

Military Resistance 10/15



September 17, 2012 CNN

**One Out Of Four Afghan
Government Soldiers And Police
Are Taliban:
“Former Ranking U.S. Officials” Say
“Taliban Infiltration Of The Afghan
Army And Police Is Much Worse
Than The U.S. Military Have
Admitted”**

“‘I Would Put The Percentage Rather Higher’ Than The 25% Figure For Enemy Infiltrators And Sympathizers That U.S. Commanders Have Estimated, Said Ryan Crocker, Who Stepped Down As U.S. Ambassador In July”

September 18, 2012 by Richard Sisk. Military.com. [Excerpts]

Taliban infiltration of the Afghan army and police is much worse than the U.S. military and NATO have admitted and was the main factor in the surprise move to limit contacts with Afghan security forces to curb insider attacks, former ranking U.S. officials in Afghanistan said.

"I would put the percentage rather higher" than the 25% figure for enemy infiltrators and sympathizers that U.S. commanders have estimated, said Ryan Crocker, who stepped down as U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan in July.

Crocker, who said he held secret meetings with the Taliban in fruitless efforts at a peace settlement, described Taliban leaders as "tough, smart and resilient," and noted that they have embraced infiltration as a main tactic.

"I think we underestimate at our peril" the number of Taliban "sleepers" in the ranks of the Afghan National Security Forces that the allies have been pressing to take the lead security role, Crocker said in remarks Monday to the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

A former senior advisor to the U.S. military in Afghanistan lined up with Crocker's assessment that Taliban insurgents were more widespread in the Afghan military and police than NATO would have it.

"So do I. There was an explicit announcement by the Taliban that they were planning to infiltrate," said Sarah Chayes, a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment and a former advisor to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"When insider attacks increased sharply some months after that announcement (by the Taliban earlier this year), there is no reason to dismiss the idea that they executed their strategy," Chayes said.

The International Security Assistance Force in Kabul announced Monday that the routine partnering with ANSF by U.S. and allied troops on combat operations and in training was being limited due to the spike in "green on blue," or insider attacks, and the anti-U.S. violence sparked by YouTube video mocking Islam and the Prophet Mohammed.

Partnering would now require the approval of regional allied commanders of two-star rank, according to the directive issued by Army Lt. Gen. James Terry, deputy commander of U.S. Forces in Afghanistan.

ISAF amended the order Tuesday in a statement saying that the limits on contacts with Afghan army and police units would be "temporary."

In his remarks at Carnegie, Crocker reflected on his long career as a diplomatic troubleshooter in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Pakistan, and also regretted the missed opportunities for a better outcome in Afghanistan that he said would have reverberated through the region.

The only thing that surprised him about the Taliban insurgency was that "it took longer to develop than I thought it would," Crocker said.

Crocker noted that he was in Kabul in early 2002 and helped raise the U.S. flag again over the long-abandoned U.S. Embassy. The Taliban and al Qaeda had been pushed into Pakistan, but the administration of former President George W. Bush ignored his pleas to pour in troops and aid, and instead turned to planning the invasion of Iraq, Crocker said.

"This was regime change on the cheap," Crocker said. When he objected, he was told by Washington to "go sit under a tree," Crocker said.

Crocker said the current Taliban leadership was tough and adaptive.

"We've killed all the slow and stupid ones," he said.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

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

September 20, 2012 Reuters

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

Brownsville Native Killed In Chopper Crash Overseas



U.S. Army Warrant Officer Jose Luis Montenegro Jr. was killed this week in Afghanistan, his family has confirmed. Courtesy Photo

September 06, 2012 By ELIZABETH FINDELL, The Monitor

SAN JUAN —

A Rio Grande Valley native U.S. Army pilot was only a week from coming home for good when he was killed in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan, relatives said Thursday.

U.S. Army Warrant Officer Jose Luis Montenegro Jr., 32, stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C., was serving his third tour of duty overseas when his helicopter was shot down earlier this week, Hidalgo County Veterans Service Director Emilio De Los Santos confirmed.

Montenegro's family learned of his death Wednesday evening but had little information about the crash, his aunt Maria Baez said. The family gathered at his mother's house in San Juan on Thursday to wait for Army officials from San Antonio to arrive in the Valley with more details.

Montenegro would have finished his last tour next week, his sister Liliana Montenegro said. He had already been shot once, in the arm, during a 2005 tour in Iraq.

