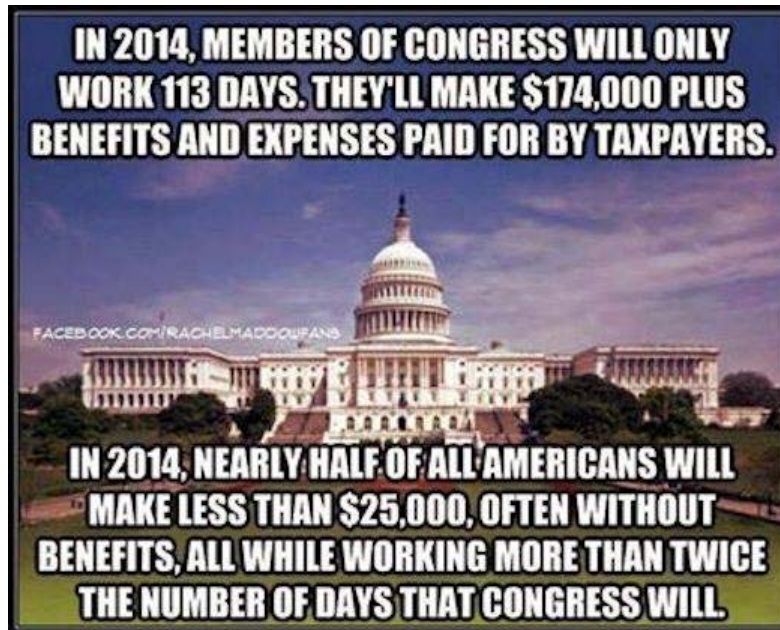


## **Military Resistance 12C16**



## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **AFGHANISTAN THEATER: “US Foreign Fighters Suffered Nine Combat Casualties During The Week Ending March 13”**

Mar 13, 2014 [www.michaelmunk.com](http://www.michaelmunk.com) [Excerpts]

#### **AFGHANISTAN THEATER:**

US foreign fighters suffered nine combat casualties during the week ending March 13 as the total rose to 40,448. The total includes 21,487 dead and wounded (one pending) from what the Pentagon classifies as “hostile” causes and 18,961 dead or medically evacuated (as of Dec. 3, 2012) from what it calls “non-hostile” causes.

US media divert attention from the actual cost in American life and limb by reporting regularly only the total killed (6,801: 4,489 in Iraq, 2,312 in Afghanistan) but rarely mentioning those wounded in action (51,912: 32,239 in Iraq; 19,673 in Afghanistan).

They ignore the 59,908 (44,607 in Iraq, 18,463 in AfPak (as of Dec 3, 2012) military casualties injured and ill seriously enough to be medevac'd out of theater, even though the 6,799 total dead include 1,458 (961 in Iraq, 497 in Afghanistan) who died from those same "non hostile" causes of whom almost 25% (332) were suicides (as of Jan 9, 2013).

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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**

The development of civilization and of industry in general has ever shown itself so active in the destruction of forests, that everything done by it for their preservation, compared to its destructive effect, appears infinitesimal.  
-- Karl Marx; Capital: A Critique Of Political Economy; Volume II; The Process Of The Circulation Of Capital

# **“Tell No Lies, Claim No Easy Victories”**

## **Lessons of Revolutionary Struggles For Bosnia and Beyond:**

### **“The People Who Want To Carry This Struggle All The Way To Conclusion Must Be Ready For ‘The Long Haul’”**

26 February 2014 by Marina Antic, LeftEast [Excerpts]

*“Always bear in mind that the people are not fighting for ideas, for the things in anyone’s head. They are fighting to win material benefits, to live better and in peace, to see their lives go forward, to guarantee the future of their children.”*

—Amilcar Cabral

Let’s state things plainly: Bosnia is a semi-colonial country.

You could even say it has become a colony, what with the direct power of European outsiders in our politics for the last 20 years.

But most Bosnians now recognize that people of all nationalities in this small country face the same issues of economic deprivation and exploitation.

Amilcar Cabral led a movement that, after his martyrdom, eventually defeated a 500-year-old empire in a country even smaller than ours. His is the voice of experience in the great task of organizing people for social revolution through the ebbs and flows of struggle as they actually happen in the real world.

**The challenge of people participating in movements at an early stage, like the one in Bosnia, is to begin to think not just as activists, but as organizers.**

It can be dizzying to witness the opening stages of a movement, when many more people are out in the streets taking action than were doing so before.

Yet the number of people who are involved so far is still not enough. The challenge is to involve the great masses of people in their millions.

**There is no doubt that they would be with us, if they only knew how: We know that much from the opinion polls.**

But their support will only be passive until we can motivate them to take action that they have concluded has a reasonable chance of success.

And by “success,” I mean winning those things that Cabral points out that the masses want: “to live better and in peace, to see their lives go forward, to guarantee the future of their children.”

At the beginning stages of a movement, there is also a tendency to fetishize the forms of organization that the struggle initially takes. When a struggle is underway, people want and need to meet and talk about it, and discuss the way forward.

The “plenum,” which is really only a mass meeting, is not novel in this respect.

But the mass meeting cannot be an end in itself, or otherwise its energy will dissipate, because the people will not fight for the abstraction of “direct democracy.”

For the masses to have faith in the process, and to participate in it on a scale that can eventually shake the pillars of the state, what counts is the content of the meetings.

A successful plenum will have content with two equally important elements: (1) social demands that resonate with the felt needs of the masses, and (2) a plan for moving more people into action.

I will address each of these in turn.

## **Social Demands**

Tuzla sounded the tocsin of revolt for all of Bosnia beginning with workers whose jobs were taken away by the privatization and the corrupt and venal cantonal government that facilitated it.

**The problems of joblessness; of inadequate pensions; of exploitation by tycoons and the parasitic apparatus of officials from the political parties that support and serve those tycoons; of overall economic deprivation and hopelessness, and a government incapable at all levels of addressing these problems of the people:**

**These are the grievances that first prompted Bosnia to move, and keeping the focus on these issues is the way to bring more people into the struggle.**

The mass meetings in the various Bosnian cities and towns have produced lists of demands that address these needs of the people, always after prolonged sessions where people talked about the issues they faced and found to be important. This is a good and necessary process.

