

Military Resistance 10H9



The Dust Bowl Blues

From: Dennis Serdel
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Subject: The Dust Bowl Blues
Date: Aug 16, 2012

Written by Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div.
11th Brigade; United Auto Workers GM Retiree

The Dust Bowl Blues

There was the Southern Cross
and the China Sea and the North
divided by a line that was insane
the South had a leader
heisted up like in Afghanistan
another War that doesn't
have to be fought
the Americans have their problems
they need to question their Presidents
now there is an Election year

but they don't talk about War
they just talk about jobs
within the Dust Bowl Blues
The TV stations are making a killing
running Election Ads
but they don't talk about the War
because the people can't care
They just care about food,
care about gas, as Capitalism
crushes their faces into the floor
but don't talk about the War
within the Dust Bowl Blues
Humping in the jungle
in the monsoon rain
leaches on leaves all along the trail
cigarettes and matches
in the top of helmets, to keep them dry
looking up at night
at the Southern Cross sky
feeling just like Jesus, but with a gun
the War is 40+ years ago
many made it through
now in old age they have to live
within the Dust Bowl Blues

Shock Poetry by Dennis Serdel for Military Resistance

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

Schofield Barracks Black Hawk Copter Down Thursday In Southern Afghanistan: Seven U.S. Troops Dead, Including Three Elite Special-Operations Personnel: “July Has Been The Deadliest Month Of 2012 For U.S. Troops, With 40 Killed” “Slightly More Than In The Same Month Of 2011”

August 16 By Sayed Salahuddin, The Washington Post & AP & By MARIA ABI-HABIB
And ZIAULHAQ SULTANI, Wall Street Journal

KABUL — A Schofield Barracks helicopter crashed Thursday in southern Afghanistan, killing 11 people on board.

American service personnel in Afghanistan are dying at a rate of about one per day so far this year despite a drawdown of troops.

The downed helicopter was a Sikorsky UH-60 Black Hawk, a medium-lift helicopter that has served as the U.S. Army's workhorse since the 1980s.

The Black Hawk was operating in support of an ongoing assault on the ground.

Seven U.S. troops died, including three elite special-operations personnel who were part of a separate command known as U.S. Forces-Afghanistan -- two Navy SEALs and a Navy explosives expert,

A rescue team came under heavy fire when they approached the destroyed helicopter, coalition officials said.

Javed Faisal, spokesman for the Kandahar governor, said “as per our information, the helicopter may have been shot down by the Taliban.”

Three members of the Afghan security forces and an Afghan civilian interpreter for the U.S.-led coalition also lost their lives in the crash of the UH-60 Black Hawk, NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said in a statement.

This month has seen an unusually high toll for elite service members in Afghanistan. Last week, an Afghan policeman killed at least three U.S. special-operations troops in neighboring Helmand province.

Special-operations troops are increasingly spearheading the Afghan war as tens of thousands of conventional forces begin drawing down this year, as the U.S. moves to pull out the majority of its troops by 2014.

As they are increasingly partnered with Afghan commandos and police, special-operations troops are expected to see more casualties going forward as they take on the majority of the war's burden, Western officials say.

An Afghan official said the crash occurred in the Shah Wali Kot district in the northern part of Kandahar province, a bastion of Taliban insurgents.

It was the deadliest single incident in weeks for foreign troops in Afghanistan.

A local official said the crash occurred around midday.

Three members of the Afghan National Security Forces and an Afghan civilian translator died in the crash.

A spokesman for the Taliban, Qari Mohammad Yousuf, said the helicopter had arrived in Shah Wali Kot as part of an operation against the insurgents.

Yousuf said: "Our mujahideen shot down an ISAF helicopter in Chenarto area of Shah Wali Kot district in Kandahar province at around 11:00am (06:30 GMT)."

The Kandahar provincial government backed the Taliban claim. It said the helicopter was shot down in the rural area north of Kandahar city where insurgents move freely and regularly launch attacks.

The U.S. force in Afghanistan has relied heavily on utility helicopters such as the Black Hawk to ferry troops, dignitaries and supplies around the mountainous terrain, thus avoiding the threat of ambushes and roadside bombs.

Insurgent attacks were up 11 percent in the three months of April through June compared with the same period of 2011.

Afghan police and army casualties have also been on the rise.

And July has been the deadliest month of 2012 for U.S. troops, with 40 killed as a result of war-related violence — slightly more than in the same month of 2011.

Afghan Local Police Recruit Kills 2 US Troops "Minutes After They

Handed Him His Official Weapon In An Inauguration Ceremony” “Hotek Accuses Some Of The ALP Commanders In His Area Of Having Ties To The Taliban” “Later Friday, An Afghan Soldier Turned His Gun On Foreign Troops In Another Part Of The Country And Wounded Two Of Them”

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

The Taliban’s supreme leader Mullah Mohammad Omar said Thursday night that the insurgents “have cleverly infiltrated in the ranks of the enemy” and were successfully killing a rising number of U.S.-led coalition forces.

