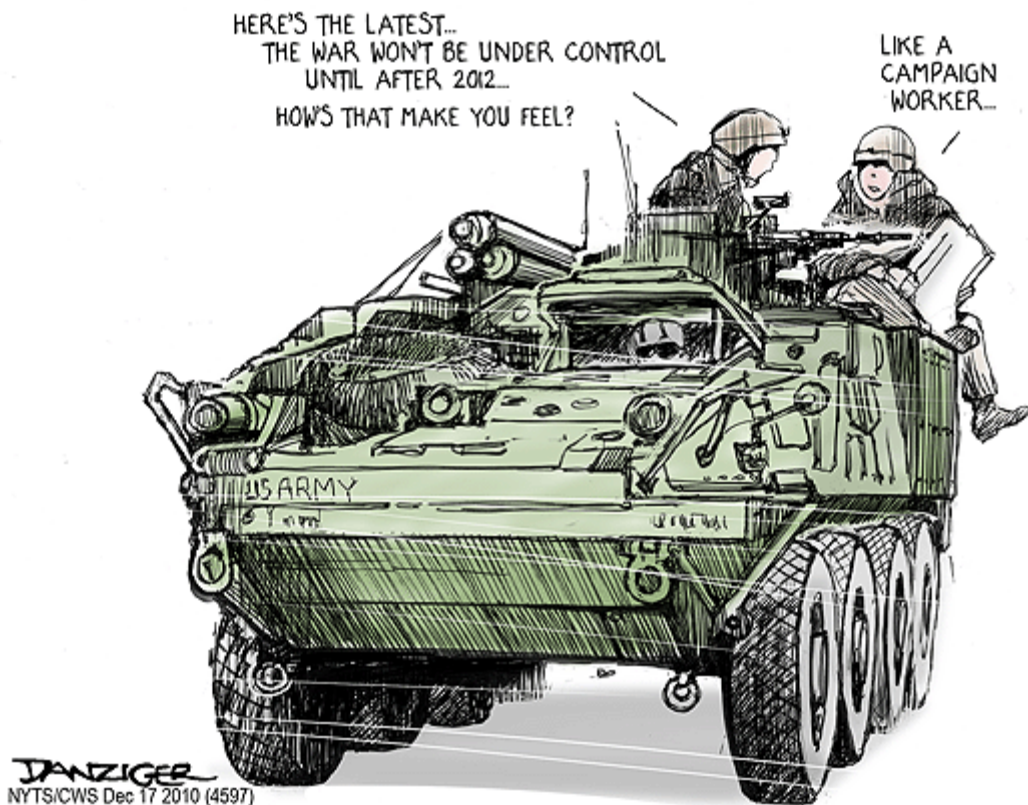


Military Resistance 8L10



**“U.S. Troops Were Hit
With 7,000 More Attacks
This Year Compared To
Last Year”**

**“About 3,800 Troops Were
Killed And Injured By IEDs,**

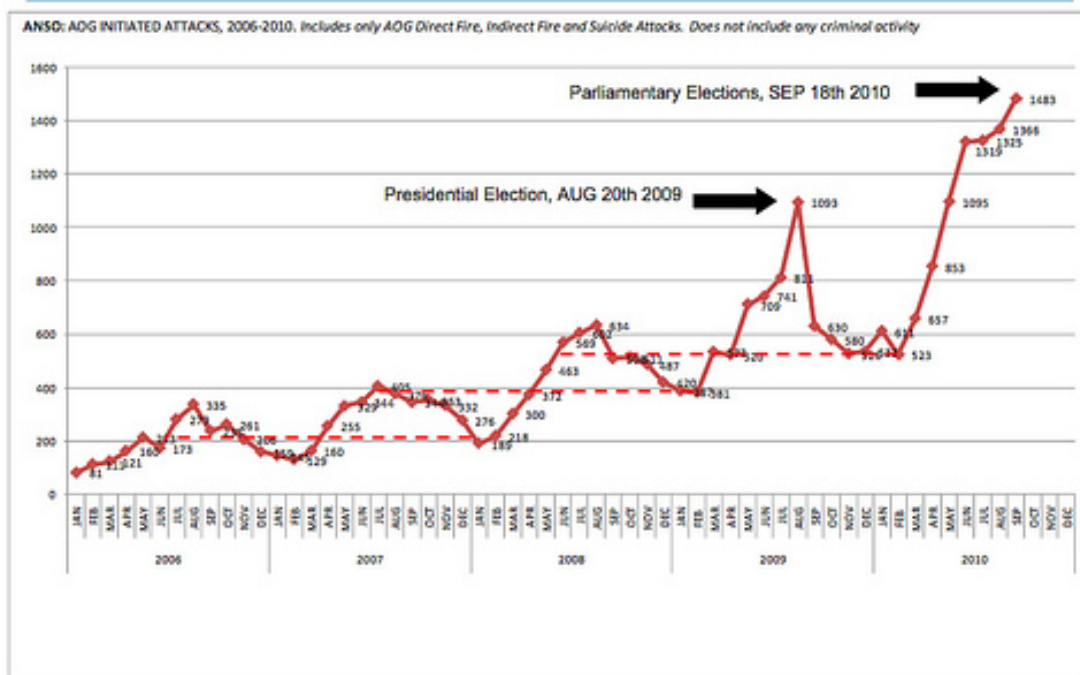
About 1,000 More Than Last Year”

“These Statistics Depict An Insurgency With Unbroken Momentum”

“The Taliban Today Are Now A National Movement With A Serious Presence In The North And The West Of The Country”

“Foreign Bases Are Completely Isolated From Their Local Environment And Unable To Protect The Population”

2.1 AOG Initiated Attacks



The level of ever-escalating insurgent attacks across Afghanistan: Armed Opposition Group (AOG) Initiated Attacks On Occupation Troops

December 15, 2010 By Robert Greenwald, Alternet.org/ [Excerpts]

This cat is already out of the bag, no matter how hard the Pentagon tries to reel it back in.

