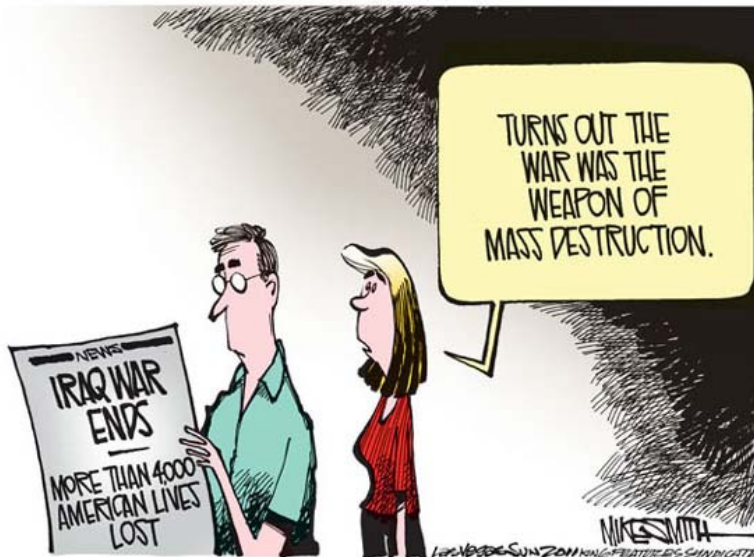


Military Resistance 9L19



Christmas Tree

From: Dennis Serdel
To: Military Resistance
Sent: December 22, 2010
Subject: Christmas Tree by Dennis

Written by Dennis Serdel, Military Resistance 2010; Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade; United Auto Workers GM Retiree

Christmas Tree

Dead Solders hang from the Christmas tree,
a cross on top blinks red white and blue
blood dripping from the pine needles
like a junkie government who can't get enough.
Obama dressed as Old St. Sick throws
more coffins as presents under the tree
Congress doesn't argue about the cost of the war
they just hang shiny purple hearts made
of gold all over the tree and decorations
of black hearses end to end that go around
the tree and then hanging like bulbs are

missing arms and missing legs and hanging
like garland are gold and silver bars that
the war profiteers steal in the early morning
so all the children find is a funeral procession
as they watch the dead Soldiers placed
into coffins and witness the carnage under
the tree and when they look up, all they
can see is more dead Soldiers hanging from
the tree and all they know is Christmas
isn't supposed to be like this, as the War on
the Workers is like the War overseas
where the rich take everything and
give back nothing, using a
lying banner that says Peace On Earth,
Goodwill Toward Men and Christ says
nothing except follow your government
and the priests and pastors and the leaders
of the churches preach, let us not forget our
fallen Soldiers on Christmas Day
and the Soldiers overseas, so we can
enjoy the freedom to live in poverty,
but the children rise up in a choir of truth
sing to their elders can't you see the dead
Soldiers hanging from the Christmas tree
can't you see the rich stealing the silver
and gold like every day is Christmas
for them as they keep the money
and all we get is dead Soldiers each hanging
from a cross and placed on a Christmas tree
and our Mom and Dad's don't have a job
all of this is so wrong
makes you want to kill someone

written by Dennis Serdel for Military Resistance

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN MILITARY SERVICE?

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly.

Whether in Afghanistan or at 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 and economic injustice, 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

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

U.S. Army Specialist From Longview Killed In Afghanistan



Mikayla Bragg: Courtesy of the Bragg family

December 22, 2011 By Erik Olson and Marqise Allen, The Daily News

A female Mark Morris High School graduate was shot and killed Wednesday in a guard tower in Afghanistan, according to the soldier's stepmother. U.S. Army Specialist Mikayla Anne Bragg is Cowlitz County's first casualty in a combat zone since the Vietnam War, according to Daily News archives.

Bragg, 21, was scheduled to leave Afghanistan around Christmas and return to the United States on Jan. 6, stepmother Amber Bragg of Longview said Thursday.

Army officials have not yet confirmed the death or released any information about the incident. Bragg's father, Steve Bragg, flew to the U.S. Air Force base in Dover, Del., to identify her remains, her stepmother said, adding that the Army is planning to conduct an autopsy.

Bragg enlisted right after she graduated high school in 2008, Amber Bragg said.

Family members said Bragg was deployed from Fort Knox in Kentucky to Afghanistan in August. She graduated basic training at Fort Sill in Lawton, Okla., and she was classified as a sharpshooter because of her accuracy with a rifle.

According to her Facebook page, Bragg's primary duties were as a motor transport operator for the Third Brigade Combat Team, First Infantry Division.

Bragg will be buried in Longview but the family has not set a date for the funeral.

About 1,700 U.S. military personnel have been killed in the war in Afghanistan since it started in 2001.

Survivors include mother Sheyanne Baker of Shelton, Wash., sister Kandyce Bragg of Shelton, half-brother Allen Davids, currently serving in Iraq with the U.S. Army, and half-siblings Joseph Bragg and Ariel, Darien and Julian DeForge.

