

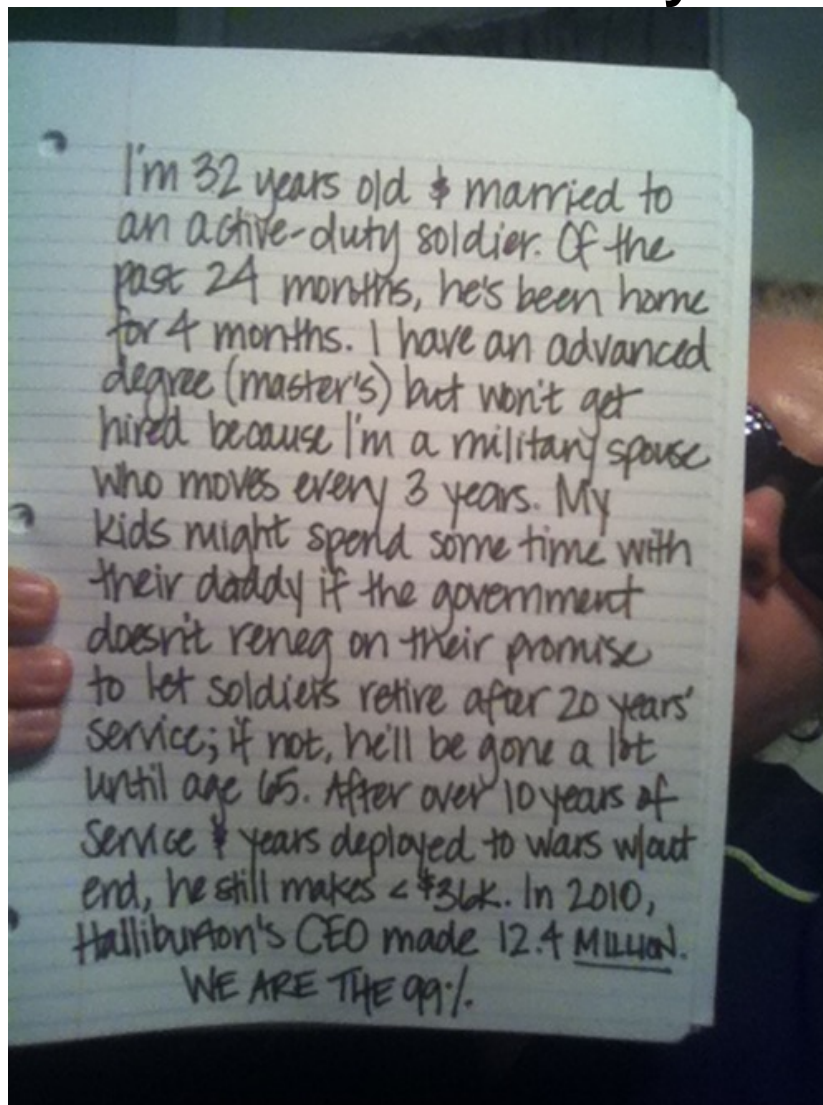
Military Resistance 9J9

U.S. News Of The Year, So Far!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0aaTGsGdp4c&feature=share>

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Occupy Wall Street: "Married To An Active Duty Soldier"



10th October 2011: wearethe99percent.tumblr.com/

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**“I Just Met A Guy Who Is Active Duty,
Took Leave Just To Come To Occupy
Wall Street”**

**“He Was Inspired By What He Saw And
Decided This Is Where He Needed To Be
For A Week”**



Amy Goodman with Jose Vasquez, Iraq Veterans Against The War

October 11, 2011 Democracy Now [Excerpts]

AMY GOODMAN: We're standing here right around the corner from Wall Street. About a week ago, one of the largest mass arrests in U.S. history, 700 people arrested on the Brooklyn Bridge. They had left this square, Zuccotti Park, what they've renamed Liberty Plaza, which actually was the original name of this square. Now thousands of people occupy it every day.

Tell me your names.

JOSE VASQUEZ: My name's Jose Vasquez. I'm the executive director of Iraq Veterans Against the War.

AMY HERRERA: I'm Amy Herrera, and I'm the Philly chapter president of Iraq Veterans Against the War.

AMY GOODMAN: Talk about how the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan fit into this movement, why you're here today.

