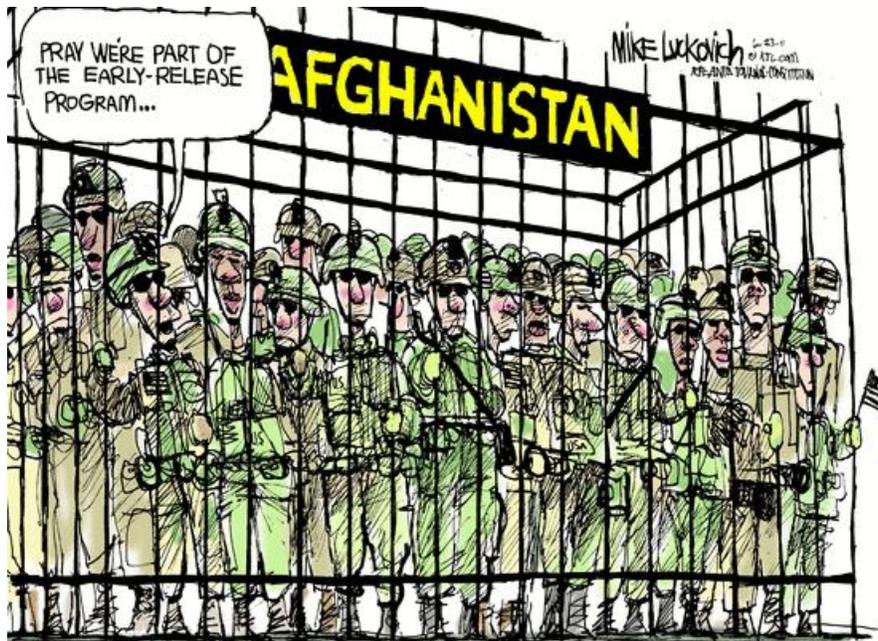


Military Resistance 9F16



“Reading Over Benefit Cuts, I Just Entered A World Of Rage”

“Yes That’s Right, This Soldier Here Pays His Taxes, So Leave My College Money Alone, I Need It”

“They Want To Cut Benefits, Start By Stopping Tax Cuts”

Letters To The Editor
Army Times
June 27, 2011

Reading over benefit cuts, I just entered a world of rage.

I’ve been in the Army since 2004 and I did not start college until 2006. I still don’t have my associate’s degree.

Why?

Because I'm busy.

It's called deployments.

They want to cut benefits, start by stopping tax cuts.

If you make over 80 grand a year, guess what? Tax.

I make about 35 a year, and yes that's right, this soldier here pays his taxes, so leave my college money alone, I need it.

I know some haters are going to say, well, you got your GI Bill.

No, sir, I don't want to wait 20 years until I get out and go to school.

I want my education now.

Sgt. Carlos Eulloque
Fort Benning, Ga.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

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

June 25, 2011 AP

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

Another Foreign Occupation "Servicemember" Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan:

Nationality Not Announced

June 25, 2011 AP

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

Poway Marine Killed In Action In Afghanistan



Lance Cpl. Jason Hill, 20, of Poway. — Family of Jason Hill

June 13, 2011 By Gretel C. Kovach and Hailey Persinger, San Diego Union Tribune

A Marine from Poway was killed in action in Afghanistan, the Pentagon said Monday. Lance Cpl. Jason D. Hill, 20, died Saturday in combat with the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment.

The Twentynine Palms unit, which is part of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force headquartered at Camp Pendleton, deployed to northern Helmand province in April.

Hill, a 2008 graduate of Abraxas High School in Poway, had two loves in life: his friends and being a Marine, said friend Shelly Scieszinski, 19.

“The only thing he ever talked about — his dream — was to be a soldier,” said Scieszinski, who reminisced about the last night she spent with Hill before he deployed to Afghanistan. “He just kept telling me how proud he was of himself.”

Hill’s brother, Dylan, 16, said he, Jason and their oldest brother, Aaron, 22, headed to Ramona on hunting trips while they were growing up. Jason taught him how to shoot a gun, Dylan said.

Their father, Charles, raised his sons as a single parent and the outings are some of the clearest memories Dylan said he has of their childhood. They also offered a glimpse of Jason's protective spirit, Dylan said.

"He was just like a protector. That was his main job," Dylan said. "No matter what, if you knew him at all, he would protect you."

Hill's father went to Delaware to escort his son home and was not available Monday to comment, a relative said.

Hill enlisted in the Marine Corps on March 15, 2010, the 1st Marine Division said. His personal decorations include the Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon and the NATO Medal.

This month, the "Darkside" battalion also lost Cpl. Paul W. Zanowick II, 23, of Miamisburg, Ohio. The anti-tank missile-man with 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment died June 3. He is survived by a wife and young daughter.

