

Military Resistance 12H7

**‘Garner’ Precinct Police
Accused Of Sexually
Assaulting 2 Youths 10
Days Before Police Kill
Garner:**

**“Mr. Pacheco And Ms. Gordon
And Their Attorney, Peter J.
Gleason, Believe They Were
Confronted By Members Of The
Same Unit That Arrested Mr.
Garner”**

**“They Checked My Pockets And
Pulled My Pants And Boxers
Down. I Was Exposed”
“You Grab Someone’s Breasts
Unnecessarily, It’s A Sexual Assault”**

“I Turned Around And Asked What They’re Doing. One Of Them Kneed Me In The Head”



STRIPPED IN THE PARKING LOT:

Alexus Gordon and Daryl Pacheco say they were brutalized by plainclothes police officers from Staten Island’s 120th Precinct as they and their friends returned to their car after shopping 10 days before the fatal confrontation between cops from that precinct and Eric Garner.

They say they were thrown to the surface of the parking lot. Officers cursed them and pointed guns at their heads, they allege, and Mr. Pacheco’s pants and boxers were pulled down and a female officer ran her hand over Ms. Gordon’s breasts. The officers left without an explanation for the encounter.

Photo: The Chief-Leader/Michel Friang

August 19, 2014 By MARK TOOR, The Civil Service Chief-Leader, New York

Daryl Pacheco and Alexis Gordon had just run an errand for her mother, picking up disposable plates at a Staten Island CVS, when he started the car, turned around in the driver’s seat and saw at least a dozen plainclothes police officers through his rear window.

“I get out of the car with my hands up,” Mr. Pacheco, 20, said in an interview last week at his attorney’s apartment.

The officers “started cursing and tell me to get on the ground. They threw me to the ground. They checked my pockets and pulled my pants and boxers down. I was exposed.

“I turned around and asked what they’re doing. One of them kneed me in the head.”

Two of the officers stuck guns in his face, he said, “and told me, ‘don’t move; don’t you fucking move.’”

“Two males pulled me out of the car and threw me on the ground on my knees,” said Ms. Gordon, 19. Three officers held their guns to her head, she said. They handcuffed her and lifted her up, she said, and a female officer ran a hand across her breasts.

“I was wearing a skin-tight tank top and skin-tight tights,” she said. “You could see clearly if I was concealing anything.”

The officers asked her repeatedly why she was with Mr. Pacheco and the other three passengers in the car, she said.

She believes their questions were racially motivated; she is mixed-race, Mr. Pacheco is Latino and the other three people in the car, a cousin and two friends, were clearly minorities. The section of Staten Island in which they were stopped, South Beach, is predominantly white.

They searched the car without asking permission, she said. When they found nothing, she said, they got back in their cars and drove away, still without an explanation.

10 Days Before Garner

The incident took place around 11:30 p.m. July 7 in the 120th Precinct, where 10 days later Eric Garner would die shortly after plainclothes officers wrestled him to the ground when he refused to cooperate with an arrest for selling loose cigarettes.

Mr. Pacheco and Ms. Gordon and their attorney, Peter J. Gleason, believe they were confronted by members of the same unit that arrested Mr. Garner.

Ms. Gordon said she believed the officer who grabbed Mr. Garner around the neck, Daniel Pantaleo, initiated the encounter. An officer resembling Mr. Pantaleo came up to tell the supervisor he was taking credit for the stop, she recalled.

The young people also said they recognized a man in the video of Mr. Garner’s arrest, who told bystanders not to film the encounter, as being at the scene in the CVS parking lot.

Asked for comment, an NYPD spokesman said, “There is an internal investigation into this alleged incident.”



Alexis Gordon says she believes the reason for their encounter with 120th Precinct police was racial. They were in South Beach, a predominantly white section of Staten Island, and the four people in the car with her were clearly members of minority groups, she said. Officers repeatedly asked her what she was doing with them, she said. Photo: The Chief-Leader/Michel Friang

'These Are Good Kids'

Ms. Gordon's mother, Natalya Gordon, said she was shocked when her daughter and Mr. Pacheco arrived at her home, with her daughter bleeding from the knees where she had hit the surface of the parking lot and Mr. Pacheco with a welt on his face where the officer had kneed him.

"These are good kids," Natalya Gordon said. "They're not street kids....These are two fine, decent young adults who do not deserve to be manhandled by the cops."

Mr. Pacheco works in information technology for Chase Bank, and her daughter attends the College of Staten Island and works at a C-Town supermarket.

Natalya Gordon called her brother, a Captain with a New Jersey police department, and he told her to go to the precinct and file a report. She went down in the early hours of July 8.

'They Laughed At Me'

“They threw me out of the precinct,” she said. “They laughed at me. They said if I didn’t leave they were going to detain me.”

The Sergeant at the desk refused to give her the forms to file a complaint, she said.

She went back to the stationhouse to file a complaint the day after Mr. Garner died, she said. Officers treated her politely and gave her the forms she needed. The original Sergeant was not present, she said.

Mr. Gleason took the young people to the Civilian Complaint Review Board, but was offended by the CCRB’s intake form, which asked complainants for their Social Security numbers. “You don’t need an ID to vote, you shouldn’t need it to file a complaint,” he said.

Linda Sachs, a spokeswoman for the CCRB, said the initial complaint form does not ask for a Social Security number, but complainants are asked for one when they make a statement. “We have to be certain of the identity of complainants,” she said. The CCRB website says the agency will take complaints regardless of immigration status, she added.

‘These Were Sexual Assaults’

Mr. Gleason said he brought his clients to the stationhouse.

“I told the Captain that we wanted to file a complaint of sexual assault. He went ballistic on me.”

But, Mr. Gleason said, “You pull someone’s pants down in public, it’s a sexual assault. You grab someone’s breasts unnecessarily, it’s a sexual assault.”

He said the Captain wanted to interview his clients without him present, but he would not allow it.

