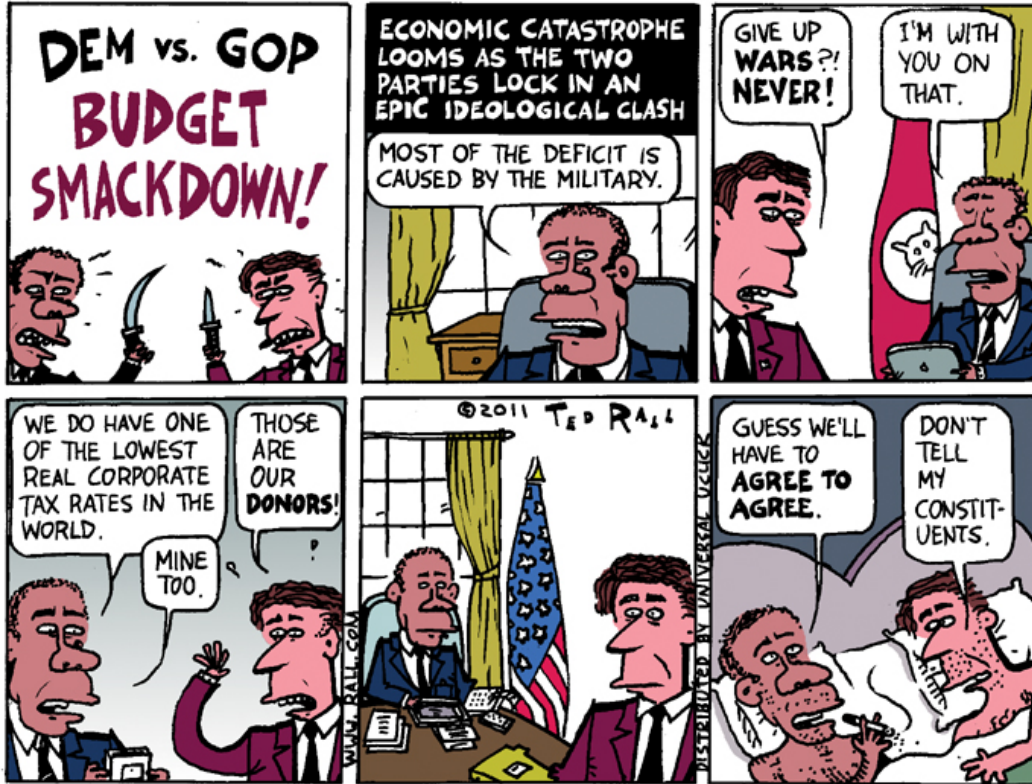


## Military Resistance 9G13



# My God Has Horns

From: Dennis Serdel  
To: Military Resistance  
Sent: July 27, 2009 [And perfect again for right now.]  
Subject: My God Has Horns

Written by Dennis Serdel, Military Resistance 2009; Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade; United Auto Workers GM Retiree

\*\*\*\*\*

### My God Has Horns

Obama Obama there is two of you  
one stumped for peace  
while the other is for War

Americans would cheer when you said  
you would end the Iraq War  
but now you are acting like a Crip  
or a Blood a Gangster of Rap  
the Soldiers are still Flying home dead  
in their now photographed  
flag draped coffins thanks To you  
Obama Obama one of you is a lie  
and one is the truth as you laugh  
at the fools Who voted for you  
Voting is like playing the slot machines  
the House the White House wins  
most of the time but One Obama  
will toss you A little stimulus money  
so you think democracy works and voting  
is just change In your pocket but  
Obama Obama is like rolling dice  
snake eyes With one winking  
while The other stays the same  
as a double for Bush but talking  
smoother not like a hick  
as the two Imperialist Wars  
continue as One Obama in  
the White House is thinking and acting  
like Bush running for a third term is all  
One Obama smiles for the cameras  
while the Other Obama angrily kicks  
dead Soldiers into their graves A maniac  
screaming How in the hell are we  
going to win this way as One Obama stands  
at the podium smiling hand picking  
the next news Reporter as the Other Obama  
picks up a tank and throws it at an IED  
and screams die you're no good in the  
mountains of Afghanistan anyway  
as One Obama mumbles sheepishly stupidly  
while the Other Obama screams  
at his Generals Why can't you beat  
these rag tag Taliban towel heads  
who amount to nothing  
like rats with guns while we have  
the finest Military in the world and then  
the Other Obama steps off Air Force One  
and waves Friendly to the cameras while  
the Other Obama with a scratchy  
throat rumbles into the War Room  
and says we will keep Soldiers in Iraq until  
all the oil is gone as two Secret Service  
goons pin a General against the wall  
as Obama slaps him screaming into his face  
I want this Bin Laden and all of them now

do you hear Me you little punk  
the General nods his head up And down  
as Obama throws his trash on his  
uniform Down to the floor while  
stars and ribbons scatter and bounce  
like Crayons and marbles  
I'll torture you if you don't  
then at a press conference Just hours  
from this the Other Obama never sweating  
says it will Take awhile for all this to Work  
be patient and cash your unemployment  
checks as the Other Obama  
in his White War Room House says  
My God has horns and we will win  
dead Soldiers dead Afghan civilians  
mean nothing To me  
I sleep sound at Night while Voters  
And Soldiers have Oh No bad dreams.

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

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

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **Resistance Action**

July 17 (Reuters) & July 18 Aswat al-Iraq

MOSUL - Insurgents attacked a police checkpoint, killing two policemen and wounding one policeman in western Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad.

SHIRQAT - Insurgents shot at a convoy carrying police Brigadier Ahmed Bdaiwi, the head of the major crimes department in Salahuddin province, wounding three of his guards in a village near the town of Shirqat, 300 km (190 miles) north of Baghdad. While the operations centre said Bdaiwi was unhurt, state-run television reported that he was wounded in the attack.

