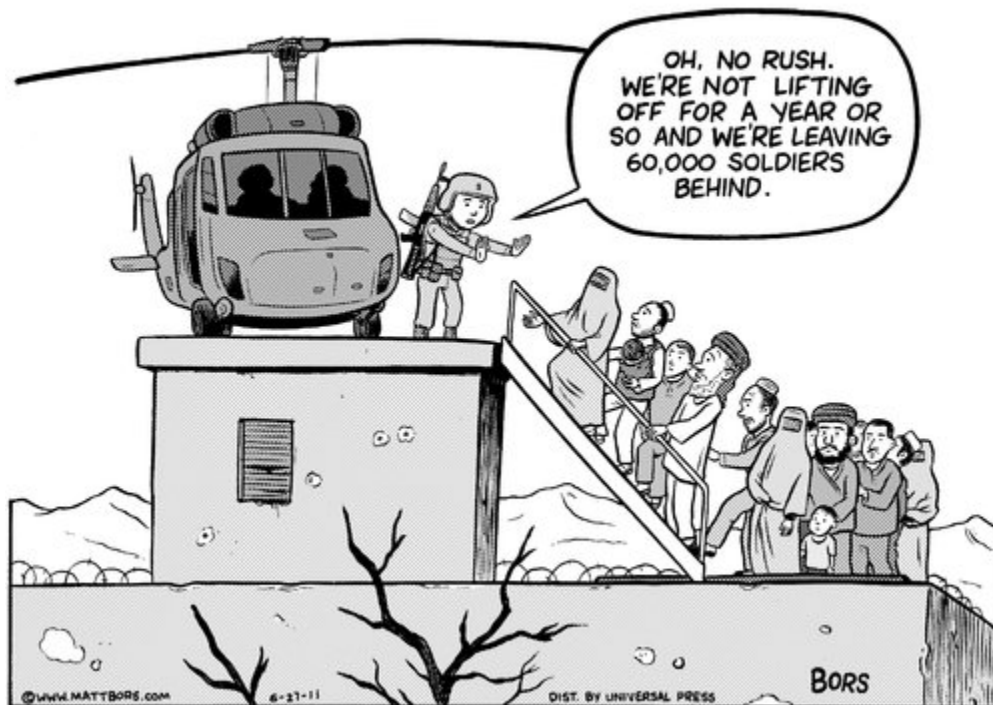


Military Resistance 9G3



July 4 Special

#1

BETWEEN THE OOH'S AND AHH'S

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special
Sent: July 10, 2006

BETWEEN THE OOH'S AND AHH'S

By Dennis Serdel: VFP #50, VVAW, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Purple Heart Americal Div. 11th Brigade, UAW GM retiree, Perry, Michigan

**The night was as black as charlie's pajamas.
But flares were being sent up
into the Southern Cross**

and tracer bullets were crossing the sky
and twirling around like a child's sparkler
on the 4th of July.

It was the 4th of July in Vietnam 1968
and almost everybody was celebrating,
smoking pot, drinking beer and whiskey.
Every so often, there would be a "mad minute"
where everybody flipped her on automatic
and unloaded clips for a minute or a little longer.
One bunker was going ape with machine gun tracers,
"Who the hell is that?"

asked one of our guys to his buddies.
"It's Sarge," one answered, "he's all messed up
on pot and whiskey."

Another answered in the dark,
"he's been just hooking tracer rounds together
and just shooting tracer rounds."

On the LZ that night, the celebrating went on
until everybody was calling it good,
except for Sarge with the machinegun's
noise and tracer rounds.

Finally, someone said,
"Look, a couple of us better go down there
and tell Sarge to quit.

Two walked down there
and after a while, Sarge stopped.

A little girl was hugging her daddy's leg
and looking up to the Starry black sky.

Then a firework burst like a star
and wiggly red travelled down
like an umbrella, then a blue star burst
and a wiggly blue umbrella fell
and a white star boomed
with a big thumping boom
that shook the air
and all the children would go
"Ooh" and "Aah."

Sarge stood in the crowd and watched
as all the parents became little children too
and began to "Ooh" and "Aah"
and point with their fingers
while holding their little ones.

Old Sarge wondered what day
charlie picked as their Independence Day.
Then he realized he had been shooting
at God that 4th in Vietnam
under the Southern Cross
and feelings rose from the heart of his chest
flowing up into the emotions in his head,
his eye's watering up.

After all these years,

the war still bothered him
and he didn't know why.

