

Military Resistance 15E4



“Poll Out Tuesday Night Found That More Voters Want Trump Impeached Than Do Not”

May 17, 2017 BY ADAM EDELMAN, NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

President Trump’s approval ratings have fallen yet again, while the number of American voters supporting his impeachment is on the rise, a pair of new polls show.

Just 42% of U.S. voters said they approve of Trump’s job as President, while 50% say they disapprove, the latest Politico/Morning Consult Poll found.

That approval rating is the lowest mark yet in any Politico/Morning Consult poll since Trump took office.

The poll, administered May 12-14 among 2,001 registered voters, is one of the first major surveys since Trump fired FBI Director James Comey last week — and it found that the controversial termination was deeply unpopular.

Only 35% of voters said they found Trump’s abrupt termination of Comey “appropriate,” while 42% said they felt it was “inappropriate.”

Meanwhile, another poll out Tuesday night found that more voters want Trump impeached than do not.

The latest Public Policy Polling survey found that nearly half (48%) of Americans supported impeachment proceedings for Trump, while just 41% said they would not support them.

That poll, like the first, was taken May 12-14, among 692 registered voters, before news emerged that Trump disclosed highly classified information to Russian diplomats and before news broke that Trump explicitly asked Comey to end the investigation into former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn before firing the now ex-FBI chief.

Those developments have led to lawmakers openly discussing impeachment proceedings, and are all but certain to increase even further the number of voters who support the option.

The new Public Policy Polling survey also showed that Trump's approval rating has suffered, finding that just 40% of respondents approved of the job he was doing.

By comparison, 54% said they disapproved, that poll found.

And a growing number of respondents said they felt Trump won't even finish his four-year term.

Nearly half (45%) said they thought Trump wouldn't serve his full term, while 43% said they thought he would.

ACTION REPORTS

Outreach To New York National Guard

Alan S

To: Military Resistance Newsletter

Subject: Outreach to New York National Guard

Date: May 15, 2017

Overall, the National Guard troops in the 3 terminals have been, in the past 5-6 outreaches more reluctant to accept material.

There may be a number of reasons for this: warnings from above (they say they can't accept material), patrol leaders reminding them of non-permission to take material, etc.

Nevertheless, I've had rejections before over the years but there are more now than ever - more consistent as well.

This is the only significant change I've experienced and it could be temporary or, all in all, meaningless in that there will be more success.

I will continue, as ever, and try to sense some direction(s) here and there. Many of the young troops know me and I'd say among those accepting, 50% want more stuff. I always ask how they felt about material they were given.

There's probably more success among first contact soldiers than those who've seen me.

MORE:

ACTION REPORTS WANTED: FROM YOU!

An effective way to encourage others to support members of the armed forces organizing to resist the Imperial war is to report what you do.

If you've carried out organized contact with troops on active duty, at base gates, airports, or anywhere else, send a report in to Military Resistance for the Action Reports section.

Same for contact with National Guard and/or Reserve components.

They don't have to be long. Just clear, and direct action reports about what work was done and how.

If there were favorable responses, say so.

If there were unfavorable responses or problems, don't leave them out. Reporting what went wrong and/or got screwed up is especially important, so that others may learn from you what to expect, and how to avoid similar problems if possible.

If you are not planning or engaging in outreach to the troops, you have nothing to report.

NOTE WELL:

Do not make public any information that could compromise the work.

Identifying information – locations, personnel – will be omitted from the reports.

Whether you are serving in the armed forces or not, do not identify members of the armed forces organizing to stop the wars.

If accidentally included, that information will not be published.

The sole exception: occasions when a member of the armed services explicitly directs identifying information be published in reporting on the action.

MORE:

Military Initiative

Organizing Committee Mission Statement:

July 4, 1776

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.

But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.

1. Members of the armed forces have the right and duty to defend civilians from dictatorships and to aid civilian movements against dictatorships.

This applies whether dictatorship is imposed by force of arms or is imposed when those in command of the resources of society use their wealth for buying politicians to control the government.

The armed forces are not for use by politicians or corporations to attack movements fighting for improvement in the lives of working class citizens, or to attack the rights and liberties of Americans written in the Bill of Rights of the Constitution

2. The armed forces are not for use in wars of Empire.

Military Initiative is for immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Afghanistan and Iraq.

Members of the armed forces organizing to defeat wars of empire will receive encouragement and support.

The long term objective is to assist in eliminating wars of empire by eliminating all empires.

Nations attacked by Empires have the right to independence and to resist invasion.

3. Efforts to increase democratic rights in every society, organization, movement, and within the armed forces itself will be encouraged and supported.

This applies to the armed forces of every nation. There is no national government at this time organized by, for, and under the control of its citizens.

4. Military Initiative does not advocate individual disobedience to orders or desertion from the armed forces because members of the armed forces working together is most effective.

That said, Military Initiative will assist in the defense of troops who see individual desertion or refusal of orders as the only course of action open to them for reasons of conscience.

5. Military Initiative practices organizational democracy.

This means control of the organization by the membership, through elected delegates to any coordinating bodies that may be formed, whether at local, regional, or national levels. Anyone elected is subject to recall, by majority vote of the membership.

Any coordinating bodies will report their decisions and votes to the membership, and may be overruled by a majority of the membership.

6. It is unnecessary for Military Initiative to be in complete political agreement with other organizations to work together toward a common objective.

Organizations working together on common objectives need to discuss differences about the best way forward.

7. The mission of Military Initiative is to bring together in one organization members of the armed forces and civilians who are dedicated to these objectives.

In order to be prepared to defend and extend human rights and economic justice, we will meet together to organize wherever we may be, engaging in such activities as may be necessary, reasonable and effective.