In the ironically named "Report on Progress Toward Security and Stability in Afghanistan," published several weeks ago, the Pentagon told Congress that the insurgency's organizational and geographic reach are qualitatively and geographically expanding.

This growth is reflected in other statistics.

According to USA TODAY, U.S. troops were hit with 7,000 more attacks this year compared to last year.

About 3,800 troops were killed and injured by IEDs, about 1,000 more than last year.

These statistics depict an insurgency with unbroken momentum, despite administration and military claims to the contrary.

As the signers of the Afghanistan Call to Reason put it last week,

"Despite these huge costs, the situation on the ground is much worse than a year ago because the Taliban insurgency has made progress across the country. It is now very difficult to work outside the cities or even move around Afghanistan by road.

"The insurgents have built momentum, exploiting the shortcomings of the Afghan government and the mistakes of the coalition.

"The Taliban today are now a national movement with a serious presence in the north and the west of the country. Foreign bases are completely isolated from their local environment and unable to protect the population."

The insurgents' momentum is clearly shown by the number of attacks they've initiated across the country so far this year.

According to the Afghan NGO Safety Office (ANSO),

"The (Taliban) counter-offensive is increasingly mature, complex & effective.

"Country wide attacks have grown by 59% (p.10) while sophisticated recruitment techniques have helped activate networks of fighters in the North where European NATO contributors have failed to provide an adequate deterrent (p.11).

"Some provinces here are experiencing double the country average growth rate (p.12) and their districts are in danger of slipping beyond any control. Clumsy attempts to stem the developments, through the formation of local militia's and intelligence-poor

operations, have served to polarize communities with the IEA [Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan] capitalizing on the local grievances that result.

“In the South, despite more robust efforts from the US NATO contingents, counterinsurgency operations in Kandahar and Marjah have similarly failed to degrade the IEA’s ability to fight, reduce the number of civilian combat fatalities (p.13) or deliver boxed Government.”

While U.S. politicians nibble at the edges of this real crisis, U.S. troops pay the bloody price, a price that’s gotten much worse with the arrival of the new escalation policy over the course of this year.

At least 874 American troops have been killed in the war so far this year, compared to 317 for all of 2009. In the NATO hospital near Kandahar, doctors performed a major amputation once very other day in September.

These statistics go hand-in-hand with the huge rise in civilian casualties, which number some 2,400 this year so far, according to the Campaign for Innocent Civilians in Conflict.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Obama’s Lying Bullshit Reeks On: U.S. Warplanes Bomb Central Iraq “Despite The Expiry Of The Mandate Of US Combat Troops In War-Torn Iraq At The End Of August”

07 December, 2010 Military-world.net [Excerpts]

US fighter jets have reportedly pounded a region in Iraq’s central governorate of Babil months after Washington declared an end to combat operations in Iraq late August.

Iraqi security sources said that on Monday, US warplanes shelled a region lying north of the provincial capital of Hilla, Aswat al-Iraq news agency reported.

“A number of US jets pounded this afternoon al-Buhayrat region, al-Askandariya district,” said a security official, noting that Iraqi authorities had not been informed about the operation.

“The attack could [have] targeted some armed cells in the region,” he added.

It was not clear if the airstrike had left any casualties.

The US involvement in a military operation comes despite the expiry of the mandate of US combat troops in war-torn Iraq at the end of August.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

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

December 19 Reuters

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

French Soldier Killed, Another Wounded In Tagab

December 18, 2010 by The Associated Press

French authorities in Paris said a French noncommissioned officer had been killed and another soldier wounded in Tagab Saturday.

Marine From B’klyn Killed

December 8, 2010 By KATE SHEEHY, NEW YORK POST

A young Marine who grew up in a military family in Brooklyn was killed by a suicide bomber — ambushed while sleeping in an encampment in Afghanistan, said US officials and the man’s stunned family yesterday.

“His parents are devastated,” said Maria Aleman, the grieving great-aunt of slain Sgt. Nicholas Aleman, 24, who died Sunday near the war-torn country’s border with Pakistan.

Nicholas — who grew up on Manhattan Avenue and graduated from Midwood HS — entered the Marines right after high school, his family said.

“Trust me — just to look at Nick’s dad, you could see he was so proud, because [the father] loved his country and he saw his son doing something positive for himself,” said a cousin, Alex Aleman.

Both of Nicholas’ sisters also are in the military — one in the Army and one in the Marines, Alex Aleman said. One of the sisters is about a month away from giving birth, he said.

The young man’s shattered parents flew to a US base Monday to claim his body for burial and had not yet returned, relatives said.

The tragic Marine had been in Afghanistan only two or three months when he was killed, they said.

Alex Aleman said his cousin was the only one murdered in the attack.

“He was asleep. It was one in the morning,” the cousin said. “He’s 6’2” and fit. If he had been awake, he could have defended himself.”

Nicholas had been assigned to the Deployment Processing Command-East at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina before being sent overseas.

