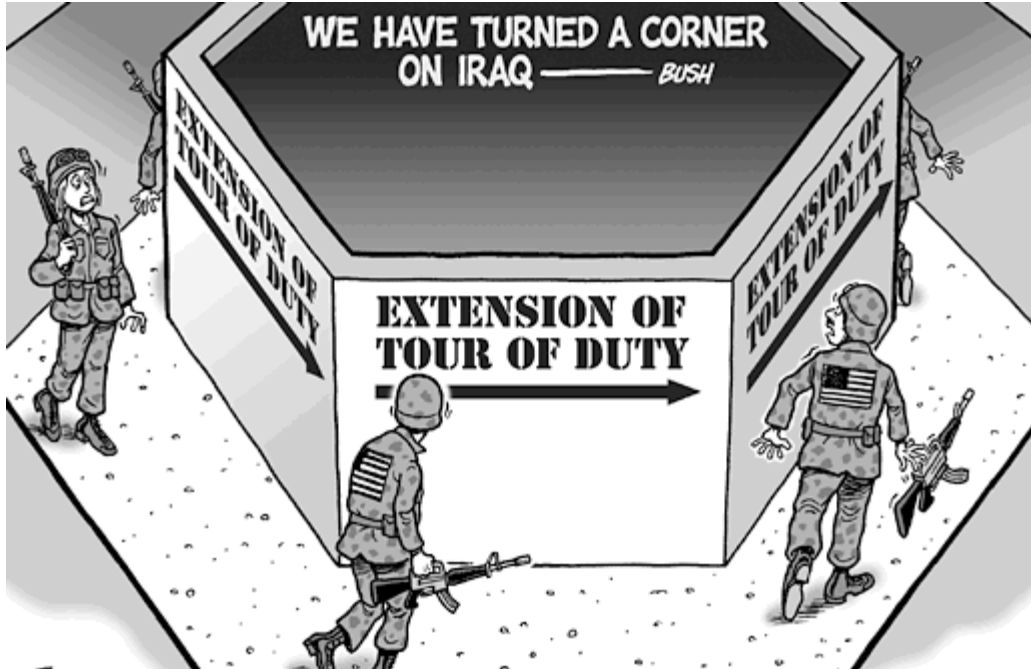


GI SPECIAL 5L5:



[By Greenberg, Ventura County Start: Thanks to Mark Shapiro, who sent this in.]

ACTION REPORTS

**“Thank Your Friends
Too For Being Here”
“They Thanked Me So Much, The
Police Heard Them!”
[New Jersey Marine Reserves]**

From: Elaine Brower, The Military Project
To: GI Special
Sent: December 02, 2007

WOW!

This will be hard to put into words, as you can see.

Marines are sooooo different from the Guard soldiers. And the location is difficult. However, once again, we triumphed!

5 of us tackled [Location X Marine Reserves.]

We had 100 packets of lit, which included Traveling Soldier, Appeal for Redress cards, a small slip of paper that wished them all Happy Holidays and had the IVAW phone number on it, and home made cookies, and chocolate kisses and hersey bars inside the ziploc bags.

There is only one entrance, and it is a small driveway in and out. Most of the Marines park inside, however, there is a parking lot on the other side of the street from the armory.

We arrived very early, about 2:30 PM, and went to the gate. We were able to give out a few of our handouts, but then a Marine Major drove up and asked me what I was doing.

I told him I was giving out reading material and holiday goodies. He grumped at me, and asked me "WHAT KIND OF READING?" I said, "Very interesting stories written by GI's who have been to Iraq, and I baked the cookies myself."

He scowled at me, trying to scare me, and said we were standing on Federal property and we should take our anti-war crap down the street and "away from my base." I smiled politely and said "OK, Happy Holidays."

He got in his car and went inside the base. So at the point our inside contact said the Marines would be leaving by 4, so we went to our cars to wait until we were sure we see more of them, and not get thrown out of the area altogether.

We saw activity by 4:30 PM and it was a storm of cars. Our strategy was to have 2 at the gate, one on either side, 2 across the street at the parking lot to catch the walkers, and then one person went halfway up the block to the street light just in case we missed someone.

As the cars headed out, we were able to approach within 2 steps and ask them if they wanted the lit.

Most of them rolled down their windows and took it with a smile and thank you. We thanked them for their service and happy holidays. Some drove by without acknowledging our trying to get them to roll down the window. Others outright flipped us off, or told us to get lost. Oh, well, you can please some of the people some of the time.

After handing out about 25 pieces of lit, the local police show up with lights flashing. We knew this had to come.

They walked right over to me and asked me what I was doing. I said I was "handing out some literature to the Marines, along with home made holiday treats, and the cookies I made myself!"

I asked them if they would like to have a package, they grumbled something incoherent.

Then told me and the other person standing at the gate not to “step into the driveway, that was federal property.” I said, OK. The driveway was so narrow it really didn’t matter.

They then proceeded to stop traffic on the main road where the Marines had to exit onto so that they could get off the base in a hurry and not stop to see us. I waved at all of them as they went by, wished them Happy Holidays.

As this was going on, we had others posted across the street so they wound up getting lit anyway.

But, interestingly enough, a couple of the cars ignored the police waving them on and opened their window and asked me what I had.

I walked over, to the dismay of the police, and gave them a DVD, cookies and lit. They thanked me so much, the police heard them!

In fact, specifically yelled “Thank your friends too for being here.”

After about 30 minutes of a police escort, the local authorities decided to leave. They walked up to one car, a Sgt., and said they were there to stop us from “bothering” his men. But, right after that conversation, these cops left.

So we stayed another 30 minutes, and were able to hand out about 75 packages!

