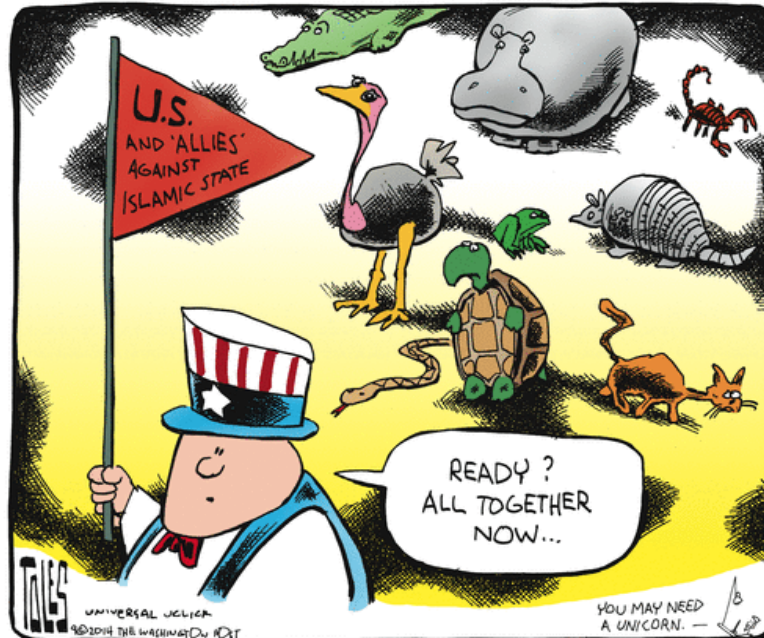


Military Resistance 12J2



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "on your mark, get set, to be a mark."]

US Apache Attack Helicopter Gunships Based At Baghdad International Airport Return To Combat In Iraq:

**“U.S. Troops Effectively Are Now
Directly Involved In Ground Battles”
“Two Months Of U.S.-Led Airstrikes By
Fixed-Wing Fighters And Bombers Have
Failed To Stop The Islamic State From**

Massing Ground Troops And Launching Offensive Operations”

October 5, 2014 By Mitchell Prothero and Jonathan S. Landay, McClatchy Foreign Staff [Excerpts]

IRBIL, Iraq — The United States sent helicopters into combat against Islamic State targets west of Baghdad on Sunday, the first time low-flying Army aircraft have been committed to fighting in an engagement that the Obama administration officials has promised would not include “boots on the ground.”

The U.S. Central Command, in a statement about U.S. activities against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, provided few specifics about the helicopters.

They were probably AH-64 Apache attack helicopters, which were deployed to Baghdad International Airport in June to provide protection for U.S. military and diplomatic facilities.

Until Sunday, U.S. airstrikes in Iraq have been limited to fast-moving Air Force and Navy fighter aircraft and drones.

But the use of the relatively slow-flying helicopters represents an escalation of American military involvement and is a sign that the security situation in Iraq’s Anbar province is deteriorating.

Last week, the Islamic State militants overran numerous Iraqi bases and towns and were becoming a widespread presence in Abu Ghraib, the last major town outside of Baghdad’s western suburbs.

Jeffrey White, a former senior Defense Intelligence Agency analyst who closely follows developments in Iraq, said the use of helicopter gunships by the United States means that U.S. troops effectively are now directly involved in ground battles.

“It’s definitely boots in the air. This is combat, assuming U.S. Army guys were flying the helicopters,” said White, a defense fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, a center-right policy institute. “Using helicopter gunships in combat operations means those forces are in combat.”

Moreover, the Obama administration’s decision to authorize the use of U.S. helicopter gunships indicates that nearly two months of U.S.-led airstrikes by fixed-wing fighters and bombers have failed to stop the Islamic State from massing ground troops and launching offensive operations, he said.

“It means however we were applying air power previously didn’t work to stop them from putting together offensive actions. One of the hopes was that using air power would impede them from using offensive operations,” White said.

“But apparently, they have been successful in doing that despite the airstrikes.”

At the time the Apache squadron was deployed to Iraq, Pentagon officials said the aircraft would be used to protect American military and diplomatic facilities at the airport and the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad.

Although the administration has repeatedly said that no “ground forces” would be used in the fight against the Islamic State, the use of the AH-64 represents a blurring of that promise.

The helicopters carry two-man crews and, with their missiles and powerful cannons, increase the amount and accuracy of the firepower that the U.S. military can bring to bear against the Islamic State in support of Iraqi ground troops.

But because helicopters fly relatively “low and slow,” the Obama administration is taking on greater risk in terms of exposing U.S. forces to casualties, White said.

“The Iraqi air force just lost a brand new Russian helicopter (to Islamic State ground fire). So it’s significantly higher risk for whoever is flying the mission,” White said. “It’s certainly crossing another threshold. The U.S. is conducting strikes that are directly involved in combat.”

In its announcement, Central Command said the U.S. had employed “bomber, fighter and helicopter aircraft” to attack six targets northeast of Fallujah and southeast of Hit, both Islamic State-occupied towns in Anbar. It also said an Islamic State Humvee had been destroyed northeast of Sinjar, in northern Iraq.

MORE:

**Oops #1:
“The Islamic State Recently
Published A Guide On How To
Bring Down Apache Helicopters”
Islamic State Uses MANPADS To
Shoot Down Iraqi Helicopter Near
Baiji:
“Two Iraqi Army Helicopters Have Been
Shot Down Near Baiji Over The Past
Week”**



October 8, 2014 By Bill Roggio & Caleb Weiss, The Long War Journal [Excerpts] Oren Adaki provided a translation from the Islamic State's handbook for Apaches in this article.

The Islamic State has released photographs purporting to show its fighters downing an Iraqi helicopter near Baiji with a man-portable air-defense system (MANPADS).

The photos were disseminated on Twitter by Islamic State supporters after being posted elsewhere on the Internet.

The photos bear the title of Wilyat Salahaddin, as Baiji is located within that administrative division of the Islamic State.

Media reports indicate that two Iraqi Army helicopters have been shot down near Baiji over the past week. According to DW:

“Along with releasing pictures showing the downing of an Iraqi helicopter, the Islamic State recently published a guide on how to shoot down Apache helicopters.”

