

Subject: Information about Rachel Corrie (the International Solidarity Movement activist who was killed in an accident with a Caterpillar bulldozer)

The Palestine Solidarity Movement, also known as the International Solidarity Movement, is agitating for a boycott of Caterpillar products and I believe a lawsuit against Caterpillar because an Israeli bulldozer driver, to use their words, "murdered" Rachel Corrie. There are some things that Caterpillar, and the public, should know about the incident in question.

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- (1) The International Solidarity Movement and a Hamas terrorist say openly that they *had a motive for wanting Rachel Corrie dead.*
  - (2) The ISM's own testimony shows that the activists made no effort whatsoever to pull Rachel out of the slowly-moving bulldozer's path when it became apparent that it was not going to stop. Furthermore, one activist's testimony that she died in the ambulance conflicts with the fact that Palestinian emergency room doctors attempted to save her life at the hospital to which the ambulance took her.
  - (3) At least one photograph that the ISM posted with regard to the incident could be a photomanipulated fake. It should be examined by an expert and a copy (<http://electronicintifada.net/artman/uploads/rachelconfront483.jpg>, downloaded 1/27/06) has been included in the package sent to Caterpillar.
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- (1) The International Solidarity Movement and Hamas are on record as stating openly that they had a motive for *wanting* Rachel Corrie dead.
    - [http://www.standwithus.com/news\\_post.asp?NPI=85](http://www.standwithus.com/news_post.asp?NPI=85) "Recently, the Director of the Solidarity Movement, George Rishmawi, explained to the San Francisco Chronicle that the recruitment of American student volunteers is useful to the Palestinian Movement because "if some of these foreign volunteers get shot or even killed, then the international media will sit up and take notice."
    - Joseph Smith, who was present when Corrie died and whose highest priority was apparently to take pictures, said "The spirit that she died for is worth a life. This idea of resistance, this spirit of resisting this brutal occupying force, is worth anything. And many, many, many Palestinians give their lives for it all the time. So the life of one international, I feel, is more than worth the spirit of resisting oppression." ([http://www.freepalestinecampaign.org/Stranger\\_article.htm](http://www.freepalestinecampaign.org/Stranger_article.htm), a source friendly to the Palestine Solidarity Movement, copy of Web page enclosed)
    - A Hamas terrorist said openly that Rachel was worth more dead than alive. "Her death serves me more than it served her," said one activist at a Hamas funeral yesterday. '...Her death will bring more attention than the other 2,000 martyrs.' "Making of a Martyr" by Sandra Jordan, *Guardian Newspapers* (<http://www.buzzle.com/editorials/3-22-2003-37821.asp>, copy of Web page enclosed)

- (2) Several of Rachel's fellow ISM activists testified vigorously about their eyewitness accounts of her death but not one of them, by their own accounts, lifted a finger to pull her out of the slowly-moving bulldozer's path.
- Per "Making of a Martyr," "Her British friend and fellow activist, Tom Dale, 18, from Lichfield in Staffordshire, said he saw her die. First, he said, there was fear on her face as she realised that her defiant gesture was going wrong. Joe Smith, 21, who went to college with Corrie, said that, although they acknowledged the danger, they saw death as a 'small, unlikely, potential risk'."
  - Note that Mr. Dale was close enough to see the fear on her face but he does not claim to have attempted to pull her out of the way when he realized that her "defiant gesture was going wrong."
  - "Dale watched as she knelt down in front of the bulldozer, perhaps 20 metres away, something the activists had done repeatedly that day as they had in the past. 'The bulldozer went towards her, very slowly, she was fully in clear view, straight in front of them.'"
  - He testifies that the bulldozer was moving very slowly— plenty of time for him or another man to pull her out of its path when it became clear that (for whatever reason) it was not going to stop. None of the ISM activists claim to have tried.
  - "A traumatised Smith raised his camera and took photographs: Rachel standing in front of the bulldozer; then her bloodied body being pulled from the freshly turned soil; being cradled in the arms of her friends."
  - Note that he began (per the statement above) taking the pictures *before* she was struck or run over, thus suggesting that he realized that she was in mortal danger but did not try to protect her from it.
  - "'If only they'd had a video camera,' one Palestinian journalist lamented. 'A film of the Israelis killing an American in cold blood would have ended the intifada.'"
  - The Palestinian journalist's primary lament is that they didn't have a video camera— and not that someone didn't pull Rachel out of the bulldozer's path.

