

## GI SPECIAL 7C12:



3-12-09

# Who He Belongs To

From: Dennis Serdel  
To: GI Special  
Sent: March 14, 2009  
Subject: Who He Belongs To

By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50 Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan

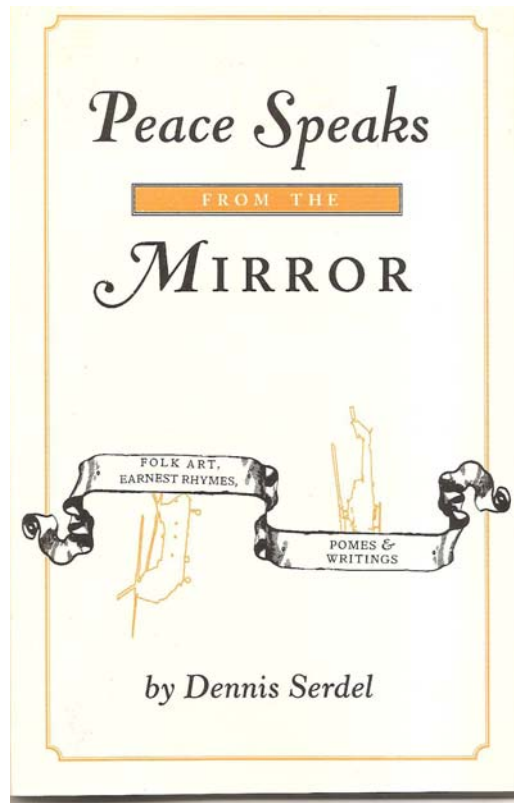
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## **Who He Belongs To**

**Alice in winter wonderland  
doesn't know if she can go on anymore  
when the power structure comes down  
on her peace beliefs  
she sometimes thinks she knows too  
much reality  
as she has her times when her brain  
crashes like a computer a virus  
that makes her body ache  
a flu that grabs her energy  
as she watches Amy Goodman on TV  
Alice knows all about the war  
until her cup is filled like a Soldier  
on what seems like his 100th tour  
when he has seen too much war  
Alice's peace actions seem so trivial  
makes her feel like she has done  
nothing but then she wakes up  
on a cool Michigan morning song  
sips black coffee and makes it  
through again up from the tunnel  
the underground where it's all  
dark until the sunrise orange air  
arrives in time notes of music  
fill her hair as she lifts her heavy  
heart to stop this evil war  
its been all one long tour as she  
decides to give the dead  
on all sides a voice again  
as the sky above Lake Michigan  
peace will win against war  
every time war has no chance  
as another baby is born and his fists  
hold on tight to his mother's dress  
his lips kiss her nipple  
and he begins to feed and was not  
born for war as Alice remembers  
her number one son  
when they took his footprints  
with a war tag it's a boy  
and who he belongs to  
on his puffed up fat little ankle.**

**MORE:**

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Dennis Serdel

**Walt Whitman  
Carl Sandburg  
Allan Ginsberg  
Now: Dennis Serdel**

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **NEW GENERAL ORDER NO. 1: PACK UP GO HOME**



A U.S. soldier clears his weapon in Baghdad's Green Zone February 28, 2009.  
REUTERS/Mohammed Ameen

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Rocket Fire Kills French Soldier in Kapisa**

March 14, 2009 The Associated Press

PARIS: A French soldier has been killed by rocket fire during a clash with insurgents in Afghanistan.

Cmdr. Christophe Prazuck, the spokesman for France's Defense Ministry, says the soldier died during a large operation led by French and Afghan troops in the Kapisa region, 60 kilometers (35 miles) northeast of Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan.

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## British Soldier Killed In Musa Qala

14th March 2009 By Daily Mail Reporter

A British soldier was killed while on foot patrol in Afghanistan today, the Ministry of Defence said.

The soldier from the 2nd Battalion, Royal Welsh Regiment was injured in an explosion in Musa Qala District Centre, Northern Helmand. Medics battled to save him but he died at the scene.

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## Monte Grad Dies In Afghanistan

February 21, 2009 By Steven Friederich, The Daily World

MONTESANO — Staff Sgt. Timothy P. Davis was continuing a long family history of military service when he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force a decade ago, his mother Sally Sheldon said.

But on Friday, with three uniformed Air Force personnel on her doorstep, she got the news no mother ever wants to hear.

Davis was killed in the Oruzgan province of Afghanistan on Friday. According to an official letter from Major Gen. K.C. McClain, Commander of the Air Force Personnel Center, she received and shared with The Daily World, the death was from “the result of injuries received from an improvised explosive device.”

The letter notes that further details were unavailable but asked Mrs. Sheldon to “please accept the Air Force’s deepest condolences.” “They told me he died quickly,” Mrs. Sheldon said. “He knew the Lord and he brought me much honor.”

Davis, who just turned 28, would have been married for five years next month. He has a 1-year-old son, Timmy Junior, who also went by T.J.

“My breath has just been taken away,” his wife Meagan said by phone from Spokane. “I am still in shock.”

He met Meagan while training at Fairchild Air Force Base near Spokane.

His dad, Mike, lives in Ocean Shores. His mom lives in South Aberdeen. His siblings include Ben, 29, of Texas; and younger sister Noel, 26, of Burien. Much of his extended family lives in the Montesano area.

Davis grew up in Montesano, graduating from Monte High School in 1999. He was an accomplished wrestler who once took seventh in a state tournament and played on the football team, his mother said.