He told a reporter for this newspaper he planned to take his clients to the Internal Affairs Bureau on Hudson St. in lower Manhattan.

“It was clear that both the CCRB and the ‘120’ wanted to dismiss this matter as quickly as possible,” Mr. Gleason said.

Alexis Gordon said her knees were bleeding so severely that she went to the emergency room for treatment. Later, she entered counseling to deal with the trauma from the incident.

“I have nightmares every night,” she said. “I wake up crying in my sleep. I always dream of me almost getting killed, of my friends getting killed.”

‘I Could Have Been Killed’

Mr. Pacheco has similar problems. "I can't sleep," he said. "When I try I just toss and turn. I constantly replay it in my mind...I think about what could have happened...I could have been killed."

Alexus Gordon said that both she and Mr. Pacheco have relatives and friends who are cops, but their experience has shaken their confidence in the NYPD.

"I think of them as legal bullies," Mr. Pacheco said as Alexis Gordon nodded.

Natalya Gordon said that after her daughter's experience she wouldn't call police if she was robbed. "I'll take my chances with the robber," she said.

MORE OF THIS SHIT ELSEWHERE:

**No It's Not Just Ferguson Or
Staten Island, And It's Not Just
About Killings:
An Eyewitness Report:
"Subject: Sheriff Negligence, A Minority
Victim & Bullying"**

From: LB
Copy To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Subject: The Sheriff Down South
Date: Aug 23, 2014 11:12 AM

Attached is an interesting and revealing interaction that I had yesterday with one of Georgia's finest which makes me wish sometimes that we lived back up north.

I sent it electronically early this morning and, unfortunately, didn't catch a couple of typos. But they do not change the gist of the story.

From; LB
Submitted on 8.23.2014 at 12:06 am

Dear Forsyth County Board of Commissioners:
Subject: Sheriff Negligence, a Minority Victim & Bullying

On August 23, 2014, at about 4:30 p.m., I was waiting in my car, in the left turn lane at the intersection of Mathis Airport Pkwy and Peachtree Pkwy (141), for a green arrow to travel to Johns Creek. In front of me, a car was violently sideswiped in this intersection

making a right turn from the opposite direction of me, by another vehicle traveling towards Johns Creek at a high rate of speed and probably going through a yellow light.

I saw the event clearly because my car was stopped at the light and the accident occurred right in front of me and in my line of sight. I would be very surprised that another witness was in a better position to observe this accident.

When the Forsyth Sheriff Officers arrived, I approached the two that I saw, standing together at the scene, and introduced myself as a witness.

They asked me what I had seen.

I started to tell them about my vantage point and what I saw when they abruptly interrupted me to say what I had told them contradicted two other witness who appeared to be standing together nearby talking to each other

(NB: Did these two witnesses provide truly independent versions of what they saw? Why did the officers appear to interview them together?).

In response, I said that the damage to the two cars in the collision was consistent with what I had seen.

One of the officers, a thick middle-age male Caucasian male of about average height, with short brown hair and wearing sunglasses, abruptly interrupted by me again and said that I should not to argue with what the other witnesses had told the officers and asked me to leave, which I did, without incident.

Apparently, my story and the physical evidence did not fit with the Forsyth County Sheriff officers' preconceived notion of what had happened.

I was not given the opportunity by the officers to provide my name or statement regarding a serious accident that involved at least one child.

I hope this isn't standard Forsyth County Sheriff operating procedure.

To note, the woman who was hit making her turn was a minority wearing a headscarf.

The driver of the other vehicle was a Caucasian female — the same race as the investigating officers and the three witnesses at the accident scene.

I am curious about who got the ticket and hope it was based on the facts and NOT because of the race of the driver.

PS: The officer I described told me not to take pictures of the damaged cars that I had witnessed colliding together.

I told him that it was my right to take pictures in a public space and that he knew this too. I am disappointed that Forsyth Sheriff officer misrepresented the law to bullying a witness.

MORE OF THIS SHIT ELSEWHERE:

COMMENT UNNECESSARY



Four enemy combatants aim weapons at one unarmed man as they break up a protest in Ferguson, Mo., early Aug. 20, 2014. (AP Photo/Charlie Riedel)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Foreign Occupation “Servicemember” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan: Nationality Not Announced

August 20, 2014 AP

A foreign servicemember died of wounds as a result of an attack in eastern Afghanistan today.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

**Taliban Claims Responsibility For
Killing Foreign Occupation Worker
Out Shopping In Kabul;
Local Collaborator Also Killed**

Aug 20 2014 By Ghanizada, Khaama Press & by Faridullah Sahil, TOLONews

The Taliban militants group in Afghanistan claimed responsibility for stabbing a foreign citizen in capital Kabul on Wednesday morning.

The eye witnesses say that the incident occurred when a foreigner was standing on the main airport road when unidentified men came out of a car and stabbed the foreign citizen and immediately fled the area.

“The foreigners were escorting trucks and stopped near the police checkpost when two foreigners and their translator stepped out of the car to get permission from the police to allow the vehicles through,” an eyewitness said.

“When suddenly one of the foreigners fell to the ground with blood spattered everywhere.”

Taliban group spokesman, Zabiullah Mujahid, claimed that the foreign national who was killed in the attack on Wednesday morning was a worker of the international coalition forces.

Mujahid further added that the attack was carried out by three Taliban fighters while the foreigner was busy with shopping in Bibi Mehro area of Kabul city.

The Taliban militants group also claimed responsibility for assassinating an Afghan businessman in Qala-e-Fatullah area of Kabul city on Monday.

Mujahid said the businessman was working with the coalition forces and claimed that the information regarding the Afghans working with the foreign troops are given to Taliban

group by the people who are assisting Taliban in Kabul and other provinces of Afghanistan.

“As Many As 700 Heavily Armed Taliban Insurgents Are Battling Afghan Security Forces In Logar” “Logar Lies About An Hour's Drive South Of Kabul”

Aug 19, 2014 Reuters

As many as 700 heavily armed Taliban insurgents are battling Afghan security forces in Logar, a key province near the capital Kabul, local officials said on Tuesday, in a test of the Afghan military's strength as foreign forces pull out of the country.