Liliana Montenegro described her brother as generous, warm and humble about his accomplishments. He loved to ride motorcycles and was protective of his mother and sister.

"He was one of the good ones," she said, tearing up.

Jose Montenegro was born in Brownsville and grew up in the Clear Lake neighborhood of Houston, near Galveston Bay. He enlisted in 1999 after he graduated from Clear Lake High School.

"It was his life," his sister said of the Army. "He thought of it as his duty to protect the nation and us, his family. He wasn't the person to boast about what he did."

Funeral arrangements have not been announced.

The soldier leaves behind his sister and mother, Reyna Torres, in addition to other extended family in the region, Liliana Montenegro said.

The family just buried his grandmother on Tuesday.

The Department of Defense has not yet released details about the crash, but De Los Santos confirmed Jose Montenegro was one of two people killed in a helicopter that went down in the Logar province in eastern Afghanistan Wednesday. The Taliban has taken responsibility for shooting down the aircraft.

The Associated Press quoted an unnamed Pentagon official who said the OH-58 scout helicopter had gone down in the Pul-e Alam district of Logar province.

The insurgents often issue claims of responsibility even when it is unclear whether they downed an aircraft. But the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the crash is under investigation, said it could not be ruled out that insurgents brought down the chopper.

S.A. Soldier Dies In Helicopter Crash In Afghanistan



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Thalia Ramirez. Ramirez was killed when her OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopter crashed in eastern Afghanistan Sept. 5, 2012. Ramirez was assigned to Troop F, 1-17 Air Cavalry Regiment, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division. Photo Courtesy Pro Image Digital Inc., Courtesy / U.S. Army

September 11, 2012 By Scott Huddleston and Eva Ruth Moravec, San Antonio Express News

A helicopter crash last week in Afghanistan claimed the lives of two Texans, including the first woman from San Antonio to die in combat operations in that war.

Army Chief Warrant Officers 2 Thalia S. Ramirez, 28, of San Antonio and Jose L. Montenegro Jr., 31, of San Juan, in the Rio Grande Valley, died Wednesday while flying an OH-58D Kiowa Warrior, a Defense Department news release stated. The aircraft carries a two-person crew, according to a military website.

Ramirez, a native of Kenya who lived in San Antonio shortly before joining the Army in 2003, initially was a water-purification specialist. In 2008, she became a pilot — one of the most dangerous positions available to women in today's U.S. military.

“Thalia never failed to set the perfect example of a confident and competent warrior. She was fearless, and loved her job. She selflessly risked everything, on a regular basis, in defense of her brothers and sisters in arms,” said Lt. Col. Landy Dunham, a task force commander with the 82nd Airborne Division.

The cause of the crash in eastern Afghanistan's Logar province is under investigation. Ramirez and Montenegro were part of the division's 1st Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade, at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Both soldiers had nearly completed a yearlong deployment, according to the Defense Department.

Ramirez, the 23rd San Antonian to die in service in the war in Afghanistan, was on her second deployment.

She had flown more than 270 missions and 650 hours during her latest tour of duty.

According to military sources and media reports, Ramirez listed San Antonio as her home of record when she enlisted, but had lived here briefly.

She grew up in Kenya, attending Braeburn School, and recently resided in Raeford, N.C. In releasing an Aug. 30 photo of Ramirez receiving an Air Medal at Bagram Air Field in Afghanistan, the Army listed her hometown as Nairobi.

Of 3,173 war deaths involving coalition forces in Afghanistan as of Aug. 27, only 42 involved women, according to iCasualties.org. Twenty-eight of those deaths were from “hostile” incidents. Of the six female deaths that involved aircraft crashes, only one was attributed to a hostile act.

Ramirez had escaped an insurgent attack in June, Chief Warrant Officer Joseph Panza said in the Army release.

“Both aircraft took battle damage, but we continued the flight,” he said. “We took out all the insurgents we could, then contained the enemy with our M-4 (rifles) until we could hand over the fight. That's the kind of warrior Thalia was.”

She is survived by her husband, Jesse Belbeck, and parents, Justin Ramirez and Alexandra Moll, who both live in Kenya.

