

## **Military Resistance 16D3**

**“The Pathway Of Tyrants Lies  
Over Volcanoes”**

**“Oppression, Organized As Ours Is,  
Will Appear Invincible Up To The  
Very Hour Of Its Fall”**

**“Those Who Enslave, Rob, And Torment  
Their Cooks, May Well Expect To Find  
Death In Their Dinner-Pots”**



Your fathers have said that man's right to liberty is self-evident. There is no need of argument to make it clear. The voices of nature, of conscience, of reason, and of revelation, proclaim it as the right of all rights, the foundation of all trust, and of all responsibility. The sun in the sky is not more palpable to the sight than man's right to liberty is to the moral vision.

Not all the skill of politicians, North and South, not all the sophistries of Judges, not all the fulminations of a corrupt press, not all the hypocritical prayers, or the

**hypocritical refusals to pray of a hollow-hearted priesthood, not all the devices of sin and Satan, can save the vile thing from extermination.**

**May 1857 By Frederick Douglass, Speech on the Dred Scott Decision [Excerpt]**

**[Dred Scott v. Sandford was a decision by the United States Supreme Court, 1857, written by Chief Justice Taney, ruling that people of African descent imported into the United States and held as slaves (or their descendants, whether or not they were slaves) were not protected by the Constitution, and that “The negro has no rights which the white man is bound to respect.”]**

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While four millions of our fellow countrymen are in chains--while men, women, and children are bought and sold on the auction-block with horses, sheep, and swine--while the remorseless slave--whip draws the warm blood of our common humanity--it is meet that we assemble as we have done to-day, and lift up our hearts and voices in earnest denunciation of the vile and shocking abomination.

It is not for us to be governed by our hopes or our fears in this great work; yet it is natural on occasions like this, to survey the position of the great struggle which is going on between slavery and freedom, and to dwell upon such signs of encouragement as may have been lately developed, and the state of feeling these signs or events have occasioned in us and among the people generally.

It is a fitting time to take an observation to ascertain where we are, and what our prospects are.

To many, the prospects of the struggle against slavery seem far from cheering.

Eminent men, North and South, in Church and State, tell us that the omens are all against us.

Emancipation, they tell us, is a wild, delusive idea; the price of human flesh was never higher than now; slavery was never more closely entwined about the hearts and affections of the southern people than now; that whatever of conscientious scruple, religious conviction, or public policy, which opposed the system of slavery forty or fifty years ago, has subsided; and that slavery never reposed upon a firmer basis than now.

Completing this picture of the happy and prosperous condition of this system of wickedness, they tell us that this state of things is to be set to our account. Abolition agitation has done it all.

How deep is the misfortune of my poor, bleeding people, if this be so! How lost their condition, if even the efforts of their friends but sink them deeper in ruin!

Without assenting to this strong representation of the increasing strength and stability of slavery, without denouncing what of untruth pervades it, I own myself not insensible to the many difficulties and discouragement that beset us on every hand. They fling their broad and gloomy shadows across the pathway of every thoughtful colored man in this country.

For one, I see them clearly, and feel them sadly. With an earnest, aching heart, I have long looked for the realization of the hope of my people. Standing, as it were, barefoot, and treading upon the sharp and flinty rocks of the present, and looking out upon the boundless sea of the future, I have sought, in my humble way, to penetrate the intervening mists and clouds, and, perchance, to descry, in the dim and shadowy distance, the white flag of freedom, the precise speck of time at which the cruel bondage of my people should end, and the long entombed millions rise from the foul grave of slavery and death.

But of that time I can know nothing, and you can know nothing. All is uncertain at that point.

One thing, however, is certain; slaveholders are in earnest, and mean to cling to their slaves as long as they can, and to the bitter end.

They show no sign of a wish to quit their iron grasp upon the sable throats of their victims.

Their motto is, "a firmer hold and a tighter grip" for every new effort that is made to break their cruel power.

The case is one of life or death with them, and they will give up only when they must do that or do worse.

In one view the slaveholders have a decided advantage over all opposition.

It is well to notice this advantage--the advantage of complete organization.

They are organized; and yet were not at the pains of creating their organizations.

The State governments, where the system of slavery exists, are complete slavery organizations.

The church organizations in those States are equally at the service of slavery; while the Federal Government, with its army and navy, from the chief magistracy in Washington, to the Supreme Court, and thence to the chief marshalship at New York, is pledged to support, defend, and propagate the crying curse of human bondage.

**The pen, the purse, and the sword, are united against the simple truth, preached by humble men in obscure places.**

This is one view.

It is, thank God, only one view; there is another, and a brighter view.

David, you know, looked small and insignificant when going to meet Goliath, but looked larger when he had slain his foe.

The Malakoff [a fortress in Russia stormed by French soldiers] was, to the eye of the world, impregnable, till the hour it fell before the shot and shell of the allied army.

**Thus hath it ever been.**

**Oppression, organized as ours is, will appear invincible up to the very hour of its fall.**

Sir, let us look at the other side, and see if there are not some things to cheer our heart and nerve us up anew in the good work of emancipation.

**Take this fact--for it is a fact--the anti-slavery movement has, from first to last, suffered no abatement.**

**It has gone forth in all directions, and is now felt in the remotest extremities of the Republic.**

**It started small, and was without capital either in men or money. The odds were all against it.**

**It literally had nothing to lose, and everything to gain.**

There was ignorance to be enlightened, error to be combatted, conscience to be awakened, prejudice to be overcome, apathy to be aroused, the right of speech to be secured, mob violence to be subdued, and a deep, radical change to be wrought in the mind and heart of the whole nation.