The best conversation I had was with a Staff Sgt.

He was so nice, rolled down his window and asked me about the lit. He asked me if it was “negative”. I said “it depends upon which side you are on.”

He laughed and then I told him it was written by GI’s who were in Iraq, and I baked the cookies. He said, very nicely, that the news doesn’t tell the truth and that it wasn’t that bad in Iraq, he had been there twice.

I told him my son was a Marine and was in Iraq, and his problem was killing innocent people. The Staff Sgt. just looked at me and then gave me a shrug and a half smile and said “yeah, I guess that’s not too good.” Then I said that the Marine Commandant was against sending any more marines into Iraq so it couldn’t be all that good. He laughed at that too, and then said “boy, you must have some interesting conversations with your son!” I said my son loves the Marine Corps, and my dad was in the Marines and fought in Okinawa, but Iraq is all wrong. He really couldn’t argue with that point. He then said well, “I guess we can disagree, that’s why this is America.” I wished him Happy Holidays, and he wished me the same and drove off with a big wave and smile.

I am sure there are some other conversations had along the way, and I have to say that this was an EXTREMELY DIFFICULT outreach. Marines are not Guard, and the logistics were a nightmare.

But this is well worth it, standing in the snow and cold freezing rain. I had such a great time, and felt so rewarded to complete this day. I am sure everyone else felt the same.

We have a great group doing this, very committed and they know what to say and do. Next weekend is Teaneck and West Orange and possibly Picatinny. I can't wait.

“These Three And I Disseminated 118 Packets Of GI Resistance Literature” [New York National Guard]

12.2.07 By Lillian V. Udell, The Military Project

It's interesting to think that someone can get excited standing in the cold for a few hours on an early Saturday morning.

Getting up before sunrise to stand behind gates, erected by an establishment which has left most of its solutions outside in the cold.

But energy persists in desperate times, and ours reached out to an audience disenfranchised and yet extremely powerful, the members of the United States military.

I stood outside with three men, all former members of the military. Of course the odd one out, I was the 19 year old student from a powerful university, soon to be guilty of its own expansion into others' territory.

These three and I disseminated 118 packets of GI resistance literature, 19 DVDs about the GI resistance movement during the Vietnam War, and many buttons and brownies for perks.

Most of it was accepted with smiles and a “thank you,” which made me wish that it wasn't so cold out, so I could engage in more conversation.

I wanted to ask them all when they joined the military, why they joined, and most importantly, their thoughts on the war.

I wanted to feel the energy of being in their position.

But then I thought, we're here for them.

And I handed them another brownie.

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 GI Special 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.

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.

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

If accidentally included, that information will not be published.

The sole exception: occasions when a member of the armed services explicitly directs his or her name be listed as reporting on the action.

"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

**"The military are the final, essential weak point of Bush and Cheney."
David McReynolds 9.29.07**

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE SERVICE?

Forward GI Special along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in 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 war, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Complex Attack Kills Two U.S. Troops In Salah Ad Din; Two More Wounded

December 5, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20071205-05

TIKRIT, Iraq – Two Multi-National Division-North Soldiers were killed as a result of injuries sustained from a complex attack involving an improvised explosive device and small arms fire while conducting operations in Salah ad Din province, Dec. 4.

Additionally, two Soldiers were wounded as a result of the same attack and transported to a Coalition medical facility for treatment.

Another U.S. Soldier Killed In Salah Ad Din

December 5, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20071205-06

TIKRIT, Iraq – A Multi-National Division – North Soldier died Dec. 5 as a result of wounds sustained from an attack involving an improvised explosive device and small-arms fire while conducting operations in Salah ad Din province Dec. 4.

Longer Tour Cut GI's Life Short

Dec 5, 2007 The Associated Press

LEE, Maine — The family of a soldier from Fort Lewis, Wash., who died in Iraq says he would have been safe on U.S. soil if his tour had not been extended.

Bill Emery said his son, Army Cpl. Blair William Emery, was supposed to come home in October. Instead, his tour was extended by another three months.

“That’s what bothers me the most right now,” Bill Emery said.

Emery, 24, assigned to the 571st Military Police Company, 97th Military Police Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade at Fort Lewis, had been injured twice before he was killed by an improvised explosive device that was detonated near his vehicle on Nov. 30 in Baqubah.

In March, he suffered a concussion and an injured hip from another IED blast, and he was hit by a bullet fragment while he was standing in his vehicle’s turret in another incident, his father told the Bangor Daily News.

Emery is receiving a posthumous promotion to sergeant.

Bill Emery said his son always had a strong sense of right and wrong that asserted itself when the boy was only 3 or 4 years old. That’s around the time he stopped his family from picking apples from a neighbor’s tree because of a “no trespassing” sign.

“We knew the people who owned the tree and they wouldn’t have minded, but he wouldn’t let us go,” said Blair’s sister, Betsy Siegfried.

“He put up a fit,” Bill Emery said. “That was the way he was. He respected other people’s property. We didn’t get any apples that day.”

Local Soldier Injured In Iraq Missile Attack

December 5, 2007 By SHANNON MURPHY, The Times Herald

Family members are sure Army Sgt. Dennis Newberry’s stubbornness and independence are helping him get through his injuries.

Newberry, 23, a Port Huron Northern High School graduate, was injured Nov. 27 when the Humvee he was driving in Baghdad was hit by a missile. Newberry is with the U.S. Army’s Second Cavalry Regiment based in Vilseck, Germany.

Newberry, a former high school hockey player, was on his second tour in Iraq. Now he is recovering in Landstuhl Army Regional Medical Center in Germany.

