

Military Resistance 12/2



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

Angry Families Of Soldiers Killed At Speicher Storm Iraqi Parliament:

**“Second Time In Two Weeks That
Iraqis Who Lost Relatives In The
Battle For The Base Shut Down
Parliament With Protests”**

“Low-Ranking Soldiers, Many Of Them Students And Fresh Graduates, Were Left To Die At The Base”

“Senior Officers Managed To Escape”

Sept. 2, 2014 By Matt Bradley and Ali A. Nabhan, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD—Relatives of Iraqi soldiers killed in a battle with Islamic State militants at a military base stormed parliament and shut it down, protesting over the government's failure to account for those who died.

The protests on Tuesday stemmed from an attack by the insurgents on the Speicher military base, about 100 miles north of Baghdad, on June 11 that left hundreds of Iraqi troops dead.

Family members are furious that the government hasn't provided an explanation of who died and how they were killed and that, in some cases, bodies haven't been retrieved for burial.

The anger is part of a broader frustration among many Iraqis over the government's handling of the insurgency, which has swallowed a significant portion of the country and left civilians dead.

Baghdad's response has been limited, in part because of a political dispute over power-sharing in a new government. Parliament has scheduled a special session on Wednesday to discuss the killings at Speicher, said Salim al-Jabouri, the assembly's newly elected speaker.

This was the second time in two weeks that Iraqis who lost relatives in the battle for the base shut down parliament with protests.

Other protests related to the deaths at Speicher have flared in Iraq's southern cities.

While many Iraqi troops fled the Islamic State's advance in June, fighters at Speicher held their ground before they were wiped out in what many family members have called a massacre.

Most vexing for the families are reports from some survivors that the low-ranking soldiers, many of them students and fresh graduates, were left to die at the base while senior officers managed to escape.

MORE:

Montenegro Troops Threaten Protests “If The Ministry Of Defence Does Not Respond By September 15 To Its Demand For 30% Salary Increases’

05 Sep 14 by Dusica Tomovic, BIRN

The Military Union, which represents Montenegrin troops, told BIRN that it will stage protests if the Ministry of Defence does not respond by September 15 to its demand for 30 per cent salary increases.

"If an agreement cannot be reached, we will be forced to fight for our rights with all legally available resources. It means that we will start protests," the union's head, lieutenant-colonel Nenad Cobeljic, told BIRN.

The union is also demanding better healthcare and a "clearly defined system of promotions", Cobeljic said.

The country's defence authorities have said on several occasions that Montenegro has armed forces that are "structured, trained and equipped" to the standards of NATO countries' armed forces.

But Cobeljic claims that the Montenegrin army, with an average wage to 440 euros, is far from the NATO standards when it comes to financial conditions.

He recalled that until recently, Montenegrin troops did not have insurance for injuries and overtime pay.

"Working conditions are at least twice as bad as in the Bosnian or Serbian army, not to mention Slovenia or the other NATO countries," he added.

The military trade union was founded in October 2010, after changes to the Law on the Army which granted trade union rights to military personnel.

But the union has alleged that the defence authorities began to exert anti-union pressure immediately after it was founded, resulting in members leaving.

It claimed that the union was denied contact with its members during meal breaks, the contracts of army personnel who joined the union were not extended, and for one soldier, deployment to a mission in Afghanistan depended on his leaving the union,


The military authorities initiated two disciplinary procedures in 2011 against Cobeljic for "disclosing to the media information about corruption and abuses in the military".

The same year, the Ministry of Defence suspended Cobeljic “because of violations at work” but claimed that this had nothing to do with his trade union activities.

After lengthy disciplinary proceedings, the charges were dropped and Cobeljic was returned to his position in 2013.

A survey by the International Trade Union Confederation in 2012 said that anti-union discrimination remains a serious problem and military personnel have faced "anti-union pressure".

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



U.S. TROOPS WILL STAY IN AFGHANISTAN UNTIL AT LEAST 2024

SOMEDAY THIS WILL ALL BE YOURS

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Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the email address if you wish and we'll send it regularly with your best wishes. Whether in Afghanistan or at a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to injustices, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Northborough Grieves Over Death Of Soldier In Afghanistan



September 05, 2014 By Milton J. Valencia and Oliver Ortega, Boston Globe Staff

NORTHBOROUGH — An Army paratrooper with the famed 82d Airborne Division, remembered for his genteel manner, wit, and determination to be a soldier, was killed by gunfire this week in Afghanistan, the Pentagon said Friday.

Specialist Brian K. Arsenault was killed about 9 p.m. Thursday as his unit was engaged in small-arms fire with enemy combatants in the city of Ghazni, according to his family and the Department of Defense.

The 28-year-old had enlisted in 2011, and his tour in Afghanistan was scheduled to end in November.

“Something in him, he wanted to be a soldier,” his father, Daniel, said outside the family’s home Friday, flanked by a dozen or so relatives and friends. He recalled his son’s “devilish good looks,” his smile, and his wit. “Those things will last with us forever,” he said.

