

## **Military Resistance 1013**

# **Miss. Soldier Dies In Afghanistan:**

**“He’s Not Just Another Dead  
Soldier”**

**“He Wasn’t Killed By ‘The Enemy’”  
“He Was Killed By Someone That Was  
Supposed To Be Helping Him Guard,  
And That’s What Hurts The Most”**



Sgt. 1st Class Coater Debose / Submitted photo

Aug 22, 2012 Written by JESSE BASS and THERESE APEL, American and Clarion-Ledger Staff Writers

A Mississippi father and grandfather is the second Mississippian - and the 32nd of the U.S. and coalition forces - to die by “insider attack” in Afghanistan.

Army Reserve Sgt. 1st Class Coater B. Debose, 55, of State Line was killed Sunday in Spin Boldak, Afghanistan, of injuries suffered from small arms fire while conducting security force assistance operations.

The incident occurred when two Afghan policemen reportedly opened fire on a group of coalition and Afghan troops.

The gunfire also killed a police sergeant and wounded an Afghan interpreter. One of the shooters was killed in return fire and the other escaped, Afghan officials told the Los Angeles Times.

Debose's commanding officer, Col. Christopher Forbes of the 158th Infantry Brigade, declined comment on the specifics surrounding Debose's death.

"It would be very inappropriate of me to discuss anything at this time until the investigation is complete," he said.

Debose, a communications sergeant, was assigned to the 2nd of the 351st Infantry Regiment, 158th Infantry Brigade, First Army Division East. He deployed in April to assist and train Afghan uniformed police in and around Kandahar.

Debose joined the Alabama Army National Guard in May 1983. He transferred to the Army Reserves in 2008. Family members say Debose served in the military for more than 27 years including his service in the Coast Guard.

Forbes said Debose often spoke of the joy military service brought him.

"He's been a soldier for a long time, and he absolutely loved soldiering," Forbes said.

A veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2004-2005, Debose is also one of the older U.S. soldiers killed in Afghanistan.

"He was 55 years old and probably one of the most fit soldiers we had ... just a great, physically fit example for our younger soldiers," Forbes said. "They all looked up to him, and he was never afraid to go out of his way and mentor them. He was just a special guy."

Forbes said Debose had been training guard and reserve forces for mobilization at Camp Shelby for the past four years.

"Just about everybody in the brigade knew Sgt. 1st Class Coater Debose - just a great leader, great patriot."

A release from Camp Shelby said he is survived by his wife, Juanita; and children Latravis Debose of Moss Point, Caronica Jackson of Hattiesburg, Christopher Debose of Parris Island, S.C., Nekeshia Raybon of Wright Patterson Air Force Base Dayton, Ohio, and Broderick Debose of Petal.

"Our hearts are greatly saddened by the loss of one of our own," Forbes said. "We will wrap our arms around Sgt. 1st Class Debose and his family as we bring him home from his final mission and we will support his family during this difficult time."

The photo of Debose released by the military shows a serious and stately man in his dress blues.

His son, Marine Staff Sgt. Christopher Debose, also features a photo on his Facebook page of him, his father, and his son. Both Sgt. 1st Class Debose and Staff Sgt. Debose are wearing their military dress uniforms. Next to the photos are the lyrics from Boyz II Men's "It's So Hard To Say Goodbye To Yesterday."

Another photo on Facebook shows Debose and his son with big smiles on their faces at Staff Sgt. Debose's wedding.

Christopher Debose's wife, Ana Debose, said Tuesday that Coater Debose's love for his family and passion for military service overlapped, resulting in a military family. His son Broderick entered the Army, while Latravis joined the Air Force Reserves.

"He enjoyed serving in the military, he enjoyed serving his country," she said. "He loved his kids - he loved his grandkids."

There have been 40 "green-on-blue" attacks in which members of the Afghan forces turn on Western troops. In just the past two weeks, at least nine Americans have been killed in such insider attacks.

On Feb. 2, Marine Lance Cpl. Eddie Dycus, 22, was Mississippi's first casualty of the year from the war in Afghanistan. He was shot by an Afghan soldier who was guarding a joint operating base with him in the Helmand province, officials said.

At the time of Dycus' death, his childhood friend Kayla Bevill expressed the frustrated and heartbroken feelings that other Americans have mirrored in recent weeks as the insider attacks have escalated.

"He's not just another dead soldier," she said. "He wasn't killed by 'the enemy.' He was killed by someone that was supposed to be helping him guard, and that's what hurts the most."

Forbes said there will be a memorial service held for Debose in the coming days at Camp Shelby.

"The Hattiesburg community have and continue to be superb supporters of our military members and their families, and we, members of the military, greatly appreciate it. Sgt. 1st Class Debose's family will need that support in the coming weeks as they adjust to their loss. I ask however, that you allow the family privacy at this time to grieve," Forbes said.

Though Afghanistan, at 128 months so far, is considered the nation's longest war, the number of dead is less than half the total in the eight years of Iraq war, where the dead numbered more than 4,480.

Department of Defense tallies put the American death toll at 1,972 since the U.S.-led invasion of the country in 2001, a number last updated Tuesday at 10 a.m.

At least 1,638 military service members have died in Afghanistan as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The Department of Defense counts three military civilian deaths, and reports 17,288 U.S. service members have been wounded in hostile action since the beginning of operations in Afghanistan.

Outside of Afghanistan, the department reports at least 116 more members of the U.S. military died in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Of those, 12 were the result of hostile action.

Meanwhile, 278 active-duty and reserve soldiers committed suicide last year, 31 more than the 247 who died in combat in Afghanistan.

