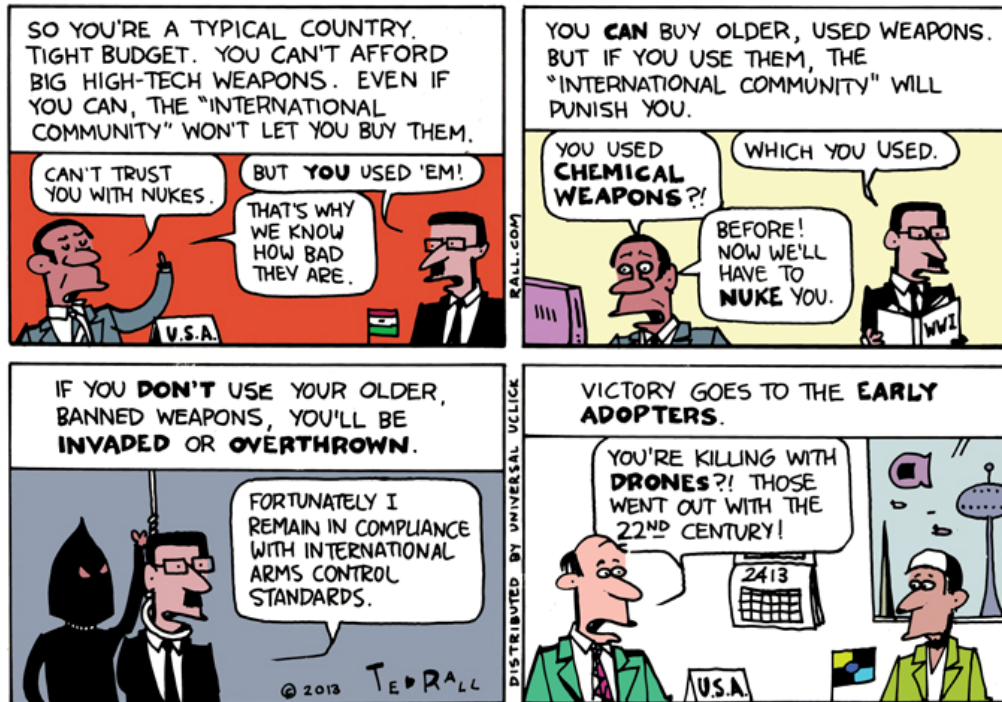


Military Resistance 11J4

RULES OF WAR



Shut It Down

From: Dennis Serdel
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: October 11, 2013
Subject: Shut It Down

Written by Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade; United Auto Workers GM Retiree

Shut It Down

There are many men at the VA door
that is locked
finger nail scratches & blood
runs down the door

& all of them want to kill themselves
and need help
until a shadow opens the door
& gives each man a loaded pistol
and tells them to go away
as the bloody door closes.
Marie, a Military Wife takes her 3 children
to the Commissary on base
where food & supplies are cheap
only to find it is closed
while her husband is fighting overseas
in a war for some reason
that she doesn't understand
what for & talk is the next payment
could be late or not there at all
so he is fighting for nothing.
WWII Soldiers fly to DC to see
their Memorial that is closed
Democrats & Republicans rush together
to cut the ribbon saying Closed
shaking hands of War while back
at Congress they then work as
Repubcrats to cut VA Disability payments
Social Security that they fought for
as the Demopubs stab the Veterans
in their backs with an icepick
with government cold hands
so they die too and used as Yes men
for other Wars dead or alive
Now the government fire Soldiers
& gut the GI Bill, if you want a house
go build it yourself
or live in a rundown apartment
working for Walmart
then try to go to College
with an old car that needs tires
& guzzles gasoline.
All Veterans are a hassle
why can't they just fight & go away.
Now they backlog some PTSD
so they are given powerful scripts
so at best they will OD & go away
The US Empire Kills more X-Soldier
Veterans & Soldiers than the Taliban
or foreign enemy.
Bob rips off the bumper sticker on
his truck that says "I am a Proud Father
of a Son in the Army." His son
was just killed in Afghanistan,
The American Dream for the Soldiers
is no more because it is

**an American Holocaust
that the Soldiers need to shut down.**

Shock Poetry written by Dennis Serdel for Military Resistance

**DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE
MILITARY?**



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

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

**17 US Troops Killed Or Wounded In
Kandahar Attack**

Oct 10 By Ghanizada, Khaama Press

According to reports, at least 13 US troops were severely injured following deadly explosions in southern Kandahar province of Afghanistan earlier this week.

The attack which took place in Panjwai district of southern Kandahar province on Sunday left at least four US troops dead.

According to the US media reports, a number of the injured service members are in critical health condition and troops have been taken to hospital for treatment purposes.

US military sources said that the soldiers killed or injured were part of the 36 troops Ranger formation that were out to capture a senior militant leader in Panjwai district.

The officials further added that the attack was carried out by a woman bomber who detonated her explosives while the service members were checking and questioning a man.

The incident was followed by at least 13 more improvised explosive device (IED) explosions in the same area, which left more US soldiers killed or injured, the officials said.

POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE BLOODSHED

THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE WAR

Resistance Action

Oct 09 By Ghanizada, Khaama Press

A bomb attack left at least three Afghan police officers dead in southern Helmand province of Afghanistan on Wednesday morning.

According to local government officials, the incident took place in Greshk district around 9am local time, after a bomber detonated explosives packed in a vehicle.

A spokesman for the provincial police department, Shah Muhammad Ashna confirming the report said, the bomber targeted a vehicle of the Afghan police forces.

Mr. Ashna further added that three police service members including an officer were killed following the incident and four others, all civilians were injured.

In the meantime provincial security chief, Juma Gul Hemat said at least two police officers and two civilians were killed following the attack and four other police officers were injured.

Taliban group claimed responsibility behind the incident.

MILITARY NEWS

The Military's Deadly Prescription Drug Addiction

“As The Rates Of Sudden Death And Suicide Have Spiked Over The Past Decade, It's Become Clearer To Mental Health And Military Advocates That This Heavy Reliance On Prescription Drugs May Be Partly To Blame”

“Pharmaceutical Companies Are In Many Ways Working Against Raised Awareness Of Their Drugs' Risks”

October 3, 2013 By Kelley Vlahos, The American Conservative.com

The pattern is relentless: young veteran, barely 30, over-medicated, and not only uncertain but grim about his future. He may still be married, but is likely divorced, possibly estranged from his children. His family frets over his physical and mental health, while taking careful note of his ups and his downs.

Then one day, he dies.

The veteran may have taken his own life deliberately. In an increasing number of cases, however, he may have simply gone to sleep and never woken up following a fatal reaction to one of the drugs or cocktails of pills he was prescribed by military doctors.

As our nation has come to rely more heavily on pharmaceutical drugs to manage chronic pain and psychological health, the U.S. military has followed suit, doling out drugs on the

battlefield and now back on the home front in a vast network of veterans (VA) hospitals and clinics.

But as the rates of sudden death and suicide have spiked over the past decade, it's become clearer to mental health and military advocates that this heavy reliance on prescription drugs may be partly to blame.

"You get a cocktail, and it's usually a sleeping pill, anti-anxiety medication, an anti-depressant, and an anti-psychotic—and sometimes even a stimulant like Ritalin or Adderall," noted Lt. Col. Charles Ruby, who retired from the Air Force and is now working as a clinical psychologist and advocate for veterans.

"You have no idea what can happen," tells TAC.

"Prescription drugs have become the catchall—'take this and if it makes you feel better, we'll increase the dosage'," according to (Ret.) Brigadier Gen. Becky Halstead, a public proponent of alternative medicine following her own two-year stint on medications for chronic fibromyalgia.

"We use prescription drugs because it is a quick fix. It started because our military was strained and it was just keeping more people propped up to do their jobs. But the long-term danger is we made people too dependent on it. It's alarming to me."

Nationally, prescription drug overdoses have risen significantly. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, for example, the number of Americans who died from painkillers rose to 14,800 in 2008 from 4,000 in 1999—the vast majority being unintentional.

In 2008, Lt. Gen. Eric B. Schoomaker, then the Army's Surgeon General, raised eyebrows when he mentioned that there had been "a series, a sequence of deaths" in the new warrior transition units (WTU) military-wide.

The units are supposed to help wounded and sick soldiers transition back into uniform or out of the military, but they've been beset with drug problems and low morale for years.

"Half of the warriors are 'stoned' on psychotropic drugs," said one report about the WTU at Fort Drum, NY, in 2012.

Another Army report in 2011 said 25 to 35 percent of the soldiers in these units nationwide were "addicted to drugs."

Reporters obtained an internal study in 2010 that revealed 32 soldiers and Marines in the WTUs had died from accidental overdoses since 2007.

Meanwhile, the drug Seroquel has been implicated in the deaths of several veterans whose families say were using the drug when they died in their sleep.

Seroquel is the brand name for Quetiapine, and although it is supposed to be prescribed for schizophrenia and bi-polar disorder, military and VA doctors have used it for years to treat stress-induced insomnia.

According to a 2010 report by the Military Times, orders for antipsychotic medications like Seroquel and Risperdal (another anti-psychotic) jumped 200 percent between 2001 and 2009, the war's peak.

In fact, before the company was successfully sued (for paying kickbacks to doctors in a scheme to promote Seroquel for uses not approved by the FDA, otherwise known as "off label"), drug-maker AstraZeneca sold \$340 million worth of it to the Armed Forces. Some 54,581 prescriptions for Seroquel were written for active duty servicemembers in 2011 alone—the vast majority as a sleep aid.

While off-label prescriptions are legal and common, critics like Harvard University research psychologist Dr. Paula Caplan, say the unknowns outweigh the benefits.

When some veterans could be taking upwards of 20 to 40 different pills a day, half of them psychotropic, the results can be unpredictable. "You don't know what effect the drug may have on them."

At high dosages and in concert with other drugs, Seroquel, for example, has been found to cause an irregular heartbeat and a higher risk of heart attack.

"I have never been one to say I'm opposed to medication—I'm just opposed to these medications, which have a side effect of causing cardiac arrest," said Stan White, whose son, Marine Cpl. Andrew White, 23, died from a heart attack in his sleep in 2008.

