

Dan Rather Reports

Episode Number: 224

Episode Title: The Most Wanted Man in Iran

Description: A young Iranian rebel and his band of guerillas are terrorizing the Iranian government. Is he backed by the CIA? Also, whistleblowers say Boeing airplanes have parts that are "bashed to fit" and unsafe to fly. And, Barack Obama is raising more money than any presidential candidate. See how he does it.

DAN RATHER (VOICE OVER)

TONIGHT THE MOST WANTED MAN IN IRAN. HE LEADS A GROUP OF MILITANTS THAT'S TERRORIZING THE IRANIAN MILITARY. IS HE OR IS HE NOT BACKED BY THE CIA?

KARIM SADJADPOUR, SCHOLAR AT THE CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE

Many people believe that the upsurge in violence in places like Balochistan, like Kurdistan, are not coincidental, that they have to do with the fact that Iran and the US are essentially fighting this Cold War.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

ALSO TONIGHT: "BASH TO FIT." FORMER BOEING WORKERS SAY PARTS BUILT INTO MANY JETLINERS DON'T FIT PROPERLY, MAKING THE PLANES UNSAFE TO FLY.

G. G. PREWITT, FORMER EMPLOYEE OF BOEING

"...and we were saying whoa, whoa, why are you putting more holes in?" Well, that's what my supervisor told me to do because if I reject the part we won't have enough to go down the production line.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

AND, "CAMP OBAMA:" A NEW APPROACH TO PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS THAT'S PAYING OFF BIG TIME.

JOCELYN WOODARDS, DIRECTOR OF CAMP OBAMA

Camp Obama was originally designed to be kind of a Campaign training academy for people that had no Campaign experience, sort of Campaigning 101.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

TONIGHT ON DAN RATHER REPORTS.

RATHER (ON CAMERA)

GOOD EVENING. NOW MORE THAN FOUR YEARS INTO THE WAR IN IRAQ, THE RAGING SECTARIAN VIOLENCE HAS GIVEN US A GRAPHIC—AND TRAGIC—LESSON ABOUT THE SPLIT INSIDE THE MUSLIM WORLD, WITH SUNNI FIGHTING SHIA. BUT THIS SAME DIVISION ISN'T LIMITED TO ONE WAR-TORN COUNTRY. IT IS FESTERING THROUGHOUT THE WORLD'S MOST VOLATILE REGION, INCLUDING IRAQ'S NEIGHBOR—IRAN.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

TONIGHT, WE'RE TAKING YOU TO A PLACE YOU MAY NEVER HAVE HEARD OF, LET ALONE SEEN IN THE NEWSPAPERS OR ON TELEVISION. IT'S A PROVINCE IN SHIA-DOMINATED IRAN, WITH A RESTIVE SUNNI POPULATION, IT'S CALLED BALOCHISTAN.

RATHER (ON CAMERA)

YOU WILL SEE GRAPHIC FOOTAGE OF MILITANT STRIKES AND BRUTAL EXTRA-JUDICIAL KILLINGS ON TWO SIDES OF A SIMMERING CONFLICT.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

YOU WILL MEET A PROMINENT LOCAL GUERRILLA COMMANDER WHO IS GAINING INTERNATIONAL RENOWN. SOME SEE HIM AS A BUDDING REVOLUTIONARY, OTHERS A BRUTAL TERRORIST. WE TALKED TO HIM, IN HIS FIRST-EVER TELEVISION INTERVIEW AMIDST GROVES OF DATE PALMS, AND FOUND HE DIDN'T SOUND LIKE ANY MUSLIM EXTREMIST WE HAVE EVER HEARD.

ABDULMALIK RIGI (TRANSLATED FROM BALOCHI)

Despotic religious rule like Fascism, like Nazism, has been imposed upon the Iranians, upon the people, and particularly against ethnic minorities like the Baloch, Kurd, Arab, Azeri, Turk and religious minorities like Sunni, Jews and the Christians.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

THIS IS 24-YEAR-OLD ABDULMALIK RIGI. AND AT THIS VERY MOMENT, HE'S IRAN'S MOST WANTED TERRORIST. HE LEADS A GUERRILLA FORCE THAT HAS BEEN REGULARLY ATTACKING THE IRANIAN MILITARY. BUT HE SAYS HE ISN'T A RELIGIOUS FANATIC, AND IN FACT, IT IS THE FANATICISM OF THE MULLAHS CONTROLLING IRAN THAT ARE IN HIS SIGHTS.

RIGI (TRANSLATED FROM BALOCHI)

Because there were no other ways for us to achieve our rights as humans, our belief, our nationality, our identity, our religion. The regime has stamped upon us. As a last option, we adopted militancy to get our freedom.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

THE REGION OF BALOCHISTAN COMPRISES SCORCHING HOT DESERTS AND DARK, BARREN MOUNTAINS. IT IS THE SIZE OF MONTANA AND WYOMING COMBINED, AND EMCOMPASSES VAST SWATHES OF IRAN, PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN: ONE OF THE MOST VIOLENT AND OVERLOOKED CORNERS OF THE EARTH. BUT YOU WILL NOT FIND THE NATIONAL BORDERS OF BALOCHISTAN ON ANY MODERN MAP. IT'S NEVER BEEN A MODERN, SOVEREIGN STATE BECAUSE MORE POWERFUL NEIGHBORS HAVE ALWAYS CARVED UP THE TERRITORY. WE SENT A REPORTER/PRODUCER WILLEM MARX TO FIND OUT WHAT WAS BEHIND THIS GROWING MOVEMENT, AND THE SWIRLING ALLEGATIONS THAT THESE MEN—WHO ARRIVED IN A HIJACKED IRANIAN JEEP—ARE BEING FUNDED BY THE CIA. RIGI APPEARED CALM AS HE BRAGGED ABOUT HIS SUCCESSFUL ATTACKS ON IRAN'S MOST ELITE TROOPS.

RIGI (TRANSLATED FROM BALOCHI)

We have carried out different types of operations, like sabotage, guerrilla attacks, encirclement ambushes, hit-and-runs, hand-to-hand combat, various different attacks on the regime.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS, RIGI SAYS HIS MOVEMENT HAS EFFECTIVELY STRUCK THE IRANIAN ARMY, THANKS TO THE WIDESPREAD SUPPORT OF THE LOCAL BALOCH POPULATION.

RIGI (TRANSLATED FROM BALOCHI)

Until now, more than three to five hundred of the Iranian regime's forces have been killed since the beginning. The Iranian army, the Iranian forces, are very cowardly.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

WE OBTAINED FOOTAGE OF A RAID THAT RIGI AND HIS GROUP CONDUCTED—AND FILMED—LAST YEAR. THEY DROVE AROSS A DESERT BY DAY, AND AS THE SUN FELL THE MEN STOPPED TO SAY THEIR PRAYERS. THEY ARE MUSLIM, BUT THEY INSIST IT IS NOT RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM THAT DRIVES THEM TO VIOLENCE. THEN IN TOTAL DARKNESS THEIR LEADER RIGI ADDRESSES THE CAMERA, AND SECONDS LATER THE GROUP SEEMS TO SET OFF TOWARDS SOME NEARBY LIGHTS IN THE DESERT. WITHIN MOMENTS, MEN ARE SHOWN FACE DOWN AND BOUND TO THE GROUND. THESE CAPTIVES ARE SEEN AGAIN IN DAYLIGHT, CROUCHING AND BLINDFOLDED. THE NARRATOR SAYS THAT THE OPERATION HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY CARRIED OUT BY RIGI AND HIS GROUP JUNDULLUH—THE ARMY OF GOD. IT IS NOT CLEAR FROM THIS VIDEO WHAT HAPPENED TO THESE HOSTAGES, OR INDEED WHO THEY WERE.

