

# BCA Dispatch

"The issue is not issues; the issue is the system"  
—Ronnie Dugger

Newsletter of the **January**  
**Boston-Cambridge Alliance for Democracy** **2009**

Co-sponsor and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Kentucky Republican, said before the vote on Gaza resolution: "The Israelis...are responding exactly the same way we would."

---No shit! Doesn't that say it all? —Blog reader

## COMMUNITY NOTES

Come to the next meeting of **BCA/North Bridge working group** on **Tuesday, 3 February, 7:30p.m.**, in Waltham MA at 760 Main St. The #70 bus from Central Square, Cambridge, drops you off at Exchange St., right across from the fieldstone church behind which is AfD's home office. Plenty of parking right there. We will be working on a new healthcare bill for Congress, the new Globalization Impact bill, video presentations, etc. Share conversation and cookies! Info: 781-894-1179.

Rep. **Byron Rushing** in the first days of the new legislative session filed a revised version of our Globalization Impact Bill, which we have been promoting for nearly 10 years. After 9/11 it was hard to get legislators' attention, even though foreign trade was as critical an issue as ever, now (Continued on Page 12 >>)

## Rockets? It's the Gas, Stupid! Israel's Grab for Palestine's Offshore Gas

by Michel Chossudovsky, GlobalResearch.ca, 8 January 2009

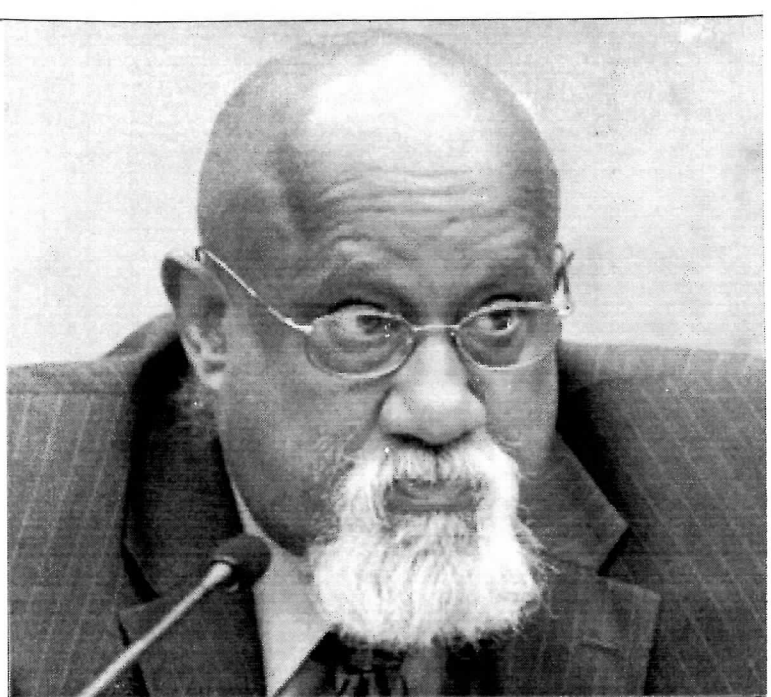
**T**HE MILITARY INVASION OF THE GAZA STRIP by Israeli Forces bears a direct relation to the control and ownership of strategic offshore gas reserves.

This is a war of conquest. Discovered in 2000, there are extensive gas reserves off the Gaza coastline.

British Gas (BG Group) and its partner, the Athens-based Consolidated Contractors International Company (CCC) owned by Lebanon's Sabbagh and Koury families, were granted oil and gas exploration rights in a 25-year agreement signed in November 1999 with the Palestinian Authority.

The rights to the offshore gas field are respectively British Gas (60 percent); Consolidated Contractors (CCC) (30 percent); and the Investment Fund of the Palestinian Authority (10 percent). (Haaretz, October 21, 2007). The PA-BG-CCC agreement includes field development and the construction of a gas pipeline (Middle East Economic Digest, Jan 5, 2001). The BG licence covers the entire Gazan offshore marine area, which is contiguous to several Israeli offshore gas facilities. (See map on Page 5 below). It should be noted that *60 percent of the gas reserves along the Gaza-Israel coastline belong to Palestine. [Italic emphasis is ours throughout this article. —Ed.]*

The BG Group drilled two wells in 2000: Gaza Marine-1 and Gaza Marine-2. Reserves are estimated by British Gas to be of the order of 1.4 trillion cubic feet, valued at approximately 4 billion dollars. These are the figures made public by British Gas. The size of Palestine's gas reserves (Continued on Page 4 >>)



Boston City Councilor Chuck Turner photo: The Phoenix

Embattled City Councilor Chuck Turner is being harassed and threatened with prison by the FBI on transparently set-up charges of bribery that have nothing to do with the federal government or interstate commerce (the open-sesame for federal jurisdiction), but are legitimized by a federal grand jury—no cross-examination of witnesses allowed—called by the federal DA. (Republican prosecuting attorney Michael Sullivan is rumored to be entering the race for Massachusetts governorship in 2010.)

Chuck Turner has, among other popular progressive causes, led the resistance to Boston University's local hosting of a new level-4 (extremely toxic) biological warfare research laboratory funded and operated by the federal government. Similarly he leads the fight to liberalize laws which marginalize ex-convicts as applicants for employment—a major racial issue which threatens "law and order" true believers.

Chuck Turner's framing is suspiciously similar to that of New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer's (who was preparing to jail Wall Street predatory lenders, but was destroyed by FBI exposure of a night with a prostitute) and that of Alabama's popular Democratic Gov. Don Siegelman (whom Karl Rove needed out of the GOP's way). Chuck, you are powerful!

## UPDATE FROM CHUCK TURNER

January 19, 2009

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Let me begin by thanking you for your support during the darkest hour that Terri and I have experienced in life. While we are secure in our knowledge of our innocence and our faith, words can not express the joy that flows from the faith of others in us. It was also the expressions of your faith in our innocence that has forced the media to tone down their attacks as virulent as they are.

We are also thankful to have had an opportunity to spend ten days out of town. It was amazingly peaceful to not have to worry about the FBI or media knocking at our door. It was also surprising to see the number of supporters we have on the Cape. People would come up to us everyday and express their support and their consciousness that we were being framed.

We also appreciate that Council President Mike Ross suspended the fact finder hired by former Council President Feeny. His reasons were that it was not worth the \$50,000 it would cost and that since the US Attorney was trying to impose a gag order on evidence, there could be no public review by the Council. While he didn't make me chair of (Continued on next page >>)

Education as we had agreed before my arrest, he did make me vice chair, and asked Councilor Connolly to serve as acting chair until the court matter was resolved. I think Council President Ross showed great strength in a situation where many in the public are still screaming—Off With His Head.

Additional Information:

- We will not have a Court Hearing in Worcester on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Given my refusal to sign a gag order that would prevent me or my lawyers from talking in the court of public opinion about the "evidence" turned over to us in the discovery period which began after the December 10th indictment, the US Attorney filed on January 5th a motion to force me to sign the order. Since I am continuing to refuse, there is no purpose for a court hearing until Judge Hillman rules on the request, probably in February. If Judge Hillman supports the US Attorney, we will appeal.
- Campaign to Raise Funds for Legal Defense: The Office of Campaign Finance will give us an official ruling in the middle of February relating to raising funds for my legal defense. However, until we receive a new ruling, all legal expenses will have to be paid from campaign contributions. This means that no contribution can be over \$500; that any contribution over \$50 has to be made by personal check; that any contribution over \$200 has to include occupation as well as name and address. All contributions should be sent to Post Office Box, 190251, Roxbury, MA 02119.
- Supporters are planning a community event which will probably be held in February.

Sincerely,

*Chuck and Terri*

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## Why Is Chuck Turner Indicted? GOP Politics, FBI Corruption, Media Sharks

by John Andrews, *OpenMediaBoston.org*, 10 Dec 2008

*The Boston media used a snippet of videotape released by the FBI to conclude that Boston City Councilor Chuck Turner is guilty of bribery. But the accompanying FBI affidavit, when shorn of speculation and irrelevancies, is a decidedly unconvincing document. Could it be that Chuck Turner is being set up?*

**B**OSTON TALK SHOW HOST EMILY ROONEY introduced the story of Chuck Turner's arrest with the title "When a picture tells the story." Assuring people that "The pictures are damning" and that it was "highly doubtful" that they were fake, she then led her panel in a discussion emphasizing that the evidence against Turner was very "strong, very solid." A follow-up story drove home the point with the title "Incriminating pictures of Chuck Turner say a thousand words."

