

Military Resistance 12D18



**“Our Plan Was To Grow Old
Together”**

**Heartbroken Widow Of Decorated
Marine, 33, Who Succumbed To
Cancer Blames His Early Death On
Controversial Burn Pits In Iraq:
“There Is More Than A 50 Per Cent
Likelihood That This Cancer Was
Caused By Exposures During His
Military Service”**

“A 2010 Report From The Government Accountability Office Found That Some Pits In Iraq Were Still Burning Plastics And Styrofoam - Materials Banned By Revised Federal Rules”



Sean's wife and the mother of his children, Robyn Terry, remained by his side as he battled cancer

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

23 April 2014 By Snejana Farberov, The Daily Mail [Excerpts]

The family of a retired 33-year-old U.S. Marine who succumbed to cancer over the weekend believe that his untimely death was the direct result of his exposure to open-air burn pits in Iraq.

Sean Terry, a married father of three from Littleton, Colorado, passed away Saturday after a seven-month battle with terminal esophageal cancer

‘We had plans. Our plans were to grow old together and raise our kids together. We can't do that now,’ his wife Robyn Terry told 9News just days before his death.

Mrs Terry and the veteran's friends insist that the Marine who earned a Purple Heart while serving in Iraq in 2005-2006 was sickened by toxins from burn pits, which for years had been used in Iraq and Afghanistan to dispose of waste.

According to information available on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs site, at this time, research does not show evidence of long-term health problems associated with exposure to burn pits.

However, the agency's site concedes that 'toxins in burn pits may affect the skin, eyes, respiratory and cardiovascular systems, gastrointestinal tract and internal organs.' The portal goes on to say that most of the irritation is temporary and resolves once the exposure is gone.

'This includes eye irritation and burning, coughing and throat irritation, breathing difficulties, and skin itching and rashes,' the statement reads.

The practice of disposing of waste, including plastic water bottles, paper, soldiers' worn out clothes, has been largely banned by the U.S. Congress amid a growing public outcry.



According to Sean Terry's family, the robust 33-year-old Marine died from exposure to open-air burn pits on military bases in Iraq and Afghanistan

However, a 2010 report from the Government Accountability Office found that some pits in Iraq were still burning plastics and Styrofoam - materials banned by revised federal rules, The Verge reported.

In January 2013, President Barack Obama signed a bill into law requiring the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a registry for troops and veterans who lived and worked near open-air burn pits in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere overseas.

The goal of the legislation is to determine the number of veterans who may have been exposed to burn-pit smoke so VA can track their medical histories and keep them apprised of new treatments for associated conditions.

But for Sean Terry, the measure first introduced in 2009 by Rep. Tim Bishop, a Democrat from New York, was too little, too late.

After months of complaining of severe cough, the retired Marine and vice president of a local motorcycle club went in September to see a specialist and was diagnosed with cancer of the esophagus.

'It was Friday the 13th,' his widow recalled.

For months, Terry, his wife and three young daughters thought they could beat the illness.

But this past January, doctors discovered tumors next to the patient's brain. At that point, Terry's doctors knew he was not likely to make it.

One of the medics treating her husband wrote a letter to Robyn Terry indicating that 'there is more than a 50 per cent likelihood that this cancer was caused by exposures during his military service.'

Even though the decorated serviceman has lost his battle, Terry's widow and friends are hoping to raise awareness of the potentially harmful effects of exposure to burn pits, which the VA has long been downplaying.

MILITARY NEWS

**“The Recent All-Out Rebel Assault
On Regime-Held West Aleppo Was
A Huge Shock”**

**“The Rebels Also Attacked The
Military Academy On The Damascus
Highway To The Northeast”**

“West Aleppo Had Not Experienced Anything Like The Current Assault Since The Conflict Began”

April 16, 2014 by Edward Dark, Al-Monitor. Translator Sibel Utku Bila

The recent all-out rebel assault on regime-held west Aleppo was a huge shock, both to the regime fighters entrusted with holding the enclave as well as the hapless residents of that part of the city.

The Islamist groups had been mustering their forces for quite some time. The coordinated offensive on several fronts was spearheaded by prominent jihadist groups, most notably Jabhat al-Nusra, and reportedly led by Chechens. It has featured a host of foreign fighters.

