

Military Resistance 8L1

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?



The remains of Army Spc. Pedro A. Maldonado of Houston Texas, upon arrival at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Oct. 31, 2010. Spc. Maldonado, 20, of Houston, Texas, died Oct. 29 in Kandalay, Afghanistan, when insurgents attacked his unit with rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire. (AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)

The Elections

From: Dennis Serdel
To: Military Resistance
Sent: November 30, 2010
Subject: The Elections

Written by Dennis Serdel, Military Resistance 2010; Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade; United Auto Workers GM Retiree

The Elections

**Nobody gives a damn about us
humping our asses off
getting blown up and shot at
and living like animals
No, all they care about is**

the economy and taxes and
Republicans and Democrats
fighting for power
that ends up in gridlock and
they don't even mention us
in their elections
Nobody gives a damn
Us Soldiers are invisible
they don't care about
how many tours we do
how good we fight in Afghanistan
back home they are in another world
and we are not part of it
we are taken for granted
like piss ants in the desert
like a different reality
that they are not part of
they don't see the dead Taliban
they don't see the dead civilians
and they don't see our blood
leaking all over they don't see
our missing limbs they don't
see our dead
all they see is their selves
because to them we are invisible,
there but not there,
and we are fighting and dying for that.
It's like there are two countries
one called America
and the War is the other one
the forgotten one
when you forget us Soldiers
and forget the War
it can't keep going on this way
just because the War
is at the bottom of the polls

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Afghanistan, Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the wars, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Phone: 888.711.2550

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Resistance Action

Nov 29 (Reuters) & AP & Nov 30 (Reuters) & Dec 1 (Reuters)

QAIM - Police said Lieutenant Colonel Mohammed Abdul-Majeed, the police chief in the town of Qaim, escaped injury but two of his guards were killed when a roadside bomb exploded near his convoy in Qaim, which is located in Anbar province 300 km (185 miles) west of Baghdad.

KIRKUK - A roadside bomb explosion in central Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, wounded the police chief of Dibbis, a town just north of Kirkuk, police said.

BAIJI - Police found the bullet-riddled bodies of a policeman and a member of the government-backed al-Sahwa militia in western Baiji, 180 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A bomb on Baghdad's western Abu Ghraib suburb killed a policeman and an Iraqi soldier as they were trying to diffuse it.

MOSUL - A car bomb exploded at the entrance of an Iraqi army base, wounding three soldiers, in eastern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, sources in the Nineveh province police operations centre and a Mosul hospital said.

MOSUL - An Iraqi soldier was killed and another was wounded when militants fired at an army security checkpoint in western Mosul, a police official at the Nineveh police operations centre said. The gunmen left a booby-trapped wooden cart at the scene, which exploded, wounding a policeman, the official said.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Foreign Occupation “Servicemember” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan: Nationality Not Announced

December 2 Reuters

A foreign servicemember died following an insurgent attack in southern Afghanistan today.

Foreign Occupation “Servicemember” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan: Nationality Not Announced

December 2 Reuters

A foreign servicemember died following an improvised explosive device attack in eastern Afghanistan today.

Wisconsin Army Medic Killed In Afghanistan



Army Medic Jacob A. Gassen in a Dec. 2, 2009 photo provided by Barbara Gassen, of Beaver Dam, Wis., the day before he graduated from basic training in the U.S. Army. Jacob Gassen was killed Nov. 29, 2010 in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/ Barbara Gassen)

11/30/2010 Associated Press

A Beaver Dam man says his soldier son has been killed while serving in Afghanistan.

Greg Gassen says his son, Jacob, who turned 21 on Nov. 19, was serving as a medic in his first tour of duty when he was killed. U.S. Army officials broke the news to Gassen at

his Beaver Dam home Monday afternoon. Gassen says he doesn't yet know the details surrounding his son's death.

Gassen says he last talked to his son Sunday. He says Jacob was looking forward to coming home for a visit. The family planned a combined birthday and Christmas celebration when Jacob was scheduled for leave in January.

The Beaver Dam Daily Citizen says Jacob Gassen was a 2008 graduate of Beaver Dam High School.

Sudbury Soldier, 23, Killed In Afghanistan

12.1.10 Sunbeam Television Corp.

SUDBURY, Mass. -- In Sudbury, a community is mourning the loss of a local soldier who has been killed overseas.

Army First Lieutenant Scott Milley was killed in the line of duty.

The 23-year-old died from enemy gunfire in the Kumar Province of Afghanistan.

The American flag flies at half staff in Sudbury on Wednesday to honor the fallen soldier.

Milley graduated from Lincoln-Sudbury High School, and his family still lives in the Sudbury area.

