

Military Resistance 8K16

NOT ANOTHER DAY
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR
NOT ANOTHER LIFE



U.S. Marines help their wounded comrade to a helicopter during a Medevac mission in southern Afghanistan's Helmand Province November 12, 2010. REUTERS/Peter Andrews

**“Killing Each Taliban Soldier
Costs \$50 Million”**

**“Killing 20 Taliban Costs \$1
Billion”**

**“Killing All The Taliban Would Cost
\$1.7 Trillion”**

**“The Ponderous American War
Machine Is A Logistics Nightmare
And A Maintenance Train Wreck”**

[Thanks to Michael Letwin, New York City Labor Against The War & Military Resistance, who sent this in.]

This author served at a senior level within the U.S. Air Force.

Air Force “smart” bombs are no way near as consistently accurate as the Pentagon boasts; Army mortars remain inaccurate; even standard American field rifles are frequently outmatched by Taliban weapons, which have a longer range.

30 September 2010 by Matthew Nasuti, Kabul Press. [Excerpts]

The Pentagon will not tell the public what it costs to locate, target and kill a single Taliban soldier because the price-tag is so scandalously high that it makes the Taliban appear to be Super-Soldiers.

As set out in this article, the estimated cost to kill each Taliban is as high as \$100 million, with a conservative estimate being \$50 million.

A public discussion should be taking place in the United States regarding whether the Taliban have become too expensive an enemy to defeat.

Each month the Pentagon generates a ream of dubious statistics designed to create the illusion of progress in Afghanistan.

In response this author decided to compile his own statistics.

As the goal of any war is to kill the enemy, the idea was to calculate what it actually costs to kill just one of the enemy.

The obstacles encountered in generating such a statistic are formidable. The problem is that the Pentagon continues to illegally classify all negative war news and embarrassing information.

Regardless, some information has been collected from independent sources.

Here is what we know in summary and round numbers:

- 1. Taliban Field Strength: 35,000 troops**
- 2. Taliban Killed Per Year by Coalition forces: 2,000 (best available information)**
- 3. Pentagon Direct Costs for Afghan War for 2010: \$100 billion**
- 4. Pentagon Indirect Costs for Afghan War for 2010: \$100 billion**

Using the fact that 2,000 Taliban are being killed each year and that the Pentagon spends \$200 billion per year on the war in Afghanistan, one simply has to divide one number into the other.

That calculation reveals that \$100 million is being spent to kill each Taliban soldier.

In order to be conservative, the author decided to double the number of Taliban being killed each year by U.S. and NATO forces (although the likelihood of such being true is unlikely).

This reduces the cost to kill each Taliban to \$50 million, which is the title of this article.

The final number is outrageously high regardless of how one calculates it.

To put this information another way, using the conservative estimate of \$50 million to kill each Taliban:

It costs the American taxpayers \$1 billion to kill 20 Taliban

As the U.S. military estimates there to be 35,000 hard-core Taliban and assuming that no reinforcements and replacements will arrive from Pakistan and Iran:

Just killing the existing Taliban would cost \$1.75 Trillion

The reason for these exorbitant costs is that United States has the world's most mechanized, computerized, weaponized and synchronized military, not to mention the most pampered (at least at Forward Operating Bases).

An estimated 150,000 civilian contractors support, protect, feed and cater to the American personnel in Afghanistan, which is an astonishing number.

The Americans enjoy such perks and distinctions in part because no other country is willing to pay (waste) so much money on their military.

The ponderous American war machine is a logistics nightmare and a maintenance train wreck.

It is also part-myth.

This author served at a senior level within the U.S. Air Force.

Air Force "smart" bombs are no way near as consistently accurate as the Pentagon boasts; Army mortars remain inaccurate; even standard American field rifles are frequently outmatched by Taliban weapons, which have a longer range.

The American public would pale if it actually learned the full story about the poor quality of the weapons and equipment that are being purchased with its tax dollars.

Appendix (Supporting Information)

Taliban Field Strength:

The figure of 35,000 is based on an interview given by General Stanley McChrystal earlier this year.

Taliban Soldiers Killed:

The Pentagon refuses to disclose the total number of Taliban killed each month in Afghanistan by coalition forces, special operations personnel and the CIA.

One reason became obvious during Operation Moshtarak in Marjah earlier this year.

The Pentagon and NATO refused to specify the actual number of Taliban casualties in Marjah because the number was embarrassing low.

American, NATO and Afghan forces reportedly suffered more casualties (killed and wounded) than they inflicted on the Taliban, making Marjah a military defeat for the West (if casualties determine victory or defeat).

To fill the gap created by Pentagon silence on this issue, media groups have published their own Taliban casualty count based on official and press reports.

That count is inflated as the U.S. military labels everyone it kills a "Taliban militant," even if they are criminals, drug traders, war lords or civilians defending their homes.

As a result of the Pentagon's lack of credibility on this issue, this author assumes that only 50% of those labeled as Taliban actually are.

The Associated Press has reported that 3,800 militants were killed in 2008, and 4,500 in 2009. Pro-NATO blogs, such as the web site "Terrorist Death Watch," have calculated that 3,667 terrorists have been killed in Afghanistan since January 1, 2006, (about 700 per year). The author assumes that an average of 2,000 hard-core Taliban are killed each year

U.S. Military Costs:

Total military expenditures in Afghanistan are not clear as the Pentagon does not release all of its direct and indirect cost for the war.

