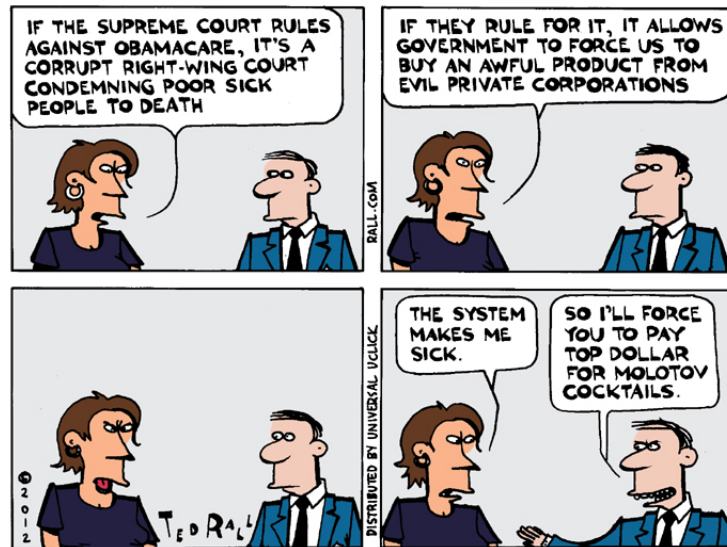


## Military Resistance 10C1



**“What Only Weeks Ago Was An Undercurrent Of Anti-Americanism In Afghanistan Is Now A Palpable Fury”**

**“There Are People Who Don’t See How We Succeed Under The Current Conditions, And Their Case Is Getting Stronger”**

**“Too Many People Are Asking, ‘Why Are We Still Doing This If The Guys You’re Supposed To Be Helping Keep Murdering Your Soldiers?’ Said A Senior U.S. General”**



3.1.12 AFP: A picture of the US flag is burnt during a protest condemning the burning of Korans by U.S. troops at Bagram airbase.

February 26, 2012 By MATTHEW ROSENBERG and THOM SHANKER, New York Times & February 27, 2012 By David S. Cloud, Los Angeles Times [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON — American officials sought to reassure both Afghanistan's government and a domestic audience on Sunday that the United States remained committed to the war after the weekend killing of two American military officers inside the Afghan Interior Ministry and days of deadly anti-American protests.

But behind the public pronouncements, American officials described a growing concern, even at the highest levels of the Obama administration and Pentagon, about the challenges of pulling off a troop withdrawal in Afghanistan that hinges on the close mentoring and training of army and police forces.

Despite an American-led training effort that has spanned years and cost tens of billions of dollars, the Afghan security forces are still widely seen as riddled with dangerously unreliable soldiers and police officers.

The distrust has only deepened as a pattern of attacks by Afghan security forces on American and NATO service members, beginning years ago, has drastically worsened over the past few days.

A grenade attack on Sunday, apparently by a protester, wounded at least six American

What only weeks ago was an undercurrent of anti-Americanism in Afghanistan is now a palpable fury, and if the situation continues to deteriorate at its current pace, plans could be altered, the official said.

"There's a certain impatience — I mean, there are people who don't see how we succeed under the current conditions, and their case is getting stronger," the official said.

Hundreds of American military and civilian advisers have already been pulled out of the Afghan ministries and government departments in Kabul, the capital.

While that move has been described as temporary, the official declined to speculate about what kind of long-term changes could be envisioned.

The official and others interviewed for this article spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the crisis with Afghanistan.

Another administration official said the unrest was “going to have a really negative effect” on all the initiatives but added that much remained unclear and that the focus was on damage control.

“Too many people are asking, ‘Why are we still doing this if the guys you’re supposed to be helping keep murdering your soldiers?’” said a senior U.S. general, who spoke on condition of anonymity in sharing internal discussions.

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

# **Afghan Soldier And Teacher Kill 2 U.S. Troops; Another Wounded**

March 1, 2012 CBS/AP

KABUL, Afghanistan - Two U.S. troops were shot dead in southern Afghanistan when three assailants, two of whom were believed to be Afghan soldiers, turned their weapons against American troops on Thursday.

Afghan and U.S. military officials confirm to CBS News that the dead were U.S. troops, and that a third American servicemember was wounded in the attack. U.S. forces responded with gunfire and killed the two assailants in Afghan army attire, wounding a third Afghan shooter in civilian clothing. The wounded shooter was identified as a teacher and is in custody.

CBS News correspondent Mandy Clark reports the shooting occurred inside a joint Afghan-U.S. base in Kandahar province.

Six Americans have now been killed and at least 15 wounded in attacks in Afghanistan since the Islamic holy books were burned at a U.S. base. Dozens of Afghans have been killed or wounded.

**The prospect of increasing hostility from their partners in Afghanistan poses a serious challenge to U.S. troops, whose entire mission is pinned on the idea of living with and fighting with, not against, the Afghan security forces they’re training.**

In Thursday's shooting, Afghan and U.S. officials gave conflicting accounts about the sequence of events.

