

Military Resistance 10K8



**“More Than 1,500
Americans Have Lost A
Leg Or Arm In Combat In
Iraq Or Afghanistan”
“Hundreds Have Suffered The
Amputation Of Multiple Limbs”**

**“On Wednesday, The Wounded
Toll Stood At 50,159”
“More Than 16,000 Americans Have
Been Taken From The Battlefield
With Severe, Disabling Wounds”
“2,542 Servicemen And Women Have
Suffered Traumatic Burns; 142 Have Lost
At Least One Eye, And Five Lost Both
Eyes In Combat”**

[Thanks to Felicity Arbuthnot, who sent this in.]

Overall, 253,330 servicemen and women have suffered traumatic brain injury on the battlefield or elsewhere, including 3,949 with penetrating head wounds and 44,610 with severe or moderate brain injury.

11/07/2012 By David Wood, Huffington Post [Excerpts]

According to new data released Wednesday, more than 1,500 Americans have lost a leg or arm in combat in Iraq or Afghanistan, and hundreds have suffered the amputation of multiple limbs.

The Huffington Post reported Oct. 25 that the number of American battle wounded has passed 50,000, a grim milestone of more than a decade of war and a reminder of the war's enduring human cost.

On Wednesday, the wounded toll stood at 50,159, according to Defense Department data.

Since 2001, when the war in Afghanistan was launched in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks, 5,225 American military personnel have been killed in action in Afghanistan or Iraq.

The casualty statistics only begin to suggest the suffering of the injured and of the families of those killed or injured.

Because so many of the wounded are in their early 20s, they and their families face a lifetime during which the medical care required may be costly, intense and constant.

Amputees, for example, must be fitted for new prosthetics every few years.

According to a 10-month investigation by The Huffington Post, more than 16,000 Americans have been taken from the battlefield with severe, disabling wounds.

The new casualty data, released by the U.S. Army Surgeon General's Office in response to a request by The Huffington Post, shows a dismaying range of injuries.

Overall, 253,330 servicemen and women have suffered traumatic brain injury on the battlefield or elsewhere, including 3,949 with penetrating head wounds and 44,610 with severe or moderate brain injury.

In the Army alone, 73,674 soldiers have been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of their combat experience.

The Army also has diagnosed 30,480 soldiers who returned from combat with traumatic brain injury, often caused by one or more severe blows to the head or exposure to a concussive blast.

Among the combat wounded from all the military services are 1,572 patients with major limb amputations, including 486 wounded troops with multiple amputations.

These numbers do not include those who suffered the loss of fingers or toes.

Most of the amputees, 83 percent, have lost one or both legs, mostly from the blast of improvised explosive devices.

These deadly homemade bombs are also the cause of most of the genital wounds suffered by 1,410 U.S. troops.

The data released Wednesday indicates that 2,542 servicemen and women have suffered traumatic burns; 142 have lost at least one eye, and five lost both eyes in combat.

The financial cost of caring for the wounded is dwarfed by the emotional cost, of course.

But in 2008, Harvard economist Linda Bilmes has estimated the lifetime cost of caring for the war wounded to be between \$600 billion and \$900 billion.

Since then, the data she has gathered indicate that the cost will rise, she told The Huffington Post Wednesday.

Although U.S. military operations in Iraq ended in December 2011, some 66,000 U.S. military personnel are still engaged in Afghanistan.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Murrieta Soldier Killed In Possible Afghan Insider Attack

Oct. 29, 2012 By Beth Ford Roth, KPBS

Army Sgt. Clinton Ruiz, a Murrieta High School graduate, was one of two soldiers killed in Afghanistan on October 25 in a possible insider attack.

The Department of Defense reports both Staff Sgt. Kashif M. Memon, 31, of Houston, Texas and Ruiz, 22, died when their unit was attacked by small arms fire.

U.S. Forces in Afghanistan spokeswoman Maj. Lori Hodge told the Associated Press that authorities are investigating the shooting that killed Ruiz and Memon as a possible insider attack:

Authorities were trying to determine whether the attacker was an Afghan security forces member or an insurgent disguised in a government uniform.

Ruiz was assigned to the 9th Military Information Support Battalion (Airborne), 8th Military Information Support Group (Airborne) at Fort Bragg in North Carolina.

Ruiz leaves behind a wife, Kira, and a one-year-old son, Caleb. Poway Patch reports family members have set up a trust fund account in Caleb's name.

Relatives Of Pakistanis Killed By Obama Not Celebrating His Win: “Look At How Many People He Has Killed With Drone Attacks,” Said Haji Abdul Jabar, Whose 23-Year-Old Son Was Killed In Such A Bombing”
“We Will Fight Alongside Our Afghan Brothers”

“I Lost My Wife In The Drone Attack And My Children Are Injured” “America Just Wants To Take Over The World”

Nov 8, 2012 By Randy Fabi and Aisha Chowdhry, Reuters [Excerpts]

The roars celebrating the re-election of U.S. President Barack Obama on television give Mohammad Rehman Khan a searing headache, as years of grief and anger come rushing back.

The 28-year-old Pakistani accuses the president of robbing him of his father, three brothers and a nephew, all killed in a U.S. drone aircraft attack a month after Obama first took office.

“The same person who attacked my home has gotten re-elected,” he told Reuters in the capital, Islamabad, where he fled after the attack on his village in South Waziristan, one of several ethnic Pashtun tribal areas on the Afghan border.

“Since yesterday, the pressure on my brain has increased. I remember all of the pain again.”

Drone strikes are highly unpopular among many Pakistanis, who consider them a violation of sovereignty that cause unacceptable civilian casualties.

“Whenever he has a chance, Obama will bite Muslims like a snake. Look at how many people he has killed with drone attacks,” said Haji Abdul Jabar, whose 23-year-old son was killed in such a bombing.

