

Military Resistance 12E6



The Enemy Attacks At Camp Pendleton:

**“Military Criminal Investigators
Raid Marine Corps Defense
Counsel Offices”**

**“Lawyer Says ‘Just Think Of The U.S.
Federal Marshals Or FBI Raiding A
Public Defender’s Office, That’s What
This Is The Equivalent To”**

“They Searched Every Attorney’s Office”

May 9, 2014 By JULIE WATSON, Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) —

In a rare move, military criminal investigators raided Marine Corps defense counsel offices at Camp Pendleton and opened case files during a 2½-hour search that could compromise scores of military criminal cases if confidential and privileged information was seen, the attorney who oversees the branch's defense lawyers for the western United States said Friday.

Investigators raided the offices last week in search for a cellphone tied to a case being tried at the base, north of San Diego, Lt. Col. Clay Plummer told The Associated Press.

"This is just unacceptable," Plummer said. "Just think of the U.S. federal marshals or FBI raiding a public defender's office, that's what this is the equivalent to. It's crazy."

Marine Corps officials say they plan to conduct an independent review of the evidence seized.

Marine Corps spokesman Jeffrey Nyhart called it a rare but lawful and valid search. Nyhart was working on getting details of the circumstances before commenting further.

The search's authorization was granted by the area commander, Plummer said, but investigators did not limit their check to the attorney's office for the case with the cellphone.

They searched every attorney's office, he said.

Plummer said his lawyers will be filing motions with the courts against the action. The seven lawyers in his offices will be contacting hundreds of clients whose cases may have been opened by government investigators.

"Our intent is we are going to fight this behavior through litigation in our courts with the hope our courts can do something so this never happens again," Plummer said.

Lawyers in the offices are handling cases for offenses ranging from an unauthorized absence to murder.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Rondout Valley Grad Shawn Farrell, 24, Killed In Action In Afghanistan

04/29/14 By Paula Ann Mitchell, Daily Freeman

STONE RIDGE

Heather Stokes heard on a public radio broadcast Monday that two soldiers had been killed over the weekend in the eastern province of Afghanistan, where their Army unit was ambushed.

On Monday night, she learned the unthinkable.

One of those killed was her 24-year-old son, Sgt. Shawn Farrell, an infantryman with the 10th Mountain Division, based in Fort Drum, N.Y.

"I didn't know it was him," she said by phone on Tuesday from her Stone Ridge home, sobbing. "I didn't even think about it when I heard it. I just heard two soldiers had died."

Farrell, a 2008 graduate of Rondout Valley High School, was shot twice Sunday in the surprise attack, said Stokes, who lives in Accord.

The family still did not have all the information about the attack and was awaiting a visit from Army representatives, and the public affairs office at Fort Drum did not respond to an inquiry from the Freeman.

Stokes said serving in the Army was something Farrell wanted to do ever since he was a child.

"I have pictures of him as a little kid dressed up in camouflage," she said.

"As soon as he turned 17, he signed up and went in," Stokes said. "In his senior year, he served with the Army National Guard reserve unit in Bullville, and after he graduated, he went in to active duty in Fort Riley, Kan."

Farrell left for his second tour of duty in Afghanistan on Nov. 18, 2013, his mother said. He first was deployed there in 2010.

Through tears, Stokes said her son had the sort of personality that drew people to him.

"He was great. He was funny. He just laughed at everything. He had the biggest heart," she said.

Farrell's father, also named Shawn, of Accord, said his son felt privileged to serve his country.

"He loved life. He loved his family. He loved to fish," the elder Farrell said.

"Up until the day he went in, he had hair down in the middle of his back. He donated it to Locks of Love (a charitable agency that helps people with cancer and other diseases that result in hair loss). He always helped other people. Shawnie was the happiest-go-lucky person in the world."

Other family members also were taking the news hard on Tuesday.

“Ever since Sept. 11, (2001), he wanted be a soldier,” said Holly Downie, Farrell’s aunt who lives in West Shokan. “He gave 150 percent to be the best that he could be, and he will be so missed.”

Farrell’s step-grandmother, Sharon Vavolizza of Stone Ridge, said Farrell got married a little more than a year ago.

Vavolizza said the family was told Farrell was flown to Germany after the attack but doctors there could not revive him.

“We were all so proud of him,” she said. “It’s such a sad day.”

The Rondout Valley school district, in a statement posted on its website, said: “This is an extremely sad day for the entire Rondout Valley community as we learned that Rondout Valley graduate Sgt. Shawn Farrell was killed while serving his country in Afghanistan. The district would like to send its condolences to his family.”

