

Military Resistance 11F8



**More Americans See Man Who
Leaked NSA Secrets As ‘Patriot’
Than Traitor:
More Americans Say “Snowden
Should Not Face Charges” Than
Say Prosecute;
“45% Of Those Surveyed Say The
Program Is Acceptable Under Some
Circumstances, While 37% Say It Is
Completely Unacceptable”**

“Only 6% Say They Have No Objections To The Program”

Comment: T

Despite the massive propaganda effort by Obama regime frighteners, nearly half of U.S. citizens, 44%, reject the whole spying program, as the report from Time Magazine, below, notes. “Forty-eight percent of Americans approve of the surveillance programs, while 44 percent disapprove, a statistical tie given the poll’s four-point margin of error.”

Let this be a lesson to assorted disgusting elitists forever whining about how the U.S. public is made up of stupid sheep so easily fooled by the government. The stupid sheep are the contemptible elitist whiners.

Jun 12, 2013 By Andy Sullivan, Reuters

Roughly one in three Americans say the former security contractor who leaked details of top-secret U.S. surveillance activity is a patriot and should not be prosecuted, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll released on Wednesday.

Some 23 percent of those surveyed said former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden is a traitor while 31 percent said he is a patriot. Another 46 percent said they did not know.

Snowden, 29, revealed last week that the NSA is monitoring a wide swath of telephone and Internet activity as part of its counterterrorism efforts.

“I’m neither traitor nor hero. I’m an American,” Snowden told the South China Post, an English-language newspaper in Hong Kong, in an interview published on Wednesday.

In the Reuters/Ipsos poll, 35 percent of those surveyed said Snowden should not face charges while 25 percent said he should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. Another 40 percent said they did not know.

Some 45 percent of those surveyed say the program is acceptable under some circumstances, while 37 percent say it is completely unacceptable, the polling found.

Only 6 percent say they have no objections to the program.

Americans are largely split on partisan grounds as to whether Obama is more careful about respecting privacy than President George W. Bush.

Twenty-eight percent said Bush was more careful, one-quarter sided with Obama, and 42 percent say there has been little difference between the two.

MORE:

“More Than Half Of Americans Approve Of A Former Intelligence Contractor’s Decision To Leak Classified Details Of Sprawling Government Surveillance Programs”

June 13, 2013 by Zeke J Miller, Time Magazine [Excerpts]

More than half of Americans approve of a former intelligence contractor’s decision to leak classified details of sprawling government surveillance programs, according to the results of a new TIME poll.

Fifty-four percent of respondents said the leaker, Edward Snowden, 29, did a “good thing” in releasing information about the government programs, which collect phone, email, and Internet search records in an effort, officials say, to prevent terrorist attacks.

Just 30 percent disagreed.

Overall, Americans are sharply divided over the government’s use of surveillance programs to prevent terrorist attacks, according to the results of the poll. Forty-eight percent of Americans approve of the surveillance programs, while 44 percent disapprove, a statistical tie given the poll’s four-point margin of error.

A narrow plurality of those polled, 48 percent to 43 percent, believe that the federal government is striking the right balance between protecting Americans’ privacy and protecting their physical well-being or that the government should be doing more to prevent terrorism.

MORE:

“More Americans Disapprove (53%) Than Approve (37%)” Of Government Spying Program

June 12, 2013 Gallup, Inc. [Excerpts]

PRINCETON, NJ -- More Americans disapprove (53%) than approve (37%) of the federal government agency program that as part of its efforts to investigate terrorism obtained records from U.S. telephone and Internet companies to “compile telephone call logs and Internet communications.”

As you may know, as part of its efforts to investigate terrorism, a federal government agency obtained records from larger U.S. telephone and Internet companies in order to compile telephone call logs and Internet communications. Based on what you have heard or read about the program, would you say you approve or disapprove of this government program?

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
National adults	37%	53%	10%
Democrats	49%	40%	11%
Independents	34%	56%	10%
Republicans	32%	63%	5%

June 10-11, 2013

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Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the email address if you wish and we'll send it regularly with your best wishes. Whether in Afghanistan or at a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to injustices, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Virginia Soldier Killed In Afghanistan By IED



Jun 03, 2013 By Sarah Bloom, WWBT

CHESTERFIELD, VA -

A Virginia soldier was killed in Afghanistan over the weekend.

SPC Kyle Stoeckli, 21, was killed in action on Saturday when his unit was attacked by an improvised explosive device.

Stoeckli, a gunner on a mine roller, was recently recognized for his abilities and “optimistic personality that spreads through the Platoon like a virus.”

His mother, Sonja Stoeckli, described him as caring, loving and kind. Words echoed by seemingly everyone who knew him.

