

Military Resistance 11B3



OUTSTANDING! U.S. Troops To Mali? [Army Times Poll Results]

[Army Times Poll: Results]
[As of 2013FEB03 1532 EST]

Do you think U.S. troops should be sent into Mali to help French troops after a village in the African country was taken over by a branch of al-Qaida?

Yes; we can't allow any haven for terrorists

36.29 % (835)

No; we should stay out of it

63.71 % (1466)

Total votes: 2153

**FYI: Military Resistance Website Visits:
Top Ten Locations Ranked 1-10
January 2013**

- 1 United States
- 2 China
- 3 Romania
- 4 Ukraine
- 5 Russian Federation
- 6 Israel
- 7 Indonesia
- 8 France
- 9 Italy
- 10 Sweden

Readers from an additional 78 have also accessed.

Source: AWStats

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

**“Mujahid Says That Much Of Andar
And Ghazni Remains In Taliban
Hands”**

**“The Taliban Is Still Firmly In Control Of
Most Districts And Just Waiting For U.S.
Forces To Leave So They Can Take On
The Afghan Forces Left Behind”**

February 2, 2013 Carmen Gentile, Special for USA TODAY [Excerpts]

Ghazni is an important thoroughfare for the Taliban and other militant groups in eastern Afghanistan.

The country's main route, Highway 1, runs through this market halfway between the country's two largest cities, Kabul and Kandahar. Just off the highway are vast stretches of barren crop fields covered in winter frost and surrounded by snow-topped mountains.

Polish forces were leading the NATO effort in the province. The arrival of U.S. troops and Afghan soldiers kept the Taliban out of the bigger population centers.

But some locals say the Taliban is still firmly in control of most districts and just waiting for U.S. forces to leave so they can take on the Afghan forces left behind.

“They didn’t bring security, the weather did,” says Abdul Kaim, waving a bony finger at the American forces in the market as he explained that the recent snowfall is what stopped the fighting by making it too hard for either side to travel.

In nearby Andar district, locals rose up against the Taliban and its strictures, according to the Afghan government.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid has said the talk of life without Taliban control is an illusion. Mujahid says that much of Andar and Ghazni remains in Taliban hands.

“People (residents of Ghazni) like to help the mujahedin, they know it is their responsibility,” he says. “But even if they can’t help, they aren’t making real problems for us.”

Townsppeople in Moqur district are not banking solely on Afghan troops protecting them once U.S. forces go. A group called the Moqur Movement is helping to keep the Taliban out of the market and village, says the U.S. military.

U.S. forces are trying to bring members of the Moqur Movement into the fold of the Afghan Local Police, a constable force trained and equipped by Special Operations Forces.

Several members have already been incorporated into the ranks of the ALP, but the police have issues, too.

People have complained that some in the ALP abuse their newfound authority by extorting bribes at checkpoints.

“They are taking our money and even torturing us,” Mullah Shamsullah, an elder in a nearby village says of the Afghan Local Police.

In Afghanistan, where rumors are how many rural towns get their information, there is speculation that the uprisings against the Taliban were manufactured by Kabul to spin a positive storyline out of Ghazni.

“At first it appeared it was a Pashtun (the predominant ethnic group in Ghazni) initiative to rise up,” says Saeed Parto, an analyst with the Afghanistan Public Policy Research Organization.

“Another version is the Afghan government and U.S. forces wanted to see a feel-good story, something to show that Afghanistan is worth saving.”

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

**District Chief Survives Blast In
Eastern Afghanistan:
“Nangarhar Province Is Among The
Relatively Peaceful Region In Eastern
Afghanistan”**



Peaceful Region

02 Feb 2013 By Sayed Jawad, Khaama Press [Excerpts]

Syed Abdul Rahman Khogyani district chief escaped an explosion in eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan early Saturday morning.

According to reports a security guard of Mr. Syed Abdul Rahman was killed following the blast and two others were injured.

This is the second assassination attempt of high profile officials in eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan during the past one week.

A female Afghan lawmaker survived militants attack in eastern Nangarhar province last Monday. A number of unknown gunmen opened fire on the vehicle of Frishta Anwar on Kabul- Jalalabad highway injuring one of his security guard.

Nangarhar province is among the relatively peaceful region in eastern Afghanistan however militants have recently increased their activities in a number of its districts.

Attack Kills Two Police In Takhar: “Takhar Is Among The Peaceful Province In North Eastern Afghanistan”

01 Feb 2013 By Sajad, Khaama Press [Excerpts]

An unknown gunman entered University compound in north eastern Takhar province and killed two police officers.

According to reports the assailant militant was also injured following the cross fire and is under the investigation.

In the meantime provincial security chief spokesman Abdul Khalil Asir said the incident took place after a gunman was looking to enter the University compound.

He said the assailant militant opened fire on Afghan police forces after his entry to the university was denied.

Takhar is among the peaceful province in north eastern Afghanistan and today's incident is the only attack by a militant on government compound in this province.

Mr. Asir said the assailant man is being treated in Takhar hospital and he is the resident of Taloqan district.

