

## **Military Resistance 12E8**



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in with caption. She writes: "I hear this medal is made of plastic."]

## **Doubletalk Of The Year, So Far:**

May 13 2014 By Ghanizada, Khaama Press

The U.S. special envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan, James Dobbins has said that the US-led military presence in Afghanistan will remain "significant" despite military withdrawal from the country this year.

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Arizona Command Sgt. Maj. Dies Of Afghanistan Wounds**

May 15, 2014 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No: NR-248-14

Command Sgt. Maj. Martin R Barreras, 49, of Tucson, Arizona, died May 13, in San Antonio Military Medical Center, Joint Base San Antonio, Texas, from wounds suffered

on May 6, in Harat Province, Afghanistan, when enemy forces attacked his unit with small arms fire.

He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Fort Bliss, Texas.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE  
BLOODSHED**

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

## **Resistance Action**

May 15, 2014 by Atullah Mohmand, WNA

KANDAHAR CITY: Three Afghan border officials were killed and five others wounded, when a group of bombers attacked their posts in southern province of Kandahar, where the governor office said Thursday the assailants had been perished after less than an hour clash.

A group of five member bombers had been targeted by the security forces before reaching their goal of slamming their explosives laden vehicle to target the forces outposts along the border.

The women costume disguised attackers were recognized by security forces and killed in Sardar area of Spin Buldak, a restive border district, said the governor office in the statement.

Two of the bombers first detonated their explosives laden car, with the remaining three started gunfire at the security forces, said the statement adding the bombers had been eliminated.

The statement confirmed death of three border guards and injury of five others during the brief clash.

Sardar is an area in Spin Buldak district of the province, where insurgents usually turn into the country's border province to attack the security forces.

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**MILITARY NEWS**

# **Syrian Rebels Use 60 Tons Of Explosives To Blow Up Army Base In Major Hit Against Assad Regime: “Another Attack Like This And We Won’t Even Need To Move In To Take The Base”**

May 15, 2014 REUTERS

Rebels detonated 60 tons of explosives packed underneath a large Syrian army base, blowing a hillside hundreds of yards into the air, an insurgent in the operation who provided footage of the attack said Thursday.

The casualty toll from the blast was not immediately known.

An Islamic Front commander said that his brigade dug a 850-metre (2,800-foot) tunnel underneath Wadi al-Deif base, which is surrounded by rebels but has remained under government control for the entirety of the three-year-long civil war.

The casualty toll from the blast was not immediately known.

Footage provided by the rebel commander of the base, which stretches over a large area of land, showed the ground balloon up before breaking into a cloud of earth that engulfs the area.

The commander, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said he did not know how many government soldiers had been killed but said it would help rebels break into the base, which has been used for attacks in the surrounding province of Idlib.

“Another attack like this and we won’t even need to move in to take the base,” he said via Skype, adding that once rebels take the base they would control all of the south Idlib, which is in Syria’s northwest bordering on Turkey.

Rebels fighting to overthrow President Bashar al-Assad regularly carry out guerrilla attacks but have only started using large tunnel bombs in recent weeks on military targets, including a hotel used by soldiers in Aleppo last week.

The government boasts far superior firepower and its forces killed more than 40 people, many of them civilians, in air strikes Wednesday, a monitoring group said.

Fifteen people were killed, including three from an emergency medical team, during five air raids in Atarib in the northern province of Aleppo, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said early Thursday.

Four rebel fighters were killed by air strikes in the same area, while 21 people, including women, were killed in air strikes on the Sarmada area in Idlib, the anti-Assad monitoring group said.

Gunbattles, air strikes, car bombs, shelling and executions regularly kill more than 200 people a day in Syria, where a conflict that started as a peaceful protest movement has killed over 150,000 people and forced millions from their homes.

Despite the carnage and loss of swathes of territory in the north and east to insurgents, Syria plans to hold a presidential election next month that is all but certain to give Assad a third term.

Opponents have dismissed the vote as a farce.

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## **Iraq Militants Use Fake Checkpoint To Kill Army Officers Who Held Ranks From Lieutenant To Colonel**

May 15, 2014 SAMEER N. YACOUB, The Associated Press [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD - Bombings and shootings around Iraq's capital, including an attack involving militants using a fake checkpoint to kill army officers, killed at least 29 people and wounded dozens Thursday, officials said.

Police said insurgents shot dead the five off-duty army officers after stopping their car on a road just north of Baghdad. They said insurgents ordered the officers, who held ranks from lieutenant to colonel, out of the car and then shot them.

Militants have used fake checkpoints, as well as stolen police and military vehicles, to launch attacks in the past.

