

Military Resistance 11H20

Taliban Winning The Fight For Kabul-Kandahar Highway: “Security Threats Have Increased On The Highway Over The Last Two Months” “Insurgents Have Begun Charging Fees- For-Safe-Passage To Commuters On The Highway”



23 August 2013 by Saboory Gafoor, TOLONews

The Kabul-Kandahar highway, one of the most traveled roadways in Afghanistan, has quickly become one of the most dangerous places in the country with high rates of both insurgent and Illegal Armed Group (IAG) activity.

On Friday, the Zabul Provincial Council (ZPC) joined the chorus of concerns over growing insecurity on the highway and pleaded for swift action to restore safe transit.

“Security threats have increased on the highway over the last two months and we demand tougher security measures be taken for the safety of the people,” said Hajji Hashim Garani, a member of the ZPC.

Calls for action to be taken by the Kabul government and foreign forces to address the highway's growing dangers have become increased in volume and frequency as of late.

The Governors of Ghazni, Maidan Wardak, Zabul and Kandahar provinces held a meeting on Sunday in Maidan Shahr, the capital city of Wardak province, to address the concerns of logistics and supply companies who have been subject to Taliban attacks on the Kabul-Kandahar highway.

Last month, a number of oil tanker drivers met with the Internal Security and Justice Committee of the Lower House to express their concerns over the increasing attacks by the Taliban on the Kabul-Kandahar highway.

According to reports, over 570 oil tankers use the highway every day, and the Taliban targets at least three-a-day on average.

However, anti-government insurgents are not the only ones causing trouble on the Kabul-Kandahar highway.

According to the ZPC, Illegal Armed Groups (IAGs), which have proliferated around the country in the last few years and have presented a growing problem for local security forces, were also reported to be running rampant on the highway. Unlike the Taliban, these groups are more profit-driven and their attacks on the highway are more similar to what one would expect from bandits than terrorists.

“The Illegal Armed Groups are robbing people and murdering them if any resist,” said Fawzia Younas Kakar, a member of the ZPC.

The members of the ZPC maintained that the Taliban have also begun seeking profit from the insecurity of the highway. They reported that the insurgents have begun charging fees-for-safe-passage to commuters on the highway.

The Kabul-Kandahar highway is a stretch of 483 kilometers of paved road connecting Afghanistan's two largest cities.

It is said that the Salar and Syed Abad districts of Wardak province are the most dangerous areas on the highway.

Millions of dollars in foreign funds, primarily from the U.S. and Japan, were used to repave the highway and make it accessible once again as a critical artery for commercial traffic and broader connectivity between Afghans in the south and the east.

Yet if insurgents and IAGs are able to carry out attacks and exploit Kabul-Kandahar commuters with the frequency and impunity that has been increasingly observed, causing more and more travelers to think twice before they hit the road, then the ultimate purpose of those expenses is being defeated.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Two Foreign Occupation “Servicemembers” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan: Nationality Not Announced

August 23, 2013 Reuters

Two foreign servicemembers died following an improvised explosive device attack in eastern Afghanistan today.

Foreign Occupation “Servicemember” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan: Nationality Not Announced

August 24, 2013 Reuters

A foreign servicemember died following an improvised explosive device attack in eastern Afghanistan today.

Polish Soldier Killed In Action In Afghanistan

Aug 24, 2013 Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland

Poland's Defense Ministry says one of its soldiers has died of wounds sustained in action while on a mission in Afghanistan's Ghazni province.

Warrant Officer Miroslaw Lucki was among three Polish soldiers injured Friday while assisting Afghan forces in taking control of a large amount of explosives and weapons used for terrorist attacks.

They wounded were taken to the military hospital at the Polish base, but doctors could not save Lucki, who is the 42nd trooper that Poland lost in Afghanistan since starting the mission in 2007.

The ministry said on its website on Saturday that the injuries to the two other soldiers were not life-threatening.

Some members of the Afghan Provincial Response Company were also injured in the action.

