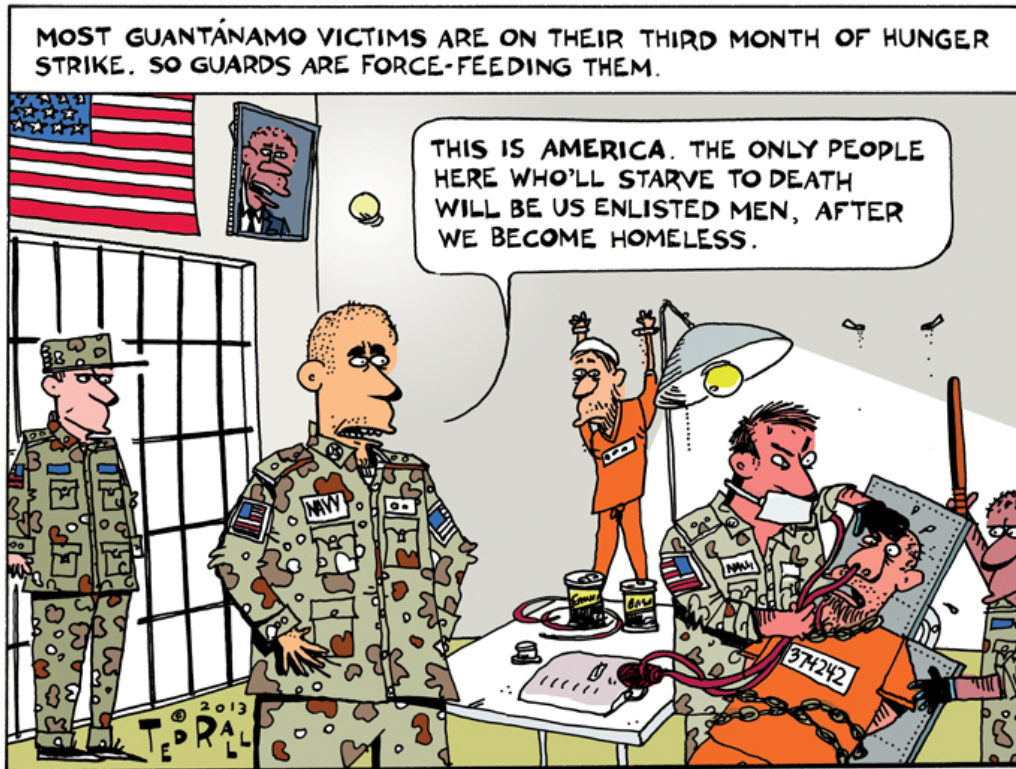


Military Resistance 11E5



[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

“In Northeast Afghanistan’s Warduj District, This Once-Peaceful Area Is Now Wracked By Violence”

“Poverty, Injustice, Oppression And Corruption Have Caused People To Rise Up,’ Abu Aman Said”

“Former Policemen From Warduj District Have Joined The Insurgency Because Of The Local Police Chief’s Allegedly Abusive Behavior Against Both Junior Officers And The Local Population”

May 6, 2013 by Chris Sands, GlobalPost

FAIZABAD, Afghanistan — More than a year after the Taliban issued a set of demands for the Afghan government in northeast Afghanistan’s Warduj district, this once-peaceful area is now wracked by violence.

Back then, a page of lined paper with neat, blue handwriting was passed on to the local representatives of a national peace initiative and signed by the local Taliban leader, Qari Fasihuddin. If Islamic scholars could prove that a “jihad” against “the infidels” was not a religious obligation, the fight against NATO would stop, the note said.

Insurgents would leave alone members of the national army and police, whom assumed security responsibilities in this area from NATO last year, if they agreed to a truce.

If these terms were not accepted, security should be handed over to the insurgents and all Taliban prisoners from Badakhshan, the province to which Warduj belongs, released.

But now, dialogue with the fighters has given way to an escalating conflict that has taken dozens of lives and at one stage displaced hundreds in a strategically important province where violence was scarce, and where the origins and motives of the insurgency are unclear.

“They had some conditions and these conditions were not accepted,” the chairman of the High Peace Council in Badakhshan, Qazi Sadullah Abu Aman, said of the Taliban in Warduj district. “Therefore, they were encouraged to fight.”

Like the majority of Afghans interviewed for this article, Abu Aman spoke to GlobalPost in the provincial capital, Faizabad, northwest of Warduj.

But the peace council member met with 12 insurgents in Warduj district months before the letter outlining their demands was written as part of a negotiation team to end the discord.

The tension in Warduj reached a boiling point in March when Taliban rebels ambushed and kidnapped Afghan soldiers on a resupply mission. Insurgents are then reported to have executed 16 of the captives.

Soon after, the Afghan government launched a major offensive in the area and that included NATO air support. The government claims scores of Taliban were killed, and

that the situation is now improving — with the militants on the run and confined to local mountain hideouts.

But Wahiduddin Arghon, who runs the Badakhshan office of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, visited Warduj in mid-March to witness the impact of the operation first-hand.

He told GlobalPost that more than 200 people had fled to the district center due to the unrest. The government offered them basic assistance like blankets, tents and food — but on the condition they agreed to move to a neighboring district.

When the refugees insisted they wanted to return to their own villages, officials “decided that if they give them these materials maybe they would hand them over to the enemies” and the aid was withheld, Arghon said.

An Afghan official told him residents had been going to the Taliban rather than the government to solve any community disputes.

But when the Taliban ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001, Warduj was among large parts of Badakhshan province that stayed out of their reach.

Badakhshan province — the majority of which remains relatively calm — shares borders with Tajikistan, Pakistan and China, making it strategically and economically important.

The mountains and caves of Warduj are a traditional stronghold of Jamiat-e Islami, one of the main parties in the anti-Soviet resistance and a key contributor to the Northern Alliance movement that fought the Taliban regime.

Opponents of the Taliban today claim the problems in Warduj are actually linked to a construction project designed to connect Faizabad to China via a paved highway. This would open up a lucrative new trade route and has caused speculation that the militants, backed by Pakistan, are trying to undermine the work.

