

Military Resistance 13G8



AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

“The U.S. Military Continued To Build A \$14.7 Million Warehouse After It Knew It Wasn’t Needed”
“The New Military Warehouse Facility In Kandahar Was Well Built”
“There Was, However, One Glaring Problem: No One Was Around To Use The Gleaming, \$14.7 Million Complex”

24 July 15 By Megan McCloskey, ProPublica [Excerpts]

In its latest report, the inspector general found that the U.S. military continued to build a \$14.7 million warehouse after it knew it wasn’t needed, echoing an earlier investigation into an unused \$25 million HQ.

Unlike many buildings commissioned by the U.S. in Afghanistan, the new military warehouse facility in Kandahar was well built, an inspector general investigation concluded.

There was, however, one glaring problem: no one was around to use the gleaming, \$14.7 million complex.



The U.S. military continued to build a \$14.7 million warehouse after it knew it wasn't needed, echoing an earlier investigation into an unused \$25 million headquarters. (photo: SIGAR)

The four warehouses and an administration building were empty, because the intended occupants, the Defense Logistics Agency, had already ended their mission in Kandahar.

The Army had decided to send DLA home in August 2013, six months before the warehouses were completed.

The project, however, “continued uninterrupted,” without any attempts to reevaluate or downsize it, according to a report by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, or SIGAR.

Instead, the military added \$400,000 of modifications to the buildings — knowing DLA would never use it, SIGAR wrote in a report released today.

In the end, the facility finished two years behind schedule and cost \$1.2 million more than anticipated.

ProPublica previously reported on the \$25 million, 64,000-square-foot headquarters built for the U.S. Marines in Helmand province. That building, tricked out with luxe modifications, went unused for similar reasons, but the military has nonetheless deemed its construction “prudent.” The military declined to discipline anyone involved with what came to be called “64K.”

This type of wasteful spending and the military's seeming nonchalance about it came up this month as part of Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford's confirmation as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the top position in the military. Dunford, while in charge of Afghanistan operations in 2013, ordered and signed off on an investigation into the 64K

building that SIGAR said was shallow, flawed and remiss in not holding anyone accountable.

Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., asked Dunford in writing whether, given SIGAR's findings, he is "concerned that the investigation into this matter was inadequate."

Dunford must respond to written questions from McCaskill and the rest of the Senate Armed Services Committee before his confirmation is approved.

Meanwhile, by December, the Kandahar warehouse complex will be turned over to the Afghan government with air conditioning and fire suppression systems that, like 64K, are too sophisticated for them to use.

And it's unclear whether the Afghans want or have the money to make use of it.

POLICE WAR REPORTS

Deputy Lied About Drugs To Obtain Warrant Leading To SWAT Raid That Severely Injured Infant



Alecia and Boun Khan Phonesavanh, center left and right, the parents of 19-month-old Bounkham Phonesavanh who was severely burned by a flash grenade during a SWAT drug raid, attend a vigil with their daughters outside Grady Memorial Hospital where he is undergoing treatment, Monday, June 2, 2014, in Atlanta. (AP/David Goldman)

July 24, 2015 By Matt Agorist for The Free Thought Project

Habersham County, GA — In May of last year, Bounkham “Baby Bou Bou” Phonesavanh, 19-months-old, was asleep in his crib. At 3:00 am militarized police barged into his family’s home because the sheriff’s department claimed that an informant had purchased \$50 worth of meth from someone who once lived there.

During the raid, a flash-bang grenade was thrown into the sleeping baby’s crib, exploding in his face. Baby Bou sustained severe injuries and may have brain damage.

Prior to obtaining the warrant, Nikki Autry, a Habersham County sheriff’s deputy and a special agent with the Mountain Judicial Circuit Narcotics Criminal Investigation and Suppression Team, claimed a confidential informant “was able to purchase a quantity of methamphetamine from Wanis Thonetheva at Thonetheva’s residence,” which she identified as the house where the Phonesavanh’s were staying.

Autry claimed that she “confirmed that there are several individuals outside of the residence standing ‘guard.’”

However, it has come to light that these were lies. The informant never purchased meth at the residence, and there were never armed guards out front.

In a press release on Wednesday, the US Attorney’s Office stated that Autry has been indicted for her insidious role in the horrifying raid.

According to the report, Autry has been indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of providing false information in a search warrant affidavit and providing the same false information to obtain an arrest warrant. Providing false evidence to a judge to obtain a warrant is a federal civil rights violation.

“Our criminal justice system depends upon our police officers’ sworn duty to present facts truthfully and accurately—there is no arrest that is worth selling out the integrity of our law enforcement officers,” said Acting U.S. Attorney John Horn.

“In this case, Autry is charged with making false statements to a judge in order to obtain search and arrest warrants. Without her false statements, there was no probable cause to search the premises for drugs or to make the arrest. And in this case, the consequences of the unlawful search were tragic,” Horn continued.