RIGI (TRANSLATED FROM BALOCHI)

We use conventional weapons that are being used in guerrilla warfare such as Kalashnikovs, cannons, the M-16, and other types of semi-heavy weapons like the HAGA. Regime also knows we have weapons like the SAM7, SAM9 but modern missiles we do not have. We don't have but we are trying to find them from somewhere.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR, A LARGE EXPLOSION NEAR THE IRANIAN CITY OF ZAHEDAN DESTROYED A BUS AND OTHER PASSING VEHICLES. THE BUS HAD BEEN CARRYING MEMBERES OF IRAN'S REVOLUTIONARY GUARD, AND 11 WERE KILLED WITH THREE-DOZEN MORE INJURED. IT WAS AN AUDACIOUS STRIKE AIMED AT THE VERY HEART OF IRAN'S ARMED FORCES, AND WAS CONDEMNED AS A TERRORIST ACT BY THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL. PREVIOUS INCIDENTS CLAMED ON RIGI BY THE AUTHORITIES HAD MORE OFTEN RESULTED IN CIVILIAN DEATHS. THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT DECLINED OUR REQUEST FOR AN INTERVIEW, BUT THEY DID DIRECT US TO THESE GRAPHIC IMAGES FOUND ON IRANIAN WEBSITES, THAT THEY SAY DEPICT VICTIMS OF RIGI'S ATTACKS. BUT WE MUST WARN YOU WE HAVE OBTAINED FAR MORE GRAPHIC FOOTAGE. THIS INCREDIBLY DISTRUBING VIDEO REPORTEDLY SHOWS RIGI BUTCHERING HIS OWN BROTHER-IN-LAW. THE MAN'S ALLEGED DEFENSE WAS THAT OF PASSING INFORMATION ON THE GROUP'S ACTIVITIES TO IRANIAN AUTHORITIES. TONIGHT IS THE FIRST TIME THAT RIGI HAS SPOKEN PUBLICLY ABOUT HIS GROUP'S METHODS AND TECHNIQUES.

RIGI (TRANSLATED FROM BALOCHI)

We acquire our weaponry and our vehicles from Iran and the Iranian regime also has confessed that we acquired our equipment from its soldiers, from its military convoys that we ambushed and ransacked. And I said before, we acquire our weaponry from checkposts, from soldiers and other military sites.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

BUT THERE ARE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHERE RIGI IS GETTING HIS FUNDING, AND RUMORS THAT THE CIA IS FUNNELING MONEY TO THIS TERRORIST GROUP.

SADJADPOUR

There are allegations that have been made public that the American government, the CIA, has been supporting Balochi insurgents within Balochistan. The upsurge in violence are not coincidental, that they have to do with the fact that Iran and the us are essentially fighting this Cold War.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

KARIM SADJADPOUR IS A SCHOLAR AT THE CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE, AND AN EXPERT ON THE SUNNI MINORITIES IN IRAN, SUCH AS THE BALOCH.

SADJADPOUR

Well the Iranian government claims that it has very substantial evidence that outside forces like the United States are supporting Balochi insurgents in Balochistan, Kurdish insurgents in Kurdistan, Azari movements in Azerbaijan, and they claim to have very substantial evidence that the USA, the CIA, MI6, Mossad, are trying to use these groups to foment unrest within Iran.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

BUT SADJADPOUR IS SKEPTICAL ABOUT SUCH CLAIMS THAT ARE REGULARLY MADE BY THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT.

SADJADPOUR

Whenever there are social protests, or political protests, or economic protests, rather than addressing the problems, they say these groups, these agitators are funded by Zionists or funded by the CIA and this is not unique to the Balochis.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

THE MAJORITY OF IRANIAN CITIZENS BELONG TO THE SHIA SECT OF ISLAM. AFTER THE REVOLUTION OF 1979 OVERTHREW THE US-BACKED SHAH, AYATOLLAH KHUMENEI INSTITUTED AN EXTREME FUNDAMENTALIST SHIITE GOVERNMENT. BUT THE BALOCH PEOPLE ARE SUNNI, LEADING TO SECTARIAN TENSIONS LIKE THOSE WE SEE IN IRAQ.

SADJADPOUR

I think when you have a regime in Tehran like you have now, which is essentially an Islamic republic, and very much kind of Shiite centric, this amplifies the alienation among the Balochi's, that because they're Sunni they're not Shiite, they're not tended to, and the reason why is not because they're in a remote area which is far away from Tehran, but by virtue of the fact that they're not Shiite and they're not Persian.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT HAS REPEATEDLY CALLED A RIGI A TERRORIST. IN A RECENT LETTER INTENDED FOR CIRCULATION AT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND SECURITY COUNCIL, THE IRANIAN MINISTRY OF AFFAIRS STATE THAT RIGI IS "COMMITTING ARMED AND TERRORIST OPERATIONS WITH THE AIM TO 'TOPPLE THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT.'" RIGI REFUTES THESE CHARGES AND SAYS HIS VIOLENCE IS A REGRETTABLE REQUIREMENT FOR CHANGE TO OCCUR INSIDE IRAN.

RIGI (TRANSLATED FROM BALOCHI)

In our long-term strategy, we don't want to just kill; we want to create awareness, a public awareness and create hope among them in order to cause a general uprising.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

RIGI SAYS HE IS NOT FIGHTING FOR A SEPARATE BALOCHISTAN AND HE IS NOT LOOKING FOR INDEPEDENCE.

RIGI (TRANSLATED FROM BALOCHI)

We want a federal Iran, and territorial integrity should be secured. It should be a federal Iran, a United States of Iran.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

BUT THIS KIND OF FEDERALISM IS SOMETHING THAT ANALYSTS LIKE SADJADPOUR DO NOT THINK IS POSSIBLE.

SADJADPOUR

The current inhabitants of Iran, whether they're Kurds, they're Balochis, they're Persians, they're Shiites, they're Turkmens, have been a part of the Iranian nation for a long time, so I think the prospect of Iran breaking up into several pieces, or succumbing to civil war or ethnic war along the lines of what we see in Iraq, or what we've seen in places like Lebanon, is extremely unlikely.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

MOST OF BALOCHISTAN IS DIRT POOR AND HAS ALWAYS BEEN IGNORED BY IRAN'S CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. IN THIS ECONOMIC VACUUM ILLEGAL OF TRADE, LIKE DRUG-TRAFFICKING AND OIL-SMUGGLING HAVE FLOURISHED. IN ONE OF THE REGION'S LARGER SMUGGLING TOWNS, WE SPOKE TO ONE IRANIAN BALOCH ABOUT THE ECONOMIC HARDSHIPS OF LIFE ON THIS FORGOTTEN FRONTIER.

