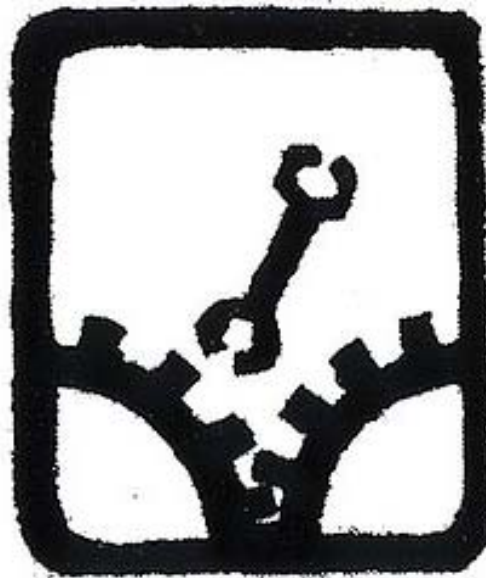


Military Resistance: thomasfbarton@earthlink.net 12.30.12 Print it out: color best. Pass it on.

Military Resistance 10L20



Good Guys & Bad Guys

From: Dennis Serdel
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: December 29, 2012
Subject: Good Guys & Bad Guys

Written by Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th
Brigade; United Auto Workers GM Retiree

Good Guys & Bad Guys

**The NRA Spokesman said,
first of all you need an IED
at every Entrance.**

**If I were you I would hire a
member of the Taliban,
they are experts at this.**

**Wait a minute, I just
remembered, that the Taliban
are the Bad Guys, so forget
about that idea.**

**However, we do have Soldiers
that know how to defuse
an IED, so they can probably
make one too, that's a better
idea, because our Soldiers
are the Good Guys, sometimes
it hard to figure out who
the Good & Bad Guys are.
The Principal & Teachers
were beginning to squirm
in their seats.**

**Ok, this is easy, the NRA
Spokesman started again,
Teachers, listen up, you
will have to wait until all of
your class is in the room,
& then take your Claymore
Mine to the door & make
sure you have it aimed
the right way, it's like a moon
so make sure your moon isn't
aimed at the room, you may
want to write it on your chalk
board, "Make sure your Moon
isn't aimed at the Room."**

**The Teachers were looking
like this so-called man
who was a puny punk
was taking their dignity away.
Then you take your wires
and screw them onto
the claymore, just two wires,
then uncoil the wires to
your desk, & screw them**

onto the trigger mechanism,
so when the Bad Guy comes,
you just click the trigger
& the Bad Guy is gone.
One of the Teachers asks,
what if it was a Policeman
banging & pounding
on the door ?
No No No the NRA chump said,
remember the Policemen
are the Good Guys, OK
you've probably seen them
on TV, pepper spraying
Protestors & beating on their
heads until they are bloody
broken noses broken hands
because the Protesters
are the Bad Guys
and they deserve it.
Another Teacher asks,
that it looked like the Cops
were beating young women
and older children along
with the men.
Another Teacher said, Look,
I teach History & the People
have the right to a Peaceful
Assembly, so it is the Protesters
who are the Good Guys &
the Police are the Bad Guys,
unless you're saying we
live in a Police State.
Finally the Coach stood up
& asks, aren't you NRA Goons
in favor of every
US Gun Manufacturer
& Arms Industry supplying
every Dictator in the world
as long as they are on our side
who's the Good Guys
and Bad Guys now.

Shock Poetry by Dennis Serdel for Military Resistance

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

“US Foreign Fighters In Afghanistan Under Commander-In-Chief Obama Suffered 15 Casualties Between Dec 19-28”

Dec 29, 2012 <http://www.michaelmunk.com/> [Excerpts]

US foreign fighters in Afghanistan under Commander-in-Chief Obama suffered 15 casualties between Dec 19-28, as the official casualty total for the Iraq and AfPak wars rose to 115,989.

The total includes 79,461 casualties since the US invaded Iraq in March, 2003 (Operations “Iraqi Freedom” and “New Dawn”), and 36,528 since the US invaded Afghanistan in November, 2001 (Operation “Enduring Freedom”)

AFGHANISTAN THEATER: US foreign fighters suffered 14 combat casualties between Dec 19-28 raising the total to 36,528. This includes 19,881 (3 pending) dead and wounded from what the Pentagon classifies as “hostile” causes and 16,647 dead or medically evacuated (as of May 7!) from what it calls “non-hostile” causes.

US media divert attention from the actual cost in American life and limb by reporting regularly only the total killed (6,652: 4,488 in Iraq, 2,164 in Afghanistan) but rarely mentioning those wounded in action (50,387: 32,220 in Iraq; 18,167 in Afghanistan).

