

Military Resistance 11J8



DoD Has Been Holding Fake KIA “Arrival Ceremonies” For Seven Years:

“An Honor Guard Carrying Flag-
Draped Coffins Off Of A Cargo
Plane As Though They Held The
Remains Returning That Day”

Pentagon Acknowledges “That No Honored Dead Were In Fact Arriving, That The Planes Used In The Ceremonies Often Couldn’t Fly”

Veterans And Families Of MIAs Were “Led To Believe That They Were Witnessing The Return Of Americans Killed In World War II, Vietnam And Korea”

“The Pentagon Did Not Explain Why The Rituals Were Called ‘Arrival Ceremonies’ If No One Was Arriving”



FAKING IT:

A joint service honor guard escorts a transfer case during an “arrival ceremony” at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Honolulu on April 27, 2012. The Defense Department has acknowledged that human remains were not in fact arriving on that day. The ceremonies are held by the Pentagon’s Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command. Photo: Petty Officer 1st Class Barry Hirayama / U.S. Navy

[Thanks to SSG N (ret’d) & Alan Stolzer, Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in. SSG N (ret’d) writes: “Just more proof war is a lie.”]

10 Oct 2013, by Bill Dedman; Investigative Reporter, NBC News [Excerpts]

HONOLULU — A unit of the U.S. Department of Defense has been holding so-called “arrival ceremonies” for seven years, with an honor guard carrying flag-draped coffins off of a cargo plane as though they held the remains of missing American service men and women returning that day from old battlefields.

After NBC News raised questions about the arrival ceremonies, the Pentagon acknowledged Wednesday that no honored dead were in fact arriving, and that the planes used in the ceremonies often couldn’t even fly but were towed into position.

The solemn ceremonies at a military base in Hawaii are a sign of the nation’s commitment to returning and identifying its fallen warriors.

The ceremonies have been attended by veterans and families of MIAs, led to believe that they were witnessing the return of Americans killed in World War II, Vietnam and Korea.

The ceremonies also have been known, at least among some of the military and civilian staff here, as The Big Lie.

Photos behind the scenes show that the flag-draped boxes had not just arrived on military planes, but ended their day where they began it: at the same lab where the human remains have been waiting for analysis.

The Pentagon insisted that the flag-draped cases do contain human remains recently recovered, just not ones that arrived that day.

The Pentagon statement did not explain why the rituals were called “arrival ceremonies” if no one was arriving, or why the public had been told that remains removed that morning from the lab were about to go to the lab to “begin the identification process.”

From now on, the Pentagon said, the ceremonies will be re-branded as “honors ceremonies,” expressly described as symbolic honors for bodies previously recovered.

“The name changed because they’ve already arrived, technically,” said Army Staff Sgt. Andrew Smith, public affairs officer for the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), whose mission is to return and identify the 83,000 missing service men and women from World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

Photographs were taken before and after at an arrival ceremony in April 2012 by Rick Stone, a former police chief who was the deputy chief in JPAC's World War II investigations branch.

(Photographs are allowed on the base, according to the JPAC public affairs office, in any area where there is no sign specifically forbidding them.)

When remains are brought back by JPAC staff, Stone said, they arrive from the airport in a plastic box in an employee's private vehicle, with no ceremony.

On Aug. 1, NBC reported that Stone's requests to disinter bodies of war dead for identification had been denied even when he had been able to narrow the possible identities to only a few, or even just one, possible match among the MIAs.

Stone said he supports the honorable mission of JPAC, but began to see the "arrival ceremonies" as symbolic of the way JPAC focused on public relations while it keeps information from the families of missing warriors.

"It's an open fraud inside JPAC," he said of the arrival ceremonies.

"But it's more than just the arrival ceremony.

"The fraud is really their inability to bring closure to more families. Our noble mission is to go find some of these kids, and this thing is so fouled up we don't even recognize the mission."



Before the "arrival ceremony" on April 27, 2012, the transfer cases began their day stacked outside the JPAC lab. JPAC employee Rick Stone photographed them there and followed as they were driven to the ceremony on the blue bus with the honor guard. Photo: Rick Stone



After the ceremony, the transfer cases were right back where they began the day, outside the JPAC lab. The audience was told that remains in the cases were being taken to the lab to begin the process of identification. Photo: Rick Stone

Here's what the public has seen at the ceremonies, usually held about four times a year.

A C-17 military transport aircraft was parked, its ramp down, outside hangar 35 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. At precisely 9 a.m., after generals and other dignitaries were introduced, a military chaplain offered a prayer, the audience sang "The Star-Spangled Banner," and a Marine bugler played "Taps."

