

## **Military Resistance 1413**



## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Twin Insurgent Bombings In Kabul Kill Senior Government Officials**



Injured policemen are transported at the back of a police vehicle after an attack in Kabul, Afghanistan, Monday. Mohammad Ismail/Reuters

05 September 2016 Reuters & TOLONews.com

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN — Twin bombings near the Afghan Defense Ministry have killed at least 30 people in an attack claimed by the Taliban.

**Among the dead are Sayed Zaman, the police chief for PD2, and Razaq, the deputy chief of support for the Afghan National Army's (ANA) Regiment Unit.**

**Also killed were Zaman's deputy and the head of the intelligence unit for PD2.**

**A number of other senior police officials are also among the dead.**

Officials also said the suicide bomber had been wearing an ANA uniform.

Public Health Ministry spokesman Ismail Kawasi says another 91 people were wounded in Monday's attack. Army and police personnel as well as civilians rushing to help victims of the first blast were caught in the second explosion, triggered when a bomber blew himself up. Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said a district police chief and five other police officers were among those killed.

Deputy Defense Ministry spokesman Mohammad Radmanish said the second bombing was caused by an attacker who struck the area of the first blast after security forces gathered there. He said civilians, police and soldiers were among those killed in the attack, which came as ministry employees were leaving their offices for the day.

The attacks came, less than two weeks after a deadly attack on the city's American University.

"A total of 13 people died at the school, a toll that included security guards, students, and lecturers," The Christian Science Monitor reported. "It was a major blow to a community already roiled by the kidnapping two weeks ago of two teachers, an American and Australian who have not been heard from since."

"People are living in great fear right now, there is huge hopelessness in Kabul and throughout the country," Shahla Farid, a professor of political science at Kabul University, told The Monitor.

The Taliban, who have stepped up their campaign against the Western-backed government in recent weeks, following a brief lull after the death of their former leader, Mullah Akhtar Mansour, claimed responsibility for the attack. The insurgents have been fighting to overthrow the U.S.-backed government for 15 years, and frequently target Afghan security forces.

Government officials have been preparing for a conference in Brussels next month at which foreign donors, concerned about the ability of the Afghan security forces to withstand Taliban violence, are expected to pledge continuing support over coming years.

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## **POLICE WAR REPORTS**

# **Idaho Mother Sentenced To Prison For Breastfeeding In Public: “She Will Be Required To Register As A Sex Offender And Will Be Placed On The National Sex Offender Registry”**

September 3, 2016 by George Drivas, Associated Media Coverage [Excerpt]

Heather Watson, a 32-year old mother and Baker County, Idaho, resident has been ordered to serve a 7-year prison sentence after receiving several indecent exposure citations for breastfeeding her 6 -month old daughter in public.

According to Heather’s husband, Rick Watson, his wife had received a total of 6 indecent exposure citations for breastfeeding their daughter Caylee in public.

Heather most recently was arrested by officers at a nearby public park. According to police reports and statements from Watson, she had been sitting on bench supervising her 3 other children, age 2, 5, and 7, as they played with other children at the park when her baby become fussy and needed to be fed.

Idaho is currently the only state that has yet to pass a law allowing mothers to breastfeed in public without the consequences of indecent exposure.

The only protection that nursing mothers have in Idaho is Jury Duty exemption. A Moveon.org petition was created by The Idaho Breastfeeding Law Coalition in effort to bring the state up to speed with the remainder of the states throughout the country that protect nursing mothers, however despite the petition’s 4,821 signatures, there is no indication that Idaho is anywhere close to passing new legislation.

In addition to serving a maximum 7-years in prison, because Watson was charged with multiple counts of indecent exposure, she will be required to register as a sex offender and will be placed on the National Sex Offender Registry.

According to Heather’s husband and close friends, she was an advocate for mother’s rights and commonly took to social media websites such as Facebook to rant about her frequent indecent exposure citations and to complain about being harassed for breastfeeding her young daughter in a myriad of public locations.

Though Watson’s sentence is widely viewed as unnecessarily strict, Judge Walter Chapman, the sole judge presiding over Baker County and nearby Wiser, Idaho, made the following statement to reporters from a local ABC affiliate station, “We have laws in our state and due to Mrs. Watson’s repeated civil disobedience it’s is clear to me that

she has little to no regard for the system our state was built upon. As a Judge, it's not my job to create law, but to recognize and preside over it."

As news of Watson's sentencing has spread throughout the media, several public breastfeeding advocate groups have come together to demand change in Idaho's current laws.

They are asking anyone that disagrees with Judge Chapman's ruling to voice your feedback by calling the Baker County Department of Justice at 785-273-0325.

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# **Police Kill Family Dog At Child's Birthday Party: "Shots From The Rifle In Front Of The Children" "Police Chief Said Officer Serving A Warrant, Which Gave Him Legal Authority To Be On The Private Property" "The Malones Said They Were Never Shown Any Warrant"**

[Thanks to Sandy Kelson, Veteran & Military Initiative Organizing Committee, who sent this in.]

July 19th 2016 By Phil Cross, FOX 25

WYNNEWOOD, Okla. (KOKH)

"There's something wrong with Opie."

Vickie Malone heard those words come from her young son as he stared outside the window of their Wynnewood home.

Malone had just taken in the children from outside where they had been playing while celebrating the birthday of her five-year-old son. Inside the birthday cake and ice cream hadn't even been served when they heard the bang from outside.

That bang was the sound of a Wynnewood police officer shooting the family dog. Opie was a three-year-old American Bulldog and Pit Bull mix. To her son Eli, he was his best friend.

