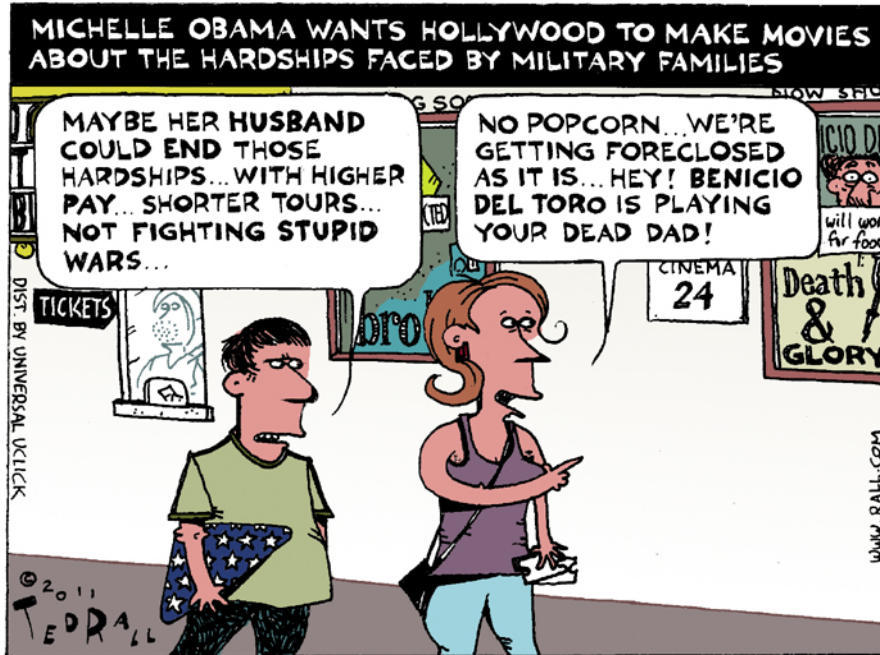


## Military Resistance 9F12



**“I Heard A Metallic Sound And Realized The Helicopter Had Been Hit”**

**“One Bullet Passed Barely A Third Of An Inch (1 Centimeter) From The Hydraulic System Powering The Huge Helicopter”**

**“Another Went Through The Metal Near The Fuel Tank”**

(AP photographer Anja Niedringhaus traveled with a US Army “Dustoff” medevac unit for two weeks in Afghanistan’s Helmand province. This is her first-person account of one dangerous day on the job for the soldiers.)

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Southern Afghanistan remains a stronghold of the Taliban, and Sangin is a hotly contested district. The spring fighting season is now under way.

That means more soldiers wounded by gunfire and bombings. And more work for the medics of the “Dustoff” helicopters.

As we approached Sangin, I saw an Afghan woman hanging her laundry inside the yard of her house. The tranquility of the scene helped me relax.

That sense of calm lasted just a few moments.

Dust, mud and grass churned up in front of us as the Black Hawk landed.

Campbell, 35, of Juniper, Idaho, reached out to open the door. Then gunfire erupted.

I heard a metallic sound and realized the helicopter had been hit. The pilot, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Dan Fink, quickly pulled the helicopter’s nose toward the sky. All I could see in front of us were trees and power lines.

“If we are going to crash. I don’t want to see it,” I thought. My eyes shut, I held onto my seat belt.

I opened my eyes. We hadn’t crashed. Slowly, the helicopter gained altitude and rose to safety.

We cruised slowly as Fink, 40, of Spring Hill, Kansas, and another pilot, Chief Warrant Office 2 Niel Stewart, 34, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, checked the helicopter to make sure it could still maneuver. It could.

Only one thing rushed through my mind: “Please, please, just let us get out of here until that firefight down on the ground ends.” But of course I didn’t say that out loud.

After 15 minutes, I realized we would return to the same spot. As I looked at Campbell, I noticed his extraordinary level of concentration. He adjusted his gloves, reached for his assault rifle and then peered out of his open window.

I kept trying to find my lucky charms in my pockets.

The helicopter touched down right where we took fire only minutes earlier. The big side door slid open. I reached for my camera, feeling better because I could concentrate on something else.

Campbell jumped out first. He looked around. Neither of us could see the Marines. Suddenly, a Marine jumped up from a ditch nearby, one hand on his stomach and the other holding rosary beads.

The Marine sprinted toward us, turning around to wave to the others that he could make it to the helicopter. Another Marine tried to catch up to help him, but the injured Marine, Lance Cpl. Blas Trevino from 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, ran so fast he made it to the helicopter first.

Trevino latched onto Campbell in a desperate hug.

“You have made it! You have made it!” Campbell shouted over the whine of the idling helicopter.

Mr. Trevino collapsed on a stretcher, exhausted. He lifted his head to scream: “Yes, I have made it!”

As the helicopter lifted off again, the medics began treating Mr. Trevino for a gunshot wound to his stomach. During the 10-minute flight, he kept praying while clutching his rosary beads. He gave us thumbs-up signal. He would survive the wound.

We landed at Forward Operating Base Edi outside Sangin but still in Helmand province. Medics carried Mr. Trevino into a hospital tent.

Meanwhile, Mr. Fink and Mr. Stewart walked around the helicopter, looking for damage.

Gunfire had struck five times in the tail. One bullet passed barely a third of an inch (1 centimeter) from the hydraulic system powering the huge helicopter. Another went through the metal near the fuel tank.

The two men took off their bulletproof vests.

“That was pretty close,” they agreed.

Nineteen soldiers make up the U.S. Army “Dustoff” unit. The unit, based out of Landstuhl, Germany, operates from a gravel runway in Helmand province. The soldiers use plastic bags for toilets.