Washington Associated Press National Security Writer Robert Burns contributed to this report.

## **POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE BLOODSHED**

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

## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **“Pro-Government Militiamen In Northern Afghanistan Have Shot Dead At Least Eight Civilians”**

September 02, 2012 RFE/RL

Pro-government militiamen in northern Afghanistan have shot dead at least eight civilians after mistakenly blaming villagers for a Taliban attack.

Officials in Kunduz Province say a local militia commander and 20 fighters launched the assault in the village of Kunum after the Taliban on September 1 killed two men, including a militia fighter, and dumped their bodies in Kunum.

Officials said as many as 10 civilians might have been killed and eight injured in the attack but could not say whether women or children were among those affected.

Local militias, or “arbakis,” were formed by the central government and NATO to combat the Taliban in remote areas.

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## **THE ULTIMATE EXERCISE IN FUTILITY: PACK IT UP COME HOME**



A paratrooper from Chosen Company of the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry on a mission to improve the biological database of men in Afghanistan's Paktiya Province July 12. Lucas Jackson / Reuters

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## **U.S. Suspends Training For Afghan Local Police After 'Insider' Attacks**

9.2.12 By NBC News staff

KABUL, Afghanistan -- United States military officials have suspended the training of Afghan Local Police (ALP) in the wake of a deadly series of 'green on blue' attacks by Afghan soldiers and police on their international allies.

In a statement late Saturday, Col. Thomas Collins, US Forces Afghanistan spokesperson, said the training has been put on hold in order to carry out intensified vetting procedures on new recruits, and 16,000 existing ALP recruits will be re-vetted.

Many of the 'insider' incidents might have been prevented if existing security measures had been applied correctly, according to the Washington Post which first reported the training suspension.

The newspaper said already-trained recruits would also be re-vetted. ALP training is a U.S. mission, carried out by Special Forces.

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## **MILITARY NEWS**

**Stalemate At Zabadani:  
“The Town Is, By And Large,  
Controlled By Residents And  
Fighters With The Free Syrian  
Army”**

**“Their Ranks Grew To Include  
Soldiers From Zabadani Who Had  
Begun To Defect From The Regular  
Army”**

**“The Regime Has Taken To Assaulting  
The Town From A Distance, Delivering A  
Daily Barrage Of Tank And Artillery  
Shells From The Mountains Above”**

**“We told him: ‘For forty years we carried you. Your corruption and brutality and oppression. All we asked for was some freedoms and reform. You could have given us something, instead you shot at us. Now there is no going back, you brought this on yourselves,’ ”** recounts Khaled al-Tinnawi.

August 13, 2012 By Sharif Abdel Kouddous, The Nation

Zabadani, Syria —

Mustafa al-Dahab, 58, drives past shuttered shops on a deserted street in Hara, a neighborhood in this picturesque resort town located twenty miles northwest of Damascus. His nephew, 5-year-old Adee Adalati, is next to him in the passenger seat. It's just after 11 on a Wednesday morning.

More than two miles away, hidden from view, a soldier overlooking the town from a tank on an eastern mountaintop opens fire, launching a shell into the sky that arcs towards them.

The car takes a direct hit, ripping apart from the force of the blast and bursting into flames.

Mustafa's lifeless body lands aside the wreckage, his face smashed in beyond recognition. Adee's legs are crushed inside the car, his head is blown off entirely.

Moments later, two more shells follow. One crashes into the front porch of a neighboring house, sending shrapnel and debris into the living room, from which a pair of children emerge miraculously unharmed. The other strikes the first floor of an abandoned apartment building.

Local residents rush outside, carrying buckets of water and fire extinguishers to try to retrieve Mustafa and Adee's charring bodies. But the faint boom of a tank firing in the distance signals another coming shell, sending them scrambling for shelter before an ear-splitting explosion rips through the neighborhood seconds later. Indoors, young children huddle beside their mothers. Wide-eyed and afraid, their hands cover their ears as they wait for another strike.

Eight shells are fired within forty-five minutes before the assault ends and the sound of chaos finally subsides, replaced by the rising wails of those mourning the dead.

**This is life in Zabadani.**

**Seventeen months after the Syrian revolution began, the people living in this town have grown grimly accustomed to a daily routine of indiscriminate violence, of shelling from afar.**

**Unlike the raging street battles in the nearby capital or in Aleppo to the north, the armed struggle for strategic control of this town of 40,000 people has effectively reached a stalemate.**

**The town is, by and large, controlled by residents and fighters with the Free Syrian Army—which in Zabadani are made up almost entirely of local volunteers and defecting soldiers hailing from the area.**

**“Zabadani is largely ours, we control it,” says Khaled al-Tinnawi, a 65-year-old influential town elder. “Yes, they shell us but if they try and come in they know we are all prepared to die.”**

**No longer interested in engaging on the ground, the regime has taken to assaulting the town from a distance, delivering a daily barrage of tank and artillery shells from the mountains above.**

“Nowhere in the area is secure. Every time I hear shelling I think it could land on me and my family,” says Abo Hakim, a 54-year-old father of three.

“It comes in a completely random manner. They hardly target, they just fire.”

Nestled in a valley in the Syrian countryside, Zabadani was once a popular summer destination for tourists from the Persian Gulf. Renowned for its water, cool climate and striking scenery, with mountains of rock and reddish earth towering over low-lying apartment blocks and villas that give way to lush green orchards.

“Zabadani is heaven,” says 21-year-old Ghazwan Rahmi, echoing a phrase favored by local residents.

### **“A City Under Siege”**

It is now transformed into a city under siege.

