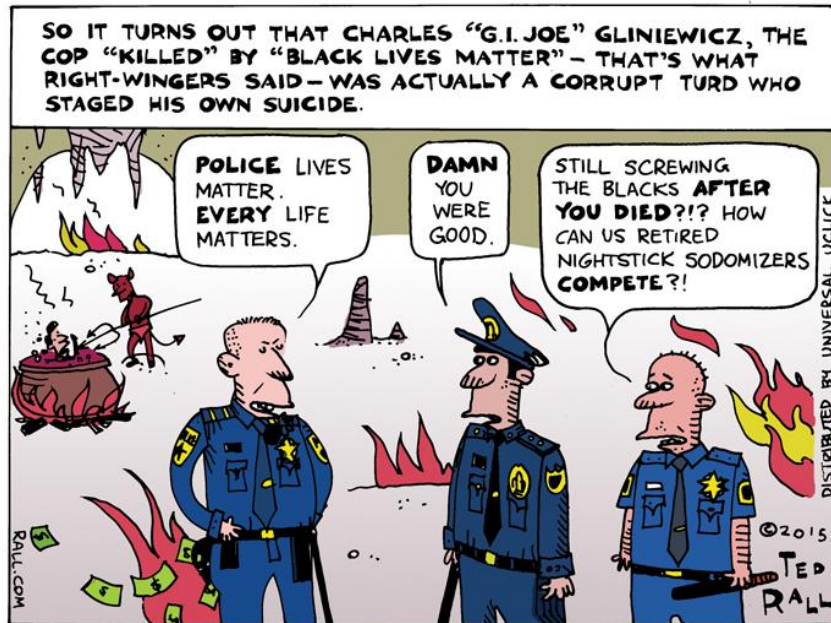


## Military Resistance 13K4



## **Sgt. Being Thrown Out Of Army Out For Punishing A Boy- Raping Afghan Local Police Commander:**

**“Kicking Me Out Of The Army Is  
Morally Wrong And The Entire  
Country Knows It”**

**“Many Consider Martland A Hero For  
His Actions. U.S. Soldiers Were Told**

# To Overlook Sexual Abuse Of Young Boys”

“After The Child Rapist Laughed It Off And Referenced That It Was Only A Boy, Captain Quinn Picked Him Up And Threw Him”



Sgt. 1st Class Charles Martland, shown here, wants to remain in the Army but is being booted out after assaulting a child rapist in Afghanistan.

10.12.2015 By Kyle Jahner, Army Times [Excerpts]

The Green Beret getting kicked out because he beat a child rapist in Afghanistan continues to gather supporters — including the rater whose negative review contributed to the forceout.

Sgt. 1st Class Charles Martland and his then-detachment commander have admitted to attacking an Afghan Local Police commander in Konduz province in 2011. Martland, a Bronze Star recipient, has served since then and wants to remain in the Army. But he has been flagged for involuntary separation because of his role in the assault.

He is scheduled to leave service no later than Nov. 1 after 11 years in the Army.

Martland’s story has already gained the vocal support of Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif. The VFW has voiced support and a House resolution was drafted that calls for the Army to reinstate the Green Beret since the media picked up Martland’s story.

**Many consider Martland a hero for his actions, especially in the face of reports U.S. soldiers were told to overlook sexual abuse of young boys — a common practice in Afghanistan, especially in the security forces.**

Details of the 2011 incident were revealed in statements from Martland and his fellow Green Beret, Capt. Daniel Quinn, provided to Army Times by Hunter's office.

The 1st Special Forces Group soldiers were conducting village stability operations in Konduz province, requiring frequent coordination with police.

**According to their accounts, Martland and Quinn learned from an interpreter that a boy was claiming Afghan Local Police Commander Abdul Rahman tied him to a post in Rahman's house and raped him "repeatedly for 10 days to two weeks."**

**Later, Rahman allegedly had the boy's mother beaten for attempting to intervene.**

Rahman's men and neighboring ALP commanders confirmed the accounts, Quinn said.

**When confronted, Rahman allegedly confessed and laughed at Martland and Quinn.**

**"After the child rapist laughed it off and referenced that it was only a boy, Captain Quinn picked him up and threw him," Martland said in his statement.**

Martland said he joined in, body slamming Rahman multiple times.

After one body slam, Martland said he kicked him in the ribs; after another, he put his foot on his neck and yelled at him. He continued picking him up and throwing him for 50 meters toward the gate of the camp. Quinn gave him the final heave-ho through the gate of the camp.

"That night our company commander called with a report about it and Capt. Quinn told the truth. We were flown to our (Advanced Operations Base) the next day, and immediately told to never speak of it, which I have not," Martland said.

**Master Sgt. Anthony Sansone (ret.) was Martland's rater for a Relief for Cause NCO Evaluation Report. Sansone gave Martland a career-killing "No" block for integrity on Army values, according to a memo Sansone wrote for the U.S. Army Enlisted Records and Evaluation Center.**

**Sansone expressed remorse in the memo and called Martland "one of the best soldiers I ever served with over my twenty-plus years of service." He said the spirit of the negative aspect of the report was to correct an "isolated albeit serious incident."**

**"Had I known that giving him a 'No' block for integrity on Army Values would seal his fate professionally, I would have written it differently and challenged some of the guidance received on how to word that document," Sansone wrote.**

**But with the Army drawing down tens of thousands of soldiers, a black mark in an eval can haunt a soldier.**

Martland's violent actions have now caught up with him, four years after the fact. Quinn, meanwhile, left the Army voluntarily in 2012.

Army Times contacted Sansone by phone. He declined additional comment but said he “stands by” his comments in the memo.

