

Military Resistance 8A22



“Ft. Lewis: Of Drug Lords and Drug Overdoses”

U.S. Colonel And Afghan Drug Lord Form An Extremely Close Relationship:

“Estimates Are That He Makes Between \$5 And \$6 Million Per Month By Running Drugs ...”

“We Understand Each Other; We Get Along”



A farmer argues that some of his sheep were killed by an American artillery strike. Listening is Gen. Abdul Razik, the commander of the Afghan Border Patrol, Lt. Col. William Clark and an interpreter. Photo by J.M. Simpson

The rest of the article goes on to describe how Clark and Razik reach an unspoken accommodation that will allow Razik's drugs to continue to flow freely as the Americans set up new "highway checkpoints on the Afghanistan/Pakistan border."

Ironically, in the same issue of the Fort Lewis Ranger featuring Simpson's article "8-1 'talks' with one of Taliban's most wanted" you will find a short AP article about a now-concluded court-martial against a young soldier who is blamed for the drug overdose death of his girlfriend in his Ft. Lewis barracks.

January 26, 2010, Dissident Veteran for Peace; via Michelle J. Kinnucan

Lakewood, WA-based Fort Lewis Ranger has an article by J. M. Simpson in its January 27, 2010, print edition that discusses cooperation between the US Army in Afghanistan and Abdul Razik.

An apparent online version of the article is much sanitized concerning Razik while in the print edition Simpson describes Razik as "the leader of a tribal militia and Afghan Border Police (ABP) force that extends across Kandahar and Helmand provinces."

Simpson says Razik "is the most powerful Afghan official in the southern part of the country."

Simpson continues with a physical description of the man but eventually tells readers bluntly, "Razik is a drug lord." Simpson continues:

"By controlling both Kandahar and Helmand--which produce 80 percent of Afghanistan's opium, which consequently accounts for 90 percent of the world's supply--Razik has become very wealthy.

"Estimates are that he makes between \$5 and \$6 million per month by running drugs ..."

According to UNICEF the annual gross national income per capita of Afghanistan was \$250 in 2007.

In America, we purport to be staunchly opposed to drugs and drug dealers.

Hundreds of thousands of Americans are in prison for drug crimes and “According to FBI reports, 83 percent of drug arrests are for possession of illegal drugs alone.”

US troops are routinely and randomly tested for illicit drug use.

So, why are US forces working with a violent drug kingpins like Razik?

Well, according to Simpson, Razik’s drug “wealth has allowed him to create a 3500-man border patrol force ... which is fiercely loyal to him” and Razik aligned himself and his “force” with the US.

Lt. Col. William Clark, commander of the Ft. Lewis-based 5th Stryker Brigade’s 8th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, knows all about Razik “and as such he has carefully cultivated a relationship with Razik in order for both men to get what they want.”

Simpson writes: ““We understand each other; we get along,’ said Clark before a recent meeting. They meet several times a week.”

The rest of the article goes on to describe how Clark and Razik reach an unspoken accommodation that will allow Razik’s drugs to continue to flow freely as the Americans set up new “highway checkpoints on the Afghanistan/Pakistan border.”

Ironically, in the same issue of the Fort Lewis Ranger featuring Simpson’s article “8-1 ‘talks’ with one of Taliban’s most wanted” you will find a short AP article about a now-concluded court-martial against a young soldier who is blamed for the drug overdose death of his girlfriend in his Ft. Lewis barracks.

She died after taking a mixture including oxycodone and oxymorphone--both are made from opium.

Reportedly, at his court-martial, Private Timothy E. Bennitt “spoke authoritatively about how he began using painkillers when he returned to Fort Lewis after spending more than six months in Afghanistan ... Bennitt told Army Lt. Col. Kwasi Hawks, who is presiding over the court-martial, that he had surgery for an eye injury ...”

Bennitt was found guilty of manslaughter last Friday.

Meanwhile, Abdul Razik thrives and is one of America’s good buddies.