His cousin said Nicholas had briefly left the Marines at one point after high school to study politics at Fordham University in Manhattan but then decided to rejoin the military. “He wanted to become an officer,” Alex Aleman said. “The guy was very smart. He liked what he was doing.”

Maria Aleman added: “Nicholas was never afraid. He planned to make (the military) his career.”

In March 2007, while with the Corps, Nicholas Aleman was interviewed for an article featured on the Marines Web site, about an ironman competition in California, where he volunteered to help with crowd control.

“As Marines, we are constantly training because its part of our daily routine and we need to be ready,” Nicholas Aleman said at the time. “To see people that work so hard because they have a passion for it is inspiring.”

Nicholas’s relatives told them that he hoped the tour in Afghanistan would only last a year and that he’d be back by summer, before his 25th birthday in September.

“We got the news Sunday afternoon,” said Alex Aleman, who served in the Navy. “I came home, and I saw my cousin’s sister crying.”

Alex said that when Nicholas left for Afghanistan, “We just said, ‘Be careful, be good and good luck.’”

“Until I see him at the funeral and everyone crying, I won’t believe it.”

Resistance Attacks Hit Afghan Army Recruiting Center And Training Officers; Many Casualties



The debris of a bus attacked by Taliban fighters during a gunbattle on the outskirts of Kabul, Afghanistan, 19 Dec 2010. Photo: AP



Afghan soldiers run for cover as insurgents bomb an Afghan army bus on the outskirts of Kabul, Afghanistan, Dec. 19, 2010. (AP Photo/Altaf Qadri)



A building housing an army recruitment center is in flames following an attack by Taliban fighters in Kunduz, north of Kabul, Afghanistan, Dec. 19, 2010. AP

December 19, 2010 By RAY RIVERA and SANGAR RAHIMI, The New York Times Company

KABUL, Afghanistan — Insurgents intensified pressure on Afghan security forces on Sunday, killing five Afghan army training officers in an attack in Kabul, and attacking an army recruiting center in the northern city of Kunduz.

In the Kabul attack, two insurgents armed with AK-47s and grenades opened fire on a bus carrying the army trainers around 8:10 a.m. One of the attackers ran into the bus and blew himself up, killing five officers and wounding nine others, the Defense Ministry said in a statement.

The attack occurred on the main road between Kabul and the eastern city of Jalalabad, the site of several similar attacks on military convoys and supply trucks on their way to nearby coalition and Afghan military bases.

Afghan National Army units from the 201st Army Corp sealed off the blast site following the attack and shot dead a second attacker in what witnesses said was a 45-minute firefight.

The blast on the bus shattered windows in nearby businesses and homes. Afterward, residents gathered around a piece of what police said was the bomber's body that had landed on the median of the busy road. Others sifted through scattered pieces of the

wreckage. Little of the bus remained except the charred structure as it was carted away on a flatbed.

In Kunduz, three bombers on motorcycles stormed the front gate of the Afghan National Army recruitment center in the heart of Kunduz City Sunday around 6 a.m., according to an Army officer at the scene, who asked not to be named because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

The attackers shot and killed the gate guards and a fierce firefight erupted. The attackers made their way into the main courtyard under heavy fire and two of them blew themselves up.

“Three Afghan National Army soldiers and three police have been killed so far and more than seven police and army personnel wounded,” General Abdul Rahman Sayed Kheli, the police chief of Kunduz Province, said.

“This is the initial account; we don’t know how many suicide bombers are involved in the attack. The firefight is ongoing. The area is sealed off by police, the Afghan National Army and Americans.”

The Taliban has claimed responsibility for both attacks.



An Afghan policeman is carried away during a battle in Kunduz, north of Kabul, Afghanistan, Dec. 19, 2010. Teams of Taliban militants assaulted the Afghan army in the north of the country. (AP Photo/Fulad Hamdard)

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

Afghanistan's Police Force "Is Losing Nearly One In Five Recruits Every Year"

"Not Unexpectedly, Most Afghans Had Come To View The ANP As Lawless Armed Men, Rather Than Trusted Law Enforcement Officials"

12 December 2010 By Rajeev Syal, The Observer [Excerpts]

Afghanistan's police force, whose success and stability is crucial to allowing the government to withdraw British troops, is losing nearly one in five recruits every year, new figures reveal.

Foreign Office statistics show that more than 20,000 officers from the Afghan National Police (ANP), the country's main law enforcement agency, have left over the past year.

The ANP serves as a single law enforcement agency across the country and includes uniformed police, border police, highway police and the criminal investigation department. It had 116,367 officers in October 2010. An estimated 31,343 officers were recruited by the Nato training mission in Afghanistan between January and October 2010.

The attrition rate – including losses caused by deaths, desertion and dismissals, often due to positive drug tests – is currently 18% a year, with monthly attrition at 1.5%, according to figures released to the Labour party.

The problem of retaining police officers was highlighted by Lieutenant-General William Caldwell last year when he claimed that drug abuse, illiteracy and desertion are just some of the problems among Afghanistan's police. He said the vast majority of ANP members still "did not know the law they were responsible to enforce".

His review added: "Not unexpectedly, most Afghans had come to view the ANP as lawless armed men, rather than trusted law enforcement officials."

