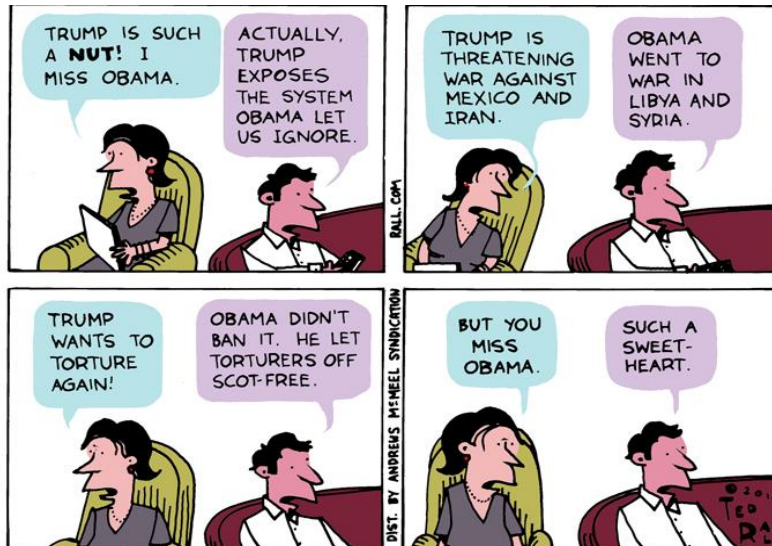


Military Resistance 15C4



“Marines From An Amphibious Task Force Have Left Their Ships In The Middle East And Deployed To Syria”

“The Deployment Marks A New Escalation In The U.S. War In Syria, And Puts More Conventional U.S. Troops In The Battle”

March 8 By Dan Lamothe and Thomas Gibbons-Neff, Washington Post [Excerpts]

Marines from an amphibious task force have left their ships in the Middle East and deployed to Syria, establishing an outpost from which they can fire artillery guns in support of the fight to take back the city of Raqqa from the Islamic State, defense officials said.

The deployment marks a new escalation in the U.S. war in Syria, and puts more conventional U.S. troops in the battle.

Several hundred Special Operations troops have advised local forces there for months, but the Pentagon has mostly shied away from using conventional forces in Syria.

The new mission comes as the Trump administration weighs a plan to take back Raqqa, the so-called capital of the Islamic State, that also includes more Special Operations troops and attack helicopters.

The force is part of the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, which left San Diego on Navy ships in October. The Marines on the ground include part of an artillery battery that can fire powerful 155-millimeter shells from M777 Howitzers, two officials said, speaking on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the deployment.

The expeditionary unit's ground force, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, will man the guns and deliver fire support for U.S.-backed local forces who are preparing an assault on the city.

Additional infantrymen from the unit will provide security while resupplies will be handled by part of the expeditionary force's combat logistics element.

For this deployment, the Marines were flown from Djibouti to Kuwait and then into Syria, said another defense official with direct knowledge of the operation.

The official added that the Marines movement into Syria was not the byproduct of President Donald Trump's request of a new plan to take on the Islamic State and that it had "been in the works for some time."

"The Marines answer a problem that the (operation) has faced," the official said. He added that they now provide "all-weather fires considering how the weather is this time of year in northern Syria."

Lt. Gen. Stephen Townsend, the top U.S. general overseeing the campaign against the Islamic State, has previously said that a small number of conventional soldiers have supported Special Operations troops on the ground in Syria, including through a truck-mounted system known as the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, or HIMARS.

The defense official with knowledge of the deployment said Wednesday that the Marines and their Howitzers will supplement, rather than replace, those Army units.

For the base in Syria to be useful, it must be within about 20 miles of the operations U.S.-backed forces are carrying out. That is the estimated maximum range on many rounds fired from the M777 howitzer. GPS-guided Excalibur rounds, which the Marines also used after establishing Fire Base Bell, can travel closer to 30 miles.

Fire support for the Mosul operation has since been turned over to the Army.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

**Insurgents Disguised As Doctors Mount
Hours-Long Assault On Kabul Military
Hospital**

March 8, 2017 by Colin Dwyer, NPR & By Mirwais Harooni, Reuters

A group of insurgents launched a coordinated attack on the main military hospital, the Sardar Mohammad Daud Khan Hospital, in Wazir Mohammad Akbar Khan diplomatic part of Kabul.

Insurgents dressed as medical staff stormed the military hospital Wednesday morning, killing at least 30 people and injuring dozens more in a raid that lasted hours. In a statement published on the Islamic State-affiliated Aamaq news agency, the militant group claimed responsibility for the assault in the Afghan capital.

The attack on hospital ended midafternoon local time, after several hours of floor-by-floor clashes with Afghan security forces left all four attackers dead, according to Gen. Dawlat Waziri, an Afghan defense ministry spokesman.

Citing the country's military officials, The Washington Post reports the attack opened midmorning with the detonation of a bomb at the 400-bed hospital's front gates. Witnesses describe militants wearing white doctors' coats, which hid the assault rifles and grenades they broke out to target the staff and patients.

"Late into the afternoon, government forces were still locked in sporadic exchanges of fire inside the hospital," the Post reports. "Television footage showed one Afghan military helicopter landing on the roof of the main compound and dropping reinforcements."

By the time security forces regained control, The Guardian reports that witnesses had already heard a second explosion rip through the hospital compound.

According to witnesses, the gunmen were already inside the Sardar Mohammad Daud Khan hospital in the Afghan capital when the bomb went off outside.