Membership Requirements:

8. Civilian member participate in organized action to reach out to and work with active duty armed forces.

9. Military Initiative or individual members may choose to support candidates for elective office who are for immediate withdrawal from Afghanistan and Iraq, but do not support candidates opposed to immediate, unconditional withdrawal.

10. Members may not be active duty or drilling reserve commissioned officers, or employed in any capacity by any police or intelligence agency, local, state, or national.

11. I understand and am in agreement with this mission.

I oppose bigotry against people because of their race, religion, national origin, gender, or sexual orientation.

I pledge to defend my brothers and sisters, and the democratic rights of the citizens of the United States, against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

-----**(Signed**

(Date)

----- **(Application taken by)**

Military Initiative: Contact@militaryproject.org

or

**459 Columbus Avenue, PMB#282,
New York, N.Y. 10024**

MORE

**You Can Take Action That Makes
A Difference:
Join The Military Initiative:
MILITARY INITIATIVE MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION**

Name (please print): _____

Armed Forces? (Branch) _____

Veteran? Years: _____

Union: _____

Occupation: _____

Mailing address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone (Landline): _____

Phone (Cell): _____

\$ dues paid _____

(See next: Calendar year basis.)

Armed Forces Members	@	Dues waived
Civilians	@	\$25
Students/Unemployed	@	\$10
Civilian/Military Prisoners	@	Dues Waived

Comments:

NOTE: Civilian applicants will be interviewed, in person if possible, or by phone.

Military Initiative: [Contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org)
or
459 Columbus Avenue, PMB#282,
New York, N.Y. 10024

YOUR INVITATION:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Military Resistance Newsletter, 459 Columbus Avenue, PMB#282, New York, N.Y. 10024 or email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

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. The articles below include earlier reports that are reminders of what reality is.

A Body Cam Captured A Cop's Violent Encounter With A Teen: A New Law Keeps The Video Secret; "The Teenager And His Mother Say Police Slammed And Choked Him Without Provocation"

"What possible harm to the case or to the community could there be if they release the footage?" Lewis Pitts, a retired lawyer who has spoken to city council members about the case, told The Washington Post. "The only harm is it creates liability and embarrassment for the police department. That's the only thing driving this police secrecy."

April 6 By Cleve R. Wootson Jr., Washington Post

Jose Charles was dazed, bleeding from his head and surrounded by police after an incident that would leave him accused of fighting, resisting arrest and spitting a mouthful of blood into a police officer's face.

His mother had gone to take one of the 15-year-old's siblings to the bathroom at a Fourth of July celebration in Greensboro, N.C. — and returned to find an officer's hand around Jose's neck. On the ground, she saw "blood, lots of it."

What happened in the interim depends on whom you ask. Police charged Jose with four crimes, including attacking an officer. The teenager and his mother say police slammed and choked him without provocation. In a month, the court's interpretation of the incident could determine Jose's fate.

Meanwhile, an unbiased account — body camera footage from several officers who were at the scene of the encounter — is sitting on a server in the cloud, where almost no one can see it.

Standing in the way of clarity and transparency, critics say, is a new North Carolina law that makes it more difficult than ever to view recordings of controversial interactions between police and members of the public.

Jose's case is the first major test to North Carolina's HB 972 since it took effect in October — and also the most controversial.

Activists say the teenager's case is another example of police brutality from a police department that has had two officers resign amid an investigation of excessive force involving a black person.

The new law has layered frustration on top of the critics' fury. On Tuesday night, several activists aired their concerns at a city council meeting in Greensboro, asking elected officials to try to delay Jose's case or have the charges dropped altogether — and to force the release of the video.

“What possible harm to the case or to the community could there be if they release the footage?” Lewis Pitts, a retired lawyer who has spoken to city council members about the case, told The Washington Post. “The only harm is it creates liability and embarrassment for the police department. That’s the only thing driving this police secrecy.”

The law requires anyone who wants to see police body camera footage to pay a fee and plead their case to a Superior Court judge. State Rep. John Faircloth, a former police chief-turned-legislator who sponsored the bill, conceded that the law gives an inordinate amount of power to prosecutors, who have the most information about whether releasing body-cam footage would jeopardize a person's right to a fair trial.

But Jose Charles's mom, Tamara Figueroa, cares less about the nuances of North Carolina's open-records laws and more about the future of her son, who, she said, suffers from schizoaffective disorder.

She said prosecutors have told her that if Jose doesn't plead guilty to assault, they'll ask a judge to send him to a training school, which Figueroa calls “a kiddie jail,” unequipped to treat his mental illness. It could change his life for the worse.

The video could change public perception and her son's fate, Figueroa said: She has seen the footage and remains adamant that her son didn't assault a police officer.

At a minimum, Figueroa says, the police department and the district attorney's office need to take a harder look at the case before Jose's next court date in May.

A judge already has blocked the release of the video to Figueroa, after the district attorney filed a motion saying she probably would release it to the public, Pitts told The Washington Post.

The lack of public access to the footage has rankled civil rights leaders. City council members also have said they'd like to see the video, although they're waiting to find out whether Greensboro's police chief will revisit his decision not to charge the officers.

Both the Greensboro Police Department and District Attorney Doug Henderson's office declined to comment for this article because it involves an ongoing criminal case about a juvenile.

Figueroa thinks prosecutors and police just want the case to go away. If her son enters a plea, she said, “no one has to reinvestigate. No one has to view the camera footage. There's no civil liability, no public apology.”

She added that “we're not pleading guilty.”

For weeks before the incident, Jose had been involved in a war of words on social media with a group of boys, his mother said.

It turned violent as the family attended Greensboro's annual Independence Day celebration. Figueroa's youngest child and niece had to use the bathroom that day, but Jose and the older children didn't want to stand in the long line for the portable toilets.

