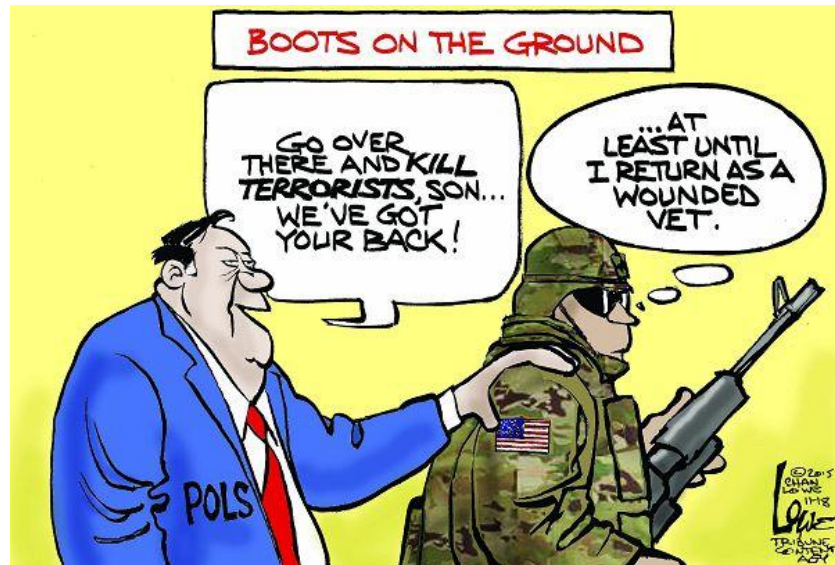


## Military Resistance 13K9



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "How many times before we stop believing?"]

**Army Col. Warren Nails  
Obamas' Pathetic Lie:  
In June Obama Emphasized  
"American Forces Will Not Be  
Returning To Combat In Iraq"  
"We're In Combat," Warren Said  
Of The Roughly 3,500 U.S. Troops  
In Iraq"**

# **“Of Course It Is; That’s Why We All Carry Guns”**

## **“That’s Why We All Get Combat Patches When We Leave Here. So, Of Course It’s Combat”**

October 28, 2015 By Corey Dickstein, Stars and Stripes [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON — U.S. troops in Iraq are in combat.

That’s what the Baghdad-based spokesman for the American-led, anti-Islamic State coalition told reporters Wednesday.

Pentagon officials have hesitated to label the role of U.S. forces against the militants in Iraq and Syria as combat in the week since Army Master Sgt. Joshua L. Wheeler was killed in a firefight during a raid on an Islamic State prison compound outside of Hawijah in the Kirkuk province.

But Army Col. Steve Warren, the spokesman for Operation Inherent Resolve, was more direct Wednesday, speaking with reporters at the Pentagon through video conference.

“We’re in combat,” Warren said of the roughly 3,500 U.S. troops in Iraq. “Of course it is; that’s why we all carry guns, that’s why we all get combat patches when we leave here, that’s why we all received imminent danger pay. So, of course it’s combat.”

In June, as President Barack Obama announced he would send more U.S. troops into Iraq’s heavily contested Anbar province, he emphasized “American forces will not be returning to combat in Iraq.”

Defense Secretary Ash Carter has said more such raids could be conducted, but they did not “represent us assuming a combat role.”

Warren said raids with “capable, willing and able” partners should be expected.

“You’re not going to see ... a large presence of U.S. forces out there at every level with the entire Iraqi army,” he said.

**“... We’re talking about raids, a very specific term — a combat action that is conducted to achieve a certain objective and then the forces are immediately removed.**

“That’s a very key doctrinal point that’s important to make.”

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

# **Foreign Military Convoy In Afghanistan Bombed: “One Of The Vehicles Caught Fire Causing Casualties” [Nationality Of Casualties Not Announced]**



Smoke bellows after a car bomber attacked a military convoy in Lashkar Gah, Helmand province, Afghanistan November 15, 2015.

Nov 15, 2015 Reuters/Abdul Malik

A bomber targeted a convoy of foreign forces just outside the city of Lashkar Gah in the volatile southern Afghan province of Helmand, local officials said on Sunday.

Afghan security forces have been fighting Taliban insurgents for weeks in the area around Lashkar Gah and in surrounding districts. The widening insurgency has escalated since foreign forces ended most combat operations last year.

International forces still provide training and other assistance and a limited number of U.S. troops are engaged in counter-terrorism operations. But there was no immediate confirmation from NATO's Resolute Support mission in Kabul of an attack on any of its vehicles.

"A convoy of three foreign forces vehicles was coming to the city from Marjah when targeted by a suicide bomber driving a car," said Omar Zawak, a spokesman for the Helmand governor's office, citing information from local police.

He said one of the vehicles caught fire causing casualties.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE  
BLOODSHED**

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

## **Taliban Overrun Northeastern Afghan District**

November 19, 2015 by Ayaz Gul, VOA News & KHAAMA PRESS

ISLAMABAD—

Afghan officials and insurgent sources say the Taliban has captured a remote district in the northeastern province of Badakhshan.

Militants armed with heavy and light weapons launched a coordinated attack on this district from several angles yesterday and ultimately captured it.

This is the second time during this year's fighting that insurgents have overrun the embattled Yamgan district.

Yamgan is bordering Wardouj and Dara-e-Khastak districts where reportedly Taliban have a strong presence and from there they plan attacks on other areas of Badakhshan.

A spokesman for the provincial police told local media Thursday that Afghan security forces have staged a "tactical" retreat and taken positions in surrounding villages, awaiting reinforcements for a counteroffensive to retake the area.

Afghan media, however, quote defense ministry officials as saying bad weather hampered attempts to urgently airlift reinforcements to the conflict zone.

A Taliban spokesman says the fighting for control of Yamgan left 14 Afghan security forces and six insurgent fighters dead.