IRANIAN BOLOCH MAN (TRANSLATED FROM BALOCHI)

What other work is there? It is the only work. Only Iranian "border work" is going on.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

HE SAYS HE IS FORCED TO SMUGGLE, BUT POVERTY IS NOT THIS MAN'S ONLY CONCERN.

IRANIAN BOLOCH MAN (TRANSLATED FROM BALOCHI)

If you speak, the government will execute you and say that you are an enemy of the Revolution. Nobody can say anything.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

THE SMUGGLER WAS HESITANT ABOUT OFFERING DIRECT SUPPORT FOR RIGI'S GUERRILLA MOVEMNET—BUT HE SAYS THAT EVERYBODY IN THIS BORDER REGION IS TALKING ABOUT THE GROUP.

IRANIAN BOLOCH MAN (TRANSLATED FROM BALOCHI)

There is Malik Rigi and his organization fighting—there is nobody else fighting. Iran is clearly accusing America of helping. He might be fighting on his own, but Iran is accusing America of helping, of financing, and of supplying weapons. He might be fighting on his own, America might have no knowledge. Iran is accusing America of helping Malik Rigi—that he is not fighting on his own.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

AND PERHAPS IT IS WITH OUTSIDE HELP THAT THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BALOCH IN IRAN MIGHT IMPROVE.

IRANIAN BOLOCH MAN (TRANSLATED FROM BALOCHI)

Baloch people are very poor. They don't have money or anything. It requires fighting, but as for weapons... help... who will provide?

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

BUT MANY OTHER PEOPLE ARE ASKING NOT, "WHO WILL PROVIDE," BUT INSTEAD, "WHO IS PROVIDING?"

SADJADPOUR

There's been a lot of disenfranchisement within Balochistan because it's an area where there's heavy drug-trafficking, high unemployment, a lot of social problems, but it had been relatively calm. But what we've seen in the last two years is this upsurge in violence, so I think people have been fairly surprised and people have been questioning where these groups are getting their arms from.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

COMING UP NEXT, WE FOLLOW THE MONEY TRAIL TO SOME UNLIKELY LOCATIONS.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

THESE ARE THE EMPTY MOUNTAINS AND DESERTS OF BALOCHISTAN, STRETCHING ACROSS IRAN'S BORDERS TO AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN. THIS HAS BEEN HOME BASE FOR THE BALOCH GUERRILLA LEADER ABDULMALIK RIGI SINCE HE LEFT SCHOOL AT 17. PROTECTED BY AS MANY AS 700 WARRIORS, HE NOW LIVES BEYOND THE REACH OF THE AUTHORITIES, WITH HIS WIFE AND THREE YOUNG CHILDREN.

RIGI (TRANSLATED FROM BALOCHI)

My mother and father are both alive, they are living with me in the mountains. All of my brothers are living in the mountains, and two of my sisters are refugees in the mountains.

STEPHANE DUDOIGNON, FRENCH PROFESSOR WHO SPECIALIZES IN ISLAM AND CENTRAL ASIA

If you study Abdulmalik Rigi's specific background, and personality, you find a background that is the traditional background of the Baloch, the Iranian Baloch tribal aristocracy.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

STEPHANE DUDOIGNON—A FRENCH PROFESSOR SPECIALIZING IN ISLAM AND CENTRAL ASIA—IS ONE OF THE FEW WESTERNERS TO HAVE TRAVELED EXTENSIVELY ACROSS IRANIAN BALOCHISTAN IN RECENT YEARS.

DUDOIGNON

You know that Balochistan, especially Balochistan, is a region where the cult of male courage, of weapons, and so on, always and still now occupies a central place in the local culture. This is probably one of the reasons why these armed opposition groups have been perceived locally as kinds of Robin Hoods, not as religious leaders, but as possible defenders of the interests of the local population.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

AND PROFESSOR DUDOIGNON SAYS SUPPORT FOR RIGI CAN ONLY GROW, THANKS TO THE SUNNI-SHIA DIVIDE THAT INCREASED WITH THE ELECTION OF THE HARDLINE IRANIAN PRESIDENT, MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD.

DUDOIGNON

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad introduced himself as the champion of the Shiite cause, not only in Iran but also outside of Iran, it goes without saying that a lot of people in the peripheral Sunni peopled region of Iran begin to feel themselves out of the Islamic republic.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

SOME OF RIGI'S TACTICS ARE REMINISCENT OF AL-QAEDA BUT PROFESSOR DUDOIGNON SAYS THAT IT IS LOCAL DISPUTES THAT ARE FUEING THE FIRE IN BALOCHISTAN.

DUDOIGNON

We are unfortunately in a period where it is enough to say the word Al-Qaeda, the word Taliban, if you want to be introduced as an expert. My deep conviction is that if you deal with these phenomena as deeply linked with the local and regional history, you get much closer with their reality.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

WHILE RIGI LEADS HIS BAND OF GUERRILLAS IN THE OPEN, THERE ARE OTHE RMORE POWERFUL FORCES SEEKING TO OVERTHROW OR DESTABALIZE THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT. TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THIS SHODAWY WORLD, WE SPOKE TO A VETERAN FIELD COMMANDER OF A NOTORIOUS BALOCH RESISTANCE GROUP. HE REQUESTED THAT WE HIDE HIS IDENTITY AND DISGUISE HIS VOICE. HE SAYS RIGI'S FORCES ARE JUST ONE ACTIVE FRONT OF A MUCH LARGER ARMY LAYING IN WAIT.

FIELD COMMANDER

Our reserve forces are still at home, there are more than seven to ten thousand people. Trained, well-trained, but we cannot put them into the fire without having a guarantee from the United Nations or the big world powers who are governing the entire globe.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

HE SAYS HE'S BEEN FIGHTING FOR OVER 50 YEARS, AND USED TO OPERATE OUT OF SADDAM'S IRAQ. AT THAT TIME THE FORMER DICTATOR WAS FIGHTING A LONG-TERM PROXY WAR WITH HIS ARCH ENEMY IRAN, AND THE BALOCH GUERRILLAS WERE WILLING PARTICIPANTS. BUT NOW THE BALOCH MOVEMENT, HAVING LOST ITS FORMER SPONSOR, SADDAM, IS SEEKING NEW SOURCES OF FUNDING. REVOLUTIONS, AFTER ALL, DO NOT COME ON THE CHEAP.

FIELD COMMANDER

There are Baloch businessmen in the Arab world. There are Baloch businessmen in Africa, in Zanzibar, in Kenya and other states. And there are Baloch who are living in Europe, they are contributing some kind of help to Rigi, and it's a good thing. We appreciate what is happening and what is coming from them. It shows their sympathies to the movement, which is being led now by Mr. Rigi.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

RAIDS LIKE THIS ARE A TOOL OF TERROR, BUT CAN ALSO SERVE AS A FUNDRAISER.

FIELD COMMANDER

Whenever he captures some officers, you see, he also takes ransom from them in millions. And it is enough for them to prolong, his, you see, movement for some time.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

AND BECAUSE BALOCHISTAN IS AT THE CENTER OF SMUGGLING ROUTES FOR OPIUM AND ARMS OUT OF AFGHANISTAN, AND OIL FROM IRAN, RIGI ALSO RAISES MONEY OFF THE REGION'S LAWLESSNESS.

