

Military Resistance 11H9



“Criminal Ring Working For U.S. Special Operations Command In Southern Afghanistan May Have Defrauded The U.S. Government Of More Than \$77 Million”

“A ‘Vast Protection Racket’ Of Strongmen That, At Times, Funneled Money To Anti-American Insurgents Who Were Paid Not To Attack The Supply Convoys”

“A Continuing Investigation That Also Could Ensnare Americans Working For The U.S. Campaign In Afghanistan”

August 8, 2013 By DION NISSENBAUM, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON—

American anticorruption officials are investigating an alleged criminal ring working for U.S. Special Operations Command in southern Afghanistan that may have defrauded the U.S. government of more than \$77 million, according to court documents and government officials.

Federal officials have frozen \$63 million held in bank accounts around the world linked to a young Afghan businessman who allegedly bribed two foreign contractors to secure contracts to transport food and fuel for the U.S. military in southern Afghanistan, according to documents unsealed by the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C.

The Afghan, Hikmatullah Shadman, is at the center of a continuing investigation that also could ensnare Americans working for the U.S. campaign in Afghanistan, said John Sopko, the special U.S. inspector general for Afghanistan reconstruction.

"We're not done with this matter in the least," said Mr. Sopko, who spearheaded the legal action to freeze and seize Mr. Shadman's bank accounts.

A congressional investigation concluded in 2010 that the system had cultivated a "vast protection racket" of strongmen that, at times, funneled money to anti-American insurgents who were paid not to attack the supply convoys.

Earlier this year, Mr. Sopko warned the U.S. military still didn't have enough oversight of trucking contracts to ensure the money wasn't misspent or given to insurgent groups.

In one of the cases currently being pursued by Mr. Sopko, investigators concluded that Mr. Shadman provided kickbacks and bribes to officials at a Hungarian contractor, known as TOIFOR Global Life Support Services, overseeing supply routes for the U.S.-led military at Kandahar Airfield, according to court documents.

According to a complaint filed with the U.S. District Court, Mr. Shadman at times carried envelopes stuffed with hundred-dollar bills and secured more than \$77 million in trucking contracts from November 2010 to March 2012.

In one example, nearly \$60,000 in hundred-dollar bills was deposited in bank accounts belonging to the wife and brother of Paul Hele, a South African who served as operations manager in Kandahar for TOIFOR, the documents state.

That money, investigators contend in the complaint, was part of a kickback to Mr. Hele for his help in steering contracts to Mr. Shadman, who American officials said had previously worked as an interpreter for the U.S. military.

When U.S. investigators learned of the alleged bribes, they asked the Afghanistan attorney general's office to freeze Mr. Shadman's bank accounts, according to court documents. The attorney general's office froze two accounts with \$77 million in January.

Less than two months later, the Afghan government reversed course and lifted the freeze without notifying U.S. investigators, according to American officials.

That allowed Mr. Shadman to transfer millions of dollars in his accounts to a series of banks outside Afghanistan, according to court records.

In May, a federal court approved the seizure of these funds. The Justice Department froze more than \$63 million in eight banks with New York offices, a move that has allowed the U.S. government to secure at least \$10 million.

Now that the strategy has proved to be a success, Mr. Sopko said he plans to use this approach in future investigations.

"We are going to keep following the money," he said. "If you're a crook, don't think it's safe wherever you put it — unless you put it in a mattress."

U.S. investigators said they are still trying to untangle the complex case.

It isn't clear why the attorney general's office in Afghanistan lifted the freeze on Mr. Shadman's bank accounts. The attorney general's office didn't respond to interview requests.

Earlier this year, Mr. Shadman told Afghanistan's Pajhwok Afghan News website that he had been detained for 77 days by U.S. forces who accused him of funding the Taliban and of contract corruption.

At the time, officials familiar with the case said, Mr. Shadman's passport was turned over to Mr. Sopko's investigators.

Subsequently, two people purporting to work for U.S. Special Operations Command attempted to intervene on Mr. Shadman's behalf.

Mr. Sopko's office is still trying to determine who the people are and what interest they have in Mr. Shadman's case.

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.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Decorated Stockbridge Soldier Killed In Afghanistan



Sgt. Eric Timothy Lawson

August 01, 2013 Marietta Daily Journal

The U.S. Department of Defense announced Monday the death of Sgt. Eric T. Lawson, 30, of Stockbridge.

He and Spc. Caryn E. Nouv, 29, of Newport News, Va., died from their wounds July 27 in Ghazni Province, Afghanistan, after enemy forces attacked their transport with an improvised explosive device and small arms fire.

Lawson, a 2001 graduate of Griffin High School, joined the army in 2002.

He was a cargo specialist who helped provide security to logistical patrols throughout northern Afghanistan, according to a release from Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va., where he was assigned to the 10th Transportation Battalion, 7th Sustainment Brigade.