This great work, under God, has gone on, and gone on gloriously.

Amid all changes, fluctuations, assaults, and adverses of every kind, it has remained firm in its purpose, steady in its aim, onward and upward, defying all opposition, and never losing a single battle.

Our strength is in the growth of anti-slavery conviction, and this has never halted.

There is a significant vitality about this abolition movement. It has taken a deeper, broader, and more lasting hold upon the national heart than ordinary reform movements. Other subjects of much interest come and go, expand and contract, blaze and vanish, but the huge question of American Slavery, comprehending, as it does, not merely the weal or the woe of four millions, and their countless posterity, but the weal or the woe of this entire nation, must increase in magnitude and in majesty with every hour of its history.

From a cloud not bigger than a man's hand, it has overspread the heavens.

It has risen from a grain not bigger than a mustard seed. Yet see the fowls of the air, how they crowd its branches.

Politicians who cursed it, now defend it; ministers, once dumb, now speak in its praise; and presses, which once flamed with hot denunciations against it, now surround the sacred cause as by a wall of living fire.

Politicians go with it as a pillar of cloud by day, and the press as a pillar of fire by night. With these ancient tokens of success, I, for one, will not despair of our cause.

Those who have undertaken to suppress and crush out this agitation for Liberty and humanity, have been most woefully disappointed.

Many who have engaged to put it down, have found themselves put down.

The agitation has pursued them in all their meanderings, broken in upon their seclusion, and, at the very moment of fancied security, it has settled down upon them like a mantle of unquenchable fire.

Clay, Calhoun, and Webster each tried his hand at suppressing the agitation; and they went to their graves disappointed and defeated.

Loud and exultingly have we been told that the slavery question is settled, and settled forever.

You remember it was settled thirty-seven years ago, when Missouri was admitted into the Union with a slaveholding constitution, and slavery prohibited in all territory north of thirty-six degrees of north latitude.

Just fifteen years afterwards, it was settled again by voting down the right of petition, and gagging down free discussion in Congress.

Ten years after this it was settled again by the annexation of Texas, and with it the war with Mexico.

In 1850 it was again settled. This was called a final settlement. By it slavery was virtually declared to be the equal of Liberty, and should come into the Union on the same terms. By it the right and the power to hunt down men, women, and children, in every part of this country, was conceded to our southern brethren, in order to keep them in the Union.

Four years after this settlement, the whole question was once more settled, and settled by a settlement which unsettled all the former settlements.

**The fact is, the more the question has been settled, the more it has needed settling.**

The space between the different settlements has been strikingly on the decrease.

The first stood longer than any of its successors.

This last settlement must be called the Taney settlement. We are now --the second, ten years--the third, five years--the fourth stood four years --and the fifth has stood the brief space of two years.

This last settlement must be called the Taney settlement.

We are now told, in tones of lofty exultation, that the day is lost all lost and that we might as well give up the struggle. The highest authority has spoken. The voice of the

Supreme Court has gone out over the troubled waves of the National Conscience, saying peace, be still.

This infamous decision of the Slaveholding wing of the Supreme Court maintains that slaves are within the contemplation of the Constitution of the United States, property; that slaves are property in the same sense that horses, sheep, and swine are property; that the old doctrine that slavery is a creature of local law is false; that the right of the slaveholder to his slave does not depend upon the local law, but is secured wherever the Constitution of the United States extends; that Congress has no right to prohibit slavery anywhere; that slavery may go in safety anywhere under the star-spangled banner; that colored persons of African descent have no rights that white men are bound to respect; that colored men of African descent are not and cannot be citizens of the United States.

You will readily ask me how I am affected by this devilish decision--this judicial incarnation of wolfishness?

My answer is, and no thanks to the slaveholding wing of the Supreme Court, my hopes were never brighter than now.

I have no fear that the National Conscience will be put to sleep by such an open, glaring, and scandalous tissue of lies as that decision is, and has been, over and over, shown to be.

The Supreme Court of the United States is not the only power in this world. It is very great, but the Supreme Court of the Almighty is greater.

Judge Taney can do many things, but he cannot perform impossibilities. He cannot bail out the ocean, annihilate the firm old earth, or pluck the silvery star of liberty from our Northern sky. He may decide, and decide again; but he cannot reverse the decision of the Most High. He cannot change the essential nature of things--making evil good, and good evil.

Happily for the whole human family, their rights have been defined, declared, and decided in a court higher than the Supreme Court. "There is a law," says Brougham, "above all the enactments of human codes, and by that law, unchangeable and eternal, man cannot hold property in man."

**Your fathers have said that man's right to liberty is self-evident. There is no need of argument to make it clear. The voices of nature, of conscience, of reason, and of revelation, proclaim it as the right of all rights, the foundation of all trust, and of all responsibility.**

**Man was born with it. It was his before he comprehended it. The deed conveying it to him is written in the center of his soul, and is recorded in Heaven.**

**The sun in the sky is not more palpable to the sight than man's right to liberty is to the moral vision.**

To decide against this right in the person of Dred Scott, or the humblest and most whip-scarred bondman in the land, is to decide against God. It is an open rebellion against God's government. It is an attempt to undo what God has done, to blot out the broad

distinction instituted by the Allwise between men and things, and to change the image and superscription of the everliving God into a speechless piece of merchandise.