FIELD COMMANDER

Balochistan is a free land for the smugglers, a haven for the smugglers. They have got safe passage through his areas. So anyone who passes through his areas safely—wants to take, export his goods, they have to pay some toll taxes. So they are paying a toll tax to Mr. Rigi.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

BUT AS FOR RIGI, THERE IS ONE ALLEGED SOURCE OR REVENUE THAT HE VEHEMENTLY DENIES.

RIGI (TRANSLATED FROM BALOCHI)

I said we haven't had any secret relations with any intelligence service. The great amount of money to solve our problems we are not receiving because we know that if they were behind the scenes, the amount would be very big. The money we are receiving is very little. For example, if there are two or three thousand people in a country like Sweden, they donate ten or twenty dollars each per month.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

THAT'S RIGHT, SWEDEN. THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY FROM THE DUST AND POVERTY OF BALOCHISTAN, THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF BALOCH PEOPLE LIVING HERE IN SWEDEN AS REFUGEES. AND WE MET WITH SOME OF THEM TO GAUGE THEIR SUPPORT FOR RIGI.

NASSER BOLADAI, BALOCH REFUGEE IN SWEDEN

Rigi is fighting for Baloch people's sovereignty as he has declared many times for the Baloch people's rights, he's fighting, for dignity of the Baloch people and he's fighting also, to live in a country where there's peace.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

NASSER BOLADAI FOUNDED AN EXILE POLITICAL GROUP CALLED THE BALOCHISTAN PEOPLE'S PARTY, WHICH HE SAYS IS NOW SECRETLY ACTIVE INSIDE BALOCHISTAN, TRYING TO DESTABILIZE THE OPPRESSIVE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT.

BOLADAI

We see achieving Baloch people's sovereignty is a true job for us. We see it as working ourselves outside Iran and inside Iran. And to see that the people in the world understand what's happening in Balochistan.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

THOUGH HE SAYS HE DOES NOT SUPPORT RIGI'S USE OF VIOLENCE, NASSER BELIEVES MILITANCY IS A NATURAL RESPONSE.

BOLADAI

Well, I think he's doing what he should do in these circumstances. You cannot choose for people to react in a way that I like. People react within those circumstances that they were brought up, within the chances have been given, and this is the only way for them to show the Iranian regime and to the world that the Baloch people are fighting against this regime.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

EVEN THOUGH RIGI LIVES LIKE A NOMADIC FIGHTER, HE'S BEEN SAVVY ENOUGH TO GET HIS MESSAGE OUT IN NON-VIOLENT APPEALS AIMED AT THE BALOCH DIASPORA IN EUROPE AND ELSEWHERE.

BOLADAI

But Mr. Rigi used Internet and radio, these kind of things, to give his message. So he just succeeded in bringing that out, outside the country by using internet. And the Baloch in Europe and everywhere they had these Internet sites and which it were not possible to build in Iran, they also supported him.

DAN RATHER (VOICE OVER)

SWEDEN IS HOME TO RADIO BALOCHI FM, WHICH IS HEADQUARTERED HERE IN STOCKHOLM. IT BROADCASTS TO BALOCH COMMUNITIES IN EUROPE, IRAN AND PAKISTAN. MASOUD IS THE STATION'S MANAGER, BUT HE WAS RELUCTANT TO TALK ABOUT FUNDING FOR RIGI'S MOVEMENT.

MASOUD, RADIO BALOCHI FM STATION MANAGER
(TRANSLATED FROM BALOCHI)

I don't know anything about that, I can't answer that. And I don't know anything about it.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

AND HE HAS REASON TO BE NERVOUS. IN 2003, SWEDISH NEWSPAPERS REPORTED THAT TWO IRANIAN AGENTS HAD BEEN EXPELLED FROM SWEDEN FOR SPYING ON THE BALOCH EXILE COMMUNITY. BT MASOUD DOES ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE POVERTY IN BALOCHISTAN WOULD PROVIDE A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR A COUNTRY WITH MONEY AND INTERESTS.

MASOUD (TRANSLATED FROM BALOCHI)

The Baloch, as I said, they are very poor. Unemployment among the youth, it's 70 to 80 percent. They are poor. So I think through money the United States could buy these young people to fight against the Iranian state. Of course, there are a few percent who would strongly—with their hearts—want to help the US, and side with the United States. But through money, they would be able to buy massive numbers of young people to fight against the state. The police does what it wants, nobody controls them, nor from the central government... they are not controlled, they do what they want to. They shoot two to three young people in the streets daily, and they execute two or three young people every day in different cities of Balochistan.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

FOR ABDUL MALIK RIGI, BACK ON THE FRONT LINES, IT WAS THIS KIND OF BRUTALITY THAT HE SAYS NECESSITATED HIS NASCENT AND BLOODY REVOLUTION.

RIGI (TRANSLATED FROM BALOCHI)

One day I came to a street and I saw that eight of our youths were hanged at the same time in that neighborhood. I was thirteen at the time. It was a scene I saw with my own eyes. Eight people were hanging from a crane, eight youths together. And it was a scene that really created pain within me.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS SAY SUCH EXECUTIONS ARE COMMON IN IRAN'S PROVINCE OF BALOCHISTAN. THESE DISTURBING IMAGES WERE TAKEN THIS PAST FEBRUARY IN THE CITY OF ZAHEDAN. THE AUTHORITIES CHARGED THIS MAN WITH ORGANIZING THAT BUS BOMBING, FOR WHICH RIGI'S GROUP CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY. THE GUERRILLA LEADER INSISTS THAT MANY OF THE EXECUTED HAVE HAD NO PART IN HIS MOVEMENT, THEIR GRUESOME DEATHS A RESULT OF FALSE ACCUSATIONS.

RIGI (TRANSLATED FROM BALOCHI)

Until now, 14 members of the movement have been martyred. The Iranian government has captured so many people—more than three to five hundred Baloch. And though they were innocent, they have been executed in our name.

RATHER (ON CAMERA)

AS THE DEATH TOLL AND BRUTALITIES ON BOTH SIDES MOUNT, AND ALLEGATIONS OF CIA INVOLVEMENT CONTINUE TO ECHO, WE MUST LOOK TO BALOCHISTAN'S HISTORY TO HELP US UNDERSTAND THE VOLATILITY THAT IS SHAPING THIS VIOLENT REGION. IN THE 1950S, IRAN WAS A US ALLY, AND BALOCHI WARRIORS WERE CONSIDERED AMERICA'S ENEMY. MANY POINT TO THIS PICTURE OF A MAN IN A WESTERN-STYLE HAT INSPECTING THE BODY OF A PREVIOUS GENERATION OF A BALOCH GUERRILLA WARRIOR AS EVIDENCE OF CIA INVOLVEMENT IN THE REGION. THEN—AS NOW—IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW THE TRUTH. TODAY WE FREQUENTLY HEAR ABOUT PROVINCES —LIKE AL-ANDBAR, IN IRAQ AND KANDAHAR, IN AFGHANISTAN—THAT NEVER USED TO APPEAR IN OUR NEWSPAPERS OR ON OUR TELEVISION SCREENS. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT IN YEARS AHEAD, BALOCHISTAN WILL JOIN THE RANKS OF PLACES AMERICANS KNOW ALL TOO WELL.