“There are some 700 of them and they are fighting Afghan forces for territorial control and they have also brought with them makeshift mobile (health) clinics,” Niaz Mohammad Amiri, the provincial governor of Logar province, told Reuters by telephone.

The Taliban have dug-in in Logar, which lies about an hour's drive south of Kabul, and nearby Wardak province to the west, in recent years. They have used the provinces - gateways to the capital - as launchpads for hit-and-run attacks and suicide bombings on Kabul.

The main roads into the capital are all tightly controlled, but the militants have still been able to breach the checkpoints and staged dozens of attacks, killing scores of civilians and soldiers in the city of about five million this year.

Abdul Hakim Esaanqai, the police chief of Logar province, said the insurgents, armed with heavy machine guns, were fighting Afghan forces from residential areas in Charkh district.

Zabihullah Mujahid, a Taliban spokesman, said the militants were battling Afghan forces from all sides to overrun the district. “The area is under siege and we have already taken over many security outposts and killed many Afghan forces,” he told Reuters by telephone.

With less and less U.S. air cover, Taliban fighters have changed tactics and now attack Afghan military posts in larger numbers with the aim of taking and holding ground, a shift from the hit-and-run strikes with posses of gunmen, explosives and suicide bombers.

In this year's summer offensive, the Taliban appears to have mostly focused on gaining ground in strategic parts of the country, like border crossings or highways that facilitate the export of opium, the financial lifeblood of their insurgency.

“Taliban Advance In Their Offensives Throughout The Provinces Of Afghanistan”

“Taliban Are Now Within Seven Kilometers From Kunduz City”

23 August 2014 by Aazem Arash, TOLONews

Prolonged elections with no end in sight have allowed the Taliban to advance in their offensives throughout the provinces of Afghanistan causing the bloodiest operations in the past three months, according to the Ministry of Defense (MoD).

The MoD believes the reason behind the rise in insurgency is the current political situation of the country that has affected millions one way or another.

The beauties of Kunduz's district of Chahar Dara have been overtaken by the smoke of war. The presence of the Taliban, who are now within seven kilometers from Kunduz city, has made many leave behind their homes in search of safety and peace and has brought the Minister of Defense to Kunduz to lead the battle.

The homes left behind by families are now occupied by Taliban fighters who are hiding in the houses in efforts to attack the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF).

Kunduz Governor Ghulam Sakhi Baghlani says the “lack of security forces and absence of air support are the reasons behind the insecurity in the province.”

Kunduz is not the only province suffering and experiencing the dark days brought on to it by the insurgents; throughout the country there have been numerous attacks, crossfire's and deaths.

“The war is not only in Kunduz, but it's in all parts of the country,” Minister of Defense Bismillah Mohammadi said.

Insider Attack Poisons 5 Policemen In Helmand Province

Aug 22 2014 By Ghanizada, Khaama Press

At least five policemen were killed following an insider attack in southern Helmand province of Afghanistan.

According to local government officials, the incident took place late Thursday night in Greshk district after a policeman poisoned his five comrades and later shot them dead.

The officials further added that the assailant militant managed to flee the area following the attack and has taken with him the weapons and ammunition belonging to the other policemen.

Taliban group spokesman, Zabiullah Mujahid, claimed responsibility behind the incident and said the attack was carried out by a Taliban infiltrator.

Mujahid further added that seven policemen were killed following the attack and the Taliban fighter managed to flee the area.

He said the Taliban fighter also confiscated six AK-47 rifles, one rocket launcher and a motorcycle following the attack.

Taliban attacked on Herat police training academy vehicle Kills Five

Taliban Ambush Kills 5 Police Officers From Training Academy

21 August 2014 by Faridullah Sahil, TOLONews

Taliban insurgents killed five police officers and wounded another police officer in western Herat province on Wednesday, local officials said.

On Thursday Provincial Police spokesman Abdul Raouf Ahmadi says, the incident occurred late Wednesday in Ab Jalil area of Injil district of the province when armed Taliban attacked a Herat police training academy vehicle.

The police academy vehicle was traveling from Zinda Jan district to Herat city.

“The officers were instructors who were a part of Herat's police training center,” Ahmadi said.

Taliban Attack In Afghan Capital Wounds Four Soldiers

21 August 2014 by Faridullah Sahil, TOLONews

At least four Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers were wounded early Thursday morning in Kabul, according to local police.

Kabul police said in a statement released to the media, that the incident occurred at about 7 a.m. local time when the ANA's vehicle hit a land mine in the 12th district of Kabul in an area known as Ahmad Shah Baba Mina.

The victims have been taken to nearby hospital.

The statement added that there were no civilian casualties.

An investigation is underway by the Kabul police.

The Taliban insurgents have claimed responsibility for the incident.

Afghan Government Forces New York Times Reporter To Get Out Of The Country: “He Wrote An Article Saying Government Ministers And Officials Were Threatening To Seize Power To End A Stand-Off Over Election Results”

August 21, 2014 The News International

KABUL: Afghanistan on Wednesday ordered a New York Times correspondent to leave the country after he wrote an article saying government ministers and officials were threatening to seize power to end a stand-off over election results.

The attorney general's office said the article was “against the national interests and the national security of Afghanistan” and that Matthew Rosenberg must depart within 24 hours.