Such a decision cannot stand. God will be true though every man be a liar. We can appeal from this hell-black judgment of the Supreme Court, to the court of common sense and common humanity. We can appeal from man to God. If there is no justice on earth, there is yet justice in heaven. You may close your Supreme Court against the black man's cry for justice, but you cannot, thank God, close against him the ear of a sympathizing world, nor shut up the Court of Heaven.

All that is merciful and just, on earth and in Heaven, will execrate and despise this edict of Taney.

If it were at all likely that the people of these free States would tamely submit to this demoniacal judgment, I might feel gloomy and sad over it, and possibly it might be necessary for my people to look for a home in some other country.

But as the case stands, we have nothing to fear.

In one point of view, we, the abolitionists and colored people, should meet this decision, unlooked for and monstrous as it appears, in a cheerful spirit.

This very attempt to blot out forever the hopes of an enslaved people may be one necessary link in the chain of events preparatory to the downfall and complete overthrow of the whole slave system.

The whole history of the anti-slavery movement is studded with proof that all measures devised and executed with a view to ally and diminish the anti-slavery agitation, have only served to increase, intensify, and embolden that agitation.

This wisdom of the crafty has been confounded, and the counsels of the ungodly brought to nought.

It was so with the Fugitive Slave Bill. It was so with the Kansas-Nebraska Bill; and it will be so with this last and most shocking of all pro-slavery devices, this Taney decision.

When great transactions are involved, where the fate of millions is concerned, where a long enslaved and suffering people are to be delivered, I am superstitious enough to believe that the finger of the Almighty may be seen bringing good out of evil, and making the wrath of man redound to his honor, hastening the triumph of righteousness.

The American people have been called upon, in a most striking manner, to abolish and put away forever the system of slavery. The subject has been pressed upon their attention in all earnestness and sincerity.

The cries of the slave have gone forth to the world, and up to the throne of God.

This decision, in my view, is a means of keeping the nation awake on the subject. It is another proof that God does not mean that we shall go to sleep, and forget that we are a slaveholding nation.

Step by step we have seen the slave power advancing; poisoning, corrupting, and perverting the institutions of the country; growing more and more haughty, imperious, and exacting. The white man's liberty has been marked out for the same grave with the black man's.

The ballot box is desecrated, God's law set at nought, armed legislators stalk the halls of Congress, freedom of speech is beaten down in the Senate. The rivers and highways are infested by border ruffians, and white men are made to feel the iron heel of slavery.

This ought to arouse us to kill off the hateful thing. They are solemn warnings to which the white people, as well as the black people, should take heed.

If these shall fail, judgment, more fierce or terrible, may come.

**The lightning, whirlwind, and earthquake may come.**

**Jefferson said that he trembled for his country when he reflected that God is just, and his justice cannot sleep forever.**

**The time may come when even the crushed worm may turn under the tyrant's feet. Goaded by cruelty, stung by a burning sense of wrong, in an awful moment of depression and desperation, the bondman and bondwoman at the south may rush to one wild and deadly struggle for freedom.**

**Already slaveholders go to bed with bowie knives, and apprehend death at their dinners.**

**Those who enslave, rob, and torment their cooks, may well expect to find death in their dinner-pots.**

The world is full of violence and fraud, and it would be strange if the slave, the constant victim of both fraud and violence, should escape the contagion.

He, too, may learn to fight the devil with fire, and for one, I am in no frame of mind to pray that this may be long deferred.

Two remarkable occurrences have followed the presidential election; one was the unaccountable sickness traced to the National Hotel at Washington, and the other was the discovery of a plan among the slaves, in different localities, to slay their oppressors.

Twenty or thirty of the suspected were put to death. Some were shot, some hanged, some burned, and some died under the lash.

One brave man owned himself well acquainted with the conspiracy, but said he would rather die than disclose the facts.

He received seven hundred and fifty lashes, and his noble spirit went away to the God who gave it.



The name of this hero has been by the meanness of tyrants suppressed. Such a man redeems his race. He is worthy to be mentioned with the Hoffers and Tells, the noblest heroes of history.

**These insurrectionary movements have been put down, but they may break out at any time, under the guidance of higher intelligence, and with a more invincible spirit.**

**The fire thus kindled, may be revived again; the flames are extinguished, but the embers remain; one terrible blast may produce an ignition, which shall wrap the whole South in wild conflagration.**

**The pathway of tyrants lies over volcanoes; the very air they breathe is heavy with sorrows; agonizing heart-throbs convulse them while sleeping, and the wind whispers death as over them sweeping.**

**By all the laws of nature, civilization, and of progress, slavery is a doomed system.**

**Not all the skill of politicians, North and South, not all the sophistries of Judges, not all the fulminations of a corrupt press, not all the hypocritical prayers, or the hypocritical refusals to pray of a hollow-hearted priesthood, not all the devices of sin and Satan, can save the vile thing from extermination.**

**MORE:**

## **"Marching Song of the First Arkansas Colored Regiment"**

**[1864]**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DwSZgLLqPy8>**

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**Cops Lie Under Oath So Often  
They Even Have A Nickname For  
The Practice:**

**“Behind Closed Doors, We Call It  
Testilying”**

**“Police Lying Is As Old As Policing Itself.  
It Will Not Disappear Without The**

# Sustained Intervention Of Outside Forces”

[Thanks to Eddie Stinson, AmeriConscience, for posting

March 27, 2018 By Kali Holloway / AlterNet

**Police officers lie under oath in court so often that they’ve even given the practice a nickname. “Behind closed doors, we call it testilying,” New York City police officer Pedro Serrano told the New York Times.**

“You take the truth and stretch it out a little bit.”

