

Military Resistance 10K16



AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Glendora Soldier Killed In Afghanistan



November 12, 2012 By Hazel Lodevico-To'o, Glendora.patch

The night of Veterans Day, the Department of Defense announced Sunday a soldier from Glendora was killed in combat in Afghanistan.

The soldier was identified as Staff Sgt. Kenneth Wade Bennett, 26. According to the Department of Defense, Bennett died Saturday in Sperwan Gar from injuries sustained from an explosion of a buried enemy bomb.

Bennett was assigned to the 53rd Ordnance Company, 3rd Ordnance Battalion, from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

To friends and family, he was known as Wade. He grew up in Glendora and graduated from Glendora High School in 2004. His mother, Nancy Bennett, is an active member on the Glendora Yellow Ribbon Project, which displays banners throughout the city for all Glendora service men and women currently serving.

Bennett's banner is located on Auto Center Drive near the 57 freeway entrance.

According to unit records, Bennett entered in the Army in Nov. 2004 and trained to become an explosive ordnance disposal specialist.

Bennett was on his third deployment to Afghanistan. He served there from Aug. 2007 to Nov. 2008 and from March 2010 to March 2011.

He was deployed to Afghanistan in September for his last mission.

Bennett earned numerous awards during his service, including the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with 1 campaign star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Combat Action Badge, and Senior Explosive Ordnance Disposal Badge, among others.

According to a close family friend, Bennett was married to his wife Mandi. He had a 2-year-old daughter and another child on the way

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

U.S. Troops Dying For Dollars:

The \$861 Million Kabul Bank Fraud:

“Investigation Is Sparing Shareholders With Strong Political Connections, Including Mahmood Karzai And Haseen Fahim, The Brother Of The Country’s Vice President”

November 28, 2012 By MARIA ABI-HABIB, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

KABUL — Political interference has impeded an investigation into the collapse of Afghanistan’s largest private lender, with some investors, including President Hamid Karzai’s brother Mahmood, escaping scrutiny, a joint Afghan-international watchdog said in a report released Wednesday.

The Afghan Attorney General’s investigation into Kabul Bank’s 2010 collapse has led to the prosecution of several bank executives, who have been on trial in the Afghan capital for about a month.

But the investigation is sparing shareholders with strong political connections, according to the report by the Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee, which comprises three Afghan anticorruption experts named by Mr. Karzai and three international representatives.

When Kabul Bank was taken over by the Afghan government in 2010, about 92% of its loan book, or \$861 million, had been disbursed to 19 related parties, such as business offshoots and its executives and shareholders, including Mahmood Karzai and Haseen Fahim, the brother of the country’s vice president, according to the MEC report.

Mahmood Karzai and Mr. Fahim haven’t been prosecuted.

“The major factor impeding the criminal investigation process is political interference resulting in reluctance to pursue charges against some of the participants of the Kabul Bank fraud,” the report stated.

The MEC didn’t specify in the report who was to blame for the alleged political interference.

The report said the government is engaged in the “scapegoating of the less powerful through abuse of process and abuse of office.”

“Many of the primary actors carry on their business in Afghanistan without fear of ever being held accountable, not to mention prosecuted,” the report said.

The lender forged loans and created fake depositors to keep operating, then funneled money to key shareholders for their own personal gain, the report said.

After reports first surfaced in February 2010 that Kabul Bank's funds were being used to buy properties in Dubai, the central bank governor at the time, Abdul Qadir Fitrat, tried to meet several times with President Karzai to convince him to undertake a forensic audit, according to the MEC report.

Mr. Karzai wouldn't meet with Mr. Fitrat, the report says, because the "governor was out of favor with the president."

Mr. Fitrat fled to the U.S. in June 2011. The Afghan government has requested his extradition for allegedly covering up problems at the bank, so far unsuccessfully.

Mr. Fitrat on Tuesday maintained his innocence and accused the president of trying to put the blame on him and "innocent staff of the Central Bank."

MILITARY NEWS

THIS IS HOW OBAMA BRINGS THEM HOME: ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE



November 9, 2012 New Jersey Hills Newspaper. The casket of Petty Officer 2nd Class Matthew G. Kantor, the Navy SEAL from Gillette who was killed in action in Afghanistan on Nov. 1, is carried out of St. Vincent de Paul Church, Stirling, today, Nov. 9, following funeral services.

**Navy Veteran VA Worker Forced
To Resign Or Be Fired For Doing
Her Job:
She Dared To Ask For Review Of
Disability Claim Wrongly Denied!
“Government Lawyers Argue That It
Does Not Matter Whether VA
Employees Wrongly Deny Claims”
“What Is Important, Officials Said, Is To
Be Productive - As Measured By The
Number Of Cases Employees Clear From
The Inventory”**

November 9, 2012 by Aaron Glantz, Center for Investigative Reporting; San Francisco Chronicle [Excerpts]

U.S. Navy cook Hosea Roundtree watched the 1983 shelling of Beirut from the deck of a destroyer, feelings of helplessness washing over him as people perished onshore. That memory haunted him, resurrected in flashbacks eight years later after a tour in the Persian Gulf during Operation Desert Storm.

