

Military Resistance 8A18



ACTION REPORTS

**“The Soldiers Were Exceptionally Receptive And Friendly, With The Majority Taking The Handouts”
[Outreach To New York Army National Guard]**

Another soldier told AS that “I read this [Traveling Soldier] all the time.” When asked what he thought of it, he replied, “It’s true.”

From: Aaron W
To: Military Resistance Newsletter

Sent: January 25, 2010

Subject: Outreach To New York National Guard 1/23/10

On Saturday, January 23rd, at 5:45 AM, seven people were present for outreach by the Military Resistance organization to New York Army National Guard soldiers at the [XXXXX] Armory.

It was an exceptionally busy day at the armory, with cars lined up and down the block. Soldiers were even using the side entrance.

By the end of the morning, we had handed out 108 copies of *Traveling Soldier* along with dozens of cookies and DVDs of *Sir! No Sir* and *Querido Camilo*.

The latter DVD generated a number of comments from soldiers. One soldier, Lucy, took a copy of *Querido Camilo* from LP, and told her that she had heard of Camilo before. Another soldier, when AS told him what QC was about, responded that that had "happened to a friend of mine," and said that he would watch the DVD.

There seemed to be many new faces at the Harlem Armory, and in general, the soldiers were exceptionally receptive and friendly, with the majority taking the handouts.

A number of soldiers seemed to recognize us, and immediately approached us for the handout.

One notable incident occurred when an older and a younger soldier passed by together, with the older soldier refusing the handout and the younger one taking it. The older soldier seemed familiar with TS, and when they entered the building he appeared to be telling the younger about the material.

We decided to wrap-up at around 7:30, and even as we were leaving we continued to hand out literature and cookies to passing soldiers.

One soldier stopped mid-run to take the handout.

Another soldier told AS that "I read this [*Traveling Soldier*:] all the time."

When asked what he thought of it, he replied, "It's true."

MORE:

**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**

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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Car Bomber Strikes Baghdad Police Forensics Office



Baghdad, Iraq, Jan. 26, 2010. The police Forensics Office building in central Baghdad, after car bomb attack. (AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

26 January 2010 Guardian News and Media

A car bomb has exploded outside a Baghdad forensics lab and major crime unit.

Today's suicide blast killed 18 people and injured 82.

The victims were mainly police, with many believed to have worked on terrorism investigations and prosecutions.

It happened in the Karrada district, close to the site of Monday's three explosions, in which city centre hotels were targeted, killing 42 people.

Today's blast means a security dragnet in central Baghdad has now been breached four times in less than six months by terrorists with the ability to co-ordinate sophisticated and devastating blasts.

Remember That Lame Lying Bullshit About How U.S. Troops Have Been Withdrawn From Urban Areas?

**In Mosul, The U.S. Army Launches
“The Most Significant Military
Mission By American Forces Since
They Largely Retreated To Bases
Outside Iraq’s Cities In June”**

**“The Duration Of The Operations
Remains Unclear”**

**“Ultimately The Americans Hope To
Withdraw”**

January 26, 2010 By STEVEN LEE MYERS, New York Times [Excerpts]

MOSUL, Iraq — A string of checkpoints has appeared on the roads that spoke out from this volatile city, guarded by hundreds of American soldiers working with Arab and Kurdish troops.

The joint operation along one of Iraq’s ethnic trouble spots began with a deliberate lack of fanfare, but it constitutes the most significant military mission by American forces since they largely retreated to bases outside Iraq’s cities in June.

Guarding checkpoints — a task the American military never relishes — invites attacks by insurgents, who remain particularly active in northern Iraq.

On three consecutive nights recently, rockets or mortars landed near three checkpoints in Diyala Province, though they caused no casualties, according to an American military spokesman and an Iraqi military official.

“You stay static,” as First Sgt. Tony DeSardo, of the Army’s Third Infantry Division, put it on Saturday, “you’ll get hit.”

“What we have sought to do is separate the politics from the security piece, and of course, that’s very hard to do,” said Lt. Gen. Charles H. Jacoby Jr., the deputy commander in Iraq.