Mikayla Bragg joined the Army to earn money to pay for college and she hoped to go into a field helping people or animals, Amber Bragg said, adding "She's always been a kind-hearted person. She's always gone out of her way to help out other people in whatever way she could."

Best friend Tiffany Holst, 21, remembers Bragg, who loved "goofy kid movies" like "Finding Nemo" and "The Spongebob SquarePants Movie," would always cry when Bambi's mother died when watching the Disney film.

"She was always like that," Holst said. "She loved animals."

The Bragg family recently moved to a different home in Longview, which Amber Bragg said resulted in a slight delay in the family being notified by the Army. Once family members were informed in their front yard, Amber Bragg recalled a man working for a tree service across the street noticed something was wrong and offered to help without giving his name.

It was a bright moment in an otherwise tragic day, she said.

"He brought us dinner for our family and brought us a gift card to help out with whatever we needed. You don't see that anymore," she said.

In the living room of the Braggs' Highlands neighborhood home, framed photos of the children cover the walls. Next to the kitchen doorway, "Kayla" — as her friends and family called her — is at a high school formal dance in a red gown, posing with her date in a tuxedo and top hat.

Family and friends said she had a unique presence, once sporting a mohawk haircut and sometimes wearing skirts with jeans underneath.

"She definitely had her own style," said Denae Smith, who once worked with Bragg at the Walgreen's drug store along Ocean Beach Highway.

"She was the one with the crazy hair and crazy makeup. I wouldn't call her gothed out, but she was definitely wild."

Beneath Bragg's dark-clad exterior and distinctive makeup choices, Smith said her kindness always came through.

A certain cranky customer once entered the store looking for batteries and brought Smith to tears after a few days on the job.

Smith said it was Bragg who tried to joke around and cheer her up after helping the customer.

“She made everybody laugh,” her friend Holst said. “She was sweet and caring.”

She also was a young woman with typical desires and doubts. Bragg was excited to join the military for the adventure and better pay, but was afraid to leave her family behind and dreaded the thought of being deployed.

“But she was strong. ... And she liked the bases,” Holst said. “She liked looking at all the guys. She didn’t like wearing her uniform because it made her look like a guy.”

Holst exchanged messages with Bragg via Facebook seven hours before she died, and the two talked about men in their lives and how they looked forward to seeing each other when Bragg returned.

Tiffany’s mother, Linda Wheeler, reminisced how much Bragg changed as she transformed from a meek 12-year-old girl she first met into an outgoing woman.

“You would’ve had to have met her to know Mikayla,” said Wheeler.

“We watched her grow up into a mature, wonderful woman. She was a heck of a character, she would always help people smile. And she’d always let you know if you were doing something you weren’t supposed to be doing. ... She died a hero in my eyes.”

Royal Marine Killed Today In Afghanistan

22 December 2011 BBC

A Royal Marine has been killed by an explosion south of the Afghan capital Kabul, the Ministry of Defence says.

A spokeswoman said: “It is with great sadness that the Ministry of Defence must confirm that a Royal Marine was killed today, Thursday 22nd December, south of Kabul in Afghanistan.

“He was fatally wounded after the vehicle in which he was travelling was caught in an explosion.”

Cuyama Valley Soldier Killed In Afghanistan



Army Sgt. Chris Muniz, a graduate of Cuyama Valley High School, was killed in action Sunday in Afghanistan. Contributed

December 14, 2011 By Janene Scully, Associate Editor; Santa Maria Times

The small, tight-knit community of Cuyama Valley is mourning the loss of a 24-year-old soldier who died Sunday after a bomb exploded in Afghanistan.

Sgt. Christopher L. Muniz of New Cuyama was one of two Hawaii-based soldiers killed in the Kunar province when enemy forces attacked their unit with an improvised explosive device.

Muniz and Spc. Ronald H. Wildrick Jr. of Blairstown, N.J., were assigned to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

Muniz's death led to a "pretty sad mood" all over the small town, especially Cuyama Valley High School, where the soldier played on the football team before graduating in 2006.

"I knew him very well. He was like a second son to me," said football coach Biff Charlton. "I don't know how you could say anything as good as he actually was."

Muniz played linebacker and full back for the Cuyama Valley Bears.

The coach recalled the player, one of the strongest ones he had, often would help other youths in the gym and make them believe they were equally strong.

"He was just an all-around wonderful kid. He was a true leader," Charlton added.

Charlton said his wife received a call from the soldier's mother with the three dreaded words - "Chris is gone."

As word of Cuyama's war casualty spread, former players contacted Charlton, one stopping by Monday night when the coach and former player shared their mutual grief by "both holding each other, just sobbing," Charlton said.

The sergeant is believed to be the first casualty from Iraq or Afghanistan for Cuyama Valley High School.

He went from the school's eight-man football program to become a starter for Hancock College's team "which is pretty amazing," added Charlton.

Muniz played for the Bulldogs during the 2006 and 2007 seasons, while attending the community college as a liberal arts major, Hancock officials said.