He was deployed to Bagram Air Base in January in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Stockbridge Mayor Mark Alarcon posted a message on the city's Facebook page. "On behalf of all the grateful citizens of Stockbridge we wish the family and friends of Sgt. Eric Timothy Lawson our deepest sympathies and condolences. Know that you are not alone in your pain at this terrible time in your lives," Alarcon said.

The mayor said Lawson received numerous awards during his decade of service as a cargo specialist.

Lawson was on his third deployment to Afghanistan.

The city will post information on funeral services as they become available.

According to Army spokeswoman Sameria Zavala, Lawson completed basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C. and advanced individual training in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

Lawson was assigned to the brigade in September 2007.

“He served as an assistant convoy commander during his tour in theater providing critical security to logistical patrols throughout northern Afghanistan,” she said in a statement.

Lawson was a combat veteran of three Operation Enduring Freedom tours – 2002 to 2003, 2006 to 2007 and 2012 to 2013.

His awards and decorations include the, Army Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal with one knot, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, NATO ISAF Medal and Drivers/Mechanics Badge.

In related news, Lawson's 13-year-old stepdaughter Le-Shanna M. Wortham is safe at home in York County, Va., after running away Saturday morning.

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**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

MILITARY NEWS

**THIS IS HOW OBAMA BRINGS THEM HOME:
ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE**



Transfer cases containing the remains of Army Spc. Rob L. Nichols, left, and Sgt. Stefan M. Smith, right, July 25 at Dover Air Force Base, Del. They were killed when their unit was attacked with an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan. Steve Ruark / AP

**Syrian Rebels Push Advance Into
Assad Heartland:
“Egyptian Military Strategy Analyst
Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Safwat El-Zayyat Last
Night Described Syrian Rebel Gains
In Latakia Province As ‘Very
Significant’”**

“The Regime Has No Military Presence On The Ground. It Is Unable To Handle Two Battlefronts Concurrently”



6 August 2013 by F. Najja, ArabSaga [Excerpts]

Syrian rebels are pushing toward President Bashar al-Assad's hometown of Qardaha in Latakia province.

By Monday, the second day of their surprise offensive in the heartland of Assad's minority Alawite-cum-Shiite sect, the rebels had captured some 11 Alawite villages.

The villages include Aramo, 20 kilometers from Qardaha, and Baruda, where the rebels seized visiting Alawite cleric Badreddin Ghazal, a diehard Assad militant.

You can see above a photo of Sheikh Ghazal in military fatigues standing alongside Mihraç Ural aka Ali al-Kayyali, the man I dubbed in May “the ethnic cleanser of Baniyas,” who was also suspected of masterminding the twin Turkish bombings in Reyhanli.

There is already talk of a “prisoner swap” underway, which would see Ghazal released in exchange for setting free the women held by Assad’s shabiha in Latakia’s sports stadium.

"The rebels are not far from Qardaha, and the threat to Qardaha has moved from being conceivable to being a real one," Sheikh Anas Ayrout, a member of the Syrian National Coalition (SNC) who is from the coastal city of Banias, told Reuters.

Monzer Makhous, the SNC representative to France and future Syrian ambassador in Paris who belongs to the Alawite community, tells the leading Saudi daily Asharq Alawsat, "The Free Syrian Army's advance into the coastal region is vital, if only to prevent the regime from carving out a sectarian canton" there.

Also Monday, the armed opposition captured the key Minnigh airbase in the northern province of Aleppo after an eight-month battle, seizing several tanks and other munitions and taking the base commander and soldiers prisoner.

Egyptian military strategy analyst Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Safwat el-Zayyat last night described Syrian rebel gains in Latakia province as "very significant."

He told Aljazeera TV's Syria news anchor that when the armed opposition is able to move from Salma (a village northeast of Latakia) to within five kilometers of al-Haffah, which is the principal gateway to Latakia city, the questions become: Are the rebels planning to widen their bridgehead?

Do they intend winning control of Jabal al-Akrad and the hills overlooking Latakia? Are they after cutting Latakia's roads to Idlib or Aleppo or both?

"All this," said Zayyat, "shows the regime has no military presence on the ground. It is unable to handle two battlefronts concurrently."

Zayyat also took issue with yesterday's report by Human Rights Watch, saying ballistic missiles used by the Syrian military is killing civilians and many children.

He said the HRW report "comes too late. The regime started using ballistic missiles in December 2012 – first against the rural areas in Idlib province."

Ballistic missiles, said Zayyat, "are meant to leave what the military call 'large footprints.'

So the regime using Scud missiles with a speed of mach 4, a payload of half a ton or more, and a lethal circuit of some 200 meters against village homes can only be described as a war crime of the first order."