August 16, 2012 By Carmen Gentile, Special for USA TODAY & 17 August 2012 By Kay Johnson and Amir Shah, Associated Press & AlJazeera [Excerpts]

A newly recruited Afghan village policeman with the Afghan Local Police organization opened fire on his American allies on Friday, killing two U.S. service members minutes after they handed him his official weapon in an inauguration ceremony.

It was the latest in a disturbing string of attacks by Afghan security forces on the international troops training them.

Later Friday, an Afghan soldier turned his gun on foreign troops in another part of the country and wounded two of them, a spokesman for the NATO coalition said.

The Afghan army soldier fired on coalition troops in the southern province of Kandahar. Two of the international troops were wounded but none was killed in that shooting. He added that the soldier was shot and died later Friday of his wounds.

The attacks in the country’s far west and south brought to seven the number of times that a member of the Afghan security forces has opened fire on international forces in the past two weeks.

Friday’s deadly attacker in the far western province of Farah was identified as Mohammad Ismail, a man in his 30s who had joined the Afghan Local Police just five days ago.

He opened fire during an inauguration ceremony attended by American and Afghan forces in the Kinisk village, the Farah provincial police chief Agha Noor Kemtoz said.

“As soon as they gave the weapon to Ismail to begin training, suddenly he took the gun and opened fire toward the U.S. soldiers,” Kemtoz said.

Ismail was shot and killed as the coalition and Afghan forces returned fire, the police chief said.

The Afghan Local Police is different from the national police and represents a village defense force under the Ministry of Interior that is being trained by international forces, including U.S. special forces.

Kemtoz, the police chief, said the attack took place about 8 a.m., after the U.S. forces arrived in the village to train the local police.

He said one Afghan National Police officer was also seriously wounded in the shooting.

“The ALP is fighting for the money, nothing else,” says Afghan army Capt. Azzim Hotek, whose soldiers in nearby Nalgham village work alongside the local police, though they share a strained relationship.

Hotek accuses some of the ALP commanders in his area of having ties to the Taliban.

Critics, including Human Rights Watch, say some groups have abused their authority, and their loyalties are questionable.

Individuals receive only three weeks of weapons training, and the group doesn't have the same level of organization and leadership as the Afghan army.

Hotek said he doesn't believe the local units will remain loyal to the Afghan government. “When the Americans leave, the ALP is finished,” he says.

The Taliban's supreme leader Mullah Mohammad Omar said Thursday night that the insurgents “have cleverly infiltrated in the ranks of the enemy” and were successfully killing a rising number of U.S.-led coalition forces.

Omar claimed that a spate of attacks by Afghan forces against NATO personnel was the result of Taliban infiltrating local security units.

Mullah Omar has issued an Eid message claiming victories on the battlefield against NATO.

The rare statement from Omar, believed by Afghanistan to be hiding in neighbouring Pakistan, came on Friday as Muslims prepared for Eid-al-Fitr celebrations marking the end of the holy month of Ramadan.

The seven-page message was posted on the Taliban's website.

A total of 37 foreign troops have been killed in those attacks this year.

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

August 15, 2012 AP

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

Local Soldier Brain Dead After Being Shot In Afghanistan



Cherryville soldier James Justice

Aug. 16, 2012 WSOC-TV

Parents from Cherryville got a devastating phone call Thursday morning, learning their son, James Justice, a soldier who was shot in Afghanistan, was brain-dead.

Randall Justice said he got a call from an Army doctor in Germany 30 minutes before he made it to the airport.

He and Melissa Justice had invited Eyewitness News to meet them at the airport before they left to be with their son. But Thursday morning, the doctor called and told them James Justice had no brain activity. They decided not to make the trip.

Justice was shot in the neck earlier this week during combat in Afghanistan.

“He was a brave soldier,” Randall Justice said. “I didn’t think this day would come.”

“I love him and I don’t want to let go,” Melissa Justice said.

Justice’s parents wanted to do the interview with Eyewitness News to deliver a message they said their 21-year-old son had for them after being in the war-torn country less than a month.

“He told me to tell the American people to thank God for the peace that’s in their life, because it’s a disaster in Afghanistan,” Randall Justice said.

Justice’s wife decided that the soldier’s mission of saving lives should be continued after his death. He will become an organ donor and then be taken off life support.

“He wants to give his life for somebody else. I think that’s a good thing,” Melissa Justice said.

Randall Justice said his son’s lungs and heart may be given to other wounded soldiers in the same hospital in Germany. He said that’s what James would have wanted, because he loved his fellow soldiers.

“He said, ‘I might lose my life saving one of my brother’s, but if I do, I do,’” Randall Justice said.

Randall and Melissa Justice said they are not sure how long it may take for their son’s body to return home. They will focus on preparing his family and friends to give him a proper homecoming when that day arrives.

There will be a vigil for Justice Thursday at 7 p.m. at Legacy Church in Gastonia. The church has decided to stream the vigil online. To visit the church’s website, [click here](#).

