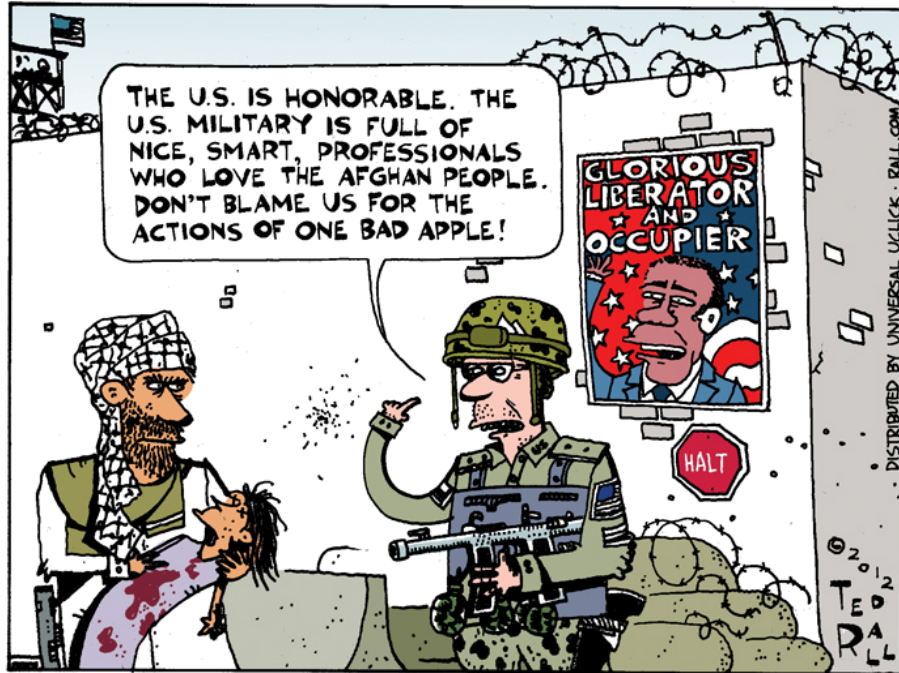


Military Resistance 10D2



Terrorists Murder Marine Corps Veteran In White Plains, New York:

**“A 68-Year-Old Former Marine
Named Kenneth Chamberlain With
A Heart Condition Accidentally
Pressed The Button On His
Medical Alert System While
Sleeping”**

**“By The Time The Police Left The Apartment, Kenneth Chamberlain Was Dead, Shot Twice In The Chest By A Police Officer Inside His Home”
“My Name Is Kenneth Chamberlain. This Is My Sworn Testimony. White Plains Police Are Going To Come In Here And Kill Me”**

[One of the best reasons to bring all troops home from Afghanistan now is to enable experienced combat forces to defend us from these armed terrorists killing citizens for no good reason at all. Payback is overdue. T]

March 29, 2012 Democracy Now! [Excerpts]

Guests:

Randolph McLaughlin, attorney for the family of Kenneth Chamberlain. He is a longtime civil rights attorney. He teaches at Pace Law School.

Mayo Bartlett, attorney for family of Kenneth Chamberlain. He is the former chief of the Bias Crimes Unit of the Westchester County District Attorney’s office and the former chair of the Westchester County Human Rights Commission.

Kenneth Chamberlain Jr., son of Kenneth Chamberlain, Sr.

JUAN GONZALEZ: As the shooting death of Trayvon Martin continues to draw national attention, today we look at another controversial shooting of an African-American male that has received far less scrutiny.

On the morning of November 19th, a 68-year-old former marine named Kenneth Chamberlain with a heart condition accidentally pressed the button on his medical alert system while sleeping.

Responding to the alert, police officers from the city of White Plains, New York, arrived at Chamberlain’s apartment in a public housing complex shortly after 5 a.m.

By the time the police left the apartment, Kenneth Chamberlain was dead, shot twice in the chest by a police officer inside his home.

Police gained entry to Chamberlain's apartment only after they took his front door off its hinges. Officers first shot him with a taser, then a beanbag shotgun, and then with live ammunition.

AMY GOODMAN: Relatives of Kenneth Chamberlain have questioned the police portrayal of events that led to his death, and they say audio and video recorded at the scene back up their case.

According to the family, Kenneth Chamberlain can be heard on an audio recording of his call to the medical alert system operator saying, quote, "Please leave me alone. I'm 68 with a heart condition. Why are you doing this to me? Can you please leave me alone?"

Officers allegedly responded by calling Chamberlain a racial slur while urging him to open the door. The audio recording of the incident has not been made public and remains in the possession of the Westchester District Attorney's office.

In early December, Kenneth Chamberlain, a retired marine, was buried with military honors.

