

Military Resistance 10C12



**Bottom Feeding Scum-Suckers In Command:
“The Department Of Defense
Has Illegally Discharged
Veterans In The Past Decade”
The Defense Department “Has
Taken No Meaningful Steps To
Redress The Wrongful Discharges
Of These Thousands Of Service
Members”**

“Overwhelming Evidence That The Military Illegally Separating Service Members For Personality Disorder”

“The Defense Department Tightened Its Protocols, But The New Data Shows It Continued To Violate Its Own Rules”

“Shame on the Department of Defense,” said Berger. “It (the Defense Department) acknowledged the widespread illegality of these discharges and changed its rules going forward but has left 31,000 wounded warriors alone to fend for themselves, denied even basic medical care for their injuries.”

By Mary E. O’Leary, Topics Editor, The Bulletin

NEW HAVEN — The Department of Defense has illegally discharged veterans in the past decade by not following their own protocols when making a diagnosis of personality disorder, which denies them certain medical benefits and carries a stigma that hurts re-entry to civilian life.

That conclusion is based on data collected from the Department of Defense as the result of two Freedom of Information suits filed by the Veterans Services Clinic at Yale Law School on behalf of its clients, Vietnam Veterans of America.

The VVA and the Yale clinic Thursday released their report: “Casting Troops Aside: The United States Military’s Illegal Personality Disorder Discharge Problem.”

A person let go from military service with a diagnosis of personality disorder cannot access retirement disability benefits or severance disability payments and they may not qualify for monthly service connected compensation and timely health care from Veterans Affairs.

Personality disorder is considered a pre-existing condition, as opposed to post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury and usually manifests itself in adolescence.

The Veterans Affairs Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2007 accused the Department of Defense of deliberately misusing the personality diagnoses to save some \$12.5 billion in health care and compensation.

The law clinic has determined that a total of 31,000 service members from 2001 to 2010 were discharged on the basis of alleged personality disorder, which is nearly 20 percent more than the 26,000 personality disorder discharges estimated by the federal General Accounting Office for 2001 to 2007.

Dr. Thomas Berger, VVA executive director for the Veterans Health Council, said to properly diagnose someone with personality disorder, the Department of Defense would have had to consult with the families and he doubted that happened.

A study by the GAO of individual discharge packages for 371 service persons in 2008, that looked back six years, found overwhelming evidence that the military was illegally separating service members for personality disorder.

Following this, the Defense Department tightened its protocols, but the new data shows it continued to violate its own rules.

A report by the U.S. Navy on this type of discharge for fiscal 2008 and fiscal 2009, found only 8.9 percent of the cases were properly processed.

“This does not paint a pretty picture,” it concluded.

The report concludes that the Defense Department “has taken no meaningful steps to redress the wrongful discharges of these thousands of service members,” referring to the total of 31,000 discharges.

“It’s shocking,” said law student Zachary Strassburger, who worked on the analysis. Strassburger said Defense has had this information for years, but has not acted upon it, “Something is wrong here,”

The Navy has discharged the most service members for personality disorders in absolute terms, 7,735, and in fiscal 2006 the Air Force set a military record for the Afghanistan and Iraq era when personality discharges accounted for 3.7 percent of all Air Force personnel being discharged, which was 1,114 out of 29,498 service members, according to the data.

It also showed that while there was a decline in PD discharges after Congress was critical, there has been a jump in “adjustment disorder” discharges.

From 2008-10, the Army discharged 6,492 service members for AD; in fiscal 2009-2010, the Coast Guard made 166 AD discharges and in 2007-10, the Air Force made 1,821 AD discharges.

AD is a condition caused by an abnormal response to stress and Straussburger said there is concern the department is substituting this diagnosis for personality disorder in discharging service members.

Straussburger said the high Navy numbers are disturbing as it has a strong presence in Connecticut.

“On a veteran’s discharge paperwork it states clearly, ‘discharged for personality disorder,’ and not only does it keep veterans from benefits they may have earned, but it is one of the first things that prospective employers see.

Anyone who sees the veteran’s DD-214 can determine the reason for discharge,” said Paul Barry, president of VVA Chapter 120, Hartford, Conn., in a statement.

"Shame on the Department of Defense," said Berger. "It (the Defense Department) acknowledged the widespread illegality of these discharges and changed its rules going forward but has left 31,000 wounded warriors alone to fend for themselves, denied even basic medical care for their injuries."