Farrell is survived by his wife, Allison, who lives in Fort Drum; his parents; his stepfather, David Stokes; three brothers and two sisters; and other relatives.

Funeral arrangements still were pending on Tuesday.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

**“The CIA Has Made Plans To
Close Its Network Of Secret Bases
In Afghanistan”**

**U.S. Military Fears “Unexpectedly
Abrupt Withdrawal Will Deprive It Of
Vital Intelligence While Thousands Of
American Troops Remain In The
Country”**

“The Plan Has Strained Relations Between The Agency And Military Commanders In Kabul”

May 10, 2014 By DAVID S. CLOUD, Tribune Washington Bureau [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON — The CIA has made plans to close its network of secret bases in Afghanistan and pull its personnel back to Kabul this summer, an unexpectedly abrupt withdrawal that the U.S. military fears will deprive it of vital intelligence while thousands of American troops remain in the country, U.S. officials said.

CIA Director John Brennan informed U.S. military commanders in March that his agency would start to shutter Afghan operations outside Kabul, the capital, removing CIA clandestine officers and analysts as well as National Security Agency specialists responsible for intercepting insurgents' communications, which have been a rich source of daily intelligence, the officials said.

Pentagon officials warn that the CIA drawdown is coming at a time when insurgent attacks normally intensify, after a winter lull.

As a result, the plan has strained relations between the agency and military commanders in Kabul, the officials said.

"They are beginning their own retrograde and they kind of sprung it on the military, which is raising concern," said a senior military official, who asked for anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss classified CIA plans.

The CIA also plans this summer to stop paying the salaries of Afghan paramilitary forces that it has armed and trained for more than a decade to help fight the Taliban-led insurgency in the country's east, near the Pakistani border.

It is unclear what will happen to the militias.

About 33,000 U.S. troops remain in Afghanistan, down from a peak of 100,000 in 2011.

Dunford [U.S. Marine Corps Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr., the top commander in Afghanistan] is continuing to push for keeping more than 10,000 American troops to continue training and advising the Afghan military and police, as well as for counterterrorism operations, officials said.

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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 Social-Democrats ideal should not be the trade union secretary, but the tribune of the people who is able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression no matter where it appears no matter what stratum or class of the people it affects; who is able to generalize all these manifestations and produce a single picture of police violence and capitalist exploitation; who is able to take advantage of every event, however small, in order to set forth before all his socialist convictions and his democratic demands, in order to clarify for all and everyone the world-historic significance of the struggle for the emancipation of the proletariat.”

-- V. I. Lenin; What Is To Be Done

What American Soldiers Didn't Know



A recent album cover from Rage Against The Machine. Photograph by Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: May 08, 2014
Subject: What American Soldiers Didn't Know

What American Soldiers Didn't Know

On June 11, 1963, a Buddhist monk by the name of Thich Quang Duc, set himself on fire at a busy intersection in Saigon. He was protesting the religious discrimination against Buddhists by the Catholic regime of dictator Diem, who was America's political puppet in what was then

South Vietnam.

99.9% of the American people thought this monk was insane for what he did.

Fast forward 10 years, and the United States of America would drop 400,000 tons of Napalm on Vietnam, killing and seriously injuring three to four generations of Vietnamese, often in the same household.

How in the world did I travel halfway around the world as a young soldier, and participate in such madness?

The truth of the matter is, I didn't know anything about Vietnam, and America's long history of imperialism.

And, not knowing anything, was the beginning of a long journey that led me to the annihilation of my beliefs.

Obedience was the path I trusted.

I thought America was the greatest country in the world.

400,000 tons of Napalm dropped on a country that had a two thousand year history of fighting foreign invaders. Napalm, was just one of countless weapons used by the most powerful country in the world against one of the poorest countries in the world.

Day after day, it was David against everything the United States Military had.

Just maybe... that was one of the reasons that monk set himself on fire.

What Americans didn't know, would eventually play out as one of the greatest lies of American history.

A so-called insane monk sets himself on fire, while America drops 400,000 tons of Napalm on his country.

One small ball of fire for one man, tens of thousands killed and injured by a highly explosive gasoline jelly that reaches the temperature of 1,200 degrees Celsius.

The price of freedom for Vietnam's independence was unfathomable.

Mike Hastie

Army Medic Vietnam

May 7, 2014

Photo and caption from the portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

Mike Hastie U.S. Army Medic

Vietnam 1970-71 December 13, 2004

Navy Accidentally Appoints Career Counselor Who Helps Sailors Advance Their Careers



Career counselor students learn how to effectively ruin someone's career. (Photo Credit: US Navy)

April 30, 2014 By drew, The Duffle Blog

NORFOLK, Va. — The officers and crew of the *USS George H.W. Bush* were shocked when the aircraft carrier was appointed a Command Career Counselor who wanted to help sailors advance their careers, Duffel Blog has learned.