“But we keep bringing it back to focusing on: O.K., where and how do we provide the best security to the Iraqi people?”

“And how does that create the environment that will someday allow for political process to take place?”

The duration of the operations remains unclear.

Ultimately the Americans hope to withdraw.

Remember That Lame Lying Bullshit About How U.S. Troops Have Been Withdrawn From Urban Areas Part 2? [Baghdad, Obviously, Is Not An Urban Area]



U.S. soldiers stand guard near a crater made by a bomb attack in central Baghdad January 26, 2010. REUTERS/Saad Shalash

Baghdad 2010:

“‘No One Cares About You’ One Survivor Yelled At Another” “You’re Just Like The Millions Of Others Who Have Already Been Killed”

With the authority that comes from giving orders, he promised actions against “the remaining cowardly terrorist cells.” He spoke Monday, and a few hours later the three hotels were wrecked.

January 27, 2010 By ANTHONY SHADID, The New York Times Company [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD — The sounds echoed Tuesday through Investigations Square, mundane in their familiarity and poignant in their anguish. Glass shattered by a suicide bombing sounded like tinny chimes as vendors swept their sidewalks.

Condolences in Arabic were murmured in the numbed aftermath of chaos.

Down the street, dominoes clacked, as Ali Hassan played on a table, perched before a store shorn of its facade.

“What else can I do?” he asked. “Where else should I go?”

For a second day, Baghdad was beset by a bombing, this time at a forensics office of the Interior Ministry.

The attack followed a devastating series of bombings Monday that wrecked landmark hotels catering to foreigners, killing dozens more and demonstrating the tenacity of insurgents in striking when and where they have wanted for the past six months.

In a city where anxiety is the state of mind, Baghdad seems especially anxious now, sometimes with a hint of the surreal.

The bombings have intersected with crises that themselves have converged across a kinetic landscape, propelled forward by suspicion, conspiracy and fear. “Min waraha?” the question often goes in Baghdad’s streets.

It means, “Who’s behind it?”

“Complicated,” explained Ali Jamal, as he walked to work at a car dealership, past the checkpoints that blocked the road and past the detritus of the bomb that carved a crater 10 feet across, leaving a tattered Investigations Square even more disheveled.

Behind him, police officers inspected the crumpled chassis of incinerated cars and pulled at the rubble that piled like a snowdrift at the office’s demolished entrance. Before him, traffic was sparse in streets that are usually snarled at any hour of the day.

He listed the suspects, as if answering by rote.

Perhaps it was revenge for the execution Monday of Ali Hassan al-Majid, the lieutenant of former President Saddam Hussein known as Chemical Ali. The insurgents who carried out Monday's bombings, killing 41 people, might have been responsible, too.

Then again, he added, it could be political parties contesting the vote in March, foreigners or shadowy religious zealots.

"People can blame anyone," he said. "There are going to be hard days ahead."

To the rest of the world, Iraq is sometimes defined as a linear procession of events. In that narrative, the country prepares for elections, which will underscore the resilience of Iraq's democracy.

That resilience will permit the American military to withdraw, making way for Iraq's security forces to vanquish insurgents' remnants.

Missing, though, is a sense of how unpredictable and tenuous the place is, often defined less by progress and more by the gulf of perceptions between a version of events offered by a coterie of politicians, party leaders and security officials and a disenchanted, suspicious public that seems these days more inclined to question than to believe.

"Politicians have failed to deliver anything concrete to their people," said Qassem Daoud, a lawmaker and candidate.

"And no one knows what to expect from them anymore."

Iraq's political class is mired in a dispute over the disqualification of hundreds of candidates for promoting Hussein's Baath Party. Sunni Muslims have cried foul, calling it score-settling ahead of the vote.

Religious Shiite parties have defended the ban as adherence to law, even if that law is sometimes maddeningly ambiguous.

The Americans have insisted the matter is for Iraqis to decide, even as they help shepherd the process.

"We're on this like a rug," a United States official acknowledged.

Around Investigations Square, none of their statements seemed to be taken at face value.

While distrust is nothing new here, the cynicism was especially pronounced.