"I would have fun with him when he runned around and we played tag," Eli told FOX 25.

The adults ran outside to see Opie near the fence that surrounds their yard.

"He] was over here kicking and gasping for air," Vickie said.

The police officer used a high-powered rifle he retrieved from his police vehicle to put the dog down. He fired two more shots from the rifle in front of the children.

Malone said the officer initially told her the dog had lunged at him through the fence.

According to the Wynnewood police chief, the dog charged the officer.

**While he declined our multiple requests for a recorded interview, Chief Ken Moore said the officer told him the dog was vicious and attacked him by coming around the corner of the house.**

Moore said the officer tried to kick the dog off him once and then shot him.

However, the chief said he had not seen video of the aftermath of the shooting which was provided to FOX 25.

**The video shows the dead dog with a gunshot wound to his head lying near the fence, not near the house.**

The police chief said the officer was serving a warrant, which gave him legal authority to be on the private property.

**However, the Malones said they were never shown any warrant.**

**They were only told the officer was looking for someone who had listed that address as his ten years ago.**

**"He said he was checking to see if a guy name Shon McNiel lived here and no one here has heard of talking about," Malone said.**

**The warrant for McNiel was from a 10-year-old case and the police chief said the Malone house was his last known address.**

**However the police chief said the department was aware the Malones had lived there for the past year.**

He also told FOX 25 the address was a "rent house" and that multiple people had "moved in and out" in the past decade. Moore defended the officer's presence there saying he "had to start somewhere" in his effort to serve the warrant.

“I respect what the police do, but this was senseless, but he didn’t show any remorse and didn’t even act like he was sorry or anything,” Malone told FOX 25.

The Malones believe the death of their dog could have been avoided either by the use of less-lethal force or by fact checking on the warrant.

No matter what the reason behind the death of Opie, Eli says he misses him. He made a small wooden cross to mark the backyard gravesite.

**It hurts to lose a good friend; Eli says it hurts that no one with the Wynnewood Police Department has said they’re sorry.**

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## **“More Than A Thousand Students In South Carolina — Some As Young As 7 Years Old — Face Criminal Charges For Not Following Directions, Loitering, Cursing”**

[Thanks to Sandy Kelson, Veteran & Military Initiative Organizing Committee, who sent this in.]

August 11, 2016 By Robin Shulman, Communications Strategist , ACLU [Excerpt]

Every year, more than a thousand students in South Carolina — some as young as 7 years old — face criminal charges for not following directions, loitering, cursing, or the vague allegation of acting “obnoxiously.” If charged as adults, they can be held in jail for up to 90 days.

Students of color are four times as likely as white students to face criminal charges under this law. In Charleston, Black students are about six times more likely than their white peers to be charged under the statute.

The South Carolina law has been invoked to pull thousands of young people out of classrooms and push them into systems of juvenile and adult criminal justice.

- D.S., 17, an African-American student at Stall High School in Charleston, who has learning disabilities and a heart condition, was charged as an adult with “disturbing schools” after a minor physical altercation. In the adult criminal justice system, she faced possible detention because of her inability to pay fines and fees.

- S.P., 15, a white student with behavioral and emotional disabilities at Travelers Rest High School in Greenville, was charged with “disorderly conduct” after failing to comply with instructions to leave the school library and cursing at a student who was making fun of her.

•K.B., 15, a Latina student from Charleston, was charged with “disturbing schools” after she got upset over having to pick up a tardy slip when she was late for gym class. After her complaints drew the attention of others in the hallway, she was thrown to the ground, handcuffed, and arrested.

•D.D., an African-American student in Charleston who has struggled with homelessness, was charged with “disturbing schools” after talking to another student after she was sent out of class. She has subsequently spent two years languishing in a computer-based education program that is not designed to lead to a high school diploma.

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## **‘Deadly Heat’ In US Prisons Is Killing Inmates: “It Routinely Feels As If One’s Sitting In A Convection Oven Being Slowly Cooked Alive” “The ‘Reckless Indifference’ Of Prison Authorities”**

25 August 16 By Alice Speri, The Intercept

In the summer months, 84 inmates at the Price Daniel Unit, a medium-security prison four hours west of Dallas, share a 10-gallon cooler of water that’s kept locked in a common area.

An inmate there can expect to receive one 8 oz. cup every four hours, according to Benny Hernandez, a man serving a 10-year sentence at the prison. The National Academy of Medicine recommends that adults drink about twice that amount under normal conditions and even more in hot climates.

According to Hernandez, in the summer the temperature in his prison’s housing areas can reach an astonishing 140 degrees.

The prison provides ice for the cooler twice a day, but the ice has long melted before the hottest part of the day, he wrote in a post on Prison Writers, a website where inmates share their experiences behind bars.

“Prisoners look upon the summer months in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) with dread and trepidation,” he wrote. “For one is acutely aware that one may not survive another summer. Many do not.”

The TDCJ, which runs Texas prisons and houses more than 146,000 inmates, is currently in the middle of litigation over what inmates and advocates have said is deadly heat in its facilities.

But Texas is not the only state facing such lawsuits. Louisiana is defending its refusal to install air conditioning on death row, while prisons and jails across the country have been ordered by courts to address their sweltering temperatures and extend protections to inmates, particularly the ill and elderly.

A spokesperson for TDCJ wrote in a statement to The Intercept that “the well-being of staff and offenders is a top priority for the agency and we remain committed to making sure that both are safe during the extreme heat.” He said that only 30 of the state’s 109 prisons have air conditioning in all inmate housing areas, because many were built before that became a common feature and retrofitting them would be “extremely expensive.” Instead, he said, the agency has taken measures like offering water and ice, restricting inmate activities, and training staff to recognize heat-related illness.

