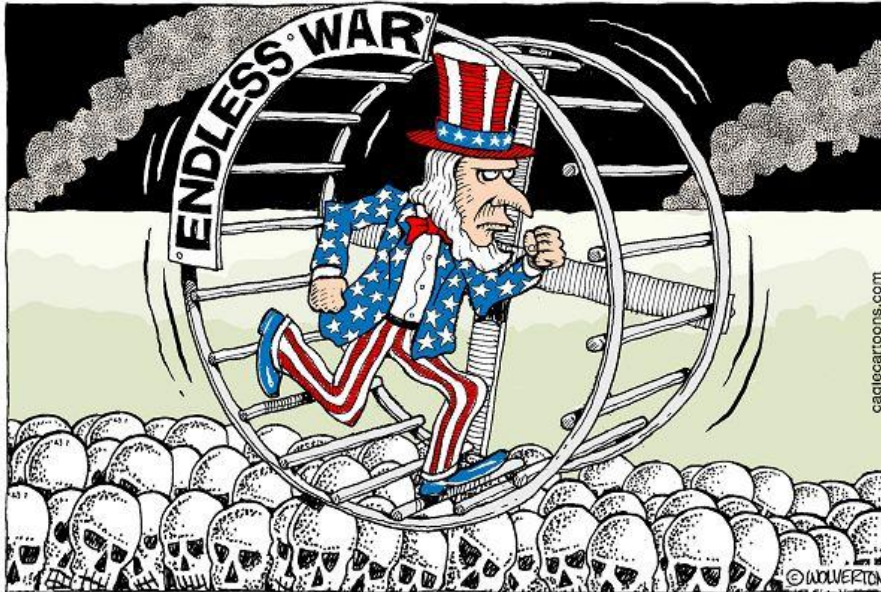


Military Resistance 12K11



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "Goin nowhere mighty fast."]

In Secret Order, Obama Extends U.S. Combat Role In Afghan War: “A Move That Ensures American Troops Will Have A Direct Role In Fighting For At Least Another Year” “The Military Pretty Much Got What It Wanted”

NOV. 21, 2014 By MARK MAZZETTI and ERIC SCHMITT, New York Times [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON —

President Obama signed a secret order in recent weeks authorizing a more expansive mission for the military in Afghanistan in 2015 than originally planned, a move that ensures American troops will have a direct role in fighting in the war-ravaged country for at least another year.

Mr. Obama's order allows American forces to carry out missions against the Taliban and other militant groups threatening American troops or the Afghan government, a broader mission than the president described to the public earlier this year, according to several administration, military and congressional officials with knowledge of the decision.

The new authorization also allows American jets, bombers and drones to support Afghan troops on combat missions.

In an announcement in the White House Rose Garden in May, Mr. Obama said that the American military would have no combat role in Afghanistan next year, and that the missions for the 9,800 troops remaining in the country would be limited to training Afghan forces and to hunting the "remnants of Al Qaeda."

The decision to change that mission was the result of a lengthy and heated debate that laid bare the tension inside the Obama administration between two often-competing imperatives: the promise Mr. Obama made to end the war in Afghanistan, versus the demands of the Pentagon that American troops be able to successfully fulfill their remaining missions in the country.

The internal discussion took place against the backdrop of this year's collapse of Iraqi security forces in the face of the advance of the Islamic State as well as the mistrust between the Pentagon and the White House that still lingers since Mr. Obama's 2009 decision to "surge" 30,000 American troops to Afghanistan.

Some of the president's civilian advisers believe that decision was made only because of excessive Pentagon pressure, and some military officials believe it was half-baked and made with an eye to domestic politics.

Mr. Obama's decision, made during a White House meeting in recent weeks with his senior national security advisers, came over the objection of some of his top civilian aides, who argued that American lives should not be put at risk next year in any operations against the Taliban — and that they should have only a narrow counterterrorism mission against Al Qaeda.

But the military pushed back, and generals both at the Pentagon and Afghanistan urged Mr. Obama to define the mission more broadly to allow American troops to attack the Taliban, the Haqqani network and other militants if intelligence revealed that the extremists were threatening American forces in the country.

The president's order under certain circumstances would also authorize American airstrikes to support Afghan military operations in the country and ground troops to occasionally accompany Afghan troops on operations against the Taliban.

"There was a school of thought that wanted the mission to be very limited, focused solely on Al Qaeda," one American official said.

But, the official said, "the military pretty much got what it wanted."

In effect, Mr. Obama's decision largely extends the current American military role for another year.

Mr. Obama and his aides were forced to make a decision because the 13-year old mission, Operation Enduring Freedom, is set to end on Dec. 31.

The matter of the military's role in Afghanistan in 2015 has "been a really, really contentious issue for a long time, even more contentious than troop numbers," said Vikram Singh, who worked on Afghanistan policy both at the State Department and the Pentagon during the Obama administration and is now at the Center for American Progress in Washington.

American officials said that while the debate over the nature of the American military's role beginning in 2015 has lasted for years, two issues in particular have shifted the debate in recent months.