"As soon as the campaign started, the bombs began," said Qassem Muhammad, sitting on the curb before his wrecked shop. "It's between them — the parties and the seats of power. Does a carpenter set off a bomb? A plumber? The poor? No, it's all them."

A half-hour after he spoke, a policeman detained for letting the car bomb pass through his checkpoint tried to escape.

He ran down a barricaded street a little ways from the bombing. Shouting, officers chased him, and he ran faster. Shots rang out, fired by armed men, in plain clothes, guarding the office of a political party. He was caught, but not before he was slapped, then beaten in the street by a burly officer twice his size.

“Look at the people in the street,” he cried. “You’re beating me in front of them.”

“Curse you and curse the people in the street,” the officer shouted back.

The army here is often praised, occasionally with a suggestion of the unexpected. The police far less so. At the bombing Monday, residents confronted them with anger. Some ignored them. Others argued with them. A few evinced the weariness of resignation.

“No one cares about you,” one survivor yelled at another who was complaining to the police that the bomb at the Babylon Hotel had wrecked his car, essentially his sole possession.

“You’re just like the millions of others who have already been killed.”

Nearly every driver feels he or she can talk their way through a checkpoint. Demands for inspection sometimes prompt invective from drivers. Many make jokes about the effectiveness of hand-held bomb detectors deployed at checkpoints in virtually every street, intersection and bridge. Despite calls for investigation, the Interior Ministry has yet to withdraw them.

“A magic wand,” the Iraqi edition of Asharq al-Awsat called them Tuesday.

The headline in the Arabic-language paper admitted that the bombs don’t detect explosives, but tongue in cheek, said they were thought to detect “perfume and fillings in teeth.”

There was a long-winded statement on television, parading detained insurgents and their confessions.

In it, Qassem Atta, the spokesman for Baghdad military operations, boasted that security forces had recently disrupted 21 “terrorist networks.”

He insisted that many of their men were now in custody. With the authority that comes from giving orders, he promised actions against “the remaining cowardly terrorist cells.”

He spoke Monday, and a few hours later the three hotels were wrecked.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Marine From NJ Killed In Afghanistan Blast

January 25, 2010 Associated Press

CHERRY HILL — A Cherry Hill family is mourning a son who was killed in a suicide bomb attack Saturday in Afghanistan's Helmand Province.

Marine Lance Cpl. Jeremy Kane was 22.

Kane enlisted as a reservist on Sept. 11, 2006, during his first year at Rutgers University.

His grandfather had been a Marine and his father a soldier. His mother, Melinda, says he felt it was his duty to serve his country.

Kane was planning to return to Rutgers to finish his senior year after his deployment was over.

His mother says her son called home from Afghanistan asking for chocolates and pens to hand out to children.

Bomber Attacks U.S. Base In Kabul; Eight Americans Wounded

January 26, 2010 By Associated Press

KABUL — A car bomber targeted a U.S. base in Kabul on Tuesday, wounding 14 people, including eight American, officials said.

The bomber detonated a minivan packed with explosives near Camp Phoenix, an American base inside Kabul, wounding at least six Afghan civilians, said Jamil Jumbish, the head of Afghanistan's criminal investigation unit.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack and said it was targeting an international military convoy, according to a text message to The Associated Press from a phone number commonly used by the militant group.

NATO forces confirmed a car bomb struck outside the main gate of Camp Phoenix, saying it was aimed at a civilian convoy that was entering the controlled checkpoint.

Eight Americans suffered minor injuries, according to a NATO official, who released the information ahead of a formal announcement on condition of anonymity. He did not say if they were troops or civilians.

ENOUGH OF THIS SHIT; ALL HOME NOW



U.S. Marines leave for a mission from base Delaram in Nimroz province, southern Afghanistan January 11, 2010. REUTERS/Marko Djurica



A soldier from the 293rd Military Police Company out of Fort Stewart, Georgia, U.S.A., falls in a ditch during a clearing operation in farm land in Kandahar City, southern Afghanistan Jan. 19, 2010. (AP Photo/Kirsty Wigglesworth)



US Marines take cover during a patrol on the outskirts of Marjah in central Helmand on January 19. (AFP/Christophe Simon)



U.S. Army soldiers from 2-12 Infantry on patrol in Kolack, a village in the Korengal Valley, Kunar province, northeastern Afghanistan, Jan. 19, 2010. The soldiers regularly exchange fire with Taliban militants who operate in the hillsides of the Pech and Korengal valleys. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

Good News For The Afghan Resistance!!