Also announced Monday was the death of Lance Cpl. Sean M. N. O'Connor, 22, of Douglas, Wyo. He was killed Sunday in combat with the 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, a Camp Pendleton battalion deployed to Sangin, in Helmand province.

'He Was A Warrior And A Hero'



Contributed photo of Nic O'Brien

June 10, 2011 By Michael Barrett, Gaston Gazette

The region of southern Afghanistan where Lance Cpl. Nic O'Brien was serving with the Marine Corps was so volatile, he was seldom able to communicate with family members here in Gaston County.

But on the rare occasion Richard O'Brien had a chance to talk with his son on the other side of the world, he detected not a hint of homesickness or fear. "Every time I spoke with him, he said he was having fun," Richard O'Brien said Friday, from his home in the Lucia community of Gaston County. "He was in firefights every day. But he told me this is what he'd trained for and what he wanted to do every day."

Nic O'Brien, a 2008 graduate of East Gaston High School who made a name for himself as a local baseball and soccer player, died Thursday while serving his country. He celebrated his 21st birthday two weeks ago.

O'Brien's battalion had begun a seven-month rotation in Afghanistan at the end of March. He and his fellow Marines were on routine foot patrol near the town of Sangin, in Helmand Province, when a roadside bomb exploded and killed him, said his father.

The incident occurred about 6:30 p.m. Thursday in Afghanistan, or about 10 a.m. Thursday local time. Marine Corps officials delivered the news in person at the O'Briens' home late Thursday afternoon.

Word of the well-known athlete's death spread quickly across Gaston County, and particularly in Stanley, where O'Brien grew up playing recreation baseball. Friends and loved ones began laying flowers, signs and baseballs in a makeshift memorial Friday at the baseball field near Kiser Elementary School.

"It's been a real rough day for us over here," said Brian Johnson, an East Gaston teacher who was O'Brien's soccer coach for four years. "This is such a huge loss."

In addition to his father, O'Brien is survived by his mother, Tammy, and 16-year-old sister, Haley.

O'Brien was 7 years old when he first joined the Stanley recreation program, said town recreation director Tug Deason. His coaches learned quickly that he would be an asset in more ways than one.

"Nic was a great athlete, but more than that, he was just a great kid," said Deason. "He played with us from the time he was 7 until he was 17 or 18. He never gave you any problems."

Baseball became as much a part of his life as anything else. At 13 and 14, he played on a successful Stanley all-star team that contended for a state championship, and was coached by Gaston County Commissioner and former Stanley Mayor Chad Brown.

Brown later was O'Brien's assistant coach at East Gaston, and said the teenager was "full of energy."

"He was just a jokester — just a loving kid," he said. "I knew him as someone who was always having fun. But he was a class kid, too."

O'Brien was a centerfielder for East Gaston's baseball team, where he was named the defensive player of the year in his junior and senior years. Head coach Randy Sellers said no one could ever question O'Brien's heart. "I knew when it came time to play, Nic was going to give me all he had," said Sellers. "You never had to worry about his desire to win or play hard. He was going to leave everything on the field."

Johnson said O'Brien was just as invaluable as a midfielder on the soccer field, where he loved to compete, but also kept others from taking things too seriously.

“Our best memories of him were based on his ability to make anyone laugh at any given time,” said Johnson. “I remember getting frustrated with him sometimes, but then I’d turn around and he’d be doing something to make me crack up laughing.

“Even if he was doing something you didn’t like, it was impossible to be mad at him.”

Beyond athletics, O’Brien excelled in the classroom. He won the school’s Math Award in his junior year, said his Algebra II teacher, Chad Owens.

“He was very confident and very sure of himself in everything he did,” said Owens. “When he set his mind to do something, he went at it full force.”

O’Brien also played American Legion baseball for the Gaston Braves in 2007 and 2008. He wasn’t a superstar, but knew his role and was the ultimate hard-nosed team player, said Braves athletic officer, Jeff Gibson. “He didn’t complain about playing time,” said Gibson. “When he got his opportunities, he made the best of them.”

O’Brien had another year of eligibility left to play Legion baseball after he graduated from high school. Gibson tried to talk him into taking advantage of that, to no avail.

“He had his mind made up at an early age,” said Gibson. “He had always wanted to go into the military.”

O’Brien’s father also served in the Marine Corps. His grandfather, Bill Bowen, the athletic officer for American Legion Post 23, is a Navy veteran.

Despite his parents’ best efforts to talk him out of it, he never wavered in his goal of joining the armed forces. He turned down college scholarships, including an offer to continue playing baseball for Belmont Abbey College, said his father.

“He was very determined, to say the least,” said Richard O’Brien. “There was nothing I, my wife or anyone could do to dissuade him from his decision.”

After working part time for UPS after graduation, O’Brien not only became a Marine, he excelled at it. He joined the Corps in October 2009 and completed boot camp in early 2010 as an honor graduate, becoming the top shooter in his platoon.