He blames Seroquel for his son's unexpected death. The young White was on a variety of medications for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), mainly a clonazepam (anti-anxiety) and a paroxetine (anti-depressant), along with Seroquel (for his nightmares he was given 1,600 milligrams a day, double the maximum dosage given for schizophrenia, his father said).

Seroquel was taken off the Pentagon's regular formulary in 2012, but it can still be prescribed with a waiver.

Meanwhile, numerous reports show how pervasive the overmedication problem has become:

According to an investigation by the American-Statesman, the military has spent at least \$2.7 billion on antidepressants, and \$1.6 billion in narcotic painkillers like Oxycontin over the last decade.

According to the Military Times, DoD orders for anxiety medications and sedatives like Valium and Ambien increased 170 percent from 2001 to 2009. By 2009, 1 in 6 active duty service members were on some form of psychiatric drug, including 17 percent on antidepressants.

In 2010, a significant Army report on suicide found that in 2009, 20 percent of the active duty force (106,000) had been prescribed at least one medication for pain, anxiety or depression, while prescription drugs were involved in one-third of the 160 active duty suicides that year.

Of the 188 accidental/undetermined deaths from 2006 to 2009 caused by drugs and alcohol, 74 percent involved prescription medications.

According to an Institute of Medicine report in 2012, 11 percent of service members in 2008 acknowledged they were abusing prescription pills—up from 2 percent in 2002.

An American-Statesman investigation found that of the 277 Texan Iraq and Afghanistan vets for whom they could establish a cause of death between 2003 and 2011, one in five had died accidentally due to toxic prescription cocktails.

According to the Center for Public Integrity, 49,000 veterans (all wars) killed themselves from 2005 to 2011—more than double the rate of the civilian population. Some wonder how much the drugs had to do with it—many of these powerful medication popular with doctors carry warnings of increased suicidal thoughts, anxiety, insomnia, and psychosis, especially with high dosages or when stopped abruptly.

Dr. Caplan, who recently published *When Johnny and Jane Come Marching Home: How All of Us Can Help Veterans*, is a stern critic of medication dependency. She tells TAC that pharmaceutical companies are in many ways working against raised awareness of their drugs' risks:

“(It’s been) shown through lawsuits that (drug companies) minimize and even conceal various kinds of harm from their drugs, including that they increase or can increase the risk of suicide or homicide.”

DoD drug spending has ballooned from \$3 billion in 2002 to \$6.8 billion in 2011. Critics charge that this partly reflects a shift to the “quick fix” of drugs for treating mental health conditions and chronic pain, a mindset they say is crippling full recovery.

“It’s a very significant problem,” Tom Tarantino, a former Army Captain who served as a platoon leader in Iraq in 2006, and is now spokesman and policy associate for IAVA.

“It’s one of those things that really starts with medicine on the battlefield, and in deployment you are just trying to treat symptoms so people can keep going,” he tells TAC, describing how pills were handed out in Ziploc bags in the field. “The availability is so much easier than when you are at home. When you get home, they say ‘we’re not giving you a bag full of Oxycontin, no.’”

But the medications continue. “I don’t think it’s nefarious, but I do think there is an addiction problem,” Tarantino added. The latest statistics obtained by Veterans for Common Sense indicate that over 486,000 Iraq and Afghanistan veterans have been treated for a mental health issue at the VA. Many have other injuries, too, like traumatic brain injury (TBI) and musculoskeletal injuries—all requiring a battery of prescriptions.

“I have a very close friend who I served with. He has pretty severe post-traumatic stress and pretty severe TBI, and every time he walks into the VA to get treatment he’s given drugs. He’s a very active person so this really frustrates him,” said Tarantino.

Dr. Ruby, who recently launched Operation Speak Up, said medication dulls but does not dispel the painful memories of PTSD sufferers.

His campaign hopes to establish group settings for veterans to talk about their combat stress, based on the Alcoholics Anonymous model. “Our view is that psychiatric drugs do nothing but sedate people. We believe that speaking out is a much better way to treat these people and to find a way to integrate back into their communities.”

“Syrian Rebels Seized A Guard Post On The Jordanian Border On Wednesday”

“Opposition Forces Now Control A Ribbon Of Territory Along The Border From Outside Daraa To The Edge Of The Israeli-Occupied Golan Heights”

9 Oct 2013 AFP

Syrian rebels seized a guard post on the Jordanian border on Wednesday after a month of fierce fighting, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

“Rebel fighters took control of the Hajanah border battalion post near the city of Daraa after laying siege to it for two months and fierce clashes around it lasting a month,” the NGO said.

Some of the border guard battalion had withdrawn, but it was not yet clear how many people had been killed or wounded in its capture.

The border post is adjacent to an old customs post seized by rebels days earlier.

With its capture, opposition forces now control a ribbon of territory along the border from outside Daraa to the edge of the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

In the northern city of Aleppo, the Observatory reported fighting in the Salaheddin neighbourhood, where opposition rebels were advancing.

MILITARY RESISTANCE BY EMAIL

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FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.

“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.