But others say disillusionment with the local government is believed to be a factor behind the insurgency here.

“Poverty, injustice, oppression and corruption have caused people to rise up,” Abu Aman said.

“If (the government) had dealt with this through the window of peace there would be no issue,” he said. “But they are always doing operations and the operations are all failures.”

Abu Aman claims Fasihuddin — a young, ethnic Tajik believed to be the Taliban’s shadow governor for the province — first took up arms because local security forces were harassing religious scholars.

Fasihuddin’s brother, Mawlawi Mohammad Amin, was killed by foreign troops last year.

One rumor circulating here is that the troops then let dogs tear the body to pieces, angering him further.

Indeed, many people in Badakshan say former policemen from Warduj district have joined the insurgency because of the local police chief's allegedly abusive behavior against both junior officers and the local population.

Mawlawi Fazlullah Hanif is a former member of the Taliban now involved in dialogue with the insurgents here. Last year he also visited Fasihuddin for talks, but he believes the government has still not showed it is serious about negotiations.

"There was war in Warduj and just the district police used 30,000 bullets," he said. "How can peace rise among us?"

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Blast Kills 5 Fort Bliss Soldiers In Afghanistan



These four Fort Bliss soldiers were killed by an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan Saturday. From left are Spc. Thomas Murach, Spc. Brandon Prescott, Staff Sgt. Francis Phillips and Spc. Kevin Cardoza. Also killed was 1st Lt. Brandon J. Landrum. This photo, apparently shot in February, was posted on the Facebook pages of Prescott and Cardoza. (Facebook photo)

05/07/2013 by David Burge, El Paso Times

FORT BLISS -- The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan continue to exact a huge toll on Fort Bliss, as five Fort Bliss soldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, were killed Saturday in a bomb blast in southern Afghanistan.

"The toll of this has hit this community hard," Fort Bliss spokesman Maj. Joe Buccino said Monday. "This brings it home."

The soldiers killed were:

1st Lt. Brandon James Landrum, 26, Lawton, Okla.;
Staff Sgt. Francis Gene Phillips IV, 28, Meridian, N.Y.;
Spc. Kevin Cardoza, 19, Mercedes, Texas;
Spc. Brandon Joseph Prescott, 24, Bend, Ore.;
Spc. Thomas Paige Murach, 22, Meridian, Idaho.

The soldiers were more than halfway through a nine-month deployment, Buccino said.

They were out on a patrol in the Maiwand District in Kandahar Province when the vehicle they were in hit a roadside bomb.

"Five (fatalities) in one blast is extremely unusual and horrific," Buccino said. "This casts a shadow over the entire community. The entire community has reached out to us -- the Chamber of Commerce, leaders, El Pasoans who are not in the military. We are appreciative of that.

"All of Fort Bliss is really saddened," Buccino said. "The reality of this has been felt tremendously in this community and El Paso. It wasn't even a year ago that we lost six soldiers (from the 978th Military Police Company) in one blast and now this."

Six MPs, all from Fort Bliss, were killed in a bomb blast July 8, 2012, in Afghanistan.

Fort Bliss also lost nine soldiers in a single day when the 507th Maintenance Company was ambushed at the outset of the Iraq war in March 2003.

Eighty-three Fort Bliss soldiers have died in Iraq and Afghanistan since Sept. 11, 2001.

"Your hearts go out to the families and the soldiers in the Ready First (the 1st Brigade's nickname) who are dealing with this," Buccino said. "There are a lot of people touched by this and are affected by it. It personalizes the war in a very tragic way."

Retired Brig. Gen. Richard Behrenhausen, who lives in El Paso, said he gets emotional any time he hears about a soldier dying. "Service to the nation does include the potential for the ultimate sacrifice," said Behrenhausen, the first commander of what is now called Joint Task Force North, which is headquartered at Fort Bliss. "I really believe every soldier and every soldier's family member understands that, thinks about it and sometimes dreads it, but in the tradition of the military, they soldier on. "It's never easy to lose a single soldier," Behrenhausen said. "It's never easy, whether it is one, five or 10."

Behrenhausen was a captain and then a major during the Vietnam War. The infantry battalion he was in lost 165 soldiers in one year. "That is a terrible toll," he said. "I get emotional thinking about it."

Retired Lt. Col. Bob Chisolm, of Anthony, N.M., saw combat in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

He also said he gets emotional whenever he hears about soldiers dying.

"I have had an opportunity to talk to a lot of these young men who have served in Afghanistan or Iraq," Chisolm said.

"I tell you, it just seems like they and their families are having it a lot rougher than those who served in World War II, Korea or Vietnam."

Current service members sometimes have five, six or even seven tours of duty, which wasn't the case in the past, Chisolm said.

"It's such a burden on the families of these troops," he said.

"The families are suffering terribly in this conflict."

Landrum left behind a wife, a son and daughter. Murach is survived by three brothers and his parents. Phillips left behind a wife and daughter. Prescott is survived by his parents and three brothers. Cardoza left behind two daughters. Cardoza's Facebook page had him listed as engaged to Ashley Marie Vasquez of El Paso.

All soldiers were assigned to the 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division.

A joint memorial service for the fallen soldiers will be held at the installation at some point, but nothing has been scheduled yet, Buccino said. They deployed from Fort Bliss in December 2012.

Biographies:

1st Lt. Brandon James Landrum

Landrum was born on Dec. 5, 1986, in Lawton, Okla. He graduated from Cameron University with a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Infantry Branch.

Landrum joined the Army in November 2005. He deployed to Iraq from December 2008 to August 2009.

He was a graduate of the Infantry Basic Officer Leaders Course and Airborne School.

He arrived at Fort Bliss in January 2012 where he assumed the leadership of the Rifle Platoon in Company A, 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment until September 2012. At that time, he was selected to be the Reconnaissance Platoon leader.

His awards include a Bronze Star, Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster and many other awards.

Staff Sgt. Francis Gene Phillips IV

Phillips was born on Aug. 18, 1984, in Oceanside, Calif., but Meridian, N.Y., is listed as his hometown. He enlisted in the Army in 2004.

He attended the Infantry Training Course and Airborne Course at Fort Benning, Ga.