According to the report:

“The federal indictment alleges that Autry knew the NCIS informant had not purchased any methamphetamine from anyone at the residence and the NCIS informant had not proven himself to be reliable in the past.

“Additionally, the indictment alleges that Autry had not confirmed that there was heavy traffic in and out of the residence. Based on this false information, the magistrate judge issued a ‘no-knock’ search warrant for the residence and an arrest warrant for W. T., who allegedly sold the methamphetamine. The warrant obtained by Autry was executed approximately two hours later, during the early morning hours of May 28, 2014.”

What made this woman lie about drugs being at this residence is unknown. What kind of vile person would make up fake information to send officers barging into a family's home in the middle of the night?

Despite the fact that Habersham county jurors in the local case found the warrant to have been obtained in a “hurried and sloppy” manner, lawyers for the sheriff and the other officers denied that “false and misleading information was used in the search warrant application.”

This is also in spite of the fact that no drugs were found during the raid.

No one was charged by the local grand jury, but, fortunately, federal prosecutors launched their own investigation in October.

It is bad enough that a baby had his face blown apart by cops attempting to stop someone from selling an arbitrary substance to willing customers.

However, seeing that a federal grand jury indicted one of the deputies for falsely obtaining the warrant in the first place, makes the raid nothing more than an armed home invasion, in which thugs in militarized attire terrorized a family and attacked a baby.

Woman Successfully Defends Herself From Armed Attacker: She Is Shot By Police

April 21, 2015 By Cassandra Fairbanks / The Free Thought Project

South Huntsville, AL– A woman was shot by police Sunday evening after her estranged husband, against whom she had filed multiple protection orders, broke into her home and threatened her with a weapon.

Lisa Skinner, was at the house she shares with her mother on Sunday as Bradley Skinner, broke the glass on a back door and entered the home carrying a pistol and a large knife.

The frightened woman asked her mother to go to a neighbor's to call the police for help, and her mother set off the home security system on her way out.

Lisa previously stated 'I left in fear of becoming a victim of murder/suicide,' as she applied for a restraining order against Skinner. The order was in effect on Sunday when the break-in took place.

Aiming to defend her life, Lisa Skinner, 52, armed herself with a shotgun and moved to the garage. Bradley, 59, who had been ordered to undergo a psychiatric evaluation as

part of their divorce, followed her and allegedly aimed his pistol at her. That is when Lisa Skinner shot the man in his chest.

As the shots rang out, the police were arriving on the scene and saw Lisa Skinner holding the shotgun in the garage as the home alarm went off.

The scene was imaginably quite hectic as the police ordered her to drop her weapon. Innocently, the woman began to turn towards the people she believed were there to help her, and at least one officer opened fire.

It is currently unclear how many times Lisa Skinner was shot, or how many officers fired their weapons. Luckily her injuries are reportedly non-life threatening. Her husband has undergone surgery and remains hospitalized in critical condition, WHNT reported.

Unfortunately, this is not the first time a woman has been treated like a criminal for defending herself against an abusive former spouse.

In May of 2012, Marissa Alexander received a 20-year sentence for firing a warning shot after her abusive estranged husband. She fired the shot when he strangled her and attempted to kill her nine days after she had given birth to their child, who was present in the home. Citing self-defense, and considering nobody was harmed, she refused a plea deal and went to trial.

Her attorney filed a motion for immunity citing Florida's Stand Your Ground Law, the law that kept George Zimmerman out of prison for actually murdering someone, yet the judge rejected the motion in a case of an abused woman defending herself.

After serving three years in jail, her conviction was thrown out. Alexander ultimately took a plea deal allowing her to go home on house arrest and be with her family before her second trial was set to begin.

Police arrive in time to stop a violent crime roughly 5% of the time. If we cannot count on police to defend us in a time of great danger, and we can't defend ourselves without risk of being shot or sent to prison, what options do we really have?

Man Killed By Officer Was Unarmed: “O’Keefe Declined To Talk About What Exactly Compelled The Officer To Fire A Shot”

03/09/2015 By Kieran Nicholson and Jesse Paul, The Denver Post

A man fatally shot by Aurora police last week was a parole absconder with a violent history, but he was unarmed at the time, authorities said Monday.

The 37-year-old black man, identified by the coroner's office as Naeschylus Vinzant, had removed a Department of Corrections ankle monitor on March 2, police Cmdr. Paul O'Keefe said at a news conference.



Naeschylus Vinzant (Aurora Police Dept.)

The man was shot once in the chest at about 1:15 p.m. on Friday.

The officer who fired the shot has been placed on administrative leave, O'Keefe said. The officer has retained an attorney and is in the process of being interviewed by investigators.

The shooting happened on the 16200 block of East 12th Avenue roughly a block from Laredo Elementary School.

Police say Vinzant was on foot and that he was shot as officers tried to arrest him. Vinzant was wanted in connection with an alleged domestic violence incident, which included kidnapping, robbery, and assault, according to investigators.

