

Military Resistance 13L7



[Banksy]

Christmas Tree

**From: Dennis Serdel
To: Military Resistance
Sent: December 22, 2010
Subject: Christmas Tree by Dennis**

Written by Dennis Serdel, Military Resistance 2010; Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade; United Auto Workers GM Retiree

Christmas Tree

**Dead Solders hang from the Christmas tree,
a cross on top blinks red white and blue**

blood dripping from the pine needles
like a junkie government who can't get enough.
Obama dressed as Old St. Nick throws
more coffins as presents under the tree
Congress doesn't argue about the cost of the war
they just hang shiny purple hearts made
of gold all over the tree and decorations
of black hearses end to end that go around
the tree and then hanging like bulbs are
missing arms and missing legs and hanging
like garland are gold and silver bars that
the war profiteers steal in the early morning
so all the children find is a funeral procession
as they watch the dead Soldiers placed
into coffins and witness the carnage under
the tree and when they look up, all they
can see is more dead Soldiers hanging from
the tree and all they know is Christmas
isn't supposed to be like this, as the War on
the Workers is like the War overseas
where the rich take everything and
give back nothing, using a
lying banner that says Peace On Earth,
Goodwill Toward Men and Christ says
nothing except follow your government
and the priests and pastors and the leaders
of the churches preach, let us not forget our
fallen Soldiers on Christmas Day
and the Soldiers overseas, so we can
enjoy the freedom to live in poverty,
but the children rise up in a choir of truth
sing to their elders can't you see the dead
Soldiers hanging from the Christmas tree
can't you see the rich stealing the silver
and gold like every day is Christmas
for them as they keep the money
and all we get is dead Soldiers each hanging
from a cross and placed on a Christmas tree
and our Mom and Dad's don't have a job
all of this is so wrong
makes you want to kill someone

written by Dennis Serdel for Military Resistance

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Six U.S. Troops Killed By Motorcycle Bomb In Afghanistan: Two More Soldiers And Mercenary Wounded

Dec 21, 2015 By LUIS MARTINEZ, ALEEM AGHA and LOUISE DEWAST, ABC News

Six American service members were killed in a motorcycle bomb attack today on a joint U.S. and Afghan patrol outside Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan.

Two other American service members and a U.S. contractor were also injured in the blast.

Defense Secretary Ash Carter addressed the attack in a statement.

"It is with deep regret that I learned today that six U.S. service members died in Afghanistan Monday," said Carter. "We are still learning all of the details, but two other service members and a U.S. contractor were also injured. They died after a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device attack on their patrol outside Bagram Air Base. It serves as a painful reminder of the dangers our troops face every day in Afghanistan."

U.S. officials said the bombing targeted a joint U.S. and Afghan patrol outside Bagram Air Base, which is the largest U.S. military base in Afghanistan. The official said the patrol was meeting with a local Afghan leader at the time of the attack.

There are about 9,800 U.S. troops in Afghanistan serving in a mission known as "Resolute Support." About 5,500 of them are stationed at Bagram.

Brig. Gen. Wilson A. Shoffner said, "We're deeply saddened by this loss. On behalf of General Campbell and all of Resolute Support, our heartfelt sympathies go out to the families and friends of those affected in this tragic incident, especially during this holiday season."

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

Taliban Controls Or Contests Nearly All Of Helmand Province: “The Deputy Governor Warned That The Southern Afghan Province Was In Danger Of Collapsing”

December 21, 2015 BY BILL ROGGIO, The Long War Journal. Bill Roggio is a Senior Fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and the Editor of The Long War Journal.

The Taliban overran a strategic district in Helmand the same day the deputy governor warned that the southern Afghan province was in danger of collapsing.

Sangin District fell to the Taliban despite the involvement of US and British special operations forces as well as US air support in the province.

Afghan officials confirmed that the Taliban overran the Sangin district center and seized control of all of its administrative buildings and the police headquarters over the past 24 hours, Pajhwok Afghan News reported.

An estimated 150 Afghan policemen retreated from the district center to a different area and remained surrounded by the Taliban.

A member of Afghanistan’s parliament told the news agency that all police and military bases in Sangin are now under the Taliban’s control.

The Taliban has targeted Sangin for takeover since mid-2014. By August 2014, the situation in the district had deteriorated so dramatically that the Afghan military was negotiating with the Taliban to avoid being ejected from its administrative center.

Last month, 65 Afghan soldiers and several of their officers in Sangin laid down their weapons and surrendered to the Taliban after their outpost was besieged for weeks without receiving reinforcements or supplies.

The Taliban seized control of Sangin the same day that Mohammad Jan Rasulyar, Helmand’s deputy governor, issued a plea for President Ashraf Ghani to take immediate action in the province. Rasulyar made his dramatic statement in a post on Facebook.

“Your Excellency, Helmand is standing on the brink and there is a serious need for you to come,” Rasulyar wrote, according to Reuters.

Rasulyar also issued a scathing indictment of the Afghan government, the military, and the international coalition, all of which have failed to support Helmand’s troops and policemen in the field.

“We don’t provide food and ammunition to our forces on time, do not evacuate our wounded and martyred soldiers from the battle field, and foreign forces only watch the situation from their bases and don’t provide support,” he wrote.

Rasulyar claimed 44 soldiers and policemen were killed in the fighting in Sangin, and another 90 were killed during recent fighting in Gereshk, a town in Nahr-i-Sarraj district that is in danger of falling to the Taliban. He explained that such high casualties are commonplace.