While he waited, Jose was found by the boys he'd been fighting with on social media. Things turned violent and Jose got the worst of it, his mother said.

“The Process Doesn't Work. It Only Works For The Police”

Waiting in the restroom line, Figueroa saw the commotion and started running toward her son. On her way, she said, one of the teenager's close friends called Figueroa on her cellphone.

“She's screaming, just screaming, ‘They're beating him; the police are beating him!’” Figueroa said. “When I got there, I found Jose handcuffed in an alleyway, beaten, bloody, being choked.”

Jose told his mom that the boys he fought with scattered when police arrived, but that he had stayed put, waiting for her.

He said he'd taken off his shirt to wipe the blood from his face as an officer walked up and asked what happened.

“N—a, I just got jumped,” he told the officer, according to the family.

Then, they say, the officer slammed him to the ground.

He was handcuffed and lying on his side, blood from a head wound trickling into his mouth. When he tried to stand, officers knocked him back to the ground, the family says. He swore at the officers, demanding they let him up.

He later told his mother that when he got to his feet, he spit out blood, but it was more of a gagging reflex than an attempt to spit on the officer.

The authorities didn't believe him — and Figueroa concedes she didn't fully trust his account, either.

But she knew the officers had been wearing body cameras. The truth, she figured, would be on video.

Four months passed before she, her son and their attorney were brought to police headquarters to see the footage.

Afterward, she said, she wanted the whole city to see it.

The city of Greensboro was one of the first in the nation to get police body cameras, and the initial results from the program were highlighted in recommendations to other

agencies by the Police Executive Research Forum. The cameras, city leaders said, would make both officers and the people they interact with more civil. When things went wrong, the video could help resolve disputes, according to the Greensboro New & Record.

But the Greensboro Police Department, like many North Carolina law enforcement agencies, elected to make body-camera recordings part of officer personnel files — making it nearly impossible for the public to see the record, said Jonathan Jones, director of the Sunshine Center of the North Carolina Open Government Coalition at Elon University.

HB 972 then raised a bar many already thought was too high to access a police video record, Jones told The Post.

“It created a significant hurdle for anyone who wants to see police video,” he said. “That hurdle is they have to go to court, they have to pay a \$200 fee — just to ask for permission to see it. And they have to file legal documents ... with the assistance of a lawyer. And then there’s a hearing to be held if there’s a dispute over whether or not a video should be released.”

Faircloth, the Guilford County Republican who wrote the legislation, said its intent was to take the politics out of requests for body-camera footage.

“So many departments began getting body cameras and there were no rules,” Faircloth said. “Everybody was sort of operating their own way and not understanding the impact of those issues. It would be nice if we could react to every desire that we have to know what’s going on in issues like this. But we have a justice system that says, ‘Wait, we have to take this a step at a time.’ “

Pitts said the district attorney’s office has told a judge that releasing the video would affect Jose Charles’s case.

Sharon Hightower, a city council member who approved getting body cameras for Greensboro’s police officers, said she voted to do so “because I can brag, there’s nothing going on, the camera will show that. If there’s something going on, the camera will show that. I believe that creates more transparency. ... And then came along and said nope, wait a minute, let’s change when you can view it.”

Now, she said, “the process doesn’t work. It only works for the police. It’s working for the judge. It’s working the legislature. So it just leads to unrest.”

Indeed, some fear Jose Charles’s case could spark anti-police protests like ones that roiled nearby Charlotte last year.

In Greensboro, the community’s relationship with the police department is already strained after a white officer violently arrested a black man who was sitting on his mother’s porch, waiting for her to get home.

Video from that case and from the fatal shooting of a knife-wielding mentally disabled Vietnamese woman was released by the city council before HB 972 took effect.

Police were criticized in both cases. But Hightower, the council member, said she was able to tell her constituents that even when wrong, the city and its police department were transparent.

Hightower said the council will most likely petition the judge to see the Jose Charles video. In the meantime, activists are planning nearly a month of protests before the teenager's next court date.

**Mexican Teen's Family Awarded
\$1 Million After He Died From
Drinking Liquid Meth On Border
Officers' Demand:
"Perallon And Baird Remain
Employed With The Customs And
Border Protection Agency And Were
Never Disciplined For The Fatal
Incident"
"To Cause Him To Die In A Horrible Way
That He Did Is Something That Is
Execrable"**

March 22, 2017 by Chris Sommerfeldt, New York Daily News

Cruz Velazquez Acevedo made a catastrophic split second decision after border officers found two bottles of liquid on him when he attempted to cross into California from Mexico.

The 16-year-old Mexican national told the two officers that the bottles contained "apple juice," but they didn't buy it and asked Acevedo to take a sip to "prove" he wasn't lying, according to court records.

He took a swig.

Minutes later, Acevedo began sweating and screaming in Spanish about "the chemicals." "My heart! My heart!" he blurted out, according to records.

Roughly two hours later, Acevedo was dead, his heart no longer pumping because of the liquid Methamphetamine he had just ingested. His time of death was 8:57 p.m., Nov. 18, 2013.

Now, over three years later, Acevedo's family has been awarded \$1 million after settling a wrongful-death lawsuit against the U.S. government and the two border officers, according to records.

The officers, Adrian Perallon and Valerie Baird, admitted in testimony they suspected that the liquid in Acevedo's bottles wasn't apple juice. Nonetheless, they "coerced and intimidated" him into taking a "big sip," according to the family's initial complaint.

Perallon and Baird remain employed with the Customs and Border Protection Agency in San Diego and were never disciplined for the fatal incident, according to the family's lawyer, Eugene Iredale.

Iredale conceded to the Washington Post that it was "stupid" of Acevedo to try and smuggle drugs across the border.

"But he's a 16-year-old boy with all the immaturity and bad judgement that might be characteristic of any 16-year-old kid," Iredale told The Post on Tuesday.