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

IED Kills U.S. Soldier In Kuhak

March 25, 2012 By the CNN Wire Staff & AP

Kabul, Afghanistan -- A roadside bomb exploded in southern Afghanistan's Kandahar province as a patrol arrived to defuse it, killing seven Afghans and one U.S. soldier, a district official said Sunday.

The explosion occurred Saturday in the village of Kuhak in Arghandab district, Shah Muhammad, the district chief administrator, said.

The district has long been considered a Taliban stronghold, and it neighbors the Panjwai district where an Army staff sergeant allegedly went on a shooting rampage that left 17 people dead.

The district's police chief, Niaz Muhammad, confirmed the number of casualties.

The Afghan dead included one soldier, three police officers, four members of the Afghan "local police" — a government-sponsored militia force — and one translator, Mohammad said.

Arghandab is a farming region just outside Kandahar city that has long been a bed-down area for Taliban insurgents.

"The police were told there is an IED. When they reached the area to defuse it, the bomb exploded," Muhammad said.

The bomb was possibly remotely detonated, he said.

The explosion follows a threat a day earlier by the Taliban, who vowed in an e-mail to CNN to take "strong revenge" for the March 11 shootings in the Panjwai district.

The Taliban claimed justice won't be served in U.S. courts which they said "are not reliable."

Wounded Riley-Based Soldier Dies Of Injuries

Mar 22, 2012 The Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. — A Fort Riley soldier who endured more than 100 surgeries after a sniper's bullet in Afghanistan left him mostly paralyzed has died in Topeka, less than five weeks after a crowd of airport well-wishers saluted his return to the city and his wife and family.

Penwell-Gabel Funeral Home in Topeka confirmed that 27-year-old Sgt. Jamie Jarboe died Wednesday of his injuries.

The death was announced on Facebook shortly after his wife, Melissa, wrote that he had been placed in a hospice setting a week ago, The Topeka Capital-Journal reported. Thousands of people have followed the Facebook chronicle of the family's travails and hopes over the past 11 months, and hundreds left messages there Wednesday afternoon.

A native of Frankfort, Ind., Jamie Jarboe was assigned to 4th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team of the 1st Infantry Division from Fort Riley. The unit is known as the Pale Riders.

He deployed to Afghanistan in February 2011 and was shot April 10 while on foot patrol in the Zhari district. The bullet, from a sniper's AK47 rifle, penetrated his spine and left him paralyzed from the chest down.

In the following 10 months he underwent more than 100 operations, first at Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, D.C., then at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore before he was transferred to a rehabilitation facility in Denver.

Melissa Jarboe, a native of the northeastern Kansas town of Holton, spent as much time as possible with him during those months while their two daughters remained in Topeka to attend school.

On Feb. 17 — three days after the couple's first wedding anniversary — dozens of members of the American Legion and Patriot Guard Riders stood at attention as a private medical plane touched down at Topeka's Philip Billard Memorial Airport.

Melissa Jarboe and the couple's daughters, Celestial and Alexa, were on the tarmac as Jarboe was moved onto a stretcher and placed in an ambulance for a ride to a Topeka rehab facility, escorted by Patriot Guard motorcyclists. Jarboe was unable to fully return the salutes of those who gave him a hero's welcome, but he could lift a hand and wave briefly.

The turnout that day was especially gratifying for Melissa Jarboe.

There were times, she said, that her husband believed that "some people forget — some people don't care about the soldiers. I tell him, 'I beg to differ,'" she told The Capital-

Journal that day. "Today it really shows how strong the support is for him here in Topeka, Kan."

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

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

Resistance Action

March 24 By Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A roadside bomb detonated by remote control killed five people Saturday in southern Afghanistan, including a former Afghan senator and tribal leader.

The ex-lawmaker, Khairo Jan, was riding in a vehicle with three Afghan policemen, who served as his bodyguards, and another tribal leader from the area when the bomb exploded on the road as they passed.

Jan is an elder of the Popalzai tribe, the same tribe that Afghan President Hamid Karzai is from.

Ayal said the blast occurred about 1:30 p.m. local time about six kilometers (four miles) south of the provincial capital of Tirin Kot.

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

MILITARY NEWS

**“Deficiencies In The Army’s Payroll
System Have Left Many Active-Duty
Military Members Waiting Months For
Paychecks”**

March 22, 2012 By Amanda Palleschi, National Journal Group

Deficiencies in the Army's payroll system have left many active-duty military members waiting months for paychecks and could hamper the Defense Department's ability to achieve audit readiness in coming years.