The fall of Sangin took place just days after the Afghan government said it retook the district of Khanashin in southern Helmand. But the Taliban denied that the government has regained control of Khanashin.

“The enemy claims of causing huge casualties to Mujahideen and retaking large swaths of land is baseless propaganda merely aimed at raising the spirits of their fighters and receiving cash rewards from their masters,” the Taliban said in a statement released on Voice of Jihad. The Taliban reported that heavy fighting was ongoing in the district.

The Afghan jihadist group has continued to press its offensive in Helmand to regain the ground lost between 2009-2011, during the US-led “surge.”

Of Helmand’s 13 districts, five are known to be controlled by the Taliban (Nowzad, Musa Qala, Baghran, Dishu, and Sangin), and another five are heavily contested (Nahr-i-Sarraj, Kajaki, Nad Ali, Garmsir and Khanashin). Of the remaining three districts, The Long War Journal believes two (Washir and Nawa-i-Barak) are contested, but the situation is unclear. Only Lashkar Gah, the district that hosts the provincial capital, has not seen significant Taliban activity.

The Taliban now controls 40 districts in Afghanistan and contests another 39, according to data compiled by The Long War Journal. These numbers may be low given the methodology used to assess control and contested districts.

The situation in southern Afghanistan has deteriorated since the US military began withdrawing its forces beginning in 2012.

Afghan forces have been unable to prevent the return of the Taliban in many areas. Al Qaeda was so emboldened by the withdrawal that it established two training camps in Kandahar’s Shorabak district. One of the two camps was nearly 30 square miles in size. The US military destroyed the camps during a four-day assault in October.

90 Afghan Soldiers Killed Past 2 Days In Helmand:

“Rasoulyar Said It Would Be Impossible To Retake Helmand Province By Launching An Operation From Airport”

Dec 20 2015 By KHAAMA PRESS

The deputy provincial governor for southern Helmand province of Afghanistan Mohammad Jan Rasoulyar has said around 90 Afghan soldiers have lost their lives during the past 2 days as violence soars in the restive province.

In an online post via Facebook social media website, addressed to President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, Rasoulyar warned that Helmand will soon fall to Taliban militants.

According to Rasoulyar, the Afghan forces suffered casualties during clashes in Greshk and Sangin districts.

Appealing directly to President Ghani for his intervention to prevent the collapse of Helmand province, Rasoulyar said it would be impossible to retake Helmand province by launching an operation from airport and it would be dream to compare it with northern Kunduz province which was retaken by the security forces.

He said he is not ready to pay a huge price, urging President Ghani to be quick and save Helmand from life and death situation.

Helmand’s Greshk District “On The Verge Of Falling To The Taliban”

20 December 2015 TOLONews.com

Helmand officials on Sunday called for reinforcement troops and additional weapons to be sent in to the embattled province which has been the scene of fierce fighting between security forces and insurgents in recent days.

According to them, Greshk district is on the verge of falling to the Taliban.

The battle started last week when hundreds of Taliban militants launched coordinated attacks on various regions in the Greshk district aimed at seizing control of the key district.

However, security sources in the area have said that the Taliban has already captured some villages in the district.

Greshk district governor has warned that the district is at risk of falling to the Taliban unless reinforcements are sent in.

"Our units do not have sufficient weapons like AK47s and other weapons, if weapons are provided to them, security will be maintained," Greshk district governor Mohammad Sharif said.

"The enemy extended threats on us following the fall of Nawzad, Musa Qala and Sangeen districts, then we conducted a tactical retreat to secure Greshk," Greshk police chief Mohammad Ismail said.

Meanwhile, a tribal elder in Greshk has said that the Taliban has advanced to within 10 kilometers inside Greshk.

"We notified provincial authorities verbally and officially to support us to defeat the enemy, but the government did not take it seriously," tribal elder Abdul Khaliq said.

This comes a day after deputy governor of Helmand Mohammad Jan Rasoulyar said in a letter to President Ashraf Ghani that leaders of the national unity government must take action swiftly regarding the volatile situation.

Helmand has witnessed massive unrest this year following a surge in coordinated attacks against security forces by the Taliban in the province.

MILITARY NEWS



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "“This'll all be worth it when we get to eat at mediocre chain restaurants for free on Veterans Day.” “And get a choice of 3 entrees!”]

**Officers “Entrusted With Key Roles In The Campaign Against Sexual Assault Accused Of Committing Those Very Offenses”
“It’s All Senior Officers Trying To Protect Themselves”
“Former Top Sex-Crimes Prosecutor Kissed And Groped A Female Officer While Attending A Conference On Sexual Assault”**



The Army has been embarrassed by the actions of several soldiers assigned to key roles in its campaign against sexual misconduct. From left, Lt. Col. Michael D. Kepner II, Maj. Gen. William H. Gerety, and Col. Morris ‘Reese’ Turner. (photo: WP)

20 December 15 By Craig Whitlock, The Washington Post [Excerpts]

To mark the end of Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April, the 188th Infantry Brigade held a potluck luncheon here at the largest Army installation east of the Mississippi River.

The deputy commander reminded his soldiers they were all “responsible for bringing an end to sexual assault and harassment,” according to the brigade’s Facebook account.

What most of the soldiers didn't know was that the deputy commander, Lt. Col. Michael D. Kepner II, was himself facing court-martial on charges that he had sexually harassed and assaulted a female lieutenant on his staff.

Despite repeated complaints from the victim and other officers, Kepner's chain of command violated Army rules and allowed him to stay in a leadership post for at least eight months while he was under criminal investigation, internal Army emails and memos show.