A district chief in southern Kandahar's Zhari district told The Associated Press the shootings took place on a NATO base when an Afghan civilian who taught a literacy course for Afghan soldiers and lived on the base started shooting at NATO troops.

Mohammad Mohssan, an Afghan Army spokesman in Kandahar city, confirmed the incident occurred at a base in Zhari and involved two Afghans, one of whom was a soldier, who opened fire on coalition troops from a sentry tower. He said both were killed.

**The shooting took place on the same day that Allen allowed a small number of foreign advisers to return to work at Afghan ministries after being locked down in secure locations.**

**A NATO official said less than a dozen advisers had returned. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.**

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## **Soldier With Ties To Newport News Is Killed In Afghanistan**

February 24, 2012 By Hugh Lessig, Daily Press

A soldier with ties to Newport News was one of two American service members killed Thursday in Afghanistan during protests over the burning of Qurans at a U.S. base, family members confirmed.

Cpl. Timothy John Conrad Jr., better known as "T.J.," would have celebrated his 23rd birthday on March 6. He was killed by an Afghan soldier or a man dressed in Afghan military fatigues, who then fled the scene.

Raised in the Roanoke Valley area where he graduated from high school, Conrad was born at Mary Immaculate Hospital in Newport News, and several family members still live in the area, according to his Erik Meland, his brother-in-law.

His family members in Newport News include sisters Alex Conrad and Amanda Meland, grandmother Barbara Robertson, an uncle, Michael Allen and an aunt, Shannon Lemm.

His parents, Timothy Conrad and Mikki Wray, along with youngest brother Austin Wray all live in Roanoke.

Conrad's wife, Holly, and their 7-month-old son, Bentley, live in Georgia where T.J. was stationed.

"He was a dedicated dad and husband," said Meland. "He joked a lot – a really funny guy. He had a lot of energy."

Conrad was looking forward to a promotion to sergeant and planned on re-enlisting for a move to Fort Eustis so he could be closer to his family, Meland said. He had deployed in January – his first to Afghanistan — with the 549th MP Company out of Fort Stewart, Ga.

An Associated Press account did not identify Conrad by name. But it said two U.S. troops were shot dead after protests turned violent.

First, a pair of protesters were killed by Afghan police, then an Afghan soldier turned his gun on U.S. troops.

At least 20 people, including the two U.S. soldiers, have been killed in four days of violence since the Quran burning, according to AP.

**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT  
THE BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE  
WAR**

## **Jalalabad Military Airbase Attacked**



Afghan soldiers are on alert at the scene of a suicide attack at the gate of an airport in Jalalabad, Nangarhar province east of Kabul, Afghanistan, Monday, Feb. 27, 2012. A suicide car bomber struck early Monday at the gates of Jalalabad airport in eastern Afghanistan, officials said, killing nine people in an attack insurgents said was revenge for U.S. troops burning Qurans. (AP Photo/Rahmat Gul)...

February 27, 2012 Associated Press

A car bomber rammed his vehicle into the gates of a NATO base and airport in eastern Afghanistan on Monday, triggering a blast that killed nine Afghans, officials said. The Taliban claimed the attack in the city of Jalalabad was revenge for U.S. troops burning copies of the Quran.

In Monday's attack, the bomber drove up to the gates of the airport, which primarily serves international military aircraft, and detonated his explosives in a "very strong" blast shortly after daybreak, said Nangarhar provincial police spokesman Hazrad Mohammad.

Among the dead were six civilians, two airport guards and one soldier, Mohammad said. Another six people were wounded, he said. An AP photographer saw at least four mangled, charred cars at the site destroyed in the blast.

NATO forces spokesman Capt. Justin Brockhoff said that no international forces were killed in the attack and that the base was not breached by the blast.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, saying a car bomber had driven up to the airport gate and detonated his explosives as international forces were changing from night to morning guard duty.

"This attack is revenge against those soldiers who burned our Quran," Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said in an email.

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

## **Secretary of State Hillary Clinton Calls For Stop To U.S. War On Afghanistan**

2.27.12 By Hamid Shalizi and Amie Ferris-Rotman, Reuters [Excerpts]

Anti-Western fury has deepened significantly since the desecration of the Muslim holy book at the main NATO base in Afghanistan. Chants of "Death to America" have been common at protests and some demonstrators have raised the white Taliban flag.

The protests have killed more than 30 people and wounded at least 200, including two U.S. troops who were shot dead by an Afghan soldier who joined rallies in the east.

**In an interview from Rabat, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said the violence "is out of hand and it needs to stop".**

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**“The Afghans Themselves Are Making Clear That This Latest Episode Is But The Trigger For A Pile Of Long-Standing, Underlying Grievances About A Decade-Old, Extremely Violent Foreign Military Presence In Their Country”**

**“Just Imagine What Would Happen If A Muslim Army Invaded The U.S., Violently Occupied The Country For More Than A Decade, In The Process Continuously Killing American Children And Innocent Adults”**

Feb 26, 2012 By Glenn Greenwald, Salon.com [Excerpts]

Most American media accounts and commentary about the ongoing violent anti-American protests in Afghanistan depict their principal cause as anger over the burning of Korans (it's just a book: why would people get violent over it?) — except that Afghans themselves keep saying things like this:

“Protesters in Kabul interviewed on the road and in front of Parliament said that this was not the first time that Americans had violated Afghan cultural and religious traditions and that an apology was not enough.