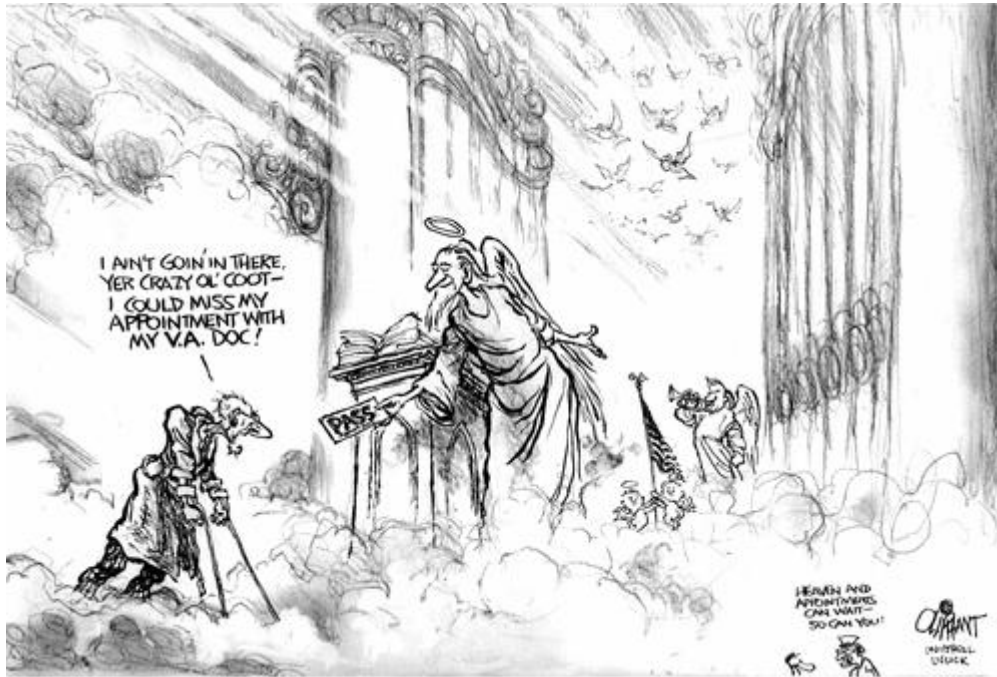
The move underlined fears that media freedoms gained since the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001 are being lost as the US-led military intervention and civilian aid programme in Afghanistan wind down.

“It is not the first time that the paper has involved itself in Afghanistan's internal political affairs for its own political purposes and agenda,” Aimal Faizi, spokesman for President Hamid Karzai, said an email sent to AFP.

“Such biased reporting, not properly sourced, can be considered nothing but a fabrication.” We are fully committed to the freedom of press. It is just to stop the evil in the New York Times' reporting.

The Afghan government has been paralysed for months after the first round of the presidential election failed to produce a clear winner and the second round of voting in June triggered allegations of massive fraud.

MILITARY NEWS



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "Still waiting."]

The Iraqi Dictatorships' Great Military Fiasco: "Progovernment Forces In Tal Afar Were Outmaneuvered By The Islamic State"

“Many Recruits Called Their Parents In Baghdad To Tell Them That The Army Had Left Them To Die” “I Felt Like I Had Been Betrayed And Abandoned”

Some soldiers were asked to buy their own uniforms in public shops in downtown Baghdad. Unable to provide food, the army took donations from wealthy benefactors, mostly Shiites.

Aug. 8, 2014 By Matt Bradley, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]. Laith al Haydar contributed to this article.

Sattar Jabbar stood at a Baghdad army recruiting station in June wearing nothing but a pair of blue boxer-briefs and a crooked grin. He was waiting for the medical exam required to join Iraq's army, he said, answering a call to arms issued by his spiritual leader, Iraq's senior Shiite cleric.

“I've been trying to volunteer for years, so now I'm seizing the opportunity,” he said. “I'm doing this for the Ayatollah Ali Al Sistani and for the prime minister.”

At 39 years old, the gray-haired, potbellied father of five doesn't look like the kind of vigorous young man usually sought by armies. But as Sunni militants led by the Islamic State push through Iraq, seizing towns and territory, Baghdad is desperately trying to rebuild its broken army with untrained, mostly Shiite recruits.

The recruitment drive, spurred on by Ayatollah Sistani's religious injunction, is one of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's main solutions for filling the army's porous ranks after thousands of soldiers fled their positions during the Islamist surge that began in June.

So far, Iraq's military has struggled with the influx of recruits, who are proving to be far from battle-ready.

Their military training has been perfunctory, even though many of the new enlistees had never before fired weapons. In June, when some were sent into battle in the northern city of Tal Afar, they were outgunned and outmaneuvered by the Islamic State.

“They came in without prior experience,” said Gen. Mohammed Koraishi, who was in charge of the Tal Afar operation. “Most of them hadn't used a gun before. This was the first time the Iraqi Army had received recruits like this.”

Without proper training, say many politicians, the recruits are more likely to harass, abuse and murder the mostly Sunni residents of the areas in which they will be

deployed. That could push Iraq into the sort of sectarian civil conflict it saw in 2006 and 2007.

But the recent uptick in enlistment marks a high point in sectarian recruitment for the Iraqi army, undoing years of American efforts to diversify the Iraqi army's religious identity.

Recruiters say that some 60,000 to 70,000 men have joined up since the June 13 religious edict—considerably less than the numbers thrown around by some politicians.

Iraq's military appeared ill-prepared to integrate the new recruits. Some soldiers were asked to buy their own uniforms in public shops in downtown Baghdad. Unable to provide food, the army took donations from wealthy benefactors, mostly Shiites.

“It was like a mowakib,” said Khaled Johi, a recruitment officer, referring to the Shiite practice of distributing meals to the poor during Shiite religious holidays.

In Samarra, the furthest point of Iraqi government control before the insurgent-held city of Tikrit, local residents say that they were frightened by young army volunteers who openly wore arm and headbands bearing the insignia for Shiite militias such as Asaib Ahl Al Haq, an irregular combat unit known for its cruelty. Last week, local leaders in Samarra demanded that the military deploy the recently enlisted volunteers to the city's outskirts after reports that they were harassing the local Sunni population.

Among the incidents that caused local leaders to recoil was the killing of a 2-year-old girl during a raid on a shepherd's home in a village outside Samarra on July 8.