Occupation Command "Routinely Destroy Afghan Homes, Businesses And Other Structures"

**That May Be Linked To The
Taliban”**
**“They Refuse To Provide Any
Statistics As To How Many Have
Been Destroyed”**
**“The Standard Seems To Be That Any
Home Can Be Destroyed With Artillery Or
Air Strikes As Long As There Is Some
Suspicion Regarding It”**

ISAF claims it only destroys “abandoned” homes, but it does not define the term. For example, if the occupants have gone to visit a relative, apparently ISAF personnel can consider the home to be abandoned.

4 December 2010, by Matthew Nasuti, Kabul Press [Excerpts]

NATO officials confirmed to this reporter that they routinely destroy Afghan homes, businesses and other structures that may be linked to the Taliban, but they refuse to provide any statistics as to how many have been destroyed.

The Washington Post and The New York Times indicate that the practice is widespread and they have confirmed that whole villages have been leveled.

In June, 2010, the United Nations special rapporteur for human rights, Richard Falk publicly condemned the Israeli Government for its destruction of Palestinian homes. In contrast, the U.N.’s High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navanethem Pillay, and the U.N.’s Special Representative in Afghanistan, Staffan de Mistura, have been deplorably silent regarding similar actions by UN-supported NATO forces in Afghanistan.

This is what we know.

NATO soldiers in Afghanistan operates under the acronym “ISAF.”

ISAF troops have the authority to destroy any structure in Afghanistan which they believe is being used to store weapons or narcotics, or which may be booby-trapped with explosives.

The standard seems to be that any home can be destroyed with artillery or air strikes as long as there is some suspicion regarding it.

The rationale for the destructions is that searching potentially booby-trapped homes is too dangerous a task.

1. Under the Annex to the Hague Convention, Chapter 1, Article 23(g), Occupying Powers cannot destroy enemy property unless it is “imperatively demanded by the necessities of war.”

International occupational law is dominated by the requirement of military necessity and suspicions do not constitute such necessity; nor do tips from informants.

Homes cannot be destroyed just because they might possibly pose a risk to troops searching the home. If the ISAF policy was lawful, its officials would be citing the Hague and Geneva IV language and would be detailing how international standards are being met. The fact that they do not, speaks volumes.

In the past, ISAF officials have denied that they are an occupying power in Afghanistan, pointing to the existence of the democratically elected Afghan government of President Hamid Karzai.

While ISAF officials pay lip service to the illusion of the Afghan Government’s “sovereignty,” they have repeatedly confirmed that President Karzai lacks the authority to issue them orders, including an order to end the night raids by special operations troops.

The NATO/Karzai Lisbon Agreement of 2010, states that control of Afghanistan will be turned over to President Karzai by 2014.

Thus, it is undisputed that NATO is an occupying power.

2. ISAF claims it only destroys “abandoned” homes, but it does not define the term.

For example, if the occupants have gone to visit a relative, apparently ISAF personnel can consider the home to be abandoned.

3. ISAF claims that it does not bomb a home without first using a loud speaker to tell occupants to leave. The problem is that occupants, especially children, may be too scared to leave.

Elderly or hearing impaired occupants might not even hear the announcement. It is not known how many civilian casualties have occurred as a result.

4. ISAF will not admit to the scope of the destructions. There may be hundreds or even thousands of homes that have been destroyed. ISAF refuses to release the apparently embarrassing statistics.

5. ISAF vaguely claims that it compensates homeowners, but those statements are suspect. The ISAF Internet website makes no mention of a claims process. How is the Afghan homeowner to know that he or she can even file a claim?

There is no transparency.

ISAF has refused to release its claims rules or statistics. It may be that 10,000 homes have been destroyed, but only 200 claims filed, with only 50 having been paid. The statistics may very well reveal that the claims process is a farce. In such a situation, the ISAF destructions are almost certainly fueling the insurgency.

6. Finally, ISAF has no verification process for its suspicions. For example, the Israeli Defense Forces know whether explosives were actually in a home they destroy because their armored bulldozers set off the charges. ISAF, by contrast, uses air strikes and artillery to destroy homes, therefore it never knows whether it made a mistake. It may be that 95% of the ISAF home destructions have been unjustified. Such reckless destructions would only be aiding Taliban recruitment.

Regarding all of this, the United Nations is nowhere to be seen. Its arbitrary outrage regarding home destructions remains focused solely against Israel. The same silence emanates from the International Committee of the Red Cross' President Jakob Kellenberger and his 15-member ICRC Assembly.

Despite a century of efforts to fashion international laws regarding the conduct of warfare, might always manages to triumph over the rule of law and “victors” always seem to decide what is justice.

Obeying the rules of war is not simply a moral imperative; it almost always makes good military sense.

The irony in Afghanistan is that these seemingly arbitrary and unnecessary home destructions may be fueling the insurgency.

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/>

Complete With Winter Boots And BDU....



A Taliban fighter near their check point in Nangarhar province December 13, 2010 picture. REUTERS/Stringer

FUTILE EXERCISE: ALL HOME NOW!



A group of U.S. soldiers from First Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division leave for a foot patrol in Panjwai district, Afghanistan's Kandahar province, Nov. 26, 2010. (AP Photo/Alexander Zemlianichenko)



U.S. soldiers patrol in Panjwai district of Kandahar province, south of Kabul, Afghanistan
Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2010. (AP Photo/Allauddin Khan)

MILITARY NEWS

**NOT ANOTHER DAY
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR
NOT ANOTHER LIFE**



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

A Typical Day For PFC Bradley Manning: “He Does Receive One Hour Of ‘Exercise’ Outside Of His Cell Daily. He Is Taken To An Empty Room And Only Allowed To Walk”



18 December 2010 Posted by Army Court-Martial Defense Specialist at 10:40 AM, The Law Offices Of David E. Coombs

PFC Manning is currently being held in maximum custody. Since arriving at the Quantico Confinement Facility in July of 2010, he has been held under Prevention of Injury (POI) watch.