The spokesperson said that inmates have “the ability to access water throughout the day” and that ice and water coolers are refilled continuously — contradicting the accounts of inmates who said that ice rations are often reduced and sometimes outright denied, that in some facilities they are given no ice or cold water for days at a time, that ice is so scarce that inmates will buy it off each other, and that inmates residing in a given cell block are given ice water to pass down the row of cells, which often leads to violence and hoarding of the vital resource.

Hernandez, the Price Daniel Unit inmate, acknowledged that prison officials there took some “precautionary measures,” like the water cooler and placing fans in common areas of the prison, but said that was hardly enough. Inmates have fans in their cells only if they can afford to buy them from the prison commissary, and “once the temperature exceeds 95 degrees Fahrenheit, the fans simply circulate hot air,” he wrote.

“It routinely feels as if one’s sitting in a convection oven being slowly cooked alive.”

In a 2014 report documenting the “deadly heat” inside Texas prisons, researchers with the University of Texas School of Law’s Human Rights Clinic found that since 2007, at least 14 inmates had died from extreme heat exposure in prisons across the state.

### **“The ‘Reckless Indifference’ Of Prison Authorities”**

The report documented at length the failures of prison officials to prevent heat-related injury to inmates and concluded with a series of recommendations, including frequent monitoring of inmates at higher risk and the installation of air conditioning to ensure temperatures do not exceed 85 degrees. A year later, nothing had changed, and the same researchers issued a second report condemning the “reckless indifference” of prison authorities.

“They refuse to even acknowledge that there is a problem,” Ariel Dulitzky, director of the Human Rights Clinic, told The Intercept. “They’ll say that everybody suffers from extreme heat, that it isn’t an issue particularly affecting inmates, and that there are other people in Texas that don’t have AC either. So that’s their point, we all suffer.”



The 14 fatalities cited in the report are an extremely conservative estimate, Dulitzky noted.

He and others have been fighting to obtain inmates' death records, and based on their ages, medical conditions, and the given day's heat index, believe that "several dozens" died at least in part as a result of extreme heat exposure in 2014 and 2015 alone.

Earlier this summer, a federal judge certified a class action after inmates at another Texas prison — the Wallace Pack Unit, which houses sick, disabled, and elderly prisoners serving time for nonviolent crimes — sued TDCJ officials in an effort to keep the temperature below 88 degrees and prevent heat-stroke deaths.

Plaintiffs in that case, originally filed in 2014, described sleeping on the floor to get some relief from the heat, metal walls trapping heat "like a parked car," and metal tables that "get so heated that prisoners have to lay towels on them to rest their elbows on."

Fred Wallace, a 72-year-old plaintiff who is clinically obese and suffers from high blood pressure, said in a statement read by his lawyer that one day he felt he was going to pass out from the heat and asked a guard if he could go to the prison's barber shop, a cooler area. He was denied permission.

"I felt so sick that I sat down on the floor," he said in his testimony. "Only when the guard returned 15 minutes later and said, 'You look like you're going to die,' did he allow me to enter the barber shop."

"I realize that there is a small, yet vocal segment of our society that feels that prisoners deserve exactly what we are currently getting," wrote Hernandez, the Price Daniel Unit inmate. "Unfortunately for them, the U.S. Constitution does not stop at the Texas border."

But Texas, which has not set a maximum temperature standard for its prisons, is hardly unique. There's no national standard for temperatures in prisons and jails, and as jurisdiction over prisons is decentralized among states and the federal system, and jurisdiction over jails is even more fragmented among thousands of local authorities across the country, fights over excessive heat in detention can only be waged facility by facility.

"The only national standard we have is the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution, which prohibits cruel and unusual punishment," David Fathi, director of the American Civil Liberties Union National Prison Project, told The Intercept.

A spokesperson for the Bureau of Prisons confirmed that "there are not any federal regulations concerning temperature control in federal prisons," pointing instead to "guidelines" in a Facilities Operations Manual that discuss ventilation and set target temperatures at 76 degrees in the summer and 68 in the winter. The guidelines also note that due to the facilities' age, "occupants may experience a range of temperatures in their space that is a few degrees on either side of the targeted set point." Those standards do not apply to state and local facilities, which can vary widely.

But while it's true that many of the country's facilities are old and ill-equipped, that's no excuse for failing to provide inmates with constitutionally required safe and humane housing, critics say. And politics, more than money, is often the obstacle.

Louisiana, for instance, made headlines earlier this summer when it was revealed that the state had spent more than \$1 million of public funds on legal fees in an attempt to defend its refusal to install air conditioning on death row at Angola prison — even though the air conditioning would cost only about \$225,000, plus operating costs, according to expert testimony.

That astonished U.S. District Judge Brian Jackson. “Is this really what the state wants to do?” Jackson asked, calling the bill “stunning.” “It just seems so unnecessary.”

Jackson declined to comment on the pending case, as did the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections. But the department's secretary Jimmy LeBlanc told the Associated Press in June that installing air conditioning at Angola would open a “Pandora's box.” “My biggest concern is the impact on the whole system and the cost,” he said.

Critics say the real problem is the political cost of being perceived as granting “luxuries” to prisoners.

“Part of the reason why you see this kind of irrational behavior — spending far more to fight the lawsuit than it would cost to just air-condition the prison — is because AC is seen as a luxury and prison officials don't want to be seen as running luxurious prisons,” said Fathi. “Climate control is not a matter of comfort and luxury — it's a matter of life or death.”

