

## **Military Resistance 10F16**



**“Why All This Talk Of Shining Boots?”**

**“The Same Leader Who Rambles On About The Old Days Couldn’t Then, And Can’t Now, Get Soldiers To Do The Right Thing”**

**“Please, Get A Life — And Let Troops Have A Life On Leave”**

5.21.12 By Lance M. Bacon, Army Times [Excerpts]

Pending changes to at least 17 grooming regulations have evoked a flood of passionate responses from the ranks, for and against — but mostly against.

The comments have been prevalent in blog and Facebook posts as well as letters to Army Times.

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I just want to know who will enforce the rules.

We have plenty of rules now in accordance with AR 670-1 and soldiers aren't corrected.

When I correct a uniform violation at the PX and Wal-Mart, I'm pretty sure I wasn't the first to notice.

**Now someone thinks they are going to enforce grooming rules for soldiers off duty. I'll believe that when I see it.**

Col. Eric J. Hesse

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Why all this talk of shining boots?

That standard died more than five years ago, had nothing to do with discipline, and was a nonsensical tradition.

It was a time-waster when our unit needed real training such as more rifle range time.

I don't want to hear how retired Command Sgt. Maj. X or CSM Y thinks it's still relevant just because he was in the Army a billion years ago.

The same leader who rambles on about the old days couldn't then, and can't now, get soldiers to do the right thing.

Thankfully, a few in power who had actual, real education and good (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) scores (unlike many of my leaders), crushed the boot ritual.

Hide behind tradition and loyalty if you want to, the new dance is intelligence and efficiency.

Andrew Smith  
Copperas Cove, Texas

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**As far as shaving while off duty (not to mention on leave) please, get a life — and let troops have a life on leave.**

**The military should also get away from the "white sidewall" haircuts and shaved heads.**

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Barry Borella (ret.)

## **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 Saturday: Nationality Not Announced**

June 24, 2012 AP

A foreign servicemember died following an improvised explosive device attack in southern Afghanistan yesterday.

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### **Another Foreign Occupation “Servicemember” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan Saturday: Nationality Not Announced**

June 24, 2012 AP

A foreign servicemember died following an insurgent attack in southern Afghanistan yesterday.

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# Spokane Soldier Killed In Deceiving Attack In Afghanistan



June 20, 2012 By Chelsea Bannach, The Spokesman-Review

Spc. Jarrod Lallier always knew he wanted to serve his country.

“He said that since he was a little boy,” said his mother, Kim Lallier. “As his mom, I always tried talking him out of it. As he grew up, we knew it was even a stronger conviction.”

Lallier, a graduate of Mead High School, was killed in Afghanistan when men in Afghan police uniforms turned their weapons on his unit, according to the Department of Defense.

He was 20 years old.

Kim Lallier said her son, who came from a family with military ties, loved soccer, his friends, fishing, camping and animals.

“Most of all, he was just a people person,” she said. “He’d make a ton of friends no matter where he went. He was just a very likable person, easygoing. He made friends really easy.”

Lallier was due to return from Afghanistan in early September. He would have turned 21 on July 3.

“He was making plans for when they did come back,” she said, “what all the family would do.”

She and her husband, Gary Lallier, were perplexed when they didn't hear from their son on Father's Day.

"It wasn't like him not to call," she said. "We couldn't understand why he didn't get a hold of his father on Father's Day."

They found out why when a soldier knocked on their door in north Spokane about 5 a.m. Monday to deliver the news that their son had been killed. Hours later, she and her husband were on an airplane to Delaware. "It's just still very surreal," said his mother as she awaited the return of her son's body at Dover Air Force Base on Tuesday. "He's a hero to us, but we'll miss him forever."

**Lallier's mother said his unit has sustained heavy casualties, including the death of two of Lallier's close friends. "Only this time it was my son."**

"They had lost a lot of guys and when we would talk to him, I'd ask him how he was doing, hoping that he would talk about it, work it out, but he just said, 'Ma, I don't want to talk about it. Tell me about Spokane. I miss home.'

"He knew the danger," she said. "They were in a really dangerous area that's a Taliban stronghold" – Zharay, in Kandahar province.

She said he suffered some hearing loss when his unit was attacked with an improvised explosive device about a month ago.

But, she added, "He wasn't afraid because he knew if something happened, he knew where he was going. I just wish he wasn't gone."

Lallier joined the Army on July 7, 2010.

This was his first deployment to Afghanistan. He was a paratrooper assigned to the 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

"I'm going to miss him until the day I die," the soldier's mother said. "I know he's in heaven, and that's a really reassuring thing for our family. We're going to miss him until we go there."

His former principal at Mead, Ken Russell, called Lallier's death "a huge loss."

"He was a fantastic kid," he said. "He had one of those personalities that was endearing to everyone, both students and staff," he said. "He was very friendly and outgoing and positive."

Lallier's brother, Jordan Lallier, 19, and sister, Jessica Lallier, 23, also attended Mead.

His squad described him as shy and reserved but friendly to everyone, according to an Army news release. They said he was a competent and trustworthy soldier.

“Spc. Lallier was a quiet professional,” Capt. Michael Kelvington, commander of the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, said in the release. “He impressed people with his deeds, not words.”

