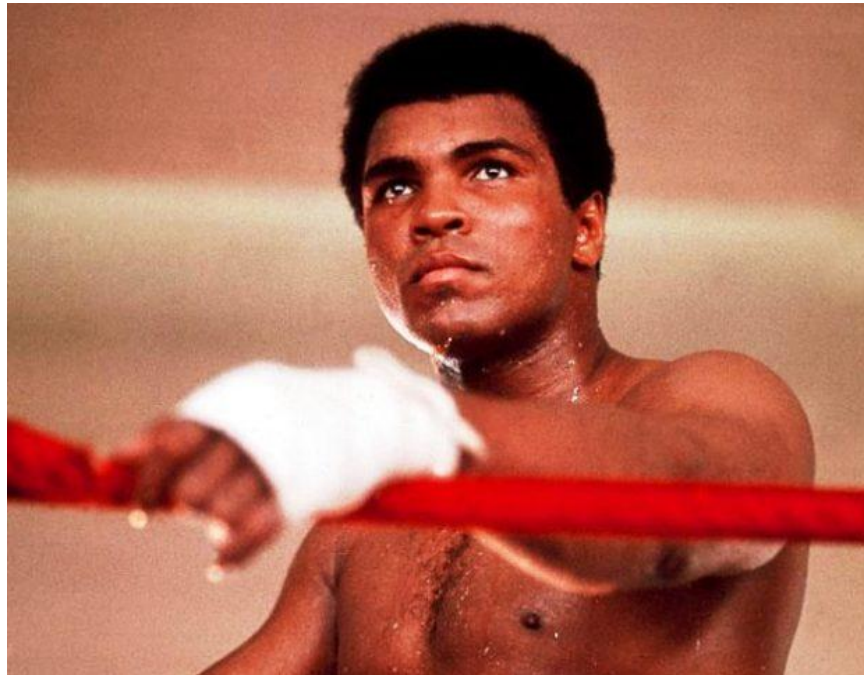


Military Resistance 14F2

1942-2016



1967:

Why should they ask me to put on a uniform and go ten thousand miles from home and drop bombs and bullets on brown people in Vietnam while so-called Negro people in Louisville are treated like dogs and denied simple human rights?

No, I am not going ten thousand miles from home to help murder and burn another poor nation simply to continue the domination of white slave masters of the darker people the world over.

This is the day when such evils must come to an end.

I have been warned that to take such a stand would put my prestige in jeopardy and could cause me to lose millions of dollars which should accrue to me as the champion.

But I have said it once and I will say it again. The real enemy of my people is right here.

I will not disgrace my religion, my people or myself by becoming a tool to enslave those who are fighting for their own justice, freedom and equality...

If I thought the war was going to bring freedom and equality to 22 million of my people they wouldn't have to draft me, I'd join tomorrow. But I either have to obey the laws of the land or the laws of Allah.

I have nothing to lose by standing up for my beliefs.

So I'll go to jail.

We've been in jail for four hundred years.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

**Iraqi Regime Forces Crawling
Towards Fallujah:
“The Initial Advance On The
Symbolically Important Town Has
Been Slow”**

**“Their Snipers Are Smart, They Hit
Essential Parts Of The Bulldozers’
Engines And Humvees’ Wheels”**

**“The Troops Have Few Options Beyond
Trying To Protect Their Units From Is
Counterattacks”**

June 3, 2016 by Qassim Abdul-Zahra, The Associated Press

CAMP TARIQ, Iraq —

The battle for Fallujah is shaping up to be unlike any of the other assaults in the Iraqi military's town-by-town war with the Islamic State group.

In the nearly two weeks since the operation began, airstrikes have been used sparingly, Shiite militias have so far been kept to the perimeter, and the initial advance on the symbolically important town has been slow.

U.S.-trained Iraqi counterterrorism forces, wary of coming street battles in the city, are already facing fierce resistance on the outskirts from well-entrenched militants. Those fighters are believed to include many foreign jihadis who are considered better-trained than the ones in towns that have been retaken in recent months.

That suggests a long fight for the city less than an hour's drive west of Baghdad.

Aid groups say about 1,000 families have managed to flee the outskirts of Fallujah since the operation began May 22. But the Norwegian Refugee Council, an international humanitarian group that does extensive work in Iraq's Anbar province, says none of the civilians trapped in the center of the city have made it out.

"There is a clear difference between the Fallujah and Ramadi operations," said Iraqi military Brig. Haider al-Obeidi.

The terrain is a challenge, he said, because the outskirts are dotted with orchards and irrigation canals that give IS fighters working in small mobile units an advantage over the slow-moving convoys of armored vehicles

The fighters his men are encountering are better trained than those in previous battles, al-Obeidi said.

"Their snipers are smart, they hit essential parts of the bulldozers' engines and Humvees' wheels," he said. Repairing them takes time and slows advances, and the forces have not received any new weaponry or additional training that would help, al-Obeidi said.

The troops have few options beyond trying to protect their units from IS counterattacks, he said.

In Ramadi, Shiite militias stayed out of the fight entirely. In Fallujah, even their participation on the sidelines could be a problem, according to Patrick Martin of the institute for the Study of War, a Washington think tank.

While there was swift progress securing Fallujah's outskirts, pushing into the city has been much slower. It is expected to slow even further the closer that the forces get to the city center.

"When you get into the dense urban terrain, it's going to be hot and it's going to be tough work," said Col. Christopher Garver, the Baghdad-based spokesman for the U.S.-led coalition against the Islamic State group.