Dallas Soldier Who Specialized In Disarming IEDs Dies In Afghanistan

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

December 2, 2010 By JOE SIMNACHER, The Dallas Morning News

Pvt. Devon J. Harris, a 2004 graduate of Dallas' Skyline High School, quickly demonstrated his prowess at clearing improvised explosive devices from the path of American troops in Afghanistan.

He was deployed to the combat zone in October, shortly after a three-day visit home to North Texas.

"His unit was very proud of Devon. He had gone on several missions disarming those IEDs," said his father, Tennyson Harris of Rowlett. "He'd gotten so good, they put him in the lead Humvee. They had a lot of confidence in him."

Pvt. Harris, 24, was killed in Wardak province, Afghanistan, on Saturday when insurgents attacked his combat-engineering unit with a rocket-propelled grenade.

Services are pending the return of his body Friday from Dover Air Force Base in Delaware.

Pvt. Harris was born in Dallas, where he was an active member of Southern Hills Church of Christ. He played the violin and wanted to become a history teacher.

After graduating from Skyline, he attended Southwest Christian College in Terrell for two years. He joined the Army in August 2009.

He was a member of the Brigade Special Troops Battalion of the 10th Mountain Division of Fort Drum in New York, but his unit had been based at Fort Polk, La., for the past year.

Pvt. Harris' generosity was apparent on his visits home, his father said.

"He would buy his friends different items, and then he wouldn't have enough money to catch the bus to go back," Mr. Harris said. "He'd come to me and say, 'Daddy, I need some bus fare so I can get back to Polk. ... I had to help someone.' "

In addition to his father, Pvt. Harris is survived by his stepmother, Felicia Harris of Rowlett; his mother, Sorainya Harris of Mesquite ; his brothers, Christopher Johnson of Mesquite, David Parker of Lancaster and Michael Rufus of Dallas; and his sisters, Ashley Harris of Mesquite (his twin sister), Monica Harris Smith of Cedar Hill and Stephanie Rufus of Rowlett.

British Soldier Killed, Four Wounded In Nahr-e Saraj

Nov 30 2010 by Neil Elkes, Birmingham Mail

THE soldier son of a Birmingham Labour councillor was seriously wounded when his patrol was ambushed in Afghanistan.

Lance Sergeant Vincent Hockley was one of five Irish Guardsmen shot in the attack which left one of his colleagues, 22-year-old Christopher Davies, dead.

They were mentoring an Afghan National Army Patrol in the Nahr-e Saraj area when they were ambushed. Vincent was shot in the hip.

The Battalion was just six weeks into a six-month tour of duty in the Helmand Province when they were attacked on November 17.

Coun Ward said: "Four were injured in the attack and one died. We are the lucky ones. Our thoughts are with Chris's family. It has been a hard time. We were told on the

Wednesday night that Vince had been shot, but had to wait 48 hours to see him and find out how bad the injuries are. We did not know what to expect.

“He looked rough at first. He is bearing up but he knew Chris very well and is thinking about his friend.”

L/Sgt Hockley has undergone surgery at the QE Hospital and is expected to take at least a year to make a full recovery. He will need more surgery.

Christopher Davies, from St Helens, Merseyside, was the 100th British soldier to be killed in Afghanistan this year.

His body was repatriated in a solemn march through Wootton Bassett last week.

Soldier From Area Killed In Afghanistan



Army Spc. Justin Culbreth

November 20, 2010 St. Louis Today

WENTZVILLE • A soldier with ties to Wentzville was killed Wednesday in Afghanistan when insurgents attacked his unit with a roadside bomb.

Army Spc. Justin E. Culbreth, 26, died at Panjway district, Afghanistan, the Defense Department said.

Spc. Culbreth had formerly lived in Wentzville, where his parents, Walter and Cheryl Culbreth, live. He attended Warrenton High School then was homeschooled and finished early before going into the military.

"We miss him," his father said Friday.

Spc. Culbreth was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, out of Fort Campbell, Ky.

His unit has been hit hard in the past week. Twelve soldiers in the division have died since Nov. 11 in Afghanistan.

Spc. Culbreth joined the Army in 2004 and arrived at Fort Campbell in 2009, according to a Fort Campbell news release. He has since received numerous commendations, including the Purple Heart and medals for service in Iraq, Afghanistan and Korea.

In addition to his parents, among the survivors are his wife, Kimberly; his son Brandon and daughter Katelyn; and stepchildren Mariah Bailey, Hannah Carbaugh and Cole Carbaugh, all of Clarksville, Tenn.

Spc. Culbreth's family was living with him in Clarksville while he was being trained at Fort Campbell. He was deployed in February.

Pasco County Marine Calls Home To Say He Lost Both Legs In Explosion In Afghanistan



Lance Cpl. Justin Gaertner takes position after coming under fire in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan in 2009. [Getty Images (2009)]

December 1, 2010 By Drew Harwell, Times Staff Writer

TRINITY — The call came at 1:28 p.m. Friday, the caller ID cryptically reading, "U.S. Government — Honolulu."