Analysts say anger over the unmanned aircraft may have helped the Taliban gain recruits, complicating efforts to stabilize the unruly border region between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

That could also hinder Obama’s plan to withdraw U.S. troops from Afghanistan in 2014.

Obama authorized nearly 300 drone strikes in Pakistan during his first four years in office, more than six times the number during the administration of George W. Bush, according to the New America Foundation policy institute.

Since 2004, a total of 337 U.S. drone strikes in Pakistan have killed between 1,908 and 3,225 people.

[T]he Pakistani Taliban remains a potent force despite a series of Pakistan army offensives against their strongholds in the northwest.

“We are amazed that Obama has been re-elected. But for us there is no difference between Obama and Romney; both are enemies. And we will keep up our jihad and fight alongside our Afghan brothers to get the Americans out of Afghanistan,” said Pakistan Taliban spokesman Ehsanullah Ehsan.

Pakistanis were largely indifferent in the run-up to Tuesday's election, expecting little change to the drone attacks regardless of whether Obama or Republican challenger Mitt Romney won.

"Any American, whether Obama or Mitt Romney, is cruel," Warshameen Jaan Haji, whose neighborhood was struck by a drone last week, told Reuters on the eve of the election. "I lost my wife in the drone attack and my children are injured. Whatever happens, it will be bad for Muslims."

The February 2009 drone attack that destroyed his home left him as the main provider for 13 family members, forcing him to move to Islamabad and work with a real estate company.

"When the Sandy hurricane came, I thought that Allah would wipe away America," he said. "America just wants to take over the world."

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

MILITARY NEWS

**Judge Stomps On Try By Reactionary
Trash To Keep Veterans For Peace
From Marching In Veterans Day
Parade:**

**"Pechman Said It Would Be A Stretch To
Somehow Arrive At The Conclusion That
The VFP's Message That 'Peace Is A
Good Thing' Is Somehow Dishonoring
Veterans"**

November 9, 2012 by Mike Carter, Seattle Times

A federal judge has ordered the City of Auburn to allow an anti-war veterans group to march in Saturday's annual Veterans Day Parade, ruling the city has violated one of the very rights it celebrates veterans for defending – the right to free speech.

U.S. District Chief Judge Marsha Pechman this morning issued a temporary restraining order preventing the city from barring Veterans for Peace (VFP) from marching in the parade, purported to be the largest Veterans Day parade west of the Mississippi.

In doing so, Pechman said the city was “wrong” in its efforts to craft rules to exclude the VFP from the celebration.

Pechman, who ruled from the bench after arguments, said it appeared “some vague group” within the city had decided that the VFP’s anti-war message was “offensive.”

But protecting unpopular speech “is what the First Amendment is all about,” Pechman said.

The city’s attorney, Daniel Heid, had argued that the city was thanking veterans for their contributions and for “defending freedoms around the world,” and that the VFP’s anti-war message, peace flags and reminders of the human and financial tolls of conflict were antithetical to that message.

Pechman, however, quickly pointed out that among those freedoms was the right to free speech.

She said rules promulgated by the city in the past year to try to refine that message so the city could control parade participants — particularly Veterans for Peace — were “very broad” and didn’t accomplish what the city intended.

Pechman said it would be a stretch to somehow arrive at the conclusion that the VFP’s message that “peace is a good thing” is somehow dishonoring veterans.

She ordered the city to ensure that the group’s placement in the parade is “in keeping” with its members’ status as veterans.

Mayor Peter B. Lewis, a Vietnam veteran, wrote in a sworn declaration that he “knew the pain felt by military personnel returning home from Vietnam to see their efforts criticized,” and said he suspects that at least some of the problems vets faced afterwards were due to the “negative reception they received upon their return.”

The city goal, he said, has been to make sure that never happens again, and “recognize the tremendous effort, courage and commitment demonstrated by those who have served ...”

Lewis declined to comment after Pechman’s decision. He said the parade would go on as planned Saturday.

VFP filed a lawsuit against parade organizers on Monday after the group was banned from the parade. VFP was joined in the lawsuit by American Civil Liberties Union of Washington, and sought a court order to force the city to allow the group to march in the parade.

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.

10 Year Air Force Vet Can't Fly Home To USA To Be With His Dying Mother:

**Obama Regime Traitors Put Him
On No Fly List With No Notice;
“Long Has Now Spent The Last Six
Months Trying To Find Out Why He
Was Placed On This List And What
He Can Do To Get Off Of It”**

**“Long Can Do Nothing Other Than Wait
And Hope That His Own Country, Which
He Served For A Decade In The Armed
Forces, Will Deign To Allow Him To
Return”**



Saddiq Long, a 10-year US Air Force veteran, barred from flying into the US.
Photograph: Long

What is most mystifying to him is that he has spent the last decade living and working, usually teaching English, in three countries that have been very close and compliant US allies: Egypt, United Arab Emirates, and now Qatar.

“If the US government wanted me to question or arrest or prosecute me, they could have had me in a minute. But there are no charges, no accusations, nothing.”

5 November 2012 by Glenn Greenwald, Guardian News and Media Limited

In April of this year, Saadiq Long, a 43-year-old African-American Muslim who now lives in Qatar, purchased a ticket on KLM Airlines to travel to Oklahoma, the state where he grew up.

Long, a 10-year veteran of the US Air Force, had learned that the congestive heart failure from which his mother suffers had worsened, and she was eager to see her son.

He had last seen his mother and siblings more than a decade ago, when he returned to the US in 2001, and spent months saving the money to purchase the ticket and arranging to be away from work.

The day before he was to travel, a KLM representative called Long and informed him that the airlines could not allow him to board the flight.

That, she explained, was because the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) had placed Long on its “no-fly list”, which bars him from flying into his own country.

Long has now spent the last six months trying to find out why he was placed on this list and what he can do to get off of it.

