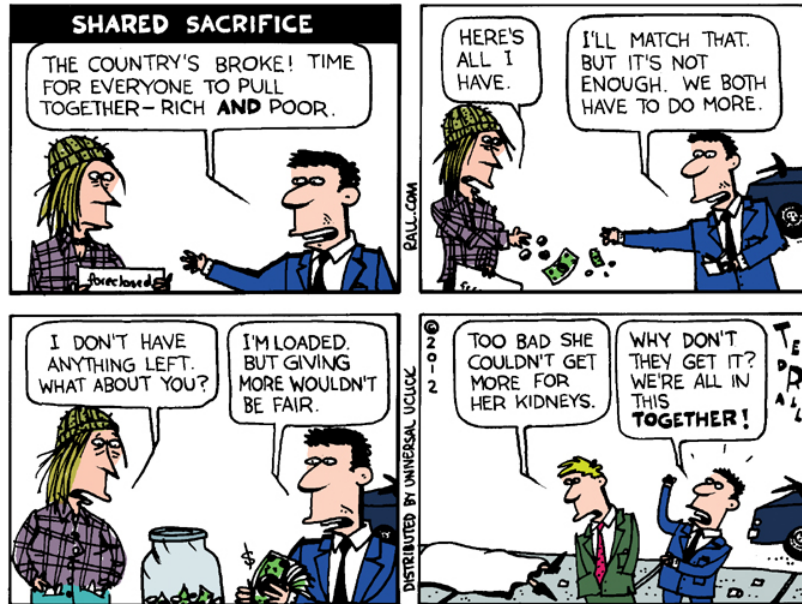


## Military Resistance 10B4



**“Command’s Policy Of Allowing Troops To Deploy With A 180-Day Supply Of The Antipsychotic Seroquel Has Contributed To The Deaths Of Troops And Veterans”**

**“Money Talks. I Truly Believe AstraZeneca And Other Big Pharma Companies Have Control Over Congress”**

**A father who has lost two sons to war told The Daily Caller that the U.S. Central Command's policy of allowing troops to deploy with a 180-day supply of the antipsychotic Seroquel has contributed to the deaths of troops and veterans.**

**Seroquel, he said, has tragic side effects that military leaders have ignored in their quest to combat insomnia and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among fighting men and women.**

The father, West Virginia school principal Stan White, said there are better ways to treat troops and veterans who suffer from PTSD.

**But because the maker of Seroquel, London-based AstraZeneca, has so much influence over Congress and the military, he insisted, that peer counseling and other treatment options are being shoved aside in favor of low doses of the drug.**

**White's suspicions are slowly being validated by a series of studies, legal settlements, and military rulings — including a recommendation from the Department of Defense's own advisory body on pharmaceuticals.**

"I think AstraZeneca is so strong and has so much power that no one can speak out," said White, who has remained stoic despite his losses. "Money talks. I truly believe AstraZeneca and other big pharma companies have control over Congress."

His first son, Army Sgt. Robert White, died in combat in Iraq. When Robert's younger brother Andrew returned from his own tour in the Middle Eastern country, a Veterans Administration doctor prescribed a combination of Seroquel and antidepressants for his PTSD.

Andrew died at home, and the state of West Virginia ruled that an accidental medication overdose was to blame. But his father believes the "dangerous" pill cocktail killed him. And he told The DC that he has identified 300 other soldiers and veterans who died from sudden cardiac arrest while taking Seroquel and antidepressants in combination.

**Evidence supporting his theory has continued to accumulate, including a September 2011 study from the European Society of Cardiology which linked the "combined use of antipsychotic and antidepressant drugs" with an increased risk of sudden heart attacks.**

Seroquel has been on the market since 1997, and in that time doctors have widely experimented with prescribing it for "off-label" purposes that the FDA has not approved.

Doctors have free rein to prescribe medications for off-label uses, and the FDA's ever-growing avalanche of advisories sometimes makes it difficult for physicians to know what has been approved and what has not.

**A 2009 University of Chicago national survey of physicians, for instance, found that one in eight doctors thought Seroquel was approved for treating dementia, even though the FDA had issued a specific warning against it. Drug marketers, however, are forbidden to promote their products for any purpose not approved by the FDA.**

In April 2010 AstraZeneca conceded that it had crossed that line, agreeing to pay the U.S. government \$520 million to settle claims related to its illegal promotion of Seroquel for off-label uses.

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## U.S. Soldier Shoots Dead Afghan Guard

5 February 2012 AFP

Kabul — A US soldier shot dead an Afghan guard outside a military base in northern Afghanistan, apparently believing he was about to attack him, a local official said Sunday.

The incident on Thursday in Sari Pul province came less than a fortnight after an Afghan soldier shot dead four unarmed French troops at a base in the east of the country.