It is important for people to vent these frustrations in public and in large numbers, rather than merely complaining to each other in the cafés the way they have done for years. It shows people that they are not alone in their thinking, and it stokes a necessary anger at social conditions, without which a movement can never come into being, much less sustain itself.

Apart from a handful of tycoons and the army of corrupt officials, an entire generation in Bosnia is entirely without a pension, and among those who are older, even those lucky enough to have a job will not be able to retire.

Why?

Because most employers have decided not to make their pension contributions.

People lose their health coverage as a result of this employer negligence as well.

The Partisans used to declare with confidence that “America and England will be proletarian countries” – how low have we fallen as a people when instead, our own country adopts the obscene American system of health care, where whether you get treated when you’re ill depends on how much you can pay, instead of it being recognized as a basic human right?

In Sarajevo, the workers of the Holiday – a hotel that stayed open even throughout the war, serving the foreign journalists – decided that they had enough of this and staged a sit-down strike in the hotel lobby in open defiance of the bosses’ courts. Their initial demands are quite modest: they haven’t been paid in three months, so they say they will return to work once they receive their paychecks for November and December.

Their ultimate boss is the Austrian owner of the hotel, making their workplace a microcosm of Bosnia itself, a little semi-colony where the native majority are lorded over not only by native exploiters but by the foreign ones who are ultimately in charge.

**Were the hotel workers inspired by the recent unrest throughout the country? It is possible, even likely, though you can’t really tell from the press. But you are able to tell that they are impressively disciplined, issuing statements in unison to the media.**

**The hotel workers need to be part of the “plenum.” Or maybe the plenum needs to join them?**

Either way, the people going to the mass meetings and the people on sit-down strike at the hotel need to be talking to each other.

If the workers win the pay to which they are entitled, they will have proven that collective action can win material benefits for the people. It is a lesson that the whole country needs to learn by seeing it work in practice.

How many workplaces have similar grievances? How many schools?

Some well-placed disruption of “business as usual” by workers, youth, unemployed, and pensioners in a multitude of settings can build confidence in the masses that it is

possible to win real improvements, thereby setting the stage for more advanced demands. With enough people in motion, who is to say that we can't win retirement security for everyone, with a state that strictly enforces requirements that employers contribute to retirement?

Where employers who shirk their duty to pay workers and pay into their pensions will be prosecuted or – if they flee the country or are foreigners to begin with – their assets seized without compensation?

Were not only the recent privatizations but the privatizations of the last 20+ years, nearly all of them crooked, shall be reversed?

Where people will be put to work building the economy of a country where they all own a share, instead of being relegated to a lifetime of unemployment?

People want such a country, but they will only be motivated to fight for it if they have the hope that they can succeed.

Which brings us to the second element of a successful plenum.

### **The Plan For Mass Organizing**

It is not enough just to meet and formulate a list of demands that people like, and then issue a statement and expect that this alone will bring more people into action.

If in Sarajevo people went and had the next plenum at the worker-occupied hotel in solidarity with the workers – provided, of course, that the workers involved would find such involvement useful and welcome – it would have a terrific propaganda effect, but would still not amount to much without a plan for what to do next.

**To be successful, the mass meetings need to be more than just a talk-shop where people decide on a statement about all the nice things we want – even, nay especially, if those demands resonate widely with the masses of workers, unemployed, youth and pensioners.**

Even this weak and dysfunctional government system can withstand the repeated statement of demands by thousands of people, so long as those thousands of people do not break out of the confines of the movement in its initial stages and mobilize ever-greater numbers of people instead.

Marx once wrote that “every step of real movement is worth a dozen programs.”

It is impossible to overstate the importance of every seemingly routine or prosaic task in sustaining a movement.

Movements lose their momentum when people stop doing these mundane tasks, all on the incorrect assumption that they will get done by magic, or that some other – always unnamed – persons will do them.

This is not how the world works; as the American poet June Jordan wrote, “We are the ones we have been waiting for,” so the work of a movement has to be done by the people who show up, or else the movement dies. And always, without exception, specific people must take responsibility for specific tasks, and be accountable to completing them before the next meeting or demonstration.

No one should consider themselves above the more mundane tasks. Intellectuals are particularly prone to this conceit. Everyone should volunteer to do some of the “boring” stuff from time to time.

### **Expanding The Movement.**

In addition to the work to build strength in neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, etc., where the movement already has a presence, develop a plan to reach people in new areas and have people who volunteer to carry it out. It may involve leafleting in public spaces, knocking on people’s doors, etc. People will have to talk to people of different ethnicities. They will have to talk to people who do not necessarily share all of our goals, but who are willing to take action on specific issues and problems. People doing this work will inevitably make mistakes, but will learn from them. Without determination to do work like this, no movement can ever succeed.

**And let us be clear: The movement is almost certainly not going to get this far before it sputters out and most of its current activists lapse into inactivity.**

If somehow it continues to grow and manages to dislodge the dysfunctional government, then we will have a new and more interesting set of problems.

**But the more realistic scenario is that enough minor demands will be met and enough small-scale changes made and enough repression applied that the movement will lose its current momentum, and we will be left with another long period of the relatively undisturbed “status quo.”**

**The people who want to carry this struggle all the way to conclusion must be ready for “the long haul.”**

**Once the movement tide has ebbed, they will need to stay in touch with one another, continue meeting, continue building organization and issuing propaganda.**

**If they develop a good level of organization, they can help offer direction and organizational skills to the next struggle that happens – the next factory occupation or strike, the next protest over pensions. These committed activists can, in fact, continue to initiate and organize such actions.**

**This kind of activity amounts to the activity of a political party, but one that rejects the scramble for patronage in the current broken system, and instead constantly mobilizes people for struggle against the exploitative system as a whole, and trains its activists in the organizational skills needed to make movements succeed.**

This is what Lenin called “the party of a new type.” In contrast to misguided utopian notions of “spontaneity,” the need for such a party is premised on the basic insight that different people come to different levels of social consciousness at different times, and it is the responsibility of revolutionaries to develop their organizational skills so as to raise the social consciousness of an ever-growing number of people through mobilizing them for mass action.

