

## **Military Resistance 7L18**



**“Shigal Is Peaceful, Don’t Be  
Upset By The Shooting”  
“My Truck Is ... Riddled,  
Exclaimed One Soldier”  
LT COL Says “I Know You’re Very  
Powerful, I Need Your Help To Stop The  
Fighting Up In The Mountains”  
“But As Night Fell And The Soldiers Prepare  
To Leave, Insurgents In The Hills Unleashed  
A Hail Of Gunfire At The Parked US Vehicles”**



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

Dec 8, 2009 By Thibault Malterre (AFP)

SHIGAL, Afghanistan — After two hours shuddering along a tortuous road, the US reconstruction team's convoy had just caught sight of the Afghan village when a salvo of heavy gunfire devastated the rural calm.

"Fire in the general direction," a corporal shouted at his machine gunner manning a 0.50 caliber weapon sticking out of a gun turret.

"See the muzzle flashes?" he ordered as the convoy rumbled along the track wedged between two mountains in the eastern province of Kunar not far from the border with Pakistan, an area infested with Taliban militants.

The gunner opened fire, splattering smoldering cartridge cases fatter than fingers across the floor of the MRAP, a giant armoured truck configured to withstand killer Taliban bombs planted across expanding areas of Afghanistan.

The acrid smell of cordite laced the chill air of the early winter afternoon.

Soldiers complained about the narrow valley route before the convoy ground to a halt several kilometres (miles) further on, at the edge of Shigal village where the officers have a date with village elders.

The American troops clambered down to inspect the damage.

"My truck is ... riddled," exclaimed one soldier. "I hope we have air coverage on our way back," retorted another. Two rockets fired by the insurgents missed their target. No one was hurt.

The ambush seemed to be a one off and the visit got underway. Officers in the "provincial reconstruction team" (PRT) met village elders, soldiers handed out clothes and school supplies to children and women soldiers met village women.

This was a confidence-building exercise of the kind US Defence Secretary Robert Gates, currently visiting Afghanistan, expects to see across the impoverished country as part of efforts to end the war against the Taliban.

Around 100 Pashtun elders, sporting thick beards, traditional berets and wrapped in blankets to stave off the cold, were disdainful of a US-funded project to build a road that stopped eight kilometres (five miles) away.

“There is a lot of confusion about how far the road was supposed to go... But the PRT is doing its best to get the road,” said Lieutenant Derek Elling, an engineer in the reconstruction team.

“It’s not the fault of the contractor so when he comes back, keep providing him security,” he added.

“We’re sick of this road. We’ll talk about new projects in the future but now we want the road. We’ll provide workers and security to the contractor,” said one white-bearded village elder.

“Shigal is peaceful, don’t be upset by the shooting, we’re sorry, but all the region needs reconstruction projects,” interjected one Afghan police officer from the area.

“Security is number one priority,” emphasized US Lieutenant Colonel Leonard Remias, Kunar PRT commander.

“On the way up we were shot at from the mountains. It’s very difficult to work on reconstruction projects when you have insurgents in the mountains shooting at us.

“So I need the help of all the elders here, I know you’re very powerful, I need your help to stop the fighting up in the mountains,” he added.

But as night fell and the soldiers prepare to leave, insurgents in the hills unleashed a hail of gunfire at the parked US vehicles.

From the village, the Americans watched the rebel fire with concern, flashes of yellow erupting from the crest of a hill and the machine guns pumping out return fire, punctuated by red tracer bullets.

Two military helicopters fired off two rockets. At first nothing happened, then the fire lessened. Then it stopped altogether.

Sheltering behind a low wall next to a stream, then stepping along the ridge of a hill, the soldiers hustled back into the vehicles and inched off into the darkness, headlights switched off and night-vision goggles clamped on.

More than 60 American soldiers seemed to be too much of a match for the insurgents this time. Last September, nine Afghan soldiers and four US Marines perished not far away in a similar ambush.

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## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

# **U.S. Military Occupation Forces In Iraq Suffered 21 Combat Casualties In The Week Ending December 15**

December 16, 2009 By Michael Munk

US military occupation forces in Iraq under Commander-in-Chief Obama suffered 21 combat casualties in the week ending December 15, 2009 as the official total since the 2003 invasion jumped to at least 72,548.

The total includes 35,080 dead and wounded from what the Pentagon classifies as "hostile" causes and more than 37,458 (as of Dec. 5) dead and medically evacuated from "non-hostile" causes.