They ignore the 58,950 (42,751 in Iraq; 16,199 in AfPak (as of May 7!) military casualties injured and ill seriously enough to be medevac’d out of theater, even though the 6,652 total dead include 1,408 (961 in Iraq, 447 in Afghanistan) who died from those same “non hostile” causes, including 314 suicides (as of May 7) and at least 18 in Iraq from faulty KBR electrical work.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

**“A Local Police Commander
Shot To Death, In Their Beds,**

Five Men Under His Command And Joined The Taliban” A Teenager “Being Kept For Sexual Purposes By An Afghan Border Police Commander Drugged The Commander” And 10 Policemen: “He Shot Them All” “Now We Don’t Trust Anyone, Even Those Who Spent Years In The Post”

12/27/2012 By Rod Nordland, New York Times & 28 December, 2012 PakTribune.
[Excerpts

KABUL, Afghanistan -- A wave of attacks has left at least 17 Afghan policemen dead in the past 10 days -- all slain in their sleep at the hands of those close to them.

In the very early hours of Thursday morning, Dec. 27, an Afghan policeman unlocked the door of the post where he was stationed in Oruzgan province and let in his friends from the Taliban, who with knives and guns helped him kill four and wound eight of his sleeping colleagues.

On Sunday, a local police commander in the remote northern province of Jawzjan shot to death, in their beds, five of the men under his command and fled to join the Taliban.

And Dec. 18, a teenager apparently being kept for sexual purposes by an Afghan Border Police commander in southern Kandahar province drugged the commander and the other 10 policemen at the post to put them to sleep, and then he shot them all; eight died, and three survived with wounds.

“I tell my cook not to allow any police officer in the kitchen,” said Taaj Mohammad, a commander of a border police check post near the one in Kandahar attacked Dec. 18. “This kind of incident really creates mistrust among comrades, which is not good. Now we don’t trust anyone, even those who spent years in the post.”

The most recent of the green-on-green betrayals took place about 3 a.m. Thursday in the town of Tarin Kowt, the capital of Oruzgan province in southern Afghanistan.

According to Fareed Ayal, a spokesman for the provincial police chief, a police officer named Hayat Khan, who had been in regular touch with the Taliban for religious guidance, waited until the other officers at his check post fell asleep, then called Taliban fighters by cellphone and let them in.

First the attackers stabbed the one officer who was on watch, but he raised the alarm in time to awaken some of the police officers.

In the ensuing firefight, four policemen were killed and eight were wounded while Khan and his Taliban confederates escaped, according to Ayal's account.

Taliban also seized seven Ak-47 rifles of police.

In the attack Sunday, in northern Jawzjan province, the victims all were part of an Afghan Local Police unit whose commander had previous connections with the Taliban. Such local police units, strongly supported as part of U.S. policy in Afghanistan, undergo a period of training as well as guarantees from community leaders and elders that the units have no further insurgent ties.

Gen. Abdul Aziz Ghairat of the Jawzjan Provincial Police said that the commander who killed the men in their sleep, Dur Mohammad, had fled but that his relatives and a community elder who vouched for him had been detained and were being interrogated.

In some green-on-green cases, personal grievances might drive the attackers to throw in their lot with the Taliban.

That is apparently what happened in the case of Noor Agha, a young man who police say killed eight border security police in their check post on the border near Spinbaldak, the major crossing point between Kandahar and Pakistan, on Dec. 18.

Police said Agha, whose age was unclear but whom police sources described as "still beardless," had been the involuntary companion of the border police commander at that check post, Agha Amire, for several years.

Other police commanders who knew both said there was clearly an "improper relationship" between the two.

The wave of killings over the past year has policemen all over Afghanistan watching what they eat and sleeping uneasily.

"We make sure that nobody gets the chance to poison the food," said Sharif Agha, 26, a police sergeant who commands a small outpost in Khost city, in eastern Afghanistan. The 10 officers there take turns helping the cook and make sure at least two people are in the kitchen at all times.

At night, a third guard is assigned to watch the two guards normally on duty.

"I don't know about the rest of the guys," he said, "but I have not slept properly over the past few months."

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

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

**I say that when troops cannot be counted on to follow orders because they see the futility and immorality of them THAT is the real key to ending a war.
-- Al Jaccoma, Veterans For Peace**

Airman Standing Guard At Florida Middle School In Stable Condition After Bullying, Assault



22 December 2012 by Mike, The Duffle Blog

FT WALTON BEACH, FL – Active-duty Airman 1st Class David H Teague was admitted to White-Wilson Medical Center today after alleged bullying and assault by four 8th-grade students.

Inspired by the heroics of Marine Sgt. Craig Pusley, who he said “looked really badass standing by that flag pole,” Teague decided to take matters into his own hands and sit down in a borrowed office chair in front of his alma mater, Max Bruner Junior Middle School.

However, less than an hour after the first bell sounded, Teague’s moment of glory turned into a nightmare.

“I took a break after 50 minutes and went to the soda machine,” Teague explained. “But when I was counting out change to buy my Code Red (Mountain Dew) someone approached me from behind and slapped my hand from below, and change flew everywhere.”

When Teague turned around to see who had so rudely slapped him, he was shocked to see a group of four menacing 8th-grade students sneering at him.

“I explained to this kid that it is not polite to knock things out of people’s hands, and that’s when he slapped me across the face.”

Teague, thinking back to his six weeks of basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, sprang into action.