“And Kyle, if you knew Kyle, you absolutely loved Kyle,” said family friend Mark McCracken. “He was the rarest of people. And if you loved Kyle, you will continue to love Kyle for the rest of your life. He was that special.”

Friends say he gave great hugs, and was able to move a room with his very presence.

“He just like radiated happiness,” said his best friend, Rebecca Reading. “I mean there was always a silver lining.”

Friends say he felt like it was his duty to serve his country.

Stoeckli is a 2010 graduate from Cosby High School in Chesterfield. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Fort Bliss, Texas.

Congressman Eric Cantor issued the following statement: "I am deeply saddened to hear about the loss of Specialist Kyle Stoeckli. Specialist Stoeckli is an American hero who died while serving our nation. Our hearts break for his family, friends and all those who knew and loved him. We will never forget the sacrifice he made while fighting for our freedom, and today we will fly a flag over the U.S. Capitol in his memory."

Fort Carson Soldier Killed In Afghanistan



Staff Sgt. Joe A. Nunez-Rodriguez (credit: freedomremembered.com)

June 1, 2013 AP

FORT CARSON, Colo. — The Pentagon says a 29-year-old Fort Carson soldier died after his vehicle hit an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan.

Staff Sgt. Joe A. Nunez Rodriguez, of Pasadena, Texas, died Thursday in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. He was assigned to the 68th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, 43rd Sustainment Brigade, 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

Resistance Action: Roadside Bomb Kills 5 Police

June 15, 2013 by: RAHIM FAIEZ , Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A roadside bomb struck a police van in eastern Afghanistan on Saturday, killing five police as they were on their way to a training session, authorities said.

Seven other police were wounded in the early morning blast in Paktika province, a statement from the provincial governor's office said.

The van was taking the officers to a training center in Janikahil district for exercises between the Afghan National Police and the village-level Afghan Local Police, separate branches of the security forces that international troops have been training.

Among the five dead were two national police and three local police.

14 Jun 2013 By Ghanizada, Khaama Press

Head of the provincial media department in Badghis province, Mirwais Mirzakwal said at least three Afghan national army soldiers were killed after a convoy of the Afghan soldiers vehicles struck with a roadside bomb in Bala Morghab district.

In Gulran district of Herat province, an Afghan police officer was killed and another officer was injured following a roadside bomb explosion after their vehicle struck with an improvised explosive device planted by militants.

<p>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</p>

**“Trainees Get Two Lessons At
The Range With Live
Ammunition, Each Time Firing**

**Only 30 Rounds From Their
Kalashnikov Assault Rifles”
“The Weapons Given Out For
Practical Exercises Have Their
Bolts And Magazines Removed,
So Trainees Can’t Turn Them On
Their Mentors”
“Trainees Go Through Field
Exercises With Wooden Rifles”
“We Don’t Want To Damage Our Real
Weapons”**

June 14, 2013 By NATHAN HODGE, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

MAZAR-E SHARIF, Afghanistan—President Hamid Karzai and the U.S.-led coalition are expected to announce in the coming days a major milestone: the formal handing of the lead for security throughout the country to Afghan forces.

Yet, despite the fanfare, Afghan and Western officials say the country’s 350,000-strong security forces have yet to master many essential tasks, even as coalition forces go home.

Take the artillery crews for the D-30 howitzer, the heaviest weapon in the Afghan army’s arsenal. With the aid of a spotter, a competent crew can lob a shell over the horizon to hit a target more than 9 miles away.

But that isn’t the way the Afghans prefer to use the Soviet-designed weapons: Their poorly trained artillerymen use the D-30 like a giant shotgun, aiming straight down the barrel to blast away at targets within visual range.

German Army Lt. Col. Paul-Joerg Pickrahn, a military mentor in northern Afghanistan, said such “direct fire” gunnery limits the range of the D-30 to about 3,000 to 4,000 yards. Teaching the Afghans how to fire with the aid of a forward observer requires a command of communications equipment and mathematics and map reading skills that are in short supply here.

“We will need to deliver for the Afghans some fairly significant support for a while to come—particularly the use of air power,” said British Lt. Gen. Nick Carter, the coalition’s deputy commander.

Gen. Carter also said he is concerned by the “too high” turnover in the ranks of conventional Afghan army forces, running at 3% to 4% a month, something that he said translates into the need to train 50,000 new recruits every year. “This is not a sustainable figure in the long term,” he said.

Afghan insurgents are relatively lightly armed, and their most lethal weapons are roadside bombs, often made from homemade explosives.

Efforts to build the Afghan police, the first line of defense in many Afghan communities, have also focused on pushing through raw numbers of trainees, rather than developing a professional force. Police Sgt. Timo Schoen, a German police mentor working in northern Afghanistan, said patrolmen graduating from training programs typically have a third-grade education. While they receive instruction in searching houses, running checkpoints, and making arrests, their shooting skills are rudimentary.