The actual total is over 100,000 because the Pentagon chooses not to count as "Iraq casualties" the more than 30,000 veterans whose injuries-mainly brain trauma from explosions - were diagnosed only after they had left Iraq. In addition, ICC names eight service members who died of wounds after they left Iraq and are not counted by the Pentagon.

US media divert attention from the actual cost in American life and limb by occasionally reporting only the total killed (4,373 as of Dec 15) but rarely mentioning the 31,603 wounded in combat.

To further minimize public perception of the cost, they cover for the Pentagon by ignoring the 36,562 (as of Dec 2) military victims of accidents and illness serious enough to require medical air evacuation, although the 4,373 reported deaths include 896 (up three) who died from those same causes, including at least 18 from faulty electrical work by KBR and 197 suicides through Dec 5.

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Militant Commander Says No Need For Taliban To Flee To Pakistan When They Control 80% Of Afghanistan:**

# ““Now Is The Time For The US To Understand That We Are Afghans And Are Fighting For The Freedom Of Our Homeland””

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

December 22, 2009 By Mushtaq Yusufzai, The News

**PESHAWAR: Rejecting as baseless the US allegations about the presence of Afghan Taliban in the tribal areas [of Pakistan], a militant commander said they did not need to flee to the neighbouring country when the Taliban controlled major parts of Afghanistan.**

Mulla Sangeen, a key commander of the Afghan Taliban, claimed there was no truth in the US charges, as the Taliban were holding 80 per cent of the territory in Afghanistan.

In his video message, which the Taliban commander claimed was recorded in one of his camps in the Paktika province, he said the Haqqani network was active and based in Afghanistan. Sangeen is also affiliated with the network.

The network, led by Sirajuddin Haqqani, has nominated Sangeen as the shadow governor of Paktika.

He said by pressing the government to launch a military operation in North Waziristan, the US was, in fact, trying to weaken the country. He said the US was making efforts to pit Pakistan's armed forces and people against each other. Sangeen said the Taliban had become a strong force and at the moment, they were ruling most of the country with the help of the Afghan people.

“The US knows that we are here in Afghanistan and are fighting against them. The US always levels such allegations whenever it suffers losses at our hands,” he stressed.

He said the US and its allies had invaded their country, with a claim to make it prosperous and developed.

“Instead, they turned Afghanistan into ruins. Thousands of Afghans were killed and their houses bombed in the name of the war on terror.

“The US still does not understand the complexity of the situation. It wrongly considers the Taliban are furthering somebody else's agenda.

“Now is the time for the US to understand that we are Afghans and are fighting for the freedom of our homeland,” the Afghan commander maintained.

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# **“The Russians’ Objectives Were Modest”**

**“They Wanted To Stabilize The Afghan Government, Secure The Roads And The Main Towns, Train Up The Afghan Army And Police And Then Leave”**

**“The Russians Never Got Over Their Basic Weakness: They Could Take The Territory, But They Never Had Enough Troops To Hold It”**

**“As One Russian Critic Put It, They Had Tactics But No Strategy”**

The Kabul government panicked and appealed to Moscow to send troops. Moscow refused and Aleksei Kosygin, Soviet prime minister, told Taraki: “We believe it would be a fatal mistake to commit ground troops. If our troops went in, the situation in your country would not improve. On the contrary, it would get worse. Our troops would have to struggle not only with an external aggressor, but with a significant part of your own people.” His words were prophetic.

December 21 2009 By Rodric Braithwaite, The Financial Times Ltd

Sir Rodric Braithwaite was British ambassador to Moscow, 1988-92. His book ‘Afgantsy: The Russians in Afghanistan 1979-1989’ is to be published by Profile Books in March 2011

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On Christmas day 1979, 30 years ago, Soviet forces poured into Afghanistan.

Two days later Soviet special forces killed Hafizullah Amin, president, in his Kabul palace. The Russians imposed their puppet, Babrak Karmal, in his place. Led by Jimmy Carter, the US president, and Margaret Thatcher, the UK prime minister, the world

united against this latest example of cynical and ruthless Soviet imperial aggression against a small neighbour.