Kelvington said Lallier was proud to serve. “Never shying away from a challenge, his performance during operations over the past few months in combat has been everything that I could ask from a daring paratrooper,” Kelvington said. “His example and love for his brothers will be deeply missed. We honor his memory by finishing the job that he and his brothers gave their lives for. It was a privilege to serve alongside him.”

It is unclear whether the individuals that perpetrated the attack were actually Afghan police or just dressed like them. Jamie Graybeal, a spokesman for the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, said Monday they are seeking three Afghan shooters who fled the scene.

U.S. Army Maj. Adam Wojack, an ISAF Joint Command spokesman, confirmed Tuesday eight others from Lallier’s unit were injured in the attack.

Most of the injuries sustained were minor, but two of the eight wounded were medically evacuated with more serious injuries.

Lallier’s awards include the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the NATO Medal, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Combat Infantryman’s Badge and the Parachutist Badge.

As of Tuesday, 1,887 members of the U.S. military had died in Afghanistan since late 2001, according to the Department of Defense. Of those, 1,566 were killed by hostile action and 16,368 have been wounded.

“I just know that he always felt called to serve our country and he died doing that,” Kim Lallier said. “All we have is the hope that we will see him again in heaven.”

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

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE  
BLOODSHED**

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

## MILITARY NEWS

**NOT ANOTHER DAY  
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR  
NOT ANOTHER LIFE**



6.6.12: The body of Staff Sgt. Roberto Loeza arrived on Biggs Army Airfield Wednesday afternoon on a Falcon 20 jet. (Mark Lambie/EI Paso Times)

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**“A Rare Look Inside Rebel  
Operations In Syria”**  
**“Our Revolution Started In Peace”**  
**“We Asked Bashar Only For Our  
Freedom. But He Answered Us With  
Bullets”**  
**“The Fighters Carry Weapons Openly,  
And The Civilians Regard Them As  
Heroes”**

June 19 By Austin Tice, Washington Post Company.

Tice served seven years in the U.S. Marine Corps as an infantry officer.

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Khan Sheikhoun, Syria — On a Sunday late last month, Syrian army forces attacked this town.

By early afternoon, two children had been killed by a mortar shell, and doctors and nurses were struggling to save an elderly woman shot in the chest with a Kalash-nikov. An attack helicopter circled overhead.

The local rebel commander phoned his compatriots in the nearby town of Madaya for help.

When the reinforcements arrived, they focused on the chopper.

One group took off with a truck-mounted Dushka heavy machine gun, racing through the streets as the helicopter swooped above. Others fired at it with Dragunov sniper rifles and Kalashnikovs.

Asked how he hoped to shoot down an armored attack helicopter circling above at 2,000 feet using only a rifle, one of the fighters grinned. “Perhaps it is possible, if it is the will of Allah,” he said.

The thousands of rebel fighters who battle daily with the superior forces of the Syrian military face long odds.

Many have no military training. There’s little strategic planning. Even as international efforts to support the rebel cause begin to kick in with a flow of smuggled rifles, heavy weapons remain scarce.

And yet, a rare look inside rebel operations in Syria reveals a force that has been undeterred by the crushing tactics of President Bashar al-Assad’s army.

Heavy losses in the rebel ranks and among civilians have only emboldened the fighters in their quest to topple Assad, whose government has killed thousands of Syrians while trying to suppress what began last year as a peaceful uprising but is rapidly turning into a civil war.

“I never wanted to fight. Our revolution started in peace,” said Shahm, who commands the rebel unit in Madaya.

“We asked Bashar only for our freedom. But he answered us with bullets. The first time a man hits you, maybe you do not respond. Maybe not the second time. But the third time . . .”

His voice trailed off. “I am human. I have emotions. And so now, I fight.”



That decision comes with risk. During the battle in Khan Sheikhoun last month, a sniper in a sandbagged bunker had been causing the rebels trouble. Shahm grabbed Walid, his best rocket-propelled-grenade gunner, and they headed for the bunker.

The men crept, undetected, to within 100 yards of the sniper. Walid's first shot flew high. He calmly reloaded, and his second rocket scored a direct hit.

The Syrian army responded with an ear-shattering barrage of directionless fire. Thirty feet away, a tank shell exploded against a stone wall. Shahm and Walid looked at each other and laughed.

The helicopter escaped unscathed, but Shahm reckoned the day's fighting a success.

By his count — which was difficult to verify — rebel forces destroyed a tank and three armored personnel carriers, and killed or wounded at least 15 soldiers, all without suffering any casualties.

"The children, they are a tragedy," Shahm said, referring to the two killed by a mortar shell. "But we quickly took our revenge."

At first glance, Shahm, who is in his mid-20s, does not make much of an impression as a fighter. His glasses and intellectual air seem more befitting of his pre-revolutionary alter ego — a student of civil engineering at a Russian university. He speaks beautiful English, decorated with poetic Arabic flourishes and delivered with the faintest hint of a Russian accent.

Why study abroad? His answer was simple: "Military service in Syria is compulsory. No way was I going to work for Bashar."

**Shahm, who did not want his last name published for fear that it would complicate his chances of one day obtaining a visa to travel to the United States, is the leader of a band of about 50 rebels who are with the Free Syrian Army.**

**Madaya is under the complete control of the rebel force. The fighters carry weapons openly, and the civilians regard them as heroes.**

Although Shahm has no formal military training, he said his father — who commands a rebel unit of his own and who had briefly served in Assad's army many years ago — taught him the basics of military leadership.