**This is difficult and requires extreme dedication, but it is the only thing that has ever worked in history, or ever will.**

Saying all of this is only in keeping with another saying of Amilcar Cabral: “Tell no lies, mask no difficulties, claim no easy victories.”

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**“The Oligarchs Plundered Our Country, And Now They Are Demanding That Hungry People Stand In Defense Of Their Corrupt State!”**

**“The Ukrainian Army Should Act Under Citizens’ Control”**

**“The Russian Government Is Controlled By The Most Conservative Advocates Of The Interests Of Capital”**

**[The Socialist Union “Left Opposition” Offers Its Assessment Of The Russian Aggression In Crimea And The Destructive Role Of Ukrainian Nationalists]**





Всупереч заявам українських буржуазних націоналістів, в Росії не залишилось жодних атавізмів соціалізму

**The population of Eastern and Southern Ukraine, as well as the members of ethnic minorities should know that there stood on the Maidan many representatives of those forces who uphold internationalist, left and democratic positions.**

7 March 2014 LeftEast [Ліва опозиція]. Translation from the original (<http://gaslo.info/?p=4990> )

The socialist union “Left Opposition” offers its assessment of the Russian aggression in Crimea and the destructive role of Ukrainian nationalists. The intervention of Russian armies was made possible as a result of a split in Ukrainian society. Its unity is impossible with the oligarchs and chauvinists in power. Only solidarity will save Ukraine.

1) We are for the self determination of Crimea only after the withdrawal of the Russian armies that are carrying out this flagrant intervention.

We are for the self determination of the people, and not of the mercenary elite who “self determine” so as to protect themselves from Crimeans with the muzzles of Russian automatic weapons. The outcome of separatism in Crimea will become the rebirth of the Russian empire, which threatens a world war.

2) The justification of Putin’s aggression is the nationalist hysteria that the leaders of the Maidan have ignored. Aggressive xenophobic jokes were treated as normal, and even today on anti-war pickets we are still hearing provocative slogans like “Glory to the nation! Death to its enemies!”

The Kremlin’s manipulation of these slogans has frightened the people of the East and South.

However, the aggression initiated by the Russian Federation is patently imperialistic and aimed against the revolutionary republic (the genuine revolution, unfavourable for the oligarchs, only just began to unfold and it was sure to put the question of social lustration on the order of the day).

**[The world “lustration” is often used by revolutionaries in Bosnia and the Ukraine. From Wikipedia: “Lustration is the government process regulating the**

**participation of former communists, especially informants of the communist secret police. It also applies more broadly to the process of nations dealing with past human rights abuses or injustices that have occurred. The term is taken from the Roman lustrum purification rituals. T]**

A war of liberation if led by the Ukrainian oligarchs would resolve itself in the fascisation of society: we can expect unification around mythical national interests, an unrestrained dictatorship and the conduct of social policies aimed at concentrating wealth in the hands of the elite.

Our government can claim popular legitimacy only after a social lustration has been carried out.

**However, our government has been legitimised by the threat of foreign intervention – we are forced to love a regime, not our country.**

Government in Ukraine is progressively passing directly into the hands of the oligarchs (Kolomoisky and Taruta have become governors).

**The oligarchs plundered our country, and now they are demanding that hungry people stand in defense of their corrupt state!**

**3) the Maidan was not uniform – radical nationalists really bespoiled the protest with xenophobia, but fortunately they did not determine the Maidan’s demands. ‘**

**The population of Eastern and Southern Ukraine, as well as the members of ethnic minorities should know that there stood on the Maidan many representatives of those forces who uphold internationalist, left and democratic positions.**

To support the myth of a “fascist Maidan” is to legitimise the use of force by neo-Nazis against such citizens as those noted here who disagree with them. We are very saddened to see that antifascist ideas are being exploited to justify war. (Antifascism is solidarity, not intervention!)

4) the citizens of Western and Central Ukraine should press the government not to allow linguistic discrimination, destruction of monuments or the incitement of unnecessary hostility.

Ukrainisation led by the oligarchs can be realised only in a chauvinist key.

It is necessary to review language policy and to broaden the right to use the native language in those regions where it is needed. The national-cultural renaissance of the Ukrainian and other peoples of our country is inseparable from the resolution of social questions.

5) We are for the preservation of a united Ukraine, as a unique cultural phenomenon. The coexistence of various ethnicities only enriches universal human culture. In the event of the country splitting the rule of chauvinists will be established in both its parts.

All conflicts in Ukraine are as a result of the dictatorship of the oligarchs. Ukraine can be consolidated on the basis of defeating the rule of the oligarchs – the workers of the East

and South equally want social change and they should understand that inflaming conflict simply puts off the prospects for improvements to an unforeseeable future.

**6) The Russian Federation government is controlled by the most conservative advocates of the interests of capital.**

And that is why those citizens who support a referendum on “reunification” with Russia had better prepare for a police state and for an antisocial policy. We will not allow for the precedent of a victory for Russian imperialism.

Despite the claims of Ukrainian bourgeois nationalists, there are no traces of socialism at all left in Russia.

The population of Ukraine will start to hate Russians even more, while among the Russian masses imperialistic and revanchist illusions will grow stronger. Hitler-style promises of a better life will culminate in a catastrophe for the aggressor nation.

Let us not forget that this war is also an opportunity for Western capital to bring in its own armies and to seize part of Ukrainian territory.

**7) It is necessary to appeal in the first instance to the Russian speaking population of Ukraine and to Russians who do not support war.**

**They must sabotage the mobilisation and movement of occupying armies, while also exerting continuous pressure on the Russian government and Russian capital.**

Russian imperialism is using them to strengthen its domination through a referendum. It is necessary to create international brigades to maintain lawful order, to oppose mutual chauvinisms, to defend strategic facilities, to conduct propaganda among troops, as well as to oppose the disarming of Ukrainian armies.

**Form workers self defence detachments at enterprises for their protection from external intervention and the covetous hands of their unpropitious “owners”.**

**Organise detachments with those you trust, or whom you are prepared to elect!**

**The Ukrainian army should act under citizens’ control.**

**Why die under the leadership of nationalists like Parubiy and Yarosh?**

They have on their conscience inept tactical mistakes on the Euromaidan and the stoking of interethnic hostilities.