**Financial, economic and military assistance to the growing insurgency flooded in from Pakistan, China, Saudi Arabia, Iran, the US and Britain.**

**Nine years later, on February 15 1989, the Soviets withdrew, a superpower humiliated by a rag-tag army of pious peasant fighters armed by Charlie Wilson, US congressman, with the Stinger missiles that drove the Soviet battle helicopters out of the sky.**

**Thus the myth.**

**The reality was more complicated.**

A good place to start is 1919, when an Afghan army invaded India.

The British rapidly defeated them, but in the subsequent peace negotiations they abandoned the 80-year-old monopoly of Afghan foreign policy for which they had successfully fought in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Freed from British tutelage, the Afghans promptly recognised the infant Soviet Union.

The Russians had a major, indeed a “legitimate”, interest in close links with a country strategically situated on their southern border, a potential source of instability, drugs, Islamic fundamentalism and American intrigue. They were happy to work with whoever was currently in power in Kabul. They trained Afghan officers and engineers and built many large projects including a national highway, a strategic road tunnel through the mountains, one of the largest agricultural projects in Asia and the Polytechnic Institute in Kabul.

By the 1970s they had also developed a close but unhappy relationship with the Afghan Communist party, which was fatally split between moderates led by Karmal and extremists led by Nur Mohammed Taraki and Amin.

In a bloody coup, to which the Russians were probably not a party, the Communists overthrew President Mohammed Daud in April 1978. The extremists then won the factional fight. They believed that the methods pioneered by Stalin could transform Afghanistan into a secular “socialist” country in a matter of years, and began to imprison and execute their opponents in large numbers.

Opposition rapidly spread throughout the country.

In March 1978 insurgents, joined by the local garrison, took over the provincial capital of heart. Stories unbacked by evidence say that up to 100 Soviet advisers and their families were slaughtered.

The Kabul government panicked and appealed to Moscow to send troops.

Moscow refused and Aleksei Kosygin, Soviet prime minister, told Taraki: “We believe it would be a fatal mistake to commit ground troops. If our troops went in, the situation in

your country would not improve. On the contrary, it would get worse. Our troops would have to struggle not only with an external aggressor, but with a significant part of your own people.” His words were prophetic.

The insurgency went on growing.

The Russians continued to turn down repeated Afghan requests for troops.

But the Soviet general staff did do some contingency planning, and sent detachments of special forces and paratroopers into Kabul and the air base at Bagram as a precaution.

In the autumn things deteriorated much further.

Amin murdered Taraki, took over the country, stepped up the arrests and executions and began to talk to the Americans. So far, the Russians’ attempts to influence the course of Afghan politics had been completely ineffective. Now they feared that the place would slip away from them entirely. They decided something must be done. The KGB made some ineffectual attempts to assassinate Amin.

But the military option began to seem unavoidable.

**The Russians’ objectives were modest. They wanted to stabilize the Afghan government, secure the roads and the main towns, train up the Afghan army and police and then leave.**

At that point an argument opened up in Moscow.

The politicians agreed with the KGB that a force of 30,000-40,000 should be sufficient.

The military wanted something much more substantial: they had after all sent some half a million soldiers to invade Czechoslovakia in 1968.

The force that finally went into Afghanistan consisted initially of about 80,000 troops. Ironically, Amin believed until the very end that the Russians were coming in response to his repeated requests, and he sent a senior staff officer to the Soviet frontier to smooth their passage.

**The 40th Army, as it was called, was inadequate.**

**It was put together in a hurry and, though it grew to about 100,000 men, it was always too small: the military later came to believe that they would have needed 32 divisions to subdue Afghanistan and close its border with Pakistan.**

It was designed to fight on the North German plain, and so was neither equipped nor trained to face an insurgency.

The Russian soldiers did eventually learn to fight effectively in the mountains and in what they (and the British soldiers who followed them) called the “green zone”, the lethal tangle of booby-trapped irrigation ditches, vineyards and narrow village streets of the cultivated valleys. But it took time.



They lost a lot of people in the process.

And they killed a great many Afghans in a war as brutal as the American war in Vietnam.

**Two-thirds of the soldiers were engaged in defence: garrisoning the towns, searching villages, manning guard posts along the roads.**

**The aggressive fighting was done by special forces, paratroopers and reconnaissance troops, supported and transported by armoured vehicles and helicopters.**

Despite their losses, the Russians won most of their fights.

They kept the main roads open, something we cannot always do today.

They broke mujahideen attempts to besiege cities. They mounted large operations, mustering up to 12,000 troops, to suppress mujahideen bases and formations.