Montenegro, known as "Monte" to friends, was originally from Houston, and his mother and sister live in Hidalgo County. He enlisted in 2001 as an infantryman and was on his third deployment, according to the news release. Montenegro served in Iraq in 2004 and Afghanistan in 2010.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

Resistance Action

Sept. 19, 2012 By AMIR SHAH, The Associated Press

In the first of three attacks Wednesday, a bomb hidden in a parked motorcycle exploded outside a police training center in western Afghanistan, killing two security guards, said Herat provincial police spokesman, Noor Khan Nikzad. He said six guards were also wounded in the explosion.

Then in the early evening, bombs went off in the two main southern cities of Kandahar and Lashkar Gah.

The bomb in Kandahar went off near a police checkpoint, killing two police officers and one civilian, said provincial government spokesman Jawed Faisal.

Then a gunman in Lashkar Gah to the west fired on police on motorcycles, killing another two officers and one civilian, said Helmand provincial spokesman Daoud Ahmadi.

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

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Many Dead As Bomb Hits Upmarket Restaurant Frequentated By “Influential Somalis” And Government Officials In Somalia Capital

21 Sep 2012 Al Jazeera

A bomber has killed at least 15 people and severely wounded several more in a restaurant in the centre of Somalia's capital Mogadishu, witnesses said.

"I saw eight people killed in the blast, and around them there were many wounded, many of them with severe wounds," said Hassan Ibrahim Abdullahi, who was in the restaurant at the time.

Those killed included two journalists working for Somalia's national television station, witnesses added.

Al Jazeera's Peter Greste, reporting from the Kenyan capital Nairobi, said police were in desperate need of training to deal with this type of threat, adding that this was a challenge for the new government.

"The restaurant is a popular place for journalists, for government workers, which appears to be why it was targeted ... people involved in the administration," he said.

Others said they feared the death toll could rise further, after the critically wounded were taken to hospital.

"There was a loud explosion, there were at least eight killed, and there were two more that were rushed to hospital who looked like they would not survive," said Ali Mohammed Yassin, another diner in the restaurant.

The bomber targeted the Village Restaurant, run by Somalis who had returned to their country from Britain, an eatery popular with other influential Somalis as well as the few foreigners living in the city.

The restaurant is opposite the National Theatre, and about a kilometre from the presidential palace.

Often hailed as a symbol of revival for Mogadishu, set up following the al-Shabab's pullout of fixed positions in the city last year.

MILITARY NEWS

“Minnesota National Guard Officer Has Won A \$2.3 Million Settlement For Herself And Thousands Of Other Troops”

Thieving Scum Citibank And The Student Loan Corporation Caught Cheating On Money Demanded From Troops For Student Loans; “The Lawsuit Estimated The Number Of Service Members Affected To Be “In The Thousands”

Sep 12, 2012 By Karen Jowers - Staff writer, Army Times [Excerpts]

A Minnesota National Guard officer has won a \$2.3 million settlement for herself and thousands of other troops in a class-action lawsuit against Citibank and The Student Loan Corporation.

Maj. Lyndsey M.D. Olson challenged the way Citibank administered the student loans of service members who were entitled to an interest-rate reduction to 6 percent under the Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act.

She gets about \$7,500 of that \$2.3 million as the representative plaintiff in the lawsuit; the rest goes to other service members identified as being affected by the alleged actions.

The plaintiff's attorneys are awarded fees of \$650,000, so Citi's tab will be closer to \$3 million. The attorneys' fees are separate from the \$2.3 million being paid to service members.

The lawsuit estimated the number of service members affected to be “in the thousands.”

An attorney for Olson and a spokesman for Citibank, bound by the settlement agreement to keep mum, declined to specify how many troops are affected.

The amount each service member receives ranges from a minimum of \$50 to more than \$580, according to notices sent to service member informing them of the lawsuit.

Olson began her active duty in 2005. She later informed Citibank (New York State) of her active-duty status, asking to have her interest rate on her student loan reduced to 6 percent.

The Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act requires lenders to reduce interest rates to 6 percent on loans that were entered into before a service member goes on active duty, as long as the service member provides notification and is materially affected by being called to active duty.

Citibank informed Olson that in order to have her interest rate reduced, her loan had to be placed into forbearance. When lenders put student loans into forbearance, the borrower stops making payments or makes reduced payments for a period of time, but interest continues to accrue. Under the SCRA, additional interest does not accrue.

Olson contended that the bank charged her more than 6 percent interest and compounded that extra interest over the remaining terms of the loan.

