

Military Resistance 13H3



POLICE WAR REPORTS

Four Police Officers Arrested For Torturing Children At Boot Camp: “Broken Bones, Bruised Ribs” “They Never Told Me That They Were Going To Beat Them Or Put Them In A Dark Room Or Break His Arm”

August 7, 2015 by Andrew Emett, NationofChange

Four Los Angeles-area police officers were arrested this week for physically abusing at least 15 children at a boot camp for at-risk youth.

As children from the boot camp began appearing in emergency rooms with multiple bruises and broken fingers, child services launched an investigation into the abuse.

Initially suspecting the parents of beating their own kids, the Department of Children and Family Services later determined the drill instructors at the police-run boot camp had assaulted the children instead.

Run by the Huntington Park and South Gate police departments, the one-week Leadership Empowerment And Discipline (LEAD) Boot Camp Program at the National Guard military base in San Luis Obispo proclaims to improve behavior and discipline in boys and girls ages 12 to 17. From May 17 to 24, a group of 37 children attended the boot camp and some began appearing in emergency rooms with suspicious injuries.

After returning from the boot camp, a 13-year-old boy with massive bruising around his windpipe was immediately taken to the emergency room by his mother.

Suspecting the mother of possibly abusing her son, hospital staff notified the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). After arriving at the emergency room, DCFS officials took the boy to a separate room and asked where he had received the bruises around his neck.

The boy informed the DCFS officials that his drill instructors from the LEAD boot camp program had physically assaulted him and over a dozen other kids in his group. After receiving reports of abuse from several other children who attended the boot camp, DCFS officials alerted the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office about the abuse. On May 28, the San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Office launched an investigation into the allegations.

“They never told me that they were going to beat them or they were going to put them in a dark room or they were going to fracture him or break his arm,” said Veronica Bernal, a mother of one of the children.

“When they didn't do their exercises the way they were supposed to, they were stomped in the back. Their fingers were stepped on,” said Araceli Pulido, who had two daughters at the camp.

Of the 37 participants interviewed, nine boys and six girls ages 12 to 17 admitted to investigators that they had been physically assaulted by the camp's drill instructors.

The sheriff's department also collected evidence including photographs, videos, and medical reports documenting broken bones, bruised ribs, and other signs of physical abuse.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, Huntington Park officers Marissa Larios and Patrick Nijland along with South Gate officers Edgar Gomez and Carlos Gomez-Marquez were arrested on multiple charges.

Larios has been charged with suspicion of cruelty to a child, criminal conspiracy, misdemeanor battery, and abuse under the color of authority. Nijland faces charges of suspicion of cruelty to a child, criminal battery, and abuse under the color of authority. Gomez and Gomez-Marquez have been charged with suspicion of cruelty to a child, criminal threats, misdemeanor battery, and abuse under the color of authority.

“It really gives us no pleasure to arrest police officers or anyone in law enforcement,” stated sheriff’s spokesman Tony Cipolla. “It proves that nobody is above the law.”

Boy Seized And Taken Away From His Mother After He Talks About Pot’s Benefits In Class: “Mother Already Suffering From A Debilitating Medical Condition Now Must Fight The State Of Kansas To Maintain Her Parental Rights”

April 22, 2015 By Art Way, Drug Policy Alliance

A mother already suffering from a debilitating medical condition now must fight the state of Kansas to maintain her parental rights.

Shona Banda, a well-known activist, published a book “Live Free or Die” detailing how she found relief from Crohn’s disease after using cannabis oil.

Banda’s primary concern now is keeping custody of her son.

This because her son’s school contacted child protective services after he attempted to argue about the harms of marijuana during a classroom talk.

Child Protective Services then removed Banda’s son from the school.

This story may seem ridiculous to some.

The reality is this happens all the time in our country and it is a lesser-known atrocity of the drug war.

Due to mandatory reporting requirements, the staff at the school may have been under a duty to involve Child Protective Services if Banda’s son admitted marijuana was in his home. This type of blanket approach is rarely in the immediate best interests of the child and reflects the immense amount of stigma associated with illicit drug use.

The DOJ has funded a national campaign to protect “drug endangered children” since 2010 as part of National Drug Control Strategy. And despite likely good intentions, these policies often play out in a disastrous, punitive and discriminatory fashion.

While we fully support protections for child welfare, safety, and health, we also recognize there are current policies in place that assume neglect based on the mere presence of an illegal substance.

These child protective policies are based on federal law and what happened to Ms. Banda is capable of happening in Colorado, Washington or Oregon, despite years of medical marijuana and now legal adult use in those states.

Parents should be judged for their parenting, not for what substances they use, medically or otherwise. Many parents have pain medications, alcohol, weapons, cleaning products and other dangerous substances in their home. If the mere presence of these substances and objects alone do not constitute child neglect or abuse, neither should the mere presence of marijuana.

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 82 percent of substance users in 2012 did not display signs of dependency or abuse of illicit substances. Even in cases where people might be classified as drug dependent or abusing, this does not necessarily equal neglect.

