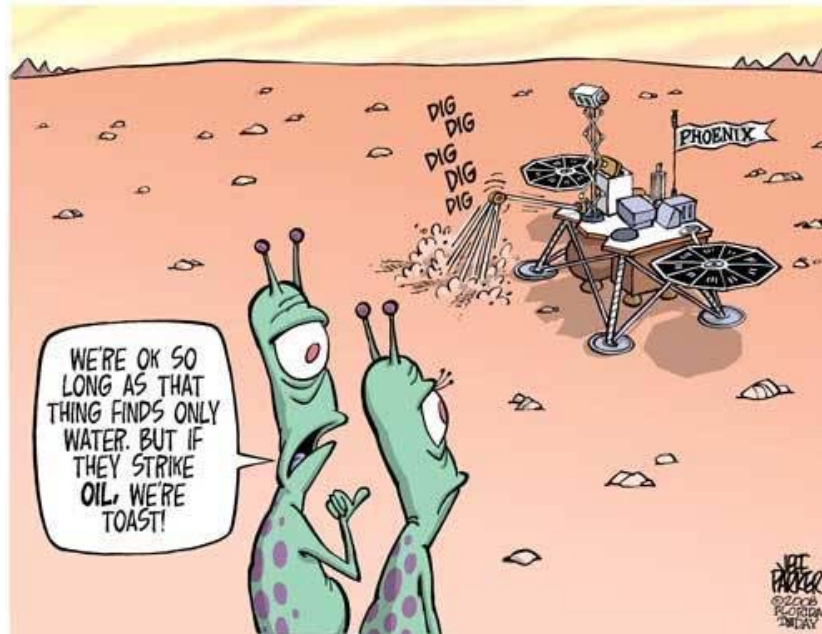


Military Resistance 10H4



“Hungarians Don’t Go Out At Night - They Might In Budapest, But Not In Afghanistan” New Zealand Prime Minister Complains That Hungarian Troops Aren’t Protecting New Zealand Soldiers

07/08/2012 DANYA LEVY AND VERNON SMALL, Fairfax New Zealand Limited

Prime Minister John Key says he will not put diplomatic pressure on Hungary to force its troops in Afghanistan to help stop attacks on New Zealand troops in the Bamiyan province.

Kiwi soldiers are extending their patrols further into the “badlands” east of Bamiyan to intercept insurgents responsible for an attack that killed two New Zealanders and injured six more.

The move was approved by Cabinet after a New Zealand base at Do Abe was attacked yesterday morning but there were no casualties.

Defence Force Chief Lieutenant General Rhys Jones described the attack as a “show of force”.

He also named the two 26-year-old soldiers killed in a firefight with insurgents on Saturday night after they went to assist local police forces.

They were Lance Corporals Pralli Durrer of Christchurch and Rory Malone of Auckland. It was their first deployment to Afghanistan as part of the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT).

New Zealand troops will now patrol into the Baghlan province, which is used as a base for insurgents to attack inside Bamiyan.

Baghlan is the responsibility of Hungarian forces and Key was yesterday critical of their lack of patrols in the area and their refusal to patrol after dark.

“Hungarians don’t go out at night - they might in Budapest, but not in Afghanistan.”

Hungary sent troops into Afghanistan in 2003 and it currently has a special operations unit in the war-torn country and 413 soldiers in its PRT in Baghlan.

Seven of its soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan, six of those in combat, the Paprikapolitik website reported.

A financial crisis led to a slight troop reduction in PRT numbers in late 2011 despite a worsening security situation, the website said.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

3 U.S. Troops Killed In Afghanistan

August 8, 2012 AP

KABUL, Afghanistan — NATO says an attack has killed three coalition troops in eastern Afghanistan, and a regional Afghan security official tells CBS News the slain troops were Americans.

The Taliban have claimed responsibility for the assault.

A coalition statement says the three troops died Wednesday morning in the province of Kunar.

It provided no further details, though initial reports said the attack targeted a foot patrol near the headquarters of the provincial government.

The account matches details given by the Afghan official to CBS News. He said at least one bomber on foot approached a group of U.S. soldiers on patrol near the Kunar Provincial Council office and blew himself up.

A spokesman for the local government, Wasifullah Wasify, told the Associated Press that at least one Afghan civilian was also killed and three were wounded in the blast.

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid says two of the group's fighters targeted a patrol in Kunar. He claims they killed several foreign troops.

