

Military Resistance 1218



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "Been there, done that, got the T-shirt, wore it out, and now use it to wash the car."]

Two More Stand Up

#1:

**Guantanamo Army Defense Lawyer
For Khalid Sheikh Mohammed
Resigns From The Army,
Says "The U.S. Government Of
'Abhorrent Leadership' On Human**

Rights And Due Process Guarantees And Says It Is Crafting A ‘Show Trial’”



Jason Wright, seen here during his 15-month deployment to Iraq, served in the military for nine years before resigning last week. Photo: Courtesy of Jason Wright

[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "Torture? Naw, not US!"]

August 31, 2014 by NPR Staff [Excerpts]

Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the self-proclaimed mastermind behind the Sept. 11 attacks, is facing a military commission at Guantanamo Bay and potentially the death penalty.

He was captured in 2003 but his case still hasn't gone to trial.

Last week, Maj. Jason Wright — one of the lawyers defending Mohammed — resigned from the Army.

He has accused the U.S. government of "abhorrent leadership" on human rights and due process guarantees and says it is crafting a "show trial."

Wright joined the military in 2005. He served 15 months in Iraq during the surge and has worked as a Judge Advocate. For nearly three years, he served on Mohammed's defense team.

Wright formally resigned on Aug. 26. Earlier this year, the Army had instructed him to leave the team in order to complete a graduate course that was required with his promotion from Captain to Major.

He refused the order; he says it would have been unethical for him to have followed it.

Wright tells NPR's Arun Rath that it's hard to gain any client's trust, but it was especially hard with Mohammed. His former client is one of six "high-value detainees" being prosecuted at Guantanamo for offenses that could carry the death penalty.

“All six of these men have been tortured by the U.S. government,” he says.

Wright says Mohammed in particular has faced a level of torture “beyond comprehension.”

He says his client was waterboarded by the CIA 183 times and subjected to over a week of sleep deprivation; there were threats that his family would be killed. “And those are just the declassified facts that I’m able to actually speak about,” Wright says.

Given that treatment, Wright knew it would be hard for Mohammed to trust him.

“You show up several years later and you say, ‘I’m from the U.S. government and I’m here to help you’ ... and you add on the complexity that I wear the same uniform as the guards,” he says. “It’s very challenging in any situation to develop trust and confidence with a client. But when you add on that torture paradigm, it’s all the more difficult.”

Wright wasn’t allowed to discuss too many details of the detainee abuse in court. He references a recent Foreign Policy article by Laura Pitter, of Human Rights Watch, about the notion of “original sin” and how it’s complicated terrorism cases.

“The ‘original sin’ being the fact that the CIA tortured these men and that they’ve gone to extraordinary lengths to try to keep that completely hidden from public view,” Wright says.

“So the statute that Congress passed has a number of protections to ensure that no information about the U.S. torture program will ever come out.”

He says there are additional constraints on the defense teams that have made it hard to operate — including allegations of listening devices disguised as smoke detectors in attorney-client meeting rooms.

“So not only do you have statutory design, but you actually have, in practice, a very large effort to try to ensure that no information about torture is ever made known in public,” he says.

The hardest thing to deal with as a defense layer, he says, is fighting the government’s influence.

“The U.S. government is trying to call this a fair trial, while stacking the deck so much against the defense and the accused that it can hardly be called a fair trial in any system in the world,” he says.

The larger strategic implication for the government, he says, is that it gives a license for the rest of the world to torture and “set up secret military courts outside of public review and outside of due process.

“Leave aside our constitutional principles — which we should try to uphold irrespective of who the defendant may be — the Constitution has been completely stepped on throughout this entire process,” he says.

“That’s a separate and distinct issue of how the U.S. now has shown just abhorrent leadership when it comes to actually following essential, fundamental human rights and due-process guarantees.”

Wright says it doesn’t matter what happens at trial; the government likely won’t release the defendants even if they are acquitted. He contrasts it with the Nuremberg trials after World War II, where the chief prosecutor promised Nazi war criminals would be set free if they weren’t found guilty.

“We have a system where if someone’s acquitted, they will not be set free,” he says. “That is actually the very definition of a show trial.”

Earlier this year, the Army instructed Wright to leave the team in order to complete a required graduate course with his promotion from Captain to Major. The course can be deferred for a variety of reasons; Wright had already deferred once. But his latest request for a deferral was denied without explanation.

“So really I only had two choices,” he says. “I could either accept and voluntarily leave my own self from the case and my obligations to my client. Or I could refuse the orders.”

He decided would be an ethical violation to abandon his client voluntarily, so he refused the orders.

“And when you refuse the orders, you have to resign from the Army,” he says.

Wright served his last day on Mohammed’s defense team; he formally resigned from the Army on Aug. 26.

He believes his departure will be very disruptive to the Mohammed case and potentially the other defense teams.

“Here you have government attorneys who tell a defendant, ‘I’m your attorney, I’m here to help you, and I’m going to be here ‘til the end.’ And half-way through this process, the U.S. government — the same government that tortures you, the same government that’s trying to kill you, the same government that provides the public defender — now gets to control when defense attorneys come and go,” he says.