Many residents have fled, buildings bear the scars of shelling, and young men — many carrying walkie talkies and assault rifles — gather in houses largely without electricity or running water. The local economy, that relies primarily on tourism and the fruit harvest, is on the verge of collapse.

**Characteristic of a revolution that began in the countryside, Zabadani was one of the earliest towns to stage demonstrations against the regime of Bashar al-Assad, with residents taking to the streets two weeks after the uprising in Deraa on March 15, 2011.**

**“We began demonstrating because we were choking,” says Ghazwan.**

**“Choking from corruption, injustice, the security forces.”**

As with other towns and cities at the outset of the Syrian revolution, the demonstrations were overwhelmingly nonviolent in the beginning. Men and women of all ages gathered in front of a mosque in the town square of Sahet el Jisr, what some here refer to as their own version of Egypt’s Tahrir Square.

The regime responded with a swift crackdown, with security forces and government thugs—known as “shabbiha”—attacking protesters and conducting multiple neighborhood raids to detain those suspected of involvement.

On May 27, 2011, Hussein Sleekha, a 26-year-old protester, was shot in the stomach by security forces during a weekly Friday demonstration. He bled to death after being prevented medical care. His name is known throughout Zabadani as the town’s first revolutionary martyr.

As the protests grew, so did the regime’s violent response, and the death toll climbed.



By August 2011, young men had begun to take up arms — primarily assault rifles — to defend against military attacks.

### **“Their Ranks Grew To Include Soldiers From Zabadani Who Had Begun To Defect From The Regular Army”**

In the weeks and months that followed, their ranks grew to include soldiers from Zabadani who had begun to defect from the regular army. They fought under the banner of the Free Syrian Army, though they had little coordination with armed rebels in other revolting Syrian cities or with the leadership of more senior defectors in southern Turkey.

“The revolution became militarized,” says Mohammed Abo Khattab, a 24-year-old media activist. “People that were unarmed at first decided to arm themselves. The regime made this happen.”

The fighting in Zabadani culminated in a major assault by the regime in mid-January.

The armed rebels mounted a fierce resistance, destroying a couple of tanks, and forced the regime to negotiate a temporary ceasefire five days later.

It marked the first time in the Syrian uprising that rebels had forced the army to abandon a major offensive. The ceasefire may also have been partly attributable to an Arab League mission deployed in the country to monitor the violence, and which appeared to have pressured the regime to back down.

The military retreated about five miles but remained surrounding the town. Nevertheless, locals speak proudly of when they “liberated” Zabadani.

**“We were a step ahead of the revolution,” says Hakim al-Tinnawi, a 21-year-old army defector.**

It turned out to be a brief respite. Less than three weeks after the negotiated ceasefire, the regime mounted a massive offensive, launching a week-long tank and artillery bombardment that left more than 100 people dead. The rebels surrendered the town on February 11 and Syrian army forces re-entered Zabadani.

The army set up a number of isolated checkpoints with tanks and armored personnel carriers manned by a small number of soldiers at various intervals in the town. While the checkpoints remain, the military presence on the streets is largely confined.

“The army only controls certain areas,” says Abo Khattab. “You could say that more than 70 percent of Zabadani is liberated.”

The once feared security services and mukhabarat still have some offices in town, but residents say they are fearful of being attacked and have tried to strike a more conciliatory tone.

Last month, a local security official called a meeting with the town elders and militia leaders to negotiate.

**“We told him: ‘For forty years we carried you. Your corruption and brutality and oppression. All we asked for was some freedoms and reform. You could have given us something, instead you shot at us. Now there is no going back, you brought this on yourselves,’ ” recounts Khaled al-Tinnawi.**

While the street fighting in Zabadani has stopped, with local Free Syrian Army fighters refraining from attacking any of the checkpoints, the regime has proceeded to shell the town on an almost daily basis.

Most of the attacks come from tanks and artillery guns stationed in the eastern mountains, primarily targeting the western neighborhood of Hara, seen as the heart of the resistance.

Nearly all the residents of Hara have been displaced, many of them moving to the east side of town, staying with relatives or squatting in empty villas and apartments owned by summer vacationers predominantly from the gulf region. Others have left Zabadani altogether, crossing the border into nearby Lebanon.

Hara is now largely desolate and eerily quiet. The crackle of ever-present walkie-talkies carried by the few residents and fighters that refuse to leave is punctuated by the booms of the shelling. During heavy assaults, people gather in small, ground-floor rooms lined with sandbags that serve as makeshift bunkers. They argue over the sounds of war: “That was a tank shell.” “No it was a Howitzer, trust me.”

Electricity is brought in using generators or wires strung along buildings from other parts of town that still have power. Water is pumped from wells and stored on rooftop tanks. It is a life of chores, of uncertainty, and of waiting.

After a rare two-day lull in the shelling, 25-year-old Kenaan al-Tinnawi decides to return to his home in Hara with his parents and younger brother, after having taken refuge at his uncle’s apartment in a safer part of town. That night, they sit sipping tea in the third-floor family living room after finishing iftar, the sunset meal that marks the breaking of the fast during Ramadan.

Kenaan recalls his imprisonment a year earlier, when he was held for thirty-three days in a suffocating, overcrowded cell after being detained by security forces in a random sweep of the neighborhood.

His story is interrupted in mid-sentence by the deafening blast of a shell landing nearby. The lights go out, leaving the room in utter darkness. Seconds later, another shell lands, this time on an adjacent rooftop no more than fifteen yards away. The house shakes with the ferocity of the blast. Shrapnel punctures the outer walls and shatters the balcony windows.

