

PROJECT CENSORED'S TOP 25 NEWS STORIES

Continuing its long-standing tradition, the Project Censored team has selected and judged the most important American and international news stories of 2011–2012 which deserved more attention by the mainstream media.

Compiled by
Project Censored © 2012

Professor Mickey Huff
Director, Project Censored

Media Freedom Foundation
PO Box 571, Cotati, CA 94931, USA
<http://www.projectcensored.org>

Each year, Project Censored, in cooperation with faculty members and students from the Department of Sociology of Media and Sociology of Censorship at Sonoma State University, California, selects and evaluates thousands of news stories published in the United States and internationally, particularly in the alternative media. The team ultimately decides on the top 25 most underreported but significant stories. Following is Project Censored's 2011–12 selection, posted at <http://www.projectcensored.org>. The book *Censored 2013: Dispatches from the Media Revolution*, edited by Mickey Huff and Andy Lee Roth with Project Censored, is now available. – Editor

1. Signs of an Emerging Police State in the USA

Since the passage of the 2001 Patriot Act, the United States has become increasingly monitored and militarised at the expense of civil liberties. The 2012 passage of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) has allowed the military to detain indefinitely without trial any US citizen that the government labels a terrorist or an accessory to terrorism, while President Barack Obama's signing of the National Defense Resources Preparedness Executive Order has authorised widespread federal and military control of the national economy and resources during "emergency and non-emergency conditions". Since 2010, the Department of Homeland Security's "If You See Something, Say Something"™ campaign has encouraged the public to report all suspicious activity to local authorities, even though actions that the department identifies as "suspicious" include the constitutionally protected right to criticise the government or engage in nonviolent protest.

- Spencer Ackerman and Noah Shachtman, "Read the FBI Memo: Agents Can 'Suspend the Law'", *Wired.com*, 28 March 2012, <http://tinyurl.com/6tytkps>

- James Bamford, "The NSA Is Building the Country's Biggest Spy Center (Watch What You Say)", *Wired.com*, 15 March 2012, <http://tinyurl.com/6rv2uyh>

- Chris Hedges, "Why I'm Suing Barack Obama", *Truthdig.com*, 16 January 2012, <http://tinyurl.com/7ly8qgz>

- The White House, "Executive Order: National Defense Resources Preparedness", Office of the Press Secretary, 16 March 2012, <http://tinyurl.com/7ev8jgj>

- The White House, "Statement by the President on H.R. 1540", Office of the Press Secretary, 31 December 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/7mnzud7>

2. Seas and Oceans in Peril

We thought that the sea was infinite and inexhaustible. It is not. The overall rise in ocean temperature has led to the largest movement of marine species in two to three million years, according to scientists from the Climate Change and European Marine Ecosystem Research project.

A February 2012 study of 14 protected and 18 unprotected ecosystems in the Mediterranean Sea demonstrated that this previously healthy sea is now

quickly being depleted of resources. An international team of scientists conducted the study over a period of three years and found that in well-enforced marine reserve areas the fish populations were five to 10 times greater than the fish populations in unprotected areas. The work of these scientists encourages the establishment and maintenance of marine reserves.

- Julia Whitty, "The End of a Myth", OnEarth.org, 27 February 2012, <http://tinyurl.com/8xl8bbj>
- Richard Gray, "Warming Oceans Cause Largest Movement of Marine Species in Two Million Years", *The Telegraph*, UK, 26 June 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/448qhas>
- David A. Gabel, "Overfishing the Mediterranean", Environmental News Network, 8 March 2012, <http://www.enn.com/ecosystems/article/44102>
- Enric Sala *et al.*, "The Structure of Mediterranean Rocky Reef Ecosystems across Environmental and Human Gradients, and Conservation Implications", *PLOS ONE* 7(2), 29 February 2012, <http://tinyurl.com/9ghnvc9>

3. Fukushima Nuclear Disaster

Developing evidence from a number of independent sources suggests that the negative consequences of the 2011 Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear disaster are far greater than first acknowledged or understood.

An estimated 14,000 excess deaths in the United States are linked to the radioactive fallout in Japan, according to a December 2011 report published in the *International Journal of Health Services*.