'A US soldier has shot dead an Afghan guard three days ago', Sari Pul provincial security chief Sayed Jahangir said on Sunday.

'The American shot dead his Afghan colleague due to a misunderstanding. Apparently he thought the guard was trying to attack him.'

The victim was named as 22-year-old Abdul Rahim. He had been newly appointed as a guard by a private security company, Jahangir said.

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## Early Exit Planned For Australian Troops In Afghanistan

February 3, 2012 Dylan Welch and Simon Mann, Sydney Morning Herald

AUSTRALIAN troops are set to stop fighting in Afghanistan by the end of next year, following the sudden announcement by the US Defence Secretary, Leon Panetta, that the American combat mission will end as soon as mid-2013.

Mr Panetta's comments, that US troops will move from a combat to mentoring role by "mid to late 2013", reflect the war's growing international unpopularity.

Opposition to the conflict has also increased in Australia amid a soaring death and injury toll. Of the 32 Australian soldiers killed in Afghanistan since 2001, 11 died last year.

**According to military sources the fifth rotation of Australian mentors, due to arrive in Afghanistan at the end of this year, will consist of only 150 troops. There are 900 soldiers training the Afghan army at present.**

Aid organisations in Oruzgan have expressed some concern about the increasing speed of the withdrawal, as they rely on the security provided by Australian troops when they travel outside the main centre of Tarin Kowt.

**IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE  
END THE OCCUPATION**

## **SOMALIA WAR REPORTS**

# **Somali Resistance Fighters Attack Ethiopian Occupation Troops In Beledweyn**

5 February 2012 Shabelle Media Network

Beledweyn — Heavily armed Somali insurgents have attacked overnight on Ethiopian military bases in the town of Beledweyn, the capital city of Hiran region in central Somalia, residents said.

Witnesses said, the sound of machine-guns and shoulder launchers could be heard overnight across the town after the gunmen launched an ambush attack Ethiopian troops at Howlwadag village, causing unknown loss to both sides and residents.

Reports suggest that the Ethiopian forces have began this morning massive search operations to secure the town of Beledweyn, where has been one of the main strongholds of Al-shabab militants in central Somalia for years.

No one has been arrested for incident so far by the Ethiopian troops in Beledweyn town, 350-km away from north of Somalia capital Mogadishu.

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## MILITARY NEWS

### HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?



The remains of Marine Lance Cpl. Edward J. Dycus of Greenville, Miss., Dover Air Force Base, Del., Feb. 2, 2012. L-Cpl. Dycus was killed by an Afghan Army soldier who was guarding a joint operating base with him. (AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)...

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## FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



**“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.**

**“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.**

**“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”**

**“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose.”**

**Frederick Douglass, 1852**

**One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.**

**Mike Hastie  
U.S. Army Medic  
Vietnam 1970-71  
December 13, 2004**

**Outreach To The Troops 1907:  
“The Work Of The Socialist Youth  
Is Not In Vain”**

**“During The Strikes At Dunkirchen,  
Creusot, Loguivi, Monso-Le-Min The  
Soldiers Ordered Against The  
Strikers Declared Their Solidarity  
With The Workers”**

**“The Young Socialist Workers Are  
Working With All The Enthusiasm And**

# Energy Of The Young To Have The Army Side With The People”

**Anti-militarist literature is delivered to soldiers in the barracks and handed out to them in the streets; soldiers find it in coffee-houses and pubs, and everywhere else they go.**

October 8, 1907: Vperyod [Forward], Issue #16. By V.I. Ulyanov. [The writer used the pen name “Lenin” to keep the government from terrorizing his family.]

\*\*\*\*\*

It will be recalled that the International Socialist Congress in Stuttgart discussed the question of militarism and in connection with it the question of anti-militarist propaganda. The resolution adopted on the point says, in part, that the Congress regards it as a duty of the working classes to “help to have working class youth brought up in a spirit of international brotherhood and socialism and imbued with class consciousness”.

The Congress regards this as an earnest of the army ceasing to be a blind instrument in the hands of the ruling classes, which they use as they see fit and which they can direct against the people at any time.

It is very hard, sometimes almost impossible, to conduct propaganda among soldiers on active service. Life in the barracks, strict supervision and rare leave make contact with the outer world extremely difficult; military discipline and the absurd spit and polish cow the soldier.

Army commanders do everything they can to knock the “nonsense” out of the “brutes”, to purge them of every unconventional thought and every human emotion and to instill in them a sense of blind obedience and an unthinking wild hatred for “internal” and “external” enemies.... It is much harder to make an approach to the lone, ignorant and cowed soldier who is isolated from his fellow-men and whose head has been stuffed with the wildest views on every possible subject, than to draft-age young men living with their families and friends and closely bound up with them by common interest.

Everywhere anti-militarist propaganda among young workers has yielded excellent results. That is of tremendous importance. The worker who goes into the army a class-conscious Social-Democrat is a poor support for the powers that be.

