

Military Resistance 10/13



**Insurgents Who Killed Two
Marines Were Wearing U.S. Army
Uniforms:
Six Harrier Fighter Jets Destroyed
By Attack On Base;
“Militants Also Destroyed Three
Refueling Stations On The Base And
Damaged Six Aircraft Hangars”**

WASHINGTON — Coalition military authorities in Afghanistan on Saturday said the insurgents who attacked a British airfield in southwestern Afghanistan on Friday, killing two U.S. Marines, wore U.S. Army uniforms and destroyed six Harrier fighter jets.

Coalition officials said in a statement that about 15 insurgents carried out the attack, describing the attack as well coordinated by insurgents who were “well equipped, trained and rehearsed.” Fourteen of the 15 were killed; one was captured.

Officials said attackers penetrated the base’s perimeter and were armed with automatic rifles, rocket-propelled grenade launchers and suicide vests.

Militants also destroyed three refueling stations on the base and damaged six aircraft hangars, coalition officials said.

Coalition authorities have not yet released the names of the fallen Marines. Eight other coalition service members and one civilian contractor were also injured in the assault.

Four U.S. Service Members Killed By Afghan Police Officer In Zabul: Two Wounded

09/16/12 NPR & The Associated Press

Four U.S. service members were killed by an Afghan police officer.

Two were wounded and were receiving treatment,

It was the third attack by Afghan forces or insurgents disguised in military uniforms against international forces in as many days, killing eight troops in all.

The attack on the coalition troops occurred at a remote checkpoint in southern Afghanistan.

The Afghan officer escaped after the incident.

Eight foreign troops have been killed in similar insider attacks over the past three days.

NPR's Soraya Sarhaddi Nelson tells Linda Wertheimer, host of Weekend Edition Sunday, that the Americans were on patrol in Zabul Province, on the border with Pakistan.

“And apparently, what Western officials say is that they were several hundred feet away from what they thought were friendly forces when they opened fire.

“Four American service members were killed and a number of others were wounded.

“But the Afghan officials in Zabul province, including the deputy police chief that we spoke to, says that it was only one Afghan policeman who opened fire and that the Americans had actually gone to a checkpoint to assist 15 Afghan policemen who were saying they were under some kind of 'security threat.'

“They also mentioned that five other Afghan policemen are at large.”

Afghan officials said the checkpoint in Zabul province's Mizan district came under attack first from insurgents sometime around midnight. American forces came to help the Afghan police respond to the attack, said Ghulam Gilani, the deputy police chief of the province.

It was not clear if some of the Afghan police turned on their American helpers in the middle of the battle with the insurgents, or afterward.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi said the police who attacked were not affiliated with the Taliban insurgency.

“But they are Afghans and they know that Americans are our enemy,” Ahmadi told The Associated Press.

In an emailed statement, he said the police who fled have joined up with the insurgency.

So far this year, 51 international service members have died at the hands of Afghan soldiers or policemen or insurgents wearing their uniforms.

On Saturday, a gunman in the uniform of a government-backed militia force shot dead two British soldiers in Helmand district in the southwest.

At least 12 such attacks came in August alone, leaving 15 dead.

Two Soldiers From 3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment Killed By Afghan Policeman In Nahr-E Saraj

15 Sep 12 Ministry of Defence

It is with sadness that the Ministry of Defence must announce the death of two soldiers from 3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment on Saturday 15 September 2012.

The soldiers were shot and killed by a man wearing the uniform of the Afghan Local Police at a Checkpoint in the south of Nahr-e Saraj district, Helmand Province.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

**Welcome To Afghanistan:
Have A Nice Day**



Afghan protesters prepare to set fire on a U.S. flag as they shout slogans during a demonstration in Kabul, September 16, 2012. Hundreds of Afghans protested against a U.S.-made film they say insults the Prophet Mohammad. REUTERS/Omar Sobhani

**Great Moments In U.S. Military
History:**

Airstrike Kills Eight Women And Girls Who Were Gathering Firewood In A Remote Eastern Village Before Dawn Sunday



Bodies of Afghan women are brought to a hospital in the Alingar district of Laghman province, east of Kabul, Afghanistan, Sept 16, 2012. (AP Photo/Khalid Khan)

09/16/12 NPR & The Associated Press

Afghan officials also said an airstrike killed eight women and girls who were gathering firewood in a remote eastern village before dawn Sunday.

Sarhadi Zewak, a spokesman for the provincial government, told the AP that villagers from Laghman province's Alingar district brought the eight bodies to the governor's office in the provincial capital.

"They were shouting 'Death to America!' They were condemning the attack," he told the AP.

Provincial health director Latif Qayumi told the AP seven injured females were brought to area hospitals for treatment. He said some of them were as young as 10.

There may have been five to eight Afghan civilians killed in the strike, said Capt. Dan Einert, a spokesman for international forces in Afghanistan. He said they were still investigating the report.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai “strongly condemns the airstrike by NATO forces which resulted in the deaths of eight women,” a statement from his office said. It said the Afghan government was also investigating.

Stuck On Stupid: Poor Farmers Banned From Using All Brands Of Fertilizer, Whether Used By Taliban For IEDs Or Not; Their Crops Are Spoiled And They Can't Make A Living: [Guess What's Going To Happens Next]



Sept. 4, 2012: Pakistani customers from the tribal area of Waziristan buy fertilizer at a shop in Bannu, Pakistan. Pakistan's efforts to cut off the flow of fertilizer to militants using it to make bombs in a key tribal sanctuary along the Afghan border has outraged local farmers, who complain the policy has failed to stymie insurgents but has cut their crop yields in half. (AP Photo/Ijaz Muhammad)

Sep 13, 2012 By Rasool Dawar and Sebastian Abbot, The Associated Press [Excerpts]

MIR ALI, Pakistan — Pakistan’s effort to cut off the flow of fertilizer to militants using it to make bombs in this key tribal sanctuary along the Afghan border has outraged local farmers, who complain the policy has cut their crop yields in half.