He has no idea when he was put on this list, who decided to put him on it, or the reasons for his inclusion.

He has never been convicted of any crime, never been indicted or charged with a crime, and until he was less than 24 hours away from boarding that KLM flight back to his childhood home, had received no notice that his own government prohibited him from flying.

As his mother’s health declines, he remains effectively barred from returning to see her.

“My mother is much too sick to come visit me, as she has difficulty now even walking very short distances,” Long told me in an interview Sunday in Doha, the sleek, booming capital city of America’s close Gulf ally, where the former Senior Airman and Staff Sergeant has lived for several years.

“I don’t understand how the government can take away my right to travel without even telling me,” he said. **[Gee, that’s easy. The government is a poorly disguised dictatorship of money that hates our freedom. Duh.]**

What is most mystifying to him is that he has spent the last decade living and working, usually teaching English, in three countries that have been very close and compliant US allies: Egypt, United Arab Emirates, and now Qatar.

“If the US government wanted me to question or arrest or prosecute me, they could have had me in a minute. But there are no charges, no accusations, nothing.”

As compelling as Long’s story is, it is extremely common.

Last year in Washington, I met a 19-year-old Somali-American Muslim, born and raised in the US, who saved money from a summer job to purchase a ticket to travel for the first time to Somalia to visit family members he had never met.

When he went to the ticket counter to check-in, he was informed that he was barred from flying and suffered the humiliation of having to return home with his luggage and then trying to explain to his employer, family and friends why he did not travel.

Like Long, that American teenager was never convicted or even charged with any crime, and was mystified and angry that his own government secretly placed him on this list, though he remains too afraid to speak out without anonymity.

“I’m scared that if I do, it’ll only get worse,” he told me.

Like so many post-9/11 civil liberties abridgments aimed primarily at Muslims, this no-fly-list abuse has worsened considerably during the Obama presidency.

In February, Associated Press learned that “the Obama administration has more than doubled, to about 21,000 names, its secret list of suspected terrorists who are banned from flying to or within the United States, including about 500 Americans.”

Worse, the Obama administration “lowered the bar for being added to the list”.

As a result, reported AP, “now a person doesn’t have to be considered only a threat to aviation to be placed on the no-fly list” but can be included if they “are considered a broader threat to domestic or international security”, a vague status determined in the sole and unchecked discretion of unseen DHS bureaucrats.

But the worst cases are those like Long’s: when the person is suddenly barred from flying when they are outside of the US, often on the other side of the world.

As a practical matter, that government act effectively exiles them from their own country.

“Obviously, I can’t get to Oklahoma from Qatar if I can’t fly,” said Long. “Trying to take a boat would take weeks away from work just for the travel alone, and it’s not affordable.

“If I can’t fly, then I can’t go back home.”

Gadeir Abbas, a lawyer with the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) now working on Long’s case, told me:

“What is happening to Saadiq happens to American Muslims with alarming regularity. Every few weeks I hear of another Muslim citizen who cannot return to the country of which he is a citizen.

“It is as if the US has created a system of secret law whereby certain behaviors - being Muslim seems to be one of them - trigger one’s placement on government watch lists that separate people from their families, end careers, and poison personal relationships. All of this done without any due process.”

The ACLU has spent years challenging the constitutionality of the no-fly list in court. Representing 15 US citizens and permanent residents who have been placed on the list, including four military veterans, the civil liberties group scored a possibly significant victory this June when the 9th Circuit of Appeals reinstated their lawsuit, which a lower court judge had dismissed, and allowed the case to proceed.

ACLU lawyer Nusrat Choudhury, who argued the case, told me:

“The No Fly List bars thousands of people from commercial air travel without any opportunity to learn about or refute the basis for their inclusion on the list.

“The result is a vast and growing list of individuals who, on the basis of error or innuendo, have been deemed too dangerous to fly but who are too harmless to arrest.

“Some have been stranded abroad when they suddenly found themselves unable to board planes.

“None of these Americans have ever been told why they are on the No Fly List or given a reasonable opportunity to get off it. But, the Constitution requires the government to provide our clients a fair chance to clear their names.”

Long’s case is both typical yet particularly compelling.

Strictly on humanitarian grounds, it is outright cruel to deny a person who has been convicted of no crime the ability to see his ailing mother.

Beyond the constitutional and humanitarian questions, Long was confounded by what seems to be the utterly irrational reasoning on which the no-fly list is based.

As it bars him only from flying, he remains technically free to board a cruise ship to the US, one that would be filled with American civilians.

Every US citizen has the constitutional right to enter the country, so he is technically free to visit the US or return there to live if he is able to get back, to visit crowded streets and shopping malls, to board trains, in essence to do anything but fly.

“It makes no sense, so it’s obvious this is meant as some kind of punishment, but for what?”, he asked.

“If they are so afraid of me, they can just put a law enforcement agent on the plane to escort me back home.”

After learning he had been barred from flying, Long sought assistance from the US Embassy in Doha.

“After many follow-up calls to the embassy,” he recounted, “they finally gave me ‘assistance’ in the form of the website to DHS and instructions to file a complaint.”

On 15 May, he filed a formal complaint with DHS and received a so-called “redress control number” with a promise to review his case within 7-10 business days.

Almost six months later, he is still in Doha waiting for an answer, still harboring hope that he will receive clearance to return home to visit his sick mother.

Abbas, the CAIR lawyer, told me: “It makes my stomach churn what the US does to American Muslims while they travel.” Unfortunately, he said, the political reality of this issue tracks the familiar pattern of Muslims being denied the most basic rights: “there is zero political will to alter the use of endless secret watchlists that terrorize the Muslim community and make none of us any safer.”

Abbas worked last year on the truly wrenching case of Gulet Mohamed, the then-18-year-old Somali-American who, while visiting Kuwait, was detained at the behest of the Obama administration, and beaten and tortured by Kuwaiti authorities while he was interrogated for two weeks.

