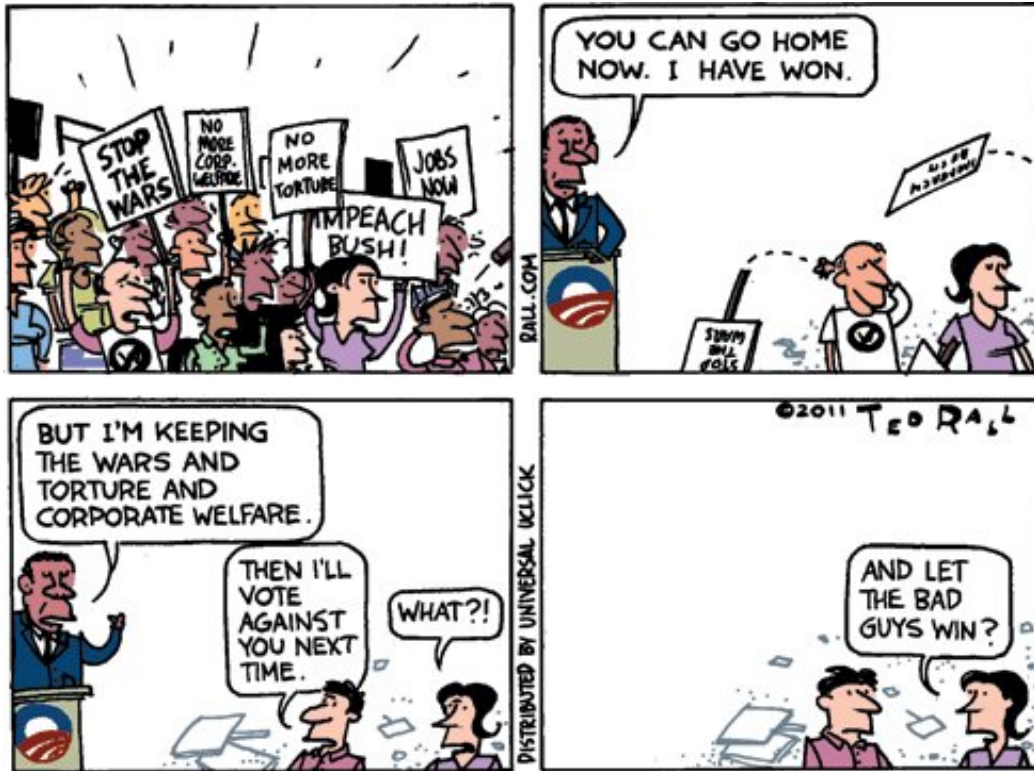


## Military Resistance 9F10



**“Just One In Four Americans Support  
Military Action In Libya”  
“Almost 60% Believe The Administration  
Should Seek Congressional  
Authorization For Operations”**

JUNE 16, 2011 By KEITH JOHNSON And LAURA MECKLER, Wall St. Journal  
[Excerpts]

The Obama administration laid out Wednesday its most-detailed justification yet for the U.S. air strikes in Libya, in response to the growing disquiet in Congress and among the public after 10 years of war in the Middle East.

The suit is the latest evidence Mr. Obama is having a hard time sustaining public and congressional support for interventionist policies amid the economic woes afflicting the

U.S. Also on Wednesday, 27 senators, including 24 Democrats, two Republicans and an independent, wrote to urge Mr. Obama to begin a “sizable and sustained” drawdown of troops in Afghanistan.

A Rasmussen poll released Monday showed just one in four Americans support military action in Libya, and almost 60% believe the administration should seek congressional authorization for operations.

## **DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?**

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

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

# **\$6.6 Billion In Cash Bush Sent To Iraq Can't Be Accounted For: “The Largest Theft Of Funds In National History”**

June 13, 2011 By Paul Richter, Los Angeles Times [Excerpts]

Reporting from Washington—

After the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003, the George W. Bush administration flooded the conquered country with so much cash to pay for reconstruction and other projects in the first year that a new unit of measurement was born.

**Pentagon officials determined that one giant C-130 Hercules cargo plane could carry \$2.4 billion in shrink-wrapped bricks of \$100 bills.**

**They sent an initial full planeload of cash, followed by 20 other flights to Iraq by May 2004 in a \$12-billion haul that U.S. officials believe to be the biggest international cash airlift of all time.**

This month, the Pentagon and the Iraqi government are finally closing the books on the program that handled all those Benjamins.

**But despite years of audits and investigations, U.S. Defense officials still cannot say what happened to \$6.6 billion in cash — enough to run the Los Angeles Unified School District or the Chicago Public Schools for a year, among many other things.**

**For the first time, federal auditors are suggesting that some or all of the cash may have been stolen, not just mislaid in an accounting error.**

Stuart Bowen, special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction, an office created by Congress, said the missing \$6.6 billion may be “the largest theft of funds in national history.”

The mystery is a growing embarrassment to the Pentagon, and an irritant to Washington's relations with Baghdad.