MORE:

July 4 Special #2

**“If I Were An American, As I Am An
Englishman, While A Foreign Troop
Was Landed In My Country, I Never
Would Lay Down My Arms — Never
— Never — Never”**

November 18, 1777: William Pitt, Earl of Chatham; Spoken in the House of Lords,
London, England

My lords, this ruinous and ignominious situation, where we can not act with
success, nor suffer with honor, calls upon us to remonstrate in the strongest and
loudest language of truth, to rescue the ear of majesty from the delusions which
surround it.

The desperate state of our arms abroad is in part known.

No man thinks more highly of them than I do. I love and honor the English troops.
I know their virtues and their valor.

I know they can achieve any thing except impossibilities; and I know that the
conquest of English America is an impossibility.

You can not, I venture to say it, you can not conquer America.

Your armies in the last war effected every thing that could be effected; and what was it?
It cost a numerous army, under the command of a most able general (Lord Amherst),
now a noble lord in this House, a long and laborious campaign, to expel five thousand
Frenchmen from French America.

My lords, you can not conquer America.

What is your present situation there?

We do not know the worst; but we know that in three campaigns we have done nothing
and suffered much.

Besides the sufferings, perhaps total loss of the Northern force, the best appointed army that ever took the field, commanded by Sir William Howe, has retired from the American lines.

As to conquest, therefore, my lords, I repeat, it is impossible.

You may swell every expense and every effort still more extravagantly; pile and accumulate every assistance you can buy or borrow; traffic and barter with every little pitiful German prince that sells and sends his subjects to the shambles of a foreign prince; your efforts are for ever vain and impotent—doubly so from this mercenary aid on which you rely; for it irritates, to an incurable resentment, the minds of your enemies, to overrun them with the mercenary sons of rapine and plunder, devoting them and their possessions to the rapacity of hireling cruelty!

If I were an American, as I am an Englishman, while a foreign troop was landed in my country, I never would lay down my arms — never — never — never.

**Declared Bill Ehrhart, a marine in Vietnam:
“In grade school we learned about the redcoats, the nasty British soldiers that tried to stifle our freedom.... Subconsciously, but not very subconsciously, I began increasingly to have the feeling that I was a redcoat. I think it was one of the most staggering realizations of my life.”**

**“If New England was occupied by Canadians, I’d still want ‘em to leave.”
On how Iraqis feel about 130,000 American troops in their midst: From 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry, 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, based in northwest Baghdad: Quoted by Mike Tharp, July 03, 2009, Baghdad Observer**

MORE:

July 4 Special #3 Poem For The 4th Of July: America, America

July 04, 2007 Via Phil G

Saadi Youssef is a well-known Iraqi poet, an expatriate living in London. The translator is Khaled Mattawa, poet, president of RAWI, and professor at University of Michigan. The poem was sent to me by D. H. Melhem.

Poem For The 4th Of July: America, America

by Saadi Youssef

I too love jeans and jazz and Treasure Island
and John Silver's parrot and the balconies of New Orleans.
I love Mark Twain and the Mississippi steamboats and Abraham Lincoln's dogs.
I love the fields of wheat and corn and the smell of Virginia tobacco.
But I am not American.

Is that enough for the Phantom pilot to turn me back to the stone age?

America:
let's exchange gifts. Take your smuggled cigarettes
and give us potatoes.
Take James Bond's golden pistol
and give us Marilyn Monroe's giggle.
Take the heroin syringe under the tree
and give us vaccines.
Take your blueprints for model penitentiaries
and give us village homes.
Take the books of your missionaries
and give us paper for poems to defame you.
Take what you do not have
and give us what we have.
Take the stripes of your flag
and give us the stars.
Take the Afghani Mujahideen beard
and give us Walt Whitman's beard filled with butterflies.
Take Saddam Hussein
and give us Abraham Lincoln
or give us no one.

We are not hostages, America
and your soldiers are not God's soldiers ...
We are the poor ones, ours is the earth of the drowned gods,

the gods of bulls
the gods of fires
the gods of sorrows that intertwine clay and
blood in a song...
We are the poor, ours is the god of the poor
who emerges out of farmers' ribs
hungry
and bright,
and raises heads up high...

America, we are the dead.
Let your soldiers come.
Whoever kills a man, let him resurrect him.

We are the drowned ones, dear lady.
We are the drowned.
Let the water come.