There are young socialist workers’ leagues in all European countries. In some, for instance, Belgium, Austria and Sweden, these leagues are large-scale organisations carrying on responsible party work. Of course, the main aim of the youth leagues is self-education and the working out of distinct and integrated socialist outlook. But the youth leagues also carry on practical work. They struggle for an improvement in the condition of apprentices and try to protect them from unlimited exploitation by their employers.

The young socialist workers’ leagues devote even more time and attention to anti-militarist propaganda.

For that purpose, they try to establish close ties with young soldiers.

This is done in the following way. Before the young worker has joined the army, he is a member of a league and pays membership dues. When he becomes a soldier, the league continues to maintain constant contacts with him, regularly sending him small cash aids ("soldier's sous" as they call them in France), which, however small, are of substantial importance to the soldier.

For his part, he undertakes to provide the league with regular information about everything that goes on in his barracks and to write about his impressions. Thus, even after he joins the army, the soldier does not break off his ties with the organisation of which he was a member.

An effort is always made to drive the soldier as far away from home as possible for his service. This is done with the intention of preventing the soldier from being tied with the local population by any interest, and to make him feel alien to it.

It is then easier to make him carry out orders: to shoot at a crowd. Young workers' leagues try to bridge this alienation between the soldier and the local population.

Youth leagues are connected with each other. When he arrives in a new town, the soldier, a former member of a youth league at home, - is met by the local league as a welcome visitor, and he is at once brought into the circle of local interests and helped in every possible way.

He ceases to be a newcomer and a stranger. He is also aware that if any misfortune befalls him he will receive help and support. This awareness adds to his courage, he gains assurance in his behaviour in the barracks, and is bolder in standing up for his rights and his human dignity.

Their close ties with young soldiers enable the youth leagues to carry on extensive anti-militarist propaganda among the soldiers.

This is done mainly with the aid of anti-militarist literature, which the youth leagues publish and circulate in great quantities, especially in France, Belgium and also in Switzerland, Sweden, etc.

This literature is highly diverse: postcards with anti-militarist pictures, anti-militarist army songs (many of these songs are very popular among the soldiers), "soldier's catechism" (in France it was circulated in more than 100,000 copies), all sorts of pamphlets, leaflets, appeals; weekly, fortnightly and monthly newspapers and magazines for soldiers, some of them illustrated.

*Barracks, Recruit, Young Soldier, Pju pju* (a pet name for the young recruit), and *Forward* are very widely circulated. For example, in Belgium the newspapers *Recruit* and *Barracks* have a printing of 60,000 copies each. Especially many magazines are published at the time of the draft.

**Special issues of soldiers' newspapers are mailed to the homes of all recruits.**



**Anti-militarist literature is delivered to soldiers in the barracks and handed out to them in the streets; soldiers find it in coffee-houses and pubs, and everywhere else they go.**

Recruits receive special attention. They are given a ceremonial send-off.

During the recruitment, processions are staged in the towns. In Austria, for instance, recruits walk through the town dressed in mourning and to the strains of funeral marches. In front of them rolls a decorated red carriage.

All the walls are plastered with red posters which say in large letters: "You will not shoot at the people!"

Evening parties with ardent anti-militarist speeches are held in honour of the recruits. In short, everything is done to awaken the recruit's consciousness, to ensure him against the evil influence of the ideas and emotions which will be instilled into him in the barracks by fair means and foul.

The work of the socialist youth is not in vain. In Belgium, there are almost 15 soldiers' unions in the army, which are mostly affiliated with the Social-Democratic Labour Party and are closely allied with each other. In some regiments, two-thirds of the soldiers are organised.

In France, the anti-militarist mood has become massive. During the strikes at Dunkirchen, Creusot, Loguivi, Monso-le-Min the soldiers ordered against the strikers declared their solidarity with the workers....

As time goes on, there are more and more Social-Democrats in the army and the troops become increasingly less reliable.

When the bourgeoisie has to confront the organised working class, whom will the army back? The young socialist workers are working with all the enthusiasm and energy of the young to have the army side with the people.

