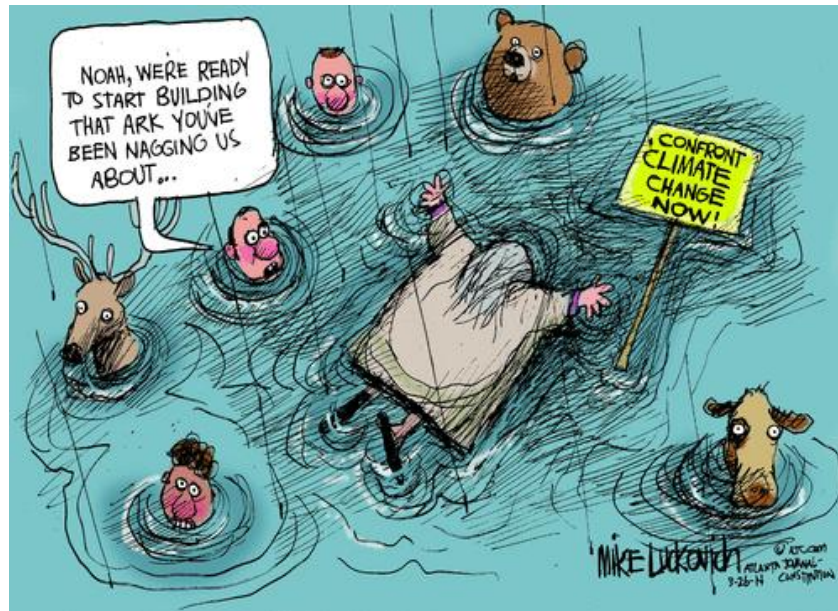


## **Military Resistance 12D2**



**In April Fools Prank, Hamid Karzai  
Thanks American Military:  
“My Three Villas In Dubai Wouldn’t  
Have Built Themselves Otherwise.  
And My Friends In Quetta Say Thanks  
For All The Target Practice”  
“Secretary Of The Army John McHugh  
Described The Prank As ‘An Insult To  
The Thousands Of Americans Who Have  
Died In Afghanistan Justifying The  
Pentagon’s Budget And Troop Levels”**



Photo Credit: ISAF Public Affairs

April 1, 2014 By G-Had, Duffel Blog

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN –

In a practical joke that has been called ‘tasteless’ and ‘vulgar’ by senior American officials, Afghan President Hamid Karzai recently used the occasion of April Fools Day to sarcastically “thank” the American military for their sacrifices in Afghanistan.

Surrounded by giggling officials at the Afghan presidential palace, Karzai attempted to keep a straight face as he read out a short speech thanking the United States military for its long commitment to Afghanistan and the billions of dollars it spent fighting the Taliban.

“We really appreciate everything you guys have done,” Karzai said, attempting to maintain a deadpan tone, despite the multiple interruptions of snickering throughout his remarks.

“My three villas in Dubai wouldn’t have built themselves otherwise. And my friends in Quetta say thanks for all the target practice. No really, you guys are awesome.”

“On behalf of the people of Afghanistan, feel free to stay for another ten years or until you finish building that microchip processing plant in Kunduz.”

He was ultimately unable to finish his speech, turning beet red himself from laughter until he had to be helped from the podium by members of his American-financed security team into his American-bought diamond-encrusted Mercedes.

Karzai made his remarks shortly after issuing a formal endorsement of Russia’s occupation of the Crimea and scheduling a high-level summit with Iranian President

Hassan Rouhani to discuss better ties between Afghanistan and “our new best friend, Iran.”

In conjunction with the speech, Karzai released a fake spreadsheet outlining his plan to use the proceeds from Afghanistan’s newly reopened opium trade to repay the United States for everything it has invested in the country.

He added that the Afghan Government would also be minting special medals for the hundreds of thousands of American service members who served in Operation Enduring Freedom, as soon as adequate stockpiles of ballonium were available.

Responding on behalf of the U.S., government, Secretary of the Army John McHugh described the prank as “an insult to the thousands of Americans who have died in Afghanistan justifying the Pentagon’s budget and troop levels.”

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



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

**Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the email address if you wish and we’ll send it regularly with your best wishes. Whether in Afghanistan or at a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to injustices, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657.**

# AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

## **Resistance Action: Insurgent Attacks Kill 18 Serving Occupation Government**



[Graphic: flickr.com/photos]

31 March 2014 BBC

Eighteen people have been killed in a series of attacks in Afghanistan, officials say, as it prepares for presidential and provincial elections.

In the northern province of Kunduz, eight family members of a local anti-Taliban commander died in an ambush.

Elsewhere, six members of two different campaign teams and a police officer were killed in bomb attacks.

The anti-Taliban militia commander apparently targeted in Kunduz on Monday, Mohammad Omar, was not in the vehicle with his family when a roadside bomb exploded beside it.

Officials said his two sons and a brother were among the dead.

In the province of Sar-i-Pul, to the west, four Afghan police officers were killed during an offensive against the Taliban.