Martin said a drawn out battle will not only have humanitarian consequences, it could also allow IS to regroup and launch even more debilitating counterattacks.

"The longer the operation goes on for, the more likely ISIS will be able to regenerate attack capabilities," he said.

POLICE WAR REPORTS

L.A. County Sheriff's Official Resigns Over Emails Making Fun Of Mexicans, Muslims, Black People And Women

May 2 By Mark Berman, The Washington Post

A senior official with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department resigned Sunday after a series of emails he sent mocking Muslims, Mexicans, black people and women during a previous job were released publicly.

Sheriff Jim McDonnell said he had accepted the resignation of Tom Angel, the department's chief of staff, after learning that Angel "shared inappropriate and unprofessional emails" while working for the Burbank, Calif., police department.

"This incident is one that I find deeply troubling," McDonnell said in a statement Sunday. "Chief Angel has offered his resignation, and I have accepted it. I thank him for his many years of service, and wish him and his family well."

Angel had spent more than three decades with the county sheriff's office before he joined the Burbank police force in 2010. After serving as assistant chief in Burbank, he returned to the sheriff's office last summer, coming back to the agency at a time when it was being scrutinized by the Justice Department for unsafe conditions in its jails.

Last week, the Los Angeles Times obtained and published emails that Angel had sent while he was working in Burbank. Angel's messages, sent in 2012 and 2013, included emails he forwarded that listed jokes making fun of a number of groups.

One message he forwarded in May 2013 contained a series of these comments, including this line: "I took my Biology exam last Friday. I was asked to name two things commonly found in cells. Apparently, 'Blacks' and 'Mexicans' were NOT the correct answers."

A different email mocked concerns about racial profiling, while another he forwarded with the comment "You need to share this one too !!!!!" contains what are described in the original message as a list of reasons "why Muslim Terrorists are so quick to commit suicide."

This list contains comments about Islam as well as lines like "your wife smells worse than your donkey" and "constant wailing from some idiot in a tower."

Attempts to seek comment from Angel through the sheriff's office were unsuccessful. He told the Los Angeles Times last week that he did not mean to offend anyone and said it was unfortunate his work emails had been publicly released.

McDonnell said Sunday he had learned about Angel's emails "very recently" and said he hoped to use the episode as a chance for the sheriff's office to improve, vowing to meet with different groups to understand the cultures, ethnicities and religions in the county.

What Life Is Like After Police Wreck Your House And Take 'Every Belonging': Then The Charges Are Dropped; "They Destroy Your Property And They Return It In Pieces" "The Deputies Kept The Children Lined Up On The Couch At Gunpoint"



Annette Shattuck and her family inside of their home on March 29, 2016, in Port Huron, Mich. Photo by Ali Lapetina/For the Washington Post

March 30 by Christopher Ingraham, The Washington Post

A self-described Michigan “soccer mom” who had “every belonging” taken from her family in a 2014 drug raid has been cleared of all criminal charges, 19 months after heavily armed drug task force members ransacked her home and her business. But in many ways, her ordeal is only beginning.

Annette Shattuck and her husband, Dale, had been facing felony charges of possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, possession with intent to manufacture marijuana and maintaining a drug house.

But last month, Michigan Circuit Court Judge Daniel Kelly threw out all criminal complaints filed against the Shattucks “on the grounds of entrapment by estoppel,” according to court filings.

Entrapment by estoppel occurs when a government official leads a defendant to believe that their conduct is permissible under the law.

The Shattucks’ case is an illustration of how the nation’s patchwork marijuana laws can be a confusing mess for patients, businesses and law enforcement officials alike. Nearly two dozen states now have medical marijuana laws on the books, but laws vary significantly from state to state. And even within states, various arms of government have clashed over how the laws are interpreted and enforced.

In 2014, the Shattucks were starting up a marijuana dispensary under Michigan’s medical marijuana law.

They worked to ensure every last detail was in full compliance with the law as they understood it: They obtained the permission of the landlord of the building where the dispensary, called the DNA Wellness Center, was to be housed.

They went to local planning commission meetings to obtain the proper permits and licenses. They discussed business hours, security measures and even signage requirements with the planning commission.

The town building inspector checked the property and approved the signage. The chairman of the planning commission publicly thanked the Shattucks for working within the allowed legal framework.

According to court documents, the Shattucks even went so far as to call the local sheriff’s Drug Task Force to invite them to inspect the property and verify their compliance with the law.

“We really went above and beyond,” Annette Shattuck said in an interview. “We asked for help. We went out of our way to make sure that everything was legit.”

But the Task Force never inspected the property.

Instead, acting on an anonymous tip that marijuana was being sold at the location, agents of the St. Clair County Drug Task Force conducted a number of “controlled buys,” where informants with medical marijuana cards entered the dispensary and purchased marijuana under the guise of medical use.

That gave them enough probable cause to execute a raid.

Michigan's existing voter-approved medical marijuana law doesn't address the legal status of dispensaries, leaving room for conflicting interpretations. The Shattucks' case is an example of what some drug policy experts say are the shortcomings of writing drug policy via ballot initiative. A more carefully considered piece of legislation may have clarified the gray areas that led to the raid on the Shattucks' home and business, for instance.

Michigan's medical marijuana law, approved by voters in 2008, "is a very confusing statute," according to Stephen Guilliat, chief assistant prosecutor for St. Clair County, where the dispensary was located. "Whoever drafted it was either crazy as a fox, or didn't know what they were doing."

