

Military Resistance 11D8



AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

**Afghan Collaborators Seduced
And Abandoned:
Interpreters For The U.S. Occupation
Are Left Stranded And At Risk;
“His Best Hope Is One That Has
Remained Beyond His Grasp Despite
Years Of Effort: An American Visa”**

April 14, 2013 By AZAM AHMED, New York Times [Excerpts]

KABUL, Afghanistan — The first time the Taliban tried to kill him, Sulaiman was driving to his base when his truck was hit by a rocket, knocking him down a cliff.

The insurgents knew his vehicle, its license plate number and, most important, his occupation: a high-value combat interpreter for United States Special Operations troops in Afghanistan.

They left him for dead in that attack, in July 2011, but he got out with a broken collarbone, two broken ribs and a new sense of caution. Since then, he has survived two more attacks.

Sulaiman's American supervisor no longer lets him travel by car when he leaves his military base to visit his family. But no one feels that is protection enough, given the premium that the Taliban put on killing Afghans who help American forces.

His best hope is one that has remained beyond his grasp despite years of effort: an American visa.

Now, the backlog is growing.

The danger is especially real for the estimated 8,000 interpreters who have worked for the Americans. Though no one tracks the targeted violence figures, anecdotal evidence is grim — at least a few people are said to be killed each month.

In February, two interpreters were gunned down in Logar Province south of Kabul, the same province where Sulaiman was first attacked. In December, an interpreter working in Jalalabad was singled out while heading home on leave. The Taliban killed his two brothers in the attack.

Sulaiman, 26, who asked to be identified only by his first name so as not to put his family at greater risk, is one of the relatively lucky ones. He is still employed, and his American military colleagues are working hard to help him.

But he is still waiting.

He believes a 2008 visa application was lost in the bureaucratic ether. A second application, in late 2011, yielded an embassy interview last year. Since then, though, he has received automated responses to his entreaties. The State Department declined to talk about his case.

Several of his Special Operations colleagues have fired off letters imploring the State Department to expedite his application, adding to the stack of recommendations lauding his skills and courage.

"If this takes too long, if there is an error somewhere, he's compromised and his family is compromised," said his current supervisor, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of security reasons.

"We kind of feel like we're watching the clock wind down right now."

The urgency among Afghans to receive visas mirrors the situation in Iraq on the eve of the American military pullout there.

Only in Iraq, the system, while still problematic, has been better equipped to deal with the visa situation brought on by the withdrawal, thanks to the intervention of lawmakers, including Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts in 2008.

Among the disparities between the programs are the number of visas available — 7,500 in Afghanistan versus 25,000 in Iraq; the family members eligible to join the applicant — strictly wife and dependent children in Afghanistan versus parents, siblings and all children in Iraq.

Other differences include the additional avenues for recourse — almost none for Afghans, versus the ability to apply directly to the United States for refugee status as an Iraqi.

So far, about 22 percent of the available visas for Iraqis have been granted, according to a letter to the State Department and White House from concerned members of Congress.

The figure is closer to 12 percent for Afghans, the letter states.

“In my opinion, the story in Afghanistan is a sorry, shabby echo of what’s happening in Iraq,” said Kirk W. Johnson, the founder of the List Project, an organization that assists Iraqi refugees in obtaining visas to the United States.

Thousands of Afghan applicants are caught in an approval process that lasts more than two years. As many as 5,000 were waiting to begin the process as of last fall.

The State Department declined to comment on the number of applications submitted, the backlog or any phase of the visa approval process. Privately, some officials say the consular division has doubled resources to increase its processing ability, though that has not been publicly announced or confirmed.

“The extension and reform of these programs is a matter of national security, and these programs represent an important tool for the U.S. operations in Afghanistan,” according to a March 5 letter sent to the White House and the State Department, signed by 19 members of Congress.

Among the things that will not change is that Afghans who worked for American companies, including the news media and nongovernmental organizations, will still not be eligible for the special visas, even though such Iraqis are eligible.

And legislators are not seeking additional visas for Afghans.

As it stands, issuing the available visas has been hard enough.

State Department figures through December suggest the agency would have to grant about 1,200 visas a month to use all 7,500 visas before the so-called Afghan Allies program expires at the end of fiscal year 2013.

Put another way, consular officials would need to issue more than four times the visas they did in their most productive year, 2009, every month.

State Department officials say there is no priority given to certain applications — such a measure would be hard to enforce fairly.

Still, Sulaiman's situation would seem to present a clear-cut case of need.

He has been working with the Americans for 10 years. When he was 16, he caught the attention of a Special Operations team by confronting them in English as they walked through his neighborhood.

Amused, they asked him if he wanted a job. He started training immediately.

Since then, he has worked as a combat interpreter for coalition forces in all but four provinces across the country, translating battle strategy to Afghan forces in the middle of firefights and high-level meetings with elders in contested villages, among other efforts. He has been on more than 300 missions, and his ties to Special Operations put him in even more danger than most interpreters.

The job has also cost him a sense of identity.