JOSE VASQUEZ: Well, it's no secret that a lot of veterans are facing unemployment, homelessness, and a lot of other issues that are dealing with the economy. A lot of people get deployed multiple times and are still kind of struggling with their deployments. So I feel like I've met a lot of veterans who have come here.

I just met a guy who is active duty, took leave just to come to Occupy Wall Street.

So we thought it was important to be here and do some outreach.

AMY GOODMAN: Explain that again.

JOSE VASQUEZ: So, there's someone who's here who's took leave from the military just so he could come to Occupy Wall Street.

So he was inspired by what he saw and decided this is where he needed to be for a week.



DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?

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IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Pipeline Bombs In Iraq Hit BP Oilfield

10 October 2011 By Sinan Salaheddin in Baghdad, The Scotsman

A PAIR of bombs struck two oil pipelines in southern Iraq, causing a temporary cut in production at the country's largest oil field.

The blasts took place late Friday at the Rumaila field, which is developed by BP, sparking a fire that took firefighters a few hours to extinguish, said the deputy head of the Basra provincial council, Ahmed al-Sulaiti. No-one was hurt.

The attack forced officials to cut production by about 600,000 barrels from around 1.25 million barrels per day, said Dhia Jaafar, the director-general of the state-run South Oil Co.

The Rumaila field is Iraq's largest with 17.8 billion barrels. It is being developed by BP and China's CNPC. Iraq's daily production stands at about 2.9 million barrels per day and oil exports average around 2.1 million barrels per day.

More Resistance Action: Coordinated Attacks Hit Baghdad Police Stations



A police station in Baghdad hit by a car bomb attack October 12, 2011. Photo: AP

October 7 Sapa-AFP & Oct 8, 2011 Reuters & October 10, 2011, By MICHAEL S. SCHMIDT, NY Times & 10.12.11 AP

Two police officials say 13 were killed in western Baghdad when a bomber rammed a police station.

In the northern neighborhood of Hurriyah, nine people died when a bomber also targeted a police station.

Officials said the bombers both exploded their vehicles at the outer entrance leading into the police stations.

"The scene was horrific," said Salim Ghadban, who was having breakfast near the Karradah police station when he heard a loud explosion.

"We saw terrified people, some injured, running in our direction, and we rushed to the attacked police station to see burned bodies and charred cars. We helped cover the burnt bodies until the ambulances arrived."

The attack in Hurriyah was especially remarkable because the station is almost entirely surrounded by blast walls, and access is tightly restricted through just a four entrances manned by the Iraqi army.

A roadside bomb exploded near a police patrol in western Baghdad, killing two policemen and wounding another five, said police officials.

A magnetic "sticky bomb" attached to a car in the north Baghdad neighbourhood of Al-Utaifiyah was followed by a roadside bombing, wounding four policemen.

In southern Iraq, near Basra, six soldiers were killed as they tried to clear land mines.

An improvised bomb exploded near security forces in western Baghdad, killing 3 security officers who were responding to an earlier explosion.

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AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Omaha SEAL Killed In Afghanistan



Department of Defense

October 3, 2011 By Sam Womack and Maggie O'Brien, WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITERS

The latest in a recent string of U.S. Navy SEAL casualties is an Omaha native who was killed this weekend in Afghanistan.

The Department of Defense announced Sunday that Petty Officer 1st Class Caleb A. Nelson died Saturday when the vehicle he was in hit an explosive device in Zabul province.

The 26-year-old father of two graduated from SEAL training in 2006 and served with the Naval Special Warfare Unit, based in Hampton Roads, Va., until his death, the Pentagon said.

He is survived by his wife, two sons and his parents.

Caleb Nelson's father, the Rev. Larry Nelson, is pastor of Millard Alliance Church. Caleb was one of 10 children, said the family's longtime neighbor Ron Omann, who knew Caleb since he was a boy.

"He was just a really good kid," Omann said. "A get-up-and-go kid. If you wanted something done, he'd do it."

Capt. Tim Szymanski, commander of Nelson's unit, Naval Special Warfare Group Two, said Nelson "died serving beside people he loved." "Caleb Nelson was a cherished teammate, a gifted SEAL operator, and a loving husband and father. His tireless professionalism, inspiring passion for life and his humble and selfless service to our country made him a role model for all who knew him," Szymanski said in a prepared statement.

Nelson was a seasoned combat veteran, with a 2009 deployment to Iraq and his deployment to Afghanistan in March 2011.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star with Valor, Purple Heart, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Sea Service Ribbon (two awards), NATO Service Medal, Expert Rifle ribbon and Expert Pistol ribbon.