The blowback in North Waziristan could prove costly as the army grapples with how to tackle enemies of the state holed up in the remote, mountainous area, a task that is likely to be more difficult if the government is unable to mobilize support from local tribesmen.

“It’s true that fertilizer is being used to make bombs, but the farmers are not the ones doing it, so why does the ban apply to us?” said Mohammad Daraz, a farmer in Miran Shah, the main town in North Waziristan.

Pakistan has struggled in recent years to avoid offending the population with heavy handed tactics as it battles domestic Taliban militants throughout the northwest. **[So much for that. T]**

Pakistan first imposed a ban on certain types of fertilizer in North Waziristan and other parts of the semiautonomous tribal region more than three years ago, officials and farmers said.

The government instituted the policy after determining that fertilizer had been used in most of the major bombings in Pakistan, especially those involving vehicles packed with explosives, said a senior government official who worked on the ban.

The ban was meant to apply only to urea and other fertilizers that contain ammonium nitrate because they can most easily be turned into explosives, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

But security forces have instead simply tried to prevent all fertilizer from getting into North Waziristan, said farmers and fertilizer dealers.

Most of the farmers work plots of only a few acres terraced into mountainsides or nestled in valleys next to their mud brick homes. These fields are becoming less productive because of the lack of fertilizer.

“The ban is affecting farmers, because yield is significantly reduced and crop color is faded,” said Daraz, the farmer from Miran Shah, whose corn and wheat crops have declined more than 50 percent.

Khan said he’s tried to use organic fertilizer — a mix of animal waste and rotten plants — but that his wheat crop this spring was about half the yield of most years before the ban.

“We have heard that this fertilizer is used to make bombs, but we use them for our crops,” said Khan.

“Those who use it for bombs can purchase it even at these high prices.”

Pakistan's neglect of the poor and underdeveloped tribal region over decades is one of the reasons the Taliban insurgency that flared up there has been so difficult to extinguish.

The Pakistani military has conducted a series of offensives in all parts of the tribal region except for North Waziristan.

The army plans to step up operations against the Taliban and their allies in North Waziristan in the near future, according to Pakistani and U.S. officials.

If that happens, the army may not want to count on the support of local farmers.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



U.S. soldier in Bejjia 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.

MILITARY NEWS

Afghan Survivors Of Ganjgal Battle Dispute Marine Corps Official Account Of Medal Of Honor Feats: Command Caught Faking Account Of What Happened; “The Afghans, Whom U.S. Military Officials Never Interviewed , Contradict Key Details Of The Narratives Cited By President Barack Obama And The Marine Corps”



Afghan National Army troops who survived the September 8, 2009, battle of Ganjgal, are, from left, Sgt. Mohammad Ali, Sgt. Mohammad Gul, Pvt. Nematullah, Sgt. Ataullah, Pvt. Arab Khan and Pvt. Abdullah Haq. Photo: Ali Safi/MCT

A McClatchy investigation published last December showed that many of the feats attributed to Meyer by the Marine Corps and the White House were embellished or invented and weren't substantiated by sworn statements from Meyer himself.

Another Medal of Honor nomination from the same battle, for former Army Capt. William Swenson, conflicted with parts of the official narratives of Meyer's achievements.

September 13, 2012 By Jonathan S. Landay, McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpts]

ASMAR, Afghanistan — Nine Afghan soldiers who survived a 2009 battle that brought the first Medal of Honor to a living Marine since the Vietnam War have disputed the official accounts of how Marine Sgt. Dakota Meyer won the country's highest military decoration.

The Afghans, whom U.S. military officials never interviewed, contradict key details of the narratives cited by President Barack Obama and the Marine Corps in awarding the decoration to Meyer for his actions during a battle that took place in the Ganjgal Valley in Afghanistan three years ago this past weekend.

The Afghans said that Meyer, who received the Medal of Honor in a White House ceremony on Sept. 15, 2011, couldn't have killed up to eight insurgents as they charged his Humvee and that he didn't twice vault from the vehicle to load up two dozen Afghan soldiers and drive them to safety.

They also insisted that it was the belated arrival of U.S. helicopters – not Meyer's intervention – that ended the Taliban ambush, allowing the withdrawal of U.S. and Afghan troops who'd been trapped in the valley.

The Afghans didn't dispute that Meyer, of Greensburg, Ky., who's now a 24-year-old sergeant in the Marine reserves, risked his life by braving enemy fire in helping U.S. and Afghan personnel recover the bodies of four American servicemen.

Questions about what Meyer did during the battle touch on the rigor and integrity of a military awards process that's supposed to leave no margin of doubt or possibility of error in granting the nation's highest military honor.

A McClatchy investigation published last December showed that many of the feats attributed to Meyer by the Marine Corps and the White House were embellished or invented and weren't substantiated by sworn statements from Meyer himself and others who participated in the battle.

McClatchy raised more questions about the process in August, when it revealed that another Medal of Honor nomination from the same battle, for former Army Capt. William Swenson, conflicted with parts of the official narratives of Meyer's achievements.

Swenson's nomination mysteriously disappeared from military computers, though it was reinstated eventually and is awaiting Obama's approval.