So far, the ACLU and other rights groups have been making that case one facility at a time.

In Wisconsin, they won a court order to air-condition a prison where temperatures were reaching “potentially lethal levels.” In Mississippi, they won an order to provide fans, iced water, and daily showers when the heat index exceeds 90 degrees. They also secured protections for inmates more susceptible to heat-related injury at the Baltimore City Jail. In the Maricopa County jail in Arizona, run by Sheriff Joe Arpaio, the ACLU won an order that inmates on certain kinds of medication that make them more vulnerable to heat be housed in temperatures of 85 degrees or below.

“Unfortunately, because we have this very decentralized criminal justice system, you have to fight it out state by state and facility by facility” said Fathi.

“Everyone understands that if you leave a child in a car on a hot day, there's a serious risk this child could be injured or die,” he added. “And that's exactly what we're doing when we leave prisoners locked in cells when the heat and humidity climb beyond a certain level.”

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# **Chicago Police Accused Of Throwing Bodycam Microphones On Police Station Roof To Prevent Capture Of Audio In Shooting Videos: “More Than 80 Percent Of The Cameras Have Non-Functioning Audio ‘Due To Operator Error Or, In Some Cases, Intentional Destruction’”**

19 August 16 By Frank Main, Chicago Sun-Times

Cops, apparently unhappy with orders from top Chicago Police Department brass to wear microphones, recently took matters into their own hands on the Northwest Side: They threw them onto the roof of the Jefferson Park police station.

A month and a half ago — before the release of the dashcam video showing an officer firing 16 shots and killing 17-year-old Laquan McDonald on the Southwest Side — a sergeant saw the discarded microphones through a window at the Jefferson Park station and reported the incident to the Independent Police Review Authority.

IPRA is the agency that investigates police shootings and allegations of officers using excessive force.

The incident highlighted officers' widespread wariness about being required to be recorded by video and audio equipment.

Video from the McDonald shooting in October 2014 led to a first-degree murder charge against Officer Jason Van Dyke.

That video and others from the shooting scene captured the muffled sound of sirens. But none included audio of any of the officers who were there speaking — even though officers are required to wear microphones on their uniforms when they step out of cars equipped with video cameras.

**IPRA has referred 24 incidents to the Cook County state's attorney's office this year for review of possible misconduct by Chicago cops. Twenty-two of those involved police shootings, and the other two involved other allegations of excessive force.**

**IPRA provided the state's attorney's office with dashcam videos in just three of the 24 cases.**

**And none of the videos had any audio of police officers talking, according to Sally Daly, a spokeswoman for State's Attorney Anita Alvarez.**

"Most, if not all, of the dashcam video we see doesn't have audio," Daly said. "There are questions about why these videos don't have audio, and they need to be answered. We certainly seek and want all of the available evidence, including video and audio."

Police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said interim Supt. John Escalante recognizes the importance of ensuring that the technology works and getting buy-in from the rank and file.

"The superintendent has taken major steps to improve this, promising that any officer who knowingly turns off the audio function or otherwise does not follow department policy related to the equipment will face discipline," Guglielmi said.

He said police inspectors are conducting random checks on whether the systems are working and that the department is investing in technology upgrades and repairs.

And officers have recently watched a training video on how to use their in-car camera systems.

### **"More Than 80 Percent Of The Cameras Have Non-Functioning Audio "Due To Operator Error Or, In Some Cases, Intentional Destruction"**

According to Guglielmi, 12 percent of the 850 cameras now in use "experience video issues on a given day."

**Also, he said, more than 80 percent of the cameras have non-functioning audio "due to operator error or, in some cases, intentional destruction."**

As a result of the McDonald shooting, the U.S. Justice Department has launched an investigation into the Chicago Police Department. The use of in-car cameras could become part of the probe.

Los Angeles and New Orleans are among cities that have come under Justice Department scrutiny over allegations of civil rights violations. In those cities, investigators found that officers were balking at using their video and audio systems.

In Los Angeles, a civilian watchdog group faulted police supervisors for not regularly checking in-car camera video for potential officer misconduct. The group urged supervisors to look into malfunctions of the camera systems to make sure officers weren't responsible.

**A Los Angeles Police Department inspection last year found that half of the 80 squad cars in one patrol division were missing the antennas that transmit what officers are saying in the field.**

In New Orleans, a court-appointed monitor of the police department found that supervisors weren't checking compliance with a policy requiring officers to wear microphones.

"Less than 5 percent of body microphone recordings audited ... provide evidence that the external microphone is working and being worn by officers," the monitor wrote. "Many supervisors explain the officers do not wear the external microphones since they are wearing body worn cameras, which also record audio."

Ursula Price, an official with a separate New Orleans watchdog group, said a 2012 police shooting demonstrated the need for video and audio recordings of officers' actions. An officer's recording — made with a non-departmental body camera he wore during a drug raid — prompted prosecutors to charge another officer with manslaughter in the fatal shooting of a man named Wendell Allen.

"It was really some of the only physical evidence in the case and helped show what happened in that shooting," Price said. "The district attorney said the audio was instrumental in the prosecution and conviction."

Chicago is preparing to augment in-car camera videos with recordings from cameras that officers will wear on their bodies. The city has been testing body cameras in the Shakespeare District on the Northwest Side this year and plans to expand the testing to six more of the city's 22 police districts next year. No officers in the pilot program have been the subject of citizen complaints, officials say.