A pro-government Sahwa (Awakening) element has been killed and another injured in an explosive charge blast south of northern Iraq's oil-rich city of Kirkuk on Monday, a police director reported. "An explosive charge blew off on Monday morning against a checkpoint of al-Sahwa (Awakening) Force in al-Rashad township, 35 km to the southwest of Kirkuk," Lt-Brigadier Sarhad Qader told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

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## **WELCOME TO BAGHVIETISTAN: HAVE A NICE DAY**



ISKANDARIYA, IRAQ - JULY 17: A U.S. soldier with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment on a patrol on July 17, 2011 in Iskandariya, Babil Province, Iraq. (Photo by Spencer Platt/Getty Images)

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Two Foreign Occupation “Servicemembers” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan Sunday: Nationality Not Announced**

July 17, 2011 AP

Two foreign servicemembers died following an improvised explosive device attack in southern Afghanistan today.

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## **Three Foreign Occupation “Servicemembers” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan Monday: Nationality Not Announced**

July 18, 2011 AP

Three foreign servicemembers died following an improvised explosive device attack in eastern Afghanistan today.

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## **Florida Soldier Killed In Khowst**

July 17, 2011 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 621-11

Spc. Frank R. Gross, 25, of Oldsmar, Fla., died July 16 at Kandahar province, Afghanistan of wounds sustained at Khowst province, Afghanistan when an improvised explosive device caused a military vehicle roll-over.

He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 38th Cavalry Regiment, 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, Fort Hood, Texas.

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## **Key Adviser To Afghan President Killed In Kabul:**

**“He (Khan) Was Very Close To  
Karzai. He Was As Important As  
AWK (Ahmed Wali Karzai)”**

**“The Assassination Comes Less Than A  
Week After The President’s Half-Brother  
Ahmed Wali Karzai Was Shot Dead”**

7.17.11 By Massoud Hosseini, AFP [Excerpts]

A team of attackers killed a senior adviser to Afghan President Hamid Karzai in a raid on his Kabul home on Sunday along with a visiting lawmaker, government and police officials told AFP.

Jan Mohammad Khan, the former governor of southern Uruzgan province and a key ally of the embattled president, was killed in the attack along with an MP for Uruzgan, Mohammad Hashem Watanwal, said a police spokesman.

The assassination comes less than a week after the president's half-brother Ahmed Wali Karzai was shot dead by a close friend at his home in the southern province of Kandahar in an attack claimed by the Taliban.

Just hours before Sunday's attack, a ceremony was held in central Bamyan province marking the start of the transition of security duties from NATO forces to Afghans, a process aimed at leaving the country free of foreign troops by 2014.

Sunday was also the last day in Afghanistan for top US commander General David Petraeus.

Police were still searching for one of the attackers at the residence near the parliament building early Monday, but the area was quiet according to witnesses, after sporadic gun battles lasting more than four hours.

Kabul police spokesman Hashmat Stanikzai said at least one of the gunmen in Sunday's raid was dead and it was not clear whether the rest of Khan's family had escaped or were stuck inside the besieged residence.

"JMK (Jan Mohammad Khan) and Watanwal have been martyred and also one of the attackers has been killed," he told AFP, adding that the attack began at 8:00 pm (1530 GMT) and that at least one attacker was still at large.

Interior ministry spokesman Siddiq Siddiqi said one police officer had been injured in the siege.

"They were not suicide bombers, they were carrying weapons," said Siddiqi, adding that no foreign forces were taking part in the operation.

A senior intelligence official speaking anonymously said it was believed that three people attacked Khan's residence.

**A government official speaking on condition of anonymity said: "He (Khan) was very close to Karzai. He was as important as AWK (Ahmed Wali Karzai)."**

Like Karzai, Khan hailed from a powerful family from the Popalzai tribe in Afghanistan's restive south and had been given the role of senior adviser for tribal issues after being sacked from his governorship over corruption claims

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**“Taliban? Yeah, sure, go 26 miles that way and take a left.”**



U.S. Marines patrol through the village of Gurjat, July 18, 2011 in Helmand province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/David Goldman)

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**“There Is No Real Stability Here”  
“Local Insurgents Have Created A  
Well-Established ‘Shadow  
Government,’ Consisting Of Militant  
Leaders”**

**Insurgent Leaders “Have Enough  
Support In The Area To Keep Their  
Fighters Well Supplied With Ammunition  
And Other Goods”**

Jul 11, 2011 By Carmen Gentile - Special for USA Today [Excerpts]

BATI KAHT, NANGARHAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan — The chief intelligence officer in this rustic town has reason to worry.

Fareed, who like many Afghans goes by a single name, sat on the floor of his office and described the myriad armed insurgents operating in this part of Nangarhar province, an economically vital region of Afghanistan.

Nangarhar is home to a critical stretch of Highway 7, running between the town of Torkham on the Afghan-Pakistani border and the Afghan capital, Kabul. It serves as the main conduit for goods such as fuel and food from Pakistan to much of eastern Afghanistan and is the target for regular insurgent attacks.

U.S. forces and their Afghan allies are trying to keep the road open and secure.

As local head of the National Directorate of Security, Afghanistan's domestic intelligence agency, Fareed said insurgents have targeted him and his men several times in recent months.

His office, located in the district center that also houses the local Afghan National Police, has been attacked by mortar and gunfire. Several policemen were killed.

Securing the highway has been a major objective for U.S. forces, said Lt. Col. Jerry Turner, who commands U.S. forces at nearby Forward Operating Base (FOB) Shinwar, at a site once occupied by British, then Soviet forces.

Doing so means contending with a host of insurgent groups in the area, according to Fareed.

Local insurgents have created a well-established "shadow government," consisting of militant leaders who rival local federally appointed and elected representatives.

The insurgent leaders in the village of Bati Kaht — a collection of mud-brick homes and small shops — have enough support in the area to keep their fighters well supplied with ammunition and other goods, Fareed said.