They regularly confer via Skype, Shahm said, planning attacks, medical evacuations and weapons shipments.

Before the uprising, the father operated a marble quarry. The business was successful, and the family is well respected in Idlib, the northwestern province that has been the scene of some of the year's heaviest fighting.

**The spirit of revolution runs in the family — Shahm's great-uncle died fighting the French occupation, and his mother's parents were killed for resisting the regime of Hafez al-Assad, Bashar's father.**

Driving from the Turkish border through the Idlib countryside along a back road to avoid government checkpoints, Shahm gestured toward a railroad track and related the story of his initiation into guerrilla warfare.

“I told my father, ‘Today, I am going to do something big.’ He asked me what I was going to do. I told him, ‘When I do it, you will know,’ “ Shahm said.

Hours later, he said, a train came barreling down the track bearing fuel for helicopters and tanks in Aleppo. A homemade bomb detonated beneath it.

“The same dynamite we used in my father’s quarry, I used to destroy the train,” Shahm said.

He looked down ruefully. “It is all used up now.”

Shahm sped along the pitted road at a suicidal pace. His comrades in the back seat yelled at him to slow down, then shook their heads when they were ignored. The speedometer read somewhere north of 75 miles per hour when Shahm passed a truck with mere inches to spare.

Suddenly, he slammed on the brakes — up ahead, a few chickens were crossing the highway.

**Shahm said he is plotting a spectacular attack. The plan involves an artillery piece, but nobody knows how to use it.**

**“There is a defected artillery officer who knows how, a first lieutenant. I am trying to bring him here,” he said. “Also, he says he needs some maps. We are trying to get them.”**

Meanwhile, Shahm’s fighters had taken a suspected regime spy as prisoner. His swollen right eye attested to the beating he had endured.

Shahm responded with difficulty to questions about the prisoner’s treatment. “We are not killers. We are not like Assad,” he said.

“But this man, he used to be one of us. And he was responsible for the deaths of more than 10 men. Our friends. Sometimes in war, you must set your principles and your education aside.”

He sounded like a man trying to convince himself.

Later that night, long after most of the others had gone to sleep, Shahm stayed up sitting by the phone. He finally received long-awaited word that a weapons shipment had arrived. At the urging of one of his men, he relented and lay down to sleep for a few hours.

His last words of the night were a protest. “The more you sleep, the less you fight.”

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# Save The Bales: Navy Plucks 19,000 Pounds Of Weed Out Of Ocean



June 19, 2012 Written by Nathan Max, San Diego Union-Tribune

An aircraft carrier group recovered an estimated 19,000 pounds of marijuana that had been dumped into the Pacific Ocean over the weekend by three boats off the California coast, the Navy said Tuesday.

Nobody was apprehended and the three boats sped off after dropping their load, said Lt. Aaron Kakiel, spokesman with Naval Air Forces Pacific.

Crews from the aircraft carrier Nimitz, guided-missile cruiser Princeton, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 6, Helicopter Maritime Squadron 75 and the Mexican Navy picked up 186 bales of marijuana that apparently was en route to the United States.

The Nimitz Strike Group is operating in the Pacific Ocean off the Southern California coast conducting carrier qualification operations.

“The coordinated response of all hands involved was phenomenal,” Nimitz Strike Group Commander Rear Adm. Pete Gumataotao said in a statement. “The combined efforts of each of our strike group components demonstrated the flexibility and capability that defines how we conduct business.”

Shortly before 2 p.m. Saturday, starboard lookouts on the Nimitz spotted two boats about four nautical miles away. When helicopter crews flew in for a closer look, they saw two 25-foot single-engine boats, which began dumping 80 black plastic bags, each filled with about 100 pounds of marijuana, the Navy said.

A little more than three hours later, an officer of the deck on the Nimitz spotted a third boat, which also dumped its load into the ocean. The bales were eventually transferred to the Coast Guard and brought to shore.

“This crew’s response was amazing,” Nimitz Commanding Officer Capt. Jeff Ruth said in a statement. “To operationally shift gears quickly and safely from carrier qualifications to a real-world response shows what true professionals work here.”

**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](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

## **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**

**It is a two class world and the wrong class is running it.  
-- Larry Christensen, Soldiers Of Solidarity & United Auto Workers**

## **Egypt: Fair Warning**

June 18, 2012 By Alan Maass, Socialist Worker [Excerpt]

At a polling station in Mansoura, north of Cairo, for example, a group of men held pictures of the martyrs who died during the revolt last year against Mubarak.

“We will not forget the responsibility in the murder of our comrades in the revolution,” one man said.

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**“Even In Constituencies Where There Is No Prospect Of Our Candidate Being Elected, The Workers Must Nevertheless Put Up Candidates In Order To Maintain Their Independence”**

**“They Must Not Allow Themselves To Be Diverted From This Work By The Stock Argument That To Split The Vote Of The Democrats Means Assisting The Reactionary Parties”**

**The gist of the matter is this: In case of an attack on a common adversary no special union is necessary; in the fight with such an enemy the interests of both parties, the middle-class democrats and the working-class party, coincide for the moment ...**

**This was so in the past, and will be so in the future.**

March 1850 By Karl Marx, Address of the Central Committee to the Communist League [Excerpts]

With a view to checking the power and the growth of big capital, the democratic party demands a reform of the laws of inheritance and legacies, likewise the transfer of the public services and as many industrial undertakings as possible to the state and municipal authorities.