“I flattened out my right hand into sort of a knife, then I cocked my arm back and slammed it into my back pocket and grasped my wallet very firmly. Then I pulled the wallet straight up, out of the pocket. Then I moved my upper arm down and parallel to my body with my forearm at a right angle. You do it like that so you can meet your support hand in front of your chest quickly, you see,” said Teague, demonstrating the movement for Duffel Blog reporters.

“Once I had the wallet in both hands, I removed my blue stress card, held it so that the assailant could read it and extended it out. I told him that he must cease all stress inducing activity until such time as I feel that I can continue.”

Unfortunately for Teague, the 13 and 14-year old students responded with violence.

“They just laughed at me,” he later explained. “The one in front, he started it. He punched my name tag real hard so the pins pushed through the frogs and stabbed me in the chest. Then his friend pulled the back of my underwear up over my head.”

Teague is currently being treated for minor cuts to his face and excessive sewage water consumption, after being held upside down over a toilet in the boy’s bathroom.

Following the incident, the school principal has launched an investigation and stated that the school has a zero tolerance policy for bullying and violence.

The alleged perpetrators are currently at large in 4th period.

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Marijuana As An ‘Exit Drug’ A Surprising Three Quarters Of Medical Cannabis Consumers Say They Subbed In Pot For More Harmful Substances:

Some Are Taking It As A Substitute For Prescription Drugs And Alcohol



Shutterstock.com

A separate 2009 study published in the American Journal on Addictions reported that moderate cannabis use improved retention in naltrexone treatment among opiate-dependent subjects in a New York state inpatient detoxification program.

December 26, 2012 By Paul Armentano, AlterNet

Paul Armentano is the deputy director of NORML (National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws), and is the co-author of *Marijuana Is Safer: So Why Are We Driving People to Drink* (2009, Chelsea Green).

Three quarters of medical cannabis consumers report using it as a substitute for prescription drugs, alcohol, or some other illicit substance, according to survey data published in the journal *Addiction Research and Theory*.

An international team of investigators from Canada and the United States assessed the subjective impact of marijuana on the use of licit and illicit substances via self-report in a cohort of 404 medical cannabis patients recruited from four dispensaries in British Columbia, Canada.

Researchers reported that subjects frequently substituted cannabis for other substances, including conventional pharmaceuticals.

Authors reported:

“Over 41 percent state that they use cannabis as a substitute for alcohol (n=158), 36.1 percent use cannabis as a substitute for illicit substances (n=137), and 67.8 percent use cannabis as a substitute for prescription drugs (n=259).

“The three main reasons cited for cannabis-related substitution are ‘less withdrawal’ (67.7 percent), ‘fewer side-effects’ (60.4 percent), and ‘better symptom management’ suggesting that many patients may have already identified cannabis as an effective and potentially safer adjunct or alternative to their prescription drug regimen.”

Overall, 75.5 percent (n=305) of respondents said that they substitute cannabis for at least one other substance.

Men were more likely than women to report substituting cannabis for alcohol or illicit drugs.

Authors concluded: “While some studies have found that a small percentage of the general population that uses cannabis may develop a dependence on this substance, a growing body of research on cannabis-related substitution suggests that for many patients cannabis is not only an effective medicine, but also a potential exit drug to problematic substance use.

“Given the credible biological, social and psychological mechanisms behind these results, and the associated potential to decrease personal suffering and the personal and social costs associated with addiction, further research appears to be justified on both economic and ethical grounds. Clinical trials with those who have had poor outcomes with conventional psychological or pharmacological addiction therapies could be a good starting point to further our understanding of cannabis-based substitution effect.”

Previous studies have similarly demonstrated cannabis’ potential efficacy as an exit drug.

A 2010 study published in the Harm Reduction Journal reported that cannabis-using adults enrolled in substance abuse treatment programs fared equally or better than nonusers in various outcome categories, including treatment completion.

A 2009 study reported that 40 percent of subjects attending a California medical cannabis dispensary reported using marijuana as a substitute for alcohol, and 26 percent used it to replace their former use of more potent illegal drugs.

A separate 2009 study published in the American Journal on Addictions reported that moderate cannabis use improved retention in naltrexone treatment among opiate-dependent subjects in a New York state inpatient detoxification program.

Full text of the study, “Cannabis as a substitute for alcohol and other drugs: A dispensary-based survey of substitution effect in Canadian medical cannabis patients,” appears online in Addiction Research and Theory. NORML Advisory Board Member Mitch Earleywine is a co-author of this study.

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ANNIVERSARIES

December 30, 1936: Class War At GM



Workers sit down at GM



Supporters pass in food to sitdown strikers

Peace History Dec 26 - Jan 1 By Carl Bunin

Members of the United Automobile Workers sat down at a General Motors plant in Flint, Michigan. GM, the world's largest corporation at the time, had refused to recognize or negotiate with the union, despite passage of the National Labor Relations Act (Wagner Act) in 1935 which promised unions the right to organize.

The local's membership adopted a tactic developed by French workers. Instead of picketing outside a factory only to be ignored or forcibly cleared away, the sit-down strike enabled workers to halt production and seize the plant "from the inside."