Nelson entered the Navy in the engineering career field and graduated from boot camp on Oct. 11, 2005, the Pentagon said. He then attended service school training at Great Lakes, Ill., and was rated as a machinist's mate.

After graduating from Navy technical training, Nelson was accepted to attend Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL Training in Coronado, Calif. He graduated from SEAL qualification training in November 2006.

Nelson's death comes almost two months after four service members with area ties were killed when an insurgent shot down a Chinook helicopter in Afghanistan. Thirty Americans — including nearly two dozen Navy SEALs — and eight Afghans died in the downed helicopter.

The servicemen with Nebraska and Iowa ties who died in that attack:

» John Douangdara, a graduate of South Sioux City (Neb.) High School and a dog handler for Navy SEAL Team Six. The 26-year-old son of Laotian immigrants joined the Navy right after his 2003 high school graduation.

» Matthew Mason, 37, a member of the vaunted Navy SEAL Team Six. Mason, whose wife is from Omaha, was badly wounded in the 2004 Battle of Fallujah but worked his way back into the top shape required by the elite military unit.

» Sgt. Patrick Hamburger of Grand Island, a 30-year-old Nebraska National Guardsman who was serving on the downed Chinook's flight crew. Hamburger had been in Afghanistan only since July as part of a National Guard unit trained to fly transport helicopters.

» Jon Tumilson, a 35-year-old Navy SEAL from Rockford in north-central Iowa. Tumilson had told friends and relatives he was thinking of retiring as a SEAL.

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

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

Insurgents In Southern Afghanistan Killed A Senior Intelligence Officer

Oct 12, 2011 DPA

Kandahar, Afghanistan - Insurgents in southern Afghanistan killed a senior intelligence officer on Wednesday, officials said.

The assailants opened fire on the intelligence chief of Qalat city, the provincial capital of Zabul province, on Wednesday morning, Deputy Governor Mohammad Jan Rasolyar said.

The attack took place in an office of the department of vehicle registration in Qalat city, Rasolyar said, adding two policemen and a civilian were injured in the gunfire. He did not identify the intelligence officer.

'The attackers fled the scene and police have started a search operation to find the perpetrators,' he said.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousuf Ahmadi said the agent was shot by their fighters.

“A Roadside Bomb In Southern Afghanistan Has Killed Six Police Officers And A Local Tribal Elder”

Oct 12, 2011 By Associated Press

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Officials say a roadside bomb in southern Afghanistan has killed six police officers and a local tribal elder.

The governor's office says in a statement issued Wednesday that a police truck struck the bomb on Tuesday while driving in Kandahar province's Zhari district.

Provincial government spokesman Zalmay Ayubi says the police were escorting tribal elder Abdul Wali Khan back to his home from nearby Kandahar city.

Ayubi says the bomb appeared to be remotely detonated, and that the police assume Khan was the target. Khan was also on the Zhari district development council.

The Sewer That Calls Itself A Government: Afghanistan Regime Refuses To Prosecute Thieving, Blackmailing Political Leaders [Afghanistan Regime Is Made Up Of Thieving, Blackmailing Political Leaders] Official “Colluding With The Taliban” Protected By Karzai Scum

Oct 11 By ADAM GOLDMAN and HEIDI VOGT, Associated Press [Excerpts]

KABUL, Afghanistan -- A major investigation into an influential Afghan governor accused of taking bribes has been shut down and its top prosecutor transferred to a unit that doesn't handle corruption cases, Afghan and U.S. officials said.

The closing of the investigation into the former governor of Kapisa province, Ghulam Qawis Abu Bakr, comes on the heels of a grim, unpublicized assessment by U.S. officials that no substantive corruption prosecutions were taking place in Afghanistan despite President Hamid Karzai's pledge to root out graft.

The Abu Bakr investigation raises troubling questions yet again about how much U.S. taxpayer money is lining the pockets of powerful Afghan officials, and whether the U.S. is doing all it can to persuade Karzai to crack down on corruption.

It also suggests that the lax prosecution of corruption has pervaded all levels of government.

U.S. officials had hoped the case would be the first conviction of a relatively significant person in Afghan government.

While most of Abu Bakr's influence is in Kapisa province, he is also connected to the Hizb-e-Islami political party, which the government has been trying to court in hopes of getting the group to cut its ties with militants.