His first tour lasted about two years, after which he spent several months with his wife and two daughters in Germany. He was deployed again this summer, family members said.

Newberry's mother, Jessica Haggith of Glencoe, Ontario, said since last week her son has undergone five surgeries to fix shattered bones in his right arm and to remove shrapnel from his body.

Haggith said her son helped saved the lives of others in the Humvee he was driving when the bomb exploded.

"He kept driving even after he was injured," she said. "I was told no one should have survived because nothing is left of the Humvee."

Newberry is expected to require extensive rehabilitation and possibly more surgeries. Family members are hoping friends and loved ones can send him letters and messages to show they care.

Newberry's grandmother Ruth Dickinson, who lives in Port Huron, said she was "scared to death" when she heard he had been injured.

She said her grandson is a really nice guy who can be independent. Although family members would have helped pay for his education, Dickinson said

Newberry insisted on joining the Army so he could do it on his own.

"When they get through one tour, you think 'Phew,'" Dickinson said. "You have this gut feeling when they are back there a second time. It's a scary feeling.

"The whole family is on pins and needles all the time."

What A Surprise! Resistance Leader Says Iraqi Insurgents Regrouping, Retraining "And Waiting Out George Bush's Surge"

[And no doubt lining up for some of those tens of thousands of weapons the U.S. command is happily handing out to anybody and everybody that smiles and feels them up a little bit. T]

December 3, 2007 Jonathan Steele in Damascus, The Guardian

Iraq's main Sunni-led resistance groups have scaled back their attacks on US forces in Baghdad and parts of Anbar province in a deliberate strategy aimed at regrouping, retraining, and waiting out George Bush's "surge", a key insurgent leader has told the Guardian.

“We oppose al-Qaida as well as al-Sahwa,” the director of the political department of the 1920 Revolution Brigades told the Guardian in Damascus in a rare interview with a western reporter.

Using the nom de guerre Dr Abdallah Suleiman Omary, he went on: “Al-Sahwa has made a deal with the US to take charge of their local areas and not hit US troops, while the resistance’s purpose is to drive the occupiers out of Iraq.

“We are waiting in al-Sahwa areas. We disagree with them but do not fight them. We have shifted our operations to other areas”.

FUTILE EXERCISE: ONLY 10 MILLION MORE TO GO: COME ON HOME NOW!



Foreign occupation soldier from the U.S. Army of Alpha Company, 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, takes a fingerprint of Iraqi citizens in the Amariyah neighborhood of west Baghdad Aug. 3, 2007. (AP Photo/Petr David Josek)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Collaborators’ Military Bus Blown Up In Kabul

12.5.07 By AMIR SHAH, Associated Press Writer

A bomber rammed his explosives-laden car into a minibus full of Afghan soldiers and Defense Ministry staff south of Kabul on Wednesday, killing at least 13 and wounding 20, officials and witnesses said.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, which happened on the last morning of Defense Secretary Robert Gates' two-day visit to Afghanistan.

Gen. Mohammad Zahir Azimi, a defense ministry spokesman, said six soldiers and seven staff were killed in the attack.

The bomber struck a in the Chihulsutoon area south of Kabul.

The minibus was demolished and its mangled frame lay on the side of the road as the wounded were whisked to hospitals.

The blast was the third such attack in the city in the last eight days.

Local resident Amir Mohammad said he helped load the bodies of the six slain Afghan soldiers into ambulances.

"Every day this bus stops in front of my bakery to take employees of defense ministry," Amin said. "Suddenly today a very strong explosion hit the bus."

There has been a spate of attacks in recent months on buses carrying Afghan security forces as they commute to work in the morning.

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupation 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 - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces. Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! (www.ivaw.org/)

GI SPECIALS BY MAIL FREE FOR ACTIVE DUTY TROOPS

IF YOU WISH TO HAVE A SELECTION OF GI SPECIALS MAILED TO YOU, EMAIL YOUR ADDRESS TO: CONTACT@MILITARYPROJECT.ORG OR DROP A LINE TO: BOX 126, 2576 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10025-5657 USA

Please say how many you wish sent.

NOTE WELL: They will all be different issues of GI Special to satisfy DOD regs that you may possess copies, *provided you don't have more than one of the same issue.*

TROOP NEWS

**THIS IS HOW BUSH BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE**



Photo by Nahrawan [Thanks to Kevin Ramirez, CCCO, who sent this in.]

**Florida Rats Assault And Cop Scum
Threaten Citizens For Opposing War**

December 03, 2007 From Beverly, Florida Military Families Speak Out via MFSO NY-NJ-CT [Excerpts]

Florida Peace Action Network's weekly Friday morning vigil will continue as usual.

We are not required to have a permit, there have been no complaints of our presence by local businesses, and we have a constitutional right to protest without fear of harassment from the local police department or fear of attack from citizens who disagree with our message of peace.

Last week at our weekly vigil several participants of our group were verbally accosted by a supporter of the war, and most unfortunately, one of our participants was physically assaulted.

The officer who responded to the scene declined to take a report of the assault, instead harrassing our group by falsely claiming we had to have a permit to be present, and falsely claiming local businesses had complained we were a nuisance, etc.

This matter is being handled through legal channels by participants of our weekly vigil.

Also in Pasco Co., one of our members, Peno Hardesty, was told by a man at the grocery store that her anti Bush bumper stickers were illegal.

Peno ignored the gentleman and went on her way.

He took her license number and later that day the police showed up at her house.

They told her that her bumper stickers could provoke people and if she were to come to harm over them, she would be bringing that harm upon herself. She was then informed that any one had the right to report her for suspicious behavior.

These are alarming events.