Of the 22 states plus D.C. with medical marijuana laws currently on the books, only Michigan, Montana and Alaska do not allow for medical marijuana to be sold from dispensaries. Patients in those states are, however, allowed to cultivate limited numbers of marijuana plants themselves, according marijuana reform group NORML. Michigan's legislature has been working on legislation that would allow regulated dispensaries, but progress has been slow.

Technically, Shattuck's dispensary should not have been approved by the town planning commission, because the law does not provide for selling marijuana in dispensaries, Guilliat said. "I think the township probably thought they were doing the right thing, without knowing what the law says," he added.

On July 28, 2014 — not long after the couple reached out to them to perform a compliance check — task force agents raided both the dispensary and the Shattucks' home.

"The Drug Task Force Has Returned Some Of Her Property. But Much Of It Is Damaged"

In addition to charging the Shattucks with a variety of marijuana-related drug crimes, they took a lawnmower, a bicycle, their daughter's birthday money, their marriage certificate and numerous other belongings, according to Annette Shattuck's testimony before the Michigan House last year.

But Judge Daniel Kelly ruled last month that, because the town planning commission had signed off on the dispensary, and because the Shattucks "would not have called (the Drug Task Force) and invited law enforcement to their compassion center for an inspection unless (they) believed in good faith" that they were operating within the bounds of the law, "basic principles of due process preclude prosecution in this case."

In short, the government can't prosecute you for operating an "illegal" business if another arm of government has given you the green light on it.

Annette Shattuck says "it's beyond exciting" to have the criminal charges cleared. But the tough work of getting her forfeited property back has only just begun.

Under asset forfeiture laws, police are allowed to seize and keep property suspected of involvement in a crime, regardless of whether the property's owners are ever convicted — or even charged, in many cases.

Michigan's laws are particularly skewed against property owners, according a 2015 report from the Institute for Justice. The nonprofit civil liberties law firm gave Michigan a D- on its forfeiture laws, citing "poor protections for innocent property owners" and policies that allow police to keep up to 100 percent of the proceeds from forfeited property, creating a profit motive for seizing belongings.

Annette Shattuck says that since the charges have been dismissed, the Drug Task Force has returned some of her property. But much of it is damaged.

Electronic items are missing power cords and remotes. Her and her husband's phones were smashed. They returned her husband's guns and the safe he stored it in, but they didn't return the key. Two of the kids' insurance cards are missing. Shattuck says her marriage and birth certificates haven't been returned, and since the Task Force does not itemize seized documents in its paperwork, it has no record of taking them in the first place.

"We had plans to get the property back and sell a lot of it to pay for legal fees," she said. "But now we can't."

Sheriff Tim Donnellon, who oversees the drug task force involved in the raid, said his office has "no vendetta" against the Shattucks, and that if any items or components are missing from their returned property, it wasn't intentional. He said the Shattucks should get in touch with the police supervisors overseeing the return. "We'll make things right for her," he added.

Donnellon agrees with Guilliat, the assistant prosecutor, that murky statute language has made things difficult, not only for medical marijuana patients and caregivers but for law enforcement officials as well. "Medical marijuana in Michigan is a nightmare," he said in an interview. "It's really shifting sand. It changes continually. It's really an Achilles heel for law enforcement."

The tension between strict federal prohibition and state-level legalization is likely only to grow as more states consider changing their marijuana laws this year.

"Medical marijuana policy in the United States is putting Americans at risk," the Brookings Institution's John Hudak warned last week. Medical marijuana patients are often "victimized by an unjust, arbitrary, and downright harmful system that hinders access to a clinically proven medical benefit," according to Hudak.

The Shattuck family has experienced this harm first-hand.

Beyond the financial burden, the raids have left the family with considerable emotional trauma as well.

"The Deputies Kept The Children Lined Up On The Couch At Gunpoint"

When the task force raided her home, Shattuck's mother was babysitting her four children, who were all under age 10 at the time. "During the dynamic entry, armed DTF officers wearing ski masks separated the children from their grandmother at gunpoint, shouting at her to get the dog under control or they would shoot it," a court briefing filed by the Shattucks' lawyer alleges.

"The deputies kept the children lined up on the couch at gunpoint, refusing even to remove their masks to help calm the kids."

Donnellon called this a "misrepresentation of the incident." During raids like this, he says, it's standard for officers to enter with weapons drawn. "If you come in at a dynamic entry raid, you're going to aim that gun at the parents. Children are going to be sat at a couch. There's absolutely no way in hell would we point a gun at child on a couch," he said in an interview.

He added that his officers typically don't wear ski masks, either. "These guys on the SWAT teams are dads, too," he said.

After the raid, the officers left devastation in their wake, according to the family's account.

"They had Annette's lingerie strewn everywhere," Annette Shattuck's mother said in the briefing. "From the ceiling fan... Boxes and bags of food had been pulled from the cabinets and stepped on with their big boots."

The description goes on: "They took everything, the birth certificates, the adoption papers. There was nothing that they didn't destroy, they ripped off facings of the cabinets, every picture was off the wall."

Sheriff Donnellon has previously disputed the Shattucks' characterization of the raid, saying that it wasn't as confrontational or disruptive as the Shattucks or their lawyer presented it.

Now, "if my kids are outside in my yard, they run into my house if they see a police officer," Shattuck said. "They're petrified." Her 10-year-old daughter has been in counseling for a year and a half.

The pending charges had made it difficult for the Shattucks to find work.

