

## **Military Resistance 9H1**

# **Syrian Soldiers Join The Fight Against The Tyrant Assad**



Army defectors who have joined the fight against the Assad dictatorship stand atop a tank as a resident gestures in Hama in this still image taken from video July 31, 2011. REUTERS/YouTube via Reuters TV

## **ACTION REPORTS**

**“The Next Day We Accompanied  
Several Members Of The PPPJC To  
Ft. Carson To Do Outreach”**

**“Together We Got Twelve Active Duty  
Contacts And For The Folks In Colorado**

# **Springs/Denver, The Confidence To Try It Again!”**

07/27/11 by Aaron Hughes, Operation Recovery, Iraq Veterans Against The War  
[www.ivaw.org/]

Our stop at the Gill Foundation, organized by the Colorado Springs Pikes Peak Peace and Justice Commission was a great chance to share more of our strategy and organizing tradition.

A question from an audience member about how to do the work of Operation Recovery in “an air force town” enabled IVAW members to discuss the impact of military service no matter whether one sees “on-the-ground combat” or not.

Issues of Military Sexual Trauma, for instance have an impact on all service members, and right in Colorado Springs the Air Force Academy has the highest rate of sexual assaults of any university. We shared our organizing model and tradition.

**The next day we accompanied several members of the PPPJC to Ft. Carson to do outreach, shared our technique doing outreach at Ft. Hood, hopefully planting the seeds for regular outreach efforts to start at Ft. Carson.**

**Together we got twelve active duty contacts and for the folks in Colorado Springs/Denver, the confidence to try it again!**

One member of the PPPJC said “It sure is easier to hold a sign than talk to people, but this is what we need to be doing.”

---

## **Outreach To New York National Guard 7.30.11**

From: Alan S  
To: Military Resistance Newsletter  
Sent: August 01, 2011  
Subject: Outreach To New York National Guard 7.30.11

As planned Military Resistance Organization organized an outreach to the [XXXX] Armory again – we’ve been doing it for approximately 10 years now – Saturday morning at a slightly later time of 6:45am. This gathering hour could have been an error as will be explained a bit later.

We’d been told upwards of 200 troops would assemble and although no one counted it seemed like a lot were assembling.

Our distribution count was 91 lit packets (Traveling Soldier [see below], F. Bouthilette’s letter to troops, GI Rights Pamphlet and the intro card of Military Resistance/IVAW [see

*below*), 54 DVDs of “Sir! No Sir!” and 74 snack (cookie) ziplock bags. This is a good amount for any of our efforts.

We seemed to notice many new faces among the troops although there were those that recognized us. One wanted to know where the brownies were! The usual politeness was prevalent as in all or most previous outreaches, many soldiers glad to see us and those turning down the handouts entirely courteous.

The new starting time in question was decided on since we were informed the assembly would be 8am – but that was for only one of the units headquartered at the armory.

There are several operating from there which would explain troops arriving earlier than we had been advised. We aren’t informed of all units’ assembly time so in future (next outreach will be September 8-11) we should return to our standard meeting time of 5:45am in order to access as many soldiers as possible.

Lastly, and with great appreciation (we’ve overlooked this in the past) our thanks to those who made the outreach possible: Al J for baking and Elaine B for copying (alas she’s retiring and we need another source!).

Sally D. who’s baked on many occasions was unable to do so this time but we’ll thank her for past and future considerations.

Alexis B. was there again to help out and a new “recruit” Jim V. enthusiastically participated. Still in all we need more people!

We are entering, apparently, historical times.

Let’s make our mark. Hope to see you in September.

**MORE:**

## **ACTION REPORTS WANTED: FROM YOU!**

**An effective way to encourage others to support members of the armed forces organizing to resist the Imperial war is to report what you do.**

**If you’ve carried out organized contact with troops on active duty, at base gates, airports, or anywhere else, send a report in to Military Resistance for the Action Reports section.**

**Same for contact with National Guard and/or Reserve components.**

**They don’t have to be long. Just clear, and direct action reports about what work was done and how.**

**If there were favorable responses, say so.**

If there were unfavorable responses or problems, don't leave them out. Reporting what went wrong and/or got screwed up is especially important, so that others may learn from you what to expect, and how to avoid similar problems if possible.