His ultimate goal was to return home after his initial four- to five-year enlistment and use his tuition benefits to go to college, then eventually follow in his uncle’s footsteps and become a Charlotte firefighter, said Richard O’Brien.

O’Brien said goodbye to his family and his longtime girlfriend, Hayley Black of Stanley, before leaving for Camp Pendleton in California. The day before he deployed to Afghanistan in March, he sent his mother and father an email.

“He just said, ‘I love you guys and I know this is tough on you, but I’ve trained for this, I’ve prepared for this, and this is what we’re here to do,’” said his father.

O’Brien became close with a fellow Marine, Josh Cauthorne of Asheville, who he met at Camp Pendleton. Cauthorne was his fire teammate in Afghanistan, which meant the two spent most of every moment side by side.

Cauthorne was also severely injured in the roadside bomb blast Thursday.

Richard O'Brien said he and his wife were "very concerned" from the moment their son was deployed, particularly because of the reputation for Taliban violence in Helmand Province. Beyond some level of patriotism, he suspects his son may have seen a tour through the military as a rite of passage.

"You really don't know with a kid that age," he said. "The old saying in the military has always been, when you're actually in combat, you're not fighting for a country, a flag or a politician. You're fighting for the guys next to you — for your buddies."

On Saturday, when Nic O'Brien's body is brought home to American soil in Dover, Del., his family will be there.

"My wife and I have been very blessed with both our children," said Richard O'Brien. "Parents could not ask for better kids."

O'Brien will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

"In his short life, he grew to be a class man," said Richard O'Brien. "He was a warrior and a hero. And he deserves to be buried beside warriors."

FUTILE EXERCISE: COME ON HOME, NOW



A US Marine on his way to pick up food supplies after they were dropped off by small parachutes from a plane outside Forward Operating Base Edl in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, June 9, 2011. The smoke in the background comes from burning parachutes the Marines destroy after they reached the ground. (AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus)

LIBYA WAR REPORTS



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/>

MILITARY NEWS

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

The remains of U.S. Army Sgt. Jeffrey S. Sherer at Arlington National Cemetery June 23, 2011. Sherer, 29, of Four Oaks, N.C.; died June 2, in Zabul province, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device. (AP Photo/Kevin Wolf)





VA Ignores Sex Crimes:

“284 Sexual Assaults At 105 Facilities In A 3½ Year Span”

“The Department Seems So Indifferent To The Problem That It Can’t Even Say With Certainty Whether 42 Rapes Were Reported To Police Or Whether Anyone Was Prosecuted”

27 JUN 11 USA Today Editorial

A female patient in a locked psychiatric unit at a veterans medical center was sexually assaulted repeatedly by a fellow patient.

At an assisted-living facility also run by the Veterans Affairs Department, a male patient was raped by his roommate, who turned out to be a convicted sex offender.

At yet another VA facility, a female veteran reported that an employee made sexually inappropriate contact with her during treatment sessions.

Those abuses, recently revealed in congressional testimony, suggest — not for the first time — that something is very wrong at VA, which is supposed to provide support and a haven for America’s veterans.

But they are not the worst of what has happened in VA’s medical facilities.

The people who committed those assaults were prosecuted.

Investigators for the Government Accountability Office uncovered 42 alleged rapes since 2007 that were never reported to top officials, as VA rules require.

Worse yet, the department seems so indifferent to the problem that it can’t even say with certainty whether those 42 rapes were reported to police or whether anyone was prosecuted.

The GAO report describes a dysfunctional security system and identifies 284 sexual assaults at 105 facilities in a 3½ year span. The victims included men and women, employees and patients.

Some were being treated for mental illness, substance abuse or post-traumatic stress — people at their most vulnerable.

The only conclusion is that, despite their protestations, VA leaders — like Pentagon and military academy officials before them — haven't paid enough attention to sexual assaults in places under their jurisdiction.

**“I Too Fought With The Veterans
Affairs Regional Office”
“The Office’s Goal Is To ‘Delay, Deny,
And Hope He Dies’”**

Letters To The Editor
Army Times
June 27, 2011

It hurts to read article after article like “Panel demands overhaul of medical benefits oversight” (June 6).

I feel for [former] Lance Cpl. Tim Horton because I too fought with the Veterans Affairs Regional Office in Muskogee, Okla.

I took me and the Disabled Americans Veterans organization three years to get them to look at and read the Standard Form 88 (Report of medical examination) in my file.

After they finally read the Standard Form 88, they agreed I had a service connected disability

The office's goal is to “delay, deny, and hope he dies.”

So don't forget what the Marines taught you in basic training: never quit and don't give up.

Master Sgt. Charles Stanphill (ret'd)
Tulsa, Okla.