If we are to retain our constitutional rights and civil liberties, we are going to have to work for them.

Join us in our vigils, start a vigil of your own, write letters to the editor, contact your local police departments and ask them if all of their officers are aware of the civil rights of all Americans, but get involved!

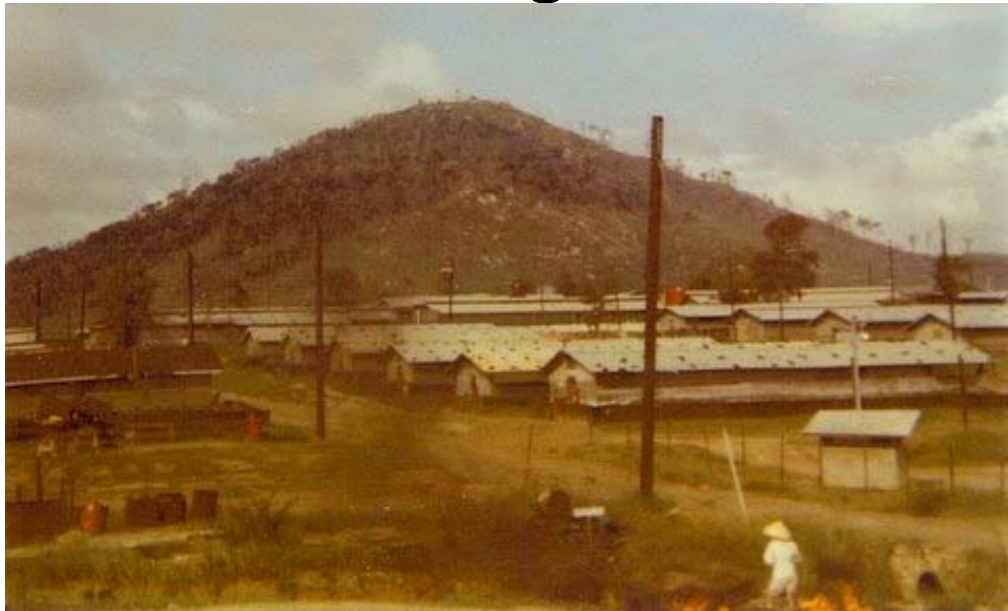
When??? NOW NOW NOW NOW NOW NOW

**Florida MILITARY FAMILIES SPEAK OUT
It's THEIR War - it's OUR Loved Ones.
<http://mfsoflorida.tripod.com>**

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

“When someone says my son died fighting for his country, I say, “No, the suicide bomber who killed my son died fighting for his country.”
-- Father of American Soldier Chase Beattie, KIA in Iraq

Burning Shit



From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: December 03, 2007
Subject: Burning Shit

Burning Shit

**When generations of Americans don't know
the truth about U.S. foreign policy,
and they don't care--
you have millions of people walking
around with hoods over their heads.
That's what happened in Rome.
That's what happened in Vietnam.
That is what is happening in Iraq.**

**Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 3, 2007**

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

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

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

OCCUPATION REPORT

U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR; RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS



US soldiers search an Iraqi citizen's house during a home invasion in Baquba, 25 November 2007. Seven Iraqis, among them three women and a child, were reported killed by the US military a day after Washington and Baghdad agreed to keep American forces in Iraq beyond 2008. (AFP/File/Gianluigi Guercia)

Iraqi citizens have no right to resist home invasions by occupation soldiers from the USA. If they do, they may be arrested, wounded, or killed.

[There's nothing quite like invading somebody else's country and busting into their houses by force to arouse an intense desire to kill you in the patriotic, self-respecting civilians who live there.

[But your commanders know that, don't they? Don't they?]

"You go up the stairs. You grab the man of the house. You rip him out of bed in front of his wife. You put him up against the wall.

"You have junior-level troops, PFCs, specialists will run into the other rooms and grab the family, and you'll group them all together. Then you go into a room and you tear the room to shreds and you make sure there's no weapons or anything that they can use to attack us.

"You'll go into the fridge, if he has a fridge, and you'll throw everything on the floor, and you'll take his drawers and you'll dump them.... You'll open up his closet and you'll throw all the clothes on the floor and basically leave his house looking like a hurricane just hit it.

"So you've just humiliated this man in front of his entire family and terrorized his entire family and you've destroyed his home. And then you go right next door and you do the same thing in a hundred homes."

Sgt. John Bruhns

"In the States, if police burst into your house, kicking down doors and swearing at you, you would call your lawyer and file a lawsuit," said Wood, 42, from Iowa, who did not accompany Halladay's Charlie Company, from his battalion, on Thursday's raid. "Here, there are no lawyers. Their resources are limited, so they plant IEDs (improvised explosive devices) instead."

**OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION
BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW!**

Troops Invited:

What do you think? 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 email contact@militaryproject.org. Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

While Chatterers Write Useless, Pompous Articles About “Two State Solutions,” Here Is The Reality Of Zionist Terror



Palestinians in Gaza hold pictures of incarcerated relatives as they attend a protest calling for the release of Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails. (Hatem Omar, Maan Images)

Dec 4, 2007 Gideon Levy, Haaretz [Excerpts]

The prisoners went to sleep after the evening roll call.

At 2 A.M. they woke in a panic when hundreds of armed warders from the Masada and Nahshon units of the Israel Prisons Service (IPS) raided their tents.

Quickly the scene turned into a battlefield. The warders fired at the inmates with a variety of weapons; the inmates fought back by throwing vegetables and other random objects.

According to affidavits submitted by a number of prisoners to the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel, the warders were extremely brutal.

They shot inmates and beat them with truncheons even when they lay bound on the floor, and forced more than 400 prisoners into a small visitors' room.