But when Roundtree’s claim for disability compensation crossed Jamie Fox’s desk at the Department of Veterans Affairs in Oakland more than two decades later, it was marked for denial on the grounds that he had never seen combat.

Fox, herself a Navy veteran, tried to straighten things out - and for that, she lost her job.

A lawsuit filed by the former VA disability claims representative provides a rare glimpse into what veterans’ advocates call systemic problems in how the agency handles compensation claims filed by Americans wounded physically or mentally in the line of duty.

A Center for Investigative Reporting review of the VA’s performance data reveals chronic errors - committed in as many as 1 in 3 cases - and an emphasis on speed

over accuracy that clogs the VA system with appeals, increasing delays for all veterans.

“When the VA makes a mistake processing a veteran’s claim, then our veterans face another unacceptably long wait,” said Paul Sullivan, a Gulf War veteran and former senior VA project manager who now works for the Washington, D.C.,-area law firm Bergmann and Moore.

As of mid-October, appeals represented nearly a third of the more than 819,000 pending disability claims.

Nationwide over the past year, the average time a veteran waits for a decision has increased by more than two months, to 260 days.

Veterans who appeal wait an average of 3 1/2 years, according to VA data obtained through the Freedom of Information Act.

In a deposition related to a federal discrimination complaint filed by Fox, the then-head of the Oakland VA regional office where she worked, Lynn Flint, said that “it didn’t matter if the decision (to deny Roundtree’s claim) was right or wrong.”

In proceedings related to Fox’s wrongful-termination suit, Flint and Fox’s supervisor, Kim Yarbrough, argued that Fox had exceeded her authority by advocating for additional review of Roundtree’s case, lowering her productivity to unacceptable levels.

If Roundtree disagreed with the denial, Yarbrough said, he could always appeal.

The Board of Veterans’ Appeals found errors by VA staff in 35,000 of the nearly 50,000 appeals decided in 2011, according to the board’s annual report.

In 29 percent of cases, the board overturned the agency’s initial decision and ruled in favor of the veteran.

A Center for Investigative Reporting analysis of 18 audits published this year by the VA’s inspector general shows the problem may actually be much worse, especially in high-profile cases.

The analysis found a 38 percent average error rate for claims involving disabilities like traumatic brain injury and illnesses linked to the Vietnam-era defoliant Agent Orange.

VA employee Fox was forced out in 2008, after she told her supervisor that the agency was about to wrongfully deny benefits to Roundtree, a 17-year Navy veteran who said he had developed post-traumatic stress disorder and depression.

The VA said it could find no evidence that Roundtree had experienced combat in Beirut, but through an Internet search Fox confirmed his ship, the destroyer Arthur W. Radford, had engaged in battle.

“It was a gut-wrenching story when I went through his file,” Fox said.

Roundtree, she said, had “been a star in the Navy” but ended up homeless on the streets of Long Beach after a mental breakdown.

Fox wrote a memo to her supervisor arguing that the VA should hold off on its denial to allow further research.

Five months later, the VA gave her a choice: Resign or be fired. She opted to resign.

In Fox’s termination letter, the head of the Oakland office, Flint, criticized her for “failure to follow instructions” and “misuse of time” for not immediately sending Roundtree a letter denying his benefits.

When he finally received a denial letter from the VA in 2008, he said, it came as a shock. It cited insufficient evidence “to confirm that you actually engaged in combat.”

Today, Roundtree calls Fox “an angel” for catching an apparent error that might have cost him thousands of dollars in compensation for his war wounds, and he expresses outrage that she was forced out for speaking up on his behalf.

Four years after Fox left her job, she and the VA continue to battle in court.

Government lawyers argue that it does not matter whether VA employees wrongly deny claims.

What is important, officials said, is to be productive - as measured by the number of cases employees clear from the inventory.

Under questioning from an administrative law judge in 2010, Fox’s supervisor, Yarbrough, said Fox should have immediately sent Roundtree a letter denying his claim despite her concerns because “it was a very old case.”

Fox went on unemployment after she lost her job and moved in with her sister. Two years later, she found a new job - working at a VA health care center in Santa Rosa.

Six months ago, she found Roundtree on Facebook.

“I was so nervous calling,” she said.

What she hoped to hear was that his claim had been approved, she said, “or if it wasn’t approved, that he would have appealed it.”

But Roundtree had never filed an appeal. The day he received his denial letter, he received a job offer. He now works as a cook at the VA Medical Center in Sacramento.

In June, Fox and Roundtree met for the first time.

Because the time limit for Roundtree to appeal his denial had passed, Fox helped him file a new disability claim.

Five months later - and six years after he first sought compensation for the mental wounds he received in uniform - Roundtree is still waiting for an answer.

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

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| <p>It is a two class world and the wrong class is running it. -- Larry Christensen, Soldiers Of Solidarity & United Auto Workers</p> |
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“We Kill Children”

From: Jeff Englehart
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Subject: Lyrics to a new song regarding Gaza
Date: Nov 20, 2012

Once again I got all pissed off at world events and wrote a song for my band.

Here’s the lyrics to something called “We Kill Children.”

