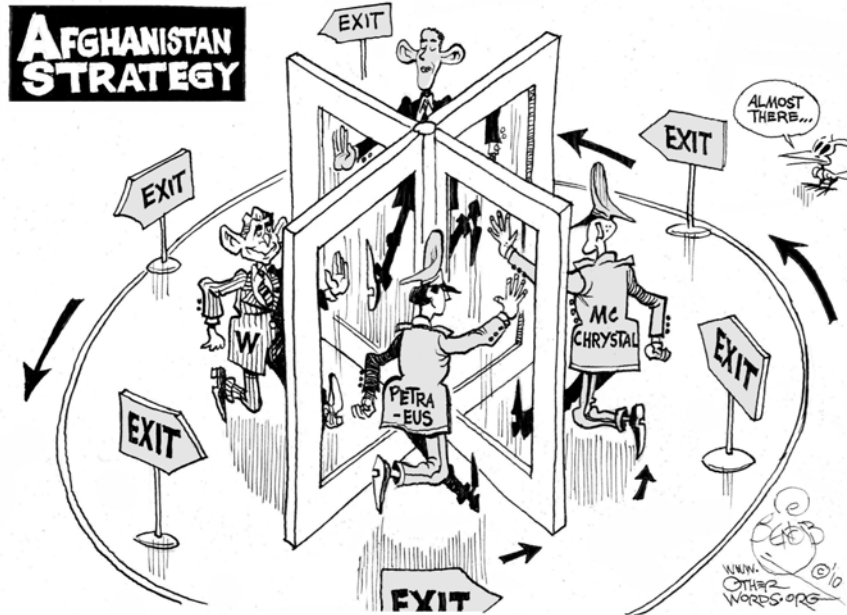


Military Resistance 8G6



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

KABOOM

[Excerpts from "KABOOM: Embracing The Suck In A Savage Little War" by Matt Gallagher; Da Capo Press; 2010

The pale curtains of the desert sun opened softly every dawn. Spring arrived, bringing with it a heat eager to oppress.

Everywhere we went, it was always the same. The same tired mixture of anger, sadness, and hope. A people caged by their prisons of origin but hell-bent on survival, nonetheless.

It wasn't like back home, where the homeless glared at shadows and backs and ideas.

Over here, the poor cast their antipathy openly, in the light and at faces and ideals. With nothing to lose, it was easy for them to be honest with us. The eyes told all.

The stare: history's chronic shame. To the victor goes this eternal barb, the unblinking eye of the masses.

Telling them we knew what was best and that they needed to start relying on their own government and police so we could leave, that everyone would win that way and any help we could and did provide in the meantime at least offered a new spring in a land of endless, destitute winters, often didn't have the effect I thought it would. Or should.

Whether I thought we were there for something other than oil didn't matter when they thought we were.

Open up the freedom present and treasure it, Iraqis

That's a bow of independence. . . . Pretty, isn't it?

Give us back the wrapping paper; we're trying to recycle our democracy exports.

Thanks for the . . . gift? mistah.

If looks killed, there would be far more than 4,000 American ghosts trapped in Babylon's sand spunk.

I had heard it before — the Hawaiians have a term for this visual hate. Da stinkeye, bruddah-man, bettah stay in Waikiki, haole, ya dig? I had seen it before — drunk college-boys in pastel Polo shirts with fat wallets should be more careful where they venture in the slums of the dirty South.

And I had felt it before — scarecrow tourists with cameras and smiles and perfect white teeth didn't penetrate into the seedy backwaters of Dublin unless they wanted trouble. Have you ever knifed another man just to feel his very essence pour out of him in pools of running red and guts of unidentifiable slop onto the sidewalk?

Umm. Yes, we did. And no, no I have not.

Still, though. This was different.

The flowers and hugs and cheers from the liberation only lasted for a few months before one stare became ten stares became one hundred stares.

There were thousands of them, and they were everywhere.

This pattern of starbursting degeneration, roughly translated from Arabic, meant occupation.

I hated being hated. Strength and hardness didn't necessarily have to intertwine. But it sure was simpler that way.

The Iraqis might no longer have believed our black-as-the-abyss sunglasses could see through walls, like they did back in 2003, but I still felt better when I put them on.

It made it a lot fucking easier to keep walking past the hollow stares of people when I thought that they thought I wasn't looking into their eyes.

We knew that no flowers or hugs or cheers awaited us on the far end.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Five US Soldiers Killed In Afghanistan

July 6, 2010 AP

Kabul: Nato said that five US service members have been killed by roadside bombs - two in the west, two in the south and one in the east of the country. No other details have as yet been disclosed.

Their deaths have brought to 14 the number of US and other international troops killed so far this month.

Soldier From The Mercian Regiment Dies From Wounds Sustained In Nahr-E Saraj

6 Jul 10 Ministry of Defence

It is with sadness that the Ministry of Defence must announce that a soldier from 1st Battalion The Mercian Regiment died from wounds sustained in Afghanistan in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham on Monday 5 July 2010.

The soldier, who had been in Afghanistan serving as part of Combined Force Nahr-e Saraj (North), was wounded in an explosion whilst on patrol in the Nahr-e Saraj district of Helmand province on Sunday 4 July.

