

Military Resistance 12F15



NOTICE:

In order to install computer updates and clean the system, after the next edition this Newsletter will resume publication on or about July 9, 2014. T

**Taliban Offensive Rocks
Helmand:
“The Lackluster Performance Of
The Afghan Army So Far In
Helmand Evoked Comparisons
With Iraq”**

**“Only The District Center Is Under
The Control Of Government”
“If The Government Is Unable To
Control And Secure The Lives Of The
Ordinary People, I Suggest They Leave It
To The Taliban,’ Said A Village Elder In
Sangin”**

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JUNE 27, 2014 By AZAM AHMED and TAIMOOR SHAHJUNE, The New York Times Company [Excerpts]

KABUL, Afghanistan — In one of the most significant coordinated assaults on the government in years, the Taliban have attacked police outposts and government facilities across several districts in northern Helmand Province, sending police and military officials scrambling to shore up defenses and heralding a troubling new chapter as coalition forces prepare to depart.

The attacks have focused on the district of Sangin, historically an insurgent stronghold and one of the deadliest districts in the country for the American and British forces who fought for years to secure it.

The Taliban have mounted simultaneous attempts to conquer territory in the neighboring districts of Now Zad, Musa Qala and Kajaki. In the past week, more than 100 members of the Afghan forces and 50 civilians have been killed or wounded in fierce fighting, according to early estimates from local officials.

Already, areas once heavily patrolled by American forces have grown more violent as the Afghan military and the police struggle to feed, fuel and equip themselves. The lackluster performance of the Afghan Army so far in Helmand has also evoked comparisons with Iraq, raising questions about whether the American-trained force can stand in the way of a Taliban resurgence.

“The Taliban are trying to overrun several districts of northern Helmand and find a permanent sanctuary for themselves,” said Hajji Mohammad Sharif, the district governor for Musa Qala. “From there, they pose threats to the southern parts of Helmand and also pose threats to Kandahar and Oruzgan Provinces.”

Officials from the government and the international military coalition flew to Helmand on Friday to assess the situation.

The military has sent in reinforcements, though early reports from residents indicate that those forces had made little headway in pushing the Taliban back. The police have fought ferociously to protect their areas and, in at least a few cases, succumbed only after running out of ammunition.

While the government claims that none of the checkpoints attacked by the Taliban have fallen, district elders and villagers say otherwise, characterizing the situation as approaching a humanitarian crisis.

"I see the people running everywhere with their women and children to take shelter," said Hajji Amanullah Khan, a village elder. "It is like a doomsday for the people of Sangin. We do not have water, and there is a shortage of food.

"The price of everything has gone up because the highways and roads have been blocked for the last week."

Though positioned at a significant crossroads into the northern Helmand area, with access to neighboring provinces, Sangin also carries great symbolic weight. The Taliban have repeatedly used the area to make a statement about the limits of Afghan and Western government strength, and local officials fear a similar approach now.

"The Taliban are planning to create problems in several northern Helmand districts to pave the way for their fighters to operate freely in the area and pose threats to Kandahar, Helmand and Farah Provinces," said Muhammad Naim Baloch, the provincial governor in Helmand.

Last summer in Sangin, Afghan forces got their first taste of what that fight would look like. Struggling to keep the Taliban at bay, they lost checkpoints, hard-fought ground and more than 120 men.

The government shuffled commanders, but it hardly mattered.

By the end of the fighting season, the cowed Afghan Army unit there was mostly unwilling to leave its base to confront the threat. Late last year, reports of a deal between a local army commander and the Taliban began to surface, driven in part by attrition rates of nearly 50 percent and the near constant threat of death.

Given the debacle last summer, the military's lack of preparedness so far this year is all the more striking.

Police officers ran out of ammunition, and in some cases bodies could not be recovered because of the fighting.

Even though Helmand is the only province with an entire corps dedicated to it, the army has struggled to defend it.

The fighting this summer appears to be worse.

In just one week, the security forces appear to have sustained almost half the casualties they suffered in all of last summer, though reports differ on the exact toll.

Last Saturday, as many as 600 Taliban insurgents stormed checkpoints through portions of Sangin, claiming wide tracts of land.

On Sunday, the militants attacked the neighboring district of Now Zad. Violence erupted in Musa Qala on Monday, when the Taliban again stormed police checkpoints but were prevented from reaching the district center.

The assault on Sangin seems the most concerted. On Friday night, according to the district governor, the Taliban advanced on the district center itself. The army repelled the attack through the district bazaar, while the police stopped an attempted breach from the north.

“Only the district center is under the control of government,” said Hajji Amir Jan, the deputy chief of the Sangin district council.

Although the military denied any collusion between the army and the Taliban, those questions have started to re-emerge because most of the casualties have been suffered by the local and national police forces rather than by the army.

“The Taliban are not powerful enough to resist all of the Afghan forces,” Mr. Amir Jan said. “Sangin is not an easy district to control, and the Taliban have strong sanctuaries, but the Afghan National Army is just securing highways, and they are not really after the Taliban.”

Residents described a hellish scene for those trapped in the area. Some have started to question whether the fight, and its toll on the people, is even worth it.

“If the government is unable to control and secure the lives of the ordinary people, I suggest they leave it to the Taliban,” said Matiullah Khan, a village elder in Sangin.

“We are tired of the situation and would rather die than continue living in these severe conditions. It has been like this forever.”

MILITARY NEWS

“The West Needs To See The Sunni Offensive As A Broad Rebellion By An ‘Oppressed’ People”

“Dividing Iraq Is Better Than Us Being Killed Every Day”

Jun. 28 2014 by Mark MacKinnon, The Globe and Mail [Excerpts]

ERBIL, Iraq

The head of Iraq’s largest Sunni tribe says the uprising that has seen militants conquer much of the west and north of the country will not end until Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki is gone from office.

Sheikh Ali Hatem al-Suleimani, the head of the powerful Dulaimi tribe that has been in open revolt against Mr. al-Maliki’s Shia-dominated government since last year, said the West needs to see the Sunni offensive as a broad rebellion by an “oppressed” people, rather than focusing only on the extremists from the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) that have been the spearhead of the lightning advance towards Baghdad.

He said ISIL – whom he scornfully referred to as “terrorists” – made up just 7 to 10 per cent of the total number of Sunni fighters, and that their role in the uprising had been exaggerated by “social media, Facebook and Twitter.”

