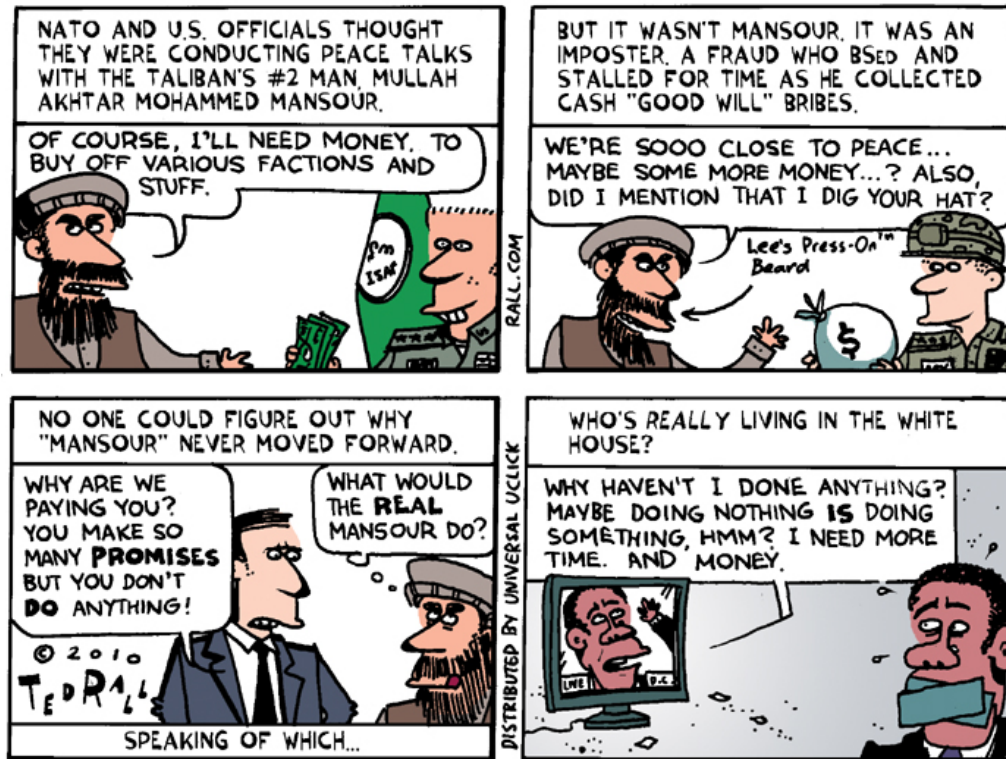


Military Resistance 8K27



“He’s Basically In Multi-Organ Failure Now”

[A So-Far Unique, Compassionate Minute By Minute Eye-Witness Description Of The Medical Treatment A Dying U.S. Soldier Received In Afghanistan, Of His Evacuation To Germany, And Of His Death A Few Hours Before His Family Got There To See Him]

AT BAGRAM AIR BASE, AFGHANISTAN Only the head and feet of Sgt. Diego Solorzano are visible outside his camouflage blanket and below the skyline of medical devices keeping him alive.

Clamped to his litter is an over-the-legs shelf. On it are three vacuum canisters putting gentle suction on wounds in Solorzano's thighs and abdomen, two IV pumps delivering drugs to his veins, a ventilator breathing for him, and a monitor recording his pulse, EKG rhythm and blood pressure.

In the intensive care unit of the military hospital here, Solorzano - "Sgt. Solo" to the members of Able Company, 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry - has a nurse at his bedside and a doctor never far away. He's been to the operating room three times in the previous 24 hours. He's hemorrhaged his entire blood volume five times and had it replaced. He's unconscious and may not survive.

In any U.S. hospital, Solorzano would be considered too sick to put on an elevator and take to the CT-scan suite. Now he's about to fly across half of Asia and most of Europe.

An Air Force chaplain puts a folded blue-and-white-plaid blanket over Solorzano's feet. A few minutes later, Maj. Michael Gonzalez, the physician who's just taken over his care, says, "Okay, I think we're ready to go."

Six people wheel him out of the ICU, down a hall and out a door to a loading zone. They put him and three other critical patients on a specially fitted bus that will drive several hundred yards onto a runway. There, a hulking C-17 jet waits, its tail ramp down and spilling light in the pre-dawn darkness.

If the soldier's condition worsens during the flight, Gonzalez and the nurse and respiratory therapist helping him will have to count on having the knowledge, tests, drugs and equipment to "advance his care" just as they would in the ICU he's leaving.

The U.S. military's ability - not to mention its willingness - to take a critically ill soldier on the equivalent of a seven-hour elevator ride epitomizes an essential feature of the doctrine for treating war wounds in the 21st century:

"Five Nights A Week, Evacuation Flights Leave The Airfield Here For Ramstein Air Base In Southwestern Germany"

In the civilian world, victims of car accidents and gunshots hope to get to a hospital that can save their life - and then stay there. The military strategy is pretty much the opposite - and is, paradoxically, part of the reason the care of soldiers wounded in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars has been so successful.

In both those theaters, the military has placed a few extremely sophisticated hospitals very close to the battlefield. Within a few hours of being wounded, casualties can reach neurosurgeons, maxillofacial surgeons, interventional radiologists, ophthalmologists and intensivists - specialists that previously were farther "up-range" and days away.

Advanced care so close to the fight is feasible only if casualties don't fill up the hospitals and prevent new ones from coming in. To keep that from happening, patients are moved within hours of being treated.

Typically, seriously wounded soldiers move from the "point of injury" to a combat support hospital and then to one of the sophisticated "Role 3" hospitals (of which Bagram is one of four in Afghanistan). If they're hurt badly enough that they won't be able to recover quickly in-country, they're brought to Bagram, if they're not already here.

