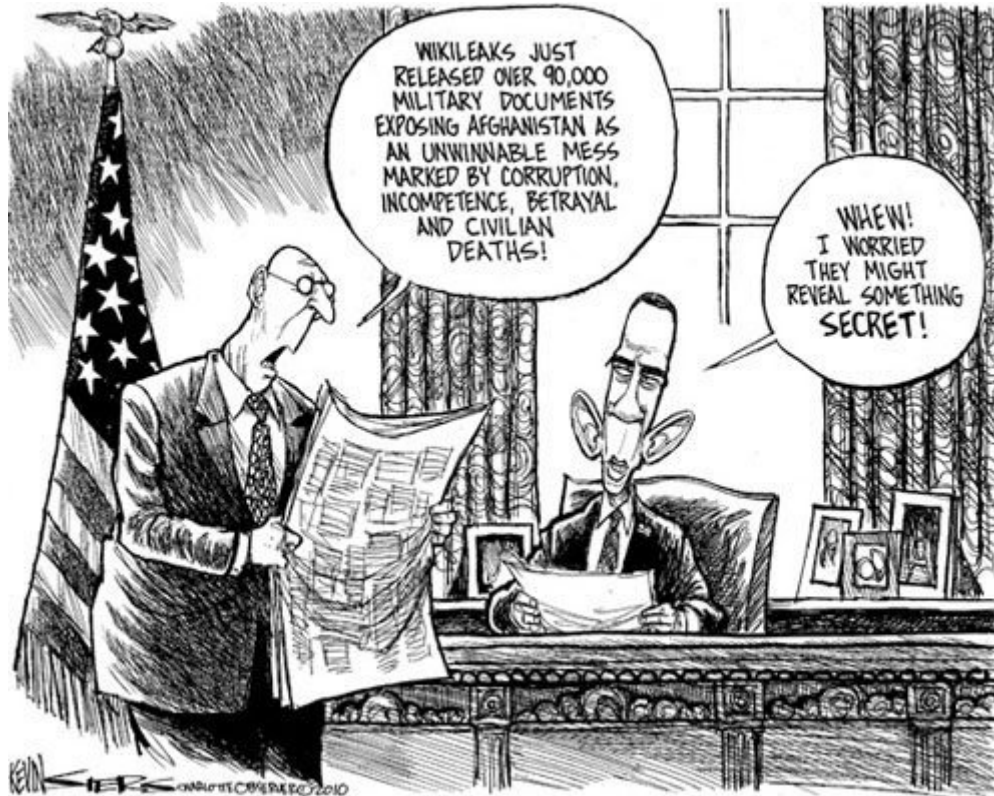


## **Military Resistance 8L5**



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

**“Between June 2009 And 2010,  
Insurgents’ Use Of Improvised  
Explosive Devices, Or IEDs, Rose  
By 22%”**

**“More Worrying, Say Senior U.S.  
Military Officials, Is That The Rate Of  
Effective Attacks Has Increased 45%”**

# “The Low Metallic Content In Fertilizer-Based Bombs Is ‘Very Difficult’ To Detect”

December 7, 2010 By Anna Mulrine, Staff writer; The Christian Science Monitor  
[Excerpts]

Between June 2009 and 2010, insurgents’ use of improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, rose by 22 percent. More worrying, say senior US military officials, is that the rate of effective attacks – in other words, bombs that result in injuries to NATO troops or Afghan civilians – has increased 45 percent.

Lt. Gen. Michael Oates, director of the Pentagon’s Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization, says there has been a “significant” rise in the number of roadside bombs because even as the US military has surged into Afghanistan, the Taliban has surged, too.

And paradoxically, Lt. Gen. Oates says, a lack of technological expertise among Afghans means the locally manufactured IEDs are of a simpler design than those deployed against US forces in Iraq, making them harder to detect by NATO troops and hence more effective.

Afghan bomb-makers also lack access to high-grade munitions. As a result, Oates says, the majority of bombs in Afghanistan today are made with simple ammonium nitrate, commonly found in fertilizer.

The low metallic content in fertilizer-based bombs is “very difficult” to detect, he says, and much of the high-tech bomb-detection equipment that worked well in Iraq does not help in Afghanistan.

That said, Oates adds, Afghan insurgents do not appear to be getting much help from Iran in building bombs.

Oates says there is “nowhere near” the level of Iranian support for Afghan insurgents that commanders grappled with in Iraq. Though the US military has found “minor assistance” to insurgents from Iran, he says, “I don’t want to make more of that than there is.”

Though Afghan President Hamid Karzai has declared ammonium nitrate, and subsequently most fertilizers, illegal in Afghanistan, the material continues to be covertly brought over the border from Pakistan, where fertilizer is frequently used.

Ammonium nitrate bombs are large, and often put into culverts beneath the roads, occasionally with the help of wheelbarrows, for example.

**Because these homemade bombs are difficult to detect with machines, soldiers often must get out of their vehicles to look in the culverts, which run through**

roads every 100 feet in some areas. It's a time-consuming and dangerous endeavor.

But the lack of paved roads throughout the region continues to frustrate the US military as it is far more difficult to detect places where bombs are buried on dirt roads.