As for the workingmen – well, they should remain wage workers: for whom, however, the democratic party would procure higher wages, better labor conditions, and a secure existence.

The democrats hope to achieve that partly through state and municipal management and through welfare institutions. In short, they hope to bribe the working class into quiescence and thus to weaken their revolutionary spirit by momentary concessions and comforts.

The democratic demands can never satisfy the party of the proletariat.

While the democratic petty bourgeoisie would like to bring the revolution to a close as soon as their demands are more or less complied with, it is our and our task to make the revolution permanent, to keep it going until all the ruling and possessing classes are deprived of power, the governmental machinery occupied by the proletariat, and the organization of the working classes of all lands is so far advanced that all rivalry and competition among themselves has ceased until the more important forces of production are concentrated in the hands of the proletarians

With us it is not a matter of reforming private property, but of abolishing it; not of hushing up class antagonism, but of abolishing the classes; not of ameliorating the existing society, but of establishing a new one.

**Even in constituencies where there is no prospect of our candidate being elected, the workers must nevertheless put up candidates in order to maintain their independence, to steel their forces, to gauge their own strength and to bring their revolutionary position and party views before the public**

**They must not allow themselves to be diverted from this work by the stock argument that to split the vote of the democrats means assisting the reactionary parties.**

**All such talk is but calculated to cheat the proletariat.**

**The advance which the Proletarian Party will make through its independent political attitude is infinitely more important than the disadvantages of having a few more reactionaries in the national representation.**

The gist of the matter is this: In case of an attack on a common adversary no special union is necessary; in the fight with such an enemy the interests of both parties, the middle-class democrats and the working-class party, coincide for the moment, and both parties will carry it on by a temporary understanding.

This was so in the past, and will be so in the future.

It is a matter of course that in the future sanguinary conflicts, as in all previous ones, the workingmen by their courage, resolution, and self-sacrifice, will form the main force in the attainment of victory.

As hitherto, so in the coming struggle, the petty bourgeoisie as a whole will maintain an attitude of delay, irresolution, and inactivity as long as possible, in order that, as soon as victory is assured, they may arrogate it to themselves and call upon the workers to remain quiet, return to work, avoid so-called excesses, and thus to shut off the workers from the fruits of victory.

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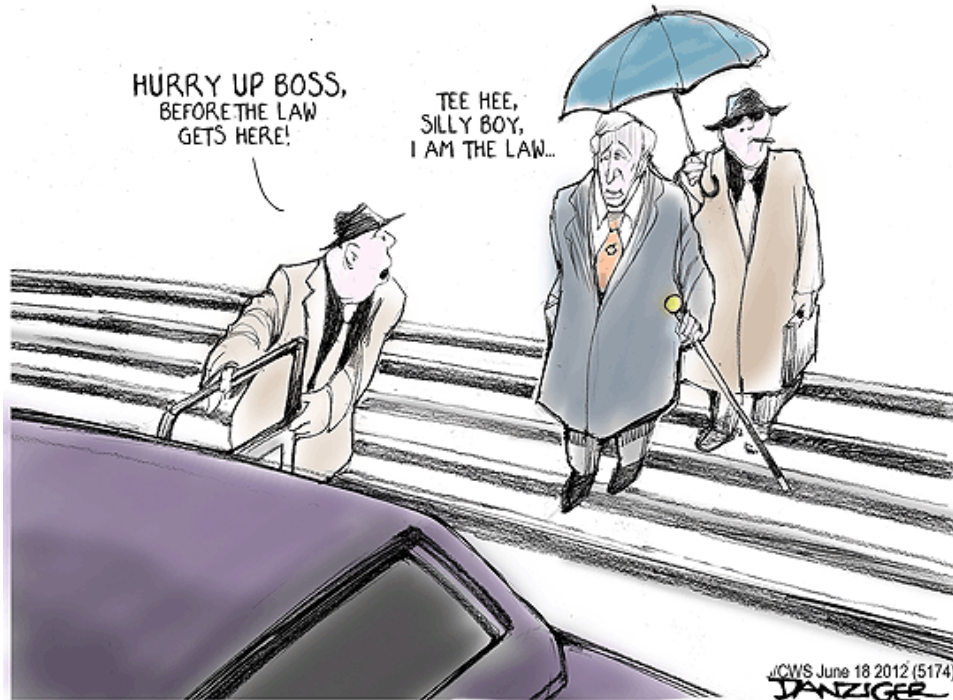
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# DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



# CLASS WAR REPORTS

Dimon Jamie Reminds His Peeps that He is Still a Board Member of the Federal Reserve





**The NYPD Kill Again:  
The Enemy Executes Another  
Unarmed Citizen;  
“The Airbags Were Deployed.  
There’s No Way That She Could Run  
Or Get Away”  
“There Were No Weapons In The Car--No  
Gun, No Nothing”**



Shantel Davis, executed by police in an intersection in the East Flatbush section of Brooklyn

June 21, 2012 By Gina Sartori, Socialist Worker

Tensions are running high in the East Flatbush section of Brooklyn after NYPD narcotics detective Phillip Atkins shot and killed an unarmed woman, 23-year-old Shantel Davis, on June 14.