If you are not planning or engaging in outreach to the troops, you have nothing to report.

**NOTE WELL:**

Do not make public any information that could compromise the work.

Identifying information – locations, personnel – will be omitted from the reports.

Whether you are serving in the armed forces or not, do not identify members of the armed forces organizing to stop the wars.

If accidentally included, that information will not be published.

The sole exception: occasions when a member of the armed services explicitly directs identifying information be published in reporting on the action.

**MORE:**

**Military Resistance**

Traveling Soldier  
Newsletter



www.traveling-soldier.org

(888) 711-2550  
contact@militaryproject.org  
Box 126, 2576 Broadway New York, NY 10025

**SUPPORTING GI RESISTANCE**

[front]

*If you are a veteran who supports an immediate end to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan -- the Military Project recommends you contact:*

**IRAQ VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR**



**www.IVAW.org**

[back]

[Cards designed by Richie M, Military Resistance Organization]

MORE:

# **NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT THE NEW TRAVELING SOLDIER**

## **Issue 35**

Click here to download and view a PDF of issue 35:

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>

### **FEATURING:**

**“The Pentagon Must Be Shit Worried Knowing These  
Soldiers Have Minds Of Their Own And No Fear In  
Expressing Their Opinions”**

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/7.11.action.php>

### **Afghanistan:**

**“All My Guys Are Hurt. No One Cares”**

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/7.11.afghanistan.php>

**Americans Don't Support The War On Afghanistan:**

**“Lopsided Majority” Says Get Out**

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/7.11.americans.php>

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/>

Traveling Soldier is the publication of the Military Resistance Organization

# **FYI: Traveling Soldier Is Published By The Military Resistance Organization:**

## **Military Resistance Mission Statement:**

1. The mission of Military Resistance is to bring together in one organization members of the armed forces and civilians in order to give aid and comfort to members of the armed forces who are organizing to end the wars of empire in Afghanistan and Iraq. The long term objective is to assist in eliminating all wars of empire by eliminating all empires.

2. Military Resistance does not advocate individual disobedience to orders or desertion from the armed forces. The most effective resistance is organized by members of the armed forces working together.

However, Military Resistance respects and will assist in the defense of troops who see individual desertion or refusal of orders as the only course of action open to them for reasons of conscience.

3. Military Resistance stands for the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. and other occupation troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Occupied nations have the right to independence and the right to resist Imperial invasion and occupation by force of arms.

4. Efforts to increase democratic rights in every society, organization, movement, and within the armed forces itself will receive encouragement and support.

Members of the armed forces, whether those of the United States or any other nation, have the right and duty to act against dictatorships commanding their services, and to assist civilian movements against dictatorship.

**This applies whether a political dictatorship is imposed by force of arms or a political dictatorship is imposed by those in command of the resources of society using their wealth to purchase the political leadership.**

**5. Military Resistance uses organizational democracy.**

**This means control of the organization by the membership, through elected delegates to any coordinating bodies that may be formed, whether at local, regional, or national levels.**

**Any member may run for any job in the organization. All persons elected are subject to immediate recall, by majority vote of the membership.**

**Coordinating bodies report their actions, decisions and votes to the membership who elected them, and may be overruled by a majority of the membership.**

**6. It is not necessary for Military Resistance to be in political agreement with other organizations in order to work together towards specific common objectives.**

**It is productive for organizations working together on common projects to discuss differences about the best way forward for the movement.**

**Debate is necessary to arrive at the best course of action.**

## **Membership Requirements:**

**7. It is a condition of membership that each member prioritize and participate in organized action to reach out to active duty armed forces, Reserve and/or National Guard units.**

**8. Military Resistance or individual members may choose to support candidates for elective office who are for immediate withdrawal from Iraq and Afghanistan, but do not support a candidate opposed to immediate, unconditional withdrawal.**