Once the Kuwaitis were done with him and wanted to release him, Mohamed - who, to date, has never been charged with any crime - faced a horrible dilemma: at some point when he was traveling, the US government placed him on a no-fly list, meaning that he could no longer stay in Kuwait, but also could not return to the US, stuck in lawless limbo.

When he was in Kuwaiti detention, Gulet was able to use a cell phone illicitly obtained by a fellow detainee, and his family arranged for him to call me and the New York Times’ Mark Mazzetti to recount his story.

I spent an hour on the phone with him, and still vividly recall the terror and visceral fear of the American teenager as he tried to understand why his own government first arranged for his detention and beating, and then barred him from returning to the country where he was born and had lived his whole life, even when the Kuwaitis were eager to release him.

That is the tyranny of the no-fly list.

“Our litigation in Gulet Mohamed’s case seeks to establish what I think is the very modest proposition that the US cannot actively obstruct a citizen’s movement into the US from abroad,” said Abbas.

As modest - and self-evident - a proposition as that is, it is one the US courts have not recognized in the context of no-fly lists.

Saddiq Long has now purchased another ticket to travel to the US on 8 November, less than a week from now, in the hope that the US government will allow him to fly.

“If he isn’t allowed to fly home on the 8th,” said Abbas, “we will plan on mobilizing people to contact the Special Agent in Charge of the FBI field office in Oklahoma City. The FBI controls these lists and his intervention could end Saadiq’s predicament.”

For now, Long can do nothing other than wait and hope that his own country, which he served for a decade in the armed forces, will deign to allow him to return.

Secret deprivation of core rights, no recourse, no due process, no right even to learn what has been done to you despite zero evidence of wrongdoing: that is the life of many American Muslims in the post-9/11 world. Most significantly, it gets progressively worse, not better, as the temporal distance from 9/11 grows.

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA’S WAR?



Oct. 15, 2012 Palm Beach Post: The funeral service of U.S. Army Special Forces Warrant Officer Joseph L Schiro, a 27-year-old from Coral Springs, who died from small arms fire in Afghanistan, at Christ Fellowship Church in Royal Palm Beach. Photo: Gary Coronado

Troops Invited:

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

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**“Six-Year-Old Saleh Lives With His Family In Jabalia, North Gaza”
“At Around 6:30 Pm On Saturday, 13 October 2012, He Was Watching Television With His Siblings, When He Was Injured In An Israeli Drone Attack”**



16 October 2012 Defence for Children International - Palestine Section

Name: Saleh N.

Date of incident: 13 October 2012

Age: 6

Location: Gaza Strip

Nature of incident: Injuries

On 13 October 2012, a 6-year-old boy is injured in an Israeli drone strike on North Gaza.

Six-year-old Saleh lives with his family in Jabalia, north Gaza.

At around 6:30 pm on Saturday, 13 October 2012, he was watching television with his siblings, when he was injured in an Israeli drone attack.

“Saleh was sitting near the living room window, and Odai was sitting about two metres away from him,” explains Mohammad, Saleh’s father.

“Suddenly, there were two consecutive explosions and the house became full of smoke and dust.”

Mohammad rushed to check on his children and he found them terrified and screaming.

“I tried to calm them down but Saleh kept screaming and crying. His right foot was bleeding profusely; his toe had been badly injured. I grabbed a towel and wrapped it around his foot. The floor was all covered in blood. Then, I took him in my arms handed him to my brother Khalil, who took him to the hospital.”

Mohammad went back to get his two other children. The neighbours who arrived to check on them told Mohammad that “a motorcycle travelling in front of the house had been targeted by a drone plane, and two fighters had been killed.”

Saleh was discharged from the hospital at around 11:00 pm.

According to his father, “his foot is fine now, but he is not well psychologically. He refuses to sleep alone at night and stays up until very late. He only wants to sleep in my arms. He was not like this before the incident. I don’t know how to help him.”

Heroic Zionist Occupation Forces Attack Trees And A Sheep Stable In Palestine



11/9/2012 Ma'an News Agency

BETHLEHEM -- Israeli forces uprooted trees from village lands in Nahhalin near Bethlehem on Wednesday, witnesses said.

Israeli forces told villagers the lands were owned by Israel.

They said Palestinians were prohibited from reaching them or planting on them.

A day earlier Israeli authorities demolished three buildings and a water cistern in the south Hebron hills, an international peace group said.

Forces bulldozed a two-story house in al-Deirat village owned by Mohammad Musa Mohammad Abu Aram, before flattening a sheep stable, Operation Dove said.

The officials then moved to nearby Jawwaya village, where they demolished a house and water cistern for rainfall, owned Mahmud Ahmed Nasser Nawaja, the Italian peace organization said.

In the first six months of 2011, Israeli authorities demolished 342 Palestinian-owned structures in Area C, displacing a total of 656 Palestinians, including 351 children -- almost five times as many demolitions and people displaced as during the first half of 2010, according to UN agency OCHA.

From 2000 to 2007, the Civil Administration approved 5 percent of the applications for building permits submitted by Palestinians in Area C.

Stripped Of My Clothes, My Father, But Not Of My Right To Return:

**“In The Trees And Vines He
Planted, My Father’s Spirit Lives
On”**

**“Segregation Is Enshrined As The
Norm Here”**

**“We Cannot Simply Be Shunted Into
Inferior Lines And Truncated Bantustans
When We Have A Right To Live As
Equals In All Of Our Homeland”**



Asma Samir Jaber

06 Nov 2012 By Asma Samir Jaber, Al Jazeera

Asma Samir Jaber is a Palestinian American graduate student of Public Policy at Harvard University where she is a Harry S Truman Scholar.

Unbutton your pants,” Sara, the stone-faced security agent at Israel’s Ben Gurion airport, told me.

