

Military Resistance 1317



AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Taliban Storm Prison: 350 Inmates Freed



The prison building in Ghazni province after attack, September 14, 2015. Reuters

Sep 14, 2015 by Mustafa Andalib, Reuters

Taliban insurgents stormed a prison in Afghanistan on Monday, killing police and releasing more than 350 inmates, including nearly 150 deemed a threat to national security, and then attacked troops rushing to help, officials said.

The latest Taliban prison raid, on the outskirts of the central city of Ghazni, comes after setbacks for the government in different parts of the country and deadly attacks in Kabul which have dashed hopes for peace talks.

A Reuters reporter outside the mud fort prison in Ghazni, 120 km (75 miles) southwest of the capital, Kabul, saw the bodies of two men who appeared to be bombers and a blown-up car that had apparently been used to destroy the main entrance.

Clusters of bullet casings were scattered across the road.

The interior ministry said that 355 of the 436 prisoners had escaped.

Of those who got away, 148 were a "threat to national security and 207 were criminals", the ministry said in a statement.

Four Taliban and four members of the security forces were killed in the attack, the ministry said. Seven police were injured.

Mohammed Ali Ahmadi, deputy city governor, said the prison's security was well below recommended standards because it was so close to Ghazni - only seven km (4.3 miles) from the city center - and it was believed that reinforcements would get there quickly in the event of trouble.

On Sunday, officials concerned about a breakout had transferred 18 "dangerous" Taliban to a jail operated by the Afghan intelligence agency, he said. Seventeen were left behind.

Ahmadi said he believed they helped coordinate the attack.

"Roads to the prison were covered with land mines in advance to avoid reinforcement," Ahmadi told reporters.

"An army vehicle coming for reinforcements was blown up by a roadside bomb while trying to reach the prison."

One security official said the attackers, armed with rocket-propelled grenades and automatic rifles, were wearing security force uniforms.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said gunmen and three bombers attacked the prison at 2 a.m. (2200 GMT Sunday). Three bombers were killed, he said.

"Important military mujahideen officials have been freed," he said.

The Taliban are fighting to overthrow the foreign-backed government of President Ashraf Ghani, expel foreign forces and impose their strict interpretation of Islamic law.

The insurgents have attacked jails to free hundreds of prisoners including their comrades on several occasions, in both Afghanistan and neighboring Pakistan.

Security at Afghan prisons is often poor, with untrained, poorly equipped police guarding crumbling facilities.

MORE:

Ghazni Main Prison Broken: 400 Innocent Detainees Freed [Taliban Press Release



[Graphic: flickr.com/photos]

09/14/2015 by Zabihullah Mujahid, Spokesman of Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

HAZNI, Sep. 14 –

Amid the ongoing annual Azm campaign, 10 martyrdom seekers and tens of other Mujahideen of Islamic Emirate launched coordinated attacks on the main Ghazni provincial prison and adjacent enemy battalion.

The attack which began at around 02:00 am local time today, Monday 14th September, lasted for several hours during which the prison was overrun, several enemy personnel killed and wounded as well as some 400 inmates facing torture and abuse at the hands of the regime freed and transferred to areas under Mujahideen control.

Officials say that only 3 martyrdom seekers attained martyrdom in the operation (may Allah accept them) while all the rest safely returned back to their bases.

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

MILITARY NEWS

**“Assad Is Massacring Us”
“We Don’t Support The Islamic State, But If Its Fighters Came Here To Save Us, Believe Me, The People Would Welcome Them With Open Arms”
“The Assad Regime Has Been The Main Source Of Death And Destruction In Syria Since 2011”
“The Rising Death Toll Is Fueling An Exodus That Has Overwhelmed Neighboring Turkey, Lebanon And Jordan With Millions Of Syrian Refugees, Who Are Increasingly Streaming Into Europe”**

September 5 By Hugh Naylor, Washington Post [Excerpts]

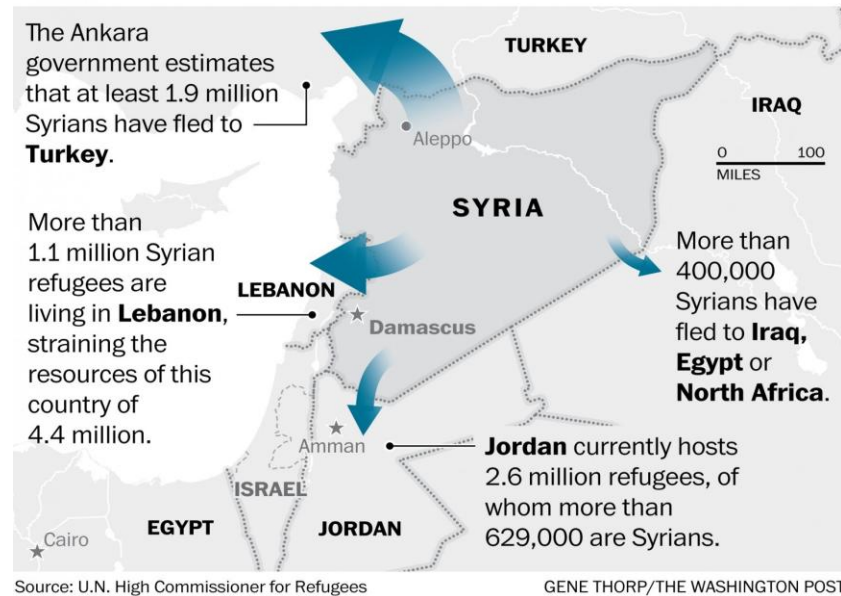
BEIRUT — President Bashar al-Assad’s government has killed far more people in Syria this year than the Islamic State, monitoring organizations and analysts say, even as the extremist group grabs headlines with its shocking brutality.