The first is the advance of Islamic State forces across northern Iraq and the collapse of the Iraqi Army, which has led to criticism of Mr. Obama for a military pullout of Iraq that left Iraqi troops ill-prepared to protect their soil.

This has intensified criticism of Mr. Obama's Afghanistan strategy, which Republican and even some Democratic lawmakers have said adheres to an overly compressed timeline that would hamper efforts to train and advise Afghan security forces — potentially leaving them vulnerable to attack from Taliban fighters and other extremists in the meantime.

This new arrangement could blunt some of that criticism, although it is also likely to be criticized by some Democratic lawmakers who will say that Mr. Obama allowed the military to dictate the terms of the endgame in Afghanistan.

The second factor is the transfer of power in Afghanistan to President Ashraf Ghani, who has been far more accepting of an expansive American military mission in his country than his predecessor, Hamid Karzai.

According to a senior Afghan official and a former Afghan official who maintains close ties to his former colleagues, in recent weeks both Mr. Ghani and his new national security adviser, Hanif Atmar, have requested that the United States continue to fight Taliban forces in 2015 — as opposed to being strictly limited to operations against Al Qaeda.

Mr. Ghani also recently lifted the limits on American airstrikes and joint raids that Mr. Karzai had put in place, the Afghan officials said.

The new Afghan president has already developed a close working relationship with Gen. John F. Campbell, the allied commander in Afghanistan.

"The difference is night and day," General Campbell said in an email about the distinction between dealing with Mr. Ghani and Mr. Karzai. "President Ghani has reached out and embraced the international community. We have a strategic opportunity we haven't had previously with President Karzai."

American military officials saw the easing of the limits on airstrikes imposed by Mr. Karzai as especially significant, even if the restrictions were not always honored. During the summer, Afghan generals occasionally ignored Mr. Karzai's directive and requested American air support when their forces encountered trouble.

Now it appears such requests will no longer have to be kept secret.

One senior American military officer said that in light of Mr. Obama's decision, the Air Force expects to use F-16 fighters, B-1B bombers and Predator and Reaper drones to go after the Taliban in 2015.

"Our plans are to maintain an offensive capability in Afghanistan," he said.

The officer said he expected the Pentagon to issue an order in the next several weeks detailing the military's role in Afghanistan in 2015 under Operation Resolute Support, which will become the new name for the Afghanistan war.

The Pentagon plans to take the lead role in advising and training Afghan forces in southern and eastern Afghanistan, with Italy also operating in the east, Germany in the north and Turkey in Kabul.

The United States could still have military advisers in Kabul after 2016 who would work out of an office of security cooperation at the United States Embassy. But the administration has not said how large that contingent might be and what its exact mission would be.

And it remains unclear how the continuing chaos in Iraq — and Mr. Obama's decision to send troops back there — will affect the administration's plans for an Afghanistan exit.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

**“When We Come, They Run
Away. We Can't Catch Them”**

**“As Soon As We Leave, The
Taliban Come Back”
“The Politicians Say All Is Well, But It
Is Not True”
“If The Current Situation Continues The
Whole Province Will Eventually Return
To The Taliban”**

November 15, 2014 By Josh Smith, Stars and Stripes [Excerpts]

LAGHMAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan — The howitzer belched flame and a rolling rumble followed the supersonic round as it crossed low over the valley where police forces were battling a handful of insurgents. Then it slammed into a bare mountainside.

No Taliban fighters were visible to the naked eye, but Afghan commanders insist the rocky slopes are often used as Taliban hideouts.

On this day, the Afghan National Army was serving as backup to the police below, staging in blocking positions and providing heavier firepower like a Soviet-designed 122 mm artillery piece and 23 mm cannon. In the late afternoon, however, army commanders decided to pack up their weapons and head back to their base, even as the clatter of small-arms fire echoed through the valley. The security situation remained unchanged.

Nestled next to more famous provinces such as Kunar and Nangarhar, restive Laghman has largely been spared the major fighting that shook some areas in Afghanistan this summer.

But the slow-burning insurgency that has settled in the mountain valleys here just a few hours from Kabul may provide a glimpse into Afghanistan's future, one where neither the government security forces nor the insurgent groups are able, or in some cases willing, to win decisive victories or persuade the other side to negotiate.

When asked the next day whether it would be possible to visit the area the police and army had just cleared, police commander Rahm Khoda Mokhlis dismissed it as impossible.

“The Taliban have already placed (improvised bombs) all over the place again,” said Mokhlis, who leads the elite crisis response unit in Laghman province. “When we come, they run away. As soon as we leave, the Taliban come back.”

“This capacity of the insurgency to shift and concentrate its forces in different areas has proven particularly disruptive in the long run, often reversing improvements in districts

which had been long under the Afghan government's or international focus," Fabrizio Foschini, a researcher with the Afghan Analysts Network, wrote in an August report on the situation in eastern Afghanistan.

But it is an axiom of guerrilla warfare that insurgents can often win simply by not losing. And there are few signs that the Taliban, Haqqani network and other militant groups are going away any time soon.