Zedan Ouda, 48, said he had been asleep with his wife and four children in their mud-brick hamlet at around 1 a.m. when about 20 young volunteers burst through the door shooting. The machine-gun fire killed Mr. Ouda's daughter, Nour, and wounded his 3-year-old son Ahmed in the leg, Mr. Ouda said.

After the initial gunfire, the young men, some dressed in army fatigues and others in track suits, continued to hurl insults at the family, accusing them of being terrorists and Baathists—loyalists to the former regime of Saddam Hussein—while threatening to kill the rest of them, according to Mr. Ouda.

Another man from the village, Amir Hamid, corroborated Mr. Ouda's account, adding that he had heard reports of recruits raiding other houses to steal gold, cash and cellphones.

When Mohanad Mohammed, 24, and his two friends first heard about the uprising in Mosul, they were eager for a chance to defend Iraq. But they knew that they couldn't fight without approval from a high cleric, said Salman Al Gharawi, a school security guard and Mr. Mohammed's older friend. “So when Al Sistani's call came, I was delighted to join,” he said.

The following morning, all three arrived at Camp Justice, a recruiting station near Baghdad. There, they registered, took a short physical exam and were given military uniforms.

“They Trained With Fake Weapons—Rifle-Shaped Pieces Of Wood, They Said”

For the next three days, the three men and about 150 others conducted perfunctory military training. They were taught hand-to-hand combat and shown how to run in a zigzag to dodge bullets, said Hikmat al Attabi, another friend of Mr. Mohammed's who enlisted with him. They trained with fake weapons—rifle-shaped pieces of wood, they said.

When the 150 volunteers were standing on the tarmac at Baghdad Airport preparing to board helicopters to the embattled city of Tal Afar, each was handed a loaded AK-47, the three men said. Many had never fired a weapon before.

The ethnically mixed city of Tal Afar had fallen to Islamist fighters on June 16, but its outskirts remained one of the last holdouts for government troops in the north. Mr. Maliki and military leaders hoped the new recruits would prevent a slaughter of the region's large Shiite and Turkoman populations.

Mr. Mohammed and his friends said that they were told their mission was to reinforce the city so it could be safely evacuated. They said that they weren't told they would be landing at an airport under siege from insurgent mortar fire.

“I was afraid I would die before I even did anything,” said Mr. Mohammed.

A convoy of armored personnel carriers brought the soldiers to a barracks near the airport. They joined about 100 local tribal fighters from Tal Afar, experienced Iraqi soldiers and fighters from a Shiite militia known as the Hezbollah Brigades, after the Shiite insurgent army based in southern Lebanon, said Mr. Gharawi.

Mr. Mohammed was handed a PKM machine gun, a 4-foot Russian-built automatic weapon designed for laying down covering fire. Mr. Mohammed had never handled the huge weapon before.

He and his company advanced by foot toward Tal Afar until they reached a deserted marketplace where a group of Islamic State fighters were lounging on the hood of a car. A soldier from Mr. Mohammed's unit fired a rocket-propelled grenade at the car while Mr. Mohammed sprayed bullets at the fleeing insurgents.

His shots took down one of the fighters, he said. “I felt relieved,” he said. “It was like winning over the devil. I never considered him human.”

Over the next week, the new recruits and Iraqi soldiers fought to regain Tal Afar. Mr. Mohammed said that the new recruits, bolstered by the military, tribal fighters and Shiite militia, repeatedly gained ground against the Islamist State fighters. “They aren't that tough,” he said. “They fled like rats.”

The Iraqi military, however, tells a different story: Progovernment forces in Tal Afar were outmaneuvered by the Islamic State. Militants shared pictures of public executions in Tal Afar on Facebook and Twitter.

Gen. Koraishi, who was in charge of the operation, said that the new recruits were incapable of fighting and spent most of their time guarding the airport. “They were supposed to be mujahedeen who are ready to fight,” he said. “They couldn't stand the pressure, so we sent them back.”

“He Saw Tribal Forces Who Had Been Crucial To The Fight Flee In Hundreds Of Pickup Trucks”

Mr. Mohammed, the recruit, said that on the final day of fighting in Tal Afar on June 23, he saw tribal forces who had been crucial to the fight flee in hundreds of pickup trucks to the safety of Sinjar, a city in nearby Kurdistan.

Army commanders told Mr. Mohammed and his unit of new recruits to wait in a barracks less than a mile from the airport.

As the enlistees smoked cigarettes and waited for instructions, they spotted transport helicopters landing. Mr. Mohammed said the career soldiers were already at the airport waiting to be airlifted back to Baghdad. He said that he believes he and his fellow enlistees had not been told of the evacuation to prevent them from trying to rush the transport helicopters.

Gen. Koraishi said no orders had been given to retreat, but that some new recruits had run to several arriving transport planes demanding to board. When the pilots refused, he said, some recruits forced the pilots at gunpoint to let them return to Baghdad.

With the insurgents closing in, Mr. Mohammed said, “I felt like I had been betrayed and abandoned.” He said many recruits called their parents in Baghdad to tell them that the army had left them to die. Mr. Mohammed and his cousin made a pact to die together.

Others dialed Gen. Koraishi and his unit.

The general said that he was surprised to learn that all of the enlistees hadn't managed to get on the transport planes and were hiding in the brush near the runway. He said he led a small force to rescue them the following morning—an operation that cost him one of his best men.

Gen. Koraishi said that he regretted the pell-mell process of recruitment that contributed to the disaster at Tal Afar.

In a final act of defiance as they were leaving, Mr. Mohammed said, he hanged by the feet the corpses of those believed to have been insurgents. Many of the bodies, which they strung up on the fighters' own gun barrels, were burned beyond recognition in missile attacks earlier that day.

After a few days in Kurdistan, Mr. Mohammed was back in Baghdad. He and his friends haven't heard anything since from their ad hoc unit, he said.

But if he did, he would probably refuse to re-enlist. He feels betrayed.