When the blast went off at around 9 a.m. local time, doctor's assistant Ahmad Mahmoodi looked up and saw an insurgent on the second floor of the main building shooting indiscriminately at the hospital entrance below.

A security guard was killed and another person was shot in the arm.

"I was in the corridor and jumped inside the emergency ward and from one of its windows, I jumped out," he said.

Militants Attack Military Air Base In Eastern Afghanistan

12 Mar 2017 AAP

Militants have attacked a military air base in the eastern Afghan province of Khost, officials say.

Khost police spokesman Faizullah Ghairat said that three militants on Saturday attacked the base, close to the border with Pakistan. One had been killed, while two others were still holding out, he said.

The incident comes just ahead of the normal start of the spring fighting season, when warmer weather brings increased operations by both insurgents and government forces.

Afghan and US officials have warned that Afghanistan will see increased fighting this year as the Taliban steps up an insurgency which has cut the area controlled by the government to below 60 per cent.

8 Afghan Policemen Shot Dead In Latest Insider Attack

Mar 11 2017 By Khaama Press & 3.12.2017 AAP

At least eight Afghan policemen were shot dead in the latest insider attack carried out in southern Zabul province of Afghanistan.

Two renegade policemen killed eight colleagues and defected to the Taliban, local officials said, although details of the incident, which occurred last Friday, were unclear.

"They first poisoned them and after that shot and killed all of them," Zabul Governor Bismillah Afghanmal said, adding that the men stole weapons and equipment before defecting.

According to the local government officials, the incident took place late on Friday in a check post located in Shinkai district.

Provincial governor's spokesman Gul Islam Sayal confirmed the incident and said the two assailants managed to flee area after the attack.

He said the policemen belonged to the Afghan Local Police (ALP) forces and the assailants also managed to take several weapons from the check post with them.

According to Sayal, the check post where the incident took place is located on Qalat and Shinkai highway.

IED Attack Kills Three Police Officers In Afghanistan's Baghlan

07 March 2017 IHS Jane's Terrorism Watch Report

Three police officers were killed and two police officers and three unidentified militants were wounded when militants detonated explosives at a security checkpoint in Chashma Ser area in Pol-e Khomri in Afghanistan's Baghlan province on 4 March, Afghan Islamic Press reported.

Reports added that the attack occurred as the three unidentified militants were being searched by police inside the checkpoint. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

POLICE WAR REPORTS

COMMENT: T

There has been a notable decrease in media in coverage of police violence and other abuses against citizens since the start of this year. Below are earlier reports that are reminders of what reality is.

Chicago Law Department Is Sanctioned Again For

Withholding Police Shooting Record: “Willfulness, Fault And Bad Faith” “The Eighth Time In Recent Years A Federal Judge Has Formally Punished The City For Failing To Turn Over Potential Evidence” “This Is The Way That The City Plays”

05 January 17 By Stacy St. Clair and Jeff Coen, Chicago Tribune

Mayor Rahm Emanuel's Law Department again has been sanctioned for withholding records involving a fatal police shooting, marking the eighth time in recent years a federal judge has formally punished the city for failing to turn over potential evidence in a police misconduct lawsuit.

U.S. District Court Judge Joan Gottschall on Tuesday ruled that the city acted in “bad faith” when it ignored a court order and made little effort to provide documents to the lawyer for the family of 20-year-old Divonte Young, who was shot and killed by an officer in 2012.

In a sharply worded 24-page order, the judge criticized the city for its approach to discovery, the legal process that allows the two sides in a lawsuit to uncover relevant facts through the exchange of documents, the taking of depositions and other disclosures. When the process breaks down, plaintiffs can find themselves at a disadvantage, their lawyers uncertain they are working with all of the evidence.

“The City's cavalier attitude toward the discovery process ... warrant findings of willfulness, fault and bad faith,” Gottschall wrote.

In imposing her punishment, Gottschall took an admittedly “harsh” step and stripped the city of legal protections that would have allowed its lawyers to withhold some documents from the Young family's lawyer. Specifically, the city had argued that it could withhold some records because they were part of the “deliberative process” during the investigation. Now, the city has until Jan. 10 to turn over all the records.

Gottschall also will consider whether the city should pay the Young family's attorneys' fees for the discovery battle later this month.

A Law Department spokesman disputed the significance of the court's finding but said the city would comply with the judge's order. City officials also disagreed that the judge's

ruling — which she repeatedly referred to as a “sanction of waiver” — constitutes a sanction.

“The City believes it has fully complied with the subpoena in this case,” spokesman Bill McCaffrey said in a statement. “However, it will promptly comply with the current order and produce the documents that were previously withheld as non-responsive. We believe the production will demonstrate that these documents were properly withheld, and therefore sanctions in the form of an award of attorneys' fees should be denied.”

The punishment marks the city's third sanction by a federal judge in a police misconduct lawsuit in six months, and the eighth since Emanuel took office in 2011. It also renews questions about how the Law Department handles potential evidence in such cases, which are often high-profile, controversial and potentially costly for taxpayers.

As part of reforms announced last year, the city sent about 60 cases — including Young's case — to an outside attorney for review of discovery practices. The Young case received “a clean bill of health” from the outside attorney last February, according to McCaffrey.

“Willfulness, Fault And Bad Faith”

That diagnosis, however, now appears premature. Gottschall specifically rebuked the city for engaging in “bad faith foot dragging” while the outside review was taking place.

Attorney H. Candace Gorman, who represents Young's mother, LaShawnda, said she offered to meet with the outside lawyer reviewing the Young case, but he declined.

“It was a rubber stamp for the corporation counsel,” she said.

