

Military Resistance 14G8



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "... And shoot them for what? They never called me nigger... ' Muhammad Ali, 1967.'"]

Zimbabwe Dictatorship Threatens "Traitorous" Independence War Veterans With Prison For Openly Denouncing Zimbabwe Dictatorship:

“Allegations Of Corruption And Economic Mismanagement By Mugabe”

“The President And His Cohorts ... Have Slowly Devoured The Values Of The Liberation Struggle”

“Public Anger Over Inflation, Unemployment And Other Hardships Has Poured Out Into The Streets In A Nation-Wide Protest Movement”

Jul 23, 2016 BY MACDONALD DZIRUTWE, Reuters

HARARE

Zimbabwe's government denounced leading independence war veterans as traitors on Saturday for an unprecedented attack on ageing President Robert Mugabe and vowed to identify its unnamed authors and put them on trial.

Veterans who fought against white minority rule in the former British colony turned on their long-time ally and commander on Thursday, calling him a dictator in a jolting rebuke highlighting political maneuvering over his succession and mounting anger over economic woes.

Mugabe abruptly canceled a hastily arranged news conference on Friday evening meant to respond to the veterans.

State-owned newspapers reflected the power struggle on Saturday with a highly unusual 12-page supplement praising his wife Grace on her 51st birthday. War veterans have accused her of having too much influence over her 92-year-old husband.

“Government ... dismisses the said traitorous so-called communique, which is treasonable in the constitutional democracy that Zimbabwe is,” Retired Brigadier-General Asher Tapfumaneyi, the most senior civil servant in the veterans ministry, said in a statement on Saturday.

“Multi-agency investigations are underway to establish its origins, authorship, ownership and purpose,” he said, adding the government would “bring all associated with it to justice”.

The Zimbabwe National Liberation War Veterans Association (ZNLWVA) issued its allegations of corruption and economic mismanagement by Mugabe in its own name, without individual signatures, after a seven-hour leadership meeting.

As Mugabe shows signs of frailty, senior members of the ruling ZANU-PF party are positioning themselves for the post-Mugabe era. Two factions have emerged, one linked to Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa and one to Mugabe's wife.

Veterans want Mnangagwa to succeed Mugabe, but the president warned them last month against trying to influence the choice.

The newspaper supplements hailing Grace Mugabe, which were the first in Zimbabwean state media for anyone's birthday but the president's, ran gushing messages of praise from government ministries, including defence, and loss-making state companies.

"Dr Grace Mugabe: A woman who conquered Africa," read a headline in the Herald newspaper, reflecting the growing political influence of the First Lady since her appointment to the top leadership of ZANU-PF in 2014.

"A loving mother, compassionate philanthropist, astute businesswoman, perceptive politician, remarkable patriot," the state-owned daily wrote.

The political infighting has been exacerbated by an economic crisis, widely blamed on mismanagement and, more recently, the effects of a scorching drought in the region.

Public anger over inflation, unemployment and other hardships has poured out into the streets in a nation-wide protest movement.

"(Mugabe's) leadership has presided over unbridled corruption and downright mismanagement of the economy, leading to national economic ruin for which the effects are now felt throughout the land," the ZNLWVA statement said.

"The President and his cohorts ... have slowly devoured the values of the liberation struggle," it said.

MORE:

The Tenure Of 92 Year Old President Robert Mugabe Seriously Rattled: "Young People, Workers And Traders Engaged In Pitch Battles

**With The Police And Army, In
Many Cases Outnumbering The
Security Forces”
“Repression Seemed To Harden
Resistance”
“In The High-Density Neighbourhoods,
Poor Residential Areas, Residents Built
Barricades And Fought The Police”**

July 12, 2016 by Leo Zeilig, rs21on

Last week a national shutdown or ‘stay away’ in Zimbabwe paralysed the country.

For the first time in years the country’s ruling party, ZANU-PF, and the tenure of 92 year old president Robert Mugabe, were seriously rattled.

Young people, workers and traders – who survive by hawking food, cheap imported goods in cities and towns – engaged in pitch battles with the police and army, in many cases outnumbering the security forces.

There is an explosive convergence of issues including food shortages, unpaid wages and corruption.

Nurses, teachers, doctors and other civil servants have already been on strike, many have not been paid for June.

On 4 July, protesters assembled in Harare, Zimbabwe’s capital, ahead of the national strike in the civil service. Scores of people were arrested, in an attempt to break the resolution of the protest.

However something significant happened – instead of intimidating people, the opposite occurred.

Repression seemed to harden resistance.

Two days later, on 6 July, a massive, national shut-down, when people stay away from work and major conurbations – was held across the country.

Most cities and towns were drawn into the protest.

In the Southern city of Bulawayo, almost all shops in the CBD (Central Business District), and large suburbs were closed. The local transport for the poor, Kombis, small VW vans, had parked their vehicles and joined the stay-away. In Harare, the capital, an activist reported,

“A virtual stand-still with Zimbabweans heeding a call by pro-democracy activists to stay-away in a bid to force President Robert Mugabe to find a solution to the country’s problems or better still for him and his ZANU-PF government to resign en masse.”

In the high-density neighbourhoods, poor residential areas, residents built barricades and fought the police.

There is one story that appeared to characterise the general predicament.

In Mugabe’s birthday interview in February 2016 he announced that the country had lost US\$15 billion revenue from the mining of diamonds mines in Marange diamond fields in Chiadzwa, in the east of the country. This was US\$15 billion that could have been directed at the broken economy, but instead the diamond revenue had been lost to corruption.

This was a bold admission of incompetence, from the continent’s figurehead of decolonisation.