**Iraqi officials are threatening to go to court to reclaim the money, which came from Iraqi oil sales, seized Iraqi assets and surplus funds from the United Nations' oil-for-food program.**

It's fair to say that Congress, which has already shelled out \$61 billion of U.S. taxpayer money for similar reconstruction and development projects in Iraq, is none too thrilled either. “Congress is not looking forward to having to spend billions of our money to make up for billions of their money that we can't account for, and can't seem to find,” said Rep. Henry A. Waxman (D-Beverly Hills), who presided over hearings on waste, fraud and abuse in Iraq six years ago when he headed the House Government Reform Committee.

The White House decided to use the money in the so-called Development Fund for Iraq, which was created by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to hold money amassed during the years when Hussein's regime was under crippling economic and trade sanctions.

The cash was carried by tractor-trailer trucks from the fortress-like Federal Reserve currency repository in East Rutherford, N.J., to Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland, then flown to Baghdad.

**U.S. officials there stored the hoard in a basement vault at one of Hussein's former palaces, and at U.S. military bases, and eventually distributed the money to Iraqi ministries and contractors.**

Millions of dollars were stuffed in gunnysacks and hauled on pickups to Iraqi agencies or contractors, officials have testified.

**Pentagon officials have contended for the last six years that they could account for the money if given enough time to track down the records. But repeated attempts to find the documentation, or better yet the cash, were fruitless.**

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Michigan Soldier Killed In Afghanistan**



6.17.2011: This photo provided by the Ingram family shows Army Cpl. Michael K. Ingram Jr., 23, of Newport, Mich. Ingram died while on patrol in Kandahar when an improvised explosive detonated near him. (AP Photo/Courtesy of the Ingram family via The Monroe Evening News)

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

June 14, 2011 Reuters

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

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### **Foreign Occupation “Servicemember” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan Wednesday:**

# Nationality Not Announced

June 15, 2011 Reuters

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

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

June 16, 2011 Reuters

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

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## Two British Soldiers Killed In Helmand

17th June 2011 The Guardian

Two British soldiers died in Afghanistan on Thursday, the Ministry of Defence has said.

One serviceman, from the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, serving with the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, was killed by a bomb on an operation in Helmand province, and the second, from the Parachute Regiment, was hit by small arms fire.

Their families have been informed.

The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers soldier was involved in a mission in the Gereshk Valley area of Helmand at the time of his death.

He was killed trying to rescue a vehicle which had been hit by another blast.

Lieutenant Colonel Tim Purbrick, spokesman for Task Force Helmand, said: “During an operation to detain an insurgent, the soldier was working to recover a vehicle which had been damaged in an explosion when he was fatally wounded by an explosive device.

The MoD said the paratrooper was fatally wounded by small arms fire while on an operation in Helmand but would not confirm any more details.

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# Roadside Bomb In Afghanistan Kills Carson GI

Jun 16, 2011 The Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — A soldier from Woodbridge who was two weeks away from completing a tour in Afghanistan has been killed by a roadside bomb.

Army Pfc. Eric Soufrine, 20, died Tuesday after the vehicle he was riding in struck an improvised explosive device in western Afghanistan, according to the Defense Department.

“Eric died a hero, defending the country that he loved,” his mother, Donna Soufrine, said in a statement reported by the New Haven Register. She said her son “had a kind heart.”

Soufrine graduated in 2009 from Amity Regional High School, where his family said he and his brother played football.

He entered boot camp last July and his father, Michael Soufrine, said he had spent about six months in Afghanistan where he served as a gunner on an artillery vehicle.

Michael Soufrine said the family was looking forward to his return in about two weeks.

As a parent, “this is the worst thing that could ever happen to you,” he said. “He was a great kid.”

Eric Soufrine was one of three siblings and his older sister, Rebecca, is in military intelligence, Michael Soufrine said.

After finishing his tour of duty, Eric Soufrine planned to go back to college and eventually hoped to get a job in forestry, according to his mother, Donna Soufrine.

She said her son loved boating and the outdoors and was a member of the Hamden Fish & Game Club.

Soufrine was assigned to 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, out of Fort Carson, Colo.

Gov. Dannel P. Malloy ordered the state’s flags to be lowered to half-staff in Soufrine’s honor until his burial.

“The loss of Private First Class Soufrine is a tragedy and my thoughts are with his family and friends at this time,” Malloy said in a statement. “

These wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have exacted a terrible toll on our military, our families and our communities.”

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## Ranger Killed In Fighting In Afghanistan



Staff Sgt. Jeremy A. Katzenberger

Jun 15, 2011 Army Times

A Ranger from a unit based in Georgia was killed Tuesday in Afghanistan, according to the Defense Department.

Staff Sgt. Jeremy A. Katzenberger, 26, of Weatherby Lake, Mo., died in Paktika province of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his unit with small arms fire. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Hunter Army Airfield, Ga.

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## Miss. Soldier Dies In Blast



Sgt. Christopher R. Bell

June 8, 2011 By Therese Apel, Clarion-Ledger

A soldier claimed by both Mississippi and Alabama died in the line of duty along with three other members of his unit when an improvised explosive device detonated Saturday.

Sgt. Christopher R. Bell, 21, of Golden, which borders Red Bay, Ala., is at least the 17th soldier or Marine from Mississippi or with ties to the state killed in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and at least the third to die in about three months.

