

# BCA Dispatch

Newsletter of the **January**  
**Boston-Cambridge Alliance for Democracy** 2007

*The division is not between West and East, certainly not between Christianity and Islam. We believe in the prophets, peace be upon them. George W. Bush believes in the profits and how to get a piece of them.*

—George Galloway, MP (UK)

## CHAPTER NEWS (Continued on page 8)

### Chapter Calendar

\* \* **Beating the Oil Crisis** \* \*

Boston-Cambridge Alliance for Democracy's next meeting will be on **Wednesday, January 17, at 7:00 p.m.** at **Cambridge Friends Meeting house**, 5 Longfellow Park (10-minute walk from Harvard Square T station, west on Brattle St.), Cambridge.

#### Agenda

40 million new farmers are needed in the US, and soon! Will your son or daughter be one? To survive the end of cheap oil, they will have to live in communities, closer to the land or urban gardens. And they will probably like it! How can we do it?

See the film "**The Power of Community**" about how Cuba survived and thrived after oil was cut to a trickle. Peak Oil is almost here, and then supplies will dwindle and prices soar. Discuss Cuba and other models with **Nancy Lee Wood**—teacher, activist, community organizer.

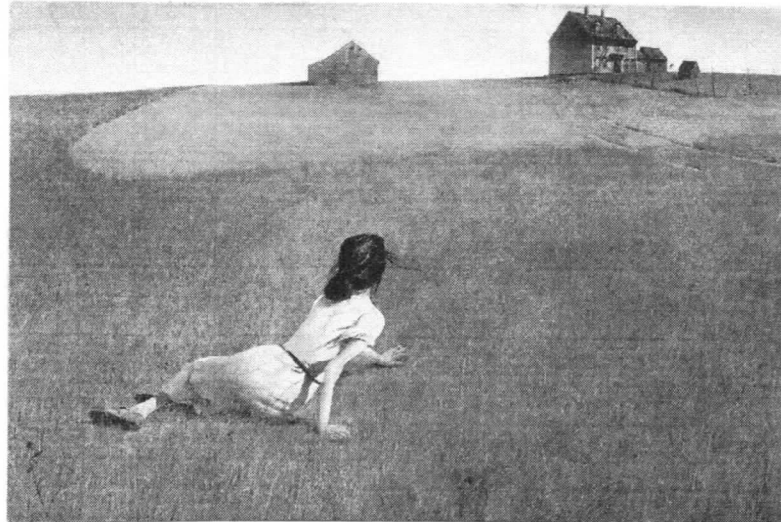
## America's Holy Warriors Rightwing Chaplains Take Over

by Chris Hedges, *truthdig.com*, 31 Dec 2006

**T**HE DRIVE BY THE CHRISTIAN RIGHT to take control of military chaplaincies, which now sees radical Christians holding roughly 50 percent of chaplaincy appointments in the armed services and service academies, is part of a much larger effort to politicize the military and law enforcement. This effort signals the final and perhaps most deadly stage in the long campaign by the radical Christian right to dismantle America's open society and build a theocratic state. A successful politicization of the military would signal the end of our democracy.

During the past two years I traveled across the country to research and write the book *American Fascists: The Christian Right and the War on America*. I repeatedly listened to radical preachers attack as corrupt and godless most American institutions, from federal agencies that provide housing and social welfare to public schools and the media. But there were two institutions that never came under attack—the military and law enforcement.

While these preachers had no interest in communicating with local leaders of other faiths, or those in the community who did not subscribe to their call for a radical Christian state, they assiduously courted and flattered (Continued on page 7 >>)



"Christina's World" by Andrew Wyeth, 1948.  
("Security and prosperity"?? Where will it end? See article below.)

## Atlantica! SuperCorridor! Without Congress, a Borderless Corporate World

by Dave Lewit, *Alliance for Democracy*

**G**ISBORNE LAKE is a 3 by 5 mile clearwater gem near Fortune Bay on the south coast of Newfoundland, Canada. Gerry White developed a plan to pump 132 million gallons each week from the lake into tankers, for sale in the US, Europe—wherever. "When environmentalists got wind of this, White's grand plan was scrapped," according to Nova Scotia activist-scholar Janet Eaton. "The environmentalists successfully argued that allowing Gisborne Lake water to be sold in bulk would make Canadian water a 'commodity' and thus subject to the terms and conditions of GATT\* and NAFTA."

According to a program of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, environmentalists went on to say "changing water levels and flows will have unpredictable and harmful consequences to basin habitat, biodiversity, shorelines, jobs and culture, particularly to First Nations... Water is an essential need, a public trust, not a commodity. It belongs to everyone and to no one... If Newfoundland is allowed to export bulk water, it becomes, ipso facto, a 'good' under NAFTA, which would allow any other company in Canada to do the same."

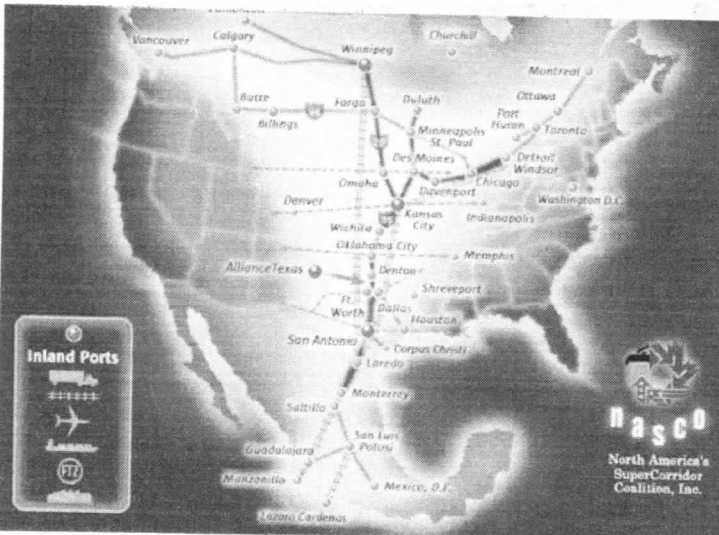
This case centers on a tiny patch of land and water in vast, water-and-oil-rich Canada—which has 20 percent of the world's fresh water. But the terms of the Pandora-box North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) would open the whole country of Canada to international water exploitation because of this one crack, with no way to turn down the tap—or turn it off—short of dangerous defiance of that rushed-through, controversial treaty.

