

Military Resistance 10C3

**Soldiers For The Cause:
The First Of Arkansas Volunteer Infantry
Regiment (African Descent):
Marching Song 1864
All Honor To Their Memory**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DwSZgLLqPy8>

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Local Killed In Quran Protests

February 25, 2012 LAUREN SAGE REINLIE, Daily News

Army Sgt. Joshua Born of Niceville was one of two soldiers killed in Afghanistan on Thursday during violent protests over the American military's burning of Qurans.

He had been deployed a little more than a month.

Born, 25, and Cpl. Timothy J. Conrad Jr., 22, of Roanoke, Va., died after an Afghan soldier shot them during a riot outside a U.S. base in the Khogyani District in Nangarhar Province.

They were serving with the 549th Military Police Company, 385th Military Police Battalion, 16th Military Police Brigade (Airborne), XVIII Airborne Corps, out of Fort Stewart, Ga.

At least 28 people have been killed in the protests since Tuesday, when it was revealed that Qurans and other religious materials had been thrown into a fire pit used to burn garbage at Bagram Air Field. The toll includes two more U.S. servicemen who were killed Saturday when they were shot in the back of the head.

Born was the fifth serviceman from Northwest Florida to be killed in one week. Four Hurlburt Field airmen died Feb. 18 when their plane crashed near a military camp in Djibouti in Africa.

Born attended Niceville High School before he joined the Army in March 2007.

He and his wife, Megan Born, of Olive Branch, Ill., were married in 2010.

It was his first deployment and he had been in Afghanistan only since the middle of January, said Jen Hartwig, a spokeswoman at Fort Stewart.

His last post on Facebook was Feb. 16, when he wrote that he didn't need anything specific in a care package.

"It isn't hard. I'm in Afghanistan; anything from the states is more than welcome."

After Born and Conrad were shot, they were taken to a hospital, where they died during surgery, Hartwig said.

She said their bodies arrived Saturday at Dover Air Force Base, Del., where their families were on hand. "Our condolences go out to the families of Sgt. Born and Sgt. Conrad," a news release from Fort Stewart said. "We are deeply saddened by their tragic loss."

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

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

**“Vehicles Equipped With Highly
Classified Technology Used To Jam
Deadly Roadside Bombs Were Stolen
From Under The Noses Of Soldiers
On A Military Base In Afghanistan”
“The Vehicles Would Be ‘Priceless’ To
An Enemy”**

Feb 29, 2012 By Joe Gould - Staff writer, Army Times [Excerpts]

Two Army vehicles equipped with highly classified technology used to jam deadly roadside bombs were stolen from under the noses of soldiers on a military base in Afghanistan.

The vehicles — both black up-armored Toyota Land Cruisers outfitted with life-saving CREW Duke electronic jamming systems — vanished in January from Camp Eggers in Kabul, according to a notice on Army Criminal Investigation Command's website.

The vehicles would be “priceless” to an enemy, who might attempt to reverse-engineer the jammer or use the vehicles to launch a Trojan horse-style attack, said Christopher O’Gara, a former official with the national security division of the Defense Investigative Service and a retired Reserve colonel.

“I’m sure the enemy would love to use these against us, whether it’s a Trojan horse or as a suicide bomber,” O’Gara said of the stolen vehicles. “They can probably get close because ... Toyota Land Cruisers are pretty common over there.”

The Army is offering a \$10,000 reward for tips leading to the recovery of the stolen items, which the Army valued at \$344,000. (

An Army Criminal Investigation Command spokesman declined to comment on the investigation, as did an ISAF spokesman.

Lt. Cmdr. James Williams, an ISAF spokesman, declined to say whether any security procedures were violated in the theft or on the possibility that the sensitive jamming systems could wind up in enemy hands.

Two key fobs that belonged to the vehicles were stolen from the supply room of the 26th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Base Support Group, on Jan. 7, and sometime between Jan. 7 and Jan. 8, both vehicles were stolen.

The brigade was responsible for base operations for 11 bases and 3,000 troops in Kabul and had several missions. Among them, it provided quick reaction forces for the capitol, advised Afghan police and protected U.S. forces traveling between U.S. and NATO installations. The brigade has since returned to the United States, according to the Army.

Performance specifications for the CREW systems are classified “secret” according to Army documents.

CREW Duke systems on the vehicles use “state-of-the art jamming technology,” to block radio signals used to set off roadside bombs, according to the web site of manufacturer SRC, of Syracuse, N.Y. CREW is an acronym for Counter Radio-controlled Electronic Warfare.

“The CREW Duke system provides lifesaving protection against the full range of remote controlled improvised explosive device threats,” SRC’s website states. “Using state-of-the-art jamming technology, this vehicle mounted, lightweight system neutralizes RCIED threats.”

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

**What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.
-- Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787**

Burned In Afghanistan: Articles And Comment

From: Don Bacon
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Subject: Burned in Afghanistan
Date: Mar 1, 2012

By Don Bacon, Lt Col, US Army (Ret), Vietnam & Smedley Butler Society:
<http://www.warisaracket.org/>

Mar 3, 2012
Afghanistan's crisis of trust
Too dangerous to help
The Koran-burning and its aftermath may have lasting consequences

THE nationwide protests and violence triggered by the burning of Korans at Bagram airfield more than a week ago have subsided, but the consequences continue. The most serious has been the withdrawal of hundreds of foreign advisers from Afghan government departments, after two American officers working in a joint-command centre at the interior ministry were shot dead in retaliation.

The pull-out, though temporary, has meant that the corridors of Kabul's ministries no longer echo to foreign voices. The fleets of four-wheeled drives which ferry development experts and military officers through Kabul's muddy gridlock have vanished. At a stroke the "civilian surge" which was designed to bolster the Afghan state has been undercut.