A Tribune investigation last year that analyzed nearly 450 cases alleging police misconduct since Emanuel took office found that a federal judge had to order the city to turn over potential evidence in nearly 1 of every 5 cases.

The issue came to a head in January 2016, when a federal judge sanctioned one city lawyer for intentionally concealing evidence and another for failing to make a reasonable effort to locate key records in a lawsuit stemming from the fatal 2011 police shooting of Darius Pinex.

The judge took the rare step of tossing out a jury verdict in favor of the city and ordering a new trial.

In the days following the ruling, Emanuel tapped former U.S. Attorney Dan Webb to lead a review of the Law Department's handling of police misconduct cases. Webb found no pattern of intentional misconduct among city attorneys, but he also recommended more than 50 reforms to address problems in the office. Stephen Patton, Emanuel's corporation counsel, instituted those reforms, along with several other measures he made immediately after the Pinex ruling.

The city settled the case with Pinex's family last month for \$2.37 million and agreed to pay an additional \$1 million to the plaintiff's attorneys in the case.

In the most recent sanction, Gorman, the Young family's lawyer, has been seeking documents from the Independent Police Review Authority, the city agency that investigates all officer-involved shootings and other misconduct allegations.

A plainclothes officer fatally shot Young after authorities alleged Young opened fired on two people in West Englewood in August 2012. Police never located a gun.

According to Gottschall's order, Gorman was initially told by a Law Department attorney that he could not ask IPRA for the documents because the agency operated separately from the city. An IPRA official, however, then refused to give Gorman the records and said she had to go through the city Law Department.

"To say that it has been frustrating would be an understatement," Gorman told the Tribune in an interview Wednesday. "If I hadn't filed the subpoena and fought for the documents, I can't imagine how anyone could be sure that they have everything."

In her ruling, Gottschall noted that IPRA was a city agency and concluded that Gorman had been given the runaround.

"From Gorman's perspective, discovery became a game here. The City apparently waited six months during discovery negotiations to tell her that she needed to take additional steps to obtain IPRA documents," the judge wrote. "She subpoenaed IPRA, and IPRA produced nothing and sent her back to the corporation counsel's office. The City then agreed to the entry of an order enforcing the subpoena and took an additional month to communicate its intent to prepare a privilege log."

The judge also noted that the IPRA battle wasn't the first time Gorman fought to obtain documents in the 3-year-old case.

In February 2014, Gorman asked the city to turn over videos of witness statements in the shooting. She asked again in September. And again in December.

Each time, court records show, the city said it had turned over all the records provided by the Police Department, and Gorman might never have known otherwise if she had not noticed a reference to a witness statement buried in the records she did receive. The statement was given at a police station, which meant it was likely recorded on video.

The Police Department eventually provided that video of the witness' statement, but Gorman wanted more. She asked for a summary of all interviews with another witness and that witness's last-known address. City lawyers made several requests for the information, but the Police Department never responded, according to a Law Department memo obtained by the Tribune. A month later, the Police Department turned over a document showing the witness had given another statement seven months after the shooting and had backed off his initial claims that he saw Young shooting a gun shortly before an officer fired on him.

City officials had said "the failures to timely provide responsive materials in this case" would be avoided in the future through a plan that gives city attorneys direct access to Chicago police records.

Gorman, however, said she has not seen much improvement despite the recent reforms. Her case, she said, is proof of it.

“This is not an outlier,” Gorman said. “This is the way that the city plays.”

Man With Dementia Killed By Police Had A Crucifix, Not A Gun: “He Should Have Been Surrounded By Family At Old Age, Not Surrounded By Bullets”

December 13, 2016 by Matt Hamilton and Veronica RochaContact Reporter; LA Times

A 73-year-old man in the early stages of dementia was killed by a Bakersfield police officer after a neighbor called 911 and erroneously reported the man was carrying a revolver, authorities said Tuesday.

The officer fired seven rounds toward Francisco Serna, who died just feet from his home.

But when police searched Serna for a gun, they found only a dark, faux wood crucifix.

“My dad did not own a gun. He was a 73-year-old retired grandpa, just living life,” Serna’s son, Rogelio Serna, said. “He should have been surrounded by family at old age, not surrounded by bullets.”

The shooting early Monday has sparked anger and grief in the San Joaquin Valley and drawn questions about how police respond to the elderly and people with disabilities. It prompted Bakersfield’s newly named police chief, Lyle Martin, to address the criticism and reveal details about the incident.

“I cannot tell you enough that this community is affected by Mr. Serna losing his life,” Martin said. “This is a tragic incident.”

About 12:30 a.m., a woman arrived at her home in the 7900 block of Silver Birch Avenue, the same block as Serna’s home, and began removing items from a vehicle, Martin said. When Serna approached her, he was acting bizarrely and had one hand in his pocket, according to Martin. Police said she saw a black- or brown-handled object that she believed was a firearm.

The woman ran inside her home and told her husband to call police. The husband told a 911 dispatcher that a man outside had a revolver and had brandished the weapon.

Two police officers responded just after 12:40 a.m. As officers and the couple stood outside, the woman spotted Serna exiting his home across the street.

Martin said she pointed toward Serna, saying, "That's him."

The couple rushed inside their home and closed their doors. The officers took cover.

Serna kept both hands in his jacket and continued walking toward police, who ordered him to stop and show his hands. Serna ignored the officers' commands, police said.

When Serna was about 20 feet away, after ignoring commands to stop, Officer Reagan Selman fired seven rounds at Serna, Martin said.

Serna was struck and fell in the driveway. He was pronounced dead, just across the street from his home.