**“Yesterday Regional Newspaper
Kiziki Reported That Another Georgia
Soldier Died In Afghanistan”
“Soldier’s Relatives Say He Was
Poisoned, And There Were No Injuries
On His Body”**

Aug. 16 By N. Kirtskhalia, Trend

Georgia, Tbilisi,

The Georgian Defense Ministry denied the reports about death of another Georgian serviceman in Afghanistan, the Defense Ministry said.

In this regard, the Defense Ministry calls on the media outlets not to publish unverified information.

“This is causing moral damage to Georgian militaries in Afghanistan,” the report says.

Yesterday regional newspaper Kiziki reported that another Georgia soldier died in Afghanistan.

The newspaper reported with reference to the deceased soldier’s relatives, who say he was poisoned, and there were no injuries on his body.

Father Of U.S. Soldier Killed In Afghanistan Opens Up About Son



Aug 6, 2012 By Jaime Gerik, KYTX

Tyler, Texas -- Jim Bell, of Tyler, reflects on the unexpected death of his son, 1st Sgt. Russell Bell, a father and husband.

“We all love and miss him dearly. You can’t imagine the pain that we’re suffering right now,” Bell said.

He's always stood proudly behind his son, who was in the 82nd airborne division out of Fort Bragg. Russell and another soldier lost their lives to an enemy improvised explosive device in Southern Afghanistan.

"He shouldn't have been on this mission. He could've stayed back because he was their commander, but he wanted to be with them whenever they went out. He paid the ultimate price," Bell said.

Bell served 16 years in the Army and was on his fourth deployment to Afghanistan. He was set to come home in September.

"I felt, from the day he left on this last deployment, that it wasn't going to come out well."

The soldier leaves behind his wife Latoya, and one-year-old son, Gage. "When Gage was born, I told him that he was going to be an excellent father. He said, 'I had a good teacher'," Bell said.

The flag at the Bell's home in Tyler now waves at half-staff. "Some people have already shown up and put some flowers at the bottom of the flag there," Bell said.

Russell Bell did leave an envelope for his dad, if he didn't come back. "I'm sure it's a personal letter to me, and I don't have the courage right now to open it," he said.

It may be some time before he does.

We also received the following statement from those who served overseas with Bell:

"1st Sgt. Russell Bell was one of the best all around leaders I have had the privilege of serving alongside...His presence alone made each day brighter. He always looked for opportunities to make those around him laugh. "-- Lt. Col. Ced Carrington

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

Resistance Action

August 15 Dawn & August 17, 2012 (BNA)

Heart:

20 were wounded in explosion in Heart province yesterday. This explosion occurred in the bazaar of Heart city.

This explosion occurred near a security police post.

According to these Drs, numbers of policemen are wounded of this blast.

KABUL: An Afghan army vehicle has hit a roadside bomb in northern Afghanistan, killing three Afghan soldiers and wounding three others.

Lal Mohammad Ahmadzai, a spokesman for the Afghan National Police in northern Afghanistan, says the explosion occurred around 3 am. Thursday as the soldiers were patrolling in Baghlan province.

In another attack, the Afghan minister of higher education escaped unharmed when a roadside bomb hit a vehicle in his convoy. Two of his bodyguards were injured in the blast.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.

“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.

“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

<p>What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms. -- Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787</p>

**It Would Be An Honor To Serve My
Country, Return With PTSD, Sit On
A Mental Health Care Waitlist,
Then Kill Myself:**

**“The Only Thing That’s Important For
Someone Like Me, Who Will Be
Dedicating His Life To Serving His
Country, Is That My Government Lets
Me Waste Away Until I Become A
Shell Of My Former Self”**

**“That’s What Being An American Soldier
Is All About”**

[Thanks to Frank Millspaugh, who sent this in.]

August 15, 2012 By U.S. Army Pfc. Edwin Quinones, The Onion

Ever since I was a kid I dreamed of joining the Army.

So as soon as I could, I went down to my local recruiter and enlisted, knowing full well that I'd probably be sent to Afghanistan.

Now, with my first deployment less than a week away, there's only one thing on my mind: how incredibly proud I'll be to fight for my country, experience crippling psychological trauma, wait indefinitely for the proper health care, and then eventually become so depressed and mentally ill that I commit suicide.

It's what I've always known I was born to do.

It's a matter of principle, really.

From a young age I was taught that throughout our history, Americans have had to stand up and fight for the freedoms we enjoy.

I always knew that when the time came, I would serve with honor and nobly suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder until my only recourse was to end my own life.

So it's with eager anticipation that I head off to the battlefield to defend, be ignored by, and then—left all alone, with my personal demons closing in—kill myself for the land I love so dearly.

Honestly, it would be my distinct pleasure and privilege to not get the medical help I need for injuries suffered while risking my life for my country.

That's why we take the oath, isn't it? To do our jobs with humility and valor, and to come home haunted by visions of our commanding officer, who promised he'd bring everyone back alive, being blown to bits by a cleverly disguised roadside bomb? In my mind it doesn't matter what unspeakable horrors I witness, I'll just be grateful for the privilege of having to wait at least six months to see a VA psychologist and in the interim turn toward alcoholism and drug addiction until I decide the only path to relief is putting a bullet in my head.