Meanwhile, the US Environmental Protection Agency's radiation detection network (RadNet) has serious drawbacks, including a lack of maintenance and equipment that is often improperly calibrated.

- Joseph Mangano and Janette Sherman, "14,000 U.S. Deaths Tied to Fukushima Reactor Disaster Fallout", *International Journal of Health Services*, via PR Newswire, 19 December 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/7h92r37>
- Alex Roslin, "What Are Officials Hiding About Fukushima?", *Straight.com*, Vancouver, 20 October 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/8zsynw7>
- Danny Schechter, "Beyond Fukushima: A World in Denial about Nuclear Risks", *CommonDreams.org*, 21 March 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/659wefr>
- PSTUPH (blog), "RadNet or SadNet? The EPA's Failed Radiation Detection System", 4 April 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/8hjvvcv>
- Lucas W. Hixson, "The EPA Took RADNet Down Because They Were Getting Data From 'Other' Sources", 23 March 2011, *Enformable Nuclear News*, <http://tinyurl.com/94cvyyr>

• James Corbett, "US Radiation Monitoring May Have Been Handed Off to Nuclear Industry Lobbyists", *Fukushima Update*, 4 November 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/3gonjrf>

• Michael Kane, "Fallout", *Collapse Network*, 24 March 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/4fvtnsq>

• Alexander Higgins, "Confirmed: EPA Rigged RADNET Japan Nuclear Radiation Monitoring Equipment To Report Lower Levels Of Fukushima Fallout", *Alexander Higgins Blog*, 19 May 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/8qcyacu>

4. FBI's Role in Terrorist Plots in the United States

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has embarked on an unusual approach to ensure that the United States is secure from future terrorist attacks. The agency has developed a network of nearly 15,000 spies to infiltrate various communities in an attempt to uncover terrorist plots. However, these moles are actually assisting and encouraging people to commit crimes. Many informants receive cash rewards of up to \$100,000 per case.

- Trevor Aaronson, "The Informants", *Mother Jones*, September/October 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/722kx78>
- "FBI Organizes Almost All Terror Plots in the US", *RT.com*, 23 August 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/9a4p79l>

The agency has developed a network of nearly 15,000 spies to infiltrate various communities in an attempt to uncover terrorist plots.

5. First Federal Reserve Audit

The first-ever audit of the Federal Reserve in the US revealed \$16 trillion in secret bailouts to major American and European banks during the height of the global financial crisis from 2007 to 2010. Morgan Stanley received up to \$107.3 billion, Citigroup took \$99.5 billion and Bank of

America \$91.4 billion, according to data obtained through Freedom of Information Act requests, months of litigation and an act of Congress.

- Matthew Cardinale, "First Federal Reserve Audit Reveals Trillions in Secret Bailouts", *Inter Press Service* via *CommonDreams.org*, 28 August 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/4xrek8a>

6. Small Network of Corporations Runs Economy

A study by researchers at the ETH Zürich in Switzerland reported that a small group of companies—mainly banks—wields huge power over the global economy. The study is the first to look at all 43,060 transnational corporations and the web of ownership among them.

The researchers' network analysis identified 147 companies that form a "super entity", controlling 40 per cent of the global economy's total wealth. The close connections mean that the network could be prone to "systemic risk" and vulnerable to collapse.

- Rob Waugh, "Does One 'Super Corporation' Run the

Global Economy? Study Claims it Could be Terrifyingly Unstable", *Daily Mail*, UK, 20 October 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/6gak2cd>

- Stefania Vitali, James B. Glattfelder and Stefano Battiston, "The Network of Global Corporate Control", *PLOS ONE* 6(10), 26 October 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/blgyxcr>

7. 2012: International Year of Cooperatives

The United Nations named 2012 as the International Year of Cooperatives. According to the UN, nearly one billion people worldwide are co-op member-owners, and the co-op is expected to be the world's fastest-growing business model by 2025. Worker-owned cooperatives provide for equitable distribution of wealth and genuine connection to the workplace, two key components of a sustainable economy.

- Jessica Reeder, "The Year of the Cooperative", *Yes! Magazine*, 1 February 2012, <http://tinyurl.com/8ee6me7>

- Monique Hairston, "American Dream 2.0: Can Worker-Owned Coops End Poverty?", *Rebuild the Dream* (blog), 9 March 2012, <http://tinyurl.com/95cem5z>

8. NATO War Crimes in Libya

Although the rationale of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) for entry into the Libyan conflict invoked humanitarian principles, the results have proven far from humane.