---

## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Va. Soldier Spec. William K. 'Kyle' Middleton Killed In Afghanistan**

November 27, 2010 By Fredrick Kunkle and Michael Laris, Washington Post Staff Writers

It was something of a surprise to Kyle Middleton's family when the handsome young Virginia man who had once been a soccer star decided to join the Army nearly two years ago. But then, he had always loved being part of a team.

"That family of soldiers - he loved that," said his stepmother, Diane Middleton, 51, of Amelia County. "He loved family. He really thrived in that kind of a family environment."

Spec. William K. Middleton, 26, known to friends and family as Kyle, was killed Monday when Afghan insurgents attacked his foot patrol in Kandahar province with a makeshift bomb, according to relatives and the military. Another member of his unit, Sgt. Sean M. Flannery of Pennsylvania, also was killed.

Friends and military officials said Middleton was a decorated infantryman who had attended high school in Chesterfield, Va. He received a bachelor's degree from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, where he joined the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity and studied film. He had a way of making those around him feel like they mattered.

"He was always genuinely interested in where you were at in life," said Bret Kelly, a fraternity brother. "He was one of those all-around good guys. There aren't many of those."

Middleton was also someone who followed several sports religiously and relished a good prank, according to friends and family. "He was very spontaneous. If he got an idea in his head, he would just do it," said his half brother, Zachary Middleton, 21.

A college roommate, Christian Parsons, 28, said visitors ventured at their risk to their ODU lair, knowing that if they fell asleep after a night of partying, they were liable to awake covered in goo from the kitchen or with a mustache or a unibrow drawn on their faces with marker. Middleton and his roommates could become so carried away with practical jokes that they were driven to sue one another for peace and draw up armistices agreements on notebook paper and tack them to their doors.

"If you didn't have that, you might be woken up with an electric guitar amp at full-up at 4 o'clock in the morning," said Parsons, who also was a member of Middleton's fraternity.

Until he joined the Army, the teams that Middleton loved most were those that played soccer. His family said Middleton played the sport from an early age and longed to play professionally until a knee injury slowed his play. One of the beneficiaries of his life insurance policy is the FC Richmond Soccer Club, for whose travel team "Magic" Middleton had played, his stepmother said.

When his father, Clarence "Hank" Middleton, suggested that he enlist in the National Guard to help pay for college, Kyle Middleton was opposed. After college, Middleton tended bar in Norfolk.

But Middleton's hunger for physical challenges, camaraderie and adventure led him to enlist in the Army in April 2009. Unable to find work in the movie industry, he was looking for something more disciplined and meaningful than tending bar.

"He never really pondered the 'what-if's.' I always knew that as a soldier, there was always a possibility he wouldn't come back, and he knew that," said Parsons, a Defense Department employee in Suffolk, Va.

When Middleton first arrived in Afghanistan, he sounded let down, telling friends and family he had been shipped to a place with nothing but sand and more waiting-around.

"He wanted to be one of the guys out there in the field. He wanted to be at the front," Parsons said.

Middleton had never sounded happier than when the family spoke to him the Saturday before his death. He was happy to be on patrols and in the middle of the action, his stepmother said.

"You could hear it in his voice: He was finally doing what he wanted to be doing over there," Diane Middleton said.

Kyle Middleton is to be interred at Arlington National Cemetery, although final arrangements have not been made.

---

## **Family Remembers Tell City Soldier Killed In Afghanistan**

Dec 07, 2010 By Araceli Thiele, WFIE

TELL CITY, IN - Perry County soldier Sergeant Barry E. Jarvis was killed in Afghanistan this week and leaves behind a wife and four children.

The Department of Defense says Sergeant First Class Barry E. Jarvis of Tell City was one of six Fort Campbell soldiers killed in Afghanistan Monday in an attack on their unit at a border security checkpoint.

The Department of Defense is saying it is the deadliest attack of its kind in at least two years.

The bodies of the soldiers were flown to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware Wednesday night.

Jarvis' aunt Wanda Kellems says there isn't a funeral home large enough for the amount of people she expects will pay tribute to her nephew.

"This is hurting all of us. We are a very close family," she said Thursday.

Although Sgt. Jarvis died on Monday, most community members are just now finding out about his death from the local media.

Kellems says her nephew spent a lot of time playing with her sons growing up.

"I have a lot of memories of him. He wanted to know about everything, he was inquisitive. (He) and my son spent a lot of time together. We had a basement, and the basement was there playground. Sometimes they wouldn't even knock, they would just open up the door and say 'Wanda we're here'."

As an adult she says, Sgt. Jarvis decided to join the U.S. Army.

"It wasn't long before he went into the military and then I would just see him once in a while. When he was on leave, he said he liked it and decided to make a career out of it. That was his goal."

Kellems says his death brings out a lot of mixed emotions. "It makes me proud of him, but also sad, because I'll never see him again. And he was like one of my own."

American flags are at half staff in Tell City.

Community leaders and family members still planning funeral arrangements and awaiting the return of Sgt. Jarvis' body to his home town.