He deployed to Iraq in 2005 and to Afghanistan in 2007 and 2009.

Phillips completed Ranger School in January 2011 before arriving at Fort Bliss. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment and was selected as a team leader in the Reconnaissance Platoon.

His awards included the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal with Valor, the Army Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster and numerous other awards.

Spc. Kevin Cardoza

Cardoza was born on Aug. 26, 1993, in Edinburg, Texas, but Mercedes, Texas, is listed as his hometown.

He enlisted in the Army in July 2011. He attended the Infantry Training Course at Fort Benning. His first duty assignment was at Fort Bliss, where he was assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment. He was selected to be a member of the Reconnaissance Platoon.

His medals included the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and other awards.

Spc. Thomas Paige Murach

Murach was born May 16, 1990, in Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho. Meridian, Idaho, is listed as his hometown.

He enlisted in the Army in August 2010. He attended the Infantry Training course at Fort Benning. His first duty assignment was at Fort Bliss. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment and was selected to be part of Reconnaissance Platoon as a sniper.

His awards included the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and other medals.

Spc. Brandon Joseph Prescott

Prescott was born on July 18, 1988, in West Covina, Calif. His hometown is listed as Bend, Ore.

He enlisted in the Army in April 2010 and attended the Infantry Training Course at Fort Benning.

His first assignment was to Fort Bliss, where he was assigned to 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment as a member of the Reconnaissance Platoon. He soon was selected as an assistant team leader.

His awards included the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Award with Valor and others.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

**Death, Confusion And Chaos In
Maiwand:
Afghan Authorities Give Two
Contradicting Accounts Of Taliban
Attack:
U.S. Copter Also Down But Command
Says “No Enemy Activity In The
Area”
Esmatullah Safi, The Police Chief Of
Maiwand Said The Helicopter “ Either
Crashed Or Was Shot Down During The
Episode”**

“
May 8, 2013 By ROD NORDLAND, The New York Times Company

KABUL, Afghanistan – A demonstration that officials said had begun as a peaceful pro-government rally in southern Afghanistan on Wednesday instead turned into a bloody melee, with as many as 10 people killed and 14 wounded as the police fired on demonstrators.

When it was over, two cellphone towers were charred wrecks, shops in the local bazaar had been burned and a civilian helicopter taking off from a nearby American base had crash-landed.

But what was unclear was exactly why: local leaders and officials greatly differed in their accounts of how the violence started.

The Afghan authorities accused the Taliban of infiltrating the rally with gunmen, suicide bombers and motorcycles with bombs strapped onboard, according to Esmatullah Safi, the police chief of Maiwand District in southern Kandahar Province.

He said the helicopter, a Russian-made MI-17 used as a civilian cargo transport, either crashed or was shot down during the episode, shortly after it took off from the base.

“The Taliban infiltrated among the protesters carrying AK-47s and bringing some suicide bombers with them,” Mr. Safi said. “Later on, the protesters and some of the Taliban went to a nearby building and started firing at our police forces. Luckily they did not hurt any of our police, but in our exchange of fire we killed seven Taliban and some protesters and wounded 11 others,” Mr. Safi said.

Afterward, the authorities said they had found and disarmed bombs strapped to four motorcycles.

In a different account, Javeed Faisal, the spokesman for the governor of Kandahar, said eight protesters had been killed in all. In addition, Mr. Safi said, the Taliban rampaged through a nearby bazaar and killed two drivers and wounded three other civilians.

Mr. Faisal said the demonstration had originally been called by villagers in the district to support the Afghan government in its border clashes with Pakistani forces recently. Such pro-government protests were held in at least five other provinces on Wednesday.

Maiwand District, however, is well known as an area with strong pro-Taliban sympathies, and it is not adjacent to the Pakistani border.

Hajji Mohammad Ehsan, a member of the provincial council from Maiwand, said the protest started in reaction to house searches and arrests carried out during a joint coalition and Afghan military operation in the Lowi Karez region in the district earlier this week.

“This is what the locals were telling me,” he said. “Later on, some of the protesters were armed and shooting at policemen in the area.”

A spokesman for the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force, Capt. Luca Carniel, said that there was no coalition involvement in the Maiwand events, and that the helicopter had suffered a “hard landing” without any casualties.

“There was no enemy activity in the area prior to the hard landing occurring,” Captain Carniel said. He said the coalition had no information about the protests.

Taliban Ambush Leaves 5 Afghan Soldiers, 1 Police Dead In Farah

08 May 2013 By Sadaf Shinwari, Khaama Press

According to local authorities in western Farah province of Afghanistan, at least six Afghan security forces were killed and four others were injured following Taliban militants ambush.

A local security official speaking on the condition of anonymity said the incident took place on Tuesday after Taliban militants ambushed a convoy of the Afghan security forces in Karwangah area at Bala Bolok district.

The source further added at least five Afghan national army soldiers and a police officer were killed and four others were injured.

He also added, three vehicles of Afghan army and police forces were completely damaged during incident.

Yesterday's incident is one of the deadliest attack on Afghan security forces after Taliban militants coordinated attacks on provincial court in this province.

Taliban militants attacks have been rampant since the group announced its summer offensive last week, vowing to target Afghan and coalition security forces and other government and diplomatic institutions.

More Resistance Action

May 7 Xinhua

GHAZNI, Afghanistan, May 7 (Xinhua) -- A roadside bomb struck a police van in Ghazni province 125 km south of Kabul on Tuesday killing four policemen and injuring another, spokesman for provincial administration Nabi Jan said.

"A mine planted by anti-government militants struck a police van on Jabarwal area outside provincial capital the Ghazni city this morning killing four personnel of Public Order Police and wounded another," Nabi Jan told Xinhua.

The Great Afghan "Aid" Fiasco Rolls On "It's Abominable What's Going On"

“America’s Emaciated Civilian Agencies Could Do Little More Than Write Huge Checks To The Megacontractors That Grew Fat Off The ‘War On Terror’”



The new 100-bed provincial hospital under construction in Gardez, Afghanistan. SIGAR

Last week, the federal Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), examined a pair of hospitals the U.S. Agency for International Development is building in the eastern part of the country.