They put together an Afghan army, armed with heavy weapons, which often fought well enough, despite the distressing tendency of Afghan officers to change sides and of soldiers to return to their villages when the going got rough.

But the Russians never got over their basic weakness: they could take the territory, but they never had enough troops to hold it.

As one Russian critic put it, they had tactics but no strategy.

From the beginning there were critical voices both inside and outside government.

**The criticism grew as the bodies began to come home in their zinc coffins.**

**People complained bitterly that the war was pointless and shameful, and that their sons were dying in vain.**

In 1983 the government began to look for an exit strategy.

Soon after Mikhail Gorbachev came to power in 1985 – well before the first Stinger was fired – he told the Afghans that the Soviet troops would pull out in a year or 18 months.

That was easier said than done.

**The Russians needed to save face, to leave a friendly regime behind them, to say that their young men had not died in vain.**

The mujahideen wanted victory, the Pakistanis wanted to install their allies in Kabul and the Americans wanted to go on making the Russians bleed in revenge for Vietnam. But after two years of bitter negotiation, the Russians achieved much of what they needed.

Their new man, Mohammed Najibullah, remained in control in Kabul and after nine unsatisfactory years the 40th Army withdrew in good order. Some 15,000 Soviet soldiers had died, and perhaps as many as 1.5m Afghans.

Najibullah lasted two more years.

Then President Boris Yeltsin's new government in Moscow cut off supplies of food, fuel, and weapons and, like the British puppets of the 19th century, he was overthrown and eventually killed.

After a vicious civil war, it was left to the Taliban to restore order.

The lessons of history are never clear, and it is risky to predict the future.

The British and the Russians won their wars but failed to impose their chosen leaders and systems of government on the Afghans.

**The western coalition already has as many troops in Afghanistan as the Russians did, and smarter military technology.**

**But neither the British prime minister nor the generals have explained to us convincingly why we should succeed where the Russians and the British failed, or why fighting in Afghanistan will prevent home-grown fanatics from planting bombs in British cities.**

**Tactics without strategy indeed.**

**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](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 888.711.2550**

**Military Resistance Available In PDF Format**

If you prefer PDF to Word format, email [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org)

**THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO COMPREHENSIBLE REASON TO BE IN THIS EXTREMELY HIGH RISK LOCATION AT THIS TIME, EXCEPT THAT THE PACK OF TRAITORS THAT RUN THE GOVERNMENT IN D.C. WANT YOU THERE TO DEFEND THEIR IMPERIAL DREAMS:**

**That is not a good enough reason.**



A United States Marine leaves a Afghan citizens' house after searching it in Khan Neshin in the province of Helmand, Afghanistan, Dec. 8, 2009. (AP Photo/Kevin Frayer)



U.S. Marines from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, patrol through Garmsir district of Helmand Province December 18, 2009. REUTERS/Adrees Latif



United States Marines search for explosives in the Garmsir district of Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, Dec. 23, 2009. (AP Photo/Kevin Frayer)

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



A marine from the USA publicly humiliates an Afghan citizen after stopping him at gunpoint in the Garmsir district, Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, Dec. 18, 2009. (AP Photo/Kevin Frayer)

Foreign occupation soldiers from the USA make a daily practice of publicly humiliating Afghan citizens.

This encourages self-respecting honorable Afghans to kill them.

**[Fair is fair. Let's bring 80,000 Afghan troops over here to the USA.**

**They can kill people at checkpoints, bust into their houses with force and violence, bomb and butcher their families, overthrow the government, put a new one in office they like better and call it "sovereign," and "detain" anybody who doesn't like it in a U.S. military prison in the invaded nation without any charges being filed against them, or any trial.**

**[Those Afghans are sure a bunch of backward primitives.**

**[They actually resent this help, have the absurd notion that it's bad their country is occupied by a foreign military dictatorship killing them wholesale, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to grab their country.**

**[What a bunch of silly people.**

**[How fortunate they are to live under a military dictatorship run by Barrack Obama. Why, how could anybody not love that? You'd want that in your home town, right?]**

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## **TROOP NEWS**

**“Thousands Of Children And Wives  
Of Deployed Soldiers Are Lining Up  
For Charity”**

**“Why It Is Not The Responsibility Of The  
Department Of Defense To ‘Take Care Of’  
These Families?”**

[Thanks To Pham Binh, Military Resistance & Traveling Soldier, who sent this in.]