### SuperCorridor—The Triple Bypass

No sooner had NAFTA been pushed through the US, Canadian, and Mexican congresses in 1993 than North America's largest corporations formed quiet working groups to enlarge and deepen their dream of totally reshaping and exploiting the world. (Their Multilateral Agreement on Investment—MAI—was exposed in 1997 by civil society activists including the Alliance for Democracy, in a dozen countries, and shot down. But this was merely a setback.) Not surprisingly, the "prosperity" hype of NAFTA proved to be true only for shareholders and corporate managers, while ordinary folk in all three countries lost jobs, benefits, and security as manufacturing moved farther toward

China and agriculture toward industrialization while retaining US subsidy. Wars and environmental damage accelerated, but this was of little concern to CEOs set on economic globalization.

In her startling exposé at MassGlobalAction's water conference at UMass/Amherst last September, Janet Eaton revealed the plans and ongoing actions of the Council of the Americas (COA), the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), and the Task Force on the Future of North America to containerize, slice, and corporatize America the Beautiful from the tropics of Mexico to the glaciers of Canada.

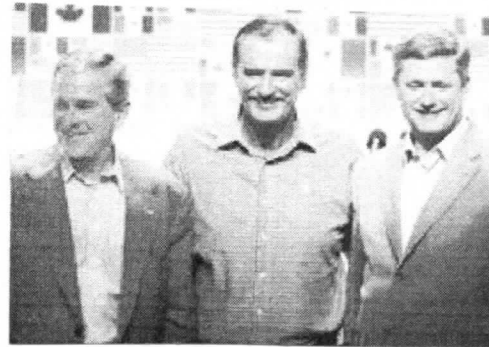


Picture this: A multi-branched transportation corridor almost a quarter mile wide with acreage approaching Vermont's size, reaching from newly constructed Mexican Pacific ports through the heartland of America to megaports in Seattle and Halifax. The super-corridor would accommodate pipelines for water, gas, oil, electric and electronic cable, freight and high-speed railways, and ten lanes of auto and megatruck traffic pumping out tons of greenhouse gasses and other pollutants 24 hours a day. The pipelines would bring oil from Mexico and Canada to refineries and cities all over the US, water from Canada to Texas and California and other parched states and to tankers heading for Europe and Asia, and the trucks (90 percent) and trains (10 percent) would carry things manufactured in East Asia through megaports and inland check-in centers to consumers in the US. The super-corridors would be partially publicly owned (having taken its land by eminent domain) but privately designed, built, controlled, tolled, and corporate-profit-yielding, with heavy subsidy from taxpayers.

### SPP--The Politics of Aggrandizement

In Amherst and in a recent update Eaton emphasized the political side, beyond the physical and fiscal. Referring to articles by Richard D. Vogel in the *Monthly Review* ([www.monthlyreview.org/0206vogel.htm](http://www.monthlyreview.org/0206vogel.htm)) and Paul Bigioni in the *Toronto Star* ([www.zmag.org/content/showarticle.cfm?SectionID=10&ItemID=11354](http://www.zmag.org/content/showarticle.cfm?SectionID=10&ItemID=11354)), she describes the quiet, government-cozy nature of the institutions and working groups set up by the corporations behind this surge in globalization. In 1965 Nelson Rockefeller and his Latin-America-investing friends set up a "Council of the Americas", which conceived of NAFTA, CAFTA, and the "fast track" method of bypassing democratic process in Congress. This group along with the Council on Foreign Relations fostered a "Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America" (SPP) endorsed at Waco, Texas, in March 2005 by the "tres amigos"

—US President George W. Bush, Mexico's Presidente Vicente Fox (both of whom took office after dubious electoral processes), and Canada's Prime Minister Paul Martin—without parliamentary or congressional authorization. In turn, a year later the SPP set up a "North American Competitiveness Council" (NACC) consisting of corporate officers of some of the largest US businesses, to directly advise the three leaders and their cabinet members for foreign affairs, international trade, and commerce.



Bush Fox Martin

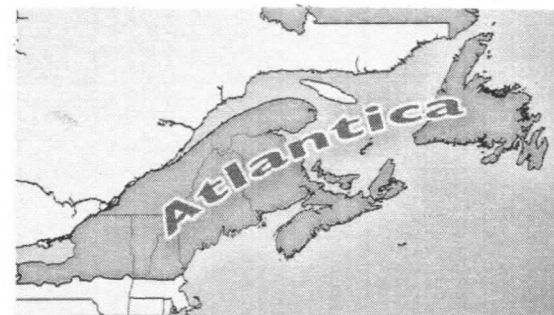
The political and corporate elite behind the SPP, says Eaton, are pushing for rapid implementation of their scheme which many see as a plan for a North American Union within a New World Order. Enabling

this are ten cross-border SPP working groups strategizing on manufactured goods & sectoral and regional competitiveness, movement of goods, energy, environment, e-commerce & information communications technologies, financial services, business facilitation, food and agriculture, transportation, and health. Three other groups are working on security issues.