Having spent so much of his adolescent years around American military bases, he struggles to relate to other Afghans. At times, he seems almost startlingly American: he speaks English with a faint Midwestern accent and wears a North Face jacket.

Everyone on base calls him Sam. "I've spent more time inside the base with Americans than I have with my family," Sulaiman said. "I feel more at home on the base."

His commitment, his supervisors say, has never wavered. If he makes it to the United States, he hopes to join the military and attend the Army Ranger School.

"I could ask Sam to do anything tomorrow, and he wouldn't even blink," his American supervisor said.

But Sulaiman's desperation is growing. In December, fearing another attack, he sent another e-mail to the American Embassy in Kabul. In it, he explained that he had not been able to go home for months because of the risk to him and his family, and implored them to look at his visa application again.

An auto-reply arrived in his in-box a few hours later: his application required further processing.

"Individuals who believe they are in peril in their place of residence should consider leaving that location and moving to another nearby safe place, inside or outside the country," the e-mail said.

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Insurgent Attacks Rock Somali Capital

14 Apr 2013 Al Jazeera And Agencies

Armed men dressed in Somali police uniforms have stormed the court complex in the capital Mogadishu killing a number of people, before a gun battle erupted with security forces besieging the compound.

Hours after the attack at the court on Sunday, a large blast hit an area on the road to the Mogadishu airport, residents said.

Somali officials told Al Jazeera that nine fighters dressed in police uniforms attacked the court complex killed ten national security officers outside the court complex before entering.

Once inside the court, the fighters killed at least three people, including two lawyers and a spokesperson of the court.

An al-Shabab spokesperson claimed responsibility for the attacks, telling Al Jazeera that as a state institution the court complex was a "legitimate target".

Hours later, a car bomb exploded at a building housing Somali intelligence along the road to the airport as Turkish and African Union (AU) vehicles were passing, police and witnesses said. Government forces then opened fire and blocked the road.

"The car bomb exploded near the gate of a building housing the Somali security. AU and Turkish cars were also passing there. We are still investigating the target and casualties," Qadar Ali, a police officer told the Reuters news agency.

A Turkish official who spoke on condition of anonymity told Reuters that one of its Red Crescent vehicles was passing at the time of the explosion. A Somali driver was killed and three Turkish passengers were wounded, the official said.

In total, Somali officials said more than 30 people were killed on Sunday, including the nine fighters who stormed the court.

MILITARY NEWS

Virginia National Guard Members Off To Obama's Imperial Slaughterhouse

Apr. 4, 2013 The Associated Press

EMPORIA, Va. — About 160 members of the Virginia National Guard are conducting final training for a deployment to Afghanistan.

Officials said a departure ceremony was held in Emporia on Wednesday for the members of the 1710th Transportation Company, 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group.

The soldiers entered federal active duty Monday. They will conduct their final training at Fort Hood in Texas for up to 60 days before heading to Afghanistan.

Once there, they are expected to conduct transportation support operations and convoy security for military and host nation convoys during their year-long deployment.

It is the first Virginia National Guard unit to serve on federal active duty since July. The unit last served federal active duty in Iraq from May 2008 to February 2009.

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WAR?



The remains of Army Staff Sgt. Christopher M. Ward April 10, 2013 at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Ward of Oak Ridge, Tenn., was killed by an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan. Associated Press

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

Arizona Veterans Services Director Fired: He Hired Brain-Dead Politician After Ordered Not To: “She Said Menstrual Cycles Might Be Too Problematic For Women To Be In Combat”

Apr 4, 2013 By Cristina Silva, The Associated Press [Excerpts]

PHOENIX — The director of Arizona’s veterans services department was forced out of his job this week after he hired a former state representative and she then slammed female troops serving in combat.

Joey Strickland submitted his resignation effective immediately on Tuesday after he was reprimanded for hiring former state Rep. Terri Proud after Gov. Jan Brewer explicitly told him not to.

Proud lost her job this week after she said menstrual cycles might be too problematic for women to be in combat. She made the remarks in an interview with the University of Arizona’s Arizona-Sonora News Service about her plans for the department’s women services.

Brewer’s spokesman Matt Benson said Proud’s comments are indicative of why Brewer told Strickland not to hire her.

“He acted in disregard of those instructions,” Benson said. “Of all people, Col. Strickland knows the ramifications of disregarding a direct order.”

Proud, who served one term in the House and was slated to start working for the department soon, drew criticism from veterans groups after she told a student reporter for the Arizona-Sonora News Service that she had concerns about women serving in combat.

“Women have certain things during the month I’m not sure they should be out there dealing with. I don’t know how to address that topic in a very diplomatic manner,” Proud told the student news service.

Activists complained about the quote to the governor, Proud said in a Facebook post on Wednesday.

“I am so devastated,” Proud wrote. “Joey is a good man, he has done so much for the Dept. and I have been a huge supporter of the Vets. I am so devastated.”

Strickland began looking for a new assistant last year to oversee the department’s women’s services. He expressed interest in Proud, who was serving as a state representative at the time. Brewer did not like the idea, Benson said.