**Why die in the interests of the Akhmetov-Kolomoiskys?**

**The workers of all nations should learn solidarity from the Ukrainian oligarchs – they overcame all their differences and united around their common class interests.**

**Down with the bandit office holders who have become separatists!**

**Down with Russian imperialism!**

**Down with the Ukrainian chauvinists!**

**Long live the workers' independent Ukraine!**

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## **140% Of Crimeans Vote To Join Russia In Landslide Referendum: “As A Nation With Extensive Experience Rigging Elections In Other Countries, It Is Blatantly Obvious To Us That This Election Has Been Tampered With, Obama Told Reporters”**



Dan Kitwood / Getty Images News

March 17, 2014 By Pte. Bloggins, Duffel Blog

SIMFEROPOL — Kremlin officials are overjoyed at the passage of a referendum Crimean residents voted on Sunday, after a landslide 140 percent of the two million citizens decided to break away from Ukraine to join Russia later this month.

The free and fair election was celebrated far beyond Moscow, as praise poured into the region from democratic republics as diverse as Syria, Iran, and North Korea. While confident in the vote, North Korean dictator Kim Jong-un offered cautious praise: “We

commend President Putin, but at least in our elections we have the grace and fairness to win with only a 100 percent margin,” Jong-un said through a translator. “This seems like amateur hour.”

Still, the vote attracted widespread condemnation from others on the world stage.

“This election is nothing more than a show election to legitimize the Russian occupation of sovereign territory of the nation of Ukraine,” said Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations. “This behavior by Russia is to be strongly condemned and we have sent a harshly-worded letter to President Putin saying he should leave Crimea or we will pass a resolution to use force in the region that he will later veto.”

Calling the vote an “affront to democracy,” President Obama joined others in criticism of Moscow.

“As a nation with extensive experience rigging elections in other countries, it is blatantly obvious to us that this election has been tampered with,” Obama told reporters. “I mean a 140 percent voter turnout ... even in Chicago we never made it that obvious.”

Russian President Vladimir Putin was quick to rebuff critics of the election, stating that he was quite disappointed with the poor result and considered a voter turnout of around 300 percent to be a more realistic figure.

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# The 12 Most Awful Things God Did in the Old Testament

February 26, 2014 By Rob Bricken, AlterNet

## 1) Sending Bears to Murder Children

So a guy named Eliseus was traveling to Bethel when a bunch of kids popped up and made fun of him for being bald. That had to suck, and you can't blame Eliseus for being pissed and cursing them to God.

But God had Eliseus' back, by which I mean he sent two bears to maul 42 of these kids to death. For making fun of a bald dude. I have to think Eliseus was looking for something along the lines of a spanking, or maybe the poetic justice of having the kids go bald, but nope, God went straight for the bear murder. But on the plus side, that pile of 40+ children's corpses never made fun of anybody again. (4 Kings 2:23-24)

## 2) Turning Lot's Wife to Salt

Most folks know about the story of Sodom and Gomorrah, two cities of sin God decided to kill everyone in instead of, you know, making them not full of sin.

But this was a town that, when two angels were staying at Lot's place, gathered en masse and asked if they could rape them. I repeat: They wanted to rape angels. So they kind of had their destruction coming.

Lot and his family were sent from the city before things went down, and Lot's wife looked back, and God turned her into a pillar of salt.

It's generally understood that Lot's wife was looking back in a wistful kind of way at her angel-raping hometown, but the fact is there's nothing in the Bible to suggest this. Nor was Lot's family warned about looking back.

Maybe Lot's wife wanted to see Sodom and Gomorrah get what was coming to it. Maybe she was thinking wistfully of the things she had to leave behind. Maybe she wondered if she left the oven on.

We'll never know, because God turned her into seasoning for breaking a rule she didn't know existed. (Genesis 19:26)

### **3) Hating Ugly People**

In what should be good news for intolerant religious conservatives, God really does hate people who are different from the norm.

Of course, God isn't as worried about skin color or sexual orientation as he is about whether you're ugly or not. Because if you're ugly, you can just go worship some other god, okay? (Even though God will punish you if you do and also they don't exist.)

Here's the people God does not want coming into his churches: People with blemishes, blind people, the lame, those with flat noses, dwarves, people with scurvy, people with bad eyes, people with bad skin, and those that "hath their stones broken."

Given that God is technically responsible for giving people all of these afflictions in the first place, this is an enormous dick move. (Leviticus 21:17-24)

### **4) Trying to Kill Moses**

In terms of people who God likes, you'd think Moses would be pretty high up on the list, right? I mean, God appointed him to lead the Jews out of Egypt, parted the Red Sea for him, and even picked him to receive the 10 Commandments, right? Y

et this didn't stop God from trying to kill Moses when he ran into him at "a lodging place." There is literally no explanation given in the Bible for God's decision to murder one of his chief supporters.

The line is "At a lodging place on the way, the Lord met Moses and was about to kill him."

The only sensible explanation for this is that God was drunk out of his mind and looking for a bar fight, and you better hope that's correct because the alternative is that God's a psychopath.

How was God stopped from murdering his #1 fan? "But (Moses' wife) Zipporah took a flint knife, cut off her son's foreskin and touched Moses' feet with it ... So the Lord let him alone."

Either the sight of a very unexpected circumcision sobered God up quickly, or he didn't want to touch a dude who just touched a severed foreskin. Still, it's Moses' son who's the real victim here. (Exodus 4:24-26)

### **5) Committing So Much Genocide**

God has killed so many people, you guys. Okay, I mean technically, God has killed everyone if you subscribe to Judeo-Christian thought, but I'm not talking about indirect methods, I'm talking about God murdering countless people in horrible ways simply because he's pissed off.

God drowning every single person on the planet besides Noah and his family is pretty well known, but he also helped the Israelites murder everyone in Jericho, Heshbon, Bashan and many more, usually killing women, children and animals at the same time. Hell, God once helped some Israelites kill 500,000 other Israelites. God's crazy.

### **6) Ordering His Underlings to Kill Their Own Children**

God is obviously good at big picture dickishness, but he also took the time to be a dick on a more personal level.

Abraham was another devout man who God decided to fuck with, apparently because he knew he could. God ordered him to sacrifice his son to God (God was a fan of human sacrifice at the time).