Officials said that about 30 seconds had elapsed between the woman identifying Serna and the officer opening fire. By then, five more officers had responded and saw the shooting. None of the other officers fired any rounds, Martin said.

It was Selman's first police shooting since joining the force in July 2015. He and the six other officers were placed on routine administrative leave.

The incident comes at a pivotal time for the Bakersfield Police Department, which was jolted by scandal when two detectives pleaded guilty this year to federal drug and corruption charges.

Martin, a 28-year department veteran, was tapped in December to become the new police chief and was scheduled to be sworn in Wednesday. He said his willingness to discuss a disputed police shooting so soon after the incident was a show of transparency.

"This is what the public can expect from their police chief. I'll give you the facts as I know them," Martin said. "When things are bad, I'll be out front. When things are good, my employees will be out front."

The shooting drew wide condemnation from Serna's family and activists. The family scheduled a vigil late Tuesday where Serna was killed.

Rogelio Serna said his father had shown signs of dementia since 2015 and occasionally experienced delusions. His symptoms seemed more pronounced in the last month, his son said.

The elder Serna had worked at a cotton gin in McFarland, Calif., for years and retired in the early to mid-2000s, his son said. Rogelio Serna said his parents moved to Bakersfield about eight years ago, leaving the town of Wasco so they could be closer to their children. He lived with his wife and one of his daughters.

Bakersfield police had visited Francisco Serna's home at least two times before because his father would become confused and activate a medical alarm, Rogelio Serna said.

A police spokesman confirmed officers had visited Francisco Serna's home, but he could not provide any details.

About eight hours before the shooting, police said, there was a separate incident involving Serna in which a neighbor also believed the man may have been armed, Martin said.

Pregnant, Suicidal Native American Single Mother Killed By Cops “She Needed Help, But She Got Bullets”



25 October 16 By teleSUR

When police were dispatched to 23-year-old Renee Davis' house Friday evening, they were supposed to check on the pregnant and reportedly suicidal Davis.

But the Native American single mother of three was fatally shot that night by cops on Muckleshoot tribal land in Washington state.

The King's County Sheriff's Office sent two deputies to Renee Davis' after receiving a report of a possibly suicidal woman.

Davis, who had been battling with depression, had sent a text to a friend saying she didn't feel well. That friend then called the sheriff's office to check on her.

"It's really upsetting because it was a wellness check," her foster sister, Danielle Bargala, told The News Tribune. "Obviously, she didn't come out of it well."

Davis reportedly had a handgun on her, and was with her two smallest children. Upon seeing the handgun, the deputies opened fire.

Medics responded by arriving at Davis' residence but she was pronounced dead at the scene.

"I don't know what led up to the shooting," King County Sheriff's Sergeant Cindi West told Q13 News.

Bargala said her foster sister was never violent. "She was such a soft person," she said.

A Seattle lawyer representing another police murder victim from another local tribe says these deaths are emblematic of police interactions with people struggling with mental illness.

Ryan Dreveskracht told The News Tribune that while the Seattle Police Department and several others provide training in de-escalation techniques, several others do not.

Davis was a receptionist at the Muckleshoot Health and Wellness Center, and also worked as a teacher at the Muckleshoot Child Development Center.

The Muckleshoot Early Learning Academy, the department where Davis worked, posted on Facebook about her death.

"Our MELA family is deeply saddened by the loss of our teammate, MELA parent, and friend, Renee Davis. She was an amazing addition to our team and this loss hurts us immeasurably. To ensure consistency for our MELA students, we will be open tomorrow with grief counselors available for staff and parents starting at 8:00 a.m. Prayers of strength, love, and comfort to all of those affected by this loss."

The two cops responsible for killing Davis have been placed on paid administrative leave as the shooting is investigated. According to the sheriff's office, one is an 8-year veteran assigned to the Muckleshoot reservation, and the other is a 3-year veteran.

A candlelight vigil was held outside Davis' home Saturday while a protest was held Sunday.

"My community is confused. We have our own police department in which we know our deputies personally. I never thought this would happen so close to home," Hunter Vaiese, another member of the tribal community, told Heavy.com. "She needed help, but she got bullets. It doesn't make sense to me."

Border Patrol Agent Shocked Ogdensburg Woman With Stun Gun:

**““They Were Trying To Decide
Whether To File State Or Federal
Charges Of Assaulting An Officer”
“They Are Trying To Say That I Put
My Hands On Him First,’ Ms. Cooke
Said”
“That’s Stupid; I Had Both Hands On My
Phone, Recording”**

MAY 9, 2015 By W.T. ECKERT, TIMES STAFF WRITER; WATERTOWN DAILY TIMES

WADDINGTON — An Ogdensburg woman, just days from earning a degree in law enforcement leadership from SUNY Canton, said she found herself pushed to the ground and shocked with a stun gun by U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents on Thursday after refusing to comply with their orders.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection acknowledged the incident and said it is investigating.

The altercation unfolded when agents stopped 21-year-old Jessica A. Cooke at about 3:30 p.m. on Route 37, just north of The Kitchen at Iroquois Farm restaurant, during a routine checkpoint, she said.

However, the stop went terribly wrong.

In a video posted to Ms. Cooke’s Facebook page, a male and a female agent are seen telling Ms. Cooke she was being detained for a K-9 unit to arrive and inspect the trunk of her car.

Agents said they were detaining her because she appeared nervous.

The male agent, who identified himself as a supervisor, told her she was free to go, but said she would have to walk because her car was being detained while they awaited the K-9 unit’s arrival.

The male agent, after a verbal exchange with Ms. Cooke, said he would spike the tires of her car if she attempted to take it.

