

Military Resistance 16D5



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "You get paid by the day, Right?"]

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

“The Military’s Assessments Are Overly Optimistic And Not Fully Representative Of The Security Conditions In Afghanistan”
“Military Data Reveals More Taliban Control”

April 13, 2018 by BILL ROGGIO & ALEXANDRA GUTOWSKI, Long War Journal

For the first time, the military has released district-level assessments of control in Afghanistan.

FDD’s Long War Journal has consistently advocated for greater transparency on the situation on the ground.

The Taliban currently controls 38 districts, contests 150, and claims to control two more. This accounts for 46.5 percent of Afghanistan's 407 districts.

In an effort to accurately describe the Taliban's strength and disposition, we developed an open-source assessment of each district in Afghanistan, resulting in a publicly-available interactive map.

NATO's Afghan Resolute Support mission, on the other hand, would only release a country-wide percentage of districts controlled and contested by the Taliban.

In its most recent quarterly report, the Afghanistan watchdog the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) was finally able to release the military's detailed assessment, allowing for a direct comparison with our data.

The data has mostly confirmed our open-source assessments, but has also offered new insights, particularly on Taliban controlled districts with limited press access.

Direct comparison. SIGAR's initial release of Resolute Support's assessments, starting in 2015, only included country-wide statistics. Based on our district level assessments, we could roughly compare our totals with the military's high-level assessment. Now, we can directly compare our assessments district-by-district with the military's.

Similar results. Previously, our totals were within five percent of the military's nation-wide aggregate. The newly released district-level information allowed us to assess some districts we have previously missed due to a lack of information. In total, we assess that the Taliban controls 38 districts and contests an additional 150. The largest change from our previous release resulted from resolving unconfirmed Taliban claims with the military's data (see below.)

Different classification system: Resolute Support (RS) has five classifications for a district: Government Controlled; Government Influenced; Contested; Insurgent Contested; and Insurgent Controlled. LWJ has only three classifications: Government Controlled; Contested; Insurgent Controlled. LWJ developed this classification system for two reasons. First, it is very difficult to assess Control vs Influence based on press reports and other open source information.

Second, we believe the "influence" distinction is somewhat meaningless. Whether the government controls 70 percent or 30 percent of a district, the government is still unable to fully secure and administer to the population and faces a challenge from the Taliban in these realms; we therefore classify these districts as contested.

Minor divergences. As expected, much of the difference between RS/SIGAR and LWJ data stems from our separate classification systems.

As we have noted in the past, we believe the military's assessments are overly optimistic and not fully representative of the security conditions in Afghanistan. In some cases, where the military assessed a district as Government Influenced, we believe the assessment is flawed.

For example, in Shib Koh, Farah, the Taliban overran the district center in Oct. 2017, looting and torching government buildings. Afghan forces reportedly retook the center

shortly thereafter, but reports from Afghanistan describe the district as “insecure” and state that the Taliban routinely attacks military outposts. Resolute Support assesses that the district is government controlled, but we assess it as contested.

Resolving Taliban claims without verification. In previous releases of our in-house mapped assessment, we classified up to 24 districts as “Unconfirmable Taliban claim”These are districts in which the Taliban claims control, but we were unable to find any further open source information that would confirm or dispute that assertion. In many cases, press reporting decreases dramatically due to the adverse security conditions, so it is often difficult to corroborate the Taliban’s claims of control.

Now, Resolute Support’s data has allowed us to match unverified Taliban claims of controlled or contested districts. In most cases, the military’s assessment confirmed that the Taliban does in fact control or contest a given district. There are, however, two cases in which the Taliban and the military both claim control: Shib Koh, Farah and Karjan, Daykundi.

Military data reveals more Taliban control. As we have previously stated, we are aware that our attempts to assess the status of districts based on open source information is a challenging enterprise, to put it mildly. Many districts in Afghanistan exist in a media black hole. Surprisingly, RS has identified some districts as Taliban controlled which we have been unable to assess due to lack of information. Given that a negative assessment does not help the military’s efforts to promote the progress made in the war, we accept these assessments and display them as controlled.