Larry Dalla Betta, just getting home from a youth football game, answered in the kitchen. "Is this Larry?" an operator asked. Dalla Betta said yes. Then he heard another voice, speaking from half a world away, sudden, strained:

"Dad, I've been hit. I've lost both my legs."

"Where are you?" Dalla Betta asked. "Where are you?"

"I'm in Afghanistan," his son said. "I can't talk. They're taking me to Germany. I can contact you in 24 hours." Dalla Betta began to talk. The line went dead.

He screamed. "Justin! Justin!" He started to cry. Justin's siblings Larry Jr., 11, and Nicole, 5, started to cry, too.

Two months ago, U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Justin Gaertner touched down in Afghanistan, into the Helmand Province, a war zone of Taliban insurgent strongholds.

The Mitchell High School grad had been deployed twice before — aboard a Navy cruiser in the Persian Gulf and into the gunner seat of a Humvee — but this trip was different. At the behest of his sergeant, the 21-year-old had taken on a new assignment, leading a specialized sweeper unit to detect and defuse improvised explosives rigged to blow.

His mission Friday morning: travel among an eight-truck convoy through the desert's embattled roads, clearing the way for patrols. As lead sweeper, Gaertner took point — if anyone saw action, it would be him.

Suddenly, the third truck in line triggered an explosion, likely set off by a pressure plate buried beneath the sand. The convoy stopped. As the dust settled, several Marines, including Gaertner, rushed to assess the damage.

The second bomb blew. Triggered remotely, it caught the Marines by surprise. Gaertner's legs, and those of a friend he had met at Camp Pendleton, were blown to pieces. A third Marine was killed.

Medevac units sped the men to Camp Dwyer, a Marine base and airstrip near the Helmand River.

A few hours back and several time zones away, Gaertner's family had just been looking for him during the Thanksgiving football games. They wondered if they would see him in one of the live shots of the troops.

They never did. Dalla Betta thinks, by that time, he may have already started his patrol.

After getting the call from his son, Dalla Betta, 48, phoned his wife at work. She rushed home, panicked. He told her what he knew, which was a little, and what he didn't, which was a lot.

When two Marines knocked on the door of their Trinity home an hour later, Jill Dalla Betta, 44, shook and collapsed with the fear her son was dead. Instead, the Marines said Gaertner was scheduled to fly out of a German airstrip to the Walter Reed Army Medical Center near Bethesda, Md.

As they waited for word on when they could see him, a friend in Gaertner's unit posted on his Facebook wall:

"I GOT BACK TO THE TENT LAST NIGHT I SAT IN FRONT OF UR RACK N I CRIED FOR ABOUT AN HOUR," Darrell Brown wrote. "TO SEE U HURT LIKE THAT, MY OTHER HALF GONE."

Jill Dalla Betta will fly out of Tampa today to meet with Gaertner and her 23-year-old son, David, a Marine sergeant training in Twentynine Palms, Calif. On Tuesday she went shopping for Christmas decorations for his hospital room, where doctors say he'll likely need six months of surgery, rehabilitation and fittings for his prosthetic legs. His arm was badly shredded by shrapnel, and he'll need to learn how to walk with his legs severed above the knees.

It would have been Gaertner's last deployment.

His end date, after four years of service, was scheduled for March. Entranced by the indoor ski resort at a Dubai megamall he visited during deployment, Gaertner planned to work as a paramedic on the slopes of the American West.

In the days since the explosion, Larry Dalla Betta said, Gaertner has regained much of the spunk that attracted him to the "leathernecks." He has flirted with nurses, pledged to ride his motorcycles again and joked with his parents that his Christmas list included roller skates.

But his weaknesses remain. He asks that visitors follow two rules: no crying and no loud noises.

"He'll likely wake up many, many nights with that vision, that noise, that dream," Dalla Betta said.

"We've got a long road ahead."

Resistance Action



Burnt mine removal vehicles in Nangarhar, east of Kabul, Afghanistan, Dec 1, 2010. Taliban militants seized 16 Afghan mine removal experts in an ambush near the

Pakistan border Wednesday and released all but seven of them hours after the attack. (AP Photo/Rahmat Gul)

Nov 28, 2010 DPA & November 30, 2010 By RAHIM FAIEZ, Associated Press

A senior member of a provincial council was killed in eastern Afghanistan on Sunday, officials said. Abdulah Ahmadzai, senior secretary for the provincial council of the eastern province of Logar, was killed in an ambush along with two others, a spokesman for the provincial governor said. 'Ahmadzai's brother and cousin were also among the dead. They were on the way to the office when they came under attack.' A Taliban spokesman took responsibility for the attack.