While most direct costs are known, billions of dollars in CIA and special operations costs are improperly classified and remain hidden.

In addition, the indirect costs for the war (i.e., military regular pay, equipment depreciation, wear & tear, long term health costs, Pentagon support costs within the U.S., USTRANSCOM transportation costs, transport hub costs such as Manas air base, costs for borrowing funds etc.) are not precisely known. Independent studies conducted of the Iraq war are available and they calculate that the indirect costs equal or exceed the direct costs.

What we know about Pentagon direct costs is as follows:

- From 2001, to April 2009, the Pentagon directly spent \$171.7 billion in Afghanistan.

From May 2009, to the present, the Pentagon directly spent an additional \$166.3 billion. This is an incredible increase over the past 17 months.

Monthly expenditures have also seen a staggering increase.

October 2009, the Pentagon was directly spending \$3.6 billion a month.

February 2010, the Pentagon was directly spending \$6.7 billion a month.

October 2010, with the addition of 35,000 more combat and support troops into Afghanistan, the number must be close to \$8 billion a month.

Some estimates place direct Pentagon Afghan war costs for all of 2010, at \$105 billion.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Car Bombs Kill Prison Commander In North Iraq

Nov 15 By HAMID AHMED, The Associated Press

BAGHDAD -- A prison commander and his body guard were killed on Monday when twin car bombs detonated outside a residential complex housing prison guards and staff in northern Iraq, officials said.

The Badoosh prison, on the outskirts of Mosul, holds convicted insurgents, militants and criminals from across Iraq. Although it was not immediately clear who was behind the blasts near the prison complex, the facility is known for a poor security record.

Police and hospital officials in the northern city of Mosul, 225 miles (360 kilometers) northwest of Baghdad said the parked, explosives-laden vehicles went off as the commander of the Badoosh prison, Lt. Col. Hussein al-Jibouri, was heading to work on Monday morning. He was killed in the blast, along with one of his bodyguards.

An Iraqi intelligence official in Mosul confirmed al-Jibouri died in the attacks that also wounded 11 more police.

Resistance Action

Nov 15 (Reuters) & By HAMID AHMED, The Associated Press

QAIM - A bomb placed inside a traffic police booth killed one policeman in Qaim, 300 km (185 miles) west of Baghdad, police said.

BAGHDAD - Two policemen were wounded when a roadside bomb went off near a police patrol in Palestine Street in northeastern Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said.

BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb wounded two Iraqi soldiers while on foot patrol near al-Nasr Square in central Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said.

BAGHDAD - A sticky bomb attached to a car killed the driver, an embassy security guard, and wounded a passenger in Baghdad's west-central district of Mansour, on Sunday night, an Interior Ministry source said.

An Iraqi policeman was killed when a roadside bomb struck a patrol in downtown Baghdad.

BAGHDAD - Four policemen were wounded when a roadside bomb detonated on Monday morning in eastern part of the capital,

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

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

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

UPDATE:
Two More Foreign Occupation
“Servicemembers” Killed Somewhere Or
Other In Afghanistan Sunday:
Total Of Five Probably American

November 15 Reuters

Two additional foreign servicemembers have died following an insurgent attack in eastern Afghanistan Sunday, for a total of five.

The majority of troops serving in the volatile east are American.

Soldier From Clemmons Killed In Afghanistan, Defense Department Says



The body of Jacob C. Carroll of Clemmons arriving at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware

November 15, 2010 By Journal Staff Report

CLEMMONS — Army Pfc. Jacob C. Carroll of Clemmons has been killed while fighting in Afghanistan, according to the Department of Defense.

The Journal's newsgathering partner, WGHP/Fox 8, said the Department of Defense announced the death of Army Pfc. Jacob C. Carroll who was supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

Early Monday, Carroll's body was placed in a transfer vehicle upon arrival at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware.

Fallen Soldier Took Toughest Jobs

November 11 STEVE MOCARSKY, The Times Leader

U.S. Army Spc. Dale Kridlo was performing route clearance duties in Kunar province, Afghanistan, when he and a fellow soldier were fatally wounded on Sunday by insurgents who attacked their unit with small-arms fire, according to officials at Fort Bragg, N.C., where his unit was based.

It was an extremely dangerous task, according to the battalion commander. But the hardest and most dangerous jobs were the kind that Kridlo, 33, of Hughestown, would request, his father said Wednesday.

“He would always ask for the toughest one,” said Albert Kridlo, 61, of Hughestown. “He had one of the most difficult jobs in Afghanistan, and that’s coming from Maj. Gen. (Karl R.) Horst. Unfortunately, the toughest is also the most dangerous. And he lost his life when his team got ambushed.”

Horst, Albert Kridlo said, spoke with him and his son's mother, Michelle Dale, at Dover Air Force Base in Dover, Del., where their son's body was returned on Monday. As of Wednesday night, the soldier's body had not yet been released to the family.

Kridlo and Cpl. Aaron Cruttenden, 25, of Mesa, Ariz., both died of wounds suffered in the insurgent attack. They were assigned to the 161st Engineer Support Co. (Airborne), 27th Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Airborne), 20th Engineer Brigade (Combat), based with the XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg.