He later pleaded guilty to some of the charges and is serving time in a military prison.

For the past two years, the Pentagon has acknowledged having a severe problem with sexual assault in the ranks. Military leaders have promised Congress, the White House and their own troops that they are redoubling efforts to protect victims and punish offenders.

But those pledges- have been undermined by a string of previously undisclosed cases- in which soldiers entrusted with key roles in the campaign against sexual assault and harassment have, in turn, been accused of committing those very --offenses, according to a Washington Post investigation.

The Army Reserve's 80th Training Command summoned about 350 personnel to an Orlando hotel in 2013 for a four-day conference on sexual-assault prevention. One session highlighted how excessive drinking is often at the root of sex crimes committed by those in uniform.

Soon after the conference began, sheriff's deputies were called to the hotel to investigate a report that a female guest had been raped by one of the participants — an inebriated soldier she had met at the hotel pool.

The two-star general in charge couldn't believe it when aides told him what had happened. Maj. Gen. William H. Gerety "turned beet red and said, you are fucking shitting me," according to an Army inspector general's report obtained by The Post under the Freedom of Information Act.

In a separate case in Florida, the Pentagon in October removed the leader of a military training institute dedicated to the prevention of discrimination and sexual misconduct.

Seven female employees told investigators that the commandant, Army Col. Morris "Reese" Turner, had inappropriately hugged them, rubbed their shoulders or touched them without consent, documents show. Turner acknowledged to investigators that he was a "touchy-feely" person but denied wrongdoing.

The Army concluded that he had committed assault when he touched two of the seven women, and it reprimanded him for creating "a hostile and ineffective work environment," records show.

Overall, the Defense Department received 6,131 reports of sexual assault last year, a figure that has more than doubled since 2007.

According to Pentagon officials, the increase is actually a sign of progress. They say troops are more likely to report assaults than in the past because they have more faith in the military to properly investigate such crimes.

That assertion, however, has been undercut by a rash of scandals.

In March, a sexual-assault-prevention officer for an Army battalion at Fort Hood, Tex., pleaded guilty to acting as a pimp by luring cash-strapped young female soldiers into a prostitution ring.

Last year, the Army disciplined its former top sex-crimes prosecutor after receiving a complaint that he had kissed and groped a female officer — while attending a conference on sexual assault.

Other branches of the armed forces haven't been immune.

Members of Congress publicly excoriated the Air Force two years ago after the officer in charge of its sexual-assault-prevention programs was arrested outside a bar for allegedly grabbing a woman's buttocks.

The officer was acquitted in civilian court, but he received a reprimand from the Air Force and was removed from his job.

Still, the Army has a particularly spotty record on putting the right people in such sensitive roles. Last year, the service fired or reassigned 588 people from their jobs as victim counselors, military recruiters and "positions of trust" after background checks revealed a history of sex crimes, child abuse, drunken driving and other offenses.

Don Christensen, president of Protect our Defenders, a victim-advocacy group, said the armed forces have hamstrung themselves by filling sexual-assault-prevention jobs with poorly trained personnel. Just as people start to gain experience, they typically rotate to new assignments within a year or two as part of the military's "revolving-door mentality," he said.

The system shows that the military "doesn't really take sexual assault seriously and just plugs somebody in without vetting them," said Christensen, a retired colonel who served as the Air Force's chief prosecutor. "You keep churning people through the program and eventually you're going to end up with people who are bad."

"This Is What All Those Horny Lieutenants Want To Do To You" And "Let's Do It On This Desk"

Commanders at Fort Stewart — home to the Army's 3rd Infantry Division — received a series of blunt warnings that they were mishandling the case of Kepner, the lieutenant colonel accused of sexual assault.

Kepner was placed under criminal investigation in September 2014 after a lieutenant under his command reported that he had sexually harassed her over several months and repeatedly pressured her to have sex.

The harassment turned physical, culminating in two back-to-back incidents in which he grabbed her by the neck and pushed her against a wall, according to charging documents.

Agents from the Army Criminal Investigation Command confronted Kepner. He acknowledged that he had put his hands on the female officer's shoulders, pressed her against the wall and said, "This is what all those horny lieutenants want to do to you" and "Let's do it on this desk," according to the agents' investigative reports.

Kepner played down his remarks as "playful banter." He told agents that he stopped after the female officer said, "Sir, no!"

Under Army policy, criminal suspects must be removed from leadership positions and lose their security clearances until their cases are resolved. A few days after Kepner was placed under investigation, he was relieved as commander of the 83rd Chemical Battalion.

But instead of sidelining him, Kepner's superiors placed him in a more important post. He became deputy commander of a larger unit: the 188th Infantry Brigade. He also kept his security clearance.

Records show that Army brass assured Kepner's victim that he would be restricted to "making coffee and paper airplanes" in his new role as the deputy brigade commander.

In fact, he frequently served as the brigade's acting commander and led the unit in training exercises, according to the documents.

After a five-month investigation, Kepner was formally charged with sexual assault, violating a protective order and other crimes.

A separate disciplinary investigation concluded that Kepner had sexually harassed the lieutenant "on an almost daily basis." That investigation found he had also harassed a second female lieutenant in the same unit.

"It was rare to have a conversation without him turning it sexual," the second lieutenant told investigators in a statement. "His comments were so frequent, it was almost predictable."

Other evidence surfaced.

A major told investigators that Kepner had once undermined a sexual-assault-prevention class at Fort Stewart.

After instructors presented a case study about a sergeant who sexually assaulted a drunk female soldier, Kepner took his battalion aside to offer a different view, according to the major's statement.