Abu Bakr was suspended as governor after CIA Director David Petraeus, then the commander of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan, presented Karzai with

documentation showing that he was colluding with the Taliban, according to an Afghan official in Kabul with direct knowledge of the incident.

In the two years since Karzai unveiled a new anti-corruption task force, powerful government figures have been accused of corruption and even investigated, but seldom brought to court. It appears that Abu Bakr will be no exception.

Most of the approximately 2,000 cases investigated by the anti-corruption unit since its birth in 2009 have stalled, said a NATO official familiar with the unit, who spoke anonymously to discuss sensitive matters.

The 28 convictions so far have all been of minor players.

The attorney general's office has been infiltrated by power brokers, ranging from lawmakers to warlords, who are systematically blocking cases, the NATO official said.

The first evidence that corruption was not being taken seriously in the attorney general's office came in the summer of 2010, when a Karzai aide was arrested on charges of accepting a car in exchange for his help in thwarting a corruption case. Karzai ordered the release of the aide, Mohammad Zia Salehi.

Because of the onslaught of negative publicity, Attorney General Mohammed Ishaq Aloko ordered his prosecutors not to discuss details of their cases with the U.S. officials advising them, saying that if they did, they would be considered U.S. spies, said an Afghan official who worked in the anti-corruption unit.

"The case against Gov. Ghulam Qawis Abu Bakr has not closed. Our unit is still working on that case. They are trying to collect evidence and complete the case and get it ready to send it to the courts," said Gen. Abu Baker Rafiyee.

"When the case will go to court is not clear. It will be whenever it is ready for the court."

Several months ago, U.S. Embassy personnel in Kabul concluded no substantive corruption prosecutions were taking place in Afghanistan, according to a former senior U.S. familiar with the briefing - which occurred before the Abu Bakr case was halted.

The former official was told during the briefing the drive to crack down on graft by the Afghan government had come to a halt more than a year ago.

Current and former U.S. officials said the American administration was trying to downplay their anti-corruption work in its Afghanistan policy because it was such a failure.

The case against Abu Bakr opened last year after allegations surfaced he had received a \$200,000 bribe in exchange for the contract to build a cell tower, an Afghan official said.

Abu Bakr lives in Mahmud-i-Raqi, the capital of Kapisa province, in a large house.

He has three other houses in Kabul, all built, according to the original witness statements, with stone and gravel paid for by foreign donations intended for roads, schools and clinics.

About 20 witnesses said the governor forced local construction companies to give him truckloads of gravel and stone for his expensive homes, according to the officials.

The witnesses reportedly said the governor threatened to halt their construction projects if he didn't get what he wanted.

However, when prosecutors traveled to Kapisa in late June to get more evidence, the witnesses were no longer willing to cooperate.

"They changed their story," the Afghan official said. Prosecutors also met with Abu Bakr, who denied everything.

Only one witness was still willing to testify, a man named Shah Agha who said Abu Bakr shut down his rock-crushing plant after he refused to donate 100 trucks of gravel - worth about \$10,500 - for the construction of one of his houses.

Agha said within an hour of giving his statement in Kabul, his phone started ringing.

"It was people, friends, asking me why I had talked against Abu Bakr," Agha told the AP.

He said his testimony could only have gotten out so quickly if someone inside the attorney general's office was tipping people off.

Four months ago, the Abu Bakr case was abruptly closed, despite pleas from the prosecutor for more time to gather evidence, according to officials.

In July, the top prosecutor was demoted, and sent to oversee conditions in Afghan prisons, according to an Afghan government document obtained by The Associated Press. Her pay was cut by \$50 a month, or about a fourth of her monthly salary.