RATHER (ON CAMERA)

IT'S THE BUSY SUMMER TRAVEL SEASON WHEN MANY AMERICANS BOARD AIRPLANES TO GET TO VACATION SPOTS AROUND THE WORLD. AIR TRAVEL HAS BECOME SO ROUTINE THAT AIR SAFETY IS ALMOST AN AFTERTHOUGHT. YOU ASSUME THE PLANE YOU ARE RIDING IN IS PERFECTLY BUILT, OT IT WOULDN'T FLY. WELL, YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED TO KNOW HOW SOME PLANES ARE ASSEMBLED. BOEING IS THE WORLD'S LEADING AIRPLANE MANUFACTURER. IT'S PLANES GENERALLY HAVE EXCELLENT SAFETY RECORDS. BUT THE AVIATION GIANT DOESN'T MAKE AIRPLANE PARTS THE WAY IT ONCE DID. THESE DAYS, BOEING RELIES ON A NETWORK OF SUPPLIERS AROUND THE GLOBE THAT CRANK OUT THE PARTS BOEING USES TO BUILD THE BIG JETS. TONIGHT, YOU WILL HEAR FROM TWO FORMER BOEING EMPLOYEES WHO SAY THEY DISCOVERED SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH BOEINGS MANUFACTURING PROCESS—INCLUDING THE USE OF BAD PARTS MADE BY A SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SUPPLER.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF 737S FLYING TODAY WITH AN EXCELLENT SAFETY RECORD. THEY ARE THE MOST POPULAR COMMERCIAL JET FLOWN BY AIRLINES LIKE AMERICAN, USAIR, AND SOUTHWEST, TO NAME A FEW. TAYLOR SMITH, WHO SUPERVISED BOEING CONTRACTS WITH SUPPLIERS, SAYS SOME OF THE 737S MAY HAVE BEEN BUILT WITH DEFECTIVE PARTS.

TAYLOR SMITH, FORMER BOEING EMPLOYEE

There's no way to tell whether those airplanes are safe and for Boeing just to hide all that we couldn't sleep at night if we had not filed the lawsuit.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

OUR STORY BEGINS LAST WINER IN WITCHITA, KANSAS, WHERE PREWITTT, SMITH AND JIMMY AILES, WHO STILL WORKS IN THE PLANT WHERE THE PROBLEMS WERE DISCOVERED AND CHOSE NOT TO SPEAK TO US ON-CAMERA, DECIDED TO BLOW THE WHISTLE. SO THEY FILED A FALSE CLAIMS ACT LAWSUIT WITH THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT IN 2002. THEY RAISE TROUBLING QUESTIONS ABOUT BOEING AS WELL AS A PROMINENT NATIONAL AEROSPACE SUPPLIER. THEIR CLAIMS ALSO HIGHLIGHT PROBLEMS WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO ALLEGATIONS OF UNSAFE PARTS.

RATHER

What were you worried about?

PREWITT

My concern was my responsibility as a buyer. It's my responsibility to make sure that the parts that I'm purchasing are-- per the contract requirements. Which have the quality requirements attached to it. My mother grew up in between the two Boeing plants. That was her home.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

G.G. PREWITT, A THIRD-GENERATION BOEING EMPLOYEE, FIRST GOT WORD THAT PARTS SUPPLIER AHF DUCOMMUM, NOW KNOWN AS DUCOMMUN INC. WAS SHIPPING FAULTY, UNAPPROVED PARTS TO THE BOEING ASSEMBLY LINE.

PREWITT

In 1999 the process operations specialist came to me and said-- "We've been making planes for a few years now on the 737 Next Generation. And we have a problem with the bearstrap around a door."

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

“BEARSTRAPS” ARE A CRITICAL PART OF AN AIRPLANE’S SUPPORT STRUCTURE. THEY’RE USED AROUND DOOR OPENINGS IN THE FUSELAGE. THE WHISTLE BLOWERS SAY THEY WERE TOO SHORT AND DID NOT FIT THE AIRCRAFT PROPERLY. EVERY TIME AN AIRPLANE TAKES OFF IT’S AN ENGINEERING MARVEL. IMAGINE MORE THAN 100-THOUSAND POUNDS OF METAL, FUEL AND PASSENGERS HURLING DOWN THE RUNWAY AT OVER 10) MILES AN HOUR BEFORE THE PLANE TAKES OFF. EVERY PART ON THE PLAN HAS TO FIT PERFECTLY—THERE IS LITTLE MARGIN FOR ERROR OR THIS WON’T HAPPEN. PAT DUGGINS IS A FORMER AMERICAN AIRLINES MAINTENANCE CHIEF. HE CONSULTS FOR THE FAA AND ALSO IS AN ADISOR FOR THE WHISTLEBLOWERS’ CASE.

PAT DUGGINS, FORMER AMERICAN AIRLINES MAINTENANCE CHIEF
If it doesn't have enough meat there to distribute the stress out on the rest of the fuselage, the part doesn't function like it's designed to function in the airplane.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

ON THE BOEING ASSEMBLY LINE, PREWITT WITNESSED FIRSHTHAND THAT OTHER CRITICAL STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS MADE BY DUCOMMUM LIKE THE CHORDS, OR THE RIBS OF THE AIRCRAFT, WERE MISSHAPED OR ILL-SIZED, WHAT THE NDUSTRY CALLS NON-CONFORMING.

PREWITT

The chords that we watched were not fitting. And the assembly worker was banging and just pounding on it to get it to fit up into there. And we said, “well if it is too short it's not fitting what do you do?” And he said, "We're just gonna put some fillers in there and paint it. They'll never know."

MARY SCHIAVO, FORMER INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

Things that have to be bashed to fit or you put extra little spacers, etcetera. Those are a real problem.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

MARY SCHIAVO IS AN AVIATION ATTORNEY AND A FORMER INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, WHICH HAS JURISDICTION OVER THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION, THE NATION'S AVIATION SAFETY REGULATOR.

SCHIAVO

I've seen the cases and sadly the crashes where people have tried to jury-rig things to fit.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

SCHIAVO SAYS THERE IS RISK INVOLVED WHEN BASHING MATERIALS TO FIT. THIS PRACTICE AND OTHERS DESCRIBED BY THE WHISTLEBLOWERS CAN CAUSE CRACKING AND AGE THE CRITICAL PARTS PREMATURELY, WHICH CAN LEAD TO FAILURE.

SCHIAVO

It's like stretching rubber band. You can stretch it a lot of times and nothing is going to happen. Sometime you stretch it, it is gonna snap.

DUGGINS

The unknown is where is that point. And that's what nobody can come to the decision of. We don't know if it's gonna do it in one year, if it's gonna do it in five years, is it gonna do it in seven years? No one can tell that because it's an unknown.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

ACCORDING TO PREWITT, WORKERS WERE TRYING TO FIX THE PROBLEMS WITH THE PARTS TO MAINTAIN THE COMPANY'S BOTTOM LINE.