Houston Family Grieves For Latest Casualty Of The War In Afghanistan

June 11, 2010 by Kevin Reece / 11 News

HOUSTON -- A Houston soldier's grieving family says they don't want the world to see him as just another number in the war's death toll. They want the world to know just how much their loved-one meant to them.

Matthew Catlett, a 23-year-old Army specialist, died Monday, along with four other soldiers with the 101st Airborne from Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, when their Humvee hit a roadside bomb in Afghanistan.

Army officers delivered the news Monday night to Catlett's wife Brytnee at her apartment in Cypress.

Catlett gave his oldest daughter a teddy bear to hold and sleep with every time he was deployed overseas.

Ryann, who will turn 5 later this month, left the teddy bear behind the last time her dad came home. She told her mom she didn't need it. She had daddy now.

Thursday night Brytnee Catlett had to tell her two daughters that their daddy was not coming home again.

"I hope one day they understand what he did and that his death isn't in vain or anything," Brytnee Catlett said.

She was finally able to summon the courage to tell their daughters Ryann and Stephanie, 3, four days after their father's death.

"He could walk into a room and everyone loved him, Brytnee said.

Catlett is a 2005 graduate of Cypress Ridge High School. In 2007 he served a full year tour of duty in Iraq. He left again, this time for Afghanistan, this past April.

He is the 5th soldier from the Houston-area to die in Afghanistan this year. According to the Department of Defense he is the 5,507th soldier to die in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Brytnee Catlett agreed to talk with 11 News because she doesn't want the public to see Matthew as just another number.

"I just don't want people to say oh, just another soldier," she said, "because he was more than that. He was a father, a son, and a friend. And he left behind so much.

"And he didn't really get a chance to live his life."

"They meant something to this country and they loved this country so much that they were willing to die for it," said Brytnee's mom Susan Griswold speaking of Matthew and the fellow soldiers who died with him.

Catlett's body has been returned to Dover AFB in Delaware where one of his best friends from the Army waits to escort him home to Houston. Funeral arrangements here have not yet been announced.

But outside her apartment in Cypress, Brytnee Catlett has begun her grieving process. Her car and her mother's car are painted with tributes to Matthew. His name, RIP, hearts, and yellow ribbons are painted on the windows. Psalms 34:18 is printed on another: a verse that speaks to the brokenhearted.

"To let people know that this man did exist and what he did for us.

"And it's not fair that his life was cut short," Brytnee said. "So I'm paying my tribute."

A tribute, and a brokenhearted goodbye, that another Texas family this week begins paying again.

Fallen Soldier's Remains Come Home



JOSHUA LUKEALA 1987-2010

June 21, 2010 By Amritha Alladi, Pacific Daily News

Three-year-old Maya Lukeala may not have understood the significance of the ceremony taking place yesterday, said her father's uncle, First Sgt. Gene Guzman, but she could sense that something was missing.

Guzman, who coordinated yesterday's ceremony for fallen Army Sgt. Joshua Akoni Sablan Lukeala, said in recent weeks, Maya Lukeala had been asking, "Where's Daddy?," expecting her father to come home any moment since he left in May.

The body of 23-year-old Joshua Lukeala arrived home yesterday in a casket, draped with the American flag, and approached by a throng of relatives, service members, officials and Guam residents to the impending sound of taps.

Joshua Lukeala was given a hero's welcome at the air cargo warehouses in Tiyan yesterday. He was killed by an improvised explosive device on June 7 in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom, according to the Defense Department.

Gov. Felix Camacho, Speaker Judi Won Pat, Vice Speaker Benjamin Cruz, members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and Guam Hawgs assembled at the ceremony to pay respect to the former Yigo resident.

"He was a true blue soldier ... a soldier that never did anything wrong," said Guam National Guard Maj. Gen. Donald Goldhorn, the adjutant general of the Guam National Guard.

He added that the funeral service will be held at the Our Lady of Lourdes Church on Thursday in Yigo. Joshua Lukeala will be given full military honors at his burial.

The deployment to Afghanistan was Joshua Lukeala's second tour in the Middle East, according to Guzman. Joshua Lukeala first received Purple Heart recognition for his first tour in Iraq, during which he was injured, Guzman said.

Lukeala is the 36th person from the Micronesia region to die since 2003 while fighting in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Joshua Lukeala was a good father, son and a husband, his family said.

Guzman added that he vividly remembered how his nephew would carry his daughter Maya Lukeala in his arms and take her to the beach to play.

Following yesterday's ceremony, the fallen army sergeant's wife, Deniece Nave Lukeala, stood hugging the casket after it arrived at the Guam Memorial Park funeral home's chapel.

Guzman said the family appreciated the show of support from the island community.

"Everybody's given the same respect," he said. "It's a beautiful thing."

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

THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE WAR

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

**THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO COMPREHENSIBLE
REASON TO BE IN THIS EXTREMELY HIGH RISK
LOCATION AT THIS TIME, EXCEPT THAT THE
PACK OF TRAITORS THAT RUN THE
GOVERNMENT IN D.C. WANT YOU THERE TO
DEFEND THEIR IMPERIAL DREAMS:**

That is not a good enough reason.



United States soldiers from the 508 Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne, leave on a patrol from Combat Outpost Ware in the Arghandab Valley, outside Kandahar City, July 4, 2010. (AP Photo/Kevin Frayer)

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Insurgents Stage Rally In Mogadishu

Jul 5, 2010 GAROWE ONLINE

[H]undreds of residents from Al-Shabaab-held Mogadishu's Daynile district held a peaceful pro-Al-Shabaab rally, showing their support for the fight against the western-backed Somali government.