**9. Members may not be active duty or drilling reserve commissioned officers, or employed in any capacity by any police or intelligence agency, local, state, or national.**

**10. I understand and am in agreement with the above statement. I pledge to defend my brothers and sisters, and the democratic rights of the citizens of the United States, against all enemies, foreign and domestic.**

-----**(Signed)**

**(Date)**

----- (Application taken by)

Military Resistance: Contact@militaryproject.org  
Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657  
888-711-2550

**MORE**

**You Can Take Action That Makes  
A Difference:  
Join The Military Resistance  
Organization:  
MILITARY RESISTANCE MEMBERSHIP  
APPLICATION**

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Armed Forces? (Branch) \_\_\_\_\_

Veteran? Years: \_\_\_\_\_

Union: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Landline): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Cell): \_\_\_\_\_

\$ dues paid \_\_\_\_\_  
(See next: Calendar year basis.)

Armed Forces Members	@	Dues waived
Civilians	@	\$25
Students/Unemployed	@	\$10
Civilian/Military Prisoners	@	Dues Waived

Comments:



NOTE: Civilian applicants will be interviewed, in person if possible, or by phone.

**Military Resistance: [Contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:Contact@militaryproject.org)  
Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657  
888-711-2550**

**“The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops.”  
Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War**

## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Spc. Frank R. Gross From Oldsmar Killed In Afghanistan**

July 18, 2011 By David DeCamp, Times Staff Writer

OLDSMAR — Spc. Frank R. Gross lived a lot of dreams, all of them his.

He knocked a home run at the Baseball Hall of Fame before he was a teenager.

He left that pursuit in college to follow another dream, earning degrees to become a Web designer and artist in the business world.

He died Saturday amid another one — as a soldier for his country less than a month after he was deployed.

Gross, 25, of Oldsmar, was killed in Khost province in Afghanistan after an improvised explosive device caused his vehicle to roll over, the U.S. Department of Defense announced Sunday in a statement.

Gross had enlisted in May 2010, a military spokesman said. He was part of the 2nd Battalion, 38th Cavalry Regiment, 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, out of Fort Hood, Texas.

"This young man always strove to do his best at whatever he did," his mother, Antonia, said in a phone interview Sunday from Dover Air Force Base in Delaware. "When I wanted him to do something, I never had to ask him to do something twice."

She was at the base Sunday with Gross' father, Craig, awaiting the arrival of their son's casket.

He was deployed June 28, his mother said. She last spoke to him over Skype a week ago, when he told her he was thankful for the air conditioning there. He even said he appreciated the food.

Joining the Army wasn't all about dreams. After graduating from Full Sail University near Orlando, Gross had student loans to pay off. He decided the Army would give him the chance at decent pay and advancement, his mother said. Both his parents come from military families, she said.

So he set about being a soldier, earning recognition for marksmanship, his mother said.

He was born in Virginia, moving with his family — his sister Natalie is 28 — to Florida. A neighbor, Stanley Kwiatkowski, remembered Gross as an athletic teen. He sometimes worked out two or three times a day, said Kwiatkowski, who called Gross "a credit to his family."

In 1999, at age 13, he played with his hero, Cal Ripken Jr., at a baseball camp in St. Petersburg. Ripken pitched to him, a thrill.

In 1998, he hit a home run at Dreams Park, the ballfield at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y., as part of a Florida team playing there for a week.

"We lived, ate and drank baseball," he wrote in an account then for the St. Petersburg Times.

Home-schooled until the eighth grade, Gross became a pitcher at Indian Rocks Christian High, his mother said. It got him a scholarship to play at Trinity International University in Illinois.

But he decided his chances at Major League Baseball were slim, so Gross ultimately tapped his artistic side at Full Sail, his mother said.

He received bachelor's and master's degrees there to begin his business pursuit, receiving perfect attendance honors. He celebrated by skydiving in California.

"This young man, he lived life," his mother said. "He really lived life."