The operation in Laghman highlighted what is perhaps of most concern: Even if they fail to win most military engagements, relatively small bands of insurgents can suck vast amounts of resources from a government that is already on the verge of bankruptcy.

Those fiscal constraints are putting the squeeze on the Afghan forces who man the front lines in small villages, and some local leaders are turning to armed groups with a controversial history and often uncertain loyalties.

"It is hard if not impossible to bring security through operations like the ones you saw. The ANA can't be everywhere at once."

The army troops in the area generally operate from centralized bases, and often stick to larger operations, rather than manning checkpoints or doing daily patrols of the type necessary to prevent insurgent influence.

While the ALP was initially envisioned as a sort of national guard that would live at home until called out, the high demands of the unending violence has forced many ALP to man checkpoints and other bases around the clock, said Haji Iqbal, a tribal elder and ALP commander in Dowlat Shah district. And so far, the costs of that extra effort have gone unfunded by the central government.

"Communities are paying for this themselves," he said. "And the lack of resources means they are often outgunned by the enemy."

That was an assessment echoed by Haji Noorani, an ALP commander in Alishang district.

"If the current situation continues the whole province will eventually return to the Taliban," he said. "The politicians say all is well, but it is not true."

Still, he admitted there is a cycle to the conflict. "Instead of having bases, the insurgents now hide in civilian centers," he said. "They run away when we come, then return to pressure the civilians."

Security leaders in the province said that a lack of air support is making it difficult to hunt insurgents who flee into remote mountain ranges.

"We have all the latest technology," Qadari said, "but if we have to drive, the insurgents can just run away. We can't catch them."

According to some estimates, Afghan security forces may be taking as many casualties as they are inflicting.

In 2013, estimates pinned ANSF killed and wounded at 8,200, while insurgent casualties were around 9,500. A similar number of ANSF are estimated to have been injured or killed this year.

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.

MILITARY NEWS

Battle Report:

A String Of Victories By Syrian Rebels In The Country's South Takes Syrian Army By Surprise; "Daraa Governorate Almost Completely In The Hands Of Rebel Groups"

November 17, 2014 by Mustafa al-Haj. Mustafa al-Haj is a pseudonym for a Syrian journalist based in Syria. Translator: Pascale el Khoury.

DAMASCUS, Syria —

Syrian rebels declared their control over the city of Nawa in the western countryside of Daraa — 85 kilometers (53 miles) south of Damascus and only 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) from the border with Israel — on Nov. 9, after battles began Nov. 1 against the regime's forces in the region.

The fighting ended with the "liberation" of areas formerly controlled by the Syrian army, taken during the "Demolition of the Wall," a rebel operation that brought down the army's first line of defense of the capital against attack from the south.

Rebel fighters were able to break the regime siege of the town of al-Shaykh Maskin, near Daraa, on Nov. 6.

They penetrated the town through battles that led to the fall of Brigade 82, one of the Syrian army's largest military bases.

Rebels then broke into the town and opened the road between al-Shaykh Maskin and the city of Nawa on Nov. 6.

This was how rebel fighters were able to cut the supply routes of the Syrian army and lay siege to its positions, which accelerated their total control over the area.

The fall of the area to the rebels closed the door on the Syrian army in the northern triangle of the Hauran plain, which includes the city of Nawa, al-Shaykh Maskin and Sheikh Saad, which fell to the rebels on July 15.

This triangle constituted a military safe zone for the Syrian army in the south and the center from which to launch operations in the region.

A military source in the Syrian army, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told Al-Monitor, "The army's control over the past few months was limited to the roads leading to the region through agricultural and rugged areas, while militants controlled the main roads to these villages."

The source said, "The areas controlled by the Syrian army and the opposition-controlled regions overlap, which explains the ongoing confrontations on the frontlines there. The fall of these regions had a negative impact on the old road between Damascus and Daraa as militants took full control of Nawa, al-Shaykh Maskin and Brigade 112, to put pressure on the main road and cut off supplies to the Syrian army in Daraa."

The source said, "Militants have an additional goal beyond controlling these villages, which is to relieve the pressure on the town of Atman, located at the eastern entrance of Daraa, (which has been under) siege by the army for months now."

According to the source, the loss of the battle in the region was a surprise to the Syrian army in the south and the results were disappointing since they paved the way for the militants to extend full control over the governorate of Daraa.

Official news outlets did not comment much on the domino-like fall of the towns in Daraa to Syrian rebels.

The official news agency, SANA, quoted by Al-Watan newspaper on Nov. 9 reported that army units carried out a redeployment and repositioning maneuver in Nawa in line with the nature of the anticipated combat actions, while other army units killed a number of terrorists in west Tal al-Khoder, al-Shaykh Maskin, Dael, Abtaa and Tafas.

The southern front is the most dangerous for Damascus.

Through all the battles to the south of the capital and to the east toward Ghouta, the regime aims to protect Damascus as its center of power and to confirm its continued control of the Syrian central state.

Without Damascus, the regime is little more than another armed faction on the ground in terms of power and influence.

Therefore, rebel control of the southern region may be a way to pressure the Syrian regime, which is currently preoccupied with scoring military victories in the north and in eastern Ghouta.