Several months after his death, the name of the officer who killed Kenneth Chamberlain has yet to be released.

We invited the White Plains Police Department and the Westchester DA's office on to the program, but they declined to join us or issue a comment.

Our condolences to your family, Kenneth Chamberlain, on the death of your father.

KENNETH CHAMBERLAIN, JR.: Thank you.

AMY GOODMAN: Tell us what you understand happened early in the morning of November 19th.

KENNETH CHAMBERLAIN, JR.: Well, it's my understanding that, from what I've gathered right now, that my father accidentally pushed his medical pendant around his neck. He could have possibly turned over on it. We don't know. We can only speculate about that.

AMY GOODMAN: Why did he wear it?

KENNETH CHAMBERLAIN, JR.: He has a heart condition, and he also suffered from COPD. And when he—the pendant was triggered—

AMY GOODMAN: You're holding that in—

KENNETH CHAMBERLAIN, JR.: Yes.

AMY GOODMAN: —his hand.

KENNETH CHAMBERLAIN, JR.: This is his pendant right here. It was triggered, and the medical company—there's a box inside his home. The medical company asked him if he was all right. They didn't get a response.

So, automatically, if you don't get a response, they send medical services to your house.

They informed the police that they are responding to a medical emergency, not a crime.

And once they arrived at my father's home, my father did tell them that he was OK. But for some reason, they wanted to gain entry into my father's home. I don't know why. And in the audio, you hear my father telling them that he's fine, he's OK.

JUAN GONZALEZ: Now, this is an important point, that there was audio going on throughout this between the firm and your father.

KENNETH CHAMBERLAIN, JR.: Correct.

JUAN GONZALEZ: And so, much of the activity of the police was caught on this audio.

KENNETH CHAMBERLAIN, JR.: Yes, it was.

JUAN GONZALEZ: Now you were able to hear this audio because the DA's office allowed you to hear it? How did you—

KENNETH CHAMBERLAIN, JR.: Yes.

JUAN GONZALEZ: But it has not yet been released.

KENNETH CHAMBERLAIN, JR.: No, it hasn't.

AMY GOODMAN: So, continue. You hear your father through the door telling the police he's OK. This is about 5:00 in the morning?

KENNETH CHAMBERLAIN, JR.: Yes. He's saying that he's OK. He's saying that he did not call for them.

But they were very insistent. They were banging on the door, banging on the door, banging on the door. So you hear one of the officers say to him, "Well, you pushed your — you triggered your alarm now."

He said, "That's because I want you to leave me alone." And they just kept telling him, "Open the door. Open the door. Let us see that you're all right."

At some point, the door was cracked open, because the police officers have a taser that has a camera on it, and it also has audio. So you could see where the door was cracked open.

So, once you've gotten a visual, and you've seen that my father is OK, and he's telling you that he's OK, why would you still insist on getting into the apartment? Which is the question that I have.

And they weren't responding to a crime. He was sleeping and accidentally triggered his alarm.

JUAN GONZALEZ: And the officers then did what?

KENNETH CHAMBERLAIN, JR.: Ultimately, after using expletives and racial slurs, they broke down the door.

You can see on the video from the taser that they fired a taser at him.

And I'm assuming that both prongs didn't go in. He stood about maybe eight to 10 feet away from them with his hands down to his side. And at one point, you hear one of the officers say, "Cut it off." And it was at that point they shot and killed my father.

AMY GOODMAN: Did you hear what the police officers were saying, were shouting to him before they — did they take the door off the hinges?

KENNETH CHAMBERLAIN, JR.: They took it completely off the hinges.

AMY GOODMAN: To get in.

KENNETH CHAMBERLAIN, JR.: Yes. There were no orders given to him once they knocked the door down, though, which you would have expected, that they would have given some type of verbal command and said, "Get down on the floor. Put your hands up. Get against the wall." None of those things were said.

JUAN GONZALEZ: And the allegation that he tried to attack them with a weapon first through the crack in the door and then once they got in the house?

KENNETH CHAMBERLAIN, JR.: I didn't see that. I can't say that it didn't happen, but from the video that I've seen and from what I gathered from the audio, I didn't see where my father attacked them.

And he was inside his home, so where was the immediate threat?

AMY GOODMAN: What exactly did you hear your father say? He was inside the house as the police are coming inside, and the medical pendant company is recording all of this.

KENNETH CHAMBERLAIN, JR.: I've heard — I heard several things on there. One thing you hear is my father pleading with them to leave him alone. Excuse me. You hear him asking them why are they doing this to him. He says, "I'm a 68-year-old man with a heart condition. Why are you doing this to me?"

"I know what you're going to do: you're going to come in here, and you're going to kill me."

You also hear him pleading with the officers again, over and over. And at one point, that's when the expletive is used by one of the police officers.