“About a year ago, Col. Strickland was given very specific instructions to avoid hiring an individual that he was considering,” Benson said. “He chose to do so anyway. Unfortunately, that individual’s judgment was on display this week with some particularly ill-chosen public remarks regarding women in the military.”

Benson would not say why Strickland was ordered not to hire Proud, a fellow Republican who finished up her House term in January.

“What we have seen in the last few days is evidence of a lack of judgment. That speaks to some of our concerns,” Benson said.

During her brief time in the House, Proud made waves for attacking mandates that employer health plans cover contraception and sponsoring legislation allowing public high schools in Arizona to offer an elective high school course on the Bible. She also opposed the state’s redistricting commission.

Strickland was named veterans services director in 2008 after his predecessor, Patrick Chorpensing Sr., was forced out amid allegations of neglect and mismanagement. Chorpensing eventually pleaded guilty to conflict of interest and violating procurement laws.

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

People do not make revolutions eagerly any more than they do war. There is this difference, however, that in war compulsion plays the decisive role, in revolution there is no compulsion except that of circumstances.

A revolution takes place only when there is no other way out. And the insurrection, which rises above a revolution like a peak in the mountain chain of its events, can be no more evoked at will than the revolution as a whole. The masses advance and retreat several times before they make up their minds to the final assault.

-- Leon Trotsky; The History of the Russian Revolution

Boston Tragedy: USA Must Attack North Korea

From: Sanford Kelson [Veteran & Military Resistance Organization]
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Subject: Boston “Tragedy.” USA must attack North Korea.
Date: Apr 15, 2013

President Obama declared that the bombing in Boston was a tragedy.

The US must declare a war on tragedy immediately.

No time to waste. No investigation needed. Delay will be interpreted as weakness.

The biggest tragedy in the world today is North Korea and its evil leader Kim – Hitler incarnate. The US must attack and attack and attack until it wipes out tragedy from the planet.

Some may worry about the cost in treasure at this of needed austerity. No problem.

The Treasury can print another trillion dollars and workers' wages can be cut in half, social security and medicare eliminated.

And after the US finishes off Korea, the next tragedy to wipe out is Iran. Go Team. Our country. Right or Wrong. Nuke 'em.

Uncle Sham



1968 recruitment poster superimposed over the names on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Photograph by Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: April 15, 2013
Subject: Uncle Sham

Uncle Sham

Everyday 1 active duty military personnel commits suicide.

Everyday 22 American military veterans commit suicide.

It is widely believed that more Vietnam veterans have committed suicide than were killed in the war.

58,220 American soldiers were killed in Vietnam.

From the senior prom to Vietnam.

There are hundreds of thousands of veterans who are addicted to drugs and alcohol across America.

These veterans affect millions of American lives across this country who are close friends and relatives of these veterans.

It only takes a split second for a veteran or an active duty soldier to put a bullet in their head.

That one bullet travels through the lives of countless people.

That is what Uncle Sham does every single day, while the American people are entertained by violent movies and violent computer games, and thousands of other distractions.

Ever see an American soldier commit suicide with an M-16?

Ever see an American soldier commit suicide with a 9mm pistol?

Ever take an American soldier off of a helicopter who had half his head gone?

Ever see countless American soldiers destroy their lives everyday with heroin?

Ever take an innocent dead civilian off of a helicopter?

Ever see an American soldier kill another American soldier with an M-16?

Ever see an American soldier try to kill another American soldier with a knife?

Ever see an American soldier try to commit suicide with drugs, because he got a "Dear John" letter?

Ever go back to Vietnam, and stand next to a ditch where 150 innocent Vietnamese civilians were massacred by the U.S. Government?

Ever have a close friend from Vietnam hang himself in a motel room?

Ever have a close friend from Vietnam die in a head-on car collision, because he was tremendously depressed?

Ever have a close friend from Vietnam die homeless?

Ever have a brother-in-law dying from Agent Orange exposure?

Ever find yourself in a padded cell of a psychiatric hospital, screaming your lungs out because you hated Uncle Sham so bad for sending you to a war that was an absolute lie?

An absolute sham.
Ever have panic attacks day in and day out because you didn't recognize your country anymore?
Ever find yourself in a dark closet crying your heart out?
Ever plan your suicide with a car going over a cliff?
Ever plan to buy a one-way plane ticket out of the United States, because you couldn't stand Uncle Sham bombing another country for corporate profit?
I have had all of these experiences.
And,
hundreds of thousands of other veterans have had the same experiences, and much worse.
Uncle Sham is bleeding us all to death.
He is worse than a man who goes into a school and massacres 20 first graders.
In Vietnam, first graders were killed every single day by U.S. saturation bombing.
Anyone who does not believe this, lives in a fantasy world.

Mike Hastie
Army Medic Vietnam
April 15, 2013

A nation that year after year spends more money on military defense than it does on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death.
Martin Luther King Jr.
Riverside Church New York City
April 4, 1967

Photo and caption 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

**“Any Genuine Left Must Support The
Masses Of Syria In Their Uprising**

Against Oppression, Instead Of Siding With The Oppressors” “What Is Taking Place Is A Popular Revolution, With An Armed Component”

April 9, 2013 by Yusef Khalil, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

“Airlift to Rebels in Syria Expands with C.I.A.'s Help” screamed a New York Times headline in late March.