After writing it I figured you might like it as an addition to an upcoming GI Resistance.

Feel free to use it if it works.

Hopefully it sparks some intuitive thought!

By Jeffrey D. Englehart
Veteran, U.S. Army
Operation Iraqi Freedom II (2004-2005)

“We Kill Children”

Genocide in the Middle East,

**but the victims aren’t who they seem.
David’s revenge now wielding the sword
against the Islamic hordes.**

**Ethnic purity for the oppressed.
Push the heathens ever further west.
Pushing humans off the precipice.
Sixty years of terror and death.
Sixty years of murder and death!**

**For every child who died in a mother’s arms,
For every father who cried for his dying son,
For the missiles that paint the sky
with Hell’s fire, and all justified
by a promised land guaranteed
for chosen brats, and a history
to deprive the innocent of love and life.
These crimes for all the world to see.
Your crimes against humanity.
Your crimes against humanity!**

Oh lowly worker

So far away.
Living in comfort
Just do what they say.

Sit in the pew and swallow the lies,
for this has all been prophesied.
Why question the destruction and hate
when God wanted it this way?

Every back that's turned,
every tax that's paid.
Every ballot cast
for the nation state.
Realize the blood is on your hands
when you comply to stolen lands.

I won't shut up, I won't turn a cheek!
This isn't anti-Semitic hate speech.
I'm calling it out for what I see,
I'm calling out imperialist greed.

Indeed,

The war is waged against Palestinians,
but there is no color or race in a war
of attrition.
And yours is just a knee-jerk reaction
When you blame it on the human condition.

So tell me Mr. Bureaucrat,
do you sleep well from where you're at?
And tell me Mr. Preacher Man,
do you feel enlightened from where you stand?

On what high ground do you think we stand,
when yet again
the pogrom is waged against civilians?
And what moral right do you think we have
when after all,
when the rubble falls,
we only ever kill children.

Suicide Epidemic

“Everyone Agrees There's A Problem?”

“Isn’t That Great” “Now How About Not Sending All These Guys To Shit Holes Like Iraq And Afghanistan For No God Damn Reason?”

From: Dave Robinson
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Subject: In suicide epidemic, military wrestles with prosecuting troops who attempt it
Date: Nov 27, 2012

Did you see this one?

Everyone agrees there’s a problem?

Isn’t that great.

Now how about not sending all these guys to shit holes like Iraq and Afghanistan for no god damn reason?

In Suicide Epidemic, Military Wrestles With Prosecuting Troops Who Attempt It

November 27, 2012 By Michael Doyle, McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON --]

Marine Corps Pvt. Lazzaric T. Caldwell slit his wrists and spurred a legal debate that’s consuming the Pentagon, as well as the nation’s top military appeals court.

On Tuesday, the court wrestled with the wisdom of prosecuting Caldwell after his January 2010 suicide attempt. Though Caldwell pleaded guilty, he and his attorneys now question his original plea and the broader military law that makes “self-injury” a potential criminal offense.

The questions resonate amid what Pentagon leaders have called an “epidemic” of military suicides.

“If suicide is indeed the worst enemy the armed forces have,” Senior Judge Walter T. Cox III said, “then why should we criminalize it when it fails?”

For 40 minutes Tuesday morning, Cox and the four other members of the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces sounded deeply ambivalent about the complexities involved in prosecuting members of the military who try to kill themselves.

While several judges sounded skeptical about the government's claim that Caldwell's actions brought discredit to the Marine Corps, judges also sounded hesitant about ruling out prosecution altogether.

"I question whether it's up to us to say that under no circumstance can someone be prosecuted," Judge Scott W. Stucky said. "Isn't that up to Congress?"

Congress and the White House might, in fact, get into the act.

Earlier this year, Defense Department General Counsel Jeh Johnson asked a Pentagon advisory committee to consider recommendations revising the Manual for Courts-Martial so that a "genuine attempt at suicide" may not require disciplinary action. The Joint Service Committee on Military Justice will make a suggestion eventually.

Everyone agrees there's a problem.

Last year, the 301 known military suicides accounted for 20 percent of U.S. military deaths. From 2001 to August 2012, the U.S. military counted 2,676 suicides.

It's also becoming more common among veterans.

Though timely numbers are elusive, the Department of Veterans Affairs reported that 3,871 veterans who were enrolled in VA care killed themselves in 2008 and 2009.

**“Political Economy In Its Classical Period, Like The Bourgeoisie Itself In Its Parvenu Period, Adopted A Severely Critical Attitude To The Machinery Of The State”
State Officials, Military People “Are Regarded By The Industrial Capitalists And The Working Class As Incidental Expenses Of Production, Which Are Therefore To Be Cut Down To The Most Indispensable Minimum And Provided As Cheaply As Possible”**

Theories Of Surplus Value, Karl Marx, 1863 [Excerpt]

The polemics against Adam Smith's distinction between productive and unproductive labour were for the most part confined to the *dii minorum gentium* [minor gods] (among whom moreover Storch was the most important); they are not to be found in the work of any economist of significance—of anyone of whom it can be said that he made some discovery in political economy.