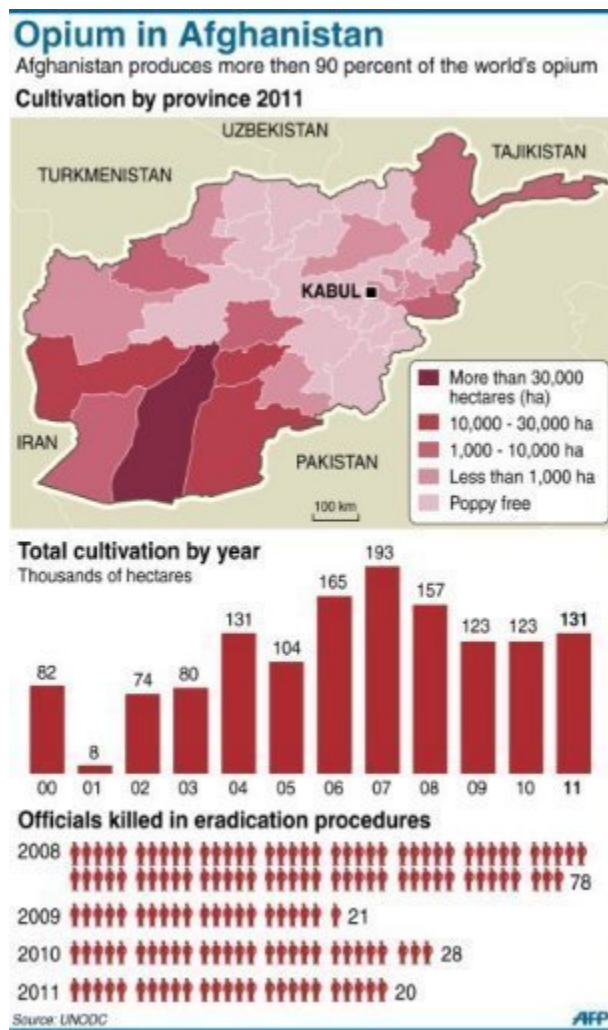
At least three prosecutors who have persisted in sensitive investigations - two of them involving Abu Bakr - have been removed or transferred, either to other departments or to remote provinces, according to a senior U.S. official.

Almost everyone in the Abu Bakr case would only speak anonymously, especially in Mahmud-i-Raqi, for fear of recrimination and of angering a man still considered more powerful than the current governor.

One provincial official described speaking to construction companies who acknowledged paying off Abu Bakr in exchange for contracts, including one that involved U.S. funds to pave a road. The official said Abu Bakr demanded the company raise the price of its bid to include a \$150,000 kickback.

Finally, A Success For Obama Regime In Afghanistan!

Agricultural Production Up Sharply: “Opium Production In Afghanistan Rose By 61% This Year Compared With 2010”



11 October 2011 BBC [Excerpts]

Opium production in Afghanistan rose by 61% this year compared with 2010, according to a UN report.

The increase has been attributed to rising opium prices that have driven farmers to expand cultivation of the illicit opium poppy by 7% in 2011.

Last year opium production halved largely due to a plant infection which drastically reduced yields.

Afghanistan produces 90% of the world's opium - 5,800 tonnes this year - the main ingredient of heroin.

The report says that there are now 17 provinces in Afghanistan affected by poppy cultivation, up from 14 one year ago.

The report says that dry opium costs about 43% more than it did a year ago, providing farmers who grow it with an extra windfall.

The per-hectare price of opium more than doubled to \$10,700 (£6852) from \$4,900 (£3137), according to the report.

Militants And Local Criminals In Pakistan “Frequently Attack And Loot Trucks And Containers” For Foreign Troops In Afghanistan



Stolen foreign military equipment from a warehouse in Peshawar, Pakistan Oct 11, 2011. Militants and local criminals frequently attack and loot trucks and containers traveling through the Khyber pass carrying supplies to foreign troops in landlocked Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Mohammad Sajjad)...

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

BEEN ON THE JOB WAY TOO LONG: HOME, NOW



Illuminated only by moonlight in this long exposure photograph, a U.S. soldier from the, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Battalion 27th Infantry Regiment, based in Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, rests against a trailer during a night mission early Sept. 15, 2011 at Combat Outpost Monti in Kunar province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/David Goldman)...



Sept. 19, 2011: A German soldier during a break while on long term patrol near Char Darah, outside Kunduz, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus)

MILITARY NEWS

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?



The remains of Spc. Ricardo Cerros Jr. Oct. 10, 2011 at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Cerros, 24, of Salinas, Calif., died Oct. 8, 2011 in Logar province, Afghanistan of wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his unit using small arms fire. (AP Photo/Steve Ruark)...