“Foreign intervention!” screamed back supporters of the Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad.

More than two years after the mass uprising of the Syrian people began, the regime of Bashar al-Assad is still in power--but at a devastating cost. Some 70,000 people are dead, according to United Nations figures, and nearly 5 million have been displaced, internally and externally, by the regime's scorched-earth war to crush its opponents.

Yet some on the U.S. and international left cling to the idea that the regime presiding over this violence and repression is progressive--and that the uprising against it was engineered by Western governments.

Syrians have endured the bloodiest chapter of the Arab Revolutions that swept through the region, starting in 2011. After months of mostly peaceful protests, Syria's revolutionaries--responding to the dictatorship's violent crackdown--had to develop a popular armed resistance to defend themselves and defeat the forces of the regime.

Large parts of the country, including major military bases and airports, have fallen from the government's hands, but they remain under heavy bombardment.

Nevertheless, in many of these areas, Syrians are experimenting with local self-government, now that the regime has lost its grip.

Yet some on the left have sided against the Syrian Revolution, claiming that the Assad regime belongs to a supposed “anti-imperialist” camp--and that Washington's rhetorical support for the uprising in Syria shows the millions who have defied Assad are puppets of imperialism.

In the litany of sins that the Syrian people have supposedly committed in their two-year-old uprising, for supporters of the regime in left groups, top on the list is aid coming from the U.S. and other Western governments to some organizations among the rebels.

Where were they when, for months, Syrians gathered peacefully in the hundreds of thousands in cities around the country, only to be shot dead by Assad's forces?

Did they speak up when opponents of the regime, young and old, men and women, were tortured in Assad's dungeons? Are they calling for freedom of all political prisoners and

the brave young citizen reporters who are risking their lives to document the government's repression?

What about now?

“Using Any And All Reports Of The U.S. Government's Involvement In Syria As A Cover For A Shameful Subservience To Dictatorship”

Have they organized tangible support for any other form of resistance to the Assad regime? Are they applying the same principles of solidarity in Syria that they profess to have toward other freedom struggles globally?

Or are they using any and all reports of the U.S. government's involvement in Syria as a cover for a shameful subservience to dictatorship?

Like every other regional and international power, the U.S. government has its fingers in Syria.

It is maneuvering to shape--and ultimately, to curtail--the Syrian Revolution. That means supporting some factions among the rebels that it believes are the most pliable, but definitely not all factions. Throughout the carnage inflicted by the regime, the U.S. has kept very tight limits on the support, especially military support, it has provided.

As Ghayath Naisse, a member of the Revolutionary Left Current in Syria, explained in an interview

“The major imperialist powers, led by the United States, have always supported what they call an ‘orderly transition’ in Syria, which means only superficial and partial changes to the structure of the regime...This is for geostrategic reasons, including protecting the Zionist entity and preventing the revolution from succeeding and spreading to the entire Arab east, including the reactionary oil monarchies.”

I and others have written for SocialistWorker.org before about the regional and international interests at play. So I will only remind readers now that even mainstream media reports, like the Times' article referred to above, regularly include criticisms from rebel forces that the U.S. and other powers have stopped all but light weapons from reaching Syria. Washington, in particular, has blocked heavy weapons like anti-aircraft systems, which could be used against the regime's air force.

Also commonly expressed in many corners of the Syrian uprising is resentment that countries like Saudi Arabia and Qatar only fund and arm hard-line Islamist groups that are loyal to them, and sometimes hostile to each other--further hindering an effective revolutionary military and political strategy.

Of course, the Syrian rebels are seeking weapons from outside the country. But this isn't a failing of the rebellion--it was forced on Syrians by the Assad regime, when it declared war on the people and tried to drown the revolution in blood.

As Lebanese author Fawwaz Traboulsi explained brilliantly:

“Whoever has lived under the same conditions as Syrian citizens, and witnessed all this repression and murder, and was forced to pick up a weapon, knows they will look for weapons from anywhere. The regime, which has pushed Syrians to pick up guns, has also pushed them to accept financing for their armed struggle.”

“Any Genuine Left Must Support The Masses Of Syria In Their Uprising Against Oppression, Instead Of Siding With The Oppressors”

But those who support the regime because they claim the uprising is being manipulated by the West are dishonest. They didn't support the revolution when it was still in the phase of nonviolent mass mobilizations, and they wouldn't support independent efforts to get financial and material resources to Syrian revolutionaries today.

Meanwhile, the apologists save their sympathy--unbelievably enough--for Bashar al-Assad, who they see as the poor victim of an imperialist conspiracy.

This is after Assad and his regime have killed 70,000 people, disappeared as many or more, destroyed upwards of 1 million homes and other buildings, and displaced over 5 million people.

It would seem that the real conspiracy is against the Syrian people. Any genuine left must support the masses of Syria in their uprising against oppression, instead of siding with the oppressors.