Kepner told his soldiers that there was "another side" to the story: The married sergeant had actually been trying to protect the drunk soldier by giving her a ride home.

In Kepner's retelling, the sergeant "gave in to temptation" after the woman subjected him to sexual advances. Kepner asserted that the sergeant's actions were understandable because he was just a "man being a man," the documents show.

Despite the sexual-harassment findings and the criminal charges- against Kepner, the Army allowed him to continue as deputy brigade commander — alarming some Fort Stewart officials.

"I am concerned about the message it sends to the victim and Soldiers in the unit that he is still in a leadership position, not to mention the impact if the media caught wind," Lt. Col. William J. Anderson, the officer in charge of Fort Stewart's sexual-assault-prevention programs, wrote in a Feb. 18 email to Col. Vernon Miranda, the 3rd Infantry Division's chief of staff. Miranda did not respond to requests for comment.

The warning went unheeded.

Two months later, Kepner spoke at the luncheon to commemorate Sexual Assault Awareness Month, according to the brigade's Facebook account.

(The Army recently deleted the Facebook postings after The Post inquired about them.)

Meanwhile, Kepner's primary victim and her advocates were growing even more exasperated.

On May 27, the victim filed a congressional complaint with Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.), a member of the Armed Services Committee.

"This is fundamentally wrong," the victim wrote. "I've been patient and have tried to trust the system, but my patience has run out."

She accused senior Army officials of "protecting" Kepner and added: "This is why women in the military do not report sexual assault."

Kepner was finally removed as deputy brigade commander after the congressional complaint.

During his court-martial in September, he pleaded guilty to assaulting the lieutenant — albeit not sexually — as part of a deal with prosecutors. He was sentenced to four months in prison.

He has not been discharged from the Army but probably will be forced to retire after 22 years of service, including four deployments to Iraq.

"I made a mistake. I screwed up," he testified at trial. "I apologize for what I thought was a consensual relationship. I didn't mean to terrorize anyone."

"It's All Senior Officers Trying To Protect Themselves"

Capt. Christopher Cusmano, an Army lawyer who served as a legal advocate for the victim, said he still cannot understand why the Army allowed Kepner to stay in a leadership post for so long.

He said it was appalling that Kepner gave public remarks to promote Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

“What’s happened in this case has just blown me away left and right,” he said.

In an interview, the victim said she was pleased with Kepner’s conviction but unhappy that he wasn’t automatically kicked out of the Army. The Post generally does not identify victims of alleged sex crimes.

The lieutenant said she put up with the harassment for months to protect her career. Even after she was assaulted, she said, she hesitated to file a complaint because she didn’t think anyone would take her seriously. She said senior brass treated her like “a whiny” junior officer.

“My goal from the beginning was just to get him away from soldiers and out of a position of command authority,” she said. “There’s no system for senior officers to get investigated. It’s all senior officers trying to protect themselves.”

Maj. Gen. William Gerety was trying to do the right thing. Concerned with perceptions that the military was struggling to cope with sexual-assault -cases, the head of the Army Reserve’s 80th Training Command organized a four-day symposium on the topic for hundreds of soldiers in September 2013.

The conference was held at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando. On the first full day, Gerety’s staff informed him that one of his enlisted soldiers had been accused of raping a civilian woman the night before.

Gerety was furious. But instead of properly demonstrating how to handle such a case, the commander bungled the investigation, according to a report by the Army’s inspector general.

Under Army regulations, sex-crime reports must be immediately referred as a law-enforcement matter to the Army Criminal Investigation Command. Nevertheless, several of Gerety’s staffers testified to the inspector general that there was confusion over how to proceed.

The alleged victim had already told deputies from the Orange County Sheriff’s Department that she did not want to press charges. She said she had been sexually battered as a teen and “nothing was done about it,” according to the deputies’ report.

Meanwhile, the accused soldier told deputies that the encounter was consensual. There were no witnesses and no physical evidence; the soldier and the alleged victim both said he was too drunk to ejaculate.

Although there wasn’t much to go on, Gerety and his staff were obligated to report the case immediately to Army criminal investigators.

One of Gerety's aides testified that they failed to do so because the general told them there was no need. Because the alleged victim did not want to press charges, according to the aide, Gerety told his staff that "technically, no crime has been committed" — an incorrect assumption under the law.

Another staff member came to the opposite conclusion. He told the inspector general that, under the Defense Department's definition of sexual assault, if someone is intoxicated and cannot give consent, then it is automatically a crime to have sex with that person. But that wasn't right either.

Yet another aide told the inspector general — also incorrectly — that the victim had "recanted" her story and, therefore, there was no sexual assault.

Others said they urged Gerety to refer the case to the Army's criminal investigators in accordance with regulations. Instead, he appointed a military nurse to conduct a commander's inquiry — a less serious step.

Five days later, a junior officer contacted Army investigators anyway, and they took over. After six months, agents concluded that there was "insufficient evidence" to press charges, primarily because the alleged victim did not want to cooperate.

After a separate inquiry, the Army inspector general determined that Gerety had mishandled the case and that his version of events — his attorney said the general had ordered his staff to notify criminal investigators immediately — was "not supported by the facts."

Gerety, who has since retired from the Army, did not respond to requests for comment.

The inspector general also gave a heavy dose of blame to managers of the 80th Training Command's sexual-assault-prevention program.

The managers, whose names were redacted from the inspector general's report, "did not fully understand what constituted a sexual assault" and "made incorrect conclusions that a sexual assault did not occur."

