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A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Washington, D.C.

Inspector General Reports CIA Murdered Detainees

By JASON LEOPOLD / THE PUBLIC RECORD

A May, 2004 report prepared by CIA Inspector General John Helgeson on the agency's use of torture against alleged "high-value" detainees implicated CIA interrogators in at least three detainee deaths in Afghanistan and Iraq and referred eight criminal cases of alleged homicide, abuse and misconduct to the Department of Justice for further investigation.

But the criminal referrals apparently languished at the DOJ, according to the book *The Dark Side* by author Jane Mayer and an investigative report she published in *The New Yorker* in November, 2005.

Details of the homicides may soon be revealed this week as the Obama administration considers declassifying portions of the report.

The ACLU filed a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit to gain access to Helgeson's report. Portions of the report have already been turned over to the organization, but were heavily redacted.

In *The Dark Side*, Mayer wrote that Helgeson

was "looking into at least three deaths of CIA-held prisoners in Afghanistan and Iraq."

One of those prisoners was Manadel al-Jamadi, who was captured by Navy SEALs outside Baghdad in November 2003.

"The CIA had identified him as a "high-value" target because he had allegedly supplied the explosives used in several atrocities perpetrated by insurgents, including the bombing of the Baghdad headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross in October, 2003," Mayer reported in a November 2005 issue of *The New Yorker*.

"After being removed from his house, Jamadi was manhandled by several of the SEALs, who gave him a black eye and a cut on his face; he was then transferred to CIA custody for interrogation at Abu Ghraib. According to witnesses, Jamadi was walking and speaking when he arrived at the prison. He was taken to a shower room for interrogation. Some forty-five minutes later, he was dead."

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Attorney General Refuses to Call Warrantless Wiretaps Illegal

By DAVID SWANSON

In probably the most disturbing testimony to hit Capitol Hill since Attorney General Eric Holder appeared before the House Judiciary Committee in May and refused to rule out lawless detention or to agree that government officials can sometimes be prosecuted for their crimes, on Wednesday, June 17 Holder appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee and, among much else, refused five times to agree that warrantless spying is illegal and unconstitutional. I spoke to Holder in April, and he assured me that I would be proud of my country. When?

Over the months that have passed since Holder last testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee at his confirmation hearings, it has become clear that most, if not all, of the major criminal activities of the Bush Administration will be covered up and protected, and in fact continued by the Obama Administration — yes, including

torture. Most recently in the media, including in the June 17 issue of the *New York Times*, are accounts of ongoing warrantless spying. At Wednesday's hearing, illegal spying was the subject of a dramatic exchange.

Chairman Patrick Leahy was the first to raise the topic and to complain that he had to learn about the executive branch's crimes from the *New York Times*. I'm not sure from whom he would prefer or expect to hear such things. Holder, in response, claimed not to know anything about it because he hadn't "reviewed in any detail" the *New York Times* article. Senators Tom Coburn and Diane Feinstein both claimed that the *New York Times* article was not accurate.

But whether that article is accurate or not misses the broader question that was then raised by Senator Russ Feingold. He pointed out that executive "opinions" asserting the legality of

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The Waning Power of Truth

By PAUL CRAIG ROBERTS

David Ray Griffin, the nemesis of the collection of disinformation known as the 9/11 Commission Report, has taken up the question of Osama Bin Laden, Dead or Alive?

On the basis of the available evidence, Griffin concludes that bin Laden died in December 2001, most likely of kidney failure. He has been kept alive in the media by US government PSYOPS as a useful bogymen to justify America's illegal wars of aggression. The messages received from bin Laden since his death appear to be conveniently timed fabrications designed to advance US government purposes.

Osama bin Laden is likely to become a mythical person, like the Georgia Tech student, George P. Burdell, who will be sighted from time to time over a period that exceeds the length of a human life.

It was less than one year ago that Americans were subjected to PSYOPS disinformation from their government concerning the Russia-Georgia conflict over South Ossetia.

Soviet ruler Joseph Stalin incorporated South Ossetia, formerly a part of Russia, into his home

province of Georgia. When the Soviet Union broke up, Georgia became independent and retained South Ossetia. Secession movements arose in South Ossetia and in Abkhazia. These secession movements were the reason European members of NATO rejected the US government's attempt to make Georgia a NATO member in order to extend the US/NATO military presence on Russia's borders in contravention of previous US government agreements with Russia.

To terminate the secession movement and, thereby, remove the barrier to Georgia becoming a NATO member, the US, with Israel's help, trained and equipped the Georgian military and gave the American puppet ruler, installed in the aftermath of one of the US-orchestrated color revolutions, the green light to attack South Ossetia.

Under mutual agreement, Russia and Georgia both provided peace-keeping troops in South Ossetia to prevent violence by secessionists. On the night of August 7-8, 2008, Georgian troops attacked South Ossetia, destroying a town and killing many Russian Ossetians and some Russian soldiers who were part of the peace-keeping force.

See TRUTH p. 2



Caught in a deception. BBC misrepresents photo of Ahmadinejad rally as opposition protest. Was it part of a propaganda campaign?

US and British Stoke Iran Unrest

By MATT SULLIVAN / RCFP

In the heat of the election controversy in Iran, the BBC was caught in a rather embarrassing misrepresentation. In a page one story, the BBC claimed that thousands of followers of opposition candidate Mousavi turned out to rally in defiance of official bans on such demonstrations. As proof, the BBC displayed a photo of a sea of placard-carrying supporters. The only problem: the photo was actually of Ahmadinejad supporters at a government-sanctioned rally in Tehran.

The deception was exposed when the *LA*

Times published a nearly identical photo which included a smiling, waving Ahmadinejad in the foreground.

Was this embarrassing slip up just sloppy reporting on the part of the BBC or is something more sinister afoot?

Could the government-run British media monopoly be engaged in public "perception management" and propaganda?

It wouldn't be the first time.

During the fall of Baghdad in 2003, BBC broadcast the famous "mass uprising" in which Iraqis toppled the Saddam Hussein statue. Only

later did a wide-angle view of the event surface showing a mere handful of Iraqis orchestrated by US troops in what was clearly a staged photo-op event.

On September 11, 2001, the BBC famously reported the collapse of World Trade Center 7 more than twenty minutes before the building actually fell. Remarkably, the building can be seen standing tall in the background behind the reporter on the scene. Even more remarkable, the satellite feed from the live shot becomes fuzzy and the signal is "lost" just seconds before

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Why Deflation, Not Inflation, is the Order of the Day

By ELLEN BROWN

While contrarians are screaming "hyperinflation!", the money supply is actually shrinking. This is because most money today comes into existence as bank loans, and lending has shrunk substantially. That means the Fed needs to "monetize" debt just to fill the breach.

On June 3, 2009, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke assured Congress, "The Federal Reserve will not monetize the debt." Bill Bonner, writing in *The Daily Reckoning*, said it had a ring to it, like President Nixon's "I am not a crook" and President Clinton's "I did not have sex with that woman." Monetizing the debt is precisely what the Fed will do, says Bonner, because it has no other choice. The Chinese are growing reluctant to lend, the taxpayers are tapped out, and the deficit is at unprecedented levels. "Even

good people do bad things when they get in a jam. The Feds are already in pretty deep . . . and they're going a lot deeper."

But Mr. Bernanke denied it. "Either cuts in spending or increases in taxes will be necessary to stabilize the fiscal situation," he said.

Both alternatives will be vigorously opposed, leaving Congress in the same deadlock California has been in for the last year. That makes the monetization option at least worth a look. What is wrong with it? Bill Bonner calls it "larceny on the grandest scale. Rather than honestly repaying what it has borrowed, a government merely prints up extra currency and uses it to pay its loans. The debt is 'monetized' . . . transformed into an increase in the money supply, thereby lowering the purchasing power of everybody's savings."

So say the pundits, but in the past year the

Federal Reserve has "monetized" over a trillion dollars worth of debt, yet the money supply is not expanding. As investment adviser Mark Sunshine observed in a June 12 blog:

"[W]hile media talking heads were ranting about how the Fed was running their printing presses overtime to push up money supply, the facts were very different. M1 has actually declined since the middle of December, 2008. During the same six month period, M2 has only risen by a little less than 3%."

The Fed is no longer reporting M3, the largest measure of the money supply, but according to Sunshine:

"[W]e know that broader measures of money supply, like M3, haven't materially risen in 2009. M3 followers can get a very rough idea

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Abu Zubaydah Was a CIA Veteran

By WAYNE MADSEN / WAYNE MADSEN REPORT

WMR has learned from an informed source knowledgeable about the detention and torture of U.S. detainees in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba that imprisoned "Al Qaeda" leader Abu Zubaydah, born in Saudi Arabia and raised until he was a teen on the West Bank where he was also active in demonstrations against the illegal Israeli occupation, was a paid agent of the CIA while in Afghanistan from 1991 to 1992 fighting with the mujaheddin against the Afghan communist government and its Soviet military allies. Zubaydah, who speaks Arabic and English, was injured by a mortar in 1992 and left without an eye and with memory loss. Zubaydah was so badly injured that he forgot how to use a rifle and was not allowed back on the front lines to fight the Afghan Communist

forces under President Najibullah.

In March 2002, Zubaydah was captured in Faisalabad, Pakistan by a CIA team after the United States paid a \$10 million bribe to the Pakistani government to produce "Al Qaeda" leaders. Zubaydah, who was partially handicapped from his original injuries while on the payroll of the CIA, was shot three times during his capture. Zubaydah's presence in Faisalabad was no secret, as he was well known in the community.

From the outset, the US case against Zubaydah was full of holes. Federal prosecutors declined to link Zubaydah to the "Millennium Plot" - a plan to blow up Los Angeles International Airport on January 1, 2000. Zubaydah's status as an "Al Qaeda" leader was suspect from the beginning. Zubaydah, one of the first CIA "ghost prisoners," was detained in CIA-run prisons in Pakistan,

Thailand, Afghanistan, Poland, Diego Garcia, Jordan, and Morocco before being placed in the Guantanamo Bay prison.

According to a heavily-redacted court motion submitted by Zubaydah's counsel to the US District Court for the District of Columbia, CIA contractors involved in the transport and torture of Zubaydah included: Air Security International/Air Routing International of Houston; Mitchell, Jessen & Associates of Spokane, Washington; Jeppesen Dataplan of San Jose, California; Aero Contractors/Aviation Specialties of Smithfield, North Carolina; Tepper Aviation of Crestview, Florida; Richmor Aviation of Hudson, New York; Windrose Aviation of Berlin, Germany. The following contractors were also involved in Zubaydah's transport and/or torture: James E. Mitchell of Florida, Bruce Jessen of Washington

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9/11 - Still the Biggest Story of the Century

Researchers Release 9/11 Pentagon Attack Report

By SHEILA CASEY / RCFP

Among 9/11 truth activists, there is little disagreement about what happened at the World Trade Center and at Shanksville. Although it's not possible to know all the details of what transpired until there is an independent, impartial investigation, there is wide agreement among 9/11 researchers that World Trade Center buildings 1, 2 and 7 were brought down by controlled demolition and that the hole in the ground that was presented to us as the crash site of flight 93 in Shanksville does not contain

the remnants of an airplane.

But when it comes to the Pentagon, the truth community has yet to reach a consensus, and 9/11 forums are filled with bitter arguments from proponents of one view or another. It is assumed by most savvy 9/11 activists that the truth movement has been infiltrated by intelligence agents tasked with crippling activists in any way possible, and that many of the most strident arguments come, not from sincere researchers, but from disinformation agents intent on spreading confusion

and discord. These agents are in a position to know the truth about what happened and can be expected to mount vigorous arguments against that truth, the better to keep the movement divided and to prevent a clear, cogent message about the false flag attack at the Pentagon from reaching the masses.

To many activists, the Pentagon attack stands as the single most incriminating feature of 9/11. The official conspiracy theory (OCT) would have us believe that the world's only superpower, with the

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Architects Conclude WTC Towers Demolished with Explosives

Nearly 700 architects and engineers have joined call for new investigation, faulting official collapse reports

By GREGG ROBERTS AND STAFF/

AE911TRUTH.ORG
For Some, the Doubts Began Early.

"Something is wrong with this picture," thought Nathan Lomba, as he watched replays of the Twin Tower collapses on television on September 11, 2001. A licensed structural engineer trained in buildings' responses to stress, Lomba saw more on the screen than you or I. He puzzled, "How did the structures collapse in near-symmetrical fashion when the damage was clearly

not symmetrical?"

Lomba was hardly alone in his discomfort. Most structural engineers were surprised when the towers fell. They mainly kept their misgivings to themselves, though, as *Scientific American* and the *Journal of Engineering Mechanics*, BBC, the History Channel and government agencies such as FEMA and NIST offered varying and often imaginative theories to explain how fires brought the towers down.

In 2006, San Francisco Bay Area architect Richard

Gage, AIA, began raising technical questions among his professional colleagues about the destruction of the Twin Towers and 47-story WTC Building 7. Those who take time to look at the facts overwhelmingly agree that vital questions remain unanswered, Gage has found. Today more than 30 structural engineers, experts in what can and cannot bring down buildings, have joined almost 700 other Architects & Engineers for 9/11 Truth in signing the petition

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Low Vitamin D May Be Root Cause of Cancer

By S. L. BAKER/NATURALNEWS

What initially causes cancer to develop? The current scientific model assumes that a genetic mutation begins the genesis of a malignancy. But what if that assumption is wrong and there's another key to the start of cancer? Scientists at the Moores Cancer Center at the University of California (UC) in San Diego have raised that possibility. And they've come up with another, brand new model of how cancer develops.

Reporting online in the current *Annals of Epidemiology*, they point to a host of research that suggests cancer develops when cells lose the ability to stick together in a healthy, normal way — and the key factor to this initial triggering of a malignancy could well be a lack of Vitamin D.

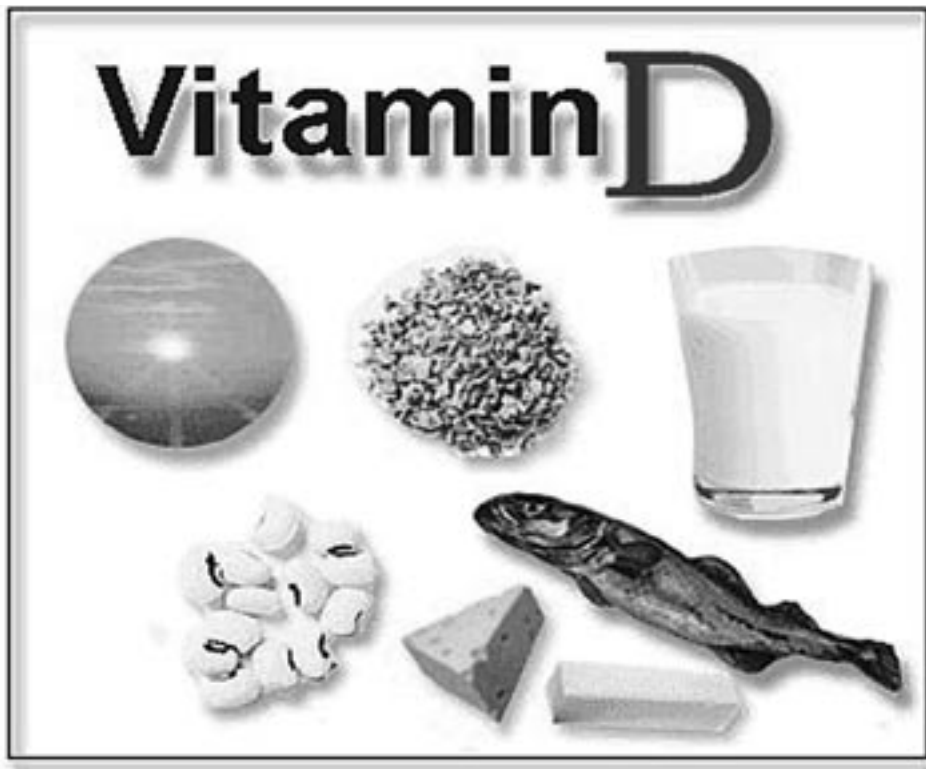
In the article, Cedric Garland, Doctor of Public Health (DrPH), professor of family and preventive medicine at the UC San Diego School of Medicine and his research team explain that previous theories associating Vitamin D with many cancers have been tested and confirmed in over 200 epidemiological studies. In addition, more than 2,500 laboratory studies have been conducted that provide an understanding of the physiological basis of Vitamin D's link to cancer.