Afghan Soldiers Kill US Soldier In Gerdiserai Area Of Paktia Province; Two More Wounded

August 07, 2012 By AP

Two men wearing Afghan National Army uniforms turned their weapons on U.S. troops Tuesday, killing an American service member and wounding two others, U.S. and coalition officials said.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the shooting in eastern Afghanistan — the latest in a rising number of so-called “green-on-blue” attacks in which Afghan security forces, or insurgents disguised in their uniforms, kill U.S. or other foreign soldiers.

A U.S. official said the victim was American.

A second U.S. official said two U.S. service members also were wounded in the attack. The official said the two attackers were in custody.

So far this year, 27 coalition troops have been killed in 20 such attacks, according to an Associated Press tally. That compares with 11 fatal attacks and 20 deaths the previous year. In 2007 and 2008 there were a combined total of four attacks and four deaths.

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said in a statement to the media that one Afghan soldier killed nine U.S. troops, but the Taliban often exaggerate the death toll of their attacks.

He said many other coalition troops were injured in the shooting, which occurred at 5 p.m. at a military base in Gerdiserai area of Paktia province. Afghan officials confirmed that the attack occurred in Paktia.

“The soldier who opened fire on the Americans had long been in contact with Taliban in the area,” Mujahid said. “The soldier has escaped and has joined with the Taliban.”

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

August 6, 2012 AP

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

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

August 7, 2012 AP

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

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

August 7, 2012 AP

A foreign servicemember died following an insurgent attack in eastern Afghanistan today.

Friend Says Rochester Soldier Who Died In Afghanistan Was 'Proud To Be There'



Pfc. Theodore 'Matt' Glende. / Steve Liguori

Jul 29, 2012 by Justin Murphy, Staff writer; Democrat And Chronicle

The Rochester soldier who died Friday in Afghanistan was killed by small-arms fire from enemy forces, according to a Department of Defense press release.

Pfc. Theodore "Matt" Glende, 23, a 2007 McQuaid Jesuit graduate, died in Kharwar, Logar province, according to the release.

A memorial page on Facebook quickly filled with memories and sorrows from Glende's friends, family and fellow soldiers in the 173rd Airborne Brigade combat team, based in Vicenza, Italy.

Margaret Storms met Glende five years ago through a mutual friend. She said he had only been deployed in Afghanistan for a few weeks. "He talked all the time about how excited he was to be in the military," she said. "He was so proud to be there. ... It just seemed to be what he felt he needed to do for himself."

Storms last communicated with Glende about two weeks ago, she said.

"He was one other most stand-up dudes I've ever met," she said. "He was kind and loyal and giving and had the most generous spirit. ... He cared so much about everybody."

Glende graduated from Niagara University in 2011 with a degree in military science. School President Joseph Levesque said in a written statement that the school was "deeply saddened" by the news. "Matt was called to serve and made the ultimate sacrifice for God and country," he wrote.

Family members declined requests for interviews, but released a brief statement: "These next few hours are going to bring an indescribable amount of pain and we need peace."

Glende had been married for just three months.

His parents were in Dover, Del., Sunday to receive his body and were due to return to Rochester Sunday night, according to family members.

Local Soldier Died Days Before Leave



Sgt. First Class Bobby Estle was shot and killed on Saturday, July 28 while serving his fourth tour in Afghanistan. U.S. Army

July 30, 2012 By Rick McCrabb, Staff Writer; Dayton Daily News

LEBANON —

When Monica Estle looked out her window — and saw two military personnel standing at the door Saturday morning — she expected the news to be “the worst thing ever.”

She was notified her husband, Sgt. First Class Bobby Estle, a Lebanon resident and 1992 Warren County Career Center graduate, was shot in the stomach and killed by enemy fire that day in Afghanistan, according to the Department of Defense.

Estle, 38, with 20 years of military experience, was scheduled to come home to Lebanon for leave on Aug. 10, then return home from his current tour of duty on Oct. 22, his wife’s 38th birthday, she said.

This was to be his fourth — and final — tour of duty, she said. He served two tours in Iraq and two in Afghanistan. Her husband “absolutely loved” the military, she said.

On Monday, Estle and her husband’s family were at Dover Air Force Base in Maryland to greet his flag-draped casket.

She called his death “still not real,” and added his three children are in “total disbelief.”

Funeral arrangements for Estle, who was part of the 101st Airborne Division out of Fort Campbell, Ky., are being handled by the Stine Kilburn Funeral Home on Monroe Road in Lebanon. Arrangements have not been set.

He is survived by his wife, three children, J.R. Marston, 20, Anthony Estle, 19, and Marieanna Estle, 12, a seventh-grader at Lebanon Junior High School; his parents, Robert and Debra Howard; and brother, Rob Howard.