Most of their supplies, like food and water bottles, are dropped by parachute every other day from a plane. Marines run out of the camp to collect them, taking care not to step on land mines.

After a year in Afghanistan, members of the unit will head home with their memories. Spc. Jenny Martinez’s voice grew soft as she recounted treating a Marine who stepped on an explosive and lost both of his legs.

She held his hand all the way to the field hospital.

“He didn’t want to let me go,” said Ms. Martinez, 24, of Colorado Springs, Colorado. But “I had to leave because we had another mission.”

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## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **Florida Soldier Dies Of Wounds Suffered In Baghdad**

June 18, 2011 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 527-11

Spc. Marcos A. Cintron, 32, of Orlando, Fla., died June 16 at a medical facility in Boston, Mass., of wounds suffered June 6 at Baghdad, Iraq, when insurgents attacked his unit with indirect fire.

He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kan.

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### **Hocking County Medic Killed; Army Specialist One Of Two Ohio Soldiers Who Died In Attack In Iraq**

June 10, 2011 Jim Woods and Randy Ludlow, THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

He was an adventurous guy who always planned for the Army. But although he was a sharpshooter, he wouldn't hunt because he could "never hurt any animal," his mother said.

Army Spc. Robert P. Hartwick, 20, of Rockbridge in Hocking County, died Monday when rockets fired by insurgents struck Army quarters at a joint U.S.-Iraqi base in Baghdad, the Pentagon announced yesterday.

Hartwick was among five soldiers -- including Spc. Michael B. Cook, 27, of Middletown in southwestern Ohio -- who were victims of the deadliest attack on U.S. troops in Iraq in two years.

Hartwick was a combat medic; Cook served as a field-artillery tactical-data-systems operator. Their mission was working with Iraqi security forces to prepare them to take over the defense of their country.

The Ohioans were assigned to the 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, part of the famous "Big Red One" (1st Infantry Division) from Fort Riley, Kan.

"They were all outstanding soldiers, outstanding people and, most importantly, our good friends," Lt. Col. Andrew Gaaney, battalion commander, said in a news release.

At 6-foot-2 and weighing 200 pounds, Hartwick looked like a soldier. But his mother, Linda Hartwick, recalled his tender side yesterday. She remembers him as a giving person who had a "good, strong Christian faith."

When he would contact his family and friends from Iraq, she said, he would want to hear about what was going on at home rather than talk about himself.

Hartwick left their Rockbridge home to join the Army in June 2009 after his graduation from Logan High School. Principal Jim Robinson was sorry to hear about the death of his former student.

"He was a pretty tough kid," Robinson said.

Hartwick loved the outdoor activities that growing up in Hocking County offered, Mrs. Hartwick said. He was into riding his four-wheeler and motorcycle, rock climbing, fishing and canoeing.

Hartwick showed from an early age that he was determined and had a gift for working with his hands. His mother remembered how, when he was only about 5 years old, she said that he could ride his go-cart if he could fix it -- and to her surprise, he did.

The Army was Hartwick's chosen career path because he wanted to follow in his father's footsteps. He enlisted when he was 17 and had to wait until he turned 18 to begin basic training.

"Him and his dad (Robert A. Hartwick) were very close. It was something they talked about," Mrs. Hartwick said. "He wanted to go serve his country and see the world and step out on his own."

And he thrived in the Army.

"With the Army training, it was so hands-on," Mrs. Hartwick said.

Hartwick departed for Iraq in November on his first deployment. He was scheduled to return in September.

When his active duty was up, Hartwick had planned to enroll in college and stay in the Army Reserve for four years. He then wanted to return to the service as an officer, Mrs. Hartwick said.

Besides his parents, Hartwick is survived by two older sisters. Funeral arrangements are pending.

"He was just the best," Mrs. Hartwick said. "He was proud to serve."

Also killed in Monday's attack were Spc. Emilio J. Campo Jr., 20, of Madelia, Minn.; Spc. Christopher B. Fishbeck, 24, of Victorville, Calif.; and Pfc. Michael C. Olivieri, 26, of Chicago.

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# **Fallen Soldier Had 'Big Heart,' Family Says: Homer Glen Man Dies In Baghdad, Week Before He Planned To Visit Home**

June 10, 2011 Chicago Tribune

In his hometown of Homer Glen, Army Pfc. Michael C. Olivieri was a member of a small band and would often break out his guitar and play for friends and family, his wife said.

When his commander in Iraq learned Olivieri was a musician, he asked the soldier to perform at the Christmas service on base. After that, Olivieri used music to entertain fellow soldiers, said his wife, Sharon Olivieri.

"He really knew how to connect with people," she said. "He was always laughing and making jokes. He'd slow down and really talk to people.

"They allowed him to keep the guitar," she said. "He said it was such a wonderful thing."

Michael Olivieri, 26, was one of five soldiers killed Monday in Baghdad when insurgents launched an attack on their base, the Defense Department said.

Olivieri was a field artillery data systems operator and belonged to the 1st Infantry Division, based at Fort Riley, Kan.

He died just a week before he was scheduled to return home on leave, his family said. He was returning to celebrate his one-year wedding anniversary and attend the wedding of his sister.

Sharon Olivieri was preparing to leave for her job as an overnight nurse Monday when she saw two soldiers standing at her front door, she said. As she was walking out, she could see their dark green uniforms through the glass panels.

"I knew then," she said. "It was tragic."

Michael Olivieri grew up in Homer Glen and attended school there.

News of his death quickly spread in the small community. On Friday flags at the Fire Department and public library were flown at half-staff. Both buildings had signs offering condolences to Olivieri's friends and family.

A 2002 graduate of Lockport Township High School, Olivieri attended Southern Illinois University for a while.