In July 2011, NATO aircraft bombed Libya's main water supply facility which provided water to approximately 70 per cent of the nation's population.

And, in a failed attempt to appear unbiased and objective, the BBC has revealed—almost a year after the information was relayed by independent media—that British Special Forces played a key role in steering and supervising Libya's "freedom fighters" to victory.

- Michael Collins, "NATO War Crimes: The Wanton Destruction of Sirte", *Global Research*, 15 October 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/3edxfjn>

- Michael Collins, "Smoking Guns – War Crimes in Libya", *The Daily Censored* (blog), 2 November 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/8mr8fpc>

- Timothy Bancroft-Hinchey, "NATO's Ultimate War Crime: Destroying Libya's Water Supply", *Global Research*, 1 August 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/3zgmwvr>

- Timothy Bancroft-Hinchey, "NATO War Crime: Libya Water Supply", *Pravda.Ru*, 23 July 2011,

<http://tinyurl.com/8egypf6>

- Franklin Lamb, "Where Have Libya's Children Gone?", *CounterPunch*, 8 August 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/9ovhndw>

- Gerald A. Perreira, "British Intelligence Worked with Al Qaeda to Kill Qaddafi", *Global Research*, 25 March 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/9emtfgc>

- Patrick Martin, "A CIA Commander for the Libyan Rebels", *World Socialist Web Site*, 28 March 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/4zjmzxb>

- Global Research, "BBC 'Reveals' After the Facts How British Special Forces Supervised and Spearheaded Libya Rebels to Victory", *Global Research*, 1 February 2012, <http://tinyurl.com/8cr42ze>

Although pundits have debated to what extent the new law restricts First Amendment rights or criminalises Occupy protests, it does make it easier for the Secret Service to overuse or misuse existing laws...

9. Prison Slavery in Today's USA

The US comprises less than five per cent of the world's population, yet US prisons hold more than 25 per cent of all people imprisoned globally. Many of these prisoners labour at 23 cents per hour, or similar wages, in federal prisons contracted by the Bureau of Prisons' UNICOR, a quasi-public, for-profit corporation which is the US government's 39th largest contractor.

As incarceration rates explode in the US, thousands are placed in solitary confinement, often for having committed minor disciplinary infractions within prison.

- Sara Flounders, "The Pentagon & Slave Labor in U.S. Prisons", *Workers World*, 6 June 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/9leultp>

- James Ridgeway and Jean Casella, "Cruel and Usual: US Solitary Confinement", *Aljazeera*, 19 March 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/d6nqcqx>

10. Nonviolent Protest Illegal

In March 2012, President Obama signed into law HR 347, the Federal Restricted Buildings and Grounds Improvement Act of 2011. The law specifies as criminal offences the acts of entering or remaining in areas defined as "restricted". Although pundits have debated to what extent the new law restricts First Amendment rights or criminalises Occupy protests, it does make it easier for the Secret Service to overuse or misuse existing laws to arrest lawful protesters by lowering the requirement of intent in the prosecution of criminal activity.

- Danny Weil, "Many Forms of Occupy Protests Subjected to New Bill Making Protests Illegal", *The Daily Censored* (blog), 5 Mar 2012, <http://tinyurl.com/97vxokq>

- Oskar Mosquito, "Enacting the NDAA: Limiting

Protesters' Rights", Media Roots, 5 March 2012, <http://tinyurl.com/8ezhrzf>

- Brian Doherty, "Bill Passes House: Protests Near Secret Service Protected Folk Effectively Outlawed", Reason (blog), 1 March 2012, <http://tinyurl.com/86fypnk>

11. Congress Members Grow Wealthier

The net worth of members of Congress continues to rise regardless of the economic recession. An analysis of financial disclosure forms by *Roll Call* newspaper, using the minimum valuation of assets, showed that members of the House and Senate in 2010 had a collective net worth of \$2.04 billion, a \$390 million increase from the \$1.65 billion held in 2008. Disclosure forms do not include non-income-producing assets.