A fugitive unit and SWAT members encountered him on Friday, O'Keefe said.

O'Keefe declined to talk about what exactly compelled the officer to fire a shot, citing the ongoing investigation. But he said no weapon was found.

Aurora's new police chief, Nicholas Metz, said investigators want to be careful before releasing further details about the shooting.

"Police actions are going to be questioned to a much greater degree" in the aftermath of several high-profile fatal police shootings around the country, Metz said.

Aurora police want to be "transparent" and release "as much information as possible," Metz said, but they are being methodical so as to "not jeopardize the case."

The Jefferson County district attorney's office will review the shooting.

The Arapahoe County DA's office, which would have typically handled the case, has a "conflict of interest," said Arapahoe County District Attorney George Brauchler. He did not say what the conflict is.

Authorities have not discussed the circumstances of the alleged robbery and kidnapping, including any description of a possible victim or where that crime occurred.

Vinzant absconded from his parole on March 2, according to Adrienne Jacobson, a spokeswoman for the Colorado Department of Corrections.

He had been out on parole since November, she said. Jacobson declined to release further information on his DOC record.

Colorado Bureau of Investigation records show Vinzant had an extensive criminal history dating to 1994 that included arrests on suspicion of carrying a concealed weapon, attempted homicide, first-degree assault, being a previous offender in possession of a weapon and felony menacing.

Vinzant had been arrested in Colorado more than a dozen times since his criminal record began in the state 21 years ago. Those arrests were made by authorities in Denver, Aurora and Arapahoe counties.

CBI records show Vinzant went by the nickname "Tiny Loko" and 29 other aliases. The records say his latest arrest was last August in Aurora in a domestic violence case on suspicion of assault, theft and a parole violation.

MILITARY NEWS

**Three Admirals Linked To Bribery
Scandal Forced Out Of Navy:
They “Enjoyed Fancy Dinners And
Cigars, Sightseeing Trips, Shopping
Binges And High-Value Hotel
Accommodations”
“Miller, Kraft And Pimpo Have Not Been
Criminally Charged”**

July 21, 2015 By Tony Perry, Los Angeles Times

Three Navy admirals forced into retirement after being linked to a bribery scandal had enjoyed fancy dinners and cigars, sightseeing trips, shopping binges and high-value hotel accommodations from the key figure in the case: colorful Singaporean businessman Leonard Glenn Francis.

The censure letters meted out by Navy Secretary Ray Mabus were announced in February, along with the retirement of the three admirals: Vice Adm. Michael Miller, Rear Adm. Terry Kraft and Rear Adm. David Pimpo.

But the details behind what Mabus called “poor judgment and a failure of leadership” were not known until news stories were published this weekend based on redacted documents received through the Freedom of Information Act.

“You used your relationship with Mr. Francis to secure tour services and hotel rooms for you” and other senior officers, Mabus wrote in a letter of censure to Pimpo, who was demoted to captain.

“Given the frequency of the gifts which you received from Mr. Francis,” Mabus wrote, “your actions would have led a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts to believe that you used your public office for private gain.

Miller, Kraft and Pimpo have not been criminally charged in the case involving Francis’ firm, Glenn Defense Marine Asia, which for two decades supplied services to U.S. Navy ships at ports in Asia and the Pacific.

Federal prosecutors assert that Francis, through bribes given to military personnel, cost taxpayers \$20 million in overcharges and charges for services that were not rendered.

Francis has pleaded guilty to bribery and awaits sentencing in San Diego federal court. He has admitted providing more than \$500,000 in cash to several co-defendants, as well as hundreds of thousands of dollars in gifts.

In his censure letter to Miller, Mabus noted that the cost of dinner parties thrown by Francis in Hong Kong and Malaysia for Miller and other officers was \$23,061, “which equates to \$768.72 per person.” But many officers, including Miller, paid only \$50 each.

Mabus added, “You knew or should have known that \$50 per person was not the market value for these extravagant dinner parties.”

Miller, Kraft and Pimpo were assigned leadership positions to the aircraft carrier Ronald Reagan in the western Pacific and Persian Gulf when the inappropriate behavior allegedly occurred in 2006 and 2007. Miller was commander of Carrier Strike Group 7; Kraft was commander of the Reagan; and Pimpo was the supply officer on the Reagan.

Later, all three went on to positions of even greater authority: Pimpo became commander of Naval Supply System Command, Weapons System Support; Miller became superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy; and Kraft was commander of U.S. Naval Forces in Japan.

Among those expenses provided at cut-rate prices were hotel suites in Hong Kong and lavish meals in Hong Kong and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Eight people have pleaded guilty: Francis, a Navy captain, a commander, a lieutenant commander, a retired lieutenant commander, an enlisted sailor, an ex-Naval Criminal Investigative Service agent, and a cousin of Francis who worked for his company. All await sentencing. Francis and his cousin remain in custody.