Under normal circumstances, according to Pentagon regulations, that approval had to come by last Saturday, the third anniversary of the battle, but Pentagon officials say that because the original nomination went awry the president has two more years to make a decision.

Questions about whether the Marines embellished Meyer's feats came against a backdrop of pressure on the Pentagon over how Medals of Honor have been handled during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, with many in Congress, veterans groups and the military complaining that too few had been granted.

The Marine Corps reportedly also was frustrated by what it saw as insufficient acknowledgement of its sacrifices in both conflicts.

“The Men, None Of Whom Had Heard Of Meyer’s Medal Of Honor, Spoke With Permission From The Afghan Ministry Of Defense”

The Afghan survivors of the battle, however, have no stake in the outcome of discussions of Meyer's feats, making their recollections valuable in sorting through conflicting information.

More is at stake than the military awards process.

Meyer's forthcoming book, for which he shared a six-figure advance, according to a publishing industry executive who requested anonymity because he wasn't authorized to discuss it, contains new details about his actions, according to a report Aug. 20 in the Marine Corps Times, which obtained an advance copy of the book.

They include a claim that Meyer killed an insurgent with a rock in hand-to-hand combat, something that isn't mentioned in any official account or military document.

Meyer, responding Tuesday in a telephone interview to the Afghan survivors' recollections, said, "I don't care what Afghans say. They don't speak the same language."

He said that he'd killed insurgents during his runs into the ambush zone but didn't count how many.

"Where did you ever have me saying numbers?" he asked.

When he was told that an account attributed to him published on the Marine Corps' website said he'd "killed at least eight Taliban insurgents," he replied, "You should talk to the Marine Corps."

The Marine Corps remained adamant in the defense of its account of Meyer's actions.

The Ganjgal battle produced a raft of other decorations for bravery after as many as 60 Taliban insurgents ambushed some 90 Afghan troops and border police, their American military trainers and a McClatchy correspondent who were on a patrol to meet village elders.

Ten Afghans, three Marines and a U.S. Navy medic were killed, and a wounded U.S. Army sergeant died a month later.

The battle also resulted in reprimands for dereliction of duty for two Army officers, for failing to call in timely air, artillery and ground support.

Meyer wasn't among those caught in the ambush; he arrived as the recovery operation began. He was nominated for the Medal of Honor for helping to recover casualties at the risk of his life.

The McClatchy correspondent who was embedded with Meyer's unit of Marine trainers at the time of the ambush interviewed the nine survivors from the Afghan National Army's 1st Kandak, 2nd Infantry Brigade, 201st Corps, in Kabul, in the eastern city of Jalalabad and at a small U.S.-Afghan base in Asmar, a mountain backwater in insurgency-wracked Kunar province, about 30 miles north of Ganjgal.

The men, none of whom had heard of Meyer's Medal of Honor, spoke with permission from the Afghan Ministry of Defense.

“Several Of The Afghans Disputed The Official Accounts That Meyer Had Jammed Two Dozen Afghans Into His Vehicle During Two Runs, Saying There Weren't That Many Where The Humvee Had Stopped”

They were aided in their recollections by overhead photographs of the U-shaped valley of descending terraced fields divided by waist-high stone walls, and a Google Earth topographical model of the battlefield constructed by a military professional using date, time and location data obtained from digital pictures shot during the ambush.

The Afghans differed on some details, such as the timing of some developments. Several explained that they were illiterate and couldn't read a watch.

All nine, however, were consistent in saying that the belated arrival of U.S. helicopters forced the insurgents to withdraw, allowing the pinned-down Afghan and American troops to pull back.

“The arrival of the helicopters had a 100 percent impact on the enemy,” said Maj. Talib Khan, 54, of Kabul, who was the senior Afghan officer caught in the ambush.

“It was because of the firing by the helicopters that we were able to evacuate our wounded.”

His version was backed by Nematullah, a 30-year-old private from Fakhar, in northern Takhar province, who suffered three gunshot wounds to his abdomen. Nematullah uses just one name, like many Afghans.

“When the air support arrived, everyone who'd taken cover behind the rocks or terraces was able to leave the valley,” he recalled. “The helicopters saved us.”

Several of the Afghans disputed the official accounts that Meyer had jammed two dozen Afghans into his vehicle during two runs, saying there weren't that many where the Humvee had stopped.

One, Afghan Army Sgt. Ataullah, 29, said he clearly recalled what had taken place. He was gravely wounded in the ambush, with a cheek slashed open by a Taliban bullet and a scarf knotted around a thigh to stanch bleeding from another, when a Humvee roared up.

As gunfire sparked around them, a Marine jumped from the vehicle, “picked me up and drove me to safety,” he said. But Ataullah contradicted the official version, saying his rescuer was Marine Gunnery Sgt. Juan Rodriguez-Chavez, not Meyer.

“He worked with me in HQ (headquarters) Company. He got off the Humvee and put me in it,” Ataullah said. “The driver got out. The other guy (Meyer) was in the turret, firing . . . a .50-caliber machine gun.”

Five days later, Ataullah said, Rodriguez-Chavez visited him as he recuperated from his wounds in a U.S. clinic, and “he asked me how I was doing and how I was feeling.”

McClatchy asked Marine Corps Public Affairs to make Rodriguez-Chavez available for questions, but it said he declined to be interviewed.

All nine Afghans said Meyer couldn't have killed up to eight Taliban as they charged his vehicle on a third run.

Afghan troops advancing into the valley with the U.S. helicopters' belated arrival recovered only two enemy bodies, they explained, and several said that both had died before Meyer and Rodriguez-Chavez drove in. One was found next to the rock-strewn wash that provides the only drivable track between the walled terraces, and the other was recovered from a terrace nearer to the village.