(translated from the Arabic by Khaled Mattawa)

MORE:

July 4 Special

#4

1776 And Right Here, Right Now

July 4, 1776 [Excerpt]

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.

But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.

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

El Paso Soldier Is Killed By Bomb In Iraq

06/16/2011 By Aaron Bracamontes \ El Paso Times

An El Paso soldier stationed at Fort Hood was killed Monday by a homemade bomb in Iraq.

Staff Sgt. Nicholas Bellard, 26, and Sgt. Glenn M. Sewell, 23, died in Wasit Province after the bomb exploded near their unit.

Bellard was described by family members as an intelligent and devoted soldier.

The soldiers were assigned to the 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division out of Fort Hood.

Bellard was the 21st El Paso soldier killed since the war on terror began in 2001.

His aunt Susan Ohlenforst, of Rayne, La., said Bellard grew up in Crowley, La., but moved to El Paso with his mother and three brothers when he was 13.

“He was so honest,” she said. “Such a positive, little humble man.”

Ohlenforst did not know which high school Bellard attended in El Paso, but she said he met his wife, Veronica, while he lived here. He lived in Killeen with his wife and 2-year-old daughter, Eva, Ohlenforst said.

“Nicholas was a thinker,” Ohlenforst said. “A man of very few words but very intelligent.”

Bellard enlisted in the Army nine years ago to support his wife and quickly fell in love with his job.

“He wanted a steady job that would help him put his wife through school,”

Ohlenforst said. “Once he enlisted, he realized that it was what he wanted to do.”

Bellard was the second oldest of four brothers and was the backbone of the family, Ohlenforst said.

“Nicholas kept his brothers together,” she said.

The family of Bellard’s wife is from El Paso, but his mother and brothers no longer live here.

Ohlenforst said the news of his death has been difficult for anyone who knew Bellard.

“You never think it’s going to happen to your family,” she said. “Nothing can take the pain away except time and prayer.”

His body is being transported to Delaware and will be flown to San Antonio, where he will be buried.

Bellard is being buried in San Antonio “so his daughter can grow up next to him,” Ohlenforst said.

Bellard frequently visited both of his hometowns, Crowley and El Paso. Some of Ohlenforst's fondest memories were of Bellard's homecoming parties in Crowley.

"Now he is having his homecoming with the Lord," Ohlenforst said. "We have to stay strong for that little girl and his wife."

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Marine From Visalia Killed In Afghanistan



Jared Verbeek

Jun. 23, 2011 Visalia Times Delta

A Marine from Visalia is the latest casualty in the war in Afghanistan.

Family members of Lance Cpl. Jared C. Verbeek, 22, a 2007 Mt. Whitney High School graduate and married father of an 18-month-old son, died from injuries sustained from an improvised explosive device.

A Defense Department news release states only that Verbeek was involved in combat operations Tuesday in Helmand province in the southwest part of the country.

His cousin by marriage, Joshua Wallace of Visalia, said that from what the family has been told, Verbeek was a member of the Corps' military police involved in training Afghani law enforcement.

He said the family didn't know the nature of the patrol he was on or if he or somebody else stepped on the IED. Wallace added that the Marines wouldn't disclose whether anybody else was injured.

"He was evacuated to a safe zone, and at that point, he succumbed" to his wounds, Wallace said.

Verbeek's parents, Travis and Rosalia Verbeek, were notified Tuesday morning, local time, of his death by a pair of Marines and a Navy chaplain who showed up at their east Visalia home.

Jared's wife, Vanessa, was notified later that morning, Wallace said. She's a 2007 Golden West High School graduate who had moved to her parents' home in Visalia with the couple's son, Jacob, from Camp Pendleton in Southern California, so they wouldn't be alone after Jared deployed in March to Afghanistan.

It was his second deployment, according to officials with the 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton.

Verbeek enlisted in the Marines in September 2007 shortly after graduating from high school. Family members said joining the Corps was a goal since he was a little boy.

"He comes from four generations of service members," said his aunt, Marilu Sisto, of San Jose.

She and Wallace recounted a family story of how Jared would dress in his father's fatigues and combat boots as a boy, when the elder Verbeek was a Marine stationed at Camp Pendleton.

They said Jared asked his mother to shrink one of his father's T-shirts so he could decorate it with ribbons to simulate medals and stripes and wear it.

Wallace said an officer stopped 7-year-old Jared in the outfit and asked playfully if he was a sergeant.

"He said, 'No sir, I'm a general,' " and received a salute from the officer, Wallace said.