---

## **Weatherford Soldier's Kin Missed Last Chance To Talk To Him**

Dec. 01, 2010 By Chris Vaughn, Star Telegram

Army Pfc. Austin Staggs tried to call his mom during the Thanksgiving holiday, a truly long-distance call.

Nangarhar province, Afghanistan, to Weatherford.

But his mother and stepfather were in Llano on a deer hunting trip and missed his cellphone call. Pfc. Staggs would have understood, no doubt, since no one loved a good hunt more than he did.

That missed conversation became even more heartbreaking for Pfc. Staggs' family when the Army went to his mother's house in Parker County on Monday to inform her that her only child was gone.

On his first deployment, Pfc. Staggs, just 19, is believed to have been killed, along with five other U.S. servicemen, by an Afghan border police officer.

The Defense Department had not released any information on the casualties' names, but his family confirmed it Wednesday.

"My daughter was just crushed that she didn't get to talk to him," Pfc. Staggs' grandmother Marion Buckner said. "But I told her: 'You've got his voice on your phone now. You can listen to him anytime you want.'"

The body of Pfc. Staggs returned to the U.S. on Wednesday, and his wife, mother, father and other relatives traveled to Dover Air Force Base, Del.

Funeral arrangements were still in limbo, but his grandmother said he had told his wife that he wanted to be buried next to a cousin at Mount Olivet Cemetery.

Born in Fort Worth, Pfc. Staggs grew up in Weatherford. He attended Weatherford High School but graduated from North Hills Private School in Millsap in 2008.

A soldier for only about 18 months, he was in the field artillery with the 101st Airborne Division, based at Fort Campbell, Ky. His unit deployed to Afghanistan about three months ago.

He hoped to return to Weatherford for R&R in January for his 20th birthday, Buckner said.

"His birthday would have been 1-11-11, and we were really going to celebrate," she said.

The shootings occurred at a border police outpost in the mountains on the Pakistan border, according to news accounts. The shooter, on the payroll of the Afghan police since 2008, was killed in the shootout. The Taliban took credit for the killings, saying he was a "sleeper agent," but officials with the border police denied that.

Buckner spent much of Wednesday reading messages posted to her grandson's Facebook page and finding comfort in how much others thought of him.

"So many people have such happy memories of being a part of his life," she said.

Pfc. Staggs is survived by his wife, Sheena of Clarksville, Tenn.; a 2-year-old son, Kallen, of Weatherford; mother and stepfather Kaye and Judd Jordan of Weatherford and father Byram Staggs of Georgia.

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

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

## **Foreign Occupation Troops Massacre Seven Afghan Security Guards: “Demonstrators Burned An Effigy Of US President Barack Obama”**

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

Dec 11, 2010 DPA & Xinhua & By Ismail Sameem, Reuters

Seven members of a private security firm were killed by foreign troops in south-eastern Afghanistan.

The incident happened in Rohani Baba, a village in Paktia province on early Saturday, Abdul Rahman Mangal, the deputy provincial governor said. An unknown number of private security forces were killed by the NATO troops, he alleged.

**Locals said that NATO-led troops raided the compound of a construction company early Saturday killing seven guards of the firm, all are innocent Afghans.**

Dozens of people took to streets in Gardez city later on Saturday, chanting anti-US and Afghan government slogans, the BBC reported.

**Armed police and protesters fired at each other and burning tire barricades filled the streets with smoke**

The demonstrators burned an effigy of US President Barack Obama and called on the Afghan government to punish those ‘spies’ who led the foreign troops against the civilian targets in the province, the report said in Pashtu, one of the two formal languages.

The demonstration turned violent when the mob began throwing stones at police, who were trying to disperse the protesters, the report said, adding that one policeman and seven demonstrators were injured.

---

## Resistance Action



Damaged military check post after an insurgent attack in Kunduz, north of Kabul, Afghanistan, Dec. 11, 2010. A bomber blew up a stolen police car that had been packed with explosives, injuring five Afghan soldiers. (AP Photo/Fulad Hamdard)



Damaged police vehicles after an insurgent attack in Kandahar, Afghanistan Dec. 11, 2010. A car bomb exploded outside a police headquarters in Kandahar, wounding at least four police and blowing out the windows of buildings up to a mile away. (AP Photo/Allauddin Khan)

12.10.10 ANP/AFP & December 11, 2010 By Borzou Daragahi, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer

In Kunduz on Saturday, a bomber driving an explosives-laden car attacked an Afghan national army checkpoint, injuring five soldiers. The Taliban carried out the attack, said spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid.



A car bombing targeted an Afghan police checkpoint on Friday, killing an intelligence worker in the eastern province of Nangarhar, close to Khost, officials said. The attack took place in Surkh Rod, a district that borders Pakistan.

A car bomb explosion set off early Saturday afternoon in the parking lot of the Information and Culture directorate in the southern provincial capital of Kandahar injured four police officers and two youths, said Zalmay Ayoubi, spokesman for the governor. Several police vehicles were destroyed.