U.S. Occupation Commands' Stupid Terror Tactics Recruit Even More Fighters To Kill U.S. Troops



Foreign occupation soldiers from the USA order an Afghan citizen and his son at gunpoint to get out of their car and stand by the roadside at a checkpoint at Delaram district in Nimroz province, southern Afghanistan January 21, 2010. REUTERS/Marko Djurica

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 Barack Obama. Why, how could anybody not love that? You'd want that in your home town, right?]

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

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Resistance Attacks Foreign Troops In Mogadishu

1.25.10 Mareeg

Clashes between the Islamist rebels and the African Union Troops known as AMISOM have erupted in the Somali capital Mogadishu, witnesses said on Monday.

The clashes started in Jalle Siad Academy in Mogadishu, a base of Burundian troops of the African Union Mission.

Residents say the fighting started after the Islamic militants attacked the base with heavy mortars and machineguns.

The two warring sides have used heavy weapons in the fighting which could be heard around the area of the fighting.

No casualties have been reported yet, but the buses that use Warshadaha Street stopped because of the fighting.

Separately, the Islamist rebels have also attacked bases of the Somali government soldiers in Hodan District in Mogadishu backed by AMISOM peacekeepers [translation: occupation troops].

Mortar Shell Hits Occupation Troops' Base

1.25.10 AFP

A mortar shell smashed into an African Union peacekeeping mission [translation: occupation troops] base in Mogadishu Monday, killing several people, including a soldier, officials on the base said.

An 82-mm mortar round struck a secondary entrance to the AMISOM's main Mogadishu base. According to an official with AMISOM's Ugandan contingent, one Ugandan soldier was killed in the attack.

The Shebab accuse AMISOM's Ugandan and Burundian soldiers of occupying their country and being engaged in a Christian crusade against Muslim Somalia.

They launched a fierce military offensive in May 2009 aimed at toppling internationally-backed President Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, whose embattled administration has owed its survival largely to the protection of AMISOM's 5,300 peacekeepers [translation: occupation troops].

TROOP NEWS

**NOT ANOTHER DAY
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR
NOT ANOTHER LIFE**



Students stand outside Westwood High school Jan. 21, 2010, in Washington Township, N.J. as they watch the hearse carrying the body of Marine Sgt. Christopher Hrbek pass. Hrbek, a field artillery cannoneer, who was killed Jan. 14, when he stepped on an explosive device in Afghanistan, was a 2002 graduate of the school. (AP Photo/Mel Evans)

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**

**“There Is Deep And Widespread
Anger And Resentment Across
The Land”**

**“There's Nothing Mysterious
About The Material Basis Of What
The Establishment Media
Arrogantly Dismisses As ‘Populist
Rage’”**

**An “Unelected Dictatorship Of Money
Exercises A Permanent Behind-The-
Scenes Veto Power Over Those Who
Seek ‘To Change The Foreign Or
Domestic Priorities Of The Imperial
U.S. Regime’”**

**“The Democratic Party Is The Leading
Conservative Establishment Party Doing
The Bidding Of The Nation's Ruling
Class Right Now”**

With much of what passes for a left in this country muted, the messianic-militarist, arch-authoritarian, and dodgy, hyper-plutocratic Republican right wing and its still-potent “noise machine” is left to soak up and express much of the legitimate rage that ordinary Americans feel over Washington's continuing captivity to concentrated wealth, corporate-direction, and the military-industrial complex in the Age of Obama.

There's nothing mysterious about the material basis of what the establishment media arrogantly dismisses as “populist rage.”

The official U.S. unemployment measure is over 10 percent, terrible enough though the real joblessness rate (including involuntarily part-time workers and the many millions of workers who have given up on the quest for employment) is over 17 percent.

One in four U.S. children now relies on Food Stamps. The foreclosure crisis continues, feeding mass homelessness.