**Despite the onset of a harsh winter, the Taliban has not halted its attacks and reportedly has engaged Afghan security forces in fighting in more than a dozen provinces.**

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## More Resistance Action

November 19, 2015 KHAAMA PRESS

Officials in southern Kandahar province say a car bombing targeting a government compound killed one Afghan soldier and wounded seven people, including three civilians.

Kandahar Media and Information Center (KMIC) writes in post on its "facebook" page that the attack was launched by a bomber around 07:00 am in the morning.

According to the information released, the bomber had a "Townace" vehicle laden with explosives and detonated it in front of the police HQ of Arghandab District to remove barricades.

"When I heard the explosion I thought of my son, who serves in the police force," Shafi Aka, a local Arghandab resident said.

"I called my son right away and heard him saying, 'We are under attack.'" His son survived the assault.

Afterwards, four other Taliban militants wearing Afghan army uniforms start exchanging fire with security forces and get killed. A soldier embraced martyrdom in the clash, the statement adds.

"4 hell-deserved terrorists were killed by security forces after attacking one of the joint security gates of Arghandab District of Kandahar this morning," states a Thursday morning twitter post by the ministry's spokesperson Sediq Sediqi.

A provincial spokesman said the attack took place Thursday morning at a security checkpoint in Arghandab district.

Nine people have sustained injuries in an explosion in front of the police headquarters of Baghlan-i-Markazi District of northern Baghlan province.

Abdul Bashir, deputy police chief of Baghlan province said the blast took place around 10:00 am this morning.

He said the bomb was attached to a motorcycle parked in front of the police HQ. Six civilians and three security personnel sustained injuries in the explosion.

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

# **Afghan Security Officer “Forced Female Police Recruits Into Prostitution, Facilitated Rape” Courageous Australian Troops Come Forward With Complaint: Stupid Government First Lies And Says No Complaint Received; Then Press Forces Admission Complaint Was Received**

**An American major, who allegedly tried to warn US personnel at the base via email about the Afghan commander's alleged reputation for child sexual abuse, was subject to disciplinary proceedings, at which Marine Corps' lawyers reportedly warned the information he passed on might have been classified.**

16 November 2015, By national reporting team's Dan Oakes, ABC Radio Australia

Allegations an Afghan security forces officer forced female police recruits into prostitution and facilitated their rape are being investigated after Australian troops, serving in Kabul, reported them to the NATO-led coalition headquarters in Afghanistan.

The ABC understands Australian personnel in Kabul recently became aware of the allegations against the Afghan officer — who they are advising as part of Australia's scaled-down mission in Afghanistan — but it appears there was a delay in relaying those concerns to Defence officials in Australia.

**In response to questions from the ABC last week, Defence initially said there had been no reports in 14 years by Australian personnel of abuse of women by Afghan security forces.**

**The reporting of any suspected abuse is mandatory under international laws that Australia is signatory to.**

**"Defence does not have any records of reported allegations of abuse against women by members of the Afghan security forces," Defence said.**

**However, after further questions from the ABC, Defence then acknowledged the allegations against the Afghan officer, saying they had been referred "to the appropriate chain of command in the NATO-led Resolute Support mission".**

It is unclear why there was an apparent delay in the reporting of the allegations, which are circulating in Kabul.

A spokesman for Resolute Support, US Army colonel Michael Lawhorn, said the allegations have now been referred to the Afghan authorities.

Defence also said since Australian troops first arrived in Afghanistan in 2001, there had been four occasions on which they had reported the alleged sexual abuse of children by members of the Afghan security forces.

"The allegations were reported through the chain of command to Afghan officials," Defence said.

"Law enforcement in Afghanistan, including the protection of children from sexual exploitation, is a responsibility of the Afghan government."

The allegations became known through other sources and the alleged acts were not observed by Defence members.

**The sexual and physical abuse of children by members of the Afghan security forces was thrust into public consciousness two months ago when former US military personnel, who had served in Afghanistan, claimed they had been ordered to ignore the abuse.**

**The New York Times reported a former special forces captain, who beat up an American-backed Afghan militia commander who kept a boy chained to his bed, was relieved of his command and then left the military.**

**The newspaper also reported the US military is trying to forcibly retire a sergeant first class who participated in the same beating.**

The New York Times also interviewed the father of a marine lance corporal who was shot dead, along with two fellow Marines, by a 17-year-old boy who was living with an Afghan police commander at a base.

The lance corporal's father said he feared the boy killed his son and the other two Americans because of the perception they were allowing sexual abuse by the police commander to go on.

**An American major, who allegedly tried to warn US personnel at the base via email about the Afghan commander's alleged reputation for child sexual abuse, was subject to disciplinary proceedings, at which Marine Corps' lawyers reportedly warned the information he passed on might have been classified.**

In 2013, a report by Human Rights Watch found Afghan policewomen routinely suffered workplace sexual harassment, and a number had reportedly been raped by colleagues.

**The report said it appeared none of the alleged instances of rape or sexual harassment had resulted in prosecutions, which it said might reflect an unwillingness of the ministry of the interior to take the allegations seriously, or a lack of confidentiality and victim protection.**

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## MILITARY NEWS



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "Financial priorities. Plenty of cash around to pay the profiteers."]

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## **The Death Of Syria's Army: "He Described What Life Was Like Inside Assad's Army" "There Is No Syrian Army Anymore, It Is Just Militias, Mostly Iranians And Lebanese"**

18 November 2015 by Lara Nelson, Middle East Eye.



Lara Nelson has been a consultant for the political and military sides of Syrian opposition since 2013. Previously, she was a senior political adviser in the British Parliament, focusing on the Middle East.