Caldwell Soldier Killed In Afghanistan



Staff Sgt. Octavio Herrera. PROVIDED BY THE HERRERA FAMILY

August 12, 2013 Idaho Statesman

A Caldwell soldier was one of three soldiers supporting Operation Enduring Freedom killed Sunday in an attack in Afghanistan, the Department of Defense announced Monday.

Staff Sgt. Octavio Herrera, 26, Sgt. Jamar A. Hicks, 22, of Little Rock, Ark., and Spc. Keith E. Grace Jr., 26, of Baytown, Texas, died after enemy forces attacked their unit with indirect fire, the DOD said.

The soldiers were assigned to the 4th Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky.

Officials said Herrera and Grace died in Paktia Province. Hicks was evacuated to Forward Operating Base Salerno in Khost, Afghanistan, and later died.

The Herrera family released the following statement on Monday:

“First of all, we want the world to know that Octavio loved – and was deeply loved by – his family. His family has always been his priority, and it was clear to all of us that he took so much pleasure from being with us. That included play-wrestling with his nephews, nieces, his brothers and sister and even his father.

“He was the youngest but strongest son, and we thought of him as our ‘big little brother.’ He loved having fun! Octavio’s smile lit up any room he was in, and we will never forget that smile.

“He was so generous - Octavio spoiled his younger sister by giving her anything he could give her, and he was planning to take us all to Disneyland when he returned from this, his third deployment to Afghanistan.

“But there was so much more to Octavio. He was hard working, he was very bright and he loved a good challenge. While he worked in the fields with his mother and father as he grew up, he wanted much more from life. He took advanced placement courses in high school, and when he entered college he found he had his first year’s worth of courses already done. He loved a good challenge, and actually built a computer himself when he was in high school. We laugh when we say it and we mean it with great affection - but he was a nerd in the finest tradition of that word.

“From the time he was young, Octavio told us he knew he wanted to join the Army. It seemed his calling was for a life of public service, and he told us he wanted to continue his public service after he left the military, perhaps as a police officer. We feel this calling was a noble thing.

“Octavio was seen as a leader and brother to so many who served with him. His friendship, loyalty, and kind spirit will be carried in the hearts of many. “He was a caring husband and best friend to his wife. He greeted each of their days together with one of his famous smiles. His wife was truly blessed to find her soul mate, and he will forever be the love of her life.”

Octavio leaves behind his wife Courtney, his father, mother, grandmother and grandfather, two brothers, a sister, 2 nephews and 2 nieces, a sister-in-law, his mother and father-in-law, and a brother-in-law. His extended family is in Oregon, Nevada, Chicago and Mexico.

“He graduated Caldwell High School in 2005. Before he entered the U.S. Army in 2007, Octavio attended college in Phoenix, Arizona and Boise State University. While in Phoenix, he worked for UPS. Octavio also held jobs at Orphan Annie’s in Caldwell, Lowe’s in Nampa and at the Crookham Seed Company.”

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

**Residents Of The Provincial Capital
Of Northern Baghlan Province On
Wednesday Staged A Protest
Demonstration Against The Torture
And Arrest Of Innocent People:
“Mohammad Aslam, An Influential Figure
In The Area, Said The Taliban Did Not
Operate In The Area And Locals Have No
Links With Them”**

Aug 21, 2013 By Habib Rahman Sherzai, PAN

PUL-I-KHUMRI: Residents of the provincial capital of northern Baghlan province on Wednesday staged a protest demonstration against the torture and arrest of innocent people by foreign and Afghan forces during a night raid.

Nearly 150 people took part in the rally in the Joi Naw area of Pul-i-Khumri, the provincial capital. They gathered in front of the governor's house, accusing foreign troops of arresting innocent people on charges of connections with the Taliban.

They said helicopters-borne Afghan and ISAF forces raided homes and arrested several innocent inmates two days ago, insisting the detainees had no links with insurgents.

“During the raid, Afghan forces blindfolded me and tied my hands and took me to a mosque” Mamor Ghulam, a protestor, told Pajhwok Afghan News. He spent the night in the mosque. As his blindfold was removed in the morning, Ghulam said he saw many elders had been arrested and brought to the mosque.

Mohammad Aslam, an influential figure in the area, said the Taliban did not operate in the area and locals have no links with them.