Tuesday, the Interior Ministry said Afghan insurgents attacked a construction company in Kabul province, wounding one security guard and capturing nine others in the mountainous Sarobi district, about 27 miles (45 kilometers) east of the capital, Kabul. Nine other guards escaped the attack, which happened Monday, said Zemeru Bashary, an Interior Ministry spokesman. The insurgents also seized several rifles.

REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: ALL HOME NOW



U.S. Marines carry a wounded comrade to a helicopter during a Medevac mission in southern Afghanistan's Helmand Province November 8, 2010. REUTERS/Peter Andrews

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

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

“Insurgent Groups Have Launched A New Offensive To Take Mogadishu”

Nov 29, 2010 GAROWE ONLINE

Clashes between Somali government troops and al-Shabab fighters have left 15 people dead and at least 20 civilians injured, Radio Garowe reports.

Al-Shabab and Hizbul-Islam factions, both insurgent groups with the aim of toppling the weak interim government backed by African Union troops, have launched a new offensive to take Mogadishu.

Fighting began on Saturday, stopped overnight, but resumed on Sunday morning on various fronts of the northern and southern districts of Abdiasis, Hodan, H/wadaag, and Bondhere.

The two sides have been battling for the same districts for months without gaining much ground, and often exchanging control over a few districts.

The fighting rages days after new Somali Prime Minister Mohamed Farmajo's Cabinet was approved by the TFG Parliament.

The TFG is Somalia's 15th attempt to restore national order, but the weak TFG has been unable to confront the relentless firepower and propaganda of insurgents like Al Shabaab terror group.

MILITARY NEWS

What's The British Soldier Getting For Christmas? Kevlar Boxer Shorts:

“The Lads Fighting On The Front Line Are Terrified At The Thought Of Being Maimed In The Groin By IEDs”



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

2 December 2010 By DUNCAN LARCOMBE, Defence Editor & By Andy McNab
Sun Security Adviser, The Sun

THEY'RE a fitting Christmas present for Our Boys in Afghanistan - BOMB-PROOF boxer shorts.

The £60 Kevlar-lined pants will help save privates - and corporals and sergeants - from Taliban blasts.

The lightweight shorts, worn under normal combat gear, shield the groin from the effects of Improvised Explosive Devices - where standard-issue body armour does not.

The boxers were developed by Cardiff-based firm BCB International.

THE lads fighting on the front line are terrified at the thought of being maimed in the groin by IEDs.

Often guys standing near an IED blast are also injured by flying debris or shrapnel. Until now there has been nothing on the market to help protect them.

There is nothing a squaddie likes more than the latest gear.

So these blast boxers will make an ideal Christmas gift from wives or girlfriends with a particular incentive to keep their lads safe.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose.”

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

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

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

Frederick Douglass, 1852

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

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

**“What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.”
-- Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787**

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

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

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

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

**A revolution is always distinguished by impoliteness, probably because the ruling classes did not take the trouble in good season to teach the people fine manners.
-- Leon Trotsky, History Of The Russian Revolution**

“The Nixon administration claimed and received great credit for withdrawing the Army from Vietnam, but it was the rebellion of low-ranking GIs that forced the government to abandon a hopeless suicidal policy”

-- David Cortright; Soldiers In Revolt

**It is a two class world and the wrong class is running it.
-- Larry Christensen, Soldiers Of Solidarity & United Auto Workers**

**Rise like Lions after slumber
In unvanquishable number,
Shake your chains to earth like dew
Which in sleep had fallen on you-
Ye are many — they are few**

-- Percy Bysshe Shelley, 1819, on the occasion of a mass murder of British workers by the Imperial government at Peterloo.

Shit-House Rats Attack WikiLeaks: Accuse Assange Of Helping The CIA And Mossad

Comment: T

In colloquial speech, the phrase “crazy as a shit-house rat” is used to describe an individual who combines in one personality an extreme of viciousness, filth, and stark, raving madness.

Given the damage done to the U.S. Evil Empire by the most recent release of “secret” U.S. government documents by WikiLeaks, it is hardly surprising that a variety of shit-house rat U.S. Imperial politicians are calling for the immediate assassination of Julian Assange.

Another group of shit-house rats seek to discredit the authenticity of the U.S. government documents by claiming that WikiLeaks is some sort of conspiracy by the Israeli intelligence agency, Mossad, and/or the CIA.

The human filth puking out this stupid lying slime are silent about the U.S. soldier, Bradley Manning, awaiting a military court-martial in jail, who now faces endless years in prison for releasing the Imperial documents to WikiLeaks.

Is he supposed to be a Mossad or CIA agent too?

Not likely.

What is more likely is that the people spreading these half-witted lies to discredit the authenticity of the documents made public by WikiLeaks are the real agents of Mossad and the CIA.