Annette's husband Dale had worked in construction before starting up the dispensary. But since the police seized all his tools, he had difficulty returning to his old line of work. They turned to borrowing money from friends and family. "We owe a lot of people a lot of money," Shattuck said. "We depended on the kindness of relatives. If we didn't have them, we wouldn't have been able to do anything."

Even though all charges against her have been dropped, "I'm still not innocent in the perception of the community," she said. She recently tried to volunteer at an event at her children's school. But school officials told her that simply being charged with a drug felony was enough to bar her from volunteering there.

Guilliat, the assistant prosecutor for St. Clair County, says that knowing what they do now about the case, his office “would have never gotten involved.” He added: “Since this case, there have been substantial changes due to the case interpretations of this very confusing statute. We now know more than we did back then —if it’s a close call, we don’t do it.” Meaning, he said, that “we don’t want to put people who think they’re doing the right thing — even if they’re not — through the system.”

Annette Shattuck never thought she would be caught up in a forfeiture case like this. She thought that when the charges were dropped, it would be over. She thought that when she finally got her property returned, she could move on with her life.

But in many ways, her ordeal — and her family’s — will continue. “I was naive,” she said. “I thought that’s it. But they destroy your property and they return it in pieces. We’re going to have to keep moving forward and working to put our lives back together.”

MILITARY NEWS



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FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



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

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

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

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

Frederick Douglass, 1852

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

**And the highest determination never can, or will, remain unarmed.
-- Leon Trotsky; The History of the Russian Revolution**

Agent Orange Children Vietnam 2016 # 8



Photograph by Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: May 13, 2016
Subject: Agent Orange Children Vietnam 2016 # 8

Full Disclosure

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

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

“Feeling The Futility Of Demonstrating And Of Working Within A Rigged Electoral System, The Movement And Its Press Turned Increasingly Toward The One Group Capable Of Ending The War With Direct Action: The People Forced To Fight It”

Excerpts from *Vietnam And Other American Fantasies*; H. Bruce Franklin; University Of Massachusetts Press; Amherst, 2000

Feeling the futility of demonstrating and of working within a rigged electoral system, the movement and its press turned increasingly toward the one group capable of ending the war with direct action: the people forced to fight it.

Liberation News Service’s “Special Issue on Soldiers” gave prominence to stories from *Vietnam GI* and *The Bond*.

And the summer of 1968 became the “Summer of Support” for the GI antiwar movement.

The main focus was on coffeehouses, which were already centers for active-duty and other resisters near major bases in Missouri, Texas, South Carolina, and Washington state, while new ones were being opened in California and New Jersey.

When the manager of the Oleo Strut, the coffeehouse near Fort Hood in Killeen, Texas, “stood up before the G.I.s and announced that the Oleo Strut was part of the Summer of Support,” LNS reported, the soldiers “responded with a standing ovation” because “this was their coffee-house, and, should trouble come, many of them will defy the army.”

Indeed, within weeks the Oleo Strut proved to be a center of the insurrection that led to dozens of soldiers refusing to go to Chicago to suppress the antiwar demonstrations taking place outside the Democratic convention.

Simultaneously there emerged at Fort Hood itself *The Fatigue Press*, an underground paper published by the GIs, whose editor was arrested by base authorities two weeks after the Chicago confrontation.

As the underground press threw itself into the Summer of Support, there was a noticeable shift away from civilians leading soldiers toward soldiers providing leadership for the entire antiwar movement.

Before long, this trend would dramatically change the form and content not just of opposition to the Vietnam War but of the war itself.

The reversal of roles was aptly symbolized by a teach-in held in Berkeley's Provo Park on August 10, 1968, chaired by ex—Green Beret Donald Duncan. Students now came not to teach soldiers about the war, but to learn from them.

The Ally, a GI newspaper whose first issue in February had explained the profound significance of the Tet offensive, now reported the lessons brought to the teach-in by vets and active-duty GIs from the army, navy, coast guard, and marines.

The underground press, especially the rapidly proliferating papers published by military personnel, were filled with stories of the insurrections, mutinies, and fraggings that were crippling U.S. combat potential in Vietnam.

SDS criticized itself for not having taken previous work within the military seriously enough and emphasized that "showing that the Left supports the soldiers" is no less important than showing "that the soldiers support the left."

Perhaps the most compressed fantasy projecting what America's war against Vietnam was doing to America is a fourteen-line poem by Steve Hassett, who served as an infantryman and intelligence analyst in Vietnam:

**And what would you do, ma,
if eight of your sons step
out of the TV and begin
killing chickens and burning
hooches in the living room,
stepping on booby traps
and dying in the kitchen;
beating your husband and
taking him and shooting
skag and forgetting in
the bathroom?
would you lock up your daughter?
would you stash the apple pie?
would you change the channels**

**“Strategy Was Torpedoed By A
Massive Antiwar Movement
Among The Sailors”
“In San Diego On November 10, I
Found Five Aircraft Carriers Tied Up,**

All Forced Out Of Combat In The Gulf Of Tonkin By Their Crews, Each Of Which Was Publishing An Antiwar — And Increasingly Revolutionary— Newspaper On Board”

“Not Since Pearl Harbor Had The U.S. Navy Been So Crippled”

Excerpts from *Vietnam And Other American Fantasies*; H. Bruce Franklin; University Of Massachusetts Press; Amherst, 2000

Meanwhile, the United States poured even more massive amounts of money and arms into South Vietnam, giving the Saigon government overwhelming superiority in numbers, firepower, and modern weapons, including the world’s fourth-largest air force.