Rooney was not the only one anxious to rush to judgment. The day after Turner's arrest, the *Boston Globe* ran an editorial stressing the importance of removing bad apples like Turner from our political life. Local news stories mostly reported the FBI allegations as fact, pausing only to reflect on how terrible it was that corruption was undermining public confidence in our elected officials. Boston City Council President Maureen Feeney announced that she was removing Turner as chair of three city committees, and that a special City Council meeting to consider additional punishment. Although Turner had not yet been indicted—everything seemed to be going the FBI's way.

But to those who knew Chuck Turner best, something in the FBI charges just didn't make sense. Turner began to get strong support from his 7th District [Roxbury, South End, Fenway] con-

stituents, from the Green-Rainbow Party, and from respected community leaders. They cited Turner's 42-year history of integrity. They pointed out that on many occasions, when other politicians were taking campaign checks from big donors and selling out their community, it was only Chuck Turner who stood on the side of the people. They noted that Turner was one local leader who consistently spurned the party invitations from the City's well-heeled powerbrokers and spent his evenings meeting with his low income constituents in church basements and in his storefront district office. To many of his black and Latino constituents, Chuck was the only honest politician they had ever seen. He was the only one they could trust. They had a hard time reconciling the FBI accusations with the person they had known for years.

But what about those "damning" pictures? Perhaps the pictures say a thousand words. But not everyone agrees on what those thousand words are. Pictures have to be interpreted, especially when they are selectively released snippets of video from an undercover police force trying to lure a public figure into committing a crime. Competent journalists would ask whether the pictures prove the claims or merely illustrate the FBI's theory. They would ask what went on before and after the snippet of video that was released to the press. They would ask why the FBI decided to go to the media before going to the grand jury for an indictment. Such questions were notably lacking in the barrage of media coverage following Turner's arrest.

A little skepticism is understandable given the long history of questionable FBI motives in the targeting of suspects. In the 1960's and early 1970's, the FBI's infamous COINTELPRO operations targeted Martin Luther King, the NAACP, and Puerto Rican separatist movements under J. Edgar Hoover's orders to "expose, disrupt, misdirect, discredit, or otherwise neutralize" the presumed subversives. Earlier this year the FBI was accused of political motivations in the targeting of New York Governor Eliot Spitzer. In the end, the FBI could prove no crime against Spitzer. But in leaking information on Spitzer's sex life they succeeded in destroying the political career of a figure who was almost unique among prominent politicians in his willingness to take on the deception and dishonesty of wealthy Wall Street interests. The FBI also played a role in instigating charges of voter fraud against the ACORN community organization, which was involved in registering voters in minority neighborhoods. This follows a sustained push by the Bush Administration to act against the registration of black voters who they viewed as largely unfriendly to Republican candidates. It appears that ACORN will be found innocent, but the threat of prosecution hangs in the air.

### A Closer Look at the FBI Affidavit

But what about the pictures? Before assuming that the FBI has an open-and-shut case, it is advisable to read the 11-page FBI affidavit that the FBI submitted to justify Turner's arrest. Although it is undoubtedly biased against Turner, it contains facts that raise serious questions about the significance of those pictures.

- The affidavit makes it clear that the FBI did not simply record a crime that was taking place. The FBI \*created\* the crime. The alleged \$1000 bribe was FBI money handed to Turner by an FBI informant who had been carefully coached on how to make the act appear to be outside the law. If it were not for the FBI, no crime would have occurred.
- The only specific justification the affidavit offers for the FBI's interest in Turner is a statement by Ron Wilburn that he knew of one instance of Turner "taking a cash" (Continued on Page 8 >>)

## Chronicle of a Suicide Foretold The Case of Israel

by Immanuel Wallerstein, Yale University, 15 Jan 2009

**T**HE STATE OF ISRAEL PROCLAIMED ITS INDEPENDENCE at midnight on May 15, 1948. The United Nations had voted to establish two states in what had been Palestine under British rule. The city of Jerusalem was supposed to be an international zone under U.N. jurisdiction. The U.N. resolution had wide support, and specifically that of the United States and the Soviet Union. The Arab states all voted against it.

In the sixty years of its existence, the state of Israel has depended for its survival and expansion on an overall strategy that combined three elements: macho militarism, geopolitical alliances, and public relations. The macho militarism (what current Prime Minister Ehud Olmert calls the "iron fist") was made possible by the nationalist fervor of Jewish Israelis, and eventually (although not initially) by the very strong support of Jewish communities elsewhere in the world.

Geopolitically, Israel first forged an alliance with the Soviet Union (which was brief but crucial), then with France (which lasted a longer time and allowed Israel to become a nuclear power), and finally (and most importantly) with the United States. These allies, who were also patrons, offered most importantly military support through the provision of weapons. But they also offered diplomatic/political support, and in the case of the United States considerable economic support.

The public relations was aimed at obtaining sympathetic support from a wide swath of world public opinion, based in the early years on a portrait of Israel as a pioneering David against a retrograde Goliath, and in the last forty years on guilt and compassion over the massive Nazi extermination of European Jewry during the Second World War.

All these elements of Israeli strategy worked well from 1948 to the 1980s. Indeed, they were increasingly more effective. But somewhere in the 1980s, the use of each of the three tactics began to be counterproductive. Israel has now entered into a phase of the precipitate decline of its strategy. It may be too late for Israel to pursue any alternative strategy, in which case it will have committed geopolitical suicide. Let us trace how the three elements in the strategy interacted, first during the successful upward swing, then during the slow decline of Israel's power.

For the first twenty-five years of its existence, Israel engaged in four wars with Arab states. The first was the 1948-1949 war to establish the Jewish state. The Israeli declaration of an independent state was not matched by a Palestinian declaration to establish a state. Rather, a number of Arab governments declared war on Israel. Israel was initially in military difficulty. However, the Israeli military were far better trained than those of the Arab countries, with the exception of Transjordan. And, crucially, they obtained arms from Czechoslovakia, acting as the agent of the Soviet Union.

By the time of the truce in 1949, the discipline of the Israeli forces combined with the Czech arms enabled the Israelis to win considerable territory not included in the partition proposals of the United Nations, including west Jerusalem. The other areas were incorporated by the surrounding Arab states. A large number of Palestinian Arabs left or were forced to leave areas under the control of the Israelis and became refugees in neighboring Arab countries, where their descendants still largely live today. The land they had owned was taken by Jewish Israelis.

The Soviet Union soon dropped Israel. This was probably primarily because its leaders quickly became afraid of the impact of the creation of the state on the attitudes of Soviet Jewry, who seemed overly enthusiastic and hence potentially subversive from Stalin's point of view. Israel in turn dropped any sympathy for the socialist camp in the Cold War, and made clear its fervent desire to be considered a full-fledged member of the Western world, politically and culturally.

France at this time was faced with national liberation movements in its three North African colonies, and saw in Israel a useful ally. This was especially true after the Algerians launched their war of independence in 1954. France began to help Israel arm itself. In particular, France, which was developing its own nuclear weapons (against U.S. wishes), helped Israel do the same. In 1956, Israel joined France and Great Britain in a war against Egypt. Unfortunately for Israel, this war was launched against U.S. opposition, and the United States forced all three powers to end it.

After Algeria became independent in 1962, France lost interest in the Israeli connection, which now interfered with its attempts to renew closer relations with the three now independent North African states. It was at this point that the United States and Israel turned to each other to forge close links. In 1967, war broke out again between Egypt and Israel, and other Arab states joined Egypt. In this so-called Six Day War, the United States for the first time gave military weapons to Israel.

The 1967 Israeli victory changed the basic situation in many respects. Israel had won the war handily, occupying all those parts of the British mandate of Palestine that it had occupied before, plus Egypt's Sinai Peninsula and Syria's Golan Heights. Juridically, there was now a state of Israel plus Israel's occupied territories. Israel began a policy of establishing Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

The Israeli victory transformed the attitude of world Jewry, which now overcame whatever reservations it had had about the creation of the state of Israel. They took great pride in its accomplishments and began to undertake major political campaigns in the United States and western Europe to secure political support for Israel. The image of a pioneering Israel with emphasis on the virtues of the kibbutz was abandoned in favor of an emphasis on the Holocaust as the basic justification for world support of Israel.

In 1973, the Arab states sought to redress the military situation in the so-called Yom Kippur war. This time again, Israel won the war, with U.S. arms support. The 1973 war marked the end of the central role of the Arab states. Israel could continue to try to get recognition from Arab states, and it did succeed eventually with both Egypt and Jordan, but it was now too late for this to be a way to secure Israel's existence.

