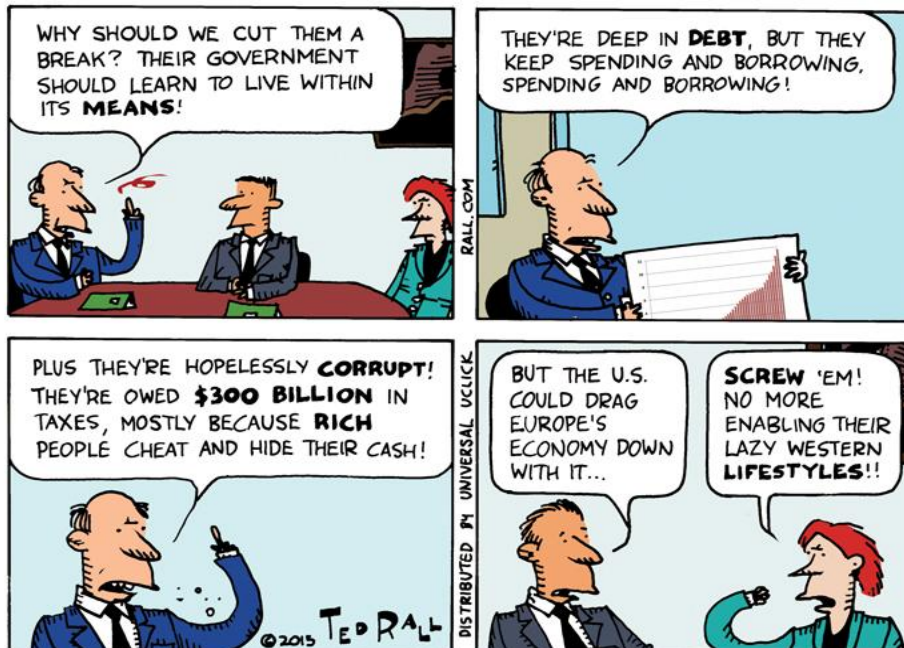


Military Resistance 13G3



Government Forces Accuse Kabul Of Ignoring Massacre By Taliban:

“No Help Arrived”

“They Were Stunned At The Lack Of
Support Because They Were Less
Than 10 Miles From The Provincial
Capital And 30 Miles From Kabul”

“We Fought For Two Days Without Food, Water Or Sleep And No One Said So Much As, ‘Thank You For Your Service’”



Ibrahim, left, and Ali, two members of the Afghan Local Police, seen in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Sunday. (Ali M. Latifi / Los Angeles Times)

5 July 2015 By Ali M. Latifi, Los Angeles Times & By Zafer Shayan, The Kabul Press

With his weapon in one hand, Ibrahim answered his cellphone with the other.

He was hoping the call would bring news of reinforcements for his Afghan Local Police post, which was under siege from hundreds of Taliban insurgents.

But the caller was his brother, and Ibrahim, a 20-year-old member of the U.S.-backed Afghan government militia, broke down in tears in the middle of an hours-long gun battle in the eastern province of Maidan Wardak.

“When I heard his voice, I thought to myself, ‘This is the end,’” Ibrahim said. “I started to cry before telling him goodbye and that I was sorry for any wrong I ever did to him.”

Riza, a survived policeman who fought against the Taliban, said to the media, that the government promised them sending ammunition, but they didn’t send ammunition supply and assistant forces until most of policemen were killed.

He added that one of the policemen called him and said, “only four bullets were left, I fire them.”

At least 30 ALP members were killed in the fighting last week as Taliban insurgents launched a coordinated attack on a series of ALP checkpoints in Jalrez district, which lies on a strategically important highway about one hour west of Kabul.

The Pashtun local policemen escorted the Taliban into their checkpoints and installed the Taliban's flags.

Ibrahim and another ALP member, Ali, 19, said they were outgunned and outnumbered during a 27-hour battle that began late Wednesday evening when Taliban forces rushed a nearby checkpoint.

Both men – who like many Afghans have only one name – have refused orders to return to their posts and spoke to The Times on Sunday in Kabul.

Ali said he called the Interior Ministry – which oversees the ALP – several times during the battle to beg for air support and fresh weapons and ammunition. No help arrived.

Seven ALP checkpoints, all manned by members of the Hazara ethnic minority, were overrun by Taliban, raising charges of ethnic bias. All of the dead ALP fighters were Hazaras, and some were reportedly beheaded and dragged from the backs of moving cars.

Some officials say the ALP death toll could be as high as 45.

In the last three months, Afghan security forces in the northern provinces of Kunduz and Badakhshan have also accused Kabul of failing to help them in battles against Taliban insurgents who have been waging one of their deadliest offensives in years across parts of northern, eastern and southern Afghanistan.

The reports from Wardak were the first to involve the ALP and Hazaras, who have long felt targeted by the Pashtun-dominated Taliban and complained of discrimination from the central government.

“They could be rescued easily but weren’t. Why? Because of their ethnicity...it must become clear,” said former Second Vice President Mohammad Karim Khalili.

Arif Rahmani, a lawmaker from the eastern province of Ghazni, said in parliament that three Afghan National Police checkpoints did not respond, despite being located within approximately 500 yards of ALP posts that were under attack.

By Thursday evening, a day after the fighting began, four ALP members at the Sar-e Tapa checkpoint were killed and another was severely injured, leaving Ibrahim and Ali as the only ones able to defend the position.

They were stunned at the lack of support because they were less than 10 miles from the provincial capital and 30 miles from Kabul.