The guide comes with instructions on the use of MANPADS. For instance, in one paragraph it says: "Determination of (the) launching area: Preferably somewhere high. The roof of a building or a hill that is on a solid surface [ground] in order to prevent the appearance of dust following launching."

In addition, the instructions include a diagram of an Apache.

The Islamic State has previously shot down several Iraqi Army helicopters in Salahaddin province.

Two helos were downed during an aborted attempt to retake Tikrit in late June. And in mid-August, the Islamic State shot down two more helicopters when it overran Camp Speicher, a large base just outside of Tikrit.

MORE:

Oops #2: Islamic State Militants “Within Artillery Range” Of Baghdad International Airport: Insurgents Also “Reported To Have Become A Major Presence In Abu Ghraib, The Last Anbar Town On The Outskirts Of The Capital” “Soldiers Cannot Leave Or Patrol” “Islamic State Militants Capture An Entire Regiment Of Iraqi Tanks”

October 3, 2014 By Mitchell Prothero, McClatchy Foreign Staff [Excerpts]

IRBIL, Iraq — Islamic State militants have taken control of key cities in Iraq’s western province of Anbar and have begun to besiege one of the country’s largest military bases in a weeklong offensive that’s brought them within artillery range of Baghdad.

The Islamic State and its tribal allies have dominated Anbar since a surprise offensive last December, but this week’s push was particularly worrisome, because for the first time this year Islamist insurgents were reported to have become a major presence in Abu Ghraib, the last Anbar town on the outskirts of the capital.

“Daash is openly operating inside Abu Ghraib,” according to an Iraqi soldier, who used a common Arabic term for the Islamic State.

“I was at the 10th Division base there two days ago, and the soldiers cannot leave or patrol,” he said, asking that he be identified only as Hossam because Iraqi soldiers are barred from speaking with foreign reporters.

“Daash controls the streets.”

Hossam, whom a McClatchy special correspondent interviewed in Baghdad, said he’d had a difficult time leaving Abu Ghraib for Baghdad to mark the Eid al-Adha holiday Saturday.

“I had to use a fake ID card that said I was Sunni,” he said, reflecting the concern among Shiite Muslim Iraqi soldiers about the Islamic State’s execution of Shiites it’s captured. “Daash controls the entire area except the army bases and prisons. They’re just a few (miles) from Baghdad.”

His account was backed by Hamad Hussein, a resident of the Saadan section of Abu Ghraib, who said the Islamic State had taken control of virtually all the southern sections of the area, including the villages of Saadan, al Nuaymiya and Kan Tari.

A diplomat in Irbil, the capital of the autonomous Kurdistan region, said an Islamic State presence in Abu Ghraib would put Baghdad International Airport within artillery range of the militants.

“We know they have captured substantial numbers of 155 mm howitzers,” said the diplomat, whose country is participating in the U.S.-led anti-Islamic State coalition. The diplomat spoke only on the condition of anonymity, lacking permission to brief the news media. “These have a range of about (20 miles) and if they are able to hold territory in Abu Ghraib then the concern they can shell and ultimately close BIAP becomes a grave concern.”

The airport is a key lifeline for Western embassies and holds a joint operations center staffed by U.S. military advisers.

Islamic State militants were pressing an assault on Ramadi itself, according to Iraqi news accounts. At least 74 soldiers were killed and dozens were missing after the militants overran Hit, state news media reported late Thursday.

Islamic State militants also captured an entire regiment of Iraqi tanks, the reports said, though it was unclear how many vehicles that represented. In a Western military, regiments generally have 38 to 55 tanks, but Iraqi regiments have long been undermanned due to corruption and problems with maintenance.

The advance on Hit may have been in preparation for an assault on the Asad air base nearby, Iraq’s largest military facility and the main base for American troops in Anbar during the U.S.-led occupation. Reports indicated the base had come under harassing attacks.

The biggest concern for Western military advisers was the report that Islamic State militants were moving freely in Abu Ghraib, which controls the western approaches to Baghdad from Anbar, Jordan and Syria.

Its loss would severely limit the Iraqi government’s ability to send reinforcements to a small number of bases in Anbar that remain in government control, including at Ramadi and Haditha as well as Asad air base, which lies north of Ramadi.

Already, Islamic State forces' influence stretches from Fallujah through Abu Ghraib to Yusufiya, Baghdad's westernmost suburb.

So far, the highway that links those locations remains in government hands, as does the infamous Abu Ghraib prison, where U.S. soldiers abused Iraqi prisoners in the early years of the Iraq War.

But while the government has dispatched more soldiers to reinforce its hold on the highway, the Islamic State's control of the surrounding areas makes the government's hold appear tenuous.

"If the Iraqis are unable to regain control of this area, this has the makings of a disaster," said the Irbil-based coalition diplomat.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Navy Reservist Killed In Afghanistan Was From Reynoldsburg



Steve Byus in his dress whites with the Naval Reserve. Facebook photo with permission

September 17, 2014 By Jim Woods, The Columbus Dispatch

A Reynoldsburg man who was on his third tour of combat duty was among three coalition troops killed when a suicide car bomber struck in Afghanistan yesterday.

Relatives of Stephen Byus, 39, confirmed that they were told of his death yesterday afternoon.

Byus died the day after his 12th wedding anniversary with his wife, Valerie.

He also leaves behind a daughter, Alexandria, 9, and a son, Jacob, 6, who both attend Taylor Road Elementary School in Reynoldsburg.

The attack occurred yesterday morning just outside a U.S. Special Operations base in Kabul, near a crowded intersection by the U.S. Embassy and military base.

A car packed with explosives detonated near a convoy of armored vehicles. The convoy had just left a heavily fortified area near the U.S. Embassy, according to The Washington Post.

The military hasn't yet confirmed the death of Byus nor named the others killed in the attack or their nationalities. Byus' military rank wasn't available.

The Afghan Taliban took responsibility for the attack, which was the deadliest against coalition forces since July.

Byus' brother Daniel Byus, who lives in Wellston in Jackson County, said that Stephen Byus grew up in Jackson County.

Daniel Byus said his mother called him at work to tell him about his brother's death. There were four sons in the Byus family, and they grew up in a tight-knit neighborhood just west of downtown Wellston, he said.