The result: one prisoner killed by ammunition of unknown type - though the testimonies indicate that he was shot in the head at close range - and a large number of prisoners wounded.

The fatality was Mohammed Ashkar, who was 29 at the time of his death.

A few months ago, we visited his home in the village of Saida, shortly after his older brother, Lo'ai, was released from the same prison, Ketziot.

Lo'ai is half paralyzed as a result of torture he underwent at the hands of the Shin Bet security service.

In his living room we saw a fine drawing of a prisoner burying his head between his legs, done by his brother, Mohammed.

Now Mohammed is dead.

In their parents' home, which is across the road from the cemetery, they are now mourning for the dead Mohammed and the crippled Lo'ai.

This is the "prisoner release" of the Ashkar family: one in a shroud, the other on crutches.

What happened on the night of October 22 in Ketziot prison?

Lo'ai has taken testimony from prisoners who have since been released and visited him at home.

"Suddenly, at two in the morning, we heard people shouting and sounds of gunfire, and we went out into the yard to see what was going on," one of the prisoners, Omar Salah, relates.

"Everyone who went into the yard was shot at from across the fence. Afterward the forces opened the gate and went through it, shooting at everyone in their way."

"They threw stun grenades at the prison wing," another prisoner, Majid Salit, says.

"When they saw us, they told us to get into the wing. We refused, and they jumped us... When they opened fire at us, we started to throw things at the forces... They kept on shooting until they pushed us into a corner... We all came out crawling on the ground. We were not allowed to look at the forces. Our heads were in the ground.

"They chose a group of 10 every time and started to hit them with big truncheons and they got us back into the prison wings. When they got to me, I said I was wounded ... They took me to the side and started to hit me with truncheons. They put me into the visitors' wing, where there were 400 prisoners ... We sat there for

two hours, bleeding ... On the way to the ambulance they hit us, and they also hit us with truncheons when we were in the ambulance.”

According to the prisoners, the tents caught fire in the wake of the warders' gunfire. There was no air in the grossly overcrowded visiting room, Omar Salah relates, and the inmates broke a window so they could breathe.

“The forces arrived and started to shoot into the room,” he says.

Prisoner Sufian Jamjoum describes the ammunition: “From a distance of one meter a warder shot me in the leg as I was talking to him. His weapon looked like a hunting rifle. It was the first time I ever saw this type of bullet. It was a bullet the size of an egg and there were about 200 small iron bullets inside it ... I was left in the tent even though I was bleeding, and afterward I was taken to the visiting room, wounded and bleeding, with another 400 prisoners in a small, closed room.”

Salah explained the circumstances of Mohammed Ashkar's death. “The shahid (martyr) ran and entered his tent. The soldiers went into the tents. Mohammed was next to the door of tent No. 3, on the inside, and the soldier was about one meter away ... When the shahid was shot and fell, he was opposite the soldier. I saw him.”

Salit: “(Mohammed) stood by the door of our wing and watched what was going on. A masked man from the security forces arrived. He aimed his pistol at his head and shot him. Mohammed collapsed. The other prisoners shouted that he had to be taken to the hospital. They took him only after the tents burned.”

The chairs for the mourners are still arranged in the corner of the yard of the house across from the cemetery. Lo'ai enters the room, barely able to drag his crippled leg.

Little Moujahid also comes in, a beautiful boy of three, asking where Daddy is.

Daddy is dead.

Lo'ai saw Mohammed for the last time on May 10, when he was released from Ketziot. For five months the brothers had been incarcerated together, in beds placed next to each other.

Mohammed was scheduled to be released next month. The two brothers talked a lot about the future. Mohammed's dream was to open a small store to repair cellular phones. Waiting in Saida were Mohammed's wife and child, and their apartment, now under construction above the parents' home.

“We parted at the entry to the wing. I never saw him again. Afterward he sent me regards with prisoners who were released,” Lo'ai says, speaking Hebrew.

The father of the family, Sati, who is very cordial and also speaks good Hebrew, hadn't seen Mohammed since his arrest two years ago. He was on the “banned visitors” list.

His wife, Hijer, visited her son in the middle of October. Mohammed told her: "Next time I will visit you, and that will last for the rest of my life." He added that he was "counting the days, the hours and the minutes" until his release.

A week later he was killed in the prison.

On October 23 there was a phone call from the International Red Cross: Mohammed was seriously wounded in prison and was hospitalized at Soroka Medical Center in Be'er Sheva. Trying to organize a visit, the family went to the Red Cross offices in Tul Karm, where they were told that Mohammed's father and brother would not be allowed to enter Israel. Mohammed's mother, his wife and the former village council head set out in a Red Cross vehicle for Be'er Sheva, and reached the hospital after being held up for two hours at the Taibeh checkpoint.

The door of Mohammed's room in the hospital was closed; two policemen stood guard next to it. Each relative was given five minutes to visit.

Mohammed's mother went in first.

She relates that her son was unconscious and on life-support.

His head and one hand were bandaged, and both hands and both feet were in iron handcuffs. Hijer says she started to tremble and shout: "Why is he handcuffed? Do you really think he will get up and attack you?"

The police, she says, told her she was doing her son harm. After time ran out, she begged to be allowed to stay - "Maybe he will wake up" - but the policemen told her to leave. An hour after they left, the phone call came: Mohammed is dead.

Lo'ai: "We started to make arrangements to get the body, and they started to talk to us about an autopsy. We said we didn't want an autopsy - after all, it was obvious, a wound in the head. They said there had to be an autopsy."