“You can leave, but your car is not going anywhere,” the supervising agent told Ms. Cooke in the video, telling her she needed to get back into her car.

Ms. Cooke refused.

“All right, I’m going to tell you one more time and then I am going to move you over there, you got it?” he said.

Ms. Cooke told the supervising agent she would sue him if he touched her.

“Go for it; move over there now,” he said.

As the video becomes violently shaky, Ms. Cooke can be heard repeating, “Sir, sir”

Then Ms. Cooke began screaming.

Her phone fell to the ground, recording nothing but sky on video as the agents can be heard repeating, “Get on your stomach.”

Ms. Cooke told the Times on Friday that the supervising agent pushed her against her car and to the ground while the female agent used a stun gun, shooting her in the lower back to subdue her, she said.

“She said stop resisting or I would get tased again,” Ms. Cooke said Friday.

Ms. Cooke, who exhibited visible scrapes and bruises on her upper back, foot, hands and elbows on Friday, said she was handcuffed and placed in the back of a patrol car where she waited for an hour for a K-9 unit to arrive.

During an exterior inspection of her vehicle by the unit, nothing was found, Ms. Cooke said. She said agents then opened the car doors, got her keys and opened the trunk.

Again, nothing was found, Ms. Cooke said, adding that agents did a second search of the vehicle with the K-9 unit, but found nothing.

Agents locked her car and delivered her keys and her dog, which was in the car during the exchange, to her parents’ house in Ogdensburg, she said.

Ms. Cooke said she was placed in a holding cell at the U.S. Border Patrol station in Ogdensburg for several hours. Eventually, a St. Lawrence County sheriff’s deputy drove her home, she said.

Shelbe Benson-Fuller, a spokeswoman for U.S. Customs and Border Protection, issued the following statement about the incident Friday:

“U.S. Customs and Border Protection is investigating a report from the U.S. Border Patrol’s Swanton Sector about an altercation between an individual and two Border Patrol agents at a checkpoint on Thursday, May 7. The altercation followed a brief verbal exchange between the individual and the two agents regarding their intent to inspect the vehicle.”

The Border Patrol station in Ogdensburg is under the supervision of the Border Patrol sector in Swanton, Vt.

No charges have been filed and Ms. Cooke said she never was read her Miranda rights, adding she was told by agents they were trying to decide whether to file state or federal charges of assaulting an officer.

“They are trying to say that I put my hands on him first,” Ms. Cooke said. “That’s stupid; I had both hands on my phone, recording.”

As an Ogdensburg resident, Ms. Cooke said she has passed through these kinds of checkpoints countless times, without incident.

On Thursday, Ms. Cooke said she was en route to her boyfriend’s house on Franklin Street in Ogdensburg from Butch’s Auto, in Norfolk, and felt as though her rights had been violated. She said she plans to file a lawsuit.

“If I can take it to Supreme Court, I will take it to Supreme Court. I should never have been detained,” Ms. Cooke said, adding that she has already gone through the first phase of physical training in the entrance stages of applying to be a U.S. Customs and Border Protection agent.

“I still want to pursue the field of law enforcement,” Ms. Cooke said. “Of course, I second-guess it, but it takes something like this and someone like me to change it.”

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



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

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

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

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

Frederick Douglass, 1852

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

Trump Supporter



Photo by Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: March 06, 2017
Subject: Trump Supporter

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

ANNIVERSARIES

Anniversary Of A Fighter For Liberation: March 1827



Carl Bunin's Peace History March 10-16

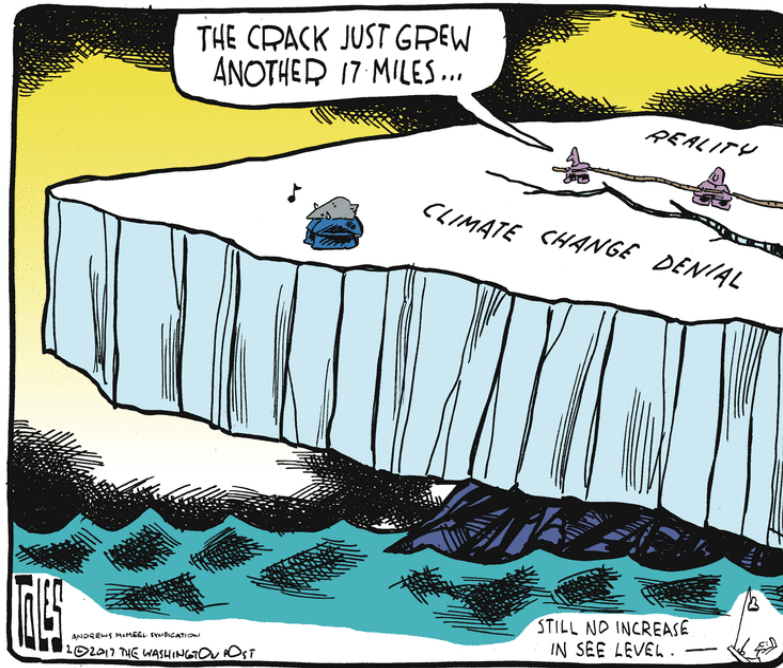
The first newspaper owned and edited by and for African-Americans, Freedom's Journal, was published in New York City.

It appeared the same year slavery was abolished in New York state.