AMY GOODMAN: What did they say?

KENNETH CHAMBERLAIN, JR.: Where they say, "I don't give a F." And then they use the N-word.

And then, as I said, ultimately, they bust down the door. And it hurts because, as I said, it didn't have to go to that point.

You also hear the operators from the LifeAid company call the police station and say that they want to cancel the call, Mr. Chamberlain is OK. And at one point you hear the officer there at their central office say, "We're not canceling anything."

They say, "Call his son. Contact his son." And they say, "We're not contacting anyone. We don't need any mediators."

JUAN GONZALEZ: I'd like to bring in Mayo Bartlett, because you're not only an attorney for the family in this case, but you are also a former prosecutor—

MAYO BARTLETT: Yes.

JUAN GONZALEZ: —in Westchester County, so you're familiar with police procedures in cases like this. I'm struck by the fact that the identity of the police officer involved has not yet been revealed. That's something that's pretty routine in cases like this, certainly by this time, because we're talking about an event that happened in November.

MAYO BARTLETT: Absolutely. I think that anybody who lives in the city of White Plains has to ask themselves whether this individual is working right now. And if so, in what capacity? And I think that it's just—it's atrocious that that name has not been released and that the officers involved are not at least on desk duty, some type of modified duty.

Looking at it as a former prosecutor, whenever you talk about a use of force, you always look at a use of force continuum, and it's an escalation of force.

And generally, police departments have rules and protocols which suggest that you should first start out with a verbal command, if in fact there's even a need to do that and if that's the least intrusive manner that you can address an issue. And after that, it goes generally to a light hands application, and it goes up from there to possibly a baton, pepper spray, possibly a taser.

And you use deadly force only when it's necessary to prevent deadly force from being used.

And in this case, Mr. Chamberlain didn't have a gun.

Mr. Chamberlain, when I saw the videotape, did not have a knife when he was in his apartment.

You see a 68-year-old man with no shirt on and boxer shorts and his hands down at his sides. And I didn't see any weapon in his hands there.

And the other thing that's troubling to me is the fact that a taser was used at all, because you're there for a medical response.

You're not there investigating a criminal act. You are there with the understanding that there may be a person who needs medical assistance.

AMY GOODMAN: For a man with a heart condition, no less.

MAYO BARTLETT: Absolutely. And so, if you understand that, to use a taser, which is going to send significant electricity through that person's body, would be, at best, reckless. And that alone could cause his death.

And the thing that's extremely troubling to me is that, again, the police were not there to respond to criminal activity. They went to the gentleman's house at 5:00 in the morning to give him assistance. The only reason that he had the LifeAid pendant to begin with was so that his family and that he would be comfortable that if something was to occur, he would be able to get assistance.

AMY GOODMAN: I want to read part of the initial news coverage around the killing of Kenneth Chamberlain, Sr. The headline on the News 12 website read, quote, "Officer fatally shoots hatchet-wielding man." TheDailyWhitePlains.com website posted an article titled "Police Fatally Shoot Disturbed Man Carrying Knife." The story begins, quote, "White Plains police say an officer discharged two rounds, fatally shooting an emotionally disturbed White Plains man who attempted to bar officers from entering his apartment with a hatchet and then turned towards police with a butcher's knife." Randy McLaughlin, would you respond to this?

RANDOLPH McLAUGHLIN: Well, first, one of the problems in a wrongful death case like this is, you've got a decedent, the person who's dead, and the police initially put out their spin. And that's a spin. That's clearly a spin.

The videotape had —t here's also a videotape of what happened in that hallway. There's an audio tape.

There's a videotape of Mr. Chamberlain when they come at him with the taser.

This is a clear violation of criminal law and of constitutional rights.

In our country, we have a Fourth Amendment that says we're supposed to be secure in our own homes. Mr. Chamberlain wasn't attacking anyone. He was in his home.

This idea that they—he attacked anyone with a hatchet is, frankly, a lie.

That's what it is. It's a cover story to cover up what they've done here.

RANDOLPH McLAUGHLIN: They have so many problems here. Mr. Chamberlain's niece was in the hallway right at the time when they were banging on the door. She said to them, "I'm his niece." They pushed her away.

AMY GOODMAN: She lived upstairs?

KENNETH CHAMBERLAIN, JR.: Yes.

RANDOLPH McLAUGHLIN: On the fifth floor. Another officer who was present had a full head-to-toe body shield that could stop bullets. And rather than secure the situation—let's assume for the sake of this discussion that they had a right to see him to make sure he was OK. OK, so the door is open. You see him there. Why are you entering his apartment?

It's kind of like Zimmerman. You provoke a situation, then you respond to it, "Oh, I had to use deadly force to protect myself." No, you provoked the situation. You had no right to cross that man's threshold in his home. That's what led to the problem.