Monica Estle, 37, a 1991 Kings High School graduate, said she was introduced to her future husband by mutual friends on July 4, 1997, when he was home on leave from Fort Knox. They were married two months later. She was attracted by his personality.

“He shined,” she said through tears. “When he was there, you knew he was in the room. He would help any soldier, any family member.”

She said her husband had “a major influence” on everyone he met, and numerous soldiers had texted her their condolences.

Estle became the fourth area soldier to die this year and 19th since 2003.

Pfc. Jose Oscar Belmontes, 28, of La Verne, Calif., also died from the attack, the Department of Defense said. The soldiers were supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. Estle and Belmontes were soldiers with the 630th Engineer Company, 7th Engineer Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade, the Department of Defense said.

Estle joined the Army in March 1993. After training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., he was stationed at Fort Campbell, Ky., Fort Jackson, S.C. and arrived at Fort Drum in January 2010. Estle deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in March 2003 to June 2004 and November 2005 to November 2006. He deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in February 2010 to July 2010. Estle deployed with his unit in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in October 2011, according to the Army.

His awards and decorations include: the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, two Army Commendation Medals, seven Army Achievement Medals, the Navy Achievement Medal, five Army Good Conduct Medals, two National Defense Service Medals, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with two stars, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, and the Humanitarian Service Medal.

Marine Killed In Afghanistan Was Due Home In A Month

Aug 1, 2012 Written by R. Norman Moody, FLORIDA TODAY

Marine Gunnery Sgt. Jonathan Gifford of Palm Bay was one month from completing his deployment to Afghanistan when he and another Marine were killed while on patrol.

Gifford — a 1996 graduate of Melbourne Catholic High, where he played soccer and baseball — had been in the Marine Corps for about 15 years.

He is the second service member from Palm Bay killed within a week in the war in Afghanistan, and the third in the past year.

Army Spc. Justin Louis Horsley, 21, a 2009 graduate of Bayside High, died July 22 while on patrol in Pul-E Alam, Afghanistan. Jeremiah T. Sancho, 23, died Oct. 13, 2011 in Kandahar province, Afghanistan. Both their units were attacked with improvised explosive devices.

The Marine Corps said in a statement that Gifford, 34, and Gunnery Sgt. Daniel J. Price, 27, of Holland, Mich., died Sunday morning during a patrol in Badghis province, Afghanistan. No further details were available.

“He was due to come home in a month, his father, Thomas Gifford said, when reached by phone Tuesday morning at his Palm Bay home. “He was there seven months.”

Thomas Gifford said he was on his way out the door with his family to fly to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware. It is the location of the Charles C. Carson Center for Mortuary Affairs, which is the Department of Defense’s largest joint-service mortuary facility. The remains of military personnel killed at war are usually brought through Dover before being transferred to family.

In 1996, Jonathan Gifford and his brother, Matthew, were listed as academically outstanding students by Saint Leo College. That year, Jonathan was one of the college’s eight soccer team members to make the Sunshine State Conference Commissioner’s Honor Roll.

Melbourne Central Catholic baseball coach Tom Dooley said Gifford was the ultimate competitor who also liked to prepare for competition. His former teammates are still in shock over his death.

“Pound for pound, he was the most competitive young man I ever coached,” Dooley said. “We are honored to have coached and played with such a tremendous American.”

He said Gifford was a good student, trained hard and was tough on the field.

“When you defined tough, he was there,” said Dooley, who has been coaching 25 years at the school. “Everything you wanted in a young man, he had it.”

Gifford was an instructor since 2006 with the Marine Special Operations School at Camp Lejeune.

Gifford and Price were assigned to Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command. Price was with the 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion out of Camp Pendleton, Calif. Gifford was from the 2nd Marine Special Operations Battalion out of Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Gifford deployed several times and earned a Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal with combat “V,” a Marine official said. He entered the Marine Corps in 1996 and briefly

left in 2001 but reentered and was assigned to 2nd Force Recon. He deployed to Iraq and was combat meritoriously promoted to staff sergeant during that tour. This was his second deployment in the war in Afghanistan.

Upstate Soldier Killed In Afghanistan



PFC Adam C. Ross. Spartanburg Herald Journal; courtesy the family

Jul. 26, 2012 By JENNY ARNOLD, The State

LYMAN — U.S. Army Pfc. Adam Ross, 19, of Lyman was shot and killed in an ambush while on foot patrol Tuesday in Afghanistan, said his uncle, Kevin Nix.

Ross, a member of the 173rd Airborne Infantry, was stationed in Vicenza, Italy, and had been in Afghanistan for less than three weeks when he was killed.