Between January and July, Assad’s military and pro-government militias killed 7,894 people, while the Islamic State killed 1,131, according to the Syrian Network for Human Rights, a monitoring group based in Britain.

In a single day last month, government airstrikes are said to have killed more than 100 people in a residential area of Douma, a suburb of the capital, Damascus.

“No human being should have to endure what Assad is putting us through,” said Hassan Takuldin, 27, who witnessed the Douma attacks.

At least 4 million Syrians have fled their homeland since 2011. Most have gone to neighboring countries.



Government forces are responsible for many more of the estimated 250,000 deaths in the four-year-old conflict than are the Islamic State militants and rebel groups, analysts and monitoring groups say.

The figures, they say, underscore how Assad’s indiscriminate use of violence has empowered the Islamic State and other extremist groups and forced millions of Syrians to flee to neighboring countries and Europe.

“For all the Islamic State’s horrendous brutality, we can’t forget that the Assad regime has been the main source of death and destruction in Syria since 2011,” said Emile Hokayem, a Middle East analyst at the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies.

“You can’t solve the conflict unless you find a way to address this, which the world hasn’t yet.”

The conflict began in 2011 as a peaceful Arab Spring uprising that turned violent, many Syrians say, because of Assad’s brutal response to unarmed demonstrations against his rule. But the Islamic State shot to world attention only a year ago as it rampaged across parts of Syria and Iraq. As the media spotlight shifted to the group’s grisly beheadings and mass executions, Assad’s forces continued to ravage entire neighborhoods and the lives of people who live in them.

The Syrian leader has increasingly relied on his air force — by far his most lethal weapon — as his military suffers huge losses to advancing rebels, analysts say.

Assad now controls less than half of Syria's territory, even though no opposition group possesses air power. The government's Russian-supplied aircraft can fly practically unopposed over rebel-held areas to launch airstrikes, which include releasing barrel bombs, metal drums packed with explosives.

Rights organizations and analysts say that these air raids are tantamount to war crimes and serve a number of calculated goals. These include preventing the formation of local rebel-run authorities and making the population think twice about allowing insurgents into neighborhoods.

The air raids have leveled swaths of Douma, said Takuldin, who recalled the carnage of the attack on that day in August. After the attack, he said, once-bustling streets were littered with mangled bodies of men, women and children.

Assad, Takuldin said, "is killing my neighbors. He is killing my friends. He is killing my family."

During a 10-day period in August, air bombardments killed or wounded about 1,300 people in Douma and surrounding areas, according to figures from the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, another monitoring group based in Britain.

Abu Hamza Doumani, 35, a resident of Douma, said the attacks collapsed the home of his aunt, her husband, their daughter-in-law and two young grandchildren, trapping them under twisted rebar and shattered concrete.

None survived, he said. "Where is the world? Who can save us from this?" Doumani said.

As government forces continue to lose territory to insurgents, the frequency of aerial attacks appears to be increasing.

In July, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights documented nearly 7,000 government airstrikes conducted around Syria — the highest monthly number since the conflict began. Some of the areas that sustained the heaviest bombardments include the northwestern province of Idlib, which fell to rebel forces in recent months.

"These indiscriminate attacks have continued, but there aren't measures in place to protect civilians," said Nadim Houry, Human Rights Watch's deputy director for the Middle East and North Africa.

The rising death toll is fueling an exodus that has overwhelmed neighboring Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan with millions of Syrian refugees, who are increasingly streaming into Europe.

For those still in Syria, the desperate circumstances appear to be benefiting al-Qaeda affiliate Jabhat al-Nusra and other extremist opposition groups, said Hassan Hassan, a Syria analyst and co-author of the book "ISIS: Inside the Army of Terror."

The groups have attracted many followers as they continue to seize territory. In the process, they have overrun moderate, Western-backed rebel forces that were poorly armed and seen by many Syrians as ineffective against Assad's forces.

Analysts say the government attacks are indirectly hindering U.S.-led military initiatives against the Islamic State. A year of airstrikes by a coalition led by the United States has not stopped the group from expanding, and a U.S. plan to train and equip thousands of Syrians to fight the Islamic State has struggled to attract participants.