**TDY TRAVEL:
In Keeping With The Latest Round Of
Military Budget Cuts, Changes Will
Be Made To The Joint Military Travel
Regulations (JMTR)**

Effective Monday The Following Revised Procedures Apply:

Usmilitary.about.com

TDY Travel

In keeping with the latest round of military budget cuts, changes will be made to the Joint Military Travel Regulations (JMTR). Effective Monday the following revised procedures apply:

Lodging

All military personnel performing temporary duty (TDY) are encouraged to stay with relatives and friends while on government business travel. If weather permits, public areas such as parks should be used as temporary lodging sites.

Bus terminals, train stations, and office lobbies may provide shelter in periods of inclement weather.

Transportation

Hitchhiking is the preferred mode of travel in lieu of commercial transport. Luminescent safety vests will be issued to all military personnel prior to their departure on TDY. Bus transportation will be used only when work schedules require such travel. Airline tickets will be authorized in extreme circumstances and the lowest fares will be used.

For example, if a meeting is scheduled in Washington D.C., but a lower fare can be obtained by traveling to Omaha, NE, then travel to Omaha will be substituted for travel to Washington D.C.

Meals

Expenditures for meals will be limited to an absolute minimum. It should be noted that certain grocery and specialty chains, such as Costco, Hickory Farms, General Nutrition centres, and occasionally Safeway often provide free samples of promotional items. Entire meals can be obtained in this manner. We realize many of you survive your weekends this way.

Travelers should also be familiar with indigenous roots, berries, and other protein sources available at their destinations.

If restaurants must be utilized, travelers should use "all you can eat" salad bars. This is especially effective for employees traveling together as one plate can be used to feed the entire group.

Military Personnel are also encouraged to bring their own food on business travel. Cans of tuna fish, Spam, and Beefaroni can be consumed at your leisure without the necessary bother of heating or costly preparation. Cost of these items will not be reimbursed.

Miscellaneous

All military personnel are encouraged to devise innovative techniques in effort to save tax dollars. One enterprising individual has already suggested that money could be raised during airport layover periods, which could be used to defray travel expenses. In support of this idea, red caps will be issued to all personnel prior to their departure so that they may earn tips by helping others with their luggage. Small plastic roses and ballpoint pens will also be available to personnel so that sales may be made as time permits. Proceeds must be turned into the military finance section at the conclusion of the TDY.

We welcome any suggestions for further fiscal innovations.

Remember, "We invite you to be a Waste Buster"

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

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

“Firing Commanders In The Army, Air Force And The Marine Corps Is A Shadowy Business”

**“The Troops Usually Are Left To
Gossip And Speculate As To Why”
“This Practice Serves No One, Except
Perhaps The CO Who Has Been Fired”**

June 27, 2011 Editorial; Army Times

The Navy fires bad commanders early and often.

And openly.

Top Navy leadership believes the fleet is best served by holding commanders publicly accountable for their misdeeds, whether that is for fraternization, drunken driving, poor command climate or any other serious offense.

The sackings, announced in press releases and sometimes by senior leaders, are seen as valuable real-life lessons of actions and consequences. And more often than not, the announcements also explain in broad terms why a commanding officer was fired. The Coast Guard does this, as well

Firing commanders in the Army, Air Force and the Marine Corps, however, is a shadowy business.

One day a CO is there, the next day he or she is gone.

The troops usually are left to gossip and speculate as to why.

In recent months, Army Times has reported on the firings of two brigade commanders in Europe, a battalion commander in the war zone and the top enlisted soldier at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

In none of these cases did the Army announce the firings.

And in one case, it took more than a year for the Army to fulfill a Freedom of Information Act request for the record that led to the firing.

This practice serves no one, except perhaps the CO who has been fired. As humiliating as that must be to the commander given the heave-ho, however, assuming the privileges of command also means accepting the consequences of failure.

There is a greater good to making CO firings public: to demonstrate that rules and regulations are enforced regardless of rank, and that failure to conduct oneself as expected of a leader will not be tolerated.

In the past six months, the Navy has taken its public disclosure rules to new levels, announcing the reliefs of executive officers — the No. 2 officers in a command — and senior enlisted leaders.

The Navy considers top leaders to be public figures with a diminished expectation of privacy. That's fair and a model that would best serve all branches, including the Army.

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

**“What Is Going On In Athens At
The Moment Is Resistance
Against An Invasion”**

**“We Have Woken Up And Taken
To The Streets”**

“We Will Not Suffer Any More So That We Can Make The Rich Even Richer”

“It Is Battle Against A System Which Ensures That Those Who Fuck Up Are Never Those That Are Punished - It Is Always The Poorest, The Most Decent, The Most Hard-Working That Bear The Brunt”

My sister tells me that what is happening in Syntagma Square is beautiful; filled with hope; gloriously democratic.

A totally bi-partisan crowd of hundreds of thousands of people have occupied the area in front of our Parliament. They share what little food and drink there is. A microphone stands in the middle, on which anyone can speak for two minutes at a time - even propose things which are voted by a show of thumbs.