But in the spring of 1972, “Vietnamization” took a body blow when the DRV [North Vietnam] launched a major offensive that routed Saigon’s army, despite all its numerical and technological advantages, and captured large sections of South Vietnam. All that saved Saigon’s forces from total collapse was U.S. airpower.

But with no reliable army on the ground, U.S. strategy was forced to shift almost entirely to aerial technowar.

One main component was to be a flotilla of Seventh Fleet aircraft carriers (twice as many as in 1971) massed in the Gulf of Tonkin, bringing warplanes closer than the fighter-bombers based in Thailand and the B-52s on Guam to targets all along the narrow land of Vietnam.

This strategy was torpedoed by a massive antiwar movement among the sailors, who combined escalating protests and rebellions with a widespread campaign of sabotage.

The actions of these sailors cannot be written off the way some revisionist historians have tried to explain away the fraggings, sabotage, and mutinies of the ground troops as merely attempts at self-preservation.

The sailors could not be motivated by any desire to avoid wounds or death because their ships were not in any danger of enemy attack.

So what were their motives?

Many of them shared the same revulsion that had inspired those first antiwar actions by hundreds of merchant seamen in 1945, a revulsion now immeasurably intensified by the kind of war being waged by the United States against the people of Vietnam.

In 1970 and 1971 ships had been sporadically forced out of action by outbreaks and even sabotage by crew members.

Occasional inconspicuous newspaper articles allowed perceptive members of the general public to get inklings of what was happening to the fleet.

An early example was the destroyer Richard B. Anderson, which was kept from sailing to Vietnam for eight weeks when crew members deliberately wrecked an engine.

Toward the end of 1971, the sailors' antiwar activities coalesced into a coherent movement called SOS (Stop Our Ships/Support Our Sailors) that emerged on three of the gigantic aircraft carriers crucial to the Tonkin Gulf strategy: the USS Constellation, the USS Coral Sea, and the USS Kitty Hawk.

(One early act was a petition by 1,500 crew members of the Constellation demanding that Jane Fonda's antiwar show be allowed to perform on board.)

On these three ships alone that fall, thousands of crew members signed antiwar petitions, published onboard antiwar newspapers, and supported the dozens of crew members who refused to board for Vietnam duty.

In March 1972 the aircraft carrier USS Midway received orders to leave San Francisco Bay for Vietnam.

A wave of protests and sabotage swept the ship, hitting the press when dissident crewmen deliberately spilled three thousand gallons of oil into the bay.

In June the attack carrier USS Ranger was ordered to sail from San Diego to Vietnam.

The Naval Investigative Service reported a large-scale clandestine movement among the crew and at least twenty acts of physical sabotage, culminating in the destruction of the main reduction gear of an engine; repairs forced a four-and-a-half-month delay in the ship's sailing.

In July the aircraft carrier USS Forrestal was prevented from sailing by a major fire deliberately set by crewmen, which caused millions of dollars of damage to the captain's and admiral's quarters of the ship.

In September and October the crew of the Coral Sea, which had been publishing the antiwar newspaper We Are Everywhere for a year, staged renewed protests against the war, with over a thousand crewmen signing a petition to "Stop Our Ship."

It was forced to return to San Francisco Bay, where crew members held a national press conference and helped organize support rallies and other demonstrations.

Almost a hundred crew members, including several officers, refused Vietnam service and jumped ship in California and Hawaii.

In September crew members of the aircraft carrier USS Ticonderoga organized their own “Stop It Now” movement, and navy intelligence tried unsuccessfully to break up the SOS movement on the showpiece carrier USS Enterprise, home of the antiwar paper *SOS Enterprise Ledger*.

A bloody September battle between groups of marines on the amphibious landing ship USS Sumter in the Gulf of Tonkin off Vietnam was not made public until the following January.

One of the most serious outbreaks took place in October on the Kitty Hawk, where organized antiwar activities (including publication of the antiwar paper *Kitty Litter*) had continued during its eight-month tour off Vietnam.

When the ship was ordered to return to Vietnam from Subic Bay instead of continuing its voyage home, African American members of the crew led a major rebellion, fought hand-to-hand battles with the marines sent to break up their meeting, and reduced the ship to a chaos of internal fighting for several hours.

Four days later, fighting spread to the Kitty Hawk’s oiler, the USS Hassayampa. The Kitty Hawk was forced to retire to San Diego, whence it sailed to San Francisco in early January, where it underwent a “six-month refitting job.”

The sailors’ movement had thus removed this major aircraft carrier from the war.

Especially damaging were the synergistic effects of the protests, sabotage, and rebellions on the aircraft carriers central to Pentagon strategy.

For example, when the House Armed Services Committee investigated the hundreds of reports of “successful acts of sabotage,” one conclusion reached in their report was that the rebellion on the Kitty Hawk had been precipitated by the orders to return to Vietnam, orders mandated because two other aircraft carriers had been disabled: “This rescheduling apparently was due to the incidents of sabotage aboard her sister ships U.S.S. Ranger and U.S.S. Forrestal”

In October and early November, incidents of sabotage and an open revolt brewing on the Constellation forced it to return to San Diego, where 130 sailors prevented the ship’s departure for two months by refusing to reboard and staging a militant demonstration onshore, resulting in their discharge from the crew.

The media called this a “racial outbreak,” but the picture in the San Francisco Chronicle, captioned “The dissident sailors raised their fists in the black power salute,” shows mainly white sailors with upraised arms and clenched fists.