But, we are asked, what about Israel? Isn't the Assad regime a necessary bulwark against Zionism in the Middle East?

Having stable dictatorships surrounding it was good for Israel--for both propaganda purposes (how many times have you heard that Israel is the “only democracy in the Middle East”?) and security purposes (there's nothing like a highly repressive, though rhetorically nationalist, regime to keep the Arab population, long radicalized by the Palestinian cause, under tight control).

As Fawwaz Traboulsi pointed out in the article quoted earlier, Assad's true value to Israel and its U.S. ally is “to be responsible for two countries (Syria and Lebanon) and to maintain security and stability on the northern border of occupied Palestine...while also controlling Hezbollah...which needs an official country to be responsible for it.”

The vast majority of the Syrian population is hostile to the regime.

Of course, there is a class of Syrians that is organically linked to the dictatorship and has material interests in the survival of the regime. Others are persuaded by the regime's sectarian propaganda that religious and ethnic minorities will be attacked if the revolution succeeds. They may not be enthusiastic about the regime, but they fear a future without the iron-fisted rule of Assad.

But this is no excuse for the kind of assaults that regime supporters have made against Syrian revolutionaries and their supporters--most outrageously at the

World Social Forum in Tunisia, where these forces showed up at the tent set up by the Global Solidarity with Syria Campaign, and physically attacked participants, women and men alike, and burned the flag of the Syrian Revolution.

“What Is Taking Place Is A Popular Revolution, With An Armed Component”

Beyond those who support the Syrian regime as a progressive opponent of imperialism, there are those who are justly suspicious of the motives of the U.S. and other powerful governments--and who fear that Syrians are doomed to a civil war between a bloodthirsty dictator and groups of intolerant little tyrants sustained by the U.S. and other powers.

What these pictures of the situation miss--intentionally or not--is the fact that Syria is in the grips of more than a civil war.

What is taking place is a popular revolution, with an armed component.

There are a wide variety of groups involved and at least as many strategies and ideas about what the struggle is about--including those that are not left wing and that will make accommodations with imperialism.

But the uprising is also a very dynamic process that has involved millions of people becoming active in public life for the first time. There are political advances and retreats, and moments of triumph and disappointment, just as there are military victories and defeats.

But it would be wrong to reduce the Syrian Revolution to the question of the armed struggle and the role of imperialist powers in trying to shape and co-opt that armed struggle.

Take the role of women in the uprising--something that is not widely appreciated anywhere, and especially not in the mainstream media.

Women have been very active participants and leaders from the beginning. They have played a role not just as victims and mothers and sisters of the martyrs and detainees, but also in demonstrations, on the front in field hospitals, in citizen reporting, and in the distribution of medicine and humanitarian supplies.

As a group of women activists in Aleppo wrote, “We will not wait until the regime falls for women to become active.” At the same time, they write, the “militarization of the revolution” has overshadowed the role of women--so in early March, the revolutionary local council of Aleppo was elected and didn't include a single woman, despite some well-known female activists being nominated.

So there is--like everywhere in the world--some distance to go before women have equality in Syria. But the role they have played in the struggle so far--and will in the future--underlines how the uprising has opened up many different fronts in the battle against the Assad regime.

As Ghayath Naisse said in an interview published by SocialistWorker.org:

“The popular masses have invented many forms of struggles, including massive popular demonstrations that we saw in July of last year in Hama and Deir Ezzour; fast demonstrations (like flash mobs) that only last for several minutes; and demonstrations in neighborhoods with narrow streets in order to prevent the security forces from finding and cornering them, thus allowing protesters to disperse in narrow alleys when faced with repression.

“Other actions include night demonstrations, releasing balloons carrying revolutionary slogans, dyeing the fountains red in major city squares, raising the flags of the revolution in streets and balconies, renaming streets with names of the revolution's martyrs and, of course, a series of general strikes. The most recent one, in December 2012, was called the Strike of Dignity and lasted two days.

“Every Friday, the masses raise their slogans, most of them united, in response to specific situations or to express their opinion regarding any matter of concern to the revolution. These are also a means to form a common mass consciousness and to generalize revolutionary experiences.”

One problem facing the revolution is the proliferation of armed groups operating independently of each other, with no joint military strategy or adherence to the popular demands of the revolution. Clashes between some of these groups have intensified, and some parts of the population are increasingly alienated by reactionary practices and strict religious ideologies among some armed groups, including Islamists with the greatest access to Western arms.

But in some areas, armed groups have found ways to coordinate. For example, one report from Daraya attributes the steadfastness of the city's resistance to coordination between the umbrella Free Syrian Army and the civilian leadership of the local revolutionary council. As a result, all armed groups have to be subordinate to a central military authority in order to operate in the city.

To avoid clientelism and abuse of resources, all donations and aid go into a unified fund, from which they are distributed to military work and humanitarian aid under the supervision of the local council. Despite the urgent need for support, Daraya has rejected political conditions being tied to financial and military aid.