Twisted Obama Regime Freaks Wants To Continue Conducting Searches Of The Genital Areas Of

Detainees At Guantanamo Bay, Cuba: “Appeal A Ruling Of A Federal Judge Who Called The Practice ‘Religiously And Culturally Abhorrent’” “Does The Military Really Think There’ll Be An Outbreak Of Smuggling If It Can’t Grope The Men While It Appeals The Decision?”

July 17 By Julie Tate, The Washington Post [Excerpts]

The Obama administration wants to continue conducting searches of the genital areas of detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

it appealed a ruling of a federal judge who called the practice “religiously and culturally abhorrent.”

But in a declaration to the appeals court seeking a stay of Lamberth’s ruling, Marine Gen. John F. Kelly, who leads the U.S. Southern Command, essentially rebuked the chief judge and said he considers “prohibiting the search of the areas between detainees’ waists and knees” an “unacceptable risk to the military personnel under my command.”

The appeals court granted the stay Wednesday.

Attorneys for detainees had argued that the searches, which were introduced in May, were designed to impede meetings between inmates and their lawyers.

At the time, there was a growing hunger strike by the prisoners, which began in February over searches of the detainees’ Korans and had expanded into a protest of the Obama administration not closing the facility.

Lamberth described the government as “recidivist when it comes to denying counsel access” at Guantanamo Bay.

Attorneys for detainees said they were dismayed by the government’s decision to obtain a stay and appeal the ruling.

“Does the military really think there’ll be an outbreak of smuggling if it can’t grope the men while it appeals the decision?” said David Remes, an attorney for several detainees.

“The military can prevent smuggling without groping the detainees. This is really about who calls the shots — the court or the military — when it comes to protecting the detainees’ access to counsel.”

**Green On Blue:
“5,370 Mefloquine Prescriptions
Were Issued To 4,770 Tricare
Beneficiaries In 2012, Including
2,030 Active-Duty Troops”
“The Anti-Malaria Drug Mefloquine
Should Be Prescribed Only As A Last
Resort”
“The Medication Can Cause Psychiatric
Side Effects Ranging From Anxiety And
Depression To Hallucinations And
Paranoia, According To The FDA”**

Aug. 8, 2013 By Patricia Kime, Staff Writer, Army Times [Excerpts]

The Pentagon’s top doctor drafted a memo this week reminding military physicians that the anti-malaria drug mefloquine should be prescribed only as a last resort, reserved for those allergic to other malaria preventives or traveling to areas where a strain is resistant to first-line options.

The memo, issued by Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Dr. Jonathan Woodson, followed an FDA announcement July 29 that a “black box” warning had been added to the medicine, once marketed as Lariam in the U.S., because of potential neurological and psychiatric side effects.

The memo “reiterates our policy relative to very limited use of mefloquine and informing the services and all concerned about the black box warning,” Woodson told an audience

of medical personnel at the Reserve Officers Association National Security Symposium in Washington, D.C., on Aug 8.

The new black box warning — the FDA’s most serious warning — followed an extensive review in which agency officials determined that neurological side effects such as dizziness, loss of balance or tinnitus can “persist or become permanent” as a result of taking mefloquine.

The medication also can cause psychiatric side effects ranging from anxiety and depression to hallucinations and paranoia, according to the FDA.

According to Defense Department data, 5,370 mefloquine prescriptions were issued to 4,770 Tricare beneficiaries in 2012, including 2,030 active-duty troops.

That is down significantly from previous years: Between 2010 to 2011, the military health system wrote 14,420 prescriptions for mefloquine, down from 55,766 from 2007 to 2009.

MORE:

**“Psycho Tuesday” Was The Name
His Regiment Had Given To The
Day Of The Week They Took Their
Lariam:**

**“We Have A Generation Of Soldiers
And Travelers With This Drug Ticking
Away In Their Systems”**

**“67% Of People Who Took The Drug
Experienced One Or More Adverse
Effects, And 6% Had Side Effects So
Severe They Required Medical Attention”**

[Thanks to Clancy Sigal, who sent this in.]

August 7, 2013 By DAVID STUART MacLEAN, The New York Times Company

CHICAGO —

On Oct. 16, 2002, at 4 p.m., I walked out of my apartment in Secunderabad, India, leaving the door wide open, the lights on and my laptop humming. I don't remember doing this. I know I did it because the building's night watchman saw me leave. I woke up the next day in a train station four miles away, with no idea who I was or why I was in India.

A policeman found me, and I ended up strapped down, hallucinating in a mental hospital for three days.

The cause of this incident was drugs. And these drugs had been recommended to me by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

I had been prescribed mefloquine hydrochloride, brand name Lariam, to protect myself from malaria while I was in India on a Fulbright fellowship.

F. Hoffmann LaRoche, the pharmaceutical company that marketed the drug, said only about 1 in 10,000 people were estimated to experience the worst side effects.

But in 2001, a randomized double-blind study done in the Netherlands was published, showing that 67 percent of people who took the drug experienced one or more adverse effects, and 6 percent had side effects so severe they required medical attention.