Jafari, The Head of Maidan Wardak Provincial Council said on a press conference in Kabul, “we repeatedly tried to establish connection with the security officials including Afghan Presidential and Chief Executive Officer to send assistant troops, but no action has been taken by the government in this regard.”

“Each post had two, three, even four martyrs,” Ali said.

When it became clear that Kabul was ignoring their pleas, Ali added, an ALP commander he identified only as Mohammad, who oversaw three of the checkpoints, called his two bodyguards into battle with him. All three were killed, Ali said.

Ali said that at the time of the attack, several of his colleagues had already gone five months without receiving their monthly salary of about \$166.

“We fought for two days without food, water or sleep and no one said so much as, ‘Thank you for your service,’” Ali said.

Aref, a friend, said Ali is suffering from post-traumatic stress.

“The other night he was talking in his sleep: ‘Go, go, go! Get him, shoot the rocket now!’” Aref said. “None of them have had the time to heal from the mental scars.”

Ali said he and his comrades have all been told to return to their posts or risk losing their jobs, but he has refused, he said, until his superiors provide better weapons.

“We can’t go back if things are just going to continue as they were,” he said.

Another local police commander from Maidan Wardak Provincial Council members reported, “The chief Police of Jalrez District disarms the local policemen instead of supporting them to fight against the Taliban”.

An ALP commander named Zarif, who is based in Jalrez but was on leave last week, said in an interview that the paramilitary force had long felt ignored by the Interior Ministry.

He said the areas in which they were stationed were among the most dangerous in the province and that officials have failed to recognize the force’s sacrifices.

“We still have martyrs there (in Jalrez), lying in the same spot where they were struck by the Taliban,” he said.

He said the government cannot continue to ignore the risks the ALP face, especially in Jalrez.

“We joined the ALP to be of service to the country,” he said, “not for the money.”

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Foreign Solider Killed As Car Bomb Hits Troops Convoy in Kabul

07 July 2015 TOLONews.com

A car bomb has reportedly hit a convoy of foreign troops Tuesday in Kabul, officials said.

The blast took place in Shah Shahid area of Kabul when a vehicle belonging to foreign forces was passing by the area.

The Kabul Police Chief confirmed the attack and said only one foreigner and an Afghan civilian were killed in the bombing.

But eyewitnesses told TOLONews that five people were injured in the blast.

More Resistance Action

Jul 07, 2015 Pajhwok Report & By Khaama Press

KABUL

At least three insurgents and an intelligence official were killed when insurgents on Tuesday mounted attack on the office of National Directorate of Security (NDS) in Rahman Mena locality of capital Kabul, a police official said

The attack begin with a bomb blast in front of the facility due to which one soldier who was guarding the gate embraced martyrdom. The attacker used a Zaranj motorcycle laden with explosives in this explosion.

The attacker, he said was followed by two other bombers who wanted to force their way inside the facility but they were shot dead by security officials.

All the three bombers and an NDS official were killed and another intelligence official wounded in the attack.

Taliban claimed credit for the attack.

Jul 06 2015 By Khaama Press

Four policemen were killed and two others wounded after Taliban attacked a number of security check posts in Khushamand District of Paktika province late on Sunday.

Also, a statement issued by the Ministry of Defense states that five Army soldiers embraced martyrdom in IED explosions and militant fire while on duty.

The statement does not specify the exact location of the incident.

July 06, 2015 Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

Afghan officials said a bomb blast at a police checkpoint in the southern city of Kandahar has killed three people and wounded 13 others. The explosion on July 5 was caused by a bomb strapped to a motorcycle, said Samim Khpolwak, the spokesman for the provincial governor.

According to police, the attack took place late in the evening, shortly after the iftar -- a fast-breaking meal during the holy Muslim month of Ramadan.

**IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE
RESIST THE OCCUPATION**

POLICE WAR REPORTS

Michigan Woman Thrown In Jail For Paying Her \$35 Dog License Too Late “She Was Actually Arrested After She Had Already Paid To Renew The License”

July 8, 2015 By John Vibes / The Free Thought Project

Kalamazoo County, Michigan – This week, a woman was jailed for failing to pay for a \$35 license for her dog on time. To make matters even worse, she was actually arrested after she had already paid to renew the license!

After getting a number of threatening letters and phone calls from the city, Becky Rehr paid to renew the license for her dog, and then went to the police station to show them proof that the fee had been paid.

Instead of updating their records, officers at the Kalamazoo County sheriff's actually arrested Rehr and put her in jail because she had paid for the license after the stated deadline.

The police also left Rehr's 14-year-old daughter waiting in the car for 3 hours as her mother was being processed. “They frisked me and put me in this intake cell with all these inmates in orange jumpsuits. I was pretty nervous,” Rehr told reporters.

In Kalamazoo County, you can be jailed for up to 90 days if you fail to pay for a dog license. After the senseless arrest, the county ended up dropping the charges against her, but only because news of the arrest is exposing their tyrannical methods.

“No court and total dismissal!!!!” she said in an email to the Kalamazoo Gazette. “I don’t have to go to court and I get my bond money back. I’m free!!!!”

NYPD Destroyed Evidence Showing Cops Issued 850,000 Bogus Summonses to Meet Quotas: “The NYPD And City Lawyers Are Engaging In A ‘Stunning Pattern’ Of Evidence Destruction”

06 July 15 By Stephen Rex Brown, New York Daily News

The NYPD and city lawyers are engaging in a “stunning pattern” of evidence destruction in a high-stakes class-action case alleging cops have issued 850,000 bogus summonses due to a quota system, new documents charge.

Attorneys for the city have failed to turn over even one email from the files of former Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly or former Chief of Department Joseph Esposito regarding summons activity over the last eight years, attorney Elinor Sutton writes in new filings in Manhattan Federal Court seeking sanctions against the city.