A joint House and Senate Oversight committee heard testimony from Defense Department officials and an Ohio Army National Guardsman on Thursday.

The guardsman, Lt. Col. Kirk Zecchini, said pay problems have become "a normal part of Army life."

Zecchini described the pay problems he experienced during 28 years in various military capacities -- as a traditional guardsman; a full-time, active-duty soldier; and a federal technician.

During his first deployment to Afghanistan in 2003, Zecchini volunteered to serve an additional six months. Although this extension was published, his military pay stopped at the end of his original order. He served for more than a month in Afghanistan without pay until the issue was resolved.

After a series of posts throughout Southeast Asia, Zecchini waited one and a half years for special allowances such as hostile fire pay and hardship duty location pay that he was entitled to because of the nature of the missions. The pay finally came after he wrote a memo to Ohio's inspector general. Later, while deployed in Iraq in 2005-2006, Zecchini's unit was told that tax was being withheld from their paychecks and additional paperwork would be involved to have the money refunded.

Zecchini told the panel that pay problems have continued since he received an honorable discharge from the Ohio Army National Guard.

Rep. Gerry Connolly, D-Va., called Zecchini's story striking given the anxiety that an overseas deployment placed on his family was compounded with worry about paying their mortgage on time.

"It also seems to me that this is not rocket science. The private sector somehow manages to do this every day of the week," Connolly told the panel on Wednesday.

Military's Crime Lab Is Trying To Fire Whistleblower Who Reported "Misconduct Of Two Former Analysts Who Made Serious Errors During DNA And Firearms Testing"

They Also “Falsified And Destroyed Documents”

20 March 2012 By Marisa Taylor, McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpts]

Washington - The military's embattled crime lab is trying to fire an outspoken whistleblower who's spotlighted its problems.

Earlier this month, the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory warned its firearms branch chief, Donald Mikko, in a memo of its plans to fire him, in part for talking to a McClatchy reporter.

As part of an internal investigation, Mikko was interrogated for about four hours and questioned about his contacts with McClatchy, according to his attorney Peter Lown. The Army Criminal Investigation Command, which oversees the lab, launched the inquiry after McClatchy published a story late last year about the lab losing evidence.

McClatchy has written more than a dozen stories about the lab since last March, which included details of the misconduct of two former analysts who made serious errors during DNA and firearms testing and who later were found to have falsified and destroyed documents when confronted with the problems.

An investigation by the Pentagon's inspector general is ongoing.

"The Army is looking for a scapegoat to blame for the recent adverse media reports," Lown said.

Mikko's potential firing would come as his division is expected to take up the analysis of evidence in the killings of 16 Afghan civilians last week, allegedly by a U.S. soldier. The lab analyzes evidence in about 3,000 criminal cases a year.

"It seems more than a bit ironic," Lown said. "The guy they are firing is one of the most respected firearms examiners in the world, with over 22 years of experience."

The internal investigation was launched after one of McClatchy's most recent articles detailed two analysts misplacing evidence in criminal cases. One examiner waited months to report it, delaying an internal investigation into its whereabouts.

In seeking a response about the evidence the crime lab had lost, McClatchy provided case numbers and the names of criminal suspects and victims to the command's public affairs office. The Criminal Investigation Command gave investigators McClatchy's emails as possible evidence of privacy violations.

The suspects' names were never published and McClatchy isn't disclosing the sources of the material it obtained.

In an effort to determine how McClatchy got the information, investigators pored over employees' personal phone records looking for McClatchy's phone number. About 20

employees were questioned and four reported being contacted by McClatchy, but no one acknowledged giving McClatchy the information.

During his interrogation, Mikko acknowledged speaking to a McClatchy reporter about a retaliation complaint he'd filed against lab management. He said he'd first sought permission from the lab's attorney.

Investigators, however, concluded that he'd violated Army policy by accessing information at the lab for his complaint and by failing to refer the reporter to the command's public affairs office.

The information about the missing evidence was "likely improperly released" to McClatchy, the investigators said, but they couldn't determine who'd released it.

Days before being questioned, Mikko had testified in an employee discrimination complaint that a black firearms analyst had filed against lab officials.

One of those officials, Richard Tontarski, is the one who later recommended that Mikko be fired. Mikko also had filed his own complaint alleging retaliation for supporting the analyst. Tontarski was one of the managers named in that complaint as well.