The Aleppo offensive began immediately after Islamist groups assaulted Kassab, in Latakia province, in late March, and it increased in ferocity in stages, culminating in a concerted effort by rebels to enter the Zahra suburb and lay siege to Air Force Intelligence headquarters in the northwest.

The rebels also attacked the military academy on the Damascus highway to the northeast and attempted to sever the only road in and out of Aleppo via Khanaser in the Ramouseh area. In the past few days, rebels have also attempted to push through from the east of the city at Midan as well as in the old city.

The assault would not have been possible without the withdrawal of the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) from most of Aleppo province.

This resulted in the cessation of the interfactional war among Islamist rebels in the area, allowing them to concentrate instead on fighting the regime.

West Aleppo had not experienced anything like the current assault since the conflict began.

The past week brought the most terrifying experiences local residents have had to confront.

Ceaseless bombardment and shelling lit up the night sky, and explosions shook buildings miles away. Air raid sorties by fighter jets lasted all day. Adding to the terror and confusion was a partial power and communications outage, which plunged the already panicked city into what could only be described as a state of hysteria and pandemonium.

Frightened and dazed people attempted to flee to supposedly safer areas. The once-affluent and crowded suburb of Zahra now lies almost completely deserted, its streets empty, save for the sounds of gunfire, as the looters move in.

Prices skyrocketed as those who remain stocked up on basics and petrol stations closed. Desperate people wanting to leave were trapped in the city because the only road out had been closed.

The intense fighting has seen the Islamists make gains on the Zahra front, entering several residential blocks after heavily bombarding the area. They took up positions inside homes, and at least 25 families were taken to the nearby town of Hreitan. Some have been released, but the fate of others remains unknown.

I recently spent an evening with a group of regime fighters taking a night off from the Zahra front line in a "commandeered" apartment. Such a dwelling in Aleppo might be an empty home whose residents have fled the city (or are wanted fugitives) or an abandoned building at the front lines.

Indeed, many buildings in the affluent Zahra suburb have been abandoned since the rebel assault began. Either way, troops from both sides of the conflict make ample use of them.

The regime soldiers and officers had settled in for a relaxing night of drinking, swearing and joking, far from the war outside, stocked with ample food and alcohol to last until dawn. Abu Sa'ad, a volunteer fighter I know well, showed me videos of recent combat on his mobile phone.

He said the fighting was so intense that only a couple of dozen meters separated them from the rebels at times. He showed me footage of a commandeered apartment with a large hole in the wall from which a heavy caliber machine gun was firing away.

At that point, his friend spoke up, claiming, "We drove those scum away. They are two kilometers (1.2 miles) away now."

Abu Sa'ad then quietly whispered, "He's a liar. They're still there. We got reinforcements — Hezbollah fighters with one very senior officer, about 250 of them. They are very tough and fierce. Without them, I don't think we could have held on," he explained.

"Of course there are drawbacks," Abu Sa'ad mused, referring to the Hezbollah fighters. "We dare not drink or curse in front of them. They are very devout and austere men. They carry a Quran with them at all times and pray. I really think they loathe us sometimes."

As the night wore on and Abu Sa'ad became more inebriated, he confided to me his frustration with rag-tag militias that had fled at the first sign of trouble. "They are criminals and cowards. They are only there to rob people's houses. They can't fight at all."

One of these militias is the Popular Committees, which not surprisingly had acquired a nasty reputation throughout the city, especially considering many of its members are ex-cons.

Predictably, they abandoned their positions in Zahra when the fighting began, leaving the other overstretched formations, the army, the Ba'ath Brigades, a

Hezbollah detachment, Air Force Intelligence personnel and the Al-Quds Brigades to stand alone against an overwhelming number of attackers.

The fighting in Aleppo continues on all fronts, as this do-or-die battle — which will likely decide the fate of this city and determine who ends up controlling it — churns on. Yet again, innocent civilians are paying the highest price for this madness, with indiscriminate shells and mortars claiming dozens of lives and snipers targeting and killing at random. The soul of this city is literally being wrenched in two, its people dying in droves as both sides commit what can only be described as heinous, unforgivable war crimes against the innocent.