The residents carried the black flag of Al-Shabaab and placards reading AMISOM KILLED MY DAD as they show their support for the rebel group.

"The realization of an Islamic Caliphate in Somali is becoming immanent, the people must fight alongside us to defeat the invaders," Sheikh Mukhtar Robow Abu Mansur, a senior Al-Shabaab official told the crowd.

The group controls large swathes of south central Somali regions and is waging deadly insurgency in the capital Mogadishu.

TROOP NEWS

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?



The remains of U.S. Army Spc. Benjamin D. Osborn at Saratoga National Cemetery in Schuylerville, N.Y. June 24, 2010. Osborn, 27, of Queensbury, N.Y., was killed in combat on June 15 while serving with the 101st Airborne Division in Konar Province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Mike Groll)

Capitalists At Work:

**“Employers Are Becoming
Increasingly Resistant To Rehire
Service Members Who Return
From Active Duty As Federal Law
Requires”**

**“We’ve Seen The Number Of
Intentional Violations Skyrocket In
The Past Three Years”**

“The Government Does Not Bring Criminal Charges Against Companies That Violate The Law”

“For two years, my family lived in fear,” said Mrs. Jensen, adding that the complaint-driven nature of the employment law’s enforcement makes it easy for major employers to ride out cases.

“Once you get laid off, you don’t even have the money to fight,” she said.

July 4, 2010 By Kathryn Watson, The Washington Times [Excerpts]

As the Iraq and Afghanistan wars persist, some employers are becoming increasingly resistant to rehire service members who return from active duty as federal law requires, legal analysts say.

Washington lawyer Matthew Tully, who specializes in these cases, said that as the war on terrorism — which relies heavily on National Guard and Reserve units — stretches into its second decade, companies have become more familiar with the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.

But Mr. Tully, a founding partner at Tully Rinckey PLLC, said some employers have objections with the law and have been upfront with his firm about their failure to re-employ and sometimes even to hire citizen-soldiers.

One prime reason is financial. He said, without specifying names, that airline companies have told the law firm that hiring military personnel has resulted in higher labor costs.

“We’ve seen the number of intentional violations skyrocket in the past three years,” he said.

The 1994 law requires employers to rehire workers who return from active military duty and, in the hiring process, prohibits discrimination against those who might become deployed.

A 2008 Labor Department report states that the employment law is entirely “complaint driven” and the government does not bring criminal charges against companies that violate the law.

Eric Montavo, a partner with the law firm Puckett & Faraj PC, said he also has noticed an increasing number of willful violations by employers.

Mr. Montavo said the economic downturn has aggravated the situation because fewer jobs are available.

“The circumstances are driving (service members) to be very aggressive in pursuing their rights,” he said. **[Not quite. “Very aggressive” would be showing up with a**

dozen other veterans and having an unobserved meeting with the corporation chief suit in the parking lot.]

Maj. Melissa Phillips, chief of strategic communications at Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, which handles initial contact with the service members who report violations of the employment law, said the number of inquiries were up notably in 2009 from 2008, and are running higher than usual in 2010.

In 2009, the Defense Department organization received 15,870 inquiries related to the 1994 law, up from 13,090 in 2008. Nine months into fiscal 2010, it has received 12,600 such inquiries, an annual pace of close to 17,000.

Maj. Phillips said higher unemployment rates, coupled with an increased awareness of rights among service members, may be responsible for the increase.

Capt. Samuel Wright, director of the Service Members Law Center at the Reserve Officers Association, has been writing about and dealing with laws pertaining to the hiring of veterans since 1982. The roots of service members' employment rights extend back to 1940, with the Veterans' Reemployment Rights Act, which has been revised and transformed into the current law.

"I think we're seeing a lot more employer resistance as people have been called up three, four, five times," Capt. Wright said.

Even as employers wrestle with uncertainty, many military members and their families are left to make their own way.

Cmdr. Randy Jensen was a reservist when he was called back to active duty in the global war on terrorism in 2001.

Before leaving for the Middle East, Cmdr. Jensen worked in the technology department for TASC Inc., a company specializing in national security technology. The company underwent an overhaul during Cmdr. Jensen's absence and did not have his job available upon his return in 2008.

"The bottom line is the law says you're supposed to get the same opportunities as if you've never left," Cmdr. Jensen said. "While I was gone, everything changed. When I came back, I didn't really fit into anything."

Although Cmdr. Jensen was technically rehired, he wasn't assigned to a project that supplied enough earnings to support him, his wife, Jean, and their two daughters, ages 16 and 8.

"For two years, my family lived in fear," said Mrs. Jensen, adding that the complaint-driven nature of the employment law's enforcement makes it easy for major employers to ride out cases.

"Once you get laid off, you don't even have the money to fight," she said.

Mr. Tully said that only about 1 percent of the cases that his office handled in 2004 involved intentional employer violations.

Now, however, he estimates that 15 percent to 20 percent of cases processed through his office involve intentional violations.

He also said government statistics could be misleading because many Guard and Reserve members become frustrated with government dealings and pursue their claims through private firms such as his, which can resolve cases more quickly.

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.”

