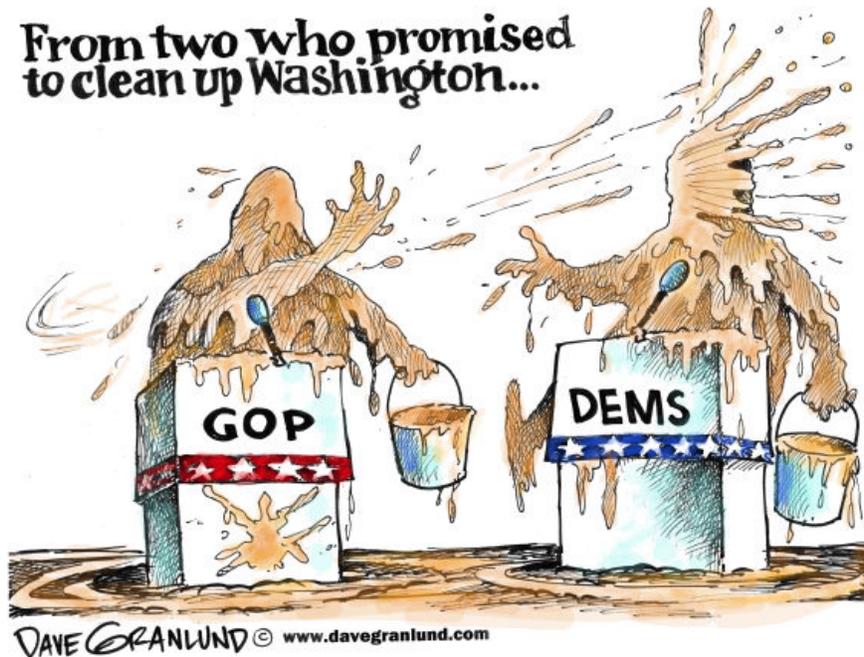


Military Resistance 1011



**“The Numbers Are So High That
Some Analysts Claim They May
Represent The Highest Incidence
Of Intentional Friendly Fire Attacks
In Recorded Military History”**

**“Thanks To The Infiltration Of The
Mujahideen, They Are Able To Safely
Enter Bases, Offices And Intelligence
Centres Of The Enemy”**

“Then, They Easily Carry Out Decisive And Co-Ordinated Attacks, Inflicting Heavy Losses On The Enemy Both In Life And Equipment”

August 31, 2012 By Ben Doherty and Dylan Welch, The Sydney Morning Herald
[Excerpts]

If the Iraq war became known as the conflict that brought the horror of improvised explosive devices to global infamy, Afghanistan is quickly becoming the face of a new and even more insidious form of deadly violence – the insider attack.

Known in NATO parlance as green on blue (green represents friendly national forces and blue represents international forces), the attacks have increased dramatically this year. So far, 48 NATO troops – including the three Australians killed on Wednesday – have died in 31 separate attacks. This month, during Ramadan, 11 US soldiers were killed in nine days.

The high number represents 14 per cent of all combat fatalities this year and though it is still only August, the figure is already significantly higher than last year, when 31 troops died.

The numbers are so high that some analysts claim they may represent the highest incidence of intentional friendly fire attacks in recorded military history.

For his Eid message, the Pakistan-based spiritual leader of the Taliban, Mullah Mohammed Omar, said his fighters had been instructed to infiltrate the Afghan national army and coerce Afghan soldiers to help attack coalition troops.

“Thanks to the infiltration of the mujahideen, they are able to safely enter bases, offices and intelligence centres of the enemy. Then, they easily carry out decisive and co-ordinated attacks, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy both in life and equipment.”

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Three Australian Troops Killed By Afghan Soldier While “Relaxing At

Their Base In Southern Uruzgan Province”

Two More Dead In Helicopter Roll Over:

“The Single Worst Day For Her Country In A War Since The Vietnam Conflict”

8.30.12 By Sayed Salahuddin, The Washington Post

KABUL – Five Australian troops were killed in two separate incidents in Afghanistan on Wednesday and Thursday, making it the bloodiest 24-hour period for Canberra in the war and adding to growing concern about attacks on foreign troops by rogue Afghan soldiers.

Three troops were relaxing at their base in southern Uruzgan province when they were shot at close range by an Afghan man wearing a military uniform, the vice chief of Australia’s Air Defense Force told reporters in Sydney.

The shooter managed to escape by scaling a fence after the incident late Wednesday, Air Marshal Mark Binskin was quoted as saying.

Two Australian soldiers were wounded.

Binskin said two other Australian troops died Thursday when their helicopter rolled over in Helmand province, a militant stronghold also in the south.

Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard called the loss of the five military personnel the single worst day for her country in a war since the Vietnam conflict.

MORE

Rogue Afghan Soldier Who Shot Three Australian Soldiers Dead And Wounded Two Others Identified

31 Aug 2012 SBS

The rogue Afghan soldier who shot three Australian soldiers dead and wounded two others has been identified.

A man in Afghan National Army uniform shot dead three soldiers and wounded another two from the Australian Mentoring Task Force Five at a patrol base in the Baluchi Valley, north of the main base at Tarin Kowt.

International Security Assistance Force spokesman Major Adam Wojack told ABC Radio the gunman was a lieutenant by the name of Hek Matola, a guard at the Australian patrol base.

The hunt is on to locate the shooter, he said.

“We do know that he acted alone, he was a single shooter ... he did kill those Australian soldiers then jumped over a fence and fled on foot,” he said.

Vigil Planned For Michigan Soldier Killed In Afghan Attack

August 31, 2012 Associated Press

A vigil is planned at Corunna High School of a 20-year-old graduate who was killed while serving in Afghanistan.

The body of Army Pfc. Shane Cantu of Corunna arrived at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware on Thursday morning, with a military honor guard on hand to carry the flag-draped coffin.

His ex-football coach says he died Tuesday after insurgents threw an explosive over a base wall.

Cantu had been stationed in Germany and Italy before transferring to Afghanistan a month before he was killed.

A candlelight vigil is scheduled for 8 p.m. today on the football field.

Family: Slain SoCal Service Member “Gave Us So Much Love”

Aug 21, 2012 By Craig Feigener, NBCLA

The Aug. 16 death of Chief Warrant Officer Suresh Krause solicited countless online tributes to the Army pilot, who was manning a Black Hawk helicopter when it went down near Kandahar, Afghanistan. Those tributes, family members say, are a minor solace.

“He gave us so much love,” said Suzette Krause-Schmidt, the victim’s mother. “It’s going to be hard to go on. He was our only child.”

Krause, of Cathedral City, was one of seven U.S. service members killed in the Afghanistan crash.

Krause’s father, Brian Schmidt, says he knew something was wrong before the government messengers arrived in front of his house with the official word, because his 29-year-old son usually “checks in right away if there’s a crash, to let us know.”

This time, there was no call.

Schmidt said they anxiously waited at their Indio home for information. Two government workers outside their home delivered the news.

“I turned the corner and I saw them sitting there, and I knew right away,” he said.

Krause, a decorated service member who joined the Army in 2007 and became a Black Hawk pilot two years later, is remembered as an ambitious young man. His mother repeatedly asked he be remembered as a hero, kind and brilliant.

His parents say he knew he wanted to fly by the time he was 14 years old.

“He was given the opportunity to go to flight school in Alabama,” Schmidt said. “He said I want to fly, and that’s what he did,” Krause- Schmidt added.

Krause was on his second deployment and died four years into a 10-year enlistment.

Two service members from California were killed in the incident, Krause and Sgt. Richard A. Essex, 23, of Kelseyville.

Defense officials identified the other service members killed in the crash as:

Chief Warrant Officer Brian D. Hornsby, 37, of Melbourne, Fla.

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Petty Officer Technician 1st Class Sean P. Carson, 32, of Des Moines, Wash.

Special Warfare Operator Petty Officer 1st Class Patrick D. Feeks, 28, of Edgewater, Md.

Sgt. Luis A. Oliver Galbreath, 41, of San Juan, Puerto Rico

Special Warfare Operator Petty Officer 2nd Class David J. Warsen, 27, of Kentwood, Mich.

The cause of the crash is under investigation, but a U.S. military officer in Afghanistan speaking on the condition of anonymity told the Los Angeles Times it is “conceivable” that enemy fire took down the Black Hawk.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

**“At Least The Taliban Pay On
Time”**

**“Red Tape Slows The
Reintegration Program For Former
Insurgents, Reducing Many
Taliban Fighters’ Willingness To
Sign Up”**

**“My Men Are Not Getting Paid And
They Said, ‘Why Should We Join The
Government And Get Nothing?’”**

**“Many Afghan Government Branches
Don’t Function Outside Kabul Without
U.S. Protection”**

Abdul Samad says he receives \$180 per month now, compared with \$300 when he fought with the Taliban.

Many of Abdul Samad’s men say that if they don’t get paid — and some haven’t since May — they will leave to seek laborer jobs in Pakistan or Iran, or to rejoin the insurgency.