Service members who qualify to be included in the lawsuit were those who, between July 13, 2004, and Nov. 30, 2011, were in military service and had one or more loans that qualified for the SCRA interest rate reduction and had their student loan placed into forbearance, and had provided written notice to Citibank of their military service.

"The parties are pleased with the settlement," said Vildan Teske, lead attorney for Olson. Teske is the contact for service members in the class action lawsuit, at teske@crowderteske.com.

The lawsuit was filed against Citibank (New York State), Citibank N.A. and the Student Loan Corporation. Citibank (New York State) was merged into Citibank N.A. in 2003.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN MILITARY SERVICE?

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly.

Whether in Afghanistan or at a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the wars and economic injustice, inside the armed services and at home.

Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Phone: 888.711.2550

“The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops.”
Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War

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

Hope for change doesn't cut it when you're still losing buddies.
-- J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War

**Obama Wins A Round:
“These Bush-Obama Laws: They Cut
Across International Borders And
Render All The People’s Of The
World Equal In One Important
Respect”
“President Obama Claims The Right To
Kill Each And Every One Of Them”**

09/18/2012 By Glen Ford, Black Agenda Report executive editor [Excerpts]

The Obama administration has won a courtroom victory in his bid to detain U.S. citizens without trial.

It is not true that Barack Obama single-handedly destroyed the rule of law in the United States.

The savaging of the Bill of Rights was, in effect, a tag team effort between Obama and his predecessor, George Bush, two presidents united in a single-minded quest to remove all barriers to the imprisonment, without trial or charge, of persons anywhere in the world, including U.S. citizens.

George Bush did the initial groundwork, interpreting the 2001 congressional mandate to strike militarily against al-Qaida as giving the president the power to hold foreign prisoners without charge in Guantanamo, and, in theory, to treat American citizens the same way.

But that was a stretch, and only a presidential opinion.

George Bush knew that it would be very difficult to get a preventive detention bill through Congress; Democrats would raise holy hell, and protesters would call for his head.

But Barack Obama accomplished what Bush could not: On New Year’s Eve, Obama signed a preventive detention law as part of the National Defense Authorization Act.

Under a Black Democrat, the rule of law ceased to exist within U.S. borders. Obama had already declared the rest of the planet a killing ground.

Then, back in August, a federal district judge in New York, Katherine Forrest, slapped a temporary restraining order on preventive detention, ruling on behalf of a group of

activists and journalists who said they could be thrown in prison permanently simply for speaking or writing about groups targeted by the United States.

What, precisely and under the law, constituted providing “support” for al-Qaida or related groups?

Obama’s Justice Department lawyers refused to say, claiming they had not thought the question through.

Clearly, President Obama, like President Bush, wanted leeway to interpret the law any way he sees fit, so he can lock up whoever he wants, whenever he wants, for whatever reason, or for no stated reason at all.

But Judge Forrest wasn’t having it. On September 12, she made her injunction permanent, ruling that Obama’s preventive detention law was unconstitutional.

For less than a week, the Bill of Rights returned to U.S. soil.

But, this past Monday, a federal appeals court judge put the Constitution back on hold, removing Judge Forrest’s injunction on preventive detention. The entire three-judge appeals court will begin hearing the case on September 28.

Obama’s lawyers say the government needs to be allowed to detain certain prisoners without charge or trial in Afghanistan. But Bruce Afran, the lawyer for the American plaintiffs in the case, thinks Homeland Security is gearing up to make lots of arrests of U.S. citizens, in anticipation that Middle East protests will spread to American soil.

That’s the evil beauty of these Bush-Obama laws: they cut across international borders and render all the people’s of the world equal in one important respect: President Obama claims the right to kill each and every one of them, or lock them up forever, on his own say so.

In that sense, Obama recognizes no legal difference between U.S. anti-war protestors and anonymous targets in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, or Somalia.

All of our lives and freedom are subject to the whims of an American president.

For Black Agenda Radio, I’m Glen Ford.

On the web, go to BlackAgendaReport.com.

Pussy Riot Closing Statements To The Court:

**“It Was Not Until They Delivered
These Closing Statements That
Their Supporters — And
Opponents — Heard What These
Three Brave Women Stand For”**
**“Compared To The Judicial Machine,
We Are Nobodies, And We Have
Lost”**
**“On The Other Hand, We Have Won. The
Whole World Now Sees That The
Criminal Case Against Us Has Been
Fabricated”**



Maria Alyokhina, Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, Yekaterina Samutsevich

Read the translators' statements here.

