

Military Resistance 12H8



Senate Proposes 1% Pay Increase For Troops?

“1 Percent Pay Increase For Us And A Huge Pay Increase For The Ones That Gave Us That 1 Percent Increase”

“And It Still Doesn't Match Inflation!!!”

July 28, 2014

In response to “Senate panel backs 1 percent pay increase [for soldiers],” July 15:

1 percent pay increase for us and a huge pay increase for the ones that gave us that 1 percent increase. Thanks guys. Appreciate it.

— Nathan E Smith

Awesome!!!! And it still doesn't match inflation!!!

— Roger A. Godaire

Increase the pay, keep the troops, get rid of the overpriced unneeded high tech systems that don't work the way they're sold to.

— Denise Lynn Hemmingway

Nicceeeee now my kids can get braces.....oh wait \$25 a month more, then taxed.

— Dennis Tripp

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Attack Targets Foreign Troops Convoy In Nangarhar Province “At Least Five Foreign Troops Injured”

Aug 24 2014 By Ghanizada, Khaama Press

A suicide bomber targeted a convoy of the foreign coalition security forces in eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan.

According to local government officials, the incident took place in Behsud district after a bomber rammed a vehicle packed with explosives into the convoy of the coalition forces.

Provincial police spokesman, Hazrat Hussain Mashriqwal, said the area has been cordoned off and further details regarding the incident will be released later.

In the meantime, a local security official said at least five foreign troops were injured following the explosion.

Taliban group claimed responsibility behind the incident and said heavy casualties were incurred to American forces who were targeted in the attack.

Explosive Device In Afghanistan Kills Visalia Soldier Keith Williams, 19



Army Pfc. Keith Williams, 19, of Visalia. SPECIAL TO THE FRESNO BEE

July 25, 2014 By Carmen George, The Fresno Bee

Although just 19, Army Pfc. Keith Williams of Visalia had a sense of duty to the U.S. that ran deeper than most, said his sister Chelsea Sestini.

"He loved his country so much," Sestini, 23, said about why her brother joined the Army. "He wanted to do everything he could to make sure he protected the people he loved, and he said he would die doing it."

On Thursday, Pfc. Williams' life was cut short while on patrol along the Afghanistan border with Pakistan. The truck he was riding in hit an explosive device and he sustained a fatal head injury, Sestini said.

The lifelong Visalia resident graduated from El Diamante High School in June 2013, where a candlelight vigil is planned for Saturday night. He joined the Army after high school and was deployed to Afghanistan in March.

Pfc. Williams had lots of energy and was a "light" in any gathering, his sister said.

"He was more full of life than anyone I've ever met. He had joy for everyone and he loved to make people laugh. He could have been a comedian."

A favorite memory for Sestini: His impersonations, especially of Sean Connery.

Pfc. Williams could find the fun in anything -- even being duct-taped from shoulders to feet, said close friend Martin Sustaita, 20 of Visalia.

One day the duo, determined not to be bored, decided on a challenge: Sustaita taped his friend, who had to find a hidden paper clip and, holding it in his mouth, cut himself free. The athletic Pfc. Williams succeeded, Sustaita said: "It was pretty impressive."

Pfc. Williams lived an active life, enjoying activities like drumming, surfing, snowboarding and longboarding, Sustaita said. He had plans to study physical therapy after returning from his deployment.

Pfc. Williams and Sustaita talked via Skype just a few hours before the fatal accident. Pfc. Williams told him he thought he'd be sent home in October instead of December. "He was just saying, 'Man I'm so excited, I get to come back early. I miss everybody.' "

Upon hearing that Pfc. Williams, his "brother" and best friend, was dead, Sustaita said, "I grabbed my laptop and opened up Skype, just hoping he'd be there."

During their last talk, the two made plans for Pfc. Williams' return: A trip to Six Flags Magic Mountain theme park and going to see his favorite band, Crown the Empire, in concert for the first time.

The friends had planned to Skype again Friday morning, when Sustaita was going to report when and where their beloved metalcore band would play.

Sustaita plans to attend one of their shows for his best friend. Pfc. Williams will be there in spirit "with a smile on his face, and hopefully not flicking us in the nose. He's there with us all the time now, more than he was before."

He said Pfc. Williams wouldn't want people to feel sad about his death. Sestini said the same.

"He would always tell me it is stupid to cry," his sister said. "I know he would want us to be happy and proud of him. ... He died for his country, and that's probably the most honorable thing he did in his whole life. He knew there was a risk, and he was just 19 years old, and he was willing to take it."

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

IED Blows Up 11 Afghan Soldiers In Capital Kabul

Aug 24 2014 By Ghanizada, Khaama Press

A heavy explosion rocked capital Kabul on Sunday afternoon leaving a number of security personnel injured.

Officials in Kabul Police Department officials said the incident took place in the 12th district of Kabul city.

The officials further added that the a vehicle of the Afghan security forces was targeted in an improvised explosive device (IED) attack in Ahmadshah Baba vicinity.

Hashmatullah Stanikzai, spokesman for Kabul Police Department, confirmed that incident and said at least 11 Afghan army soldiers following the blast.

Stanikzai further added that the injured individuals were taken to the hospital.