For many Syrians, a key issue with those efforts is that they do not target Assad's forces, Hassan said.

“Most Syrians still consider Assad as the biggest criminal and their worst enemy,” Hassan said. “And that means any initiative to fight the Islamic State, including the ones by the Americans, is bound to fail if rebels and Syrians in general see it as a diversion from fighting the Assad regime.”

The Obama administration has long said it supports diplomacy to secure the eventual removal of Assad. But while U.S. and European officials view Assad as a key driver of Syria's chaos, they also express concern that his sudden fall from power could permit extremists to wreak even more havoc.

Yousef al-Boustany, 24, a Douma resident, said he wants the Syrian leader's immediate ouster. Assad's forces have besieged Douma for years, killing dozens of Boustany's family members and friends with indiscriminate bombings, he said.

“Assad is massacring us,” he said. “We don't support the Islamic State, but if its fighters came here to save us, believe me, the people would welcome them with open arms.”

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

**The Nixon administration claimed and received great credit for withdrawing the Army from Vietnam, but it was the rebellion of low-ranking GIs that forced the government to abandon a hopeless suicidal policy.
-- David Cortright; Soldiers In Revolt**

A Truth For Israel

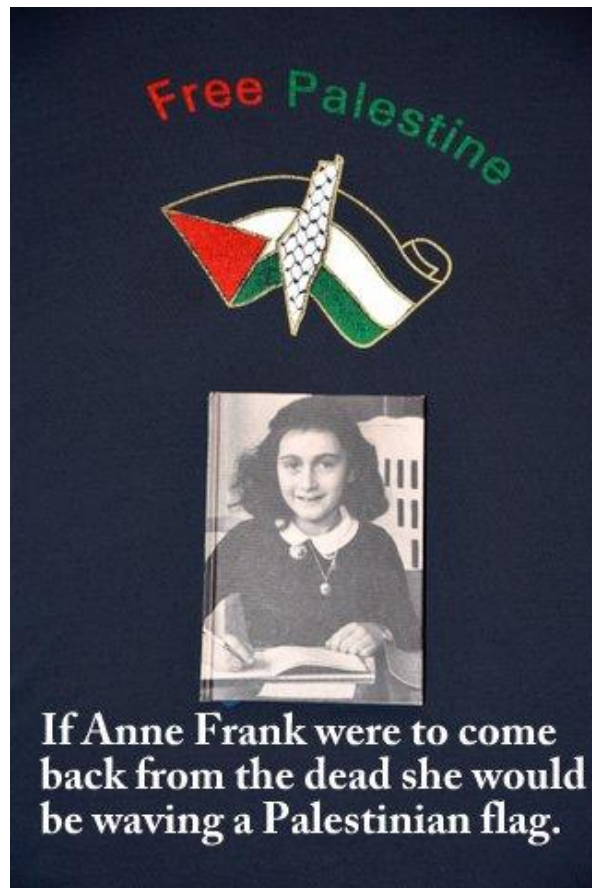


Photo by Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015
Subject: A Truth For Israel

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

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

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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
Box 126, 2576 Broadway,
New York, N.Y. 10025-5657**

A Biblical Guide to Marriage Licenses

[Thanks to Eddie Stinson for posting at AmeriConscience]

September 14, 2015 by Valerie Tarico, ValerieTarico.com [Excerpts]

Goats? Zombies? Your mother's uncle's wife? Test your knowledge of 19 Iron Age do's and don'ts.

Some folks believe that America should be subject to biblical law rather than constitutional law, that public servants— like Kentucky clerk Kim Davis—owe their highest allegiance to the Bible, which means they shouldn't be forced to give out unbiblical marriage licenses—like to gay couples.

The issue, obviously, is contested by a host of liberals, secularists, Satanists and moderate Christians.

But assuming that Bible believers and religious freedom advocates carry the day, public servants will need to know their Good Book.

I have written elsewhere about biblical justice (If the Bible were Law Would You Qualify for the Death Penalty? and Bible vs Quran—Test Your Knowledge of Who Deserves Death in Which Religion), and readers found those lists illuminating.

So, I thought folks might appreciate the following 19 item quiz, which can be used to screen applicants for county clerk positions or as a guide for those already working the job.

If Kentucky issues only biblical marriage licenses, to which of the following couples should a county clerk grant a license?

1. *A man with a consenting woman, but without her father's permission.*

No. Numbers 30:1-16 teaches that a single woman's father has final authority over legal contracts she may enter.

2. *A man, a nonconsenting woman, and her father.*

Yes. According to the Law of Moses a female is male property, as are slaves, livestock, and children. (See Exodus 20:17, Exodus 21:7). Her father can give her in marriage or sell her to a slave master. Female consent in the Bible is not a prerequisite for marriage or sex.

3. *A married man and three other women.*

Yes. The Old Testament endorses polygamy, and the New Testament does not reverse this—except for church elders (1 Timothy 3:2).