They are, however, the hobby-horse of the second-rate fellows and especially of the schoolmasterish compilers and writers of compendia, as well as of *dilettanti* with facile pens and vulgarisers in this field.

What particularly aroused these polemics against Adam Smith was the following circumstance.

The great mass of so-called “higher grade” workers—such as state officials, military people, artists, doctors, priests, judges, lawyers, etc.—some of whom are not only not productive but in essence destructive, but who know how to appropriate to themselves a very great part of the “material” wealth partly through the sale of their “immaterial” commodities and partly by forcibly imposing the latter on other people — found it not at all pleasant to be relegated *economically* to the same class as clowns and menial servants and to appear merely as people partaking in the consumption, parasites on the actual producers (or rather agents of production).

This was a peculiar profanation precisely of those functions which had hitherto been surrounded with a halo and had enjoyed superstitious veneration.

Political economy in its classical period, like the bourgeoisie itself in its parvenu period, adopted a severely critical attitude to the machinery of the State, etc.

At a later stage it realised and — as was shown too in practice — learnt from experience that the necessity for the inherited social combination of all these classes, which in part were totally unproductive, arose from its own organisation.

In so far as those “unproductive labourers” do not produce entertainment, so that their purchase entirely depends on how the agent of production cares to spend his wages or his profit — in so far on the contrary as they are necessary or make themselves necessary because of physical infirmities (like doctors), or spiritual weakness (like parsons), or because of the conflict between private interests and national interests (like statesmen, all lawyers, police and soldiers) — they are regarded by Adam Smith, as by the industrial capitalists themselves and the working class, as incidental expenses of production, which are therefore to be cut down to the most indispensable minimum and provided as cheaply as possible.

Bourgeois society reproduces in its own form everything against which it had fought in feudal or absolutist form.

In the first place therefore it becomes a principal task for the sycophants of this society, and especially of the upper classes, to restore in theoretical terms even

the purely parasitic section of these “unproductive labourers”, or to justify the exaggerated claims of the section which is indispensable.

The *dependence* of the ideological, etc., classes on the *capitalists* was in fact proclaimed.

Secondly, however, a section of the agents of production (of material production itself) were declared by one group of economists or another to be “unproductive”.

For example, the landowner, by those among the economists who represented industrial capital (Ricardo).

Others (for example Carey) declared that the merchant in the true sense of the word was an “unproductive” laborer.

Then even a third group came along who declared that the “capitalists” themselves were unproductive, or who at least sought to reduce their claims to material wealth to “wages”, that is, to the wages of a “productive laborer”.

Many intellectual workers seemed inclined to share the skepticism in regard to the capitalist.

It was therefore time to make a compromise and to recognise the “productivity” of all classes not directly included among the agents of material production.

One good turn deserves another; and, as in the *Fable of the Bees*, it had to be established that even from the “productive”, economic standpoint, the bourgeois world with all its “unproductive labourers” is the best of all worlds.

This was all the more necessary because the “unproductive labourers” on their part were advancing critical observations in regard to the productivity of the classes who in general were “*fruges consumere nati*” [born only to eat]; or in regard to those agents of production, like landowners, who do nothing at all, etc.

Both the *do-nothings* and their *parasites* had to be found a place in this best possible order of things.

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 In PDF Format?

If you prefer PDF to Word format, email: contact@militaryproject.org

General Dunford Accepts Wager to Spend Year In Haunted Command



29 November 2012 by Dark Laughter, The Duffle Blog. Duffel Blog Investigative Reporter G-Had also contributed to this report.

PASHTYLVANIA, AFGHANISTAN –

Marine Corps General Joseph Dunford, Jr. confirmed late yesterday that he has accepted a wager to spend no less than one year in the supposedly haunted command of United States Forces – Afghanistan (USFOR-A).

Legend has it that there is a terrible curse on the command, located deep in the foreboding mountains of Afghanistan, and that inexplicably bad things happen to the careers of unwary commanders.

“I don’t like this,” says Dunford’s career, folding its arms and staring out of Dunford’s car at the darkening sky as they drive up the winding switchbacks toward the infamous command. “What are we even doing here? Is there even a strategic objective? We should have just gone back to Headquarters Marine Corps to be the next Commandant.”

“C’mon, it’ll be fun,” says a smiling Dunford. “Just one year, baby, then we’ll collect the money and go back to the beltway. After that, I promise I’ll take the Commandant job, just like you wanted.”

Earlier today, the two were greeted at the airport by a gray, sunken-eyed Gen John Allen, who was too distraught to even shake Dunford’s outstretched hand. Allen was accompanied by doctors attending to his restrained career, which recently and unexpectedly went insane. Allen is accompanying it home to see if it can be rehabilitated, but few hold out any hope.

General Allen’s career is not the curse’s first victim.

For many years, the curse was only a legend, and commanders never stayed in what was then Combined Forces Command – Afghanistan for a full year as a matter of custom. However, USFOR-A was established on the same site, and the custom was ignored by USFOR-A commander General David McKiernan, who laughed at it as mere superstition.

As the one year deadline approached, McKiernan's career grew more agitated. Always known for how cautious it was, McKiernan's career believed it could out-think and outlast the curse. Then one morning it was found dead in a rocking chair, still holding the loaded shotgun it had gone to bed with.