"He was basically a good boy, he had no record, but he did something stupid. In any event the worst that would've happened to him is that he would've been arrested and put in a juvenile facility for some period of time ... It wasn't a death penalty case. To cause him to die in a horrible way that he did is something that is execrable."

Acevedo had tried to use his border crossing card when the officers pulled him aside for inspection at the San Ysidro Port of Entry in Tijuana. Used together with a passport, the card gains Mexican citizens expedited entry into the U.S. for tourism purposes.

Iredale said Acevedo's parents didn't know why he decided to try and bring meth into the U.S., but the attorney did suspect professional smugglers might have had something to do with it.

"It's typical for people who are drug smugglers to approach kids and offer them \$150 to smuggle drugs across the border," Iredale said. "We're never going to know in this case because Cruz died. He knows it's something he shouldn't be bringing."

The settlement follows a series of discussions between government lawyers and the family, Iredale said. Acevedo's parents have received the settlement amount in full.

'Just Shoot Me,' An Armed Man Told A Cop. The Officer Didn't

**— And Was Fired, Lawsuit
Says:**

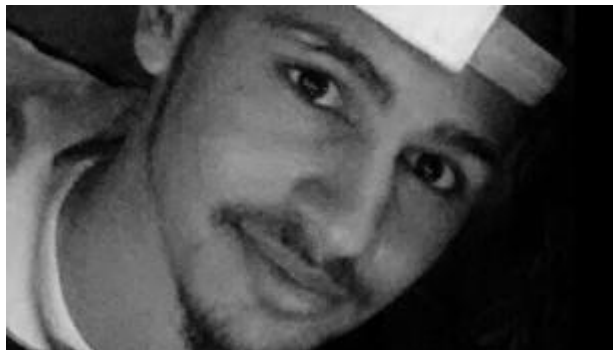
**“Williams’ Girlfriend Had Told 911
To Tell Responders That He Had A
Gun But It Wasn’t Loaded”**

**“After Williams Was Killed,
Investigators Also Found That It
Wasn’t Loaded”**

**“A State Investigation Found The
Officer’s Actions Were Justified”**



Stephen Mader



Ronald D. “R.J.” Williams Jr. was killed by police on May 6, 2016.

May 11, 2017 By Chris Boyette, Amanda Watts and Khushbu Shah, CNN

Former police officer Stephen Mader says the incident that cost him his job at the Weirton, West Virginia Police Department lasted less than 12 minutes. When it was over, a 23-year old man was dead.

40 officers patrol this small town in the northern panhandle of the state. Wedged between Ohio and Pennsylvania, it has the distinction of being the only US city that "sits in one state while its borders touch two other states," the town boasts on its website.

Mader, a Marine veteran who served in Afghanistan, is suing this small city where he's lived his entire life. He claims he was fired from the force for not shooting and killing Ronald "R.J." Williams Jr. during a domestic disturbance call in May 2016.

On Wednesday, attorneys for Mader filed a lawsuit against the City of Weirton for wrongful termination. The suit also alleges that city officials "engaged in a pattern of retaliation designed to destroy Mr. Mader's reputation," and violated his constitutional rights of free speech and due process.

The suit was filed on Mader's behalf by the American Civil Liberties Union of West Virginia and attorney Timothy P. O'Brien.

Mader, 26, spoke to CNN in September 2016, three months after he was fired.

"The call came in around 2:50 in the morning," said Mader. "The whole thing was over by 3:02(a.m.)."

Ronald D. "R.J." Williams Jr. was killed by police on May 6, 2016.

According to Mader, in the early morning hours of that day police dispatch alerted a call from a woman who was frantic and requesting immediate help.

He was less than a mile and a half from the caller's address, Mader said, and the first to arrive on the scene where Williams, 23, was standing outside the house with his hands behind his back.

According to the former officer's lawsuit, Williams' girlfriend had called 911 because he was threatening to hurt himself with a knife.

Mader ordered Williams to show him his hands; when he did, Mader said he saw Williams was holding a silver handgun.

Mader, who drew his own gun, told Williams to drop his and said the visibly "choked up" man told him, "I can't do that. Just shoot me."

Over and over again, Mader said, Williams pleaded for Mader to shoot him.

Mader said he was certain Williams was trying to commit "suicide by cop".

"He didn't appear angry or aggressive," said Mader. "He seemed depressed. As a Marine vet that served in Afghanistan and as an active member of the National Guard, all my training told me he was not a threat to others or me. Because of that I attempted to de-escalate the situation. I was just doing my job."

According to the suit, as Mader was trying to get Williams to drop his gun, two other Weirton Police officers arrived. When Williams raised his gun, one of them “immediately shot Williams in the head, killing him.”

Williams’ girlfriend had told 911 to tell responders that he had a gun but it wasn’t loaded, according to the lawsuit.

After Williams was killed, investigators also found that it wasn’t loaded.

It was unclear from the lawsuit whether 911 dispatchers relayed the girlfriend’s message to first responders. The Weirton Police Department has not responded to CNN calls for comment.

The Weirton Police Department notified Mader that his employment had been terminated one month after the shooting, on June 7, 2016. The suit says the police department cited “failure to meet probationary standards of an officer” and “apparent difficulties in critical incident reasoning” in their decision to fire him.

“The investigation further revealed that the officer froze on the scene, not communicating with the other officers involved,” a statement by the city released in September says.

The lawsuit takes a very different view. “The Weirton Police Department terminated Mr. Mader’s employment because he chose not to use deadly force to shoot and kill an African-American man, who was suicidal, and whom Mr. Mader reasonably believed did not pose a risk of death or serious bodily injury,” the suit says.

The suit alleges Mader’s termination was used to defend and rationalize the deadly force used by the officer who shot Williams.