MORE:

**All Respect And Honor To The
Soldier Bradley Manning:
“The One Who Lived Up To His Oath
Of Office And The One Who Acted**

Patriotically Here To Stop This Illegal Process”

“Private First Class Bradley Manning Has Been Held In Solitary Confinement For The Last Seven Months And Is Facing A Court Martial Next Year”



November 29, 2010 Democracy Now [Excerpts]

AMY GOODMAN: I wanted to talk about Bradley Manning for a minute. The US military believes the leak can be traced to Private First Class Bradley Manning who has been held in solitary confinement for the last seven months and is facing a court martial next year.

In an on-line conversation with computer hacker, Adrian Lamo, who would later turn him in, Manning said, “Hillary 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 a searchable format to the public. Everywhere there is a U.S. post there is a diplomatic scandal that will be revealed. It is open diplomacy, worldwide anarchy in CSV format. It’s Climategate with a global scope and breathtaking depth. It is beautiful and horrifying.”

Those are the words of Bradley Manning, 22 years old, low level, in Iraq, coming in with this Lady Gaga CD, saying it was Lady Gaga, and downloading all this information. Is this possible? Daniel Ellsberg, I want to put that question to you. You have been raising money for his defense.

DANIEL ELLSBERG: Clearly what’s possible to 22 year old Manning who was, by the way, seven years younger I think, probably 20 or so when he actually started this

process. What is available to him is probably available to five or six hundred thousand people -- available to SIPRNet -- and notice that the thing that first struck him was his realization that he was involved in the arrest process of people who he later discovered were doing nothing other than writing what he calls, "scholarly critiques of the current administration" for which they were being tortured by the Iraqis to whom we were turning them over with the knowledge of Americans.

All of this being blatantly illegal, both for the Iraqis and for the Americans who turned them over to torture.

When he reported this to his superior, his superior told him to forget it and get back to work arresting people.

The effect that had on Bradley Manning was that he was being asked to participate in a blatantly illegal process and he chose to say no to it, to expose it, to resist it, to do what he actually should have done.

One person out of hundreds of thousands who did that.

The material that he revealed in the Iraq Logs, which were just revealed recently -- some 400,000 logs -- revealed hundreds if not thousands of cases of Americans who reported that they understood they were turning people over to be tortured, clearly against U.S. and international law, and they were then being ordered not to pursue the investigation further or take any measure to stop this illegal process.

Now that order was blatantly illegal so it will be interesting to take a look at those thousands of cases and just see which one led to a refusal to carry out that blatantly illegal order as the USMJ requires them to do.

Bradley Manning seems to have been the one who did that, the one who lived up to his oath of office and the one who acted patriotically here to stop this illegal process.

For that he will pay very heavily.

And yet, he may yet inspire some other people to do the same -- to save lives, stop processes of torture and to reveal, by the way, the absolute lack of progress that is revealed throughout all of these documents.

MORE:

Send A Holiday Message To Bradley Manning!

Bradley Manning Support Network. November 11, 2010 Via Courage To Resist
[Excerpts]

This winter, millions of people will be sending cards to friends and loved ones filled with holiday cheer and warm wishes for the coming year.

Bradley Manning!

He's been stuck in prison for months – let's send him some holiday cheer!

Bradley Manning
c/o Courage to Resist
484 Lake Park Ave #41
Oakland CA 94610 USA

Tips for sending cards to Bradley: Remember, Bradley will only get to see the outside of the envelope the first time you send him a letter. We recommend you consider sending a postcard so he gets to see the picture.

You may have to send several letters before one gets through. To facilitate this, consider making three copies of your first letter- then send it 3 times, one time per week for 3 weeks.

With luck, the third letter will get through! Above all, don't get discouraged if the letters are returned to you. Bradley Manning needs your unwavering support.

Want to do more?

If you want to do more for Bradley Manning, then please consider making a donation to our defense fund, hosted by Courage to Resist: Even small donations can help! Visit couragetoresist.org/bradley for options and more info.

And as always, there are other ways you can work for Bradley Manning's freedom.

For 10 things you can do today!: <http://www.bradleymanning.org/what-can-i-do/>

MORE:

Why CIA And Mossad Agents And Their Allies Would Smear WikiLeaks #1: “What Is Very Striking About All These Documents On The Middle East Is That The Arab People Are Not Going To Be Surprised That Much”

“They All Along Have Known That They Are Ruled By A Bunch Of Liars And Deceivers Who Go To Extra Lengths To Appease And Please The United States”

It is also striking, the extent to which the head of the Mossad -- a highly touted organization -- does not seem to have that many insights or information or analysis that is insightful about what is happening in the Middle East.

November 29, 2010 Democracy Now [Excerpts]

AMY GOODMAN: The whistleblowing website WikiLeaks has begun releasing a giant trove of confidential American diplomatic cables that's sending shockwaves through the global diplomatic establishment. The more than a quarter million classified cables were sent by U.S. embassies around the world, most of them in the past three years.