But last year, unsure about what career he wanted to pursue, he decided to enlist and serve his country.

"Mikey had a big heart and he wanted to help others," his wife said. "He wanted to contribute something big."

Originally he was going to enlist with a close friend, but when that friend had to delay his plans, Olivieri signed up anyway.

He and the four other soldiers killed Monday were deployed in November 2010. They had all served less than two years and were on their first deployments, the Defense Department said. Stationed in Baghdad, they were working to develop and support Iraqi police, Olivieri's family said.

While away, Olivieri had kept in touch with his southwest suburban family by sending emails and singing songs to them via Skype, his mother said. Once, he performed a puppet show using Beanie Babies for his family, drawing laughter and giggles.

"He was loved, and because he was so loved by his family and wife and friends, he was able to extend love," said his mother, Jody Olivieri.

But mostly, he told them how much he was learning while away.

"The Army really did give him an opportunity to focus and identify his leadership qualities," his mother said.

"It was his way of finding himself ... finding something he could accomplish," his father, Mike Olivieri, said. "He had a natural ability to lead, and he could influence people."

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## **“IVAW Organizers Inform Soldiers Deploying To Iraq Out Of Fort Hood About Growing Iraqi Resistance Movement”**



From: IVAW  
To: Military Resistance Newsletter

Subject: Inside the Iraqi protest movement: An interview with Uday al-Zaidi  
Date: Jun 17, 2011

### **Iraq protest movement reaches a turning point**

Last week, the non-violent protest movement in Iraq reached a critical point.

June 7 marked the self-imposed deadline for Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to rid the various government departments of corruption and correct their incompetence.

You see, a major criticism from the growing movement of tens of thousands across Iraq is that rampant corruption is preventing the provision of basic services like regular electricity.

Well, June 7 has come and gone, and conditions have not changed. This has bolstered the growing peace movement that has taken over the nation, and demonstrators are demanding Maliki's resignation.

You can follow the latest developments in this movement on Facebook here:  
[<http://www.facebook.com/Great.Iraqi.Revolution>]

Our friend, Ali Issa, at War Resister's League has been in contact with some of the leaders of this growing peaceful protest movement in Iraq. Check out his interview [[http://www.jadaliyya.com/pages/index/1806/iraq-after-malikis-100-days\\_an-interview-with-iraq](http://www.jadaliyya.com/pages/index/1806/iraq-after-malikis-100-days_an-interview-with-iraq)] from May 25th with Uday al-Zaidi, a leader of The Popular Movement to Save Iraq and brother of famed shoe-thrower, Muntadhar al-Zaidi:



### **Demonstrations continued across Iraq in today's weekly Friday protest.**

Today, protest activities were reported taking place in Basra, Fallujah, Diwaniya, Tella'afer, Mosul, Nassiriya, and Tahrir Square in Baghdad.

There was a demonstration outside the Iraq embassy in London as well.



Inside Iraq, many of the protests were met with crackdowns from government security forces, resulting in numerous arrests. In one case, eyewitnesses reported that security forces fired live ammunition at protesters.

Crowds were chanting anti-Maliki slogans including the following translated chants:

"FRIDAY AFTER FRIDAY AND WE WILL GET MALIKI OUT!"

"GET OUT MALIKI, WE DON'T WANT YOU!"

"BROTHERS SUNNA AND SHIA'A, THIS COUNTRY WE WILL NOT SELL!"

"LIAR! NOURI AL MALIKI IS A LIAR!"

**IVAW organizers inform soldiers deploying to Iraq out of Fort Hood about growing Iraqi resistance movement.**

As you know, IVAW has a team of organizers reaching out to soldiers at Fort Hood this summer as part of our Operation Recovery campaign to stop the deployment of traumatized troops.

We recently have learned that approximately 3,000 soldiers are being sent from Fort Hood to Iraq over the course of the summer. IVAW is now looking into which units are deploying to Iraq, and we will attempt targeted outreach to those soldiers to educate them about the growing peaceful protest movement there whose chief demand is U.S. troops out.

**To support our continued work in solidarity with the Iraqi protest movement, make a donation now.**

**[[https://org2.democracyinaction.org/o/5966/p/salsa/web/common/public/content?content\\_item\\_KEY=3055](https://org2.democracyinaction.org/o/5966/p/salsa/web/common/public/content?content_item_KEY=3055)]**

Thank you!

Iraq Veterans Against the War

## **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**

# AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

## **Soldier from 3rd Battalion The Mercian Regiment (Staffords) Killed In Nahr-E Saraj (North)**

18 Jun 11 Ministry of Defence

It is with great sadness that the Ministry of Defence must announce the death of a soldier from the 3rd Battalion The Mercian Regiment (Staffords), who was killed on Saturday 18 June 2011. The soldier was shot while on patrol in the Nahr-e Saraj (North) District of Helmand Province and died of his injuries.

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### **Douglas Honors O'Connor**



A Marine Honor Guard carries the body of Lance Cpl. Sean O'Connor after it arrived Friday at the Converse County Airport in Douglas. Lance Cpl. O'Connor was killed Sunday in Afghanistan's Helmand province during a patrol. JOSHUA A. BICKEL

[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes "So sad."]

June 17, 2011 By WILLIAM BROWNING Star-Tribune staff writer

DOUGLAS — The plane flew out of and landed beneath a beautiful Wyoming sky at about 1:45 p.m. Friday.

A cluster of family and friends were waiting on the airport's concrete when it did. Farther away, there were handfuls of men and women paying silent, motionless respect.

When the jet taxied closer to a parked hearse, the only things to be heard were a line of American flags flapping in the wind and the jet's engine.