He said some residents were beaten by the joint forces during the raid.

The protestors recalled two civilians had been arrested in a similar operation eight months ago, but released after spending some time in a jail. "We have several times complained to local officials, but no one is ready to help stop irresponsible operations in our area" one protestor said.

Baghlan Governor Sultan Mohammad Ibadi expressed his unawareness about the raid on civilian homes, saying such an operation had not been coordinated with his administration.

"Such operations widen the gap between the people and the government," the governor remarked, vowing to share the issue with Afghan and ISAF officials.

THE ULTIMATE EXERCISE IN COMPLETE FUTILITY: PACK IT UP COME HOME



US Army Sergeant Kenton D. Smith looks from above to check the progress of vehicles during a patrol to clear routes in Khost province, Afghanistan, Aug. 14, 2013. Smith, a combat engineer, is assigned to the 101st Airborne Division's Company A, 4th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team. US Army photo by Sergeant Justin A. Moeller.

MILITARY NEWS

Guantanamo Authorities Block Solzhenitsyn's 'Gulag Archipelago'

August 20, 2013 Reprieve; Uruknet [Excerpts]

Authorities at Guantanamo Bay have blocked delivery of one of the most influential books written on the Soviet system of prison camps, known as 'gulags.'

The legal team for Shaker Aamer, a British resident who has been detained in Guantanamo without charge or trial for 11 years, attempted to deliver a copy of The Gulag Archipelago by Alexander Solzhenitsyn during a recent visit.

However, Mr Aamer has now told his lawyers that he never received the book.

The move by prison authorities follows reports that they banned the works of John Grisham in July this year – leading to the author penning a strong denunciation of Guantanamo which appeared in the New York Times.

Guantanamo Bay has been compared to a 'gulag' in the past, notably by US Senator Dick Durbin, as well as by a number of NGOs and media organisations.

Mr Aamer's lawyers, from human rights charity Reprieve, often bring him books during visits – he has previously described George Orwell's 1984 as one of his favourite reads. However, Guantanamo authorities have the ability to ban any book from the prison.

Mr Aamer is still held in Guantanamo despite having long been cleared for release, and even though British Prime Minister David Cameron has asked the US to return him home to the UK, where he has a wife and four children, all British citizens.

Clive Stafford Smith, Mr Aamer's attorney and Director of Reprieve said: "When your country's Government starts barring books once banned by the Soviets, alarm bells should ring."

ENDS

1. For further information, please contact Donald Campbell in Reprieve's press office: donald.campbell@reprieve.org.uk

2. Dick Durbin's comparison between Guantanamo and the gulags have been reported here: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/06/16/AR2005061601500.html>

Toxic Drug Mefloquine Administered To Guantanamo Prisoners:

**“The Defense Department Would
Not Say Whether Its Standard
Operating Procedures Had
Changed”**

**“Suicidal Ideation And Suicide Have
Been Reported” “Symptoms
Ranging From Anxiety, Paranoia, And
Depression, To Hallucinations And
Psychotic Behavior, Can Occur”**

**“When Nevin Learned Mefloquine Had
Been Given To Guantanamo Prisoners,
He Said It Should Have Been Reasonably
Known To DOD That This Drug Was
Neurotoxic And Would Have Caused
Irreversible Harm”**

August 20, 2013 by Jason Leopold, Al Jazeera America [Excerpts]

The U.S. Department of Defense has been urged to rescreen all Guantanamo prisoners to determine whether heavy doses of an anti-malarial drug administered at the facility between January 2002 and mid-2005 caused brain damage.

The drug, mefloquine, was tagged last month with an FDA warning of possible side effects that range from depression and anxiety to psychosis and even suicide.

Dr. Remington Nevin, a former U.S. Army major and leading researcher into the effects of anti-malarial drugs, said the military should review seven prisoner suicides at Gitmo over the past decade to determine if their deaths may be linked to mefloquine, a controversial medication known to cause severe neurological and psychological disorders.

“Careful evaluation by specialists ... trained in the recognition and diagnosis of mefloquine toxicity would aid in correctly identifying detainees suffering potentially disabling effects from the drug,” Nevin told Al Jazeera.