Bell was deployed to Afghanistan in March, his family said. He joined the Army in July 2008 and served at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., before being stationed in Alaska in January 2009.

Bell and his colleagues were assigned to the 793rd Military Police Battalion out of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska. The U.S. Defense Department announced his death Tuesday.

When a community is as tight-knit as Golden and the surrounding area, the death of a soldier is felt by everyone, Golden Mayor Davey Ginn said.

"I'm saddened by the news of his death, because I respect and appreciate all the young men and women who serve our country in Afghanistan and Iraq, and all over the world," Ginn said.

Sonya Lucas, Bell's wife's cousin, of Red Bay, said he was always a friendly and courteous person.

She said Bell and his wife, Samantha, were dating when he was stationed in Alaska.

"When he got a leave, he came home and they got married, and she went back with him," she said.

The Bells' have a daughter, Lana, who will be 2 years old in August.

"What breaks my heart is that he'll never get to see his baby grow up," Lucas said. "He adored his little girl."

From high school until the time he went to basic training, Bell worked in the kitchen at the Generations of Red Bay nursing home.

"He always interacted with the residents," Lucas said.

Mandy Lawler, who worked with Bell for a time at the nursing home, said she was in disbelief upon hearing the news.

Bell's mother still works at the nursing home, as did his wife for a period.

"His mother has been very worried something would happen to him, and they had a very close relationship," Lawler said.

"I was immediately saddened for her."



Lucas said Samantha Bell would want her husband to be remembered as a good friend and family man.

“Remember him as a military officer, but probably more as a husband and a father, because he was a good one,” Lucas said.

Bell was the son of Timothy and Barbara Bell of Red Bay.

Funeral arrangements are pending.

A memorial service will be held for Bell and the other soldiers in Laghman Province, Afghanistan, said Lt. Col. Bill Coppernoll of the Alaska base.

“Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family, friends and loved ones of Christopher Bell and the other soldiers lost,” Coppernoll said. “This is a tough time for everyone involved.”

The other soldiers killed were Sgt. Joshua D. Powell, 28, of Quitman, Texas; Spc. Devin A. Snyder, 20, of Cohocton, N.Y.; and Pfc. Robert L. Voakes Jr., 21, of L'Anse, Mich.

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## **Fort Bragg Widow Vows Son Will Know His Father**

June 3 By Bryan Mims, WRAL

Fort Bragg, N.C. — Crystal Blasjo remembers her late husband, Sgt. Aaron J. Blasjo, as a laid-back, surf's up guy. “Everything was just open to him and he loved life,” she said.

Aaron Blasjo grew up in Riverside, Calif., and joined the Army right out of high school. Crystal Blasjo was raised in Fayetteville and graduated from Terry Sanford High School in 2005.

When the two met in 2007, Crystal Blasjo said her future husband told her he was a school janitor.

“He didn't want people to know (he was in Special Forces). They are the silent professionals,” she said.

When she found out about his profession, Blasjo said it scared her. But her fears didn't stop her from marrying him on Dec. 3, 2008.

“Being a military wife is a risk, and you can't choose who you fall in love with,” she said.

On March 24, the Fort Bragg-based couple welcomed a son, Talon.

“Aaron just screamed. He was never so excited,” she said.

On May 1 – the same day President Barack Obama announced that U.S. Navy SEALs killed Osama bin Laden – Aaron Blasjo left for a nine-month deployment to Afghanistan.

For some reason, Crystal Blasjo said this time she knew things would be different. “I got the most eerie feeling because I knew,” she said.

Crystal Blasjo said her husband also became uneasy.

“His mom said when she spoke with him last week that he told her he was scared,” Crystal Blasjo said.

On Sunday night, two uniformed men came to the door to inform Crystal Blasjo that her husband had been killed.

“Once it hit, I didn’t know what to do. I couldn’t stand up. I couldn’t do anything,” she said.

Aaron Blasjo and two other soldiers were killed in the Wardak province of Afghanistan when enemy forces attacked their unit with an improvised explosive device, officials said.

Blasjo was part of the Group Support Battalion within 3rd Special Forces Group. He was a canine trainer and his dog, Hunter, was also killed in the roadside bomb blast.

“He’ll always be a hero. That’s something nobody can take away from him,” Crystal Blasjo said.

She said Talon will know his father. “I won’t miss a detail,” she said amid tears.

Aaron Blasjo was recipient of the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart.