The strike began just days after the end of a successful sit-down at Ford supplier Kelsey-Hayes.

Happy Anniversary

December 31, 1970

The Day The Liars Were Repudiated

Peace History Dec 31 - Jan 6 By Carl Bunin

The U.S. Congress repealed the Gulf of Tonkin resolution, which in 1964 authorized a dramatic increase in U.S. military involvement in Vietnam in response to an attack on U.S. forces that was later revealed to be fictitious.

How The Tonkin Gulf Lie Launched Vietnam War

July 27, 1994 By Jeff Cohen and Norman Solomon, Media Beat

Thirty years ago, it all seemed very clear. “American Planes Hit North Vietnam After Second Attack on Our Destroyers; Move Taken to Halt New Aggression”, announced a Washington Post headline on Aug. 5, 1964.

That same day, the front page of the New York Times reported: “President Johnson has ordered retaliatory action against gunboats and ‘certain supporting facilities in North Vietnam’ after renewed attacks against American destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin.” But there was no “second attack” by North Vietnam -- no “renewed attacks against American destroyers.”

By reporting official claims as absolute truths, American journalism opened the floodgates for the bloody Vietnam War. A pattern took hold: continuous government lies passed on by pliant mass media...leading to over 50,000 American deaths and millions of Vietnamese casualties.

The official story was that North Vietnamese torpedo boats launched an “unprovoked attack” against a U.S. destroyer on “routine patrol” in the Tonkin Gulf on Aug. 2 -- and that North Vietnamese PT boats followed up with a “deliberate attack” on a pair of U.S. ships two days later.

The truth was very different.

Rather than being on a routine patrol Aug. 2, the U.S. destroyer Maddox was actually engaged in aggressive intelligence-gathering maneuvers -- in sync with coordinated attacks on North Vietnam by the South Vietnamese navy and the Laotian air force. “The day before, two attacks on North Vietnam...had taken place,” writes scholar Daniel C. Hallin. Those assaults were “part of a campaign of increasing military pressure on the North that the United States had been pursuing since early 1964.”

On the night of Aug. 4, the Pentagon proclaimed that a second attack by North Vietnamese PT boats had occurred earlier that day in the Tonkin Gulf -- a report cited by President Johnson as he went on national TV that evening to announce a momentous escalation in the war: air strikes against North Vietnam.

But Johnson ordered U.S. bombers to “retaliate” for a North Vietnamese torpedo attack that never happened.

Prior to the U.S. air strikes, top officials in Washington had reason to doubt that any Aug. 4 attack by North Vietnam had occurred. Cables from the U.S. task force commander in the Tonkin Gulf, Captain John J. Herrick, referred to “freak weather effects,” “almost total darkness” and an “overeager sonarman” who “was hearing ship’s own propeller beat.”

One of the Navy pilots flying overhead that night was squadron commander James Stockdale, who gained fame later as a POW and then Ross Perot’s vice presidential candidate. “I had the best seat in the house to watch that event,” recalled Stockdale a few years ago, “and our destroyers were just shooting at phantom targets -- there were no PT boats there.... There was nothing there but black water and American fire power.”

In 1965, Lyndon Johnson commented: “For all I know, our Navy was shooting at whales out there.” But Johnson’s deceitful speech of Aug. 4, 1964, won accolades from editorial writers. The president, proclaimed the New York Times, “went to the American people last night with the somber facts.” The Los Angeles Times urged Americans to “face the fact that the Communists, by their attack on American vessels in international waters, have themselves escalated the hostilities.”

An exhaustive new book, *The War Within: America’s Battle Over Vietnam*, begins with a dramatic account of the Tonkin Gulf incidents. In an interview, author Tom Wells told us that American media “described the air strikes that Johnson launched in response as merely ‘tit for tat’ -- when in reality they reflected plans the administration had already drawn up for gradually increasing its overt military pressure against the North.”

Daniel Hallin’s classic book *The ‘Uncensored War’* observes that journalists had “a great deal of information available which contradicted the official account; it simply wasn’t used. The day before the first incident, Hanoi had protested the attacks on its territory by Laotian aircraft and South Vietnamese gunboats.”

What’s more, “It was generally known...that ‘covert’ operations against North Vietnam, carried out by South Vietnamese forces with U.S. support and direction, had been going on for some time.”

In the absence of independent journalism, the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution -- the closest thing there ever was to a declaration of war against North Vietnam -- sailed through Congress on Aug. 7. (Two courageous senators, Wayne Morse of Oregon and Ernest Gruening of Alaska, provided the only “no” votes.) The resolution authorized the president “to take all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against the forces of the United States and to prevent further aggression.”

The rest is tragic history.

Happy Anniversary December 31, 1948; Honor To The 60,000

Peace History December 25-31 By Carl Bunin

Sixty thousand Puerto Rican men refused to register for the draft. Eight were prosecuted.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Mass Anti-Government Protests Break Out In Iraq: “The People Want To Bring Down The Regime” Near Falluja “Around 60,000 People Keep Up An Almost Week-Old Blockade Of The Main Highway”

28.12.2012 AFP & Reuters

Tens of thousands of protesters have taken to the streets across Iraq in a show of opposition against Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki.