Seduced And Abandoned: Afghan Interpreters Who Collaborated With U.S. Occupation Denied U.S. Visas And Accused Of Being “Terrorists”

**“Of The 6,000 Afghan Interpreters
Who Have Applied For U.S. Visas
Only About 50 Had Been Approved
By Late Last Year”**

“There Is No Appeal Process”

February 2 By Kevin Sieff, The Washington Post

KABUL —

According to the U.S. military, Tariq is an interpreter who risked his life to aid the American mission in Afghanistan and for seven years had access to sensitive information about U.S. tactical operations.

According to the State Department, there's a very good chance he is a terrorist who poses a threat to national security and should never be allowed on American soil.

Tariq, one of southern Afghanistan's longest-serving interpreters, wants to know: How is it that one man can be praised as a hero and labeled a terrorist by the same government?

For years, Congress has considered amendments to an immigration policy that often brands innocent visa applicants as terrorists, an inadvertent byproduct of a post-9/11 homeland security initiative. But little progress has been made, U.S. officials say, and the government remains unable in many cases to discern the difference between allies and enemies.

The visa applications of several Iraqi interpreters were rejected for terrorism-related reasons during the last years of the Iraq war.

Afghans have been denied visas because of ties to defunct, U.S.-backed groups that fought the Soviets in the 1980s but are now designated as terrorist organizations. Others who grew up under the Taliban worry that they've been rejected based on assumed links to the insurgency.

It is unclear how many Afghans are in the same position as Tariq, but immigration attorneys say the denial — which they and others who follow the issue refer to as the “terrorist bar” — is common for applications from countries across the world, particularly Afghanistan.

In a country with a tumultuous 30-year history of coups, warring tribes and armed uprisings, some say attempts to cull terrorists are preventing U.S. allies from receiving visas they deserve.

“You have people who at some point had contact with the Taliban when they were in power, people who had contacts with the many armed groups that either preceded the Taliban or fought the Taliban,” said Anwen Hughes, a New York-based attorney at Human Rights First who has handled several such cases.

“You have many people being denied visas based on erroneous assumptions and misunderstandings.”

Tariq, who asked that his last name not be published to avoid Taliban threats, has worked alongside some of the top U.S. commanders in southern Afghanistan since 2006, when he was 17.

Like many interpreters, he saw an American visa as his only escape from insurgents who regularly target locals aiding the Western military effort.

He first applied in 2008, submitting a stack of recommendations from American officers.

One called him “a role model to his fellow citizens.” Another said his commitment had placed “himself and his family at risk.” Another added that he was a “strong supporter of the U.S. presence in Afghanistan.”

For years, he checked the status of his application online and added more glowing recommendations to his file.

Last September, Tariq received an e-mail from the State Department that said his application had been denied because he “may be a terrorist or may have provided material support to a terrorist organization.”

The letter did not specify which organization.

Despite the accusation, his job with the U.S. military at Kandahar Airfield was not terminated.

Tariq, one of southern Afghanistan’s longest-serving interpreters, wants to know: How is it that one man can be praised as a hero and labeled a terrorist by the same government?

For years, Congress has considered amendments to an immigration policy that often brands innocent visa applicants as terrorists, an inadvertent byproduct of a post-9/11 homeland security initiative.

But little progress has been made, U.S. officials say, and the government remains unable in many cases to discern the difference between allies and enemies. The visa applications of several Iraqi interpreters were rejected for terrorism-related reasons during the last years of the Iraq war.

Afghans have been denied visas because of ties to defunct, U.S.-backed groups that fought the Soviets in the 1980s but are now designated as terrorist organizations. Others who grew up under the Taliban worry that they’ve been rejected based on assumed links to the insurgency.

It is unclear how many Afghans are in the same position as Tariq, but immigration attorneys say the denial — which they and others who follow the issue refer to as the “terrorist bar” — is common for applications from countries across the world, particularly Afghanistan. In a country with a tumultuous 30-year history of coups, warring tribes and armed uprisings, some say attempts to cull terrorists are preventing U.S. allies from receiving visas they deserve.

“You have people who at some point had contact with the Taliban when they were in power, people who had contacts with the many armed groups that either preceded the Taliban or fought the Taliban,” said Anwen Hughes, a New York-based attorney at

Human Rights First who has handled several such cases. “You have many people being denied visas based on erroneous assumptions and misunderstandings.”

Tariq, who asked that his last name not be published to avoid Taliban threats, has worked alongside some of the top U.S. commanders in southern Afghanistan since 2006, when he was 17.

Like many interpreters, he saw an American visa as his only escape from insurgents who regularly target locals aiding the Western military effort.

He first applied in 2008, submitting a stack of recommendations from American officers. One called him “a role model to his fellow citizens.” Another said his commitment had placed “himself and his family at risk.” Another added that he was a “strong supporter of the U.S. presence in Afghanistan.” For years, he checked the status of his application online and added more glowing recommendations to his file.

Last September, Tariq received an e-mail from the State Department that said his application had been denied because he “may be a terrorist or may have provided material support to a terrorist organization.”

The letter did not specify which organization. Despite the accusation, his job with the U.S. military at Kandahar Airfield was not terminated.