Desperate, melancholy pleas on social media paint a clear picture of what people here are feeling: “God have mercy on us. ... Forgive us if anything happens to us.”

Magnetic Bomb Kills Syria Ministry Official

April 24, 2013 AFP

DAMASCUS — A senior civil servant at Syria's electricity ministry was killed by a magnetic bomb attached to his car on Wednesday in central Damascus, government news agency SANA reported.

"As part of a campaign of assassinations... terrorists fatally wounded Wednesday morning Mohamed Abdel Wahab Hassan, the director of planning at the electricity ministry, with an explosive device attached to his car," SANA said.

The incident took place in Baramke neighborhood, the agency said, adding that Hassan "was pronounced dead on arrival at hospital".

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights confirmed the official's death and said two people in the car were injured in the attack.

In recent weeks, senior civil servants in the Syrian government have been attack by insurgents using silenced weapons or targeted by magnetic bombs.

MILITARY RESISTANCE BY EMAIL

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CLASS WAR REPORTS



**The Left And Maidan:
“Around 150 People Gathered In
Kiev Recently To Attend A
Conference Organised By
Ukrainian Organisations Including
The Left Opposition”
There Was “Participation Of Independent
Trade Union Activists From
Dniepropetrovsk And Kryvyi Rih, Both
Older Worker Leaders And Young**

Miners, Who Participated In Their Local Maidans”

The International Left “Should Campaign Against Both The Militaristic And Adventurous Policy Of Both The US And Russia”

Міжнародна конференція
12–13 квітня
початок о 10:00



Ілля Пономарьов, Катрін Самарі,
Захар Попович, Володимир Іщенко,
Олександра Бінерт, Ніна Потарська,
Володимир Чемерис, Анна Довбах

У конференції візьмуть участь
громадські ініціативи Майдану,
Варта Лікарні,
Студентська асамблея,
Громадська рада Майдану,
Жіноча Сотня ім.О. Кобилянської

Київ, вул. Саксаганського 6, Будинок Кіно, Синя зала

ROSA LUXEMBURG ЦЕНТР ДИСКУСІЙ Центр соціальних гніпіння commons NISA

I was really happy about the participation of independent trade union activists from Dnipropetrovsk and Kryvyi Rih, both older worker leaders (who had taken part in the miners’ strikes in 1989 at the end of the Soviet Union) and young miners, who participated in their local Maidans and continued protests for social causes.

April 24, 2014 by Ben Neal interviews Denis Pilas, one of the organisers of the event;
RS21 [Excerpts]

Around 150 people gathered in Kiev recently to attend a conference organised by Ukrainian organisations including the Left Opposition, with support from the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation.

The conference, entitled 'The Left and Maidan', discussed perspectives for the left in Ukraine.

There were visitors from Russia, France, Germany, Poland and Belarus, including left members of the German Bundestag and the Russian Duma; Andrei Hunko of the Linksparteifraktion in the German Bundestag, and Ilya Ponomarev of the Left Front, who was the only Russian State Duma member to vote against the annexation of Crimea.

Ben Neal: Denis, could you tell me about the purpose and aims of the conference?

Denis Pilas: It was organised for leftists who had participated in the Maidan protests to share their experiences and analysis in order to formulate a clear agenda and vision of a future strategy for the left in Ukraine.

And, of course, I saw it as an important tool to promote international solidarity.

I was really happy about the participation of independent trade union activists from Dniepropetrovsk and Kryvyi Rih, both older worker leaders (who had taken part in the miners' strikes in 1989 at the end of the Soviet Union) and young miners, who participated in their local Maidans and continued protests for social causes.

BN: What do you think were the main results of the conference?

DP: One of main results was consolidation of the left initiatives at Maidan and getting set for future social protests – now against the new government.

Also the launch of Assembly for Social Revolution, the first radical left list at Kiev city council elections, on the basis of 'liquid democracy' It was agreed to participate under the umbrella of the party "Socialist Ukraine" .

BN: One of the main topics for discussion, and of particular interest to socialists in the UK, is how the international left should relate to the situation in Ukraine, especially regarding the left in the country. What can you say about this?

DP: The international left should not succumb to any kind of geopolitics or support of 'lesser-evil' imperialism.