Mohammed’s legal saga has stretched out for years — he was captured in 2003 but the government didn’t bring charges until 2012. Wright says he can’t speculate how long it will take for a trial to start.

MORE:

#2:

Navy Medic At Guantanamo Bay Refuses To Force-Feed Prisoners On Hunger Strike: Relieved Of Duty “Pending Court Martial”

August 27, 2014 By: Kevin Gosztola, Dissenter [Excerpts]

The first and only officer on the medical staff at Guantanamo Bay to conscientiously object to force-feeding prisoners on hunger strike has reportedly had his assignment ended.

He has been sent back to Naval Health Clinic New England, his “parent command,” while an investigation is completed, which may result in discipline or a court-martial.

The Associated Press reported on August 26 that Navy Captain Maureen Pennington, who is “his commander at the network clinics, indicated, “An investigation has been conducted into his conduct while stationed at Guantanamo but it has not yet been determined if he will face any discipline.”

He is “now on leave and military officials declined to provide details about him or any allegations he may face.”

Technically, the nurse has already faced a level of punishment. He was removed from duty at Guantanamo and placed under investigation. What purpose could this serve other than to send him and other medical officers a message not to ethically challenge the Pentagon over treatment of prisoners?

The Miami Herald’s Carol Rosenberg previously reported that the nurse, who has yet to be identified, was sent back to the United States.

Army Col. Greg Julian of US Southern Command, which is responsible for oversight of Guantanamo, stated, “He was administratively separated from (Joint Task Force Guantanamo) and he’s pending court martial.”

In July, it was Abu Wael Dhiab, a Syrian prisoner cleared for release in 2010, who informed his lawyers of the nurse who had conscientiously objected.

Cori Crider of Reprieve was told the officer had refused to force-feed prisoner just before the Fourth of July. The officer later “disappeared from detention center duty.”

Crider also suggested that initially the nurse had carried out his orders and forced prisoners. Yet, after recognizing the impact forced feedings were having, the nurse, according to Dhiab, said something like, “I have come to the decision that I refuse to participate in this criminal act.”

The fact that the nurse chose to conscientiously object to participate in his forced feeding is significant, especially since Dhiab is a key prisoner who has been challenging the forced feeding policy in federal court.

Dhiab went on hunger strike and began to be subject to forced feeding on April 9, 2013. He joined with other prisoners, including Shaker Aamer, to challenge the practice so he could choose whether to eat or die at Guantanamo.

“Is it necessary for them to torture me? Is it necessary for them to choke me every day with the tube? Is it necessary for them to make my throat so swollen every day? Do I have to suffer every day? Is it necessary for them to put me on the torture chair in order to feed me?” Dhiab asked in a declaration to the court.

At one point in June, Dhiab was beaten “so badly” by prison guards after they confiscated his wheelchair that he had “blood in his feces.” Fellow prisoner Ahmed Rabbani submitted an affidavit in which he recalled, “I heard him vomiting for much of the night.”

Judge Gladys Kessler ordered the force-feeding to be halted in May. However, days later, the judge allowed the government to resume forced feedings, as the government repeatedly claimed Dhiab would die if he was not force-fed.

Lawyers from the legal charity, Reprieve, have continued to challenge the policy in court and have managed to convince the judge to grant access to video of Dhiab being force-fed and inhumanely treated. But the attorneys cannot discuss the contents of the video with anyone, not even other attorneys for Guantanamo prisoners with proper security clearances.

Reprieve has accused Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel of ignoring their call for the release of Guantanamo forced feeding tapes.

Media organizations, including The Guardian, MSNBC, The New York Times and The Washington Post, have joined with Reprieve to request that video be released because the contents are in the “public interest.” Kessler has not ruled on whether to allow video to be made public.

The guideline from the World Medical Association is clear:

“Forcible feeding is never ethically acceptable. Even if intended to benefit, feeding accompanied by threats, coercion, force or use of physical restraints is a form of inhuman and degrading treatment. Equally unacceptable is the forced feeding of some detainees in order to intimidate or coerce other hunger strikers to stop fasting.”

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

N.C.-Based Marine From Suffolk Killed In Afghanistan

September 18, 2014 by Dianna Cahn, The Virginian-Pilot

SUFFOLK

A Marine from Suffolk was killed Monday in Afghanistan in what officials described as an insider attack by an Afghan soldier.

Sgt. Charles C. Strong, 28, was a member of the Marine Forces Special Operations Command. He graduated from Nansemond River High School in 2003.

On Wednesday, his body was brought home, escorted by his older brother Jason, a staff sergeant in the same Marines Special Operations Command.

The two brothers were deployed to Afghanistan at the same time, a spokesman confirmed.

Strong's unit, the 2nd Marines Special Operations Battalion based at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, was on a mission training Afghan National Army soldiers in Herat province in western Afghanistan.

"It is with a heavy heart that MARSOC announces the passing of one of our Marines," Capt. Barry Morris, a spokesman for the command, said in a statement. "He was a consummate professional who upheld our warrior ethos each and every day."