The day's first explosion came from a bomb-laden car left in a parking lot in Karrada, a busy commercial area home to several government offices, as well as courts and a hospital. The explosion killed four civilians and three police officers and wounded 21, a police officer said.

A few minutes later, a bomber with an explosives belt blew himself up at the main gate of an office affiliated with the Higher Education Ministry, killing two police officers and two civilians, the police officer said. The attack wounded 12, he said.

**Military Resistance In PDF Format?**

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

## CLASS WAR REPORTS

# **Turkish Police Attack Demonstration By Mourning Miners:**

**“We’re Burning Inside”**

**“Heavy-Handed Intervention Sparked  
Immediate Outrage Across Turkey,  
Prompting Demonstrations”**

**“The Soma Mine Was Rife With Safety  
Shortcomings, Employed Underage  
Workers And Was Subject To Negligent  
Inspections”**



Relatives mourn on Thursday during the funeral of one of the coalminers killed in Soma, Turkey. Photograph: Ahmet Sik/Getty Images



Reuters Photo via BBC

May 16, 2014 By Emre Peker and Yeliz Candemir; Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

ISTANBUL—Turkey’s police broke up a demonstration in the western town of Soma on Friday, dispersing mourners with tear-gas and water cannons as unanswered questions about the country’s worst mining disaster fueled simmering anger and top officials said the death toll could exceed 300.

Hundreds of protesters marching in Soma — chanting “We’re burning inside” — were overwhelmed by columns of riot police and armored vehicles, broadcasts from the region showed.

The heavy-handed intervention and videos of mourners chastising security forces sparked immediate outrage across Turkey, prompting demonstrations.

“We’ve been working underground for so many years, we deserve to have our rights,” said a mine worker, clad in his helmet. “The state should own up to us, the police should serve the people.”

The devastation had already led to a series of protests by Turks angry over the country’s poor safety record and conflicting reports about the catastrophe’s cause.

A news briefing Friday by Soma Komur İşletmeleri AS, which operates the mine in Turkey’s western province of Manisa, quickly devolved into a two-hour shouting match.

Journalists leveled accusations that the Soma mine was rife with safety shortcomings, employed underage workers and uninsured subcontractors, and was subject to negligent inspections.



The governing Justice and Development Party, or AKP, came under stronger pressure for blocking a proposal by the Republican People's Party, or CHP, two weeks ago to investigate fatal incidents at mines in the Soma region.

**MORE:**

## **Shit-Bag Advisor To The Dictator Erdogan Caught Kicking Man Protesting Mine Disaster: “One Day, The Iron Punch Of All Of Those Oppressed People Who You Have Victimized Will Be Thrown At Your Head”**



An adviser to Mr. Erdogan was criticized after an image of him kicking a protester was widely circulated. Mehmet Emin Al/Depo Photos/Reuters

May 15, 2014 By Joe Parkinson and Emre Peker; Wall Street Journal & by Harriet Sherwood and agencies in Soma, Guardian News and Media Limited & By Ece Toksabay, Reuters [Excerpts]

ISTANBUL—As Turkey mourns the most lethal mining disaster in the country's history, videos showing government officials' reaction to the tragedy have inflamed national anger and deepened a sense of political polarization.

**Images captured by news agencies during separate scuffles with demonstrators on Wednesday show an adviser to Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan kicking a protester who is pinned down by security forces.**

**He kicked the man three or four times, according to Turkish media.**

The incident with the adviser, Yusuf Yerkel, occurred as an angry crowd kicked a car in Mr. Erdogan's motorcade shortly after the premier made comments over the tragedy that some viewed as insensitive. "Let's not interpret the incident as one that won't happen in coal mines, these things happen, look, they're called work accidents," Mr. Erdogan said on Wednesday.

In a statement on Thursday, Mr. Yerkel apologized, stressing that he was "deeply saddened," but he didn't address opposition demands that he resign. "I am sorry that I could not maintain my calm despite all the provocations, insults and attacks that I came under that day," Mr. Yerkel said.

The images spread like wildfire across social media and drew recriminations. Mr. Yerkel was mocked on Twitter Inc. with hashtags that translate as "Yusuf Yerkel resign" and "Yusuf Yerkel the dishonorable," which were widely shared.

Ugur Bayraktutan, an opposition lawmaker, submitted a parliamentary question asking whether Mr. Yerkel had a mandate "to beat up protesters or citizens?"

The other video appeared to show Mr. Erdogan swinging his arm in the direction of a person, but it was inconclusive and there was no official clarification of his intent.

"One day, the iron punch of all of those oppressed people who you have victimized will be thrown at your head," Nationalist Movement Party's Deputy Chairman Tugrul Turkes said in a tweet.