His unit was based out of Hurlburt Field, Fla., where he was part of the 23rd Special Tactics Squadron and worked as a combat controller, his wife said.

Memorial Services will be conducted for Davis in Florida, but, per his wishes, he will be flown to Montesano for another service. He'll be buried in the Harbor area, his aunt Mary Sheldon said.

His father, Mike Davis, noted that his son had recently attended the funeral of another combat controller and recognized that he may very well die some day himself.

"He told me, 'I don't want you to be stuck in a grieving mood. I want you to get through it and move on. Think about all of those fishing moments and Dad Sundays.' "

His uncle Jim Sheldon noted that Davis had been given everything from underwater training to land survival and parachute training.

"He worked with a little cadre of Green Berets calling in coordinates and taking the lay of the land to call in fire power and air strikes," Jim said.

On more than one occasion he put himself in harm's way, his family members said.

His whole unit had won a Bronze Star for their actions during one combat outing. When he was wounded with shrapnel another time, Davis was awarded a Purple Heart. Because he didn't lose a limb, his family said Davis always said he didn't deserve the award.

"He just called me the week before and said his friend got shot in the face, a Green Beret, and he was worried," Jim said, noting he really got to know Davis when he came to live with him and his wife Mary for two years during high school.

**"He couldn't really tell me what was going on. But I knew. I said, 'It's escalating isn't it?' But he didn't say anything. And I said, 'You don't have to tell me everything, I know.' "**

Mrs. Sheldon said she had been worried after hearing President Obama's announcement on Tuesday that another 17,000 U.S. soldiers and Marines would be sent to Afghanistan to join the 38,000 troops already there.

In Obama's announcement, the president stated, "This increase is necessary to stabilize a deteriorating situation in Afghanistan, which has not received the strategic attention, direction and resources it urgently requires."

"As soon as I heard that I was worried," Mrs. Sheldon said. "I was worried we weren't doing well."

His uncle John Sheldon said he had heard from Tim as soon as last week.

"I was concerned about him ever since he got wounded the first time," John said. "Tim was asking me for some advice to invest his money. I told him, 'Don't do the young man thing and blow all of your money. Save for your future.' And he was doing that."

John is a Vietnam veteran, having served in the Air Force, too. Two of John's uncles were in the Air Force and his dad Buck was in the Army. Buck was captured in North Africa during World War II, but survived and earned his own Purple Heart for enduring the pain and suffering that went with two years of imprisonment.

"Tim always wanted to serve," John said.

"Tim was the glue (of our family)," his brother Ben added by phone. "He was always taking charge ... protecting me. He was very strong willed, very strong minded. He was just a great person."

His Aunt Mary recounted a story about the young Davis trying to be tough and fearless. He had decided to take his bike behind Monte High, where there is a large hill, and ride down with no hands on the handlebars and closed eyes. He crashed and came back with his chin split open and bleeding.

When they took him to the hospital, and they injected the local anesthetic into his chin, she said, "he didn't make a sound. There was never any doubt he was tough."

Davis also had a lot of nicknames. During basic training, his unit called him "The Rock," because he could always be counted on. His mom called him "Tim-Bo" — akin to "Rambo" from the war movies.

"As a little boy, I also called him 'my little mountain goat' because he always climbed on everything," his mom said.

His uncle Jim called him "Slider" because when Davis was younger, he let a jar of peanuts slide from his hand and land on the floor of a buddy's truck who was a stickler for having a spotless rig.

His uncle John noted that one of Tim's favorite movie heroes was John Wayne.

"And, like John Wayne, he didn't talk a lot but when he did, he said something that meant a lot," John said. "We'll miss him."

"He would be the first one in and the last one out," his dad added. "He hated what was going on around the world and wanted to make a difference."

The Associated Press reports that as of Thursday morning at least 581 members of the U.S. military had died in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan since the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001.

Of those, the military reports 426 were killed by hostile action. Davis is not yet included in those figures.

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## TROOP NEWS

# **Leading By Example: Madagascar Soldiers Join Revolution To Overthrow Dictator; “A Widening Mutiny Within The Army Ousted The Chief Of Staff”**



A Madagascan soldier who has defied the government and now stands guard during an anti-government rally in Antananarivo. (AFP/Alexander Joe)

14/03/2009 AFP & BBC

The Madagascar opposition told journalists on Saturday that President Marc Ravalomanana and his government had been removed from office after it took control of the prime minister's office.

“The President of the Republic, the National Assembly and the Senate, and the government are removed from their duties,” said opposition leader Roindefo Zafitsimivalo Monja, reading from a declaration signed by opposition chief Andry Rajoelina.

The opposition also said presidential elections would be held within two years.

On Wednesday, the leader of a widening mutiny within the army ousted the chief of staff and a day later the military police said it would no longer take orders from the government.



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

**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 wars, 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. Phone: 917.677.8057**

## **“Speakers Throughout The Day Were Unequivocal About Calling For A Complete Withdrawal From Iraq”**



March 10, 2009 Matt Camp, Socialist Worker

AUSTIN, Texas--Veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, plus families of soldiers, Vietnam veterans, antiwar activists and journalists, came together for the Winter Soldier-South Central Region day of testimony and action on February 28.

Some 300 people attended the event at Austin's Central Presbyterian Church. The day was divided into two panels. The first featured testimony of former soldiers about their experiences abroad, including the treatment of detainees at Guantánamo Bay, intelligence gathering, and how Iraqis are falsely detained under various pretexts.