According to Dr. Garland, researchers have documented that with enough Vitamin D present, cells adhere to one another in tissue and act as normal, mature epithelial cells. But if there is a deficiency of Vitamin D, cells can lose this stick-to-each other quality, as well as their identity as differentiated cells. The result? They may revert to a dangerous stem cell-like state and become cancerous.

In a statement to the media, Dr. Garland suggested that much of the process that starts cancer in the first place could be stopped at the outset by maintaining enough Vitamin D in the body. "Vitamin D may halt the first stage of the cancer process by re-establishing intercellular junctions in malignancies having an intact Vitamin D receptor," he said. And, he added, that if diet and supplements restore appropriate levels of Vitamin D, the development of cancer might be prevented. According to Dr. Garland, Vitamin D levels can be easily increased, if needed, by modest supplementation with Vitamin D3 in the range of 2000 IU/day.

The "cure" for cancer already exists

This new model of cancer's cause has been dubbed DINOMIT by Dr. Garland and his colleagues. Each letter stands for a different phase



of cancer development: "D" refers to disjunction, or loss of communication between cells; "I" is for initiation, where genetic mutations begin to play a role; "N" refers to natural selection of the fastest-reproducing cancer cells; "O" is a for overgrowth of cells; "M" stands for metastasis, the spread of a malignancy to other tissues; "I" refers to involution and "T" for transition, both dormant states that may occur in cancer and can potentially be altered by increasing Vitamin D.

"Competition and natural selection among disjoined cells within a tissue compartment, such as might occur in the breast's terminal ductal lobular unit, for example, are the engine of cancer," Dr. Garland said in the press statement. "The DINOMIT model provides new avenues for preventing and improving the success of cancer treatment."

In their *Annals of Epidemiology* report, the UC scientists point to a host of studies that show an apparent beneficial effect of Vitamin D (and, to some extent, calcium) on cancer risk and survival of patients with breast, colorectal and prostate cancer. In fact, Dr. Garland and his team have published epidemiological studies about the potential preventive effects of Vitamin D for some twenty years.

In 2008, Dr. Garland and his colleagues found an association between a lack of sunlight exposure, low Vitamin D and breast cancer. In earlier work, they showed linkages between increased levels of Vitamin D3 or markers of Vitamin D and a lower risk for breast, colon, ovarian and kidney cancers, too.

As reported earlier in *Natural News*, clues about a possible cause-and-effect association between a lack of Vitamin D and cancer's development have rapidly accumulated over the past few years. For example, researchers have found that women who are deficient in Vitamin D at the time they are diagnosed with breast cancer are nearly 75 percent more likely to die from the disease than women with sufficient Vitamin D levels. Moreover, their cancer is twice as likely to metastasize to other parts of the body (<http://www.naturalnews.com/024324.html>).

Healthy levels of Vitamin D have been found to slash the risk of numerous cancers by 77 percent (<http://www.naturalnews.com/021892.html>).

S. L. Baker is a feature writer for *NaturalNews.com*.

The Waning Power of Truth

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Large numbers of South Ossetians fled across the border to Russia.

The US government, in its hubris, assumed that Russia would accept the ethnic cleansing of Russians from South Ossetia. Instead, Russian troops arrived and quickly destroyed the American-trained and equipped Georgian army and could easily have taken control of Georgia, but refrained.

Defeated in its aim, the US government unleashed a PSYOPS disinformation war against the Russian government, claiming falsely that Russia had initiated the conflict by attacking Georgia. The US government's blatant and transparent lies were force-fed to the American public by the US media.

British disinformation services cooperated with their American masters, but the rest of the world blew the whistle. The real facts emerged, and an American disinformation campaign experienced a rare failure.

Now ten months later, US "black ops" is at it again, pumping out disinformation about the "stolen" Iranian election. The US media is again serving the government's disinformation campaign. This despite the fact that on May 23, 2007, Brian Ross and Richard Esposito reported on ABC News: "The CIA has received secret presidential approval to mount a covert "black" operation to destabilize the Iranian government, current and former officials in the intelligence community tell ABC News."

On May 27, 2007, the *London Telegraph* independently reported: "Mr. Bush has signed an official document endorsing CIA plans for a propaganda and disinformation campaign intended to destabilize, and eventually topple, the theocratic rule of the mullahs."

A few days previously, the *Telegraph* reported on May 16, 2007, that Bush administration neocron warmonger John Bolton told the *Telegraph* that a US military attack on Iran would "be a 'last option' after economic sanctions and attempts to foment a popular revolution had failed."

On June 29, 2008, Seymour Hersh reported in the *New Yorker*: "Late last year, Congress agreed to a request from President Bush to fund a major escalation of covert operations against Iran, according to current and former military, intelligence, and congressional sources. These operations, for which the President sought up to four hundred million dollars, were described in a Presidential Finding signed by Bush, and are designed to destabilize the country's religious leadership."

The Iranian election protests, essentially by the westernized youth of Tehran who wish to be free of Islamic moral codes, have the hallmarks of orchestration. The protesters are color-coded with green wristbands. Their protest signs are in English and are obviously directed at the western media. Their chants are propagandistic and bear no relation to facts known by every Iranian.

And again, the US media and various experts, whose ambitions depend on government-related careers, are force-feeding the American public the disinformation designed to further isolate and weaken, if not overthrow, the Iranian government.

Until 1978 the US ruled Iran through the Shah. The US intends to again rule Iran through puppets. The only two remaining independent governments in the region are Iran and Syria. If the US doesn't first bankrupt itself, both countries will fall to US black ops destabilization.

The limitless gullibility of the American people guarantees carte blanche to the US government's schemes. Americans seemingly cannot put two and two together. They have already forgotten the lies about weapons of mass destruction that have resulted in the destruction of Iraq. They have forgotten Secretary of State Colin Powell's publicly expressed remorse at the lies he told the UN. Americans blithely accept the conflation of Taliban with al Qaeda and terrorists and the new war that the Obama regime has started in Pakistan, a war that has already produced two million refugees.

It can fairly be said that there is not much difference between the American public and the fictional one under Big Brother in George Orwell's *1984*. The few independent voices that do exist are simply drowned out by the constant flow of disinformation.

The US government's success in spinning 9/11 guaranteed the government's success in pursuing a hegemonic agenda under a cloak of lies. Although a large percentage of the US population does not believe the government's account and hundreds, perhaps thousands, of experts and informed and well-connected people have challenged the government's tale, the US media has shown no interest despite the official account of 9/11 bearing every known hallmark of a coverup.

High-ranking fire marshals have complained that legally required forensic procedures were not followed by authorities entrusted with the investigation.

The testimony of more than 100 policemen, firemen, and maintenance personnel who were in the towers at the time and report hearing and experiencing a series of explosions was ignored and withheld from the public until the government got its story in place.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology studiously avoided testing for evidence of explosives. The severed steel beams were quickly collected and sold abroad as scrap.

As a number of observers have complained, the crime scene was destroyed, not investigated.

The government's story of the destruction of the towers is based on contrived computer simulations that produce results in keeping with the official assumptions.

The collapse of the third building is not even mentioned in the 9/11 Commission Report.

No one abroad believes the US government's story. Europeans have produced documentary films that laugh at the official explanation.

Recently, an international team of scientists reported on their two-year examination of dust

samples from the debris. They report that they found nano-thermite in the samples. To my knowledge no mainstream US media reported the finding.

One would think that such a finding would lead to a real investigation. Instead, within the US the finding is dismissed by debunkers of "conspiracy theories" (except of course the government's own conspiracy theory) with the charge that the dust samples have not been in controlled environments since collected and could have been contaminated by those who volunteered the samples. In other words, the nano-thermite, if actually in the samples, was planted.

One wonders how residents of lower Manhattan obtained nano-thermite with which to contaminate the dust. Indeed, who has access to nano-thermite other than the government?

Why doesn't the National Academy of Science choose a team to examine the samples? If the finding of nano-thermite is verified, the issue of contamination can be investigated. If it turns out that the people who volunteered the samples have no possible access to nano-thermite, the case for a real investigation is established.

There is little prospect of such a development in the US. American science and the careers of scientists are heavily dependent on US government funding. It would be a career-ending event for American scientists to get involved with this matter other than as a contributor to a cover-up. Professor Steven Jones, a physicist at Brigham Young University (BYU) who first raised the issue of explosives being used to bring down the three WTC buildings, was terminated, despite his tenure, by BYU. Many believe Jones was terminated because of political threats to the university's funding.

In the US, truth is an ineffective means by which to hold government accountable. Consider, for example, the fate of whistleblowers. Daniel Ellsberg, who leaked the "Pentagon Papers" was perhaps the last successful whistleblower and that was three decades ago. Since then, the government has put in place many defenses against whistleblowers.

The American public has looked to government for its salvation since Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal. Government purports to provide education, health care (Medicare, Medicaid), pensions (Social Security), food stamps, housing subsidies, and child care and protects Americans from a long list of demonized villains ranging from spouse abusers and child molesters to terrorists. Americans see themselves and their government as the salt of the earth, an image sometimes supported by American generosity to other peoples who suffer natural calamities. Most Americans believe that their government does stupid things, but not evil things, except perhaps by accident.

The right-wing believes that America was attacked on 9/11 because we are so good, hubris to which Bush successfully played with his statement that "they hate us for our freedom and democracy."

The left-wing finds emotional satisfaction in its belief that 9/11 was deserved blow-back from peoples oppressed by US foreign policy who rose up and struck back.

Truth is so marginalized in America that the Israeli attack on the USS *Liberty* 42 years ago is still covered up by the US government, despite the best efforts of Admiral Tom Moorer, who was Chief of Naval Operations and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and by decades of effort by the USS *Liberty* survivors.

This raises the question: Why do some people blow whistles? Why do those few write books and columns that challenge the lies and deceptions? There is probably more than one answer. For some, hope springs eternal. Others naively destroy their careers thinking that truth will be honored. Still others speak from a sense of responsibility to truth and not from a hope that anything will actually change.

In October 1987, John Stockwell, a former CIA covert operative who ran the CIA's covert war in Angola, gave a lecture [<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article4068.htm>] in which he said he abandoned his career when he realized that CIA covert operations resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands of innocent people and were totally unconnected to any US national security interests. "I concluded that I just couldn't see the point."

Nothing has changed. What was the point of the US invasion of Iraq? Even President Bush eventually conceded that there were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

What was the point of the US invasion of Afghanistan and what is the point of Obama's escalation of the war there? The Taliban is not al Qaeda and was totally focused on unifying Afghanistan under an Islamic government. The US was not on the Taliban's radar screen.

What is the point of the war that the US has started in Pakistan?

What is the point of the destabilization of the Iranian government? After the stolen elections of the Karl Rove/Bush era, why does the US think it must overthrow the Iranian government because of allegations that Ahmadinejad stole an election?

If the answer is that these wars and interventions serve the interest of US hegemony, the obvious reply is that US hegemony is more likely to be lost from the massive red ink in the government's budget that is likely to be monetized, thus destroying the dollar as reserve currency, the main source of US hegemony.

If the US wants to have an empire in the Middle East or elsewhere, the government should come out and say so. At least then, Americans could revel in the glories of empire. As it is, the pleasure must be gained surreptitiously under the table, pretending that we are protecting the world from evil-doers while we do evil ourselves.

Paul Craig Roberts was Assistant Secretary of the Treasury in the Reagan administration. He was Associate Editor of the Wall Street Journal editorial page and Contributing Editor of National Review. He is coauthor of *The Tyranny of Good Intentions*.

Why Deflation, Not Inflation, is the Order of the Day

DEFLATION from p. 1

of what M3 would have been if it were published, by looking at the Federal Reserve quarterly "Flow of Funds Accounts" of the United States, which was distributed June 17. As it turns out, total net borrowing of the United States (private and public) dropped approximately \$255 billion in the first quarter and other indicators of M3 fell or are about flat (on a net basis). . . . [T]his data supports [the] theory that the fall in private borrowing is more than offsetting the rise in government borrowing and therefore, at least for the time being, financing the deficit isn't a problem."

All of this flap about the Fed driving the economy into hyperinflation because it is creating money on its books reflects a fundamental misconception about how our money and banking system actually works. In monetizing the government's debt, the Fed is just doing what banks do every day. All money is created by banks on their books, as many authorities have attested. The Fed is just stepping in where the commercial banking system has failed. Except for coins, which are issued by the government and compose only about one ten-thousandth of the money supply (M3), our money today is nothing but bank credit or debt; and we're now laboring under a credit freeze, which means banks aren't creating nearly as many loans as they used to.

In March of this year, Blackstone Group CEO Stephen Schwarzman reported that up to 45 percent of the world's wealth has been destroyed by the credit crisis. The missing "wealth" cannot be restored without putting the missing "money" back into the system, and that means getting the credit engine going again.

Congress, the Treasury and the Federal Reserve have therefore been throwing money at the banks, trying to build up the banks' capital so they can make enough loans to refuel the economy. At a capital requirement of 8%, \$8 in capital can be leveraged into \$100 in loans. But lending remains far below earlier levels, and it's not because the banks are refusing to lend. The banks insist that they are making as many loans as they're allowed to make with their existing

deposit and capital bases. The real bottleneck is with the "shadow lenders" — those investors who, until late 2007, bought massive amounts of bank loans bundled up as "securities," taking those loans off the banks' books, making room for yet more loans to be originated out of the banks' capital and deposit bases.

In a *Washington Times* article titled "Banks Still Standing Amid Credit Rubble," Patrice Hill wrote:

"Before last fall's financial crisis, banks provided only \$8 trillion of the roughly \$25 trillion in loans outstanding in the United States, while traditional bond markets provided another \$7 trillion, according to the Federal Reserve. The largest share of the borrowed funds — \$10 trillion — came from securitized loan markets that barely existed two decades ago. . . . Many legislators in Congress complain that banks aren't lending and cite that as an excuse to vote against further bank bailout funds. . . . But Mr. Regalia [chief economist at the US Chamber of Commerce] said these critics are wrong. 'Banks are lending more, but 70 percent of the system isn't there anymore,' he said."

Seventy percent of the system isn't there anymore because the traditional bond markets and securitized loan markets have dried up. Writes Hill:

"Congress' demand that banks fill in for collapsed securities markets poses a dilemma for the banks, not only because most [banks] do not have the capacity to ramp up to such large-scale lending quickly. The securitized loan markets provided an essential part of the machinery that enabled banks to lend in the first place. By selling most of their portfolios of mortgages, business and consumer loans to investors, banks in the past freed up money to make new loans. . . . The market for pooled subprime loans, known as collateralized debt obligations (CDOs), collapsed at the end of 2007 and, by most accounts, will never come back. Because of the surging defaults on subprime and other exotic mortgages, investors have shied away from buying the loans, forcing banks and Wall Street firms to hold them

on their books and take the losses."

The retreat of the shadow lenders has created a credit freeze globally; and when credit shrinks, the money supply shrinks with it. That means there is insufficient money to buy goods, so workers get laid off and factories get shut down, perpetuating a vicious spiral of economic collapse and depression. To reverse that cycle, credit needs to be restored; and when the banks can't do it, the Fed needs to step in and start "monetizing" debt.