“It is simply not tenable that Commissioner Kelly and Chief Esposito did not — in the entire period of 2007 through the present — write or receive emails using terms” related to the word “summons,” Sutton writes.

The city was unable to find any communications about summonses in the files of three other former members of NYPD brass, as well. But that’s not the only example of missing evidence, Sutton says.

Police Lt. Stevelle Brown, who is alleged to have implemented a quota in Queens’ 105th Precinct, has destroyed text messages in which he denied a cop time off for failing to meet goals for traffic summonses, Sutton charges.

She also points to an exchange from an officer identified only as Sgt. Carty, who sternly admonished a cop for failing to issue enough seatbelt summonses.

“We missed seat belt number by 30 last week unacceptable. if need be u guys will go with me 2 traffic stat 2 explain why u missed,” the text reads.

Lastly, Sutton has introduced emails from Capt. Andrew Benjamin, who laments the lack of arrests among his top overtime earners in the Bronx Task Force division.

“This has to stop it is ridiculous to have 50 + hours with only one arrest,” Benjamin wrote.

Sutton said lawyers obtained the three exchanges through whistleblowers or by other means. The city has been unable to obtain its own copies of the messages. That’s proof, Sutton writes, that the communications have been improperly destroyed.

“The spoliation of this evidence clearly demonstrates Defendants’ bad-faith, grossly negligent, or at least, negligent destruction of relevant documents,” Sutton writes.

“The (evidence) production confirms what plaintiffs feared but defendants have repeatedly denied: Defendants have destroyed evidence that is unquestionably relevant to this matter.”

To make matters worse, the NYPD has an on-the-books policy of shredding reams of documents potentially relevant to the case, Sutton’s 15-page letter charges.

“Defendants have shredded, and are continuing to shred, hard-copy documents” from CompStat meetings where crime statistics are analyzed by NYPD brass, court documents claim, citing testimony from a lieutenant who managed the CompStat unit of the Office of the Chief of Department.

Monthly activity reports in which supervisors provide written feedback on individual officers’ “enforcement activity” are also being destroyed, Sutton alleges.

As if that’s not enough, city lawyers didn’t advise the NYPD to preserve communications related to summonses until 2013 — three years after the suit was filed, Sutton says.

“Our justice system depends on the exchange of relevant evidence,” Sutton told the Daily News in a statement.

A spokeswoman for the city Law Department declined to comment.

The NYPD did not respond to a request for comment.

In a response filed last week, city attorney Qiana Smith-Williams said the alleged evidence destruction was “short on meritorious claims” and that the sides had not yet “exhausted the possibility of a settlement.”

A trial on the case before Judge Robert Sweet is expected sometime early next year.

If the plaintiffs prevail in the case, the NYPD could possibly have to overhaul the way it issues summonses.

The class includes anyone who has been issued a criminal court summons beginning in May 2007 that was tossed by a judge because it was legally insufficient — meaning the officer’s description of the alleged offense did not articulate probable cause.

An April study by John Jay College-College of Criminal Justice found that 18% of summonses between 2003 and 2013 were dismissed due to legal insufficiency.

City lawyers have argued that many of the summonses were justified though they were tossed.

“By and large, the summonses in question were dismissed because there was not enough detail concerning the alleged offense,” Smith-Williams said.

The lead plaintiff is Sharif Stinson, who in 2010 was slapped with summonses for trespassing and disorderly conduct after leaving his aunt’s Bronx apartment. Both summonses were dismissed by a judge for legal insufficiency.

The case is being closely watched as a sequel of sorts to the stop-and-frisk cases that resulted in major reforms to the NYPD and the installation of a federal monitor to oversee the department.

The dispute in the case comes after City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito’s call for more low-level offenders to be issued summonses instead of arrested. She also seeks the decriminalization of a slew of quality-of-life offenses.

She argues the move will lead to fewer young people being sent to jail.

Police Commissioner Bill Bratton said in May that he’s open to a compromise that will divert “more quality-of-life offenders from the criminal process,” such as by issuing warnings or violations under the civil administrative code instead of the criminal code.

Mentally Ill Woman Killed Inside Jail By Enemy Combatant: Fatally Tasered When “Restrained With Handcuffs Behind Her Back, Leg Shackles And A Mask When Shocked Her Four Times”

“Experts Said The Use Of A Stun Gun On A Fully Restrained Prisoner Was An Unreasonable Use Of Force, Particularly

In A Jail Setting Where A Person Is Unlikely To Flee”



Natasha McKenna. Courtesy of Natasha McKenna’s family.

April 11 By Tom Jackman and Justin Jouvenal & February 14 & February 19 By Justin Jouvenal; Washington Post

A mentally ill woman who died after a stun gun was used on her at the Fairfax County jail in February was restrained with handcuffs behind her back, leg shackles and a mask when a sheriff’s deputy shocked her four times, incident reports obtained by The Washington Post show.

Two black eyes, a badly bruised arm and a finger that had to be amputated. Those were the injuries Natasha McKenna had when she was admitted to Inova Fairfax Hospital on Feb. 3, said attorney Harvey J. Volzer.

“It takes six deputies to restrain a 5’3”, 37-year-old woman?” Harvey J. Volzer, an attorney for McKenna’s family, asked in an e-mail to The Washington Post.

He said that McKenna had been diagnosed with schizophrenia when she was 12.

“Where were persons trained to deal with prisoners with mental issues?” he asked.

Natasha McKenna initially cooperated with deputies, placed her hands through her cell door food slot and agreed to be handcuffed, the reports show.