We know Abraham loved his son, so he was probably kind of upset with this, but hey, God's God, right? So Abraham tricked his unsuspecting son up a mountain onto a sacrificial altar and prepared to murder him. This story actually has a happy ending, in that right before Abraham drove a knife into his son's throat, God yelled "Psyche!" and told him it was only a test. And then Abraham received some blessings after that for being willing to kill his own child at God's whim. And all it took was the dread of being forced to kill his own child on behalf of his angry deity and, presumably, a shit-ton of awkward family dinners for the rest of his life.

Abraham got off better than Jephthah, who had to follow through with murdering his daughter (burning her alive, specifically) in order to get on God's good side before battling the Ammonites. (Genesis 22:1-12)

### **7) Killing Egyptian Babies**

Let's be completely up front: The Egyptians and the Jews did not get along.

According to the Bible, the Egyptians enslaved the Jews, but the Jews had God on their side, if you kind of ignore God letting his people be enslaved in the first place. Rather getting his worshippers the hell out of there, God wanted to show those damned Egyptians what for, releasing 10 plagues that began with turning the river Nile into pure blood, and ending with the slaughter of the first-born of every single Egyptian man and animal.

Now, I suppose it's possible that some, or even most of these first-born were adults who were shitty to the Israelites. But some of them had to be babies who didn't even have

the time to persecute the Jews yet. And what the hell did the animals do to the Jews to get caught up in this nightmare? Were there proto-Nazi cows running around who needed to be punished for their transgressions against the chosen people? And you realize there were cats in Egypt, right? Cats who had first-born? God killed kittens. (Numbers 16:41-49)

### **8) Killing a Dude for Not Making More Babies**

So you're a dude named Onan and you have a brother named Er. God does not care for Er, and kills him. Standard God operating procedure. Then things gets weird. Onan's dad orders Onan to have sex with Er's wife — not marry, by the way, just have sex with.

This is actually pretty awkward for Onan, sleeping with his sister-in-law, and rather than give her any more kids (she had two with Er already) he pulls out.

God is so infuriated that Onan did not fuck his sister-in-law to completion that he kills him, too. Now, you could argue that God demands that intercourse be used specifically for procreation, but given how much God loves killing babies and children, I don't think his motives here are exceptionally pure. (Genesis 38:1-10)

### **9) Helping Samson Murder People to Pay Off a Bet**

More evidence that God is possibly a low-level mobster: When his pal Samson got married, he was given 30 friends, and he posed them (a completely insane) riddle. Then he made a bet that if they could solve it in a week, Samson would give them all new clothes, but if they couldn't they would give Samson 30 pairs of new clothes. Well, Samson's wife wheedled the answer out of him and then told these dudes, at which point an angry Samson had to pay up.

And here's where God comes in — literally, into Samson, giving him the power to murder 30 random people for their clothes. Only a true friend would help you commit mass murder to settle a completely stupid bet. (Judges 14:1-19)

### **10) Trying to Wrestle a Guy, Cheating, and Still Losing**

And here's more evidence that God is a drunk maniac: Jacob was traveling with his two wives, his 11 kids, and all his earthly possessions and had sent them across a river. At that moment, a guy essentially leapt out of the bushes and started wrestling. It's God!

They wrestle all night, and God cannot beat Jacob, so he uses his magic God powers to wrench Jacob's hip out of its socket. But Jacob still won't let him out of a headlock until God blesses him, because Jacob has figured out who this bizarre man is. God blesses him and wanders off, presumably to go get in a bar fight somewhere. (Genesis 32: 22-31)

### **11) Killing People for Complaining About God Killing Them**

To be fair, after God freed the Israelites from Egyptian slavery, they were extraordinarily bitchy about not instantly being in a land of milk and honey. It got so bad that God was ready to kill all of them and let Moses start the Jews over, although Moses managed to talk him out of it. But one of their more sensible complaints was that Moses was lording



himself over the rest of them, which was probably true, seeing as God had given him the 10 Commandments and all that.

So Moses summoned the three tribal elders who had made the complaint to a Monday morning staff meeting, but two of them didn't come. Neither Moses nor God cared for that, and God opened up the grounds beneath their people's tents, killing both tribes (God also set fire to 250 Israelite princes who'd made the same complaint).

Having been well admonished that Moses was putting himself above the rest of the people with God's permission, a number of surviving Israelites were kind of pissed that Moses and God had killed so many of their fellow people to prove a point.

God responded by killing another 14,700 of them with a plague. The complaints stopped. (Numbers 16:1-49)

## **12) Everything He Did to Job**

Oh, Job. Other than a shit-ton of babies, no one had it worse in the Bible than Job, who was a righteous, good-hearted man who believed in God with every fiber in his being — which is when God decides to see how miserable he can make this dude before he gets upset. Note:

This is a result of a bet between God and Satan. Also note: The bet is God's idea. He's literally just hanging out with Satan — which is kinda weird when you think about it — when he starting bragging about how awesome Job is.

Satan points out that Job's pretty blessed — he's rich, he's got a lot of kids, etc., and he probably wouldn't be quite so thrilled with God if he didn't have that stuff. God downs his bourbon, presumably, and tells Satan he can fuck with Job all he wants.

Satan does. He kills all of Job's children and animals, burns down his house, destroys his wealth, and then covers him in boils. Job doesn't not curse God, but he does wish he'd never been born (literally) and begs God to kill him, but no dice.

This lasts a long time until finally Job wonders why a just God would be so shitty. This is when God pops up and basically tells him “Shut up, I don't have to explain anything to you.” Job, having finally done something wrong, pleads for mercy, and God eventually gives him back animals and children — new ones, because the old ones are still dead.

Because of a bet. That God made with Satan. For kicks. (Job 1)

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# **OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

# **Israeli Naval Forces Attack Palestinian Fishermen, As Usual: Arrest Two, Wound Two Others And Confiscate Fishing Boat In Palestinian Waters**

March 15, 2014 The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) via Uruknet

On Tuesday 11 March 2014, Israeli Naval Forces arrested two fishermen and confiscated their fishing boat sailing within approximately 3 nautical miles off Gaza City shore.