Bulldogs coach Kris Dutra recalled Muniz as a being "a very very physical type of guy. He's a good solid linebacker. "He was a soldier in every sense of the word," Dutra said, calling his former player "loyal, hardworking and a good athlete."

Muniz, the son of Cuyama Valley residents Joseph Muniz and Barbara Kalp, died about a week before his scheduled return home for a break from being in the Afghanistan, according to Charlton.

About 18 months ago, the soldier married a woman he met while serving in the Army. Their wedding was in Hawaii, but she reportedly is from Texas.

Army officials said that this was Muniz's first overseas deployment, adding that he had enlisted in the Army on Nov. 13, 2008, as a signal intelligence analyst.

He belonged to the 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

The soldier will posthumously be awarded a Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, NATO Medal and the Combat Action Badge, Army officials said. His other awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, Global War on Terrorism Medal and the Army Service Ribbon.

Funeral details weren't immediately available, but Cuyama Valley High School officials reportedly plan to hold a memorial in January.

Muniz adds to the roster local residents killed while serving in Afghanistan and Iraq since 2003, with more than a dozen dying in the two wars.

Valley Loses Soldier To Insurgent Attack In Afghanistan

December 8, 2011 By KSEE News

Family members say Thomas Mayberry was a proud soldier. A man, they say, needed the army more than anyone else. We spoke with his aunt in La Grande, Oregon.

“He wasn’t going to let anything in his past hold him back.”

Julie Siefker knew Thomas Mayberry well. She knew about the parents losing custody of him and his brother. She knew about his early years in Clovis and Porterville where he bounced from one continuation school to the next.

“He came from a rough road. The boys were having a rough time with just Grandma raising them,” said Siefker.

But what his aunt will remember is what changed him, the Army.

“He wanted to be deployed. He wanted to go fight for his country. He made something of himself and he was so proud of it,” said Siefker.

Mayberry was killed by an I.E.D. Two other soldiers were killed in that attack in Afghanistan.

“He is my hero. Absolutely my hero,” said Siefker.

The funeral will be held in Oregon where most of his family lives. Family members say it will be held at the La Grande National Guard Armory.

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

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

Resistance Action

December 18, 2011 AFP & December 23 The Associated Press

Three policemen were killed late Saturday when their patrol vehicle was caught in the blast from a roadside bomb on the main highway between Farah and Nimroz provinces, western zone police chief Ghulam Dastqir Rustamyar said. “A police patrol vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb in the Balabluk area. Three police were martyred and three others were wounded,” he said.

The Afghan Interior Ministry says insurgents tried to overrun late Thursday a police checkpoint in western Ghor province. One attacker was killed and three policemen were wounded in the clashes.

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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Resistance Action

Dec 21 (Reuters) & December 22 By Dan Morse and Aziz Alwan, The Washington Post & Reuters

At least 17 explosions in Iraq's capital killed 65 people Thursday — the first major violence in the country since the United States completed its troop pullout last week.

In one attack, bombers painted a minibus to make it look like an ambulance, allowing them to get close to a government building before they detonated their explosives-packed vehicle, according to a spokesman for the Health Ministry.

BAGHDAD - Two roadside bombs went off near a police patrol, killing three policemen, in Baghdad's southwestern Amil district, police said.

MOSUL - Insurgents in a speeding car opened fire at an Iraqi army checkpoint and killed one soldier in eastern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

BAGHDAD - A sticky bomb attached to a car carrying a leader of the government-backed Sahwa militia killed him when it went off in Abu Ghraib on the western outskirts of Baghdad, police said.

BAQUBA - An insurgent carrying a silenced weapon opened fire at a local mayor and wounded him in a market in the city of Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) northeast of Baghdad, police said.

KIRKUK - Two sticky bombs attached to two cars carrying a judge and his son killed the judge and his guard and wounded his son and two pedestrians in the city of Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

SAMARRA - Gunmen in a car opened fire at a police checkpoint and wounded two policemen late on Tuesday in the city of Samarra, 100 km (60 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

MILITARY NEWS

Soldiers Just Back From Iraq Get New Orders – Afghanistan: “Not Even Home A Week. How Sad” “All We Can Do Is Enjoy The Time We Have With Them”

[Thanks to David McReynolds for posting.]

December 21, 2011 By Chelsea J. Carter, CNN [Excerpts]

Soldiers who just returned from Iraq are among several thousand being ordered to Afghanistan.

News of the pending Afghanistan deployments came as families at bases across the country were celebrating the return in recent days of troops who turned off the lights at a number of U.S. bases ahead of an end-of-the-year deadline to leave Iraq.

“We are glad that we have brought all soldiers back home in time for Christmas to spend with loved ones. We do have to put information out about an upcoming mission, though,” the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, said Tuesday on its Facebook Page.

In the posting, the brigade said it was one of four selected to “support a Security Force Assistance Mission to Afghanistan in early summer.”

“We just received initial planning orders so lots of details are unknown,” it said. “..