Nematullah, a rocket-propelled grenade gunner who'd exhausted his ammunition, related how the pair of insurgents – he said he saw the bodies at his base later that day – confronted him after they'd made their way down the southern valley slope as the ambush raged.

“They saw me . . . and I pointed the empty rocket launcher at them. They were more cowardly than me. When I pointed the empty rocket launcher at them, they dropped to the ground,” he recalled. “I ran from there. I was wounded, but I could still run.”

“I didn't see any Taliban on the track,” asserted Sgt. Mohammad Gul, 26, of Sayed Karam, in Paktia province, who helped retrieve casualties after spending most of the ambush guarding vehicles with Meyer and Rodriguez-Chavez about a mile from the village.

Gul said he drove an unarmored light Ford truck ahead of Meyer and Rodriguez-Chavez on the first run into the ambush zone, and he returned numerous times. “The Taliban did not fight close to the track,” he said.

Capt. Mohammad Sharif, an intelligence officer who wasn't involved in the battle, said the two dead insurgents were from Ganjgal and that he'd delivered their corpses to local officials, who returned them to their families.

U.S. special forces and Afghan troops found no other bodies during a house-to-house search of the village after the battle, said Sharif, who added that the Afghan force remained in the hamlet until the following morning.

All nine Afghan survivors said there weren't any Taliban fighting close to the track who could have charged Meyer's vehicle during the casualty recovery operation. To begin with, they recounted, there were U.S. helicopters overhead, firing at any insurgents they spotted.

"There were no Taliban down in the valley," said Arab Khan, a 29-year-old private from eastern Panjshir province who was on the southern slope in an "overwatch" position, exchanging fire with insurgents on hilltops.

"I didn't see any Taliban down on the track. At that point, the helicopters were above the valley. The Taliban wouldn't have dared move."

Many Afghan and American troops escaped down the rocky wash on which Meyer and Rodriguez-Chavez drove in, and they would have been shot by any Taliban fighting there, the survivors said.

"There was no enemy to our rear," Atallah said.

"There were only friendly forces behind us."

Decorated Soldier Suing North Charleston Police For Using A Stun Gun On Him At Traffic Stop: "During The Past Year The NAACP Has Accused Local Police Of Profiling And Targeting Black Drivers"

Sep 13, 2012 The Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. — A decorated soldier is suing North Charleston police alleging that his civil rights were violated when he was hit with a stun gun at a traffic stop.

The trial of the complaint brought by 28-year-old Brian Knite Yates of Ladson was to have begun this week has been delayed because Yates is overseas with the National Guard, according to The Post and Courier of Charleston.

Yates is black and said he was illegally arrested in 2008, an allegation the city denies.

An incident report said Yates was pulled over because of loud music.

It said Yates was stunned because he turned as though he was returning to his car.

The arresting officer was white.

During the past year the NAACP has accused local police of profiling and targeting black drivers.

Louisiana Man Convicted Of Shooting At National Guard Copter

Sep 14, 2012 The Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, La. — A federal jury has convicted a 61-year-old man accused of shooting at a Louisiana Army National Guard helicopter pilot who was providing aerial surveillance as part of a marijuana eradication detail in Winn Parish.

U.S. Attorney Stephanie A. Finley said James L. Kelly of Sikes was found guilty Wednesday of endangering the safety of a pilot, committing an act of violence against a pilot and using a deadly and dangerous weapon to forcibly assault, resist, oppose, impede, intimidate and interfere with a pilot.

The shooting happened about 3 p.m. Aug. 2, 2010, near Sikes.

Kelly was arrested and authorities recovered a 9mm semiautomatic handgun he used to shoot at the helicopter. The pilot was not injured.

Kelly faces up to 20 years in prison on each count when sentenced Dec. 14.

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FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



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

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

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

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

Frederick Douglass, 1852

The past year – every single day of it – has had its consequences. In the obscure depths of society, an imperceptible molecular process has been occurring irreversibly, like the flow of time, a process of accumulating discontent, bitterness, and revolutionary energy.

-- Leon Trotsky, “Up To The Ninth Of January”

Taliban Commander: Ramadan Not A Factor In Afghan Insider Attacks



August 25, 2012 by Paul, The Duffle Blog

Paktia Province, Afghanistan –

The rising number of attacks on U.S. troops by Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) has left many Generals trying to understand why — with some even citing Ramadan as a possible motive.

“It is extremely tough for the Afghan forces at this time,” said Marine General John Allen, the commander of U.S. Forces-Afghanistan. “Especially when they must abstain from food and water during daylight hours.”

Allen believes that the lack of basic nutrition throughout ANSF ranks coupled with the summer heat has possibly “clouded the judgment of some troops.”

“Not so” says Taliban Commander Muqtar Muhammed Sultan, the top leader of fighters in Paktia province.

“We may be observing our holy month of Ramadan, and that may mean we are not eating or drinking water,” said Sultan, “But we still hate Americans. If they air dropped us a crate of hamburgers, we aren’t going to suddenly drop our guns.”

“I mean seriously, what the fuck, right?”

In a press conference following the most recent green-on-blue attack on Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, Sultan tried to make his case.

“Look, we’re recruiting new members to the Taliban, then having them join the ANA, then they attack their fellow soldiers. Are the American Generals watching a different channel than I am?”

Sultan also said that he tried contacting ISAF Public Affairs officials, but was ultimately rebuffed.

