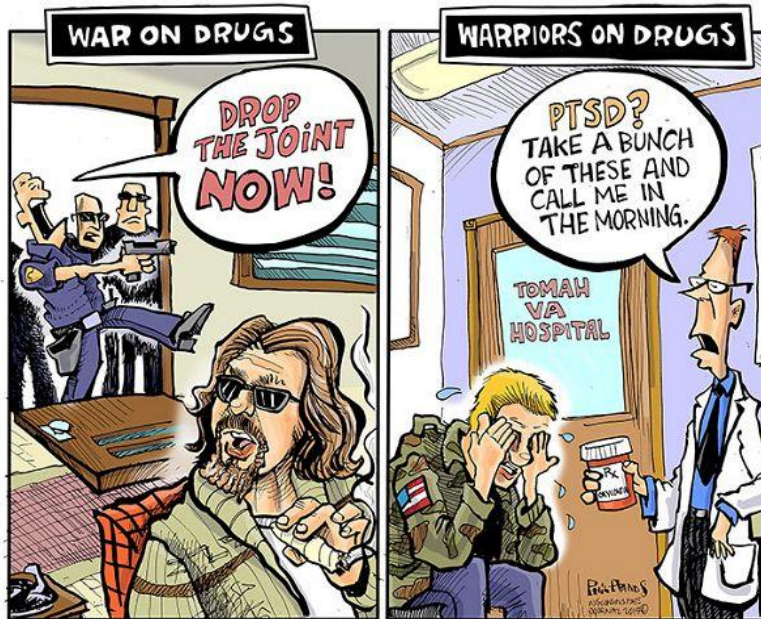


Military Resistance 13F6



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "Only take the ones that cause suicidal ideation."]

**As U.S. "Advisors" Look On,
New Iraqi Soldiers Graduate
Amid Complaints About
Equipment, Low Morale:
"The Weapons They Gave Us Are
Useless"
"After Six Months He Had Not Been
Paid"**

“Officials And Officers Come To This Base, Promise This And That, And Nothing Changes”



American advisers watch proceedings from a golf cart.

June 18, 2015 By Ben Wedeman, CNN international correspondent

Al-Taqaddum Air Base, Habbaniya, Iraq [Excerpts]

“They’re over there,” the provincial official said, winking and motioning with his head toward a group of men in khaki uniforms huddled around a black Humvee.

“But don’t tell anyone I told you.”

We had come to Anbar Province’s Al-Taqaddum Air Base to attend a graduation ceremony for Sunni volunteers who had finished a training course.

We hoped that during our visit to the run-down base, which was built by the British, expanded under Saddam Hussein, then upgraded by the Americans, we might get the chance to speak to U.S. military advisers stationed here.

Upon arrival, an Iraqi official told journalists the Americans wouldn’t take part in the ceremony, and wouldn’t give any interviews -- so I approached them as soon as I saw them.

“We’re glad you could make it here,” said the oldest of the group of Americans, shaking my hand.

“How was your trip here?” asked another with smile. “Hope it wasn’t too difficult.”

“This is an important occasion, and it's important for you to be here,” the older officer said.

Small talk was the order of the day.

Questions about what they were doing here, how long they had been here, what exactly their mission was, were deflected with friendly smiles and short, polite answers.

Eventually I was able to extract a bit more information. These men were training the Iraqi army officers who were then training the Sunni volunteers. They hadn't actually begun this task, however.

And the task will not be easy.

The volunteers seemed to range in age from late teens to close to 60. They wore a mish-mash of uniforms and boots, while their marching during the ceremony was, shall we say, casual.

The searing midday heat and blast-furnace wind might have taken a spring out of their step -- they had been out in the sun for about an hour before the hour-long ceremony even began.

The ceremony itself was an odd affair.

On one side of the parade ground was a large tent providing shade to dozens of provincial officials, local leaders, officers and other hangers on.

Little tables before the seats in the front held little bottles of cold water and boxes of tissues.

On the far side were the volunteers, standing at ease in the blazing sun.

When the speeches began, there was no loudspeaker, so they heard not a peep of the many words of praise that were thrown in their direction.

Before all the speeches had been delivered by the various dignitaries, the volunteers walked off the parade ground.

I've been to plenty such events over the years—ceremonies for new policemen, sailors, soldiers, etc.

Normally they are pretty dull affairs, where everyone has good things to say, and then leaves.

This time it was different.

I first spoke with Mahmoud Abid, a man in his early twenties.

How was the training, I asked. Was it useful?

“Yes, yes, very useful,” he shrugged, but quickly got around to what he really wanted to talk about.

“The weapons they gave us are useless,” he said, patting his AK-47 assault rifle.

“We can't fight ISIS with this. We need heavier weapons, Russian or American weapons.”

He also said he had yet to be paid after four months of training.

Mahmoud's comrade, Hamdallah, after adjusting his AK-47 on his chest, explained that after six months he also had not been paid.

The ceremony was to be followed by distribution of salaries, I told him, so you will be paid.

“Yes, for just one month, not the other months,” he replied.

These are young men, I thought. Perhaps one of the tribal leaders who had watched the ceremony might have a better idea of what was really going on.

Shaikh Abdallah Al-Issawi is from Amariyat Al-Fallouja, a nearby Sunni town that has resisted ISIS for 18 months.