The national commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars has publicly questioned the military’s response. In a Sept. 24 statement, John Biedrzycki Jr. said he wants to hear more on the matter because “it would appear that Martland is being punished for doing what I would hope anyone would do when encountering a wrong.” Biedrzycki wants Defense Secretary Ash Carter to overturn the Army’s decision to kick Martland out.

Meanwhile, Rep. Vern Buchanan, R-Fla., introduced a House resolution seeking to reinstate Martland in the Army.

Col. Steve Johnson was a lieutenant colonel and battalion commander for 1st Special Forces Group in Afghanistan at the time of the incident. In an Aug. 31 article by The News Tribune in Washington state, Johnson said that, based on his discussions with Afghan leaders and the Green Berets, they beat him “within an inch of his life.”

But Johnson never came to the camp nor spoke to anyone from the village in the aftermath, according to both soldiers; Martland said his entire team would swear to it. Johnson declined initial comment and asked questions be sent through his command.

Quinn and Martland wrote that Rahman exaggerated his injuries and denied having struck him in the head or face at any point. He was never knocked out, Martland said, and he ran away from the camp after the incident, which lasted no longer than five minutes.

“If we had done what he claimed, he would have died, and his head would have shown severe trauma. His claims are not supported by the medical report,” he said.

Martland said he believes they did what they had to do.

“Kicking me out of the Army is morally wrong and the entire country knows it. While I understand that a military lawyer can say that I was legally wrong, we felt a moral obligation to act,” Martland wrote.

Martland did not respond to Army Times’ requests for an interview and Quinn declined further comment. Rahman was reportedly killed by the Taliban two years after the incident.

The Army, citing privacy policies, is not talking about Martland’s case. More broadly, Gen. John Campbell did issue a statement denying the premise of a Sept. 20 New York Times story that indicated the Army systemically ignored sexual abuse because of cultural and political concerns. Campbell said he is “absolutely confident that no such theater policy has ever existed here, and certainly, no such policy has existed throughout my tenure as commander.”

**MORE:**

**“He Had The Audacity To Stand  
Up And Take Action When A  
Scumbag Afghan Police  
Commander Was Found To Be  
Raping A Young Boy”**  
**“This Type Of Behavior, Known To  
The Afghans As ‘Boy Play,’ Is  
Becoming Quite Common Among  
Our Alleged ‘Allies’”**  
**“Under Taliban Rule This Type Of  
Conduct Was, Rightly, Punishable By  
Death”**

October 12, Letterers To The Editor, Army Times

Most of the time I am proud to wear the uniform of the United States Army. Then there are times like this morning when I read the news that Green Beret Sgt. 1st Class Charles Martland was kicked out of the Army [“Green Beret gets booted out,” Sept. 7].

Why was he kicked out?

Because he had the audacity to stand up and take action when a scumbag Afghan police commander was found to be raping a young boy.

What’s worse is that this type of behavior, known to the Afghans as “boy play,” is becoming quite common among our alleged “allies.”

What’s even worse than that is under Taliban rule this type of conduct was, rightly, punishable by death. (Who would have thought they could claim the moral high ground on anything?)

**Any rational person would consider this a major problem, so what is our fearless leadership doing about it? Well they’re certainly not taking steps to solve it.**

**Quite the contrary, they are kicking out people like Sgt. 1st Class Martland because he stood up for what was morally and ethically right, and they're ordering everyone else to keep quiet and look the other way.**

I seem to remember this set of values or something that said, what was it, oh, yeah, integrity. You know, that concept where you do what is legally and morally right.

Well maybe they need to put an asterisk next to this alleged Army value with a notation that reads: "Do what is legally and morally right, unless it interferes with some archaic seventh century culture's fascination with child molestation, then do what is politically expedient so as not to anger our alleged 'allies.' "

**Yes, most of the time I am proud to wear the uniform of the United States Army.**

**Then there are times, especially after being asked about this sad tale by friends and relatives, where I am utterly disgusted and ashamed of it.**

Sgt. 1st Class Robert Zlotow  
Fort Riley, Kansas

**MORE:**

## **“Isn't Saving A Child From A Rapist Morally Right?”**

October 12, Letters To The Editor, Army Times

**The irony that the Army is kicking out a warrior for stopping sexual assaults yet forced that same soldier to sit through hours of annual sexual assault prevention training is simply incredible.**

We're placing our men and women in morally complex situations.

**The institution says this Afghan man is wrong for raping a child and intervention must be the response, then punishes the same soldier for stopping a repeated sexual assault.**

All the while, this is taking place in the middle of a desolate country where you cannot call an Afghan SHARP rep or file a complaint and expect an Afghan response.

Bradley Greaver  
Via Facebook

\*\*\*\*\*

October 12, Letters To The Editor, Army Times

To say that Sgt. 1st Class Martland did not live up to the definition of integrity is to defy belief.

“Integrity = Do what is right, legally and morally.”

Isn't saving a child from a rapist morally right?

Spyro Karakizis  
Via Facebook

---

## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

# **Stupid Or Corrupt? U.S. Military Spent \$43 Million On Useless Afghan Gas Station: “Too Dangerous For A Watchdog To Verify Whether It Is Even Operational” “A Similar Gas Station Built In Neighboring Pakistan Cost \$500,000”**

November 2, 2015 by Tom Vanden Brook, USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — U.S. taxpayers footed the bill for a \$43 million natural-gas filling station in Afghanistan, a boondoggle that should have cost \$500,000 and has virtually no value to average Afghans, the government watchdog for reconstruction in Afghanistan announced Monday.