Navy Counselor Senior Chief Michael Jones has angered several people in the three months he's been onboard.

"Senior Chief Jones has been working hard as our career counselor," Command Master Chief John Walsh said, noting that he always does paperwork on time, responds to emails, and even learned the names of the sailors he works with.

"This is unacceptable. He disobeyed orders and transferred 12 hard-working sailors off the ship for training and career development. His job is to keep people onboard for as long as possible to ensure our decks remain swept."

Noting that Jones had actually made her show up to training yesterday, Boatswain's Mate First Class Amanda Lee was incredulous.

"It's unbelievable," Lee said. "He told me I had to attend because I was the departmental career counselor. He expected me to know my collateral duty."

“I mean, jeez. What a slave driver,” she added.

While Chief Jones told reporters he “just wanted to help people” when asked why he wanted to be a career counselor, a Duffel Blog investigation found that type of comment was borderline insubordination, according to Navy regulations.

Navy Instruction KFGKSBT38958747.156D states the proper reason for sailors to cross-rate to Navy Counselor is to have a job that has little oversight, no accountability, and a way to blame all mistakes on other people.

“The Navy’s greatest asset is its sailors, and if I can further their careers, everyone benefits,” Jones said, completely flouting his duty to the Navy and the U.S. Constitution.

“I miss our last counselor, Chief Landers,” said Airman Cynthia Hope.

“He was great, and the reason I’ve been an E-3 for two years. I tried to submit an officer packet four times, and each time I did he held onto it until the deadline passed, then blamed me for turning it in on time. Every six months or so he’d meet with the entire department, list off a bunch of jobs in the Navy, and then walk off. What a great guy.”

CLASS WAR REPORTS

**Report From Ukraine:
“A Mass Organised Workers
Movement Is Present Without A
Doubt In Ukraine”**

**“In Krasnodon, Luhansk Oblast
During A General Strike Here The
Miners Took The City Under Their
Control”**

“It Has Appeared In Kryviy Rih When The Miners’ Self Defence Brigade Prevented The Escalation Of Violence In That City”

“In Chervonohrad, Lviv Oblast, They Intervened In The Political Process And Then De-Facto Nationalised The Local Electricity Power Station”

7 May 2014 Left Opposition statement, Observer Ukraine. Published here:
<http://gaslo.info/?p=5217> Translated from the Ukrainian by Marko Bojcun

The mass killing of people in Odessa on 2 May cannot be justified in any way.

The socialist union Left Opposition is convinced that “Whoever the deceased people on both sides are, the force used against the majority of them clearly exceeded any needed exercise of it in self defence. It is necessary to undertake an all-sided investigation of these events and to personally expose the provocateurs and the killers, who more than likely appeared there from all sides of the confrontation”.

We are unable at the present time to name the people responsible for these murders, their organisations or groups. However, we can see the political consequences of the Odessa massacre and we cannot but see that left wing political organisations are among those that carry political responsibility for it.

Without a doubt the violence was directed and organised in the first instance by ultranationalist and chauvinist groups who quite consciously kill people and try to exploit the blood of the deceased to whip up bestial nationalist hysteria in society, which to their way of thinking should “mobilise the nation” against its “its enemies”.

Really, that is perhaps the only way to achieve their dreamed-of nazi dictatorship, which can be established only through bloodletting and the intimidation of people.

This will become possible only if in Ukraine Russians will see a Banderite murderer in every Ukrainian, while Ukrainians will see in every Russian a potential “saboteur from Russian Military Intelligence”.

Unfortunately, we have come far too close to the boundary beyond which this can really happen.

However, there appeared in Odessa on 2 May on opposing sides of the barricades people, including activists of left wing organisations, who only a year ago were making

part in common protests against restrictions on the freedom to assemble peacefully and against the introduction of an enslaving Labour Code.

Activists of the “Borot’ba” (Struggle) union appeared on the side led by the right wing chauvinists of the “Odesa druzhina” (Odessa Guard). On the other side anarchists and anti-fascists took part in actions that were actually directed by their opponents, in particular the right wing football ultras. The latter group distinguished themselves by their particular brutality against opponents.

The left organisations were unable to put forward an independent, distinct working class programme. To say nothing of not being unable to take the lead of a mass movement, they did not distance themselves, nor even manage to retrain the masses of people from fratricidal violence under nationalist slogans.