There's nowhere to make an honest, family-supporting living for millions of U.S. (ex-) workers, stuck in a former manufacturing superpower whose corporate overlords have moved the lion's share of production offshore.

(To give just one example among many: U.S. luggage producers account for less than 1 percent of the U.S. market, yet nearly every U.S. resident owns luggage.)

The top 1 percent of the U.S. population owns more than 40 percent of the nation's total net worth and closer to two thirds of its financial assets.

At least 92 million people - close to a third of the U.S. population - lives at less than 200 percent of the notoriously inadequate federal poverty level (currently \$21,834 for a family of four).

Forty-five thousand Americans die each year in connection with their inability to obtain health insurance - a curious commentary on life and death in “the world's greatest democracy,” the only “modern” industrial-service economy state not to guarantee health care to its broad populace.

All of this is grossly contrary to the policy and social preferences of the majority of U.S. citizens, identical with the U.S. government in quaint democratic theory.

The American People Are Overwhelmingly In Favor Of Social Justice:

The American people are nowhere nearly as reactionary as many middle class liberals I know insist.

For what its worth (not all that much in America's corporate managed dollar democracy), popular U.S. attitudes on key policies and values have long stood well to the left of both of the two dominant U.S. political parties, the investor class, and the nation's “mainstream” (corporate) media.

Contrary to pundits' routine description of the U.S. as a “center-right nation:”

*** 71 percent of Americans think that taxes on corporations are too low (Gallup Poll, April 2007), 66 percent of Americans think taxes on upper-income people are too low (Gallup Poll, April 2007) and 62 percent believe corporations make too much profit (Pew Survey 2004).**

*** 77 percent of Americans think there is too much power concentrated in the hands of a few big companies (Pew Survey 2004), 84 percent think that big companies have too much power in Washington (Harris Poll 2007), and two-thirds think that “big business and big government work together against the people's interests” (Rasmussen Reports, 2009).**

***A majority of American voters think that the United States' “most urgent moral question” is either “greed and materialism” (33 percent) or “poverty and economic injustice” (31 percent).**

Just 16 percent identify abortion and 12 percent pick gay marriage as the nation's “most urgent moral question” (Zogby, 2004).

Thus, nearly two-thirds (64 percent) of the population think that injustice and inequality are the nation's leading “moral issues” (Katherine Adams and Charles Derber, *The New Feminized Majority* [Paradigm, 2008], p.72).

*** Just 29 percent of Americans support the expansion of government spending on “defense.”**

By contrast, 79 percent support increased spending on health care, 69 percent support increased spending on education, and 69 percent support increased spending on Social Security (Chicago Council on Foreign Relations hereafter “CCFR”, “Global Views,” 2004).

*** 69 percent of Americans think it is the responsibility of the federal government to provide health coverage to all U.S. citizens (Gallup Poll, 2006) and 67 percent “think it's a good idea (for government) to guarantee health care for all U.S. citizens, as Canada and Britain do, with just 27 percent dissenting” (Business Week, 2005).**

*** 59 percent of Americans support a single-payer health insurance system (CBS/New York Times poll, January 2009) and 65 percent of Americans respond affirmatively to the following question: “Would you favor the government offering everyone a government-administered health insurance plan - something like the Medicare coverage that people 65 and over get - that would compete with private health insurance plans?” (CBS-New York Times, September 23, 2009)**

Of course, the nation's majority progressive views are (like electoral reform to permit viable left parties) “off the table” of serious policy consideration in the U.S.

This reflects the nation's much-bemoaned “democracy deficit,” a consequence of its “unelected dictatorship of money,” which exercises a permanent behind-the-scenes veto power over those who seek “to change the foreign or domestic priorities of the imperial U.S. regime” - a dictatorship whose grip has recently been deepened by a Supreme Court decision that permits corporate managers to buy elections directly instead of only by indirect methods.

But where are ordinary American supposed to turn to act on their progressive opinions and on their current “populist” resentment?

Not the Democratic Party, an institution that has set new records in transferring federal funds to Wall Street and in funding the Pentagon while abandoning workers and the poor and escalating imperial violence in South Asia.