His comments come on the heels of a black-box warning label ordered last month by the Food and Drug Administration to alert patients to potentially serious and permanent neurological side effects that can result from even a single dose of mefloquine.

The FDA issued the warning — the agency's strongest — after an extensive review of adverse-reaction reports and mefloquine studies, including Nevin's work.

The FDA's updated warning states:

“Neurologic symptoms such as dizziness or vertigo, tinnitus, and loss of balance have been reported. These adverse reactions may occur early in the course of mefloquine use and in some cases have been reported to continue for months or years after mefloquine has been stopped. Psychiatric symptoms ranging from anxiety, paranoia, and depression, to hallucinations and psychotic behavior, can occur with mefloquine use ... Cases of suicidal ideation and suicide have been reported.”

While the recommended prophylactic dose for an adult is 250 milligrams, each prisoner transferred to Guantanamo between January 2002 and July 2005 was administered 1,250 milligrams of the powerful drug — the full treatment dose for someone who has already contracted malaria — within 24 hours of being transferred to the detention facility, regardless of whether he had the disease, according to a military document.

“A majority of those detainees administered mefloquine at treatment doses will experience symptoms which the FDA's product insert warns could precede permanent neurologic or long-term psychiatric symptoms,” Nevin said.

The Defense Department would not say whether its standard operating procedures had changed.

In 2009, after the publication of news reports and medical studies that linked mefloquine to a series of suicides and murders involving U.S. service members, then-Army Surgeon General Eric Schoomaker removed mefloquine (PDF) as a first-line drug.

He revised Army policy so that mefloquine would not be prescribed to U.S. service members unless they had a medical reason not to take a newly preferred malaria-prevention drug, doxycycline.

His policy memo also said mefloquine should not be prescribed to any service member who had a history of traumatic brain injury or mental illness.

Two years later, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., sent a letter to Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki and then–Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta expressing concern that mefloquine was still being administered to military personnel and that troops “are now suffering from the preventable neurological side effects” despite the policy change.

In 2010, when Nevin learned mefloquine had been given to Guantanamo prisoners, he said he believed it was, at best, an “egregious malpractice.”

But with the FDA’s new warning and after conducting additional research, he now believes it is “plausible” that mefloquine was used as an interrogation tool.

Nevin said the physician who ordered mefloquine to be used “in this potentially negligent manner” needs to be held accountable.

“It should have been reasonably known to DOD that this drug was neurotoxic and would have caused irreversible harm,” said Nevin, who has testified before the Senate about mefloquine’s neurological side effects.

“The disturbing possibility was that the drug was used due to the knowledge of its adverse effects. It seems implausible to me those with knowledge of the drug’s effects would not have recognized this inadvertent utility.

“We know there was no medically justifiable reason to give these detainees this drug. Therefore, it is likely the true intention was to exploit the drug’s toxic effects in a manner that could be plausibly denied.”

Mefloquine is not the first drug administered to Guantanamo prisoners to come under scrutiny by the FDA, nor is it the first that may cause irreversible brain disorders.

A military document obtained by Al Jazeera in May confirmed that hunger-striking prisoners who are subjected to force-feedings may be given a drug to enhance digestion.

The drug, Reglan, has been linked to tardive dyskinesia, a potentially irreversible and disfiguring disorder characterized by involuntary movements of the face, tongue or extremities.

In February 2009, medical studies prompted the FDA to slap Reglan with a black-box label.

According to the FDA’s medication guide, additional side effects include depression, thoughts about depression and, in extreme cases, suicidal thoughts and suicide.

Cori Crider, strategic director of Reprieve, a U.K.-based human-rights organization, filed an incident report with the FDA in June calling for an investigation into the use of Reglan on Guantanamo prisoners.

The Justice Department, responding to a lawsuit filed by Reprieve, said Reglan has rarely been used during force-feedings. Reprieve filed a citizen's petition last week asking the FDA to investigate whether any Reglan's use in force-feedings broke any regulations and to suspend approval during the investigation.

With regard to mefloquine, Crider told Al Jazeera the military should conduct an investigation. "It's obviously concerning to know that our clients were drugged and that those drugs may cause permanent damage," Crider said.

