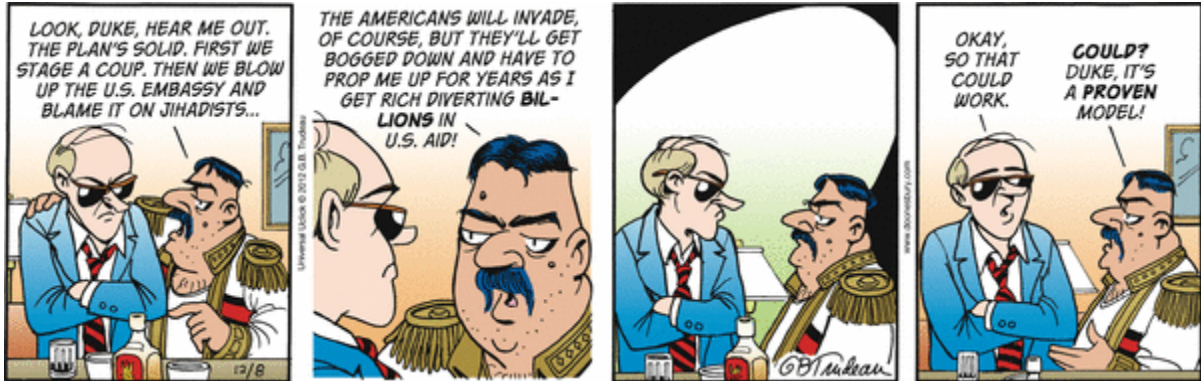


Military Resistance 10L5



**“Wardak Has
Increasingly Come
Under Taliban Control In
The Past Five Years”**

**“What We Have Here Now Is
Just Chaos”**

**“The Police Beat People, The
Americans Raid Our Villages And
Still We Are Not Safe”**

**“We Would Be Happy If They All Left
Tomorrow”**



The rubble from a Nov. 23 suicide truck bomb in the capital of Wardak province. Pam Constable/The Washington Post -

December 7 By Pamela Constable, The Washington Post [Excerpts]

Early Nov. 23, a truck piled with firewood approached the clinic in this small provincial capital 30 miles south of Kabul.

Challenged by a policeman, the driver detonated a powerful bomb hidden under his cargo, sending shock waves across the town and shattering almost every window in a five-block radius.

“The ground shook and everyone started to run,” said Abdul Wali, 25, a hardware shop owner whose gaping glass storefront was still covered with a blanket Monday. “I don’t know who would do such a terrible thing, but we have no security at all. The police beat people, the Americans raid our villages and still we are not safe. We would be happy if they all left tomorrow.”

“The enemy stabbed us from behind,” said Gen. Abdul Razzak Qureshi, the deputy provincial police commander, whose office door was blown off its hinges.

Wardak, a rural province where nomads camp in summer, has increasingly come under Taliban control in the past five years.

The town of Maidan Shahr is strategically located on a major highway, and both the national police and the U.S. military have large bases less than a mile away. But most of the populace is from the same Pashtun ethnic group as the Taliban, and many farmers have turned to opium poppy cultivation, making them natural allies of the insurgents.

Although the trappings of security are visible in Maidan Shahr — including U.S. military cameras on posts and a spy balloon that floats over the town — residents complain that the Afghan government's presence is woefully inadequate.

They said the governor and most provincial officials live in Kabul for their own protection and visit Maidan Shahr a few hours a day at most, leaving well before sunset. The governor, through a spokesman in Kabul, declined to be interviewed.

"The problem is not that the Taliban are strong, it's that the government is weak," said Ghulam Nabi, an administrator for the Scandinavian charity that operated the midwife school. He said many civilian officials and police officers were ethnic Tajiks from the north, who have a history of conflict with Pashtuns.

Residents expressed widespread indignation at the abusive behavior of local police, and half a dozen people separately described the recent beating and drowning of a truck driver at police hands.

And although no one openly said they supported the Taliban, many people expressed far stronger concern and frustration about the village raids being carried out by Afghan troops with U.S. backing.

Two nervous officials from a government agency, who had driven from Kabul to assess bomb damage to shops, said they could not find most of the owners.

One of the few open stores was a small but stylishly arranged boutique for women's fashions and shoes. The proprietor, a young man named Taj Mohammed, said he had been sleeping there at night, despite the freezing cold, because he feared being arrested if he returned to his home village.

But he shook with emotion when he described other powerful forces, including NATO troops, as having replaced his town's normal life with uncertainty, abuse and fear.

"We don't even feel human," he said.

"I know we will suffer more when the American forces go, but we are fed up with them too. We don't expect much from the Taliban except beatings, but the Americans are supposed to bring laws and principles. What we have here now is just chaos."

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.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Ocean County Marine Dies In Afghanistan



November 27, 2012 By Tomas Dinges, The Star-Ledger

OCEAN GATE — Marine Cpl. Christopher Monahan Jr. was the guy everybody looked up to. The oldest of three siblings, he was a guiding light for his mother and a role model for his three young children, family members said.