Then a military honor guard in dress uniforms carried flag-draped transfer cases, which look like coffins, down the ramp and across in front of the audience. The cases were placed in the back of blue buses and driven away.

The emcee, reading from an official script, thanked the audience for "welcoming them home."

The script continued, "After removal from the aircraft, the remains will be taken to the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command's Central Identification Laboratory. There, JPAC scientists will begin the identification process."

The Defense Department has used the arrival ceremonies as publicity tools, posting videos of the "arrival" on its website, on YouTube and on Facebook.

The videos sometimes say explicitly that "the remains returned to U.S. soil on the C-17," and other videos leave the viewer to draw that conclusion.

Here's what actually happened, according to eyewitness accounts and photographs taken behind the scenes at one of the ceremonies.

Before 6 a.m., the members of the honor guard assembled at the loading dock behind the JPAC headquarters on the base. They loaded the transfer cases, which had been stacked outside the door to the lab, and the buses drove to the hangar.

The C-17 had been towed into position outside hangar 35.

The honor guard loaded the transfer cases into the belly of the plane, then practiced walking them through the empty hangar. Then the honor guard returned to the plane, and waited.

At nearly 9 a.m., the public was allowed in: invited politicians, media, families of the missing and veterans. Employees from JPAC were bused over to fill out the crowd.

Then the show began, with tears and salutes as the remains were marched to the buses, then driven off to the lab to "begin the identification process."

Jesse Baker, an Air Force veteran of World War II and Korea living in Honolulu, said he has been to more than 50 of these ceremonies. He told NBC News that he's always been under the impression that the plane had just arrived carrying recovered remains.

"If I have been fooled, I am going to be a very pissed-off citizen, because I've been going for years," Baker said. "And I know a lot of guys who are going to be pissed off. ... They're out there honoring warriors."

Baker tried to make sense of why America's Department of Defense would work so hard to trick him and other veterans. "That's disturbing. I don't know when they stopped being honest and switched over to this Mickey Mouse, but whoever did it, I hope they find him a new job somewhere."

One leading figure in the MIA/POW field said she has known for years about the charade.

The head of the largest group of families of missing service men and women, Ann Mills-Griffiths, is a staunch defender of JPAC, but she told NBC that she has warned Pentagon officials and JPAC repeatedly that they should stop holding "those phony arrival ceremonies."

But Mills-Griffiths, the chairman of the National League of POW/MIA Families, said she had never told any family members that the ceremonies were phony, because she supported JPAC's mission, if not the way it was carrying it out.

On Wednesday, after NBC submitted questions, the Pentagon acknowledged that the airplanes were often towed out of maintenance hangars for the ceremonies and could not have just flown in.

The Pentagon said its own words, used since 2006, had led to the ceremonies being “misinterpreted” as arrivals.

“Based on how media announcements and ceremony remarks are currently written, it is understandable how these ‘arrival’ ceremonies might be misinterpreted, leading one to believe the ceremonies are ‘dignified transfer ceremonies,’ which they are not.”

NBC asked about another discrepancy: Current and former JPAC employees said that the emcee often announces that the remains were from specific countries where JPAC staff had not recently recovered remains.

The Pentagon statement said that the correct country is always announced, but that it may have been a few months since the remains were recovered. And occasionally, it said, there has been no JPAC mission to a country, but the remains have been turned over by those countries and are still deserving of a “symbolic tribute.”

Other veterans, a former POW’s wife, even the bagpiper at the ceremonies — all told NBC they had assumed the arrival ceremony meant that soldiers’ remains were actually arriving. They said they found the ceremony to be moving.

“It was a very humbling experience for me,” said bagpiper Alan Miyamura. “The thing that I remember most vividly is the silence. ... It meant respect and a feeling that these soldiers are welcomed home.”

The ceremony “makes me very proud that our country does such a thing,” said Carole Hickerson, whose first husband was a POW in the Vietnam War. She helped design the black POW/MIA flag. “You don’t know how important a funeral is until you don’t have one.”

After NBC News requested permission to attend an arrival ceremony in July, JPAC canceled the ceremony. It hasn’t held any ceremonies since April, scheduling and canceling them repeatedly.

The Pentagon spokesperson said the commander of JPAC, Army Maj. Gen. Kelly K. McKeague, authorized in April the renaming of the ceremonies “to more accurately reflect the purpose of these events.” However, public affairs staff at JPAC, which organized the events, continued to call them “arrival ceremonies” on into the summer, and until Wednesday they were still identified that way on the agency’s website.

(That page of the JPAC website was renamed to “honors ceremonies” on Wednesday.)

The Pentagon would not answer when asked when Gen. McKeague and other military officers became aware that the public was being misled.