In an interview, the accused soldier said he was innocent of rape. He said he has since received a formal reprimand from the Army for adultery; although he is single, the alleged victim was married.

Asked what he was thinking to get drunk and have sex with a stranger at a sexual-assault-prevention conference, the soldier replied, "That's a fair question."

"It was a stupid situation to put myself in," he said. "I don't have a statement or answer for any of that."

The Post is not naming the soldier because he was not charged with a crime.

He remains in the Army Reserve.

“Turner Questioned The Motives Of The Women Who Told Investigators That He Had Touched Them”

Army Col. Morris Turner had just finished a tour of duty in Baghdad last year when he learned that his new assignment would be at a military base on the Florida coast.

“I knew nothing about this job,” Turner told the Florida Today newspaper. “I said, ‘Where is this?’ And I Googled and saw this little island. I said, ‘Good location.’”

A field artillery officer, Turner had been selected to lead the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute at Patrick Air Force Base, near Cocoa Beach.

The institute has a staff of about 140 people who specialize in human relations. They train other Defense Department personnel on ways to prevent discrimination, sexual harassment and similar problems.

Among other things, the institute produces training videos on how to cope with “realistic workplace scenarios.” One video depicts a fictional boss named Miguel who can’t keep his hands to himself. Subordinates wince as he squeezes their shoulders, pinches their cheeks and caresses their hair.

When Turner took command of the institute, some female employees came to fear that their new boss had a similar habit. After a few months, the women confided in one another that Turner had rubbed their shoulders or touched them in ways that made them physically uncomfortable, according to interviews with three staff members and records compiled by Army investigators.

At the urging of her colleagues, a non-commissioned officer who worked closely with Turner filed a complaint against him with the sexual assault response coordinator’s office at Patrick Air Force Base on Dec. 10, 2014.

She accused Turner of giving her unwanted shoulder massages, touching her buttocks and making sexist remarks.

In a handwritten statement given to investigators, she said she was worried that Turner would retaliate against her for reporting his behavior.

In an interview with The Post, the non-commissioned officer said the unwanted touching was a constant source of mental strain. “I don’t know how else to describe it, other than I felt like I had to hold my breath the entire time I was around him,” she said.

Turner, she asserted, clearly knew that the shoulder rubs were making her uncomfortable. “He’d say, ‘Does it bother you?’ I’d say, ‘Just stop.’ And at that point, he’d just dig his thumbs in all that much harder.”

The allegations triggered a rapid and intensive response by Army and Air Force criminal investigators. Over the next few weeks, they interviewed dozens of employees.

Seven women told investigators that Turner had hugged or touched them without their consent, documents show. Some said they viewed the contact as harmless, although

perhaps not a smart thing for a commander to do, especially at an institute focused on stopping sexual harassment.

Others described the touching as clearly inappropriate, prompting investigators to label the incidents as suspected “abusive sexual contact,” according to the documents.

Turner told investigators that he recalled hugging or touching three of the seven women but said the contact was entirely benign. He said it was “in his ‘nature’ to communicate using his hands and touching the person he is talking to,” according to the investigators’ report.

In an interview with The Post, Turner described himself as an exuberant person and characterized his leadership style as that of a coach — a backslapper trying to make a tangible personal connection.

“I was in shock, complete shock, that anyone would perceive my genuine caring style as inappropriate,” he said.

“I know the do’s and don’ts,” he added. “None of the touching I ever did in my entire career has gone past that threshold.”

Turner questioned the motives of the women who told investigators that he had touched them. He said the institute was a dysfunctional workplace filled with malcontents who resented his efforts to turn things around.

His defense attorney, Gary Myers, accused the Army of grossly over-reacting to spurious -charges because the service was afraid of being perceived as soft on sexual misconduct.

“This whole thing is garbage,” Myers said. Army criminal investigators, he added, “would find that the pope engaged in sexual harassment by touching people.”

In the end, Army lawyers in Washington concluded that Turner had committed assault by placing his hands on two non-commissioned officers without their consent but that there was no basis to charge him with abusive sexual contact.

In June, he received a written reprimand from the Army for creating a “hostile” workplace culture and fostering an “environment of intimidation and reprisal.”

The Army, however, agreed not to include the reprimand in Turner’s official personnel file, which effectively frees him to resume his military career.

He was removed as commander of the institute in October and is awaiting a new assignment with the Army.

Military Resistance In PDF Format?

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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

It would be a fundamental mistake to suppose that the struggle for democracy can divert the proletariat from the socialist revolution, or obscure, or overshadow it, etc. On the contrary, just as socialism cannot be victorious unless it introduces complete democracy, so the proletariat will be unable to prepare for victory over the bourgeoisie unless it wages a many-sided, consistent, and revolutionary struggle for democracy.”

-- V. I. Lenin, Collected Works, 4th English Edition; Vol. 22

Both Barrels



Photograph by Mike Hastie. The Global Chessboard

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: December 13, 2015
Subject: Both Barrels

Both Barrels

If Americans have no historical content involving their own barbarity, then there is always someone else to blame. The swarming locust of lying keeps a country in profound ignorance.

When one's own veterans expose the truth, the public shuns them.

Not only do veterans get betrayed by their own government, but they get shot in the back by their own countryman.

Whenever the truth threatens the norms of society, there is a vindictive response toward the whistle blower.

The veteran is punished for breaking the code of silence.

With no lifesaving validation, the veteran is often pushed to suicide, because abusive societal shame forces the veteran to turn on himself.

And, with suicide, historical reality vanishes.

The United States was responsible for twenty million bomb craters during the Vietnam War.