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**

Unbearable Truth



From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance
Sent: October 12, 2011
Subject: Unbearable Truth

Unbearable Truth

The worst thing I experienced in Vietnam was the lie.
100% of the Vietnam War was a lie.
100% of the Afghanistan War is a lie.
100% of the Iraq War is a lie.
I did not serve in Vietnam for the cause of freedom and democracy.
I served Criminal Corporate Greed in America for the cause of profit.
When an active duty soldier or veteran commits suicide by blowing his brains out, he is also putting a bullet in America's head.
These are some of the tragedies I witnessed in Vietnam.
Soldiers and veterans do this because they have to kill the lie.
They have to kill the emotional conflict that is unbearable.
Whenever the truth threatens one's belief system,
and the lie out weighs one's ability to cope,
suicide too often becomes the only option.
Over 50,000 Vietnam Veterans have committed suicide.
There is now an epidemic of suicides among Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.
Betrayal by one's own government becomes the assassin.
At the funeral, instead of putting the American flag over the casket,
they ought to put the American flag inside the casket with the body,
because they both died.

Mike Hastie
Army Medic Vietnam

Photo 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

ANNIVERSARIES

**The Army Joins The Revolution;
14 Oct 1917:**

“All Other Major Political Groups Lost Credibility Because Of Their Association With The Government And Their Insistence On Patient Sacrifice In The Interests Of The War Effort”



Revolutionary Army: (Photo by Hulton Archive/Getty Images)

September 28, 2007 By PAUL D'AMATO, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

RUSSIA WAS the first and only country to achieve a socialist revolution--that is, a society in which ordinary people had their hands on the levers of power.

For that reason alone, the capitalist rulers of the world cannot allow it to stand on its own merits. The later degeneration of the revolution into bureaucratic, one-party totalitarian rule must be read back into the past to “prove” that the revolution was doomed to fail.

This is the purpose of the hundreds of studies published by Russia “experts” that portray Lenin and the Bolshevik Party as ruthless, nasty and authoritarian. The revolution, in most accounts, did not involve the masses in determining their own destiny, but was the work of individuals bent on exploiting mass discontent for their own purposes.

This framework serves two purposes: to elevate the role of individuals in the making of history, and simultaneously to denigrate the role of ordinary workers, who are seen as naïve dupes.

Lenin is portrayed as a superhuman madman, bent on one-man dictatorship--and possessing an irresistible will to power. Historian Robert Payne, for example, writes absurdly of Lenin, "His fanatical will was like a lever which attempted to throw the whole globe into an orbit more to his liking; and because he pressed so hard on the lever, the earth still shudders."

The reality is that the Bolshevik Party became a mass party in the course of the revolution, winning the allegiance of the most militant workers. Far from being Lenin's cat's paw, the Bolsheviks were a party alive with debate and disagreement, with different factions fighting over the revolution's course.

Lenin was certainly the most respected leader in the party, but it was a respect earned by his role as a theoretician and practical leader, not by hypnosis or fiat. Indeed, Lenin often found himself in the minority and had to fight hard for his positions. Moreover, in a number of cases, Lenin's views, particularly on tactical questions, were wrong, and were rejected or adjusted by the party.

When Lenin returned to Russia in April, his views--transfer all power to the Soviets--were considered by other Bolsheviks to be completely out of touch and even anarchist. It took him some weeks of hard argument to win over the party.

Lenin also had to fight tooth and nail to convince the party of the necessity of preparing for an insurrection once the Bolsheviks had won over a majority in the Moscow and Petrograd soviets.

On the other hand, Lenin proved to be wrong after the July Days when he argued that the soviets were now bankrupt institutions. The party, though it officially voted to abandon the slogan "All power to the soviets," never really abandoned it at the local level and soon restored it.

Lenin was also wrong in his views that the insurrection might begin in Moscow--Petrograd was clearly the leading revolutionary citadel in Russia--and in his insistence that the insurrection should be organized through the Bolshevik Party, independently of the soviets. Other leaders, such as Leon Trotsky, were able to set a better course on these questions.

THE ARGUMENT that the Bolsheviks "hijacked" the revolution fails to take into account that the Bolsheviks were only one political party among many competing for the support of the Russian people.

The fact that the Bolsheviks were able to win mass support away from the Social Revolutionaries and Mensheviks flowed not from their superior persuasive powers or ability to command blind obedience, but because of their program.

They were the only party that demanded land to the peasants, factories to the workers, all power to the soviets [elected workers' councils] and an end to the war.

“All other major political groups,” writes historian Alexander Rabinowitch, “lost credibility because of their association with the government and their insistence on patient sacrifice in the interests of the war effort.”

In short, whereas the other parties acted as a brake on the revolution, the Bolsheviks wanted to see it through to the end.