I sobbed, choking on my words, “My dad was born in Nazareth.”

“Lift your shirt,” she continued.

“He’s dying, and he can’t return here,” I mumbled.

I thought of what my father looked like at that moment, bruised and broken from a drunk driver, unable to breathe on his own, and helpless in a hospital bed in South Carolina.

As the daughter of Palestinian refugees, it was already a harrowing experience for me to make my way from my father’s homeland, where I have been working, back to Travelers Rest, South Carolina, where he chose to raise us after he was forced from Nazareth by the creation of the state of Israel in 1948 and forced from Palestine altogether by the occupation of 1967.

But my latest attempt to return to my father, carrying memories of his lost home with me, was a devastating lesson in the indignities of exile and the fragility of life.

Shortly before my hastily scheduled flight, I was in Jerusalem, a mere nine miles from the area in which my father grew up in Palestine. I waited to hail a cab when a young Jewish couple close by engaged me in small talk. When the couple realised that we were all Americans travelling to the Old City, they offered me a ride in their cab, should they find one first.

After discovering that I grew up in South Carolina, the husband remarked, “I didn’t realise there were many Jewish folks in South Carolina.”

“There aren’t many,” I replied. “And I’m actually not Jewish.”

“I’m Palestinian.”

Suddenly, whatever we had in common no longer mattered. The man stopped, looked at his wife, and then motioned me to the left: “Your buses are over there.” The couple got into a cab, and I stood there trying to comprehend what had just happened.

The humiliation and hurt coursed through me.

I was raised in the American South. Though too young to have lived through it, I studied its shameful past of Jim Crow segregation. And I studied its proud history of struggle - written by those courageous black and white activists who risked and lost their lives - to build a society based on equality for all.

Perhaps this American couple didn't see the parallel - so stark to me - of refusing to share a cab with a Palestinian.

Later that day, in what turned out to be one of my last conversations with my father, I recounted to him the cab incident in Jerusalem.

Despite the heartbreaking story, he was proud of my determination to live in Palestine even with the anti-Palestinian racism I experienced. He supported the will that resides in me - and so many Palestinians - to return and fight for equal rights rather than endure the humiliation of being told to ride segregated buses.

My life began to unravel in the next hours as the news of my parents' car accident reached me.

After an unexpectedly sharp deterioration in my father's condition, I decided to fly home. At Ben Gurion Airport, I watched as airport security officials inspected the contents of my two suitcases one by one, rubbing an ersatz magic-wand over every Palestinian memento I purchased for my family.

Three cohorts of travellers bypassed the intense scrutiny I was facing and proceeded to their simple check-in process. I

n fact, only one other traveller, also an Arab American, received the same treatment I did. As with the taxi, there was once again the preferred line and the separate and unequal Palestinian line.

Segregation is enshrined as the norm here.

This, of course, is a familiar scene to Americans of Palestinian descent who have attempted to visit their families' homes. And for Palestinians who remained in modern-day Israel or the lands it occupies in the West Bank and Gaza, scenes like the recent attempted "lynching" of a Palestinian boy by a mob of Jewish youth have become alarmingly common, recalling the Jim Crow American South.

But my situation, I thought, was different.

It was not.

Nor was it different at Ben Gurion airport, where Sara insisted on strip-searching me.

Just as I thought the humiliation had ended and I could make my way to the check-in counter, Sara intervened again.

"I'll take you to the counter," she said, insisting that I would not be allowed to fly if she didn't escort me.

I was furious. In the depths of my despair, I still craved an ounce of justice - even if that meant for her to simply admit that I was being profiled. But Sara was not my friend. She was in character and cold.

We finally reached the gate just in time for boarding (I arrived at Ben Gurion four hours before my flight was scheduled to board), where my escort made sure that I - a "top-level security threat" who could barely see through my tears - did indeed board the plane.

As I walked to the gate, searching for some sign - any sign - of her humanity, I told Sara that my father had stopped breathing on his own and was brain dead, all due to a drunk driver. "We are all humans," Sara said, impervious to the irony.

All I want is to be treated like a human, I thought, this time to myself. I wanted, especially on that day, to stand in line with everyone else, just like I wanted to take the cab with the Jerusalem couple.

While I have long known that Prime Minister Netanyahu's notion of a Jewish state is wrong, I have come to sincerely realise since my return to a transformed American South because too many Jewish couples from the United States emigrate to Greater Israel and promptly abandon the principles of equality that served them so well here.

And too many other Jewish emigrants are content to recreate the discrimination they endured elsewhere now that they're on top. The way forward in Palestine and Israel is not an ethnocracy that favors Jews or a two-state solution that dispossesses millions of Palestinians, but one state with dignity and equality for all.

This was done in Travelers Rest. It can be done, too, in the homeland my father and I share.

The road ahead will be a hard one, but the two-state solution completely died for me in a Jerusalem taxi and Ben Gurion airport. We cannot simply be shunted into inferior lines and truncated Bantustans when we have a right to live as equals in all of our homeland.

Back in South Carolina, my dad passed away three hours after my hands interlocked with his.

His mind, his memories, and his extraordinary resilience, however, will never die. This August, while picking figs from the 30-year-old fig tree he planted in our backyard, it hit me: My father had painstakingly done everything in his power to reinvent Palestine in Travelers Rest - to plant the fig, olive, and plum trees he knew from his childhood and to adorn our fence with grape vines.