I know no greater honor than relying on an agency with a backlog of more than half a million claims that can't get its shit together enough to transfer its paper files to a central computer.

HOO-ah!

I'm reminded of all the patriotic men and women who came before me.

Those who had the chance to accidentally breathe Agent Orange in Vietnam and never get a proper diagnosis, only to become estranged from society, spiral downward into homelessness, and eventually freeze to death in an alley alone.

And let's not forget the thousands who nobly returned from Desert Storm with a mysterious illness the Army never fully admitted or identified the cause of, a syndrome resulting in chronic pain that prevented so many from ever being able to hold down a steady job.

Knowing about the care they deserved but didn't receive fills me with great pride for my country.

And it would be a true honor—this soldier's duty, really—to follow in their footsteps.

But let's remember that behind every soldier are the loved ones whose sacrifices are no less important. You'd better believe I'm looking forward to coming back from war and having to drink a fifth of Jack Daniel's every night just to fall asleep, and even then having nightmares so powerful my wife has to shake me awake. Lying in bed racked with anxiety, she'll no doubt see her husband as a hero whose untreated illness puts her at constant risk of being physically harmed.

And to see the look on my child's face as he watches his own father, fresh off the battlefield, crying in a fetal position in the corner of his living room because he can't get the help he needs, even though he's been calling doctors for three straight months — tell me, is there any feeling greater than that? I don't think there is.

So when I finally can't take it any longer and decide to check into a hotel to end my own life, please know that I have but one simple request: My agonizing struggle and tragically preventable death should be the last thing on anyone's mind.

Because the only thing that's important for someone like me, who will be dedicating his life to serving his country, is that my government lets me waste away until I become a shell of my former self.

That's what being an American soldier is all about

MORE:

Army Faces Highest Monthly Total Of Suicides

Aug 16, 2012 By Patricia Kime - Staff writer; From Navy Times [Excerpts]

The Army experienced a record 38 suicides in July, the highest monthly total since the service began releasing monthly figures in 2009.

According to an Army report, 26 active-duty soldiers and 12 Army National Guard or Army Reserve members were suspected of or confirmed to have died by suicide.

The soldiers included a 21-year-old air traffic controller who shot himself in his Fort Wainright, Alaska, barracks; a 26-year-old captain who died at an indoor firing range in Virginia, and a 29-year-old sergeant who had deployed four times to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Three soldiers died at their own hands on deployment, and 13 had deployed at least once. But nine had never seen combat, according to the Army.

All were men, and three-fourths were in paygrades E-3 through E-5.

The deaths bring the total number of suspected suicides by soldiers to 187 for the year: 116 on active duty and 71 nonmobilized Guard or Reserve members. The previous record for a single month was 33 in July 2011.

The other services also are struggling with an increased pace of suicides this year. Air Force incidents, including both active duty and the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, have exceeded the service's 2011 numbers. This year, 63 airmen have committed suicide, five more than in all of 2011. In 2011, 30 active-duty airmen killed themselves; this year, the figure is 36.

In the first seven months of 2012, the Marine Corps had 32 suicides, the same total that the Corps had for all of 2011.

The Navy has had 39 suicides; in 2011, it experienced its worst year, with 52 deaths.

The Coast Guard, the smallest service with roughly 42,000 members, has had five suicides in 2012; last year, it experienced six.

MORE:

**“American Troops Diagnosed
With Traumatic Brain Injury Are
At Risk Of Developing A
Degenerative Disease”**

**This Disease “Causes Bursts Of
Anger And Depression And Can
Lead To Memory Loss, Difficulty
Walking And Speaking, Paranoia
And Suicide”**

**“Medical Officials Cannot Diagnose
Or Prevent The Disease, Called
Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy,**

And There Is No Known Treatment For It” “The Risk To Troops Of Developing CTE ‘Is A Huge Issue’”

[Thanks to Sandy Kelson, Veteran & Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

08/15/2012 By David Wood, The Huffington Post [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON -- Almost a quarter million American troops diagnosed with traumatic brain injury are at risk of developing a degenerative disease that causes bursts of anger and depression and can lead to memory loss, difficulty walking and speaking, paranoia and suicide, according to military researchers.

At present, medical officials cannot diagnose or prevent the disease, called Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy, and there is no known treatment for it, said Army Col. Dallas Hack, director of the Army's Combat Casualty Care Research Program.

According to the most recent Pentagon data, 244,217 U.S. military men and women have been diagnosed with TBI, often caused by one or more exposures to bomb blasts. Thousands more are believed to have experienced undiagnosed mild brain damage from blast injuries.

The grim effects of CTE have been observed among boxers and other athletes for years. But only recently have researchers been able to demonstrate a link between TBI, an increasingly common form of combat injury, and CTE.

The research demonstrated that even those who have suffered mild TBI -- commonly believed to be a less serious condition -- can develop CTE.

Working with donated brains of patients with CTE, researchers at the Boston Brain Bank -- a collaboration between Boston University and the Department of Veterans Affairs -- have identified a neurological condition that involves an abnormal alteration of a nerve cell called the tau protein.