Last week, the Food and Drug Administration finally acknowledged the severity of the neurological and psychiatric side effects and required that mefloquine's label carry a "black box" warning of them.

But this is too little, too late.

There are countless horror stories about the drug's effects.

One example: in 1999, an Ohio man, back from a safari in Zimbabwe, went down to the basement for a gallon of milk and instead put a shotgun to his head and pulled the trigger.

Another: in Somalia in 1993, a Canadian soldier beat a Somali prisoner to death and then attempted suicide.

"Psycho Tuesday" was the name his regiment had given to the day of the week they took their Lariam.

But some are still getting it; lawyers for Staff Sgt. Robert Bales, who has pleaded guilty to killing 16 Afghan civilians in 2012, said he had taken the drug.

And the generic version is still the third most prescribed anti-malaria drug here, with about 120,000 prescriptions written in the first half of this year.

Most worrying of all, the announcement notes that the drug's neurological side effects — dizziness, loss of balance or ringing in the ears — may last for years, or even become permanent.

More than a decade has passed since my last dose of Lariam, and I still experience depression, panic attacks, insomnia and anxiety that were never a part of my life before.

We have a generation of soldiers and travelers with this drug ticking away in their systems.

In June of last year, Remington Nevin, a former Army preventive medicine officer and epidemiologist, testified in front of a Senate subcommittee that he was afraid that Lariam “may become the ‘Agent Orange’ of our generation, a toxic legacy that affects our troops and our veterans.”

Science is a journey, but commerce turns it into a destination.

Science works by making mistakes and building off those mistakes to make new mistakes and new discoveries.

Commerce hates mistakes; mistakes involve liability.

A new miracle drug is found and heralded and defended until it destroys enough lives to make it economically inconvenient to those who created it.

Lariam is a drug whose side effects impair the user’s ability to report those side effects (being able to accurately identify feelings of confusion means that you probably aren’t that confused).

The side effects leave no visible scars, no objective damage.

But if Lariam were a car, if psychological or neurological side effects were as visible as broken bones, it would have been pulled from the market years ago.

It’s a prescription I wish I had left unfilled.

Fort Irwin Fools In Command Ban Political T-Shirts: “Clothing Which Makes Disparaging Comments Concerning The Military And The United States Government Is Prohibited”

“The Policy Has Appeared In Public Buildings Without Specifying Whether It Applies To Family Members And Civilians As Well As Soldiers”

“If It Includes Everyone, She Asked, How Would It Be Enforced?”

Aug. 6, 2013 By Joe Gould, Staff writer, Army Times [Excerpts]

It's time for saggy pantsed and suggestively attired soldiers, civilians and family members at Fort Irwin, Calif., to straighten up.

Baggy pants, do-rags, belly shirts, pajamas, ripped jeans and visible thong underwear are forbidden attire in public, according to the post's new dress code for off-duty troops, which was posted to the garrison Facebook page on Monday. The new policy directs managers of post facilities, like gyms and shops, to deny service to anyone wearing the offending gear.

“Clothing with obscene, slanderous, drug paraphernalia or related statements, vulgar words or drawings, sexually suggestive or clothing which makes disparaging comments concerning the military and the United states government is prohibited,” the notice reads. “By order of the commander.”

Now, some on Fort Irwin are lashing out over a policy they see as an infringement on personal freedoms.

Some, like Amber Mooney, an Army wife on the post, took to Facebook to express their displeasure.

“The good news is that I have ordered several burqas (all in black as not to offend those who are sensitive to color) and I'll be able to use all of the facilities on post in the near future without harassment,” she said.

The installation of about 9,000 people houses the Fort Irwin National Training Center and is located 40 miles from Barstow, in the Mojave Desert. Col. Jonathan P. Braga, the garrison commander, initiated the policy, according to a post spokesperson.

The policy followed “an accumulative violation of discipline and individual pride,” not a single act, according to the Facebook post, which a spokesperson attributed to Command Sgt. Major Dale Perez, the garrison's senior enlisted official.

“When it comes to off-duty attire, what might be offensive to you may be just normal clothing to some,” Perez said in the post. “It takes discipline to be a professional, and to be a professional it’s a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week way of life.”

The dress code is intended to foster dignity, respect, professionalism and standards appropriate to a training installation, said Pamela Portland, the director of communications for Fort Irwin and the NTC.

Ame Esterline, another Fort Irwin Army wife, said it was unfair to regulate the attire of people, when many have no choice but to live on the isolated post. She said the policy has appeared in public buildings without specifying whether it applies to family members and civilians as well as soldiers.

If it includes everyone, she asked, how would it be enforced?

“What if I’m not a soldier, does this give people the ability to embarrass me because they think I am a soldier and don’t like my clothes,” Esterline said.

“It opens up a bigger can of worms and I don’t think they really understood what they were doing.”