Morris confirmed that Strong was killed in what officials are calling a "green-on-blue" attack in which an Afghan soldier turned his weapon on international trainers.

The Afghan TOLO News agency, citing local officials, reported that an Afghan soldier shot and killed one trainer and injured another trainer and an interpreter. The shooter was killed, an Afghan commander told the news agency. He said the man suffered from psychological problems and was not affiliated with the Taliban.

A fundraising campaign on the website GoFundMe, titled In Memory of Charles Strong, shows a photograph of Strong on his wedding day in full dress uniform, looking with love at his bride, Taylor.

The page seeks to raise money for a rocking chair for Taylor, who, it says, is expecting a girl.

"It would remind her of how loved her and her daughter are and give her a little peace," the page said. "Please keep Taylor and their daughter in your prayers and thoughts. I cannot imagine what she is going through and I know these next days, months and years will be extremely difficult."

Neighbors of the Strongs said Charles had married relatively recently. They said the boys and their father, who retired from the Navy, grew up active and close. They would

be outside working out or watching their father fly his remote control helicopters. Charles, who spent much of his Marine career as a vehicle and transport expert, would frequently work with his father on a truck they were fixing up.

“We heard the news, and it was just real hurtful,” said George Wiggins, who has known the family since he and his wife LaNita moved across the street from the Strong’s some 15 years ago.

He said their parents were very proud of their sons.

“I was proud of them, and they aren’t even my kids,” LaNita Wiggins said. “Our hearts are heavy.”

Strong’s principal at Nansemond River, Thomas McLemore, said Strong was focused on his career even in high school. He spent every afternoon of his junior and senior years studying auto mechanics at The Pruden Center for Industry and Technology in Suffolk.

Those skills fed into Strong’s career with the Marines, which began in 2003. After deploying to Iraq as a motor transport operator in 2005, he received specialized training and was the sole vehicle recovery operator for his Marine battalion on his second deployment to Iraq in 2006.

He was promoted to sergeant in 2007 and served as a team leader and navigator for all logistical mounted patrols in 2011.

Over his career, Strong earned both a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and a Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal.

Strong joined the Marines’ Special Operations Command, or MARSOC, last year, where he became a critical skills operator.

This was his second deployment to Afghanistan.

IED Wounds 2 American Soldiers In Bagram

Sep 25 2014 By Khaama Press

At least two American soldiers were injured by an explosion in northern Parwan province of Afghanistan.

Local government officials said Thursday that the incident took place late Wednesday night in Bagram district.

District administrative chief, Abdul Shakoor Qadusi, said an armoured vehicle of the US forces struck an improvised explosive device (IED) in Bagram on Wednesday night.

Qadusi further added that the convoy of the American forces was patrolling in Saighan area when one of the vehicles struck an IED.

In the meantime, Taliban militants group claimed responsibility behind the IED attack.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

**Hundreds Of Taliban Fighters
Overrun Ajristan District In
Ghazni Province:
“Provincial Government Reported
To Have Lost Contact With Its
Forces”
“Troops And Police Running Out Of
Ammunition”
Insurgents Also Made “Fresh Advances
In Southern Helmand Province”**

September 26, 2014 by Ayaz Gul, VOA News & Reuters [Excerpts]

ISLAMABAD—

Authorities in Afghanistan say heavy fighting is raging in a province southwest of the national capital where Taliban insurgents have overrun several villages

Afghan security officials say fighting broke out in Ghazni province five days ago when 700 Taliban fighters stormed the strategic district of Ajristan.

The deputy governor added insurgents in nearby provinces have also come to join the Taliban, and that Afghan security forces are putting up a tough fight to defend the district headquarters.

Ahmadi said that troops and police are running out of ammunition and if there is no urgent air support from the central government, the entire district is likely to fall to the Taliban.

The provincial government is reported to have lost contact with its forces in Ajristan. The main highway linking Kabul to southern Afghanistan passes through Ghazni province.

Insurgents have also reportedly made fresh advances in southern Helmand province, where they have besieged the key Sangin district for months and are said to be in control of surrounding villages.

Northern Kunduz province has also recently witnessed intense clashes between security forces and insurgents.

More Resistance Action: “Policeman Working With The Taliban Killed Five Of His Colleagues”



[Graphic: flickr.com/photos]

September 29, 2014 By Najeebullah Hazem and Hafiz Ahmadi, AAP

A policeman working with the Taliban killed five of his colleagues in an outpost in the western province of Farah, police said.

The incident took place late Saturday night in the Posht Rod district and the attacker fled to Taliban-ruled villages, police said.

28 September 2014 TOLONews

A magnetic mine that was placed on the vehicle of a military officer detonated in Zanbaq Square in Kabul city early Sunday, injuring only the driver, local officials said.

The explosion happened in a diplomatic area in Kabul just a day before President-elect Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai takes oath of office.

Sep 28 2014 By Khaama Press

At least five policemen were martyred following an explosion in central Maidan Wardak province of Afghanistan.

According to local government officials, the incident took place late Saturday in Jalrez district.