**MORE:**

**Thousands Of Workers Join  
Protest Strike And Crowds  
Heckle President Over Fatal  
Mine Explosion In Soma:  
"A Large Crowd Jostled The  
Visibly Shaken Prime Minister And**



# His Aides Amid Jeers, Whistles And Chants”

“He Was Forced To Take Refuge In A  
Supermarket Where He Struck A  
Teenage Girl Who Called Him A  
Murderer”

“In Soma Protesters Chanted: ‘Soma’s  
Coal Will Burn The Government’ And  
‘Tayyip The Murderer’”



Young people protest outside the mayor’s office in Soma, calling the Turkish government “liars”. Photograph: Bradley Secker/Demotix/Corbis

**Angry crowds called him a murderer and a thief and clashed with police, The Associated Press reported.**

**Erdogan’s attempted speech was met with shouts of “murderer” and rock throwing as police plucked people out of the crowd in an effort to maintain order.**

15 May 2014 by Harriet Sherwood and agencies in Soma, Guardian News and Media Limited & By SEBNEM ARSU and ALAN COWELL, New York Times News Service & Morning Star Online & May 15, 2014 By Ece Toksabay, Reuters [Excerpts]

Anger at the deadly mine explosion in Turkey spread across the country on Thursday as thousands of workers joined a protest strike, demonstrators clashed with security forces, and families began to bury scores of men killed in the disaster.

**As the death toll at the Soma coalmine pushed towards 300, with hopes extinguished for at least 100 more miners thought to be trapped deep in the pit, fury was directed at the Turkish prime minister, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan – and fuelled by pictures of one of his aides violently assaulting a protester, and claims that Erdoğan himself had struck a teenage girl.**

The president, Abdullah Gül, visiting the area, described Tuesday's explosion as "a huge disaster", adding: "The pain is felt by all".

But despite more restraint among relatives and protesters in Soma than during the prime minister's visit a day earlier, Gül was still heckled by crowds.

**Access to the mine entrance was blocked by paramilitary police roadblocks several kilometers away for a visit by President Abdullah Gul on Thursday. Officers searched cars.**

**"We came here to share the grief and wait for our friends to come out but we were not allowed. Is the president's pain greater than ours?" asked Emre, an 18-year-old trying to get to the mine who said friends from his village were still trapped.**

Some mourners said they had spent their lives fearing a catastrophic incident at the mine.

"The wives of the miners kiss their husbands in the morning. When they come back, even if they are five minutes late, everyone starts calling. You never know what is going to happen," said Gulizar Donmez, 45, a neighbour of one of the victims and whose father and husband are both miners.

No miner has been brought out alive since dawn on Wednesday.

Turkey's worst ever mining disaster triggered a protest strike and skirmishes across the country, and threatened to derail Erdoğan's presidential ambitions.

**Furious residents heckled Erdogan on Wednesday as he toured the town, angry at what they see as the government's coziness with mining tycoons, its failure to ensure safety and a lack of information on the rescue effort.**

Hostility towards Erdoğan was evident in a large crowd which jostled the visibly shaken prime minister and his aides amid jeers, whistles and chants.

**Angry crowds called him a murderer and a thief and clashed with police, The Associated Press reported.**

**Erdogan's attempted speech was met with shouts of "murderer" and rock throwing as police plucked people out of the crowd in an effort to maintain order.**

**He was forced to take refuge in a supermarket where, according to some accounts in the Turkish media, he struck a teenage girl who called him a murderer.**

**Newspaper Radikal published an amateur video clip on its website appearing to show Erdogan saying “Come here and jeer at me!” as he walked through a hostile crowd in the town.**

**Protests over the mining deaths erupted in other Turkish cities, including Istanbul, Ankara, İzmir and Zonguldak.**

Security forces deployed tear gas and water canon against around 20,000 protesters in İzmir.

Five Turkish trade unions held a one-day strike over safety standards in the mining industry, demanding better health and safety standards for miners.

They also said mine inspectors should be drawn from labor unions and that they should include independent experts not employed by the mining corporations. The mine at Soma was formerly state-owned but had been leased to a private company, news reports said.

**Around a thousand people from various trade unions gathered in Ankara to march on the Labour Ministry, some wearing miners’ helmets and waving banners showing the image of Che Guevara.**

**“The fires of Soma will burn AKP,” and “AKP murderers” they chanted, as police looked on.**

“Miners suffer long working hours, have no occupational safety or social security, and when most of them are unregistered, they are part of an unregistered economy,” said Umar Karatepe, a spokesman for the Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions of Turkey.