“I never expected the State Department would take this kind of unfair decision. My question is, if I am involved in terrorist activities, why am I still working for U.S. Army?” Tariq said.

Tariq racked his brain to determine what might have triggered the accusation. He had grown up in Kandahar, a Taliban stronghold, which meant he had been forced to attend a madrassa run by the group. His father was in the Afghan air force before the regime came to power, and, like most of his colleagues, remained in his position under its rule. But the family by no means supported the Taliban, said Tariq, who jumped at the opportunity to work for U.S. forces after the Taliban fell.

Although the Department of Homeland Security occasionally provides exemptions for applicants denied under terrorism-related grounds and has recently agreed to review some cases of long-term visa applicants who are already living in the United States, there is typically little recourse for those turned down.

Jamshid, who fled Afghanistan in 1988 and was granted asylum in the United States, received the same denial as Tariq when he applied for permanent residence. Immigration officials wrote in 2008 that Jamshid was ineligible because he had helped carry supplies — what the denial referred to as voluntary material support — for the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan (NIFA), an arm of the U.S.-backed mujaheddin.

NIFA no longer existed, and it was a former U.S. ally.

But like several anti-Soviet Afghan groups, it remained on the U.S. government's list of so-called Tier III “undesigned terrorist groups” created by the U.S. Patriot Act of 2001.

Some Iraqi interpreters who were members of groups that fought Saddam Hussein have received similar denials.

“I was helping people getting aid and support from [the] United States. And now they consider me a terrorist here. It’s a painful and frustrating way to live,” Jamshid, 40, said by phone from the United States. He did not want his full name published for fear of jeopardizing his ongoing application process.

Of the 6,000 Afghan interpreters who have applied for U.S. visas under a special program tailored to US government employees, only about 50 had been approved by late last year.

Because the State Department does not explain the specific reasons for denying visas to overseas applicants, Tariq was left guessing about his alleged terrorist connections.

There is no appeal process, the official added.

MILITARY NEWS

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



Dec 29, 2012: The coffin for U.S. Army SSG Nicholas J. Reid, killed by an improvised explosive device in Sperwan Village, Afghanistan, is placed back in the hearse following funeral services at The Father’s House on Paul Road in Chili. ADRIAN KRAUS, The Democrat And Chronicle.

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

**Rise like Lions after slumber
In unvanquishable number,
Shake your chains to earth like dew
Which in sleep had fallen on you-
Ye are many — they are few**

-- Percy Bysshe Shelley, 1819, on the occasion of a mass murder of British workers by the Imperial government at Peterloo.

Soldiers In Formation



Photo by Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: February 02, 2013
Subject: Soldiers In Formation

Soldiers In Formation

It always amuses me when I read or hear about a U.S. war being pointless, that we should have never started this senseless war.

**Now look at the mess we are in they say.
All the wasted American lives lost,
all the thousands wounded,
all the thousands with PTSD,
all the thousands who will commit suicide,
the countless civilians killed and wounded.
The astronomical amount of tax payer money down the drain.
A war that will have disastrous consequences in the future.
Speeches given.
The people who said it was insane to get involved in the first place,
get their ego's stroked.
And on and on and on...**

**The truth of the matter is that it was
always the right war at the right time.**

Why?

**Because a very small percentage of
the rich in America made a killing off
of the killing.**

So,

**there is never a bad war for these mother
fuckers.**

**Every time there is a military funeral,
the god awful corporations who make
everything from paperclips to jets,
bow their heads, and then move on to
the next orgasmic wad of profit they
will make.**

There is no such thing as a bad war.

Murder Incorporated!

**The War on Terrorism is the greatest
lie ever invented.**

**All the stupid American people,
where do they all come from?**

Mike Hastie

Army Medic Vietnam

February 2, 2013

W A R ----> Wealthy Are Richer

**Photo from the portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For
more of his outstanding work, contact at: (hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)**

**One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head.
The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a
so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen
of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.**

Mike Hastie

U.S. Army Medic

Vietnam 1970-71

December 13, 2004

The Soldier's Prayer

From: Lesley Docksey [England]

To: Military Resistance Newsletter

Subject: Something for Military Resistance

Date: Feb 3, 2013

Attachments: The Soldier's Prayer

Something for the homesick GIs!!

Note: in England, back in the days when the wheat, oats and barley were cut by hand, the women used to take baskets of food out to the field for the workers' lunch - accompanied by very large jugs of home-brewed cider or ale.

Well, it was hot thirsty work, bringing in the harvest!

But if ever you'd drunk our local cider (or 'scrumpy' as the West Country cider is called) you'd have to wonder how they were all standing by the end of the day!

All the best and keep up the good work
Lesley Docksey

The Soldier's Prayer

**I remember the farm,
The kitchen all warm,
The barns all full of hay;
And the choice I made to live by the blade
On that fateful recruiting day.**

**In foreign fields
All robbed of their yields,
Breathing air that tastes of war,
I remember the times when the harvest came in,
The cider all flavoured with straw.**

**I remember the orchard
Humming with bees,
The branches covered in flowers,
And now I crouch here, my heart full of fear,
And our bombs are falling in showers.**

**I remember my wife,
The core of my life,
Her smile as we put out the light,
And now in my dreams I hear nothing but screams
From a child in a mother-less night.**

**I remember the love
And the call of the dove
As it sits in the tree by the well.
I remember the peace of the daily work
And the call of the Sunday bell.**

**How will my sons
Repudiate guns**

When their father does nothing but kill?
But if war I spurn, and if I return
Oh God - let that farm be there still!