But McKenna, whose deteriorating mental state had caused Fairfax to seek help for her, then began trying to fight her way out of the cuffs, repeatedly screaming, “You promised you wouldn’t hurt me!” the reports show.

Then, six members of the Sheriff's Emergency Response Team, dressed in white full-body biohazard suits and gas masks, arrived and placed a wildly struggling 130-pound McKenna into full restraints, their reports state.

But when McKenna wouldn't bend her knees so she could be placed into a wheeled restraint chair, a lieutenant delivered four 50,000-volt shocks from the Taser, enabling the other deputies to strap her into the chair, the reports show.

The account comes from dozens of pages of sheriff's deputy incident reports that provide the first complete account of the events leading to the death of the 37-year-old Alexandria mother that has troubled her family and local mental health advocates.

Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey Kincaid declined to comment on the case but defended the use of a stun gun on a restrained prisoner, saying it was "a means that is often useful to ensure the safety of a person" rather than using physical force to gain compliance. She said stun guns were used "occasionally" on prisoners who are already restrained.

But four law enforcement experts interviewed by The Post questioned why a Taser was used on a restrained woman, how many times she was shocked and whether handling a mentally ill person with such force was the best approach.

"They didn't need to confront her this way. They made it worse," said McKenna's mother, Marlene Williams, in the family's first interview about the case. "She was mentally sick."

Within minutes of being shocked by the Taser, McKenna stopped breathing.

The reports show that jail deputies were unable to revive her using CPR and that her heart was stopped for about 20 minutes before paramedics revived her in the ambulance en route to Inova Fairfax Hospital.

Her heart then stopped three more times over the next hour before she was stabilized, according to the sheriff's deputies' reports.

The reports show that deputies quickly placed a defibrillator on McKenna, but three times the machine advised "Do Not Shock," which it will do when a heart has completely stopped, experts said, because an electric shock will not restart the heart.

"This is a tragedy," Kincaid said, adding that she planned to meet with McKenna's family when the investigation is done. She said she was "disappointed that someone chose to release internal documents prior to the completion of the criminal investigation" and that she wanted the full information about the case to be released.

Fairfax police are awaiting results of the autopsy and a finding on cause of death by the state medical examiner before presenting the case to Fairfax Commonwealth's Attorney Raymond F. Morrogh. Morrogh will ultimately rule on whether criminal charges are warranted. Morrogh declined to comment on the deputies' reports.

Numerous experts said the use of a stun gun on a fully restrained prisoner was an unreasonable use of force, particularly in a jail setting where a person is unlikely to flee.

They also said Tasers are not recommended for use on the mentally ill, that even the Taser manufacturer warns against using them on people in a state of “excited delirium,” and that using a stun gun more than three times is thought to be above the threshold for use on a single person.

“She wasn’t a threat; she wasn’t going anywhere; she was restrained,” said Richard Lichten, a use-of-force expert and former jail official in Los Angeles. “It feels excessive, unnecessary and out of policy, based on what you’re telling me.”

MILITARY NEWS

Army Announces Force Reduction Of 40,000 Troops “There Will Be Many Forced Separations As Part Of The Cuts” “Today's Announcement May Not Be The Last”

July 9, 2015 By Jamie Crawford, National Security Producer; CNN

Washington - The Army will cut 40,000 troops from its ranks by 2017 as part of a new round of reductions brought on by constraints in the federal budget, the Army's director of force management said Thursday.

“Unfortunately under sequestration under sequestration and automatic budget cuts, today's announcement may not be the last,” Brigadier General Randy George told reporters about the current fiscal environment that will reduce the Army's ranks from its current state of 490,000 soldiers to 450,000.

If automatic budget cuts known as sequestration take place later this year, the Army says it would have to likely reduce its ranks by an additional 30,000 soldiers beyond the numbers announced Thursday, potentially crippling its ability to fight.

“The resulting force would be incapable of simultaneously meeting current deployment requirements, and responding to overseas contingency requirements of the combatant commands,” George said.

Reductions would affect nearly every installation in the force and will also include cutting approximately 17,000 civilian employees from the Army's payroll.

Many of the civilian cuts will come through the 25 percent cut across all of the Army headquarters, though the force does not expect to have greater specificity on those cuts for an additional sixty to ninety days.

And while the Army says some of the reductions will come through attrition and planned retirements, there will be many forced separations as part of the cuts.

The largest single unit cuts will impact installations like Fort Benning in Georgia, Fort Hood in Texas and Joint Base Elmendorf in Alaska.

Brigade Combat Team units at both Fort Benning and Joint Base Elmendorf which each currently number approximately 4,000 would be reduced to infantry battalion task forces numbering just over one thousand in each unit.

There will also be cuts to enabler forces like logistics, signal corps and military police units across the entire Army.

“It’s hard to justify the force size we had at the peak of Iraq and Afghanistan given the deployments and commitments that we have today,” said Todd Harrison with the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments.

“When you cut four or five thousand people from a particular base, that also means there’s going to be fewer people working at the grocery stores, fewer teachers at the school, and so the economic impacts will expand out from the base.”

With a peak force of 570,000 troops following the 9/11 attacks, the resulting 450,000 troops will represent a drop of 120,000 troops since 2012 or 21 percent of the force.