MILITARY NEWS

**Ex-Officer Discharged From
Navy In Retaliation For
Reporting Burn-Pit And Other
Health Dangers:
“Troops Showered And Washed
Their Hands And Food In Bacteria-
Laden Water”
“Potable And Nonpotable Water
Contaminated With Fecal Matter”
“Santana’s Medical Records Were
Tampered With And Include A Forged
Admittance To Having Suicidal
Thoughts”**

Aug. 19, 2014 By Patricia Kime, Staff writer, Army Times [Excerpts]

An officer who says she was discharged from the Navy for alerting senior officials of the potential health dangers of open-air burn pits and improperly stored water at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, is suing to get her job back.

Former Lt. Cmdr. Celeste Santana, an environmental health expert, said in documents filed Aug. 1 in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims that she was relieved from duty at the base in 2009 in retaliation for reporting “serious environmental health issues” affecting the safety of U.S. troops and local Afghans.

According to Santana, troops showered and washed their hands and food in bacteria-laden water and were exposed to chemicals in bottled water stored at high temperatures.

Their health also was endangered by the proximity of their quarters and offices to burn pits where “several tons of toxic material was burned daily.”

Santana said when she tried to warn senior officers of the issues, she was instructed to stop taking samples and “stand down” for “exhaustion.”

She later was relieved of her duties for “loss of confidence” and sent home, but not before she reported a sexual assault she believes was in retaliation for reporting health and safety issues outside her chain of command.

“She was doing her job and doing it too well,” said Santana’s attorney, retired Navy Cmdr. John Wells, who acknowledged Santana’s career was checkered — a roller coaster of high marks, awards and “early promote” recommendations alternating with equal opportunity complaints, sexual harassment charges and downgraded fitness reports.

But she was asked for, by name, for the 2009 deployment with Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan Combat Element.

Once she arrived at Camp Leatherneck, she found deficiencies that posed risks to troop health, according to her court filing, including plastic foam, plastics and computers burned in the burn pits; potable and nonpotable water contaminated with fecal matter and bacteria; and food safety problems.

More than 2,000 troops have contacted the advocacy group Burn Pits 360 about health problems they believe are related to living or working near the pits, and VA earlier this year established a registry for troops exposed to burn pits to document their health conditions.

Santana is seeking to have her discharge — based on her being passed over twice for promotion and a psychiatric diagnosis of “adjustment disorder” given to her during a post-deployment screening — overturned so she can put in at least three more years of service and reach the 20-year mark.

Wells thinks she has a good shot, saying he has reason to believe Santana’s medical records were tampered with and include a forged admittance to having suicidal thoughts.

By policy, the Defense Department does not discuss ongoing litigation in which it is involved. The Navy did not respond to a request for comment by press time.

Wells said his client will press for reinstatement and a "fair shot at the O-5 board."

"No one should get fired for doing their job," he said.

10 Insane Things The Pentagon Gave To Local Law Enforcement: "Five 'LAUNCHER, GRENADE' For A Total Cost Of \$3,600.00. Buena Vista County, Iowa"

"240 Pair Of 'DRAWERS, EXTREME COLD WEATHER' For San Diego County, California"

August 21, 2014 By Ross Gianfortune, Government Executive

The Department of Defense Excess Property Program (1033) has seen a lot of criticism lately, as news surfaces about how local police departments are using the Pentagon's extras.

Pentagon equipment used by the St. Louis County Police in Ferguson, Missouri -- the scene of riots following the shooting of Michael Brown -- includes multiple \$47,000 trucks and scores of military rifles.

The New York Times highlighted the program and produced an interactive graphic to show the flow of weapons from Defense to police.

According to the Times, the program started as a countermeasure to high crime in the 1990s.

Using data obtained under the Freedom of Information Act and covering 2006-2014, we looked into the type and cost of equipment that local law enforcement has been receiving from the Pentagon. Items ranged from aircraft (some costing over \$5 million each) to screws and washers (36 cents each). Most of the equipment filtering down to local law enforcement will not surprise the average citizen -- mostly rifles, handguns and related equipment -- but we found a lot of questionable line items.

1. 240 pair of "DRAWERS, EXTREME COLD WEATHER" for a total cost of \$1,770.65. San Diego County, California.



La Jolla Beach, San Diego (kan_khampanya/Shutterstock.com)

The documentation on just where the equipment goes is not clear, so a lot of the equipment could be used in county jails, by county or city law enforcement or any other number of places.

But one thing's for sure: Almost no one in San Diego County, California, needs underwear for "extreme cold weather." San Diego is one of the most pleasant places in the world, weather-wise, with a year-round average temperature of 75 degrees.

2. 200 pairs of "SOCKS" for a total cost of \$468. Wichita County, Texas.

The Pentagon gave or sold a lot of socks to different counties. The document contains 175 line items with the word "socks" in them, with nearly every state receiving the all-important garments. Wichita, Texas, received 200 pairs of Pentagon-issued socks, presumably, for inmates at the James V. Allred Unit of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Otherwise, law enforcement in Wichita County is swimming in socks.

3. 18 units of "HAMMER, HAND" for a total cost of \$2,683.86. Oakland County, Michigan.

Oakland County is part of the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI, Metropolitan Statistical Area and has a population of 1,202,362, but that does not explain why the local law enforcement needed to receive 18 hammers from the Defense Department at an average cost of \$149.10 each.

Considering Sears sells a Craftsman hammer for a quarter of the same price, it seems cost-prohibitive that the Pentagon is buying hammers at such a price in the first place.

4. One "1996 FORD EXPLORER" for a total cost of \$24,500.00. Estill County, Kentucky.

The notion that a county of 15,000 could need a police department sport utility vehicle is completely reasonable, but at issue is the specific vehicle.