So why don't Fed officials just say that is what they are up to and put our minds at ease? Probably because they can't without exposing the whole banking game. The curtain would be thrown back and we the people would know that our money system is sleight of hand. The banks never had all that money they supposedly lent to us. We've been paying interest for something they created out of thin air! Indeed, their credit money is less substantial than air, which at least has some molecules bouncing around in it. Bank credit exists only in cyberspace.

Ben Bernanke's predecessor Alan Greenspan was sometimes compared to the Wizard of Oz, the little man who hid behind a curtain pulling levers and twisting dials, maintaining the smoke and mirrors illusion that an all-powerful force was keeping things under control. Early in his term, Chairman Bernanke was criticized for revealing too much. "If you're going to play the Wizard," said one TV commentator, "you have to stay behind the curtain." The Chairman has evidently learned his lesson and is now playing the role, wrapping his moves in that veil of mystery expected of the man considered the world's most powerful banker, the Wizard who moves markets with his words.

The problem with the Wizard playing his cards close to the chest is that investors don't know how to play theirs. The Chinese have grown so concerned about the soundness of their dollar investments that the head of China's second-largest bank recently said the US government should start issuing bonds in China's currency, the yuan. What do we want with yuan? We need dollars; and we would be better off getting them from our own central bank than borrowing them from foreign rivals. We could then spend them on projects aimed at internal domestic development — as the Chinese themselves have been doing — and get the wheels of production turning again.

If Ben Bernanke stands by his word and refuses to monetize the federal debt, Congress should consider issuing the money itself, as the Constitution provides. The "full faith and credit of the United States" is an asset of the United States, and it should properly be issued and lent by the United States rather than by unaccountable private banks and shadow lenders. The true path to economic recovery — the path from an economy strangled in debt to one blooming in prosperity — is to reclaim money and credit as public resources. Money needs to be transformed from private master to public servant.

Ellen Brown, J.D., developed her research skills as an attorney practicing civil litigation in Los Angeles. In her latest book, *Web of Debt*, she turns those skills to an analysis of the Federal Reserve and "the money trust." Her other books include *Nature's Pharmacy*, and *Forbidden Medicine*.

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A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Smile on the Face of the Tiger

BY JOHN PILGER / INFORMATION CLEARING HOUSE
At 7:30 in the morning on 3 June, a seven-month-old baby died in the intensive care unit of the European Gaza Hospital in the Gaza Strip. His name was Zein Ad-Din Mohammed Zu'rob, and he was suffering from a lung infection which was treatable.

Denied basic equipment, the doctors in Gaza could do nothing. For weeks, the child's parents had sought a permit from the Israelis to allow them to take him to a hospital in Jerusalem, where he would have been saved. Like many desperately sick people who apply for these permits, the parents were told they had never applied. Even if they had arrived at the Erez Crossing with an Israeli document in their hands, the odds are that they would have been turned back for refusing the demands of officials to spy or collaborate in some way. "Is it an irresponsible overstatement," asked Richard Falk, the United Nations special rapporteur for human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories and emeritus professor of international law at Princeton University, who is Jewish, "to associate the treatment of Palestinians with [the] criminalised Nazi record of collective atrocity? I think not."

Falk was describing Israel's massacre in December and January of hundreds of helpless civilians in Gaza, many of them children. Reporters called this a "war". Since then, normality has returned to Gaza. Most children are malnourished and sick, and almost all exhibit the symptoms of psychiatric disturbance, such as horrific nightmares, depression and incontinence. There is a long list of items that Israel bans from Gaza. This includes equipment to clean up the toxic detritus of Israel's US munitions, which is the suspected cause of rising cancer rates. Toys and playground equipment, such as slides and swings, are also banned. I saw the ruins of a fun fair, riddled with bullet holes, which Israeli "settlers" had used as a sniping target.

The day after Baby Zu'rob died in Gaza, President Barack Obama made his "historic" speech in Cairo, "reaching out to the Muslim world", reported the BBC. "Just as it devastates Palestinian families, the continuing humanitarian crisis in Gaza," said Obama, "does not serve Israel's security." That was all. The killing of 1,300 people in what is now a concentration camp merited 17 words, cast as concern for the "security" of the killers. This was understandable. During the January massacre, Seymour Hersh reported that "the Obama team let it be known that it would not object to the planned resupply of 'smart bombs' and other hi-tech ordnance that was already flowing to Israel" for use in Gaza.

Obama's one criticism of Israel was that "the United States does not accept the legitimacy of continued Israeli settlements... It is time for these settlements to stop." These fortresses on Palestinian land, manned by religious fanatics from America and elsewhere, have been outlawed by the UN Security Council and the International Court of Justice. Pointedly, Obama made no mention of the settlements that already honeycomb the occupied territories and make an independent Palestinian state impossible, which is their purpose.

Obama demanded that the "cycle of suspicion and discord must end". Every year, for more than a generation, the UN

has called on Israel to end its illegal and violent occupation of post-1967 Palestine and has voted for "the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination". Every year, those voting against these resolutions have been the governments of Israel and the United States and one or two of America's Pacific dependencies; last year Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe joined them.

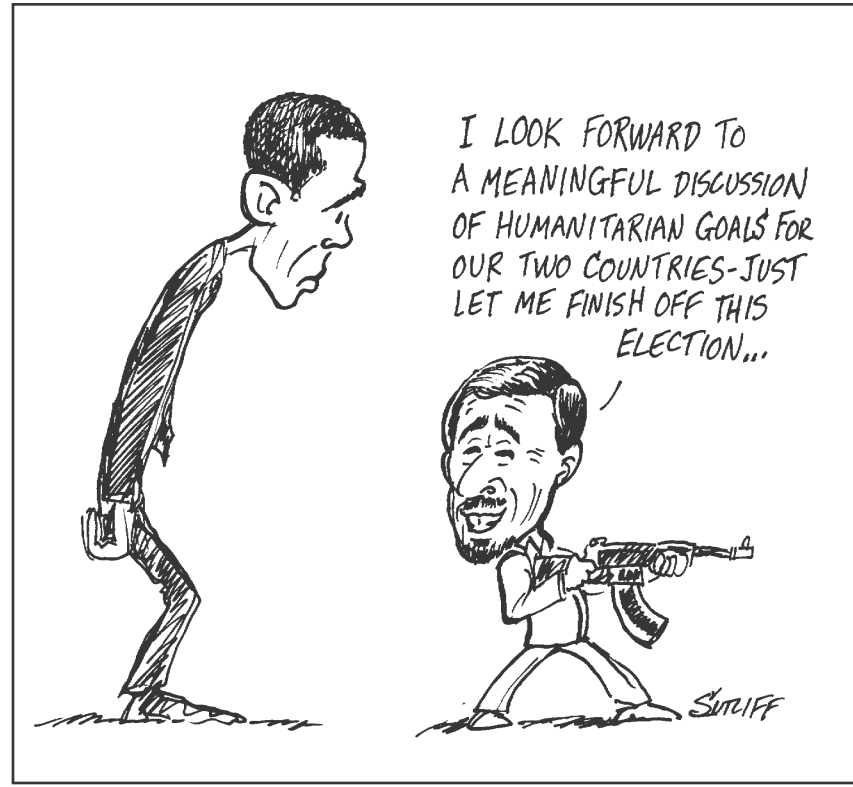
Such is the true "cycle" in the Middle East, which is rarely reported as the relentless rejection of the rule of law by Israel and the United States: a law in whose name the wrath of Washington came down on Saddam Hussein when he invaded Kuwait, (an invasion which might not have occurred without the encouragement of the perfidious US/UK) a law which, if upheld and honoured, would bring peace and security to both Palestine and Israel.

Instead, Obama spoke in Cairo as if his and previous White House administrations were neutral, almost divine brokers of peace, instead of rapacious backers and suppliers of the invader (along with Britain). This Orwellian illogic remains the standard for what western journalists call the "Israel-Palestine conflict", which is almost never reported in terms of the law, of right and wrong, of justice and injustice — Darfur, yes, Zimbabwe, yes, but never Palestine. Orwell's ghost again stirred when Obama denounced "violent extremists in Afghanistan and now Pakistan [who are] determined to kill as many Americans as they possibly can." America's invasion and slaughter in these countries went unmentioned. It, too, is divine.

Naturally, unlike George W Bush, Obama did not say that "you're either with us or against us". He smiled the smile and uttered "many eloquent mood-music paragraphs and a smattering of quotations from the Holy Quran", noted the American international lawyer John Whitbeck. Beyond this, Obama offered no change, no plan, only a "tired, morally bankrupt American mantra [which] essentially argues that only the rich, the strong, the oppressors and the enforcers of injustice (notably the Americans and Israelis) have the right to use violence, while the poor, the weak, the oppressed and the victims of oppression must... submit to their fate and accept whatever crumbs their betters may magnanimously deign suitable to let fall from their table". And he offered not the slightest recognition that the world's most numerous victims of terrorism are people of Muslim faith — a terrorism of western origin that dares not speak its name.

In his "reaching out" in Cairo, as in his "anti-nuclear" speech in Berlin, as in the "hope" he spun at his inauguration, this clever young politician is playing the part for which he was drafted and promoted. This is to present a benign, seductive, even celebrity face to American power, which can then proceed towards its strategic goal of dominance, regardless of the wishes of the rest of humanity and the rights and lives of our children.

John Pilger is a world-renowned journalist, author and documentary filmmaker, who began his career in 1958 in his homeland, Australia, before moving to London in the 1960s. Visit his website johnpilger.com.



Cuba and Change We Can Believe In

BY PHILIP FORNACI / GLOBAL RESEARCH
One of the most notable characteristics of 21st century Havana is what is not there: obvious and visible destitution. The begging and aggressive peddling prevalent in so many poor Latin capitals (and in most US cities) is entirely absent in Havana. There are no homeless people sleeping under bridges or hidden in doorways, no stumbling addicts crashed on park lawns, nor frantic children hawking candy and crafts. The sidewalks are crowded with workers and students and bureaucrats, rushing in every direction, often at a frenetic pace, but at no point is a visitor likely to encounter robbery or assault, or begging.

I recently spent a week in Cuba on a research tour, organized through the Canadian organization, Cuba Education Tours, with a group made up primarily of Canadian and American attorneys, union members, and researchers. It was an extraordinary experience, dispelling much of what I thought I knew about Cuba, and ultimately revealing more about the US than I had anticipated.

Two prevailing American misconceptions about Cuba were dispelled very early in our trip. One is the notion that the island is a society "closed" to the outside world, a stubborn throwback to another ideological moment. But this is typical American myopia, conjuring a country frozen in 1959, when the popular uprising displaced the American playground that was pre-Revolutionary Cuba. To be sure, the US economic blockade has had, and continues to have, a huge impact on the island's economy, reflected most dramatically in the poor housing stock

and lack of industrial development, but Cuba is hardly isolated from the world. Today, Havana is crawling with Canadian, Mexican, European, African, and East Asian tourists, students, and businessmen, and even a fair share of American backpackers and adventurers stealthily defying the US State Department.

The other common, but more complicated, American misconception is that Cuban society is less "free" than American society. We Americans still like to think we live in the Free World, if not the center of it, despite our massive surveillance state, a prison system unparalleled in its size and ferocity, and our militarized borders and restrictive immigration policies. But Cubans, our government and media tell us, are forced to live under a repressive, colorless, and undemocratic police state. This characterization comes as a surprise to most Cubans, who have minimal interactions with police (far less visible in Havana than in, say, Guatemala City or New York), engage in a lively electoral process every 2-1/2 years, and who seem to be among the most engaging and politically astute people I have ever encountered.

In the days following President Obama's limited overtures to Cuba after the OAS meeting in April, the Administration's point person on Cuba policy was not the Secretary of State, but Obama's Economic Advisor, Lawrence Summers. According to Summers, "Cuba's known what it needs to do for a very long time and it's up to them in terms of their policies, their democratization and all the steps they can take and we'll have to see what happens down the road." President

Obama himself echoed this line, lecturing Cubans that "if you take significant steps toward democracy, beginning with the freeing of all political prisoners, we will take steps to begin normalizing relations."

This is extraordinary stuff at a time when the US is enduring international rebukes over its publicly-admitted widespread use of torture and the detention of thousands of foreigners and even US citizens without due process of law. According to the oppositional Cuban Commission for Human Rights and National Reconciliation (CCDHRN), there are currently 232 "political prisoners" in Cuba, not an insignificant number, but slightly fewer than the number of "enemy combatants" currently held in Guantanamo Bay. How could it be that 232 alleged political prisoners — some of whom are leftist opponents of the Castro government and hardly pro-American — represent the political basis for American hostility to the Cuban Revolution?

These 232 political prisoners have about as much relevance to the US blockade of Cuba as Saddam Hussein's non-existent "weapons of mass destruction" had to the decision to invade Iraq. The selection of Summers as a spokesman on US-Cuba policy, a man whose misogynistic and anti-democratic tendencies were on full display during his short tenure at Harvard, would be odd if the policy issues truly involved democratic freedoms. But of course, the real problem is not with the Cuban political system but with its economic system.

In Cuba, 85 percent of the population own their own homes, mortgage-free. They have unrestricted access to high quality

See CUBA p. 4



Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:
The March 6, 2009 Sacramento Bee reported that the 5,000 survivors of 9/11 victims who settled with the US government received 7 billion dollars. This averages to \$1,400,000 for each survivor who had to sign an agreement not to sue the government.

There were 95 survivors who chose to sue, rather than accept these generous settlements. Of those who have expressed reasons for these lawsuits:

Some were not satisfied with the Bush story of 9/11. Some didn't like the delays and government obstructions with all 9/11 investigations.

The suits of these 95 were recently settled for a total of 1/2 billion dollars, a large amount provided by American and United Airlines. On average, each of these persons received \$5,263,000 or probably \$3,700,000 after attorney fees.

What do these settlements tell us about the fear and guilt of the airlines and government? They tell me that the Bush story of 9/11 is so full of holes that they had better settle at whatever cost. Their reluctance to face a jury shows that they didn't want the truth of the sordid 9/11 story to be exposed.

H. Joergel

Dear Editor:
Is it not remarkable to see Obama's ability to mobilize so many of the former anti-Bush opposition as auxiliaries for US imperialism under the cover of leftist slogans about human rights! The events in Iran are yet another example of the classic CIA/MI-6 people power coup, color revolution, or velvet revolution. The organizers are Brzezinski, the BBC Persian service, the RAND Corporation, the New American Foundation, Flynt Leverett, Steve Clemons, the Albert Einstein Institute, the International Crisis Group, and the soft power gang around Joseph Nye of Trilateral/Bilderberg.

Ironically, Brzezinski and Gates are now seeking to overthrow the same mullah regime which they installed thirty years ago. Their goal is the same today as it was then - to play Iran against Russia and China. This was also the main point of Obama's hollow demagoguery in Cairo.

There is no proof that Mousavi had great voter appeal beyond some swarming adolescents and the wealthy enclave of north Teheran, with its rich elitists and desperate housewives. His support outside of the capital was even weaker. Stories about the lesser candidates losing their home districts simply remind us that Al Gore lost Tennessee in 2000.

Constant meddling and interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states is the essence of imperialism, and it must be strongly rejected. Non-imperialists should take this opportunity to butt out of the internal affairs of Iran. The 1979 CIA coup in Iran caused a brush with general war; another CIA coup may have incalculable consequences. It is time to demand a halt to CIA interference in Iran.

Webster Griffin Tarpley

Obama Betrays the Liberals

BY SHERWOOD ROSS
America's liberals stand betrayed. Their new president, the one they sweated to elect — a brilliant, charismatic leader with a professional background in constitutional law — has transmogrified himself from the champion who denounced in his campaign the illegalities of the Bush White House into a president bent on their perpetuation.