The news traveled fast back to Wellston, where people remembered "Steve."

"He was a good guy, and he always had a smile on his face," Daniel Byus said of his brother.

Steve Byus played football, baseball and basketball and graduated in 1993 from Wellston High School.

Daniel Byus said his brother was on his third tour of duty in a war zone with the U.S. Naval Reserve.

John Darrow, 50, grew up on Michigan Avenue near the Byus family. "It's just a sad day," Darrow said as he fought back tears. "You see it every day in the paper — but this."

Steve Byus was active in the Boy Scouts and Darrow thinks that he had earned an Eagle Scout rank.

Growing up, there were endless games of Wiffle ball and other sports in the backyard, Darrow said.

"It was the days before social media with Facebook and Twitter," Darrow said. "Everybody was friends."

Todd DuPree, 40, who now lives in Columbia, S.C., said he remembers growing up in Wellston and "how we would wake up at sunrise and play all day together."

"I am just looking at Facebook here and thinking, "Is it real?"

Funeral arrangements are pending.

Yesterday's attack underscored the continued vulnerability of international forces serving in Afghanistan.

About 8:15 a.m., a car packed with explosives detonated near the convoy of armored vehicles in Kabul.

"It was a very powerful blast and happened just as the vehicles sped out of the embassy," said Taj Mohammad, one of the witnesses.

Television footage showed mangled vehicles and coalition troops providing first aid to two soldiers lying next to the road. At least 13 Afghan civilians also were wounded, said Hashmat Stanekzai, a Kabul police spokesman.

In addition to the three deaths, five others were wounded in the attack.

POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE BLOODSHED

THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE WAR

Afghan Army Death Rate Up 30%: Taliban Attack Kills 10 Soldiers In Kabul.

October 3, 2014 by Jason Straziuso, The Associated Press [Excerpts]

KABUL, Afghanistan -- An Afghan army desperate for more advanced military equipment is suffering death rates 30 per cent higher in the 2014 fighting season, the army's first against the Taliban without large-scale assistance from the U.S.-led international military force, officials said.

The army's death rate spiked 30 per cent, Wardak said, because of an increased number of battles and the army's vulnerability to roadside bombs.

That spike translates to about 450 additional deaths per year -- about 1,800 deaths.

Despite the billions in aid, the army is hampered by a lack of large-scale fire power -- including offensive air capabilities -- little or no medical evacuation ability and not enough transport aircraft, Wardak said.

The Taliban staged attacks on Afghan army troops in Kabul on Wednesday and Thursday, killing 10 soldiers. Large-scale fighting is taking place in several remote provinces.

Taliban Report Capture Of Registan District Center

02 October 2014 by Qari Yousuf, Shahamat-english.com/

KANDAHAR, Oct. 02 – On Wednesday 01/10/2014, the heroic Mujahideen of Islamic Emirate launched an operation early morning hours and engaged the enemy forces inside Registan district center in close range combat, sparking heavy clashes which lasted till around midday.

The cowardly enemy fled towards Shorabak district after dozens were killed and wounded which led to Mujahideen liberating the district center, unfurling the sublime white flag of Islam over it and bringing the entire district under their complete control.

Officials add that the wreckages of 4 APCs and a pickup truck along with 4 hireling corpses were also left behind by the enemy along with a large amount of weapons and ammunition which was seized in the successful operation.

More Resistance Action

Oct 12 By RAHIM FAIEZ, Associated Press & By Khaama Press [Excerpts]

In Mazar-e-Sharif, capital of the northern Balkh province, two insurgents dressed in police uniforms stormed into the province's police headquarters and opened fire, killing two officers, said Sher Jan Durani, a spokesman for the provincial police chief.

Police intercepted the attackers at a second security gate inside the compound, and shot them dead, he said.

Nine other policemen were wounded during the gun battle.

Separately, Taliban attacked a police checkpoint in Monogai district of eastern Kunar province, killing three police officers and wounding three others, an Interior Ministry statement said.

In the Alishing district of eastern Laghman province, a rocket fired by militants killed three construction company workers, said Sarhadi Zwak, a spokesman for the provincial governor.

At least three Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers were martyred following an attack in central Maidan Wardak province on Sunday.

According to local government officials, the incident took place in Syedabad district on Sunday afternoon.

Provincial governor spokesman, Ataullah Khogyani said the bomber rammed a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) into the convoy of the Afghan National Army (ANA) forces, a strike that blew out several vehicles.

Khogyani further added that two ANA soldiers were also injured following the attack.

Oct 11 2014 By Khaama Press

A bomber attacked the police headquarter in southern Helmand province early Saturday, local officials said.

The incident took place in Lashkargah city around 8:00 am local time after a bomber detonated his explosives near the entrance gate of the police headquarter.

Provincial police spokesman, Farid Ahmad, said preliminary reports suggest at least one policeman and an Afghan army soldier were martyred and two others, including a policeman and a civilian were injured.

He said the bomber had disguised himself in Afghan police uniform and detonated his bombing vest during the vetting process.

October 10, 2014 BNA

Kabul:

An attacker shooting on border policeman in Herat city today.

Col. Qadus today morning was targeted by an attacker in a public way in Herat city, said security officials of the province.

According to the reports, after the attack border policeman transferred to Herat hospital, but doctors of the hospital reported critical the health condition of him.

Security officials claimed armed oppositions are responsible of the incident and security forces started searching to identify and capture the suspects of the event.

08 October 2014 TOLONews & Oct. 09 Shahamat-english.com/

Four policemen were killed and two policemen were wounded in southern Helmand's district of Lashkargah on Wednesday, local officials said.

According to the provincial spokesman Omar Zowak, the incident occurred at 11 a.m. local time Wednesday morning when an attacker detonated an explosive-laden vehicle near the home of former Nawzad district's police chief.

A brave martyrdom seeker of Islamic Emirate (Muhammad Yousuf Helmandi) detonated his car bomb on the target 12:00 pm yesterday behind 'Fabrica' area resulting in the death of the intended target along with 4 gunmen as well as 22 other police and hirelings wounded and 5 vehicles including an APC destroyed.

