

## **Military Resistance 10H5**



## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Afghan Police Commander Invites U.S. Special Forces Soldiers To Dinner And Kills Three**

August 10, 2012 Los Angeles Times

KABUL, Afghanistan – A man in an Afghan police uniform shot and killed three American service members in southern Afghanistan, the U.S. military said Friday, in the latest of an intensifying spate of so-called green-on-blue attacks.

An Afghan official in Helmand province where the shooting took place said the three men killed were members of U.S. special operations forces, lured to their deaths by a police commander who invited them to dinner Thursday night at his checkpoint.

The apparently premeditated nature of the attack added an alarming new dimension to the phenomenon of Afghan police and soldiers turning their weapons on Western mentors.

**Military command has disclosed 28 such deaths so far this year, and the latest shooting, in Helmand's Sangin district, was the second of its kind this week.**

An Afghan official speaking on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the subject said it was not clear how many assailants had taken part in the attack because the attackers had fled.

Also present at the dinner were recruits to the Afghan Local Police, a village militia being trained by American special forces, the official said.

A Taliban spokesman, Qari Yousuf Ahmadi, identified the police commander who took part in the attack as Asadullah, and described him as a "hero" who had come over to the Taliban side, bringing his weapon with him.

**MORE:**

## **Afghan Soldiers Open Fire On Foreign Troops In Eastern Laghman Province; General Messer "Declined To Say If Anyone Was Wounded"**

August 09, 2012 By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On Thursday, two Afghan soldiers tried to shoot a group of foreign soldiers outside a "coordination center" for Afghan and international forces in eastern Laghman Province.

No soldiers were hit, but one of the attackers was killed.

The second Afghan soldier was detained, an Afghan military official said.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the Thursday attack, said a Taliban spokesman, Zabiullah Mujahid.

German Lieutenant Colonel Hagen Messer said no NATO troops were killed in the incident.

He also declined to say if anyone was wounded.

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# **Three Key U.S. Military Command Leaders And A Foreign Service Officer Killed In Asadabad; “Other Leaders And Soldiers Harmed In The Attack” “No Further Information Was Available As Of Aug. 10 About How Many Soldiers Were Wounded Or The Nature Of Their Wounds”**

Aug 10, 2012 By Michelle Tan and Joe Gould - Staff writers; Army Times & NBC News staff [Excerpts]

A brigade command sergeant major and two officers were killed Aug. 8 in a deadly bomb attack that also claimed the life of an American civilian.

**While their names may not be well known, U.S. officials consider this a significant attack because the brigade leadership was taken out by a bomber.**

The soldiers were all assigned to the 4th Brigade Combat Team of the 4th Infantry Division based in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin J. Griffin, 45, was the senior enlisted soldier for 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, of Fort Carson, Colo., and the first command sergeant major to be killed in combat in Afghanistan, according to Army Times records.

The brigade deployed in March to Afghanistan's Regional Command-East and is serving along the Pakistani border, in Afghanistan's Nangarhar, Kunar, Laghman and Nuristan provinces.

Maj. Thomas E. Kennedy, 35, the brigade's fire support coordinator, and Air Force Maj. Walter D. Gray, 38, of the 13th Air Support Operations Squadron at Fort Carson, were killed, as was Ragaei Abdelfattah, who was on his second voluntary tour with the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Kennedy joined the unit late and had been in Afghanistan only three weeks.

The brigade commander, Col. James J. Mingus, was present during the attack but was unharmed, despite initial media reports that he was badly wounded, brigade spokesman Maj. Christopher Thomas wrote on the unit's Facebook page.

“There were, however, other leaders and soldiers harmed in the attack, which is a favored (tactic, technique and procedure) of an enemy who cares little about who he harms in the pursuit of his goals,” Thomas wrote.

No further information was available as of Aug. 10 about how many soldiers were wounded or the nature of their wounds.

The attack in Asadabad stands out because of the loss of Griffin, who as a brigade command sergeant major was half of the unit’s command team and responsible for the welfare of the 3,500 soldiers in the brigade.

Griffin was a true professional, said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Deliberti, who has known Griffin for 14 years and is now the equal opportunity advisor for 4th BCT.

The soldiers in the brigade are taking Griffin’s death — and the loss of the others — hard, Deliberti said.

“The last few days, there have been a lot of droopy heads, sad, no joking around,” he said.

“It took a big toll on our unit, and with my job, I try to be there for the soldiers. I try to comfort them, I try to talk to them.”

The Obama administration said Thursday that a United States government aid worker had been killed in the attack.

The statement said that a Foreign Service officer working with the United States Agency for International Development, Ragaei Abdelfattah, was killed.

A State Department employee was wounded.

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## **Soldier From 26 Engineer Regiment Killed In Nad-E Ali**

10 Aug 12 Ministry of Defence

It is with deep regret that the Ministry of Defence must announce a soldier from 30 Armoured Engineer Squadron, 26 Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers was killed in Afghanistan, today, 10 August, 2012.