His cell is approximately six feet wide and twelve feet in length.

The cell has a bed, a drinking fountain, and a toilet.

The guards at the confinement facility are professional. At no time have they tried to bully, harass, or embarrass PFC Manning. Given the nature of their job, however, they do not engage in conversation with PFC Manning.

At 5:00 a.m. he is woken up (on weekends, he is allowed to sleep until 7:00 a.m.). Under the rules for the confinement facility, he is not allowed to sleep at anytime between 5:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

If he attempts to sleep during those hours, he will be made to sit up or stand by the guards.

He is allowed to watch television during the day. The television stations are limited to the basic local stations. His access to the television ranges from 1 to 3 hours on weekdays to 3 to 6 hours on weekends.

He cannot see other inmates from his cell. He can occasionally hear other inmates talk.

Due to being a pretrial confinement facility, inmates rarely stay at the facility for any length of time.

Currently, there are no other inmates near his cell.

From 7:00 p.m. to 9:20 p.m., he is given correspondence time. He is given access to a pen and paper. He is allowed to write letters to family, friends, and his attorneys.

Each night, during his correspondence time, he is allowed to take a 15 to 20 minute shower.

On weekends and holidays, he is allowed to have approved visitors see him from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m.

He is allowed to receive letters from those on his approved list and from his legal counsel.

If he receives a letter from someone not on his approved list, he must sign a rejection form. The letter is then either returned to the sender or destroyed.

He is allowed to have any combination of up to 15 books or magazines. He must request the book or magazine by name.

Once the book or magazine has been reviewed by the literary board at the confinement facility, and approved, he is allowed to have someone on his approved list send it to him.

The person sending the book or magazine to him must do so through a publisher or an approved distributor such as Amazon. They are not allowed to mail the book or magazine directly to PFC Manning.

Due to being held on Prevention of Injury (POI) watch:

PFC Manning is held in his cell for approximately 23 hours a day.

The guards are required to check on PFC Manning every five minutes by asking him if he is okay.

PFC Manning is required to respond in some affirmative manner.

At night, if the guards cannot see PFC Manning clearly, because he has a blanket over his head or is curled up towards the wall, they will wake him in order to ensure he is okay.

He receives each of his meals in his cell.

He is not allowed to have a pillow or sheets. However, he is given access to two blankets and has recently been given a new mattress that has a built-in pillow.

He is not allowed to have any personal items in his cell.

He is only allowed to have one book or one magazine at any given time to read in his cell. The book or magazine is taken away from him at the end of the day before he goes to sleep.

He is prevented from exercising in his cell. If he attempts to do push-ups, sit-ups, or any other form of exercise he will be forced to stop.

He does receive one hour of “exercise” outside of his cell daily. He is taken to an empty room and only allowed to walk.

PFC Manning normally just walks figure eights in the room for the entire hour. If he indicates that he no longer feels like walking, he is immediately returned to his cell.

When PFC Manning goes to sleep, he is required to strip down to his boxer shorts and surrender his clothing to the guards. His clothing is returned to him the next morning.

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

**“Large Numbers Of Protesters
Physically Outmaneuvered
Police”**

**“And When The Police Attacked
People, They Often Fought Back”**

**“When They Did Attempt To Baton
Charge, They Were Often Effectively
Resisted”**

**“The State Is Worried That The Protests
Have Started To Be Effective, And Might
Become Even More Effective In Future.
They’re Worried About What Might Be
Unleashed”**

Using whatever ad hoc instruments were at their disposal, large numbers of protesters physically outmaneuvered police on numerous occasions. Sometimes, for example, they used the same crowd-control barriers that were intended to pen them to push back ranks of baton-wielding, helmeted and shielded riot police. And when the police attacked people, they often fought back.

They were not cowed, despite the physically imposing stature and superior weaponry of the cops, and despite the horrifying record of the Territorial Support Group.

December 13, 2010 By Richard Seymour, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

Tens of thousands of students took to the streets around Britain last Thursday for Day X3 protests against a government plan to nearly triple student fees while cutting education spending. An estimated 20,000 poured into Parliament Square and the surrounding areas as lawmakers inside voted on the Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition government's proposal.

Police once again stepped up the level of repression against demonstrators, including the use of its tactic of hemming in protesters and refusing to let them leave for hours--a practice known in Britain as "kettling."

Outside parliament, mounted police repeatedly charged their horses into the ranks of demonstrators, causing at least one severe injury and dozens of more minor ones.

Richard Seymour, author of *The Liberal Defence of Murder* and a blogger at Lenin's Tomb, analyzes the government's new repressive tactics and what they say about the effectiveness of the protest movement.

DAVID CAMERON demands that the "mob" must be punished. The Metropolitan police are in trouble with the "party of order," who are aghast, simply aghast, that the royal Daimler has been scuffed by oiks. The Met blames and condemns "the outrageous and increasing levels of violence that some of the protesters are now involved in."

Now there is casual talk of using firearms, as if it is only virtue and the "restraint" of armed officers and security officials that prevents those protesters from getting their heads justly blown off.