Trainees get two lessons at the range with live ammunition, each time firing only 30 rounds from their Kalashnikov assault rifles.

Their weapons-handling skills, Sgt. Schoen said, were “very low.”

Coalition training and advising, however, has been hobbled by a rash of insider attacks.

At a police training facility in northern Afghanistan, the weapons given out for practical exercises have their bolts and magazines removed, so trainees can’t turn them on their mentors. At a combat engineering school outside of the northern city of Mazar-e Sharif, trainees go through field exercises with wooden rifles.

“We want to prevent some unexpected issues. It’s for security reasons,” said Afghan Army Col. Ahmadullah, facility commander.

“Second, we don’t want to damage our real weapons.”

TROOPS INVITED:

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

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MILITARY NEWS



OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**Violence By Terrorist Zionists And
Demolition Orders On The Rise In
Occupied Jerusalem:
Palestinian Cars Stoned And
Burned;,
Two Settlers From Pisgat Zeev Try To
Cut Throat Of Palestinian Taxi Driver**

"This is systematic support by the occupation government of the settlers, and state terror aimed at evicting the indigenous residents in order to keep a firm grip

on the city,” local al-Tur committee head Mufeed Abu Ghannam told Ma’an News Agency on 5 June.

June 11, 2013, By Tadas Blinda, The Palestine Monitor

Last week Palestinians in East Jerusalem witnessed a sharp escalation in settler violence.

Israeli Settlers burn a vehicle in Sheikh Jarrah, damaged vehicles in the neighborhood of al-Tur and attacked a Palestinian taxi driver in the Pisgat Zeev settlement.

Israeli settlers are suspected of torching a car in Sheikh Jarrah early Friday morning, 7 June 2013. Yasser Najeeb saw five settlers near his burning car at around 3 AM, just an hour after a glass bottle was thrown at his house by settlers.

“We were sleeping and I smelt smoke and when I looked from my bedroom window I saw my car burning. I went outside and called the police and fire brigades,” Yasser told Ma’an News Agency on Friday.

Tuesday evening, 4 June 2013, in the al-Tur neighborhood of East Jerusalem, settlers from the Beit Orot settlement on the Mount of Olives attacked Palestinian vehicles with rocks.

Israeli police officers arrived on the scene but no measures were taken against settlers causing damage to Palestinian cars. Instead, they arrested 3 Palestinians who confronted the settlers in order to stop them from throwing rocks at vehicles.

“This is systematic support by the occupation government of the settlers, and state terror aimed at evicting the indigenous residents in order to keep a firm grip on the city,” local al-Tur committee head Mufeed Abu Ghannam told Ma’an News Agency on 5 June.

This was the fourth attack in five days by Beit Orot settlers on Palestinians and their property, he added.

Early that day, 62 year-old Palestinian taxi driver Naim Yousef Elayan was attacked by two settlers after driving them from Gilo to Pisgat Zeev settlement at around 3 AM on Tuesday.

“They told me that they want to pick up their friend and when they found out I was Palestinian, they attacked me with a 20-centimeter knife. They pointed the knife toward my neck but I held it with my hand and started screaming. They fled,” the driver told Ma’an on 4 June.

After the incident, the taxi driver called Israeli police and was taken to the hospital where a serious hand injury caused by the knife was treated.

The day before, Palestinian youth clashed with Israeli forces in Abu Dis when Israeli Civil Administration officers posted a demolition order on a building in the village on Monday, 3 June 2013.

Students from Al-Quds University were showered with teargas while youth confronted Israeli soldiers near the campus. Israeli forces closed all streets in the neighbourhood, preventing students from reaching university campus where final exams were being held. Teargas was also shot at a nearby mosque, disrupting prayers and affecting passersby.



A house recently demolished in East Jerusalem's Bet Hanina neighborhood. Photo by Lazar Simeonov.

Demolition orders were also issued for buildings in Beit Hanina and al-Isawiya early in the week. One 10-year old building, home to 20 Palestinians, is up for demolition in Beit Hanina. Several families in al-Isawiya also received demolition orders on their homes, due to their lack of the required Israeli-provided building permits.

According to the UN, one third of Palestinian homes in East Jerusalem don't have construction permits issued by Israel, accordingly more than 93,000 Palestinians living in East Jerusalem can potentially be displaced in the case of demolition of their homes.