People who use drugs are capable of being nurturing, loving, caring and responsible parents. Just as parents who drink alcohol or hunt deer.

On 4/20, Ms. Banda was in court fighting for her parental rights due to using a substance to alleviate symptoms of Crohn's disease while others across the country are celebrating the substance.

The federal government should review law, policy, culture and practices regarding child welfare. The intersection of child welfare and drug policy is an area that demands more attention from drug policy and criminal justice reformers.

**Cops Beat Gay Staten Island
Man Outside Of Home, Shouting
Homophobic Slurs:
Not Arrested, Just Beaten;
“I Said, ‘Please, I Just Had Surgery
On My Foot’” “One Of The Cops
Stepped On My Foot. Another Cop
Comes And Steps On My Head”**

“They’re Criminals; They Belong Behind Bars”



Falcone told the Daily News that the officers pulled him out of the Midland Beach home he shares with his mom while investigating a noise complaint at 5:30 a.m.

July 31, 2015 BY Chelsia Rose Marcus, Tina Moore; NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

A gay Staten Island caterer says cops who were captured on video taking him down in his front yard, beat him while shouting homophobic slurs, the Daily News has learned.

Louis Falcone, 31, wasn't charged as a result of the June 19 takedown, and now plans to sue in federal court for civil rights violations, lawyer Eric Subin said.

“How can you do that - four people on one skinny, scrawny little guy?” Subin asked. “They’re criminals; they belong behind bars.”

Falcone, all of 150 pounds, told the Daily News that the officers pulled him out of the Midland Beach home he shares with his mom while investigating a noise complaint at 5:30 a.m.

He says they roughed him up while calling him a “faggot” and a “f****t.”

Anti-homosexual slurs aren't audible on the video, which was taken from across the street and was viewed by the Daily News. “While I was on the ground, I had mud and blood in my mouth,” he said. “One (of the cops) said, ‘Don't let it get on you, he probably has AIDS, the faggot.’”

Falcone's mom called 911 to report her two sons were fight, a police spokesman said.

When police arrived, "Falcone became belligerent and uncooperative. He appeared to have been injured in the fight with his brother. As the officers attempted to subdue him, he resisted and spit blood in the face of one of them," a police spokesman said.

"The officers were able to restrain him and he was transported by EMS to a local hospital for evaluation."

Falcone says around 4:30 a.m. when his brother arrived at the home "obnoxiously drunk" after a night of partying.

"We had words," he said. "I was yelling at him; he was yelling at me."

After the argument, and an hour after his brother left, says Falcone, he was trying to fall back to sleep when four cops showed up at the front door.

The cops told him they were there for a noise complaint, and he described what happened with his brother.

"As I'm talking to them through the screen door, they're saying to come outside," Falcone recalled. "I said, 'For what?'"

Then, his dog Looch, part pitbull, began barking.

"The cops said, 'Get your dog out of here or I'll fucking kill it!'" Falcone says. "I was like, 'What do you mean you're going to kill my dog?'"

He said he was shooing Looch away when an officer yanked Falcone outside.

"They threw me against the concrete in front of my house," he said. "My first reaction was to try to get up a little bit."

On the video, one of the officers is seen entering the home. Then, the others try to restrain Falcone on the ground.

Falcone, whose 66-year-old mom can be seen yelling from the doorway, said he had recently undergone foot surgery and was wearing a boot.

"Then they're hitting me for no reason," he said. "One puts his knee on my neck. They were all piling on top of me."

He said he was pleading with cops to be careful with his foot.

"I said, 'Please, I just had surgery on my foot,'" Falcone said. "One of the cops stepped on my foot. Another cop comes and steps on my head."

Amid the fracas, it is not clear in the video if an officer stepped on Falcone's foot.

Falcone says he was left with a broken nose, two black eyes, cuts to his face and body, and needed more foot surgery.

The foot injuries have made it difficult to work for the catering company that employs him, he says.

Cop Kills Unarmed Man For Refusing To Show ID As He Dropped Off Stray Cat To Animal Shelter



Robert Earl Lawrence

April 22, 2015 By Jay Symopoulos & January 2, 2015, By John Vibes The Free Thought Project

Dothan, Ala. – In late December of 2014, Robert Earl Lawrence, 30, in an act of compassion, took a stray cat to the Dothan Animal Shelter. What was a seemingly selfless act of kindness would subsequently end with Lawrence being fatally gunned down by a cop.

Almost four months after that fateful day, police have provided the public with no more answers than were given the day after the killing. They have maintained a blanket of virtual silence surrounding the incident.

As we reported previously, the staff at the shelter, rather than simply accepting the cat, proceeded to demand that Lawrence show government issued identification. Per shelter policy, they demanded Lawrence show ID, prior to being allowed to leave, according to information released by police immediately after the shooting.

Lawrence showed them a notarized legal identification in the form of an affidavit, rather than the standard Department of Motor Vehicle issued ID card.