A tall man in a traditional robe or dishdasha, and headscarf, he radiated the authority of a man who leads other men in battle.

Is it true these volunteers haven't been paid in months? I asked.

“Until now, they haven't been paid one dinar,” he said.

“Even if they've been well-trained, they're disenchanted. Their families can't buy a bag of flour, a gallon of gas or a kilo of tomatoes.”

All the while, he added, “officials and officers come to this base, promise this and that, and nothing changes.”

On this day they did get paid. Hundreds lined up outside a ramshackle building, waiting their turn at a table where, after a signature and a thumbprint, they were given a stack of red bills -- 750,000 Iraqi dinars, just over \$560, a month's pay.

No one mentioned back pay. Deducted beforehand was 150,000 Iraqi dinars to cover the cost of food.

Next to the table we met 58-year-old Hamid Abbas, wearing not a uniform but a dishdasha.

“If I'm not going to fight, who will?” he asked CNN producer Hamdi Al-Khshali.

He has the will, but like so many others he complained he didn't have the way to fight. In addition to having to pay for their own food, many said they had bought their own uniforms and boots.

Was all this the result of administrative confusion or, as is often suggested, deliberate short-changing of the Sunni population by the Shia-dominated government in Baghdad, which fears weapons for the Sunnis will quickly fall into the hands of ISIS?

It was the former, Anbar Governor Suhaib Al-Rawi told me. "The Iraqi state is very bureaucratic when it comes to carrying out orders."

Later I caught up again with the American advisers. Lips still tight, they didn't give much up.

How many times have you been in Iraq? I asked the older officer, who never volunteered his name.

"More times than I can count," he responded with a sigh.

And what do you think about the fact that you're here again?

"If I were to answer that question," he replied curtly, "the answer would last six hours."

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Kisham District Governor Blown Up

Jun 25 2015 By Zabihullah Moosakhail, Khaama Press

The governor of Kisham District in northeastern Badakhshan province who received serious injuries in an explosion on Wednesday has succumbed to his wounds.

Abdul Jabar Mosadiq was on way to his office when he faced the incident yesterday.

MP Nilofar Ibrahim said during the session of Wolesi Jirga yesterday that the District Governor was taken to Kundoz hospital for treatment following an explosion.

Shah Wali Adib, acting governor of Badakhshan province also confirmed the incident.

He said another person who received wounds in the same explosion is out of danger.

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Al-Shabaab Kills More Than 70 African Union Occupation Troops At Base In Somalia: “Fighters Were Later Seen Looting The Base And Loading Supplies On To Trucks”

26 June 2015 Agence France-Presse & by Mursal, Harar24

Dozens of soldiers have been killed after Al-Shabaab overran an African Union base in Somalia, according to witnesses.

The AMISOM contingent stationed at the base came mostly from Burundi, and Somali officials tell VOA more than 70 Burundian troops were killed in the early morning assault.

Another 20 Burundian soldiers and 40 Somali civilians are missing, and there are fears they have been captured.

People in the village of Lego, about 62 miles north-west of the capital Mogadishu, described intense fighting on Friday which left corpses strewn on the ground. Witnesses said there were as many as 50 bodies, some of which had been decapitated, but this could not be confirmed.

Alinur Mohamed, a local elder, said: “The fighting was the heaviest ever around this area. Al-Shabaab took full control of the base and killed many soldiers.”

The military outpost had been manned by about 100 Burundian soldiers, part of the 22,000-strong African Union Mission in Somalia (Amisom).

Residents said the dawn raid began when a bomber drove a car loaded with explosives into the entrance of the base, before dozens of militants armed with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades unleashed their assault.

Another elder, Ahmed Bulle, said Al-Shabaab fighters were later seen looting the base and loading supplies on to trucks.

He said: “Al-Shabaab took control of the area completely – the death toll could be more than 50. There are many dead bodies, most of them in military uniforms.”

Earlier on Friday, Amisom confirmed the attack but gave no further details as to possible casualties.

An Al-Shabaab spokesman claimed the militants had taken control of the base, killing “dozens”, raised their flag and seized weapons.

Mohamed Abu-Yahya, an Al-Shabaab commander, said: “The Black Islamic flag is flying over the main base of Amisom in Lego this morning and the dead bodies of the enemy are scattered around the area, the mujahideen fighters have taken all their military supplies.”

Al-Shabaab is fighting to overthrow Somalia’s western-backed government, which is propped up and protected by Amisom.

Al-Shabaab Attacks Somali Intelligence Compound

21 June 2015 Reuters in Mogadishu

Four Islamist insurgents were killed after detonating a car bomb and shooting their way into a national intelligence agency training site, the internal security ministry said, adding that the government did not suffer any casualties during the attack.

A spokesman for al-Shabaab, which wants to topple a Western-backed government in Mogadishu, said the group’s fighters had killed more than 10 intelligence officials.

In the past, al-Shabaab has exaggerated the number of government members it has killed, while officials have played down losses.

The interior ministry displayed the insurgents’ bullet-ridden bodies to the media following the assault, which started just after dawn and lasted for about one hour.

Sheikh Abdiasis Abu Musab, al Shabaab’s military operations spokesman, told Reuters the militants lost three fighters.

“They martyred themselves in the operation. We killed over 10 intelligence (officials), mostly officers,” he said.