The term, the Times notes, came into common usage among cops about 25 years ago, but the issue of police perjury is far older, a problem African Americans have complained of for many decades. In rare instances, those with intimate knowledge have publicly acknowledged not only how rampant testilying is, but also how rarely cops caught in the act face consequences.

“Every lawyer who practices in the criminal courts knows that police perjury is commonplace,” former New York State criminal court judge, U.S. attorney and NYU law professor Irving Younger wrote in the Nation in 1967.

“Policemen see themselves as fighting a two-front war—against criminals in the street and against ‘liberal’ rules of law in court. All’s fair in this war, including the use of perjury to subvert ‘liberal’ rules of law that might free those who ‘ought’ to be jailed.

And even if his lies are exposed in the courtroom, the policeman is as likely to be indicted for perjury by his co-worker, the prosecutor, as he is to be struck down by thunderbolts from an avenging heaven.”

More than 50 years after Younger’s broadside, a newly released Times study has turned up more than two-dozen instances of police lying in court since January 2015—and these confirmed cases “are almost certainly only a fraction” of the real total.

The ubiquity of plea deals, which effectively halts cases before they’re weighed by a court, means “the possibility that an officer lied is seldom aired in public.” Even when false police testimony comes to public light, court papers are generally sealed and an officer’s misdeed protected from scrutiny. “(T)he cases identified by The Times reveal an entrenched perjury problem several decades in the making that shows little sign of fading,” the report notes.

The apparent goal of most perjurious officers in cases examined by the Times was to cover up unlawful searches, undertaken without reasonable suspicion and in violation of suspects’ constitutionally guaranteed rights.

Predictably, the analysis also found numerous lies that “appear aimed at convicting people—who may or may not have committed a crime—with trumped-up evidence.”

Those goals are underwritten by demands from police higher-ups to meet ever-increasing arrest quotas, an open secret of law enforcement. The Times also cites the general pressure officers face to identify suspects and close cases for purposes ranging from public relations to politics.

**In one case cited by the Times, Bronx police officer Sean Kinane lied about watching drug dealers conduct street deals just before he swooped in to make an arrest. When a suspect's lawyer made it known there was video of the incident, Kinane recanted, stating only that he "misspoke when (he) was in grand jury," without further explanation.**

The officer has since been elevated to a new position within the force.

**In another example, plainclothes officer Christopher Thomas testified he'd seen a man attempt to hide a gun in his car as the officer approached the vehicle. That turned out to be a falsehood, which Thomas quickly retracted when made aware of the existence of video footage.**

**Now a "sergeant in a narcotics unit," Thomas later "stated to the A.D.A. that he did not know why he had testified to those facts before the grand jury" according to an email from prosecutors.**

Some officers seem to have lied not to cover up their disregard for a suspect's constitutionally granted rights, but for more petty and vainglorious reasons.

**Dornezia Agard, a plainclothes Brooklyn officer, claimed in court that as she approached a man, he knelt behind a parked van and threw down a "hard metal object" that turned out to be a gun. Prosecutors later discovered Agard hadn't even been among the first law enforcement arrivals to the scene.**

**"The prosecutors did not address why Officer Agard claimed to be a witness," the Times notes, "or why the other officers present seem to have allowed her to process the arrest."**

### **"Police Lying Is As Old As Policing Itself, And Like All Culturally Ingrained Customs, It Will Not Disappear Without The Sustained Intervention Of Outside Forces"**

The report isn't the first to feature the NYPD as a case-in-point for questions around officer trustworthiness. A 2015 WYNC examination of more than 1,000 civil and criminal court records found "more than 120 officers with at least one documented credibility issue over the past 10 years." Almost none of the officers faced anything beyond the mildest of penalties for their misconduct, and "at least 54 went on to make more than 2,700 arrests after the date their word was challenged."

The pattern is just a sliver of the mountain of evidence indicating a culture of corruption in New York policing. Earlier this month, a BuzzFeed News report found between 2011-2015, nearly 320 NYPD employees "who committed offenses serious enough to merit firing were allowed to keep their jobs."

Nearly 50 of those "lied on official reports, under oath, or during an internal affairs investigation."

But it would be naive to pretend the NYPD is the only department where perjury appears commonplace.

The Baltimore police scandal has revealed widespread wrongdoing within the city's Gun Trace Task Force, including police theft of "more than \$300,000, at least three kilos of cocaine, 43 pounds of marijuana, 800 grams of heroin and hundreds of thousands of dollars in watches from suspected drug dealers and civilians," according to the Washington Post.

**(Among the most sinister revelations was that some cops, on advice from team sergeant Wayne Jenkins, drove around with fake guns in their possession to plant on unarmed suspects they shot.)**

The Baltimore Sun described the case as "evidence (of a) dysfunctional police department in which officers confidently lied in official paperwork and in court to cover their tracks without fear of repercussions."