"Specialist Dale Kridlo and Corporal Aaron Cruttenden were outstanding soldiers who died fighting to protect their platoon and fellow soldiers," Lt. Col. Alan Dodd, the soldiers' battalion commander, said in a press release.

"Although route clearance is an extremely dangerous and challenging mission for any soldier, it is because of the bravery of heroes such as Kridlo and Cruttenden that routes are safer from (improvised explosive devices) for both Coalition Forces and the Afghan people. They laid down their lives in the service of others and their sacrifice will not be forgotten in the 27th Engineer Battalion," Dodd said.

Both soldiers enlisted in the Army in 2008. Cruttenden arrived at the 27th Engineer Battalion in October 2008, Kridlo in June 2009. They both served as combat engineers during route clearance operations while assigned to the 161st Engineer Support Co. It was the first deployment for both soldiers.

When Dale Kridlo told his father he wanted to join the Army, Albert Kridlo said he told his son he should join the Air Force instead because airmen had better living facilities.

"He said, 'You were in the Army, Grandpa was in the Army, I want to be in the Army.' I said, 'Then you go ahead and do it. It's not an easy way to go.' But it was never the easy way with Dale. It was the way he wanted to do it, and he would not be dissuaded," Kridlo said.

Spc. Kridlo had a brief, yet distinguished career with the Army. His awards, decorations, campaign and service medals include the Bronze Star Medal posthumous, Purple Heart posthumous, Army Commendation Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Medal and Combat Action Badge.

Cruttenden won the same awards, decorations, campaign and service medals as Kridlo, as well as the Army Achievement Medal and Parachutist Badge. He will be promoted to sergeant posthumously.

Kridlo's father did not want to talk about his own military service, insisting the focus remain on his son's life, not his. He would only say that he served in the Army from 1969 to 1971.

Dale's late grandfather, Aloysius Kridlo, served in the Army for three years during World War II with the 5th Armored Divisions and, when the war ended in Europe, with other units prior to his discharge. He received five Battle Stars entitling him to the Silver Star. He also served 16 years as a councilman in Pittston, according to his obituary.

Flags at Pittston City Hall have flown at half-staff since Monday. And on Wednesday, Gov. Ed Rendell ordered all U.S. and state flags in the Capitol Complex and at commonwealth facilities in Luzerne County to be flown at half-staff in honor of Kridlo. Flags will remain at half-staff through his interment.

Albert Kridlo couldn't be more proud of his son's service.

"He became a real soldier, a professional soldier. He loved what he was doing. He challenged himself, and he challenged the men around him. And he was there for them. If somebody was struggling with a (physical fitness) test, he would stay and help them," he said.

That pride in his son extended to his personal life as well.

Before enlisting, the Pittston Area High School graduate had a painting business when he lived in Dickson City. He had countless painting jobs in the Abingtons, Dalton, Clarks Summit and Scranton areas, his father said.

"He was a fun-loving guy, he had a smile for everybody. He was charming, he drew people to him – children, teenagers, men his own age, women his own age. That was his personality," Albert Kridlo said.

Dale Kridlo was a good sport, his father added, as well as a fan of Philadelphia sports teams – the Flyers, Phillies and Eagles. They had attended several games together.

The father and son also were members of the Upper Pittston Sportsmen Club. Some favorite memories include Dale, family and friends – "mostly guys" – sitting around a campfire and just enjoying time in the woods at the family's cabin in Wyoming County. Dale loved to take his 9-year-old twin daughters, Madelyne and Zoe, to the cabin as well.

The girls lived with their mother in Colorado after their parents divorced.

In addition to his parents and daughters, Kridlo is survived by a brother, Damian Kridlo, of Hamburg, Germany; and his grandmother, Alberta Kridlo, of Pittston.

Dates, times and locations for his funeral arrangements have not been finalized and are pending release of his body from Dover Air Force Base.

Resistance Action

November 14 By RAHIM FAIEZ, AP & November 15, 2010 By Gul Rahim, AFP

Nine security guards and seven Taliban have been killed in a battle at a telecommunications tower in northern Afghanistan, a police commander says.

"This morning Taliban attacked a telephone-antenna guarding post," Kunduz provincial police chief Abdul Rahman Sayedkhaili told AFP.

Police reinforcements were later sent to the scene and one officer was also killed, he added.

Residents say that all mobile phones go down after dark in Kunduz, a troubled province where the Taliban have a strong presence.

Insurgents killed three Afghan policemen, who died when their vehicle hit a roadside bomb in Uruzgan province in the south, said Gov. Khudi Rahim. Two other policemen were wounded in the blast in Tarin Kot district, he said.

A motorcycle bomb exploded in a market in a remote town in Kunduz on Saturday. The attack bore the hallmarks of the Taliban, with local police saying that the target was a pro-government militia commander, who died in the blast.

THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO COMPREHENSIBLE REASON TO BE IN THIS EXTREMELY HIGH RISK LOCATION AT THIS TIME, EXCEPT THAT THE PACK OF TRAITORS THAT RUN THE GOVERNMENT IN D.C. WANT YOU THERE TO DEFEND THEIR IMPERIAL DREAMS: That is not a good enough reason.