“In school, his teachers just loved him,” his mother, Sandy Monahan, said tonight. “He had no problems in classes. He played sports and volunteered for everything. He just did everything for everybody.”

After graduating from Central Regional High School in Bayville in 2005, Monahan and a friend enlisted in the Marines. His father had served in the National Guard and Chris wanted to serve his country, too, his mother said. In fact, she said, Chris dreamed of making the military his career.

That dream ended on Monday when Monahan, 25, of Ocean Gate, was killed in Afghanistan.

According to the Department of Defense, the truck in which he was riding struck an improvised explosive device in Helmand Province. His mother said she was told her son was riding in the turret of the lead vehicle in a convoy of 27.

Monahan is at least the 48th service member with ties to New Jersey to die in Afghanistan since the war began in 2001. In addition, 102 service members from New Jersey have died in Iraq since 2003.

Sandy Monahan said she last spoke to her son on Saturday and, although he wouldn't be able to come home for Christmas, his deployment would be ending in a little over two months.

"He was definitely excited to be coming home. He had one more holiday to miss," his mother said. "He was going to be home in 73 days and had already started the countdown."

Monahan was assigned to the Combat Logistics Battalion 2, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, II Marine Expeditionary Force based at Camp Lejeune, N.C., the Department of Defense said.

The battalion is responsible for delivering fuel, ammunition and supplies to outlying patrol bases in Afghanistan via ground convoys and air.

This was Monahan's third deployment overseas, but his first to Afghanistan, his mother said. The previous two were to Iraq. "He just thought that what we were fighting for was definitely worth it and he wanted to do it," she said.

Monahan also wanted to be a role model for his three children, ages 6, 4 and 1, said his sister, Kaitlyn.

"He said it all the time — the main reason he was doing it for his kids, so they had someone to look up to and be proud of," she said.

Family members said Monahan played defensive back and wide receiver for the Central Regional football team.

His sister said she and her friends went to all his games. Though small, her brother was fast, Kaitlyn Monahan said.

"He was a skinny guy, and would just be gone," she said.

Monahan also helped his younger brother get into football.

"He was amazing," Kaitlyn Monahan said. "Everybody looked up to him, and he made everybody laugh even if he had a bad day."

Sandy Monahan said she will travel today to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware, where her son's body will arrive.

Family and friends gathered at the Monahan home in Ocean County throughout the day yesterday to remember Chris. For his mother, the reminders of her oldest child were all around.

"Everything I pick up, everybody's eyes I look into, I see him," she said. "He is just everything, he is my heart."

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

**Afghan Army, Police Suffer
Increasing Casualties:
“More Than 300 Afghan Soldiers And
Policemen Are Dying Each Month”**

December 3 The Associated Press [Excerpts]

More than 300 Afghan soldiers and policemen are dying each month.

Afghan Defense Ministry spokesman Gen. Mohammad Zahir Azimi said deaths have risen in the past year.

Azimi, speaking to reporters at NATO headquarters by video conference from Kabul, did not specify by how much those numbers had grown this year.

But while troops can take on the Taliban insurgents in battle, the military still has deficiencies in the nascent air force, military intelligence, fire support capabilities, and in the engineering and demining branches, he said.

Maj. Gen. Jim Ferron, deputy commander of NATO's training mission, said there had been a delay in reaching the full recruitment goal of 352,000 Afghan troops and police due to the vetting procedures put in place after a spate of insider attacks on NATO troops.

Originally, the security forces were planned to reach the 352,000 figure before the end of 2012, but this will not take place until next February or March, Ferron said.

This year, more than 60 foreign service members have been killed in attacks by members of the Afghan security forces or insurgents dressed in their uniforms.

Dozens of Afghan troops also have died in similar attacks.

U.S. Empire Abandoning Afghan Collaborators To Taliban Vengeance

December 6 By Marshall Wilde, The Washington Post [Excerpts]

The United States has abandoned our most effective and loyal friends in Afghanistan by deliberately failing to implement the Afghan Allies Protection Act.

In 2011, I served as the chief adviser on rule of law for the International Security Assistance Force in Kabul (ISAF).

Now, as we draw down and leave them vulnerable, our government refuses to follow its own laws to save them.

The 2009 act provides up to 7,500 special immigrant visas for Afghans who worked for the United States for at least a year and who face an ongoing and serious threat to their safety.

The U.S. Embassy resisted as soon as the law was passed, claiming that allowing these Afghans and their spouses and children to escape the threats to their lives would have a “deleterious impact” on the mission.

The embassy also said it would require the strictest scrutiny of the applications, demanding “clear and convincing evidence” of the threat — a higher standard than that required by the law.

As a result, by mid-2011, no visas had been approved.

As of today, 5,700 Afghans have applied for visas — and only 32 have been approved.

To put this in context, since the start of our intervention in Afghanistan, more than 80 interpreters have been killed in combat.