In a separate incident, Israeli Naval Forces opened fire at a Palestinian fishing boat resulting in the injury of 2 fishermen and damaging fishing equipment. The Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR) condemns the continued targeting of fishermen and their livelihoods.

Economic and social rights of fishermen have been violated by the illegal naval blockade imposed by Israeli authorities on the Gaza waters since June 2007.

Sha'aban 'Adnan Abu Riyalah (33) said to a PCHR fieldworker that:

““At approximately 07:00 on Tuesday 11 March 2014, I went with Jihad Bashir Abu Riyalah (24) off al-Sheikh 'Ejlin shore.

“At approximately 13:30 two Israeli gunboats surrounded our boat while sailing within 3 nautical miles.

“Israeli Naval Forces opened fire at us sailing within about 3 nautical miles and then ordered us to jump into the water and swim towards one of the gunboats. We were attacked, blindfolded, and our hands were tightened with plastic wires. They arrested us and took us to Ashdod Seaport where we were interrogated by an Israeli intelligence officer. At approximately 22:30, the Israeli authorities released us through Beit Hanoun 'Erez' crossing while they kept our boat in custody.”

In a separate incident, according to the testimony of a fisherman to a PCHR fieldworker, at approximately 20:30 on Monday 10 March 2014, two Israeli gunboats chased Palestinian fishing boats sailing within about 2.5 nautical miles off al-Sudaniyah area, north of Gaza City.

Israeli Naval Forces then opened fire at a fishing boat boarded by 5 fishermen resulting in the injury of 2 fishermen, who sustained a rubber bullet injury to their right thigh and damage of fishing nets.

Since 29 December 2013, Israeli naval forces have started an intensive campaign in the Gaza Sea.

They chase Palestinian fishing boats and prevent them from sailing beyond 4.5 nautical miles.

Moreover, they chase fishing boats sailing within 1 nautical mile off the northern Gaza shore and within 1 nautical mile off the Egyptian-Palestinian borders and prevent fishermen from approaching those areas.

The subsequent period witnessed shooting incidents at the Palestinian fishing boats.

PCHR condemns the continued Israeli attacks against Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip, and:

1. Calls for immediately stopping the policy of chasing and arresting Palestinian fishermen, and allowing them to sail and fish freely;
2. Demands compensation for the fishermen for the physical and material damage caused to them and their property as a result of these violations;
3. Calls upon the international community, including the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, to immediately intervene to stop the Israeli violations against the Palestinian fishermen and to allow them to sail and fish freely in the Gaza Sea.

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**Muataz Washaha: Executed By  
The Zionist Occupation Regime:  
“He Chose To Die Within His  
Home, Where He Had Spent His  
Childhood And Youth”  
“Before Our People Go To Sleep  
Each Night, We Always Hope For A  
Brighter Morning With More Security,  
Freedom And Justice”**

# **“But Everyday We Wake Up To Witness More Darkness, More Brutality And More Violations Of Our Rights”**



The funeral of Muataz Washaha in Birzeit. (Issam Rimawi / APA images)

**“I will be free here. Leave and do not worry about me. I will stay here and not surrender. I will not return to prison.”**

02/28/2014 by Shahd Abusalama, Electronic Intifada

Words fail me. There are no words that can do justice to the martyrs that fall every day, the pain that intensifies in our hearts, the floods of tears from the oppressed.

Words lose their strength for a Palestinian people who face a daily struggle to survive under a brutal occupation that doesn't recognize their most basic human rights.

What is more painful and disappointing is that our supposed "leadership" is complicit in these ongoing crimes and shamelessly provides the first line of impunity and defense for the Israeli occupation to continue attacking and terrorizing us.

Very aware of how the situation is deteriorating to an intolerable extent, the leadership stays committed to meaningless negotiations that bring no justice to us or to our martyrs. Israel has killed forty Palestinians since the beginning of US-backed negotiations between the Palestinian Authority and Israel.

Before our people go to sleep each night, we always hope for a brighter morning with more security, freedom and justice.

But everyday we wake up to witness more darkness, more brutality and more violations of our rights.

On the morning of 27 February, we woke up to the news of an Israeli military raid on the central West Bank village of Birzeit, near Ramallah.

The village lies very close to the Muqataa compound, where the Palestinian Authority lives with a delusion of having authority, guarded by an "army" unable to provide any sense of security to its people.

**The Israeli forces besieged a house belongs to Washaha family, forcibly evacuated its residents and those of neighboring houses, destroyed parts of it and set the rest on fire.**

**Even more cruelly, the military kept its people watching as their belongings and memories burned and as Muataz Washaha, who was active in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, was attacked.**

The Israeli occupation forces had stormed the Washaha family's house, looking for Muataz. They assaulted members of the Washaha family and detained his brother, Ramiz, as well as his friends Fadi Sedqi and Samir al-Qaisi.

A few months passed since 24-year-old Muataz Washaha was released from an Israeli jail.

He knew very well what being imprisoned meant for he refused to surrender to the Israeli military.

He preferred to barricade himself in a corner of his house and resist arrest.

He chose to die within his home, where he had spent his childhood and youth.

"I will be free here. Leave and do not worry about me. I will stay here and not surrender. I will not return to prison." These were the last words Muataz Washaha uttered to a civil defense worker, who was the last person to have access to him before the house was evacuated of everyone else.

The civil defense man had no choice than to kiss Muataz's forehead and leave, respecting his wish.

Soon afterwards, the Israeli military located Muataz with its sophisticated technology and started shooting live bullets and shells at him.

He was called on to turn himself in but Muataz would not. This unequal confrontation lasted for six hours, which were enough to kill Muataz a thousand times.

**After the withdrawal of the Israeli forces, Muataz's body was found torn by tens of live bullets. His head had been hit by a rifle-fired Energa shell.**

According to the Israeli military, Muataz Washaha was killed because he was "suspected of terror activity." How ridiculous to read such a statement.

After the countless acts of terror the occupation forces have committed against the Palestinian people, they should be the last ones to speak about terror or define what terror is.

Observing the daily injustices that our people have to endure makes me frustrated — or, rather enraged — not against the occupation but against the Palestinian Authority. The question that I am wondering about is: what will be the reaction of the Palestinian Authority to the murder of Muataz Washaha?