ISIL has used YouTube and social media accounts to spread often-grisly videos of its advance through the cities of Mosul, Tikrit and Samarra, apparently seeking to both gain new followers and intimidate its opponents.

Sheikh al-Suleimani said that while ISIL and the tribes – along with remnants of Saddam Hussein’s Baath Party regime – shared common cause in wanting to oust Mr. al-Maliki, there was no formal alliance between them. He promised that once Mr. al-Maliki was gone, and the Sunni uprising had achieved its other aims – including a new constitution that would see Iraq made into a federal state, with Sunni, Shiite and Kurdish regions that would have wide autonomy – the tribal fighters would turn their guns on ISIL and defeat them.

“We are postponing our fight with ISIL until later. After Maliki is gone, ISIL will not be a big problem for us,” he said in a meeting with The Globe and Mail and other foreign media at a five-star hotel here in the Kurdish capital. “Now is not the time to fight ISIL, it’s the time to fight Maliki.”

There is precedent for the sheikh’s claim that the tribes are capable of handling ISIL. In 2008, the Dulaimi tribe played a key role in the so-called “Sunni Awakening,” which saw the Sunni tribes – who had originally fought against the U.S. occupation of Iraq – switch sides and attack al-Qaeda in Iraq after they deemed it a larger threat to their interests. The tribes eventually forced al-Qaeda in Iraq out of their base in the western province of Anbar.

The 43-year-old sheikh said the tribes wanted a “democratic” Iraq – with power balanced between Sunnis and Shias – a goal not shared by ISIL, which wants to establish a

caliphate ruled by a harsh version of Islamic law. “We know that ISIL don’t believe in the tribes, that they want to use us and work under our cover.”

Sheikh al-Suleimani said Mr. al-Maliki’s government had fostered the rise of ISIL and other hardline groups by “oppressing” the country’s Sunni minority. He asked why Western countries were contemplating military action against ISIL when they had ignored alleged atrocities committed against Sunnis by the Iraqi army, which is mainly Shia.

Although pressure is rising – even within Mr. al-Maliki’s own Shiite community – for the prime minister to step aside and allow the formation of a new government of national unity, he has thus far refused, branding the push an attempted coup d’état.

Sheikh al-Suleimani said the Sunni offensive would continue all the way to Baghdad – which has a mixed population of Sunnis and Shias – if Mr. al-Maliki did not resign.

“Maliki says Baghdad is a red line. There are no red lines for the rebels, the tribes,” he said, with four mobile phones, two packages of cigarettes and a Diet Pepsi arrayed on the table in front of him.

“To avoid a battle for Baghdad, we have to have Maliki out of power.”

He acknowledged there was a possibility the fighting could forever split Iraq. “Dividing Iraq is better than us being killed every day.”

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

But out of this complicated web of material and psychic forces one conclusion emerges with irrefutable clarity: the more the soldiers in their mass are convinced that the rebels are really rebelling – that this is not a demonstration after which they will have to go back to the barracks and report, that this is a struggle to the death, that the people may win if they join them, and that this winning will not only guarantee impunity, but alleviate the lot of all – the more they realize this, the more willing they are to turn aside their bayonets, or go over with them to the people.

**And the highest determination never can, or will, remain unarmed.
-- Leon Trotsky; The History of the Russian Revolution**

Ukraine 2014 -- Some Quickly Forgotten History:

**“We Are Organizing Workers Into
Self-Defense Units To Prepare As
Best We Can”**

**“We Began A Couple Months Ago So
Workers Could Defend Themselves
Against Gangs Of Thugs Organized
By The Mine Bosses”**

“‘The More We Talk,’ Said Elena Maslova, ‘The More I’m Reminded Of Something We Used To Think About — The Need For All Proletarians Of The World To Unite’”

April 21, 2014 BY JOHN STUDER, The Militant

KRIVII RIG, Ukraine — While eastern Ukraine has strong cultural ties to Russia, most workers in the region oppose Moscow’s annexationist provocations, miners here told the Militant, refuting the impression given by much of the bourgeois press coverage, from Russia to the U.S.

The miners said they are prepared to defend Ukrainian sovereignty, which they see as a necessary extension of defending their interests as workers against bosses in Ukraine.

“There are differences between east and west Ukraine,” Samoilov Juriy Petrovych, the leader of the Independent Trade Union of Miners in Krivii Rig, an iron-ore mining center some 85 miles southwest of Dnepropetrovsk in eastern Ukraine, told the Militant in the union’s office here March 26.

“For example, there are some 200 newspapers in this region, but only 10 or 15 are in Ukrainian. The others are all filled with Russian government propaganda calling the Maidan protesters in Kiev fascist, claiming they are a threat to Russian-speaking people in the east.”

“Here in the east we have closer ties to Russia,” he said. “Many of us have relatives in Russia and have long considered Russians as our brothers. But today the Russian government is threatening an invasion of Ukraine, and the majority of workers here agree that we will do our best to defend our country.”

“We are organizing workers into self-defense units to prepare as best we can,” said Bondar Vitalievych, another union leader. “We began a couple months ago so workers could defend themselves against gangs of thugs organized by the mine bosses.”

“We put out a statement saying we needed to organize to stop separatist manifestations in Ukraine,” Vitalievych said.

“Pro-Moscow thugs came out, including some armed snipers, to confront our Maidan demonstration here Feb. 24, but hundreds of workers organized in our self-defense units prevented them from killing anyone.”

“We put out a flyer calling on workers to come to the city council meeting the next day to demand the local government act on the will of the people or resign,” continued

Vitalievych, pointing to a photo on the wall of hundreds of miners and others voting at the meeting.

Members of the city council, he said, were supporters of former pro-Moscow President Viktor Yanukovich, who had fled the country two days earlier.

The unionists are determined to step up efforts to organize workers and others prepared to defend Ukraine's national sovereignty, come what may.

The miners organized a tour for Militant correspondents of the EVRAZ iron-ore mine. The mine is run by Russian capitalists who own ore and coal mines, processing plants and steel mills in Ukraine, Russia, Canada, South Africa and the U.S.

"This mine is extremely dangerous," Vitalievych said. "Two years ago we had 23 'accidents,' and the government was pressured to come and carry out some inspections.

"Our union fights for safer working conditions, as well as to ensure the company and government provide health care and pensions when you leave the job," he said.