“The U.S. Military Conducted Hundreds Of Polygraph Tests On Detainees In Iraq And Afghanistan Despite Doubts About Whether Innocent Civilians Could Be Accurately Separated From Accused Terrorists”

12.06.12 By MARISA TAYLOR, The Miami Herald [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. military conducted hundreds of polygraph tests on detainees in Iraq and Afghanistan despite doubts about whether innocent civilians could be accurately separated from accused terrorists, documents obtained by McClatchy show.

Despite such misgivings about wartime polygraph testing, the U.S. government also authorized the use of handheld devices in Iraq and Afghanistan that were considered even less reliable than the traditional machines were.

The documents don't say what type of equipment the Air Force used, and the government had redacted portions of the documents.

One of the polygraphers worried that military personnel were falsely implicating people. In one case, interrogators claimed that a detainee was arrested with a "large cache of weapons." It turned out that the man lived in a neighborhood where several people were rounded up.

"The 'weapons cache' was either an accumulation of weapons found in all the homes, or was found in one of the homes but attributed to each of the individuals detained at the same time," the polygrapher wrote. "The interrogator told me that these ambiguous reports are not unusual. . . . He told me that it could very well be that this particular detainee didn't have any weapons at all in his home."

But the Air Force pressed ahead and temporarily authorized a controversial technique that intelligence agencies use during polygraph testing. The Air Force said in the memo that the technique, known as the relevant/irrelevant test, was used with "great success" in Afghanistan. But some Air Force polygraphers in Iraq raised questions about it.

The technique, which the National Security Agency uses, often shows people as being deceptive, known as "DI," according to one polygrapher.

"I felt as if I were unfairly administering a 'DI' test to an individual who might actually" not be lying, an Air Force polygrapher wrote.

MILITARY NEWS

Egypt: "Protesters Broke Through, The Stationed Troops Offering No

**Resistance And In Some Cases
Removing The Barricades”
“Some Stood On The Tanks As The
Troops Remained While The
Protesters Had The Run Of The
Perimeter”
“Protesters Spilled Through The Barbed
Wire And Moved To The Palace Gates”**

08 December 12 By Abdel-Rahman Hussein, Ian Black, Guardian UK [Excerpts]

National Salvation Front says president has lost legitimacy as opponents and supporters take to the streets again Egypt's opposition National Salvation Front (NSF) has angrily rejected calls by the president, Mohamed Morsi, for a national dialogue and warned that he has lost legitimacy after recent unrest and bloodshed.

Amid new demonstrations in Cairo by supporters and opponents of the Muslim Brotherhood leader there was no sense that the country's now violent political crisis was easing as the second anniversary of the 2011 revolution approaches.

As the crowds swelled later in the evening there was more pressure on the barricades manned by the Republican Guard.

The military had set up barbed wire along the perimeter of the palace, and in one section a cement-block wall. Tanks and armoured personnel carriers were parked behind the barricades.

Eventually protesters broke through, the stationed troops offering no resistance and in some cases removing the barricades.

Protesters spilled through the barbed wire and moved to the palace gates.

Some stood on the tanks as the troops remained while the protesters had the run of the perimeter, as they did last Tuesday after a similar rally, though in that case the police were manning the barricades and they withdrew completely.

“Military Personnel And Civilians Working On Firing Ranges At Risk For Lead Poisoning”

“Kidney, Heart, Brain And Reproductive Disorders, Including Birth Defects, Associated With Lead Exposure”

“Lead Can Cause Cancer And Serious Neurological Problems, Including Tremors And Brain Damage”

“The OSHA Standard Provides Inadequate Protection”

Dec 3, 2012 by Patricia Kime - Staff writer, Army Times & Washington Post [Excerpts]

Outdated safety standards put military personnel and civilians working on firing ranges at risk for lead poisoning, a panel of the country’s top scientist have found.

The military operates hundreds of military ranges around the world run by both uniformed and civilian personnel where troops are trained in the use of handguns, shotguns, rifles and machine guns.

The National Research Council released a report Monday saying acceptable levels of lead in the bloodstream established by Occupational Health and Safety Administration in 1978 don’t protect workers — any workers, not just military personnel — from possible kidney, heart, brain and reproductive disorders, including birth defects, associated with lead exposure.

The council, consisting of government, academic and civilian researchers, said more is known about the health effects of lead exposure, especially at low levels, than 35 years ago.

“There is overwhelming evidence that the OSHA standard provides inadequate protection for (Defense Department) firing-range personnel and for any other worker populations covered by the general industry standard.

Specifically, the premise that maintaining blood lead levels under 40 (micrograms per deciliter of blood) for a working lifetime will protect workers adequately is not valid,” the committee reported.

NRC members said they weren’t able to determine the actual risk of health problems related to lead exposure because the Pentagon keeps little data on the blood lead levels of its workers.

But they found the air measurements for lead at some military firing ranges often exceeded current OSHA standards, and at some Army, Navy and Air Force ranges, “by several orders of magnitude.”

At high concentrations and over time, airborne lead can elevate blood lead levels and deposit in bones, causing health problems.