## **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/>**

**NO MISSION;  
POINTLESS WAR:  
ALL HOME NOW**



A wounded Marine in a medevac helicopter from the US Army's 1-214 Aviation Regiment with shrapnel wounds in his head, outside Sangin, Helmand Province, Afghanistan, June 12, 2011. The tattoo reads 'after all undergone, I will carry on'. (AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus)

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

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

**“The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point  
is the lack of outreach to the troops.”**

**Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War**

## MILITARY NEWS

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

The burial service for U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant Kevin Balduf, who was killed serving in Afghanistan, at Arlington National Cemetery, in Arlington, Va., June 15, 2011. (AP Photos/Jacquelyn Martin)





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## FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



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

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

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

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

**Frederick Douglass, 1852**

**“The philosophers have only interpreted the world, in various ways; the point is to change it.”**

**-- Karl Marx, “Theses on Feuerbach”**

**“The History Of The Never-Ending,  
Always-Failing War On Drugs”**

**“The United States Has Become A  
Society Of Suspects Where All  
Manner Of Violence Against Those  
Suspected Of Drug Crimes Is  
Tolerated Or Ignored”**

**“Thousands Of People Have Been Killed  
Or Injured In The Name Of The War On  
Drugs”**

**There is a virtual “drug exception” to the Bill of Rights when it comes to no-knock warrants, random searches, stopping cars and buses on public highways and detaining people on the streets without warrant or probable cause, illegally seizing evidence, wiretapping, surveillance of the U.S. mail, drug courier profiles, drug testing in the workplace, and civil asset forfeiture.**

June 8, 2011 By Helen Redmond, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

Helen Redmond tells the history of the never-ending, always-failing war on drugs.

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THE WAR on drugs in the U.S. turned 40 years old this year, but there's nothing to celebrate.

No victory has been declared, and there is no exit strategy.

More than \$1 trillion has been squandered on the impossible: The mission to make America "drug-free." America, of course, isn't even close to being free of drugs--millions of people in the U.S. continue to use illegal drugs despite the threat of harsh penalties.

The war on drugs is a war on people.

It couldn't be otherwise. It's not directed at inanimate objects, but against drug users and those involved at every level of the drug trade.

What the drug war has been successful at is locking people up.

**The U.S. imprisons 2.3 million people, more than any other country in the world. Convictions for nonviolent drug crimes, mostly possession of small amounts, and mandatory minimum sentences account for the explosion in the prison population.**

**According to the Sentencing Project, in 2008, drug offenders made up more than half of the inmates in federal prisons.**

The war on drugs is shot through with racism at every stage, from the police who target minorities for "stop-and-frisk" searches for drugs, to the disproportionate length of prison sentences. More than 60 percent of people in prison today are racial and ethnic minorities, according to the Sentencing Project, and three-fourths of those serving time for drug offenses are people of color.

Here's something else the drug war does well: waste money.

**Last year, the federal government spent more than \$15 billion on the war on drugs, according to the organization DrugSense--and state and local governments together spent another \$25 billion.**

**"The Drug Warriors, With The Complicity Of The Mainstream Media, Have Depended On Whipping Up Drug Panics To Instill Fear In The Public"**

THE WAR on drugs was launched in 1971 by Republican President Richard Nixon.

Nixon despised the counterculture of the 1960s that openly challenged and defied drug laws. For "Tricky Dick," the marijuana-smoking students and legions of tripping "Dead Heads" didn't respect law and order, and lacked morals.

In a White House conversation caught on Nixon's infamous tapes, Nixon declared: "(H)omosexuality, dope, immorality in general. These are the enemies of strong

societies. That's why the communists and the left-wingers are pushing the stuff, they're trying to destroy us.”

Nixon's paranoia aside, liberals and radicals did push for the decriminalization of drugs, starting with marijuana.

**In 1972, the Shafer Commission, appointed by Nixon to study marijuana, likewise recommended decriminalization of marijuana, concluding: “Neither the marijuana user nor the drug itself can be said to constitute a danger to public safety.”**

Nixon was horrified, refused to read the report and did nothing to follow the recommendations.

This denial of the truth about drug use is a central aspect of the war on drugs.

The drug warriors, with the complicity of the mainstream media, have depended on whipping up drug panics to instill fear in the public.

The hysteria around crack cocaine in the 1980s shows how hyped-up, drug-war rhetoric paved the way for the government to scapegoat and demonize African Americans, eviscerate civil rights, expand the power of police and prosecutors, and enact “tough-on-crime” mandatory minimum prison sentences that sent huge numbers of people to jail.

The media ran thousands of stories full of hyperbole, using phrases like “crack attack” and “crack craze.”

An influential and widely read article in Newsweek warned, “Crack has captured the ghetto and is inching its way into the suburbs...Wherever it appears, it spawns vicious violence among dealers and dopers.”

So-called “crack babies” were discovered.

**The media were filled with images of inconsolable infants--mostly African American, of course--who were said to be damaged for life. Only decades later would medical researchers conclude that the long-term effects on children who were pre-natally exposed to cocaine were “relatively small,” “less severe than those of alcohol” and “comparable to those of tobacco.”**

Of course, by then, the damage was done. Amid the hysteria about a “crack epidemic,” the Reagan administration passed the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986. The law established the infamous disparity in sentencing for crack cocaine and powder cocaine.

It was known as the 100-to-1 rule--a person convicted of selling 5 grams of crack cocaine received a five-year mandatory sentence, but it took 500 grams of powder cocaine to trigger the same mandatory minimum.

The disparity was patently racist, as became clear by the early 1990s. The U.S. Sentencing Commission (USSC) released a report in 1995 showing that almost 90 percent of defendants sentenced under the crack cocaine rule were Black.