In his memo recommending Mikko's firing, which McClatchy obtained, Tontarski didn't mention Mikko's role in the employee disputes but instead emphasized the firearms chief's contact with McClatchy.

"Your behavior continues to undermine my trust in you and your decision-making ability," Tontarski wrote in the proposed termination.

Although an administrative law judge concluded late last year that the black employee, A.D. Bell, wasn't discriminated against, the judge allowed Mikko's complaint to proceed. In his ruling, the judge also took aim at Tontarski, calling him "an unreliable witness" who claimed "incredible lapses in memory" about events at the lab.

Last week, Mikko asked the Pentagon for whistleblower status, citing the recent threat by Tontarski to fire him and his role as a source in a previous inspector-general inquiry into the lab.

“Hundreds Of Soldiers Being Treated For Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Had Their Diagnoses Reversed After Being Seen By Psychiatrists At The Madigan Army Medical Center”

“The Medical Center Is Located At Joint Base Lewis McChord, The Home Base Of Staff Sergeant Robert Bales”

Mar 23, 2012 By David Alexander, Reuters [Excerpts]

The U.S. Army has started a system-wide review to ensure its mental healthcare facilities are not engaging in the unacceptable practice of considering treatment costs in making a diagnosis, Army Secretary John McHugh told a U.S. Senate hearing on Wednesday.

Lieutenant General Patricia Horoho, the Army surgeon general, initiated the review in response to the discovery that hundreds of soldiers being treated for post-traumatic stress disorder had their diagnoses reversed after being seen by psychiatrists at the Madigan Army Medical Center in Washington State.

The medical center is located at Joint Base Lewis McChord, the home base of Staff Sergeant Robert Bales, who is suspected of killing 16 people, including nine children, in a shooting rampage in Afghanistan this month.

Patty Murray, a U.S. senator from Washington State, told McHugh it was “very concerning” that 40 percent of the service members with PTSD who were seen by psychiatrists at Madigan “had their diagnosis changed to something else or overturned entirely.”

What it says is that over four in 10 of our service members -- many of whom were already being treated for PTSD -- and were due the benefits and care that comes with that diagnosis had it taken away by this unit,” she said. “They were then sent back into the force or the local community.”

Test Pilot Killed By Stupidly Misplaced Emergency Oxygen Handle:

“The Emergency Oxygen Handles Will Be Replaced In 200 Planes, At A Cost Of \$47 Each”

March 20, 2012 UPI

The U.S. Air Force said it will modify the emergency oxygen handle in all F-22 Raptor fighter jets, after finding it played a role in the death of a star pilot.

The decision comes as the widow of Capt. Jeff Haney, who died when his F-22 crashed in the wilderness of Alaska in November 2010, filed a wrongful death suit.

In her suit, Anna Haney accuses the F-22 of being "unreasonably defective," saying the placement of the emergency oxygen handle was responsible for her husband's death.

Investigators found that when on-board computers detected an air leak in the engine bay, the aircraft automatically shut down the oxygen system to prevent further damage.

Haney's oxygen supply was effectively cut off, with the emergency handle out of reach behind his seat.

The Air Force asserts the F-22 is its most advanced fighter jet, in service since 2005, although never used in Iraq, Libya or Afghanistan.

The emergency oxygen handles will be replaced in 200 planes, at a cost of \$47 each.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



U.S. soldier in Bejjia village Iraq, Feb. 4, 2008. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the email address if you wish and we'll send it regularly with your best wishes. Whether in Afghanistan or at a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Zionist Occupiers Banish Palestinian Kids From Their Homes In Palestine

21 March 2012 The Middle East Monitor

An Israeli court has banished eight Palestinian minors from their home town of Beit A'mer, north of Hebron in the occupied West Bank).

The eight are currently being detained by Israel. Yousef Abu Maria, the Coordinator of the People's Committee in the town, said that the court's decision prohibits the children, the oldest of whom are 16 years, from going within 40 kilometres of the town.

Mr. Abu Maria added that the Israeli occupation forces have taken this action after the intervention of human rights associations to defend the children and demand their release.

When the judge announced that the deportation would go ahead, chaos erupted in the courtroom before Israeli soldiers attacked the children's parents and threw them outside.

The children to be banished are: Zain Hisham Abu Maria (15 years), Basil Ali Abu Maria (15 years), Sa'ed Imad Saleby (16 years), Ahmed Mahmoud Saleby (16 years), Ayesha Khaled Awad (16 years), Samer Amer (age unknown), Abu Jowd (15 years), Mohab Jawad (14 years) and Bilal Mahmoud Awad (15 years). They are accused of throwing stones at Israeli soldiers when the latter stormed the town, and participating in popular resistance activities.

