

Military Resistance 10C8



**Uproar Over Marine
Criticizing Obama:
“Just Because I’m A Marine
Doesn’t Mean I Don’t Have Free
Speech Or Can’t Say My
Personal Opinion About The
President Or Other Public
Official Just Like Anybody Else”**

**“People Assume That We’re
Zombies With An On-And-Off
Switch, And That We Listen To
Orders And Do Nothing Else”**

**“His Boldness In Expressing His
Views Has Been Refreshing In A
Community That Often Feels
Silenced”**

**“At This Time, He Has Not Been Asked
To Take Down The Statement On His
Page”**



Photo courtesy of Gary Stein via AP

In that context, he said, he was stating that he would not follow orders from the president if those orders included detaining U.S. citizens, disarming them or doing anything else that he believes would violate their constitutional rights.

03/ 7/12 By JULIE WATSON, AP [Excerpts]

SAN DIEGO -- Marine Sgt. Gary Stein first started a Facebook page called Armed Forces Tea Party Patriots to encourage service members to exercise their free speech rights. Then he declared that he wouldn't follow orders from the commander in chief, President Barack Obama.

While Stein softened his statement to say he wouldn't follow "unlawful orders," military observers say he may have gone too far.

The Marine Corps is now looking into whether he violated the military's rules prohibiting political statements by those in uniform and broke its guidelines on what troops can and cannot say on social media.

Stein said his views are constitutionally protected.

While troops have always expressed their views in private, Stein's case highlights the potential for their opinions to go global as tech-savvy service members post personal details, videos and pictures that can hurt the military's image at home and abroad.

According to Pentagon directives, military personnel in uniform can't sponsor a political club; participate in any TV or radio program or group discussion that advocates for or against a political party, candidate or cause; or speak at any event promoting a political movement.

Commissioned officers also may not use contemptuous words against senior officials, including the defense secretary or the president.

In January, an Army reservist wearing camouflaged fatigues got into trouble for taking the stage during a rally in Iowa with Republican presidential candidate and Texas congressman Ron Paul.

Stein was first cautioned by his superiors at Camp Pendleton, north of San Diego, in 2010 after he launched his Facebook page, criticizing Obama's health care overhaul.

Stein volunteered to take down the page while he reviewed the rules at the request of his superiors.

He said he determined he was not in violation and relaunched the page under the shortened account name Armed Forces Tea Party.

Last week, he said his superiors told him he couldn't use social media sites on government computers after he posted the message stating he would not follow unlawful orders of the president.

Stein said his statement was part of an online debate about NATO allowing U.S. troops to be tried for the Quran burnings in Afghanistan.

In that context, he said, he was stating that he would not follow orders from the president if those orders included detaining U.S. citizens, disarming them or doing anything else that he believes would violate their constitutional rights.

Another Marine alerted his command about the statement, Stein said.

Stein said he respects the office of the president, but he does not agree with Obama's policies.

He said he is within his rights to speak up.

“Just because I’m a Marine doesn’t mean I don’t have free speech or can’t say my personal opinion about the president or other public official just like anybody else,” Stein said. “The Constitution trumps everything else.”

Stein said it’s positive when service members are well-versed on the Constitution and what’s going on in government.

“When we know what we’re fighting for, we fight harder,” he said.

The Marine Corps said Stein is allowed to express his personal opinions as long as they do not give the impression he is speaking in his official capacity as a Marine.

Spokesman Maj. Michael Armistead said the Corps is taking a closer look to ensure Stein has not crossed that line.

“At this time, he has not been asked to take down the statement on his page,” he said.

Stein appears in a dress shirt and tie on his Facebook page but he also describes himself as “a conservative blogger, speaker, the founder of the Armed Forces Tea Party and active-duty, eight-year Marine Corps veteran.”

Marine Sgt. Jerret Wright, who liked Stein’s page, said Stein “probably skirted the line a little bit” with his latest message about not following Obama’s orders, but his boldness in expressing his views has been refreshing in a community that often feels silenced.

“People assume that we’re zombies with an on-and-off switch, and that we listen to orders and do nothing else,” Wright said.

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

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Foreign Occupation “Servicemember” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan: Nationality Not Announced

March 16, 2012 Reuters

A foreign servicemember died as a result of an improvised explosive device injury in eastern Afghanistan yesterday.

Ponca Member Killed In Afghan Attack



March 8, 2012 By PETER SALTER, Lincoln Journal Star

His base under attack from the inside, the Colorado soldier was moving through the dark, toward the gunfire, when his partner was hit.

“My nephew turned around and tried to help him, and when he did that, he was hit in the neck,” said Lee Bear. “And he was gone almost immediately.”

Staff Sgt. Jordan Logan Bear was killed March 1 on his NATO-Afghan base in Kandahar Province, near the village of Sangesar, the birthplace of the Taliban.

The paratrooper will be buried soon in Denver, where he grew up. Where he played Army with his brothers in their backyard. Where he played quarterback at Kennedy High.

But he also had deep Nebraska roots.

The 25-year-old was a member of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, with family ties to the state's Omaha and Winnebago tribes.

And he loved the Cornhuskers.

