

Military Resistance 10D3



The Experts Have Decided: 45% Of Army Times Readers Voting Say Get Out Of Afghanistan "ASAP" 23% Say "Stay The Course"

Army Times 4.2.12

Recent violent incidents have seriously strained relations between U.S. and Afghan officials, with Afghan president Hamid Karzai calling U.S. forces "demons" and demanding U.S. and NATO troops leave rural areas at once.

What does this mean for the U.S. mission there?

It's a sign we need to leave ASAP

45.79 % (1398)

We should consider leaving sooner than planned

30.95 % (945)

It doesn't mean much; we should stay the course

23.26 % (710)

Total votes: 3053

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



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

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

Whether in Afghanistan or at a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, inside the armed services and at home.

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

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Maimanah Bomb Kills 3 U.S. Soldiers; Number Wounded Not Announced



American soldiers in Afghanistan blown up in a bombing on Wednesday in Maimana, the capital of Faryab Province, north of Kabul. Gul Buddin Elham/Associated Press

April 4th 2012 The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan—A bomber on a motorcycle killed at least 10 people, including three American soldiers, at a park in a relatively peaceful area of northern Afghanistan on Wednesday, part of an increase in violence at the start of the spring fighting season

Shortly before noon, the bomber detonated his explosives at the gate of the park in Maimanah, the capital of Faryab province, police spokesman Lal Mohammad Ahmad Zai said.

His target was unclear, but Zai said four of the 10 killed were Afghan police officers. At least 20 people were wounded, officials said.

Associated Press video footage of the scene of the attack shows what appear to be dead Afghan civilians, police and U.S. troops. Body parts are strewn around the gate and on the ground, which is spattered with blood.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi said a bomber detonated his explosive belt among coalition forces in Maimanah as they were traveling to a park.

He added that eyewitnesses said that the coalition troops indiscriminately fired their weapons, killing one civilian and wounding others. That report could not be confirmed.

Two Foreign Occupation “Servicemembers” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan Tuesday: Nationality Not Announced

April 3, 2012 Reuters

Two foreign servicemembers died in eastern Afghanistan today. One died in a roadside bombing, another in an insurgent attack

New Jersey Marine Killed In Afghanistan Two Weeks Before Returning Home



Staff Sgt. Joseph D'Augustine (credit: Handout via CBS 2)

March 29, 2012 (CBSNewYork)

WALDWICK, N.J. – Just two weeks before he was supposed to return home, a New Jersey Marine has been killed in Afghanistan.

Friends say Staff Sgt. Joseph D'Augustine, of Waldwick, grew up wanting to be a US Marine, and in the end, it was a dream that he died for.

"It's a hell of a thing, you know, it hurts," neighbor Anthony Scicchitano told CBS 2's Kathryn Brown.

Scicchitano watched from his house across the street as decorated military officers delivered the devastating news to D'Augustine's mother on Tuesday, Brown reported.

"After they left I went across the street and said, 'Patti, it can't be' and she said, 'I lost my son,'" Scicchitano said.

D'Augustine, who graduated from Waldwick High School in 2001, was assigned to the 8th Engineer Support Battalion of the 2nd Marine Logistics Group stationed out of Camp Lejeune.

The 29-year-old was a specialist trained to dismantle bombs and land mines.

"That's what took Joey's life; he was diffusing a bomb," Scicchitano said. "Somebody's gotta do the job and unfortunately Joey picked the wrong card."

D'Augustine was on his fourth tour of duty overseas – his second in Afghanistan.

Family friend Adam Scicchitano says D'Augustine's father was a police detective and being a Marine was his way of following in those footsteps. "I think he had a passion for the military," Scicchitano said. "He knew what he was doing and he loved what he was doing."

D'Augustine was scheduled to return home in less than two weeks for his sister's wedding.

"She spoke to him Monday night before she went to bed and this happened the day after," Scicchitano said. "She would have loved him to be here; everybody would have loved him to be here."

D'Augustine's family has traveled from their home in Waldwick to Maryland to retrieve his body.

There is no word yet on funeral arrangements. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie has offered his condolences to the family and said he is in the process of ordering flags lowered in honor of the fallen soldier.

Flags are already flying at half-staff along Franklin Turnpike and Prospect Street in Waldwick.

Marine Dies April 3 Of Wounds Sustained Jan. 18, 2012, In Helmand Province

April 05, 2012 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 243-12

Cpl. Christopher D. Bordoni, 21, of Ithaca, N.Y., died April 3 of wounds sustained Jan. 18, 2012, while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT THE BLOODSHED

THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE WAR

Resistance Fighters Kill 9 Afghan Police And Capture 11 In 2 Days: Taliban Say "The Way They Were Fighting, It Looked Like They Might Have Been On Drugs. That's Why The Police Are Claiming That We Poisoned Them"

Apr. 03, 2012 The Associated Press

Some Afghan authorities say insurgents have poisoned the food of policemen and then attacked their checkpoint in southern Afghanistan, leaving six people dead.