**Karatepe said the privatization of mines had led to a sharp increase in accidents “because profit is always more valuable than miners’ lives in the private sector.”**

He said protests would continue until the energy minister, Taner Yildiz, resigned and the government attended to the miners’ immediate concerns.

The miners are organised by the Mineworkers Union of Turkey, an affiliate of the global union IndustriALL.

IndustriALL said: “This tragedy must rank as the worst mining tragedy in recent memory and is made all the more tragic by the seemingly uncaring attitude of the government and mining companies.

**“It is intolerable that mine workers in Turkey are denied their basic human right to work in an environment that guarantees their safety and that, instead, they are expected to go to work to die.**

“Turkey has possibly the worst safety record in terms of mining accidents and explosions in Europe and the third worst in the world.”

Many relatives of the miners have complained about a lack of information from the government and from local emergency agencies.

“No official came here to talk to us, explain what’s going on,” said the aunt of a 25-year-old miner Wednesday.

**In Istanbul, a group chanted anti-government slogans and carried a large banner that read: “It’s not an accident, it’s murder.”**

**In Soma protesters chanted: “Soma’s coal will burn the government” and “Tayyip the murderer”.**

**MORE:**

**“The Graveyard Was So Crowded With Back-To-Back Burials That The Imam Repeatedly Had To Ask Families To Pay Their Final Respects Quickly”**

**“No Government Officials Were In Attendance”**

**“They Say They Are Deeply Sorrowed, Their Hearts Are Burnt, Devastated. Where Are They Now?”**

## “Look At All These Poor People Whose Sweethearts Died Digging Money For Others. They Are Alone Here”



Women mourn during the funeral of a miner who died in a fire at a coal mine, at a cemetery in Soma, a district in Turkey's western province of Manisa May 15, 2014. Credit: Reuters/Osman Orsal

May 15, 2014 By Ece Toksabay, Reuters [Excerpts]

Loudspeakers broadcast the names of the dead and excavators dug mass graves in this close-knit Turkish mining town on Thursday, while protesters gathered in major cities as grief turned to anger following the country's deadliest industrial disaster.

The graveyard was so crowded with back-to-back burials that the imam repeatedly had to ask families to pay their final respects quickly to make room for other mourners.

No government officials were in attendance.

"They say they are deeply sorrowed, their hearts are burnt, devastated. Where are they now?" said Emine, a woman in her 50s attending her nephew's funeral.

"Look at all these poor people whose sweethearts died digging money for others. They are alone here."

**MORE:**

**[No, This Is Not Satire]  
“Operator Of The Turkish Mine  
That Collapsed Has Denied Any  
Negligence”**

**“We Still Do Not Know How The  
Accident Happened. There Is No  
Negligence Of Ours In This Incident”**

**“Mining Officials Said An Existing  
Rescue Chamber At The Mine’s Upper  
Levels Had Been Disassembled”**

16 May 2014 BBC

The operator of the Turkish mine that collapsed, killing at least 284 people, has denied any negligence.

Representatives from Soma Holding defended their response to the disaster, telling a news conference their priority had been to save lives.

They added that an unexplained build-up of heat in the mine appeared to have caused the collapse.

Much of the news conference focused on whether the mine had rescue chambers - safe rooms where miners can take refuge for an extended period of time.

Mining officials said an existing rescue chamber at the mine’s upper levels had been disassembled as production there had stopped, and work on a rescue chamber at the lower section was under way.

Speaking to journalists, plant manager Akin Celik said: “We still do not know how the accident happened. There is no negligence of ours in this incident.”

**MORE:**

**“Prime Minister Erdogan’s Lawmakers  
Had Defeated A Proposal By The Main**

# Opposition Party To Investigate Previous Fatal Incidents In The Region”

May 15, 2014 By Ayla Albayrak and Emre Peker, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

The nation’s deadliest coal-mining accident has claimed at least 284 lives since an explosion at Soma Komur Isletmeleri AS’s mine on Tuesday sparked a fire, trapping 787 people underground.

Dozens of miners were buried quickly and unceremoniously in an empty section of the Soma graveyard designated for workers killed in the accident.

The government-appointed cleric sought to soothe the mourners, saying, “Our state is here. Everybody is here with you.”

But protests across the country painted a different picture as unions went on a one-day strike, charging the government with failure to prevent workplace accidents with inadequate inspections.

Demonstrators gathered in front of government offices in Ankara, marched in Istanbul and held vigils across the country.

In Izmir, just south of Soma, police prevented tens of thousands of protesters from heading to a central square, dispersing them with tear gas.

The outrage was exacerbated by the fact that in late April, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s lawmakers had defeated a proposal by the main opposition party to investigate previous fatal incidents in the region.