George W. Bush Charged \$100,000 To Help US Veterans Charity “For U.S. Military Veterans Severely Wounded In Iraq And Afghanistan” “One Of The Wounded Vets Who Served On The Charity’s Board Told ABC News He Was Outraged”

[Thanks to Sandy Kelson, Veteran & Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

Jul 8, 2015 By MEGAN CHUCHMACH and BRIAN ROSS, ABC News Chief Investigative Correspondent

Former President George W. Bush charged \$100,000 to speak at a charity fundraiser for U.S. military veterans severely wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan, and former First Lady Laura Bush collected \$50,000 to appear a year earlier, officials of the Texas-based Helping a Hero charity confirmed to ABC News.

The former President was also provided with a private jet to travel to Houston at a cost of \$20,000, the officials said.

The charity, which helps to provide specially-adapted homes for veterans who lost limbs and suffered other severe injuries in “the war on terror in Iraq and Afghanistan,” said the total \$170,000 expenditure was justified because the former President and First Lady offered discounted fees and helped raise record amounts in contributions at galas held in 2011 and 2012.

“It was great because he reduced his normal fee of \$250,000 down to \$100,000,” said Meredith Iler, the former chairman of the charity.

However, a recent report by Politico said the former President’s fees typically ranged between \$100,000 and \$175,000 during those years.

One of the wounded vets who served on the charity’s board told ABC News he was outraged that his former commander in chief would charge any fee to speak on behalf of men and women he ordered into harm's way.

“For him to be paid to raise money for veterans that were wounded in combat under his orders, I don’t think that’s right,” said former Marine Eddie Wright, who lost both hands in a rocket attack in Fallujah, Iraq in 2004.

“You sent me to war,” added Wright speaking of the former President. “I was doing what you told me to do, gladly for you and our country and I have no regrets. But it’s kind of a slap in the face.”

A spokesperson for former President Bill Clinton said he “has never received” a speaking fee for addressing a veterans’ group.

A spokesperson for former President Bush’s father, George Herbert Walker Bush, said it has been several years since the elder Bush had given a speech, but said that he did not recall a fee being requested for charity events. On a “handful of occasions” Bush Sr.’s appearance may have been underwritten to cover costs for the charities, spokesman Jim McGrath said. H.W. Bush reportedly appeared at a Helping a Hero event in 2008.

Former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates was the featured speaker at last year’s Helping a Hero charity fundraiser and did not charge a fee. A representative for former President Jimmy Carter said he does not have a specific policy but often donates his honoraria to the Carter Center.

A lawyer for Helping a Hero, Christopher Tritico, said he could not answer why former President George W. Bush did not speak for free.

In Ramadi, The Islamic State Settles In, Fixing Roads, Distributing Fuel And Restoring Electricity:

“Pro-Government Militias Massed On Ramadi’s Outskirts’

“The Advance Quickly Halted, And Officials Now Say They Need More Time”

“If We Go Too Fast, There Will Be Many Casualties’ Among Pro-Government Troops”

Several public works projects have been carried out in the city, including the setting up of neighborhood generators to restore power in the wake of the fighting.

Islamic State supporters have also repaired potholes and removed blast walls that had shielded government buildings but were also snarling traffic.

July 2 By Erin Cunningham, Washington Post [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD — Six weeks after routing Iraqi security forces from Ramadi, Islamic State militants have entrenched themselves in the city, repairing key infrastructure, managing local government and building up defenses to thwart any attacks.

Their efforts are likely to hamper government attempts to retake Ramadi, which lies about 80 miles west of Baghdad.

Iraqi forces and allied militias have not yet mounted a promised offensive, and the delay, residents say, has allowed the jihadists to cement their role as overlords, supervising everything from local mosques and road repairs to fuel distribution.

When the group's fighters entered the city, "they seized everyone's weapons and killed opponents," said Hisham al-Hashemi, an expert on the Islamic State and adviser to the Iraqi government.

"But now there is daily life. There is food in the markets and electricity. It's like normal.

"As long as the government operation is delayed, it will give (the militants) the opportunity to secure their positions" in Ramadi, he said.

After staging a chaotic withdrawal, the government announced an imminent operation to take back the city.

Iraqi forces and pro-government militias massed on Ramadi's outskirts. But the advance quickly halted, and officials now say they need more time.

"If we go too fast, there will be many casualties" among pro-government troops, said Karim al-Nouri, spokesman for the volunteer army known as the popular mobilization forces.

Meanwhile, the jihadists have consolidated their power there, executing government supporters and breaking Islamic State fighters out of prison. They seized empty houses, rigging some with explosives and using others as sleeping quarters for militants, residents said.

The group set up massive screens in at least one public square to broadcast footage of their military gains.

Several public works projects have been carried out in the city, including the setting up of neighborhood generators to restore power in the wake of the fighting.

Islamic State supporters have also repaired potholes and removed blast walls that had shielded government buildings but were also snarling traffic.

The morning after Ramadi fell, the Islamic State issued a call for all employees of the local hospital to return to work and adhere to their normal schedules, although it is unclear whether the hospital has reopened.

The group then distributed fliers throughout the city and online, ordering workers from the Ramadi gas plant to report to the factory at 9 each morning.

"It's pretty important to them to have a functioning administration and to have vital infrastructure working," Tamimi said.

Such efforts have indeed restored services, sent people back to work and in some cases won the loyalty of locals otherwise opposed to the group, residents say.

"They are acting like the permanent government here," a local man said of the Islamic State. "So of course people have joined them. They have the upper hand." He also spoke on the condition of anonymity out of fear for his safety.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



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.

U.S. Army's Vice Chief Says "Iraqi Military Leadership Is Plagued By Cronyism And Tribalism"
"There Has Been A Consistent Trend That It Is Not About Performance-Based Selection"

“U.S. Troops Are Encountering The Problem ‘At All Levels, But It’s Particularly Challenging At The Battalion, Brigade, Division Level’”

July 6, 2015 By Joe Gould, Army Times [Excerpts]

U.S. troops training and advising Iraqi forces to combat the Islamic State are finding the Iraqi military leadership is plagued by cronyism and tribalism, according to the U.S. Army’s vice chief.