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



**John Kiriakou. The First Person To Be Convicted And Sentenced To Prison With Regards To The Government Torture Program, Is The Man Who Blew The Whistle On It:
“We Have Been Losing Our Civil Liberties Incrementally Over The Last Decade”**



Former CIA officer John Kiriakou

01 February, 2013 Russia Today [Excerpts]

Ten years ago, the idea of the US government spying on its citizens, intercepting their emails or killing them with drones was unthinkable. But now it's business as usual, says John Kiriakou, a former CIA agent and torture whistleblower.

Kiriakou is now awaiting a summons to start a prison sentence.

One of the first to confirm the existence of Washington's waterboarding program, he was sentenced last week to two-and-a-half years in jail for revealing the name of an undercover agent.

But even if he had another chance, he would have done the same thing again, Kiriakou told RT.

Russia Today: The judge, and your critics all seem to believe you got off lightly. Would you say you got off lightly?

John Kiriakou: No, I would not say I got off lightly for a couple of very specific reasons.

First of all, my case was not about leaking, my case was about torture.

When I blew the whistle on torture in December 2007 the justice department here in the US began investigating me and never stopped investigating me until they were able to patch together a charge and force me into taking a plea agreement.

And I'll add another thing too, when I took the plea in October of last year, the judge said that she thought the plea was fair and appropriate. But once the courtroom was packed full of reporters last Friday she decided that it was not long enough and if she had had the ability to she would have given me ten years.

RT: And why did you, a decorated CIA officer, take such a strong stance against an agency policy? Did you not consider that there might be some come-back?

JK: I did. I took a strong stance and a very public one and that's what got me into trouble. But honestly the only thing I would do differently is I would have hired an

attorney before blowing the whistle. Otherwise I believe firmly even to this day I did the right thing.

RT: You have called it ironic that the first person to be convicted with regards to the torture program is the man who shed light on it. Do you believe the others, who put the program together, will ever face justice?

JK: I don't actually. I think that president Obama just like president Bush has made a conscious decision to allow the torturers, to allow the people who conceived of the tortures and implemented the policy, to allow the people who destroyed the evidence of the torture and the attorneys who used specious legal analysis to approve of the torture to walk free.

And I think that once this decision has been made – that's the end of it and nobody will be prosecuted, except me.

RT: It's no secret that Obama's administration has been especially harsh on whistleblowers. But can the US afford leniency, in these security-sensitive times?

JK: I think this is exactly what the problem is.

In this post 9/11 atmosphere that we find ourselves in we have been losing our civil liberties incrementally over the last decade to the point where we don't even realize how much of a police state the United States has become.

The idea that our government would be using drone aircraft to assassinate American citizens who have never seen the inside of a courtroom, who have never been charged with a crime and have not had due process which is their constitutional right would have been unthinkable.

I think this is a very dangerous development.

RT: Obama's tough stance, and harsh punishments for whistleblowers, has sent a message. Is he winning his fight against those who speak out?

JK: I don't think he is winning this fight against whistleblowers, at least not over the long term, and I'll tell you why.

President Obama has now charged seven people with violations of the Espionage Act.

All previous presidents in American history combined only charged three people with violating the Espionage Act. And the Espionage Act is a WWI-era act that was meant to deter German saboteurs during that First World War. And now it is being used to silence critics of the government.

But so far all seven of these cases that have made their way into a courtroom have either collapsed or have been dismissed, including mine.

All of the three espionage charges against me were dropped.

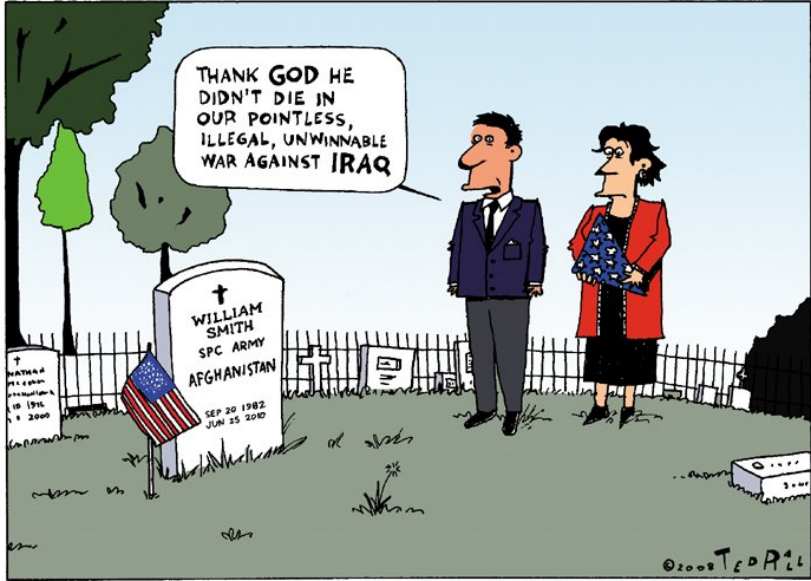
RT: Do we still need whistleblowers? Are we going to see more of them coming out?