His death occurred as a result of injuries sustained by enemy action whilst undertaking a construction task in the Nad-e Ali district of Helmand province.

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# Soldier Lived Life To His Fullest, Brother Says



Justin L. Horsley, Courtesy Horsley family

Jul 30, 2012 Written by R. Norman Moody, FLORIDA TODAY

Justin Louis Horsley and his twin brother, Benjamin, 21, were always by each other's side. They persuaded one another to join the Army.

"They both wanted to have similar jobs," their older brother, John, 24, said. "Ben is a scout and Justin is infantry."

Army Specialist Justin Horsley, a 2009 graduate of Bayside High School in Palm Bay, was on patrol Sunday in Pul-E Alam, Afghanistan, when a roadside bomb hit his unit, killing him.

He reportedly was in Afghanistan for about two weeks.

The improvised explosive device also killed Pfc. Brenden N. Salazar of Chuluota, and injured four other soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, which is based in Italy.

Justin and Benjamin were born in Yongsan, South Korea, where their late father, Dennis Horsley, who served 20 years in the Army, was stationed. They grew up liking the same things, including military life, their brother said.

Justin Horsley maintained good grades, and by the time he graduated from Bayside, he had also earned an associate of arts degree at Brevard Community College. In high school, he participated in football, wrestling and track and field, throwing the discus like his brother, John, did.

"(Justin) was a hard worker," said Pat O'Bryan, wrestling coach at Bayside. "He wasn't boisterous. He was a good kid. I didn't have to worry about him."

O'Bryan expressed condolences for Horsley's family. "I've been coaching wrestling for a long time and a lot of my former wrestlers have gone into the military," he said.

John Horsley said his brother was always calm and collected and a good listener who wanted to serve.

"Justin was a man of few words and I believe he says the right things at the right time," John Horsley said. "He likes to make others laugh and enjoys everyone's company.

John said he thinks his brother, who served 22 months in the Army, wanted to marry his girlfriend, Melisia Misha Ahlberg of Sweden, when he got back from Afghanistan.

John said his brother lived life fully and did things he probably wouldn't try himself. Justin went whitewater rafting, jumped out of airplanes and traveled to faraway places.

Funeral arrangements have not been finalized, but John Horsley said it would likely be Aug. 8 at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell. He said the memorial service likely would be only with family and close friends.

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## Chuluota Soldier Dies In Combat Overseas



Army Pfc. Brenden Salazar died last week after his unit was attacked in Afghanistan.

August 01, 2012 By Jessica J. Saggio, Seminole Chronicle

As Operation Enduring Freedom continues in Afghanistan, the sacrifices being made across the globe are again touching the lives of local residents.

On July 22, the Department of Defense announced the death of U.S. Army Pfc. Brenden Salazar of Chuluota after enemy forces attacked his unit in Pul-E Alam, Afghanistan.

Salazar's unit was attacked with an improvised explosive device, taking his life and the life of Palm Bay resident Spc. Justin Horsley.

Salazar was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, which is based in Caserma Ederle, Italy. Salazar deployed to Afghanistan in July 2012 after being in his unit a little over a year, said James Nelson, his father.

Salazar was 20 years old.

Services for Salazar will take place Thursday and Friday at the St. Stephen Catholic Community church in Winter Springs. A viewing will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. tonight for friends and guests. A service will take at 10 a.m. Friday at the church followed by a military funeral at the National Cemetery in Bushnell from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Salazar is survived by his mother and father, Jovanna and James Nelson, his little sisters, Hannah Nelson and Sophie Salazar and his biological father, Chris Salazar.

"We are proud of Brenden and feel he brought honor for himself, our family and friends, our community and his country," Jovanna Nelson said in an email. "I want him to be remembered as a wonderful, handsome son, dedicated brother, nephew and friend, but ultimately, as a hero for all of us."

Salazar comes from a long line of soldiers, his parents said. His grandfather is a retired helicopter pilot, and both Jovanna and James Nelson currently serve as Army pilots. Salazar was the only member in the family to make the final sacrifice for his country, James Nelson said.

However, despite his family's active military careers, Jovanna said Salazar was never pushed into joining the army, but was actually encouraged to go to college instead. Salazar graduated from Hagerty High School in 2010 and enlisted in the Army in June 2010.

"Brenden came to me late one evening in March of 2010 and told me that he wanted to go to college and that college was in his plans, but not right now. He wanted to travel the world, learn how to lead and wanted to serve his country. He wanted to deploy and be a part of history," Jovanna Nelson said. "I was truly very proud of that moment. He was well composed, knew what he wanted to say and said [it] from his heart. Brenden has always had this quiet confidence and strength."