MILITARY RESISTANCE BY EMAIL

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DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



OCCUPATION PALESTINE

“I Am A Proud Palestinian Woman And A Humanitarian. I Am Also The Mother Of The Youngest Palestinian Prisoner In An Israeli Jail”

“Shadi Had Been Accused Of Planning To Commit A Crime With

A Knife, Despite No Knife Being Found In His Possession”
“A Whole Generation Of Palestinian Children Are Growing Up Under Military Occupation”
“Subjected A Level Of Racism And Oppression That Most People Will Hopefully Never Have To Experience”



Farihan Daraghmeh Farah with son Shadi Farah. (Photo: Farihan Daraghmeh Farah) -

March 8, 2017 by Farihan Daraghmeh Farah, Mondoweiss

Farihan Daraghmeh Farah and her husband Anwar live with their family in Jerusalem. They have five children: three boys and two girls. She is the mother of the youngest Palestinian incarcerated in an Israeli prison.

My name is Farihan Daraghmeh Farah. I am a proud Palestinian woman and a humanitarian. I am also the mother of the youngest Palestinian prisoner in an Israeli jail.

As I write this piece, on International Women's Day, these are the things that define me. But as any parent—or any person—can imagine, no detail defines me more so than that final one.

My son, Shadi, is a smart little boy who was always full of life. He is loved by everyone who knows him—family, neighbors, friends and classmates. He is a great Dabke dancer, and a good swimmer and horseback rider. He likes to sing and is excellent at math.

My husband and I have always done our best to provide for Shadi and the rest of our children, encouraging them in their education and hobbies, and teaching them to be kind, honest and open in their dealings with others. We raised them to accept people for who they are, regardless of their nationality, religion or race.

Shadi was arrested on December 30, 2015. He was just 12 years old.

The news took my breath away; the whole family was in a state of shock. For a long time, none of us could eat or sleep properly. When I closed my eyes, all I could see was my little boy, scared and alone, in a freezing cold prison cell.

I later learned that they had forced him to stand in there naked, at one point.

He had been waiting at the bus station in our home city of Jerusalem when Israeli police arrested him and took him to the main police station (al-Muskubiya, or the Russian Compound in Jerusalem). We were only informed of his arrest at 10 p.m. after we had become worried and reported his absence.

Shadi had been accused of planning to commit a crime with a knife, despite no knife being found in his possession. During the interrogation they then asked him whether he would have stabbed an Israeli, if he had had a knife. He told them simply that he would never have been able to stab any human being.

My 12-year old son was held for four days before being moved to a “reformatory”—a detention center supposedly for those over the age of 15.

After 20 court sessions during a period of one year, the final verdict was issued last December: my now 13-year old boy will spend an additional two years in prison, convicted by the draconian military legal system of a foreign power.

For Israeli children, the laws are different.

Now all we can do is visit Shadi as often as we can. Technically, we are allowed to see him once a week, but even with saving every penny we have, we can only afford to travel to the prison once every two weeks or sometimes once a month.

It is no exaggeration to say that our lives have been turned upside down. It feels like a living hell.

My youngest, Rayan, is 3 years old and so attached to his older brother. When I look at Rayan's face, seeing Shadi across a courtroom with his hands and feet in shackles, or when we have to leave at the end of a visit, it breaks my heart in two. As a child, you believe your parents will always be able to keep you safe. My 3-year old son, along with Shadi, has already lost that sense of safety.

In this way, he has also become a prisoner of Israel and Israeli policy.

Most days I feel powerless. But, as a woman and a mother, it is my duty to stay strong for my little boy.

When I was younger, I had big dreams and wanted to study law. Higher education wasn't possible for me, but I passed that ambition on to my youngest daughter, who graduated from law school with excellent grades and now works for the Mandela Institution, focusing on issues relating to Palestinian prisoners. Her father and I could not be more proud.

In the meantime, I have focused on volunteering in the community and attending special workshops on international humanitarian law, as well as studying English, French and Hebrew.

The only thing we can do now is to make Shadi's story heard.

He represents a whole generation of Palestinian children who are growing up under military occupation, and who, before even reaching their teenage years, have been subjected a level of racism and oppression that most people will hopefully never have to experience.

Every one of their stories deserves to be heard.

And so I have talked to media outlets locally and internationally and I have been touched by the many friends from around the world who have stood by my side in solidarity. In the United States I had many meetings, including a particularly memorable one at Kent University in Ohio, where the warm welcome of the students overwhelmed me.

My dear sisters around the world, together we must find a way to stand up in the face of oppression and discrimination, wherever these things may occur.

For the sake of Shadi, for all the Palestinian children, and for humanity as a whole, please join me in speaking out, so that we can put an end to such cruel unlawful policies.

It is on this day that we remember how much we've achieved. And together, we can achieve much more. I wish you all a happy International Women's Day.

Israel Demolishes Infrastructure, Leaving

**Palestinian Farmers Without
Water:
“They Even Attacked Our
Children, And Their Security
Officers Would Set Their Dogs On
Us”
The Occupiers “Also Often
Confiscate The Tractors Used To
Transport Water In These Areas”
“The Bulldozers Demolished The Water
Pipe, And Our Dreams Along With It”**

28 Feb 2017 B'Tselem

In January and February 2017, Israeli authorities demolished water supply infrastructure in two areas in the West Bank. In the southern West Bank, authorities demolished seven water cisterns used by farmers and shepherds near the Palestinian village of Tuqu', Bethlehem District, and another cistern in the South Hebron Hills community of Khashm a-Daraj. In the Jordan Valley, authorities demolished a pipe that provided water to Palestinian farming and shepherding communities in the northern Jordan Valley. On 20 February 2017, the Civil Administration once again demolished a section of the pipe, after local residents had restored its hook-up. Israel, which has controlled most water sources in the West Bank since it occupied it nearly fifty years ago, disregards the severe water shortage suffered by Palestinians and promotes projects that can alleviate it only when they involve improvements to settlement infrastructure. At the same time, Israel demolishes every water supply system that Palestinians try to erect themselves in Area C, subjecting them to intolerable living conditions in order to force them out of the area.