In what would prove to be a fatal move, shelter employees refused to accept his form of ID and called the police.

Immediately upon arrival, the police began to force Lawrence to show his ID, eventually attempting to arrest him. In an apparent struggle, Lawrence was fatally shot by the officer in the abdomen, according to police.

“After repeatedly being told to calm down, Lawrence was advised he was being placed under arrest. A physical altercation ensued, to which Lawrence was shot in the abdomen (by an officer),” Police Sgt. Maurice Eggleston told AL News.

After the shooting the police spin machine went into overdrive as they attempted to portray the victim in a negative light. They highlighted past run-ins with the law and labeled him a “Sovereign Citizen,” a claim which his family disputes.

Of course using blanket terms for individuals, such as the law enforcement propensity for calling someone that asserts their constitutional rights a “Sovereign Citizen,” is simply another way to propagandize the public into support.

This type of activity can be seen in a leaked 2012 Homeland Security study that claimed Americans who are “reverent of individual liberty,” and “suspicious of centralized federal authority” are possible “extreme right-wing” terrorists.

Now almost four months after Lawrence’s needless killing at the hands of police, police have shunned any thoughts of transparency in the case and numerous questions remain.

Surveillance footage that may have captured the incident has never been released, nor has the name of the officer involved in the shooting.

Additionally, there has been no indication as to why a man that simply refused to show ID was killed by an officer sworn to uphold the law.

It was his right not to identify in that circumstance, regardless of shelter policy,

There has been no indication that Lawrence possessed any weapon, which begs the question; what alleged justification did the officer have for using lethal force on a man that simply refused to show the requested ID while dropping a stray cat off at an animal shelter?

These are questions the police have thus far refused to answer.

The extent of what police have released to the public, aside from their initial statement, is that an inquiry into the incident is complete and being reviewed by the state.

Earlier this month, Houston County District Attorney Doug Valeska said he received the state police investigative report. That was on the 13th and we’ve yet to hear a peep from Valeska. He’s actually stated that it could take up to 30 days for him to simply review it. There is no word on when the family can read about how the police killed their son.

Doesn’t it help you sleep well at night knowing that the state is secretly investigating itself, while providing the public with absolutely no information about the incident?

The effort to keep the public in the dark about the events surrounding this incident do nothing to build confidence in police at a time when they desperately lack public support. Conversely, these actions have actually made people even more suspicious of the institution of law enforcement as a whole.

The public has a right to know why a cop killed a man for simply refusing to ID. If there was no reasonable suspicion of Lawrence committing a crime, then he was under no obligation to show identification.

If you are sick of corrupt government trying to protect their paid enforcers by secretly investigating themselves and keeping people in the dark, then share this article and demand transparency and accountability!

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Special Forces Master Sgt. Killed In Kabul

August 09, 2015 U.S. Department of Defense News Release

Master Sgt. Peter A. McKenna Jr., 35, of Bristol, Rhode Island, died Aug. 8, in Kabul, Afghanistan, of wounds when he was attacked by enemy small arms fire.

McKenna was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

MORE:

U.S. Special Forces Base Attacked: Soldier Killed; Three Wounded

Aug 07 2015 By Khaama Press & Reuters

Another heavy explosion rocked capital late on Friday night which triggered gun battle as insurgents started with the security forces.

Details were still unclear but the explosion took place near a U.S. special forces base known as Camp Integrity.

"Anti-government elements launched a complex attack against Camp Integrity, initiated with a vehicle-borne bomb and followed by small arms fire and further explosions," one Western security source said.

The large explosion took place allowing the remaining militants to launch attack on the base.

The blast took place close to the vicinity of the north of Kabul airport in Qasaba area in the 15th police district of Kabul city.

Sporadic clash between the security forces and the assailants continued for several hours involving heavy and lights weapons.

The NATO-led Resolute Support (RS) mission confirmed that one foreign service member was killed in the attack but no further details were given regarding the identity of the deceased service member.

Earlier reports suggest at least three Americans were injured in the attack with the authorities saying two insurgents were killed during the gun battle.

This was the third consecutive explosion which jolted capital Kabul within the past 24 hours which have left several people dead and scores of others wounded.

POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE BLOODSHED

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

Insurgent Bomber Targets Regime Police Academy, 26 Recruits Killed: The Bomber Disguised In Police Uniform

Aug 07 2015 By Khaama Press & Reuters

Another explosion rocked capital after a bomber targeted the police academy tonight in the 5th police district of the city.

"The bomber detonated his explosives among students who had just returned from a break," a police official said.

A security official said at least 26 recruits were killed and 27 others were wounded after a bomber detonated his explosives outside the police academy.

The official speaking on the condition of anonymity further added that the bomber had disguised in police uniform and carried out the attack after placing himself among the police academy recruits.

There are fears that the death toll could rise with eyewitnesses in the area saying the bomber detonated his explosives among the cadets of the academy.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



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

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

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

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

Frederick Douglass, 1852

**Rise like Lions after slumber
In unvanquishable number,
Shake your chains to earth like dew
Which in sleep had fallen on you-
Ye are many — they are few**
-- Percy Bysshe Shelley, 1819, on the occasion of a mass murder of British
workers by the Imperial government at Peterloo.