In contrast with the U.S. military’s “extraordinary work developing the Iraqi security force,” before its withdrawal 3 1/2 years ago, Gen. Daniel Allyn said, “What happened afterwards is a case study in the impact of not focusing on having the right leaders to sustain the training and readiness of the formation that (had) been properly trained and developed.”

“While there has been some early signs, where leaders have been replaced,” Allyn said June 25, “that has to be an enduring commitment and it has to be representative of the country from which those leaders are selected, and that’s the test that I think faces the country of Iraq and certainly an area of focus for (Central Command chief) Gen. (Lloyd) Austin, and Central Command.”

Of Iraqi military leadership, Allyn said, “There has been a consistent trend that it is not about performance-based selection. And there’s cronyism involved, there’s tribalism involved, there’s a number of factors that ought not be influencing, you know, putting the best leader qualified to provide the leadership to a particular mission.”

U.S. troops are encountering the problem, “at all levels, but it’s particularly challenging at the battalion, brigade, division level,” Allyn said, adding: “While the U.S. is sustaining a training regimen, and gaining and sustaining the trust of soldiers, that’s got to be something that’s a critical focus for Iraq’s leadership.”

Allyn, who made the remarks to an Army Times editorial board at the Pentagon, joins the chorus of U.S. officials who have said the fight against the Islamic State, also known as ISIL, hinges on Iraq’s commitment to it. More important than the U.S. training effort is “the commitment of the nation of Iraq to put the right leaders in place to lead those forces,” he said.

In mid-June, President Obama authorized the deployment of up to 450 more U.S. troops to help the Iraqis combat the Islamic State group, increasing U.S. personnel in Iraq to 3,550.

Though the U.S. has been increasing its presence in Iraq incrementally, Allyn hinted at the size of the task at hand.

“It’s been said many times that this is a decade-long campaign and not a day-by-day, week-by-week, month-by-month issue.”

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

All our lives we fought against exalting the individual, against the elevation of the single person, and long ago we were over and done with the business of a hero, and here it comes up again: the glorification of the personality. .This is not good at all. I am just like everybody else.”

-- V. I. Lenin

Greece

Comment: T

[From Military Resistance Newsletter July 9, 2015]

The referendum was merely Act 1.

The EU leadership and much of the foreign left appear clueless as to what it means that the polarization of Greek society is gathering momentum.

The Greek working class stood up, came on stage, and carried the vote, along with help from small farmers and shopkeepers in regions outside the urban centers. Having felt and seen their own power, they will not easily be stuffed back into passivity. Too late for that. They are now beginning to act for themselves.

The Greek capitalist class, backed by the EU, united in opposition to a No vote.

If the Syriza regime now tries to force an acceptance of more poverty and misery, by agreeing to some new EU austerity plan, in defiance of the vote, and the mobilized class that won it, there will be a demonstration of how an aroused working class takes a fight away from parliament and into the streets and workplaces. And into the Greek army.

Is that a certainty? Of course not. Is that a probability? For sure.

The splintering or collapse of the Syriza regime, caught now between pressure from below and pressure from above, and/or the collapse of Greek economic relations in the financial sphere, will tend to move events in the same direction, whether or not some new EU plan is accepted by the regime.

That is what the left has described in the past as a pre-revolutionary situation, although it would appear that few have a clue now about the direction in which events are tending.

Should the Greek general staff, some of whom have political ties to the neo-Nazi Golden Dawn party, attempt a military solution, they will bring on revolutionary class warfare. What Greek soldiers do then will be decisive.

Hopefully, there are forces in Greece who do see the material reality of what is before their eyes, and are preparing accordingly, inside and outside of the Greek armed forces.

PS 7.11.15: The naked about face of the Syriza regime is also a huge step forward towards killing illusions that leftish reformist parties like Syriza, or Podemos, have anything to offer Europe's working classes, other than more misery and disaster, and the political neutering of tendencies who choose to walk into those swamps.

That is an important clarification. Hopefully, lesson learned.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

London Subways Shut Down In Mass Strike 'For Workplace Justice'

July 09, 2015 by Nadia Prupis, staff writer; Common Dreams

Transit workers in London have staged what is said to be the largest walkout on the city's "Tube" system since 2002, with tens of thousands of workers launching a strike on Wednesday that forced a 24-hour shutdown of the entire London Underground (LU) network.

Union leaders saluted the workers who walked off the job to demand increased pay and better working conditions after LU managers announced that trains would start running 24-hour services starting September 12. Labor leaders say the LU "failed to meaningfully negotiate or consult with the recognized trades unions for months," according to a statement on the Transport Salaried Staffs Association (TSSA) website.

TSSA lists the workers' reasons for taking action:

"Safety concerns about Night Tube: LU is seeking to introduce Night Tube without meaningful consultation on key aspects of Health & Safety, putting both staff and passengers at risk.

"Ticket office closures and staff cuts: these continue and LU has not complied with previous agreements.

"Payments for night-working: LU has offered only one-off non-pensionable payments in return for staff implementing and delivering Night Tube and increased night working - for the rest of their working lives in LU.

"Significant changes to working practices: LU is disregarding existing agreements and working arrangements, and seeking to make changes without meaningful negotiation."