These leftists ended up in the snare of uncritical support for a relatively large movement which in recent times has almost completely departed from the socio-economic order of the day and changed it into a nationalist one. At that moment for the protesters in Odessa the ability or inability, in the last instance the right, of the Ukrainian state to exist unfortunately carries more weight than the labour rights of the Ukrainian working class of all nationalities.

Instead of a strategy to remove the capitalist oligarchies from power in Ukraine and Russia there is a discussion under way as to whether the creation of a Ukrainian state was a “misunderstanding” or “a historical mistake”.

Its no surprise that by and large the workers of the big factories in Eastern and Central Ukraine are not taking part in mass protest actions.

Anti-Maidan and pro-Maidan actions are on the whole poorly attended and in no way can they be compared to the one-hundred-thousand strong mobilisations of Kievans during the Euro-Maidan in January and February this year.

Armed radicals remain a small group of adventurists even in Sloviansk, where they have seized power and clearly are holding on only by intimidating the local population who quite logically don’t want to become the victims of the Anti-Terrorist Operation of the Government.

It is very doubtful whether a majority of the residents of Sloviansk support the monarchist idea of resurrecting “the one and indivisible” (Russia –translator), which is openly proclaimed by the Russian officer Strelkov-Hirkin, “commander-in-chief” of the Donetsk People’s Republic.

At the same time it is clear that neither do they want to see in Sloviansk the “little green men” of Strelkov nor any other soldiers. After all, they understand only too well that with the continuation of the Anti-Terrorist Operation fighting will start sooner or later in the inhabited homes of the town and they will be the first to suffer – the peaceful local inhabitants.

The workers of Sloviansk and Kramatorsk by and large are not taking part in the stand-off, but continue each day to drive through the checkpoints to work. The question of a general strike has not even been raised here. Local lumpen-criminal gangs and old

people who dimwittedly pine with nostalgia for the USSR are the main supporters of the “Sloviansk junta”.

At the same time a mass organised workers movement is present without a doubt in Ukraine.

It has appeared in Kryviy Rih when the miners’ self defence brigade prevented the escalation of violence in that city during the attempts by “titushky” (thugs hired by the authorities and employers – translator) to attack the local Maidan.

The workers showed themselves also in Chervonohrad, Lviv oblast, where they intervened in the political process and then de-facto nationalised the local electricity power station, which belongs to Rinat Akhmetov, the oligarch.

The workers movement has shown itself even more powerfully in Krasnodon, Luhansk oblast.

During a general strike here the miners took the city under their control.

It is significant that they did not want to ally themselves with the Luhansk separatist “anti-Maidan,” nor did they declare support for the bourgeois oligarchic leaders of the Kyiv Maidan.

They had their own Maidan, of the workers, armed with slogans for social justice and seriously intent on realising these slogans, unlike the Kyiv Maidan.

The workers were demanding not only an increase in their wages, but also an end to outsourcing for supplementary workers in the mines.

Thus it was not a narrowly economic strike, but a movement that raised the need for solidarity between workers of different skills, a movement sufficiently powerful to take the whole city under its control.

And in doing that there was no violence, there were no casualties or victims! The city was taken not only without a single shot fired, but without anyone offering even half hearted resistance.

Understandably, a workers’ movement organised on a national scale is still very weak.

Truly active, class conscious workers’ unions are concentrated in a few centres of the mining industry.

However, it is also the case that only where the workers really intervene in a confrontation that it becomes possible to avoid mass casualties and to calm down chauvinistic hysteria.

Indeed, the emergence into the political arena of an independent, class workers’ movement remains perhaps the last chance for the survival of today’s Ukrainian state and the prevention of a civil war which is unfolding before our very eyes.

If the scenarios of dismemberment of Ukraine come to pass we will not be able to avert an explosion of violence and massive casualties. Alongside that the confrontation will assume more and more an international and interethnic character, not at all a class one.

When the war in Yugoslavia was only just beginning the ultra-right forces were also very weak and marginalised. They had no more support in society than Yarosh and Tiahnybok, with their microscopic ratings, have today. However, less than a year into the war Serb and Croat nazis started to dominate in the Yugoslav political arena and turned themselves into big mass organisations.

If the miners of Luhansk, Donetsk, Lviv and Dnipropetrovsk regions cannot by their joint efforts stop this war we will all be dragged into its meat grinder. In that event a left movement in Ukraine will truly be destroyed for many years to come. It is doubtful whether it will survive in Russia either.

Workers of Krasnodon and Kryviy Rih urgently need your solidarity and support!