Following a judicial order demanding its release, newly elected Philadelphia district attorney Larry Krasner recently made public a cheat sheet listing 66 current and former police officers whose well-established track records of falsehoods made them unreliable witnesses.

The inventory was a hand-me-down from the office of outgoing district attorney Seth Williams. "The former aides who drew up the list saw it as an in-house reference sheet for frontline prosecutors to consult as they went over lists of potential police witnesses for cases," per the Philly Inquirer. "It ultimately was seen as a tool to eliminate testimony from officers who might lie on the witness stand."

A pattern of police lies and corruption was confirmed by a 2016 Chicago Tribune investigation that turned up numerous examples of "police officers shading the truth in subtle ways or outright lying from the witness stand." The Tribune found:

"...more than a dozen examples over the past few years in which police officers, according to judges, gave false or questionable testimony—but experienced few, if any, repercussions. Over four years, from February 2012 to February 2016, 11 Chicago police officers had disciplinary charges brought against them for writing a false report or making a false statement. None of the cases, though, was for false testimony in court, according to police disciplinary records."

Police lying is as old as policing itself, and like all culturally ingrained customs, it will not disappear without the sustained intervention of outside forces.

That is especially true in law enforcement, an institution governed by its own insular codes of silence, conduct and reprisal for speaking out. The U.S. government has never been deeply invested in seeing justice done, but the Obama administration had begun taking the most tentative of steps in the right direction by investigating abuses of major police departments around the country. But in his first speech after taking office last

year, Attorney General Jeff Sessions promised to halt those reviews, just one aspect of his Justice Department's complete lack of interest in protecting civil rights, particularly those of marginalized people.

The decision was inspired by the same tired, "few rotten apples" excuse that brands most of the current DOJ's policies toward policing. "Law enforcement, as a whole, has been unfairly maligned and blamed for the unacceptable actions of a few of their bad actors," Sessions stated, ignoring the data and numbers on police abuse that had prescribed the investigations in the first place. "They felt they have become targets. Morale has suffered."

Elsewhere, as silver linings go, among the few upsides of the ubiquity of cameras in the pockets of unwitting citizen journalists and on cops' bodies is that police lies have been revealed in many cases where they would otherwise have gone unquestioned. But what good is all that footage if it fails to result in punishment for lying and otherwise corrupt cops, as we've seen with countless videos documenting egregious police abuses and murder that juries have seemingly ignored?

The counterintuitive result of so much surveillance is that even if the country, not to mention the internet, is watching, it rarely matters where justice is concerned. The refusal of juries to convict or even indict cops in the face of the most damning evidence only reinforces, particularly for folks of color, the demoralizing fact that police have endless system accessories for remaining above the law. That message basically adds up to a national carte blanche for cops to do as they wish without repercussions.

**One anonymous 10-year veteran of the NYPD told the Times as much. "There's no fear of being caught," he said. "You're not going to go to trial and nobody is going to be cross-examined."**



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "What ever happened to liberty and justice for all?"]

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

# **Journalists Pay A Rare Visit To A Taliban Stronghold**

04/07/18 ToloNews

In a rare move, the Taliban last week invited the media to visit a Taliban-controlled village in Kunduz province, that had been targeted in airstrike by the Afghan air force earlier in the week.

The call was made by Zabihullah Mujahid, a spokesman for the Taliban.

Mujahid said the media was welcome to visit the village and the madrassa that had been targeted and to speak to the locals.

This was the first time the media had been invited, as a group, into a Taliban-controlled area and assured of their safety. TOLONews journalist Karim Amini and cameraman Wahid Ahmadi accepted the invitation.

Amini in turn gives an account of the visit.

“After Monday’s air strike, I was sent to Kunduz to find out the real story.

Government said a Taliban gathering had been targeted but residents and the Taliban rejected these claims and said a graduation ceremony at the madrassa in Daftani had been bombed.

Days after the incident, security forces and local officials in Kunduz were still not releasing details to the media.

So when Mujahid invited journalists to visit, myself and a number of other reporters sent a message to him and said we would like to visit the area. In response, Mujahid agreed and said the group would have full access to the area and our safety would be ensured.

Saboor Ghafoori, the head of TOLONews’ provincial desk phoned me and said he had spoken to Mujahid. ‘I have talked with Mujahid and you can go to the area because the initial figures were conflicting and we should see what has happened there,’ he told me.

My managers suggested we discuss the issue among us journalists and if we all agree then we should take up the Taliban’s offer.

And so it was tentatively decided we would visit Daftani.

I contacted Mujahid once again. He reiterated the group's promise that we would be safe in areas under their control.

'I have contacted Mujahideen and they are aware about the issue. Go there...!' he said.

We were then given the phone number of a person to contact. Mujahid said he would be our escort.

Another discussion was held among us journalists. We were all afraid. We also were not sure we could trust the Taliban.

In addition we were not sure we could trust government forces in areas under Taliban control.

One senior security official told us on the phone that 'we cannot ensure your safety and neither can we advise you to go or not (to go)'.

Again the group of us discussed the visit but some journalists were opposed to us going, arguing that there are different factions within the Taliban, any one could pose a threat.

In the end – despite all these warnings – by colleagues and officials – I set out on the journey along with my colleague, Wahid Ahmadi, our cameraman, and reporters from Ariana News, Pajhwok and Kelid Group.