**ISM member Tom Dale's testimony, from the ISM's own Web site**

(<http://www.palsolidarity.org/main/2003/03/17/the-closest-eye-witness-account-on-the-murder-of-rachel-corrie/> highlighting and bracketed comments are mine)

Many of you will [have] heard varying accounts of the death of Rachel Corrie, maybe others will have heard nothing of it. Regardless, I was 10 metres away when it happened 2 days ago, and this is the way it went.

We'd been monitoring and occasionally obstructing the 2 bulldozers for about 2 hours when 1 of them turned toward a house we knew to be threatened with demolition. Rachel knelt down in its way. She was 10-20 metres in front of the bulldozer, clearly visible, the only object for many metres, directly in it's [sic] view. They were in Radio contact with a tank

that had a profile view of the situation. There is no way she could not have been seen by them in their elevated cabin. They knew where she was, there is no doubt.

The bulldozer drove toward Rachel slowly, gathering earth in its scoop as it went.

[If the bulldozer was demolishing houses, why bother to scoop up earth? Why not just drive through the houses?]

She knelt there, she did not move. The bulldozer reached her and she began to stand up, climbing onto the mound of earth. She appeared to be looking into the cockpit. The bulldozer continued to push Rachel, so she slipped down the mound of earth, turning as she went. Her face showed she was panicking and it was clear she was in danger of being overwhelmed.

[Note that this individual says nothing whatsoever about his own actions, or lack thereof, while the bulldozer slowly— to use his own words— ran over her while he stood ten long paces away.]

All the activists were screaming at the bulldozer to stop and gesturing to the crew about Rachel's presence.

[The activists had been screaming at the bulldozer all day, so the driver probably assumed it was just more protesting. Remember also that he was inside an armored cabin with a very large engine running beneath him.]

We were in clear view as Rachel had been, they continued. They pushed Rachel, first beneath the scoop, then beneath the blade, then continued till her body was beneath the cockpit. They waited over her for a few seconds, before reversing. They reversed with the blade pressed down, so it scraped over her body a second time. Every second I believed they would stop but they never did.

I ran for an ambulance, she was gasping and her face was covered in blood from a gash cutting her face from lip to cheek. She was showing signs of brain hemorrhaging. She died in the ambulance a few minutes later of massive internal injuries.

However, "Palestinian doctors try to save the life of Rachel Corrie at the Najar hospital in the southern Gaza town of Rafah." This is inconsistent with Tom Dale's testimony. (Posted at <http://www.voicesofpalestine.org/outrageous/rachelcorrie.asp> and elsewhere)

"Palestinian doctors try to save the life of Rachel Corrie, 23, from Olympia, Wash., a member of the 'International Solidarity Movement' at the Najar hospital in the southern Gaza Strip town of Rafah Sunday, March 16, 2003. Rachel was run over Sunday, March 16, 2003 by an Israeli army bulldozer that she was trying to stop from tearing down a building in the Rafah refugee camp, witnesses said. (AP Photo/Khalil Hamra)"

(3) One of the ISM's photographs may be a photomanipulated fake  
(The original should be examined by an expert for evidence of cut-and-paste photomanipulation.)



Furthermore, the *Electronic Intifada* reports, "Picture taken between 3:00-4:00PM, 16 March 2003, [late afternoon in late winter] Rafah, Occupied Gaza. Rachel Corrie (L) and Nick (R) oppose the potential destruction of this home (to the west of the Doctor's home where Rachel was killed). In the instance pictured, the bulldozer did not stop and Rachel was pinned between the scooped earth and the fence behind her. On this occasion, the driver stopped before seriously injuring her. Photo by Joseph Smith (ISM Handout)."

Although the picture was supposedly taken in the late afternoon in late winter, Rachel's shadow is shorter than her body. This suggests a very high sun angle, perhaps almost noon for the time and place. The man and the much-larger bulldozer, meanwhile, cast no shadow whatsoever to the same direction. The angle of the sun from behind the bulldozer seems consistent with late afternoon, though.

It has been argued that the man's feet are hidden by the plants on the ground and it is in fact hard to tell. The way he is standing, as if he kicking a soccer ball, is certainly unusual for the situation. If the photo is not a fake, the height of the bulldozer blade relative to a standing person seems to prove that the driver could not possibly have seen someone who was kneeling in front of it if the distance was close enough.