NBC asked on Oct. 3 to interview Gen. McKeague as well as the scientific director and head of the laboratory, Dr. Thomas Holland, and Johnie Webb, who directs the ceremonies as deputy to the commander for external relations and legislative affairs.

McKeague and Webb did not respond to an email from NBC. Holland replied briefly, saying, “I hope you get permission” for the interview. “I have no control over ceremonies.”

Several investigations of JPAC are under way, in Congress and inside the Pentagon. An internal report called the agency “acutely dysfunctional,” and a Government Accountability Office report said the effort to identify missing and unknown service men and women has been undermined by squabbling between agencies.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Cleveland Family Mourning Local Soldier, Angel Lopez, Killed In Afghanistan



Army Specialist Angel Lopez, a John Marshall High School graduate, was killed in Afghanistan.

October 09, 2013 By Tom Feran, The Plain Dealer

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- A large Cleveland family is mourning the death of a local soldier killed in Afghanistan last weekend.

Army Specialist Angel Lopez, 26, was shot during an attack, his family was told. The Department of Defense said late Wednesday that Lopez died Saturday of injuries he sustained in the attack on his unit by enemy forces.

"We hope he did not suffer. We hope he was not alone," said his aunt Maomi DeJesus.

"He was a great kid. He loved his family. He'd never been in trouble," she said. "If you didn't have a chance to know him, you missed out. He was an amazing person."

Lopez, who enlisted two years ago and worked as a mechanic, had recently been promoted, said his mother, Veronica Pacheco of Cleveland. He was scheduled to return home in 30 days.

He was based at Fort Knox, Ky., where his wife, Maria, lives with their two children, 6-year-old Lydia and 15-month-old Antonio.

A graduate of John Marshall High School, he was the oldest of nine children, the blended families of his widowed mother and his stepfather, Santos Pacheco.

Officers from Fort Knox drove to Cleveland to notify his family of the soldier's death. They will escort the family to Burke Lakefront Airport to meet his body early next week, his mother said. Services have not been scheduled.

Because of the government shutdown, Lopez's last paycheck was not released to his wife, the family said. News reports today said a private foundation was stepping in to cover death benefits until the shutdown ends.

"This is how awesome Cleveland is -- the funeral home said 'don't worry, they will wait until they're paid by the government,'" DeJesus said. "But his family shouldn't have to worry. He did what he was supposed to do -- now the government is supposed to do what they promised."

A benefit for his family will be held at 6 p.m. Nov. 2 at the Blue Line Bar and Grill, 4305 Brookpark Road.

His mother said offers to help and calls of condolence began as soon as word started getting out.

"I want the community to know they have taken good care of us," she said.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

**Car Bomb Attack In Kabul Outside
Foreign Compound -- Two Dead:**

“Most Foreigners Were Evacuated From The Area”



Afghan police arrive to secure the area after a car bomb detonated outside an ISAF civilian personnel compound in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Friday. (AFP)

October 18, 2013 By Hashmat Baktash and Mark Magnier, LATimes [Excerpts]

KABUL, Afghanistan —

A car bomber driving a Toyota Corolla targeted a convoy of foreign vehicles Friday near a residential complex on the outskirts of Kabul that houses members of the international community, killing two civilians and wounding four, officials said.

The two-car convoy was hit as it passed the heavily fortified Green Village that houses many contractors who work as security guards for the United Nations and other international agencies.

Most foreigners were evacuated from the area, said Sidiq Sidiqqi, a spokesman for the Afghan Interior Ministry, so it wasn't immediately clear whether any suffered fatalities. Nor was it known whether anyone inside the vehicles was injured, officials added.

The strike sent a thick plume of smoke across eastern Kabul, the capital.

“Attackers targeted a convoy of invaders as well as their important military support at a compound in Kabul, inflicting heavy casualties,” Zabiullah Mujahid, a Taliban spokesman, said in a statement emailed to journalists.

More Resistance Action

13 October 2013 Jane's & 19 October 2013 TOLONews

Two Afghan soldiers were killed and two were wounded after a large quantity of explosives detonated as the soldiers seized them from a vehicle in the Jamal Qala area of Ander district in Afghanistan's Ghazni province late on 11 October, Afghan Islamic Press reported.

Local officials of western Farah province said that Afghan Local Police (ALP) commander, Malam Jan, and two fellow police officers were killed by a roadside bomb on Friday afternoon in Bala Boluk district of the province.

Three other police officers were injured by the blast.

The incident took place in the Bala Boluk district when the police officers were on a patrol and their vehicle struck a roadside bomb, said Abdul Rahman Zhwandon, a Provincial Police Chief Spokesman.