The al Qaida-aligned group has in the past stepped up attacks during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, which began on Wednesday.

Al-Shabaab fighters on Saturday attacked a police post near the capital, killing eight officers.

The latest assault highlights al Shabaab’s ability to launch attacks even though it has lost territory and urban strongholds since a major military offensive against them began last year.

POLICE WAR REPORTS

Cop Says He Shot Cyclist In The Back Because He Was Mourning His Fellow Officer: “Alejandro Rendon Was Running Away”



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UNIVERSAL POLICE

June 23, 2015 By Eva Decesare, The Free Thought Project

Indio, CA —

Two years ago, 23-year-old Alejandro Rendon was murdered by Indio police officer Alex Franco. Rendon was on a bicycle when Franco attempted to pull him over, reportedly for a missing headlight on the cycle.

Officer Franco shot Rendon twice — including at least once from behind — as the Indio, Calif. man fled from a routine traffic stop on Valentine's Day 2013.

Expert witnesses testified that the officer shot Rendon in the back as he was attempting to flee, but Franco denied this, his department stood behind him, and now he walks free.

He was even nice enough to allow an insurance company to foot the \$1.9M bill from the settlement and court fees, after Rendon's family sued the murderer.

Apparently Franco had good reason to shoot someone in the back, but it had nothing to do with the man he killed. He was just...sad.

According to USA Today, the day Franco killed Rendon just happened to be one day after a funeral for his coworker, officer Michael Crane, who was killed by ex-officer Chris Dorner. USA Today states, “When Franco returned to patrol the next day, he had what investigators called a heightened sense of ‘officer safety.’”

Newly-released documents reveal what Franco told investigators:

“I know people die. We’re all cops, and we’re all the same, but I knew (Crain). I knew how he worked, and it made it a little bit more tangible. I’ve worked where people on my shift do not come back the next day. ... That’s part of the job. That just goes with the job. But this was fresh. This was, you know, 24 hours ago where I watched him get, you know, eulogized and buried.”

The documents, obtained exclusively by The Desert Sun, also showed that Franco was actually caught lying on a polygraph test during a job interview for the Indio police department but was hired anyway. He was turned down by a number of other police departments who obviously knew better.

Former Redlands police chief and president of the Police Foundation, a “law enforcement think tank” Jim Bueermann commented,

“When officers are targeted in very high-profile cases – from the Dorner case to the New York case where officers were ambushed and executed in their car — it leads police all across the country to be more concerned for their own personal safety. I think it’s incumbent on individual departments to stress that officers still have to do the job in a rational and thoughtful manner. The overwhelming majority of people they have contact with do not intend to do them harm.”

This attempt at a reasoning behind why cops in mourning tend to be a little more trigger-happy than usual doesn’t even apply in this case.

Alejandro Rendon was running away from Franco. Not a threat.

Police departments and unions have come up with some pretty ridiculous excuses for killing people in the past, but this one is just pathetic.

Alex Franco is a murderer, and should be treated as such.

**“I Thought I Was Being Beaten
To Death”**

**“Deputies Kicking Pusok In The
Head, Another Kicking Him In The**

Groin, And Together They Punch And Knee Him”

**“Other Deputies Are Then Seen
Moving In And Hitting Pusok”**

**“Deputies Were ‘Hitting Me In Every
Place That They Could Hit Me, Anywhere
And Everywhere’, Even After His Hands
And Feet Were In Cuffs”**

10 April 15 By CBS Los Angeles & By Zaid Jilani, AlterNet

Authorities have launched an internal investigation after the arrest of a man accused of ditching a car and leading deputies on a three-hour pursuit on horseback in San Bernardino.

He was first stunned with a taser, and then kicked and punched repeatedly, and nearly 45 minutes later was taken away to be hospitalized.

His mother, Anne Clemenson, was furious.

“To Tase him, the beatings that I see them doing to him—it's uncalled for. You see him laying down, and they continue to kick him, hitting him and punching him. Why?” she asked during an appearance on local TV.

Francis Pusok, 30, was captured in footage by a news helicopter falling off a horse authorities said was stolen Thursday afternoon in Apple Valley.

Deputies say they tried to hit Pusok with a Taser, which was ineffective.

The footage then shows one of the deputies kicking Pusok in the head, another kicking him in the groin, and together they punch and knee him.

Other deputies are then seen moving in and hitting Pusok. At this point, it's unclear what Pusok is doing, hidden beneath the group of officers.

The southern California man said on Monday that he feared for his life during the violent arrest that was recorded by a TV news helicopter.

“I thought I was being beaten to death,” Francis Pusok, 30, told KNBC-TV. “I was wondering, ‘When is it going to stop?’”

Pusok, still showing a black eye and other marks from the beating, sat with his girlfriend for the interview the day after he was released from a San Bernardino County jail.

He said he was still feeling the effects four days later.

“The beating might’ve stopped but the pain never stopped,” Pusok said. “I can still feel the pain.”

He said that once he was subdued he didn’t resist, but deputies were “hitting me in every place that they could hit me, anywhere and everywhere”, even after his hands and feet were in cuffs.

The entire incident lasted more than a minute, according to the footage San Bernardino County Sheriff John McMahon said was “disturbing.”

McMahon has ordered an internal investigation into the arrest.