4. *A childless widow and her husband's reluctant brother.*

Yes. Genesis 38:8-10 makes it clear that a man has a responsibility to seed children for his deceased brother. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus doesn't alter the tradition but does say it will no longer apply in heaven. (Matthew 22:24-28)

5. *Two men.*

No. Leviticus is clear. Two men having sex is an abomination, just like eating shellfish, getting tattoos, shaving your beard, or wearing blend fabrics. (Leviticus 18:22, 20:13, 11:9-12, 19:28, 19:27)

6. *Two women.*

No, not even with their fathers' permission. Paul's epistle to the Romans (1:26) says that this is degrading and unnatural.

7. *A man and a divorced woman.*

No. Unless her husband divorced her because he found out that she wasn't a virgin when they married, anyone who marries a divorced woman is committing adultery. A marriage license in this case would be an adultery license. (Matthew 5:32, Matthew 19:9)

8. *A woman and a divorced man.*

No. A man who divorces his wife and remarries is committing adultery. (Luke 16:18)

9. *A Christian and a Hindu.*

No. The Apostle Paul calls this being unequally yoked (2 Corinthians 6:14). If the applicants balk at your refusal, you might respond gently with Paul's own words: "What fellowship has righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion has light with darkness?"

10. *A soldier and a virgin prisoner of war.*

Yes, but you should provide written instructions on the purification ritual required before bedding her. The soldier must shave her head and trim her nails and give her a month to mourn her parents before the first sex act. Also, remind him that if she fails to 'delight', he must set her free rather than selling her. (Deuteronomy 21:10-14)

11. *A rapist and his victim.*

Yes, with qualifiers. The woman's consent is not an issue, but her father should be present as he is owed 50 shekels (approximately \$580) for the damage to his daughter. Also, the contract should have an addendum stating clearly that no divorce will be allowed. The rapist must keep her for life since, obviously, no one else will want the damaged goods. (Deuteronomy 22:28-29)

12. *A man and his wife's indentured/undocumented servant.*

Yes, although you might remind the man that in this case a marriage license is not a prerequisite to sex, since community property laws apply. However, should God bless this union with babies, any offspring will belong to the man and his wife, not the indentured woman. (Genesis 30:1-22)

13. *A man and his mother, sister, half-sister, mother-in-law, grandchild, or uncle's wife.*

Probably not. Although God’s law is timeless and unchanging, He does seem to shift on this one. In the book of Genesis, God rewards marriages between siblings—for example, the Patriarch Abraham and his half-sister Sarah. But later texts specifically prohibit a variety of incestuous relationships. (e.g. Lev. 18:7-8; Lev. 18:10; Lev. 20:11; Deut. 22:30; Deut. 27:20; Deut. 27:23)

14. A black woman and a white man, or vice versa.

Absolutely not. Scripture is full of verses prohibiting interracial marriage. (Gen. 28:6; Exod. 34:15-16; Num. 25:6-11; Deut. 7:1-3; Josh. 23:12-13; Judges 3:5-8; 1 Kings 11:1-2; Ezra 9:1-2, 12; Ezra 10:2-3, 10-11; Neh. 10:30; Neh. 13:25-27)

15. A gentile and a Jew.

No. If the Jew should appeal to the Anti-Defamation League, remind them of how dangerous such a union could be: “Thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly.” (Deuteronomy 7:3-4)

16. A man and a pregnant woman who claims to be a virgin.

Yes. You may feel personal misgivings about a marriage that is based in deception from the get-go, but judge not that ye be not judged. One in 200 American women who give birth say they have never had sex. Rather plaguing this young couple with your corrosive doubt, you can encourage them with the biblical virgin birth story, while taking care to avoid any sex-negative implications that might harm their marriage.

17. A man and a goat.

Don’t be ridiculous. Can a goat sign a marriage license?

18. A man and a sex-trafficked teen he bought from a gangster.

Yes, but not until Kentucky legalizes sex trafficking. Sexual slavery is quite common in the Bible, well regulated (For example, Judges 21), and frequently sanctioned or blessed by God. However, the New Testament teaches that we should pay our taxes and be law abiding, even under a secular/pagan government. (Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13-17)

19. Two zombies.

Only if they are not Christians. Jesus states clearly that there will be no marriage for Christians in the afterlife (Matthew 22:24-28). Otherwise, marriage between the dead or undead is not addressed in the Bible, and you should default to whatever the Supreme Court may have ruled on this matter.

Note: Some liberal Christian license seekers may complain to you or your supervisor that these guidelines come mostly from the Old Testament, which has been replaced by a New Covenant under Jesus.

“Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest

letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5: 17-19).

Stand firm. If the Bible is the perfect Word of the living God, your detractors are up against the Almighty himself.

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.

RECEIVED FROM READERS

From: Frank M
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Subject: Re: Military Resistance 1316: Marine Spat On
Date: Sep 14, 2015

Good issue.

Loved the stock market cartoon.