When I went to speak in San Diego on November 10, I found five aircraft carriers tied up, all forced out of combat in the Gulf of Tonkin by their crews, each of which was publishing an antiwar — and increasingly revolutionary— newspaper on board.

That night I addressed hundreds of these crew members in San Diego antiwar movement centers, where men from the different aircraft carriers and their attendant vessels were getting together to build a fleet-wide organization.

In December the Ranger, all repaired now, finally made it to the Gulf of Tonkin, where it was immediately disabled by a deliberately set fire.

The navy admitted that this was the sixth major disaster on a Seventh Fleet carrier since October 1.

Meanwhile, the internally embattled Constellation was not even able to sail from San Diego for Vietnam until January 5, 1973, three weeks before the signing of the Paris Peace Accords; the rebellious crewmen had in effect permanently removed another major aircraft carrier from the war.

Not since Pearl Harbor had the U.S. Navy been so crippled, and then the damage had been done by an enemy defeated in combat.

“During The Work Stoppage There Were Cheers Whenever A B-52 Was Shot Down”

Individual pilots — one with more than two hundred previous combat missions — refused on moral grounds to participate in the bombing.

After the first nights of heavy losses, many of the B-52 crews voiced their opposition to the kinds of risks they were being asked to take in a conflict that had obviously been decided.

The most serious actions took place among air crews of the supersecret 6990th Air Force Security Service based on Okinawa, whose mission was eavesdropping on North Vietnamese air defense communications in order to give timely warnings to the B-52 crews.

Because they had firsthand knowledge of the DRV's [North Vietnam's] preparations for peace and were outraged by the nature of the bombing, they staged a work stoppage verging on open mutiny.

According to Seymour Hersh, who interviewed at least ten members of the unit in early 1973, during the work stoppage there were cheers whenever a B-52 was shot down.

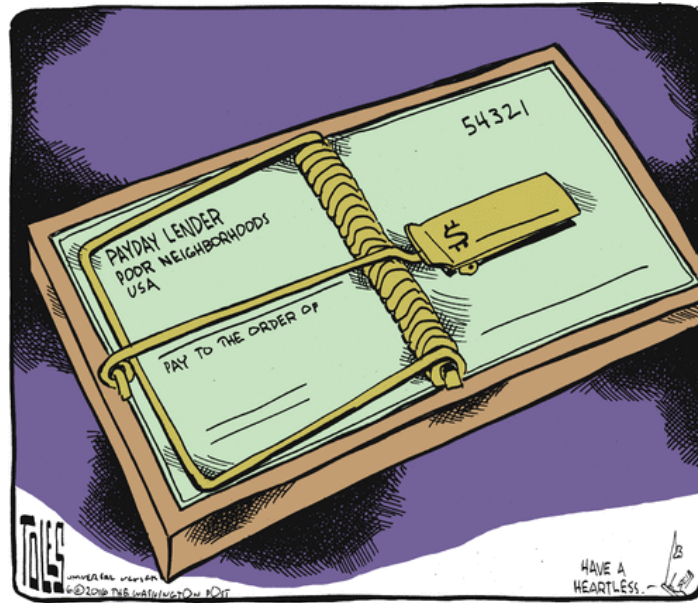
Some of the men were later court-martialed under stringent security.

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DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**“The Ethnic Cleansing Of
Palestine To Make Room For A
‘Jewish Homeland’ Came At A
Price Of Unrelenting Violence And
Perpetual Suffering”**
**“Palestinians Refer To That Enduring
Experience As ‘Nakba’, Or
‘Catastrophe’”**

“The ‘Nakba’ Is Not Merely A Palestinian Experience; It Is Also An Arab Wound That Never Ceases From Bleeding”



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MAY 19, 2016 by RAMZY BAROUD, CounterPunch. Ramzy Baroud has been writing about the Middle East for over 20 years. He is an internationally-syndicated columnist, a media consultant, an author of several books and the founder of PalestineChronicle.com. His latest book is My Father Was a Freedom Fighter: Gaza's Untold Story (Pluto Press, London). His website is: ramzybaroud.net

On May 15th of every year, over the past 68 years, Palestinians have commemorated their collective exile from Palestine.

The ethnic cleansing of Palestine to make room for a 'Jewish homeland' came at a price of unrelenting violence and perpetual suffering.

Palestinians refer to that enduring experience as 'Nakba', or 'Catastrophe'.

However, the 'Nakba' is not merely a Palestinian experience; it is also an Arab wound that never ceases from bleeding.

The Arab 'Nakba' was namely the Sykes-Picot Agreement, which divided much of the Arab world between competing Western powers.

A year later, Palestine was removed from the Arab equation altogether and 'promised' to the Zionist movement in Europe, creating one of the most protracted conflicts in modern human history.

Despite all attempts at separating the current conflict in Palestine from its larger Arab environs, the two realities can never be delinked since they both go back to the same historical roots.

When British diplomat, Mark Sykes, succumbed to the Spanish flu pandemic at the age of 39, in 1919, another diplomat, Harold Nicolson, described his influence on the Middle East region as follows:

“It was due to his endless push and perseverance, to his enthusiasm and faith, that Arab nationalism and Zionism became two of the most successful of our war causes.”

Retrospectively, we know that Nicolson spoke too soon.

The breed of 'Arab nationalism' he was referencing in 1919 was fundamentally different from the nationalist movements that gripped several Arab countries in the 1950s and 60s.

The rallying cry for Arab nationalism in those later years was liberation and sovereignty from Western colonialism and their local allies.