According to Mr. Abu Maria, "The Israeli occupation's move towards adopting a policy of deporting children is just the beginning."

He called upon all human rights groups to intervene quickly to stop what he described as "Israel's continued violations against the people and children of Beit A'mer, particularly this decision which will have a detrimental effect on the children, deprive them of their education and keep them away from their families."

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to: www.rafahtoday.org The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."]

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DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Welcome To The Occupied USA:

“Two Senators Have Repeatedly Said That The Public Would Be Shocked If It Knew What Information Was Being Collected With The Help Of FISA And The Patriot Act”

But The Senators Won't Say What Would Shock The Public Because They're “Unable To Reveal Specifically What They Have Learned”

March 16, 2012 By George Zornick, The Nation [Excerpts]

When the federal government wants some information under Section 215 of the Patriot Act—which allows agents to access “tangible things” like business records—it goes to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court. This much we know.

What we don't know is how broadly FISA interprets Section 215—what information it allows federal agents to access, and to what extent the government must prove “relevance” to a terrorism investigation.

Two men who do know, however — Senators Mark Udall and Ron Wyden of the Senate Intelligence Committee — have consistently sounded alarms about what FISA is allowing under Section 215.

While unable to reveal specifically what they have learned, the two Senators have repeatedly said that the public would be shocked if it knew what information was being collected with the help of FISA and the Patriot Act.

This week, Udall and Wyden wrote to Attorney General Eric Holder asking him to address this issue (emphasis is theirs):

“We believe most Americans would be stunned to learn the details of how these secret court opinions have interpreted section 215 of the Patriot Act. As we see it, there is now a significant gap between what most Americans think the law allows and what the government secretly claims the law allows.

“This is a problem, because it is impossible to have an informed public debate about what the law should say when the public doesn't know what its government thinks the law says.”

The two senators were spurred to write after learning the Justice Department wants to dismiss lawsuits filed by the American Civil Liberties Union and the New York Times that seek to find out exactly how the government is interpreting Section 215.

But it's not the first time they've raised the issue, to Holder nor publicly — we've flagged it before here, and Wyden gave a dramatic speech on the Senate floor about this last year:

In 2009, the administration promised it would establish a process for “reviewing, redacting and releasing significant opinions” of FISA, but as the letter from Udall and Wyden notes, this hasn't happened once.

One has to assume Udall and Wyden are legitimately disturbed by what they know — it's extremely unusual for two senators to go so public about secret information they are privy to, and especially to prod a president (and former Senate colleague) from their own party.

Will we ever know what has alarmed them?

A Jackal Gnaws His Own Leg:

Assad Dictatorship Disarms Majority Of Its Army: Unreliable Troops Threaten Regime

March 22 By Liz Sly, Washington Post [Excerpts]

ANTAKYA, Turkey — Syrian rebels battling the regime led by President Bashar al-Assad are running out of ammunition as black market supplies dry up, neighboring countries tighten their borders and international promises of help fail to materialize, according to rebel commanders and defected soldiers who have crossed into this Turkish border town in recent days in a quest for money to buy arms.

The government recently stopped distributing guns to members of the majority-Sunni rank and file, said Abu Fares, 25, a conscript who showed up at a civilian refugee camp on the Turkish border last week after deserting his unit in Damascus, the capital.

He doesn't have a gun because his superiors, who belong to Assad's minority Alawite sect, took away the weapons.

CLASS WAR REPORTS



“Police Chase On March 14, 2012 In Del City, Oklahoma Ended With A Young Teen Dead By Being Shot In The Back”

**“On More Than One Account,
Witnesses Claim Scott Did Not Have
A Gun When He Was Killed”**

**“Eyewitnesses Say Scott Was
Attempting To Surrender At The Time He
Was Shot”**

March 19, 2012 Axiomamnesia.com

A police chase on March 14, 2012 in Del City, Oklahoma ended with a young teen dead by being shot in the back by officers.

After what is described as “a routine traffic stop” of Dane Scott Jr., 18, a chase ensued that ended with Scott Jr. hitting the back of an 18-wheeler two miles away near an I-35 on ramp.

This is where witnesses and police stories conflict. According to Del City police, Scott Jr. possessed a firearm when officers approached his vehicle, and a struggle occurred after which an officer shot Scott.