"It is premature to take the course of action (Nevin) is advising," the Pentagon spokesman said.

"We provide exemplary medical care to detainees at Guantanamo Bay. If there were neurological problems detected in any of the current population, they would certainly receive appropriate attention and treatment."

However, a military document recently obtained by Al Jazeera — a commander's inquiry into the death of a prisoner who is said to have overdosed on antipsychotic medications — states that guards and medical personnel repeatedly violated various protocols.

According to the report, "in some cases, the guards and medical personnel are unfamiliar with the (standard operating procedures). In other cases, the guards and medical personnel are familiar with the requirements but for various reasons, fail to follow them."

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

The past year – every single day of it – has had its consequences. In the obscure depths of society, an imperceptible molecular process has been occurring irreversibly, like the flow of time, a process of accumulating discontent, bitterness, and revolutionary energy.

-- Leon Trotsky, “Up To The Ninth Of January”

Against Imperial War: [1915]

**“Imperialism Is The Progressing
Oppression Of The Nations Of The
World By A Handful Of Great
Powers”**

**“Basing Ourselves On Democracy As It
Already Exists, Exposing Its
Incompleteness Under Capitalism, We
Advocate The Overthrow Of Capitalism”**

We demand the freedom of self-determination, i. e., independence, i. e., the freedom of separation for the oppressed nations, not because we dream of an economically atomized world, nor because we cherish the ideal of small states, but on the contrary because we are for large states and for a coming closer, even a fusion of nations, but on a truly democratic, truly internationalist basis, which is unthinkable without the freedom of separation.

1915, By V. I. Ulyanov: Excerpts from Right To Self Determination, November 1915 & Imperialism And World Economy, 1915 [The writer used the pen name "Lenin" to keep the government from terrorizing his family.]

The proletariat cannot become victor save through democracy, i. e., through introducing complete democracy and through combining with every step of its movement democratic demands formulated most vigorously, most decisively.

It is senseless to contrast the Socialist revolution and the revolutionary struggle against capitalism to one of the questions of democracy, in this case the national question.

On the contrary, we must combine the revolutionary struggle against capitalism with a revolutionary program and revolutionary tactics relative to all democratic demands: a republic, a militia, officials elected by the people, equal rights for women, self-determination of nations, etc.

While capitalism exists, all these demands are realizable only as an exception, and in an incomplete, distorted form.

Basing ourselves on democracy as it already exists, exposing its incompleteness under capitalism, we advocate the overthrow of capitalism, expropriation of the bourgeoisie as a necessary basis both for the abolition of the poverty of the masses and for a complete and manifold realization of all democratic reforms.

Some of those reforms will be started prior to the overthrow of the bourgeoisie, others in the process of the overthrow, still others after it has been accomplished.

The Socialist revolution is by no means a single battle; on the contrary, it is an epoch of a whole series of battles around all problems of economic and democratic reforms, which can be completed only by the expropriation of the bourgeoisie.

It is for the sake of this final aim that we must formulate in a consistently revolutionary manner every one of our democratic demands.

It is quite conceivable that the workers of a certain country may overthrow the bourgeoisie before even one fundamental democratic reform has been realised in full.

It is entirely inconceivable, however, that the proletariat as an historical class will be able to defeat the bourgeoisie if it is not prepared for this task by being educated in the spirit of the most consistent and determined revolutionary democracy.

Imperialism is the progressing oppression of the nations of the world by a handful of great powers; it is an epoch of wars among them for the widening and strengthening of national oppression; it is the epoch when the masses of the people are deceived by the hypocritical social-patriots, i. e., people who under the pretext of "freedom of nations," "right of nations to self-determination," and

“defence of the fatherland” justify and defend the oppression of a majority of the world’s nations by the great powers.

This is just why the central point in a programme of Social-Democrats must be that distinction between oppressing and oppressed nations, since the distinction is the essence of imperialism, and is fraudulently evaded by the social-patriots ...

This distinction is not important from the point of view of bourgeois pacifism, or the petty-bourgeois Utopia of peaceful competition between independent nations under capitalism, but it is most important in the point of view of the revolutionary struggle against imperialism.