“‘This is not just about dishonoring the Koran, it is about disrespecting our dead and killing our children,’ said Maruf Hotak, 60, a man who joined the crowd on the outskirts of Kabul, referring to an episode in Helmand Province when American Marines urinated on the dead bodies of men they described as insurgents and to a recent erroneous airstrike on civilians in Kapisa Province that killed eight young Afghans.

“They always admit their mistakes,” he said. “They burn our Koran and then they apologize. You can’t just disrespect our holy book and kill our innocent children and make a small apology.” [February 22, 2012 New York Times]

And:

“Members of Parliament called on Afghans to take up arms against the American military, and Western officials said they feared that conservative mullahs might incite more violence at the weekly Friday Prayer, when a large number of people worship at mosques.

“Americans are invaders, and jihad against Americans is an obligation,” said Abdul Sattar Khawasi, a member of Parliament from the Ghorband district in Parwan Province, where at least four demonstrators were killed in confrontations with the police on Wednesday.” [February 22, 2012 New York Times]

The U.S. has violently occupied their country for more than a decade.

It has, as Gen. Stanley McChrystal himself explained, killed what he called an “amazing number” of innocent Afghans in checkpoint shootings.

It has repeatedly — as in, over and over — killed young Afghan children in air strikes.

It continues to imprison their citizens for years at Bagram and other American bases without charges of any kind and with credible reports of torture and other serious abuses. Soldiers deliberately shot Afghan civilians for fun and urinated on their corpses and displayed them as trophies.

Meanwhile, the protesters themselves continue to be shot, although most American media accounts favor sentences like these which whitewash who is doing the killing: “running clashes with the police that claimed the lives of another five Afghan protesters” and “in Nangarhar Province, two Afghans protesting the Koran burning were shot to death outside an American base in Khogyani District” and “protesters angry over the burning of Korans at the largest American base in Afghanistan this week took to the streets in demonstrations in a half-dozen provinces on Wednesday that left at least seven dead and many more injured.”

Left at least seven dead: as As’ad AbuKhalil observed, “notice that there is no killer in the phrasing.”

It’s comforting to believe that these violent protests and the obviously intense anti-American rage driving them is primarily about anger over the inadvertent burning of some religious books: that way, we can dismiss the rage as primitive and irrational and see the American targets as victims.

But the Afghans themselves are making clear that this latest episode is but the trigger for — the latest symbol of — a pile of long-standing, underlying grievances about a decade-old, extremely violent foreign military presence in their country.

Along those lines, just imagine what would happen if a Muslim army invaded the U.S., violently occupied the country for more than a decade, in the process continuously killing American children and innocent adults, and then, outside of a prison camp it maintained where thousands of Americans were detained for years without charges and tortured, that Muslim army burned American flags — or a stack of bibles — in a garbage dump.



Might we see some extremely angry protests breaking out from Americans against them?

Would American pundits be denouncing those protesters as blinkered, primitive fanatics?

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## **SOMALIA WAR REPORTS**

### **Al Shabaab Insurgents Attack TFG Troops In Gedo Region**

Mar 1, 2012 (Garowe Online)

GARBARHAREY, Somalia – Heavy clashes that lasted for more than 10 hours between Al Shabaab insurgents and Transitional Federal Government (TFG) troops have led to over 15 deaths, Garowe Online reports.

The clashes that sparked Wednesday night lasted till early next morning after Al Shabaab insurgents raided the town of Garbarharey where TFG and Ahlu Sunnah wal Jama troops were stationed.

Local residents say that a large number of Al Shabaab agents entered the town and a battle ensued. A department of a local hospital had burned after it was hit by mortar.

At least 30 people were injured in the battle some of them being residents who were caught in the crossfire.

A military official who spoke to reporters said that the Al Shabaab attack was repelled by TFG and Ahlu Sunna troops and that the casualties were 2. “We have lost 2 soldiers and 7 others are injured 3 of those are in critical condition,” said Ahmed Hersi TFG Lieutenant.

Lt. Hersi added that they killed 20 Al Shabaab agents but could not verify the injured because they were carried off by the insurgency group.

The small town of Garbarharey located in Gedo region was once home to Al Shabaab insurgents but after military operations conducted by Ethiopian and TFG troops the terrorist organization was forced out and have settled in other areas of Gedo.

**Military Resistance Available In PDF Format**

If you prefer PDF to Word format, email: [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org)

## MILITARY NEWS

**Complaints About Drugging Of  
Soldiers In The Fort Bragg  
Warrior Transition Battalion  
And Their Inability To Get The  
Medical Care They Need:  
“Six Suicides And 25 Domestic  
Disputes Reported Among  
Soldiers Over A Five-Week Span”  
“At One Point A Doctor Told Me,  
‘There’s Nothing Wrong With Your  
Husband’”  
“I Told Him, ‘If There’s Nothing Wrong,  
Why Are You Making Him A Drug  
Addict?’”**

3.5.12 By Joe Gould, Army Times [Excerpts]

In the wake of six suicides and 25 domestic disputes reported among soldiers at Fort Bragg, N.C., over a five-week span, 18th Airborne Corps commander Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick has called for a “thorough investigation” of the post’s Warrior Transition Battalion.