It found the hospitals too big for Afghanistan to handle.

To put it mildly.

Both will cost roughly five times as much to run as the medical facilities they are replacing:

The existing Gardez hospital has annual operating costs, including fuel, of about \$611,000, and USAID estimates that annual fuel costs alone for the new hospital could be as much as \$3.2 million. Similarly, the existing Khair Khot hospital has annual operating costs of about \$98,000 and USAID estimates that annual operation and maintenance costs alone for the new hospital will be about \$587,000. Neither USAID nor MOPH has committed to provide funding to cover the additional operating costs of the new hospitals.

“I’m all too familiar with how shocking the wastefulness has been in Afghanistan,” Rep. Jackie Speier, D-Calif., noted at an April 25 House Armed Services Committee hearing into Afghan reconstruction.

“It’s abominable what’s going on.”

“Between 2001 and 2010 alone, Rohde notes, Congress cut USAID’s staff by 30%,” notes a review in Sunday’s New York Times of reporter David Rohde’s new book, *Beyond War: Reimagining American Influence in a New Middle East*. “Over the same period, it doubled the agency’s budget. The result: foreign policy by contractor. Suddenly required to spend vast sums bringing democracy and prosperity to Afghanistan and Iraq, America’s emaciated civilian agencies could do little more than write huge checks to the megacontractors that grew fat off the `war on terror,’” Peter Beinart wrote in his review.

“This 100-bed hospital, completed in 2011, could not be fully used due to excessive fuel costs incurred for the 450- and 500-kilowatt generators that were originally installed,” the SIGAR report says.

“Ministry officials calculated that the fuel costs needed to operate these large generators were approximately 10 times higher for the new facility than they were for the old facility. However, no additional funding was made available to accommodate the major increase in fuel costs.”

The Afghans bought a pair of smaller 132-kilowatt generators to power the Khowst hospital to lower their fuel costs.

“These officials stated that the smaller generators did not have sufficient capacity to power the entire hospital,” the report adds.

“As a result, only about 35% of the space in the new Khowst hospital was operational at the time of our audit, and the two larger generators purchased for this project were not being used.”

MILITARY NEWS

Syria Regime And Opposition Both Condemn Israeli Strikes

May 5, 2013 CBS/AP

The Syrian regime and opposition forces found one thing to agree on, albeit for different reasons: They both condemned Israel for carrying out two airstrikes in the Middle Eastern country over the past 48 hours, a major escalation of Israeli involvement in the Syrian civil war.

Syrian opposition forces spoke out against the airstrike in a press statement, saying it hurt their efforts to take down the regime of Bashar Assad.

“The Syrian Coalition is suspicious of the timing of this attack,” the statement said. “These strikes have given the regime the necessary time to draw attention away from its crimes and massacres on the Syrian coast. It is not unlikely that as a result of these attacks, and world distraction, more crimes will be committed.”

Officer In Charge Of Sexual Assault Prevention Programs For The Air Force Arrested: Charged With Sexual Battery



Lt. Col. Jeffrey Krusinski's booking photo. Arlington County Police Department, via Associated Press

May 6, 2013 By JAMES DAO, New York Times

The officer in charge of sexual assault prevention programs for the Air Force was arrested early Sunday and charged with sexual battery, the Arlington County, Va., Police Department said on Monday.

The police said the officer, Lt. Col. Jeffrey Krusinski, 41, approached a woman in a parking lot in Crystal City, near the Pentagon, just after midnight and grabbed her breasts and buttocks before she fended him off and called 911.

Colonel Krusinski, who the police said did not know the woman, was arrested near the parking lot shortly after.

Colonel Krusinski was released on \$5,000 bail on Sunday. A booking photo released after his arrest showed him with facial cuts, but a police department spokesman said those wounds had not been sustained during his arrest.

An Air Force spokeswoman, Lt. Col. Laurel Tingley, said Colonel Krusinski had been removed from his job as chief of the sexual assault prevention and response branch. He had been in the job for about two months.

The Air Force has come under sharp criticism in recent years for a string of sexual assault cases. In March, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel began a review of the decision by an Air Force general to dismiss an officer's sexual assault conviction.

Manning Gets Secret Hearing to Determine How Much of Trial for Disclosing Secrets Will Be Secret

May 07 by Jesselyn Radack, Daily Kos member

It's a secrecy circus at Ft. Meade this week. Tomorrow, the military judge presiding over the most important trial thus far in the 21st century, Col. Denise Lind, will hold an unprecedented closed hearing to determine how much of the trial against Wikileaks source Bradley Manning she will conduct in secret.

AP Reports:

"Government secrecy reaches a new level this week in the court-martial of Army Pfc. Bradley Manning . . ."

The judge's secret hearing tomorrow was requested by the defense after ". . . prosecutor Maj. Ashden Fein . . . said at Feb. 26 hearing that more than half of the government's 141 anticipated witnesses would testify about classified information, necessitating closure of up to 30 percent of the trial."

While the U.S. Code of Military Justice does allow limited closing of Court Martial proceedings, it can only be done in extremely limited circumstances related to specific evidence - not a blanket closure of entire portions.

The irony of holding a secret trial of a defendant accused of leaking secrets is not only undemocratic and antithetical to the constitutional principle of a public trial, but it also undermines Manning's defense by lending legitimacy to the government's secrecy assertions.

Considering all classification experts agree that the government rampantly over-classifies information, Judge Lind should use this hearing to evaluate the government's secrecy claims without automatic deference when the prosecution insists on shutting out the press and the public for "national security" reasons.

Manning's trial is about the biggest leak in world history, which Manning said he disclosed because he saw the government hiding atrocities that the public should know about. It's a sick irony that the trial that could put him away for life has already been shrouded by the very secrecy Manning challenged.

The court martial proceedings are already inordinately difficult for the media and public to access.

Here's my experience from attending Manning's riveting testimony describing how the military tortured him:

"Spectators are not allowed to shift too much in their seats, unwrap anything in plastic, or turn the pages of their notebooks too loudly.