CNN has left several messages with the Weirton Police Department for comment regarding this allegation, but have not heard back. CNN also attempted to reach out to the officer who shot Williams, but no calls or texts were returned.

“A State Investigation Found The Officer’s Actions Were Justified”

A state investigation found the officer’s actions were justified.

“Such restraint should be praised not penalized. To tell a police officer -- when in doubt - - either shoot to kill or get fired, is a choice that no police officer should ever have to make and is a message that is wrong and should never be sent,” said his attorney, Timothy O’Brien.

The City of Weirton said they were not able to comment until they had reviewed the lawsuit. CNN obtained the lawsuit online from a public access website that hosts court documents. The City maintains they have not been served, but when they are “...it will be reviewed by legal counsel and then a determination will be made as to whether we’ll be making any comments on this particular lawsuit.”

But in September, Weirton City manager Travis Blosser told CNN that Mader wasn't fired over how he handled the Williams incident, but because of a "totality of the circumstances."

Namely, Weirton Police Chief Rob Alexander in September pointed to two prior events:

March 2016: Mader allegedly entered a man's vehicle without a warrant to put a ticket on the dash on a rainy day. Police say he acted "in an inappropriate manner by cursing at the subject's wife as well as conducting an illegal search."

April 2016: Mader, along with other officers, failed to report an elderly woman's death as suspicious. Subsequently, the death was ruled a homicide and because of his actions, evidence was moved, "thereby, contaminating the potential crime scene."

Mader acknowledged these incidents to CNN and had his own explanations for each:
March 2016: Mader was writing a second parking ticket for a vehicle, and when the owner came out irate and cursing, he responded using the f-word.

April 2016: EMT and Fire told the officers who responded to the scene that the woman died of natural causes, he said, "so that's what we put down."

On Wednesday after the hearing of the lawsuit, Jack Dolance, attorney for Williams' family said they thanked Mader for doing the right thing the night Williams died -- trying to save him.

"He took his time and looked at RJ as a person and not a dangerous subject," said Dolance, whose clients are not party to the lawsuit.

But most important, said Dolance, is that Williams' life is honored and doesn't get lost in the controversy.

"There was a 23-year-old kid that lost his life that night," he said.

Combat Veteran, Muslim Detained At JFK As Possible Terrorist: "Syed Ali Is An American Citizen, An Officer In The New York Police Department, A Combat Veteran

**And A Major In The United States
Army Reserve”**
**“When He Asked, After More Than An
Hour Of Waiting, Whether It Would
Take Much Longer, An Officer
Threatened To Incarcerate Him”**
**“Are You Telling Me Every Guy With
Brown Skin Coming In From Overseas Is
A Terrorist?”**



Syed Ali, a New York City police officer, on the fire escape of his apartment in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. Officer Ali has a Combat Action Badge, which he earned while serving in Iraq during the surge in 2008. Credit Karsten Moran for The New York Times

MAY 15, 2017 By NICHOLAS KULISH, New York Times

Syed Ali is an American citizen, an officer in the New York Police Department, a combat veteran and a major in the United States Army Reserve. But none of that made a difference at passport control last month when he arrived at Kennedy Airport on an evening flight from Istanbul.

After landing, Officer Ali was led from passport control to a holding area for what Customs and Border Protection refers to as secondary screening. But instead of a quick

check to confirm his identity, Officer Ali said, he was held for hours, past midnight. When he asked, after more than an hour of waiting, whether it would take much longer, an officer threatened to incarcerate him, he said.

“If you can’t sit patiently, I can gain compliance from you by putting you in a detainment cell,” he recalled a Customs and Border Protection officer’s telling him.

“I feel like my rights were violated,” Officer Ali said in an interview, still sounding a little shaken. “Are you telling me that every guy with the last name Ali is a terrorist? Are you telling me every guy with brown skin coming in from overseas is a terrorist?”

Officer Ali’s trip was part of a vacation to decompress after a two-year military deployment to Kuwait, where he had served in Operation Inherent Resolve, the mission to combat the Islamic State. In September, he is scheduled to return to his regular job with the Police Department, where he most recently worked in the transit unit.

Officer Ali is one of a number of Muslim Americans who have complained that since the start of the Trump administration they have been subjected to additional scrutiny when returning from abroad, facing hours in airport custody and what they described as hostile questioning.

A retired North Carolina police chief, Hassan Aden, recounted an experience similar to Officer Ali’s, also at J.F.K., in March.

Foreigners with valid travel documents have similar complaints: Among the first people caught up in President Trump’s travel ban was an Iraqi interpreter who had worked for American forces and the American government in his homeland. He was among those detained at J.F.K. An Afghan family was detained at Los Angeles International Airport in March when it arrived on the same kind of Special Immigrant Visas for resettlement that the interpreter had.

“There’s no one who you would think should be able to sail through immigration at the airport more than Syed,” said Justin Cox, a staff lawyer at the National Immigration Law Center, who spoke with Officer Ali after the incident and is following the treatment of Muslim immigrants at airports.

“None of that mattered because he’s brown and Muslim. That’s what his case underlines.”

At the Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, apartment Officer Ali shares with his sister, a “welcome home” sign in large multicolored letters still hung on his bedroom wall, and a slightly shriveled red-white-and-blue balloon clung to its last gasp of buoyancy.

Their apartment was filled with mementos from Officer Ali’s military career: a plaque for “outstanding service” in the fight against the Islamic State, a collage of photographs from his deployment to Afghanistan in 2013 and his Combat Action Badge, awarded to soldiers engaged in ground combat, which he earned while deployed to Iraq during the surge in 2008.

At the moment, he was preoccupied with passing the Police Department’s sergeant’s exam, having fallen behind in his studies during his long deployment to Kuwait. As an

officer in the Army Reserve, Officer Ali was granted a leave of absence from the department for the duration of his mobilization.