At the same time, the party was not for some kind of minority putsch against the Provisional Government led by Kerensky. Lenin and other party leaders worked to restrain the movement when they felt that a premature revolt threatened the movement as a whole with defeat.

It must be remembered that Lenin's position was that the party must “patiently explain” their demands and win over the majority of the working class before it could move toward decisive action against the Provisional Government.

Lenin's bold and determined leadership, as well as the Bolsheviks' relative unity and discipline compared to other political parties, were key factors in the revolution's success.

But this unity and discipline was not bureaucratic--it was organic and political. The party debated and voted on all key questions, and local organizations of the party possessed a great deal of leeway to carry on their own independent initiatives.

Rabinowitch attributes much of the Bolsheviks' success in transforming themselves from a party of 25,000 on the eve of the February Revolution into a mass party capable of leading a successful struggle for power with a membership of a quarter million to “the party's internally relatively democratic, tolerant and decentralized structure and method of operation, as well as its essentially open and mass character.”

The conspiratorial, clandestine forms of organization of the Bolsheviks that preceded the revolutionary period were imposed by necessity on all illegal parties as a result of the repressive conditions of Tsarism. The Bolsheviks were always prepared, when conditions changed, to move toward open, democratic methods of organization.

This little fact is practically ignored by most historians.

The dreaded “democratic centralism” of the Bolshevik Party was exactly what the term implies: the fullest and freest debate, combined with strict adherence to decisions once made. This is what gave the party its ability to “read” what was happening in the disparate sectors of struggle, generalize from that experience and offer guidance to it.

Democracy without centralism is a talk shop. Centralism without democracy creates bureaucratism and isolates the leaders from the ranks.

As Trotsky later wrote:

“How could a genuinely revolutionary organization, setting itself the task of overthrowing the world and uniting under its banner the most audacious iconoclasts, fighters and insurgents, live and develop without intellectual conflicts, without groups and temporary faction formations?...

“The Central Committee relied upon this seething democratic support. From this, it derived the audacity to make decision and give orders. The obvious correctness of the leadership at all critical stages gave it that high authority which is the priceless capital of centralism.”

Rabinowitch, in his book *The Bolsheviks Come to Power*, is able to demonstrate in rich detail that “within the Bolshevik Petrograd organization at all levels in 1917, there was continuing free and lively discussion and debate over the most basic theoretical and tactical issues,” and that the party had shifting left, center and moderate tendencies within it, right through the revolutionary period.

“Leaders who differed with the majority were at liberty to fight for their views, and not infrequently, Lenin was the loser in those struggles.”

SURPRISING THOUGH these insights are to most bourgeois or anarchist commentators, the Bolsheviks’ open and democratic character flowed from its commitment to workers’ self-emancipation.

Lenin’s insistence on the need to build a disciplined party of revolutionaries is usually presented as a product of his “distrust” of the working class’s revolutionary potential--when, in fact, Lenin’s entire political career was based on the proposition, established in the early years of the Russian Marxist movement, that, “(t)he revolutionary movement in Russia can triumph only as the revolutionary movement of the workers.”

Nikolai Sukhanov, by no means a Bolshevik supporter in 1917, but who witnessed the party at close quarters in the days leading up to the October Revolution, observed the interconnectedness between the party and the working class:

The Bolsheviks were working stubbornly and without letup. They were among the masses, at the factory benches, every day without a pause. Tens of speakers, big and little, were speaking in Petersburg, at the factories and in the barracks, every blessed day.

For the masses, they had become their own people, because they were always there, taking the lead in details as well as in the most important affairs of the factory or barracks. They had become the sole hope...The mass lived and breathed together with the Bolsheviks.

What Sukhanov seemed not to understand is that the Bolsheviks themselves were workers--leaders on the ground in the day-to-day struggle.

They did not parachute in from somewhere else; they were already there.

As early as June, for example, Bolshevik delegates dominated the conferences of the factory committees. The Bolshevik vanguard was not an isolated elite, but organized working-class militants tempered by shared experience and shared politics, developed through interaction with their fellow workers.