## **DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN MILITARY SERVICE?**

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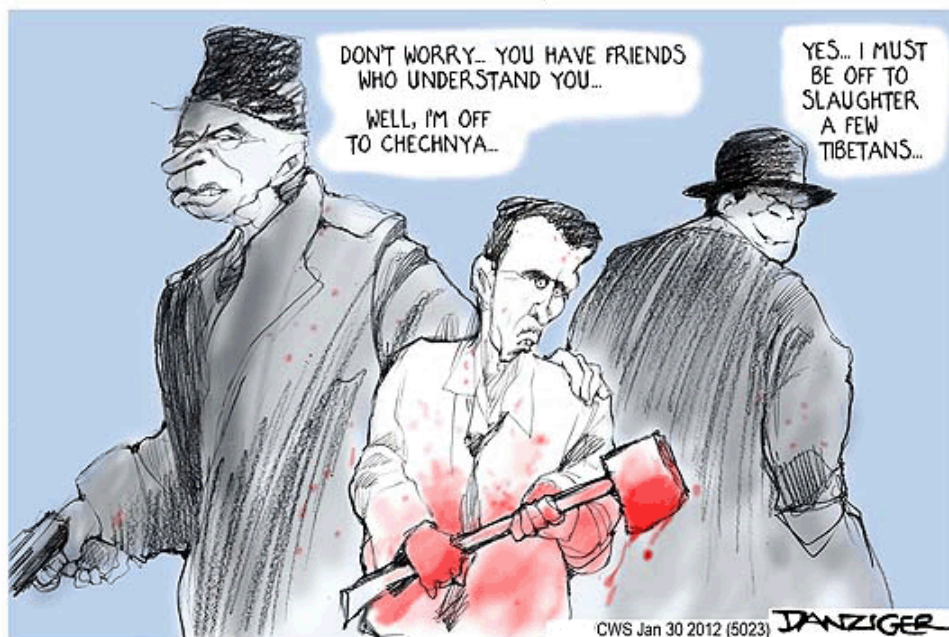
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### **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

Russia and China Back Syria's Assad



## **“The Killing Of Three U.S. Citizens”**

**The American Civil Liberties Union  
Demands To Know By What Authority  
The Traitor Obama Orders The  
Execution Of American Citizens  
Without Trial:**

# **“A Topic Of Vital Importance: The Power Of The U.S. Government To Kill U.S. Citizens Without Presentation Of Evidence”**



Graphic: New Statesman

February 1 By Karen DeYoung, Washington Post [Excerpts]

The American Civil Liberties Union asked a federal court Wednesday to force the Obama administration to release legal and intelligence records related to the killing of three U.S. citizens in drone attacks in Yemen last year.

The lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, charged the Justice and Defense departments and the CIA with illegally failing to respond to requests made in October under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

It cited public comments made by President Obama, Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta and other officials in arguing that the government cannot credibly claim a secrecy defense.

“The government’s self-serving attitude toward transparency and disclosure is unacceptable,” the ACLU said in a statement.

“Officials cannot be allowed to release bits of information about the targeted killing program when they think it will bolster their position, but refuse even to confirm [its] existence” when asked for information “in the service of real transparency and accountability.”

In addition to statements by Obama and Panetta, the lawsuit notes that “media reports about the targeted killing program routinely quote anonymous government officials describing details of the program.”

The case comes as the administration has been engaged in an internal debate over whether to be more forthcoming about the drone program, and a range of lawmakers and international legal bodies have asked for more information and oversight. The administration has argued in previous legal cases that national security prohibits the discussion of the covert program.

**Wednesday's ACLU complaint referred to wide media coverage of the administration's 2010 decision to place Anwar al-Awlaki, a U.S. citizen allegedly allied with Yemen-based al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, on "kill lists" compiled by the CIA and the military's Joint Special Operations Command.**

Awlaki was killed in September in Yemen by a joint CIA-JSOC drone operation that similarly received wide publicity.

**Samir Khan, also a U.S. citizen, was reported killed in the same attack. Awlaki's 16-year-old son, Abdulrahman, was reportedly killed in a JSOC drone strike two weeks later.**

At the time, public statements by Obama confirmed the elder Awlaki's death.

News reports indicated that the operation had been carried out after the administration requested and received an opinion from the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel saying that targeting and killing U.S. citizens overseas was legal under domestic and international law.

Most recently, Obama made extensive comments Monday about the overall drone program — which has included hundreds of strikes against non-U.S. citizens in Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia — in an online town hall meeting. Panetta discussed it in a Sunday interview on CBS's "60 Minutes."

The ACLU case refers only to the three Yemen killings, the only known cases in which a U.S. citizen was intentionally targeted.

**Despite FOIA requests filed by the ACLU in October for the expedited release of information, "the government has refused to release its legal or evidentiary bases" for the Yemen strikes, said the ACLU's District Court complaint.**

"It has not explained whether Samir Khan and Abdulrahman al-Awlaki were killed 'collaterally' or were targeted themselves. It has not said what measures, if any, it took to minimize the possibility that individuals not targeted would be killed incidentally."

The government defendants, including JSOC and the Office of Legal Counsel, "have provided varying responses" to the FOIA request, "either denying it or delaying a response to it," the ACLU complaint said. "No agency has released any record in response."