- Luke Johnson, "Members of Congress Grow Wealthier Despite Recession", The Huffington Post, 1 Nov 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/85sk34w>

12. US Arms Terror Groups in Syria

The US, Britain, France and some conservative Arab allies have funded and armed the Syrian rebellion from its start in 2011. In fact, the US has been funding groups against Bashar Al Assad since the mid-1990s. However, the anti-Assad ranks include members of Al Qaeda, Hamas and other groups that the US lists as terrorist organisations.

- Michel Chossudovsky and Finian Cunningham, "Syria: Clinton Admits US on Same Side as Al Qaeda to Destabilize Assad Government", Global Research, 27 February 2012, <http://tinyurl.com/6u3z9p7>

- Eric Margolis, "The Dangerous Mess in Syria Grows Murkier", Information Clearing House, 25 March 2012, <http://tinyurl.com/9pe5qbr>

- Alex Lantier, "U.S. Violates Syrian Air Space: Drones Over Syria as Fighting Spreads", Global Research, 20 February 2012, <http://tinyurl.com/87u2as7>

13. Education "Reform" and Privatisation

Public education is the target of a well-coordinated, well-funded campaign to privatise as many schools as possible, particularly in cities. This campaign claims it wants great teachers in every classroom, but its rhetoric demoralises teachers, reduces the status of the education profession and champions standardised tests that perpetuate social inequality. The driving logic for such reform is profit.

- Paul Rosenberg, "Education 'Reform' vs. the 99%", Random Lengths News, 10–23 February 2012,

<http://tinyurl.com/7ymk7pa>

- Paul L. Thomas, "Testing and Poverty in Education", The Daily Censored (blog), 8 August 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/99oqc7>

14. Who Are the Top One Per Cent?

The richest one per cent of the USA now owns more than 40 per cent of the wealth and takes home nearly a quarter of national income. Evidence based on tax returns indicates that this superelite one per cent consists of nonfinancial executives, financial professionals and members of the legal, real estate and medical professions. Earnings at this level correlate with deregulation and the other legal changes that brought on the financial crisis. While the 99 per cent deal with the direct consequences of that crisis, the one per cent wealth-holders increasingly have left behind deteriorating neighbourhoods in favour of wealthy enclaves, further isolating themselves, according to a 2011 Stanford University study.

- Mike Konczal, "Who Are The 1%, and What Do They Do for a Living?", Rortybomb (blog), 14 Oct 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/8b3jgee>

15. Dangers of Technology

Recent research raises compelling concerns about two commonplace technologies: cellular phones and microwave ovens. Heavy, long-term exposure to cellphone radiation increases risks for certain types of cancer, including leukaemia, and in males impairs sperm production. Prenatal exposure to cellphone radiation has been shown to produce blood-brain

barrier leakage and brain, liver and eye damage.

The microwave radiation that heats food also creates free radicals that can become carcinogenic, while the consumption of microwaved foods is associated with short-term decreases in white blood cells. The US Food and Drug Administration has yet to recognise studies which indicate that microwave ovens alter the nutritional structure of foods, and, as with the dangers of cellphone use, most studies indicating minimal or no health risks are industry sponsored.

- Devra Davis, PhD, "Cell Phone Radiation: Is It Dangerous?", The Huffington Post, 1 March 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/68uz6pn>

- Tamir S. Aldad *et al.*, "Fetal Radiofrequency Radiation Exposure From 800–1900 Mhz-Rated Cellular Telephones Affects Neurodevelopment and Behavior in Mice", *Nature*

...the US has been funding groups against Bashar Al Assad since the mid-1990s. However, the anti-Assad ranks include members of Al Qaeda, Hamas and other groups that the US lists as terrorist organisations.