Others complained that the poster itself, which has pictures depicting the banned attire, was sexually suggestive and harassing.

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

**There is no democracy without socialism and no socialism without democracy.
-- Rosa Luxemburg**

In Switzerland, Marijuana Use Helps Keep Prisons Calm And Safe: Prison Guards Agree That Marijuana Use Among Inmates Is A Good Thing.



Shutter Stock

August 9, 2013 By Kristen Gwynne, AlterNet

A recent study published in the International Journal of Drug Policy estimates that 50 to 80 percent of inmates in Swiss prisons use marijuana. Prison staff told researchers they found marijuana to be a relatively safe drug and that cracking down on consumption would have more negative effects than positive ones.

Surveys of detainees and guards revealed similar opinions on marijuana use, with both groups describing the effects of marijuana as analgesic, calming and a way to decrease the traumatic prison experience.

Negative consequences included sleepiness, social isolation, and decreased perception of danger. But survey participants also said that more restrictive regulation could increase fear, trafficking, and a shift to harder drug use.

While prisoners estimated that up to 80 percent of prisoners use marijuana, guards reported a lower estimate at 50 percent.

NSA Director Announces Purchase Of All Four Major Cell Phone Companies



August 7, 2013 by sandy, The Duffel Blog

This week The Duffel Blog sat down with Gen. Keith Alexander, Director of the National Security Agency, for an exclusive interview about Edward Snowden's defection and the Agency's relationship with Congress. The following are some of the highlights of that interview.

TDB: Gen. Alexander thanks for taking time for this interview today. I know you're very busy so let me get started. I can imagine it's been a very difficult few months. What are you feeling right now? Angry? Vengeful?

Gen. Alexander: You know not really. A lot of people are surprised when I say I'm more frustrated and confused rather than angry.

TDB: Confused? Over what?

GEN: The first thing I want you to know is that everyone who works at NSA, be they military, civilians or contractors, are all US citizens just like you and I. Well, except for the Brits, the Canadians, the Aussies and the New Zealanders, but don't mind them. We wouldn't want NSA gathering intelligence on us any more than you would.

I know people are angry when they hear we're "collecting metadata" on people but I look around at our society and I just say, "Jesus Christ! Come on people!"

We live in a country where it has become the norm to share the shape, consistency and odor associated with your last bowel movement on multiple social networks. You really shouldn't bitch that I'm invading your privacy by checking to see if you calling terrorist on your cell phone. Should you?

TDB: Well, that is a good point if maybe a little overly graphically made.

GEN: Here's another one. I have this friend on Facebook who just about every freakin' day posts an article to my wall about how NSA is invading America's privacy and using our advanced technology to track US citizens using their cell phones.

I don't have to use advanced technology to track Dave because this asshole updates his GPS coordinates from his iPhone every 15 minutes. Sometimes I log on and all I have is, "Dave is at the Burger Barn." "Dave is at the dry cleaners." "Dave is at the drug store."

You know what? Screw you Dave.

TDB: Wait, you have a Facebook account? You have friends on Facebook?

GEN: Yeah, Dave sent me a friend request a few years back and I remember him as a pretty cool guy in high school. Now he's just a dick.

TDB: Sir, we seem to have gotten a little off track. Let's get back to Snowden. How is NSA responding to this monumental intelligence leak?

GEN: That's a good question and one the American people should be asking.

When we first learned Edward Snowden had disappeared and was likely in the People's Republic of China we began an intensive review of his background, his work assignments and professional behaviors and his lifestyle to determine what we missed that would have indicated this was going to happen and to identify key indicators to help us prevent this type of thing from happening in the future.

TDB: Can you tell us what you discovered?

GEN: Absolutely, after a great deal of research we've determined the primary issue is that he's a ginger.

TDB: Excuse me? A ginger?

GEN: Absolutely, my grandmother always told me that people with red hair are the children of the devil and they get a freckle for every soul they steal. It looks like Memaw Jenkins was right.

TDB: So what actions are you taking in response?

GEN: I have asked the Deputy Director to begin a review of all security files of every Agency affiliate who meets similar criteria.

Let me stress, we're not just talking gingers. We're going to be investigating everyone from the strawberry blonds all the way to the fiery red heads. I've also directed that anyone with more than 15 visible freckles should be polygraphed immediately in case they have dyed their hair or tried some other subterfuges.

TDB: Have you had any complaints about your new program?

GEN: I got a late night call claiming to be from the Hibernian Society of Baltimore saying I was discriminating against Irish-Americans.

They sounded drunk so they probably were Irish but I want to stress this is not racial profiling. NSA is not prejudiced based on race or ethnic background. If a person of Asian or African ancestry comes in here with red hair, they're going to get treated the same as the Paddies.

TBD: But sir, I've seen pictures of you as a young officer where your hair was brown but it had definite red tinges in it.

