

## Chalabi, Torture Scandals Lead To Beast-Man Cheney's Doorstep

by Edward Spannaus

How long can Dick Cheney last?

The now-daily torrent of high-level leaks pouring out of both military and civilian agencies, reflects the high degree of institutional determination to clean out the Cheney-Rumsfeld corruption from the military-security establishment. It also portends that the Abu Ghraib torture scandal is not going away, and that it cannot be contained at the level of a handful of privates and sergeants. The drive to oust Cheney, which was launched by Democratic candidate Lyndon LaRouche in the fall of 2002, has now taken on the character of a steamroller.

What has been exposed indisputably, is that Cheney and his cronies in Donald Rumsfeld's Department of Defense and John Ashcroft's Department of Justice, as part of their general war policy, were responsible for the Administration's policy of throwing out international laws and treaties governing the treatment of captives, and putting a gang of neo-con and Christian-Zionist lunatics, such as Generals William Boykin and Geoffrey Miller, in charge of carrying out this bestial and degenerate policy.

### Cheney's Chalabi Goes Down

Now, with the May 20 raids against the Baghdad home and offices of Dick Cheney's darling, Ahmed Chalabi, the entire edifice on which the illegal Iraq war was based is quickly crumbling. For months, there have been upwards of a dozen separate investigations of the intelligence fakery and failures leading into the Iraq war. A central source of this fraud was Chalabi's Iraqi National Congress (INC), which was paid over \$40 million in U.S. funds, largely for the Information Collection Program, to gather information from defectors and other sources. *EIR* has been reliably informed that Chalabi's INC was also involved in prisoner interrogations,

which could put them in the middle of the Abu Ghraib scandal as well.

It is universally recognized by now, that Vice President Cheney's office provided the most critical base of support for promoting Chalabi's fabricated intelligence as a justification for the war, and then for making Chalabi the most powerful member of the U.S.-picked Iraqi Governing Council (see "Ahmad Chalabi's Bay of Goats," *EIR*, April 9).

The irony here, is that U.S. funds were used to pay for fabricated information from "defectors," such as that coming from the agent called "Curveball" on Saddam's non-existent mobile bio-weapons laboratories. This phony information was then disguised as coming from multiple sources, and was used to provide the Administration's rationale for invading Iraq.

Secretary of State Colin Powell acknowledged this, when asked about now-discredited information, including the "Curveball" material, which was contained in his February 2003 presentation to the United Nations. During a May 16 interview on NBC's "Meet the Press," Powell admitted that he is "very concerned" that some of that information is now shown to be inaccurate and discredited. Powell said that there had been "multiple sourcing" for the information on the mobile labs, and "it turned out that the sourcing was inaccurate and wrong, and in some cases deliberately misleading. And for that, I am disappointed, and I regret it," Powell added, in a direct slap at the Vice President's chief of staff Lewis Libby and the others who wrote the script for the Secretary of State's UN presentation.

In addition to the case of Chalabi's fakery and the fraudulent intelligence being stovepiped into the White House, the burgeoning scandal around the torture and abuse of prisoners at Abu Ghraib also leads right to Cheney's doorstep.



*The officer promoted and pushed by Cheney's staff and Rumsfeld's Pentagon to shape the Iraq prisoner policy, Gen. William Boykin, has become well known for his evangelism on the theme that Islam is Satan; less well known, are his ties to the secretive and powerful Fellowship, previously exposed in LaRouche campaign pamphlets.*

## Origins of Abu Ghraib

On January 27, 2002, a few months after the launching of the war in Afghanistan, Vice President Cheney went onto the Sunday talk shows to weigh in regarding the fierce debate raging at that moment within the Bush Administration, over whether the Geneva Conventions and the laws of war should apply to the war in Afghanistan and to prisoners captured there. John Ashcroft's Justice Department had prepared a series of secret memoranda, arguing that the Third Geneva Convention (regarding Prisoners of War) should not apply to those captured in Afghanistan, who were being shipped to the new detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and to secret detention facilities in third countries. Their arguments were incorporated into a memorandum for President Bush written by White House Counsel Alberto Gonzales on January 25, 2002. (According to sources consulted by *EIR*, Dick Cheney's General Counsel David Addington was equally involved in developing and approving this policy.)