JK: I think we will see more whistleblowers and I think we need whistleblowers now more than ever before.

Whether it's in national security or whether it is in the banking industry, the American people have a right to know when there is evidence of waste, fraud, abuse, or illegality.

If the Justice Department is not going to prosecute these cases, at the very least the American people need to know.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



CHANGE WE CAN BEREAVE IN

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.

The War On Children Rolls On:

Kindergarten Kid Expelled And Threatened By Cruel Shitheads

For Bringing Broken Plastic Toy Gun To School In Her Backpack;

“I Didn’t Want To Cause Any Harm, I Was Trying To Show My Friends This Little Tiny Gun That Was Kind Of Pretty”

“Please Advise Naomi That Her Presence Is Not Allowed On Any School Property/Bus Or At Any School Sponsored Activity On Or Off Campus”

“She Will Be Subject To The Criminal Charge Of Trespassing”

Jan. 31, 2013 By BRADEN BUNCH, The (Sumter) Item

The parents of a 6-year-old kindergarten student, expelled from Sumter School District for having a broken, clear plastic toy gun in her backpack at Alice Drive Elementary School earlier this month, think the district overreacted in removing their daughter from school.

Meanwhile, officials with Sumter School District say their district policies required them to not show any leniency and they were forced by their policies to remove the kindergartner from school.

This expulsion decision was made, according to the parents of the student, despite the efforts of several of the educators who work directly with the child to stop the expulsion.

In addition, there are questions as to whether the written district policy was interpreted correctly by school officials.

The morning of Jan. 4 started like many others for the McKinney family. Angela McKinney was rushing, trying to get her children ready for school. As the family climbed into their car, she remembered her youngest child, Naomi, had show and tell that morning, and told her to run inside and quickly grab something.

Naomi did, climbed back into the car, and she and her brothers headed off to school without any concerns.

A short time later, McKinney said she received a phone call from Sheree Boozer, principal at Alice Drive Elementary, informing her Naomi was being questioned by police officers.

It turned out the toy Naomi took for show-and-tell was not the new Barbie doll Angela thought her daughter had grabbed, but rather one of her older brother's toys.

As the McKinneys describe it, the toy is an old, broken, beat-up toy gun, incapable of firing and held together with camouflage pattern duct tape on its tip and butt.

Through the clear plastic of the toy, McKinney said, you can see the pieces of its broken mechanism and the green BBs the gun was once able to fire years ago.

"This gun in no way looks like a real gun. It's crystal clear, and you know it's a toy the moment you look at it," Naomi's father, Hank McKinney, said.

While waiting for class to start, the McKinneys said, Naomi told one of the kindergarten teachers at Alice Drive what she had in her backpack for show and tell.

That teacher then went into the child's backpack, the McKinneys said, pulled the toy out, showed it to Naomi's homeroom teacher, and the two teachers proceeded to take it to Boozer's office.

"When Ms. Boozer called me about what happened, she told me she thought twice about calling the police," Angela McKinney said. "She cried to me the day this happened."

Naomi's parents said they arrived at the school shortly after police. The whole time, Naomi sat in Boozer's office, talking with officers and educators, waiting for the situation to be resolved. Shortly thereafter she found herself headed home.

"I didn't want to cause any harm, I was trying to show my friends this little tiny gun that was kind of pretty. I just thought they would like to see it," Naomi said this week.

Less than a week later on Jan. 10, the McKinneys appeared before the district's Discipline Hearing Panel, trying to get Naomi back with her classmates at Alice Drive.

In their support, Angela McKinney said a total of seven educators at Alice Drive - teachers and administrators - either provided letters of support or appeared

directly before the panel, speaking on behalf of Naomi, requesting the panel reinstate the child.

Naomi also spoke to the panel on her own behalf.

The McKinneys left the meeting without a formal decision, but said they felt confident their child would be returning to school shortly.

Five days later, they learned this would not be the case.

A letter dated Jan. 15 from Henrietta Green, chief student support services officer for the district, stated: “Please advise Naomi that her presence is not allowed on any school property/bus or at any school sponsored activity on or off campus. She will be subject to the criminal charge of trespassing.”

“She cannot even be in my vehicle when I go to pick up my other children,” Angela McKinney said.

In the four weeks since Naomi was removed from school, Angela McKinney said she has spoken several times with Anthonese Gamble, director of student services for the district, but that nothing has been arranged.

During the same time, the McKinneys also appealed directly to Superintendent Randolph Bynum, hoping he would overturn the decision of the board.

On Saturday, the family received a letter signed by Bynum, dated the previous day, informing them he would uphold the decision of the panel.

In this letter, he also says, “The school district will provide the appropriate support and intervention to assist Naomi in completing her educational requirements.”