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

**THE UNDOUBTED SUCCESS OF THE U.S. MILITARY  
EFFORT MAY BE SEEN HERE, SHOWING THE VAST  
QUANTITIES OF AFGHANISTAN THAT HAVE BEEN  
LIBERATED, AND WILL FORM THE BASIS FOR A NEW,  
FREE, DEMOCRATIC AFGHAN SOCIETY**



U.S. soldiers from 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division patrol in Panjwai district, in Afghanistan's Kandahar province, Nov. 23, 2010. (AP Photo/Alexander Zemlianichenko)



11.24.10: U.S. soldiers patrol in Laghman province. (AFP/File/Kim Jae-Hwan)



U.S. soldiers from First Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division patrol in West Now Ruzi village, district Panjwai, Afghanistan's Kandahar province, Nov. 24, 2010. (AP Photo/Alexander Zemlianichenko)

---

## MILITARY NEWS

### HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?



The casket of US Army Corporal William K. Middleton at Arlington National Cemetery Dec. 6, 2010. Middleton, of Norfolk, Va, died of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device Nov. 22, in Kandahar province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)





---

## **“This Abuse Is Costing American Soldiers Hundreds Of Dollars And Depriving Army Families Of Hard Earned And Much Needed Income”**

Dec. 13, 2010  
Army Times  
Letters To The Editor

I thoroughly agree with the letter about how Army Central Issue Facility authorities frequently change their minds on what they wish to see returned following soldier's end of service or retirement (“What you can't keep,” Oct. 25).

I, too, have noticed that equipment that was one month listed “yes” as end-term-of-service “transferable” on my CIF records somehow mysteriously became “no” only a couple months later.

I understand that CIF records list clothing and equipment that each soldier is required to have on hand and that even items classified as ETS “transferable” are still required to be maintained by the soldier until he or she leaves the Army.

**But does the Army honestly expect me to carry around a brown wool scarf (which I have never used) for the next 14 years, turning it in to CIF when I retire in 2024?**

Many young soldiers, especially those in a hurry to clear CIF in conjunction with a permanent change of station move will not notice this slight change and be forced to produce equipment long since disposed of even though sometimes the only document CIF personnel could produce (if challenged) would be a signed document listing the items as ETS transferrable. In the end, many soldiers pay several hundred dollars for the items they cannot produce.

**I challenge the legality of charging soldiers for missing clothing and equipment when the only documentation that can be produced is a signed issue record classifying the items as ETS transferable.**

This abuse is costing American soldiers hundreds of dollars and depriving Army families of hard earned and much needed income.

Capt. Rob Lodewick  
Fort Sill, Okla.

---

## **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**

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

## **Assange: “It Is Fascinating To See The Tentacles Of The Corrupt American Elite”**

### **“In Some Ways, Seeing The Reaction Is As Important As The Material We Have Released”**

December 7, 2010 By Natalia Viana, Narco News Bulletin

*Natalia Viana: What is the accusation against you and how do you feel about your imminent arrest?*

Julian Assange: There are many accusations. The most serious is that I and our people have committed espionage against the United States. This is false. There is also a so-called “rape” investigation from Sweden. This is false and will go away once the facts come out, but is being used to attack our reputation in the meantime.

*Viana: Regarding the accusation of espionage, have there been any legal charges filed?*

Assange: It is a formal investigation involving the heads of the FBI, CIA, and the US Attorney General and so on. Australia is also conducting a similar “whole of government” investigation and assisting the United States.

One of the alleged sources, Bradley Manning (US soldier accused of being WikiLeaks’ source), sits in solitary confinement in a prison cell in Virginia. He faces 52 years if convicted on all charges.

*Viana: What is the difference between what WikiLeaks does and espionage?*

Assange: WikiLeaks receives material from whistleblowers (persons who denounce wrongdoing in the organizations in which they work) and journalists and makes it public. Espionage would require us to actively take material and give it deliberately to a foreign power.

*Viana: In the Sweden case, what do the women allege?*

Assange: They say that I had consensual sex. The case was dropped within 12 hours when the chief prosecutor, Eva Finne, read the interviews. Then it was picked back up again after political involvements. The whole thing is very disturbing.

**They just froze my Swiss bank account, my defense fund.**

*Viana: On what basis?*

**Assange: They do claim I was putting them in danger. But there is nothing to suggest that. And, in any case, it's false.**

*Viana: What is your opinion about the freezing of your money transfers by the business PayPal, and that Amazon removed your site? How do you see those acts?*

**Assange: It is fascinating to see the tentacles of the corrupt American elite. In some ways, seeing the reaction is as important as the material we have released.**

**PayPal and Amazon froze our accounts for political reasons. With PayPal, 70,000 euros were frozen. With our defense fund, that was 31,000 euros.**

*Viana: What do they allege?*

Assange: They say that we were conducting "illegal activities," and that clearly is untrue. More, they are echoing the accusations of (US Secretary of State) Hillary Clinton about publishing embarrassing US government documents.

However, the head of the Senate Committee for Homeland Security bragged to the press about how he had called Amazon and demanded they shut us down.