The victims have been taken to a nearby hospital for emergency care.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the blast.

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

Wars throughout history have been waged for conquest and plunder and it is the working class who fights all the battles, the working class who makes the supreme sacrifices, the working class who freely sheds their blood and furnishes their corpses, and it is they who have never yet had a voice - in either declaring war or making peace. It is the ruling class that invariably does both. They alone declare war.

They are continually talking about patriotic duty. It is not their patriotic duty but your patriotic duty that they are concerned about. Their patriotic duty never takes them to the firing line or chucks them into the trenches.

-- Eugene V. Debs

Death Under Torture In Syria -- The Horrors Ignored:

“For Most Anti-War Coalitions: ‘War Is Peace And Ignorance Is Strength’”

“They Parade As Facts Hackneyed And False Dichotomies To Argue That All The Rebels Are Terrorists And Assad Is Now Not Only Ostensibly Fighting Imperialism, But Terrorism As Well”

That Assad has been waging a sectarian, all-out war on Syrian civilians for the past thirty months matters little.

And that thousands of imprisoned Syrian, including workers, children, unarmed demonstrators, and community organisers, have been tortured to death by regime forces since the start of the uprising matters none at all.

Sep 16 By Budour Hassan, Tahrir-ICN [Excerpts]

Perhaps one of the cruelest aspects of the Syrian regime's war on the Syrian population is its success in normalising death and desensitising the world to its harrowing massacres.

Missing from the six-digit death toll are the charred faces and untold stories of the martyrs, and of the suffering inflicted upon the loved ones they leave behind.

As one Syrian activist put it: «One thing I will never forgive Bashar al-Assad for is denying us the chance to grieve over our martyred friends».

Indeed, with mass-murder turning into a horrifyingly frequent occurrence two-and-a-half years on, mourning the fallen has become a luxury most Syrians are deprived of.

The dehumanisation of Syrians was painfully illustrated by the debate that ensued after the chemical weapons attack on 21 August in the Damascus countryside.

The victims were treated as mere footnotes by the international community, the mainstream media, and the anti-war camp.

For western governments who draw a «red line» with chemical weapons-use – and Israel's interests – the red blood of Syrian children slaughtered with conventional weapons by the regime and its militias is not sufficiently outrageous. The whole discourse, as Syrian writer and former political prisoner Yassin al-Haj Saleh puts it, is about chemical weapons, not about the criminal who used chemical weapons, the people murdered by them, or the greater number of people murdered with guns.

For mainstream media, the Syrian people are stripped of their voices and agency and the Syrian revolution is instead a «civil war» between two evils: a secular dictator versus flesh-eating, bearded Islamists.

Nowhere to be seen or heard is the astounding defiance and communal solidarity that has kept the revolution alive despite all odds; the brave struggle against the oppressive «Islamic State in Iraq and Syria» that controls large parts of the «liberated» areas in Northern Syria; and the ongoing grassroots initiatives and protests against both the regime as well as the Islamist extremists.

“Meanwhile, For Most Anti-War Coalitions: ‘War Is Peace And Ignorance Is Strength’”

Meanwhile, for most anti-war coalitions: «war is peace and ignorance is strength».

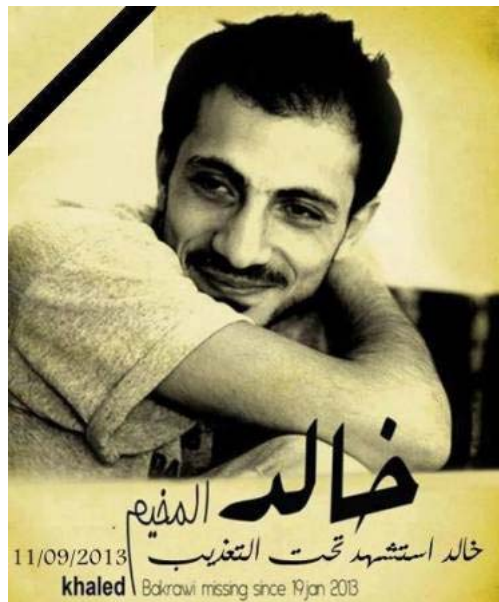
They parade as facts hackneyed and false dichotomies to argue that all the rebels are terrorists and Assad is now not only ostensibly fighting imperialism, but terrorism as well.

That Assad has been waging a sectarian, all-out war on Syrian civilians for the past thirty months matters little.

That his regime has systematically arrested peaceful and secular activists while releasing Al Qaeda-affiliated terrorists matters less.

And that thousands of imprisoned Syrian, including workers, children, unarmed demonstrators, and community organisers, have been tortured to death by regime forces since the start of the uprising matters none at all.