Gonzales drafted a memo to this effect on Jan. 25, 2002, in which he wrote that the new conditions of the war on terrorism renders some of the Geneva Convention's provisions "obsolete" and "quaint." He also warned that, because of the unorthodox methods being pursued in the war on terrorism, Bush Administration officials could be subject to prosecution for war crimes by a future Justice Department or an independent prosecutor; Gonzales suggested that if the President declared the Geneva Convention did not apply, this could provide a defense against a future war-crimes prosecution.

According to a report in the May 24 issue of *Newsweek*, Secretary of State Colin Powell "hit the roof" when he read the Gonzales memorandum. Powell fired off a counter-memo to Bush the next day, warning of the immense damage this would cause to the United States—politically, diplomatically, morally, militarily, and legally.

The next day, on Jan. 27, Cheney went onto two Sunday talk shows to spout his anti-Powell and anti-Geneva Convention line, and to lay out the policy that led directly to the Abu Ghraib atrocities. "These are bad people," said Cheney, arguing why the Geneva Accords should not apply to prisoners at Guantanamo. "They may well have information about future terrorist attacks against the United States. We need that information, we need to be able to interrogate them and extract from them whatever information they have."

Journalist Seymour Hersh's latest, and most explosive article, in the May 24 issue of the *New Yorker*, filled out some critical elements of how the policy was implemented. Hersh showed how, in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks, Rumsfeld had authorized the creation of a secret "special-access program" (SAP), within the Defense Department, of hunter-killer teams, empowered to kill, or capture and interrogate, high-value targets in the war on terrorism. Operatives were drawn from the Navy SEALs, the Army's Delta Force, and CIA paramilitary forces. They carried out interrogations in a chain of secret detention facilities around the world. Physical coercion and sexual humiliation—based on cultural profiling of Arabs—was an integral part of the program.

This program, according to Hersh's account, operating under Stephen Cambone, the Straussian-trained Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence, was then expanded into the prisons and detention centers in Iraq in the late Summer of 2003. The secret expansion of the SAP into Abu Ghraib was carried out under the broader cover of changes in interrogation procedures at Abu Ghraib, which were recommended by the Guantanamo commander, Maj. Gen. Geoffrey Miller.

Miller's own paranoid, anti-Muslim mentality had been demonstrated in his personal orchestration of the attempted frameup of Capt. James Yee, a West Point graduate who was the Muslim chaplain at Guantanamo. Yee was arrested at Miller's direction, and was given the "Gitmo" treatment—blindfolded, ears covered, and shackled—while he was transported to the brig at Charleston, South Carolina, where he was held in isolation for 76 days on Miller's orders. Stories were leaked to the press that Yee could face multiple espionage charges carrying the death penalty.

But in March, all criminal charges were dropped against Yee, and in April, Miller was overridden by the head of the Southern Command, and even the reprimand which Yee had been given, was stricken.

## Boykin: Cambone's Jihadist

Meanwhile, back in Iraq in the Summer of 2003, the insurgency was on the rise, and Rumsfeld and his neo-con gang were clueless as to how to deal with it. Ignoring all competent advice, Rumsfeld and his deputy Paul Wolfowitz had ordered the invasion of Iraq on the fantastical assumption that U.S. troops would be greeted as liberators, and the mission would be over in a few months.

Now, operating blind, they needed intelligence on the insurgency, but they had no intelligence network in Iraq. The only way they could see to get any information, was to squeeze it out of captured Iraqis. On the recommendation of Cambone, General Miller was sent to Abu Ghraib to revamp the interrogation procedures there for the objective of rapidly obtaining “actionable intelligence.”