Salazar grew up in Chuluota, where he was described as a very happy, energetic child who loved swimming, biking, playing outside and playing video games. He played little league football, soccer and karate and eventually took up playing the guitar and cooking, James Nelson said. However, he was particularly close with his sister, Hannah, who is terminally ill with cystic fibrosis. In his memory, the family has set up a trust fund with Fairwinds Credit Union to aid Hannah in her battle.

"Brenden's sister was born with cystic fibrosis, so we have had our moments together as a family," Jovanna Nelson said. "Hannah recently has been very sick, in and out of the hospital, (and with) homecare nurses. He started a tattoo sleeve on his arm for Hannah,

[and] he was working in stages with the design. He was eventually going to have something added on his sleeve that represented his sister.”

Although the family has suffered a great loss, the Nelsons have found peace in celebrating Salazar’s life on Facebook in an online memorial. Here, friends and family have been posting memories and photos of Salazar’s short, but impactful, life.

“Some people work a life time to become a person of honor. Brenden’s life gives us all an example to emulate. PFC Brenden Salazar was a hero,” Pete Marion wrote on the memorial Facebook page. “He is a hero who provides the memory of a great name and an inheritance of a great example. May we all honor his memory and carry with us his great example.”

Posts upon posts litter the page only intensifying the life well-lived by Salazar. It is through these memories, James Nelson said, that eases some of the pain of losing a child.

“My wife and I have spent hours reading the posts that his friends and fellow soldiers have been posting. The posts that described his character made my wife and I chuckle,” James Nelson said. “We laughed because all the things they are saying about his character is what we have taught him over the years, but didn’t think they were setting in! It was refreshing to see that he actually absorbed what we taught him over the years.”

To visit or contribute to the Brenden Salazar Memorial page visit [www.facebook.com/brenden.salazar.1](http://www.facebook.com/brenden.salazar.1).

**To donate to the family’s cystic fibrosis trust fund, checks can be made payable to Agnez Lopez at the Fairwinds Federal Credit Union at 77 Geneva Drive, Oviedo, FL, 32765. In the memo line of the check, insert Hannah Nelson**

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## Australian Special Forces Soldier Wounded In Afghanistan

10 August 2012 Defence Media Centre

An Australian Special Forces soldier has been wounded during an Afghan National Security Forces and Special Operations Task Group mission in Uruzgan province, Afghanistan.

The soldier received a gunshot wound to the lower left leg when the combined-force element came under small-arms fire from insurgents.

The soldier was immediately treated by members of the force element and was aeromedically evacuated to a medical facility at Multi-National Base – Tarin Kot for further treatment.

Acting Chief of Operations, Rear Admiral Steve Gilmore, said the soldier was relaxed and interacting with his mates during treatment at Tarin Kot.



“His wounds are not life-threatening. Medical personnel will assess him and confirm the details for his possible return to Australia in the coming days so he can receive the very best treatment,” Rear Admiral Gilmore said.

“The soldier notified his next of kin personally from Tarin Kot.”

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE  
BLOODSHED**

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

## **SOMALIA WAR REPORTS**

# **Somalia Government Troops Fire On Other Somalia Government Troops, As Usual**

Aug 9, 2012 Garowe Online

MOGADISHU, Somalia –

Former Prime Minister Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed Farmajo’s supporters were fired upon allegedly by Transitional Federal Government troops in Mogadishu on Thursday, Garowe Online reports.

Farmajo who is a candidate for the Somali presidential elections arrived in Mogadishu Thursday afternoon and was welcomed by his supporters.

According to local sources in Mogadishu, Farmajo’s supporters including some TFG soldiers who came to welcome the former Prime Minister were randomly fired upon by men dressed in TFG forces’ uniform.

At least two people were killed and three others injured including one TFG soldier and one civilian.

According to one witness at the scene the men escaped from the scene only after the supporters had fled the area.

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## **MILITARY NEWS**

### **“Troop Dissatisfaction Is Rapidly Growing”**

### **“Too Many Leaders Are Willing To Sacrifice The Good Of Their Soldiers And The Force If It Means Advancing Their Own Careers”**

August 13, Editorial, Army Times [Excerpt]

One dominant concern emerges from this year’s Army leadership survey, filled out by 20,000 soldiers, from sergeant to colonel: The Army is headed in the wrong direction.

That view was held by three out of four respondents — an astounding 18-point increase over last year, when 57 percent of respondents held that view.

As the Army prepares to cut 70,000 troops and grapple with what could be deep budget cuts, soldiers are increasingly worried about what they see as ineffective senior commanders, toxic leaders up the chain of command, lack of discipline in the ranks, promotions for soldiers before they are ready, and much more.

For years, the annual survey revealed broad concerns about the quality of leadership, and still, this year’s results make clear that troop dissatisfaction is rapidly growing.

Many say too many leaders are willing to sacrifice the good of their soldiers and the force if it means advancing their own careers.

In the face of huge drawdowns, there naturally is a great deal of anxiety that good soldiers will get the ax while bad ones will find a way to stay in the Army.

