

**Military Resistance 11E10**

**A Brilliantly Written  
Truth-Telling Story  
About Journalism In  
Afghanistan As  
Practiced By An Honest  
Reporter:**

**When A Bomb Goes Off “The  
U.S. Military Will Issue A  
Statement Saying That The  
Bombing Shows That The  
Insurgency Is Increasingly  
Desperate”**

**“My Job Is To Be On The Ground  
And Let People Know When  
Reality Doesn’t Quite Match Up  
With The Rhetoric”**

**“I Know Enough About The Way The Political Winds Have Changed That I Can Call Bullshit When A Military Official Says ‘Now We’re Trying Something Completely New’”**  
**“My Own Editors Have Reacted With Surprise When I Explain That The U.S. Plans To Keep Combat Troops In Afghanistan After 2014”**



Afghan security men inspect the scene of a car bomb explosion in Kabul, Afghanistan in the winter. (Musadeq Sadeq/AP)

May 12, 2013 by Heidi Vogt, The Daily Beast.

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**Heidi Vogt was an Afghanistan correspondent for The Associated Press from 2008 to 2013.**

**For four years, foreign correspondent Heidi Vogt was always one of the first people to file when a bomb went off in Afghanistan.**

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KABUL, Afghanistan —

The first thing is always the boom. Then the rattling of window frames. Then I look up from my computer for someone to make eye contact with.

My Afghan colleague does the same. “Was that?” “Did you feel?”

We both rush for the stairs, running up to the roof to look for smoke.

As I go, I flip through other options in my head: Earthquake? No. Gas tank explosion? Unlikely. The military blowing up a weapons cache? Maybe.

When I reach the roof, the photographers and cameramen are already there. They always run faster, because they need the images.

They’re filming a black puff rising across town and debating what building may have been hit—maybe a government ministry, maybe an embassy, maybe a hotel. I go downstairs to make phone calls. From my desk, I hear a car pulling out of the compound—video and photo on their way.

It’s 8:30 a.m. and I haven’t had coffee yet.

I have spent the past four years as a foreign correspondent for The Associated Press in Afghanistan. I have been one of about a dozen international reporters across various news outlets charged with telling the American public what’s going on “over there.”

It makes for a strange workday: rushing out to bomb sites, counting suicide attacks and emailing with the Taliban.

People call the news the first draft of history.

Working for a wire service in Afghanistan is like being there for the brainstorming session, then publishing your notes. It’s a terrifying job.

There’s a lot more chance of getting something wrong than right, and there’s the fear of losing a bit of your humanity in covering the daily death toll of war.

But in return you get to be one of the people trying to find a narrative in the chaos. You get to be one of the people to ascribe meaning.

**And these days what scares me most is that with every passing month there are fewer people doing that job in Afghanistan.**

**It takes an intense surge of effort by scores of people pulling 14-hour days to tell you about just one explosion.**

**And that reporting machine is what keeps Afghanistan alive in the American consciousness.**

## **“Bombings In Kabul Usually Happen In The Morning, Before Rush Hour”**

Bombings in Kabul usually happen in the morning, before rush hour. I'm an early riser, so I often work the morning shift and seldom get woken up by the blast.

As I start to make calls, groggy American colleagues walk into the newsroom.

They were up late the night before writing up an airstrike or the latest corruption scandal. “Was that?” “Is someone on the way?” “Are we alerting it?” “Is there coffee?”

I open a blank document on my computer and consider what I know. I type a sentence: “Explosion sounds in Afghan capital. Plume of smoke seen rising.”

**I dial the U.S. military press office. An army captain answers.**

“Could that have been a controlled detonation?” I ask.

“No. We don't know what it was.”

**“So what can you say?”**

**“We are aware of reports of an explosion in Kabul. Afghan forces are responding. They are in the lead on this.”**

**“You are aware of an explosion, or aware of reports of an explosion?”**

**“Reports of an explosion.”**

A call comes in on my cell from an Afghan colleague on the scene: “There are lots of ambulances. No one is talking.” I hear the sirens.

“Can you see anything?”

“Smoke. Police. They blocked the road.”

“Any dead?”

“I only see ambulances.”

I hang up, reread my one sentence. Yes, that's all I really know. I press “send.” The AP and Agence France Press call this an “alert.” Reuters calls it a “snap.”

The three agencies race each other to be first with that one sentence. There are back office people who track who wins by how many seconds.

I start typing the next version of the story: a couple paragraphs we call “the urgent.” Maximum 130 words.

I type: "A blast has hit in the center of the Afghan capital, sending a black plume of smoke rising. Sirens could be heard wailing soon after the explosion early Sunday as ambulances rushed to the scene. Police blocked the roads around the Interior Ministry. There were no immediate reports of casualties."

I send it. Four minutes. Fast enough.

Now everyone is up to speed and we divide up tasks. One person will write. Another will go to the scene. Another will work the phones.

**Another will pull background from the archives: when was the last bombing in Kabul?**

**Can we say this is rare, or that bombings are uncommon in the city? No, the last one was three weeks ago -- that's not so rare. Can we say the city is getting more violent? No, it was more violent in 2010. Okay -- let's get that in. Can we call Kabul "relatively safe?" Relative to what?**

About an hour in, information starts to tail off. The police are still holding everyone back from the blast site, but now we know much more. We know there was a car bomb and gunmen on foot. We know at least five people are dead.