PREWITT

The assembly worker was re-drilling the ATA holes and we were saying, "Whoa, whoa, whoa, why you are putting more holes in?" "Well that's what my supervisor told me to do because if I reject the part we won't have enough to go on down the production line, and we won't make rate."

RATHER

Won't make rate means we don't keep the assembly line rolling, it'll slow down delivery of the aircraft?

PREWITT

That's correct.

RATHER

Now when the part gets to Boeing, does it go directly to the assembly line? Or is there somebody who's supposed to check it before it gets to the assembly line.

PREWITT

It goes directly to the assembly line.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

THAT'S BECAUSE BOEING AND THE FAA ALLOWED DUCOMMUN, THE SUPPLIER, TO SIGN OFF ON THE QUALITY OF ITS OWN PRODUCTS BEFORE SHIPPING THEM—WITHOUT BOEING OVERSIGHT.

PREWITT

And so no one was inspecting the parts except the supplier. They came into Boeing and went directly into the warehouse onto the plane.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

IN MAY OF 1999, PREWITT WAS ALERTED BY A BOEING ENGINEER THAT 24 "BEARSTRAPS" WERE ALL TOO SHORT, QUOTE, "THE WORST YET." PRUITT IMMEDIATELY TAGGED THEM AS UNUSABLE. BUT IN THIS E-MAIL EXCHANGE PROVIDED BY THE WHISTLEBLOWERS, A BOEING MANAGER WROTE BACK THAT SCRAPPING ANY OF THE "BEARSTRAPS" IS, QUOTE, "STUPID."

PREWITT

It was a procurement manager that sent an e-mail out to everyone that said, "You know, this is ridiculous that she scrapped these 24 bear straps. We've already put," I believe was, "over 300 of 'em into airplanes."

RATHER

I think people are going to find it surprising that you said, "Listen, let's scrap these parts," and somebody higher up sends back an email and says in effect what did he'd say "this is crazy or this is stupid."

PREWITT

I agree with you it is crazy. Boeing, does- they do have an excellent quality history. And I believe 100% in the Boeing product. That's what was so shocking.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

AND WHILE PREWITT WAS CONCERNED ABOUT SAFETY, BOEING WAS ALSO CONCERNE ABOUT COST. IN PARTICULAR, ABOUT BEING OVERCHARGED FOR PARTS THAT WERE BEING REJECTED. SO IN THE SPRING OF 2000, THE COMPANY ASSIGNED AN INTERNAL AUDIT TEAM OF 14 TO VISIT THE CALIFORNIA SUPPLIER AGAIN. TAYLOR SMITH WAS THE LEADER.

SMITH

We brought in all the experts. The quality management. Tooling management. And-- manufacturing representatives.

RATHER

And what did you find when you did that audit?

SMITH

It was amazing. We knew that they didn't do statistical process control, but we found out that they were doing no inspection of any of their parts.

RATHER

You don't mean, "no inspection?"

SMITH

No inspection.

RATHER

You don't mean zero?

SMITH

Zero.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

THAT MEANS THERE WAS NO FIRST ARTICLE INSPECTION, WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO BE MANDATORY ON ALL MANUFACTURING PROCESSES.

DUGGINS

The first article inspection is in any quality program in-- in any industry. And what it allows you to do is to-- check-- back check your processes to see if they occurred in the right sequence and were done properly. And it's mandatory. What it-- it does, it compares the blueprint, design of the part to the recipe to make the part.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

BUT LACK OF FIRST ARTICLE INSPECTION WAS JUST THE BEGINNING. PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN BY THE AUDITORS WHILE INSIDE THE DUCOMMUM PLANT AND GIVEN TO US BY ONE OF THEIR LAWYERS, HELPS ILLUSTRATE WHAT HAPPENED. DUCOMMUM WAS SUPPOSED TO USE THE LATEST AUTOMATED MANUFACTURING PROCESS THAT WAS APROVED BY BOEING AND THE FAA. INSTEAD, THEY WERE USING HAND-ROUTERS AND WERE HAND-SANDING PARTS AS SHOWN HERE. THE WHISTLEBLOWERS SAY THEY SUSPECT THESE PRACTICES AND OTHERS LED TO THE NON-CONFORMING PARTS. THE AUDITORS ALSO DISCOVERED THAT DUCOMMUM FAKED THE OFFICAL RECORDS OF HOW THE PARTS WERE MANUFATURED.

RATHER

What's the single most important thing you think people ought to know about what was happening?

PREWITT

There was a breakdown in the system. The quality that was in place was violated.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

IN THE WAKE OF THE AUDIT, DUCOMMUM AGREED TO PAY BACK BOEING NEARLY 1.6 MILLION DOLLARS IN A 2001 COST RECOVERY SETTLEMENT, ALTHOUGH THE SUPPLIER DID NOT ADMIT LIABILITY FOR THE PROBLEMS. PREWITT AND SMITH RECEIVED PRAISE FOR A JOB WELL DONE. BUT THE APPLAUSE SOON FADED.

SMITH

A couple of weeks later it was like about face. "You guys shut up. We don't want to hear about it anymore. You're off the case." It was devastating to all of us.

RATHER

What did you think when they said, "Just drop it?"

SMITH

That somebody was hiding something.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

FEELING THE PRESURE TO KEEP QUIET WHILE STILL EMPLOYED AT BOEING, THEY FILED A QUI TAM LAWSUIT IN 2002 WITH THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT. THESE CASES ARE LIMITED TO GOVERNMENT CONTRACT FRAUD, SO THE WHISTLEBLOWERS HAD TO FOCUS THEIR LAWSUIT ON PLANES SOLD OR LEASED TO THE MILITARY. AT THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST, THE FAA LAUNCHED AN INVESTIGATION OF THE SUSPECTED UNAPPROVED PARTS. BILL SKEPNEK, A LAWYER FOR THE WHISTLEBLOWERS, DOUBTS THE FAA GOT TO THE BOTTOM OF THE ROBLEMS.

BILL SKEPNEK, LAWYER FOR THE WHISTLEBLOWERS

It was a sham.

RATHER

That's a pretty strong word, "sham."

SKEPNEK

It is a sham.

RATHER

How so?

SKEPNEK

They didn't investigate anything.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

WE OBTAINED A COPY OF A FAA REPORT, WHICH SHOWS THAT INSPECTORS WENT LOOKING FOR THE BAD PARTS SEVERAL YEARS AFTER THEY WERE DISCOVERED.

SKEPNEK

If you're going to look for these parts, you better look in the airplanes that the parts are in. You better not look in the plant where they're put into the plane several years earlier.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

THE FAA FINISHED INVESTIGATING AND CONCLUDED THAT THEY COULD NOT SUBSTANTIATE THE ALLEGATIONS. THE FAA DECLINED TO BE INTERVIEWED ON-CAMERA FOR THIS REPORT. THEY TOLD US THAT ONE OF THE REASONS THEY NEVER LOOKED IN THE PLANES STILL FLYING WAS BECAUSE THEY TOOK BOEING'S WORD THAT THE PARTS WERE FINE.

SCHIAVO

If Boeing and other manufacturers go through their review process and report to the FAA that it's not a problem, the FAA generally takes their word for it.