BLOWBACK



Photograph by Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: July 31, 2015
Subject: BLOWBACK

BLOWBACK

In June 2015, precipitation in the Olympic National

Park fell to a staggering 96% less for that month. It is the worst drought since 1895. As I write this, there are 14 active wildfires in Washington and 5 in Oregon, while British Columbia recently registered 185 of them. When fire can eat a rainforest in a relatively cool climate, you know the Earth is beginning to burn.

Subhanker Banerjee
Professional Photographer
and Environmentalist who
lives in the Olympic Penin-
sula of Washington State

Photograph by Mike Hastie
Greenpeace activists dangling
from under the St. Johns Bridge
in Portland, Oregon. They are
demonstrating against Shell Oil's
Blowback Drilling in the Arctic.
July 29, 2015

There is no rest for the messenger,
until the message has been delivered.

Photo and caption from the portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004

FYI: Military Resistance Website Visits: Top Ten Sources Of Visits Ranked 1-10 July 2015

- 1 China
- 2 USA
- 3 Germany
- 4 France
- 5 Ukraine
- 6 "Unknown" [Source Masked]

- 7 Italy
- 8 Sudan
- 9 Romania
- 10 South Korea

Readers from an additional 69 have also accessed, including Vietnam, Greece, Palestinian Territories, Russian Federation & Kazakhstan.

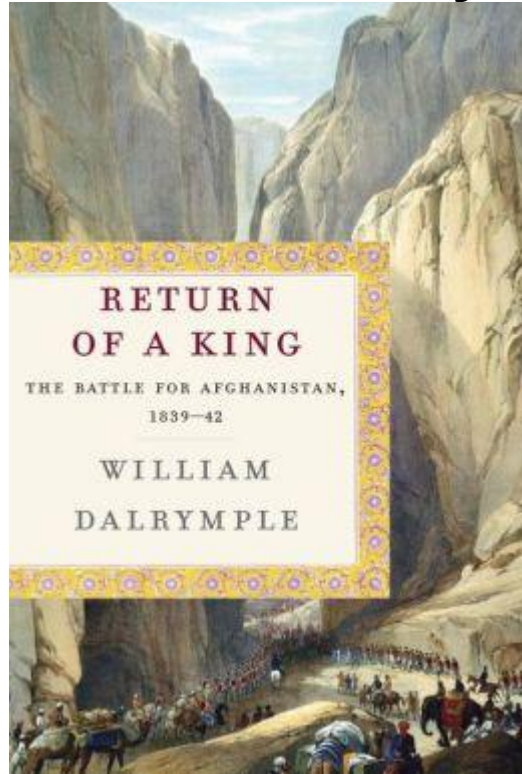
Source: AWStats

“For All The Differences, There Are Striking Parallels Between The Twenty-First-Century Occupation Of Afghanistan And That Of 1839—42”

“‘Whoever Comes To Afghanistan, Even Now, They Will Face The Fate Of Burnes, McNaughton And Dr. Brydon,’ Agreed Mohammad Khan, Our Host In The Village”

“Everyone Nodded Sagely Into Their Rice: The Names Of The Fallen Of 1842, Long Forgotten In Their Home Country, Were Still Common Currency Here”

“In Truth, All The Americans Here Know Their Game Is Over. It Is Just Their Politicians Who Deny This”



I talked about my great-great-uncle, Cohn Mackenzie, who had been taken hostage nearby, and I asked if they saw any parallels with the current situation.

“It is exactly the same,” said Jagdalak. “Both times the foreigners have come for their own interests, not for ours. They say, ‘We are your friends, we want to help.’ But they are lying.”

“Whoever comes to Afghanistan, even now, they will face the fate of Burnes, McNaughton and Dr. Brydon,” agreed Mohammad

Another Popalzai ruler lacking a real power base, Hamid Karzai — astonishingly, from the same sub-tribe as Shah Shuja [in 1842]—faced the brunt of concerted guerrilla attacks led by the eastern Ghilzai who today make up the footsoldiers of the Taliban.

They are directed by another Ghilzai tribal leader from the Hotak ruling clan, in this case Mullah Omar. (Mullah Omar is a distant relative of the first Afghan ruler of southern Afghanistan, Mir Waiz Hotaki.)

Excerpts from

RETURN of a KING
The Battle for Afghanistan, 1839—42

By William Dalrymple,
ALFRED A. KNOPE;
NEW YORK 2013

At the end of Kim, Kipling has his eponymous hero say, “When everyone is dead, the Great Game is finished. Not before.”

In the 1980s it was the Russians’ Withdrawal from their failed occupation of Afghanistan that triggered the beginning of the end of the Soviet Union.

Less than twenty years later, in 2001, British and American troops arrived in Afghanistan, where they proceeded to begin losing what was, in Britain’s case, its fourth war in that country.