**"Regardless Of Any Of This, The U.S. Military Will Issue A Statement Saying That The Bombing Shows That The Insurgency Is Increasingly Desperate"**

**We all pause to decide what it means.**

**If it is the third bombing in a month, it could show that the Taliban are still able to penetrate the heavily fortified capital despite the efforts of international forces to secure the city.**

**If it turns out that the target is the shopping mall next to the Interior Ministry, it could show that the insurgents are increasingly willing to go after civilian targets as they fight to show that they are powerful force in Afghanistan.**

**If the five dead are Afghan guards who spotted something suspicious about the vehicle and stopped it at the gate, it could show that the Afghan forces are stepping up and protecting their own people, that the training has been working and that the guards are heroes.**

**If the bomb was planted on a vehicle parked inside the Interior Ministry, it could show that the insurgency has once again penetrated the Afghan government, demonstrating how insecure the Kabul administration is despite all the help from its Western backers.**

**Regardless of any of this, the U.S. military will issue a statement saying that the bombing shows that the insurgency is increasingly desperate.**

## **The Afghan government will issue a news release obliquely blaming Pakistan.**

And we, the reporters, will start chasing down leads.

Some of us will go after the “color” at the site – touring the blown up building and writing down details like the clothes on the corpses or the shattered glass on the street and hoping to find someone who saw it all happen.

I try to time it so I get there after the jumpiness has subsided but before the police have cleaned everything up and stopped talking.

Others, meanwhile, hit up government officials or go to the hospitals looking for survivors.

All of us will be switching between phone calls and writing and rewriting until well after midnight.

I will write down the details from video and photos that I didn't see firsthand: police rushing wounded to the hospital in the back of a green pickup truck, a woman's dead body covered with a man's coat for propriety's sake, a child crying.

Occasionally I will catch my breath at a particularly gruesome photo or a memory of a lifeless body, but mostly I will focus on just piecing it all together.

### **“I Know Enough About The Way The Political Winds Have Changed That I Can Call Bullshit When A Military Official Says ‘Now We’re Trying Something Completely New’”**

If this seems formulaic or dispassionate it is because I have done it so many times.

Like the rest of the press corps in Afghanistan, I have learned to separate myself from the moment in order to get the right story out. That is the job, after all, to be a witness.

Over time, I have gotten pretty good at being that witness.

I have a dozen Afghan politicians and Western analysts in my phone who I can call up at a moment's notice to ask “What's really going on?”

I know enough about the way the political winds have changed that I can call bullshit when a military official says “now we're trying something completely new.”

And I have been here long enough that I really care about Afghanistan — about my friends here and the colleagues who risk so much to work for an American news organization and the beautiful mountainous country full of people just trying to make a living.

And that means I care even more about getting the story right.

But I am intensely aware that the story matters in the U.S. in proportion to how many troops we have on the ground.

If civil war erupts in the next few years it will break my heart, but it may not have the chance to break yours.

There's a press drawdown that accompanies a troop drawdown.

**Back in 2010, big name TV stars were jostling each other out of the way to dodge bullets in Afghanistan and every news outlet was adding reporters. Back then the AP had four international staffers; now the AP has two.**

**This means that there's a little less time for everything: for figuring out who might really have been behind that explosion, for stopping by a government official's office for tea, for following up on a rumor about a missing \$10 million or a mass grave.**

But the overall media presence is still pretty robust: all three wires and the major newspapers continue to have full-fledged bureaus in Afghanistan.

And there is a cadre of freelancers who can survive here because there is still some appetite for Afghanistan stories in U.S. magazines.

Add to that the host of brave and competent Afghan reporters working for the international press that are well-paid enough to stay and confident enough to speak the truth because they have powerful Western companies protecting them.

So right now, Afghanistan still has plenty of witnesses.

When a bomb goes off, when an airstrike kills civilians, when a woman is stoned to death for trying to escape an abusive husband, reporters elbow each other out of the way to get the story.

**“My Job Is To Be On The Ground And Let People Know When Reality Doesn't Quite Match Up With The Rhetoric”**

**We have many motivations.**

**Some of them are selfish: getting on the front page, making a name for ourselves, showing everyone how smart we are.**

**Some of them are admirable: exposing injustice, telling the stories of people who otherwise go unnoticed, telling the truth no matter where it leads.**

**And when you get dozens of people in one country competing against each other to do all these things, you get a lot of news.**

**You get stories of Afghan corruption and American malfeasance, you get stories of women imprisoned for adultery and of female parliamentarians standing up for their rights.**

**You get stories of American aid projects that turn into financial sinkholes and Afghan officials running smuggling rings.**

**You get to know something about Afghanistan from people whose primary agenda is to tell you what's important and interesting about Afghanistan—the journalists.**

Sometimes when I call press officers with the U.S. military about a story, they ask me what my “angle” is.

It's a hard question to answer.

I know what they're really asking is “do you have a political agenda here? Have you decided what the story is beforehand?”

In their terms, I don't have an angle.

But of course I have an angle.

I'm asking them about an issue because I think it's important right now.