McKiernan was followed by General Stanley McChrystal, who was discovered outside one morning holding an axe, surrounded by pieces of his beloved career.

As talk of a curse became more widespread, General David Petraeus, one of the country's bravest generals, elected to spend a year in USFOR-A just to break the curse.

Petraeus was believed to have beaten the spell, retiring honorably from the military and moving on to helm the CIA. However, in early November, his career was discovered dead in front of the television while watching the news, a final look of abject horror still frozen on its face.

Arriving at his headquarters, Gen Dunford remains optimistic, stepping out of his vehicle and walking up to a small group of high ranking staff officers and battalion commanders.

"Gents, I'm your new commanding general, looking forward to working with..." but Dunford is cut off as the men stare gravely at him and then hustle away, looking down at the ground. One colonel pauses and looks back over his shoulder, then returns to place a silver crucifix around the neck of Dunford's career.

"Because evil travels swiftly," he says cryptically as he crosses himself, then ducks into an office.

Meeting with reporters later in the day, Dunford's confidence already seems to be wavering. He reported finding a mysterious package in his new desk, containing the journal of Colonel Renfield, a former aide to General Petraeus. Dunford said he felt strangely compelled to open it, as if the book wanted to be read.

He shared select passages with The Duffel Blog:

Day 1: Just got off the bird from MacDill. Saw McChrystal's staff on their way out. They had a gaunt shuffle and a hollow stare. I asked one of them if he could give me a turnover briefing on Afghanistan. He said, "You know nothing. Afghanistan is only a word. The reality is much worse."

Day 11: Have finally met our mysterious host. He appeared at the top of a dusty stairwell in a robe and fur hat, some kind of ethnic outfit. He introduced himself as Hamid Karzai, the president of these lands.

Day 53: Received an e-mail in my inbox saying "Get out!" G-6 says it came from my own e-mail account.

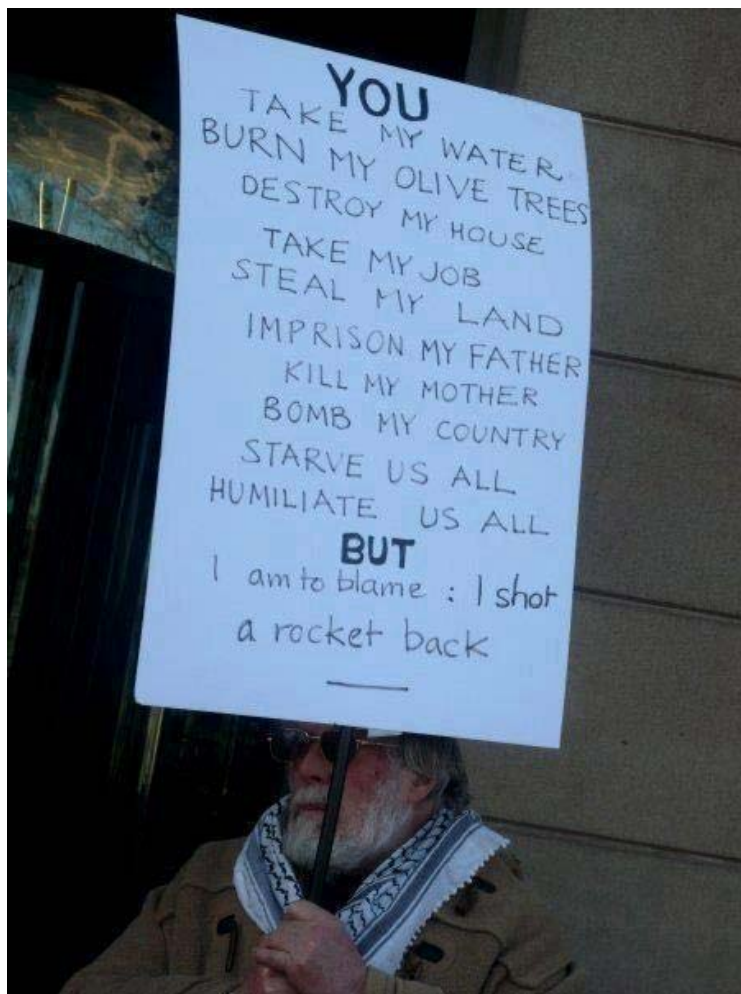
Day 97: Sometimes I hear a press conference going on, but when I run down the hall to the briefing room, it's empty.

Day 162: Unintelligible writing keeps appearing on the walls of my CONEX, but I can't read it because it's in Pashto.

Day 236: The general keeps talking about a mysterious book he's found. I looked at it, and it seems to be gibberish, but the general insists that it all makes sense once you have the right metric. He wants me to start reading it as well.

Day 325: Ph'nglui mglw'nafh Cthulhu Bagram wgah'nagl fhtagn.