Yet instead of bringing the culprits before the justice system Mugabe stated pathetically that his government would simply tempt new foreign investors to the country’s diamond fields.

MORE:

Enraged Protesters Act As Zimbabwe Vice President Runs Up \$1000 A Night Hotel Bill: “Demonstrators Took Over The Lobby, Threatening To Shut Down The Hotel Unless Mr. Mphoko Checked Out”

July 27, 2016 By JEFFREY MOYO and NORIMITSU ONISHI, New York Times. Jeffrey Moyo reported from Harare, and Norimitsu Onishi from Johannesburg.

HARARE, Zimbabwe — The country’s A.T.M.s have run out of cash.

Even the police and the army — linchpins of the government’s control — are not getting paid on time.

But as economic protests have multiplied and shut down the capital recently, Vice President Phelekezela Mphoko has enjoyed a special privilege, courtesy of the state: nearly 600 nights in the presidential suite of Zimbabwe's most luxurious hotel while his official mansion is being prepared.

The vice president's extended stay in the Rainbow Towers presidential suite — he checked into the hotel in December 2014, at a taxpayer cost of \$1,000 a night, including meals — has drawn regular demonstrations outside the five-star landmark, where visiting dignitaries stay.

But Mr. Mphoko and his wife, Laurinda, would not move out, local news reports said, because they kept rejecting official residences as inadequate, too small or too close to the homes of other government ministers.

"This hotel is going to break," Sten Zvorwadza warned last month as he and other demonstrators took over the lobby, threatening to shut down the hotel unless Mr. Mphoko checked out.



The Rainbow Towers, the hotel where Mr. Mphoko has been staying while his official mansion is being prepared. Credit Desmond Kwande/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

"Gentlemen, gentlemen!" Mr. Zvorwadza continued as the police surrounded him, lifting him in the air and then dragging him across the marble floor.

Now, after hundreds of thousands of dollars in hotel bills, Mr. Mphoko's stay could finally be coming to an end. A local newspaper has reported that Mr. Mphoko is moving to a \$2 million mansion in a neighborhood called Highlands.

Residents there said that they, too, had heard of the vice president's impending arrival and pointed to the recent, unexpected filling of potholes on their street as credible evidence.

Mr. Mphoko has not commented on his plans. The minister of state in the vice president's office, reached on her cellphone, hung up.

"If he's leaving the hotel, the country needs to know," said Mr. Zvorwadza, the leader of the protesters who have held demonstrations outside the hotel since last December. "This is the syndrome we are fighting. A public figure must be accountable to his citizens."

The unconfirmed move — a similar report said that the vice president was bound for a \$4 million mansion late last year — could bring some relief to the government of President Robert Mugabe, who is facing an unusually broad challenge to the nation's crumbling economy.

The government is struggling to pay its workers, and for the past two months it has fallen behind on salaries for the army and the police, Mr. Mugabe's core supporters.

Much of the capital, Harare, and other cities ground to a halt this month as Zimbabweans stayed home to protest the deteriorating economy. It was one of the biggest popular protests in years against the 92-year-old Mr. Mugabe, whose increasing frailty has fueled political infighting and instability in this Southern African nation.

Given the dire conditions, the vice president's stay in the presidential suite has even raised eyebrows among the president's traditional allies.

"It's something unheard-of where a vice president can remain in a hotel for so long," said Cephas Msipa, a retired politician who was a senior member of Mr. Mugabe's party, known as ZANU-PF. "His behavior is quite strange."

Responding to local reports that the couple had turned down a \$3 million mansion, the vice president sounded annoyed last month.

"People don't know what they are talking about," he told the state newspaper, The Herald. "The house that the government has bought me is not even worth \$3 million. It's \$1 million and something."

The hotel, which used to be part of the Sheraton chain, is owned by the Rainbow Tourism Group, a private company. The government owns the building, which was constructed by a company from the former Yugoslavia in the early 1980s.

"Yugoslavia was our fair-weather friend from the war, so they got the contract," said Ibbo Mandaza, a former chairman of the Rainbow Tourism Group and a political scientist. "That's before the demise of Yugoslavia as an entity."

Every visiting head of state stayed in the 17th-floor presidential suite, Mr. Mandaza said, "except for Qaddafi," the Libyan leader Muammar el-Qaddafi, who, as was his habit on foreign visits, pitched his own tent in Harare.

Mr. Mphoko had to temporarily vacate the presidential suite during a visit by President Xi Jinping of China and a subsequent one by President Ernest Bai Koroma of Sierra Leone, according to a hotel manager and workers, who spoke on the condition of anonymity for fear of being fired.

According to the manager, the government pays about \$1,000 a day for the suite and meals on Mr. Mphoko's behalf. The manager and workers said that the vice president and his wife usually stayed inside the suite with a bodyguard, preferring to hold meetings and take their meals there.

When reports of the vice president's extended stay first emerged last December, Mr. Zvorwadza, the protest leader who was taken away by the police last month, became enraged. A longtime activist and member of the opposition party, the Movement for Democratic Change, Mr. Zvorwadza is also chairman of the National Vendors Union, an association of street hawkers.

At a meeting, vendors discussed the need to repair a public toilet used by hundreds of members in the city center. With no help coming from the city, the vendors got a \$400 estimate to fix the plumbing of the facility, known as the "Copacabana Toilets" after a restaurant that used to operate in the area.

A member pointed out that the cost of one night in the presidential suite could more than cover the cost of fixing the toilet.

"Why can't Mphoko just give us one night?" the vendors asked, as they organized the first demonstration last December.