A more narrowly focused North American SuperCorridor Coalition (NASCO) was formed in 1996 as a nonprofit organization and obtained hundreds of millions of dollars in federal Department of Transportation funding. They have been busy working with government officials in Texas and elsewhere, designing corridors and clearing procedural obstacles. NASCO became a pet project of the SPP which can integrate and facilitate its work in the overall North American scheme.

### Atlantica

Correlative to SuperCorridor is the notion of cross-border economic unions, for example, "Atlantica"—comprising the Maritime provinces of Canada, the upper tier of New England, and upstate New York—spawned in dispirited circles of Atlantic Canada. A SuperCorridor would be pushed from a megaport at Halifax, Nova Scotia, to the US Midwest acting as North



America's deep water commercial gateway, receiving goods in mega-container ships from China and elsewhere in

Asia. State, provincial, and federal laws would be "harmonized" to enable unimpeded flow of goods, capital, and profits. Atlantica is more hypothetical than functional, although cross-border arrangements do exist in the region—Quebec-Vermont agreements on economic cooperation, tourism, transportation, security, environment, energy, and education; Quebec-Maine agreements; annual conference of Eastern Canada premiers

and New England governors; Gulf of Maine Council on Marine Environment.

Economics clearly leads the concept of Atlantica. "Cascadia", another cross-border concept on the West Coast unlike the corporatist "Pacific NorthWest Economic Region" (PNWER), is led instead by culture and neighborliness, and a disdain for national politics. The goal of Cascadia, as with the Vermont secessionist movement, is independence, while the goal of Atlantica and PNWER is regional and even continental integration.

This is what worries conservative and right wing commentators about SPP: loss of sovereignty—not regional sovereignty, but national sovereignty. For example, Jerome Corsi, whose articles appear often on the right-wing site WorldNetDaily.com, is dismayed at the Bush group's promoting a "North American Community" with Canada and Mexico—SPP—without congressional authority, and at keeping secret the names of SPP working group members (as was also true of MAI). He fears that Canada and Mexico will change US protective laws regardless of what Americans want. This from the man who co-wrote *Unfit for Command: Swift Boat Veterans speak out against John Kerry* and who wrote *Black Gold Stranglehold: The myth of scarcity and the politics of oil*.

### Beyond Fascism

Indeed, liberals would agree, there is cause for worry. Janet Eaton points out the similarity of Bush-Fox-Martin operations (now Bush-Calderón-Harper) to the development of fascism in Europe in the 1930s. She quotes Paul Bigione writing in the *Toronto Star* of 7 November 2006: "To my dismay I see in North America a repetition of the German trend... What is entirely new however, is the global ambition of our business leaders. Today's business elite have at their disposal the NAFTA and WTO-administered trade agreements with which to limit the ability of government to interfere with their profits. NACC members already recommend the creation of more supranational governmental bodies to administer different aspects of the North American economy. By this means, national sovereignty will be further displaced, and the voice of the citizen will matter even less."

"In other words," says Eaton, "SPP (or 'NAFTA-Plus') is driven by globalist aspirations to link regions of the world into new political-economic entities which would be controlled by a global elite far removed from democratic reach. There is much thinking not just in US right wing circles but also in Canadian left wing, Green, and nationalist political parties, and in anti-globalization civil society groups, that this is all about a North American Union similar to the European Union." They fear that it would bring not just loss of liberty to Americans, Canadians, and Mexicans, but subjugation to a transnational elite—analogue, perhaps, to submission to the medieval Church, the Chinese Communist Party, or the Ayatollah.

As if this were not enough, the SuperCorridor flies in the face of sustainability. It furthers the fossil fuel economy, hastening climatic catastrophe and earth-poisoning. It would accelerate water theft—theft of the Commons. It is eco-destructive, slicing and ruining animal habitat and hastening die-off also in the plant world. It is community-destroying, flooding us with foreign goods at the expense of local industry and ingenuity, usurping still more jobs with "guest" labor.

"Security and Prosperity Partnership" is the next seductively misnamed program for an unsustainable, take-it-or-leave-it, trickle-down world. For the short-term benefit of the few, with

the bedazzlement of the many, most of us are being led further into a brave new world of consumerism for the lucky. If that trend continues our environment and economy will collapse, ending for us in desolation and humiliation.

If we can share our insights we may realize that we must look elsewhere for viable systems and leadership. As the Hopi elders prophesied, "We are the ones we have been waiting for." "We" includes our democratic, humanistic brothers and sisters across borders.

### \* Table of Acronyms:.....

CAFTA	Central America Free Trade Agreement
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CFR	Council on Foreign Relations
COA	Council of the Americas
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
MAI	Multilateral Agreement on Investment
NACC	North American Competitiveness Council
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement
NASCO	North American SuperCorridor Coalition
PNWER	Pacific NorthWest Economic Region
SPP	Security and Prosperity Partnership

*This article was inspired and factually provisioned by Janet M Eaton, PhD—part time academic, independent researcher, friend of the Alliance for Democracy, and activist whose career has spanned a gamut of concerns from marine biology to community-based economic development, adult education, anti-corporate globalization, corporate accountability, public policy, water privatization, deep integration, and systemic change. She is currently the Sierra Club of Canada's International Liaison to the Sierra Club's Corporate Accountability Committee and Water Privatization Task Force, the national Co-Chair of the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, and has just been named International Trade Critic for the Green Party of Canada. She is presently researching and writing a "Guide to Continental Integration -- Why Say NO to the SPP!" which will be available before the next election in Canada projected to be sometime between this spring and fall.*