In its Facebook posting, the 4th Brigade Combat Team said those who would be deployed in advise-and-assist roles would be senior enlisted personnel, ranging from master sergeants to colonels.

The deployment was expected to last nine months, though it was unclear how many members of the brigade will deploy.

Also being deployed are troops from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division from Fort Stewart, Georgia; the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division from Fort Carson, Colorado; and the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Under an Army policy, troops are given one month of dwell time for every month they are deployed. In the case of 1st Armored Division's brigade, which returned in December after less than six months in Iraq, its soldiers could be sent to Afghanistan as early as May.

Reactions at Fort Bliss were mixed with some soldiers and families telling CNN by telephone that they were resigned to the specter of an Afghanistan deployment, while others said they were surprised elements of the brigade would be deployed so soon after returning from Iraq.

None of the soldiers or their family members were willing to be quoted, citing possible repercussions over speaking to the media without prior approval.

Responses to the brigade's Facebook post, though, revealed the feelings of spouses and family members.

"All we can do is enjoy the time we have with them," one person wrote.

Another wrote: "Not even home a week. How sad."

Bradley Manning Hearing Ends With No Clear Sign of Harm Done to U.S. "Manning's Case May Hinge On The Question Of What Constitutes Harming National Security"

23 December 11 By Nancy A. Youssef, McClatchy DC [Excerpts]

After seven days of testimony and the submission of more than 300,000 pages of documents, a key question remains unanswered in the case against Army Pfc. Bradley Manning:

How exactly did his leak of hundreds of thousands of secret documents, logs and at least one video - which he passed to WikiLeaks - directly harm U.S. national security?

It's a near-certainty that Manning, whose pretrial Article 32 hearing concluded Thursday, will next face a court-martial, but experts say that it's unclear whether the government will be able to prove its most serious charge against the former Army intelligence analyst - that he aided the enemy.

A conviction on that charge could send Manning, 24, to prison for life.

“Whether or not he did (illegally download and distribute classified documents) is a factual thing. Whether he undermined national security is a judgment thing,” explained John Hutson, a former military judge advocate.

Prosecutors at the Article 32 hearing - the military equivalent of an evidentiary hearing - only had to show a “reasonable belief” that Manning committed a crime; if the case proceeds to a court martial, the prosecution must prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt for conviction.

In a court martial, “all the defense has to do is raise doubt,” Hutson said. “The burden is on the prosecution.”

Manning’s case may hinge on the question of what constitutes harming national security - which the government charges that Manning did when he entered a classified computer, downloaded thousands of files, burned them onto a CD and provided them to WikiLeaks over his personal computer while deployed as an intelligence analyst in Iraq.

Nearly two years after Manning’s arrest - and more than a year after WikiLeaks published State Department cables, military logs and a video of soldiers shooting at civilians who were initially thought to be insurgents in Baghdad - the answer is unclear.

At worst, supporters argued, he embarrassed the United States.

As both sides gave closing arguments Thursday, the government presented no evidence of a death, injury or harm done to the United States that was caused by the release of the information.

Instead, military prosecutors argued that Manning knew that what he was doing was illegal and could help America’s enemies, which they specified as terrorist organizations.

Manning “had actual knowledge that ... foreign adversaries like al Qaida and al Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula would use WikiLeaks to their advantage,” prosecutor Army Capt. Ashden Fein said.

The prosecution showed an al Qaida video encouraging members to seek information about U.S. activities from places like WikiLeaks. It also referred to an article in al Qaida’s Inspire magazine - produced by the terror group’s propaganda arm - which referred to the leaks.

And they presented numerous statements Manning signed during his training that showed he knew the risk to U.S. national security of releasing classified information.

The defense argued that the harm to the United States was negligible.

“I think the defense and Manning’s supporters are saying, Show me the name of one person who has died,’ and the government can’t do that,” said Steven Aftergood, who runs the Project on Government Secrecy at the Federation of American Scientists.

But “intelligence is anything that provides insight into the planning and conduct of enemy military operations. If we had the Taliban equivalent of this, it would be gold. The precise nature of that damage and the exact description of the advantage the Taliban gained has not been described but it’s surprising that it would not be useful.”

The prosecution alleged that Manning was a trained and trusted analyst who was supposed to be working in Baghdad as an expert on Shiite Muslims but instead spent the bulk of his time searching for files that WikiLeaks sought. Manning, the prosecutor alleged, copied documents from the classified system onto a CD and then passed them to WikiLeaks using his personal computer.

Often he searched for documents that WikiLeaks had publicly appealed for, like the email addresses of personnel stationed in Iraq.

Faced with overwhelming electronic evidence, the defense didn’t dispute that Manning downloaded the documents. The prosecution had logs of his activity on the military’s classified system and chats with an informant in which he confessed to downloading the documents.

Some of the most compelling evidence presented by the prosecution included chats in which Manning allegedly communicated directly with Julian Assange, the founder of WikiLeaks, who is facing charges from the Justice Department.