Heroic Zionist Troops Arrest And Beat Elderly Palestinian Shepherd Trying To Use His Own Land:

**“He Was Blindfolded, Beaten And
Driven Around In Different Army
Jeeps”**

**Two Days Ago Settlers Grabbed And
Blocked Hill Land;**

**“That Hill Is Crossed Everyday By
Palestinian Shepherds, Since It Is The
Only Way That Takes To The Valleys
Grazed By Their Sheep”**



Israeli border police officers taking away Suleiman Aid. (Photo by Operation Dove)

June 9, 2013 Operation Dove, International Solidarity Movement

Umm Al Kheer, South Hebron Hills, Occupied Palestine

On Saturday June 8 an old Palestinian man from the village of Umm Al Kheer, Suleiman Aid Yameen Hadleen, was detained for more than three hours by the Israeli army while affirming his right to access his own land.

In the last two days the soldiers denied the Palestinians from Umm Al Kheer the access to their own land until Sunday morning, without any official order.

The above-cited land is on a hill that belongs to Hadleen family.

On the top of it the settlers of Karmel Israeli settlement in 2011 planted some olive trees and about two weeks ago built a small tent.

Two days ago the settlers started to dig holes on the ground with the intention of planting more olive trees in a row that would go along the top of the hill, preventing Palestinians to enter the land behind it.

That hill is crossed everyday by Palestinian shepherds, since it is the only way that takes to the valleys grazed by their sheep.



Zionist Settler Flag

On Saturday June 8, three Palestinian shepherds with their flocks, together with other Palestinians, Israeli activists and international volunteers were chased away from the top of the hill by the Israeli army.

Suleiman remained on the place in order to affirm the right to access his privately-owned land until he was brought into one of the army jeeps present on the place.

According to his statement, he was blindfolded, beaten and driven around in different army jeeps. The soldiers also prevented him from praying. He was detained for more than three hours and left with no explanation in the Palestinian village of Ar Rakeez.

Umm Al Kheer is a Bedouin village in Area C (under Israeli civil and military administration) built in 1948.

It is located nearby the Israeli settlement of Karmel built up in the beginning of the '80s and still expanding.

The village experiences periodic harassment from Israeli settlers and army.

Operation Dove maintains a constant presence in At-Tuwani and South Hebron Hills since 2004.

[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."]

CLASS WAR REPORTS



MILITARY RESISTANCE BY EMAIL

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Activists In Istanbul Have Pledged To Continue Their Occupation Of Gezi Park, Defying Calls To End Protests: Prime Minister Yip Yap Forced To Make Concessions To Opposition Movement



Anti-government protesters erect barricades before clashing with riot policemen during a demonstration along Kennedy street in central Ankara, June 15, 2013. (Reuters/Dado Ruvic)

June 15, 2013 TV-Novosti

Activists in Istanbul have pledged to continue their occupation of Gezi Park, defying calls to end protests. Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan has halted plans to redevelop the park, but activists say they will carry on protesting 'injustice' in Turkey.

The hundreds of activists who have entrenched themselves in Gezi Park for the last two weeks have flatly refused to withdraw from the city center.

Erdogan, who has been the target of many of the protests, said plans to develop the park would be halted and put to vote in a bid to shift the demonstrators.

The move was seen as a significant concession from Erdogan, however, protesters said the occupation was about more than just protecting the site from demolition.

"We will continue our resistance in the face of any injustice and unfairness taking place in our country," the Taksim Solidarity group said. Protesters have criticized what they view as Erdogan's authoritarian approach to government on a number of occasions, some even calling for his resignation.

Despite the promise of continued resistance, protesters agreed to remove barricades standing at the Gezi Park entrance from Taksim Square, the Turkish daily Hurriyet reported Saturday. The activists, united under the banner of the Taksim Solidarity Platform", further agreed to remove their tents "in order to make more room and organize Gezi Park."

The sit-in demonstration will reportedly continue with one common tent for all 116 organizations taking part in the civil action. The park will also be cleared of banners bearing the logos of various political parties and other organizations.

The Taksim Solidarity group met with Erdogan and other government representatives on Thursday, voicing concerns that no concrete steps had been taken to probe the deaths of three protesters and one policeman in the unrest. The group also demands that all those detained in the protests be released.

The protests were initially triggered two weeks ago when a protest against the destruction of part of the square for redevelopment were brutally dispersed by police.

Meanwhile, in Turkey's capital, Ankara, activists and police clashed on Friday night. Officers dispersed demonstrators with water cannons and tear gas, arresting around 30 of them.

Erdogan's announcement that he would put the development of Taksim Square on hold marks a dramatic change in his previously unbending policy towards the activists.

He had previously denounced the participants in the unrest as "vandals" and "extremists," calling for an immediate end to the movement.