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

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

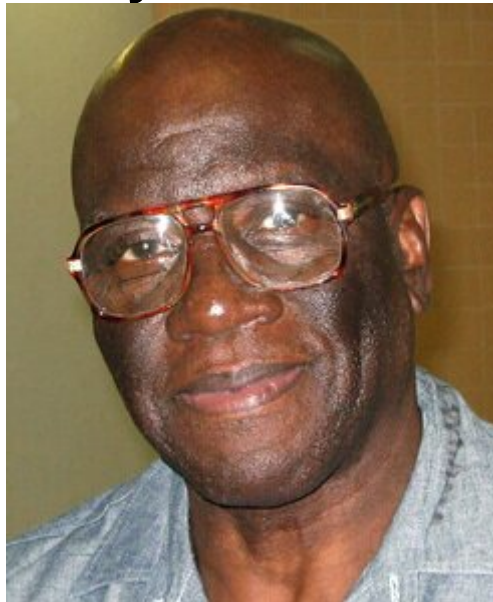
Frederick Douglass, 1852

<p>It is a two class world and the wrong class is running it. -- Larry Christensen, Soldiers Of Solidarity & United Auto Workers</p>

The “Muhammad Ali Of The Criminal Justice System” – An Extraordinary Life:

**“This Morning We Lost Without A
Doubt The Biggest, Bravest, And
Brashest Personality In The Political
Prisoner World”**

**“Herman Wallace, An Icon Of The
Modern Prison Reform Movement And
An Innocent Man, Died A Free Man After
Spending An Unimaginable 41 Years In
Solitary Confinement”**



Angola 3 Newsletter, October 4, 2013:

This morning we lost without a doubt the biggest, bravest, and brashest personality in the political prisoner world.

It is with great sadness that we write with the news of Herman Wallace's passing.

On October 4th, 2013, Herman Wallace, an icon of the modern prison reform movement and an innocent man, died a free man after spending an unimaginable 41 years in solitary confinement.

Herman spent the last four decades of his life fighting against all that is unjust in the criminal justice system, making international the inhuman plight of long term solitary confinement, and struggling to prove that he was an innocent man.

Just 3 days before his passing, he succeeded, his conviction was overturned, and he was released to spend his final hours surrounded by loved ones.

Despite his brief moments of freedom, his case will now forever serve as a tragic example that justice delayed is justice denied.

Herman never did anything half way.

He embraced his many quests and adventures in life with a tenacious gusto and fearless determination that will absolutely never be rivaled. He was exceptionally loyal and loving to those he considered friends, and always went out of his way to stand up for those causes and individuals in need of a strong voice or fierce advocate, no matter the consequences.

Anyone lucky enough to have spent any time with Herman knows that his indomitable spirit will live on through his work and the example he left behind. May each of us aspire to be as dedicated to something as Herman was to life, and to justice.

Herman Wallace's early life in New Orleans during the heyday of an unforgiving and unjust Jim Crow south often found him on the wrong side of the law and eventually he was sent to the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola for armed robbery.

While there, he was introduced to the Black Panther's powerful message of self determination and collective community action and quickly became one of its most persuasive and ardent practitioners.

Not long after he began to organize hunger and work strikes to protest the continued segregation, endemic corruption, and horrific abuse rampant at the prison, he and his fellow panther comrades Albert Woodfox and Robert King were charged with murders they did not commit and thrown in solitary.

Robert was released in 2001 after 29 years in solitary but Herman remained there for an unprecedented 41 years, and Albert is still in a 6x9 solitary cell.

Herman's criminal case ended with his passing, but his legacy will live on through a civil lawsuit he filed jointly with Robert and Albert that seeks to define and abolish long term solitary confinement as cruel and unusual punishment, and through his comrade Albert Woodfox's still active and promising bid for freedom from the wrongful conviction they both shared.

Herman was only 9 days shy of 72 years old.

Services will be held in New Orleans. The date and location will be forthcoming.

For more information visit www.angola3.org and <http://angola3news.blogspot.com/>.

Keep Bitching, I'll Bring Back Black Boots And Make You Sleep In Quonset Huts



October 2, 2013 by Paul, The Duffel Blog

The following is an opinion piece written by Gen. James Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Marines:

By now you have probably heard about all the sweeping changes Amos has in store for the barracks: as in sweeping and mopping.

This is part of the Marine Corps tradition. Marines throughout history, from Major Samuel Nichols to Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone, have been known for their barracks prowess.

From now on, there will be two NCOs on duty, fire watches on every floor, monitored by twenty-four hour security cameras, wearing those service uniforms, just like my predecessor General Krulak envisioned in his "Strategic Corporal".

One way or another, Amos is going to get you "back to the basics" the Marine Corps is known for.

No, Amos is not talking about fighting the War on Terror. He's talking about fighting the War on War.

There are a lot of surly, nasty shitbags out there who think they are “hot shit” because they “went to war” or are “combat-hardened”.

Amos has news for you: if you were even a halfway decent Marine, you would have gone straight from the School of Infantry to 8th & I to do close-order drill; not to Iraq, or Afghanistan, or wherever the fuck it is you went.

So you got shot at: whoopty-fucking-doo. Try shooting some Febreze on your bed sheets and then talk to Amos.