The governor's office did not say whether the dead were killed by poisoning or in the fighting at the police outpost in Nahri Sarraj district.

Four policemen were killed and two were wounded in the fighting.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi rejected the government's account of the clashes, saying Taliban fighters attacked the checkpoint and seized weapons and a vehicle but didn't poison the police.

"The way they were fighting, it looked like they might have been on drugs. That's why the police are claiming that we poisoned them," he said. "We didn't."

In neighboring Kandahar province, two Afghan police officers were killed Tuesday morning when their vehicle ran over a roadside bomb in Shah Wali Kot district, provincial police chief Gen. Abdul Razaq said.

In the north, insurgents killed three police officers and captured 11 in an attack Monday night on a checkpoint in Wardoj district of Badakhshan province.

Provincial spokesman Abdul Marouf Rasekh said the Afghan National Police regained control of the checkpoint on Tuesday.

A search is under way for the 11 police officers who were captured.

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the attack.

More Attacks On Afghan Police Kill 10

4.5.12 By AFP

A bomber killed two policemen in Afghanistan on Thursday, hours after a Taliban attack on a police post on the other side of the insurgency-hit nation left eight dead, officials said.

Abdul Marouf Rasekh, provincial spokesman for Badakhshan, in the country's far north-east, said: "A suicide attacker targeted a group of local police forces in Keshm district today killing the commander of local police in the district and one of his bodyguards."

He named the commander as Nazek Mir.

Earlier, Naqibullah Farahi, spokesman for the western province of Farah, which borders Iran, said Taliban gunmen had killed eight local policemen in an attack on a remote post in Khaki Safed district late on Wednesday. "There were eight people in the post and all were killed," he said.

Contacted by AFP, Taliban spokesman Qari Yousuf Ahmadi claimed responsibility for that attack and said 12 local policemen had been killed.

<p>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</p>

U.S. Diplomatic Efforts To Persuade Pakistan To Reopen Supply Lines To The Afghan War Are Proving No Match For Rampant Opposition Here: “Opposition Legislators Are Demanding That The U.S. End Its Drone Strikes Against Militants As A Precondition”

Apr 3, 2012 Associated Press [Excerpts]

ISLAMABAD — U.S. diplomatic efforts to persuade Pakistan to reopen supply lines to the Afghan war are proving no match for rampant opposition here, with Pakistani lawmakers increasingly unwilling to support a decision that risks them branded as friends of Washington.

Opposition legislators are demanding that the U.S. end its drone strikes against militants as a precondition, complicating U.S. strategies for winding down the 10-year war just weeks before a major NATO conference in President Barack Obama’s hometown of Chicago.

Relations between the U.S. and Pakistan have been marked by mistrust since the two countries were thrust together following the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, but shared interests — near-bankrupt Pakistan needs American aid, America needs Pakistan’s support — had kept the alliance more or less intact.

That changed in November when U.S. airstrikes inadvertently killed 24 Pakistani troops on the Afghan border, triggering nationwide outrage and retaliation from Pakistan, which suspended diplomatic contacts and blocked vital land routes for U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan.

Seeking political cover, the weak coalition government ordered a parliamentary committee to come up with proposals for a new relationship with the U.S. On March 20, the committee presented its recommendations to parliament, which included the reopening of supply lines but with higher tariffs, and also an end to drone strikes.

U.S. officials had hoped the parliamentary session would lead to a quick resumption of ties, but that hasn’t happened.

Before November, about 30 percent of the nonfatal supplies for foreign troops in Afghanistan were unloaded at the port of Karachi and then trucked across Pakistan to the border. For most of the war, 90 percent of the supplies came through Pakistan, but

foreign forces have increased reliance on an alternate, so called “northern” route, through Central Asia in recent years.

Pentagon officials now say it costs about \$17,000 per container to go through the north, compared with about \$7,000 per container to go over Pakistan.

The parliamentary committee is currently reviewing its recommendations so they can be unanimously accepted by the parliament.

One demand of opposition lawmakers is that the restoration of the supply lines be explicitly tied to a halt in drone attacks.

Pakistani lawmakers and government leaders have long campaigned against the strikes, which have been carried out with some level of secret collaboration with the Pakistani army.

Opposition to attacks has become a rallying cry for politicians, who say they violate sovereignty and kill too many civilians.

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Bombing At National Theater In Mogadishu, Somalia, An Attempt To Assassinate Prime Minister



Somali Olympic Committee President Aden Yabarow Wiish lies fatally wounded on the ground after a bomb exploded during a ceremony at the Somali National Theater in

Mogadishu, Somalia, April 4, 2012. Wiish died later at a hospital. (AP Photo/Farah Abdi Warsameh)

April 4, 2012 By Lutfi Sheriff Mohammed and Robyn Dixon; Los Angeles Times & By SOLOMON MOORE in Nairobi and ABDULAZIZ BILLOW in Mogadishu, Somalia; Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

MOGADISHU, Somalia — It was supposed to be a symbol of hope: The newly reopened National Theater was the most potent sign of the peaceful change that has swept Mogadishu since al-Shabab militants fled the Somali capital in August.