Instead, it should campaign against both the militaristic and adventurous policy of both the US and Russia. It should be a genuine anti-war movement, against a possible civil war in Ukraine as well.

It should oppose the conservative, authoritarian and oligarchic regime of Putin in Russia, and be in solidarity with leftists persecuted by it.

In the case of Ukraine, it must call on working people of Western and Eastern Ukraine to unite in struggle against the oligarchs.

It should also protest against the IMF's demands and include Ukraine in an all-European struggle against austerity.

BN: What should the left demand of Western governments?

DP: The demands from Western governments should be:

To lift the Ukrainian debt

To introduce visa-free regime for Ukrainian citizens,

To cancel austerity demands,

To introduce effective sanctions against Ukrainian oligarchs and confiscate their property in the West to return it to the people

BN: What can the international left do to build solidarity with leftists in Ukraine?

DP: It can contribute by building links with Ukrainian trade unions and progressive grassroots movements, and campaigning on common causes. They can visit Ukraine, see it with their own eyes and share their experience with activists back home.

UPCOMING EVENT

There will be a meeting hosted by rs21 and Socialist Resistance with Russian socialist Maria Chekhonadskikh on "Revolt and Repression in Ukraine and Russia" on Tuesday 29 April, at 7.30pm at the Community Centre, 62 Marchmont St, London, WC1N 1AB.

“Members Of The Independent Trade Union Of Miners Of Ukraine, The Country’s Largest Union, Have Organized Self-Defense Units To Counter The Assaults On Ukraine’s Sovereignty”

**“The People Here Are Saying
‘Enough,’ Mykola Volynko, President
Of The 12,000-Member Independent
Miners Union In The Eastern
Donbass Region, Told Russia’s
Opposition TV Rain”**

**“We Will Build A New Ukraine. We Are
Defending Ourselves, Our Families, And
We Want To Live In A Normal State”**



April 17 demonstration in eastern Ukraine city of Donetsk against provocations by Moscow-backed forces that have taken over government buildings in a number of cities.

May 5, 2014 issue; The Militant, BY JOHN STUDER [Excerpts]

More than 5,000 miners, students and other workers rallied April 17 in Donetsk, Ukraine, in a show of growing opposition in eastern Ukraine to provocations by Moscow-backed forces.

Similar actions took place in Luhansk, Kramatorsk and other eastern cities.

Some workers, particularly members of the Independent Trade Union of Miners of Ukraine, the country's largest union, have organized self-defense units to counter the assaults on Ukraine's sovereignty.

In Dnepropetrovsk, for example, some 15 units comprising about 100 volunteer combatants control nine checkpoints at entrances to the city, reported Dmitry Tymchuk, who established the Center of Military and Political Research in Kiev in February to counter Russian government propaganda about Moscow's invasion of Crimea. He previously served in the Ukrainian Defense Ministry.

"The people here are saying 'Enough,'" Mykola Volynko, president of the 12,000-member Independent Miners Union in the eastern Donbass region, told Russia's opposition TV Rain April 9.

"We will build a new Ukraine. ... We are defending ourselves, our families, and we want to live in a normal state."

"Here are a lot of people," 22-year-old Grigory Burchik told SETimes at the April 17 demonstration in Donetsk. "But I know even more people support Ukraine's independence. ... Many are scared by pro-Kremlin forces."

Kiev has agreed to a series of measures aimed at making workers pay for Ukraine's crushing debt in exchange for a promised \$18 billion in International Monetary Fund loan guarantees.

This includes an increase in gas and heating prices that would amount to a 50 percent rise by May 1 and 120 percent by the end of four years.

The minimum wage has been frozen, a 10 percent reduction in government workers' pensions enacted and social expenditures cut.

The initiation of a free-floating currency exchange rate is expected to cause inflation to rise to 12 to 16 percent this year.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**Zionist Occupation Forces
Declare Nabi Saleh "Military
Zone"
Then Attack Palestinians There:**

“Israeli Forces Arrived ‘Suddenly’ On Saturday To Close The Village Entrances”

“Then Targeted Locals Nearby, Shooting A Young Man With A Live Bullet And Injuring A 45-Year-Old Woman After Beating Her”



(Maan Images)



(Maan Images)

14/04/2014 Ma'an

RAMALLAH -- Israeli forces surrounded the central West Bank village of Nabi Saleh and declared it a "closed military zone" on Saturday, subsequently injuring two Palestinian civilians, a local group said.