Lawmakers with no scientific evidence to back up their claims tried to justify the sentencing disparity by arguing that crack was more addictive than powder cocaine and triggered more violence. That myth was later debunked as well.

The USSC, hardly a bastion of antiracism, advocated for the elimination of the 100-to-1 rule, issuing four reports over 20 years that concluded there was indisputable racial bias in the disparity between the mandatory minimum sentencing. Their recommendations were ignored by both Republican and Democratic administrations hell-bent on proving their tough-on-crime credentials.

### **“Four Decades Of Evidence That Prohibition Doesn't Work And That Racist Discrimination Operates At All Levels Of The Criminal Justice System”**

THE WAR on drugs may have gotten its start under Republican presidents, but their Democratic successors did their part, too.

#### **Bill Clinton escalated the war on drugs to unprecedented levels.**

A majority Democratic Congress passed the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, which expanded the use of the death penalty to include large-scale drug traffickers, provided new and stiffer penalties for violent crimes and drug trafficking committed by gang members, and created a federal “three strikes” rule that imposed mandatory life imprisonment without the possibility of parole for federal offenders with three or more convictions for drug trafficking.

#### **The result, as the Justice Policy Institute pointed out, was the largest increase in federal and state prison inmates under any president in U.S. history.**

The prison-building boom couldn't keep up with the volume of people being chucked behind bars--severe overcrowding and inhumane living conditions were the result.

When Barack Obama won the presidency in 2008, hopes were high that racist, draconian drug laws would be overturned. After all, Obama was an African American man, and he admitted in his book *Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance* to using both marijuana and cocaine.

Plus, candidate Obama promised to eliminate the racist 100-to-1 rule, arguing, “We have talked about the need to address this cocaine sentencing disparity for long enough. It is time to act.”

Once in the White House, though, Obama caved on this issue, as so many others, to Republicans. On the 100-to-1 rule, his administration agreed to a reduction in the ratio, but not its elimination. It was an unnecessary compromise--the Democrats controlled Congress, and Obama had 24 years' worth of evidence that the disparity was racist.

The Fair Sentencing Act of 2010 dropped the disparity to 18-to-1, prompting Jasmine Tyler, deputy director of the Drug Policy Alliance, to say: “It's still okay to be a little racist.”

And the new law doesn't apply retroactively. In a welcome development, Attorney General Eric Holder recently announced that select federal inmates serving time for past crack-cocaine convictions could apply for reduced prison terms. But inmates with criminal histories or those who possessed or used a gun will not be eligible for sentence reductions.

So Telisha Watkins, sentenced to 20 years in prison in 2007, won't be eligible for a reduction because of a prior criminal conviction for drug possession. Her likely release date is 2024. Nor will Derrick Cain, sentenced to 10 years for selling cocaine and possession of a firearm. Derrick's gun was legally registered and wasn't used in connection with cocaine sales, but he'll be in prison until 2017.

Despite four decades of evidence that prohibition doesn't work and that racist discrimination operates at all levels of the criminal justice system, the Obama administration has continued the war on drugs.

Obama's Justice Department even opposed Proposition 19 to legalize marijuana when it was on the ballot last November in California. "We will vigorously enforce the CSA against those individuals and organizations that possess, manufacture or distribute marijuana for recreational use, even if such activities are permitted under state law," wrote Eric Holder.

As a candidate, Obama also promised to end the Bush-era attacks on medicinal marijuana sellers and patients, saying, "I won't have the Justice Department prosecuting and raiding medical marijuana users." Holder announced in 2009 that the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) would stop raiding state-approved marijuana dispensaries.

But the DEA in California ignored the directive and a week later raided a legal, permitted dispensary in San Francisco. In another raid--carried out SWAT-style, with guns drawn--the DEA and the FBI shut down 26 medical marijuana dispensaries in Montana.

It's no mistake that there's no exit strategy in the war on drugs.

The war has given unprecedented police powers to federal and state law enforcement officials, and provided the opportunity to scapegoat and lock up people virtually without challenge.

Civil and human rights have been gutted in the war on drugs.

**There is a virtual "drug exception" to the Bill of Rights when it comes to no-knock warrants, random searches, stopping cars and buses on public highways and detaining people on the streets without warrant or probable cause, illegally seizing evidence, wiretapping, surveillance of the U.S. mail, drug courier profiles, drug testing in the workplace, and civil asset forfeiture.**

**The United States has become a society of suspects where all manner of violence against those suspected of drug crimes is tolerated or ignored. Thousands of people have been killed or injured in the name of the war on drugs.**

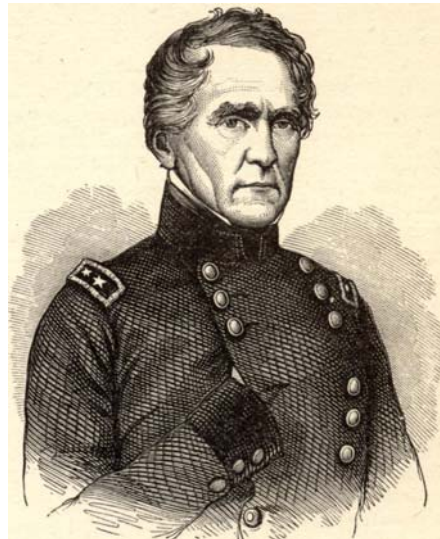
**The war on drugs is a win-win for government drug warriors.**

They won't give up their power and control over people's lives without a fight, and the war won't end without a serious challenge that exposes the lies and confronts the racism the war is based on.