**"The request relates to a topic of vital importance: the power of the U.S. government to kill U.S. citizens without presentation of evidence and without disclosing legal standards that guide decision makers," the complaint said.**

**MORE:**

# “What More Tyrannical Power Is There Than For A Government To Target Its Own Citizens For Death — In Total Secrecy And With No Checks”

February 2, 2012 By Glenn Greenwald, Salon.com [Excerpt]

From a certain perspective, there's really only one point worth making about all of this: if you think about it, it is warped beyond belief that the ACLU has to sue the U.S. Government in order to force it to disclose its claimed legal and factual bases for assassinating U.S. citizens without charges, trial or due process of any kind.

It's extraordinary enough that the Obama administration is secretly targeting citizens for execution-by-CIA; that they refuse even to account for what they are doing — even to the point of refusing to disclose their legal reasoning as to why they think the President possesses this power — is just mind-boggling.

Truly: what more tyrannical power is there than for a government to target its own citizens for death — in total secrecy and with no checks — and then insist on the right to do so without even having to explain its legal and factual rationale for what it is doing?

Could you even imagine what the U.S. Government and its media supporters would be saying about any other non-client-state country that asserted and exercised this power?

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## CLASS WAR REPORTS



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## **“The Numbers Of Syrian Soldiers Defecting To The Opposition Camp In Homs Have Steeply Increased”**



Residents look at an armoured military vehicle which according to them, were damaged during a military crackdown on protesters against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, in Rastan near Homs February 3, 2012. REUTERS/Handout

FEBRUARY 4, 2012 By JOE LAURIA and CHARLES LEVINSON, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

A toned-down United Nations Security Council resolution intended to resolve the Syrian crisis was on hold amid a surge of deadly clashes on Friday, as U.N. ambassadors pushed for a Saturday vote but awaited a decision from Moscow, diplomats said.

In recent weeks, the numbers of Syrian soldiers defecting to the opposition camp in Homs have steeply increased, according to activists, which could be why the government decided to ramp up its assault on the city.

The Syrian regime also likely wants to avoid losing control of border territory, which could allow rebel forces a base from which to organize operations.

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## **“Protesters Intensified Their Assault On Egyptian Police In A Second Day Of Clashes”**

# “A Military Leadership Whose Public Support Is Plummeting”

FEBRUARY 4, 2012 By MATT BRADLEY, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

CAIRO — Protesters intensified their assault on Egyptian police in a second day of clashes that have killed at least four people and exposed the growing frustration with authorities expected to manage the country's transition to democracy.

Demonstrators flooded the area around Egypt's Interior Ministry for a second day to protest what many said was the police's intentional inaction during a deadly soccer riot in the Mediterranean port town of Port Said on Wednesday that killed 74 people.

Police fired tear-gas canisters to beat back the surge of mostly young male protesters. Ambulances rushed in and out of the crowd as demonstrators broke sidewalk pavement to use as rocks to lob at the police.

Along with a recent string of brazen daylight robberies, events prompted an outcry that reflects dwindling confidence in Egypt's interim government.

In response to the crisis, the ruling military council issued a statement late Friday saying the country is passing through "the most dangerous and most important phase in Egypt's history," and calling on Egyptians to unite in the face of discord.

Egypt's newly elected Parliament tried to channel the public anger to assert itself against an interim military leadership that still holds the final say on most political decisions.

But activists and liberal politicians complain that the Islamist lawmakers who dominate the new Parliament have been reluctant to turn the popular outrage into a robust attack against a military leadership whose public support is plummeting.

In an emergency session on Thursday, parliamentarians from across the political spectrum rushed to capitalize on the dour public mood, launching heated criticism at the interim government and the ruling military council.

Televisions at cafes and restaurants throughout Egypt's capital on Thursday showed members heckling Egypt's prime minister and attacking the government.

Secular-minded activists say the populist rhetoric belies the powerful Islamists' reluctance to take the ruling Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, or SCAF, to task.

"Nothing was really achieved. All the calls to summon SCAF (to Parliament) were completely ignored," said Ahmed Said, the chairman of the secular-minded Free Egyptians' Party.

Mr. Said was one of the few Parliament members who waded into the second day of protests on Friday

"We haven't done anything that would really satisfy the people with any real decisions," he said.

**Over the past several months, secular-minded activists with close connections to Egypt's street-level protest movement have accused the Muslim Brotherhood of betraying the revolution by cooperating with the military.**

**When a group of protesters tried to demonstrate against military rule outside parliament on Monday, youth members of the Brotherhood blocked their path, setting off scuffles in which more than 70 people were injured.**

The Brotherhood's leader, or Supreme Guide, issued a statement Friday commending the performance of the group's Freedom and Justice Party members for furthering "the aims of the revolution."

The military has repeatedly sought to stage-manage the selection of 100 delegates to a constitutional drafting committee that will be charged with writing the founding document.