He spoke earnestly about how much he enjoyed making people feel safe while patrolling the subway. In one case, he said, he chased down a thief who had stolen a smartphone from a mute woman who communicated using hand gestures.

“All I cared about was that we were able to help this girl,” Officer Ali said. “It’s a true euphoric feeling of doing what I signed up to do.”

Officer Ali’s detention that night in late April was not the first time he was sent to secondary inspection. Officers took him aside and checked his identity on a previous trip. He said he had no problem with the polite and expeditious way they had handled him then.

“I understand there are folks out there who might do bad things who have a name similar to mine,” said Officer Ali, 34, who came to the United States with his parents from Bangladesh when he was 3 and grew up in Woodside, Queens. He enlisted in the Navy before he turned 18 and, after graduating from college, was commissioned in the Army.

Officer Ali underscored that he was speaking as a private citizen and not on behalf of the United States military or the Police Department.

“I’m more concerned with, what is the average citizen going through?” he said. “It’s happening to other people and it’s probably a lot worse.”

On the night of April 26, Officer Ali was returning from a trip to Britain to visit his fiancée, with a side trip to Istanbul. At J.F.K., the officer checking passports led him to a holding area with two officers at the door. Another officer instructed Officer Ali to give her his passport, which he did.

“I told her, ‘Hey, you know, I’m a veteran.’” he said. “I should be in the system. It shouldn’t be too hard to find me.”

The search for this particular Syed Ali should have been easier than most, he said, because he is all over the federal record system. He said the Army knew everything down to his cholesterol level and how many times he had been vaccinated against anthrax.

“The federal government has my DNA on record,” he said. “The government, they know every little nook and cranny about me.”

After an hour and a half of waiting, Officer Ali began to wonder what the holdup was. “I do identity checks all the time,” he said. “If I’m digging hard and digging deep, I might spend at most 15 minutes.”

That was when he asked the officer who had taken his passport what his status was. “I said, ‘Yes, ma’am, no, ma’am,’ when I spoke to her because that’s what I was taught,” Officer Ali said. She responded with the threat to lock him up, he said.

After that, half a dozen officers surrounded him “as if they’re going to intimidate me or take me down,” he said. “Honestly I think the only reason they didn’t stick me in a cell is it wouldn’t look good to stick a major and a cop in a cell.”

Daniel Hetlage, a spokesman for Customs and Border Protection, said privacy laws prevented the agency from discussing individual cases. “Officers strive to treat all people arriving in the country with dignity and respect,” he said.

Many policies that privacy advocates and immigration lawyers have opposed, including searching phones and laptops and requiring visitors to divulge their social media passwords, predate Mr. Trump’s inauguration. And complaints about the added scrutiny and even mistreatment of Muslims at airports date to the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Officer Ali said his feeling of powerlessness in airport custody “was one of the lowest points in my life.”

“I’ve dedicated my life to public service,” he said. “I want my country to treat me fairly, too.”

Man Who Filmed Eric Garner’s Death Begins Prison Term: “My Biggest Fear About Prison Would Be Not Coming Out Alive” “They Want To Create An Environment Where People Are Terrified To Speak Up And Out And Be Good Citizens”



10/04/2016 by Anealla Safdar, Al Jazeera

On July 17, 2014, Ramsey Orta took out his mobile phone and filmed a police officer in New York killing his friend, Eric Garner. But as soon as he stopped recording, Orta says his own life also took a dramatic turn for the worse.

Viewed millions of times, Orta's clip shows Daniel Pantaleo, a white officer, gripping his arms around Garner's neck in a chokehold.

Garner, a black American, was 43 years old at the time, and an asthmatic.

"I can't breathe. I can't breathe. I can't breathe. I can't breathe. I can't breathe. I can't breathe. I can't breathe. I can't breathe," Garner said, as he was being pinned to the ground and asphyxiated.

They were his last words.

Garner, a father of six, was selling loose cigarettes in Staten Island, New York, when officers tackled him. His case was ruled as a homicide, meaning that his death was caused by human beings, but Pantaleo was not indicted. In 2015, Garner's family reached a \$5.9m settlement with the city of New York.

Orta's recording of the killing has been praised by many for bringing to light police brutality, and setting off what has been described as a citizen journalism trend exposing injustices.

But ever since releasing the footage of Garner's killing, Orta, 25, says he has become the target of police retaliation.

On Monday, Orta began a four-year prison sentence, after taking a plea deal in July for a weapons and drug case.

It is the result, he and his lawyers argue, of a police campaign to harm his life. After filming Garner's death, they claim, he was increasingly harassed and targeted by police and was arrested at least eight times in fewer than two years.

Of several criminal cases against him, only two charges stuck. Two weeks after filming Garner's death, Orta was arrested on charges of possessing a handgun and was later caught selling heroin to an undercover policeman.

"(Hours after) Eric died, at 4am in the morning, there was a spotlight shining through my window. I looked out the window and there was a cop car outside," Orta told Al Jazeera on Friday.

"They parked outside my house and stopped people coming in and out of my house. That was going on until the day they ruled it (Garner's case) a homicide. I've been arrested and let out many times. And now I am convicted of only two of seven cases."

According to reports, Orta is suing New York City for \$10m for unwarranted arrests by the NYPD that he says were attempts to discredit his video of Garner's final moments.

In August 2014, Pat Lynch, president of New York's biggest police union, said it "is criminals like Mr. Orta who carry illegal firearms who stand to benefit the most by demonising the good work of police officers."

Orta has been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, and suffers from depression, anxiety and paranoia.

"Orta is suing New York City for \$10m for unwarranted arrests by the NYPD that he says were attempts to discredit his video of Garner's final moments."