A second commander and a former high-ranking Navy civilian have pleaded not guilty and are awaiting trial.

The cost of parties that Francis threw for Navy officers was included in the padded bills that he submitted, prosecutors said.

In exchange for bribes of money, first-class air and hotel reservations, and the services of prostitutes, the U.S. military and civilian employees charged in the case leaked to Francis classified information about the movement of ships, according to court documents.

Inside information allowed Francis' firm to gain a competitive advantage over others bidding to provide lucrative "husbanding" services when the ships pulled into port, prosecutors said.

In some cases, according to prosecutors, the destination of ships, including the flagship of the Navy's 7th Fleet, based in Japan, was changed to places where Francis' firm was stronger.

For two decades, Francis' firm supplied water, fuel, food, garbage and waste removal, tugboats, fenders and other items for Navy ships in Asia-Pacific ports. Amid the scandal, the Navy has canceled all contracts with the firm.

YOUR INVITATION:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome.

Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or email contact@militaryproject.org:

Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication.

Same address to unsubscribe.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.

“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.

“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

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

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

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

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

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

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

“What Are, Generally Speaking, The Characteristics Of A Revolutionary Situation?”

Comment: T

Whatever you may think of the politics of this writer, he was rather skilled at figuring out when a revolutionary situation was present:

He describes the essential ingredients:

- 1. A ruling class split and at war within itself about what to do: “a crack through which the dissatisfaction and the revolt of the oppressed classes burst forth”**
- 2. An economic crisis hammering the working class**
- 3. A war that breaks the passivity of “peacetime” politics.**
- 4. He might have added, had this been written later, a ruling class so blind and stupid it can’t conceive of a whole population rising in revolution against it, and an army happy to join the mass movement from below.**

1915, Excerpts from Collapse Of The Second International & IMPERIALISM AND SOCIALISM IN ITALY, Kommunist, Nos. 1.2, 1915, By V. I. Ulyanov. [The writer used the pen name “Lenin” to keep the government from terrorizing his family. Excerpts]

For a Marxist there is no doubt that a revolution is impossible without a revolutionary situation; furthermore, we know that not every revolutionary situation leads to revolution.

What are, generally speaking, the characteristics of a revolutionary situation?

We can hardly be mistaken when we indicate the following three outstanding signs:

(1) it is impossible for the ruling classes to maintain their power unchanged; there is a crisis “higher up,” taking one form or another; there is a crisis in the policy of the ruling class; as a result, there appears a crack through which the dissatisfaction and the revolt of the oppressed classes burst forth.

If a revolution is to take place it is necessary that “one is incapable up above” to continue in the old way;

(2) the wants and sufferings of the oppressed classes become more acute than usual;

(3) in consequence of the above causes, there is a considerable increase in the activity of the masses who in “peace time” allow themselves to be robbed without protest, but in stormy times are drawn both by the circumstances of the crises and by the “higher-ups” themselves into independent historic action.

Without these objective changes, which are independent not only of the will of separate groups and parties but even of separate classes, a revolution, as a rule, is impossible.

The co-existence of all these objective changes is called a revolutionary situation.

This situation existed in 1905 in Russia and in all the periods of revolution in the West, but it also existed in the seventh decade of the last century in Germany; it existed in 1859, 1861 and in 1879-1880 in Russia, though there was no revolution in these latter instances.

Why?

Because a revolution emerges not out of every revolutionary situation, but out of such situations where, to the above-mentioned objective changes, subjective ones are added, namely, the ability of the revolutionary classes to carry out revolutionary mass actions strong enough to break (or to undermine) the old government, it being the rule that never, not even in a period of crises, does a government “fall” of itself without being “helped to fall.”

“Much Has Been Left In The World That Must Be Destroyed By Fire And Iron For The Liberation Of The Working Class”

Take the present army. It is one of the good examples of organisation. This organisation is good only because it is flexible; at the same time it knows how to give to millions of people one uniform will.

Today these millions are in their homes in various parts of the country. Tomorrow a call for mobilization is issued, and they gather at the appointed centres. Today they lie in the trenches, sometimes for months at a stretch; tomorrow they are led into battle in another formation.

Today they perform marvels, hiding themselves from bullets and shrapnel; tomorrow they do marvels in open combat. Today their advance detachments place mines under the ground; tomorrow they move dozens of miles according to the advice of flyers above ground.

We call it organisation when, in the pursuit of one aim, animated by one will, millions change the forms of their intercourse and their actions, change the place and the method of their activities, change the weapons and armaments in accordance with changing conditions and the vicissitudes of the struggle.

The same holds true about the fight of the working class against the bourgeoisie.

Today there is no revolutionary situation apparent; there are no such conditions as would cause a ferment among the masses or heighten their activities; today you are given an election ballot - take it.

Understand how to organise for it, to hit your enemies with it, and not to place men in soft parliamentary berths who cling to their seat in fear of prison.