Commenting on the recent events in Daraa, opposition political analyst Ali Kamel told Al-Monitor, "Although opposition fighters achieved important victories in the south on the military levels, these victories are no less important on the political level, particularly at a time when the concept of moderate opposition is gradually diminishing on the ground, especially in the north."

Kamel said the success of the Syrian armed opposition in the south might "perhaps meet the conditions of a moderate opposition according to the international community's standards." He added, "The objective conditions in Daraa differ from those in the north, as the militant factions under the banner of the Free Syrian Army (FSA) in Daraa have a larger presence than in Idlib, in light of the absence of the spread of Islamic State (IS)."

On Nov. 15, clashes between rebels and the Syrian army moved from inside al-Shaykh Maskin and Nawa to their peripheries. On Nov. 14, rebels destroyed an army Fozdeka combat vehicle using a Russian-made Fagot missile targeted at the outskirts of Brigade 82.

The opposition media office in Nawa stated on its Facebook page that 25% of the homes of the city are no longer habitable and called on “revolutionary bodies working in the field of human rights” to secure housing and shelter for hundreds of displaced families that returned to the city and found themselves homeless.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said on Nov. 15, “Syrian air force fighter planes dropped explosive barrels in the vicinity of the villages of al-Dalli, al-Sihailiah and Burqa in the countryside of Daraa, with no casualties reported.

Warplanes also launched four air raids over the town of Deir al-Adas with no information concerning casualties yet. A field commander in an Islamist brigade and a fighter from the Islamic battalions were killed in clashes with regime forces in al-Shaykh Maskin.”

Despite suffering setbacks in the north, Syrian rebels in the south are trying to present a model of a moderate opposition capable of achieving field victories, far from the Islamist character that has so far marked most rebel factions.

Jabhat al-Nusra has a limited presence in the south and the military structure of the opposition’s joint command in Daraa was restructured to include a civilian administrative structure. This might encourage Western powers and their regional allies to support rebels in the south as a means to exert pressure on the Assad regime in Damascus.

U.S. Efforts To Recruit Sunni Iraqi’s To Fight ISIS Too Little, Too Late:

“Distrust Of The Baghdad Government’s Intentions And Its Ability To Protect The Tribes Has Won Out”

“The Islamic State Has Offered Cash And Arms To Tribal Leaders And Fighters, Often Allowing Them Local Autonomy As Long As They Remain Loyal”

NOV. 15, 2014 by Ben Hubbard, New York Times [Excerpts]

In the Islamic State's rapid consolidation of the Sunni parts of Iraq and Syria, the jihadists have used a double-pronged strategy to gain the obedience of Sunni tribes.

While using their abundant cash and arms to entice tribal leaders to join their self-declared caliphate, the jihadists have also eliminated potential foes, hunting down soldiers, police officers, government officials and anyone who once cooperated with the United States as it battled Al Qaeda in Iraq.

Officials admit little success in wooing new Sunni allies, beyond their fitful efforts to arm and supply the tribes who were already fighting the Islamic State — and mostly losing.

So far, distrust of the Baghdad government's intentions and its ability to protect the tribes has won out.

"There is an opportunity for the government to work with the tribes, but the facts on the ground are that ISIS has infiltrated these communities and depleted their ability to go against it," said Ahmed Ali, an Iraq analyst at the Institute for the Study of War.

"Time is not on the Iraqi government's side."

Much of the Islamic State's success at holding Sunni areas comes from its deft manipulation of tribal dynamics.

Portraying itself as a defender of Sunnis who for years have been abused by Iraq's Shiite-majority government, the Islamic State has offered cash and arms to tribal leaders and fighters, often allowing them local autonomy as long as they remain loyal.

At the same time, as it has expanded into new towns, the Islamic State has immediately identified potential government supporters for death. Residents of areas overrun by the Islamic State say its fighters often carry names of soldiers and police officers. If those people have already fled, the jihadists blow up their homes to make sure they do not return.

At checkpoints, its men sometimes run names through computerized databases, dragging off those who have worked for the government.

"They come in with a list of names and are more organized than state intelligence," said Sheikh Naim al-Gaood, a leader of the Abu Nimr tribe.

The Islamic State's propaganda operation has emphasized those tactics, warning Sunnis that they are either with the group or against it. Its videos show fighters sharing meals with "loyal" tribal sheikhs and gunning down former soldiers.

"What did the Sunnis get from joining that army other than apostasy from God's religion, the destruction of their homes and the cutting off of their heads?" asked Abu Mohammed al-Adnani, the group's spokesman, in a recent audio message.

"Rally around the mujahedeen, O Sunnis of the Levant, and stop your sons from joining the army and the Awakening councils."

Analysts say that the tribes that have joined the Islamic State have not done so because of its extremist ideology.

For most, it has been a practical decision to ally with the authority they believe can best ensure security, and resources for their men.

It remains unclear how successful even a reliable long-term effort by the Iraqi government to enlist the tribal fighters can be.

Though American cash and battlefield presence helped the Awakening succeed before, both are lacking this time around. American officials say the United States is encouraging the process, but that all arms and salaries must come from the Iraqi government.