Mr. Mphoko, now 76, moved into the hotel right after being named one of Zimbabwe's two vice presidents. A military leader during this country's war of liberation, he served as an intelligence officer in several embassies after Zimbabwe's independence in 1980, and eventually became ambassador to Botswana, Russia and South Africa. His family is a major shareholder in a supermarket chain called Choppies Zimbabwe, whose parent company's headquarters are in Botswana.

Mr. Mphoko served as Choppies Zimbabwe's chairman before becoming vice president. Activists protesting his stay at the hotel have also called for a boycott of Choppies. "We run Choppies — it's a people's shop," the vice president told the state-owned newspaper, The Herald, defending the supermarket chain. "Our low prices have forced every retailer to reduce theirs."

Mr. Mphoko is from Bulawayo, Zimbabwe's second-largest city, and does not own a home in Harare, so bureaucrats presented the couple with real estate options. But Mr. Mphoko rejected a house previously occupied by a predecessor ("His wife allegedly vehemently refused," according to one local news report) and other mansions in the capital's richest neighborhoods.

In the Highlands neighborhood last week, a police officer stood watch before a large house identified as the vice president's future official residence. Workers could be seen carrying out renovations behind a high, concrete wall and tall pine trees.

But even in the Highlands, the capital's budgetary problems were visible on the streets. The road leading to the house was dotted with potholes. Fraying of the paved surface made it difficult for two large vehicles to drive past each other. Workers were filling potholes and resurfacing parts of the road.

"Thanks to the vice president for choosing to come and live in our area, our road has received a face-lift," said a resident of the block, Mike Kanduri, who was standing outside the gate of his home. "We pray he would come and truly live at the house."

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Impoverished Afghan Regime Soldiers Use Up Ammunition To Cash In Selling Spent Cartridge Casings:

**"It's Very Clear They Fire
Aimlessly And Collect The Shell
Casings For Copper And Sell
Them"**

**"Units Can Fire Off 10,000-20,000
Rounds In A Single Night"**

**"We'll Ask About Casualties On Our Side
Or In The Taliban, And There Isn't Even
A Single Injury"**

Jul 21, 2016 By Mirwais Harooni and James Mackenzie, Reuters [Excerpts]

Zahir Jan, a scrap metal dealer in the southern Afghan province of Helmand, pays about 175 Afghani (\$2.55) per kilo of spent cartridge casings and has no trouble finding supplies from poorly paid soldiers and policemen looking for extra cash.

If they don't have enough on hand, he says they're happy to fire off their weapons for 5-10 minutes until he has what he needs.

"This is a good business now and there are buyers waiting in different areas," he said.

Along with official and media reports that some soldiers and police even sell weapons and ammunition to the Taliban, the issue illustrates a problem for commanders trying to improve controls on vital supplies like fuel and ammunition.

A senior Afghan officer in the army's technical and weapons branch, who didn't want to be named as he is not authorized to speak publicly, said troops in Helmand and the northern province of Kunduz fired 7,000 artillery shells in May alone.

"We asked army commanders about it and said if each shell killed only one person, we should have 3,500 Taliban dead in each province," he said.

"It's very clear they fire aimlessly and collect the shell casings for copper and sell them."

Another officer, a commander in Helmand who arrived in the province six months ago following a clearout of senior officers in the army's 215th corps, estimated that up to 8 out of every 10 soldiers sold ammunition casings.

"One hundred percent, it happens," he said, also speaking anonymously as he was not authorized to talk to the media. "The reason is the lack of a proper logistics system as well as insufficient pay and leave."

Despite recent efforts to improve pay and conditions for Afghan soldiers, morale remains a problem, with many serving for months or even years without leave, earning around \$200 a month.

Assessing just how widespread ammunition misuse is and how far the sale of cases involves deliberately or wastefully firing off ammunition rather than collecting spent cartridges from normal operations remains difficult.

The defense ministry declined to provide ammunition usage figures. But at least seven officials in different parts of the government and military said soldiers discharging their weapons purely in order to produce saleable scrap metal was a problem.

The United States spent more than \$300 million from its Afghanistan Security Forces Fund on ammunition for Afghan army and police last year, Department of Defense figures show.

In a report from February, Pentagon inspectors said the systems for supplying and maintaining equipment for police and army units were "immature and unreliable". Lack of proper controls raised the likelihood of "misuse, theft, and diversion to unauthorized purposes."

Kenneth Watson, civilian director of Resolute Support's logistics and maintenance training, said more transparency was essential for foreign donors pledging billions of dollars to support Afghan forces.

"As a coalition, we have to have visibility on assets and we have no visibility with a manual-based system," he said.

At the far end of the supply chain, such considerations weigh little for low-paid soldiers with more to worry about than foreign donors.

"Unfortunately it's very difficult to stop," said the commander in Helmand. Sometimes, he said, units can fire off 10,000-20,000 rounds in a single night.

"We'll ask about casualties on our side or in the Taliban, and there isn't even a single injury."

POLICE WAR REPORTS

Richmond Police Officer Who Killed Unarmed Man To Receive Tax-Free Compensation For Life: \$70,700 Annually; Man He Killed Had Called 911 For Help



Richard "Pedie" Perez, who was killed by Richmond Police in an officer-involved shooting. (Photo courtesy of the Perez family) (xxx

7.22.16 By Karina Ioffe, Mercury News

RICHMOND -- The police officer who shot and killed an unarmed man during a brief scuffle in 2014 has retired from the agency but will continue to collect half of his final salary tax-free for the remainder of his life.

Officer Wallace Jensen, 33, who worked at the police department for eight years, received industrial disability retirement, effective this April, said police Chief Allwyn Brown.

Jensen stands to earn \$70,700 annually from the disability retirement, according to CalPERS, and will be eligible for cost of living increases.