China leads the list? Why, do you suppose?

REPLY: T

“The list” referred to appears below.

China has been #1 several months, including July.

As for why, no solid information about that.

Perhaps consistent opposition to the U.S., Chinese, and Russian Imperial regimes, controlled by loathsome oligarchs, and for revolutionary working class movements from below to put an end to them all, has something to do with it.

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

1 China

- 2 USA
- 3 Germany
- 4 "Unknown" [Source Masked]
- 5 Ukraine
- 6 France
- 7 Canada
- 8 Sudan
- 9 Romania
- 10 Hong Kong

Readers from an additional 72 have also accessed, including Vietnam, Afghanistan, Malaysia, Colombia, Greece, Russian Federation & Kenya.

Source: AWStats

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**Saying Goodbye To Reham
Dawabsha:**

“It Is A Feeling Of Anguish Mixed With Helplessness In The Face Of A Justice System That Not A Single Palestinian Believes In”



Mother of Saad Dawabsha (center) reacts during her son’s funeral procession, in the West Bank village of Duma, August 8, 2015. Saad Dawabsha and his toddler son Ali, 18-months-old, were burned to death in an arson attack by Jewish extremists on their house last week. Saad died of his injuries after a week in the hospital. (Yotam Ronen / Activestills.org)

September 10, 2015 By Samah Salaime, +972 Magazine. This article was first published in Hebrew on Local Call.

Fate brought me to Reham Dawabsha’s hospital bed after she and the rest of her family were burned alive in their home. We had never met before, but something kept bringing me back to see her.

Operation Protective Edge brought me a small, new batch of new Jewish and Arab friends. A few days ago, we got together after a year apart. Gaza seemed very far from the German border, and naturally the refugee issue took over our conversation.

At the end of the evening I announced that I was heading toward Tel Hashomer Hospital, “just to say hello and see how the women there are doing. Reham’s mother probably hasn’t eaten since the morning nor slept.”

One of the women decided to come along: “I’ll come with you, but my heart is weak. I won’t go in, I’ll wait outside.”

“A woman in urgent care is not frightening, the people who put her there are,” I said to myself. We made it to the children’s unit of the hospital, where little Ahmed Dawabsha is still hospitalized. Family members and volunteers sat around a cake.

“We decided to celebrate Reham’s birthday anyway,” said one of the volunteers. The aunts ate the cake, crestfallen and with tears in their eyes, wished for her recovery. “Inshallah she will be alright, God is great.”

I asked whether Umm Hassan, Reham’s mother, was resting or whether she had eaten at all. The aunts told me that she refuses to leave her daughter’s hospital bed.

I began to talk in the direction of Reham’s hospital room, through a long hallway that was empty in the late hours of the night, when my friend asked me: “Why this family, Samah? I know how much we tried to help the sick from Gaza and the West Bank, why are you so attached to the Dawabsha family?”

I thought for a moment. “I don’t think it was a choice. Fate brought me here on the day of the attack, and since then I feel like I am a part of this. Poor Reham and Ahmed were burned alive. Just a family sleeping in their home, and someone planned to kill them in the most inhumane way possible. This isn’t cancer from up above, this is a human cancer and they are the victims, and they landed here in a military helicopter without a clue.”

I found Umm Hassan and another aunt trying to enter urgent care after they left to pray for a few minutes. The mother stood crying in front of the locked door. I rang the bell until they responded. The four of us entered the room quietly, without the typical pushback from the medical staff whom I have come to know quite well.

The beeping of the machines was the only thing that could be heard next to Reham’s bed. Her mother turned to me: “Look at her Samah, her face is even brighter than yesterday.

“Yesterday they told us that she only has a few hours left, but she held tight. Maybe it’s a good sign.”

“Inshallah, God is great,” I answered. “What did the doctors tell you today?”

“That her blood pressure is going up and that perhaps her body is responding to the treatment. The doctor says it’s a miracle that she made it this far.”

She looked at me with a modest smile that brought out the wrinkles on her tired face. “I am happy you are smiling, whoever saw you yesterday and today can see the difference. You told me that she would pass away on her birthday, and here she is and we are celebrating, right?”



Palestinians in the West Bank village of Duma carry the body of 18-month-old Ali Saad Dawabsha after he was slain in an arson attack during the early hours of the morning, July 31, 2015. (Oren Ziv/Activestills.org)

The mother got up from her seat and began caressing Reham's face. "Isn't she breathing better than yesterday? I see that the numbers are going up, do you see?"

I looked at the monitor as if I understood what it said and responded: "She must feel that you are near her. Your touch is important, there is nothing like a mother in an hour of need. But you must also rest, sleep a little, and come back later."

Umm Hassan wasn't all that enthusiastic about my idea. When Reham's brother Hassan and his wife came into the room, I asked Hassan to help me convince his mother to come eat and sleep in the other room, and call her if something happens.