"Three hundred fifty women work underground in the mine," said Elena Maslova, a 15-year veteran in the mine and the local's director for gender equality. "There are some 40 positions that women are barred from. Most work in pump stations, on conveyors and in the explosives warehouse. Among underground miners, 10 percent are women.

"When we demanded improvements in pay and working conditions for women, the company told us if we kept complaining they would just replace us with men," she said.

"So they hired a man and put him in a position usually filled by women, at the pay women get. But he refused to stay on the job."

"The existence of our independent union is important," she said. "The old unions, dating back to before the Soviet Union collapsed, just parrot what the government and the bosses say."

"The official unions, and the educational system in the country, are only good at preparing future slaves for industry," Vitalievych said. "We've got to involve the younger workers, the younger miners."

The Independent Trade Union of Miners of Ukraine (NGPU) was born out of strikes, protests and massive marches in 1989-91, which were at the center of political ferment that helped prepare the way for an independent Ukraine. Miners coupled demands for higher pay, better working conditions and the right to strike with political demands, including the end to Russian domination.

In October 1990 members of union strike committees across the country met in Donetsk and established the new, independent miners union. The Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine, which the NGPU is part of, was "created literally in the tent camps of the working-class people," the federation explains on its website.

Since the fall of the Soviet Union, the coal industry in Ukraine has taken big blows. The number of mines has tumbled from over 300 to 143. Forty-three of the more productive mines have been privatized.

One company, DTEK, owned by a syndicate run by Rinat Akhmetov, Ukraine's richest capitalist, accounts for almost half of the country's coal production.

Thousands of miners were thrown out of work in the transition, leading to widespread unemployment in coal regions in the east and west of the country.

Explosions, roof falls and silicosis lung disease take a heavy toll on miners. Mines in Ukraine, along with those in China, are the most dangerous in the world.

Since the 2008 worldwide financial crisis, sagging demand and falling prices for coal have hit the industry hard in Ukraine. The government closed nearly 20 percent of state-owned mines and cut production in the others. Akhmetov said DTEK plans to both raise production and "seriously decrease the number of employees," industry journal Coal Age reported in December.

Miners in the U.S. are facing similar assaults, Militant correspondent Frank Forrestal, a former coal miner in western Pennsylvania, told the Ukrainian miners. "Coal bosses have closed less profitable mines in West Virginia and Pennsylvania, where the union has had a base, and opened nonunion ones in the West. At the same time working conditions have gotten worse as bosses cut corners to defend their profits.

"Forty years ago there was a big social movement in the coal fields to enforce safer conditions to lower the prevalence of black lung that strengthened the union," Forrestal said. "But today black lung is coming back."

"The more we talk," said Elena Maslova, "the more I'm reminded of something we used to think about — the need for all proletarians of the world to unite."

Who Is Watergate? "I Am Personally Responsible For The Break In By Five CIA Employees Into The Democratic Natl Hq At The Watergate Office Complex"

From: Clancy Sigal
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: June 17, 2014
Subject: WHO IS WATERGATE from Clancy

June 17, 2014 by CLANCY SIGAL

A tiny item in yesterday's paper jogs my memory. The garage where, on this 42d anniversary, "Deep Throat" passed teasing information to WashPost reporter Bob Woodward is due to be demolished.

People under a certain age probably don't know about Watergate or have only a vague textbook idea. Or they picked it up from Pakula's great movie "All The President's Men" where Robt Redford plays the restrained gentile journalist Woodward and Dustin Hoffman the pushy Jewish foot-in-the-door Carl Bernstein.

The film made investigative reporting not only popular but respectable...that is until our present administration began cracking down on hardnose reporters.

I am personally responsible for the break in by five CIA employees into the Democratic Natl Hq at the Watergate office complex.

Let's walk this back a bit.

Among Pres Nixon's close aides in the 1970s who went into the slammer for (among other crimes) obstruction of justice were my two UCLA drinking buddies also my political enemies, Bob Haldeman and John Ehrlichman.

The "third man" at UCLA, also a drinking companion at Westwood's Glen bar, was Alex Butterfield, another Nixon aide, who spilled the beans with his surprise disclosure that Nixon taped his criminal activities.

(Later, when I spoke to Alex, who was never prosecuted, and asked if it was all a CIA plot to dethrone the president, he just smiled at me signaling well yeah maybe but you didn't hear it from me.)

Haldeman, Ehrlichman and I were BMOC, big men on campus, sharing the same student activities building.

The Wasp culture then was to wear a cheerful, slightly robotic Pepsodent smile even when stabbing another student in the back. The mantra was: "It's not personal, Clancy." They were ferociously anti-Red, but we didn't let a little thing like that get in the way of fraternity-style palship. (Bob was Beta Sig, John Kapp Sig, I a "barbarian" which is what Greek Row called non-orgs.)

One day, as the campus paper's managing editor, I walked into the Dean of Students office where Ehrlichman was the Dean's fraternity liason and surprised him with a magnifying class bent over photographs of student demonstrators (including me) marking in red crayon the most dangerous subversives. "Hey John, whatcha doing?" He just smiled blandly,

"Oh, you caught me." Much later he confessed that identifying fellow students to the FBI and LA police "red squad" was his "ongoing counterintelligence function" whatever that means.

I visited Haldeman in prison at Lompoc and Ehrlichman in New Mexico just before he began his sentence.

They were happy to talk and talk and talk. Just like the old days at the Glen. Haldeman, the more buttoned up of the duo, was the most revealing.

He said that Watergate was born in old campus struggles that centered on the UCLA Daily Bruin in the grip of "Jewish liberals" like me who had it in for him over a long-forgotten fraternity scandal involving, yes!, a dead puppy dog. (I protested to Bob that I wasn't a liberal then but a radical but he just blinked uncomprehendingly, I was trying to fool him again, libs and rads what's the difference?)

Follow the logic: Jews-and-liberals (same thing) control the media (campus newspaper) in their vendetta against loyal Americans.

By extension, when Nixon is in the White House and brings in the three UCLA boys, ALL media is controlled by Jewish liberals who have never forgiven Haldeman for that damn puppy dog.

So all of you who have gone to college those many long years ago and think it's all forgotten think again: old insults from a sensitive age and era have a habit of coming back to life like Dracula and sinking in their fangs, nothing personal.