Only police and firefighters are eligible for industrial disability retirement, which must be signed off by a doctor, according to Kim Greer, a risk assessment manager for the city. Recipients can begin collecting payment the first day they are no longer employed. Sworn personnel can also qualify for a cash payment from the city for their injury.

Brown would not specify the nature of Jensen's disability.

On Sept. 14, 2014, Jensen responded to a nuisance call at a local liquor store, tried to apprehend a young, intoxicated man, scuffled with him when he resisted arrest and fired his gun three times, striking the 24-year-old man in his chest.

Jensen told investigators that the man, Richard "Pedie" Perez, was reaching for his gun, and fearing for his own safety, he shot him.

But several eyewitnesses have disputed the officer's version, saying the young man was only trying to get away.

In February, the city settled with the Perez family, paying \$850,000 without acknowledging responsibility for his death.

An independent investigation authorized by the city cleared Jensen of wrongdoing, as did a criminal probe by the Contra Costa District Attorney's Office.

Despite that, the shooting remains controversial, fueled in part by the Perez family and their supporters, who insist that the officer be held criminally liable.

The Perez family has continued to lobby the Richmond Police Department and the Contra Costa District Attorney's Office to release their investigative findings, including a copy of the police report of their son's shooting and a transcript of the 911 phone call Perez made minutes before being shot, which they have never received.

"That's one of the reasons we settled because we wanted the information to be made public," said Rick Perez, Pedie's father. "For the most part, it hasn't been."

Deputy District Attorney Barry Grove said there is no law requiring agencies to provide police reports to families of victims.

In February, the City Council directed the Richmond Police Commission to investigate the shooting, although this has not yet been done because the commission does not have a police investigator, after the previous one abruptly resigned.

And earlier this month, Contra Costa District Attorney Mark Peterson issued a rare, seven-page report explaining the course of the investigation, in which he maintained that the case was carefully reviewed and that police officers are not given preferential treatment in criminal investigations.

“Our office is willing to file and able to file criminal charges against police officers when it is appropriate to do so,” Peterson wrote, adding that he prosecuted three officers in 2014 who pleaded guilty to felony charges, one for use of lethal force, one for stealing naked photos from someone’s phone and one for a burglary. All three are no longer employed in law enforcement.

Guards Offered “Snack Bounty” For Beating 13-Year-Old Boy In Detention: “A.R. Was Hospitalized For Three Weeks”

20 July 16 By Carimah Townes, ThinkProgress

The Juvenile detention center in Fort Lauderdale is under fire for offering food as a reward for beating up a teenager in its custody.

A 13-year-old identified as A.R. was hospitalized for three weeks after staff at the Broward Juvenile Detention Center offered a “snack bounty” in exchange for beating him up.

After A.R. was struck on the head by another teenager, staff left him in a solitary room that was scrubbed with bleach. Inhaling the toxic fumes, A.R. suffered a near-fatal asthma attack that landed him in the hospital.

But his mother, Shantell McNair, wasn’t informed about the incident until her son was released 21 days later.

According to Gordon Weekes, the chief public defender of Broward County, A.R. is one of many abuse victims locked away at the detention facility.

In a recent letter to the Department of Juvenile Justice, Weekes wrote that at least one kid was shackled and left in a scorching hot van for hours. He also reported that kids are living in a building that reeks of sewage, which could be the result of toxic chemicals in

the facility. Guards also assaulted the boys and denied them urgent medical care in the past.

Weekes believes many of the problems boil down to too few staff and not enough resources to manage so many people. “They’re frustrated, they’re tired, and it’s a recipe for disaster when you have an overworked staff working with kids who have issues,” he told the Broward Palm Beach New Times. “The staff are overworked and underpaid, and as a result they have a short fuse.”

But the detention center isn’t unique in its treatment of detainees. Broward County as a whole has a well-documented history of abuses in its juvenile facilities.

At the nearby Broward Academy for Girls, staff withheld food, sanitary items, and soap from youth in their care.

Prior to shutting down in 2013, the Thompson Academy treated food as a reward for good behavior. Youth were beaten, sexually assaulted, denied sleep, and forced to fire their attorneys by staff.

Similar abuses persist statewide.

Last year, Gov. Rick Scott (R) and the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) announced that the number of young people arrested in 2015 was the lowest since 1984, yet the system is still rife with problems.

More juveniles end up in Florida’s adult court and prison systems than they do in every other state, which means they’re routinely denied rehabilitative services that they’d otherwise receive in juvenile facilities.

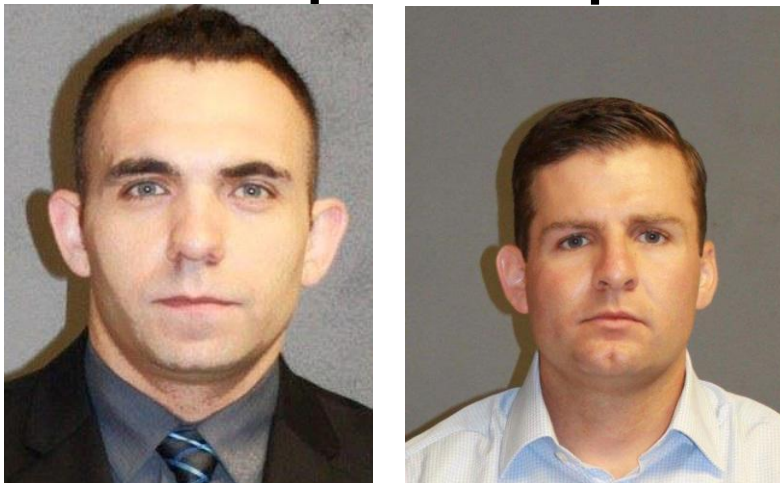
The vast majority of youth in this position are nonviolent offenders charged with drug or property crimes, and juveniles in Florida can be sentenced to life without parole for crimes other than murder.