“I tried to tell them that their 2014 pullout date was a problem, and they were taking inexperienced Afghans and putting too much stress on them during training. The PAO just kept saying to me, ‘Ok Sir. Thank you so much for your comments and it will certainly be passed to my superiors.’”

When faced with the shocking revelation that Ramadan was actually an annual occurrence and not a “once every 11 years holiday” as he originally thought, Allen was dumbfounded.

“Seriously?” said Allen. “Damn it. Maybe we can try to convert them to another religion that doesn’t have any weird restrictions on food intake. What about Catholicism?”

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**“Tens Of Thousands Of
Palestinians Have Been Taking
To The Streets, Protesting The
High Costs Of Living And
Demanding The Downfall Of The
Ramallah Regime”**

**“40,000 Protesters Demonstrated
Monday Against The Government”**

**“Fayyad: Leave, Leave, Leave. The
People Wants You No More!”**

**“The People Want To Topple The
President!”**

The Palestinian Authority (PA) is facing the severest political and economic crisis since its establishment following the Oslo Accords in 1993 as tens of thousands of Palestinians have been taking to the streets, protesting the high costs of living and demanding the downfall of the Ramallah regime.

In Hebron, the largest district in the West Bank, as many as 40,000 protesters demonstrated Monday against the government of Prime Minister Salam Fayyad along with PA President Mahmoud Abbas.

“Fayyad: leave, leave, leave. The people wants you no more!” and “The people want to topple the president!” were chanted recurrently.

Some protesters hurled stones at the municipal building, smashing glass. Others attacked a police station on the main Ein Sara Street, prompting the police to fire tear gas at the crowd. No serious injuries were reported.

Police Chief Ramadan Awadh called the protesters “renegades and infiltrators”. “For God's sake. Who benefits from these acts of sabotage and vandalism?” he asked.

Ramadan, like other PA officials, said the masses had a right to demonstrate and protest the economic crisis. However, he warned that Palestinian security forces would use an iron fist approach against those who resorted to violence.

In Nablus, in the northern West Bank, violent protests took place in the city centre, also on Monday, evolving into a confrontation with the police. Gunfire was not used, but as many as 20 people suffered light to moderate injuries from stones hurled by both protesters and the police.

In several other localities, an “Intifada-like atmosphere” was discernible as local youths burned tires, blocked streets and hurled stones at passing cars.

Sporadic strikes were also observed, including one by the drivers of yellow taxi cars, protesting phenomenally high fuel prices, which observers contend may be among the world's highest.

Protesters, who are not affiliated with a single political faction, are vowing to keep up the pressure until their demands are met.

Their demands include the sacking of the Fayyad government and the annulment of the 1994 Paris Economic Protocol, which critics say put the entire Palestinian economy at Israel's mercy.

Protesters also demand an “immediate answer” to their crippling financial problems.

They complain that no matter how hard they try to “tighten their belts” to make ends meet, they fail to make a decent living due to unprecedented high prices, rampant inflation, high costs of living, and the dwindling real value of their originally meagre salaries.

Most Palestinian civil servants receive monthly salaries ranging from 2500-3000 Israeli Shekels, or roughly \$650-750. The sum might look perfectly acceptable for citizens of many Third World -- including Arab -- countries.

However, when set against obscenely high consumer goods and services prices in the occupied territories, the real scope of the crisis becomes apparent.

For example, the price of a 13-kilogramme Butane cooking gas cylinder is nearly \$20 while the price of a litre of unleaded gasoline surpasses the \$2 limit.

The prices of food commodities have also skyrocketed in recent months, with a kilo of lamb reaching \$19, and a kilo of ground beef passing \$15.

This in addition to phenomenally high prices of water, electricity and especially college education, with numerous Palestinian families forced to choose between putting food on the table and sending their children to university.

Fayyad has called repeatedly for help, rightly blaming the economic and financial problems of Palestinians on the continuance of the Israeli occupation.

“We sometimes tend to forget that our Palestinian Authority is under Israeli occupation. Some people think that we are free to do what we want. They should know that Israel controls everything,” he said.

However, Fayyad's explanations have failed to sufficiently satisfy an increasingly restive Palestinian public, let alone sceptics who had never been comfortable with his “Western policies”.

In his numerous interviews, Fayyad said he would resign if his resignation would help solve the problem.

He scoffed at those demanding the cancellation or renegotiation of the Paris Economic Protocol, arguing that the protocol served Palestinian interests.

With public distrust of his policies mounting, Fayyad still retains two bargaining chips: first, he can argue he is but a technocrat carrying out the policies and instructions of the PA and that he never initiated policies or took measures against the wishes of the political leadership, namely President Abbas. In his speech in Ramallah earlier this week, Abbas reasserted his support and backing of Fayyad, saying that the premier was an integral part of the PA and was implementing its policies.

The second and probably more significant bargaining card lies in the fact that Fayyad is backed by donor countries upon whose handouts the very survival of the PA depends.

It is widely believed that donor countries view the continued presence of Fayyad at the helm of government in Ramallah is a guarantee against mushrooming corruption within the PA.

Indeed, a rash decision by Abbas to fire Fayyad could have serious ramifications in terms of continued American and EU aid to the Ramallah regime.

Abbas is not in a position to challenge, or even seriously oppose, the dictates and instructions of donor countries. Hence, any decision to sack Fayyad wouldn't be easily taken, to say the least.

In his Ramallah speech, Abbas blamed Arab states and the international community for letting the stalled peace process "reach this point".

He angrily blamed Egyptian President Mohamed Mursi, without naming him, for saying that Egypt was "standing at the same distance from Hamas and Fatah".