Atkins and his partner say they spotted Davis and followed her after she allegedly drove a stolen car erratically through red lights. Davis crashed her vehicle into a parked minivan.

According to witnesses, Atkins arrived at the scene and attempted to drag Davis out of the passenger side of the vehicle with his gun drawn.

**Trapped in the car by an airbag and fearing for her life, Davis cried out, “Don’t shoot me! Please don’t shoot me!”**

**Seconds later, Atkins fired his gun into her chest at point-blank range. The officers then pulled her out of the car--and attempted to handcuff her as she lay in a pool of her own blood in the middle of the intersection.**

As shocked onlookers surrounded the scene, they began shouting, “Murderer! Murderer!” Atkins and his partner proceeded to collect video surveillance tapes and cameras from all of the businesses surrounding the intersection.

**Garth Thomas Messiah, an eyewitness to the incident, described what he saw:**

“Two police officers approached a young 23-year-old woman, and murdered and slaughtered our sister in cold blood. And the cover-up is that it’s an accident. It wasn’t an accident. They were trailing her and following her. They got dirt on this woman. They cornered her right there, and the car crashed into the post.

**“The airbags were deployed. There’s no way that she could run or get away. There were no weapons in the car--no gun, no nothing.”**

In the days after the killing, the mainstream media slandered Shantel, implying that her criminal record was justification for her killing. Davis was due in court the next day on charges of attempted murder and kidnapping. But one member of the community said what many have repeated in the days since: “People around here don’t really care to know her criminal history because of what they saw. We saw her being murdered here.”

There are also questions about the allegation that Davis was driving a stolen car--other accounts say the vehicle was borrowed from someone Shantel knew. In fact, the car Shantel used to own was recently seized by the NYPD and put up for sale on the department’s sales lot.

According to the Wall Street Journal, hours before Shantel was killed, the Wall Street Journal reported, Shantel was online looking up a GED class to enroll in. Her friend explained, “She was trying to change.”

**In contrast to the smear campaign about Shantel Davis, the media failed initially to report that the officer, Phillip Atkins, has a reputation for aggressive violent behavior in the East Flatbush area of Brooklyn.**

**When word spread about Shantel’s death, everyone seemed to know who Atkins was--since he was known for terrorizing the same streets Shantel died on.**

Atkins, who is recently returning from an official suspension, has his own record of “priors.”

**He has had six federal civil rights lawsuits filed against him and numerous complaints of misconduct registered with the Civilian Review Board. In his 12**

**years on the force, the majority of charges against him were for illegal arrests, using excessive force and falsification of evidence.**

He has cost the city \$224,000 so far to settle just four of the cases against him.

Among the lawsuits against Atkins:

-- In 2003, Vincent Burgesses filed suit against Atkins after Atkins struck Burgesses with his walkie-talkie and arrested him without cause. Two years later, Burgesses was awarded \$50,000 in damages from the city.

-- In 2007, Atkins illegally arrested and charged 39-year-old Margaret Ferguson with marijuana possession. Ferguson lost her job--although the charges were eventually dropped, the damage had already been done.

-- In 2008, a local business owner was awarded \$15,000 after suing Atkins for illegally searching his car and business.

-- In 2009, Atkins was sued for strip-searching a woman he had arrested for marijuana possession.

-- In July 2010, Atkins arrested a stay-at-home father for doing nothing more than riding his bicycle. After being handcuffed tightly enough to cause severe bruising, the man, too, was strip-searched, held for 24 hours, and denied food and water. The city settled the suit for \$20,000.

As Chevon Messiah, an East Flatbush community member and witness to the crime, said:

"We call him Bad boy Atkins. He harasses people around here.

"His stop-and-frisk is not your typical stop-and-frisk. His stop-and-frisk is at gunpoint. He's quick to draw his gun.

"He threatens a lot of people around here--people are scared of him. When you see Atkins come out the car, go in your house, you might get shot."

But of course, fellow police are backing Atkins to the hilt.

Michael Palladino, president of the Detectives' Endowment Association, declared, "Based on the facts and circumstances, I am confident our detective's actions were appropriate and justified." This from the same man who said that the charges filed against the officers who killed Sean Bell in a hail of 50 bullets in 2006 were "disgraceful, excessive, unprecedented."

Less than 48 hours after Shantel was gunned down, family members, local activists, churches and community members called a vigil and march to the 67th Precinct where Detective Atkins is still on duty. On June 16, some 150 people came out to rally and march against this injustice.

The event began with a press conference. Speakers included progressive City Council member Jumaane Williams, representatives of Rev. Al Sharpton's National Action Network, and members of the clergy. The parents of Ramarley Graham and Tamon Robinson, two families whose sons were also murdered by the NYPD this year, joined the parents of Shantel Davis.

A representative of the National Action Network spoke about the hypocrisy that the police used to justify their actions: "You want us to be responsible for our actions. Well doggone it, you have to be held accountable for yours. We are not going to be quiet. We are not going to roll over. There is a hedge of protection around this family."