Insurgents also captured a provincial council candidate and 10 of his entourage, Sar-i-Pul Governor Abdul Jabar Haqbeen said.

They did not have any security protection and were returning after campaigning when they were captured by the Taliban, he added.

The governor said troops were ready to carry out a rescue operation, but that local elders had said they wanted to give negotiations a chance.

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# Attack In Logar Kills Government Policemen

Mar 31 2014 By Ghanizada, Khaama Press

At least four Afghan policemen were killed or injured following a premature attack in eastern Logar province of Afghanistan.

The incident took place on Monday morning in Charkh district of Logar province, local government officials said.

Khalil Kamal, district governor for Charkh said at least one policeman was killed and three others were injured after a bomber detonated his explosives before reaching the target.

Mr. Kamal further added that the bomber was looking to enter a mosque but was recognized by Afghan security forces and detonated his explosives.

The attack comes amid ongoing military operations by Afghan security forces in Logar province to ensure stability on election days.

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# Government Candidate Captured By Insurgents In Northern Afghanistan

Mar 31 2014 By Ghanizada, Khaama Press

The anti-government armed militants captured a provincial council candidate in northern Sar-e-Pul province of Afghanistan.

According to local government officials, the incident took place on Sunday night while the provincial council candidate – Hussain Nazari was returning from Suzma Qala district.

Provincial governor Abdul Jabar Haqbin confirmed the report and said Hussain Nazari was abducted by anti-government militants on Sunday night. Mr. Haqbin further added that Hussain Nazari was contesting for provincial council seat from Balkhab district.

He said the candidate has been taken to an unknown location and Afghan security forces along with the tribal elders have stepped up efforts to free Mr. Nazari.

Sar-e-Pul is among the relatively peaceful provinces in northern Afghanistan; however the anti-government armed militants have recently increased their insurgency activities in a number of its districts. **[No shit? T]**

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# **Attack At Afghan Interior Ministry Compound: “The Bomber Was Among Other Men In Uniform Entering The Compound”**

Apr. 2, 2014 By Rahim Faiez, The Associated Press

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN — A bomber wearing a military uniform killed six police officers Wednesday inside the heavily fortified Interior Ministry compound in the heart of Kabul, authorities said, the latest in a wave of violence as the Taliban threatens to disrupt this weekend's presidential election.

Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said the death toll rose from four to six as investigators reached the site of the explosion.

The bomber walked through several checkpoints to reach the ministry gate before detonating his explosives. An Interior Ministry statement said the bomber was among other men in uniform entering the compound.

Within minutes of the blast, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the attack.

Witness Mohammad Karim, who was walking toward the gate to leave the compound, said he was blown back by the force of the blast. Police then rushed him and others into a safe room.

**Baryalai, a police officer who only gave one name as is common among Afghans, said the blast occurred near a bank that is close to the entrance gate.**

**Police officers collect their paychecks at the bank.**

The Interior Ministry primarily has responsibility for securing the elections.

Earlier Wednesday, an Afghan official said Taliban gunmen killed nine people, including a candidate running for a seat in the provincial council, who had been abducted in northern Afghanistan.

**The governor of Sar-i-Pul province, Abdul Jabar Haqbeen, said authorities received word that the candidate, Hussain Nazari, and the others were killed overnight by their abductors.**

**Haqbeen says authorities were told that Nazari and two others were beheaded.**

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**“Serious Structural Flaws In \$11 Million-Plus Baghlan Prison”**  
**“The Latest Example Of Wasted Spending In Afghanistan, Which Has Run Into Billions Of Dollars”**  
**“The 19-Month-Old Facility Will Likely Have To Be Completely Rebuilt Because Of Poor Workmanship And Inadequate Materials”**  
**“It’s Likely To Fail Again”**

The report notes that regardless of who pays for the work, it’s likely to fail again.

Documents provided by the State Department show rebuilding plans would use the same questionable materials as the first build did, which Sopko said will not fix any problems.

Apr. 2, 2014 By Leo Shane III, Staff writer; Army Times [Excerpts]

U.S. investigators found serious structural flaws in the \$11 million-plus Baghlan prison in Afghanistan without even visiting the site.

Officials from the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction say the 19-month-old facility will likely have to be completely rebuilt because of poor workmanship and inadequate materials.

Members of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform are calling it the latest example of wasted spending in Afghanistan, which has run into billions of dollars.

The prison, which sits about 200 miles north of Kabul, was designed to house about 500 inmates but has already partially collapsed because of earthquakes in the area.

**In his report, Inspector General John Sopko notes that much of the prison structure is comprised of unreinforced brick walls, which “can be compromised by removing the mortar between the bricks.”**

That's hazardous not only because of frequent seismic activity in the area, but because of the likelihood of escape attempts by inmates. "Structures not built to withstand such events could put life and property at significant risk," he wrote.

The report lays blame for the unstable structure on Afghan firms that ignored international building standards. Contracts to those companies were issued through the U.S. State Department in September 2010, and work on the facility was declared finished two years later.

It's unclear whether the Afghan contractors, the Afghanistan government or the State Department will have to pay for plans to demolish and rebuild the site, as the inspector general suggests.