Jared had two older sisters. Sisto said other family members declined to be interviewed.

Wallace said the last time the family saw Jared was just before he deployed in March and if he was concerned for his safety in such a dangerous part of the world, he didn't let on about it.

"Jared was really private, and he never, ever, would have said anything like that," he said.

But his mother didn't hide her worry, Sisto said, noting that her sister urged Jared not to join the Marines in the first place.

"But he had it in his head this was something he had to do," Wallace said.

And Rosalia Verbeek was particularly scared that she might lose her son if he deployed to Afghanistan, Sisto said. "He said, 'Mom, it's always going to be somebody's son. Why not me?' "

She said that since Jared deployed, her sister rarely left home, so as not to miss any calls or online MySpace postings from Jared.

Sisto said Jared posted a note of congratulations on her daughter's Facebook account when she graduated high school, and on Father's Day, he was on the phone with his wife planning a cruise with her and their son after his deployment, which was scheduled to end in October.

Still, Rosalia Verbeek worried.

In fact, Sisto said, her sister told her earlier this week that she knew something was wrong with Jared.

"She just knew," well before being notified her son had died, Sisto said.

Repeating her sister's words after learning of the death, Sisto said, "I hope that this country appreciates my son's sacrifice."

"The Marines and sailors of the 1st Marine Division mourn the loss of Lance Cpl. Verbeek. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family," division officials stated in a news release.

Verbeek's service awards include the Purple Heart, the Combat Action Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal and the Afghanistan Campaign Medal.

Wallace said Verbeek has been nominated posthumously for another Purple Heart.

His body is scheduled to be flown this evening to the military aerial port mortuary at Dover Air Force Base, Del., to be processed and prepared prior to being flown home. Sisto said some members of the family planned to fly to Dover today to view Jared's remains and accompany him on the flight west.

The body should be flown within a couple of days to Lemoore Naval Air Station and turned over to a local mortuary, Sisto said. She added that family members hadn't yet made funeral arrangements.

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

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

REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: ALL HOME NOW



A Marine, left, holds onto the gunshot wound in his belly as he runs toward a medevac helicopter from the 1-214 Aviation Regiment outside Sangin, Helmand Province, Afghanistan, June 11, 2011. The Army's 'Dust Off' crew needed two attempts to get him out, as they were fired upon and took five rounds of bullets into the tail of their aircraft. (AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus)



A Marine, left, holds onto the gunshot wound in his belly runs to a medevac helicopter from the 1-214 Aviation Regiment after he got shot in the stomach outside Sangin, Helmand Province, Afghanistan, June 11, 2011. The Army's 'Dust Off' crew needed two attempts to get him out, as they were fired upon and took five rounds of bullets into the tail of their aircraft. (AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus)



A U.S. Marine, 3rd Marines pokes at the ground to find IEDs during a patrol outside Camp Gorgak, Helmand province, Afghanistan, June 30, 2011. REUTERS/Shamil Zhumatov

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Traveling Soldier is the publication of the Military Resistance Organization.

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

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

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

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

MILITARY NEWS

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



A Marine is taken onto a medevac helicopter from the US Army's 1-214 Aviation Regiment after suffering shrapnel wounds to his head, outside Sangin, Helmand Province, Afghanistan, June 12, 2011. (AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus)

Afghanistan Veterans Against The War Response To Obama's "Withdrawal"

**"Another Drop Of Blood And
Another Wasted Dollar On The
War On Terror Only Delays The
Rebuilding Of America"**

**“The Arab Spring Is Removing Many
Of The Autocratic Dictators That The
U.S. Has Supported Under The Guise
Of Spreading Democracy And
Securing The World”
Ordinary People Around The World Are
“Throwing Off The Yokes Of Imperialism
And Dictatorship”**



2011-06-27 By Brock McIntosh, Co-founder of Afghanistan Veterans Against the War Committee, Posted at www.ivaw.org/

Last Wednesday night, President Obama announced what has been most accurately described as a “surge reversal”; to call it a “withdrawal” is somewhat misleading.

Roughly 10,000 troops will be removed from Afghanistan this year while another roughly 20,000 will be withdrawn by the end of summer 2012, reducing troop levels to the pre-surge levels of autumn 2009: 70,000 soldiers. This number is still greater than the number of soldiers who were deployed in Afghanistan when President Obama first took office in January, 2009.

A vestige of triumph lay at the background of the speech.