“I want to defend my city of Baghdad. I'll fight, but not as a soldier,” he said. If needed again, he said, he would likely join the Shiite militias—highly sectarian forces that have been known to commit atrocities against Sunnis.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



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

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

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

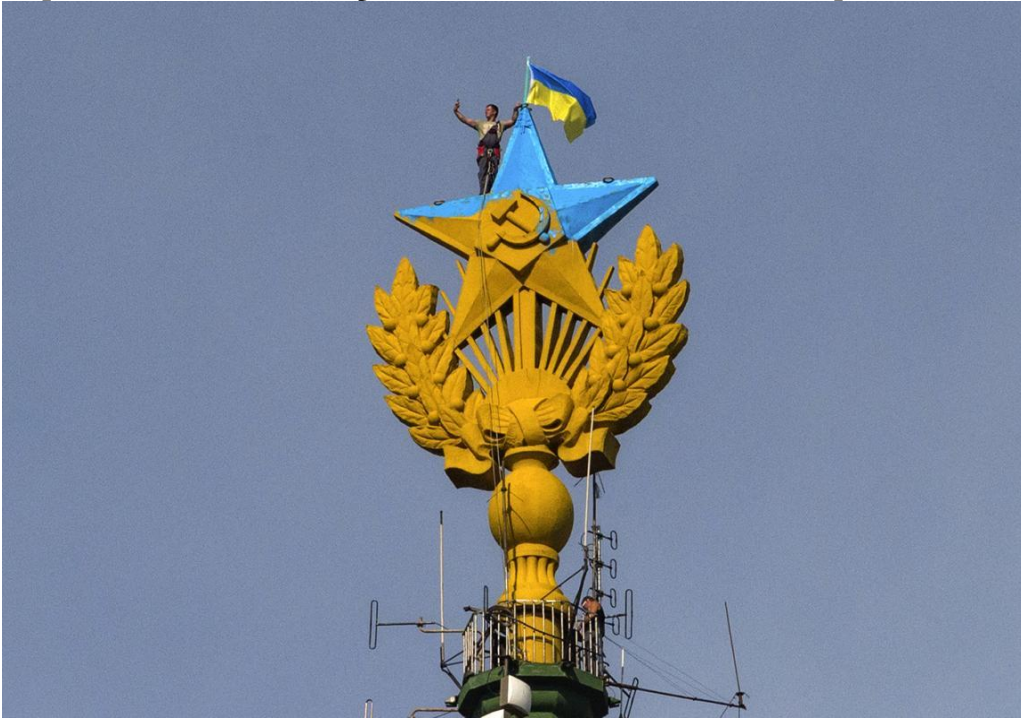
“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

The past year – every single day of it – has had its consequences. In the obscure depths of society, an imperceptible molecular process has been occurring irreversibly, like the flow of time, a process of accumulating discontent, bitterness, and revolutionary energy.

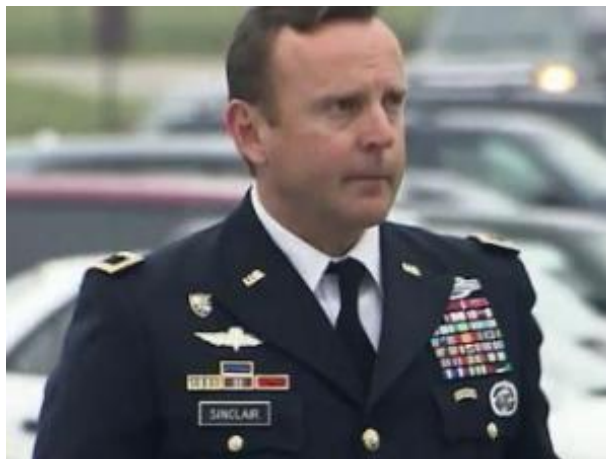
-- Leon Trotsky, “Up To The Ninth Of January”

A Spit In The Eye Of Russian Imperialism



A worker takes a selfie before removing a yellow and blue Ukrainian flag attached by protesters atop Stalin-era skyscraper in Moscow, Russia, Aug. 20, 2014. Protesters on Wednesday scaled one of Moscow's famed Stalin-era skyscrapers and painted the Soviet star on its spire in the national colors of Ukraine. The dangerous prank, which set Russian social networking sites abuzz, drew a harsh response from the police. (AP Photo/Ilya Varlamov)

Lt. Col. Sinclair's Genie Awaiting Final Wish



WRAL Photo

June 25, 2014 by G-Had, Duffel Blog

WASHINGTON, DC — A genie imprisoned by former 82nd Airborne deputy commander and champion hot dog eater Lt. Col. Jeffrey Sinclair has reported it is eagerly awaiting his master's third and final wish.

"My master, glorious sahib that he is, has used up two of his allotted three wishes," the genie said from inside the brass lamp where he was discovered several years ago.

"I have provided the many women which he, peace and blessings be upon, sought to have carnal relations with, and then have convinced the military qadis to drop all the charges against him."

The genie, an ancient being created by Allah in the sands of the desert out of fire and smoke, was eagerly anticipating his pending freedom after being imprisoned in the lamp for several hundred years as a Ramadan joke.

Sinclair, a less-ancient being created in the halls of the Pentagon out of wind and bullshit, is also eagerly anticipating his pending freedom after being fined \$20,000 and demoted two ranks for raping one of his subordinate officers.

He has also been stripped of his current billet as the Army's sexual assault mascot.

As punishment, Sinclair will be forced to accept over \$5000 a month in retirement benefits from the U.S. government and will be confined to only the smallest six-figure contracting jobs.

Speaking to Duffel Blog reporters, the genie said he was not surprised at Sinclair's second wish to have all the charges against him dropped, since second wishes are usually used to try and cancel out the first.

He was, however, impressed with the thoroughness of the general's first wish.

"My wise master insisted that the women of his relations all be compulsive liars," the genie admitted, "for even if he were caught with their murdered bodies in the back of his Humvee, the UCMJ would probably conclude that the word of a decorated 28-year general officer was worth more than some lying dead slut."