In 2012, Estill County received a Ford Explorer valued at \$24,500, which is more than 11 times the current Kelly Blue Book value for a 1996 Ford Explorer (just over \$2,100).

5. One "BOAT FISHING" for a total cost of \$100.00. Aroostook County, Maine

Aroostook got \$7,441,065.48 worth of equipment from the Pentagon -- including 65 rifles, 25 pistols and a \$138,870 truck. It appears the Aroostook is the second-largest county by geography in the United States, but it's very curious that "the county" received a fishing boat from the Defense Department. One wonders how that aids in law enforcement activities.

6. 58 "HELICOPTER,UTILITY" for a total cost of \$53,491,640.00. Brevard County, Florida.



(Brevard County Sheriff)

As highlighted in pieces in the Times, helicopters are a popular item. The District of Columbia received five helicopters, Los Angeles County received one and even Stephens County, Oklahoma -- population 45,000 -- received one. However, the Space Coast's Brevard County got a mind-boggling 58 helicopters from the Pentagon. The department even features its aviation unit online.

7. (tie)

1 "MINE RESISTANT VEHICLE" for a total cost of \$733,000.00. Dekalb County, Georgia.

1 "MINE RESISTANT VEHICLE" for a total cost of \$412,000.00. Montgomery County, Kansas.

3 "MINE RESISTANT VEHICLE(s)" for a total cost of \$1,236,000.00. Honolulu County, Hawaii.

John Oliver's Last Week Tonight highlighted a video from the police in Doraville, Georgia, located in Dekalb County, showing off the police department's mine resistant vehicle. It could be this one that nearly cost three quarters of a million dollars, shown in the video during a training exercise.

Dekalb County is not the only county to receive such a vehicle. The phrase "MINE RESISTANT VEHICLE" occurs 341 times in the document, suggesting the Pentagon had a huge excess of such vehicles after the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Honolulu County, Hawaii, received three mine resistant vehicles, despite the fact that Hawaii rates 36th in crime in the United States and is not a popular place for landmines.

Perhaps most curious is the acquisition of such a vehicle in Montgomery County, Kansas. Montgomery County is only the seventeenth-most populated county in the state of Kansas and is over 100 miles from the state's largest city: Wichita.

8. 92 pairs of "SNOWSHOES" for a total cost of \$6,191.60. El Paso County, Texas.

Several counties received snowshoes from the Pentagon excess equipment (including counties in Idaho, Montana and Illinois), but no county's receipt of snowshoes needs a second look more than El Paso County, Texas.

While El Paso does get some snow because of its elevation, the county has a median snow measurement of 0 inches, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The likelihood of a need for law enforcement to wear snowshoes is low.

9. One "TRUCK, ARMORED" for a total cost of \$65,070.00. Lincoln County, Montana.

Lincoln County is a heavily wooded area on the Canadian border, with a sparse population of just under 20,000 people. It's also an area of low crime, which makes one wonder why a local police department received a \$65,000 armored vehicle.

Fear of invasion from the Royal Mounted Police?

10. Five "LAUNCHER,GRENADE" for a total cost of \$3,600.00. Buena Vista County, Iowa



A Marine trains with a grenade launcher at Camp Pendleton in 2013. (Defense Department)

In the conversation for most well-equipped police departments in the United States, Iowa's Buena Vista County Sheriff's Office must be near the top.

The BVCSO is responsible for all law enforcement in the county of 20,000 and has the weaponry to do so. The BVCSO received two mine resistant vehicles, four

sets of night vision goggles, 20 rifles, nine handguns and eight shotguns from the Pentagon, among its 180 line items in the document.

But most shocking is probably the five grenade launchers.

Buena Vista County is not known for being a war zone, but rather a group of small communities in northwest Iowa.

The need for multiple grenade launchers anywhere outside a war zone is small, but minuscule for the BVCSO, considering its last two press release-worthy law enforcement actions included a capsized boat and a traffic accident.

All of these line items bring up a host of other questions about the 1033 program.

First, is training included for this weaponry?

The spectre of improperly trained St. Louis County law enforcement has been raised in the reporting on the situation in Ferguson. And what about maintenance?

Does Brevard County have a trained helicopter mechanic for its 58 helicopters?

But mostly: Who in the Pentagon approved these transfers? Defense spokesman John Kirby told reporters this week that the equipment "is made available to law enforcement agencies, if they want it and if they qualify for it."

That statement suggests that someone in the Pentagon looked at an application from Buena Vista County for five grenade launchers and did not bat an eye.

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

People do not make revolutions eagerly any more than they do war. There is this difference, however, that in war compulsion plays the decisive role, in revolution there is no compulsion except that of circumstances.

A revolution takes place only when there is no other way out. And the insurrection, which rises above a revolution like a peak in the mountain chain of its events, can be no more evoked at will than the revolution as a whole. The masses advance and retreat several times before they make up their minds to the final assault.

-- Leon Trotsky; The History of the Russian Revolution

There is no democracy without socialism and no socialism without democracy.

-- Rosa Luxemburg

THE SILVER HAMMER

From: Dennis Serdel
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Subject: The Silver Hammer
Date: Aug 9, 2013 8:26 AM

Written by Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade; United Auto Workers GM Retiree

THE SILVER

HAMMER

One Silver Jar holds my Husband, One Silver Star Posthumously. He did not die for God & Country, He died fighting to save his men.