"Oh, my goodness. He was an avid fan," said his uncle, a Colorado grad. "He'd come over wearing his Nebraska stuff, and that was like taboo. But he was my nephew."

After his second deployment to Afghanistan, Jordan Bear's men chipped in and bought him a present: Husker slippers.

He started his third deployment in February -- about the time violent protests began to spread across the country over the burning of Qurans at a U.S. base.

His family believes he became a victim of that violence. On March 1, two members of the Afghan National Army and a civilian literacy teacher -- men trusted to be on base -- opened fire from a sentry tower.

It was 2:30 a.m., his uncle said. Bear and another noncommissioned officer returned fire and started maneuvering toward the attackers. The other NCO was hit and survived; Bear and a private from Texas were killed.

Bear was a father to 2-month-old Kayden and 4-year-old Kailee. And he was a newlywed: He and Sarah married during the summer.

In Denver, his family is waiting for the Army to release his remains so he can come home.

They're planning a four-day wake at All Saints Catholic Church, with Mass the day of the burial -- a mixture of Ponca and Omaha traditions, and their own.

Jordan Bear wasn't as traditional as he wanted to be, his uncle said, but he respected where he came from.

His grandmother, Ida, is Winnebago. His grandfather, Logan, is Ponca and Omaha. The two moved from Winnebago to Denver in the late 1950s.

Jordan Bear knew in high school he wanted to serve, his uncle said. Lee Bear, a veteran himself, tried to talk him out of it. Go to college first, he told him.

"But the day he got his diploma, he came over and said he could now go get sworn in at the recruiting office. He was pretty stoked about that. All I could do is support him."

Lee Bear heard from some of his nephew's friends after the attack. They said Jordan Bear loved the Army.

"That was the profession he chose, and he was a true professional soldier."

12 Turkish Troops Killed In Kabul Copter Crash: The Dead Include Nine Commissioned Officers

March 17 2012 Hürriyet Daily News

Turkey suffers its worst military disaster in Afghanistan as 12 soldiers and at least two Afghans are killed when an army helicopter crashes outside Kabul.

Turkish military helicopter crashed into a house near the Afghan capital on March 16, killing 12 Turkish soldiers on board and two girls on the ground, Turkish and Afghan officials said.

The Sikorsky helicopter, which plunged down at 10:25 a.m. local time, belonged to the Turkish Armed Forces and was serving under the Kabul regional command.

Two of the dead Turkish soldiers were identified as Air Maj. Şükür Bağdatlı and Cartographer Maj. Mithat Çolak.

The dead include nine commissioned officers - including four majors and a lieutenant - as well as two noncommissioned officers and a sergeant, according to military sources, who noted that four of the dead were from Ankara.

Their bodies are expected to be flown to Turkey today after a ceremony at ISAF.

Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu, however, said a technical hitch appeared to have caused the crash and that the helicopter plummeted while attempting to make an emergency landing.

"The pilot made a very serious effort to escape," he said.

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said the chopper was one of two helicopters that had taken off from a location north of Kabul and added that five or six people were also killed on the ground.

The helicopter clipped one house and then crashed into another, said Sayed Qayum, an Afghan resident who witnessed the aircraft go down. The crash blew several large holes in the three-story brick house that was hit. Parts of the building were scorched black by fire, and wreckage of the helicopter was scattered outside.

The Afghan Interior Ministry said the two people who were confirmed killed on the ground were young girls while a woman and another child were wounded, the Associated Press reported.

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

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

**The Military On Friday Identified
The Soldier Accused Of Killing 16
Afghan Villagers Earlier This
Week:**

**“He And The Family Were Told That
His Tours In The Middle East Were
Over”**

**“A Real Estate Agent Said That He Was
Contacted By Ms. Bales On March 8,
Three Days Before The Shooting In
Afghanistan, And That She Told Him She
Wanted To Sell The House In Lake
Tapps”**

March 16, 2012 By JAMES DAO, New York Times & MSNBC

The military on Friday identified the soldier accused of killing 16 Afghan villagers earlier this week as Staff Sgt. Robert Bales, a 38-year-old father of two who had been injured twice in combat over the course of four deployments and had, his lawyer said, an exemplary military record.

Little more than the outlines of Sergeant Bales's life are publicly known. His family lived in Lake Tapps, a community about 20 miles northeast of his Army post. NBC News reported that he was from Ohio, and he may have lived there until he joined the Army at 27. Sergeant Bales's Seattle-based lawyer, John Henry Browne, said several members of the sergeant's family moved to Washington after he was assigned to Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

Mr. Browne said the sergeant joined the Army right after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and then spent almost all of his career at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, where he was part of the Third Stryker Brigade in the Second Infantry Division, named after the armored Stryker vehicles.

Pentagon officials, who have been scouring the sergeant's military and health records for clues, have said little about what they think motivated the killings. But one senior government official said Thursday that Sergeant Bales had been drinking alcohol before the killings and that he might have had marital problems.

"When it all comes out, it will be a combination of stress, alcohol and domestic issues — he just snapped," said the official, who had been briefed on the investigation and spoke on the condition of anonymity because the sergeant had not yet been charged.