25 June 11 By Alex Andreou, Reader Supported News [Excerpts]

What is going on in Athens at the moment is resistance against an invasion; an invasion as brutal as that against Poland in 1939.

The invading army wears suits instead of uniforms and holds laptops instead of guns, but make no mistake - the attack on our sovereignty is as violent and thorough.

Private wealth interests are dictating policy to a sovereign nation, which is expressly and directly against its national interest. Ignore it at your peril.

The powers that be have suggested that there is plenty to sell.

Josef Schlarmann, a senior member of Angela Merkel's party, recently made the helpful suggestion that we should sell some of our islands to private buyers in order to pay the interest on these loans, which have been forced on us to stabilise financial institutions and a failed currency experiment.

(Of course, it is not a coincidence that recent studies have shown immense reserves of natural gas under the Aegean sea).

If we do not as we are told, the explicit threat is that foreign and more responsible politicians will do it by force.

I know it is impossible to impart the sense of increasing despair and helplessness that underlies every conversation I have had with friends and family over the last few months. But it is vital that I try, because the dehumanisation and demonisation of my people appears to be in full swing.

So let me deal with some of that media Mythology:

GREEKS ARE LAZY:

This underlies much of what is said and written about the crisis, the implication presumably being that our lax Mediterranean work-ethic is at the heart of our self-inflicted downfall.

And yet, OECD data among its members show that in 2008, Greeks worked on average 2120 hours a year. That is 690 hours more than the average German, 467 more than the average Brit and 356 more than the OECD average.

Only Koreans work longer hours. Further, the paid leave entitlement in Greece is on average 23 days, lower than most EU countries including the UK's minimum 28 and Germany's whopping 30.

GREEKS RETIRE EARLY:

The figure of 53 years old as an average retirement age is being bandied about.

Looking at Eurostat's data from 2005 the average age of exit from the labour force in Greece (indicated in the graph below as EL for Ellas) was 61.7; higher than Germany, France or Italy and higher than the EU27 average.

Since then Greece have had to raise the minimum age of retirement twice under bail-out conditions and so this figure is likely to rise further.

Moreover, according to the University of Pennsylvania's Centre for International Comparisons, Greece's productivity in terms of real GDP per person per hour worked, is higher than that of France, Germany or the US and more than 20% higher than the UK's.

THE FIRST BAIL-OUT WAS DESIGNED TO HELP GREEK PEOPLE, BUT UNFORTUNATELY FAILED:

It was not. The first bail-out was designed to stabilise and buy time for the Eurozone.

If the bail-out were designed to help Greece get out of debt, then France and Germany would not have insisted on future multi-billion military contracts.

As Daniel Cohn-Bendit, the MEP and leader of the Green group in the European Parliament, explained: "In the past three months we have forced Greece to confirm several billion dollars in arms contracts. French frigates that the Greeks will have to buy for 2.5 billion euros. Helicopters, planes, German submarines."

THE SECOND BAIL-OUT IS DESIGNED TO HELP GREEK PEOPLE AND WILL DEFINITELY SUCCEED.

I watched as Merkel and Sarkozy made their joint statement yesterday. It was dotted with phrases like "Markets are worried", "Investors need reassurance" and packed with the technical language of monetarism.

It sounded like a set of engineers making minor adjustments to an unmanned probe about to be launched into space.

It was utterly devoid of any sense that at the centre of what was being discussed was the proposed extent of misery, poverty, pain and even death that a sovereign European partner, an entire nation was to endure. In fact most commentators agree, that this second package is designed to do exactly what the first one did: buy more time for the banks, at considerable expense to the Greek people. There is no chance of Greece ever being able to repay its debt - default is inevitable. It is simply servicing interest and will continue to do so in perpetuity.

And the biggest myth of them all: Greeks are protesting because they want the bail-out but not the austerity that goes with it.

This is a fundamental untruth.

Greeks are protesting because they do not want the bail-out at all.

They have already accepted cuts which would be unfathomable in the UK - think of what Cameron is doing and multiply it by ten.

Benefits have not been paid in over six months. Basic salaries have been cut to 550 Euros (£440) a month.

My mother, who is nearly 70, who worked all her life for the Archaeology Department of the Ministry of Culture, who paid tax, national insurance and pension contributions for over 45 years, deducted at the source (as they are for the vast majority of decent hard-working people - it is the rich that can evade), has had her pension cut to less than £400 a month. She faces the same rampantly inflationary energy and food prices as the rest of Europe.

A good friend's grandad, Panagiotis K., fought a war 70 years ago - on the same side as the rest of Western democracy. He returned and worked 50 years in a shipyard, paid his taxes, built his pension. At the age of 87 he has had to move back to his village so he can work his "pervoli" - a small arable garden - planting vegetables and keeping four chickens. So that he and his 83 year old wife might have something to eat.

So, the case is not that Greeks are fighting cuts. There is nothing left to cut.