Oklahoma’s Medical Examiner’s Office rule the death of Dane Scott Jr. a homicide and concluded that he was shot in the back.

Witnesses to the shooting claim Scott Jr. was running away from police officers with his hands in the air when police fired at the teen.

A clerk at a nearby convenience store reports hearing “about 4, 5, 6” shots. The clerk states, “It was like being on a firing range.”

Since last Wednesday until now, Del City police have been scrambling to justify the homicide. Del City Police Department Captain Jody Suit offered the following explanation on March 15:

“When Scott exited the vehicle, he did have a firearm in his hand. There was an altercation between the officer and Scott. During the course of that, they both went to the

ground. When they got back up, shots were fired. We're not going to go into details, yet, on how many and where. Scott did run for a distance from that location, where he later fell down and died."

This explanation makes way for other questions.

Eyewitnesses say Scott was attempting to surrender at the time he was shot. Others say he was attempting to run away with his hands up.

On more than one account, witnesses claim Scott did not have a gun when he was killed.

If, in fact, there was a scuffle between the officer and Dane Scott Jr. and multiple shots were fire, at such close range, how could a trained officer only manage to shoot Scott once in the back?

Why were shots fired "when they got back up," as Captain Suit said in his statement?

One witness even stated that Scott was shot multiple times as he "tried to jump over the fence."

Captain Suit's explanation has changed significantly.

On March 14, the day of the shooting, Suit stated, "The suspect pulled what appeared to be a firearm on the officer. The officer was able to subdue him temporarily, but then lost control of the suspect. Then, the suspect bailed to run. The officer fired several shots."

Clearly, Dane Scott Jr. was shot in the back while he was standing – not during a struggle.

If a firearm was not recovered on the day of the shooting, how was Captain Suit able to report without a doubt that Scott indeed had a firearm the next day?

This looks a lot like a police cover-up, as even members of Dane Scott, Jr.'s seem to believe. Scott's family is planning to file suit over the homicide of their son.

"He killed my child. My son just turned 18. They shot him down like he was nothing," said Dane Scott Sr.

The officer involved in the shooting is currently on administrative leave—as protocol, and the department claims it will follow through with an investigation, and "there is a lot of work to do on it".

A Facebook tribute page has been created and vows to seek Justice for Dane Scott Jr.

The public is becoming increasingly more aware of police cover-ups, growing more suspicious of "official" stories, and is continuously calling for justice for these victims.

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: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

One Thousand Rally To Condemn Trayvon Martin Murder; Nearly One Million Sign Petition To Prosecute The Murderer

22 March 2012 Ryan Devereaux, Guardian News and Media Limited [Excerpts]

The parents of Trayvon Martin, the Florida teenager whose shooting death last month has sparked international outrage, described their heartache to a crowd of well over a thousand people at a New York City rally held in their son's honor.

"My son did not deserve to die," said Sybrina Fulton, Martin's mother told the mass of supporters gathered in Union Square early in the evening on Wednesday. "Our son is your son."

"My heart is in pain," she added. The crowd responded to Fulton with a chant, "You are not alone." "Seeing the support from all of you really makes a difference," Fulton went on to say.

"If Trayvon had been alive he would be right here on these steps with you guys rallying for justice," Tracy Martin, Trayvon's father, added.

Dubbed the Million Hoodie March, the demonstration was called in response to the controversial killing of the unarmed, 17 year-old African American by Hispanic neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman.

Martin's death has sparked a national outcry, resulted in a petition for Zimmerman's prosecution that has gained nearly 1m signatures and renewed conversations of racial justice in the United States.

"The darker your skin, the more you look like a criminal," New York City councilman Jumaane Williams told the crowd.

"It's Trayvon Martin in Florida. It's Ramarley Graham in the Bronx," he added, referring to an unarmed African American teen shot to death in his bathroom by a New York City police officer in February.

Wednesday's rally saw scores of families, many African American, fill some of Manhattan's most major streets.

Parents pushed strollers and many demonstrators carried bags of Skittles and cans of iced tea. At times demonstrators chanted, "Don't shoot me, don't kill me, for Skittles and iced tea."

"Stop killing innocent black men and we won't have to do this," one young woman yelled to police following the march.

As the night progressed demonstrators splintered into several marches numbering in the hundreds, taking off in different directions throughout the city.