Chicago's in-car camera program was launched in 2007, when the city signed a no-bid contract with a Texas manufacturer, Coban Technologies. In an unusual arrangement, the city awarded a \$12.2 million contract to Coban under terms previously negotiated by Forsyth County in North Carolina. The cameras were listed at about \$4,600 each without extras such as microphones, according to the contract.

In 2014, the city signed a separate contract with Coban for software, parts and repair services.

Only marked cars have the cameras to "avoid the possibility of surreptitious recording," Guglielmi said.

When an officer starts a car, the camera automatically powers up, but the microphones need to be "synchronized" at the start of each tour and powered on.

"We are working with the vendor to explore ways to add to the reliability of this process," Guglielmi said.

The Coban technology is "glitchy" and sometimes doesn't work at all, according to a high-level police source who asked for anonymity because he wasn't authorized to talk about the system.

Officers also are supposed to wear battery-powered microphones that can transmit audio up to 1,000 feet to their in-car camera systems. The microphones — which are smaller than a pack of cigarettes — haven't always worked, the source said.

“We have technicians coming out to the district on a regular basis,” the source said. “You go over a bump in your car, and the focus can be off. The hard drives can fill up, and you have to go back to the station to download them. There are so many issues.”

A Chicago Sun-Times review of police-involved shootings found several examples of in-car camera systems not working properly.

**In one case, officers were on patrol on the West Side around 2:30 a.m. on June 16, 2013. They reported seeing a van speeding up and slowing down repeatedly near 18th and Springfield. As they followed, Antwoyne Johnson, 25, jumped out and ran off. The officers said they saw him carrying a gun.**

The officers said they ordered Johnson to stop, but he didn't. They said that after they chased him into an alley, he fell down and reached for his gun. One of the cops fired, hitting Johnson in the hand and upper back. He died on the scene.

A lawsuit filed by his mother offered a far different account. Claiming Johnson was unarmed, the lawsuit accused the officers of making up their story to justify shooting him and said they didn't call an ambulance as he lay dying in the alley. In October, the suit was dismissed. Johnson's mother is appealing.

There is no video to clarify what happened. Investigators determined that the in-car camera “was not functional that day,” according to IPRA's report on the incident that said a repair order had been submitted before the incident.

Police officers — and their supervisors — say skepticism about the microphones and cameras is widespread among the ranks. Cops will continue to resist orders to use the technology “if the only time we see a video is when an officer is going to jail,” the police source said.

Department leaders, from the superintendent down, need to highlight examples of how the cameras have backed up police accounts or aided an investigation, the source said.

“Unless we see videos showing good police work, you get the feeling that they're only used against you,” he said. “Until we start seeing what the benefits are, it's hard to get the buy-in from the officers

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## **MORE POLICE WAR REPORTS** **[2015]**

# **Texas SWAT Breaks 81-Year-Old Man's Hip:**

**“Officers Slammed Him On The  
Ground And Handcuffed Him”  
“The Force Of Hitting The Ground  
Broke His Hip”  
“The Next Day, His Family Said That  
They Found Him Lying On The Floor In  
His Own Feces”**



Herman Crisp (KVUE/screen grab)

26 MAY 2015 by DAVID EDWARDS, Rawstory.com

An 82-year-old Texas man alleged this week that officers in military gear stormed his home, broke his hip and then left him without calling for medical assistance.

Herman Crisp told KTBC that Georgetown deputies wearing SWAT uniforms gave no warning before throwing a flash-bang device outside his home last September as he was sitting in a chair and smoking a cigarette.

He said that the explosion knocked him out of his chair, and then officers slammed him on the ground and handcuffed him. The force of hitting the ground broke his hip, according to Crisp, who was 81 years old at the time.

Eventually officers did help inside the home before leaving, but they did not call paramedics, he said. The next day, his family said that they found him lying on the floor in his own feces.

“After they left, I tried to get up because I had to go to the bathroom,” he explained to KTBC. “And I couldn’t go. So, I just crawled over and laid on the floor right down through here. My sister had to call paramedics.”

Attorney Boadus Spivey, who is representing Crisp, accused the Georgetown Sheriff’s Office of a “conspiracy of silence.”

“Things like this don’t happen in a vacuum,” he pointed out. “There’s nothing that we’ve been able to get that identifies the officers, that identifies the action that occurred. We have our client’s information but I had to hire a private investigator just to get enough faxed to determine whether I should file a lawsuit or not. And I’m convinced that the facts are adequate to file this lawsuit and we’ll find out now that we have some way to get accurate information.”

Crisp said that Georgetown deputies had a warrant to search his home as part of an investigation into his nephew, but it was not clear what they were searching for. The lawsuit filed against Williamson County and the City of Georgetown seeks damages in excess of \$1 million for Crisp’s medical care and mental anguish. The lawsuit alleges that officers used excessive force and caused bodily injury.

Even after two surgeries and physical therapy, Crisp said that he has to use a cane to walk.

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## **Police Arrest Demonstrators Marching In Downtown Oakland Against The City’s New Policy To Arrest Street Demonstrators: “You Can’t Run Roughshod Over People Because They’re Protesting Your Oppression”**

26 May 15 By Associated Press

Police made arrests as demonstrators marched in downtown Oakland on Sunday, against the city’s new get-tough policy for monitoring street protests. It was the second such gathering in as many days.

Officers watched closely on Sunday night as the protesters marched several blocks, starting at Frank Ogawa Plaza. Spokeswoman Johnna Watson said about 100 to 150 marched before organizers ended the event, and then a group of 15 to 20 started another protest.