At high levels, lead can cause cancer and serious neurological problems, including tremors and brain damage. At low levels, it can contribute to high blood pressure, heart disease or changes in balance, eyesight and hearing.

The panelists said DoD should take measures to protect range personnel by drafting guidelines stricter than OSHA’s current recommendations and monitor ranges to ensure they meet the stricter standards.

The committee also recommended the Pentagon conduct medical surveillance at its ranges to guide their risk management decisions.

The jobs that expose firing range personnel to the highest amounts of airborne lead dust were pit cleanup and maintenance, range cleaning and active firing inside shoot houses, according to the report.

Air Force Gave War Profiteer \$1 Billion “Without Receiving Any Significant Military Capability”

Dec 5, 2012 Reuters

Leaders of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee on Wednesday blasted the Air Force for wasting \$1 billion on a logistics support system that has now been canceled, calling it “one of the most egregious examples of mismanagement in recent memory.”

Committee Chairman Carl Levin, and the top Republican on the panel, Senator John McCain, demanded that Defense Secretary Leon Panetta explain what happened with the Expeditionary Combat Support System, and hold those responsible accountable.

“The public and the taxpayers deserve a clear explanation of how the Air Force came to spend more than \$1 billion without receiving any significant military capability, who will be held accountable, and what steps the Department is taking to ensure that this will not happen again,” the senators wrote in a letter to Panetta, which was released by the committee.

The Air Force recently terminated the program, run by Computer Sciences Corp, after concluding it would cost another \$1 billion to gain at least some of the capability the program was initially expected to have, the senators said.

They said Air Force officials had told them the service had received usable hardware and software with a value of less than \$150 million from the program.

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

**The past year – every single day of it – has had its consequences. In the obscure depths of society, an imperceptible molecular process has been occurring irreversibly, like the flow of time, a process of accumulating discontent, bitterness, and revolutionary energy.
-- Leon Trotsky, “Up To The Ninth Of January”**

**“There Is Very Widespread
Resentment Against What Is
Clearly A Power Grab By The
Muslim Brotherhood And Its
Allies”**

**“This Is Finding Expression
Throughout The Country”**

**“The Speed Of The Developments Is
Very Fast”**

**“Several Million People Have Joined The
Demonstrations And Strikes In The Past
Two Weeks Who Have Never Done So
Before”**

December 7, 2012 By Mostafa Ali and Ahmed Shawki in Cairo, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]. Mostafa Ali is a journalist and member of Egypt's Revolutionary Socialists; Ahmed Shawki is editor of the *International Socialist Review*.

Ahmed Shawki: This is a phrase that's used a lot, but it's clear that we've reached another stage in the Arab Spring.

What we've seen in just a very short period here is the enormous growth of opposition to the very recently elected government of Mohamed Morsi of the Muslim Brotherhood, and the expression of that opposition in mass protests.

One year ago, parliamentary elections were underway that were won by the Peace and Justice Party, the political wing of the Brotherhood, and by other Islamist parties. Half a year ago, Morsi won the presidency.

And now, what's taking place is a rejection of Morsi and the Brotherhood by wide layers of Egypt's population.

The speed of the developments is very fast.

On November 22, Morsi issued a decree that expanded his powers enormously.

There were some parts of the decree that were designed to make it seem like Morsi was on the side of the revolution--like firing the hated top prosecutor from the Mubarak era. But the main thrust was to place his authority and the government's authority--as well as the Constituent Assembly writing a new constitution for Egypt--beyond the control of the judiciary or anyone else.

Then, Morsi upped the stakes. The Constituent Assembly delivered its draft constitution, and Morsi declared there would be a national referendum in just two week's time.

But there is very widespread resentment against what is clearly a power grab by the Muslim Brotherhood and its allies, and this is finding expression throughout the country, which has led to the re-entry of very large numbers of people into protest against the government.

This isn't just in the urban areas that had expressed significant support for some of the secular candidates in the presidential election, like Hamdeen Sabahi, but more broadly.

“The Outrage Is Growing In Rural Areas And Provincial Cities That Have Been Strongholds Of The Brotherhood”

Mostafa Ali: The anger against the Brotherhood isn't only in the major centers of the revolution, Cairo and Alexandria.

One new phenomenon of the past few weeks is that the outrage is growing in rural areas and provincial cities that have been strongholds of the Brotherhood.

Protests, for the most part, have been spontaneous actions.

There have been attacks on Muslim Brotherhood headquarters a number of times in Alexandria, on the Suez Canal, in the cities of Ismaïlia and Suez, in the Northern Delta and other places.

Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood didn't expect the level of reaction that has taken place, especially in the last three days.

I think they were probably carried away by an unfounded level of confidence in their ability to ram through anything. They came out of negotiating the Gaza cease-fire with Israel believing they were invincible, and that they could take what seemed like a victory for Egyptian foreign policy and use it domestically to consolidate their power.

There are many reports, in fact, that Morsi made the decree with the approval of the U.S.--and specifically with the approval of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

I don't think they expected the numbers that poured into the streets.