Helmick’s announcement followed an emotional meeting between a dozen wounded soldiers, spouses and other advocates Feb. 15.

The group voiced complaints about the alleged overmedication of soldiers in the warrior transition battalion and their inability to get the care they need.

Toni Woodman-Mc-Neill told officials at the meeting that her soldier husband was denied needed surgeries while his condition deteriorated and his dependence on pain medication increased. Her husband, Sgt. Lee McNeill, 43, suffers from cognitive problems, post-traumatic stress disorder and spinal injuries from an explosion while he deployed to Iraq, she said.

**“The problem is when (injured soldiers are) going to be med-boarded out, they stop medical treatment and just give them pain medication,” Woodman-McNeill told Army Times.**

“I had to give up my career to take care of him because they weren’t taking care of him.”

At Fort Bragg, Woodman-McNeill said she had to fight with her husband’s superiors to get him spinal surgery, and he is awaiting surgery for one of his shoulders.

Meanwhile, she said, he has been on a cocktail of medications that alter his moods and sleeping patterns.

“Instead of giving him medications and fixing the problem, they keep feeding him pain medications,” she said.

“At one point a doctor told me, ‘There’s nothing wrong with your husband’ so I told him, ‘If there’s nothing wrong, why are you making him a drug addict?’”

**“There’s no way that if you showed up to that meeting you could not listen,” Woodman-McNeill said.**

**“All the stories were the same scenarios, not getting treatment and getting thrown on medications.”**

Advocate and former Army spouse Patti Katter said her husband Ken encountered similar problems at the Fort Bragg warrior transition battalion in 2010 before he retired as a sergeant. A Purple Heart recipient, Ken Katter was battered by three roadside bomb explosions in a single week in Iraq in 2007.

Patti Katter said she faults the training and leadership among the cadre running his unit. She said the cadre members’ PTSD training was insufficient and left them poorly qualified to manage PTSD-stricken troops.

“We had a horrific time with the cadre members, who were all (noncommissioned officers), and a lot of them were National Guardsmen who had never deployed before and did not understand post-traumatic stress disorder or brain injuries,” she said.

**“There are family members who are fed up with what’s going on, and you lose six guys in five weeks, that’s going to hit the media,” Katter said. “My hope is that this (inspector general’s) investigation is not just to make them look good, like they’re trying to help.”**

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

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly.

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Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Phone: 888.711.2550

**The Pentagon Spent Hundreds Of Millions Of Dollars On Poorly Tracked Marketing And Propaganda Campaigns To Sell Wars In Iraq And Afghanistan To Often-Hostile Populations There: “The Pentagon’s Top Information Operations Contractor In Afghanistan Was Started In 2004 By A Brother-And-Sister Pair With No Apparent Experience Working With The Military”**

**“Pentagon Officials Have Little Proof The Programs Work And They Won’t Make Public Where The Money Goes”**

Feb 29, 2012 By Tom Vanden Brook and Ray Locker - USA Today [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON — As the Pentagon has sought to sell wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to often-hostile populations there, it has spent hundreds of millions of dollars on poorly tracked marketing and propaganda campaigns that military leaders like to call “information operations,” the modern equivalent of psychological warfare.

From 2005 to 2009, such spending rose from \$9 million to \$580 million a year mostly in Iraq and Afghanistan, Pentagon and congressional records show. Last year, spending dropped to \$202 million as the Iraq War wrapped up.

A USA Today investigation, based on dozens of interviews and a series of internal military reports, shows that Pentagon officials have little proof the programs work and they won't make public where the money goes.

As to whether the hundreds of millions of dollars spent in Afghanistan and Iraq have been worth the U.S. investment, the USA Today investigation found:

**The Pentagon's top information operations contractor in Afghanistan, California-based Leonie Industries, was started in 2004 by a brother-and-sister pair with no apparent experience working with the military.**

**Camille Chidiac and Rema Dupont have more than \$4 million in liens on their homes and property for failure to pay federal income taxes.**

**Leonie Industries has Army contracts that could surpass \$130 million; the Army has already paid them more than \$90 million.**

Contractors like Leonie plant unattributed broadcasts, plaster the countryside in war zones with billboards, stage concerts and drop leaflets with the intent of bending the will of civilians and combatants to U.S. aims.

**Contracts show that the companies often measure the effects of the propaganda they produce, essentially grading their own work, although the military reviews the metrics.**

In response to questions from USA Today, a senior Pentagon official acknowledged there have been abuses involving the program.

“There has been such a desperate need to address communications vacuums that sometimes there has not been the proper coordination between thinking ahead what the mission is and the money that you apply to it,” said the official familiar with the program who insisted on remaining anonymous to speak candidly.