Among the findings, Arab leaders are privately urging the United States to conduct air strikes on Iran; in particular, King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia has repeatedly called on U.S. to attack Iran to destroy its nuclear program, reportedly calling on American officials to cut off the head of the snake.

Jordan, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, also said they support a U.S. attack. The cables also highlight Israel's anxiety to preserve its regional nuclear monopoly; it's readiness to 'go it alone' against Iran, and its attempts to influence American policy.

The cables also provide a detailed account of an agreement between Washington and Yemen to cover up the use of U.S. warplanes to bomb targets in Yemen. One cable records that during a meeting in January with General David Petraeus, the Yemeni president Abdallah Saleh said, “We will continue saying these are our bombs, not yours.”

The cables also reveal that U.S. officials sharply warned Germany in 2007 not to enforce arrest warrants for CIA officers involved in an operation in which an innocent German citizen with the same name as a suspected militant was abducted and held for months in Afghanistan.

The cables also document suspicion of corruption in the Afghan government. One cable alleges that Afghan vice president Zia Massoud was carrying fifty two million dollars in cash when stopped during a visit to the United Arab Emirates.

CARNE ROSS [British diplomat for 15 years who resigned before the Iraq war. He is the founder and head of a non-profit diplomatic advisory group, Independent Diplomat]

What this means is I think it will be very difficult for American diplomats henceforward to practice diplomacy.

I think the fact these cables have come out will mean other diplomats will find it harder to share confidences with American diplomats.

That will have, of course, negative effects for the operational effectiveness of the U.S. government, and perhaps also for the WikiLeaks and historians of the future who want to find out what the U.S. government and its diplomats were actually doing or thinking.

AS AD ABUKHALIL [As'ad Abu Khalil, professor of political science at California State University, Stanislaus and visiting professor at UC, Berkeley. He's the author of *The Battle for Saudi Arabia* and runs the *Angry Arab News Service* blog]

What is very striking about all these documents on the Middle East is that the Arab people are not going to be surprised that much.

They all along have known that they are ruled by a bunch of liars and deceivers who go to extra lengths to appease and please the United States.

What is going to be particularly revealing are the details that show the lengths to which these rulers go in order to please the United States. And we find that they are not capable of making independent decisions.

Whatever the instincts of the United States are, those rulers go along with them and, in fact, they seem to compete with one another. For example, in showing how much they are hostile towards Iran. You see, for example, the second person in the United Arab Emirates -- a guy who is very influential there -- goes on to encourage the United States not only to attack Iran in a variety of sites, but to prepare for a land invasion.

I should also say, what is revealing in the documents also is the utter stupidity of those rulers who, in many of these conversations, seem to think that the United States government really listens to their advice, that they really consult with them on a regular basis, as if they are waiting for the opinion of the Egyptian President or the Saudi King before they reach their decision.

On the question of Israel, what people are going to notice is the extent to which there is a close correlation between the Israeli government and the American government on all issues pertaining to the Middle East- including Pakistan -- and the extent to which that kind of coordination is absent in these discussions between the American officials and the Israelis.

I should also say that we have seen documents in which the opinions of the Head of the Mossad Dagan were detailed in an American cable.

It is also striking, the extent to which the head of the Mossad -- a highly touted organization -- does not seem to have that many insights or information or analysis that is insightful about what is happening in the Middle East.

Certainly, the location of Israel is extremely high in the esteem of the United States, but the low esteem to which the Arab governments are held by U.S. officials is quite apparent in these documents.

MORE:

**Why CIA And Mossad Agents
And Their Allies Would Smear
WikiLeaks #2:
Snakes On The Brain:
The Bizarre World Of The WikiLeaked
Diplomatic Reports:
“For Decades, Middle East Potentates
Have Been Threatening To Chop Off The
Heads Of Snakes, Serpents, Rats And
Iranian Insects”**

They will pray in their golden mosques, these kings and emirs and generals, buying more and more American weapons to protect themselves from the "Hitler" of Tehran – better, I suppose, than the 2003 Hitler of the Tigris or the 1956 Mussolini of the Nile – and entreat God that they will be saved by the might of America and Israel.

I can't wait for the next episode in this fantasy.

30 November 2010 Robert Fisk, The Independent [Excerpts]

I came to the latest uproarious US diplomatic history with the deepest cynicism.

And yesterday, in the dust of post-election Cairo – the Egyptian parliamentary poll was as usual a mixture of farce and fraud, which is at least better than shock and awe – I ploughed through so many thousands of American diplomatic reports with something approaching utter hopelessness.

After all, they do quote President Hosni Mubarak as saying that "you can forget about democracy," don't they?