The family rushes downstairs in a panic, guided by the dim glow of cell phone screens. They huddle on the ground floor. The shock of the attack quickly gives away to anger. “May God break their hands,” Kenaan’s mother says, tilting her head back and looking upwards at the ceiling.

The following morning, the family packs their belongings into a car and returns back to the safer part of town on the eastern bank of the valley. Their neighbor, 23-year-old Emad Khareeta, waves them off as they drive away. He is among the few who refuse to leave Hara, despite the continuous shelling by the regime.

“Either we leave victorious or we leave to the graveyard,” he says with a smile, before going back into his house.

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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**

<p><b>Hope for change doesn’t cut it when you’re still losing buddies. -- J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War</b></p>
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# **Much Of The 21st Century Worldwide Tendency Towards Politics Disguised As Religion Expresses Rage Against Capitalism, Which Has Become A Religion Disguised As Economics: “During One Period Of History Hegemony Belongs To Religion, During Another To Politics, And So Forth”**

**Comment: T**

**In attempting to defend reactionary social systems, some argue that nothing happens without the “will” or “permission” of this or that supernatural being.**

**Many politicians will agree that ten years slaughter of Iraqis and Afghans by the U.S. Empire is done with the “will” or “permission” of God. Bush once said that God had spoken to him personally and commanded him to “strike” Saddam Hussein.**

**When Obama demands God bless America at the close of his upcoming Democratic Party convention acceptance speech, he is merely doing his job, protecting and defending the Empire over which he presides, with the full backing, in that work, of the political layer of the capitalist elite who rule this nation.**

**Part of his job, as is true for various politicians in many other nations, is invoking the name of this or that supernatural entity said to be blessing the nation, seeking thereby to gain the favor of the reactionary and credulous to prop up the Imperial regime.**

**Viewing the world as a material reality and having no fear of or belief in assorted supernatural beings that human have created in their own image would be a recommendation for political leadership, rather than a condemnation.**

**Religion has been and continues to be used by those in power to justify their greed for Empire, their murderous local dictatorships, and all forms of tyranny and oppression.**

**There are no world religions that have not been so used by wealthy and powerful oppressors.**

**If indeed nothing anywhere occurs without the “will” of some God, and if indeed such a being exists, he or she or it is a mass murdering monster.**

**It is one thing to believe in a supernatural being. That is one among many bedrock democratic rights guaranteed in any decent society.**

**It is quite another to defend evil by throwing down the “will of God” argument for everything that occurs, up to and including the rape-murders of small children, the oppression of women as a gender, the torture of Jews and Muslims by the Spanish Inquisition, and the current Imperial butchery loose in the world.**

**That is a political argument valuable only to tyrants and oppressors.**

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**Excerpt from: The Monist View Of History, By G.V. Plekhanov; 1895; St. Petersburg, Russia**

**Up to this point our propositions, of necessity, were very abstract.**

**But we already know that there is no abstract truth, truth is always concrete.**

We must give our propositions a more concrete shape.

**Those to whom the English aristocrats of the Restoration were “in contradiction” were extreme religious fanatics; in order “to do the opposite” to what they were doing, the reactionaries had to go as far as materialism.**

**In France of the eighteenth century things were exactly opposite: the defenders of the old order stood for religion, and it was the extreme revolutionaries who arrived at materialism.**

**The history of human thought is full of such examples, and all of them confirm one and the same thing: in order to understand the “state of minds” of each particular critical epoch, in order to explain why during this epoch precisely these, and not those, teachings gain the upper hand, we must as a preliminary study the “state of minds” in the preceding epoch, and discover what teachings and tendencies were then dominant.**

**Without this we shall not understand at all the intellectual condition of the epoch concerned, however well we get to know its economy.**

But even this must not be understood in abstract fashion, as the Russian “intelligentsia” is accustomed to understand everything.

The ideologists of one epoch never wage against their predecessors a struggle sur toute la ligne, on all questions of human knowledge and social relations.

The French Utopians of the nineteenth century were completely at one with the Encyclopaedists on a number of anthropological views; the English aristocrats of the

Restoration were quite at one with the Puritans, whom they so hated, on a number of questions, such as civil law, etc.

The territory of psychology is sub-divided into provinces, the provinces into counties, the counties into rural districts and communities, and the communities represent unions of individuals (i.e., of individual questions).

When a “contradiction” arises, when struggle blazes up, its passion seizes, as a rule, only upon individual provinces – if not individual counties – and only its reflection falls upon the neighbouring areas.

First of all that province to which hegemony belonged in the preceding epoch is subjected to attack.

It is only gradually that the “miserics of war” spread to its nearest neighbours and most faithful allies of the province which has been attacked.

Therefore we must add that, in ascertaining the character of any particular critical epoch, it is necessary to discover not only the general features of the psychology of the previous organic period, but also the individual peculiarities of that psychology.

**During one period of history hegemony belongs to religion, during another to politics, and so forth.**

**This circumstance inevitably reflects itself in the character of the corresponding critical epochs, each of which, according to circumstances, either continues formally to recognize the old hegemony, introducing a new, opposite content into the dominating conceptions (as, for example, the first English Revolution), or else completely rejects them, and hegemony passes to new provinces of thought (as, for example, the French literature of the Enlightenment).**

If we remember that these disputes over the hegemony of individual psychological provinces also extend to their neighbours, and moreover extend to a different degree and in a different direction in each individual case, we shall understand to what an extent here, as everywhere, one cannot confine oneself to abstract proposition.

Let us consider the operation of this law.