The Krasnodon strike has not ended, but only been suspended during negotiations. In Kryvyj Rih the miners are also preparing to strike in the event their demands are not met.

No support to chauvinists regardless of the flags under which they stand!

For an independent and united workers' Ukraine!

For an independent workers and social movement!

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: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

**One Of China's Largest Strikes
In Recent Memory, Involving
40,000 Workers:
"In A Sign That Labor Unrest Is
Rising, There Have Been More**

Than 200 Strikes, Including 85 In The Manufacturing Sector, In The Past Two Months Alone” “He Doubts The Company Will Be More Respectful Of Workers’ Demands Without A Major Change In The Government’s Attitude” “Capitalists Will Always Be Capitalists”

May 7, 2014 by Dan Levin, New York Times [Excerpts]

DONGGUAN, China — The call to action, carried by social media to thousands of smartphones across this bleak factory town, roused the workers from their jobs making Nike and Adidas sneakers.

Their Taiwanese employer, Yue Yuen Industrial Holdings, the world’s largest manufacturer of branded athletic shoes, had for years underpaid the social security contributions that employees were counting on for retirement.

News of the shortfall, discovered and disseminated by a newly retired worker, stirred familiar resentments.

But it was the company’s refusal to make amends that led to one of China’s largest strikes in recent memory, involving 40,000 workers who stayed off assembly lines for two weeks and cost Yue Yuen about \$27 million in losses.

Last week, after government officials stepped in to resolve the impasse, the company announced it would make up the missing payments and start fully funding worker pensions as required by Chinese law.

The strike also highlights the increasing potency of social media despite the government’s best efforts to limit news and information that might inspire workers to stand up to employers who can fire troublemakers at will — or call on the police to jail labor organizers.

“Chinese workers now have greater bargaining power, and they know how to use this power,” said Geoffrey Crothall, communications director at China Labor Bulletin, an advocacy group in Hong Kong.

Independent trade unions are illegal in China, and government-backed unions are more interested in quickly defusing labor disputes than delivering on worker grievances. For

years, a seemingly limitless supply of pliable young workers, many of them uneducated migrants from China's rural hinterland, ensured that the factory owners could dictate wages and work hours.

But that power dynamic has begun to shift, fueled in part by increasing opportunities in the country's expanding service sector and a shrinking work force. The mounting labor shortage has strengthened the hand of Chinese workers, who increasingly demand better work conditions, higher pay and perks like days off.

Last year, China's 269 million migrant workers earned an average of \$410 a month, an increase of nearly 14 percent from 2012 and almost twice the growth rate in the nation's gross domestic product.

These gains do not come easily. In recent years, workers across the country have been turning their aspirations into action, staging more than 1,100 strikes and protests between June 2011 and the end of 2013, according to China Labor Bulletin.

In a sign that labor unrest is rising, there have been more than 200 strikes, including 85 in the manufacturing sector, in the past two months alone, the group said.

Technology is aiding that trend. Better educated than their parents and as nimble on a computer as they are on an assembly line, blue-collar workers have become well versed in labor law, less tolerant of onerous schedules and more willing to share complaints beyond their immediate circle of co-workers.

Perhaps most worrisome to Chinese authorities, during the Yue Yuen strike, workers and administrative staff joined together largely without the help of protest leaders, who can be easily neutralized by the police.

Employees turned to social media and spread messages faster than censors could stop them.

Their most effective weapon was the popular mobile messaging program Weixin, which has nearly 300 million users in China and is also known by its English name, WeChat.

"Before, we were naïve and always getting tricked," said Xiao Zhixiong, 30, a migrant from China's central Hunan Province who makes sneaker molds. "Now, we're learning to be smart."

Sprawled along a fetid river that winds through Gaobu township, the No. 3 Yue Yuen complex includes factories, dormitories and a basketball court.

Just beyond the gates, fruit vendors and noodle restaurants compete for workers' hard-earned cash, as does a sleek Footzone shoe store owned by the company.

Above its doors, a purple billboard advertising Nike Air Max sneakers is emblazoned with the word "defy" — an exhortation that might sound empowering to Western consumers, but is downright subversive in China.

On April 14, defy is what tens of thousands of workers did.

A month earlier, Yue Yuen employees discovered that the company was calculating pension contributions on their base wages, rather than total incomes that included lucrative overtime.

Despite sporadic street protests and entreaties to the government-backed union, the company repeatedly rejected their demands for the unpaid benefits, as well as a pay raise and an improved contract, workers said.