MORE:

Behind The Concessions: Mass Movement Pressure Forcing Splits In Erdogan's Base; "Erdogan's Formerly Rock-Solid Support Has Begun To Soften" "Splits Among Erdogan Supporters Suggested That A New Political Calculus Had Begun To Emerge"

June 15, 2013 By Michael Birnbaum, Washington Post [Excerpts]

ISTANBUL — Two weeks into the demonstrations that have shaken Turkey, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's formerly rock-solid support has begun to soften.

Some loyal political Islamists, including an influential civil society movement, have criticized his on-again, off-again crackdown.

And in the Istanbul neighborhood that is his political home, many said Friday that they still supported him but were uneasy with the methods used against the demonstrators.

Erdogan remains by far the most popular politician in Turkey, and supporters say pro-government rallies this weekend will give his voters a chance to show their strength.

But divisions have opened among his base, with especially harsh criticism coming from a movement led by Islamic scholar Fethullah Gulen, a once-staunch Erdogan backer who has questioned the government's handling of the crisis from self-imposed exile in Pennsylvania.

With riot police using tear gas and water cannons on protesters in Taksim Square twice in the past two weeks, many here fault Erdogan's decisions for escalating a crisis that began as a small, peaceful protest against plans to replace Gezi Park, the last green space in central Istanbul, with a replica of an Ottoman-era barracks that once stood on the site.

And across Turkey, splits among Erdogan supporters suggested that a new political calculus had begun to emerge.

In trying to prevent one wrong, "50-fold more wrongs are being committed, sparking more rancor and hatred," Gulen said last week, according to the Gulen-affiliated Today's Zaman newspaper.

Of the protests, he said, "don't disregard them."

The Gulen Movement's support was vital to Erdogan's initial successes, analysts say, and although there has been tension between Erdogan and Gulen for several years, it has rarely been so open.

The Gulen Movement is a civil society group that promotes education and religious tolerance but carries an air of secrecy and mystery akin to the Masons.

Despite his absence, Gulen's sermons and proclamations carry outsize weight in Turkey, where many believe his loyalists have a substantial presence in the police force and judiciary.

"No one should underestimate the Gulen sect," said Mehmet Baransu, a journalist at the Taraf newspaper who has written prominent investigations of the military and said that many people thought he was a member of the Gulen Movement, although he said he was not.

"There's a huge fight" between Gulen's backers and Erdogan's Justice and Development Party, sparked in part because Gulenists think that many party supporters have grown corrupt, he said.

Gulen's power is not so deep that Erdogan's control over the police force is seriously in question, Baransu and other analysts said.

But in the long run, the criticism from Gulen and columnists in the two newspapers aligned with Gulen, Zaman and Today's Zaman, is a sharp sign that the movement disapproves of the current tactics toward the protesters.

"The Gulenists never fight in public," Baransu said. "So even the smallest criticism should be regarded as important."

More widely, Erdogan's former do-no-wrong profile among his supporters may have been tarnished by his response to the protest movement.

"I don't know if he is tired. He's been so stubborn about this park," said Turgut Yancin, 55, a retired mover who was sipping tea Friday at a shop in a crowded alleyway in Kasimpasa, Erdogan's home neighborhood in Istanbul and a stronghold of his support.

Yancin said that he respected Erdogan for his efforts to rid the country of the influence of the military, which intervened through coups four times between 1960 and 1997 but now appears sidelined.

Another supporter said he was cautious about the current protest situation.

Erdogan "has done good things for this country. Roads, economic development, many things. The country was in debt to the IMF. Now it isn't," said Yesar Ozdemir, 50, who runs a home construction business. But "he was better in the past. Lately his aggressive comments have changed things a bit."

But inside Gezi Park, many people said their aims had long moved beyond whether the barracks would be built.

12,000 Workers Demonstrate At Indonesian Consulate In Jeddah: Part Of The Indonesian Consulate In Saudi Arabia Set On Fire

[Thanks to Alan Stolzer, Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

10 Jun 2013 Al Jazeera

One woman was killed in a stampede and part of the Indonesian consulate in Saudi Arabia set on fire by a group of 12,000 workers who had been waiting for hours to confirm their residency status.

The crowd of Indonesians gathered outside the consulate in Jeddah on Sunday, trying to sort out their papers in the face of a July crackdown by Saudi authorities on illegal immigrants.

Videos posted online and verified by witnesses showed a fire against the wall of the consulate. Other pictures showed men with scarves over their faces setting alight plastic barriers next to the wall.

Before the fire, rocks and stones were thrown at the consulate by the workers frustrated by long waits to get their cases dealt with.

The Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Monday confirmed that a national had died during the disturbance.

About 180,000 illegal foreign workers have left Saudi Arabia since April 1 under an amnesty that allows them to try to sort out their papers or leave without paying a penalty, a newspaper report said on Sunday. This brings the number of foreign workers who have left Saudi Arabia since the beginning of the year to 380,000.