Scientific Reports 2, 15 Mar 2012, <http://tinyurl.com/7hzgtwr>

- Carole Bass, "Cell Phones Might Cause ADHD, Yale Study Finds", *Yale Alumni Magazine* (blog), 15 March 2012, <http://tinyurl.com/canfbnw>

- Markham Heid, "Cell Phones Could Hurt Your Sperm", *Men's Health*, 16 August 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/9kj9zkm>

- Markham Heid, "The Worst Place to Keep Your Cell Phone", *Men's Health*, 4 August 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/8qt6gww>

- Devra Davis, PhD, "Beyond Brain Cancer: Other Possible Dangers Of Cell Phones", *The Huffington Post*, 15 June 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/3bq29qh>

- Richard Stossel, "Microwaved Water Kills Plant in Home Grown Experiment", *NaturalNews.com*, 2 April 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/3g6eyxq>

- Christopher Gussa, "Microwave Ovens: The Curse of Convenience", *Natural News*, 14 April 2008, <http://tinyurl.com/9ygvwws>

- Anthony Lane and Lawrence Newell, "The Hidden Hazards Of Microwave Cooking", *Health-Science* (no date), <http://tinyurl.com/ygtwxzs>

16. Sexual Violence Rising

The 2005 death of US Army Private Lavena Johnson, officially ruled suicide by the Department of Defense (DoD), in fact exemplifies the sexual violence that female soldiers encounter while serving their country. Johnson's autopsy revealed wounds inconsistent with suicide, including chemical burns that many believe were intended to destroy DNA evidence of rape. The Pentagon has tried to intimidate reporters and editors working on stories about Johnson.

Johnson's case is among at least 20 where female soldiers have died under suspicious circumstances. The mysterious deaths coincide with an increase in sexual violence against women in the military. According to the DoD, in 2010 there were 3,158 total reports of sexual assault in the military. The DoD estimates that this number represents only 13.5 per cent of the actual assaults, making the total number of military rapes and sexual assaults in excess of 19,000 for the year.

- John Lasker, "Sexual Violence Against Women in the US Military: The Search for Truth and Justice", *Toward Freedom*, 14 July 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/8ku4e63>

17. Students Crushed by a Trillion Dollars in Loans

In April 2012, US student loan debt topped \$1 trillion, more than the credit card debt. Although corporate media dutifully reported this milestone, they underplayed its significance and ignored one promising solution. Student loan debt is the only form of

consumer loan debt that has increased substantially since 2008.

The threat of massive student loan defaults requiring another taxpayer bailout is a systemic risk as serious as the bank failures that brought the US economy to the brink of collapse in 2008. The Federal Reserve could introduce a new quantitative easing program to remove student loan debt, giving the economy a boost similar to that created by the GI Bill.

- Ellen Brown, "A Jubilee for Student Debt?", *Yes! Magazine*, 20 October 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/5wfe3dt>

- Alex Pareene, "The \$1 Trillion Student Loan Rip-Off: How an Entire Generation Was Tricked into Taking On Crushing Debt that Just Enriches Banks", *AlterNet*, 20 October 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/92l74ax>

18. Palestinian Women Prisoners Shackled

Female Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons are treated inhumanely, are often denied medical care and legal representation, and are forced to live in squalid conditions.

The conditions and violations faced by women in Israeli jails need to be addressed from a gender perspective, according to CEDAW, the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

- Fabrizia Falcione interview by Mehru Jaffer, "Interview: Palestinian Women Prisoners Shackled During Childbirth", *The Electronic Intifada*, 11

March 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/9acnv4s>

19. NY Police Plant Drugs to Meet Arrest Quotas

A host of stories document how the New York Police Department (NYPD) operates outside the very laws it is charged with enforcing. In October 2011, a former NYPD narcotics detective testified that he regularly saw police plant drugs on innocent people as a way to meet arrest quotas. The NYPD's controversial "stop and frisk" program has invested \$75 million to arrest suspects for possessing minimal amounts of marijuana. Each arrest costs approximately \$1,000 to \$2,000.

Although NYPD's use of unlawful restraints and disproportionate force to arrest peaceful Occupy protesters has received some news coverage, police brutality directed against people of colour continues to go underreported.

- John Del Signore, "NYPD Narcotics Detective Admits Cops Regularly Plant Drugs on Perps", *Gothamist*, 13 October 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/3ok7r6x>

- Jesse Levine, "New York City Wasting \$75 Million a Year on Marijuana Arrests", *AlterNet*, 15 March 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/9dz98m6>

The threat of massive student loan defaults requiring another taxpayer bailout is a systemic risk as serious as the bank failures...

20. Stealing to Feed the Prison-Industrial Complex

A systemic recasting of education priorities gives official structure and permanence to a pre-existing underclass comprised largely of criminalised, poor people of colour. The rise of corporate-backed charter schools and privatised prisons cannot be understood apart from the record closures of public schools across the country.