We finally managed to convince her. I hugged Umm Hassan and led her toward the exit. "My heart is with her, I cannot leave her like this," she whispered to me.

We headed toward the children's hospital. On the way we laughed at the moving walkway that frightened the women of Duma. Umm Hassan was the only one who would use it.

"You see Samah," she laughed. "What can I do? I have gotten used to it. I haven't seen the village in 35 days, it is as if I live here between Ahmed and Reham."

After making sure that Um Hasan was in good hands, I said goodbye and headed home. I called my husband Omar to explain my tardiness. "I stopped at the hospital after the

meeting,” I told him, like a little girl asking for forgiveness. “I knew it. I had a feeling you were there.”

There is something in the air during these nights, ever since Reham's condition became critical, and I refuse to let go. I am constantly thinking of her, her mother, the stories I've heard and the photos I've seen, like a life puzzle that is slowly being put together, until I really feel like I knew the elementary school math teacher, the mother who loves to cook vegetables and eat healthy, who chased Ahmed in the yard in order to feed him, the loving older sister among three.

I thought about how I am saying goodbye to a woman whom I never knew, a woman whose entire life, and death, made its way into mine. There is no logical explanation, and I didn't look for one. I thought about her final moments and how it would happen. I imagined the machines coming to a deafening halt, and what her mother would do right then.

I cried both to and from the hospital, trying hopelessly to distract myself. My friend called me at 7 a.m. the next morning: “Why did you drag me there Samah? Look what happened!”

“What!?” I yelled, “Reham died?”

“Yes, right after we left her. I cannot believe I was with you yesterday.”

I put down the phone, sent my son to school, and found myself on the way to the hospital. Reham's father Hussein told me that he called me at midnight. “You didn't answer, Reham was martyred. Khalas, my poor daughter is gone. The funeral is today.”

The drive, which felt like it lasted forever, ended at the hospital, where the women of the village and Reham's mother — all of them tearful, tired, and devastated — were driven back to Duma. All of them left apart from Miriam, Reham's 16-year-old sister who stayed with little Ahmed, who does not understand what happened and was in surgery in the morning.

Reham's father and brother-in-law waited for her body to be released; the entire procedure took four hours after it was discovered that they lacked approval from the police. The hospital spokesperson called everyone she could to obtain the permit. The hospital clerk looked at them sternly, refusing to release the body without a signature.

Between translating the forms and the many telephone calls, everybody's patience was running out. I called a journalist I knew to ask if perhaps he could find a police official. I spoke with the police spokesperson and told her we are waiting for the signature.

She responded that the top brass was at an event in honor of Rosh Hashana.

“We are being burned and they are celebrating?!” yelled the brother-in-law. The spokesperson called back to say that one of the officers would leave the event in order to send a fax with his signature. A few minutes later and the release certificate was in our hands.

We headed to the morgue.

As we headed out of the hospital in an ambulance we were accompanied by a woman who coordinates entry permits into the occupied territories. She told us that the ambulance driver did not want to enter the PA-controlled areas, nor pass the checkpoint, claiming that it went against company regulations.

It was a long drive to the morgue, as if it were in another city.

The entire drive was spent making sure that a Palestinian ambulance would come to the Hawara checkpoint near Nablus, where they would transfer the body.

I imagined the humiliation of moving Reham from one vehicle to another on both sides of the checkpoint. How could this happen on her final journey?

Alas, this was the only solution we could find; ordering an "Arab" ambulance would take another hour, and no one had the energy for waiting around.

The father went inside to identify the body. One of the three men in charge of the morgue, an ultra-Orthodox man, consoled the father and asked whether Jews were really responsible. "I do not believe that Jews did this," he said, "there must be a mistake."

I went to the father and asked to say goodbye to Reham, since I would not be at the funeral. "Of course, binti, of course. You are like her sister now, come with us." The father slowly unzipped the thick, blue bag.

It was the first time I saw her face without bandages or attached to machines. I could not bring myself to say anything aside from the Fatiha (the opening chapter of the Quran), and slowly followed the stretcher until they placed her in the ambulance, her father weeping beside her.

As the ambulance door slammed shut, I remained standing there in silence. I was alone, and looked around to try and understand what I was doing there, and how it could be that behind me were numbered metal coffins, while in front of me stood a giant horizon.

I thought I saw a huge forest touching a white, open sky. I took a deep breath and prepared to leave. It is still unclear to me how I found myself next to Ahmed's bed after he woke up from surgery.

I spoke with the staff members in Hebrew about the funeral and the ordeal with the police approval. We agreed not to tell him until we spoke with a child psychologist and until his grandmother comes back, despite being convinced that he felt what had happened.

Mariam tried to distract him with balloons and a game, but he refused to participate.

All of a sudden I thought about this girl who lost her sister, far away from their village, and must now act as a mother to this wounded child. Why isn't anyone asking her how she feels?

The volunteers suggested she eat something, and she was too embarrassed to even answer. I asked her if she needs anything, she said she needs a wristband to enter the unit. "Let's take care of it with the nurse, it's no problem," I said.