In chats presented Thursday, Manning, using the alias “Nobody,” was shown chatting with “Nathaniel Frank,” or Assange. As he uploaded documents about detainees held at Guantanamo Bay, Manning wrote on March 8, 2010: “I’m throwing everything I’ve got on JTF-GTMO... at you now.”

“should take a while to get up though,” he added.

“ok, great,” Assange replied.

“Up load is about 36 pct,” Manning then writes.

“ETA?” Assange asked.

“11 to 12 hours, guessing since it’s been going 6 already,” Manning replied.

Manning faces 22 charges, and the prosecution argued that every breach encroached on national security - from the video of U.S. troops shooting the suspected insurgents in Baghdad who turned out to be employees with the Reuters news agency, to logs of military incidents in Iraq and Afghanistan.

However, in other chats, Manning said he reached out to WikiLeaks not to aid a foreign enemy but because he felt the public should know.

In a May 2010 chat with former hacker Adrian Lamo - whose disclosure to authorities led to Manning’s arrest - Manning writes that he wasn’t seeking financial gain: “i mean what if i were someone more malicious ...i could’ve sold to russia or china, and made bank?”

The defense asked that the 22 charges against Manning be combined into three that carry a maximum of 30 years: federal larceny, releasing information that could harm the United States and exceeding unauthorized access and relaying that information.

The investigating officer, who serves as both a judge and jury in the military system, is expected to recommend by Jan. 16 whether Manning should face a court martial.

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.

ANNIVERSARIES

December 23, 1961: Hideous Anniversary: The First KIA In A Previous Deadly Stupid Imperial Disaster



December 23, 1961

James Davis of Livingston, Tennessee, was killed by the Viet Cong, the insurgents in South Vietnam, and became the first of some 58,000 U.S. soldiers killed during the Vietnam War.

Lyndon Johnson later referred to him as “the first American to fall in defense of our freedom in Vietnam.”

Over two million Vietnamese would die before the end of the war.

STUCK ON STUPID

Parasites Occupy Occupy



Comment: T:

U.S. somewhat radical intellectuals, as well as assorted crudely opportunist political parasites, have a long lame tradition: taking every fresh approach to social issues and driving it into the ground like a fence post.

Now it's the burial of Occupy in silly meaningless shit-babble.

Some examples of the trashing of Occupy:

17 December 2011 Josh Stearns **Occupying the First Amendment**

13 December David Weigel **Occupy the Left**

Dec 12, 2011 Jim Goodman **Occupy the Food System**

17 December Willie Nelson **Occupy the Food System**

December 16, 2011 Jason Hickel **How to Occupy the World**

23 December 2011 Ellen Brown **The Way to Occupy a Bank Is to Own One**

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



**The Cruel, Racist Enemy
Combatants Who Really Do
Occupy New York City:
“Essentially, I Incorporated Into
My Daily Life The Sense That I
Might Find Myself Up Against A**

**Wall Or On The Ground With An
Officer's Gun At My Head"
"We Expect The Police To Jump Us
At Any Moment"
"And We All Feel The Same Way —
Degraded, Harassed, Violated And
Criminalized Because We're Black Or
Latino"**

[As has been previously noted from time to time, one useful service our troops can perform, instead of occupying Afghanistan and killing its people, would be to come home and sweep this filth in blue off our streets once and for all. Most will run away: bullies are cowards. T]

December 17, 2011 By NICHOLAS K. PEART, New York Times. Nicholas K. Peart is a student at Borough of Manhattan Community College.

WHEN I was 14, my mother told me not to panic if a police officer stopped me.

And she cautioned me to carry ID and never run away from the police or I could be shot.

In the nine years since my mother gave me this advice, I have had numerous occasions to consider her wisdom.

One evening in August of 2006, I was celebrating my 18th birthday with my cousin and a friend.

We were staying at my sister's house on 96th Street and Amsterdam Avenue in Manhattan and decided to walk to a nearby place and get some burgers. It was closed so we sat on benches in the median strip that runs down the middle of Broadway.

We were talking, watching the night go by, enjoying the evening when suddenly, and out of nowhere, squad cars surrounded us. A policeman yelled from the window, "Get on the ground!"

I was stunned. And I was scared.

Then I was on the ground — with a gun pointed at me.

I couldn't see what was happening but I could feel a policeman's hand reach into my pocket and remove my wallet. Apparently he looked through and found the ID I kept there.

“Happy Birthday,” he said sarcastically. The officers questioned my cousin and friend, asked what they were doing in town, and then said goodnight and left us on the sidewalk.

Less than two years later, in the spring of 2008, N.Y.P.D. officers stopped and frisked me, again.

And for no apparent reason.

This time I was leaving my grandmother’s home in Flatbush, Brooklyn; a squad car passed me as I walked down East 49th Street to the bus stop. The car backed up.

Three officers jumped out. Not again. The officers ordered me to stand, hands against a garage door, fished my wallet out of my pocket and looked at my ID. Then they let me go.

I was stopped again in September of 2010.

This time I was just walking home from the gym. It was the same routine: I was stopped, frisked, searched, ID’d and let go.