Ross graduated a semester early from James F. Byrnes High School at the end of 2010, Nix said. He enlisted on April 4, 2011, following two role models, his father, Staff Sgt. Dudley Ross, who served 10 years in the U.S. Navy before transferring to the Army National Guard, and his brother, U.S. Army Pfc. Jonathan Ross, 24, who is stationed in South Korea.

Nix said his nephew had always wanted to be a soldier, even as a toddler. His scores on the military entrance exam were high and he could have served in any position, but he opted for the infantry, Nix said.

“He had always desired to go into the military,” Nix said. “He had always had a passion to wear the uniform and fight on the front lines.”

Nix said Adam Ross was very family-oriented, well-liked and laid back.

“Nothing seemed to rattle him,” Nix said. “He spoke to his girlfriend just before he left for Afghanistan, and she asked him if he was aware of what could happen. He said, ‘I know where I’m going, I know what I’m doing and I know what my purpose is.’ His soul was

saved. He was confident in where his faith was placed. The whole family is strong in its faith.”

The Rosses are members of Airport Baptist Church in Greer. The pastor, the Rev. Mike Bowling, said he visited the family on Wednesday, as Adam Ross’ parents, Dudley and Amanda Ross, and his girlfriend, Rachel “BB” Lowery, prepared for a flight to Delaware to meet the plane carrying Adam Ross’ body.

“He was well-mannered, good spirited and just an all-around good American boy,” Bowling said.

Funeral arrangements were incomplete Wednesday and will be announced later, Nix said.

Ross is the fourth South Carolinian to die in combat in Afghanistan this year.

3 U.S. Soldiers Wounded By Base Blast In Afghanistan: “Security In Logar, Which Borders The Southern Part Of Kabul, Has Deteriorated Significantly In Recent Months”

August 8th, 2012 By Ali Safi, The Anchorage Daily News

KABUL, Afghanistan - Three U.S. soldiers and at least 17 civilian were injured Tuesday when a truck bomb exploded outside a coalition base in the eastern province of Logar, provincial officials said.

Provincial police chief Ghulam Sakhi Rogh Lewanai told AFP: “A truck loaded with explosives detonated at the coalition forces’ camp in (the provincial capital) Puli Alam city.

ISAF said the explosion was outside the base, near an Afghan bazaar.

An AFP reporter at the scene said the area near the base had been cordoned off by U.S. forces and helicopters were flying overhead.

Although the first two checkpoints on the approach to the base were visible there was no sign of an explosion, he said, adding that police and residents told him that the blast happened further on towards the base.

“I was on my way to school when there was suddenly a huge explosion which knocked me down,” said schoolboy Samiullah.

“I saw thick smoke and flames rising from the inside of this camp.”

Provincial spokesman Din Mohammad Darwish said: “The explosives had been hidden inside a truck used for transporting and mixing cement. It happened at the gate of the base.”

He said U.S. soldiers guarding the base in Puli Alam, Logar’s provincial capital, stopped the truck at the gate to the base and questioned its driver.

When the soldiers became suspicious, the bomber detonated his load.

James Graybeal, a spokesman for U.S. troops in Afghanistan, confirmed that there had been a “vehicle-borne explosion” outside a facility in Logar. He declined to provide details on casualties.

The 17 victims who were wounded in the attack were Afghan workers reporting to the base and waiting at the entrance for security checks, Sakhi said.

Taliban insurgents claimed responsibility for the attack, some 70 kilometres (40 miles) south of the capital Kabul.

“At around 9:00 am one of our mujahideen (holy warriors) carried out a truck bomb attack on a big US forces’ camp resulting in many deaths and injuries,” Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said in a text message.

The statement said that “such attacks have a message to the Americans that Afghan Muslims and a brave nation cannot accept the American headquarters and military bases in their country.”

Security in Logar, which borders the southern part of Kabul, has deteriorated significantly in recent months, and the influx of Taliban have become a frequently voiced concern for residents and government officials alike.

Just last week, during an impeachment session in Afghanistan’s lower house of Parliament, the interior minister called for more security assistance for Logar.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

Donkey Bomb Kills District Police Chief

August 06, 2012 Xinhua

CHEGHCHERAN, Afghanistan -- The anti-government militants planted mine on the back of a donkey and targeted a district police chief killing him on the spot in Ghor province 360 km west of Afghan capital Kabul on Monday, provincial police chief said.

"The rebels planted mine on a donkey and stopped it near the gate of the district headquarters of Charsada district and when the district police chief arrived at the gate at around 09:00 a.m. local time to go to his office, the rebels exploded it by remote control killing the police chief on the spot," Dilawar Shah Dilawar told Xinhua.