She has also worked in Palestine, in the West Bank and then in the Gaza Strip after Operation Cast Lead 2008-2009. She speaks Arabic and holds an Oxford University degree in Theology, specialising in Islam, and an MA in International Relations and Diplomacy from SOAS, University of London. During 2013 she was a guest researcher at the Harvard Kennedy School's Middle East Initiative.

\*\*\*\*\*

It was a hot July day in Ramadan when Khaled al-Shami saw an opportunity to flee Division 9 in Daraa, southern Syria, the place that had been his army barracks for the past four years.

One month before two soldiers like him had taken the same route, but had been spotted: one was gunned down and killed; the other was wounded and died as he was run over by the pursuing forces of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Their fate ran round and round Shami's head as he slipped out of the headquarters, while his friend distracted the guards. He walked five kilometres before he met soldiers from Saif Al Sham, a group in the Free Syrian Army's Southern Front with whom he had been coordinating his defection.

It was two months before he was able to leave Syria and cross into Jordan.

**I met him in Amman and asked him about conditions inside Assad's forces.**

**"I was living in a nightmare," he said. "I need a software change after everything I saw and experienced. Most people like me want to leave, but it's the overwhelming fear that stops you".**

**He described what life was like inside Assad's army.**

**"One important thing to realise is that there is no Syrian Army anymore, it is just militias, mostly Iranians and Lebanese."**

## **COMPOSITION OF ARMED FORCES**

Division 9 is the largest and most important military force for Assad in southern Syria. It houses the only tank division, and has around 4,000 troops within four brigades.

However, most of the troops within the division are now non-Syrians: "Without the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and Lebanese Hezbollah the army could not stand up. Seventy percent of the troops in Division 9 are Iranian troops or Lebanese Hezbollah, the rest are shabiha. Only two to three percent are regular Syrian soldiers," Khaled said.

Shabiha is the name for the Alawite paramilitary force known for its brutality and sectarian nature. Khaled described the dynamics between these different fighting elements: "The Iranians and Hezbollah are not under the control of the Syrian Army, the exact opposite."

He described how troops were organised and deployed:

"Ten high-ranking Iranian officers control the division, they plan the operations. Only Iranian or Hezbollah forces can access operations rooms, no Syrian soldiers are allowed in."

For battles, groups of 50 fighters are deployed: 15 IRGC, 15 Hezbollah, 20 Syrians, the majority of which are shabiha. Within battles the hierarchy is clear: the commander is an Iranian IRGC officer and his deputy will be a Hezbollah officer, according to Khaled.

## HIERARCHY

A Syrian officer who defected and is now in Amman, who asked to remain anonymous, recounted comments to me from a friend who remains an officer in Assad's forces: "We are in the fifth class," he said.

**"Even the civilian Lebanese militia have the power to tell a Syrian general what to do, to send him back to his office.**

**"They have better food than us, better weapons and more respect."**

He described how Syrians are now isolated from military activities and have no trust:

"The militia are running the show nowadays. These militia believe they are there to defend Syria when the regular army has failed, so they treat us as failures with no respect."

**The difference in pay between the groups is stark: Khaled was paid \$60 a month as a regular Syrian soldier, while the shabiha were paid three times as much at \$180 a month. Lebanese Hezbollah were paid around \$400.**

## DEFECTIONS, DESERTIONS AND FATALITIES

Major Abu Osama al-Jolani, a Free Syrian Army (FSA) commander and defected officer, told me how the war has changed over the past 12 months.

"The Shia militias are leading military action to support the regime in all battles for the last year ... Everyone we are fighting now are foreigners."

Christopher Kozak, at the Institute for the Study of War, wrote back in December 2014 how "defections, desertions and over 44,000 combat fatalities" had significantly reduced Assad's forces.

He said critical pressure remains due to grumblings within the regime's Alawi support base who "have exhibited growing signs of dissatisfaction with the Syrian regime".

Assad publically admitted he had a manpower shortage in a speech in July this year: "The army's energy is manpower, and if we want the army to give its best, then we need to give it our best."

## **OCCUPATION STRATEGY**

The influx of foreign fighters, many of whom are coming to Syria to fight Shia jihad, adds a dangerous sectarian character to Assad's forces.

Khaled recounted stories of how they occupy mosques in areas they control, removing Sunni icons and putting up pictures of Shia figureheads such as the late Iranian Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and Lebanese Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in their place.

"Their strategy is to spread the Shia religion. When they occupy the mosques they prevent Sunnis from praying there. They even blow up the mosque if they think the FSA are using it," Khaled said.

Instances were recorded this year when Iraqi and Lebanese Shia militia entered the Umayyad Mosque in Damascus, hung Shia flags on the wall, and began chants considered by Sunnis to be blasphemous.

Similarly when Hezbollah took over the town of Al Qusair, between Homs and the Lebanese border, a video was released showing Hezbollah fighters hanging a large flag from the minaret of the main Sunni mosque in the city which reads "Oh Hussein."

Recently an Iraqi Shia militia group occupied a mosque in Tal al-A'is, southern Aleppo, and published pictures on their website.

Abu Salah Al Shami, leader of the FSA's Saif Al Sham, commented on this practice saying what his fighters witness on the ground:

"Often these militia try to occupy and control the religious symbols in the Sunni community to achieve not just a territorial victory but a sectarian one as well."

These forces have been repeatedly accused of human rights atrocities, many of which are said to have had a sectarian character. Fighting alongside Hezbollah, Khaled said he witnessed crimes committed by these forces, including the rape and execution of civilians in the town of Deir al-Adas after Assad's forces took over in February 2015.

Rights group the Syrian Network for Human Rights has issued a series of reports on the human rights abuses committed by these militias, including massacres described as ethnic cleansing.

In one report they document a series of sectarian massacres between March 2011 and January 2014 that left 962 civilians dead.

## IRAN'S ROLE

While Syrians I spoke to estimate that there are around 30 different foreign fighter groups on the ground in Syria supporting Assad, the bulk of their numbers is made up of fighters from the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and Hezbollah, as Khaled witnessed within Division 9 in the country's south.