It turned into a scene of bloody chaos Wednesday when a bombing killed 10 people.

The attack was an apparent attempt to assassinate Prime Minister Abdiweli Mohamed Ali, who was attending a ceremony with many officials of his Western-backed Transitional Federal Government, or TFG.

Ali was unharmed, said government spokesman Abdirahman Omar Osman, but two top national sports officials, Somali Olympic Committee President Aden Yabarow Wiish and Somali Football Federation chief Said Mohamed Nur, were killed.

Moments after the bombing, the theater was a chaotic scene. Somali police fired wildly as a screaming crowd poured out of the exits. Blood and body parts could be seen on the theater seats and floor.

Several parliament members were injured. Prime Minister Abdiweli Mohamed Ali was shoved off the stage by his bodyguards, unhurt. A number of other top cabinet officials of Somalia's Transitional Federal Government, or TFG, were in the theater but escaped unharmed.

Al Shabaab, writing on its Twitter account, took responsibility for the attack. “The Mujahideen successfully planted the explosives before the gathering, prompting the ineffective TFG intel to speculate on how it occurred,” read one of the messages, posted in English.

In another Twitter message, the movement contradicted official accounts that the attack had been staged by a female suicide bomber. The attack was “carefully planned & orchestrated by a specially trained unit,” this message said.

Ali said at a news conference that a bomber, a woman, triggered the blast.

“The explosion blasted as I was speaking at the microphone,” the prime minister said. He said the minister for planning, Abdullahi Godah Barre, was injured when he was hit in the neck by shrapnel.

The National Theater was refurbished and reopened with a concert of singing, guitar-playing and drums March 19 that drew hundreds of people and was broadcast live on TV. Wednesday's ceremony was part of that rebirth of entertainment, celebrating the anniversary of the start of a national TV station.

“The blast happened as musicians were singing and spectators were clapping for them,” said Salah Jimale, who attended but received only scratches from the bombing. “Huge smoke made the whole scene go dark.”

The explosion came just as Ali began to speak.

Another witness, Amina Salah, said some people were dazed and in shock after the blast, while others helped police rescue the wounded and collect bodies.

The explosion occurred as officials were filming a commemoration of the relaunched national television station’s one-year anniversary.

ANNIVERSARIES

April 6, 1968: Anniversary Of A Murder By Cowards In Blue



Bobby Hutton

Carl Bunin Peace History April 6-12

Bobby Hutton, the 17-year-old first member of the Black Panther Party was gunned down by officers of the Oakland Police Department.

Police opened fire on a car of Black Panthers returning from a meeting. The Panthers escaped their vehicle and ran into a house. Police attacked the house with tear gas and gunfire.

After the building was on fire, the Panthers tried to surrender.

Hutton came out of the house with his hands in the air. But a police officer shouted, “He’s got a gun.” This prompted further police gunfire that left Hutton dead and Panthers co-founder Eldridge Cleaver wounded.

Police later admitted that Hutton was unarmed.

April 6, 1712: Honorable Anniversary: Courageous Slaves Rise Up Against Their Masters; “Death Was Preferable To Life In Bondage”

Carl Bunin Peace History April 6-12

Slavenorth.com & Pbs.org [Excerpts]

In 1712, some slaves in New York City rose up in a crude rebellion that could have been much more deadly, had it been better planned.

As it was, it was among the most serious slave resistances in American history, and sparked a vicious backlash by the authorities.

The stage was set for an uprising.

First, the city had a large population of black slaves -- the result of many years of trade with the West Indies. Secondly, communication and meeting among enslaved persons was relatively easy, since the New York City's inhabitants lived in a small area on the southern tip of Manhattan.

Thirdly, living in such a densely populated area also meant that slaves worked in close proximity to free men, a far cry from the situation on the plantations to the south.

The revolt was led by African-born slaves, who decided death was preferable to life in bondage.

They managed to collect a cache of muskets and other weapons and hide it in an orchard on the edge of town.

On the night of April 6, twenty-four of the conspirators gathered, armed themselves, and set fire to a nearby building. They then hid among trees, and when white citizens rushed up to put out the blaze, the slaves opened fire on them, killing five and wounding six.

The surviving citizens sounded the alarm. Every able-bodied man was pressed into service, and appeals were made to governors of surrounding colonies. The militia pinned down the rebels in the woods of northern Manhattan. The leaders of the uprising committed suicide, and the rest, starving, surrendered.

The death toll in the 1712 uprising doesn't seem high, but in a New York county that, at that time probably numbered some 4,800 whites, it was shocking.

In considering the psychological impact on the survivors, imagine some sort of attack on modern New York, with its 8 million people, that would leave casualties of 10,000 dead.

A special court convened by the governor made short work of the rebels. Of the twenty-seven slaves brought to trial for complicity in the plot, twenty-one were convicted and put to death.

Since the law authorized any degree of punishment in such cases, some unlucky slaves were executed with all the refinements of calculated barbarity.