When it stopped, the aircraft's side door opened and the casket containing the body of Lance Cpl. Sean M. O'Connor was brought out.

O'Connor, a Douglas resident who joined the U.S. Marine Corps after graduating from high school, died Sunday while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

Out there on the concrete of the Converse County Airport Friday afternoon, the 22-year-old's family approached his flag-draped casket, paid the young man respect, cried for him, loved him.

Then six Marines put O'Connor into a hearse and it took him to Douglas, where he had grown up and where his family lives.

Roy Bechard was one of several men and women who trailed the hearse into Douglas on a motorcycle. A Vietnam veteran, he came from Gillette to be there for O'Connor. "This country needs heroes, soldiers to fight for our freedom," he said before the jet landed. "That's what he did. This is the least we can do."

O'Connor graduated from Douglas High School in 2007. He was a member of the swim team. People who knew him say he was an outgoing young man, quick to help. He decided to join the Marines, and when he did, it filled his father — a former Marine — with pride.

O'Connor was scheduled to leave the Marines this year.

In Douglas, people came out by the hundreds to show what his service meant to them.

"He was there for us," said Douglas resident Rita Burkholder. "Everybody just wants to be there for him and his family."

Crowds lined the streets as O'Connor's body traveled to the Gorman Funeral Home. When the hearse containing his body came down Fourth Street, people waved flags; they held up banners. Men took off their caps.

Some women shed tears. It was a small town honoring the service of its "hometown hero," as Douglas Mayor Bruce Jones called O'Connor this week.

Some people had gotten their flags earlier in the day at Falkenburg Auctions. There were 700 flags to begin with, but those ran out around noon. So the mayor went to get 800 more.

John Ooms, a Douglas resident, walked across the business's parking lot alone with a fist full of the flags.

"I'd like to honor his contribution to our country," Ooms said. He didn't personally know O'Connor, but said that was beside the point. "He's a soldier. He deserves to be honored."

David Harned, another Douglas resident, held a flag up when the hearse came by him on Fourth Street. "Let's face it," he said afterward, "he's a Marine who was fighting for my right to be here."

In the days following O'Connor's death, the citizens of Douglas began planning to honor him. Cathy Feezer-Jones said "the whole town came together."

Friday, some shops shut down. People who may have been planning to leave for the weekend did not, so they could honor O'Connor. Flags around town were lowered to half-staff.

"Everybody has come together on this," Feezer-Jones said. "We want it to be special for the family. We're a small community that's family-oriented."

When the hearse traveled beneath the shade on Fourth Street, it passed dozens of trees with yellow ribbons tied around them.

O'Connor's funeral is Wednesday at 10 a.m. at the Douglas High School Gymnasium. American flags will be passed out.

O'Connor will be buried at Douglas Park Cemetery with full military honors.

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## **Acadiana Marine Killed In Afghanistan**

Jun 9, 2011 by Chris Welty, KATC

Acadiana is mourning the loss of a fallen Marine.

Twenty-one-year old Corporal Matthew Richard from Iota was killed in Afghanistan. His mother says three marines and a sailor knocked on their door in full dress around 6'oclock Thursday morning to deliver the grim news.

His mother says Mathew's dream was always to serve in the military. Alicia Richard says, "The first journal he wrote was in the 2nd grade. The first sentence was 'I want to be a soldier'. He did die a marine. He fulfilled his dream. It's what he wanted. He pursued that with everything.'

She went on to say that Matthew begged to join the military when he was 17, but he had to wait until a week before his 18th birthday. Matthew died a Corporal who had been honored several times for his committment and dedication to his country.

Richard was a 2008 graduate of Iota High School. KATC'S Chris Welty caught up with educators there who knew him well.

"Maybe they made a mistake. I'm sure these are all thoughts and concerns that ran through his family's mind. You have the wrong person, it can't be him," said Regina Gonzales, Richards former math teacher.

Just three years ago, 21-year old Matthew Richard graduated from Iota High School and former teachers say he was an outstanding student.

"He was well respected by his teachers and he was a big football player. He was very tenacious," said Iota High School Principal, Gibson Miller.

From a young age, Richard knew he wanted to become a soldier. Regina Gonzales, said he would share his passion with anyone willing to listen.

"I talked to Matt several times his senior year, even after graduation and he was very much gung hoe about joining the services, and believing in the cause. He wanted to fight and protect our country."

Wanting to protect our country and even paying the ultimate sacrifice for it.

"You hear about it happening to someone else in another town, another city, another state, but not here at home; but it hits at home and it hurts."

"He's a young man that this community can be really proud of."

No word on when Matthew's body will be back in the United States.

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## **German Armored Vehicle Blown Up In Kunduz: Casualties Not Announced**



June 19, 2011: An attack on a German military convoy in Kunduz, north of Kabul, Afghanistan overturned at least one armored vehicle. (AP Photo/Fulad Hamdard)

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

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

## **More Toast, Pakistan Style**



A burning oil tanker with supplies for foreign troops in Afghanistan burns after a militant attack on the outskirts of Quetta, Pakistan, June 19, 2011. The driver was killed. (AP Photo/Arshad Butt)

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## **Iowa Reservists Catch Command In Stupid Pack Of Lies About Battle In Nuristan**

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

18 June 2011 By Julius Cavendish in Kabul, Independent.co.uk

NATO spoke of "some fighting" at the end of May in Nuristan province.

Parliament members and local media claimed dozens of deaths in an indiscriminate air strike.

Now, the US soldiers who fought in this remote corner of north-eastern Afghanistan appear to have cut through the spin, telling their local newspaper of a ferocious battle after Taliban fighters seized a tiny mountain village and raised the flag of the Islamist movement.