Major General Qasem Suleimani, the leader of the Quds Force, which handles IRGC missions abroad, regularly visits Syria, where he is seen rallying his soldiers and their fellow fighters.

A stream of senior Iranian and Hezbollah commanders have been killed in Syria. The FSA's Major Abu Osama Al Jolani said his forces hold the bodies of two Iranian commanders killed in fighting in Quneitra, southern Syria.

The coverage of these forces in the mainstream press receives a fraction of the attention Sunni foreign fighters receive, such as those from Jabhat Al Nusra, despite some of these groups, including both Lebanese and Iraqi Hezbollah, appearing on the US foreign terror organisations list.

The US government designated the IRGC and its Quds Force a concern for the proliferation of terrorism in 2007. The role of these forces within the Syrian conflict has been tracked by Phillip Smyth, a researcher at the University of Maryland, who has issued a detailed report on the Shia jihad in Syria.

There is a major recruitment drive within radical Shia circles to recruit jihadists to fight for the Shrine of Zeinab in Syria, the burial place of the Prophet Mohammad's granddaughter and daughter of Ali. In a recent interview Smyth outlined that Iran's aims are not just to secure the geopolitical interests in Syria, protecting the crescent of influence from Lebanon's Hezbollah, but it has the ideological goal to spread the Iranian Islamic Revolution in the region.

Khaled's insights shed light on the workings of those forces supporting the Syrian regime's foothold on power in the country.

**While many still refer to the "Syrian Arab Army" (SAA), it is clear that most fighters now supporting Assad are not Syrian, many are not Arab and the structure of forces is more of a conglomeration of militia than an army.**

While the mainstream media is magnetised to the Hollywood horror productions of ISIS and the activities other Sunni jihadi groups in Syria, Shia jihadists in a range of militia groups have multiplied, and their dangerous sectarian policies and human rights abuses have received little attention.

This wave of Shia jihad in Syria not only adds to the chaos and bloodshed in the country, but has major repercussions for sectarian tensions in the wider region for times to come.

# Shia Militia Groups in Syria

November, 2015



Brigade of Abu al-Fadl al-Abbas  
IRAQI



al-Mehdi Army  
IRAQI



Asa'ib Ahal al-Haq  
IRAQI



Sarayamal-Zahra  
IRAQI



Kata'ib al-Shabab al-Rasali  
IRAQI



Liwa Imam al-Hussein  
IRAQI



Kata'ib al-Imam Ali  
IRAQI



Liwa Asad Allah al-Ghalib  
IRAQI



Liwa al-Hamud  
IRAQI



Saraya al-Khorasani  
IRAQI



Saraya al-Mukhtar  
BAHRAINI



Harakaat al-Nujba  
IRAQI



Fayluk al-Wa'ed al-Sadeq  
IRAQI



Kata'ib Hezbollah  
IRAQI



Liwa Hassan al-Mujtaba  
IRAQI



Liwa al-Sadeqine  
IRAQI



Liwa Dhu al-Faqar  
IRAQI



Fayluk Badr  
IRANIAN



Ansar Allah  
YEMENI



Kata'ib Sayed al-Shuhada  
IRAQI



Liwa Fatamiyoon  
AFGHANI



Saraya al-Difa'a al-Sha'abi  
SYRIAN



Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps  
IRANIAN



Saraya al-Jihad  
IRAQI



Liwa al-Yom al-Ma'ud  
IRAQI



Saraya al-Salam  
IRAQI



Saraya Ashura  
IRAQI



Saraya al-Talia'a al-Khorasaani  
IRAQI



Hezbollah  
LEBANESE



Harakaat al-Saaberine  
LEBANESE/  
PALESTINIAN

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**“Raqqa Is A City Of 200,000  
Civilians”**  
**“ISIS Moves Its ‘Headquarters’ Every  
Few Days”**  
**“Hundreds Of Syrian Civilians In  
Schools And Clinics Were Killed By  
The French Reprisal Attacks”**

Nov. 17 by Richard Greeman via David McReynolds [Excerpt]

On Monday, the Belgian writer and historian David van Reybrouck published an open letter to the President of the Republic on Médiapart, which concluded:

“Mr. President, you fell right into the trap (laid by Isis) and you fell with your eyes wide open.

“You fell into the trap because you feel the hot breath of hawks like Nicolas Sarkozy and Marine Le Pen breathing down your neck, and you’ve long had the reputation of a weakling. You fell into the trap. Elections are being readied in France. They’ll take place on December 6 and 13. They’re only regional elections, but after these attacks there’s no question that they will take place under the sign of national security.

“You fell into the trap with both feet, because you pronounced word for word what the terrorist were hoping to hear from you: a declaration of war. You enthusiastically accepted their invitation to jihad. But this response, which you wanted to be firm, runs the monstrous risk of even further accelerating the spiral of violence.”

Van Reybrouck’s analysis is worth reading.

Among other things, he points out that the jihadists described by M. Holland as a “terrorist army” commanded from the “headquarters” of the Islamic State in Raqqa, was not very professional.

One suicide bomber blew himself up in front of MacDonalds, killing only one bystander. The group that attacked the Stadium missed the President and forgot to block the exits. Moreover, the Isis bulletins taking credit for the attacks were contradictory, appeared well after the events, and could have been constructed on the basis of news reports.

**Further, Hollande’s spectacular “declaration of war” was somewhat redundant, as France has been at war with Syria (a former French colony under a League of Nations mandate) since 2011 with several air strikes since September.**

Curiously, unlike in the U.S., the French media never report these military actions, which are also being carried out in Iraq along side of U.S. forces.

Nor does the French Army post communiqués on its site.

The place to find them is Wikipedia.