**My husband's flag I unfold now & throw it in our front yard, With gasoline for our lawnmower, it burns bright one night at midnight. A policeman knocks on our front door, asks me what I am doing
The screams of his men were too much for him, so he rushes the machine gun nest, his men rush after him & take the hill.**

The Medic rushes to his side & tries to save him. War is just one big rush that never goes away. Answering the door she hits him with a Silver Hammer, Again &

again until the front porch looks exactly like a bloody machine gun nest. This is for the rich who must get richer. Corporations who profit like leaches, war profiteers who make Billions for death mask sub-humans who buy their stock.

For a corrupt Government who sends husbands to their death. Running from the Law to another Wife who thinks the same, then finding others as the TV lies like Newspapers do. Going Underground to Start the Revolution, They rob a gun store like Rebel Girls do.

Connecting wives with dead husbands, giving them all Silver Hammers & Guns including wounded Wives who have husbands changed by the War. The police find the Dead Cop, in a satanic crime scene & fasten yellow ribbons around it & the Citizens of their Countries tie yellow crime scene tape around Iraq & Afghanistan.

Then they find out about the Robbery of the gun & ammo shop.

They put out an APB, armed & dangerous, Do Not take alive. Then a police car pulls behind them afar without any lights flashing, then other cop cars pull behind them. Driving faster over a 100, then at the top of a hill,

they now see a train travel across the highway up ahead. They drive into the train but bust through after the caboose. The Police cars are close behind but it's a two track crossing & they hit another train going the other way.

They drive nice to a friend's home & stash the car in the garage.

They write letters to Activist Groups for help & one slips them underground like Slaves because if caught,

they would be Beat, Raped & Tortured by the Police & Not seen as Political Prisoners. They provide fake Passports & in disguise fly to Venezuela for political asylum . It's Not like they leaked any American Empire Secrets. Their Vain Hope for a Revolution as a spark as in Tunisia, split Americans when the Government calls them Criminals, but on the other side, there are more than a few who

want Silver Hammers.

Written by Dennis Serdel for Military Resistance

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.

Monetary Crisis:
**“On The Eve Of The Crisis, The
Bourgeois, With The Self-
Sufficiency That Springs From
Intoxicating Prosperity, Declares
Money To Be A Vain Imagination”**
“Commodities Alone Are Money”
**“But Now The Cry Is Everywhere: Money
Alone Is A Commodity!”**

Excerpt from Capital, K. Marx, pp. 154-155

The fact that a number of sales take place simultaneously, and side by side, limits the extent to which coin can be replaced by the rapidity of currency.

On the other hand, this fact is a new lever in economizing the means of payment.

In proportion as payments are concentrated at one spot, special institutions and methods are developed for their liquidation.

Such in the middle ages were the *virements* at Lyons. The debts due to A from B, to B from C, to C from A, and so on, have only to be confronted with each other, in order to annul each other to a certain extent like positive and negative quantities. There remains only a single balance to pay.

The greater the amount of the payments concentrated, the less is this balance relatively to that amount, and the less is the mass of the means of payment in circulation.

The function of money as the means of payment implies a contradiction without a terminus medius [the middle stage in a process].

In so far as the payments balance one another, money functions only ideally as money of account, as a measure of value.

In so far as actual payments have to be made, money does not serve as a circulating medium, as a mere transient agent in the interchange of products, but as the individual incarnation of social labour, as the independent form of existence of exchange-value, as the universal commodity.

This contradiction comes to a head in those phases of industrial and commercial crises which are known as monetary crises.

Such a crisis occurs only where the ever-lengthening chain of payments, and an artificial system of settling them, has been fully developed.

Whenever there is a general and extensive disturbance of this mechanism, no matter what its cause, money becomes suddenly and immediately transformed, from its merely ideal shape of money of account, into hard cash.

Profane commodities can no longer replace it.

The use-value of commodities becomes valueless, and their value vanishes in the presence of its own independent form.

On the eve of the crisis, the bourgeois, with the self-sufficiency that springs from intoxicating prosperity, declares money to be a vain imagination.

Commodities alone are money.

But now the cry is everywhere: money alone is a commodity!

As the hart pants after fresh water, so pants his soul after money, the only wealth.
50]

In a crisis, the antithesis between commodities and their value-form, money, becomes heightened into an absolute contradiction.

Hence, in such events, the form under which money appears is of no importance.

The money famine continues, whether payments have to be made in gold or in credit money such as bank-notes.

[50] “The sudden reversion from a system of credit to a system of hard cash heaps theoretical fright on top of the practical panic; and the dealers by whose agency circulation is affected, shudder before the impenetrable mystery in which their own economic relations are involved” (Karl Marx, Capital; p. 126.)

U.S. Sends 10,000 Green Berets To Iraq



Photo Credit: Pfc. Nicole Bundas / U.S. Army

June 26, 2014 by G-Had, The Duffle Blog

WASHINGTON, D.C. — After much legal wrangling between the U.S. and the Iraqi government, Duffel Blog has learned that the U.S. military will be sending 10,000 green berets to Iraq.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has confirmed the berets, described by the Defense Logistics Agency as “beret, man’s, wool, rifle green, army shade 297,” were even now being loaded aboard an Air Force transport for immediate deployment to Iraq.

Hagel said he received the directive in a brief phone call from the White House last week, when President Obama told him “to send as many green berets to Iraq as we could.” Hagel added, “We were a little puzzled why he didn’t want us to send something more useful, like special forces or military advisers, but orders are orders.”