A U.S. Army medic treats a U.S. soldier wounded by an explosion, during a Medevac flight in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province, November 4, 2010. REUTERS/Peter Andrews



U.S. Marines take defensive positions after a rocket was fired at their base Nov. 4, 2010 in Sangin, Afghanistan. The rocket overshot the base. (AP Photo/Dusan Vranic)



Artillery rounds of phosphorescence explode above Taliban positions during a battle in Musa Qala district in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province November 7, 2010. REUTERS/Finbarr O'Reilly



A U.S. Marine from the First Battalion, Eighth Marines Bravo Company, in action during battle against Taliban insurgents in Musa Qala district in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province November 7, 2010. REUTERS/Finbarr O'Reilly



U.S. Marine, left and Navy a corpsman with 5th Marines, First Marine Division, take cover as shots are fired at their patrol, Nov. 7, 2010 in Sangin, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Dusan Vranic)



U.S. Marines with 5th Marines, First Marine Division, return fire during a patrol, Nov. 7, 2010 in Sangin, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Dusan Vranic)



Crew Chief from 1-214 AVN Dustoff helps U.S. Marine (R), who was shot in the leg and the arm, as his comrade, who was shot in the leg, looks on during a Medevac mission in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province November 10, 2010. REUTERS/Peter Andrews

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MILITARY NEWS

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?



The remains of Army Spc. Jonathan M. Curtis of Belmont, Mass. and Army Pfc. Andrew N. Meari of Plainfield, Ill. at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Nov. 2, 2010. Curtis and Meari were killed in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)

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**

Marines Ranks Elect Councils “To Defend Themselves Against Command Reprisals And Continued Racial Abuse”



From: SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT, Anchor Press/Doubleday, Garden City, New York, 1975. Now available in paperback from Haymarket Books.

Perhaps the most tragic uprising of recent years took place on July 20, 1969, at Camp Lejeune.

Occurring a few days prior to a scheduled embarkation of the 2nd Marine Division to the Mediterranean, the fighting left fourteen injured and resulted in the death of one white Marine, Corporal Ed Bankston of Picayune, Mississippi.

Arising out of a dispute over discrimination at a base enlisted men's club, the brawl soon turned into a black-versus-white melee near the 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, barracks area. Black and Puerto Rican GIs involved, most of them Vietnam veterans, later laid the blame for the incident not on anyone particular act but on the accumulated frustrations of months of command harassment.

Their interpretation was corroborated by the division's "Ad Hoc Committee on Equal Treatment and Opportunity," which had issued its findings months before the July 20

outburst. Obtained by the New York Times several weeks after the riot, the report contained the warning, apparently unheeded, that “an explosive situation of major proportions” existed on post.

Although the committee was composed of seven officers and had been appointed by the base commanding officer, it found that “many white officers and NCOs retain prejudices and deliberately practice them”; the report verified that many off-base facilities were segregated and that black recruits were subjected to excessive harassment from MPs.

The differing responses to the Camp Lejeune riot, by the Marine Corps on the one hand and the black enlisted men on the other, is instructive of the gap separating the two groups in a supposedly homogeneous military organization, and helps explain why black GIs and white commanders remained at odds -- despite official claims of improved relations.

In a frantic law-and-order crackdown, the Camp Lejeune command installed huge bright lights and armed sentries along troop paths between barracks; three reaction forces were also created -- equipped with tear gas, walkie-talkies, and loaded guns.

Twenty-six Marines involved in the July 20 incident were flown back to the States from the Atlantic cruise for criminal action -- twenty-four black and two Spanish-speaking men, but no whites.

The blacks, meanwhile, apparently assuming that little if any satisfaction would come from official quarters, set up their own organization, the “Council of Concerned Marines,” to defend themselves against command reprisals and continued racial abuse.

Among the Council’s activities were a petition campaign to free those arrested for the riot and an effort to form a network of elected representatives from the black minority within each company.

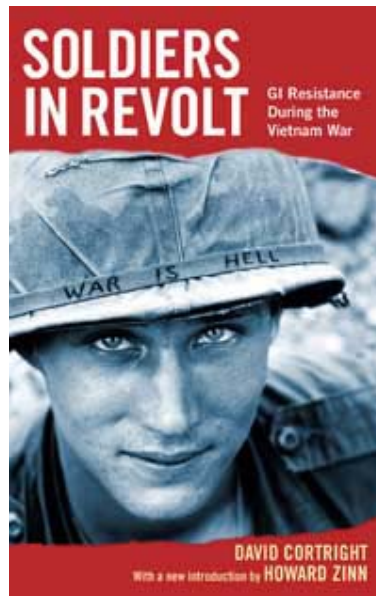
At the same time, Marines aboard the U.S.S. LaSalle on cruise off the coast of Spain also organized to defend themselves. An organization was formed to work as an independent shore patrol for blacks (as protection from abuse by white MPs) and to press for more black representation in shipboard affairs.