One could add that Raqqa is a city of 200,000 civilians, that Isis moves its “headquarters” every few days, and that hundreds of Syrian civilians in schools and clinics were killed by the French reprisal attacks. Don’t Arab lives matter?

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**



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

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

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

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

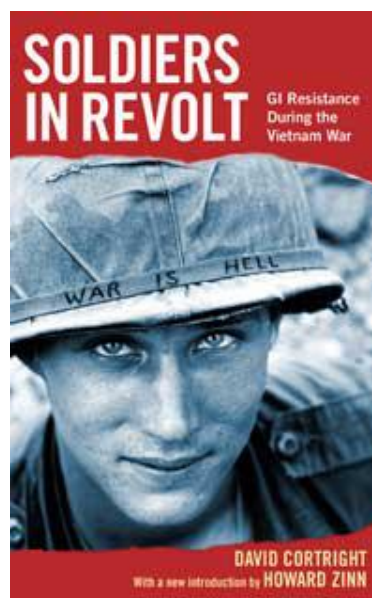
Frederick Douglass, 1852

“We have it in our power to begin the world over again.” -- Thomas Paine

## ***How To Stop A War:***

**“On April 27 [1968] A Group Of Forty Active-Duty People Marched At The Head Of An Anti-War Demonstration In San Francisco, The First Time GIs Led A Civilian Peace Rally”**

**“On February 16, 1969, The Alliance Sponsored A Peace Rally In Downtown Seattle, With Two Hundred Active- Duty People Leading A Crowd Of Several Thousand”**





**[No, they didn't go to DC begging the Imperial Congress to stop the war. They knew that when the army rebelled, the war would end. They did, and it did. T]**

Excerpts from: SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT, Anchor Press/Doubleday, Garden City, New York, 1975.

\*\*\*\*\*

**The young people forced into the ranks by the Vietnam build-up expressed a sometimes articulate, sometimes desperate, opposition to an unwanted mission.**

The GI movement imbued the military with the voice of a troubled citizenry, providing a measure of democratic restraint on though otherwise unresponsive and imperious institutions of war.

The appearance of coffeehouses and a burgeoning GI press, in an atmosphere of mounting disillusionment over stalemate in Vietnam, set the stage for the first significant GI action.

The Army's huge armored training center at Fort Hood experienced a particularly rapid deterioration of troop morale, especially among combat returnees, and throughout the Vietnam period witnessed extensive unrest and drug use (the base's copious marijuana supplies earned it the sobriquet "Fort Head").

The civilians who opened the Oleo Strut in the summer of 1968 thus met with an enthusiastic response; with the founding of Fatigue Press, a long history of successful GI activism began.

The first political gathering of Fort Hood soldiers occurred in Killeen on July 5, 1968.

A "Love-In" and countercultural festival was held in Condor Park, featuring rock music and anti-war speeches; approximately two hundred soldiers attended, most of them white.

The atmosphere at the base grew considerably tenser in the following weeks, however, as thousands of troops were prepared for possible use against civilian demonstrators at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago — culminating in a dramatic and important act of political defiance among black troops.

On the evening of August 23, over one hundred black soldiers from the 1st Armored Cavalry Division gathered on base to discuss their opposition to Army racism and the use of troops against civilians.

After a lengthy, all-night assembly, which included a visit from commanding general Powell, forty-three of the blacks were arrested for refusal to follow orders.

The action of the blacks was spontaneous and unrelated to the work of the white soldiers (reflecting a common pattern of parallel but separate development of dissent among blacks and whites), but the Oleo Strut GIs supported the brothers and helped with their legal defense.

Because of widespread support for the resisters, especially among blacks, the Army's treatment of the Fort Hood 43 was not as harsh as it might have been; most received only light jail sentences.

The San Francisco Bay Area has been in the vanguard of most of the radical movements in the United States during the past decade, and the GI movement was no exception.

With the support of two local GI newspapers, The Ally and Task Force, area servicepeople were among the first to speak out in 1968.

**On April 27 a group of forty active-duty people marched at the head of an anti-war demonstration in San Francisco, the first time GIs led a civilian peace rally.**

Two months later, also in San Francisco, nine AWOL enlisted men (five soldiers, two sailors, one airman, and one Marine) publicly took sanctuary at Howard Presbyterian Church in moral opposition to the war. After a forty-eight-hour "service of celebration and communion," they were arrested by MPs on July 17.

\*\*\*\*\*

**In the fall, the growing network of GI activists in the area laid plans for the largest servicemen's peace action to date — an active-duty contingent for the scheduled October is anti-war rally in downtown San Francisco.**

**Among the efforts to mobilize area soldiers and distribute literature about the march was Navy nurse Susan Schnall's daring feat of dropping leaflets from an airplane onto five area military bases (for which she was later court-martialed).**

**As the demonstration date approached, military authorities became nervous that a large number of GIs might become involved, and, in a manner that became standard whenever protests were planned, sought to prevent servicemen from attending.**

A communication from the Military Airlift Command in Washington, later anonymously released to The Ally, depicted the military's attitude toward even lawful dissent: it urged that "this demonstration be quashed if possible because of possible severe impact on military discipline throughout the services."

**On the Saturday of the actual march, soldiers at the nearby Presidio were detained for mandatory company formations, while special maneuvers and other diversions were held at several West Coast bases.**

**Despite such obstruction, two hundred active-duty GIs and some one hundred reservists marched at the head of the demonstration, in what was the largest gathering yet of the expanding GI movement.**

Two days later, in an incident partly inspired by the show of antiwar strength on October 12, twenty-seven inmates of the Presidio stockade held a sit-down strike to protest the shooting death a few days earlier of fellow prisoner Richard Bunch and to call attention to unbearable living conditions—what became known later as the Presidio mutiny. (For

a sensitive and penetrating account of the Presidio incident see Fred Gardner's *Unlawful Concert*.)