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### **“An Unidentified Senior Officer Ordered That Pfc. Manning Be Held In Maximum Custody Or Injury-Prevention Status Indefinitely”**

# **“When A Brig Psychiatrist Voiced Concern About The Lack Of Any Medical Basis For Such An Order, The Senior Officer Declared: ‘We’ll Do Whatever We Want To Do’”**



[www.bradleymanning](http://www.bradleymanning)

Aug 10, 2012 By David Dishneau - The Associated Press [Excerpts]

HAGERSTOWN, Md. — A U.S. Army private charged in a massive leak of government secrets claims his harsh pretrial treatment during nine months in a Marine Corps brig was directed from high up the chain of command and warrants dismissal of the entire case, according to documents his civilian lawyer released Friday.

The 110-page motion alleges Pfc. Bradley Manning developed a rash from being forced to sleep beneath a stiff, suicide-prevention blanket and suffered an anxiety attack due to harassment by guards. It repeats well-publicized claims that Manning was forced for several days to surrender all his clothing at night and stand naked in his cell for roll call. For several days in January 2011, he was forbidden to wear his eyeglasses and forced to strip down to his underwear during the day, the motion contends.

The Defense Department has said that Manning's treatment properly conformed to the "maximum custody" or "prevention of injury" classifications in which he was held in Quantico, Va., from July 29, 2010, to April 20, 2011, when he was moved to medium-security confinement at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Manning's lawyers claim there was no legal or medical justification for the harsh restrictions, and that his custody status contradicted the recommendations of multiple psychiatrists.

Manning's lawyers intend to have Manning testify about his Quantico experience during a hearing Oct. 1-5 at Fort Meade, according to the document. Manning hasn't yet taken the stand during seven months of pretrial courtroom proceedings in his court-martial.

Military prosecutors didn't immediately respond Friday to a request for comment on the motion posted by Manning's civilian attorney, David Coombs, on his website.

In an accompanying summary, Coombs wrote that he recently became aware of emails revealing that the brig officer who ordered the restrictions was acting on orders from an unidentified, three-star general.

Coombs wrote that in a January 2011 meeting of multiple Quantico brig officers, an unidentified senior officer ordered that Pfc. Manning be held in maximum custody or injury-prevention status indefinitely. When a brig psychiatrist voiced concern about the lack of any medical basis for such an order, the senior officer declared: "We'll do whatever we want to do," Coombs wrote.

Manning faces 22 charges for allegedly sending hundreds of thousands of diplomatic cables and war logs to the secret-spilling website WikiLeaks while working as an intelligence analyst in Iraq. Manning could be sentenced to life in prison if convicted of the most serious offense, aiding the enemy.

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## **ANNIVERSARIES**

# **August 11, 1894: Dishonorable Day: Federal Troops Forced Some 1,200 Jobless Workers Across The Potomac River And Out Of Washington, D.C.**

**[If they try that shit again today, time to turn the weapons around on the real enemies, and it's not the unemployed. T]**

Carl Bunin Peace History August 9-15

Federal troops forced some 1,200 jobless workers across the Potomac River and out of Washington, D.C.

Led by an unemployed activist, "General" Charles "Hobo" Kelly, the jobless group's "soldiers" included young journalist Jack London, known for writing about social issues, and miner/cowboy William "Big Bill" Haywood who later organized western miners and the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW).

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### DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Chicago Style

YA KNOW... IT WOULD BE GREAT  
IF WE COULD DO THIS  
BY REMOTE CONTROL...



**The White House Fights In Court For The  
Power To Jail Americans Indefinitely  
Without Trial As The Traitor Obama  
Refuses To Tell A Federal Judge If He Is  
Obeying A Court Order That Prohibits  
Doing So**



[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

10 August, 2012 TV-Novosti

Not only is the White House fighting in court for the power to jail Americans indefinitely without trial, but the Obama administration is refusing to tell a federal judge if they've abided by an injunction that prohibits them from such.

Attorneys for the White House have been in-and-out of court in Manhattan this week to argue that the indefinite detention provisions of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2012, or NDAA, are necessary for the safety and security of the nation.

**When President Barack Obama signed the bill on December 31, he granted the government the power to put any American away in jail over even suspected terrorist ties, but federal court Judge Katherine Forrest ruled in May that this particular part of the NDAA, Section 1021, failed to "pass constitutional muster" and ordered a temporary injunction.**

On Monday, White House attorneys asked for an appeal for that injunction so that they'd be once more legally permitted to indefinitely detain anyone over mere accusations.

**When specifically asked to answer whether or not they've adhered by Judge Forrest's injunction so far, though, administration attorneys refused to cooperate with the questioning.**

Activist and reporter Tangerine Bolen is a plaintiff in the case against the NDAA, and in an op-ed published Thursday in the Daily Cloudt, she writes that the federal attorneys

asking for an appeal have declined to reveal whether or not they've cooperated with the judge's May 2012 injunction.