US reservists from the Iowa National Guard told the Globe Gazette that the fight to recapture Du Ab district centre was the "most significant" firefight their unit had been in since World War II.

"It's unbelievable everyone came out," said Lt Col Steven Kremer of the National Guard's 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry Regiment.

Nato pulled most of its forces back from the rugged province two years ago to concentrate on protecting more densely populated areas in the valleys below.

The Taliban arrived in its wake. Government presence is minimal. The insurgents are blockading the provincial capital, and Afghan MPs and opposition politicians allege the government wants to keep Nuristan out of the spotlight.

According to the reservists' account, 42 US soldiers and 18 Afghan troops were scrambled by helicopter after reports on 25 May that the Taliban had raised their flag over the district centre.

**They came under fire within seconds.**

**"The whole (landing zone) erupted into fire," 1st Lt. Justin Foote said. "From every point of high ground, from every piece of defensible fighting position the enemy were in, it pretty much rained down – all types of weapons: small arms fire, machine gun fire, RPG fire and enemy mortar rounds."**

**The fighting was so severe that it took two detachments dropped within 300 metres of each other an hour to link up.**

**Resupply helicopters with reinforcements and ammunition were subjected to such withering fire that they spent barely a minute on the ground and one was too badly damaged to unload its cargo.**

**Their dramatic account, however, contradicts NATO's initial statement.**

"Afghan and coalition forces air assaulted into Du Ab district, Nuristan province today to assess insurgent activity," its press release on the day read.

**Although there had been "some fighting" there was "no indication at this time the district was ever overrun".**

**NATO also said, on first appraisal, "there was no damage to property and no civilians injured".**

Contingent events in Du Ab made the spin on what happened particularly troubling.

**Amid the chaos, ground forces called in airstrikes, one of which struck a group of police, killing them. Several civilians were also killed in the fighting.**

But when The Independent made inquiries immediately after the airstrikes, sources said that medical teams were being denied access to the province by the Afghan government.

Another source said civilians trying to flee the fighting in Du Ab were being sent back by Afghan security forces.

A NATO spokesman said the alliance stood by its initial release.

"The incident assessment team that landed within 48 hours of the engagement went through the district centre itself (a short distance north of the helicopter landing area) and found no indication of fighting in the district centre... (It) was abandoned and Taliban may well have walked in and walked out but there did not appear to be any fight [there]."

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**NEW GENERAL ORDER NO. 1:  
PACK UP  
GO HOME  
THIS IS NOT A PRODUCTIVE USE OF TIME**



U.S. soldiers provide security as members of Provincial Reconstruction Team Zabul make their way to a canal project site, June 14, 2011, Zabul Province, Afghanistan. (Photo/ U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Brian Ferguson)

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# **SOMALIA WAR REPORTS**

## **Battle For Beledweyne Supply Route**

Jun 18, 2011 GAROWE ONLINE

At least 25 people killed and 50 others injured, for the last 24 hours heavily fight between Somali most powerful insurgent Al-shabaab and pro-government Ahlu-Sunnah Wal-Jama'a, mostly combatants in central Somali town of Beledweyne in Hiraaan region.

The fighting erupted after fighters Al-Shabab attack a bases manned by Ahlu-sunnah around the airport, an eyewitness told Garowe online.

"I confirmed several dead bodies of warring sides lying around the Baledweyne's airport".

No statement from Al-shabaab, however Ahlu-sunnah claimer's to have lost 4 fighters in today's clashes.

Beledweyne, which connects the central Somali regions to the capital Mogadishu, has changed hands between warring groups.

The town is a supply route for insurgent group such as al-Shabaab who are bent on overthrowing transitional federal government.

### **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/))**

## MILITARY NEWS

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



The body of Spc. Christopher Fishbeck passes by at Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos, Calif., June 17, 2011. Fishbeck, along with four other soldiers from his unit, was killed on June 6 in Baghdad, Iraq, when insurgent forces attacked his unit. (AP Photo/The Orange County Register, Paul Rodriguez)

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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"**

## **“Two Weeks After It Started The Greek Movement Of ‘Outraged’ People Has The Main Squares In All Cities Overflowing With Crowds That Shout Their Anger”**



Jun 19: Greek ‘Indignants’ protest for the fourth consecutive week against new austerity measures in front of the Greek parliament, in the central Syntagma square of Athens. (AFP/Louisa Gouliamaki)

June 13, 2011 By YORGOS MITRALIAS, CounterPunch. Translated by Christine Pagnouille. [Excerpts]

Yorgos Mitralias is a founding member of the Greek Committee Against the Debt, which is affiliated to the international network of CADTM. See the web site of the Greek Committee : <http://www.contra-xreos.gr/>

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Two weeks after it started the Greek movement of 'outraged' people has the main squares in all cities overflowing with crowds that shout their anger, and makes the Papandreou government and its local and international supporters tremble.

It is now more than just a protest movement or even a massive mobilization against austerity measures.

It has turned into a genuine popular uprising that is sweeping over the country. An uprising that trumpets the refusal of the people to pay for 'their crisis' or 'their debt' while throwing the two big neoliberal parties, if not the whole political world, into complete disarray.

How many were there on Syntagma square (Constitution square) in the centre of Athens, just in front of the Parliament building on Sunday, June 5, 2011?

Difficult to say since one of the characteristic features of such popular gatherings is that there is no key event (speech or concert) and that people come and go. But according to people in charge of the Athens underground, who know how to assess the numbers of passengers, there were at least 250,000 people converging on Syntagma on that memorable night.

Actually several hundreds of thousands of people if we add the 'historic' gatherings that took place on the main squares of other Greek cities.