Three more police were injured in the incident, the provincial police chief added.

Eleven Afghan Police Defect To Taliban In Helmand Province With Weapons And Three Motorcycle: "Local Elders Blamed The Government, Saying The Men Who Defected Had Not Been Paid On Time" "The Local Police Were Like Sitting Ducks. Their Weapons Are Often Not Working"

6 August 2012 BBC

Eleven Afghan policemen have defected to the Taliban in the southern province of Helmand, officials say.

The men switched sides early on Monday in Musa Qala district, taking with them weapons and three motorcycles, a provincial spokesman told the BBC.

It is the second such defection in recent weeks - a police commander and 13 junior officers joined the Taliban in western Farah province in late July.

That was one of the biggest defections so far by the police.

It highlighted a major intelligence failure and was a propaganda boost for the insurgents, the BBC's Bilal Sarwary in Kabul said.

One Afghan intelligence official based in Helmand told our correspondent it appeared the insurgents had infiltrated the local police in Musa Qala some time ago.

A number of people who had vouched for the men who defected, including some tribal elders, are now being questioned, provincial spokesman Dawood Ahmadi told the BBC.

Local elders blamed the government, saying the men who defected had not been paid on time.

“You can’t fight the Taliban if you can’t feed your children. The local police were like sitting ducks. Their weapons are often not working,” one told the BBC.

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

MILITARY NEWS

**THIS IS HOW OBAMA BRINGS THEM HOME:
ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE**



The remains of Army 1st Sgt. Russell R. Bell of Tyler, Texas, upon arrival at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, on, August 4. Bell was killed by an improvised explosive device. (AP)

Military Resistance Available In PDF Format

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

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

The philosophers have only interpreted the world, in various ways; the point is to change it.

-- Karl Marx, “Theses on Feuerbach”

In a Time of Madness



Photograph by Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: July 30, 2012
Subject: In a Time of Madness

In a Time of Madness

The most evil piece of real estate the world has ever witnessed is the Pentagon.

The Wall Street Ruling Class is the monster who controls the Pentagon, and decides who lives and dies.

I was a paid mercenary when I was in Vietnam.

I was obedient, because rarely do soldiers question why they are sent to a war zone in the first place.

I found out the truth about Vietnam when I was in a padded cell of a psychiatric hospital in 1980.

There are only so many chairs around a dinner table, and America decides who will thrive, and who will survive. The United States Wall Street Government is redefining the word insanity.

It has become the Surveillance Drone of the world.

Our culture has been built over the bodies of millions of people.

Since the end of World War II, the U.S. has bombed 28 countries.

Our proxy armies have been on a rampage around the world.
How can anyone ever grasp the magnitude of this violence?
How can anyone ever grasp the magnitude of this suffering?
How can anyone ever grasp the magnitude of genocide
against the American Indian?
How can anyone ever grasp the magnitude of slavery in America?
How can anyone ever grasp the magnitude of supremacy?
When in truth, America has become a nation of Supremacy.
And yet, we have the audacity to call "Skin Heads" sick.
Yes, there are only so many chairs around a dinner table.
A lot of Vietnamese children never made it to the dinner table.
A lot of Laotian children never made it to the dinner table.
A lot of Cambodian children never made it to the dinner table.
A lot of Salvadoran children never made it to the dinner table.
A lot of Nicaraguan children never made it to the dinner table.
A lot of Yugoslavian children never made it to the dinner table.
A lot of Chilean children never made it to the dinner table.
A lot of Afghanistan children never made it to the dinner table.
A lot of Iraqi children never made it to the dinner table.
A lot of Palestinian children never made it to the dinner table.
A lot of Somalian children never made it to the dinner table.
A lot of Haitian children never made it to the dinner table.
A lot of other children never made it to the dinner table,
because the U.S. Empire never invited them.
Guns, Guns, Guns...
The world is a global economy now,
and each day the Wall Street bell rings in silence
for countless children around the world.
America has become a culture of addiction,
an addiction to drugs and denial that keeps
us from seeing the head master at the dinner table.
That head master is the American Empire.
Panic has become the wolf at the door.

Mike Hastie
Army Medic Vietnam
July 30, 2012

The most revolutionary act is to name reality.
Paulo Freire

Awakening

When you discover the truth through the
door of betrayal, and become a global
citizen, it is as if you acquired a quantum
leap in intelligence. The world you once
lived in is no longer your primary residence.