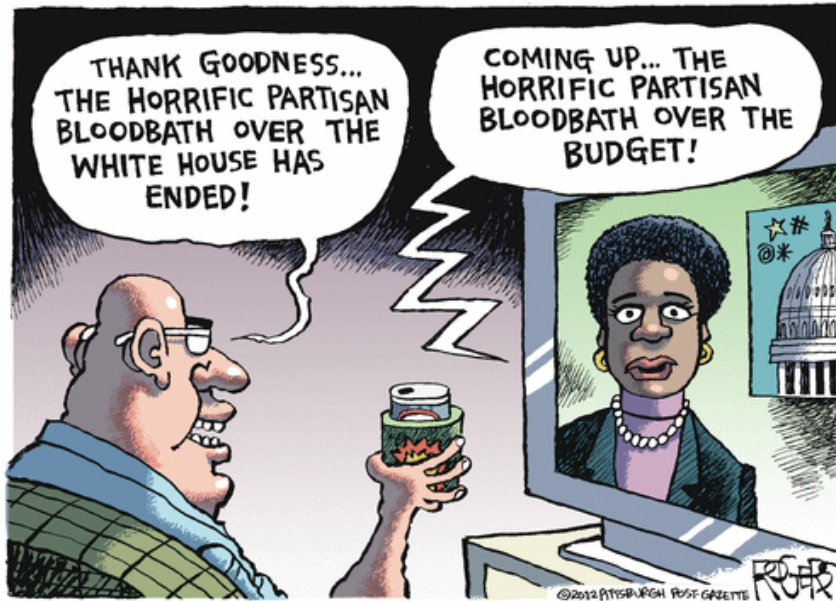
OCCUPATION PALESTINE



[Posted by Tal Badrawi at AmeriConscience]

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



“King And Pierce County Prosecutors Are Dismissing More Than 220 Misdemeanor Marijuana Cases In Response To Tuesday’s Vote To Decriminalize Small Amounts Of Pot”

“And As A Practical Matter, I Don’t Think You Could Sell A Simple Marijuana Case To A Jury After This Initiative Passed”

November 9, 2012 by Jonathan Martin, The Seattle Times

UPDATE 3:03 p.m. King and Pierce County prosecutors are dismissing more than 220 misdemeanor marijuana cases in response to Tuesday's vote to decriminalize small amounts of pot.

In King County, 175 cases are being dismissed involving people 21 and older and possession of one ounce or less.

I-502 makes one ounce of marijuana legal on Dec. 6, but King County Prosecutor Dan Satterberg decided to apply I-502 retroactively.

"Although the effective date of I-502 is not until December 6, there is no point in continuing to seek criminal penalties for conduct that will be legal next month," Satterberg said in a statement.

The dismissed cases involved arrests in unincorporated King County, as well as the state highways and the University of Washington. About 40 of the cases had already been filed in court as criminal charges; those charges will be dismissed. Another 135 cases were pending charging decisions and will simply be returned to the arresting police agency.

Pierce County Prosecutor Mark Lindquist said he was dismissing "about four dozen" pending cases where misdemeanor marijuana was the only offense. He said his staff was continuing to prosecute other cases where possession was secondary to a more serious charge, such as drunken driving.

"The people have spoken through this initiative," said Lindquist. "And as a practical matter, I don't think you could sell a simple marijuana case to a jury after this initiative passed."

In an interview, Satterberg said his office would continue to prosecute marijuana possession above one ounce, allowing for "a buffer for those whose scales are less than accurate."

His office also charges felony possession — for people with more than 40 grams — although he said his staff routinely allows those defendants to plead down to a misdemeanor.

"I think when the people voted to change the policy, they weren't focused on when the effective date of the new policy would be. They spoke loudly and clearly that we should not treat small amounts of marijuana as an offense," he said.

I-502 campaign manager Alison Holcomb said she was "incredibly moved" by Satterberg's announcement, which she said showed "incredible courage."

The decision supports a prime argument I-502 made during the campaign.

A study by a group of academics found there had been 241,000 misdemeanor marijuana possession cases in Washington over the past 25 years, 67,000 of them in the past five

years. "If 502 hadn't passed, we'd see the same amount of marijuana possession cases every year," she said. "What makes a difference is changing the law."

Satterberg is the first prosecutor to change charging policy after I-502, but other prosecutors are also considering these cases. Tom McBride of the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys said his office "just starting to work through those issues."

Seattle City Attorney Pete Holmes has refused to prosecute misdemeanor possession cases since he took office.

Earlier this week, the chief criminal deputy prosecutor in Spokane County, Jack Driscoll, appeared to take a more conservative position. He told the Spokesman-Review that, even after Dec. 6, the only marijuana which was legal to possess was pot sold in the state-licensed stores called for in I-502. Those stores won't be created for at least a year.

"The only thing that is legal is selling marijuana through those stores," Driscoll said. "That will be regulated by the state. You can't under this initiative have an ounce of marijuana that doesn't come from a state-issued provider. You still can't have black-market marijuana."

Holcomb disputed that interpretation. So did Satterberg, who called it a "very narrow reading" of the initiative. "I don't know how you trace where (the marijuana) comes from," he said.

Satterberg said he expected federal authorities to seek an injunction to block implementation of I-502's state licensing scheme for marijuana retailers and growers. "I think it's the kind of issue the U.S. Supreme Court will have a final word on," said Satterberg, calling it an "an important state's rights issue."