Shelly Galloway, public information coordinator for the district, declined comment but provided the following written statement: “It is the policy of the board of trustees to ensure the safety and welfare of its students and employees. The presence of a weapon or look alike is prohibited, and we work very closely with law enforcement when an incident of this nature arises. Sumter School District takes any potential threat very seriously and will remain vigilant in creating a safe and secure environment.”

However, a section of the district’s policy can be interpreted differently by some.

In the section cited in justifying Naomi’s expulsion, the school’s disciplinary code says “students will not possess any item capable of inflicting injury or harm (hereinafter referred to as a weapon) to persons or property when that item is not used in relation to a normal school activity at a scheduled time for the student.”

According to the McKinneys, the toy gun she had in her backpack could not fire, making it about as dangerous as the Barbie doll Naomi’s mother thought she had taken to school.

“The insides are completely broken. You can hear (the pieces rattling) in the inside,” Angela McKinney said. “It’s clear, it does not fire. You can pull the trigger many times, it does not fire.”

The district’s policy does reference “the presence of firearms or look-alikes or any other deadly instrument used for the infliction of bodily harm or death on school district property poses a severe threat of serious harm or injury to students and staff.”

The paragraph states why the district has concerns. It, however, does not list punishment guidelines.

The McKinneys, meanwhile, believe the district is simply overreacting to the recent tragedies at schools around the country.

“You’re taking a young girl who loves education, and imposing an unfair punishment on her because of what’s going on in the media,” Hank McKinney said.

“With all the incidents going on, with the Connecticut shooting, they (the administrators) are targeting the children now,” Angela said.

“I think they’re trying to use the little children as an example of how far they’re willing to go.”

“It’s not just her education she’s missing out on, it’s being around children her own age,” Angela McKinney said.

“We’re trying to find a way to get her back into a school, rather than having a teacher come to her house,” she said, still upset with the district’s decision. “I don’t think hiring a home-based teacher, when they could easily keep her in school and give her a different type of punishment (is necessary).”

There remains a possibility Naomi could return to Alice Drive this year. This would require the district Board of Trustees to overturn Bynum’s decision.

“They clearly have the option to appeal to our board, over and above the superintendent, and that has been done many times, and my suspicion will be that’s what these folks will do,” Schultz said.

To do so, there must be a written request to appear before the board, he said.

In the meantime, the McKinneys continue to look into options for Naomi. Until the situation is resolved, they warn other parents to make sure they keep a closer eye on what their children take to school.

“Don’t take nothing for granted that your child knows better,” Hank McKinney said. “Discuss, prior to sending your child to school, what’s acceptable and not acceptable, as far as show and tell.”

CLASS WAR REPORTS



“Discontent In The Once All-Powerful Egyptian Security Forces”

“Riot Police Conscripts Mutinied At A Large Cairo Base To Protest What They See As Crippling Constraints On Their Use Of Firearms Against Protesters”

“Egyptian Police Have Been Accused Of Firing Wildly At Protesters, Beating Them And Lashing Out With Deadly Force In Clashes Across

Much Of The Country The Past Week”

“Many In The Police Are Convinced That Morsi And His Brotherhood Are Unfit To Rule And Not Worth Working For”



The anti-Mubarak revolution raised calls for widespread reform of the police aimed at purging abusive officers, ending a culture that condoned torture, bribetaking and abuses, and improving the professional capabilities of the force. No process for doing any of that has begun.

Jan 31, 2013 by HAMZA HENDAWI, The Associated Press

CAIRO -

With near impunity and the backing of the Islamist president, Egyptian police have been accused of firing wildly at protesters, beating them and lashing out with deadly force in clashes across much of the country the past week, regaining their Hosni Mubarak-era notoriety as a tool of repression.

In the process, nearly 60 people have been killed and hundreds injured, and the security forces have re-emerged as a significant political player after spending the two years since Mubarak's ouster on the sidelines, sulking or unwilling to fully take back the streets.

Moreover, President Mohammed Morsi, whose Muslim Brotherhood was long oppressed by the security forces, has made it clear that he needs the police on his side to protect his still shaky grip on power.

On state TV Sunday, he thanked the police for their response to the protests, a day after dozens had been killed in the Mediterranean city of Port Said.

Riot police continued on Thursday to battle rock-throwing protesters in an area near Tahrir Square in central Cairo, the seventh day of clashes in the wave of political violence that has engulfed Egypt - though battles elsewhere have eased somewhat.

The police's furious response to the protests and riots - some of which targeted their stations and left two police officers dead - uncovered the depth of discontent in the once all-powerful security forces.

Since Mubarak's fall, they have been demoralized and in disarray.

But now they are signaling that they want back the status they held under his rule, when no one questioned their use of force and they had unlimited powers of arrest.

"The police saw the protests as an opportunity to show they are strong, capable and ready to crush them," said rights lawyer Negad Borai.

"They knew they had political cover, to which they responded by using a disproportionate amount of force."

The Interior Ministry, in charge of police, says its forces showed restraint and pointed out that dozens of police were injured in the clashes, along with the two dead.

It has also staunchly denied that police fired birdshot at protesters in the street fighting. At least three protesters are known to have been killed by birdshot, and many others have shown wounds from the metal pellets riddling their torsos and heads.

Five different interior ministers have headed the forces in the past two years, and none has been able to exercise full control over the unsettled ranks.