Brian Arsenault’s younger sister, Lindsey, fought back tears as she showed off a collage of photos of her brother with family members and friends, many from Christmases they had spent together.

“Brian was a vibrant free spirit that has forever touched so many lives,” his father said. “As a family, the sorrow is unbearable.”

Arsenault completed his airborne training in 2012 and joined the 82d Airborne, based in Fort Bragg, N.C. He was a grenadier with B Company, First Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, First Brigade Combat Team.

The 82d was activated in 1917 as an airborne infantry division specializing in parachute assault operations, and it has been involved in every major US war since then, as well as regional conflicts and rescue operations.

Lieutenant Colonel Chris Hockenberry, Arsenault's battalion commander, said in a prepared statement: "We have suffered a great loss . . . and express our deepest condolences. Specialist Arsenault was an exceptional paratrooper and a valued member of our team." "Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends during this difficult time."

Adam Costello of the Central Massachusetts Veterans Service District said Friday that the Army has assigned a uniformed representative to work directly with the family, and that "the town of Northborough stands united to respect the wishes of the family and offer them support by every means available." Funeral plans are not yet complete.

Arsenault was at least the 48th service member from Massachusetts killed in Afghanistan, according to the state Department of Veterans' Services. He is believed to be the first service member from Northborough to die in a major conflict since the Vietnam War.

His awards and decorations include the Purple Heart Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the NATO Medal.

"We must be strong for our son, who has given his life for a cause that he believed in," said his father, who has kept a hockey puck in his pocket since he got the devastating news about his son's death. It now serves as a reminder of the times the two spent playing the sport together.

By Friday, news of the tragedy had spread throughout Northborough, a close-knit town that Costello said supported him when he served in Iraq.

Daniel Meininger, who has lived here for 15 years, said he has two sons, and said it was "heartbreaking for that to occur . . . It'll be felt throughout the entire community." Elizabeth Morse, 44, said she heard the news on the radio. "It's sad for the family," she said. "It's a small town; people know each other."

Arsenault was a 2004 graduate of Algonquin Regional High School, where he played hockey and baseball. Many of his old friends would come back to the house through the years, including when Arsenault was on leave from the Army, his father said.

Tom Meade, principal of the high school, said Friday that many of the students and staff were shocked by the news, which began to trickle throughout the school Thursday. He said the Arsenault family is large and well known in the community, with many siblings and cousins, and many knew Brian Arsenault.

Meade said he heard from a parent who recalled how Arsenault, as a teenager, had the manners to ask for a father's permission to take a girl on a date. "The Arsenault family is a bedrock family in Northborough," Meade said. "We're reeling from this thing today. It's hitting home."

Teammates Mourn Soldier Killed In Afghanistan



Samuel C. Hairston. Contributed

August 21, 2014 Associated Press

SHALIMAR, Fla. - The former high school football teammates of a soldier killed in Afghanistan are remembering the Florida Panhandle native as a talented athlete who was willing to die for his country.

The Department of Defense said Sgt. 1st Class Samuel C. Hairston died last week in Ghazni province of injuries sustained when his unit encountered enemy small-arms fire. He was based at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Hairston grew up in Shalimar and graduated from Choctawhatchee High School in 1997.

One of his former teammates tells the Northwest Florida Daily News that he once thanked Hairston for his military service. Daniel Jonke says Hairston replied that he would "give it all" so that others could enjoy freedom.

Other teammates remembered Hairston as intense but kind-hearted. Hairston also played at the University of Houston.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

Afghans Say Taliban Are Nearing Control Of Key District: “The Taliban Are Almost In The Bazaar” “Higher Authorities Did Not Want The Seriousness Of The Situation Publicized” “Insurgents Had Launched 788 Attacks In The Past Three Months”

SEPT. 6, 2014 By ROD NORDLAND and TAIMOOR SHAHSEPT, The New York Times Company [Excerpts]

KABUL, Afghanistan — Local Afghan officials say more than 200 police officers and soldiers have been killed during a fierce Taliban offensive in Helmand Province in southern Afghanistan that has lasted all summer and now threatens to overwhelm a key district.

Officials at the national level have played down the violence and even, in some cases, flatly denied that there is a problem.

But local military, police and government officials, including two Afghan generals, have said in recent days that they are unsure their forces can continue to hold out against the offensive, which has been underway since June in the Sangin district in northern Helmand and more recently in neighboring Musa Qala, unless they get more support from national authorities and international forces.

The authorities are particularly worried about Musa Qala, a traditional Taliban stronghold and a source of revenue from the lucrative opium poppy trade.

“The situation is deteriorating and the Taliban are almost in the bazaar,” the governor of Musa Qala district, Haji-Mohammad Sharif, said Friday night when reached by telephone in the government center in Musa Qala. “If the situation remains the same, the district will soon fall to the hands of the Taliban.”