Dr. Ann McKee, a neuropathologist and co-director of the Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy in Boston, studied the brains of 21 military veterans, including those who served in Vietnam, the 1991 Gulf War and Iraq and Afghanistan, and all of whom suffered from CTE.

Of the four veterans who had served in Iraq or Afghanistan, three also had suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder, which is commonly associated with TBI.

In these cases, McKee was able to find microscopic evidence of the distortion of the tau protein.

“Four years ago we really did not understand this injury at all,” McKee said Wednesday in a conference call with reporters. “Now we know it exists. We know it’s a problem.”

Military personnel who are exposed to blast “are at risk” of developing CTE, she said. “But we have no idea of the level of risk. All we can say is we have identified it and it is a problem with some individuals.”

In addition to putting combat veterans at risk of developing CTE, researchers suspect that TBI can accelerate the development of Alzheimer’s disease, which is marked by progressive mental deterioration.

Research continues at the Boston Brain Bank and elsewhere, focused on identifying markers in the bloodstream or spinal fluid that could signify the presence of CTE. Other research is aimed at developing ways to “tag” the damaged tau protein so that it shows up in micro-imaging tests.

At the Army’s Combat Casualty Care Research Center, at Fort Detrick, Md., researchers are finalizing a clinical trial involving 2,000 patients, testing procedures that could detect the tau protein in blood minutes after a blast occurred. “Early results show we’re on the right track,” said Hack, the director of the Army’s Combat Casualty Care Research Program.

But it will be two years before the trial is completed and the Army can seek regulatory approval to begin using the procedures in the field.

The risk to troops of developing CTE “is a huge issue,” Hack said.

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.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**“Israel Will Not Attack Iran”
“Our Army Chief And The Entire
General Staff, As Well As The Chiefs
Of The Mossad And The Shin Bet,**

And Almost All Their Predecessors, Are Totally And Publicly Opposed To The Attack”

“One Of The Reasons For This Opposition Is That The Army Chiefs Know Better Than Anyone Else How Totally Dependent On The US Israel Really Is”

August 18, 2012 By Uri Avnery, Gush Shalom [Excerpts]

Uri Avnery is an Israeli writer and founder of the Gush Shalom peace movement. A member of the Irgun as a teenager, Avnery sat in the Knesset from 1965–74 and 1979–81

Binyamin Netanyahu may be crazy, but he is not mad.

Ehud Barak may be mad, but he is not crazy.

Ergo: Israel will not attack Iran.

One of the most striking aspects of the situation is that our army chief and the entire General Staff, as well as the chiefs of the Mossad and the Shin Bet, and almost all their predecessors, are totally and publicly opposed to the attack.

It is one of the rare occasions when military commanders are more moderate than their political chiefs, though it has happened in Israel before.

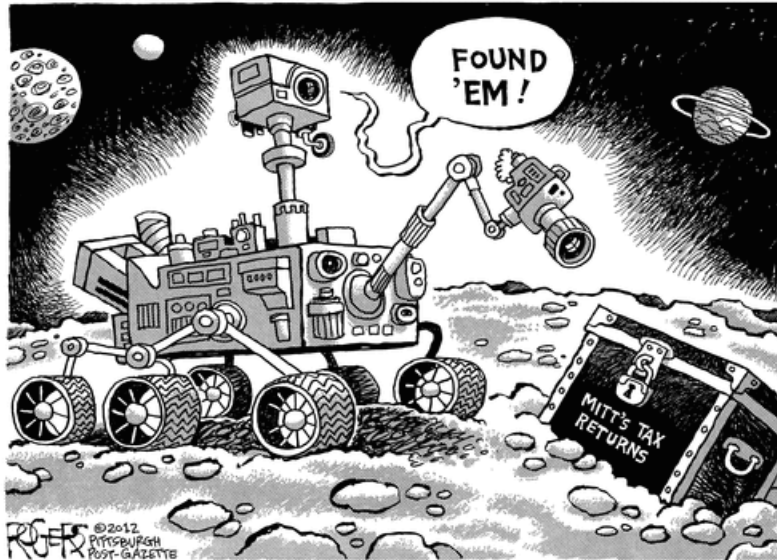
One may well ask: how can political leaders start a fateful war when practically all their military advisors, who know our military capabilities and the chances for success, are against it?

One of the reasons for this opposition is that the army chiefs know better than anyone else how totally dependent on the US Israel really is. Our relationship with America is the very basis of our national security.

Also, it seems doubtful whether Netanyahu and Barak have a majority for the attack even in their own government and inner cabinet.

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to: www.rafahtoday.org The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."]

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Radio Show Journalist Sentenced To Prison For Tape Recording And Broadcasting Interviews With Public Officials: He Had Exposed Attack By Vicious Cop On Unarmed High School Student

08/15/2012 The Huffington Post

Adam "Ademo" Mueller, co-host of radio show Free Talk Live and founder of CopBlock.org, was found guilty Monday of illegal wiretapping and sentenced to three months in jail.