The attack by Israeli forces comes a day after Israeli forces detained five -- including two Palestinian women and three foreign journalists -- and lightly injured a French journalist during a protest in the village, which has held weekly protests for four years against Israeli confiscation of village lands.

Israeli forces arrived "suddenly" on Saturday to close the village entrances and then targeted locals nearby, shooting a young man with a live bullet and injuring a 45-year-old woman after beating her, local popular resistance group "Intifada" said in a statement.

The woman was identified as Wijdan al-Tamimi, while the injured young man was not identified.

After declaring the area a "closed military zone," Israeli forces shut the main streets of the village, closing an iron gate on the main road and placing boulders on other roads so as to prevent Palestinian traffic.

Additionally, they fired stun grenades into the village's streets, damaging a number of cars, the group said.

The group said that the attack was part of an escalation in military violence against the village in recent months.

The village is the site of weekly protests against the Israeli occupation, with residents demanding that lands confiscated by Israeli forces to build a settlement be returned to them.

An Israeli military spokeswoman said that "as a result of a violent riot" on Saturday afternoon, "one of the two gates of Nabi Saleh was temporarily closed."

**Palestinian Christian Youth
Fulfill Their 'Right Of Return' To
Their Destroyed Village Of Iqrit:
"Today The Israeli Authorities
Arrived To Iqrith"
"People Tried To Build Houses, They
Demolished. We Tried To Make Even**

A Chicken Coop, And They Demolished It”

“We Planted Trees, They Took The Trees Out”



Palestinians from the destroyed village of Iqrit celebrate Easter in the town's only remaining building, the hilltop church, April 21, 2014. (Photo: Allison Deger)



Easter celebration in Iqrit. (Photo: Allison Deger)

April 23, 2014 by Alex Kane and Allison Deger, Mondoweiss

Amir Ashkar lives in a village that was destroyed six decades ago with the exception of a hilltop church where he sleeps and a cemetery where his relatives are interred.

Those structures are the only two fully operational spaces in this town with no permanent homes, a little electricity from solar panels, an outdoor shower and just two toilets.

Still, Iqrit, located at the northern tip of Israel within eyeshot of Lebanon, is home to Amir and 19 other youth.

“It’s not a struggle to go back home because we all go back home in the end,” said Amir, a 19-year-old cafe worker who spent most of his upbringing in the town of Kafr Yassif.

“So what we are trying to make here is to make a living, and to go back living, not just with death,” he continued.

We spoke to Amir during an Easter celebration where hundreds of Palestinians from Iqrit and nearby towns gathered to celebrate the holiday.

One Christian Palestinian even braved illegal entry from the West Bank. But the festivities were short-lived. On Wednesday morning two days after the Easter mass, debkah, and concert — the Israeli green patrol arrived and demolished the stage and uprooted plants.

“Today the Israeli Authorities arrived to Iqrith and destroyed all the trees, the herbs, the stage we built for the event on Monday,” said Shadia Sbait from the Iqrit Community Association. “The police also destroyed and even took part of the youth beds.”

Amir is part of a group of young people whose forebears come from Iqrit and have enacted on their own terms the aspiration of many Palestinians: the right of return to villages leveled by Israel in the 1940s and 50s.

Sitting cross-legged while pulling from a cigarette, Amir said he too would be buried in Iqrit’s cemetery.

In the meantime he conducts his life similarly to any other Palestinian citizen of Israel, with the anomaly of living off of the grid under constant Israeli surveillance.

In fact, during our visit a drone flew overhead, eventually nose diving not far from where Amir’s grandfather once lived.

“People tried to build houses, they demolished. We tried to make even a chicken coop, and they demolished it. We planted trees, they took the trees out,” he told us.