Liberals are stunned by Obama's plan to "restart Bush-era military tribunals" for some Guantanamo detainees, reviving what the Associated Press pointed out, is "a fiercely disputed trial system he once denounced." (May 15). Liberals are appalled by Obama's May 21st proposal to hold terrorism suspects in "prolonged detention" inside the US without a trial. "Such detention," Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI) wrote him, "is a hallmark of abusive systems that we have historically criticized around the world."

If liberals chafed over Obama's centrist cabinet choices, they were dismayed by his decision not to release photographs depicting the sadistic tortures the Bush Gang inflicted on prisoners during a so-called "War on Terror" that was nothing but terror itself. A typical reaction comes from Joe Kishore, writing on the World Socialist Website (May 22): "Whatever verbal warnings Obama may make about the erosion of democracy in the United States, the actions of his administration facilitate and escalate its breakdown."

Obama's latest policy reversals come as liberals are still reeling from his April 16th speech to the CIA, ignoring its documented history of 60 years of overthrows and assassinations, and reassuring the Agency of its "right" to continue "covert activities," as if such conduct was not prima facie illegality in the eyes of law-abiding nations. Earlier, Obama's pledge not to prosecute CIA torturers that followed orders likely brought relief to the throne room in Langley that is a throbbing heart of the Dark Side. Obama calls upon the nation to "look forward" as he ignores his presidential obligation to prosecute

those who, like Bush and Cheney, trampled the Constitution when they ordered torture in violation of international laws that by treaty are America's laws as well.

And if Matthew Rothschild of *The Progressive* magazine hasn't accused Obama of betraying his liberal subscribers, he charged in his May 21 column the President "tried to carve out an extra-constitutional arrangement for indefinite detention of some detainees without trial." Rothschild accused Obama of "chiseling away at the basic habeas corpus right that has been the foundation of our jurisprudence dating back to the Magna Carta of 1215."

One campaign promise on which Obama has not reversed himself is his pledge to intensify the war in Afghanistan, which, one liberal essayist predicted, will "doom" his presidency. This war is already under heated attack from the liberal quarter. Justin Raimondo of antiwar.com (May 20) denounces the appointment of Lt. General Stanley McChrystal to head US forces in Kabul. Asserting McChrystal oversaw torture at Camp Nama near Baghdad that was "notorious" for its "beatings, degradation of prisoners and outright, cold-blooded murder," Raimondo writes: "That's what they call 'fresh thinking' over at Obama's Pentagon. If Bush and Cheney ordered it, it's reprehensible and might even be a war crime. If, however, a known torture-enabler is elevated by Obama's secretary of defense to the position of commander of our armed forces in Afghanistan — well, then, that's a far different matter."

The danger in Obama's foreign policy was seen clearly by Andrew Bacevich, a Boston University historian, who described it in his best-seller *The Limits of Power* (Henry Holt), published the year before Obama won the White House. He quoted then Senator Obama's view that "The security and well-being of each and every American depend on the security and well-being of those who live beyond our borders. The mission of the United States

is to provide global leadership grounded in the understanding that the world shares a common security and a common humanity." Of this, Bacevich states:

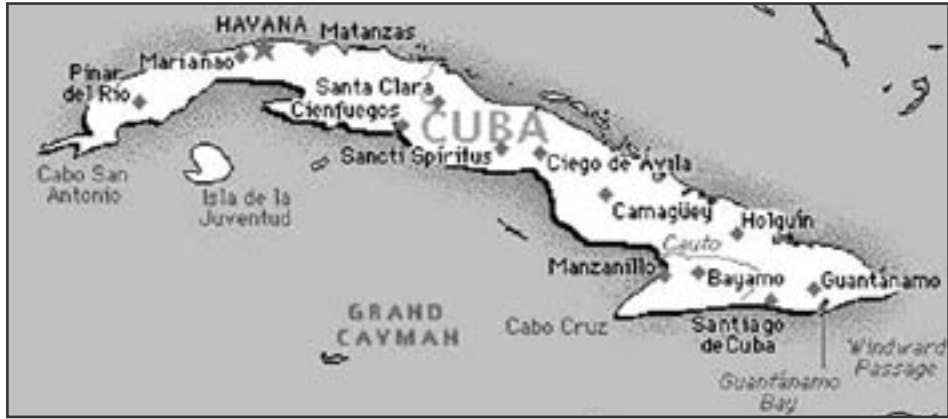
"Accept the proposition that America is freedom's tribune, and it becomes a small step to believing that the 'peace process' aims to achieve peace, that Iraq qualifies as a sovereign state, and that Providence has summoned the United States to wage an all-out war against 'terrorism.'"

Obama's grandiosity perhaps explains why he boosted the Pentagon's swollen budget (about as great as all other nations combined) by four percent in the absence of any significant immediate foreign military threat. As one disappointed lifelong Democrat with a son in the Army told me, "I had hoped he was going to put an end to the war." This particular liberal now trashes appeals from the Democratic National Committee, adding, "In the next presidential election I may just not vote."

And in a column entitled "Obama's Betrayals," author Sheldon Richman writes on *MWC News*, "In Obama we have a new Jekyll and Hyde. From harsh critic of Bush's trampling of individual rights, Obama has transmogrified into a champion of the omnipotent state that cannot let the niceties of the traditional criminal-justice system stand in the way of 'national security.'" Richman, editor of *The Freeman* magazine, concludes, "It's time for the opponents of empire to see the man in the White House for who he is. Fortunately, that is starting to happen."

Yes, indeed. And as this painful recognition sinks in like iodine burning into a raw wound, America's humanist Left may yet muster its forces for a last-ditch fight to preserve a bit of sanity in this epoch of messianic presidents hell-bent upon waging war.

Sherwood Ross has worked on major dailies and as a columnist for wire services and served as a press secretary to civil rights leaders. He currently runs a public relations agency for non-profits. Reach him at sherwoodr1@yahoo.com



A Triumph of the Corporate Will: The Fiat - Chrysler Merger

By JAREK KUPSC

Humble Beginnings

It was Benito Mussolini who said that a better name for Fascism would be Corporatism. The term aptly describes a perfect merger of the state and industry, with the former making sure the climate for business is sound, and the latter influencing legislation and politics to its benefit. Fiat S.p.A. (an acronym for Fabbrica Italiana Automobili Torino), the giant Italian car manufacturer, is a prime example of one corporation that benefited from such policies, and went on to dominate markets in similar political environments.

The Italian success of Fiat and its near monopoly on the domestic auto market benefited directly from Mussolini's generous corporate policies of the 1920s and 30s. On the international market, the Fiat brand was subsequently reserved for Communist and Fascist dictatorships. Given such a pedigree, it should not come as a surprise that Fiat's merger with Chrysler coincided with the Corporate Socialist policies of the Bush and Obama administrations. Fiat's decision to help the troubled American automaker is not a simple goodwill gesture. Not without a sense of bitter irony, the merger should be looked at as part of a larger pattern of the Italian corporation's forays into totalitarian regimes.

After World War II, due to its ties to Mussolini's fascist regime in Italy, Fiat was forced to remove the owner family from leadership. The company produced a number of highly fuel-efficient, if small and medium-size cars, but it wasn't until 1955 when the tiny Fiat 600 (or "Seicento") revolutionized the way people thought of urban commuter vehicles. Not only was the Seicento a huge international hit, but it also paved way for a massive licensing of the Fiat brand onto such territories as Eastern Europe and South America.

Fascist Dictatorships

Argentina's dealings with Fiat date back to the early years of the 20th Century. Imported Fiats were sold for decades until the first licensed Seicento was introduced in 1960, followed by other models. Thus, through the windows of their Fiats, Argentinean drivers could witness General Juan Perón's crackdown on dissidents, censorship and torture, but also the General's overthrow and exile to Spain, decades of political unrest, violence, "disappearance" of thousands of innocent people, and some other nasty aspects of the Dirty War. When pressed for details, some older Fiat drivers can still recall the CIA-backed Operation Condor, as well as Perón's return to power, his death, and a coup d'état, which removed his fascist wife from office, and last, but not least, the shameful defeat by the British in the Falklands War. From then on, things started to look a little better.

Also worth mentioning is the Spanish edition of Fiat automobiles, produced there as SEAT, during the fascist Franco regime. It is quite possible that Juan Perón was driven to the airport in a Fiat-SEAT, on his way back to Argentina to end his 18-year exile. In his many strange dealings, Perón was assisted by Giancarlo Valori, a Fiat executive.

Communist Dictatorships

Yugoslavia

In 1955, Communist Yugoslavia began its partnership with Fiat. A version of the Fiat 600, Zastava 750, was launched under a license in 1962. Various models, some manufactured in Poland, kept Yugoslav mechanics occupied throughout Tito's Presidency for Life. It is rumored that a chief of secret police in Serbia fell victim to a dubious traffic incident involving a Fiat-licensed vehicle, after he started to complain about Tito's politics. After Tito's death, it was just a matter of time before the multi-ethnic federation of Yugoslavia states started to break apart with help from Washington.

Regardless of their propensity for mechanical



A crushed Yugo during the Bosnian War

failure, various models of Zastava vehicles became primary modes of transporting food and smuggling weapons during the Bosnian War. Relatively low MPG, offered by most Fiat-based vehicles, proved highly efficient during the Siege of Sarajevo, the longest siege of a capital city in the history of modern warfare. Despite the bombing of its factory by NATO, Zastava became a much depended-upon vehicle in the subsequent Kosovo War of 1999. (Ironically, the Allies had orders to spare slave-labor Nazi Ford factories in Germany from air raids in WWII.) Low-income Americans still recall the mid 90s shortage of spare parts for their Yugo, one of Zastava's greatest pre-war exports. According to an unconfirmed source, Slobodan Milošević was caught while waxing his 1982 Zastava Koral (Yugo Tempo), and subsequently brought to The Hague War Crimes Tribunal. Also, quite possibly, the apprehension of Serbian war criminal Radovan Karadžić would not have been possible had his 2003 Zastava 10 (another Fiat design) not gotten a flat tire.

The Soviet Union

After a successful effort to rip off the Fiat 600 without a license (Zaporozhets ZAZ-965), the Soviet Union eventually entered into an official licensing agreement with Fiat in 1966. (By now, Fiat's ownership had reverted back to the original family.) It is still virtually impossible to walk onto a Russian street anywhere in the country without bumping into one version of a Fiat-based vehicle or another. Under the name Lada, the Fiat became a car of choice for both the advantaged people and the Communist leadership (the common man had

to do with a Zaporozhets). In fact, an Italian-Soviet motion picture, "The Extraordinary Adventures of Italians in Russia" (1973), extolled the benefits of Fiat-Lada vehicles in a narrative that amounted to little more than an extended car commercial. Eventually, the original Fiat blueprints were modified to fit the climate hardships and poor road conditions in Russia. Still, the Lada was notorious for its frequent breakdowns.

Lada's development parallels the history of modern Soviet Union vis-à-vis Leonid Brezhnev, another Leader for Life. The most notable turning points in this saga include the Soviet crackdown on Czechoslovakia, forced expulsion of Jews from Russia, and a near total economic devastation of the empire precipitated by the invasion of Afghanistan. All throughout those years the faithful Lada kept Soviet people on the go in style, if they were lucky enough to afford one. The average waiting period for a new car could drag on for years. Lada kept on producing Fiat-based models throughout the breakdown of its Federation in the early 1990s and continues to do so today with great success. I dare you to take a stroll in downtown Grozny, Chechnya, without a threat of being run over by a bullet-ridden Fiat-based vehicle.



A migrant Lada in the Chechen War

It is not uncommon to see Taliban leaders drive a souped-up Lada in the rough terrain of Afghanistan. The spacious 4x4 Niva, supported by Fiat components, is said to be favored by opium smugglers across the Pakistani border. The story has it, Osama bin Laden was last seen speeding away in his rusty Lada, purportedly given to him by his mentor Zbigniew Brzezinski, around 1979.



Zbigniew Brzezinski and Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan

Poland

No other nation has such a loving relationship with Fiat as Poland. In fact, the entry for "car" in the English-Polish children's dictionary features the image of a Fiat.

The first license was granted to Polish automakers during the Mussolini regime in 1932. The Communist Party renewed their relationship with Fiat in 1965, and embarked on a fantastic journey that endures to this day. In fact, the relationship was so precious, the Poles decided to keep the name Fiat in the car's name, simply adding the adjective "Polski" (Polish) to its logo. Thus, not unlike in the Soviet Union, Polski Fiat bore witness to many a domestic turmoil that befell that troubled country. As the first Polski Fiats were rolling off the FSO factory line, Poland assisted the Soviets in thwarting the Prague Spring uprising. It is not clear what role Polski Fiat played in the civil unrest of 1968, where thousands of people voiced their disillusionment with the Communist rule. However, contrary to some rumors, Polish Jews were not given Fiats to leave the country between 1968-72. They were forced to relinquish their Polish citizenship and given a travel document, rendering them stateless. But it was certainly difficult for Polski Fiat drivers to avoid tear gas and bullets during the Party's crackdown on factory workers in December of 1970. All these experiences paved way for the CIA and Vatican-backed Solidarity movement, culminating with the creation of the first truly independent Worker's Union in the Soviet Bloc.

The FSO and FSM factories produced several



Polski Fiat 126p - "tiny"

models of Polski Fiat, but only two models, the 125p and the tiny 126p, became universally accessible. The 126p, intended as a successor to Fiat Seicento, was so small that anyone over six feet tall had to take out the driver's seat, and commandeer the vehicle from the back seat. However, by contrast to the Soviet-made Lada, Polski Fiat enjoyed greater respect as a machine – it broke down only half as much. The 125p also sold well in the West, winning the 1978 "Estate Car of the Year" award in the United Kingdom.

The joys of freedom for Polish people ended abruptly in December of 1981, when Martial Law was imposed to counter the threat of democracy. In the iconic photograph, taken in Warsaw by a Newsweek reporter Chris Niedenthal, we can see a forlorn Polski Fiat 125p, as it passes an armored vehicle in front of the Moscow Movie Theatre.



Warsaw, December 1981

The billboard advertises Coppola's "Apocalypse Now", a movie based on Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*. That's exactly how most Poles, including this writer, felt during those days. With Martial Law came the curfew and food and gasoline rations. It was hard for Polski Fiat owners to make it through the month without running out of gas coupons. I personally drove my parents' 1974 Polski Fiat as a getaway vehicle during a gasoline robbery from the Polish Army in 1983.

But the lean and dangerous days ended with the free elections of 1989, and I'm happy to report that Poland is alive and well under a democratically elected government which favors corporate interests over its people. Polski Fiat, under the name FSO, kept rolling out cars until 2002. Another Polish producer of licensed Fiat, FSM, sold 90% of its stock back to Italian Fiat, and continues to produce updated and highly competitive models.

Paradoxically, driving a Fiat-based vehicle in Eastern Europe today is synonymous with a lower class standing, or just pure nostalgia for the "good ol' days." Fiat has lost its cool mystique there.

North Korea

The relationship between Fiat and North Korea is quite interesting. The "Axis of Evil" communist dictatorship produces, under a Fiat license, two small passenger cars. As behooves a totalitarian state, Pyeonghwa Motors is the only carmaker and sole dealer in the country. The venture is a joint one, involving tech support from South Korea,



The North Korean Fiat - with really evil axles

under the leadership of none other than Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church. No irony is lost on the direct translation of the manufacturer's name into English: Pyeonghwa means "peace." Due to the hallmark North Korean poverty, only select few can afford the Korean Fiat.

Corporate America

How does the United States figure into the Fiat saga?