The family applied for a court order to prevent the autopsy, but it quickly turned out that it had already been performed. A report of the Institute for Forensic Medicine at Al-Quds University, whose representative attended the autopsy, describes "a round wound, radius about 3 centimeters ... in the center of the forehead, above the left eyebrow ... a bruise with redness around it on the right forehead. This redness is (from) a burn caused by a metal surface at high temperature."

Dr. Boaz Sagi, a surgical expert, wrote to Physicians for Human Rights, which is also investigating the events in the prison: "The findings of the autopsy are unequivocal. The cause of death is a head injury caused by a blunt object, with no penetration wound. The cause of the injury is apparently a round object that caused a fracture of the forehead on the left - that is, an injury that came from within."

Here are the video photographs in Lo'ai's laptop: Mohammed's body, two wounds on the front skull area, a wound on his hand, eyes and mouth wide open.

Mohammed was buried in the cemetery across from the house, in the section of the village shahids. Saida, a village of 3,000 inhabitants, counts 23 dead in the present intifada, probably the highest percentage in the territories.

A spokeswoman for Soroka Medical Center told Haaretz: "The wounded individual was evacuated to the hospital in critical condition. At the directives of security personnel, he was handcuffed. The medical staff, following the usual procedure, asked the security personnel to unshackle him. Regrettably, the patient died before the reply of the security personnel arrived."

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by foreign terrorists, go to: www.rafahtoday.org The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."]

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



[Thanks to Gerald Ali]

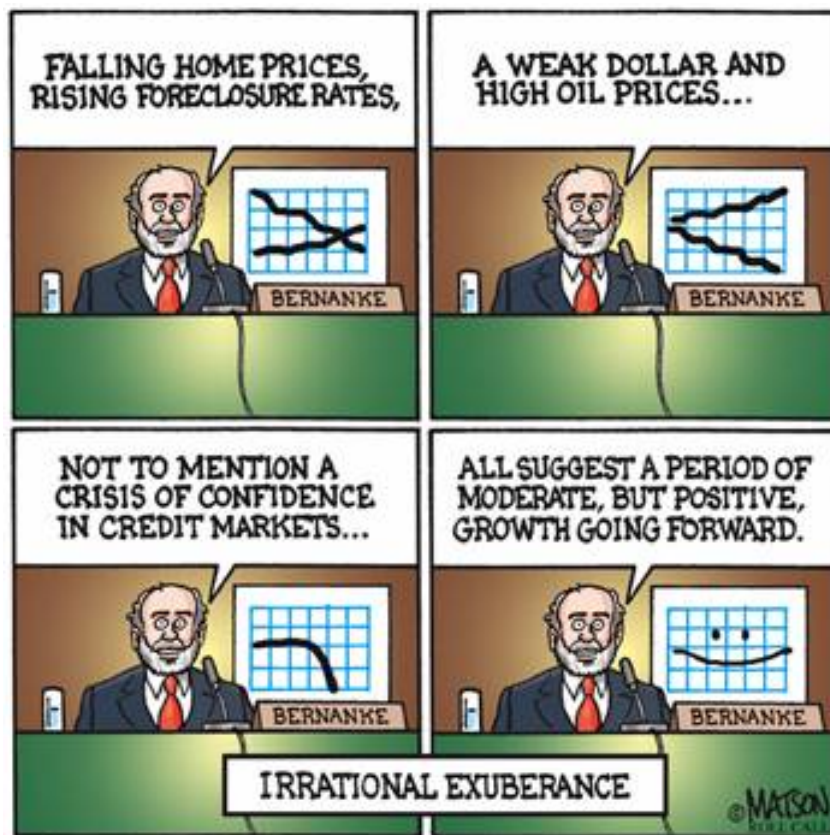
Officially Found Not A Terrorist,

He's Still In Bush's Guantanamo Concentration Camp Four Years Later

12.5.07 Washington Post

Just months after U.S. Army troops whisked Murat Kurnaz from Pakistan to Guantanamo, in 2002, his American captors concluded that he was not a terrorist. He is still in custody at the detention facility.

CLASS WAR REPORTS



R.J. Matson, Roll Call 2007

“The Last, Best Hope To Keep Bulldozers At Bay In New

Orleans Is Mass Resistance In The Streets Of The City” COME TO NEW ORLEANS IN DECEMBER TO STOP ETHNIC CLEANSING BY BULLDOZING!

To stop HUD’s bulldozers and to stymie the government/corporate ethnic cleansing machine thousands of determined anti-racists and progressives will be needed on the streets of New Orleans in December. For this to happen anti-racists and friends of the working class from all walks of life and all corners of the county must come to New Orleans in December.

December 03 By Mike Howells, C3/Hands Off Iberville. Mike Howells is a Katrina Survivor and a member of the New Orleans based C3/Hands Off Iberville grass roots organization. He has been active in New Orleans in the local social justice movement since 1983.

The November announcement by HUD that the planned demolition of more than 5,000 desperately needed units of public housing in storm devastated New Orleans is scheduled to begin in mid-December presents the progressive community of the United States with a moment of truth.

Is the opposition of the progressive community in this country to the abomination of ethnic cleansing something more than words?

There can be no serious doubt that HUD’s “redevelopment plan” for post-Katrina public housing in New Orleans, i.e. demolish it, would, in practice, result in the permanent exile of tens of thousands of working class, African-Americans from the Crescent City.

And having successfully bottled up judicial and legislative challenges to its “redevelopment” plan for New Orleans public housing, HUD and its ruling class partners in ethnic cleansing are moving in for the kill.

The last, best hope to keep Alfonso Jackson’s bulldozers at bay in New Orleans is mass resistance in the streets of the city.