Demonstrators upheld a blockade of the main road to Syria and Jordan for a sixth day.

Protesters from Iraq’s Sunni Muslim minority poured onto the streets after Friday’s prayers in the latest of a series of demonstrations against the premier.

Near the central city of Falluja around 60,000 people keep up an almost week-old blockade of the main highway.

Demonstrators set fire to the Iranian flag, shouting “out, out Iran! Baghdad stays free” and “Maliki you coward, don’t take your advice from Iran.”

Demonstrations were also held in the northern city of Mosul and in Samarra, where protesters chanted “the people want to bring down the regime.”

Many Sunni’s have called for the prime minister to step down, accusing him of refusing to share power and favoring Iraq’s Sh’iite neighbor Iran.

Speaking on Friday the al-Maliki condemned the protest action. “It is not acceptable to express something by blocking roads, inciting sedition and sectarianism, killing, or blowing the trumpet of war and dividing Iraq,” he said at a conference broadcast on state television.

Protests erupted on Sunday after troops loyal to the prime minister detained at least nine bodyguards of Iraq’s Sunni finance minister on terrorism charges. In daily protests activists have called for an end to the marginalization of Sunnis, the abolition of anti-terrorism laws they say are used to target them, and the release of the bodyguards.

Their arrest came almost exactly a year after Sunni Arab Vice President Tareq al-Hashemi’s guards were also arrested on terrorism charges. An arrest warrant was later issued for Hashem who has since been handed multiple death sentences in absentia on charges including murder. His guards have also been given death sentences.

**“Their Bodies Were Burning --
None Of Us Were Al-Qaeda”**

**“All The Victims Were Civilians
Who Lived In A Village Near
Radda, In Central Yemen”**

**“The Deaths Have Bolstered The
Popularity Of Al-Qaeda In The
Arabian Peninsula”**

**“In Sabool And Radda, Youths Have
Vowed To Join Al-Qaeda To Fight The
United States”**

December 24 By Sudarsan Raghavan, The Washington Post Company [Excerpts]. Greg Miller in Washington and Ali Almujaheed in Sanaa, Yemen, contributed to this report.

Dhamar, Yemen — A rickety Toyota truck packed with 14 people rumbled down a desert road from the town of Radda, which al-Qaeda militants once controlled.

Suddenly a missile hurtled from the sky and flipped the vehicle over.

Chaos. Flames. Corpses. Then, a second missile struck.

Within seconds, 11 of the passengers were dead, including a woman and her 7-year-old daughter. A 12-year-old boy also perished that day, and another man later died from his wounds.

The Yemeni government initially said that those killed were al-Qaeda militants and that its Soviet-era jets had carried out the Sept. 2 attack.

But tribal leaders and Yemeni officials would later say that it was an American assault and that all the victims were civilians who lived in a village near Radda, in central Yemen.

U.S. officials last week acknowledged for the first time that it was an American strike.

“Their bodies were burning,” recalled Sultan Ahmed Mohammed, 27, who was riding on the hood of the truck and flew headfirst into a sandy expanse. “How could this happen? None of us were al-Qaeda.”

More than three months later, the incident offers a window into the Yemeni government’s efforts to conceal Washington’s mistakes and the unintended consequences of civilian deaths in American air assaults.

In this case, the deaths have bolstered the popularity of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, the terrorist network’s Yemen affiliate, which has tried to stage attacks on U.S. soil several times.

Furious tribesmen tried to take the bodies to the gates of the presidential residence, forcing the government into the rare position of withdrawing its assertion that militants had been killed.

The apparent target, Yemeni officials and tribal leaders said, was a senior regional al-Qaeda leader, Abdelrauf al-Dahab, who was thought to be in a car traveling on the same road.

U.S. airstrikes have killed numerous civilians in Afghanistan, Pakistan and other parts of the world, and those governments have spoken against the attacks.

But in Yemen, the weak government has often tried to hide civilian casualties from the public, fearing repercussions in a nation where hostility toward U.S. policies is

widespread. It continues to insist in local media reports that its own aging jets attacked the truck.

Meanwhile, the Obama administration has kept silent publicly, neither confirming nor denying any involvement, a standard practice with most U.S. airstrikes in its clandestine counterterrorism fight in this strategic Middle Eastern country.

In response to questions, U.S. officials in Washington, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter, said it was a Defense Department aircraft, either a drone or a fixed-wing warplane, that fired on the truck.

Since the attack, militants in the tribal areas surrounding Radda have gained more recruits and supporters in their war against the Yemeni government and its key backer, the United States.

The two survivors and relatives of six victims, interviewed separately and speaking to a Western journalist about the incident for the first time, expressed willingness to support or even fight alongside AQAP, as the al-Qaeda group is known.

“Our entire village is angry at the government and the Americans,” Mohammed said. “If the Americans are responsible, I would have no choice but to sympathize with al-Qaeda because al-Qaeda is fighting America.”

Public outrage is also growing as calls for accountability, transparency and compensation go unanswered amid allegations by human rights activists and lawmakers that the government is trying to cover up the attack to protect its relationship with Washington.