Khaled Bakrawi



Khaled Bakrawi

So it follows that these «anti-war» campaigners will ignore one of the regime's latest torture victims: Khaled Bakrawi, a 27-year-old Palestinian-Syrian community organiser and founding member of the Jafra Foundation for Relief and Youth Development.

Khaled was arrested by regime security forces in January 2013 for his leading role in organising and carrying out humanitarian and aid work in Yarmouk Refugee Camp.

On 11 September, the Yarmouk coordination committee and Jafra Foundation reported that Khaled was killed under torture in one of the several infamous intelligence branches in Damascus.

Khaled was born and raised in Yarmouk refugee camp in the Southern outskirts of Damascus. His family was displaced from the ethnically-cleansed Palestinian village of Loubieh by Israeli occupation forces during the 1948 Nakba (Palestinian catastrophe).

On 5 June, 2011, Khaled took part in the «return march» to the occupied Golan Heights, witnessing Ahmad Jibril's PFLP-GC, a regime-backed Palestinian militia, exploit the patriotism and enthusiasm of Yarmouk's youth by instigating them to march to occupied Palestine in an attempt to bolster Assad's popularity and divert attention from the ongoing crackdown of the then overwhelmingly peaceful revolution.

Anticipating a brutal reaction by the Israeli occupation army, Khaled tried to dissuade the unarmed youth from entering the Israeli-occupied ceasefire zone, but to no avail.

He was left witnessing Syrian regime troops sip tea and look on nonchalantly as Israeli occupation soldiers showered Palestinian and Syrian protesters with bullets. In that protest, dozens were killed or injured. Khaled was shot with two bullets in the thigh.

One of Khaled's friends, who visited him in hospital after his injury, recounts seeing him break into tears when he received flowers with a card that read: «You did us proud; you are a hero».

For Khaled, the sentiment regarding a person's injury as source of nationalist pride, was one more testament to the insulting objectification of Syrians. It is precisely this that illustrates the main reason for the uprising's eruption: namely, regaining the individual and collective dignity that, for over four decades, was trampled on by a regime that can only consider Syrians as cheap items and tools.

Many who regarded Khaled Bakrawi as a hero following his injury by the Israeli occupation uttered not one word of condolence after his death under torture in the regime's dungeons.

Neither the Palestinian Liberation Organisation nor any other Palestinian political faction has condemned the killing of one of Yarmouk's most prominent, likeable, and hard-working activists.

Neither have they protested the killing of three other Palestinian prisoners under torture within five days.

It seems that for them, a Palestinian is only worthy of the title «martyr» if s/he is killed by the Zionist occupation.

Having the misfortune of being slain by the «anti-imperialist and «pro-resistance» Assad regime renders the killing acceptable, and the killed undeserving of sympathy.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, as well, failed to issue any tribute to martyred Palestinian refugee Anas Amara, a 23-year-old law student, Yarmouk resident, and PFLP activist since the age of nine.

Anas, a revolutionary communist who distanced himself from the reformist bourgeois left and participated in the Syrian revolution from its very inception, was killed in a regime

ambush near the besieged Yarmouk camp in April this year. He was killed, we can put it, by the «wrong bullet,» for his killing warranted no outrage from those who claim to champion the Palestinian cause.

The deafening silence coming from the Palestinian leadership as well as the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) about the plight of Palestinian refugees in Syria is not at all surprising.

Yarmouk, Syria's largest Palestinian refugee camp, has been under suffocating siege by the Syrian Arab Army since July 2013.

The 70,000 civilians trapped in Yarmouk have been denied access to electricity and food; to stay alive, some have resorted to eating dogs. Despite the numerous appeals by Yarmouk residents and Syrian activists to break the siege on the Camp, now on the brink of a humanitarian catastrophe, the Palestinian leadership and UNRWA have yet to answer to any of these pleas.

Also disregarded are the appeals by Palestinian groups in Syria to release Palestinian detainees in Syrian regime jails.

They, like their Syrian sisters and brothers, also face imminent danger to their lives. But as if collective punishment, arbitrary arrests, strict siege and constant shelling by the regime were not enough, Palestinians and Syrians have to fight on another front: Islamist extremists kidnapped Wassim Meqdad, activist, musician, and one of only two doctors treating the wounded in Yarmouk Camp, on 12 September.

Any coalition or organisation that claims to strive for peace and human rights but does not clearly condemn war crimes and crimes against humanity perpetrated by the Syrian regime is not a genuinely pro-peace movement.