Commerce along Highway 7 appeared bustling during a recent patrol by U.S. forces heading to Bati Kaht. The tree-lined highway was filled with merchants selling vegetables and fruit, including locally grown watermelons.

Local Afghan National Police Chief Mohammed Omer, however, said the appearance is deceiving. "There is no real stability here," Omer said. "Some people complain to the insurgents who tell them there wouldn't be any problems if U.S. forces weren't here."

American troops are targeted along the highway and other roads by gunfire and roadside bombs. During a recent patrol, an armored vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb, though no one was injured.

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## Resistance Action:



# Senior Police Official Killed In Kandahar

7.18.11 Reuters & DPA

A roadside bomb struck a police vehicle in southern Afghanistan on Monday, killing a senior police officer and three others, officials said.

The bomb hit the vehicle of District Police Chief Salih Mohammad as he was on his way to Shorabak in Kandahar province, a statement by the governor's office said.

'Police chief of Registan district along with three other policemen were martyred in roadside bombing,' it said.

The province's Deputy Police Chief Sher Shan Yousufzai confirmed the attack, saying that three more policemen were injured in the explosion, in addition to the four fatalities.

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**LASHKAR GAH, Afghanistan - Seven Afghan policemen were killed when insurgents attacked a police checkpoint Monday in the southern city of Lashkar Gah, where foreign troops are due to hand over security control to Afghan forces in two days.**

The official handover in Lashkar Gah is due to take place on Wednesday.

**NEED SOME TRUTH?  
THE NEW JULY 2011 TRAVELING  
SOLDIER IS OUT AND OUT NOW!!  
<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>**

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**

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



The remains of Seaman Aaron D. Ullom, left case, and Marine Lance Cpl. Robert S. Greniger July 14, 2011 at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Ullom, 20, of Midland, Mich., died July 12, 2011 while conducting a dismounted patrol in the Now Zad district of Helmand province, Afghanistan and Greniger, 21, of Greenfield, Minn., died July 12, 2011 while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Steve

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

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

**“A Group Of U.S. Service Members Marched In A San Diego Gay Pride Parade On Saturday”**

**“The Largest Group Of Members Of The Military To Ever March In The City’s Gay Pride Parade, Or Any Similar U.S. Event”**

**“This Is One Of The Proudest Days In My Life”**

**“I’m A Soldier No Matter What, Regardless Of My Sexual Orientation”**



Reuters

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

Jul 16, 2011 By Marty Graham, Reuters & By JULIE WATSON, Huff Post [Excerpts]

SAN DIEGO - A group of U.S. service members marched in a San Diego gay pride parade on Saturday, in a demonstration organizers touted as an unprecedented step for gay and lesbian military personnel under the Pentagon's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

The military contingent in the parade numbered about 250 people, and the former Navy operations specialist who brought the group together said many are currently in the military, while the rest are veterans. They dressed in civilian clothes.

Rolling slowly behind the 200 service members was a green half-ton military truck with the banner "Taking pride in our LGBT service men and women." Speakers on the truck blasted out "Taps" and military fight songs.

Many of the active-duty troops said they were moved to come out because it is time to end the military's ban on openly gay troops.

Marine Corporal Will Rodriguez-Kennedy is on active duty and said he looks forward to next year's parade, when he believes it will be possible to march in "dress blues."

"One of my friends here has been back from Afghanistan for three days, and when he heard about the parade he said he served in uniform and he should be able to march in uniform," said Rodriguez-Kennedy, 24.

National Guard member Nichole Herrera, 31, said she didn't think twice about marching, even though the policy is back on the books. She said she was "choked up" several times as she walked down a main thoroughfare in San Diego, a major Navy port.

"This is one of the proudest days in my life. It's time for it (the policy) to be gone," Herrera said. "I'm a soldier no matter what, regardless of my sexual orientation."

Miranda LeClair, 30, a former military police officer for the Navy, carried a sign that read: "Proudly served in silence for nine years." She attended with her girlfriend, also a former member of the military police.

"It's been a long time coming," said LeClair, who left the service in November. "This is really an emotional day for me."

LeClair said she was investigated under "don't ask, don't tell" in 2008 but her commanders decided not to pursue discharging her.

"I'm so happy I'm here and I'm able to come out and support not only myself but those who can't be here today," said Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Derek Collins, who has served for 11 years.

It was unclear exactly how many members of the San Diego gay pride parade's military contingent were on active duty. Several participants who spoke to Reuters had recently left the armed services.

Under the military's existing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, service members are barred from saying they are gay or lesbian, and that has until now discouraged some members of the military from participating in gay pride parades.

Organizers said the San Diego contingent, which included straight supporters also in the armed services, represented the largest group of members of the military to ever march in the city's gay pride parade, or any similar U.S. event.

Every branch of service was represented Saturday, including the Coast Guard. Marines and sailors ran out carrying their branch's flags over their heads. One Marine stopped to pose with two towering bikini-clad blondes in stiletto-heeled boots.

In a parade that featured drag queens costumed as nuns and men dressed as pirates with G-strings, the military contingent of mostly men in their 20s and 30s marched in markedly more conservative clothing.

They wore green or grey t-shirts emblazoned with their military branch, and each carried in hand a small U.S. flag.

"This is my first time here, out as who I am: a gay man in the Army Reserves," Dale Smith, 50, told Reuters. "It's a great day for me and for all the gay people who've chosen to serve their country."

The military contingent in the San Diego parade was organized by Sean Sala, an openly gay 26 year-old man, who left the Navy in June after six years. "My mom was with me and it made her cry."

The crowd roared as the group waving military flags and holding placards identifying their military branch walked past the thousands.

Onlookers stepped into the parade route to salute them. One man in a rainbow colored shirt waved his feather boa and yelled "Hooah!" the military battle cry.

San Diego, California's second-largest city, has a large military presence. The nearby Camp Pendleton is the largest Marine Corps base west of the Mississippi River.