"The family was counting on him not being redeployed," Mr. Browne said. "He and the family were told that his tours in the Middle East were over."

Browne said the suspect had been training to become a military recruiter after three tours of duty in Iraq but had been ordered to return to Afghanistan "overnight."

He added, "I think that it would be fair to say that he and the family were not happy that he was going back."

The Bales family lived in a two-story, wood-frame house beneath tall fir and cedar evergreens in Lake Tapps, an unincorporated section of Pierce County, Wash.

Kassie Holland, a neighbor, said that as far as she could tell, they were a happy family and the sergeant was a devoted father to his young children, a daughter, Quincy, and a son, Bobby. "There were no signs," Ms. Holland said when asked whether Mr. Bales seemed troubled.

The Baleses' house had a lock box on the front door on Friday.

Phillip Rodocker, a real estate agent, said that he was contacted by Ms. Bales on March 8, three days before the shooting in Afghanistan, and that she told him she wanted to sell the house in Lake Tapps.

"She told me she was behind in our payments," Mr. Rodocker said. "She said he was on his fourth tour and it was getting kind of old and they needed to stabilize their finances."

Mr. Rodocker said he and a colleague met with Ms. Bales at the house the next day.

“It looked like it had been really, really neglected,” he said. “Four tours of duty and nobody around to take care of the exterior of the property.”

Because it took time for the paperwork to go through, the house was not officially put on the market until Monday, the day after the shooting. On Tuesday, Mr. Rodocker said, “She called and said needed to take the house off the market due to a family emergency.”

He said that the house remained on the market because he had not received a written request for it to be removed.

Zillow, the real estate Web site, shows the house listed for \$229,000, about \$50,000 less than the family paid for it in 2005.

Mr. Rodocker said the house was going to be a short sale, meaning the Baleses owed more to the bank than what it would sell for.

Mr. Rodocker said Ms. Bales also asked his colleague to sell a second property, a house in Auburn, Wash., that he said she had bought before the Baleses were married.

Boxes were piled on the front porch at the house in Lake Tapps along with a snow sled, while toys, a barbecue grill and a weathered hot tub sat in the fenced backyard.

Mr. Rodocker said Ms. Bales told him she was collecting boxes to prepare for a move.

Next door, neighbor Kassie Holland, 27 years old, told reporters she knew Mr. Bales and his wife and two children well, sharing birthday parties and 4th of July barbeques.

“Just a great, great guy,” she said. “Happy, laughing, life of the party.”

Over the course of the decade, Sergeant Bales was deployed three times to Iraq, Army records show: between 2003 and 2004; for 15 months between June 2006 and September 2007, during the height of the civil war and at the beginning of what became known as the surge; and then between August 2009 and August 2010.

During his second tour, his unit, the Second Battalion, Third Infantry Regiment, was involved in a major battle in the city of Najaf while trying to recover a downed Apache helicopter.

On his third deployment, in 2010, a Humvee carrying Sergeant Bales flipped over, possibly because of a roadside bomb, Mr. Browne said.

Sergeant Bales injured his head and probably sustained a minor traumatic brain injury, which in chronic cases can lead to cognitive problems, personality changes and a loss of impulse control. Mr. Browne said it was possible that Sergeant Bales also had post-traumatic stress disorder.

Mr. Browne also said the sergeant lost part of a foot in another episode, also apparently from an explosive device. It was not clear whether he might have sustained a second traumatic brain injury then.

Joint Base Lewis-McChord has come under scrutiny because of a string of problems in recent years. In 2010, rogue soldiers from another Stryker brigade murdered three Afghan civilians during combat episodes staged by the soldiers.

This year, the Army opened investigations into the base's Madigan Army Medical Center after soldiers complained that diagnoses of post-traumatic stress disorder were being changed or dismissed.

Some advocates for active-duty troops and veterans say the problems demonstrate that the sprawling base, the Army's largest on the West Coast, with nearly 40,000 soldiers, was not prepared to handle the strain of repeated deployments.

Between 2009 and 2010, when Sergeant Bales was on his third deployment to Iraq, about 18,000 soldiers from the post were sent to war zones, and almost all returned at roughly the same time, overwhelming base services, the critics contend.

In the years before the night last weekend when his alleged attack shifted the fragile balance of the war in Afghanistan, Sgt. Bales recounted his role in stabilization operations in Afghanistan and battles in Iraq.

In a particularly ferocious battle in Najaf, Iraq, in 2007, he recalled in a military article how U.S. fighters had to resort to World War II-style tactics to persevere.

"Guys were out there digging a fighting position in the ground. You're taking a shovel and digging as fast as you can," he was quoted as saying in a 2008 article on the Army website.

"I've never been more proud to be a part of this unit than that day," the article quotes Sgt. Bales as saying, "for the simple fact that we discriminated between the bad guys and the noncombatants and then afterward we ended up helping the people that three or four hours before were trying to kill us.

"I think that's the real difference between being an American as opposed to being a bad guy, someone who puts his family in harm's way like that."

Public records indicate Sgt. Bales had some encounters with police over the years, and was ordered by a judge in a 2002 assault case in Tacoma to obtain anger-management counseling. Tacoma police wouldn't provide details on the case late Friday.