“The video surrounding this arrest is disturbing, and I have ordered an internal investigation be conducted immediately,” he said in a statement. “In addition, members of the Specialized Investigation Detail are responding to conduct the criminal investigation.”

“What I saw on the television was thugs beating up my client. That’s what I saw. And these questions about what was he doing? What did they do? This is far worse than Rodney King,” said Pusok’s family attorney Jim Terrell, who’s calling for the termination and arrests of the deputies seen in the footage.

Deputies said they were serving a search warrant to Pusok in connection with an identity-theft investigation when he fled.

“I couldn’t believe it. The first thing I said was, ‘They can’t do that.’ That is first thing out of my mouth was that, ‘They cannot do that,’” said Jolene Bindner, Pusok’s girlfriend of 13 years.

Bindner described Pusok as a great father but admits he’s had several run-ins with the law.

CBS2 uncovered convictions of Pusok’s dating as far back as 2002. They include: driving on a sidewalk at an unsafe speed in 2002; attempted robbery in 2006; fighting in 2011; cruelty to an animal in 2013; resisting an officer in 2013; and obstructing or resisting an officer in 2014.

“I’m not gonna stand here and say that he’s perfect, because who is?” Bindner asked.

“I want to know what these cops past records are. Did they just start being thugs or have they been thugs for years?” said Terrell, who wants the FBI to investigate the department’s handling of his client.

The department has not indicated whether the officers will be punished.

“These are bad cops whether it’s Ferguson, Missouri, or right here in Apple Valley. This stuff’s got to stop,” Terrell said.

Pusok has been hospitalized with injuries he is expected to survive, and three deputies were injured in the search, according to authorities.

Pusok’s family is also considering a civil suit.

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

**There is no democracy without socialism and no socialism without democracy.
-- Rosa Luxemburg**

Remembering Baltimore: “Bitch, You Ain't No Better Than Any Of The Other Old Black Bitches I Have Locked Up”



April 28, 2015 By Gregory Krieg, Mic Network Inc.

About 30 minutes after he was arrested and thrown into the back of a van, Gray was found, according to officers' accounts, unconscious and unresponsive. His spinal cord had been severely injured and his voice box nearly crushed.

While the investigation into what or who killed Gray continues, protests and riots swept through Baltimore on Monday. Much like in Ferguson, Missouri, following the police killing of teenager Michael Brown last summer, the prevailing questions seem to center on who is responsible for the violence in the streets — but in order to really understand Gray's final days and their aftermath, one must consider his life and the kind of city in which he grew up — the city that would eventually be the death of him.

1. The city of Baltimore has paid more than \$5 million to settle police brutality cases in the last four years.

Since January 2011, Baltimore has settled or lost an average of more than 20 police brutality cases every year, according to the Baltimore Sun. In total, the city paid out \$5.7 million and spent \$5.8 million more on related legal fees. Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, a Democrat, more than doubled — to \$4.2 million — the city's budget for future judgments, lawsuits and fees at the beginning of the current fiscal year.

2. Victims of police brutality are forced to keep silent about what happened after settling with the city.

There is a clause written into most settlements that prohibits victims from discussing the details of their encounter with police in public, the Baltimore Sun first reported in December 2014. If a plaintiff settles out of court, then tells their story — even on social media — the city will either seek to recoup some of the money it's already paid or halt payments it is scheduled to deliver.

These “nondisparagement clauses” are meant to protect the reputation of the police force. They have the effect of silencing the victims and hiding an often brutal truth from the public.

3. In 2007, officers broke an 87-year-old woman's shoulder after her grandson was shot.

In September 2014, the Baltimore Sun published a long report on police brutality and the cost of the settlements.

One particularly heinous story came from the family of Venus Green, who in 2007 had her shoulder broken by an officer as she tried to call 911 to get help for her wounded grandson.

According to the report, an officer was aggressively questioning Green's grandson as paramedics came on the scene, then threw the 87-year-old to the floor after she refused to let him into a room downstairs where the young man kept two dogs.

From the Baltimore Sun:

“Bitch, you ain't no better than any of the other old black bitches I have locked up,” Green recalled the officer saying as he stood over her. “He pulled me up, pushed me in the dining room over the couch, put his knees in my back, twisted my arms and wrist and put handcuffs on my hands and threw me face down on the couch.”

A second officer arrived soon thereafter and immediately took the restraints off Green, but her injuries would persist for years. In 2010, she filed a lawsuit against the police and in 2012, there would be a settlement, the city agreeing to pay \$95,000. By then in her 90s, Green died of natural causes a little more than a month later.

4. Police use “rough rides” to punish suspects on the drive back to headquarters.

No one knows — or has said publicly — what exactly caused the injuries that killed Gray a week after his arrest, but one of the most prevalent theories is that he was injured during a “rough ride” between where he was arrested and the precinct where he was supposed to be booked.

“Gray is not the first person to come out of a Baltimore police wagon with serious injuries,” the Baltimore Sun found, describing a technique in which officers put a handcuffed suspect in the back of van with no seatbelt, then drive in a reckless way that

causes the individual to be tossed around without the ability to brace or prepare for impact.

In one particularly gruesome case, a 43-year-old man was arrested for public urination. According to the Baltimore Sun and his lawsuit, this is what followed:

“He was handcuffed and placed in a transport van in good health. He emerged a quadriplegic.