The fighting has been particularly heavy in Musa Qala over the past 10 days, while a simultaneous Taliban ground assault has been underway in Sangin. That was a renewal of an offensive the insurgents began in Sangin in June, with both sides committing large numbers of ground forces to the fight.

The Afghan National Army launched a counteroffensive in Sangin in July and August that pushed the insurgents away from the district capital, but in late August the Taliban renewed their attack.

An Afghan Army general familiar with the situation in Sangin, speaking on the condition of anonymity because, he said, higher authorities did not want the seriousness of the situation publicized, said that the insurgents had launched 788 attacks in the past three months in Sangin and in two neighboring districts, Now Zad and Kajaki.

In all, the general said, 71 Afghan National Army soldiers have been killed and 214 wounded since June, while 159 police officers have been killed and 219 wounded in the Sangin district.

That 230 dead among Afghan security forces in Sangin this summer exceeds the total killed in Sangin among the British Royal Marines and the United States Marines in the entire war, about 150 in all. And both Britain and the United States lost more troops in Sangin than in any other Afghan district.

In the Musa Qala district, according to the governor there, 50 police officers were killed or wounded, which is in addition to those killed in the Sangin fight.

Both Musa Qala and Sangin have been heavily contested throughout the war because they are in green areas particularly suited to opium cultivation, with many places for insurgents to hide.

The last of the American Marines left the area in May, with their commanders declaring Sangin and Musa Qala largely pacified. But the Taliban began probing attacks in Musa Qala soon afterward, and a full-scale offensive in Sangin the following month.

“If our forces do not get enough support and enough weapons and ammunition, the battle will get out of control in Sangin, and once the enemy take control of the district, it will be even harder to get them out.” said Gen. Juma Gul Himat, chief of Helmand’s provincial police department.

General Himat complained that the American-led coalition, known officially as the International Security Assistance Force, had not provided air support. “We have requested air support from NATO hundreds of times but they are not responding positively,” he said.

A spokesman for the coalition, Maj. Paul L. Greenberg of the Marine Corps, said air support had been given to Afghan forces in Sangin. “ISAF has received those requests and ISAF has provided aviation support accordingly in Sangin District over the past several months, to include support over the past several weeks,” he said.

But General Himat said that national and international forces had failed to respond to pleas from northern Helmand for more support, heavy equipment and reinforcements. “We have shared our problems with higher authorities and the Ministry of Interior itself, but they are also lacking equipment, so we are asking the international community not to leave us alone, and provide what we need to fight our enemies,” the general said.

General Himat and other officials in Helmand said the Taliban had a great deal of support from criminal elements protecting the lucrative opium trade in northern Helmand, and he claimed that both Iranian and Pakistani terrorists were fighting in the area.

Emanuele Nannini, program coordinator for the Italian charity Emergency, which recently expanded its hospital for war victims in Helmand to 95 beds from 70, said, "It's clear they are fighting more."

"Now it's really fighting," Mr. Nannini added. "They're not just attacking and escaping; on many, many occasions they are facing each other."

Dimitra Giannakopoulou, the medical coordinator at the Emergency Hospital in Helmand, said the striking thing about the past several months was how sustained the fighting appeared to be, with a steady stream of the wounded coming in daily, rather than in spurts as had previously been the case.

The volume has been so great that on two occasions, once in June and once again last week, the hospital has had to turn away some new patients, only accepting those whose wounds were life-threatening, Ms. Giannakopoulou said.

Three Policemen Killed By Insider Attack In Central Uruzgan Province

Sep 01 2014 By Ghanizada, Khaama Press

At least 3 policemen were killed following an insider attack in central Uruzgan province of Afghanistan late Sunday.

Provincial governor spokesman, Dost Mohammad Nayab, has said the incident took place on Sunday night in Shahid Asas district.

Nayab further added that the attack was carried out by four policemen who opened fire on their three comrades in a check post in Kekhi area.

He said the assailant policemen managed to flee the area following the attack and have taken with them some weapons and ammunition.

According to Nayab, the main motive behind the incident is not clear so far, but he said the policemen belonged to Afghan Local Police (ALP) forces.

No group including the Taliban militants has so far claimed responsibility behind the incident.

Uruzgan is among the relatively volatile provinces in central Afghanistan where anti-government armed militant groups are actively operating in a number of its districts and frequently carry out insurgency activities.

At least seven policemen were killed and another one was injured in a similar attack in Tarinkot city of Uruzgan earlier in last month.

Taliban Attack On Afghan Spy Agency Government Compound Kills & Wounds Many: “Number Of Taliban Attackers Was 19, Wearing Afghan Military Forces’ Uniforms.

04 September 2014 By Zahihullah Tamanna, AA & VOA News

KABUL, Afghanistan – At least 31 people were killed and 152 injured in a coordinated Taliban attack on government buildings in eastern Afghanistan on Thursday, police said. Shattering glass caused many of the casualties.

According to local officials, eight Afghan security personnel were killed during the attack in Afghanistan's eastern city of Ghazni.