Commander Abdullah Khan was a notorious figure who had a hand in the systematic torture and killing of local innocent countrymen.

Aircraft That U.S. Bought For Afghans “Have Been Scrapped For Pennies On The Dollar” “The Defense Department Spent \$486 Million For 20 G222 Planes”

October 9, 2014 by Jeff Schogol, Military Times [Excerpts]

Sixteen unusable transport aircraft that the U.S. government bought for the Afghan Air Force have been scrapped for pennies on the dollar, according to the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction.

All told, the Defense Department spent \$486 million for 20 G222 planes, of which 16 were sold as scrap to an Afghan construction company for about \$32,000, the office announced Thursday in a news release. The remaining four planes are being stored at Ramstein Air Base in Germany.

The Air Force let the contract for the planes with Alenia Aermacchi North America expire in March 2013 because the planes were often grounded due to a lack of spare parts.

After flight operations ended, the 16 planes in Afghanistan sat on the tarmac at Kabul International Airport until they were recently scrapped by the Defense Logistics Agency and sold for 6 cents per pound of scrapped material, wrote John F. Spoko, special inspector general for Afghan Reconstruction, in an Oct. 3 letter to Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James.

"I am concerned that officials responsible for planning and executing the scrapping of the planes may not have considered other possible alternatives in order to salvage taxpayer dollars," Spoko wrote.

Spoko has requested from the Air Force all documentation related to the decision to scrap the planes, including whether any alternatives were considered and what will happen to the four remaining planes.

He also wants to know if the Air Force has taken any action against the companies responsible for building and maintaining the planes and if the service made any efforts to return the planes for a refund.

In December 2012, Spoko wrote a letter to Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel as well as the commanders of U.S. Central Command and U.S. troops in Afghanistan announcing that his office had begun a review of the G222 program.

U.S. \$ For “Law And Order” Looted By Thieves In Afghanistan: “Fraud And Lack Of Oversight” Found In Afghanistan Law And Order Trust Fund: “A Failure To Account For \$200 Million”

UN agency lax over Afghan police fund misspent millions-watchdog

9 Oct 2014 by Kieran Guilbert, Thomson Reuters Foundation [Excerpts]

A United Nations agency in charge of administering billions of dollars in aid to Afghan police has come under renewed fire for mismanagement, including a failure to account for \$200 million in deductions from a fund set up to improve law and order.

Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction John Sopko warned of growing concerns about fraud and lack of oversight in the management of the Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA), run by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to pay for Afghan police salaries and pensions.

In a series of letters, Sopko said funds had been used to inflate police salaries and make payments to "ghost employees", and wrote of "questionable deductions" that the Afghan Ministry of Interior (Moi) may have taken from police salaries.

"In particular, I requested that UNDP describe how it has accounted for up to \$200 million in 'deductions' that the Moi may have taken from the salaries of (police)

employees, who are paid with LOFTA funds," Sopko wrote in a letter to UNDP Administrator Helen Clark dated Sept.12 and released this month.

Overall, the United States has poured some \$104 billion into reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan, and Sopko is responsible for monitoring how effectively the money is spent.

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Weapons And Ammunition Sold By Somalia Government Officials To Insurgents:

**“High-Level Somali Involvement In
Direct Transfers Of The Arms To
Markets And To Al Shabaab”**

**“Arms Dealers In The Markets Said The
Weapons Came From The Somali Army
And Had Originally Come From Yemen”**

October 10, 2014 By Louis Charbonneau, Reuters [Excerpts]

UNITED NATIONS - Somali army weapons and ammunition continue to be diverted to open markets despite the government's pledges to prevent its arms from leaking and ending up in the hands of Islamist militants, U.N. investigators said in a new report.

"The Federal Government has not imported weapons into Somalia in full compliance with its obligations pursuant to the modification of the arms embargo by the Security Council," the group said in its confidential 482-page annual report, obtained by Reuters on Friday

Earlier this year, the council extended a partial suspension of the decades-old arms embargo on Somalia for eight months while highlighting concerns about the possible diversion of weapons to al Shabaab militants. The government has pledged to crack down on arms diversion.

In their new report, the monitors said a number of assault rifles provided by Ethiopia and stored at the Halane armory had ended up for sale on the streets of the Somali capital.

The group said it "obtained photographic evidence of several brand new Type 56-2 rifles observed in two Mogadishu markets between February and April 2014, which match the factory markings and sequence of serial numbers of Type 56-2 rifles observed in the Halane weapons store."

It added that the weapons were "undeniably sourced from SNA (Somali army) stockpiles" and noted that arms dealers selling them had confirmed that they came from government stockpiles.

"Arms dealers also stated that al Shabaab agents were procuring weapons in at least one of the markets," said the report, noting that the monitors had viewed an al Shabaab propaganda video in which a militant was cleaning a brand new Type 56-2 assault rifle.

"The Monitoring Group can only conclude that the weapons were sold illegally by SNA officers taking advantage of poor accountability at the unit level, or that these weapons have been leaked at a higher level and the SNA's supporting documentation has been doctored or manufactured as cover for missing weapons," the report said.

It added that the group has consistently received testimony from individuals about high-level Somali involvement in direct transfers of the arms to markets and to al Shabaab.

Other weapons have wound up on the markets of Mogadishu, including different assault rifles with filed-off serial numbers.

Arms dealers in the markets said the weapons came from the Somali army and had originally come from Yemen

The group said that since the partial suspension of the arms embargo, the various weapons Somalia has imported exceed 13,000 along with 5.5 million rounds of ammunition.

"Given the size of the Security Forces ... these numbers of weapons exceed the needs of the current offensive against al Shabaab," the report said.

"They are also additional to weapons sourced locally from stocks already in the country and weapons that have entered Somalia in violation of the arms embargo."

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MILITARY NEWS



“Obama Says He Overestimated What The Iraqi Army Could Do” “Well You Only Need To Be Here A Very Short While To Know They Can Do Very Very Little”

29 September 2014 by Lizzie Dearden, The Independent [Excerpts]

Isis fighters are reportedly just one mile away from Baghdad as reports emerge of al-Qaeda militants bolstering their ranks in Syria.

According to the Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East, Isis was approaching the Iraqi capital on Monday morning.