December 22, 2009 by Kelley B. Vlahos, Antiwar.com [Excerpts]

Today, alongside the country's meekest and poorest, thousands of children and wives of deployed soldiers are lining up for charity in order to make their holidays as full of cheer as the rest of ours.

Meanwhile, the National K.I.D.S. (Kids in Distressed Situations) program has worked with Operation Homefront to distribute some \$1.5 million in "cribs, diapers, baby bottles, care seats," and juvenile products "to help families stretch their limited resources and budgets while their loved ones fight overseas for our freedom" and "to ensure that families with loved ones fighting for our security are taken care of."

One wonders why it is not the responsibility of the Department of Defense to "take care of" these families.

Funny, U.S. taxpayers are expected to foot the bill for the \$663 billion annual defense budget, but they are also encouraged by private organizations to give generously throughout the year so that, as K.I.D.S. puts it, "parents and children who live courageously on their own will be properly clothed, have gifts to give during the holiday season, receive baby products, and can enjoy something a little special while their loved ones are serving abroad."

At the risk of sounding like Ebenezer Scrooge on Christmas Eve, why?

Is it not the moral responsibility of the government to ensure its soldiers can properly clothe and feed their families when they are gone?

Family charity isn't the only place the DOD falls short.

When soldiers who have literally given limbs to Uncle Sam need a place to stay outside military hospitals so they can make frequent appointments, it is the private sector that builds them houses and provides lodging for the wives and children who need to take care of them.

Americans over the years have also been asked to provide adaptive clothing for amputees, phone cards, and other comforts for hospitalized veterans and their families.

Meanwhile, when a bunch of National Guardsmen being shipped off to a hellhole in Afghanistan want to see their families for Christmas, it is up to little old ladies and working stiffs to help buy them the bus fare home from training, because, as reports note, federal "budgetary and regulatory restrictions" prohibit the government from doing it.

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## **After Using Him As A Stick To Beat Bush, DemoRat Party Filth**

**Abandon Whistle-Blower Who  
Fought To Save Marines' Lives:  
As A Senate DemoRat, The Traitor  
Biden "Had Called Gayl A Hero And  
Urged Gen. James Conway, The  
Marine Corps Commandant, To Make  
Sure Gayl Wasn't Punished"  
"But Now That He's Vice President,  
Biden Hasn't Intervened"**



Lying, betraying bottom-feeding scum-sucker

December 22, 2009 Associated Press

**WASHINGTON -- A Marine Corps whistleblower says military officials are trying to force him from his job for exposing failures to deliver lifesaving equipment to troops in Iraq.**

[Franz] Gayl, 52, is the target of a Naval Criminal Investigative Service inquiry for allegedly mishandling secret information, according to Tom Devine, his lawyer.

Gayl had accused the Marine Corps of "gross mismanagement" for failing to answer the call in 2005 for heavy-duty trucks that could withstand roadside bombs in Iraq.

**Devine calls the military probe an “illegal bluff” aimed at punishing Gayl for ignoring his supervisors warnings and giving then-Sen. Joe Biden, D-Del., and other lawmakers copies of an unclassified study he wrote.**

Gayl's 2008 action in providing Biden with the study prompted the Navy investigation, Devine says.

**The January 2008 study, which soon after became public, harshly criticized the Marine Corps for refusing an urgent request from commanders in Iraq for the blast-resistant vehicles.**

When Gayl's study was disclosed, the Marine Corps called it a personal opinion at odds with the facts. But a subsequent audit by the Pentagon inspector general affirmed many of Gayl's conclusions.

Months before turning over the study to Biden, Gayl had been telling Biden's office and other lawmakers, including Sen. Kit Bond, R-Mo., about what he said were serious flaws in the acquisition system that kept needed gear from getting to the troops.

As a leading Senate Democrat, Biden had used Gayl's disclosures to hammer the Bush administration for “unconscionable bureaucratic delays.” Biden had called Gayl a hero and urged Gen. James Conway, the Marine Corps commandant, to make sure Gayl wasn't punished.

But now that he's vice president, Biden hasn't intervened.

Biden's press secretary, Elizabeth Alexander, said it is administration policy that the president and vice president “generally do not intervene in or comment on ongoing criminal investigations, personnel actions, and other investigations.”