“The factory director told us, ‘If you’re looking for us to repay, I can tell you it’s not going to happen,’ ” said Liu Hai, 52, an assembly line worker who attended a morning meeting of management and a group of employees. “That afternoon, people just started walking off little by little.”

Fueled by social media, the trickle became a flood. Huge crowds gathered outside the factory gates, while others just sat idly at their workstations. Mr. Liu, who earns a monthly base wage of \$210 after 20 years with the company, was careful not to protest outside, where thousands of police officers stood guard.

Though the police interrogated Mr. Liu for his online comments, forcing him to sign a document promising not to cause trouble, he remained defiant.

“We’re fighting for our rights,” he said recently over a plate of stir-fried pig intestines. “Even if I go to prison I won’t regret it.”

While Yue Yuen agreed to reimburse pension contributions and increase a monthly living subsidy by \$37, the outcome is something of a Pyrrhic victory for its workers. In order to claim the past benefits, employees must pay matching funds, which for many amounts to years of savings they do not have.

“Worker wages are barely enough to feed their families now,” said Wang Kongxia, 38, who has worked at Yue Yuen for 19 years. “A lot of people feel quite helpless.”

Despite those misgivings, workers say, Chinese authorities and Yue Yuen used subterfuge to force employees back to the assembly lines.

According to Ms. Wang, factory management removed the time clocks for four days this week, requiring employees to sign in every two hours or be fired.

Supervisors were also asked to photograph each employee. “We didn’t do it,” she said.

Yue Yuen did not respond to repeated phone calls requesting comment.

Zhen Fanfei, 35, has gone back to making Adidas midsoles, but he doubts the company will be more respectful of workers’ demands without a major change in the government’s attitude.

“Capitalists will always be capitalists,” he said.

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**Foreign Terrorists Attack
Bedouin Village At 2 AM:
“Families Were Forced Out Of
Their Homes At Gunpoint
“The Israeli Army Told Them That
They Were Not Allowed To Stay In
The Area And Had To Leave
Immediately”**

“We Have Nowhere To Go. This Is Our Land, Our Homes. Where Should We Go?”



Photo by ISM

30th April 2014 International Solidarity Movement, Nablus Team

Khirbet al-Taweel, Occupied Palestine

On Tuesday the 29th of April, at 02:00AM, the Israeli army arrived at the small Bedouin village of Khirbet al-Taweel to demolish several structures claiming that they were built without permits. In total, three houses, several animal shelters and the village's mosque were destroyed.

Khirbet al-Taweel has an approximate population of 180 inhabitants. 30 of them are now without homes because of the demolitions, 17 of which are children; the youngest child is only one-year old.

Three families were forced out of their homes at gunpoint at 02.00AM.

They had no time to collect their belongings and were only able to take the most necessary items before the demolitions started. The Israeli army took two hours to carry out the demolitions, until 04:00AM, destroying three houses and the village mosque, which was built in 2008.

The three families also lost their water tanks to the demolitions carried out by the Israeli army. In order to get drinking water, they now have to walk 30 minutes uphill to get to the nearest town (Aqraba), and then back.

During the day, the Red Crescent provided the families with some tents.

However according to one of the women who were evicted, the Israeli army told them that they were not allowed to stay in the area and had to leave immediately.

The woman stated that: “We have nowhere to go. This is our land, our homes. Where should we go?”

During the past five years, Khirbet al-Taweel has had many demolitions.

According to several local villagers, this is a strategy from the Israeli authorities to force local populations to move, and thus expand the illegal farming settlements, located on the other side of the mountain from Khirbet al-Taweel.

“Israel’s Relentless Persecution Of Shireen Issawi, Who Is A Prominent Lawyer And Vocal Activist”

“Her Family Has Not Been Allowed To Attend Her Hearings In A Military Court”

“Israel Is Targeting The Lawyers Who Visit Political Prisoners And Work With Prisoners And Their Families”

2 May 2014 by Patrick O. Strickland, The Electronic Intifada

Because her family has been repeatedly targeted for arrest and imprisonment since Israeli forces occupied their village in 1967, Layla Issawi, better known as Um Rafaat, has not shared a meal with all seven of her living children at the same time in more than a decade.

On Wednesday 29 April, an Israeli judge postponed the trial of Um Rafaat’s daughter, Shireen Issawi, who is a prominent lawyer and vocal activist. Shireen’s next hearing is scheduled for 7 May.

Shireen, who is the sister of the released hunger striker Samer Issawi, was arrested on 6 March and subsequently charged with passing information obtained from Palestinian prisoners in Israeli lockup to “hostile parties,” as well as charges related to transferring money to political groups banned by Israel.