*Assange: What is WikiLeaks doing to defend itself from the freezing of its donations?*

**Assange: We have lost 100,000 euros this week alone as a result of the freezing of our assets. We have accounts in other banks – in Iceland and Germany, for example, that the public can still use. We have a website. We also accept credit card donations.**

*Viana: What more is WikiLeaks doing to defend itself?*

Assange: We are counting on a diversity of support from good people.

**We have more than 350 websites in the world that are reproducing our content. We value that more than anything.**

**MORE:**

# **Assange “Has Not Yet Actually Been Charged With Any Crime”**

## **“Assange Is Still Only Wanted For Questioning In Sweden”**

**If you create an illegal worldwide torture regime, illegally spy on Americans without warrants, abduct people with no legal authority, or invade and destroy another country based on false claims, then you are fully protected.**

**But if you expose any of the evils secretly perpetrated as part of those lawless actions--by publishing the truth about what was done--then you are an Evil Criminal who deserves the harshest possible prosecution.**

December 8, 2010 By Nicole Colson, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

RAPE AND sexual assault are very serious charges that deserve investigation. But it's impossible to take the charges against Assange at face value given the nature of the attack on him by the world's superpowers.

Assange is wanted by Swedish authorities for questioning in connection with one count of unlawful coercion, two counts of sexual molestation and one count of rape, all alleged to have been committed in August 2010.

Although the details remain unclear, reports suggest that Assange is accused of entering into consensual sex acts with two different women. In one case, he reportedly failed to wear a condom against the wishes of his partner; in another, he allegedly failed to stop during sex after a condom broke. Another allegation claims that Assange initiated sex with one of the women while she was sleeping.

These are disturbing charges. However, the idea that they should spark an “international manhunt,” complete with an Interpol “red notice,” should raise suspicions--especially concerning the timing of the Interpol notice so soon after the latest release of documents by WikiLeaks, to the fury of the U.S. government.

As Laura Flanders noted in TheNation.com:

**“(S)ince when is Interpol so vigilant about violence against women? If women’s security is suddenly Interpol’s priority--that’s big news!**

**“Tell it to hundreds of women in U.S. jails and immigration detention centers--who charge that they can’t get justice against accused rapists--or women in the U.S. military (two of out three of whom allege they’ve experienced assault.) In Haiti, hundreds of unprosecuted cases of rape in refugee camps could use some of Interpol’s attention.”**



**The same politicians and media pundits who have little to say about violence against women or women's rights in general are now suddenly very keen on bringing Assange to "justice."**

Meanwhile, as Assange sits in jail, the politicians and military officials who exposed by WikiLeaks for authorizing torture and massacres of civilians in Iraq and Afghanistan will likely never face a day in court.

All that shows how cynical and hypocritical this misuse of the legal system is.

**One of the more striking aspects of the case is that Assange, according to his lawyer Mark Stephens, has not yet actually been charged with any crime.**

**As Stephens noted in an interview with Sky News, Assange is still only wanted for questioning in Sweden--and that raises, he says, "a question of law" as to whether the Swedish prosecutor "is entitled to extradite him for the purpose of questioning."**

Swedish prosecutors initially brought and then dropped charges against Assange in August. At the time, Chief Prosecutor Eva Finne said in a statement that Assange was "no longer wanted" and "is not suspected of rape." In September, however, the prosecutors revived the allegations. And the hunt for Assange began in earnest this month--not coincidentally timed with the latest release of diplomatic cables by WikiLeaks.

As Mark Stephens noted:

**"(W)hen you get a situation where the original charges were dropped by the senior-most prosecutor in Sweden, on the grounds that there was not one shred of evidence to even warrant an investigation, and then a politician intervenes a few weeks later and goes to another city and another prosecutor on the same facts, and she begins this kind of witch-hunt, then I think you really have got to worry about the impartiality of the system and the process."**

As Greenwald [Salon.com's Glenn Greenwald] stated:

**To recap "Obama justice": If you create an illegal worldwide torture regime, illegally spy on Americans without warrants, abduct people with no legal authority, or invade and destroy another country based on false claims, then you are fully protected.**

**But if you expose any of the evils secretly perpetrated as part of those lawless actions--by publishing the truth about what was done--then you are an Evil Criminal who deserves the harshest possible prosecution.**

**MORE:**

**“Attackers Operating By The  
Thousands Behind The Shroud Of  
The Internet Rally Behind Mr.  
Assange And WikiLeaks As  
Champions Of Freedom Of  
Information”**

**They Are “Defying Those Who They  
Believe Are Influenced By The  
American Government To Halt The  
Disclosures Of Classified  
Documents”**

**“Many Of The New Attackers, They Said,  
Are Ordinary People Using Available  
Tools To Defend The Right To  
Information”**

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

December 10, 2010 By RAVI SOMAIYA, The New York Times [Excerpts]

**LONDON — The online activist group Anonymous, which has been waging a campaign of cyberattacks in defense of WikiLeaks, opened new offensives on Friday as Internet security experts said that tens of thousands more supporters had downloaded the attack software in the days since the WikiLeaks founder, Julian Assange, was jailed in Britain.**

The Web site for Moneybookers, a British PayPal competitor that ceased dealings with WikiLeaks in recent days, was under attack on Friday, according to members of Anonymous who were reached by e-mail and online chat services and who asked for anonymity in discussing activity that could be illegal. Independent Internet security analysts confirmed the accounts.