On August 8th, the three members of Russian feminist punk band Pussy Riot delivered their closing statements at the Moscow Khamovniki District Court.

Charged with “hooliganism motivated by religious hatred,” Maria Alyokhina, Yekaterina Samutsevich, and Nadezhda Tolokonnikova were first arrested on March 3, a day before the controversial re-election of Vladimir Putin.

Meanwhile, they had committed their crime on February 21, when five members of Pussy Riot staged a guerrilla performance on the altar of the Cathedral of Christ the Savior in Moscow.

For less than a minute, the women danced, singing “Our Lady, Chase Putin Out!” and crossing themselves until they were apprehended by security guards.

In a country that was willing to sic its secular court on a “religious” cause, Pussy Riot are true revolutionaries.

Nonetheless, it was not until they delivered these closing statements that their supporters — and opponents — heard what these three brave women stand for.

Although they are being crushed in the jaws of the system — and know it! — their courage and steadfast sincerity are sufficient cause for (impossible) hope.

If not for the Russian state, then at least for the Russian people.

—Bela Shayevich

#1 Statement By Yekaterina Samutsevich

In the closing statement, the defendant is expected to repent, express regret for her deeds, or enumerate attenuating circumstances.

In my case, as in the case of my colleagues in the group, this is completely unnecessary.

Instead, I want to voice some thoughts about what has happened to us.

That Christ the Savior Cathedral had become a significant symbol in the political strategy of the authorities was clear to many thinking people when Vladimir Putin's former (KGB) colleague Kirill Gundyayev took over as leader of the Russian Orthodox Church.

After this happened, Christ the Savior Cathedral began to be openly used as a flashy backdrop for the politics of the security forces, which are the main source of political power in Russia.

Why did Putin feel the need to exploit the Orthodox religion and its aesthetic?

After all, he could have employed his own, far more secular tools of power — for example, the state-controlled corporations, or his menacing police system, or his obedient judicial system.

It may be that the harsh, failed policies of Putin's government, the incident with the submarine Kursk, the bombings of civilians in broad daylight, and other unpleasant moments in his political career forced him to ponder the fact that it was high time to resign; that otherwise, the citizens of Russia would help him do this.

Apparently, it was then that he felt the need for more persuasive, transcendent guarantees of his long tenure at the pinnacle of power.

It was then that it became necessary to make use of the aesthetic of the Orthodox religion, which is historically associated with the heyday of Imperial Russia, where power came not from earthly manifestations such as democratic elections and civil society, but from God Himself.

How did Putin succeed in this?

After all, we still have a secular state, and any intersection of the religious and political spheres should be dealt with severely by our vigilant and critically minded society.

Right?

Here, apparently, the authorities took advantage of a certain deficit of the Orthodox aesthetic in Soviet times, when the Orthodox religion had an aura of lost history, of something that had been crushed and damaged by the Soviet totalitarian regime, and was thus an opposition culture.

The authorities decided to appropriate this historical effect of loss and present a new political project to restore Russia's lost spiritual values, a project that has little to do with a genuine concern for the preservation of Russian Orthodoxy's history and culture.

It was also fairly logical that the Russian Orthodox Church, given its long mystical ties to power, emerged as the project's principal exponent in the media.

It was decided that, unlike in the Soviet era, when the church opposed, above all, the brutality of the authorities toward history itself, the Russian Orthodox Church should now confront all pernicious manifestations of contemporary mass culture with its concept of diversity and tolerance.

Implementing this thoroughly interesting political project has required considerable quantities of professional lighting and video equipment, air time on national television for hours-long live broadcasts, and numerous background shoots for morally and ethically edifying news stories, where the Patriarch's well-constructed speeches would in fact be presented, thus helping the faithful make the correct political choice during a difficult time for Putin preceding the election.

Moreover, the filming must be continuous; the necessary images must be burned into the memory and constantly updated; they must create the impression of something natural, constant, and compulsory.

Our sudden musical appearance in the Cathedral of Christ the Savior with the song “Mother of God, Drive Putin Out” violated the integrity of the media image that the authorities had spent such a long time generating and maintaining, and revealed its falsity.