Drawing the progressive community of the United States en masse into the streets of the Crescent City to confront HUD’s bulldozers of ethnic cleansing is key to winning a huge victory against racism and classism.

Expecting the public housing residents of New Orleans and local allies alone to stop HUD’s bulldozers is expecting too much.

The local forces struggling to reopen the city's public housing are battle weary survivors of Hurricane Katrina. Since the storm these Katrina Survivors, like many other Katrina Survivors, have endured trauma upon trauma.

Furthermore, the Bush Administration and powerful business interests have succeeded, after more than two years of plotting and maneuvering, in finally neutralizing judicial and legislative opposition to the Administration's public housing land grab.

Now the playing field in New Orleans pits the government/corporate ethnic cleansing machine of Bush and company against whomever the city's public housing movement is able to marshal on the streets.

The resistance of the New Orleans public housing movement has managed to stave off the post-Katrina push to destroy local public housing for more than two years.

However, recent developments in federal court and Congress noted above effectively dictate that the fate of the city's public housing will be settled in the streets of the storm devastated city.

To stop HUD's bulldozers and to stymie the government/corporate ethnic cleansing machine thousands of determined anti-racists and progressives will be needed on the streets of New Orleans in December.

For this to happen anti-racists and friends of the working class from all walks of life and all corners of the county must come to New Orleans in December.

There comes a time when a group that says it stands for something in general must do something in particular in order to demonstrate to itself and others that it means anything at all.

The progressive community in America is united in saying it's against racism. The battle to save public housing in New Orleans gives anti-racists a historic opportunity to strike a major blow against the ethnic cleansing now underway on the Gulf Coast.

The refusal of the Bush Administration to reopen public housing in Louisiana's largest city is the lynchpin of the artificially manufactured shortage of housing now plaguing the Crescent City.

More than anything else, it is this man made shortage of affordable housing that blocks the return of 150,000 African-American Katrina Survivors to New Orleans. In itself the reopening of the 5,000+ shuttered units of public housing would help to significantly alleviate this dire shortage of affordable housing.

What's more is that the reopening of public housing would exert a downward pressure on private rents that would open up yet more local housing to Katrina Survivors.

Access to this otherwise affordable housing is being denied at present because, so far, it's been politically expedient for the Bush Administration to keep public housing closed.

The purpose of the December mobilization to stop the demolition of New Orleans public housing is to dramatically raise the political cost to the Bush Administration and the U.S. Senate for supporting the attack on affordable housing here.

Mass, determined resistance in the streets of the city to the demolition of the area's public housing is the key to dramatically raising the political cost of denying Katrina Survivors the affordable housing they need to return home.

The time is now for thousands of anti-racists to come to New Orleans and to do what must be done to strike a decisive blow against the scheme to destroy affordable housing needed by Katrina Survivors.

New Orleans' public housing residents and local allies have issued a national call to action urging people from around the country to come to the Crescent City in December to provide the critical mass needed to stop HUD's bulldozers.

This national call to action was issued in response to the announcement by HUD officials that the demolition of the four targeted public housing developments is scheduled to begin on December 15, 2007.

The Coalition to the Stop the Demolition is issuing the national call.

The Coalition is a collection of local groups and individuals that have championed the reopening of New Orleans public housing for more than two years. The call asks friends of public housing and opponents of racism everywhere to start coming to New Orleans on December 10th.

Supporters who cannot make it to New Orleans by December 10th but plan to come to town to help defend public housing from the bulldozers should come as soon as possible.

Thousands of people determined to stop ethnic cleansing are needed in New Orleans to do just that.

Justice demands action!

Contact information:

For additional information , please contact the Stop the Demolition Coalition at action@peopleshurricane.org , or call us at 504-458-3494.

MORE:

**“There’s Going To Be A War In
New Orleans”**

“If You Try To Bulldoze Our Homes, We’re Going To Fight”

03 December 2007 By Bill Quigley, CounterPunch [Excerpts]

Quigley is a human rights lawyer and law professor at Loyola University New Orleans and one of the lawyers for displaced residents. Contact: Quigley@loyno.edu.

On the 12th day before Christmas, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is planning to unleash teams of bulldozers to demolish thousands of low-income apartments in New Orleans.

Despite Katrina causing the worst affordable housing crisis since the Civil War, HUD is spending \$762 million in taxpayer funds to tear down over 4,600 public housing subsidized apartments and replace them with 744 similarly subsidized units - an 82 percent reduction.

HUD is in charge and one HUD employee makes all the local housing authority decisions. HUD took over the local housing authority years ago - all decisions are made in Washington, DC.

HUD plans to build an additional 1,000 market rate and tax credit units - which will still result in a net loss of 2,700 apartments to New Orleans - the remaining new apartments will cost an average of over \$400,000 each!

Over 50,000 families still living in tiny FEMA trailers are being systematically forced out.

In New Orleans, hundreds of the estimated 12,000 homeless have taken up residence in small tents across the street from City Hall and under the I-10.

Over 90,000 homeowners in Louisiana are still waiting to receive federal recovery funds from the Road Home.

The bulldozers have not torn down any buildings yet and New Orleans public housing residents vow to resist.

“If you try to bulldoze our homes, we’re going to fight,” promised resident Sharon Jasper. “There’s going to be a war in New Orleans.”

Residents offered evidence to show the three-story garden-style buildings were structurally sound, and pointed out the local housing authority itself documented it would cost much less to repair and retain the apartments than demolish and reconstruct a small fraction of them.

The New York Times architecture critic described them as “low scale, narrow footprint and high quality construction.” HUD promised to subject plans for demolition to 100 days of scrutiny - yet approved demolition with no public input in less than two days.