They were My Lai's from the skies.

It is absolutely essential for the Pentagon to rewrite

the history of the Vietnam War, to cover up the madness, so the U.S. Government can make room for future wars. Americans have no historical content involving their own barbarity.

Mike Hastie
Army Medic Vietnam
December 12, 2015

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

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

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

“We Must Make Every Possible Use Of The One Slogan That Can Unite The Army With The Revolutionary People”

“We Must Do This So That The Officers, On The Decisive Day, Will Not Be Able To Trust The Soldiers, And The Soldiers Will Have The Same Distrust Of Their Officers”

“The Result Is That Nothing Remains But Mechanical Discipline; There Is

No Longer Any Faith That Things Must, Or Even Can, Continue In The Old Way”

“Everything Else Depends On The Street, Where The Last Remnants Of The Hypnosis Induced By The Barracks Will Dissolve In The Revolutionary Enthusiasm Of The People”

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

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.

Soldiers and sailors were sent to the East without any hope of victory.

And when an army loses faith in its own invincibility, it is already halfway to losing faith in the invincibility of the social order it serves.

The one leads to the other.

In the current war, tsarism has shown itself for what it really is.

War is an event that focuses not just the public interest, but also the professional interest of the army. Our ships are slower; our guns have a more limited range; our soldiers are illiterate; our non-commissioned officers have neither compass nor map; our troops are barefooted, naked and hungry; our Red Cross steals; the commissariats steal — and the news and rumors of all this naturally penetrate the army and find eager listeners.

Every such rumor acts like an acid that eats away at the corrosion of moral drill.

Years of propaganda work during peacetime could never accomplish what is achieved by a single day of warfare.

The result is that nothing remains but mechanical discipline; there is no longer any faith that things must, or even can, continue in the old way.

The less faith there is in autocracy, the greater is the likelihood of faith in the enemies of autocracy.

We must make the most of this state of mind.

We must explain to the soldiers the meaning of the mass working-class action being prepared by the Party.

We must fix this knowledge in their consciousness with a continuous stream of pamphlets.

We must make every possible use of the one slogan that can unite the army with the revolutionary people: 'Down with the war!'

We must do this so that the officers, on the decisive day, will not be able to trust the soldiers, and the soldiers will have the same distrust of their officers.

Everything else depends on the street, where the last remnants of the hypnosis induced by the barracks will dissolve in the revolutionary enthusiasm of the people.

Of course, it is easier to fire over people's heads than to refuse to fire altogether or to hand over one's rifle to the insurgent masses. That is a fact.

But the difference is not so great as it may first appear to be.

The same soldier who yesterday fired into the air will tomorrow hand over his rifle to a worker, provided he is confident that the people are not just being 'rebellious' but are able and determined to hold the bridges until they win recognition of their rights.

That confidence can and will be instilled in the soldiers by the numbers and the enthusiasm of the crowds in the street, supported by the entire people, and by the news of simultaneous action throughout every region of Russia.

Therefore, in order for the proletariat's political strike, once transformed into demonstration by the entire people, to become the starting point for a victorious revolution, a sympathetic attitude must be widespread throughout the army.

15 Years Since The Toppling Of The Milošević Regime And Why We Should Celebrate It: "Industrial Workers Were Central To The Uprising That Finally

**Toppled A Regime That Claimed
To Defend Socialism”**
**“It Was The People Of Serbia Itself,
Not International Intervention, Which
Was Key To The Toppling Of The
Regime”**
**“Let Us Remember The Joy Others In
The Region Took When Workers In
Serbia Brought A Dagger To The Heart
Of The Butcher Of The Balkans”**

6 October 2015 LeftEast

It is 15 years to the day since the toppling of the Milošević regime. In Serbia there is much disillusionment with the results of the revolution.

But here are some reasons to continue to celebrate it.

First, ... industrial workers were central to the uprising that finally toppled a regime that claimed to defend socialism.

This shows that even after years of economic crisis, ideological manipulation and international intervention, the working class remained a central actor in society.

Second, and linked, it was the people of Serbia itself, not international intervention, which was key to the toppling of the regime.

Milošević hung on as long as he did in large part because he had been able to, falsely, present himself as a patriot defending the country from external enemies.

It is indeed no accident that the only opponent who could beat Milošević in a direct ballot happened to be also someone seen as a nationalist, someone who would not be selling out the country the minute he won (and how untrue that turned out to be too!).

This is important given what is going on in Syria now: intervention will not do what the people of Syria could do but for international intervention, which is why it is so important for socialists to remain against their government’s intervention wherever they are.

Third, and perhaps ironic given what I just wrote about nationalism above, the 5th of October revolution in fact broke the back of militant Serbian nationalism.

Yes, it was a nationalist who won the election, and, yes, the demonstrators sang nationalist songs from the Second World War outside Parliament on the day. And, yes, most of the prominent opposition leaders had supported in one way or another Serbia's shameful role in the Bosnian war: let's not forget that Zoran Djindjić, the darling of the liberals, had visited Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadžić in a show of support in Pale in 1994.

But the dynamic of the popular uprising in 2000 was such that it defeated the butcher of the Balkans.

Liberals now decry the lack of the 6th October, the 'de-Miloševićisation' of the state apparatus, and while it is true that the Serbian elite continues to pursue influence and partition in the long term in Kosovo, Bosnia and possibly elsewhere, it has done so markedly less militantly since 5th of October 2000.