In our performance we dared, without the Patriarch’s blessing, to unite the visual imagery of Orthodox culture with that of protest culture, thus suggesting that Orthodox culture belongs not only to the Russian Orthodox Church, the Patriarch, and Putin, but that it could also ally itself with civic rebellion and the spirit of protest in Russia.

Perhaps the unpleasant, far-reaching effect of our media intrusion into the cathedral was a surprise to the authorities themselves.

At first, they tried to present our performance as a prank pulled by heartless, militant atheists.

This was a serious blunder on their part, because by then we were already known as an anti-Putin feminist punk band that carried out its media assaults on the country’s major political symbols.

In the end, considering all the irreversible political and symbolic losses caused by our innocent creativity, the authorities decided to protect the public from us and our nonconformist thinking.

Thus ended our complicated punk adventure in the Cathedral of Christ the Savior.

I now have mixed feelings about this trial.

On the one hand, we expect a guilty verdict.

Compared to the judicial machine, we are nobodies, and we have lost.

On the other hand, we have won.

The whole world now sees that the criminal case against us has been fabricated.

The system cannot conceal the repressive nature of this trial.

Once again, the world sees Russia differently than the way Putin tries to present it at his daily international meetings.

Clearly, none of the steps Putin promised to take toward instituting the rule of law has been taken. And his statement that this court will be objective and hand down a fair verdict is yet another deception of the entire country and the international community.

That is all. Thank you.

Ask A Public Affairs Officer (Ep. 1)



August 13, 2012 by Paul, The Duffle Blog

Ask a Public Affairs Officer is a semi-regular column highlighting the best and brightest in the public relations field: Military PAO's, who specialize in dodging the tough questions, spinning the worst, and hoping for the best.

My fucking wife is sleeping with my best friend. I caught the two of them when I came home from work. What do I do?

Thanks so much for your question. Marriage is a wonderful and thousands-of-years' old institution. Our military fully supports it, even in these trying times.

What do you make of these green-on-blue attacks happening lately in Afghanistan?

I'm honored to be among the men and women who make up our amazing military. Each and every day, they fight for freedom, mentor and support our Afghan partners, and help a grateful nation under the excellent leadership of President Hamid Karzai.

My barracks is completely screwed. There's sewage seeping in everywhere. Toilets are broken. This place should be condemned. Will this ever be fixed?

For years, we have been improving barracks across the military and quality of life has gone up substantially.

While many of our grandfathers may have had to live in tents, our troops today are lucky to be living in wonderful barracks with numerous amenities. They are practically like college dorm rooms.

I'm going to fucking kill myself right now. I'll do it. I have a gun in my hand at this moment.

Suicide is of course one of the Department of Defense's top priorities. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family during the imminent mourning period.

However, with the creation of our DSTRESS program, we hope to fight this troubling trend in the future.

Troops Invited:
Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

The Loathsome Tyrant Assad Butchers More Palestinians Monday

Syria: Eight Palestinians Killed in al-Yarmouk Refugee Camp

September 18, 2012 Palestine News Network

On Monday 17th September, 13 civilians were killed in artillery shelling targeted al-Yarmouk refugee camp and the surrounding areas.

Sources from inside the camp said, eight Palestinian refugees were found executed inside the camp.

Al-Sham news network published that the Syrian Arab Army forces continued its artillery shelling at al-Yarmouk neighborhoods, al-Hajar al-Aswad and al-Esali areas, south of Syria, causing several casualties and material damages.

The Loathsome Tyrant Assad Butchers More Palestinians Wednesday

22/09/2012 Ma'an

BETHLEHEM – At least 10 Palestinian refugees were killed Wednesday in the Yarmouk refugee camp in Damascus, activists posting to a Facebook account for the camp reported.

According to media from the camp, 15-year-old Jalal Yousif Salih was shot dead by a Syrian government sniper near the Palestine Hospital in the camp. Photos of the victim were published before he was identified.

Another victim identified as 10-year-old Fadi Alaa al-Masri was shot dead in the al-Zein neighborhood.

Earlier, a body was found in the Black Stone neighborhood. The victim was later identified as Muhammad Shaaban.

An elderly man was also shot dead in the Deir Yasin neighborhood, according to activists. They identified him as 70-year-old Ahmad Abbas.