Demolitions in Tuqu'

On 4 January 2017, military and Civil Administration personnel arrived at an agricultural area near the village of Tuqu', Bethlehem District, where Palestinian farmers live and raise livestock and various crops. Some of the farmers live on the land throughout the year, and others only in certain seasons. These communities are not connected to the water supply network of Tuqu', as the land lies in Area C where Israel does not allow the

development of water supply infrastructure for the benefit of Palestinians. In recent years, farmers dug several cisterns to collect rainwater, with the financial aid of an international humanitarian organization. The troops demolished seven cisterns and several farming-related sheds.

In testimonies given to B'Tselem field researchers Nasser Nawaj'ah and Musa Abu Hashhash on 24 January 2017, residents described the demolition and how it affected their lives.

Ousamah Abu Mfareh, 39, a married father of two related:

About four years ago, I was given financial aid to dig a cistern. I added about 2,000 shekels [approx. USD 540] of my own and paid a contractor to dig the hole. I need it to water my fifty heads of livestock and my crops in summer. After the cistern was dug and I had enough water, I was optimistic and planted more than one hundred olive tree saplings. Until then, we had no water at all and in summer, the earth was like a graveyard. For a while I lived here regularly in tents and in light shelter. About two years ago, I went back to living in the village most of the year and I sleep here only in farming seasons. I was just about to come back to live here for three months. This land is my only source of income.

On 4 January 2017, neighboring farmers told me that Israeli bulldozers had started razing cisterns and farming facilities in our area. By the time I got to the spot, they'd completed the demolition. My cistern was utterly ruined. It had been full of rainwater from December. I was overcome with despair. I'm now worried about the saplings I planted. In the first few years, they need a lot of water. I also need water for my family. Now it's all gone and I'll have to buy water from vendors. A container costs about 200 shekels [approx. USD 54], and I'll need at least one a month.

'Aziz al-'Abed, 27, married father of one recounted:

"I live in Tuqu' with my wife, son, and parents. I make a living raising livestock and selling the milk. My family also owns about seven hectares of land on which we grow wheat, barley and legumes. About two and a half years ago, we dug cistern with funding from donors. Before that, we used water from an ancient well, near which the settlement of Tekoa was built. We decided to dig the cistern because we were routinely subjected to threats and assaults by the settlers whenever we went to get water.

"They even attacked our children, and their security officers would set their dogs on us. We desperately needed the cistern which has now been demolished, in order to continue living here. It was our main source of water, for us and for the sheep. Now the choice I have left is either to risk going back to the old well or to buy water containers for about 1,000 shekels (approx. USD 260) a month."

Demolition in Khashm a-Daraj- Khashm al-Karem

On Thursday 23 February 2017, the Civil Administration brought a bulldozer to an area by the community of Khashm a-Daraj-Khashm al-Karem in the South Hebron Hills, about two kilometers north of the Separation Barrier. The community, located in Area C, consists of several clusters of tents which are home to some 450 people. In 2009 Israeli

authorities approved a master plan for the existing dwellings. The community's clusters are hooked up to the water grid, but the water pressure is low, and in the summer water supply is erratic.

In addition, Israel does not allow the expanses of pastureland surrounding the community to be hooked up to the water grid. The Civil Administration demolished a cistern dug about five years ago and served local shepherds.

In testimony given to B'Tselem field researcher Nasser Nawaja'a on 28 February 2017, Mustafa al-Fakir, a 46-year-old married father of ten, talked about the demolition and its effect on the life of his family:



Mustafa al-Fakir

“My wife and I live with our ten children in one of the tent clusters. I'm a farmer and shepherd and I have a flock of more than 50 sheep that graze in the uncultivated areas around the encampment.

“About five years ago my brothers and I dug cistern on our pastureland to collect rainwater. The cistern was about three kilometers from where we live. It was a large cistern that could hold more than 200 cubic meters of water and served me and my six brothers for watering our flocks. Together we have more than 280 sheep. Our neighbors also used this cistern to water their sheep.

“For daily use at home we have water from the (Israeli national water company) Mekorot grid. The water pressure is low and in summer there's often no water at all. When that's been the case, we've had to use the cistern water for household needs. Because this area is arid and there's not much rain, the water in the cistern was not enough for the whole summer and we had to buy water in mobile water tanks. Usually we bought ten water tanks a year, at about 500 shekels (approx. USD 135) a tank.

“On the morning of 23 February 2017, the Israeli authorities arrived and began destroying the cistern. The soldiers and policemen there didn't let us get near and we could only watch from afar. The cistern had been completely full.

“The bulldozer completely demolished it, and from where I stood I could see the water gushing out. I felt sad, angry and frustrated. I was helpless. I couldn't even express my anger and protest what was happening.

A few days before the demolition I found a pre-demolition warning notice near the cistern. The notice gave us three days to appeal the decision to demolish the cistern, but I found the notice on the last day on which the appeal could be filed.

“For the time being, we’re giving water to the sheep from what’s left of the rainwater in a nearby stream, but soon it will run dry and we’ll have to buy water tanks to water the sheep. Without the cistern it will be a great expense for us. In recent years the cistern saved us a great deal of money and effort.

Shepherding is our only source of income, we are simple people. On top of the water resource we lost, we also lost all the work we invested in digging the cistern, and all the money we spent on buying concrete and iron bars for its construction.”