Before lawmakers partnered with educators to reduce the number of school-based arrests beginning in 2013, Florida also had one of the largest school-to-prison pipelines in the country, with kids arrested and locked up for disciplinary infractions as minor as food fighting and wearing the wrong clothes.

Broward County was one of the first in the state to commit to fixing the pipeline, but if A.R.’s experience at the Broward Juvenile Detention Center is any indication, kids who do wind up in the system are subjected to inhumane treatment.

“I’ve been dealing with this place for years, and every day it’s something new,” Weekes said. “It’s like Whack-a-Mole. You get them to address one problem, and four other problems come up.”

**State Troopers Beat Unarmed
Motorist:
“50-Year-Old Man Who Had Already
Surrendered And Was Complying
With Their Orders”
“Seven Officers Appeared In The Video,
None Of Them Attempted To Stop Their
Fellow Troopers From Viciously Beating
The Compliant Suspect”**



Scumbags: Joseph Flynn, left; Andrew Monaco, right.
www.wydailynews.com & www.bostonherald.com

July 21, 2016 By Andrew Emmett, NationofChange

Caught on video attacking an unarmed 50-year-old man who had already surrendered and was complying with their orders, two state troopers were arrested this week and charged with multiple counts of assault.

Although at least seven officers appeared in the video, none of them attempted to stop their fellow troopers from viciously beating the compliant suspect.

On May 11, a Sky5 helicopter video captured the end of a police pursuit as 50-year-old Richard Simone's pickup truck halted at the end of a cul-de-sac. According to the Massachusetts State Police, Simone failed to stop when troopers initially attempted to pull him over in connection with an advisory issued by another department. Leading

officers on a one-hour chase from Holden, Massachusetts to Nashua, New Hampshire, Simone eventually drove his truck into a dead end and became trapped.

In the video, Simone put his hands in the air before exiting the vehicle and submissively dropping on all fours.

As Simone continued complying and lying on his stomach, at least two troopers immediately began punching his exposed head and back for roughly 20 seconds.

Surrounded by at least seven officers including a K-9 handler, Simone did not appear to resist or fight back as the troopers repeatedly struck him on the ground.

Despite the fact that five other nearby cops could be seen in the video watching the needless beating, none of them even attempted to protect Simone or prevent the other troopers from violating his civil rights on camera.

On Tuesday, New Hampshire Attorney General Joseph Foster announced that Joseph Flynn of the Massachusetts State Police and Andrew Monaco of the New Hampshire State Police had been arrested and charged in Simone's beating. Flynn was charged with two counts of simple assault, while Monaco was charged with three counts of simple assault. Both have reportedly been placed on suspension since the brutal arrest.

According to Foster's office, Flynn was released on \$2,000 personal recognizance bail, while Monaco was released on \$3,000 personal recognizance bail. Although an assault conviction usually carries a maximum sentence of one year in prison, both troopers could be subjected to an enhanced penalty because they were on-duty at the time of the incident. With enhanced penalties, Flynn and Monaco could face up to five years in prison for each charge.

Both troopers have been scheduled to be arraigned on September 13.

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

FYI: Military Resistance Website Visits: Top Ten Sources Of Visits Ranked 1-10 June 2016

- 1 United States**
- 2 Germany**
- 3 China**
- 4 France**
- 5 Ukraine**
- 6 Brazil**
- 7 Poland**
- 8 South Korea**
- 9 Russian Federation**
- 10 Great Britain**

Readers from an additional 79 have also accessed, including Japan, Thailand, Senegal, Sweden, Palestinian Territories, Nigeria & Chile.

Source: AWStats

YOUR INVITATION:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box

126, 2472 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025 or email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

Another Mass Shooting (Fort Meyers, Florida)



Photo by Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: July 25, 2016
Subject: Another Mass Shooting (Fort Meyers, Florida)

I'm surprised you can't buy an AR-15 out of a vending machine.

The NRA
carries on.....

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

The British War On Afghanistan 1842:

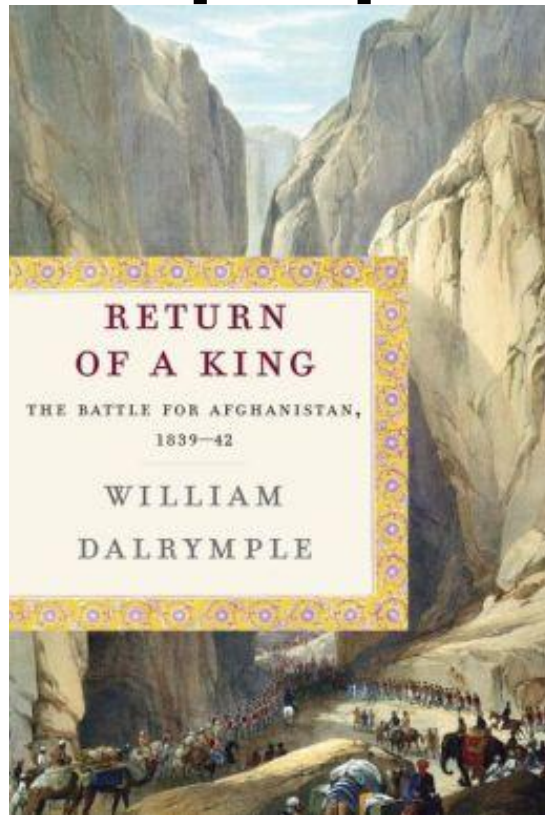
**“Not One Benefit, Political Or
Military, Has Been Acquired
With This War”**

**“A War Carried On With A Strange
Mixture Of Rashness And Timidity;
Brought To A Close After
Suffering And Disaster”**

**“Our Eventual Evacuation Of The
Country Resembled The Retreat Of
An Army Defeated”**

**“The Closer I Looked, The More The
West’s First Disastrous Entanglement In
Afghanistan Seemed To Contain Distinct
Echoes Of The Neocolonial Adventures
Of Our Own Day”**

[Part 1]



The parallels between the two invasions I came to realise were not just anecdotal, they were substantive.