- Adwoa Masozi, "Stealing from the Mouth of Public Education to Feed the Prison Industrial Complex", Institute for Policy Studies, 27 February 2012, <http://tinyurl.com/8osmpcu>

21. Conservatives Attack US Post Office Union

The US Postal Service (USPS) has been under constant assault for years from conservative Republicans who aim to eviscerate the strongest union in the country. Under the 2006 Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, the USPS must fully fund retiree health benefits for future retirees—including the retirement packages of employees not even born yet. No other organisation, public or private, has to pre-fund 100 per cent of its future health benefits. Thus, the post office's oft-reported \$9 billion deficit is largely a result of government-imposed overpayments.

- Allison Kilkenny, "Postal Workers: The Last Union", Truthout, 8 September 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/3ggmmn5>

- Matt Taibbi, "Don't Let Business Lobbyists Kill the Post Office", *Rolling Stone*, 23 April 2012, <http://tinyurl.com/78ezjuq>

22. Wachovia Bank Laundered Money for Cartels

Between 2004 and 2007, Wachovia Bank handled funds totalling \$378.4 billion for Mexican currency-exchange houses acting on behalf of drug cartels. The transactions amount to the largest violation of the Bank Secrecy Act, an anti-money-laundering law, in US history.

This case is not exceptional; Wachovia is just one of several US and European banks that drug cartels have used to launder money.

- Clarence Walker, "American Banks 'High' on Drug Money: How a Whistleblower Blew the Lid off Wachovia-Drug Cartel Money Laundering Scheme", AlterNet, 10 June 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/98qraen>

23. US Covers Up Afghanistan Massacre

Although the March 2012 massacre of 16 unarmed Afghan civilians, nine of whom were children, received a great deal of coverage, independent news sources have focused on whether one US soldier acting alone—as US

officials have insisted—or multiple US soldiers—as Afghan witnesses and Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai contend—bear direct responsibility for the killings. These reports highlight the fundamental responsibility of the US military high command, including President Obama, for the crimes committed by its troops.

- Al-Akhbar, "More than One US Soldier Involved in Massacre: Afghan President", Al-Akhbar English, 16 March 2012, <http://tinyurl.com/9jzkyuk>

- James Petras, "The Massacre of the Afghan 17 and the Obama Cover-Up", Information Clearing House, 27 March 2012, <http://tinyurl.com/9dmwy8w>

24. Farmers to Replace Migrants with Prisoners

Alabama's expansive anti-immigrant law, HB 56, has been so economically devastating that farmers sought legislation to force hard labour on prison inmates eligible for work release programs, to "help farms fill the gap and find sufficient labor". The state's Department of Corrections opposed the legislation, noting that its approximately 2,000 prisoners eligible for work release already have jobs and that "the prison system isn't the solution to worker shortages caused by the law".

- Agence France-Presse, "Alabama Farmers Look to Replace Migrants with Prisoners", The Raw Story, 6 December 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/9qwm4r>

- Canyon Wren, "Of Course! Inmate Labor in Place of Migrants in Alabama", Daily Kos (blog), 8 December 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/9csnwsh>

- Mike Elk and Bob Sloan, "The Hidden History of ALEC and Prison Labor", *The Nation*, 1 August 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/4xrltqa>

25. Evidence Points to Guantánamo Dryboarding

In June 2006, three Guantánamo prisoners were found dead in their cells, hanging from what appeared to be makeshift nooses. Although the US Department of Defense declared the deaths suicides, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) inquiry found evidence inconsistent with suicide—including the fact that the prisoners' hands were bound behind their backs. The NCIS evidence suggests that the prisoners died from lethal interrogations that included dryboarding, a technique using controlled suffocation.

- Almerindo Ojeda, "Death in Guantánamo: Suicide or Dry Boarding?", Truthout, 3 November 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/6k7rojo>

- Jeffrey Kaye, "Citing Truthout Report, UN Special Rapporteur 'Looking Into' Guantanamo 'Suicides'", Truthout, 27 March 2012, <http://tinyurl.com/cavrxqw> ∞

This case is not exceptional; Wachovia is just one of several US and European banks that drug cartels have used to launder money.