

**Military Resistance 13/11**

**Would You Be Ready?  
Army Of Burkina Faso Marches On  
Its Own Capital To Stop General  
Who Tried To Be Dictator:  
“Behind Them Rode A Trail Of Men  
On Motor Scooters Demanding  
Democracy”  
The Frightened General Apologizes  
[See Next]**



Demonstrators protest in the Burkina Faso capital of Ouagadougou five days after a coup by allies of former President Blaise Compaoré. On Monday, the army moved to try to disarm the coup leaders. Photo: Agence France-Presse/Getty Images

Sept. 21, 2015 By Drew Hinshaw, Wall Street Journal

The army of Burkina Faso marched on its own capital to reverse a coup in this small nation that has become a big test of democracy for Africa.

Late Monday, the general who seized power last week apologized to the nation and said he would hand over control to a civilian transitional government after the military warned that its forces would converge on the capital and forcibly disarm the soldiers behind the power grab, the Associated Press reported.

Gen. Gilbert Diendere, who led the presidential guard under longtime leader Blaise Compaoré until the president was forced from power in a popular uprising last year, said his presidential guard unit “confirms our commitment to giving power back to civilian authorities,” in a communique issued to journalists.

That was one of the key conditions of a draft agreement that resulted from weekend negotiations with regional mediators, but it had been unclear until his announcement whether the guards would abide by those terms.

Mr. Diendere said the compromises were necessary to avoid further bloodshed. The risk of clashes could lead to “chaos, civil war and massive human-rights violations,” he said.

In a statement carried by Radio France Internationale earlier Monday, the army’s commanding officers had vowed to take the city of Ouagadougou without bloodshed.

Once there, they said they would disarm the presidential bodyguards who seized power last Wednesday, weeks before Burkina Faso’s 18 million people were scheduled to have their first truly open election in decades.

A large convoy of soldiers in pickup trucks was seen driving east toward Ouagadougou on Monday afternoon, the private radio station Burkina 24 reported.

Behind them rode a trail of men on motor scooters demanding democracy in the arid and desert-encroached West African nation.

People fed up with dictatorships in Africa have been glued to their radios following the news out of Burkina Faso as the former French colony becomes the continent’s latest democratic experiment.

For 27 years, the country was ruled by a single man—Mr. Compaoré—putting it on the long list of autocracies in Africa.

Now, it is a test of what happens when Africa’s aging class of autocrats steps aside. In November 2014, Mr. Compaoré, 64 years old, fled after three days of furious protests by young demonstrators infuriated by his long stay in power.

**A hastily arranged transitional government promised elections within a year.**

**Those elections were set for October. The government also was investigating the role of Mr. Compaoré's bodyguards in the 1987 assassination of junta leader Thomas Sankara, which helped bring Mr. Compaoré to power.**

**After raiding the state broadcasting station Wednesday, Mr. Compaoré's presidential guard declared itself in charge and postponed elections indefinitely.**

**In Ouagadougou, protesters have spent days behind barricades, braving gunfire, and baton-swinging soldiers.**

**At least 10 people have died in those confrontations, the AP reported.**

**MORE:**

# **Military Initiatives Open Meeting**

**Tuesday,  
October 6, 2015,  
7pm**

**Military Initiatives Organizing Committee**

**"After 13 Years Of War, Troops Feel Burned Out, Lacking A Sense Of Mission" [Army Times]**

**Those who understand the necessity for revolutionary change to rid ourselves of the class of capitalists who afflict us every day would do well to consider what action to organize, now, to reach those who serve in the armed forces.**

**They are necessary allies in the class war for human liberation.**

**That is a "Sense Of Mission" we and our troops together can proudly take hold of.**

**Panel speakers for the Military Initiatives Organizing Committee**

**Alan Stolzer: Outreach Coordinator, Military Initiatives Organizing Committee**

Claude Copeland: Army Combat Veteran, Iraq; Military Initiatives Organizing Committee and Iraq Veterans Against the War.

Thomas Barton: Publisher, Military Resistance Newsletter

**Tuesday,  
October 6, 2015,  
7pm**

**Bluestockings Independent Bookstore & Cafe  
172 Allen Street  
New York, New York  
(F train to 2nd Ave.)  
212-777-6028**

**MORE:**

## **Military Initiatives Organizing Committee Mission Statement:**

*July 4, 1776*

*Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.*

*But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.*

**1. Members of the armed forces have the right and duty to defend civilians from dictatorships and to aid civilian movements against dictatorships.**

**This applies whether dictatorship is imposed by force of arms or is imposed when those in command of the resources of society use their wealth for buying politicians to control the government.**

**The armed forces are not for use by politicians or corporations to attack movements fighting for improvement in the lives of working class citizens, or to attack the rights and liberties of Americans written in the Bill of Rights of the Constitution**

**2. The armed forces are not for use in wars of Empire.**

**Military Initiative is for immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Afghanistan and Iraq.**

**Members of the armed forces organizing to defeat wars of empire will receive encouragement and support.**

**The long term objective is to assist in eliminating wars of empire by eliminating all empires.**

**Nations attacked by Empires have the right to independence and to resist invasion.**

**3. Efforts to increase democratic rights in every society, organization, movement, and within the armed forces itself will be encouraged and supported.**