Emboldened by a decisive victory in March local elections and seeking to become Turkey’s first directly elected president in August, Mr. Erdogan was assertive and unapologetic during his visit to Soma.

As the prime minister’s remarks about the accident triggered public anger, Mr. Erdogan also took a swipe at protesters, saying they were seeking to politicize the tragic event and urging the nation not to pay heed.

Local and foreign newspapers, as well as social-media users, showed outrage over two videos from Wednesday: One depicted an adviser to Mr. Erdogan violently kicking a protester pinned to the ground by two security officials; the other sparked debate over whether Mr. Erdogan slapped a person at a Soma supermarket.

**MORE:**

## **Safety Declined After Turkey Privatized Soma Mine:**



# **After Government Sold The Mine, Production Ramped Up And Costs Were Cut, Paving The Way To This Week's Devastating Accident, Miners Say; "In This Region, The Same People Run The Politics And The Manufacturing, And The Unions"**

May 15, 2014 By Alexander Christie-Miller, Christian Science Monitor [Excerpts]

**Miners and local residents say privatization is at the root of the Soma coal mine explosion, Turkey's worst ever industrial disaster, because safety conditions deteriorated after the state offloaded the mine in 2005.**

"Even if it hadn't happened this week, it would have happened this year. Before this privatization, the government ran production slowly and the risk wasn't as great as it is now," says Mesut Karaca, who owned a paint shop in the town.

**From 1984 to 2005, Soma Holding operated the mine as a government contractor, but it took full control amid the privatization push led by Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's Justice and Development Party (AKP) government in 2005.**

In an interview in 2012 with Turkish newspaper Hurriyet, the mine's owner boasted of slashing costs after taking it over.

Alp Gurkan, the head of Soma Holding, said that after taking over the mine, he reduced costs from between \$130 and \$140 per ton of coal to \$23.80, "thanks to the operation methods of the private sector."

**"When the government was running the pit there was less production, and when it was privatized the production went up, but the investment did not," says one miner who worked at the site until recently.**

**The man, who asked not to be identified for fear that he would be blacklisted from working in other mines in the region, said he had worked there for 10 years.**

**"There were 1,000 workers, but then we became 5,000 (after privatization). We were using all the same equipment, the old equipment. If the electrical system cannot support that level of output, then you have a critical situation."**

However, Turkey's mining unions have long claimed that the nationwide privatization program rolled out by the government in late 2004 caused a dramatic drop in safety standards.

**“This mine was one of the largest sources of complaints that we received,” says Tayfun Gorgun, head of mining union Maden Sen, adding that 4,500 injuries were reported in 2013 alone.**

“The mine was privatized in 2005, and that is when accidents exploded in number.

**“This isn't a mine where workers feel that their union represents them – many are unionized, but the union is run by board members of Soma Holding.”**

His comments were backed up by Ozgur Ozel, a local member of parliament for the opposition People's Republican Party.

“In this region, the same people run the politics and the manufacturing, and the unions,” he says. He has been investigating the relationship between the government and the Soma mine and another mine in the region for a year and a half.

**Earlier this year, Mr. Ozel spearheaded an effort by the main opposition parties to launch a parliamentary investigation into conditions at Soma and other mines in the area, but AKP used its majority to reject the motion last month.**

**“It's very clear to me that there's an arrangement made between them and that the labor conditions at Soma are a secondary concern in that,” he says.**

At the dilapidated mine itself, other workers are reluctant to talk about safety conditions. Those who do comment say they are satisfactory.

“We have electrical technicians in the mine, you will have to ask them about these things,” said one.

Turkey's Labor and Social Security Ministry said the mine has been inspected five times since 2012, most recently in March. No safety violations were detected.

But in a community dominated by the mining industry, young men don't have the luxury of rejecting work in the mines there because of safety concerns.

And a shutdown of the mine to allow time for repairs could be financially devastating.

“We have to work here,” says Ugur Uckan, 22, himself a miner. He was waiting near the mine entrance last night for news of his brother, Hakan, who was among those missing. “We have no chance to work anywhere else.”

**MORE:**

**Turkish Mining Tragedy That Killed At Least 300 Reminds Us Of Miners' Fighting Spirit: "Mine Owners — Almost Everywhere In The World, From China To Poland To India To USA — Are Historically Among The Coldest-Hearted Employers Indifferent To Human Pain" "Which Is One Reason Why Coal Miners, Who Do The Actual Digging In Pretty Terrible Conditions Especially Underground, Tend To Be Militant And Class-And-Union Conscious"**

May 15, 2014 By Clancy Sigal, AlterNet

*"Don't go down in the mine, Dad,*

*Dreams very often come true;*

*Daddy, you know it would break my heart*

*If anything happened to you..."*

—"Don't Go Down the Mine, Dad", in honor of a South Wales mining disaster

Men and some women die for our air conditioning and central heating. Yesterday's mine explosion in Soma, western Turkey, probably due to safety cost cutting, killed upwards of 300 men and probably many more. Underground you die from being burned alive, suffocated or poisoned by fumes.