The word «peace», after all, has been deemed void of its true meaning thanks to all the warmongers who claim to promote precisely peace. And while this might be a term we can work to reclaim for opposing war is an ethical and noble position, doing so without explicitly opposing the Syrian regime and Iranian-Russian intervention, and without siding with the Syrian people's revolution for freedom and dignity, is a position that is at once morally and politically bankrupt.

“It Is Cynically Ironic For Anti-War Groups To Remain Silent About The Deadly Torture Of Over 2,000 Syrian Political Prisoners”

It is cynically ironic for anti-war groups to remain silent about the deadly torture of over 2,000 Syrian political prisoners as they protest together with Syrian regime supporters and right-wing Islamophobes against a potential US strike on Syria.

While it is understandable that opposing their own government's abuses should be priority, this does not justify supporting a genocidal regime, downplaying its crimes, and turning their backs to the heroic struggle of the Syrian people.

For it is such struggles against totalitarianism, as any «leftist» worthy of the name would not need be reminded, that exist as nascent fronts in the larger fight for a global humanity living and dying under the boot and the indignity of them all.

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.

ANNIVERSARIES

October 21, 1837: Betrayal And The Stain Of Foul Dishonor: Courtesy Of The United States Army



Osceola ("Black Drink") (circa 1804-1838) Seminole leader
By George Catlin, 1838

The U.S. Army, enforcing Pres. Andrew Jackson’s Indian Removal Act, captured Seminole Indian leader Osceola (meaning “Black Drink”) by inviting him to a peace conference and then seizing him and nineteen others, though they had come under a flag of truce.

The Seminole had moved to Florida (then under the control of Spain) from South Carolina and Georgia as they were forced from their ancestral lands, then forced farther south into the Everglades where they settled.

Under the law Jackson urged on Congress, they and the others of the “Five Civilized Tribes” (Choctaws, Chickasaws, Creeks and Cherokees) were to be moved, by force if necessary, west of the Mississippi (Arkansas and Oklahoma).

Npg.Si.Edu [Excerpt]

Although neither a hereditary nor an elected chief, Osceola was the defiant young leader of the Seminole in their resistance to Indian emigration.

In 1835 he plunged his knife into the treaty he was asked to sign that would move his people from their swamplands in the Southeast to the unoccupied territory west of the Mississippi. This action precipitated the Second Seminole War--a seven-year game of cat-and-mouse in the Florida swamps against federal troops.

Tricked into talking peace, Osceola was captured in 1837 while carrying a white flag of truce and was imprisoned in Fort Moultrie, South Carolina.

This treachery so outraged George Catlin that he went immediately to the prison. He and Osceola became friends, and Osceola willingly posed for his portrait.

“This gallant fellow,” wrote Catlin, “is grieving with a broken spirit, and ready to die, cursing the white man, no doubt to the end of his breath.”

Soon after this portrait was completed, Osceola died of malaria. Osceola’s name was derived from the Indian term “Asiyahola,” the cry given by those taking the ceremonial black drink that was supposed to cleanse the body and spirit.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Zionist Occupation Troops Shoot Palestinian Kid, As Usual:

**“Musab Was Sitting In A Car Holding
His Mother’s Hand As They Made
Their Way Home”**

**“Why Did The Israeli Soldier Shoot Me? I
Lost My Eye, And I Am Still So Young
For That”**



MaanImages

10/6/2013 (Ma'an)

HEBRON -- Israeli forces shot 6-year-old Musab al-Sarahneh in the eye in al-Fawwar refugee camp south of Hebron early last week, his family reported.

The boy lost his right eye after Israeli forces opened fire on the car he was traveling in with rubber-coated steel bullets, according to the family's account.

At the time, last Friday, Musab was sitting in a car holding his mother's hand as they made their way home, his family says.

As they approached the entrance to al-Fawwar refugee camp, an Israeli soldier opened fire at their car out of nowhere, according to Musab's mother. She said that the Israeli soldier who shot Musab was only about 40 meters from their car.

Immediately following the incident, Musab noticed blood flowing from right eye, and was taken to the hospital. One of the rubber-coated metal bullets fired by the Israeli soldier hit Musab straight in the eye.

Musab told Ma'an that earlier in the day he had gone with his mother to visit his uncle's house. While making their way back home, an Israeli soldier shot him, he said.

Musab wondered: "Why did the Israeli soldier shoot me? I lost my eye, and I am still so young for that."

Musab's father explained: "I left the house and my son had two eyes, and I came back home and now my son has one eye." He noted that he couldn't even look at his son, and that it was painful for him to see his son suffering.

According to the Palestinian Center for Human Rights, the incident occurred as Israeli forces closed the main entrance to al-Fawwar refugee camp, deploying around bypass road 60.