**There is little way for anyone without a secret or top secret security clearance to know how well the programs are working in places such as Afghanistan. A Pentagon inspector general report on information operations produced last March is classified.**

From the beginning of the Pentagon's information operations programs, military leaders have called for a dedicated career force specializing in that work.

“In their communications with me, Combatant Commanders continue to stress the lack of adequately trained I.O. personnel,” Gates wrote. “It is imperative to recruit, train, educate and properly track these individuals in order to provide the best possible resources to the war-fighter.”

**Untested was a fair description of Camille Chidiac, who’s now 37, and Rema Dupont, now 46, when they started Leonie Industries in August 2004.**

**Chidiac worked as an assistant director on a series of low-budget, direct-to-video movies, while his sister Dupont had been in the advertising business.**

Dupont and Chidiac’s first known military work came as part of a team of subcontractors working for SYColeman, a Virginia-based company running the Iraqi adviser task force (IQATF), which recruited local Iraqis and exiles to help spread pro-U.S. and coalition messages among the Iraqi public and share information with the military, according to Dupont and documents filed in two federal lawsuits.

**By 2006, Chidiac and Dupont had each bought homes worth more than \$2 million on the west side of Los Angeles. They also fell behind on their federal income taxes, according to IRS and California real estate records. By early 2011, liens for more than \$4 million in unpaid federal taxes had been placed on both of their homes.**

**Money for the programs comes from a series of difficult-to-track accounts and goes to contractors whose identities are shielded from the U.S. public and who are known to only a small group of Pentagon insiders.**

For example, the Pentagon used 172 different “contract vehicles” to provide information operations in Iraq between 2006 and 2008, according to a report by the Defense Department’s inspector general in September 2009.

The total spent was \$270 million. One payment of \$34.5 million in September 2008 was for a strategic media campaign.

**No documents could be found to show where the money was spent, who spent it and whether it accomplished the military’s objectives.**

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## **ANNIVERSARIES**

# **March 2, 1955: A Heroine Strikes A Blow For Liberation**

Carl Bunin Peace History February 28-March 6

Nine months before Rosa Parks made headlines, teenager Claudette Colvin was arrested in Montgomery, Alabama, for refusing to give up her bus seat to a white person.

She was active in the Youth Council of the local NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People).

Though the Montgomery Bus Boycott was begun after Ms. Parks's arrest, Colvin's legal case became part of the basis for a federal court challenge to Alabama's segregation laws.

Colvin became one of four plaintiffs in *Browder v. Gayle*, in which the Supreme Court ultimately struck down the law under which she was arrested for merely sitting down in a bus seat.

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## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**



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## **Syrian Soldiers Escape To Kurdistan**

**“Many Soldiers Want To Leave The Army And Defect”**

**“They Were Cursing Us All The Time, Especially Kurdish Soldiers Who Came**

# From Cities Where Rebellions Took Place”

02/28/2012 by Abdel Hamid Zebari, AFP

ARBIL, - Away from his family and living in a small flat, Omar Izzat Ibrahim is among rising numbers of Syrian Kurds who have fled a bloody crackdown to the safe haven of Iraq's autonomous Kurdish region.

Their increasing numbers were highlighted by the announcement on Monday that authorities in Iraqi Kurdistan had awarded refugee status to 30 Kurdish Syrian soldiers who defected, with officials insisting they would not be handed back to Damascus.

“Many soldiers want to leave the army and defect,” said Ibrahim, a sergeant from the town of Kobani, along Syria's border with Turkey.

“From the start of the uprising, we were under a lot of pressure from our commanders. They were cursing us all the time, especially Kurdish soldiers who came from cities where rebellions took place.”

The 30-year-old told of how he forged papers granting him six days of leave and fled to Kobani and hid with relatives before secretly crossing into Dohuk, Iraq's northernmost province, in early February.

Since then, he has lived in a relative's apartment in the regional capital Arbil with a civilian defector and three others, with only a small television as entertainment.

Syrian Kurds represent about nine percent of the country's population and are mainly located in the northeast and Damascus, where they form an important minority.

They say they have been the subject of political discrimination for decades, and demand recognition of their language and culture and want to be treated as full citizens.

That said, they have largely escaped the worst of a ruthless military offensive against parts of the country revolting against the rule of President Bashar al-Assad.

Iraqi Kurdish officials, meanwhile, expect 1,000 Syrian families to cross into Dohuk and are preparing to build a camp in the province to accommodate them, according to Shaker Yassin, head of the Kurdish interior ministry's immigration office.

“Those who are escaping the violence have been coming to Kurdistan since the beginning of the year,” said Yassin, adding that he did not have numbers on how many families had crossed into Iraq since the uprising began 11 months ago because most, like Ibrahim, stayed with relatives and did not register.

On Monday it was announced that 30 Kurdish Syrian soldiers who fled to Iraq had been given refugee status.



“We received them for humanitarian reasons, and they are under our protection and we gave them refugee status,” said Anwar Haji Othman, Kurdish deputy minister for the local peshmerga security forces, referring to the army defectors.