Tomorrow you are deprived of the election ballot, you are given a rifle and a splendid machine gun equipped according to the last word of machine technique: take this weapon of death and destruction, do not listen to the sentimental whiners who are afraid of war.

Much has been left in the world that must be destroyed by fire and iron for the liberation of the working class.

And if bitterness and despair grow in the masses, if a revolutionary situation is at hand, prepare to organise new organisations and utilize these so useful weapons of death and destruction against your own government and your bourgeoisie. .

This is not easy, to be sure.

It will demand difficult preparatory activities. It will demand grave sacrifices.

This is a new species of organisation and struggle that one must learn, and learning is never done without errors and defeats.

The relation of this species of class struggle to participation in elections is the same as storming a fortress is to maneuvering, marching, or lying in the trenches.

This species of struggle is placed on the order of the day in history very infrequently, but, its significance and its consequences are felt for decades.

Single days when such methods can and must be put on the programme of struggle are equal to scores of years of other historic epochs.

The question has been put squarely, and one cannot fail to recognise that the European War has been of enormous use for humanity in that it actually has placed the question squarely before hundreds of millions of people of various nationalities: either defend, with, rifle or pen, directly or indirectly, in whatever form it may be, the great-nation and national privileges, in general, as well as the prerogative or the pretensions of "our" bourgeoisie, that is to say, either be its adherent and lackey, or utilize every struggle, particularly the clash of arms for great-nation privileges, to unmask and overthrow every government, in the first place our own, by means of the revolutionary action of an internationally united proletariat.

There is no middle road; in other words, the attempt to take a middle position means, in reality, covertly to join the imperialist bourgeoisie.

Charitable Soldier Installs Doors In Afghan Homes So That They Can Be Kicked Down In No-Knock Night Raids



July 24, 2015 by Joe Zieja, The Duffle Blog

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — In a new grass-roots efforts to cultivate positive U.S.-Afghan relations in the region, Army Sgt. Ted Wychowski has started reaching out to the local community by offering the free construction of front doors so that they can later have them kicked down in no-knock night raids.

“Not everything about the war on terrorism is about violence. It’s also about building communities and bridging communications gaps between two vastly different cultures,” Wychowski said as he removed the heel of his boot from one of the new doors and zip-tied a family of seven.

“I used to go on these raids all of the time and we’d just walk through burlap flaps, or, in some really bad cases, nothing at all. We’d just waltz in, and if we didn’t have any flashbangs it was almost impossible to scare anyone.”

According to sources, Wychowski began the self-funded effort just a few months ago, and has already seen incredible changes in relations with the local populace.

Materials can be scarce in the more remote regions of Kandahar province, but that hasn’t stopped the soldier from doing his self-proclaimed duty of improving the livelihoods of the local population. In some cases, Wychowski recovers doors that have already been kicked down and refinishes them so that they’re suitable to be kicked down again in another home.

“Home Depot’s shipping is pretty astronomical to this part of the world,” he said. “That’s how they get you. I gotta make use of what I have around me. Plus, recycling is good for the environment.”

Omar al-Mansour, an elder in the nearby village of Karz, is appreciative of Wychowski’s efforts.

“Having your door kicked down is kind of a rite of passage, now,” al-Mansour said, affectionately patting a hole in his own door. “Doors are rare in the outer villages, so a lot of kids never get the feeling of abject terror when a group of armed soldiers burst through theirs. It’s a shame, really.

“But with this new program, more people are getting the chance to shit their beds in the middle of the night with that first crunch of wood.”

“Holy shit, you gotta see this guy’s (enlisted evaluation report),” said Lt. Michael Valencia, Wychowski’s platoon leader. “I don’t think I’ve ever seen someone so flawlessly integrate duty and community service as Wychowski. I wish I had thought of it first.”

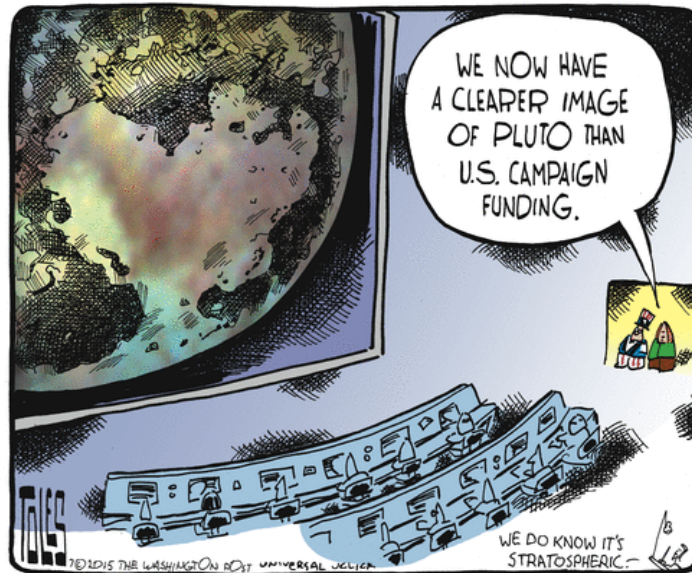
Even with his already-glowing reviews from superiors, Wychowski still has bigger plans in the works: “I’ve got a timeline in place where I can outsource the door repairs to the local villagers themselves,” he said.