The crowds were fused with Occupy Wall Street protesters who were cleared from Union Square just one day before the rally took place. A contingent of demonstrators made their way to Times Square while another headed south into the financial district.

Shortly after, the march, then reduced to approximately 200, arrived at the iconic Wall Street bull statue at Bowling Green Park. Since Occupy Wall Street protests began last year, the sculpture has been penned in by police barricades. As demonstrators surrounded the bull, a young man began pulling a section of the barricades down. As the police moved in his direction, other demonstrators followed suit and within moments all of the barricades were removed.

A man quickly scrambled onto the back on the bronze statue, raised his fist and yelled, "I am Trayvon Martin." [Wrong. He's dead. You're a stupid exhibitionistic asshole.]

"The bull has nothing to do with Trayvon Martin," said Occupy protester Stan Williams. "I think the people leading the march may have lost focus."

By approximately 10pm, the various marches began to reconvene in Union Square.

Scores of police filled the area. Shortly before midnight the parks department announced the park would be closed and asked the crowd to leave. The scene grew tense and many expected a potentially violent confrontation.

At midnight a senior New York City police officer announced, "You are occupying the space unlawfully," and ordered the crowd to leave.

Moments after midnight struck a glass bottle was hurled in the direction of the police and parks department officials. Scores of police officers in column formation methodically made their way into the square's plaza, as the demonstrators willingly moved to the sidewalk surrounding the park and a second glass bottle was thrown at police.

Barricades were erected around the perimeter of the square's well-known plaza. Roughly 200 demonstrators remained on the pavement into the wee hours of the morning.

For many who attended the rally, Trayvon Martin's death represented long-standing fears.

"Trayvon could've been my little brother," said KC, who declined to give her last name as she marched through lower Manhattan. "Shot for nothing."

When asked if she believed Zimmerman would be prosecuted, KC hesitated.

"I don't know," she said. "We live in America."

Bank Of America: Too Crooked To Fail “Despite Being The Very Definition Of An Unaccountable Corporate Villain”

“Our Current President, Like The Last One, Apparently Believes It’s Better To Project A False Image Of Financial Soundness Than To Allow One Of Our Oligarchic Banks To Collapse Under The Weight Of Its Own Corruption”

“The Obama Administration Has Looked The Other Way As The Bank Committed An Astonishing Variety Of Crimes – Some Elaborate And Brilliant In Their Conception, Some So Crude That They’d Be Beneath Your Average Street Thug”



Illustration by Victor Juhasz

March 29, 2012 By Matt Taibbi, Rolling Stone [Excerpts]

At least Bank of America got its name right.

The ultimate Too Big to Fail bank really is America, a hypergluttonous ward of the state whose limitless fraud and criminal conspiracies we'll all be paying for until the end of time.

Did you hear about the plot to rig global interest rates? The \$137 million fine for bilking needy schools and cities? The ingenious plan to suck multiple fees out of the unemployment checks of jobless workers? Take your eyes off them for 10 seconds and guaranteed, they'll be into some shit again:

They're out of control, yet they'll never do time or go out of business, because the government remains creepily committed to their survival, like overindulgent parents who refuse to believe their 40-year-old live-at-home son could possibly be responsible for those dead hookers in the backyard.

It's been four years since the government, in the name of preventing a depression, saved this megabank from ruin by pumping \$45 billion of taxpayer money into its arm.

Since then, the Obama administration has looked the other way as the bank committed an astonishing variety of crimes – some elaborate and brilliant in their conception, some so crude that they'd be beneath your average street thug.

Bank of America has systematically ripped off almost everyone with whom it has a significant business relationship, cheating investors, insurers, depositors, homeowners, shareholders, pensioners and taxpayers.

It brought tens of thousands of Americans to foreclosure court using bogus, "robo-signed" evidence – a type of mass perjury that it helped pioneer. It hawked worthless mortgages to dozens of unions and state pension funds, draining them of hundreds of millions in value.

And when it wasn't ripping off workers and pensioners, it was helping to push insurance giants like AMBAC into bankruptcy by fraudulently inducing them to spend hundreds of millions insuring those same worthless mortgages.

But despite being the very definition of an unaccountable corporate villain, Bank of America is now bigger and more dangerous than ever.

It controls more than 12 percent of America's bank deposits (skirting a federal law designed to prohibit any firm from controlling more than 10 percent), as well as 17 percent of all American home mortgages.

By looking the other way and rewarding the bank's bad behavior with a massive government bailout, we actually allowed a huge financial company to not just grow so big that its collapse would imperil the whole economy, but to get away with any and all crimes it might commit.