"The bailiff reads a statement before each proceeding that "the public is encouraged to attend" the Court Martial proceedings, but the conditions are hardly welcoming. (The only bathroom is a glorified porta potty.)

"The security rules change daily - sometimes you are wanded before entering, sometimes not; sometimes you are allowed to wait outside the courtroom, sometimes you are forced to line up; sometimes they dig through your purse with the gusto of my kids looking for an extra \$10, sometimes they take a quick glance.

"My personal favorite is when they counted the pills in every single prescription bottle I had.

"My feminine products stopped the detailed mole hunt pretty quickly though."

The secrecy surrounding Manning's court martial has already made headlines and received more comprehensive coverage in the main-stream-media than the proceedings themselves, despite the fact that the charges against Manning - particularly the Espionage Act and Aiding the Enemy counts - could have tremendous negative impact on the ability of journalists to report actual news as opposed to government talking points.

Two months ago, the New York Times took the military to task for the excessive secrecy of the Manning proceedings:

"In Private Manning's case, the issue before the court — whether leaking classified documents can be cast as aiding the enemy — has profound civic implications. People can disagree about what should happen to government employees who do the leaking, but it makes sense that such a fundamental question be debated with as much sunlight as possible."

After multiple journalists repeatedly criticized the secrecy and demonstrated their willingness to file Freedom of Information Act lawsuits challenging the lack of transparency, the media and public finally received a copy of the judge's key ruling on the Espionage Act.

But the new-found transparency has only gone so far.

Now the parties will be debating in secret how much of the trial for leaking supposed secrets should be held in secret. Tomorrow's hearing will be 90% closed, which means even the intrepid journalists who've been navigating the constantly changing rules at Ft.

Meade won't be able to cover it. (Hats off to Kevin Gosztola, Alexa O'Brien, Ed Pilkington, and Nathan Fuller.)

With so much hysteria surrounding Wikileaks and the government defaulting so often toward secrecy, Judge Lind should step in and protect Manning's right to a fair trial and the public's and the press' rights to witness and report on these historic proceedings that could forever impact their First Amendment rights.

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.

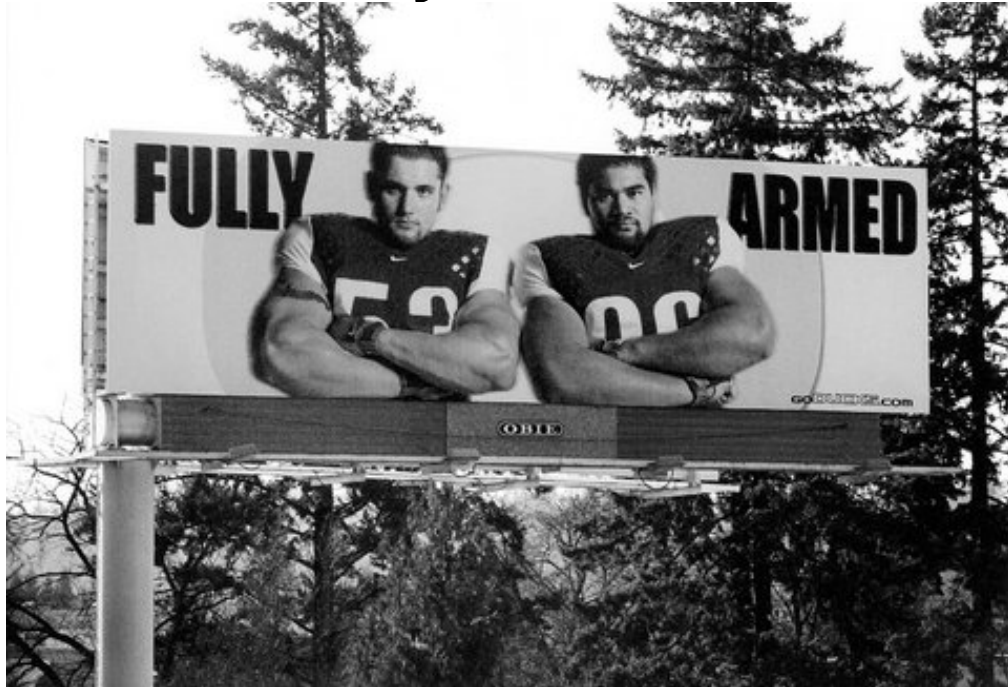
“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

<p>Hope for change doesn't cut it when you're still losing buddies. -- J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War</p>

Fully Armed?



Photograph by Mike Hastie. Billboard along I-5 several years ago.

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: May 06, 2013
Subject: Fully Armed?

Fully Armed?

I have heard many sports announcers use the term “Decorated,” when talking about athletes who have won medals in sport events. “ He was decorated three times at the 2012 Olympic Games.”

Decorated?

That term just flows out of the mouths of people so easily. It is like butter.

I took some soldiers off of helicopters in Vietnam who were also decorated.

They received a Purple Heart.

The only problem was they were dead.

They were killed in the line of duty for the corporate rich.

That’s another story for the sports writer.

In football when the play is blown dead, the players get back up.

In war, they are just dead.

Comparing football to war is like comparing a county jail to a concentration camp. War terminology in sports is an emotional insult to every veteran.

**Mike Hastie
Army Medic Vietnam
May 6, 2013**

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**

STUCK ON STUPID

About Syria: Some Favorite 'Arguments' From The School Of Non-Thought

May 5, 2013 By Ruth Numpty, Uruknet

Terrifying Islamist radicals are recognisable by their beards:

It's so clear now: Kenny Rogers is a high-level Al Qaeda stooge engaged in a fiendish plot to install Dolly Parton as the head of a new ultra-hardcore global caliphate.

We should have known this from his facial hair, particularly after the release of 'Islands in the Stream,' clearly a chilling coded call to global terror attacks (the lyrics 'And the message is clear. This could be the year for the real thing' are a fairly obvious call for synchronised worldwide bombings).

Sadly, however, the CIA, working with Islamic Jihad, Mossad and the Emir of Qatar, cunningly hid the evidence, possibly in Dolly's cleavage.

Rebel fighters and others cry 'Allahu Akbar', obvious proof of being dangerous fundamentalists:

Dear God, yes. Jesus wept, those people using religious terms are obviously insane and murderous radicals. Christ, isn't it obvious?