Now, Amos has heard a bit of grumbling out there about some of the changes.

‘General, why do we have to wear service uniforms on duty?’ Or ‘Sir, why the heck do we need Marines on fire watch when there hasn’t been a fire in the barracks since 1837?’

As you know, we’re downsizing. With the looming budget cuts, the Corps will soon be just Amos, the Sergeant Major, fifty Lance Corporals as a personal security detail, and Chesty, our trusted mascot.

But still, the Marine Corps needs to face the facts that times are changing. And the Marine Corps needs to embrace that change.

Now all the changes Amos has announced are by no means complete. So if you have a problem with any of them now, keep bitching about them. Just go ahead. If you don’t like these changes, well, that’s fine. Amos won’t mind.

Amos means, he won’t mind when he presides over your damn court martial. Amos has the entire Staff Judge Advocate on speed dial. Whole sniper platoons think of Amos every time they have to take a piss.

And if the rest of you keep bitching and moaning, Amos can go back even further into Marine Corps heritage: Amos will bring back black boots you need to spend hours polishing and make you sleep in Quonset huts again so fast, it will make your garrison covers fly off.

Which we’re now wearing every day, starting next week. It’s Marine Corps tradition.

Say, Amos bets you all think you look pretty good in those digital cammies: throw a snuggle sheet on, pull them out the dryer and head off to work.

Want to complain? Good. This is the peacetime Marine Corps.

We’ll bring back the old pre-war battle dress uniforms. It was good enough for Lieutenant Amos, and it should be good enough for you. You can’t be smoking spice when you’re pressing five sets of uniforms, can you?

Lastly gents, Amos wants to thank you for your service.

The majority of you enlisted during a time of war. You all knew what you were getting yourselves into when you signed up — inspections, random health and comforts and shitloads of duty.

Thanks again for the twelve years of fighting America's wars.

Expect a junk on the bunk inspection tomorrow.

Now go fuck yourselves.

ANNIVERSARIES

October 2002: Infamous Anniversary



Carl Bunin Peace History October 8-14

The House voted 296-133 to pass the "Joint Resolution to Authorize the Use of United States Armed Forces Against Iraq," giving President George W. Bush broad authority to use military force against Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, with or without U.N. support.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Hundreds Of Palestinians Held A Protest To Stop Direct Talks With Israel:

“Protesters Carrying Palestinian Flags And Chanting Slogans Against The Political Process, And The Occupation”



Image By Wattan TV

October 6 2013 by Saed Bannoura - IMEMC & Agencies

Hundreds of Palestinians held a protest in the central West Bank city of Ramallah demanding the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank, to stop direct talks with Israeli due to its ongoing violations, and its absent interest in real and comprehensive peace.

A number of leftists Palestinian political parties organized the protest.

The protesters marched from the Manara Square, in the center of Ramallah, carrying Palestinian flags and chanting slogans against the political process, and the occupation.

Protest organizers stressed that peace talks with Tel Aviv are futile, especially since Israel has no interest in real peace, and is only interested in legitimizing its illegal occupation of Palestine, and its illegitimate settlement activities.

They added that all Palestinian factions must define a clear strategy to counter the Israeli occupation, and to defend the Palestinian people, their lands and their holy sites.

The protesters further stressed on the importance of national unity, and affirmed that the Palestinian people will never abandon the internationally guaranteed Right of Return of all refugees displaced by Israel.

“No peace without the liberation of Jerusalem”, they chanted, “Unity, Freedom, and Liberation”

On Sunday, Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, claimed during a speech in Bar Ilan University that the Israeli occupation of Palestine “is not the core of the conflict in the Middle East”, and reiterated his demands that the Palestinians must first recognize Israel as a Jewish State, before a final status peace agreement is signed.

**Palestinian Village
Erased From The Map:
“The Idea Is To Empty This Area
Of Arabs And Build More
Settlements And Army Camps”
Villagers Sleeping Out In The
Open Because Zionist Occupiers
“Blocked Them From Pitching
Tents After Demolition”
“Ahmad Bani Odeh, A 75-Year-Old
Man Says: ‘Since 1967 I Have Been
Living Here. I Have A Hundred
Sheep””
“Where Will I Go? I Am Here, I Remain
Here And, God Willing, I Will Die Here”**

Makhul will continue to be a microcosm of Israeli efforts to impose what is seen as its illegal transformation of the strategic and fertile Jordan Valley, which comprises more than a quarter of the West Bank, from a Palestinian to an Israeli area

26 September 2013 by Ben Lynfield, The Independent

Burhan Bisharat lost his home last week to an Israeli army bulldozer, but he retains the Palestinian ethos of hospitality, pressing his interviewer to drink more tea as he recounts how he has slept amid the ruins of the dwellings and sheep pens of this tiny village demolished by the Israeli military in the occupied West Bank.

“Living on the ground with no cover is hard,” says the 40-year-old father of eight who, like a dozen other men from Makhul, has been sleeping out in the open because the army blocked them from pitching tents after the demolition.

Israeli defence ministry officials say the demolition of Makhul was a necessary law enforcement measure against unlicensed construction and stress that the Israeli Supreme Court last month rejected a petition against the demolition orders.