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi of Iraq supports arming the tribes, but many of his political allies oppose it, fearing that tribal fighters will either sell their arms to the jihadists or join them outright.

U.S. Officers Who Served In Iraq Say Iraqi Army A Useless Sewer:

**“All The Skimming And Graft And
All The Rest—A Corrupt Army
Can’t Fight And Won’t Fight”
Commanding Officers “Have No
Interest In Fighting Anybody; They
Have Interest In Making Money Out
Of Their Investment”**

**“Shipments Of Gasoline, Spare Parts,
And Weapons Would Be Pilfered Before
They Reached Their Intended
Destinations”**

October 9, 2014 By Kelley Vlahos, The American Conservative. [Excerpts]

In a bloody ISIS attack on an Iraqi Army base just north of Fallujah on September 21, upwards of 500 government soldiers perished or disappeared, fleeing into the marshlands, the woods, or to the next base camp four miles away. Few were left behind alive, surrounded by militant fighters who by all accounts were supposed to be less equipped, less trained, and less organized than Iraq's professional fighting force.

But the Iraqi security forces, into which American taxpayers poured some \$25 billion over the course of a decade, had in the span of a summer, crumbled.

Perhaps the most stunning defeat for the Iraqi Army came when the entire 2nd Division collapsed in June as ISIS took over the strategic cities of Tikrit and Mosul.

“Positions collapsed without a shot fired,” wrote analysts Yasir Abbas and Dan Trombly for War on the Rocks. “They left behind weapons, vehicles, uniforms, and no government opposition to ISIL within Mosul itself.”

All told, reports over the last month suggest that several Iraqi divisions—there were 14 to start—have just evaporated (American officials prefer to say they're “combat ineffective”) since ISIS began its current march across Iraq.

According to a military source quoted in the New York Times in June, 60 out of 243 Iraqi combat battalions “cannot not be accounted for and all of their equipment is lost.”

“You haven't seen much of a fight because the (Iraqi) army just disappeared,” Marine Corps veteran Matthew Hoh, who served two tours in Iraq, tells TAC.

“They were not made to defend the country against invaders.”

Others argue it was the corruption in the ranks, beginning at the top and filtering all the way down to the lowliest private, that sabotaged Iraq's security forces.

Commands were bought and sold, and subordinates were fleeced.

According to a recent interview with author Patrick Cockburn, the going rate for a colonel's position in the army is \$200,000—\$2,000,000 to be a division commander.

Then one spends the rest of the time demanding grease from everyone else.

“They have no interest in fighting anybody; they have interest in making money out of their investment,” Cockburn told Tariq Ali in late September.

Lt. Col. Danny Davis traveled to Iraq in 2009 as a chief of a transition team with direct experience working with Iraqi commanders and recruits. “When I was sent out to train this battalion I had no idea who (commanders were) and how they got there. That was, ‘internal business,’” said Davis.

Shipments of gasoline, spare parts, and weapons would be pilfered before they reached their intended destinations, he recalled. Ethics were an anomaly. “All the skimming and graft and all the rest—a corrupt army can’t fight and won’t fight,” added Hoh.

A Marine Corps colonel who did not want to be identified because of his current status as a deployed active-duty officer, said he served multiple tours in Iraq and on the last, as a team leader for an Iraqi Army (IA) advisor team from 2007-2008.

“Based on that last tour with the IA, I’m not surprised what is going on in Iraq. The IA (battalion) I was with was considered one of the best, and were still lousy,” he wrote to TAC in an email.

“Leaders looked out for themselves first by making side deals involving food, water, and even electricity if they were sitting on top of a generator.

“I got the first two battalion commanders I worked with fired for corruption that involved taking money out of soldier’s salaries and the rape of local Sunni women by the Shia soldiers.

“I understand what we consider corrupt in our culture was not in theirs, and I was learning to live with it. But I told them if it starts directly involving the welfare of their men, then I would come after them.”

**“They could not adapt rapidly and were not agile,” said the Marine colonel.
“Against an agile, adaptive enemy, they would easily become morally, physically, or mentally isolated.”**

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

Marxists know that democracy does *not* abolish class oppression.

It only makes the class struggle more direct, wider, more open and pronounced, and that is what we need.

The fuller the freedom of divorce, the clearer will women see that the source of their “domestic slavery” is capitalism, not lack of rights.

The more democratic the system of government, the clearer will the workers see that the root evil is capitalism, not lack of rights.

The fuller national equality (and it is *not* complete without freedom of secession), the clearer will the workers of the oppressed nations see that the cause of their oppression is capitalism, not lack of rights, etc.

-- V. I. Lenin, Collected Works, 4th English Edition; Vol. 23

The development of civilization and of industry in general has ever shown itself so active in the destruction of forests, that everything done by it for their preservation, compared to its destructive effect, appears infinitesimal.