**Going back to the Greek 'Outraged', or 'Indignés' or Aganaktismeni, we have to note that the movement is getting more and more rooted among lower classes against a Greek society that has been shaped by 25 years of total domination of a cynic, nationalist, racist and individualist neoliberal ideology that turned everything into commodities.**

**This is why the resulting image is often contradictory, mixing as it does the best and the worst among ideas and actions.**

**As for example when the same person displays a Greek nationalism verging on racism while waving a Tunisian (or Spanish, Egyptian, Portuguese, Irish, Argentinian) flag to show internationalist solidarity with those peoples.**

Should we therefore conclude that those demonstrators are schizophrenic? Of course not.

**As there are no miracles, or politically 'pure' social uprisings, the movement is becoming gradually more radical while still branded by those 25 years of moral and social disaster.**

But mind: all its 'shortcomings' are subsume into its main feature, namely its radical rejection of the Memorandum, of the Troika, the public debt, the government, austerity, corruption, a fictional parliamentary democracy, the European Commission, in short of the whole system!

It is surely not by chance if for the past two weeks demonstrators shout such phrases as 'We owe nothing, we sell nothing, we pay nothing', 'We do not sell or sell ourselves', 'Let them all go, Memorandum, Troika, government and debt' or 'We'll stay until they go'.

Such catchwords do unite all demonstrators in their refusal to pay for the public debt.

**While they were first completely disorganized the Syntagma Aganaktismeni have gradually developed an organization that culminates in the popular Assembly held every night at 9 and drawing several hundreds speakers in front of an attentive audience of thousands.**

**Debates are often of really great quality (for instance on the public debt), actually much better than anything that can be seen on the major television channels.**

This in spite of the surrounding noise (we stand in the middle of a city with 4 million inhabitants), dozens of thousands of people constantly moving, and particularly the very diverse composition of those huge audiences in the midst of a permanent encampment that looks at times like some Tower of Babel.

All the qualities of direct democracy as experimented day after day on Syntagma should not blind us to its weaknesses, its ambiguities or indeed its defects as its initial allergy to anything that might be reminiscent of a political party or a trade union or an established collectivity.

**While it has to be acknowledged that such rejection is a dominant feature among the Aganaktismeni, who tend to reject the political world as a whole, we should note the dramatic development of the Popular Assembly, both in Athens and in Thessaloniki, that shifted from a rejection of trade unions to the invitation that they should come and demonstrate with them on Syntagma.**

Obviously, as days went by, the political landscape on Syntagma square clarified, with the popular right and far right located in the higher section, in front of Parliament, and the anarchist and radical left on the square itself, with control on the popular assembly and the permanent encampment.

**Of course, though the radical left is dominant and tinges with deep red all events and demonstrations on Syntagma, this does not mean that the various components of the right, from populist, to nationalist, to racist and even neonazi, do not further attempt to hijack this massive popular movement.**

They will endure and it will very much depend on the ability of the movement's avant-garde to root it properly in neighbourhoods, workplaces and schools while defining clear

goals that throw bridges between huge immediate needs and a vindictive outrage against the system.

While fairly different from the similar movement in Spain through its dimensions, its social composition, its radical nature and its political heterogeneity, the movement on Syntagma shares with Tahrir square in Cairo and Puerta del Sol in Madrid the same hatred against the economic and political elite that has grabbed and emptied of any significance bourgeois parliamentary democracy in times of arrogant and inhuman neoliberalism.

The movement is stirred by the same non violent democratic and participative urge that is to be found in all popular uprisings in the early 21st century.

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## **THE STUPID REPORT**

### **The Blind Arrogance Of A Smug Elitist Fool:**

From the internet June 13, 2011

Those in power have succeeded in making the masses a herd of sheep following the shepherd straight into the slaughterhouse, unaware of the destiny that awaits them nor of their role in the furthering of death, destruction and violence now gripping the world.

The ability to question authority has vanished in a haze of indifference, even as the evaporation of the American mind continues unabated.

We are being used and abused, yet with the dumbing down of America easily controlled beings we have turned into, comatose to the danger we have embraced and oblivious to the strings attached to our appendages.

### **Vs. Reality:**

**“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]

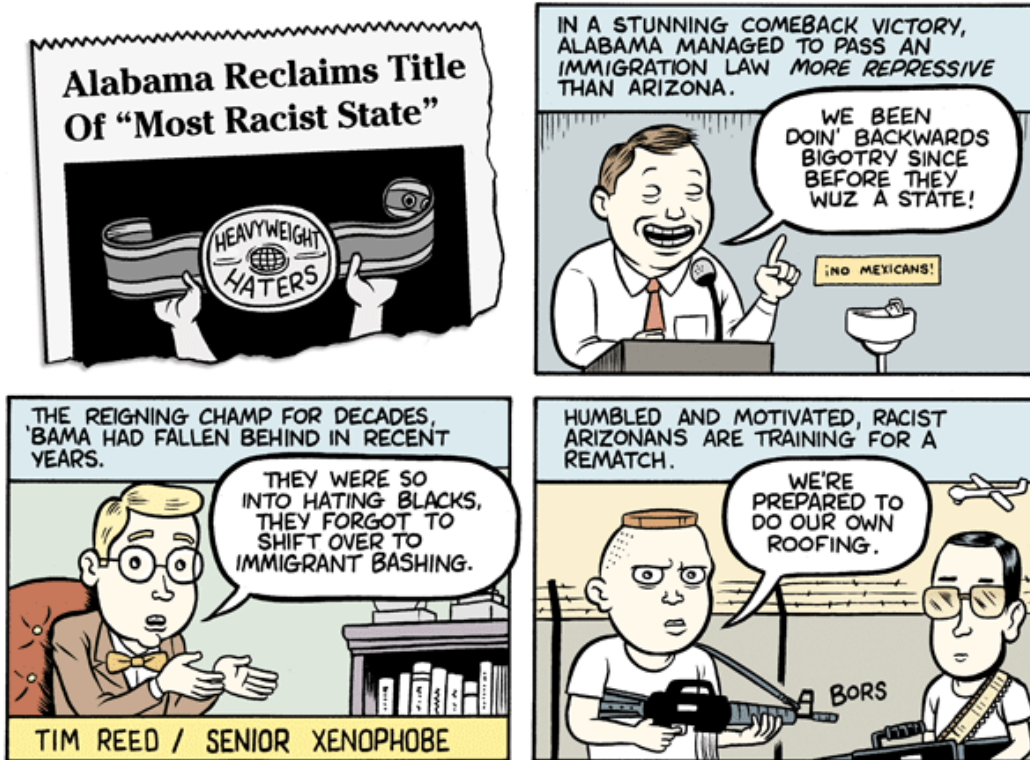
The Obama administration laid out Wednesday its most-detailed justification yet for the U.S. air strikes in Libya, in response to the growing disquiet in Congress and among the public after 10 years of war in the Middle East.