The IMF filleting knife has gotten to pure, white, arthritis-afflicted bone.

The Greeks understand that a second bail-out is simply “kicking the can down the road”. Greece’s primary budget deficit is, in fact, under 5bn Euros. The other 48bn Euros are servicing the debt, including that of the first bail-out, with one third being purely interest.

The EU, ECB and IMF now wish to add another pile of debt on top of that, which will be used to satisfy interest payments for another year.

And the Greeks have called their bluff. They have said “Enough is enough. Keep your money.”

My land has always attracted aggressive occupiers.

Its vital strategic position combined with its extraordinary natural beauty and history, have always made it the trinket of choice for the forces of evil. But we are a tenacious lot. We emerged after 400 years of Ottoman occupation, 25 generations during which our national identity was outlawed with penalty of death, with our language, tradition, religion and music intact.

Finally, we have woken up and taken to the streets.

My sister tells me that what is happening in Syntagma Square is beautiful; filled with hope; gloriously democratic. A totally bi-partisan crowd of hundreds of thousands of people have occupied the area in front of our Parliament. They share what little food and drink there is.

A microphone stands in the middle, on which anyone can speak for two minutes at a time - even propose things which are voted by a show of thumbs. Citizenship.

And what they say is this:

We will not suffer any more so that we can make the rich, even richer.

We do not authorise any of the politicians, who failed so spectacularly, to borrow any more money in our name.

We do not trust you or the people that are lending it.

We want a completely new set of accountable people at the helm, untainted by the fiascos of the past.

You have run out of ideas.

Wherever in the world you are, their statement applies.

Money is a commodity, invented to help people by facilitating transactions. It is not wealth in itself. Wealth is natural resources, water, food, land, education, skill, spirit, ingenuity, art.

In those terms, the people of Greece are no poorer than they were two years ago. Neither are the people of Spain or Ireland or the UK. And yet, we are all being put

through various levels of suffering, in order for numbers (representing money which never existed) to be transferred from one column of a spreadsheet to another.

This is why the matter concerns you directly.

Because this is a battle between our right to self-determine, to demand a new political process, to be sovereign, and private corporate interests which appear determined to treat us like a herd, which only exists for their benefit.

It is the battle against a system which ensures that those who fuck up, are never those that are punished - it is always the poorest, the most decent, the most hard-working that bear the brunt.

The Greeks have said “Enough is enough”. What do you say?

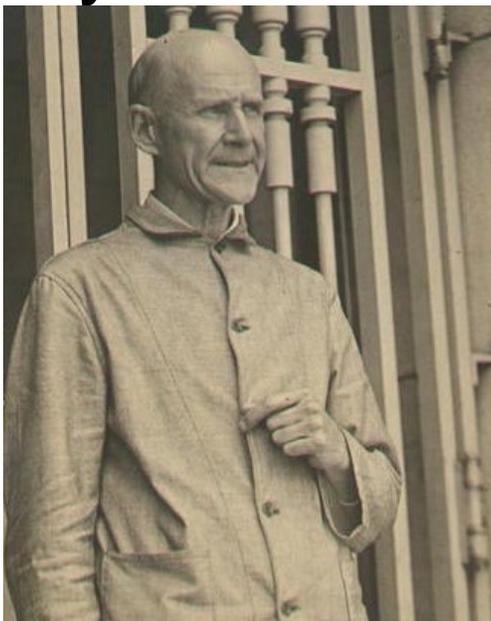


Troops Invited:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email to contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

ANNIVERSARIES

June 26, 1918: Anniversary Of A Political Atrocity



Eugene V. Debs when he was a prisoner at the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary, sentenced for opposing U.S. entry into World War I.

U.S. Department of Labor, "Labor Hall of Fame Honoree"
<<http://www.dol.gov/oasam/programs/laborhall/evd.htm>>

Carl Bunin Peace History June 25 - July 1

[S]ocialist organizer Eugene Debs was arrested for giving an anti-war speech in Canton, Ohio, 10 days earlier.