On 10 January 2017, Civil Administration personnel demolished a pipe that supplied water from the Palestinian village of ‘Atuf, which is in Area A, to three small shepherding and farming communities that lie in Area C and are not connected to the water supply network: Khirbet Ras al-Ahmar, Khirbet Hadidiyah, and Khirbet Humsah.

The pipe was laid with the help and financial aid of an international humanitarian organization, and some of the work was carried out in the past year by local farmers.

After the pipe was demolished, residents laid a new pipe, again with funding by humanitarian aid organizations. On 20 February 2017, Civil Administration personnel returned with bulldozers and once again demolished the section of the pipe that supplied water to al-Hadidiyah and Khirbet Humsah.

These communities face severe water shortages, subsisting only on water supplied in containers harnessed to tractors. Water transported this way costs at least three times as much as water supplied to Israelis – both in Israel proper and in settlements – who are hooked up to Mekorot, Israel’s national water company.

The Civil Administration also often confiscates the tractors used to transport water in these areas, claiming that they are trespassing in a firing zone. These confiscations have lately become much more frequent.

In a testimony he gave to B’Tselem field researcher ‘Aref Daraghmeh on 10 January 2017, Ahmad Bani ‘Odeh, 67, who lives with his wife and two daughters in the community of a-Ras al-Ahmar, described the demolition of the water pipe:

“About a year ago, we learned that an aid organization was planning to lay a water pipe that would pass through our community. It was meant to provide water for many families that have no other access to water. In addition to us, the pipe was also supposed to serve the communities of al-Hadidiyah and Humsah. In recent months, work on the pipe progressed and a section about ten kilometers long had been completed, so the pipe reached us.

“When the water started flowing, it was a real red-letter day. The pipe could have saved us and the other families a lot of money and effort. Until then, we had to transport water in large containers towed by tractors, and it cost us about 25 shekels (approx. USD 7) per cubic meter.

“Recently we haven’t even been able to get water that way, because no one is brave enough to come here – they’re all afraid that the Civil Administration will confiscate their tractors if they come.



Ahmad Bani 'Odeh

“The water pipe was a real lifesaver for us. It meant we could have running water at any time of day, for our families and the livestock. We were overjoyed, although from the beginning we were afraid of the military and the Civil Administration, which regularly patrol the area.

“On 10 January 2017, at about nine o’clock in the morning, I saw three bulldozers approaching with military and Civil Administration personnel. “They started digging up the pipe and completely destroyed it. They broke the pipe to pieces.

“The bulldozers demolished the water pipe, and our dreams along with it.

“They took it all apart, all the way to al-Hadidiyah and Khirbet Humsah. I don’t know how we’ll manage now. There are hardly any tractors left, since all most all of them have been confiscated. The owners of the large containers don’t want to carry water here, it’s too risky and they are justly worried about their vehicles.”

Choices

11/03/17 by Uri Avnery, Gush Shalom [Except]

Right after the foundation of the State of Israel, God appeared to David Ben-Gurion and told him: “You have done good by my people. Utter a wish and I shall grant it”.

"I wish that Israel shall be a Jewish and a democratic state and encompass all the country between the Mediterranean and the Jordan," Ben-Gurion replied.

"That is too much even for me!" God exclaimed. "But I will grant you two of the three."

Since then we can choose between a Jewish and democratic Israel in a part of the country, a democratic state in all of the country that will not be Jewish or a Jewish state in all of the country that will not be democratic.

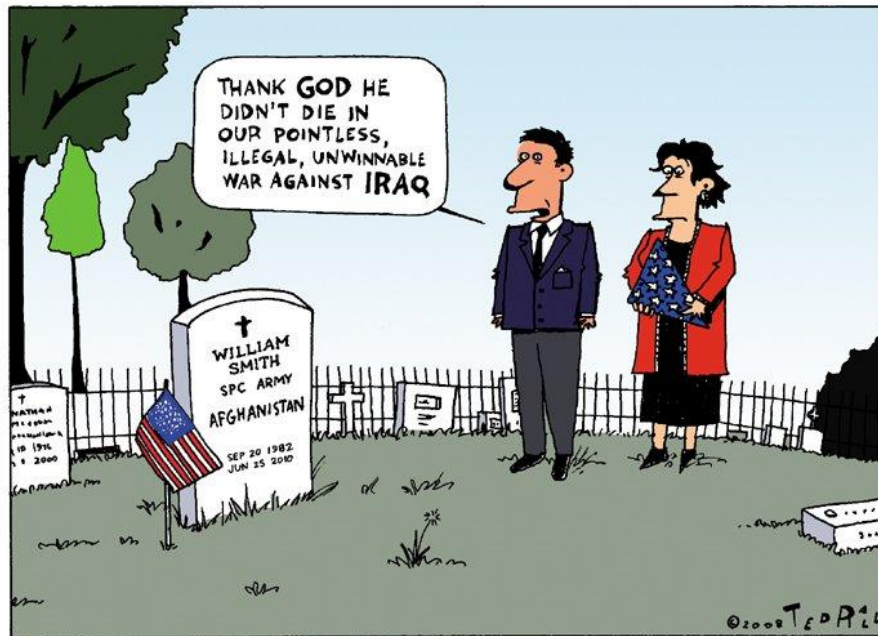
To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to:

<http://www.maannews.net/eng/Default.aspx> and

<http://www.palestinemonitor.org/list.php?id=ej898ra7yff0ukmf16>

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

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



CHANGE WE CAN BEREAVE IN

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