Rooster Romriell, an Iraq War veteran, described an incident in which his unit was ordered to attack a garbage truck with children riding on the back, after it had passed a checkpoint:

“We were ordered to fire on a dump truck, and we opened fire. While the truck burned to the ground, a man ran to the base of our rooftop OP, waving a white cloth and yelling “Baby! Baby!”--trying to tell us we were destroying children...So we killed him.”

Romriell said that this was one of many war crimes he witnessed while stationed in Sadr City.

The second panel focused on the effects of the wars at home, including the poor treatment of women in the military and the sorry state of care that veterans receive once they return to the U.S.

John Scripsick, a Gold Star parent from rural Oklahoma, journeyed to central Texas to speak on this panel. Scripsick spoke about his son Bryan, who was killed in Iraq, and closed by telling the audience, "You who see wrong and speak out...you are in the right, and you have nothing to be afraid of."

In his fiery testimony, Bobby Whittenberg, a former GI who was wounded in Iraq in 2004, denounced the capitalist system that has allowed a minority of rich and powerful to profit off wars.

"You cannot put a dollar amount on a human life," he said. "Not in Iraq. Not in Afghanistan. We are all human beings. They can try to commodify food, they can try to commodify water, but they cannot commodify our lives!"

Winter Soldier was spearheaded by the Central Texas members of Iraq Veterans Against the War, and was co-sponsored by local antiwar groups, including Veterans For Peace, CodePink, local chapters of the Campus Antiwar Network, and the International Socialist Organization.

From the outset, the event was conceived by local IVAW members as a means to galvanize antiwar sentiment and activism. Speakers throughout the day were unequivocal about calling for a complete withdrawal from Iraq, and emphasized the need for continued activism and organizing.

In that spirit, the testimonials were followed by a raucous march through downtown Austin, and a rally at City Hall.

The day's events were powerful and inspiring, and showed the way that a fighting antiwar movement can be built in this time of hope.

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## **National Guard Bonuses Slashed; Re-Enlistment Payouts Cut One-Third**

3.16.09 By Michelle Tan, Army Times [Excerpts]

The Army National board has slashed bonuses, including key reenlistment payouts by a third, and restructured the way many incentives are paid and targeted.

The changes, effective March 1:

Here are some of the major changes to the Guard incentive program, according to Lt. Col. Ron Walls, chief of recruiting and retention:

■ **The \$15,000 bonus for any six-year extension has been cut to \$10,000. The \$7,500 bonus for three-year re-enlistments now falls to \$5,000.**

**In addition, the bigger bonuses of the past were paid in lump sums.**

**Now soldiers receive 50 percent initially, 20 percent midway through their term, and the final 30 percent upon completion of the re-enlistment.**

The only exception is for soldiers who re-enlist while deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan or Kuwait. They still will receive their bonuses in a lump sum.

■ Retention bonuses for Active Guard and Reserve soldiers, military technicians and those in the 09 Lima interpreter/translator program are suspended indefinitely.

■ Incentives worth up to \$20,000 for soldiers who enlist for at least six years in a critical unit or skill have been cut to \$10,000. Critical skills include medical, military intelligence and transportation.

■ Units used to be able to recruit and offer bonuses to new soldiers until the units were at 125 percent of their authorized strength. That cap has been reduced to no more than 105 percent of a unit's authorized strength.

■ Prior-service soldiers who join the Guard can still earn \$15,000 for a six-year hitch with a unit that has been identified for deployment or one that requires special skills, such as military intelligence, Special Forces and aviation. Three-year commitments are worth \$7,500.

What's changing is the way these soldiers will receive their bonuses. Before March 1, these soldiers received 50 percent of their bonus at the beginning and 50 percent midway through their terms. Now they receive 50 percent to start, 20 percent midway and 30 percent at the end of their enlistments.

■ The Guard has eliminated its affiliation bonus, which can be worth up to \$20,000. In the past, those with prior service in any military service could earn a lump sum of \$20,000 for six years in a critical unit in the Guard and \$10,000 for three years. Those who enlisted into a non-critical unit received the same amount of money, but the payments were split in two. That bonus no longer exists.

■ Guard soldiers who are students can benefit from a more generous loan repayment program, up to \$50,000, if they meet certain requirements. Previously, soldiers who were full-time students received up to \$20,000 to repay their loans.

They can now receive up to \$50,000 if they enlist or re-enlist into certain critical-needs units.

Non-prior service soldiers must score in categories I through IIIA on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery to qualify. Prior-service soldiers must never have received

money from a reserve component student loan repayment program. Soldiers also must already have at least one loan to enter the program.

- In an effort to fill training seats during off-peak months for new soldiers, the Guard is offering a \$5,000 bonus for recruits who agree to ship to basic training within 45 days of enlisting. Those who don't ship within 45 days of enlistment, but who do so between Oct. 1 and May 31, earn an off-peak ship bonus, also worth \$5,000. Recruits who fulfill both criteria can earn \$10,000.

- Bonuses can be combined to add up to the maximum of \$20,000. For example, new soldiers can earn \$5,000 if they ship within 45 days of enlisting, another \$5,000 if they ship between Oct. 1 and May 31, and \$10,000 paid over their term of enlistment if they join a designated critical unit.

- Other programs, such as the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program, which pays qualified soldiers up to \$2,000 for every new recruit they bring into the Guard, will remain in place.

