creating stimulus.

If such polls were taken seriously, news reports would state that politicians were bucking public opinion in order to pursue fiscal austerity.

But outlets like the New York Times and the Washington Post have turned reality on its head.

Huge Two-Month Student Strike In Puerto Rico Defeats Government Scheme To Cut Education Funding



Participants in the University of Puerto Rico student strike celebrate their victory (Puerto Rico Indymedia)

The university was forced to reverse Certification 98, which would have required poor students to choose between merit-based tuition waivers and financial aid grants.

Administrators renounced plans to sell off parts of the university to private corporations, cancelled a special "crisis fee" of \$1,500 that they planned to impose next semester, and committed to not summarily expel the strike leaders.

July 1, 2010 By Eric Ruder, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

A NEARLY two-month-long student strike that shut down all 11 campuses of the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) ended in a decisive victory for the students.

The students' inspiring unity, determination and creativity serve as a magnificent example of how to fight and win in the face of neoliberal attempts to balance budgets in this era of global austerity.

The strike began April 21 as a 48-hour stoppage at UPR's main campus of Río Piedras to protest \$100 million in budget cuts, a sharp increase in student fees and the administration's unwillingness to negotiate with student activists.

As the strikers' confidence grew, their demands were transformed from a modest desire for negotiations with school officials into an ambitious platform to head off the administration's budget cuts and plans to privatize the university.

The students had strong support off campus.

Parents made their way to the picket lines, bringing supplies of food and water when police used violence to threaten strikers and turned off the water supply to the main UPR campus.

Some weeks later, a large number of Puerto Rico's unions organized a one-day general strike in solidarity with the students.

In the span of two months, students built ties to university professors and campus workers, found enormous support across the entire island and forced university administrators to abandon their most aggressive assault on students.

The university was forced to reverse Certification 98, which would have required poor students to choose between merit-based tuition waivers and financial aid grants.

Administrators renounced plans to sell off parts of the university to private corporations, cancelled a special "crisis fee" of \$1,500 that they planned to impose next semester, and committed to not summarily expel the strike leaders.

The agreement came after the intervention of a court-appointed mediator, former judge Pedro López Oliver, who brought the students' National Negotiation Committee and the university's board of trustees to the negotiating table to hammer out the terms of the settlement.

Four days later, the students' negotiating team emerged victorious, chanting one of the strike's slogans, "Eleven campuses, one UPR!" and announcing that they had won their central demands.

In keeping with the democratic process established by student strikers in the course of their struggle, the strike continued until students had time to organize a UPR-wide assembly to vote on whether to accept the agreement agreed to by the negotiating team.

At a historic assembly June 21 of some 3,000 students from all 11 campuses, an overwhelming majority voted for the agreement.

According to the Spanish-language Claridad newspaper, "The assembly unfolded with the same spirit that prevailed throughout the strike: motions, amendments to motions and direct votes by students (in this case, organized by campus and then tabulated), as well as open and democratic discussion at each stage in the process."

The students at each campus then decided how and when to reopen the gates to their respective campuses, an important symbolic victory in itself considering the near-constant threat of police violence that hung over the strikers who camped out by the gates for weeks to defend their closure of the university.

After the assembly, Shirley Rosado, a student spokesperson at the Ponce campus, triumphantly announced that "we, the students, have defended public education" and that "the sleeping youth have been awakened."

THE STRIKE not only transformed Puerto Rico's political terrain, throwing the widely despised administration of Puerto Rico's Republican Gov. Luis Fortuño on the defensive, but it also transformed the students themselves.

Within a matter of weeks, students set up an online radio station to disseminate news about their strike, planted an urban garden, held lectures and poetry readings, and took responsibility for organizing a round-the-clock defense of their struggle.

These marvelous forms of self-organization and the democratic accountability of the various committees to the student body as a whole allowed the strikers to prevail during the longest student strike in Puerto Rican history.

The culture of democracy and collaboration established in the strike will serve student activists well in the coming months, because though the students clearly won this round, university administrators have already announced that they plan to implement a "crisis fee" for the semester that begins in January.

This led the student assembly to pass a motion declaring that "the student body is opposed to a tuition increase, especially to the imposition of a fee in January 2011" and that "we declare that we will do whatever is necessary to stop such a fee."

The assembly also took a "preventive strike vote," authorizing a strike in case the administration makes good on its threat.

"Students must be prepared to use any means necessary to protect themselves against injustices such as this fee," striker Aníbal Núñez told Claridad. "And if it's understood that the best way to defend ourselves is another strike, it's essential to prepare ourselves for this situation."

The university, backed up by Fortuño, is now clearly spoiling for a fight. Not only did the board of trustees refuse to open UPR's books--one of the only significant demands that the strikers didn't win--so students could study the university's finances and propose alternatives to tuition increases for balancing the budget, but Ygrí Rivera de Martínez, the chair of the board of trustees, made very clear her displeasure with the decision not to expel the strike leaders.

This issue was reportedly one of the key sticking points during the final negotiations. The logjam was only broken when the mediator brought the rest of the board into the negotiations.

Rivera then found herself in a minority, and in a 9-4 vote, the board voted to accept the mediator's proposal. Rivera refused to sign the final agreement.

No doubt, Rivera wanted to deal harshly with strike leaders in the hopes of intimidating future strikes, but her intransigence may have backfired.

According to the agreement, not only will students not face summary suspensions or expulsions, but they also won acknowledgment that they had a legitimate right to participate in marches, protests, meetings and other strike-related activities.

Only in the event that laws were broken or university rules violated could students face disciplinary measures, and the agreement stipulates that in that event, the students have a right to speedy appeals of administrative rulings and protection of their academic standing during the disciplinary process.

"The process is an extraordinary victory for students," Frank Torres Viada, a lawyer who assisted the students' national negotiating committee, told a reporter. "The big achievement is that, regarding penalties, it is a process that guarantees fairness, impartiality and legality, far beyond the current dispositions of the UPR student rules."

Now student activists have both the time and forewarning necessary to prepare for whatever the university tries to do next.

And they can do so with the knowledge that they enjoy the enthusiastic support of the island's unions, community organizations and campus workers.

With the university considering a round of cuts aimed at the wages and benefits of professors, student activists will again have an opportunity to stand with them shoulder to shoulder as they jointly resist the neoliberal drive to balance the island's budget on the backs of students and workers.

This inspiring example--of determination in the face of supposedly impossible budgetary constraints, of solidarity in the face of repression--can and should be followed everywhere.



IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATIONS

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Traveling Soldier is the publication of the Military Resistance Organization.

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/)

Military Resistance Looks Even Better Printed Out

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The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:

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