MAYO BARTLETT: This is individuals who are acting under color of law. These are people who are employed by the government to give you assistance. So I think that that's even more egregious than an individual who may exercise terrible judgment or have bias in their heart.

And if you simply reverse the roles here, if Mr. Chamberlain had shot at a police officer or harmed a police officer, even if it wasn't with deadly force, if an officer ended up having a bloody nose, in all likelihood Mr. Chamberlain, 68-year-old 20-year retired corrections officer and a gentleman who served this country in the Marines for six years, would have been charged with a felony assault.

JUAN GONZALEZ: I'd like to ask you about this issue, that they're talking about bringing this case to a grand jury in April. This happened in November. We're talking now five or six months later that they're empaneling even a grand jury to discuss the facts, not necessarily to charge—possibly to charge someone. But it seems to me a long time to wait for—even for a grand jury on this.

MAYO BARTLETT: And the biggest concern I have with respect to the grand jury is that we do not have an opportunity to present information to a grand jury in New York state. The only person who does that is the district attorney's office.

So we can't even determine whether they're going to play the audio tape at all. If there will play the audio tape, or, if so, whether it's going to be redacted. So we're really stuck with a good faith offering from the district attorney that it's going to be fully presented.

AMY GOODMAN: Kenneth Chamberlain, Jr., tell us about your dad, Kenneth Chamberlain, Sr.

KENNETH CHAMBERLAIN, JR.: When people ask me about that, I tell people he was a father like anyone else. I mean, he agreed with some things that you did, and he disagreed with others. But my father would never hurt anyone intentionally. He wouldn't

go after anyone. I mean, he was law enforcement himself. He was a marine. I'm sure whatever he's seen when he served, that that was enough violence for him.

AMY GOODMAN: When did you hear your father had been killed?

AMY GOODMAN: You're holding your father's ID card, as well?

KENNETH CHAMBERLAIN, JR.: Yes, I have his Marine ring, his veteran's card. He was proud to be a marine. And even on the audio, you hear the police officers making fun of the fact that he was a marine. And—

AMY GOODMAN: What do you mean?

KENNETH CHAMBERLAIN, JR.: They asked my father to open the door. He refused. He said, "I'm not opening my door." They said something to the effect that they were going to knock it down. He said, "I won't let you in." And he said "Semper Fi."

So they said, "Oh, you're a marine. Hoo-rah. Hoo-rah."

And this is somebody that served this country. Why would you even say that to him?

And my father always said, "Once a marine, always a marine," if he was ever in trouble and couldn't get help from anybody else, to call on a marine.

And a lot of those things come back now, where things that I had—just I thought went in one ear and right out the other, but in light of these things, when you hear the audio, when you look at the video, all of these things come back.

And in 45 years of me being on this earth, that was the very first time that I ever heard my father where he was pleading and begging for his life, someone who I looked at as being extremely strong, to hear him beg for his life, to say that this was his sworn testimony on the audio, which the police did not know that was being recorded.

He said, "My name is Kenneth Chamberlain. This is my sworn testimony. White Plains police are going to come in here and kill me."

JUAN GONZALEZ: Well, and the amazing thing about this is that they were supposed to come there to assist him—

KENNETH CHAMBERLAIN, JR.: Yes.

JUAN GONZALEZ: —that there was no indication of any kind of a crime—

KENNETH CHAMBERLAIN, JR.: Exactly.

JUAN GONZALEZ: —and that he would have depended on them for help, and instead this happens.

RANDOLPH McLAUGHLIN: I think it's important—you know, we're lawyers. This is what we do. But I think it's important to always remember and look at this case not as a case, but as a human being who lost his life over a needless situation, and look at the impact that this kind of senseless killing has on his family.

This man lost his father. He gets a call at 5 a.m. "My father is in—having a difficult" — why didn't they call him? He could have been there in five minutes. I mean, the lack of professionalism in this department is shocking.

The fact that they—that no public official in the city of White Plains has come and said to this man, "I'm sorry over the loss of your father." I mean, Mayor Bloomberg has done that in New York. Whether I agree with everything he's done, at least he has the decency to do that. No one has reached out to this man at all.

So, we have prepared to take this case to the fullest extent. We filed a notice of claim on behalf of the family, and we're waiting a little time to give the DA a chance to do what she has to do.

But if they don't do the right thing in White Plains, we're coming to Manhattan to seek justice in the Department of Justice with the U.S. attorney's office.

MAYO BARTLETT: Randy, if I can just follow on what you're saying also, it's interesting that the very first coverage of this comes from the White Plains Police Department.

And the White Plains Police Department neglects to mention that they were there for a medical emergency. They don't state that.