Even senior Yemeni officials said they fear that the backlash could undermine their authority.

“If we are ignored and neglected, I would try to take my revenge. I would even hijack an army pickup, drive it back to my village and hold the soldiers in it hostages,” said Nasser Mabkhoot Mohammed al-Sabooly, the truck’s driver, 45, who suffered burns and bruises.

“I would fight along al-Qaeda’s side against whoever was behind this attack.”

It is a lethal campaign, mostly fueled by unmanned drones, but it also includes fixed-wing aircraft and cruise missiles fired from the sea.

This year, there have been at least 38 U.S. airstrikes in Yemen, according to the Long War Journal, a nonprofit Web site that tracks American drone attacks. That is significantly more than in any year since 2009, when President Obama is thought to have ordered the first drone strike.

The Radda attack was one of the deadliest since a U.S. cruise missile strike in December 2009 killed dozens of civilians, including women and children, in the mountainous region of al-Majala in southern Yemen.

After that attack, many tribesmen in that area became radicalized and joined AQAP.

“The people are against the indiscriminate use of the drones,” said Yemeni Foreign Minister Abubaker al-Qirbi. “They want better management of drones. And, more important, they want to have some transparency as far as what’s going on — from everybody.”

The concern over civilian casualties has grown louder since the spring, when the White House broadened its definition of militants who can be targeted in Yemen to include those who may not be well-known.

“All They Have Accomplished Is Destruction And Fear Among The People”

In recent months, villagers in Sabool, about 10 miles from Radda, said they have heard U.S. drones fly over the area as many as three or four times a day. Some described them as “little white planes.”

“It burns my blood every time I see or hear the airplanes,” said Ali Ali Ahmed Mukhbil, 40, a farmer. “All they have accomplished is destruction and fear among the people.”

On that September morning, his brother Masood stepped into the Toyota truck in Sabool. It was filled with villagers heading to Radda to sell khat, a leafy narcotic chewed by most Yemeni males. After they sold their produce, they headed back in the afternoon.

Nasser Ahmed Abdurabu Rubaih, a 26-year-old khat farmer, was working in the valley when he heard the explosions. He ran to the site and, like others, threw sand into the burning vehicle to douse the flames.

As he sifted through the charred bodies on the road, he recognized his brother, Abdullah, from his clothes.

“I lost my mind,” Rubaih recalled.

Mukhbil’s brother Masood also was dead.

Some witnesses said that they saw three planes in the sky, two black and one white, and that the black ones were Yemeni jets. But both missiles struck the moving vehicle directly, and the terrain surrounding the truck was not scorched — hallmarks of a precision strike from a sophisticated American aircraft.

“If you say it wasn’t a U.S. drone, nobody will believe you,” said Abdel-Karim al-Iryani, a former Yemeni prime minister who is a senior adviser to Hadi. “A Yemeni pilot to be able to hit a specific vehicle that’s moving? Impossible.”

The Yemeni government publicly apologized for the attack and sent 101 guns to tribal leaders in the area as a symbolic gesture, which in Yemeni culture is an admission of guilt. But a government inquiry into the strike appears to be stalled, human rights activists and lawmakers said.

“The Day After The Attack, Tribesmen Affiliated With Al-Qaeda Blocked The Roads Around Radda And Stormed Government Buildings”

For the past three months, lawmakers have unsuccessfully demanded that senior government officials reveal who was responsible for the attack.

“The government is trying to kill the case,” said Abdul Rahman Berman, the executive director of the National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms, or HOOD, a local human rights group. “The government wants to protect its relations with the U.S.”

The day after the attack, tribesmen affiliated with al-Qaeda blocked the roads around Radda and stormed government buildings.

They set up a large tent and held a gathering to denounce the government and the United States. Fliers handed out around town read: “See what the government has done? That’s why we are fighting. . . . They are the agents of America and the enemy of Islam. . . . They fight whoever says ‘Allah is my God,’ according to America’s instructions.”

At the funeral, some mourners chanted “America is a killer,” said Mohammed al-Ahmadi, a human rights activist who attended.

“In Sabool And Radda, Youths Have Vowed To Join Al-Qaeda To Fight The United States”

A few days later, at a gathering, relatives of the victims urged Yemeni officials to be careful about the intelligence they provided to the Americans. “Do not rush to kill innocent people,” declared Mohammed Mukhbil al-Sabooly, a village elder, in testimony that was videotaped. “If such attacks continue, they will make us completely lose our trust in the existence of a state.”

On extremist Web sites and Facebook pages, grisly pictures of the attack’s aftermath, with bodies tossed like rag dolls on the road, have been posted, coupled with condemnations of the government and the United States. In Sabool and Radda, youths have vowed to join al-Qaeda to fight the United States.

“The drone war is failing,” Berman said. “If the Americans kill 10, al-Qaeda will recruit 100.”

AQAP sent emissaries to Sabool to offer compensation to the victims’ relatives, seeking to fill the void left by the government, which has provided no compensation to the survivors and the families of those killed.