**But the report notes that regardless of who pays for the work, it's likely to fail again.**

**Documents provided by the State Department show rebuilding plans would use the same questionable materials as the first build did, which Sopko said will not fix any problems.**

In 2011, the Commission on Wartime Spending estimated that the U.S. government had lost nearly \$60 billion in Iraq and Afghanistan due to poor oversight, fraud and waste.

**Since then, lawmakers have highlighted numerous other wasteful war zone projects, including \$34 million for a military headquarters in southern Afghanistan that U.S. forces never intended to occupy; \$5 million for a massive base trash incinerator that was never used; and millions in questionable fuel and vehicle purchases for Afghan allies.**

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## **MILITARY NEWS**

# **March Was First Month Without U.S. Fatalities In Iraq Or Afghanistan In 11 Years**

April 1, 2014 by Mark Thompson, Time Magazine [Excerpt]

There were no American troop casualties in Afghanistan or Iraq in March, for the first time since February 2003, ending 133 straight months when at least one U.S. service member was killed. U.S. deaths in Iraq peaked in November 2004, and in Afghanistan in August 2011.

For the first month since February, 2003, no U.S. troops died in Afghanistan or Iraq last month. That's 133 months, more than a decade.



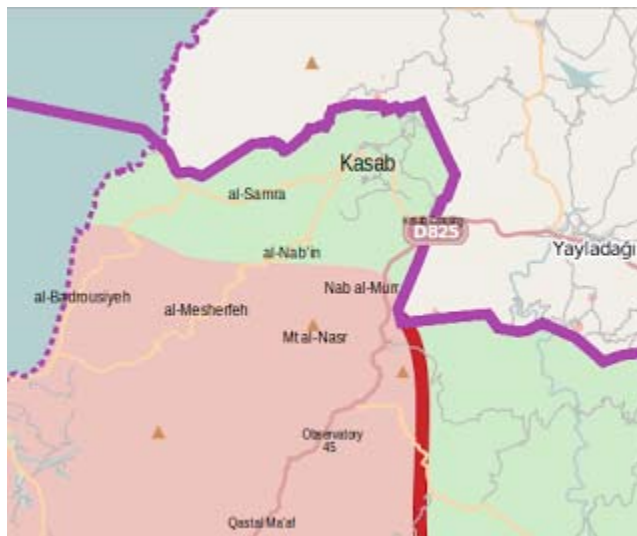
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# **Ten Day Insurgent Campaign Whips Assad Dictatorship's Forces:**

**“Taking The Area Around Kessab Gives The Opposition Its First Route To The Sea And Its First Port”**

**“The Dominate Narrative In The Media Has Been That, Slowly But Surely, The Assad Regime Is Winning The Conflict In Syria”**

**“This Has Not Been The Case On The Ground”**



**Ever since Hezbollah took back Quasyr from the opposition, the dominate narrative in the media has been that, slowly but surely, the Assad regime is winning the conflict in Syria.**

**While this has not been the case on the ground, that is how the Assad regime tells it and that is how the mainstream media spins it.**

**In service of that narrative, they generally make the most of the slightest military gain made by the regime while failing to report altogether important victories by the opposition.**

Now that the recent opposition gains in Latakia province have gotten too big to ignore, Assad and his minions are attempting to spin these rebel victories into a tale of the continuation of a holocaust carried out by Turkey against Armenians almost a hundred years ago.

The Latakia offensive was started on 21 March 2014 by the combined armed forces of four opposition groups; it began with an attack on the Kessab border crossing with Turkey.

The "Antal" campaign, as it is called, has been seven months in the making, in that time, military intelligence was gathered, ammunition was stockpiled, and extensive preparations were made.

It is being led by Ansar as-Sham of the Islamic Front, and supported by Ahrar al-Sham, also of the IF, the independent faction Sham al-Islam and the jhadist group Jabhat al-Nursa. It is also now being supported by the Free Syria Army.

The strategic goals of phase one of the Antal campaign are to liberate the Kessab border crossing and Kessab city and to relieve pressure on other rebel commands by opening a new front in Assad's heartland.

Taking the area around Kessab gives the opposition its first route to the sea and its first port.

There are also large criminal gangs that operate out of the area and murder and terrorize Syrian refugees in Turkey, and they need to be neutralized.

To accomplish this mission, it was also necessary to take the Syrian Army base at Tower 45, which is the highest point on Jebel Turkman.

The Syrian Army had been making use of its control of the high points like Tower 45 and Kessab crossing to rain down artillery shells and death on all the opposition towns below.

**All of these phase one goals have been accomplished in the first ten days of the campaign.**

The goals of phase two are TBA.

Latakia is important because even a regime that is willing to starve, gas, shell, and barrel bomb its own children to stay in power needs a loyal home base.

Latakia is majority Alawite, Assad's sect, and his ancestral home. It is also heavily Shite and Christian in this majority Sunni Muslim country.

As the French did before them, the Assad's have long cultivated a privileged position for the Alawite and used that to purchase their loyalty.