The same tribal rivalries and the same battles were continuing to be fought out in the same places 170 years later under the guise of new flags, new ideologies and new political puppeteers. The same cities were garrisoned by foreign troops speaking the same languages, and were being attacked from the same rings of hills and the same high passes.

Excerpts from a magnificent book;
RETURN of a KING
The Battle for Afghanistan, 1839—42

By William Dalrymple,
ALFRED A. KNOPF;
NEW YORK 2013

In 1843, shortly after his return from the slaughterhouse of the First Anglo-Afghan War, the army chaplain in Jalalabad, the Rev. G. R. Gleig, wrote a memoir about the disastrous expedition of which he was one of the lucky survivors.

It was, he wrote, “a war begun for no wise purpose, carried on with a strange mixture of rashness and timidity; brought to a close after suffering and disaster, without much glory attached either to the government which directed, or the great body of troops which waged it. Not one benefit, political or military, has been acquired with this war. Our eventual evacuation of the country resembled the retreat of an army defeated.”

William Barnes Wollen’s celebrated painting of the Last Stand of the 44th Foot—a group of ragged but doggedly determined soldiers on the hilltop of Gandamak standing encircled behind a thin line of bayonets, as the Pashtun tribesmen close in — became one of the era’s most famous images, along with Remnants of an Army, Lady Butler’s oil of the alleged last survivor, Dr. Brydon, arriving before the walls of Jalalabad on his collapsing nag.

It was just as the latest western invasion of Afghanistan was beginning to turn sour in the winter of 2006 that I had the idea of writing a new history of Britain’s first failed attempt at controlling Afghanistan.

After an easy conquest and the successful installation of a pro- western puppet ruler, the regime was facing increasingly widespread resistance.

History was beginning to repeat itself.

In the course of the initial research I visited many of the places associated with the war.



The Last Stand of the 44th Regiment at Gundamuck, 1842. William Barnes Wollen

On my first day in Afghanistan I drove through the Shomali Plain to see the remains of Eldred Pottinger’s barracks at Charikar, which now lie a short distance from the U.S. Air Force base at Bagram.

In Herat I paid my respects at the grave of Dost Mohammad Khan, at the Sufi shrine of Gazur Gah. In Jalalabad I sat by the Kabul River and ate the same delicious shir maheh

river fish, grilled on charcoal, which 170 years earlier had sustained the British troops besieged there and which had been particularly popular with “Fighting Bob” Sale.

On my arrival in Kandahar, the car sent to pick me up from the airport received a sniper shot through its back window as it neared the perimeter; later I stood at one of Henry Rawlinson’s favourite spots, the shrine of Baba Wali on the edge of town, and saw an IED blow up a U.S. patrol as it crossed the Arghandab River, then as now the frontier between the occupied zone and the area controlled by the Afghan resistance.

In Kabul I managed to get permission to visit the Bala Hisar, once Shah Shuja’s citadel, now the headquarters of the Afghan Army’s intelligence corps, where reports from the front line are evaluated amid a litter of spiked British cannon from 1842 and upturned Soviet T-72 tanks from the 1980s.

“The Same Tribal Rivalries And The Same Battles Were Continuing To Be Fought Out In The Same Places 170 Years Later Under The Guise Of New Flags, New Ideologies And New Political Puppeteers”

The closer I looked, the more the west’s first disastrous entanglement in Afghanistan seemed to contain distinct echoes of the neocolonial adventures of our own day.

For the war of 1839 was waged on the basis of doctored intelligence about a virtually non-existent threat: information about a single Russian envoy to Kabul was exaggerated and manipulated by a group of ambitious and ideologically driven hawks to create a scare—in this case, about a phantom Russian invasion.

As John MacNeill, the Russophobe British ambassador, wrote from Teheran in 1838: “we should declare that he who is not with us is against us . . . We must secure Afghanistan.” Thus was brought about an unnecessary, expensive and entirely avoidable war.

The parallels between the two invasions I came to realise were not just anecdotal, they were substantive.

The same tribal rivalries and the same battles were continuing to be fought out in the same places 170 years later under the guise of new flags, new ideologies and new political puppeteers.

The same cities were garrisoned by foreign troops speaking the same languages, and were being attacked from the same rings of hills and the same high passes.

In both cases, the invaders thought they could walk in, perform regime change, and be out in a couple of years.

In both cases they were unable to prevent themselves getting sucked into a much wider conflict.



The Remnants of an Army. Elizabeth Lady Butler

Just as the British inability to cope with the rising of 1841 was a product not just of the leadership failures within the British camp, but also of the breakdown of the strategic relationship between Macnaughton and Shah Shuja, so the uneasy relationship of the ISAF leadership with President Karzai has been a crucial factor in the failure of the latest imbroglio.

Here the U.S. special envoy Richard Holbrooke to some extent played the role of Macnaughton.

When I visited Kabul in 2010, the then British Special Representative, Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles, described Holbrooke as “a bull who brought his own china shop wherever he went”— a description that would have served perfectly to sum up Macnaughton’s style 174 years previously.