The frenzy has been as relentless as it is familiar. The established players know their lines well. Their royal we-ness maintain a dignified, somewhat bemused silence, while the Rottweilers go to work, ostensibly on their behalf.

Yes, you have a perfect democratic right to protest, they say with patronizing assurance, but violence is intolerable and will not be tolerated. Yes, most people were peaceful, but there were some people determined to resort to destruction. And those who flout the law must be exposed to the full penalty of the law.

And, well, under difficult circumstances, some officers may lash out to protect themselves and their colleagues, and someone may be injured or die as a result. And the state will, if anything, err obsessively on the side of probity, subjecting those poor officers to investigation before finding them completely innocent.

We are probably witnessing a move to retool the state, the better to cope with civil disobedience and strikes.

Police have deployed a strategy of provoking violent confrontations with small bands of protesters.

By using preemptive kettling, by charging at protesters with mounted police, by staging baton charges and by lashing out at peaceful protesters with almost lethal force, the police have set up physical confrontations.

They have then attempted to use their overwhelming superiority of organization and force to coerce protesters into retreating into preemptively kettled territory. This would galvanize a small minority who would physically seek to break out, but would be effectively held back. Thus, intimidated and physically coerced, they would come to resent the minority isolated as “professional troublemakers” and wait meekly to go home in the late hours of a chill December evening, resolving never to attend a protest again.

This strategy is based on the assumption that protests break down into a well-meaning but duped and passive mass, and a nefarious, organized conspiracy of upstarts, and that the police can pry the two apart.

BUT IT didn't actually go down like that.

Most of those protesters who did end up in direct combat with the cops are, as Paul Mason points out, working-class 16- and 17-year-olds from Britain's banlieues.

They are not the committed anarchists that the law-and-order mob are braying about, and they were not resented by other protesters.

More worryingly for the police, when they did attempt to baton charge, they were often effectively resisted.

Using whatever ad hoc instruments were at their disposal, large numbers of protesters physically outmaneuvered police on numerous occasions. Sometimes, for example, they used the same crowd-control barriers that were intended to pen them to push back ranks of baton-wielding, helmeted and shielded riot police. And when the police attacked people, they often fought back.

They were not cowed, despite the physically imposing stature and superior weaponry of the cops, and despite the horrifying record of the Territorial Support Group.

So far from protesters blaming a small minority of troublemakers for the violence, they are almost unanimous in reporting that the police engineered the violence.

And because the police didn't get it all their own way, the FT's headline today was: “Police lose control of street protests.”

Now the language of the “mob” is back in vogue, and the prospect of lethal violence against protesters cheerfully bruited.

Now the state is worried that the protests have started to be effective, and might become even more effective in future.

Now they're worried about what might be unleashed.

The government is having to play a game of catch-up. It introduced 16 percent cuts to policing in its spending review, suggesting that it anticipated a relatively easy ride over the cuts, and that it wouldn't need the particular loyalty of police departments.

And if these protests were flash-in-the-pan, localized and self-contained, that calculation might have a modicum of realism to it.

But they have proven to be anything but.

They have accelerated and spread, and added new energy and vigor to every anti-cut campaign, every left-wing party and coalition, every meeting and rally in the country.

Inevitably, the "mob"--the subject of official invective--is depicted as an opponent not merely of a policy, but of "democracy."

But democracy is not law and order.

Democracy is the mob; the mob is democracy.

DEMOCRACY IS supposed to mean popular sovereignty, not the unimpeded rule of a no-mandate government.

It is supposed to mean that the will of the majority governs, not the interests of the rich.

It is supposed to mean at minimum that people get the policies they vote for, not those they are overwhelmingly hostile to.

We are now in a situation where the ruling classes are uneasily realigning their forces, scrutinizing their techniques of dominance, restless about their ability to hold the line in the new situation.

Meanwhile, we are coming out of a generation that has spent many years going through defeats, and only occasional and partial victories, and we are trying to find out what works and what does not.

Listening to protesters, you hear people say that the lesson of the last decade is that the tactic of the big march and rally didn't work, even with over a million people and more in attendance. The media spectacles didn't work either, even with Snoop Dogg in attendance.

So now people are trying out occupations, sit-down protests, flash-mobs and other forms of disruptive protest. They are learning what their legal position is if they do protest, and if they're arrested. They're learning how to handle the press.

The question of what kinds of industrial action is most effective looms over us again. The one-day general strike? Sustained, indefinite walkouts by strategically important groups of workers? Recurring strikes of lengthening duration? And what kind of picketing is effective? How to handle the media and the police? What to accept in negotiations? And so on.

The mob is re-learning, applying and reinventing the principles of democracy.

And the law is having once again to prepare itself to resist the threat of democracy.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Julian Assange to Launch Social Network for Diplomats, Twofacebook

December 17, 2010 The Borowitz Report

LONDON – Moments after being released on bail, WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange was already making plans for his next venture, a social network for diplomats called Twofacebook.

Mr. Assange said he came up with the idea for the new site while combing through hundreds of thousands of pages of WikiLeaks documents: “I realized that diplomats didn’t have a way to reconnect with old colleagues so they could lie to them.”

Saying that he hopes to build the site into a “portal of deceit,” Mr. Assange said, “This will be a must-visit destination on the Internet for sworn enemies to friend each other.”

The WikiLeaks founder said that Twofacebook would also enable members of the diplomatic community to share information about music, movies and TV shows “that they say they like but actually detest.”

Additionally, he said he had high hopes for the site’s first online game, Harmville, in which diplomats can kill or maim each other’s sheep.