"The Islamic State are now less than 2km away from entering Baghdad," a spokesperson said.

"They said it could never happen and now it almost has. Obama says he overestimated what the Iraqi Army could do. Well you only need to be here a very short while to know they can do very very little."

Isis fighters were also battling Government forces in a key town 25 miles west of Baghdad - Amiriyat al-Fallujah.

According to a BBC correspondent, fighting had calmed by Monday afternoon but a standoff continued along the main road to nearby Fallujah, which is under Isis control.

General In Charge Of Anbar Province Police Killed By IED

OCT. 12, 2014 By KIRK SEMPLEOCT, New York Times [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD — Three bombers attacked a government center in Diyala Province, northeast of Baghdad, on Sunday, killing 60 people and wounding more than 120, officials said.

Earlier in the day, the police chief of the embattled province of Anbar in western Iraq was killed when two bombs planted along a rural road were detonated as his convoy drove by, officials said.

Anbar officials said the death of the chief, Maj. Gen. Ahmed Saddag, was a setback to the efforts of the Iraqi security forces to wrest full control of the province from the jihadist insurgency called the Islamic State.

Sunday's three-pronged attack in Qara Taba, northeast of Baquba near the Iranian border, targeted the mayor's office, a building used by the internal security service of the Kurdistan regional government and an office of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, one of the main Kurdish political parties, according to Rudaw, a Kurdish news agency.

The first of the three bombers set off his explosives at the compound's gates.

He was quickly followed by two other attackers driving cars loaded with explosives, which were detonated at the compound's entrance, officials said. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack, according to The Associated Press. Qara Taba is close to Jalawla, where Islamic State fighters have been battling Iraqi security forces and Kurdish fighters, known as the pesh merga.

Among the dead were 15 pesh merga veterans, Rudaw reported, adding that the attacks were also close to the pesh merga's veterans affairs bureau.

The attack that killed General Saddag in Anbar occurred in the town of Albu Risha, west of Ramadi, the provincial capital.

Three of General Saddag's bodyguards were also killed in the attack, said a staff member of a provincial council member, who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the news media.

"His death is a great tragedy," said Sheikh Ahmed Abu Risha, a leader of the Albu Risha tribe in Anbar Province. "He was a lion."

Islamist Insurgents Seize Western Iraqi Town Of Hit: “The Attackers Were Better Armed Than Local Security Forces”

2 October 2014 Reuters

BAGHDAD - Islamic State-led insurgents took control of most of the western Iraqi town of Hit in Anbar province early on Thursday, security sources and local officials said.

The fall of Hit exposes the Ain al-Asad military base in the nearby town of al-Baghdadi to attack.

"Ninety percent of Hit has been overrun by militants," said Adnan al-Fahdawi, an Anbar provincial council member, adding that the attackers were better armed than local security forces.

An eyewitness speaking from Hit told Reuters: "Scores of militants can be seen in the town with their vehicles and weapons, I can hear shooting now everywhere."

Other eyewitnesses said the insurgents raised jihadi black flags over government buildings in Hit, and that they had seen corpses of members of the security forces in the streets.

Hit is a walled market town located some 130 km (80 miles) west of the Iraqi capital Baghdad and 30 km (18 miles) from the Anbar provincial capital Ramadi, which is largely under Islamic State control.

The security sources said they believed the attackers were Islamic State fighters, who struck first with three car bombs at the eastern entrance to Hit and a police station in the town.

Deputy provincial council chief Faleh al-Issawy called on state television for the Iraqi army, which has proved little threat to IS so far, to support police forces and tribes in Hit.

In Ramadi, three soldiers were killed and four wounded in a car bomb blast near the headquarters of the Iraqi army's eighth brigade, a security source said.

Kubaisa Falls To Insurgents In Iraq's Anbar Province

October 4, 2014 Reuters

BAGHDAD

Islamic State fighters stormed a town in Iraq's western Anbar province on Saturday, its latest conquest in the desert region where it has chalked up a string of victories, a military official and people fleeing the scene said.

Islamic State seized the town of Kubaisa two days after the fall of the nearby town of Hit as the group sought to consolidate control in towns west of Anbar's capital Ramadi.

The fall of Kubaisa jeopardizes the strategic Ain al-Asad military base, which allows Iraqi forces to send troops and supplies to defend the Haditha dam further west where a small number of Sunni tribes and government forces are fending off Islamic State forces.

Since taking Hit on Thursday, Islamic State fighters have raised their flags on the municipality building and police stations, while Islamic State vehicles were patrolling the streets of the town.

Islamic State took advantage of refugees fleeing Hit to enter Kubaisa, 19 km (10 miles) to the east.

A man escaping Hit, named Abu Saif, described approaching the checkpoint for Kubaisa when three or four cars sped up from behind them and shot dead the soldiers guarding the city.

"We thought that they were displaced families as well. They didn't look like Islamic State militants to us," Abu Saif said.

To the northeast in Diyala province, an officer and seven soldiers were killed in two ambushes in the nearby districts of Mansuriya and Muqdadiya, according to military sources.

**Islamic State Now Controls A
Large Chunk Of Iraq's Wheat
Supplies:
"Land Under IS Control Accounts For
As Much As 40% Of Iraq's Wheat,
One Of The Country's Most Important
Food Staples"**

“In Some Places, The IS Stranglehold On Wheat Appears To Be Winning Support Among Sunnis”

October 1, 2014 By Maggie Fick, Reuters [Excerpts] (Additional reporting by Ned Parker and Ahmed Rasheed in Baghdad, Maha El Dahan in Abu Dhabi and Mariam Karouny in Beirut; Editing by Michael Georgy and Simon Robinson)

SHEKHAN Iraq (Reuters) - For Salah Paulis, it came down to a choice between his faith and his crop.

A wheat farmer from outside Mosul, Paulis and his family fled the militant group Islamic State early last month. The group overran the family farm as part of its offensive that captured vast swathes of territory in northern Iraq.

Other fleeing farmers recount similar stories, and point to a little-discussed element of the threat Islamic State poses to Iraq and the region.

The group now controls a large chunk of Iraq's wheat supplies.