Sherard’s analysis of the failure of the current occupation in his memoirs, *Cables from Kabul*, reads astonishingly like an analysis of that of Auckland and Macnaghten: “Getting in without having any real idea of how to get out; almost willful misdiagnosis of the nature of the challenges; continually changing objectives, and no coherent or consistent plan; mission creep on a heroic scale; disunity of political and military command, also on a heroic scale; diversion of attention and resources (to Iraq in the current case, to the Opium Wars then) at a critical stage of the adventure; poor choice of local allies; weak political leadership.”

Then as now, the poverty of Afghanistan has meant that it has been impossible to tax the Afghans into financing their own occupation.

Instead, the cost of policing such inaccessible territory has exhausted the occupier’s resources.

Today the U.S. is spending more than \$100 billion a year in Afghanistan: it costs more to keep Marine battalions in two districts of Helmand than the U.S. is providing to the entire nation of Egypt in military and development assistance.

In both cases the decision to withdraw troops has turned on factors with little relevance to Afghanistan, namely the state of the economy and the vagaries of politics back home.

As I pursued my research, it was fascinating to see how the same moral issues that are chewed over in the editorial columns today were discussed at equal length in the correspondence of the First Afghan War: what are the ethical responsibilities of an occupying power?

Should you try to “promote the interests of humanity,” as one British official put it in 1840, and champion social and gender reform, banning traditions like the stoning to death of adulterous women; or should you just concentrate on ruling the country without rocking the boat?

Do you intervene if your allies start boiling or roasting their enemies alive?

Do you attempt to introduce western political systems?

As the spymaster Sir Claude Wade warned on the eve of the 1839 invasion, “There is nothing more to be dreaded or guarded against, I think, than the overweening confidence with which we are too often accustomed to regard the excellence of our own institutions, and the anxiety that we display to introduce them in new and untried soils. Such interference will always lead to acrimonious disputes, if not to a violent reaction.”

For the westerners in Afghanistan today, the disaster of the First Afghan War provides an uneasy precedent: it is no accident that the favourite watering hole of foreign correspondents in Kabul is called the Gandamak Lodge, or that one of the principal British bases in southern Afghanistan is named Camp Souter after the only survivor of the last stand of the 44th Foot.

For the Afghans themselves, in contrast, the British defeat of 1842 has become a symbol of liberation from foreign invasion, and of the determination of Afghans to refuse to be ruled ever again by any foreign power.

The diplomatic quarter of Kabul is after all still named after Wazir Akbar Khan, who in nationalist Barakzai propaganda is now remembered as the leading Afghan freedom fighter of 1841—2.

“We In The West May Have Forgotten The Details Of This History That Did So Much To Mould The Afghans’ Hatred Of Foreign Rule, But The Afghans Have Not”

We in the west may have forgotten the details of this history that did so much to mould the Afghans’ hatred of foreign rule, but the Afghans have not.

In particular Shah Shuja remains a symbol of quisling treachery in Afghanistan: in 2001 the Taliban asked their young men, “Do you want to be remembered as a son of Shah Shuja or as a son of Dost Mohammad?”

As he rose to power, Mullah Omar deliberately modelled himself on Dost Mohammad, and like him removed the Holy Cloak of the Prophet Mohammad from its shrine in Kandahar and wrapped himself in it, declaring himself like his model Amir al-Muminin, the Leader of the Faithful, a deliberate and direct re-enactment of the events of the First Afghan War, whose resonance was immediately understood by all Afghans.

History never repeats itself exactly, and it is true that there are some important differences between what is taking place in Afghanistan today and what took place during the 1840s.

There is no unifying figure at the centre of the resistance, recognised by all Afghans as a symbol of legitimacy and justice: Mullah Omar is no Dost Mohammad or Wazir Akbar Khan, and the tribes have not united behind him as they did in 1842.

Nevertheless, due to the continuities of the region’s topography, economy, religious aspirations and social fabric, the failures of 170 years ago do still hold important warnings for us today.

As George Lawrence wrote to the London Times just before Britain blundered into the Second Anglo-Afghan War thirty years later, “a new generation has arisen which, instead of profiting from the solemn lessons of the past, is willing and eager to embroil us in the affairs of that turbulent and unhappy country. . . Although military disasters may be avoided, an advance now, however successful in a military point of view, would not fail to turn out to be as politically useless. . .

“The disaster of the Retreat from Kabul should stand forever as a warning to the Statesmen of the future not to repeat the policies that bore such bitter fruit in 1839—42.”

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**Military Community Must Condemn
Radicalized Veterans Say Trump,
Congressional Republicans:
“Widespread Concern Over The
Presence Of Veterans Inside The
Country Has Broken Out”**



A radical Military Youth parade. (Photo via Flickr)

July 21, 2016 by Joe Zieja, Duffle Blog

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Following two incidents this month where veterans of the armed services murdered police officers, Republican presidential candidate Donald J. Trump and GOP congressional leaders are putting heavy pressure on ordinary military people to condemn the actions of radicalized veterans, according to several statements released by representatives.

“Why is no one willing to use the phrase ‘radical veteranism?’” asked Frank Guinta (R-NH) at a speech in Portsmouth. “Why is it so hard for us to tell it like it is?”

“These people are dangerous, they prescribe a specific ideology, and they’re in our country,” he continued. “Military leaders and ordinary troops need to stand up and condemn these actions. Are they on our side or not?”

Within the last two weeks, Gavin Long, a veteran of the US Marines, and Micah Xavier Johnson, a veteran of the US Army, ambushed and killed several police officers in Baton Rouge and Dallas, respectively. In the wake of these attacks, widespread concern over the presence of veterans inside the country has broken out.