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## ANNIVERSARIES

### **June 17, 1838: Anniversary On A Most Honorable Act By General John Wool Of The United States Army**



General John Wool [Sonofthesouth.net]

Carl Bunin Peace History June 16-22

The Cherokee Nation began the 1,200-mile forced march known as the Trail of Tears.

Their removal from ancestral land in the southeast U.S. had been ordered by Pres. Andrew Jackson as the result of a treaty signed by a small minority of the tribe, and approved in the Senate by a one-vote margin.

**Ordered to move on the Cherokee, General John Wool resigned his command in protest; Gen. Winfield Scott and 7000 troops moved in to enforce the treaty.**

"The Trail Where They Cried" ("Nunna daul Tsuny" in the Cherokee language) led from northern Georgia to Oklahoma.

Along the way, an estimated 4,000 died from hunger, exposure and disease.



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## **“The Solution”**

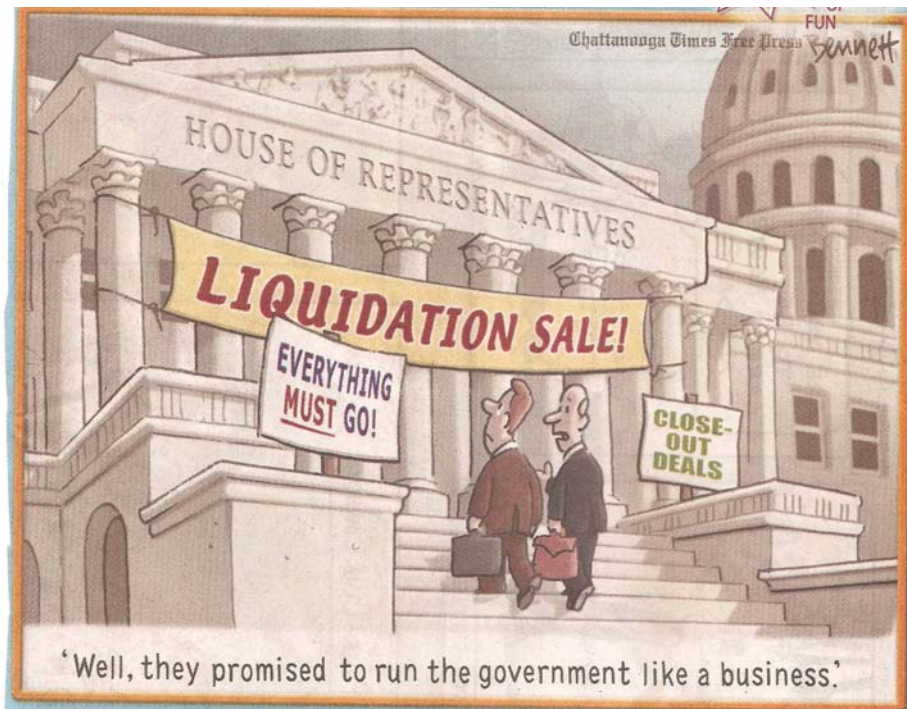
### **[In Memory Of The June 17 1953 East German Workers Rebellion]**

After the uprising of the 17th of June  
The Secretary of the Writers Union  
Had leaflets distributed in the Stalinallee  
Stating that the people  
Had forfeited the confidence of the government  
And could win it back only  
By redoubled efforts. Would it not be easier  
In that case for the government  
To dissolve the people  
And elect another?

Brecht

**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.

## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



## **Greece Offers To Repay Loans With Giant Horse: Steed Wheeled Into Brussels At Night**



[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

June 17, 2011 The Borowitz Report

BRUSSELS – In what many are hailing as a breakthrough solution to Greece’s crippling debt crisis, Greece today offered to repay loans from the European Union nations by giving them a gigantic horse.

Finance ministers from sixteen EU nations awoke in Brussels this morning to find that a huge wooden horse had been wheeled into the city center overnight.

The horse, measuring several stories in height, drew mixed responses from the finance ministers, many of whom said they would have preferred a cash repayment of the EU’s bailout.

But German Chancellor Andrea Merkel said she “welcomed the beautiful wooden horse,” adding, “What harm could it possibly do?”

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## Stupid-Looking Moroccan Dictator Announces Fake Reforms



Morocco's King Mohammed prepares to address the nation in Rabat June 17, 2011. He promised a new constitution on Friday that would devolve some of his powers to parliament and the government. REUTERS/Maghreb Arab Press/Handout

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## **CLASS WAR REPORTS**

# **Reps. Boehner, Cantor Continue Millionaires Reign Over House**

June 15 By Paul Kane and David A. Fahrenthold, The Washington Post [Excerpts]

While the majority status and chairman's gavels may have changed hands, the "people's" House is still run by millionaires.