There were seven of us and from Kunduz city we drove about 20kms to Dasht-e-Archi district.

Along the way we came across a group of angry protesters in Dasht-e-Abdan area.

The protesters were heading towards the Kunduz governor's office and were chanting anti-government slogans. Some were riding motorcycles.

After finding out we were journalists they agreed to speak to us on camera.

Unfortunately we could not stay to cover the protest, which reportedly turned violent. Some of the protestors were allegedly wounded when government forces opened fire on them.

These protestors were also prevented from entering Kunduz city and only 20 tribal elders were allowed in to see the governor.

After leaving the protestors we continued our journey on the two-lane paved highway that runs from Kunduz city to Sher Khan Port. After about one hour we turned off the highway on to a dirt road.

Our small convoy of two vehicles turned right off the highway close to Sher Khan Port. A short stretch was paved but it was deserted except for a few motorcyclists who said they were on their way to join the protestors.

We were all afraid but no one showed their fear and instead we cracked jokes and sang songs in the car.

Taliban-controlled territory started at the end of the paved road and from there onwards many houses were deserted. Clear signs of war, destruction and deprivation were visible.

We drove along the dirt road for at least 40 to 45 minutes until we met up with Haroon, our escort, close to Daftani village. He had parked his car in the middle of the road, while waiting for us. Haroon was overweight and of medium height. He wore a black turban and had a grey beard. He was armed.

With him were his two bodyguards, who were also armed. Their faces were completely covered, except for their kohl-outlined eyes.

Haroon greeted us warmly, but his bodyguards were not that friendly. He said he was the head of media and information for the Taliban in Dasht-e-Archi.

After greeting us, he asked who our leader was. I introduced Pajhwok reporter Ajmal Kakar to him because he could speak Pashto well. He took Kakar with him in a car and we followed them in another. Haroon was in a Toyota RunX, equipped with air conditioner, and loaded with water and energy drinks.

Not long after, we arrived in Daftani's market center – a dusty, open area, with a few Taliban flags flying overhead.

There were at least 50 shops and many private clinics. Interestingly though were the number of female doctors and midwives who had private offices – their names on signboards outside their clinics.

After leaving the market we drove down a lane, lined with trees. Another car was waiting for us. A tall man, with a black turban and black beard got out of the vehicle – along with his two bodyguards.

He told us: 'If you have come (here) to spy, go back, but if you are here for the people and exploring the realities, our friends will escort you everywhere you want to go. Go and talk with the people.'

After he stopped talking, one of his bodyguards asked him to leave and said: 'Mawlawi Sahib, it is not good to be here (longer)'. They then got in their car and drove off.

I later learned that he was Mawlawi Shakir, the shadow deputy governor of Taliban for Kunduz province, who has been reported dead on a number of occasions.

Mid-day prayers had just finished when we arrived at Hashimiya Omariya Dar-ul-Ulum, the madrassa which had been targeted.

However, the buildings did not appear to have been damaged, except for windows that had been broken.

Within minutes however, we were surrounded by locals. We were invited into a room by Haroon, who was accompanying us, and we were joined by locals who started talking to us.



Everyone had a story! Some showed us pictures of their children while others showed videos taken minutes after the airstrike.

While speaking to the locals, we were served food. Ten large pots of cooked rice stood in the madrassa's courtyard. Once we had finished our lunch, I told them we need to start our work.

In the madrassa's courtyard we found piles of blood-soaked turbans, shawls and prayer caps. These had all belonged to the victims of Monday's airstrike, the locals said.

Adjacent to the madrassa was an open area, where the gathering had been held – the one targeted by two Afghan air force helicopters, the residents said.

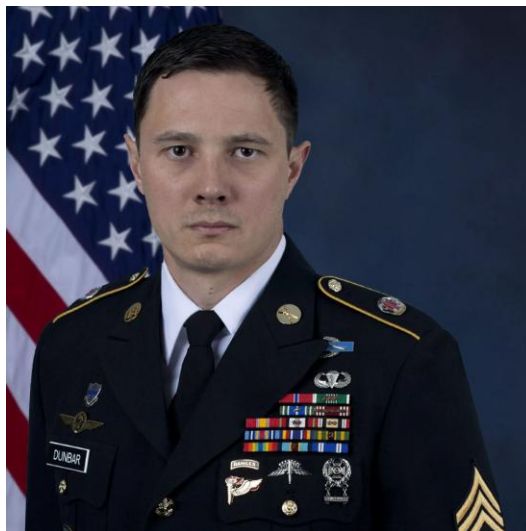
Four missiles were fired off – one on the gathering of people, one on a school, one on the wall of a house and the other on the roof of a house, residents told us adding that the missile that targeted the gathering hit the people in the back rows of the ceremony.

Once we wrapped up our stories – which took about three hours - Haroon escorted us half way back to the paved road. Before waving us off he said we need not worry, we would be safe but that if we were stopped we should just mention his name.”

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## **SYRIA WAR REPORTS**

### **Childhood Friend Remembers Fallen Austin Soldier Master Sgt. Jonathan Dunbar**



Master Sgt. Jonathan Dunbar. USA Today

April 2, 2018 by Pattrik Perez, WVUE

AUSTIN -- "Smart," "bright" and "positive" are just a sample of the words a childhood friend used to describe the Austin soldier killed in the line of duty Friday.