As before, in the end, despite all the billions of dollars handed out, the training of an entire army of Afghan troops and the infinitely superior weaponry of the occupiers, the Afghan resistance succeeded again in first surrounding then propelling the hated Kafirs into a humiliating exit.

In both cases the occupying troops lost the will to continue fighting at such cost and with so little gain.

For all the differences, there are of course striking parallels between the twenty-first-century occupation of Afghanistan and that of 1839—42.

There is a real continuity in the impact of political geography on the evolution of both conflicts. The significance of Kabul’s location is one issue — adjacent to both the Tajik population of Kohistan, on one side, and the eastern Ghilzais on the other.

Then there is the tribal issue, as another Popalzai ruler lacking a real power base, Hamid Karzai — astonishingly, from the same sub-tribe as Shah Shuja—faces the brunt of concerted guerrilla attacks led by the eastern Ghilzai who today make up the footsoldiers of the Taliban.

They are directed by another Ghilzai tribal leader from the Hotak ruling clan, in this case Mullah Omar. (Mullah Omar is a distant relative of the first Afghan ruler of southern Afghanistan, Mir Waiz Hotaki.)

On my extended visits to Afghanistan to research this book in 2009 and 2010 I set myself two goals.

Firstly, I wanted to try to find the elusive Afghan sources telling of the war which I was certain had to exist and which I have in due course used to write this book.

Secondly, I was keen to see as many of the places and landscapes associated with the First Afghan War as was possible in a situation where ISAF’s (International Security Assistance Force, established by the United Nations in 2001 and taken over by NATO in 2003.) hold on Afghanistan was already visibly shrinking every day.

By 2110, the Taliban had a strong presence in over 70 per cent of the country and Karzai's government had firm control of only 29 out of 121 key strategic districts.

That 70 per cent included most of the route of the British retreat of January 1842 which I knew I would have to travel if I was to have an idea of the geography I was going to write about. I particularly wanted to try to get to Gandamak and see the site of the British last stand.

The route of the 1842 retreat backs on to the mountain range that leads to Tora Bora and the Pakistan border, the Ghilzai heartlands that have always been—along with Quetta—the Taliban's main recruiting ground.

I had been advised not to attempt to visit the area without local protection, so eventually set off in the company of a regional tribal leader who was also a minister in Karzai's government: a mountain of a man named Anwar Khan Jagdalak, a former village wrestling champion and later captain of the Afghan Olympic wrestling team, who had made his name as a Jami'at-Islami Mujehedin commander in the jihad against the Soviets in the 1980s.

It was Jagdalak's Ghilzai ancestors who inflicted some of the worst casualties on the British army of 1842, something he proudly repeated several times as we drove through the same passes.

"They forced us to pick up guns to defend our honour," he said. "So we killed every last one of those bastards." None of this, incidentally, has stopped Jagdalak from sending his family away from Kabul to the greater safety of Northolt in north London.

On the day we were to drive to Gandamak, I had been told to report at seven in the morning to Jagdalak's Ministry in the heart of the administrative district now named Wazir Akbar Khan. Threading my way through a slalom of checkpoints and razor wire surrounding the Ministry, I arrived to find Jagdalak being hustled into a convoy of heavily armoured SUVs by his ever-present phalanx of bodyguards, walkie-talkies crackling and assault rifles primed.

Jagdalak drove himself, while pick-ups full of heavily armed Afghan bodyguards followed behind.

As we headed through the capital, evidence of the failure of the current occupation lay all around us.

Kabul remains one of the poorest and scrappiest capital cities in the world.

Despite the U.S. pouring around \$80 billion into Afghanistan, almost all that money has disappeared into defence and security and the roads of Kabul were still more rutted than those in the most neglected provincial towns of Pakistan. There was no street lighting and apparently no rubbish collection.

According to Jagdalak, that was only the tip of the iceberg. Despite all the efforts of a dozen countries and a thousand agencies over more than a decade since 2001, the country is still a mess: a quarter of all teachers in Afghanistan are illiterate. In many

areas, governance is almost non-existent: half the governors do not have an office; even fewer have electricity. Civil servants lack the most basic education and skills.

We bumped through the potholed roads of Kabul, past the blast walls of the U.S. Embassy and the NATO barracks that has been built on the very site of the British cantonment of 170 years ago, past Butkhak, then headed down the zigzagging road into the line of bleak mountain passes—first the Khord Kabul, then the Tezin—that link Kabul with the Khyber Pass.

It is a suitably dramatic and violent landscape: faultlines of crushed and tortured strata groaned and twisted in the gunpowder-coloured rockwalls rising on either side of us. Above, the jagged mountain tops were veiled in an ominous cloud of mist.

As we drove, Jagdalak complained bitterly of the western treatment of his government. “In the 1980s when we were killing Russians for them, the Americans called us freedom fighters,” he muttered as we descended the first pass. “Now they just dismiss us as warlords.”