Lt. Col. Sinclair refused to comment for this article, saying he only wished we would stop writing.

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ANNIVERSARIES

Honorable Anniversary: August 21; Nat Turner's Rebellion



Carl Bunin, Peace History Aug 21-27

August 21, 1831

Nat Turner, a 30-year-old man legally owned by a child, and six other slaves began a violent insurrection in Southampton County, Virginia.

They began by killing the child's stepfather, Joseph Travis, and their family. Within the next 24 hours, Turner and ultimately about 40 followers killed the families of adjacent slaveholding properties, nearly 60 whites, while freeing and inciting other slaves to join them.

Militia and federal troops were called, and the uprising was suppressed with 55 African Americans including Turner executed by hanging, and hundreds more killed by white mobs and vigilantes in revenge.

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The Radio

“This August 24th, Remember Jeremy King”



[From: GI SPECIAL 5H19: 8.24.07]

07/25/2007 by Justin C. Cliburn
[Iraq Veterans Against The War] [www.ivaw.org/]
Branch of service: Army National Guard of the United States (ARNG)
Unit: 1st Battalion 158th FA Oklahoma ARNG
Rank: SPC
Home: Lawton, Oklahoma
Served in: LSA Anaconda: MSR Patrol, one month. Camp Liberty, Baghdad: PSD/IP
Training, ten and a half months.

When I was in Mrs. Riner’s junior English class at MacArthur high school, we were required to read a short story titled “The Radio.”

The premise was simple. A couple in the 1930s were given a special radio that allowed them to hear all their neighbors’ conversations. At first they were elated, but, ultimately, they were haunted by the miracle of their ability. They could hear all the horrors of society that usually go unnoticed or are covered up and sterilized . . . and they couldn’t turn it off.

They couldn’t change the channel.

It took seven years, but I eventually went back to that story in my head and felt their horror.

August 24th, 2006 was a routine day for my squad in Baghdad. We had gone to Traffic Headquarters and I had gotten to visit with Ali. Business taken care of, we started to make the familiar trek back to Camp Liberty.

It was a hot day, over 120 degrees, and I stood up just a little higher than usual with my sleeves unbuttoned to let the air circulate inside my body armor and clothing. It had been a good day.

Back on Route Irish, we were on the home stretch when the call came out over the radio:

“Eagle Dustoff, Eagle Dustoff, this is Red Knight 7* over”

“This is Eagle Dustoff, over”

“Eagle Dustoff, I need MEDEVAC; my gunner has been shot by a sniper.”

The voice went on to recite the nine line MEDEVAC report and I marveled at how cool, calm, and collected he sounded. My squad leader plotted the grid coordinates and found that this had occurred only a couple blocks away from one of our two main destinations on Market Road.

“Cliburn, go ahead and get down; someone might be aiming at your melon right now”, CPT Ray said. Sergeant Bruesch concurred and I sat down, listening intently to the radio transmissions that I couldn’t turn off if I wanted to.

Five minutes in, the voice on the radio was losing his cool.

“Have they left yet?! He’s losing a lot of blood; we need that chopper now!”

In the background, you could hear other soldiers yelling, screaming, trying to find any way to save their friend’s life. At one point, I swear I heard the man gurgle.

Ten minutes in, the voice on the radio was furious.

“Where’s that fucking chopper!? We’re losing him! He’s not fucking breathing! Where the fuck are you!?”

Every minute to minute and a half the voice was back on the radio demanding to know what the hold up was. Every minute to minute and a half the other voice on the radio, a young woman’s voice, tried to reassure him that the chopper was the way from Taji. She was beginning to tire herself; I could hear it in her voice. She was just as frustrated as he was.

All the while, there I sat.

Sitting in the gunners hatch, listening life’s little horrors with no way to turn the channel.

No one in the truck was speaking.

The music was on, but no one heard it. There was just an eerie silence.

All I heard was the radio transmissions; I watched as the landscape passed me by in slow motion.

I didn't hear wind noise or car horns or gunfire or my own thoughts. I was only accompanied by the silence of the world passing me by, interrupted only by the screams of the voice on the radio.

At this point, I was as frustrated as I had been all year. Where the fuck was that goddamn chopper and why was it taking so long?! What if it were me?

Would I be waiting that long? Would this pathetic exchange be included in the newscast if the guy dies?

I was angry, upset, frustrated, and anticipating the next transmission in this macabre play by play account. Forget about TNT, HBO, and Law and Order: THIS was drama. This was heart wrenching.

Seconds seemed like hours; minutes seemed like days.

Finally, after several more non-productive transmissions where Eagle Dustoff attempted to reassure the voice, after twenty minutes and a few more frantic, screaming transmissions by the voice, the man's voice was calm again.

"Eagle Dustoff, cancel the chopper. He's dead."

. . . and that was that. The voice had gone from being the model for the consummate soldier (cool, calm, collected, professional) to the more human screams and frantic pleading for help to solemn resignation.

Now, the voice was quiet.

"Eagle Dustoff: requesting recovery team. We can't drive this vehicle back; we need someone to come get the vehicle and body. Over."

"Do you have casualty's information?"

"Yes. SGT King, over."

I sat in that gunners sling in a fit of rage that I couldn't let out.

I had to be a soldier; I had to keep my cool.

We all did.

I was so angry, I still am, about being an unwilling voyeur, forced to listen to the gruesome play by play of another soldier's life and death.

We had been told that the insurgency was in its last throes, that they were just a bunch of dead enders. No, not this day.

Today, SGT King was in his last throes, and I was there to listen to the whole thing, whether I liked it or not.

A soldier's death isn't anything like the movies. There was no patriotic music; there was no feeling of purpose. It's just . . . death.

I wasn't there physically; I didn't see him, but I was there.

Any sane person would have wanted to turn the channel. No one wants to hear the screams of a man losing his friend, but I couldn't turn it off. We were required to monitor that channel.