In the last few months, we have seen government bailouts of virtually every major financial institution. American taxpayers are footing the bill for runaway greed and total corruption of such stellar institutions as AIG. Congress is writing blank checks to the very same corporations that have caused the financial crisis in the first place. Bankers and insurance giants receive hundreds of billions of dollars, while small businesses, once the backbone of this nation, get a token few millions as a goodwill gesture. Partial nationalization of banking institutions and sections of the industry makes us, the citizens, fiscally responsible for the questionable decisions of those who control our lives. With the unprecedented consolidation of Presidential powers, and the influence of Big Business on policy making, we have officially entered the era of Corporatocracy in the United States. The ground is prime for a Fiat deal.

The just-announced Fiat-Chrysler partnership (Chrysler Group LLC) boasts a 55 percent ownership by a union retiree healthcare trust fund. Only 20 percent of the company is owned by the Italian automaker. As with the other recent bailouts, the onus is shifted onto the workers, while the corporations take the lesser financial risk.

History lesson

If there is a lesson to be learned from the history of Fiat, it is an optimistic one. Every dictatorship it has partnered with thus far has flourished within two decades, yielding to real democratic changes in governance (well, except for North Korea, but it's still early in the game). A new generation of Fiat owners will soon emerge in America, enjoying their road trips and daily commute, watching the country recover in the next twenty years from the most horrifying abuse of power, corruption and graft since the creation of the Federal Reserve. Check the tire pressure – the ride is bound to get bumpy.

© 2009 Jarek Kupsc is the writer/director of "The Reflecting Pool," an investigative drama challenging the official version of September 11, 2001. Born and raised in Warsaw, Poland, Jarek came to the US in 1987, and received his American citizenship in 1992. He holds a film degree from SFSU, and has been making narrative movies for ten years, in addition to writing a film history book.

Cuba and Change We Can Believe In

CUBA from p. 3

health care and a guarantee of a free public education through the university level. Teachers and community organizations have pivotal roles in determining educational priorities and curricula, ensuring the accessibility and relevance of the educational system. Every Cuban is guaranteed a basic income and a job if they can work. One could go on about the percentage of female medical doctors (62 percent) or universal literacy (99.4 percent) or the number of incarcerated juveniles (zero), but in the US, such basic values have nothing to do with democracy or freedom. "Freedom" is reserved for markets and capital flow.

May Day 2009

My own trip to Cuba coincided with the 50th May Day celebration since the Cuban Revolution. For many Americans, the notion of International Workers Day might seem passé, a strange cousin to our own Labor Day celebrations of barbeque and the end of summer. Particularly in 2009, as American workers watch their hopes for long-term job security, health care, college educations, and a stable retirement dissolve in the face of economic meltdown, the notion of working class power feels highly theoretical.

But in Havana, May Day is not "Labor Day." It is both an act of defiance and a celebration of the survival of Cuban socialism. The 2009 May Day march was more than a million strong – ten percent of the entire population of the island marches - with unionists and community organizations from across the island massed for the festive occasion. The teachers union led off the march this year, with their block-wide banner, "Education is a Labor of Infinite Love," followed by a three-hour jubilant parade of teachers, doctors, construction workers, dancers and artists, taxi drivers, students, and even scientists and engineers marching past the official reviewing stand. Their hand-made signs declare "We Are A Free Country" and "We Defend Our Socialism," and, of course, hundreds of portraits of Che Guevara.

One sign in particular caught my eye and seemed to explain the key role of Larry Summers in the debate over "freedom" and "democracy" in Cuba.

Somewhat poorly translated, the sign reads: "In capitalism in crisis, they impose unemployment on thousands and they close industries. How the working class suffers! Under socialism, it is completely different. They create factories and industries. They provide jobs and guarantee work for those affected. We want socialism! Long live Fidel!"

Yes, this is a country that has been led by one man for most of the last fifty years, one of the most successful personality cults in world history. It is a country where travel abroad is difficult for most, and restricted for others, where political parties are banned and the official, monotonous state media allows little room for dissenting views. And most

importantly, it is a country where resources are scarce and life can be very difficult for the mass of people.

But it is also a country without health insurance companies, home mortgages, or a usurious banking industry, and not accidentally, a country without unemployment or homelessness. It is a place where laid-off sugar cane workers can go to school at state expense to become social workers or organic farmers, where masses of people from all strata of society participate in decisions about the economy and social development. Cubans do not depend on stock market gambles to provide for their retirement (at age 55) nor do they lose health insurance if they quit their jobs. Compare the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, from which New Orleans may never recover, with the devastating hurricanes that hit Cuba during the summer of 2008. In Cuba, there were no casualties, and the storms resulted in not even a single missed school day as teachers moved to makeshift classrooms, and friends and neighbors provided emergency housing.

The American demand that Cuba "change" in order to normalize relations with the United States is in fact anti-democratic, calling for a reversal of the current and overwhelmingly popular economic status quo. In return for an end to US hostility, Cubans must accept multinational corporate domination and privatized education and health care. They must allow the importation of consumer goods, the crushing of domestic industry and agriculture, and, most importantly, unfettered access for international finance. Only then, when Cuba begins to resemble Guatemala or Haiti or Mexico, will the Americans agree to "normal" relations and end nearly 50 years of terror aimed at their country and people. Only then will Cuba resemble the kind of American-style "democracy" supported by Barack Obama and Larry Summers.

But what became apparent to me as a first-time traveler to Cuba is that the official calls for "democracy in Cuba" are strictly for American consumption. The US blockade of Cuba, and restrictions on American travel there, must continue until there is no longer a Cuban Revolution. Otherwise, Americans might begin to envision a world where health care, education, and pensions are truly rights of residency; where industry is developed to support human needs, not scrapped for the benefit of creditors; and where egalitarianism is a realizable goal, not a utopian fantasy. Americans must never be permitted to see that, even in a flawed socialist economy in a tiny island country, there is no homelessness or starvation or unemployment or illiteracy. It might give us dangerous ideas about "Change We Can Believe In."

Philip Fornaci is a prisoners' rights attorney based in Washington, DC.

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Osama bin Laden Still Dead

Photos of bin Laden when he was alive.



In 1979 CIA operative bin Laden Osama in the 1990s Last authentic video, Dec. 2001 codename "Tim Ossman"

Photos of bin Laden since his death.



Bin Laden "confession" video 2004 video "Blackbeard" Osama, 2007

By MATT SULLIVAN / RCFP

Where in the world is Osama bin Laden?

Blamed for the attacks of September 2001, he is the most wanted criminal on earth (but not by the FBI, who say they have no evidence linking him to 9/11). There is a bounty on his head of \$25 million (some report \$50 million) not to mention the entire law enforcement and military resources of the US looking for him for the last eight years. How can it be that he is still not in custody?

The simple answer is, of course, that he is dead and he has been dead since December, 2001.

But what about all those Osama videos and audio tapes, the ones that always seem to be conveniently released at just the right time to help the Bush administration push through legislation, or distract from a scandal, or help with an election?

The one thing those video and audio tapes have in common, is that the authenticity of the tape can not be confirmed. In fact, some of the tapes are such crude fakes (think the Blackbeard bin Laden of the October 2007 video) that no one should take them seriously. And lately we get only audio; which is quite easily faked.

Here is a short time-line of bin Laden's last few months of life based on main-stream media reports:

October 31, 2001 the United Press International reports that bin Laden underwent kidney treatment in July of 2001 at the American Hospital in Dubai.

September 10, 2001 bin Laden enters a military hospital for further kidney dialysis treatment in Rawalpindi, Pakistan according to a report by CBS (January 28, 2002).

December 2001 The last authenticated bin Laden video is released. CNN Health reporter, Dr. Sanjay Gupta gave his professional assessment of bin Laden's medical condition based on the videotape broadcast by al Jazeera on December 27, 2001. Dr. Gupta explained that bin Laden's appearance - "grayness of beard, paleness of skin, and very gaunt sort of features" - is often associated with chronic kidney failure or renal failure.

Gupta also noted that bin Laden couldn't move his left arm probably due to a stroke. People suffering from kidney failures have a higher risk of stroke. Dr. Gupta also pointed out that dialysis machines require electricity, clean water and a sterile environment to function properly. Without an operational machine, a patient would only survive for less than a week.

The US Air Force, after cornering Taliban combatants in the mountainous Tora Bora, relentlessly blasted the area for days, unleashing an estimated two thousand tons of explosives, including the deadly bunker-busting bombs to implode caves. According to the Pentagon, radio transmissions of bin Laden's voice were detected regularly until December 14, 2001.

On December 26, 2001 an Egyptian paper ran an obituary on Osama bin Laden whose death resulted from lack of proper medical care for "serious lung complications." A Taliban official told the *Pakistan Observer* that he saw bin Laden's face before the burial in Tora Bora where some members of bin Laden's family, friends and

al Qaeda fighters gathered for his funeral.

In a CNN interview on January 19, 2002, then Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf stated, "He (bin Laden) is dead for the reason he is a ... kidney patient." Asked whether he could pinpoint the spot where bin Laden was buried, he answered, "I am sure that like other places in Tora Bora that particular place too, must have vanished," implying that it was obliterated by US aerial bombing. According to the *Washington Post* (October 28, 2002) the *al Majallah*, an Arabic-language paper, obtained bin Laden's will from a "very reliable" source in Afghanistan.

What will it take for the US government to admit that he is dead?

Osama bin Laden has been such a powerful boogeyman that the CIA has been reluctant to give him up, but in the last few years, more and more people are beginning to realize that Osama is dead, and to say so publicly.

In 2006, the CIA closed the unit, known as Alec Station, which for a decade had the mission of hunting Osama bin Laden and his top lieutenants. The analysts for this unit were

In October 2008, speaking on the NPR program "Fresh Air" former CIA agent Robert Baer, best known for being the role model for the fictional agent in the movie "Syriana", tells us "Of course he is dead, where are the DVDs? Bin Laden wouldn't dye his hair, all these things can be manipulated." "He hasn't shown up. I've taken in the last month, a poll of CIA officers who have been on his trail, and what astounded me was not a single one was sure he was alive or dead. They have no idea; I mean this man disappeared off the side of the earth."

In April 2009, new Pakistan President Asif Ali Zadari said on NBC's "Meet the Press", that Osama bin Laden might be dead. Although US officials have claimed that bin Laden could still be hiding along the border of Afghanistan and Pakistan, Zadari told NBC's David Gregory, "I don't think he's alive ... I have a strong feeling and reason to believe that... I have asked my counterparts in the American intelligence services and they haven't heard from him in seven years."

On May 10, 2009, National Security Adviser General Jim Jones said on "This Week with George Stephanopoulos", that it is inconclusive whether Osama bin Laden is alive or dead. Jones told Stephanopoulos, "The best intelligence is that we, we gauge our reaction based on what intelligence we have, and it is inconclusive." Jones went on to say, "...we wait and see how long it has been before we've seen him actually make a statement, release a video, and make our judgments on that. The truth is I don't think anybody knows for sure."

Apparently the CIA is not quite ready to let go of their favorite boogeyman. Within the last month yet another audio tape attributed to Osama has surfaced. As long as the specter of Osama has any power left to frighten the American public they will use it... but the magic is fading. Soon no one will even remember and, like an old soldier, Osama's ghost will finally be allowed to just fade away.

Funeral Notice in Egyptian Paper: al-Wafd, Wednesday, December 26, 2001



News of Bin Laden's Death and Funeral 10 days ago
Islamabad - A prominent official in the Afghan Taliban movement announced yesterday the death of Osama bin Laden, the chief of al-Qa'da organization, stating that binLaden suffered serious complications in the lungs and died a natural and quiet death. The official, who asked to remain anonymous, stated to The Observer of Pakistan that he had himself attended the funeral of bin Laden and saw his face prior to burial in Tora Bora 10 days ago. He mentioned that 30 of al-Qa'da fighters attended the burial as well as members of his family and some friends from the Taliban. In the farewell ceremony to his final rest guns were fired in the air. The official stated that it is difficult to pinpoint the burial location of bin Laden because according to the Wahhabi tradition no mark is left by the grave. He stressed that it is unlikely that the American forces would ever uncover any traces of bin Laden.

Inspector General Reports CIA Murdered Detainees

DETAINEES from p. 1

At the time of his death, Jamdai's head was covered with a plastic bag, he was shackled in a crucifixion-like pose that inhibited his ability to breathe and according to forensic pathologists who have examined the case, he suffocated.

The CIA interrogator implicated in his death was Mark Swanner, who was never charged with a crime despite a recommendation by investigators working for Helgerson that the Justice Department launch a criminal investigation into the matter.

The Swanner/Jamdai case was forwarded to then Deputy Attorney General Paul McNulty in 2004 where the file remained. McNulty is currently under scrutiny by a special prosecutor investigating the role he and other Bush administration officials played in the firings of nine U.S. Attorneys in 2006.

Helgerson also "had serious questions about the agency's mistreatment of dozens more, including Khalid Sheikh Mohammed," Mayer wrote in her book, adding that there was a belief by some "insiders that [Helgerson's investigation] would end with criminal charges for abusive interrogations."

In *The Dark Side*, Mayer described the report as being "as thick as two Manhattan phone books" and contained information, according to an unnamed source, "that was simply sickening."

"The behavior it described, another knowledgeable source said, raised concerns not just about the detainees but also about the Americans who had inflicted the abuse, one of whom seemed to have become frighteningly dehumanized," Mayer wrote. "The source said, 'You couldn't read the documents without wondering, why didn't someone say, Stop!'"

In an interview with Harper's magazine last year, Mayer said Helgerson "investigated several alleged homicides involving CIA detainees" and forwarded several of those cases "to the Justice Department for further consideration and potential prosecution."

"Why have there been no charges filed? It's a question to which one would expect that Congress and the public would like some answers," Mayer said. "Sources suggested to me that... it is highly uncomfortable for top Bush Justice officials to prosecute these cases because, inevitably, it means shining a light on what those same officials sanctioned."

One possibility investigations by the DOJ were thwarted is that former Vice President Dick Cheney intervened in Helgerson's investigation and routinely "summoned" the inspector general to meet with him privately about his investigation, launched in 2003, and soon thereafter the probe "was stopped in its tracks."

Mayer characterized Cheney's interaction with Helgerson as highly unusual.

Cheney's "reaction to this first, carefully documented in-house study concluding that the CIA's secret program was most likely criminal was to summon the Inspector General to his office for a private chat," Mayer wrote. "The Inspector General is supposed to function as an independent overseer, free from political pressure, but Cheney summoned the CIA Inspector General more than once to his office."

"Cheney loomed over everything," the former CIA officer told Mayer. "The whole IG's office

was completely politicized. They were working hand in glove with the White House."

Mayer said Cheney's intervention in Helgerson's probe proved that as early as 2004 "the Vice President's office was fully aware that there were allegations of serious wrongdoing in the [torture] Program."

In October 2007, former CIA Director Michael Hayden ordered an investigation into Helgerson's office, focusing on internal complaints that the inspector general was on "a crusade against those who have participated in the controversial detention program."

News reports have suggested that when Helgerson's report is declassified, it will seriously undercut claims made by Cheney in numerous interviews that the systematic torture of "high-value" detainees produced valuable intelligence, thwarted pending terrorist plots against the United States and saved "hundreds of thousands of lives."

In addition to showing the inconclusive nature of the value of intelligence gleaned through torture, the report will likely show that Helgerson warned top CIA officials that the interrogation techniques administered to detainees might violate some provisions of the international Convention Against Torture.

A Nov. 9, 2005 report published in the *New York Times* said Helgerson's report "raised concern about whether the use of the [torture] techniques could expose agency officers to legal liability."

Sources quoted by the *New York Times* said "the report expressed skepticism about the Bush administration view that any ban on cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment under the treaty does not apply to CIA interrogations because they take place overseas on people who are not citizens of the United States."

"The officials who described the report said it discussed particular techniques used by the CIA against particular prisoners, including about three dozen terror suspects being held by the agency in secret locations around the world."