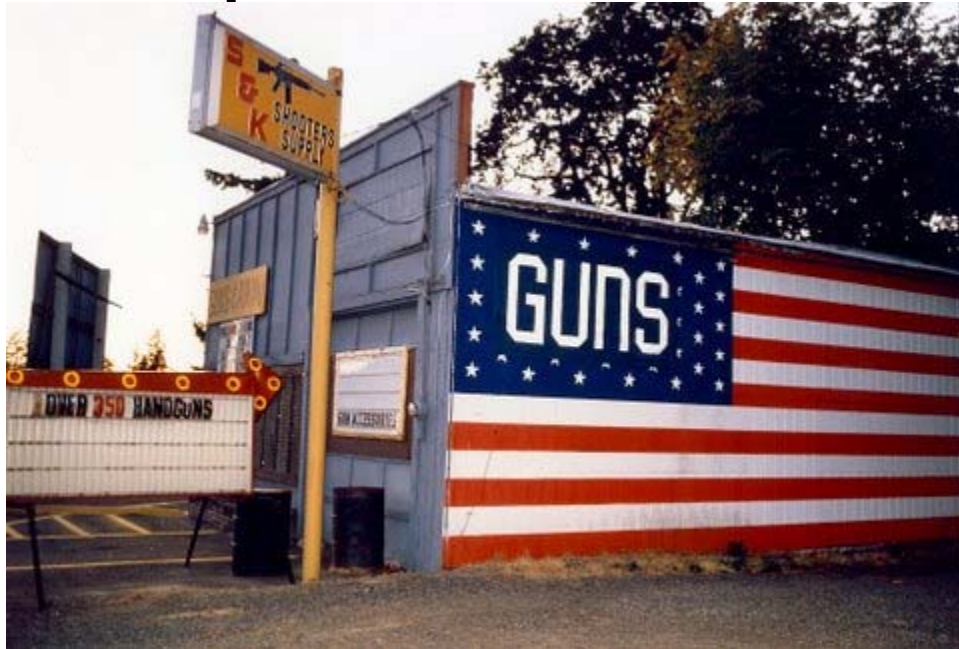
Frederick Douglass, 1852

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

“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

Homespun Domestic Terrorism



Photograph by Mike Hastie

From: Richard Hastie
To: Thomas F Barton
Sent: Monday, July 05, 2010 6:46 PM
Subject: Homespun Domestic Terrorism

Homespun Domestic Terrorism

**When I left Vietnam as an Army medic
in September 1971,
American soldiers in my unit were
shooting heroin,
they were shooting each other,
and they were shooting themselves.
The multiple tour wars in the Middle East
have marched America into an economic
gas chamber.
The oil America so desperately needed**

for our dinosaur economy,
is now hemorrhaging into the cells of
America's love of denial.
The swarming locust have become
homing pigeons.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
July 5, 2010

Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: (hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)

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

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

July 6, 1944 -- Noble Anniversary: Eleven Years Before Rosa Parks, A Courageous Lady Defies Bus Racism And Wins

Carl Bunin Peace History July 5-11

Irene Morgan, a 28-year-old black woman, was arrested for refusing to move to the back of the bus eleven years before Rosa Parks did so.

Her legal appeal, after her conviction for breaking a Virginia law (known as a Jim Crow law) forbidding integrated seating, resulted in a 7-1 Supreme Court decision barring segregation in interstate commerce.

By Robin Washington, Robin Washington. Com [Excerpts]

Eleven years before Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a city bus in Montgomery, Alabama, a young woman named Irene Morgan rejected that same demand on an interstate bus headed to Maryland from Gloucester, Virginia.

Recovering from a miscarriage and already sitting far in the back, she defied the driver's order to surrender her seat to a white couple.

Like Parks, Morgan was arrested and jailed. But her action caught the attention of lawyers from the NAACP, led by Thurgood Marshall, and in two years her case reached the Supreme Court.

Though the lawyers fervently believed that Jim Crow - the curious pseudonym for racial segregation - was unjust, they recognized the practice was still the law of the land, upheld by the 1896 Supreme Court decision in Plessy v. Ferguson.

Instead of seeking a judgment on humanitarian grounds or the equal protection provisions of the Fourteenth Amendment, they made the seemingly arcane argument that segregation in interstate travel violated the Constitution's Interstate Commerce Clause.

On June 3, 1946, that strategy paid off. In Irene Morgan v. Virginia, the court ruled that segregation in interstate travel was indeed unconstitutional as "an undue burden on commerce." But though that the decision was now law, the southern states refused to enforce it, and Jim Crow continued as the way of life in the South.

**July 6, 1892 -- Heroic Anniversary:
"What Happened At Homestead Was
Not A Riot. It Was Organised Class
Violence, Consciously Controlled By
The Workers, As Part Of The
Struggle"**

**"A Militant Strike Of Steel Workers Of
The Carnegie Company In The U.S.
Defending Their Union Against The
Bosses, The Police And Hired Armed
Mercenaries"**



Defeated Pinkerton agents, escorted by armed union men, leaving their barges after surrendering. Harper's Weekly: 1892

Carl Bunin Peace History July 5-11

In one of the worst cases of violent union-busting, a fierce battle broke out between the striking employees (members of the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers) of Andrew Carnegie's Homestead Steel Company and a Pinkerton Detective Agency private army brought on barges down the Monongahela River in the dead of night. Twelve were killed.