**I think maybe the U.S. government hasn't been as successful as they say they have or I think the Afghan government may be more corrupt now than it was before the Americans poured money into cleaning it up.**

**I am starting with a hunch, and that's why I'm bothering to ask the questions.**

**My job is to be on the ground and let people know when reality doesn't quite match up with the rhetoric.**

And if I get it wrong, one of my competitors will make that clear in print the very next day. That is, as long as they're still here.

When a suicide bomber blows himself up in 2015, there may be a very small handful of Western reporters still in country to cover it.

The current staffers in Kabul will have moved on to Jerusalem or Cairo or London or New York. The freelancers will be in Syria, or wherever the next Syria is.

**And the Afghan journalists who are so key to any reporting in the country will have less of a shield between them and a government that has shown little commitment to freedom of the press.**

We've seen this happen already in Iraq.

Did you hear about the car bombings outside Baghdad last month that killed more than 30 people?

Or the wave of attacks in March that killed 65 people on the eve of the 10th anniversary of the US-led invasion?



An al-Qaida in Iraq front group claimed responsibility. Stories were written about these attacks, but fewer than there would have been two years ago. And those that were written got less space on websites and in newspapers than they would have back then.

**“My Own Editors Have Reacted With Surprise When I Explain That The U.S. Plans To Keep Combat Troops In Afghanistan After 2014”**

Afghanistan, already slipping off the American front page, will show up as a three-inch story in the international section when an American special forces soldier dies.

There will be few details, because the U.S. special forces don't like to give details and there won't be many reporters with the time to dig in and ask questions.

The fewer reporters, the harder it is to fight the rhetoric.

**My own editors have reacted with surprise when I explain that the U.S. plans to keep combat troops in Afghanistan after 2014.**

**On trips back to the U.S., people ask me what there is left to report in Afghanistan, now that the war is over.**

These are the things I think about as I myself depart.

It was time for me to move on, and I assume I will be replaced.

But there's no guarantee.

There's also no guarantee that we'll be ever be able to find the right narrative for the past 12 years in which thousands of Americans and Afghans have died.

**But I hope the American public will remember when our troops have dwindled and the money has tapered off and the newspapers are flogging newer stories on the front page, that it doesn't mean things are fixed.**

**Things are unlikely to be "fixed" for a very long time.**

**Afghans will live this reality.**

**I can only hope Americans will hear about it.**

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **4 G.I.'s Killed By Afghan IED:**

# **“A Number Of Other Soldiers Were Wounded In The Attack, Some Of Them Seriously”**

May 14, 2013 By MATTHEW ROSENBERG, New York Times & May 15, 2013 By The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A roadside bomb tore through an American military convoy in southern Afghanistan on Tuesday, killing at four soldiers in a volatile district of the Taliban heartland.

A number of other soldiers were wounded in the attack, some of them seriously, said Col. Thomas Collins, a spokesman for the coalition. The blast took place in Zhare District in Kandahar Province, one of the central battlegrounds in the Obama administration’s surge of forces into Afghanistan.

The district was largely under the control of the Taliban before the summer of 2010, when thousands of American and Afghan troops poured into the area. The soldiers have since managed to push the Taliban from many of the mud-brick villages that dot the area.

But the American force in Zhare has been cut sharply over the past year, and the Taliban, who see the district as their home turf, remain a forceful presence. The district is still considered by the coalition to be among the most violent in Afghanistan.

The attack on Tuesday was the second successful assault on coalition forces in two days. A day earlier, in the neighboring province of Helmand, three Georgian soldiers were killed by a truck bomb at their outpost.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE  
BLOODSHED**

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

## **Resistance Action**

May 15, 2013 By The Associated Press

KABUL - Two bombs exploded at a checkpoint outside a provincial governor’s compound in eastern Afghanistan on Wednesday, killing at least one police officer, an official said.

The explosions struck in the early morning in Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar province. The first bomb wounded a policeman, and the second was remotely detonated minutes later as police swarmed to the blast scene to secure it.

The second explosion killed one police officer and wounded at least five policemen and three civilian passers-by who were on their way to a nearby park, said Ahmad Zia Abdulzai, a spokesman for the governor

The head of the provincial health department, Dr. Baz Mohammad Shirzad, said 11 victims were taken to a local hospital where one, the police officer, died of his injuries.

At the scene later Wednesday, dried blood stained the sidewalk next to the checkpoint and the makeshift police shelter was reduced to a pile of rubble.

Abdulzai said authorities were investigating how insurgents were able to plant the bombs despite heavy security near the governor's compound.

Another roadside bomb in Nangarhar on Saturday ripped through a police vehicle, killing two and wounding three others.

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

## MILITARY NEWS



[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

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**“The U.S. Department Of  
Veterans Affairs Postponed  
Purchases Of Cardiac Monitors,  
Radiological Equipment And  
Pain-Medication Pumps For  
Patients Last Year”**

**“The Agency Delayed More Than  
\$765 Million It Was Authorized To  
Spend, Affecting Veterans’  
Medical Care In Some Cases”**

**“It Didn’t Replace Old Surgical Tools,  
Oxygen-Delivery Systems Or  
Deteriorating Operating-Room  
Stretchers”**

**“Veterans Have Reported Delays In  
Obtaining Products Such As Heart  
Stents And Prosthetics”**

May 13, 2013 By Kathleen Miller, Bloomberg [Excerpts]

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs postponed purchases of cardiac monitors, radiological equipment and pain-medication pumps for patients last year.