Mick Cash, secretary general of the Rail, Maritime, and Transport (RMT) union, another one of the groups involved in the negotiations, said on Thursday, "RMT congratulates the 20,000 members of all four tube unions who have stood united, solid and determined today and who have shown the world that you can stand and fight for workplace justice if you are organized and strong. They are a credit to the entire trade union movement."

Also involved in the negotiations are ASLEF and Unite.

According to the Guardian, LU Managers presented a "final" offer to the unions on Thursday, "including an average 2% rise this year, at least retail prices index (RPI) inflation for each of the next two years and 2,000 for drivers on the new service," but that bid was rejected.

Cash said, “Despite strenuous efforts by union negotiators to press London Underground to address the issues of fairness, safety, work/life balance and equality at the heart of this dispute, they have come up with nothing in the talks.”

Comments by labor leaders suggested that further action by workers is not out of the question. Negotiations are set to continue in September.

Finn Brennan, LU organizer for ASLEF, said on Thursday:

“The responsibility for this strike and the disruption that it will cause rests squarely with London Underground management.

“They squandered the window of opportunity to resolve this dispute by refusing to move their position in the slightest for three months and then demanding that all four trade unions accept an offer in one afternoon.

“We will be ready to return to the negotiating table on Friday morning to ensure that further action can be avoided.”

Wednesday's walkout coincided with a separate 48-hour strike by workers of First Great Western, a train company which operates between Central London and outer suburbs.

The shutdowns sent swarms of commuters into the streets to find alternative routes home, from overcrowded buses to the last bike-share rental. The Guardian reports:

“Commuters face a hellish trip into work after a 24-hour walkout, which started last night, forced the whole of the London Underground network to close for the first time since 2002.

“Vintage buses have been dusted off, but the extra bus services are packed, and Boris bikes are in short supply.

“Business groups said the strike will cost the capital's economy tens of millions of pounds.”

On Twitter, reactions are being charted under the hashtag #TubeStrikes.

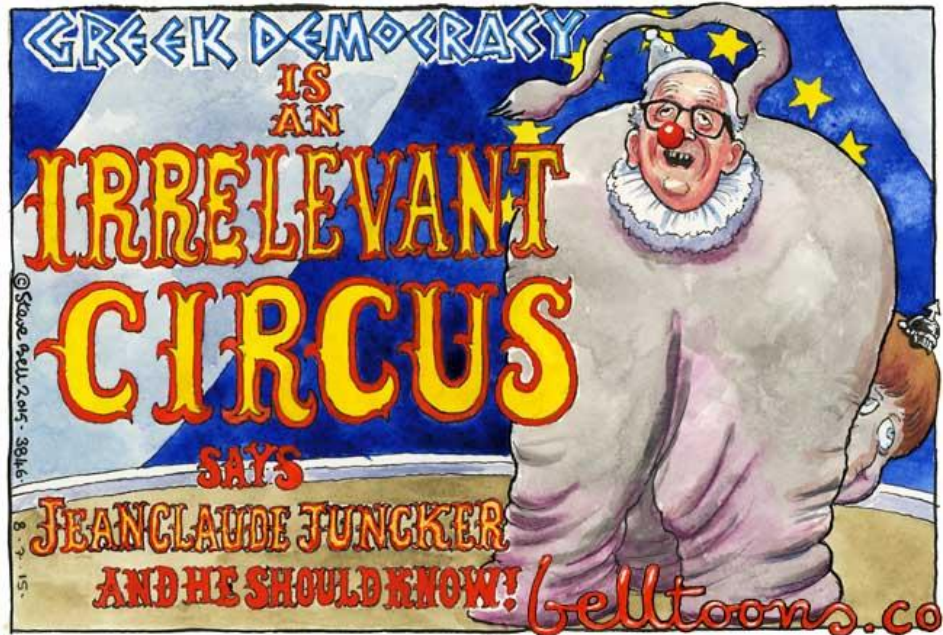
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DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



OCCUPATION PALESTINE

“Death to Arabs”

Zionist Settlers Spray Racist Slogans On Mosque In Occupied Jerusalem



26-6-2015 PIC

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM -- Israeli extremist settler groups sprayed racist slogans on a mosque in occupied Jerusalem on Friday.

The slogans “Death to Arabs” and “Price Tag” were found outside Shouman mosque in Beit Hanina to the north of the city, local sources said.

Numerous arson and graffiti attacks were carried out in the past against Christian and Islamic holy sites in the West Bank and occupied Jerusalem under the “price tag” slogan.

The term “price tag” is used to describe vandalism or attacks carried out by Jewish fanatic settlers against Palestinians and their property.

The Israeli police usually say that they will carry out investigations when these attacks take place.

To date, however, not a single settler has ever been prosecuted for such serious crimes.

Israeli Colonel Killed Unarmed Palestinian Teen As He Ran Away: “Israeli Human Rights Group B’Tselem Condemned In June Israel’s Continued Use Of Live Ammunition To Kill And Injure Unarmed Palestinians”



Muhammad al-Kasbeh (DCI-Palestine)

9 July 2015 by Ali Abunimah, electronicIntifada.net

An Israeli colonel shot dead a Palestinian teenager last Friday, apparently as he ran away, investigations by two human rights organizations have concluded.

Muhammad Sami Ali al-Kasbeh, a 17-year-old resident of Qalandiya refugee camp, was killed near Qalandiya checkpoint in the occupied West Bank at about 6:30 am that morning.

According to Defence for Children International–Palestine (DCI-Palestine), Muhammad was among a group of Palestinians who were prevented by Israeli forces from entering occupied Jerusalem to join Ramadan prayers at the city's al-Aqsa mosque.

A short time later, an Israeli military vehicle passed through the area and Muhammad threw a stone at it and ran away, human rights group Al-Haq reports in its own investigation.