The United Nations estimates land under IS control accounts for as much as 40 percent of Iraq's annual production of wheat, one of the country's most important food staples alongside barley and rice. The militants seem intent not just on grabbing more land but also on managing resources and governing in their self-proclaimed caliphate.

“Wheat is a strategic good. They are doing as much as they can with it,” said Ali Bind Dian, head of a farmers' union in Makhmur, a town near IS-held territory between Arbil and Mosul.

After Saddam Hussein's 1990 invasion of Kuwait triggered Western sanctions, the then-Iraqi dictator built a comprehensive subsidised food distribution system in Iraq. That was expanded under the United Nations' Oil-for-Food program. Joy Gordon, a political philosophy professor at Fairfield University in Connecticut and author of the 2010 book “Invisible War: The United States and the Iraq Sanctions,” estimates that two-thirds of Iraqis “were dependent primarily or entirely” on food subsidies between 1990 and 2003.

The system survived the U.S. invasion and years of violence.

Now fully run by the Iraqi government, it has been plagued in recent years by “irregular (food) distributions” that have cut dependency, according to a June report by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization. A former U.S. Department of Agriculture economist estimates that about quarter of Iraqis living in rural areas were dependent on subsidised food before the latest violence, while another quarter used it to top up food they bought.

IS is demonstrating that controlling wheat brings power.

As its fighters swept through Iraq's north in June, they seized control of silos and grain stockpiles. The offensive coincided with the wheat and barley harvests and, crucially, the delivery of crops to government silos and private traders.

IS now controls all nine silos in Nineveh Province, which spans the Tigris river, along with seven other silos in other provinces.

One target was the wheat silo in Makhmur, a town between the cities of Mosul and Kirkuk.

The silo has a capacity of 250,000 tonnes, or approximately 8 percent of Iraq's domestic annual production in 2013.

IS attacked Makhmur on August 7.

But even in the weeks before that, the group had found a way into the silo and the Iraqi state procurement system.

Abdel Rizza Qadr Ahmed, head of the silo, believes that IS forced local farmers to mix wheat produced in other, IS-controlled areas into their own harvest.

The farmers then sold it to Makhmur as if it all had been grown locally.

In the weeks before the attack, the silo purchased almost 14,000 more tonnes than it had in 2013.

That extra wheat is worth approximately \$9.5 million at the artificially high price Baghdad pays farmers.

Ahmed believes IS was looking to make money from the wheat and ensure there was bread available for Sunnis in the areas it controlled.

Ahmed said it was not his job to investigate the source of the grain, just to buy it. "We just take the wheat from the farmers and we don't ask 'Where did you get this from?'" he said.

Huner Baba, local director general of agriculture, said he too believed that traders and farmers had sold wheat from outside the region.

Hassan Ibrahim, head of Iraq's Grain Board, the Trade Ministry body responsible for procuring Iraq's wheat internationally and from local farmers, said that government employees in IS-held areas keep in regular touch with head office.

Some staff in IS areas even come to Baghdad every couple of weeks, he said.

"The situation is stable," he said, with IS fighters mostly happy to allow state employees to continue to run the silos.

“I give instructions to my people to try to be quiet and smooth with those people because they are very violent people. It is not good to be violent with violent people because they will come to kill you. Our aim is to keep the wheat.”

After IS's June offensive, Ibrahim was ordered to suspend salaries for workers in IS areas. "But this troubled me," he said. "I cannot have the mills stopping. I need people to stay there like guards to convince the Islamic State that wheat is important for everybody."

Ibrahim says he convinced his bosses to keep paying salaries.

A Trade Ministry spokesman confirmed that all government employees in Mosul had been paid their salaries "through state banks in Kirkuk, as it's safer and under government control."

Ibrahim is now worried about farmers who have not been paid for the wheat they delivered in the weeks before the grain was seized by IS.

He said the Grain Board and the Trade Ministry were trying to pay farmers either living in IS-held areas or recently displaced from them. "We would like to help the farmers, but not IS," he said.

“In Some Places, The IS Stranglehold On Wheat Appears To Be Winning Support Among Sunnis”

In some places, the IS stranglehold on wheat appears to be winning support among Sunnis.

Ahsan Mohere, chairman of the government-affiliated Arab Farmers Union in Hawija, says IS has gained in popularity since its fighters took over. Baghdad's dismissive attitude towards the country's Sunni Arabs had forced people towards IS, he said. But IS's ability to provide food had also helped.

"They distribute flour to the Arabs in the area. They get the wheat from the Hawija silo ... And they run the mill and they distribute to people in a very organised way," he said.

Even those who have fled IS see wheat as one reason for the group's strength.

"Nowadays a kilo of wheat is 4,000 or 5,000 dinars (\$3.45 - \$4.30). It used to be 10,000 to 11,000 dinars," said Joumana Zewar, 54, a farmer who now lives in Baharka camp outside Arbil. IS and Sunni Arabs are selling the wheat they stole "for very cheap. It's cheap because they stole it."

Zewar called a friend in Mosul to check on the latest prices.

"The price of foods and bread is very cheap," the friend said. Islamic State had taken control, and as in Syria, was dictating prices. "They are the government here now. They are going to the bakeries and saying, 'Sell at this price.'"

The big worry now is next season's crop.

In Nineveh province, home to the capital of the group's self-declared caliphate, 750,000 hectares (1.8 million acres) should soon be sown with wheat and 835,000 hectares with barley, an Iraqi agriculture ministry official said.

The official said that the province normally has 100,000 farmers. But thousands have fled.

Iraqi farmers normally get next season's seeds from their current harvest, keeping back some of the wheat for that purpose.

IS controls enough wheat so finding seeds should not be a problem. It also controls Ministry of Agriculture offices in Mosul and Tikrit which should have fertilizer supplies.

But getting the seeds and fertilizer into the right hands will be a problem. Mohamed Diab, director of the World Food Program's Regional Bureau for the Middle East, North Africa, Central Asia and Eastern Europe, said that it is "highly unlikely" that displaced farmers would return.

"The picture is bleak regarding agriculture production next year," he said. "The place where displacement has happened is the main granary of the country."

That's especially true for non-Sunni Arab farmers. Those who have remained on their land just outside IS-held territory fear the militants will soon take their villages, and their harvested but unsold crops.