**When a certain class is the enslaver of all in the eyes of the rest of the population, then the ideas which prevail in the ranks of that class naturally present themselves to the population also as ideas worthy only of slave-owners.**

**The social consciousness enters into “contradiction” to them: it is attracted by opposite ideas.**

But we have already said that this kind of struggle is never carried on all along the line: there always remain a certain number of ideas which are equally recognized both by the revolutionaries and by the defenders of the old order.

**The strongest attack, however, is made on the ideas which serve to express the most injurious sides of the dying order at the given time.**

It is on those sides of ideology that the revolutionaries experience an irrepressible desire to “contradict” their predecessors.

But in relation to other ideas, even though they did grow up on the basis of old social relations, they often remain quite indifferent, and sometimes by tradition continue to cling to them.

The “state of minds” of any given age can be understood only in connection with the state of the minds of the previous epoch.

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



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.

# **“Hands Off Syria” And Other Slogans Of Assad’s Counter-Revolution:**

**“We In The West Should Not Unite For Any Reason With Any Force That Supports The Murderous Counter-Revolution In Syria”**

**On The Up Side, “The American Armed Forces Have Not Been Called On To Use Lethal Force On A Mass Scale Against Our 99% For Decades”**

**“Military Personnel Who Are Barely Above The Poverty Line (And In Some Cases On Food Stamps) Are Not Going To Be Gung-Ho About Shooting Their Own Flesh And Blood If, Or Rather When, That Comes To Pass”**

If the only thing you can focus on or see is one bunch of murderous thieves in Tel Aviv and Washington and their weaker rivals in Moscow, Tehran, and Beijing edging each other out of influence in Syria, Libya, Yemen, Bahrain, and Jordan you are missing the most important thing: the 99% are waking up, rising, moving, organizing, and where they have to, arming, fighting, and bombing their oppressors into the dustbin of history.

August 13, 2012 by Pham Binh of Occupy Wall Street, Class War Camp; The North Star [Excerpts]

On August 6, Australian supporters of Bashar al-Assad’s murderous regime rallied and marched under the slogan “hands off Syria!”



That the Syrian regime's sycophants should demand a "hands off" policy from Washington, London, and Melbourne is logical. They do not want any outside force to interfere with the regime's all-out war on its own people. They do not want Western arms for the Free Syrian Army, U.S. or British efforts to block Russian warships from bringing guns, bombs, bullets, helicopter parts, and gasoline to Assad, or Western airstrikes against the regime's tanks, aircraft, and helicopters.

What is bizarre and disturbing is that Western progressives who are fighting for the very same freedoms and rights revolutionary Syrians are being killed for wanting are adopting the same slogans and policy preferences as Assad's defenders, namely: "hands off Syria" and "no to Western intervention in Syria."

I am talking about people like lifelong revolutionary socialists Tariq Ali and John Rees.

The Western left has by and large adopted the Assad counter-revolution's preferred slogans and policies as their own because they have not asked themselves (as Lenin did) who stands to gain from them?

Who stands to gain from British and American imperialisms standing idly by while an unholy alliance of Russian and Iranian imperialisms, Hezbollah, and the Assad regime tries to bury the Syrian revolution? Who stands to gain from unimpeded Russian arms shipments, unimpeded Syrian tank movements, and under-armed Free Syrian Army fighters?

The answer is blindingly obvious: the Assad regime.

**When our opposition to U.S., British, or other imperialisms leads us to unwittingly assist counter-revolutions in Libya, Syria, or any where else, then it is time to rethink our anti-imperialism, or rather, how we apply anti-imperialist principles to a multi-polar world crawling with imperialists of all different shapes, sizes, strengths, and orientations, a world where every government and 1% has its own version of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and its own edition of Fox News to advance its predatory interests in every situation, at every turn.**

The Russian edition of Fox News is Russia Today, the Syrian edition is SANA, and the Iranian edition is Press TV (Voltaire.net, on the other hand, is the French equivalent of Glenn Beck even though it is financed by the Assad regime).

All three of these outlets are favorites among Western anti-imperialists even though they provide misinformation about Syria.

**The reality is that all three of these outlets are just as "fair and balanced" as Fox News is, meaning they all have hidden, unstated 1% agendas. This is why Occupy-style peaceful protests in Russia, Syria, and Iran get the same treatment in their media that Occupy gets in the American media.**

**Protesting too long, too effectively, or too loudly in any of these countries can get you killed, as the list of Russian journalists murdered proves, but it can get you killed here too.**

Think I am exaggerating? Just ask a Black Panther.

**We have been spared the fate of our Syrian, Libyan, Iranian, and Russian counterparts as of late only because our organizing has been mostly ineffective and not a threat to 1% power and profits.**

**Right now, we are more likely to be killed by rampaging psycho-cops than we are by America's secret police or other "law enforcement" agencies.**

That will change if and when we become as massive, militant, and successful as the Arab Spring.

**If you think Assad and Ghadafi are bad, just imagine the Assads and Ghadafis in Washington that sit at the top of the world's food chain of repression, armed with nuclear and other nefarious weapons, who have perfected the art of divide and rule not only at home but on a truly global scale.**

**They have armies of advisers, armies of intellectuals, armies of lawyers, armies of spies, armies of collaborators, armies of turncoats and traitors-to-be, armies of managers, armies of bureaucrats, armies of fund-raisers, armies of spokesmen and women, armies of court scribes, armies of hackers, armies of cops, and armies of armies to do their bidding against us.**

**On the up side, as in Syria and Libya, the American armed forces have not been called on to use lethal force on a mass scale against our 99% for decades.**

**There is no doubt in my mind that military personnel who are barely above the poverty line (and in some cases on food stamps) are not going to be gung-ho about shooting their own flesh and blood if, or rather when, that comes to pass.**

**Most of them take the oath they swore to defend the Constitution with their lives very seriously, and orders from the Mitt Romneys and Barack Obamas of the future to dispense the rabble exercising their constitutional rights are not going to go over well.**

Thinking about revolution and civil war here at home in this way ought to give us a bit of insight into what is *really* going on in far away lands like Syria and clue us in to what we should and should not do about it.