Night-stays in Iqrit began for Amir during an annual summer camp put together by older members of the community. “In the summer camp we said, ‘shit we want to stay living here together,’” said Walaa Sbait, 27, a drama teacher and another returnee of Iqrit (and the nephew of Shadia Sbait). “We imagined when we started having this 18-year experience, of moving back.” The youth first began to set up a permanent camp in Iqrit in August 2012.

Walaa noted Iqrit is still accessible by a dirt road and nothing has been constructed on top of it.

He said this was Israel's "war mistake" in their effort to remove Palestinians permanently from the village. "There is an 'advantage' for us as displaced people," he continued.

Iqrit is a rather unique village in that it hasn't been re-made into something else by the Jewish state. There are only a handful of the some 570 villages destroyed around the time of Israel's declaration of independence that are not built over today with new Israeli-Jewish localities, or covered by forestry projects of the Jewish National Fund (JNF).

In fact, one ridge in Iqrit where houses used to be is overgrown with the JNF's iconic conifer trees, which stick out like of marker for demolished Palestinian life because they are generally much taller, and a darker shade green than indigenous trees.

Others originally from Iqrit refer to Amir, Walaa and the other camping youth as the "third generation," as they are the third generation reared after the entire community was displaced.

In November 1948, six months after Israel was officially established, troops arrived to Iqrit, which had put up no resistance during the fighting that broke out from 1947-1949.

The Israeli military expelled most of its 490 residents to another Galilee village named Rame. Told they could return in two weeks, Israeli officials instead declared Iqrit a closed military zone. (The Israel Defense Forces did the same to other villages near the Lebanon border.)

The residents, by then Israeli citizens, wanted to return to Iqrit, and appealed to the Israeli Supreme Court — the first legal volley in a decades-long struggle waged within Israel.

And in 1951, the judges ruled that Iqrit's residents should be allowed to return. But on Christmas Eve in 1951, that dream was extinguished. The Israeli Air Force bombed most of Iqrit, though they left the church and cemetery alone.

Amir's family founded the village around 270 years ago.

His 85-year-old grandfather Marrouf, who took us on a winding trek through Iqrit's ancestral lands, has been present for much of the village's recent, fraught history.

"I remember every piece," he said of his destroyed village just before launching down a steep slope from the church to where his house used to stand, with impressive agility.

"How can I reach my house!" he laughed before tall grasses that cover the old paths. And if it weren't for the grass, grazing cows from the nearby Israeli-Jewish town of Shomra would pose a problem. The cows wore down the remaining foundations with their weighty tread.



Marrouf Ashkar has witnessed much of Iqrit's recent history. (Photo: Alex Kane)

Until the 1970s a military order deemed Iqrit a closed zone. Marrouf and those of his generation lament that while they were kept away during that time, a rancher from Shomra was able to use the landscape for his cows without being hassled by Israeli authorities.

“When the military government ended (in 1966) we again went to the court to open the church for religious purposes,” said Marrouf, who helped fix up the building.

Today the walls look fresh and the ancient stones are reinforced with concrete.

He showed us the different wild flowers he used to dye Easter eggs with days before, and a sapling that replaced an unearthed fig tree.

Until he was 19, Marrouf farmed tobacco in Iqrit. Today he teaches his grandson and the other youngsters about every inch of history tucked under bushes and shrubs.

Iqrit has had almost continuous inhabitation for over 2000 years and archeological sites are dispersed throughout.

And like Amir, Maarouf also stays over night in Iqrit. Last week he slept there two nights. When it rained, he just covered his head with a newspaper and took off for one of his walks.

Marrouf's instruction to the third generation has forged a deep bond between the earth and the 20 youth who live in Iqrit today. Amir and Walaa, though they work in cities far

away, have no intention of leaving for an apartment in Haifa, or really any fixed structure, which would be more comfortable.

“This is the dream,” said Walaa before rushing back to the post-mass concert. “My dream is to live here so I can die here. A complete return; a full set.”

“Dozens” Of Zionist Scumbags Use Clubs And Knives To Attack 3 Palestinian Youths In Occupied Jerusalem



Maan Images

15/04/2014 Ma'an

JERUSALEM -- Dozens of Israeli settlers assaulted three Palestinian youths late Friday in an East Jerusalem settlement, family members told Ma'an.