On Tuesday, they were taken aback when hundreds of thousands of people marched on the presidential palace.

And then, on Wednesday, they brought in a few thousand Brotherhood goons to break up a peaceful protest that they thought would be a couple dozen demonstrators. They thought it would demoralize the opposition.

In fact, the exact opposite happened. The mobilization against the Brotherhood attack was in the thousands.

These demonstrators outnumbered the Brotherhood initially and fought the goons in street battles for hours and hours. The Brotherhood had to bring in reinforcements from around the city to hold the palace.

“That The Muslim Brotherhood And Some Of Its Allied Forces Sent Goons To Bust Up The Sit-Ins Has Caused Shock And A Great Degree Of Polarization”

Ahmed Shawki: One very clear expression of the rejection of Morsi was the decision of 11 privately owned newspapers in the country to suspend publication on Tuesday against curtailments of freedom of expression that are expected as a consequence of the direction Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood are moving. Even the three government-run papers expressed these concerns. The journalists' union went on strike, and all the papers that did publish wrote that they're against dictatorship, against censorship and the like.

On Wednesday, the privately owned television stations did the same thing, including their associated websites--they broadcast no news content to send the message of opposition.

That decision by the TV stations was reversed in order to bring news of an attack on democracy protesters outside the presidential palace, which is outside the center of town and was once the home of Hosni Mubarak--today, it isn't Morsi's private home, but it's where the government operates.

That the Muslim Brotherhood and some of its allied forces sent goons to bust up the sit-ins has caused shock and a great degree of polarization, because people were unaccustomed to seeing running street battles of this sort.

Wednesday wasn't like the January 25 revolution of last year, where masses of people demonstrated against the police or state. Instead, now, you have "Egyptian fighting Egyptian"--that's the kind of language people use to talk about how the Muslim Brotherhood sent in its forces to physically attack protesters.

"The Straw That Broke The Camel's Back Was Morsi's Attempt To Push An Undemocratic Constitution"

Mostafa Ali: Less than one month ago, Morsi's popularity and the Muslim Brotherhood's popularity was very high. The polls showed it at 70 percent; even if it wasn't that high, it was still significant. Many people who hadn't even voted for Morsi in June looked favorably on his promises before the elections and immediately after--promises of reform, improved living standards, social justice and fulfilling the demands of the revolution.

There were tremendous expectations and quite widespread popular support for Morsi, but in a matter of two or three months, that popular support dissipated.

The straw that broke the camel's back was Morsi's attempt to push an undemocratic constitution that tramples on the rights of workers, of peasants, of women and of Christians and oppressed minorities.

The Constituent Assembly was dominated by the Islamists, they came up with a draft constitution that's what they wanted, and they told the liberal and left opposition to go screw themselves.

And Morsi, meanwhile, decreed that the Constituent Assembly would be protected from dissolution by the courts.

In just the past two weeks, these issues really raised the level of disillusionment among a lot of people who you could call soft supporters of the Brotherhood--people who wanted to give the Brotherhood a chance, who had hopes in the Brotherhood's ability to bring about social and economic reform.

Instead of social and economic reform, they discovered an autocratic dictatorial attempt to grab power and consolidate dominance.

Still, the situation was actually quite complicated, because while millions of people were beginning to be radicalized around this issue, small sections of the remnants of the Mubarak regime, especially among the judges, seemed to lead the movement.

The Brotherhood at first attempted to categorize the broader opposition as revolutionaries with good intentions, but who are being fooled by the counter-revolutionary remnants of the old regime. There was a very harsh ideological attack on any attempt to oppose the power grab.

But what's become clear in the past two weeks is that the vast majority of the people who were going to Tahrir to protest and who were going on strike were not remnants of the Mubarak regime.

In fact, many of these people had voted for Morsi, but they very quickly became disillusioned with him.

So the high level of optimism that the Brotherhood would deliver reform has very quickly turned into its opposite--and people recognize that the Brotherhood is not interested in reforming the system, in bringing about social justice, in redistributing wealth or even in keeping its promises to maintain a democratic civil state, not an Islamist state.

Ahmed Shawki: I want to underline this point. People are talking about the Muslim Brotherhood ruling in its own interests, and not in the interests of the nation. Today, I just ran into a demonstration in the street of a couple thousand young people chanting, "Morsi, Morsi, resign!" which is the same slogan that was chanted against Mubarak.

That kind of comparison of Morsi to Mubarak would have been unheard of a few months ago, I think.

Unheard of in the sense that the Muslim Brotherhood, whatever one may think of it, was extremely important in the defense of Tahrir Square during the January 25 revolution, especially the youth. And even though the Brotherhood leadership was slow to join the revolution, it still came out at the end of the day as the best organized political force in Egypt, with the most connections, the most political resources and so on.

But it's now understood that the Brotherhood is seeking to extend its own narrow interests.

The slogan of the young people at the demonstration today was: "For all of Egypt, one nation for all." That's not just some empty rhetoric. The social content beneath that slogan is about an Egypt that includes non-Brotherhood members, an Egypt that includes Copts.