**If the government has arrested anyone over alleged “belligerent ties” since Judge Forrest ordered a temporary stay, the government could be in contempt of court.**

“Obama’s attorneys refused to assure the court, when questioned, that the NDAA’s section 1021 – the provision that permits reporters and others who have not committed crimes to be detained without trial – has not been applied by the US government anywhere in the world after Judge Forrest’s injunction,” Tangerine tells Daily Cloudt.

**“In other words, they were telling a US federal judge that they could not, or would not, state whether Obama’s government had complied with the legal injunction that she had laid down before them.”**

In its original form, the NDAA allows the military hold anyone accused of having “substantially supported” al-Qaeda, the Taliban or “associated forces” until “the end of hostilities” and indefinitely imprison anyone who commits a “belligerent act” against the United States, yet fails to explicitly define what is constituted as such.

**In her injunction, Judge Forrest said, “In the face of what could be indeterminate military detention, due process requires more.”**

**“An individual could run the risk of substantially supporting or directly supporting an associated force without even being aware that he or she was doing so,” the judge ruled.**

**Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Chris Hedges is also a plaintiff in the case and along with Tangerine warns that his own investigative work could be construed by the government to put him away in prison for life.**

“I have had dinner more times than I can count with people whom this country brands as terrorists,” Hedges wrote earlier this year, “but that does not make me one.”

Carl Mayer, an attorney representing the plaintiffs in the case, told RT that he expected the White House to appeal the judge’s injunction, but that he considered it a lost cause.

“(W)e are suggesting that it may not be in their best interest because there are so many people from all sides of the political spectrum opposed to this law that they ought to just say, ‘We’re not going to appeal,’” Mayer said.

Mayer stated that, because of the injunction, “The NDAA cannot be used to pick up Americans in a proverbial black van or in any other way that the administration might decide to try to get people into the military justice system.

“It means that the government is foreclosed now from engaging in this type of action against the civil liberties of Americans.”

Now, however, the White House wants the power to be once more restored.

Outside of federal court on Thursday, Hedges appeared pleased, Courthouse News reports.

“It didn’t appear to me by the end that (the government) had any argument to stand on,” Hedges said. “The judge eviscerated them.”

Even with the injunction still standing, though, the government has yet to admit if it’s adhering to Judge Forrest’s ruling.

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## **Putin & The Chicken-Heads Vs. Pussy Riot: “I’m Not Scared Of Lies And Fiction, Or The Badly Formed Deception That Is The Verdict Of This So-Called Court”**

**“When Thousands Of People Will Read  
And Watch This, This Freedom Will Grow  
With Every Caring Person Who Listens  
To Us In This Country”**



Pussy Riot members, from left, Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, Maria Alyokhina and Yekaterina Samutsevich sit in a glass cage at a court room in Moscow. Photograph: Alexander Zemlianichenko/AP



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

Three members of the feminist punk band Pussy Riot said Vladimir Putin's Russia was the one on trial as they delivered closing arguments on Wednesday in a case seen as a key test of the powerful president's desire to crackdown on dissent.

"This is a trial of the whole government system of Russia, which so likes to show its harshness toward the individual, its indifference to his honour and dignity," Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, 22, one of the trio on trial said in an impassioned statement.

"If this political system throws itself against three girls ... it shows this political system is afraid of truth."

The judge set 17 August as the day she would deliver a verdict against the women, charged with hooliganism motivated by religious hatred following an anti-Putin performance in a Moscow cathedral.

Prosecutors have asked for a three-year sentence, arguing that the women sought to insult all of Russian Orthodoxy and denying they were carrying out a political protest.

Tolokonnikova called the charges against them a "political order for repression" and denounced Putin's "totalitarian-authoritarian system", insisting Pussy Riot were an example of "opposition art".

"Even though we are behind bars, we are freer than those people," she said, looking at the prosecution from inside the glass cage where she and her two bandmates, Maria Alyokhina and Yekaterina Samutsevich, have spent the nine-day trial.

"We can say what we want, while they can only say what political censorship allows.

"Maybe they think it wouldn't be wrong to try us for speaking against Putin and his system, but they can't say that because it's been forbidden," she said, wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with the revolutionary words "No Pasaran".

Couching their case in the long plight of political prisoners in the country, the three women urged Russians to reject Putin's system and embrace freedom.

Alyokhina, 24, compared the trial to the Soviet Union's persecution of Joseph Brodsky, when the young poet was charged with being a "social parasite", becoming a global cause célèbre that highlighted the government's farcical control over culture.

"We are not guilty – the whole world is talking about it," Alyokhina said, hours after Madonna became the latest, and biggest, star to come to the women's defence.

"I am not scared of you," Alyokhina told the court. "I'm not scared of lies and fiction, or the badly formed deception that is the verdict of this so-called court. Because my words will live, thanks to openness.

"When thousands of people will read and watch this, this freedom will grow with every caring person who listens to us in this country."