This all takes place within two or three days of the wounding, with the patient getting surgery and resuscitation at each stop.

Five nights a week, evacuation flights leave the airfield here for Ramstein Air Base in southwestern Germany, where there's been a U.S. military air base since World War II. They are then taken to a giant hospital in nearby Landstuhl for a few more days of treatment before flying home across the Atlantic. Many soldiers are back in the United States within five or six days of being wounded.

This strategy was devised after the 1983 Beirut Marine barracks bombing, in which some of the wounded had to wait more than 12 hours to get surgery and aircrews did not have the expertise to care for them in transit. It works only if transport doesn't alter or diminish the care soldiers are getting.

"The flight is squeezed in between surgeries, not the other way around," said Col. Christian R. Benjamin, an Air Force physician and commander of the hospital in Bagram. "Continuity of care is not interrupted by pesky little things like moving the patients 10,000 miles."

For evacuations from Bagram, last summer was the busiest in eight years. The number of critical patients evacuated reached a new peak in July, when 100 were transported.

But October proved even more dangerous.

By the end of the month, 144 critical patients had been flown out of Afghanistan, up from 60 the previous October and 25 in October 2008.

More than 4,000 critical patients have been evacuated to Europe from Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001. Fewer than 10 have died en route.

"Whether He Would Survive, Or For How Long, Was Uncertain"

In the early afternoon of Oct. 27, Solorzano was shot several times in his thighs while on patrol near Yahya Kel, in central Afghanistan about 150 miles southwest of Kabul. The bullets broke his right femur and severed his femoral arteries, which supply blood to the legs.

"We were told it was impossible to get him out of the firefight quickly," Col. Jay A. Johannigman, one of the surgeons who had worked on Solorzano, said as he watched Gonzalez and his team package the patient for the flight to Germany.

Nothing more was known about the circumstances of Solorzano's wounding. Damaged bodies travel up-range faster than details about how they got that way. But a buddy who came with him, Sgt. Shawn Allen, did mention this: It was Solorzano's 24th birthday.

At the hospital at Forward Operating Base Sharana, surgeons tried to get the bleeding under control, without complete success.

Solorzano required 30 units of blood, or about 2 1/2 times the body's normal capacity. He received CPR for 65 minutes and suffered unknown damage to the brain. He slowly slipped into the "coagulopathy of trauma," in which the finely tuned clotting system goes haywire from the consequences of low blood pressure, falling temperature and rising acidity in the blood.

He was then flown to Bagram. Ten minutes after his arrival, Johannigman and Maj. Mark Kromer, a 34-year-old Air Force surgeon who grew up in Chevy Chase, took him to the operating room to try to control his bleeding once more. They were there four hours. For two of those hours, Johannigman squeezed the aorta shut inside Solorzano's abdomen, effectively cutting the size of his circulatory system in half so the blood that remained would go to Solorzano's heart and brain.

Three hours after leaving surgery, Solorzano became increasingly unstable and was probably still bleeding. He was taken back to the operating room for 90 more minutes. About 3 a.m., the hospital was running low on blood of his type and activated the "walking blood bank."

Someone began calling volunteers from a list of pre-screened A-positive donors. Allen, Solorzano's buddy, went out into the chilly night, doing his own search.

"I knocked on doors," he said. "I was pulling people off buses. I saw soldiers and said, 'Anybody A-positive? Please rally to the hospital.'"

More than 50 people showed up. Thirty-five units of whole blood were collected. Solorzano got 21 units still warm from the donors, the state in which it's almost a miracle drug. Finally, long after the sun was up, his body pulled out of the dive and leveled off.

In all, he'd gotten about 65 units of blood; required a drug, vasopressin, to support his blood pressure; and was in a coma. But he was alive, a fact Johannigman attributed as much to the patient as to the doctors.

"We're privileged by the soldiers we're taking care of," he said. "They're specimens of health. We can leverage the physiology of these young soldiers."

Whether he would survive, or for how long, was uncertain. The staff nevertheless decided to send him to Landstuhl.

"We used to say we wouldn't send someone unless they were stable. Now we say they have to be 'stabilizing,'" said Maj. David Zonies, Bagram's "trauma czar." "We have pushed our comfort zone considerably."

Johannigman said, "Just like the soldiers never leave anyone behind, the doctors want to get everyone home."

Solorzano's parents were contacted in Huntington Park, Calif., and advised to fly to Germany as soon as possible.

"'He's Basically In Multi-Organ Failure Now,' The Doctor Said"

Solorzano's litter was the last one carried into the brightly lit belly of the airplane, so it would be the first one taken off in Germany - evidence of the grave condition of its occupant. But Solorzano wasn't the only object of the Critical Care Aeromedical Transport (CCAT) team's attentions.

There were three other critical patients, 18 more patients who were carried on but not critically ill, and 15 who walked on.

The patients, the aircrew and a few passengers occupied the forward two-thirds of the jet's cavernous interior. At the forward end were containerized toilets. Toward the aft end was a 10-foot-high cargo box. Beyond it, in an area dark and 15 degrees colder, the retracted ramp sloped upward, piled with pallets of cargo.

A single row of seats lined the walls of the plane. Toward the center of the fuselage, the litters were clamped to hangers suspended from the ceiling. On these triple-decker bunks were patients whose wounds did not require constant vigilance. They lay under brightly colored quilts, handmade by nameless American volunteers and given to them, along with candies and crayoned thank-you cards from schoolchildren, as part of the "repatriation package."