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

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

# Resistance Attacks Lashkar Gah Police Building: 24 Police Killed And Wounded



The entrance of the police headquarters in Lashkar Gah, Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, July 31, 2011. A bomber blew himself up Sunday at the gate. (AP Photo)

7.31.11 Arab Times

Twelve policemen were killed Sunday when a car bomber struck outside police headquarters in the southern Afghan city of Lashkar Gah, officials said.

Twelve Afghan National Police members were killed and 12 other Afghan National Police members were wounded.

In a statement on their website, the Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack in Helmand, one of the most dangerous provinces in Afghanistan and a key focus of the war for international troops.

“A large number of policemen were gathered and a hero of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan struck and exploded his vehicle laden with explosives,” the statement said.

**The attack came as an official said 10 Afghan security guards were killed in central Afghanistan Saturday in an attack on a convoy carrying supplies to international troops.**

---

## **Lucky Seven: Fuel Trucks For Foreign Forces In Afghanistan Blown Up In Pakistan**



A truck, used to carry fuel to foreign forces in Afghanistan, after it was attacked in Khairpur, in Pakistan's Sindh province August 1, 2011. Insurgents attacked and torched seven trucks carrying fuel. REUTERS/Nadeem Soomro

---

## **Foreign Troops Assist Resistance Movement: Wipe Out Afghan Government Police Post**

August 01, 2011 By AFP

An air strike by foreign forces overnight killed four Afghan policemen, a governor in the country's troubled east said on Monday.

The incident happened at a police post in rugged and insurgency-hit Nuristan, the province's governor Jamaluddin Badr said, adding the strike was based on "wrong intelligence".

Badr said foreign forces detained police officers at the post in Wama district after the strike.

"NATO coalition helicopters bombed our police post. Four policemen were killed, two were injured and the remaining 12 police were detained and taken to Bagram," the governor told AFP, referring to the giant international military base near Kabul.

"I don't know who provided them with the wrong intelligence," he added, saying the officers wore police uniforms and an Afghan flag was flying at the post when they were attacked.

---

## **Fertilizer, The Fuel Of IEDs, Keeps Flowing Into Afghanistan: “The Number Of U.S. Troops Killed Or Injured By Improvised Explosive Devices Is On Track To Reach An All-time High This Summer”**

7.25.11 By Andrew Tilghman, Army Times [Excerpts]

**A yearlong effort to get Pakistan to help halt the flow of bomb making materials into Afghanistan — specifically, fertilizer containing calcium ammonium nitrate — has made little progress, military officials and outside experts said.**

The number of U.S. troops killed or injured by improvised explosive devices is on track to reach an all-time high this summer.

As the fighting season geared up in May, IEDs killed 18 U.S. troops and injured 267, almost identical to the number of casualties sustained in May 2010, when IEDs killed 18 and wounded 270.

The Afghan government outlawed the sale of calcium ammonium nitrate in early 2010, but truck-loads continue to stream across the mountainous border with Pakistan, and the fertilizer remains a core component in about 80 percent of homemade bombs encountered by U.S. troops, military officials said.

Last year, U.S. officials began to pressure Pakistan to regulate or limit sales of calcium ammonium nitrate, or CAN. The U.S. military gave the Pakistanis information about specific factories producing CAN, but the Pakistanis have not taken action, military officials said.

Up to 10 percent of the CAN smuggled from Pakistan into Afghanistan is used to build bombs, making the issue a top concern for the new coalition commander in Kabul, Marine Lt. Gen. John Allen. “They’ve got to control this,” Allen said of Pakistan’s fertilizer, during his June 28 confirmation hearing.

“It’s hard to cut off the borders,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Todd Burnett, senior enlisted soldier in the Pentagon’s Joint IED Defeat Organization.

---

## **FUTILE EXERCISE: COME ON HOME, NOW**



U.S. Marines detain a suspected Afghan man during a Western Engagement operation in the Garsmir district of Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, July 7, 2011. REUTERS/Shamil Zhumatov



July 21, 2011: U.S. Marines with the 3rd Battalion 2nd Marines based in Camp Lejeune, N.C., return to their base after a mission to look for insurgents in the village of Siraqula in Helmand province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/David Goldman)...