New Yorkers were treated to a round of grisly spectacles as Negroes were burned alive, racked and broken on the wheel, and gibbeted alive in chains.

In his report of the affair to England, Governor Hunter praised the judges for inventing 'the most exemplary punishments that could be possibly thought of.' “[

White New Yorkers had been apprehensive before the revolt of April 6; now they were spurred into action.

Strict laws were soon enacted, and more would come, over the next thirty years. No longer could more than three black slaves meet. A master could punish his slaves as he saw fit (even for no reason at all), as long as the slave did not lose his or her life or limb. Any slave handling a firearm would receive twenty lashes. Anyone caught gambling would be whipped in public.

Involvement in a conspiracy to kill would result in execution, as would a rape. There was even a law that discouraged masters from freeing a slave:

The master could free a slave, but only after posting a bond of 200 (pounds). This money would be paid to the freed slave if that slave couldn't support himself or herself.

These laws would, in the end, prove to be futile. In 1741, New York would see another uprising.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

In Occupied Palestine, Existence Is Resistance:

“On 04.08.2011, Haj Ibrahim Atallah Closed His Eyes For The Last Time”

**“He Was Over A 100 Years Old”
“He Refused To Allow Them To Create
Another Palestinian-Free Zone In The
Heart Of Palestine”**



29/03/2012 by Reham Alhelsi; A voice from Palestine

On 04.08.2011, Haj Ibrahim Atallah closed his eyes for the last time.

He was over a 100 years old, and from what I've heard, he closed his eyes unwillingly, for he had yet so much to fight for, so much to give to the land that has given him and his family so much.

Haj Atallah was from a small village in the Bethlehem area called Khirbet Ish-Sheikh Zakariya, locally known as Beit Iskarya, probably to differentiate it from the not-far-away Zakariya that was ethnically cleansed in 1948. Beit Iskarya lies in the middle of the illegal Gush Etzion Zionist colony bloc which consists of 22 illegal Zionist colonies and outposts built on 70,000 dunums of stolen Palestinian land.

The Palestinian village itself is totally besieged by at least 5 of the Gush Etzion colonies: Bat Ayin from the west, Rosh Tzurim from the north, Neve Daniel from the north east, Elazar from the east and Alon Shvut from the south east.

These colonies are strangling the village, stealing its land and that of other Palestinian villages and slowly devouring them.

They divide Beit Iskarya's land into two and the only road connecting the village to the outside world passes through this Zionist colony bloc, where often, Beit Iskarya residents, especially students on the way to school, get attacked and beaten by the Zionist colonists.

But despite all settler attacks and the continuous threats, Haj Atallah remained steadfast in his land: he planted the land, cared for it and kept it green against all odds. He taught his children that nothing is more valuable than the land itself, and he refused all the enticements offered by the Zionist entity to sell his land or give up even one iota of its earth.

He refused to allow them to create another Palestinian-free zone in the heart of Palestine.

A Palestinian legend, a symbol of steadfastness and resistance, an example that Zionism can and will be defeated; Haj Attallah was born in 1910, lived all his life in his land, swore never to leave it and to make his final resting place within its ribs and close to its heart.

5 Palestinian communities, including Beit Iskarya, were living and thriving in this area, which is one of the most fertile areas of Palestine and is famous for its grapevines, figs, apricots, apple and almond trees.

The land belonged to the villagers, and they depended on the land for their livelihood, and the land had always been generous to them. Beit Iskarya, with its 9000 dunums, was famous for its agricultural products which were marketed in Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Hebron.

In one interview, Haj Atallah recalled how the land was always green and how all sorts of fruits and vegetables grew there.

Growing up, he watched how the Zionist settlements changed the landscape of the land, how they destroyed it.

“When Told To Choose Between Imprisonment And Selling Their Land, They Always Chose Imprisonment”

In the 1940s, when, with the help of the British Mandate, the Zionists started their colonization plans for Palestine, the basis for the Gush Etzion was laid in the area.

First, the Kfar Etzion Zionist colony was built in 1943, to be followed by Mishu'at Yitzhaq in 1945, Ein Tzurim in 1946, Revadim in 1947, and the whole illegal colonial project built on Palestinian land was called Gush Etzion, the Etzion bloc.

In 1948, the terrorist Zionist gangs Haganah and Stern occupied the whole area, killed many and expelled the indigenous Palestinians.

Palestinians revolutionaries, together with the Arab fighters who refused to obey their generals' order to withdraw, fought the Zionist usurpers and forced them out of the area.

After 6 months of forced expulsion, the indigenous Palestinians returned to their villages.

In 1967, after Israel occupied the rest of Palestine, wide-spread demolition took place in the area surrounding Beit Iskarya, where houses, schools and mosques were destroyed.

The residents of the Palestinian localities were forced out of their homes, and of the over 1000 people who inhabited Beit Iskarya before 1967, only 50 remained: Haj Atallah and his family.

The Zionist entity confiscated the lands of Beit Iskarya and the surrounding villages. Slowly, settlements and outposts of all sizes started appearing and spreading, and later grew to form Gush Etzion. The plan was to Judaize the whole area and turn it into a Palestinian-free zone.