House Speaker John A. Boehner (R-Ohio) and House Majority Eric I. Cantor (R-Va.) , the GOP leaders who rode to power on the grassroots wave of tea-party activists, are multi-millionaires with financial investments in some of the nation's largest corporations.

Boehner had minimum financial holdings of \$2 million at the end of 2010, while his top deputy was worth at least \$3.4 million, according to financial disclosure forms that were released Wednesday.

Their true net worth is likely to be far greater because lawmakers are only required to reveal a broad range of their financial holdings and the value of their primary residences is not mandatory in the disclosures. And, as is the case with Cantor's wife, Diana, spouses are required to reveal the stocks and other assets they hold at the end of the year, not their annual income from the jobs they hold.

The largest investments for Boehner, a former plastics executive from southwestern Ohio, come from mutual funds and a collection of individual retirement accounts. The speaker's IRA is invested in a who's who of Fortune 500 companies, ranging from WalMart (at least \$15,000); Xerox (\$15,000); Pfizer (\$15,000); Goldman Sachs (\$15,000), according to his forms.

Cantor, 48, is a former lawyer whose wife has become a financial powerhouse in Richmond, Va. Diana Cantor serves on the boards of Domino's Pizza and Media General, the communications conglomerate that owns, among other media properties, the Richmond Times Dispatch. More than ten percent of the Cantor family holdings — totaling more than \$350,000 — came from stock and stock options in those two companies, according to the whip's disclosure forms.

The 2010 midterms, however, did not considerably alter the financial makeup of the House leadership.

**Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), along with her husband, Paul, a San Francisco real-estate magnate and financial investor, were worth a minimum of \$42 million at the end of 2010.**

The Pelosi family holdings spread across property investments in northern California, including a Napa Valley vineyard worth at least \$5 million, and a litany of Fortune 500 companies.

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**“In A More Telling Sign Of The Depth Of The Anger, Peaceful Demonstrators Have Gathered Daily In Syntagma Square For Three Weeks”**

**“A Large Percentage Of Greeks Feel They Are Unfairly Suffering From The Government’s Mistakes”**

**“We Didn’t Create The Debt; They Created The Debt”**

16 June 2011 by: Rachel Donadio and Niki Kitsantonis; The New York Times [Excerpts]

On Wednesday, thousands of people joined a nationwide strike as Parliament prepared to debate what would be a second round of sharp reductions in government spending. The measures are highly unpopular with Greeks, who have already suffered deep salary and pension cuts.

“We had the first set of measures; that’s over, now they want a second,” said Angeliki Kolandretsou, 63, a retired private nurse who joined the nationwide strike Wednesday.

“But what will we see from this? Nothing at all. It will just go to the banks.”

On Wednesday, the police fired tear gas and scuffled with protesters in the central Syntagma Square here. The demonstrators were largely peaceful and from across Greek society, but some in the crowd smashed the windows of a luxury hotel and tried to prevent legislators from entering Parliament. Police officials said they detained more than 20 people.

Violent and often theatrical protests have long been a mainstay in Greece, even before the financial crisis hit. But in a more telling sign of the depth of the anger, peaceful demonstrators have gathered daily in Syntagma Square for three weeks, some sleeping in tents, to protest the austerity measures.



**In Greece, there is a deep divide between policy experts, who tend to believe that the country is taking the right steps to get back on track, and a large percentage of Greeks, who feel they are unfairly suffering from the government's mistakes.**

"We didn't create the debt; they created the debt," said Lina Pantazi, 40, a public school French teacher, as she stood in Syntagma Square wearing a surgical mask and sunglasses to protect against tear gas that the police fired on the crowds.

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## **“Oh, Youth Of Damascus, Here In Hama The Regime Has Already Fallen”**

### **100,000 March In Hama Against The Regime**

JUNE 16, 2011, By AYLA ALBAYRAK at the Turkish-Syrian border and NOUR MALAS in Dubai, Wall St. Journal [Excerpts]

Antiregime demonstrations also emerged in the Rokn al-Deen district of Damascus, as well as two Damascus suburbs, activists said. In the central city of Hama, where activists say at least 100,000 people marched on Wednesday, protesters chanted: "Oh, youth of Damascus, here in Hama the regime has already fallen."

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## **“The Protest Sit-Ins Occupying Yemen's Major Cities Have Brought Yemenis Together In Remarkable**

# **New Ways, Creating Makeshift Communities In Which The Old Barriers Of Tribe, Region, Clan And Gender Are Crumbling”**

## **“We Can’t Say Everything Has Changed, But The Seeds Of Change Are There”**

16 June 2011 THE NEW YORK TIMES [Excerpts]

SANAA- Yemen — After more than four months of insurrection, this tormented country may seem to be more divided than ever, with rival rallies still seizing the capital every week and fierce gun battles raging in the north and south.

But the protest sit-ins occupying Yemen’s major cities have brought Yemenis together in remarkable new ways, creating makeshift communities in which the old barriers of tribe, region, clan and gender are crumbling.