“Number of Taliban attackers was 19, wearing Afghan military forces’ uniforms. They used two huge truck bombs to start their attack which has destroyed various governmental and civilian buildings near the area,” Assadullah Insafi, deputy provincial police commander, told the Anadolu Agency.

Mohammad Rahim, a police officer, told the AA at the site of attack that it started when a truck full of explosives at the offices of the intelligence services and was "followed by groups of gunmen targeting various governmental departments including rapid reaction forces, provincial police head quarter and culture and information office."

A member of the medical team at a local hospital said, on condition of anonymity, that it was struggling to handle the number of patients.

“We have received more than 150 wounded people and possibly the number is increasing. The hospital and its staff are not capable to cover all of them. At least 50 of the wounded people are in critical condition and we don't know how many of them are civilians,” he said.

Zabiullah Mujahid, a purported Taliban spokesman, claimed responsibility for the attack on his Twitter account and said that the militants targeted the provincial police station, intelligence service office and the rapid reaction police forces' facilities with three car bombs.

More Resistance Action



[Graphic: flickr.com/photos]

01 September 2014 Tolo News

At least two National Directorate of Security (NDS) personnel were killed and one other wounded near the Balkh Gate in Mazar-e-Sharif City, capital of Balkh province on Monday, an eyewitness said.

Eyewitnesses say that the incident occurred at around 4 p.m. when residents saw what they believed was a suspicious abandoned bicycle near the Balkh Gate.

Those wary of the bike contacted security forces to inspect the bicycle and when the NDS personnel arrived to the scene, explosives detonated.

As the result of blast two NDS personnel killed and another wounded.

Sep 06 2014 By Ghanizada, Khaama Press

At least five Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers were martyred following Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and militants attacks, defense officials said Saturday.

Gen. Zahir Azimi, spokesman for the Ministry of Defense said the Afghan army soldiers were martyred in the past 24 hours.

He did not disclose further information regarding the exact locations where the ANA service members were martyred.

Sep 06 2014 By Ghanizada, Khaama Press

The provincial Hajj and Religious Affairs chief for eastern Ghazni province of Afghanistan Qazir Fazl Ahmad was executed by militants in central Maidan Wardak province.

Local officials in Wardak province confirmed that the dead body of Qazi Ahmad was found from Syedabad district early Saturday morning.

Qazi Fazal Ahmad was abducted by militants last week while he was on his way from Ghazni province to capital Kabul when he was abducted by militants.

Deputy provincial governor for Ghazni, Mohammad Ali Ahmadi said two others including Qazi Ahmad's driver and employee of Ghazni Hajj and Religious Affairs directorate were also kidnapped.

Local officials are saying that Qazi Ahmad was abducted by Taliban militants. However, the group has not commented in this regard so far.

There are no reports regarding the fate of Qazi Ahmad's abducted driver and his companion.

Both Ghazni and Maidan Wardak are among the volatile provinces where anti-government armed militant groups are actively operating and frequently carry out insurgency activities.

The anti-government armed militants are usually targeting the government officials and employees who are travelling on main Kabul-Kandahar highway that links capital Kabul with the eastern and southern provinces.

5 September 2014 IANS

Kabul - At least 33 people have been killed and 147 others injured on Thursday when Taleban militants attacked a government compound in Afghanistan, officials said.

Fighting erupted when the attackers detonated two vehicles loaded with explosives in Ghazni province in eastern Afghanistan, the Afghan interior ministry said.

Deputy governor Mohammad Ahmadi told Efe that the assailants targeted Afghan intelligence headquarters in the three-hour clash with security forces.

The dead included ten police officers, while 17 of those wounded in the firefight were police officers.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack in a Twitter post.

Sep 04 2014 By Ghanizada, Khaama Press

At least five Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers were martyred following an attack by Taliban militants in eastern Kunar province of Afghanistan.

According to local government officials, the attack was carried out late Wednesday after a group of Taliban militants attacked a security check post.

Provincial governor, Shuja-ul-Mulk Jalal, said the assailant militants who attacked the check post were disguised in Afghan army uniform.

Defense ministry spokesman, Gen. Zahir Azimi, confirmed that seven Afghan army soldiers were martyred following militants attack and roadside bomb explosion in the past 24 hours.

Gen. Azimi did not disclose further information regarding the exact locations where the Afghan soldiers were martyred.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



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

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

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

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

Frederick Douglass, 1852

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

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

Marine's PTSD Claim Scorned By Leader Who Caused It



July 12, 2014 by G-Had, The Duffle Blog

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – Sources from 1st Battalion 8th Marines say that a Marine claiming severe post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, is being openly mocked by the Marine who is the leading cause of it.

Cpl. Donald Bogdan, a squad leader in Charlie Company, expressed both amazement and contempt about the claims of PTSD by Lance Cpl. Sean O'Connell, who is both Bogdan's assistant automatic rifleman and the frequent recipient of Bogdan's physical and psychological torture.