Sykes' contribution to the rise of Zionism did not promote much stability, either.

The Zionist project transformed into the State of Israel, itself established on the ruins of Palestine in 1948. Since then, Zionism and Arab nationalism have been in constant conflict, resulting in deplorable wars and seemingly perpetual blood-letting.

However, Sykes' lasting contribution to the Arab region was his major role in the signing of the Sykes-Picot Agreement, also known as the Asia Minor Agreement, one hundred years ago.

That infamous treaty between Britain and France, which was negotiated with the consent of Russia, has shaped the Middle East's geopolitics for an entire century.

Throughout the years, challenges to the status quo imposed by Sykes-Picot failed to fundamentally alter its arbitrarily-sketched borders, which divided the Arabs into 'spheres of influence' to be administered and controlled by Western powers.

Yet, with the recent rise of 'Daesh' and the establishment of its own version of equally arbitrary borders encompassing large swathes of Syria and Iraq as of 2014, combined with the current discussion of dividing Syria into a federation, Sykes-Picot's persisting legacy could possibly be dithering under the pressures of new, violent circumstances.

Sykes-Picot was signed as a result of violent circumstances that gripped much of Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East at the time.

It all started when World War I broke out in July 1914. At the time, major European powers fell into two camps: the Allies – consisting mainly of Britain, France and Russia – vs. the Central Powers – Germany and Austria-Hungary.

The Ottoman Empire soon joined the war, siding with Germany, partly because it was aware that the Allies' ambitions sought to control all Ottoman territories, which included the Arab regions of Syria, Mesopotamia, Arabia, Egypt and North Africa.

“The Palestinian ‘Nakba’, Therefore, Must Be Understood As Part And Parcel Of The Larger Western Designs In The Middle East Dating Back A Century”

In March 1915 – Britain signed a secret agreement with Russia, which would allow the latter to annex the Ottoman capital and seize control of other strategic regions and waterways.

A few months later, in November 1915 – Britain and France began negotiations in earnest, aimed at dividing the territorial inheritance of the Ottoman Empire should the war conclude in their favor.

Russia was made aware of the agreement, and assented to its provisions.

Thus, a map that was marked with straight lines with the use of a Chinagraph pencil largely determined the fate of the Arabs, dividing them in accordance with various haphazard assumptions of tribal and sectarian lines.

Negotiating on behalf of Britain was Mark Sykes, and representing France was François Georges-Picot.

The diplomats resolved that, once the Ottomans were soundly defeated, France would receive areas marked (a), which include the region of south-eastern Turkey, northern Iraq – including Mosul, most of Syria and Lebanon.

Area (b) was marked as British-controlled territories, which included Jordan, southern Iraq, Haifa and Acre in Palestine and the coastal strip between the Mediterranean Sea and the River Jordan.

Russia, on the other hand, would be granted Istanbul, Armenia and the strategic Turkish Straits.

The improvised map consisted not only of lines but also colors, along with language that attested to the fact that the two countries viewed the Arab region on purely materialistic terms, without paying the slightest attention to the possible repercussions of slicing up entire civilizations with a multifarious history of co-operation and conflict.

The Sykes-Picot negotiations concluded in March 1916 and was official, although it was secretly signed on May 19, 1916.

WWI concluded on November 11, 1918, after which the division of the Ottoman Empire began in earnest.

British and French mandates were extended over divided Arab entities, while Palestine was granted to the Zionist movement over which a Jewish state was established, three decades later.

The agreement, which was thoroughly designed to meet Western colonial interests, left behind a legacy of division, turmoil and war.

While the status quo it has created guaranteed the hegemony of Western countries over the fate of the Middle East, it failed to guarantee any degree of political stability or engender economic equality.

The Sykes-Picot Agreement took place in secret for a specific reason: it stood at complete odds with promises made to the Arabs during the Great War.

The Arab leadership, under the command of Sharif Hussein, was promised complete independence following the war, in exchange for supporting the Allies against the Ottomans.

It took many years and successive rebellions for Arab countries to gain their independence. Conflict between the Arabs and colonial powers resulted in the rise of Arab nationalism, which was born in the midst of extremely violent and hostile environments, or more accurately, as an outcome of them.

Arab nationalism may have succeeded in maintaining a semblance of an Arab identity but failed to develop a sustainable and unified retort to Western colonialism.

When Palestine – which was promised by Britain as a national home for the Jews as early as November 1917 – became Israel, hosting mostly European settlers, the fate of the Arab region east of the Mediterranean was sealed as the ground for perpetual conflict and antagonism.

It is here, in particular, that the terrible legacy of the Sykes-Picot Agreement is mostly felt, in all of its violence, shortsightedness and political unscrupulousness.

100 years after two British and French diplomats divided the Arabs into spheres of influence, the Sykes-Picot Agreement remains a pugnacious but dominant reality of the Middle East.

Five years after Syria descended into a violent civil war, the mark of Sykes-Picot are once more being felt as France, Britain, Russia – and now the United States – are considering what US Secretary of State, John Kerry, recently termed 'Plan B' – dividing Syria based on sectarian lines, likely in accordance with a new Western interpretation of 'spheres of influence.'

The Sykes-Picot map might have been a crude vision drawn hastily during a global war but, since then, it has become the main frame of reference that the West uses to redraw the Arab world, and to "control (it) as they desire and as they may see fit."

The Palestinian 'Nakba', therefore, must be understood as part and parcel of the larger western designs in the Middle East dating back a century, when the Arabs were (and remain) divided and Palestine was (and remains) conquered.