The regime has also favored the Shite and Christians of Latakia to assure a solid base of support at home, although not without significant cracks, as exemplified by Christian, Alawite and Shite fighters among the revolutionaries.

The rebels have long known that the regime won't fall until Damascus and the coast fall.

This campaign is opening a new permanent front in the armed struggle against the Assad regime.

**It is also designed to shake confident in the regime among its core supporters and provide much needed relief to opposition fighters being pressed hard by the regime on many other fronts by forcing them into withdrawing forces from those battles and sending them to defend this home turf.**

**There are important signs that this is already happening.**

**A government caravan of 25 trucks recently left Idlib and Ariha and another military convoy left Aleppo for Latakia.**

Also recent reports have Hezbollah showing its colors in Latakia and that means those fighters aren't elsewhere.

**This should be seen for what it is, a dramatic and daring military victory by the coordinated opposition that flies in the face of the "Assad is Winning" thesis that seems to be heard everywhere these days.**

Here's a recent example from one of the usual pro-Assad suspects:

"With the restoration of order in Yabroud, and with militant factions folding en masse, it appears that large-scale military operations against Syria have largely drawn to a close and are shifting instead toward a low-intensity terrorist campaign."

As you can see from the map, Assad may have real difficulties conducting air operations with modern jets over Kessab without violating Turkish air space.

**Military Resistance In PDF Format?**

If you prefer PDF to Word format, email: [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org)

## FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



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

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

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

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

**Frederick Douglass, 1852**

<p><b>I say that when troops cannot be counted on to follow orders because they see the futility and immorality of them THAT is the real key to ending a war. -- Al Jaccoma, Veterans For Peace</b></p>
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# **“One Of Russian President Vladimir Putin’s Stated Reasons**

**For Invading Crimea Was To Prevent ‘Nazis’ From Coming To Power In Ukraine”**  
**“His Regime Is Growing Closer By The Month To Extreme Right-Wing Parties Across Europe”**  
**“The Putin Government’s Cordial Relations With Europe’s Far Right Sit Oddly, To Say The Least, With His Opposition To ‘Nazis’ In The Ukrainian Government”**

March 25, 2014 By Mitchell A. Orenstein, Foreign Affairs [Excerpts]

Given that one of Russian President Vladimir Putin’s stated reasons for invading Crimea was to prevent “Nazis” from coming to power in Ukraine, it is perhaps surprising that his regime is growing closer by the month to extreme right-wing parties across Europe.

**In Hungary, for example, Putin has taken the Jobbik party under his wing.**

**The third-largest party in the country, Jobbik has supporters who dress in Nazi-type uniforms, spout anti-Semitic rhetoric, and express concern about Israeli “colonization” of Hungary.**

The party has capitalized on rising support for nationalist economic policies, which are seen as an antidote for unpopular austerity policies and for Hungary’s economic liberalization in recent years.

Russia is bent on tapping into that sentiment.

In May 2013, Kremlin-connected right-wing Russian nationalists at the prestigious Moscow State University invited Jobbik party president Gabor Vona to speak.

Vona also met with Russia Duma leaders including Ivan Grachev, chairman of the State Duma Committee for Energy and Vasily Tarasyuk, deputy chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources and Utilization, among others.

On the Jobbik website, the visit is characterized as “a major breakthrough” which made “clear that Russian leaders consider Jobbik as a partner.”

In fact, there have been persistent rumors that Jobbik’s enthusiasm is paid for with Russian rubles. The party has also repeatedly criticized Hungary’s “Euro-Atlantic connections” and the European Union.

And, more recently, it called the referendum in Crimea “exemplary,” a dangerous word in a country with extensive co-ethnic populations in Romania and Slovakia. It seems that the party sees Putin’s new ethnic politics as being aligned with its own revisionist nationalism.

**The Kremlin’s ties to France’s extreme-right National Front have also been growing stronger.**

Marine Le Pen, the party leader, visited Moscow in June 2013 at the invitation of State Duma leader Sergei Naryshkin, a close associate of Putin’s.

She also met with Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin and discussed issues of common concern, such as Syria, EU enlargement, and gay marriage.

France’s ProRussia TV, which is funded by the Kremlin, is staffed by editors with close ties to the National Front who use the station to espouse views close to National Front’s own perspective on domestic and international politics.

The National Front wishes to replace the EU and NATO with a pan-European partnership of independent nations, which, incidentally, includes Russia and would be driven by a trilateral Paris-Berlin-Moscow alliance.

Le Pen’s spokesman, Ludovic De Danne, recently recognized the results of the Crimea referendum and stated in an interview with Voice of Russia radio that, “historically, Crimea is part of Mother Russia.” In the same interview, he mentioned that he had visited Crimea several times in the past year. Marine Le Pen also visited Crimea in June 2013.

**The list of parties goes on.**

**Remember Golden Dawn, the Greek fascist party that won 18 seats in Greece’s parliament in 2012? Members use Nazi symbols at rallies, emphasize street fighting, and sing the Greek version of the Nazi Party anthem.**

The Greek government imprisoned Nikos Michaloliakos, its leader, and stripped parliamentary deputies of their political immunity before slapping them with charges of organized violence.