Razik was also profiled last month in Harper’s in “The master of Spin Boldak: Undercover with Afghanistan’s drug-trafficking border police” and was featured in a 2006 article “Inspiring Tale of Triumph over Taliban Not All it Seems” by Graeme Smith in the Canadian Globe and Mail.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Insurgents Devise New Ways To Hide Bombs

Jan 27, 2010 By Brian Murphy - The Associated Press [Excerpts]

Militant groups are finding new ways to foil Iraqi security — hiding explosives in the chassis of vehicles or tucking them into secret compartments — the top U.S. commander in Iraq said Tuesday as Baghdad was again hit by a suicide car bomb that sheared off the front of the main crime lab.

The methods include wrapping explosives into the gears and slats of vehicle chassis or into carefully concealed chambers, he said.

He said Iraqi authorities have requested scanners capable of looking inside sealed portions of vehicles. Iraqi forces have been reluctant to expand the use of bomb-sniffing dogs because of the widely held Muslim tradition that avoids contact with dogs.

“They are willing to use them against vehicles,” he said. “They don’t want to use them against people.”

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Number Of U.S. Troops Killed In January Sets New Record

Jan 31 by Lynne O’donnell, AFP [Excerpts]

The Afghan war has notched up another grisly record, with the number of international troops to die in the fight against the Taliban the highest for the month of January since the war began.

With tens of thousands more international troops being deployed to Afghanistan this year, analysts and officials are warning the deaths of 44 foreign soldiers in January is a sign of things to come.

January’s foreign troop deaths, reported by independent website icasualties.org, which keeps a running tally, compares with 25 in January 2009.

The number of Americans who died last month in the conflict now in its ninth year was almost double the number for January last year, at 29 compared with 15, the website says.

WELCOME TO AFBAGHVIETISTAN: HAVE A NICE DAY



U.S. Army soldiers on patrol in Kolack, a village in the Korengal Valley, Kunar province, northeastern Afghanistan, Jan. 19, 2010. The soldiers from Task Force Lethal regularly exchange fire with Taliban militants who operate in the hillsides of the Pech and Korengal valleys. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

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

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

TROOP NEWS

**NOT ANOTHER DAY
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR**

NOT ANOTHER LIFE



The casket of Marine Lance Cpl. Jeremy Kane at Congregation M'kor Shalom in Cherry Hill N.J., Jan. 29, 2010. Kane, 22, was killed Jan. 23 while in Helmand province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

Send A Letter To Iraq Veteran Marc Hall: In Jail For Recording A Song

01/29/2010 by mgibbs,Glvoice.org/

Please, take a minute to write Marc a letter of support! These letters should be delivered without any problem.

Army Spc. Marc Hall sits in jail over "Stop-loss" song

After over a month of confinement, Army Specialist Marc Hall still sits incarcerated in the Liberty County Jail near Fort Stewart, GA.

The U.S. Army jailed Hall on December 11, claiming that the lyrics of his hip-hop song, "Stop-loss" amount to the "communication of a threat."

Hall, an Iraq War veteran, recorded the song last summer, expressing his anger over the Army's Stop-Loss policy, which involuntarily extended his contract for a second Iraq deployment.

We believe that Spc. Hall's right to free speech is being violated with the Army's actions.

Write a letter to Marc in jail letting him know he has your support.

Send letters to:

Marc Hall
Liberty County Jail
180 Paul Sikes Dr.
Hinesville, GA 31310

Soldiers Steals Army Humvee To Go AWOL & Runs Out Of Gas [Demonstrating Readiness For Pentagon Assignment]

Jan 28, 2010 The Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — An Army private is in custody in Daytona Beach for being absent without leave from Fort Stewart in Georgia.

Sean Aaron Johnson was discovered Tuesday after the military Humvee he was driving ran out of gas on the side of Interstate 95.

Johnson only had a military identification card and no driver's license when a deputy found him on the highway. He told the deputy he was transporting the vehicle to Fort Lauderdale, but the deputy was suspicious since Johnson didn't have a copy of his order, lacked a government fuel card and was dressed in civilian clothing.

He is being held in custody, and the Army plans to charge with him being absent without leave and grand theft.

The New Issue Of Traveling Soldier Is Out This Issue Features:

**“I Don't Even Know If Our Generals Or
Commanders Even Believe That We Can**

Win This War... What Would I Be Dying For?"