But human rights groups are condemning the demolitions.

They say the army’s barring of EU and Red Cross efforts to supply relief tents marks a dangerous precedent and grave breach of international humanitarian law. After criticism of Israel by the EU over the weekend, on Tuesday Israel’s high court of justice indicated the army went too far in stopping relief aid. It issued a temporary injunction specifying that the military cannot evict residents during the next two weeks, something that will enable Mr Bisharat and others to pitch tents there at least for that period, according to their lawyer.

On Tuesday, a scorching summer day, Makhul’s men – they had sent their families to other villages – crowded under the only tree in sight for shade, watched by a Israeli soldiers lest they attempt to rebuild shelter for themselves or their sheep.

At night, when temperatures fell, they lit a fire, sounding more worried about the wellbeing of their flocks than themselves.

“This weather is very bad for the newborn sheep. I have six newborns, and heat during the daytime and coldness at night can harm the sheep. If the situation continues, it is very threatening, even tragic,” Mr Bisharat said.

On 16 September the army destroyed Makhul at 5am, ordering residents to vacate so that the bulldozers could demolish the corrugated-metal dwellings and animal sheds.

Some residents trace their presence at the site to before Israel’s victory in the 1967 war, though Israeli officials said most had dwellings in other locales and lived there just part of the year.

The remnants of the demolition were visible on the hillside on Tuesday, piles of scrap that had been the ramshackle homes for just over a hundred people, from nine families, according to their lawyer, Tawfik Jabarin.

The injunction will prevent the army from acting against tents for the next two weeks; then a court session will be held on the matter, Mr Jabarin says.

In the meantime, Makhul will continue to be a microcosm of Israeli efforts to impose what is seen as its illegal transformation of the strategic and fertile Jordan Valley, which comprises more than a quarter of the West Bank, from a Palestinian to an Israeli area. Rights groups and the Palestinian Authority charge that this is being done by advantaging settlers and trying to cause Palestinians to move elsewhere. Israel denies the latter charge.

Mr Bisharat and others in Makhul, who rent land owned by Palestinian landowners, are being forced to pay the price for the transformation.

“I rent 7,000 sq m,” says Mr Bisharat. “We plant our land with wheat, barley, lentils and other grains. We produce milk, cheese, butter, eggs and meat.

“This is our style of life and we are not going to change it.” Ahmad Bani Odeh, a 75-year-old man with white stubble, says: “Since 1967 I have been living here. I have a hundred sheep. Where will I go? I am here, I remain here and, God willing, I will die here.”

Guy Inbar, an Israeli defence ministry official, says the dwellings that made up Makhul were illegally built and that their destruction was an act of law enforcement that came four years after demolition notices were first issued.

But rights groups say it is virtually impossible to get Israeli building permits due to discriminatory planning practices.

Human Rights Watch representative Bill Van Esveld said the interdiction of tents needed by Makhul residents to stay on the land amounted to a forced transfer of the population in the occupied territory, a violation of the Geneva Convention.

“All the criteria appear to be met for this to be considered forcible transfer, which is a war crime,” he said.

Sarit Michaeli, spokeswoman of B'tselem, the Israeli human rights group, said before the high court's intervention that a dangerous precedent was being set:

“One of the worrying aspects of Makhul is that it is the first time in the Jordan Valley that authorities demolished all structures without allowing the community to at least rebuild some structures for shelter.”

Arif Daraghmeh, head of a council of 13 small villages in the northern Jordan Valley including Makhul, says that about 10 of the area's 450 Palestinian families leave every year “because of the Israeli policies including demolitions, taking our water resources and stealing our land”.

“The idea is to empty this area of Arabs and build more settlements and army camps,” he said.

But David Elhayani, chairman of the council representing 21 settlements in the Jordan Valley, denied there is any effort to reduce the Arab population. On the contrary, he said, he knew of plans to build a new town for Arabs on public land in the valley.

Mr Elhayani says there is a lot of room for more settlers to come, especially in the northern Jordan Valley, the area where Makhul was located. He claims: “There are no Palestinian villages there.”

[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.”]

Military Resistance In PDF Format?

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

CLASS WAR REPORTS



Firefighters Foam Police During Protest For Better Working Conditions



Belgian riot police stand as they are covered with foam sprayed by Belgian firefighters during a protest for better work conditions in central Brussels October 7, 2013.
REUTERS/Yves Herman

**“I’m Against Mursi But I’m Not For
People Killing Others And I’m Not
For The Military Government We
Have Now”**

**“‘We Are Here Standing Against The
Coup,’ Said Enas Madkour, A 19-
Year-Old Fine Arts Student At The
March Near Cairo University”**

“Attacks By Militants In The Sinai Have Killed More Than 100 Soldiers And Police Since Early July”

Oct 8, 2013 Reuters [Excerpts]

Hundreds of protesters chanted “Down with the military government” outside Cairo University on Tuesday, defying Egypt’s army-backed authorities despite deadly clashes with security forces two days earlier.

Supporters of deposed President Mohamed Mursi had urged university students to protest against the army following the violence on Sunday, one of Egypt’s bloodiest days since the military ousted the Islamist leader on July 3.