U.S. Marines with the 2nd Battalion 12th Marines based in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, in the back of a wagon while shuttled back to base after descending from a mountain observation point July 30, 2011 in Kajaki, Helmand province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/David Goldman)...

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

## **SOMALIA WAR REPORTS**

### **Shabaab Said: We Have Killed An American Officer In Mogadishu Battle**

7.31.11 (Mareeg)

Mogadishu - Rebel group of Al-Shabab has Sunday claimed that they have killed an American officer in the latest clashes they had with Somali national army backed by the African union peacekeeping [translation: U.S. government backed occupation] forces in Mogadishu, official said.

Spokesman of Al-shabab for military operations, Sheikh A/asis told reporters that they killed an American officer who was training AU forces in Mogadishu saying he was fighting side by side with Amisom.

Sheikh A/asis told they killed him previous day adding that it was great for victory they gained from the latest battle occurred in the Mogadishu.

Al-Shabab lost key military positions in the latest wars between them and Somali transitional federal government by the African union peacekeeping forces in Mogadishu and it's not known how far their claims to close the fact.

---

## MILITARY NEWS

# **“Banks Illegally Foreclosing On Military Homeowners, Often While They Are Thousands Of Miles From Home And Nearly Helpless To Fight Back”**

7.25.11 Editorial, Army Times [Excerpts]

As if troops don't have enough stress these days, a disturbing new problem has emerged: Banks illegally foreclosing on military homeowners, often while they are thousands of miles from home and nearly helpless to fight back.

There's no way to be sure how big the problem is.

But 6,000 service members were involved in just one recent case of improper foreclosures and other mortgage fee transgressions, which resulted in a \$48 million settlement by JPMorgan Chase.

That settlement came amid a new push from the Justice Department, which said in April that it is investigating JPMorgan Chase, Saxon Mortgage Services and others for allegedly violating homeowners' rights under the Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act.

That campaign may have helped spur a settlement for Army National Guard Sgt. James Hurley, whose home was sold out from under him by Deutsche Bank and Saxon Mortgage while he was deployed to Iraq in 2004.

After stringing out the court case for more than six years, the bank in March settled with Hurley for an undisclosed amount.

**While more enforcement of the law is clearly needed, part of this problem is that many troops don't know their rights under the complex SCRA — and some say the military isn't helping.**



**One soldier told Congress that in his pre-deployment workup, the law was summed up in a “10-second blip” in a PowerPoint briefing and a pamphlet handout.**

Justice Department oversight in this area is as welcome as it is overdue. But enforcement must be coupled with education.

**Troops should be thoroughly briefed on the SCRA at regular intervals — certainly before each deployment — to include making sure they’re aware that they can contact the legal assistance office on any military installation in the world for free help if they run into these kinds of problems.**

---

## **“Why Is It The Army Does Not Listen To The Soldiers In The Field Wearing The Gear?”**

Letters To The Editor  
Army Times  
7.25.11

**Why is the Army willing to spend \$10 million on research that has already been conducted once before?**

Was it not that long ago when the Army sent soldiers to Afghanistan with a specific mission: to test which camouflage patterns worked best?

And the end result was — and what it will always be — is that MultiCam outperformed all other camouflage patterns, hands down.

What is the major disconnect?

The MARPAT is a great pattern, but it is the Marines’ uniform. MultiCam is already in the Army inventory and in use in Afghanistan, with great success. In my opinion, as well as others, the Operation Enduring Freedom Camouflage Pattern (also known as MultiCam) is far superior over all other camouflage patterns.

Why is it the Army does not listen to the soldiers in the field wearing the gear?

Keeping OCP and making it the uniform of choice would solve all the problems, saving the Army time and taxpayers’ money.

Sgt. 1st Class Walter W. Butt  
Indianapolis, Ind.

---

## FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



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

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

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

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

**Frederick Douglass, 1852**

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

**-- Karl Marx, "Theses on Feuerbach"**

## **Blinding Flash Of The Obvious**

July 27, 2011 Socialist Worker Editorial [Excerpt]

Many people are justifiably upset at the Obama administration's compromises, retreats and outright sellouts, and blame the president for being too weak in the face of the Republicans' corporate-funded, Fox News-scripted backlash against even the most modest liberal measures.