Asem al-Ghamdi, a journalist based in Jeddah, told Al Jazeera that there was heavy security outside the Indonesian council early on Monday.

He added that the workers had gathered out of fear of losing their jobs and having to leave the country, and that some observers said that the Saudi government must extend the grace period.

Workers without proper papers are becoming increasingly concerned as violators of the immigration rules in the country will face penalties when the amnesty period ends on July 3, with punishment including imprisonment of up to two years, and fines of up to \$27,000.

GOT A COMMENT?

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

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DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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

**“A Pattern Of Controversial
Terrorism Trials That Result In
Devastating Prison Sentences
Involving The Harshest Forms
Of Solitary Confinement”**

**“The Particular Cruelty Of The
Punishments They Endure Even
Before Their Unfair Trials, Will**

Someday, Like The Abuses At Guantanamo, Gain The Attention They Deserve”

“Special Measures Prohibit Family Members From Disclosing Their Communications With Prisoners”

“They Similarly Prevent Defense Lawyers From Speaking About Their Clients”

Under such special administrative measures at the Metropolitan Correction Center in New York City, a prisoner lives with little natural light, no time in communal areas, no radio or TV, and sometimes no books or newspapers either, while mail and phone calls are permitted only with family, and even then are often suspended for minor infractions.

June 9, 2013 By Victoria Brittain, TomDispatch

A four-month hunger strike, mass force-feedings, and widespread media coverage have at last brought Guantanamo, the notorious offshore prison set up by the Bush administration early in 2002, back into American consciousness. Prominent voices are finally calling on President Obama to close it down and send home scores of prisoners who, years ago, were cleared of wrongdoing.

Still unnoticed and out of the news, however, is a comparable situation in the U.S. itself, involving a pattern of controversial terrorism trials that result in devastating prison sentences involving the harshest forms of solitary confinement. This growing body of prisoners is made up of Muslim men, including some formerly well-known and respected American citizens.

At the heart of these cases is a statute from the time of the Clinton presidency making it a crime to provide “material support” to any foreign organization the government has designated as “terrorist.”

This material support provision was broadened in the USA PATRIOT Act, passed by Congress just after the 9/11 attacks, and has been upheld by a 2010 Supreme Court ruling in the case of Holder v. Humanitarian Law Project.

Today, almost any kind of support, including humanitarian aid, training, expert advice, “services” of all sorts, or “political advocacy” undertaken in

“coordination” with any group on the State Department’s terrorist list, can lead to such a terror trial.

The Court has never defined what “coordination” actually means.

Nonetheless, a decade of researching a number of serious alleged terrorism cases on both side of the Atlantic, working alongside some extraordinary human rights lawyers, and listening to Muslim women in Great Britain and the U.S. whose lives were transformed by the imprisonment of a husband, father, or brother has given me a different perspective on such cases.

Perhaps most illuminating in them is the repeated use of what’s called “special administrative measures” to create a particularly isolating and punitive atmosphere for many of those charged with such crimes, those convicted of them, and even for their relatives.

Between the material support statute and those special administrative measures, it has become possible for the government to pre-convict and in many cases pre-punish a small set of Muslim men.

Take the case of Ahmed Abu Ali, a young Palestinian-American who is now serving life in the Administrative Maximum Facility, a supermax prison in Florence, Colorado, and is currently under special administrative measures that restrict his communications with the outside world.

A university student in Saudi Arabia, he was arrested in 2003 by the Saudi government and held for 20 months without charges or access to a lawyer. The Washington Post reported that the U.S. government finally asked for his return just as his family filed a lawsuit in Washington.

At the time, it seemed like a victory for the family and the various human rights organizations that had supported them, but on arrival Ahmed was charged with material support for al-Qaeda and plotting to assassinate President George W. Bush.

The evidence to convict him came from an anonymous alleged co-conspirator and from taped confessions he made, evidently after being tortured in Saudi Arabia, a common practice there.

The evidence of his torture was contested at his trial. The case was described by a staff member of Amnesty International USA as “unusual in the annals of U.S. outsourcing of torture.”

An appeal of Ahmed’s 30-year sentence actually resulted in the imposition of an even more severe sentence: life without parole.

In addition, special administrative measures have been applied to him. These were originally established in 1996 to stop communications from prison inmates who could “pose a substantial risk of death or serious risk of injury.” The targets then were gang leaders. Each special administrative measure was theoretically to be designed to fit the precise dangers posed by a specific prisoner.

Since 9/11, however, numerous virtually identical measures have been applied to Muslim men, often like Ahmed Abu Ali with no history of violence.

A question to Ahmed's sister about how her brother is doing is answered only with a quick look.

She is not allowed to say anything because special measures also prohibit family members from disclosing their communications with prisoners.