A profusion of tattooed elbow webs, biceps amulets, skulls and slogans adorned the arms resting on the sleeping men's chests and stomachs.

At the aft end of the aircraft were the four critical patients. The sickest other than Solorzano was a soldier who had lost both legs and had his pelvis blown open by a homemade bomb. Near him was a man who had been shot in the left side of the head. The bullet damaged the Broca's area of the brain, where language expression resides. The soldier can follow directions but can't speak.

"He may never regain that," Gonzalez said grimly as he reviewed a clipboard of data.

Only one of the critical patients could engage the CCAT team in conversation: Hiram Provorse, a red-haired, 34-year-old sergeant and mechanic who had been wounded in a mortar attack in Logar province a few days before he was scheduled to leave.

At the foot of his bed, a one-page summary catalogued his wounds: all three bones in his left leg broken, torn arteries in both legs repaired with bypasses, and a shrapnel fragment nestled against his third neck vertebra. His eyelids were heavy with morphine, which he delivered to himself with an orange controller in his hand.

"The secret to these flights is preparation," said Gonzalez, whose regular job is heading the emergency room at Landstuhl.

This is his third deployment. He's been running CCAT missions for seven years.

"We try to imagine what could go wrong," he said. "We do that with every single patient every single flight. If something goes wrong that we can't handle, it's a failure of the imagination."

As a practical matter, that means drawing up drugs in syringes and IV bags, ready to use if a patient spikes a fever, throws a blood clot, starts to bleed, has an allergic reaction, or can't breathe and needs to be put on a ventilator.

On this flight, all the patients were stable except Solorzano.

Damaged by shock and the molecular trauma of repeated resuscitation, the cells lining his miles of blood vessels were already starting to leak before the soldier was put on the airplane. As water moved out of the bloodstream into surrounding tissue, his blood pressure fell. His arteries clamped down to compensate but couldn't keep his systolic (or top) blood pressure from dwindling down below 100. As it did, the amount of urine made by his kidneys - a gauge of healthy "perfusion" of his organs - fell, too.

Two and a half hours into the flight, Gonzalez conferred with Capt. Julia Kiss, the nurse giving one-on-one care to Solorzano. Normally a CCAT team has one nurse; Kiss was an extra lent by the Bagram ICU because the unconscious soldier needed so much attention. The two talked through a closed-circuit headset, the only way to converse easily over the engine noise.

They decided to give him a "bolus" of IV fluid to see if that would boost his urine output. It did. But not for long.

Elsewhere in the plane, Maj. Marilyn E. Thomas, the regular ICU nurse on the team, and Master Sgt. Alfonso L. Betiong, the respiratory therapist, tended to the other patients, testing their blood, monitoring the machines and logging data in tiny boxes on record sheets. Provorse asked for drink, and Thomas watched him hawklike as he sipped from a 6-ounce can.

As morning came, the patients on the bunks stirred. Three got down and hobbled to the bathrooms, a member of the aircrew on each arm. Many produced iPods from under their quilts. On one top bunk, a soldier read a paperback, "Hitler's Lair."

Four hours out, Solorzano's blood pressure had dropped below 90. The IV bag with norepinephrine, a neurotransmitter used to treat shock, was set up, and Gonzalez ordered it started.

"He's basically in multi-organ failure now," the doctor said.

Six hours out, as the airplane passed over Budapest, Gonzalez added phenylephrine, a last-ditch drug to raise blood pressure.

The plane landed at Ramstein Air Base at 10:19 a.m. German time, 6 hours and 42 minutes after leaving Afghanistan. The day was cloudless and cool. An ambulance

pulled up to the lowered ramp. Members of the ground crew in brown flight suits helped unclip Solorzono's litter and carry him to a waiting ambulance.

His blood pressure was 60/30, and his urine output was zero.

The ambulance had room for a half-dozen patients, but it left for the 12-minute trip to Landstuhl with only Solorzano aboard, sirens blaring as soon as it hit the highway. Afterward, Gonzalez said it was the first time he'd ever seen that happen.

“A Few Are Never Aware, And Never Make It Home”

Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, built in the early 1950s, has three miles of corridors and 3,000 employees. About 65,000 soldiers from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars have passed through it since October 2001. Its peacetime allotment of chaplains is two. After the wars started, that increased to four. Since 2005, there have been six.

The average battlefield casualty stays in the hospital for 31/2 days before being discharged to outpatient care or, more likely, sent on to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, or Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio.

Many of the most seriously injured patients - those who have lost multiple limbs or suffered serious head trauma - are not aware of their injuries until they are back in the United States.

A few are never aware, and never make it home.

Diego Solorzano died at 9:45 p.m. German time the day he arrived, never regaining consciousness. His parents arrived the next morning at 5:15.

It was a Sunday. They had spent most of the morning with a chaplain. They had not yet seen their son's body. They agreed to speak briefly about him. They were brought to the pediatric clinic, which was quiet except for a doctor catching up on paperwork with his daughter, in pigtails, who was exploring the empty rooms.

Solorzano's mother, Patricia Valdovinos, is a 41-year-old clothing designer. She was originally from Mexico. His stepfather, Cesar Muralles, is a 53-year-old truck driver from Guatemala. Theirs is a blended family of six children, ranging from age 30 to 12. Diego was the second oldest.

Valdovinos held a framed picture of them. She was composed, but her lower eyelids were swollen. Her husband sat next to her, holding her hand.

She said: “The last time I talked to him on the phone, he said, ‘I'm a sheepdog, protecting the sheeps.’ He didn't care for his own safety if he had to protect somebody else.”

His stepfather said: “We were proud of him. I want to say that he never got into trouble with the kids who want to become gang members. He chooses to be an Army guy. His platoon called to say he was a hero. And we believe so.”