The Long War Journal will continue to monitor the security environment in Afghanistan and regularly produce updated maps and assessments. We will compare our assessment to the military’s whenever their information is released.

Sticky Bomb Destroys Tanker Near U.S. Base

April 12, 2018 By ASSOCIATED PRESS

KABUL, Afghanistan — A district governor in Afghanistan’s Parwan province says a sticky bomb has destroyed an oil tanker outside the Bagram military base north of the Afghan capital Kabul. U.S. forces are stationed at Bagram.

Bagram District Gov. Abdul Shukoor Qudusi says the driver was wounded in the explosion late Wednesday night, which set several shops in the area on fire.

There were no injuries at the base, which is heavily fortified. No one has yet taken responsibility for the bombing.

Regional Leaders Defying Afghanistan's President: "The Situation Is Worsening Day By Day" "If We Fight 50 Years More, We Will Need Peace Then Also. We Need Peace Right Now"

04/11/18 LA Times

In early January, Abdul Raziq, the powerful police chief of Kandahar, issued a direct challenge to Afghan President Ashraf Ghani. Speaking to reporters, Raziq said Ghani's government "cannot fire me."

It was a typical show of strength by Raziq, a onetime favorite of U.S.-led coalition forces who rose to prominence because of his zeal in fighting Taliban insurgents. A survivor of multiple assassination attempts, he brought relative calm to his volatile southern province while dismissing accusations of torture and other human rights abuses.

But Raziq's statement also highlighted the fault lines that have weakened Ghani's Western-backed government.

Until recently, Ghani was locked in a months-long dispute with an influential northern governor who refused to step down after Ghani fired him in December. The ousted governor, Atta Mohammad Noor of Balkh province, finally agreed to hand over power to a close ally in March.

Ghani has also refused to allow his vice president, Abdul Rashid Dostum, to return to Afghanistan from Turkey, where he fled amid charges that he and his aides kidnapped and sexually assaulted a rival. Both Noor and Dostum belong to a political coalition that accuses Ghani of favoring his own ethnicity, the Pashtuns, over minorities.

Raziq, a Pashtun, expressed support for Noor shortly before the former governor resigned. In an interview in March, Raziq tried to play down a rift with Ghani but again signaled that he would not accept dismissal by the president.

"I just said that if Kandahar people decide I will stay, I will stay," Raziq said. "And if they decide I will go, I will go."

But Ali Mohammad Sabawoon, a researcher at the Kabul-based Afghanistan Analysts Network, said there are unconfirmed reports that Ghani has already signed Raziq's resignation letter.

The police chief spoke inside his heavily guarded compound in the center of Kandahar, capital of the eponymous province that was the birthplace of the Taliban. The compound once belonged to the Taliban's late, one-eyed leader, Mullah Mohammed Omar.

Visitors were searched several times, with a photographer's microphone given particularly thorough scrutiny — recently, a bomber posing as a journalist was stopped trying to enter one of Raziq's news conferences with a bomb hidden inside a microphone.

Raziq's statements in January came after Noor indicated that the police chief could be next on the list of strongmen targeted in Ghani's effort to clean up the government and remove controversial figures from top posts. Raziq's human rights record has long made him a liability for Ghani and his U.S. backers, but experts say that removing him could prove counterproductive, at least in the short term.

"The security situation would worsen," Sabawoon said. "Generally speaking, he has maintained very good security."

Raziq sharply criticized Ghani's handling of security, echoing concerns expressed by Noor's Jamiat-i-Islami party, which has emerged as the president's greatest rival.

The U.S.-trained Afghan army and police force have struggled to keep the Taliban at bay. According to a recent Pentagon inspector general's report, only 64% of the Afghan population lived in areas controlled by the Afghan government, down from 80% in September 2013, the year before Ghani took office.

"The situation is worsening day by day," Raziq said. "You can judge the situation. People are (distancing themselves from) the government, they don't have any unity, and there is no understanding among the government (officials)."

Raziq said Noor was one of the few leaders who have succeeded against the insurgency, and credited him with securing Balkh's provincial capital, Mazar-i-Sharif.

"It's not a good situation to remove him from that place," Raziq said.