Although Mueller maintained no wrongdoing, Assistant Hillsborough County Attorney Michael Valentine said Mueller's intentions were "to disrupt, to be disobedient, to slow down the court system and clog it," the New Hampshire Union Leader reports.

Mueller was found guilty of secretly recording conversations with Manchester police Capt. Jonathan Hopkins, Manchester High School West Principal MaryEllen McGorry and school secretary Denise Michael without their consent.

The recordings were Mueller's response to an incident last October, when video surfaced of 17-year-old Frank W. Harrington being lifted from his seat in the New Hampshire school's cafeteria by a school police officer and slammed face-first into a table.

The student, who said he was "just messing around" with his sister, was suspended for 12 days and charged with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

When Mueller became aware of the incident, he took to CopBlock.org to defend Harrington and Michael Proulx, the student behind the video.

CopBlock.org is an online project that, according to its site, seeks police accountability and "curtail the all-too-common rights-violations and unaccountability that today exists."

Mueller called the local police and school officials searching for answers, but chose to record the conversations -- and included soundbites in a video post.

A few months later, he was charged with three felony counts of wiretapping, each of which carried a seven-year maximum penalty.

"The defendant doesn't want to follow the law and he's essentially asking you to join him in not following the law," Valentine told jurors Monday, according to the Associated Press.

Still, Mueller pleaded his case, noting that he "didn't cause them any harm -- physical or otherwise," adding that he called the officials while they were at their public jobs.

He sought "jury nullification" of the state's wiretapping law, which bars recording without consent.

**Chicken-Brain Putin Dictatorship
Sentences Pussy Riot To Two Years
In Prison Colony For "Hooliganism"
The Three Band Members "Offended
Religious Believers"**



Yekaterina Samutsevich, Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, and Maria Alyokhina. Photograph: Yuri Kochetkov/EPA

17 August 2012 By Miriam Elder in Moscow and agencies, Guardian

Three members of the feminist punk band Pussy Riot have been found guilty of hooliganism motivated by religious hatred and sentenced to two years in a prison colony.

Maria Alyokhina, 24, Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, 22, and Yekaterina Samutsevich, 29, were handed the sentence by a judge in Moscow amid a wave of protests around the world.

The three stared ahead defiantly from inside a glass cage, their wrists shackled in handcuffs, as the verdict was read. Supporters and opposition activists blamed the case against the women – and the tough sentence – on Vladimir Putin.

“Whatever Putin wants, Putin gets. That is the only thing to say,” Tolokonnikova’s husband, Pyotr Verzilov, said on leaving the court.

Hundreds of people, many wearing Pussy Riot T-shirts, gathered outside the court to protest against the verdict.

“We’re trying to remain peaceful,” said Maya Trapeznikova, 25. “But many are reaching their limits and waiting for the order to fight,” she said of the growing movement against Putin.

The judge said in the verdict that the three band members “committed hooliganism driven by religious hatred” and offended religious believers.

The trio were arrested in March after a guerrilla performance in Moscow's main cathedral calling for the Virgin Mary to protect Russia against Vladimir Putin, who was elected to a new term as Russia's president two weeks later.

Russian police have rounded up pro-Pussy Riot protesters, including the former world chess champion Garry Kasparov and leftist opposition group leader Sergei Udaltsov after one of the most closely watched court cases in recent Russian history.

Hundreds of Pussy Riot supporters filled a narrow street outside the court where the verdict was delivered, chanting "Russia without Putin!" amid a heavy police presence.

The case has attracted international attention as an emblem of Russia's intolerance of dissent.

It also underlines the vast influence of the Russian Orthodox church. Although church and state are formally separate, the church sees itself as the heart of Russian national identity and critics say its strength effectively makes it a quasi-state entity.

Celebrities including Paul McCartney, Madonna and Björk have called for the women to be freed and protests timed for just before the verdict or soon afterward were planned in more than three dozen cities worldwide.

Prosecutors had asked for three-year sentences, and Putin said he hoped the sentencing was not "too severe".

Before Friday's proceedings began, the defence lawyer Nikolai Polozov said the women "hope for an acquittal but they are ready to continue to fight".

The case has come after several laws were passed to crack down on opposition, including one that raised the fine for taking part in unauthorised demonstrations 150-fold to 300,000 rubles (about £6,000).

Another measure requires non-government organisations that engage in vaguely defined political activity and receive funding from abroad to register as "foreign agents".

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CLASS WAR REPORTS



South African Police Massacre “At Least” 34 Striking Platinum Miners:

**“A Reuters Photo Showed A
Dozen Corpses Lying On A Patch
Of Sandy Ground”**

**“Scenes That Evoked Comparisons
With Apartheid-Era Brutality”**

Police Proud That “D-Day” Plan Used Force To Break Up The Crowd Of Strikers So The Mine Could Reopen



Policemen fire at striking miners outside a South African mine in Rustenburg, 100 km (62 miles) northwest of Johannesburg, August 16, 2012. (Reuters/Siphiwe Sibeko)



Reuters/Siphiwe Sibeko



AFP Photo/Str

Before the start of the operation by hundreds of police, officials said several days of talks with AMCU leaders had broken down, leaving no option but to use force to break the crowd, which had triggered the closure of the mine.