Provincial governor spokesman, Ataullah Khogyani said the incident took place in Ismail Khel area after a vehicle of the police forces struck with an improvised explosive device (IED).

Khogyani further added that the police vehicle was completely damaged following the blast.

The Taliban militants group claimed responsibility behind the incident. Zabiullah Mujahid, a spokesman for the Taliban group said at least six policemen were killed following the blast.

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

Sep 27 2014 By Khaama Press

An Afghan Intelligence – National Directorate of Security (NDS) officer was martyred following an explosion in eastern Kunar province of Afghanistan.

According to local government officials, the incident took place in Watapur district following an improvised explosive device (IED) attack.

Provincial police chief, Gen. Abdul Habib Syed Khel said the intelligence officer was on his way to the mosque when a remote-controlled improvised explosive device (IED) was detonated.

Gen. Syed Khel further added that a close relative of the intelligence officer was also injured following the blast.

“Taliban Militants Group Execute Three People Over Robbery And Kidnapping Charges”

Sep 27 2014 By Khaama Press

The Taliban militants group publicly executed three people over robbery and kidnapping charges in eastern Paktia province of Afghanistan.

Taliban group spokesman, Zabiullah Mujahid, said the three individuals were found guilty during a public court hearing.

Mujahid claimed that the convicts were public executed in Gurji area of Zurmat district on Friday.

He said the local residents had filed a complaint against the convicts, alleging that they were involved in kidnapping of people and robbery.

The local security officials have not commented regarding the report so far.

Paktia is among the volatile provinces in eastern Afghanistan where anti-government armed militant groups including the Taliban militants are active in its remote districts.

MILITARY NEWS

**ISIS Overruns Key Regime
Military Base In Iraq:
“Of An Estimated 1,000 Soldiers In
Saqlawiya, Only About 200
Managed To Flee”
“This Failure Is Not The Fault Of The
Soldiers ... The Mistake Was That Of
The Military Leadership, They Failed”**

“We Were Without Ammunition And Without Food”

“We were without ammunition and without food. Every time we contacted military commanders, they promised to send helicopters to air drop reinforcements but nothing happened.” said the officer. “We ... were drinking salty well water and eating canned tomato paste.”

Sep 22, 2014 By Ahmed Rasheed and Saif Sameer Hameed, Reuters

Iraqi soldiers described on Monday how Islamic State fighters inflicted heavy losses in a chaotic raid on a military base just an hour's drive from Baghdad, highlighting the jihadists' ability to attack high-profile targets despite U.S. air strikes.

Casualties among the Iraqi government forces appear to have been very heavy, with many soldiers either dead, forced to flee or missing following the assault near the city of Falluja, which Islamic State has controlled since January.

A statement for Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi's office said he had issued orders to detain two commanders for “negligence” in the incidents 50 km (30 miles) west of Baghdad, while some troops who escaped accused the military leadership of failing to help them during the siege.

Their raid at Saqlawiya is the latest since the northern city of Mosul fell to Islamic State in June to exposes the Iraqi military's shortcomings. It followed a massacre of an army detachment at Camp Speicher in the same month, in which military recruits were led off the base unarmed and murdered in their hundreds.

Like at Camp Speicher, it remains unclear how many men were present at the base in Saqlawiya and how many are now dead and missing.

However one officer who survived the raid said that of an estimated 1,000 soldiers in Saqlawiya, only about 200 had managed to flee.

“This failure is not the fault of the soldiers ... the mistake was that of the military leadership, they failed,” said the officer, who declined to be named due to the sensitivity of the issue.

The officer said that Islamic State insurgents had gained control of Sijir, near Falluja, a week ago, allowing them to surround the Saqlawiya base.

“We were without ammunition and without food. Every time we contacted military commanders, they promised to send helicopters to air drop reinforcements but nothing happened,” said the officer, who fled to another base close to Falluja on Sunday. “We ... were drinking salty well water and eating canned tomato paste.”

On Wednesday, the insurgents sent a Humvee vehicle rigged with explosives into the camp. Guards mistakenly assumed that an army driver was at the wheel.

“When it exploded, it caused a lot of confusion. Islamic State exploited that and entered the camp. Now most of regiment headquarters within the base are under the control of Islamic State,” said the officer, adding that one, small army unit remained besieged in the camp.

About 200 soldiers managed to escape the base on Sunday after battling with the militants in the area which soldiers call the “kilometer of death”.

“On the road, the images were tragic. Burnt Humvees and burnt corpses of soldiers are still on the streets,” said the officer who retreated to the nearby Camp Tareq.

One soldier, identified as a Saqlawiya camp survivor, recounted his testimony in a video that was shown on Iraqi state television and widely circulated online. Reuters could not immediately verify its authenticity.

The survivor referred to the militants sending in a booby-trapped vehicle, appearing to corroborate the testimony of the first army officer. He also mentioned the lack of food and ammunition at Saqlawiya.

“Those who ran, got away and those who stayed were left behind. We left in three transport vehicles and two gas tankers and headed for Sijir,” he said, adding that they found Islamic State insurgents waiting for them there too.