The President declared:

“Al Qaeda is under more pressure than at any time since 9/11... Together with the Pakistanis, we have taken out more than half of al Qaeda’s leadership. And thanks to our intelligence professionals and Special Forces, we killed Osama bin Laden, the only leader that al Qaeda had ever known. This was a victory for all who have served since 9/11.”

President Obama conceded that it was intelligence professionals and Special Operations Forces that led us to Osama bin Laden, and not the occupation of Afghanistan, which may have hindered that end.

It was a half-truth to give credit to the Pakistanis in helping with the operation, as evidence that the Government of Pakistan harbored Islamic extremists continues to surface. Although it has publicly attacked such groups in the past, the Pakistani government was not informed of the operation that ultimately killed bin Laden, so it was indeed a breach of sovereignty.

It was also highly misleading to call Osama bin Laden the “only leader that al Qaeda had ever known.”

This statement was merely a justification to the American public that the hundreds of thousands of deaths and trillions of dollars that led to bin Laden’s death were worth it.

Although politically referred to as a cult-like terrorist organization, experts recognize the group as an insurgent organization with multiple leaders and back-up plans for setbacks like this.

There was one setback, however, that al Qaeda was not prepared for: the so-called Arab Spring.

The nonviolent, secular revolutions that have erupted across the Muslim World may be a force more powerful than the War on Terror to effectively end al Qaeda – a group that had previously grown and collected strategic victories because of American hegemony and militarization in the region.

The Arab Spring is removing many of the autocratic dictators that the U.S. has supported under the guise of spreading democracy and securing the world.

It was this relationship between the United States and the Muslim world that al Qaeda referenced as justification for September 11.

Afghanistan Veterans Against the War, a new committee of IVAW reflecting the recent addition of Afghanistan to our mission and Points of Unity, agrees with President Obama that it is time to focus on nation building here at home.

Another drop of blood and another wasted dollar on the War on Terror only delays the rebuilding of America and the nation building to be done autonomously by the ordinary people around the world throwing off the yokes of imperialism and dictatorship.

The Winner Of The Shit-Eating Filth Award For 2011, So Far:

GA Homeowners Association Says “Sorry, Disabled Veteran, You Can’t Have A House”

“A Group Of Assholes Known As The Knob Hill Property Owners Association Of Augusta Didn’t Want Sean Gittens, Wounded Warrior, Living Next Door”

[Thanks to Clancy Sigal, who sent this in.]

Jul 1st, 2011 By Steven D, from Booman Tribune

Imagine you served your country as an Army sergeant who served two tours of duty in Iraq.

Imagine that during that second tour in 2008 an IED device exploded, causing you to sustain lifelong disabilities: paralysis on your right side and the inability to speak brought about by a stroke tied to the injuries from the blast.

Imagine that a non-profit charity dedicated to providing homes to wounded and disabled veterans offered to build you a 2,785 square foot home, free and clear, with all the amenities needed to make your life better.

A home where your family could take care of you. A home that would be built in a nice neighborhood in a suburb of Augusta, Georgia. Imagine your family moved to that suburb and rented a home while they waited for your new home to be built.

You even started sending your children to the local schools. Life was looking up.

Now imagine your worst nightmare: the local homeowners association (HOA) of the subdivision where your home was to be built decided it didn’t want you there and did everything in its power to keep you out.

Now stop imagining, because this is the true story of former Army Sgt. 1st Class Sean Gittens and a group of assholes known as the Knob Hill Property Owners Association of Augusta who didn’t want Sean Gittens, wounded warrior, living next door:

Homes for Our Troops formally announced at a press conference today they would not build a home for paralyzed veteran Sean Gittens at the Knob Hill subdivision in Evans.
(...)

Homes for Our Troops has built homes free of charge for over 100 severely disabled veterans nationwide. (President of Homes for our Troops, John Gonsalves) said it's the first time a build has been blocked by a homeowners association.

What was the excuse given by the homeowners who spent so much time and effort keeping Sgt. Gittens from having a home built for him by this laudable charity? Well that depends.

Their excuses were flimsy at best.

Let's go through the list shall we?

The paperwork excuse:

Construction was to begin on Friday, but Gonsalves said the homeowners association at the last minute filed a cease-and-desist order on the project, claiming that he had failed to file all the necessary paperwork.

"This could have been a done deal had they just gotten us the paperwork," said Rick Trump, president of the Knob Hill Homeowners Association, during a phone interview. "Who's really to blame here? Is it that we blocked them or that they're disorganized and don't have everything they need?"