“All paid for, of course. After that, I’ll have some time on my hands, so I plan on maybe starting a pet adoption system. We usually end up shooting the dogs during the raids, and there are all these stray dogs around. I’d like to give them good homes. You know, so we can shoot them later.”



“Of course you feel great. These things are loaded with antidepressants.”

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**A Traffic Jam In The Middle Of
The Desert:
“Why Did The Case Of Susiya
Evoke So Much Attention, In Israel
And Throughout The World?”
“One Can Never Know In Advance
Which Particular Case Will Become**

The Focus And Symbol Of A Struggle”

"They Want To Expel The Residents Of Susiya From Their Land!" "Susiya Is 350 People Who Hold On To The Land, Clinging And Clinging And Holding On And Not Giving Up, Because It's Their Home”



July 25, 2015 by Adam Keller, adam-keller2.blogspot.co.il/

The rendezvous was scheduled for 11:30 am, outside the Arlozorov Street Railway Station in Tel Aviv. I arrived at 11:35. "Three buses have already been filled, but don't

worry – the fourth bus will soon arrive" said the organizers' representative. "There will be a place for anyone who wants to go to the protest in Susiya."

It is long since there was such a wide response to a call for a demonstration in the wild West Bank. Among the passengers could be seen quite a few long-time activists who had however not been seen in recent years.

Why did the case of Susiya evoke so much attention, in Israel and throughout the world?

(Circulating on the bus was the current New York Times op-ed page, featuring a moving personal story of a Susiya resident).

This tiny threatened village is in every way worthy of support and solidarity - but in the past, quite a few instances of no less outrageous injustice have been perpetrated and met a virtually complete indifference and silence.

One can never know in advance which particular case will become the focus and symbol of a struggle.

Little more than an hour's drive separates the vast metropolitan Tel Aviv from the godforsaken hamlet of Susiya in the middle of the desert. First the travel is along congested intercity highways – then, through back roads which become ever more narrow and in bad repair, the further one continues to the east and south.

Somewhere, without noticing, the Green Line is crossed into the territory where there is not even a semblance of democracy, where the landscape is predominantly brown rather than green - apart from the occasional green patch of a settlement, which had the privilege of being connected to the Israeli water system.

At the end of the trip, the narrow road forks, and the sign to the right side says "Susiya" - but nevertheless, we turned to the left. The sign erected by the military authorities refers to the other Susiya – the Israeli settlement Susiya, which claims to be the continuation of a Jewish village of the same name which existed on this location during the Roman and Byzantine period. "Come and see Susiya - an ancient Jewish town" says the sign on the road we had not taken.

The Jews who lived here 1,500 years ago had lived in caves.

In the Twentieth Century, Palestinians had been living in these same caves, until in 1986 the army came to expel them and turn the caves into an archeological site managed by the settlers.

The Palestinians had to move to miserable shacks erected on what was left of their land.

Is it possible that they actually were the descendants of those who resided in those caves in the Fifth Century?

At the beginning of the Zionist Movement David Ben Gurion brought up that at least some of the Arabs in this country are descendants of Jews who lived here in the past, and who at some time were converted to Islam and started speaking Arabic. In 1918

Ben Gurion even published an entire book on this subject, in cooperation with the future President of Israel Yitzhak Ben-Zvi, including detailed historical documentation to support this theory.

But before long it became clear that, even if some of the Palestinians' ancestors had been Jewish, at present they have no interest whatsoever in being Jewish or promoting the Zionist Project. So, Ben-Gurion and his colleagues lost interest in further promoting this issue.

In the direction of Palestinian Susiya there was no road sign. For the Israeli authorities, it simply does not exist.

"The competent military authorities take the position that there had never existed an Arab village named Susiya" stated on the Knesset floor Deputy Defense Minister Eli Ben-Dahan, of the Jewish Home Party.

"Palestinian structures were built without permits on that location, and were demolished during the 1995-2001 period. Illegal construction continued, against which demolition orders were issued. In May 2015 the Supreme Court rejected a petition by the Palestinians for an interim injunction against the demolition of these structures."

There are no road signs, but it is not difficult to find Palestinian Susiya, with the Palestinian flag painted on rocks along the road.

Four buses arrived from Tel Aviv and three from Jerusalem, plus quite a few private cars, and a minor traffic jam was created in the middle of the desert. "Pay attention, it is now the hottest hour of the day, it's one of the hottest places in the country, and there is almost no shade" warns the young woman in charge of my bus.

"Please be sure, all of you, to cover your heads and take water with you. For those who have not brought it with them, we provide bottled water".