It didn’t replace old surgical tools, oxygen-delivery systems or deteriorating operating-room stretchers.

**In all, the agency delayed more than \$765 million it was authorized to spend, affecting veterans' medical care in some cases, according to VA documents obtained through a Freedom of Information Act.**

**The department, criticized by veterans for claims backlogs and bottlenecks in mental-health care, transferred the money into a holding account.**

**It was the biggest amount deferred in at least 10 years and more than eight times the amount shifted to the fund two years earlier, the records show.**

"It makes no sense to postpone those kinds of small-ticket items, like microscopes and supplies," said Rick Weidman, executive director of policy and government affairs for the Vietnam Veterans of America. "They don't get funding from Congress on the theory VA will probably need a certain amount of money next year. They do it because there's a need."

The department's funding has jumped more than 40 percent to about \$140 billion this year, compared with fiscal 2009, a boost to help the agency cope with a surge of new veterans returning home from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

**Several of the documents obtained by Bloomberg showed purchases were delayed even after agency officials said veterans' medical care had been affected.**

**A VA office in New York, for example, delayed \$79,200 in orders for London-based Smiths Group Plc (SMIN)'s infusion pumps, used to deliver pain medication for patients, according to the records.**

**"We are requesting them immediately as the pain management of our patients has been and will remain negatively impacted until they are replaced," one document stated.**

The memo didn't specify the reason for the postponement.

**VA buyers held off spending \$128,270 to replace damaged surgical equipment.**

**"These items are broken or unrepairable, directly affecting surgical services from providing adequate care to our veterans," Paul Russo, director of the agency's health-care system in Miami, said in the document.**

The agency uses its so-called One VA Plus Fund to bank money that was appropriated by Congress and wasn't spent by the end of the fiscal year, according to a department policy document. Money stored there typically must be awarded by contract for its original purpose the next fiscal year.

In 1,300 pages of documents, the agency often provided no explanation for delays.

This included deferred oxygen-delivery systems from San Diego-based CareFusion Corp. (CFN) and cardiac monitors from Fairfield, Connecticut-based General Electric Co. (GE)

**The VA records also didn't show why plans for new operating-room stretchers would be put off even though the old ones were outdated and "falling apart."**

Radiology equipment from Munich-based Siemens AG (SIE) was delayed for "challenges in contracting." Other VA buyers cited "new review processes" and contracting priorities.

VA buyers in Miami, for instance, put off an estimated \$51,000 "critical item" for a tele-health program that helps veterans who aren't able to visit VA hospitals. They blamed the targets for contracting with small businesses.

"As a result of this national requirement, large business orders have been returned with no action," according to a memo.

The Obama administration has pressured agencies to award more contracts to small businesses.

**Representative Bill Johnson, an Ohio Republican, said during a House Veterans' Affairs hearing in September that veterans have reported delays in obtaining products such as heart stents and prosthetics.**

## **MILITARY RESISTANCE BY EMAIL**

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## **OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

**Usual Terror Attack On  
Palestinian Family Home:  
"Two Small Children, Were Woken  
And Made To Walk Downstairs  
Into One Room, Among Them The  
Youngest Daughter, 19, Who Is**

## **Severely Disabled With Cerebral Palsy”**

**"Don't Laugh Because We Will Give Your Family Reason To Be Sad And Cry About You And You Will Never See Your Family Again"**

**“The House Had Been Taken Apart, Searched And Ransacked. Wardrobes Were Emptied Onto The Floor, Cupboards Broken And A Toilet Seat Had Been Ripped Off”**



Mother of arrested siblings Tahrir and Saddam



The ransacked home of arrested siblings Tahrir and Saddam

May 13, 2013 International Solidarity Movement Team Nablus

Nablus, Occupied Palestine

At 1:30 am on May 12, Israeli soldiers arrested a brother and sister from Kufr Qalil without charge and ransacked their home, terrorizing their family and leaving them with no information about the siblings' imprisonment.

**Israeli soldiers arrived at the residence of Abu Mahyoub Mansour in Kufr Qalil in south Nablus as at least five army jeeps surrounded the family home and eighteen soldiers entered looking for his daughter Tahrir, 29 and son Saddam, 27.**

All thirteen occupants in the house, including two small children, were woken and made to walk downstairs into one room, among them the youngest daughter, 19, who is severely disabled with cerebral palsy. She cannot walk and had to be woken up and carried down, crying in fear.

**The children were scared and crying when soldiers put eye covers on them with slots for the eyes and then repeatedly screamed at them to be quiet.**

The noise of the raid woke up all the neighbours though no one dared to look out as more soldiers remained outside pointing their guns at windows.

Tahrir, who works as a seamstress during the day, was at home and taken into a separate room where she was searched and interrogated.



After interrogation, her eyes were covered as she was taken into the other room where her sister asked her what they had said to her.

Tahrir had laughed as they attempted to scare her and the commander said, "Don't laugh because we will give your family reason to be sad and cry about you and you will never see your family again."