"Is that little bitch still saying he's got PTSD?" asked Bogdan, according to sources in second squad, after hearing O'Connell was making another attempt to see a military psychiatrist. "What a fucking boot! Nothing even happened in-country," he said, omitting multiple incidents in which he openly mocked, shunned, and physically assaulted O'Connell.

"I told him his PTSD is all bullshit, and if he claims it again the next time we have MCMAP [Marine Corps Martial Arts] I'm going to break his arm," Bogdan added.

“When I first picked [O’Connell] up last year, the dumb-ass didn’t know how to patrol, never remembered what he was supposed to do, always had this confused look on his face — I mean basically the kid was going to get someone killed.

“He had to understand that we’re a family and a family is only as good as its weakest link: that’s why I pulled him into the head one night and beat him unconscious.”

Bogdan then described a series of attempted corrections he had made to “fix” O’Connell, including screaming at him in public, screaming at him in private, securing his liberty, hitting him, kicking him, throwing him into his wall locker, and choking him with the cord on his laundry bag.

The abuse continued after the battalion deployed to Afghanistan, when O’Connell became in Bogdan’s words, “permanently sky-lined” by the company office. After O’Connell lost his bayonet Bogdan had him locked up in a Conex box for the better part of a day in the middle of the summer.

“We totally should have just left him in there to die,” Bogdan said laughing, upon reflection, “but then someone else would have had to stand post for him and we’re understrength enough as it is.”

Other members of the squad say around this time a constantly-frustrated Bogdan launched his brief and unsuccessful plan to push O’Connell into suicide through a combination of sleep deprivation and physical punishment.

In addition to the trauma in both Afghanistan and the workup for that deployment, Bogdan continues to inflict severe emotional damage on O’Connell back in garrison, flushing his antidepressants down the toilet and publicly ordering members of the latest boot drop to ignore everything O’Connell says.

But Bogdan argued that ultimately everything he’s doing is for O’Connell’s benefit.

“Look, I know I’m hard on the kid, but trust me: he’s got it easy compared to what my seniors did to me,” Bogdan said, his right eye briefly twitching before he nervously glanced over his shoulder.

O’Connell’s friends have confirmed that later this evening he will begin his own program of self-therapy by finding the weakest looking new Marine in the barracks and repeatedly kicking him in the testicles.

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DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



OCCUPATION PALESTINE

The Repetition



The Zionist Slaughter Of A 10- Year-Old Boy: “The Boy’s Last Words To His Uncle Were, ‘Don’t Be Afraid’” “Mohammed Goes To The Cemetery Every Day Now, To Visit His Son”

8.24.2014 by Gideon Levy and Alex Levac, Information Clearing House

It's not clear why an Israeli soldier shot Khalil Anati in the Al-Fawar refugee camp.

What is clear is that the shooter didn't stay around long enough to offer assistance, or to watch the boy die.

The picture on the mourning poster shows the beautiful, sad face of a boy, his head wrapped in a keffiyeh, his skin sallow, his eyes wide open.

In the photograph, one of two images used for the posters, the boy is already dead. Only his open eyes give the impression of life. In the other poster, the eyes are already closed for all time.

Khalil Anati was 10 years and eight months old and came from the Al-Fawar refugee camp, south of Hebron in the West Bank, when he was killed.

An Israeli soldier had opened the door of his armored jeep, picked up his rifle, aimed it at the upper body of the boy, who was running with his back to the soldier, and cut him down with one bullet, fired from a distance of a few dozen meters.

It was early morning on Sunday, August 10.

The street was almost empty – the idleness, the unemployment and the heat in this squalid refugee camp leave people in their beds late – and the soldiers were apparently in no danger. According to testimony, there were only another three or four young children in the street; they were throwing stones at the jeep. There were no “riots” and no mass “disturbances.”

Khalil tried to advance another few meters after the bullet lodged in his lower back, before falling to the ground in the middle of the narrow alley, its width about that of a person, that ascends to his home.

Someone heard him shout, in Arabic: “The bastards shot me.” By the time he arrived at the hospital in Hebron – he had been transported in a private vehicle since the camp does not have an ambulance – he was dead from loss of blood.

The soldier who shot him quickly shut the door of the jeep and hightailed it out of the camp, together with his buddies.

Mission accomplished.

The bereaved father, Mohammed, asks now with dry eyes why the soldier who killed him did not at least offer his son first aid, or summon help. "If they are human beings, that is what they should have done. Why didn't they do that?"

We sat this week in front of the Anatis' ramshackle home, a few meters from the scene of the crime.

No other refugee camp is comparable to Al-Fawar, in terms of wretchedness and forlornness. A putrid stench wafts from the bursting garbage bins, which no one empties, and from the sewage that flows unchecked through the alleys. An Israeli who has never been here cannot begin to imagine what it's like.

It's also a tough place, which the army rarely enters.

But on that fateful Sunday two army jeeps, one of them flying a huge Israeli flag, drove in, escorting a vehicle of Mekorot, the national water company, which had apparently come to check the pipes connecting to the camp's wells.