The assault case was dismissed and didn't involve any members of Sgt. Bales's family, Mr. Browne said Friday.

Police in Sumner, Wash., arrested and charged Sgt. Bales with hit-and-run in 2008 after he drove his 2004 Mustang off a road, slamming into a tree and flipping, then leaving the scene of the crash.

Witnesses reported he was bleeding, disoriented and smelled of alcohol, according to a police report on the incident released Friday. He wasn't charged with being intoxicated.

**“Mr. Samad, 60, Walked Into His
Mud-Walled Dwelling Here On
Sunday Morning And Found 11 Of
His Relatives Sprawled In All
Directions, Shot In The Head,
Stabbed And Burned”**

**“He Learned The Culprit Was Not A
Taliban Insurgent”**

**“Our Government Told Us To Come Back
To The Village, And Then They Let The
Americans Kill Us”**



Abdul Samad, an Afghan who had 11 relatives killed in a massacre, expressed his outrage to President Hamid Karzai. Anzala Khilji

March 12, 2012 By TAIMOOR SHAH and GRAHAM BOWLEY, New York Times
[Excerpts]

PANJWAI, Afghanistan — Displaced by the war, Abdul Samad finally moved his large family back home to this volatile district of southern Afghanistan last year. He feared the

Taliban, but his new house was nestled near an American military base, where he considered himself safe.

But when Mr. Samad, 60, walked into his mud-walled dwelling here on Sunday morning and found 11 of his relatives sprawled in all directions, shot in the head, stabbed and burned, he learned the culprit was not a Taliban insurgent. The shooting suspect was a 38-year-old United States staff sergeant who had slipped out of the base to kill.

The American soldier is accused of killing 16 people in all in a bloody rampage that has further tarnished Afghan-American relations and devastated Mr. Samad, a respected village elder whose tired eyes poured forth tears one minute and glared ahead in anger the next.

Once a believer in the offensive against the Taliban, he is now insistent that the Americans get out.

"I don't know why they killed them," said Mr. Samad, a short, feeble man with a white beard and white turban, as he struggled in an interview to come to terms with the loss of his wife, four daughters between the ages of 2 and 6, four sons between 8 and 12, and two other relatives.

"Our government told us to come back to the village, and then they let the Americans kill us," Mr. Samad said outside the military base, known as Camp Belambay, with outraged villagers who came to support him.

They transported the bodies of Mr. Samad's family members, as well as the other victims, and the burned blankets that had covered them as proof of the awful crime that had occurred.

After years of war, Mr. Samad, a poor farmer, had been reluctant to return to his home in Panjwai, which was known in good times for its grapes and mulberries.

But unlike other displaced villagers who stayed in the city of Kandahar, about 15 miles away, and other places around the troubled province, Mr. Samad listened to the urgings of the provincial governor and the Afghan Army. They had encouraged residents to return and reassured them that American forces would protect them.

Back in his village, a collection of a few houses known as Najibian, Mr. Samad and his family moved into a neighbor's house because his own had been destroyed by NATO bombardments in the years of fierce battles.

It was against this background that, United States officials said, the soldier left the American base and walked south about a mile to Mr. Samad's village.

Mr. Samad and his teenage son survived because they had been visiting the nearby town of Spinbaldak.

When he reached his home, neighbors were putting out the fire set on his family.

One of his neighbors, an elderly woman named Anar Gula, who had been cowering in her home, said she had heard an explosion, screaming and shooting as the soldier

broke down the door of Mr. Samad's house and chased his wife and two other female family members from room to room before he shot them.

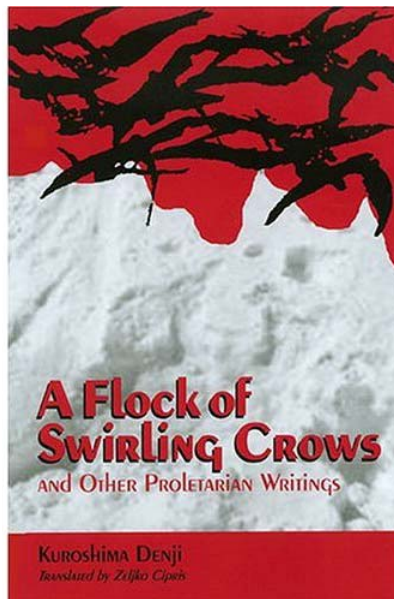
Two of the women and some of the children had been stabbed, she and other villagers said, and blankets had been laid over them and set alight — to hide the stab wounds, she said.

Afterward, the soldier circled back north around the base to another village, where he attacked the home of Hajji-Sayed Jan, 45, a poor laborer who had fled to Kandahar city three times during the years of fighting but who had brought his family back because he could not afford to live in the city, villagers said.

He was in Kandahar for the evening and so survived, but his wife, nephew, grandson and brother were killed.

Further on in the same village, the soldier entered a home and fatally shot Muhammad Dawoud, 55, a farmer, when he emerged from a room; his wife and children escaped to a neighbor's house.