<http://www.economist.com/node/21549017>

Mar 1, 2012
NATO has urged Afghanistan to sign US deal: Karzai

KABUL: NATO has urged Afghanistan to accelerate the signing of a strategic partnership deal with the US in the wake of deadly protests over the burning of the holy Quran, President Hamid Karzai said on Wednesday.

NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen made the appeal in a telephone call to Karzai in which he expressed regret over the deaths of dozens of demonstrators in anti-US protests, Karzai's office said.

In response, the Afghan president said he was willing to sign the long-term agreement but reiterated that it would only be done under certain conditions. These include a respect for Afghan national sovereignty, an end to night raids by international forces and the handing over of the Bagram prison – known as Afghanistan's Guantanamo Bay – to Afghan control, Karzai said in a statement.

<http://paktribune.com/news/NATO-has-urged-Afghanistan-to-sign-US-deal-Karzai-247938.html>

March 1, 2012

Burned in Afghanistan

Is there any point in staying?

Afghans are rioting, American soldiers are regularly murdered by their allies, the Taliban are hanging in, and civilian casualties in Afghanistan set a record last year. But a Pentagon spokesman assures us that “the fundamentals of our strategy remain sound.”

He had to tell us because we wouldn't know it otherwise. In almost every respect, our venture in Afghanistan looks like a dismal, irredeemable failure. Year after year, we've been told that things are getting better. But lately, it's hard to take that claim seriously.

When Afghans erupted in rage over the careless burning of Qurans at Bagram Airbase, the upheaval was not just about Muslim holy books. It was also about the grossly dysfunctional relationship between us and them — a product of the huge cultural gulf, our outsized ambitions and the irritant of our presence.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/columnists/ct-oped-0301-chapman-20120301,0,616176.column>

Mar 1, 2012

2 American troops killed in shooting on military base in southern Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan — Two American soldiers were killed Thursday in a shooting by an Afghan soldier and a literacy teacher at a joint base in southern Afghanistan, officials said, the latest in a series of deaths as anti-Americanism rises following the burning of Qurans by U.S. soldiers.

Both were killed on the same day that the top NATO commander allowed a small number of foreign advisers to return to work at Afghan ministries after more than a week of being locked down in secure locations because of the killing of two other Americans.

Thursday's killings raised to six the number of Americans killed in less than two weeks amid heightened tensions over the Feb. 20 burning of Qurans and other Islamic texts that had been dumped in a garbage pit at Bagram Air Field near Kabul. More than 30 Afghans also were killed in six days of violent riots that broke out after the incident.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/gunmen-including-1-believed-to-be-afghan-soldier-kill-2-nato-troops-alliance-says/2012/03/01/gIQAz9V4jR_story.html

Mar 1, 2012

UN in Afghanistan says Quran burners should be punished

“After the first step of a profound apology, there must be a second step ... of disciplinary action,” Jan Kubis, special representative for the UN secretary-general in Afghanistan, told a news conference.

“Only after this, after such a disciplinary action, can the international forces say ‘yes, we're sincere in our apology’,” added Kubis, without elaborating on what action should be taken.

“After the first step of a profound apology, there must be a second step ... of disciplinary action,” Jan Kubis, special representative for the UN secretary-general in Afghanistan, told a news conference.

“Only after this, after such a disciplinary action, can the international forces say ‘yes, we’re sincere in our apology’,” added Kubis, without elaborating on what action should be taken.

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/343973/un-in-afghanistan-says-quran-burners-should-be-punished/>

Mar 1, 2012

NATO Chief Urges Afghan President To Protect ISAF Soldiers From Attacks

(RTTNews) - NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen has urged Afghan President Hamid Karzai to take all necessary steps to halt violence and protect personnel of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) from attacks.

http://www.rttnews.com/1831757/nato-chief-urges-afghan-president-to-protect-isaf-soldiers-from-attacks.aspx?type=gn&utm_source=google&utm_campaign=sitemap

Feb 29, 2012

NATO showing 'restraint' in Afghanistan: Rasmussen

WASHINGTON: NATO troops are displaying “great restraint” in Afghanistan in the face of a wave of violent unrest that left four US troops dead and others wounded, the alliance's secretary general said on Tuesday.

NATO chief Anders Fogh Rasmussen insisted trust had not broken down between alliance-led troops and Afghan security forces, despite incidents in which Afghans turned their weapons on their American partners.

The assaults did “not represent the full picture of the daily cooperation” between the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and Afghan troops, he told reporters during a visit to Washington.

“I deplore the violence we have seen during the last week. But across the country ISAF troops are showing great restraint and professionalism. And Afghan security forces have shown considerable courage in their effort to minimise the violence,” he said.

<http://paktribune.com/news/NATO-showing-restraint-in-Afghanistan-Rasmussen-247908.html>

Feb. 29, 2012

President Obama: Koran Apology 'Calmed Things Down'

President Obama said his formal apology to Afghan President Hamid Karzai for the burning of Korans by U.S. troops last week has “calmed things down” after the incident sparked an outbreak of violence across the country.

“We’re not out of the woods yet,” Obama said in an exclusive interview with ABC News’ Bob Woodruff at the White House. “But my criteria in any decision I make, getting recommendations from folks who are actually on the ground, is what is going to best protect our folks and make sure that they can accomplish their mission.”

http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/OTUS/president-obama-koran-apology-afghans-calmed-things/story?id=15819707#.T09_iYFTadm

Feb 29, 2012

Probe of Afghan Quran burning nearing completion

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A joint investigation by NATO and Afghan officials into the burning of copies of the Quran that triggered riots and more than 30 deaths is nearly complete, and preliminary findings could be released within days, Western officials said Wednesday.