And out of the 800 dunums Haj Atallah owned, the Zionists left him and his family with only 75 dunums and stole the rest. Fields were uprooted and entire grapevines were destroyed while ripe with grapes.

But despite the terror and harassment of the Zionist colonists and the Zionist occupation army, Haj Atallah insisted he and his children remain steadfast in their village and protect their land.

Over the years, he was offered large sums of money, villas, land in other areas of the occupied West Bank, even Israeli citizenship, just to force him to leave his land, but he refused.

In an interview, Haj Atallah recalled how after the 1967 occupation: "despite the atmosphere of terror that accompanied the war, the displacement of the population, the demolition of houses and schools, I decided to stay at whatever cost. After two weeks following the occupation, Israeli soldiers came and surveyed the area, and told me to leave or they will demolish the houses on my head and the heads of my family, and emphasized that my existence constitutes a security threat in this area which they consider of vital importance to the Israeli army. I fought them with all means possible." [1]

In the 1970s, he was summoned to Moshe Dayan's office in Tel Aviv. Dayan, who was the Zionist entity's minister of "Defense" at the time, offered Haj Atallah large sums of money (at one time, he was offered over 2 million US Dollars), new houses and land wherever he wanted in return for his land in Beit Iskarya because "the Israeli army needs his land".

Haj Ibrahim refused and his answer was the same every time: "We won't exchange one centimeter of our land for the money of the whole world" [2].

After that meeting, settler terror and harassment increased and hasn't stopped since: Often the villagers are attacked while working in the fields, their crops burned and their

trees uprooted, sometimes even dogs would be unleashed at the villagers. “The settlers who surround us from all sides would come to where we live and start throwing stones at us and at our homes. They also use other methods such as stealing our property, our chicken, goats and destroy our crops.”[3]

Haj Atallah and his family have not only to endure the terror and harassment of the Zionist colonists, but also that of the Israeli occupation army. He and his children were detained several times by Israeli occupation soldiers, and when told to choose between imprisonment and selling their land, they always chose imprisonment.

“To Force Haj Atallah’s Family Out Of Their Ancestral Home, The Israeli Occupation Forces Prohibit Building In Beit Iskarya”

To force Haj Atallah’s family out of their ancestral home, the Israeli occupation forces prohibit building in Beit Iskarya. For the last 40 years, and while illegal Zionist colonies thrive and expand on stolen Palestinian land, the over 600 residents of Beit Iskarya have not been allowed to build new houses and facilities on their own land.

Of the around 65 houses and facilities in Beit Iskarya 5 stone houses were built before 1967, and 85 houses were built after 1967 using mud and bricks and have tin roofs to avoid demolition. These houses, although more like sheds than houses, are nonetheless threatened with demolition. In addition, there is a 2-room school, a small clinic and a small mosque.

In 2005, 29 houses and other facilities built after 1967 received demolition orders, 6 of which were demolished in 2008, despite their owners’ possession of documents proving their ownership of the land since over 400 years. Another 4 demolition orders were issued in 2010. A house of 10 was demolished in 2011 while the Zionist colonists watched and celebrated. More recently, 10 houses and the small school received demolition orders.

And while the homes of Beit Iskarya are being demolished, a mobile tower was erected in the midst of the village, and despite the villager’s complaints and objection, the Zionists refused to remove it.

The Israeli occupation forces also demolished the mosque’s minaret, not once but 3 times, and prohibited the Athan (call for prayer) because it annoys the racist European Zionist colonizers.

But Haj Atallah used to defy the Zionists colonizing his land and would call for prayer using a loudspeaker. His voice would defy the colonizers and echo in the hills and the valleys of his ancestors.

And every time, the IOF would come searching for the loudspeaker but fail to find it.

Haj Atallah continued to raise the Athan until his death.

“They Burned Our Crops And Destroyed Our Land And Set Wild Pigs And Dogs At Our Homes, Yet We Are Steadfast Until We Die In Our Land”

In an interview, Haj Atallah said: “We are living in a continuous fight with them. They besiege us from all directions and stole our land, and left us with only 50 dunums out of the 800 dunums. They cut off our electricity and water, and after a long battle in the courts, we were able to restore these services to the village. When we built a mosque for the village, they demolished the minaret and prevented the call for prayer on the grounds that it bothered them.

“They burned our crops and destroyed our land and set wild pigs and dogs at our homes, yet we are steadfast until we die in our land.”[4]

Today, the over 600 Palestinian residents of Beit Iskarya continue to defy the never-ending terror and harassment of the Zionist colonists and their occupation army. They face land theft, house demolition, settler attacks, but refuse to be intimidated or forced out of their land. Cameras positioned by the Israeli occupation army around the village monitor the villagers 24 hours, besieging them, imprisoning them in their own homes. Nonetheless, the villages still live on the land, still live from the land, still work the land and give it their love.