Ishikawa and Kuroshima would understand: insert troops into a hell on earth and there's no way to prevent atrocities. Yet the real fiends in their capital suites are never spattered with a single drop of blood. Solidarity, Z



Insurgents Attack Afghan Delegation Near Massacre Site:

**“No Problem, No Problem. Every
Day There Is Ambush”
“We Don’t Want The Americans
Here”
“We Demand Justice”**



A wounded Afghan National Army officer, foreground, and an Afghan policeman run for cover during an attack by Taliban insurgents on a high-level delegation that was visiting Najiban village in Kandahar province, the site of Sunday’s massacre of 16 civilians by a U.S. soldier. Jon Stephenson/MCT

March 13, 2012 By Jon Stephenson, McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpts]

NAJIBAN, Afghanistan — The delegation came to Najiban to pay its respects to the dead. But insurgents offered them no respite, spilling more blood at even this most solemn — and heavily guarded — occasion.

The crowd of Afghan dignitaries — including two brothers of President Hamid Karzai — came under fire from suspected Taliban insurgents Tuesday as they visited the site of Sunday’s massacre of 16 civilians by a U.S. soldier. One Afghan soldier was killed and two others wounded, but none of the senior officials — who included the governor of Kandahar province and the Afghan army chief — were reported harmed.

The attack by insurgents firing from long range showed that they can disrupt even the most well-guarded affairs, and even here in Panjway — a district of southern Kandahar

province that's long been a Taliban stronghold but which U.S. military officials had recently described as one of the success stories of the U.S. troop surge.

In Washington, President Barack Obama issued his strongest condemnation yet of the shooting spree, calling it "outrageous" and "unacceptable," and he vowed that the Pentagon would conduct a thorough investigation.

Few Afghans in Najiban village on Tuesday were willing to listen to apologies, however. A McClatchy journalist, the only Western reporter at the scene, observed the delegation of Afghan officials encountering angry responses as it met villagers near the site where 11 of the 16 victims had been gunned down on Sunday.

"We are here to share your pain," said Asadullah Khalid, the minister of border affairs and the former governor of Kandahar.

A few angry locals objected as he spoke. The minister motioned them to sit down.

"We don't want the Americans here," one elder told the minister.

"We demand justice," another shouted.

Some Afghans said that the suspect should face justice in an Afghan court.

The minister looked awkward _ what could he say in response?

The circling U.S. helicopters and jets overhead seemed a reminder of which party in the Afghan-U.S. relationship held most of the power.

As the Karzai brothers and other top officials started to walk back to their vehicles, a sound like exploding firecrackers swept loudly in the street. A few people jumped; others smirked, seemingly oblivious to the danger.

Moments later, officials, security personnel and locals raced for cover as the insurgents apparently fired from the neighboring village of Alkozai, about one mile away.

For about 30 minutes, confusion reigned as the crackle of heavy weapons and the blasts of explosions echoed around the village.

Next to a clutch of police trucks, an army officer in civilian clothes was hit. He sprinted for the safety of nearby wall, his trousers stained with a nasty-looking flesh wound. He was bundled into the back of a car and rushed away.

The Kandahar police commander, Gen. Abdul Raziq, stood with a satellite phone in one hand, relaxed to the point of nonchalance.

"No problem, no problem," he laughed, as he dismissed the morning's events in broken English. "Every day there is ambush."

Not so light-hearted was the Afghan man who stood nearby, a young boy in his arms, perhaps 4 or 5 years old. Everyone in his family was killed in the massacre.

The man spoke to an Afghan investigator about the killings, talking quietly and watching with empty eyes while the investigator filled out his paperwork.

When the man was finished asking questions he walked past the journalist, not eager to be interviewed.

One thing that was very clear was the determination of “the enemy,” as the Afghan army chief of staff, Gen. Sher Mohammad Karimi, referred to the Taliban, even as he downplayed the attack’s significance.

“When the enemy hears there is a high-level delegation showing its presence, they do anything they can,” he said.

Despite the ferocity of the Taliban attack and the apparently deep-seated and enduring hostility in Panjway to the Afghan government and its U.S. backers, the general said he still had hope that the area could be pacified.

“We are trying our best to stabilize the situation,” Karimi said.



Afghan protesters during a demonstration in Jalalabad province March 13, 2012. The shootings triggered a protest by around 2,000 students in the eastern city of Jalalabad, the first since Sunday’s attack, calling for the U.S. soldier to be prosecuted by Afghan authorities in Kandahar. REUTERS/Parwiz

Afghan Interpreter Tries To Wreck Defense Secretary Leon Panetta’s Plane As He Lands

03/15/12 Los Angeles Times

REPORTING FROM KABUL, AFGHANISTAN -- An Afghan interpreter who breached the security perimeter at a southern Afghanistan airbase Wednesday tried to run over a squad of U.S. Marines assembled to meet Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta's plane, an American military official said.

The man, who worked for Western troops but has not been named, died early Thursday because of extensive burns, Lt. Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti told reporters. Scaparrotti said Thursday he believed that the interpreter, who died before he could be questioned, was carrying out an attack when he stole a pickup, drove onto the runway ramp as Panetta's plane was landing, and emerged from his vehicle in flames.