*Janet's power-point presentation on SPP/SuperCorridor/Atlantica is available at [www.sierraclub.org/cac/water/](http://www.sierraclub.org/cac/water/). For her 1500-word summary and update of that presentation contact BCA Dispatch editor at [boston@newenglandalliance.org](mailto:boston@newenglandalliance.org). She also recommends [www.thealliancefordemocracy.org/](http://www.thealliancefordemocracy.org/), <http://defendingwaterinmaine.org/> and [www.worldwaterwars.com/](http://www.worldwaterwars.com/).*

*Janet can be reached at [jmeaton@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:jmeaton@ns.sympatico.ca)*

**Action Note:** Why not form a "Speaker-phone Solidarity" group? Talk every week with new friends in Mexico and Canada. Get names and numbers from web sites of Council of Canadians ([www.canadians.org](http://www.canadians.org)), Mexico Solidarity Network ([www.mexicosolidarity.org](http://www.mexicosolidarity.org)), or google Phone Solidarity Mexico Canada (567,000 entries!).



## Exxon, Shell, BP to Have Their Way in Iraq

**T**HE INDEPENDENT OF LONDON is reporting the Iraqi government is drafting a new law that would give big oil companies such as BP, Shell and Exxon 30-year contracts to extract Iraqi crude.

The law is expected to come before the Iraqi parliament within days. Foreign oil companies would be allowed to take up to 75 percent of the profits until they have recouped initial drilling costs. After that, they would collect about 20 per cent of all profits -- that is about twice the industry average for such deals." The oil law would allow the first large-scale operation of foreign oil interests in the country since the industry was nationalized in 1972.

—Democracy Now radio, 8 Jan 2006

## Wanted: Embassy Staff for Baghdad \$\$\$ , Luxury Living, Vacations, Plum Jobs Later?

by Guy Dinmore, *Financial Times*, 8 Jan 2007

**A**T THE HEART of George W. Bush's "new way forward"—which the president is expected to announce on Wednesday and involve substantial troop reinforcements—is the plan already under way to expand the US civilian presence across Iraq and complete the world's largest embassy in Baghdad.

Construction of what critics call "Fortress Baghdad" has led to arguments inside the State Department amid fears that the overwhelming diplomatic presence will perpetuate a sense of US occupation and become a focus of local anger. US diplomats say that just as the armed forces are being stretched to breaking point, the US foreign service is suffering from low morale and operations in the rest of the world are being damaged by the diversion of resources to Iraq. Officials are also questioning why the Bush administration is sending more civilians into a deteriorating war zone, and the effectiveness of the work they can do.

The embassy compound being built inside Baghdad's Green Zone covers 104 acres, making it six times larger than the United Nations compound in New York. A city within a city for more than 1,000 people, it will have its own water, sewers and electricity, six apartment buildings, a Marine barracks, swimming pool, shops and some walls 15 feet thick.

The State Department has told the *Financial Times* that the US civilian presence in Iraq has "grown considerably beyond the numbers projected for the new embassy compound", which is scheduled for completion by September 1 at a cost of \$592m.

The department and other agencies, such as the Pentagon and Treasury which also supply staff, are working out how to accommodate the extra numbers that Mr Bush is expected to announce this week. Recruits are being attracted to one-year posts by a mix of cajoling and inducement—an almost doubling of their salary, four trips outside Iraq and guarantees of favourable postings afterwards.

Condoleezza Rice, secretary of state, and other officials have repeatedly sent cables to personnel around the world saying diplomats have a patriotic duty to volunteer for Baghdad and the expanding "provincial reconstruction teams", where diplomats work out of military bases. "Baghdad dwarfs everything else. It

is becoming a monster that has to be fed every year with a new crop of volunteers," says one diplomat.

So far the State Department has not resorted to compulsory or "directed" assignments, a practice last used during the Vietnam war. But it has warned it would put assignments elsewhere on hold "if Iraq and Afghanistan and other priority posts are not staffed". Among the many recommendations of the bipartisan Baker-Hamilton report on Iraq, issued in December, was that diplomats and other US personnel should be obliged to serve in Iraq if there were not enough volunteers.

Steve Kashkett, vice-president of the American Foreign Service Association, the professional body representing US foreign service officers, questions their logic. "It makes no sense for the Iraq report authors simultaneously to propose scaling back the US military presence and beefing up the presence of unarmed US diplomats in a combat zone," he writes this month in the association's journal.

John Brown, who resigned as a US diplomat in protest against the 2003 invasion and now teaches public diplomacy, says the embassy "will be a symbol of the US occupation and the near-total separation of US embassy staff members from the society with which they are supposed to interact. Indeed, the planned embassy reminds me of the huge, cavernous buildings that housed Soviet missions in eastern Europe during the cold war. They were hated by the local population for all they stood for: secrecy, arrogance and domination."

Of the 1,000 or so US civilians staffing Baghdad at present—not including large numbers of private-sector bodyguards—there are about 200 career diplomats, plus some 70 in the provincial reconstruction teams that are set to expand. Many other staffers are so-called "3161s"—recruited ad hoc and, according to the State Department, "fully qualified for their highly technical jobs". Diplomats question this, saying many are incompetent and have been hired for their loyalty to the Republican effort.

Asked why the US was sending more diplomats into a war zone when such conditions elsewhere in the world would lead to closure or drawdown of embassies, the State Department said such comparisons were "inappropriate", noting the embassy had suffered "minimal casualties".