1. "If The American Public Knew Half Of What's Going On In Iraq And Afghanistan, We'd Be Out Of There Already"

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/2.10.public.php>

2. Movie Review: Brothers

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/2.10.movie.php>

3. "I don't even know if our generals or commanders even believe that we can win this war... What would I be dying for? What did my unit members die for?"

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/2.10.generals.php>

4. "The President Knows Perfectly Well That Afghanistan is Vietnam All Over Again"

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/2.10.VN.php>

5. Download the new Traveling Soldier to pass it out at your school, workplace, or at nearby base.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/TS27.pdf>

MORE:

FYI:

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

MILITARY RESISTANCE TEN POINTS

Mission Statement:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. Military Resistance uses organizational democracy.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Membership Requirements:

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

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

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

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

----- (Signed)

(Date)

----- (Application taken by)

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

MORE

MILITARY RESISTANCE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name (please print): _____

Armed Forces? (Branch) _____

Veteran? Years: _____

Union: _____

Occupation: _____

Mailing address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone (Landline): _____

Phone (Cell): _____

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

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

Comments:

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

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

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

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

**“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**

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



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

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

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

Frederick Douglass, 1852

**“Hope for change doesn’t cut it when you’re still losing buddies.”
-- J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War**

**“Hope Is Disillusion, Frustration,
And Anger Over Promises Made,
Then Broken With A Growing
Awareness That Obama
Represents Business As Usual”**

“He Presides Over A Bogus Democracy Under A Homeland Police State Apparatus”

“Obama’s Rhetoric Hides A Failed Agenda He’ll Continue, Serving Capital And Militarists, Not People In Dire Need”

29 January, 2010 By Stephen Lendman, Countercurrents.org [Excerpts] Stephen Lendman is a Research Associate of the Centre for Research on Globalization.

As a candidate, Obama promised change, a new course, sweeping government reforms, addressing people needs, and “ensur(ing) that the hopes and concerns of average Americans speak louder in Washington than the hallway whispers of high-priced lobbyists....”

A year later, hope is disillusion, frustration, and anger over promises made, then broken with a growing awareness that Obama represents business as usual, a reality rhetoric can’t change.

His top political, economic and national security officials are former administration members - from Wall Street, the military, and other key power centers for continuity, not promised change.

He presides over a bogus democracy under a homeland police state apparatus, embraces torture and political persecution like his predecessor, and continues unbridled militarism, imperial wars, and a shocking disregard for the law.

A January 27 Dana Priest Washington Post article revealed a secret Obama “hit list,” the same policy George Bush authorized to kill US citizens abroad claimed to be supporting terrorism “against the United States or US interests,” whether or not it’s true.

He looted the federal Treasury for Wall Street, plans new monetary measures to control the world’s money, and favors handouts to the rich at the expense of beneficial social change.

He embraces the same Bush administration policies, targets dissenters, Muslims, Latino immigrants, environmental and animal rights activists, and lawyers who defend them too vigorously.

He spies illegally on Americans, destroyed decades of hard won labor rights, wants public education privatized as another business profit center, and scorns democracy in favor of hard-line rule.

He backs rationing healthcare, destroying Medicare, and enriching insurers, drug companies and large hospital chains.

He wants legislation passed to empower agribusiness, let corporate polluters reap huge windfall profits by raising energy costs, and create a speculative bonanza for Wall Street with a new carbon trading derivatives scheme.

He wants all Americans monitored with a national ID card, favors preventive detentions for uncharged detainees, and opposes protection for whistleblowers and journalists to protect their identity.

He ignores growing poverty, hunger, and homelessness, refuses help for budget-strapped states, and chooses rhetoric, theater, deceit and cynicism, not progressive change to address a national emergency.

His State of the Union address reflected “yes we can,” “hope (and) change,” and another pledge that “Tonight I want every American to know this: We will rebuild, we will recover, and the United States of America will emerge stronger than before....The time to take charge of our future is here,” at the same time he invaded Haiti, occupies the country with 20,000 combat troops, obstructs essential aid from reaching millions, and claims it’s a humanitarian mission.