Master Sgt. Jonathan Dunbar, 36, died from his injuries in Syria on March 30 when a roadside bomb exploded.

"I didn't want to believe it at first," Steven Rogers, a childhood friend of Dunbar, told KVUE.

The two of them met in 1996 at John B. Connally High School when Rogers was a freshman and Dunbar was a sophomore.

"He was too young to go. He had a lot going for himself. He had a loving family," Rogers said.

About five years after graduating from Connally, Dunbar joined the military.

"I think when I first remember him telling me he was going to join the Army, I wasn't really surprised. I always knew that Jon was going to be somebody," Rogers said. "He was always reaching for the stars."

And it's those words Rogers has tried to live by.

"From the moment he told me to 'always reach for the stars and do your best,' I've always kept that with me. I took that with me throughout growing up," he said.

He said he's thankful he got to see Dunbar when he visited Austin in January.

"He was just happy to see everybody. He was just happy to see all of his friends that he grew up with," Rogers said.

But Rogers said he had no idea that would be the last time he would see his childhood friend.

"I actually was honored and I was happy that I got a chance to see him before his tragic loss," he said. "I just wish he was still here. I wish I could have a chance to see him again." Another friend of Dunbar tells KVUE there's a memorial being planned for his friends and family in Austin, but a date and time have yet to be decided.

Dunbar is survived by his wife and children.

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**



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

“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

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

Frederick Douglass, 1852

It is a two class world and the wrong class is running it.  
-- Larry Christensen, Soldiers Of Solidarity & United Auto Workers

**“The Struggle Against The Fall In  
Relative Wages Means Also A  
Struggle Against The Commodity  
Character Of Labor-Power, I.E.  
Against Capitalist Production As A  
Whole”**

**“The Struggle Against A Decline In  
Relative Wages Is A Revolutionary,**

# **Subversive Initiative Against The Existence Of This Economy, It Is The Socialist Movement Of The Proletariat”**

**“This Explains The Sympathies Of The  
Capitalist Class For Trade Unions At  
Least In So Far As Trade Unions Allow  
Themselves Be Opposed To Socialism”**

From: Rosa Luxemburg; Introduction To Political Economy; Ms. 1909-1910 [Excerpt]

In the wage system there are no legal or customary determinations of the share of the worker in his product, not even arbitrary and forcible ones.

**This share is determined by the degree of productivity of labor at the time, by the level of technology; it is not the caprice of the exploiter but the progress of technology that steadily and relentlessly reduces the share of the worker.**

**It is then a completely invisible power, a simple mechanical effect of competition and commodity production, that seizes from the worker an ever greater portion of his product and leaves him an ever smaller one, a power that has its effects silently and unnoticeably behind the back of the workers, and against which no struggle is therefore possible.**

**The personal role of the exploiter is still visible, whenever it is a question of the absolute wage, i.e. the actual standard of living.**

**A reduction in wages that brings about a suppression of the actual living standard of the workers is a visible attack by the capitalists on the workers, and it is generally countered by immediate struggle when trade unions exist, in favorable cases even successfully.**

**The fall in relative wages, in contrast to this, seemingly occurs without the least personal participation of the capitalist, and within the wage system, i.e. on the basis of commodity production, the workers have no possibility of struggle and defence against it.**

**Workers cannot struggle against technical advances in production, against inventions, the introduction of machinery, against steam and electricity, against improvements in means of communication.**

**The effect of all these advances on the relative wage of the workers thus follows quite mechanically from commodity production and the commodity character of labor-power.**

This is why even the most powerful trade unions are quite impotent against this tendency to a rapid fall in relative wages.

The struggle against the fall in relative wages accordingly means also a struggle against the commodity character of labor-power, i.e. against capitalist production as a whole.

The struggle against a decline in relative wages is thus no longer a struggle on the basis of the commodity economy, but rather a revolutionary, subversive initiative against the existence of this economy, it is the socialist movement of the proletariat:

**This explains the sympathies of the capitalist class for trade unions, which they originally fought furiously against, once the socialist struggle has begun ---- at least in so far as trade unions allow themselves be opposed to socialism.**

In France, all struggles of the workers to obtain the right of combination were in vain until the 1870s, and trade unions were pursued with draconian penalties.

**Soon after, however, once the Commune uprising had put the whole bourgeoisie into a mad fear of the red specter, a sudden sharp transformation in public opinion began.**

**The personal organ of President (Leon) Gambetta, *La Republique francaise*, and the whole ruling party of "satisfied republicans;" began to praise the trade-union movement, even to propagate it eagerly.**

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## **The Haschish: "Poems Against Slavery"**

by John Greenleaf Whittier, 1854

Of all that Orient lands can vaunt  
Of marvels with our own competing,  
The strangest is the Haschish plant,  
And what will follow on its eating.

What pictures to the taster rise,  
Of Dervish or of Almeh dances!  
Of Eblis, or of Paradise,  
Set all aglow with Houri glances !

The poppy visions of Cathay,  
The heavy beer-trance of the Suabian;  
The wizard lights and demon play

Of nights Walpurgis and Arabian!

The Mollah and the Christian dog  
Change place in mad metempsychosis;  
The Muezzin climbs the synagogue,  
The Rabbi shakes his beard at Moses.

The Arab by his desert well  
Sits choosing from some Caliph's daughters,  
And hears his single camel's bell  
Sound welcome to his regal quarters.