## Israel Preparing to Nuke Iran Nuke Labs



**I**SRAEL HAS DRAWN UP SECRET PLANS to destroy Iran's uranium enrichment facilities with tactical nuclear weapons. This according to the *Times of London*.

The paper is reporting that two Israeli air force squadrons are training to blow up an Iranian facility using low-yield nuclear "bunker-busters." The attack would be the first with nuclear weapons since 1945, when the United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Israeli weapons would each have a force equivalent to one-fifteenth of the Hiroshima bomb. The Israeli Foreign Ministry denied the report.

—Democracy Now radio, 8 Jan 2007

## A Lynching...

### Iraqi Woman Sees Saddam Jeered, Hanged

by "River", Baghdad Burning\*, 31 Dec 2006

"... I'll meet you 'round the bend my friend, where hearts can heal and souls can mend..."

IT'S OFFICIAL. MALIKI AND HIS PEOPLE ARE PSYCHOPATHS. This really is a new low. It's outrageous—an execution during Eid. Muslims all over the world (with the exception of Iran) are outraged. Eid is a time of peace, of putting aside quarrels and anger—at least for the duration of Eid.

This does not bode well for the coming year. No one imagined the madmen would actually do it during a religious holiday. It is religiously unacceptable and before, it was constitutionally illegal. We thought we'd at least get a few days of peace and some time to enjoy the Eid holiday, which coincides with the New Year this year. We've spent the first two days of a holy holiday watching bits and pieces of a sordid lynching.

*America the savior...* After nearly four years and Bush's biggest achievement in Iraq has been a lynching. *Bravo Americans.*

Maliki has made the mistake of his life. His signature and unhidden glee at the whole execution, especially on the first day of *Eid Al Adha* (the Eid where millions of Muslims make a pilgrimage to Mecca), will only do more to damage his already tattered reputation. He's like a vulture in a suit (or a balding weasel). It's almost embarrassing. I kept expecting Muwafaq Al Rubaii to run over and wipe the drool from the corner of his mouth as he signed for the execution. Are these the people who represent the New Iraq? We're in so much more trouble than I ever thought. And no—not the celebrations BBC are claiming. With the exception of a few areas, the streets are empty.

Now we come to CNN. Shame on you CNN journalists—you're getting lazy. The least you can do is get the last words correct when you write a story about an execution. Your articles are read the world over and will go down in history as references. You people are the biggest news network in the world—the least you can do is spend some money on a decent translator. Saddam's last words were NOT "Muqtada Al Sadr" as Munir Haddad claimed, according to the article below. If anyone had seen at least part of the video they showed on TV, you'd know that.

"A witness, Iraqi Judge Munir Haddad, said that one of the executioners told Hussein that the former dictator had destroyed Iraq, which sparked an argument that was joined by several government officials in the room.

As a noose was tightened around Hussein's neck, one of the executioners yelled "long live Muqtada al-Sadr," Haddad said, referring to the powerful anti-American Shiite religious leader.

Hussein, a Sunni, uttered one last phrase before he died, saying "Muqtada al-Sadr" in a mocking tone, according to Haddad's account."

From the video that was leaked, it was not an executioner who yelled "long live Muqtada al-Sadr". See—this is another low the Maliki government sunk to—they had some hecklers conveniently standing by during the execution. Maliki claimed they were "some witnesses from the trial", but they were, very obviously, hecklers. The moment the noose was around Saddam's neck, they began chanting, in unison, "God's prayers be on Mohamed and on Mohamed's family..." Something else I didn't

quite catch (but it was very coordinated), and then "Muqtada, Muqtada, Muqtada!" One of them called out to Saddam, "Go to hell..." (in Arabic). Saddam looked down disdainfully and answered "*Heya hay il marjala...?*" which is basically saying, "Is this your manhood...?".

Someone half-heartedly called out to the hecklers, "I beg you, I beg you—the man is being executed!" They were slightly quieter and then Saddam stood and said, "*Ashadu an la ilaha ila Allah, wa ashadu ana Mohammedun rasool Allah...*" Which means, "I witness there is no god but Allah and that Mohammed is His messenger." These are the words a Muslim (Sunnis and Shia alike) should say on their deathbed. He repeated this one more time, very clearly, but before he could finish it, he was lynched.

So, no, CNN, his last words were not "Muqtada Al Sadr" in a mocking tone—just thought someone should clear that up. (Really, people, six of you contributed to that article!)

Then again, one could argue that it was a judge who gave them that false information. A judge on the Iraqi appeals court—one of the judges who ratified the execution order. Everyone knows Iraqi judges under American tutelage never lie—that explains CNN's confusion.

Muwafaq Al Rubai was said he was "weak and frightened". Apparently, Rubai saw a different lynching because according to the video they leaked, he didn't look frightened at all. His voice didn't shake and he refused to put on the black hood. He looked resigned to his fate, and during the heckling he looked as defiant as ever. (It's quite a contrast to Muhsin Abdul Hameed's public hysterics last year when the Americans raided his home.)

It's one thing to have militias participating in killings. This is allegedly the democracy the Americans flaunt. Is this how bloodthirsty and frightening we've become? Is this what Iraq stands for now? Executions? I'm sure the rest of the Arab countries will be impressed.

One of the most advanced countries in the world did not help to reconstruct Iraq, they didn't even help produce a decent constitution. They did, however, contribute nicely to a kangaroo court and a lynching. A lynching shall go down in history as America's biggest accomplishment in Iraq. So who's next? Who hangs for the hundreds of thousands who've died as a direct result of this war and occupation? Bush? Blair? Maliki? Jaffari? Allawi? Chalabi?

