

WAR TIME NEWS

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...because freedom begins between the ears!

The 'War on Terrorism' is full of corruption and hypocrisy. Under the guise of a war against evil, the world's rich and powerful are waging a genocidal attack against a majority of the people on planet Earth. It must be stopped.

WAR ON THE POOR

Afghans Eat Grass to Survive, The London Guardian, 1.08.02

The village of Bonavash is slowly starving. Besieged by US bombing, the Taliban, and crushed by years of drought, people in this remote mountain settlement have resorted to eating bread made from grass and traces of barley flour. Babies whose mothers' milk has dried up are fed grass porridge. The toothless elderly crush grass into a near powder. Many have died. More are sick. Nearly everyone has diarrhoea or a hacking cough. Many are too weak to stand. Others cannot leave their homes. Some children have soft bloated bellies. When the pain becomes unbearable, their mothers tie rags around their stomachs to try to alleviate the pressure. "We are waiting to die. If food does not come, if the situation does not change, we will eat this... until we die," said Ghalam Raza, a 42-year-old man with a hacking cough, pain in his stomach and bleeding bowels.



What I am most proud of in the 'War on Terrorism' is the 'liberation of the women and children of Afghanistan.'

George W. Bush, in a January 5th speech in Portland, Oregon

Bonavash is the most accessible village in a remote northern mountain region where about 10,000 people live. People in even more distant reaches are worse off, according to aid workers and residents who have been there. "In the summer, when there are softer grasses, we feel a little better," said a farmer named Khadabakh as he looked in despair at his four young daughters. Three weeks ago they had a mother and a baby sister. But the mother's milk dried up and the six-month-old baby had trouble eating grass. "She was in her mother's arms and then she stopped breathing," he said. A few days later, the mother died. His nine-year-old daughter is now feeling sick and weak.

A new study by University of New Hampshire Professor Marc Herold has found that between Oct. 7th and Dec. 7th the number of Afghani civilians killed by US bombs was 3,767. Herold's study lists the number of casualties in each instance, the location, type of weapon and source of information. "In fact the figure I came up with is a very, very conservative estimate," Professor Herold said. The figure is well in excess of the estimated 2,998 people killed in the Sept.11 attacks.

Killing with Smaller Stones, workingforchange.com, 1.08.02

Shortly before the turn of the year, Justice Minister Karimi declared Afghanistan's new government will still impose Sharia Islamic law on its people, but with less harshness. "For example, the Taliban used to hang the victim's body in public for four days. We will only hang the body for a short time, say 15 minutes." Kabul's sports stadium, financed by the International Monetary Fund, was where the Taliban used to carry out public executions and amputations. "The stadium is for sports. We will find a new place for public executions," he said.



Judge Karif, also a leader in the new regime, makes it clear that the penalty for adulterers will stand. They would still be stoned to death, "but we will use only small stones," he told reporters. (photo: a man in Kabul is stoned to death)

Israeli Attacks Continue in Palestine, Ha'aretz News, 1.14.02

The homes of at least 100 families in the Palestinian refugee camp of Rafah were demolished by Israeli bulldozers during the night of January 10th in efforts to "protect Israeli soldiers." Though the Israeli Defense Forces commander in the Gaza Strip has said that the homes were deserted, several Israeli officers said that families were in the homes at the time of demolition.

Issa Matar, whose house was demolished, told Ha'aretz yesterday that he was born and grew up in the house. He also said his children wake in the middle of the night with nightmares and that "it is easier to cope with the tangible problems of where to stay and where to live, than with the psychological problems." [Editor's Note: the Israeli government receives more foreign aid from the US government than any other nation on earth.]

The Terror Continues, CNN, 1.03.02

On December 29th, 2001 the US announced that the government of Indonesia will receive military aid as a part of the "War on Terrorism." Military aid to Indonesia had been banned by Congress since a notorious massacre of unarmed people in 1991. Congress has still not lifted the ban.

President Megawati Sukarnoputri addressed thousands of Indonesian soldiers on Army Day, December 29th, about the growing independence movements in several of the nation's 6,000 islands inhabited by more than 228 million, mostly Muslim, people. At that ceremony, Sukarnoputri said, "Armed with the soldiers' oath and existing laws, carry out your duties and responsibilities in the best possible manner without having to worry about human rights abuses. Do your job without hesitation."

The Indonesian government also announced recently that the most rebellious island district, called Aceh, will now be subject to the strict Sharia law, the same law formerly applied by the Taliban. In response to widespread military brutality, the separatist Free Aceh Movement has called for a district wide general strike. Aceh was shut down for days at a time in 1999 and 2000 by similar general strikes.



Women of Aceh

[Editor's Note: US economic interests threatened in Indonesia include the world's largest gold mine in West Papua, and the largest liquid natural gas field on earth—owned by Texas based Exxon—in Aceh.]

SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR

War Computers Exported, The Jang Group (Pakistan), 1.09.02

GW Bush more than doubled the limit on the speed of supercomputers that US companies can sell to countries like China, Pakistan, and India, a move some critics said endangers US security. Critics noted that supercomputers that run at such high speeds are used only for two purposes: code decryption and nuclear weapons. "This has nothing to do with national security," said Gary Milhollin, director of the Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms control in DC. "We're worried about nuclear war in India and Pakistan, but we're giving both countries the means to make better nuclear weapons and better missiles to deliver them with," he said. (www.jang.com.pk/)



Bin Laden's Assets, Mike Ruppert (www.copvicia.com), 1.09.02

Although President Bush has frozen the bank accounts and transactions of 88 individuals, organizations and financial institutions, Oссama Bin Laden's personal bank, al Shamal Islamic Bank in Sudan, is not one of them. This is despite the fact that, according to the Washington Post (9.29.01), a Bin Laden associate testified in a 1998 US trial that "\$250,000 was wired from al Shamal Islamic Bank" into a "Texas bank account—where he used it to buy a plane delivered to Bin Laden...intended to transport Stinger missiles." (Bush's executive order can be viewed at www.banking.state.ny.us/1to1102a.pdf)



Ashcroft Squashes FOIA, San Francisco Chronicle, 1.07.02

In a October 12th memo, US Attorney General John Ashcroft vigorously urged federal agencies to resist most Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests made by American citizens. Passed in 1974 in the wake of the Watergate scandal, FOIA allows ordinary citizens to hold the government accountable by requesting and scrutinizing public documents and records. When coupled with Bush's November 1st executive order that allows him to seal all presidential records since 1980, the effect is positively chilling.



GLOBAL RESISTANCE

Ecuador's First Tree Sit, www.indymedia.org, 1.13.02

Activists in Ecuador have taken to the trees to defend the Mindo cloudforest and other ecosystems and communities affected by the new OCP (Oleoducto de Crudos Pesados) pipeline. At the same time, the German Bank and Federal Government of the NWR Province are debating their \$900 million dollar loan to the project. Activists have been climbing trees and building platforms while others are chained to the base to keep construction crews from advancing the 300-mile pipeline into a protected area.



NYC Protests Planned Against World Economic Forum, 1.31.02-2.04.02

Over 1,000 of the world's corporate leaders, along with top political and media representatives, will meet behind closed doors in NYC from Jan. 31-Feb. 4 at the World Economic Forum's annual meeting. Thousands plan to protest in what is expected to be the largest American anti-corporate globalization demonstration post-9/11. (for protest info. see www.anotherworlddisposable.com)