"Several Million People Have Joined The Demonstrations And Strikes In The Past Two Weeks Who Have Never Done So Before"

Mostafa Ali: One important development is that several million people have joined the demonstrations and strikes in the past two weeks who have never done so before.

They're the people who sat out the January 25 revolution. There's a very funny name for them here in Egypt--they're called the "Party of the Couch." These are people who watched the revolution on television--who weren't necessarily against it, but who were scared by the specter of the chaos it might bring about.

So these are people who have been on the fence. Many of them might have actually supported the former ruling military council.

But they're going to street demonstrations now, and they're not going in order to bring back the old regime. Their consciousness may not be as advanced as the people who fought on the street in the past two years, but it's developing quite rapidly and they're catching up in terms of the lessons of the past two years.

Overall, the movement is of people who have fought for two years, but it now involves newer layers of people who are moving in a radical direction because of the betrayals of the Muslim Brotherhood.

I want to make one point here--about the conclusions that many people who witnessed the events of the last days have drawn about the Brotherhood and its supposed organizational invincibility.

Many people believe this is a tightly controlled, fascist organization with hundreds of thousands of members, and if you try to mobilize against them, they'll crush you.

But in the last few days, the numbers of people who were willing to protest and also to fight back against attacks by the Brotherhood have been astounding.

People didn't believe they had the power to out-mobilize and build an opposition to the Islamists.

People were quite demoralized two months ago.

Among those who wanted to finish the revolution to the end, there was a general sense of pessimism that the Brotherhood and the Islamists were all-powerful.

But now, the discussions have changed, because we see we can actually build a massive opposition.

It may not be clear yet how this opposition will develop or who will lead it. Hamdeen Sabahi and Mohamed ElBaradei are currently at the head of the movement in an alliance with one of Mubarak's men, Amr Moussa, the former foreign minister under the dictatorship. This might change in the next few weeks because many people in the streets don't want the remnants of the old regime to be at the head of this movement.

They want to welcome new people who might have had reservations about the revolution, who might not have clearly support the revolution, but there is also a growing rejection of any association with the symbols of the old regime. So the nature of the opposition is a question that will work itself out in the next few weeks.

“The Legitimacy Of The Government Has Been Called Into Question”

Ahmed Shawki: I think Morsi's decree and the reaction against it have created an ideological crisis. Where the Brotherhood was once seen as trying through Islam to be the unitary factor in Egypt, now they're being seen as much narrower and sectionalist.

This morning, I went to a bookshop, and there was a Time magazine cover that read, "The most important man in the Middle East," with a picture of Mohamed Morsi--the man the Egyptian population is rising against!

Obviously, that cover was planned after the success in the Gaza cease-fire negotiations with Israel. But now we're seeing not just demonstrations, but journalists on television talking about Morsi's incompetence--asking how he could take an electoral victory and a foreign policy accomplishment, and then issue a decree that narrowly grabbed power for himself and the Brotherhood.

There's a loss of the veneer that the Brotherhood had created for itself as an organization with deep roots--the sense that the Brotherhood was there and would help, even when the Mubarak regime wouldn't, during disasters or crises.

Now, it's being seen as in possession of all these powers, and it screws everything up, and nothing gets better.

In that situation, all kinds of social, political and economic questions get opened up, and we still haven't resolved the immediate one--which is that Morsi and the Brotherhood are insisting that they're going to ram through a vote on the constitution on December 15--against clear and obvious mass opposition.

So virtually any result is going to be tainted by this attempt to rush it through, and the legitimacy of the government has been called into question five months into Morsi's term. The way to deal with that, from the Brotherhood's point of view, can be seen in the comments of some officials in the government, who are basically raising the specter of the use of much broader armed physical force.

And that raises another important point about the character of the Muslim Brotherhood as an organization--which is that it's no longer just an organization.

The Brotherhood has technical control over the state and has increased its connections in the army, which means it can use not just 5,000 or 10,000 or however many goons it has, but it can also call on the machinery of the state. That raises a conflict on a dramatically different level.

Yet you still have the intransigence of Morsi and his aides and spokespeople and the rest of the forces associated with him--in the face of what is clearly not a marginal secular left movement.

They've clearly provoked a popular reaction where people are saying, "Wait a minute, have we replaced one dictator with another?"

The social content of that consciousness, whether it's new or not, is extremely radical in its direction.

It can lead to cynicism, which I think explains some of the passivity of the past several months. But in a situation of a confrontation like what you saw yesterday, that question gets amplified in every cafe, in every university, in every workplace.

Hero MP Stops Speeding Car Going 8 Mph, Saves Countless Lives



3 December 2012 by Ron, The Duffle Blog

STUTTGART, GERMANY – Local military police officer William Moya is being called “an all-American hero” by his command today after his actions were credited with saving countless lives on the base.

During a recent speed-enforcement activity, Moya, a 28-year old Staff Sergeant, pulled over a motorist who was blazing through the Patch Barracks Shoppette parking lot with a “callous disregard for the safety of other personnel.”