The march came a day after a three-judge panel of the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals temporarily reinstated the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy on gays, but blocked the Pentagon from penalizing or discharging anyone for being openly gay. The decision marked a reversal from an earlier order to immediately end the policy.

A Pentagon spokeswoman said U.S. Department of Defense regulations do not prohibit marching in parades while wearing civilian clothes, and that participation "does not constitute a declaration of sexual orientation."

Marine Corps officials said service members who are not in uniform are within their rights to participate in a gay pride parade.

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# **U.S. Army Opens Fire On Town In Germany: “Soldiers Were ‘Shooting In The Wrong Direction’”**

Jul 11, 2011 The Associated Press

BERLIN — The U.S. military says it is investigating an incident in which rounds fired at an Army training range in southern Germany hit buildings in a nearby town. There were no injuries.

Grafenwoehr garrison spokeswoman Susanne Bartsch said Monday that the incident happened during a convoy protection exercise on Friday afternoon.

Machine-gun shots hit three buildings inside the base and three other buildings in the town of Grafenwoehr also suffered minor damage. Local police say they included a vocational school that was closed at the time.

Bartsch says that soldiers “were shooting in the wrong direction.” The shots landed up to 3 miles from the training range that was being used.

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## **Huge Increase In Soldiers’ Opiate Abuse**

July 11 By Associated Press

According to Army data provided to AP, referrals for opiate abuse increased from 87 in fiscal year 1998-99 to 703 referrals in fiscal year 2008-09. There were more than 670 referrals from October 2009 through June 2010, the latest figures available.

Opiates include common pain drugs such as oxycodone, sold under the brand name Oxycontin, and hydrocodone, also known as Vicodin.

<p><b>Troops Invited:</b> <b>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 <a href="mailto:contact@militaryproject.org">contact@militaryproject.org</a>: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.</b></p>
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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**

**“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**

## **Snipers:**

**“He Has A Great Sporting Instinct  
And Considers Careless British  
Officers Fair Game”  
‘His Old Rifle May Be Of Prehistoric  
Design, But He Knows Exactly When  
And How To Use It”**

[Thanks to Don Bacon, Lt Col, US Army (Ret), Vietnam & Smedley Butler Society:  
<http://www.warisaracket.org/>, who sent this in.]

From: Don Bacon  
To: Military Resistance Newsletter  
Sent: July 17, 2011 4:40 PM  
Subject: snipers

Re: Military Resistance 9G12:

*Unseen Attackers Are Striking Down Foreign Troops “From A Distance And Then  
Melting Away Into The Surrounding Countryside”*

*“With Every Step There Is The Potential For An IED To Go Off Or There Is Some Sniper  
Or Sharpshooter Waiting In The Wings”*

*“The threat posed by the snipers was on vivid display in early February when a patrol of  
British and Afghan troops left a small base in Helmand. The troops were conducting a  
foot patrol in Nad-e-Ali, one of the province’s most violent towns, when they came under  
fire. As the troops crouched for cover, a Taliban sniper killed two of the British  
paratroopers with a single shot. British officials later said the bullet blew through one  
soldier’s head before smashing into the neck of his colleague.”*

**Reminds of a 1942 letter from British Army Major Phil Brennan to his favorite  
auntie about “the hole of the Empire”:**

“H.Q. 27th Mtn.Regt.,  
c/o Army Base Post Office,  
India.

“21 June 1942

“Dear Auntie,

“It’s quite a long time since I left Quetta. From there I went to Ramzak in Waziristan . . . .



“Ramzak is better know as “the hole of the Empire”, but I thoroughly enjoyed it. It is just a cantonment completely surrounded by barbed wire and no woman has ever been within 40 miles of it.

“It is rather amusing really; the nearest station (40 miles away) is known as “the abandoned wives station” where all the wives live and wait for their husbands to think up excuses to sneak away and have the most colossal beat ups.

“I concur with Uncle Jack’s opinion of the Pathan (whose home is Waziristan – not Baluchistan).

“He has a great sporting instinct and considers careless British officers fair game.

“He keeps the troops in Ramzak up to the mark, because it doesn’t pay to bungle a protection scheme when he’s about.

‘His old rifle may be of prehistoric design, but he knows exactly when and how to use it.

‘One of ‘em, known by repute as “Buckshee Bill”, shot up about six columns all on his own and then came and sat on a hill slap outside the wire, and amused himself by having pot shots at officers just when he felt like it.

‘But could we find him ? ‘He knew all the tricks and was a move ahead of us all the time. It seemed a pity he should be so wasted.

‘I was friendly with one of them, who used to bring me all sorts of vicious looking daggers and weird shoes made of grass; all of which he made himself.

‘I have a soft spot for them because they’re all “agin the government”.

‘I liked Ramzak, but the only trouble was that it seemed rather a futile existence when there was a decent war going on somewhere else.”

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PS: There’s other good stuff by Winston Churchill from when he was a war correspondent over there. Very perceptive -- worth looking at and possibly publishing. Here’s a good link--<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/taliban/tribal/churchill.html>