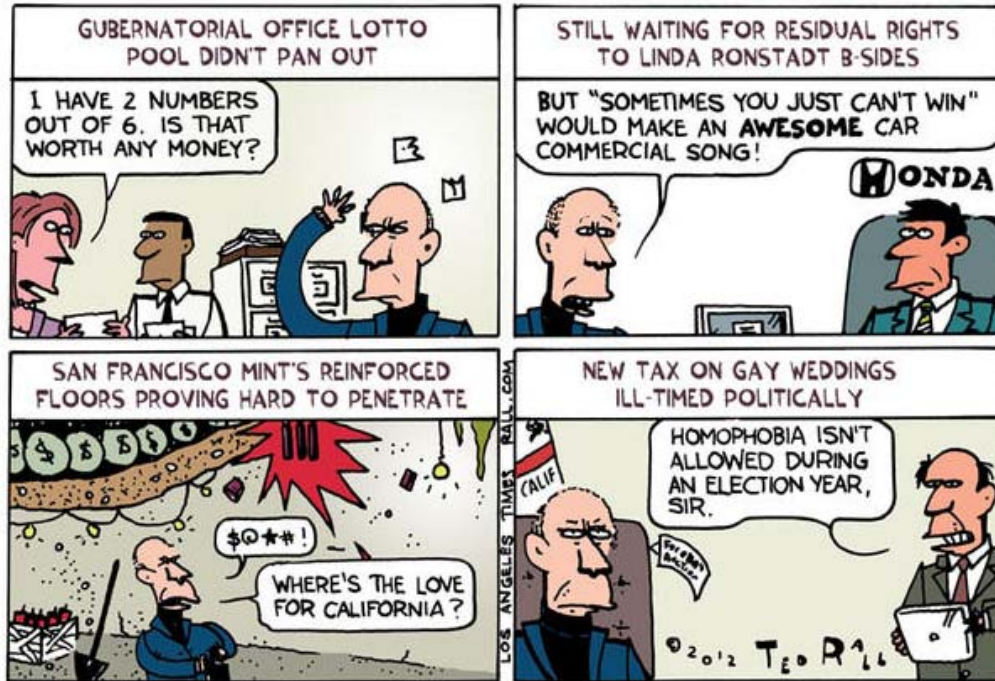
In the trees and vines he planted, my father's spirit lives on.

However tragic and humiliating, his experience and mine have redoubled my commitment to return to Palestine, to honour the more than three-quarters of our people who were exiled and expelled due to the establishment of the state of Israel, and to carry on my father's legacy - as well as our right to return.

[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

CALIFORNIA'S BUDGET GAP NEARLY DOUBLED, FROM \$9 BILLION TO \$16 BILLION, IN JUST 4 MONTHS. WHAT HAPPENED TO GOV. BROWN'S OPTIMISTIC REVENUE PROJECTIONS?



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CLASS WAR REPORTS

Socialist Candidate Gets 27% Of Vote Against Washington State Speaker Of The House:

“Our Campaign Gave Voice To Mass Anger At The Corporate Politicians”

November 8, 2012 By Emily Heffter, Seattle Times

A Socialist candidate and Occupy Seattle activist who had more than a quarter of the vote in her race against state House Speaker Frank Chopp has set her sights on next year's city elections. Kshama Sawant says she is recruiting a slate of Socialist candidates to run for Seattle City Council and mayor next year.

Though Sawant, a Central Seattle Community College lecturer, lost to Chopp by a lot, she did better than past contenders.

Kim Verde, a Republican, lost to the longtime Speaker of the House in 2008 and 2010, each time with about 13 percent of the vote.

Tuesday night, Sawant had 27 percent of the vote.

Sawant first filed to run for the Position 1 seat in the 43rd, against state Rep. Jamie Pedersen. She came in second, qualifying for the general. But she ended up coming in second as a write-in candidate for Position 2, aided by The Stranger when it endorsed her as a write-in alternative to Chopp, and then wrote stories about her.

She decided to run against Chopp, and sued successfully to have her party preference, Socialist Alternative, on the ballot.

Sawant will kick off her next political project at City Hall at a post-election forum Thursday night entitled "Where do Progressives Go From Here?" She is a panelist, along with Chopp and Tim Harris, the director of Real Change. The event is at 7 p.m. at the University Temple Methodist Church, 1415-43rd Street NE.

In a statement, Sawant said: "We achieved this election result as an openly Socialist campaign that was largely ignored by the corporate media, with no corporate donations, on a shoe string budget.

"Occupy gave a voice to working people's rage at Wall Street, and our campaign gave voice to mass anger at the corporate politicians. It shows the potential to build a powerful left electoral challenge to the two corporate parties."

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Egyptians Organizing From Below To Stop Public Attacks On Women: Morsi Dictatorship Refusing To Act



A self-appointed citizens patrol that tries to protect women on Cairo's streets spray-painted a youth for identification last month. Tara Todras-Whitehill for The New York Times

November 5, 2012 By KAREEM FAHIM, New York Times [Excerpts]

CAIRO — The young activists lingered on the streets around Tahrir Square, scrutinizing the crowds of holiday revelers.

Suddenly, they charged, pushing people aside and chasing down a young man. As the captive thrashed to get away, the activists pounded his shoulders, flipped him around and spray-painted a message on his back: "I'm a harasser."

Egypt's streets have long been a perilous place for women, who are frequently heckled, grabbed, threatened and violated while the police look the other way.

Now, during the country's tumultuous transition from authoritarian rule, more and more groups are emerging to make protecting women — and shaming the do-nothing police — a cause.

"They're now doing the undoable?" a police officer joked as he watched the vigilantes chase down the young man.

The officer quickly went back to sipping his tea.

The attacks on women did not subside after the uprising. If anything, they became more visible as even the military was implicated in the assaults, stripping female

protesters, threatening others with violence and subjecting activists to so-called virginity tests.

During holidays, when Cairenes take to the streets to stroll and socialize, the attacks multiply.

But during the recent Id al-Adha holiday, some of the men were surprised to find they could no longer harass with impunity, a change brought about not just out of concern for women's rights, but out of a frustration that the post-revolutionary government still, like the one before, was doing too little to protect its citizens.

At least three citizens groups patrolled busy sections of central Cairo during the holiday.