At Sarobi, where the mountains debouch into a high-altitude ochre desert dotted with encampments of Ghilzai nomads, we left the main road and headed into Taliban territory; a further five pick-up trucks full of Jagdalak’s old Mujehedin fighters, all brandishing rocket-propelled grenades and with faces wrapped in their turbans, appeared from a side road to escort us.

At the village of Jagdalak, on 12 January 1842, the last 200 frostbitten British soldiers found themselves surrounded by several thousand Ghilzai tribesmen; only a handful made it beyond the holly hedge.

Our own welcome that April was, thankfully, somewhat warmer.

It was my host’s first visit to his home since he became a minister, and the proud villagers took their old commander on a nostalgia trip through hills smelling of wild thyme and wormwood, and up through mountainsides carpeted with hollyhocks and mulberries and shaded by white poplars.

Here, at the top of the surrounding peaks, near the watchtower where the naked and freezing sepoy had attempted to find shelter, lay the remains of Jagdalak’s old Mujehedin bunkers and entrenchments from which he had defied the Soviet army.

Once the tour was completed, the villagers feasted us, Timurid style, in an apricot orchard at the bottom of the valley: we sat on carpets under a trellis of vine and pomegranate blossom, as course after course of kebabs and raisin pullao were laid in front of us.

During lunch, as my hosts casually pointed out the site of the holly barrier and other places in the village where the British had been massacred in 1842, we compared our respective family memories of that war.

I talked about my great-great-uncle, Cohn Mackenzie, who had been taken hostage nearby, and I asked if they saw any parallels with the current situation.

“It is exactly the same,” said Jagdalak. “Both times the foreigners have come for their own interests, not for ours. They say, ‘We are your friends, we want to help.’ But they are lying.”

“Whoever comes to Afghanistan, even now, they will face the fate of Burnes, McNaughton and Dr. Brydon,” agreed Mohammad Khan, our host in the village and the owner of the orchard we were sitting.

Everyone nodded sagely into their rice: the names of the fallen of 1842, long forgotten in their home country, were still common currency here.

“Since the British went we’ve had the Russians,” said one old man to my right. “We saw them off too, but not before they bombed many of the houses in the village.”

He pointed at a ridge full of ruined mudbrick houses on the hills behind us.

“We are the roof of the world,” said Khan. “From here you can control and watch everywhere.”

“Afghanistan is like the crossroads for every nation that comes to power,” agreed Jagdalak. “But we do not have the strength to control our own destiny. Our fate is determined by our neighbours.”

It was nearly 5 p.m. before the final flaps of naan bread were cleared away, by which time it became clear that it was now too late to head on to Gandamak. Instead we went that evening by the main highway direct to the relative safety of Jalalabad, where we discovered we’d had a narrow escape.

It turned out that there had been a battle at Gandamak that very morning between government forces and a group of villagers supported by the Taliban. The sheer size and length of the feast and our own gluttony had saved us from walking straight into an ambush.

The battle had taken place on exactly the site of the British last stand of 1842.

The following morning in Jalalabad we went to a jirga, or assembly, of Ghilzai tribal elders, to which the greybeards of Gandamak had come, under a flag of truce, to discuss what had happened the day before.

The story was typical of many I heard about Karzai’s government, and revealed how a mixture of corruption, incompetence and insensitivity had helped give an opening for the return of the once hated Taliban.

As Predator drones took off and landed incessantly at the nearby airfield, the Ghilzai elders related how the previous year government troops had turned up to destroy the opium harvest.

The troops promised the villagers full compensation and were allowed to plough up the crops; but the money never turned up.

Before the planting season, the Gandamak villagers again went to Jalalabad and asked the government if they could be provided with assistance to grow other crops.

Promises were made; again nothing was delivered. They planted poppy, informing the local authorities that if they again tried to destroy the crop, the village would have no option but to resist.

When the troops turned up, about the same time as we were arriving at nearby Jagdalak, the villagers were waiting for them and had called in the local Taliban to assist. In the fighting that followed, nine policemen were killed, six vehicles were destroyed and ten police hostages taken.

After the jirga was over, two of the tribal elders of Gandamak came over and we chatted for a while over a pot of green tea.

“Last month,” said one, “some American officers called us to a hotel in Jalalabad for a meeting. One of them asked me, ‘Why do you hate us?’

I replied, ‘Because you blow down our doors, enter our houses, pull our women by the hair and kick our children. We cannot accept this. We will fight back, and we will break your teeth, and when your teeth are broken you will leave, just as the British left before you. It is just a matter of time.’”

“What did he say to that?”

“He turned to his friend and said, ‘If the old men are like this, what will the younger ones be like?’

“In truth, all the Americans here know their game is over. It is just their politicians who deny this.”

“These are the last days of the Americans,” said the other elder. “Next it will be China.”

ANNIVERSARIES

August 11, 1894: Dishonorable Day: Federal Troops Forced Some 1,200 Jobless Workers Across The Potomac River And Out Of Washington, D.C.