“Again we got injured by an RPG (rocket propelled grenade) and there were those who got killed by gunfire and those who fled amid the tall grass and orchards,” said the survivor, whose name was not disclosed, and who was shirtless and wearing his trouser fatigues.

He said that “200 or less” soldiers managed to escape.

“The bodies of slaughtered soldiers are left in Sijir and Saqlawiya on the main roads and near the factory,” he said.

An intelligence officer who is in charge of an area of operations that includes Saqlawiya said insurgents gained control of Sijir area last week and “the army was forced to retreat ... in the farms between Saqlawiya and Falluja”.

An army convoy sent in to break the siege on Sunday was ambushed by Islamic State fighters. Many soldiers were killed, others were taken prisoners and a few managed to flee, he told Reuters.

The Defense Ministry said in a statement late on Sunday that it had “lost communication” with some soldiers in Sijir and Saqlawiya.

Military Resistance In PDF Format?

If you prefer PDF to Word format, email: contact@militaryproject.org

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

<p>It is a two class world and the wrong class is running it. -- Larry Christensen, Soldiers Of Solidarity & United Auto Workers</p>

Lying Is The Most Powerful Weapon In War



Photograph taken in An Khe, Vietnam 1970. Mike Hastie, Army Medic

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: Saturday, September 20, 2014
Subject: Lying Is The Most Powerful Weapon In War

Photo and caption from the portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

**Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004**

“We Will Defeat ISIL Just Like We Defeated Al Qaeda”



September 16, 2014 by Paul, The Duffle Blog

The following is an op-ed written by Barack Obama, President of the United States.

Just over a decade ago, under my predecessor, our forces embarked on a campaign to fight the Global War on Terror after Al Qaeda terrorists attacked the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Our military performed flawlessly in Afghanistan, routing the Taliban and Al Qaeda, and ultimately, denied the terror group a sanctuary from where it could attack us again.

Today we stand secure, knowing that Osama bin Laden is dead, and his organization of Al Qaeda is decimated, unable to operate anywhere on the earth. And with our strike against Iraq, we have deposed a dictator and brought peace and freedom to a Middle Eastern country.

Now, I was critical of the Iraq war in 2003 and strongly opposed it for many years. I felt at the time that our actions in a country where we had limited understanding of the culture could see U.S. soldiers standing in the crosshairs of a sectarian divide between Shia and Sunni.

Fortunately, that didn't happen.

The war came to a close, and by all accounts, it was a rousing success. Our American Army defied the naysayers who likened the conflict to a Vietnam quagmire. The comparison was laughable of course, considering our involvement in Vietnam was almost two years longer than in Iraq.

But sadly, a new terror group has emerged. The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, or ISIL, a band of brutal thugs who have overtaken parts of Syria and Iraq, could potentially attack us at home again. Much like our medical professionals who have found a cure for cancer, we will find a cure for the cancer of ISIL.

While I don't wish to arouse fear and hysteria amongst the public, let me be clear: ISIL is a threat to every interest we have and it is beyond anything we have ever seen. It has an apocalyptic end-of-days vision that threatens our very existence.

So that's why I have ordered an extremely limited engagement against ISIL forces and am assuring the American people that we will not put boots on the ground. We are clearly at war with these extremists, and when faced with an enemy of such dangerous magnitude, it is the only choice we have.

You may have heard my primetime address where I outlined my strategy to degrade and defeat ISIL. In the speech, I used our efforts in Somalia and Yemen as models for what we can achieve. With drone strikes over the past few years, we have completely destroyed Al Shabaab in Somalia and AQAP in Yemen, although we're still trying to figure out what that acronym stands for.

I'd like to highlight a few more points here to assure the American people that we will win this war against these terrorists — at some point in the future which may be three to four, or even maybe six to seven years from now, but it's kind of hard to say at this point — and the threat will be diminished.

First, we will begin conducting airstrikes inside Syria at a time and place of our choosing. Under the direction of Gen. Lloyd Austin at Central Command, the military will target key militant facilities, armament, and weaponry, until they smarten up and completely blend in with the local populace.

While we bomb ISIL, which is fighting against the Free Syrian Army, Jabhat al-Nusra, and Syrian President Bashar al-Assad — who we don't want to support because he's a war criminal but we're kind of supporting him but nevermind that — we will support moderate elements of the Free Syrian Army, which is fighting ISIL, Jabhat al-Nusra, and Assad.

We will take great pains to not enter someone else's civil war, because that's a first class ticket to failure.

Second, we will train moderate Syrian rebels and Iraqi security forces to take the fight to ISIL. As our experience has taught us in Iraq, the key to winning a war in the Middle East is to train up locals to "own" the battle and take charge of their future.