Khalil was shot to death at about 9:30 in the morning. His father, a scrap peddler, was still asleep.

Only the boy's uncle, Mahmoud Anati, peering out of his window which overlooks the narrow alley, saw what was going on and spotted the jeep. He rushed to his 80-year-old father, Ahmed Anati, Khalil's grandfather, who was at that moment on the roof of a house that is being built as part of a special United Nations Refugee Agency project, for the camp's old people.

Mahmoud told his father to come inside, for fear of the soldiers; from experience he knows that the troops are quick to fire teargas in order to disperse the children. He hustled his aged father into the house, but is today consumed with feelings of guilt for not having done the same for his nephew.

The street, Mahmoud recalls, was quiet.

Then he suddenly heard a single shot ring out and his nephew shout.

He rushed into the alley. A construction worker at the site of the home for the aged had already picked up the bleeding boy and was running with him toward the main street, in order to flag down a car to take him to the hospital.

At one point, Khalil fell from the worker's hands. He and Mahmoud picked him up and put him the car of a Bedouin man who was visiting in the camp. They shouted to people to call an ambulance, but knew that would take precious time, so they sped in the private car to Al Ahli Hospital in Hebron.

As the car left the camp, Khalil stopped moving, and by the time they reached the hospital, he was no longer breathing. Mahmoud tried to staunch the bleeding with his hands.

The boy's last words to his uncle were, "Don't be afraid."

The uncle had hoped there would be soldiers at the pillbox – the guard tower at the edge of the camp – who could summon aid, but it was deserted.

He remembered that a few days earlier, there had been a road accident nearby in which Israelis were involved, and the army had called in a helicopter to evacuate them.

As the uncle recalls the events of that day, the father sits by his side, silently. Mohammed goes to the cemetery every day now, to visit his son.

Musa Abu Hashhash, a veteran field worker for the Israeli human rights organization B'Tselem, arrived at Al Ahli at about 10:30 A.M. the day the boy was killed, and saw his body in the hospital morgue.

Abu Hashhash, who has already seen a great deal in his work, was especially shocked by this incident. He published an article about it on the website of the Palestinian news agency Ma'an under the headline, "The Coward," referring to the soldier who killed the boy and fled.

Immediately after the event, the Israel Defense Forces' Spokesperson's Unit published a statement on its website, stating (in a rare instance) that the IDF "regrets" the boy's death.

The spokesperson's unit also provided the following response to an inquiry from Haaretz: "During routine activity by IDF forces, which were providing security for work being carried out by the water authority in the vicinity of Al-Fawar, violent disturbances erupted, during which the force opened fire. The IDF regrets the death of the Palestinian minor who was killed in said incident. In accordance with standard policy, the Military Police's investigatory unit has launched an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the incident. At the conclusion of the inquiry, the findings will be passed on to the Military Advocate General's office for examination and for decisions on any further action."

During our visit, we saw a few children were playing in the local "community center" – a shabby, tattered room in the heart of the camp, with three old computers and a tabletop soccer game – its walls covered with pictures of their deceased friend, Khalil.

Yakub Nasser entered the room in his electric wheelchair. Now 19, he too was shot here by soldiers, in 2009, when he was 14.

Since then his legs have been paralyzed and he's been confined to a wheelchair.

As for Khalil, he was supposed to have attended a local day camp during the final days of the summer vacation, and was also getting ready to enter the sixth grade.

He had been accompanying his father as he sold used clothing and old television sets; he buys them from a dealer in nearby Halhoul and offers them for sale to the camp's residents.

Two days before his death, neighbors had collected donations for residents of the Gaza Strip. Khalil stole a blanket from home and brought it to the local mosque as his contribution to his brethren in Strip.

Israeli Soldiers Shot My Teenage Son: “We Must Continue To Resist, For My Children And For All Our Children, In The Hopes That Our Efforts Today Will Create A Future For Palestinians In Which We Are Safe And Free”



The author with his son Majd after the latter was shot with live ammunition on 31 July.
(Facebook)

12 August 2014 by Iyad Burnat, The Electronic Intifada. Iyad Burnat organizes regular protests against Israel's wall in the West Bank village of Bilin.

Bilin

In the past ten years of Friday demonstrations against the Israeli occupation in our West Bank village of Bilin, I have helped carry countless men and women to the ambulances, injured by Israeli rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas canisters and live ammunition.

But until 31 July, I never knew what this experience would feel like when the person I was carrying was one of my own children.

During a demonstration that day, I heard a gunshot, and then the scream of my sixteen-year-old son Majd.

A silence fell over me as I ran to him with many thoughts in my head. Where was he shot? Would he be okay? Why did the Israeli soldiers target him?

He was just standing there as the demonstration was ending. Did the soldiers shoot my son because they know I am one of the organizers of these protests?

It is in these moments of uncertainty that our greatest fears haunt us — moments that the people in Gaza have been experiencing on a daily basis.