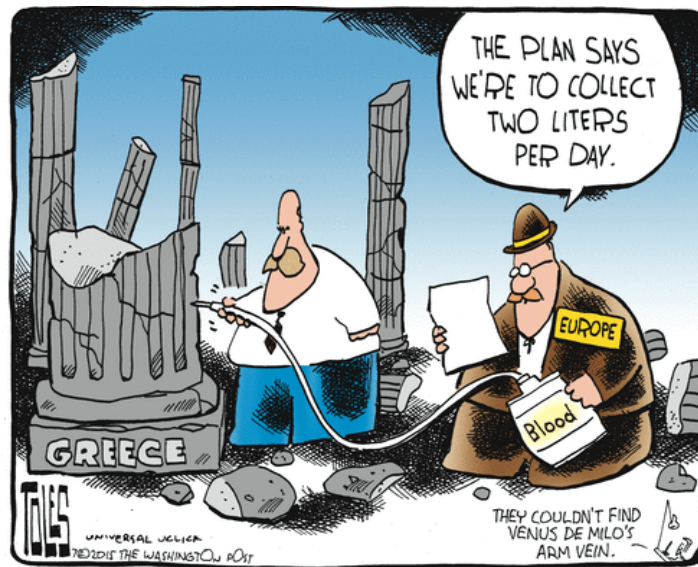
[If they try that shit again today, time to turn the weapons around on the real enemies, and it's not the unemployed. T]

Carl Bunin Peace History August 9-15

Federal troops forced some 1,200 jobless workers across the Potomac River and out of Washington, D.C.

Led by an unemployed activist, "General" Charles "Hobo" Kelly, the jobless group's "soldiers" included young journalist Jack London, known for writing about social issues, and miner/cowboy William "Big Bill" Haywood who later organized western miners and the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW).

CLASS WAR REPORTS



OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Zionist Forces Fire On Unarmed Palestinian Gaza Farmers, As Usual

July 26, 2015 Ma'an

GAZA CITY -- Israeli forces on Saturday morning opened fire on Palestinian agricultural lands near the Bureij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, witnesses said.

Locals told Ma'an that Israeli forces stationed in watchtowers near the Gaza-Israel border opened fire on Palestinian farmers who had arrived to tend their crops.

No injuries were reported.

An Israeli army spokesperson did not have immediate information but said they were looking into the incident.

Farmers whose land lies within or close to an Israeli-enforced buffer zone along the border face near daily fire or threat of fire from Israeli forces, often preventing them from cultivating their crops, rights groups say.

Israeli authorities have maintained the buffer zone since 2005, although its exact limits have historically fluctuated and often remain ambiguous.

Approximately 35 percent of Palestinian agricultural land in Gaza is inaccessible without high personal risk, according to the Palestinian Center for Human Rights.

Occupation Forces Imprison 2 Palestinian Women Visiting Their Families In Prison

July 23, 2015 Ma'an

RAMALLAH -- Israeli forces detained two women who were visiting family members in Israeli prisons this week, a prisoners' rights groups said.

The Palestinian Prisoner's Society in Hebron (PPS) said Hanan Sadeq Hassan al-Akhdar, 51, was detained while visiting her brother in prison on Thursday.

Al-Akhdar's brother, Imad Sadeq Nayroukh, has been serving a life sentence since 2002. He is currently held in Ramon Prison located in the Negev and reportedly suffers from several health problems, PPS director Amjad Najjar said.

According to Najjar, al-Akhdar was taken to the Beersheba police station and put in solitary confinement.

No further information on her status is known at this time.

Separately, Amina al-Amudi was detained when she was visiting her son Muhammad al-Amudi in the Galbou Prison on Tuesday.

The PPS said the Israeli Central Court in Nazareth sentenced Amina to three days of house arrest and a fine of 5,000 shekels (\$784), as well as a third party bail of 10,000 shekels (\$2600).

Amina's brother is currently serving out 12 life-sentences and has been in detention since 2006.

The Israel Prison Service did not immediately respond for comment on the detention of the two women.

Over the last 45 years, an estimated 10,000 Palestinian women have been arrested and/or detained under Israeli military orders.

Israel has consistently deprived thousands Palestinian prisoners the right to family visits, which is protected under international law, and relatives often face difficulty with Israeli authorities when granted a visit.

Nearly 6,000 Palestinian prisoners are currently being held in Israeli jails, 45 of which are women.

Zionists Destroy Hundreds Of Palestinian Olive Trees, As Usual: They Trash Roman-Era Well In Occupied Hebron, Claiming The Palestinian Land Belongs To Israel

July 22, 2015 Ma'an

HEBRON (Ma'an) -- Israeli forces on Wednesday destroyed 450 olive trees, leveled land, and demolished a Roman-era water well in the village of Beit Ula in northwestern Hebron, after claiming the Palestinian land belonged to Israel, locals said.

Issa al-Imla, the coordinator of a local popular committee in Beit Ula, told Ma'an that the olive trees were more than 10 years old and belonged a local farmer, Farid Abd al-Latif al-Imla.