Saddam, married and father of two small children, was not at home as he works night shifts. His father was ordered to call him and ask Saddam to wait near a specific spot in Kufr Qalil. Abu Mahyoub and Tahrir were then driven by the army to locate Saddam. Saddam's hawwiya (Palestinian ID) was taken and he was interrogated before being arrested and taken to the house, eyes covered and hands bound.

This is the second arrest for Saddam, who was arrested previously with his sister Samoud in 2005 when they went up near the illegal Bracha settlement to look for their brother Mahyoub on the day he was killed by Israeli forces.

Subsequently Saddam spent two years in prison and Samoud spent four and half years.

On return to the house, Abu Mahyoub saw all the soldiers were outside and that inside the house had been taken apart, searched and ransacked. Wardrobes were emptied onto the floor, cupboards broken and a toilet seat had been ripped off. A computer hard drive, laptop, camera memory sticks, mobile phones and municipality gifts for prisoners' families were taken.

The army was there until the first call to morning prayer at about 4 am.

**The officers did not state a reason for the two arrests and gave no information on where the young brother and sister were being taken.**

**The family still has no information about their whereabouts; meanwhile, Mawahib, Saddam's 4-year-old daughter, believes her father is away at work.**

**Residents say that army jeeps often enter Kufr Qalil, making arrests randomly and whenever they want.**

**Relatives of the two arrested in Kufr Qalil have a 42-year-old son who has been imprisoned for six years, a father of two sons, one 12 years old and the other 6 years old, who was still unborn when his father was arrested.**

**The six-year-old met his father for the first time yesterday, May 12.**

The father, Shahir Mansour, is also said to need some medical attention which he is lacking in prison.

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## **Palestinian Fisherman Critically Injured When Military Occupation**

# **Forces Open Fire On His Boat At Sea:**

**Adel Has Suffered “A Break To The Bone Of The Skull With Depression Caused By The Bone Going Into The Brain)”**

**“Adel Baker Worked For 30 Years As A Fisherman, And Was The Only Person In The Family To Have A Job, His Family Has No Other Sources Of Income”**



Karim Adel Al Baker, 51, in the hospital's Intensive Care Unit (Photo by Rosa Schiano)

13th May 2013 By Rosa Schiano, International Action for Palestine

On May 1st many countries celebrate the achievement of workers on Labor Day weekend. In Gaza too, workers celebrated labour day in a demonstration in the centre of Gaza City.

Yet, for the Palestinian fishermen there was nothing to celebrate.

**In the early hours of Wednesday morning on May 1st 2013, a Palestinian fisherman was seriously injured when Israeli naval vessels off the coast of Rafah, southern Gaza Strip, opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats that were within 3 nautical miles of the Gaza coast.**

**During the attack, a piece of the engine that is used to pull in the nets, smashed into the head of 51 year old Karim Adel Al Baker from Gaza City, leaving him seriously injured.**

Adel Najjar Baker was transported to the hospital and then to the European Hospital in Khan Younis. We headed to the hospital to check on his condition.

Adel is in the Intensive care unit. A document in the hospital room reads, "Time of admission: 5am." We spoke with Dr. Yasser AlKhalidi, head of the Intensive Care Unit of the European hospital.

Dr. AlKhadi told us that Adel has suffered a serious head injury and that he had arrived at the hospital unconscious. The doctor added that Adel has undergone surgery to relieve the pressure from the bone fragments from the skull and that he was now under artificial ventilation.

**Adel has suffered a depressed skull fracture (a depressed skull fracture is a break to the bone of the skull with depression caused by the bone going into the brain).**

Dr. AlKhalidi added that there was an improvement to the condition of Adel and they have started to reduce the sedatives.

During the visit we met Aatef Baker's brother Adel.

**"Adel was on a fishing boat together with eleven fishermen. While he was fishing, the Israeli navy opened fire, a bullet hit an object on the boat, it fell on his head, causing the trauma.**

"We were near the border with Egypt, 2 miles from the coast.", said Aatef. We left the hospital and took the contacts of Dr. Adel AlKhalidi and family in order to be updated on his condition.

I felt a sense of helplessness and anguish, but at the same time I was hoping with all my might that Adel was strong enough to survive, that he would be strong enough this time.

The next day we went to visit the family of Adel in the Shati refugee camp in Gaza City.

Adel has 7 daughters and 2 sons, one of whom is a fisherman. A cousin of Adel, Mostafa Baker, told us that perhaps they would later evaluate the possibility of a transfer to another hospital.

The house was full of women and children and they occasionally fixed their eyes on us.

"The entire family gathered here because we're waiting for news. Adel's brother is coming back from the hospital", said Mostafa.

**"The attacks and arrests affect our lives. With no fish we have no money," exclaimed a woman of the family Um Eid Baker, adding, "remember when our fathers were able to reach 12 miles from the coast."**

Adel Baker worked for 30 years as a fisherman, and was the only person in the family to have a job, his family has no other sources of income.

"This is the normally the best season for fishermen" said Mostafa, "the major season for sardines." The family then specified that the fishermen, because of the limit of the 3 nautical miles from the coast, are forced to go to Rafah in order to fish, and even enter Egyptian waters, a move that involves great expense especially for fuel.