Since Patch Barracks is in Europe, it uses the metric system. The speed limit in front of the Shoppette is 10 km/h, approximately 6 mph.

“When we saw that car careening through the Shoppette parking lot, we couldn’t believe it at first,” said SFC Tommy Trejo, a veteran MP and Moya’s supervisor. “I said to myself, ‘This guy is gonna get someone killed.’”

Moya spotted the car hurtling toward him and sprang into action. He took a sip of his coffee, set it on the ground, picked up his radar gun, turned it on, and pointed it straight at the furiously accelerating death machine.

The gun’s verdict? Guilty.

“I was just really surprised to tell you the truth,” said Moya. “We’re not playing Need for Speed here.”

The fearless Moya then surprised everyone by stepping in front of the driver and signaling him to stop.

“It was like a scene out of a movie,” Trejo said. “With no regard for his own safety, Moya walked straight in front of that crazy asshole. If that guy wouldn’t have stopped, [Moya] would have only had 10 seconds to jump back onto the sidewalk, 15 seconds tops.”

Luckily, the driver, whose name MPs are not releasing out of fear of public reprisal, did stop. Moya initially cited him for speeding and reckless endangerment.

During the traffic stop, Moya noticed the driver was wearing his Improved Physical Fitness Uniform (IPFU) without a reflective belt. The lack of reflective belt was not a violation since the driver was inside his vehicle, so the quick-thinking Moya asked him to step outside. When the driver obeyed, Moya was then able to cite him for the uniform violation.

“SSG Moya is a credit to the force,” said CPT James Burr, Moya’s company commander. “We believe that the more violations we catch, the safer our community is. Moya’s ability to turn one violation into two or sometimes three is a testament to how safe he is keeping everyone.”

Despite the praise of his supervisors, Moya remains humble.

“I was just doing my job,” Moya said.

“The real heroes here are the people who decided that the speed limit should be 6 miles an hour. They’re the ones we should all be thanking.”

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN MILITARY SERVICE?

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

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

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OCCUPATION PALESTINE

The Heroic Zionist War On Fishermen In Palestinian Waters Rolls On



5 Dec 2012 DCI – Palestine

Names: Naim and Ali B.

Date of Incident: 29 November 2012

Ages: 16 and 17

Location: Mediterranean Sea, Gaza

Nature of Incident: Restriction on fishing

On 29 November 2012, two boys are fired upon by Israeli patrol boats and detained for two hours whilst fishing within Israel's new six nautical mile fishing limit.

This case appears to constitute a violation by Israel of the ceasefire agreement concluded on 22 November.

Naim and Ali are cousins and live in ash-Shate'a refugee camp in Gaza. The boys come from a family of fishermen. "I go fishing every morning with my uncles and relatives and earn around 15 to 20 shekels a day (around US\$ 5), depending on how much fish we catch," says Ali.

"Before the recent Israeli offensive on Gaza, the area designated for fishing was three nautical miles. After the ceasefire agreement on 21 November, it was extended to six nautical miles.

"However, there hasn't been a big difference in the quantity and quality of the fish we catch. There are plenty of fish about 11 nautical miles off the Gaza shore, but not within 10 nautical miles," says Ali.

On Thursday, 29 November 2012, Ali and Naim went fishing as usual with their relatives at around 5:00 a.m. At about 10:30 a.m. they were returning to the port when they were intercepted by Israeli patrol boats.

“We were about four nautical miles from the shore when we saw four Israeli rubber boats chasing and shooting at us,” says Ali. “Four big gunboats were behind them.

“Since we were within the permitted area, at first we thought the rubber boats were just chasing us away. But less than a minute later, they surrounded us and kept shooting. I tried to protect the engine by putting my arms around it, because I’ve heard from other fishermen who have been arrested that the Israeli soldiers shot at their engines.”



Eventually, their engine was shot, and the soldiers “threw a stun grenade on our boat which made a horrible sound and created thick smoke.” The fishermen were ordered to gather in one place and take their clothes off. The soldiers boarded their boat, tied their hands behind their backs, and transferred them to the rubber boats, where they were blindfolded.

Naim, Ali and the other fishermen were then taken to a bigger patrol boat. Once on board, “an Israeli soldier approached me and asked me for my name and age in Arabic.

‘Why did you come here?’ he asked. ‘To fish and make a living,’ I replied.

My hands were still tied behind my back. They were hurting so much, that I told the soldier I could not stand the pain anymore. Another soldier came and cut the tie off. Maybe he realised I was young and that’s why he did it,” says Ali.

With his hands free, Ali lowered his blindfold to see where he was. “We were surrounded by more than 20 soldiers,” he recalls.

“At that point, one of the soldiers kicked me so hard that I slid about three metres. I felt so much pain I started crying.” Ali’s hands were immediately re-tied, and he was blindfolded again.

“I was really scared, not to mention how cold I was because I was wearing nothing but my underwear.”