"My personal opinion is yes, I think he had an intent to harm. I think he tried to hit people" Scaparrotti said at a press conference with reporters traveling with Panetta. The Defense secretary met Thursday with President Hamid Karzai in the capital.

The driver was carrying a canister containing some kind of fuel that he appears to have ignited after the car ran into a ditch following his attempt to run over the Marines, Scaparrotti said. "There was some kind of container. It may have had fuel in it in the car," he said.

He stole the truck on the base, injuring a British soldier in the process.

THIS ENVIRONMENT IS HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH -- ALL HOME, NOW!



A U.S. soldier stands outside a military base in Panjwai, Kandahar province south of Kabul, Afghanistan, March. 11, 2012. A U.S. soldier has killed 16 people including nine children and three women. (AP Photo/Allauddin Khan)

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

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Resistance Ambush Kills “An Unconfirmed Number Of” Kenyan Occupation Soldiers

03/12/2012 (Mareeg)

Deadly clashes between Somali government soldiers supporting by Kenyan army and Al-shabab fighters were reported on Monday in parts of Lower Jubba region, south of the country, witnesses say.

TFG [Somali government] military officials said on condition of anonymity the battle that lasted for an hour broke out after the militants of Al-shabab have ambushed a military convoy belonging to Somalia and Kenya troops at undisclosed village between Taabta and Qoqani towns in southwestern Somalia, killing five militants.

News reports from the battlefields in Lower Jubba region of Somalia say that an unconfirmed number of Kenyan soldiers have been killed during their clashes with Al-Qaeda-linked Somali rebels.

No independent reports were immediately available from the fighting and the claim of Somalia government military officials in southwestern region of Somalia, but the situation in the area is reported to be calm at the moment.

Ethiopian Government Announces Troop Withdrawal After Somalia Militants Slaughter Occupation Soldiers In Luuq

10 March 2012 By Tesfa-Alem Tekle, Sudan Tribune [Excerpts]

Addis Ababa — Ethiopian forces will hand over two recently captured towns in Somalia which were the strongholds of the Al-Qaida allied Al-Shabab Islamist militants in Somalia to African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), it was announced on Friday.

Shabaab claimed that 81 Ethiopian soldiers, including a colonel, were killed during yesterday's fighting.

Dozens of Ethiopian troops are reported to have been killed in an attack by al-Shabab fighters on Saturday. The battle took place at the town of Luuq in south west Somalia.

Eyewitness said the latest fighting was the fiercest since Ethiopian troops reentered the country a few months ago.

"We forced the enemy to temporarily abandon three barracks and we killed more than 40 of their men," Sheikh Mohamed Abu-Fatma, a top al-Shabab commander told AFP.

Resistance Attacks Café Used by Presidential Officials

15/02/2012 Mareeg.com & The Associated Press

MOGADISHU-Al-shabab militants in Somalia have on Thursday revealed the identity of an attacker who blew his self up at the gate of the parliament speaker's residence, which is located inside the Villa Somalia compound.

Villa Somalia is a heavily fortified compound in the heart of the city where the most senior Somali government officials, including the president, have their offices. Some also live inside the compound.

The spokesman of Al-shabab Sheik Ali Mohamud Rageh known as Ali Dheere told a rebel-held radio station in Elasha-Biyaha area, about 18 Km away south of Mogadishu that Hassan Abdikadir, one of their volunteers had carried out the attack and claimed that 16 people had been killed.

"The Mujahideen carried out a spectacular martyrdom operation inside a café, where used frequently by top TFG [government] officials at the presidential palace of the apostate Somali regime," the spokesman added.

Ali Dheere noted that the militants will step up attacks, including car bombs and landmine blasts against Somali government and AMISOM [foreign military occupation] bases in Mogadishu.

Five people, besides the bomber, were killed in the attack at Villa Somalia on Wednesday, the country's presidential compound.

The site of the attack was splattered with blood, human remains and destroyed plastic chairs. Residents looked on in shock as security officials inspected the scene.

Heavy Fighting And Shells In Capital

13 March 2012 & 16 March 2012 Shabelle Media Network

Mogadishu — Heavy fighting and shells between Somali government soldiers alongside African Union troops and militants of Al-shabab sparked overnight in Somali capital, Mogadishu, residents said.

The clashed broke out after Al-shabab fighters have launched a heavy mortar attacks on TFG [government] and AMISOM [foreign occupation] military bases located nearby Bakarat cemeteries in Huriwa district, northern edge of Mogadishu, reasoning unconfirmed number of casualties of both local residents and warring sides in the area.

Residents said the two sides pounded each other with artillery, mortars and machine guns, forcing locals to flee from their homes in fear of intensified fighting.

“Mortar shells were falling like rain villages beyond the battlefields as heavily armed insurgents flooded into the combat with Somalia and AU forces supported by tanks and armoured vehicles,” a villager told Shabelle Media by phone.

Neither Somali government nor Al-shabab has made any comments about the overnight fighting in Huriwa district. The militants have vowed last week to step up their attacks against TFG and AMSOM forces in Mogadishu.