Jumaane Williams demanded that Bloomberg come down and address the community to begin a conversation about how to address the racist practices of the NYPD. "They ask that we give the NYPD the benefit of the doubt," Williams said. "There are communities that can do that. It is hard in my community to give the NYPD the benefit of the doubt. My community elected me to tell the truth. I challenge the mayor and the commissioner to come speak to the community. But if you won't come speak to us, we'll come speak to you."

Williams also focused on the racism that permeates the NYPD: "If we took the same exact background, actions, same car, same history and changed the complexion of their skin, moved it to the Upper West Side, would the result have been the same? Yes, 99.9 percent of the time, the answer is the result would be different."

As each speaker spoke about Davis' case, it became clear that the story of Ramarley Graham, the story of Tamon Robinson and now the story of Shantel Davis are connected.

**The role of the NYPD is the same in every Black and brown neighborhood of New York City--to intimidate, terrorize and kill with impunity.**

**But the vigil in Flatbush and the next day's 15,000-strong march against stop-and-frisk, initiated by the NAACP, show that such blatant injustice is boiling over into resistance.**

As Chevon Messiah, who organized the Saturday vigil, said:

"We are not going to be passive about this. We are going to make sure that something comes out of this, and we're not stopping here. We are going to continue fighting against what they have done in the neighborhood--treating us like animals. We are not animals. We are humans."

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## **Protests Against Government Spreading In Sudan:**

# **“The People Want To Overthrow The Regime”**

## **“A Significant Increase Over Previous Days”**

**Unlike previous days, when the demonstrations were led largely by students, the protesters on Friday appeared to encompass a broader segment of the capital’s population.**

23 June 12 By Al Jazeera

Sudanese security forces have broke up demonstrations across Khartoum as days of protests against government spending cuts expanded beyond the base of student activists who have dominated them so far, witnesses said.

At least seven protests were reported across the capital after Friday prayers, including in several neighbourhoods that had been quiet, which marked a significant increase over previous days.

About 400 to 500 protesters began chanting “the people want to overthrow the regime” as they left the Imam Abdel Rahman mosque in the suburb of Omdurman, activists and two witnesses said.

As security forces gathered, the protesters called for the police to join them, chanting: “Oh police, oh police, how much is your salary and how much is a pound of sugar?”

The police fired tear gas and then used batons as they clashed with the protesters, who threw rocks. Witnesses said men in civilian clothes also attacked the demonstrators.

Police were not immediately available for comment.

Sudan has faced soaring inflation since South Sudan seceded a year ago - taking with it about three quarters of the country’s oil production.

Activists have been trying to use public frustration to build a movement to topple the government of President Omar Hassan al-Bashir.

Large demonstrations have been relatively rare in Sudan, which has avoided the mass “Arab Spring” protest movements which swept through neighbouring Egypt and Libya. Security forces usually quickly disperse protests.

But government moves to cut spending to plug a budget gap, including scaling back fuel subsidies, sparked a spate of small demonstrations this week.

At another protest in Omdurman, about 100 people chanted “Freedom, freedom” until police fired tear gas to disperse them.

Police also fired tear gas to break up separate protests in two central Khartoum neighbourhoods that had not previously seen protests, witnesses said. The demonstrators burned tyres at one of the protests, a witness said.

Unlike previous days, when the demonstrations were led largely by students, the protesters on Friday appeared to encompass a broader segment of the capital's population.

Two small protests also broke out in the northern suburb of Bahri, which police dispersed with batons, activists said. A witness confirmed the account.

A group of about 40 people joined one protest in Bahri, but stopped amid a heavy security presence, while about 100 people burned tyres at the other protest until the police broke them up.

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**“Hama Is Free,” The Protesters  
Chant, “And It Will Remain  
Free”**

**“Hama Has Emerged In The Four-  
Month Revolt Against Mr. Assad  
As A Turbulent Model Of What A  
City In Syria Might Resemble Once  
Four Decades Of Dictatorship  
End”**

**“It Forges New Leaders, Organizes  
Its Own Defense”**

**“Residents Seek To Speak For  
Themselves And Defend A City That  
They Declare Theirs”**



Syrian anti-regime demonstrators marched through the center of Hama during an early morning rally Saturday. Moises Saman for The New York Times

July 19, 2011 BY ANTHONY SHADID, New York Times [Excerpts]

HAMA, Syria — In this city that bears the scars of one of the modern Middle East's bloodiest episodes, the revolt against President Bashar al-Assad has begun to help Syrians imagine life after dictatorship as it forges new leaders, organizes its own defense and reckons with a grim past in an uncertain experiment that showcases the forces that could end Mr. Assad's rule.

Dozens of barricades of trash bins, street lamps, bulldozers and sandbags, defended in various states of vigilance, block the feared return of the security forces that surprisingly withdrew last month.

Protests begin past midnight, drawing raucous crowds of youths celebrating the simple fact that they can protest.

At dusk, distant cries echo off cinder blocks and stone that render a tableau here of jubilation, fear and memory of a crackdown a generation ago whose toll — 10,000, 20,000, more — remains a defiant guess.

"Hama is free," the protesters chant, "and it will remain free."

Freedom is a word heard often these days in this city, Syria's fourth largest, though that freedom could yet prove elusive.

Hama rebelled last month, and the government withdrew the soldiers and security forces seemingly to forestall even more bloodshed, ceding space along the Orontes River that is really neither liberated nor subjugated.