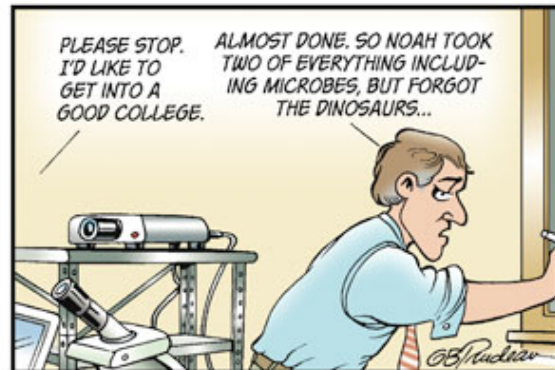
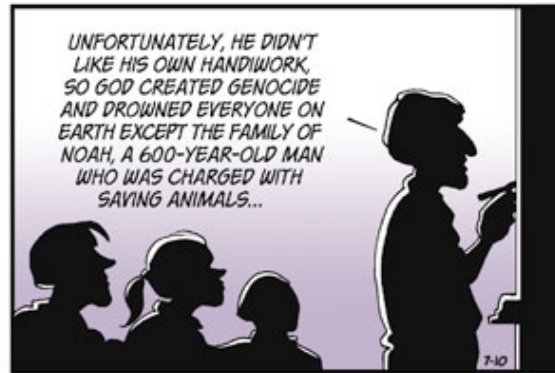
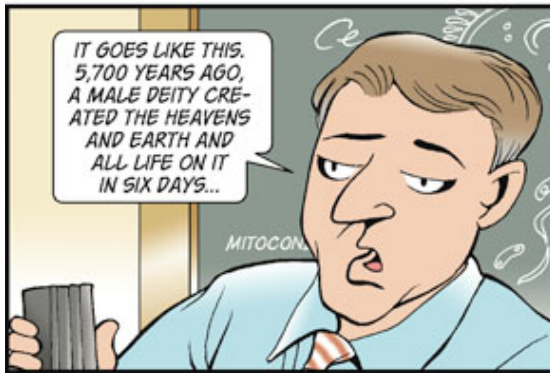
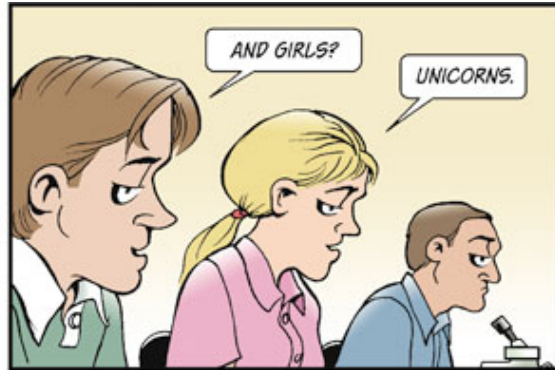
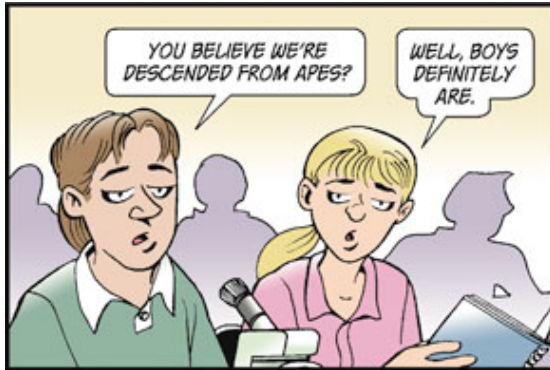
[Here are a couple excerpts, bearing on the subject matter at hand. T]

“At a thousand yards the traveller falls wounded by the well-aimed bullet of a breech-loading rifle.”

“And the young men hearing these things will grip their Martinis, and pray to Allah, that one day He will bring some Sahib -- best prize of all -- across their line of sight at seven hundred yards so that, at least, they may strike a blow for insulted and threatened Islam.”

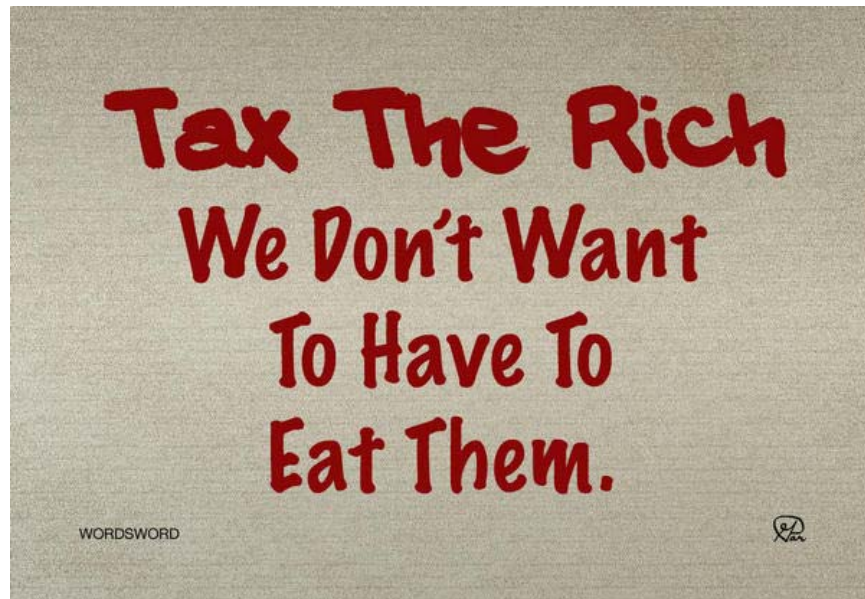
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# DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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## **CLASS WAR REPORTS**



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**“Activists Said 100 Soldiers And Members Of The Military Intelligence In Abu Kamal Had Defected”**  
**“YouTube On Saturday Showed People Climbing On Top Of An Armored Vehicle, Celebrating And Chanting: ‘The People And The Army Are One’”**

JULY 18, 2011 By MARC CHAMPION in Istanbul and NOUR MALAS in Dubai, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

Syrian forces moved on two border towns and arrested a prominent writer Sunday, after the country's opposition took a tentative step toward forming an alternative government to challenge President Bashar al-Assad.

Military units surrounded Abu Kamal, a town near the Iraqi border, as thousands of protesters poured into the streets to demonstrate against the regime, apparently emboldened by army defections a day earlier, activists said.

A video posted on YouTube on Saturday showed people climbing on top of an armored vehicle, celebrating and chanting: "The people and the army are one."

Activists said 100 soldiers and members of the military intelligence in Abu Kamal had defected.