“The charges are false,” Um Rafaat told The Electronic Intifada. “Shireen hasn’t worked as a lawyer for more than three years.”

On Saturday 26 April, Shireen’s father, Tareq, and Um Rafaat hosted a group of Palestinian students, solidarity activists and journalists and spoke about Israel’s detention of Shireen.



Shireen Issawi with Samer after his release from prison, December 2013. (Saeed Qaq / APA images)

Shireen’s family has so far been denied requests to visit her in prison.

But Mariam Barghouti, an activist who was recently arrested and released on bail, shared a cell with Shireen in Israel’s Hasharon military prison in the northern part of the occupied West Bank.

“She stressed that Israel is targeting the lawyers who visit political prisoners and work with prisoners and their families,” Barghouti told The Electronic Intifada. “She’s very thin and her weight got down to around 39 kilos [86 pounds] at one point.”

“She had been held in solitary in Moskobiyyeh,” she added, referring to the Russian Compound interrogation center in Jerusalem.

“She said she is experiencing a lot of back pain from the positions she is handcuffed (in) ... we sat on metal chairs in small cells in the buses (in which) we were transferred from detention centers.”

At around 4pm on 6 March, as a helicopter circled above Issawiyeh — a village in occupied East Jerusalem — Israeli forces swarmed the neighborhood and surrounded the Issawi home. Um Rafaat was helping her small granddaughter wash her hands when she noticed them from the window.

“They were dressed like riot police with helmets and weapons. They broke down the front door and came into the house,” she recalled, adding that she warned Samer to stay put in his room as dozens of Israeli police and intelligence officers began to search the home.

As her granddaughter started crying, an officer presented Um Rafaat with a search warrant in Hebrew, a language that she does not understand.

“They tore apart Shireen’s room,” she added. “They took her clothes, books, personal possessions, computer and telephone.”

The police searched the other rooms and confiscated a number of items, including more telephones, computers and two iPads. These items have yet to be returned to the Issawi family.

Around the same time, Shireen was detained at a checkpoint. Her brother Shadi was arrested elsewhere in Jerusalem that same day, but he was later released.

After being transferred to several detention centers in present-day Israel and the occupied West Bank, Shireen was recently moved to Hasharon prison. Her family has not been allowed to attend her hearings in a military court, which generally last between five and ten minutes and result in a postponement.

Um Rafaat has little hope for justice in Israel’s military courts, which have a more than 99 percent conviction rate against Palestinians, according to a military document leaked to the Israeli daily Haaretz in 2011

(“Nearly 100 percent of all military court cases in West Bank end in conviction, Haaretz learns”).

Five other lawyers were arrested on related charges around the same time. Though Shireen and another lawyer are still behind bars, four have already been released.

One of the five lawyers, Amjad Safadi, committed suicide after allegedly having been tortured during his 45-day detention (“Group: Lawyer commits suicide after ‘torture’ in Israeli jail,” Ma’an News Agency, 29 April 2014).

At the latest hearing, the Israeli prosecution claimed that Shireen should not be released on bail because she has a history of legal problems with Israel’s occupation authorities. The prosecution also alleged that she was responsible for the actions of the other lawyers.

According to statistics published by Addameer, a prisoner support group, Shireen was one of at least twenty Palestinian female prisoners held by Israel at the beginning of April. In total, more than 5,200 Palestinian prisoners are detained or imprisoned by Israel — 202 of whom are children.

“It’s clear that they are targeting Shireen because of how active she was in raising support for Samer during his hunger strike,” said Um Rafaat.

Israel has time and again inflicted tragedy on the Issawi family, noted Um Rafaat, who said she spent six months in an Israeli prison without being charged following Israel’s occupation of the West Bank in 1967.

During the first intifada, the Issawi family suffered frequent raids by Israeli forces, who tore through and confiscated their possessions and searched every crevice of their home.

The year 1987 “was the first time one of my children was arrested,” Um Rafaat explained. “Rafaat was 14 years old and Medhat 13 years old ... they were arrested and missed their school exams.”

“Since that time, my kids have been arrested again and again,” she said. “It’s like I’m not the one who raised them.”

In 1994, at a peaceful march against the killing of 29 Palestinian worshippers in a Hebron mosque, an Israeli soldier shot and killed Um Rafaat’s son Fadi on his sixteenth birthday.

Another son, Medhat, was arrested yet again on 30 March this year for activities related to prisoner solidarity.

He has already spent more than twenty years in Israel’s prisons for his involvement in the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a left-wing Palestinian political party.

