

ISRAEL: Soldiers and civilians expose and refuse the occupation

SOLDIERS' TESTIMONIES

Over 1300 Palestinians, including 300 children, were killed during Israel's 22-day military offensive in Gaza. In March, the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* published accounts by soldiers. One soldier revealed: "A company commander with 100 soldiers saw an elderly woman walking down a road - whether she raised any suspicion, I don't know. But what the officer did in the end was to put men on the roof and with the snipers bring her down. I felt it was simply murder in cold blood." (Source [Terra Viva](#))

Refuseniks support the Palestinian call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions

"There are people who are doing all they can to end this Occupation... who call upon the world to boycott any state that oppresses millions of people - any racist state." Sahar Vardi, 19, "Shministim", conscience objector. (Source [Yesh Gvul](#))

NEW PROFILE HARASSED BY THE POLICE

New Profile has provided support to conscientious objectors in Israel. On 26 April, some of their members had their computers confiscated, were called for interrogations, and were only released upon signing agreements not to contact their political friends for 30 days.



Victor Agosto with peace activists from Fort Worth

Refusing Afghanistan occupation

More soldiers have refused to go to Afghanistan, proving that the occupation there is no less objectionable than in Iraq. Support Victor Agosto, Sgt. Travis Bishop, Dustin Che Stevens, Benji Lewis who decided to risk prison, but keep their conscience. (Source: [Courage to Resist](#))

UK - Money for MPs. Not for the Troops

The grandmother of Gordon Gentle, a Scottish soldier killed in Iraq aged 19, expressed her anger over MPs' expenses. She accused politicians of not providing vital equipment for troops. Gordon died in an armoured vehicle and the right equipment could have saved his life. Pauline's daughter, [Rose Gentle](#), has been campaigning for troops' welfare and to get them back home (Source: [MFAW](#))



Grandmother Pauline Graham

16th trial for Lazaros!

On 31 March, tireless Greek conscientious objector [Lazaros Petromelidis](#), 46, was sentenced to 18 months in prison for in subordination. The sentence was suspended until the hearing in the Supreme Court. (Source: [Greek Association of Conscientious Objectors](#))



US Soldier seeks asylum in Germany

When U.S. Army Specialist [André Shepherd](#) applied for asylum last November, he said: "I applied for asylum in Germany, where the Nuremberg trials established that one cannot defend one's actions by claiming to have merely been following orders." (Source: [Connection e.V.](#))



Soldiers against war! Invest in Caring, not Killing!

Without obedient soldiers there can be no wars. An international network of refuseniks – veterans, serving soldiers, conscientious objectors, deserters, draft refusers, whistle-blowers – and their supporters, women & men, is undermining the war machine that destroys the lives of so many of us and usurps the resources we need for caring and to ensure human and environmental survival. *Keep in touch with this growing movement. Join our mailing list.*

Payday men's network, working with the **Global Women's Strike**

payday@paydaynet.org PO Box 287 London NW6 5QU Tel +44 207 209 4751 www.refusingtokill.net

SHMINISTIM

Israeli teens who refuse to join the army. Read their public [letter](#).

STOP PRESS: After time in jail, Raz Bar-David Varon and Maya Yecheli Wind were both exempted from military service on medical grounds in April, and are no longer in danger of further imprisonment.



Neta Mishi

Sent to jail for 20 days on 24 April. Neta could be sent back repeatedly. [Write to her](#)

"I am not willing to be part of an organization committing war crimes, taking the lives of civilians..."

US refuseniks write to Shministim

We stand in solidarity with the Israeli Shministim... We have also refused to participate in unjust acts of military aggression, and many of us have gone to prison or currently live with that possibility as a result... The Global War on Terror, like the Israeli occupation, is propped up by racism and dehumanization and sets the stage for never-ending war and occupation. We are inspired by the brave refusal of our brothers and sisters in Israel to take part in these destructive policies (...)

Signed by over two dozen US military war resisters refusing to fight in Iraq and Afghanistan.

18 December 2009 (Source: [Courage to Resist](#))

WINTER SOLDIER EUROPE

In March 2008, [Iraq Veterans Against the War](#) organised Winter Soldier, a two-day conference during which refuseniks and other war resisters revealed what really happened in Iraq and Afghanistan. Since then, similar events took place in the US and on 16 March 2009 in Germany. View testimonies [here](#), including Shepherd's - the first Iraq veteran to seek asylum in Europe.