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Obama's Lying Bullshit Reeks On: U.S. Combat Troops Who Are No Longer In Iraq And No Longer In Urban Areas Kill An Airline Engineer Driving To Baghdad Airport

Nov 28 (Reuters) & (KUNA)

Baghdad International Airport was shutdown on Sunday for two and a half hours, after US troops shot and killed an Iraqi airport employee.

Airport security sources told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), that the airport was closed for more than two hours after US troops shot and killed Hassan Hilwas near the airport entrance inspection point.

Hilwas was an Iraqi engineer driving on the main road to Baghdad International Airport in western Baghdad.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Sierra Vista Marine Is Killed In Action

11/09/2010 The Sierra Vista Herald

A Sierra Vista man has become the second Arizona Marine to be killed in action, the Department of Defense announced Monday.

Lance Cpl. Randy R. Braggs, 21, died Saturday while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan, the DOD said. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Local Marine Javier Ortiz-Rivera Killed In Afghanistan



Javier Ortiz-Rivera is shown here in a 2003 file photo. (Gannett file photo)

November 17, 2010 Jeffrey Blackwell, Staff writer, Rochester Democrat & Chronicle

Marine Staff Sergeant Javier Ortiz-Rivera, 26, was killed in the line of duty by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan.

“There are just no words,” said Gloria Rivera, the 26-year-old soldier’s mother.

Last Friday Ortiz-Rivera called his family in Rochester and spoke with his mother, brother and sister, Gloria, who said he talked about the bad phone connection and the excitement of his tour of duty in Afghanistan. Tuesday, Gloria and her family found out about Javier’s death.

“He was not just my brother,” said sister Glory, 22. “He was everybody’s brother.”

Ortiz-Rivera was raised in Rochester and is a graduate of School of Imaging and Information Technology at Edison. He joined the Marines right out of high school in 2002.

His first of three tours of duty was in Iraq in 2003. He was deployed to Afghanistan in 2005 and again in September. He was due to return home from his deployment in August.

“I was never too happy about (his deployment), but he always made us feel comfortable,” said Glory. “He loved his job and he said it was really fun.”

“We have a really good family and we have come together to help everybody,” said Glory.

WELCOME TO AFBAGHVIETISTAN: HAVE A NICE DAY



A U.S. soldier from 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division patrolling an area in Panjwai district, on Afghanistan's Kandahar province, Nov. 23, 2010. (AP Photo/Alexander Zemlianichenko)

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 NEWS

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

The burial service for Army Spc. Dale J. Kridlo at Arlington National Cemetery Nov. 18, 2010. Kridlo, 33, of Hughestown, Pa., was killed Nov. 7, 2010, in Kunar province, Afghanistan, when insurgents attacked with small arms fire. He was assigned to the 27th Engineer Battalion, 20th Engineer Brigade, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, N.C. (AP Photo/Three photos by Jose Luis Magana)





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

OCCUPATION HAITI

**Foreign Military Occupation Bans
Majority Party In Haiti From
Elections:
“I Am Not Going To Vote” “I Have No
Candidate”**

“Why Spend All These Millions For These Elections? Why Don’t We Spend The Money To Buy Anti-Cholera Shots Or Vaccines?”



Angry Haitians protest against the fake elections staged by the foreign Military Occupation outside a voting center in downtown Port-au-Prince November 28, 2010. REUTERS/Eduardo Munoz

Nov 27, 2010 by Wadner Pierre, The Daily Censored

Wadner Pierre is a Haitian photojournalist who currently resides in New Orleans, Louisiana. In 2007, he won a Project Censored Award for his investigative journalism work on the impact of media and corruption in military policies.

HAITI—On the eve of presidential and legislative elections in Haiti, skepticism and disenchantment among Haitians is widespread.

“I am not going to vote,” said Elause Jacques, a mother of two who runs a cyber cafe with her husband in Port-au-Prince. “I have no candidate.”

Jacques’ sentiment is shared by many Haitians, who may be turning away from the polls by the millions in an act of silent protest against the exclusion of Haiti’s popular political party, Fanmi Lavalas (FL), and the spending of millions on elections instead of badly needed healthcare and infrastructure.

The backdrop to the elections is grim: more than a million people remain homeless after the January earthquake, and now the country is confronted by a cholera epidemic that has already taken 1,500 lives.

FL has reiterated its position to boycott tomorrow's elections, after being excluded by Haiti's Interim Election Commission (CEP), which is hand-picked by the government.

"It (FL) is not supporting any candidate, it doesn't have anybody representing it, and it is not sending anybody to represent it," said the party in a statement.

The statement also criticized the United Nations representative in Haiti, Edmund Mulet, for "having no respect for the Haitian people," and President Rene Preval for running a "ungrateful hypocritical regime which has come to bury the memory of our ancestors."

The CEP is facing other problems. In the days prior to the vote, many Haitians have still not received their electoral IDs.

"As President Aristide said, the November 28 elections will not be elections, but selections," said a unidentified Haitian women, while waiting for her flight to Haiti from the Fort Lauderdale International Airport in Florida.

Former president Jean Bertrand Aristide, interviewed in mid-November by film-maker Nicolas Rossier in South Africa, where he is living under forced-exile, criticized the Haitian government and some of its international allies for betraying the Haitian people.

"When we say democracy we have to mean what we say," said Aristide, who was deposed in 2004 by the United States, France and Canada.

"Unfortunately, this is not the case for Haiti. They talk about democracy but they refuse to organize free and fair democratic elections. It is as if in the US they could organize an election without the Democrats."

Criticism of the exclusion of Fanmi Lavalas has been issued from some quarters.