From this distinction there follows *our* consistently democratic and revolutionary definition of the “right of nations to self-determination,” which is in accord with the general task of the immediate struggle for Socialism.

It is in the name of this right, and fighting for its unequivocal recognition, that the Social-Democrats of the oppressing nations must demand the freedom of separation for the oppressed nations, for otherwise recognition of the equal rights of nations and international solidarity of the workers in reality remains an empty phrase, a hypocritical gesture.

Russia is a prison of peoples not only because of the military, feudal character of tsarism, not only because the Great-Russian bourgeoisie supports tsarism, but also because the Polish, Lettish, etc., bourgeoisie has sacrificed the freedom of nations and democracy in general for the interests of capitalist expansion.

The proletariat of Russia, marching at the head of the people, cannot complete the victorious democratic revolution (which is its immediate task); neither can it fight together with its brothers, the proletarians of Europe, for a Socialist revolution, without demanding at once full and “unreserved” freedom of separation from Russia for all the nations oppressed by Russia.

This we demand not as something independent from our revolutionary struggle for Socialism, but because this struggle would remain an idle phrase if it were not linked up with a revolutionary approach to all the questions of democracy, including the national question.

We demand the freedom of self-determination, i. e., independence, i. e., the freedom of separation for the oppressed nations, not because we dream of an economically atomized world, nor because we cherish the ideal of small states, but on the contrary because we are for large states and for a coming closer, even a fusion of nations, but on a truly democratic, truly internationalist basis, which is unthinkable without the freedom of separation.

In the same way as Marx in 1869 demanded the separation of Ireland, not for the purpose of splitting England, but for a subsequent free alliance of Ireland with England, not for the sake of “justice to Ireland,” but for the interests of the revolutionary struggle of the English proletariat, so we at present consider the refusal by the Socialists of Russia to demand freedom of self-determination for

the nations, in the sense indicated by us above, as a direct betrayal of democracy, internationalism, and Socialism.

[H]e who rejects the hard tasks of today in the name of dreams about easy tasks of the future becomes an opportunist.

Theoretically it means to fail to base oneself on the developments now going on in real life, to detach oneself from them in the name of dreams.

War is a “terrible” thing? Yes.

But it is a terribly profitable thing.

ANNIVERSARIES

Noble Anniversary: August 25, 1969 **The Rebellion Of Company A; “One Of Hundreds Of Mutinies Among Troops During The War”**



Carl Bunin, Peace History Aug 20-26

Company A of the 3rd Battalion the 196th Light Brigade refused to advance further into the Songchang Valley of Vietnam after five days of heavy casualties; their number had been reduced from 150 to 60.

This was one of hundreds of mutinies among troops during the war.

“He (President Nixon) is also carrying on the battle in the belief, or pretense, that the South Vietnamese will really be able to defend their country and our democratic objectives (sic) when we withdraw, and even his own generals don’t believe the South Vietnamese will do it.”

James Reston in the New York Times

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



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

STUCK ON STUPID

Stupid Apologists For The Mass Murderer Assad Screw Up Again: Ignorant Fools Clueless About YouTube Time-Stamping Practice

August 23, 2013 By MARK LANDLER and MICHAEL R. GORDON, The New York Times Company [Excerpts]

On Friday, the Russian government called on President Bashar al-Assad of Syria to allow United Nations investigators into the areas east of Damascus where the attack occurred.

A second statement suggested that the Russians believed the attack was actually a provocation by the rebels. It cited reports criticizing government troops that were posted on the Internet hours before the attack.

“More and more evidence emerges indicating that this criminal act had an openly provocative character,” Aleksandr K. Lukashevich, a spokesman for Russia’s foreign ministry, said in the statement.

However, Mr. Lukashevich may have been confused by YouTube’s practice of time-stamping uploaded videos based on the time in its California headquarters, no matter the originating time zone.