Obama’s rhetoric hides a failed agenda he’ll continue, serving capital and militarists, not people in dire need.

He wants more business tax cuts and windfalls to stimulate growth and new jobs, repackaged Reaganomics that cost record numbers of job losses in the past two years, well over 500,000 in December alone based on the broader household survey.

As a result:

-- real unemployment tops 20%;

-- 11 million full-time jobs were lost since late 2007;

-- over four and a half million jobs were lost since Obama took office;

-- a record 9.3 million Americans work part-time;

-- in 2009, a record 2.8 million homes were foreclosed, realitytrac.com saying “a massive supply of loans.... loom(s) over the housing market,” many to become delinquent in 2010 and beyond, perhaps for years; and

-- an epic debt overhang crushes the economy, exacerbated by a \$13 trillion giveaway to Wall Street; another \$10.7 trillion pledged amounting to a virtual free money blank check; and similar largess goes for militarism and homeland security at a time dire people needs go begging.

Smooth rhetoric belies Obama's failed agenda, one he'll continue without progressive change under new leadership that cares, something neither party offers nor ever will as they leave millions out of luck and on their own.

**LIAR
TROOP-KILLER
DOMESTIC ENEMY
UNFIT FOR COMMAND
UNWORTHY OF OBEDIENCE**



(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

**DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE
MILITARY?**

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the wars, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Phone: 888.711.2550

A Memory Of Howard Zinn:

“Thank You For What You Are Doing! Keep It Up”



January 27, 2010 By Daniel Ellsberg, Antiwar.com [Excerpts]

I just learned that my friend Howard Zinn died today.

Our first meeting was at Faneuil Hall in Boston in early 1971, where we both spoke against the indictments of Eqsbal Ahmad and Phil Berrigan for “conspiring to kidnap Henry Kissinger,” from which we marched with the rest of the crowd to make Citizens’ Arrests at the Boston office of the FBI.

Later that spring we went with our affinity group (including Noam Chomsky, Cindy Fredericks, Marilyn Young, Mark Ptashne, Zelda Gamson, Fred Branfman and Mitch Goodman), to the Mayday actions blocking traffic in Washington (“If they won’t stop the war, we’ll stop the government”).

Howard tells that story in the film and I tell it at greater length in my memoir, *Secrets: A Memoir of Vietnam and the Pentagon Papers* (pp.376-81).

But for reasons of space, I had to cut out the next section in which Howard – who had been arrested in DC after most of the rest of us had gone elsewhere – came back to Boston for a rally and a blockade of the Federal Building.

I’ve never published that story, so here it is, an out-take from my manuscript:

We had a circle of people all the way around the building, shoulder to shoulder, so no one could get in or out except by stepping over us.

Then a line of employees emerged from the building, wearing coats and ties or dresses. Their arms were raised and they were holding cards in their raised hands.

As they circled past us they hold out the cards so we could see what they were: ID cards, showing they were federal employees.

They were making the peace-sign with their other hands, they were circling around the building to show solidarity with what we were doing.

Their spokesman said over a bullhorn, "We want this war to be over, too! Thank you for what you are doing! Keep it up."

January 31, 1876: Betrayal



Sitting Bull: One of several chiefs who refused to comply.

Carl Bunin Peace History Jan 28 - Feb 3

The U.S. government ordered that all Native Americans must move to reservations by this date or be declared hostile.

Most Sioux did not even hear of the ultimatum until after the deadline.

January 31, 1968: Resistance Anniversary: The Tet Offensive

Peace History: Carl Bunin

The Tet (the lunar new year) Offensive began as North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces launched surprise attacks against major cities, provincial and district capitals in South Vietnam.

The attack had been anticipated but, nonetheless, half of the ARVN troops (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) were on leave because of the holiday.

There were attacks in Saigon (the South's capital) on the Independence Palace (the residence of the president), the radio station, the ARVN's joint General Staff Compound, Tan Son Nhut airfield, and the United States embassy, causing considerable damage and throwing the city into turmoil.

January 31, 1945: Anniversary Of A Murder; The Execution Of Private Eddy Slovik



Pvt. Eddie Slovik

Carl Bunin Peace History Jan 28 - Feb 3

Private Eddie Slovik became the first American soldier since the Civil War to be executed for desertion.