**Peaceful protests in Syria broke out in spring of 2011 just as they did in Egypt, Libya, Yemen, Bahrain, and everywhere else in the Middle East and North Africa where hungry people were tired of being beaten by cops, cajoled for bribes by government officials, and forced to silently endure every indignity imaginable out of fear, sheer terror, that you or your loved ones could disappear without a trace and end up in a ditch or a river somewhere without a face, I.D. card, or teeth for identification purposes.**

**The millions of grievances silently accumulated by millions of people over decades under the watchful eyes of murderous police states exploded in 2011 in an outpouring of festivity, celebration, and unrelenting bravery that did not line up**

**nicely and neatly with the pro/anti-U.S. dichotomy that divides Middle Eastern and North African governments from one another.**

The Arab Spring's failure to conform to this divide divided the international left into three camps: those who support smashing revolutions against "anti-imperialist" regimes, those who support revolutions smashing all the regimes pro and "anti-imperialist" alike by any means necessary, and those who seek a "middle ground" between these two camps and attach terms, conditions, fine print, asterisks, and caveats to their support for the Arab Spring's revolutionaries over issues like non-violence, Western intervention, and sectarianism.

It is the comrades in the middle like Tariq Ali, John Reeds, and Phyllis Bennis who are doing themselves and the Syrian revolution a tremendous disservice by lining up politically with the Assad regime's supporters by demanding "hands off Syria!" and "no to Western intervention!"

We in the West should not unite for any reason with any force that supports the murderous counter-revolution in Syria that is the literally killing the country's best shot at political freedom, democracy, progress, and a future free of bloody, debilitating sectarianism.

**Cocaine is a helluva drug but it is nothing compared to whatever you are on if you think intelligence agencies staffed by professional killers, liars, and con men can engineer popular, broad-based revolutions almost overnight that are strong enough to withstand not just getting kicked out of a park but widespread torture and wave after wave of executions.**

**If you think the Syrian revolution was made in or is controlled by Washington then you should nod your head in agreement the next time Mayor Michael Bloomberg or Governor Scott Walker claims "outside agitators" are responsible for our street scuffles and protests because it is the same pack of lies the 1% use no matter where they rule, what language they speak, or how they measure up on the scale of "anti-imperialism."**

**Whenever the 99% begin to move and make noise, the 1% try to convince us that it is outsiders and not we ourselves who are disturbing the thrones that rest on our backs.**

**The sad part is that these lies are largely recycled, reused throughout history, copy and pasted from one era to the next.**

The master classes have never been masters of invention or originality; they can buy both on the open market with their blood-stained dollars, euros, pesos, yuan, silver, or gold.

**The Viet Nam generation heard this same song and dance from the likes of Richard Nixon, Lyndon Johnson, and John F. Kennedy: nefarious outside agitators, trained in Moscow, financed by China, backed by the full weight of world communism were infiltrating poor defenseless little South Viet Nam's fledgling democracy, stirring up trouble, wreaking havoc, and attempting to pull the country behind the Iron Curtain.**

**Change a few words around and you have the so-called anti-imperialist view of the Syrian revolution today: nefarious outside agitators, trained in Turkey, financed by the Saudis, backed by the full weight of U.S.-Israeli imperialism are infiltrating poor defenseless little Syria's fledgling self-reforming monarchy, stirring up trouble, wreaking havoc, and attempting to pull the country behind the curtain of American capitalism.**

So what is the point of this lengthy diatribe?

The first point: disowning people in Libya or Syria because they got so desperate they begged a far away band of murderous crooked thieves to help them get rid of the murderous crooked thieves that were cutting their throats, torturing their kids, and doing God knows what else to them because we, as a matter of principle, are opposed to murderers and thieves is almost as criminal as it is stupid.

The second point: agitating and organizing to stop the U.S. or British governments from arming Syrian revolutionaries, blocking Russian ships filled with Assad's weapons, or blowing his helicopters out of the sky is the single best way to stab the Syrian revolution in the back, and by stabbing them in the back, we stab ourselves in the heart because the impetus for Occupy came from the Arab Spring and not the other way around.

Occupy and the Arab Spring are one hand, and so we have a duty and an obligation to support, fight for, and aid the victory of the Syrian and all other revolutionary movements no matter how many spies the CIA sends, no matter how much Saudi money flows into the coffers of the Free Syrian Army (if they cannot afford weapons to take out Assad's tanks and helicopters or nightvision goggles that could help them protect Syria's nightly peaceful protests the amounts are underwhelming), no matter what political or sectarian mistakes they make, and no matter what side the U.S. decides to back in which country for whatever reason.

All of that is secondary to our primary task: helping them win.

**If the only thing you can focus on or see is one bunch of murderous thieves in Tel Aviv and Washington and their weaker rivals in Moscow, Tehran, and Beijing edging each other out of influence in Syria, Libya, Yemen, Bahrain, and Jordan you are missing the most important thing: the 99% are waking up, rising, moving, organizing, and where they have to, arming, fighting, and bombing their oppressors into the dustbin of history.**

**Either lead, follow, or get out of their way.**

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**Army Times:**

# Military Working Dogs Smarter than Junior Officers



August 27, 2012 by Ron, The Duffel Blog

New York, NY - Military Working Dogs are more intelligent than second and first lieutenants, according to an article to be published next week in Army Times.