-- Karl Marx; Capital: A Critique Of Political Economy; Volume II; The Process Of The Circulation Of Capital

**“No Place In Jerusalem Should
Be Safe So Long As The
Palestinian People Are Not
Safe”**

**“Resistance Is Our Only Path;
There Is No Other Way In Which
Palestinians Can Liberate Their
Land And Achieve Their Rights”**

**“Thousands Of Jews Around The
World Are True And Genuine Voices
For The Struggle, Leading Boycott
Movements And Joining The
Palestinian Struggle”**

**“We Salute Each And Every One Of
Them”**

**[Statement Issued By The Popular Front For
The Liberation Of Palestine]**



November 19, 2014 Redline

The following statement was issued by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine on 18 November 2014 in relation to the attack on a synagogue in the Har Nof area of Jerusalem.

“The operation today in Jerusalem is a natural response to the ongoing racist policies and crimes of the occupation, and it is the occupation that is responsible for the escalation in Jerusalem and throughout Palestine.

“We are witnessing lynchings, the targeting of Palestinians, demolishing homes, confiscating land, building colonies, taking unprecedented measures against Muslims’ and Christians’ holy sites in Jerusalem on a daily basis,” said Khalil Maqdesi, member of the Central Committee of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

“Every day, thousands of supporters of the PFLP – and our entire Palestinian people – resist occupation in Jerusalem and throughout Palestine. There will be more of these kinds of actions so long as the occupier’s assault continues,” Maqdesi said.

“The PFLP will continue to target every institution of the occupation. No place in Jerusalem should be safe so long as the Palestinian people are not safe. ‘Security’ cannot be built on the backs of the Palestinian people.

“The only result of the occupation attacks on Jerusalem will be continued and escalating resistance among the Palestinian masses.

“Resistance is our only path; there is no other way in which Palestinians can liberate their land and achieve their rights. Resistance includes many methods of struggle, including, centrally, armed resistance and armed struggle. Revolutionary violence is necessary in order to confront and overthrow the colonization of our land and the confiscation of our rights.

“Oppressed people are determined to seek their freedom. It is the responsibility of the so-called ‘international community’ to hold Israel accountable for its attacks on the Palestinian people.

“It is the occupier who should be labeled ‘inhuman’. Instead, their settlement building, their killings, their mass attacks on Palestinian rights are met with approval and silence by the United States and the European Union, who have shown themselves to be consistently on the side of Israel, on the side of colonialism and imperialist hegemony.

“What is being called ‘Har Nof’ was in fact built on the ruins of the village of Deir Yassin, ethnically cleansed in 1948 and hundreds of Palestinians slaughtered at the hands of the Haganah and Zionist terror organizations, as they expelled hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their land – refugees who have been struggling to return to their land, and to liberate their land, for over 66 years.

“The PFLP is not a religious organization and our resistance is not based on religious convictions. We are struggling to liberate Palestine from a settler colonial project imposed on our people. Occupiers and racists do not belong to the land of Palestine; there are, and must be, consequences and repercussions for the theft of our land and our rights.

“The spontaneous response and demonstrations by the Palestinian people from Beddawi refugee camp to Dheisheh refugee camp to Gaza, and even on social media, the masses outside and inside Palestine, who chanted for Ghassan and Oday Abu Jamal, embraced the Palestinian armed resistance and the path of liberation.

“The response of the occupation that we are expecting is a criminal one – this is the nature of the occupation. Arresting the entire Abu Jamal family, threatening them with orders to demolish their homes, terrorizing the entire neighborhood of Jabal al-Mukabbir, which they blocked in with concrete blocks; beating the brothers of the martyrs – these are the people that we must embrace, protect, and care for, in the face of the occupier’s attacks.

“Our message to the Palestinian people inside Palestine and in exile is that you have maintained your resilience and resistance to the occupier for 66 years. You are strong and have the ability to continue on the path of struggle.

“No power can liquidate your cause. The PFLP reaffirms its commitment to you, and your cause, and your rights. We call upon all Palestinian political forces to unify under the banner of the Palestinian heroic people, to protect their sacrifices, and unite to march forward toward a new stage and a new intifada.

“The PFLP is committed to redirecting and recentering the compass of the region and its people on the central issue – towards Palestine, towards Jerusalem, confronting Zionism and imperialism; away from sectarian wars and chaos in the region. Palestine is still the issue, and Jerusalem is at the heart of this struggle,” Maqdesi said.

“Today, the PFLP has a message to the Arab people, that your battle is with imperialism and Zionism and not with each other, and that the fragmentation of the Arab people can only benefit the occupier who is colonizing your beloved Palestine. The masses must awaken and shake the collective consciousness of the Arab nation to confront the real enemy.”

“The PFLP also wants to send its message to a billion and a half Muslim brothers and sisters that our fight is not with Jews and is not based on religion; it is about justice, liberation and return to the homeland, and this is your struggle.

“Our message today to the Jewish people around the world is that the Palestinian-Israeli conflict was never a conflict between Muslims and Jews.

“Palestine has embraced the Jewish community for hundreds of years. What stands between us is this colonial project.

“We know that thousands of Jews around the world are true and genuine voices for the struggle, leading boycott movements and joining the Palestinian struggle for liberation on a daily basis.

“We salute each and every one of them.