The youthful looking Raziq, who is believed to be in his late 30s, was a close ally of former President Hamid Karzai, whose ethnic Pashtun roots are in southern Afghanistan, in contrast to Ghani, whose tribal roots are in the Pashtun east. Karzai, who still holds more sway in the south than Ghani, ensured Raziq stayed in power despite Western efforts to have him investigated in the torture and deaths of prisoners.

"I was very familiar with (Karzai)," Raziq said. "It's a different kind of a relationship with them both."

But Raziq said he doesn't believe he is making political statements and doesn't belong to any party. He said he is only interested in security — which is one reason, he went on, that he has engaged in informal discussions with local Taliban leaders for the last two years.

The talks, which he said focus on maintaining peace in the area, take place via video link from Raziq's living quarters, he said. Scared of the fate of former President Burhanuddin

Rabbani, who was in charge of the government's peace efforts until he was killed by a bomb hidden inside a Taliban envoy's turban in 2011, Raziq said he never meets with Taliban members face to face.

He was skeptical of Ghani's recent offer of amnesty to the Taliban, in exchange for the militants laying down their weapons and recognizing the Afghan government, saying it carried too many conditions for militants to accept. He also said the High Peace Council, the government body tasked with negotiating with insurgents, did not have adequate representation from southern Afghanistan.

"Ninety to 95% of the Taliban belong to the south — their leadership and their manpower," he said. "But if you see the peace council, there isn't a single person from the south. The present and previous governments are just proceeding with the same policy."

United Nations investigators found credible allegations that under Raziq's watch, Afghan detainees in Kandahar were suffocated, administered electric shocks and had their stomachs pumped with water. Many of the prisoners died in custody. Human Rights Watch has called Raziq "Kandahar's torturer-in-chief."

When Ghani made his first official visit to Kandahar in 2015, Raziq left town and did not meet him.

He said it would be better if Afghanistan's Western backers — which the Trump administration said "strongly support the path to peace" laid out by Ghani — bypassed the peace council and communicated directly with political leaders in the south.

"Then they can get a positive result," he said. "If we fight 50 years more, we will need peace then also. We need peace right now."

POLICE WAR REPORTS: LEST WE FORGET

Officer Inside Patrol Car Fatally Shoots Unarmed Man: Guilty Of "Walking With A Purpose"

June 10, 2015 by MacKenzie Elmer, Des Moines Register

A Des Moines police officer fired her service weapon through the rolled-up window of her patrol car on Tuesday night, fatally shooting an unarmed man said to be charging at her car, according to police.

Ryan Keith Bolinger, 28, of West Des Moines, died at the scene from a single gunshot to the torso. Police and witnesses said he led two officers on a slow chase through northwestern Des Moines Tuesday evening that ended with Bolinger exiting his vehicle and coming toward the squad car.

“He was walking with a purpose,” Sgt. Jason Halifax of Des Moines Police said following a press conference Wednesday on the shooting.

Senior Police Officer Vanessa Miller, a seven-year veteran, fired the round that killed Bolinger. Miller was assisting Senior Police Officer Ian Lawler, also a seven-year veteran, in the pursuit of Bolinger’s vehicle after a bizarre confrontation involving an unrelated vehicle stop that Bolinger interrupted.

Both officers are on administrative leave until the investigation, is completed, per the department policy. The Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation will assist in the investigation.

Halifax said he expects a grand jury ultimately will evaluate the case, though the department is also conducting its own internal investigation. Both Miller and Bolinger are white.

Lawler’s squad car was parked off the southbound lane of Merle Hay Road near Aurora Avenue after he pulled over a different driver at 10:07 p.m., Halifax said.

About 10 minutes later, Bolinger pulled up in a 2000 Lincoln Sedan alongside Lawler in his patrol car — so close that the officer couldn’t open his door. Bolinger got out and started acting “erratically,” Halifax said.

“It’s been described as almost dancing in the street or making unusual movements in the street,” Halifax said at the press conference. “I don’t want it to be construed that he’s doing a waltz in the middle of Merle Hay Road. ... He’s outside of his vehicle. He’s not making a directed motion.

“... It’s odd, erratic behavior which begins by parking very close to the squad car that’s already on a traffic stop and getting out of your vehicle to do whatever he was doing in the street.”