The article, titled "Who's Got the Smarts?" examines groups of soldiers from different ranks, military occupation specialties, and career branches, and then orders them by intelligence.

"We factored in several things," said Times managing editor Richard Brown, "such as test scores, writing samples, and difficulty of day-to-day tasks. Then we took the data and assigned each group a composite intelligence score."

According to the Times, the top three smartest groups in the Army are brain surgeons, CBRN officers, and JAG Corps attorneys.

The bottom three? First lieutenants, followed closely by second lieutenants, and then military working dogs.

Pentagon sources have confirmed that in light of the article's findings, Army brass has approved a policy to award Military Working Dogs the rank of Captain upon completion of basic dog training.

A 2009 study found that the average dog has the cognitive ability of a two-year-old child, which Brown says is perfectly in line with his publication's rankings.

"A dog can perform basic arithmetic and can count to four or five," Brown said. "They read body language, have an innate sense of basic fairness, and find their way through the woods."

“I challenge you to show me a first or second lieutenant who can do any of that.”

“To be fair,” Brown countered, “the LTs did display the ability to shit in a toilet and hold their bowel movements until an appropriate time, giving them a slightly higher ranking in that category than the MWDs that haven’t been housebroken yet.”

Not everyone agrees with the findings.

“I have no doubt that every single K-9 in my unit is smarter than a PFC,” said Army Sgt. Tyrell Wiggins, a dog handler from the 503d Military Police Battalion at Ft. Bragg. “I mean, Sparky here can sniff out bombs and can follow basic commands. I’d like to see a PFC do either of those things. And sure, he sometimes eats other dogs’ shit, but you wouldn’t ever catch him buying a 2003 Mustang for \$24,000 and 14% financing.”

Brown said it’s unfair, however, to look at one factor alone when determining intelligence.

PFCs may indeed act like knuckleheads, but unlike junior officers, they aren’t innately dumb. They can eventually grow and mature, while junior officers must remain forever clueless.

“The data we have suggests that lieutenants are a special kind of stupid,” Brown said.

## **Troops Invited:**

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

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**Liberation Anniversary:  
September 3, 1838  
Frederick Douglass Made His Escape  
From Slavery:  
“It Is Not Light That Is Needed, But Fire”**



Frederick Douglass

Carl Bunin Peace History September 3-9

Frederick Douglass made his escape from slavery in Baltimore and went on in life to become an Abolitionist, journalist, author, and human rights advocate.

[During the Civil War, he pressed relentlessly for the enlistments of former slaves into the U.S. army, and when this was permitted, they served with honor and played an important role in defeating the slave-owning traitors who formed the Confederacy. T]

**Frederick Douglass:**

**“Find out just what people will submit to, and you have found out the exact amount of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them; and these will continue until they are resisted with either words or blows, or both. The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress.”**

**“Power concedes nothing without demand. It never has and never will.”**

**“If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom, and deprecate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground, they want rain without thunder and lightning.”**

“The thing worse than rebellion is the thing that causes rebellion.”

“I have found that, to make a contented slave, it is necessary to make a thoughtless one.”

“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.”

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## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

**After Breaking Down Doors And Shooting The Family Dog In The Wrong House, “Drug Task Force Forced Handcuffed Children ‘To Sit Next To The Carcass Of Their Dead And Bloody Pet For More Than An Hour’”**

**Cops Terrorize Family “At Gun And Rifle Point”**

**One Child “Was Kicked In The Side, Handcuffed And Searched At Gunpoint”**



# **“A Girl, ‘A Diabetic, Was Handcuffed At Gunpoint And Prevented By Officer From Obtaining And Taking Her Medication, Thus Induced A Diabetic Episode’”**

July 18, 2012 By DIONNE CORDELL-WHITNEY, Courthouse News Service

MINNEAPOLIS - After breaking down doors and shooting the family dog, a drug task force forced handcuffed children “to sit next to the carcass of their dead and bloody pet for more than an hour,” and kept searching even after they knew they were raiding the wrong house, the family claims in Federal Court.

All nine occupants of the home, including three children, sued the officers, the state and Ramsey County in Federal Court.

Defendants include members of the Dakota County Drug Task Force, the St. Paul Police force, and a DEA agent.

Lead plaintiff Roberto Franco claims the task force raided the wrong house: that they should have gone next door.

Franco claims that Task Force Officer Shawn Scovill, who orchestrated the raid, “provided false information to a Minnesota District Court judge in order to obtain a search warrant. Defendant Scovill lied when he informed the District Court judge who reviewed Scovill’s search warrant application that Scovill had obtained information from the confidential informant that the plaintiffs’ home was the properly targeted house and that the address and the identity of the individuals who resided therein were the plaintiffs.”

The complaint adds: The search warrant specifically named Rafael Ybarra as the intended target suspect. Plaintiff Roberto Franco was not named in the search warrant, nor was any person who lived in the raided house named in the search warrant.

“There was never a mention of plaintiff, Roberto Franco, in any documents related to the raid search warrant.

“Plaintiff, Roberto Franco, had never been discussed or considered a suspect by law enforcement, Scovill or any of the defendants directly involved or indirectly involved in the raid, relative to any alleged involvement by Franco in any distribution of contraband prior to the wrong house raid.”

Ybarra lived next door, Franco says. He says Ybarra’s name, not his, was on the warrant.

But on the night of July 13, 2010, the task force broke down the Francos’ doors, “negligently raided the home of plaintiffs, by raiding the wrong home and physically brutalizing all the above-named occupants of said house,” the complaint states.