Four years ago 29 men died in West Virginia when the Upper Big Branch of Massey Energy's mine blew up due to criminally lax safety violations.

The Turkish association of electrical engineers said the disaster represented “murder, not an accident”. It accused the mine operators of neglect and using obsolete equipment.

Inadequate ventilation systems meant carbon monoxide and other toxic gases could spread more quickly, it said. Shades of Big Branch.

**In mining, especially underground but also the pollution-crazy “open cast” (mainly in western states), deaths and injuries are routinely and unemotionally factored into a company’s balance sheet.**

**So much for litigation, so much for insurance.**

**Rarely do executives get indicted for malfeasance and no one who caused the deaths ever goes to jail.**

We get nearly 40% of our energy from mainly bituminous (soft) coal from 52 mines in 25 states. It’s a diminishing resource, which is one reason why coal companies savagely tear off the tops of ancient mountains, and dump the poisoned slurry in creeks and rivers, to extract the very last ounce of miners’ blood.

**“Miners’ blood” is not hyperbole since mine owners — almost everywhere in the world, from China to Poland to India to USA — are historically among the coldest-hearted employers indifferent to human pain. Which is one reason why coal miners, who do the actual digging in pretty terrible conditions especially underground, tend to be militant and class-and-union conscious.**

**Have we forgotten the 1921 Battle of Blair mountain when 10,000 armed and angry Logan county, West Virginia miners, seeking union recognition, fought an all-out war against private cops and federalized soldiers? That’s when Harding sent in army bombers against the miners.**

Almost every day I read about mine “accidents” in other parts of the world that kills workers who I feel are my brothers because I’ve been underground and have seen the raw energy and almost surgeon-like skill it takes to be a miner.

That’s another reason why coal owners hate miners — their sense of solidarity.

At the height of the Cold War, between Russia and the west, on a brink of nuclear Armageddon, I was visiting Don Bas miners from some of the deepest and most hazardous pits from presently disputed Ukraine, hug, kiss and trade sweaters with Yorkshire coal diggers who got drunk and sang songs with them, all in the same family.

From my prejudiced point of view, coal miners — yes, the producers of so much carbon dioxide emissions — are the natural aristocrats among us. Romantic? Maybe. But I’ve spent days “doon pit” and it’s a lousy, dirty, stifling job.

Coal has been dug, by women and children too, lowered in buckets in shallow holes in the ground, since the Bronze Age and industrially since Roman times.

Statistics say one day coal will end as a fossil fuel. Coal miners will fight literally to the death to save their deadly jobs.

Even when they're most politically and religiously conservative, miners inherently tend to be fighters and even revolutionists. (See "The Molly Maguires," "Harlan County USA" and anything about the Asturian dinamteros).

Which is why employers and governments have an inherent tendency, like the UK's Margaret Thatcher, to need to squash them.

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## **DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK**



**Florida Couple Fined \$746 For  
Crime Of Feeding Homeless  
People:**

**“The Fines Totalled \$373 Per Person, \$2,238 For The Group”  
“Feeding Hungry Folks Is Not A Crime,’ The Couple Said”  
“Daytona Beach Is Just The Latest City To Crack Down On Groups That Feed The Poor”**

13 May 14 By Scott Keyes, ThinkProgress

After feeding the hungry in a Daytona Beach park every weekend for more than a year, it's just as easy to imagine Chico and Debbie Jimenez given a ticker-tape parade as what they actually got: a slew of citations and a permanent ban from the park.

Chico and Debbie Jimenez, a husband and wife team, aren't handing out food in the Florida heat every Wednesday because of a court order or for a paycheck.

They do it because they believe helping the poor is their religious duty. The pair run a Christian outreach group, Spreading the Word Without Saying a Word Ministry, that gives food to the needy every week, pointing to Jesus' words in Matthew 25:40: "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Every Wednesday, the Jimenezes feed more than a hundred people a hearty lunch with dishes of chicken patties, macaroni salad, and fresh vegetables, among others. The meals are entirely funded by private donations and staffed with volunteers.

However, Daytona Beach is one of a handful of cities that enacted ordinances barring individuals from serving food in public.