But the reality is that Obama's policies are perfectly consistent with the Democrats' long tradition of making promises to their working-class base at election time, but delivering the policies demanded by the bankers, CEOs and Pentagon brass.

Because while the Democrats depend on workers and the poor to turn out to vote, they're just as much a pro-capitalist party as the Republicans.

---

## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

**“A ‘Cement Steel Hotbox’ Is How  
American Indian Movement (AIM)  
Activist Leonard Peltier Describes  
His Conditions”  
“Another Attempt To Break And  
Intimidate Leonard Peltier”**



[[notmytribe.com/solidarity/political-prisoners](http://notmytribe.com/solidarity/political-prisoners)]

July 27, 2011 Elizabeth Schulte, Socialist Worker

A "Cement steel hotbox" is how American Indian Movement (AIM) activist Leonard Peltier describes his conditions in solitary confinement at the U.S. Penitentiary in Lewisburg, Pa., where he was relocated on June 27.

The 66-year-old Peltier has been in prison for more than three decades after his conviction for alleged involvement in the 1975 killing of FBI agents in a shootout on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

Peltier, who maintains his innocence, has since been the target of abuse and mistreatment in prison.

Peltier was moved to Lewisburg--well-known for its harsh restrictions and rough treatment of inmates -- after he was beaten by younger prisoners at Canaan Federal Penitentiary in 2009.

Prison officials transferred him to solitary confinement for two alleged minor infractions.

Peltier's attorney, Robert Bryan, told the Native News Network that he is being punished because "a woman in the UK mailed a silver coin, which was actually delivered to him by prison officials, and a light switch that had been tampered with by a cellmate some time ago."

Peltier, who is supposed to spend six months in solitary, described a lack of ventilation in the extreme summer heat that leaves him "drenched in hot sweat."

He is having difficulty concentrating in conditions his attorney called a "hellhole."

Peltier is allowed just one hour of exercise five days a week in a cage where water isn't allowed. Three days a week, he is allowed to shower. Peltier is not allowed personal visits.

These barbaric conditions can only exacerbate the poor health that Peltier has suffered in prison, including hypertension and diabetes.

Peltier's current situation is the most recent example of decades of despicable treatment of Indian activists at the hands of the U.S. government.

During the 1970s, the federal government launched a campaign against AIM supporters, which included harassment, intimidation and frame-ups of activists, as well as fueling tensions among Indian groups.

**The FBI responded to AIM's takeover of Pine Ridge in 1973 with the utmost brutality, including a 71-day siege to retake the reservation, followed by a three-year reign of terror against AIM activists, in which some 50 were killed and hundreds charged.**

Peltier never received a fair trial after he was arrested following the 1975 shootout with federal agents.

**The judge barred testimony from key witnesses who attempted to recant their testimony, several who said they had been coerced and denied the right to their attorney.**

"I wonder if it would be different if Leonard were not a prominent American Indian activist who keeps fighting after decades of imprisonment. This present situation is greatly exaggerated by the prison officials," asked Peltier attorney Bryan.

"I view this as another attempt to break and intimidate Leonard."

**Supporters of Leonard Peltier are planning a vigil and rally in Lewisburg on August 6 and 7 to call for his release--from solitary confinement and from prison, period.**

**For more information, visit the Leonard Peltier Defense Offense Committee website.**

As Peltier, who continues to organize for human rights from behind bars, urged supporters in a statement in late June:

"(T)his case is about much more than me. If you believe in truth, justice, honor, freedom, all of what is supposed to make America great, then help me open the door to my release. If you believe in Indian sovereignty, join my cause and in doing so help yourself. Take your place in the struggle and do all you can to eradicate injustice.