Henry C. Frick, general manager of the plant in Homestead, near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, had been given free rein by Carnegie to quash the strike. At Frick's request, Pennsylvania Gov. Robert E. Pattison then sent 8,500 troops to intervene on behalf of the company.

From Libcom.org

An account of a militant strike of steel workers of the Carnegie company in the US defending their union against the bosses, the police and hired armed mercenaries.

The Robber Baron Andrew Carnegie precipitated the Homestead Strike of 1892 with his attack against the standard of living of the workers and his bid to break the union representing the highest skilled workers.

Carnegie announced his intention to impose an 18 percent pay cut and issued a statement saying that the real issue was whether the Homestead steel workers would be union or non-union.

He ordered a 12 foot high fence to be built around the plant – 3 miles in length – with 3 inch holes at shoulder height every 25 feet, signaling preparation for an armed fight with the workers.

At the same time Carnegie hired the notorious Pinkerton company to provide armed thugs for the upcoming struggle.

An ultimatum was issued for workers to accept the wage cut by June 24th or face mass layoffs.

The workers did not take these provocations lightly.

They were not about to abandon the union and submit to Carnegie's dictates without a fight. The Amalgamated Union, which represented the skilled workers, about 750 of the plant's 3,800 employees, established an Advisory Committee, comprised of five delegates from each lodge, to coordinate the struggle against Carnegie's attacks.

A mass meeting of 3,000 workers from all categories, union and non-union voted overwhelmingly to strike.

The Advisory Committee took responsibility for organising an elaborate network to track the company's maneuvers, to monitor the possibility of an anticipated transport of Pinkerton goons by river boat from Pittsburgh.

Workers rented their own vessel to patrol the river. Every road within a five mile radius of Homestead was blockaded, and a thousand strikers patrolled the river banks for ten miles.

The Committee assumed virtual control of the town, assuming authority over the water, gas, and electricity facilities, shutting down the saloons, maintaining order and proclaiming ad hoc laws.

An attempt by the county sheriff to move against the strikers fell flat on its face when he proved unable to raise a posse.

The workers offered the sheriff a tour of the plant and promised to guarantee the security of the facility from any trespassers. Sympathy for the strikers was high.

On July 5th a steam whistle sounded the alarm at 4am.

Two barges transporting more than 300 Pinkertons left Pittsburgh.

By the time the thugs arrived at Homestead, 10,000 armed strikers and their supporters were gathered to “greet” them.

An armed confrontation erupted. Thirty workers were wounded, and three killed in the early fighting. Armed proletarians from nearby towns rushed to the scene to reinforce their class brothers. The shoot-out continued throughout the day.

Finally the demoralised Pinkertons, trapped in debilitating heat on the barges, outnumbered and outgunned, mutinied against their superiors.

Most were not regular agents, but reservists who had been recruited under false pretences; they were prepared to do some bullying, intimidating and terrorizing, but did not have the stomach to confront armed, organised class resistance.

Once the Pinkertons surrendered, the workers debated what to do with their despised prisoners. Angered by the casualties inflicted by the Pinkertons – a total of 40 wounded, 9 killed - some wanted to execute the thugs, but the Committee reasoned that a mass execution would be used against the strikers by the bosses.

Instead the Pinkertons were forced to run a gauntlet. In the end the casualties suffered by the Pinkertons were 20 shot, seven killed and 300 injured running the gauntlet.

In retaliation for the deaths of strikers, a young Russian anarchist called Alexander Berkman attempted to assassinate the Carnegie boss Henry Clay Frick. He shot Frick three times and stabbed him with a poison-tipped dagger, but Frick remarkably survived. Berkman was subsequently imprisoned for 14 years.

The strike continued for four months.

Eventually federal troops were brought in to crush the struggle, and 160 strikers were arrested and charged with murder and assault.

But the bosses’ repressive apparatus could not find a jury anywhere in the Pittsburgh region that would convict a single striker. All were acquitted.

Hugh O’Donnell, one of the strike leaders, was first charged with treason. Following his acquittal on those charges, he was immediately rearrested and tried for murder. And following acquittal on that charge, he was rearrested and tried for assault – again successfully beating back the state’s prosecution.

However, despite beating back the criminal charges, the strike morale was broken, and the union driven out. Throughout the country workers were sympathetic to the struggle at Homestead, and needless to say, the spokesmen of the capitalist class were furious. Strikers were referred to as a “mob.”

The New York Times granted that the company had provoked the battle, nevertheless maintained solidarity with its class brother and insisted that the obligation of the state was “to enforce law and order at Homestead, to quell the mob, to put the property of the Carnegie Steel Company in possession its owners and to protect their lawful rights.”

Despite ending in defeat, Homestead was an important moment in the history of class struggle in America.

What happened at Homestead was not a riot.

It was organised class violence, consciously controlled by the workers, as part of the struggle.

Homestead demonstrated clearly the capacity of workers to organise their struggles, to resist the attacks of the capitalist class, to achieve an active solidarity in struggle, to organise their own power to rival that of the local state apparatus during the struggle, to organise class violence and exercise it judiciously.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Jury Sets Free Seven Militants Who Attacked British Factory Supplying Weapons To Zionists Butchering Palestinians In Gaza

The seven entered the factory on 16th Jan 2009, causing nearly £200,000 of damage and shutting down production. They offered no defence other than the prevention of imminent war crimes.