**Last week, nearly a half-dozen police officers showed up at Manatee Island Park, where a long line of people had queued to get a meal, and served citations to the Jimenezes and volunteers.**

According to the group's Facebook page, Chico and Debbie, along with four volunteers, were each given multiple 2nd degree misdemeanor citations.

The fines totaled \$373 per person, \$2,238 for the group.

**The police also permanently banned the group from Manatee Island Park.**

**“We both have made a lot of good friends in the park and are devastated that we are banned the Manatee Park forever,” Debbie wrote. “I am heartbroken.”**

Police Chief Mike Chitwood commented about the incident to the Daytona Beach News-Journal: “The ordinance is there, so if we catch you, we’re going to cite you.” He went on to add, “If you want to feed people, and you want to do a good, Christian act, we encourage you to coordinate with the social service agencies.”

**Daytona Beach is just the latest city to crack down on groups that feed the poor in city parks.**

**Other recent examples range from Birmingham to St. Louis to Raleigh to Philadelphia to Orlando. A 2010 report from the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty identified more than a dozen other cities with restrictions and found an uptick in the number of new ordinances.**

The Jimenezes, who both left jobs more than a year ago to focus on ministry full-time, were upset about the developments, but told the News-Journal that they planned to challenge the citations rather than pay them.

“We are ‘NOT Criminals ‘ and feeding ‘ Hungry folks ‘ is not a crime,” the couple said.

**MORE:**

## **This Sundae Costs \$1,000**



May 1, 2014 By Kelly Dobkin, Zagat [Excerpts]

Over-the-top food items are nothing new for NYC, especially ones with an extravagant price tag.

Now, there’s new baller bait at trendy Meatpacking favorite Bagatelle, known for its boozy club-like brunches and French bistro fare.



Beginning today, the eatery is rolling out a doozy of a dessert, called the Mauboussin Mega Sundae, which costs \$1,000 a pop and puts a ring on it - it's served alongside an actual white gold ring.



The mise en place - vanilla ice cream, chocolate truffles, homemade macarons, Dom Perignon Rose sorbet with gold leaves (you read that correctly), chocolate vodka sauce, gilded brownies and fresh whipped cream. This is like Richie Rich's dream sundae station.

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## **OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

# **Zionists Beat Up Palestinian Shepherd With Clubs Near Ramallah: “At Least Seven Masked Settlers Assaulted Shepherd Sulaiman Kaabeneh, 50”**

May 13, 2014 Palestine News & Information Agency

RAMALLAH – Israeli settlers Tuesday assaulted and severely beat up a Palestinian shepherd while he was grazing his sheep near the village of Taybeh, east of Ramallah, according to witnesses.

Witnesses said at least seven masked settlers assaulted shepherd Sulaiman Kaabeneh, 50, and beat him up with clubs while he was grazing his sheep near the village. Kaabneh

sustained bruises and wounds throughout his body, and was transferred to hospital for medical treatment where his case was described as moderate.

To be noted, settlers have recently intensified their assaults against shepherds and farmers, posing a great danger to their lives. Similar cases were further reported by human rights organizations during the past few months.

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## **Occupation Army Targets Palestinian Children In Azzun: “230 Palestinian Children Are Imprisoned In Israel Jails. 68 Of Those Children Come From Azzun” “Soldiers Have Entered The Town On Foot Every Night For The Last Week”**

7th May 2014 International Women’s Peace Service, via Uruknet [Excerpts]

Azzun, Occupied Palestine

If the people of ‘Azzun seem nervous, they have a right to be.

The town (population approximately 10,000) sits on crossroads – Qalqiliya is to the west, Nablus to the east, Salfit to the south and Tulkarem to the north. This is a junction that is vulnerable to road closures and flying checkpoints.

On either side, the illegal settler colonies of Ma’ale Shomeron and Alfe Menashe loom large.

**Six Israeli surveillance cameras surround ‘Azzun, meaning that the population is being watched all day, every day.**

**Because of its precarious geographical position, occupation forces have been particularly brutal in ‘Azzun.**

**Currently, 230 Palestinian children are imprisoned in Israel jails. 68 of those children come from ‘Azzun.**

**There are an additional 112 adult prisoners from here, victims of regular night raids.**

**In 2013, the Israeli military conducted 300 operations inside the town, and soldiers have entered the town on foot every night for the last week.**

**Those who are not imprisoned face other difficulties. Most of the population are professional farmers; however most of the town's land has been stolen by the surrounding settlements.**

This has left 'Azzun with a 46% unemployment rate. Many of the employed work across the Green Line, facing regular harassment at the checkpoints. During the Second Intifada, checkpoint gates were installed at the entrances of the town, enabling the Israeli military to create flying checkpoints, which happens multiple times per week.