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.

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## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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# Welcome To The Occupied USA:

# **Obama Regime Attack Dogs Hunting Down Peace Activists And Labor Organizers:**

**“The Agents Seemed Keenly  
Interested In Weiner’s Home-Based  
Business, The Revolutionary  
Lemonade Stand”**

**“The Search Was Part Of A Mysterious,  
Ongoing Nationwide Terrorism  
Investigation With An Unusual Target:  
Prominent Peace Activists And  
Politically Active Labor Organizers”**

**“I am so disgusted when I see that so many union people have been targeted in this,” said Phyllis Walker, president of AFSCME Local 3800, which represents clerical workers at the University of Minnesota, including four members who are possible targets.**

**The union’s statewide group, which says it represents 46,000 workers, called on Obama to investigate and passed a resolution expressing “grave concern” about the raids. Similar resolutions have been approved by statewide AFSCME and SEIU affiliates in Illinois.**

June 13 By Peter Wallsten, The Washington Post Company [Excerpts]

CHICAGO — FBI agents took box after box of address books, family calendars, artwork and personal letters in their 10-hour raid in September of the century-old house shared by Stephanie Weiner and her husband.

**The agents seemed keenly interested in Weiner’s home-based business, the Revolutionary Lemonade Stand, which sells silkscreened baby outfits and other clothes with socialist slogans, phrases like “Help Wanted: Revolutionaries.”**

The search was part of a mysterious, ongoing nationwide terrorism investigation with an unusual target: prominent peace activists and politically active labor organizers.



The probe — involving subpoenas to 23 people and raids of seven homes last fall — has triggered a high-powered protest against the Department of Justice and, in the process, could create some political discomfort for President Obama with his union supporters as he gears up for his reelection campaign.

**The apparent targets are concentrated in the Midwest, including Chicagoans who crossed paths with Obama when he was a young state senator and some who have been active in labor unions that supported his political rise.**

Investigators, according to search warrants, documents and interviews, are examining possible “material support” for Colombian and Palestinian groups designated by the U.S. government as terrorists.

The apparent targets, all vocal and visible critics of U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East and South America, deny any ties to terrorism. They say the government, using its post-9/11 focus on terrorism as a pretext, is targeting them for their political views.

They are “public non-violent activists with long, distinguished careers in public service, including teachers, union organizers and antiwar and community leaders,” said Michael Deutsch, a Chicago lawyer and part of a legal team defending those who believe they are being targeted by the investigation.

Several activists and their lawyers said they believe indictments could come anytime, so they have turned their organizing skills toward a counteroffensive, decrying the inquiry as a threat to their First Amendment rights.

Those who have been subpoenaed, most of them non-Muslim, include clerical workers, educators and in one case a stay-at-home dad. Some are lesbian couples with young children — a point apparently noted by investigators, who infiltrated the activists’ circle with an undercover officer presenting herself as a lesbian mother.

All 23 of the activists invoked their right not to testify before a grand jury, defying U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald, whose office is spearheading the investigation.

The activists have formed the Committee to Stop FBI Repression, organized phone banks to flood Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr.’s office and the White House with protest calls, solicited letters from labor unions and faith-based groups and sent delegations to Capitol Hill to gin up support from lawmakers.

**Labor backers include local and statewide affiliates representing the Service Employees International Union and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, two of the most influential unions in the liberal movement. So far, nine members of Congress have written letters to the administration asking questions.**

The major national labor organizations have not gotten involved in the case and are considered likely to support Obama’s reelection next year.

**But some state and local union organizations are expressing alarm about the case, saying that the government appears to be scrutinizing efforts by workers to build ties with trade unionists in other countries.**

**“I am so disgusted when I see that so many union people have been targeted in this,” said Phyllis Walker, president of AFSCME Local 3800, which represents clerical workers at the University of Minnesota, including four members who are possible targets.**

**The union’s statewide group, which says it represents 46,000 workers, called on Obama to investigate and passed a resolution expressing “grave concern” about the raids. Similar resolutions have been approved by statewide AFSCME and SEIU affiliates in Illinois.**

If there are indictments, the case could test a 2010 Supreme Court ruling that found the ban on material support for designated foreign terrorist groups does not necessarily violate the First Amendment — even if the aid was intended for peaceful or humanitarian uses. The ruling held that any type of support could ultimately help a terrorist group’s pursuit of violence.