The court acknowledged some questions about the fairness of the process but concluded that if the demolitions turn out to be illegal, residents can always recover money damages later. **[Well, isn't that just fucking marvelous. Hey, if we demolish your house and you have to stay in some fucking tent under a bridge or sleep in the fucking streets, you can always sue somebody and get your day in court years later, if you got the money for a lawyer that is. No, Sharon Jasper is right, fight the miserable motherfuckers in the streets. Now.]**

Resident resistance is being expanded by allies from a coalition of groups who see the destruction of public housing without one-for-one replacement harming all renters and low-income homeowners.

Kali Akuno, of the Coalition to Stop Demolition, explains why many people who do not live in public housing are joining residents in this fight.

“In the past two years, New Orleans has faced a series of social crises that have struck a blow to our collective vision for a more just and equitable city, not simply one that is more inviting to elites. Yet, none of these crises has been as uniquely urgent as this.

“What is at stake with the demolition of public housing in New Orleans is more than just the loss of housing units: it destroys any possibility for affordable housing in New Orleans for the foreseeable future.

“Without access to affordable housing, thousands of working class New Orleanians will be denied their human right to return.”

Republican interests are clearly not served by the return of all African-Americans to New Orleans.

Louisiana was described before Katrina as a “pink state” - one that went Democratic some times and Republican others. The tipping point for Louisiana Democrats was the deeply Democratic African-American city of New Orleans. Immediately after the hurricanes struck, one political analyst said, “the Democratic margin of victory in Louisiana is sleeping in the Astrodome in Houston.” Tiny turnout by African-American voters in New Orleans in recent elections has led white Republican interests to calculate immediate new political gains. Demolition of thousands of low-income African-American occupied apartments only helps that political and racial dynamic.

But no one will say openly African-American renters are not welcome.

Supporters of the destruction of thousands of apartments have come up with a series of stated reasons for their actions, but it clearly looks like political gain and economic enrichment for contractors, lawyers, architects and political friends are the real reasons.

Reduction of crime was supposed to be the main reason for getting rid of thousands of public housing apartments - yet crime in New Orleans has soared since Katrina, while the thousands of apartments remain shut.

Every one of the displaced families who were living in public housing is African-American.

Most all are headed by mothers and grandmothers working low-wage jobs or disabled or retired. Thousands of children lived in the neighborhoods. Race, class and gender are unstated parts of every justification for demolition, especially the call for "mixed-income housing."

If the demolitions are allowed to go forward, there will be mixed income housing - but the mix will not include over 80 percent of the people who lived there.

This absolute lack of any realistic affordable alternative is the main reason people want to return to their public housing neighborhoods - or be guaranteed one for one replacement of their homes. Absent that, redevelopment will not help the residents or people in the community who need affordable housing.

HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson has his own reasons for pressing ahead with the demolitions.

HUD has approved plans to turn over scores of acres of prime public land to private developers for 99-year leases and give hundreds of millions of dollars in direct grants, tax credit subsidies and long-term contracts.

One of the developers described it as the biggest tax-credit giveaway in years.

There may be crime in the projects after all - even if the residents are gone. Consider the following examples:

Investigative reporter Edward T. Pound, of the National Journal, has uncovered many questionable and several potentially criminal actions by HUD in New Orleans.

Pound reported HUD Secretary Jackson worked with, and is owed over \$250,000 from, an Atlanta-based company, Columbia Residential. Columbia Residential was part of a team that was awarded a \$127 million contract by HUD to develop the St. Bernard housing development.

Columbia was also awarded other earlier contracts for as yet undisclosed amounts under still undisclosed circumstances.

A review of the dozens of no-bid contracts approved by HUD in New Orleans shows millions going to politically connected consultants, law firms, architects and insurance brokers.

What is scheduled to happen in New Orleans is happening across the United States. It is just New Orleans offers a more condensed and graphic illustration.

The federal government is determined to get out of housing all together and let the private market reign.

A 2007 report of the Urban Institute confirms that in the last decade over 78,000 low-income apartments have been demolished by HUD. That is why locals are receiving support and solidarity from residents and housing advocates in Chicago, Miami, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, and New York.

Destruction of housing for the working poor is also a global scandal as corporations and governments push entire neighborhoods out. In India, traditional fishing villages destroyed by the tsunami are being forcibly moved away from the coast and the land where they lived is being converted to luxury hotels and tourist destinations. The International Alliance of Inhabitants, which opposes the demolitions in New Orleans, points out poor people's neighborhoods are also being taken away in Angola, Hungary, Kenya, Nigeria, Russia, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

Poor and working people in New Orleans and across the globe are living on property that has become valuable for corporations. Accommodating governments are pushing the poor away and turning public property to private.

HUD is giving private developers hundreds of millions of public dollars, scores of acres of valuable land, and thousands of public apartments. Happy holidays for them for sure.

For the poor, the holidays are scheduled to bring bulldozers.

The demolition is poised to start in New Orleans any day now.

Attempts at demolition will be met with just resistance.

Whether that resistance is successful or not will determine not only the future of the working poor in New Orleans, but of working poor communities nationally and globally.

If the US government is allowed to demolish thousands of much-needed affordable apartments of Katrina victims, what chance do others have?

GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

GI Special issues are archived at website <http://www.militaryproject.org> .

The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:

**<http://williambowles.info/gispecial/2007/index.html>; <http://www.uruknet.info/?p=6&l=e>; http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi_special/;
<http://www.albasrah.net/pages/mod.php?header=res1&mod=gis&rep=gis>**

GI Special 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 occupation of Iraq. 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. **GI Special has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is GI Special 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, 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.