“Whatever, they don’t pay me to think,” he said.

The berets will be air-dropped to frontline Iraqi Army units in the hopes that the awe-inspiring headgear provides a vital and much-needed morale boost. Hagel said if the

green berets work out, the U.S. will also begin surging thousands of similar red, black, and tan berets to Iraq.

In response to Hagel's statement, the White House spokesman Josh Earnest initially said that there had been some "linguistic confusion." He later amended his remarks to say that after careful deliberation President Obama has decided he likes this new plan much better.

"As we saw with our own Army in 2001, change can be difficult," Earnest said. "But as the Iraqi Army transforms from its legacy as checkpoint guards to one which conducts successful combat operations, the green beret will be a symbolic and visible demonstration that they are committed to victory... eventually... somewhere..."

Earnest added that the new strategy also fits with President Obama's decision to keep American boots off the ground and the president has halted the military's current deployment of 300 barefoot American advisers to Iraq.

The use of the berets has not been without controversy. In order to rapidly deploy the berets, the Defense Department tapped into the Army's yearly clothing allowance and has dangerously depleted its domestic supply, leaving some soldiers potentially hatless.

Some officials have also questioned why the U.S. continues to supply headgear and other clothing to Iraq after eleven years of failing to influence the Iraqi dress code. "If they're not wearing green berets now, they're never going to," one highly-placed State Department critic of the policy said. "And how will this look to the Shias? Saddam Hussein used to wear a beret."

"More evidence that we don't understand the culture: we should have issued them green turbans instead."

Hagel admitted there have been problems with the Iraqis too. The deployment of green berets, instead of more culturally appropriate keffiyeh, has been referred to by some members of the Iraqi parliament as a great insult, "as well as the decision to send them during Ramadan, since apparently these people can't wear hats then too," Hagel said.

ANNIVERSARIES

Noble Anniversary: August 25, 1969
The Rebellion Of Company A;
“One Of Hundreds Of Mutinies Among
Troops During The War”



Carl Bunin, Peace History Aug 20-26

Company A of the 3rd Battalion the 196th Light Brigade refused to advance further into the Songchang Valley of Vietnam after five days of heavy casualties; their number had been reduced from 150 to 60.

This was one of hundreds of mutinies among troops during the war.

“He (President Nixon) is also carrying on the battle in the belief, or pretense, that the South Vietnamese will really be able to defend their country and our democratic objectives (sic) when we withdraw, and even his own generals don’t believe the South Vietnamese will do it.”

James Reston in the New York Times

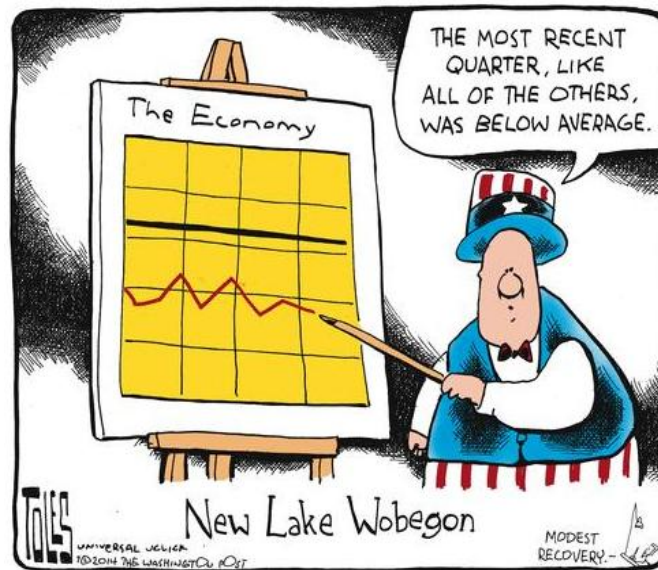
DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN MILITARY SERVICE?

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the address if you wish and we’ll send it regularly.

Whether at a base in the USA or stationed outside the Continental United States, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war and economic injustice, inside the armed services and at home.

Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657.

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Never Ask Me About Peace Again:

“Tears Flowed Until My Body Ran Dry Of Them When I Received A Telephone Call On Aug. 3, Informing Me That My Family Had Been Targeted By Two F-16 Missiles In The City Of Rafah”

“The Bodies Of My Cousin’s Children Were Stored In An Ice Cream Freezer”

“You Have Now Created Thousands —
No, Millions — Of Hamas Loyalists, For
We All Become Hamas If Hamas, To You,
Is Women, Children And Innocent
Families”



August 4, 2014 by Asmaa al-Ghoul via Uruknet

Tears flowed until my body ran dry of them when I received a telephone call on Aug. 3, informing me that my family had been targeted by two F-16 missiles in the city of Rafah.

Such was the fate of our family in a war that still continues, with every family in the Gaza Strip receiving its share of sorrow and pain.

My father’s brother, Ismail al-Ghoul, 60, was not a member of Hamas.

His wife, Khadra, 62, was not a militant of Hamas.

Their sons, Wael, 35, and Mohammed, 32, were not combatants for Hamas.

Their daughters, Hanadi, 28, and Asmaa, 22, were not operatives for Hamas, nor were my cousin Wael’s children, Ismail, 11, Malak, 5, and baby Mustafa, only 24 days old, members of Islamic Jihad, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine or Fatah.