During our conversation, Aatef, the brother of Adel, returned from the hospital carrying the hospital report.

**The hospital report specified that Baker and Adel was transferred from Al Najjar to the European hospital, having suffered a head injury and damage to the brain.**

**It indicates the need for surgery and treatment. In addition, the report specifies: "Al Aqsa conditions", an expression which is used to define someone injured or a victim of Israeli aggression.**

Then we met Sobeh El-Hessi, a fisherman who was on board the vessel along with Adel Baker, as well as the manager of the vessel.

**"We were fishing the waters on the border between Egypt and Palestinian waters. At 2 am the Israeli navy started shooting, we were about 2 nautical miles from the coast," he began to tell Sobeh.**

"We tried to hide from the bullets. Then when soldiers stopped shooting, we saw the body of Adel Baker lying on the floor and we thought he'd been hit by a bullet wound to the head.

"Then we realized that it was not a bullet, but a heavy object that is part of the engine, and Adel had a large wound to the head. I called the Union of the fishermen to communicate that someone was wounded and asked for an ambulance. Adel A Hasaka was carried to the beach and the ambulance was ready to take him to hospital, it was about 3 in the morning," Sobeh told us.

The fishermen had entered Egyptian waters and were returning to Palestinian waters when the attack happened.

The next day the fishermen did not go fishing.

Sobeh told us also with concern about the recent Israeli attacks with water cannons. The attacks are happening in fact even at a distance of 10 metres between the fishing vessels and the Israeli military.

Just over a year ago a fisherman was killed by a short circuit as a result of an Israeli attack with a water cannon.

**The Israeli army directs their high pressure water cannons directly at the power supply, they shoot at networks, the engine, thus causing accidents. There is also the danger of electric shock or heavy machinery collisions such that with Adel.**

"Fishermen can see the fish beyond three miles, but can not pass through them," said Sobeh as he described the living conditions of the fishermen of Gaza.

**"When the Israeli soldiers shoot we escape, but we can not support our families. These last few days have been tough. Prior to the war the Israeli attacks occurred at a greater distance, but after the war the Navy began to get very close and soldiers are shooting more than usual, "says Sobeh.**

The eyes of Sobeh el Hessi are sad, frightened, but also angry about what happened to Adel.

**In Gaza, going fishing now means going to face an army.**

As reported consistently by the Palestinian Center for Human Rights, the Israeli attacks against Palestinian fishermen constitute a violation of international humanitarian law. Notably this is covered in article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person. Not to mention the right to work and the right to a life with dignity.

Indiscriminate attacks against civilians constitute war crimes.

**Israel has progressively imposed restrictions on Palestinian fishermen's access to the sea. The 20 nautical miles established under the agreements of Jericho in 1994 between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), were reduced to 12 miles under the Bertini Agreement in 2002. In 2006, the area permitted for Palestinian fishing was reduced to 6 nautical miles from the coast.**

**Following the Israeli military offensive "Cast Lead" (2008-2009) Israel imposed a limit of 3 nautical miles from the coast, preventing the Palestinians access to 85% of the water to which they are entitled according to the agreements of Jericho 1994.**

**The agreements reached between Israel and the Palestinian resistance after the Israeli military offensive in November 2012, "Pillar of Defense," allowed Gazan fishermen back out to 6 nautical miles from the coast.**

**Despite these agreements, the Israeli navy has not stopped attacks on Gaza fishermen, even within this limit. In March 2013, Israel imposed once again the 3 nautical mile limit, saying that the decision had been taken following the sending of some Palestinian rockets towards Israel.**

In Gaza, there are currently about 4,000 registered fishermen, while in 2000 there were about 10,000.

In the last ten years, the numbers have declined since Israel began to impose restrictions on access to the sea and used violence to enforce them, arrests and more

attacks, forcing fishermen to abandon their work and deny them the only source of livelihood for their families.

Many fishermen, with courage and determination, continue to risk their life in order to support their families.

At the time of writing, the conditions of Adel Baker have slightly improved, but he is still unconscious in the ICU.

While Adel Baker fights on in the hospital, many fishermen are at sea facing the daily risk of new attacks. It is inevitable, given this barbarity that another one of them will soon be facing a similar fight just like Adel is right now.

While the international community remains in horrible silence, our thoughts and our hearts are on the side of these brave men.

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## Zionist Settlers Dig Up Palestinian Graves



opinion-maker.org

13/05/2013 Ma'an

NABLUS (Ma'an) -- Israeli settlers on Monday exhumed a number of graves and sprayed racist graffiti in the Sawiya village in Nablus, a Palestinian Authority official said.

Ghassan Daghlas, who heads the PA settlement activity file, said settlers from the Alia settlement were responsible for the damage.

He added that a plant nursery and two tractors, belonging to local Abdel Azziz Nasserallah, were also damaged in the attack.

The attack follows clashes on Saturday in the Burin village in Nablus, when dozens of settlers marched into the village.

One villager in Burin was slightly hurt in the hand by a stone and another passed out from tear gas fired by Israeli troops trying to separate the two groups, an AFP journalist said.

The military said that Israeli soldiers also fired rubber-coated bullets, lightly wounding a Palestinian who was given first aid on the spot.