**In the sprawling tent city outside of Sana University, rival tribesmen have forsworn their vendettas to sit, eat and dance together.**

**College students talk to Zaydi rebels from the north and discover they are not, in fact, the devils portrayed in government newspapers.**

**Women who have spent their lives indoors give impassioned speeches to amazed crowds.**

Four daily newspapers are now published in “Change Square,” as it is called, and about 20 weeklies.

The very length of Yemen’s protests — far longer than the 18 days of Egypt’s Tahrir Square uprising — may be helping to forge new bonds and overcome this country’s deep fissures, even if the country’s political elite (and their henchmen) continue to shoot and kill one another in the near term.

“In a sense I’m happy the revolution is taking a long time, because these meetings and arguments are healthy,” said Atiaf al-Wazir, a blogger and activist. “We can’t say everything has changed, but the seeds of change are there.”

The sit-ins are taking place across Yemen, and in some areas elaborate deals have been made to allow tribesmen to join the protest without fear of being ambushed by their rivals. Many people have abandoned their jobs, adding to the economic collapse that now threatens the country.

**In Sana, the protest area is virtually its own city, complete with restaurants, medical clinics, auditoriums and gardens. In addition to the newspapers, there are numerous art galleries and exhibits, and an endless series of seminars and lectures.**

Unlike Tahrir Square in Cairo, the Sana protest area is not a central plaza. It is a dense network of streets running alongside the walls of Sana University — with pre-existing shops, homes and offices — and is therefore more sustainable as a community. Almost every tent has televisions and Internet, with wires and cords snaking over the canvas to the buildings nearby.

The numbers in the square have dwindled somewhat in recent weeks, with the summer heat, fighting in the capital and fuel shortages. Some protesters may have been discouraged by the long wait, and by Yemen's uneasy political void. The president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, is recovering in Saudi Arabia from burns and shrapnel wounds sustained during an attack on his palace mosque, and the capital is abuzz with constant rumors: the president is dead, the president is returning in an hour to seek revenge on his rivals.

Still, the square remains amazingly vibrant, a carnival-like city within the city.

Tribesmen with daggers in their belts strut through the crowd, singing antigovernment “zamils,” or tribal chants. (“God burned your face, oh Ali,” one of them went, in a derisive reference to the president.) Vendors wheel wooden trays of glistening red tomatoes and cucumbers, while others sell fruit juices, popcorn and fried foods.

Banners bearing the names of countless political factions hang between buildings, and the faces of martyrs killed during government crackdowns decorate the tents. Underfoot is a slurry of mud, plastic bags, fliers, food and leaves of qat — the plant Yemenis chew in the afternoons for its stimulant effect.

“There are new values forming here,” said Dughesh Abdel Dughesh, a sociologist. “You can see a big sheik sweeping the street, nuclear physicists taking away garbage.”

Mr. Dughesh moved to a tent in the square early on in the protest along with his wife, two sons and three daughters. He began giving lectures on sociology and arranging for seminars on other subjects.

Not all the encounters are positive. On Tuesday, two protest factions clashed after disagreeing over a planned march, and more than a dozen protesters were beaten, some of them hospitalized.

Mr. Dughesh, a liberal, said hard-line Islamists began stealing chairs from his tent after he taught co-ed seminars. Islamists have also intimidated women who spoke or sang in the square. Yemen's main Islamist party, Islah, became a dominant influence early on in the protest, taking over from the politically independent youths who were the pioneers. Many protesters lament that, saying the harder-line Islah members are intolerant of the square's diversity.

Others say the frequent confrontations between Islamists and liberals are healthy, like those between all the factions and currents represented in the square. Yemeni society is

deeply conservative, and any changes to the place of religion or the role of women will come slowly.

But some women say the square has changed their lives forever.

“Before, we were sitting at home like pigeons trapped in a cage,” said Jamila Ali Ahmed, a passionate 29-year-old who wore a full black niqab covering all but her eyes, like most Yemeni women. “When we arrived to the square, we felt the beauty of freedom. We feel proud now and we want a dignified life.”

On Monday evening, as a light rain fell, several dozen Yemenis crowded into a tent known as the Academic Forum. A Sana University hydrologist, dressed in a natty blue suit, was delivering a lecture on Yemen's dire water problems.

Across the alley, a white-turbaned Zaydi imam, his face illuminated by a yellow lamp in the gathering darkness, spoke to a crowd of young men about the religious duty to expel unjust rulers. In the distance, a song was played by Muhammad al-Adra'ee, a celebrated figure in the square who entertains crowds with his dead-on mimicry of the Yemeni president.

Nearby, Abdel Raghieb Ghaylan, a 32-year-old teacher, was beaming as he handed out copies of a survey on how to improve Yemen's educational system. “This is the real Yemen — the Yemen we'd like to see,” Mr. Ghaylan said.

Later in the evening, tribesmen from the provinces of Bayda and Marib formed two lines and began performing an athletic dance full of leaps and shouts. A poet arrived — there are countless poets in the square — and began singing verses that the tribesmen repeated in unison.

“Our people made a revolution peacefully,” the men sang, as a drummer beat a rhythm on a drum held between his knees. “No airplanes, no guns, we have just our faith, our strong faith.”



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