Isn't it the time for Mahmoud Abbas to be ashamed of himself for his commitment to the "security" of Israel and his declarations that it is "the utmost important challenge that the Palestinian security forces are dealing with"?

Why is the "peace process" continuing, when it is very obvious that Israel is not interested in peace?

The systematic ethnic cleansing process continues against our people in Jerusalem and settlements continue to expand as more "peace" talks take place. It is time for the PA to turn to the Palestinian people and stop compromising our rights.

**The PA has to understand that our fight is about liberation and justice, not about a state and a flag, luxurious embassies all over the world, a few privileges or a travel document.**

**Back in 1993, Edward Said wrote: "We should remind ourselves that much more important than having a state is the kind of state it is."**

**Said insisted that "no negotiations are better than endless concessions that simply prolong Israeli occupation."**

**Sadly, this is what we see happening on ground. More negotiations lead to more concessions.**

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# **To Grab Their Land, Settlers Sue Palestinians To Shut Down Their Bread Oven!**

**“The Bread-Oven, Used To Make  
Traditional Bedouin Bread, Was  
Built 30 Years Ago”**

**“A Couple Weeks Earlier, Settlers  
Descended From The Disputed Area  
Towards The Bedouin Community  
And Attacked The Resident's Cattle  
As They Were Grazing”**

**“The Settlers Will Push Any Case, The  
Case Of The Land, The Case Of The  
Oven, And Then When The Oven Case Is  
Closed, They Will Create Another Case”**

18 February 2014 by Jessica Purkiss, Middle East Monitor

An Israeli settler couple are attempting to sue a Bedouin community over the fumes being emitted from their bread oven.

**Yaakov and Bareket Goldstein from the illegal Israeli settlement of Carmel claim that the bread oven made from natural materials emits so much smoke that it is damaging the health of their family.**

**They are hoping to receive compensation to the tune of around \$28,650 from the impoverished Bedouins on whose land the settlement is built, although the couple claim that the actual damages should be more than double that amount.**

**The compensation is for alleged unspecified damages as a result of the fumes, with a charge of a further 300 shekels per day since the opening of the file.**



Exclusive Images

Following a demolition order issued against the bread oven from the Civil Administration in 2010, the High Court of Justice issued a temporary order preventing its destruction in response to a petition by the residents.

During the hearing on the petition, held around 3 months ago, the community's lawyer, Jiat Nasser, agreed to withdraw it since Justice Uzi Vogelmann had opined that the state ought to accept the residents' request for a backdated building permit for the oven. Two days after the petition was cancelled, attorney Doron Nir-Tzvi filed the Goldsteins' suit.

Nasser believes that it is an attempt to scare the Bedouin following Justice Vogelmann's judgement.

On the steeped landscape of the South Hebron Hills, Suleiman Eid, the 65-year-old being held responsible for the oven, crouched on the ground gazing at the pristine settlement of Carmel.

Since the first Israeli bulldozers arrived on his land in 1980, construction in the adjacent settlement has progressed, with more Jewish settlers arriving to build lives in "Judea and Samaria". Yaakov and his wife were two of these, moving to Carmel in 2008 with their four children.

**Watching the goats and sheep graze on his land, Suleiman said: "As refugees from the Negev, we came here and bought the land to make a new home. In 1981, my father had over 1,000 sheep and goats; today we only have 150."**

Suleiman, one of the village elders, is listed as a defendant in the Goldsteins' lawsuit.

In addition to the damages claim, Yaakov has filed a police complaint against the elderly man, whom Goldstein says threatened his life.



Although the Bedouins are Arabic-speaking, all of the official documents are written only in Hebrew.

**The bread-oven, which is used to make traditional Bedouin bread, was built 30 years ago, according to Umm el Kheir's residents.**

**They also say that the wind only blows in the direction of the settlement for one month of the year, casting doubt over the Goldsteins' claims.**

The couple, however, claim that the Bedouin community trespassed on state land and built the structure "a number of years ago".

They also claim that the smell and smoke is affecting their daily life.

"They treat this like its Chernobyl!" said Suleiman's son.

**"We didn't build the bread oven 30 years ago to disturb Yaakov in 2008.**

"I want him to be a nice, quiet neighbour but some of settlers don't want that. We won't attack them, we never have, we never will. We are different from them, we are peaceful. But we ask that they don't bother us. We are tired. We are already refugees from Beer Sheba."

Despite their incredibly close proximity, the Bedouin community of Umm el Kheir has not been hooked up to the electricity grid and water pipes which service settlers like Yaakov and Bareket, and instead live in homes without running water; they pilfer the only mod-con available to them, internet access, from the settlement's wireless network.

**Belonging to the Hadalin tribe and originally from Tel Arad, the community was expelled in the early 1950s by Israel.**

**After finding their way to their current location and buying a large plot of land from residents of Yatta, a nearby village, the Bedouins fear that they are facing expulsion once again.**

**Recently, they claim to have heard from a Druze leader of the District Coordination Office that Israel had claimed a further piece of their land, which has reportedly been given to the settlers for settlement expansion.**

**According to the residents, after Suleiman visited the above area, he was taken to an Israeli police station for 8 hours and subject to one-and-a-half hours of questioning for "trespassing on Israeli land".**

The community claims not to have been informed of this change in the land's ownership.

**"The settlers will push any case, the case of the land, the case of the oven, and then when the oven case is closed, they will create another case," said one of Umm al Kheir's residents.**

**"The truth is, it isn't about the oven."**

A couple of weeks earlier, settlers descended from the disputed area where they had erected a structure, towards the Bedouin community and attacked the resident's cattle as they were grazing.

**“We have never seen this before,” said a resident. “It seems to be a new policy which is so aggressive, so angry.”**

**The incident, captured by the villagers in a 40 minute video, happened in the presence of Israeli soldiers who appeared not to make any attempt to intercede.**

During the incident Suleiman Eid fainted.

**His son asked to be able to carry him away but was told by an Israeli soldier that the area would become a closed military zone at 9am, allowing him 3 minutes to assist his father.**

**Upon requesting an ambulance, the soldier is reported to have said that he could call one but the family would have to pay 7,000 shekels, which they could not afford.**

**The soldier then informed Suleiman's son that following their conversation he now only had two minutes remaining to collect his father from the valley where he had fallen.**

**“We are animals and they are humans,” said one of the Bedouin women. “Is that what they are saying?”**

**“Where is the humanity? There are no human rights. I am so sad. Settlers come to harass us with the Israeli army to protect them and the whole world supports them.”**

The community continues to wait for the outcome of the lawsuit.