**“Even In Constituencies Where There
Is No Prospect Of Our Candidate
Being Elected, The Workers Must
Nevertheless Put Up Candidates In
Order To Maintain Their
Independence”**

**“They Must Not Allow Themselves To Be
Diverted From This Work By The Stock
Argument That To Split The Vote Of The
Democrats Means Assisting The
Reactionary Parties”**

The gist of the matter is this: In case of an attack on a common adversary no special union is necessary; in the fight with such an enemy the interests of both parties, the middle-class democrats and the working-class party, coincide for the moment ...

This was so in the past, and will be so in the future.

March 1850 By Karl Marx, Address of the Central Committee to the Communist League
[Excerpts]

With a view to checking the power and the growth of big capital, the democratic party demands a reform of the laws of inheritance and legacies, likewise the transfer of the public services and as many industrial undertakings as possible to the state and municipal authorities.

As for the workingmen – well, they should remain wage workers: for whom, however, the democratic party would procure higher wages, better labor conditions, and a secure existence.

The democrats hope to achieve that partly through state and municipal management and through welfare institutions. In short, they hope to bribe the working class into quiescence and thus to weaken their revolutionary spirit by momentary concessions and comforts.

The democratic demands can never satisfy the party of the proletariat.

While the democratic petty bourgeoisie would like to bring the revolution to a close as soon as their demands are more or less complied with, it is our and our task to make the revolution permanent, to keep it going until all the ruling and possessing classes are deprived of power, the governmental machinery occupied by the proletariat, and the organization of the working classes of all lands is so far advanced that all rivalry and competition among themselves has ceased until the more important forces of production are concentrated in the hands of the proletarians

With us it is not a matter of reforming private property, but of abolishing it; not of hushing up class antagonism, but of abolishing the classes; not of ameliorating the existing society, but of establishing a new one.

Even in constituencies where there is no prospect of our candidate being elected, the workers must nevertheless put up candidates in order to maintain their independence, to steel their forces, to gauge their own strength and to bring their revolutionary position and party views before the public

They must not allow themselves to be diverted from this work by the stock argument that to split the vote of the democrats means assisting the reactionary parties.

All such talk is but calculated to cheat the proletariat.

The advance which the Proletarian Party will make through its independent political attitude is infinitely more important than the disadvantages of having a few more reactionaries in the national representation.

The gist of the matter is this: In case of an attack on a common adversary no special union is necessary; in the fight with such an enemy the interests of both parties, the middle-class democrats and the working-class party, coincide for the moment, and both parties will carry it on by a temporary understanding.

This was so in the past, and will be so in the future.

It is a matter of course that in the future sanguinary conflicts, as in all previous ones, the workingmen by their courage, resolution, and self-sacrifice, will form the main force in the attainment of victory.

As hitherto, so in the coming struggle, the petty bourgeoisie as a whole will maintain an attitude of delay, irresolution, and inactivity as long as possible, in order that, as soon as victory is assured, they may arrogate it to themselves and call upon the workers to remain quiet, return to work, avoid so-called excesses, and thus to shut off the workers from the fruits of victory.

Army Enters ‘Washington Redskins’ Debate: Massacres Team, Takes Land



Photo Credit: US Army

June 23, 2014 by G-Had, The Duffle Blog

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Football’s growing controversy over the use of the name “Washington Redskins” came to a screeching halt after the U.S. Army massacred the

entire team, then promptly confiscated all its land and property, sources confirmed Monday.

Elements of the 7th Cavalry Regiment, airlifted in on UH-60 Black Hawks, fast-roped into FedEx Field in the great history, tradition and legacy of that regiment, shooting down stadium security guards before turning their guns on the players and owners who were there for a routine preseason meeting.

As the troopers stormed the stadium, Redskins wide receiver Santana Moss was discussing the naming controversy with reporters, saying, "I hope the best for it because I feel like, as a Redskin—" before a Staff Sergeant shouted, "He's a redskin! Get him!" and dropped him with a well-aimed shot to the torso.

7th Cavalry then took formal possession of FedEx Field, renaming it to Fort Freedom.

1st Cavalry Division commander Brig. Gen. Michael Bills has pronounced the operation "an outstanding success" despite some negative publicity after one of the unit's supporting AH-64 Apache helicopters blew up a local Buffalo Wild Wings to deny food to the enemy. Bills also claimed that several widely-circulated photos, allegedly showing troopers wearing pilfered Redskins memorabilia and collectibles on their belts, were actually of volunteer militia recruited from the Dallas Cowboys.

Some human rights groups have objected to the Army's subsequent forced prostitution of the Redskins' cheerleader squad, but Bills explained that they need the money "so they don't starve in their tepees come winter." Authorities also grew concerned after a large crowd of protesting fans had to disperse following a totally unexpected outbreak of smallpox.

The 7th Cavalry has announced plans to compensate owner Dan Snyder's grieving family with some plastic beads and a bottle of whiskey.

Secretary of the Army John McHugh has suggested the Army may expand the operation to target the normally-peaceful Kansas City Chiefs and forcibly remove them to an appropriate stadium in Oklahoma or Arizona.

None of the other services have decided whether to join the Army's operation yet. Marine Commandant Gen. James Amos was unavailable for comment, and an aide referred us to a note on his door which read: "Gone to fight the Florida State Seminoles. Will be back when the season is over."

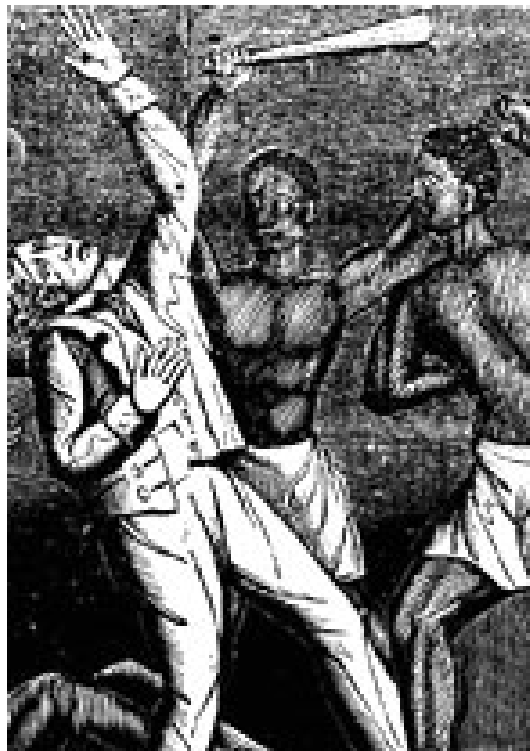
"On the one hand, we could have left the Redskins in place and tried to teach them the ways of modern society," said Secretary McHugh. "On the other hand, God created this great stadium, and it should be given to the San Francisco 49ers, who can make more productive use of it."