2006 has definitely been representative of Maliki and his government—killings like never before and a lynching to end it properly. Death and destruction everywhere. I'm so tired of all of this...

*My bio is that I'm a 27-year-old Iraqi woman—born in Iraq to Iraqi parents—living in Baghdad. I was raised abroad (not the US) as a child and returned to Iraq as a teenager where I completed my education in an Iraqi high school and university (I'm a computer scientist)... I use the name "Riverbend" because I couldn't write freely otherwise.*

*I never really considered my English as purely "American". I guess we pick up American slang, etc. from movies, tv shows, music... My readers are from all over the world—Iraqis, Americans (even soldiers), Brits, etc.*

*\* River can be read almost daily at <http://riverbendblog.blogspot.com> You'll be carried away by her presence, catholicity, clarity, and energy. They're making it into a book. —Ed.*

## 9/11 An Inside Job Boston Air Traffic Controller Is Sure

by Paul Joseph Watson, [www.prisonplanet.com](http://www.prisonplanet.com), 14 Dec 2006

**A** FORMER BOSTON CENTER AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER has gone public on his assertion that 9/11 was an inside job and that Donald Rumsfeld and the Pentagon tracked three of the four flights from the point of their hijacking to hitting their targets.

In an astounding telephone interview, Robin Hordon claims air traffic controllers have been ignored or silenced to protect the true perpetrators of 9/11. A recording of the phone conversation was posted on Google video late yesterday by the Pilots For 9/11 Truth organization.

After having acquired a background in aviation, Hordon underwent rigorous FAA training to become an air traffic controller and was posted to Boston Center where he worked for eleven years. He did not work at Boston Center when 9/11 occurred but still knows people that did who concur with his conclusions. In comparing the stand-down of air defense on 9/11 and what should have occurred according to standard operating procedure, he quickly concluded on the very afternoon of the attacks that they could represent nothing other than an inside job.

"On September 11th I'm one of the few people who really within quite a few hours of the whole event taking place just simply knew that it was an inside job, and it wasn't because of the visuals, the collapses, whatever....I knew that it was an inside job I think within about four or five o'clock that afternoon and the reason that I knew is because when those aircraft did collide and then we got the news and information on where the aircraft were and where they went....if they knew where the aircraft were and were talking to them at a certain time then normal protocol is to get fighter jet aircraft up assist," said Hordon.

Hordon said that from personal experience he knew the system was always ready to immediately scramble intercepting fighters and that any reversal of that procedure would have been unprecedented and abnormal. He had also personally handled both real hijacking situations in his airspace and other emergency procedures. "I know people who work there who confirmed to me that the FAA was not asleep and the controllers could do the job, they followed their own protocols," he stated.

Hordon said that the only way the airliners could have avoided being intercepted was if a massive electrical and communications failure had occurred which it didn't on that day, adding that there was "no way" the hijacked airliners could have reached their targets otherwise. He highlighted the fact that only an emergency handling of aircraft protocol change on that day could have interrupted standard operating procedure and hijacking protocol. Hordon said it was unbelievable how far American Airlines Flight 11 was allowed to go off course without the appropriate action being taken on behalf of flight controllers.

"What you do is you don't wait for the judge, jury and executioner to prove it's an emergency, if things start to go wrong you have the authority to simply say I am going to treat this craft as if it is an emergency, because if everybody's wrong then fifteen minutes later no big thing."

Hordon emphasized that the debate has deliberately been channeled by NORAD [North American Aerospace Defense Command] and the government to focus on reactions to hijackings, when the real issue is the emergency condition of the

aircraft well before a hijacking is even confirmed. He went on to explain how as soon as the hijacking of Flight 11 was confirmed at around 8:24am, the entire system, from every FAA center coast to coast, to the Pentagon, to the President were informed and knew of the hijacking. "The system now had to make some phone calls and call up Rummy's Pentagon, and Rummy's Pentagon is the one that would then make the decision.

"Well, Rummy's Pentagon on American 11 didn't answer the phone, neither 175, didn't answer the phone and they didn't answer the phone until they were absolutely embarrassed into answering the phone somewhere along the flight of United 93 and American 77—first formal contact was at this particular time," said Hordon. "That is all distractionary, that is all designed to keep people off the focus—the real focus is what the air traffic controller did immediately upon seeing that American 11 was in trouble and what we do as air traffic controllers is we get eyes and ears on this flight."

Hordon underscored the fact that after the confirmed hijacking of Flight 11, the entire FAA system would have been on full alert and obsessively watching the skies for any unusual activity, and that such activity as the hijacking of Flight 77 would have been immediately reported to supervisors instantaneously, as well as being continually tracked. "If the air traffic controller were going by emergency procedures which he is trained to do, he would have reached out directly to ADC (NORAD) and say what do you see?" said Hordon.

This highlights the absurdity of Dulles controllers mistaking Flight 77 for a fighter jet as it approached Washington as was reported, and the plane's over-40-minute uninterrupted journey to the Pentagon after a hijack was confirmed.

Hordon debunked the recent *Vanity Fair* piece that white-washed NORAD's response as a consequence of confusion and the supposition that NORAD needs exact flight coordinates to enact any kind of response, and that the planes were supposedly invisible to radar and couldn't be tracked properly. "It's very clear now through testimony and documents given to us by the federal government that indeed....the Boston Center actually tracked American 11 as a primary target after it lost its radar, after it lost its transponder, all the way to World Trade Center," he said.