In the 2nd Marine Division, as in so many military units, a virtual state of war raged between minority servicemen and their white superiors. ‘

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SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT, Anchor Press/Doubleday, Garden City, New York

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OCCUPATION HAITI

**“Haiti Is A Country Betrayed,
Occupied And Oppressed”
“The Great Powers Have Renewed
Their Six-Year Colonial Occupation,
Orchestrated Sham Elections And
Laid Plans For Sweatshop
Development To Exploit The
Desperate Population”
“The U.S. And Other Great Powers Are,
In Fact, The Real State Power In The
Country, Through Their Neocolonial UN
Occupation”**

Moreover, the NGOs that capitalized on the overwhelming sympathy of the world's people for Haitians have similarly betrayed their promises to aid quake victims and help reconstruct the country. "The large charities have a lot of money in their bank accounts that's not getting spent in Haiti," Melinda Miles of the Haiti Response Coalition told the Associated Press.

November 12, 2010 By Ashley Smith, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

TEN MONTHS after the earthquake that killed 300,000 people and drove 2 million people into temporary camps, Haiti is a country betrayed, occupied and oppressed.

The U.S. and other powerful nations, along with the UN and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), pledged money and resources to aid the quake's victims and rebuild Port-au-Prince, the country's devastated capital.

Instead, the great powers have renewed their six-year colonial occupation, orchestrated sham elections and laid plans for sweatshop development to exploit the desperate population.

Even before the cholera epidemic and the latest hurricane, conditions were horrific.

Over 1.5 million are still trapped in what can only be called refugee camps. There are at least 1,500 of such camps on all sorts of land, from the plaza across from the destroyed National Palace to the medians between roads and golf courses.

According to an extensive study, titled "We Have Been Forgotten," by the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti, 75 percent of families in these camps had someone go an entire day without eating, 44 percent drink untreated water, and 27 percent had no access to sanitation and therefore had no choice but to defecate on the open ground.

Moreover, according to the International Organization for Migration, 12,000 refugees have been evicted from their camps and another 87,000 are on the verge of eviction.

There has been next to no reconstruction in Port-au-Prince and the surrounding area.

According to the Los Angeles Times, by the end of this summer, only 2 percent of the rubble had been removed from Port-au-Prince. The capital city is still in ruins.

On top of that, the great powers, the UN and the NGOs have barely begun to build alternative housing for the refugees. Only 13,000 temporary shelters--less than 10 percent of the number planned--have actually been built.

Amid these deplorable conditions, criminal businesses prey on people's despair. For example, child traffickers have been doing a booming business. The Miami Herald reports that since the earthquake, "more than 7,300 boys and girls have been smuggled out of their homeland to the Dominican Republic by traffickers profiting on the hunger and desperation of Haitian children and their families. In 2009, the figure was 950, according to one human rights group that monitors child trafficking at 10 border points."

WHILE U.S. politicians and the media like to blame the Haitian state for this dire situation, the truth is that the U.S. is principally to blame for it.

Over the last 30 years, the U.S. imposed neoliberal policies that privatized state industry, smashed tariffs that protected the domestic economy, and opened the country up to sweatshops and tourism.

In reaction to the poverty created by these policies, the urban poor, workers and peasants elected Jean-Bertrand Aristide and his Lavalas party to improve conditions in 1990.

The U.S., in collusion with Haitian ruling class, proceeded to topple him twice--once in 1991 and again in 2004.

Today, they have reduced the administration of current President René Préval to a puppet regime that loyally obeys the dictates of the imperial powers.

The U.S. and other great powers are, in fact, the real state power in the country, through their neocolonial UN occupation. They are largely to blame for the failure to address the needs of quake victims and rebuild the country.

At the end of March, the great powers met in a conference in New York City, set up the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission (IHRC) and pledged \$10 billion in aid for reconstruction, with \$5.3 billion specified for the next 18 months.

Now, seven months after the conference, the Office of the UN Special Envoy reports that most of the nations have failed to deliver funds.

They have only donated 32 percent of the goal for 2010 and 2011 and have actually disbursed even less--22 percent--for projects in Haiti. The U.S. is the biggest offender. It has not donated even one penny of its \$1.15 billion pledge.

Moreover, the NGOs that capitalized on the overwhelming sympathy of the world's people for Haitians have similarly betrayed their promises to aid quake victims and help reconstruct the country.

"The large charities have a lot of money in their bank accounts that's not getting spent in Haiti," Melinda Miles of the Haiti Response Coalition told the Associated Press.

The biggest culprit is the Red Cross, which had spent only a third of the \$480 million it raised after the quake.

Unsurprisingly, Haitians are furious with these NGOs.

As anthropologist Mark Schuller reports "Most people are angry at the NGOs because, like it or not, they are the ones that have taken over the job of providing services from the state."

He hears the Haitians arguing that "NGOs are getting rich off of our misery and don't really want things to change, because if the problems were solved, the NGOs wouldn't exist."

AS A result of imperial betrayal, post-earthquake Haiti has been left helpless before the threat of disease and hurricanes.

As if on cue, both hit in the last month.

A cholera outbreak began in the Artibonite region, the country's breadbasket, as well as in the Central Plateau.

This outbreak was not a natural disaster, but the result of dilapidated or non-existent sanitation systems across the country.

Carried by human feces, the cholera bacteria wound up in the Artibonite River, which is the source of water for drinking, bathing and irrigation in the two regions.