**The probe appears to date from 2008, as a number of activists began planning for massive antiwar demonstrations at the Republican National Convention in St. Paul.**

After the convention, the FBI’s interest continued, apparently focused on the international work pursued by many of the participants. Several activists said they had traveled to Colombia or the Palestinian territories on “fact-finding” trips designed to bolster their case back home against U.S. military support for the Israeli and Colombian governments.

In 2009, a group raised money to travel and deliver about \$1,000 to a Palestinian women’s group, but the delegation was turned back by officials at the airport in Israel, organizers said.

Search warrants, subpoenas and documents show that the FBI has been interested in links between the activists and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Hezbollah.

In the early morning of Sept. 24, 2010, agents raided homes in Chicago and Minneapolis, issued subpoenas to 14 activists, and tried to question others around the country, including prominent antiwar organizers in North Carolina and California.

**At 7 a.m., according to documents and interviews, about a dozen armed federal agents used a battering ram to force their way into Mick Kelly’s second-floor apartment, which sits over an all-night coffee shop in a working-class neighborhood of Minneapolis.**

**Kelly, 53, a cook in a University of Minnesota dormitory and a member of the Teamsters, said he was at work and his nightgown-clad wife, Linden Gawboy, was slow to answer the door.**

Apparently by accident, the agents left something behind: a packet of secret documents headlined “Operation Order,” laying out detailed instructions for the FBI SWAT team to find clues of Kelly’s activism, including personal finances or those of the Freedom Road

Socialist Organization, a far-left group he works with. The documents point to the FBI's interest in Kelly's foreign travel.

"We've done absolutely nothing wrong," Kelly said. "We don't know what this is about, but we know that our rights to organize and speak out are being violated."

In Chicago, the raid at the home of Weiner, 49, also targeted her husband, Joe Iosbaker, 52, a University of Illinois-Chicago office worker and a union steward for his SEIU local. The couple are among the grassroots activists close to the world once inhabited by Barack Obama who have been caught up in the investigation.

**Like others, Weiner and Iosbaker have been fixtures on the local liberal political scene, protesting police actions, attending antiwar rallies, leading pay equity fights and even doing some volunteer work for Obama's past campaigns. [A basic lesson of political life: do not feed the ruling class hand that bites you. T]**

Tom Burke, who received a subpoena Sept. 24, had in 2004 discussed the plight of murdered Colombian trade unionists with then-state senator Obama.

"He was a sympathetic ear," Burke said, recalling that Obama told him the murders were a "human rights problem."

Hatem Abudayyeh, one of seven Palestinians to be subpoenaed in the investigation, recalls encountering Obama in the community during his years as a state legislator. Abudayyeh, 40, is executive director of the Arab American Action Network, a Chicago advocacy group that hosted then-state senator Obama for at least two events.

The role of the undercover officer, which defense lawyers said was confirmed in their talks with prosecutors, became clear in the weeks following the raids. She had joined a Minneapolis antiwar group, then joined demonstrations at the School of the Americas military training site in Fort Benning, Georgia, and at one point flying with a group to Israel on the trip that was thwarted at the airport.

"They were smart sending a 40-year-old lesbian," said Meredith Aby, 38, a high school civics teacher and longtime organizer. "A good match," added Jess Sundin, a university clerical worker.

Aby and Sundin, whose homes were raided and who received subpoenas, had helped lead a group called the Anti-War Committee that had coordinated with antiwar activists across the country to plan the demonstrations at the Republican convention.

**Civil libertarians and other critics say the investigation fits a pattern for the FBI, pointing to a Justice Department inspector general's report — issued three days before the raids — chiding the agency for monitoring the domestic political activities of Greenpeace, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and other groups in the name of combating terrorism.**

Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill.), a member of the House Intelligence Committee and a close Obama ally, wrote Holder in April conveying the activists' concerns that the probe was infringing on their rights.

“Clearly we need to have a bright line where people can exercise their civil rights, their civil liberties, to peacefully protest,” Schakowsky said in an interview.

Holder experienced the activists’ anger first hand last month, when Tracy Molm, 30, an AFSCME organizer whose apartment was raided, stood to interrupt a speech he was giving at the University of Minnesota. Holder, unaware that she was a possible investigation target, agreed to meet with her after the speech.

In a small room off the auditorium, with the attorney general flanked by aides and security, Molm demanded to know why the administration was pursuing the inquiry, she recalled later in an interview.

“He said they had a predicate for the investigation,” Molm said. “I said, ‘The predicates after 9/11 are nothing.’”

“We’re going to have to agree to disagree,” Holder replied, according to Molm.

At that point, Molm revealed that her apartment had been raided as part of the investigation. Holder and Justice Department officials abruptly ended the discussion.

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## **CLASS WAR REPORTS**

### **“More Than 100,000 Protesters Took To The Streets In Spain On Sunday Blaming Bankers And Politicians For Causing A Financial Crisis”**



Demonstrators crowd Madrid's Neptuno plaza near Spanish parliament in Madrid June 19, 2011. More than 100,000 protesters took to the streets in Spain on Sunday blaming bankers and politicians for causing a financial crisis that forced the country to adopt painful spending cuts. Spaniards abandoned their customary quiet day with families and friends on Sunday to march against the so-called "Euro Pact" and the handling of the economic crisis. In Madrid, marches began at six locations around the city, one at 6 am from Leganes, 13 kilometres from the centre, before convening at the Neptune plaza in front of the Prado art museum, a stone's throw from parliament. REUTERS/Stringer



Demonstrators raise their arms at Madrid's famous landmark Puerta del Sol June 19, 2011. More than 100,000 protesters took to the streets in Spain on Sunday blaming bankers and politicians for causing a financial crisis that forced the country to adopt painful spending cuts. REUTERS/Andrea Comas

### **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.**

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