A Pentagon task force awarded a \$3 million contract to build the station in Sheberghan, Afghanistan, but ended up spending \$12 million in construction costs and \$30 million in “overhead” between 2011 and 2014, the Special Inspector General for Afghan Reconstruction (SIGAR) found.

Meanwhile, a similar gas station built in neighboring Pakistan cost \$500,000.

“It’s hard to imagine a more outrageous waste of money than building an alternative fuel station in a war-torn country that costs 8,000% more than it should, and is too dangerous for a watchdog to verify whether it is even operational,” Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., said in a statement.

“Perhaps equally outrageous however, is that the Pentagon has apparently shirked its responsibility to fully account for the taxpayer money that's been wasted — an unacceptable lack of transparency that I'll be thoroughly investigating.”

The compressed-natural gas station was designed to show the viability of tapping the country's natural gas reserves.

**But the inspector general determined that Pentagon's Task Force for Stability and Business Operations failed to conduct a feasibility study before launching the project.**

**If they had, the inspector general noted in his report, the Pentagon would have found most Afghans have little use for it.**

The Pentagon's own contractor stated that converting a car to compressed natural gas costs \$700 in Afghanistan. The average annual income there is \$690.

In a letter to the inspector general, the Pentagon noted that it had shuttered the task force earlier this year and would try to find officials to answer questions. The task force had been given \$800 million to help foster private investment in Afghanistan.

**“As recently as October 13, 2015, SIGAR contacted (the Department of Defense) to speak to these unnamed employees, but DoD again failed to identify anyone,” according to the inspector general's report.**

McCaskill, in a letter to the Pentagon, demanded to know how the money was spent and whether the filling station is still open for business.

She noted that the contractor responsible for keeping the pumps running failed to renew its operating license only six months after it opened.

---

## **POLICE WAR REPORTS**

**Louisiana Police Murder Little Kid:  
“The 6-Year-Old Had Been Diagnosed  
With Autism, Describing Him As A  
Delightful Child Who ‘Loved  
Everything, Everybody’”  
“No Weapon Was Found In The Vehicle”**





Derrick Stafford, left, and Norris Greenhouse Jr., right, accused of murder in the death of a 6-year-old boy, are seen in mug shots distributed by state police. (photo: Louisiana State Police)

07 November 15 By Rebecca Santana, Associated Press

Three days after a 6-year-old autistic boy was killed and his father wounded when marshals opened fire on their vehicle in a Louisiana town, authorities have arrested two of the four officers involved in the shooting, the head of the state police announced Friday.

Col. Mike Edmonson, in a late-night press conference, gave few details of what exactly unfolded Tuesday night that led authorities to arrest the officers. But he made his disgust clear.

Speaking of the body camera footage that was recovered from the officers, he said: "It is the most disturbing thing I've seen, and I will leave it at that."

Six-year-old Jeremy Mardis was shot and killed and his father, Chris Few, was wounded when officers opened fire on their vehicle on Tuesday night in the central Louisiana town of Marksville.

Edmonson said Friday that the two officers are being booked on charges of second-degree murder and attempted second-degree murder in the shooting. Edmonson identified the two officers as Norris Greenhouse Jr. and Derrick Stafford. Both were working secondary jobs in Marksville as marshals when the shooting happened, Edmonson said.

State police have been investigating the Tuesday night shooting that raised questions almost from the start. Edmonson said earlier that no weapon was found in the vehicle.

State police are combing through forensics evidence, 911 calls, conducting interviews and reviewing the body camera footage, Edmonson said, as the investigation continues.

Two other officers were involved in the incident. When Edmonson was asked whether he anticipated any more arrests, he said: "We'll see where it takes us."

It's still unclear what led police to pursue Few and what triggered the shooting. The parish coroner said earlier this week that the officers were serving a warrant on Few when he fled, but Edmonson later said he had no information about a warrant.

Few's 57-year-old stepfather, Morris German, has accused the marshals of indiscriminately opening fire on the vehicle.

German said Few was heavily sedated, unable to talk and has bullet fragments lodged in his brain and lung. He described Few as a loving father and added the man's son "was his whole life."

German added that the 6-year-old had been diagnosed with autism, describing him as a delightful child who "loved everything, everybody." German said the boy had no siblings and the family had recently moved to Marksville from Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

"I know a 6-year-old should not have been shot," German said.

---

# **Jailers Charged With "Violating A Detainee's Civil Rights" By Beating Him To Death: "Trent Suffered 'Blunt Impacts Of The Head, Trunk, And Extremities With Multiple Skeletal And Visceral Injuries'" "Hickman And Howell Told The Nurse Not To Treat Him"**

November 3, 2015 by Andrew Emmett, NationofChange

The Justice Department announced on Monday that two former deputy jailers were charged with violating a detainee's civil rights by beating him to death and refusing to provide medical care.

One of the deputies was also charged with obstruction of justice after allegedly attempting to cover up the incident.

On July 5, 2013, Larry Trent was charged with DUI and pleaded not guilty on July 8.

The next morning, Trent had been found unresponsive in a holding cell and transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead. Kentucky River Regional Jail guards Damon Hickman and William Howell admitted to beating Trent that morning but denied causing his death.

At 7:20 a.m. on July 9, 2013, deputies Hickman and Howell claim they opened Trent's cell door to confiscate contraband items, including two mats, blankets, clothes, and other items he was not allowed. According to Howell's incident report, Trent came out of the cell fighting and was unaffected by Howell's Taser. After reportedly stealing Howell's Taser, Trent was eventually subdued and placed in a holding cell.