As of this point, there emerged a serious Palestinian Arab political movement, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), which was now the key opponent of Israel, the one with whom Israel needed to come to terms. For a long time, Israel refused to deal with the PLO and its leader Yasser Arafat, preferring the iron fist. And at first, it was militarily successful.

The limits of the iron fist policy were made evident by the first intifada, a spontaneous uprising of Palestinian Arabs inside the occupied territories, which began in 1987 and lasted six years. The basic achievement of the intifada was twofold. It forced the Israelis and the United States to talk to the PLO, a long process that led to the so-called Oslo Accords of 1993, which provided for the creation of the Palestinian Authority in part of the occu-

pied territories.

The Oslo Accords in the long run were geopolitically less important than the impact of the intifada on world public opinion. For the first time, the David-Goliath image began to be inverted. For the first time, there began to be serious support in the Western world for the so-called two-state solution. For the first time, there began to be serious criticism of Israel's iron fist and its practices vis-à-vis the Arab Palestinians. Had Israel been serious about a two-state solution based on the so-called Green Line—the line of division at the end of the 1948-1949 war—it probably would have achieved a settlement.

Israel however was always one step behind. When it could have negotiated with Nasser, it wouldn't. When it could have negotiated with Arafat, it wouldn't. When Arafat died and was succeeded by the ineffectual Mahmoud Abbas, the more militant Hamas won the Palestinian parliamentary elections in 2006. Israel refused to talk to Hamas.

Now, Israel has invaded Gaza, seeking to destroy Hamas. If it succeeds, what organization will come next? If, as is more probable, it fails to destroy Hamas, is a two-state solution now possible? Both Palestinian and world public opinion is moving towards the one-state solution. And this is of course the end of the Zionist project.

The three-element strategy of Israel is decomposing. The iron fist no longer succeeds, much as it didn't for George Bush in Iraq. Will the United States link remain firm? I doubt it. And will world public opinion continue to look sympathetically on Israel? It seems not. Can Israel now switch to an alternative strategy, of negotiating with the militant representatives of the Arab Palestinians, as an integral constituent of the Middle East, and not as an outpost of Europe? It seems quite late for that, quite possibly too late. Hence, the chronicle of a suicide foretold.

*This is #249 in Immanuel Wallerstein's biweekly emailed commentaries. The latest three of his 28 books are World-Systems Analysis: An introduction; Alternatives: The U.S. confronts the world; and European Universalism: The rhetoric of power.*

Ed. Note: *The birth of Israel was immediately preceded, in April of 1948, by the violent ethnic cleansing—massacres—of Palestinians in 33 villages by the Irgun, Stern, and Haganah Zionist gangs. In the end, more than 500 villages were razed, killing thousands and displacing millions. The leaders of those gangs were Menachem Begin, Yitzhak Shamir, and David Ben Gurion—all to become prime ministers of the state of Israel. See BCA Dispatch, April 2008, with reference to articles by William Martin (13 May 2004) and Alison Weir (4 April 2008), at [www.counterpunch.org](http://www.counterpunch.org).*

## **GAZA OFFSHORE GAS FIELDS** (Continued from Page 1)

could be much larger.

### **Who Owns the Gas Fields?**

The issue of sovereignty over Gaza's gas fields is crucial. From a legal standpoint, the gas reserves belong to Palestine.

The death of Yasser Arafat, the election of the Hamas government and the ruin of the Palestinian Authority have enabled Israel to establish *de facto* control over Gaza's offshore gas reserves.

British Gas (BG Group) has been dealing with the Tel Aviv government. In turn, the Hamas government has been bypassed in regards to exploration and development rights over the gas fields.

The election of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in 2001 was a

major turning point. Palestine's sovereignty over the offshore gas fields was challenged in the Israeli Supreme Court. Sharon stated unequivocally that "Israel would never buy gas from Palestine" intimating that Gaza's offshore gas reserves belong to Israel. In 2003, Ariel Sharon, vetoed an initial deal, which would allow British Gas to supply Israel with natural gas from Gaza's offshore wells. (*The Independent*, August 19, 2003)

The election victory of Hamas in 2006 was conducive to the demise of the Palestinian Authority, which became confined to the West Bank, under the proxy regime of Mahmoud Abbas.

In 2006, British Gas "was close to signing a deal to pump the gas to Egypt." (*Times*, May, 23, 2007). According to reports, British Prime Minister Tony Blair intervened on behalf of Israel with a view to shunting the agreement with Egypt.

The following year, in May 2007, the Israeli Cabinet approved a proposal by Prime Minister Ehud Olmert "to buy gas from the Palestinian Authority." The proposed contract was for \$4 billion, with profits of the order of \$2 billion of which one billion was to go the Palestinians. Tel Aviv, however, had no intention on sharing the revenues with Palestine. An Israeli team of negotiators was set up by the Israeli Cabinet to thrash out a deal with the BG Group, bypassing both the Hamas government and the Palestinian Authority:

"Israeli defence authorities want the Palestinians to be paid in goods and services and insist that no money go to the Hamas-controlled Government." *The objective was essentially to nullify the contract signed in 1999 between the BG Group and the Palestinian Authority under Yasser Arafat.*

Under the proposed 2007 agreement with BG, Palestinian gas from Gaza's offshore wells was to be channeled by an undersea pipeline to the Israeli seaport of Ashkelon, thereby transferring control over the sale of the natural gas to Israel. The deal fell through. The negotiations were suspended:

"Mossad Chief Meir Dagan opposed the transaction on security grounds, that the proceeds would fund terror". (Member of Knesset Gilad Erdan, Address to the Knesset on "The Intention of Deputy Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to Purchase Gas from the Palestinians When Payment Will Serve Hamas," March 1, 2006, quoted in Lt. Gen. (ret.) Moshe Yaalon, "Does the Prospective Purchase of British Gas from Gaza's Coastal Waters Threaten Israel's National Security?" Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, October 2007)

Israel's intent was to foreclose the possibility that royalties be paid to the Palestinians. In December 2007, The BG Group withdrew from the negotiations with Israel and in January 2008 they closed their office in Israel. (BG website).

### **Invasion Plan on The Drawing Board**

The invasion plan of the Gaza Strip under "Operation Cast Lead" was set in motion in June 2008, according to Israeli military sources: "Sources in the defense establishment said Defense Minister Ehud Barak instructed the Israel Defense Forces to prepare for the operation over six months ago [June or before June], even as Israel was beginning to negotiate a ceasefire agreement with Hamas." (Barak Ravid, Operation "Cast Lead": Israeli Air Force strike followed months of planning, *Haaretz*, December 27, 2008)

That very same month, the Israeli authorities contacted British Gas, with a view to resuming crucial negotiations pertaining to the purchase of Gaza's natural gas: "Both Ministry of Finance director general Yarom Ariav and Ministry of National Infrastructures director general Hezi Kugler agreed to inform BG of Israel's

wish to renew the talks. The sources added that BG has not yet officially responded to Israel's request, but that company executives would probably come to Israel in a few weeks to hold talks with government officials." (*Globes online- Israel's Business Arena*, June 23, 2008)

The decision to speed up negotiations with British Gas (BG Group) coincided, chronologically, with the planning of the invasion of Gaza initiated in June. It would appear that Israel was anxious to reach an agreement with the BG Group prior to the invasion, which was already in an advanced planning stage.

Moreover, these negotiations with British Gas were conducted by the Ehud Olmert government with the knowledge that a military invasion was on the drawing board. In all likelihood, a new "post war" political-territorial arrangement for the Gaza strip was also being contemplated by the Israeli government. In fact, negotiations between British Gas and Israeli officials were ongoing in October 2008,

2-3 months prior to the commencement of the bombings on December 27.

In November 2008, the Israeli Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of National Infrastructures instructed Israel Electric Corporation (IEC) to enter into negotiations with British Gas, on the purchase of natural gas from the BG's offshore concession in Gaza. (*Globes*, November 13, 2008)

"Ministry of Finance director general Yarom Ariav and Ministry of National Infrastructures director general Hezi Kugler wrote to IEC CEO Amos Lasker recently, informing him of the government's decision to allow negotiations to go forward, in line with the framework proposal it approved earlier this year. The IEC board, headed by chairman Moti Friedman, approved the principles of the framework proposal a few weeks ago. The talks with BG Group will begin once the board approves the exemption from a tender." (*Globes*, Nov. 13, 2008)

### Gaza and Energy Geopolitics

The military occupation of Gaza is intent upon transferring the sovereignty of the gas fields to Israel in violation of international law.

What can we expect in the wake of the invasion?