Mike Hastie
Army Medic Vietnam

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

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

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

**“A Narrative Taking Root
Suggests That The Syrian
Uprising Is Somehow Less
Worthy Than The Other Arab
Pro-Democracy Revolts”**

**“The Syrian Uprising, According
To This Narrative, Is A Foreign
Conspiracy Promoted By Biased
Media”**

**“As If The Only Way To Resist
Imperialism Or An Israeli Threat Is
For The Syrian People To Endure
Living Under Baathism”**

**“They Also Do Not Need To Be Told To
Fight Until The End Because They Know**

Full Well The Regime Kills And Tortures In Times Of Calm, As It Does When It Is Embattled”

Aug 7, 2012 By Hassan Hassan, The National

One day during my high school studies in Syria, over a decade ago, the school's administration decided to replace a sport class with a science class to compensate for the absence of a teacher.

About half of my classmates rejected the decision (they liked their sport), refused to enter the class and stood outside in protest.

I had never seen the school's administration more nervous.

That negligible act of rebellion compelled the headmaster to come and speak to us personally, armed with what I'd call the Baathist tools of coercion. "I know that most of you are good people," he told us, "but I want you to point out to me the subversive student among you, who I know is an ikhwanji (a pejorative term that refers to a member of the banned Muslim Brotherhood organisation).

"If you do not, I will have to call the Political Security (a branch of the mukhabarat, with an office adjacent to the school)".

That sentence was powerful enough to make us return to class, without uttering a word.

I'm reminded of that defining day on the schoolyard as I watch the world try to make sense of the absurdity of the Assad regime today, and its answer to any form of dissent by calling Syrians "mundasseen" - infiltrators.

Syrians raised under this regime know that taking to the streets to call for the government's downfall is the very definition of audacity.

Syrians do not need to be told by media what the regime is capable of or how it behaves when it is confronted.

They also do not need to be told to fight until the end because they know full well the regime kills and tortures in times of calm, as it does when it is embattled.

Yet outside Syria, a narrative taking root suggests that the Syrian uprising is somehow less worthy than the other Arab pro-democracy revolts that swept the region last year.

The Syrian uprising, according to this narrative, is a foreign conspiracy promoted by biased media and instigated by extremists.

The position is maintained largely by the Arab left, pan-Arabists and anti-imperialists, as if the only way to resist imperialism or an Israeli threat is for the Syrian people to endure living under Baathism.

Mohamed Hassanein Haykal, a veteran Egyptian journalist and a former adviser to the late Gamal Abdel Nasser, dismissed the Syrian uprising late last year as one spurred by foreign intelligence.

He said the cities that revolted against the regime were border cities - proof, he said, it was not a real revolution.

Only if Damascus and Aleppo rose up, he argued, could the uprising be considered a legitimate revolution.

Since the two main cities rose up, however, he has remained deafeningly silent. (It's worth reminding Haykal that all Syrian cities, except Hama and Suweida, are border cities).

Others have jumped from denying the existence of a popular uprising to labelling it a civil war.

When Abdul Razzaq Tlass defected in June last year, for example, Asad Abu Khalil, an influential Lebanese-American pundit known for his criticism of Israel, posted this comment on his blog: "Western and Arab (Saudi and Qatari) media are so desperate for any news that is damaging to the Syrian regime that they play up the 'news' of YouTube-based defection of individual soldiers or officers. That is really not news worthy."

The Syrian opposition has undeniably committed several human rights violations. But it is one thing to highlight these violations, quite another to undermine the sacrifices of people who seek nothing but freedom from a brutal regime.

Syrian activists, via social media, highlight and criticise abuses more often than any human rights organisation.

In March, when Human Rights Watch issued an open letter to the Syrian opposition about human rights violations, Syrian activists issued a letter that unequivocally acknowledged the importance of constructive criticism and called on the organisation to continue to highlight violations.

Abu Khalil and others have tried to taint the Syrian uprising as a foreign plot, and save particular ire for Qatar. Al Jazeera, the Arab satellite behemoth based in Doha, has borne the brunt of this criticism.

Last week the astute Emirati commentator Sultan Al Qassemi wrote that both Al Jazeera and Al Arabia have "lowered their journalistic standards, abandoned rudimentary fact-checks, and relied on anonymous callers and unverified videos in place of solid reporting".

I share some of Al Qassemi's sentiments but disagree with the attempt to undermine the narrative of the activists, especially the suggestion that anonymous callers are paid "handsome amounts of money" to appear on these channels.

Qatar's role in the Arab world was once hailed. In 2006, Abu Khalil called the arrival of Emir Hamad bin Jassim bin Jaber Al Thani in Lebanon a "PR coup for the Qatari

government". After the Hizbollah-Israel war in 2006, during a visit to Beirut, Qatar's emir was symbolically handed keys to Lebanon by Lebanese officials, who called the emir the owner of the land rather than its guest.