Vast amounts of diplomatic literature prove that the mainstay of Washington's Middle East policy is alignment with Israel, that its principal aim is to encourage the Arabs to join the American-Israeli alliance against Iran, that the compass point of US policy over years and years is the need to tame/bully/crush/oppress/ ultimately destroy the power of Iran.

There is virtually no talk (so far, at least) of illegal Jewish colonial settlements on the West Bank, of Israeli "outposts", of extremist Israeli "settlers" whose homes now smallpox the occupied Palestinian West Bank – of the vast illegal system of land theft which lies at the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian war.

There's a wonderful moment in the cables when the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, explains to a US congressional delegation on 28 April last year that "a Palestinian state must be demilitarised, without control of its airspace and electro-magnetic field (sic), and without the power to enter into treaties or control its border".

Well goodbye, then, to the "viable" (ergo Lord Blair of Isfahan) Palestinian state we all supposedly want. And the US Congress lads and ladies appear to have said nothing.

Instead, in The New York Times, we read through the WikiLeaks files for the best quote. Here is Saudi King Abdullah, via his ambassador in Washington (a dab hand with the press), saying that Abdullah believes America must "cut off the head of this snake" – the snake being Iran or Ahmadinejad or Iranian nuclear facilities, or whatever.

But the Saudis are always threatening to cut off the head of their latest snakes.

In 1982, Yasser Arafat said he would cut off Israel's left arm after its invasion of Lebanon, and then the Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin said he would cut off Arafat's right arm.

And I suppose that when it is revealed to us – as, alas, it is in these WikiLeaks papers – that unsuitable applicants for US visas are called by American diplomats "visa vipers", we can only conclude that snakes are much in demand.

The problem is that for decades, Middle East potentates have been threatening to chop off the heads of snakes, serpents, rats and Iranian insects – the latter a favourite of Saddam Hussein who used US-supplied "insecticide" to destroy them, as we all know – while Israeli leaders have called Palestinians "cockroaches" (Rafael Eitan), "crocodiles" (Ehud Barak) and "three-legged beasts" (Begin).

Tears of laughter, I have to admit, began to run down my face when I read the po-faced US diplomatic report from Bahrain that King Hamad – or "His Supreme Highness King Hamad" as he insists on being called, in his Sunni dictatorship with a Shia majority and a kingdom slightly larger than the Isle of Wight – had announced that the danger of letting the Iranian nuclear programme go on was "greater than the danger of stopping it".

I loved the stunning report of a visitor to the US embassy in Ankara who told diplomats that Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei was dying of leukemia.

Not because the poor old boy is a cancer victim – he is not – but because this is the same old nonsense we've been peddled about the Middle East's recalcitrant leaders for so many years.

I remember the days when American or British "diplomatic sources" insisted that Gaddafi was dying of cancer, that Khomeini was dying of cancer (long before he died), that Khomeini was already dead of cancer – again, long before he died –

that the Palestinian contract killer Abu Nidal was dying of cancer, 20 years before he was murdered by Saddam.

Even in Northern Ireland, Britain's half-baked spooks told us that the Protestant Vanguard leader William Craig was dying of cancer.

And of course, he lived on, like the awful Gaddafi, whose Ukrainian nurse is described by the Americans as "voluptuous". Of course she is. Aren't all blonde dames "voluptuous" in such descriptions?

One of the most interesting reflections – dutifully ignored by most of the pro-WikiLeaks papers yesterday – came in a cable on a meeting between a US Senate delegation and President Bashar Assad of Syria earlier this year. America, Assad told his guests, possessed "a huge information apparatus" but lacked the ability to analyse this information successfully. "While we lack your intelligence abilities," he says in rather sinister fashion, "we succeed in fighting extremists because we have better analysts ... in the US you like to shoot (terrorists). Suffocating their networks is far more effective."

Iran, he concluded, was the most important country in the region, followed by Turkey and – number three – Syria itself. Poor old Israel didn't get a look in.

Of course President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan is "driven by paranoia" – so is everyone in that land, including most of NATO and especially the United States – and naturally the President of Yemen pretends to his own people that he is killing al-Qa'ida representatives when we all know it's General David Petraeus's warriors who are the culprits.

Muslim leaders have constantly been claiming American military prowess against other Muslims as their own work.

Of course, we must not be too cynical. I loved the American diplomatic report (from Cairo, of course, not from Tel Aviv) which said that Netanyahu was "elegant and charming ... but never keeps his promises". But doesn't that apply to half the Arab leaders as well?