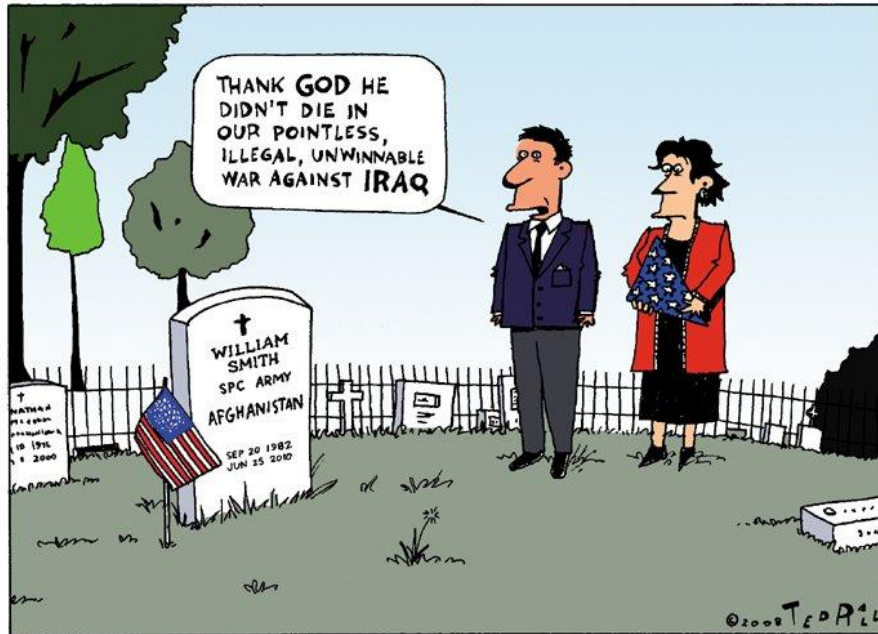
In Mosul, we saw how our training efforts truly paid off, as Iraqi Army units bravely held ground when attacked by militants.

Our troops have long shown what can be achieved with shifting objectives, no strategic foresight, and vigorous support from the American people who don't have to sacrifice anything. I call on each and every American to tie a yellow ribbon around a tree, bake an American flag cake, and support the troops who are fighting for your freedom.

In closing, I must stress that our war on terror began with Al Qaeda, but it did not end there. I pray that we soon reach our limited objectives in time for Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential run.

Thank you, and God bless America.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



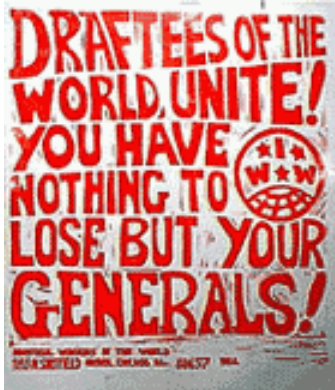
CHANGE WE CAN BEREAVE IN

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.

ANNIVERSARIES

**September 28, 1917:
IWW Members Indicted For Doing The
Right Thing:**

“Trying To Cause Insubordination, Disloyalty, And Refusal Of Duty In The Military And Naval Forces”



Carl Bunin Peace History Sept 27 - Oct 3

166 people who were (or had been) active in the I.W.W. (Industrial Workers of the World, whose members were also known as Wobblies) were indicted for protesting World War I.

They were accused of trying to “cause insubordination, disloyalty, and refusal of duty in the military and naval forces” in violation of the Espionage Act. One hundred and one defendants were found guilty, and received prison sentences ranging from days to twenty years, with accompanying fines of \$10,000-\$20,000.

This was part of a successful U.S. government campaign to cripple the radical union movement. **[Successful, that is, until the revolutionary Russian working class took power a month later, in October 1917, got their soldiers out of Imperial World War I, and lit a fire that spread over the world, including here in the USA. T]**

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Venezuelan Crony-Capitalist Regime Calls Steelworkers “Narco-Unionists”

**“The State Is The New Big Boss
And Has Taken Over Everything,
Including Workers’ Rights”**
**“They Have Let Contracts Expire For
Workers All Over The Country. Some
As Long As 10 Years Ago, Leaving
Workers With Devalued Salaries”**
**“Choosing Between Supporting The
Government And Supporting Unions,
I’m With The Unions”**



Workers from the Sidor steel plant in Ciudad Guayana hear a union leader criticize the government last month. The Washington Post/Getty Images

Sept. 24, 2014 By Sara Schaefer Muñoz, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

CIUDAD GUAYANA, Venezuela—At the cavernous Sidor steel plant here, workers have for weeks protested delays in contract talks and railed against inept management. But the target of their wrath isn’t a profit-driven, private owner.

Instead, it is the country's Socialist [translation: nationalist capitalist] government, which in 2008 nationalized Sidor as part of then-President Hugo Chávez's bid to empower the working classes against what he called "savage capitalism."

"The state is the new big boss and has taken over everything, including workers' rights," said Leonel Grisett, a Sidor union leader who has been arrested in the past for leading protests here. "When you see how they have let contracts expire for workers all over the country, you think something is wrong."

Mr. Maduro also faces a powerful bloc, organized labor, which is now increasingly challenging his embattled administration with strikes and walkouts.

[H]ere in Ciudad Guayana, a rundown city of 900,000 people in Venezuela's eastern flatlands that was once the center of Venezuelan industry, many of Sidor's 14,000 workers say they face lapsed contracts and government troops when they protest.