Amazon.com, MasterCard, Visa and PayPal are among the other commercial sites that, after halting their dealings with WikiLeaks, have been struggling with overwhelming demands for access that have crashed or drastically slowed their sites.

Some governmental sites have also been hit.

On Friday, Dutch prosecutors said their Web site had been overwhelmed in attacks they connected to their arrest of a 16-year-old in The Hague on Thursday, Reuters reported. The police said the teenager had admitted to aiding in the attacks on MasterCard and Visa. He has been ordered to spend 13 days in custody while the case is being examined, according to Reuters.

**The attackers — operating by the thousands behind the shroud of the Internet — are rallying behind Mr. Assange and WikiLeaks as champions of freedom of information, and are defying those who they believe are influenced by the American government to halt the disclosures of classified documents.**

That belief appears to be broadening, despite denials from the companies, the American government and the Swedish prosecutors seeking to question Mr. Assange on accusations of sexual coercion.

**An international Internet security company, Imperva, said Friday that until Tuesday there had been less than 1,000 daily downloads of the Anonymous software used against Moneybookers and in other attacks. That was when Mr. Assange was jailed in Britain on an extradition warrant in the Swedish case.**

**The number of downloads then leaped to about 10,000 a day, most coming from the United States, it said.**

The United States government has been looking into ways to pursue prosecutions over the leaks, and on Friday, Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. said that the Justice Department was investigating the Web attacks as well, Reuters reported.

In conversations late Thursday, several of the group's members said that support for the campaign was growing significantly beyond the 1,000 or so core activists who began it last weekend with the release of two manifestos.

**Many of the new attackers, they said, are ordinary people using available tools to defend the right to information.**

**“We’re technically not hackers, though we do have some professionals on board,” one said. “We’re mostly normal people, we have doctors and lawyers and guys who work at McDonald’s.”**

**He said, “We see WikiLeaks as a litmus test for freedom of speech.”**

Previous high-profile campaigns by Anonymous, most notably against the Church of Scientology in 2008 and 2009, put enough infrastructure in place for the group to be able to handle the rush of new supporters, said Gregg Housh, a member of the group who helped instigate that campaign but who disavowed any personal illegal action.

“There are propaganda people and programming people and different groups with different levels of engagement,” he said.

In the campaign in defense of WikiLeaks, those groups are marshaled by five to 10 core members who occupy a private chat room on an Anonymous online forum, according to group members.

**MORE:**

**“Companies That Have Stood By WikiLeaks By Providing Funding Sources (Yeah, You Can Now Donate To WikiLeaks Even If You Only Have Visa Or Mastercard) And Hosting The Site”**



December 10, 2010 By Tana Ganeva, AlterNet

**Giants like PayPal, Amazon.com, Visa and MasterCard almost instantly crumbled under government (and p.r.) pressure to drop WikiLeaks, depriving the site of vital funding sources and online platforms.**

**But other companies, some of them small, independent start-ups, have decided to risk the wrath of Joe Lieberman, the State Department, and their European counterparts and help keep WikiLeaks afloat by providing funding sources (yeah, you can now donate to WikiLeaks even if you only have Visa or MasterCard.) and hosting the site.**

**Here's a list of companies that have stood by WikiLeaks:**

1. Xipwire:

The Philly online payment company has announced that unlike PayPal they welcome customer donations to WikiLeaks. According to their site, they're even waiving fees and charges so that 100% of the money goes to the whistleblower site. "While people may or may not agree with WikiLeaks, we at XIPWIRE believe that anyone who wishes to support the organization through a donation should be able to do so," they say on their site. While the publicity advantages are obvious, there's also the threat of backlash. One of the founders told the tech blog BaltTech, "We're fully aware that not everyone likes what Wikileaks is. But we are prepared to accept the consequences."

(For the moment the money goes to an escrow account because they haven't been able to reach WikiLeaks.)

## 2. Flattr

Flattr, which was started by one of the founders of Pirate Bay, has also been funneling money to WikiLeaks. The site lets users put money into accounts; when they run into a website they want to support, they can click on their "flattr" button to donate money to site. According to TechCrunch, WikiLeaks has used Flattr since August and received over 3,000 Flattr donations when they released the Afghanistan war diary.

## 3. Datacell

The Icelandic company processes debit and credit card donations to WikiLeaks, so Visa and Mastercards' recent decision to cut all donations to the site has not done great things for their business.

In a statement published on their site, CEO Andreas Fink slammed Visa for letting political considerations get in the way of customer service: "The suspension of payments towards Wikileaks is a violation of the agreements with their customers. Visa users have explicitly expressed their will to send their donations to Wikileaks and Visa is not fulfilling this wish."

Founder Ólafur Sigurvinsson pointed out in an interview with an Icelandic news channel, "I've got confirmed today that I am capable of supporting Al-Qaeda, Ku Klux Klan, buy weapons, drugs and all sorts of pornography with a VISA card. But that's not being investigated. Instead I can not support a humanitarian organisation fighting for the freedom of speech."