The World Health Organization reports that the outbreak has sickened 9,100 people and killed 583 in the past two-and-a-half weeks. It has already begun to spread into Port-au-

Prince in the slums, as well as the camps. Doctors Without Borders reports it has detected 200 cases in Cité Soleil alone.

The U.S. and other great powers created the conditions for this outbreak.

From 2000 to 2004, they imposed an aid embargo as part of their destabilization campaign to topple Aristide's government. That embargo held up an Inter-American Development Bank loan slated to fund the upgrading of the Artibonite region's public water system.

As a result, the Artibonite region was a sitting duck for water-borne disease like cholera.

Moreover, the UN occupation itself may be responsible for the introduction of cholera into Haiti.

Many reports point to recently deployed Nepalese soldiers as the source of the cholera, a disease that has not been seen in Haiti for 50 years. By contrast, Nepal is plagued with it, including the particular strain that has infected Haitians.

Incredibly, the UN doesn't test any of its soldiers for cholera, including the Nepalese soldiers deployed to a base near the Artibonite River earlier this year.

In an investigation of the base, the Associated Press "found open and cracked pipes behind the base...There was an overpowering smell of human waste, and a pipe leading toward a septic tank was leaking foul-smelling black fluid toward the river."

In response, hundreds of Haitian marched from Mirebalais to the base demanding the expulsion of the soldiers.

Hurricane Tomas, which struck on November 5, threatens to turn the cholera outbreak into a full-blown epidemic. Tomas' winds ripped apart tents and tarps, its rain turned Port-au-Prince's refugee camps into muddy swamps, and its floodwaters may spread the cholera.

Partners in Health reports that "living conditions at the camps...have deteriorated as a result of the storm. Standing water, lack of garbage collection and limited sanitation availability make the camps a potential flashpoint for cholera outbreak."

The U.S. hardly lifted a finger to aid Haiti during the hurricane. It deployed just one aircraft carrier, the Iwo Jima, to conduct aerial surveys of the damage done to the country. The NGOs have been little better. One hurricane victim, Violet Nicolas, told the Inter Press Service, "Our houses are broken again. I've lost my things. They don't do anything for us. We never see them. Since the water has come in here, we're mired in more problems."

While the hurricane has passed, cholera is likely to plague Haiti for years to come.

As Partners in Health doctor Evan Lyon told Democracy Now! cholera "will not go away in Haiti until the underlying conditions that make people vulnerable are changed...Maybe this first wave of the epidemic is passing, but more important, this disease will be around as long as there's poor infrastructure."

The New York Times predicts "cholera may become a way of life that could afflict as many as 270,000 people over the next several years."

But as Haiti suffers through catastrophe after catastrophe, the U.S. seems concerned strictly with stabilizing the country by building up repressive forces, establishing cash-for-work schemes to keep quake victims just above desperation and pushing for sham elections to give some semblance of legitimacy to its puppet government.

Its aim is to establish a relatively secure business environment for multinational corporations and the Haitian ruling class.

To impose security, the U.S. got the UN to extend its occupation of the country. The UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) has been deployed in the country since the U.S.-backed coup against Aristide in 2004 at the cost of \$600 million a year.

Right now, MINUSTAH has 9,000 soldiers and 4,300 officers patrolling the country.

In October, the UN Security Council renewed MINUSTAH for yet another year, claiming it was needed to ensure fair elections, control "the rise in number of weapons in circulation" and prevent "grave violations against children affected by armed violence, as well as widespread rape and other sexual abuse of women and girls."

In reality, the UN is part of these problems, not the solution.

The UN mission does not ensure democracy; it was brought in to Haiti to impose order after the U.S. coup against the democratically elected government of Aristide. As the largest armed force in the country, it has repressed protest after protest for the return of Aristide.

As for protecting women and children, its soldiers have been repeatedly accused of raping women, and the epidemic of child trafficking is happening right under the UN's nose.

That's why activists in Port-au-Prince protested the renewal of MINUSTAH. As the Bureau des Avocats Internationaux (BAI) declared, "Money is wasted on the mission, and protesters want real assistance, not the renewal of...an occupying military force."

The U.S. realizes that it cannot extend the UN occupation indefinitely. Therefore, the great powers are training and enlarging the Haitian National Police. Ever since Aristide abolished the Haitian Armed Forces in 1995, the U.S. has built up the police as an alternative to repress the population.

Right now, Haiti has 8,000 police, and the U.S. aims to increase it to 14,000. Canada alone has committed \$44 million to equipping and training police officers. The U.S. and other powers hope that at some point the police can replace MINUSTAH as an effective repressive force in the country.

THE U.S. very well knows that the occupation and police alone cannot stabilize society. Some kind of employment to lift Haitians from abject poverty to a level of tolerable misery. So the U.S. has turned to cash-for-work programs that hire quake victims for temporary employment in various projects such as rubble removal.

The cash-for-work programs pay workers the minimum wage of \$5 a day, or \$4 a day plus a food ration. According to a study by Haiti Grassroots Watch, individual workers can barely survive on this income, let alone support their families. As the study reports, "The Washington-based Workers Rights Consortium, which took into account caloric needs, rent, schooling, energy, food and other costs of living, determined a living wage for one adult with two minor dependents to be about \$13.88 a day."