Six other bodies were also found in Deir Yasin. Three of them were identified as Nafith Muhammad Abu Hassan, Husam Shihabi and Yasser Lahham.

Several bodies remained unidentified, according to activists, as forces loyal to Syrian President Bashar Assad shelled Yarmouk, the largest Palestinian refugee camp in Syria.

The Loathsome Tyrant Assad Butchers More Palestinians Thursday: “The PLO Office In Yarmouk Said The Syrian Regime ‘Committed A Massacre’ Against Palestinians In The Camp”

22/09/2012 Ma'an

BETHLEHEM -- At least 18 Palestinians were killed Thursday and their bodies displayed publicly in Damascus, PLO officials in the capital's largest refugee camp said.

The PLO office in Yarmouk said the Syrian regime "committed a massacre" against Palestinians in the camp.

Bodies were found mutilated and charred, it said.

PLO secretary-general Yasser Abed Rabbo denounced the killings.

"We reject any justification or allegations invoked by the Syrian regime army about this massacre which includes torture, killing, and assassination," Abed Rabbo said.

"Moreover, such types of crimes need to be condemned internationally. Syria faces unprecedented massacres against Syrian people as well as Palestinians," he said.

Thursday's killings were the latest in a string of attacks targeting Palestinians. At least 10 refugees were killed in the Yarmouk a day earlier, activists in the camp reported.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



CLASS WAR REPORTS



Huge Victory For Striking South African Miners:

“Lonmin Management Agreed To Wage Increases Of As Much As 22% Plus A Bonus”

“Miners On Wednesday Danced In The Streets, Blowing Whistles And Waving In Celebration The Sticks That Had Once Served As Makeshift Weapons”

“Miners At Neighboring Operations Are Prepared To Battle For A Similar Pay Increase”

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

September 19, 2012 By DEVON MAYLIE, Wall Street Journal & 20 Sep 2012 Al Jazeera
[Excerpts]

MARIKANA, South Africa—Several thousand protesters, holding sticks and iron rods, followed men in green T-shirts as they made their way past cement-block homes to the platinum mine of Lonmin. The men shouted orders. The crowd obeyed.

"We are going to make those with strong skin soft," shouted one of the protest leaders this month.

In the end, the green T-shirts — worn by members of an upstart labor union — hit pay dirt.

On Tuesday, after a six-week work stoppage, Lonmin management agreed to wage increases of as much as 22%, starting Oct. 1, plus a bonus once its staff returns to its platinum mines.

The increase was more than double what trade unions typically have secured.

Miners on Wednesday danced in the streets, blowing whistles and waving in celebration the sticks that had once served as makeshift weapons, ending a bloody illegal strike that claimed 45 lives.

There are signs that miners at neighboring operations are prepared to battle for a similar pay increase.

"The resolution of the Lonmin strike has given other workers a very public benchmark by which to measure their own remuneration," said Nomura analyst Tyler Broda.

"Other operations, which have been untouched up to this point, may well see pressure to increase basic packages."

Within hours of Lonmin agreeing pay rises of up to 22 per cent, workers at nearby mines called for similar pay increases, spelling more trouble after six weeks of industrial action that claimed more than 40 lives and rocked South Africa's economy.

"We want management to meet us as well now," an organiser for the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU) at Impala Platinum, the second biggest platinum producer, told Reuters.

"We want 9,000 rand (\$1,100) a month as a basic wage instead of the roughly 5,000 rand we are getting," said the organiser, who declined to be named fearing recriminations from the firm.

On Wednesday, police fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse protesters near a mine run by Anglo American Platinum, as unrest spread after strikers at rival Lonmin won big pay rises.

Police clashed with a crowd of men carrying traditional weapons such as spears and machetes in a township outside the city of Rustenburg.

The protesters blocked roads.

"The mood here is upbeat, very celebratory," Mametlwe Sebei, a community representative near Rustenburg, said.

"Victory is in sight. The workers are celebrating Lonmin as a victory."

A labour activist said workers who had stayed off the job at Amplats, which accounts for 40 per cent of global supplies of the metal used for catalytic converters in cars and jewellery, were inspired by Lonmin and would press on with their demands.

Officers fired tear gas, stun grenades and rubber bullets to disperse an "illegal gathering", police spokesman Dennis Adriaio said. He had no information on any injuries.

Anglo American later issued an ultimatum to their striking workers to end the illegal strike.