“Before he died, he complained to his doctor that he was not buckled into his seat when the police van ‘made a sharp turn,’ sending him ‘face first’ into the interior of the van, court records state. He was ‘violently thrown around the back of the vehicle as (police officers) drove in an aggressive fashion, taking turns so as to injure (Johnson), who was helplessly cuffed,’ the lawsuit stated.

“Johnson, who suffered a fractured neck, died two weeks later of pneumonia caused by his paralysis. His family sued, and a jury agreed that three officers were negligent in the way they treated Johnson.

“The initial \$7.4 million award, however, was eventually reduced to \$219,000 by Maryland's Court of Special Appeals because state law caps such payouts.”

Numerous reports and eyewitness accounts describe Gray as potentially injured but speaking and using his legs as he was bundled into a police van on the day of his arrest. Thirty minutes later, as officers attempted to remove him, he was unresponsive. One week later, Gray was dead.

5. Just 28% of Baltimore city residents are white, but they make up 46% of the police force.

This is a common concern in big and small cities across the country. A Washington Post analysis conducted during the 2014 protests in Ferguson found that black men and women are underrepresented in more than 40% of American municipal police forces. This not only creates more difficult situations in dealing with civilians in minority neighborhoods, but creates more a more deeply insulated departmental culture.

6. Four hundred and fifty-eight people from Gray's neighborhood are in state prison.

Sandtown-Winchester/Harlem Park, where Gray lived his whole life, is the “highest incarceration community” in Baltimore, according to a February report by the Justice Policy Institute and Prison Policy Initiative. Three out of every hundred people are in state correctional facilities. Maryland spends \$17 million annually to incarcerate inmates from this small neighborhood alone.

7. Fifty-two percent of working-age residents in Gray's community are unemployed.

Among people aged 16 to 64 years old, nearly half the residents in Sandtown-Winchester/Harlem Park are out of work, according to the same JPI/PPI study. That includes both people looking for employment and those who say they have stopped or

aren't trying (usual unemployment rates don't account for the latter). By this measure, Gray's neighborhood is 13% worse than the Baltimore average, which was 39%.

This was Freddie Gray's Baltimore — the only home he ever knew.

Remembering Baltimore: “The Photo Editor At City Paper Said He Was Hit In The Head With Multiple Police Shields And Sustained Multiple Bruises”

April 26, 2015 Kevin Rector, The Baltimore Sun

A photographer for Reuters was detained and another for the Baltimore City Paper was thrown to the ground by Baltimore Police officers while covering protests over police brutality late Saturday, they said.

The incidents occurred near the Western District police station, the journalists said, as they were covering a particularly tense standoff between protesters, who were throwing rocks, and helmeted police officers, who wielded shields and batons.

J.M. Giordano, the photo editor at City Paper, said he was hit in the head with multiple police shields had his “face pretty much smushed down on the ground,” and sustained multiple bruises after several officers rushed at him as he shot pictures.

“They just took me down,” he said.

The incident occurred after police had given a general order for people to leave the area, but also came as a surprise, said Baynard Woods, the City Paper's managing editor who was with Giordano at the scene. The City Paper is owned by the Baltimore Sun Media Group.

Police had broadcast a message that said “something like, ‘This is no longer a legal assembly. This is no longer a peaceful protest,’” and warned people in the area they would be detained, Woods said. But officers on the ground had also backed off after the announcement, and there was a significant amount of space between officers and protesters when the incident occurred, he said.

On Sunday, Baltimore Sun Media Group spokeswoman Renee Mutchnik issued a statement saying: “We take seriously the right of the press to fairly and accurately cover events such as the protests that occurred yesterday in Baltimore. We are looking into the incident and are reaching out to the Baltimore Police Department to begin a constructive dialogue to express our concerns about what happened to our photographer.”

Sait Serkan Gurbuz said he was shooting pictures for Reuters at the same location when he was detained, around the same time as Giordano.

Gurbuz declined to comment on the circumstances. “I was there taking pictures,” he said.

A Reuters spokeswoman issued a statement on the incident, saying Gurbuz was issued a citation for “failure to obey orders” and noting he was detained while photographing the encounter between police and another photojournalist — possibly Giordano.

“Serkan was on a public sidewalk and the events were happening in plain view. We do not agree with the police's citation for 'failure to obey orders,' as Serkan backed away from the scene when the police demanded that he do so, or with the way in which he was treated by the police,” the spokeswoman said. “We hope the Department will dismiss the citation and, in the future, respect the First Amendment right of the press to lawfully take images in the public interest.”

Outrage over Gray's death has sparked protests across the city — including those Saturday night.

During protests following the police-involved death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., journalists being detained and arrested added to criticism of the local police force's response.

Giordano was not charged with anything, he said.

The entire incident lasted about 40 seconds, he said.

“It's really troubling,” he said. “When they charged, I don't know what they were thinking.”

7th Cavalry Regiment Hosts ‘Trail of Tears Memorial 5K’



Photo credit: US Army/Duffel Blog

June 17, 2015 by Frederick Taub

FORT HOOD, Texas — Thousands of people commemorated the 19th Century forced march of Native Americans today with a brisk jog at the Second Annual “Trail of Tears Memorial 5K.”