Yet, they all died in the Israeli shelling that targeted their home at 6:20 a.m. on Sunday morning.

Their house was located in the Yibna neighborhood of the Rafah refugee camp. It was one story with a roof made of thin asbestos that did not require two F-16 missiles to destroy.

Would someone please inform Israel that refugee camp houses can be destroyed, and their occupants killed, with only a small bomb, and that it needn't spend billions to blow them into oblivion?

If it is Hamas that you hate, let me tell you that the people you are killing have nothing to do with Hamas. They are women, children, men and senior citizens whose only concern was for the war to end, so they can return to their lives and daily routines.

But let me assure you that you have now created thousands — no, millions — of Hamas loyalists, for we all become Hamas if Hamas, to you, is women, children and innocent families.

If Hamas, in your eyes, is ordinary civilians and families, then I am Hamas, they are Hamas and we are all Hamas.

Throughout the war, we thought that the worst had passed, that this was the pivotal moment when matters would improve, that they would stop there. Yet, that real moment of pain, of extreme fear, was always followed by something even worse.

Now I understood why the photographs of corpses were so important, not only for international public opinion, but for us, the families, in search for an opportunity to bid farewell to our loved ones, so treacherously killed.

What were they doing in those last moments? What did they look like after their death?

I discovered the photos of my dead relatives on social networking sites.

The bodies of my cousin's children were stored in an ice cream freezer.

Rafah's Abu Yousef al-Najjar Hospital was closed after being shelled by Israeli tanks, and the Kuwaiti Hospital that we visited just a day earlier had become an alternate venue, where this freezer was the only option available.

Al-Najjar's director, Abdullah Shehadeh, told Al-Monitor, "We decided to move the patients when shells hit the main gate. Some patients, out of fear, ran out, despite the gravity of the security situation. We are now working out of this ill-equipped hospital."

The Emirati Red Crescent Maternity Hospital, west of Rafah, has been transformed into a large container for corpses, with fruit and vegetable freezers filled with dozens of bodies.

I saw corpses on the floor, some with nametags on their chests, while others remained unknown. We held our noses, for the stench was unbearable, as flies filled the air.

Ibrahim Hamad, 27, removed his five-year-old son's shroud-wrapped body from a vegetable freezer.

Fighting back tears, he told Al-Monitor, "He died as a result of a reconnaissance drone missile attack. His body has been here since yesterday. The dangerous situation prevented me from coming to take him any sooner."

I thank God that my relatives were quickly buried, and that my cousins Mustafa, Malak and Ismail did not remain long in a freezer, lest their bodies freeze, and their souls now rest in peace, leaving us with nothing but the silence of death and bodies forever trapped in the postures of their passing.

On the fifth day of the war, when I went to write my Rafah report about the shelling of the Ghannam family, I stopped by to visit my cousin's house. I saw my relatives and we took photographs together.

During the war, my cousin Wael's wife had given birth to twins, Mustafa and Ibrahim, who were like two tiny angels, harbingers of hope and joy.

How could I have known that this would be our last meeting?

I wish I had stayed longer and talked to them some more.

Hanadi, Asmaa, my uncle and his wife laughed as they joked about the twist of fate that brought us together in the middle of a war, at a time when Israeli occupation forces had not yet begun perpetrating their wanton war crimes against Rafah.

Endings are so strange, as are living moments that suddenly become relegated to the past. We will never see them again, and the pictures that I took of the twins are now so precious, as one of them, Mustafa, was killed, while the other, Ibrahim, remained alive.

I wonder how they could differentiate between them, for they looked so much alike. Who identified them when their father died and their mother lay wounded in intensive care?

Who was Mustafa, and who was Ibrahim? It was as if they had merged upon one twin's death.

In the photos taken after their death, my family looked so peaceful, asleep with their eyes closed.

None of them were disfigured or burned, unlike hundreds of dead children and civilians that US-made weapons killed before them.

We wondered if they died in pain. What happened when the missile, carrying tons of explosives, impacted their modest house and exploded, creating air pressure so fierce that their internal organs burst? Their suffering was perhaps lessened by the fact that they were sleeping.

I didn't see them when I went to Rafah on Aug. 2. I wrote about the death of the Ayad Abu Taha family, which was targeted by warplanes, and saw the corpse of Rizk Abu Taha, one year old, when it arrived at the Kuwaiti Hospital.

I observed him at length. He looked alive.

One could see that he had been playing when he died, dressed in his pink pants. How could he be at such peace?

The bodies of war victims look so different from how they appear on television. They are so real, so substantial, suddenly there before you, without any newscast introductions, music or slogans.

Bodies lay everywhere, and it was as if everything in life had been to prepare us for this moment.

Suddenly, the dead left their personal lives behind: their cell phones, homes, clothes, perfumes and daily chores. Most importantly, they left the fear of war behind.

Distances in the small Gaza Strip have grown larger, distances and time expanding as a result of the fear and death that shrank the life expectancy of the populace.

We were unable to join the family for the funerals. My uncle, Ahmad al-Ghoul, later told me over the phone, "Because of the inherent danger, our goodbyes to them lasted mere seconds. Malak's eyes laid open, as if to ask, 'What wrong did I commit?'"

I was born in 1982, in that same house in Rafah's refugee camp, where the family's large household expanded.

I grew up there, and everything else grew with us: the first intifada, the resistance, my nearby school that I walked to every day. There, I saw my first-ever book library. There, I remember seeing my grandfather fall asleep as he listened to the BBC.