The attacks occurred early Wednesday in Syria, when it would still have been Tuesday in California for about eight more hours.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Zionist Settler Mob Assaults Palestinian Shepherd North Of Jerusalem

“They Also Stabbed Several Animals, Killing A Goat”



Najeh Thalajeh Abu-Ali at the hospital. (Iyad Haddad/B'Tselem)

19/08/2013 Ma'an

BETHLEHEM (Ma'an) -- A group of settlers attacked a Palestinian shepherd north of Jerusalem on Sunday causing serious injuries, Israeli rights group B'Tselem said.

A group of 10-15 shepherds from the Jerusalem-area village of Mikhmas were crossing Route 60 via an underpass on Sunday when Najeh Thalajeh Abu-Ali, 47, was attacked by six settlers.

The settlers had their faces covered with t-shirts and beat Abu-Ali over the head and body with metal pipes. They also stabbed several animals, killing a goat.

The settlers then fled the scene.

Abu-Ali required 70 stitches to his head.

Settler violence against Palestinian communities and their property is routine in the occupied West Bank, where settlers typically enjoy impunity for their attacks.

Three Palestinians Detained For Suspicious Swimming

25/08/2013 Ma'an

GAZA CITY (Ma'an) -- Israel's navy opened fire at Palestinian fishermen off the northern coast of Gaza on Tuesday, witnesses said.

Israeli ships fired several shells at the boats, who were fishing near Gaza City, causing material damage. No injuries were reported.

On Monday, Israeli naval forces confiscated three fishing boats, and a day earlier detained three men swimming in what was deemed a “suspicious” area.

Zionists Destroy Bedouin Homes In Occupied Jerusalem, Threaten To Expel Whole Community: “The Community Is Part Of The Al- Ka’abneh Tribe, Which Has Been Living In The Area Since The 1950s” Community Members “Told, They Would Be Forced To Pay Tens Of Thousands Of Shekels To Cover The Cost Of Debris Removal And Could Face Arrest”



Between a wall and a hard place: Residential structures in Tal ‘Adasa (photo: ‘Amer ‘Aruri, B’Tselem)

August 20, 2013 +972 Magazine

On August 19, 2013, the Interior Ministry demolished all six residential structures of Tal 'Adasa, a Bedouin community living within Jerusalem's municipal boundaries, close to the Palestinian neighborhood of Beit Hanina, B'Tselem reported.

The community is part of the al-Ka'abneh tribe, which has been living in the area since the 1950s.

In addition to the demolition, municipal inspectors informed community members they have 10 days to evacuate the area before being forcefully removed, and ordered them to clear the demolition debris themselves.

Otherwise, clan members were told, they would be forced to pay tens of thousands of shekels to cover the cost of debris removal and could face arrest.

Since Israel's occupation of the West Bank and annexation of East Jerusalem in 1967, community members have not filed for Jerusalem residency, and according to their legal status, they are not "permanent residents of Israel."

In 1995, the Jerusalem Municipality forced the community to leave its previous area of residence, near the Atarot Industrial Park, and demolished their homes. The community relocated to the current site, close to the town of Bir Nabala, remaining within the municipal boundaries of Jerusalem.

They subsequently began earning a living not only from herding sheep and goats as before, but also from cultivating plots of land owned by residents of Beit Hanina. The community has never been connected to Jerusalem's water or electricity supplies.

Since 2005, the Jerusalem Municipality has been pressuring them to relocate again. In 2006, the separation barrier was constructed to the east and west of the community's site of residence, rendering it an enclave within the Jerusalem municipal jurisdiction that is isolated from the rest of the West Bank. As the community members are not registered as East Jerusalem residents, they cannot move freely within the boundaries of Jerusalem.

But because of the wall, they have been unable to directly access the nearby Palestinian neighborhoods of Bir Nabala and a-Ram, where they have family and business ties, and where various services are available to them.

For several years after the barrier was erected, they were occasionally given limited permits to cross the Qalandiya checkpoint and access the rest of the West Bank. However, since 2011, the Civil Administration has refused to issue them such permits.

As a result, some of the children in the community, who attend school in Bir Nabala, are forced to stay with relatives there and rarely come home. The other children live at home and attend school in Beit Hanina, which is within Jerusalem's municipal boundaries.