"Further information indicates later the NORAD radars had it tracked.... The bottom line of the story is that all of those aircraft were always tracked all the time by the FAA air traffic control centers," said Hordon, pointing out that information showing air traffic controllers tried insistently to alert military command structures is being locked down because it points the finger of responsibility to Donald Rumsfeld and the Pentagon, who were also tracking all the aircraft from the point of hijacking to the impact on their targets. This is the reason why, as Hordon stated, that we don't have complete access to flight data recorders and FAA tapes, which in the case of a conversation between six New York Air Route Traffic Control Center controllers was ordered to be shredded, because if studies of that evidence were undertaken it would become very clear as to who was really behind the attack.

"What they did is they cherry picked transmissions, communications and statements made all on these four flights that were able to paint and write a story that the public would look at and so 'ooh wow, this really happened'—but it wasn't factual, it was a story and it tell not tell anything other than what the high perps wanted the public to hear. They cherry picked this information."



Hordon ended by saying that only with the testimony from the dozens of flight controllers who have been silenced or ignored would the true story about who carried out 9/11 begin to emerge.

## Citizens Want Rational Voting Support Instant Runoff, Proportional Rep'n

by Liberty Tree, [www.libertytreedfr.org](http://www.libertytreedfr.org), 8 Jan 2007

**A** SURVEY commissioned by the New America Foundation finds that nearly three-quarters of California voters would like to see the governor and the Legislature create a citizen's panel to explore ideas for making the state's election process more fair and competitive. If lawmakers did not convene the panel, two-thirds said they would vote for an initiative to create one.

### They Don't Trust Politicians or Experts

The findings identified overwhelming demand for better elections, as the governor and other leaders have sought to achieve through an independent redistricting proposal. Nearly 70% of respondents said they are unsatisfied with the quality of candidates on the ballot and they "often feel [they] are voting for the lesser of two evils." More than three out of four voters also said the system favors Democrat and Republican candidates and is unfair to independents or minor party candidates. And nearly 60% said the system needs improvement and that government would perform better if a wider variety of candidates were elected.

But the poll also suggests that voters don't trust politicians to set the rules for their own elections and they are much more confident in citizen-based solutions. About 70% of the poll respondents said they would be more likely to support the recommendations of an average citizens panel as opposed to government or political leaders. Just 10% were more likely to support government recommendations. Voters also were more likely to support a recommendation from an average citizens panel than one composed of independent experts.

### Canada Citizen Assembly Evaluates Democracy

The support for citizen recommendations was also reflected in the reaction to a citizen-based reform model that was used recently in British Columbia (Canada). Nearly 73% of respondents said California should repeat the British Columbia model, where 160 voters were randomly selected to participate in a year-long evaluation of their democracy. At the conclusion, the recommendations of the panel—known as a Citizens Assembly—were placed on the ballot for all voters to decide. Under the Citizens Assembly model, average California voters could recommend improvements to the state's election process, possibly including an independent redistricting commission, open primaries, campaign finance reform or alternative election methods. Two California legislators introduced a constitutional amendment, ACA 28, into the 2006 legislative session.

The also survey found a majority of voters across the state already support two alternative election methods – Instant Runoff Voting or Proportional Voting.

### No-Nonsense Voting Methods

Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) has been used in San Francisco to elect local offices since 2004. Under the plan, voters are allowed to rank their first, second and third choices for each office. The

second and third choice rankings are used to elect majority winners in a single election if no candidate receives more than 50% (a majority) of the first choice rankings. The idea is designed to encourage a wider variety of viable candidates, discourage negative campaigning and save taxpayer money by eliminating traditional runoff elections. On Nov. 7, Oakland voters overwhelmingly passed Instant Runoff Voting with 69% of the vote, and Davis voters passed it with 55%.

Nearly 52% of the poll respondents liked the idea of ranking their choices for elected office. Support for the idea increased to 59% if voters thought it would discourage negative campaigns and to 70% if it would save taxpayer money.

A similar majority in the poll supported Proportional Voting, which also uses ranked choices as well as multiple seat districts to help elect a wider variety of candidates and give voters more viable choices on election day.

The survey was commissioned by New America Foundation and conducted by the Survey and Policy Research Institute in San Jose. It interviewed a random sample of 600 registered California voters who had cast ballots in at least one of the last four elections or who were newly registered to vote. These voters are referred to as active voters. The Surveys were conducted Nov. 27-30 in English and Spanish by EMH Opinions of Sacramento. The statistical margin of error for the survey, at the 95% confidence level, is plus or minus 4 percentage points.

## MILITARY CHAPLAINS (Continued from page 1)

the military and police. They held special services and appreciation days for all four branches of the armed services and for various law enforcement agencies. They encouraged their young men and women to enlist or to join the police or state troopers. They sought out sympathetic military and police officials to attend church events where these officials were lauded and feted for their Christian probity and patriotism. They painted the war in Iraq not as an occupation but as an apocalyptic battle by Christians against Islam, a religion they regularly branded as "satanic." All this befits a movement whose final aesthetic is violence. It also befits a movement that, in the end, would need the military and police forces to seize power in American society.

One of the arguments used to assuage our fears that the mass movement being built by the Christian right is fascist at its core is that it has not yet created a Praetorian Guard, referring to the paramilitary force that defied legal constraints, made violence part of the political discourse and eventually plunged ancient Rome into tyranny and despotism. A paramilitary force that operates outside the law, one that sows fear among potential opponents and is capable of physically silencing those branded by their leaders as traitors, is a vital instrument in the hands of despotic movements. Communist and fascist movements during the last century each built paramilitary forces that operated beyond the reach of the law.