Lawyers for Pussy Riot have been expecting a guilty verdict and three-year sentence, but said that was called into question following the judge's delay in issuing her decision.

Lawyer Nikolai Polozov said growing international attention, including recent messages of support from the likes of Madonna and Yoko Ono, had had their effect. "To take a quick decision under such pressure is very dangerous for the authorities, so they've taken a time out," he told the Guardian.

"No matter what the verdict is, we have won," he added.

Each woman ended her closing statement to loud applause from the Russian journalists sitting in the courtroom.

## **DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?**



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

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## CLASS WAR REPORTS



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**Spanish Union Raids Two Supermarkets In One Of The Poorest Parts Of The Country: Food Distributed To Local Food Banks;**

**“The Union Vowed To Carry Out More Such ‘Expropriations’ Of Food To Draw Attention To The Toll That A Jobless Rate Of Nearly 34% Is Exacting In The Region”**

# **“Hundreds Of Members Affiliated With The Andalusian Union Of Workers, Which Represents Mainly Rural Laborers In Southern Spain, Forcibly Carted Off Milk, Pasta, Beans And Other Food”**

“Public workers, students, taxi drivers and others have been taking to the streets almost daily around the country”

August 9, 2012 By ILAN BRAT, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

A small Spanish union orchestrated raids on two supermarkets in one of the poorest parts of the country earlier this week, in an attempt to draw attention to the problems faced by the unemployed.

On Tuesday, hundreds of members affiliated with the Andalusian Union of Workers, which represents mainly rural laborers in southern Spain, forcibly carted off a dozen shopping carts full of milk, pasta, beans and other food from one supermarket, and pressed a second to donate a similar amount of food the next day.

Most was distributed to local food banks.

Spanish police arrested two participants in the raids on suspicion of theft; they were released Thursday, and likely will be called to testify in court.

A spokesman for Mercadona, the private supermarket chain that owns the first store, declined to comment.

A representative for Carrefour SA FR confirmed that its local store’s manager reached a deal with the union to make a donation in order to avoid a forcible raid, and that it is company policy to make some donations.

**Leaders of Spain’s largest unions also decried the raids.**

**But members of SAT, as the union is known in Spanish, vowed to carry out more such “expropriations” of food to draw attention to the toll that a jobless rate of nearly 34% is exacting in the region.**

**“This is an act of desperation in the name of families facing desperate situations,” said José Caballero, an SAT organizer who participated in the raids.**

Though thus far an anomaly, the raids underscore mounting displeasure, particularly at a grass-roots level, with the government of Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy of the conservative Popular Party as it pursues the most severe austerity program in the country’s history.

Mr. Rajoy is planning spending cuts and tax increases valued at more than €100 billion (\$124 billion) in the next two years that include raising the sales tax, cutting central-government worker salaries and trimming unemployment benefits. The government hasn't yet said whether it would renew one benefit, due to expire in mid-August, that provides some people who have exhausted unemployment benefits with about €400 in monthly income for six months if they pursue job training.

Public workers, students, taxi drivers and others have been taking to the streets almost daily around the country.

The Popular Party's poll numbers have declined since its November election, and Spain's biggest unions are pushing for a referendum on the austerity plans. They are also gearing up for a possible nationwide strike later this year.

"A lot of things are pointing to a difficult autumn" for the government, said José Félix Tezanos, a sociology professor at the National Distance Education University and director of think tank Fundación Sistema in Madrid.

"It's difficult to govern a country with public opinion against you."

The rising discontent is unlikely to shake the government's ability to enact budget cuts any time soon. The Popular Party still has a comfortable parliamentary majority, while poll numbers for the main opposition Socialist Party have barely improved since the election.

Alfonso Alonso, a parliamentary spokesman for Mr. Rajoy's party, on Thursday decried the raids, saying they damage Spain's image abroad. "Now is the time for acting with loyalty and support for the government," he said.

"Through our behavior, our solvency and seriousness are being judged." **[Indeed. "Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin"]**

**The numbers of those in need are growing. Spain's unemployment rate has climbed to a record 24.6%.**

**As jobless benefits run out for the long-term unemployed, the percentage of out-of-work Spaniards receiving assistance has fallen to 65% from 78% in 2010.**

In Espera, one of the towns that received the supermarket food "aid," Mayor Pedro Romero says declines in revenue transfers from the central government are forcing difficult decisions on his administration.

The local unemployment rate is more than 50%, he says, and the town this year canceled an annual festival celebrating the return for vacation of emigrants who have left for other parts of Spain or the world.

The town has stopped providing temporary contracts that paid about €500 for about two weeks of work to locals who are having trouble making ends meet.

Carmen Álvarez, who volunteers at the local food bank, says demand for donated food is the highest she has ever seen.

She says the food bank sometimes runs out of basics such as sugar and milk amid heavy demand. “Spain was a rich country. How we’ve fallen,” says the 63-year-old retired farm worker. “Sometimes my morale falls so low that I can’t do anything.”