Elsewhere, President Obama said he was “delighted” by his new deal with Republicans, in which he agreed to give them his lunch money.

MORE:

On Secret Diplomacy

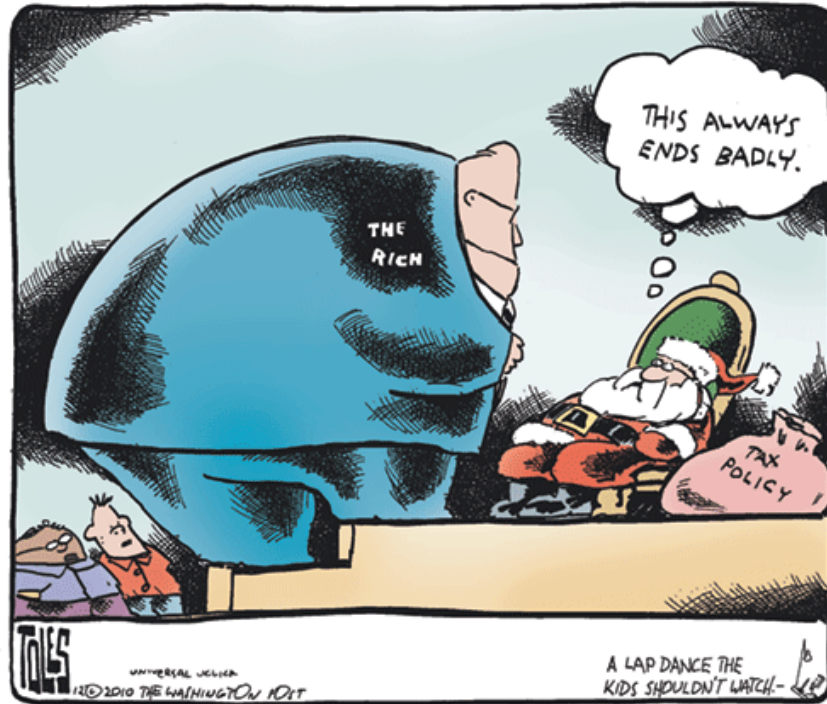
[Thanks to Linda O, who sent this in.]

“Secret diplomacy is a necessary tool for a propertied minority, which is compelled to deceive the majority in order to subject it to its interests. Imperialism, with its dark plans of conquest and its robber alliances and deals, developed the system of secret diplomacy to the highest level.” – Leon Trotsky, Foreign Affairs Commissariat, USSR, 1917

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.

CLASS WAR REPORTS



Georgia Prison Strike: A Hidden Labor Force Resists; “Some Guys In Here Work Seven Days A Week And They Don’t Get A Dime”

December 18, 2010 by Michelle Chen, Working In These Times [Excerpts]

Last week a diverse group of nonviolent protesters across Georgia stood up for their rights, calling for decent wages, better social services and respect for their civil liberties.

It didn't take long for the government to crack down on the demonstrations, however: the protesters were already in prison.

The uprising of Georgia inmates on December 9 defied the stereotype of the chaotic “prison riot” in the public imagination.

Yet neither did “Lockdown for Liberty” fit within the conventional model of civil disobedience or industrial action.

But when the inmates in at least six different prisons refused to leave their cells to report to work and other activities that day, a strike began. And it effectively paralyzed a small chunk of the bureaucratic monstrosity of America's prison system.

The incarcerated have historically filled the dregs of the American workforce, an emblem of racial subjugation often invisible in the politics of labor and social policy. It was against this hidden legacy of exploitation that the Georgia inmates, with the support of the NAACP and other civil rights advocates, raised issues common to incarcerated people nationwide: abusive treatment, degrading living conditions, a lack of accountability in the administration and parole authorities, and a lack of basic educational and social services (see below).

Pointedly invoking the term "slave" to describe the circumstances under which they toiled, the strikers showed how historically entrenched racial divisions play out today in the black-white disparities throughout the criminal justice system.

Still, Georgia protesters included Latinos and whites as well as blacks, in a joint effort to resist and challenge structural injustices.

Their demands were hardly radical, but rather, embodied mainstream standards for reasonable and humane treatment: protection from cruel and unusual punishment by officers, affordable medicine when they're sick, and above all, fair pay for their labor.

According to the Atlanta-Journal Constitution, "state law forbids paying inmates except for one limited program."

Final Call quoted reports trickling out from inmates earlier this week:

"One brother told me, 'We will ride until the wheels fall off,' and that's been the sentiment amongst the men when they started this,' said Elaine Brown, a spokesperson for the strike...

"Part of our purpose for doing this is that Georgia is the only state that does not pay its inmates at all. Some guys in here work seven days a week and they don't get a dime," said Dondito, one of the strikers, who requested anonymity."

The official reaction was to immediately curtail what few resources the inmates possess.

According to news reports, prison staff locked down four facilities, attempted to transfer out the leading troublemakers, cut off the hot water, and revoked cell phone privileges (yes, according to Facing South, "Cell phones are contraband in Georgia's prisons, but widely available for sale from correctional officers.")

The strike was called off after six days, following reports of violent crackdowns and rising fears that the situation would escalate.

But by then, the inmates had made their mark with one of the largest prison protests in U.S. history. The decision to end the strike, moreover, seems like the beginning of another phase in the inmates' collective action, now that they've caught national political attention.