Police grab protester Erika Bell, left, for an arrest from sitting arms linked with Alicia B. during a rally and march Saturday night in Oakland, California, against a crackdown on demonstrations. (photo: Leah Millis/AP)

Watson said there were no reports of injury or vandalism, but four people were arrested and another 19 received citations.

A night earlier, dozens of protesters were arrested or cited for ignoring police orders to disband their protest.

The Oakland Tribune reported on Sunday that police cited a new policy by the city's mayor to force protesters from the street to the sidewalk, after Oakland experienced several violent demonstrations in the past year.

**Oakland has hosted rallies in the streets for years, but the mayor said the new policy was needed to combat damage to property and violence.**

Mayor Libby Schaaf said earlier that existing policies and laws allowed police to clear streets of protesters. Many businesses along the city's automobile sales district were badly damaged by protesters who broke away from the main demonstration on 1 May.

**"It doesn't make any sense because saying that marches have to be on the sidewalk has absolutely no relationship to impending property damage that might occur," Lederman said.**

**"Obviously that would happen on a sidewalk, not a street."**

The mayor did not respond to a request for comment.

Tensions rose anew in Oakland on Thursday when protesters marched in honor of black women killed by police across the country. But organizers said they were surprised when police pushed them off the streets and on to the sidewalks, citing the mayor's new policy. No one was arrested on Thursday.

Organizers then called for another protest on Saturday to demonstrate against the new policy.

“You can’t run roughshod over people because they’re protesting your oppression,” said Cat Brooks, an organiser of both protests. “You can’t push us off the streets.”

Further protests over the new policy were planned, Brooks said.

Rachel Lederman, a lawyer with the National Lawyers Guild who helped Oakland craft its crowd-control policies, said the new tactics appear to violate the guidelines.

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# **Police Shoot Two Black Men For Stealing Some Beer: “When Challenged, They Dropped The Beer And Took Off” “I Have Lived In Olympia For 27 Years And Know Numerous Young White People Who Have Shop-Lifted Beer From That Particular Safeway” “Of Course, None Were Shot”**

May 26, 2015 by Peter Bohmer, CounterPunch

Olympia, Washington.

At 1:15 A.M. early Thursday, May 21st on the westside of Olympia, Washington, white police officer, Ryan Donald, shot two young Black unarmed men, step-brothers, Andre Thompson, aged 24, and Bryson Chaplin, aged 21. These two Olympia residents are in serious condition at nearby hospitals in Tacoma and Seattle. Fortunately, they are expected to live.

According to the May 22, 2015 edition of the local newspaper, The Olympian, the two brothers had been skateboarding at a local park before going to a Safeway supermarket nearby. They picked up some beer and were stopped by an employee of Safeway inside the store but near the entrance and past the cash registers.

When challenged, they dropped the beer and took off shortly before 1 A.M., last Thursday.

Safeway then called the Olympia police department. Police officer Ryan Donald responded and saw Andre Thompson and Bryson Chaplin a few minutes later, about

half a mile north of Safeway and near the brothers' home. According to police reports, Police officer Donald got out of his police car a little before 1:15 a.m. and was attacked by one of the brothers with a skateboard. Donald then shot one of them.

They fled into a nearby wooded area, and when they emerged, Officer Donald shot the other brother multiple times.

Neither brother was armed. Olympia police officer Donald was not injured.

The first shooting seems totally unjustified. Remember we are talking about suspects in an alleged shoplifting incident that Safeway had photos of. Officer Donald did not have to get out of his police car.

**The second shooting that took place a few moments little later appears to be a case of attempted murder.**

**Donald cannot claim that he was in imminent danger when he fired the second time. He has not made a statement yet.**

Police officer Ryan Donald, age 35, had served tours of duty as part of the U.S. military in Iraq and Afghanistan. He had also worked for the U.S. Border Patrol before becoming an Olympia police officer. As one Olympia resident said at a rally on the day of the shooting, Ryan Donald had served in institutions where hunting "men of color" was the norm.

This touches on an important issue—police officers who return from U.S. wars abroad and a militarized border, and then have a mindset that the local residents are dangerous or "the enemy" and shoot if there is the slightest perceived threat.

**Many people I know in Olympia, Washington—a small liberal city of 50,000—told me after the police killings of Sean Bell, John Williams, Michael Brown, Tamir Rice, Eric Garner, Akil Gurley, Antonio Zambrano-Montes in Pasco, Washington, Walter Scott , and most recently, Freddie Gray and Daniel Covarrubias in Lakewood, Washington that such police shootings couldn't happen in Olympia because "we are so progressive."**

This is a mistaken case of Olympia exceptionalism. Police shootings, especially of Blacks and Black men, can happen anywhere in the United States and Olympia is part of the United States. Racism exists in Olympia just like it does throughout the United States. We are not living in a post-racial society.

There is a small but growing African-American population in Olympia. According to the 2010 census, 2% of Olympia is Black, 5% self-identify as of two or more races, 80% are white and the remaining 13% are Latino/a, Asian-American or Native American.

African-Americans are more likely than whites to be stopped by the police, to be followed and racially profiled in stores and when walking, to be disciplined and tracked in the schools away from attending a four year college, and to face racial discrimination in renting and buying homes in Olympia.

So, racism in Olympia is about far more than the police shooting of two unarmed young black men who were suspects for shoplifting.

**I have lived in Olympia for 27 years and know numerous young white people who have shop-lifted beer from that particular Safeway, which is about a mile from my house.**

**Of course, none were shot. If caught, most were let go after a warning or got a citation to appear in court.**

**“About 800 People , Mainly Young And Primarily White But Not Totally So, Took Over One Of The Main Streets In Olympia, Chanting ‘Black Lives Matter’”**

This is also not the first case of major police brutality in Olympia.