The annual event is hosted by First Squadron, Seventh Cavalry Regiment based out of Ft. Hood. It is billed as both a “fun-filled family frolic,” and a sober reminder of the series of mandatory relocations following the Indian Removal Act of 1830.

“The Trail of Tears Memorial 5K began and will continue to provide a way to honor those who perished in this horrible and regrettable chapter of American history, while keeping today’s soldiers mindful of the Army’s unfortunate role in it,” said Lt. Gen. Sean MacFarland, commander of Ft. Hood, during his opening remarks.

“Look at all these excited faces,” he added as he looked around the crowd and pointed to a large family.

“Wow, looks like you brought the whole tribe there! Now, who’s ready to get chased off their ancestral lands?”

The run began with the regimental band striking up “Garryowen” as a mounted squad of U.S. Army soldiers began shooting pistols in the air and horsewhipping the last runners past the start point.

“All the money raised today will go to support research into vaccines for communicable diseases,” explained Lt. Col. William J. Custer III, event organizer. “We’re going to try to wipe out some of the diseases that devastated so many of the early American peoples.”

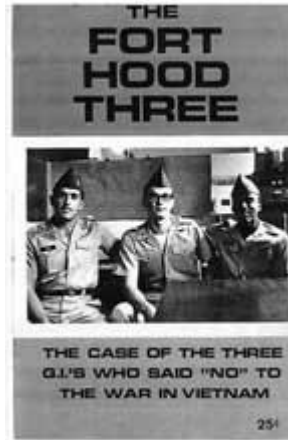
Custer also expressed his gratitude to Washington Redskins owner Daniel Snyder, who provided key sponsorship for the event after the Dallas Cowboys backed out, citing “bad taste.”

“All that I can say is wow,” runner Roger Hamtown said at the finish line as he sipped on a chilled Gatorade. “I’ve also completed the Bataan Death March Ultra-Marathon and they’re both just like the real thing. Look how badly I’m sweating!”

ANNIVERSARIES

June 30, 1966:

Three Fort Hood Soldiers Refuse Vietnam War Deployment: “Large Numbers Of Men In The Service Either Do Not Understand This War Or Are Against It”



Carl Bunin Peace History June 28 - July 4

The first GIs—known as the Fort Hood Three, U.S. Army Privates James Johnson, Dennis Mora and David Samas—refused to be sent to Vietnam.

All were members of the 142nd Signal Battalion, 2nd Armored Division stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. The three were from working-class families, and had denounced the war as “immoral, illegal and unjust.” They were arrested, court-martialed and imprisoned.

The Pentagon reported 503,926 “incidents of desertion” between 1966 and 1971.

From NIU.EDU

JOINT STATEMENT BY FORT HOOD THREE

The following statement was read to over 40 cameramen, reporters, and antiwar fighters at a press conference in New York on June 30th. The statement was prepared jointly and read by Pvt. Dennis Mora.

We are Pfc. James Johnson, Pvt. David Samas, and Pvt. Dennis Mora, three soldiers formerly stationed at Fort Hood, Texas in the same company of the 142 Signal Battalion, 2nd Armored Division. We have received orders to report on the 13th of July at Oakland Army Terminal in California for final processing and shipment to Vietnam.

We have decided to take a stand against this war, which we consider immoral, illegal and unjust. We are initiating today, through our attorneys, Stanley Faulkner of New York and Mrs. Selma Samols of Washington, D.C. an action in the courts to enjoin the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Army from sending us to Vietnam. We intend to report as ordered to the Oakland Army Terminal, but under no circumstances will we board ship for Vietnam.

We are prepared to face Court Martial if necessary.

We represent in our backgrounds a cross section of the Army and of America. James Johnson is a Negro, David Samas is of Lithuanian and Italian parents, Dennis Mora is a Puerto Rican. We speak as American soldiers.

We have been in the army long enough to know that we are not the only G.I.'s who feel as we do. Large numbers of men in the service either do not understand this war or are against it.

When we entered the army Vietnam was for us only a newspaper box score of G.I.'s and Viet Cong killed or wounded. We were all against it in one way or another, but we were willing to "go along with the program," believing that we would not be sent to Vietnam.

We were told from the very first day of our induction that we were headed for Vietnam. During basic training it was repeated often by sergeants and officers, and soon it became another meaningless threat that was used to make us take our training seriously.

But later on Vietnam became a fact of life when some one you knew wondered how he could break the news to his girl, wife, or family that he was being sent there.

After he solved that problem, he had to find a reason that would satisfy him. The reasons were many-"Somebody's got to do it," "When your number's up, your number's up The pay is good," and "You've got to stop them someplace" were phrases heard in the barracks and mess hall, and used by soldiers to encourage each other to accept the war as their own. Besides, what could be done about it anyway? Orders are orders.

As we saw more and more of this, the war became the one thing we talked about most and the one point we all agreed upon. No one wanted to go and more than that, there was no reason for anyone to go.

The Viet Cong obviously had the moral and physical support of most of the peasantry who were fighting for their independence. We were told that you couldn't tell them apart- that they looked like any other skinny peasant.

Our man or our men in Saigon has and have always been brutal dictators, since Diem first violated the 1954 Geneva promise of free elections in 1956.

The Buddhist and military revolt in all the major cities proves that the people of the cities also want an end to Ky and U.S. support for him. The Saigon Army has become the advisor to American G.I.'s who have to take over the fighting.