“We will not hand them over to the Syrian government because they are Kurdish and it is our right to protect them,” he said.

According to an official overseeing two camps of Kurdish Syrian refugees in Dohuk, 15 families and 130 civilian men, all Kurds, have arrived in the autonomous region from Syria in recent days.

“I was outside of Syria and when I came back to Damascus, I was arrested at the airport because I did not join the army,” said Mohammed, one of Ibrahim’s flatmates in Arbil.

“In the prison, I saw many young men being tortured,” added the 28-year-old, who declined to give his full name because he feared for his family’s safety.

Mohammed said he was released from jail after his family pleaded with a judge, at which point he crossed into Iraqi Kurdistan with the help of smugglers.

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**“At Least 500 People In The United States Have Died Since 2001 After Being Shocked With Tasers Either During Their Arrest Or While In Jail”**

**“90 Percent Of Those Who Died Were Unarmed. Many Of The Victims Were Subjected To Multiple Shocks”**

**“Roger Anthony Fell Off His Bicycle And Died After A Police Officer In North Carolina Shot Him With A Stun Gun”**

Two days after the death of a Georgia man who was shocked with a police Taser - raising the known death toll from tasers to 500 in the United States - Amnesty International today repeated its call for tighter limits on police use of the weapons.

According to data collected by Amnesty International, at least 500 people in the United States have died since 2001 after being shocked with Tasers either during their arrest or while in jail. Amnesty International recorded the largest number of deaths following the use of Tasers in California (92), followed by Florida (65), and Texas (37). The Oklahoma City Police Department led all law enforcement agencies in deaths (7) following by Las Vegas Metropolitan Police, Harris County Sheriff's (Tx), Phoenix, Az and San Jose, Ca., all with six deaths.

On Monday, Johnnie Kamahi Warren was the latest to die after a police officer in Dothan, Al. deployed a Taser on him at least twice. The 43-year-old, who was unarmed and allegedly intoxicated, reportedly stopped breathing shortly after being shocked and was pronounced dead in a hospital less than two hours later.

"Of the hundreds who have died following police use of Tasers in the United States, dozens and possibly scores of deaths can be traced to unnecessary force being used," said Susan Lee, Americas program director at Amnesty International. "This is unacceptable, and stricter guidelines for their use are now imperative."

Police forces across the United States currently permit a wide use of the weapons, often in situations that do not warrant such a high level of force.

In a 2008 report, USA: Stun weapons in law enforcement, Amnesty International examined data on hundreds of deaths following Taser use, including autopsy reports in 98 cases and studies on the safety of such devices.

Among the cases reviewed, 90 percent of those who died were unarmed. Many of the victims were subjected to multiple shocks.

**Some studies and medical experts have found that the risk of adverse effects from Taser shocks is higher in people who suffer from a heart condition or whose systems are compromised due to drug intoxication or after a struggle.**

There are continuing reports of police officers using multiple or prolonged shocks, despite warnings that such usage may increase the risk of adverse effects on the heart or respiratory system.

Deaths in the past year include Allen Kephart, 43, who died in May after he was stopped by police for an alleged traffic violation in San Bernardino County, Ca. He died after three officers shocked him up to 16 times. The officers were later cleared of wrongdoing.

Last November, Roger Anthony fell off his bicycle and died after a police officer in North Carolina shot him with a stun gun. The officer reportedly shocked Anthony - who had a disability and hearing problems - because he did not respond to an order to pull over.

Neither man was armed when police shocked them.

“What is most disturbing about the police use of Tasers is that the majority of those who later died were not a serious threat when they were shocked by police,” said Lee.

**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.

**The New York Police  
Departments’ Multi-Billion  
Dollar Army Of Spies:  
“The NYPD Has Succeeded In  
Incarcerating A Small Group Of  
Cash Strapped, Sometimes  
Mentally Ill Young Men Who Never  
Intended To Commit Acts Of  
Terrorism Before The NYPD  
Informants Devised The Plan”  
“As Long As Kelly Can Demonstrate  
A Homegrown Threat, He’s Got  
Fodder To Defend The Billions Of  
Dollars And Unchecked Authority He  
Wields”**

# “A Program That Has Expanded His Own Reach And The Institutional Power Of The NYPD Beyond Precedent Without Any Demonstrable Benefit To Public Safety”



NYPD Commissioner Ray Kelly (right front row) Photo: Spencer Platt/Getty Images

March 1 2012 by Seth Freed Wessler, Colorlines.com [Excerpts]

In September, New York Police Department Commissioner Raymond Kelly explained that, after 9/11, “I knew we needed to buttress our defenses of the city. We couldn’t rely on the federal government alone. I believed that we had to create our ... own counter terrorism division.”

And so he did.

**The effort now employs 1,000 officers and in the last decade has cost \$3 billion — about the GDP of Fiji.**

Kelly built himself a \$150 million movie-set control room, filled with feeds from thousands of cameras set up around New York and a brigade of spectacularly armed soldier-cops.

From there, he commands an anti-terror infrastructure that outsizes numerous federal agencies.