“Today is unfortunately D-day,” police spokesman Dennis Adriao said.

Aug 16, 2012 By John Mkhize MARIKANA, South Africa; Reuters & August 17, 2012 By LYDIA POLGREEN, NY Times [Excerpts]

South African police opened fire on striking miners carrying machetes and sticks at Lonmin’s Marikana platinum mine on Thursday in scenes that evoked comparisons with apartheid-era brutality.

Earlier on Friday, speaking to a local talk radio station, South Africa’s police minister, Nathi Mthethwa, had said that 34 miners had been killed in the shooting.

In the incident, filmed by Reuters television, officers opened up with automatic weapons on a group of men who emerged from behind a vehicle and started loping towards police lines. **[The police had already publicly announced they had come to attack the strikers with force and violence -- see box above and quote below. The miners knew it and refused to run away from the battle. “If need be, we’re prepared to die here.” T]**

The volley of bullets threw up clouds of dust, which cleared to reveal bodies lying on the ground.

President Jacob Zuma said he was “shocked and dismayed” at what appeared to be one of the bloodiest police operations since the end of white-minority rule in 1994 in Africa’s biggest economy.

“I have instructed law enforcement agencies to do everything possible to bring the situation under control and to bring the perpetrators of violence to book,” he said in a statement.

Police have refused to confirm the death toll from the operation to disperse 3,000 protesting drill operators who had massed on a rocky outcrop near the mine, 100 km (60 miles) northwest of Johannesburg.

“The police, in order to protect their own lives and in self-defense, were forced to engage the group with force,” they said in a statement. “This resulted in several individuals being fatally wounded, and others injured.” **[Lying bullshit. See below: before killing the strikers, the police told the press exactly what their plan was: “to break the crowd.” “D-day.”]**

“The minister is of the view that given the volatility of the situation, police did their best,” the minister’s spokesman Zweli Mnisi said in a text message. “What should police do in such situations when clearly what they are faced with are armed and hardcore criminals who murder police?”

A Reuters photo showed a dozen corpses lying on a patch of sandy ground, while a spokeswoman from the opposition Democratic Alliance said the overall toll could be as high as 38.

The SAPA news agency said one of its reporters had counted 18 bodies.

World platinum prices leapt as much as \$30 an ounce - more than 2 percent - to a six-day high as the extent of the violence became apparent in the country with 80 percent of known reserves.

Leaders of the radical Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU), which was representing most of the strikers, accused police of a massacre.

“There was no need whatsoever for these people to be killed like that,” General Secretary Jeffrey Mphahlele told Reuters.

Some commentators likened the scenes to apartheid-era footage of ranks of police opening fire on crowds of protesters in black townships.

“I cannot think of a confrontation between protesters and police since 1994 that has taken place along these lines,” said Nic Borain, an independent political analyst.

Before the start of the operation by hundreds of police, officials said several days of talks with AMCU leaders had broken down, leaving no option but to use force to break the crowd, which had triggered the closure of the mine.

“Today is unfortunately D-day,” police spokesman Dennis Adriao said.

Prior to Thursday, 10 people - including two policemen - had died in nearly a week of fighting between rival worker factions at the mine, the latest platinum plant to be hit by an eight-month union turf war.

The Marikana strikers have not made their demands explicit, although much of the bad blood stems from AMCU's challenge to the two-decade dominance of the National Union of Mineworkers, a close ally of Zuma's ruling African National Congress. **[Translation: "an ally of Zuma's government of, by and for the South African class of capitalists and their government allies.]**

"N.U.M. has deserted us," said one of the striking workers, who gave his name as Kelebone, referring to the older union, the National Union of Mineworkers, by its abbreviation. "

N.U.M. is working with the white people and getting money. They forgot about the workers."

A senior member of the rival union, A.M.C.U., says that workers are angry and feel betrayed by the party that liberated South Africa.

"We made the A.N.C. what it is today, but they have no time for us," the union leader said, asking that his name be withheld because he feared reprisals from the government.

"Nothing has changed, only the people on top, and they just keep getting more money."

Before the police advance, AMCU president Joseph Mathunjwa, whose organization has been on a big recruitment push in South Africa's platinum mines, said there would be bloodshed if police moved in.

"We're going nowhere," he shouted through a loud-hailer, to cheers from the crowd. "If need be, we're prepared to die here."

The unrest has forced Marikana's London-headquartered owner to halt production at all its South African operations, which account for 12 percent of global platinum output.

Lonmin said it had lost the equivalent of 15,000 ounces of platinum from the six-day disruption, and was unlikely to meet its full-year production target of 750,000 ounces.

Its shares fell to a four-year low, losing 6.7 percent in London and 7.3 percent in Johannesburg. In all, they have shed more than 13 percent since the unrest started at the weekend.