The CIA may have decided to destroy 92 interrogation videotapes in November 2005, which Helgerson viewed at one of the CIA's "black site" prisons, after Sen. Jay Rockefeller (D-WV), began asking questions about the tapes referenced in the report.

"Further rattling the CIA was a request in May 2005 from Senator Jay Rockefeller, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee, to see over a hundred documents referred to in the earlier Inspector General's report on detention inside the black prison sites," Mayer wrote in *The Dark Side*. "Among the items Rockefeller specifically sought was a legal analysis of the CIA's interrogation videotapes."

"Rockefeller wanted to know if the intelligence agency's top lawyer believed that the waterboarding of [alleged al-Qaeda operative Abu] Zubaydah and [alleged 9/11 mastermind] Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, as captured on the secret videotapes, was entirely legal. The CIA refused to provide the requested documents to Rockefeller. But the Democratic senator's mention of the videotapes undoubtedly sent a shiver through the Agency, as did a second request the made for these documents to [former

CIA Director Porter] Goss in September, 2005."

Helgerson's report has been highly sought after by members of Congress and civil liberties organizations for some time. Justice Department torture memos released in May contain several footnotes to the inspector general's report noting the watchdog's concerns about the fact that interrogators strayed from the legal limits set forth in the memos on how specific interrogation methods could be used.

For example, a footnote in a May 2005 Justice Department legal opinion says Helgerson found that, "in some cases," the "waterboard was used with far greater frequency than initially indicated...and also that it was used in a different manner."

According to court papers in a contempt lawsuit the ACLU filed against the CIA over the destruction of 92 interrogation videotapes, "at the conclusion of [Helgerson's] special review in May 2004, [CIA Office of Inspector General] notified DOJ and other relevant oversight authorities of the review's findings."

A month later, according to documents released earlier this year by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, Helgerson's report was made available to top lawmakers on the committee.

In June 2004, CIA Director George Tenet asked the White House to explicitly sign off on the agency's torture program with a memo that authorized specific techniques, such as waterboarding. A similar request was also made by the agency at the start of Helgerson's probe in 2003, according to a report published in the *Washington Post* last October.

"The Bush administration issued a pair of secret memos to the CIA in 2003 and 2004 that explicitly endorsed the agency's use of interrogation techniques such as waterboarding against al-Qaeda suspects—documents prompted by worries among intelligence officials about a possible backlash if details of the program became public," the *Post* reported.

"The classified memos, which have not been previously disclosed (and remain classified), were requested by then-CIA Director George J. Tenet more than a year after the start of the secret interrogations, according to four administration and intelligence officials familiar with the documents. Although Justice Department lawyers, beginning in 2002, had signed off on the agency's interrogation methods, senior CIA officials were troubled that White House policymakers had never endorsed the program in writing."

It's unknown whether Helgerson's report led Tenet to request the later memo from the White House.

According to the *Post* report, "the CIA's anxiety was partly fueled by the lack of explicit presidential authorization for the interrogation program" and "Tenet seemed...interested in protecting his subordinates" from legal liability.

In July 2004, "the CIA briefed the (Senate Intelligence Committee's) Chairman and Vice Chairman on the facts and conclusions of the Inspector General special review."

Jason Leopold is an award winning journalist and former senior editor at Truthout.org. He now has his own on-line news magazine: ThePublicRecord.org

Attorney General Refuses to Call Warrantless Wiretaps Illegal

HOLDER from p. 1

torture have been overturned, but that those asserting the legality of warrantless wiretapping have not been. Senator Feinstein asked whether the Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) "opinion" announcing that the 4th Amendment did not apply in the "war on terror" had been withdrawn. Holder said he did not know. Sen. Feingold pointed to past statements by Barack Obama and Eric Holder denouncing the warrantless wiretapping. And he asked Holder directly whether the warrantless wiretapping programs set up during Bush's presidency were illegal. Holder replied that they were "unwise". So Feingold asked again, and a third, fourth, and fifth time. Holder would go so far as to say "inconsistent with FISA" and yet explicitly refused to say "illegal." Holder said he hoped to someday release secret "opinions" on spying. But releasing something is not the same as overturning or "withdrawing" it. After five unsuccessful attempts to get Holder to call illegal spying illegal (even though Holder would, later in the same hearing, indicate his reliance on legislation that provided immunity for the crime), Feingold gave up and moved to another topic.

Sen. Feingold asked Holder about abuse of the "state secrets" privilege. Since February, Feingold said, he has sought a classified briefing from the executive branch to explain three cases in which Holder's department has used the "state secrets" excuse to try to block court cases. Feingold asked Holder to get him that briefing. Holder refused twice, but did claim that within "a matter of days" he would make some proposals public. The Senate Judiciary Committee plans to mark up the State Secrets Protection Act, a bill to restrain executive abuse. Holder told the committee that the executive branch would release its position on the matter within days, and that then no legislation should be needed. Sen. Leahy appeared to agree to that outrageous assertion of power, saying that unless the position was released, his committee would mark up the bill.

Senator Dick Durbin asked Holder about the endlessly delayed report from the Office of



Attorney General Holder

that a draft report had been delivered in December 2008, that on May 4, 2009, the comment period from the torture lawyers had ended, and that the CIA was given an opportunity for substantive comment and classification review. Whitehouse asked whether the CIA was the current logjam. Holder said No. He said that the OPR is still working on the report in light of the responses it received from the torturers six weeks ago. Whitehouse focused on the CIA and asked Holder (a number of times) if he had any assurances from the CIA that those giving input to the report were not themselves involved in the torture. Holder made clear that the answer was no. He has no such assurances and isn't interested in them.

Wednesday's hearing also featured an amicable exchange in which Holder and Senator Lindsey Graham discussed the creation of a "review" procedure that might amount to "due process" for prisoners who would be held forever without trial. Graham also asked for an assurance from Holder that the President would decree torture photos to be classified before (or after) the next court order to release them. On that point, Holder refused to make such a commitment. But then, he's not the president.

Holder did say something encouraging about the nature of OLC opinions. Senator John Cornyn, who is concerned to prevent the residents of Washington D.C. from having voting representation in Congress, said that an OLC opinion that a proposal for DC voting rights was unconstitutional had not been released. Pressed repeatedly, Holder ended up saying that OLC opinions are just recommendations that he has the power to ignore. Of course, this should be true, but then Ashcroft, Gonzales, and Mukasey, not to mention Bush, had the same power and responsibility to reject absurd "opinions" that torture, warrantless spying, and wars of aggression were legal.

David Swanson is the author of the upcoming book Daybreak: Undoing the Imperial Presidency and Forming a More Perfect Union by Seven Stories Press. You can pre-order it and find out when tour will be in your town: <http://davidswanson.org/book>

Populism vs. Plutocracy

By KEN MACDERMOTROE / HISTORYCOUNTS

"Congressmen aren't elected by voters. They're elected by contributors." observes Congressman Charlie Wilson, portrayed by Tom Hanks in the 2007 film "Charlie Wilson's War".

Philosopher Adrian Kuzminksi, author of *Fixing the System, A History of Populism from Ancient Times to Modern* described the current American system of government as an undemocratic "plutocratic oligarchy" in a recent interview for the radio series "History Counts". American elections, Kuzminksi says, are no more than "plutocratic plebiscites" with the voters' limited choices pre-determined by those with the money.

So how can ordinary citizens get off the benches and back into the game? The answer, Kuzminksi believes, is populism, the third way.

Populism is the third way because it's neither left nor right says Kuzminksi. The left maintains that problems can be solved by concentrating power in Big Government. On the other hand, the right touts the virtues of deregulated business, which leads to a de facto control of public policy by Big Business.

In contrast to both left and right, populists call for a dramatic decentralization of power to the lowest possible level - the individual citizen and his local community.

While populism is rarely seen in the political mix today with the rare exceptions of leaders like Ron Paul and Ralph Nader, it was a vibrant force in the early years of the American Republic. Indeed, Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence and the third U.S. President was an ardent populist.

Jefferson regarded the American Revolution incomplete and called for the creation of a new system of government he called Ward Republics. The cornerstone of the Ward Republics was a local assembly called a "ward republic" which would act much like a New England town meeting.

With membership from a couple hundred to a few thousand voters, this local ward republic would be small enough to provide each citizen the opportunity to exercise fully any of the rights that we now associate only with office holders. The rostrum would belong to all - rich and poor, office holder and ordinary citizen - on an equal footing. "The key" says Kuzminksi "is the face-to-face interaction which is exactly what's missing in our own political campaigns."

How would such local assemblies govern a large nation? Jefferson envisaged a "confederal democracy" and it would work like this.

As a citizen, you would attend your local ward republic and be responsible for making decisions affecting your community or neighborhood. You and other members of your ward republic would elect one of your neighbors to represent you at a higher level assembly, a county or city republic which would be responsible for governing that jurisdiction. The county/city republic would, in turn, elect representatives to the state republic and then the state republic would elect representatives to the national republic.

All representatives would be required to return regularly to the republic which sent them and participate in its deliberations just like every other member. Consequently, elected officials would be constantly accountable to their constituents who could confront them at regular public meetings.

This bottom up system, says Kuzminksi, is in stark contrast to our federal system. Currently, each US Congressman represents about 600,000 people. They spend most of their time in Washington - much of it fundraising to ensure success in their biennial elections. When was the last time you had a chance to personally speak to your congressman?

But decentralization of the political system is only one-half of the populist solution. According to Kuzminksi, we need a "bottom up financial system which is the economic analogue of confederal democracy."

The importance of the economic component of democracy was identified over two thousand years ago by the Greek philosopher Phaleas of Chalcedon whom we know from Aristotle's *Politics*. Phaleas maintained that democracy requires that citizens be economically independent

of one another. Otherwise, they will not exercise the independent political judgment necessary for a functioning popular government.

As a result, populists continually struggle against concentrations of wealth. In the latter days of the Roman Republic when wealth was in land, populist leaders like Gaius and Tiberius Gracchus sought to break up illegally obtained plantations and return land to citizens who lost their small farms and became the urban poor.

Kuzminksi notes that in modern times, credit, not land, is central to economic independence. As the result, modern day populists like Ron Paul focus on the reform of the money system.

They contend that the current central banking system is essentially a government-sanctioned private banking cartel with a monopoly over the critical public function of money creation. Institutions like the Federal Reserve charge the public interest for money that could be created by the government without charge. They maintain that the control of the money system by large private banks gives well-placed individuals inordinate power over our elected officials and access to inside information. Furthermore, the collection of interest on public debt by wealthy people contributes to the disparity of wealth.

One populist alternative model to our present financial system was put forth by 19th century author Edward Kellogg, whose books were read by Abraham Lincoln. Kellogg proposed a system of local, government-regulated, private banks that would loan to local people with good credit and collateral at a nominal interest rate. These local banks would essentially be creating money at the bottom level of the banking system.

Kuzminksi emphasized that populists are not to be confused with socialists, despite their antipathy towards disparities of wealth. Populists enthusiastically support private property in the hands of economically independent, self-sustaining families. But how can one realize this populist ideal in today's economy where millions of families are dependent on large corporations for their survival and where their workplace often has no relation to their community?

Kuzminksi is not optimistic that a populist revival can occur in the current money-dominated political process. However, Kuzminksi believes that a serious economic breakdown might lead to a revival of populism as people are thrown back on local resources for their survival.

Regardless of the severity of the current slump, this author sees some important steps that could be taken now that would help increase the economic and social independence of families and lay the foundation for a stronger democracy. These include:

- 1) Decentralize electric power generation through green homes and local generation plants using renewable energy to make families and localities energy self-sufficient;
- 2) Encourage home-based internet work where practical and, where not, encourage flexible hours at the workplace to allow people to be more involved in family and community activities;
- 3) Mandate universal health care to make it easier for people to work for themselves by ending their dependency on employer based medical insurance;
- 4) Make the home, not the state, the locus of education with flexible school schedules and, where desired, home schooling to encourage independent thinking in our children and strengthen family relationships.

Populists from ancient Greece to the American Republic understand that popular government is not simply a matter of political theory or constitutional provisions. It must be founded on a shared belief in popular government by economically independent citizens who are willing to assume responsibility for their personal future and the future of their nation. How we nurture these democratic qualities in our society through political and economic change is one of the most exciting challenges facing this generation.

The author is the host of the syndicated radio series "History Counts" archived at www.historycounts.org. The programs focus on important events and people in history that are ignored or misunderstood.



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History's Lessons

Adnan Khashoggi - Richard Perle's Narco-Terrorist Business Partner

By ALEX CONSTANTINE

The House hearings on Iran-contra culminated in 1987 with a report that deftly mentioned Richard Secord's plan to construct an enterprise of his own in the bulk manufacture of "opium alkaloids."

Opium? This curious detail floated by without comment, eventually drowned in a flood of perjury and hot air.

The committee didn't bother to follow up on that one. Better late than never to ask: "Opium alkaloids ... ah, as in the base compound for the production of heroin?" It's doubtful we'll ever know the answer. And the explanation could be innocent, to be completely fair - Secord may have invented a cure for peptic ulcers or sexual impotence ... but then heroin would appear the likeliest explanation ... given the cost of global conquest these days ...

Adnan Khashoggi is a billionaire Turkish-Saudi Arabian arms-dealer and businessman. He is also noted for his involvement in the Iran-Contra and Lockheed bribery scandals, and numerous other affairs. Adnan Khashoggi has financed wars with drug profits, the gist of a report written in 1991 at the Pentagon - declassified in July 2004 by the National Security Archives in Washington - of 104 "more important Colombian narco-terrorists contracted by the Colombian narcotic cartels for security, transportation, distribution, collection and enforcement of narcotics operations in both the US and Colombia."

Colombian drug lord, Pablo Escobar is on the list, as well as, Colombian President Alvaro Uribe.

Uribe, according to the document, is a "Colombian politician and senator dedicated to collaboration with the Medellin cartel at high government levels." He was "linked to a business involved in narcotics activities in the U.S. His father was murdered in Colombia for his connection with the narcotics traffickers." He has "worked for the Medellin cartel," according to the DoD report, and "is a close personal friend of Pablo Escobar Gaviria.... He has participated in Escobar's political campaign to win the position of assistant parliamentarian to Jorge [Ortega]..."

Adam Isaacson, a scholar at the Center for International Policy (CIP) in Washington, cast doubt on the Pentagon's intelligence. After all, the CIP scholar explained, Adnan Khashoggi's name was on it - so the list must be in error...

But the National Security Archives responded that the document is "accurate and easily verifiable. It is evident that a significant amount of time and energy went into compiling this report."

Remember, the word used by the Pentagon to describe the traffickers, including Khashoggi, listed in the report was "narco-terrorist." So Richard Perle, assistant secretary of defense under Bush, a business partner of Khashoggi's at TriReme Corp., was in business with a narco-terrorist, according to the Pentagon's own records.

President Uribe also denied the allegations regarding himself. Not so easy to explain away, however, was the 1984 seizure of his father's helicopter by Colombian police on narcotics charges or his brother's telephone number stored in the memory bank of a cell phone belonging to Escobar?

Ignoring the Pentagon's own intelligence on the narco-president, President Bush paid Uribe a call in August 2003. Anti-war activist-reporter Jim Lobe reported: "The administration of President George W. Bush on Monday rallied behind Colombian President Alvaro Uribe in the face of allegations contained in a 13-year-old Pentagon intelligence report that he was a close



Richard Perle

personal friend' of drug lord Pablo Escobar and had worked for his Medellin drug cartel."

"We completely disavow these allegations about President Uribe," said State Department spokesman Adam Ereli. "We have no credible information that substantiates or corroborates these allegations that appeared in an unevaluated 1991 report, linking President Uribe to the narcotics business or trafficking."