A legal official with the U.S.-led International Security Assistance Force said the joint investigation will provide a broad conclusion into the circumstances that led to last week’s disposal of a number of Qurans and other Islamic texts in a burn pit at a U.S. military base north of the capital. The official said it also might include some recommendations on how to avoid such actions in the future.

The incident has set off one of the most vicious rounds of anti-American protests in years. It erupted as NATO is trying to lower its profile and turn security control over to Afghan forces ahead of a planned 2014 end of combat operations.

Western officials said that the report could be released by the end of the week.

The ISAF official said it might also include recommendations for disciplinary action, but those are expected to be included — if necessary — in a more detailed report that will be ready sometime next month. That report was ordered the day after the incident by Marine Gen. John Allen, the top U.S. and NATO commander in Afghanistan. Allen can accept the recommendations or make his own, the official said.

The investigation is being conducted jointly with Afghan officials.

If any action is taken against American troops involved, it would come under the U.S. military justice system, the ISAF official said.

A separate investigation by a group comprising representatives from the country’s council of Muslim clerics, members of parliament and government officials was delivered to President Hamid Karzai days after the incident. Karzai could release its findings as early as this weekend.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gtS2ymJpIP5NotCdNLBJTNggQq-A?docId=8b5893c8655f45b996416afde4d1dc35>

February 29, 2012

Koran Burning in Afghanistan Prompts 3 Parallel Inquiries

KABUL, Afghanistan — Three major investigations were under way on Wednesday into the Koran burning at Bagram Air Base by the American military last week, the event that plunged Afghanistan into days of deadly protests claiming as many as 30 Afghan lives and coinciding with the shooting deaths of four American soldiers.

In a tense atmosphere in Afghanistan, the investigations signal the seriousness of the incident for both the Afghans and the Americans and an understanding of the need to offer a full explanation and a reckoning for the perpetrators.

One investigation is American, one is Afghan and one is a joint Afghan-American inquiry.

The formal American military investigation is the only one that can lead to punishment, while the other two will include recommendations but do not carry formal legal weight.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/01/world/asia/koran-burning-in-afghanistan-prompts-3-parallel-inquiries.html>

25 February 2012

Afghanistan Government

In the Name of Allah, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate

Following the insulting and shameful act of burning Quran in Bagram airbase that injured the religious sentiments of the Islamic world and particularly of the Afghan Muslim nation, two delegations comprising of representatives from government, the National Council of Ulemma and the National Assembly were assigned and dispatched to investigate the circumstances and causes that have led to the inhumane incident.

The delegations, while deeply touched by the religious sentiments shown by the Afghan Muslim and Mujahid nation, inform our citizens of the following:

1. In view of the particular security situation in the country, we call on all our Muslim citizens of Afghanistan to exercise self-restraint and extra vigilance in dealing with the issue and avoid resorting to protests and demonstrations that may provide ground for the enemy to take advantage of the situation.
2. After the shameful incident by the US soldiers stationed in Bagram, senior NATO and American officials expressed their deep apologies to the Muslim nation of Afghanistan and assured that such incidents will not happen again.
3. NATO officials promised to meet Afghan nation's demand of bringing to justice, through an open trial, those responsible for the incident and it was agreed that the perpetrators of the crime be brought to justice as soon as possible.

4. The assigned delegations demand from the government of Afghanistan to take over from the Americans the authority of the Bagram prison so no such incidents can recur and calls on the US government to fully and comprehensively cooperate to this end.

5. The delegations also want from the Afghan government to formally praise those brave Afghan army soldiers and all others who showed feelings against the disrespectful act by preventing more religious books and Quran copies from burning, so that the pure Muslim sentiments of our honored Mujahid nation can remain alive.

<http://www.gmic.gov.af/english/index.php/features/255--joint-statement-by-the-delegations-assigned-to-probe-bagram-incident>

Feb 28, 2012

Rush Limbaugh

UPDATE: I've confirmed what Rush noted on the show that indeed NATO has agreed to put our troops on trial for burning Korans (via Afghan Govt) :

NATO officials promised to meet Afghan nation's demand of bringing to justice, through an open trial, those responsible for the incident and it was agreed that the perpetrators of the crime be brought to justice as soon as possible.

In the aftermath of the riots over the Koran burnings, reports are that NATO has agreed to put our troops on trial. Rush says that if this is the end result of our troops being there, then perhaps it is time to just say "the hell with the place" and bring our troops home:

<http://www.therightscoop.com/rush-maybe-its-time-to-say-the-hell-with-afghanistan-and-bring-our-troops-home/>

February 27, 2012

Koran Burning May Be Beginning of the End for Afghan War

Since U.S. military personnel burned copies of the Koran and other Islamic holy documents—allegedly by mistake—early last week, four American military members have been murdered. Two were shot by an Afghan security trooper, the other two killed inside the Interior Ministry in Kabul. The Pentagon estimates nearly 20,000 Afghans have taken part in violent protests since Friday.

"From what I've heard from people in Kabul and Jalalabad, this is much more about Afghans' frustrations about the war, their lives and U.S. policies," says Joshua Foust, a fellow at the American Security Project. "This might end up being more of a 'straw that broke the camel's back' situation. Afghans are saying, 'On top of everything else, you burned our holy book?!'"

Stephanie Sanok, a former House aide, says this could mark the beginning of the end of Washington's post-9/11 mission in Afghanistan.

"I don't see a way at this point—and I don't want to be an alarmist," Sanok says. "We have some very smart, capable people over there. But the Afghans are like, 'You have 100,000 troops here to keep us secure, but you can't? Why not just leave now?'"