Although the observation log showed that Trent did not require medical attention and had been checked every 20 minutes after the altercation, Hickman and Howell allegedly refused to give Trent medical assistance and falsified the report.

Two days after the incident, an emergency-called jail board meeting discovered that Trent's death could have been prevented if the jail nurse had treated him sooner.

But Hickman and Howell had told the nurse not to treat him. Hickman also falsified the observation log by claiming that the dying inmate was "10-4."

An official cause of death has not been released, but the state medical examiner's preliminary report cited "jail beating" as the cause of Trent's injuries. The report found Trent had suffered "blunt impacts of the head, trunk, and extremities with multiple skeletal and visceral injuries."

**"He was beaten very bad in the groin, in his head, and he had boot prints through here," Trent's daughter Jennifer Brewer said, motioning toward her chest.**

After the incident, Howell cited jail employee James Combs for not assisting in the vicious beating. According to Howell's report, Combs "would not help in a fight, stood and watched, then walked off."

Even though Hickman had been fired in 2005, the former deputy jailer was hired back in 2006. When asked why Hickman was reinstated, Kentucky River Regional Jail Administrator Tim Kilburn told WYMT, "I have no clue. The board does the hiring and firing."

Hickman and Howell were initially charged with first-degree manslaughter. On Monday, the Justice Department announced that a federal grand jury indicted them for depriving Trent's constitutional rights by excessively beating him and refusing to provide him with necessary medical care. Hickman was also charged with obstruction of justice for making false entries in an official log.

Hickman and Howell face a maximum penalty of life in prison for the death-resulting civil rights offense, and face a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison for assaulting Trent. Hickman faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison for falsification of records in a federal investigation.

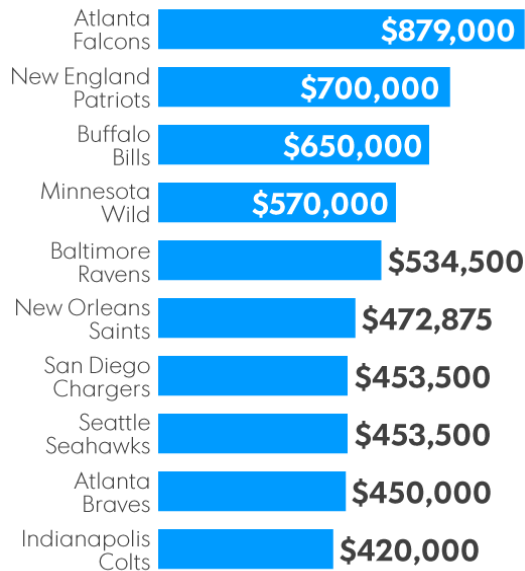
**Military Resistance In PDF Format?**

If you prefer PDF to Word format, email: [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org)

## MILITARY NEWS

# The “Paid Patriotism” Fraud: Military Gave \$6.8m To Sports Promoters Pretending To Support The Armed Services

### TEAMS RECEIVING THE MOST FROM DEFENSE MARKETING CONTRACTS



SOURCE: Tackling Paid Patriotism, report by  
Sens. Jeff Flake and John McCain  
Frank Pompa, USA TODAY



November 4, 2015 By Leo Shane III, Staff writer; Army Times [Excerpts]

**Pentagon officials paid at least \$6.8 million over the last three years to professional sports teams for “paid patriotism” events like on-field color guards and “free” seats for troops, according to a final report from congressional investigators.**

Arizona Republican Sens. Jeff Flake and John McCain hinted that number could be even higher, accusing the Defense Department of withholding details of many of its contracts with sports franchises in an effort to minimize the embarrassment over the arrangements.

“These teams do a lot of good work for the military,” Flake told reporters on Wednesday.

**“What is upsetting is that when you see activities like this — activities that people assume are done out of the goodness of their hearts — and find out they’re really paid for by the taxpayers, it cheapens the whole lot.”**

McCain and Flake have been looking into the issue since the spring, when reports first surfaced that seemingly benevolent displays supporting the military at New York Jets games may have been paid for by military marketing dollars.

Among the events included in the final report:

- \$88,500 to pay for military-themed rally towels and hats at a Baltimore Ravens game;
- \$49,000 to sponsor the singing of “God Bless America” at Sunday Milwaukee Brewers games;
- \$5,000 for two on-court enlistment ceremonies and to pay team staff to “throw out” Air Force T-shirts at a Dallas Mavericks game;
- \$1,509 to provide pregame recognition of “five high ranking Air Force officers” at a Los Angeles Galaxy game;

In total, the findings include 50 professional sports teams and questionable expenses in about two-thirds of the \$10 million-plus total the military spent on professional sports marketing efforts since the start of fiscal 2012.

But McCain and Flake said in many cases owners and management were not aware of the arrangements.

Instead, they blasted defense officials for wasting money on the events and confusing the public on which events were paid advertisements and which were sincere appreciation of military efforts.

**However, McCain added that “it would be entirely appropriate for these sports teams that were awarded taxpayer money to donate that to a worthy cause, causes like wounded warriors or others specific to the men and women serving our nation.”**

McCain said he did not expect to hold any oversight hearings on the issue. The Defense Department has already promised to end the practice, and the National Football League has promised a full review of its policies and participation in the marketing programs.

The annual defense authorization act winding through Congress now also includes a provision barring Pentagon officials from paying for such activities at sporting events.

## **MILITARY RESISTANCE BY EMAIL**

If you wish to receive Military Resistance immediately and directly, send request to [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org). There is no subscription charge. Same address to unsubscribe.

## FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



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

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

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

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

**Frederick Douglass, 1852**

**Woe to them that devise iniquity, and work evil upon their beds! When the morning is light, they practise it, because it is in the power of their hand.**

**And they covet fields, and take them by violence; and houses, and take them away: so they oppress a man and his house, even a man and his heritage.**

**-- Micah 2: King James Version**

## **FYI: Military Resistance Website Visits:**

**Top Ten Sources Of Visits Ranked 1-10**

**October 2015**

- 1 USA**
- 2 China**
- 3 Germany**
- 4 France**
- 5 "Unknown" [Source Masked]**
- 6 Ukraine**
- 7 Malaysia**
- 8 Japan**
- 9 Russian Federation**
- 10 South Korea**

Readers from an additional 82 have also accessed, including Iraq, Brazil, Palestinian Territories, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Romania, Vietnam & Spain

Source: AWStats

**“One Of The Main Elements Of  
Military Hypnosis Is The Faith  
Energetically Promoted Among  
The Soldiers That They Are  
Invincible, Mighty, And Superior  
To All The Rest Of The World”**

**“The War Has Killed That Faith  
Everywhere”**

**“In Recent Years, There Have Been  
Numerous Alarming Symptoms: The  
Army Is Grumbling, Discontented,  
And In A State Of Ferment”**

# **“There Is Obviously Discontentment In The Ranks And A Vague Feeling Of Sympathy For The ‘Rebels’”**

From “Up To The Ninth Of January,” 1905; By L. Trotsky [Excerpts]

The exact moment when maneuvers turn into a battle will depend on the numbers and revolutionary solidarity of the masses who have taken to the streets, on the thickening atmosphere of universal sympathy and support that these masses are breathing, and on the attitude of the troops that the government will send against the people.

These three elements of success must govern our preparatory work.

The revolutionary proletarian masses are already at hand. Across the whole of Russia, we must be able to summon these masses into the streets and unite them with a single slogan.

There is hatred for tsarism in every stratum and class of society, which means there is also sympathy for the liberation struggle. We must focus this sympathy on the proletariat as the only revolutionary force whose appearance at the head of the popular masses can secure the future of Russia.

**Finally, the attitude of the army is less and less able to inspire the government with confidence.**

**In recent years, there have been numerous alarming symptoms: the army is grumbling, discontented, and in a state of ferment.**

**When the masses move decisively, we must do everything possible to ensure that the army does not see its own fate linked to that of the autocracy.**

A successful political strike by the proletariat imperatively requires that it be transformed into a revolutionary popular demonstration.

**The second important condition is the attitude of the army.**

**There is obviously discontentment in the ranks and a vague feeling of sympathy for the ‘rebels’.**

There is also no doubt that only a small part of this sympathy is directly due to our agitation among the troops.

Most of it results from the practice of using the army in clashes with the protesting masses.

**All of the correspondents who have described battles between tsarist forces and the unarmed people emphasise that the great majority of soldiers resent the role of executioner.**



**The great mass of ordinary soldiers fire into the air.**

**All one can say in that regard is that anything else would simply be unnatural.**

At the time of the general strike in Kiev, the Bessarabsky regiment was ordered to march on Podol.

**The regimental commander replied that he could not guarantee the mood of his troops.**

**Then an order went out to the Kherson regiment, but there too not a single half-company of troops would comply with the orders coming from their officers.**

In that respect, Kiev was no exception.

**Correspondents report that during the 1903 general strike in Odessa, soldiers frequently did not rise to the occasion. For example, in one case, they were posted to guard a doorway through which demonstrators had been driven, but they simply took it upon themselves to look the other way when those under arrest fled through adjoining doorways.**

As a result, between 100 and 150 people escaped.

Workers were seen chatting peaceably with the soldiers, and there were cases where they disarmed them with no particular resistance.

That is how things stood in 1903.

Then came the year of warfare.

It is obviously impossible to say with any numerical precision how the past year has affected the consciousness of the army, but there is no doubt that its impact has been colossal.

**One of the main elements of military hypnosis is the faith energetically promoted among the soldiers that they are invincible, mighty, and superior to all the rest of the world.**

**The war has killed that faith everywhere.**

---

## **Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika**

**Comment: T**

**The anthem of the South African liberation movement has been trashed over the past few years, transformed from a militant marching song into a slow dirge that barely moves, or, in other versions, into limping gushy sentimental garbage**

complete with violins and a church-style choir; carefully entombed with all traces of its revolutionary origins obliterated.

This link is to the anthem as it was recorded in the 1930's, when it was still a truly beautiful and revolutionary call to action, marching proudly into the future.

Turn up your volume to the max.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ll1hNMhdmpk>

---

## The 20 Weirdest Religious Beliefs: Which Strange Belief Belongs To Which Religions?

October 15, 2012 By Valerie Tarico, AlterNet [Excerpts]

We find it easy to dismiss the fantastical beliefs of people in other times and places, but those that we've been exposed to since childhood seem not so far out.

Virgin birth? Water turning into wine? A fig tree shriveling on the spot? Dead people getting up out of their graves and walking around?

All of the following beliefs are found in respected religions today.

They have been long taught by religions that either are considered part of the American mainstream or are home grown, made in the U.S.A., produced here and exported. Some of these beliefs are ensconced in sacred texts. Others are simply traditional.

All, at one time or another, have had the sanction of the highest church authorities, and many still do.

How many of them can you match up with a familiar religious tradition?