At least one soldier was killed and wounded another after unidentified gunmen hurled a hand grenade into a café in the town of Beledweyne, the provincial capital of Hiraan region in central Somalia, witnesses said on Tuesday.

According to the residents, attackers lobbed a hand grenade into a café at Nuur-Hawaad village, east of Beledweyne town, where some government soldiers were sipping a tea, a soldier was confirmed killed and another sustained injuries.

Al-Shabab-Organised Rally Held On the Outskirt of Mogadishu

16 March 2012 Shabelle Media Network

Several hundred people gathered at the rally in Afgoye town, 30 Km away south of Mogadishu, including veiled women and armed, masked men.

Al-shabab officials have asked local people for support.

Al-Shabab spokesman Ali Mohamud Rage told those gathered at the rally that the group is committed to wage fighting against Somalia government.

Rage also said that Somalia government and African Union troops known as AMSIOM are the enemy of Islam, as he put it.

MILITARY NEWS

The Turkish Army's Gay Porn Archive:

**“Compulsory Military Service In
Turkey Applies To All Male
Citizens”**

**“Homosexuality Is Perceived As An
Illness By The Turkish Military, And
Gays And Bisexuals Are Barred From
Serving”**

**“All You Have To Do To Get Out Of
Doing Your Military Service Is To Present
Photographic Or Video Evidence Of Your
Participation In Homosexual Acts”**

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

March 9, 2012 by MICHAEL DICKINSON, Counterpunch

In the immortal words of Frank Zappa, from his ode 'If Only She Woulda':

“You got a letter today
Life And love
Has left you shafted
And on top of that
You just got drafted”

Words to strike a chill in many a good-hearted American who can remember the Vietnam War and the forced recruitment of young men to serve as trained killers for the

War Machine, or perhaps a grateful sigh of relief that there is no longer mandatory conscription since the United States discontinued the draft in 1973.

At present it maintains its colossal military force with an all-volunteer personnel. Unemployment helps.

Not so democratic in some other countries around the world, where regardless of unemployment figures, young males are still legally forced to serve time in the military.

One such country is Turkey.

Compulsory military service in Turkey applies to all male citizens from twenty to forty-one years of age. The duration is up to fifteen months, when, apart from training as soldiers, conscripts are forced to work for officers' private needs, including driving, cooking and serving meals in officers' clubs.

Most young male Turks accept their obligatory call-up with a resigned shrug. It's the way things are.

Besides, refusing military service due to conscientious objection is illegal, and speaking publicly against the army or conscription rates as "undermining Turkish people's zeal towards military" and "insulting the spirit of the Armed Forces", both punishable offences.

Better to bear the term in military hell than face censure and perhaps prison.

Or what about another way out?

For example, homosexuality is perceived as an illness by the Turkish military, and gays and bisexuals are barred from serving.

Why not just claim to be gay, and get away?

Well, it's not quite as easy as that. Apart from the social stigma of being openly gay in macho-minded Turkey, the top brass want evidence.

All you have to do to get out of doing your military service is to present photographic or video evidence of your participation in homosexual acts with others. Get shafted and you won't get drafted! You might get some friends to help out.

Then after intimate questioning by army officers and perhaps an anal check-up, if they're convinced you're gay you'll be barred from the military. Yippee! No more "You're in the Army now!" But at what a cost!

And what happened to those sordid pictures the inspecting officers were poring over? They will be kept in your confidential file in Ankara Military Hospital, which has been described as 'the biggest state owned gay porn archive in the world.'

Yes, many unfortunate gay brothers have been forced to degrade themselves in such a way rather than endure time in the army.

A recent Turkish film, “Zenne,” movingly depicts one such case. The man who came out rather than face military service was shot and killed by his conservative father.

Mehmet Tahan, an anti-war protestor, who, although gay, refused to recognize his sexuality as an illness or an excuse to escape service, spent several months as a conscientious objector in prison, where he was tortured and threatened.

In a statement before his arrest Mehmet Tahan said:

“I condemn every kind of violence and believe that joining or condoning violence will only result in new violence and everyone will be responsible for the consequences.

“I think that wars caused by power-mongering states are first and foremost a violation of the right to life. The violation of the right to life is a crime against humanity and no international convention or law can justify this crime, regardless of any rationale. I therefore declare that I won’t be an agent of such crime under any circumstances. I will not serve any military apparatus.”

Well said! Go shaft your draft!

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

**Nothing has more revolutionary effect, and nothing undermines more the foundations of all state power, than the continuation of that wretched and brainless régime, which has the strength merely to cling to its positions but no longer the slightest power to rule or to steer the state ship on a definite course.
-- Karl Kautsky; ‘The Consequences of the Japanese Victory and Social Democracy’**

Berserk In Afghanistan



From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: March 17, 2012
Subject: Berserk In Afghanistan

Berserk In Afghanistan

The truth was obscure, too profound
and too pure--to live it you have to
explode.
Bob Dylan

A nation that continues year after year to spend more
money on military defense than on programs of social
uplift is facing spiritual death.
Martin Luther King Jr.
April 4, 1967

Photo and caption from the portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam
1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at:
hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)

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

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

**“Nowhere Do ‘Politicians’ Form A
More Separate And Powerful Section
Of The Nation Than Precisely In
North America”**

**“We Find Here Two Great Gangs Of
Political Speculators, Who Alternately
Take Possession Of The State Power
And Exploit It By The Most Corrupt
Means And For The Most Corrupt Ends”**

Excerpts from Introduction to The Civil War In France, by Friedrich Engels, March 18,
1891:

From the very outset the Commune [the revolutionary government set up by French workers and soldiers in Paris, 1871] was compelled to recognize that the working class, once come to power, could not go on managing with the old state machine; that in order not to lose again its only just conquered supremacy this working class must, on the one hand, do away with all the old repressive machinery previously used against it itself and, on the other, safeguard itself against its own deputies and officials, by declaring them all, without exception, subject to recall at any moment.