An Israeli army spokeswoman told AFP that about 50 settlers and 20 Palestinians were involved in the confrontation.

The settlers came from Yizhar, a notorious settlement known for being home to Jewish extremists. Yitzhar settlers also clashed with Palestinians in another neighboring village, Urif, but no injuries were reported, AFP reported at the time.

Israeli forces rarely prosecute settlers for violence against Palestinians and their property, which is routine in the occupied West Bank.

**[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to: [www.rafahtoday.org](http://www.rafahtoday.org) The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."]**

### **TROOPS INVITED:**

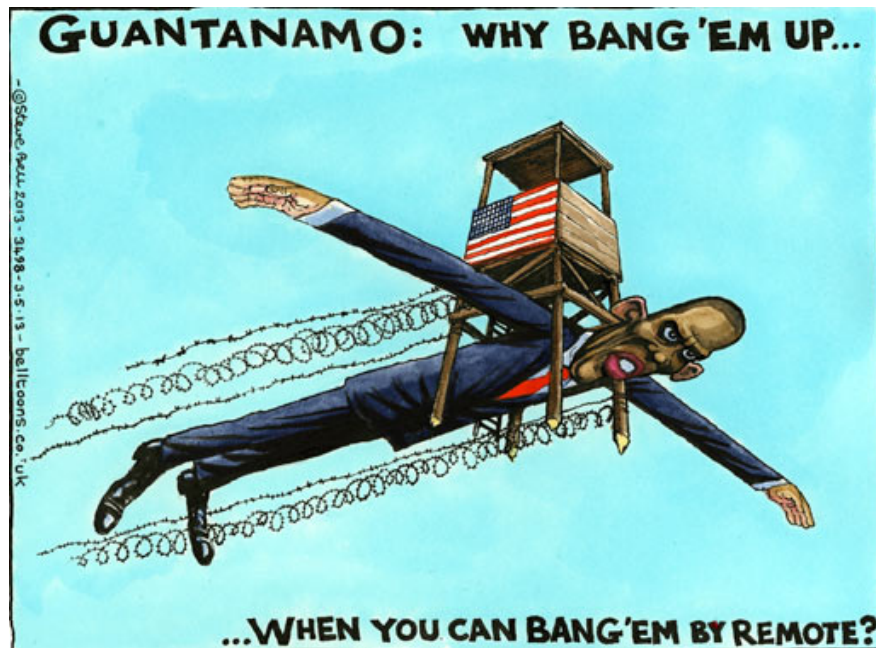
**Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or email [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same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

### **GOT A COMMENT?**

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## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



**Kim Jong-Un Defends Obama  
Regime's Right To Obtain  
Journalists' Phone Records:  
"We Have A Lot More In Common Than I  
Thought"**





May 14, 2013 by Andy Borowitz, The Borowitz Report

PYONGYANG —

As controversy swirled around the Department of Justice's move to obtain journalists' phone records, the White House picked up a vote of support today from an unexpected source, Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un of North Korea.

"I honestly don't see what the fuss is all about," Mr. Kim said in an official statement today. "Of course it's the government's right to know what people are doing at all times—and journalists would be right at the top of the list."

Mr. Kim also offered a vigorous defense of the I.R.S. policy of auditing the tax returns of organizations that oppose the government: "Again, this is something I wouldn't lose a wink of sleep over, and I know Dad felt the same way."

In what was an otherwise laudatory statement about the activities of the U.S. government, Mr. Kim offered one small critique: "They could save themselves the work of conducting audits and obtaining phone records if they would just get rid of journalists and anti-government groups in the first place. But, you know, baby steps."

All in all, news of the I.R.S. audits and phone-records scandals have given the mercurial dictator hope that North Korea and the United States might have warmer relations in the future: "We have a lot more in common than I thought."

## **DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN MILITARY SERVICE?**

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

**Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657.**

## **CLASS WAR REPORTS**

# **Walmart Associates, Community Supporters Launch New Website [www.Reallywalmart.Org](http://www.Reallywalmart.Org): “We Might Not Have Millions Of Dollars To Pay For TV Ads, But We Have The Stories To Share That Walmart Doesn’t Want The Public To Hear”**

[Thanks to Dennis Serdel, who sent this in.]

May 14, 2013 Common Dreams

WASHINGTON - May 13 - Today, the Making Change at Walmart campaign and its coalition partners announced the launch of a new website [www.ReallyWalmart.org](http://www.ReallyWalmart.org).

The website, which showcases a number of video interviews of Walmart employees, community activists, environmentalists and others sharing their experiences with and concerns about Walmart, comes on the heels of Walmart launching a new multimillion-dollar ad-campaign and website of the same name titled “The Real Walmart”.

“Usually I work 36 hours a week but they cut hours...sometimes I even get only 26 hours and I am supposed to be fulltime,” said Chicago native and OUR Walmart member Rose Campbell, who is featured on the site. “I’ve even had 19 hours. I’ve got bills and none of that changes...you have to make do.”

ReallyWalmart.org includes testimony from Walmart employees, community activist and even Actor/Activist Danny Glover.

The site also includes footage from elected officials, including President Obama’s keynote address to the Unite Food and Commercial Workers Union in 2008. Also featured is exclusive footage from labor activist and former Bangladesh garment worker Kalpona Aktar.