RATHER (ON CAMERA)

MARY SCHIAVO, THE FORMER GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR GENERAL, SAYS THE INTERNAL MANUFACTURER'S REVIEW PROCESS FOR NON-CONFORMING PARTS IS INHERENTLY FLAWED.

SCHIAVO

It is not very objective. You're basically inspecting yourself. You're not likely to flunk yourself, you know. That's a really unpleasant situation to flunk yourself on your own exam. And that's the situation that it is. But is it legal? Oh yes. It's legal.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

BUT EVEN IF DEFECTIVE "BEARSTRAPS" OR CHORDS ARE PUT ONTO AIRPLANES, DOES THAT REALLY MEAN DISASTER?

SCHIAVO

No. But could it set off a chain of events? Absolutely. And that's what airplane tragedies are. They're always a chain of events. Does one bogus turbine blade bring down the plane, no. Not unless that bogus turbine blade comes apart, perforates what we call an uncontained engine failure. Hits the fuel tank and brings the plane down.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

THE FLYING PUBLIC GENERALLY IS SAFE, SAYS SCHIAVO, BECAUSE PLANES ARE MADE TO BE ROBUST AND CAN TAKE A BEATING. STILL, SHE'S CONCERNED.

SCHIAVO

It's astonishing to me sometimes what they can take that I think we get complacent. And the FAA gets complacent. And they say, "look, you know, we're gonna trust Boeing and the reason they do that is that frankly, Boeing has more rocket scientists." It is as simple as that. And I think the FAA is sometimes very insecure about their power without a full backfield to back them up.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

SO FAR, THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HAS DECLINED TO SUPPORT OR DISMISS THE WHISTLEBLOWER'S LAWSUIT. THE WHISLEBLOWERS ARE ASKING A FEDREAL COURT FOR BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN COMPENSATION FOR THEMSELVES AND THE GOVERNMENT.

RATHER

You said one of the things you considered was what people were going to think of you. With some people, at least some people, the first reaction is, "I've got disgruntled employees and they're after the money."

SMITH

It's not about the money. It's about safety. It's about all the people out there that put their trust in Boeing. That put their trust in any company that's going to pick them up in the air and fly them in airplanes.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

IN JUNE 2007, A FEDERAL COURT JUDGE IN WITCHITA HANDED THE WHISTLEBLOWERS THEIR FIRST VICTORY BY DENYING BOEING AND DUCOMMUN'S MOTION TO DISMISS THE CASE. SO NOW IT WILL PROCEED TO DISCOVERY, THAT IS, SUBMITTING ADDITIONAL MATERIAL TO THE COURT IN PREPARATION FOR TRIAL. WE TRIED TO CONTACT DUCOMMUN INC. SEVERAL TIMES ABOUT THE LAWSUIT, BUT THEY WOULD NOT RETURN OUR CALLS. BOEING ALSO DECLINED TO BE INTERVIEWED ON-CAMERA FOR THIS REPORT. IN AN E-EMAIL, A SPOKESWOMAN WROTE THAT SEPARATE INVESTIGATIONS BY BOEING AND THE FAA CONCLUDED THAT THE WHISTLEBLOWER'S "ALLEGATIONS ARE UNFOUNDED." BOEING ALSO INSISTS THAT "SAFETY AND QUALITY" ARE ITS TOP PRIORITES WHEN MANUFACTURING AN AIRPLANE. PREWITT AND TALOR SAY THEY'VE PAID A HIGH PRICE FOR DOING THEIR JOB. THEY WERE BOTH LAID OF FIN 2003 AFTER THEY FILED THE LAWSUIT AND BOTH FEEL IT WAS RETALIATION FOR BLOWING THE WHISTLE.

RATHER

Are you sorry you ever started the lawsuit?

PREWITT

Never. I will die supporting this lawsuit. This is not my lawsuit. This is a lawsuit on behalf of the United States government.

SMITH

We felt it was morally right. With no inspection on parts there's no way to tell whether those airplanes are safe.

RATHER

AND NOW SOME POLITICS. WE WANT TO OCCASIONALLY GIVE YOU A SNAPSHOT FROM THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL THAT GOES BEYOND THE STUMP SPEECHES AND THE HORSE RACE NUMBERS TO GIVE YOU SOME PERSPECTIVE ON WHY A CAMPAIGN IS WORKING OR NOT. LAST WEEK, THE BARACK OBAMA CAMPAIGN RELEASED A BIG NUMBER: 32 MILLION DOLLARS RAISED IN THE LAST QUARTER, MORE THAN ANY OTHER DEMOCRATIC OR REPUBLICAN CONTENDER. WHILE THAT DOLLAR FIGURE IS ENORMOUS, THE NUMBER OF DONORS IS MORE AMAZING. MORE THAN 250 THOUSAND CONTRIBUTORS SO FAR. THE OBAMA CAMPAIGN IS LEANING ON THE INTERNET AND THE YOUNG PEOPLE LIKE NEVER BEFORE. THE YOUTH VOTE HAS BEEN AN AFTER THOUGHT TO MOST CAMPAIGNS IN MODERN AMERICAN POLITICS BECAUSE YOUNG PEOPLE HAVEN'T TURNED OUT TO VOTE IN BIG NUMBERS. BUT THE OBAMA CAMPAIGN IS TRYING TO CHANGE THAT, AND IN CHICAGO THIS SUMMER, A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF HOW POLITICS IN 2008 WILL BE VERY DIFFERENT INDEED. WELCOME TO CAMP OBAMA.

BARACK OBAMA (IN SPEECH)

This Campaign has to be about reclaiming the meaning of citizenship, restoring our sense of common purpose, and realizing that few obstacles can withstand the power of millions of voices calling for change.

ON-SCREEN TEXT

“Most experts assume when it comes down to it, young people won't care enough to actually vote en masse... Our goal, is to prove them wrong” – *Barack The Vote* website

JOCELYN WOODARDS, DIRECTOR OF CAMP OBAMA

My name is Jocelyn Woodards and I am the director of Camp Obama. Camp Obama was originally designed to be sort of a Campaign training academy for people who had no Campaign experience. Sort of Campaigning 101.

GUY IN CLASSROOM

I'd say step one is make a plan.

WOODARDS (IN CLASSROOM)

Make a plan right?

GUY IN CLASSROOM

Yeah.

WOODARDS (IN CLASSROOM)

...but you're right, we should make a plan and your plans should include...

GUY #2 IN CLASSROOM

...number one, once you identify the waders you need to network with them set up in one on ones...

WOODARDS (IN CLASSROOM)

One on ones absolutely were gonna identify the network and set up one on ones...

ON-SCREEN TEXT

Young people "paying attention to the campaign" 2004: 35%; 2007: 58%. CBS NEWS/NY TIMES/MTV.

TAMARA FOUCHE, MEMBER OF CAMP OBAMA

I'm Tamara Fouche and I'm 19 and I'm from Skokie Illinois. It's really, really positive every week when people come in they're really excited and they come from all over the place and it's kind of like-- cause after a while it does gets tiring it's 12 hour days and it's a Campaign so it's a lot of work but everyone's really energized and really excited and I love being here.