Even if that does not happen, they say, they will not plant after the first rain, which typically comes at the end of September or in early October.

Farmers in the town of Shekhan, nestled among sun-bleached wheat fields, say they have no hope of getting the seeds, fertilizer and fuel needed to plant because the provincial government in Mosul is under IS control.

"The real problem is how to get seeds to those inside Mosul and surrounding areas," said Nineveh Governor Atheel Nujaifi, who believes production will drop next season.

Bashar Jamo, head of a local farmers' cooperative, is also worried. "The most important thing to us is agriculture, not security. Maybe (IS) will have a state, maybe an army, but all we need is to be able to farm."

“Thousands Of Supporters Of Shiite Cleric Muqtada Al-Sadr Held A Rally In Baghdad On Saturday To Protest Against The United States”

"No, No For America; No, No For Occupation"

Sep 20, 2014 CBS

BAGHDAD - Thousands of supporters of Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr held a rally in Baghdad on Saturday to protest against the United States' military campaign in Iraq against the Islamic State (IS) extremist group.

The rally took place after al-Sadr urged his followers to take to the streets and protest against the "American occupation" in Iraq.

Apart from carrying out airstrikes against the ISIS militants, about 1,600 U.S. troops have also been deployed to Iraq to train local security forces and help safeguard U.S. personnel in the country.

Among the signs, demonstrators held a banner reading, in Arabic, "No, No for America; No, No for occupation."

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

**I say that when troops cannot be counted on to follow orders because they see the futility and immorality of them THAT is the real key to ending a war.
-- Al Jaccoma, Veterans For Peace**

The Chaos Chess Game



From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: September 23, 2014
Subject: The Chaos Chess Game

The Chaos Chess Game

Syria has now become the next victim in a long list

of sniper kills by the most dangerous head hunter
the world has ever seen.

You put the weapon on a firm support,
wait until the cross hairs are perfect,
take in a slow breath...
squeeze.

Seconds later...

the U.S. economy and Wall Street
take a gigantic orgasmic leap into
another fucking limousine.

Game over.

Die Ho Chi Minh

Die Ho Chi Minh

Die Ho Chi Minh

One of many chants the drill instructors
had us do in Army basic training.

Born in America.

Land of the free.

Home of the brave.

Where opportunities
are at your finger tips.

Mike Hastie

Army Medic Vietnam

September 22, 2014

The most revolutionary
act is to name reality.

Paulo Freire

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

ANNIVERSARES

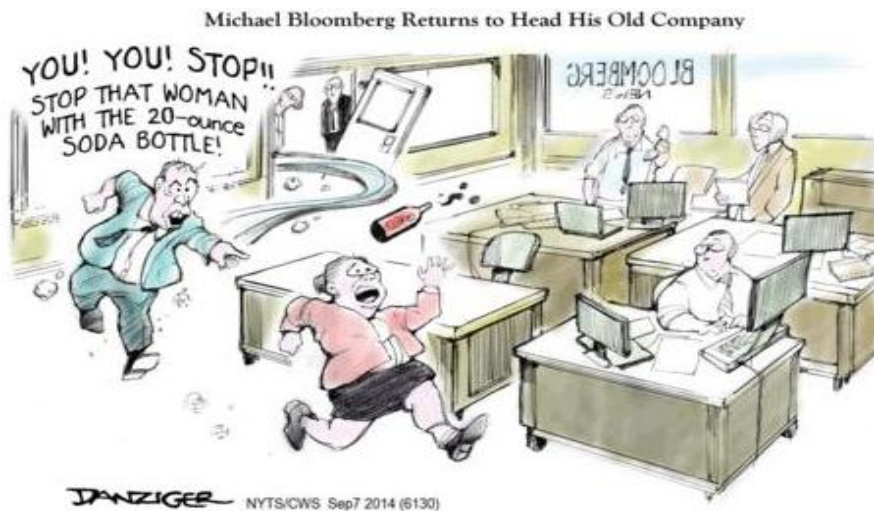
October 11, 2002: Infamous Anniversary



Carl Bunin Peace History October 8-14

The House voted 296-133 to pass the "Joint Resolution to Authorize the Use of United States Armed Forces Against Iraq," giving President George W. Bush broad authority to use military force against Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, with or without U.N. support.

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**“Support For Israel Is Eroding
Among American Evangelical
Christians”**

**“This Trend Is Even More
Pronounced Among Youth”**

**“This Is A Seismic Shift In The
American Church And A Serious
Threat To Israel’s One Traditional
Area Of Support”**

**“Anti-Israel Christians” Are “On A Roll”
And “Are Reaching An Ever Expanding
Network Of Evangelicals In The United
States”**

September 29, 2014 by ALISON WEIR, CounterPunch [Excerpts]

An article in Middle East Quarterly, a pro-Israel publication, reports that support for Israel is eroding among American evangelical Christians, with only 30 percent in a recent survey stating support for Israel above Palestinians.

This trend is even more pronounced among youth, according to an article by David Brog, Jewish-American executive director of “Christians United For Israel (CUFI), a major pro-Israel organization. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has called CUFI “a vital part of Israel’s national security” and columnist Charles Krauthammer has said, “I do not know of an organization in the world more important to Israel than CUFI.”

Brog’s article, “The End of Evangelical Support for Israel?” is largely pitched as a wake-up call to Israel partisans who, according to Brog, “must take this threat seriously.” (For more on Brog, see below.)

Brog quotes a journalist reporting in 2012 about the “the largest gathering of young evangelical leaders in America,” the Catalyst convention: “In dozens of random conversations, I noted that Millennials ... expressed solidarity with the Palestinians and annoyance with Israel. This is a seismic shift in the American church and a serious threat to Israel’s one traditional area of support.”

A decade ago, Brog reports, “As if out of nowhere, a block of fifty to one hundred million friends of Israel were poised to enter the national debate and safeguard the U.S.-Israel relationship for generations to come.”*

Today, however, Brog describes a significant reversal. As more and more evangelicals learn the facts on Israel-Palestine (Brog calls such information an “anti-Israel narrative”) they are dropping their unconditional support for Israel.

While evangelical support for Israel has often been attributed to their theology, Brog’s article indicates that the significant factor in the shift is learning the true situation in Israel-Palestine.