OMG, what sort of maniacs would use religious terms or references at moments of high emotion or indeed on an everyday basis?

Thank God there are dedicated secularists from the Islamic Republic of Iran and Hezbollah to counter these fanatics.

The opposition refuse to negotiate. Why can't they just get along with Assad?:

They're weird those Arabs.

Western people know that if we were under a totalitarian dictatorship that took 1984 as a policy manual, slaughtered our families, bombed our homes and reduced much of our nations to rubble as punishment for our demanding freedom, we'd be cool with it; we'd just want to sit down with them and talk it through, reasonably over tea and Jammy Dodgers and find a mutually agreeable middle ground.

Foreigners though, we-ell, they're just oddballs.

It's not a revolution, it's a CIA plot:

Well obviously. The CIA's been so keen to hasten Assad's downfall for the past two years that Washington's been sending its FSA agents medical supplies and ready meals to throw at the regime's MiG fighter jets and helicopter warships in a cunning food missile policy.

The Pentagon's fiendish brilliance knows no bounds.

Assad is defending Palestinians:

Indeed.

His forces have ensured that well over 1,000 Palestinian men, women and children will never have to worry about Zionist occupation (or anything else) ever again.

Assad's dedicated anti-Zionist generously firing bouquets of gardenias cunningly disguised as surface-to-surface missiles, mortars and rockets into Yarmouk, Al Hosseiniyeh and other refugee camps, where they're conducting a completely gratis complete remodelling of the layout (which has been rolled out across the country – boring old Aleppo and Homs are being radically restructured under the Assad regime's architectural reform policy).

As if this weren't generous enough, the regime's also implemented a new strictly calorie-controlled weight loss program to help refugee camp residents get in shape for summer; no naughty doughnuts or fattening bread, milk or other foodstuffs will be tempting the Palestinian dieters in Yarmouk, Al Hosseinya and other Palestinian camps elsewhere.

And out of the tender kindness of his heart Assad has sent over 100,000 Palestinian refugees on an extended vacation to holiday camps in Lebanon, Egypt and elsewhere.

And to think, some scallywags suggest that Assad's less than wholly committed to the welfare of the Palestinian people. The nerve of it...

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Settler Mob Attacks West Bank Village With Zionist Army Support, As Usual

May 5, 2013 Ma'an, Al-Akhbar

Updated at 3:15pm: Settlers raided a West Bank village near Ramallah on Saturday night, attacking several houses and prompting clashes between residents and Israeli forces, Ma'an news agency reported.

Israeli forces were standing guard as hundred of settlers stormed the village of Ras Karkar, reportedly barring ambulances from entering the village before allowing an ambulance to take only two people to the hospital.

Eight residents of Ras Karkar were wounded as Israeli troops fired tear gas and rubber bullets at them. Live bullets were also fired into the air to scare the residents and prevent them from defending their property.

Rubber-coated bullets hit one Palestinian in the eye, one in the head and another in the chest.

Four others sustained bruises and fractures from the attack by settlers and Israeli troops, locals said.

According to local sources, three houses in Ras Karkar were attacked and set on fire, as well as a number of olive trees.

One settler was wounded after being hit by a stone.

A video said to have been recorded on Saturday night at Ras Karkar shows Israeli soldiers casually spraying a Palestinian in the face at close range with an irritating agent, and violently arresting another:

Settlers were also gearing up to attack another village near Ramallah on Sunday, Ma'an reported.

According to a witness, dozens of settlers were being escorted by Israeli troops and police officers near the village of al-Janiya in northwest Ramallah.

Residents of al-Janiya were trying to close the road to the village with rocks, only to be met with stun grenades and tear gas. Activists used the village mosque's loudspeakers to urge residents to defend their village.

Settlers routinely attack Palestinians and their property in the occupied West Bank, as Israeli forces regularly turn a blind eye or even assist settler crimes.

According to figures compiled by Israeli group Yesh Din, nine out of 10 police investigations about settler crimes fail to lead to a prosecution.

Zionist Settler Mob Destroys More Olive Trees In Occupied Palestine, As Usual: Israeli Soldiers Arrived At The Scene, Attacked And Pushed The Palestinians Out Of Their Lands, As Usual

May 03, 2013 by Saed Bannoura - IMEMC & Agencies

May 2 2013, a number of armed extremist settlers of the Ofra illegal settlement, attacked Palestinian orchards in Deir Jareer village, east of the central West Bank city of Ramallah, and cut nearly 50 olive trees.

Local sources in the village reported that the olive trees belong to two residents identified as Mohammad Jihad Shajaeyya, and Mohammad Mahmoud Hamdan.

The settlers left the area after their attack; Israeli soldiers arrived at the scene, attacked and pushed the Palestinians out of their lands.

A few weeks ago, a number of extremist settlers attacked a Palestinian villager in the area causing various injuries, and the local residents responded by burning mobile homes illegally installed by the settlers on Palestinian lands.

On Tuesday, several Palestinians, mainly schoolchildren, were injured after a group of extremist Israeli settlers hurled stones at their vehicles, including a school bus, close to various roadblocks, near the northern West Bank city of Nablus.

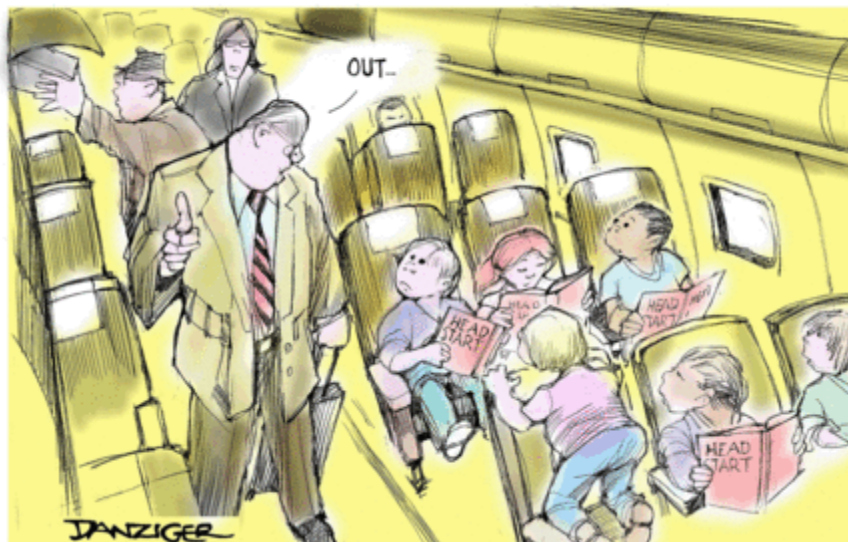
The settlers also set ablaze dozens of Palestinian olive trees that belong to villagers of Huwwara, Aseera Al-Qibliyya, Madama and Orif, all near Nablus.