But he does not expect a federal lawsuit to target the types of cases he is dismissing, noting that states already have widely divergent penalties for marijuana possession.

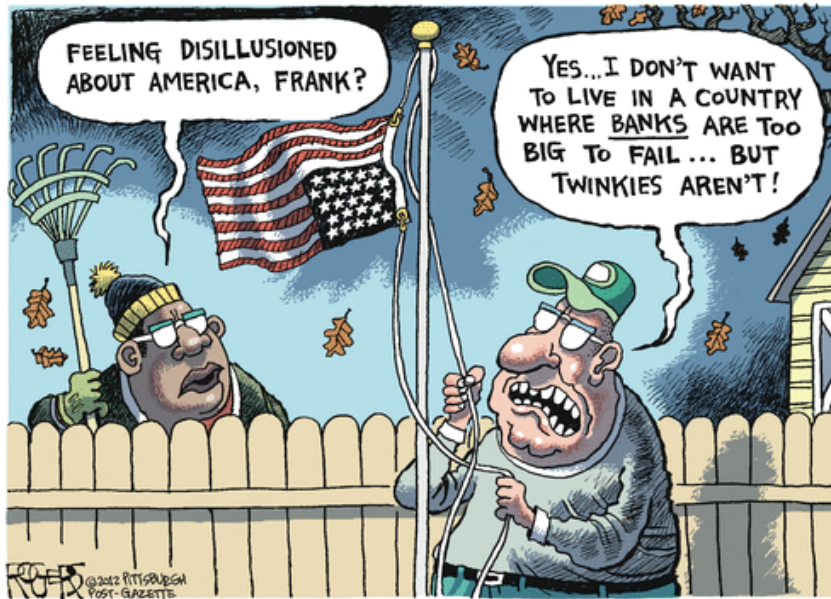
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Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly.

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 war 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.

CLASS WAR REPORTS



“Clashes Between Tunisian Security Forces And Thousands Of Protesters In The Impoverished Town Of Siliana Rage On”

“Angry Protesters Incensed The Regional Governor Had Failed To Tackle Unemployment”

“‘We Will Burn The Town!’ Shouted A Man Whose Son Was Among Those Injured”

Nov. 28, 2012 by Alexandra Valiente in TUNISIA, Libya 360° & Middle East Online
[Excerpts]

More than 200 people were wounded as clashes between Tunisian security forces and thousands of protesters in the impoverished town of Siliana raged on for the second straight day, medical sources say. One reporter was also injured by shotgun fire.

Several thousand protesters had gathered at 0900 GMT in front of the prefecture in Siliana demanding the departure of the regional governor, trade union official Nejb Sebti said earlier.

“The people of Siliana most affected by poverty will never go down on their knees,” Sebti said, warning that they were “ready to die for their rights.”

A doctor at the hospital in Siliana told AFP on Wednesday the injured were being treated for different types of injury, with four of them transferred to Tunis.

FRANCE24's Tunisia correspondent David Thomson was also injured by shotgun fire in the melee. While receiving treatment, Thomson tweeted from the hospital that many others had sustained far more serious injuries. His driver was also injured in the clashes.

Other protesters also bore facial injuries which were apparently caused by shotgun pellets.

State television had earlier reported that at least 80 people were injured.

Angry protesters, incensed the regional governor had failed to tackle unemployment, amassed in the town center, with the clashes kicking off by early afternoon.

The country's National Guard deployed armored vehicles as protesters erected makeshift barricades in the streets.

Protesters pelted security forces with rocks, who responded by firing tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse the crowd.

The scene closely mirrored protests which erupted in the town on Tuesday.

Many protesters called for local officials to step down, citing chronic mismanagement of development funds in the poor farming region. Siliana, which lies 75 miles south of the capital Tunis on the edge of the Sahara desert, saw investment plummet by 44.5 percent from January to October on a year-over-year basis.

Following the 2010 uprising which saw the ouster of longtime President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali, unemployment has skyrocketed in the country.

On Tuesday, the World Bank approved a \$500 million loan to Tunisia to aid the country's ailing economy, with a separate \$700 million coming from other donors.

The protesters are demanding the liberation of 14 people detained during violent unrest in April 2011 and funds to boost economic development in the impoverished region, as well as the governor's resignation.

Investment in the poor farming region fell by 44.5 percent from January to October, compared with the same period last year.

Much of Tunisia's interior suffers from a chronic lack of development, and has seen growing social unrest, including protests that often turn violent, amid rising discontent over the Islamist-led government's failure to improve living standards.

“Thousands Of Bangladeshis Took To The Streets Monday To Protest A Weekend Fire At A Factory That Made Clothes For Exports In Which More Than 100 Workers Were Killed”
“The Workers Threw Stones At Factories, Smashed Vehicles And Blocked A Major Highway In The Area”



Bangladeshis protest Monday outside a garment-factory where a fire killed more than 110 people Saturday on the outskirts of the capital, Dhaka. Associated Press

November 26, 2012 By JOANNE CHIU And TRIPTI LAHIRI, Wall Street Journal
[Excerpts]

HONG KONG—Thousands of Bangladeshis took to the streets Monday to protest a weekend fire at a factory that made clothes for exports in which more than 100 workers were killed.