**MORE:**

**“This Is Not The Time To Go Back To The Square And Just Wait Like Beggars For What They Give Us, The Military And The Muslim Brotherhood”**

**“They Are Trying To Divide The Cake Between Them. They Both Can't Be Trusted”**

**“After Holding Their Fire For Most Of The Day, Protesters And The Police Struck At Each Other With New Force On Saturday Evening”**



# **“Squads Of Riot Police Began Advancing On Foot, Wielding Shotguns And Firing Birdshot Up And Down A Main Thoroughfare Of The District To Clear It Of Protests, Though Moments Later The Police Had Retreated And Protesters Returned In Full Force”**

**“Some of the Muslim Brothers are coming to tell us to go back to the square,” said Nourhan Mahmoud, a 19-year-old pharmacist resting at a makeshift field hospital while she waited for more casualties.**

**“But this is not the time to go back to the square and just wait like beggars for what they give us, the military and the Muslim Brotherhood. They are trying to divide the cake between them. They both can’t be trusted.”**

5 February 2012 David D. Kirkpatrick, The New York Times News Service

Cairo - After the fiercest battles in three days of street fighting with protesters, Egypt's military-led government appeared by daybreak Sunday to have ended, at least for now, a siege of its interior ministry.

Security forces erected two new walls of cement blocks bisecting streets that had been central battlegrounds between security forces and protesters calling for the end of military rule. Riot police fired rubber bullets from armored vehicles to force protesters away from the ministry so that the walls could be erected.

They were the fifth and sixth such walls built across streets in the vicinity of Tahrir Square and the interior ministry in its so-far futile attempts to suppress a series of such battles since October.

Along with the tableau of burned out buildings and cars, rubble strewn streets, and a thick dust of settled tear gas, the maze of barriers has completed the picture of a virtual war zone in the heart of the capital.

Military police and security forces have now killed 100 demonstrators in the course of those battles, according to official statements, including those who died in the last three days of fighting. Health officials said over the weekend that 12 protesters had been killed since Thursday in fighting fueled by anger at the failure of the police to prevent a deadly soccer riot in Port Said Wednesday night.

The inability of the military-led government to diminish the violence raised new questions about its legitimacy during this paradoxical new stage in Egypt's transition, celebrating

the seating of the first freely elected Parliament in more than six decades but still under martial law.

A civilian advisory council appointed by Egypt's military rulers to help put a civil face on their authority urged Saturday that the generals respond to the violence by moving up the transfer of power by one or two months from the current deadline in June. The panel recommended expediting planned presidential elections so that the military could still hand authority to a new president.

But there was also a suggestion that the new Parliament, dominated by the Islamists of the Muslim Brotherhood, might side with the military on the need to quiet the protests.

State news media reported that a parliamentary committee on national security led by a senior Brotherhood figure recommended after an emergency session on Saturday that the government build a wall in front of the Interior Ministry and shoot anyone who crossed it. That report could not be confirmed independently.

After holding their fire for most of the day, protesters and the police struck at each other with new force on Saturday evening.

Crowds of protesters whistled and cheered as fire bombs exploded near the police lines around the Interior Ministry. They stripped the branches off trees in the area to use the wood for bonfires, then they hurled burning branches at the police.

By 9 p.m., protesters had also broken up more than a block of sidewalk to use the pieces as missiles.

The police, who for two days had stuck to defending the Interior Ministry headquarters, went on the offensive. Crossing the front line for the first time, they chased protesters with an armored personnel carrier, firing tear gas and birdshot from its turret. Then squads of riot police began advancing on foot, wielding shotguns and firing birdshot up and down a main thoroughfare of the district to clear it of protests, though moments later the police had retreated and protesters returned in full force.

It was unclear how many people might have been killed or injured on Saturday night in Cairo, or in Alexandria, Suez and other cities where protests continued. Health Ministry officials said around midday Saturday in the Egyptian state media that seven protesters had died in Suez and five in Cairo.

A main government tax building, near the Interior Ministry and overlooking the thickest fighting in the capital, was badly damaged by a fire started during clashes on Friday night.

**The new outbreak of violence occurred after a long, tense standoff that for a time seemed emblematic of this fraught moment in Egypt's political transition. On one side, the Muslim Brotherhood, which now leads the Parliament, is morphing from the opposition into the establishment.**

**On the other, half-politicized groups of die-hard soccer fans, known here as ultras, are now the vanguard of the Egyptian uprising and are waging a campaign of attacks on the Interior Ministry around the country, seeking revenge because the**

**police allowed the riot that killed more than 70 fellow fans after a match in Port Said.**

For most of the day, groups of middle-aged men — almost everyone said the leaders belonged to the Brotherhood, although the men themselves demurred — moved among the young and angry but mostly quiet crowd, urging them to return in peace to Tahrir Square, the symbolic heart of Egypt’s peaceful uprising.

“I am not a coward, I am not a coward,” the older men chanted. “Legitimacy comes from the square.” Younger demonstrators, yearning for the peaceful early days of the revolution, often joined them in the chant.