They lead you to believe that they were there to deal with a person who was out of control, who was a threat to the community, who was somehow out there and required their assistance.

And I remember watching it as it occurred, and I'm sitting down with my friend and his sons, who are in high school.

And it had a picture of the White Plains police car and a target on the police vehicle, as if the police had been targeted.

And there was a statement immediately made that it was a justified shooting.

And that statement had to have been made before they were aware that there was audio and that perhaps some of the video contradicts that.

And it's very similar to Mr. Zimmerman suggesting that he had a bloody nose, and now you look at the video, and it doesn't appear to be the case. And that really makes you question what we're being told sometimes by government with respect to these types of matters.

And to any degree that Mr. Chamberlain was emotional, it was because he was taunted. They created the situation. They escalated a situation.

And police are trained.

They're trained to deal with people who are emotionally disturbed. They're not trained to kill those individuals, and certainly not an individual who's 68 years old when you have a ballistic shield and a dozen officers and firefighters that are present who could have simply gone in.

But there was a suggestion that Mr. Chamberlain had left his home and that the officers were retreating. That never occurred.

The minute they got into the house, they didn't even give him one command.

They never mentioned, "Put your hand up."

They never told him to lay down on the bed. They never did any of that. The first thing they did, as soon as that door was finally broken off the hinges, you could see the taser light up, and it was charged, and you could see it going directly toward him. Now that was 100 percent unnecessary.

And when you see that video, which I wish was public, because I think that the grand jury is used as a shield, and it shouldn't be.

It's a shield for people who have committed crimes and generally a shield for law enforcement, because, again, these same videos are made public, very public, when they involve civilians who are charged.

And I think that the shielding provision of the grand jury, the secrecy provision, is to prevent people from organized—being threatened by organized crime figures, not to protect you from your own police department.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, I want to thank you all for being with us and end on a final question to Kenneth Chamberlain, Jr. When you heard of the killing of Trayvon Martin, your thoughts, as you're going through what you're going? They're saying they, too, in Florida, will be convening a grand jury, apparently at about the same time as the grand jury will be convened in the case of the death of your father that occurred months earlier.

KENNETH CHAMBERLAIN, JR.: My heart definitely goes out to that family, because I know exactly what it is that they're feeling right now. And it took me a while before I actually listened to the released 911 tapes of that day with that young man. And when I finally got up the nerve to listen to it, to hear him in the background yelling for help—and I think it was about maybe three times—and then you hear a gunshot, and you don't hear him anymore, it brought tears to my eyes immediately.

And it—of course, it also made me think about my own father, because I hear him pleading for his life, too. And it's the same thing that happened with this young man. So I would just encourage that family to just keep up the fight and don't give up, the same as I'm doing.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, Kenneth Chamberlain, I want to thank you very much for being with us. You have a petition online right now?

KENNETH CHAMBERLAIN, JR.: I just took the petition down, but I also have a Facebook page that says “Justice for Kenneth Chamberlain, Sr.” that a lot of people have gone on and requested to be a part of, where I just keep people updated about the events that are taking place. Very recently, I just posted that I was going to be here. And before that, I spoke about the fact that no elected officials in White Plains have spoken to my family, and why haven’t they? They haven’t commented. And you would think that they would. But I guess that’s another question for another day.

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.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Supply Convoy Ambushed In West Afghanistan

Mar 29, 2012 The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Insurgents ambushed a foreign military supply convoy in a mountainous area of western Afghanistan, sparking a three-hour firefight.

Najibullah Najibi, a spokesman for the Afghan National Army’s western region, said the battle raged Wednesday along a highway regularly used by military supply trucks in Bala Buluk district of Farah province.

“The fighting was intense and we sent in extra forces,” Najibi said.

There were varying estimates of the number of militants killed.

Sayed Abdul Wahid, an official of the Arya security company, said his workers who were fighting with AK47s were overpowered by militants using heavy weapons, including rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns.

He said five of his employees were killed and five others were wounded by insurgents who burned three vehicles in the convoy.

Roadside Bombs Kill Afghan Police Commander, Councilmen

1 April 2012 TREND

Roadside bombs in southern Afghanistan have killed an Afghan police commander, another officer and three provincial councilmen, officials said on Sunday, DPA reported.

The three separate roadside bombings took place in Uruzgan province, when the victims' vehicles struck bombs planted by militants, the officials said.

On Sunday noon, a roadside bomb struck a police vehicle in Trinkot, the provincial capital of Uruzgan province, killing Tor Jan, a police commander along with fellow police officer, Farid Ayel, the provincial governor spokesman said.

He said that Tor Jan was on a patrol when the bomb planted by Taliban militants along the road was detonated remotely.