As the final component of its plan for stabilization, the U.S. aims to create the illusion in Haiti of a democratic sovereign state. The U.S., other powers and the UN are pouring millions of dollars into organizing elections for both the parliament and president on November 28. Canada alone will spend \$5.8 million on the elections.

To ensure that only their candidates elected, the U.S. has backed Préval's Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) in banning the most popular political party in the country, Aristide's Fanmi Lavalas. The CEP has banned Lavalas ever since the coup in 2004.

Thus, the CEP, with the tacit support of the U.S., has rigged the election.

Only candidates from the ruling elite or turncoats from the popular movement who have made peace with the occupiers have been allowed to run in the elections. Préval's handpicked successor Jude Celestin currently leads in the polls for president.

Since Lavalas has been banned, popular organizations and the left have denounced the elections as a sham and called for a boycott.

The peasants, urban poor and workers will likely respond and not vote at all.

If last year's senatorial election, when 3 percent of Haitians voted, is a precedent, the turnout will be abysmal. And without a doubt, the elected president and parliament will have no popular support and will merely function as a puppet for the Haitian ruling class and the great powers.

The U.S. hopes that through its stabilization plan, it can, in the words of UN Special Envoy to Haiti Bill Clinton, make sure that the country is "open for business." Clinton aims to implement a neoliberal plan developed by Paul Collier entitled Haiti: From Natural Catastrophe to Economic Security and enshrined in the IHRC that includes sweatshop development, tourism and export-oriented agriculture. This plan serves the interests of the multinational corporations and the Haitian ruling class, and is based on the exploitation of the Haiti's desperate poverty.

There is nothing new in this plan--it is the very same one that the U.S. imposed on Haiti since the 1970s. It has not led to development, but the opposite--de-development. It destroyed peasant agriculture, drove people into the cities, but failed to provide enough jobs in the cities, and thus led to the creation of giant slums in Port-au-Prince.

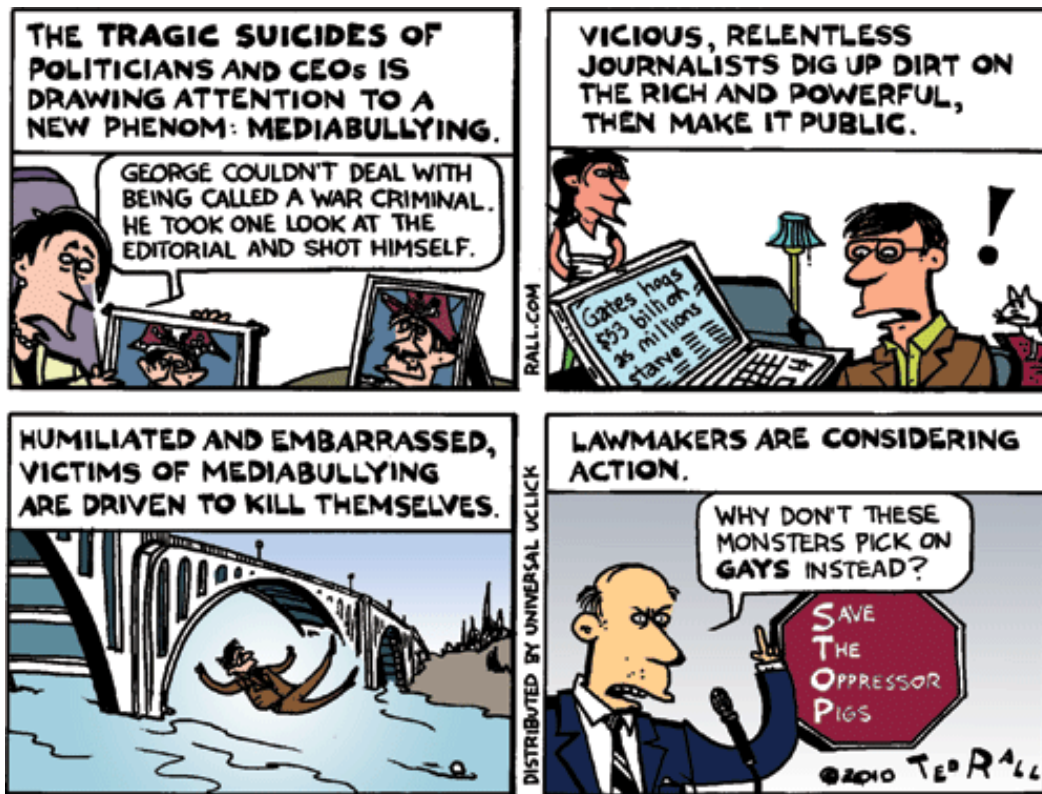
Such neoliberal ideas created the conditions that have turned natural disasters like the quake, cholera and hurricanes into social catastrophes.

The U.S., other powers, the UN and the NGOs have proven themselves incapable of solving the crisis in Haiti. In fact, they are the principal source of the crisis.

These powers must be compelled not only to make good on their promises of aid for rebuilding the country after the quake, but also to pay reparations for the decades of damage they have done to Haiti.