Civilian men linked arms to form their own barriers in front of the police line so that they could hold back those who would charge in or throw rocks.

Other political activists said they were waiting for the fighting to start again.

**“Some of the Muslim Brothers are coming to tell us to go back to the square,” said Nourhan Mahmoud, a 19-year-old pharmacist resting at a makeshift field hospital while she waited for more casualties.**

**“But this is not the time to go back to the square and just wait like beggars for what they give us, the military and the Muslim Brotherhood. They are trying to divide the cake between them. They both can’t be trusted.”**

Then, about 3 p.m., two groups of hundreds of young men arrived from opposite directions beating the distinctive drums and waving the flags of the ultras. They quickly swarmed past the first civilian cordon and pushed to within 10 feet of the riot police, some hurling rocks.

Cooler heads struggled for nearly an hour to turn them back.

But there was too much animosity on both sides of the line. By 4:30 p.m., the battle was in full swing once again.

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**“The Phrase Of Mr Zhang’s That Made An Impression Was One Describing China As ‘Playing Pass The Parcel With A Time Bomb”**

**“Compared With Those In 2010,  
The Strikes Of 2011 Were Better  
Organised, More Confrontational  
And More Likely To Trigger  
Copycat Action”**

**“News That Three Or Four Years Ago  
Would Have Been Relatively Easy For  
Local Officials To Suppress,  
Downplay Or Ignore Is Now Instantly  
Transmitted Across The Nation”**

**“The Latest Spate Of Confrontations  
Looks Different. The Strikers Seem More  
Militant”**



[Thanks to David McReynolds for posting.]

Jan 28th 2012 The Economist [Excerpts]

## CHENGDU, DONGGUAN AND WUKAN VILLAGE

**In an industrial zone near Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan province in south-west China, a sign colourfully proclaims the sprawl of factories to be a “delightful, harmonious and happy district”.**

**Angry steelworkers must have winced as they marched past the slogan in their thousands in early January, demanding higher wages.**

**Their three-day strike was unusually large for an enterprise owned by the central government.**

But, as China's economy begins to grow more sedately, more such unrest is looming.

China's state-controlled media kept quiet about the protest that began on January 4th in Qingbaijiang District, a 40-minute drive north-east of Chengdu on an expressway that crosses a patchwork of vegetable fields and bamboo thickets.

But news of the strike quickly broke on the internet.

Photographs circulated on microblogs of a large crowd of workers from Pangang Group Chengdu Steel and Vanadium being kept away from a slip road to the expressway by a phalanx of police.

**Word spread that police had tried to disperse the workers with tear gas. In the end, as they tend to — and undoubtedly acting on government orders — factory officials backed down, partially at least. The workers got a raise, albeit a smaller one than they wanted. Managers' wages were frozen.**

Strikes have become increasingly frequent at privately owned factories in recent years, often involving workers demanding higher wages or better conditions.

Private firms, like state ones, are usually strong-armed by officials into buying off strikers. The thinking is that capitulating keeps a lid on news coverage and helps to prevent unrest from spreading. Yet the explosive growth in the use of home-grown versions of Twitter has made it easy for protesters to convey instant reports and images to huge audiences.

The Communist [translation: Capitalist] Party's capacity to stop ripples of unease from widening is waning — just as economic conditions are making trouble more likely.

At a cheap restaurant in Qingbaijiang, opposite a dormitory compound for Pangang employees, grimy steelworkers complain that the government's promise of an extra 260 yuan (\$41) a month is hardly enough. Many of the lowest-paid earn as little as \$190 monthly.

But the workers know that the steel industry is struggling — and that vengeance on persistent troublemakers can be fierce. A police notice warns of legal action, including imprisonment, against any strikers who continue “disrupting public order”. Security agents follow your correspondent in an unmarked car.

This economic quandary has become more acute at what is a delicate political moment for the Communist Party. Later this year (probably in October or November), the party will hold its five-yearly Congress, the 18th since its founding in 1921, at which sweeping changes in the country's top leadership will begin to unfold.

It is a decade since China experienced a leadership changeover on this scale — and the first time since the late 1980s that the advent of a new generation of leaders has coincided with such a troubled patch for the economy. The previous time, in 1988, an outbreak of inflation threw Deng Xiaoping's succession plans into disarray, giving conservatives ammunition with which to attack his liberal protégés. The party's strife erupted into the open the following year as students demanding greater freedom gathered in Tiananmen Square.

The threats to the party today are very different, but fear of large-scale unrest still haunts the leadership.

In the Pearl River Delta, which produces about a third of China's exports, there are plenty of signs of malaise.

Outside a Taiwanese-owned factory in Dongguan, a dozen or so police officers wearing helmets and carrying clubs watch a small group of angry workers complain that the owner has run away.