Some relatives have joined AQAP since the attack, said Hamoud Mohamed al-Ammari, the security chief of Radda.

Others are considering.

“If there’s no compensation from the government, we will accept the compensation from al-Qaeda,” Rubaih said. “If I am sure the Americans are the ones who killed my brother, I will join al-Qaeda and fight against America.”

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.

**Former Transpiration Security Administration Agent Reveals
“That His Co-Workers Routinely
Make Fun Of Passengers’ Nude
Body Images”**

**“His Former Colleagues Would Go So
Far As To Arbitrarily Punish
Disgruntled Passengers By
Subjecting Them To Unjustified And
Pointless Luggage Searches”**

**“The Entire Thing Was, As Usual, A
Hare-Brained, Tax Payer Money-Wasting,
Disaster Of An Idea”**

25 December 2012 By Snejana Farberov, Daily Mail [Excerpts]

A former Transpiration Security Administration (TSA) agent-turned-anonymous blogger recently revealed that his co-workers routinely make fun of passengers’ nude body images while reviewing them in backrooms.

The unnamed ex-TSA officer, who writes for the blog Taking Sense Away, received a note from a reader which said: 'Tell us, please, what really happens in that private room and why the TSA does not want it seen in public or recorded.'

In response, the blogger wrote that while he has not experienced or heard of anything outright illegal or illicit going on in the private screening rooms, officers manning the image operator (IO) rooms where passengers' nude X-ray images are reviewed often behave in a highly inappropriate manner.

'I witnessed light sexual play among officers, a lot of e-cigarette vaping, and a whole lot of officers laughing and clowning in regard to some of your nude images, dear passengers,' the former agent wrote.

The blogger partially attributed this childish behavior to lack of education and training, saying that this is what happens when people 'fresh out of high school or a GED program' are put in charge of analyzing nude images of people in a hermetically sealed room.

The writer explained that according to TSA rules, no one is allowed to enter or leave the image analysts room without warning in an effort to ensure that the agents on duty never see the passengers whose nude image they had just viewed.

The blogger added, however, that he had personally witnessed some officers sneaking a peek at the people whom they had seen on the scanner.

The former airport security agent went on to argue that there should be no backrooms at all, and that the agency should have never put the full-body X-ray machines in place, calling them 'useless.'

'TSA officers should never have been viewing nude, radiation-rendered images of passengers in those private rooms, period,' the blogger wrote.

'The entire thing was, as usual, a hare-brained, tax payer money-wasting, disaster of an idea.'

The whistleblower said that is the reason why there are several federal lawsuits pending against the agency, which is 'trying to backpedal and sweep the radiation scanners under the rug from oversight committees and the public at large.'

The anonymous writer confessed that his former colleagues would go so far as to arbitrarily punish disgruntled passengers by subjecting them to unjustified and pointless luggage searches.

Al Qaeda Disbands; Says Job Of Destroying U.S. Economy Now In Congress's Hands



Photograph by Scott J. Ferrell/Congressional Quarterly/Getty.

[Thanks to David McReynolds.]

December 28, 2012 by Andy Borowitz, The Borowitz Report

WASHINGTON —The international terror group known as Al Qaeda announced its dissolution today, saying that “our mission of destroying the American economy is now in the capable hands of the U.S. Congress.”

In an official statement published on the group’s website, the current leader of Al Qaeda said that Congress’s conduct during the so-called “fiscal-cliff” showdown convinced the terrorists that they had been outdone.

“We’ve been working overtime trying to come up with ways to terrorize the American people and wreck their economy,” said the statement from Al Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri. “But even we couldn’t come up with something like this.”

Mr. al-Zawahiri said that the idea of holding the entire nation hostage with a clock ticking down to the end of the year “is completely insane and worthy of a Bond villain.”

“As terrorists, every now and then you have to step back and admire when someone else has beaten you at your own game,” he said. “This is one of those times.”

The Al Qaeda leader was fulsome in his praise for congressional leaders, saying, “We have made many scary videos in our time but none of them were as terrifying as Mitch McConnell.”

As for the future of Al Qaeda, the statement said that it would no longer be a terror network but would become “more of a social network,” offering reviews of new music, movies and video games.

In its first movie review, Al Qaeda gave the film "Zero Dark Thirty" two thumbs down.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

**“After 26 Years Without A Strike,
Labour Unrest Over Low Wages
And Appalling Living Conditions
Has Roiled Singapore”**

**The Singapore Dictatorship
“Deported 29 People And Imposed
\$2,000 Fines And Jail Terms For
Several Others For Instigating
‘Illegal’ Action”**

**“The Luxurious Lifestyle Of Its Rich And
Middle-Class Largely Depends On The
Toiling Of More Than One Million Migrant
Workers”**

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

25 Dec 2012 by Heather Tan, Al Jazeera [Excerpts]

Singapore, RoS - After 26 years without a strike, labour unrest over low wages and appalling living conditions has roiled Singapore - drawing attention to the country's often-exploited migrant worker community.

Over the past month, several groups of Chinese migrant workers staged labour strikes, protests and sit-ins. Similarly, in February, a group of 200 Bangladeshi construction workers launched a seven-hour sit-out to protest unpaid salaries and the dismal food served by their employers.