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## **“This Is The So-Called British Army Who, In Their Spare Time, Beat Up One Of Their Colleagues – And Then Lie About It To The Guardroom” “Those Thugs Did Not Realise That I Heard What Was Going On”**

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Project, who sent this in.]

13 March 2009 Jenny Percival, Guardian News and Media Limited

**Two soldiers have been on the run from the army for 11 days after they could no longer tolerate mental and physical bullying by their comrades.**

Privates Andre Treble and Andrew Jones, both aged 22, fled Buckley barracks near Hullavington, Wiltshire, on 3 March saying the attacks, known as “beastings”, were unbearable. The pair want to be discharged from the army.

A spokesman said the Royal Military Police was investigating the allegations and appealed to the pair to contact their unit or call a confidential services helpline.

The men absconded four days after Treble claims he was beaten by two soldiers who then ransacked his room. He said on a blog that his attackers “came into my room and cornered me before kicking and punching me to the ground whilst the third private

laughed". He says he ended up with a "split lip, black eye, a cut head, a bloody nose and a mouthful of blood".

Treble spoke by phone to the Wiltshire Gazette and Herald on Thursday about a six-hour report he said he gave to the military police following the incident but said he had little faith it would be acted on.

He told the paper: "I love the army but I can't take it any more. They think they're above the law but they're not."

Jones's mother, Anne Evans, said her son had been verbally bullied after standing up for Treble. Treble, who had visited her home in south Wales and had become a family friend, was first picked on after testing positive for cannabis in February, she said.

Evans, 56, a medical copywriter, had phoned Treble on his mobile and heard him being physically assaulted during the call, she said. "We carried on talking on the phone, then all of a sudden there was a bang on the door, and then sniggering and giggling. There was the sound of low voices. Then I heard not heavy bangs but lighter bangs. You could hear scuffling and clattering. Andre dived out of a bedroom to the guardroom.

"When he got back, there was blood up the walls, his personal belongings had been wrecked. They had also put water in a coffee jar and tipped it on the bed. Then the jar had been smashed and ground into the sheets."

The day before they left, her son sent her a midnight text message saying: "This is too dangerous for me and Andre. We NEED to get out of here as quickly as possible." Another short message said: "Me and Andre have been confronted by them so we are not staying here. If we are not discharged by the end of the day we are going awol."

Evans, whose husband, Robert, 55, has terminal cancer, said the situation could quite easily have become another Deepcut. The men had briefly come to her home after they left the barracks, saying they were returning to base to seek a discharge, but police later traced Evans's car, which they were driving, to Edinburgh.

Evans said she could no longer get an answer from either man's mobile phone. "My son has been told he is going to Afghanistan in September. But how can he go there knowing he will have to protect people who have attacked his mate? No one is going to forget Deepcut. The army owes a duty of care to its employees."

Evans was so horrified by what she heard that she wrote about it on a blog. She said Treble, whose injuries can be seen in a photograph she took, had the "living daylight" beaten out of him.

**She wrote: "This is the so-called British army who, in their spare time, beat up one of their colleagues – and then lie about it to the guardroom – telling their superiors that Andre Treble walked into a door and fell downstairs or some such rubbish.**

**"Those thugs did not realise that I heard what was going on and they did not realise that I was listening in and that I would ensure that this kind of thing must stop."**

In a report published last week, the new service complaints commissioner, Susan Atkins, said that the armed forces needed a “step change” in the way they deal with allegations of bullying and harassment. She said armed forces personnel lacked confidence in the system for dealing with claims of abuse.

The government pledged to crack down on the bullying of recruits following the scandal at Deepcut in Surrey, where four teenage soldiers died amid allegations of bullying and harassment.

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Pissing In The Wind**



Iraqi police agent of the occupation paints over graffiti promoting the resistance organization Islamic Army in Iraq in southwestern Mosul, Iraq, March 14, 2009. The Arabic words on the wall read 'Islamic Army in Iraq.' (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

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

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

# “Every Iraqi Wanted To Beat Bush” “Muntadher Made Us Proud Of Ourselves As Iraqis”

03/13/2009 By Abeer Mohammed and Alissa J. Rubin, The New York Times

BAGHDAD - What does it take for an Iraqi woman to fall in love with a man?

In parks and dress shops, in university halls and on picnics, Iraqi women are still smitten - three months and one new American president later - by the shoe thrower, Muntader al-Zaidi.

His conviction and sentencing this week to three years in prison only burnished his image as someone who lives out the dream of the common man and, in doing so, becomes gallant and desirable.

Student Zainab Mahdi, 19, sat on a swing in a riverside park on Friday as she spoke admiringly of al-Zaidi.

“Every Iraqi wanted to beat Bush,” she said. “Muntader made our wishes come true.”

Her sister, Hanan Mahdi, 22, who was standing next to the swing set, spoke with passion in her voice. “Muntadher made us proud of ourselves as Iraqis,” she said.

“We were in Syria when he hurled his shoe at Bush, and we noticed the change in the way Syrian people treated us,” she said. “They treated us in a better way.”

Al-Zaidi, whom Iraqi girls call informally by his first name, captured nearly everyone's imagination in Baghdad when he threw his shoes at President George W. Bush during a Dec. 14 news conference with the Iraqi prime minister, Nouri Kamal al-Maliki. While Iraqi men have been divided over al-Zaidi's gesture, it was hard to find a woman who wholeheartedly disapproved of him.