GEN: I don't know what the hell you're talking about but if you bring it back up I'll make damn sure you don't complete another cell phone call until you're 60! Any questions?

TDB: Umm, no sir. Let's move on to the fallout from the Snowden defection.

You've been hauled before Congress on several occasions. You have spoken to the media more than once. The American people have expressed deep concerns about a court-sanctioned relationship between NSA and several cell phone providers. How is this going to effect NSA intelligence collection mission long-term?

GEN: First let me say this. I have nothing but respect for our Congressional leadership. It is a basic principle of our nation, enshrined in the Constitution, upheld in the Courts and proven by history to be the greatest and most robust bulwark against tyranny in the long narrative of mankind.

Sure they will bang any cocktail waitress in the District of Columbia and some of them like to send snapshots of their man parts to unsuspecting women.

God only knows they haven't passed a serious law in around eight years, and if they could pass a budget I wouldn't have to furlough a big chunk of my workforce but they are there for a reason and we have to respect that.

That is not what I said. I said we're buying four cell phone companies: Verizon, AT&T, Sprint and T-Mobile.

And in the Executive Branch it could be very easily said that these people are nothing but political hacks that got their jobs through campaign contributions, favors and cronyism but these are our leaders.

I have to respect their authority and their responsibilities. And let me makes this perfectly clear, when I say, "I have to respect their authority," I'm saying I am legally obligated to. It's the law. It's not like I have any choice in the matter.

TDB: So what are you telling Congress about the future of NSA?

GEN: Great question.

As you know we've been taking a lot of flak in the press for our court approved relationships with several cell phone service providers. As I have said on many occasions we have court orders approving the data mining.

We briefed Congress on the program many times and we brief the President on our findings regularly. We've also briefed Congress regularly on what we've discovered from the data we've retrieved and the terrorist plots we've uncovered. So we've done our best to do our due diligence in order to ensure the American people we're staying within the limits of the law but still, that hasn't made people happy.

So we've decided if they're going to hate us anyway, we might as well do something big. So I can announce today that we have Congressional authorization to buy the four biggest U.S. cell phone companies.

TDB: Excuse me; did you say NSA was going to buy a cell phone company?

GEN: That is not what I said. I said we're buying four cell phone companies: Verizon, AT&T, Sprint and T-Mobile.

TDB: Isn't that kind of a bold move?

GEN: Not really. We had this idea a few years ago when through a front company we bought MySpace.

That was a dead end. Who knew there wasn't any information of any sort on MySpace anymore?

Then we thought about Facebook. It was going public, we could suck up most of the stock and make sure nobody knew it but like I said earlier, any jackass with a computer can log on there any find out anything he wants about anyone with an account.

We looked at Google but it turns out they've already been picked up by the Chinese or Satan, assuming there's a difference.

Then this whole Snowden thing happened and we were out of the closet so to speak.

We don't have to skulk around any more. So we're picking up the four largest cell phone providers overtly. It will cost a little more up front but those guys make huge bank, I'm telling ya' and it will save us a ton of money on lawyer's fees.

TBD: So let me clarify my earlier question. When I said this was a "bold move" what I should have said was, "Isn't this patently illegal." Will the American people stand for this?

GEN: Illegal, as in against the law?

Since Congress writes the law, they decided to write this into it.

And will the American people stand for it? No they won't. I'm sure everyone will turn off their cell phones and do without... NOT!

We're a country welded to our phones. Listen, people are so stupid about their phones we have to spend millions of dollars to tell them not to text and drive.

Do we tell them they shouldn't read a novel and drive? No, or wear a blindfold and drive?

No we don't because people know that would be stupid but we have to tell them not to text and drive. Why? Because cell phones are like electronic crystal meth. Once someone gets a phone they have to have one all the time. And what are they going to do if they decide to leave Sprint or AT&T? Go to Cricket or Tracfone? No, I don't think so.

And yes, I know what you'll say next.

We're the government and the government screws up everything it touches but the amount you're paying for that smartphone in your pocket makes a \$300 ashtray on a submarine seem like good fiscal planning.

TBD: And it's not like you would make customer service any worse.

GEN: Exactly.

TDB: Gen. Alexander, thank you for your time. It has been very informative.

GEN: It's not a problem. My Public Affairs Office will be available if you have any follow-ups.

Oh, call your mother. You blew off those two voicemails last night. I didn't want to say anything but your dad's drinking again and she needs someone to talk to.

Have a good afternoon.

Military Resistance In PDF Format?

If you prefer PDF to Word format, email: contact@militaryproject.org

ANNIVERSARIES

August 11, 1894: Dishonorable Day: Federal Troops Forced Some 1,200 Jobless Workers Across The Potomac River And Out Of Washington, D.C.

[If they try that shit again today, time to turn the weapons around on the real enemies, and it's not the unemployed. T]

Carl Bunin Peace History August 9-15

Federal troops forced some 1,200 jobless workers across the Potomac River and out of Washington, D.C.