August 29, 2012 By MARIA ABI-HABIB, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

DAHANE SANGHA, Afghanistan—Abdul Samad, a Taliban fighter turned pro-government security chief, has a problem: The Afghan state isn't paying his men, raising the risk they will rejoin the insurgency.

Red tape slows the reintegration program for former insurgents, reducing many Taliban fighters' willingness to sign up.

Also, the governments to which local police report are often weak and split by ethnic conflict. Many Afghan government branches don't function outside Kabul without U.S. protection: Police, army and government officials often rely on U.S. helicopters to get around.

Afghanistan's regular police, who are charged with overseeing the Afghan Local Police, or ALP, say it can be hard to track local forces in remote and dangerous areas whose job is to provide security but aren't empowered to enforce Afghan law.

"We don't have access to those areas, and we need the coalition to come with me to put those areas under control," says Uruzgan province police chief Matiullah Khan. "Until foreign forces leave, we'll keep asking them for help. When they leave, we'll have to find our way."

Mr. Khan blamed the paycheck delay on the slow process of registering new ALP members.

Critics of the local police program — which include human-rights advocates and several Afghan officials — say the U.S. is funding militias over which it has little control, energies that could be focused on building the national police and army. They see a danger that men like Abdul Samad could become Afghanistan's next warlords once U.S. forces leave, much as some of the U.S.-armed Mujahedeen of the 1980s became some of the country's biggest power brokers and human-rights violators, with many remaining in government today.

On a recent day, a Chinook helicopter flew government officials from Tarin Kot, Uruzgan province's capital, to Abdul Samad's home in a valley surrounded by orchards and mountains. They were there to pay long-awaited salaries.

Minutes after the meeting, Abdul Samad emerged to say money had been offered for only 12 of his 32 men. He "threw the cash back" at the officials and demanded payment in full, he recounted.

"I had three groups of Taliban call me and ask how (reintegration) is going, he told the officials and SEALs in attendance.

"I replied that my men are not getting paid and they said, 'Why should we join the government and get nothing?' At least the Taliban pay on time."

Abdul Samad says he receives \$180 per month now, compared with \$300 when he fought with the Taliban.

Many of Abdul Samad's men say that if they don't get paid—and some haven't since May—they will leave to seek laborer jobs in Pakistan or Iran, or to rejoin the insurgency.

Red tape slows the reintegration program for former insurgents, reducing many Taliban fighters' willingness to sign up

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

MILITARY NEWS

Canada Orders Deportation For US Soldier Fleeing Iraq War Posting

8.30.12 By Associated Press

TORONTO — The first female soldier to flee the U.S. military for Canada to avoid the war in Iraq has been ordered deported, a spokeswoman for the War Resisters Support Campaign said Thursday.

Michelle Robidoux said that Citizenship and Immigration Canada has ordered Kimberly Rivera to leave the country by Sept. 20.

Robidoux said Rivera is meeting with her lawyers Thursday to determine her next course of action and was unavailable to comment on the deportation order.

"We are very upset about this decision," said Robidoux. "The cases of war resisters are not being looked at properly. (Immigration Minister Jason) Kenney continues to intervene by telling immigration officers to red flag US soldiers who are applying for asylum as criminally inadmissible. We think that has tainted the whole process and the government should withdraw that directive."

Robidoux said they will likely call on Kenney to grant the family humanitarian and compassionate consideration and allow them to stay.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada did not immediately return calls for comment.

Rivera, a 30-year-old Army private, served in Iraq in 2006. She said she became disillusioned with the mission. She crossed the border into Canada while on leave in February 2007, after she was ordered to serve another tour there.

After arriving in Canada on leave, she applied for refugee status.

She currently lives in Toronto with her husband and four children, the two youngest of which were born in Canada.

In January of 2009, Canada's Immigration and Refugee Board ordered her and her family to leave the country or face deportation. Rivera appealed that decision.

Rivera's lawyers have argued in Canada's federal court that their client would likely face a court martial and jail time, possibly up to five years, instead of an administrative discharge if she is deported because of her political opposition to the war.

The War Resisters Support Campaign said two other Iraq war resisters who were deported, Robin Long and Clifford Cornell, faced year-long jail sentences upon their return.

Long was given a dishonorable discharge in 2008 and sentenced to 15 months in a military prison after pleading guilty to charges of desertion.

The lower house of Canada's Parliament passed a nonbinding motion in 2009 urging that U.S. military deserters be allowed to stay in Canada, but the Conservative government ignored the vote.

During the Vietnam War, up to 90,000 Americans won refuge in Canada, most of them to avoid the military draft.

Many were given permanent residence status that led to Canadian citizenship, but the majority went home after President Jimmy Carter granted amnesty in the late 1970s.