We waited for the nurse along with another volunteer. "It must be hard for you," I said, "I understand your loss, and everything you are going through." She turned to me with a heartbreaking look of a lost teenage girl and began to cry.

"It's okay, cry binti, you are not alone here. We are with you," said the volunteer. The nurse arrived and Reham's sister wiped her tears as she headed back to Ahmed's room. I said goodbye for the hundredth time and left the room, after promising Ahmed that I would bring him Tom and Jerry games, which he loves.

As Reham was lowered into the ground, another chapter in the horror movie called humanity came to an end. The thought of little Ahmed losing his parents and brother in one night is too difficult to comprehend.

It is a feeling of anguish mixed with helplessness in the face of a justice system that not a single Palestinian believes in. It makes it difficult to believe that things will be okay here one day.

Occupation Forces Attack Unarmed Palestinian Fishermen, As Usual

12-9-2015 PIC

GAZA, -- The Israeli navy on Friday evening attacked Palestinian fishermen off the northern coast of the Gaza Strip, with no reported casualties.

Local sources told Quds Press that Israeli gunboats opened machinegun fire at Palestinian fishing boats in the northern waters of Gaza and within the permitted fishing zone.

They added that the intensity of the gunfire forced the fishermen to return to shore without completing their work.

The Israeli occupation army has carried out dozens of gunfire attacks against Palestinian civilians in border areas and off the coast of Gaza since it accepted the Egyptian-brokered truce agreement with the resistance on August 26, 2014.

Occupation Forces Shot Child Of Palestinian Fisherman In Free Gaza

Israeli Forces Shoot, Injure Child of Fisherman in Gaza

Sep 4 2015 PalestineChronicle.com

Israeli forces shot and injured a Palestinian child near the shores of the Beit Lahiya village in the northern Gaza Strip, medics said.

Medics told Ma'an that Bilal Abu Amro, 11, was shot in the thigh while he was with his father, a fisherman.

He was taken to Kamal Adwan hospital for treatment.

An Israeli army spokesperson told Ma'an they were unaware of the incident.

Palestinian fishermen making a living off of the shores of the besieged Gaza Strip face daily risks, including routine harassment from Israeli naval forces, confiscation of boats and materials, detention, and potentially death.

At least three Palestinian fishermen have been shot dead by Israeli forces since September [2014].

Israeli forces often allege that fishermen deviate from the designated fishing zone and pose a security threat.

The exact limits of the zone set by Israeli authorities are often ambiguous, and authorities have not abided by the fishing zone agreed upon in last summer's ceasefire agreement, rights groups say.

The attacks come despite Israeli promises at the end of last summer's ceasefire to ease restrictions on Palestinian access to both the sea and the border region near the "security buffer zone."

On July 31, Mohammad Hamid al-Masri, 17, was shot by Israeli forces and died instantly north of Beit Lahiya near the border fence.

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

**Campaign Staffers Making Progress
Conditioning Hillary Clinton To Replicate
Emotions**

September 16, 2015 The Onion

BROOKLYN, NY—

After several months of diligent effort, staff members working on Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign confirmed Wednesday they have made significant progress in conditioning her to convincingly recreate and convey a limited spectrum of emotions.

According to aides who drill the Democratic frontrunner for several hours each day on her emotional responses to a variety of stimuli, Clinton can now effectively exhibit concern, mild excitement, and incredulity. Intensive training is reportedly still underway on some of the more challenging-to-produce emotions, such as polite interest and personal warmth.

"The headway Hillary has made is really encouraging, especially when you consider what we started with," said staffer Cheryl Dumás, who later added that when she began working with Clinton, the candidate was only able to fluctuate between stony neutrality and terrifying anger.

"We're very proud that she can now display a virtually indistinguishable facsimile of empathy. It's the result of a behavioral modification technique in which we rigorously reinforce any approximations of compassion that happen to flash across her face while she listens to the concerns of voters."

"We're hopeful that she'll have a functional range of 11 or even 12 emotions by the time the early primaries roll around," Dumás added.

In her current program of operant conditioning, Clinton is reportedly shown a series of images—such as a widow crying at her spouse's funeral, a family opening presents on Christmas morning, and former House speaker Newt Gingrich—designed to induce specific emotional responses, and depending on the appropriateness of her subsequent facial expressions and other body language, she is either rewarded or punished.

Staffers said they began the process by slowly and painstakingly pairing a correct reaction with a correct stimulus.

They reportedly first trained the former secretary of state to reproduce a "happy" emotion by repeatedly showing her a photo of a small child playing with a kitten and then rubbing a soft cloth on her face while physically holding her mouth in the shape of a smile until, eventually, she could display a passable simulacrum of joy.

"There are definitely some crossed wires, like how she nods and applauds after hearing the story of a family that lost their home to foreclosure," campaign consultant Allison Stevens said. "But it's just a matter of time and patience. When she gets a response wrong, we spritz her in the face with cold water from a spray bottle, and when she gets one right, we let her work on her memoirs for a little bit or call her 'Madam President' in soothing tones—she loves that."