Too Big to Fail is one thing; it's also far too corrupt to survive.

All the government bailouts succeeded in doing was to make the bank even more prone to catastrophic failure – and now that catastrophe might finally be at hand. Bank of America's share price has plunged into the single digits, and the bank faces battles in courtrooms all over America to avoid paying back the hundreds of billions it stole from everyone in sight.

Its credit rating, already downgraded to a few rungs above junk status, could plummet with the next bad analyst report, causing a frenzied rush to the exits by creditors, investors and stockholders – an institutional run on the bank.

They're in deep trouble, but they won't die, because our current president, like the last one, apparently believes it's better to project a false image of financial soundness than to allow one of our oligarchic banks to collapse under the weight of its own corruption.

Last year, the Federal Reserve allowed Bank of America to move a huge portfolio of dangerous bets into a side of the company that happens to be FDIC-insured, putting all of us on the hook for as much as \$55 trillion in irresponsible gambles.

Then, in February, the Justice Department's so-called foreclosure settlement, which will supposedly provide \$26 billion in relief for ripped-off homeowners, actually rewarded the bank with a legal waiver that will allow it to escape untold billions in lawsuits.

And this month the Fed will release the results of its annual stress test, in which the bank will once again be permitted to perpetuate its fiction of solvency by grossly overrating the mountains of toxic loans on its books.

At this point, the rescue effort is so sweeping and elaborate that it goes far beyond simply gouging the tax dollars of millions of struggling families, many of whom have already been ripped off by the bank – it's making the government, and by extension all of us, full-blown accomplices to the fraud.

In sum, Bank of America torched dozens of institutional investors with billions in worthless loans, repeatedly refused to abide by contractual obligations to buy them back, evaded hundreds of millions in local fees and taxes, pushed tens of thousands of people into foreclosure using phony documents, ignored multiple court orders to stop its illegal robo-signing, and exploited President Obama's signature mortgage-relief program. The bank fixed the bids on bonds for schools and cities and utilities all over America, and even conspired to try to game the game itself – by fixing global interest rates!

So what does the government do about a rogue firm like this, one that inflates market-wrecking bubbles, commits mass fraud and generally treats the law like its own personal urinal cake?

Well, it goes without saying that you rescue that "admitted felon" at all costs – even if you have to spend billions in taxpayer money to do it.

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“Tens Of Thousands Of Protesters Streamed Into City Centers Across Yemen On Friday, Demanding That The Ex-President Be Stripped Of Immunity From Prosecution And Be Put On Trial For The Deaths Of Demonstrators”

“Some Protesters On Friday Carried Posters Showing Saleh With A Noose Around His Neck”

March 23 By Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen — Tens of thousands of protesters streamed into city centers across Yemen on Friday, demanding that their ex-president be stripped of immunity from prosecution and be put on trial for the deaths of demonstrators during the yearlong uprising.

Ali Abdullah Saleh, who ruled Yemen for 33 years, stepped down last month in a U.S.-backed deal that gave him immunity to ease a transition from his rule. He was widely expected to leave the country after relinquishing power but has instead remained in Yemen.

The power-transfer deal also gave Saleh's party half of the seats in the new Cabinet. Critics say this has enabled him to interfere in the new government, working through loyalist Cabinet ministers as well as relatives and cronies still holding top military positions.

Street protests have continued even after Saleh stepped down, with demonstrators denouncing the ex-president's immunity and demanding he face trial. The government has said at least 2,000 people have been killed in a year of turmoil.

Some protesters on Friday carried posters showing Saleh with a noose around his neck and many chanted demanding retribution for those killed in Saleh's crackdown on protesters.

The continued street protests also reflect growing frustration among many Yemenis that their uprising, inspired by other Arab Spring revolts, has not achieved its goals even though a new president, Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, has been appointed in Saleh's place.

During the rally Friday in the capital Sanaa, activist Abdel-Hadi al-Azazi said Saleh was “still working on sabotaging the revolution.”

Opposition lawmakers have also accused Saleh's loyalists of being behind recent power outages in the impoverished country. The ministry of electricity on Friday issued a statement blaming tribesmen in areas under control of Republican Guard forces, which are commanded by Saleh's son, for sabotaging power stations.

The weekly al-Madr reported on Thursday that the Republican Guard prevented fuel tankers from entering Sanaa in the past days and published photographs showing tankers parked by the roadside.

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