Of 20 women interviewed over the last several days, most expressed positive sentiments about him and much anger about the three years he must serve behind bars. “Zaidi restored Iraqi women's dignity, which was stolen” after the 2003 American invasion, said Um Baneen, 31, a housewife.

“No one dared to face Bush in the whole world, only Muntader al-Zaidi.” Atiyaf Mahmoud, 19, a medical student, said. “I love Zaidi. I saw him in my dreams twice.”

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## **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**

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## **Bombing Afghanistan: [Words Of Prophecy 2001**

9.27.01 By Bill Bonner, Daily Reckoning [Excerpt

If Simon de Montfort had had bombers, he would have used them to crush the Cathar heresy in 1208.

Cathars lived in towns in the Southwest of France...where they practiced their form of “pure” Christianity. They believed that work was good but that all matter was evil.

Why were they considered such a threat? Eight hundred years later, it is hard to imagine. Perhaps it was because they did not eat meat; vegetarianism has always been regarded with alarm in France.



Blessed by the Pope, and joined by men in search of paradise in heaven or confiscated lands on earth, Simon de Montfort led a campaign against the heretics.

St. Dominic despaired of trying to talk sense into them. "I have preached, I have entreated, I have wept...the rod must now do the work of benediction."

In the ensuing campaign whole towns were wiped out - with every man, woman, and child put to the sword...many tortured before finally being put to death.

A favorite means of killing heretics was to burn them alive at the stake..."with a small, slow fire," the chroniclers report. Those who escaped ran and hid in the forests. There, they starved...other towns were forbidden to give them food or shelter, under penalty of death.

How could de Montfort tell the difference between heretics and the honest Catholics who lived in the same towns?

He was as ignorant of an individual's guilt or innocence as a smart bomb.

So he killed them all.

"Slay them all," was his instruction (attributed to Papal Legate Arnaud Amaury). "God will recognize his own."

#### **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 [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 917.677.8057**

## **OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

**U.S. Citizen Attacked By Zionist  
Terror Squad:  
"Nothing Was Happening In The  
Immediate Area Where We Were, Or  
Anywhere Else"**

## “Skull Fragments And A Portion Of His Right Frontal Lobe Were Removed”



TV paramedics carry an injured American man who was severely wounded by Zionist troops in the Israeli occupied town of Naalin, Palestine, March 13 2009. REUTERS

3.14.09 By KARIN LAUB, RAMALLAH, West Bank, Palestine (AP)

An American activist struck in the head by a tear gas canister fired by Israeli troops in the West Bank was in serious condition Saturday after undergoing surgery, hospital officials said.

Tristan Anderson, 38, of Oakland, Calif., was wounded Friday in the West Bank village of Naalin, during a protest against Israel's separation barrier. In the past year, four Palestinians have been killed and scores injured by Israeli troops putting down weekly stone-throwing protests against the barrier, which cuts off Naalin from 300 acres of olive groves.

On Friday, several hundred protesters marched from the village toward the barrier. The Israeli military said there was heavy stone-throwing and troops fired tear gas. Demonstrators said the stone-throwing was sporadic.

Anderson did not throw any stones, said Jonathan Pollack, an Israeli activist who was in Naalin.

**Most of the demonstrators, including Anderson, had returned to the village when the American was hit in the forehead and fell to the ground, said a friend, Gabrielle Silverman, who was several feet away from him.**

The fist-sized canister fractured his skull, she said.

“Nothing was happening in the immediate area where we were, or anywhere else,” Silverman said Saturday.

**Troops kept firing tear gas as Anderson was being moved into a Palestinian ambulance, Silverman said.**

**Pollack said the ambulance carrying Anderson had to wait 15 minutes at an Israeli checkpoint, until an Israeli ambulance arrived to take him to Tel Hashomer Hospital near Tel Aviv because Palestinian vehicles are not permitted to enter Israel.**

Anderson underwent surgery and was in serious condition, said Orly Levi, a Tel Hashomer spokeswoman.

Silverman said skull fragments and a portion of his right frontal lobe were removed. He also suffered major trauma to the bone surrounding his right eye, she said.

Anderson and Silverman arrived in the region in February and had planned to spend three months in Israel, the Palestinian territories and neighboring countries, Silverman said.

His injury revived complaints by human rights activists that Israeli troops often use excessive force in dispersing West Bank protests.

Ahed Khawaja, a Palestinian coordinator of the Naalin protests, said about 450 people have been injured, 12 of them seriously, since the demonstrations began in April. The barrier near Naalin is about 80 percent complete, he said.

Israel says the barrier is a defense against Palestinian attackers infiltrating into Israel. But Palestinians view it as a thinly veiled land grab because it juts into the West Bank at multiple points.

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

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## **Aid Convoy From England Breaks Through To Gaza:**

# **“Gaza Is Still Considered Under Israeli Occupation As Israel Controls Air, Sea And Land Access To The Strip”**



[Viva Palestina photo]

3.10.09 Middle-east-online [Excerpts]

GAZA CITY - British MP George Galloway on Tuesday donated thousands of dollars and dozens of vehicles to the Hamas government in the Gaza Strip after arriving in an aid convoy.

“We are giving you now 100 vehicles and all of their contents, and we make no apology for what I am about to say.