From: Ewa Jasiewicz
To: Military Resistance
Sent: July 02, 2010
Subject: Final 2 EDO Decommissioners Found Not Guilty

YESSS!!!

***NOW* we can celebrate.**

Sweet relief.

Sweet victory.

Carry on smashing!!!

Smash EDO

2 July 2010

Hove Crown Court, Brighton UK
Final two Decommissioners Found NOT GUILTY!

The jury in the trial of seven activists who decommissioned a Brighton arms factory to prevent Israel war crimes in Gaza in January 2009, have now found all seven activists not guilty of Conspiracy to Cause Criminal Damage by unanimous verdict in Hove Crown Court.

The seven entered the factory on 16th Jan 2009, causing nearly £200,000 of damage and shutting down production. They offered no defence other than the prevention of imminent war crimes.

Simon Levin, Tom Woodhead, Ornella Saibene, Bob Nicholls, Harvey Tadman were all acquitted on Wednesday.

The final two, Elijah Smith and Chris Osmond were acquitted this morning.

Chris Osmond said “This action was taken was taken because of EDO MBMs illegal supply of weapons to the Israeli military. We brought the suffering of ordinary Palestinians into a British courtroom and confronted with the evidence they took the brave decision to find that our actions were justified”

All have now been found not guilty by unanimous verdict.

MORE:

Silly Zionist Ambassador Denounces Judge As British Jury Finds Militants Defending Palestinians Not Guilty: “The Five Defendants Said They Were Seeking To Prevent War Crimes In Gaza”

07.02.10 Roni Sofer, Ynet [Excerpts]

Israeli Ambassador to the United Kingdom Ron Prosor has harshly criticized a British judge who displayed a blatant anti-Semitic stand, after a jury acquitted five residents who broke into an arms factory and caused heavy damage.

The five defendants said they were seeking to prevent war crimes in Gaza.

According to the report which angered the Israeli ambassador, the five were acquitted despite causing £180,000 (about \$270,000) damage to the arms factory shortly after Operation Cast Lead in Gaza.

The five admitted they had broken in and sabotaged the factory on the outskirts of Brighton, but argued they were legally justified in doing so.

They said they believed that EDO MBM, the firm that owns the factory, was breaking export regulations by manufacturing and selling to the Israelis military equipment which would be used by the Israeli army against Palestinians in the territories.

They added that they wanted to slow down the manufacture of these components, and impede what they believed were war crimes being committed by Israel against the Palestinians.

One of the defendants, Robert Nicholls, told the Guardian after being acquitted: "I'm joyful really, at being a free man.

"The action was impulsive really, we just wanted to do something that would make a real difference to the people of Palestine."

Another, Ornella Saibene, said: "I've felt very peaceful all the way through the trial because I'm proud of what I've done. It was the right thing to do."

According to the Guardian, the group used the "lawful excuse" defense – committing an offense to prevent a more serious crime – as a tactic in their campaigns.

Four of the activists, aged 25 to 52, are from Bristol.

The fifth lives in Brighton. The British report mentions the Goldstone Report, which ruled that Israel had committed war crimes during the Gaza offensive.

The seven entered the factory on 16th Jan 2009, causing nearly £200,000 of damage and shutting down production. They offered no defence other than the prevention of imminent war crimes.

[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."]

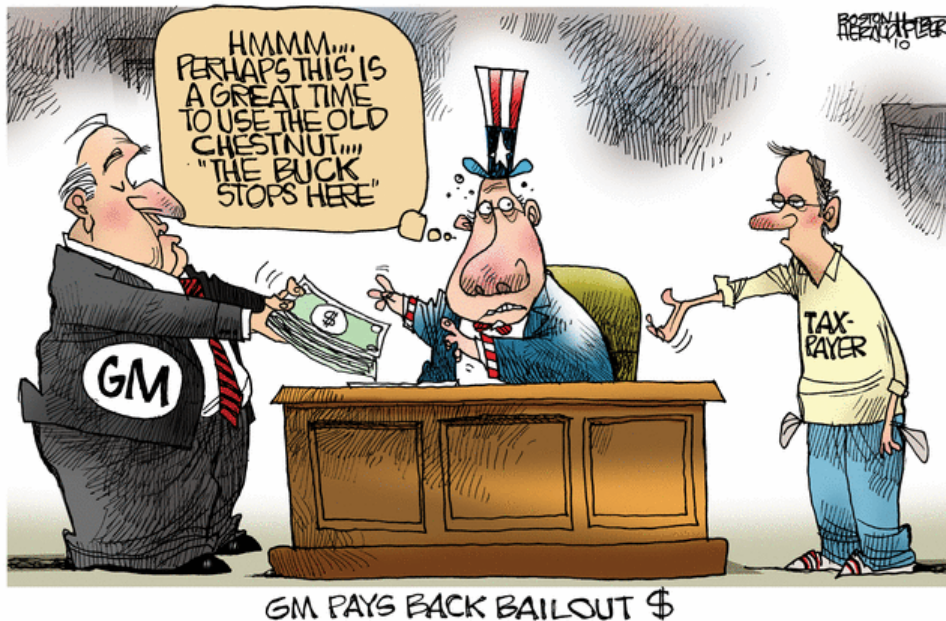
DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



CLASS WAR REPORTS



Class War Bangladesh!
“Over 50,000 Striking Garment Workers Again Fought With Police And Paramilitary Security Forces, Forcing Closure Of At Least 300 Factories”

“Police Super Mozammel Haque Told Reporters From The Spot That It Had Become Tough For The Police To Bring The Situation Under Control Because The Demonstrators Outnumbered The Law Enforcers”

“The Next Day The Government Labour Minister Announced That Workers Would Get A Pay Rise”



Fighting and road blocks continued throughout the day, as intense battles with security forces spread across a wide area. Factory property, including delivery vans, was also attacked, with windows and sewing machines smashed.