The Koran's reader makes complaint  
Of Shitan dancing on and off it;  
The robber offers alms, the saint  
Drinks Tokay and blasphemes the Prophet.

Such scenes that Eastern plant awakes;  
But we have one ordained to beat it,  
The Haschish of the West, which makes  
Or fools or knaves of all who eat it.

The preacher eats, and straight appears  
His Bible in a new translation;  
Its angels negro overseers,  
And Heaven itself a snug plantation !

The man of peace, about whose dreams  
The sweet millennial angels cluster,  
Tastes the mad weed, and plots and schemes,  
A raving Cuban filibuster!

The noisiest Democrat, with ease  
It turns to Slavery's parish beadle;  
The shrewdest statesman eats and sees  
Due southward point the polar needle.

The Judge partakes, and sits erelong  
Upon his bench a railing blackguard;  
Decides off-hand that right is wrong,  
And reads the ten commandments backward.

O potent plant! so rare a taste  
Has never Turk or Gentoo gotten'  
The hempen Haschish of the East  
Is powerless to our Western Cotton.

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**RECEIVED FROM READERS**

# Memory Time

From: Ralph R  
To: Military Resistance Newsletter  
Subject: Memory Time  
Date: Apr 7, 2018 12:49 PM

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ll1hNMhdmpk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2tfDf8cYs08>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2OPvWFDzDIA>

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## DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



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## OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**Palestinian Journalist In Vest Marked  
'PRESS' Killed By Zionist Troops**

APRIL 7, 2018 by Nidal al-Mughrabi, Reuters. Additional reporting by Alissa de Carbonnel in Brussels and Sarah White in Paris; Writing by Maayan Lubell; Editing by Janet Lawrence

GAZA - A Palestinian journalist died on Saturday after being wounded by Israeli fire on Friday while covering deadly protests along the Israel-Gaza border, health officials said.

Yaser Murtaja, 30, a cameraman for Palestinian Ain Media, was the 29th Palestinian killed in the week-long protests.

Photos showed Murtaja lying wounded on a stretcher wearing a navy-blue protective vest marked 'PRESS' in large black capital letters. Health officials said a live bullet had penetrated the side of his abdomen and he succumbed to his wounds in hospital.



Yaser Murtaja was killed while covering protests on the Gaza border on Friday. CREDIT: REUTERS/IBRAHEEM ABU MUSTAFA

A statement from the Israeli military said: “The IDF (Israel Defence Forces) does not intentionally target journalists. The circumstances in which journalists were allegedly hit by IDF fire are not familiar to the IDF and are being looked into.”

The daily protests, dubbed “The Great March of Return”, began on March 30 along the Israel-Gaza frontier, reviving a longstanding demand for the right of return of Palestinian refugees to towns and villages from which their families fled, or were driven out, when the state of Israel was created.

Israel has stationed sharpshooters to stop attempts by Palestinians to breach the border or sabotage the security fence.

**Freelance photographer Ashraf Abu Amra told Reuters he was next to Murtaja, whom he said was wearing a helmet and protective vest. Abu Amra said they were both clearly marked as journalists.**



**“We were filming as youths torched tyres. We were about 250 meters from the fence,” said Abu Amra. “Israeli forces opened fire and injuries began. Yaser and I ran to film when suddenly Yaser fell to the ground.**

“I screamed to him ‘Yaser are you alright?’. He didn’t respond and there was blood on the ground underneath him. I knew it was a bad injury and people carried him away,” said Abu Amra.

Video footage showed Murtaja being carried to an ambulance with crowds around and black smoke rising from where protesters had set tyres alight, east of Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip.

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) Secretary-General Christophe Deloire condemned what the group described as Israel’s disproportionate response and called for an independent investigation into the incident.

Murtaja was married with a two-year-old son. Hundreds of mourners, among them many journalists, attended his funeral on Saturday.

His body was covered with a Palestinian flag and his press jacket laid beside him on the stretcher as it was carried through the streets of Gaza City to his home for a last farewell.

“I made him breakfast, he ate quickly, he was in a hurry to go to work,” said Murtaja’s mother, Yusra, recounting the morning of the protest.

“I thought he would recover from his injury, I didn’t expect his death, but God has chosen him as a martyr, thank God,” she said, sitting on the ground as mourners came to the house to pay their respects.

Israel Radio, citing an unnamed source in Gaza, said Murtaja had been operating a camera drone on Friday. Abu Amra and two other Palestinian journalists said Murtaja was not operating a camera drone when shot.

Murtaja, on his Facebook page, had posted two aerial photos taken at the border in the past week. It was unclear if he had taken them himself.

At least three other journalists were wounded on Friday in other locations, Gaza officials said. There have been no Israeli casualties in the protests.

Israel’s response to the protests has drawn international criticism, with human rights groups saying it involved live fire against demonstrators posing no immediate threat to life.

The European Union in a statement said the killings raised serious questions about the use of force. It added reports by Israel of stones and fire-bombs being thrown along with attempts to cross the fence into Israel “must also be clarified.”

Israel says it has been warning Gazans for weeks not to approach the border fence.

Hamas, the Islamist group that runs Gaza, says the protests demanding the right of return of refugees will continue.

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."

## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**



### **YOUR INVITATION:**

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Military Resistance Newsletter, P.O Box 2604, N.Y., N.Y. 10108 or email [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

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