“We might not have millions of dollars to pay for TV ads, but we have the stories to share that Walmart doesn’t want the public to hear,” said OUR Walmart member Charlene Fletcher.

“The truth is that Walmart is a company that puts profits over people and employs tactics and strategies that keep employees like me in jobs that don’t let us provide for our families. Even while Walmart’s profits are going up, my coworkers and I have to rely on food stamps just to cover groceries.”

Citing nearly \$16 billion in annual profits and a CEO earning 1000 times the average employee, Walmart employees and communities across the globe are calling for a change of course at the company. Making Change at Walmart is calling on the company to raise wages, an end to retaliation against employees who speak out as well as increased access to full time hours so that employees make a minimum of \$25,000 per year.

Additionally, the group is also calling on Walmart sign a binding agreement on fire and building safety to help prevent tragedies like last month's Rana Plaza building collapse in Dhaka, Bangladesh which caused the death of more than 1,000 garment workers.

Over the course of the last year, Walmart has seen its reputation and business practices questioned amidst bribery allegations, tragedies in its supply chain and turmoil amongst its workforce including strikes launched last year for the first time in the company's 51 year history.

Since 2011 Walmart has seen a decline in its reputational index rating, while its competitors have seen an increase during the same period and support for changing course at Walmart has been growing.

Last fall, more than 30,000 supporters joined striking workers on picket lines around Black Friday and since then a number of actions have taken place at Walmart stores across the country including last month when hundreds of OUR Walmart members and their supporters called on the company to correct scheduling problems within stores.

The new website highlights stories from various Walmart employees including those who have called on the company to change course and leadership.

Additionally, it features stories of Walmart employees who receive public assistance and those work along the supply chain.

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## **27,000 Miners On Wildcat Strike In South Africa: Union Organizer Assassinated Saturday**

May 14, 2013 By DEVON MAYLIE, Wall Street Journal

**JOHANNESBURG — Workers at Lonmin, the world's No. 3 platinum producer, held a wildcat strike Tuesday, shutting the company's Marikana mine and sparking fears about a renewal of violence at the site of last year's deadly labor protests.**

The strike marks the South African mining industry's first major disruption this year, as companies and labor unions prepare to outline their negotiating positions to replace existing two-year wage agreements.

The potential for further unrest and production cuts at precious metal mines pose a big risk for South Africa's economy because mining accounts for about 10% of the country's output.

Mining strikes last year started at Lonmin's Marikana mine but soon spread after police fired into a crowd of protesting miners, killing 34 people. The unrest caused mining output to drop, slowing economic growth and leading to three credit-ratings firms to eventually lower South Africa's rating.

Coupled with the strike, mining companies are beginning to close down operations that are losing money or they are scaling back production. That means more job losses and lost revenue. On Tuesday, gold producer Village Main Reef Ltd. said it would close parts of its Buffelsfontein operation, which employs about 1,900 people. That follows news last week that Anglo American Platinum Ltd. will dismiss around 6,000 workers.

News of the Lonmin strike, along with forecasts that platinum demand will outstrip supply this year, boosted platinum prices on the European spot market. Spot platinum was up 1.4% at \$1,500.50 a troy ounce on Tuesday morning. Palladium, which is often produced alongside platinum and tends to track platinum's price movements, was up 0.8% at \$719 an ounce, having earlier hit a one-month high at \$722.30.

All 13 shafts at Lonmin's Marikana platinum mine, the site of a violent strike last August, were closed Tuesday, the company said.

**Employees arrived for work but didn't go underground, said Lonmin spokeswoman Sue Vey. The company said the reasons for the stoppage were unclear. Lonmin employs about 27,000 people, as well as 10,000 contractors.**

Union rivalry between the National Union of Mineworkers, which is aligned with South Africa's ruling African National Congress, and the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union has fueled much of the labor unrest.

AMCU has usurped NUM's dominance, attracting new members on the promise of higher wages and better working conditions.

**Many workers criticized what they saw as a cozy relationship between NUM leaders and mine management.**

**AngloGold Ashanti Ltd.'s chief executive on Monday acknowledged that the country's mining industry had been paying the NUM president's salary based on a historical deal to help develop mine unions, but he said the industry was looking to end that practice.**

**A NUM spokesman said miners at Lonmin embarked on the strike Tuesday to demand that NUM representatives leave their Marikana office. AMCU now has 70% representation at Marikana. The unions and company officials spent the day locked in meetings.**

Government leaders and the ANC faced criticism for their inaction during the violent strikes last year. The ruling African National Congress said on Monday it won't tolerate

"lawlessness" and "anarchy" around the Lonmin community. The ANC has called on the police to remain vigilant.

The strike follows a weekend of violence around the platinum-producing region of Rustenburg.

**Mawethu Steven, an organizer for the AMCU in the platinum-producing region of North West Province, was killed Saturday afternoon while watching a soccer match near one of Anglo American Platinum's mines in Rustenburg.**

He was allegedly shot by four assailants.

Police and union officials said they don't yet know who is responsible.

Later that day, two other men were killed several miles away at Lonmin's Marikana mine. Police and unions said they still don't know the affiliation of the second two men.



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