Radical clerics have been involved in “ginning up some of the vitriol” among Afghans, Foust says.

“The U.S. military and NATO have never really been focused on the political and social aspects of the war, and so they have no way to really respond.”

For Foust, the NATO-Afghan relationship has been in decline for several years.

“The patience and trust was strained long before this,” he says.

“How do you really build that trust at this point?” Sanok says. “It’s one thing to be killed on battlefield, but it’s another to be murdered in your office.”

http://www.usnews.com/news/blogs/dotmil/2012/02/27/koran-burning-may-be-beginning-of-the-end-for-afghan-war?google_editors_picks=true

Feb 26, 2012

Afghan police officer sought over Kabul Nato killings

Afghanistan's interior ministry has said one of its own employees is suspected of the killing of two senior US Nato officers inside the ministry.

The ministry did not give a name, but other officials said Mr Saboor, 25, was being sought.

He had served in several Afghan ministries and had worked at the interior ministry for some time, with responsibilities for security arrangements and access to top level intelligence briefings and secure radio communication channels.

“The fact that he is missing and we assume he fled, makes Abdul Saboor the main suspect for us in this case,” said senior interior ministry officials.

One senior Afghan general told the BBC: "The virus of infiltration has spread like a cancer and it needs an operation. Curing it has not helped."

The BBC's Bilal Sarwary in Kabul says the withdrawal will paralyse important areas, such as technical support, intelligence sharing and many ongoing security operations.

It disconnects the co-ordination of the Afghan government with Isaf, says our correspondent, and could not have come at a worse time, with attacks taking place on police and army positions across several provinces.

At least 29 people, including two US soldiers, have died across the country in protest over the Koran burning.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-17169823>

Feb 22, 2012

General John Allen Statement regarding the Incident at Bagram Airfield

I have ordered an investigation into a report I received during the night that ISAF personnel at Bagram Airbase improperly disposed of a large number of Islamic religious materials which included Korans. When we learned of these actions, we immediately intervened and stopped them. . .

We are thoroughly investigating the incident and we are taking steps to ensure this does not ever happen again. I assure you -- I promise you -- this was NOT intentional in any way. I offer my sincere apologies for any offense this may have caused, to the President of Afghanistan, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and most importantly, to the noble people of Afghanistan.

<http://kabul.usembassy.gov/ja-st.html>

Comment:

If the US had kept to its plan to turn its prisons over to the Afghans, in line with the US transitioning out of Afghanistan, the Koran burnings at Bagram (Parwan) prison could have been avoided.

some history--

Jan 9, 2010: -- The Afghan government agreed Saturday on a transition plan to take over responsibility for the U.S.-run prison at the Bagram air base following criticism of human rights abuses at the facility.

June 10, 2010: General McChrystal: -- "A year ago we were in the detention business and we really didn't have a plan for transitioning that to the Afghans. Today the deputy commander of our Joint Task Force 435 is an Afghan officer, and we're on track to hand over all detention operations at the defense -- or the detention facility in Parwan to Afghans in January 2011. That will constitute all our detention operations."

July 26, 2010: -- The top commander in Afghanistan met with senior officials from Afghanistan and the United States here July 24 to discuss the transition of detention operations in this country including the Detention Facility in Parwan. "We are all determined to move forward on this effort and continue the important work necessary to enable its transition in accordance with President Karzai's direction of its transition over to Afghan control," said Petraeus, who assumed command of ISAF earlier this month.

There was no turnover in 2011. Instead there was new construction.

Aug. 1, 2011: -- The \$43 million detention facility in Parwan is located within Bagram Airfield in the village of Bagram. Construction on the project began in June 2010 and was complete in May 2011, an astonishing 11 months after the notice to proceed. The contractor was an Ihsan Qudrat Construction Company/Prime Projects International joint venture.

And now there is more new US construction at the prison by a Turkish (not Afghan) construction company.

Jan 30, 2012: -- Contract Award Number: W912ER-12-C-0013
Contract Award Dollar Amount: \$35,864,805.00
Contractor Awardee: ZAFER TAAHHUT INSAAT VE TICARET A S (644018624) RESIT GALIP CAD. HATIR SOK. NO.20, GAZIOSMANPASA ANKARA, TURKEY

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineer (USACE) Middle East District has a requirement to construct detainee housing capability for approximately 2000 detainees in Parwan, Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

NOTE: Bagram prison is now routinely called Parwan (province) prison because of the inhumane activities associated with Bagram.

“Oh Lord Shiva, Protect Us From The Fang Of The Cobra, The Claw Of The Tiger, And The Vengeance Of The Afghan”
“Many Afghans Have Just Had Enough Of Their Foreign Occupiers”

March 3, 2012 by Eric Margolis, Lewrockwell.com [Excerpts]

“Oh Lord Shiva, protect us from the fang of the cobra, the claw of the tiger, and the vengeance of the Afghan”

~ old Hindu prayer

Shock, incomprehension, fury.

Americans are feeling these raw emotions as news keeps coming in of more attacks by Afghan government soldiers and officials on US and NATO troops. Six US troops were killed last week as a result of protests across Afghanistan following the burning of Korans by incredibly dim-witted American soldiers.

“Aren’t they supposed to be our allies? We are over there to save them! What outrageous ingratitude,” ask angry, confused Americans.

Angry Britons asked the same questions in 1857 when “sepoys,” individual mercenary soldiers of Britain’s Imperial Indian Army, then entire units rebelled and began attacking British military garrisons and their families.

British history calls it the “Indian Mutiny.” Indians call it the “Great Rebellion” marking India’s first striving for freedom from the British Raj and the Indian vassal princes who so dutifully served it.