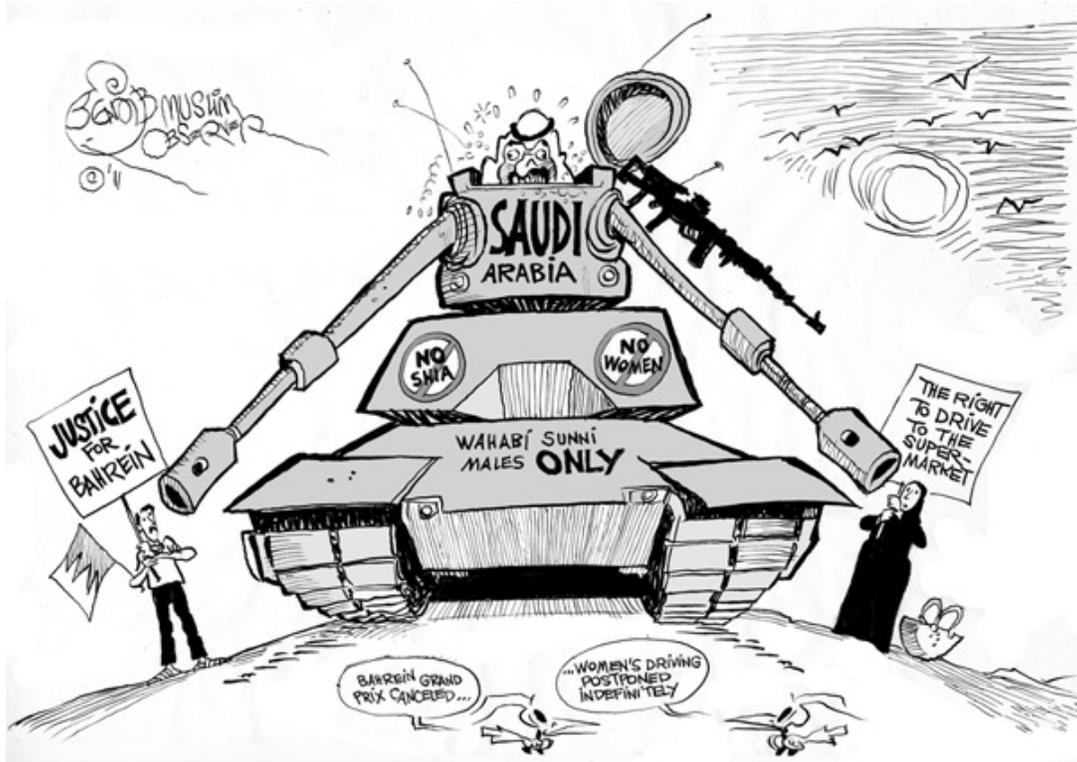
He was charged with "uttering words intended to cause insubordination and disloyalty within the American forces of the United States, to incite resistance to the war, and to promote the cause of Germany," despite his repeated and vehement criticism in the speech of Germany and its landed aristocracy, known as the Junkers.

"And that is war in a nutshell. The master class has always declared the wars; the subject class has always fought the battles.

"The master class has had all to gain and nothing to lose, while the subject class has had nothing to gain and all to lose — especially their lives."

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Twisted Woman-Hating Religious Freaks On The Loose In Saudi Arabia



**Twisted Woman-Hating Religious
Freaks On The Loose In The USA:
“Across The U.S. More And More
Prosecutions Are Being Brought That
Seek To Turn Pregnant Women Into
Criminals”**

“Women Are Being Stripped Of Their Constitutional Personhood And Subjected To Truly Cruel Laws”

24 June 2011 Ed Pilkington in New York, Guardian News and Media Limited

Rennie Gibbs is accused of murder, but the crime she is alleged to have committed does not sound like an ordinary killing.

Yet she faces life in prison in Mississippi over the death of her unborn child.

Gibbs became pregnant aged 15, but lost the baby in December 2006 in a stillbirth when she was 36 weeks into the pregnancy.

When prosecutors discovered that she had a cocaine habit – though there is no evidence that drug abuse had anything to do with the baby’s death – they charged her with the “depraved-heart murder” of her child, which carries a mandatory life sentence.

Gibbs is the first woman in Mississippi to be charged with murder relating to the loss of her unborn baby. But her case is by no means isolated.

Across the US more and more prosecutions are being brought that seek to turn pregnant women into criminals. “Women are being stripped of their constitutional personhood and subjected to truly cruel laws,” said Lynn Paltrow of the campaign National Advocates for Pregnant Women (NAPW).

“It’s turning pregnant women into a different class of person and removing them of their rights.”

Bei Bei Shuai, 34, has spent the past three months in a prison cell in Indianapolis charged with murdering her baby. On 23 December she tried to commit suicide by taking rat poison after her boyfriend abandoned her. Shuai was rushed to hospital and survived, but she was 33 weeks pregnant and her baby, to whom she gave birth a week after the suicide attempt and whom she called Angel, died after four days.

In March Shuai was charged with murder and attempted foeticide and she has been in custody since without the offer of bail.

In Alabama at least 40 cases have been brought under the state’s “chemical endangerment” law. Introduced in 2006, the statute was designed to protect children whose parents were cooking methamphetamine in the home and thus putting their children at risk from inhaling the fumes.

Amanda Kimbrough is one of the women who have been ensnared as a result of the law being applied in a wholly different way. During her pregnancy her foetus was diagnosed with possible Down’s syndrome and doctors suggested she

consider a termination, which Kimbrough declined as she is not in favour of abortion.

The baby was delivered by caesarean section prematurely in April 2008 and died 19 minutes after birth. Six months later Kimbrough was arrested at home and charged with “chemical endangerment” of her unborn child on the grounds that she had taken drugs during the pregnancy – a claim she has denied.