**“We are giving them to the elected government of Palestine,” Galloway said at a press conference in Gaza City.**

**Galloway said he personally would be donating three cars and 25,000 pounds (35,000 dollars) to Hamas Prime Minister Ismail Haniya.**

**“He is the Prime Minister chosen by the people of Palestine,” said Galloway.**

**Hamas won in the 2006 Palestinian parliamentary elections.**

Galloway said that his “message to the Muslim World is that Britain is not your enemy; that Tony Blair does not speak for Britain; we speak for the British people!”

“We are all Palestinian!”

Galloway, who kissed the Gazan ground, made the announcement at an outdoor conference in the presence of several senior Hamas officials, and his words were greeted by shouts of God is Great.

“We demonstrated in our hundreds of thousands in London, in Manchester, in Birmingham, in Glasgow, in Edinburgh. We clashed with the police outside the Israeli embassy in London night after night after night,” noted Galloway.

“Our heart was broken for you!”

“We decided that when our children ask ‘what did you daddy when this crime was being committed?’ that we would be able to say that we gave every breath that God gave us to try to come to the rescue of the Palestinian people,” he added.

Galloway called the aid a drop in the ocean.

After arriving in Gaza on Monday, Galloway protested Israel's “genocidal aggression” against Gaza, referring to a massive 22-day Israeli offensive launched in December that killed more than 1,300 Palestinians, mainly civilians, and Israel's siege of Gaza, which has caused a humanitarian disaster.

The convoy included 12 ambulances and a fire engine and carried aid worth more than one million pounds (1.4 million dollars, 1.1 million euros). Activists carried food, medicine, and toys for the people of Gaza.

The aid convoy made a journey of over 12,000 km through France, Spain, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, and finally Egypt.

Israel's war on Gaza killed 1,330 Palestinians, mainly civilians, and wounded 5,450 others.

Among the dead were 437 children, 110 women, 123 elderly men, 14 medics and four journalists.

The wounded include 1,890 children and 200 people in serious condition.

The war also left tens of thousands of houses destroyed, while their residents remained homeless in the winter cold.

Israel, which wants to crush any Palestinian liberation movement, responded to Hamas's win in the elections with sanctions, and almost completely blockaded the impoverished coastal strip after Hamas seized power in 2007, although a ‘lighter’ siege had already existed before.

Human rights groups, both international and Israeli, slammed Israel's siege of Gaza, branding it “collective punishment.”

A group of international lawyers and human rights activists had also accused Israel of committing “genocide” through its crippling blockade of the Strip.

Gaza is still considered under Israeli occupation as Israel controls air, sea and land access to the Strip.

The Rafah crossing with Egypt, Gaza's sole border crossing that bypasses Israel, rarely opens as Egypt is under immense US and Israeli pressure to keep the crossing shut.

Fatah has little administrative say in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, and has no power in Arab east Jerusalem, both of which were illegally occupied by Israel in 1967.

**MORE:**

**“Thousands Of Palestinians, The Other Heroes Of This Beautiful Story Of Resistance, Defiance And Hope Approached Every Vehicle Kissing, Touching, Hugging The Bravest Of Britain”**

**“The Siege Has Been Broken And They Were Not Alone”**

10th March 2009 By Farid Arada, Viva Palestina Email Alert [Excerpts]

The Viva Palestina convoy drove slowly along the Salah Eddine road leading to Gaza City taking in the atmosphere around them and savouring the moment of history they had just created.

Along the way, thousands of Palestinians, the other heroes of this beautiful story of resistance, defiance and hope approached every vehicle kissing, touching, hugging the bravest of Britain.

They handed their babies, their young children, to the convoy members so that they could be embraced, as if the angels were in town. Drenched in flowers, tears were flowing on both sides.

Further up the road, they could see people coming out of their tents and the ruins of their destroyed homes running towards them, rubbing their eyes in disbelief that the siege has been broken and they were not alone.

According to the Palestinian Information Centre, George Galloway in his historic speech from Al Katiba Square, confirmed that Ismael Hania is the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and a prime minister for all the free of the world

He also said that the members of the convoy are not from the upper class of the UK, but from all walks of life, all religions, all colours.

The donations came from ordinary people, from mosques and churches. He also said that millions could not make this journey, but they are all praying today for you, the people of Palestine.

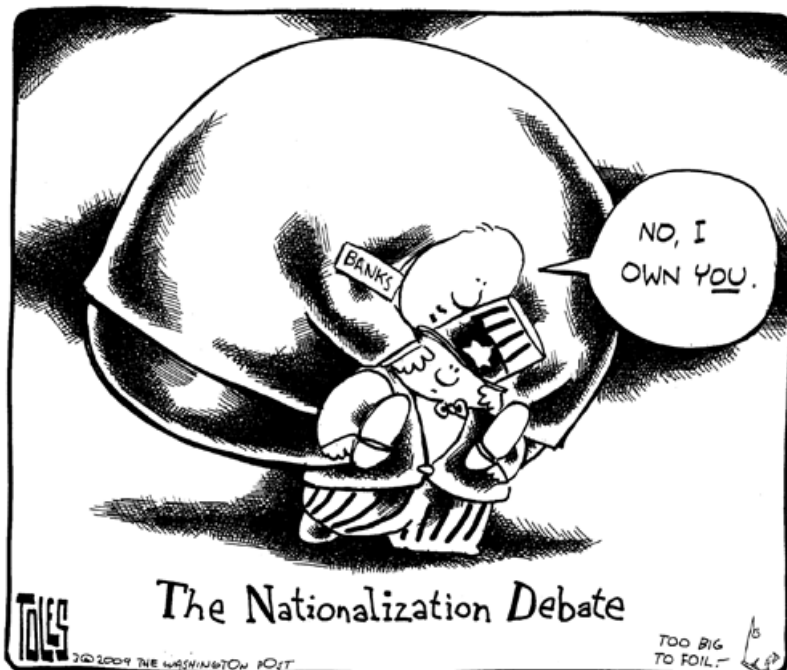
In Gaza City, it was jubilation and celebrations tonight where the guests of honour did not want to be considered as guests - but as part of the ever-growing Gaza family. The Gaza authorities have organised a rally in honour of Viva Palestina and a program of activities that includes a tour of the damaged areas including schools, hospitals and other amenities.