Britons were outraged by the “perfidy” and “treachery” of their Indian sepoys who were assumed to be totally loyal because they were fighting for the king’s shilling. Victorian Britain reeled from accounts of frightful massacres of Britons at places like Lucknow, Cawnpore, Delhi, and Calcutta’s infamous “black hole.”

As Karl Marx observed watching the ghastly events in India, western democracies cease practicing what they preach in their colonies.

British forces in India, backed by loyal native units, mercilessly crushed the Indian rebels. Rebel ringleaders were tied to the mouths of cannon and blown to bits, or hanged en masse.

Today’s Afghanistan recalls Imperial India.

Forces of the US-installed Kabul government, numbering about 310,000 men, are composed of Tajiks and Uzbeks from the north, some Shia Hazaras, and a hodgepodge of rogue Pashtun and mercenary groups. Ethnic Tajiks and Uzbeks served the Soviets when they occupied Afghanistan as well as the puppet Afghan Communist Party.

Today, as then, Tajiks and Uzbeks form the core of government armed forces and secret police. They are the blood enemies of the majority Pashtun, who fill the ranks of Taliban and its allies in Afghanistan and neighboring Pakistan.

But half the Afghan armed forces and police serve only to support their families.

The Afghan economy under NATO’s rule is now so bad that even in Kabul, thousands are starving or dying from intense cold.

Half of Afghans are unemployed and must seek work from the US-financed government.

But loyal they are not.

While covering the 1980’s jihad against Soviet occupation, I saw everywhere that soldiers and officials supposedly loyal to the Communist Najibullah regime in Kabul kept in constant touch with the anti-Soviet mujahidin and reported all Soviet and government troops movements well in advance.

The same thing occurs today in Afghanistan.

Taliban knows about most NATO troops operations before they leave their fortified bases.

Among Afghans, the strongest bonds of loyalty are family, clan and tribal connections. They cut across all politics and ideology.

Afghans are a proud, prickly people who, as I often saw, take offense all too easily. Pashtuns are infamous for never forgetting an offense, real or imagined, and biding their time to strike back.

This is precisely what has been happening in Afghanistan, where arrogant, culturally ignorant US and NATO “advisors” – who are really modern versions of the British Raj’s “white officers leading native troops”- offend and outrage the combustible Afghans.

Proud Pashtun Afghans can take just so much from unloved, often detested foreign “infidels” advisors before exploding and exacting revenge. This also happened during the Soviet era.

But some Soviet officers at least had more refined cultural sensibilities in dealing with Afghan. US-Afghan relations are not going to flowers when American troops call the Afghans “towel heads” and worse.

Many Afghans have just had enough of their foreign occupiers.

The Americans have lost their Afghan War.

As the Imperial British used to say: you can only rent Afghans for so long. One day they will turn and cut your throat.

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.

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 wars and economic injustice, inside the armed services and at home.

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 Military Apparatus Of The Opposition Has Never Trusted The Aspiring Political Leaders Of The Syrian Opposition”

“Assad Called The SNC ‘Traitors’ A Few Weeks Ago For Not Supporting The FSA And For ‘Conspiring’ With The Arab League”

“Senior U.S. Officials Pontificating On Capitol Hill Would Do Well To Remember That Activists And Rebels Have Never Waited For A By-Your-Leave From The U.S. State Department To Decide How To Defend Themselves And Their Families”

MARCH 1, 2012 BY MICHAEL WEISS, FOREIGN POLICY [Excerpts]

The siege of Homs is over.

After a confused and ominous 24-hour news cycle, the Syrian rebels have made a “tactical withdrawal” from the restive neighborhood of Baba Amr, which withstood a month of rocket fire, drone-guided artillery shelling, and possibly even helicopter gunship attacks by President Bashar al-Assad’s security forces.

But the rebels’ withdrawal was not a total defeat.

As of March 1, the Free Syrian Army (FSA) could still boast that it had kept some 7,000 soldiers from Maher al-Assad’s elite 4th Division at bay on Baba Amr’s outskirts, a claim that appeared corroborated by eyewitness accounts.

One Homsis in an adjoining district told me last night, Feb. 29, via Skype that tanks were moving in and out of his street in a violent attempt to enter Baba Amr. They’d failed.

Although Baba Amr’s fall was inevitable, the snow and freezing cold cast an image of a Levantine Stalingrad in the making. Electricity and water have been shut off in large parts of Homs -- a city of 1 million people -- for the past three days. Food is scarce, prompting the United Nations to fret about mass starvation.

What happens to the civilians in Baba Amr now, particularly with communication lines cut and no YouTube clips being uploaded, is up to the Assad regime’s totalitarian imagination.

With the destruction of the opposition’s stronghold in Homs, Syria’s revolutionaries aren’t going to melt into thin air.

U.S. and European policymakers might like to believe that Homsis wake up each morning and consult the writings of Gene Sharp, but the bulk of the opposition now recognizes that the revolution must be accomplished through arms and that returning to the passive resistance of eight months ago would amount to a suicide pact.

After all, it's Assad -- not the revolutionaries -- who transformed this into an armed conflict in the first place. The original peaceful protest movement, which originally called for "reforms," was met with wanton acts of brutality.

Nor have most Syrians forgotten that 13-year-old Hamza al-Khatib, an early rallying symbol for the revolution, wasn't carrying a Kalashnikov when Assad's security forces kidnapped him and then delivered his mutilated corpse back to his parents.

Would these security forces and their shabiha mercenaries promise not to arrest, torture, or shoot at more men, women, and children if the opposition disarmed? If so, who'd believe them?

Tens of thousands of civilian fighters and military defectors are fanned out all over Syria at present -- will they be granted "amnesty" to trade their guns in for slogans calling for the toppling of the regime?