Brog states that there is a precedent for such an about-face. While many mainline Protestant churches used to support Israel, he states that today “to the extent the mainline denominations act corporately in connection with the Jewish state, it is to divest from it.”

Similarly, as evangelicals learn more about the issue, Brog reports that “more leaders of this generation are moving toward neutrality in the conflict while others are becoming outspoken critics of Israel.”

Brog writes, “Questioning Christian support for the Jewish state is fast becoming a key way for the millennials to demonstrate their Christian compassion and political independence.”

Today, Brog writes, many of those 18 to 30 are “rebellious against what they perceive as the excessive biblical literalism and political conservatism of their parents. As they strive with a renewed vigor to imitate Jesus’ stand with the oppressed and downtrodden, they want to decide for themselves which party is being oppressed in the Arab-Israeli conflict.”

Brog cites a 2010 Pew survey of evangelical leaders attending the Third Lausanne Congress of World Evangelization that “contained two bombshells. It showed that only a minority of those evangelicals polled sympathized primarily with Israel.

“And it demonstrated that American evangelical leaders were actually less inclined to support Israel than evangelical leaders in general.”

The survey found that 49% of American evangelical leaders sympathize with both sides equally and 13% sympathize primarily with the Palestinians.

Brog reports that while numerous people are aware of the work on college campuses for justice in Palestine, “many observers do not realize that such efforts are also “being waged on America’s Christian campuses.”

In his article Brog describes activities on four of America's major Christian colleges:

Wheaton College

Brog reports that Wheaton College in Illinois is "commonly referred to as the "evangelical Harvard," noting, "Some of the most prominent church leaders in America have graduated from Wheaton, including the Rev. Billy Graham, Sen. Dan Coats (Republican, Indiana), and George W. Bush's former speechwriter Michael Gerson."

Today, Wheaton is the home of Professor Gary Burge, an author who speaks widely on Israel-Palestine.

"When Christians United for Israel (CUFI) announced plans to hold an event at Wheaton in January 2009, Burge went on the offensive," Brog reports. "CUFI's student members came under such intense pressure that they moved their event off-campus: There would be no pro-Israel event at the evangelical Harvard."

Oral Roberts University

Brog writes that Oral Roberts University "has deep conservative Christian roots." "Oral Roberts himself was a Pentecostal televangelist and a strong friend of Israel," a number of major preachers in America graduated from the school, and pro-Israel preacher John Hagee has been on its board of trustees.

Today, however, the chair of the board of trustees chair is the aforementioned Mart Green, whose film is a powerful depiction of the Palestinian nonviolence movement. The university's current president is Dr. William "Billy" Wilson, who was named as a speaker for what Brog calls "the leading anti-Israel Christian conference," Christ at the Checkpoint, held at Bethlehem Bible College in March 2014.

Bethel University

Brog writes that Bethel is "representative of the direction that America's Christian colleges are taking." He notes, "Like many Christian schools, Bethel emphasizes racial reconciliation and cultural openness and has accordingly developed numerous opportunities for its students to study abroad."

In 2010 Bethel's president Jay Barnes and his wife visited Israel and the Palestinian Authority to explore establishing a study abroad program in the area. During the trip they visited Bethlehem.

Upon their return Barnes posted a poem on the university's website:

Incredible conflict exists in the land of Jesus' birth/ I believe God mourns.

The wall is a constant reminder of many lost freedoms/ I believe God mourns.

For more than 60 years, people have lived in poverty in refugee camps/ I believe God mourns.

Apartheid has become a way of life/ I believe God mourns.

Extreme disproportional distribution of resources, such as water, exists/ I believe God mourns.

Hundreds of villages have been demolished to make room for settlements/ I believe God mourns.

Human rights violations occur daily/ I believe God mourns.

The Christian population is declining as many are leaving to avoid persecution/ I believe God mourns.

In 2012, Brog reports, President Barnes hosted a “Hope for the Holy Land” evening at Bethel, featuring “long-standing Christian critics of Israel.”

“Anti-Israel Christians” Are “On A Roll” And “Are Reaching An Ever Expanding Network Of Evangelicals In The United States”

Brog's article appeared in the Spring 2014 issue of Middle East Quarterly.

Brog warns that Israel partisans “must take this threat seriously,” despite the fact that the pro-Israel side “is still far ahead in the battle for the hearts and minds of America’s evangelicals. Just one pro-Israel organization, Christians United for Israel, has over 1.6 million members, chapters on more than 120 college and university campuses, and sponsors thirty-five pro-Israel events across the country every month. Anti-Israel Christians do not come close to matching CUFi’s size, activity, or influence.”

He writes, however, that the long-term trend described above presents a challenge, stating that what he calls “anti-Israel Christians” are “on a roll” and “are reaching an ever expanding network of evangelicals in the United States.”

Brog warns: “The day that Israel is seen as the moral equivalent of Hamas is the day that the evangelical community—and by extension the political leaders it helps elect—will cease providing the Jewish state any meaningful support.”¹

Brog's article appeared in the Spring 2014 issue of Middle East Quarterly.

A few months later Israel launched its August 2014 “Protective Edge” invasion of Gaza, killing 2191 Palestinians, the vast majority of them civilians – 521 of them children and infants. During the same period Hamas resistance fighters killed 71 Israelis, the large majority of them soldiers, one a child.

During its massive invasion, Israeli forces destroyed 61,800 homes, damaged or destroyed 62 hospitals, 220 schools, and caused \$7.8 billion in damage to Gazans – and this was the third major invasion in five years.

Then within two weeks after a ceasefire had been agreed to, Israeli forces had already killed at least two Palestinians, one sixteen years old; kidnapped several dozen Palestinians, including two seven year olds and an eight year old; confiscated 1,500 acres of Palestinian land; destroyed dozens of homes and buildings; and committed

numerous other violations of human rights. During the same period Hamas forces had not not fired a single rocket, attacked an Israeli target, or committed any actions to break the terms of the ceasefire.***

Brog's concern is justified.

Many Americans who are finally learning such facts are beginning to suspect that Israel is not morally equivalent to Hamas. It is inferior.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



YOUR INVITATION:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

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