The factory (which makes massage seats) is unable to pay its debts. They are afraid that, this time, after the lunar new year break they will have no jobs to come back to. A plainclothes policeman tries to silence them. Then a uniformed officer moves in with a video camera, and most of the workers retreat, keeping a prudent silence.

Others in the delta have been less reticent.

**In November thousands of employees at a Taiwanese shoe factory in Dongguan took to the streets in protest against salary cuts and sackings, purportedly caused by declining orders. Protesters overturned cars and clashed with police. Photographs of bloodied workers circulated on the internet.**

**There have been further protests in recent weeks.**

Guangdong province also saw a wave of strikes in 2010. At that time workers—mainly in factories supplying the car industry—were demanding only higher pay and improved conditions. Most of those disputes were quickly and peacefully settled, and rarely involved action on the streets.

**The latest spate of confrontations looks different.**

**The strikers seem more militant.**

A report published this month by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) says that, compared with those in 2010, the strikes of 2011 were better organised, more confrontational and more likely to trigger copycat action.

“Workers are not willing this time to accept that they have to make sacrifices for the national good because firstly they have already made enough sacrifices, and secondly, fewer are willing to just pack up and go home,” says Geoff Crothall of China Labour Bulletin, an NGO in nearby Hong Kong.

**The government hopes that jobless migrants will return to their home villages, where they or their families still enjoy a tiny land entitlement on which they can subsist, or find work closer to their hometowns.**

**But rising numbers of migrant workers in big cities — more than 60% according to the National Bureau of Statistics in 2010 — are themselves the offspring of migrants and have no experience of agricultural life.**

**They regard themselves as urbanites, even if they are excluded from many of the welfare benefits to which city-dwellers are entitled.**

**They are better educated than their parents’ generation, and more assertive.**

A riot by migrants last June in Dadun, another factory town in Guangdong where many of the country’s jeans are produced, hinted at the problems China could face if second-generation migrants lose hope.

The manhandling of a pregnant woman by security guards prompted two days of violence, with thousands of migrants setting fire to vehicles and government buildings.

**Strikes in coastal factories now mainly involve second-generation migrants, according to the report by CASS.**

**“News That Three Or Four Years Ago Would Have Been Relatively Easy For Local Officials To Suppress, Downplay Or Ignore Is Now Instantly Transmitted Across The Nation”**

By the end of last year, weibo, as Chinese versions of Twitter (itself blocked in China) are known, were used by nearly half of the 513m Chinese who had accessed the internet in the previous six months.

Weibo have transformed public discourse in China.

News that three or four years ago would have been relatively easy for local officials to suppress, downplay or ignore is now instantly transmitted across the nation.

Local protests or scandals to which few would once have paid attention are now avidly discussed by weibo users.

**The government tries hard, but largely ineffectively, to control this debate by blocking key words and cancelling the accounts of muckraking users.**

**Circumventions are easily found. Since December the government has been rolling out a new rule that people must use their real names to open accounts. So far, users seem undeterred.**

In the build-up to the 18th Congress, China's leaders will become especially anxious to prevent embarrassment to the party.

**Weibo are likely to make their lives a lot more difficult — at least that was the lesson from a ten-day stand-off in December between police and residents of the coastal village of Wukan in Guangdong.**

The villagers' protest was typical of thousands that roil the Chinese countryside every year: a complaint about the seizure of agricultural land by local officials for private redevelopment.

Unusually, however, in Wukan citizens took control of their village and drove out party hacks and police.

**Officials were alarmed by images that circulated on weibo of triumphant residents rallying in the centre of their village, like students in Tiananmen Square 22 years ago**



Wukan: triumphant residents rallying in the centre of their village.

**They tried, unsuccessfully, to stop news spreading by ordering a block on the village's name and location.**

The villagers gave up their protest on December 21st after a rare, high-profile intervention by the Guangdong party leadership, which promised to look into their complaints. Remarkably, on January 15th the protest leader, Lin Zuluang, was appointed as the village's new party chief (the previous one having disappeared, it is thought into custody).



Even the party's main mouthpiece in Beijing broke its silence on the issue, saying it showed that local officials should stop treating citizens as adversaries. Wang Yang, Guangdong's party chief, who is believed to be a contender for a senior Politburo position this year, said the incident demonstrated how people's "democratic consciousness" was getting stronger. He called on officials not to ignore citizens' concerns.

**And villagers in Wukan warn that they will not be satisfied until they have reclaimed their land. One protest leader says there could be another, "even bigger" uprising.**

An intriguing glimpse of how at least some in the party elite might see things was offered last April when Zhang Musheng, a prominent intellectual, published a book calling for a revival of the one-time Maoist goal of building a "new democracy".

The phrase of Mr Zhang's that made an impression was one describing China as "playing pass the parcel with a time bomb."

### **Troops Invited:**

**Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or email [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.**



**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT  
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