The death toll from Sunday’s unrest rose to 57, state media said, with 391 people wounded.

“We are here standing against the coup,” said Enas Madkour, a 19-year-old fine arts student at the march near Cairo University, where security forces had parked two tanks and blocked the main road with barbed wire.

“I’m against Mursi but I’m not for people killing others and I’m not for the military government we have now,” said Madkour, who wore a headscarf, as most Muslim women do in Egypt.

Protests also occurred at Helwan University in southern Cairo, witnesses said.

At Zagazig University, northeast of Cairo, students clashed with residents and supporters of the military dictatorship with fists, sticks and stones, security sources said. Eight people were wounded.

Along with political turmoil, a surge in militant attacks has hurt tourism, a main foreign currency earner, due to fears it is no longer safe to visit Egypt’s pyramids and beaches.

Insurgents killed a police officer and wounded another in the city of Port Said on Tuesday, and the interior ministry said Egypt may install security cameras at tourist sites.

Militants have attacked police and soldiers almost daily in the Sinai Peninsula since Mursi fell.

Attacks by militants in the Sinai have killed more than 100 soldiers and police since early July, the army said on September 15.

Last month the interior minister survived an assassination attempt in Cairo.

On Monday, suspected militants killed six soldiers near the Suez Canal and fired rocket-propelled grenades at a state satellite station in Cairo.

The al-Furqan group claimed responsibility in an Internet video whose authenticity could not immediately be verified.

Ghouta Residents Cope With Aftermath Of Syria Chemical Attack

10/04/2013 Reuters [Excerpts]

ZAMALKA, Syria, -

Sixteen-year-old Mohammad al Zeibaa lost his entire family in the sarin gas attack east of Damascus six weeks ago, surviving the world's deadliest chemical weapons strike in a quarter century only because he was out working a hospital night shift.

Mohammad's father, who rushed to the scene to help survivors, died from the effects of the sarin, as did his mother and five brothers and sisters who stayed at home.

The teenager now lives with a surviving cousin amid the ruined streets and half-collapsed buildings that scar the Zamalka neighbourhood and other districts of the Ghouta region on the edge of the capital.

Perhaps numbed by more than two years of bloodshed, he sheds no tears over the Aug. 21 sarin attack which killed hundreds of people and brought the United States and France to the verge of air strikes against President Bashar al-Assad's forces.

"We've been seeing people martyred every day - why not my family?" he said. Young men surrounding him nodded in agreement.

Already it is hard to tell exactly where the chemical rockets fell in the rebel-held Ghouta, a mix of suburban sprawl and farmland, because damage from conventional bombardment has reduced the area to a grey monochrome of rubble and wreckage.

Street after street is littered with smashed concrete and bent metal.

One building, destroyed before the chemical attack, is sliced in half from top to bottom. On one floor, a kitchen can be seen complete with cabinets and washing machine. On another, the headboard of a double bed and a bedroom commode.

At the site where residents say a sarin-loaded rocket fell, only mounds of rubble stand amid scorched earth, remnants of houses and patches of garden ringed by narrow streets that were so packed with bodies on the night of the attack that they said it was impossible not to step or drive over the dead.

The rebels and their Western backers blame Assad's forces for the attack, which they say killed 1,400 people.

COMMUNITY BESIEGED

Like most people in Ghouta, Mohammad vows to remain steadfast until Assad's overthrow.

He has become an integral part of a community struggling to administer itself despite clashes with government forces and a 13-month government siege that leaves everyone hungry and is starting to starve the youngest and most vulnerable.

Every day, Mohammad shows up to work at the field hospital near his home. Thin and child-like for his age, he is too small to bear arms but he resembles the men with his stoic appearance, broken occasionally by a quick smile.

Like everyone else he eats many meals without bread, a staple now in short supply, and finishes perishable food quickly because it cannot be refrigerated. The rebel area has been off the electricity grid for a year.

At night he spends his time in the dim half light of rechargeable torches and the droning of electricity generators, along with their noxious fumes. To get around, Mohammad uses a bicycle due to fuel shortages and lack of public transport.

At home his landline telephone stopped working long ago and he has no use for a cell phone because it is hard to get a signal. If he needs to communicate, he uses a walkie-talkie to contact a dispatcher and ask him to relay messages.

Most of the rebel fighters are further west, on the front line near the Damascus ring-road which separates the rebellious eastern suburbs from the centre of the capital.

But during a short drive through the area, rebels could be seen two or three to a motor bike, their guns slung over their shoulders. Others walk around, congregating around rebel checkpoints.

Almost every family has a gun, sometimes laid openly on a table or hanging by the door.

Such is life in the rebel territory linked to central Damascus only via two government checkpoints. There, soldiers confiscate food, baby milk and medicine and at times refuse entry even to people who have queued for hours.

Residents, especially the men, cannot leave their district and venture into government controlled Damascus without risking indefinite detention when they try to pass the checkpoint.

For food they rely on locally raised poultry and meat, as well as olives, citrus, eggplant and green peppers. But in May, government bombardment set ablaze this year's wheat crop.