They have complained about an average monthly salary of about \$200, which doesn't keep pace with inflation.

The animosity between Mr. Maduro's government and workers has recently grown. Diosdado Cabello, the powerful president of the National Assembly, recently called union leaders "mafias" intent on destabilizing the country.

Mr. Maduro, once a bus driver and union leader himself, has labeled strikers "narco-unionists," without offering evidence of illegal activity.

In August, workers tore down pictures of the president that were posted around the Sidor plant.

"He himself was a worker," Nerio Fuentes, a 40-year veteran of Sidor, said of Mr. Maduro. "But he wasn't even able to come to the plant and talk to us."

The discontent has spread to unions representing hundreds of thousands of state workers.

The National Federation of Public Sector Workers, which represents administrative workers and teachers, this month publicly criticized the government for delaying contract renewals.

Some of them expired as long as 10 years ago, leaving workers with devalued salaries.

Mr. Chávez, who took office in 1999, promised that workers would prosper.

Mr. Chávez's government criminalized protests through arrests and spurious charges against demonstrators, Mr. Alvarado and union leaders said, while replacing them with government-backed unions.

To win over workers, he regularly raised wages. Mr. Maduro has been unable to maintain salary increases at the same pace.

“Chávez came to power with this good message for the working class,” said Ruben Gonzalez, a former member of the ruling party and union leader at the state-owned, iron-ore and processor Ferrominera who was jailed in 2010 for organizing protests.

“But it’s a government that only wants unions if they support its political project.”

About 150 workers, including employees of Sidor and companies in the oil sector, face charges related to protesting.

Violence has also soared, Provea says, with 59 union members killed last year in clashes between state-supported and independent unions, as they competed for construction jobs.

Even before Mr. Chávez, the government played a major role spurring the economy here. President Rómulo Betancourt founded Ciudad Guayana in 1961 with the goal of turning it into an industrial hub. American planners came to help, and the city grew fast as factories devoted to steel and aluminum sprouted up, churning out beams and factory parts.

Today, some factories still operate, humming or belching smoke. But most stand eerily silent amid weeds and rutted roads.

Production has dropped since the state takeovers. Sidor this year isn’t expected to reach even a quarter of the 4.3 million tons of liquid steel produced in 2007, the year before the government takeover.

Part of its woes can be traced to government currency controls that have constrained parts imports. Signs of decline are everywhere. Inside Sidor’s 5,000-acre complex, a laminating facility operates only on sunny days because a large section of roof is missing. Many buildings are little more than rusting hulks.

Packs of stray dogs roam between warehouses.

In August, violence flared when some 2,000 steelworkers from Sidor staged a march near the plant, saying they were fed up waiting for a new contract to replace the one that expired four years ago.

“The collective contract is a basic labor right,” said Damian Prat, a Venezuelan writer and author of “Guayana: The Miracle in Reverse,” a book on the city’s industry and labor. “We are going backward.”

Protesters were met by national guard troops who responded by firing tear gas, rubber bullets and even live ammunition, injuring a handful of protesters, said workers and human-rights observers.

Days later, a government spokeswoman announced a new contract agreement. That surprised and infuriated many union leaders, who said that they hadn’t reviewed or signed the contract. The protests didn’t let up. While the new contract would raise wages by some 20%, workers say it isn’t enough.

Some union leaders, such as José Luis Hernández, say installations are unsafe and corruption has siphoned off much-needed investment money.

“There’s no oversight,” said Mr. Hernández. “Choosing between supporting the government and supporting unions, I’m with the unions.”

**Twisted Filth Running
Venezuelan Government Refuse
To Act As Deadly Epidemic
Spreads And Kills:
“The Authorities Act Like Nothing
Has Happened”
Crony-Capitalist Dictator Maduro
Accuses Doctor Of “Terrorism” For
Trying To Warn Public Of Dangers;
“Doctors Say They Are Afraid To Speak
Out After Mr. Maduro Accused Dr.
Sarmiento Directly And Promised Severe
Punishment If He Is Caught”**

Sept. 22, 2014 By Juan Forero, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

MARACAY, Venezuela—A string of deaths in a hospital here has sparked fears of a potent, mosquito-borne disease and led authorities to seek a doctor’s arrest for allegedly sowing panic, leaving residents wondering how to explain their symptoms.

Angel Sarmiento, president of the College of Doctors in Aragua state, told reporters on Sept. 11 that a virus or bacteria may have been responsible for the deaths of eight patients in quick succession at the Central Hospital of Maracay.

A ninth patient died three days after Dr. Sarmiento’s comments.



Yaniret Carmona mourns at the coffin of her 2-year-old daughter Marielvis Gil, who she thinks died of the mosquito-borne Chikungunya virus. Juan Forero for The Wall Street Journal

Insisting there was no cause for general alarm, President Nicolás Maduro last week accused Dr. Sarmiento of “psychological terrorism.”

The confusion in Maracay over the deaths — and over who to believe on their cause— shows how difficult it has become to arrive at a rational approach to public health in Venezuela.