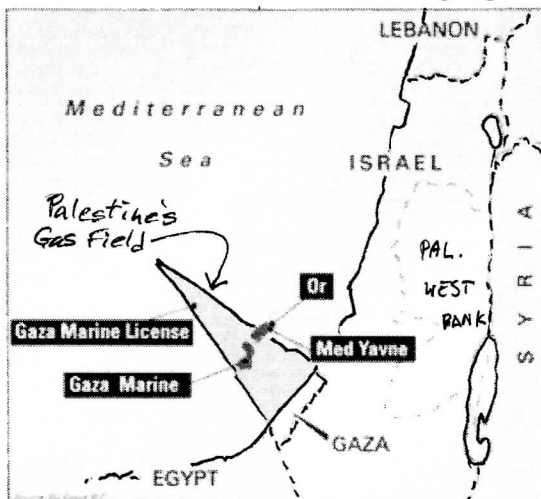
What is the intent of Israel with regard to Palestine's Natural Gas reserves?

A new territorial arrangement, with the stationing of Israeli and/or "peacekeeping" troops?

The militarization of the entire Gaza coastline, which is strategic for Israel?

The outright confiscation of Palestinian gas fields and the unilateral declaration of Israeli sovereignty over Gaza's maritime areas?

If this were to occur, the Gaza gas fields would be integrated into Israel's offshore installations, which are contiguous to those



of the Gaza Strip. (See Map 1 at [www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=11680](http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=11680)).

These various offshore installations are also linked up to Israel's energy transport corridor, extending from the port of Eilat, which is an oil pipeline terminal, on the Red Sea, to the seaport-pipeline terminal at Ashkelon, and northwards to Haifa, and eventually linking up through a proposed Israeli-Turkish pipeline with the Turkish port of Ceyhan. Ceyhan is the terminal of the Baku Tblisi Ceyhan Trans-Caspian pipeline. "What is envisaged is to link the BTC pipeline to the Trans-Israel Eilat- Ashkelon pipeline, also known as Israel's Tipline." (See Michel Chossudovsky, "The War on Lebanon and the Battle for Oil", *GlobalResearch.ca*, July 23, 2006).0

*Michel Chossudovsky is a professor of economics at the University of Ottawa. A critic of corporate globalization, he is a consultant to many UN agencies. His latest book is America's "War on Terrorism". Ed. Note: The headline of this article, as with most Dispatch headlines, is ours, not the author's.*

## Are You Ready for Civil War? Pentagon to Deploy 20,000 Troops Here

by Mike Adams, *naturalnews.com*, 1 December 2008

**I**N DIRECT VIOLATION OF THE POSSE COMITATUS ACT, which forbids military troops from playing a role in domestic law enforcement, the Pentagon has announced plans to station 20,000 armed, uniformed troops inside the United States [by September 2011] where they will walk the streets, ready to "respond to terrorism events," [including civil disorder] says the Pentagon.

It's against the law, but since when did the Bush Administration or the Pentagon pay any attention to law in the first place?

Here at NaturalNews, we've warned about the coming police state for many years. Now it is upon us, with the mass militarization of our cities and streets. It won't be long before we'll start hearing "papers please" as we try to move about our own cities in a nation many people foolishly believe to still be "free."

This recent push, of course, stems from the New York subway threat, which for all we know was entirely made up by the U.S. government for precisely this purpose -- to scare the population into accepting 20,000 troops on the streets. It's a lesson the Bush Administration learned well with the 9/11 terrorist attacks: People will gladly give up their freedoms if you scare them to death with real (or engineered) terrorist events first.

Oh, and don't forget what the terrorist hate us for. "They hate America because it's free," say the war apologists. So their plan, it seems, is to *take away America's freedoms before the terrorists do!* So now, with 20,000 troops walking the streets brandishing military weapons, it is the U.S. population that will be terrorized by the aggressive military presence. Think about it: When you walk into an area with lots of military personnel sporting assault rifles, do you feel comfort, or do you feel fear? Normal people feel more fear. They intuitively think, "Gee, there must be something dangerous here, or there wouldn't be armed military personnel standing guard," and they feel a sense of apprehension.

### The Real Reason for 20,000 Troops

It's ridiculous to think that 20,000 troops can offer any meaningful response to a terrorism event. If a dirty bomb goes off, or a chemical weapons attack takes place, the only thing left to do will

be to clean up the bodies, and you don't need 20,000 military troops to do that (National Guard troops can handle it just fine).

20,000 troops also aren't going to *prevent* a terrorist attack. Do you think the terrorists walk around in orange jumpsuits with the word "terrorist" painted on the back? No, they blend in like everybody else. They easily got by airport security in 2001, and they can easily make their way through the streets of the USA in 2009, regardless of a military presence.

So what's the REAL reason for stationing 20,000 military troops in the U.S.?

Think about it. Historically, during what times have military troops ever been used to protect the centralization of power?

If you've read much history—especially European history—you probably suspect, as I do, that the real purpose of the 20,000 troops is *to have a military force to prevent the breakup of the United States of America.*

You see, a financial collapse in Washington is imminent. This Federal Reserve bailout is just short-term cover that accomplishes nothing. You can't save an economy from endless bad debt by creating yet more bad debt. With the derivatives market hovering somewhere beyond \$500 trillion, it will be impossible for the Fed to bail out all the failures without bankrupting the U.S. taxpayers and destroying the U.S. currency first.

With a defunct currency and the inevitable riots and social unrest that always follows the massive theft of money from the people, the U.S. will be ripe for *Balkanization*, or the breaking up of regions that will declare their own sovereignty. One Russian analyst famously predicted several weeks ago that the United States would break into seven new nations, each with its own laws, its own military and its own political power.

What's the best way to prevent such a breakup? Show up with 20,000 troops and force the member states to back down at gunpoint.

But you might ask why wouldn't the federal government just use the National Guard to accomplish this? Why does it need Pentagon troops? The answer is simple: Because *the National Guard troops are controlled by the STATES.* It is, in fact, the National Guard troops that will be fighting for the freedom of their regions, fighting to break off from the tyrannical federal government that has already engineered the greatest financial swindle in history and now wants to maintain power over all the states, too.

This is the new civil war that will be shaping up: National Guard troops vs. the Pentagon's troops. And that is why the Pentagon is calling 20,000 troops into the homeland right now: It's preparing for a civil war and the potential breakup of the nation.

There will be a time when Washington is so bankrupt (both financially and morally), so corrupt and so far beyond saving that intelligent states like California will simply declare themselves to be sovereign nations. Although there may be the threat of military force to prevent such actions in the short term, ultimately Washington will be powerless to stop it because it will be unable to *fund* the military effort with worthless U.S. dollars. And if just one state successfully breaks away from the union, it will set a precedent that other states will follow.

Even today, Hawaii and Vermont are already talking secession. Many regions of Oregon and Texas are also in the same discussions. If Washington becomes weak, you can expect to see the fragmentation of the nation. It will likely be a bloody event, complete with Martial Law, food shortages, money supply problems and the works...

*The news story of the 20,000 troops is carried by the Washington Post for 1 December 2008. Follow this matter at Alex Jones' [www.PrisonPlanet.com](http://www.PrisonPlanet.com). Mike Adams is a post-diabetic, born-again naturopathic journalist, blogger, and health entrepreneur. His [naturalnews.com](http://naturalnews.com) covers "all areas of personal and planetary wellness from nutrition to renewable energy." See his marvelous bio at [healthranger.org](http://healthranger.org). Thanks to Janet Eaton for forwarding this article.*

**Ed. Comment:** *The key to this threat to democracy is the unique fear-inducing event of 9/11 attacks. The official story of a Muslim conspiracy is not credible. (See, most recently, the DVD "Zero"—go to [www.zero911movie.com/](http://www.zero911movie.com/) or contact BCA Dispatch.) If we were to have an unbiased investigation, and if US complicity—perhaps orchestration—were to be made clear, then the Union might be saved by patriots in the various states willing to prosecute business and government leaders they had trusted. Otherwise, leaders in many states might be emboldened to promote secession. In any event, a national debate would start, with the mainstream media then unable to fall back onto a discredited US government—and a peaceable transition to regional autonomy (sovereignty could be dangerously confrontational) worked out. Co-optation Warning: The Obama administration may try to persuade us all that it is beginning a new, entirely different, era of citizen-empowered federalism. Ronald Reagan rang much the same chimes. Actually, only a strong civil society can ensure democracy.*

*Who will propose a new investigation of 9/11? If Congress will not set one up then let a broad coalition of churches do it, says David Ray Griffin, professor emeritus of philosophy and theology at Claremont Graduate University, author of five books on the truth of 9/11. If Zionist groups can raise a hundred million dollars for Israel, an aroused citizenry should be able to come up with several million to fund this investigative commission, perhaps with participation of some of our 50 states. Ultimately an effective commission will need subpoena power, but a citizen commission may break the wall of fear, enabling a skeptical majority to emerge.*

## **Trans-Texas Corridor Scrapped End of "Prosperity" Element of SPP\*?**

*by William B. Cassidy, Traffic World, 6 January 2009*

**T**HE TRANS-TEXAS CORRIDOR, A MASSIVE HIGHWAY, RAIL AND PIPELINE PROJECT, is road kill. The controversial plan to create a 1,200-foot-wide multimodal highway that would funnel freight from Mexico deep into the U.S. heartland has been scrapped by the Texas Department of Transportation. In its place the Texas DOT favors a much more modest series of transportation improvements with more input from local communities.