Jun 24 2010 by Ret Marut, Lib.com

A survey of recent unrest in the garment industry, as agitation for a greatly increased minimum wage - as part of an improved wage structure - continues.

In the past two weeks garment workers' agitations for a large increase in the present monthly minimum wage of Tk 1,662 (£16/€19/\$24) have spread and intensified. A minimum wage of Tk 5,000 (£48/€58/\$71) has long been demanded - and more recent reports quote a figure of Tk 6,200 (£59/€72/\$89). The Ready Made Garment (RMG) bosses have offered only Tk 1,887 (£18/€22/\$27).

"... the minimum wage for RMG workers of Tk 1,662 per month ... was fixed in line with a tripartite agreement between the government, and the representatives of workers and factory owners in November 2006 ... it's been almost four years since the RMG workers' minimum wage was revised, that too after a break 12 years and in the wake of persistent labour unrest in factories in the capital. ... given the raging inflation, induced by price spiral of food and other essential commodities, it is virtually impossible for an individual, let alone his or her family, to sustain on Tk 1,662 per month. ... the monthly wage demanded by the RMG workers, while in itself not much if inflation is factored, happens to be the lowest compared to the salary demanded by workers in other sectors."
(Editorial - New Age, 22 June 2010)

The wages of the 4 million RMG workers working in 4,500 factories - 85% are women - were recently confirmed as remaining the lowest salaries in the world.

The factories employ about 40 per cent of the country's industrial workforce.

The recent agitation began on Sunday 13th June in Ashulia, an industrial suburb near Dhaka with a history of workers' rebellion.

Wildcat strikes began at factories of the Envoy Group, which is owned by the president of the main employers' federation, the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association. (In the prolonged tripartite negotiations between workers' representatives, government and employers, the BGMEA has consistently refused to budge on the wage demands, offering only minor increases.)

Eight and a half thousand workers struck to demonstrate for wage increases and other benefits; RMG bosses responded by lockouts - closing the factories.

Workers barricaded main roads, fighting began when cops arrived, workers lobbing bricks at them; workers then broke up into several groups and began attacking various factory buildings. Other factories then began to shut in an effort to avoid further trouble - but their closure brought more workers onto the streets.

Police eventually cleared the area with teargas. Forty people were injured, including ten cops.

BGMEA President Abdus Salam Murshedy, also managing director of the Envoy Group, complained that, despite being laid off, for three days “workers had been going to work ... and leaving after swiping their punch cards”.

“We held a meeting on Friday with the workers to restore work environment but they have not been coming to work since the meeting,’ Murshedy said. ‘They did not even submit any memorandum and held protests.” (newagebd.com, 14 June 2010)

That the Envoy workers took strike action but didn’t bother to send any demands to the bosses of their own workplace suggests that the demand for an RMG minimum wage is now seen as a industry-wide (or even class-wide) movement. Some of the arrested rioters have not been garment workers, but probably other workers from local neighbourhoods who are often drawn into riots as they spill over into residential areas and police enter slum quarters.

In the following days the unrest continued in similar fashion;

On Tuesday 15th June at Tejgaon in central Dhaka, 25 were injured in clashes.

Police used teargas, baton charges and rubber bullets to disperse protesting workers. 1,300 workers gathered outside their Shomahar Sweaters Ltd factory, expecting it to reopen after its closure since June 10 due to workers’ unrest over pay demands.

But instead they found a notice informing them the factory was shutting for an indefinite period and that 47 workers have been suspended for “creating anarchy” in previous protests.

The workers began an angry demonstration and were joined by fellow workers from nearby workplaces. Clashes with police followed.

Saturday June 19th, Savar, Dhaka; 7,000 Nasa Group workers began a demonstration inside their factory demanding the new minimum wage of Tk 5,000.

Then, leaving the factory, workers from 16 factories blocked a main highway; eventually tens of thousands of workers poured onto the streets and many clashes continued through the morning.

Police used baton charges, teargas, water cannon, rubber bullets and shotgun rounds against workers, who replied with volleys of bricks and barricades; 100 were injured, including 20 cops. Workers also damaged over 35 factories, and looted goods worth Tk 12 lakh (£11,500/€14,000/\$17,000).

“Dhaka district additional police super Mozammel Haque told reporters from the spot that it had become tough for the police to bring the situation under control because the demonstrators outnumbered the law enforcers.” (The New Nation, 20 June 2010)

Over 75 factories were forced to close for the day. The BGMEA President complained;

“There is no way we can operate in this violent environment. The labour unrest is also creating panic among global buyers.” (Financial Express, 20th June 2010)

The unrest was by now seriously hitting profits; the global purchasers of RMG stock - including leading US and European brands - demand fast turnaround times with contractual financial penalties for late deliveries of orders. The boat workers' strike last month meant RMG companies were forced to shift from cargo shipping to using far more costly air freight services - now, the garment workers' unrest was having the same effect.