Little wonder that this massive military-style bureaucracy has proven unwilling and unable to be accountable to the public it serves.

In recent months, news reports have revealed NYPD program's to surveil, spy on and infiltrate Muslim communities across the northeastern United States. Kelly's agents have attached cameras to telephone polls outside of mosques and catalogued the license plate numbers of everyone who enters for prayer. The cops spied on Muslim student groups on 16 college campuses in New York, Connecticut, New Jersey and Pennsylvania and created a database of every Muslim owned business in the greater New York Area; Gawker referred to the documents, released by the Associated Press, as a "Zagat Guide to Newark's Best...Muslim Restaurants."

**Kelly and his spokesperson Paul Browne have claimed over and over again that the cops only follow legitimate leads and that their activities do not amount to religious or racial profiling.**

**All evidence is to the contrary.**

And with each new detail that AP unearths, the evidence of religious and racial profiling mounts. In one document, released by the AP, the NYPD went so far as to take note of a small African American Muslim preschool in Newark.

Much of the money to fund this spying program came from the federal government.

On Monday, the AP reported that the program to map the location of Muslims and surveil them, J. Edgar Hoover-style, also drew directly on federal funding, in the form of a grant direct from the White House.

The ACLU and other groups have demanded a federal probe into the legality the spending.

"We're concerned that federal resources may be used to map Muslims with no evidence of wrongdoing," said Nusrat Choudhury, an attorney with the ACLU's National Security Project.

"There are federal protections against this and what disturbs is that there's a revelation that the White House may have supported it."

But the White House money came in addition to a much larger pool of funds from the federal government.

**According to New York City documents, nearly \$1 billion came to the NYPD directly from the Department of Homeland Security in just the last seven years to pay, in part, for the sprawling anti-terrorism program.**

**And to pay the salaries of its officers scattered around the world — Tel Aviv, Istanbul, Amman, Toronto, etc...— NYPD draws from private money.**

The New York Police Foundation, a privately funded independent entity set up to support the NYPD, pays for the department's International Liaison Program.

**These officers gallop around the globe unwatched, with no oversight by Congress or any other federal entity, acting in the name of New York City residents.**

Liza Goitein is co-director of the National Security Program at the Brennan Center for Justice in New York. "This is the front line of counter terrorism today and yet very little is known in terms of what local cops are doing," she said.

**"The NYPD has become its own little FBI. But then you contrast the oversight of FBI, which is overseen by congress, and has an internal inspector general. There is nothing like that in the NYPD."**

The billions of dollars in public and private money pumped into the department has created an infrastructure that resembles Hollywood.

Indeed, in a September interview with 60 Minutes, Kelly told a story to a smitten Scott Pelley about how he hoped his anti-terrorism machine would deter terrorists.

"If you see the movie Casablanca and you have Humphrey Bogart talking to Col. Strasser," said Kelly, "and he says that he would advise the Nazis to think twice about invading certain parts of New York City, that's our message: stay away."

Since September 11, only one reported act of terrorism has been carried out to its end in New York City.

A man named Faisal Shahzad drove his Nissan S.U.V. into Times Square with explosives in the back and lit a fuse. The car smoked, but nothing exploded and nobody was hurt. In that case, Kelly says, "we were lucky."

**In his filmic view, the army he's built has kept the city safe from other attacks by building its massive infrastructure to spy on Muslim American restaurants and college students.**

"There have been 13 plots against New York that have been thwarted by either the great work of our federal partners, NYPD officers, just plain luck, or a combination of all three," Kelly wrote in an August piece for the NY Daily News, before the most recent crop of AP revelations.

He's since added a 14th foiled plot to this list.

**NYPD has provided very little information about the plots on Kelly's list, but Colorlines.com dug through old new reports to try and figure out what he was talking about.**

**What's notable is that none of the cases we identified were prevented by the city's program of indiscriminate spying on Muslims.**

The NYPD's widespread racial and religious profiling program, from this view, has done nothing to keep the city safer.

It would be troubling even if it were effective, to be sure, but Kelly's core argument for unchecked authority to surveil doesn't appear to hold up, when measured against the list of accomplishments he cites.

Moreover, that very program may in fact have helped create a handful of the plots that the NYPD claims to have foiled.

Kelly attributed the department's undoing of the Times Square bombing attempt to luck.

**Of the 13 other plots, at least five appear to have involved the use of informants — cops who infiltrate communities and pretend to have connections to terrorist organizations.**

As has been widely reported at this point, those informants systematically target young, economically strapped, often disgruntled and sometimes mentally ill men and push them to participate in plans to attack New York.

**The plots exist only because NYPD, or in some cases the FBI, have made them up and recruited the young men to participate, often in the most vague ways.**

**But once the young men agree, the cops pounce, charge the men with conspiracy, send them away to several decades in jail and hold a press conference announcing our narrow escape from danger.**

**In at least two of these informant-led cases, the practices were so concerning that even the FBI — which usually handles terrorism cases and has itself engaged in behavior that amounts to entrapment — refused to prosecute.**

In the most recent case—the 14th plot on Kelly's list — Jose Pimentel, a young New Yorker described by people who knew him as “unstable,” is accused of building a bomb to explode in the city. Pimentel was indicted on terrorism charges yesterday. If convicted, he could spend the rest of his life in jail.