**(The answers are at the bottom.)**

1. The foreskin of (a holy one) may lie safeguarded in reliquaries made of gold and crystal and inlaid with gems--or it may have ascended into the heavens all by itself. (2)
2. A race of giants once roamed the earth, the result of women and demi-gods interbreeding. (1, 6). They lived at the same time as fire breathing dragons. (1)
3. Evil spirits can take control of pigs. (1)
4. A talking donkey scolded a prophet. (1, 3)
5. A righteous man can control his wife's access to eternal paradise. (6)

6. Brown skin is a punishment for disobeying God. (6)
7. A prophet once traveled between two cities on a miniature flying horse with the face of a woman and the tail of a peacock. (4)
8. [The Holy One] forbids a cat or dog receiving a blood transfusion and forbids blood meal being used as garden fertilizer. (7)
9. Sacred underwear protects believers from spiritual contamination and, according to some adherents, from fire and speeding bullets (6)
10. When certain rites are performed beforehand, bread turns into human flesh after it is chewed and swallowed. (2)
11. Invisible supernatural beings reveal themselves in mundane objects like oozing paint or cooking food. (2)
12. In the end times, (the Holy One's) chosen people will be gathered together in Jackson County, Missouri. (6)
13. Believers can drink poison or get bit by snakes without being harmed. (1)
14. Sprinkling water on a newborn, if done correctly, can keep the baby from eons of suffering should he or she die prematurely. (2)
15. Waving a chicken over your head can take away your sins. (3)
16. (A holy one) climbed a mountain and could see the whole earth from the mountain peak. (1, 2)
17. Putting a dirty milk glass and a plate from a roast beef sandwich in the same dishwasher can contaminate your soul. (3)
18. There will be an afterlife in which exactly 144,000 people get to live eternally in Paradise. (8)
19. Each human being contains many alien spirits that were trapped in volcanoes by hydrogen bombs. (5)
20. (A supernatural being) cares tremendously what you do with your penis. (1,2,3,4,6,7,8)

**Key: 1-Evangelical or "Bible Believing" Christianity, 2-Catholic Christianity, 3-Judaism, 4-Islam, 5-Scientology, 6-Mormonism, 7-Christian Science, 8-Jehovah's Witness**

Each of these beliefs is remarkable in its own way. But the composite goes beyond remarkable to revealing. What it reveals is an underlying belief that is something like this:

The process that produced this world and human life is best unveiled not by the scientific method but by the musings of iron age herdsmen (1,2,3,4,7,8) or science fiction writers (5), or con artists (6) whose theories are best judged by examining only assertions that cannot be falsified.

Underlying that belief is a sort of rational swiss cheese that is going to keep cognitive scientists investigating and arguing for decades.

We humans are astoundingly susceptible to handed down nonsense. Human children are dependent on their parents for a decade or even two, which is why nature made children credulous.

When parents say, eat your peas, they're good for you, kids may argue about the eat your peas part but they don't usually question the factual assertion about nutrition. When parents say Noah put all of the animals into the ark, it is the rare child who asks, Why didn't the lion eat the guinea pigs?

Even as adults, we simply can't afford to research everything we hear and read, and so, unless something isn't working for us, we tend to accept what we are told by trusted authority figures. We go with the flow. Religion exploits this tendency by, among other things, establishing hierarchy and by ensuring that believers are in a certain mindset when they encounter religious ideas.

A friend once gave me a button that said, Don't pray in my school and I won't think in your church.

I didn't really want to wear a button that said "I'm an arrogant jerk," but the reality is that even the best of churches aren't optimized for critical thinking. Quite the opposite. The pacing, the music, the lighting—all are designed for assent and emotion, for a right brain aesthetic experience, for the dominance of what Nobel prize winning psychologist Daniel Kahneman has called System 1 thinking, meaning intuition and gut feel rather than rational, slow, linear analysis.

Some of our ancestors were doing the best they could to understand the world around them but had a very limited set of tools at their disposal.

It would appear that others were simply making stuff up.

Mormonism and Scientology appear to fall in the latter camp.

---

**DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK**



---

## OCCUPATION PALESTINE

# **Zionist Forces Execute Wounded Palestinian In Occupied Hebron: The 23-Year-Old Was Supposed To Meet His Fiancée Later In The Day; “An Israeli Soldier Shot Mahdi In The Back From Close Range As He Lies Wounded On The Ground”**

October 31, 2015 International Solidarity Movement

Al-Khalil, occupied Palestine

On October 29th Mahdi Mohtaseb was executed by Israeli forces at the Salaymeh (160) checkpoint, near the Ibrahimi Mosque in the old city of al-Khalil (Hebron).

The 23-year-old from Jabal Johar, who was employed in a local sweets shop, was supposed to meet his fiancée later in the day.

At 0:22 seconds it shows an Israeli soldier shoot Mahdi in the back from close range as he lies wounded on the ground.

In a statement released the 27th of October by Amnesty International, they concluded that: "Israeli forces have carried out a series of unlawful killings of Palestinians using intentional lethal force without justification".

Amnesty also stated that "willful killings of Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territories are grave breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention, over which all states can exercise universal jurisdiction."

In the last week in al-Khalil, seven Palestinians have been murdered. Ezzedin Nabi Sha'ban Abu Shakhdam, 17 (Gush Etzion), Shadi Nabil Dweik, 22 (Gush Etzion), Houmam Adnan Sa'id, 23, Islam Rafiq Hammad Ibeido, 23, Mahdi Mohammad Ramadan al-Muhtasib, 23, and Farouk Abdel Qader Omar Sidr, 19.

Mahdi Mohtaseb, who is survived by four brothers, four sisters, and many grieving family and loved ones, joins the daily rising death toll of mostly Palestinian youths gunned down by Israeli forces and Israeli settlers since October 1st.