Supreme Allied Commander Dwight D. Eisenhower ordered Slovik's execution be carried out, he said, to avoid further desertions in the late stages of the war.

[Excerpt from the article by Joe Allen; Death Row At The "Castle": Inside The U.S. Military's Judicial System; the International Socialist Review. Joe Allen is a member of Teamsters Local 705 in Chicago and the International Socialist Organization.]

Alvin "Tommy" Bridges, a military policeman during the war and a future police chief, recounted his very bitter memories of "military justice" to Studs Terkel in the Good War: "They shot some of those same guys up there that were—if you'd go to a municipal court, they'd dismiss the case. Depending a lot upon the commanding officer."

Near the end of his narrative, Bridges makes clear the extent of summary "justice" and who was responsible:

"Eisenhower says that's the only guy (Eddie Slovik) that was ever executed for it (desertion). That's what burns me up, when a gross of them that I know were executed for probably more minor things than what Slovik was. They said he was the only one. We had to make a show of it. The son-of-a-bitches."

Eddie Slovik was a Polish working-class kid from Detroit who had a minor criminal record and spent some years in a youth reformatory. His draft classification was originally 4-F (unfit for military service) and therefore not eligible to be drafted. He married and got a decent paying job in the auto industry, whereupon he was reclassified 1-A.

The army was then drafting anybody it could get its hands on in preparation for the invasion of Europe. It was also clear that Slovik couldn't kill a living thing and was terrified of combat. In his "confession" after he deserted he said, "I'll run away again if I have to go their." (He misspelled "there," and by "there" he meant going into combat).

Over 40,000 other deserters tried by lesser courts-martial were punished by confinement to disciplinary centers or dishonorably discharged. Another 2,864 were tried by general courts-martial. Most were sentenced to long terms in prisons (many left prison soon after the war was over), but forty-nine were sentenced to death. All the sentences for desertion were commuted except Slovik's.

Slovik's story is recounted in William Bradford Huie's book The Execution of Private Slovik.

Why Slovik?

It seems likely that the reason Slovik was singled out was because he deserted at the time of stiffening German resistance in late 1944, when the Allied forces came dangerously close to collapsing on the Western front. Yet, curiously, the army never publicized his execution beyond his company, never told his wife, and buried him in a secret cemetery.

It would be nearly a decade after Slovik's death before Huie began investigating the strange circumstances surrounding it. Despite the efforts of many people, Slovik's wife never received the paltry \$10,000 plus interest she asked for in GI life insurance.

Slovik's remains were finally returned to the U.S. in 1987, to be buried beside the grave of his deceased wife.

While many people believe that Slovik was the only American soldier executed during the war, that is not true.

Many were executed on charges other than desertion, and African American soldiers once again bore the brunt of these executions.

OCCUPATION HAITI

Instead Of Distributing Food, U.S. Soldiers Waited More Than Five Hours For Three Trucks And A Platoon To Get Back From Helping Secure A Medical Facility For A Visit From A VIP:

“The Vibe Is Changing. I’m Starting To See The Looks Of ‘You’ve Been Here A Week, Where’s My Food? And What Are You Doing For Me?’”

January 29, 2010 By Dana Hedgpeth, Washington Post Staff Writer [Excerpts]

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI -- Capt. Edward Kim and his 100 troops camp out on what was the tennis court of the National Palace, destroyed in the earthquake two weeks ago. When out on the streets of this devastated city, they wear their rifles slung behind their backs to show they're here not to guard but to help.

But helping remains hard.

For many U.S. soldiers, assisting the homeless and injured is taking more time and patience than they'd expected.

Some of their supplies, including trucks, are still not here, forcing different units to share what they have.

Many units were stalled for up to three days on a grassy field next to the airport, awaiting orders of where to go and what to do. As units finally filter out to establish smaller bases in neighborhoods, they are gradually figuring out what people need and how to get it to them.

One day earlier this week, Kim, of Tacoma, Wash., waited more than five hours for three of his trucks and a platoon of his men from the 82nd Airborne to get back from helping secure a medical facility for a visit from a VIP.