### U S Paramilitaries in Black

And yet we may be further down this road than we care to admit. Erik Prince, the secretive, mega-millionaire, right-wing Christian founder of Blackwater, the private security firm that has built a formidable mercenary force in Iraq, champions his company as a patriotic extension of the U.S. military. His employees, in an act as cynical as it is deceitful, take an oath of loyalty to the Constitution. These mercenary units in Iraq, including Blackwater, contain some 20,000 fighters. They unleash indiscrimi-

nate and wanton violence against unarmed Iraqis, have no accountability and are beyond the reach of legitimate authority. The appearance of these paramilitary fighters, heavily armed and wearing their trademark black uniforms, patrolling the streets of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, gave us a grim taste of the future. It was a stark reminder that the tyranny we impose on others we will one day impose on ourselves.

"Contracting out security to groups like Blackwater undermines our constitutional democracy," said Michael Ratner, the president of the Center for Constitutional Rights. "Their actions may not be subject to constitutional limitations that apply to both federal and state officials and employees—including First Amendment and Fourth Amendment rights to be free from illegal searches and seizures. Unlike police officers they are not trained in protecting constitutional rights and unlike police officers or the military they have no system of accountability whether within their organization or outside it. These kind of paramilitary groups bring to mind Nazi Party brownshirts, functioning as an extrajudicial enforcement mechanism that can and does operate outside the law. The use of these paramilitary groups is an extremely dangerous threat to our rights."

### Top Brass for a Christian America

The politicization of the military, the fostering of the belief that violence must be used to further a peculiar ideology rather than defend a democracy, was on display recently when Air Force and Army generals and colonels, filmed in uniform at the Pentagon, appeared in a promotional video distributed by the Christian Embassy, a radical Washington-based organization dedicated to building a "Christian America."

The video, first written about by Jeff Sharlet in the December issue of *Harper's Magazine* and filmed shortly after 9/11, has led the Military Religious Freedom Foundation to raise a legal protest against the Christian Embassy's proselytizing within the Department of Defense. The video was hastily pulled from the Christian Embassy website and was removed from YouTube a few days ago under threats of copyright enforcement.

Dan Cooper, an undersecretary of veterans affairs, says in the video that his weekly prayer sessions are "more important than doing the job." Maj. Gen. Jack Catton says that his being an adviser to the Joint Chiefs of Staff is a "wonderful opportunity" to evangelize men and women setting defense policy. "My first priority is my faith," he says. "I think it's a huge impact.... You have many men and women who are seeking God's counsel and wisdom as they advise the chairman [of the Joint Chiefs] and the secretary of defense."

Col. Ralph Benson, a Pentagon chaplain, says in the video: "Christian Embassy is a blessing to the Washington area, a blessing to our capital; it's a blessing to our country. They are interceding on behalf of people all over the United States, talking to ambassadors, talking to people in the Congress, in the Senate, talking to people in the Pentagon, and being able to share the message of Jesus Christ in a very, very important time in our world is winning a worldwide war on terrorism. What more do we need than Christian people leading us and guiding us, so, they're needed in this hour."

The group has burrowed deep inside the Pentagon. It hosts weekly Bible sessions with senior officers, by its own count some 40 generals, and weekly prayer breakfasts each Wednesday from 7 to 7:50 a.m. in the executive dining room as well as numerous outreach events to, in the words of the organization, "share and sharpen one another in their quest to bridge the gap

between faith and work."

### Baghdad = New Orleans = Boston?

If the United States falls into a period of instability caused by another catastrophic terrorist attack, an economic meltdown or a series of environmental disasters, these paramilitary forces, protected and assisted by fellow ideologues in the police and military, could swiftly abolish what is left of our eroding democracy. War, with the huge profits it hands to businesses and right-wing interests that often help bankroll the Christian right, could become a permanent condition. And the thugs with automatic weapons, black uniforms and wraparound sunglasses who appeared on street corners in Baghdad and New Orleans could appear on streets across the U.S. Such a presence could paralyze us with fear, leaving us unable to question or protest the closed system and secrecy of an emergent totalitarian state and unable to voice dissent.

"The Bush administration has already come close to painting our current wars as wars against Islam—many in the Christian right apparently have this belief," Ratner said. "If these wars, bad enough as imperial wars, are fought as religious wars, we are facing a very dark age that could go on for a hundred years and that will be very bloody."

*Chris Hedges is former chief of the New York Times Mideast Bureau.*

## CHAPTER NEWS

At our December meeting, 21 people enthusiastically discussed BCA's reportback from Venezuela with delegates **Richard Krushnic**, **Bill Stevens**, and **Dave Lewit**. If you missed it or not, try the larger followup announced immediately below.

## ACTION ALERT

Thu 18 Jan. 7:00pm. Boston. **Venezuelan Presidential Election Report-Back** with delegation leaders **Jorge Marín** and **Eliecer Calderón**, and others not present at BCA December 20—**Kendra Fehrer**, **Susan Foster**... Refreshments, video, photos, music. \$5 donation. Bolivarian Circle of Boston, 33 Harrison Ave, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chinatown. Info, Jorge: 508-577-4661.

## JOIN THE BCA

### YOU DON'T HAVE TO LIVE IN BOSTON TO LOVE BCA

Please help us as we fight to make a better future for ourselves and our children -- Join the Boston/Cambridge Alliance for Democracy.

(Cut out or copy this form and send it to

Dave Lewit, 271 Dartmouth St., Boston, MA 02116.)

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\_\_\_ \$52/Year - "Contributor" (We need to average this amount.)

\_\_\_ \$104/Year - "Sustainer" (Helping us thrive.)

\_\_\_ \$208/Year - "Community Steward"

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