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

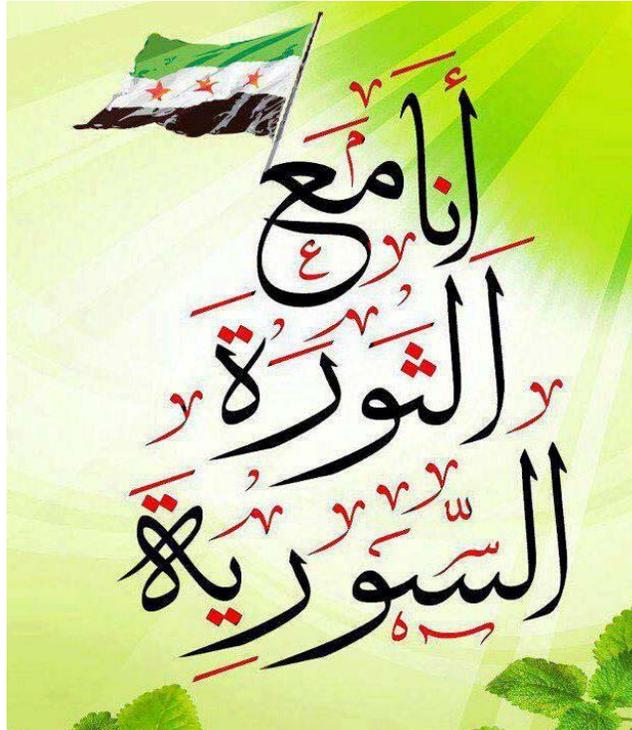
Rise like Lions after slumber
In unvanquishable number,
Shake your chains to earth like dew
Which in sleep had fallen on you-
Ye are many — they are few

-- Percy Bysshe Shelley, 1819, on the occasion of a mass murder of British workers by the Imperial government at Peterloo.

An Unambiguous Position: “Support The Syrian People In Their Courageous And Popular Struggle Against The Dictatorship Of The Assad Regime”

**“Composed Of Deserters And
Civilians Who Took Up Arms, The
Armed Popular Resistance Has Real
Roots In The Popular Insurrection”**

**“The Main Forms Of Organization Have
Been Through Popular Committees In
The Villages, Towns And Regions”**



Is it necessary to recall all the measures taken by the neo-liberal regime that has impoverished society, 60% of the Syrian population living below the poverty line or just above, and weakened the Syrian economy?

Is it necessary to recall that the Assad clan, especially around the person of Rami Makhoul, through the privatization process accounted for more than 60% of the economic wealth of Syria?

August 31, 2012 Syria Freedom Forever [سوريا الحرة للأبد –] [Excerpts]

The regional and international revolutionary left cannot accept a position that clearly does not support the Syrian revolution or which proves ambiguous vis-à-vis the latter, particularly in light of the sacrifices made by the Syrian people in the face repression.

We say straightforwardly but with full candor and honesty: those who deny popular revolutions thereby set themselves against envisaging emancipation from below and by the people! They cannot be seen as being on the left.

The popular movement in Syria has not, contrary to what we have heard, been removed from the streets, universities and workplaces despite the regime's many forms of political and violent military repression.

The main forms of organization have been through popular committees in the villages, towns and regions.

These popular committees are the real backbone of the grassroots movement mobilizing people for events.

They also developed forms of self-management based on the organization of the masses in the liberated areas from the yoke of the regime.

Elected popular councils have been created to deal with and manage the liberated areas, proving that it is the system which causes anarchy and not the people.

The Syrian revolutionary process is a real popular and democratic movement that mobilizes the exploited and oppressed classes against the capitalist elite linked to the global order (very similar to their counterparts in the Arab world).

Is it necessary to recall all the measures taken by the neo-liberal regime that has impoverished society, 60% of the Syrian population living below the poverty line or just above, and weakened the Syrian economy?

Is it necessary to recall that the Assad clan, especially around the person of Rami Makhoul, through the privatization process accounted for more than 60% of the economic wealth of Syria?

The neo liberal policies implemented these past 10 years have provoked the collapse of the public sector and led to the domination of the private sector up to 70% of the economy.

Nevertheless some expect the Syrian people to not confront their “main enemy at home”, the Syrian regime, which exploits, oppresses and massacres them, because the Assad regime is “anti-imperialist”...

No party, government or regime can claim to struggle against imperialism when it's oppressing and exploiting its own people or other populations.

The Syrian popular movement began peacefully calling for reform, but the regime has responded with violence and repression across the board.

Parts of the Syrian population then organized armed resistance to defend against attacks from security services and thugs, known as shabihas of the regime.