---

**Occupation Force Plants Armed  
"Stone Throwers" Among  
Palestinian Protesters:  
"A Reuters Correspondent  
Observed Israeli Undercover  
Agents Disguised As Palestinian  
Youths Inciting Violence"  
"He's Backed Up By Video Evidence"  
"The Uniformed Israeli Soldiers And  
Their Plain Clothes Accomplices  
Continue Brutally Kicking And Beating  
The Victim And Then Drag Him Away"**



Still from AFP video shows Israeli agents who moments before were posing as demonstrators pull guns on Palestinians.

7 October 2015 by Ali Abunimah, [electronicIntifada.net](http://electronicIntifada.net) [Excerpts]

A Reuters correspondent observed Israeli undercover agents disguised as Palestinian youths inciting violence.

**He's backed up by video evidence. One video shows an Israeli undercover agent apparently firing a pistol into the leg of a Palestinian at point blank range.**

**Luke Baker tweeted: "Footage in Ramallah shows undercover #Israeli police throwing stones at Israeli forces and inciting #Palestinian youth to do the same."**

Baker affirms he witnessed the incident himself:

Video of the incident was caught by AFP and other videographers. Due to rights restrictions the AFP video is only viewable at YouTube, but stills taken from it show the "Palestinian stonethrowers" suddenly pull out guns and turn on the other Palestinians, revealing themselves as Israeli agents.

**This video shows one of the undercover men firing a pistol at point blank range into the leg of a Palestinian who is on the ground and being assaulted by several men.**

The recoil from the weapon is visible and the sound of the gunshot can be heard in the video.

**The uniformed Israeli soldiers and their plain clothes accomplices continue brutally kicking and beating the victim and then drag him away.**

The victim makes several attempts to stand up, but his leg appears to buckle. What look like bloodstains can also be seen on his jeans.

Ma'an News Agency reported that two youths were shot, beaten and detained by Israelis in the incident and another was beaten and detained. Palestinian medical personnel have not been granted access to them.

This 11-minute video posted by Wattan TV shows the Israeli undercover agents working side by side with uniformed Israeli occupation forces.

It is titled "Mustarabin kidnap three injured persons during confrontations with the occupation near Beit El."

**Dressing up agents as what Israel believes Arab or Palestinian civilians to look like – so-called mistaravim in Hebrew or mustarabin in Arabic – is an old tactic used in everything from acting as provocateurs and spying to dozens of extrajudicial murders.**

Early on Sunday morning, several disguised Israeli agents entered a hospital in Nablus and kidnapped an injured Palestinian.

At about 4:50, a group of Israeli soldiers can be seen suddenly running towards an area off to the left of the camera's view.

As the camera follows them, they can be seen teaming up with men in plain clothes wearing face masks.

At about 3:04 in another video of Wednesday's demonstration near Beit El, a youth in a black-and-white striped shirt, dark pants and face mask can be seen among Palestinians who are demonstrating against Israeli occupation forces.

At 5:24 in the Wattan TV video, an identically dressed man can be seen. He is clearly cooperating with the soldiers. At one point he can be seen throwing an object and then retreating back behind the uniformed soldiers.

It shows the soldiers and their undercover agents, including the man in the striped shirt tackling, kicking and dragging away Palestinians. Several of the agents also appear to be armed with small pistols.

At least one other Israeli agent appears in the Wattan TV video with a striped shirt, though with light pants. Could it be that striped shirts are used as a way for Israeli soldiers to easily tell who is on their side?

The Reuters correspondent's testimony and these videos provide a glimpse of some of the tactics Israel uses.

According to Ma'an News Agency, 18 Palestinians were injured in the confrontations near Beit El, bringing the total to more than 600 since Saturday.

---



**Palestinian Boy Killed By  
Zionist Soldier For No Apparent  
Reason, As Usual:  
“There Is A Decision By The  
Government To Kill”  
“His Mother Sent Him To The Grocery  
Store”  
“Less Than 10 Minutes Later He Lay  
Dying”**



Aboud Shadi

Oct 27 by Gideon Levy, Ha'aretz

**“My name is Aboud Shadi, a 13 year old refugee. I was standing just right here hanging with my friends, when an Israeli sniper shot me dead. My soul will remain here, chasing the killer and motivating my classmates. I wonder whether the international community will bring justice to Palestinian children.”**

**For the past few days, that harrowing poster, in Arabic and English, has greeted visitors to the Al-Aida refugee camp adjacent to Bethlehem.**

A photo of Aboud – the nickname of 13-year-old Abed al-Rahman Shadi Obeidallah – appears at the bottom of the plywood signs, which leans on an Israeli-made concrete cube.

It was exactly here that Aboud was standing on October 5, with some friends, fewer than 10 children, when a soldier shot him in the heart, killing him.

The floral wreath next to the poster was already wilting when we visited this week; an olive sapling is blooming next to it. Above is the entry gate to the camp and an outside rendering of the mythological key to the homes that the Palestinians had to leave in 1948.

Next to the gate is a distribution station for UNRWA, the United Nations refugee agency. On the wall opposite is a handwritten list of 258 names, in white against a black background, of the children the Israel Defense Forces killed in the Gaza Strip in the summer of 2014, during Operation Protective Edge.

The street that runs east from here is the camp's "death row"; it ends at the separation barrier, which is punctuated by a fortified watchtower and the iron gates that protect Rachel's Tomb.

The distance from wall, tower and troops to the entry gate is 200-300 meters. That's the range at which an Israeli soldier shot and killed the boy.