The "This will lower our property values" excuse:

The association had blocked construction of the Gittens home after months of negotiations because it believed the house would lower neighboring property values. [...]

Sharon Gittens, Sean's wife, told news media Monday the family decided not to stay in Knob Hill because they did not feel they would be welcome.

A claim disputed, by the way by one prominent real estate expert:

In reality, though, the HOA needn't have worried, according to New York appraiser Alice Palmisano.

The claim that smaller houses drag down neighboring property values is unfounded, she said.

"It usually works the other way around, where the smaller house typically sees a boost in home value," but there's no evidence that smaller homes hurt the value of larger ones. Given the special nature of the home, it wouldn't even be used as the basis for a "comparable property," she said.

"Just because a custom home is built for a handicapped person does not mean that home can't sell to a conventional buyer," she added. "And considering the circumstances, it sounds kind of mean-spirited."

Or maybe the "They aren't our kind of people" excuse:

For Gittens' wife, Sharon, the message conveyed has been less hospitable.

“They just don’t want us here,” she said during a phone interview. Gittens moved to Knob Hill with her husband and children last year and has been renting an apartment in the development. Her husband’s military career began in 1988 with a tour of duty in Kuwait during Desert Storm and ended in 2010 when he was forced to take medical retirement.

She says that she doesn’t accept HOA members’ claims that their new home is too small for the area, as there are other properties in the development that are even smaller. She took particular umbrage to the association’s request that they add a second floor to the home.

“My husband doesn’t need that. He’s wheelchair bound,” she said.

Here’s a picture of Sgt 1st class Gittens (ret.) by the way:



The press conference held by Homes for Our Troops President, John Gonsalves, and the Gittens’ family, which announced their reluctant decision to end their fight to build a home in the Knob Hill subdivision, was not attended by any member of the Knob Hill Home Owners Association. Its president, Rick Trump, did however send his “regrets” by email.

To which all I can add is:

“You effing bastards!”

This man served your country, fought in the wars to which he was sent by George Bush, wars no doubt you supported.

Maybe you even had one of those “Support the Troops” magnetic ribbons attached to your fat ass SUV’s Fighting over there.

Well Sgt. Gittens suffered immeasurable harm “fighting for your freedoms” and instead of allowing him to live with dignity and honor as your neighbor, you did everything in your power to keep him out of your precious subdivision.

Then not one of you had the decency to show your cowardly faces at the Gittens’ family press conference held because of your relentless opposition to having a wounded veteran live among you.

You people are classless, mean and ugly specimens of whatever type of insect eats bull shit. I deeply regret we live in the same country. May you all rot in hell.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



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

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

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

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

Frederick Douglass, 1852

The Social-Democrats ideal should not be the trade union secretary, but the tribune of the people who is able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression no matter where it appears no matter what stratum or class of the people it affects; who is able to generalize all these manifestations and produce a single picture of police violence and capitalist exploitation; who is able to take advantage of every event, however small, in order to set forth before all his socialist convictions and his democratic demands, in order to clarify for all and everyone the world-historic significance of the struggle for the emancipation of the proletariat.”

-- V. I. Lenin; What Is To Be Done

When The Emotional Body Armor Comes Off



Jesse Hamilton Iraq Veteran, testifying at Winter Soldier Investigation in Silver Spring, Maryland, March 2008
Photograph by Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: July 02, 2011
Subject: When The Emotional Body Armor Comes Off

When The Emotional Body Armor Comes Off

Prophets are not those who speak of piety and duty from pulpits--there are few people in pulpits worth listening to. The prophets are the battered wrecks of men and women who return from war and find the courage to speak the halting words we do not want to hear, words we must hear and digest in order to know ourselves. These veterans, the ones who dare to tell the truth, have seen and tasted how war plunges us into barbarity, perversion, pain, and an unchecked orgy of death. And it is their testimonies, if we take the time to listen, which alone can save us.

**Chris Hedges
A Culture of Atrocity
Essay published on Truthdig
June 18, 2007**

In 1980, and 1994, I found myself in a psychiatric hospital, trying desperately to calm myself down from panic attacks. My belief system had been destroyed by 25 years of constant betrayal attacks. I had become a lost soul in a society that was always trying to get me acclimated back to being obedient. PTSD is a disease of obedience, and I was not willing to put that electronic collar back on. Once you see this truth, the pathway to freedom is unimaginable.