Changes are also afoot in the makeup of the Syrian National Council (SNC), the political body designed to represent the opposition, to adapt to the new reality on the ground.

On March 1, the SNC established a "military bureau," consisting of civilians and soldiers, to unify the armed opposition and coordinate weapons delivery. The council's media spokesman, Ausama Monajed, responded to an email inquiry asking who would sit on the new military bureau by stating that FSA leader Riad al-Asaad, retired Brig. Gen. Akil Hashem, and Gen. Mustafa al-Sheikh, and others "have been contacted and on board."

Reports, however, already suggest that Asaad wasn't even consulted about the new bureau, and Hashem has declined to head the organization due to an acrimonious argument with SNC President Burhan Ghalioun.

Whatever the case, the military apparatus of the opposition has never trusted the aspiring political leaders of the Syrian opposition.

Asaad called the SNC "traitors" a few weeks ago for not supporting the FSA and for "conspiring" with the Arab League.

Meanwhile, Sheikh recently tried to set up a rival "Higher Revolutionary Council" to steal Asaad's thunder.

No matter who heads the SNC's military bureau, it's unclear whether it can actually unify Syria's largely autonomous and atomized militias, which are increasingly manned by civilians.

Senior U.S. officials pontificating on Capitol Hill would do well to remember that activists and rebels have never waited for a by-your-leave from the U.S. State Department --

much less from external opposition groups -- to decide how to defend themselves and their families.

As ever, the one setting the schedule for this revolution is none other than Bashar al-Assad.

The siege of Homs may be over, but the war for Syria has just begun.

“One Question Fazillah Cannot Answer For Her Son Is Whether Anyone Asked The Question At All Of Whether To Kill His Father”

“‘And,’ She Adds, ‘I Want The U.S. Troops To Leave’”

Mar 1, 2012 by Kathy Kelly with research by the Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers; Voices for Creative Nonviolence [Excerpts]

Fazillah, age 25, lives in Maidan Shar, the central city of Afghanistan’s Wardak province. She married about six years ago, and gave birth to a son, Aymal, who just turned five without a father.

Fazillah tells her son, Aymal, that his father was killed by an American bomber plane, remote-controlled by computer.

That July, in 2007, Aymal’s father was sitting in a garden with four other men. A weaponized drone, what we used to call an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle or UAV, was flying, unseen, overhead, and fired missiles into the garden, killing all five men.

Now Fazillah and Aymal share a small dwelling with the deceased man’s mother.

According to the tradition, a husband’s relatives are responsible to look after a widow with no breadwinner remaining in her immediate family. She and her son have no regular source of bread or income, but Fazillah says that her small family is better off than it might have been: one of the men killed alongside her husband left behind a wife and child but no other living relatives that could provide them with any source of support, at all.

Aymal’s grandmother becomes agitated and distraught speaking about her son’s death, and that of his four friends.

“All of us ask, ‘Why?’” she says, raising her voice.

“They kill people with computers and they can’t tell us why. When we ask why this happened, they say they had doubts, they had suspicions. But they didn’t take time to ask ‘Who is this person?’ or ‘Who was that person?’ There is no proof, no accountability. Now, there is no reliable person in the home to bring us bread. I am old, and I do not have a peaceful life.”

Listening to them, I recall an earlier conversation I had with a Pakistani social worker and with Safdar Dawar, a journalist, both of whom had survived drone attacks in the area of Miran Shah, in Pakistan’s Waziristan province.

Exasperated at the increasingly common experience which they had survived and which too many others have not, they began firing questions at us.

“Who has given the license to kill and in what court? Who has declared that they can hit anyone they like?”

“How many ‘high level targets’ could there possibly be?”

“What kind of democracy is America,” Safdar asks, “where people do not ask these questions?”

One question Fazillah cannot answer for her son is whether anyone asked the question at all of whether to kill his father.

Forbes Magazine reports that the Air Force has sixty-five to seventy thousand analysts processing drone video surveillance; A Rand review states they actually need half again that number to properly handle the data.

Asked to point to the human who actually made the decision to kill her husband, she can only point to another machine.

“In Pakistan, the CIA is creating desolation and calling it peace,” said Reprieve’s Director Clive Stafford Smith. “The illegal programme of drone strikes has murdered hundreds of civilians in Pakistan. The UN must put a stop to it before any more children are killed. Not only is it causing untold suffering to the people of North West Pakistan – it is also the most effective recruiting sergeant yet for the very ‘militants’ the US claims to be targeting.”

The lawyer representing the families, Shahzad Akbar of Pakistan’s “Foundation for Fundamental Rights”, said:

“If President Obama really believes the drone strikes have ‘pinpoint’ accuracy, it has to be asked where the deaths of kids like Maezol Khan’s eight-year-old son fit into the CIA’s plan. If the US is not prepared to face up to the reality of the suffering the strikes are causing, then the UN must step in. The international community can no longer afford to ignore the human rights catastrophe which is taking place in North West Pakistan in the name of the ‘War on Terror’.”

Drone warfare, ever more widely used from month to month from the Bush through the Obama administrations, has seen very little meaningful public debate.

So who does Fazillah blame?

Who does one blame when confronted with the actions of a machine?

Our Pakistani friend asks, "What kind of a democracy is America where people do not ask these questions?"

Becoming an actual democracy, with an actual choice at election-time between war and peace rather than between political machines vying for the chance to bring us war, seems to many Americans, if some of the less-reported polls are to be believed, a near-unachievable goal.