Many bodies of the revolution have been sharply critical of armed groups that are seen as acting in their own or others' interests and that go against popular demands. One such body is the Local Coordinating Committees of Syria, which represents a number of grassroots committees that emerged out of the revolution to organize protests and begin steps toward self-government.

This alliance, while making clear that blame for all the violence lies with the Assad regime, nevertheless has stated:

“(R)evolutionaries have noticed some bad practices by some who carry arms. Therefore, the Local Coordinating Committees have sent a message to every revolutionary who has decided to carry a gun. They raised banners calling against indiscriminate use of

weapons, and that the (morally responsible) use of weapons will be a fundamental reason of victory...

“The coordinating committees of Irbeen, Zabadani, Madaya, Hamouriya, Jdeidet Artouz in the Damascus suburbs, Hrak, Sanamein, Tafs, Anchel, Yarmouk Camp, Naimah in Dara'a, Kafrouma in Idlib, Misyaf, Hama, Bazza'a, Bab from Aleppo province, Jableh in Latakia, Tartous, Qadmus in Tartous, Hasakah, Qamishli, Aamoudah in Hasakah, Tabkah in Raqqa all participated. In addition, revolutionaries asked everybody to adopt morals that affirm the principles of the revolution for freedom and dignity.”

I want to leave the last word to a brave revolutionary, leftist writer Nahed Badawiyya, speaking from inside Syria:

“The Arab Revolutions have come to put an end to the traditional left, and especially the traditional Communist Parties, which have been ineffective for a long time. They have become conservative, reactionary structures, devoid of members.

“In Syria, these Communist Parties gravitated towards the murderous regime and become accomplices to its crimes.

“Therefore, much of their base, especially the youth, abandoned them and took to the streets to join their generation in protest. You will notice this phenomenon in all the traditional political movements in Syria.

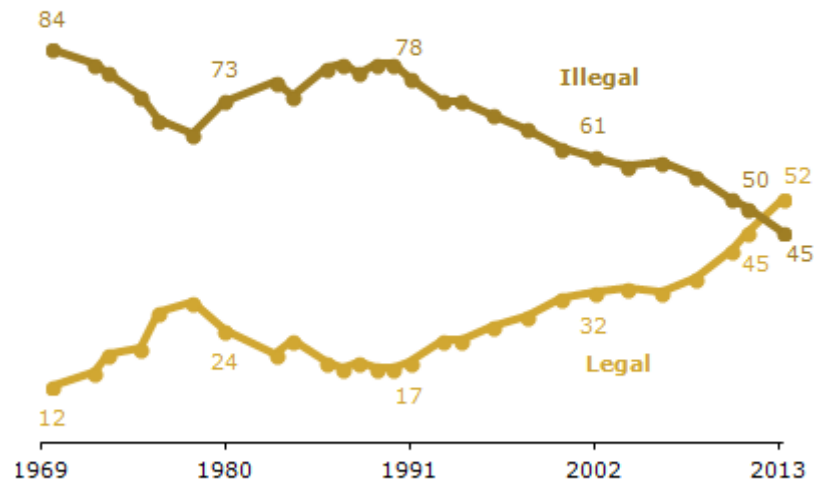
“The youths of the Palestinian, Arab and Kurdish political movements have all separated from their leadership and joined the revolution. In all these political movements, the party leaderships were an obstacle and a brake on the revolutionary Syrian youth.

“At the same time, however, new Leftist youth formations emerged from within the revolution giving voice to its essence. I hope they grow and proliferate.”

**“For The First Time In More Than
Four Decades Of Polling On The
Issue, A Majority Of Americans Favor
Legalizing The Use Of Marijuana”
“A Sizable Percentage Of Americans
(72%) Say That Government Efforts To
Enforce Marijuana Laws Cost More Than
They Are Worth”**

Views of Legalizing Marijuana: 1969-2013

% saying marijuana should be ...



PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 13-17, 2013.
1973-2008 data from General Social Survey; 1969 and 1972 data from Gallup.

April 4, 2013 Pew Research Center [Excerpts]

For the first time in more than four decades of polling on the issue, a majority of Americans favor legalizing the use of marijuana. A national survey finds that 52% say that the use of marijuana should be made legal while 45% say it should not.

Support for legalizing marijuana has risen 11 points since 2010. The change is even more dramatic since the late 1960s. A 1969 Gallup survey found that just 12% favored legalizing marijuana use, while 84% were opposed.

The survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted March 13-17 among 1,501 adults, finds that young people are the most supportive of marijuana legalization. Fully 65% of Millennials –born since 1980 and now between 18 and 32 – favor legalizing the use of marijuana, up from just 36% in 2008.

Yet there also has been a striking change in long-term attitudes among older generations, particularly Baby Boomers.

Half (50%) of Boomers now favor legalizing marijuana, among the highest percentages ever. In 1978, 47% of Boomers favored legalizing marijuana, but support plummeted during the 1980s, reaching a low of 17% in 1990. Since 1994, however, the percentage of Boomers favoring marijuana legalization has doubled, from 24% to 50%.