The Texas DOT unveiled sweeping changes to the state's infrastructure plans, which include dropping the Trans-Texas Corridor name, at the fourth annual Texas Transportation Forum in Austin Jan. 6. "Texans have spoken, and we've been listening," said Amadeo Saenz, executive director of the Texas DOT. "Citizens across the state have had good ideas about how Texas roads can better serve Texas communities," Saenz said at the forum.

Those ideas didn't include the \$184 billion multimodal transport artery proposed by Texas Gov. Rick Perry in 2002. The Trans-Texas Corridor would have created two massive highways along I-35, to be renamed TTC-35 running north through Dallas

and Fort Worth, and a proposed I-69/TCC running north and east through Houston.

Landowners, environmental activists and local businesses in many towns challenged the project, as well as groups opposed to tolling concessions and those who saw the TTC as a "NAFTA superhighway" that ultimately threatened U.S. sovereignty.

Instead of the 1,200-foot-wide corridor, the project will now be comprised of several small segments closer to 600 feet wide. The Texas DOT will seek guidance from corridor segment advisory committees comprised of citizens from communities along the routes.

That is a major blow to those who saw such large-scale projects as the best way for new financing methods to make major inroads into the nation's transportation system. "The bold, broad strokes of the original concept are no longer with us," the state transportation department said in "Strategic Corridors: Innovative Connectivity in Texas," its new blueprint for state highway development.

"The initial vision of the TTC has grown into a program of potential solutions for major corridor development that we can act on today," Texas DOT said. Those solutions could still include public-private partnerships, tolling and other sometimes controversial efforts to move away from reliance on public tax money for highway funding and construction, the department said in its report.

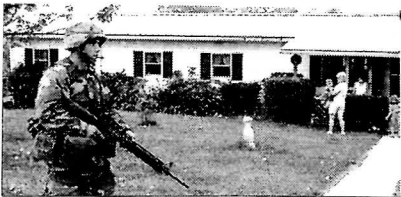
"More than anything else, it is the ability to partner with both the public and the private sectors that helps us to define and develop solutions that meet statewide and regional needs, and to implement and accelerate those solutions to the benefit of all Texans and our economy," the department said.

#### Ed. Comment:

**\*SPP is the infamous, semi-secret Security and Prosperity Partnership, agreed with a handshake among George W Bush and his counterparts in Canada and Mexico. It would create a giant North American consumer-prison with a militarized wall across southern Mexico, import facilities in Mexico and Canada, and a network of massive supercorridors bringing trucked and railed goods, water, oil & gas, electricity, and electronic cable to consumer centers throughout the US—run by major US/Canadian/Mexican corporate CEOs, and paid for, ultimately, by US taxpayers and sweat labor elsewhere in the world. The Trans-Texas Corridor was to have been SPP's arrow released into the heart of the American polity.**

Now, as you can see on Page 5, US troops seasoned in Iraq combat, and even Canadian and Mexican troops under US NorthCom command, may be patrolling US streets, ostensibly for natural or terrorist "emergencies" (why can't State Guards do this?), but trained in controlling "civil unrest". Such citizen protest would likely arise around land condemnation, prisoner transfers, and boycotts of foreign goods—regardless of the success or failure of SPP commerce, whose profits would go chiefly to corporate officers and shareholders—"Security", if not Prosperity.

Friends, the Texas project may be "road kill", but SPP's working groups may yet have plans for Massachusetts and most other states. Obama—and friendly governors--please note! Our citizen trade commissions must! (See Page 11 .)



During practice deployment, a mother protects her children from soldier on patrol in Indianapolis, June 2008.

## IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

### Petition by National Network for Immigrant & Refugee Rights on behalf of Sergio Reyes, Cambridge, January 2009

Dear President Barack Obama:

We congratulate you on your election as the 44th President of the United States; we look forward to working with you and your Administration in the coming years to bring about the changes that are needed to improve the lives and safety of immigrant and refugee communities in this country.

We urge you, as our new President, to strengthen this country's commitment to human rights for all, and to seek justice for the hundreds of thousands of immigrant workers and families who have suffered from abuse, discrimination and violence.

We ask for your support and action during the first 100 days of your presidency, to end the immigration enforcement actions -- raids, detentions and deportations -- that are causing immeasurable hardships in immigrant communities. Most urgently, we ask for the immediate cessation of all immigration policing and raids where people live, work, worship, study and play.

We believe this action is a necessary pre-requisite to addressing the larger issues of immigration policy and the passage of significant legislative reforms.

We also call on you to:

Work with Congress to immediately initiate a series of field hearings on immigration law enforcement and its impacts and effects on our communities in the interior and the border, with special attention to its effects on the economy, workplace and Constitutional rights.

These hearings must include the voices and experiences of those directly affected by immigration policing and raids. During the last eight years, the Bush Administration's Department of Homeland Security vehemently attacked and undermined the rights of immigrant and refugees. Families, workers and communities experienced intense policing; hundreds of thousands were detained for immigration status alone and their due process rights blatantly violated and ignored, resulting in deportations. Their testimony is vital to the consideration of immigration reforms and to ensure that the DHS is held accountable for its policies, strategies and practices.

Suspend detentions and deportations while hearings are held and humanitarian policy alternatives are put in place to reinstate due process and the rule of law to immigration services and enforcement.

Support a legalization program that offers opportunities to regularize the status for all undocumented immigrants, without the onerous hurdles of past proposals that would have drastically limited the number of immigrants who could actually legalize. Those proposals would have subjected hundreds of thousands of immigrants and their children to a precarious existence without guarantee of permanent residency at the end of a lengthy conditional process.

Uphold family reunification as a core principle of U.S. immigration policy. We need to expand legal immigration opportunities, expedite processing and resolve the backlog of current, eligible visa applications. We should do away with the harsh obstacles to immigrating, including the "3 and 10 year bars," unfair and burdensome political asylum procedures, and high income requirements for immigrant sponsors.

Insist that due process rights be restored and preserved, to ensure equality before the law for all persons, regardless of their immigration or citizenship status. We need the protection and expansion of the civil and labor rights of all immigrants, as well as community-based oversight and accountability of the Department of Homeland Security for immigration law enforcement and services.

Take action to end the criminalization of immigrants, including: -- the repeal of employer sanctions, which have led to problematic employment verification requirements and the criminalization of immigrant

workers; an end to the electronic worker verification program and the sending of SSA no-match letters to employers.

- an end to criminal prosecutions for immigration-related conduct such as unlawful entry, driving without a license, or so-called "identity theft."
- an end to immigration enforcement collaboration with local, county and state police as well as other government agencies.
- the end and roll back of border militarization policies, practices, measures and laws, including the use of high technological surveillance.
- the end to indefinite and mandatory detention.
- an end to the inhumane conditions and treatment of detainees in detention facilities, immigration prisons and DHS-contracted facilities.

Strengthen and ensure enforcement of labor law protections for all workers, regardless of citizenship or immigration status.

Oppose guestworker programs in their various forms, whether they are tied to legalization for undocumented immigrants already living and working here, or as a means for "managing future flows" of immigrants into the United States, especially as components of international trade partnership agreements.

Prioritize funding for immigration services to clear the backlog of pending applications for family reunification visas, green cards, citizenship and services for immigrant integration.

Ensure access and support for all public services and benefits including education, health care, and drivers' licenses.

Support the right of mobility and return for all displaced peoples, refugees, asylum seekers, trafficked persons and migrants. U.S. policies should be in full compliance with the UN Conventions and Protocols related to the status of refugees and the right to asylum, and we should give particular attention to the plight of displaced women and girls, and include gender-based violence as a basis for refugee status.

Commit to addressing migration in our foreign policy and economic agreements. The U.S. must shift away from the current trend of bilateral and multilateral free trade agreements that exacerbate the displacement of communities. It should also abandon its globally discredited foreign policy emphasis on military intervention and its wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. We urge you to ensure that U.S. trade, economic and other foreign policies are built upon principles of fair and just diplomatic engagement, and support sustainable development programs, job creation, and fair trade that build viable and healthy communities around the world.