Only when the Haitian masses receive such funds and are able to rebuild their society in their interests will they be able to pull themselves out of the endless crises that imperialism has imposed on Haiti.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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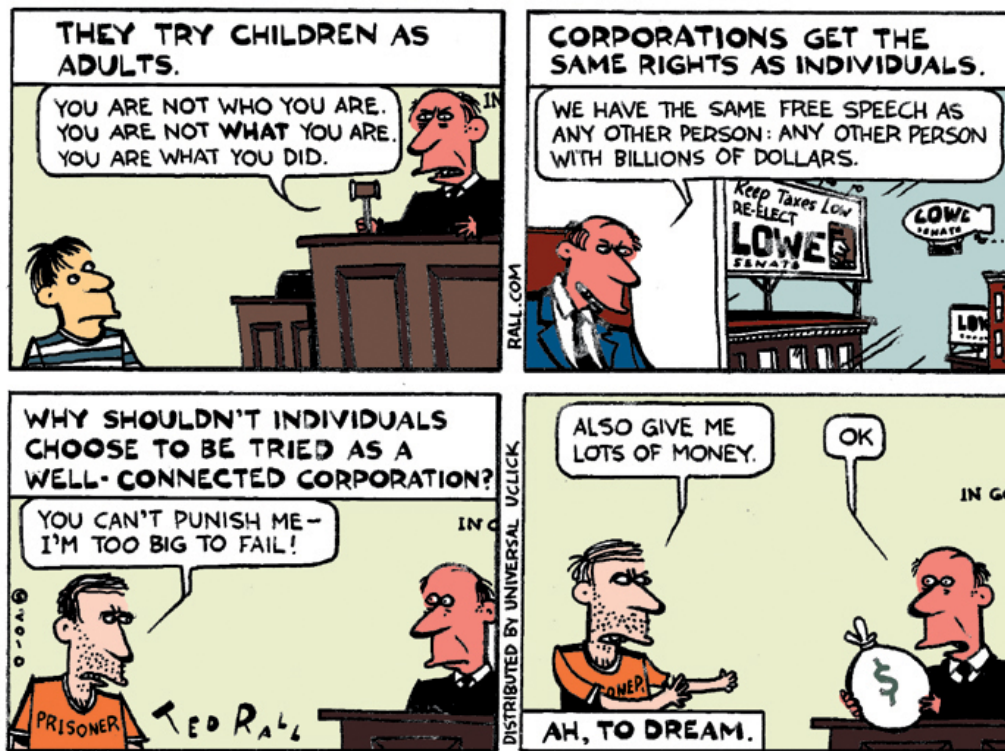
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CLASS WAR REPORTS



Pissed Off And Fed Up Mexicans Kick Out Crooked Local Police

Chief:

“Part Of A Recent Wave Of Mobilizations Against Police In Mexico”

“Now The Security Of Tepoztlán Is In The Hands Of Citizen Brigades”

November 11, 2010 By Fernando León, Special to The Narco News Bulletin

On the last week of October the Mexican people of Tepoztlán, Morelos expelled the local police chief from the area after an increase of violence in the city.

The local mayor of the town, which is located 80 kilometers south of Mexico City, removed the police commander and seven of his subordinates after a mobilization from residents.

Now the security of Tepoztlán is in the hands of citizen brigades, bringing back a period from the 1990s when the crime rate was lowered dramatically due to the departure of the police.

Throughout the last year insecurity has increased in many parts of the town, according to the people of Tepoztlán.

The rise in crime occurred during the administration of Lucino Fuentes Bahena as head of the Tepoztlán police. There was the robbery of a residence, and then there were assaults against taxi drivers — even the murder of two of them — which have been constant over the last few months.

To the residents of Tepoztlán this was a product of a safety net the police chief had given the assailants.

Fuentes Bahena is no stranger to controversy.

At the end of 2008 he was dismissed from his position as police chief of Jiutepec, Morelos. During his administration there he commanded at least five police officers who were accused of auto theft, while other officers had criminal records. Despite efforts from citizens to remove the traffic police and the accused officers, Fuentes Bahena and Rabindranath Salazar, the mayor of Jiutepec, did nothing. The officers kept their positions.

Later, Fuentes Bahena was removed from his position in Jiutepec after a protest from subordinate police officers.

The police protest was held over their chief's alleged link to drug trafficking groups that he was supposedly protecting.

His dismissal as chief of police in Jiutepec occurred in September 2008, and now a little more than a year later he is again being fired from his position, this time in the town of Tepoztlán.

However, the people of Tepoztlán know how to manage their own security. Between 1995 and 1999 the town was governed by the customs of the people.

During those four years Tepoztlán declared itself an autonomous municipality and expelled all the authorities — including the police — after they joined forces with real estate companies to try and build a golf course in the town.

At that time the security of the town was dependent upon the residents, and according to some of them, there has never been a safer period.

This time, on October 30, the people mobilized to close the highway to Cuernavaca and all of the entrances to the town in response to the police corruption.

During the mobilization they forced the Institutional Revolutionary Party mayor, Gabino Ríos Cedillo, to fire Fuentes Bahena and his subordinates, many of whom were ex-police from Jiutepec. Tepoztlán will continue to have some police officers, but they are subject to supervision by the residents themselves.

The mobilization against the Tepoztlán police is happening as other places in the country are organizing for similar reasons.

Perhaps now the people will relive Tepoztlán's golden years when there were no crimes because there were no police to cover up or defend the crimes.



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