But the party continues to take to the streets.

Golden Dawn has never hidden its close connections to Russia’s extreme right, and is thought to receive funds from Russia.

One Golden Dawn–linked website reports that Michaloliakos even received a letter in prison from Moscow State University professor and former Kremlin adviser Alexander Dugin, one of the authors of Putin’s “Eurasian” ideology.

It was also Dugin who hosted Jobbik leader Vona when he visited Moscow.

In his letter, Dugin expressed support for Golden Dawn’s geopolitical positions and requested to open a line of communication between Golden Dawn and his think tank in Moscow.

Golden Dawn’s New York website reports that Michaloliakos “has spoken out clearly in favor of an alliance and cooperation with Russia, and away from the ‘naval forces’ of the ‘Atlantic.’”

**Finally, a cable made public by WikiLeaks shows that Bulgaria’s far right Ataka party has close links to the Russian embassy.**

Reports that Russia funds Ataka have swirled for years, but have never been verified. But evidence of enthusiasm for Russia’s foreign policy goals is open for all to see.

Radio Bulgaria reported on March 17 that Ataka’s parliamentary group “has insisted that Bulgaria should recognize the results from the referendum for Crimea’s joining to the Russian Federation.” Meanwhile, party leader Volen Siderov has called repeatedly for Bulgaria to veto EU economic sanctions for Russia.

In addition to their very vocal support for Russia’s annexation of Crimea within the EU, Jobbik, National Front, and Ataka all sent election observers to validate the Crimea referendum (as did the Austrian Freedom Party, the Belgian Vlaams Belang party, Italy’s Forza Italia and Lega Nord, and Poland’s Self-Defense, in addition to a few far-left parties, conspicuously Germany’s Die Linke).

Their showing was organized by the Russia-based Eurasian Observatory For Democracy & Elections, a far-right NGO “opposed to Western ideology.” The EODE specializes in monitoring elections in “self-proclaimed republics” (Abkhazia, Transnistria, Nagorno-Karabakh) allied with Moscow, according to its website.

The Putin government’s cordial relations with Europe’s far right sit oddly, to say the least, with his opposition to “Nazis” in the Ukrainian government.

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## **CLASS WAR REPORTS**

# **“Not A Single Representative Of Ethnic Minorities Has Yet**

# **Complained About The Worsening Of Their Position Since The Victory Of Ukrainian Democratic Revolution” “It Is With The Deployment Of Russian Troops In Crimea That Swastika Signs Appeared On The Walls Of Synagogues In Simferopol”**

13 March 2014 by Olexiy Haran, Guardian News and Media Limited [Excerpts]

One shouldn't forget that Sergey Nigoyan, the first victim of police ruthlessness in the Maidan, was an ethnic Armenian who came to support the protest from the Russian-speaking Dnipropetrovsk region in eastern Ukraine.

Jews actively joined the ranks of protesters and a religious Jew headed one of the Maidan self-defence units, passing command status to his Ukrainian deputy every Friday after the beginning of Sabbath.

Not a single representative of ethnic or other minorities has yet complained about the worsening of their position since the victory of Ukrainian democratic revolution.

Moreover, it is with the deployment of Russian troops in Crimea that swastika signs appeared on the walls of synagogues in Simferopol. And it is the chief rabbi of Ukraine Yaakov Dov Bleich who publicly suggested holding the G8 summit in Kiev to show support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

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## **The Ukrainian Disappeared: “Volodymyr Danyluk Was A Soviet Army Veteran Who Joined Demonstrations Against Ukraine’s Government Last Year” “Mr. Danyluk Disappeared From Sight”**



# **“There Has Been No Sign Of Mr. Danyluk — Or Of More Than 250 Other Missing Ukrainians”**

MARCH 9, 2014 C. J. Chivers, New York Times Company [Excerpts]

KIEV, Ukraine — Volodymyr Danyluk was a Soviet Army veteran who joined demonstrations against Ukraine’s government last year.

He was 55 years old, separated from his wife and mostly out of contact with his family, who saw him on live television during a winter of protests.

Then came the authorities’ crackdown last month in Kiev, the capital.

The riot police and demonstrators clashed, scores of people were killed and the government of President Viktor F. Yanukovych fell.

Mr. Danyluk disappeared from sight.

In the weeks since, Ukraine’s interim authorities have allowed opposition members to search prisons, morgues and hospitals for their missing.

There has been no sign of Mr. Danyluk — or of more than 250 other missing Ukrainians.

A few of the missing were people estranged from families and whose recent silence was by choice. Mr. Selyk [Vitaliy Selyk, a Euromaidan S O S coordinator] said he expected that most of the remaining cases would be solved and that the missing would turn up.

But beneath that hope lies the grim concern that many Ukrainians may have disappeared after being seized by the Berkut riot police unit, by pro-Russian provocateurs or by unofficial forces that worked to keep Mr. Yanukovych in power.

This fear, cited almost universally by the opposition, is rooted in two particular cases.