Some boys gathered and threw stones and empty bottles at Israeli soldiers, who fired tear gas canisters in response, the group said, and as a result, several boys suffered tear-gas inhalation.

Around the same time, the group said, a soldier fired rubber-coated metal bullets at a woman and her children while they were standing nearby, leading to Sarahna's injury.

Zionists “Chopped Down Over One Hundred Olive Trees, Just A Few Days Before They Were Scheduled To Be Harvested”

Destroy Palestinian Farmland In Occupied West Bank, As Usual

October 06, 2013 by Saed Bannoura - IMEMC News

As Palestinian farmers across the West bank prepare for the annual olive harvest, several attacks by Israeli settlers have destroyed the harvest of a number of these farmers.

On Saturday near Nablus, Israeli settlers chopped down over one hundred olive trees, just a few days before they were scheduled to be harvested.

That incident took place in Deir Sharaf village, south of Nablus in the northern part of the West Bank, and followed an attack by Israeli settlers on Friday in the same area.

In that incident, Israeli settlers assaulted Palestinian farmer Abdul-Rahman Ibrahim Awad while he was picking olives on his land in the village of Jamma'in, threatened him at gunpoint and forced him to leave his olive harvesting.

The hundred olive trees destroyed on Saturday belong to Yasser Fuqaha, Sidqi Fuqaha, Mustafa Fuqaha and others from the Meri family in Deir Sharaf village.

On Sunday, a group of settlers drove bulldozers through Palestinian farmland near Salfit, in the north-central part of the West Bank.

The settlers came from the nearby settlement of Ariel, which is the largest settlement in the West Bank and houses over 40,000 Israeli settlers.

The local residents say that the destruction of farmland has been an ongoing issue, as Israeli settlers continue to destroy Palestinian farmland in order to expand their illegal settlements.

There are currently over 500,000 Israeli settlers living on Palestinian land stolen from its owners.

These settlements have been constructed for the purpose of the transfer of Israeli civilians into land seized by the Israeli military occupation, in contravention of international law.

“Israel Has Uprooted 800,000 Olive Trees Belonging To Palestinians, Enough To Fill 33 Central Parks”

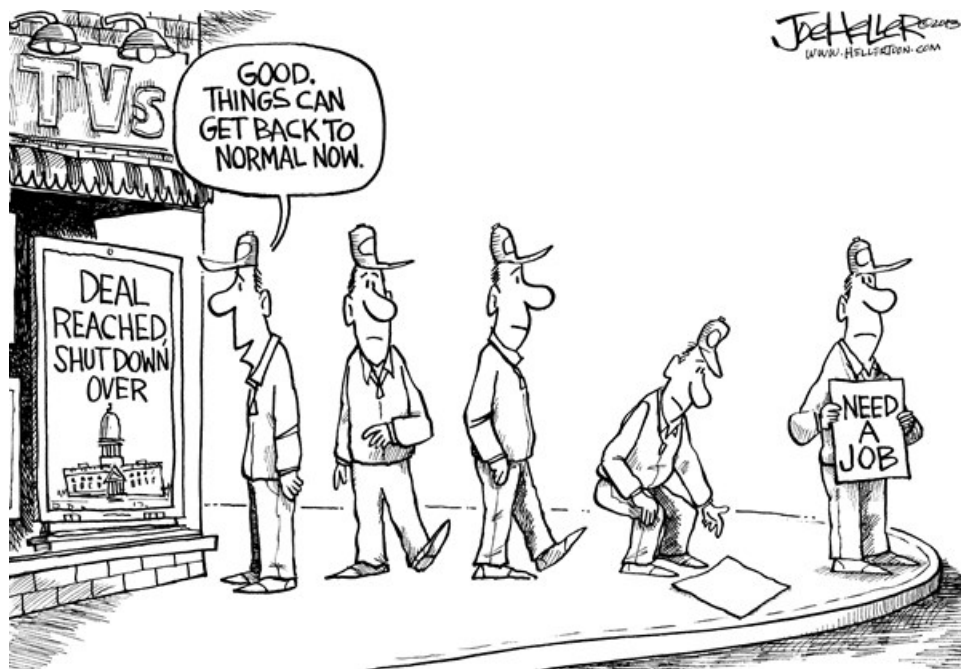
17 October 2013 by Jonathan Cook, Counterpunch [Excerpts]

[A] poster from the campaigning group Visualising Palestine that shows a photoshopped image of Central Park, eerily naked.

Amid New York's skyscrapers, the park has been sheared of its trees by bulldozers. A caption reveals that since the occupation began in 1967, Israel has uprooted 800,000 olive trees belonging to Palestinians, enough to fill 33 Central Parks. –

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

CLASS WAR REPORTS



[Thanks to David McReynolds for posting.]