The wait prevented him from sending out other troops to deliver 400 meals and left the waiting soldiers in their camp playing cards and sleeping.

Given the slow pace, some soldiers worry about how long the warm welcome they initially received from many Haitians will last.

“People want us here, and they understand we’re here to help,” said 1st Sgt. Mark Allen of Binghamton, N.Y.

“But the vibe is changing. I’m starting to see the looks of ‘you’ve been here a week, where’s my food? And what are you doing for me?’ “

MORE:

“Italy’s Civil Protection Chief Blasted The U.S. Military Intervention As Inefficient And Out Of Touch With Reality On The Ground”

Jan 27, 2010 By Robert Burns - The Associated Press [Excerpts]

French, Brazilian and other officials complained about the airport’s refusal to let their aid planes land, forcing many flights to end up in the neighboring Dominican Republic, a day’s drive away.

On Sunday, Italy’s civil protection chief blasted the U.S. military intervention as inefficient and out of touch with reality on the ground.

In an interview with state-run RAI television, Guido Bertolaso said the overall relief effort was a “pathetic” failure, and called for the appointment of an international civilian humanitarian coordinator.

On Monday, French Cooperation Minister Alain Joyandet urged the United Nations to investigate the dominant U.S. role in the relief operation, claiming that international aid efforts were supposed to be about helping Haiti, not “occupying” it.

“Haiti Is Still Ruled By A Clique Of Criminals Put In Place By The United States Government”

“The Much Talked About Airport “Bottleneck” In Port Au Prince Was A Direct Result Of The Militarization Of Aid To Haiti”

“Starvation, Illness And Displacement Are Inevitable Only If The People Who Create Those Conditions Are Permitted To Continue Their Actions Without Opposition”

01/27/2010 by Black Agenda Report editor and senior columnist Margaret Kimberley, Black Agenda Report [Excerpts]

Haiti is still ruled by a clique of criminals put in place by the United States government.

Lavalas, the party supported by a majority of citizens, is barred from participation in the electoral process that is now a sham.

An illegitimate government whose very existence is opposed by the population is incapable of building new homes or treating the injured. Haitians have already begun to scatter throughout the country in search of food and shelter, despite the fact that hundreds of millions of dollars have been donated to help them.

If American aid to Haiti comes in the form of military occupation, then even reputable organizations are unable to do their jobs adequately.

Doctors Without Borders has had a presence in Haiti for many years, but flights containing 85 tons of their medical supplies were diverted to the Dominican Republic. Precious time was lost in the process of retrieving life saving medicines and equipment from another country.

The much talked about airport “bottleneck” in Port au Prince was a direct result of the militarization of aid to Haiti.

The United States army decided who would be permitted to land and who would not.

While VIP flights were given priority and created the diversion of medical supplies, the environmental group Greenpeace gave Doctors Without Borders use of a ship to carry less urgent equipment, allowing the medical group to prioritize delivery of its most desperately needed cargo.

It seems cruel to advise against helping human beings in need, but we have seen this movie many times before and we know the ending. The time has come for a new paradigm: “No donation without agitation.”

No donations to groups like the Red Cross, who sit on millions of dollars but do nothing but hand out blankets and move victims away from their homes in order to convenience the powerful.

No donations must be made to any group headed by a Bush or a Clinton.

The old presidents’ old boys club did nothing for the Gulf Coast victims of hurricane Katrina. It would be not only a waste but a terrible wrong to give them another opportunity to collect funds which never seem to be used for people who need it.

This earthquake should be the last instance of easy text message philanthropy. Instead of pressing a few buttons, concerned people should ask questions and make demands.

Current and former American presidents should not be allowed to grandstand when their policies made life hell for Haitians in the first place.

The first president Bush ousted president Aristide, Clinton restored him to power only after promises of “market reform” and Bush the younger kidnapped him and tossed him out of his country.

Yet a Bush and a Clinton now have the nerve to pose for photos and behave as though they are interested in helping the very people they crushed.

There will always be hurricanes, tsunamis and earthquakes. They are the inevitable results of nature at work.

Starvation, illness and displacement are inevitable only if the people who create those conditions are permitted to continue their actions without opposition.