Isaacson said, "It's something the left has been trying to pin on him for awhile, and this gives them new ammunition." However, he acknowledged, "in the big picture, almost everybody in Colombia's ruling class was mixed up in drugs until [former US President] Ronald Reagan declared war on drugs in the mid-1980s."

Narcotics have fuelled the flames of revolution and regime change, political assassinations and bomb plots, the "war on drugs" notwithstanding.

Another drug runner in this underground empire was Henry Asher, founder of DataBase, the ChoicePoint appendage. In a report by the Florida Dept. of Law Enforcement, Asher admitted to smuggling drugs in 1982. Police developed "corroborating information" that "during 1981 and 1982, Asher piloted five to seven plane loads of cocaine from Colombia to the United States."

Asher admitted that he had shown "a lack of judgment," according to the report. The remorseful millionaire cooperated with the FBI and agreed to be a federal "informant."

He was freed and went on to set up a "Total Information Awareness" surveillance operation.

Yet another drug pilot on contra supply missions was Frank Moss who, according to the Kerry Report, "has been under investigation as an alleged drug trafficker since 1979. Moss has been investigated, although never convicted, for narcotics offenses - by ten different law enforcement agencies."

In addition to flying contra supply missions through SETCO, Moss formed his own company in 1985, Hondu Carib, which also flew supplies to the contra death squads, including weapons and ammunition purchased from R.M. Equipment, an arms company controlled by Ronald Martin and James McCoy.

The FDN's arrangement with Moss and Hondu Carib was pursuant to a commercial agreement between the FDN's chief supply officer, Mario Calero, and Moss, under which Calero was to receive an ownership interest in Moss' company. The Subcommittee received documentation that one Moss plane, a DC-4, N90201, was used to move Contra goods from the United States to Honduras. On the basis of information alleging that the plane was being used for drug smuggling, the Customs Service obtained a court order to

place a concealed transponder on the plane.

"A second DC-4 controlled by Moss was chased off the west coast of Florida by the Customs Service while it was dumping what appeared to be a load of drugs, according to law enforcement personnel. When the plane landed at Port Charlotte, no drugs were found on board, but the plane's registration was not in order and its last known owners were drug traffickers. Law enforcement personnel also found an address book aboard the plane containing, among other references, the telephone numbers of some Contra officials and the Virginia telephone number of Robert Owen, Oliver North's courier. A law enforcement inspection of the plane revealed the presence of significant marijuana residue. DEA seized the aircraft on March 16, 1987."

Cable network opinion-shapers Ann Coulter and David Corn may insist that the CIA only "looked the other way" when its assets have been caught moving narcotics to finance assassinations, foreign coups, etc., but Khashoggi, Armitage and Asher weren't the only drug runners in the "family."

William Casey, CIA director under Reagan, created several large off-the-shelf networks to finance illicit covert operations. The first, dependent on opium profits, supported the Afghan Mujhaddin, with the CIA running funds through Pakistan's ISI and BCCI. The second channel, to support the Nicaraguan contra war, ran through BCCI, too. This channel also began with drug proceeds and ended in hot pockets of the Cold War. The same organizational chart - of CIA proxy armies funded by drug proceeds - was evident in KLA operations in Bosnia, complete with raping, pillaging, bomb-tossing al Qaeda radicals.

As a result, these networks, according to Peter Dale Scott, "have all aligned the US on the same side as powerful local drug traffickers. Partly this has been from realpolitik - in recognition of the local power realities represented by the drug traffic. Partly it has been from the need to escape domestic political restraints: the traffickers have supplied additional financial resources needed because of US budgetary limitations, and they have also provided assets not bound by the rules of war."

The impact of all this trafficking in drugs, of course, is devastating. "These facts," Scott writes, "have led to enduring intelligence networks involving both oil and drugs, or more specifically both petrodollars and narcodollars. These networks, particularly in the Middle East, have become so important that they affect, not just the conduct of US foreign policy, but the health and behavior of the US government, US banks and corporations, and indeed the whole of US society."

- NOTES
- 1) Jefferson Morley, "Iran-Contra's Unasked Questions, or the Case of the \$400,000 Hamburger," Los Angeles Times, November 29, 1987.
 - 2) Jim Lobe, "Bush Rallies Behind Colombian President, Despite Drug Allegations," August 3, 2004.
 - 3) Ibid.
 - 4) Multistate Anti-Terrorism Information Exchange, June, 2003. <http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&ie=ISO-8859-1&q=hank+asher+and+cocaine+and+biography>
 - 5) "Selections from the Senate Committee Report on Drugs, Law Enforcement and Foreign Policy," chaired by Senator John F. Kerry. <http://www.webcom.com/pinknoiz/covert/contracoke.html#fn39>
 - 6) See: Peter Dale Scott, *Drugs, Oil, and War*; John Cooley, *Unholy Wars*.
 - 7) Peter Dale Scott, "Afghanistan, Colombia, Vietnam: The Deep Politics of Drugs and Oil." <http://socrates.berkeley.edu/~pdscott/qov.html>

Alex Constantine writes and blogs at alexconstantine.blogspot.com

Truthmobile Rides Again

dc911truth Returns to the Takoma Park Fourth of July Parade



Truth Mobile in 2008 Takoma Park parade.

By TAKOMA TRUTHER / DC911TRUTH.ORG

For the fourth year, dc911truth will participate in the Takoma Park Fourth of July parade. The group consists of about 20 activists who are dedicated to spreading information about the events of 9/11 and lobbying for a re-investigation of the events of that day.

For the last three years the DC "truthers" have sponsored a float in the Takoma Park, Maryland Fourth of July parade. The group will decorate a pickup truck and turn it into the "Truth Mobile" for the event. The theme, "Truth is Patriotic" is meant to remind citizens that there is nothing more patriotic than seeking truth and justice; it's

the American way.

According to Lydia Riley, Takoma Park resident and member of dc911truth, "It's great to celebrate the 4th of July in a patriotic way and nothing in our day is more patriotic than speaking and spreading the truth. We have found participation in the parade to be a fun and productive way of conveying what the organization wishes citizens to understand."

dc911truth.org is a grassroots organization of citizens, activists, and researchers seeking to raise public awareness of the historical context of US false flag terrorism, culminating in the events of September 11, and to affiliate with others sharing

these goals towards peaceful reformation of the American political process.

9/11 truth groups have sprung up all over the country and the world in response to the lack of a real investigation into the events of 9/11. Every major city in the country and most capitals around the world have 9/11 truth chapters.

Along with the "Truth Mobile," an information table will be available where visitors interested in learning more about 9/11 and the dc911truth group can find books, DVDs and other resources.

You can find out more about the DC 9/11 truth group on the web at www.dc911truth.org.



PENTAGON from p. 1

Researchers Release 9/11 Pentagon Attack Report

Pentagon Heliport at the time of the attack); Terry Morin, a project manager for Sparta (saw the plane from the Navy Annex); courier Levi Stephens (saw the plane from the

Pentagon's south parking lot); and Maria de La Cerda, a career musician with the Army band, who saw the plane from Arlington National Cemetery.

Every one of these people clearly recalls seeing the plane take a path that disagrees with the government's story. None of them report seeing the plane fly south of the Citgo station, where it would have had to have been to have caused the damage at the Pentagon.

One witness, Roosevelt Roberts Jr., saw the plane after the explosion, banking low over the parking lot.

There is a zone of destruction heading towards the Pentagon, and into the building, that corresponds with a south side flight path. Five light poles were destroyed, and the damage in the building lines up perfectly with those five light poles.

Under most circumstances, physical evidence would trump eyewitness testimony. But in this case, the crime scene was controlled by the primary suspect, tainting the credibility of the evidence under their control. In addition, there are many anomalies with the physical evidence.

Right from the beginning, questions arose. Where was the plane debris? Photos taken immediately after the attack show no wings, tail or fuselage. No luggage or bodies. No damage to the pristine green lawn, even though the Boeing 757 was supposedly piloted into the first floor of the Pentagon at 530 mph by rookie pilot Hani Hanjour, who could barely fly a small Cessna. The damage to the building is inconsistent with the crash of an airliner with a 44 foot tall tail and 125 foot wingspan, with unbroken panes of glass where the tail section should have hit.

Even the downed light poles are suspicious. Compared to a light pole that was knocked down by wind, and has a jagged edge where it broke at the base, the five downed light poles on 9/11 appear to have been cut, neatly and cleanly.

On top of this suspicious crash scene, we now have 14 eyewitnesses who have stated unequivocally on camera that the plane was not where it would have needed to be to down the light poles and hit the Pentagon.

CIT is not the only group concluding that the plane didn't hit the Pentagon. Pilots for 9/11 Truth is a group of 200 aviation professionals who all agree that, according to the data released by the government, the government story is not correct.

In August 2006, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) released the Flight Data Recorder data for flight 77. According to Rob Balsamo, founder of Pilots for 9/11 Truth, the last recorded altitude for the plane (one second before the alleged impact) shows an altitude of 480 feet above sea level. The top of the Pentagon is 112 feet above sea level. Given this data, the plane cleared the building with 368 feet to spare. The NTSB has repeatedly refused to comment on this.

For the contingent within the 9/11 truth movement that is convinced that a plane did hit the Pentagon, the most compelling evidence comes from the dozens of witnesses who believe they saw the plane hit the building. Six of these witnesses are editors or reporters for USA Today, and all claim to have been on the same quarter mile stretch of Rt. 27, heading the same way at the moment of the attack, late to work at the USA Today building in Rosslyn, three miles away.

In a ten minute clip available on Google video called "The USA Today Parade," CIT has demonstrated that the Pentagon is not visible for most of that quarter mile stretch of Rt. 27. With video taken in a car driving that same route, it is clear that the Pentagon only becomes visible at the point at which the plane would have been over or behind the car. For much of the route, the Pentagon is obscured by large, bushy trees. CIT interviewed alleged witness to the Pentagon impact and USA Today editor Joel Sucherman on camera in his office. Sucherman insists that he saw the Pentagon at a location

which CIT's video clearly shows does not have a view of the Pentagon.

USA Today is owned by the Gannett company, which also owns Army Times, Air Force Times, Marine Corps Times and Navy Times.

In the 9/11 truth movement, CIT's work has been controversial. They are banned from posting on the largest 9/11 truth forum, 911blogger.com. Recent threads demonstrate that 911blogger has a pronounced preference for the "yes, a plane hit the Pentagon" version of events, with frequent anonymous contributors angrily defending that point of view.

The primary criticism of CIT's work is that all of their witnesses believe the plane impacted the building. As I wrote in my story about CIT in the April 2009 Rock Creek Free Press:

"All of CIT's witnesses also believe that the plane they saw hit the Pentagon, although this cannot be possible. This fact has been used to dismiss CIT's work as irrelevant, but it's not a compelling argument.

"Less than an hour earlier, America had been treated to the sight of the south tower of the World Trade Center being hit by a plane and exploding into a huge fireball. Most people were aware that an attack was underway. If they saw a jet heading directly towards the Pentagon, and next saw a massive fireball, it is doubtful that one person in a thousand would question whether the plane had crashed and caused the fireball. To conclude that the fireball was caused by explosives pre-planted in one of the most heavily guarded buildings on the planet, in an intentional false flag attack to justify war, would require observers to have a degree of perspicacity that was extremely rare in the pre 9/11 world, and only slightly less rare now."

For those who actually saw the plane fly over the building, there was a convenient cover story: media reports of a second plane that came along 30 seconds after the first. Anyone who saw a plane still flying after the fireball would most likely conclude that they had seen that second plane.

The attack at the Pentagon is best understood as a gigantic magic show. How many of us have ever seen a fireball exploding hundreds of feet in diameter? I am sure that if I were to see one, my eyes would be riveted on it and for at least a few moments I'd be completely unaware of anything else in my environment. This is the essence of the magician's trade - with flourishes and fanfare, he makes you look where he wants you to look, so you never see him slip the card behind his ear or up his sleeve. With the news media batting clean-up, only witnesses that confirmed the OCT were given airtime, and any doubters who were interviewed were simply edited out of the evening newscast.

In an effort to hold media and government officials responsible for their evidence, CIT has produced a new film, National Security Alert, which is available as a free download at citizeninvestigationteam.com. This video compresses all of the CIT interviews into a concise 80 minutes (sans music) that summarizes their evidence clearly and soberly. Their site will also contain a section where citizens can record which officials have received a copy of the DVD, and their response (or lack thereof).

CIT will be showing excerpts of National Security Alert and addressing the implications of their findings at a free conference in Arlington, VA called *Deconstructing the Pentagon Attack*. The conference will also feature Shelton Lankford, Lt. Col. USMC (retired), a fighter pilot with over 300 combat missions, 10,000 hours of flight time, and a recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross. As of publication, attendance by Rob Balsamo of Pilots for 9/11 Truth is unconfirmed.

Held at the NRECA Conference Center at 4301 Wilson Blvd, in Arlington, the event will run from 10 am to 2:30 pm on Saturday, July 11, and is sponsored by The Wisdom Fund. Both the conference and parking are free.

Sheila Casey is a DC based journalist. Her work has appeared in *The Denver Post*, *Reuters*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, *Dissent Voice* and *Common Dreams*. She blogs at <http://www.sheilacasey.com>

How Propaganda Works

The Story of "Chief Engineer" Hyman Brown

By Patrick Marks

While introducing an interview that appeared on NBC-TV on September 11, 2001, Tom Brokaw referred to Hyman Brown as the "architect" of the World Trade Center's Twin Towers.

Hyman Brown was not the architect of the Twin Towers.

In an article that appeared on September 10, 2007, *The Jerusalem Post* referred to Hyman Brown as the "Twin Towers chief engineer."

Hyman Brown was not the Twin Towers chief engineer.

Hyman Brown, in various books, articles, lectures, and television interviews has been referred to as the "architect... chief engineer... project engineer... construction manager... fifth in command" of the Twin Towers.

None of it is true. What's more, Hyman Brown admits that none of it is true, although he has made no effort to set the record straight.

The Twin Towers were designed by architect Minoru Yamasaki in the early 1960s... when Hyman Brown was an undergraduate at City College of New York. Construction on the Twin Towers took place in the late 1960's... when Hyman Brown was attending California State University at Los Angeles. The Twin Towers were completed in 1971... when Hyman Brown was employed at Tishman Realty and Construction in Los Angeles. According to his own resume, Hyman Brown began working at the World Trade Center in 1972, a full year after the Twin Towers were dedicated. Did he hold a position of authority after 1972? Maybe. But he held no important position before then, although everywhere he goes, from Boulder to Jerusalem, he strives to leave the impression that he did.

In a history of the World Trade Center entitled *City in the Sky*, architect Minoru Yamasaki is referred to six times, chief engineer John Skilling thirteen times, structural engineer Leslie Robertson eight times, and construction manager Ray Monti six times, but Hyman Brown is not mentioned. In a personal email to me, Leslie Robertson said that he never heard of Hyman Brown. How could that be? How could the structural engineer not know the identity of the "architect", the "chief engineer", the "production manager"? Is that credible?

In an interview with me, conducted in June of 2008, Hyman Brown admitted that he held none of the titles attributed to him. "It was my first job out of college, I was 25 years old, and I was the guy who sharpened the pencils.... It was my job to open the trailer and make coffee in the morning."

But even those modest claims are probably not true.

When I asked him how he could simultaneously be in graduate school in Los Angeles and an engineer in New York, Brown told me that he "commuted" between New York and Los Angeles from 1967 through 1970, but is that credible? The typical salary for a novice engineer in 1966



were approximately \$9,000, or \$173 a week. The cost of a one-way ticket from Los Angeles to New York during that period was \$217.65, which means that a round trip ticket was probably around \$400. To believe that Hyman Brown commuted between New York and Los Angeles on the company's dime, you have to believe that Tishman Realty, which had a fixed contract of \$3.5 million, paid weekly travel fees in excess of salary for a novice engineer, who, by his own admission, did little more than make coffee. Is that credible? It is even less credible that Brown footed the bill himself, since the 1967 cost of a round trip flight was more than double his salary. And even if he did commute, how could he possibly work full time in New York and attend school full time in Los Angeles? No matter how you slice it, the story doesn't add up.