"She also really likes Luna Bars," Stevens continued. "She'll do just about anything for a Luna Bar!"

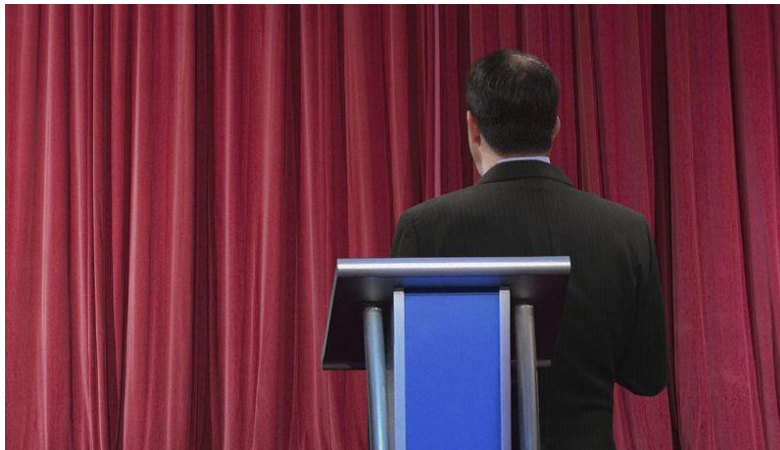
Staff members acknowledged that Clinton would be subject to extremely rapid regression if she were not conditioned with absolute consistency.

They told reporters they didn't want her to go back to the days when people she met on the campaign trail would voice their deepest worries and she would respond to each by loudly stating, "I am feeling empathy toward you."

"There have definitely been some setbacks," senior aide Tim Balducci said. "Yesterday, when a reporter asked for her thoughts on the surge in refugees crossing the Mediterranean, she panicked and rapidly cycled through the eight or so responses we'd equipped her with thus far before making a painfully stilted reply. We really hope to get that ironed out before the first debate next month."

Other campaigns have taken note of Clinton's progress and implemented similar programs, with Chris Christie's staffers reporting this week that they have already had some limited success in training the New Jersey governor not to bite people or defecate on the floor.

Aides Rush On Stage To Rotate Scott Walker Back To Direction Of Audience



September 16, 2015 The Onion

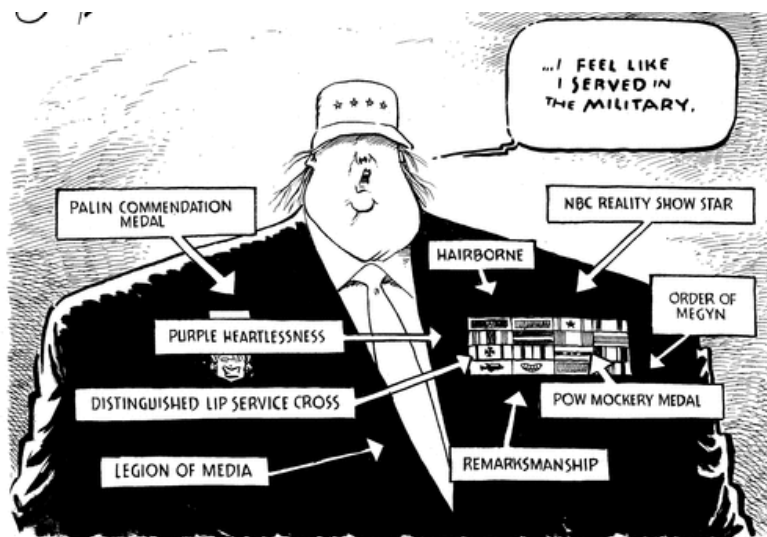
SIMI VALLEY, CA—Upon noticing that the Wisconsin governor had become disoriented during one of the moderator's questions and begun delivering his response while facing the set's backdrop, several of his aides rushed on stage during Wednesday's GOP primary debate to rotate Scott Walker back in the direction of the audience.

"It's not unusual for him to get a little confused up there, what with all the bright lights and people talking on all sides, so if we see him starting to drift away like that, a couple of us will just hop up there and turn him back the right way," said senior aide Kyle

DeBacker, who added that Walker campaign staffers were almost always able to catch the presidential candidate before he'd wandered too far from his podium and could often redirect his gaze by snapping their fingers in the direction they wanted him to look.

“The only time it’s a real problem is when he meanders too far from the microphone in the middle of an answer and we have to stay at his side until we can coax him to repeat whichever part the audience didn’t get to hear. Otherwise, we’re just glad he’s stayed standing for the whole debate so far tonight instead of lying down on the floor while the other candidates are talking like he usually does.”

At press time, a distracted Walker had taken a seat on the edge of the debate platform and was absentmindedly banging his feet against the side of the stage.



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: “Makes ya proud to be amercurun.”]

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