About two hours later, at around 12:30 p.m., Naim, Ali and the others were transferred back to their fishing boat. “Once I removed the blindfold, I found myself back on the boat with my uncles and my cousins,” recalls Ali.

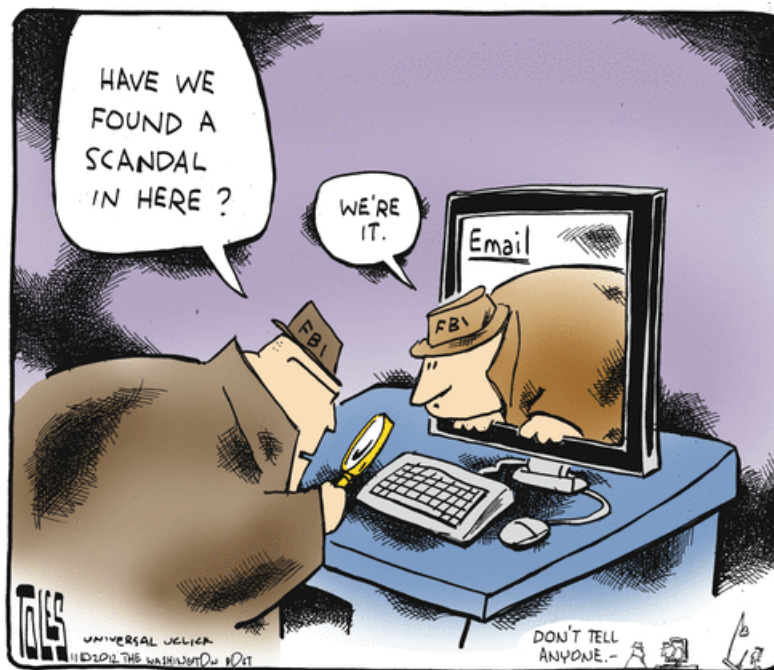
“The engine had been hit by more than 10 bullets and did not start. We were towed by another fishing boat.”

“We have lost the boat and are now unemployed. The boat needs a new engine, which costs around 5,000 US dollars.

“I don’t know what I’m going to do now. I dropped out of school to be a fisherman. Fishing is the only thing I can do.”

[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



CLASS WAR REPORTS



“Thousands Blocked The Streets Of The Capital, And Marched To The Presidential Palace, Demanding A Rise In The Minimum Wage And A Ban On Contract Work”

“Workers Are Demanding Better Rights Because The Gap Between The Well Off And Not So Well Off Have Increased In Indonesia”

“The Rising Unrest Is Said To Indicated Growing Worker And Union Distrust Of The Government And An Increasing Boldness To Demonstrate For Change”

22 Nov 2012 Al Jazeera

Tens of thousands of workers have gathered outside the presidential palace in Jakarta in Indonesia, demanding higher wages, better working conditions and that more economic growth trickle down to the working class.

The demonstrations on Thursday come a day after a governor in the capital Jakarta agreed to raise the minimum wage by 44 per cent but protesters said they wanted government to provide better health care and pensions and wanted to ensure that the courts do not over turn their decision.

Al Jazeera's Step Vaessen, reporting from the capital, said “tens of thousands of workers have been marching through the city centre and have reached the presidential palace ... they have been demonstrating for weeks for a higher minimum wage, and they have been demanding to get rid of a much hated outsourcing policy.

“Basically, government has met these demands over the past week, now they are here to show they are not satisfied yet.”

They say that they have an expensive pension fund and an expensive health scheme, and they want to get rid of them as well, Vaessen said.

Governor Joko Widodo agreed to lift the minimum monthly wage in Jakarta to 2.2 million rupiah (\$228) from 1.53 million rupiah. In Indonesia, local authorities set minimum wages for their regions.

“Workers are demanding better rights because the gap between the well off and not so well off have increased in Indonesia,” Subramaniam Pillay, a journalist based in Jakarta, told Al Jazeera.

“This is why they are protesting.” he said.

Pillay said that unions are likely to influence political parties to forward their case, especially if parties want to win the next legislative and presidential elections.

On Wednesday, thousands blocked the streets of the capital, and marched to the presidential palace, demanding a rise in the minimum wage and a ban on contract work, in a wave of protest to hit the country.

On November 15, workers took to the streets in Purwakarta, West Java, and the rising unrest is said to indicated growing worker and union distrust of the government and an increasing boldness to demonstrate for change.

In early October, a nationwide strike crippled production at 1000 factories.

The number of protests have increased even as Indonesia posted strong growth and attracted a record \$5.9 bn in foreign direct investment in the third quarter of this year.

Indonesia's economy has expanded more than five per cent in seven out of the past eight years.

The country is expected to grow by more than six per cent in 2012 as it continues to attract record amounts of foreign direct investment as more global companies try to reach the growing middle class as well as its rich natural resources.

On Thursday, the Jakarta Post reported that foreign direct investment (FDI) is likely to remain high in 2013 "as the country will likely retain its economic strength amid economic problems beleaguering other competitors in attracting foreign investment to the region."



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