And then we come to the dank and frightening reporting of a meeting between Andrew Shapiro, "Assistant Secretary of State for the US Political-Military Bureau", meeting with Israel's spooks almost exactly a year ago. Israel was unable to protect its Cessna Caravan and Raven unmanned pilotless drones over southern Lebanon, admits Mossad. (Hezbollah will be obliged for this nugget.) An Israeli "J5" Colonel Shimon Arad waffles on upon the dangers of "Hezbollahstan" and "Hamastan" and the "internal political deadlock" in Lebanon – there wasn't then, but there is now – and about Lebanon as a "volatile military arena" and the country's "susceptibility to outside influences, including Syria, Iran and Saudi Arabia".

And, of course – though Colonel Arad doesn't mention this – American influence and Israeli influence and French influence and British influence and Turkish influence. Shapiro "cited the need to provide an alternative to Hezbollah" – the Costa Rican police force, perhaps? – and suggested that the Lebanese army would come to the defence of Hezbollah (unlikely, in the circumstances).

There's a priceless denial of the UN Goldstone report on the Gaza atrocities of 2008-09 by reserve Major General Amos Gilad, who says that the document's criticisms of Israel are "baseless" because the Israeli military made 300,000 phone calls to houses in Gaza ahead of strikes ... to prevent civilian casualties". Poor old Shapiro seems to have reacted in silence. That would be a phone call to a fifth of the entire Palestinian population of Gaza, kids, babies and all. And even then they killed 1,300 Palestinians, most of them civilians.

Of course the Palestinian Authority of the bland Mahmoud Abbas didn't want to take over this killing field after the Israelis had won – another offer made by Israel with US knowledge – because Israel didn't win. It didn't even find its missing soldier in the tunnels of Gaza.

There's a symbolic moment when Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan of Abu Dhabi – not to be compared to the "distant and uncharismatic personage" of his brother Khalifa – worries about Iran in front of the US ambassador Richard Olsen who then suggests that he has "a strategic view of the region that is curiously close to the Israeli one".

But of course he does.

Line them up.

They will pray in their golden mosques, these kings and emirs and generals, buying more and more American weapons to protect themselves from the "Hitler" of Tehran – better, I suppose, than the 2003 Hitler of the Tigris or the 1956 Mussolini of the Nile – and entreat God that they will be saved by the might of America and Israel.

I can't wait for the next episode in this fantasy.

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December 2, 1914: Courage In The Face Of The Enemy: One Member Of The German Parliament Votes Against Imperial War



Karl Liebknecht

Carl Bunin Peace History Dec 26 - Dec 3

Karl Liebknecht was the only member of German Parliament to vote against war with France and Britain.

He was arrested shortly thereafter and conscripted into the German Army. Refusing to fight, Liebknecht served on the Eastern Front burying the dead.

From: Spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk:

Karl Liebknecht, the son of Wilhelm Liebknecht, was born in Leipzig on 13th August, 1871. His father was one of Germany's leading socialists who helped form the Social Democratic Party in 1891.

Liebknecht studied law and political economy at Leipzig and Berlin where he was converted to the ideas of Karl Marx.

After serving with the Imperial Pioneer Guards in Potsdam (1893-94), Liebknecht worked as a lawyer in Westphalia before moving to Berlin in 1898.

Liebkecht became involved in smuggling socialist propoganda into Russia. He also defended others in court who had been arrested and tried for this offence.

Liebkecht also wrote extensively against militarism and this resulted in him being imprisoned for eighteen months in Glatz, Silesia.

In 1912 Liebkecht was elected to the Reichstag. On the left-wing of the Social Democratic Party, Liebkecht was one of the main opponents of the party's conservative leadership.

Liebkecht was opposed to Germany's participation in the First World War and at the end of 1914 joined with Rosa Luxemburg, Leo Jogiches, Paul Levi, Ernest Meyer, Franz Mehring and Clara Zetkin to establish an underground political organization called Spartakusbund (Spartacus League). The Spartacus League publicized its views in its illegal newspaper, Spartacus Letters.

In January, 1915, Liebkecht, like the Bolsheviks in Russia, began arguing that socialists should turn this nationalist conflict into a revolutionary war.

He was arrested and then conscripted into the German Army. Refusing to fight, Liebkecht served on the Eastern Front burying the dead. His health deteriorated and in October, 1915, he was allowed to return to Germany.

On 1st May, 1916, the Spartacus League decided to come out into the open and organized a demonstration against the First World War in Berlin. Several of its leaders, including Liebkecht were arrested and imprisoned.

They were not released until October, 1918, when Max von Baden granted an amnesty to all political prisoners.

In January, 1919, Liebkecht joined with Rosa Luxemburg, Leo Jogiches and Clara Zetkin in the Spartakist Rising that took place in Berlin. Friedrich Ebert, the leader of the Social Democrat Party and Germany's new chancellor, called in the German Army and the Freikorps to bring an end to the rebellion. By 13th January the rebellion had been crushed and most of its leaders, including Liebkecht were arrested.

Karl Liebkecht was executed without trial on 15th January, 1919

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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