An eventful day, with a roller-coaster of emotions, is drawing to a close. Tomorrow Viva Palestina will tour Gaza to see, at first hand, the plight of one and half million people in the densest concentration of people per square kilometre on the globe.

They will report on the scale of the calamity in what, in reality, is the world's biggest concentration camp, where people have endured a never-ending siege and where they have nowhere to run when the F16s decide to play their deadly game with the children of Gaza.

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## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in.]

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# Obama Calls The Troops Who Will Stay In Iraq Non-Combat Troops: “This Is Just Doublespeak”

March 13, 2009 By Anthony Arnove, Socialist Worker [Excerpt]

Obama calls the troops who will stay in Iraq through the end of 2011 “residual forces” and non-combat troops, but this is just doublespeak.

Combat troops are simply being renamed non-combat troops through a verbal sleight of hand, but will certainly be able to use lethal force and will find themselves in combat situations.

And in accepting the logic of the Bush administration for not withdrawing the troops immediately--that they are needed to fight al-Qaeda, engage in “counter-insurgency operations,” and continue the “war on terror”--Obama has opened the door to keeping them in Iraq beyond 2011.

WE KNOW that Iraq will remain under occupation until at least the end of 2011, but there is very good reason to believe that between now and then, the Iraqi government, which owes its survival to Washington, will cut a deal to allow U.S. forces to remain longer.

The year 2011 is already too late to end the occupation of Iraq, which should never have started in the first place. And shifting troops from Iraq to Afghanistan is not ending the war.

Without an antiwar movement that is loud, active, in the streets and raising its own independent demands beyond the limits set by the Democratic Party, U.S. troops will not be coming home. The empire has not folded up its tent, and neither should we.

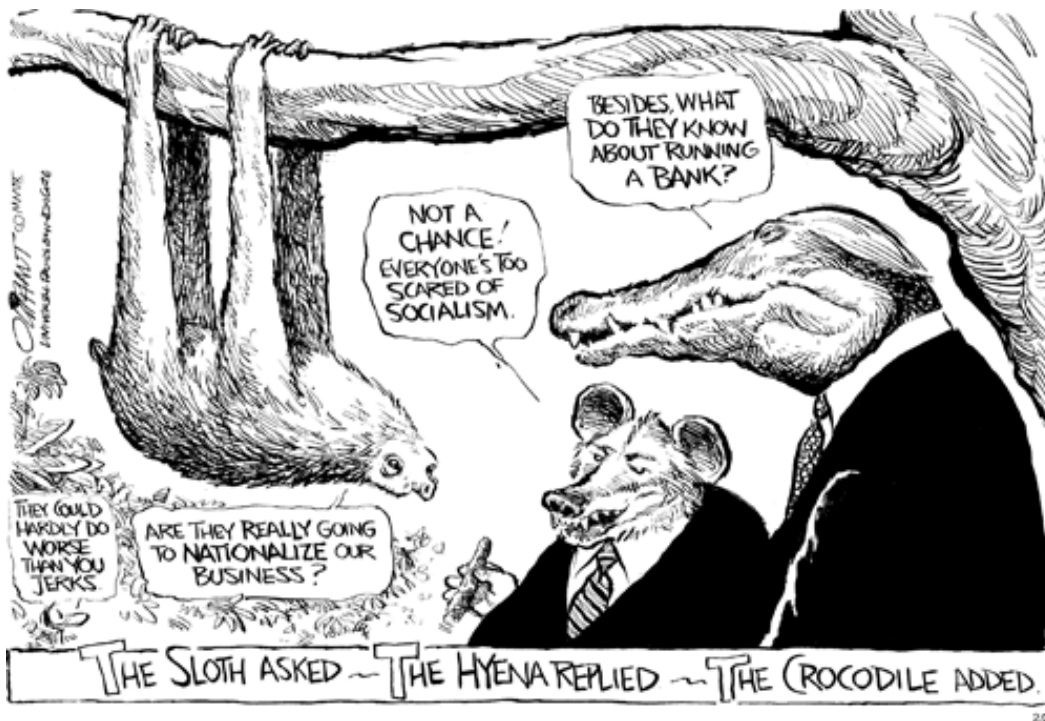
**“The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops.” Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War**

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

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



## CLASS WAR REPORTS



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

Telling the truth - about the occupations or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance to Imperial wars inside the armed forces.