The first was the killing of Yuriy Verbytskyi, a seismologist and an opposition activist, who was found dead in January in the forest near Boryspil after being abducted from a Kiev hospital.

A fellow abductee who survived, Igor Lutsenko, told journalists that their captors spoke Russian, beat them, interrogated them about their activities in the opposition and generally behaved like police officers.

The second case was the abduction of Dmytro Bulatov, an organizer of AutoMaidan, a mobile opposition movement that includes drivers who ferried demonstrators to protests.

Mr. Bulatov disappeared in late January.

He turned up a week later, bloodied and bearing signs of torture that he said he received at the hands of people he believed were members of Russia's special services.

Abuses by the ministry's riot police have been well established, including the taunting humiliation of Mihailo Gavryluk, a farmer from western Ukraine who, upon being arrested last month, was forced to stand outside naked in the wintry cold while masked and hooded police officers posed for photographs with him.

Part of this episode was posted in a video on YouTube. In it, one officer slaps him and gives him a stern kick.

Mr. Gavryluk said the Berkut officers who arrested him tore off his clothes. "They had fun," he said, darkly.

But he noted that his luck soon turned better.

The Berkut police were busy, and often left detainees at police stations or hospitals scattered around the city.

**Mr. Gavryluk said he was taken to a hospital where veterans who fought in the Soviet war in Afghanistan and were loyal to the opposition were active.**

**The veterans quickly spirited him back to the square, he said. When the police returned to pick him up for prosecution, he was gone.**

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## DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



## OCCUPATION PALESTINE

# **Children Of The Occupation Not Growing Up In Palestine: Unarmed 14 Year-Old Butchered By Zionists While Gathering Food On Palestinian Land; “Children Were Crossing To The Lands Belonging To The Residents Of The Village**



Killed for gathering Gundelia plant leaves.

March 19, 2014 The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) via Uruknet & 21/03/2014 Ma'an & 26 Mar 2014 B'Tselem; Inquiry

In an excessive use of force, on Wednesday morning, 19 March 2014, Israeli forces killed a Palestinian child near the annexation barrier, west of Dura, southwest of Hebron, and arrested 2 others in company.

Following this crime, Israeli forces claimed that they opened fired at a Palestinian from Deir al-'Asal al-Foqa village while he was attempting to cross the wall into Israel and killed him instantly.

**The victim's brother, Abed Shawamreh, 23, denied the army's account and said the teenager had been out looking for gundelia, a thistle-type plant used in cooking. [Arabic: 'Akub]**

**"Every year, people from the village go out to pick gundelia. Today Yusef went with his friends to pick some in an area close to the wall and the army shot at them. They hit him and arrested two of his friends."**



Breach in barrier where yusef was shot: Itamar Barak, B'Tselem, 20 March 2014

**According to investigations conducted by the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR), at approximately 05:30 on the aforementioned day, Yousif Sami Salem Shawamrah (14) left the house of his uncle, 'Azmi Hasan Shawamrah, in Deir al-'Asal al-Foqa village, southwest of Dura, southwest of Hebron, to collect Gundelia from the confiscated lands, which are 1500 meters away from the west of his village behind the annexation barrier.**

For the past two years there has been a wide breach in that section of the Separation Barrier. The youths went through it and crossed the patrol road on the other side.

[Gundelia: an important food source and a well-known medicinal plant. T]

The aforementioned child went with Zahi Samir Shawamrah (12) and Montaser Jamal Shawamrah (15) to the area.

At approximately 07:00, residents of the village heard sounds of 3 gunshots coming from the wall side.

**The two surviving youths told B'Tselem field researcher Musa Abu Hashhash that they heard three or four shots as they got off the road, fired with no advance warning.**

A-Shawamreh was hit and one of his companions helped him get back to the road.

At that point, soldiers emerged from an ambush several dozen meters away.

The soldiers provided first aid to the wounded a-Shawamreh and apprehended his friends.

**Although a military base is located a mere two kilometers away, a military ambulance reached the site of the shooting only about 30 minutes later.**

A-Shawamreh was taken by the ambulance to an Israeli hospital, Soroka Hospital in Beersheba, where he was pronounced dead.

A-Shawamreh's body was then taken to 'Aliyah Hospital in Hebron, where an external examination found a single bullet wound to his left thigh.

According to the IDF Spokesperson's statement quoted in the media, troops of the Armored Corp's 77th Battalion on a proactive mission who noticed three suspicious Palestinians vandalizing the Separation Barrier began carrying out suspect arrest procedure.

As the Palestinians did not heed the soldiers' warnings, the soldiers fired and one Palestinian was hit. He was taken by Medical Corps troops to hospital, where he died of his wounds.

**By justifying the use of lethal fire in broad daylight at youths who posed no danger to any other persons, the above statement conveys a cynical lack of concern for the life of a Palestinian teenager.**

The family of Yousif Shawamrah knew from the Israeli media that their son was killed and his body was taken to "Soroka" Hospital in Beersheba in Israel.