In a letter sent to the US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, Congresswoman Maxine Water and 45 congress members urged the US government to ensure that the elections in Haiti are fair, free and democratic.

The letter called on the US government to "state unequivocally that it will not provide funding for elections that do not meet these minimum, basic democratic requirements."

The members of Congress recalled a previous CEP decision to exclude Fanmi Lavalas: "A previous CEP, with many of the same members, also excluded Fanmi Lavalas and other parties from Senatorial elections in April 2009. Haitian voters boycotted, and most observers estimated a three-to-six per cent voter turnout."

Meanwhile, President Preval continues to appeal to Haitians to vote while reiterating his support for the CEP.

Eleven months after an earthquake ruined the capital and its surrounding areas, the situation remains dire.

Several months after the first cases of cholera were discovered in the Down Central Plateau and Artibonite regions—one of Haiti's few agricultural centres—over 1,500

people have died and over 30,000 have been hospitalized. Haitians' already low trust in the United Nations troops has taken another hit, as mounting evidence indicates Nepalese forces were responsible for spreading the disease.

“Why spend all these millions for these elections while our people are dying from cholera?” said Haitian singer Lord Divers Morsa. “Why don’t we spend the money to buy anti-cholera shots or vaccines?”

Others question the priorities of President Preval and his support for Jude Celestin, the candidate of INITE or UNITY, Preval’s party.

“President Preval is using the state’s resources to back up Jude Celestin, his friend,” said Maude Salomon. “But he doesn’t care for people. Cholera is killing us, but Jude found millions of dollars to campaign.”

The international community has pledged several millions of dollars to organize the presidential and legislative elections. Yet critics point out that the same countries have disbursed only a fraction of the money that was pledged to rebuild the country after the January earthquake.

Another concern cited by critics is that the names of people who died during the earthquake remain as eligible voters on the CEP’s electoral list.

This news was disclosed in a meeting in Washington by Chief of the Joint OAS-CARICOM (Organization of American States-Caribbean Community) Electoral Observation Mission in Haiti, Ambassador Colin Granderson. Many are asking the question: to whom will the CEP attribute the votes of dead Haitians?

A day before the elections, the mood seems to indicate that not many will vote tomorrow. And in the face of unfair elections and a growing health disaster, the prospects for the struggle for social justice and a state of law are likely to remain uncertain and fragile.

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.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Holocaust Survivor Rents Rooms In His House To Three Arab Students: The Zionist Terror Threatens To Burn His House Down: “I’m Not Looking For Trouble, But If There Is A Problem, I’ll Confront It,’ Says Mr Tzavieli”



Eli Tzavieli has been harassed for renting part of his house in Safed to Arabs. Photo: QUIQUE KIERSZENBAUM

15 November 2010 By Catrina Stewart, Independent UK [Excerpts]

In the Israeli city of Safed, an 89-year-old man has been accused of treachery for welcoming Arab students.

First they threatened to burn his house down. Then they pinned leaflets to his front door, denouncing him as a Jewish traitor.

But Eli Tzavieli, an 89-year-old Holocaust survivor, is defiant.

His only “crime” is to rent out his rooms to three Arab students attending the college in Safed, a religious city in northern Israel that was until recently more famous for Jewish mysticism and Madonna.

A campaign waged by Shmuel Eliyahu, the town’s radical head rabbi, culminating in a ruling barring residents from renting rooms to Israeli Arabs, means that Safed is fast emerging as a byword for racism.

“I’m not looking for trouble, but if there is a problem, I’ll confront it,” says Mr Tzavieli, a Jew who survived Nazi forced labour camps and whose parents perished in Auschwitz. “These are great kids. And I’m doing my best to make them comfortable.”

At an emergency meeting last month, Mr Eliyahu, the son of a former chief rabbi of Israel, was joined by 17 other religious leaders in warning that the city’s 40,000 Jewish residents were threatened with an “Arab takeover.”

The declaration appeared to trigger a campaign of harassment against Mr Tsavieli to pressure him into throwing the students out.

When the pensioner paid little heed to his aggressors, he received an anonymous threat to set fire to his house and a vicious poster campaign accused him of “returning the Arabs to Safed.”

Mr Eliyahu, who once advocated the mass slaughter of Palestinians civilians in Gaza to stop the firing of Qassam rockets, declined to be interviewed for this story.

Sprawled over a hilltop in the Upper Galilee, Safed is one of Israel’s most picturesque towns, enjoying commanding views over the north of the country. A leading centre for Kabbalah, or Jewish mysticism, it is one of Judaism’s four holiest towns, and every year draws a diverse celebrity crowd.

In 1948, Safed was a mixed Jewish and Arab Palestinian community, with some 10,000 Palestinians living in the town. As Jewish forces battled for control, the Palestinians fled, including a 13-year-old Mahmoud Abbas, who would later become the Palestinian President.

After Israel’s founding, some Palestinians accepted Israeli citizenship and remained in Israel, and now number 1.5 million, a fifth of the country’s population.

These days, Safed is home to a large community of ultra-orthodox Jews, who are deeply conservative and observe a strict code of behaviour, including no driving or smoking in public on Shabbat, the Jewish Sabbath.

As Mr Tsavieli poses for a photograph outside the entrance to his home in Safed’s Old City, a Jewish labourer shouts at him: “I’m warning you, it won’t do you any good to attract attention like this.”

The pensioner continues to smile, but it’s clear that he’s a little rattled. Sitting in his leafy courtyard, he talks about his extensive voluntary and social work, including time as a probation officer (“The moment you have a problem, Eli, you just let us know,” a former inmate told him after hearing of the threats), and says that he’s only trying to do “a good thing.”