Include consideration of the UN Convention for the Protection of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the international standard of human rights protections for all migrants, as you strengthen U.S. recognition and adherence to human rights agreements.

Thank you for supporting the human rights, safety and well-being of immigrants and refugees.

----3300+ Signers

*Sergio Reyes is a dedicated digital angel for socialist and radical causes, father of New England Alliance for Democracy's web site, guitarist and Latin folk singer, and stalwart promoter of Encuentro5 meeting hall at 33 Harrison Av, Chinatown, Boston—a center for immigrant and human rights. Sergio was imprisoned in Chile under the Pinochet regime. Contact: [www.MassGlobalAction.org](http://www.MassGlobalAction.org).*

#### **CORRECTION and COMMENT**

Janet Napolitano, Obama's new Secretary of Homeland Security, was referred to in the caption on Page 1 of our November-December issue as *Republican* governor (of Arizona). Although she is "conservative" on some issues, she is actually a Democrat. *A propos*, in our opinion there is no need for a department of "homeland security", since it is purely a product of the 9/11 false flag operation. The term "homeland" is odious, since it implies the heart of an *empire*. It should be merged with the Department of Justice, and then scrubbed. —Ed.

payment for writing a letter of recommendation for an individual with a criminal record." This sounds like Turner is involved in shady transactions with criminal elements. But Chuck Turner has lent a hand to many people trying to get their lives back together after exiting the correctional system. Turner has been a leading voice in calling for reform of the state's criminal offender record system (CORI) so that persons who leave prison are not unnecessarily barred from employment. An unsubstantiated claim that Turner took money for writing a letter of recommendation for an ex-offender is scarcely the kind of evidence that triggers an FBI sting operation. The real explanation for the FBI targeting appears to be missing from the affidavit.

- In order to make the act a crime, the FBI had to show that Turner had solicited the money from Ron Wilburn, their cooperating witness (CW). The affidavit says "TURNER then invited the CW to visit him at his district office in Roxbury, Massachusetts. The CW understood this call from TURNER to be a solicitation for a cash payment, similar to the three cash payments he had already made to Wilkerson." This is an admission that the FBI failed totally to elicit any verbal solicitation from Turner. They are reduced to citing a speculation attributed to their own informant. Turner is the only Boston City Councilor to maintain a district office—a small storefront facility that is the center of much community organizing. The FBI's assertion that Turner's use of his district office constitutes a solicitation to an illegal act appears to be a stretch needed to plug a hole in their case.

- The affidavit notes that prior to the bribery attempt, Turner had a rather peripheral involvement in Wilburn's efforts to obtain a liquor license. Turner has said that he looks favorably on the establishment of black-owned businesses in his district, and that he considered it a constituent service to advise black business owners on how to navigate the permitting processes. Significantly, there is no evidence that Turner asked for any money in exchange for any assistance he might have provided. This fact appears to bring into question the FBI allegation that Turner's involvement in the licensing was part of some shakedown scheme.

- The affidavit notes that on July 25, Wilburn had met with Turner and told him "If there's anything I can do to help you . . . you let me know and, and you got it." These words were apparently chosen to encourage Turner to ask for an illegal cash payment. But Turner did not respond by soliciting a bribe. The affidavit says that "TURNER then gave the CW the contact information for the individual who coordinated his fund raising events." It is significant that despite Wilburn's invitation to do "anything", Turner steered Wilburn toward a perfectly legal way for a constituent to show support for a politician. This bit of evidence seems to undermine the FBI contention that Turner was pursuing money under the table.

- What about the infamous August 3 tape that says a thousand words? During the taped visit, Turner never mentioned money and never asked for money. The money was handed to him with no solicitation at all. According to the affidavit, Turner nodded and said "okay" when the money was handed to him. If this is an accurate transcription, it is the only verbal indication in the entire affidavit that shows that Turner had any interest in money. But we do not really know what Turner was thinking at this point. The FBI assertion that Turner was accepting a bribe in connection with official duties is just one possibility, and it is the possibility that is least consistent with Turner's prior behavior. It is possible that Turner thought that Wilburn was trying in some



clumsy way to make a campaign donation. Or Turner might have thought that the money was a donation to the district office unrelated to the liquor license. Or Turner may have just been surprised and not sure how to react to the sudden appearance of a wad of bills. Up to this point in time, the FBI has not made their case that a crime has been committed. The FBI picture, with the word "CASH" pointing to something in Turner's hand, is not really "damning" at all. At that point, Turner had committed no crime.

● Then there is the tape that the FBI did NOT release to the media. The affidavit states that on September 12 Wilburn came to Turner's City Hall office in a second attempt to get Turner to commit an offense. According to the affidavit "The CW was unable to discretely provide the cash to TURNER while TURNER's assistant stood nearby." But if Turner were really on the take, why didn't Turner ask the assistant to leave or invite Wilburn to meet privately in his office, or suggest a place to rendezvous later? It appears that Turner's assistant, and Turner himself, were not interested in facilitating any further cash transfers from the witness. This certainly runs counter to the FBI's assertion that Turner was in hot pursuit of illegal cash.

An argument can be made that at the point the FBI witness left Turner's office after the second failed bribery attempt, Turner had still done nothing for which he could be prosecuted. Yes, the FBI had handed Turner an unsolicited wad of bills for an unclear reason. But this was more a crime perpetrated by the FBI informant than a crime committed by Chuck Turner. Nevertheless, Turner had been ensnared in the net that the FBI had cast. He had several options, none of them very satisfying. He could have viewed the transaction as bribery and burned the witness by reporting him to the authorities. But if the witness were simply a misguided constituent, did he deserve to be prosecuted? Turner could have tried to return the money quietly, but this would have meant acknowledging that the cash was illegal and that Turner was not reporting the offense. He could have decided to view the money as a donation for paying the rent of the district office, with no connection to any of his official duties. No evidence has yet emerged regarding what Turner was thinking at this point.

Although the FBI's case was still weak after the second failed bribery attempt, the FBI knew that they had a chance to create an impression of guilt if they could get Turner to lie about Wilburn's August 3 visit. So FBI agents visited Turner and asked him about any cash received from the witness. At this point, one is legally required to provide full information to aid the FBI investigation. However, as the FBI knows, the target of an investigation seldom provides full disclosure in such cases. The target often feels some obligation not to betray the informant, whom he may view as an honest person who has somehow stumbled into trouble. The target may be suspicious of the FBI's motives, and fearful that they will misinterpret anything he says. It is a difficult position to be in. Turner fell into the trap. He denied knowing anything about the transaction. This gave the FBI something to use against him, irrespective of what had gone before.

In all this, we still haven't heard Turner's side of the story. Turner's legal team has insisted that he remain silent as they prepare a legal defense against the attempt to put him in prison for 25 years. The legal threat muzzles Turner while the FBI's video, and the FBI's interpretation of the video, is on the evening news. Putting targets in this disadvantageous position goes a long way toward achieving the destruction of a political career even though the underlying "evidence" may be refutable.

When shorn of speculation and innuendo, the FBI affidavit is a

decidedly unconvincing document. It describes a crime fabricated by the FBI with no clear encouragement from Chuck Turner. And it undoubtedly leaves out details that would tend to cast doubt on the FBI's case. Turner may have made mistakes in how he handled the situation after the money was put in his hands. But failure to act effectively to distance oneself from an FBI-created crime is certainly different than being caught deliberately committing a crime.

#### **Was Turner Already Targeted as an FBI Critic?**

But is there any reason the FBI might feel hostility toward Chuck Turner? In 2005, an FBI sniper killed Puerto Rican separatist leader Ojeda Rios by shooting him through his kitchen window after an aborted attempt to storm his house. Because they let Rios lay on his kitchen floor without medical help for 18 hours, there was widespread anger in Puerto Rico by people who believed that the FBI had deliberately sought the death of Rios. A rally was held outside the FBI's Boston offices to demand an investigation into the shooting. People at the rally wore T-shirts that said "FBI Asesinos". Two Boston City Councilors spoke at the rally. One was Felix Arroyo. The other was Chuck Turner. It would be quite naive to assume that the FBI did not have undercover agents at that rally and that FBI files have not identified Chuck Turner as a critic of the FBI. One has to think that the FBI's eyes must have lit up when they realized that in Ron Wilburn they had a confidential informant who might be able to get to Chuck Turner. While they have run editorials scoffing at the possibility of FBI bias in targeting of Turner, the *Boston Globe* has not seen fit to mention the Rios affair.