It must begin with compassion - powerless compassion perhaps, perhaps only the ghost of dissent, but compassion for people like Fazillah and Aymal, - and with deciding to be human, maybe only the ghost of a human, but alive in some way and alive to what our assent, and perhaps especially our silence are accomplishing in the world. Humanity is the first thing to be won back - and then, if we have the strength, relentlessly defended - against indifference, complacency, and, above all, inaction. If enough of us refuse to be machines, if enough of us refuse enough, can democracy, and even peace, not be at last achieved? But first comes the refusal.

Fazillah wants a peaceful life.

She doesn't want to see any more people killed, any more ghosts like that of her husband. Any more bodies, burned (as she recalls) so charred that they are almost unrecognizable one from another.

"I don't want this to happen to anyone," says Fazillah. I don't want any children to be left without parents."

And," she adds, "I want the U.S. troops to leave."

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.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Zionist Troops Grab The Property Of Palestinian TV Stations: “IDF Criminals Emptied The Offices Of Watan And Al-Quds Educational TV, Plundered All Computers, Financial Files, All The Transmitter Equipments And Then Proceeded To Close The Channels”

2.29.2012 Kawther Salam

Israel is the only “state” of occupation that has a culture of piracy, plunder, robbery, theft, murder, assassinations ... and a deep lack of respect for neighboring nations and countries. Whatever the Israelis do, the world defends their crimes and make up excuses and justifications to defend even their most disgusting base crimes.

Today Wednesday, February 29 2012 at 2 AM, with frost and temperatures under zero, the Israeli military forces carried out an incursion into Ramallah, the headquarters of the Palestinian Authority and its leadership and proceeded to carry away, to loot and plunder the property of a number of Palestinian TV stations, among them Watan, private TV channel and al-Quds educational TV in Ramallah and Al Bireh, they detained and terrorised employee Abdul Rahman Thaher, correspondent Hamza Salaymeh, graphics expert Ibrahim Milhim and broadcaster Ahmad Zaki.

The IDF criminals emptied the offices of Watan and al-Quds educational TV, plundered all computers, financial files, all the transmitter equipments and then proceeded to close the channels.

This was not the first raid on the same stations. In 2002 the IDF raided these same stations and stole the transmitters. On Wednesday, 20 August 2008, the IDF soldiers, Israeli police, personnel from the so-called Civil Administration and employees of the Israeli Ministry of Communications, willfully destroyed and ransacked the premises and of Wan FM Radio, BBC Radio, Freedom Radio Al-Huriyyah and Al-Majed TV in Hebron, which are commercial media enterprises in Hebron owned by private persons.

The IDF plundering incursion was approved by minister of war Ehud Barak, (אהוד ברק) Brigadier General Avi Mizrahi, (אבי מזרחי) the so-called “central command” (meaning that he is the responsible commander for the war crimes of the occupation in the West Bank and Jerusalem region), General Motti Almoz (ל מוטי אלמוז) head of the so-called “civil

administration” in Beit El (the colonial branch of the IDF) and current minister of communication, Sa’ar Zur, (מ סער”כשאל) commander of occupation forces in Ramallah, Moshe Kahlon (משה כהלון) of Likud.

Abdel Nasser Al-Najjar, President of the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate (PJS) in Ramallah denounced the raid on the two stations as an “Israeli crime against the Palestinian media.”

He said that Israel’s goal was “to prevent the truth from reaching the world through the Palestinian media”. Al-Najjar and other journalists were joined by Palestinian Prime minister when they held a demonstration before the looted offices of Watan TV today morning.

On Wednesday Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas strongly condemned the pre-dawn IDF raid on the two TV stations in Ramallah calling it “a flagrant assault on freedom of expression and media.”

It must be noted that the Palestinian Authority police and military forces did not interrupt the plundering mission of the IDF. They were all absent from Ramallah, nowhere to be found. This shows the real power of the PA, its police and troops in Ramallah, and where the true loyalties of the PA are.

Dr. Mustafa Barghouti condemned the raids in a statement.

He said: “This act is not only a violation of human rights and humanitarian law but also a breach of the agreements that forbid the Israeli military forces from entering or carrying out operations in Area A”. He added “we will campaign worldwide to repel the Israeli aggression”.

According to Palestinian sources, the IDF troops had informed the Palestinian authority, the so-called “DCO and DCL coordination offices” before they perpetrated their plundering operation.

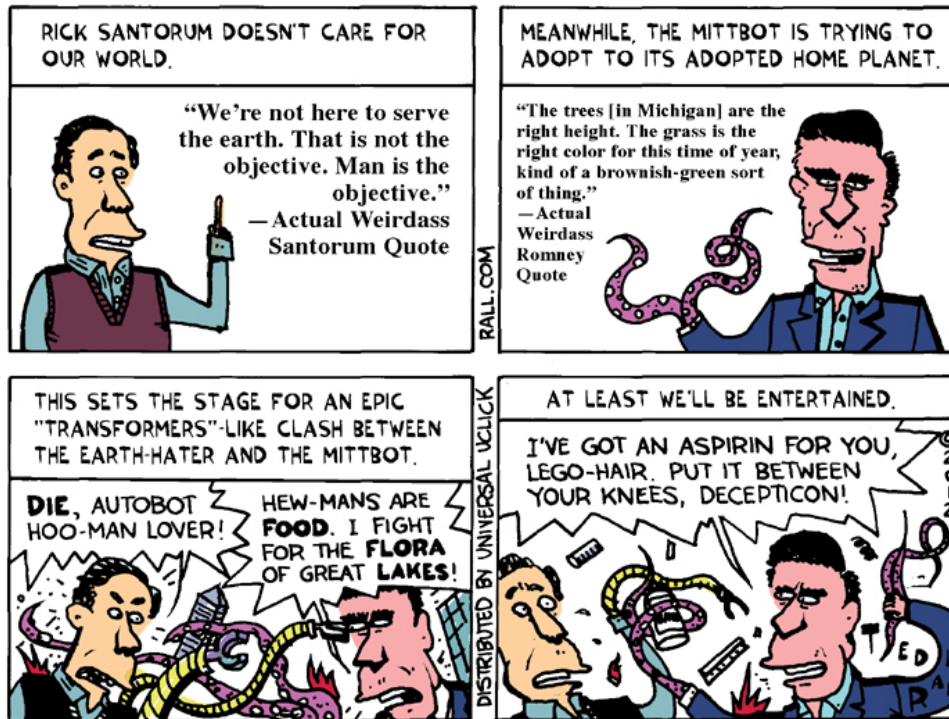
According to sources, the PA military commander in Ramallah gave an order to his troops to clear the way for the IDF to not interfere in any way with this plundering raid!