Why is this information important?

1. Hyman Brown is often cited as an "expert" on the construction of the World Trade Center. In the Tom Brokaw piece, for example, "architect" Hyman Brown "explained" why the Twin Towers collapsed. In a public talk in Boulder, Colorado, "5th in command" Hyman Brown "explained" how the steel beams melted. Hyman Brown is cited as an authority in documentaries made by the History Channel and the BBC, and even 9/11 Truth champion David Ray Griffin has quoted "construction manager" Hyman Brown. Brown's remarks are considered valuable because he was there. Problem is, he wasn't there, in all probability, and even if he was, all he did was make coffee.

2. Brown's "expert analysis" always supports the official Bush administration myth. Always. Brown "explains" why the steel melted and the buildings collapsed, even though his "explanation" has no basis in engineering, architecture, the forensic evidence, the temperature of jet fuel, the melting point of steel, or the laws of physics, and he uses his "authority" as "architect", "chief engineer", "production manager", and "5th in command" to gain instant credibility. And when people believe him, they believe the Official Myth. I know people with PhDs in the sciences who parrot Bush Administration propaganda because they heard Hyman Brown "explain" it to them. But if Hyman Brown was not "architect", "chief engineer", or "production manager", if Hyman Brown was an undergraduate when the Twin Towers

were planned, if Hyman Brown was in California when the Twin Towers were built, if Hyman Brown is a complete stranger to the men who actually built the Twin Towers, what does that say about his credibility?

3. The Myth of 9/11, for which "chief engineer" Hyman Brown is one of the most vocal spokesmen, has been used to justify unprovoked attacks on Iraq and Afghanistan, the murder of between 100,000 and 1,000,000 Iraqi citizens, the building of concentration camps, domestic spying, suspension of habeas corpus, torture, the payment of billions of dollars to shady defense contractors, a national debt that is counted in the trillions, and dozens of other domestic and foreign policy disasters. Indeed, The Myth of 9/11 is so entrenched that Barack Obama himself pledged to go after the terrorists in Afghanistan. It might seem like an innocent prank to fake your credentials and get on TV, but Hyman Brown's testimony is far from innocent. He did not create the 9/11 Myth, of course, but he lied in order to perpetuate it, and he lied early, when the myth was still being formed. It would have developed without him, I'm sure, but in his small way, he has been a cog in the Death Machine.

The question is, why was NBC News interviewing Hyman Brown in the first place, on the very day of the 9/11 disaster, when he

... wasn't the architect (although Tom Brokaw claimed he was)?

... wasn't the project engineer (although NBC correspondent Roger O'Neal claimed he was)?

... wasn't even living in New York when the Twin Towers were built?

Why did NBC call him? Or did he call them? But if they called him, why? Where did they get his name? He isn't mentioned in any book I have read about the construction of the Twin Towers. His own resume places him in California during the years when the Twin Towers were built. Why call him when people who played key roles in the project were available? Was his name on a list? And if so, where did that list come from? Who compiled it? Was the Bush administration involved? Why call him when five minutes of fact-checking would have revealed that he was neither "architect" nor "construction manager"? Why did NBC fail to do that fact-checking? And if he called them, why? Was it ego? Was it delusions of grandeur? Was he seeking his 15 minutes of fame? Or was he on the payroll of the Bush administration? Was it Hyman Brown's job to spread disinformation? And why did NBC bite? Were they merely incompetent or were they actively seeking an "expert" to lend credence to the Official Myth?

I don't know the answers to those questions. All I know is, something fishy is going on.

Patrick Marks is a member of *Colorado 9/11 Visibility*. He can be reached at patrickjer@juno.com © Patrick Marks, 2009. All rights reserved.



Nearly 700 architects and engineers have joined call for new investigation, faulting official collapse reports

ARCHITECTS from p. 1 demanding a new investigation.

They cite a variety of concerns about the "collapses" and the inadequacies of official reports. Many, like Lomba, find the unnatural symmetry of all three collapses suspicious. The rapidity of collapse — acknowledged by the government as essentially freefall acceleration — was troubling, too. Some note that the fires were weak; others ask how the tilting upper section of WTC 2 "straightened" itself. Everywhere you look, pieces of the puzzle don't fit what we have been told.

New evidence mounting over the years only validated initial discomfort: eyewitness testimony of explosions, unexplained molten iron in the debris pile, and chemical evidence of steel-cutting incendiaries — all omitted from government reports. Many engineers attack implausibilities in the Bažant pile driver model, the 2002 FEMA report and the 2005 NIST report, and also slipshod and dishonest methodology. Finally, the collapse of WTC 7, not hit by any airplane, mystified others. The repeated postponement of the government's report seemed to add fuel to the fire.

William Aciri, P.E., believes that the engineer's oath "to hold public safety above all else" demands that

they raise questions. If three modern steel highrises really underwent total progressive collapse in less than two hours of fire, merely because of the fires and some damage to the fireproofing, "we need to understand WHY!" Scott writes. "If WTC 7 failed from a localized fire event, why didn't the owners and insurers sue the designers? Either the building design was criminally faulty, or other causes not related to the structural design or fire" brought down WTC 7, Inman says

Why Should Science-Based Forensic Evidence Be Taboo?

From all across America, and from Australia, Canada, the UK, and France, the structural engineers we spoke with for this article join more than 675 other Architects and Engineers for 9/11 Truth in calling for a new investigation into the catastrophic destruction of the three World Trade Center high-rises on September 11. "The implications of the controlled demolition hypothesis as outlined on the AE911Truth.org website are staggering," says founding member Richard Gage, AIA. "We therefore invite all Americans to examine the science-based forensic evidence very carefully and come to their own conclusions."

Lomba's conclusion, drawn from his initial perceptions and validated by subsequent developments, is clear:

"Even if, for the sake of discussion, we accept the hypothesis that the fire protection was damaged and the fires somehow weakened the steel frames, that still does not explain the relatively concentric nature of the failures." Scott challenges his fellow structural engineers: "The building performance on 9/11 matched controlled demolition. It does not match fire-induced collapse. We have the expertise to discern this. Do we have the courage to broadcast it?"

AE911Truth.org

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PRESENTATION

Richard Gage and fellow Architects and Engineers for 9/11 Truth members will be here in Washington for the The American Institute of Architects (AIA) convention from July 14 - 16 at the Washington Convention Center. On Thursday July 16, a presentation will be open to the public from noon to 4pm in room 141 of the Washington Convention Center, 8th and L Street NW. That evening Richard Gage will be presenting his findings in a lecture and slide show at Busboys and Poets, 14th and V Streets NW at 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm. A donation of \$10 is suggested but no one will be turned away. (see ad page 8)



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Abu Zubaydah Was a CIA Veteran

ABU ZUBAYDAH from p. 1

state, Eric Ernest Jividen of Virginia, Lyle E. Lumsden of Virginia, Adam Buzzard of Virginia and Florida, Leroy Doland Buell of Washington, DC and Florida, and Thomas Medina. Mitchell and Jessen were consulting psychologists to the CIA.

An FBI team, that included anti-torture agent Ali Soufan, withdrew from the interrogation of Zubaydah after the two CIA psychologists, Mitchell and Jessen, began to apply torture tactics on Zubaydah, including water boarding. In fact, according to court documents obtained by WMR, the CIA flew a doctor from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore to treat Zubaydah's wounds to make him healthy enough to begin the torture sessions.

Zubaydah's torture by the CIA, given the detainee's past association with the agency, indicates that the interrogators were interested in much more than intelligence on "Al Qaeda." When Zubaydah was captured by the CIA, he was carrying two ATM bank cards, each issued by a Saudi and Kuwaiti bank. The cards were sent to Washington but fell into a "black hole."

The Bush administration failed to investigate where the money in the accounts originated. It was reported that the Saudi bank was close to the House of Saud.

From the beginning of his detention in 2002, it is highly unlikely, given the American torture, that Zubaydah ever provided any "actionable intelligence." According to WMR's source, Zubaydah was repeatedly subjected to "walling," being slammed up against a wall; sleep deprivation; water boarding, and being subjected to biting insects. Zubaydah has suffered 200 seizures since being captured in 2002. In addition, he has confessed to a number of plots that either never happened or those where a connection would have been impossible.

In fact, a source who has spoken to Zubaydah said that Zubaydah, said to be a mere shell of a human, would confess to having assassinated George W. Bush if he were asked the question.

WMR learned from another source involved in investigating torture that there are an additional 2,000 photographs of torture that have not been released by the Pentagon. WMR has also learned that private contractors played a "major role"

in torturing detainees in Guantanamo and Abu Ghraib, Iraq. Ethnic Uighurs from China, who are innocent of any involvement in terrorism, were also subjected to torture, according to our sources.

America's support for torture has also resulted in rising incidents of torture in 150 countries around the world, according to a Catholic University in Washington source. A recent Pew Research poll of different religious groups in the United States revealed that a majority of evangelical Christians support torture, Roman Catholics are evenly split, a majority of mainstream Protestants are opposed to torture, and an overwhelming majority of non-religious secular respondents are opposed to the practice. Although a number of leading Jewish commentators and leaders such as Charles Krauthammer and Alan Dershowitz favor torture, Pew did not poll the Jewish community because the national percentage in relation to the overall population was considered too low.

Wayne Madsen is a Washington based investigative journalist. www.WayneMadsenReport.com

News Bites

Government stalling on October Surprise Documents

WAYNE MADSEN/WAYNE MADSEN REPORT

In one of his first acts as President, Obama instructed all federal departments and agencies to "apply a presumption of openness" with regard to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has apparently not received the memo. At the crux of the problem at NARA is its foot dragging in releasing enclosures to a March 16, 1981, declassified memorandum from Associate Attorney General-designate Rudolph Giuliani to Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division John Keeney regarding "alleged foreign government interference with the 1980 Presidential election." In essence, the CIA requested that the Justice Department investigate charges that the Reagan-Bush campaign, with the involvement of Reagan campaign manager William Casey, negotiated with the Iranian revolutionary government an arms-for-no-hostages deal that saw US embassy hostages in Tehran kept as hostages until after the November 1980 election, a contest that saw President Jimmy Carter lose to Reagan primarily due to the Iran "hostage crisis."

US Army Blows Israel's Nuclear Cover

JERRY MAZZA/ONLINE JOURNAL

We could say it was the best-known secret in the world that was finally officially revealed, i.e., that Israel has nuclear weapons, despite the US's "policy of ambiguity." Those of you who are really surprised raise your hand.

Nevertheless, a Defense Department study finished last year reveals for the first time in an unclassified report that Israel really is a nuclear power. Actually, it's on page 37 of the US Joint Forces Command report, where the Army claims Israel is within "a growing arc of nuclear powers that runs from Israel in the west through an emerging Iran to Pakistan, India, and on to China, North Korea, and Russia in the east."

Feds Arrest the Liberty Dollar Competition

LEW ROCKWELL/LEW ROCKWELL.COM

The FBI has arrested Bernard von Nothaus and three associates for minting and selling one-ounce silver medallions called the Liberty Dollar, and describing them as money. This operation was first disrupted during the Ron Paul presidential campaign, when they began minting Ron Paul one-ounce copper, silver, and gold medallions. All four defendants are charged with "conspiracy and other charges in connection with an alleged unlawful operation to publish, possess and sell for profit, coins in resemblance and similitude to US coins," even though most people would be unlikely to mistake an ounce of silver for the tin junk uttered and passed by the US Mint.

NSA analysts spied on own wives and girlfriends

DAVID EDWARDS and MURIEL KANE/RAWSTORY

James Risen and Eric Lichtblau revealed the NSA's over-collection of data in an article for the *New York Times* on June 16, noting that one NSA analyst was even found to have been reading the private email of former President Bill Clinton.

Risen told MSNBC's Keith Olbermann the next day that he knew of no other cases like the Clinton incident but that many NSA analysts had been abusing their powers in other ways. "It sounded like, from the former NSA analyst that we interviewed, that it was rare to access the emails of celebrities or famous people," Risen stated, "but that it was fairly routine, according to him, for people to access the emails of girlfriends or wives or other people that they might know."

Commission on Wartime Contracting interim report revelations

WAYNE MADSEN/WAYNE MADSEN REPORT

The Commission on Wartime Contracting (CWC) interim report on fraud, waste, and abuse in contracts let by the US government in Iraq and Afghanistan contains a few surprise factoids.

The report, titled "At What Cost: Contingency Contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan," states: "According to command officials, 351 US bases now exist in Iraq." The previous closure of some US bases in Iraq indicates the number of bases has been higher.

Navy Vet Honored, Foiled Israeli Attack

RAY MCGOVERN/INFORMATION CLEARING HOUSE

What's the difference between murder and massacre?

The answer is Terry Halbardier, whose bravery and ingenuity as a 23-year-old Navy seaman spelled the difference between the murder of 34 of the USS *Liberty* crew and the intended massacre of all 294.

The date was June 8, 1967; and for the families of the 34 murdered and for the *Liberty's* survivors and their families, it is a "date which will live in infamy" — like the date of an earlier surprise attack on the US Navy.

The infamy is two-fold: (1) the *Liberty*, a virtually defenseless intelligence collection platform prominently flying an American flag in international waters, came under deliberate attack by Israeli aircraft and three 60-ton Israeli torpedo boats off the coast of the Sinai on a cloudless June afternoon during the six-day Israeli-Arab war; and (2) President Lyndon Johnson called back carrier aircraft dispatched to defend the *Liberty* lest Israel be embarrassed — the start of an unconscionable cover-up, including top Navy brass, that persists to this day.

In the award ceremony at the Visalia (California) office of Rep. Devin Nunes, the Republican congressman pinned the Silver Star next to the Purple Heart that Halbardier found in his home mailbox three years ago.

US and British Stoke Iran Unrest

IRAN from p. 1

the building actually collapses. The BBC has no creditable explanation, as they claim to have "lost the tapes" of that broadcast. (Thankfully it is preserved on the internet.)

The use of propaganda to destabilize foreign countries is a well used tactic of US and British intelligence.

As reported in the *Washington Post*, *Sunday Telegraph* and elsewhere, in May 2007 President George W. Bush signed "A non-lethal Presidential Finding" (fatwa) on plans for a propaganda and disinformation campaign intended to destabilize and eventually topple the Iranian regime. The plan also included efforts to manipulate the country's currency and international financial transactions.

The CIA would also supply communication equipment to enable opposition groups in Iran to bypass internet censorship.

It has also been reported by Seymour Hersh, among others, that the CIA is secretly funding militant ethnic separatist groups (terrorists) inside Iran.

In the past year there has been a wave of unrest: including bombing and assassinations of soldiers and government officials by Kurds in the west of the country, Azeris in the north, and Ahwazi Arabs in the southwest and Baluchis in the southeast.

Fred Burton, former US State Department Counter-terrorism agent, recently told the *Sunday Telegraph*. "The latest attacks inside Iran fall in line with US efforts to supply and

train Iran's ethnic minorities to destabilize the Iranian regime."

On June 1, 2009, Iran hung a terrorist named Nasrollah Zehi for a bomb attack that killed eleven Revolutionary Guards in Zahedan. The Fars News Agency reported that the weapons used in the attack were British and US made.

The US admits to secretly funding opposition terrorists in Iran, and the Iranian government confirms it. George W. Bush authorized funding of propaganda and disinformation campaigns against Iran, and the BBC, by their actions, would seem to confirm this, too.

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For Details, please visit: TWF.org/News/Y2009/0611-Pentagon.pdf

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