In response to a strike of 171 Chinese bus drivers in November, the Singaporean government deported 29 people and imposed \$2,000 fines and jail terms for several others for instigating “illegal” action.

Singapore’s acting minister for manpower, Tan Chuan-Jin, criticised the bus drivers’ strike, saying, “We have zero tolerance for such unlawful action because disrupted essential services not only affected the workers in the industry, but also affect the daily life of all in the community.”

R Sakthivel is a construction worker from a village in southern India. He is just one among the many who made the costly voyage to Singapore hoping for a better future.

Sakthivel has worked in Singapore for four years, building skyscrapers and high-rise luxury apartments which only society’s elite get to enjoy.

He recalls a stern warning from his boss on his first day on the job.

“I was told that foreigners must not be seen or heard, because it makes people here uncomfortable and angry,” Sakthivel said. “At the end of the day, we must remember that we are here to work, not to enjoy life or become (part of) society.”

His words highlight Singapore’s contradictions: a beacon of prosperity that marries free-trade economics with traditional Asian values, but which is also home to some of capitalism’s worst excesses.

The luxurious lifestyle of its rich and middle-class largely depends on the toiling of more than one million migrant workers.

Singapore is home to nearly 1.5 million foreigners, many of whom provide cheap, menial labour in the construction, shipyard, transportation and garbage refuse industries - positions often shunned by affluent citizens.

Chris Leggett, an adjunct professor specialising in industrial relations at Australia’s James Cook University, said while labour strikes and protests are still “a comparatively new phenomenon” in Singapore, many foreign workers likely see staging strikes as ordinary.

“Chinese workers will have experienced conflict that has characterised industrial relations in China over the past decade, so naturally they will have learned that protest often works and that it is no use relying on officials, especially trade union officials,” said Leggett.

“At the end of the day, the biggest priority here is making money,” said Lionel Toh, an undergraduate student at Nanyang Technological University who has been following the trials of the Chinese bus drivers closely. “Whether the state actually follows up on its promise not to exploit foreigners for economic gain is another thing.”

“This is very much a symptom of the kind of society Singapore has become,” said Alex Au, a local blogger and prominent internet personality who writes on various social issues in Singapore.

“Singapore has become a society in which we don’t seem to recognise that human beings have inherent rights.”

“We see ourselves as part of a natural pecking order where the rulers are at the top and the average people are just subjects of a king rather than citizens of a republic.”

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.

Anti-Dictatorship Protesters Rally In Saudi Capital, Riyadh: Protesters Took To The Streets Late On Monday “To Renew Their Call For The

Release Of Political Prisoners In The Kingdom”

Dec 25, 2012 Press TV

People have held a new anti-regime protest rally in Saudi Arabia in defiance of a regime ban on all demonstrations in the absolute monarchy.

Protesters took to the streets of the Saudi capital of Riyadh late on Monday to renew their call for the release of political prisoners in the kingdom.

Saudi media said a man set himself on fire to express discontent over social and economic injustices in the country after he was fired without a formal or legal warrant.

According to Human Rights Watch, the Saudi regime “routinely represses expression critical of the government.”

Saudi Arabia has been rocked by anti-regime protests since February 2011 with demonstrators holding numerous protests in different parts of the country, mainly in the oil-rich Eastern Province.

The demos come in the face of warnings against such public gatherings and widespread arrest of political activists as part of Riyadh’s clampdown on anti-regime protests.

Saudi protesters initially demanded the release of all political prisoners, social justice, and an end to systematic discrimination in the Arab Kingdom.

However, the demonstrations soon turned into protests against the repressive Al Saud regime, especially since November 2011, when security forces killed five protesters and injured many others in the Eastern province.

Saudi Regime Forces Shoot Dead A Protester In Qatif Calling On The Regime To Stop Cracking Down On Protesters

Dec 28, 2012 Press TV

At least one protester has been shot dead by the Al Saud regime forces during a demonstration to demand the release of political prisoners in the country’s oil-rich Eastern Province.

Local activists said on Friday that the Saudi regime forces opened fire on demonstrators in the Qatif district, east of the capital, Riyadh, killing 18-year-old Ali al-Marar.

According to local reports, several others were also injured and arrested during the demonstration that, once again, called on the regime to stop cracking down on protesters.

Activists further said that security forces in two vehicles had shot “indiscriminately” at the demonstrators in the central part of Qatif. The forces had also reportedly opened fire at the people on rooftops.

Saudi Arabia’s oil-rich Eastern Province has been rocked by anti-regime protests since February 2011.

Saudi protesters have held demonstrations on an almost regular basis mainly in the Qatif region and the town of Awamiyah in Eastern Province. Their primary demands are the release of all political prisoners, social justice and an end to systematic discrimination.

However, the demonstrations have turned into protests against the repressive Al Saud regime, especially since November 2011, when Saudi security forces killed five protesters and injured many others in the province.

According to Human Rights Watch, the Saudi regime “routinely represses expression critical of the government.”



“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

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.

Military Resistance Looks Even Better Printed Out

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