What had been the characteristic attribute of the former state?

Society had created its own organs to look after its common interests, originally through simple division of labor.

But these organs, at whose head was the state power, had in the course of time, in pursuance of their own special interests, transformed themselves from the servants of society into the masters of society.

This can be seen, for example, not only in the hereditary monarchy, but equally so in the democratic republic.

Nowhere do “politicians” form a more separate and powerful section of the nation than precisely in North America.

There each of the two major parties which alternately succeed each other in power is itself in turn controlled by people who make a business of politics, who speculate on seats in the legislative assemblies of the Union as well as of the separate states, or who make a living by carrying on agitation for their party and on its victory are rewarded with positions.

It is well known how the Americans have been trying for thirty years to shake off this yoke, which has become intolerable, and how in spite of it all they continue to sink ever deeper in this swamp of corruption.

It is precisely in America that we see best how there takes place this process of the state power making itself independent in relation to society, whose mere instrument it was originally intended to be. Here there exists no dynasty, no nobility, no standing army, beyond the few men keeping watch on the Indians, no bureaucracy with permanent posts or the right to pensions.

And nevertheless we find here two great gangs of political speculators, who alternately take possession of the state power and exploit it by the most corrupt means and for the most corrupt ends — and the nation is powerless against these two great cartels of politicians, who are ostensibly its servants, but in reality dominate and plunder it.

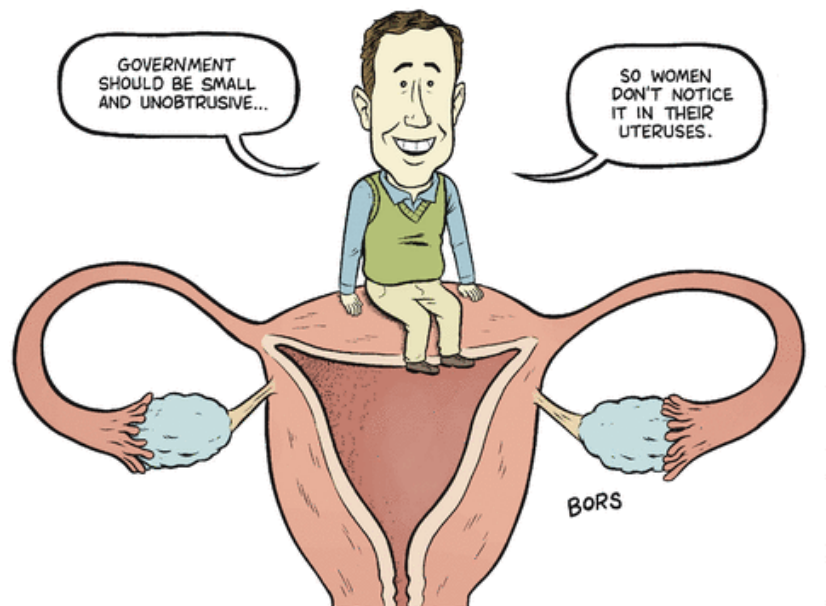
Against this transformation of the state and the organs of the state from servants of society into masters of society — an inevitable transformation in all previous states — the Commune made use of two infallible means.

In the first place, it filled all posts — administrative, judicial, and educational — by election on the basis of universal suffrage of all concerned, subject to the right of recall at any time by the same electors.

And, in the second place, all officials, high or low, were paid only the wages received by other workers.

In this way an effective barrier to place hunting and careerism was set up, even apart from the binding mandates to delegates to representative bodies which were added besides.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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.

Military Resistance Available In PDF Format

If you prefer PDF to Word format, email: contact@militaryproject.org

Military Resistance www.militaryproject.org

*This is how Obama brings the troops home,
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE.*



*Military Resistance is a near-daily news bulletin for service members
www.militaryproject.org*

**“The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops.”
Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War**

Military Resistance Looks Even Better Printed Out

Military Resistance/GI Special are archived at website

<http://www.militaryproject.org> .

The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:

<http://williambowles.info/military-resistance-archives/>; news@uruknet.info;

http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi_special/;

<http://www.albasrah.net/pages/mod.php?header=res1&mod=gis&rep=gis>

Military Resistance distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan. We believe this constitutes a “fair use” of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **Military Resistance has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is Military Resistance endorsed or sponsored by the originators. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research, education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice.** Go to: www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond ‘fair use’, you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

If printed out, a copy of this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. “Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited.” DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.