As the campaign finance data and more shows, the Democratic Party is the leading conservative establishment party doing the bidding of the nation's ruling class right now.

Everyday citizens know this very well. As Lance Selfa notes in Socialist Worker:

“A September 2009 Economic Policy Institute poll asked a national sample of registered voters to say who they thought had ‘been helped a lot or some’ from the policies the administration enacted.

The result: 13 percent said the ‘average working person,’ 64 percent identified ‘large banks,’ and 54 percent said ‘Wall Street investment companies.’“

There should be no pity parties for the “leaders” of the Democratic Party in the wake of Scott Brown's victory - that's for sure.

They have made their own centrist and corporatist death bed, now they get lie (and perhaps die) in it.

As Margaret Kimberly of Black Agenda Report recently wrote: “Don't be fooled by this 60 vote super-majority crap. The Democrats did nothing with it. The loss of a seat by that party is no loss to the citizens of this country, whose interests are never represented, no matter who is in charge. If 60 was so wonderful, why is the health care bill so worthless?”

It's a dangerous situation.

With much of what passes for a left in this country muted, the messianic-militarist, arch-authoritarian, and dodgy, hyper-plutocratic Republican right wing and its still-potent “noise machine” is left to soak up and express much of the legitimate rage that ordinary Americans feel over Washington's continuing captivity to concentrated wealth, corporate-direction, and the military-industrial complex in the Age of Obama.

Popular resentment abhors a legitimately populist left vacuum and the fake-populist right is ready, willing, and able to fill the gap.

MORE:

**Reality Check:
[People Are Not Stupid]**

[The Elitist Intelligentsia Who Think People Are Stupid Are Stupid]

January 20, 2010 By Isaiah J. Poole, OurFuture.org [Excerpts]

The poll focused on Massachusetts residents who voted for President Obama in 2008 but who either voted for Senate republican candidate Scott Brown or did not vote at all.

Generally speaking do you think Barack Obama and Democrats in Washington, DC are delivering enough on the change Obama promised to bring to America during the campaign?

Yes 31%
No 57%
Not sure 12%

Democrats in Washington are more on my side than on the side of the lobbyists and special interests, OR Democrats in Washington are more on the side of the lobbyists and special interests than on the side of people like me.

The lobbyists 47%
People like me 23%
Not sure 30%

Would you favor or oppose the national government offering everyone the choice of a government administered health insurance plan — something like the Medicare coverage that people 65 and older get — that would compete with private health insurance plans?

Favor 82%
Oppose 14%
Not Sure 4%

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

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

January 26, 1784: Prophetic Anniversary: Ben Franklin Says The Imperial Eagle Is A Thieving Piece Of Shit



Carl Bunin Peace History January 21-27

Benjamin Franklin, noting the bald eagle was “a bird of bad moral character” who lived “by sharpening and robbing,” expressed regret it had been selected to be the U.S. national symbol. In fact, Franklin was critical of the bald eagle for its habit of scavenging for food and stealing from other birds.

“You may have seen him perched on some dead tree, where, too lazy to fish for himself, he watches the labor of the fishing-hawk, and when that diligent bird has at length taken a fish, and is bearing it to its nest for the support of his mate and young ones, the bald eagle pursues him and takes it from him,” Franklin said.

OCCUPATION HAITI

**“It Has Become More Difficult To
Actually Move The Stuff Out Of
Here And Get It To The People
Who Need It. There Is So Much
Red Tape And Bureaucracy”**

“There Is So Much Food And Medical Stuff So Near And Yet These People Who Are In Desperate Need Are Not Getting It”

“They Just Keep Telling Me It’s Too Dangerous To Bring Food And Supplies In”

“But If It’s Not Too Dangerous For You And It’s Not Too Dangerous For Me, Why Is It Too Dangerous For United Nations Troops With Guns?”



Supplies sit at the airport: Daily Mail

Even though it took me only 45 minutes by taxi from the UN HQ – where there are piles of food, water and medical supplies – when I reached the village of 600 people they said they had seen no aid workers at all.

24th January 2010 By Caroline Graham, Daily Mail [Excerpts]

It is a tale of two cities.