In Damascus, meanwhile, troops arrested Ali Abdallah, a writer and fierce critic of the state's use of violence, his son said in a phone interview. Mohammad Abdallah said soldiers stormed their family's home on Sunday morning, apparently searching for his brother, but couldn't find him and arrested his father instead. The older Mr. Abdallah, a 61-year-old who had heart surgery three weeks ago, was released in late May after four years of detention.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a London-based rights group, said 30 people were killed over the past 24 hours in Homs in fighting between regime loyalists and opponents.

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**“Across The State Of California,  
More Than 6,600 Prisoners That  
We Know Of Across At Least 13  
Prisons, Joined The Hunger  
Strike”**

**“We Believe That This Is Our Only  
Option Of Ever Trying To Make Some  
Kind Of Positive Changes Here”**

**“And There Is A Core Group Of Us Who  
Are Committed To Taking This All The  
Way To The Death, If Necessary”**

July 15, 2011 Democracy Now [Excerpts]

*JUAN GONZALEZ: We turn now to California, where thousands of inmates in at least 11 prisons across the state's troubled prison system have been on hunger strike for almost two weeks. Many are protesting in solidarity with inmates held in Pelican Bay State Prison, California's first super-maximum security prison.*

*The hunger strike began on July 1st in the Pelican Bay's Security Housing Unit, when inmates began refusing meals to protest what they say is cruel and unusual conditions. Prisoners in the units are kept in total isolation for 22-and-a-half hours a day, a punishment some mental health experts say can lead to insanity and is tantamount to torture.*

*Democracy Now! obtained a recording of an audio statement that one of the Pelican Bay inmates, Ted Ashker sic, made to his legal team in the secure prison's Secure Housing Unit, which is referred to as the SHU. You will need to listen closely as he explains his reasons for joining the hunger strike.*

TODD ASHKER: The basis for this protest has come about after over 25 years — some of us, 30, some up to 40 years — of being subjected to these conditions the last 21 years in Pelican Bay SHU, where every single day you have staff and administrators who feel it's their job to punish the worst of the worst, as they've put out propaganda for the last 21 years that we are the worst of the worst.

And most of us have never been found guilty of ever committing an illegal gang-related act. But we're in SHU because of a label.

And all of our 602 appeals, numerous court challenges, have gotten nowhere. Therefore, our backs are up against the wall.

A lot of us are older now.

We have serious medical issues coming on.

And we believe that this is our only option of ever trying to make some kind of positive changes here, is through this peaceful protest of hunger strike.

And there is a core group of us who are committed to taking this all the way to the death, if necessary. None of us want to do this, but we feel like we have no other option. And we're just hoping for the best.

*A prison guard told MSNBC that prisoners are kept in the SHU for their own safety.*

PRISON GUARD: Inmates that were placed into the SHU housing unit were placed in here, for the most part, because of violence, and that violence could be against other inmates or against officers.

*JUAN GONZALEZ: Well, activists who support the strikers dismiss allegations of gang ties. They describe the conditions inside the prison's highest-security special isolation wing as inhumane.*

*In May, the federal Supreme Court ruled that California must reduce its prison overcrowding to be able to provide inmates with adequate healthcare. In a five-to-four*

*ruling, the court said conditions in California's prison system are, quote, "incompatible with the concept of human dignity, causing needless suffering and death."*

*Supporters of the hunger strikers protesting these conditions say, as the prisoners continue to refuse food, their health has deteriorated to critical levels.*

*AMY GOODMAN: For more, we're joined by three guests. In Oakland, California, we're joined by Dorsey Nunn, who is co-founder of All of Us or None. He's also executive director of Legal Services for Prisoners with Children. Nunn was incarcerated from 1971 to '82 at San Quentin. He's one of the mediators between the prisoners on hunger strike and the California Department of Corrections.*

*Also joining us from the University of California, Berkeley, is Molly Porzig. She's a member of the Prisoner Hunger Strike Solidarity coalition and a spokesperson for Critical Resistance.*

*And in Arizona, we're joined by Desiree Lozoya. She is the niece of a prisoner participating in the Pelican Bay hunger strike. She went to the prison last weekend and visited her uncle.*

*Desiree, let's start with you. Tell us what your uncle explained to you, why he's on hunger strike, and what's happening at Pelican Bay.*

DESIREE LOZOYA: Well, basically, just as Todd had explained in his video clip, they're just wanting to be treated better.

They're cold. They're losing weight. And like he had explained, a lot of these prisoners are trying to be—basically gang-labeled. However, there's nothing to be labeling them for.

For instance, my uncle was an interstate transfer to Pelican Bay. He was supposed to be transferred closer to home. However, he was still transferred 17 hours away from us.

And then, as soon as they saw a tattoo on his hand, they labeled him right away. Although he has had no write-ups, has gotten into no trouble, they automatically put him in the Ad-Seg, which is now called the new SHU.

They are now expanding that.

And so, that's where he sits.

*AMY GOODMAN: Because they said the tattoo indicates he's a member of a gang?*

DESIREE LOZOYA: Yes. And the tattoo, he ended up getting when he was a teen. He was only 18 years old when he received the tattoo. It was in no gang affiliation whatsoever.

*JUAN GONZALEZ: And we're also joined by Molly Porzig. She's a member of the Prisoner Hunger Strike Solidarity coalition. Molly, talk about how this has spread to the rest of the California prison system.*

MOLLY PORZIG: Right.

So, on the first day of the hunger strike, thousands of prisoners across the state of California, more than 6,600 prisoners that we know of across at least 13 prisons, joined the hunger strike in solidarity with the prisoners at the Pelican Bay SHU and their demands.

What's really significant about that is that people are risking their own lives in joining this action, while being in very similar, or even the same, brutal conditions as the hunger strikers at Pelican Bay.

And that speaks to the fact that while this struggle speaks to particular conditions at Pelican Bay and in the SHU, it's also part of the larger system within California, which was just mentioned that has been condemned by the Supreme Court as inhumane and cruel, due to severe medical neglect and overcrowding.