Distraught police officers heckled the latest interior minister, Mohammed Ibrahim, when he showed up for the funeral of the two officers killed last weekend.

They accused him of being there only for the news cameras, and raised such a storm that the minister, surrounded by his bodyguards, left the mosque and the funeral went ahead without him.

Later, Ibrahim said in a statement that he understood the officers were under stress.

Some in the force are seething over what they see as the inadequate firepower given to the police in the face of attackers who have frequently targeted police stations and prisons over the past two years.

Egyptian media reported that riot police conscripts mutinied at a large Cairo base to protest what they see as crippling constraints on their use of firearms against protesters.

The Interior Ministry denied the reports, but Prime Minister Hesham Kandil visited the base on Wednesday, a highly unusual move that suggested there had been troubles.

There is also resistance to serving under a president who hails from the Muslim Brotherhood, a group whose members police targeted for years under Mubarak.

Many in the police, for example, are convinced that Morsi and his Brotherhood are unfit to rule and not worth working for, according to security officials familiar with the mood on the force, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the issue.

The sacking last month of Ibrahim's predecessor, Ahmed Gamal-Eddin, did not go down well in the force.

Gamal-Eddin, who was popular among officers, is thought to have lost his job over his refusal to use force against opposition supporters who made their way to the outer walls of the presidential palace last month and for failing to prevent attacks on offices of the Brotherhood and its political party around the country.

Morsi, who came to office seven months ago as Egypt's first freely elected president, has been trying to woo the police, praising them for the few steps that have been taken to restore law and order.

Last week, the black-clad riot police appeared for the first time in new, protective gear that reduces their vulnerability to rocks and firebombs and conceal much of their faces. In a first, the police also received three patrol helicopters.

Morsi's television address on Sunday also gave the police key political cover.

He thanked the security forces for their handling of the protests and described the protesters as thugs or die-hard Mubarak loyalists trying to bring down the state, effectively justifying any police action.

Furthermore, he declared a 30-day state of emergency in Port Said and two other Suez Canal cities, giving police there far reaching powers to arrest and detain suspects, a move that harked back to Mubarak's rule, when Egypt was under emergency laws for most of his 29 years in power.

The speech came a day after nearly 40 people were killed in Port Said, where protesters and witnesses spoke of random shootings by police marksmen stationed on rooftops or from moving armored cars, lashing out after the two policemen were killed by armed men trying to storm a prison.

In Cairo, footage aired on Egyptian TV stations showed protesters, some as young as 15, lying on the ground while getting beaten up by bands of policemen.

“Their actions are brutal and their officers are taunting us with obscene hand signs,” complained Hamadah Hasem, a 26-year-old protester in Cairo.

Hebya Morayef, the Egypt director for Human Rights Watch, noted that Morsi made no mention of claims of excessive force by police or pledge investigations of alleged abuses.

“In a sense, Morsi is making decisions that are similar to those of his predecessors,” she said about the president’s apparent abandonment of plans to reform the police and instead focus on winning them over.

“It is short sighted,” she said.

Egypt’s police are a militarized force believed to number around 500,000 men.

They played a key role in maintaining Mubarak’s grip on power, systematically detaining and torturing Islamists and silencing dissidents.

Hated and blamed for massive human rights abuses, the brutality of the police was among the key reasons behind the 2011 revolution.

The police melted away four days into the 18-day revolution following deadly clashes with protesters. They have since returned to duty but are yet to fully take back the streets, even as crime and disorder have increased dramatically.

Some policemen say they will not fully carry out their duties as a retribution for their humiliating defeat in 2011.

Others maintain they are ready to go back to work in earnest if given guarantees that they won’t be prosecuted for their actions in enforcing the law.

The anti-Mubarak revolution raised calls for widespread reform of the police aimed at purging abusive officers, ending a culture that condoned torture, bribe-taking and abuses, and improving the professional capabilities of the force. No process for doing any of that has begun.

Revolutionaries and rights activists blame the police for the death of nearly 900 protesters during the revolution and dozens more in unrest that followed Mubarak’s overthrow.

The police, on their part, say they shot to kill when their lives were in danger as bands of armed protesters stormed police stations across much of the country.

More than a 100 policemen have been put on trials on charges of killing protesters, but almost all were acquitted.

The latest example came Thursday when a court in Sharqiyah acquitted the Nile Delta province’s former police chief and seven of his top aides on charges of killing protesters in 2011.

Mubarak and his security chief, former interior minister Habib el-Adly, were convicted of failing to prevent the killings and sentenced in June to life in prison.

Both successfully appealed their sentences and will now face a new trial.

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.

Libya:

“‘Politicians Said They Would Do Many Things But There Is No Change,’ Said Yussef Al-Ghariani Of The Oil And Gas Workers’ Union”

“These Politicians Sit In Their Hotels In Tripoli And Forget About Us”

“People Say They Will Do Another Revolution”

Jan 31, 2013 By Marie-Louise Gumuchian, Reuters. (Additional reporting by Ghaith Shennib in Benghazi, Hadeel Al-Shalchi and Ali Shuaib in Tripoli; Editing by Mark Heinrich) [Excerpts]

BENGHAZI, Libya

As night fell over Benghazi, a familiar sound echoed across the eastern Libyan city - an explosion, and then gunfire. A bomb had just been thrown at a police car on patrol, injuring an officer.