Such was the case yesterday, when 8 jeeps arrived at 1 pm to close the gate leading to road 55 which runs from Qalqilya towards Nablus.

**After the soldiers arrived, several of them entered the village and grabbed Osama, a nine year old boy, seemingly at random.**

**The soldiers told the surrounding villagers that they arrested Osama because he had been seen throwing rocks immediately prior to their arrival.**

**Eyewitnesses from 'Azzun refuted this claim, saying that they had seen the boy playing with his friends in the town square at the time when the rocks were allegedly thrown.**

**Regardless, the soldiers detained Osama in the back of one jeep, and did not allow any Palestinians to sit with the boy, even though he was crying and visibly distressed.**

The boy's father arrived quickly, but since he did not have his Hawiyya ID card on him, he was forced to go home and retrieve it before he was allowed to see his son. Osama was alone with the soldiers in the jeep for over one hour, and remained in detention for another hour and a half after his father returned, before being released.

Throughout this time, people from the town surrounded the military jeeps, in an effort to support the child. The offending soldiers released Osama to his home that night, but claimed that he had officially confessed to throwing stones.

**Often, 'Azzunee children who are arrested or detained are offered release if they sign a confession, often written in Hebrew, a language they don't read or write.**

These children are usually alone with soldiers, with neither their parents nor lawyers present (which is in direct contravention of Israel's own laws), and are under great physical and mental duress.

**These confessions are designed to implicate other children – often by having other names written in. Since the children do not know what they are signing, they are tricked into implicating their friends in falsified crimes.**

In some instances, children who are accused of throwing stones at settlers have also been ordered to pay 'compensation' for 'causing distress' to the settlers (who cannot even prove they had stones thrown at them), sometimes up to 30,000 shekels.

This is a further burden for economically unstable 'Azzun. Those who cannot pay the compensations in the allotted time are forced to spend double the time of their original sentence in jail.

While the town is definitely happy that Osama has returned home, the story is not yet over.

**Since the Israeli soldiers have a forced confession to stone throwing, they may return again to raid Osama's house, or potentially use this 'confession' as evidence to arrest other children from the village.**

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## **Zionist Vandalize Jerusalem Church: “Jesus Is Garbage” “Death To Arabs” “Swastikas Were Scrawled On The Wall Of A West Jerusalem Apartment”**



An Israeli policeman walks past graffiti on the wall of a church near an ultra-Orthodox Jewish neighborhood in Jerusalem, on May 9, 2014. The graffiti reads “King David for the Jews...Jesus is garbage”. (AFP Thomas Coex)

05/11/2014 AFP

JERUSALEM -- Vandals sprayed anti-Christian graffiti on a Jerusalem church on Friday, despite Israeli police stepping up security around religious sites ahead of a visit by Pope Francis later this month.

“Price tag... King David for the Jews... Jesus is garbage” was spray-painted in Hebrew on the wall of St George’s, a Romanian Orthodox church near an ultra-Orthodox Jewish neighborhood.

Israeli police said that “Death to Arabs” was found written on a house in the Old City in East Jerusalem, and swastikas were scrawled on the wall of a west Jerusalem apartment.

The Roman Catholic church has demanded Israeli action after Hebrew graffiti reading “Death to Arabs and Christians and to everyone who hates Israel” was daubed on its Notre Dame complex in Jerusalem on Monday. “The bishops are very concerned about the lack of security and lack of responsiveness from the political sector, and fear an escalation of violence,” the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem said.

The attacks on Christian property come amid a rise in anti-Palestinian hate crimes. Israeli ministers held an emergency meeting on Wednesday, pledging to enforce harsh measures against perpetrators.

The US State Department’s 2013 Country Reports on Terrorism included “price tag” attacks for the first time, citing UN figures of some “399 attacks by extremist Israeli settlers that resulted in Palestinian injuries or property damage.” Such attacks were “largely unprosecuted,” it said.

Israeli media on Friday reported that police and Shin Bet feared Jewish right-wing extremists would try to attract media attention by attacking Christian sites ahead of the Pope’s visit to the region, scheduled to begin on May 24 in Jordan. He is then due to spend two days in the Holy Land from May 25.

Israeli police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld highlighted a boosted security presence around sensitive Christian sites. “We’ve already stepped up security in different sites, in different areas, and obviously will continue to do so,” he said.

Rosenfeld said police did not connect the increase in attacks on Christian sites with the upcoming papal visit.

The perpetrators of violence against Palestinian communities are rarely prosecuted. There are hundreds of racist attacks against Palestinians in Israel and the occupied West Bank every year.

**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**





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