Even after learning that they were in the wrong house, the complaint states, the drug busters stayed in the Francos' home and kept searching it.

They "handcuffed all of the inhabitants of the plaintiffs' home except plaintiff Analese Franco who was forced, virtually naked, from her bed onto the floor at gunpoint by officers of the St. Paul Police Department SWAT team and officers of the St. Paul Police Department."

The complaint states: "Upon forcibly breaching the plaintiffs' home, defendants terrorized the plaintiffs at gun and rifle point.

"Each plaintiff was forced to the floor at gun and rifle point and handcuffed behind their backs.

"Defendants shot and killed the family dog and forced the handcuffed children to sit next to the carcass of their dead pet and bloody pet for more than an hour while defendants continued to search the plaintiffs' home."

**One child "was kicked in the side, handcuffed and searched at gunpoint," the family says.**

**Another child, a girl, "a diabetic, was handcuffed at gunpoint and prevented by officer from obtaining and taking her medication, thus induced a diabetic episode as a result of low-blood sugar levels."**

During their illegal search, the officers found a .22 revolver in the basement bedroom of plaintiff Gilbert Castillo. The cops "improperly attributed the possession of said weapon to plaintiff Roberto Franco and arrested him."

"Plaintiff Roberto Franco was wrongfully convicted of the alleged offense and is currently incarcerated with the Minnesota Department of Corrections," the complaint states.

In summary, the complaint states: "Defendants improperly and illegally remained in the home of the plaintiffs searching and seizing items despite the fact that they had learned that they had raided the wrong home.

**"Defendant, Shawn Scovill intentionally perjured himself in his sworn testimony on the witness stand at the suppression hearing and at the trial of plaintiff, Roberto Franco.**

**"Defendant, Shawn Scovill intentionally misrepresented the facts of the criminal case against Roberto Franco in all documents following the arrest of, plaintiff Roberto Franco.**

**"Defendant Shawn Scovill intentionally misrepresented the facts in the State's criminal against plaintiff Gilbert Castillo when he said that Gilbert Castillo did not state that the confiscated weapon belonged to Gilbert Castillo.**

**"Defendant Shawn Scovill perjured himself when he testified in the suppression hearing and at the trial of plaintiff Roberto Franco that Scovill had received a text**

**message from the confidential informant which stated the address of the house to be raided was the house address that Scovill had placed on the search warrant.**

Defendants had identified and raided the wrong house.”

The parents say the three children suffered traumatic emotional and personal injuries that require therapy.

They demand \$10 million for civil rights violations and \$20 million in punitive damages.

They are represented by Scott Selmer with Conner, McAlister & Selmer, of Minneapolis.

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## **CLASS WAR REPORTS**

**“Tens Of Thousands Of Students Poured Into Montreal’s Place Du Canada On August 22 To Continue Their Struggle Against The Quebec Government’s Attempt To Nearly Double Tuition”**

**“March Organizers Refused To Obey Charest’s Repressive Bill 78 (Now Law 12) And Submit Their Route To Police”**

August 28, 2012 By Ashley Smith, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

Tens of thousands of students poured into Montreal's Place du Canada on August 22 to continue their struggle against the Quebec government's attempt to nearly double tuition at universities and colleges.

Quebec Premier Jean Charest and his Parti Libéral du Québec (PLQ) have been trying for months to squelch the student strike that shut down Quebec's higher education system earlier this year. They passed repressive legislation, suspended the spring semester, shut down the campuses for the summer and called an election in the hopes of winning a democratic mandate for their attack.

But Quebec's students have not been deterred.

The march on the 22nd was the sixth consecutive monthly mass mobilization. Everyone on the protests had the insignia of the movement, the “carré rouge”--small felt red squares--pinned to their shirts. It symbolizes how the tuition hike will trap students “squarely in the red”--that is, in debt.

Two groups cosponsored the march--the main student union Coalition large de l’association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante (Coalition of the Association for Student Union Solidarity, known as CLASSE) and the Coalition Opposée à la Tarification et à la Privatisation des Services Publics (Coalition Against Tarification and Privatization of Public Services).

Despite the summertime slowdown, the students’ spirit of resistance against Charest remains strong.

**March organizers refused to obey Charest’s repressive Bill 78 (now Law 12) and submit their route to police--so the demonstration became a mass act of civil disobedience.**

At various points, activists climbed up lamp polls to tear down Charest’s election posters to enormous cheers from the crowd.

Workers and union members joined the march in significant numbers--teachers, for example, marched behind two enormous banners.

Unfortunately, Quebec’s union centrals failed to organize any formal contingents because they will not march in an unpermitted demonstration. Nevertheless, Régine Laurent, president of Quebec’s health care union spoke at the opening rally.

To contain this mass struggle, the National Assembly passed Law 12, which suspended the spring semester, criminalized pickets on campuses, required protesters to submit their march routes to police, and imposed fines on individuals and organizations which defied the law.

But instead of crushing the movement, Law 12 galvanized an even larger struggle.

To protest the legislation, CLASSE organized an unpermitted march on May 22, attended by 300,000 people. CLASSE called the illegal march “the single biggest act of civil disobedience in Canadian history.”

Students and workers, on their own initiative, then launched nightly marches of thousands called “casseroles,” in which people demonstrated in the streets without permits, banging on pots and pans in defiance of Charest.

Police responded with heightening repression, attacking many of the smaller marches. Through the course of the struggle, they have arrested over 3,000 people, who now face both civil and criminal charges. The police have brutalized scores of students, sending some to the hospital.

The student movement has become a lightning rod for all the grievances against Charest and neoliberalism.

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