Bolinger got back in his car and started driving. Lawler started to pursue Bolinger at about 35 miles per hour, traveling south down Merle Hay Road.

At Urbandale Avenue, about a mile south, Bolinger made a U-turn and stopped abruptly, Halifax said. Lawler pulled in front of Bolinger at an angle to stop him from continuing. Miller stopped a short distance behind Bolinger’s car.

In a matter of seconds, Bolinger got out of his car and charged or “walked with a purpose” toward Miller’s squad car, Halifax said.

After he was a short distance from Miller’s driver’s side window, she fired one round, shattering the rolled-up window and hitting Bolinger in the torso.

Police Found No Weapons On Bolinger Or At The Scene.

Police found no weapons on Bolinger or at the scene. It's unclear whether Miller thought he was carrying something at the time, Halifax said.

"He made a very quick advance toward her car," Halifax said.

Squad cars don't have bulletproof glass or reinforced side panels, Halifax said.

Officers do receive training at the law enforcement academy on how to fire shots from a seated position, such as a patrol vehicle, he confirmed.

"There's never any guarantee that your window's going to remain intact from any type of outside blow ... whether it's from a baseball bat or a rock," Halifax said.

Des Moines police had little prior contact with Bolinger.

He apparently filed a report in April against another person who he said had used his vehicle without permission. He has no criminal record, according to Iowa Courts Online.

Police will try to determine what was happening with Bolinger at the time, including whether it could have been a suicide-by-cop attempt, Halifax said. Police are seeking search warrants to look through his vehicle and cellphone for clues.

Toxicology tests and the autopsy, which are pending, should reveal whether Bolinger had drugs or alcohol in his system.

Police dash-cam video was rolling at the time of the incident, though it didn't capture the shooting, Halifax said.

Microphones worn by officers were also operating, but that audio won't be available until after the grand jury investigation.

The Des Moines policy governing use of force sets out specific instances when deadly force can and can't be used.

"The use of deadly force can take many forms ... it all has to do in how an officer perceives a situation and how they feel at the time," Sgt. Jason Halifax of Des Moines Police said. "There's not a hard, fast, this is when you shoot and this is when you don't."

Permitted: They're allowed to fire in five situations: At an approved firing range; to destroy injured or dangerous animals; when legally ordered or authorized to do so by a commanding officer; and when they believe such force is necessary to protect himself or another person from the use or threat of deadly force.

Officers also may use their firearms to arrest someone who is known to have committed a dangerous felony, has threatened or used deadly force and the officer has already made a reasonable attempt to make their intent to arrest known. All other methods of apprehending the person must be exhausted first, and the officer must also believe that discharging their firearms can be done without substantial risk of injury to innocent persons.

Not permitted: Officers are not permitted to use their firearm in three scenarios under department policy: for the purpose of a warning; at moving vehicles except in self-defense or in defense of another officer or third party; or in cases where a warrant is on file, and the identity of the suspect is known to police and their escape would not be an immediate danger to an innocent person or officer.

Allen Thomas, 28, of Waukee showed up to Wednesday's press conference on the police shooting to protest.

He carried a sign that read, "Hey Mr. Po Po ... I'm unarmed and protesting. Are you going to kill me."

"I think this country is turning into a police state," Thomas said. "It would have been more appropriate to use a taser on this suspect."

Public police scanner audio between dispatchers and officers chasing shooting victim Ryan Keith Bolinger's car shed some light on what police saw Tuesday night.

Senior Police Officer Ian Lawler first told dispatchers over his radio around 10:17 p.m. that he was following Bolinger's car going southbound on Merle Hay Road past Madison Avenue. He read the license plate over the scanner.

"He pulled up next to me on my traffic stop and started running around on the highway. Then he jumped back in his car, taking off," Lawler said.

Senior Police Officer Vanessa Miller was already trailing the chase at that point, Lawler indicated.

About 45 seconds later, Miller reported that they had crossed Douglas Avenue going about 35 miles per hour, "weaving all over." Dispatch asked if the suspect was a juvenile, to which Lawler stated that he was probably in his 20s or 30s.