No one used the word "winning" anymore because in Vietnam it has no meaning.

Our officers just talk about five and ten more years of war with at least ½ million of our boys thrown into the grinder.

We have been told that many times we may face a Vietnamese woman or child and that we will have to kill them. We will never go there-to do that for Ky.

We know that Negroes and Puerto Ricans are being drafted and end up in the worst of the fighting all out of proportion to their numbers in the population; and we have first hand knowledge that these are the ones who have been deprived of decent education and jobs at home.

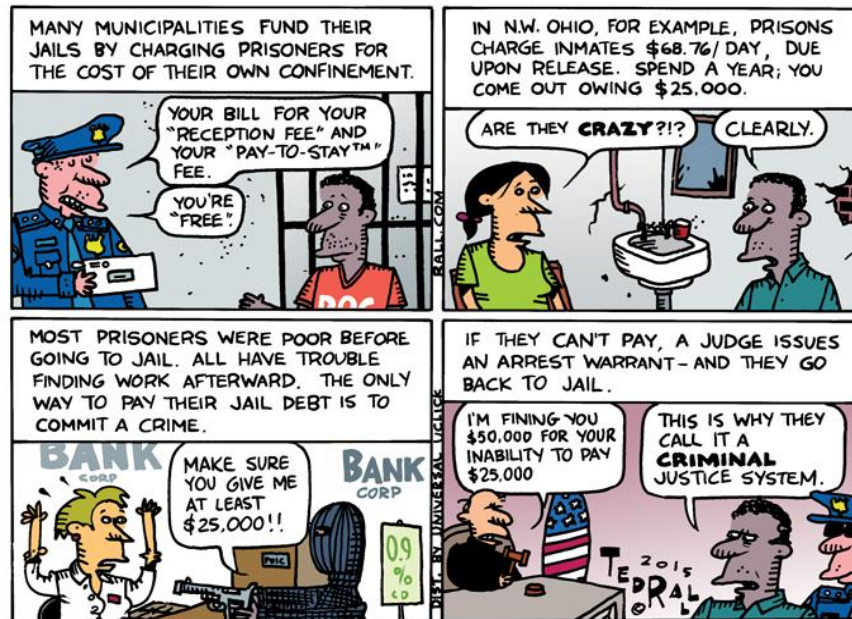
The three of us, while stationed together, talked a lot and found we thought alike on one over-riding issue-the war in Vietnam must be stopped. It was all talk and we had no intentions of getting into trouble by making waves at that stage.

Once back in Texas we were told that we were on levy to Vietnam. All we had discussed and thought about now was real. It was time for us to quit talking and decide. Go to Vietnam and ignore the truth or stand and fight for what we know is right. We have made our decision. We will not be a part of this unjust, immoral, and illegal war.

We want no part of a war of extermination. We oppose the criminal waste of American lives and resources.

We refuse to go to Vietnam!!

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Palestinian Taxi Driver Killed By Occupation Army Fire Near The Al- Hamra Roadblock: “The Soldiers Also Invaded Al-‘Oja, Before Breaking Into The Home Of The Slain Palestinian, And Violently Searching It”



Hammad Jom'a Romanim

June 27, 2015 by IMEMC & Agencies

Palestinian medical sources have reported, on Friday afternoon, that a young Palestinian Taxi driver was shot and killed by Israeli army fire on the Al-Hamra Roadblock, between the West Bank districts of Jericho and Nablus.

Head of the al-‘Oja Village Council, north of Jericho, Fakhri Najjoun said the soldiers shot and killed, Hammad Jom'a Romanim, 27 years of age, near the Al-Hamra roadblock in the West Bank Plains.

Najjoun said the slain Palestinian is a Taxi driver who was heading to the northern West Bank city of Nablus.

He added that the soldiers also invaded al-'Oja, before breaking into the home of the slain Palestinian, and violently searching it.



Funeral Of The Slain Palestinian - Wattan TV

The invasion led to clashes between the soldiers and local youths who hurled stones on them; the soldiers fired gas bombs and rounds of live ammunition.

One Palestinian was shot with a live round, while scores suffered the effects of tear gas inhalation, including the mother and grandmother of the slain young man. The Israeli army claimed the Palestinian Taxi driver opened fire on the soldiers, and that the army fired back seriously wounding him, but he later died of his wounds.

The army said no soldiers were injured, and declared the area a closed military zone.

The body of the slain Palestinian was handed to his family more than five hours after his death. Hundreds of Palestinians marched in his funeral procession in al-'Oja, before prayers, and during burial ceremony.

Zionist Occupiers Chop Down Palestinian Olive Trees, As Usual

June 24, 2015 Ma'an

SALFIT -- Israeli settlers chopped down more than 70 olive trees between the towns of Yasuf and Jammain in the northern West Bank districts of Salfit and Nablus on Monday. Palestinian farmers said the trees, which lay close to the illegal Israeli settlements of Ariel and Taffuh, had been cut down using chainsaws.

A local, Khalid Maali, said that because the land lay close to settler roads near the Zaatara checkpoint it had been easy for the settlers to flee afterwards.

The olive industry supports the livelihoods of roughly 80,000 families in the occupied West Bank, and the Salfit district in particular is known for its fertile soil and large olive trees. Settlers attack olive trees in a bid to oust Palestinian farmers from their land, and a loss of a year's crops can cause destitution for farming families.