One has ice-cold beers, internet access, thousands of men and billions of dollars' worth of gleaming machinery, together with piles of food, blankets, generators and other aid relief from around the globe.

This is the heavily fortified US-controlled Port-au-Prince airport and neighbouring United Nations compound.

The other is the devastated city of Port-au-Prince, where the stench of death fills the air and starving people are in utter despair, still in need of the basic necessities of food, water, shelter and medical care.

Never, in more than 20 years of covering disasters, has the void between the might and power of the Westernised world and the penniless and pitiful people they have been mobilised to 'save' been so glaringly obvious to me.

This nearly two weeks after the earthquake that devastated Haiti's capital, leaving an estimated 100,000 dead in the rubble and another 1.4million homeless.

Despite a vast worldwide aid effort – spurred on by pleas from celebrities such as George Clooney in Friday night's Haiti Telethon – the lack of help reaching those who need it is such that even aid agencies on the ground are now admitting they have fallen woefully short.

The airport, now fully under the control of the US military, is like something out of a Hollywood action film.

Astonishingly, officials have set up a formal administrative procedure for those who choose to visit Haiti. You have to fill out two forms – one each for customs and immigration.

The form even queries whether your trip is 'business or pleasure?'

It took an hour after leaving the aircraft for photographer Nick Stern and me to travel the half-mile or so from the landing strip to a small building where a woman in uniform glanced at my passport and stamped it.

'Welcome to Haiti,' she said quietly.

I spoke to Christian minister Brent Gambrell who was one of the first to arrive, just eight hours after the earthquake hit.

'It was chaos for the first few days. The airport closed down because they couldn't handle the flights wanting to come in. There was no organisation until the US military got involved.

'But it has become more difficult to actually move the stuff out of here and get it to the people who need it. There is so much red tape and bureaucracy.'

There are some signs that the aid is starting to get to those who need it.

Next to the airport, at the UN compound – from where I sat writing this, with internet access, near the light from a shower block and with an ice-cold beer from the on-base bar (complete with potted plants) – supplies are starting to go out.

Late on Friday, the World Food Programme offered to take me to see one of the orphanages they are providing supplies to.

A gleaming white four-wheel-drive vehicle arrived in which we waited...and waited. I was told it was because we were expecting 'a VIP guest'.

In the end, the trip was cancelled. The VIP and her handlers had vetoed it.

I later learned the VIP was Princess Haya of Jordan. She flew in with supplies in her role as a UN Goodwill Ambassador, met her country's troops then flew back to the Dominican Republic 'for safety reasons' – all in the comfort of a private 747.

Yesterday I visited the remote Christ Roi area which was one of the poorest and most dangerous shanty towns even before the earthquake hit.

Flies and mosquitoes swarmed over every pile of rubble.

Even though it took me only 45 minutes by taxi from the UN HQ – where there are piles of food, water and medical supplies – when I reached the village of 600 people they said they had seen no aid workers at all.

One girl of eight called Addi had a gaping wound on her left leg that was already smelling and turning gangrenous. The leg was turning green.

I was travelling with emergency medical services worker Ryan Flaherty, 22, from New Jersey.

He had stumbled across the area last week and had been 'horrified' that no aid had reached the village.

He said: 'I have been begging for help but they just keep telling me it's too dangerous to bring food and supplies in. But if it's not too dangerous for you and it's not too dangerous for me, why is it too dangerous for United Nations troops with guns? It's disgusting that there is so much food and medical stuff so near and yet these people who are in desperate need are not getting it.'

We drove for an hour. On every street corner there were crudely-written hand-made signs saying 'help us' or 'medicine and food needed here'.

Everywhere I went I saw mothers with babies washing clothes in filthy water. But they are the lucky ones. Many other children are now orphans.

When our taxi stopped they would come up and hold out their hands, and I wished I could give them all something but there were simply too many.

One boy of about six even hung on to the side of the taxi as we drove took off and we had to gently prise him off.

My gut instinct was to help him but everywhere I looked there were other children.

There were just so many.



United Nations occupation soldier guards food in Haiti, January 17. Photo: Win McNamee/Getty Images

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

“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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

The George and Bill Show



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

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