Led by an unemployed activist, "General" Charles "Hobo" Kelly, the jobless group's "soldiers" included young journalist Jack London, known for writing about social issues, and miner/cowboy William "Big Bill" Haywood who later organized western miners and the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW).

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Zionist Terrorists Attack Palestinian Farmer: "One Settler Then Brandished A Gun And Began To Shoot At Ahmed As He Took Cover Behind An Olive Tree"

2nd August 2013 | International Solidarity Movement, Nablus Team

Aqraba, Occupied Palestine

At 530pm on July 30th three settlers from the illegal settlement of Itamar violently attacked a farmer from the village of Aqraba, south east of Nablus.

Four farmers from the village had spent the day grazing their more than 500 sheep on land belonging to the village, near to the settler only road dividing Aqraba.

Ahmed Yousef Banijaber, one of the four farmers, was walking along a narrow dirt road with his sheep when he came face to face with three settlers in an outdoor utility vehicle.

The settlers grabbed him and tried to pull him towards the vehicle at which point Ahmed pushed them away. One settler then brandished a gun and began to shoot at Ahmed as he took cover behind an olive tree.

The other three farmers nearby hearing the attack then ran to Ahmed's aid. The settlers then attempted to drive away quickly from the scene and in doing so deliberately ran over some of Ahmed's sheep, killing two and seriously injuring another.

The settlers had first driven towards the other three farmers but did not approach them and instead choose to attack Ahmed as he was on his own.

The land where the attack took place and where the farmers regularly graze their sheep belongs to the village and is classed as Area B therefore under Palestinian civil control and joint Israeli-Palestinian security control. The settlers had no reason for being in this area.

The settlers that attacked Ahmed are well known to the villagers of Aqraba as they have attacked farmers on numerous occasions. When shown a photo of the settlers from the past spring Ahmed confirmed it was two of the settlers that had attacked them and said "they are the troublemakers".

The Aqraba Municipality are making an official complaint to the Israeli Police against two of the settlers, though they remain skeptical that anything will come of this as settlers have impunity under Israeli law for crimes they commit against Palestinians.

A 2012 report by Israeli human rights organization Yesh Din states that "less than nine percent of investigations of violent crimes committed by settlers against Palestinians ended in the filing of an indictment".

Two weeks prior to this, three farmers from Aqraba were arrested by the Israeli army for working at night on land near the settlement. The farmers had been requested to work on the land by the Israeli owner and were doing so at night because of the heat and Ramadan.

The Israeli army found this suspicious and arrested the three farmers and took them to the police station in the illegal settlement of Ariel.

The farmers were released a few days later without charge.

More Zionist Settler Attacks On Palestinian Village Water Reservoir: “Israeli Occupation Forces Who Went To The Scene Did Not To Stop The Settlers” “Attacks On The Project Have Been Happening Every Day That There Are Workers Present In The Last Months”

4th August 2013 | International Solidarity Movement, Nablus Team

Asira al Qibliya , Occupied Palestine

This week, settlers from Yitzhar attacked the Asira village water project and its workers, once again. Israeli occupation forces who went to the scene did not to stop the settlers and instead occupied the roof of a Palestinian house located nearby.

On July 31st settlers from the illegal settlement of Yitzhar attacked workers at the water reservoir project above the village of Asira.

The Israeli army came to intervene and then in order to “check” invaded the house closest to the water project belonging to a family with small children. The army then stationed themselves on the roof of the water project for the remainder of the day.

The water reservoir project is aimed at providing residents from Asira with running water.

Attacks on the project have been happening every day that there are workers present in the last months. Settlers trespass on to Asira village land and attack the workers often making “demonstrations” against the water project which will not affect the settlement in any way.

Asira al Qibliya, an ancient village with the current population of 3,500, and the other villages which surround the illegal settlement of Yitzhar face daily violence from its settlers.

In mid-1980s, the illegal settler colony of Yitzhar was established on the hilltop located around six Palestinian villages.

Before the colony, the hilltop area was the locals' breadbasket, thanks largely to its generous water resources.

The nearby natural spring used to be Asira's main source of water but the illegal settler colony, backed up by the Israeli government and the army, has completely blocked Palestinian access to the spring.

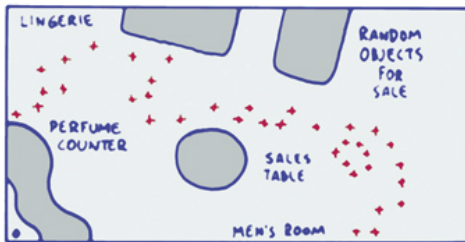
Since then, villagers are forced to rely on water tanks; one such tank costs NIS 130 (US \$36) in a place where unemployment is high; it is enough for a family for only a week. Residents of Asira hope that when the project is completed, they will have access to water.