**Mike Hastie
Army medic Vietnam
July 2, 2011**

Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: (hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

**Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004**

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



CLASS WAR REPORTS



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.

“Demonstrators Across Syria Pressed Their Demands For Regime Change Friday In What Some Observers Called The Country’s Biggest Protests Here Yet”

“Daily Antigovernment Protests Increased This Week And Friday’s Demonstrations Drew Crowds That Some Activists Estimated To Number A Half-Million”

“Protesters Poured Out In Several Areas Of Syria’s Second City, Aleppo, A Commercial Hub That Has So Far Been Relatively Quiet”

The Assad Dictatorship Admits That It Has Lost Control Of Some Areas Of The Country: “Hama, For Example, Claims It Is A ‘Liberated City’”



Over 300,000 people have gathered in Hama to demonstrate against President Bashar al-Assad's current regime.

JULY 2, 2011 Wall St. Journal & July 1 TheJournal.ie [Excerpts]

DAMASCUS—Demonstrators across Syria pressed their demands for regime change Friday in what some observers called the country's biggest protests here yet.

Video footage of the protests appears to back up activists' claims that today's protests are the biggest in Syria since the unrest began 15 weeks ago.

Civilian videos and photographs emerging from Hama, Idlib and Latakia today seems to be the most verifiable yet.

This one from Hama, where activists claim over 300,000 people have turned out, shows a purple sign which reads, “Long live a free Syria. Fall down Bashar”.

At least 24 people were killed Friday, human-rights monitors said.

Violence continued as President Bashar al-Assad confronts not only mounting public anger but also a growing lawlessness across Syria — ranging from the vigilante groups and Assad supporters who have mounted deadly reprisals on protesters, to a wave of petty crime, uncollected garbage and unauthorized construction.

In three and a half months of Syrian protests, demonstrators have so far failed to reach their goal of ending Mr. Assad's rule. But some observers say the examples of disorder unleashed by protesters' actions — including the government's use of non-state actors to quash dissent — is eroding the state authority that has been a cornerstone of the legitimacy of the Assad regime, which has long portrayed itself as a guarantor of calm in a country of mixed ethnicities and religions.

“The longer the protesters continue to defy the regime and its security forces, the more scope there will be for general lawlessness,” said a senior Western diplomat in Damascus. “This could undermine the regime which has consistently trumpeted its ability to provide stability.”

Daily antigovernment protests increased this week and Friday's demonstrations on the day of prayer drew crowds that some activists estimated to number a half-million.

Such numbers aren't possible to verify, but diplomats also estimated the turnouts to have been among the country's largest thus far.

Huge protests were held in Hama and Deir Ezzor, and in areas of Damascus and other large Syrian cities.

On both Thursday and Friday—dubbed the “Friday of Departure” — protesters poured out in several areas of Syria's second city, Aleppo, a commercial hub that has so far been relatively quiet.

Activists, who say discontent with the regime is widespread there but that residents have been too scared to take to the streets, called for a “volcano” of protesters there to jumpstart its uprising.

Videos posted on a central activist Facebook page showed protesters in Homs holding red cards calling for Mr. Assad to go and shouting, “the people want to topple the regime.” Residents and activists reported widespread tear gas and gunfire.

In Hama, where Syrian army and security forces pulled out two weeks ago, posters of Mr. Assad have been torn down and even traffic police are gone, residents say.

The army continues to sweep villages in the northwestern province of Idlib, where activists and rights groups say 10 people were killed Wednesday and detentions are continuing.

The Syrian government has attempted to regain support in recent days by inviting in some foreign journalists and allowing a group of opposition intellectuals to meet.

Journalists have written that they are accompanied by minders and several attendees of the conference have said they were subsequently threatened.

Most of Syria's fragmented opposition has said they will refuse to attend a national dialogue on July 10, suggesting more violence may lay ahead.

At least 1,400 civilians, and more than 300 soldiers and security forces, have been killed in protests that started in mid-March, according to human-rights groups.

A significant constituency in Damascus and Aleppo have remained loyal to Mr. Assad—primarily for the social, economic and political stability his regime has brought.

But Damascus has seen an increase in petty crimes and scofflaws as government forces are busy elsewhere or reluctant to annoy the population, some Syrians believe.

By day and at night, vendors with racks of clothes, shoes and purses litter the pavements of Hamra street in central Damascus, where three months ago they would have been chased off by police.

Residents of Damascus's Old City complain of instances where litter hasn't been picked up, with street cleaners absent on certain days.