#### **Targeting Policy Has Wider Implications**

The Turner case has implications that go far beyond the question of whether a single individual has been induced to commit a crime. The question of how the FBI selects targets for such treatment is of paramount importance. Blackmail and concocted scandals are tools used by governments across the world to suppress political enemies. Sometimes the charge is bribery. Sometimes it is sex, drugs, pornography, helping an illegal immigrant, violating gun laws, or a morals charge that is sufficiently embarrassing to destroy a political career. The undercover police are very clever in picking the right offense to instigate, finding an informant that the target may trust, and steering the target toward a prosecutable offense. The people who are most likely to be targeted in a sting are those whom the power structure cannot implicate in actual crimes. It is the most honest, not the most corrupt, who must be brought down with concocted offenses. If the United States chooses a similar path, allowing its undercover police to selectively target political figures for destruction, then the nation is making a crucial decision to transfer power over its democracy to hidden, unaccountable police forces. These are serious implications that deserve discussion.

Given the full context, the question of why the FBI decided to target Turner is a critical one. Massachusetts politics is awash with private money given to influence political figures in their official acts. Payoffs for legislation are a well-documented way of life on Beacon Hill. The same newspapers that carried pictures of Chuck Turner being led away in handcuffs in a fake \$1000 bribery case carried stories of a close associate of Speaker of the House Salvatore DiMasi who is reported to have collected \$1,400,000 in unreported payments in return for influencing the award of a \$17 million state software contract. With all the real money flowing between lobbyists and politicians, why did the FBI find it worth their while to go after one of the more honest office

holders—who could be convicted only if the FBI itself concocted the crime?

Regardless of what happens to Chuck Turner, the targeting decisions of the FBI deserve to be investigated. If the FBI is targeting elected officials who criticize FBI infringements on civil liberties, then the citizens of this country need to know. Up to now, the major Boston media outlets have been uncritical allies in the FBI's game of character assassination. But people in the community are beginning to ask the right questions. And someday, even the FBI may have to answer.

*John Andrews is Secretary of the Massachusetts Green-Rainbow Party.*

**Ed. Comment:** *So what is the Federal Bureau of Investigation doing in a local matter? As a matter of jurisdiction the indictment drawn up by U.S. District Attorney Michael Sullivan cites only interference with interstate commerce. Can you believe this? Is all business—e.g., a liquor-licensed restaurant, the alleged matter at hand—interstate? What is really interstate? What local agencies are responsible for prosecuting corruption? Is corruption so widespread among local officials that they cannot be trusted to handle corruption cases? If so, why isn't the FBI prosecuting them? And is the federal district attorney slated to be replaced by a Democrat-appointed new D.A.? Is ambition to run for Governor—or the methods used to achieve prominence in that context—a matter of corruption of the duties and responsibilities of the office of D.A.? So who will investigate that—the FBI itself? Does something need to be fixed in our "federal" system? Indeed, does federalism need to be revisited?*

**FLASH!** *Information from victim's sister Betty Peltier-Solano:*

### **Leonard Peltier Assaulted: FBI Complicit?**

64-YEAR-OLD LEONARD PELTIER has been a political prisoner, according to Amnesty International and many supporters, since 1977. He was convicted of killing two FBI agents on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, S. Dakota, two years earlier. Peltier was active in the American Indian Movement. Testimony and process were questionable, and Peltier has maintained his innocence. He has been a model prisoner and is shortly due for a parole hearing.

*On 12 January he was transferred from the federal penitentiary at Lewisburg PA to the fed pen at Canaan/Waymart PA. The next day he was brutally beaten by other prisoners, whom he did not know. He was then placed in solitary confinement and fed only one meal in the day despite his suffering from diabetes.*

We don't know why he was transferred. His sister Betty suspects that FBI agents who want Peltier to be denied parole arranged the assault in order to evoke a response that would jeopardize his case with the parole board by his refusing to name his assailants.

Many believe that Leonard should have been released years ago, or never sent to prison. President Obama could pardon him or commute his sentence. Write to Obama at the White House or at [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov). Call Canaan Federal Prison 570-488-8000. Write to Leonard Peltier, Inmate # 89637-132, USP Canaan, P.O. Box 300, Waymart, PA 18472.

## EDITORIAL

### Two Legislative Tasks

Rep. Marty Walz  
State House, Boston

Dear Marty-----

Thanks for your opening message. I have some old business and some new business.

First, you indicated your interest in partially **privatizing the Turnpike**. I don't own a car anymore, but I do pay taxes and care about public services overall. I urge you to be **very skeptical** about a public-private partnership. In your process of evaluating alternatives for operating the Pike, other such "partnerships" are relevant. My experience is with privatization of municipal water services ---both Lee and Lawrence MA headed off privatization after serious study and popular mobilization. Other cities like Stockton CA and New Orleans (before the flood) took back their water systems after costly mismanagement by corporations.

Basically, corporations are out to make profits, not by technical genius but by cutting workforce and discriminatory service. The "upfront payment" is really borrowing at a high rate of interest---sucked out of service. If MA has excessive workforce on the Pike, or if wages and salaries are too high, then cut them by transferring workers to necessary infrastructure repair and building projects. If Pike workers get inordinate pay compared with teachers, for example, then the whole state remuneration system needs to be overhauled---with participation by all citizen groups including but not favoring unions.

Second, new business. The Alliance for Democracy has been working with Rep. Byron Rushing for nearly ten years to draft and pass a bill---originally nick-named Globalization Impact Bill, or WTO Bill---to establish a citizen/gov't **commission to scrutinize WTO, NAFTA**, and other trade agreements and proposals regarding their impact on MA laws and regulations, and on our economy and society. Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire meantime passed their own bills and their commissions are up and running.

Major corporations---especially those with DoD contracts---and other special interests have increasingly been running our foreign affairs for decades. The result has been disaster, paid for by bleeding and starving the states for revenue. Trade agreements have been a major instrument of corporate imperialism, grossly distorting our Massachusetts and New England economy, creating dependencies on foreign sources of goods, labor, energy, and even services. Don't be fooled by conventional economists' talk about "distorting free trade" systems.\* Neoliberalism---"free trade"---is simply pre-FDR and pre-EU laissez faire, relying on a PR-driven culture-shift. It has failed big-time. It has benefited the few on the backs of workers and farmers in Mexico, China, and elsewhere including Massachusetts, and with lives in unnecessary wars. Look at the give-away a few months ago in DC and the depression we face---based on mindlessly going along with the notion that unfettered business and finance can substitute for and surpass democratic government. Massachusetts and every state has the duty to oversee Congressional legislation---let's make good on that.

**Below [next page] is our draft bill**, submitted on 16 January to Byron's office. We in the Alliance made use of recommendations of the Forum on Democracy & Trade, which has facilitated the cooperation of the ME, VT, and NH commissions along with WA and several other states at earlier stages. Their web site is [www.forumdemocracy.net](http://www.forumdemocracy.net).

Thanks again. Be well.  
Sincerely,

*David Lewit*

\*For broad-minded economists, try Herman Daly or Dean Baker.

DRAFT #2: **MASSACHUSETTS ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND OVERSIGHT ACT OF 2009**

*A bill to create a commission to evaluate international trade agreements so as to protect the health and well-being of Massachusetts citizens, the Massachusetts economy, and the authority of its laws and regulations.*

*Whereas* the instability of the world and national economy calls into question existing trade rules which limit the authority of the Commonwealth and other states and municipalities to regulate or subsidize planning, industry, services, purchasing, etc.(1) and

*Whereas* international trade and investment has reduced the capacity of the Commonwealth in manufacturing, agriculture, and other sectors and has reduced the stability of its financial institutions,(2) and

*Whereas* current federal policies and international agreements favor major corporations and military expansion at the expense of jobs, local businesses, and the environment,(3) and

*Whereas* many international trade agreements bar consideration of human rights abuses and consumer information, substitute narrowly qualified tribunals for courts of law, and ignore the authority of the United Nations,(4) and

*Whereas* federal trade policy has been made without public oversight and rushed through Congress with minimal scrutiny and amendment,(5) and

*Whereas* the Supreme Court of the US has frustrated the Commonwealth's moral concern for barring state purchases which would enrich an oppressive regime such as Burma,(6) and

*Whereas* municipal authority in Massachusetts to develop resources for public use has already been challenged by foreign corporations (Mondev vs. City of Boston) under NAFTA and the World Trade Organization (negating preference for local labor, management and materials, while exporting profits),(7) and

*Whereas* Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire already have Citizen Trade Commissions in operation, ready to cooperate with Massachusetts and other states in the region,(8)

*Now therefore* be it enacted that the Commonwealth establish a citizen trade commission to oversee federal and international agreements, proposals and proposal-making, and to recommend whether or not to cooperate with federally promoted or approved agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), World Trade Organization (WTO) with the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and other elements, Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP), and other such instruments or agreements.