These experiences changed the way I felt about the police.

After the third incident I worried when police cars drove by; I was afraid I would be stopped and searched or that something worse would happen.

I dress better if I go downtown. I don’t hang out with friends outside my neighborhood in Harlem as much as I used to.

Essentially, I incorporated into my daily life the sense that I might find myself up against a wall or on the ground with an officer’s gun at my head.

For a black man in his 20s like me, it’s just a fact of life in New York.

Here are a few other facts: last year, the N.Y.P.D. recorded more than 600,000 stops; 84 percent of those stopped were blacks or Latinos.

Police are far more likely to use force when stopping blacks or Latinos than whites.

In half the stops police cite the vague “furtive movements” as the reason for the stop. Maybe black and brown people just look more furtive, whatever that means.

These stops are part of a larger, more widespread problem — a racially discriminatory system of stop-and-frisk in the N.Y.P.D.

The police use the excuse that they’re fighting crime to continue the practice, but no one has ever actually proved that it reduces crime or makes the city safer.

Those of us who live in the neighborhoods where stop-and-frisks are a basic fact of daily life don’t feel safer as a result.

We need change. When I was young I thought cops were cool. They had a respectable and honorable job to keep people safe and fight crime. Now, I think their tactics are unfair and they abuse their authority. The police should consider the consequences of a generation of young people who want nothing to do with them — distrust, alienation and more crime.

Last May, I was outside my apartment building on my way to the store when two police officers jumped out of an unmarked car and told me to stop and put my hands up against the wall.

I complied.

Without my permission, they removed my cellphone from my hand, and one of the officers reached into my pockets, and removed my wallet and keys.

He looked through my wallet, then handcuffed me.

The officers wanted to know if I had just come out of a particular building. No, I told them, I lived next door.

One of the officers asked which of the keys they had removed from my pocket opened my apartment door.

Then he entered my building and tried to get into my apartment with my key.

My 18-year-old sister was inside with two of our younger siblings; later she told me she had no idea why the police were trying to get into our apartment and was terrified.

She tried to call me, but because they had confiscated my phone, I couldn't answer.

Meanwhile, a white officer put me in the back of the police car. I was still handcuffed. The officer asked if I had any marijuana, and I said no.

He removed and searched my shoes and patted down my socks.

I asked why they were searching me, and he told me someone in my building complained that a person they believed fit my description had been ringing their bell.

After the other officer returned from inside my apartment building, they opened the door to the police car, told me to get out, removed the handcuffs and simply drove off. I was deeply shaken.

For young people in my neighborhood, getting stopped and frisked is a rite of passage.

We expect the police to jump us at any moment.

We know the rules: don't run and don't try to explain, because speaking up for yourself might get you arrested or worse.

And we all feel the same way — degraded, harassed, violated and criminalized because we're black or Latino.

Have I been stopped more than the average young black person? I don't know, but I look like a zillion other people on the street.

And we're all just trying to live our lives.

As a teenager, I was quiet and kept to myself.

I'm about to graduate from the Borough of Manhattan Community College, and I have a stronger sense of myself after getting involved with the Brotherhood/Sister Sol, a neighborhood organization in Harlem.

We educate young people about their rights when they're stopped by the police and how to stay safe in those interactions.

I have talked to dozens of young people who have had experiences like mine. And I know firsthand how much it messes with you.

Because of them, I'm doing what I can to help change things and am acting as a witness in a lawsuit brought by the Center for Constitutional Rights to stop the police from racially profiling and harassing black and brown people in New York.

It feels like an important thing to be part of a community of hundreds of thousands of people who are wrongfully stopped on their way to work, school, church or shopping, and are patted down or worse by the police though they carry no weapon; and searched for no reason other than the color of their skin.

I hope police practices will change and that when I have children I won't need to pass along my mother's advice.

“Prosecutors In Pennsylvania Announced They Will Not Request A New Sentencing Trial To Impose The Death Penalty On Mumia Abu-Jamal” “His Life Has Not Been Saved”

Dec 12, 2011 The Spark

Prosecutors in Pennsylvania announced they will not request a new sentencing trial to impose the death penalty on Mumia Abu-Jamal, falsely convicted of the 1981 murder of Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner.

This doesn't mean that Mumia has finally been freed – only that he will spend the rest of his life in jail.

Mumia Abu-Jamal, now 58 years old, has already spent more than half his life behind bars, his conviction based on falsified evidence and on the testimony of witnesses who now admit the police coerced them to lie at the trial.

The Philadelphia police and prosecutors worked for decades to put this man to death, despite all the evidence of his innocence, for the same reason they framed him up in the first place – because as a radio journalist, he had exposed their racist and criminal behavior.

The prosecution did not back down out of any concern for justice – but because of a worldwide movement that has fought for decades to save Mumia's life and have this gross injustice overturned.

This decision is little more than an attempt by the U.S. government to bury the case.

A new sentencing trial would allow Mumia's attorneys to present everything that has come to light since the original trial – everything the justice system has ignored based on technicalities. And that could only underline the hypocrisy and viciousness of a U.S. government that criticizes the denial of human rights in other countries, but puts innocent men to death knowingly in this country.