## **‘Mr. Assad’s Security Forces Lost Control Of The Sweep Of Countryside North Of Aleppo In Late July, Fleeing An Offensive By Rebel Groups From Across The Rural North’**

### **“Local Village Committees That Steered The Uprising Have Shifted Gears, Transforming Themselves Into Interim Village Governments”**



August 9, 2012 By CHARLES LEVINSON, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

**AZZAZ, Syria—Opposition fighters locked in battle for Syria’s largest city, Aleppo, have a new resource: Rebels now control a swath of territory to their north, including two border crossings with Turkey.**

The opposition hopes its first substantial enclave of the 17-month uprising, seized from the government in the past few weeks, will transform a fight that for months has seen no clear victor.

Already, the Syrian enclave has made it easier for rebels to bring fighters, weapons, food, fuel and other logistic needs to Aleppo.

Mr. Assad’s security forces lost control of the sweep of countryside north of Aleppo in late July, fleeing an offensive by rebel groups from across the rural north.

Since then, local village committees that steered the uprising have shifted gears, transforming themselves into interim village governments.

Rebel checkpoints now dot the winding single-lane roads between the region’s farming villages and towns.

Except for a lone air base where loyalist soldiers are hunkered down and mostly surrounded by rebel fighters, the countryside stretching from Aleppo to the Turkish border about 30 miles away has been cleared of government forces.

The Syrian border town of Azzaz, to Aleppo’s north, fell to rebel fighters on July 21, and much of the rest of the countryside north of Aleppo fell within days, rebels said. About a week ago, rebel fighters-turned-bureaucrats took up posts at a pair of border crossings with Turkey, one near Azzaz and the other west of Aleppo. Crisply dressed rebels check passports of new arrivals, enter names into computers and extend a welcome hand to “Free Syria.”

Samir Haj Omar, an economist who now heads the local 30-member political council in Azzaz, said Turkish officials have been more willing to deal with him and other rebel leaders now that they are de facto governors.

He has used that newfound heft to convince Turkey to allow cargo trucks to cross the border. On Wednesday, the first new shipments of rice, flour and gasoline arrived in rebel-controlled northern Syria, according to local officials here.

Throughout the north, a region where many civilians had fled or remained locked in their houses to avoid the regime’s crackdown on protests, people now fill village streets.

Shops have reopened in recent days for the first time in four months. In the village of Maraa, children flocked to a reopened public swimming pool to cool off on Thursday. Abandoned Syrian Army tanks have been converted to makeshift playgrounds.

For fighters desperately trying to keep up supplies of food, fuel and weapons, the ability to freely cross the Turkish border and move between villages without fear of encountering regime forces is a dramatic change.

Earlier in the conflict, supplies were ferried across the Turkish border by horse, or on foot, by smugglers traversing muddy trails while dodging Turkish and Syrian border guards.

A local fighter in Azzaz who said he helped smuggle in local rebels' first rocket propelled grenades earlier this year said it took them weeks to negotiate the treacherous route through regime-controlled territory for just two RPGs.

Now, such supply shipments can make the run from the Turkish border to the front line in Aleppo in about 90 minutes.

"In Damascus, it was difficult to get guns and supplies, but in Aleppo, it is easy," said Ahmed Kaialy, a 24-year-old rebel who fought in both cities.

He spoke from a makeshift clinic in Turkey on Tuesday, a day after rocket shrapnel lodged in his eye while fighting in Aleppo's Salaheddin neighborhood. Before, it might have taken him as much as two weeks to get smuggled out to Turkey or Lebanon for treatment, he said. Now, open roads and control of the border mean he will be able to return to battle within days.

Rebels also see their control of northern Syria as an opportunity to show their countrymen and the international community what their governance may look like if the Assad regime is toppled.

New governing structures are beginning to sprout. An Azzaz city council has been established headed by a former schoolteacher. A rebel brigade polices the streets. Sheik Yussuf al-Shahawi, the new, 25-year-old imam at the local mosque, has taken charge of the civil courts, conducting marriages, divorces and settling civil disputes.

A nascent criminal court system — run by local Muslim clerics in many villages — has begun to operate, using Islamic law as the foundation for decisions.

In a sign of the struggles Syria could face if Mr. Assad's regime falls, Mr. Shahawi said his early efforts have been focused on stopping mistreatment of detained regime-loyalist fighters — and convincing their captors to leave justice to the new courts — as well as preventing revenge attacks against a nearby Shiite village that supported the regime.

He said there have been numerous such incidents, but calls them isolated exceptions.

The last Syrian regime bastion in the rebels' northern enclave is the Mennigh Air Base, where loyalist forces continue to fight from inside the base's besieged walls. They toss regular volleys of artillery fire at the nearby village of Tel Rifat. A regime war plane occasionally ventures north from the war's front line battle in Aleppo and drops bombs on newly freed villages.