Part of the problem, doctors here say, is that the silencing of independent media has squelched the flow of information.

“To dissent, to have a position different from the government, leads to a witch hunt,” Dr. Sarmiento said in a telephone interview on Friday.

“I am not a terrorist. I am a doctor.” He said he was still in Venezuela but was in hiding because he worried he would face a politically motivated prosecution.

Much of the fear has been focused on Chikungunya, a viral disease transmitted by mosquito bites that has been present in Africa and Asia for decades but only recently spread to the Americas.

Though there is no cure for the disease, its symptoms can be alleviated with medication. The disease has killed at least 113 people this year in the Caribbean region, according to the Pan American Health Organization, with the islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe hardest hit.

Health authorities from Mr. Maduro’s government and independent epidemiologists agree the disease arrived in Venezuela several months ago.

The two sides, though, are at odds about practically everything else about the disease.

In this polarized country, some leading epidemiologists said they believed Chikungunya was spreading so fast that a health emergency needed to be declared.

The government has rejected that idea and accused its critics of trying to score political points.

Luis López, the head of public health in Aragua state, said in an interview that the nine deaths at the hospital in a two-week period ended Sept. 14 weren't caused by Chikungunya or any other mosquito-transmitted virus.

"All of the cases had important health difficulties," he said, as a doctor, Gerardo Sánchez, read off details of the cause of the nine deaths from a hospital report.

Independent doctors interviewed here say the information released by the government is incomplete and inconclusive and does not mean a tropical disease, like Chikungunya, didn't play a role.

Mr. López added that the government—including the governor for whom he works, Tareck El Aissami, a leader of the ruling Socialist Party — see Dr. Sarmiento's comments about the deaths as an attack "to sabotage health care in Aragua state and create alarm where it didn't exist before, at the national and international level."

Tropical diseases are a fact of life here, with dengue being a scourge in Venezuela for years.

But according to the College of Doctors, government health authorities haven't sought the help of independent epidemiologists and infectious disease specialists in setting a strategy against tropical diseases, as is the norm in neighboring countries when outbreaks take place.

Doctors say they are afraid to speak out after Mr. Maduro accused Dr. Sarmiento directly and promised severe punishment if he is caught.

"In Venezuela there is a problem, but the authorities act like nothing has happened," said Edgar Capriles, who works at the Central Hospital and worked in the public-health system to contain diseases.

In some neighborhoods in this oven-hot city, whole families become infected with what they presume is Chikungunya or suffer from its presumed after-effects.

Local health centers are packed with people with fevers seeking acetaminophen, which several ill people said has been impossible to find.

At one poor neighborhood on the city's eastern fringe, Fanny Ramírez, 49 years old, arrived at a small health facility with her son, Elvis Morffe, 14, who complained of a high fever, joint pain, inflamed glands, rashes—all of which, doctors say, are associated with Chikungunya.

“It is all over, this disease,” she said. “The majority of people have it.”

Those in the waiting room knew about the 2-year-old girl, Marielvis Gil, who awoke nearby with a fever on a recent day and was dead 13 hours later. At the girl’s home, her grieving mother, Yaniret Carmona, said she won’t know the results of tests to determine the cause of death for a month.

She said she suspected Chikungunya because doctors have told other family members that they likely have the disease.

“I want to know what killed my daughter,” she said, “so we can avoid this happening to other people.”

Epidemiologists and the heads of medical associations in Maracay and elsewhere said the government has underestimated the impact of Chikungunya, while wondering if a more potent strain had hit the region.

That requires a public health campaign and fumigation of neighborhoods, as well as kits to diagnose the disease and medication to treat it.

“They didn’t prepare for this because the government has been irresponsible in managing public health,” said Feder Alvarez of the College of Doctors.

In the interview, Mr. López, the public-health official, denied that charge. said that the government implemented a vigorous public health campaign.

Authorities say about 400 people have Chikungunya nationwide and that three who had it have died.”

Hector Celis, an epidemiologist who accompanied Mr. López to the interview, said the concern over Chikungunya is being magnified because the symptoms of the virus, such as joint pain, can be felt even months after the virus has died off.

Public-health documents, though, show that cases of people reporting fever—a key symptom of Chikungunya and dengue—shot up to 18,000 a week in Aragua state recently, far above the rate of slightly more than 1,000 a week earlier this year.

Though the documents don’t outline what caused the fever, doctors not associated with the state government here say they believe it is Chikungunya.

So does Edy Bueno, who sat in pain in the waiting room on a recent morning to see a doctor.

“This seems like the plague—there are so many sick people,” she said.

“The people next door to me have it. Across the street they have it. They should fumigate.”

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK

The Paramedic



DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



GROUNDHOG DAY

[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "Phil doesn't know how good he had it."]

Military Resistance Looks Even Better Printed Out
Military Resistance/GI Special are archived at website
<http://www.militaryproject.org> .

Issues are also posted at: <http://www.uruknet.info/>

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.



Military Resistance distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **Military Resistance has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is Military Resistance endorsed or sponsored by the originators. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research, education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice.** Go to: law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

If printed out, a copy of this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.