The Syrian people's armed resistance expresses their right to defend themselves against the repression of the regime and has allowed for the continuation of the popular resistance in some regions faced with the attacks of the regime.

Some revolutionary councils were formed throughout Syria, as well as coordinating committees and armed political action.

Composed of deserters and civilians who took up arms, the armed popular resistance has real roots in the popular insurrection.

The largest section of the Syrian revolutionary movement is that of the proletariat and the rural and urban “middle class” who have been economically marginalized by the application of neoliberal policies, especially since the coming to power of Bashar al-Assad.

It is mainly these components of the current revolution who joined the armed groups of the Free Syrian Army.

It is therefore completely misleading and far from any materialist analysis to identify all these armed groups as proxies and acting for the interests of global imperialist or regional powers.

Similarly, to consider the popular armed resistance as a group of Islamists acting independently of the popular movement is far from reality.

It is certain that the Syrians who are Sunni Muslim represent the majority of the popular armed resistance, but to consider each person of this community as an Islamist is wrong and above all Islamophobic.

In fact, a Muslim is not equal to an Islamist. The popular armed resistance groups include all ideological, ethnic and religious components of Syrian society.

Most Western countries have also refused any military assistance to the armed revolutionaries, while promising non-military aid.

The feeble means of resistance of the popular armed resistance comes primarily from the arms of the regime (weapons carried by the soldiers who have defected, buying weapons to corrupt officers, spoils of war).

The major Western imperialist powers, and other world imperialist powers such as Russia and China, as well as regional ones such as Iran, in their entirety and without exception, will continue to try to implement a Yemeni-type solution in Syria – in other words, to cut off the head of the regime, the dictator Bashar Al Assad, while keeping its structure intact, as was witnessed during meetings between U.S. and Russian officials, or at the international conference on 30 June in Geneva.

The great powers do not actually favor seeing the regime collapse, for the reasons mentioned above and the security of Israel, whose borders with Syria have been quiet since 1973.

The local coordination committees (LCC) in Syria also organized a campaign last June under the slogan “Freedom is my religion,” in which the LCC waved signs and symbols rejecting sectarian discourse, the sectarian practices of the regime and its deadly attempts to transform the Syrian revolution into a sectarian trap.

In the Committee of the City of Saraqeb, the protesters of the LCC waved signs representing the symbols of all faiths Syrian protesters, while those in Daeel protested with a sign saying “In the future in Syria, the policy of exclusion will be ended.”

These indicators reflect the political and humanist consciousness of a majority in the popular movement. The Syrian people are aware that the fight against sectarianism passes through the struggle and the overthrow of this criminal regime and a radical change in society.

The fight against sectarianism is an essential part of the struggle for democracy, social justice, secularism and the establishment of political solidarity with the peoples struggling for freedom and dignity, especially the Palestinian people.

This break with the regime's sectarian policies and practices also opposes the Gulf States in their sectarian propaganda and also those sections of the Syrian opposition which support this kind of discourse, which are very much a minority but are present, it must be said.

The Gulf States, it should be remembered, financially support some small armed Islamist groups, but not to enable the victory of the Syrian revolution.

It is on the contrary an attempt to divert the Syrian revolution from its initial and always present objectives, that is to say, principally civil democracy, social justice and freedom – in order to transform it into sectarian war.

The Gulf states in fact fear a spread of revolution in the region which would threaten their power and interests.

Changing the nature of the revolution into a sectarian war would also scare their own people with the following message: that every change in the region has a great chance of falling into sectarian war and therefore the status quo should be encouraged – in other words, the dictators should be maintained.

The reactionary leaders of these countries want to intervene in Syria to contain the revolutionary process and restrict the political, social and economic revolutions.

The struggle of the Syrian people echoed this sentence from the Communist Manifesto: "The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win."

The left cannot but support this struggle for dignity and freedom as we have done for other popular revolutions in the region!

Our support for the revolution is inscribed in the struggle for the emancipation of the Syrian people and also in our support for permanent revolution.

Permanent revolution means to oppose and overthrow the dictatorial regime of Assad while opposing global and regional imperialisms which attempt to hijack the Syrian revolutionary process for their own interests against those of the Syrian people.

It is for this reason that we reject and condemn all foreign intervention in Syria, whether by the Western and Saudi/Qatari axis, or the Iranian/Russian axis that supports the regime in its repression against the popular movement and in all its financial and military capabilities.

The continuation of the revolution is also in the desire to build a free, democratic, secular and revolutionary Syria that seeks to eliminate all inequality and social discrimination, ethnic, gender and religious, to support the right to self-determination of the Kurdish people, to respect the religious and ethnic minorities, and to ensure all democratic and political freedoms.