The commission shall be composed of twenty members, serving two-year terms, as follows:

- the Governor or his/her designee
- the Treasurer or his/her designee
- the Attorney General or his/her designee
- two members of the House of Representatives
- two members of the Senate
- the executive director of the MA Office of International Trade & Investment or designee
- one person chosen by MA Municipal Association
- one person chosen by the MA AFL-CIO
- one person chosen by the Smaller Business Association of New England (MA resident)
- one person chosen by the MA Farm Bureau Federation
- one person chosen by the Graduate Department of Economics at UMass/Amherst
- one person chosen by the Graduate Department of Economics at a

MA private university

- one person chosen by the American Sociological Association (MA resident)
- one person chosen by the MA Chapter Sierra Club
- one person chosen by the American Civil Liberties Union of MA
- one person chosen by the Forum on Democracy and Trade (MA resident)
- two other persons chosen by twelve or more of the above named members

The commission shall choose its own chairpersons, make its own rules, and shall report to the legislature at least annually, starting within six months after its first meeting which shall be within three months of the passage of this legislation. Reports and minutes of meetings and hearings shall be promptly posted on an independent web site linked to the web sites of the governor, the legislature, and other organizations.

The commission shall a) evaluate the continued impacts on state laws and regulations of trade agreements concluded under the auspices of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP), and the many bilateral trade agreements entered into by the United States over the last twenty years; and b) examine proposed new agreements so that the Commonwealth may raise appropriate questions regarding the terms of any proposed agreement with US trade negotiators and with the Massachusetts Congressional delegation; and c) examine other instruments that the commission deems worthy.

The commission shall hold public meetings in at least four parts of the state—northeast, southeast, central, and western—within its first year of operation, and at appropriate intervals thereafter. The commission shall initially be aided by member offices, but may be specially staffed by means of legislative appropriation upon the commission's request. The request shall state a budget for all reasonable expenses to be paid from the state treasury. The legislation establishing this commission shall be reviewed by the legislature after five years and no later than seven years of operation.

---DL with AfD working group. 15 Jan 2009

*References will follow. Watch for official version of this bill—probably much shorter. But use this version for talking points as you educate state representatives and senators.*

## **Fight Media Bias! Become a Boston Media Watchdog**

Tired of right-wing comments on the web outnumbering ours ten-to-one? This, when polls show that a majority of Americans are "liberal" on most issues? Yes, your letters and phone calls to congress members or council members or selectmen are important, but if you have a computer you can use the internet and join the rising medium of communication. (Or use the computer at your public library.) When you spot a biased piece of "news" or commentary, you can flash it to Boston Progressive Media Watch, and your fellow watchdogs can see it and immediately counter the ignorance and propaganda. Newspaper editors will also get the message, since most comment sections follow their own web postings.

Don't let officials get the idea that we support bailouts for the rich, or trashing of Gaza, or that we hate Chuck Turner or Hugo Chávez. Join the fight. Just go to

[www.openmediaboston.org/media-watch-signup](http://www.openmediaboston.org/media-watch-signup).

—Jason Pramas, Boston Open Media (paraphrased by Ed.)

## Workshop: Promoting a Democratic Economy

by Mike Prokosch\*, 10 January 2009

**T**HE ALLIANCE FOR DEMOCRACY FOCUSES ON CORPORATIONS, and rightly so. Corporations have been the command center of the economy throughout our lives. But that may be changing.

Consider this incident: Last November, Detroit's Big Three auto companies asked Congress for a \$25 billion bailout. That wasn't loony: Wall Street had just gotten \$700 billion and Detroit's failure could cost two million jobs. However, Congress humiliated and spurned Big Auto.

Thirty years ago Detroit would have gotten different treatment. Something has changed and it has dire implications for our communities, families, jobs, and social justice.

Decades of leveraged buyouts, stock buybacks, mergers and acquisitions have stripped many US corporations of the cash they need to expand or even operate. Others have stripped themselves. General Motors, for example, retained only 5% of its net income from 1986 through 2002. Cities and states are in the same position, stripped of their reserves and mortgaging their infrastructure or future revenue for current operations and repairs.

That stripped wealth wasn't reinvested in infrastructure or production. It's in Wall Street's hands. More and more of it is in the "shadow" banking sector—the unregulated private equity firms, hedge funds, and derivatives market that offer 15-20% returns. They now hold some 39% of the financial sector's assets. This is the new command center of the economy, taking in the surplus and deciding where it goes.

The classic corporation's "retain and reinvest" strategy no longer rules. The economy's new motto is "downsize and distribute": strip wealth from the public and private sectors, use it to blow up the latest bubble, and count on Washington to bail you out when it bursts.

Many people expect that after the meltdown, Washington will re-regulate Wall Street. Unhappily, that will only make the casino safer and its busts less severe. It will not change the logic of the 21st-century economy, a logic that leaves productive businesses and communities without the resources they need to thrive.

**What Can We Do?** Re-regulation makes sense. It makes us safer, and it re-asserts (however faintly) the principle that the financial sector should be democratically controlled. We should push that principle further: We want capital to be used for socially productive purchases, and destructive uses to be barred or punished.

A solidarity economy also makes sense. Cooperative and local banks and businesses can keep our wealth, debt, and jobs safe from the global financial casino. Stronger unions, another form of solidarity, will also help build what we need: grassroots power based on the habit of trust and mutual aid.

These are ideas the Alliance has explored over its pioneering life. Now's a time when others may be willing to make them a reality.

*\*Mike Prokosch has conducted workshops extensively for United for a Fair Economy and labor unions. To arrange a participatory workshop on "The Financial Economy and the Real Economy" contact Mike at: [mikeprokosch@verizon.net](mailto:mikeprokosch@verizon.net).*

## COMMUNITY NEWS (Continued from Page 1)

backed up by military assaults. **Dave Lewit** drafted a new version called "MA Economic Relations and Oversight Act of 2009" (see text, p.11 above) with the help of **Barbara Clancy**, **Joanna Herlihy**, **Michael Bleiweiss**, **Mary White**, **Karen O'Donnell**, **Ruth Weizenbaum**, and **Jed Schwartz** of AfD, and of **Peter Riggs** of *Forum for Democracy and Trade*, who has also been advising and facilitating communication among ME, VT, and NH citizen trade commissions. We will seek comment and support from **Christa Bleyleben**, executive director of the MA Office of International Trade & Investment, and help in promoting the bill from **Suren Moodliar** of Mass Global Action/Encuentro5. Help in education and lobbying by Alliance members and friends will be indispensable.

- Will Boston have a new Mayor come November? Progressive at-large city councilor **Sam Yoon** and populist at-large city councilor **Michael Flaherty** have thrown their hats into the ring. If an Obama can win, why not a Yoon?

- Boston has 44 surveillance cameras peering down 360° from eaves and light poles; Chelsea has 27; and though Brookline has none, Homeland Security wants to give the town money for 12. Want police noses in your whereabouts and books? With Obama in office, resistance is picking up: Contact **Nancy Murray**, ACLU of Massachusetts, Boston: 617-482-3170.

- The Zionist Anti-Defamation League hosted top police from Cambridge and Canton MA, and FBI officials, in Israel Nov 17-24, meeting with Israeli police, military, and intelligence to learn how to deal with attacks. Somehow, they didn't visit with Gaza police.

- Borrowings at the Boston Public Library and other area libraries increased 10-20 percent over the last year—the largest increase in many years. Are hard times boosting civic spirit, curiosity, disaffection with TV, or just pocketbook concerns?

- Want to sign up to get a basket of farm-fresh produce weekly? Call Boston's only working farm, Allandale Farm, 617-524-1531.

## 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. #2h, Boston, MA 02116.)

BOSTON-CAMBRIDGE ALLIANCE for DEMOCRACY PLEDGE

\_\_\_ \$33/Year - "Count me in!"

\_\_\_ \$66/Year - "Contributor" (We need to average this amount.)

\_\_\_ \$111/Year - "Sustainer" (Helping us thrive.)

\_\_\_ \$222/Year - "Community Steward"

\_\_\_ \$500/Year - "Realize the vision"

\_\_\_ What's fair for YOU? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Street No./Box/Apt: \_\_\_\_\_

Town and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Night: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (for occasional contact): \_\_\_\_\_

## COLOPHON

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