In an article for the Al-Monitor website last year, Shireen wrote, “My brothers Rafaat, Firas and Shadi have spent a combined 25 years in Israeli prisons” (“My mother inspired us to fight for Palestinian rights”).

Shortly after Samer’s release, Israeli authorities in Jerusalem delivered the Issawi family a demolition order on their home (“Israeli police, inspectors storm home of Samer Issawi,” Ma’an News Agency, 21 January 2014).

And Rafaat, the oldest of the siblings, was previously forced to watch Israeli bulldozers level his nearby home on 3 January 2013, although he was reportedly never delivered a demolition order (“House demolitions: Zionism’s constant background noise,” +972 Magazine, 17 June 2013).

The Issawi family is also being denied many municipal services, such as water, by the Israeli authorities.

According to the family, an official from the Israeli-controlled Jerusalem municipality removed its water meter while Samer was on hunger strike.

Rima Awwad, a representative of the Jerusalemites Campaign, a group that advocates Palestinian rights in the occupied city, explained that Israeli authorities crack down on all dissent in Jerusalem.

“Israel targets Jerusalemites who are outspoken against the illegal occupation,” Awwad told The Electronic Intifada.

“There is a clear pattern here that is aimed at intimidating activists and future activists into silence, or even collaboration.”

She added that the families of prisoners were burdened by “a great deal of emotional and financial pressure,” including the “inevitable concern for their (imprisoned) relative, the loss of that individual’s income, high legal aid and visitation expenses, and further threats and harassment by Israel’s occupation forces.”

Targeting activists and their families in Jerusalem, said Awwad, is part of a broader policy designed to “create an unlivable environment in Jerusalem” and “drive the Palestinian population from the city.”

Despite her family’s painful history, Um Rafaat refuses to feel sorry for herself.

“This is not just my life,” she said. “This is the life of all Palestinian mothers. There are families in Gaza with three or four martyrs each ... and Israel has killed some entire families there.”

Zionist Occupation Regime Celebrates World Press Freedom Day By Attacking Palestinian Press

04 May 2014 The Middle East Monitor

The Israeli army attacked a peaceful protest organised by Palestinian journalists on Saturday near Beit El military barrier in the occupied West Bank.

The protest was organised to mark World Press Freedom Day.

Soldiers are reported to have fired stun grenades and tear gas at the journalists, who shouted slogans demanding freedom of movement for Palestinian media professionals and protection from Israeli violations of their rights.

The head of the Journalists’ Union, Abdel Nasser Al-Najjar, who took part in the protest, said, “Our message on World Press Freedom Day is that we want guarantees and protection for our freedom of work and movement.” He urged an end to Israeli aggression against his members and all other journalists working in Palestine.

Al-Najjar pointed out that the media plays an important role in exposing Israeli practices and crimes against Palestinians, and in defending human rights. He noted that hundreds of journalists and media workers have been injured in the occupied Palestinian territories over the past five years, through physical abuse and due to suffocation from the gas fired at them by the Israelis.

A new report issued by the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights on Saturday highlighted the fact that Israeli attacks on journalistic freedom are on the increase.

Silencing the Press: documentation of the Israeli forces' violations against the press crews working in the Occupied Palestinian Territory covers the period between January 2013 and March 2014; it documents 135 cases of assaults against journalists, violating journalists' right to life and personal safety and subjecting them to beatings and other violence, as well as humiliation and degrading treatment.

"The Israeli army used excessive force indiscriminately and disproportionately against journalists in ways unjustified by any military necessity," the report alleges.

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



Poll: Millions Of Americans Who Need Jobs Want Congress To Get To Bottom Of This Benghazi Thing First



May 9, 2014 by Andy Borowitz, The Borowitz Report

WASHINGTON — Millions of unemployed Americans who have fruitlessly been looking for work for months are determined that Congress get to the bottom of what happened in Benghazi, a new poll indicates.

According to the survey, job-seeking Americans hope that Congress will eventually do something about job creation, but they are adamant that it hold new hearings about Benghazi first.

By a wide majority, respondents to the poll “strongly agreed” with the statement “I would really like to find a job, but not if it in any way distracts Congress from my No. 1 concern: finding out what really happened in Benghazi.”

In related findings, a survey of Americans found that taxpayers overwhelmingly consider Benghazi hearings to be the best use of taxpayer money, well ahead of schools, roads, and infant nutrition.

In the House of Representatives, Speaker John Boehner released the following statement: “I want to reassure the American people that, until we have completed our Benghazi investigations, there will be absolutely no action on job creation, infrastructure, immigration, education, housing, or food.”

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



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