It can be a waste to send money, even if the cause is a righteous one. Let us make this the last time we take the easy and useless way out.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**A Regime This Stupid, Racist,
Brutal, Vicious And Cruel Has No
Right To Exist Anywhere On The
Face Of The Earth:**

**“He Too Had An Israeli-Issued Gaza
ID And Thus Would Be Treated As A
Gazan, And Barred From Ever
Returning To His Wife And Children
In Ramallah”**

**“Israel Has Treated My Family Like
Criminals For Being Palestinians. We
Have Been Punished, Displaced And
Deprived From Each Other’s Company”**



The Zionist occupation destroys the freedom of movement of Palestinians. (Anne Paq/ActiveStills.org)

Mohammad Alsaafin is from the Palestinian village of Fallujah, ethnically cleansed by Israeli forces in 1949. He was born in the Khan Younis refugee camp and lived in the UK and US, before moving back to Palestine to study at Birzeit University.

One of the most traumatic effects wrought upon Palestinian society by the 1948 Nakba, or the dispossession of historic Palestine, is the physical separation it forced upon Palestinians, between those in the diaspora and the refugees, between those living in the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967 and those who became citizens of Israel.

Yet this process is ongoing to this very day, and targets even individual families, like mine.

This is our story.

My dad was born in the Gaza Strip in 1962, the son of refugees, and left to the United Kingdom along with his wife and first son (myself) in 1990 to pursue his PhD at the University of Bradford.

By 2004, I had a brother and two sisters, and our entire family moved back to Palestine, this time to the town of Ramallah in the occupied West Bank. My father was working as a foreign journalist licensed by the Israeli Government Press Office and we were living in our country on yearly renewable Israeli work visas.

In 2005, I was turned back by Israeli border agents at the Sheikh Hussein Bridge as I attempted to cross into Jordan to visit my aunt.

The agents told me that since I was born in the Gaza Strip in 1988 I had been issued a Gaza ID by the Israeli occupation authority and was therefore not allowed to legally reside in the West Bank.

Additionally, I was informed that from then on, Israel would not recognize my British passport.

I was able to return to Ramallah that day, but for the next four years I risked daily arrest by Israeli troops on the way to Birzeit University, where I was studying, and for a year after that while I was working in Ramallah.

This summer, I left the West Bank to find work abroad, and was told by the Israelis that I would not be allowed to return home.

Despite this reprehensible situation, the rest of the family was thankfully spared such hardship. My dad continued working relatively unhindered as he moved across what is now Israel, the occupied West Bank and Gaza, and my mother and siblings enjoyed freedom of movement across the West Bank and inside Israel.

This all changed very suddenly last August when, on a routine trip to Gaza where my dad had several assignments and where he wanted to visit his ailing father, he was detained by Israeli security at the Erez checkpoint, and was harassed, stripped of his

press credentials and told -- as I was four years earlier -- that his British passport was worthless in Israel.

He was also informed that he too had an Israeli-issued Gaza ID and thus would be treated as a Gazan, deprived of the most basic freedom of choice and movement and barred from ever returning to his wife and children in Ramallah.

He was sent into Gaza, where he appealed to Israeli rights organizations, and as a British citizen to the British consulate and to former Prime Minister Tony Blair, now the Quartet's Middle East envoy, for the right to leave Gaza and see his wife and children, if only for a day.

The Israeli organizations were unable to help, the consulate was unable to circumvent a wall of Israeli bureaucracy, and Tony Blair chose to ignore our letter calling for assistance.

In order to save his job, my dad had to give up hope of being allowed back into the West Bank, and left Gaza through Egypt in December.

At the time that my dad was stripped of his press credentials and work visa, my mother and siblings back in Ramallah were forced to accept their own Israeli-issued ID cards.

Incredibly, my mother was given a Gaza ID despite being born abroad, raised in the West Bank and still owning a copy of her original West Bank ID!

She now lives in constant fear of arrest and deportation by Israeli troops; if she were to leave the West Bank she would also be banned from returning to our family and home in Ramallah.

Meanwhile my brother and sister, who were both born in the UK and are now university students, have bizarrely been issued with West Bank ID cards, even though their parents and older brother were given Gaza IDs.