*AMY GOODMAN: I'm wondering, Dorsey Nunn, co-founder of All of Us or None, if you could explain how this strike has spread and how you are negotiating between the prisoners and the prisons.*

DORSEY NUNN: I think this strike has spread, just like anybody else that supports injustice.

So for them to consider — I heard in your clip when he said the 6,000 people that's supporting this strike is — demonstrates the influence of gang leaders.

I think it demonstrates the need for justice. Just as Martin marched and people followed Martin, people followed Gandhi, people are actually striking because they are being tortured. So I think that this strike has spread because torture is a threatening thing to anybody in the California Department of Corrections.

People are being tortured. Some parts of what I know, as a formerly incarcerated person who have did time within the California Department of Corrections, that they are guilty of torture. It's like being locked—it's not "like."

People are being locked up in the bathroom for 23, 24 and 30 years. It may not have been torture maybe the first 30 days or the first 60 days, but when you start getting into multiple decades, then we can call it torture.

When you start extracting information in Pelican Bay or Guantánamo Bay, the purpose is the same. You're torturing people. And I think under international standards, it can be referred to as that. I think the thing that is troubling, that this thing is happening on the shores of the United States. We never did have to get into renditions if we were going to allow torture in northern California.

*JUAN GONZALEZ: And Dorsey—*

DORSEY NUNN: So this thing is spreading.

*JUAN GONZALEZ: Dorsey Nunn, what's been the response of prison officials or government officials? Have they attempted to negotiate or mediate through you or with the inmates?*

DORSEY NUNN: I think that we entered discussions. I wouldn't necessarily call it "negotiating." We entered discussions, you know.

So I guess if I was in a cage with a 600-pound gorilla, you couldn't necessarily call it a dance.

**MORE:**

## **A DIRECT CALL FOR A STATEWIDE WORK STRIKE SUPPORTING THE HUNGER STRIKE TO ABOLISH SHU POLICIES**

July 12, 2011 <http://prisonmovement.wordpress.com/>

An indefinite hunger strike has kicked off on July first by Pelican Bay Security Housing Unit (SHU) prisoners.

They have been joined by prisoners in the Corcoran and Folsom SHUs.

Huge amounts of domestic and foreign support have been organized for these prisoners.

In order to win this struggle, however, every available resource must be brought into play. We are at a historical juncture in which prisoners can take control over their lives, to have some say in the conditions of their existence, or else continue to be mere pawns acted upon by external forces and watch things get even worse.

**Starting IMMEDIATELY prisoners can start the process of improving their conditions of existence by implementing a peaceful work strike in every prison in the state.**

**Defendants may draft demands as each facility sees fit, but the first demand on the list must be to implement the core demands of the prisoners in the SHUs.**

The longest prison work strike in U.S. history was at the Washington State Penitentiary at Walla Walla in 1978—it lasted 47 days.

It resulted in the release of the Walla Walla Brothers from the SHU, the Director of Corrections Harold Bradley being fired, the warden removed, and the associate warden of custody transferred to a youth facility.

Work strikes can result in positive change!



In the recent Georgia strike prisoners in every prison went on a statewide peaceful work strike. The prisoners were supported by their families and friends who helped spread the word of the planned strike between prisons, and who found supportive groups in a wide variety of communities to bring information about the prisoners' conditions and attention to their demands.

Prisoners must do the same thing here in California

**It is up to you to get this message to everyone you trust at your prison and to spread the word across all yards. You are being asked to tell other prisoners that starting IMMEDIATELY, no work will be performed.**

No work means no kitchen, no hospital, no anything, no exceptions!!

Moreover, there must be no violence. Anyone advocating violence is a provocateur; listening to such people will only result in defeat. The struggle must be solid and protracted. Plaintiffs on the outside will provide support by amplifying your voice. If you are not the person to get this done, then give this document to someone you think is.

Let's recap:

1. Effective IMMEDIATELY prisoners initiate a peaceful work stoppage at all prisons.
  - a. Nobody works; no exceptions.
  - b. The Walla Walla record is 47 days (it will take time to change public consciousness).
  - c. There must be no violence at all, in any way.
  - d. The first demand must be to eliminate indefinite SHU placement and the validation process.
  - e. First demand amended is "debriefing" as it is known in SHU prison policy, will no longer be tolerated or permitted and considered a crime committed by the institutions that seek it as a means of control.
2. The strike is over when prisoners win, or are defeated.
  - a. If local demands are not met the strike may continue at that individual facility.

The first step of becoming a part of prisoner history is to communicate the essence of this document to others on the inside.

**This message is going into prisons across the state, by this and other means.**

**This is NOW a nationwide effort!! please repost repost repost!!!!**

**Send this out to everyone in every prison by every means possible.**

**Please do copy and paste, but do not edit this post**

**MORE:**

## **California Hunger Strike: Day 17 Update; “Reports Keep Coming In From Different Places, And CDCR Is Keeping A Tight Lid On Inmates Trying To Get The Word Out To Their Loved Ones”**

June 17, 2011 <http://prisonmovement.wordpress.com/> [Excerpts]

Hey Hey Everyone! We have now entered the 17th day without food!! Unbelievable...

I cannot believe the CDCR is allowing for this to drag on for so long!!

AS many of you know, “Negotiations” have begun but what is offered by CDCR is considered by some of the hunger strikers as an “insult.”

Below find updates on the hunger strike, some very important information and tips. Also find a list of events to plug into and phone numbers to call.

For those of you who did visiting this week, please send any updates you have my way. Hold on, the end is almost near!

### **According to Prisoner Solidarity Blog:**

“This afternoon leaders of the Pelican Bay hunger strike unanimously rejected a proposal from the CDCR to end the strike. In response to the prisoners’ five, straightforward demands, the CDCR distributed a vaguely worded document stating that it would “effect a comprehensive assessment of its existing policy and procedure” about the secure housing units (SHUs).