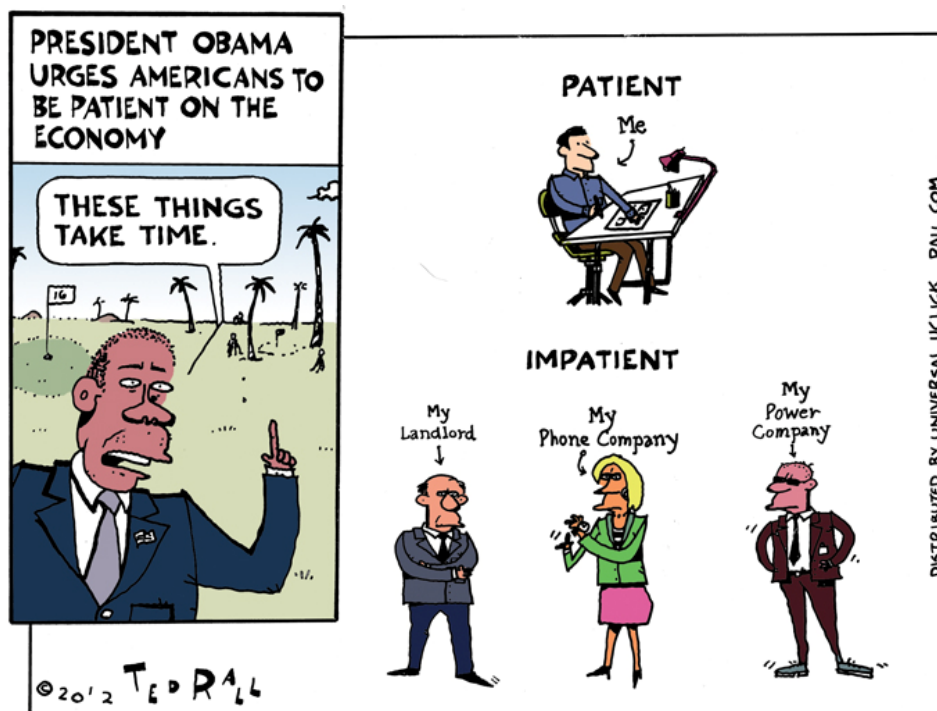
But regardless of how the uprising is being portrayed by regional governments, or their affiliated media, the only narrative that matters for Syria is the fact on the ground.

The regime is suffering everywhere in the country, from Idlib to Damascus to Deir Ezzor.

Generals continue to defect, others are killed in battle and officials at the regime's helm continue to defect.

These are all stories that must be told.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



The Pussy Riot Trial: “Feminism Is A Mortal Sin”

A Lawyer For The Women Said “Russia Has No Rule Of Law. Russia Has No Justice System”
“Tensions, Including Between Society And The Church, Were Building To Similar Levels As Before The Bolshevik Revolution Of 1917”



Pussy Riot demonstrators (from left) Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, Yekaterina Samutsevich and Maria Aliokhina during their trial. Photograph: Maxim Shipenkov/EPA

7 August 2012 Miriam Elder in Moscow, Guardian News and Media

Prosecutors have called for three members of the feminist punk band Pussy Riot to be jailed for three years after arguing they had insulted all of Russian Orthodoxy and posed a danger to society.

“They must be isolated from society,” the federal prosecutor Alexei Nikiforov told the Moscow court on Tuesday.

He and lawyers for the offended argued that if they were not jailed, they would strike again.

The three band members – Maria Alyokhina, Nadezhda Tolokonnikova and Yekaterina Samutsevich – have been charged with hooliganism motivated by religious hatred after performing a “punk prayer” against President Vladimir Putin in a Moscow cathedral.

In their closing arguments, prosecutors argued the women were not carrying out a political act, but acting on deep hatred for Russian Orthodoxy.

“They violated the traditions of our country,” Nikiforov said.

He said the fact that “no politicians” were named in the punk band’s song proved it was not a political act.

The name and chorus of the song Pussy Riot performed was called Virgin Mary, Chase Putin Out.

Prosecutors presented the women as dangerous feminists.

“All the defendants talked about being feminists and said that is allowed in the Russian Orthodox church,” said Yelena Pavlova, a lawyer for several of the nine victims who claimed they were insulted by Pussy Riot’s performance.

“This does not correspond with reality. Feminism is a mortal sin,” she said.

The Pussy Riot case has reawakened anti-government passions that first emerged when Putin announced last autumn that he was returning to the presidency. Opposition activists have called for an impromptu protest to be held on 19 August.