As the GI movement emerged, civilian radical organizations played an important role in helping to sustain rank-and-file dissent. One of the first agencies to recognize the changes taking place within the Army was the Student Mobilization Committee (SMC) and its closely allied counterpart, the Young Socialist Alliance (YSA).

One of the first examples of this co-operation was the GI-Civilian Alliance for Peace (GI-CAP) and the newspaper Counterpoint at Fort Lewis.

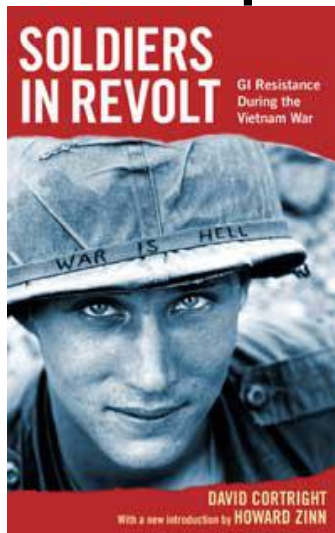
**Aided by SMC activists, GI-CAP developed into one of the most successful early GI-movement groups, with as many as fifty servicemen at regular weekly meetings.**

**On February 16, 1969, the Alliance sponsored a peace rally in downtown Seattle, with two hundred active-duty people leading a crowd of several thousand.**

A few months later, the servicemen formed their own organization apart from the civilians and continued their work as an all GI group.

**MORE:**

## **FREE TO ACTIVE DUTY: A Vietnam Soldier Wrote The Book All About How An Armed Forces Rebellion Stopped An Imperial War**



SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT, Anchor Press/Doubleday, Garden City, New York

**[CIVILIANS: \$16 INCLUDING POSTAGE:]**

**BUY ONE FOR A FRIEND/RELATIVE IN THE SERVICE.  
CHECKS, MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO: THE MILITARY  
PROJECT]**

**Requests from active duty or  
orders from civilians to:  
Military Resistance  
Box 126  
2576 Broadway  
New York, N.Y. 10025-5657**

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## **ANNIVERSARIES**

### **November 20, 1816: Anniversary Of A Marvelous Creation**



Carl Bunin Peace History November 19-25

November 20, 1816: The term “scab” was first used in print by the Albany (N.Y.) Typographical Society. A scab is someone who crosses a union’s picket line and takes the job of a striking worker.

\*\*\*\*\*

# **“A Scab Is A Traitor To His God, His Country, His Family And His Class”**

by Jack London, (1876-1916) [Dawn.thot.net]

After God had finished the rattlesnake, the toad, and the vampire, he had some awful substance left with which he made a scab.

A scab is a two-legged animal with a corkscrew soul, a water brain, a combination backbone of jelly and glue.

Where others have hearts, he carries a tumor of rotten principles.

When a scab comes down the street, men turn their backs and angels weep in heaven, and the devil shuts the gates of hell to keep him out.

No man (or woman) has a right to scab so long as there is a pool of water to drown his carcass in, or a rope long enough to hang his body with.

Judas was a gentleman compared with a scab. For betraying his master, he had character enough to hang himself. A scab has not.

Esau sold his birthright for a mess of pottage.

Judas sold his Savior for thirty pieces of silver.

Benedict Arnold sold his country for a promise of a commission in the British army.

The scab sells his birthright, country, his wife, his children and his fellowmen for an unfulfilled promise from his employer.

Esau was a traitor to himself; Judas was a traitor to his God; Benedict Arnold was a traitor to his country.

A scab is a traitor to his God, his country, his family and his class.

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## ***November 22, 1909*** **Heroic Anniversary:** **The First General Strike By Women In** **The U.S.**

Carl Bunin Peace History November 19-25

In New York City, the International Ladies Garment Workers Union went on strike against sweatshop conditions in what became known as the “Uprising of the 20,000” and the “Girl’s Revolt.”

The strikers won the support of other workers and the women’s suffrage movement for their persistence and unity in the face of police brutality and biased courts.

**A judge told arrested pickets: “You are on strike against God.”**

This was the first mass strike by women in the U.S.

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**“I Am Tired Of Listening To Speakers Who Talk In Generalities”**

**“I Offer A Resolution That A General Strike Be Declared – Now!”**

Excerpt from *Forged in Freedom: Shaping the Jewish-American Experience*, by Norman H. Finkelstein. (JPS, 2002)

In September 1909, Clara and other women could no longer tolerate their harsh working conditions. They walked out of the Leiserson factory and went on strike.

Within a few days the strike spread to the workers at the nearby Triangle Shirtwaist Company. Day after day the young women strikers picketed the factories to let the public know they were on strike and to prevent replacement workers from entering the factories. They walked up and down the sidewalk in front of the buildings; some carried signs while others chanted and sang.

**The factory owners hired gangs of tough men to frighten the pickets. As the mostly Jewish and Italian teenage girls peacefully walked the picket lines they were threatened and pushed by the ruffians. Women were beaten, punched and thrown to the ground. Many were badly hurt. The police did little to prevent the**

**violence ... During one attack in mid-November Clara and two other young women were so badly beaten the police had to rush them to a hospital.**

Eleven weeks after walking out of the Leiserson and Triangle companies, the women workers saw no end to the bloody strike. While they were on strike they earned no money, and the poor women faced a harsh, hungry and cold winter.

**Union leaders realized that the only quick way to improve working conditions and wages was to shut down every shirtwaist factory in New York.**

On November 22, 1909, thousands of shirtwaist workers gathered in the Cooper Union Auditorium. It was time to make a decision ...

The audience cheered a succession of speakers, finally focusing their attention on Samuel Gompers, the best-known speaker of the evening. He was the founder and president of America's most powerful union, the American Federation of Labor ...