In the outskirts of Damascus, Homs and elsewhere, homeowners have taken advantage of the unrest to build without necessary government approval.

"I've been adding a wall around my house although the bricks have tripled in price and builders are demanding a higher wage," says one old-city trader in Damascus.

"It's so much faster when you don't need to get permission."

Faced with a relentless military crackdown on protest hotspots, street protesters have widely adopted civil disobedience as a new tool of activism. This is catching on with non-protesters, too.

Residents of Douma, close to Damascus, issued a statement saying they wouldn't pay bills for publicly supplied electricity and water as part of a civil-disobedience campaign.

But one non-protester in Damascus said he doesn't pay, either. "Officials are probably too busy to bother tracking me down," he said.

Some citizens in Homs say they have started to buy weapons in case they need to protect themselves. The cheapest guns on the black market now go for about \$800, up from about \$400 a few months ago, according to Syrians and reports from Lebanese weapons sellers.

While the majority of protests are peaceful, in the town of Tel Kalakh close to the Lebanese border, residents admit to fighting government forces with weapons smuggled in from Lebanon.

Both guns and rocket-propelled grenades were used against tanks after the army moved in in May, according to residents and diplomats in Damascus.

Reports have emerged from other cities, too, of frustrated protesters killing security forces.

The government hasn't commented on the growing petty crime but it has acknowledged that it has at points lost control of some areas of the country, as Hama, for example, claims it is a "liberated city."

On June 6, a senior Syrian official said that the military had "intermittently" lost control of areas around Jisr al-Shughour, a northwestern city where an army assault caused thousands of refugees to flee to Turkey.

Another fear is that the government's forces, as well as civilians who have cracked down on dissent on the state's behalf, could start to act of their own accord.

Videos and testimonies have repeatedly highlighted plainclothed people described by protesters, activists and Syria experts as thugs paid by or loyal to the regime working alongside the army and security forces in cities including Latakia, Baniyas, Homs and Damascus.

The most notorious is the "shabiha," a gang of smugglers from the coastal area, many of whom belong to the Assad clan, according to locals and diplomats.

MORE:

The Rancid Weasel Kucinich Takes The Side Of Syria's Mass-Murdering Dictator: "President Al-Assad Is Highly Loved And Appreciated By The Syrians,' Said Kucinich"

Jun 28, 2011 SANA

DAMASCUS

U.S. Congressman Dennis Kucinich called on international media not to engage in exaggerating the events in Syria and jumping to conclusions without talking to people and listening to what they want.

The U.S. Congressman described what is taking place in terms of the meetings of opposition and independent figures who are expressing themselves and their views openly and freely as “a largely positive progress”, saying “President Bashar al-Assad cares so much about what is taking place in Syria, which is evident in his effort towards a new Syria and everybody who meets him can be certain of this.”

“President al-Assad is highly loved and appreciated by the Syrians,” said Kucinich, voicing his belief that people in Syria are seeking a real change which is up to them.

“At Least 20,000 Polish Protesters Marched Through Warsaw Yesterday Demanding Higher Wages And Social Benefits”

“The Demonstrators Carried Banners And Shouted ‘Thieves, Thieves’ Among Other Slogans As They Passed By The Parliament Building”

July 1, 2011 Reuters & Jun 30, 2011 Deutsche Presse Agentur

WARSAW – At least 20,000 Polish protesters marched through Warsaw yesterday demanding higher wages and social benefits, a day before Poland assumes the rotating presidency of the European Union.

The demonstrators carried banners and shouted “thieves, thieves” among other slogans as they passed by the parliament building, where they set fire to a pile of plastic chairs, and in front of the offices of prime minister Donald Tusk.

Like other European nations, Poland, which faces an election in October, is fighting increased unemployment and a large budget deficit, even though it was the only EU country to avoid recession during the global financial crisis.

“We came here for higher wages, for better work conditions in our factory and to be treated better than we have been treated so far,” said one of the protesters, who declined to be named.

Union officials put the turnout at about 80,000 people, although local media estimated the figure at about 20,000.

Union members called on the government of Prime Minister Donald Tusk to raise the minimum monthly wage from the current 1,380 zloty (501 dollars) to some 1,650 zloty.

They also called for lowering the excise duty on fuel and increasing the number of people eligible for welfare benefits.

The protesters waved flags bearing the red Solidarity logo, and signs with pictures of Tusk with a long Pinocchio nose saying, 'stop lying.'



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