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## **\$950 Million Of Afghan War Costs For Contractors “Unreasonable Or Lacked Enough Documentation To Support Them”**

### **100,000 Contractors Working For Occupation, Two-Thirds Of Them Afghans**

Dec 17, 2009 (AP) & Reuters

WASHINGTON — A Senate subcommittee says Pentagon auditors have challenged nearly \$1 billion in charges by military contractors in Afghanistan.



That's raising concerns on Capitol Hill about wasteful spending as the Obama administration expands the U.S. mission in Afghanistan.

The contracting oversight subcommittee is holding a hearing Thursday to examine whether there's enough monitoring of contractors' work in Afghanistan.

According to a memo distributed to subcommittee members before the hearing, the Defense Contract Audit Agency examined \$5.9 billion in Afghanistan troop support contracts.

The agency determined that \$950 million of the costs were unreasonable or lacked enough documentation to support them.

The contract spending is expected to rise with President Barack Obama's planned surge of 30,000 U.S. forces into Afghanistan in the coming months, Senator Claire McCaskill said at a subcommittee hearing.

Over 100,000 contractors are working for the U.S. government in Afghanistan, and that number could reach 160,000 next year, McCaskill said, citing estimates by the Congressional Research Service.

Some two-thirds of the current contractors are Afghans, she said.

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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**

**“Hope for change doesn’t cut it when you’re still losing buddies.”**

**-- J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War**

**I say that when troops cannot be counted on to follow orders because they see the futility and immorality of them THAT is the real key to ending a war.**

**-- Al Jaccoma, Veterans For Peace**

**“What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.”**

**Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787.**

**The Social-Democrats ideal should not be the trade union secretary, but the tribune of the people who is able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression no matter where it appears no matter what stratum or class of the people it affects; who is able to generalize all these manifestations and produce a single picture of police violence and capitalist exploitation; who is able to take advantage of every event, however small, in order to set forth before all his socialist convictions and his democratic demands, in order to clarify for all and everyone the world-historic significance of the struggle for the emancipation of the proletariat.”**

**-- Lenin; What Is To Be Done**

**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**

# **“Dying In Vain In Iraq And Afghanistan” “They Don’t Hate Us Because We Are Free. They Hate Us Because We Are Killing Them”**

Dec 13, 2009 by Chris Hedges, Truthdig [Excerpts]

Mike Gravel, the former two-term senator from Alaska and 2008 presidential candidate, sat Saturday on a park bench in Lafayette Park facing the White House.

Don't be hoodwinked by Obama going to Dover to watch the caskets or going to Arlington to salute the graves, with his snappy salute," Gravel says. "Adolf Hitler lionized soldiers dying. This is the old idea that it is honorable to die. It is not honorable to die in vain. People died in vain in Vietnam.

"They are dying in vain in Iraq and Afghanistan. And more people will die in vain because of the leadership of Barack Obama."

"They don't hate us because we are free," Gravel said of the insurgents in Iraq and Afghanistan. "They hate us because we are killing them."

## **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**

**“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**

## **December 26, 1971:**

# Honorable Anniversary



Carl Bunin Peace History December 24-30

Two dozen members of Vietnam Veterans Against the War “liberated” the Statue of Liberty with a sit-in to protest resumed U.S. aerial bombings in Vietnam.

They flew an inverted U.S. flag from the crown as a signal of distress.

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

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

## OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**“What’s Next? Charging Protesters  
Money For The Bullets Shot At  
Them?”**

**Display Of Used Tear Gas Canisters Shot  
By The Occupation Army Earns**

# Palestinian Activist An Arms Charge In Zionist Military Court



An exhibition of spent tear gas grenades and projectiles in the village of Bil'in for which Abu Rahmah was indicted on. Picture credit: Oren ZivActiveStills

December 23, 2009 Popular Struggle Coordination Committee

Abdallah Abu Rahmah, a school teacher and coordinator of the Bil'in Popular Committee Against the Wall, was indicted in an Israeli military court yesterday.

**Abu Rahmah was slapped with an arms possession charge for collecting used tear gas canisters shot at demonstrators in Bil'in by the army and showcasing them in his home.**

An indictment was filed in a West Bank military court yesterday for incitement, stone throwing and arms possession charges against Bil'in Popular Committee coordinator, Abdallah Abu Rahmah.

On receiving the indictment Adv. Gaby Lasky, Abu Rahmah's lawyer said that "the army shoots at unarmed demonstrators, and when they try to show the world the violence used against them by collecting presenting the remnants – they are persecuted and prosecuted. What's next? Charging protesters money for the bullets shot at them?"