Abbas flew to India on a scheduled visit, protests spread all over the West Bank, with protesters demanding "tangible answers" not "jokes".

Abbas's speech was pitted with light moments that many Palestinians interpreted as failure on the part of Abbas to appreciate the severity and gravity of the current crisis.

[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

**“No One Except John Kiriakou Is
Being Held Accountable For
America’s Torture Policy”
“And John Kiriakou Didn’t Torture
Anyone, He Just Blew The Whistle On It”**

September 11, 2012 By Peter Van Buren, TomDispatch [Excerpts]

Peter Van Buren, a 24-year veteran Foreign Service Officer at the State Department, spent a year in Iraq leading two Provincial Reconstruction Teams.

Now in Washington and a TomDispatch regular, he writes about Iraq, the Middle East, and U.S. diplomacy at his blog, We Meant Well.

Following the publication of his book *We Meant Well: How I Helped Lose the Battle for the Hearts and Minds of the Iraqi People* (The American Empire Project, Metropolitan Books) in 2011, the Department of State began termination

proceedings, reassigning him to a make-work position and stripping him of his security clearance and diplomatic credentials.

Through the efforts of the Government Accountability Project and the ACLU, Van Buren will instead retire from the State Department with his full benefits of service in late September.

We Meant Well has recently been published in paperback. Van Buren is currently working on a second book, about the decline of the blue-collar middle class in America and the roots of the “99 percent.”

Here is what military briefers like to call BLUF, the Bottom Line Up Front: no one except John Kiriakou is being held accountable for America’s torture policy. And John Kiriakou didn’t torture anyone, he just blew the whistle on it.

A long time ago, with mediocre grades and no athletic ability, I applied for a Rhodes Scholarship. I guess the Rhodes committee at my school needed practice, and I found myself undergoing a rigorous oral examination.

Here was the final question they fired at me, probing my ability to think morally and justly: You are a soldier. Your prisoner has information that might save your life. The only way to obtain it is through torture. What do you do?

At that time, a million years ago in an America that no longer exists, my obvious answer was never to torture, never to lower oneself, never to sacrifice one’s humanity and soul, even if it meant death.

My visceral reaction: to become a torturer was its own form of living death. My advisor later told me my answer was one of the few bright spots in an otherwise spectacularly unsuccessful interview.

It is now common knowledge that between 2001 and about 2007 the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) sanctioned acts of torture committed by members of the Central Intelligence Agency and others.

The acts took place in secret prisons (“black sites”) against persons detained indefinitely without trial.

They were described in detail and explicitly authorized in a series of secret torture memos drafted by John Yoo, Jay Bybee, and Steven Bradbury, senior lawyers in the DOJ’s Office of Legal Counsel. (Office of Legal Counsel attorneys technically answer directly to the DOJ, which is supposed to be independent from the White House, but obviously was not in this case.)

Not one of those men, or their Justice Department bosses, has been held accountable for their actions.

Jose Rodriguez, a senior CIA official, admitted destroying videotapes of potentially admissible evidence, showing the torture of captives by operatives of the U.S. government at a secret prison thought to be located at a Vietnam-War-era airbase in Thailand. He was not held accountable for deep-sixing this evidence, nor for his role in the torture of human beings.

The one man in the whole archipelago of America's secret horrors facing prosecution is former CIA agent John Kiriakou.

Of the untold numbers of men and women involved in the whole nightmare show of those years, only one may go to jail.

And of course, he didn't torture anyone.

The charges against Kiriakou allege that in answering questions from reporters about suspicions that the CIA tortured detainees in its custody, he violated the Espionage Act, once an obscure World War I-era law that aimed at punishing Americans who gave aid to the enemy.

It was passed in 1917 and has been the subject of much judicial and Congressional doubt ever since.

“In The National Security State That Rules The Roost In Washington, Talking Out Of Turn About A Crime Has Become The Only Possible Crime”

Kiriakou is one of six government whistleblowers who have been charged under the Act by the Obama administration. From 1917 until Obama came into office, only three people had ever charged in this way.

The Obama Justice Department claims the former CIA officer “disclosed classified information to journalists, including the name of a covert CIA officer and information revealing the role of another CIA employee in classified activities.”

The charges result from a CIA investigation.

That investigation was triggered by a filing in January 2009 on behalf of detainees at Guantanamo that contained classified information the defense had not been given through government channels, and by the discovery in the spring of 2009 of photographs of alleged CIA employees among the legal materials of some detainees at Guantanamo.

According to one description, Kiriakou gave several interviews about the CIA in 2008. Court documents charge that he provided names of covert Agency officials to a journalist, who allegedly in turn passed them on to a Guantanamo legal team.

The team sought to have detainees identify specific CIA officials who participated in their renditions and torture. Kiriakou is accused of providing the identities of CIA officers that may have allowed names to be linked to photographs.

Many observers believe however that the real “offense” in the eyes of the Obama administration was quite different.

In 2007, Kiriakou became a whistleblower.

He went on record as the first (albeit by then, former) CIA official to confirm the use of waterboarding of al-Qaeda prisoners as an interrogation technique, and then to condemn it as torture.

He specifically mentioned the waterboarding of Abu Zubaydah in that secret prison in Thailand. Zubaydah was at the time believed to be an al-Qaeda leader, though more likely was at best a mid-level operative.

Kiriakou also ran afoul of the CIA over efforts to clear for publication a book he had written about the Agency's counterterrorism work. He maintains that his is instead a First Amendment case in which a whistleblower is being punished, that it is a selective prosecution to scare government insiders into silence when they see something wrong.