Those who have worked to support Mumia know that he did not get justice with this ruling – but they should also know that his life has not been saved.

How many other men have been killed in prison with the complicit agreement of authorities or even on their explicit orders?

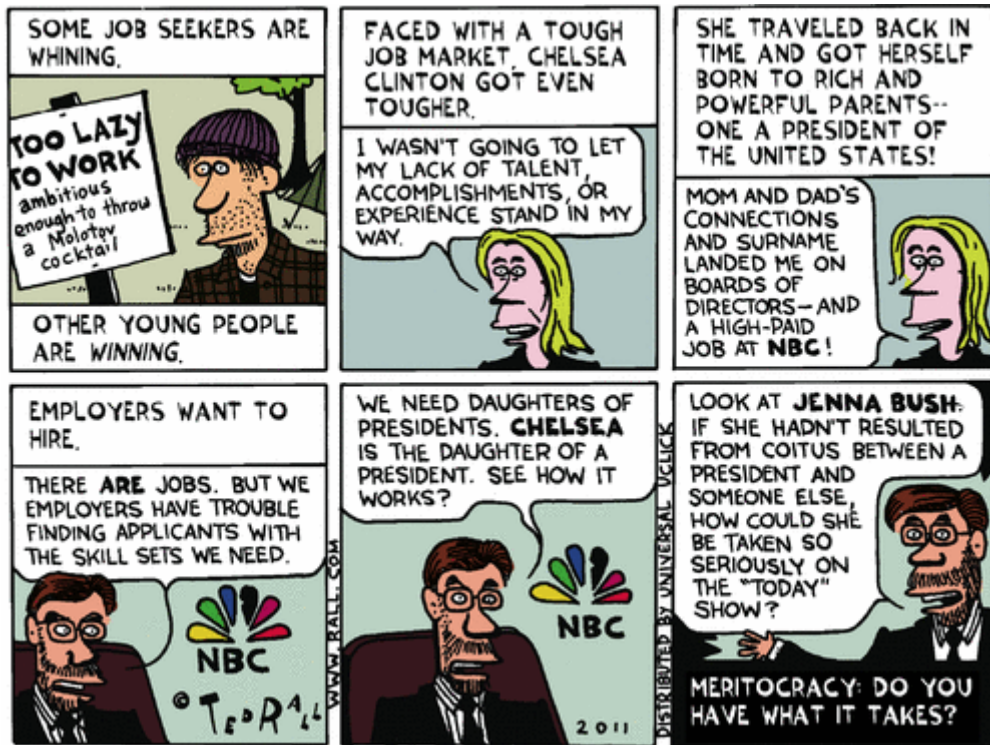
No one should ever forget George Jackson, assassinated by California prison authorities in 1971 or the many other victims of officially authorized prison violence.

Don't let the prosecution bury this case – and Mumia along with it. The work must continue to free Mumia!

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.

CLASS WAR REPORTS



China: “This Month-Long Strike Wave Mainly Affected Guangdong Province, Which Is Highly Industrialized And Very Populous”

Dec 12, 2011 The Spark

On November 22nd, a thousand workers went on strike at Jingmo, an electronics factory in Shenzhen, a south China city of ten million people. This factory is owned by the Taiwanese Jingyuan Computer Group and makes keyboards and other accessories for Apple, IBM and LG.

Angry workers protested a huge increase in work hours. After the normal work day from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. with a two-hour lunch break, the bosses wanted workers to work to 6 p.m. or even midnight or 2 a.m.

This report comes from China Labor Watch, a not-for-profit organization in Hong Kong.

When the workers heard the news, they left work and demonstrated in the street, denouncing bad working conditions that cause many accidents. They protested the systematic laying off of older workers and the behavior of managers, who often insult workers.

They went back to work only when management promised to reduce the overtime hours.

On November 16th, in the same province, 400 women workers from Top Form Underwear making bras went on strike for five days against a wage cut and the imposition of piece rates.

Their anger had increased after a foreman insulted a worker who didn't understand an order given in Cantonese – because the common language is Mandarin.

On November 17th, in Dongguan, 7,000 workers from an industrial complex in Guangdong province near Canton went on strike against layoffs and pay cuts at Yucheng, a shoe factory. These workers are contracted to such corporations as Adidas, Nike and New Balance. Clashes with the police left several wounded. Workers feared the plant would be moved to Jiangxi province, where workers are paid even worse wages than in Guangdong.

This month-long strike wave mainly affected Guangdong province, which is highly industrialized and very populous. Tens of millions of migrant workers employed in the factories there suffer the heavy consequences of the world economic crisis.

The Vice Prime Minister in charge of finances recently warned that the Chinese economy was about to enter a long recession. Since the beginning of 2011, exports have hardly increased, which has led to a production slow-down.

Production in China has recently declined at the sharpest rate in 2½ years.

When orders decline, the Chinese bosses react like bosses do throughout the world: they make the workers pay.