The reason is simple: the people who united to overthrow the regime had different goals and interests, but their united and collective action to overthrow the regime destabilised and cracked the ability of the state apparatus to intervene outside its own borders in the same way. Importantly, too, workers across the former Yugoslavia celebrated the end of Milošević – which ought to be an important reminder about the Serbian left's need to remember its internationalist duties.

Fourth, all this should encourage us to keep up the fight against a system that breeds poverty and war.

The illusions that existed in “Europe” in 2000 are now being dispelled.

We should be careful to explain which aspects of the 2000 revolution are to blame for its failure to bring real change, and illusions in the EU should be among the foremost.

The EU has not brought prosperity or peace, and it cannot do so. Look at its undemocratic structures and its weddedness to austerity politics.

More than that: do not forget it is an imperialist structure. We cannot reform it. Look at what it did in Greece.

So let us instead look to movements of resistance, particularly in the peripheral region we are still part of and tied to.

Indeed, let us remember the joy others in the region took when workers in Serbia brought a dagger to the heart of the butcher of the Balkans.

That showed for a time what is possible. A Balkans free of nationalism, but also a Balkans free of imperialism.

Let us therefore celebrate again the capacity of ordinary people to change their conditions of life, which were clear in 2000, for all the manipulations and illusions that accompanied the changes, of which there were many.

Let us use it to confront the pessimism rampant on the left, a left which is demoralised and still up against many challenges.

We have fought before and we have won and we need to remember that. To use that old Gramsci quotation, which is overused, but hey: let us keep a healthy pessimism of the intellect, but also an optimism of the will.

ANNIVERSARIES

December 23, 1961: Hideous Anniversary: The First KIA In A Previous Deadly Stupid Imperial Disaster



December 23, 1961

Carl Bunin Peace History December 20-26

James Davis of Livingston, Tennessee, was killed by the Viet Cong, the insurgents in South Vietnam, and became the first of some 58,000 U.S. soldiers killed during the Vietnam War.

Lyndon Johnson later referred to him as “the first American to fall in defense of our freedom in Vietnam.”

Over two million Vietnamese would die before the end of the war.

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



Half The World's Wealth Now In The Hands Of Just 1% Of The Population [Late Report]

13 October 2015 Guardian News and Media Limited

Global inequality is growing, with half the world's wealth now in the hands of just 1% of the population, according to a new report.

Tidjane Thiam, the chief executive of Credit Suisse, said: "Middle class wealth has grown at a slower pace than wealth at the top end. This has reversed the pre-crisis trend which saw the share of middle-class wealth remaining fairly stable over time."

The report shows that a person needs only \$3,210 (£2,100) to be in the wealthiest 50% of world citizens.

About \$68,800 secures a place in the top 10%, while the top 1% have more than \$759,900. The report defines wealth as the value of assets including property and stock market investments, but excludes debt.

About 3.4 bn people – just over 70% of the global adult population – have wealth of less than \$10,000.

A further 1bn – a fifth of the world's population – are in the \$10,000-\$100,000 range.

Each of the remaining 383m adults – 8% of the population – has wealth of more than \$100,000.

This number includes about 34m US dollar millionaires. About 123,800 individuals of these have more than \$50m, and nearly 45,000 have more than \$100m. The UK has the third-highest number of these “ultra-high net worth” individuals.

The report said: “Wealth inequality has continued to increase since 2008, with the top percentile of wealth holders now owning 50.4% of all household wealth.”

At the start of 2015, Oxfam had warned that 1% of the world’s population would own more wealth than the other 99% by next year. Mark Goldring, Oxfam GB’s chief executive, said: “The fact it has happened a year early – just weeks after world leaders agreed a global goal to reduce inequality – shows just how urgently world leaders need to tackle this problem.

“This is the latest evidence that extreme inequality is out of control. Are we really happy to live in a world where the top 1% own half the wealth and the poorest half own just 1%?”

The Credit Suisse report concludes that global wealth has fallen by \$12.4tn so far in 2015 - to \$250tn – the first drop since the 2008 banking crisis. This is largely a result of the strength of the dollar, the currency used for Credit Suisse’s calculations.

The estimates are for the end of June 2015, when Chinese stock prices had fallen 20% from the peak after soaring by more than 150% between June 2014 and mid June 2015. The report was published at the end of September, by which time the Chinese stock market had fallen a further 25%.

A year ago, the UK had been singled out as the only country in the G7 where inequality had risen this century. In this year’s report, the authors say:

Related: Inequality is the great concern of our age. So why do we tolerate rapacious, unjust tax havens? | Gabriel Zucman

“[In the UK] wealth inequality has risen since 2000, as the gap in wealth per adult between the lower segment and rest of the population has increased.”

The UK is fourth in the world for median wealth – which strips out the impact of those at the highest and lowest end of the wealth league – at \$126,500 (£83,000) per person, down 13% on a year earlier.

The Credit Suisse survey calculates that there are now 2.4 million dollar millionaires in the UK, up 68,000 on a year earlier. In the US the number of millionaires is now more than 15m – up 903,000.

The UK was one of only three countries, along with the US and China, to record a rise in household wealth in 2014. It also leapfrogged Germany in the number of people with more than \$50m, with 400 more than 2014 and a total of 5,400. This put the UK in third place, behind the US with 61,300 of the world’s wealthiest and China with 9,600.

This year's report focuses on the middle classes, as defined by personal wealth rather than profession. It says 14% of adults worldwide are middle class, with \$50,000-\$500,000 of assets.

But Markus Stierli, of the Credit Suisse Research Institute, said: "From 2008 onwards, wealth growth has not allowed middle-class numbers to keep pace with population growth in the developing world.