**This applies to the armed forces of every nation. There is no national government at this time organized by, for, and under the control of its citizens.**

**4. Military Initiative does not advocate individual disobedience to orders or desertion from the armed forces because members of the armed forces working together is most effective.**

**That said, Military Initiative will assist in the defense of troops who see individual desertion or refusal of orders as the only course of action open to them for reasons of conscience.**

**5. Military Initiative practices organizational democracy.**

**This means control of the organization by the membership, through elected delegates to any coordinating bodies that may be formed, whether at local, regional, or national levels. Anyone elected is subject to recall, by majority vote of the membership.**

**Any coordinating bodies will report their decisions and votes to the membership, and may be overruled by a majority of the membership.**

**6. It is unnecessary for Military Initiative to be in complete political agreement with other organizations to work together toward a common objective.**

**Organizations working together on common objectives need to discuss differences about the best way forward.**

**7. The mission of Military Initiative is to bring together in one organization members of the armed forces and civilians who are dedicated to these objectives.**

In order to be prepared to defend and extend human rights and economic justice, we will meet together to organize wherever we may be, engaging in such activities as may be necessary, reasonable and effective.

## **Membership Requirements:**

8. Civilian member participate in organized action to reach out to and work with active duty armed forces.

9. Military Initiative or individual members may choose to support candidates for elective office who are for immediate withdrawal from Afghanistan and Iraq, but do not support candidates opposed to immediate, unconditional withdrawal.

10. Members may not be active duty or drilling reserve commissioned officers, or employed in any capacity by any police or intelligence agency, local, state, or national.

11. I understand and am in agreement with this mission.

I oppose bigotry against people because of their race, religion, national origin, gender, or sexual orientation.

I pledge to defend my brothers and sisters, and the democratic rights of the citizens of the United States, against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

----- (Signed)

(Date)

----- (Application taken by)

Military Initiative: [Contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:Contact@militaryproject.org)  
Box 126, 2576 Broadway,  
New York, N.Y. 10025-5657

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**RECEIVED FROM READERS**

**“Our Troops May Be The Best Way  
For Us To Learn The Truth”  
“Reach Out To Them By Showing You  
Really Care”**



Tactical Painting:  
From Soldier X to this Newsletter, from Iraq 4.25.05

From: Sandy Kelson [Veteran & Military Resistance Organization]]  
To: Military Resistance Newsletter  
Subject: U.S. Army Hiding Rape Of Afghan Boys By Regime Commanders:  
Date: Sep 24, 2015

The lead article in Military Resistance 13I10 is captioned as follows:

**U.S. Army Hiding Rape Of Afghan Boys By Regime Commanders:  
“My Son Said That His Officers Told Him To Look The Other Way Because  
It’s Their Culture”  
“American Soldiers And Marines Have Been Instructed Not To Intervene”  
“Instead Of Weeding Out Pedophiles, The American Military Was Placing  
Them As The Commanders Of Villages”  
“We Were Putting People Into Power Who Would Do Things That Were  
Worse Than The Taliban Did”**

The lead summarizes the horror of the article and reveals the duplicity of US propaganda used to justify the war.

Early on, our elected no-representatives told us that important aims of the Afghan war included the removal of the Taliban in order to free its oppression of the people. The oppression included the strict medieval religious rules that included evils such as

banning music, oppression of women that included their murder if they committed an act that 'embarrassed' their families and denying women an education.

The 'laundry' list of 'cultural' horrors used to justify the war is a long one.

However, once Afghanistan was occupied, US soldiers were ordered to look the other way to child rape committed by local US allies because, "It's their culture."

Locals protest saying that the US is permitting worse treatment than they suffered under the Taliban.

Whoa! No wonder the moral of US soldiers is at a low point.

They must be wondering, if not discussing, what in the fuck they are risking their lives for?

We, the American people, certainly should be discussing the same thing and supporting our troops, not by blindly thanking them for their service but by asking them thoughtful questions about what they have witnessed while serving and what they think.

I am not surprised that the candidates for nomination to their respective parties' ticket for the position of president are not discussing it. Apparently, they know the real reasons for the war and occupation and approve of them.

Our troops may be the best way for us to learn the truth. Reach out to them by showing you really care. Maybe they will disclose important information, like, you know, the truths they have learned while serving in harm's way.

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## **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**

**But out of this complicated web of material and psychic forces one conclusion emerges with irrefutable clarity: the more the soldiers in their mass are convinced that the rebels are really rebelling – that this is not a demonstration after which they will have to go back to the barracks and report, that this is a struggle to the death, that the people may win if they join them, and that this winning will not only guarantee impunity, but alleviate the lot of all – the more they realize this, the more willing they are to turn aside their bayonets, or go over with them to the people.**

**And the highest determination never can, or will, remain unarmed.**

**-- Leon Trotsky; The History of the Russian Revolution**

**Military Resistance** [www.militaryproject.org](http://www.militaryproject.org)

*This is how Obama brings the troops home,  
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE.*



*Military Resistance is a near-daily news bulletin for service members*  
[www.militaryproject.org](http://www.militaryproject.org)

## 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.

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