The revolution will be permanent because it is also committed to make every effort to liberate the occupied Golan, to support the rights of the Palestinian people for the return of refugees and self-determination in the territory of historic Palestine, and to assist other peoples of the region in their struggle against their dictators and imperialism.

Army To Cut Back On Vernacular Cliches, War Story Exaggerations



June 9, 2012 by Tony, The Duffle Blog

Ft. Leonard Wood, MO — As part of recent cut backs proposed by the Pentagon, the Army is being forced to ration it's own vernacular to save valuable training time.

Everything from catch phrases to the proverbial exaggerated war story — and even standard expressions, are to be cut by 50%.

Phrases like "It ain't rocket surgery!" and "You need to be at least three percent smarter than your equipment" are set to be retired permanently.

Hardest hit by the proposal are Drill Sergeants — and those responsible for training privates have been vocal in their opposition.

"It's ridiculous," said Sergeant Charles M. Gibbner, a Drill Sergeant with Echo Company 2/10 INF, a basic combat training unit.

"How am I supposed to intimidate privates if I can't put the fear of God into them without a white elephant? Take the live night fire exercise for example. Sure, that's live ammunition being fired over their heads, but privates don't really keep their heads down unless I tell them a Drill Sergeant was once sawed in half during that exercise. Because you can be damn sure they don't stay down unless you tell them that."

Sergeant Major of the Army Ray Chandler was adamant about "cliche cutbacks."

“While it’s best not to speculate on these cuts, training will proceed using the same equipment. The cadre will just have to tone down the rhetoric. Hell, we might be getting rid of entire brigades and I’d consider this to be the least controversial of the measures proposed,” said Chandler.

Chandler went on to say that the Army believes one too many non-sequitur stories has statistically reduced training time. Some Drill Sergeants claim however, that the telling of these stories are vital to training young soldiers.

“There’s no point if I can’t traumatize you.” said Drill Sergeant SSG Jay Allen. “I tell them we’ve lost privates who didn’t complete the land navigation course on time and some were found mauled by bears”.

“Sure enough, my platoon is usually the fastest out of the cycle. The stories make it happen. While there’s no substitute for good training, there’s also no substitute for traumatizing privates barely three weeks removed from the civilian world.”

Non-commissioned officers army-wide continue to struggle with the news and there are rumors of a possible class action lawsuit from the group on First Amendment grounds.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



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

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the email address if you wish and we’ll send it regularly with your best wishes. Whether in Afghanistan or at a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657.

CLASS WAR REPORTS



**Striking South African Miners
To Be Charged With Killing
Striking South African Miners
Killed By Police:
The South African Police “Kill
Workers And Then Turn To Lay
Charges Of Murder On Those Who
Could Not Be Killed”
“Several Of Those Killed Were Shot
In The Back”**

“The South African Government And All Its State Apparatuses Do Not Regret The Murders And Massacre Of The Mine Workers”

Several of those killed were shot in the back.

Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Greg Marinovich, who became a national hero in South Africa for his work during apartheid, claimed to have evidence and eyewitness testimony that miners who had hidden from police in a rocky outcrop after the shooting were tracked and murdered by officers.

August 30, 2012 By DEVON MAYLIE, Wall Street Journal & 31 August 12 By Aislinn Laing, The Telegraph UK [Excerpts]

JOHANNESBURG—Two weeks after police shot into a crowd of protesting miners here, killing 34, in one of the worst instances of labor violence since the end of apartheid, authorities filed murder charges against fellow miners for those deaths, opposition officials said.

The National Prosecuting Authority on Thursday charged the 270 miners arrested following the Aug. 16 police shooting at Lonmin PLC’s Marikana operation, using an obscure Roman-Dutch common purpose law often used under apartheid.

The bizarre twist came as the men appeared in court close to the Lonmin platinum mine charged with public violence over the clashes on August 16.

The state also persuaded the magistrate hearing the high-profile case to delay a bail hearing for the miners until September 6. Until then, they will remain in cramped custody in three police stations in the area.

Concerns have also been raised about the treatment of the detained miners in police custody – at least 150 have laid claims with the Independent Police Investigative Directorate that they have been tortured and assaulted by officers since their arrest.

The decision to bring murder charges was met with outcry across South Africa yesterday, amid tensions that were already simmering over how the government responded to the wildcat strike.

It coincided with a sensational report which claimed that many of the miners killed on August 16 were shot at close range or run over by police vehicles rather than dying when officers initially opened fire as they were charged by the strikers.