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## **Checkpoint: The Zionist Master Race Teaches Children To Obey Them**

20 December 2009, By Johann Funk, Kawther Salam [Excerpts]

She is the vision of innocence, peering up into the dull eyes of a soldier towering over her.

She can only be four or five years old. Black slacks with a green striped short skirt fanning out beneath her short black jacket indicate that she is a kindergarten student.

She strains to hand the backpack, which is half her length, up to the soldier who orders her to stop.

He systematically opens every zipper and plunges his hands into each pocket before handing the backpack back. It slumps to the ground.



The little girl carefully closes the zippers and with considerable effort slings the backpack onto her back; the young soldier, who has moved on to the next search, has already forgotten her.

She stumbles as she hurries to catch up with her friends.

This encounter is a significant part of her education under the Israeli occupying power, which seeks to clip her fragile wings.

I feel helpless, angry and sad all at once. What can I do? I observe, I document, I report but it is not enough, it is never enough to change significantly the severity of the occupation, let alone to end it. I rationalize that what I do is part of a larger struggle but this answer is never completely satisfying.

My angel at Qitoun Checkpoint is still dehumanized as an enemy, invisible to international geopolitics, despite my feeble efforts. All I can do is reflect, pray and enter into the suffering God must experience when he sees what is done in his name for the sake of Israeli settlers in Hebron.



**Checkpoint, by: Johann Funk**

**thirty Palestinians  
huddle behind razor wire  
against an icy December storm  
workers from Israel  
returning for eid al adha  
shivering for five long hours  
soldiers in combat gear  
clutching stacks of identity cards  
handing them back**





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## **Zionist Scum Stone Palestinian School Children, As Usual: “Several Weeks Ago, A Settler On Horseback Attempted To Snatch Amar’s Sister”**

**[The careful reader will understand why many decent, honorable Palestinians wish to kill Zionist terrorists. What is amazing is that more do not do so. T]**

21 December 2009 Christian Peacemaker Teams

Two settlers from the Givat Ha Harsina settlement attacked seven-year-old Amar Zadari this past Wednesday, 16 December, while he, a brother and cousin were walking home from school.

The two young men threw stones at the three boys and, along with a dog, chased them. In his panic to get away Amar tripped and fell on his face. His twelve-year-old brother ran back, scooped him up and raced to the safety of the closest house in the Al-Bweireh neighborhood.



This attack is the latest of many over the past few years in the neighborhood of al-Bweireh, on the outskirts of Al-Khaliil.

**Settlers from Givat Ha Harsina, which borders the neighborhood, have hurled stones at and harassed Palestinian children returning home from school for years, but the situation worsened seven months ago after settlers moved into a makeshift outpost located about forty meters behind a Palestinian home in al-Bweireh.**

The outpost settlers own dogs that they use to attack and threaten al-Bweireh residents. Their presence on the hilltop overlooking the neighborhood is a source of anxiety for the forty families living there.

**Several weeks ago, a settler on horseback attempted to snatch Amar's sister, Shahad al- Za'atari.**

Their mother told CPT that Amar is so afraid to walk home by himself that he walks to the Jr. high school his brother attends and sits with him in class for an hour-and-a-half each day until his brother's classes are dismissed.

Amar's father went to the police station on Thursday 17 December to file a complaint. The police said they had to interview Amar himself. When he came to the station, he asked the seven-year-old if he had any pictures of his attackers. CPT has been responding to a request from al-Bweireh residents to be present in the neighborhood as their children return home from school.