In the uncertain interregnum, punctuated by worry that the security forces might return and fear of informers left behind, Hama has emerged in the four-month revolt against Mr. Assad as a turbulent model of what a city in Syria might resemble once four decades of dictatorship end. In skittish streets, there are at least nascent notions of self-determination, as residents seek to speak for themselves and defend a city that they declare theirs.

The sole poster of Mr. Assad in the city hangs from the undamaged headquarters of the ruling Baath Party.

**Gaggles of residents gather on the curb to debate politics, sing protest songs and retell the traumas of the crackdown in 1982, when the government stormed Hama to end an Islamist uprising.**

For the first time in memory, clerics and the educated elite in Hama are negotiating with the governor over how to administer the city, in a country long accustomed to a monologue delivered by the ruler to the ruled.

“This is the way a city is supposed to be,” said a 49-year-old former government employee of nearly three decades who gave his name as Abu Muhammad.

### **“Lined With Oleander And Eucalyptus Trees, The Road To Hama Underlines The Depth Of The Challenge Today To Mr. Assad”**

Lined with oleander and eucalyptus trees, the road to Hama underlines the depth of the challenge today to Mr. Assad.

Tanks are parked inside Homs, to the south. More are stationed at the entrances to smaller towns in between Homs and Hama — Talbiseh and Rastan, where protesters dismantled a statue of Mr. Assad’s father, Hafez, who seized power in 1970. At one entrance, strewn with stones thrown by protesters, a slogan says, “The army and the people are one hand.” But the scenes of jittery soldiers behind sandbags and turrets of tanks pointed at incoming traffic suggest an army of occupation.

“Syria is colonized by its own sons,” one resident quipped.

Hama is bracing for an attack by a government that may regret its decision to withdraw on the first week of June, after an especially bloody Friday.

But the authorities seem at a loss over how to retake control of the rebellious city that is Syria’s most religiously conservative.

Railing from fences was torn down and stones from sidewalks unearthed to build scores of barricades, which block entrances to most neighborhoods. Refuse has accumulated along streets where every trash bin seems part of a barrier.

Youths have distributed bags of rocks to the checkpoints, and some, too young to shave, carry bars and sticks. Others sneak cigarettes, away from disapproving parents.

A banner in Jerajmeh Square seemed to plead their case: “Here is Hama. It is not Tel Aviv” — a reference to Syria’s avowed enemy, Israel.

“Of course, we know the regime can enter any time,” said a 30-year-old carpenter with a goatee and blue eyes who gave his name as Abdel-Razzaq. He shrugged his shoulders at the prospect. “So the battle will happen,” he said. “What can we do about it?”

Even as they celebrate Hama’s measure of freedom, residents elsewhere have wondered what motivated the government to withdraw its forces from Hama.



Some suggest foreign pressure, others point to Hama's demographics. Unlike Homs, Hama has no Alawite minority, the heterodox Muslim sect from which the country's leadership draws much of its support. The city's small Christian population seems wary, but unharried.

But most believe the key lies in Hama's past, quoting a refrain heard almost any time the city's name is mentioned.

"Hama is wounded," it goes.

Under the orders of Hafez al-Assad, the Syrian Army quelled the revolt in 1982 with a brutality that defined his later rule.

He ended the rebellion, but the ferocity forever changed his leadership, ushering forth a suspicion and paranoia that still dominates his family's politics.

The three weeks of fighting left behind a graveyard in this city, too. Planes bombed Hama's historic quarter, and tanks plowed through narrow streets. Mass executions were routine, as was torture visited on survivors.

"Hama is the cemetery of the nation," say graffiti here.

"Every house has martyrs," said a 25-year-old petroleum engineer who gave his name as Adnan. Others joined him, sitting in plastic chairs on the curb, sipping tea.

Seventeen had died on their street, named after Sheik Mustafa al-Hamid, Adnan and others said. Many of the children playing soccer nearby bore the names of the dead.

One recalled his uncle Mahmoud, who he said was shot 24 times and survived, though badly crippled. "He looked like a strainer," he said.

A pharmacist said he never heard from his cousin, Othman, again.

"Their sons and grandsons are doing the protests today," Abu Muhammad, the former government employee, said.

**On successive Fridays since the government pulled out its forces, the protests in Assi Square — renamed Martyrs' Square — have grown as quickly as fear crumbled, reaching more than 100,000 this month.**

**Songs like "Get Out Bashar" were taken up by protesters in other cities and, by Syria's standards, became a YouTube sensation.**

In President's Square, the government dismantled a statue of Hafez al-Assad on June 10.

The next day, residents recalled, a man nicknamed Gilamo put his donkey on the pedestal. Hundreds gathered, clapping, in mock displays of obsequiousness.

"Oh, youth of Damascus, we in Hama overthrew the regime," residents recalled them chanting.

“We removed Hafez, and we put a donkey in his place.”

Several residents said the security forces shot the donkey a few days later.

### **“‘The Fear Has Been Broken,’ Said Adnan, One Of The Protest Leaders”**

In the vacuum, new leaders have begun to emerge, sometimes coexisting uneasily in a city that seems to be staggering into the unknown.

Youthful protesters have come together in a group called the Free Ones of Hama, but it is more a name than an organization.