The BGMEA President claimed; "Foreign buyers have lost confidence on our industry following the vandalism. If such unrest continues they may find alternative sources," he said. The negative impact of the present situation will be visible in November, he added.

But so far, through years of recurring unrest in the garment sector, the foreign buyers have always quickly recovered their "confidence" in the industry, encouraged by cheaper prices underpinned by the lowest labour costs in the world. The RMG sector made up 80% of Bangladesh's 15.56 billion dollars export last year.

"Monday 21st June, Ashulia; The Unrest Reached A New Peak"

Monday 21st June, Ashulia; the unrest reached a new peak - after growing clashes in the previous two days, over 50,000 striking garment workers again fought with police and paramilitary security forces, forcing closure of at least 300 factories. Around 85 factories were vandalised.

The trouble began at the Ananta Group factories, where 10,000 workers staged demonstrations for the basic minimum monthly wage increase.

The unrest then spread to the Ha-Meem Group factory, where 26,000 workers held protests and then walked off the job. Soon tens of thousands of other workers joined the protesters after owners of 300 factories suspended production and declared a holiday for the day, fearing large-scale violence.

The workers then spilled onto the narrow highway linking the capital, Dhaka, with the northern districts.

This massive demonstration of more than 50,000 was described as "turning the area into a "human sea" stretching for miles".

Fighting and road blocks continued throughout the day, as intense battles with security forces spread across a wide area. Factory property, including delivery vans, was also attacked, with windows and sewing machines smashed. The protesters were finally dispersed in the afternoon.

Trouble was also reported in garment factory zones far from Ashulia. In the face of the sheer scale and combativity of the movement, on Monday night the BGMEA declared an indefinite closure of all RMG factories in Ashulia. The area was swamped with a massive police presence.

The next day, Tuesday, the government Labour Minister announced that workers would get a pay rise that took into account price inflation of basic goods;

Labour minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain says readymade garment workers will get their remuneration under new salary structure within three months and asked them to calm down.

He said a new wage board will be formed with necessary reforms to the salary structure.

The minister also admitted that the existing wage structure is not compatible with the current situation.

Mosharraf was presiding over a meeting on 'Crisis Management Cell' - formed to resolve complications and unrest in the RMG sector - at his office on Wednesday. ...

"The minimum wage is in no way well-suited with the current situation," the minister told reporters. "It must be consistent with the price of daily essentials and inflation rate." ... "The new wage board will finalise the salary structure by three months. ... (bdnews24.com, Dhaka, 23 June 2010)

The next day, Wednesday, with pressure from foreign clients (with their stocks running low and expecting order deliveries) the BGMEA reopened the Ahulia factories and workers returned under a heavy police presence;

Nearly a thousand riot police, armed with several water cannons, were in the area where as many as 800,000 people are employed by subcontractors working on behalf of global retailers such as Wal-Mart, Tesco and H & M.

Factories reopened despite smashed windows and damaged sewing machines, desperate to stop the protests affecting orders from Western buyers, said garment manufacturer Envoy Group's director Sultan Noorani.

"We are worried about late delivery - if you are late by one day, international buyers cut five percent off the order price," he said, adding that his factory was now late on an order of shorts for Wal-Mart.

"We will be forced to use air cargo to deliver things, which is expensive. For the last week, we've had problems with this strike. We plan to raise wages as soon as the government makes a decision, but workers are impatient." (The Bangladesh Today, 24 June 2010)

Negotiations continue on the wage issue.

But the 'workers' representatives' bodies in the garment industry function more like NGOs than Western-style unions.

Factory owners have refused to allow conventional union structures to mediate workplace disputes and conditions.

Consequently, the class struggle in and around the factories is only loosely related to both negotiations and negotiators and acts largely independently of them.

So far, there have been less than a dozen arrests of workers reported, and a handful of sackings. Warrants have been issued against 180 named people; while a blanket criminal charge has been brought by the police against 60,000 - sixty thousand - unnamed participants in the protests!

But experts warn more violence is not far off.

“Unless the wages are increased, protests, riots and stoppages will persist,” said Ifty Islam, an investment banker at Dhaka-based Asian Tiger Capital, advising factory owners and Western buyers to give ground in the escalating dispute.

“It would be worth it for them in the long term,” he said. “Bangladesh has a huge opportunity to capitalise on rising costs in China but it is difficult to get more foreign firms to come if we can’t prevent labour unrest.”

The violent protests threaten to undo the benefits the global economic recovery has brought Bangladesh -a 15 percent year-on-year increase in exports for April and May 2010, said Dhaka-based economist Mustafizur Rahman.

“The violence is a bad omen and we need to sort it out quickly - we’ve just started to see signs of global recovery through new orders but unrest threatens this,” said Rahman, who heads the Center for Policy Dialogue think-tank. (The Bangladesh Today, 25 June 2010)

With full shelves for Western retailers dependent on reliable fast turnaround times for factory orders, strikes remain a potent tactic for garment workers.

With full order books for RMG bosses dependent on timely delivery for the cheapest prices, low wages continue to be seen as a necessity by many factory owners. An announcement on the new wage structure has been promised for July 28th.

The struggle continues.

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