**It should be mentioned that the annexation wall established in the aforementioned area is built of a metal fence and has two holes through which children were crossing to the lands belonging to the residents of the village behind it.**

**The a-Shawamrehs own farmland that is now separated from them by the barrier, and that land is where the three youths were heading to gather plants.**

**The decision to mount an armed ambush at a point in the barrier known to be crossed by youths, who pose no danger whatsoever to anyone, for the purpose of harvesting plants is highly questionable.**

It also indicates, at the very least, extremely faulty discretion on the part of the commanders. Moreover B'Tselem's findings are markedly different from the description given by the IDF Spokesperson: the youths made no attempt at vandalism; they were crossing through a long-existing breach, and the soldiers did not carry out suspect arrest procedure, shooting at a-Shawamreh with no advance warning.

**In reality, security forces are well aware of the fact that hundreds and even thousands of Palestinian workers regularly cross through breaches in the Separation Barrier to reach places of employment in Israel.**

PCHR strongly condemns this crime, which further proves the use of excessive force by Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians in disregard for their lives.

**PCHR also emphasizes that Israeli forces should have used less lethal means against Shawamrah and should have arrested him especially that they arrested the two other children who were with him.**

PCHR calls upon the international community to take immediate and effective action to stop Israeli crimes and reiterates its call for the High Contracting Parties to the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention to fulfill their obligations under Article 1; i.e., to respect and to ensure respect for the Convention in all circumstances, and their obligation under Article 146 to prosecute persons alleged to commit grave breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention. These grave breaches constitute war crimes under Article 147 of the same Convention and Protocol (I) Additional to the Geneva Conventions.

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## **“Dozens” Of Zionist Settlers Attack Palestinians: Palestinians Complain; Occupiers Arrest Palestinians, Of Course**

4/01/2014 Ma'an

HEBRON -- Dozens of Israeli settlers late Saturday attacked Palestinian homes in Hebron, and Israeli troops responded to complaints by detaining Palestinians, locals said.

Witnesses told Ma'an settlers from the illegal Israeli settlement of Kiryat Arba hurled rocks at Palestinian homes in the al-Jaabari and al-Raas neighborhoods of Hebron.

Resident Bassam al-Jaabari said Israeli troops escorted the settlers, who in addition to throwing stones, swore at Palestinians in the neighborhoods.

Al-Jaabari said two of his family members approached the soldiers to complain, but that instead of offering assistance, the soldiers detained the two Palestinians.

Settler violence against Palestinians and their property in the occupied West Bank is systematic and ignored by Israeli authorities, who rarely intervene in the violent attacks or prosecute the perpetrators.

In 2013, there were 399 incidents of settler violence against Palestinians in the West Bank, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

More than 500,000 Israeli settlers live in settlements across the West Bank and East Jerusalem, in contravention of international law. The internationally recognized Palestinian territories of which the West Bank and East Jerusalem form a part have been occupied by the Israeli military since 1967.

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# **Palestinians Ordered To Pay Israel To Demolish Their Own Homes: “The Buildings Belong To Palestinian Citizens Of Israel Who Refused To Be Ethnically Cleansed From Their Land When The State Was Created In 1948”**

18 March 2014 Middle East Monitor

An Israeli court has not only ruled that a number of Palestinian homes in Haifa have to be demolished but also that the home owners must pay 20,000 shekels (just under \$6,000) to the authorities to cover the costs.

The buildings belong to Palestinian citizens of Israel who refused to be ethnically cleansed from their land when the state was created in 1948.

**Most of the owners belong to the long-suffering Hamid family, which has 65 members.**

**The Israeli authorities want to displace the family and replace them with Jewish settlers.**

**According to Ata Hamid, his family have neither the means to pay for the demolition costs nor anywhere else to go. Despite living in a prosperous city, he said, like other "Arab-Israelis" they suffer grave economic circumstances.**

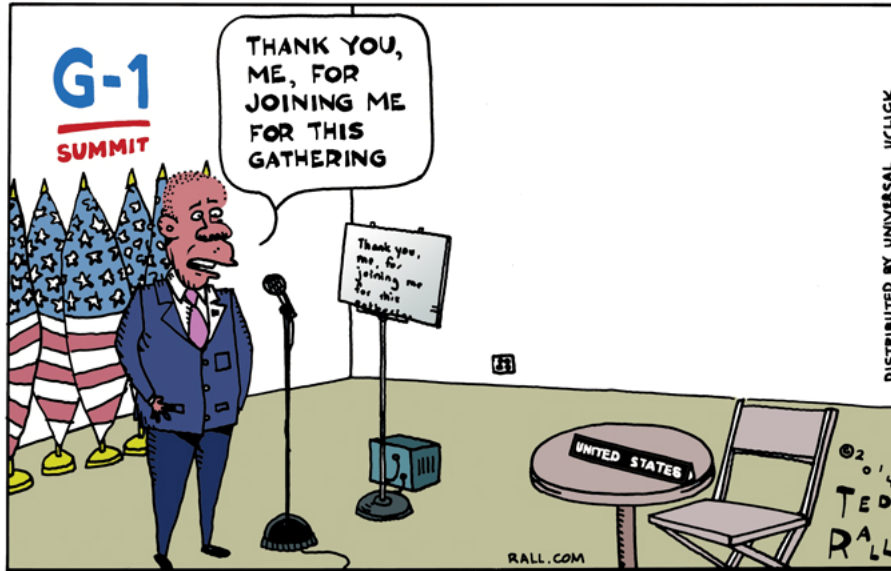
The family has called upon all the Palestinians in Haifa, Lod and Ramle to stand up in their support in the rejection of Israel's discriminatory housing policy. They have asked the municipality in Lod to take appropriate action to freeze the demolition order and protect their homes.