For the Zionist entity, Gush Etzion is considered a main settlement bloc and part of the so-called Greater Jerusalem: a Judaized Jerusalem where there is no place for the indigenous Palestinians. Entering the Gush Etzion, one would see settlement houses with their typical structure spread everywhere like a disease that is eating the land from the inside, destroying it slowly. These cancerous cells spread on both sides of the road and occupied every hill top, distorting the beauty of the Palestinian landscape.

Here, the indigenous Palestinians have no place, they don't exist to the alien colonizers, they are deleted from the invented histories and dictionaries of the Zionist mind; the Zionists have renamed the area, gave it Jewish names and forged its history, forged the names of the hills, the water springs, the fields, the valleys, the rocks and even the trees. Here, in this invented world, the language of the indigenous people does not exist, they don't exist: road signs are only in Hebrew and English, and only cars with the Israeli yellow plate are visible.

And with the exception of a few old Palestinian stone houses, the area is colonized.

But if you continue driving, you will see in the distance a collection of houses, a small village that does not fit into the fake and invented picture the Zionists wanted to create here. It is because the view of this village, so natural in this landscape, that I recognized Beit Iskarya. No signs referred to it, but its steadfastness and defiance is all the sign anyone needs.

And it is when you reach Beit Iskarya that you understand the meaning of steadfastness, of resistance.

To expand the illegal Gush Etzion, the Zionist colonists had over the years stolen the land which Haj Atallah inherited from his ancestors, and he and his family were left with only 30 dunums of their land. Even these 30 dunums had been a thorn in the eyes of the colonizers, because Haj Atallah and his family remained steadfast in the middle of this

Zionist project, refusing to leave, and preventing a complete Judaization of the whole area. Haj Attalah refused to accept the theft of his land and fought for it. He went to Zionist courts and fought the usurpers there.

And finally, after over 40 years of struggle, Haj Ibrahim Atallah defeated the Zionist entity. Early 2010, the Israeli high court, ordered the Israeli government to return the 730 dunums to Haj Atallah. It hurt him to see the settlements destroy the land. He wanted to replant the trees that were uprooted, give the land back its natural colour, give it life and freedom after so many years of captivity and slow death: "I feel very happy and great joy at the decision, hoping not to die before I cultivate the land again." [5]

On 04.08.2011, Haj Ibrahim Atallah closed his eyes for the last time, he closed them unwillingly for he still had so much to do.

He once said to one IOF officer who tried to convince him to sell his land: "I swear, even if you bring your bulldozers and bury us alive, we won't leave our land." [6] Today, he continues to live in his land, as part of it, and he continues to protect the land.

"Before He Died, Haj Atallah Dug His Own Grave In His Land, In Its Heart, Facing The Hills Where He Ran As A Child, Overlooking The Valleys Where He Worked All His Life"

Today, Haj Atallah defies the occupation and defies death and remains steadfast in his land.

Before he died, Haj Atallah dug his own grave in his land, in its heart, facing the hills where he ran as a child, overlooking the valleys where he worked all his life.

With his body he wanted to prevent the Zionist colonists from stealing what is left of his village, so he dug his grave with his own hands and asked to be buried in his land, never to leave it.

He didn't want ever to leave it, nor allow the Zionists to take it after his death.

He wanted to protect the land in his death like he did during his life. And there, in that grave, in his land, among his hills and valleys, Haj Atallah rests today. He still watches over his land and protects it.

He still stands as a thorn in the eyes of the colonizers who wanted to expel him from his land. Today, Haj Atallah and the land he so much loved are united, they are forever one.

Haj Attallah is a symbol of Palestinian resistance and steadfastness against the Zionist colonization, against land theft, against the ethnic cleansing of Palestine.

Together with his children and grandchildren, he fought to protect the land. He stood up to Zionist terror and refused Zionist enticements. He refused over and over to sign away the deeds of the land, to sell it to the occupiers, he refused to betray Palestine.

He remained steadfast, he was threatened, his children beaten, but he remained steadfast.

Every day, he went to his fields, worked them, defied the terror, the threats, the harassment, and worked the land, every day.

They destroyed and he rebuilt.

They uprooted and burned and he replanted.

They stole and he resisted them.

In Camp David 2000, Israeli negotiators said they wanted to keep Gush Etzion in a "land swap deal". One PA negotiator declared the PA's consent and willingness to give up the land on which Gush Etzion stands.

This PA official backed away from his statement, at least only publicly, because Haj Atallah's struggle and steadfastness embarrassed the PA and exposed its empty "liberation" slogans.

Before his death, Haj Atallah spoke of how these officials come with camera teams to Beit Iskarya, talk about resistance and steadfastness in front of cameras, talk about liberating Palestine in front of cameras, but behind cameras they sell the land to the occupier.

When he died, unwillingly closing his eyes for the last time, many attended his funeral.

"People came from everywhere, but not one single PA official was present" his son told me.

"Even some colonists, his enemies, the colonists he fought against all his life, came and paid their respects. They said that despite their "conflict" with Haj Atallah, they had great respect for the man who was so protective of his land, who was so steadfast."

Haj Atallah's presence, his life and his struggle annoyed those who wanted to steal the land, to ethnically cleanse Palestine.

