

# The Day Laborers Took Off

A helpless American citizen copes with the illegal alien boycott.

By Dennis Dale

LIKE MANY OF US, I was caught unprepared by the Day Without an Immigrant boycott.

There was something odd about the voice coming through the speaker at my regular fast-food drive-through. I soon realized what it was: intelligible, unaccented English. Curious.

My order arrived a full 20 seconds later than I had come to expect. Still, I thought, perhaps these were jobs Americans could do. It was then that I realized the sullen and incompetent American-born employee had used far too much mayonnaise. I could hardly get my breakfast down.

At my local hardware store, I immediately sensed an eerie absence. The day-laborer hiring center was empty. Confused building contractors helplessly circled the ghostly space, uncomprehending. In that moment I had a vision of the dystopia that was about to descend.

Deciding to get a jump on the panic, I purchased lumber and nails to board up the house and as much water and food as I could carry to prepare for the inevitable societal collapse. I sped home and found my daughter there, only now realizing the boycott had been extended to schools. I rushed to her and held her close. "Thank God you're all right. Was the sudden lack of diversity too jarring? Oh, my precious little one, I'm so sorry! I didn't know! *I didn't know!*"

"Go ahead, dear," I said, "tell Daddy what happened."

"Well, everything was pretty quiet, actually." She had no idea of the peril we were in. I turned away slightly so that she wouldn't see the tears forming in her father's eyes.

"It was nice. No gang-bangers, no fights, no one harassing you in the halls."

These profoundly ugly, stereotyping words coming from my child shook me to my core. (I abhor racism. I abhor racism with every fiber of my being. I have dedicated my life to instilling this abhorrence of racism in my child every moment of every day.)

The sudden tipping of the balance in her school's fragile ethnosystem had already produced severe racial intolerance. It was clear her school was now toxically unrepresentative. How quickly the poisonous gas of racism fills any void.

We would have to work fast: we reviewed the anti-racist documentary "Blue Eyed" and I sedated her with two Ambien, buying time until a qualified diversity trainer could be found. Of course, precious time had been lost. However, I abhor racism. I abhor racism with every fiber of my being.

Peering out the window I realized the bougainvillea was blocking my view of the street. If I was to defend the house, I would need an unobstructed view of the street. This could only mean one thing. I would have to attempt yardwork.

I found a pair of clippers—ingenious but dangerous things—and bucked up my resolve with a shot of Jack Daniels. An hour later, I managed finally to extricate myself, bleeding and disoriented, from the thorny bushes. I retreated inside, unsuccessful.

I was forced to use the remaining Jack Daniels as an anesthetic, so my memory of events becomes hazy past this point. I have to rely on the following desperate log and what forensic evidence I could find to reconstruct the

events of that long, frenzied night:

**19:00:** Still no sign of societal collapse. Too quiet. Always a bad sign. Used reciprocating saw—somehow managed to figure it out despite no illegal immigrant help—to carve escape hatch in ceiling so we can escape directly to roof. Will return later—if it's safe.

**20:01:** Trying to cook for myself with tender, incapable Anglo hands mangled by attempt at yardwork. Can't figure out how to get the food from cylindrical metal thing our Salvadoran housekeeper calls "can." Madly beating it against floor. No use. Will return later once I've stopped bleeding. So very hungry.

**20:30:** Occasional suspicious-looking yuppies wander past the house. I suspect they are desperately searching for food because the area's upscale restaurants are shut down. Must keep an eye on them. Painfully hungry now but don't dare go outside.

**21:43:** Without Maria to dust and vacuum, the air inside is dangerously unhealthy. Don't know how much longer I can hold out.

Thankfully, I lost consciousness shortly after this entry. I awoke to find that order had been restored. The illegals had returned, thank God. I cried the bittersweet tears of one who had been to the abyss and back.

No longer will I doubt that the health of our society depends on the unrestricted flow of the innumerable castoffs of a certain third-rate nation we have the good fortune to share a border with. Viva Mexico! ■

Dennis Dale's blog, *Untethered*, can be found at [www.dennisdale.blogspot.com](http://www.dennisdale.blogspot.com)

# Iran: Gulf War III?

Attacking the Islamic Republic would mean steep costs and uncertain victory.