The factory supplied clothes for Hong Kong-based sourcing giant Li & Fung, which is a buyer for retailers such as Wal-Mart Stores Inc. Late Monday, Wal-Mart said the factory was no longer authorized to make clothes for the retailer, and that it had cut ties to a supplier that subcontracted with the factory without its authorization. The company declined to name the supplier.

Garment-workers' groups said workers were blocking the streets of a Dhaka suburb in a protest that turned violent at times. The workers threw stones at factories, smashed vehicles and blocked a major highway in the area.

Some 200 factories were closed for the day after the protest erupted in Ashulia, the industrial zone just north of Dhaka where Saturday's deadly fire occurred.

The fire broke out late Saturday at an eight-story building of Tazreen Fashions Ltd., a subsidiary of Bangladesh's Tuba Group, an apparel factory that exports to the U.S. and Europe. In addition to making clothes for Li & Fung, the Bangladesh group may also have had direct relationships with some retailers.

The fire was the latest in a series of deadly factory fires in Bangladesh, labor-rights groups say.

Documents posted on Tuba Group's website included a letter purporting to be from Wal-Mart's ethical-sourcing department for the U.S. and Canada informing Tazreen Fashions that a May 2011 audit had found it to be a "high-risk" factory.

The letter said that two more such findings within two years would lead to Wal-Mart suspending orders from the factory for at least a year. **[That's really getting tough! T]**

Li & Fung, which expressed distress at the deaths, said the incident won't have a material impact on its financial performance, saying the total orders placed with Tazreen on behalf of Kids Headquarters, a subsidiary of its U.S. division, amounted to around \$111,000 this year. **[And that's reality.]**

Fires at garment factories in Bangladesh have killed over 600 people in the past six years, according to Canada's Maquila Solidarity Network, a labor-rights group.

The last major deadly fire, in December 2010 at a factory that supplied to U.S. companies including J.C. Penney Co. and Gap Inc., killed 29 people, according to labor-rights groups.

The fire department said another fire broke out Monday at a multistory building housing garment factories in a northern Dhaka suburb, but it was quickly extinguished and there were no fatalities.

Garment workers have been demanding better pay and working conditions, but efforts to implement a more stringent fire-safety regime are moving slowly. **[No shit?]**

In March, international and Bangladeshi labor-rights groups said that PVH Corp., which owns the Tommy Hilfiger and Calvin Klein brands, and many others, had agreed to be part of a pilot two-year fire-safety program.

But the level of distrust between workers and factory managers in Bangladesh is high. In June, factories in the industrial area where Saturday's fire occurred were shut for a week after workers clashed with police.

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**“In The Past Week, The Rebels
Have Captured More Than Half A
Dozen Army And Air Force Bases
Around The Country, Including
Two Near Damascus”**

**“A Rebel Group In Northern Syria
Shot Down A Syrian Air Force Fighter
Plane Near The Town Of Daret”**

**“A Unit Of Rebels Fighting In Aleppo
Claimed It Had Taken Over An Air Force
3Base In Aleppo”**



CRASH AND BURN: Syrians file past the remains Wednesday of a government fighter jet shot down in Daret Azzeh. Witnesses in the town told a reporter that a pilot of the downed aircraft was captured by rebels. Francisco Leong/Agence France-Presse/Getty Images

November 28, 2012 By FARNAZ FASSIHI, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

[O]pposition forces made new advances, riding a recent surge of momentum. A rebel group in northern Syria shot down a Syrian Air Force fighter plane near the town of Daret Azzeh and captured its pilot, according to a video the rebels posted on YouTube.

A unit of rebels fighting in Aleppo claimed it had taken over an Air Force base in Aleppo called the 608 battalion, according to videos the rebels posted on the opposition blog YallaSouriya, which offers live updates of news from Syria.

The videos show the rebels taking over the base and shouting “Allah Akbar (God is great)” and seizing missiles, antiaircraft weapons and military vehicles from the army.

In the past week, the rebels have captured more than half a dozen army and air force bases around the country, including two near Damascus and one near Aleppo.

They also shot down a helicopter in Aleppo on Tuesday.

The collective advances stem from better coordination and communication among the armed groups that make up the armed opposition in Syria, said several commanders and fighters of the Free Syrian Army, as the rebel force is known.

The fighters also said they have gained new and improved weaponry from the bases they have overrun.

Some activists said rebel advances could embolden them in the long run and make it more difficult for the political wing of the opposition to influence events on the ground, especially those operating from abroad.

“The Syrian opposition on the ground had to self-upgrade its arms to stand in the face of the regime. We are not relying on the opposition outside, we make decisions on the ground,” said Gen. Ahmed Al Faj, the commander of the Muatasim Billah Brigade in Aleppo.

An activist inside Syria tweeted on Tuesday that the opposition gains on the ground belong only to the rebels.

“How can you say the man who fights on the ground is the same as the man sitting in the five-star hotel,” said the director of Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an organization based in London, who goes by the pseudonym Rami Abdel Rahman.



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