"My Biggest Fear About Prison Would Be Not Coming Out Alive"

"My biggest fear about prison would be not coming out alive. I fear for myself being behind enemy lines," he said. "I'm going in there with a level head. I'm praying that I can come right out and continue my life as an activist."

Since Garner's death, Orta joined the police watchdog organisation Copwatch, has given talks at universities, and become a symbol of the Black Lives Matter movement.

At a recent event in Brooklyn, New York, Jewel Miller, the mother of Garner's youngest child, told Orta: "You took the video ... you really filmed up to the last seven and something minutes that he was here on Earth. And even though those words of 'I can't breathe' are in our heads ... it is the only voice for my daughter she'll ever know. And because of you I'll forever be grateful. Thank you, thank you, thank you."

Orta, a husband and father to two daughters, said he watches the video often.

"I watched it the day before yesterday," he said. "It just stays in my head. I try not to watch certain parts."

While he does not regret filming the killing, he wishes he had posted the clip anonymously.

"The only regret I have is not making my identity safe," he said.

Still grieving the loss of Garner, he said: "I miss his sense of humour the most."

Orta is among several citizen journalists who say they have been hounded by police, including those who filmed the recent deaths of Alton Sterling, Philando Castile and Freddie Gray, which sparked a wave of protests across the US

In August, filmmaker David Sutcliffe wrote an open letter in favour of the "right to record", which was signed by more than 100 documentarians, including Asif Kapadia, Laura Poitras and Nick Broomfield.

"Armed only with camera phones, citizen journalists have shattered America's myth of racial equality," the letter said. "Instead of garnering Pulitzers and Peabodys, they have been targeted, harassed and arrested by members of the very institution whose abuses they seek to expose."

Shaun King, a New York-based journalist focusing on justice, told Al Jazeera that harassment was not uncommon.

“I have seen many cases where people who film police are unlawfully targeted and harassed by them in response - sometimes for months or even years as a result,” he said.

“My question is always this: what are you afraid of? Why does being filmed bother you so much? It’s our right to film the police. In fact, if you ever see police in action and you have the time to film them, do so.”

A petition by The American Civil Liberties Union calling on US Attorney General Loretta Lynch to investigate harassment cases has gathered almost 21,000 signatures.

Stanley Cohen, a New-York based lawyer and former social worker who in the 1980s held community cohesion sessions with the city’s police departments, said that Orta’s case was an example of “vicious, retaliatory and vindictive” intimidation.

“They want to create an environment where people are terrified to speak up and out and be good citizens,” he told Al Jazeera.

“It’s (harassment) not to undo the events of the murder of Garner as is it to deter the next [filming of a police killing].”

He added that after Garner’s death, he felt a glimmer of hope.

“I had hoped, naively, that the Garner situation would change the relationship between police and community. It did for a short run, but more out of police concern of an explosion. Recently, it seems to be business as usual. There are more stories of the arrogant, abusive attitudes of cops in communities they control ... When you combine the militarization of police with citizen journalists, you get a toxic confrontation.”

According to Mapping Violence, police have killed at least 217 black people so far this year. Last year, they killed at least 346 black people.

As he prepared for jail, Orta said he has little hope for the near future.

“I expected this [police killings] to end up where it is now, it’s only gotten worse since it started. I knew from our past history that that video wasn’t going to change anything,” he said.

“I don’t want my situation to be a deterrent to people who continue to film, though. I encourage others to take a stand.”

MILITARY NEWS

Ivory Coast Soldiers Rebel Against Stalled Bonus Payments And What They View As Broken Promises From President Alassane Ouattara: “We Can No Longer Turn Back” “But We Can’t Give Up Now That We’ve Reached This Point”



A soldier bears a rocket launcher near a military camp in the city of Bouake on Monday. Once the stronghold of the rebels that brought President Alassane Ouattara to power in 2011, Bouake is now a centerpiece of the unrest among soldiers who feel cheated of bonus pay. Issouf Sanogo/AFP/Getty Images

Major cities across Ivory Coast awoke to the clatter of gunfire Monday. In the country's commercial center and in several cocoa-producing hubs, disgruntled soldiers broke out weapons and blocked thoroughfares to protest stalled bonus payments and what they view as broken promises from President Alassane Ouattara.

It marks the fourth day of renewed tensions in a dispute that had appeared to be tentatively resolved months ago between the government and more than a third of its soldiers. Now, the country teeters anew on the brink of widespread violence.

As NPR's Ofeibea Quist-Arcton reports, the friction dates back to January, when the former rebel soldiers who helped propel Ouattara to power in 2011 mutinied over their delayed back pay.

The two sides settled their fight within days after Ouattara offered to pay them \$15,500 apiece, according to the BBC — a promise the news agency says Ouattara has only partly fulfilled.

But in a surprise televised announcement Thursday, a spokesman for the soldiers apologized and declared they would be dropping their demands for the rest of their payment.

The move clearly came as news to many of the soldiers, who in recent days have taken their weapons into the streets in the economic capital Abidjan, the erstwhile rebel stronghold Bouake, and cocoa production centers such as San Pedro and Daloa.

In Abidjan, gunfire has been heard near the presidential palace and the U.S. Embassy, while in Bouake, at least one major entrance into the city has been barred by soldiers.

“The situation is dangerous in terms of what will happen if a full-blown confrontation erupts between loyal forces and mutineers,” Al-Jazeera's Ahmed Idris reports from the outskirts of Abidjan. “The civilian population will be caught in the crossfire.”

Another spokesman for the soldiers — who number roughly 8,400 of the country's 22,000-strong army — denies the clashes but says that “we can no longer turn back.”

“We don't know what will happen to us, so we just want our money so we can start a new life,” Seydou Kone says, as quoted by Reuters. “But we can't give up now that we've reached this point.”