On Wednesday, two bombs were dropped on a rebel headquarters in an abandoned elementary school in Tel Rifat leaving two craters in the school courtyard, rebels said. A third bomb flattened a house and killed the family inside.

"We can breathe now, but the regime is still here," said Yassin Dibo, a rebel fighter from Tel Rifat.



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**“Mr. Amasha, 30, The Anti-Assad  
Activist From Nearby Buqata  
Whose Father Was Run Over,  
Says He Is Just As Fervently  
Opposed To The Israeli  
Occupation Of This Territory”  
“He Has Spent Most Of His Years  
Since The Age Of 16 In Israeli  
Prisons”**

**“Mr. Amasha Said That Mr. Assad Had  
Made No Genuine Effort To Liberate The  
Golan Heights And Had Opposed Israel  
Only ‘On Television’”**

August 7, 2012 By ISABEL KERSHNER, The New York Times [Excerpts]

BUQATA, Golan Heights — As fighting rages in Syria between the government forces and the rebels, the conflict is playing out on a smaller scale in Syrian Druse villages like this one, on the Israeli-held portion of the Golan Heights across the old cease-fire line.

Divisions have sharpened among the 20,000 or so Syrian citizens of the Druse religious sect who inhabit this plateau, which Israel seized from Syria in the 1967 war and later effectively annexed.

While many remain loyal to the government of President Bashar al-Assad in Damascus, there is an increasingly vocal group of opponents.

The split has, on occasion, spilled into violence.

**In April, the father of Wiam Amasha, a well-known anti-Assad activist from Buqata, was run over by a car during an altercation with pro-Assad villagers in what family members and supporters said was a murder attempt.**

Then one Friday in July more than 100 anti-Assad demonstrators in the Golan Heights's largest village, Majdal Shams, were set upon by Assad supporters wielding sticks and stones and throwing eggs, the protesters said. One protester from each camp was said to have been injured in the ensuing brawl.

Only a few of the Golan Druse have chosen to take Israeli citizenship. Loyalty to the Assad family has long been a part of their identity.

The Druse, who practice a largely secret religion that is often described as an offshoot of Ismaili Islam, have fared reasonably well in Syria as a small minority under the rule of the Assads, who belong to another minority sect, the Alawites.

Here, the reasons for still supporting the Assad government, or at least not publicly opposing it, include fear for relatives in Syria and vested interests.

Scores of students from the Golan Heights are studying in Syrian universities, and apple farmers here ship their crops to Syria.

But more Golan Druse have begun to speak out against the Assads, particularly in light of their brutal efforts to suppress the Syrian uprising.

"I have been against Bashar al-Assad since he took over from his father," Rabia Abu Salah said as he unpacked frozen chicken at a grocery store in Majdal Shams.

"The regime is like a mafia."

Israel and Syria are still technically at war, but the quiet that has prevailed for decades along this frontier has allowed Israel to develop the area as a military arena and a tourist destination.

The wild and rocky terrain, which commands northern Israel and its main water sources, is also home to up to 20,000 Israeli Jews in more than 30 settlements, though Israel's annexation of the area has not been internationally recognized.

In winter, Israelis ski on the slopes of Mount Hermon in the shadow of military camps. In the summer and the fall, Israelis flock here for the cherry- and apple-picking seasons and to eat in Druse restaurants.

In Majdal Shams, the border fence has been fortified with a steel barrier, after protesters, most of them Palestinians, breached the frontier last year, drawing deadly fire from Israeli soldiers. The last row of houses here practically touches the boundary.

**Mr. Amasha, 30, the anti-Assad activist from nearby Buqata whose father was run over, says he is just as fervently opposed to the Israeli occupation of this territory.**

**He has spent most of his years since the age of 16 in Israeli prisons.**

First, he said, he was arrested after he threw Molotov cocktails at police and army positions and for raising Syrian flags in the village. Then he and a few comrades dismantled a land mine with the intention of using parts for weapons, but it exploded, injuring them.

Finally, he was convicted of planning to capture Israeli soldiers to exchange them for Palestinian and Syrian prisoners, though he denied it.

He was released in October, one of hundreds of security prisoners, most of them Palestinians, who were exchanged for a captive Israeli soldier, Gilad Shalit.

**Like other critics, Mr. Amasha said that Mr. Assad had made no genuine effort to liberate the Golan Heights and had opposed Israel only “on television.”**

**He said he believed that only a strong, democratic Syria could liberate the territory, whether through war or through negotiations.**

Sitting under a plaque with a Syrian flag in his family's salon, he said that the local version of the shabiha, or pro-Assad thugs, had been harassing him and his family. They have been ostracized by the community, he added, even though his sisters-in-law support Mr. Assad.

He said that his father, an insurance agent, was rammed by a car driven by shabiha after he had confronted a group of them who were noisily cursing the family outside their home and playing pro-Assad songs on loudspeakers.

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