The groups' members, both men and women, shared the conviction that the authorities would not act against harassment unless the problem was forced into the public debate.

They differed in their tactics: some activists criticized others for being too quick to resort to violence against suspects and encouraging vigilantism. One group leader compared the activists to the Guardian Angels in the United States.

"The harasser doesn't see anyone who will hold him accountable," said Omar Talaat, 16, who joined one of the patrols.

The years of President Hosni Mubarak's rule were marked by official apathy, collusion in the assaults on women, or empty responses to the attacks, including police roundups of teenagers at Internet cafes for looking at pornography.

"The police did not take harassment seriously," said Madiha el-Safty, a sociology professor at the American University in Cairo. "People didn't file complaints. It was always underreported."

Mr. Mubarak's wife, Suzanne, who portrayed herself as a champion of women's rights, pretended the problem hardly existed. As reports of harassment grew in 2008, she said, "Egyptian men always respect Egyptian women."

Egypt's new president, Mohamed Morsi, has presided over two holidays, and many activists say there is no sign that the government is paying closer attention to the problem.

But the work by the citizens groups may be having an effect: Last week, after the Id al-Adha holiday, Mr. Morsi's spokesman announced that the government had received more than 1,000 reports of harassment, and said that the president had directed the Interior Ministry to investigate them.

"Egypt's revolution cannot tolerate these abuses," the spokesman quoted Mr. Morsi as saying.

Azza Soliman, the director of the Center for Egyptian Women's Legal Assistance, dismissed the president's words as "weak."

During the holiday, she said, one of her sons was beaten on the subway after he tried to stop a man who was groping two foreign women. The police tried to stop him from filing a complaint.

“The whole world is talking about harassment in our country,” Ms. Soliman said. “The Interior Ministry takes no action.”

For years, anti-harassment activists have worked to highlight the problems in Egypt, but the uprising seemed to give the effort more energy and urgency.

Over the holiday, the groups staked out different parts of Cairo’s downtown.

One avoided any violence, forming human chains between women and their tormentors.

The other group forcefully confronted men and boys it suspected of harassment, smacking around suspects before hauling them off to a police station.

One of that group’s founders, Sherine Badr el-Din, 30, started her work as an anti-harassment activist by asking men to get off the women-only cars on the Cairo subway, regarded as a safe zone. When they refused, she videotaped them and posted their pictures on the Internet, she said.

Last summer, one of the men attacked her. “I wanted to file a case, but the police officer refused, claiming they were only there to monitor the train schedules.” She said the group escalated its tactics out of frustration, after the police started releasing suspects the group had caught.

“Violence is not our method,” she said. “But the pressure was tremendous.”

Last week, as the group gathered near Tahrir Square, one member had what looked like a stun gun, and another shook a can of spray paint.

Most participants were men, and some wore fluorescent green vests, with the words “combating harassment” written on the back.

They mused on the reasons for the frequency of the attacks on their sisters, mothers and friends, finding no sure answer in the blame often laid on poverty or religion, society’s indifference or the state’s contagious chauvinism.

They seemed more certain of the solution, as they plunged into the holiday crowds over several evenings.

Some bystanders were supportive. But when violence broke out, there was less support. “I will tell the government on you,” one man screamed as the activists wrestled with a suspect.

Sometimes the patrol acted after seeing a woman being groped. At other times, it justified its attacks as preventive.

Two boys on a scooter hardly knew what hit them.

One minute, they were driving along the Nile Corniche, saying something — maybe lewd, maybe not — to two girls strolling on the sidewalk.

The next, they were being hauled off the scooter by the men in green vests. The melee that broke out afterward stopped traffic on one of downtown's busiest roadways, before the police chased the patrol members off.

Afterward, Muhaab Selim, 23, a member of the group, could barely contain his anger. "Why do I have to wait until he touches them?" he yelled. "Why do people defend the harassers?"

By the end of the holidays, one of the group's leaders, Muhammad Taimoor, 22, had been arrested after fighting with a suspect on the subway. Even so, he called the weekend a success.

"We caught some harassers, sprayed them with paint and published their pictures everywhere," Mr. Taimoor said.

"The Interior Ministry wasn't cooperating with us at all. They weren't protecting women in the streets."

While Mr. Taimoor and his colleagues were on patrol, another group, called Imprint, was in a nearby square. Nihal Saad Zaghoul, 27, an activist with the group, said its members stopped more than 30 men who were trying to harass women.

When the group believes someone is being harassed, some members form a wall between the attacker and the victim, while others take the woman to safety. "We don't push back, and we don't fight," Ms. Zaghoul said. They ask police officers to be present, in case the woman wants to file a report.

Ms. Zaghoul, who became active after she and a friend were assaulted, was less critical of the patrol officers than some of the other activists.

"They are understaffed, and at the same time, they are part of a society that always blames women, although they know it's wrong." She worried that the other group's methods would alienate the public.

But she added, "No one understands their frustration better than me."

GOT A COMMENT?

Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send to contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request identification published.

Vietnam GI: Reprints Available

Vietnam GI

January, 1969

Free to Servicemen

"... he threw his rifle at his Commanding Officer.."



Below is an interview with a Marine who didn't like the war and figured out why. This guy is a Platoon SGT with five years in the Green Machine, and over a year in Nam, mostly in long range recon with Charlie Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion. VGI spoke to him while he was on leave awaiting his second Nam tour. Since he doesn't ETS until 1972 we've left out his name.

VGI: How did you feel about the war when you went over there. Did your feelings change?

A: When I first went over there, I thought it would be a great thing in pay, and a great new experience of being in war. I really thought it was going to be something different. But then I got put on some of these patrols and I got to see the people and got to talk to the people. This was the big thing that finally changed me. I finally saw that it wasn't worth while, and that they actually don't want our help because it actually isn't help.