The surviving Redskins are expected to launch a legal claim on their right to FedEx Field, which they have occupied since 1997, when the land was purchased via solemn treaty by businessman Jack Kent Cooke over the protests of local chief Gov. William Donald Schaeffer.

Interestingly, the land seems to have originally been owned by a corporation called Nacotchtank, which claims the land was never actually sold.

ANNIVERSARIES

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY! Mutiny On The Amistad: July 2, 1839 “53 Slaves Recently Abducted From Africa, Revolted”



Peace History June 26-July 2 By Carl Bunin [Excerpt] Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc.

(July 2, 1839)

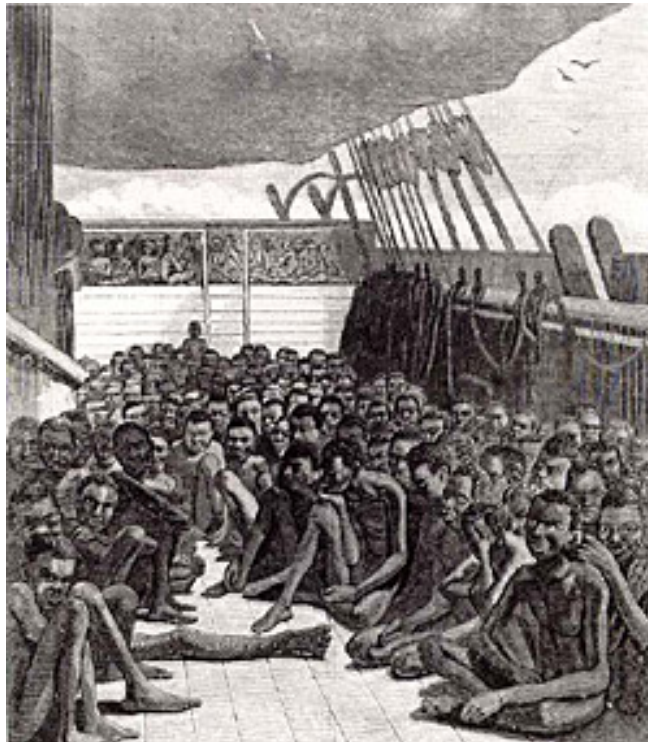
Amistad Mutiny: slave rebellion that took place on the slave ship Amistad near the coast of Cuba and had important political and legal repercussions in the American Abolitionist movement.

The mutineers were captured and tried in the United States, and a surprising victory for the country's antislavery forces resulted in 1841 when the U.S. Supreme Court freed the rebels. A committee formed to defend the slaves later developed into the American Missionary Association (incorporated 1846).

On July 2, 1839, the Spanish schooner Amistad was sailing from Havana to Puerto Príncipe, Cuba, when the ship's unwilling passengers, 53 slaves recently abducted from Africa, revolted.

Led by Joseph Cinqué, they killed the captain and the cook but spared the life of a Spanish navigator, so that he could sail them home to Sierra Leone.

The navigator managed instead to sail the Amistad generally northward. Two months later the U.S. Navy seized the ship off Long Island, N.Y., and towed it into New London, Conn. The mutineers were held in a jail in New Haven, Conn., a state in which slavery was legal.



The Spanish embassy's demand for the return of the Africans to Cuba led to an 1840 trial in a Hartford, Conn., federal court. New England Abolitionist Lewis Tappan stirred public sympathy for the African captives, while the U.S. government took the proslavery side. U.S.

President Martin Van Buren ordered a Navy ship sent to Connecticut to return the Africans to Cuba immediately after the trial. A candidate for reelection that year, he

anticipated a ruling against the defendants and hoped to gain proslavery votes by removing the Africans before Abolitionists could appeal to a higher court.

Prosecutors argued that, as slaves, the mutineers were subject to the laws governing conduct between slaves and their masters. But trial testimony determined that while slavery was legal in Cuba, importation of slaves from Africa was not.

Therefore, the judge ruled, rather than being merchandise, the Africans were victims of kidnapping and had the right to escape their captors in any way they could.

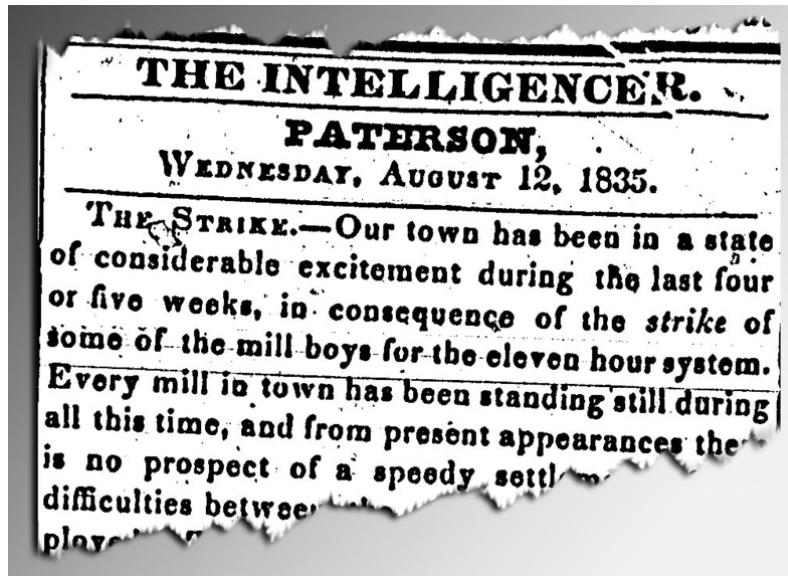
When the U.S. government appealed the case before the U.S. Supreme Court the next year, congressman and former president John Quincy Adams argued eloquently for the Amistad rebels.

The Supreme Court upheld the lower court, and private and missionary society donations helped the 35 surviving Africans secure passage home. They arrived in Sierra Leone in January 1842, along with five missionaries and teachers who intended to found a Christian mission.

Spain continued to insist that the United States pay indemnification for the Cuban vessel. The U.S. Congress intermittently debated the Amistad case, without resolution, for more than two decades, until the American Civil War began in 1861.