On a low ridge above the bus could already be seen a human stream winding its way towards the rally.

The concrete cover of a rainwater collection cistern has become a makeshift podium, with several loudspeakers and a Palestinian flag flying. When the group from our bus arrived, the speeches were already under way, in a mixture of Arabic, English and Hebrew.

"67 years after the Palestinian Nakba, it is still going on! They want to expel the residents of Susiya from their land! Are we going to let them do it?" cried former Palestinian Minister Mustafa Barghouti, eliciting a loud chorus of "No! No!".

"After the Apartheid regime in South Africa fell, Nelson Mandela said that the fight is not over, the next part is the Palestinian struggle. We are here, we are struggling. We will go on struggling until Palestine is free!" (Chanting in Arabic and English "Free Palestine! Free Palestine! Free, free Palestine! "

Susiya resident Nasser Nawaj'ah, a leader activist of the struggle, spoke in Hebrew to those who came from Tel Aviv and Jerusalem: "Welcome to Susiya, all of you, welcome

to Susiya, the fighting Susiya which will not give in! Our struggle is already going on for decades. In 1982, they erected the settlement of Susiya on our land. In 1986, they expelled us from the caves and turned them into an archaeological site of the settlers, then we moved to the farmland, all what was left to us. In 2001, they destroyed everything and drove us away, but we came back and set up our village again.

"You are most welcome here, we are grateful for the solidarity and support of all those who have come here. You are the other face of Israel, the face which is different from what we see of the soldiers and settlers who come to us every day. You give us hope, the hope that we can still live together, Palestinians as Israel's neighbors in peace."

He was followed by Professor Yigal Bronner, who teaches history of India at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and is a prominent activist of the Ta'ayush Movement, which is active already for many years in support of the residents of the South Hebron Hills.

"We are here in Susiya. What is Susiya? Not much. Some cisterns which the army had not filled with dirt, a few sheep which the settlers have not yet stolen, some olive trees that have not yet been cut down.

"What is Susiya? Susiya is 350 people who hold on to the land, clinging and clinging and holding on and not giving up, because it's their home."

"Quite simply, this is their home. Opposite us is the other Susiya. The Susiya which is armed and surrounded by a fence, which is connected to water and electricity and sewage and has representatives in all the corridors of power, and it wants to grab what little is left of this Susiya where we stand.

"Susiya against Susiya, this is the whole story. The Palestinian Susiya has no soldiers and no police and no representatives in the Knesset and in fact it does not have the vote. But it has us. We are here to stand with Susiya and we will not leave. We will do everything we can to be here and prevent the destruction. And if does take place, we will be here the next morning to rebuild, together with the residents. Susiya is not alone! "

(Chanting of "Susiya, Susiya do not despair, we will end the occupation yet!" in Hebrew and "Yaskut al Ikhitlal", "Down with the Occupation" in Arabic.

"It is very important that you all came here, it is important to continue the struggle. There will be here another demonstration next Saturday, and on August 3 at 9:00 am there will be the hearing on the appeal of Susiya at the Supreme Court. It is very important to be there! Susiya is not alone! Susiya is not alone!"

After the speeches - the march to the edge of the ridge. "For anyone who feels badly affected by the heat and sun, there is a tent with shade and plenty of water. Don't get hurt unnecessarily. And now – forward!"

Together with the Palestinians, locals and those who especially came, we all moved ahead to the rhythmic beating of the "Drummers Against the Occupation", and the heat did not seem to reduce their energy and enthusiasm.

Above the crowd were waving the placards of "Combatants for Peace", one of the demonstration's organizers, with the caption "There is Another Way" in Hebrew, Arabic and English

"Though shalt not rob thy fellow" read the big sign carried by Rabbi Arik Asherman, who already for many years did not miss any demonstration, "Rabbis for Human Rights" being another of the protest initiators.

Other Biblical slogans: "Have we become the like of Sodom, did we assume the face of Gomorrah?", "Save the poor his robber, protect the miserable from the heartless despoiler" "Zion shall be built on Justice", "Each shall sit in content under his vine and his fig tree."



A five years old Palestinian girl held upside down a large sign in Hebrew reading "No more land grab!"

One of the Israelis drew the attention of a woman in traditional Palestinian dress, apparently the grandmother. The granddaughter, laughing, turned the sign in correct direction before the press photographers arrived at this part of the march parade.

Near was walking a strapping young man wearing a T-shirt of the FC St. Pauli soccer club of Hamburg, Germany, whose fans are known for their fight against racism, and next was a woman whose shirt proclaimed "Stop the Pinkwashing!", protesting the cynical use made of LGBT people by the government international PR apparatus ("Hasbara"). The text on the bag of a veteran Jerusalem activist referred to the elections earlier this year: "We did not succeed in throwing Netanyahu out, which is very harsh and painful, but at least let him keep his paws off Susiya!"