They similarly prevent defense lawyers from speaking about their clients.

Although these measures have been contested in court, few have ever been modified, much less thrown out.

Those court challenges and evidence provided to the European Court of Human Rights by American lawyers have, however, provided a window into what one of them described as a regime of "draconian and inhumane treatment."

Under such special administrative measures at the Metropolitan Correction Center in New York City, a prisoner lives with little natural light, no time in communal areas, no radio or TV, and sometimes no books or newspapers either, while mail and phone calls are permitted only with family, and even then are often suspended for minor infractions.

Family visits are always no-contact ones conducted through plexiglass.

"The conditions have quite simply wreaked havoc on Mr X's physical and mental well-being," one lawyer wrote for the European Court of Human Rights, describing a seven-month period in which a prisoner at the Metropolitan Correction Center was allowed no family phone calls.

Another highlighted his client's lost concentration, which made it impossible to work on his case effectively. "Their world shrinks dramatically," was the way Joshua Dratel, a lawyer who has represented several men under these measures, described the situation.

In cases where special administrative measures are in place pre-trial, such as the well-documented ordeal of American post-graduate student Syed Fahad Hashmi, lawyers have often been obliged to prepare cases without actually sitting with their clients, or being able to show them all court materials.

After three pre-trial years mainly in solitary confinement under special administrative measures at the Metropolitan Correction Center, Hashmi accepted a government plea bargain of one count of material support for terrorism and was given a 15-year sentence.

"His Crime? He Allowed An Acquaintance To Stay At His Student Apartment In London, Use His Cell Phone, And Store A Duffel Bag There"

His crime?

He allowed an acquaintance to stay at his student apartment in London, use his cell phone, and store a duffel bag there.

The bag contained ponchos and waterproof socks that were later supposedly delivered to al-Qaeda, while the phone was used by that acquaintance to make calls to co-conspirators in Britain.

Just as the Bush administration found the Geneva Conventions “quaint” and ignored them, so the principle of “innocent until proven guilty,” a part of Western civilization since Roman times, has all but disappeared for Muslims who face accusations of “material support” for terrorism.

Such cases have, at times, involved high-profile men and once received significant media attention.

Civil rights activist and University of South Florida professor Sami Al-Arian, accused of being a leader of Palestinian Islamic Jihad (a State Department-designated terrorist organization), was, for instance, treated like a man already being punished for his crime even before his trial.

Previously, he had been a respected American-Muslim political leader with contacts in the White House and in Congress.

Now, walking to pre-trial meetings with his lawyers, his arms were shackled behind him, so that, humiliatingly, he had to carry his legal papers on his back.

Amnesty International described Al-Arian’s pre-trial detention in Coleman Federal Penitentiary as “gratuitously punitive.”

It cited his 23-hour lockdown in his cell, the strip searches, the use of chains and shackles, the lack of access to any religious services, and the insistence on denying him a watch or clock in a windowless cell.

He was transferred to 14 different prison facilities in 6 states.

He ended up spending three and a half years in solitary confinement without being convicted of anything.

At his trial, the government called 80 witnesses, including 21 from Israel, while his counsel called no defense witnesses, only citing the U.S. Constitution. A Florida jury nonetheless acquitted him on half of the counts, and deadlocked on the other half. (Ten out of 12 jurors wanted to acquit him on all charges.) He later struck a plea deal on one minor charge.

Today, the Palestinian-American professor is still in legal limbo, under house arrest, awaiting a judge’s ruling on whether he has to testify in a separate case.

“The Thought That Somebody Gets Sixty-Five Years For Providing Charity Is Really Shameful, And I Believe This Case Will Go Down In History, As Have Others, As A Shameful Day”

An articulate U.S. Muslim political leader, who helped bring in the Muslim vote for George W. Bush after the candidate came out publicly against the use of secret evidence in trials, when the Gore campaign did not and so contributed to his Florida victory in the 2000 presidential campaign, has been silenced for his openly expressed pro-Palestinian opinions.

Successful and influential Palestinian-American Ghassan Elashi, a founder and the chairman of what was once America’s largest Muslim charity, the Holy Land Foundation, and Shukri Abu Baker, its president, were similarly silenced along with three other foundation officials.

The two of them received prison sentences of 65 years for giving charity to orphanages and community organizations in Gaza (also supported by the European Union and the U.S. Agency for International Development).

The Holy Land leaders were accused of giving “material support” to a foreign terrorist organization: Hamas, the elected government in Gaza.

There were no accusations of inciting or being involved in acts of violence.

Even then, it took a second trial before a jury returned a guilty verdict against the Holy Land leaders.