The AJC reported:

“an inmate at Smith State Prison in Glenville said in a telephone interview prisoners had agreed to end their ‘non-violent’ protest to allow administrators time to focus on their concerns rather than operating the institutions without inmate labor.

“‘We’ve ended the protest,’ said Mike, a convicted armed robber who was one of the inmates who planned and coordinated the work stoppage. ‘We needed to come off lock down so we can go to the law library and start ... the paperwork for a (prison conditions) lawsuit.’”

The proactive militancy of the strike organizers underscores the fact that the entire action not only proceeded largely without violence, but also spread rapidly through several institutions thanks to careful planning and clandestine technology--messages spread via cell, expanding the traditional jailhouse grapevine.

It may be a while before we see another prisoner strike going viral, as the potential for prison-based activism remains constrained by the criminal-justice power structure. But the Georgia inmates helped change the public face of Americans who’ve been caught up in the country’s incarceration industry.

Under the most oppressive of conditions, they used disciplined strike tactics to align their grievances with broader struggles for human rights.

It makes sense.

Prison is the everyday reality lived by a huge swath of the population (roughly one in one hundred, according to recent surveys)

Meanwhile, the impact of prison labor leaves a hidden imprint on our economy as well. Noah Zatz of UCLA Law School has estimated that:

“well over 600,000, and probably close to a million, inmates are working full time in jails and prisons throughout the United States. Perhaps some of them built your desk chair: office furniture, especially in state universities and the federal government, is a major prison labor product. Inmates also take hotel reservations at corporate call centers, make body armor for the U.S. military, and manufacture prison chic fashion accessories, in addition to the iconic task of stamping license plates.”

As a captive workforce and disenfranchised populace, the prison system reaches deep into American society, and the distance between the people on the inside and those on the outside is increasingly a matter of luck--whether you’re unfortunate enough to have been born the wrong color or in the wrong neighborhood. If the movement launched by the Georgia inmates, and their demands for dignity, look surprisingly familiar, there’s a good reason for that: they are us.

The strikers’ demands, which they continue to press with state officials, are as follows:

A LIVING WAGE FOR WORK: In violation of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution prohibiting slavery and involuntary servitude, the DOC demands prisoners work for free.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES: For the great majority of prisoners, the DOC denies all opportunities for education beyond the GED, despite the benefit to both prisoners and society.

DECENT HEALTH CARE: In violation of the Eighth Amendment prohibition against cruel and unusual punishments, the DOC denies adequate medical care to prisoners, charges excessive fees for the most minimal care and is responsible for extraordinary pain and suffering.

AN END TO CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENTS: In further violation of the Eighth Amendment, the DOC is responsible for cruel prisoner punishments for minor infractions of rules.

DECENT LIVING CONDITIONS: Georgia prisoners are confined in over-crowded, substandard conditions, with little heat in winter and oppressive heat in summer.

NUTRITIONAL MEALS: Vegetables and fruit are in short supply in DOC facilities while starches and fatty foods are plentiful.

VOCATIONAL AND SELF-IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES: The DOC has stripped its facilities of all opportunities for skills training, self-improvement and proper exercise.

ACCESS TO FAMILIES: The DOC has disconnected thousands of prisoners from their families by imposing excessive telephone charges and innumerable barriers to visitation.

JUST PAROLE DECISIONS: The Parole Board capriciously and regularly denies parole to the majority of prisoners despite evidence of eligibility.

MILITARY RESISTANCE NEWSLETTER BY MAIL FREE FOR ACTIVE DUTY TROOPS

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RECEIVED:

**HOLIDAY PARTY FOR LAID-OFF NEW YORK CITY
TRANSIT WORKERS!**

**Holiday Party/Benefit
for Laid-off
Transit Workers**



Bring Food and Drinks to Share

**Thursday, December 30th
6pm to Midnight**

**TWU Local 100 Hall
80 West End Avenue (64th St.)**

Take the #1 to 66th Street

Admission: Free

Sponsored by:
The Station Fightback Committee,
TWU Local 100 Women's Committee,
TWU Local 100 Station Department
For more information call 646-360-3126



From Marty Goodman 12/11/10 Via New York City Labor Against The War

PLEASE FORWARD WIDELY!

Spend an evening this season at a benefit fundraiser for laid-off transit workers on Thursday, December 30th.

MTA bosses have laid-off 900 transit workers during 2010; 470 of them Station Agents.

Over 200 were laid-off on Mother's Day weekend alone. Many were women workers; most are African American, Latino and immigrants.

These attacks parallel the massive attacks on all working people, making us shoulder the burden of an economic crisis brought on by Wall Street crooks.

The official reason for this year's MTA layoffs, service cuts and fare hikes? An MTA budget deficit. In reality, in 2010 alone, the MTA is paying \$1.8 billion of so-called debt to banks and wealthy owners of tax-free MTA Bonds.

Join transit workers on Thursday, December 30th at the TWU Local 100 hall to show your solidarity with our laid-off Brothers and Sisters.

We are especially reaching out to all of you union folks in every union - and bring your friends. But, union or not, everyone is invited!

Please bring your own food and drinks to share. There will be music and plenty of fun. See you at the TWU!

PS Toys are welcome!

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Military Resistance/GI Special are archived at website

<http://www.militaryproject.org> .

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

<http://williambowles.info/wordpress/category/military-resistance/> ;

news@uruknet.info; http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/;

<http://www.albasrah.net/pages/mod.php?header=res1&mod=gis&rep=gis>

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

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

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