Lawler adds that the driver might be "10-96," which is police code for mentally ill, or "10-55," a drunk driver.

Another 40 seconds later, the trio arrived at Urbandale Avenue.

"Looks like we're going to turn around," Miller stated. "Whoop. Heading back northbound."

That's when Bolinger made a U-turn.

Twenty seconds of silence elapsed before the dispatcher asked where the officers were headed. Miller chimed in, breathlessly restating their location.

The dispatcher asked again whether they were still "running" or pursuing.

Silence.

At about 10:20 p.m., Miller said she was "trying to take one into custody."

Seven seconds later, Lawler reported, “Shots fired. We need rescue.”

“We’ve got a white male, torso, and uh, I’m not sure what the injuries are,” Miller told dispatchers about 30 seconds later.

They reported that it was officer-involved shooting, but that police were OK.

“Did an officer fire a shot or did the suspect?” the dispatcher asked.

Six seconds of silence until a male officer responded, “Officer involved. Uh ...”

The dispatcher didn’t ask again but started to direct other officers that were called to the scene.

At about 10:25 p.m., police and dispatchers removed the call from the public airwaves.

Homeless Man Killed By Police: “The Officials Said He Grabbed An Officer’s Holstered Gun” “Several Witnesses Disputed The Account”



A crowd gathers in L.A. skid row for a memorial for Charly Leundeu Keunang, who was shot and killed by LAPD officers during a March 1 confrontation. (Marcus Yam / Los Angeles Times)

MAR 30, 2015 By GALE HOLLAND, LA Times

Heleine Tchayou was watching television in her Malden, Mass., home when video appeared of Los Angeles police shooting and killing an unarmed, homeless man on skid row.

It wasn't until his photograph was released that Tchayou realized the man who lay dying on the pavement 2,900 miles away was her son, a family friend said.

Charly Leundeou Keunang, 43, had been a man without a home, a country or even a real name.

His story seemed preposterous: A Cameroonian national, would-be actor and convicted bank robber, he stole a Frenchman's identity and did time under his name in a U.S. prison psychiatric facility.

The March 1 shooting prompted furious criticism of the Los Angeles Police Department and calls for better training for officers who deal with skid row's mentally unstable population.

It also revealed gaps in probation supervision and underscored how skid row remains a minefield for police and homeless people — a destination of last resort for former offenders, the mentally ill and others who have lost their way.

"We're releasing the most troubled people you can imagine to the meanest streets," said the Rev. Andy Bales, head of Union Rescue Mission.

"It's so much easier to point fingers than to recognize the entire network is broken," said Christine Sigurdson, a retired psychiatrist who evaluated Keunang in prison.

Keunang, one of Tchayou's two children, was several courses short of the equivalent of a bachelor's degree in mathematics and physics when he moved to the U.S. to break into Hollywood.

"Charly was a very bright student," said David Singui, a Los Angeles businessman who is acting as the Tchayou family spokesman. "Life is very difficult in Cameroon for young people. There are no jobs."

Arriving in Los Angeles in 1997 on a stolen passport, Keunang posed as Charley Saturmin Robinet while living with friends on Wilcox Avenue in Hollywood. He later told the FBI he worked as a personal trainer.

Keunang kept fit and did not use alcohol or drugs, Marcus Timmons, who was also convicted in the heist, said in an interview. Keunang played up the "French" angle and was popular with women, he added.

"He could have made it," said Timmons, adding that Keunang's Robert De Niro and Al Pacino impersonations showed talent.

Keunang had no criminal record when a neighbor proposed in 2000 that they rob a Wells Fargo Bank, court records show.

After his capture, Keunang confessed, telling the FBI he owed money to his acting studio, the Beverly Hills Playhouse, which counts George Clooney and Jim Carrey among its alumni.

The neighbor, Edward Johnson, told him, "To rob a bank is just like any acting," Keunang told the FBI, according to court records. (Johnson was convicted in connection with the robbery.)

"I could tell he'd never been in the criminal element," Timmons said.

Dressed in blue overalls, ski masks and gloves — "to not leave fingerprints," Keunang said — the three men drove a rented Dodge Neon to a Thousand Oaks bank branch. Timmons said he began to suspect Keunang was delusional when he argued with Johnson in the car over candy.