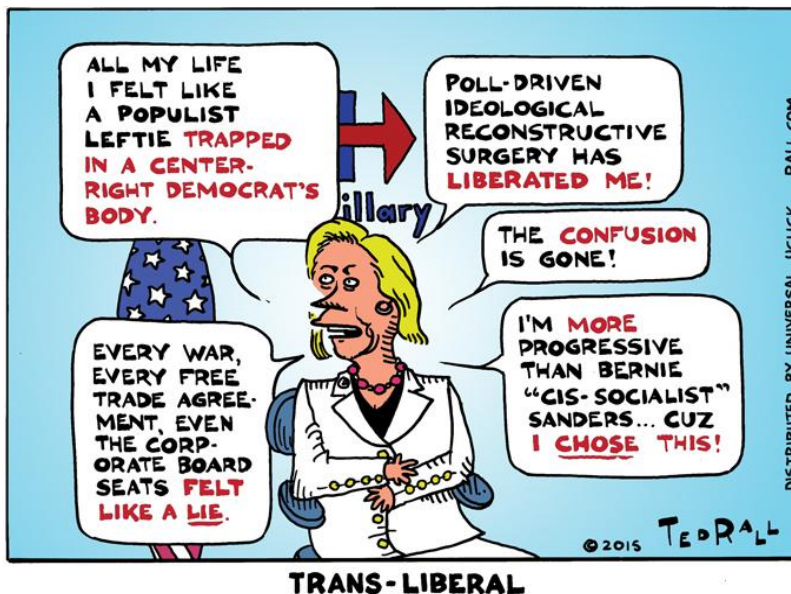
According to the Applied Research Institute of Jerusalem, in addition to confiscating Palestinian land in Yasuf in northern Salfit, "Israeli settlers have also carried out a series of attacks against Palestinian landowners in an attempt to intimidate them and deter them from returning to their land."

Meanwhile, in Jamma'in in southern Nablus, "attacks and violence perpetrated by settlers living in the settlements near Jamma'in town has had a profoundly negative impact on residents and their property.

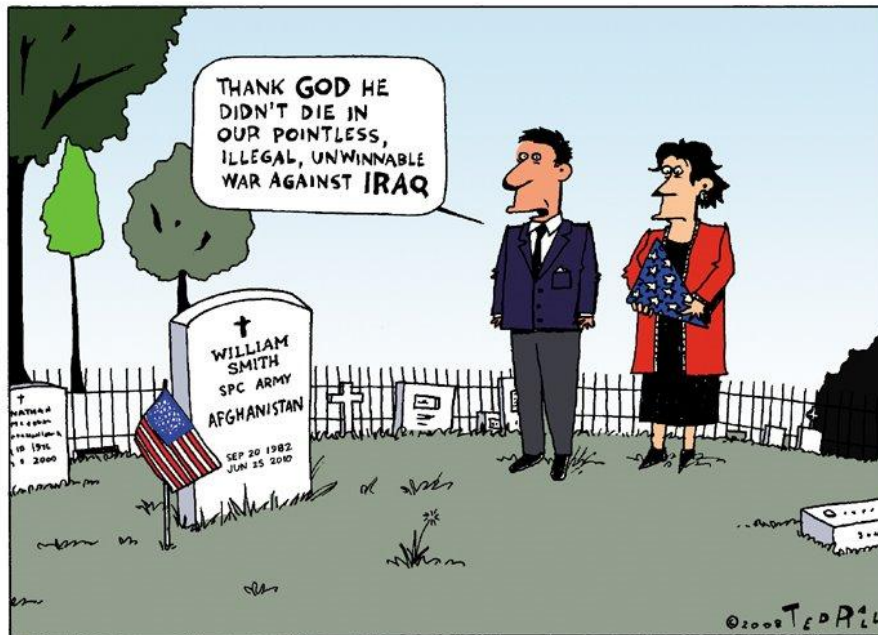
"Palestinian land owners are unable to access their lands, as they have been fenced off with barbed wire. Settlers have planted trees in these areas to reinforce their control over the area. The settlers have damaged and burned a number of Palestinian owned trees and plants." Since 1967, approximately 800,000 olive trees have been uprooted in the occupied West Bank, according to a joint report by the Palestinian Authority and ARIJ.

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



CHANGE WE CAN BEREAVE IN

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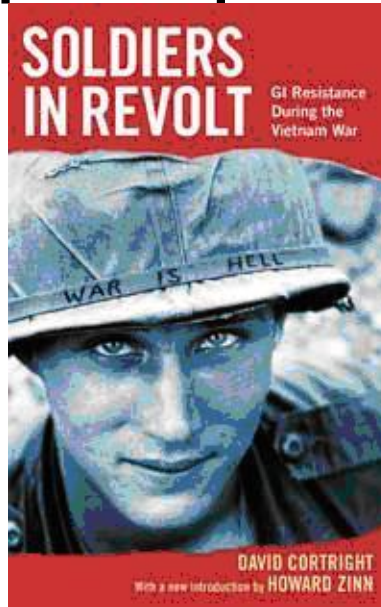
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**FREE TO ACTIVE DUTY:
A Vietnam Veteran Describes The
Strategy And Tactics Used By Troops To
Stop An Imperial War**



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