**July 3, 1835: Honorable Anniversary;
Children Go On Strike For An 11-Hour
Workday**



Carl Bunin Peace History June 29 - July 5

Progressivehistorians.com:

On July 3, 1835, in Paterson, New Jersey, nearly 2,000 textile workers walked off the job.

The strike was notable for several reasons.

For one thing the strikers weren't demanding more money, despite the fact that they only made \$2 a week (adjusted for inflation, that would be \$44 a week today).

Their central demand was an 11-hour day (as opposed to the 13.5-hour days they were currently working), and only 9 hours on Saturday instead of a full day.

That in itself was significant enough. The first strike in American history to limit hours had happened only 7 years earlier, and was also in Paterson, New Jersey. That strike had been crushed after a week when the militia was called in.

What made this strike worth remembering was who the strikers were - they were children, aged 10 to 18. Many of them girls.

Before the month was out the parents of Paterson had joined together to form the "Paterson Association for the Protection of the Working Classes of Paterson". Through the Association a "vigilance committee" was formed to organize support. In 1835 there was no such thing as a labor union. Back then there were only guilds for skilled workers. Nothing like that existed for textile workers, much less for children.

The management flat-out refused to negotiate with the Association, or any worker's organization. In response, the Association appealed to help from other workers. Women textile workers in other mills around Paterson walked out. Mechanics from Newark set up a committee to raise funds and investigate the working conditions in Paterson. This is what they found:

“(conditions in the Paterson mills) belong rather to the dark ages than to the present times, and would be more congenial to the climate of his majesty the emperor and autocrat of all the Russians, than “this land of the free and home of the brave,” this boasted asylum for the oppressed of all nations.”

After six weeks a deal was struck between the Association and the management. They would split the difference: the children of Paterson would only have to work 12 hours a day during the week, and 9 hours on Saturday; a 69-hour week. The children who continued to hold out for the 11-hour day were fired and blacklisted.

July 6, 1892 -- Heroic Anniversary: “What Happened At Homestead Was Not A Riot. It Was Organised Class Violence, Consciously Controlled By The Workers, As Part Of The Struggle”

“A Militant Strike Of Steel Workers Of The Carnegie Company In The U.S. Defending Their Union Against The Bosses, The Police And Hired Armed Mercenaries”

Carl Bunin Peace History July 5-11

In one of the worst cases of violent union-busting, a fierce battle broke out between the striking employees (members of the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers) of Andrew Carnegie’s Homestead Steel Company and a Pinkerton Detective Agency private army brought on barges down the Monongahela River in the dead of night. Twelve were killed.

Henry C. Frick, general manager of the plant in Homestead, near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, had been given free rein by Carnegie to quash the strike. At Frick’s request, Pennsylvania Gov. Robert E. Pattison then sent 8,500 troops to intervene on behalf of the company.



Defeated Pinkerton agents, escorted by armed union men, leaving their barges after surrendering. Harper's Weekly: 1892

From Libcom.org

An account of a militant strike of steel workers of the Carnegie company in the US defending their union against the bosses, the police and hired armed mercenaries.

The Robber Baron Andrew Carnegie precipitated the Homestead Strike of 1892 with his attack against the standard of living of the workers and his bid to break the union representing the highest skilled workers.

Carnegie announced his intention to impose an 18 percent pay cut and issued a statement saying that the real issue was whether the Homestead steel workers would be union or non-union.

He ordered a 12 foot high fence to be built around the plant – 3 miles in length – with 3 inch holes at shoulder height every 25 feet, signaling preparation for an armed fight with the workers.

At the same time Carnegie hired the notorious Pinkerton company to provide armed thugs for the upcoming struggle.

An ultimatum was issued for workers to accept the wage cut by June 24th or face mass layoffs.

The workers did not take these provocations lightly.

They were not about to abandon the union and submit to Carnegie's dictates without a fight. The Amalgamated Union, which represented the skilled workers, about 750 of the plant's 3,800 employees, established an Advisory Committee, comprised of five delegates from each lodge, to coordinate the struggle against Carnegie's attacks.

A mass meeting of 3,000 workers from all categories, union and non-union voted overwhelmingly to strike.

The Advisory Committee took responsibility for organising an elaborate network to track the company's maneuvers, to monitor the possibility of an anticipated transport of Pinkerton goons by river boat from Pittsburgh.

Workers rented their own vessel to patrol the river. Every road within a five mile radius of Homestead was blockaded, and a thousand strikers patrolled the river banks for ten miles.

The Committee assumed virtual control of the town, assuming authority over the water, gas, and electricity facilities, shutting down the saloons, maintaining order and proclaiming ad hoc laws.

An attempt by the county sheriff to move against the strikers fell flat on its face when he proved unable to raise a posse.

The workers offered the sheriff a tour of the plant and promised to guarantee the security of the facility from any trespassers. Sympathy for the strikers was high.

On July 5th a steam whistle sounded the alarm at 4am.

Two barges transporting more than 300 Pinkertons left Pittsburgh.

By the time the thugs arrived at Homestead, 10,000 armed strikers and their supporters were gathered to "greet" them.

An armed confrontation erupted. Thirty workers were wounded, and three killed in the early fighting. Armed proletarians from nearby towns rushed to the scene to reinforce their class brothers. The shoot-out continued throughout the day.

Finally the demoralized Pinkertons, trapped in debilitating heat on the barges, outnumbered and outgunned, mutinied against their superiors.

Most were not regular agents, but reservists who had been recruited under false pretences; they were prepared to do some bullying, intimidating and terrorizing, but did not have the stomach to confront armed, organised class resistance.

Once the Pinkertons surrendered, the workers debated what to do with their despised prisoners. Angered by the casualties inflicted by the Pinkertons – a total

of 40 wounded, 9 killed - some wanted to execute the thugs, but the Committee reasoned that a mass execution would be used against the strikers by the bosses.

Instead the Pinkertons were forced to run a gauntlet. In the end the casualties suffered by the Pinkertons were 20 shot, seven killed and 300 injured running the gauntlet.

In retaliation for the deaths of strikers, a young Russian anarchist called Alexander Berkman attempted to assassinate the Carnegie boss Henry Clay Frick. He shot Frick three times and stabbed him with a poison-tipped dagger, but Frick remarkably survived. Berkman was subsequently imprisoned for 14 years.

The strike continued for four months.