Generation X, born between 1965 and 1980, came of age in the 1990s when there was widespread opposition to legalizing marijuana. Support for marijuana legalization among Gen X also has risen dramatically – from just 28% in 1994 to 42% a decade later and 54% currently.

The Silent Generation continues to be less supportive of marijuana legalization than younger age cohorts. But the percentage of Silents who favor legalization has nearly doubled –from 17% to 32% – since 2002.

The survey finds that an increasing percentage of Americans say they have tried marijuana.

Overall, 48% say they have ever tried marijuana, up from 38% a decade ago. Roughly half in all age groups, except for those 65 and older, say they have tried marijuana.

Amid changing attitudes about marijuana, a sizable percentage of Americans (72%) say that government efforts to enforce marijuana laws cost more than they are worth.

And 60% say that the federal government should not enforce federal laws prohibiting the use of marijuana in states where it is legal. Last fall, voters in two states – Colorado and Washington state – approved the personal use of small amounts of marijuana for recreational use.

The long-term shift in favor of legalizing marijuana has accelerated in the past three years. About half (52%) of adults today support legalizing the use of marijuana, up from 41% in 2010.

Since then, support for legalization has increased among all demographic and political groups.

Fully 70% of those who have ever tried marijuana, including 89% of those who have tried it in the past year, say the use of marijuana should be legal.

Support for legalization has increased since 2010 among those who have ever tried marijuana (by six points) as well as those who have not (by 10 points).

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.

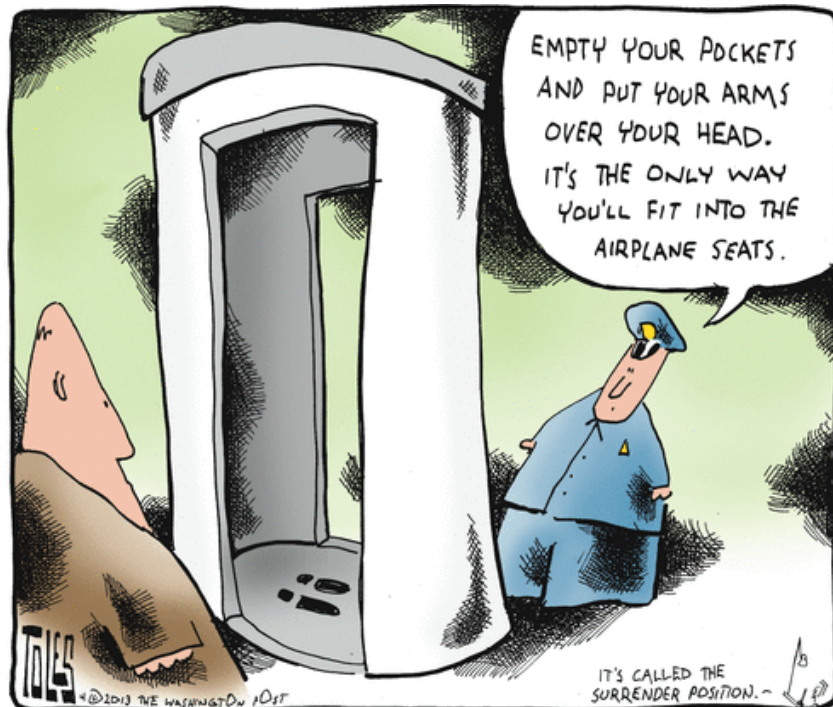
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DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



CLASS WAR REPORTS



DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the email address if you wish and we'll send it regularly with your best wishes. Whether in Afghanistan or at a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to injustices, 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.

RECEIVED:

**“ANOTHER LIFE” SHUDDERS AS NEWS
FROM GITMO SHOCKS:
“Play Protests The Bush Era Torture Program And
The Indefinite Detentions Of Our Post-9/11 World”**

From: Jonathan Slaff

To: Military Resistance Newsletter

Subject: “Another Life” shudders as news from Gitmo shocks.

Date: Apr 15, 2013

“Another Life” opened March 28 at Theater for the New City and plays through April 21.

Performances are Thursday through Saturday at 8:00 PM and Sunday at 3:00 PM.

Theater for the New City is located at 155 First Ave., at East Tenth Street, New York City

Tickets are \$18 and can be ordered online at www.theaterforthenewcity.net.

NEW YORK -- As events unfold in the forcible repression of the hunger strike by 88 prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, we are entering the final week of “Another Life,” written and directed by Karen Malpede, presented by Theater for the New City, 155 First Ave.

The play protests the Bush era torture program and the indefinite detentions of our post-9/11 world. Its cast and company, shocked by news from Gitmo, will host post-play discussions during the play's final week as community forums for playgoers to exchange thoughts and concerns on the events.

Last week, prisoners and guards have clashed at the American military base in Cuba as authorities moved inmates, many of whom are on hunger strike, out of communal cellblocks.

Many news stories have emerged about forced feedings of the prisoners.

Almost 100 detainees have been cleared for release but remain at Gitmo because of Congressional restrictions and supposed concerns of possible mistreatment when they are sent back to their home countries.