In 1989, a healthy young man named Danny Spencer who was high on LSD, was arrested, hogtied and brutally beaten by two Olympia police officers. Similar to the case of Freddie Gray, he was taken to the police station rather than to a hospital and died.

In 2002, Stephen Edwards was repeatedly tasered after shoplifting a steak from a supermarket in downtown Olympia. He also died because of the police actions.

Tasers can also kill.

In 2008, Jose Ramirez was killed by a former Olympian Police Officer, Paul Bakala, who was also involved in the killing of Stephen Edwards, six years earlier.

In all of these cases, police from Olympia and surrounding communities investigated the shooting and found no wrongdoing.

For the most recent shooting of Bryson Chaplin and Andre Thompson, Olympia police chief Ronnie Roberts announced that this “critical incident team”, led by the Thurston County sheriffs and also including police from the two surrounding cities and the State Police, would investigate the shooting.

This is an old boys’ network of police investigating themselves. There should be an independent investigation by representatives from groups like the NAACP and the ACLU in Washington State investigating this latest police shooting.

On a few hours notice, a small group of people organized a rally and march from the westside of Olympia to the main Olympia police station in downtown on the day of the police shooting, May 21, 2015. Mobilization was mainly done through Facebook.

**About 800 people , mainly young and primarily white but not totally so, took over one of the main streets in Olympia, chanting “Black Lives Matter,” and making a powerful statement via their march against the police shooting and in support of and concern for the two victims, Bryson Chaplin and Andre Thompson.**

With the real possibility of a major physical confrontation with right-wing and pro-police individuals, and divisions within the progressive community, another march called for the next day (Friday, May 22nd) by the Olympia group, Abolish Cops and Borders to police officer Ryan Donald's home was cancelled.

**The local newspaper, The Olympian, has attempted to reduce criticisms of the police and support for Andre Thompson and Bryce Chaplin by printing the minor arrest records of the two brothers in its May 23, 2015 edition. This is totally irrelevant.**

Some Olympia residents have stated that before there are protests, we should wait for the investigation to be completed.

This denies the fact that even the claims made by the police admit that both Chaplin and Thompson were unarmed at the time of their being shot.

Similar to their response to the many of the recent police shootings of African-American men, many residents of Olympia are quick to voice fear or disapproval of militant protests while their actions against continuing and frequent murders by law enforcement of African-Americans, Latinos, Native Americans and others are limited or non-existent. Fortunately, there are many others who really want to stand up for racial justice.

The Olympia City Council is meeting, Tuesday, May 26th. There will be a rally outside of the City Council, which is next to police headquarters, before the City Council meets.. Concerned Olympia residents will address the City Council. Among other demands, there will be demands for an independent investigation of the May 21st police shooting as well as calls for a civilian review board with teeth that has the power to investigate and discipline the police, and where members of the civilian review board are independent of law enforcement and represent primarily those who are the most likely to be victims of police misconduct.

Others will demand the police be equipped with body cameras. There will also be demands that there should be no charges against Chaplin and Thompson; they have already suffered greatly.

The challenge in Olympia as in many other places is to build an ongoing campaign, and a broad social movement that builds on the justified anger at this horrible police shooting in Olympia of Bryson Chaplin and Andre Thompson.

We need democratic, radical, inclusive and principled organizations that sustain themselves, where Black people play a major role in a movement against institutional racism and for economic and social justice. All groups need to make racial justice and equality a part of their mission and activities.

Mobilizing primarily through Facebook is insufficient. Mobilizing, even if more broadly than through Facebook, is important and necessary but it doesn't substitute for real conversation and education, and organizing and developing ongoing campaigns for and winning meaningful demands that improve people's lives and don't stop.

It is a difficult period here in Olympia and in other places also.

There are many, many politically conscious people here of all ages and a willingness to do something but not a lot of anti-racist and active groups and organizations.

Out of this tragedy, an opportunity arises to have serious conversations about racism, about Black lives matter, and to build social movements that can more effectively challenge white racism and all forms of inequality.

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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**

There is no democracy without socialism and no socialism without democracy.  
-- Rosa Luxemburg

## The Drainage Ditch At The My Lai Massacre



Photograph by Mike Hastie 1994

From: Mike Hastie  
To: Military Resistance Newsletter  
Sent: May 13, 2016  
Subject: The Drainage Ditch at the My Lai Massacre

### Full Disclosure

**They were butchering people.  
The only thing they didn't do  
is cook 'em and eat 'em. How  
do you get that far over the  
edge.**

**Larry Colburn  
Door gunner on Hugh Thompson's  
helicopter.**

**Larry Colburn had a bird's-eye view  
of the massacre. He and the other  
door gunner, Glenn Andreotta, were**

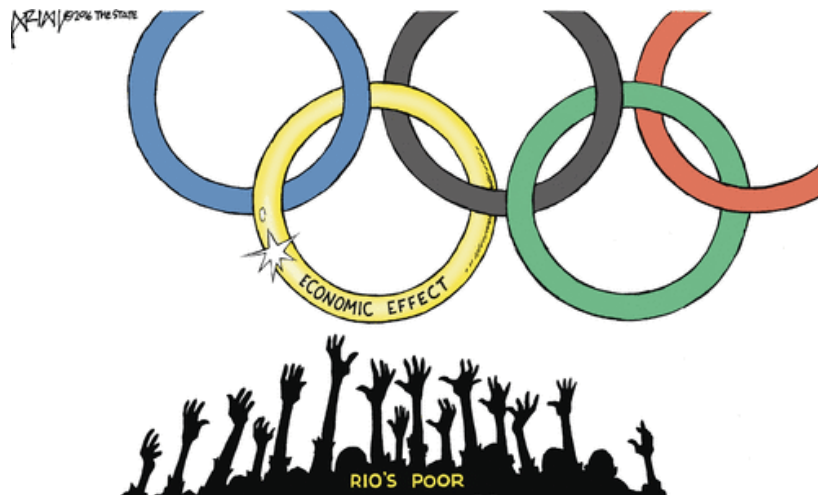
standing directly next to this infamous drainage ditch that contained over one hundred bodies. They rescued a small child from this ditch, and eventually flew it to an orphanage.