Medical Horror In Gaza: “Five-Year Survival Rates For Breast Cancer Patients Are As Low As 30- 40%, Compared With Around 85% In England”

**Radio Isotopes Used In Bone Scans Or
For Guided Biopsy Of Axillary Lymph
Nodes Are Forbidden Entry Into Gaza By
Israel, “Despite Having No Potentially
Dangerous Application”**



Philippa Whitford in operating theatre, Gaza, May 2016

18 May 2016 by Philippa Whitford, The Guardian [Excerpts]

Twenty-five years ago, during the first intifada, I was working as a volunteer surgeon with Medical Aid for Palestinians in al-Ahli hospital in Gaza when the Madrid peace conference led to the Oslo agreement and the supposed roadmap to peace between Israel and Palestine.

I returned to Palestine a few weeks ago in my capacity as a breast cancer surgeon.

As well as assisting at clinics, performing operations and running teaching workshops in east Jerusalem, I visited Gaza to assess the challenges faced by cancer patients there.

I found a population running desperately low on resilience and hope for the future, who feel forgotten by the international community.

Al-Ahli's character is still the same, with neat wards and beautiful gardens.

Gaza, however, is vastly different to the place where I lived and worked in 1991 and 92.

During the first intifada the interior of Gaza was still under direct control by Israeli soldiers, with nightly curfews, multiple checkpoints and Israeli settlers. This produced a constant source of tension and violent clashes between stone-throwing youths and gun-wielding soldiers or even settlers. Dealing with gunshot wounds in the legs of young men and boys was a commonplace duty for medics.

Such challenges have been replaced by one all-consuming barrier to the population's wellbeing: the stifling blockade, now almost a decade old. While life inside the strip no longer involves curfews and clashes, the blockade and the threat of further repeated incursions from Israel hang over every aspect of life.

The rampant destruction wreaked by successive conflicts is obvious everywhere.

Israel's Operation Protective Edge in 2014 claimed more than 2,000 Palestinian lives and made more than 100,000 people homeless.

Though I saw some signs of rebuilding, reconstruction is at a glacial pace, with gaps cleared of rubble and half-finished buildings visible throughout Gaza City and the surrounding refugee camps. A year and a half on, the UN estimates that 75,000 people remain displaced.

Construction materials are barely trickling in, and are set to be restricted even more after Israel's recent suspension of private imports of cement. Though Israel's intention is to prevent the construction of tunnels by militant groups, it is the most vulnerable of Gaza's residents – almost a quarter of whom still live in the rubble of their former homes – who suffer the most.

For women with breast cancer in Gaza, Israel's and Egypt's near-total closure affects nearly every stage of their diagnosis and treatment. Doctors in clinics and hospitals told me vital medicines, including chemotherapy drugs, were hard to procure.

Several patients reported having had their chemotherapy course interrupted when drugs could not be supplied, or simply having been unable to complete the course at all.

Radio isotopes used in bone scans or for guided biopsy of axillary lymph nodes are forbidden entry into Gaza despite having no potentially dangerous application.

Gaza's surgeons are prevented from travelling out to attend conferences or further develop their skills, freezing surgical practice many years behind the rest of the world.

A Harvard Medical School study has shown that five-year survival rates for breast cancer patients are as low as 30-40%, compared with around 85% in England.

Radiotherapy is completely unavailable.

Patients requiring it must therefore apply to Israel for a permit to travel to hospitals in East Jerusalem. The application procedure is time-consuming, and patients must cover the cost of their own transport and accommodation.

According to the World Health Organisation, in February over 28% of those applying for permits to travel out for treatment were either denied or received no response to their applications.

As radiotherapy is crucial in allowing breast conservation, this leads to the vast majority of women having full mastectomies and clearance of their axillary nodes, which would be deemed unnecessary in the UK.

At a patient support group in Bureij refugee camp, I asked how many had undergone mastectomy and clearance. All hands went up.

These women are struggling to access the care they need at the most vulnerable and frightening moment in their lives.

Their stories are just a few among those of countless Gazans who are unable to rebuild their lives after successive rounds of violent conflict. The international community has turned away from Gaza as the memory of the violence in 2014 begins to fade.

As one former colleague at al-Ahli told me: "Donors do not help Gaza unless there is blood. It is as if we have to die for them to keep us alive."

From what I have seen, life has become more difficult and more claustrophobic in Gaza over the last 25 years. Next year will mark 10 years of the blockade and 100 years since the Balfour declaration, which helped establish a home for Jewish people in Palestine. Now is the time for Britain to reflect on its historical responsibilities and unmet promises to the Palestinian people.

Given the UN estimates that in just another four years the territory will be uninhabitable – because of pressure on space, food production and provision of water – a solution to this manmade crisis has never been more urgent.

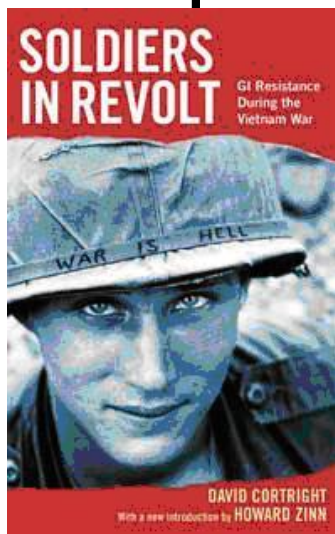
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The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."**

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "at least this one is more honest than what we've got now."]

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