The document gave no indication if any changes would be made at all... Despite the promises from the federal Receiver overseeing the CDCR, no one has received salt tablets or vitamins... hundreds of prisoners at Pelican Bay remain on strike, with thousands more participating throughout the CA’s 33 prisons.”

Go here to read the whole article: <http://prisonerhungerstrikesolidarity.wordpress.com/2011/07/16/pelican-bay-hunger-strikers-reject-proposal-the-strike-continues/>

**These are updates we have from letters, posts, facebook messages, conversations, emails.**

**Tehachapi**

A mother went to go visit her son in the SHU and was told that all the men on B yard are not eating, except for one who is a diabetic.

Her son had lost about 20 lbs. and she reported that he looked extremely skinny, his skinned looked sucked in and eyes really big. She said he came out to visit with this very ugly dirty suit and believes they are not allowing them to do laundry.

He was told about the protest that will be taking place tomorrow in San Bernardino and broke down crying.

He thanked everyone who has been involved in organizing efforts. He said it is becoming very challenging but he is going to hold on and keep going strong. He said they had heard almost nothing about the strike.

They had only managed to get ahold of one article, but it had no mention that Tehachapi was also on hunger strike and they have been going since July 1st.

He urged to bring awareness to the fact that they are still on hunger strike and will continue to be.

### **Donovan**

"I received a letter from my man today letting me know the inmates in the hole at Donovan are participating in the hunger strike .... there is absolutely no news coverage in the San Diego area.

All I know is he's telling me the men are eating canteen and that's it. I was under the impression they weren't eating at all... he said he's sent me numerous letters however I've only gotten two prior ones telling me how starving he is.... he's lost 20lbs so far.

Its hard to find out any accurate information he did say that he finally received mail from the beginning of July.

I've called numerous times to get some sort of information, but supposedly nobody knows anything. Please fill me in if you find out any information. I'm not sure how long they have been eating canteen.... its a total upside down mess there.

I have a friend who emailed all the local news channels yet nothing has been gone public. He said he wrote me a letter regarding what's going on in there but of course I never got it.....

I don't think anyone knows which different prisons still have strikers, that's why we're trying to get a list together. Reports keep coming in from different places, and cdcr is keeping a tight lid on inmates trying to get the word out to their loved ones. If I had to guess, I would say there are still THOUSANDS participating... not hundreds!"

### **PBSP SHU-C Corridor**

about 50 inmates on the C corridor that are participating in this hunger strike. Soon you may not hear from the men but BE DILIGENT in making sure they're okay.

If your incarcerated loved one has an attorney try to get in contact with them to see if they can get direct answers regarding what is really going on inside.

“Stood outside gates of Pelican Bay today with 2 others and a banner in support of hunger strikers while visitors came and went. Camping with Julie (see blog), who’s been here for 3+ weeks...plenty of room for more support up here!”

Julie’s blog: <http://julie-tackett.blogspot.com/>

### **Desert View Modified Community Correctional Facility**

“I went to visit my husband along with my sister in law and we were denied a visit because he is in the hole on a disciplinary violation.

### **After looking into it further. I can see that they are retaliating against him for participating in the hunger strike.**

He wrote to me and I received the letter a few minutes ago telling me that there was a hunger strike that went on for 36 hours after that he had to give in because he was going crazy. On July 14 Thursday, he said that they “gaffled him up” after going to his GED class. He has not received a write up or anything stating what he did wrong.

They just mentioned that he will be charged with “inciting”, apparently the teagher thinks that he is responsible for the class not showing up on July 13. He also says that if they look at the “sign-in” sheet for the past month they would see that the whole class doesn’t show up quite often... in the meantime I am contacting his attorney, so that he can go in there and see what is really going on... I forgot to mention that my husband is in a cell by himself he is not allowed any mail other that outgoing mail and he is locked down 24hrs since 7/14 so it has been 48 hours. If this isn’t cruel and unusual punishment I don’t know what is. These privatized prisons are going to far, they forget that only GEO Group is contracted with the Government, the employees aren’t.”

### **Prisoner’s Rights: Right to Receive Mail While in Prison**

“[A] prisoner’s right to the free flow of incoming and outgoing mail is protected by the First Amendment.” *Davis v. Goord*, 320 F.3d 346, 351 (2d Cir. 2003). “(T)interference with prisoners’ mail ‘must be no greater than is necessary or essential to the protection of the particular governmental interest involved. *Washington v. James*, 782 F.2d 1134, 1139 (2d Cir.1986) (quotation marks omitted). Prison mail regulations are valid only if they are “reasonably related to legitimate penological interest.” *Turner v. Safley*, 482 U.S. 78, 89 (1987).

“Prison walls do not form a barrier separating prison inmates from the protections of the Constitution,” *Turner v. Safley*, 482 U.S. at 84. “(N)or do they bar free citizens from exercising their own constitutional rights by reaching out to those on the ‘inside[.]’” *Thornburgh v. Abbott*, 490 U.S. 401, 407 (1987). “Access (to prisoners) is essential (From Section 1983 blog website)” (they can go in during the week to pay visits)

Some men are not having anything but water and coffee.

Response: “cut out the coffee because it dehydrates (although it also supresses his hunger). Try to take vitamin C or orange juice along with the water...”

“As a clinical psychologist who works with recently incarcerated individuals, I have witnessed first hand the trauma caused by inhumane conditions in prisons. Cruel and unusual punishment wounds individuals and harms our communities”- anonymous

WE STILL NEED FOLKS FOR A PANEL IN UC SANTA BARBARA! Any family members that have son incarcerated and participating in hunger strike? LET ME KNOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED. THEY OFFERED TO HELP WITH GAS.



## IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATIONS

### **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](mailto:news@uruknet.info); [http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi\\_special/](http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/);

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

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