As he talks, Nimran Grefat, one of his Arab tenants, dashes in to pick up some books for his next class, stopping briefly to chat. “He’s a good man, he’s like a father to us,” Mr Grefat, 19, says later of his landlord. “He told us: ‘If someone hurts you, he hurts me.’”

Tension in the city ratcheted up a notch last month after a violent clash between a Jewish mob and Arab students.

Thirty or so Jewish youths converged on a building rented to Arab students, throwing bottles and chanting “stinky Muslims” and “death to Arabs.”

The students retaliated by throwing stones, prompting an Israeli policeman to loose off rounds from his rifle. He was later charged along with a friend for firing live rounds.

Mr Grefat says that he is afraid, and even considered dropping his studies or moving into dorms. Encouraged by Mr Tsavieli to stick it out, he takes basic safety precautions, such as not returning home alone late at night. “I didn’t come here to live,” he says. “I’m not going to build a family here. I just came for three years to study, after which I’ll go back to my village.”

Many civil rights defenders have warned that the events in Israel’s north are not an isolated phenomenon, but rather a symptom of the growing racism and anti-Arab sentiment sparked by a political shift to the right in recent years.

“The government should be mitigating these tensions, but instead it is escalating them with new laws and a vacuum of decisions,” said Ali Haider, a director at Sikkuy, an Israeli organisation committed to civic equality.

Moreover, small Jewish communities are lobbying to determine just who can and cannot move into their communities, a demand widely interpreted as a move to keep Arabs out.

Several Israeli commentators have sounded a note of alarm at exclusionary moves, warning that the prevailing trends in Israel are beginning to resemble Nazi-era policies.

“In other countries, in other eras, the selling and renting of homes to Jews was forbidden, and those who violated the ban were penalised harshly. We all remember where it ended up,” wrote Ziv Lenchner in an op-ed on Israeli news site Ynet.

“Well, do we really remember?”

But that argument cuts little ice in Safed, where many residents feel the 1,350 Arabs studying at the nearby college are an unsettling influence that threatens Safed’s religious and Jewish character, not least because of fears of intermarriage.

“I see the Arabs here wearing gold chains, and it looks like Syria,” says a young woman, who wears a modest headscarf to cover her hair. “This is an orthodox city, and (that) is impure.”

A new medical school is to open in the area early next year, prompting concerns that it will bring even more Arabs to the town.

Moshe, 35, a music store manager, insists the issue is not one of racism, but that encouraging a large influx of Arabs into the city demonstrates a “blatant disregard” for the existing Jewish community. “Our experience of Arabs over the last 10 years is terror,” he said. “Now they’re saying, ‘Let us be neighbours.’ You don’t force peace on people.”

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



The Shit Hits The Fan: U.S. Embassy Cables Leak Sparks Global Diplomacy Crisis

28 November 2010 By David Leigh, Guardian News and Media Limited [Excerpts]

The United States was catapulted into a worldwide diplomatic crisis today, with the leaking to the Guardian and other international media of more than 250,000 classified cables from its embassies, many sent as recently as February this year.

At the start of a series of daily extracts from the US embassy cables – many designated “secret” – the Guardian can disclose that Arab leaders are privately urging an air strike on Iran and that US officials have been instructed to spy on the UN leadership.

These two revelations alone would be likely to reverberate around the world. But the secret dispatches which were obtained by WikiLeaks, the whistleblowers' website, also reveal Washington's evaluation of many other highly sensitive international issues.

These include a shift in relations between China and North Korea, high level concerns over Pakistan's growing instability and details of clandestine US efforts to combat al-Qaida in Yemen.

Among scores of disclosures that are likely to cause uproar, the cables detail:

- Grave fears in Washington and London over the security of Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme, with officials warning that as the country faces economic collapse, government employees could smuggle out enough nuclear material for terrorists to build a bomb.
- Suspicions of corruption in the Afghan government, with one cable alleging that vice president Zia Massoud was carrying \$52m in cash when he was stopped during a visit to the United Arab Emirates. Massoud denies taking money out of Afghanistan.
- How the hacker attacks which forced Google to quit China in January were orchestrated by a senior member of the Politburo who typed his own name into the global version of the search engine and found articles criticising him personally.
- The extraordinarily close relationship between Vladimir Putin, the Russian prime minister, and Silvio Berlusconi, the Italian prime minister, which is causing intense US suspicion. Cables detail allegations of "lavish gifts", lucrative energy contracts and the use by Berlusconi of a "shadowy" Russian-speaking Italian go-between.
- Allegations that Russia and its intelligence agencies are using mafia bosses to carry out criminal operations, with one cable reporting that the relationship is so close that the country has become a "virtual mafia state".
- Devastating criticism of the UK's military operations in Afghanistan by US commanders, the Afghan president and local officials in Helmand. The dispatches reveal particular contempt for the failure to impose security around Sangin – the town which has claimed more British lives than any other in the country.
- Inappropriate remarks by a member of the British royal family about a UK law enforcement agency and a foreign country.

The US has particularly intimate dealings with Britain, and some of the dispatches from the London embassy in Grosvenor Square will make uncomfortable reading in Whitehall and Westminster. They range from political criticisms of David Cameron to requests for specific intelligence about individual MPs.

The cables contain specific allegations of corruption, as well as harsh criticism by US embassy staff of their host governments, from Caribbean islands to China and Russia. The material includes a reference to Putin as an "alpha-dog", Hamid Karzai as being "driven by paranoia" while Angela Merkel allegedly "avoids risk and is rarely creative". There is also a comparison between Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Adolf Hitler.