**To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to:**

**<http://www.palestinemonitor.org/list.php?id=ej898ra7yff0ukmf16>**

**The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves “Israeli.”**

## **YOUR INVITATION:**

**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](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.**

## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



**Imprisoned CIA Whistleblower  
Kiriakou Threatened With  
'Diesel Therapy'  
Harassed With Shakedowns For  
Talking To Press:  
The Federal Correctional Institution  
"Appears To Be Scrambling To Find  
Any Way They Can To Stop Him From  
Sending Letters From Prison"  
"My Cellmate Urged Me To 'Keep Up The  
Fight. Keep Telling People What It's Like  
In Here"**



John Kiriakou (Creative Commons-licensed Photo from Truthout.org)

**“One of my cellmates, a 40-ish African-American whom I like, respect and consider a friend, made an important point,” according to Kirakou.**

**“Don’t you see what they’re doing? They’re trying to make us mad with these shakedowns so that we’ll turn on you.’**

February 17, 2014 By: Kevin Gosztola, Fredoglake.com/ [Excerpts]

**The federal correctional institution of Loretto, Pennsylvania, where former CIA officer John Kiriakou is serving a thirty-month jail sentence, appears to be scrambling to find any way they can to stop him from sending letters from prison.**

**He has written another letter that details what seem to be clear acts of retaliation.**

**Since August of last year, Firedoglake has been publishing “Letters from Loretto,” by Kiriakou, an imprisoned whistleblower who was the first member of the CIA to publicly acknowledge that torture was official US policy under the George W. Bush administration.**

He was convicted in October 2012 after he pled guilty to violating the Intelligence Identities Protection Act (IIPA) when he provided the name of an officer involved in the CIA’s Rendition, Detention and Interrogation (RDI) program to a reporter. He was sentenced in January 2013, and reported to prison on February 28, 2013.

**In Kiriakou’s most recent letter from prison, written on February 10, he reports a threat allegedly made by a “senior prison official,” who told him months ago that officials have discussed putting him in “diesel therapy” for the rest of his sentence.**

“Diesel therapy is when a prisoner is transferred from one prison to another all across the country via prison van, bus or “conair” plane, never staying in any one prison long enough to receive telephone, email, mailing or visitation privileges,” Kiriakou explains. “I could move to a different prison every week for the rest of my sentence and still not hit them all.”

His family and attorneys would not know his location. It “would obviously be retaliation for “Letters from Loretto” and my press interviews,” he suggests. But the BOP could claim he was moved because of “bedspace” issues or for his own “safety.”

**Kiriakou also shares how cops tore up his “room” twice after he did an interview with reporters from The National Herald, “the oldest, largest and most highly-respected Greek-American newspaper in the country.”**

It was his first press interview since pledging to quit talking to media and sending prison letters if he was granted at least nine months of halfway house time. (The prison broke its promise and is only granting him five to six months halfway house time.)

“Three hours after the interview ended, I was sitting in the TV room with my friend, former colleague and cellmate “Dave,” when another prisoner approached us and said, ‘Guys, the cops are tearing up your room,’” Kiriakou recalls.

“We walked back to our room and, sure enough, two corrections officers (CO) were going through all of our possessions. I thought it was an odd coincidence, but I just shrugged. I didn’t have any contraband so I lost nothing.”

**The next night it happened again.**

This time Kiriakou and Dave could not get back to their housing unit because a “gate at the head of the hall was locked.”

When he finally did see the damage done, his locker door had been left wide open, photos of his children were thrown on the floor, his mail was “strewn all over” his bed and his books were tossed on a chair.

**Up until the interview, he had only been shaken down three times. Now it had happened twice in two days.**

**Kiriakou complained to a CO that this was “disrespectful.” The CO said, “Sorry,” and, “We were just following orders.”**

**The shakedown led to his cellmates losing some of their property.**

“One of my cellmates, a 40-ish African-American whom I like, respect and consider a friend, made an important point,” according to Kirakou.

**““Don’t you see what they’re doing? They’re trying to make us mad with these shakedowns so that we’ll turn on you.’ He imagined a conversation: ‘Let’s piss off the big black guy so he pressures Kiriakou to stop writing and doing interviews.’”**

**It did not work that time.**

**“My cellmate urged me to ‘keep up the fight. Keep telling people what it’s like in here.’ I promise to do that.”**

After he had finished this letter, he describes in an “addendum” how the prison then tried to take his desk away in a boorish and daffy attempt to stop “Letters from Loretto”:

**“(T)he shakedown CO tried to remove my desk from the wall and confiscate it. After all, if I have no desk, I can’t write ‘Letters from Loretto,’ right? After a while, he gave up. The bolts were stripped and wouldn’t budge. (It was a temporary respite, though. The CO issued a work order to chip it off the wall. I had to go to the unit manager, who promised that the desk would not be removed.)”**

**The CO even tried to have a draft of a book Kiriakou and Dave are writing seized on the basis that it “made threats against staff.” He eventually got the draft back after the Special Investigative Service CO said he determined it included no threats.**

The shakedowns are bothersome and irritating, but Kiriakou concedes in his letter that the prison is within its rights to do it to prisoners.

The real issue is “retaliation and censorship.”

**He points out that the Supreme Court ruled in 1990 that “prison officials do not have discretion to punish” an inmate for “exercising his First Amendment rights by transferring him to another institution.”**

He also has a right against retaliation for criticizing a “public official’s performance” of their duties, since that is protected under the First Amendment.

Fortunately, Kiriakou says he has attorneys representing him that would be willing to sue BOP officials or the entire BOP itself if they put him through something like “diesel therapy.” He also concludes the best way to respond to this treatment is to direct complaints to BOP Director Charles Samuels and demand “an end to these illegal and unconstitutional actions by his staff.”



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[news@uruknet.info](mailto:news@uruknet.info); <http://williambowles.info/military-resistance-archives/>.

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