In a blog post, Pierre de Vos, a University of Cape Town constitutional law scholar, called the development “bizarre and shocking and represents a flagrant abuse of the

criminal justice system in an effort to protect the police and/or politicians like Jacob Zuma,” the country’s president.

Mr. de Vos said even if miners attacked police that didn’t make them responsible for the killing of fellow protesters.

“I have never heard of this kind of thing before, even during the apartheid years when police frequently tried to blame protesters for violence meted out to them,” he said.

“It obviously has the potential to further inflame the emotions of the miners but also to create more sympathy for their plight among ordinary South Africans who have previously been quite sympathetic to the police.”

Mthunzi Mhaga, a spokesman for South Africa’s justice minister, said he had not been consulted about the decision. “It’s a procedural decision that we cannot get involved in,” he said.

Expelled-African National Congress Youth leader Julius Malema, who visited the site of the shooting before Mr. Zuma and has called for the president’s resignation, was at the court where the charges were made.

“The decisions of the NPA to charge mine workers reveals that the South African government and all its state apparatuses do not regret the murders and massacre of the mine workers,” said Floyd Shivambu, a spokesman for Mr. Malema, in a statement.

“How on earth can the South African police, with the approval of its most senior leaders, kill workers and then turn to lay charges of murder on those who could not be killed, and survived death in the hands of the state?”

The strike began Aug. 10 when 3,000 rock drillers refused to go underground without a wage increase.

As protesters camped out on a small rock hill near the mine, police and union management called for them to put down their weapons with many holding sticks and machetes.

Several of those killed were shot in the back.

Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Greg Marinovich, who became a national hero in South Africa for his work during apartheid, claimed to have evidence and eyewitness testimony that miners who had hidden from police in a rocky outcrop after the shooting were tracked and murdered by officers.

Meanwhile, those arrested have been held in court and so far denied bail.

South Africa’s National Police Commissioner Riah Phiyega previously defended the police actions and said they used “maximum force” to protect themselves.

Critics say the National Union of Mineworkers, an ally of the ANC, fell out of touch as its leaders traded shantytowns for management posts and proximity to power. The upstart Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union moved to fill that vacuum.

It targeted platinum mines because of a labor-law loophole that allows platinum companies to negotiate wages outside collective bargaining.

When the strike degenerated into violence, Lonmin executives threatened to dismiss workers who didn't return to work, further enraging miners.

The company then relied on the police to impose order.

The strike continues at Marikana, but since the Aug. 16 shooting there haven't been further reports of violence.

According to the legalbrief.co.za website, State Prosecutor Nigel Carpenter also argued in court that the suspects were liable for the effects that the bloody violence at Marikana mine had had on the economy.

"There were reports in the morning that the rand fell by 12 per cent," he told the court.

Protests Shake Politicians Across Africa

**"Youth-Led Protests Spread To
Angolan Cities And Towns"**

**"In June, Several Thousand Civil-War
Veterans Marched Over Unpaid
Pensions; Police Responded With
Tear Gas And Arrests"**

**"After Mr. Beirão Shouted The Names Of
Angolan Officials, He Declared: 'Go Fuck
Yourselves'"**

August 30, 2012 By PETER WONACOTT, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

LUANDA, Angola—José Eduardo dos Santos, after 33 years as Angola's president, is set to coast to victory in elections Friday.

A tougher test will come outside the political system, as youth-led protests spread to Angolan cities and towns and once-taboo calls for his ouster become a popular refrain.

It is the latest sign that more of Africa's entrenched leaders are facing pressure following last year's Arab Spring protests.

Former soldiers, civil-rights activists and musicians are demonstrating against the 70-year-old Mr. dos Santos, many in a loose confederation known as the Revolutionary Youth.

"It is time to face our fears," said Luaty Beirão, a 30-year-old rapper who helped ignite antigovernment protests. "Angolans are saying 'enough is enough.' "

Protests have also surfaced in Senegal, Uganda and Togo.

In Sudan, police detained more than 1,000 protesters calling for the resignation of President Omar al-Bashir, who is wanted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes in the Darfur region, students and human-rights groups reported.

Foreign investment in Angola's oil sector—from the U.S., China and Europe — has fueled growth that the International Monetary Fund projects will reach 9.7% this year.

A moneyed elite now lives in swank apartment complexes such as "Nova Vida," or the "New Life," which sits across the road from a slum that residents call "Vida Esquecida," or the "Forgotten Life."

More than half of Angolans live under the international poverty line and the nation's average life expectancy is 51 years.

Meanwhile, Transparency International counts Angola among the world's worst in government graft.