The cables name Saudi donors as the biggest financiers of terror groups, and provide an extraordinarily detailed account of an agreement between Washington and Yemen to cover up the use of US planes to bomb al-Qaida targets.

One cable records that during a meeting in January with General David Petraeus, then US commander in the Middle East, Yemeni president Abdullah Saleh said: "We'll continue saying they are our bombs, not yours."

Other revelations include a description of a near "environmental disaster" last year over a rogue shipment of enriched uranium, technical details of secret US-Russian nuclear missile negotiations in Geneva, and a profile of Libya's Muammar Gaddafi, who they say is accompanied everywhere by a "voluptuous blonde" Ukrainian nurse.

The dispatches, to which the Guardian has obtained unprecedented access, reveal startling information about the behaviour of the world's major superpower.

They include high-level allegations of corruption against foreign leaders, harsh criticisms and frank insights into the world of normally- secret diplomacy.

Among literally scores of revelations which may cause uproar, some will be particularly dismaying in Britain. They include:

- Highly critical private remarks about David Cameron and George Osborne's "lack of depth", made by Mervyn King, the governor of the Bank of England, to the US ambassador.
- A scornful analysis of UK "paranoia" over the US-UK so-called special relationship. It is suggested that "keeping HMG the British government "off-balance" about it the relationship might be a good idea.
- US shock at the rude behaviour of Prince Andrew when abroad.
- Secret US military missions flown from a UK base, which Britain alleged could involve torture.
- A plan to deceive the British parliament over the use of banned US weapons.

The Guardian will be publishing extracts in the coming days from a selection of the most significant of more than 250,000 of these diplomatic cables, which were radioed back to Washington via satellite links from US embassies all over the world.

Among many allegations of corruption, the dispatches name a prominent western leader said to be in receipt of Russian bribes, a senior Afghan politician stopped at an airport with more than \$50m in suitcases and a British businessman at the centre of a corruption scandal in Kazakhstan.

They name the "single most hated person" in a country the US relies on to help prosecute its war in Afghanistan; and they reveal deep fears about the safety of one state's nuclear weapons.

They also reveal why an alleged major Serbian war criminal has never been caught; why North Korea is soon likely to collapse and how an "environmental disaster" was only narrowly averted last year over secret shipments of highly enriched uranium.

Topics covered range from the technical detail of secret US-Russian nuclear missile negotiations in Geneva, to an intimate personality profile of Colonel Gaddafi, the eccentric Libyan dictator, who they say is nowadays accompanied everywhere by a “voluptuous blonde” Ukrainian nurse.

The cables cover secretary of state Hillary Clinton’s work under the Obama administration, as well as thousands of files from the Bush presidency. Clinton led a frantic damage limitation exercise this weekend as Washington prepared foreign governments for the revelations, contacting leaders in Germany, Saudi Arabia, the Gulf, France and Afghanistan.

US ambassadors in other capitals were instructed to brief their hosts in advance of the release of unflattering pen-portraits or nakedly frank accounts of transactions with the US which they had thought would be kept quiet. Washington now faces a difficult task in convincing contacts around the world that any future conversations will remain confidential.

The electronic archive of embassy dispatches from around the world was allegedly downloaded by a US soldier earlier this year and passed to WikiLeaks. Assange made them available to the Guardian and four other news organisations: the New York Times, Der Spiegel in Germany, Le Monde in France and El País in Spain. All five plan to publish extracts from the most significant cables, but have decided neither to “dump” the entire dataset into the public domain, nor to publish names that would endanger innocent individuals. WikiLeaks says that, contrary to the state department’s fears, it also initially intends to post only limited cable extracts, and to redact identities.

The cables published today reveal how the US uses its embassies as part of a global espionage network, with diplomats tasked to obtain not just information from the people they meet, but personal details, such as frequent flyer numbers, credit card details and even DNA material.

Classified “human intelligence directives” issued in the name of Clinton or her predecessor, Condoleezza Rice, instruct officials to gather information on military installations, weapons markings, vehicle details of political leaders as well as iris scans, fingerprints and DNA.

The most controversial target was the UN leadership. That directive requested the specification of telecoms and IT systems used by top officials and their staff and details of “private VIP networks used for official communication, to include upgrades, security measures, passwords, personal encryption keys”.

PJ Crowley, the state department spokesman in Washington, said: “Let me assure you: our diplomats are just that, diplomats. They do not engage in intelligence activities. They represent our country around the world, maintain open and transparent contact with other governments as well as public and private figures, and report home. That’s what diplomats have done for hundreds of years.”

Last night the acting deputy spokesman for Ban Ki Moon, Farhan Haq, said the UN chief had no immediate comment: “We are aware of the reports.”

The US embassy cables are marked “Sipdis” – secret internet protocol distribution. They were compiled as part of a programme under which selected dispatches, considered moderately secret but suitable for sharing with other agencies, would be automatically loaded on to secure embassy websites, and linked with the military’s Siprnet internet system.

They are classified at various levels up to “secret nofor” (no foreigners). More than 11,000 are marked secret, while around 9,000 of the cables are marked nofor.

More than 3 million US government personnel and soldiers, many extremely junior, are cleared to have potential access to this material, even though the cables contain the identities of foreign informants, often sensitive contacts in dictatorial regimes. Some are marked “protect” or “strictly protect”.

Last spring, 22-year-old intelligence analyst Bradley Manning was charged with leaking many of these cables, along with a gun-camera video of an Apache helicopter crew mistakenly killing two Reuters news agency employees in Baghdad in 2007, which was subsequently posted by WikiLeaks. Manning is facing a court martial.

A former hacker, Adrian Lamo, who reported Manning to the US authorities, said the soldier had told him in chat messages that the cables revealed “how the first world exploits the third, in detail”.