## **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**

## **Troops Invited:**

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

## CLASS WAR REPORTS

**“Some Of The Biggest Corporations In The World Are Trying To Bust The Union That Has Operated All Major Ports On The West Coast For The Last 70 Years”**

**“Around 100 Members Of Local 21 Arrested For Allegedly Using A Pickup Truck To Tear Down A Chain Link Gate At The EGT Terminal’  
‘600 Local 21 Members And Supporters Participated In A Mass Direct Action To Block The Railroad Tracks Into The Facility, Preventing A Burlington Northern Santa Fe Train From Delivering Grain”**

July 26, 2011 Darrin Hoop, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

LONGVIEW, Wash.--"We're going to fight for our jobs in our jurisdiction. We've worked this dock for 70 years, and to have a big, rich corporation come in and say, 'We don't want you,' is a problem. We're all together. We're all going to jail as a union."

Those were the words of International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 21 President Dan Coffman to a reporter July 11 as he waited to be arrested along with 100 other Local 21 members at the Port of Longview, 130 miles south of Seattle in the southwestern corner of Washington state.

They summarize the sentiments of the 200 members of Local 21, who have escalated a series of militant actions since late May in a two-year battle to force corporate conglomerate EGT Development to honor its contract and use ILWU labor at its new facility.

Last week, those actions forced EGT to delay its operations.

**According to the Longview Daily News, around 6 a.m. on July 22, some 100 members of Local 21, who operate the Ports of Longview and Kalama, set up a picket line outside the EGT gates, blocking some workers from entering the site.**

**In response, EGT indefinitely shut down its facility--which is in its testing phase, with the hope that it will be fully operational by the fall harvest--and suspended grain shipments to it.**

The struggle began when EGT signed a lease with the Port of Longview in June 2009 to build a \$200 million terminal on a 38-acre site. EGT announced it wouldn't use ILWU members to operate the terminal--and that it had made a deal for another union, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 701, to provide longshore workers, in defiance of the ILWU's recognition as the sole representative of longshore workers at West Coast ports.

For two years, a legal battle has ensued that may not be settled until a non-jury trial set for April 2012--but that would be months after the terminal is set to open.

On July 11, according to local police, around 100 members of Local 21, including union leaders like Coffman, were arrested for allegedly using a pickup truck to tear down a chain link gate at the EGT terminal.

Then, on July 13, starting around 11 p.m., over 600 Local 21 members and supporters participated in a mass direct action to block the railroad tracks into the facility, preventing a Burlington Northern Santa Fe train from delivering grain.

After a four-hour standoff, the train had to be rerouted to a terminal in Vancouver, Wash.

Local 21 is up against several nasty corporate giants in this fight--EGT Development is a joint venture of Japan-based Itochu Corp, South Korea's STX Pan Ocean and St. Louis-based Bunge North America. Itochu ranks 201 on Fortune's Global 500 list of the world's largest corporations, and Bunge is number 182.

For over two years, EGT has complained about the extra \$1 million in labor costs it would take to pay for ILWU members, compared to non-union labor. Yet Bunge's profits were just under \$2.5 billion in 2010. Think Archer-Daniels Midland and Cargill to get an idea of Bunge's main competitors.

Disgustingly, the operating engineers union agreed to scab on Local 21 and take longshore jobs at the terminal.

But as the July 22 picket by Local 21 members showed, scabs could literally end up with egg on their face--Longview police alleged eggs were thrown at scab cars.

The importance of this struggle is crystal clear to the ILWU. Some of the biggest corporations in the world are trying to bust the union that has operated all major ports on the West Coast for the last 70 years.

The EGT elevator, which is expected to employ about 50 workers, would be the first built on the West Coast in the last 25 years, so the stakes are high for the ILWU. The union also knows the outcome of this battle is being watched closely by the Pacific Maritime Association, which will negotiate a new coastwide contract in 2014.

With labor nationally facing budget cuts, attacks on collective bargaining rights, and slashed wages, pensions and health care, the outcome of this struggle could affect workers all over the U.S.