If Kiriakou had actually tortured someone himself, even to death, there is no possibility that he would be in trouble. J

John Kiriakou is 48. He is staring down a long tunnel at a potential sentence of up to 45 years in prison because in the national security state that rules the roost in Washington, talking out of turn about a crime has become the only possible crime.

John Kiriakou and I share common attorneys through the Government Accountability Project, and I've had the chance to talk with him on any number of occasions. He is soft-spoken, thoughtful, and quick to laugh at a bad joke. When the subject turns to his case, and the way the government has treated him, however, things darken. His sentences get shorter and the quick smile disappears.

He understands the role his government has chosen for him: the head on a stick, the example, the message to everyone else involved in the horrors of post-9/11 America. Do the country's dirty work, kidnap, kill, imprison, torture, and we'll cover for you.

Destroy the evidence of all that and we'll reward you.

But speak out, and expect to be punished.

Like so many of us who have served the U.S. government honorably only to have its full force turned against us for an act or acts of conscience, the pain comes in trying to reconcile the two images of the U.S. government in your head.

It's like trying to process the actions of an abusive father you still want to love.

One of Kiriakou's representatives, attorney Jesselyn Radack, told me, "It is a miscarriage of justice that John Kiriakou is the only person indicted in relation to the Bush-era torture program. The historic import cannot be understated. If a crime as egregious as state-sponsored torture can go unpunished, we lose all moral standing to condemn other governments' human rights violations. By 'looking forward, not backward' we have taken a giant leap into the past."

One former CIA covert officer, who uses the pen name "Ishmael Jones," lays out a potential defense for Kiriakou: "Witness after witness could explain to the jury that Mr. Kiriakou is being selectively prosecuted, that his leaks are nothing compared to leaks by Obama administration officials and senior CIA bureaucrats.

"Witness after witness could show the jury that for any secret material published by Mr. Kiriakou, the books of senior CIA bureaucrats contain many times as much. Former CIA chief George Tenet wrote a book in 2007, approved by CIA censors, that contains dozens of pieces of classified information -- names and enough information to find names."

If only it was really that easy.

"Techniques That The U.S. Hanged Men For At Nuremburg And In Post-War Japan Were Employed And Declared Lawful"

For at least six years it was the policy of the United States of America to torture and abuse its enemies or, in some cases, simply suspected enemies.

It has remained a U.S. policy, even under the Obama administration, to employ "extraordinary rendition" -- that is, the sending of captured terror suspects to the jails of countries that are known for torture and abuse, an outsourcing of what we no longer want to do.

Techniques that the U.S. hanged men for at Nuremburg and in post-war Japan were employed and declared lawful.

To embark on such a program with the oversight of the Bush administration, learned men and women had to have long discussions, with staffers running in and out of rooms with snippets of research to buttress the justifications being so laboriously developed.

The CIA undoubtedly used some cumbersome bureaucratic process to hire contractors for its torture staff. The old manuals needed to be updated, psychiatrists consulted, military survival experts interviewed, training classes set up.

Videotapes were made of the torture sessions and no doubt DVDs full of real horror were reviewed back at headquarters.

Torture techniques were even reportedly demonstrated to top officials inside the White House.

Individual torturers who were considered particularly effective were no doubt identified, probably rewarded, and sent on to new secret sites to harm more people.

America just didn't wake up one day and start slapping around some Islamic punk. These were not the torture equivalents of rogue cops. A system, a mechanism, was created.

That we now can only speculate about many of the details involved and the extent of all this is a tribute to the thousands who continue to remain silent about what they did, saw, heard about, or were associated with.

Many of them work now at the same organizations, remaining a part of the same contracting firms, the CIA, and the military. Our torturers.

What is it that allows all those people to remain silent? How many are simply scared, watching what is happening to John Kiriakou and thinking: not me, I'm not sticking my neck out to see it get chopped off.

They're almost forgivable, even if they are placing their own self-interest above that of their country.

But what about the others, the ones who remain silent about what they did or saw or aided and abetted in some fashion because they still think it was the right thing to do? The ones who will do it again when another frightened president asks them to? Or even the ones who enjoyed doing it?

The same Department of Justice that is hunting down the one man who spoke against torture from the inside still maintains a special unit, 60 years after the end of WWII, dedicated to hunting down the last few at-large Nazis.

They do that under the rubric of "never again."

The truth is that same team needs to be turned loose on our national security state. Otherwise, until we have a full accounting of what was done in our names by our government, the pieces are all in place for it to happen again.

There, if you want to know, is the real horror.

Note To Readers: What's Next For Kiriakou?

The District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia will begin Classified Information Procedures Act hearings in his case on September 12.

These hearings, which are closed to the public, will last until October 30 and will determine what classified information will be permitted during trial. Kiriakou has pled "not guilty" to all charges and is preparing to go to trial on November 26.]

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.

CARTOONING THE CONVENTIONS BY ROB ROGERS

MY FIRST CONVENTION WAS THE 1988 DNC IN ATLANTA. I HAD TO FAX MY CARTOONS BACK TO THE PAPER! SEEMS LIKE THE STONE AGE...



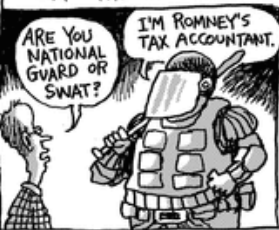
NOW I'M SKETCHING, BLOGGING, TWEETING, POSTING TO FACEBOOK AND SHOOTING VIDEO... OUCH!



EVERYONE IN TAMPA WAS OBSESSED WITH HURRICANE ISAAC... IT WAS ALMOST AS IF THE STORM WERE RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT...