## 4. OVH

WikiLeaks moved to the French data server OVH after getting kicked off Amazon. This did not sit well with French Ministry Eric Besson, who demanded that the site be purged from all French servers. Rather than instantly boot WikiLeaks offline, the company asked the courts to clarify Besson's order. Earlier this week a judge ruled that the French government had to actually prove that WikiLeaks broke the law, instead of just saying so and then trying to intimidate private companies. A company spokesperson said, "OVH is

neither for nor against this site. Now that it's with us, we will fulfill the contract. That's our job."

#### 5. Twitter

WikiLeaks relies on Twitter to communicate, and their account seems to be safe for now. The micro-blogging site has been accused of blocking #WikiLeaks and #Cablegate from the trending topics though, a claim they dispute.

#### 6. Facebook

Facebook recently released a statement saying that they have no plans to delete the WikiLeaks account, which has 1,187,990 fans.

### **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**

## **OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

### **Letter to Santa Claus**

[Thanks to David Silver, who sent this in.]

December 10th, 2010 by David Macaray, Dissident Voice [Excerpt]

Dear Santa Claus,

I assume you're a Jew, and that you're willing to help other Jews. My country needs your assistance.

Although we are surrounded by hostile neighbors who wish to annihilate us, much of the world still blames Israel. They call us Zionists.

Could you put in a good word for us? Tell people we want peace. Tell them we want to live in harmony.

Tell them also that we never forget, that if they don't heed your words, we will learn their identities and hunt them down.

Respectfully,  
Benjamin Netanyahu  
Prime Minister

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by foreign terrorists, go to: [www.rafahtoday.org](http://www.rafahtoday.org) The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."]

---

## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**



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

---

**“In The Transparency International Survey, Political Parties Were Regarded As The Most Corrupt**

# **Institutions With 80% Of People Regarding Them As Corrupt” “Analysts Blame This Rising Concern On The Global Financial Crisis For Undermining People’s Faith In Government, Banks And Economic Institutions” [No Shit?]**

9 December 2010 BBC [Excerpts]

The world is a more corrupt place now than it was three years ago, a poll suggests.

Some 56% of people interviewed by Transparency International said their country had become more corrupt.

Meanwhile, a BBC poll suggests that corruption is the world’s most talked about problem.

About one in five of those polled for the BBC by GlobeScan said they had discussed issues relating to corruption with others in the last month, making it the most talked about concern ahead of climate change, poverty, unemployment and rising food and energy costs.

In the Transparency International survey, political parties were regarded as the most corrupt institutions with 80% of people regarding them as corrupt.

Religious bodies experienced a sharp rise in people regarding them as corrupt - 28% in 2004 increased to 53% by 2010.

Transparency flagged up bribery as the major problem highlighted by the survey, with one in four of those polled saying they had paid a bribe in the past year.

Some 29% of bribes went to the police, 20% to registry and permit officials, and 14% to members of the judiciary.

**Robin Hodess, Transparency’s policy and research director, said police involvement in such transactions was “really worrying”.**



**“It’s a figure that’s grown in the past few years. It’s nearly doubled, in fact, since 2006. Nearly one in three people who had contact with the police around the world had to pay a bribe,” she said.**

Analysts blame this rising concern on the global financial crisis for undermining people's faith in government, banks and economic institutions.

The lobby group interviewed 90,000 people in 86 countries to compile its corruption barometer.

The opinion poll commissioned by the BBC sampled 13,000 people in 26 nations.

---

## **CLASS WAR REPORTS**



---

## **Class War Puerto Rico:**

**“Guards Were Given Batons And, In Some Cases, Taser Guns To ‘Protect’ Public Property From The Students”**

**“Strike Leader Giovanni Roberto Explained Why The Student Strikers Were Fighting For Demands That Also Served The Interests Of The Newly Hired Guards”**

**“The Episode Ended With Many Students And Guards Shaking Hands And Hugging Each Other As They Forged A Peace Based On Their Shared Interests”**

**The struggle of students in Puerto Rico is just one link in a chain of global protests against austerity measures. After bailing out the global financial system to the tune of trillions of dollars, governments around the world are trying to force students and workers to pay for the crisis.**

December 10, 2010 By Rossana Rodriguez, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

STUDENTS FROM six campuses in the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) system have held a series of 48-hour strikes in the last week to oppose the imposition of an \$800 fee that is scheduled to take effect at the beginning of the January 2011 semester.

Students at the Río Piedras campus were among the first to go out after they held a December 1 mass assembly and voted by an overwhelming majority to strike if the administration does not rescind the new fee by December 14.

**The chancellor of the Río Piedras campus used every means possible to try to stop the students from gathering, including canceling academic recess, freezing the bank account of the student council so that it couldn't pay for the sound system, and denying students the use of a space for their meeting.**

**But UPR students are already used to doing things the hard way, so the night before, they raised funds by approaching cars stopped at traffic lights so they could rent a sound system for the outdoor meeting that lasted five hours under the harsh rays of a sunny day at the university's athletic track.**

\*\*\*\*\*

THE WAVE of strikes in the last week is a continuation of the struggle against tuition hikes that began last summer with a two-month strike that shut down all 11 UPR campuses.