By Charles V. Peña

IF GAS BREAKING the \$3/gallon barrier could dominate the evening news and send Congress into a frenzy, imagine Americans' horror if oil, now \$75/barrel, suddenly tops \$200. Neither our political will nor our wallets are prepared, but a few stalled SUVs may be the least of our concerns if the U.S. makes good on its threats against Iran.

On April 10, President Bush drew his line in the sand: "We do not want the Iranians to have a nuclear weapon, the capacity to make a nuclear weapon or the knowledge about how to make a nuclear weapon." The next day, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad declared that his country had "joined countries with nuclear technology" by successfully enriching uranium. Now Iran maintains that its nuclear ambitions are peaceful, but many analysts believe the real purpose is to build nuclear weapons—which the White House says it will not allow.

President Bush insists that he wants to resolve the situation diplomatically, but his recent pronouncements sound eerily like the run-up to the Iraq War, and his ultimatums have significantly narrowed the range of options. According to *New Yorker* columnist Seymour Hersh, "The Bush Administration, while publicly advocating diplomacy in order to stop Iran from pursuing a nuclear weapon, has increased clandestine activities inside Iran and intensified planning for a possible major air attack."

The blueprint for a pre-emptive strike against Iran's nuclear program is based on Israel's strike against Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor in June 1981. But this

would not be Osirak redux. Unlike Osirak, attacking Iran's nuclear program would require striking multiple targets. The three main targets would likely be Bushehr, which is a complex of light-water reactors where spent fuel rods could be diverted to produce plutonium for nuclear weapons; the previously secret Natanz nuclear facility, believed to be used for uranium enrichment that could be used for nuclear weapons; and Arak, which is the site of two planned heavy-water reactors that could produce plutonium for nuclear weapons. But a decapitating strike against Iran's nuclear program would involve more than just three targets. According to GlobalSecurity.org, "there are perhaps two dozen suspected nuclear facilities in Iran."

In a war game run for *The Atlantic* in the fall of 2004, retired Air Force Col. Sam Gardiner identified 14 locations for Iran's nuclear-related facilities but developed a pre-emptive strike target list of 125 nuclear, chemical, and biological facilities with approximately 300 aim points—20 of which would require penetrating weapons or bunker busters. The main cause of all the additional aim points is the need to suppress Iran's air defenses, including advanced Russian S-300 and S-400 surface-to-air missiles.

In addition to more aim points that must be attacked, Iran's air capabilities mean that a successful strike would require several days to degrade air defenses sufficiently before the primary targets could be hit. (It is important to remember that one of the reasons U.S. air power was so successful at the outset of Operation Iraqi Freedom and

could operate with relative impunity was that Iraq's air defenses had been rendered virtually ineffective by 10 years of no-fly-zone enforcement.)

Certainly the United States military is capable of conducting a complex large-scale air strike against Iran using aircraft armed with precision weapons or cruise missiles. Assuming all the weapons hit their intended targets, the success of such a military operation would rest on three factors:

- All known targets comprise the full extent of Iran's nuclear program and there are no secret facilities
- Minimal collateral damage
- No retaliation by the regime in Tehran

Recalling pre-Iraq War predictions about the United States being hailed as a liberator while Iraqis embraced democracy, how likely is this outcome? The odds aren't good.

A covert reactor would be a difficult undertaking for the Iranians but cannot be ruled out. A secret uranium-enrichment facility is a more likely possibility. After all, it was two years before the Natanz facility was revealed and then only because it was disclosed by the National Council of the Resistance of Iran, not because it was discovered by U.S. intelligence. We also know that many of Iran's nuclear facilities, like the Tehran research reactor, are located in urban areas, so civilian casualties are almost a certainty. If the U.S. resorts to tactical nuclear weapons, as Hersh suggests it might—and President Bush has said that option has not been taken off