Furthermore, a number of settlers also hurled stones at Palestinian vehicles near the Ennab roadblock, east of the northern West Bank city of Tulkarem.

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Congress Says No Sequester Cuts for Air Travel. Head Start Cuts Remain.



**Inside Guantánamo:
An Unprecedented Rebellion
Leaves A Notorious Detention
Centre In Crisis:
“They Won’t Let Us Live In Peace
And Now They Won’t Let Us Die In
Peace,’ Said Detainee, Fayiz Al-**

Kandari, A Kuwaiti Held For 11 Years Without Charge”

“Around Two-Thirds Of The 166 Detainees On Hunger Strike”

“I hope not, but if I do die, please tell my children that I loved them above all else, but that I had to stand up for the principle that they cannot just keep holding people without a trial, especially when they have been cleared for release,” said the father of four, who remains in Camp 5 despite being approved for release more than five years ago.

05 May 2013 by Terri Judd, The Independent [Excerpts]

Emaciated and frail, more than 100 men lie on concrete floors of freezing, solitary cells in Guantánamo, silently starving themselves to death.

Stripped of all possessions, even basics such as a sleeping mat or soap, they lie listlessly as guards periodically bang on the steel doors and shout at them to move an arm or leg to prove they are still conscious.

The notorious detention centre is in crisis, suffering a rebellion of unprecedented scale, with most of the camp on lockdown and around two-thirds of the 166 detainees on hunger strike.

The last Brit inside, Shaker Aamer, has said he is prepared to strike to his death.

The US administration does its best to keep prying eyes from the unfolding tragedy but the The Independent has obtained first-hand reports.

Twice a day, the 23 most weak are taken into a room.

Their wrists, arms, stomach, legs and head are strapped to a chair and repeated attempts are made to force a tube down their noses into their stomachs.

It is an ugly procedure as they gag and wretch, blood dripping from their nostrils.

“They won’t let us live in peace and now they won’t let us die in peace,” said detainee, Fayiz Al-Kandari, a Kuwaiti held for 11 years without charge.

Four are so ill that they lie in shackles in the hospital wing and insiders predict it is only a matter of time before one perishes.

“It is possible that I may die in here,” said Mr Aamer, 44, through his lawyer, Clive Stafford Smith, recently.

"I hope not, but if I do die, please tell my children that I loved them above all else, but that I had to stand up for the principle that they cannot just keep holding people without a trial, especially when they have been cleared for release," said the father of four, who remains in Camp 5 despite being approved for release more than five years ago.

"Sad to say, torture and abuse continue in Guantánamo Bay and the US is throwing away yet more of its dwindling moral authority," added Mr Stafford Smith.

The protest, which began on 6 February, has now spread through Camp 6 and Camp 5 with an estimated 100 to 130 taking part.

These are not the high value detainees kept in Camp 7, the handful charged with terror offences.

The hunger strikers are those who have waited a decade or more without trial, including 86 cleared for release but remain trapped because of restrictions imposed by Congress.

"Defence lawyers have tried to engage in constructive dialogue but we have been met with resistance and silence," explained US Army Captain Jason Wright, a lawyer who described seeing his client Obaidullah, now a 115lb "bag of bones", a few days ago as "extremely distressing".

"I have pain in waist, dizziness. I cannot sleep well. I fell (sic) hopeless. I cannot exercise. My muscle become weaker in the last 50 days. I have thrown up five times," wrote Obaidullah, a 32-year-old Afghan who has never been charged despite 11 years imprisonment.

"When I walked into the room he was demonstrably changed. He said, 'They won't treat us with dignity, they are treating us like dogs'. There is an urgency. It is clear that if this hunger strike continues there will be deaths. These men are going to die in this prison for nothing. It is an absolute outrage," said Capt Wright.

"The hunger strike is a political protest. The fact that they are being treated in this manner is contrary to international law and un-American," he added.

The protest began on 6 February when, according to lawyers, the new administration decided to end "an era of permissiveness" and take a more punitive approach, in contravention with the Geneva Convention, which calls for preventative detention.

Guards confiscated all "comfort items" but what inflamed inmates most was a search of their Korans, an act the administration denies.

Prisoners began writing SOS on the outside of their cells but the protest passed peacefully until 13 April when guards used rubber bullets to move inmates from communal cell blocks, where they had covered cameras, and some responded with "improvised weapons" such as broom handles.

First-hand reports this week reveal that most prisoners are now being held in solitary confinement in empty, windowless cells just 12ft by 8ft. Clean water is rationed, they say, and they have been stripped off all possessions.

They complain the air-conditioning has been turned up to an icy level, guards deliberately disturb prayer times and turn up throughout the night to take them for showers.

Describing sleeping on a concrete floor, using his shoes as a pillow, Moroccan Younous Chekkouri said via phone to his lawyers at the charity Reprieve: "Pain starts immediately when I'm on the floor. Pain in my neck, pain in my chest. Finally at night they gave us blankets. It was very cold. Water is now a privilege. They are treating us like animals," he added.

"I thought my torture had ended, but what is happening now is horrible."

Amnesty was among several human rights organisations to describe the situation at the camp in Cuba as "at crisis point" this week while UN special rapporteur on torture Juan Mendez condemned the continued detention as "cruel, inhuman and degrading".