Over the past few weeks, there have been demonstrations throughout the occupied West Bank to protest Israel's illegal actions and to show our support for our brothers and sisters in Gaza. This is in response to the murder of more than 2,000 people and injuring of thousands more, where more than 80 percent of those killed have been civilians, including hundreds of women and children.

During these protests of solidarity, the Israelis have been particularly brutal in their responses and they have injured and killed many peaceful demonstrators.

After visiting the hospital in Ramallah where many Palestinians injured during demonstrations are recovering, residents of Bilin knew we needed to have a special demonstration in our village to show our support for Gaza.

This demonstration was planned in honor of the children of Gaza, and our children in Bilin. We know that the children are affected most by this violence by the Israeli occupation.

Three weeks earlier when the bombings first started and everywhere on the news there were discussions about children being killed in Gaza, my eight-year-old daughter Mayar was having trouble sleeping. She would keep waking up and come to wherever I was so that I would hold her. She was afraid.

Late one night, she started to ask me questions that no father ever wants to hear: "Why is Israel bombing Gaza? Why won't they leave us alone? Why are they killing kids my age? Why won't anyone stop them?"

I did not have an answer for Mayar. There is no good answer that can explain what is happening.

I was ashamed to tell her that so much of the world is asleep while people in Gaza are being killed. At this moment I understood in a new way that her childhood, her life — like the lives of so many other Palestinian children — would be forever changed as a result of these massacres in Gaza.

I cannot protect her from this reality.

My child is wise, and her questions are important for many of us to consider.

It is because of these questions that we must continue to resist. So that our children and our children's children do not have to face such harsh realities of occupation, imprisonment, death and destruction all their lives.

On the day of the latest demonstration, hundreds of people from Bilin joined together to march to the apartheid wall that still separates us from our agricultural land. As we approached the wall, the heavily armed Israeli soldiers met us in their jeeps and began shooting tear gas canisters at our peaceful demonstration.

As the demonstrators began to scatter to avoid suffocation from the tear gas, the soldiers started to come into our village. As we were turning toward home, I saw an Israeli commander point his rifle in our direction, take aim and then fire.

I could instantly tell from the sound that it was live ammunition, and in the next moment I saw who he had been aiming at — my son.

It is not easy to describe the feeling of hearing your child scream in agony.

“Am I going to die baba?” he asked me breathlessly, as I rushed to hold him and see where he had been shot.

It was very difficult to lift him up, even as his leg was dripping blood, and then to carry him to the ambulance. Maybe the most difficult of all, was calling my wife Tesaheel from the ambulance and try to explain to her what had happened to our son, trying to sound confident as I told her that his injury was not too bad, that our son would be okay, that everything would be okay.

I felt like I was being choked, that I was being strangled and the words would not come out of my mouth. I never want to tell my wife that our child is in danger — but this is our life, our everyday experience.

In those moments after he was shot, I was not thinking about the commander that shot him. I was not thinking about the occupation or the war in Gaza. All I could think about was my son.

I was not sure if he was being brave, scared or was in shock, because while we were in the ambulance he was very quiet the whole time. He has been shot before with a high projectile tear gas canister and rubber-coated steel bullets, all of which can kill, of course — but those times he never bled this much, and I had never before been so afraid that my child could be dying.

When we finally arrived at the hospital, the doctors said that the bullet hit a nerve in his leg. He could not feel his foot, and he would need to have surgery in Israel or Jordan because they do not have the type of medical equipment needed for this surgery in the West Bank.

I did not leave his side the whole time he was in the hospital. Many family members and friends came to visit and it has been wonderful for Majd to see how much all of these people love him and support him. His body is healing and he is able to move around in a wheelchair. He is now back home.

We are all relieved and so grateful he is alive, but this experience is not over. And this was only one small taste of what so many here must endure.

During the past couple of weeks I have thought a lot about my son, my family and my work organizing demonstrations against the occupation.

I realize it is not helpful to blame, or get angry at myself — but I have wondered if he would have been shot if I was not organizing the resistance in Bilin.

The truth is, many children are harmed and even killed without any political connection. I feel the desperation of a parent who wants to, but is not able to protect his children. It is beyond my control — I am not the one that chose to shoot an innocent young boy. I am not the one that gave the order to shoot tear gas at peaceful demonstrators or to drop bombs on homes, schools and hospitals in Gaza.

This is our life living under occupation. My son is no different from the thousands of others who have been shot during this conflict. As a leader of popular resistance protests, my family joins with me in demonstrations, knowing that any one of us could be arrested, injured or even killed as a result.

But we do it anyway, because we have no other choice — we will never achieve our freedom unless we struggle for it and sometimes pay for it with blood and tears.

So we must continue to resist, for my children and for all our children, in the hopes that our efforts today will create a future for Palestinians in which we are safe and free.

Zionist Occupation Forces Shoot, Critically Injure Jerusalem Teen, As Usual: “The Teenager Was Speaking On His Mobile Phone While Walking To A

Nearby Mosque For Late Evening Prayers”



09/1/2014 Ma'an

JERUSALEM -- A Palestinian teenager was critically wounded late Sunday after an Israeli soldier shot him in the head with a rubber-coated steel bullet, relatives said.