His presence, his life and his struggle annoyed those who sell and betray the land, and every breath he took, every day he lived annoyed them, because it exposed them. And even in his death, he exposed them, exposed their betrayal.

"To Him The Land Was His Life, And To Resist The Colonizer Was To Exist"

To him the land was his life, and to resist the colonizer was to exist, unlike those to whom the land is a business, a bargaining chip, a ticket to Swiss bank accounts and to occupation-issued VIP permits.

He didn't wait for the PA, nor did he wait for the international community or for human rights organizations or for conditional activists to help him protect his land.

He protected his land with his family and waited for no one.

Haj Atallah didn't wait for PA officials who came to his humble house and declared the land as liberated, the land he fought so long for while they signed one concession after the other.

He didn't wait for wanna-be-leaders and new-age revolutionaries who come and take pictures of themselves in front of his house and his land and use his struggle as a stepping stone for their activism businesses.

He didn't wait for the cameras or for social media to make a hero out of him, nor did he call himself or see himself as a hero.

He saw himself as one of the tens of thousands of Palestinians, those who love the land, those who daily care for the land, those who daily defy the Zionist colonizers and plant their land, those who are steadfast in their land, steadfast in Palestine.

His struggle was genuine, his struggle was for Palestine, not for a short-lived fame nor for an award and a title.

He didn't wait for anyone. He remained steadfast, refused to be expelled, refused to legitimize the Zionist colonization of his homeland, refused to betray the land, refused to betray Palestine.

Footnotes:

[1] alrawwyablogspot.com

[2] <http://www.arabvolunteering.org/corner/191506-1-post.html>

[3] <http://tinyurl.com/72y8q7n>

[4] <http://tinyurl.com/bljgloq>

[5] <http://www.safa.ps/ara/print.php?seid=56058>

[6] <http://www.arabvolunteering.org/corner/191506-1-post.html>

Zionists Prefer That Palestinians Kill Them:

“Jailed Palestinian Leader Marwan Barghouti Has Been Punished By Israeli Prison Authorities After Launching An Appeal For ‘Peaceful Resistance’”

April 2, 2012 By AL ARABIYA WITH AGENCIES

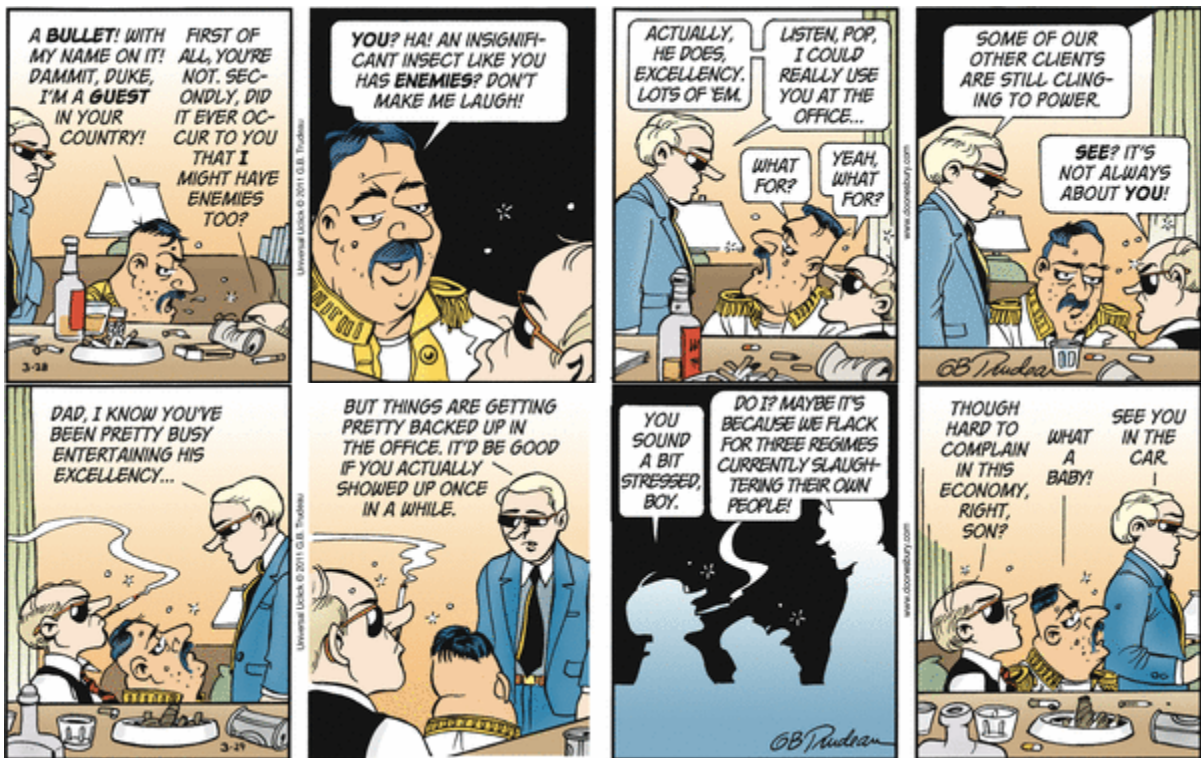
Jailed Palestinian leader Marwan Barghouti has been punished by Israeli prison authorities after launching an appeal for “peaceful resistance,” public radio said late Sunday.