At least three people were killed in a similar round of fighting in January that led to a six-week closure of the world's largest platinum mine, run nearby by Impala Platinum. That helped push the platinum price up 15 percent.

Despite South Africa's dominance of the platinum sector, rising power and labor costs and a sharp drop in the price of the precious metal this year have left many mines struggling to keep their heads above water.

Korean Auto Union Demands End Of Night Shifts:

**“Working Through The Night Has
Caused Chronic Fatigue, Sleep
Disorders And Indigestion For
Workers”**

**“A Fresh Strike Is Set For Friday And
The Union Says It Plans More If The
Company Doesn’t Agree”**



Union members, left, wearing head bands saying 'Unity Fight,' at negotiations with Hyundai in Ulsan, Korea. Hyundai Motor Union

August 15, 2012 By KYONG-AE CHOI. Wall Street Journal

SEOUL—Moon Yong-moon is tapping the brakes on Hyundai Motor Co.'s global acceleration.

The question now: Could the combative union boss's push to end night work bring the auto maker's global advance to a halt?

Mr. Moon has brought a decadelong fight to end night-shift production to a head with a series of strikes that have cut Hyundai's output so far this year by 40,000 vehicles worth 804.5 billion won (\$712 million.)

A fresh strike is set for Friday and the union says it plans more if the company doesn't agree to end night-shift work beginning in mid-2013 and meet other wage and hiring demands.

The company now runs two 10-hour shifts at its domestic assembly plants and Mr. Moon is pressing for two eight-hour shifts.

Prolonged strikes at Hyundai and its affiliate Kia Motors Corp. 000270.SE -2.04% will hurt sales because their inventories are at record-low levels due to strong demand earlier this year. Auto makers book revenue when they ship a vehicle to a dealer and fewer cars mean less revenue.

In the U.S., Kia last month reported it had 25 days of sales on hand and Hyundai just 21 days. In contrast, Toyota Motor Corp. GM and Honda Motor Co. HMC had 49 days each and General Motors Co.'s GM Chevrolet division had 66 days worth of inventory.

While major car makers including GM run plants into the night—as do all of South Korea's auto companies—Mr. Moon argues that night-shift work is unhealthy. “Working through the night has caused chronic fatigue, sleep disorders and indigestion for workers,” he said in an interview. “In some cases, it is also to blame for family troubles.”

His proposal to replace the current 10-hour shifts with shorter, daytime-only schedules is opposed by Hyundai.

Its counterproposal would include eight- and nine-hour shifts each day tied to higher worker productivity.

The union wants the company to add workers to maintain output volumes and insists the company agreed in principle in 2005 to end night work and hasn't matched its promise with any action.

Mr. Moon isn't easily deterred.

The 48-year-old has been fired three times and arrested four times for union activities since joining Hyundai in 1986.

Short and usually wearing close-cropped hair, he is known for eschewing the niceties of union-company bargaining, avoiding handshakes and smiles at negotiations. He was elected to the union's top job last year with a 52% of the vote.

As of Tuesday, Hyundai and its union have held 15 rounds of negotiations without reaching an agreement.

“I want an equal partnership with the company on behalf of union members, which seemingly went missing in the past two to three years,” Mr. Moon said.

Hyundai and Kia together form the world's fifth-largest car maker by sales and are part of one of Korea's premier industrial groups. Hyundai has called on the union to recognize in its negotiations that it faces an unpredictable business environment in the second half.

"We are already facing a decrease in profitability and tougher competition with our archrivals such as Toyota and Volkswagen in major markets such as the U.S. and Europe," a Hyundai spokesman said. "We fared better than our rivals in the first half but it is an illusion if the union keeps the same view about the second half."

The company's rising profit and market share gains in the U.S. and Europe have given the union unusual power in these negotiations.

Hyundai's U.S. market share was 5.4% last month, Autodata Corp., up from 3% in late 2008. But further gains are effectively capped by a lack of production. In Europe, Hyundai's share has risen to 2.6% in 2011, from 1.7% in 2007.

Overall auto shipments from South Korea to the 27-national European Union have soared since July 2011, when a free trade deal took effect. South Korea's auto exports to the EU rose 40%, to 400,000 cars, from the agreement's effective date to May of this year, according to Seoul's customs agency data.

Hyundai, which exports about 35% of vehicles built from its domestic plants, posted a 20% year-to-year rise in net profit to 4.998 trillion won (\$4.42 billion) for the first half. Over the same period, Kia, which ships abroad 70% of its Korean-made cars, reported a 10% rise in profit.

Labor strife is relatively common in South Korea. After its founding in 1987, Hyundai faced strike action almost every year through to 2009.

Alongside an end to night work, Hyundai workers want a monthly pay increase of 151,696 won (\$134) and for 30% of the company's net profit to be used for performance-based pay.

The company and union remain far apart. On Tuesday, the company suggested a basic pay increase of 95,000 won, performance-based bonuses equivalent to 3½ months salary and a one-time incentive worth nine million won per worker.

In another thorny issue, the union has called on the company to gradually give permanent positions to some 13,000 contract workers.

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