B'Tselem has called on the Israeli government to acknowledge the rights of the Tal 'Adasa community and find a solution to the community's housing issue that is acceptable to its members. "Demolishing their homes and forcefully displacing them

constitutes a violation of international law and will leave them homeless and without a source of livelihood,” B’Tselem’s spokesperson stated.

Occupation Troops Murder Palestinian In Jenin Refugee Camp: Two More Also Shot



Majd Mohammed Anis Lahlouh alive, right. (Photo: Al Quds)



Majd Mohammed Anis Lahlouh dead. (Photo: Ali Samoudi/Al Quds)

August 20, 2013 by Allison Deger, Mondoweiss.net

One Palestinian has been killed and two others injured in a raid by Israeli forces in Jenin refugee camp early Tuesday morning.

Two of the three were hit with dum dum bullets, according to Palestinian news agencies. A dum dum is a metal slug that expands upon impact in order to widen a wound.

Majd Mohammad Anis Lahlouh, 22, died after an expanding bullet was shot into his heart, said Jenin hospital's Dr. Khalil Suleiman to Al Quds newspaper. He was pronounced dead while in transfer to the medical facility.

The two others wounded, Karim Sbeih and Alah Abu Khalifa, were shot in the bladder and in chest.

The latter was also reportedly hit with a dum dum.

Lahlouh was struck by soldiers when near a UNRWA press center in the camp.

Witnesses told Ma'an News Agency clashes had already started, with the raid beginning around 3 am when soldiers searched the home of Islamic Jihad leader Bassam Saadi.

Some time after Lahlouh was shot from a distance of 15 to 20 meters through his side, with the bullet exiting from his chest after piercing and exploding in his heart.

Israeli raids are a common occurrence in Palestinian refugee camps, nightly even. The PLO Negotiations Affairs Department posts daily reports from a monitoring group that logs each incursion, home demolition, checkpoint closure, and injury and death.

Yesterday's posting indicates there were four raids in the Jenin district and one in the refugee camp where Lahlouh and the others were shot.

In Ma'an's report, witnesses also mentioned the previous night's raid, highlighting the fact that two Israeli Special Forces units were seen driving in the camp in vehicles with green Palestinian license plates.



To more about 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."

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CLASS WAR REPORTS



Thousands Of Anti-Government Protesters March In Bahrain: “Down With Hamad”



Anti-government protesters hold up photos of political prisoner Ebrahim Shareef which read, “Release all the political Detainees” march during a rally organized by Bahrain's main opposition party Al Wefaq on Budaiya highway west of Manama August 23, 2013. REUTERS/Hamad I Mohammed

Aug 23, 2013 By Farishta Saeed, Reuters

Thousands of Bahrainis were allowed to march peacefully outside Manama calling for democratic reforms on Friday, 10 days after police cracked down on scattered protests organized by an online group inspired by recent demonstrations in Egypt.

Waving Bahrain's red and white flag and carrying pictures of political prisoners, the protesters denounced King Hamad bin Issa al-Khalifa and Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman al-Khalifa. “Down with Hamad,” they chanted.

“We are here ... because we want freedom. We are used to oppression, and teargas and beatings,” said Hayat al-Abbar, a 38-year-old secretary who joined the march.

Bahrain, which hosts the U.S. Fifth Fleet, has been buffeted by bouts of unrest since February 2011 when an uprising led by the Shi'ite majority demanded the al-Khalifa dynasty give up power. The authorities crushed the revolt, killing at least 35 people, but small-scale protests and clashes have persisted, putting Bahrain on the front line of a tussle for regional influence between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

“We seek our freedom and dignity and will never forget those who sacrificed their lives,” Friday's protesters chanted.

Police stayed away from the march, which was organized by the country's main opposition parties and took place west of the capital.

The Bahrain government in July passed a law banning all protests in the capital Manama. King Hamad also toughened penalties in anti-terrorism laws. On August 14, the authorities fired tear gas and birdshot to disperse demonstrators responding to an online call for street action by a new activist group calling itself Tamarrod, according to witnesses.

The group was inspired by the movement of the same name that helped muster massive protests against Egyptian President Mohamed Mursi before the military removed him on July 3.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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