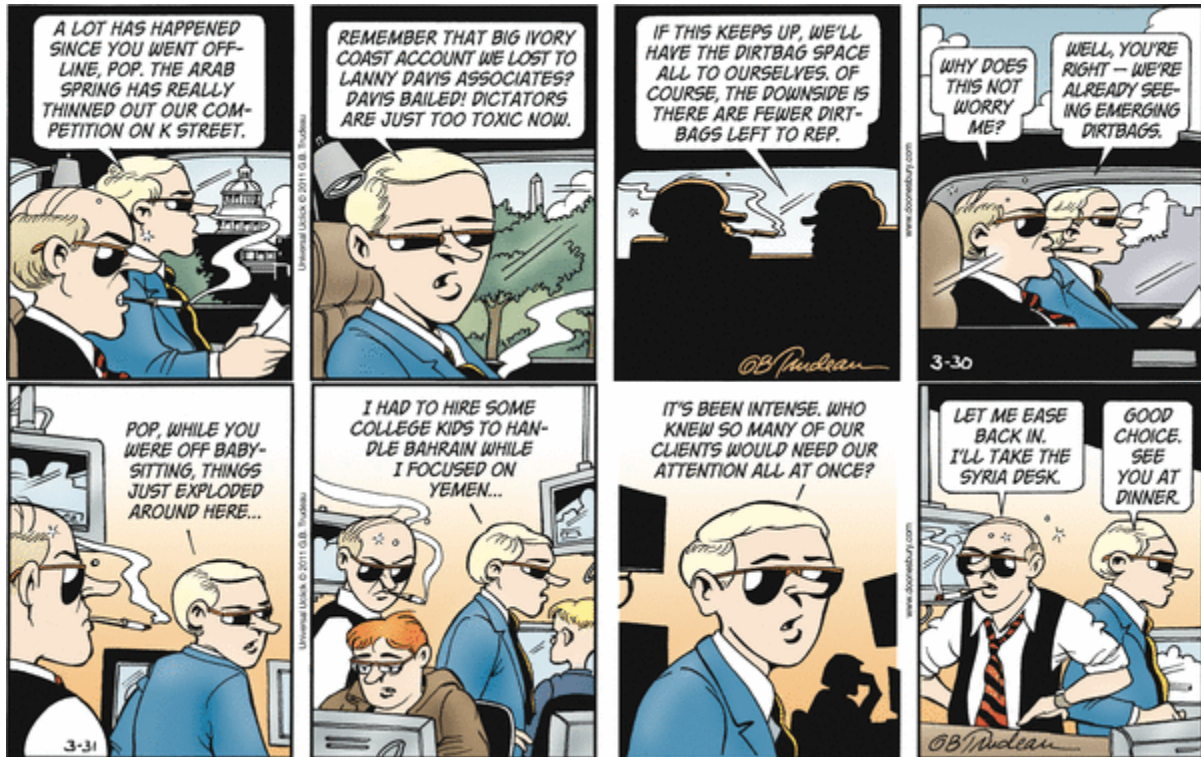
Barghouti, a former secretary general of the Fatah party led by Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas, was put in solitary confinement without saying how long the sanctions would be in place, according to AFP news agency,

“I appeal to the great Palestinian people for unity, cohesion, the creation of a government of national unity, and to pursue its peaceful resistance to end the occupation” by Israel, Barghouti had told the press on Wednesday when he appeared before a Jerusalem court as a witness.

[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





In Controversial Decision, Supreme Court Replaces Annual Physicals With Strip Searches

April 3, 2012 The Borowitz Report

WASHINGTON – In a stunning decision on the future of healthcare in America, the Supreme Court decided today that annual physicals were unconstitutional and should be replaced by random strip searches conducted by the nation’s police.

The decision, which appeared to expand the role of the police to include such duties as performing breast and prostate exams, took many in both the healthcare and law enforcement communities by surprise.

Writing for the majority, Justice Antonin Scalia wrote, “While the Constitution makes no provisions for healthcare, it explicitly defends the people’s right to form militias; clearly, the Founders believed that if anyone should be looking up our asses it shouldn’t be a doctor, but someone with a gun.”

By replacing annual checkups with random strip searches, the Court raised worries in the healthcare community that patients would not get the care they need, but those concerns were brushed aside by Justice Samuel Alito.

“Ultimately, the responsibility to secure adequate medical attention falls to the citizen,” he said. “When a policeman is searching his body cavities, for example, it’s up to the citizen to say, ‘There’s a mole I’d like you to look at.’”

Justice Clarence Thomas wrote that he was personally ready for a random strip search/exam at any moment, adding, “I’ve got nothing on under this robe.”

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.

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“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

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<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>

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