**[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 invaders call themselves "Israeli."]**

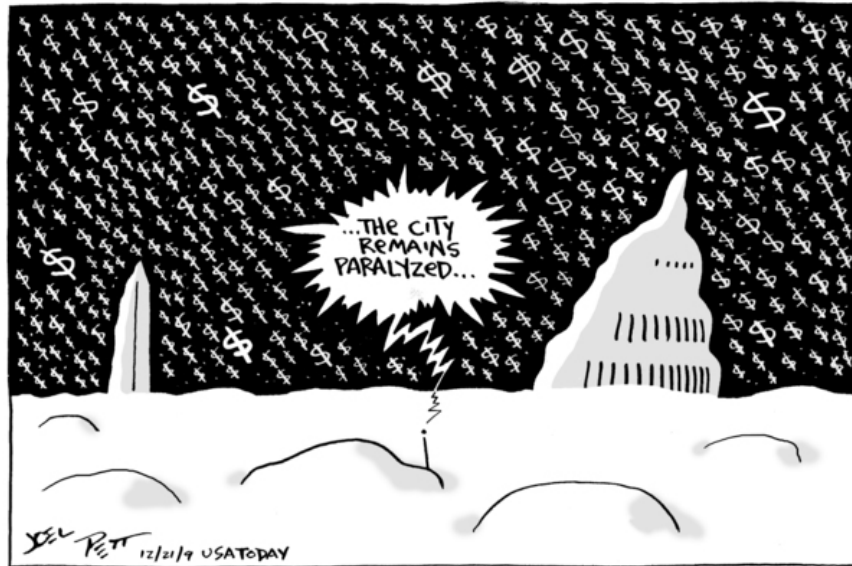
## **NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER**

**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/))**

## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



[Thanks To Phil G, who sent this in.]

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



Funeral procession for Spc. Christopher J. Coffland at Arlington National Cemetery Dec. 1, 2009. Coffland, 43, of Baltimore, died Nov. 13, 2009 in Wardak province, Afghanistan, after his unit was attacked with an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 323rd Military Intelligence Battalion, Fort Meade, Md. (AP Photo/The Baltimore Sun, Karl Merton Ferron)

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

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

## **CLASS WAR REPORTS**



It's time  
to give  
class  
warfare  
a chance.

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**“My Advice, As A Christian Priest, Is  
To Shoplift”**

# **“I Would Ask That They Do Not Steal From Small Family Businesses, But From Large National Businesses”**

21st December 2009 Sermon given by Father Tim Jones, parish priest at St Lawrence and St Hilda in York [England] [Excerpt]

**My advice in these circumstances, when people have been let down so very badly by the rest of society, is that they should not hurt anybody, and cope as best they can.**

**The strong temptation is to burgle or rob people – family, friends, neighbours, strangers. Others are tempted towards prostitution, a nightmare world of degradation and abuse for all concerned.**

**Others are tempted towards suicide.**

**Instead, I would rather that they shoplift.**

**My advice, as a Christian priest, is to shoplift.**

I do not offer such advice because I think that stealing is a good thing, or because I think it is harmless, for it is neither.

I would ask that they do not steal from small family businesses, but from large national businesses, knowing that the costs are ultimately passed on to the rest of us in the form of higher prices.

I would ask them not to take any more than they need, for any longer than they need. And I would offer this advice with a heavy heart, wishing that our society recognized that bureaucratic ineptitude and systemic delay constitutes a dreadful invitation and incentive to crime for people struggling to cope at the very bottom of our social order.

What then, of the eighth commandment? “Thou shalt not steal.”

Is this advice to usurp the authority of Almighty God?

No.

Not the God who is born of Mary, Mary whose soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord. For in Mary’s song of praise is the explicit recognition that the poor are extremely close to the heart of God.

**The church, the community of faith, the community of people who keep the song of Mary alive, have long recognized that it is permissible for those who are in desperate situations to take food that they might not starve.**

**For ours is a God, Mary tells us, who has “lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.” (Luke chapter 1 verses 52&53).**

The mother of Christ reminds us what Jesus shows us: that God's love for the poor and despised – and who in our society is despised more than a newly released prisoner? - outweighs the property rights of the rich.

Let my words not be misrepresented as a simplistic call for people to shoplift. The observation that shoplifting is the best option that some people are left with is a grim indictment of who we are.

Rather, this is a call for our society no longer to treat its most vulnerable people with indifference and contempt.

**When people are released from prison, or find themselves suddenly without work or family support, then to leave them for weeks and weeks with inadequate or clumsy social support is monumental, catastrophic folly. We create a situation which leaves some people little option but crime.**

People of God at St. Lawrence's, Advent is at its height. Prepare for the coming of Christ, for Christmas is almost upon us. But don't let your preparations be limited to tinsel and turkey, crackers, fairy lights and chocolates. Prepare for Christ by singing his mother's song, and taking her words to heart. Don't just sing about lifting up the lowly: help with the lifting!

**And when we, as a society, are found time and time again to fail lift those at the very bottom, then for the love of God, a God born in a stable of all places, let us not punish them for trying to survive as best they can.**

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