VGI: Did you have any contacts with the Vietnamese, with the people?

A: There was a place called Ben Son and for a while I was stationed down at the bridge there. This is where I lived, ate, slept, drank, everything. There were houses right next to my bunker, we had an address for ours and we gave everybody else addresses. We explained to the people what the addresses were and they got all shook up about the whole thing, wow, they got addresses now.

VGI: What was it like, living there?

A: We lived with them, we shared our food with them. They used to really go for the little treats in the c-ration packs, the gum and the c-ration cigarettes and everything, and in turn they'd bring back bananas. There was this one girl, her name was—I can't think of her name now—I had her picture but I lost it. This one girl, she really stands out in my mind because she used to come over and bring us beer every day and in turn, all she expected from us was the empty boxes of c-ration, that's all she wanted, the empty boxes. But then we started putting little things in the empty boxes and told her we wanted her to have them.

VGI: What would she want with the empty boxes?

A: I don't know, the Vietnamese people, they could take an empty can of nothing and make something out of it. She made me a scapulet which she had made out of a c-ration tin. She had pounded it out with a nail and a hammer. It had a little buddha on it and I wore it all the time. I actually got to feel naked after I lost it.

But yet, later on, during the Tet holidays, the Viet Cong came in and burned out half of the village, and the marines naturally went in pursuit. In order to stop them, the VC took this girl and they cut off her breasts. She was brought up to the hospital and later she died.

VGI: Did the brass give you any static about living with the Vietnamese?

A: The incident when I almost got into trouble was, there was a convoy of about 12 to 14 trucks. I think it was. We had a whole bunch of plywood on it and we took this plywood over to a village chief in Ben Son. He was one of

the elders. We dropped off something like 14 sheets of plywood. Naturally, when we got back, there was one truckload of plywood missing, and they asked where it was. They later found out that I had given it to this village chief, not for my own good relations with him, but because there was times when we didn't get resupplied at our observation point, and they brought us food. So we gave them something else in return.

interview

VGI: What are some of the things you saw and did that led you into deciding in the middle of Nam not to fight anymore?

A: Well, I saw times when COL Bull Fisher, when he would tell his men to dismantle their personnel-carrying flame-throwers, take them out on a company sleep and put them back together once they got out. He went into a village and told them, "Are there any Viet Cong here?" The village chief naturally said "No" because he knew that if he said yes, he didn't know what'd happen to him. Then COL Fisher said, "Well, if there is any Viet Cong in this village, we'll show you what's going to happen." He sent one of his flame men up to the house, he didn't check to see if there was anybody in it or not. Later we found out there was a woman in there who was real sick, she couldn't move or anything. She was burned to death. It was terrible. And seeing guys being carried in in ponchos. A full-grown man weighed about two pounds after he was brought in as a sack of raw flesh or something like that.

VGI: Did you see any other incidents like this?

A: There was this little village just out of Ben Son where we bought our rice and got our ice. It's not poetry, it's really true. It was just this small village, maybe 16 or 17 houses. It was a "gray to white" village, off and on there'd be Viet Cong visiting the area. No hostilities at all, they'd just go in there to be resupplied. Yet one day, they found out that VC were coming into that village and they called "Puff". "Puff" came over and leveled the whole village down. I think maybe three people lived out of the whole thing. One was a little baby about two years old whose mother and father was gone.

One of the guys sort of adopted this kid, this little two year old. He took this kid real close. When we went on R and R we brought him back toys and trucks and things like that. It was really something, because they don't get too many trucks over there. We'd round up a few dump trucks and stuff like that from Hong Kong. They were really surprised to see the new toys. I mean, the toys they play with, old c-ration cans and stuff like that are their toys. They're a fascinating people. If you just have an opportunity to see them, to get to know them. They're really great.

VGI: How do you think they feel about us?

A: This one incident—I know of the letter one north Vietnamese who was down south wrote to his brother up north who was intent on coming down

WHEN HAWKS RETIRE

All of us who've had our "free" trips to Sunny Nam and Scenic Korea shouldn't feel guilty about accepting such "gifts" from the Government. Lots of hawk politicians are taking Government trips too. Of course, their trips are a little bit different.

Take Senator Edward V. Long (D-Mo.), the Senate Judiciary Committee bigshot whose retirement in January was speeded up by graft scandals. The good Senator decided that as a last sacrifice to his country he would give himself TDY to Europe. The reason was to "get firsthand information on foreign aid and military assistance programs." Doubtless, that's why he took his wife along.

Of special interest was his visit to

Switzerland, which neither gets US aid nor wants any. It doesn't really make any difference, since as soon as Senator Long returned from his "fact-finding mission" he retired from the Senate, thus depriving our Congress of all his "facts" (mostly on nightclubs and ritzy hotels).

Going to and from Europe Long travelled on Senate funds, but while on TDY there, he economized by using US military aircraft, cars and chauffeurs to get around. The Pentagon ordered the red carpet rolled out around the world. Nothing too good for a retiring hawk politician. As the saying goes, in America we're all equal... only some are more equal than others!

As we go to press we learn that the government has finally agreed on the shape of the table and seating arrangements for the Paris talks. Now that everyone is seated and comfortable, maybe we can expect further "breakthroughs."

The grim fact is that while the government honchos are jiving in Paris, thousands of our buddies are still dying in Nam. In fact, since they began talking last May 7,000 GIs have been killed in action.

Talks or no talks, the only solution is to get the hell out of Nam, immediately. Stop talking and start shipping us home.

The next issue of VGI will discuss the Paris talks in greater detail. By that

Continued on page 8

Edited by Vietnam Veteran Jeff Sharlet from 1968 until his death, this newspaper rocked the world, attracting attention even from Time Magazine, and extremely hostile attention from the chain of command.

The pages and pages of letters in the paper from troops in Vietnam condemning the war are lost to history, but you can find them here.

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



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