THE SECURITY WAS OFF THE HOOK...



I SAW NO DIVERSITY... UNLESS YOU COUNT THE RON PAUL FANS AS A MINORITY...



THE CONVENTION FLOOR WAS LACKING IN YOUTH AND ENTHUSIASM...



THE ONLY ENERGY I SAW WAS CHANNLED INTO HATING OBAMA...



IN THE END, IT WAS ALL ABOUT AN EMPTY CHAIR!



THE MOOD IN CHARLOTTE WAS SO DIFFERENT... I FELT LIKE DOROTHY STEPPING FROM BLACK AND WHITE TO COLOR IN THE "WIZARD OF OZ"...



EVEN THE PROTESTERS SEEMED HAPPIER...



DIVERSITY WAS EVERYWHERE...



EVERY SPEECH WAS BETTER THAN THE ONE BEFORE...



THEN OBAMA CLICKED HIS HEELS TOGETHER THREE TIMES AND HE WAS BACK IN HIS OFFICE READING THE JOBS REPORT...





**Domestic Enemy At Work:
Texas Cop Suspended After Firing
41 Shots And Killing Unarmed
Suspect;
“Witnesses To End Of Chase Where
Garland Officer Fired 41 Shots Say
Police Deleted Cellphone Photos, Video”
“The Officer Did Have To Reload To Get
Off That Many Shots”**

After Allen pulled into a driveway at the end of a cul-de-sac in an attempt to make a U-turn, his truck was pinned between two police cars with one of the police cars striking Allen's truck from the front, said Wallace's 17-year-old son, Cameron.

“From the time they yelled, ‘Get out, get out,’ they didn't give him three seconds to get out,” Mitchell Wallace said, adding that he counted about 20 bullet holes in Allen's truck.

11 September 2012 By SELWYN CRAWFORD and TRAVIS HUDSON, Staff Writers;
The Dallas Morning News [Excerpts]

MESQUITE — A Garland police officer is on restricted duty after authorities say he fired as many as 41 shots at an apparently unarmed man last month, killing him.

Garland police also said Tuesday that dash-cam video revealed that Officer Patrick Tuter crashed his squad car into a truck driven by the suspect, Michael Vincent Allen, before the shooting started.

Initial reports had said Allen had hit Tuter's car, prompting the officer to open fire.

"It's still under investigation," said Garland police spokesman Officer Joe Harn. "We're trying to find out exactly why he started shooting."

Tuter's attorney, John Snider, said the answer is simple. "At some point, while trying to prevent the suspect from making an escape, Officer Tuter did feel in fear for his life and was justified in firing his weapon," Snider said.

According to authorities, Snider and witnesses, the events leading to the shooting began just after midnight on Aug. 31 when Tuter noticed a white GMC pickup that had been involved in a previous chase with Sachse police.

Officers tried to stop the truck at First Street and Avenue B, but the 25-year-old Allen fled. Dallas County sheriff's deputies joined the chase when the truck crossed into Mesquite. After a 30-minute pursuit with speeds reaching up to 100 mph, Allen turned into a cul-de-sac in the 3000 block of Monarch Court.

That's where police initially said Allen made a U-turn and hit a squad car as officers tried to box him in.

But Tuesday's updated account by police, confirmed by Snider, indicates that the police hit Allen's car and then fatally shot him.

A 20-year-old woman in the pickup with him was uninjured and is considered a witness.

Investigators have not discovered a weapon on either Allen or the passenger, but Snider said his client, a seven-year veteran of the force, felt threatened.

Harn said the officer — who was the only officer to fire a weapon during the incident — "did have to reload" to get off that many shots.

Monica Zabrano, Allen's 22-year-old girlfriend, said Tuesday that he had left her house just hours before the shooting, but had planned to return. She said that she never believed the initial police account of what happened. "I know Michael," Zabrano said. "He would not try to hit a police car. Violence was not in his nature."

Allen has had numerous previous run-ins with the law, including arrests for evading police, drug possession and assault. Zabrano said she believes those encounters with police may have played a role in his death.

“I believe they shot him because he’s gotten away from them before,” she said. “When Michael feels threatened, he gets out of there. He gets to where he doesn’t feel threatened. He was trying to get to where he felt safe.”

Mitchell Wallace and his family live next door to where the chase ended, and Wallace had no trouble believing the report that up to 41 shots were fired.

“There was a pause in between the firing that made me believe he was reloading,” Wallace said.

After Allen pulled into a driveway at the end of a cul-de-sac in an attempt to make a U-turn, his truck was pinned between two police cars with one of the police cars striking Allen’s truck from the front, said Wallace’s 17-year-old son, Cameron.

“From the time they yelled, ‘Get out, get out,’ they didn’t give him three seconds to get out,” Mitchell Wallace said, adding that he counted about 20 bullet holes in Allen’s truck.

Wallace and his wife were asleep when the gunshots began, but they quickly made it to the porch to see Allen’s passenger being pulled from the truck and a police dog jumping into the cab.

The German shepherd bit Allen in the neck and jaw area and dragged him out of the truck and onto the pavement, Wallace said.

Police officers pulled the dog off, flipped Allen on his stomach and handcuffed him before checking his pulse.

Autopsy results are pending on the cause of Allen’s death.

Wallace took cellphone pictures and video after the shooting stopped, but he said Mesquite police confiscated the phone and deleted the video and pictures. The phone was returned four days later, he said.

Snider said that Tuter, who married recently, is cooperating fully with both the criminal investigation by Mesquite as well as the internal affairs investigation being conducted by Garland police to determine whether the officer violated departmental rules.

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