And there, I laid eyes on the first Israeli soldier in my life, striking my grandfather to force him to erase the national slogans that adorned the walls of our refugee camp home.

Now, the house and its future memories have been laid to waste, its children taken to early graves. Homes and recollections bombed into oblivion, their inhabitants homeless and lost, just as their camp always had been.

Never ask me about peace again.

Community Leader, Beloved Grandfather Shot Dead By

**Zionists As He Carried White
Flag:
“Suddenly, A Soldier Stopped My
Father Who Went Up First, Holding
A White Flag”
“Abruptly, The Same Soldier Shot
Him In The Chest, Killing Him
Instantly”
“Why Did They Kill Him, Why Did They
Steal Him From Us?”**



Invading Israeli forces broke down the garage door of the Qdeih family home leading to the basement.

7 August 2014 by Rami Almeghari, The Electronic Intifada. Rami Almeghari is a journalist and university lecturer based in the Gaza Strip.

Gaza Strip

Muhammad Qdeih, 65, was shot dead while carrying a white flag to signal to Israeli soldiers that he was an unarmed civilian.

He was killed on 25 July right at the staircase of his house, where his daughter Mufida, a homemaker in her forties, stood speaking to The Electronic Intifada in the village of Khuzaa, east of Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip.

“They killed the man who taught me the meaning of devotion to the community and to the Palestinian cause,” Mufida said, gesturing towards the staircase. “He inspired me to take part in protests and solidarity events for prisoners.”

Down the stairs is the basement where the family and some neighbors had been hiding, seeking shelter from the Israeli onslaught.

Khuzaa was utterly devastated during Israel’s assault on Gaza which began on 7 July, and which paused for a 72-hour “humanitarian ceasefire” that was set to expire on Friday morning unless Israeli and Palestinian negotiators in Cairo were able to agree on an extension.

Inside the house, Israeli soldiers left evidence of their presence in the form of some of their gear, including a few bullets that had not been fired.

“About twenty years ago, my father used to collect vegetables and fruits and distribute them to the families of Palestinian prisoners from the area who are in Israeli jails,” Mufida said.

“Though he loved Palestine, he refused to join any political faction, as he believed that Palestine is greater than any faction.”

“I was very close to my father, even though I am one of three daughters and six sons. Four of my brothers live in France and my father used to visit them there often,” Mufida said.

“God have mercy on him. I cannot believe he has been taken by their criminal hands,” she said of the Israeli soldiers who killed him.

A doting grandfather to more than a dozen children, Muhammad Qdeih was a respected member of the community in the Abu Irjela neighborhood where he lived and died, about two kilometers from the fence separating Gaza from present-day Israel.

Even during the Israeli onslaught he thought about others.

“The day before he was brutally shot dead, my father asked me to help him donate two thousand euros he had received from his son Mahmoud in France,” Mufida told The Electronic Intifada. “He told me, ‘I would love to donate this money to help people around here, as the war situation is so desperate.’”

Muhammad’s son Ramadan, 34, who witnessed his father’s killing, was inspecting damage Israeli tank shells had caused to the house of his uncle, also called Ramadan.

“Everybody in this neighborhood respected my father,” Ramadan said. “Many people asked him to be the chief of our tribe, but he refused, saying that he preferred to remain loved by everyone. But still, he was able to help sort out many family disputes.”

Ramadan told The Electronic Intifada what happened when Israeli forces invaded the area.

“Early on Thursday, 24 July, the Israeli air strikes and tank shelling continued unabated and about 45 people, including myself and my father, went out of the basement, as the house of my uncle Ramadan was hit by tank shells,” Ramadan recounted. “We headed for the entrance of Khuzaa town, yet the Israeli tanks were already around, so we had to go back to the basement.”

“When night fell, we could hear the strikes getting more intense and at dawn on Friday, we heard the Israeli soldiers breaking the doors of the garage, which leads towards the basement,” Ramadan said.

“They shouted at us to come out and suddenly, a soldier stopped my father who went up first, holding a white flag. I was behind my father as the soldier ordered him to stay where he was and abruptly, the same soldier shot him in the chest, killing him instantly.”

Muhammad’s 22-year-old nephew Alaa was also there that day.

“I heard the soldier telling Ramadan that his father, my uncle, was taken by the soldiers for medical aid and that he was not dead,” Alaa said. “But a few hours later, we found my uncle laying dead in an a partially-built bathroom in the garage,” Alaa told The Electronic Intifada, while showing a photo of his uncle’s body on his mobile phone.

The killing of Muhammad Qdeih was not the only such crime in Khuzaa. Human Rights Watch collected testimonies of other crimes in the village between 23 and 25 July in which Israeli soldiers “killed civilians in apparent violation of the laws of war.”

On the morning of 23 July, Israeli forces ordered a group of approximately one hundred Palestinians in Khuzaa to leave a home in which they had gathered to take shelter. “The first member to leave the house, Shahid al-Najjar, had his hands up but an Israeli soldier shot him in the jaw, seriously injuring him,” according to the testimonies collected by Human Rights Watch.

In another incident on 25 July, Israeli forces shelled a basement where 120 civilians were sheltering, killing three.

The survivors fled and walked to Khan Younis, “carrying white flags and raising their hands when they came across Israeli soldiers. An Israeli missile strike hit one group of them, killing a man and wounding his cousin,” Human Rights Watch reported.