“That shocked me, it really did,” Kimbrough said. “I had lost a child, that was enough.”

She now awaits an appeal ruling from the higher courts in Alabama, which if she loses will see her begin a 10-year sentence behind bars. “I’m just living one day at a time, looking after my three other kids,” she said. “They say I’m a criminal, how do I answer that? I’m a good mother.”

Women’s rights campaigners see the creeping criminalisation of pregnant women as a new front in the culture wars over abortion, in which conservative prosecutors are chipping away at hard-won freedoms by stretching protection laws to include fetuses, in some cases from the day of conception.

In Gibbs’ case defence lawyers have argued before Mississippi’s highest court that her prosecution makes no sense. Under Mississippi law it is a crime for any person except the mother to try to cause an abortion.

“If it’s not a crime for a mother to intentionally end her pregnancy, how can it be a crime for her to do it unintentionally, whether by taking drugs or smoking or whatever it is,” Robert McDuff, a civil rights lawyer asked the state supreme court.

McDuff told the Guardian that he hoped the Gibbs prosecution was an isolated example. “I hope it’s not a trend that’s going to catch on. To charge a woman with murder because of something she did during pregnancy is really unprecedented and quite extreme.”

He pointed out that anti-abortion groups were trying to amend the Mississippi constitution by setting up a state referendum, or ballot initiative, that would widen the definition of a person under the state’s bill of rights to include a foetus from the day of conception.

Some 70 organisations across America have come together to file testimonies, known as amicus briefs, in support of Gibbs that protest against her treatment on several levels. One says that to treat “as a murderer a girl who has experienced a stillbirth serves only to increase her suffering”.

Another, from a group of psychologists, laments the misunderstanding of addiction that lies behind the indictment. Gibbs did not take cocaine because she had a “depraved heart” or to “harm the foetus but to satisfy an acute psychological and physical need for that particular substance”, says the brief.

Perhaps the most persuasive argument put forward in the amicus briefs is that if such prosecutions were designed to protect the unborn child, then they would be utterly

counter-productive: “Prosecuting women and girls for continuing (a pregnancy) to term despite a drug addiction encourages them to terminate wanted pregnancies to avoid criminal penalties. The state could not have intended this result when it adopted the homicide statute.”

Paltrow sees what is happening to Gibbs as a small taste of what would be unleashed were the constitutional right to an abortion ever overturned. “In Mississippi the use of the murder statute is creating a whole new legal standard that makes women accountable for the outcome of their pregnancies and threatens them with life imprisonment for murder.”

At least 38 of the 50 states across America have introduced foetal homicide laws that were intended to protect pregnant women and their unborn children from violent attacks by third parties – usually abusive male partners – but are increasingly being turned by renegade prosecutors against the women themselves.

South Carolina was one of the first states to introduce such a foetal homicide law. National Advocates for Pregnant Women has found only one case of a South Carolina man who assaulted a pregnant woman having been charged under its terms, and his conviction was eventually overturned.

Yet the group estimates there have been up to 300 women arrested for their actions during pregnancy.

In other states laws designed to protect children against the damaging effects of drugs have similarly been twisted to punish childbearers.

CLASS WAR REPORTS



**“A Large Protest In The Center Of
Hama, Syria’s Fourth-Largest City”
“Activists Claimed That Tens Of
Thousands Of Protesters Packed The
Center Of The City”
“One Of The Banners Draped On The
Tower Called On The Syrian Army To
Stay Out”**



June 25, 2011: Syrian anti-government protesters demonstrate in Homs: AFP

June 24, 2011 By ROBERT MACKEY, New York Times [Excerpts]

As protesters rallied again across Syria on Friday, activists reported a large protest in the center of Hama, Syria’s fourth-largest city, where a rebellion was brutally crushed in 1982, during the reign of Hafez al-Assad, the current president’s father.

While no one knows exactly how many people were killed in Hama two decades ago, 10,000 is considered a conservative estimate.

On Friday, Syrian activists claimed that tens of thousands of protesters packed the center of the city, even as residents told my colleague Anthony Shadid that military forces remained on the outskirts of Hama.

To back their claims, the activists posted a series of video clips, said to have been recorded on Friday in Hama, on Facebook and YouTube.

While restrictions on independent reporting inside Syria make it impossible for The Times to confirm when this video was shot, several of the clips do appear to have been filmed around the same central square, near a tower draped with huge blue and red banners, and seem to show the same, large demonstration.

According to Jenan Moussa of Dubai's Al Aan TV, one of the banners draped on the tower called on the Syrian Army to stay out of the city.



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

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

Military Resistance Looks Even Better Printed Out

Military Resistance/GI Special are archived at website

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

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

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

news@uruknet.info; http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/;
<http://www.albasrah.net/pages/mod.php?header=res1&mod=gis&rep=gis>

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

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