[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



Khamenei Faction Crushes Ahmadinejad In Iranian Elections: Khamenei Says “The Iranian Nation Has Never Pursued And Will Never Pursue Nuclear Weapons”

03/04/2012 by Juan Cole; Juancole.com [Excerpts]

Early returns in Iran’s 9th parliamentary election since the 1979 revolution show that Ahmadinejad’s lay populists have taken a drubbing, and that hard line supporters of clerical Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei are ascendant.

Ahadinejad’s sister, Parvin, who stood for election from their own hometown of Garmsar, was defeated, a major blow to the president.

Western reporters keep saying that the parliamentary results have no implication for Iran’s nuclear program.

But they only say this because they either don't pay attention to what Iranian leaders actually say, or discount their statements as lies (treating them much less respectfully than they treated notorious fraud Andrew Breitbart in their fluffy obituaries last week).

A week and a half ago, Khamenei gave a major foreign policy speech in which he said,

“The Iranian nation has never pursued and will never pursue nuclear weapons. There is no doubt that the decision makers in the countries opposing us know well that Iran is not after nuclear weapons because the Islamic Republic, logically, religiously and theoretically, considers the possession of nuclear weapons a grave sin and believes the proliferation of such weapons is senseless, destructive and dangerous.”

Now, you could maintain that Khamenei is lying when he says he holds that possessing nuclear weapons is a grave sin. (You could also maintain that the Popes are lying when they say using birth control is a grave matter, but you'd have to explain why they put their papal authority on the line for a lie they weren't forced to utter).

But even if you think it is a lie, you have at least to report what he says. I guarantee you that Khamenei's speech opposing nukes was not so much as mentioned on any of the major American news broadcasts.

And if you hold that Khamenei, as a leading clerical authority, is being dishonest on this issue, then surely you should offer some proof.

Perhaps he has flip-flopped over time?

But no. Here is Khamenei in 2010:

““We have said repeatedly that our religious beliefs and principles prohibit such weapons as they are the symbol of destruction of generations. And for this reason we do not believe in weapons and atomic bombs and do not seek them.”

Or 2009, when Khamenei said,

“They (Western countries) falsely accuse the Islamic republic's establishment of producing nuclear weapons. We fundamentally reject nuclear weapons and prohibit the use and production of nuclear weapons. This is because of our ideology, not because of politics or fear of arrogant powers or an onslaught of international propaganda. We stand firm for our ideology.”

It seems to me that one implication of pro-Khamenei hard liners dominating parliament is that the Supreme Leader's authority has been enhanced.

And he is deploying his authority to forbid the acquisition of a nuclear warhead.

Warmongers attempting to drag the United States into yet another ruinous (or, rather, infinitely more ruinous) war in the Middle East have typically focused their propaganda on the person of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

The president, now nearing the end of his second and last term, is easy to ridicule and easy to demonize, because of his quirky personality and colorful gaffes. He has been called a “Hitler” by Rick Santorum, and the Neoconservatives depict him as a madman bent on bringing the world to an end. It has been alleged that Ahmadinejad is a mass-murdering hard liner, seeking nuclear weapons with which to destroy Israel.

This puzzling emphasis on Ahmadinejad comes despite the president’s relative lack of power in the Iranian system.

The commander in chief of the armed forces is Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. Who sets nuclear policy? Ali Khamenei. In Iran, the “president” is more like a vice president (think Joe Biden) than a real executive.

Ahmadinejad could not even fire an intelligence minister (Haidar Moslehi) he disliked last spring. Khamenei reinstated him. Ahmadinejad sulked and wouldn’t attend cabinet meetings for a while, but eventually got over himself. Hitler indeed.

Just last month, even the old parliament voted to make Ahmadinejad appear before the legislature to explain his economic policies, the first time a president has been interpellated by parliament in the Islamic Republic.

Some in parliament have even spoken of impeaching Ahmadinejad, which they’d be in a position to do after these elections.

So, to conclude: Ahmadinejad is not very much like Hitler.

He can’t give an order to the Iranian military independently of Khamenei, who can over-rule him at will. He can’t make his own pick of cabinet ministers, and so can’t build up an independent power base.

He has been threatened by parliament. His party lost the 2012 elections big time. His own sister couldn’t win a seat in their home town.

He is a lame duck.

So there is no point in demonizing him, or pretending he has an atomic bomb, or that he would be the one to deploy a bomb if Iran possessed one, which it does not.

For the Neoconservatives, the jig is up.

Khamenei’s hand has been significantly strengthened.

And he has signalled to the Iranian people yet again that he won’t use that strength for belligerent purposes or to pursue a nuclear warhead, which the Iranian ayatollahs consider a tool of the devil – since you can’t deploy it without killing large numbers of civilian non-combatants.

CLASS WAR REPORTS



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