**Students ended their strike in victory when the administration agreed not to impose a \$400 fee at the start of the fall semester. But UPR is now trying to undo that victory for students by imposing an \$800 fee for the spring semester.**

If imposed, the fee would place a college education out of reach of many working-class people. But students aren't ready to throw in the towel.

**The 48-hour strike at the Río Piedras campus ended December 8, but not before the university took extraordinary measures to try to stop it from even starting.**

**First, the administration tore down the campus' historic gates to make it harder for students to control access to the campus.**

**But students quickly built barricades in response to the administration's actions.**

Then the administration spent \$1.5 million to hire a private security company managed by former professional wrestler Chicki Star (ironically, his character was known for using dirty tactics such as sucker punches and double crosses).

The former wrestler placed a "help wanted" ad on his Facebook page for 200 people to work as security guards during the UPR strike. Given the high levels of unemployment on the island, it's not surprising that many young working-class people desperate for work showed up. Almost immediately, there were clashes between the two groups of young people.

**The guards were given batons and, in some cases, Taser guns to "protect" public property from the students. Some guards also carried knives, and at least one student was attacked and injured by a guard.**

**But what the administration and Chicki Star hadn't counted on was that the students knew better than to see the young guards as their enemies.**

**On the second day of the 48-hour stoppage, strike leader Giovanni Roberto got things started with a short speech in which he explained why the student strikers were fighting for demands that also served the interests of the newly hired guards.**

**"If we win this strike, we all win--because we will have made this university more accessible to us, to you and to your brothers and sisters," said Roberto. "Everyone will have a chance for a future."**

**The episode ended with many students and guards shaking hands and hugging each other as they forged a peace based on their shared interests.**

According to Puerto Rico's Daily Sun:

"Moments later, the young guards were replaced by a different--and evidently older--group of guards.

"An executive officer from Capitol Security Services, the independent contractor in charge of campus security, explained that the guards had been changed 'because they suffered from Stockholm Syndrome,' a psychological condition in which hostages tend to sympathize with their captors after an extended period of time.

"The man did not explain how such a condition could relate to the situation at the UPR or how he had reached that conclusion."

\*\*\*\*\*

THE ADMINISTRATION is resorting to hardball tactics to try to intimidate, demoralize and isolate strike leaders. So far, there have been expulsions of students and arrests at several campuses. In Aguadilla, student activist Ovidio Efraín López Alers, a member of the Organización Socialista Internacional, was arrested and is now facing charges.

Though the university has tried to blame students for a couple episodes of violence and damage to public property, it's the administration that has done far more damage to the campus--by removing campus gates in Río Piedras and Bayamón, for example.

After students ended their 48-hour strike in Río Piedras, riot police occupied the campus, and it now remains under police control.

This is the first time police have occupied the campus since the student strikes of the early 1980s, when riot police broke up a student assembly at gunpoint and then went on a rampage that left hundreds injured on campus and in the surrounding neighborhood.

After the police riot, the university adopted a non-confrontation policy that kept police from entering campus--until now.

But the university's attempts at intimidation have so far failed to stop the students.

**Not only did the strike spread to a total of six campuses, but students already have pledged to begin an indefinite strike on December 15 unless and until the fee is rescinded.**

**Public-sector unions are calling for a December 12 march to defend the university.**

But the university has shown that it has no interest in good-faith negotiations. Case in point:

**The administration has repeatedly lied to students about the university's finances as it made its case for the tuition hike, making it practically impossible to have meaningful dialogue about resolving the crisis.**

The administration told students that the \$800 fee was necessary as collateral for a credit line of \$100 million with Puerto Rico's Banco Gubernamental de Fomento (Government Development Bank, or BGF by its initials in Spanish). But a letter from the BGF now in the possession of student leaders directly contradicts this, stating that the collateral for the credit line is actually money owed to UPR by government agencies that have contracted with the university.

This is merely the latest in a series of lies told by the UPR administration--which explains why its credibility among students and in the broader population is practically nil.

**The struggle of students in Puerto Rico is just one link in a chain of global protests against austerity measures. After bailing out the global financial system to the tune of trillions of dollars, governments around the world are trying to force students and workers to pay for the crisis.**

Puerto Rico's government has imposed a \$140 million cut on UPR, showing that it feels no shame at making the workers and the poor pay for the government's own mismanagement.

Now, it's up to students, faculty and university workers to refuse to pay for a crisis that they had no hand in creating.

## **NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER**

**Traveling Soldier is the publication of the Military Resistance Organization.**

**Telling the truth - about the occupations or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance to Imperial wars inside the armed forces.**

**Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces.**

**If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>**

**And join with Iraq Veterans Against the War to end the occupations and bring all troops home now! ([www.ivaw.org/](http://www.ivaw.org/))**

### **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](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.**

Military Resistance distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **Military Resistance has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is Military Resistance endorsed or sponsored by the originators. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research, education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice.** Go to: [www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml](http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml) for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

---

**If printed out, a copy of this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.**