Separately, in Gezab district of the same province, two roadside bombs struck two vehicles carrying the district's local council members, killing three of them and injuring two others, Sayed Hamdard, Uruzgan's governor spokesman said.

Hamdard blamed Taliban militants for the bombing but the militants were not immediately available for comment.

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

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

More Resistance Action

April 1 Associated Press

A remote-controlled bomb in southern Afghanistan killed a police official Sunday who had survived multiple previous attempts on his life, police said.

Toor Jan, an officer in charge of several checkpoints in Uruzgan province's capital Tarin Kot, died along with one of his bodyguards when their vehicle passed through an area where explosives had been planted, said Fareed Ayel, a spokesman for the provincial police chief.

Taliban and other insurgents frequently target local officials to undermine the Kabul government's authority.

On Saturday, a roadside bomb killed two local council members and an Afghan policeman in Gizab district of Uruzgan province, Ayal said.

He said two other council members were wounded when their car hit a second bomb nearby.

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

**“As A Result Of The Shootings,
More Than 300 Advisers Were
Pulled Out Of The Afghan
Ministries”**

**“So Far, Several Dozen Have
Returned”**

**“Officials Insist The Killings Have Not
Hampered The U.S. Mission In
Afghanistan’**

Mar 29, 2012 By Lolita C. Baldor and Pauline Jelinek - The Associated Press [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON — U.S. military commanders in Afghanistan have assigned “guardian angels” — troops that watch over their comrades even as they sleep — and have ordered a series of other increased security measures to protect troops against possible attacks by rogue Afghans.

Some of the changes have been subtle, others not so much.

In several Afghan ministries, Americans are now allowed to carry weapons. And they have been instructed to rearrange their office desks there to face the door, so they can see who is coming in, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to describe the internal directive.

The security measures came after the U.S. military mistakenly burned Korans and other religious materials in February, triggering anti-American demonstrations and riots. And on Feb. 25, two U.S. military advisers were gunned down at their desks in one of the most heavily guarded ministry building in Kabul.

As a result of the shootings, more than 300 advisers were pulled out of the Afghan ministries. So far, several dozen have returned, but many will not go back until additional security measures are put in place by the Afghans.

That would include better vetting procedures, background checks and physical security measures at the ministries.

The military official also said some advisers may not return, since commanders have determined that some may no longer be needed in the jobs.

Officials insist the killings have not hampered the U.S. mission in Afghanistan.

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

<p>Hope for change doesn't cut it when you're still losing buddies. -- J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War</p>

The Gravedigger

By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50 Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan

From *Peace Speaks From The Mirror*

**It's cold in the morning
and he shivers,
he kicks up the furnace
he turns down at night
these heating bills are killer
he puts some coffee on
trying to remember
who he buries today
these Michigan winters
freeze the ground on down
he needs some gas
in the truck
and the digger too
it's a hell of a way
to make a living
but it's steady pay
After a cup and a half
of coffee and three cigarettes
it dawns on him who's grave
he has to dig today
it's Mary and John's son
from across the tracks
the paper had his picture
he was just a boy
played football
at the old high school
a stand out star**

joined the Army after that
cause all the jobs are gone.

FTA!

**The Film Provides A Rare Glimpse
Into The Revolt From Below That
Ultimately Forced The Pentagon To
Withdraw In Defeat From Vietnam:
“Behind-The-Scenes Footage Of Soldiers
Talking Candidly To The Troupe
Members About Their Frustration And
Anger At The Ongoing War”**



FTA Trailer

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4HlkgPCgU7g&eurl=http://imgineaworldof.blogspot.com/&feature=player_embedded

**FINALLY, AFTER 35-YEARS IN EXILE
FTA IS BACK! AVAILABLE FEBRUARY 24
EXCLUSIVELY ON DVD
FROM DISPLACED FILMS AND
NEW VIDEO/ DOCURAMA**

FTA:

Ultra-Rare! F.T.A. (aka FREE THE ARMY aka FUN, TRAVEL, ADVENTURE), 1972, Displaced Films, 97 min. Dir. Francine Parker.

F.T.A. was originally released by American-International but pulled from distribution after only one week, with rumors of pressure from the Pentagon.

– Phil Hall, Film Threat

About The Film:

[Thanks to Michael Letwin, New York City Labor Against The War & Military Project, who sent this in.]

February 22, 2009 By Dennis Lim, Los Angeles Times [Excerpts]

A time capsule of the anti-Vietnam War movement, "FTA" is also a vivid flashback to a world-famous movie star's stint as a political radical. At the peak of her celebrity, which coincided with the dawning of her political consciousness, Jane Fonda abdicated her Hollywood throne and remade herself as the face of the anti-establishment.

With government agents and the news media watching her every move, she led a vaudeville troupe on a tour of U.S. military bases in 1971 -- a trip chronicled in this fascinating documentary, largely unseen since its brief, abortive release and finally available on DVD this week.