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

If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> And join with **Iraq Veterans Against the War to end the occupations and bring all troops home now!** ([www.ivaw.org/](http://www.ivaw.org/))

**Welcome To The Occupied  
USA:  
MISSISSIPPI INJUSTICE:  
A DOUBLE-LIFE SENTENCE FOR  
\$11.00!**

**“Witnesses All Testified That They Were  
Coerced And Threatened By Deputy  
Sheriff Marvin Williams”**



March 11, 2009 THE COMMITTEE TO FREE THE SCOTT SISTERS,  
[www.freejamieandgladyscott.blogspot.com/](http://www.freejamieandgladyscott.blogspot.com/)

Scott County, MS ---- In a trial fraught with legal malpractice and witness coercion, Mississippi Judge Marcus Gordon oversaw one of the most blatantly corrupt trials in history, culminating in the staggering over-sentencing of sisters Gladys and Jamie Scott to double-life each in an armed robbery where no one was murdered or harmed and the amount alleged to have been taken was a whopping \$11.00.

On December 24, 1993, the Scott County Sheriff's Department arrested the Scott sisters for armed robbery even though three young males, ranging from ages 14 to 18, confessed to committing the crime.

**Despite this, the corrupt Mississippi sheriff used coercion, threats, and harassment to compel them to turn state's evidence against the Scott sisters due to a long-standing vendetta against a family member.**

**The 14-year-old male would later testify that he did not read the statement and was pressured to sign a written statement prepared by the sheriff without an attorney being present.**

As if that weren't bad enough, these young women received incompetent legal representation at the lower court trial.

Their attorneys, Firnist J. Alexander, Jr. and Gail Shaw-Pierson failed to interview and subpoena witnesses, only calling one witness when there were several.

Incredibly, the jury never even heard any testimony from the alleged victims. The sisters were advised to not testify on their own behalf by their attorneys, Alexander and Shaw-Pierson, denying them the opportunity to speak for themselves.

**In October of 1994, Jamie and Gladys Scott were sentenced to extraordinary double life terms each in prison, even though neither sister had prior convictions and there was no violence involved in these charges.**

The four State's witnesses provided conflicting testimony and one alleged accuser was not called to testify – he was not questioned or subpoenaed by defense attorneys Firnist J. Alexander, Jr. or Gail Shaw-Pierson.

Witnesses admitted however, that reports prepared by the Sheriff, of their descriptions of the event contained no such claim. In other words, the sisters were not present. Jamie and Gladys Scott were not involved in the armed robbery and they did not conspire to plan such.

**Witnesses all testified that they were coerced and threatened by Deputy Sheriff Marvin Williams.**

Testimony also revealed that Marvin Williams prepared statements of the events from the night of December 24, 1994 BEFORE obtaining signatures and BEFORE the witnesses were brought into his office. In other words, the statements were not written by witnesses.

Three affidavits exist – they all state that the Scott Sisters were not involved in this robbery.

One affidavit is written by a trustee of the local jail, his account of the facts reveal that a wallet was located a few days after this alleged robbery and that wallet contained the photo ID of one of the alleged victims of the trumped up robbery and three twenty dollar bills.

The trustee also reveals that there was NOT a robbery, he was also threatened to be sent to Parchman Penitentiary if he told the truth.

According to the Request for Commutation of Sentence and/or Pardon prepared by attorney Chokwe Lumumba, the Scott Sisters challenged their convictions on direct appeal; arguing that there was insufficient evidence to convict them, and the guilty verdict was against the overwhelming weight of evidence, which should have exonerated them. The court of appeals found no error and affirmed the convictions on December 17, 1996. As a result, they filed a Petition for Writ of Certiorari to the Supreme Court, which was denied on May 15, 1997. They consequently filed an Application for Leave to

File Motion to Vacate Conviction pursuant to the Mississippi Post Conviction Collateral Relief Act. The Supreme Court also denied that application.

This family is shell-shocked, yet determined to fight on. They have tried to have faith that at some point this unbelievable travesty would be corrected and their upside-down lives righted.

Yet 14 long years later nothing has changed, the women's five children are still being raised by their now ailing mother, and their father has died of a massive heart attack because of this. The emotional strain this burden has placed upon their family is immeasurable.

Jamie Scott writes, "What began as an implication and outright miscarriage of justice, has catapulted to destroy an entire family. Gladys was a 19 year old pregnant mother, and myself, Jamie, a 22 year old mother during the time of our arrest, conviction and sentencing for a crime we did not commit."

She continued, "We are convinced that once this chain of events is exposed and unraveled, the events that occurred, the lives that have been destroyed, the pain and suffering the citizens of Scott County have endured; everyone will be utterly amazed, astonished and compelled to assist us in our plight for freedom. We pray that the people would insist upon an investigation into their misconduct and miscarriage of justice."

Gladys and Jamie's older brother has recently returned from Iraq and has served in the US Army for 22 years, while his sisters remain victims of wrongful convictions in the very country that he proudly represents. The defendants and their family are wholly depending on support from the press, organizations, and all those dedicated to justice in making this debacle as public as possible.

THE COMMITTEE TO FREE THE SCOTT SISTERS  
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E-Mail: [thewrongfulconviction@gmail.com](mailto:thewrongfulconviction@gmail.com)

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**RECEIVED**

**"I Was Also Blown Up"  
[Looking For More Information]**

From: C  
To: GI Special  
Subject: GI SPECIAL 3C

i really liked that article, because i was also blown up with eric vargo when seferino reyna was killed.

if you have any more info on it, i would greatly appreciate it.

i retraced the route on my google earth and found the spot i was hit at. i would greatly appreciate anymore info. thanks.

spc c

**REPLY: The article you refer to came from a reporter: "Heather Gillers, Digital Chicago." If anybody out there has additional information, email [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org) and the information will be forwarded on to Spc. C.**

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