It was the latest of many attacks on local security forces. The police chief, was shot dead outside his home.

Two years after Libya's second city kindled the uprising that ousted Muammar Gaddafi, rival militias and gunmen are more powerful than the police.

Activist Mohammed Buganah said "People feel insecure. They are very upset and annoyed about this."

There have been assaults on diplomats and international missions, including the September 11 killing of the U.S. ambassador, amid a rising tide of kidnappings, bombings and assassinations, mainly of security officials.

The anarchy, along with garbage-strewn streets and unravelling municipal services, have deepened a sense of neglect by the capital Tripoli far to the west and reawakened demands for autonomy in a region with most of Libya's oil wealth.

"Everyone is increasingly worried about eastern Libya," a diplomatic source said. "Things are seriously deteriorating."

Another activist, who declined to be named for his own safety, said: "There isn't anyone fully in control of Benghazi."

Former anti-Gaddafi rebels claim to have been absorbed, at least symbolically, into the interior ministry, like the Supreme Security Committee, and military.

But fighters for such factions as the Libya Shield, February 17 and Raffalah al-Sahati boast more firepower than the police or army and are estimated to number in the thousands.

"Brigades control entrances into the city, streets, key infrastructure. The police don't want to challenge them because they just don't have the manpower," said the activist.

Ansar al-Sharia, a radical Islamist group whose members witnesses say were at the scene of the September attack on the U.S. mission, was driven out of its base by protesters after a "Rescue Benghazi" rally by outraged citizenry.

Locals say the group, which once guarded a hospital and denied involvement in the assault, has since kept a low profile.

But analysts and activists say Islamist militants are amassing power on the ground even if their numbers are unknown. The police, seen guiding traffic or carrying out patrols, admit they are often powerless, and targets of attacks.

"We only have pistols and rifles. They have tanks and heavy weapons," the chief of a downtown police station said. "We want to do our job but some police officers are simply afraid."

Even if security forces make arrests, ensuing attacks discourage prosecutions. A police investigator is still missing after being abducted in early January.

“Everyday I check under my car and in my rear view mirror before I set off,” an officer who gave his name as Anis said. “I am proud to be a policeman but you have to be careful now.”

The violence is mainly against security forces and may be revenge attacks by former prisoners or militants seeking to stamp their authority.

But without an effective army or police, authorities have little power to confront criminal suspects.

This is hardly the image Benghazians want for their city.

But they concede that life has been disrupted by violence and unrest on top of demands for greater autonomy or investment in a region separated from Tripoli 1,000 km (620 miles) away to the west.

Benghazi’s security problems form the backdrop to more pressing civic grievances - a government failure to satisfy a public whose frustration has been simmering since rebel leaders left their eastern base for Tripoli in October 2011.

Long a pro-autonomy hotbed behind earlier attempts to unseat Gaddafi, Benghazi is now the focal point of a widespread sense that the new Tripoli authorities are still ignoring the east.

Benghazians point to rubbish-strewn streets, dirt track roads, hospitals and schools in need of basic upgrades.

New shops have opened and building projects have resumed. But they expect more.

“Where is all the money from the oil? Why are they not spending it to help us?” one female teacher said. “These politicians sit in their hotels in Tripoli and forget about us.”

For about a decade after Libya became an independent state in 1951, the North African state was run along federal lines, devolving power to the eastern, western and southern regions.

Libya began to centralise its government in the last years of the monarchy. Gaddafi sped up the process after his 1969 coup, concentrating the power of the state in Tripoli and neglecting Benghazi.

Two years ago the anti-Gaddafi uprising had the strongest support in Benghazi but today a very different mood has emerged.

“Most people here would say they are very unhappy,” a local oil worker said. “Some say they are worse off than before.”

“Politicians said they would do many things but there is no change,” said Yussef al-Ghariani of the oil and gas workers’ union. “People say they will do another revolution.”

RECEIVED:

“Seeing As How Nobody Is Hearing The Complaints Of The Military People On The Front Lines”

From: Bob Smith [Veteran]
Subject: Military Resistance 11B1: Op No Hope
Date: 2 Feb 2013

Passing this along. [Military Resistance 11B1: Op No Hope]

Seeing as how a General is lying about accomplishments. Seeing as how the Lamestream Media is not reporting riots against the corrupt government we installed in Iraq.

Seeing as how nobody is hearing the complaints of the military people on the front lines.

Seeing as how over 80% of all taxes collected by the USA now go to our National Security/ War Complex. That figure includes the money collected for highways, Social Security and Medicare.

Reply T:

The issue with the articles mentioned, 11B1, may be found posted at <http://www.militaryproject.org>.

Military Resistance distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan. We believe this constitutes a “fair use” of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **Military Resistance has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is Military Resistance endorsed or sponsored by the originators. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research, education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice.** Go to: law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond ‘fair use’, you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

If printed out, a copy of this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. “Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited.” DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.