Abdullah Jibrin, 21, Eyab Jibrin, 20, and 20-year-old Ghalib al-Waari sustained injuries after settlers in the settlement of Pisgat Zeev assaulted them with clubs and knives, al-Waari's father told Ma'an.

He said Abdullah Jibrin was wounded in the forehead and needed 15 stitches.

The three youths had arrived in Pisgat Zeev to withdraw money from an ATM, he said. After an Israeli settler knocked on their car window, they attempted to return to the car to drive away.

However, the settler prevented them from doing so, al-Waari's father said.

Over thirty settlers then surrounded the Palestinians and began to assault them.

At that point, Israeli police arrived, dispersing the settlers and detaining three of them.

The victims then filed a complaint with police in the nearby settlement of Neve Yaakov.

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

<http://www.maannews.net/eng/Default.aspx> and
<http://www.palestinemonitor.org/list.php?id=ej898ra7yff0ukmf16>

The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



**Cruelty And Stupidity Beyond Measure:
Government Targets Taxpayers For Their Parents' Decades-Old Debts;**

“Because Of A Debt They Never Knew About — Often A Debt Incurred By Their Parents — The Government Has Confiscated Their Check”

“They Gave Me No Notice, They Can’t Prove That I Received Any Overpayment, And They Use Intimidation Tactics, Threatening To Report This To The Credit Bureaus”



Mary Grice of Takoma Park, MD, talks with her attorney Robert Vogel, at Vogel's home in Rockville Maryland, April 5, 2014. Evelyn Hockstein/For The Washington Post -

Apr 10, 2014 By Marc Fisher, The Washington Post [Excerpts]

A few weeks ago, with no notice, the U.S. government intercepted Mary Grice’s tax refunds from both the IRS and the state of Maryland.

Grice had no idea that Uncle Sam had seized her money until some days later, when she got a letter saying that her refund had gone to satisfy an old debt to the government — a very old debt.

When Grice was 4, back in 1960, her father died, leaving her mother with five children to raise. Until the kids turned 18, Sadie Grice got survivor benefits from Social Security to help feed and clothe them.

Now, Social Security claims it overpaid someone in the Grice family — it's not sure who — in 1977.

After 37 years of silence, four years after Sadie Grice died, the government is coming after her daughter. Why the feds chose to take Mary's money, rather than her surviving siblings', is a mystery.

Across the nation, hundreds of thousands of taxpayers who are expecting refunds this month are instead getting letters like the one Grice got, informing them that because of a debt they never knew about — often a debt incurred by their parents — the government has confiscated their check.

The Treasury Department has intercepted \$1.9 billion in tax refunds already this year — \$75 million of that on debts delinquent for more than 10 years, said Jeffrey Schramek, assistant commissioner of the department's debt management service.

The aggressive effort to collect old debts started three years ago — the result of a single sentence tucked into the farm bill lifting the 10-year statute of limitations on old debts to Uncle Sam.

No one seems eager to take credit for reopening all these long-closed cases. A Social Security spokeswoman says the agency didn't seek the change; ask Treasury. Treasury says it wasn't us; try Congress. Congressional staffers say the request probably came from the bureaucracy.

Since the drive to collect on very old debts began in 2011, the Treasury Department has collected \$424 million in debts that were more than 10 years old. Those debts were owed to many federal agencies, but the one that has many Americans howling this tax season is the Social Security Administration, which has found 400,000 taxpayers who collectively owe \$714 million on debts more than 10 years old. The agency expects to have begun proceedings against all of those people by this summer.

"It was a shock," said Grice, 58. "What incenses me is the way they went about this. They gave me no notice, they can't prove that I received any overpayment, and they use intimidation tactics, threatening to report this to the credit bureaus."

Grice filed suit against the Social Security Administration in federal court in Greenbelt this week, alleging that the government violated her right to due process by holding her responsible for a \$2,996 debt supposedly incurred under her father's Social Security number.

Social Security officials told Grice that six people — Grice, her four siblings and her father's first wife, whom she never knew — had received benefits under her father's account.

The government doesn't look into exactly who got the overpayment; the policy is to seek compensation from the oldest sibling and work down through the family until the debt is paid.

The Federal Trade Commission, on its Web site, advises Americans that "family members typically are not obligated to pay the debts of a deceased relative from their own assets."