**After two hours of cautious speeches with no end in sight, "a thin wisp of a girl" asked to speak.**

**As she stepped onto the platform, the crowd quieted. Everyone knew Clara Lemlich, the brave union worker who had just been released from the hospital. She still showed signs of the violent beating she received on the picket line. Her words, spoken in clear and passionate Yiddish, echoed through the hall.**

It was a clarion call to action.

**"I have listened to all the speakers, and I have no further patience for talk.**

**"I am a working girl, one of those striking against intolerable conditions.**

**"I am tired of listening to speakers who talk in generalities.**

**"What we are here for is to decide whether or not to strike.**

**"I offer a resolution that a general strike be declared – now!"**

**The audience erupted into wild applause. People jumped from their seats, cheered and waved handkerchiefs. This was the moment they had waited for ...**

**Within two days the entire shirtwaist industry in New York City was shut down.**

No one had predicted the resolve of the strikers. Twenty thousand workers, mainly Jewish and Italian teenage girls and young women, marched in picket lines before factories throughout lower Manhattan ...

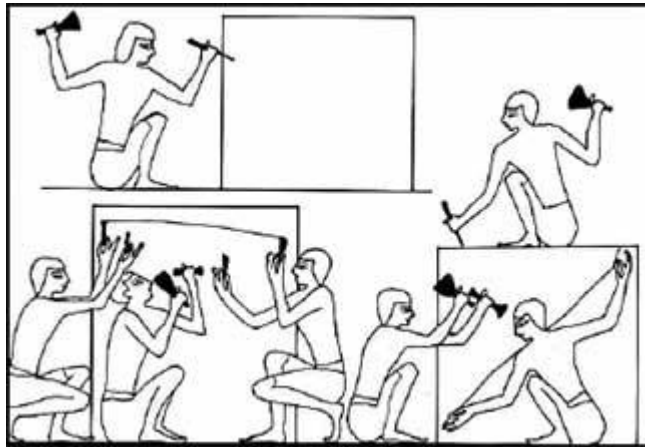
Newspapers widely reported on the brutality against the strikers. Other women, wealthy and educated, decided to prevent the brutality and unfair arrests. With great publicity, they joined the poorly dressed and ill-fed immigrant women workers on the picket lines

The brave struggle of Clara Lemlich and the other women workers is known as the "Uprising of the Twenty Thousand."

**By February 15, 1910, it was over. The strikers won a shorter workweek of fifty-two hours, higher wages and the end of unfair deductions for supplies, chairs and lockers.**

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## **November 23, 1170 BC: The First Recorded Strike**



Carl Bunin Peace History November 19-25

The first recorded strike took place in Egypt when necropolis workers who had not been paid for their work in more than two months sat down and refused to work until they were paid and able to eat.

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## ***November 23, 1887:* Dishonorable Anniversary The Louisiana Militia Butchers Unarmed Sugar Plantation Strikers**

Carl Bunin Peace History November 19-25

Black Louisiana sugarcane workers, in cooperation with the racially integrated Knights of Labor, went on strike.



The Louisiana Militia, aided by bands of “prominent citizens,” shot and killed 35 unarmed black sugar workers striking to gain a dollar-per-day wage, and lynched two strike leaders.

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## **“Many Were Told To ‘Run For Their Lives’ Before Being Summarily Executed”**

By Stephen Kliebert, Dougriddle.com [Excerpts]

The Thibodaux Massacre of 1887 was the second most bloody labor dispute in U.S. history.

Although most of the blood letting occurred in the environs of Thibodaux, the strike encompassed a larger area. The strike affected sugar plantations in St. Mary, Terrebonne, and Lafourche parishes. These parishes make up an area known as the “sugar bowl.” Thibodaux is the parish seat of Lafourche.

**The plight of the sugar cane worker in 1887 was one of back-breaking labor and meager pay.**

Most field hands were paid approximately 13 dollars a month. They were also paid in script. Script was basically a coupon redeemable only at the company store owned by the planter. The store’s prices were normally marked up 100%.

**You can see that the worker usually wound up being indebted to the planter. Louisiana law stated that if a worker owed money to a planter he could not move off the planters land until the debt was paid. This law essentially reduced the plantation laborer to the status of serf.**

In 1885 the Knights of Labor was successful in organizing railroad workers who worked for the Charles Morgan Railroad and Steamboat company. The company owned a stretch of tracks that ran from New Orleans to Texas. The railroad passes through the communities of Des Allemands, Raceland, Schriever, and Morgan City on its way to Texas.

The K. of L. felt that the sugar cane workers were fertile ground to expand their organization. In 1886 a L.A. (local assembly) of the K. of L. was established in Schriever, La. for sugar cane workers.

**It was the probably the first assembly of a labor union that allowed both black and white members to join. During a time when a strict caste system was imposed this was one hell of an achievement!**

In late October, 1887 LA 8404 (Schriever local) presented a list of demands to L.S.P.A. The L.S.P.A.’s (Louisiana Sugar Producer’s Association), members included local sugar planters. The workers wanted elimination of script, a small increase in their daily wages, and payment every two weeks.. The planter’s association rejected the demands

**The planter aristocracy ruled Louisiana at this point in time. They worked for many years to deny poor whites and blacks access to education, and better working conditions. They were not about to cede any of their power now.**

The Knights of Labor scheduled a strike to commence on the 1st of November 1887.

The strike began during the crucial harvest period known as “grinding.” On November 1st workers in St. Mary, Lafourche, and Terrebonne parishes refused to work, and refused to vacate their cabins that were plantation-owned. Attempts to evict tenants by local sheriffs were unsuccessful.

The sugar planters were faced with the possibility of losing their crops to a freeze if the strike persisted.

On the same day the strike began, the planters association called on the governor to send them help in the form of the state militia.