"Anglo American Platinum has communicated to its employees the requirement to return to work by the night shift on Thursday 20 September, failing which legal avenues will be pursued," the firm said in a statement.

The ultimatum by the world's top platinum producer came after police arrested 22 people in protests after it had urged workers to return to five mines that were shut down over safety fears last week.

"There was an illegal gathering that took place this morning," police spokesman Dennis Adriaio told the AFP news agency. "Police used teargas as well as water cannon to disperse individuals. Stun grenades were used as well."

While the army had already been present at the scene of strikes, President Jacob Zuma also announced earlier on Thursday that he had ordered soldiers to assist police trying to control the labour unrest in the nation's crucial mining sector.

South Africa's largest mine union, the National Union of Mineworkers, or NUM, has failed to stop the wave of wildcat strikes

Many disaffected members accuse NUM of being too cozy with companies and the ruling African National Congress. Those feelings allowed the men in green shirts, worn

by the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union, or AMCU, to draw new members.

"They don't like traitors," said one of the protesters, Robert Label, pointing to the green T-shirts.

Until August, AMCU was an obscure union barely known beyond the platinum industry.

AMCU members said the new union leaders aren't pulling the strings.

"We are their boss. AMCU is commanded by us," said Alex Montana, a worker at Lonmin.

AMCU President Joseph Mathunjwa denied his union is behind the illegal strikes, saying workers have organized themselves, and denounced attacks on other union members.

He said those making such allegations are trying to smear his organization and marginalize its struggle to secure higher wages for its members.

Workers and observers said AMCU leaders speak to groups of miners at their hostels, promising to get higher salaries and encouraging the miners to strike.

By the end of August, AMCU had 60,000 members, doubling its size since the Lonmin strike broke out, said AMCU Secretary-General Jeff Mphahlele.

Some protesters accuse NUM leaders of firing into a crowd of protesters marching to the NUM mine office on Aug. 10.

This month, a miner was found hacked to death near the spot where protesters had gathered to stop strikebreakers. He was later identified as a NUM leader.

Adding to the tense atmosphere at the mine, groups of men wearing the AMCU shirts patrol the informal settlements in a green Isuzu pickup.

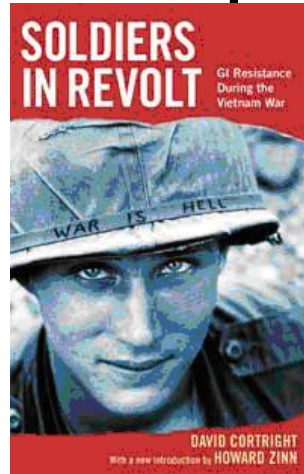
As the green truck rolled by, the print on the backs of the green AMCU shirts came into view: "Revolutionize the workplace and unite to lead."

On Aug. 16, police shot and killed 34 mine protesters who charged them with the makeshift weapons. In the weeks leading up to the clash, 10 people died in union-related violence, including two policemen.

On Wednesday, Minister of the Presidency Collins Chabane said local councilor Pauline Masuthe died after being hit in the leg by a rubber bullet fired by police at the Lonmin mine over the weekend, during a crackdown on illegal gatherings.

A spokesman overseeing the Marikana police presence wasn't immediately available to comment.

**FREE TO ACTIVE DUTY:
A Vietnam Soldier Wrote The Book All
About How An Armed Forces Rebellion
Stopped An Imperial War**



SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT

**[CIVILIANS: \$16 INCLUDING POSTAGE:
BUY ONE FOR A FRIEND/RELATIVE IN THE SERVICE.
CHECKS, MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO: THE MILITARY
PROJECT]**

**Requests from active duty or
orders from civilians to:
Military Resistance
Box 126
2576 Broadway
New York, N.Y.
10025-5657**

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.

MILITARY RESISTANCE BY EMAIL

If you wish to receive Military Resistance immediately and directly, send request to contact@militaryproject.org. There is no subscription charge.



Military Resistance Looks Even Better Printed Out

Military Resistance/GI Special are archived at website

<http://www.militaryproject.org> . The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others: <http://williambowles.info/military-resistance-archives/>; news@uruknet.info

Military Resistance distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **Military Resistance has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is Military Resistance endorsed or sponsored by the originators. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research, education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice.** Go to: www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

If printed out, a copy of this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.