Furthermore, the distribution of wealth gains has shifted in favour of those at higher wealth levels. These two factors have combined to produce a decline in the share of middle-class wealth."

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Zionist Settlers Beat Farmer And Son Near Bethlehem: Palestinians "Attacked By A Number Of Settlers From Tekoa Illegal Settlement While They Were Plowing Their Land"

December 19, 2015 by IMEMC News & Agencies

Israeli settlers, Saturday morning, physically assaulted and briefly detained a Palestinian farmer and his son in Tuqu' town, southeast of Bethlehem, said a municipal source.

Wafa correspondence reported head of Tuqu' local council, Taysir Abu Mefreh, as saying that 'Ali Hmaid, 60, and his son, Eyad, in his 30s, were attacked by a number of settlers from Tekoa illegal settlement while they were plowing their land in Rakhma locality.

Settlers reportedly briefly detained Ali and his son, forcing them to lie face down on the ground. They also seized their tractor.

Tuqu', a town dating back to 1948, has a population of about 9,000 who originate from 'Arab al-Ta'amra. The town includes three other localities: Khirbet Ad Deir, Al Halkoom, and Khirbet Tuqu'.

According to the Tuqu' Town Profile published by the Applied Research Institute of Jerusalem, thirty percent of the town population work in agriculture. Workers in agriculture are classified as one of the vulnerable social groups in the town.

The town population also depend on livestock for their livelihood. They produce and sell dairy products in local market and Bethlehem market.

The town occupies a total area of about 191,262 dunams of which 188,845 dunams are considered arable land, and 590 dunams are residential land. A total of 6,250 dunams (accounting for about 3 percent) are planted with seasonal and permanent crops. A total area of 1,499 dunams has been confiscated from the town population for Israeli settlement construction.

Agricultural production in the town depends mostly on rainwater. The most common crop cultivated within this area is white cabbage. A total rain-fed area of 5,000 dunams are planted with olive trees.

Following Oslo Interim Agreement, 141,682 dunams, accounting for 74.1% of the total area of the town, were classified as area C. A total of 46,589 dunams (accounting for 24.4% of the total area of the town) was classified as nature reserves.

Following Israeli occupation in 1967, Israel confiscated 1,436 dunams belonging to the town for the construction of Tekoa, Mshoki Dargot and Mizpe Shalem settlements and six other settlement outposts.

Tekoa settlement was established in 1977 on a total area of 1,071 dunams confiscated from the town. Settlers have frequently attacked Palestinians shepherds grazing their sheep on their land adjacent to the settlements and torched olive orchards.

Occupation Forces Shoot 9 Palestinian University Students On Tulkarem Campus

DEC. 20, 2015 Ma'an

TULKAREM -- At least 9 Palestinian students were shot and injured on Sunday when clashes broke out with Israeli forces outside a university in the occupied West Bank city of Tulkarem.

Clashes erupted after a group of Israeli soldiers deployed at an Israeli military base illegally set up on the campus of Palestine Technical University- Kadoorie, locals told Ma'an.

Soldiers reportedly advanced towards university buildings where they were confronted by students throwing stones.

Palestinian medical sources at Tulkarem's public hospital told Ma'an that several students were evacuated in Palestinian Red Crescent ambulances following the clashes.

Four of the victims were hit with live ammunition in their lower extremities and five others were injured by rubber-coated steel bullets, medics said, adding that a paramedic was injured by a rubber-coated steel bullet while evacuating students.

Dozens of others suffered from excessive tear gas inhalation, medics added. An Israeli army spokesperson did not have immediate information on the incident.

Violence on the campus of Palestine Technical University has been near-daily in recent weeks.

Following student-organized marches that started in October to protest Israeli violations and raids onto the university campus, administrators reported that Israeli forces had positioned themselves at a temporary base on university property.

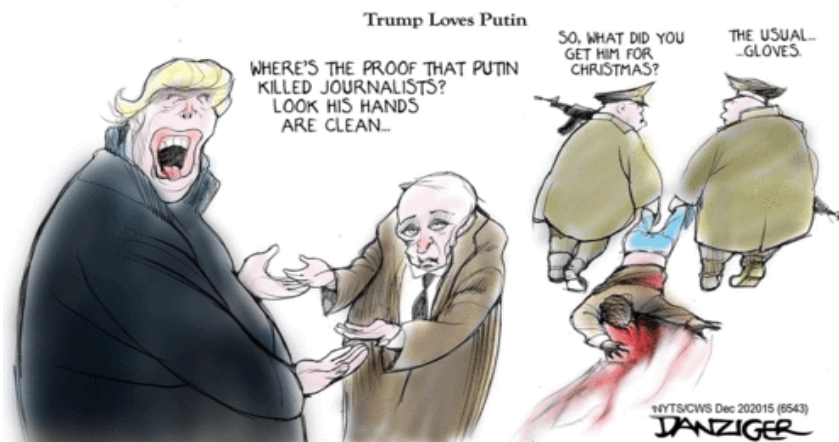
A head administrator of the university, Dirar Elayyan, told Ma'an earlier this month that non-students then began to enter the campus and throw stones at the Israeli base, prompting violent clashes that have severely interrupted normal campus life and left several students seriously injured.

The university reportedly began preparations to build a wall to prevent the entrance of outsiders last month, however Israeli forces stopped the construction and confiscated a bulldozer, assaulting workers, Elayyan said.

Palestinian leadership has recently requested international protection for Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory amid a recent increase in violence, but concrete moves have yet to be made to address the request.

**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



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