**The tactics Local 21 has used--with hundreds of workers blocking railroad tracks and directly confronting scabs provide important lessons for the direction labor will need to go in as Corporate America escalates its current war on U.S. workers.**

---

**“Prisoners On Hunger Strike At California’s Pelican Bay State Prison Called An End To Their Protest After More Than 20 Days Without Food”  
“They Are Overwhelmed By The Support And Solidarity Of Family Members, Community Members, Organizations, And People Across The World Joining Their Fight For Human Rights”**

July 27, 2011 Nicole Colson and Gillian Russom, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

**After promises of reform from state officials, prisoners on hunger strike at California’s Pelican Bay State Prison called an end to their protest after more than 20 days without food.**

On July 22, prisoner solidarity activists reported that inmates at Pelican Bay’s Security Housing Unit (SHU) had accepted an offer of promised changes from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR).

Their hunger strike began on July 1, with some 400 prisoners in Pelican Bay’s SHU putting their lives on the line to protest repressive conditions and near-total isolation that



many have been forced to endure for months--and in some cases, years--inside the units.

The prisoners' five main demands included an end to group punishment; a halt to the "debriefing" policy, and modifying the prison's gang status criteria; better food; expanded programs and privileges for long-term SHU residents; and compliance by the prison with the 2006 recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Safety and Abuse in America's Prisons.

The debriefing policy and gang status criteria was cited as especially repressive. Prisoners are targeted as "gang threats" for no more than possessing left-wing books or newspapers.

Within a week of the beginning of the strike, as many as 6,600 prisoners at Pelican Bay and 11 other California prisons were participating. Although that number decreased over the weeks, more than 1,000 prisoners across the state were reportedly still participating in the hunger strike as of July 18.

On July 16, the Pelican Bay Hunger Strike Coalition reported that the strikers had rejected a halfhearted offer from the CDCR for some vague reforms.

The determination of the hunger strikers reportedly led some inmates at that point to join the hunger strike for the first time, or to rejoin the hunger strike after previously having gone off of it.

But within a week, prisoner advocates were able to confirm that leaders of the hunger strike inside Pelican Bay's SHU had decided to accept a more concrete proposal for some modest but concrete gains from the CDCR.

**A report on the website detailed the promised gains:**

"The leaders confirmed CDCR's announcement that immediate changes in SHU policy are the opportunity for some educational programs, provision of all-weather caps (beanies) and wall calendars.

"More substantially, the leaders explained the CDCR has agreed to investigate changes to other policies, including the gang validation and debriefing processes, and it is now up to supporters outside prison to make sure the CDCR upholds their promise.

"Many supporters, as well as the Pelican Bay hunger strike leaders, see this as a victory. The leaders explained to the mediation team they are overwhelmed by the support and solidarity of family members, community members, organizations, and people across the world joining their fight for human rights, and cannot adequately express their appreciation. They also explained this is in no way over. Using a sports reference, the Short Corridor Collective insisted: 'This is just the first quarter,' and what a start it has been.

"The Pelican Bay hunger strike leaders also ask all supporters, including the mediation team to continue working together, to expand and to stay involved in making sure these demands are met fully, and that prisoners everywhere are recognized and treated as human beings."

**While this may seem like a small victory in the wake of overwhelming repression, the fact that Pelican Bay prisoners were able to fight back and get their demands to the outside world--despite the CDCR's refusal to let any participating prisoners speak to the media--is inspiring.**

Writing in Britain's Guardian newspaper, James Ridgeway and Jean Casella noted:

"If (the hunger strike) seems like a desperate measure by desperate men, it is.

"The widespread use and abuse of solitary confinement in U.S. prisons and jails is one of the nation's most pressing domestic human rights issues, and also perhaps its most ignored.

"In the end, the Pelican Bay hunger strikers won only a few token concessions from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation...the right to wear caps in cold weather, to hang wall calendars in their cells, and to have access to a modicum of educational programming.

"But they achieved something much more important, as well: For a few weeks, the men of the Pelican Bay SHU ceased to be invisible."



### **GOT AN OPINION?**

**Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send to [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request identification published.**

## **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/military-resistance-archives/>; [news@uruknet.info](mailto:news@uruknet.info);

[http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi\\_special/](http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi_special/);

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

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

---

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