Al-Imla said that Israeli forces also leveled lands belonging to Abd al-Qader al-Imla and demolished the village water well that dated from the Roman era.

Al-Imla said that Israeli forces, officials from the Israeli Civil Administration and three bulldozers also raided the Attus and al-Mekheh areas in western Beit Ula and destroyed crops.

On January 27, an Israeli court issued an order to confiscate hundreds of dunams of land in western Beit Ula.

Al-Imla said that Palestinian landowners followed up the case in Israeli courts, but added that Israeli courts generally assist settlers in confiscating Palestinian land.

He called on the Palestinian Minister of Agriculture and Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah to help farmers re-plant trees.

Beit Ula's village lands are predominantly classified as Area A and B under the Oslo Accords -- partially under jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority -- while the western edges of the village are bordered by the Israeli separation wall and classified as Area C, under full Israeli civil and military control.

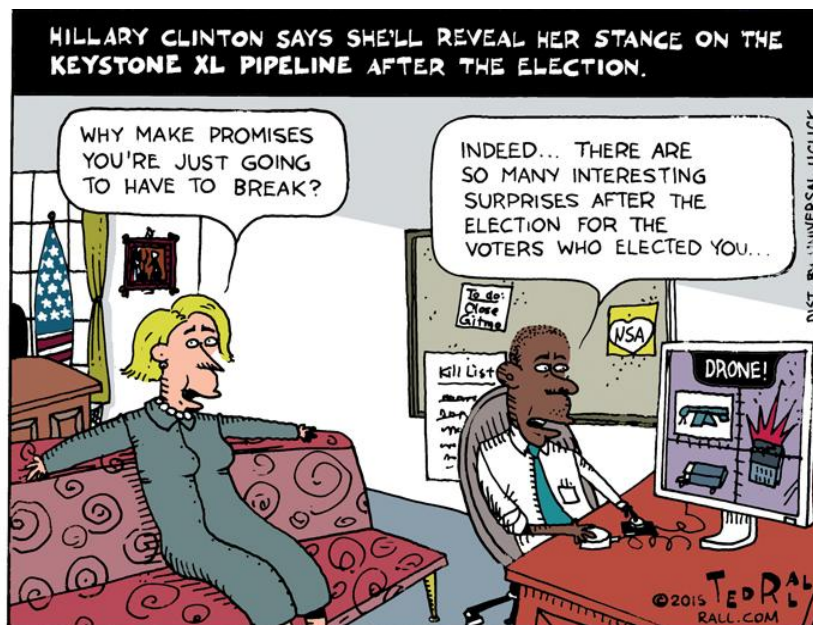
Even before January's ruling, several thousand dunams of land were confiscated by the Israeli authorities in Beit Ula, according to the Applied Research Institute of Jerusalem.

Israeli forces and settlers attack olive trees in a bid to oust Palestinian farmers from their land, and a loss of a year's crops can cause destitution for farming families.

Since 1967, approximately 800,000 olive trees have been uprooted in the occupied West Bank, according to a joint report by the Palestinian Authority and ARIJ.

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



VIETNAM GI: REPRINTS AVAILABLE



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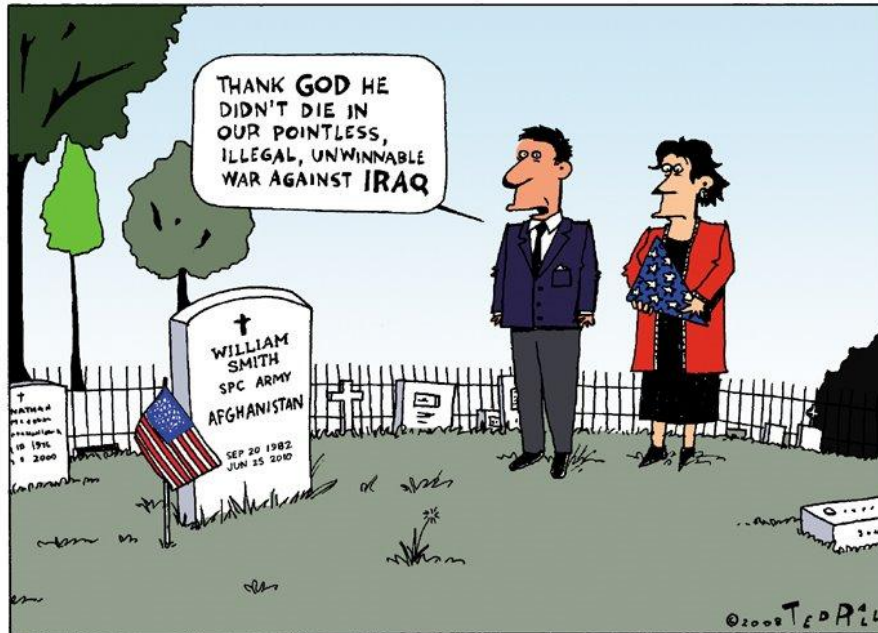
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