Either way, it didn't take long to become emotionally invested in it; was he going to make it? I hung on every word until I got the final, sobering news.

My truck was the only one in the convoy monitoring that net. When we got back to base, no else had heard it, and SSG Bruesch, CPT Ray, and I didn't discuss it. I don't think we ever did.

A few days later, I felt like I had to find out more about his soldier. I felt like I had lost a friend, yet I didn't know anything but his name and rank.

Looking back on it, I should have just let it go, but I didn't. Using the miracle of the Internet, I found out all I needed to know about the young man.

SGT Jeremy E. King was 23 years old. He was from Idaho, where he played high school football. He had joined the army to get out of Idaho and see the world.

He was one year younger than I was, and he was dead. He sounded like any of a number of teammates I played high school football with.

I've replayed that scene in my head more times than I'd ever want since that day.

I don't believe in fate or karma or any type of pre-destined events, but I often wonder what made that sniper hole up on North Market Road instead of South Market Road, where I often found myself.

I was fortunate enough in my time there to never have to call in MEDEVAC.

I didn't bury any of my comrades, but I will always remember what it was like listening to the miracle of modern communications, the radio, and for the first time in my life being terrified, much like the couple in the story over eighty long years ago.

This August 24th, remember Jeremy King:

Wednesday, August 30 2006 @ 04:20 AM EDT
Contributed by: River97
Views: 621

Star Telegram -- KILLEEN, Texas - A Fort Hood soldier from Idaho has died in Iraq of injuries sustained when troops came under fire during combat, the Department of Defense said Friday.

Sgt. Jeremy E. King, 23, of Meridian died Thursday in Baghdad. He was assigned to the 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood.



Jeremy King

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



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OCCUPATION PALESTINE

“Oh Say Can You See



A Palestinian flag amongst the ruins of a house destroyed by an Israeli air strike during the offensive in Jhr El-Deek village near the central Gaza Strip August 17, 2014. (REUTERS/Ibraheem Abu Mustafa)

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

<http://www.maannnews.net/eng/Default.aspx> and

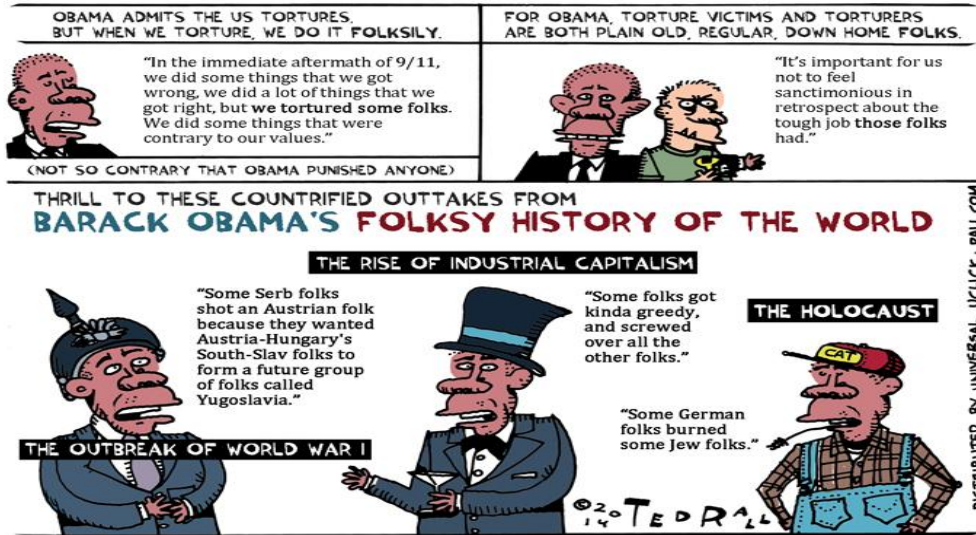
<http://www.palestinemonitor.org/list.php?id=ej898ra7yff0ukmf16>

The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves “Israeli.”

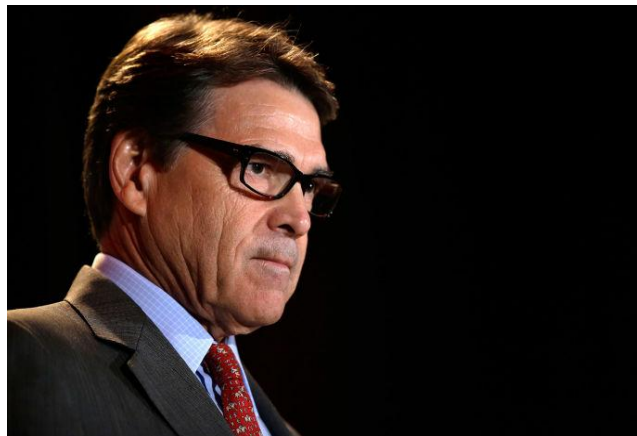
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DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Widespread Support For Sending Politicians To Prison For Ninety-Nine Years



Photograph by Tony Gutierrez/AP

August 18, 2014 By Andy Borowitz, The Borowitz Report

AUSTIN — Last week's indictment of Texas Governor Rick Perry has sparked widespread bipartisan support for the concept of sending politicians to prison for ninety-nine years.

While Americans are divided about the merits of the specific charges levelled against Perry, there is near-unanimous agreement that imprisoning politicians for ninety-nine years is an idea worth exploring further, a poll released on Monday indicates.

According to the poll, eighty-seven per cent of voters from both parties agreed that sending politicians to prison for such a lengthy period would “solve a lot of problems” and “make the country safer.”

Additionally, when asked to name one politician they would like to see incarcerated for ninety-nine years, voters easily rattled off a dozen or more such candidates, with some voters naming as many as fifty.

Finally, when informed that imprisoning politicians for ninety-nine years might lead to overcrowding that would require the construction of costly new prisons, eighty-three per cent agreed with the statement, “Money is no object.”



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