The handful of doctors complain that dysentery and a lack of antibiotics endanger lives. They say the siege is starting to cause malnutrition among pregnant mothers and children, and that some babies have already died of starvation.

CHILD NURSES

The one thing that East Ghouta has in abundance is men willing to fight.

But supported by financing from underground charities and fund-raising by families abroad, it has also set up a network of pro-rebel organisations tackling the community's medical needs, communications, humanitarian relief, education and sanitation, and ensuring something that approximates to the rule of law.

With most schools either bombed out or unsafe, residents have organised "revolutionary education" centres for small children.

Teenagers, however, go to work.

The most popular choice for boys and girls as young as 14 is medical work, where volunteers are needed and parents feel their children are as safe as they can be in a war zone.

Teenage nursing assistants receive on-the-job training in field hospitals and quickly find themselves dispensing medicine and helping to treat battlefield casualties.

When the sarin was unleashed on the East Ghouta, dozens of teenage nurses administered injections of atropine - a sarin antidote - to survivors. And many did so at their own peril.

Sixteen-year-old Faris, whose home is a short bike ride away from where the chemical rockets fell, woke early the following morning unaware of the calamity that had occurred in the night.

He learned about it at 7 a.m., on his way to the bicycle shop where he works before his shift at the field hospital. He rushed to the hospital and treated dozens of people.

"I was shocked. I'm still remembering things that I didn't at that time," he said, sitting up in his bed at the field hospital, his head loosely bandaged and his complexion pale after he too was wounded in the subsequent bombardment.

"For example, today they were telling me that one of my neighbours, Abu Leila, had died in the chemical attack. And after they told me, I remembered that I had seen his body that morning when I arrived at the field hospital," he said.

Shortly after he arrived and helped remove dozens of bodies and attend to dozens more survivors, many of them foaming at the mouth and struggling to breathe, Faris developed minor sarin gas symptoms including nausea and eye irritation.

No one wore proper gas masks, which are unavailable in Ghouta. Some first responders used surgical face masks or wet towels at the site in a vain effort to protect themselves.

A NIGHT LIKE ARMAGEDDON

Survivors still suffer from insomnia, severe headaches and the mental fog that they say began after their exposure to sarin gas. Everyone around Zamalka speaks of a night of horror that they liken to Armageddon.

Mohammad, who was on duty at the hospital that night, said he heard an unusual-sounding rocket shortly before 2 a.m. It seemed to land without the blast of mortar or tank shells.

It was not long before the dispatcher on the walkie-talkie started saying there had been a chemical attack, and ordered volunteers and medics to the scene to help. Then came chaos. As people started to move bodies and take survivors to the field hospital, another rocket carrying sarin hit the crowd, killing four medics and many volunteers.

Locals say they have become accustomed to army shelling whenever they congregate, a practice they say is done on purpose in order to target the largest number of civilians.

No one was sure how many chemical rockets fell, but fierce shelling with conventional explosives continued all night, killing more volunteers and sarin survivors, especially those who fled to higher floors seeking fresh air, escaping the heavier gas which lingers at ground level.

Survivors describe the events as a blur, punctuated by moments of nightmarish lucidity.

There was the graveyard that gave up its dead as relentless bombardment pounded its grounds. There were dead animals - goats, sheep and cats, and a tree under which 300 birds lay on the ground, one survivor said.

There were living people mistaken for dead, thrown in among the bodies awaiting burial, until a movement of the head or the faint sound of their moaning saved them.

People insist they took extra care that day to ensure that no body was lowered into the mass grave before a final confirmation of death by one of the few doctors there.

They continued to bury their dead for 16 straight hours, then finding more bodies trapped inside homes for several more days during which fierce government bombardment continued.

Many of the dead were entire families. Some died in their sleep, or together in the living room. One family of five died huddled in a bathroom, apparently seeking shelter from the gas.

Most of the dead were identified by a relative, a friend or a neighbour. But many were newcomers, Syrians who had been displaced from elsewhere.

"We found entire families dead in their homes, and no one in our community knew who they were," said an army defector and media activist who used the nom de guerre Mohammad Salahedinne.

One family had scribbled the name of their town, Jarba, on the wall of their living room, and that was how local people figured out their place of origin.

Mohammad recalls giving atropine injections to dozens of survivors brought into the field hospital that night including, unsuccessfully, his own father.

Asked to name the fallen in his family, he began with the distant relatives first, and continued in a soft but matter-of-fact voice.

“Sheikh Rashad Shams died, and his wife Baraa Nadaf. Shifa Shams. Shayma Shams. Mawada Shams and a boy she was due to give birth to in a week. Those were my maternal uncle’s family.

“Then my paternal uncle’s family: Anas al Zeibaa, Mahmoud and Ahmad al Zeibaa, and Khaled and Mashoor, my cousins. And my parents, Nasib al Zeibaa and Moameneh Shams and, what’s his name, Samer al Zeibaa, 21, the eldest.

“Then Aya, Fatimeh, and who else? Oh yes, Asma al Zeibaa, and the last one Abdullah al Zeibaa.”

Asked who was his favourite, he smiled and said it was four-year-old Abdullah.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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