Lawyers for some of the detainees have condemned the camp authorities' actions.

One poignant sufferer's first-person account appears in the New York Times of April 14, which had been told by a prisoner through an Arabic interpreter to his lawyers at the legal charity, Reprieve, in an unclassified telephone call.

“Another Life” has received high praise from prominent figures who appeared in post-play discussions during the play's first two weeks.

Michael Ratner, lawyer for Julian Assange and President Emeritus of the Center for Constitutional Rights, said, “I was captivated from beginning to end. The play was painful to watch, but beautiful and so important.”

Elizabeth Holtzman, former Congresswoman and author of Cheating Justice, said “I really like this play.” Victoria Brittain, journalist and author of the only other play about

the torture program, "Guantanamo: Honor Bound to Defend Freedom," wrote, "This is such a beautiful and important play, with a great company."

Thomas Drake, the NSA whistleblower, wrote, "Another Life" is a powerfully compelling play revealing the projected psycho-sexual pathology of our national security state mindset - and the sickness at the center of our collective political madness using torture as the means to justify the ends of fear and endless war."

Jesselyn Radack, National Security and Human Rights Director of Government Accountability Project, said "Another Life should be required viewing for all Americans."

The play, written and directed by Karen Malpede, stars George Bartenieff.

This husband and wife team are co-founders of Theater Three Collaborative. The play features a cast of six. After its brief New York run, "Another Life" will travel to London, where it will be featured in the Second Annual Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts New Works Festival in early July. Bartenieff says, "We're looking toward a European production. There is interest in Norway as well as in England."

The little theater company opted to forgo New York critics, regarding the play as too important to be misunderstood, and is relying completely upon word-of mouth.

"The audience of activists, artists, lawyers, writers and students loves this play. We have had the most amazing responses," says Bartenieff. "Audience members are tweeting and blogging for us; they are eager to help spread the word."

The play has also been embraced by Michael Ratner (Center for Constitutional Rights), Judith Malina, Penny Arcade, Joan MacIntosh, Marvin Carlson, Cindy Rosenthal, Kathleen Chalfant, Charlotte Phillips (founder of Brooklyn for Peace), major writers and thinkers about the history of torture, and many other lawyers who have risked their careers to bring some small hope to detainees.

Reflecting on this week's news, Karen Malpede says, "The men incarcerated in Guantanamo are desperate. They have no hope unless the American people wake up and come to understand the needless suffering that is being inflicted in our name. If we are nation founded on laws, we must release the innocent and try those who have legitimate reason to be tried.

"Indefinite detention is torture."

Jonathan Slaff & Associates, Press Representative
55 Perry Street, #1M, NYC 10014
212-924-0496 - www.jsnyc.com

Karen Malpede, Playwright: kmalpede@gmail.com, 718-789-5404

Complete info: http://www.jsnyc.com/season/another_life.htm

Vietnam GI: Reprints Available

[THEY STOPPED AN IMPERIAL WAR]

Vietnam GI

January, 1969

Free to Servicemen

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



WHEN HAWKS RETIRE

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

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

Of special interest was his visit to

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

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

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

The grim fact is that while the government honchos are living in Paris, thousands of our buddies are still dying in Nam. In fact, since they began talking last May 3,000 GIs have been killed in action.

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

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

Below is an interview with a Marine who didn't like the war and figured out why. This guy is a Platoon SGT with five years in the Green Machine, and over a year in Nam, mostly in long range recon with Charlie Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, VGI spoke to him while he was on leave searching his second Nam tour. Since he doesn't ETS until 1973 we've left out his name.

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

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

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

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

VGI: What was it like, living there?

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

VGI: What would she want with the empty boxes?

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

But yet, later on, during the Tet 1968/69, the Viet Cong came in and burned out half of the village, and the manner naturally went in pursuit. In order to stop them, the VC took this girl and they cut off her breasts. She was brought up to the hospital and lost the dirt.

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

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

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

interview

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

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

VGI: Did you see any other incidents like this?

A: There was this little village just out of Ben Son where we brought our rice and got our rice. It's not pretty, it's really true. It was just this small village, maybe 15 or 17 houses. It was a "gray to white" village, all and on there'd be Viet Cong walking the area. No hostilities at all, they'd just go in there to be resupplied. Yet one day, they found out that VC were coming into that village and they called "Fido!" "Fido!" came over and leveled the whole village down. I think maybe three people lived out of the whole thing. One was a little baby about two years old whose mother and father was gone.

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

VGI: How do you think they feel about us?

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

Continued on page 8

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

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

Military Resistance has copied complete sets of Vietnam GI. The originals were a bit rough, but every page is there. Over 100 pages, full 11x17 size.

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*This is how Obama brings the troops home,
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE.*

*Military Resistance is a near-daily news bulletin for service members
www.militaryproject.org*

The image features a central photograph of soldiers in a field, with one soldier in the foreground carrying a wounded comrade on a stretcher. The text is arranged around the photo, with the organization's name and website at the top, a quote in the middle, and a descriptive line at the bottom.

Military Resistance Looks Even Better Printed Out

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