At the end of the march, dozens lifted with great effort a 30-metre long sign reading: "Susiya is Palestinian, and Palestinian it will remain!".

When the buses on the way back passed the official sign about "The ancient Jewish town" we could see it at the top of the ridge above the road.

MORE:

**“Without Compensation, We
Were Forced To Rebuild Susiya
Nearby On What Was Left Of
Our Agricultural Lands”**

**“The New Susiya Was Built On
Palestinian Villagers’ Private
Agricultural Land, But That Is No
Safeguard”**

**“If The Israeli Government
Demolishes All Or Part Of Susiya
Once Again, It Will Be For No Other
Reason Than That We Are
Palestinians Who Refused To Leave”**

**“Israel’s Defense Ministry Issued
Demolition Orders Against More Than 50
Structures In Susiya, Including Living
Quarters, A Clinic, Shop And Solar
Panels”**

JULY 23, 2015 By NASSER NAWAJA, New York Times

SUSIYA, West Bank — IN 1948, as Israeli forces closed in on his village of Qaryatayn, my grandfather carried my father in his arms to Susiya, about five miles north, in the South Hebron Hills area.

“We will go back home soon,” my grandfather told my father.

They did not.

Qaryatayn was destroyed, along with about 400 other Palestinian villages that were razed between 1948 and the mid-1950s.

My family rebuilt their lives in Susiya, across the 1949 armistice line in the West Bank.

In 1986, my family was expelled from our home once again — not because of war, but because the occupying Israeli authorities decided to create an archaeological and tourist site around the remains of an ancient synagogue in Susiya. (A structure next to the abandoned temple was used as a mosque from about the 10th century.) This time, it was my father who took me in

“We will return soon,” he said.

We did not.

Without compensation, we were forced to rebuild Susiya nearby on what was left of our agricultural lands.

If, in the coming weeks, the Israeli government carries out demolition orders served on some 340 residents of Susiya, I will be forced to take my children in my arms as our home is destroyed and the village razed once again.

I do not know if I will have the heart to tell them that we will soon go home; history has taught me that it may be a very long time until we are able to return.

In 2012, the Civil Administration branch of Israel’s Defense Ministry issued demolition orders against more than 50 structures in Susiya, including living quarters, a clinic, shop and solar panels.

The new Susiya was built on Palestinian villagers’ private agricultural land, but that is no safeguard.

In practice, it is virtually impossible for a Palestinian living in what is known as Area C — the 60 percent of the West Bank under both civil and security control of the Israeli military — to receive a building permit. According to Bimkom, an Israeli nonprofit focused on planning rights, more than 98 percent of Palestinian requests for building permits in Area C from 2010 to 2014 were rejected.

The threat has now become immediate. Following the initial distribution of demolition orders, there was a political and legal campaign spearheaded by the residents of Susiya that had support from Palestinian, Israeli and international activists and rights groups.

The village was not demolished, our case returned to the courts and the pressure let up.

But this past May, a few months after the re-election of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Supreme Court justice Noam Sohlberg, who himself lives in an Israeli settlement that is considered illegal under international law, caved in to pressure from right-wing and settler organizations and ruled in the High Court that the Israeli military could go ahead with demolitions in the village — despite the

fact that the higher-ranking Supreme Court had scheduled a hearing for our case on Aug. 3.

Earlier this month, I learned from lawyers working against the demolition of Susiya that representatives of the Israeli military had stated their intent to demolish parts of our village before the Aug. 3 hearing. Since the May ruling, we in Susiya have been grateful for an outpouring of support and solidarity. Last week, the State Department's spokesman, John Kirby, made a strong statement on the issue.

"We're closely following developments in the village of Susiya, in the West Bank," he said, "and we strongly urge the Israeli authorities to refrain from carrying out any demolitions in the village. Demolition of this Palestinian village or parts of it, and evictions of Palestinians from their homes, would be harmful and provocative."

That was a step in the right direction, but we need more than mere declarations now.

If the Israeli government demolishes all or part of Susiya once again, it will be for no other reason than that we are Palestinians who refused to leave, despite immense pressure and great hardships of daily life under occupation.

The situation in Susiya is only one of many such situations in Area C of the West Bank. Several villages near ours have pending demolition orders as well.

If Susiya is destroyed and its residents expelled, it will serve as a precedent for further demolitions and expulsions through the South Hebron Hills and Area C of the West Bank.

This must not be allowed to happen.

This story is not a story of Jews against Muslims, or even a story of Israelis against Palestinians.

We're grateful for the many messages of support our village has received from Jewish communities around the world, and the groups and activists working by our side include many Israelis.

This is simply a story of justice and equality against dispossession and oppression.

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."

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DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



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DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

CONDESCENDING STORIES APPROVING OF "MUSLIMS FIGHTING EXTREMISM" HAVE BECOME TRITE CLICHÉS. CAN WE SELL BOOKS BY SWITCHING IT UP?



VIETNAM GI: REPRINTS AVAILABLE



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