Most of these bosses are contractors for big Western corporations, and these corporations make enormous profits from the fierce exploitation of Chinese workers. Though Chinese workers are more exploited, they have the same problems as U.S. and European workers: low wages, layoffs, run-away plants.

Often they have the same bosses. Their fight is an encouragement for all workers everywhere.

MORE:

**“China’s Story Just Sounds Too
Much Like The Crack-Ups We’ve
Already Seen Elsewhere”
“Recent Growth Has Relied On A
Huge Construction Boom Fueled By
Surging Real Estate Prices, And
Exhibiting All The Classic Signs Of A
Bubble”
“Now The Bubble Is Bursting”**

December 18, 2011 By PAUL KRUGMAN, New York Times [Excerpts]

Consider the following picture: Recent growth has relied on a huge construction boom fueled by surging real estate prices, and exhibiting all the classic signs of a bubble.

There was rapid growth in credit — with much of that growth taking place not through traditional banking but rather through unregulated “shadow banking” neither subject to government supervision nor backed by government guarantees.

Now the bubble is bursting — and there are real reasons to fear financial and economic crisis.

Am I describing Japan at the end of the 1980s?

Or am I describing America in 2007?

I could be. But right now I’m talking about China, which is emerging as another danger spot in a world economy that really, really doesn’t need this right now.

All economic statistics are best seen as a peculiarly boring form of science fiction, but China’s numbers are more fictional than most.

The most striking thing about the Chinese economy over the past decade was the way household consumption, although rising, lagged behind overall growth. At this point consumer spending is only about 35 percent of G.D.P., about half the level in the United States.

But the bigger story from China’s point of view is investment spending, which has soared to almost half of G.D.P.

The obvious question is, with consumer demand relatively weak, what motivated all that investment?

And the answer, to an important extent, is that it depended on an ever-inflating real estate bubble.

Real estate investment has roughly doubled as a share of G.D.P. since 2000, accounting directly for more than half of the overall rise in investment.

And surely much of the rest of the increase was from firms expanding to sell to the burgeoning construction industry.

Do we actually know that real estate was a bubble? It exhibited all the signs: not just rising prices, but also the kind of speculative fever all too familiar from our own experiences just a few years back — think coastal Florida.

And there was another parallel with U.S. experience: as credit boomed, much of it came not from banks but from an unsupervised, unprotected shadow banking system.

There were huge differences in detail: shadow banking American style tended to involve prestigious Wall Street firms and complex financial instruments, while the Chinese version tends to run through underground banks and even pawnshops.

Yet the consequences were similar: in China as in America a few years ago, the financial system may be much more vulnerable than data on conventional banking reveal.

Now the bubble is visibly bursting.

Some commentators say not to worry, that China has strong, smart leaders who will do whatever is necessary to cope with a downturn. Implied though not often stated is the thought that China can do what it takes because it doesn't have to worry about democratic niceties. To me, however, these sound like famous last words.

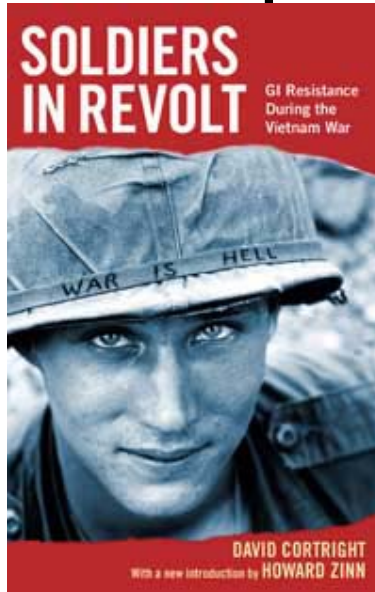
After all, I remember very well getting similar assurances about Japan in the 1980s, where the brilliant bureaucrats at the Ministry of Finance supposedly had everything under control.

And later, there were assurances that America would never, ever, repeat the mistakes that led to Japan's lost decade — when we are, in reality, doing even worse than Japan did.

And anecdotal evidence suggests that while China's government may not be constrained by rule of law, it is constrained by pervasive corruption, which means that what actually happens at the local level may bear little resemblance to what is ordered in Beijing.

China's story just sounds too much like the crack-ups we've already seen elsewhere.

**FREE TO ACTIVE DUTY:
A Vietnam Soldier Wrote The Book All
About How An Armed Forces Rebellion
Stopped An Imperial War**



SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT

**[CIVILIANS: \$16 INCLUDING POSTAGE:
BUY ONE FOR A FRIEND/RELATIVE IN THE SERVICE.
CHECKS, MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO: THE MILITARY
PROJECT]**

**Requests from active duty or
orders from civilians to:**

**Military Resistance
Box 126
2576 Broadway
New York, N.Y.
10025-5657**

**“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

Military Resistance www.militaryproject.org

*This is how Obama brings the troops home,
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE.*



*Military Resistance is a near-daily news bulletin for service members
www.militaryproject.org*

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>

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

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