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](mailto: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

## CLASS WAR REPORTS



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## OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**Heroic Occupation Navy Opens Fire On  
Palestinian Fishing Boats, As Usual**



August 26, 2016 IMEMC News

A number of Israeli navy ships attacked, on Friday at dawn, a number of Palestinian fishing boats in Deir al-Balah sea, in central Gaza, and the Sudaniyya area, in the northern part of the coastal region.

Eyewitnesses said the navy ships attacked the Palestinian fishing boats, and fired many live rounds at them, causing damage.

The fishers had to sail back to shore in fear of additional navy fire and escalation; no injuries were reported in the two attacks.

On Thursday at dawn, the navy opened fire on a number of fishing boats in Palestinian territorial waters, in the northern part of the coastal region, and kidnapped one fisherman.

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## **Heroic Occupation Navy Opens Fire On Palestinian Fishing Boats Again, As Usual: Heroic Occupation Army Opens Fire On Unarmed Palestinians Farming Their Land, As Usual**

Aug. 28, 2016 Ma'an

GAZA -- Israeli naval forces Saturday morning detained a Palestinian fisherman off the coast of Beit Lahiya in the northern Gaza Strip, while Israeli forces opened live fire at Palestinian farmers working near the separation barrier east of the neighborhoods of al-Zaytun and Shujayya.

Head of the fishermen union Nizar Ayyash told Ma'an that Israeli military vessels chased several fishing boats off the coast of Gaza, detaining Al-Abid Zaki Tarush, while the other boats fled.

**Israeli forces also opened live fire at farmers east of Gaza city.**

**Witnesses said Israeli forces stationed at the separation barrier between the besieged enclave and Israel and opened live fire at farmers working on their lands. No injuries were reported.**

An Israeli army spokesperson told Ma'an they would look into reports on the incidents.

Israeli military incursions inside the besieged Gaza Strip and near the "buffer zone" which lies on both land and sea sides of Gaza, have long been a near-daily occurrence.

Palestinians who work near the “buffer zone” between the Palestinian enclave and Israel often come under fire from military forces, as the Israeli military has not made clear the precise area of the designated zone.

**The Israeli army regularly open fires on Palestinian fishermen and farmers along the border areas, despite a ceasefire agreement that ended the 2014 war.**

The practice has in effect destroyed much of the agricultural and fishing sectors of the blockaded coastal enclave.

Israeli forces also regularly detain Palestinian fisherman off the coast of Gaza working within the fishing zone, generally for alleged security reasons.

According to the Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR), Israeli forces detained 71 fishermen and confiscated 22 fishing boats throughout 2015.

The center said that Israeli naval forces also opened fire on Palestinian fishermen at least 139 times over the course of the year, wounding 24 and damaging 16 fishing boats.

"These attacks occurred in a time where the fishers did not pose any threat to the Israeli naval troops, as they were doing their job to secure a living," PCHR said.

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## **Zionists Shut Palestinian Radio Station For “Incitement”**

**“An Israeli Army Spokeswoman Could Not Provide Examples Of The Type Of Content That Led To The Raid’**

**Israeli Authorities Have Closed At Least Four Palestinian Radio Or TV Stations Since A Wave Of Violence Erupted In October.**

Israeli authorities have shut down a Palestinian radio station in the occupied West Bank over "incitement" to violence, the army said Wednesday, the latest in a series of such raids.

The overnight operation in Dura near Hebron led to five arrests, according to the Israeli army.

Palestinian police confirmed the detentions and said one of those held was the director of the Al-Sanabel station.

Broadcast equipment was also seized, the army said.

According to Palestinian police, the station's door was broken during the raid and a notice was given saying it was ordered closed for three months.

An Israeli army spokeswoman could not provide examples of the type of content that led to the raid.

"The radio station has repeatedly broadcast inciting content encouraging, celebrating and promoting violence and terrorism against Israelis," she said.

**Israeli authorities have closed at least four Palestinian radio or TV stations since a wave of violence erupted in October.**

The violence has killed 222 Palestinians, 34 Israelis, two Americans, an Eritrean and a Sudanese, according to an AFP tally.

Violence has steadily declined in recent months.

Most of the Palestinians killed were carrying out knife, gun or car-ramming attacks, according to Israeli authorities.

Others were shot dead by Israeli forces during protests and clashes, while some were killed in Israeli air strikes in the Gaza Strip.

Much of the violence has occurred in the Hebron area in the southern West Bank, a flashpoint in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Analysts say Palestinian frustration with Israeli occupation and settlement-building in the West Bank, the complete lack of progress in peace efforts and their own fractured leadership have fed the unrest.

Israel says incitement by Palestinian leaders and media is a leading cause of the violence.

**To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to:  
<http://www.palestinechronicle.com/>  
The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."**



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