WOODARDS

We haven't even had an opportunity to go out and do a lot of recruiting because we've been sort of overwhelmed by the response of our Camp - Camp Obama advisement. One time and we've got more than 2000 people.

KWESI CHAPMAN, MEMBER OF CAMP OBAMA

Alright so Thursday comes along and I'm sitting at my cubical and doing nothing as normal and all of a sudden my phone rings I'm thinking it's one of my friends calling me so I pick up, 'Hello.' I'm looking around and then all of a sudden, 'This is Karen speaking uh were do you have time for a phone interview.' 'I was like okay yeah.' So the I did a phone interview was like, 'So okay are you available to come out on Monday to do this internship and get ready for the internship?' I was like, 'Yeah, yeah, yeah,' 'So uh do you have a car.?' 'I was like yeah.' 'Uh do you mind going to South Carolina?' I was like 'Sure I'll drive to South Carolina...' So that day I quit my job told my boss—my boss is more excited than I was that I was gonna be with Obama—

WOODARDS

Many of the folks that we have in Camp Obama will either go to Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina, or Nevada and we wanna make sure that they have some basic Campaign skills: how to organize, how to put together phone banks, recruit volunteers, how to set up canvas operations...

MARY HODGE, DEPUTY FLOW DIRECTOR

We're focusing on the first 4 states right now so there's only so much resources we can put into going everywhere and we can't possibly be everywhere so we're trying to pick those certain cities and regions that most people will be able to come to and then in the student side we're working - actually just met yesterday on a whole comprehensive like videos and fun stuff that you can go online and teach and learn stuff that you know Camp Obama teaches you and certain things we want you to learn.

HODGE

I'm Mary Hodge and I'm based out of Chicago and I am the Deputy Flow Director. The most unique thing about this Campaign is, we're actually fully funded the Campaign manager knows we exist were not just seen by the Campaign as like "the red headed step children," if you will, that we just provide volunteers and that's it. And it's just so unique because they really take us seriously. Every Campaign I've ever been on they say they take us seriously but really they just take us seriously that they want us to bring volunteers in and stuff envelopes. This group like we are targeting different college Campuses, we have numbers, we are building lists, we are expecting these students to come out and vote for us.

WOODARDS

The first day we do an overview basically sort of a orients you to our campaign, the second thing we do focus on our Campaign message, and um the third day we talk about the basic field activities: voter contact, which would include you know doing phone banks, canvassing, door knocking how to recruit more volunteers and then on the 4th day we hear from the Students for Barack Obama, for example.

SEAN ELDRIDGE (IN SPEECH), DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT FOR CAMP OBAMA

Our most important basic component for Barack Obama is the chapter. It's the students at their school who are organizing themselves who are taking upon themselves to get out to vote to register students to fundraise to get volunteers uh and to do everything they can to help the Campaign.

ELDRIDGE

I'm Sean Eldridge, I'm the Director of Development. I'm a student at Brown but for the summer I'm here in Chicago. And you know everyone's gonna come out with a health care plan, everyone's gonna try to get us out of Iraq, but the question is who's gonna invest the political capital to get it done who's gonna be able to go into the White House and really push Congress and push the American people to make tough decisions... and I think we trust that he does among all the candidates out there. I knew that when he rose up to get into this race, I just felt like. "He'll, get the most done."

OBAMA (IN SPEECH)

The reason so many people are showing up is that America is hungry for something new. America wants to turn the page. They are... they are sick and tired of being tired, they are sick and tired of a "Can't do," "Won't do," "Won't even try" style of government.

ON-SCREEN TEXT

Issues most important to young people: War in Iraq, 18%; Environment, 6%; Health Care, 6%; Economy 5%—CBS News/NY Times/MTV

TOBIN VAN OSTERN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF STUDENTS FOR BARACK OBAMA

My name is Tobin van Ostern. I'm in Chicago for the summer and I'm the Deputy Director of Students for Barack Obama. One of the ways we get in touch with you is the fact that we are all students you know of Students for Barack Obama. And so it's not like we have to go out and figure out how are youth getting their information. It's just we go and we figure what do we do every day so and you know my case I check Facebook every day and I know all my friends do to so we have a Facebook group. Senator Obama has a Facebook profile, etcetera. I watch Youtube, videos so we make sure we have a Youtube presence.

WOODARDS

You know I've been doing Campaigns for more then 20 years and sometimes you can be a little cynical after being involved in it for a while you know sometimes I feel like I might be comparable to a snake oil salesman. But in this case I really feel like we're selling what we have is we're selling hope and optimism to people in hope that they can take their country back and make it the way they want it. Make it into a type of country they want it to be.

RATHER (ON CAMERA)

FROM THE FRONT LINE AND THE BATTLE FOR PRESIDENT, WE RETURN TO WHERE WE STARTED TONIGHT WITH THE STORY OF THE SUNNI-SHIA CONFLICT IN LITTLE-KNOWN BALOCHISTAN... WE WANT TO END THIS PROGRAM WITH A WORD ON THE NATION FROM WHICH WE KNOW THIS DEADLY SCHISM BEST. THE LAZY FOURTH OF JULY WEEK MAY WELL HAVE BEEN A CRITICAL ONE IN DETERMINING THE FUTURE OF THE US INVOLVEMENT IN IRAQ, WITH ONE OF THE DEADLIEST TERRORIST ATTACKS OF THE WAR CLAIMING MORE THAN 150 LIVES. WITH REPUBLICAN SENATORS RICHARD LUGAR OF INDIANA AND PETE DOMENICI OF NEW MEXICO BREAKING WITH PRESIDENT BUSH ON HIS WAR STRATEGY AND WITH A CBS NEWS REPORT THAT IRAQI PRIME MINISTER NOURI AL-MALIKI MAY FACE A NO-CONFIDENCE VOTE IN A WEEK'S TIME. HERE AT HOME, THE IRAQ ENDGAME MAY HAVE BEGUN SOONER THAN PRESIDENT BUSH AND HIS TEAM EXPECTED: WITH THE US SENATE THIS WEEK DEBATING WAR FUNDING IN THE WAKE OF THESE RECENT EVENTS, AND A SPATE OF NEWSPAPER EDITORIAL PAGES, INCLUDING THE NEW YORK TIMES, CALLING—FOR THE FIRST TIME—FOR OUTRIGHT WITHDRAWAL FROM IRAQ. PERHAPS JUST AS TELLING, A MEASURE OF RISING PUBLIC DISCONTENT WITH THE IRAQ DISASTER COULD BE FOUND IN A MORE POPULAR FORM OF AMERICAN EXPRESSION: THE MESSAGES WE POST ON THE BACK OF OUR CARS. THIS WEEKEND, YOUR CORRESPONDENT SAW A CAR BEDECKED, LIKE SO MANY, WITH TWO OF THOSE YELLOW, “SUPPORT OUR TROOPS” MAGNETS, AN AMERICAN FLAG BUMPER STICKER, AND SOMETHING NEW: A RIBBON, IN THE SHAPE OF AN “R,” BEARING THE MESSAGE: “RECALL OUR TROOPS.” SHIFTING AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION? WE SHALL SEE.

FOR HD NET, THIS IS DAN RATHER REPORTING. GOODNIGHT.