Eventually federal troops were brought in to crush the struggle, and 160 strikers were arrested and charged with murder and assault.

But the bosses' repressive apparatus could not find a jury anywhere in the Pittsburgh region that would convict a single striker. All were acquitted.

Hugh O'Donnell, one of the strike leaders, was first charged with treason. Following his acquittal on those charges, he was immediately rearrested and tried for murder. And following acquittal on that charge, he was rearrested and tried for assault – again successfully beating back the state's prosecution.

However, despite beating back the criminal charges, the strike morale was broken, and the union driven out. Throughout the country workers were sympathetic to the struggle at Homestead, and needless to say, the spokesmen of the capitalist class were furious. Strikers were referred to as a "mob."

The New York Times granted that the company had provoked the battle, nevertheless maintained solidarity with its class brother and insisted that the obligation of the state was "to enforce law and order at Homestead, to quell the mob, to put the property of the Carnegie Steel Company in possession its owners and to protect their lawful rights."

Despite ending in defeat, Homestead was an important moment in the history of class struggle in America.

What happened at Homestead was not a riot.

It was organised class violence, consciously controlled by the workers, as part of the struggle.

Homestead demonstrated clearly the capacity of workers to organise their struggles, to resist the attacks of the capitalist class, to achieve an active solidarity in struggle, to organise their own power to rival that of the local state apparatus during the struggle, to organise class violence and exercise it judiciously.

July 6, 1944 -- Noble Anniversary: Eleven Years Before Rosa Parks, A Courageous Lady Defies Bus Racism And Wins

Carl Bunin Peace History July 5-11

Irene Morgan, a 28-year-old black woman, was arrested for refusing to move to the back of the bus eleven years before Rosa Parks did so.

Her legal appeal, after her conviction for breaking a Virginia law (known as a Jim Crow law) forbidding integrated seating, resulted in a 7-1 Supreme Court decision barring segregation in interstate commerce.

By Robin Washington, Robin Washington. Com [Excerpts]

Eleven years before Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a city bus in Montgomery, Alabama, a young woman named Irene Morgan rejected that same demand on an interstate bus headed to Maryland from Gloucester, Virginia.

Recovering from a miscarriage and already sitting far in the back, she defied the driver's order to surrender her seat to a white couple.

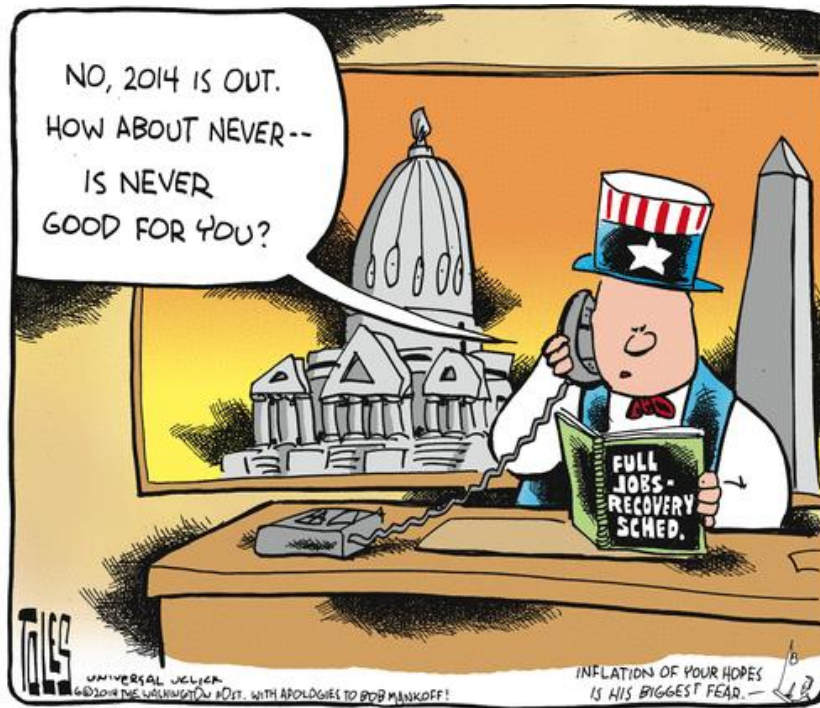
Like Parks, Morgan was arrested and jailed. But her action caught the attention of lawyers from the NAACP, led by Thurgood Marshall, and in two years her case reached the Supreme Court. Though the lawyers fervently believed that Jim Crow - the curious pseudonym for racial segregation - was unjust, they recognized the practice was still the law of the land, upheld by the 1896 Supreme Court decision in Plessy v. Ferguson.

Instead of seeking a judgment on humanitarian grounds or the equal protection provisions of the Fourteenth Amendment, they made the seemingly arcane argument that segregation in interstate travel violated the Constitution's Interstate Commerce Clause.

On June 3, 1946, that strategy paid off. In *Irene Morgan v. Virginia*, the court ruled that segregation in interstate travel was indeed unconstitutional as "an undue burden on commerce."

But though that the decision was now law, the southern states refused to enforce it, and Jim Crow continued as the way of life in the South.

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



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.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Palestinian Youth Killed During Regime Night Raid On Jalazone Refugee Camp:

“He Was Killed, And Buried, Only One Week After Being Released From The Occupation Prisons”



According to the Palestinian Red Crescent, Sabarin was killed when he was shot directly in the chest.

16 June 2014 Electronic Intifada

Since the reported disappearance and claimed kidnapping of 3 young Israeli settlers near Gush Etzion settlement on Friday, Israeli Occupation Forces have been carrying out widespread raids and attacks across the West Bank and have also bombed Gaza. With an intensive arrest campaign underway across the West Bank, it is now reported that at least 150 Palestinians have been arrested since Friday.

Hebron has been heavily attacked during these ongoing invasions and is under almost complete closure with checkpoints surrounding the city.

On Sunday night, the IOF continued their raids on the southern city as well as invading Beit Jala and Bethlehem, Ramallah and its refugee camps, and both Nablus and Jenin.

During raids around the Ramallah area, Jalazone refugee camp was attacked overnight. 3 young Palestinians were shot with live bullets during the invasion and one of the youth, 20 year old Ahmad Sabarin, was killed after being shot directly in the chest.

Thousands of Palestinians from the Ramallah area gathered in Jalazone camp for Sabarin's funeral.

He was killed, and buried, only one week after being released from the occupation prisons.