Their real work, activists say, happens in their own neighborhoods, where they organize shifts to defend barricades, persuade their mothers to cook stuffed squash for their friends and relentlessly document the uprising with cameras, cellphones and camcorders.

No security troops can come close, they declare, without their streets sounding the alarm, erupting in cries of “God is great,” the chorus joined by a cacophony of banging pots and pans.

“The fear has been broken,” said Adnan, one of the protest leaders.

The protesters, though, hold little sway with the government, which has negotiated with the city to a surprising degree.

These days, Hama is represented by Mustafa Abdel-Rahman, the 60-year-old cleric in charge of the Serjawi Mosque. Residents say he consults with worshipers at his mosque, along with doctors, lawyers and engineers in the neighborhoods, over ways to defuse tension.

Under the latest deal, the government agreed to release prisoners if protesters dismantled checkpoints on the main roads. The protesters did, though in the end, only a fraction of the more than 1,200 detainees were freed.

“They will keep taking people, definitely,” said Tarek, a 22-year-old protester. “We can’t trust them. We just can’t trust them anymore.”

### **“You Don’t Feel Secure Unless The Security Forces Are Gone”**

**Over these six weeks, Hama has, in a way, emerged as a microcosm of the revolt — what the protesters see as competing visions of liberation and what the government labels chaos.**

**As in other places, the government has spoken of armed gangs and Islamists roaming the city’s streets, though over two days, not a single weapon was seen, save a slingshot. Islamists populate and perhaps dominate the ranks of**

**protesters, and by some estimates, a fourth of the city has fled, fearing a showdown more than the brand of rule the Islamists might impose.**

The government has spoken of losing control, though the city still functions.

Shops have reopened, people walk the streets, and the municipal administration — from courts to trash collection — began working again Saturday after a two-week strike.

Gardeners watered city squares, and cars obeyed traffic signals along streets where not a single government building was damaged beyond a few broken windows. Although the security forces have disappeared — all 16 branches of them, by some residents' count — the traffic police still come to work.

“You don't feel secure unless the security forces are gone,” Abu Muhammad said.

But episodes of lawlessness and vengeance have punctuated the city's experiment. An informer was hanged from an electricity pylon last month; the bodies of three or four others were thrown into the Orontes River, residents say.

A week ago, three Korean-made cars were stolen from a dealership, residents said, and some businessmen have complained about the checkpoints and a two-week strike that shut down Hama. Many frowned upon the dismantling of street lights and other infrastructure to build the barriers.

“There was no destruction with the protests, why does there have to be with the checkpoints?” asked a 40-year-old trader who gave his name as Ahmed. “Without a doubt, people are angry. I am myself. There are thugs out there, without question.”

At least anecdotally, his seemed to be a minority opinion.

The scenes on Saturday night were less chaotic than festive, as crowds lined the streets to watch a spontaneous protest celebrating the freedom of the few prisoners released.

The demonstrators headed to the governor's building, which was adorned in a slogan that still said “Assad's Syria.” Youths jumped in their cars, speeding through pulsating streets, trading rumors and news over cellphones that rang incessantly. They joked with one another at checkpoints.

“Next time I see you, we'll be playing cards together in jail,” one said.

Around midnight, a protester named Obada joined his friends in what seemed to be a cross between a dorm room and a safe house. The coals for water pipes smoldered in the corner, near computers, headphones, a big-screen television, a scanner, sound-mixing equipment and stacks of compact discs documenting protests, arrests and clashes with the security forces.

Each took a turn to celebrate what their uprising meant.

**“There's no fear,” said Mustafa, 27.**

**“You can walk in the streets with security,” added his friend, Mahmoud.**

**“We’ve come closer together,” volunteered Fadi, typing on his computer.**

**Another friend, Bassem, shook his head.**

**“We’re not free yet,” he said.**

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## **Doctors In The British Medical Association Go On Strike For The First Time In 40 Years**

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

21 Jun 2012 by Julie Sherry; Socialist Worker [UK]

Doctors in the British Medical Association (BMA) took industrial action for the first time in 40 years on Thursday.

They refused to undertake non-urgent care in surgeries and hospitals across the country. A BMA spokesperson said the action had hit at least four out of five NHS employers and one in three GP surgeries.

Doctors are protesting against cuts to their pensions.

BMA members in Tower Hamlets, east London, organised a lunchtime protest outside the Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel. Around 30 doctors and their supporters gathered with banners and megaphones.

Sally Hull is a GP at the Jubilee Street Practice in nearby Shadwell. She told Socialist Worker, “The pensions issue is only one part of the bigger plan to privatise the NHS. We cannot allow the NHS to be dismantled bit by bit.”

The doctors were joined by a nurse in the Unison union who works at the hospital. “I support the doctors’ action,” the nurse said. “I just wish we were doing it alongside them. It is the same fight. There is a struggle to be had over pay, but giving in on pensions is not going to inspire members to fight over pay.”

Doctors taking action have faced a barrage of abuse from the right wing press. Sally retorted, saying, “Of course we are well paid, but we’re fighting for all public sector workers and for the NHS. Our action today can give strength to others.”

East London GP Kambiz Boomla addressed the crowd about the next steps in the campaign, due to be decided at a BMA conference next week.

“We should coordinate action with other workers fighting over pensions,” he said. “And we should be out alongside the rest of the public sector the next time they strike.”

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