In the disc's only extra, a 20-minute interview, Fonda recounts how the project came about. She and Donald Sutherland, her costar in 1971's "Klute" (which won her an Oscar), were approached by Howard Levy, a doctor who had become an antiwar cause célèbre for refusing to train Green Beret medics.

He proposed that they put on a corrective to Bob Hope's gung-ho USO shows, giving voice not just to the growing peace movement but to antiwar sentiment within the ranks of the military.

The FTA troupe staged its first shows in the U.S., with Fonda and Sutherland (who had just played the irreverent Hawkeye in Robert Altman's "MASH") headlining a company that included Peter Boyle and Howard Hesseman. (The all-purpose acronym is short for "Free the Army" and a more profane variation.)

When it came time to embark on the two-week Pacific Rim tour, Fonda assembled a more politically correct lineup that stressed racial and gender parity -- equal numbers of black and white, and male and female, performers, including singer Holly Near and comedian Paul Mooney.

Fonda, Sutherland and company stopped off in Hawaii, the Philippines, Okinawa and Japan (where they were initially refused entry). Denied permission to perform on U.S. bases, they set up shop in nearby coffeehouses and other venues, although military officials apparently tried to minimize attendance by publicizing incorrect show times.

All told, the troupe played 21 shows, which were attended by some 64,000 servicemen and women. Many of the male GIs, as Fonda ruefully concedes in the interview, must have been anticipating the Space Age sex kitten from "Barbarella" and not the righteous radical who took the stage in jeans, no makeup and a raised fist.

The show mixes protest songs with broad and bawdy skits, taking potshots at military chauvinism and top-brass privilege. But what it lacks in finesse, it makes up for with a raucous energy.

Directed by Francine Parker (who died in 2007), the documentary alternates between the song-and-dance routines and behind-the-scenes footage of soldiers talking candidly to the troupe members about their frustration and anger at the ongoing war and the American presence in the region.

As fate would have it, "FTA" opened the same week in July 1972 that news broke of Fonda's trip to Hanoi, where she made radio broadcasts for the North Vietnamese regime and was photographed sitting on an anti-aircraft gun. Within a week, the distributor (youth-flick specialist American-International Pictures) had pulled the movie from theaters.

Fonda's career went into partial eclipse, and she remains to this day a favorite target of the right, but she recovered to win a second Oscar for the 1978 war-veteran drama "Coming Home." For years she quietly has distanced herself from her radical past, which might explain why "FTA," which she co-produced, has been out of circulation for more than three decades.

Its recent reemergence points to a change of heart and owes much to the efforts of filmmaker David Zeiger, who used footage from "FTA" in "Sir! No Sir!," a 2005 documentary about antiwar resistance within the military.

To Get Your Copy Of FTA:

<http://www.sirnosir.com/FTA.html>



From Vietnam War Days

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MILITARY?**



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

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OCCUPATION PALESTINE

The Heroic Zionist Occupiers Make War On Unarmed Fishermen: “Khamis And The Other Fishermen Were In The ‘Permitted’ Area, Designated By Israel Within Three Nautical Miles From The Coast”



Khamis Baker, Gazan fisherman - Photo courtesy of Rosa Schiano, 2012

March 28, 2012 By Rosa Schiano, il Blog di Oliva

A Palestinian fisherman, Khamis Baker, was injured on Sunday morning when the Israeli navy opened fire on a group of Palestinian fishing boats in the waters of Gaza.

The Khamis family's home, in Al-Shati camp ("Beach" camp), is poorly lit, the ceiling falls into pieces, and there is no glass on the windows.

Khamis has a bandage on his forehead. The doctors sewed his wound with three stitches. A group of children crowded the room during our visit.

“Every day we face difficulties” Khamis began to tell us. “Every day we face the fire of the Israeli navy which wants to prevent us from fishing.”

Khamis was on the boat with his 16 year old son and three cousins.

“The previous day I sent my son to the gasoline station, we decided to go fishing on Sunday morning. While we were at sea, the Israeli Navy started to shoot using water cannons. Suddenly my son told me that there was blood on my face, I was wounded.”

“It was a waste of time and gasoline, -Khamis continues, – hours and hours spent at the gasoline station in order to get the fuel.

The Israeli navy ship fired continuously since the morning and it turned quickly around our boats in order to create waves.”

Khamis and the other fishermen were in the “permitted” area, designated by Israel within three nautical miles from the coast. Nonetheless, the soldiers were shouting to them, “Go to the south, go away.”

There were more than twenty fishing boats at sea. But because they could not fish anymore, they all went back to the port.

Khamis has worked for thirty years as a fisherman and has nine children. In the same home live also the families of his relatives, totaling about one hundred people. They all depend on fishing.