Addressing the court in the afternoon, defence lawyers argued that the women’s performance was an act of opposition against Putin and was not motivated by religious hatred. “The ‘prayer’ they sang was a political one,” lawyer Violetta Volkova said.

Mark Feygin, another lawyer for the women, gave an impassioned speech warning of the consequences of a conviction, which ended with applause from the journalists witnessing the trial.

“Russia has no rule of law. Russia has no justice system,” he said. “Nothing has changed from Soviet times.”

He warned that a guilty verdict would “definitely tear up relations between society and government”.

Society would never forgive the government for jailing three innocent women, he said, warning that tensions, including between society and the church, were building to similar levels as before the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917.

He appeared to accept a conviction as a foregone conclusion: “If the order is handed down from above to jail them, then they will be jailed. This is a political case from beginning to end.”

Pussy Riot have argued that their February performance inside Moscow’s Cathedral of Christ the Saviour was designed to call attention to the politicisation of the Orthodox church, which was a key agitator for Putin’s re-election. Church officials have said their trial has been willed by God.

The women have apologised if they offended any Orthodox believers.

Prosecutors said on Tuesday that their apologies were insincere and that the victims had “the right not to be merciful”.

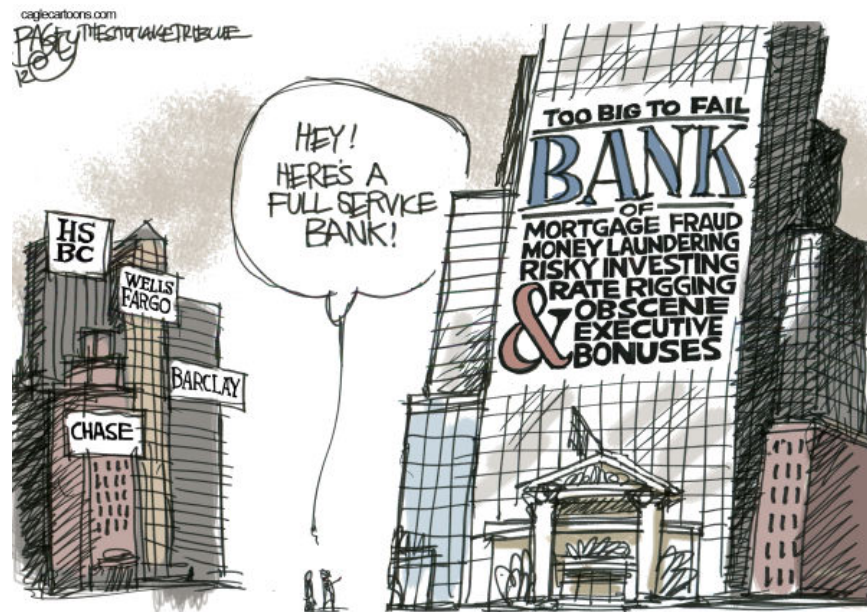
They argued that the leader of the church, Patriarch Kirill, had been personally insulted and was “not just an ordinary citizen”.

The three women addressed the court on Tuesday and urged the judge to deliver a not guilty verdict. A verdict is expected in coming days.

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.

CLASS WAR REPORTS



Police Prevent Demonstration In The Capital Of Tunis:

“Activists Say That The Objectives Of The Revolution In Tunisia Have Not Been Realised, And That The Country Is Not On The Right Track”

[Thanks to Alan Stolzer, Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

06 Aug 2012 Al Jazeera

Anti-government protesters in the Tunisian capital have clashed with police as they attempted to protest against what they term nepotism and corruption in the government.

Hundreds of policemen prevented the protesters from gathering on Sunday, because the interior ministry had banned demonstrations in Tunis for the evening.

The civil society activists say that the objectives of the revolution in Tunisia have not been realised, and that the country is not on the right track. They also argue that corruption and favouritism are still being practiced in the country's administration and ministries.

The protesters ended up marching up and down the crowded Habib Bourguiba Avenue, in the heart of the city, where many families had gathered to observe the breaking of their fast.

“We have the right to protest peacefully but the interior ministry banned all demonstrations,” said Zied Hechmi, president of the association for young Tunisian medical doctors.

“It's like in the past. We don't even have the right to express our opinion without being aggressed.”

Ghada Ahmad, another of the protesters, said: “We have to claim the right for an independent judiciary, an independent elections committee and to claim the right for better social and economic situation.

“We haven't been allowed to gather and to protest. We've been aggressed physically and verbally. “The police have attempted to confiscate our cameras and dispersed us with violence.”

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Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War

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