Much of the dispute has hinged not on events in city streets or on battlefields, but rather on cocoa farms. Far and away the world's largest producer of cocoa beans, the country has come to rely deeply on the commodity — a fact that, as cocoa's prices plummeted earlier this year, spelled fiscal troubles for the Ivory Coast.

That has spelled trouble, in turn, for a cash-strapped government and many of its bonus-seeking soldiers.

DOD May Have Improperly Booted Thousands Of Troops With Mental Health Conditions:

“Making Them Ineligible For Certain Health Benefits From The Department Of Veterans Affairs”

May 16, 2017 by Leo Shane II, Military Times

WASHINGTON — Nearly one in four troops booted for misconduct over a five-year period received other-than-honorable dismissals despite evidence of existing mental health conditions that may have warranted other considerations, according to a new Government Accountability Office report released Tuesday.

The findings cover nearly 92,000 service members separated for misconduct from fiscal 2011 through fiscal 2015. Investigators found that of those, more than 57,000 (about 62 percent) suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury or other mental health conditions.

Despite that, almost one-quarter of that group was given other-than-honorable discharges, making them ineligible for certain health benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

GAO researchers said that existing screening and counseling policies do provide protections against improper dismissals, but also criticized Air Force and Navy offices for failing to follow those policies.

The report, mandated by Congress in the fiscal 2015 National Defense Authorization Act, is the result of a two-year investigation and comes as VA officials work to expand health offerings to veterans ineligible for traditional services, in light of high suicide numbers among vulnerable veterans.

It also reinforces complaints by veterans advocates that military officials haven't been careful enough in pushing problem troops out of the ranks, ignoring underlying problems connected to their military service.

“This report proves exactly what we have been saying for decades: that the Defense Department throws troops into the grinder and disposes of them when they're used up,” said Kristofer Goldsmith, assistant director for policy at Vietnam Veterans of America.

In response to the report, Pentagon officials said they will review their policies and better monitor screening of troops facing dismissals. But they also questioned researchers' methods, saying they believe some of the findings' totals were inflated due to double counting of troops.

GAO officials disagreed.

“DOD has little assurance that certain servicemembers diagnosed with PTSD or TBI receive the required screening and counseling prior to being separated for misconduct,” the report states.

“Unless the policy inconsistencies are resolved and routine monitoring is undertaken to ensure adherence, the risk increases that service members may be inappropriately separated for misconduct without adequate consideration of these conditions’ effects on behavior, separation characterization, or eligibility for VA benefits and services.”

Like they did with the prior White House, VVA officials have called on President Trump to establish a program to pardon veterans with so-called “bad paper” discharges to ensure they can receive needed health services.

The idea has gained support among veterans advocates in recent years but remains elusive because of the complexity of crafting a pardoning system and the potential cost of tens of thousands of new veterans entering the system.

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

One way to stop the next war is to continue to tell the truth about this one.
-- Kathy Kelly

U.S. National Bird Kills Again



From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: April 25, 2017
Subject: U.S. National Bird Kills Again

U.S. National Bird Kills Again

Just recently, a U.S. Drone killed an entire family of eight outside of Tabqa, Syria.
Assassination Drone-----> XXXXXXXX

As in Vietnam, you do not bring the enemy to the peace table by just killing military combatants. You ultimately bring the enemy to the peace table by killing innocent civilians, because they are military targets. The primary goal of the aggressor nation is to break the will of the people, and its ability to defend its homeland. This strategy is as old as warfare itself.
Mike Hastie

Army Medic Vietnam

Photo taken at Creech Air Force Base
March 5, 2015

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

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Zionist Forces Kill Unarmed Palestinian Fishermen Off Gaza: “The Israeli Regime Regularly Shoots And Detains Gazan Fishermen”



The undated photo shows 28-year-old Palestinian fisherman Mohammed Majed Bakr, who was shot dead by Israeli naval forces on May 15, 2017.

May 15, 2017 Press TV

A young Palestinian man has been shot dead after Israeli naval forces opened fire on several Palestinian fishing boats off the northern coast of the besieged Gaza Strip.

Head of the Palestinian Fishermen's Union Nizar Ayyash said on Monday that the assault occurred overnight, when Israeli forces detained four crewmen of a single boat, including a critically wounded fisherman who has been identified as 28-year-old Mohammed Majed Bakr.

Bakr, however, succumbed to his injuries in an Israeli hospital later in the day.

Israeli naval forces also arrested two other crewmen of another boat before impounding both fishing boats.

The Israeli regime regularly shoots and detains Gazan fishermen over allegations of crossing the "designated fishing zone," which is practically three nautical miles.

Under a ceasefire agreement reached between Israelis and Palestinians following the deadly Israeli war in August 2014, Tel Aviv agreed to immediately expand the fishing zone off Gaza's coast, allowing Palestinian fishermen to sail as far as six nautical miles off the shore. The agreement also stipulated that Israel would expand the area gradually up to 12 miles.

Palestinian fishermen, however, say the Israeli navy opens fire on them before they reach the agreed limit. About 4,000 fishermen work in Gaza, half of whom live below the poverty line.

Since the beginning of the current year, Israeli forces have confiscated five fishing boats, arrested 14 Palestinian fishermen, shot and injured five, of whom one was fatally wounded, according to al-Mezan Center for Human Rights. Last year, 135 fishermen were arrested, 26 were wounded by direct Israeli gunfire and 43 boats were impounded. The repeated assaults damage or destroy a large amount of fishing equipment of the Palestinians every year.

The Gaza Strip has been under an Israeli blockade since June 2007. The blockade has caused a decline in the standards of living as well as unprecedented levels of unemployment and unrelenting poverty.

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."

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DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Attorney General Sessions Says He Won't Interfere with Local Police Abuse



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