Two Israeli soldiers then stepped out of the vehicle, one, Colonel Yisrael Shomer, opening fire on Muhammad. Muhammad was hit by at least three bullets in the back, face and upper side of his torso.

Israel has claimed that the shooting was justified because the soldiers' lives were in "danger."

But Al-Haq says the evidence indicates that the gunman "arbitrarily shot and killed Muhammad, who posed no threat to the Israeli soldiers' lives at the time of the shooting."

There were no confrontations or demonstrations taking place in the vicinity at the time, eyewitnesses told Al-Haq.

The fact that Muhammad was shot in the upper part of his body from a distance of about 20 meters indicates "an intent to kill," Al-Haq adds. It says that the gunman "approached Muhammad's body after he had fallen on the ground, looked at it, and then returned to the military vehicle without providing any assistance."

"The multiple gunshots that struck the teen in the face and upper part of his body at close distance suggest the military commander had fired to kill rather than subdue him," DCI-Palestine's accountability program director Ayed Abu Eqtaish stated, adding that the killing showed "a complete disregard for human life."

Al-Haq also challenges Israeli claims that the Israeli soldiers issued a verbal warning and fired warning shots and says the Israeli timeline of the incident is not credible.

"One eyewitness stated that a single bullet was fired in the air, however no other witnesses corroborated the Israeli claim that a verbal warning was issued," Al-Haq states.

"Muhammad's death was a shock for my wife and me," Muhammad's father Sami told DCI-Palestine. "My wife is still in denial and I am trying my best to support her, but I feel helpless."

Muhammad was the third boy in his family to be killed by Israeli occupation forces. His two older brothers Yasser and Samer, then aged respectively 11 and 15, died fewer than 40 days apart during the second intifada.

DCI-Palestine notes that the presence of Israeli soldiers at many heavily militarized Israeli checkpoints throughout the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, “creates tension and leads to clashes between civilians and the military.”

In April, occupation forces shot dead 17-year-old Ali Abu Ghannam at a checkpoint in Jerusalem’s al-Tur neighborhood.

In that case, as in virtually every other case, the perpetrators of these killings enjoy complete legal impunity as well as broad endorsement for their actions within Israeli society.

Separately, Israeli human rights group B’Tselem condemned in June Israel’s continued use of live ammunition to kill and injure unarmed Palestinians.

The group says it “has documented dozens of cases in the Ramallah area of the West Bank in which Palestinians were injured, some severely, by live ammunition fired by Israeli security forces.”

The shootings often occurred during demonstrations.

The group says that “the large number of persons injured and the types of injury, indicates that live ammunition was used against demonstrators even when security forces were not in mortal danger.”

B’Tselem states that some of the rifles occupation forces use to fire so-called “Two Two,” or .22 caliber, bullets are fitted with sound suppressors.

“Therefore, when a sniper aims a rifle at demonstrators and a person then sustains a live-bullet injury although no gunshot was heard, it is clear the ammunition was Two-Two bullets.”

In March, an Israeli sniper killed 20-year-old Ali Mahmoud Abd al-Rahman Safi in the West Bank’s Jalazone refugee camp using this type of bullet, B’Tselem states.

The frequency of such shootings, B’Tselem adds, shows that it is “not a matter of exceptional incidents but rather the implementation of an unlawful policy.”

Last month, The Electronic Intifada’s Charlotte Silver reported from Gaza that Israeli occupation forces shot across the boundary fence at four boys out for an evening stroll. Two were hit in the legs and one was critically injured.

One of the boys, Muhammad Sami Abu Reda, 17, said he never heard the gunshots, but just saw his friends suddenly fall to the ground. This may be an indication that the same type of bullets Israel is shooting at Palestinians in the West Bank are also being used during Israel’s near-daily ceasefire violations in Gaza.

Occupation Regime Sentences Palestinian To Year In Prison For Facebook “Incitement”

July 09, 2015 by IMEMC News & Agencies

An Israeli court in Jerusalem, Thursday, sentenced a Palestinian man to 18 months in prison over allegedly using the social media website Facebook as a mode of “incitement.”

Misbah Sbeih Abu Sbeih, 38, was given a one year sentence as well as a six month suspended sentence for incitement, and his phone was confiscated as the tool used for the crime, according to head of the Jerusalem detainees families committee Amjad Abu Asab. Abu Sbeih was detained by Israeli forces on Jan. 12, 2015, during a court hearing for his son Ezzedin.

His sentencing comes as Palestinians are regularly detained by Israeli forces for posting on Facebook. On June 30, Israeli forces rearrested Tareq Qurd, 21, from his home in occupied East Jerusalem hours after he was released following a six-month detention for similar charges.

Qurd was one of eight Palestinians convicted of “incitement via Facebook” in December last year. Their indictment said that Israeli intelligence had monitored the men's Facebook postings since June 2014, after three Israeli settlers were kidnapped and killed in the occupied West Bank.

The intelligence said that their online comments had raised tensions across Jerusalem and encouraged acts of “terrorism.”

They cited in particular postings on the murder of 16-year-old Muhammad Abu Khdeir, who was kidnapped and killed by a group of Jewish extremists in July, as well as on a spate of Palestinian attacks on Israeli military and civilians that mostly took place in occupied East Jerusalem.

Israelis on social media routinely and openly incite violence against Palestinians, especially during heightened periods of tensions such as last summer's military offensive on Gaza, but none have yet faced prosecution.

In recent months, the Palestinian Authority has also arrested Palestinians over postings on Facebook that have been critical of the PA and the Palestinian security services.

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

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

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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