Such problems have stoked dissatisfaction with President dos Santos, Africa's second-longest serving leader after Equatorial Guinea's Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo.

An April Gallup poll ranked Mr. dos Santos last among Africa's leaders for job approval. Only 16% of Angolans surveyed were positive about his performance.

With the political opposition splintered, the party needs only to win Friday's parliamentary poll to keep him in power.

The government can also tilt elections its way, people tracking Angolan politics say.

The MPLA controls swaths of the media and has appointed key election officials, for example. "This has been a completely imbalanced race, where one side uses all the facilities of the state and the other side has few if any resources available," said Paula Cristina Roque, a researcher at Oxford University.

The prospect of Mr. dos Santos heading toward four decades in power has galvanized a variety of opponents.

This month, police in Angola's Kwanza Norte province clashed with leaders of an opposition party who complained of political repression. In July, police arrested several youth protesters preparing to stage a rally against the president, and in June, several thousand civil-war veterans marched over unpaid pensions; police responded with tear gas and arrests.

Helping spur Mr. dos Santos's opposition is Mr. Beirão, the rap musician, who is from one of Angola's privileged political families.

Growing up in the 1990s, he played videogames, went to nightclubs and ignored a devastating civil war. He credits the angry political lyrics of rap music for his awakening and decision to pursue a music career.

As protests heated up in North Africa early last year, Mr. Beirão performed an expletive-laced rap to a packed Luanda nightclub — documented on YouTube — that helped unleashed a wave of protests in Angola.

After Mr. Beirão shouted the names of Angolan officials, he declared: “Go Fuck yourselves.” The crowd roared in response. He capped off the concert by unfurling an anti-dos Santos banner and calling for the audience to join an anti-government protest days later.

We had demanded the government step down before, but it never had that impact,” said Dionisio Casimiro, a fellow protest rapper. “He energized people.”

Only a dozen or so activists bothered to show up at the subsequent protest, but police detained Mr. Beirão and other rappers.

A few weeks later, several hundred protesters gathered at the same place.

Protests surfaced in cities and towns across the country, mainly over local grievances such as pell-mell property development and police brutality, according to Human Rights Watch and Angolan activists.

Organizers alerted followers via Facebook, email and phone messages and stressed the collective nature of the enterprise, lest police target individuals.

In some subsequent demonstrations, pro-government gangs set upon protesters.

In one YouTube clip, a burly man known as Godzilla, dressed in sunglasses and a blue sweatshirt, beats a prone protester as a policeman looks on with a dog. Mr. Beirão was hit on the side of the head during a March protest, and now displays his scar with a Mohawk haircut.

“He’s not a political leader; he’s a movement animator,” said David Mendes, leader of the opposition Popular Party and a lawyer who represented some of the detained protesters.

“He wants to create the conditions for democracy.”

Troops Invited:

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Antigovernment Fighters Target The Syrian Military’s Airpower

August 30, 2012 By KAREEM FAHIM and RICK GLADSTONE, New York Times & By BASSEM MROUE, The Associated Press & August 31, 2012 Associated Press
[Excerpts]

In Syria on Thursday, rebel fighters claimed to have shot down a government warplane flying over the northern Idlib Province, the third report of an insurgent assault on Mr. Assad’s air force this week.

Two activist groups, The Local Coordination Committees and the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said the plane was seen crashing near the Abu Zuhour air base. Idlib-based activist Alaa al-Din said rebels shot it down with heavy machine guns.

A video broadcast on the pan-Arab satellite station Al-Arabiya shows what appears to be a person parachuting and rebels cheering and claiming he was the pilot.

The intensifying effort by antigovernment fighters to target the Syrian military’s airpower reflected the increasing use of warplanes and helicopters by the government.

On Wednesday, fighters in Idlib said they had attacked a military airport and destroyed 5 to 10 government helicopters parked there.

On Aug. 13, rebels claimed to have shot down a regime MiG-23 warplane and captured the pilot in Deir el-Zour.

Earlier this week, the opposition fighters said they shot down a helicopter in the Damascus neighborhood of Jobar while the government confirmed a chopper crashed in nearby area of al-Qaboun.

Earlier in the day, the Observatory reported explosions inside the Abu Zuhour air base in Idlib, near where the plane was reported to have been shot down. It added that rebels have captured parts of the compound.

Activists say rebels are attacking several security compounds in the northern Syrian city of Aleppo.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said one of Friday's attacks targeted a compound in the neighborhood of Zahraa, killing and wounding a number of troops. It gave no figures.

Aleppo-based activist Mohammed Saeed said rebels are attacking four security buildings around Syria's largest city, using rocket launchers and machine guns.

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