The New York Times reports that Pimentel used the NYPD informant's apartment to build a bomb. The NYPD “informer provided companionship and a staging area so Mr. Pimentel, a Muslim convert, could build three pipe bombs while the Intelligence Division of the New York Police Department built its case” against him.

**According to the Times, “the informer's role, and that of his police handlers...have now been cited as among the reasons the F.B.I., which had its own parallel investigation of Mr. Pimentel, did not pursue the case.”**

**Two sources told the Times that federal “investigators were concerned that the case raised some entrapment questions.”**

**The FBI similarly refused to participate in another investigation of two young men convicted recently of lesser charges.**

**Mohamed Mamdouh and Ahmed Ferhani were targeted by a police informant and the FBI expressed concerns about entrapment.**

**A law enforcement official told The Associated Press that “the FBI had reservations about how the probe was conducted and concluded the allegations weren't worthy of a federal terrorism case.”**

Another plot listed by Kelly is that of Shahawar Martin Siraj and James Elshafay, which Colorlines.com covered previously. The two men were convicted of 2004 charges to detonate a bomb in New York's Herald Square.

**The plot never existed before NYPD informants were involved in the case.**

Despite its rejection of entrapment tactics in several NYPD cases, the FBI has used informants as well.

According to a 2010 investigation by "Democracy Now!," an FBI informant allegedly entrapped four black Muslim men from a poor neighborhood in Newburgh, N.Y., convincing them to participate in a fake attack on a synagogue.

Federal prosecutors argue that their participation in the plot proves that they were predisposed to terrorism.

But the defense contends that the men would never have committed any act of violence were it not for the FBI's fabrication of a plot and its concerted campaign to convince them to join it.

**The case is on Kelly's list as well.**

In a fifth case where informants may have been used, Najibullah Zazi drove from Denver toward New York City in 2009 in a car reportedly filled with explosives.

**Unlike the other four, the Zazi case may have developed independently from the informants involvement, but it appears to be federal investigators, not the NYPD, that thwarted the plan.**

On his way to New York, Zazi received a tip that the FBI was watching him and he turned his car around. The FBI soon arrested the man.

**None of the remaining eight plots appear to involve the NYPD in substantive ways.**

**Rather, they're mostly a list of reported plots to attack the city drawn from the federal government's global war on terrorism.**

Several of the plots, none of which were acted upon, were gleaned from interrogations of men detained in Guantanamo Bay.

One involved a reported plan by Khalid Sheikh Mohammed to attack the Brooklyn Bridge. The plan was reportedly called off by Al Qaeda after an operative "found that security at the bridge made it too difficult to attack," wrote Kelly.

**There's no reported evidence that the NYPD was involved in foiling the alleged plot.**

Similarly, a reported "December 2002 plot to disperse cyanide gas in the subway system ... was called off at the last minute," according to Kelly.



**Again, there was no reported evidence that the NYPD was involved in foiling the plot.**

In a 2004 plot to blow up corporate headquarters in New York and New Jersey—which was covered at length by the press but about which there remains very little public information—according to the AP at the time, the plot was gleaned “from Pakistan’s capture of an al-Qaeda operative several weeks ago, a U.S. counterterrorism official said, speaking only anonymously.”

An Al Qaeda plot to smuggle explosives into Manhattan that was apparently concocted by Saifullah Paracha, an alleged Al Qaeda operative, was gleaned from interrogations of Paracha in the Guantanamo Bay prison.

**The list goes on: A plot thought up and apparently foiled in England; a plot that never made it out of Afghanistan; a plot to attack JFK Airport that was investigated and prosecuted by the FBI; a plot gleaned from federal surveillance of chats and web exchange between people not in the United States.**

**None of it suggests NYPD’s widespread and indiscriminate surveillance of Muslim Americans serves an urgent public purpose.**

**The NYPD has succeeded in incarcerating a small group of cash strapped, sometimes mentally ill young men who never intended to commit acts of terrorism before the NYPD informants devised the plan.**

**In these cases, the city for all intents and purposes built fantasy bombs and attached to them ticking clocks, handed the fakes to troubled and confused men and then arrested the men as terrorists.**

For the Muslim Americans who have been spied on, the program has not brought safety.

**Last week, a Columbia University student who is a member of the Muslim Student Association there told Colorlines.com, “I’ve spent the last four days rethinking every single interaction I’ve had here. Everything I’ve said in Middle East Studies class ... in the cafeteria.”**

The spying and use of informants, the convictions and the lists, all serve a function that’s less tangible, but for Kelly just as necessary: justifying his infrastructure.

**Indeed, as long as Kelly can demonstrate a homegrown threat, he’s got fodder to defend his spying and infiltration—and the billions of dollars and unchecked authority he wields.**

**It’s a program that has expanded his own reach and the institutional power of the NYPD beyond precedent and struck fear into communities without any demonstrable benefit to public safety.**

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