We enter the camp, walking through its narrow alleys. Other children have been killed here in recent years on this street, along which are a community center, a small playground, the camp's school and also its cemetery, where Aboud's fresh grave was dug, too. The road is sooty and empty, strewn with remnants of burned tires and stones. Few dare to traverse it.

Children's voices are heard emanating from the crowded, densely built houses here, offsetting the tense quiet in the street.

As is the custom, the victim's home is draped with long Palestinian flags. A jumble of construction that was never completed (and never will be), neglect and poverty, with some cracked or shattered windows – this is the home of the Obeidallah family, now enveloped in mourning.

The bereaved father, Shadi, and the grandfather, Halil, take us up to the second floor. Both have mustaches and now also new dark stubble that has sprouted in their grief. The grandfather's keffiyeh is on his head, the father's lies on his shoulders.

Shadi works in the Bethlehem stone quarries. He had five children. Some of the windows in the house are cracked or shattered.

**Aboud, who actually had not yet turned 13, was in the ninth grade. He went to school last Monday, returned at midday and said he wanted to eat lunch.**

**His mother sent him to the grocery store. When he got back, he said he was going out for a few minutes.**

**Less than 10 minutes later he lay dying. He never got to eat that lunch; his father says that no one in the house ate that meal.**

Aboud had walked down to the street of death, where he met up with a few of his friends, next to the community center.

**A photograph, which the family says was taken a few minutes before the shooting, shows the semblance of a peaceful street. Aboud, a lean boy in a blue T-shirt, is standing there with another six children, all of them his age, apart from one who's a bit older; he is leaning on the concrete cube, his arms crossed.**

**An image of calm. Not one child has a stone in his hand, the street is empty, the soldiers are far away, most of the children still have their schoolbags on their back.**

**No fire, no columns of smoke; a study in midday tranquillity.**

According to the testimonies collected by Musa Abu Hashhash, a field researcher for the human rights organization B'Tselem, stones were thrown on the street earlier, the soldiers had fired smoke grenades and the children scattered. A few returned afterward, Aboud among them.

**He was shot to death almost immediately afterward. No firebombs were thrown that day, according to B'Tselem. All stones can do here is smash into the concrete wall, the iron door or the armored tower, without causing real damage.**

Less than five minutes after Aboud came back, an IDF soldier apparently opened the window in the iron gate, and from few hundred meters away fired three bullets from a Ruger rifle that probably had a silencer attached.

Shadi, the boy's father, did not hear the shots in the house, even though it's not far away. One bullet struck Aboud in the chest, felling him.

Blood spurted from his nose and mouth. His father has the photo taken before the shooting in his cell phone, and also a photo of an IDF soldier in red paratroopers' boots aiming his sniper's rifle at the street.

**That picture, taken by a local journalist, shows the soldier who shot Aboud, a moment before it happened.**

A passerby drove Aboud to Al-Hussein Hospital in the town of Beit Jalla, a few minutes away, but he was pronounced dead on arrival. It was 1:40 P.M. His parents arrived immediately afterward but nothing was to be done other than to give them the horrible news.

Aboud was buried the next day, a few steps from where he was killed. Disturbances broke out in the camp yet again.

IDF Spokesperson's Unit's response: "The IDF relates to such incidents with utmost seriousness and regrets the death of the youth.

During the event, there was a violent disruption of order with the goal of harming IDF soldiers and Rachel's Tomb, as part of the continuing violent disruptions that began a day earlier.

“The soldiers acted by using crowd-control means directed at the main inciter, who was not far from the young man. The Military Police has opened an investigation of the incident.”

The IDF, then, in an indirect and forced manner, is acknowledging its mistake: The fire wasn’t directed at the child, but, rather, at the “main inciter, who was not far” from him.

**Henceforth, take notice: IDF soldiers also aim to kill “inciters,” not just stone-throwers.**

“The army says it was a mistake? So what? How does that help me? My son is dead. It was an execution,” Shadi says.

“If my son had been caught with a knife in his hand, I would justify the shooting. Can someone who plays with a stone against a tank be called a fighter? It is the killing of innocent children. I am not talking slogans. My heart is on fire. I see that you are sad, too, because you understand that my boy was innocent.

“The day before he was killed, I told him: Stay home, don’t go anywhere. But he said he couldn’t stay in the house. Go look at his room. It’s a prison. He wanted to leave it.

“Please, convey the message: We want peace, our hand is outstretched in peace. I didn’t lose one child, I lost five: They’ve all been psychologically damaged.

“Netanyahu killed my boy, but what does he gain from it? In the end, God will settle the score.”

To which the grandfather, Khalil, adds, “There is a decision by the government to kill. These children are not terrorists, and they don’t understand anything about politics. They are playing.”

Aboud’s room is tiny, hardly able to contain the bunk bed he shared with his eldest brother, Mohammed. Prison cells in Israel are more spacious.

God is great, the muezzin declares, calling the faithful to prayers. Exactly a week ago at this time, Aboud was killed.

Shadi’s phone rings. His brother tells him that his son, Umar, who’s about the same age as Aboud, has gone to the cemetery again and is standing by the grave, crying. Shadi sends Mohammed to try to calm Umar, who is weeping on his cousin’s grave.

In nearby Jerusalem, the stabbings, shootings and bloodshed surge.

**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



## **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)*

**Military Resistance Looks Even Better Printed Out**  
**Military Resistance/GI Special are archived at website**  
<http://www.militaryproject.org> .

Military Resistance distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included

information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **Military Resistance has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is Military Resistance endorsed or sponsored by the originators. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research, education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice.** Go to: [law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml](http://law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml) for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

---

**If printed out, a copy of this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.**