But Social Security officials say that if children indirectly received assistance from public dollars paid to a parent, the children's money can be taken, no matter how long ago any overpayment occurred.

Grice, who works for the Food and Drug Administration and lives in Takoma Park, in the same apartment she's resided in since 1984, never got any notice about a debt.

Social Security officials told her they had sent their notice to her post office box in Roxboro, N.C. Grice rented that box from 1977 to 1979 and never since.

And Social Security has Grice's current address: Every year, it sends her a statement about her benefits.

"Their record-keeping seems to be very spotty," she said.

Treasury officials say that before they will take someone's refund, the agency owed the money must certify the debt, meaning there must be evidence of the overpayment.

But Social Security officials told Grice they had no records explaining the debt.

"The craziest part of this whole thing is the way the government seizes a child's money to satisfy a debt that child never even knew about," says Robert Vogel, Grice's attorney.

"They'll say that somebody got paid for that child's benefit, but the child had no control over the money and there's no way to know if the parent ever used the money for the benefit of that kid."

Grice, the middle of five children, said neither of her surviving siblings — one older, one younger — has had any money taken by the government. When Grice asked why she had been selected to pay the debt, she was told it was because she had an income and her address popped up — the correct one this time.

Grice found a lawyer willing to take her case without charge. Vogel is exercised about the constitutional violations he sees in the retroactive lifting of the 10-year limit on debt collection.

"Can the government really bring back to life a case that was long dead?" the lawyer asked. "Can it really be right to seize a child's money to satisfy a parent's debt?"

But many other taxpayers whose refunds have been taken say they've been unable to contest the confiscations because of the cost, because Social Security cannot provide records detailing the original overpayment, and because the citizens, following advice from the IRS to keep financial documents for just three years, had long since trashed their own records.

In Glenarm, Ill., Brenda and Mike Samonds have spent the past year trying to figure out how to get back the \$189.10 tax refund the government seized, claiming that Mike's mother, who died 33 years ago, had been overpaid on survivor's benefits after Mike's father died in 1969.

"It was never Mike's money, it was his mother's," Brenda Samonds said.

"The government took the money first and then they sent us the letter. We could never get one sentence from them explaining why the money was taken." The government mailed its notice about the debt to the house Mike's mother lived in 40 years ago.

After hours on the phone trying and failing to get information about the debt Mike's mother was said to owe, the Samondses gave up.

After waiting on hold for two hours with Social Security last week, Ted Verbich also concluded it wasn't worth the time or money to fight for the \$172 the government intercepted last month.

In 1977, Verbich, now 57, was in college at the University of Maryland when he took a full-time job in an accountant's office. Because he was earning income, he knew he had to give up the survivor's benefits his mother had received since his father died, when Verbich was 4. But his \$70 monthly checks — "They helped with the car payment," he said — kept coming for a short time after he started work, and Verbich was notified in 1978 that he had to repay about \$600. He did.

Thirty-six years later, with no notice, "they snatched my Maryland tax refund," said

Verbich, a federal worker who has lived at the same address in Glendale, Md., for 30 years and regularly receives Social Security statements there. The feds insisted that he owed \$172 but could provide no documents to back up the claim.

Verbich has given up on getting his refund, but he wants a receipt stating that his debt to his country is resolved.

"I'll put in the request," a Social Security clerk told Verbich, "but in reality, you'll never get anything."

Grice was also told there was little point in seeking a waiver of her debt. Collections can only be halted if the person passes two tests, Clark said: The taxpayer must prove that he "is without fault, and repayment of the overpayment would deprive the person of income needed for ordinary living expenses."

More than 1,200 appeals have been filed on the old cases, Clark said; taxpayers have won about 10 percent of those appeals.

The Treasury initially held the full amount of Grice's federal and state refunds, a total of \$4,462. Last week, after The Washington Post inquired about Grice's case, the government returned the portion of her refund above the \$2,996 owed on her father's account.

But unless the feds can prove that she ever received any of the overpayment, Grice wants all of her money back.

"Look, I love a good fight, especially for principle," she said. "My mom used to say, 'This country is carried on the backs of the little people,' and now I see what she meant. This is really sad."

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



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

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