Sadly, dozens more Palestinian families and their homes face the same threat.

**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

RUSSIA GOT KICKED OUT OF THE G-8 OVER CRIMEA. JAPAN LEFT OVER SOME ISLANDS. ITALY'S ECONOMY TANKED. FRANCE PISSED US OFF AS USUAL. IN THE END, IT WAS DOWN TO THE COUNTRIES WE LIKE.



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**Police Attack Protest Of Murders By Police:  
“Many Of Those Killed Are ‘Chicano, Native; Many Are Homeless And Mentally Ill’”  
“The Demonstrators Marched Peaceably Shouting, ‘We Want Justice,’ Before Being Surrounded By The Police And Sprayed With Tear Gas”**



# “Protest Called In Response To The Police Shooting Death Of A Homeless Man Suffering From Mental Illness”

April 1st, 2014 By Lauren McCauley, popularresistance.org [Excerpts]

What began as a peaceful protest against the Albuquerque Police Department’s systemic abuse of force and frequent shooting of unarmed civilians spiraled into chaos Sunday evening after police officers—many mounted on horses and in riot gear—assaulted the demonstrators with tear gas.

Hundreds of New Mexico residents took to the streets of downtown Albuquerque to denounce the local authorities and call for the resignation of police chief Gorden Eden. According to the Associated Press, the uprising was fueled by growing anger over the police department’s “involvement in 37 shootings, 23 of them fatal since 2010.”

The demonstrators marched peaceably between downtown and the University of New Mexico campus shouting, “We want justice,” and other chants, before being surrounded by the police force and sprayed with tear gas.

The demonstration lasted a total of 12 hours.

Local news station KRQE reports

**“After more than nine hours of protests, APD released tear gas on a crowd on Central Avenue at 9:30 p.m. Several people were also arrested near Central and Girard, after protesters and APD officers had lined the streets. A little more than an hour later, more tear gas was released on protesters near 4th Street and Marquette.”**

The protest was an escalation of another demonstration last Tuesday, which was called in response to the March 16 police shooting death of James Boyd, a homeless man suffering from mental illness.

The FBI has opened an investigation into the Boyd killing in addition to an ongoing probe by the U.S. Justice Department into the frequent complaints of civil rights violations by the APD and reports of excessive use of force.

The leaked video depicting the murder of James Boyd has brought “a lot of people out and a lot of attention to this situation” which has been ongoing for generations, David Correia, an organizer with the Task Force for Public Safety, told Common Dreams.

According to Correia, who has been working with families of victims of APD violence, the violence in Albuquerque is not unique to this city.

However, he notes that Albuquerque suffers from some of the highest rates of police violence in the country, as well as overwhelming poverty.

Many of those killed, he says, are “chicano, native; many are homeless and mentally ill

Correia continues

“We can’t get around the fact that we are talking about [...] the intersection between law, police, poverty and violence.

**“James Boyd perfectly captured this. He laid his head down to sleep and this was a criminal act. Instead of waiting him out, the police decided to draw on their military training and militarized weapons. The only difference is that it was caught on film.**

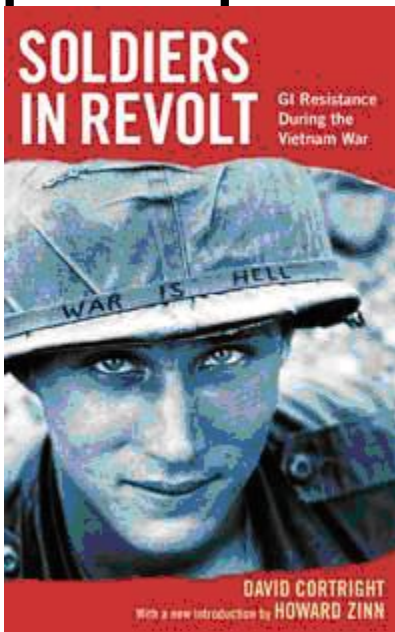
“(His murder) really draws attention to the very specific problems—violent culture, incompetent leadership (and) structural issues around poverty, criminalization of homelessness, criminalization of mentally ill—that all effects what happens on our streets.”

Organizers are meeting tonight to discuss demands as well as future direct actions which, Correia says, will happen over the course of the next two weeks.

Following the protest, witnesses posted photos and videos online of the police standoff.

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## **FREE TO ACTIVE DUTY: A Vietnam Veteran Describes The Strategy And Tactics Used By Troops To Stop An Imperial War**



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