Muhammad Abd Al-Majid Sunuqrut, 16, from Wadi al-Joz suffered a fractured skull after being shot, his father said.

The teenager was speaking on his mobile phone while walking to a nearby mosque for late evening prayers when he was hit, in what his father said was an unprovoked attack.

He underwent emergency surgery at Hadassah Medical Center to stop bleeding on his brain and to remove bone fragments caused by the impact of the bullet.

The teen is currently unconscious in an intensive care unit and is said to be in a critical condition.

Muhammad had been preparing for the new school year, his father said, adding that Israeli forces have been provoking local Wadi al-Joz residents in recent weeks by firing tear gas, rubber coated-bullets and skunk spray.

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

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

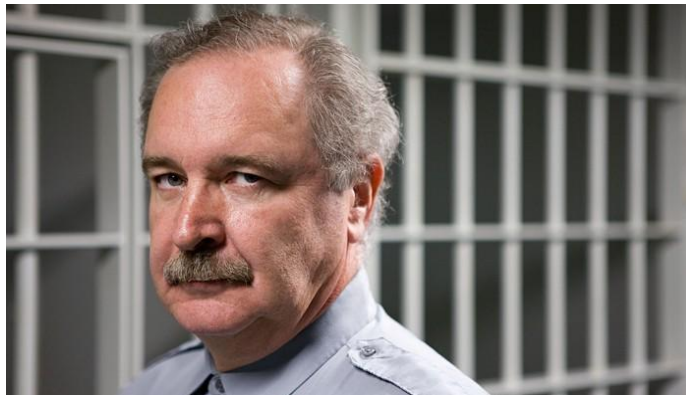
<http://www.palestinemonitor.org/list.php?id=ej898ra7yff0ukmf16>

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



**Death Row Guard Has Always Had Soft Spot For The Innocent Ones:
“He Feels A Twinge Of Sadness Whenever He Has To Pepper-Spray Them”**



McFadden says he always goes a bit easier during cavity searches of inmates who didn't commit capital offenses.

ANGOLA, LA — Saying he's seen "a lot of people come through here in [his] day" and met prisoners of every type, longtime Louisiana State Penitentiary death row guard Dwayne McFadden confided Wednesday that he's always had a bit of a soft spot for the innocent ones.

While the 57-year-old corrections officer said he strives to remain detached and professional when dealing with inmates awaiting execution, he told reporters that, invariably, the men convicted of capital crimes they didn't commit somehow always manage to find a way into his heart, remaining there even after they are put to death.

"When you've been here as long as I have, you start to develop a special relationship with the guys who aren't actually guilty," said McFadden, noting that there have been so many such inmates during his 30 years on the job he has lost exact count.

"You get to know them, know their stories. And as they keep exhausting appeal after appeal, you can't help but take a liking to them."

"Even though it's against prison rules, I'll sometimes let the innocent guys have an extra 10 minutes in the yard, or maybe a couple extra library books," he added. "Little gestures here and there. It's the least I can do for them."

McFadden acknowledged he has felt a personal and enduring emotional connection to virtually every one of the not-guilty death row inmates he has known, from those assigned shoddy public defenders who failed to secure a plea deal, to those sentenced on the basis of clearly fabricated police evidence and later-recanted testimony, to those who were mentally unfit to stand trial in the first place.

Often, he said, the prisoners who have stirred something inside him have been the ones who had the misfortune to be in the wrong place at the wrong time, or were forced to sign confessions after being kept awake for dozens of hours of harsh, coercive questioning.

Additionally, McFadden added that many of his favorite inmates over the years were simply victims of a bygone era before the use of DNA tests became standard.

"Most of them are just these real nice guys from poor, tough neighborhoods, though I've seen falsely convicted men from all walks of life behind these walls," McFadden said of the maximum-security facility's death row population. "Interesting thing is, no matter where they come from, or what their background, the innocent ones all have this same look in their eyes that really melts your heart."

"It gets me every time," he continued. "They really are some of the sweetest people you'll ever meet."

The guard explained that while all of the individuals under his watch are damaged on some level, and the worst are merciless killers for whom there is no place in society, the ones who are not actually murderers tend to be much more likable.

According to McFadden, when these inmates loudly protest their imprisonment or lash out physically in defiance of the system that has wronged them, he always feels a twinge

of sadness whenever he has to pepper-spray them into submission and then forcibly pin them against the floor until they are shackled.

“You can’t help but feel for these guys as people when you’re keeping them under 24-hour suicide watch in the days leading up to their execution,” he said, adding that a nod and a little wave goes a long way when an innocent man is being led to his death.

“I have to say, I get kind of attached to them, and I miss them when they’re gone.”

“But most of the time, that feeling doesn’t last too long,” he added. “There are always more coming in.”

YOUR INVITATION:

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