Nancy Hollander, counsel for one of the men, summed up the situation this way:

“The thought that somebody gets sixty-five years for providing charity is really shameful, and I believe this case will go down in history, as have others, as a shameful day.”

In 2012, the Supreme Court refused to rehear the case, and four of the five convicted men remain confined to the especially restrictive “communications management unit” at the U.S. penitentiary in Marion, Illinois, where Muslims make up two-thirds of the inmates.

There were also 246 unindicted co-conspirators named in the Holy Land Foundation case, including major Muslim organizations.

The case and the particularly long sentences sent a shot of fear through Muslim communities in the U.S., as was surely intended.

The men’s daughters still speak out on their fathers’ case.

Noor Elashi, for example, told me, “His is the poster case for ‘material support.’”

In the meantime, 15-minute weekly prison phone calls, monitored in real time from Washington, are the thinnest of threads to hold family relationships together, as are rare visits to distant prisons.

Mariam Abu Ali once described to me her annual visit to her older brother Ahmed Abu Ali. The expense was difficult to absorb: two flights, a rental car, and a motel for a three-day visit of about four hours a day, for a family already shouldering heavy debts for legal fees.

The real ordeal, though, was emotional, not financial.

“They bring him in shackled at the waist and legs,” she told me. “We see them take off the handcuffs as he puts his hands out through a gap in the door. It’s emotionally draining... he’s there but so far away behind the glass. Only one of us can hear him at a time as he speaks through a phone... I’ve tried to lip read when it isn’t my turn, but it really doesn’t work.

“I feel very exhausted and sometimes I fall asleep during the visit. I cry every time, especially when he leaves... It’s not like a death. You don’t grieve and then finish, because this is not in the past. In fact, it is not even in the back of my mind -- it is always there... This is chronic after nine years and it is not going to end.”

In itself, solitary confinement has devastating effects, as Dr. Atul Gawande has vividly pointed out, and is becoming ever more common in U.S. prisons in breach of internationally recognized norms on the humane treatment of prisoners.

It tends to break the will of inmates, sometimes even robbing them of their sanity. However, in its most extreme use, combining those special administrative measures with the isolation imposed in prison communication management units, it is mainly applied to American Muslims.

This, then, is the state of so many cases of “terrorism” in the U.S. today in which disparate Muslim men have been swept up in a system in which guilt is assumed and people’s lives are quickly turned into waking nightmares in what used to be called the “justice system.”

Some great miscarriages of justice do get overturned. Black Panther Robert King spent 31 years in prison, 29 in solitary confinement for a crime he did not commit. His release in 2001 came about by chance when his persistent letter writing attracted the attention of a young lawyer and the founder of The Body Shop, Anita Roddick, who became his champion alongside a grassroots campaign for his release.

Since then, King has himself campaigned at home and abroad for the release of his two colleagues in “the Angola Three,” who still remain in prison, and against the system that could have broken him as it has so many others.

Thanks to the special administrative measures applied in his case, Ahmed Abu Ali cannot do what Robert King did, or what the lawyer and a friend of WikiLeaks informant Private Bradley Manning did to get his prison conditions widely known,

or what Mumia Abu Jamal has done throughout his 30 years in solitary confinement via his books and his talks on prison radio.

Ahmed cannot contact the world outside in search of the support he and his family need, nor can his family members.

The painful impact of all this on the families is difficult to imagine.

Chilean novelist and playwright Ariel Dorfman once wrote that torture “presupposes the... abrogation of our capacity to imagine someone else’s suffering, to dehumanize him or her so much that their pain is not our pain. It demands this of the torturer... but also demands of everyone else the same distancing, the same numbness.”

Perhaps such a state helps explain why people around the world are far more aware than most Americans of what happens to Muslim men in the post-9/11 “justice system.”

The particular cruelty of the punishments they endure even before their unfair trials, will someday, like the abuses at Guantanamo, gain the attention they deserve.

Tunisian Government Gives Rapper 2 Years Prison For “Insulting” Rotten Pig-Fucking Shit-Eating Tunisian Police Klebs

June 13, 2013 (AP)

TUNIS, Tunisia --- The lawyer of a Tunisian rapper says his client has been convicted of inciting violence against officials and insulting police and been sentenced to two years in prison.

Ghazi Mrabet said Thursday that the sentence pronounced against his client Alaa Yacoub was very severe and he would appeal.

The 24-year-old rapper, known by his stage name Weld El 15, or “Son of 15,” was charged after making the song “Bolicia Kleb” (the police are dogs) and releasing it on YouTube. [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6owW_Jv5ng4]

He was originally convicted in absentia in March and then retried when he turned himself in.

Colleagues and supporters tussled with police outside the courtroom in the Tunis suburb of Ben Arous after the verdict was pronounced. There were four arrests, according to Mrabet.

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