Most people cannot survive losing more than 40 per cent of their body weight. Once fat stores are depleted, the body begins to consume the muscles and vital organs for energy. A large number on the current hunger strike have lost around a third of their body weight. While some are keeping alive by using a vitamin and mineral drink, 23 are now being force-fed.

Lieutenant Colonel Barry Wingard, a lawyer who visited Mr Al-Kandari, this week, explained: "He said they strap you to a chair, tie up your wrists, your legs, your forehead and tightly around the waist. The tube makes his eyes water excessively and blood begins to trickle from the nose. Once the tube passes his throat the gag reflex kicks in. Warm liquid is poured into the body for 45 minutes to two hours. He feels like his body is going to convulse and often vomits.

"He is emaciated, down from 150lb to 100lb. He can't walk. He finds it difficult to concentrate. He burps all the time as his stomach eats itself," added the US Air Force officer, who described the treatment as "beyond hypocrisy".

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.

Diabetic High School Girl Beaten by Police Officer and Arrested -- For Falling Asleep in Class

May 7, 2013 By Alex Kane, AlterNet

A student who was arrested and beaten for falling asleep at school is now suing an Alabama city, its police department and some school employees for civil rights violation, battery and negligent supervision and hiring.

The Courthouse News Service reports that after the diabetic student fell asleep while in a room reserved for "in school suspensions," a school police officer slammed her face into a cabinet and then arrested her.

The incident occurred at a high school in Hoover, Alabama.

Ashlynn Avery, who has diabetes, asthma and sleep apnea, was suspended for cutting class, and had to sit in the in-school suspension room. While she was reading "Huckleberry Finn," she dozed off.

First, the in-school suspension supervisor walked over to her cubicle and struck it, which caused the cubicle to hit Avery's head, according to the lawsuit. She woke up, but soon fell back asleep. The supervisor, Joshua Whited, then took the book from her and slammed it, which caused the book to hit the student in the chest.

Avery was then told to leave the room, according to the complaint, and police officer Christopher Bryant followed her.

Bryant slapped her backpack, and then "proceeded to shove Ashlynn face first into a file cabinet and handcuff her," the complaint states. While in the car, Avery vomited. She was taken to a hospital and had to wear a cast as a result of her injuries.

"Ashlynn required follow-up care to her shoulder, arm, and wrist, Ashlynn also required extended mental counseling for trauma caused by the defendants," the lawsuit states.

The Averys are seeking "compensatory and punitive damages for civil rights violations, battery and negligent supervision and hiring," the Courthouse News Service reports.

The case is another example of abuses committed by school police officers.

Activists have long decried the "school to prison pipeline" which disproportionately affects communities of color.

A PBS factsheet, as the Courthouse News Service notes, states that "70 percent of students involved in 'in-school' arrests or referred to law enforcement are black or Latino."

“When police (or ‘school resource officers’ as these sheriff’s deputies are often known) spend time in a school, they often deal with disorder like proper cops -- by slapping cuffs on the little perps and dragging them to the precinct,” wrote Chase Madar for TomDispatch in the wake of the Newtown massacre.

The school shooting in Connecticut has sparked more calls--from both Democrats and the National Rifle Association--for more police officers in schools.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

“Thousands Of Opposition Supporters Took To The Streets In The Russian Capital Monday” “Russia Without Putin” “The Release Of Political Prisoners”



Protesters at Monday’s rally in Moscow that called for the release of political prisoners. Associated Press

May 6, 2013 By ALEXANDER KOLYANDR, Wall Street Journal

MOSCOW—Thousands of opposition supporters took to the streets in the Russian capital Monday evening to demand an end to the rule of President Vladimir Putin and the release of political prisoners.

Though estimates varied, the crowd appeared to be the largest at an anti-Kremlin rally in about a year, suggesting the protest movement that took off in late 2011—spawned by parliamentary elections rife with fraud allegations—and faded under a Kremlin crackdown continues to enjoy some support.

Police put the crowd at just under 10,000, while observers said the number appeared to be about twice that.

The crowds packed Bolotnaya Square across the Moscow River from the Kremlin despite unseasonably cold weather and a holiday-shortened week.

Chanting “Russia will be free” and “Russia without Putin,” demonstrators dispersed about an hour after the protest started. Police presence was heavy but there were no major incidents reported.

Opposition leaders told the crowd to brace themselves for a long struggle against the Kremlin.

“It seemed to us last winter that the victory is close. There was no fear, no aggression, but the authorities have opted for violence, and this story will take a long route,” said satirist Viktor Shenderovich.

Popular writer Boris Akunin, who appealed to the crowd not to collaborate with the police state and show patience, had to be patient himself as sound engineers had to fix the sound from the makeshift stage during his speech.

“There is still a chance to avoid a political reaction, as the trials of those arrested with the connection of the last year’s events are still going on. But even if they are sentenced, and the state turns into a police one, I don’t think the reaction will be long, as the government is too weak for that,” he said.

Elena Sokolova, an owner of a restaurant in central Moscow said that although she is worried that her business may suffer and isn’t optimistic about chances for political change, she will keep on coming to rallies.

“There is no point in coming, but there is no dignity in staying away,” she said.

Iraq:
“Demonstrators Used The Slogans ‘No To Sectarianism’, ‘Damn The Fathers Of Bashar Al-Assad And Nouri Al-Maliki,’

And ‘Greetings To The Free Syrian Army’”

03 May 2013 World Bulletin/News Desk

Participants in demonstrations held in the Iraqi city of Fallujah on Friday expressed that they will not succumb to governmental pressure and will continue their resistance.

The demonstrators announced that they did not want to quit demonstrations, they are against the federalism which U.S. Vice President Joe Biden plans to implement and which will lead to the fragmentation of Iraq, they will continue demonstrating and defending themselves, and they decided to continue their resistance.

Before the demonstrations, Sheikh Ahmed Ali Al-Mohammadi who read the Friday sermon said that government had not met the demands of the people despite their having protested for 4 months in the cold of winter and the heat of approaching summer.

During the protest, the demonstrators used the slogans “no to sectarianism”, “Damn the fathers of Bashar al-Assad and Nouri al-Maliki,” and “Greetings to the Free Syrian Army.”

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