Residents of the illegal Israeli settler colony of Yitzhar are considered to be among the most violent in occupied Palestine; they physically attack Palestinian villagers (often children), set their land and property on fire, destroy houses, and cut or burn olive trees together with other vital sources of livelihood.

[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

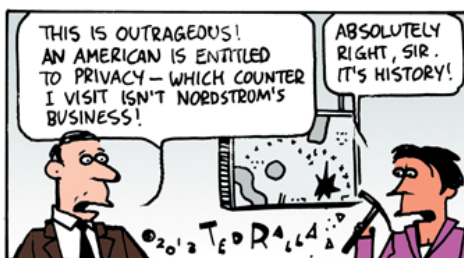
NORDSTROM DEPARTMENT STORE TRACKED SHOPPERS' MOVEMENTS BY TARGETING THEIR PHONES' WI-FI SIGNALS.



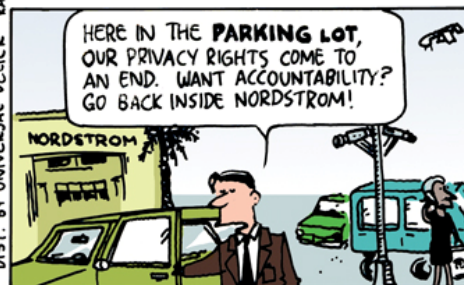
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Iraqi Legislators Fear A Popular Uprising Against The Government Protesting Lack Of Electricity: “We Warn Of A Popular Crisis The First Spark Of Which Can Start In The Province Of Basra”

July 15, 2013 By Shaymaa Adel, Azzaman

Iraqi legislators have warned of a popular uprising against the government protesting lack of electricity at a time the country is facing rising temperatures brushing 50 degrees centigrade.

The southern Province of Basra is among the hottest in Iraq at this time of the year, and the legislators fear it could be the spot sparking large-scale anti-government demonstrations across the country.

The warning has come from the powerful Oil and Energy Commission in the parliament, whose members are harshly critical of government performance in the power sector.

The government has poured billions of dollars into the electricity sector in the years since the 2003- U.S. invasion, but the power shortages still continue with some major towns spending more than 12 hours a day in darkness.

The ministry says demand for power peaks in the months of July and August as Iraqis turn to their air-conditioners to alleviate smoldering heat.

Basra was the first spot where Iraqis rose against the British occupation troop over lack of fuel and power shortages as early as 2003.

Riots broke out in the city several times, resulting in numerous casualties.

Although Basra currently gets up to 16 hours of continuous power supply from the national grid a day compared to Baghdad with about 12 hours of daily supply, the commission says signs of popular anger at lack of electricity are almost everywhere in the province.

“We warn of a popular crisis the first spark of which can start in the Province of Basra over power shortages,” said deputy Suzan al-Saad, a commission’s member.

Electricity Ministry’s promises of ending the power crisis in the country have not come through. It has missed several self-imposed deadlines for an end of power shortages in the past.

MORE:

“Protests Have Swept At Least Three Major Provinces In Southern Iraq”

“The Spread Of The Anti-Government Protests To Southern Iraq With A Pre-Dominantly Shiite Population Sends A Warning To The Government”

“For The Shiite Protesters To Slam Anti-Sunni Policies Is A Sign That Mainstream Iraqi Society Abhors Sectarian Pursuits Of Both The Of Administration And Government In Iraq”

July 27, 2013 By Kareem Abedzair, Azzaman

Protests have swept at least three major provinces in southern Iraq in the past two weeks.

The protesters take to the streets normally following Iftar, the fast-break meal of the Muslim holy month of Ramada, and are reported to continue most the night.

So far the protests have been confined to the provinces of Basra, Dhiqar and Missan, but organizers say they could spread to other provinces unless their demands are met.

The protesters mainly complain about lack of public services mainly electricity with major cities facing blackouts of more than 12 hours a day.

The protests gathered momentum following the mass prison break-out in Baghdad in which al-Qaeda militants stormed the high security jail of Abu Ghraib in a daring operation that saw hundreds of inmates fleeing among them senior al-Qaeda leaders.

The protests in southern Iraq show that it is not only the Sunnis in central parts of the country who are furious about the policies of the Shiite-dominated government of Prime Minister Noori al-Maliki.

The spread of the anti-government protests spreading to southern Iraq with a predominantly Shiite population sends a warning to the government that its popularity is dwindling.

The Shiite protests in southern Iraq have gone a step further in their denunciation of the government, raising placards and banners and shouting slogans hitting out at attempts to uproot Sunni Muslims from the mixed Province of Diyala.

For the Shiite protesters to slam anti-Sunni policies is a sign that mainstream Iraqi society abhors sectarian pursuits of both the administration and government in Iraq, which were put in place in the aftermath of the 2003-U.S. invasion.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



U.S. soldier in Bejjia village Iraq, Feb. 4, 2008. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

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