He also said, according to Lamo, that Clinton “and several thousand diplomats around the world are going to have a heart attack when they wake up one morning and find an entire repository of classified foreign policy is available in searchable format to the public ... everywhere there’s a US post ... there’s a diplomatic scandal that will be revealed”.

Asked why such sensitive material was posted on a network accessible to thousands of government employees, the state department spokesman told the Guardian: “The 9/11 attacks and their aftermath revealed gaps in intra-governmental information sharing. Since the attacks of 9/11, the US government has taken significant steps to facilitate information sharing. These efforts were focused on giving diplomatic, military, law enforcement and intelligence specialists quicker and easier access to more data to more effectively do their jobs.”

He added: “We have been taking aggressive action in recent weeks and months to enhance the security of our systems and to prevent the leak of information.”

“The State, Under The Democrats More Than The Republicans, Has Literally Fulfilled George Orwell’s Nightmare Of Big Brother”

17 November 2010 by: Stanley Aronowitz, The Independent [Excerpts]

For two years, flanked by his neoliberal team of head economist Larry Summers, Fed chief Ben Bernanke and as Treasury Secretary, the grim Tim Geithner, Obama has adopted the discredited trickle-down policies of the Bush and Clinton administrations of which Summers and Co. were architects.

Economic growth has inched forward as the federal government poured trillions into corporations, but joblessness remains devastatingly high.

It is not unreasonable to view the Republicans and Democrats as virtually identical in their core beliefs — that the main problem is the deficit, that the huge war economy and the Afghan and Iraq wars are unassailable, and that the business of government is business.

The best face on this convergence is to charge the Democrats with timidity, which ignores the fact that they are in the pocket of big money.

Most dangerous, the state, under the Democrats more than the Republicans, has literally fulfilled George Orwell's nightmare of Big Brother. In the name of the dubious war on terror, the government has won the right to tap our telephones and spy on our emails, Twitter, Facebook entries and electronic technologies to come.

We like to ascribe McCarthyite hysteria to the right.

But the drift toward authoritarian rule is riding a wave of Democratic initiatives.

Uncomfortable? Only for those who persist in emphasizing the few differences between the parties and ignoring the degree to which both are in the thrall of big capital.

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

CLASS WAR REPORTS

**100,000 March In Ireland
Against A Government Plan To
Make The Working Class Pay
For Bailing Out The Bankers:
“The Government Has Robbed Us”
Demonstrators Protest Tax Increases
And Spending Cuts Like Sharp
Reductions In State Pensions And
The Minimum Wage:
“The Cost For A Typical Middle-Class
Family Earning \$67,000 A Year Would Be
About \$5,800 A Year”**



A demonstrator holds a picture of Prime Minister Brian Cowen of Ireland during a protest in Dublin on Saturday. Photo: Andrew Testa for The New York Times

[Thanks to Michael Letwin & Mark Shapiro, Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

11.27.2010 By John F. Burns, The New York Times & By Henry McDonald, Dublin, Guardian News and Media Limited [Excerpts]

After a week that brought Ireland a pledge of a \$114 billion international rescue package and the toughest austerity program of any country in Europe, demonstrators took to Dublin's streets on Saturday.

More than 100,000 Irish citizens took to the streets to protest against the international bailout and four years of austerity.

The protests centered on a milelong march along the banks of the River Liffey in central Dublin to the General Post Office building on O'Connell Street, the site of the battle between Irish republican rebels and British troops in the Easter Uprising in 1916 — an iconic event that many in Ireland regard as the tipping point in Ireland's long struggle for independence.

The choice of venue for the protests by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, coordinating the march through the city, reflected the mood of anger, dismay and recrimination in the wake of the economic shocks of the past 10 days.

Those shocks have been the culmination of two years in which the economy has shrunk by about 15 percent, faster than any other European economy.

Among other things, the austerity package will involve the loss of about 25,000 public-sector jobs, equivalent to 10 percent of the government work force, as well as a four-year, \$20 billion program of tax increases and spending cuts like sharp reductions in state pensions and minimum wage.

One Dublin newspaper, the Irish Independent, estimated that the cost of the measures for a typical middle-class family earning \$67,000 a year would be about \$5,800 a year.

The ensuing political turmoil has raised questions about the ability of the government of Prime Minister Brian Cowen to secure backing for the austerity package when it is presented to Parliament on Dec. 7.

On a bitterly cold day, organizers put the turnout at 100,000. The police estimated 50,000, still one of the largest protest gatherings in years.

Protesters waved banners that depicted the austerity measures as an attack on the country's sovereignty by the international financial institutions drawing up the rescue package, and on the poor.

"Everything's collapsing," one woman said.

An older man placed blame for the crisis on the Cowen government, for failing to rein in the runaway property speculation that left Ireland's banks with a mountain of bad debt now borne by the taxpayers.

“The government has robbed us,” he said. “They’ve destroyed the country that we’ve built up over a number of years. They’ve just destroyed it.”

The anger of many speakers, and among the protesters, appeared to fall about equally on the Cowen government and on the international financial institutions working out the details of the rescue package.

Marching in the rally was Irish builder Mick Wallace who has had to lay off 100 workers due to the crash in the construction industry. Wallace said it was time the Irish became more militant.

“We should be more like the French and get onto the streets more often. Because our politicians go over to Europe and tell the EU that our people do not demonstrate, they don’t take to the streets. It’s time we changed that and openly opposed what is going on,” he said.



Thousands of demonstrators march through Dublin to protest against budget cuts and an EU-IMF bailout. Photograph: Peter Morrison/AP

Got an opinion? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send to contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request identification published.

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