“And for those Jews who are misled by the Zionist discourse, Israel is nothing but a deathtrap for both Jews and Arabs. Racism can never resolve conflicts, and apartheid is not a solution.

“You must stand by the side of the oppressed, and not the oppressor; raise your voice against the Zionist criminals who are oppressing our people in your name.

“As for the threats of Netanyahu and Yaalon to our people,” Maqdesi said that they are “worthless and carry no weight and reflect a racist settler mindset that thinks that through coercion and oppression we will become silent and defeated. The battle with the occupation will not be limited to Jerusalem. It is going to expand to every inch of Palestine, and through the borders of Palestine.

“Today, also, the PFLP wants to send a message to the solidarity movement with Palestine, to intensify their efforts and their struggle to support the resistance on the path of establishing a democratic Palestine where all people live in equality and freedom,” Maqdesi concluded.

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Wine, Blood And Gasoline: “A Cold-Blooded Execution”

“What Was Special About It Was Only The Unnoticed Presence Of The Camera”

“Pressure From Below Is Mounting. The Entire Country Is Now Aflame”

11/15/14 by Uri Avnery, Gush-shalom.org/

KAFR KANNA, a village near Nazareth, is probably the place where Jesus – according to the New Testament - turned water into wine.

Now it is the Arab village where the Israeli police is turning stones into blood.

On the fateful day, the police was confronting a group of young Arabs protesting against the Israeli efforts to change the status quo on the Temple Mount (known to Muslims as "the Noble Sanctuary"). Such demonstrations were taking place that day in many Arab towns and villages all over Israel, and especially in occupied East Jerusalem.

According to the first police statement, the 22-year old Arab, Kheir a-Din Hamdan, attacked the police with a knife. In self defense, they had no choice but to shoot and kill him.

As so often with police reports, this was a pack of lies.

Unfortunately (for the police), the incident was recorded by security cameras.

The pictures clearly showed Hamdan approaching a police car and beating on its windows with something, possibly a knife. When he saw that this had no effect, Hamdan turned around and started to walk away.

At that moment, the policemen got out of the car and immediately started to shoot at the back of Hamdan, who was hit and fell to the ground.

The officers surrounded him and, after some hesitation, obviously a consultation between them, started to drag the wounded youngster on the ground towards the patrol car, as if he were a sack of potatoes.

They dumped him on the floor of the car and drove away (to a hospital, it appears), with their feet on or near the dying man.

The pictures show clearly, for everyone to see, that the policemen violated the standing police orders for opening fire: they were in no immediate mortal danger, they did not shout a warning, they did not shoot first in the air, they did not aim at the lower part of his body.

They did not call an ambulance.

The youngster bled to death. It was a cold-blooded execution.

There was an outcry. Arab citizens rioted in many places. Under pressure, the Police Investigation board (which belongs to the Ministry of Justice) started an investigation.

The first investigation already uncovered several facts which put an even more severe face on the incident.

It appeared that before the cameras caught the scene, the police had arrested Hamdan's cousin and put him into the car. Obviously, Kheir a-Din wanted to release the cousin and therefore beat on the car.

The cousin saw him being shot and dumped on the floor of the car in which he was sitting.

The first reaction of the police command was to justify the behavior of the policemen, whose names and faces were withheld.

They were spirited away to some other police unit.

I describe the incident at length, not because it is unique but on the contrary – because it is so typical.

What was special about it was only the unnoticed presence of the camera.

Several cabinet ministers lauded the exemplary behavior of the police in this incident.

This can be dismissed as the publicity-hunting of extreme right-wing demagogues, who believe that their voters approve of all and any shooting of Arabs. They should know.

However, one statement cannot be ignored: the one made by the Minister of Home Security.

A few days before the incident, Minister Yitzhak Aharonowitz, a protégé of Avigdor Lieberman and himself a former police officer, declared publicly that he did not want any terrorist to survive after an attack.

That is a manifestly illegal statement. Indeed, it is a call for crimes.

Under the law, policemen are not allowed to shoot "terrorists" or anybody else after they are taken prisoner, especially when they are wounded and do not present any "mortal danger".

Aharonowitz always seems a nice guy. He has a knack of popping up before the cameras after every newsworthy incident – whether a severe road accident, a political crime or a fire. God knows how he manages that.

In actual fact, the Minister for Home Security (formerly known as Minister of Police) has practically no function.

Since the days of the British Mandate, the commander of the police force has been the Inspector General, a uniformed professional officer. The sole police function of the minister is to recommend to the government the appointment of a new commander.

But for ordinary policemen, a statement by the minister sounds like an order.

Quite probably, the irresponsible utterance of the minister was a direct incitement to the crime of Kafr Kanna. Especially since neither the Inspector General nor the Prime Minister denounced it.

All this reminds one of the fateful 1984 utterance of then Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who also declared that no terrorist should stay alive after an attack. The direct result was the "Bus Line 300" affair, in which four Arab boys, without any weapons, hijacked an Israeli bus.

They were stopped, two were shot during the recapture, and two were taken alive. One of them was murdered by the chief of the Shin Bet himself, Avraham Shalom, who crushed his skull with a rock.