I ask Khamis how much they can gain from fishing. “150 shekels,” he answers me which is the equivalent of \$40, “but half of it goes to pay the gasoline only. The rest is divided by five, so we gain a maximum of 20 shekels each.”

Khamis tells us that there is no way to fish beyond three miles. The Israeli navy ships arrive quickly. Once their boat overturned and they felt in the sea.

I finally ask Khamis if he feels like sending a message to the international community.

“We demand at least a guarantee for our future, we need to live in safety, we ask at least a guarantee for the security of our children. We do not ask anything, just to end the siege, because the Palestinian people suffer and die because of it. Every fisherman suffers from this situation.”

Khamis is just one of the many fishermen injured by the Israeli navy in the waters of Gaza.

Israel regularly attacks the Palestinian fishermen within the limit of three nautical miles and prevents them from fishing by using firearms and water cannons.

The restrictions on the fishing area have a significant impact on the subsistence of the fishermen of Gaza.

This area should extend for 20 nautical miles according to the Jericho Agreements of 1994 (under the Oslo agreements), but was then reduced to 12 miles, then 6 and finally at 3 miles in January 2009.

The “buffer zone” of water imposed by Israel prevents the Gaza fishermen from accessing the 85% of the marine area that the Oslo agreement entitles them to use.

[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.”]

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



“The United States, European Allies And Even Israel Generally Agree On Three Things”

Iran “Does Not Have A Bomb, Has Not Decided To Build One, And Is Probably Years Away From Having A Deliverable Nuclear Warhead”

“Iran Has No Secret Uranium-Enrichment Site”

“Any Iranian Move Toward Building A Functional Nuclear Weapon Would Be Detected Long Before A Bomb Was Made”

March 23, 2012 By Tabassum Zakaria and Mark Hosenball, Reuters [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The United States, European allies and even Israel generally agree on three things about Iran's nuclear program: Tehran does not have a bomb, has not decided to build one, and is probably years away from having a deliverable nuclear warhead.

Those conclusions, drawn from extensive interviews with current and former U.S. and European officials with access to intelligence on Iran, contrast starkly with the heated debate surrounding a possible Israeli strike on Tehran's nuclear facilities.

Reuters has learned that in late 2006 or early 2007, U.S. intelligence intercepted telephone and email communications in which Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, a leading figure in Iran's nuclear program, and other scientists complained that the weaponization program had been stopped.

That led to a bombshell conclusion in a controversial 2007 National Intelligence Estimate:

American spy agencies had “high confidence” that Iran halted its nuclear weapons program in the fall of 2003.

Current and former U.S. officials say they are confident that Iran has no secret uranium-enrichment site outside the purview of U.N. nuclear inspections.

They also have confidence that any Iranian move toward building a functional nuclear weapon would be detected long before a bomb was made.

A November 2011 report by the U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency said suspected nuclear weaponization efforts led by Fakhrizadeh were “stopped rather abruptly pursuant to a 'halt order' instruction issued in late 2003 by senior Iranian officials.”

Iran emphasizes its nuclear program is for civilian purposes. Ayatollah Khamenei this week said Iran does not have nuclear weapons and will not build them.

“I think they are years away from having a nuclear weapon,” a U.S. administration official said.

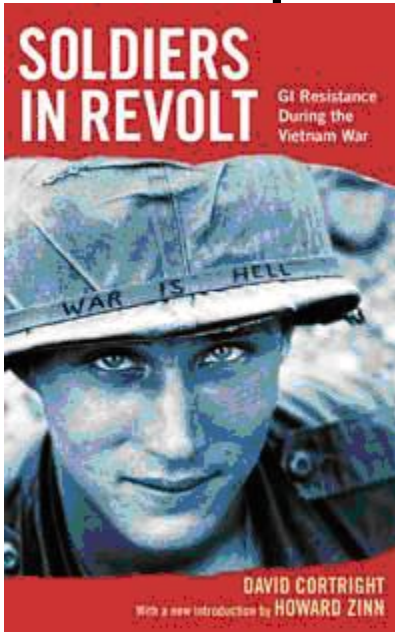
Iran has a declared nuclear program for medical research and producing energy, is a member of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and allows U.N. nuclear inspectors into its facilities. The inspections are conducted by the International Atomic Energy Agency, and its reports provide some of the best snapshots of where Iran's program stands.

The IAEA monitors Iran's enrichment facilities closely, watching with cameras and taking measurements during inspections. Seals would have to be broken if containers that collect the enriched material were moved or tampered with.

CLASS WAR REPORTS



**FREE TO ACTIVE DUTY:
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About How An Armed Forces Rebellion
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is the lack of outreach to the troops.”
Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War**

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