“Look, there are anywhere between five and 10,000 veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan every year, many of whom are bringing strange ideas and experiences with them,” Trump said in an interview with CNN. “We should prevent them from re-entering the country until we figure out what’s going on.”

But the real pressure is on military leadership to publicly condemn the actions of their veterans.

The Council on American/Military Relations (CAMR) has gone on the offensive.

“The actions of Mr. Johnson do not reflect the values of the United States Army or any of the other branches of service,” CAMR Secretary Eric Fanning said in response to the calls for condemnation.

“The army is a religion of peace.”

Some aren't satisfied with condemnation. Former House speaker Newt Gingrich believes that veterans should be required to take a test to determine if they support martial law.

“Martial law is incompatible with western civilization,” Gingrich told Fox News. “Most veterans have given up the UCMJ. Glad to have them. But anybody who goes on a website favoring the VFW or TapOut, that should be a felony, and they should go to jail.”

Further adding fuel to the fire, Rep. Steve King (R-Iowa) has released a video showing “radicalization camps” located in San Antonio, Texas, and in South Carolina at Parris Island and Fort Jackson.

“This is what we're dealing with,” he said. “And let's be honest — has any, um, non-civilian group ever made any tangible contribution to American society?”

King says the video shows young men and women taking oaths and marching around in small circles, while they are brainwashed by loud, angry and often psychotic men in strange headgear. The results of the video's release have been profound; some communities — such as Hermann, Missouri — are completely barring veterans from entering their cities.

“They come over here and start making T-Shirts with skulls on them and stuff,” another Hermann resident said. “And that guy who was in the Air Force band keeps trying to get me discounts on tactical gear from USEagleFreedomStoreDepot.com.” “What am I going to do with Gore-tex underwear?”

CLASS WAR REPORTS



OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Who Is Desecrating The Flag?

Jul 23, 2016 Gush Shalom, Israel

**Who is
Desecrating
The flag?**

**First and foremost,
The one who
Raises it
In settlements
Created by force
On stolen land.**

One Unarmed Man Killed, Another Wounded For Driving While Palestinian

July 13, 2016 Ma'an

RAMALLAH -- A Palestinian youth was killed and another injured by Israeli forces while a third was detained early on Wednesday, as soldiers opened fire at the youths' vehicle in the town of al-Ram in the occupied West Bank's Jerusalem district.

The youth who was killed was identified as Anwar al-Salaymeh, 22, and the two survivors were identified as Fares Khader al-Rishq, 20, who remains critically injured, and Muhammad Nassar, 20, who was detained by Israeli forces after the incident.

Locals told Ma'an that Israeli forces opened fire at three Palestinians youths, all residents of al-Ram, in a vehicle inside the town around dawn, as the three were seemingly unaware that Israeli forces were deployed in the town and conducting raids.

An Israeli army spokesperson said that the presence of Israeli authorities in the town was due to the fact that Israeli forces, border guards and police reportedly found a blacksmith workshop in al-Ram that manufactured weapons.

Witnesses confirmed that Israeli forces and military vehicles raided al-Ram, closed the main street and raided a blacksmith workshop in the area.

The Israeli spokesperson added that during the military raid, border guards allegedly “saw a speeding vehicle heading towards them” and opened fire, killing one of the passengers and injuring another while a third was detained and transferred for interrogation.

According to locals, al-Rishq’s vehicle arrived near the area where the raid was taking place, and Israeli soldiers opened fire at the car from a close distance, injuring al-Rishq and al-Salaymeh, who later died.

Witnesses said that Israeli forces prevented Palestinian Red Crescent ambulances from reaching the injured.

The Palestinian Ministry of Health confirmed that an unidentified teen from al-Ram succumbed to his wounds after being critically injured by Israeli live fire aimed at the car, while another was injured during the same incident.

Locals added that clashes erupted between youths and Israeli forces, while soldiers opened live fire, rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades and tear-gas bombs.

An unidentified youth was also reportedly detained during clashes.

“internal Israeli police report admitted that Israeli border guards deliberately provoke conflict with Palestinian residents of occupied East Jerusalem”
“Sometimes their motives are political and seek retaliation and, in other cases, they seek entertainment”

An Internal Israeli Police Report Admitted That Israeli Border Guards Deliberately Provoke Conflict With Palestinian Residents Of Occupied East Jerusalem.

July 13, 2016 Asharq Al-Awsat

Sometimes their motives are political and seek retaliation and, in other cases, they seek entertainment.

A lawyer from the Association for Civil Rights Anne Sachio commented by saying that there is a noticeable phenomenon of harassing people with the aim of repression and revenge, and its victims are mostly innocents.

The internal police report mentioned an example of this “conflict” – an incident that took place in the town of Issawiya that led to confrontations on the 6th of January between young Palestinians and a number of border guards that entered the town.

During the confrontations, sponge tipped bullets were used against a boy of 12 named Ahmad Abu Hummus.

His head was seriously wounded and he spent three weeks in hospital during which he received artificial respiration.

As a result of this incident, Abu Hummus suffers from a serious brain injury and does not recognise members of his family. His family made a complaint to the Police Internal Investigations Department through a Jewish lawyer.

Almost two months ago, the Police Internal Investigations Department (Machash) announced that it has decided to close the inquiry because no evidence confirming that a crime had been committed had been found.

The lawyer tried to appeal against the decision, but Machash handed him an almost empty file.

The complete file that the lawyer previously submitted included ten reports detailing the actions of the police forces involved in the accident and almost all of them concluded that the incident began as a result of “dissentious actions” or “conflict initiated by the police”.

**To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to:
<http://www.palestinechronicle.com/>
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