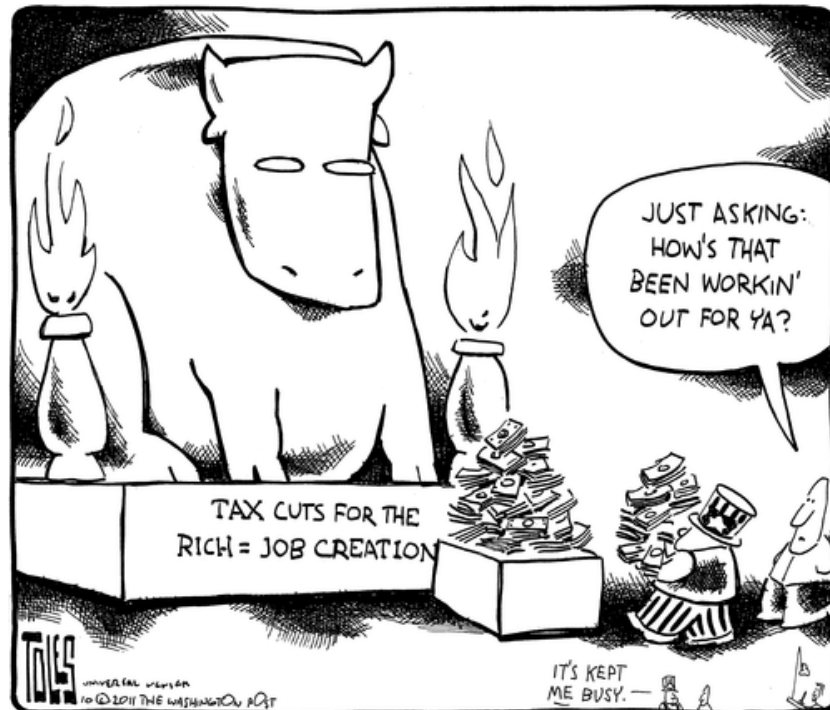
One lesson of the Russian Revolution is that workers can take over the running of society; revolutions can win. Of course, the lesson of many failed workers' revolutions (1905 in Russia or 1919-23 in Germany, for example) is that such victories are by no means guaranteed.

Another, equally important lesson is that such a revolution can only win, as it did in Russia, if the working class organizes its own revolutionary party to guide its path to power.

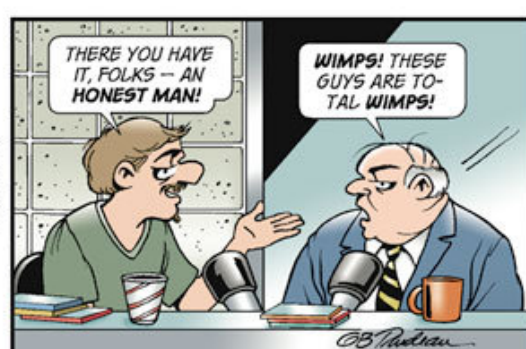
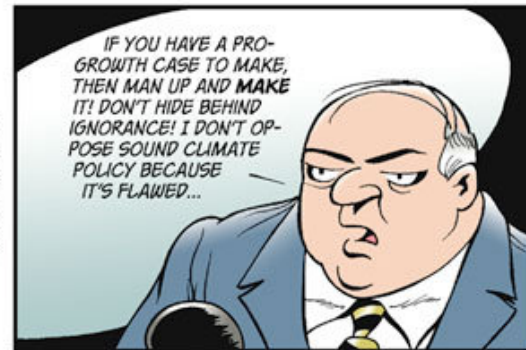
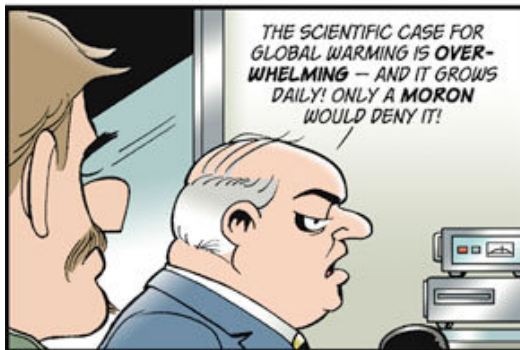
Troops Invited:

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 email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



CLASS WAR REPORTS



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<http://www.theatlantic.com/infocus/2011/10/occupy-wall-street-spreads-beyond-nyc/100165/>



NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

<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 and all other forms of injustice inside the armed forces.

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

We hope that you'll build a network of active duty organizers.

GET MILITARY RESISTANCE NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

If you wish to receive Military Resistance immediately and directly, send request to contact@militaryproject.org. There is no subscription charge.

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: 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;

http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi_special/;

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

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