**Tens Of Thousands March
Through Italy's Capital:
"Unions Attack Freeze On Public
Sector Salaries And What They Say Is**

An Insufficient Easing Of Tax Burden On Workers” Workers Wielding Clubs Battle Guardia Di Finanza [Finance Police]



Protesters clash with Guardia di Finanza in front of the Ministry of Finance building in downtown Rome October 19, 2013.

Scuffles broke out in Rome on Saturday as tens of thousands of people marched through Italy's capital to protest against unemployment, government cuts and big construction projects they say take money away from social services.

Italian workers also demonstrated against the government in downtown Rome October 18, 2013.

Fire-fighters, civil servants, hospital staff and transport workers went on strike on Friday, in the first of two days of planned protests against Italian Prime Minister Enrico Letta's government, causing disruptions in Rome and across the country. Letta's 2014 budget, unveiled on Tuesday, has become a focal point of discontent, with unions complaining about freezes on public sector salaries and what they say is an insufficient easing of the tax burden on workers.

Photo: REUTERS/Stefano Rellandini

Wal-Mart Fires Worker Who Came To Aid Of Customer Attacked In Their Parking Lot: “His Actions Violated Company Policy”



Kristopher Oswald was fired by Wal-Mart / Scott Olson

October 18, 2013 CBS/AP

HARTLAND TOWNSHIP, Mich. Wal-Mart's firing of a Michigan man who says he tried to help a woman being assaulted in one of the retail giant's parking lots is being met with outrage.

Some CBSNews.com readers are even calling for a boycott of the Bentonville, Ark.-based Wal-Mart Stores Inc.

Kristopher Oswald, 30, told WXYZ-TV in Detroit that he ended up fighting with the woman's attacker as he tried to defend her at a Hartland Township store.

Wal-Mart has policies against workplace violence to prevent employees from assaulting co-workers or tackling a shoplifter, but it appears nothing allows for them to assist in situations of imminent danger and self-defense, he said.

A spokeswoman for Bentonville, Ark.-based Wal-Mart Stores Inc. told The Associated Press on Thursday that while the company understood Oswald's intentions, his actions violated company policy.

"We had to make a tough decision, one that we don't take lightly, and he's no longer with the company," company spokeswoman Ashley Hardie said.

That decision did not go over well with many CBSNews.com readers.

"Perhaps it does not matter to Wal-Mart but they will never see me in one of their stores again," wrote one.

Said another: "Like most 'zero tolerance' policies, Wal-Mart's policy fails for not allowing a modicum of common sense."

And a third: "By the sound of it, Wal-Mart should instead have promoted this guy to store manager.

"You don't find many individuals who will risk their own well-being for others these days. Mr. Oswald should be commended and rewarded for his heroic actions."

Oswald said he was in his car on his break about 2:30 a.m. Sunday when he saw a man grabbing a woman.

"It was a tiny little blonde girl who got out and tried to force this person off of her vehicle and she's screaming and he jumped off the car, grabbed her by the arms like this and forced her against the car," he said.

When he asked her if she needed help, the man started punching him in the head and yelling that he was going to kill him, Oswald said.

He was able to get on top of the man, but then two other men jumped him from behind, he said.

Livingston County sheriff's deputies arrived and halted the fight.

Oswald said the Hartland Township store's management gave him paperwork saying that "after a violation of company policy on his lunch break, it was determined to end his temporary assignment."

Oswald had worked for Wal-Mart for about seven weeks and said he would not have been considered a permanent employee until after his 180-day probation.

"The last thing I expected was to not have a job," Oswald said.

"I'm always going to act the right way and do the right thing even after all of this," he vowed.

One reader expressed gratitude about Oswald's attitude.

"I would hope that people would come to my aid in an emergency," the reader wrote.

"I would make it a point to patronize a store whose employees would help me. Shame on WalMart! Another reason not to shop there!"

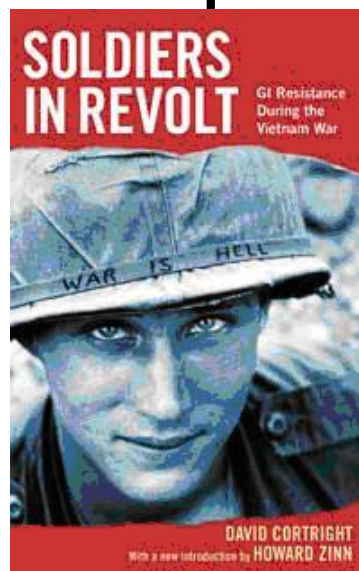
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