As a result of all of this, our family has been torn apart.

My father is finally out of Gaza, but he is unable to see his children unless they travel abroad to meet him.

My mother is in the West Bank, afraid to even leave Ramallah and risk being detained and deported at an Israeli army checkpoint.

She is unable to leave the West Bank while my father and I are unable to enter.

We don't know how long it will be before we can see each other again -- the Israeli authorities have said that they will not change my mother's ID.

Israel has treated my family like criminals for being Palestinians.

We have been punished, displaced and deprived from each other's company.

Our extended family was torn from its land in 1948 and expelled to refugee camps.

In the 1990s, Israel's policy of closure solidified our separation, particularly from my father's side in Gaza.

Now Israel's racist and draconian demographic policies have separated my parents, my siblings and myself, just like they separate Jerusalemites who wish to marry other Palestinians from the West Bank, or Palestinian citizens of Israel who are legally barred from marrying Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza.

This is one of the many faces of the ongoing Nakba today, and I urge more individuals and families who have suffered like this to speak out. The world must realize the true nature of Israeli apartheid, and the cruel separation of families is one more reason why Israel must be boycotted.

[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 SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "So much for upholding and defending. Now all are really fighting for corporate Amerika."]

Support For Obama's Assassination Campaign Inside Pakistan Drops To 9%: "If You Ask People Who They Support - The Security Forces Or The Taliban - They Will Say The Taliban,' Ehsanullah Said"

Jan 29, 2010 By Sebastian Abbot - The Associated Press [Excerpts]

ISLAMABAD — Criticism is mounting over Washington's refusal to say anything about missile strikes against Taliban and al-Qaida fighters in Pakistan's northwest, prompting even supporters to argue the U.S. needs to be more open to counter militant allegations that only innocent civilians are dying.

A poll conducted by Gallup Pakistan for Al-Jazeera in July last year found that only 9 percent of Pakistanis supported the drone strikes. The poll was based on face-to-face interviews with more than 2,500 Pakistanis throughout the country and had a margin of error of plus or minus 2 to 3 percentage points.

"I have yet to know a terrorist killed in these drone attacks," said Safirullah Khan, a 32 year-old teacher in Mir Ali town. "If someone knows of any, they should tell me and let the world know also."

"The CIA may indeed operate as a matter of principle in secrecy, but it cannot legitimately carve itself out as the sole actor which is not subject to any form of accountability when its activities are so well-known and proclaimed with such pride," said Philip Alston, a U.N. investigator of extrajudicial killings [translation: murders].

Ehsanullah, a tribesman from North Waziristan's Miram Shah, said in Peshawar that the whine of the unmanned drones can be heard daily. While Pakistan publicly complains about the use of drone-fired missiles, most residents believe the U.S. is operating with tacit approval of the government and military.

"After every attack there is a deep silence and fear is everywhere," said Ehsanullah, who gave only one name. "We don't know where it has landed. People from the neighborhood first come out and look around and then we go see who has been killed."

Gen. Abbas said the drone attacks are making the army's job more difficult because they are driving local residents to the Taliban.

“If you ask people who they support - the security forces or the Taliban - they will say the Taliban,” Ehsanullah said. “We are angry because the government doesn’t protect us from the drones and they don’t allow us to protect ourselves.”

CLASS WAR REPORTS



[A Most Excellent Beginning] “Tuesday Voters In Oregon, In The Pacific Northwest, Voted To Raise Taxes On Corporations And The Rich”

January 29 - 31, 2010 By ALEXANDER COCKBURN, CounterPunch [Excerpt]

Neither bankers specifically nor corporations generally are popular right now.

On Tuesday voters in Oregon, in the Pacific Northwest, voted to raise taxes on corporations and the rich.

The measures romped through 54 percent to 46 percent, hiking taxes on households with taxable income above \$250,000, and setting higher minimum taxes on corporations, with increased tax rates on upper-level profits.

In Oregon, there hasn't been this kind of popularly-sanctioned tax bite out of the backsides of the rich since the 1930s.

Troops Invited:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email to contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 888.711.2550

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