Occupation Forces Evict Palestinian Returnees From Their Christian Village: “The Activists Are All Descendants Of Palestinian Refugees From The Village, Who Where Expelled From The Village In The 1948 War”



Palestinian refugees of Iqrit prepare for Easter celebrations amongst the ruins of their destroyed village on Sunday April 20, 2014 | Dylan Collins

The Israel Land Authority demolished a camp on Wednesday set up by activists in the destroyed village of Kufr Bir'im, in the Galilee region of Israel.

The activists are all descendants of Palestinian refugees from the village, who where expelled from the village in the 1948 war.

Last August approximately 10 young Palestinians decided to set up camp in the village, to demand their right of return to the lands of their families. They have maintained a near constant presence amongst the ruins ever since.

Shortly after setting up the camp, the first eviction order was given. The group began a court case to oppose the order, but their request was denied, as was the appeal they filed afterwards. According to Ra'ed, whose family is originally from Kufr Bir'im, the appeal was denied because the government doesn't recognize their claim to the land.

“They say it’s the government’s land, not ours. We built the camp around the church, because that’s the only thing that doesn’t belong to the government. But they demolished our camp anyway.”

Ra'ed's son Wassim, one of the activists that stayed in the camp for the past ten months, said they knew the eviction was coming. “We got the eviction order, and we lost our final appeal last month. The police came a day before the eviction, and told us it would happen.”

Despite the eviction, he and his fellow activists are not planning to leave Kufr Bir'im for long. “They demolished the camp, and confiscated our personal items. They even disconnected the water and electricity supplies, which was not in the eviction order. But we went back the same day,” said Wassim.

During the past ten months, the campers experienced a series of protests from neighboring [Zionist] towns against their presence amongst the village's ruins. “Two or three times Israelis came here in the very early morning. They uprooted olive trees...” Wassim recalls. With the camp destroyed and no electricity or water, it looks like the situation in the village will be more difficult from now on. Now that the eviction order is final, the police can come and clear the village at any time.

The eviction from Kufr Bir'im follows a raid by Israel's Land Authority and police in Iqrit, another destroyed village in the northern Galilee.

In Iqrit, too, young Palestinians returned to their family's village and lands almost two years ago. During the raid last Sunday, the police confiscated personal belongings and demolished the tents in which the activists were living. Three activists were arrested, after reportedly being punched and kicked by police officers while they tried to stop them from taking personal belongings.

The Land Authority only allows the people of Kufr Bir'im and Iqrit to hold church services on the destroyed villages' and bury the dead in the cemetery. After the evictions from both towns, it seems even less likely than before they will be allowed to return there permanently any time soon.

Walaa Sbait, one of the three men arrested in Iqrit, told the Guardian, “Right now Iqrit people have the right to return only in a coffin, but we want to live here.”

Occupation Forces Kill Two West Bank Youths In Ongoing Attacks:

“Since 2000, Israeli Forces And Settlers Have Killed More Than 1,400 Palestinian Children In The West Bank And Gaza Strip”



Relatives of Mohammed Dudeen mourn during the 15-year-old's funeral in the West Bank city of Hebron, 20 June. (Mamoun Wazwaz / APA images)

06/20/2014 by Maureen Clare Murphy, ElectronicIntifada.net

Correction (25 June 2014): Mustafa Aslan, one of the youths referred to in this headline, was reported at the time of publication by Ma'an News Agency to have died on 20 June but this information was incorrect. He passed away on 25 June from the injuries he sustained on 20 June.

Israeli forces killed two Palestinian youths, including a child, during an ongoing military assault in the occupied West Bank today.

Fifteen-year-old Mohammed Dudeen “was killed by a single live bullet after dozens of Israeli soldiers descended on his home village of Dura, near the southern West Bank city of Hebron, overnight,” the rights group Defense for Children International Palestine reported today.

The group adds:

“In sworn testimonies given to Defense for Children International Palestine (DCI-Palestine), eyewitnesses stated that clashes erupted between local residents and soldiers as the Israeli military forced entry into over twenty homes. Soldiers used crowd-control weapons and live ammunition against youths throwing stones.

“The fatal shooting took place as Israeli soldiers prepared to leave the village at dawn. Eyewitnesses report that soldiers stationed in Haninia neighborhood fired teargas canisters, stun grenades, and live ammunition at civilians. The soldier who fired the shot was reportedly not more than 80 meters (262 feet) from the victim.

“Mohammad Dudeen becomes the sixth Palestinian child to be killed by Israeli forces since the start of the year.

“Meanwhile in southern Gaza, DCI-Palestine confirmed five children were injured in an Israeli missile strike on Friday, including a 25-day-old baby.”

Meanwhile, DCI-Palestine adds:

“According to Ma’an News Agency, two young Palestinian children were injured by shrapnel on the evening of June 15 when the Israeli army bombed the front door of their Hebron home. DCI-Palestine’s own data records two teens, 14 and 17, injured in Nablus on June 17. Another 17-year-old was injured on June 18, also in Nablus. All were wounded during Israeli raids in the area.

Another youth, 22-year-old Mustafa Hosni Aslan, succumbed to wounds sustained during an Israeli army raid on Qalandiya refugee camp near Ramallah before dawn today, Ma’an News Agency reports.”

Ma’an adds:

“His death was announced in Qalandiya refugee camp only hours after it had been announced that he was injured, not killed, leading to a state of shock for many residents upon hearing the news.

“Locals said that youths had thrown rocks and broken bottles at the Israeli troops when they stormed the camp, leading to “violent” clashes.

“Two other Palestinians were shot during the raid, one in the stomach and one in the side.

“Israeli forces confirmed the raid and the shooting, saying that they responded with live fire after a grenade was thrown at Israeli forces in the camp.”

A total of three Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank in the last week as Israel has launched its largest military assault in the occupied territory in more than a decade following the disappearance of three Israeli teens there on Thursday, 12 June.

On Saturday, 14 June, a seven-year-old boy in Gaza died of wounds sustained days earlier during an air strike in which a suspected fighter was extrajudicially executed.

More than 330 Palestinians have been swept up in mass arrests across the West Bank in the last week, and the Israeli attorney general has reportedly approved the use of “moderate physical pressure” against those arrested, in what the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel says amounts to “pre-approval of torture.”

Since 2000, Israeli forces and settlers have killed more than 1,400 Palestinian children in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

THE US-IRAN RESPONSE TO THE IRAQ CRISIS



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