It was Lt. Gen. William “Jerry” Boykin, Cambone’s military assistant, who was sent to Gitmo to brief Miller and give him his orders for his mission. And when Miller returned, according to Cambone’s testimony, it was Boykin who briefed Cambone on the outcome of Miller’s trip.

Earlier, in June, Rumsfeld had given Boykin, a 13-year veteran of the Delta Force, his third star, and put him in charge of the manhunt for Osama bin Laden and other “high-value” targets. What thrust Boykin into the public spotlight last October, was the disclosure of Boykin’s public statements characterizing the war on terrorism as a conflict between Christianity and Satan.

He had organized a travelling evangelistic road show displaying pictures of Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussein.

“Why do they hate us?” Boykin would ask. “The answer to that is because we are a Christian nation.” They will only be defeated, Boykin proclaimed, “if we come against them in the name of Jesus.”

This is, by now, well-known. What is not well-known, is that Boykin is a member of the “Fellowship”—the super-secret pseudo-Christian cult described in the LaRouche campaign’s *Children of Satan II* report, which is heavily based in the military and among public officials, including many members of Congress. According to a knowledgeable intelligence source, Boykin’s Fellowship credentials would have ensured that his appointment would not be derailed by Congress.

According to one source, the word among people who know Generals Miller and Boykin, is that they are “two peas in a pod.” Miller is known as a “Prayer Breakfast type”—not surprising, since it is the Fellowship which operates the National Prayer Breakfast network.

What a perfect pair of Holy Warriors, ideally suited to oversee Beast-Men Cheney’s and Rumsfeld’s policy for the brutalization and humiliation of Islamic captives.

## Nazi Precedent for Pentagon

White House General Counsel Alberto Gonzalez stated in a memo to President Bush on Jan. 25, 2002 that “The nature of the new war [on terror] places a high premium on the other factors, such as the ability to quickly obtain information from captured terrorists and their sponsors in order to avoid further atrocities against American civilians. In my judgment, this new paradigm renders obsolete Geneva’s strict limitations on questioning of enemy prisoners, and renders quaint some of its provisions.”

Adolf Hitler motivated his “new paradigm” for a war on the Soviet Union with similar reasoning. As William L. Shirer reported in *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich* Hitler outlined this during a meeting with the heads of the three armed services and key Army field commanders early in March 1941: “The war against Russia will be such that it cannot be conducted in a knightly fashion. This struggle is one of ideologies and racial differences and will have to be conducted with unprecedented, unmerciful, and unrelenting harshness. All officers will have to rid themselves of obsolete ideologies. . . . German soldiers guilty of breaking international law will be excused. Russia has not participated in the Hague Convention and therefore has no rights under it.”

On May 13, 1941, Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel, the head of the Armed Forces High Command (a position like

that of the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff today), issued an order, in the name of Hitler, which severely limited and degraded the functions of the military court martial system:

“Punishable offenses committed by enemy civilians [in Russia] do not, until further notice, come any longer under the jurisdiction of the courts-martial.

*“Persons suspected of criminal action will be brought at once before an officer. This officer will decide whether they are to be shot.*

*“With regard to offenses committed against enemy civilians by members of the Wehrmacht, prosecution is not obligatory, even where the deed is at the same time a military crime or offense” (emphasis in original).*

The Army was explicitly instructed to go easy on any such German offenders, “remembering in each case all the harm done to Germany since 1918 by the ‘Bolsheviki.’ ”

Units with secret, special responsibilities facilitated torture in Russia in 1941, as in Iraq in 2004. A second ominous directive was issued by Field Marshal Keitel on May 13, 1941, also in Hitler’s name. It stipulated that SS head Heinrich Himmler was entrusted with the performance of “special tasks” to pave the way for the political administration of Russia. These “special tasks, which result from the struggle which has to be carried out between two opposing political systems,” required that Himmler have full freedom to act “independently” of the Army, “under his own responsibility.”

—Steve Douglas