Israel’s assault has so far left almost 1,900 Palestinians dead — one in every thousand residents of the occupied Gaza Strip. Each one had a life and a story that ended brutally.

Three months ago, Muhammad Qdeih left Gaza to pay a visit to his son Mahmoud in France. He had traveled abroad frequently, and, according to the family, lived for a spell in Spain, where he succeeded in obtaining citizenship.

"I feel very sorry and sad for the loss of my grandfather. He was so kind and tender to us all," Iman Abu Rjaila, Mufida's 18-year-old daughter, said.

"A month before the war on Gaza started, my grandfather used to call me every day from France to check on me as my high school exams were underway," Iman said.

"Why did they kill him, why did they steal him from us?" she asked.

It is a question many bereaved and heartbroken families in the devastated Gaza Strip are posing as they wait to see what the days ahead will bring.

To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, check out:
<http://www.palestinechronicle.com/>
The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Police Raid Ferguson Church For Third Time:

Platoon Of Cops Claim People Illegally Sleeping There; “More Than 20 Officers Showed Up To Search The Building Just Before Noon Wednesday”



Greater St. Mark's Church has seen a lot of cops lately and they haven't come by to pray.

Aug 21, 2014 Meteor Blades [Excerpts]

For the third time since the police slaying of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, St. Louis County police raided the Greater St. Mark Church property Wednesday.

Church leaders have allowed community activists to use the gymnasium of an abandoned private school on church property as a first aid station for treatment of people injured by tear gas in protests against the shooting of Brown.

People could also get food and water there, and community activists used it to plan protest strategy.

But all that apparently made it a special target for the cops whom one would think have enough on their plates in Ferguson not to be harassing a humanitarian operation.

Police claimed that people had been sleeping in the gym, something not allowed under city zoning and a violation of occupancy rules.

According to eyewitnesses, more than 20 officers showed up to search the building just before noon Wednesday.

Probably the first time in the city's history a platoon of cops has been sent to check out an alleged occupancy code violation.

This time they didn't come armed with assault weapons as witnesses said has been the case in previous raids.

Nor did they take away any supplies, something that observers say happened in Tuesday's raid.

A church volunteer, Marcel Williams, spoke with a local television reporter about Wednesday's raid:

"They looked like they were looking for someone in particular, just because of the depth of the search they were doing. No guns were drawn at the time or anything of that nature, but it was an intensive search," said Williams.

"The church officials told News 4 nobody has been staying in the building overnight."

That wasn't the police version.

In a statement issued Wednesday night, the St. Louis County Police Department said that when police searched the building: "It appeared that five to seven people (had been) sleeping in the facility but no one was present. The representative stated that he would advise the individuals to leave." The statement also said there was no animosity displayed between the cops and the church representative.

In a video made after the police raid on Tuesday, Philip Agnew of the advocacy group Dream Defenders said:

"But in no uncertain terms, this was a place where this community deemed, a place where we could come and feel—what? Safe. And what they did today was tell us what? There is no safety here."

A woman who answered the phone at the church Thursday morning told Daily Kos that she did not know whether the safe haven is still open and referred me to St. Mark's pastor, who had not returned the call by the time this was posted.

New Orleans Police Get Military Surplus 'Snow Camouflage Parkas' Also A Mine-Resistant Vehicle And One Garbage Can

Aug 22, 2014 Retroactive GeniusFollow, Daily Kos

The disturbing events in Ferguson have focused attention on the militarization of America's police forces. God knows, it's worrying enough that the police begin to seem more like an army of occupation than agents of law enforcement.

New Orleans and Gulf Coast news site The Lens decided to have a look at just what kind of military kit Orleans Parish and Jefferson Parish acquired.

The figures show what each county has received from the Defense Department's 1033 Program since 2007:

Orleans Parish received:

- Eight night-vision sniper scopes
- 20 snow camouflage parkas
- A "rough terrain" forklift
- 40 "laser modules"
- 14 thermal sights
- 21 7.62 mm rifles and two 5.56 mm rifles
- 30 survival axes

Some of the equipment is more mundane, such as:

- 360 men's scarves
- Four data-entry computer mice
- Nine folding chairs
- One garbage can
- A pair of pliers

Law enforcement in Jefferson Parish received:

- Two 5.56 mm rifles and seven 7.62 mm rifles
- A utility helicopter
- A mine-resistant vehicle
- Three bridge erection boats
- A utility truck
- A personnel carrier

Setting aside the questionable utility of a 'mine-resistant vehicle' in police work (how many mines and IEDs does a patrol officer encounter?), and the flat-out weirdness of 'four data-entry computer mice', 'a pair of pliers' and 'one garbage can', what really provokes that 'what the fuck?' moment is the '20 snow camouflage parkas'.

Unless the police are planning to hide in the middle of a crowd of blindingly white people, these parkas aren't going to be of much use in New Orleans.

Between 1853 and 2008 it snowed in New Orleans on 55 days.

According to New Orleans Magazine: "The National Weather Service has records dating back to 1849, and besides the 17 'snow events' of lasting cover, there were 38 days when traces of the fluffy precipitation appeared, but didn't linger."

So, if you're in New Orleans and are approached by a group of men dressed in snow camouflage parkas and carrying data-entry computer mice, folding chairs, a garbage can and a pair of pliers: get on your knees and put your hands behind your head, because they're cops and cops are dangerous.

Either that, or it's a platoon of Russian arctic troops with a malfunctioning GPS device.

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