Governor McEnery (1881-1888) who was himself a plantation owner had no problem in ordering the state militia to the embattled region. The first militia companies arrived in Schriever, Louisiana from New Orleans on the first of November. They made the short trip to Thibodaux where they intended to store their equipment which included horses, rifles, and a Gatling gun in front of the Lafourche parish courthouse.

The two militia companies that arrived in Thibodaux were not the only ones to take part in strike-breaking. Other companies were sent to Houma and Lockport.

**Some 10,000 plantation workers took part in the strike. Most of the strikers were black, but nearly 1000 were white.**

The militia companies sent to the region worked with local judges in evicting strikers from plantations, and provided protection for “scabs” sent in to replace the strikers.

When striking plantation workers were faced with soldiers armed with Springfield rifles they offered little to no resistance. They heeded the orders to leave the plantations. Many congregated in the black section of Thibodaux.

Problems arose when white scabs were fired upon in Terrebonne parish. Strikers, who were forced off plantations, were believed to be involved in firing into sugar mills in Lafourche parish.

Pickets were placed in around the city of Thibodaux. The “pickets” were composed of white civilians from Thibodaux, and neighboring parishes. They were no doubt horrified by the rumor spreading around town that black strikers intended to burn the city down.

The struggle came to a head when two white picketers were fired upon while at their posts in a black section of town. The two picketers survived, but the incident enraged the white population of Thibodaux. White vigilantes rode through the neighborhood firing their weapons and wreaking havoc.

Strikers and their family members were rounded up by vigilantes. Many were told to “run for their lives”, before being summarily executed.

On the morning of November 23, 1887 anywhere between 30 to 300 black strikers were killed. A company of militiamen known as the Shreveport Guards is considered to have taken place in the massacre.

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## OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**“Those who do not move, do not notice  
their chains.”  
— Rosa Luxemburg**



A protester places a Palestinian flag during clashes with Israeli troops near the border between occupied Palestine and Central Gaza Strip, November 20, 2015. (REUTERS/Ibraheem Abu Mustafa)

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**“It Will Become A Prison”**

# **Zionist Regime Imposes Severe New Restrictions On Palestinians Of Occupied Hebron: “Every Time Palestinian Residents Cross A Check Point To Get To Their Home, The Soldiers Will Have To Search The Long List For The Name”**



30 October 2015 By International Solidarity Movement

Palestinians gather in the street to be registered in the Tel Rumeida neighbourhood in occupied Hebron.

It is being reported that the area will be closed off completely for people who are not residents of the area and who are not registered within the next few days.

“For the people living in the area, it will become like a prison. For people living in Hebron, the closure of Tel Rumeida will mean that the city will be split in two”, says local resident to international activists.

The names and ID-numbers of the people living in the area are being written down by soldiers on long lists, and there are dozens of Palestinians standing around Gilbert checkpoint waiting to hand over their information or be forced out.

Even for the residents who will be allowed in the area, this will mean severe restriction of their movement.

Every time Palestinian residents of Tel Rumeida & the area around Ibrahim mosque (between checkpoints 209 and 29) cross a check point to get to their home, the soldiers will have to search the long list for the name.

It is not the first time the Israel has imposed such restrictions on the residents of the area.

In 1994 after the Illegal settler extremist Baruch Goldstein committed a massacre in the Ibrahim Mosque, similar measures were taken.

At that time, Palestinian residents refused registration and were punished with a six month 24-hour-curfew and only allowed a few hours a week during which the residents could buy food.

Due to the increase in violence by army and settlers against Palestinians they do not dare to refuse registration this time.

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## **Thousands Attend Funeral Of Unarmed Palestinian Executed By Zionists In Hebron Hospital: “Abdullah Was Shot Several Times By Forces Who Raided The Hospital In Order To Detain His Cousin Who Was Shot By An Israeli Settler Last Month”**

Nov. 12, 2015 Ma'an

HEBRON -- Thousands of Palestinians on Thursday attended the funeral of Abdullah Azzam Shalaldah, 28, in the Hebron town of Sair, hours after he was shot dead by undercover Israeli forces during a dawn raid at a Hebron hospital.

The funeral procession set off from the al-Kabir mosque in Sair and laid Shalaldah to rest at the al-Shuhada cemetery.

Mourners chanted slogans condemning the killing by undercover Israeli forces and called for revenge and international protection from Israeli violations.

**Abdullah was shot several times by forces who raided the surgery unit of al-Ahli hospital in order to detain his cousin, Azzam Ezzat Shalaldah, 20, who was shot by an Israeli settler last month, hospital staff told Ma'an.**



Abdullah and another relative were in the hospital visiting Azzam when around 20 undercover Israeli soldiers entered the hospital at around 4:00 a.m., witnesses said.

**The forces tied up the relative while Abdullah, who was in the bathroom at the time, entered the room and was shot dead on scene.**

The undercover forces then retreated from the hospital with Azzam, taking him into custody, witnesses added.

Video footage from security cameras shows a group of around 16 men walking through the corridors of the hospital just before 4 a.m. pushing a wheel chair, when suddenly the man sitting down removes his blanket, stands up, and all the men draw guns and proceed down the hall.

The footage also shows what appears to be an Israeli agent dressed as a Palestinian woman, and other Israeli forces dressed as Palestinian Muslim men, wearing keffiyehs and appearing to have fake beards.

An Israeli army spokesperson was unable to comment on the presence of undercover forces during the raid, while Israeli media reported that the forces arrived in two large vans with someone pretending to be pregnant.

The army spokesperson told Ma'an that a combined force of Israeli army and police members had entered the hospital in order to detain Azzam, when an "additional suspect attacked the forces."

The forces responded with live fire, killing the man, the spokesperson confirmed.

To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to:

<http://www.maannews.net/eng/Default.aspx> and  
<http://www.palestinemonitor.org/list.php?id=ej898ra7yff0ukmf16>

The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."

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