When the pictures were published (first by me), Shalom and his colleagues were pardoned. Shamir denied any responsibility.

Back to today's events. Is this the long-awaited Third Intifada? Yes? No?

Army and police officers, politicians and especially media commentators are busy trying to answer this question. (Intifada means literally "shaking off".)

This is not just a mere semantic game. The definition carries with it operational consequences.

As a matter of fact, the entire country is now aflame.

East Jerusalem is already a war zone, with daily demonstrations, riots and bloodshed. In Israel proper, since the Kafr Kanna killing Arab citizens are also mounting daily strikes and demonstrations. In the West Bank, there were some demonstrations and a fatal stabbing, after which an Arab was shot and killed.

Mahmoud Abbas is doing everything in his power to prevent a general uprising, which might quite well endanger his regime.

But pressure from below is mounting. Abbas refused to meet Netanyahu in Amman.

Popular wisdom in Israel has already found a name for the situation: "Intifada of Individuals".

For the Israeli security chiefs, that is a nightmare.

They are ready for an organized Intifada. They know how to quash it by force, and, if necessary, by more force.

But what to do with an Intifada which is entirely made by isolated individuals, with no orders from any organization, with no grouping that can be infiltrated by the collaborators of the Shin Bet net of informers?

An individual Arab listens to the news, is incensed by the latest outrage against the Holy Shrines and drives his car into the nearest group of Israeli soldiers or civilians.

Or takes a knife from the kitchen of the Israeli restaurant where he washes the dishes and stabs people in the street. No prior information. No network to be infiltrated. Quite frustrating.

The center of the storm is the Temple Mount. The al-Aqsa ("far away") Mosque, the third holiest place of Islam, is under siege.

At one point, Israeli soldiers entered the mosque (with their boots on) in pursuit of stone-throwing demonstrators.

Where are we going?

For decades now, a group of Israeli zealots has been busy planning for a new Jewish Temple to be built in place of the al-Aqsa and the magnificent Dome of the Rock. They are stitching garments for priests and making the necessary preparations for animal sacrifices.

Until recently, they were considered simply a curiosity. Not anymore.

Several cabinet ministers and Knesset members have entered the holy enclosure to pray, contrary to the status quo.

Throughout the Islamic world, this has aroused alarm. Palestinians in East Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and in Israel proper are furious.

Netanyahu promised King Abdallah II to restore quiet. But he is doing the opposite.

Jesus turned water into wine. Netanyahu is turning water into gasoline and pouring it on the flames.

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

<http://www.maannews.net/eng/Default.aspx> and
<http://www.palestinemonitor.org/list.php?id=ej898ra7yff0ukmf16>

The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."

Military Resistance In PDF Format?

If you prefer PDF to Word format, email:

contact@militaryproject.org

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



**Thousands Of Czechs Demand
President Get Out:
“The Crowd Gave Zeman A Symbolic
Red Card On Monday For Demeaning
The Importance Of Human Rights
And A Pro-Russian Stance In The
Conflict In Ukraine”
“Bodyguards Protected Zeman Against
The Objects Thrown From The Crowd
With Umbrellas”**

Nov. 17, 2014 Ceskenoviny.cz/news & AP; Nov 21st 2014 The Economist Newspaper
LTd. [Excerpts]

Prague - Opponents of Czech President Milos Zeman booed and threw various objects on him during his speech marking the 25th anniversary of the end of the Communist regime and when a commemorative plaque was then unveiled in Prague today.

The crowd gave Zeman a symbolic red card on Monday for demeaning the importance of human rights, a pro-Russian stance in the conflict in Ukraine, using vulgar language and recently downplaying the brutal use of force by police 25 years ago.

The president suffered protesters pelting him with eggs and holding up red cards in a metaphorical demand that he be ejected, as in a football match.



Thousands of Czechs, using the 25th anniversary of the anti-communist Velvet Revolution, gather to call on the controversy-prone Czech President Milos Zeman to resign in Prague, Czech Republic, Nov. 17, 2014. (AP Photo/Petr David Josek)

The protesters were angered by his recent statements supporting the Chinese and Russian governments, and by a series of boorish stunts, including a radio interview in which he used foul language and sexist insults in reference to the Russian activist rock group Pussy Riot.

At the moment Zeman came to the rostrum to deliver his speech, one could only hear loud booing and the chanting Resignation and Shame on You.

The people voiced disagreement with Zeman by a number of banners, by booing and shouting "Milos to the dustbin," alluding to the slogan of the Velvet Revolution "Jakes to the dustbin" that demanded the resignation of Communist leader Milos Jakes.

When the plaque was unveiled, the protesters shouted "Zeman, resign."

Bodyguards protected Zeman against the objects thrown from the crowd with umbrellas.

A similar protest event was staged in Brno.

On Wednesday he stepped out of line again, suggesting to top generals that Czech troops should be sent to the Golan Heights to help defend Israel.

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 BY EMAIL

If you wish to receive Military Resistance immediately and directly, send request to contact@militaryproject.org. There is no subscription charge. Same address to unsubscribe.



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/>

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.