"Charly said he couldn't rob a bank without having chocolate first," Timmons said.

Keunang jumped the counter and hit the teller in the head with his unloaded pistol, which was not in the plan.

"It was like something he saw on TV," Timmons said. "I think for him it was all make-believe."

After a 30-mile chase, the getaway car, a Lincoln Navigator, was stopped by a California Highway Patrol spike strip. Keunang had \$30,000 stuffed in his underwear, prosecutors said.

He later recanted his confession and insisted on going to trial, his defense lawyer said.

"I told him it would be a blood bath, but he wouldn't listen," attorney Stephen Cron said.

Keunang implored the FBI not to notify his family.

"Charly didn't want anybody to know," Singui said. "Going to jail in our country comes with great shame."

He was sentenced to 15 years in federal prison. Timmons said Keunang was in rough shape when he last saw him before reporting to prison years ago in a federal lockup in downtown Los Angeles, refusing to bathe or get out of bed.

"His cellmate threatened to beat him up," Timmons said. "A part of him got lost. "

In 2003, still living as Charley Robinet, he was placed in the mental health unit at the federal correctional center in Rochester, Minn. He was not considered dangerous. Two years later, citing a "mental defect or disease," the government asked the court to commit him to the psychiatric hospital's inpatient ward, court records show.

"With no family, no community support, I'm sure he got depressed," Singui said.

Keunang was released in 2013 to immigration authorities, but neither France nor Cameroon would take him. Under a 2001 U.S. Supreme Court ruling, officials had only 60 days to deport him.

Noting that he had no options for shelter, Keunang's probation officer asked U.S. District Judge Christina Snyder to send him to a federal halfway house.

The program at Vinewood, a 70-bed complex in East Hollywood contracted with through the Bureau of Prisons, includes literacy and vocational training, life-skills instruction and anger and stress management but not mental health treatment, according to its website.

He was released in May 2014 under the supervision of federal probation for at least three years, and reunited with his family on the East Coast.

"He spent time with them. It was a big family reunion," Singui said, adding that he gave no sign of mental illness. Keunang stayed in close contact with his sister, who gave him money, Singui said.

(Keunang's mother and sister declined to be interviewed.)

Skid row residents said he showed up six or seven months ago, first at the Los Angeles Mission, then outside the Union Rescue Mission, where he pitched a tent next to an outdoor toilet.

Everyone called him "Africa" or "Cameroon." Some remembered him as quiet, respectful and deeply religious, but others said he isolated himself in deep depression, or was confrontational and prone to irrational outbursts.

"He was paranoid of police," recalled Kelly Kunta, a skid row resident. "We all are. He would see police way down the block not doing anything and turn around and be gone."

The family thought he was staying with a friend in Canoga Park and working on his immigration status. Officials said he kept all his Immigration and Customs Enforcement appointments.

"He was determined to go back to Cameroon," Singui said.

But in November he quit reporting to his probation officer, who is based in an office building in Woodland Hills, 1 1/2 hours by bus from skid row, that also houses the Department of Homeland Security. The U.S. Marshals Service issued an arrest warrant in January.

It was unclear whether probation officials knew where he was or tried to find him. Chief U.S. Probation Officer Michelle A. Carey declined to answer questions, saying in a letter: "The information you are seeking is not publicly available."

Police said officers with the Safer Cities Initiative, a skid row task force, went to Keunang's tent about noon that Sunday in response to a 911 call. He was shot during a frantic struggle with five officers.

The officials said he grabbed an officer's holstered gun.

Several witnesses disputed the account, and the video was inconclusive.

Police officials first identified him as Robinet, but after French authorities spoke out, the coroner's office released his real name. Family members had Keunang's body taken to a local mortuary and want a private autopsy and a lawsuit, Singui said.

A funeral in Los Angeles with Cameroonian customs, including an all-night wake, is slated for April. If the community can raise the money, Keunang will be sent back to Cameroon for burial.

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

I say that when troops cannot be counted on to follow orders because they see the futility and immorality of them THAT is the real key to ending a war.
 -- Al Jaccoma, Veterans For Peace

There Are Many Truths??

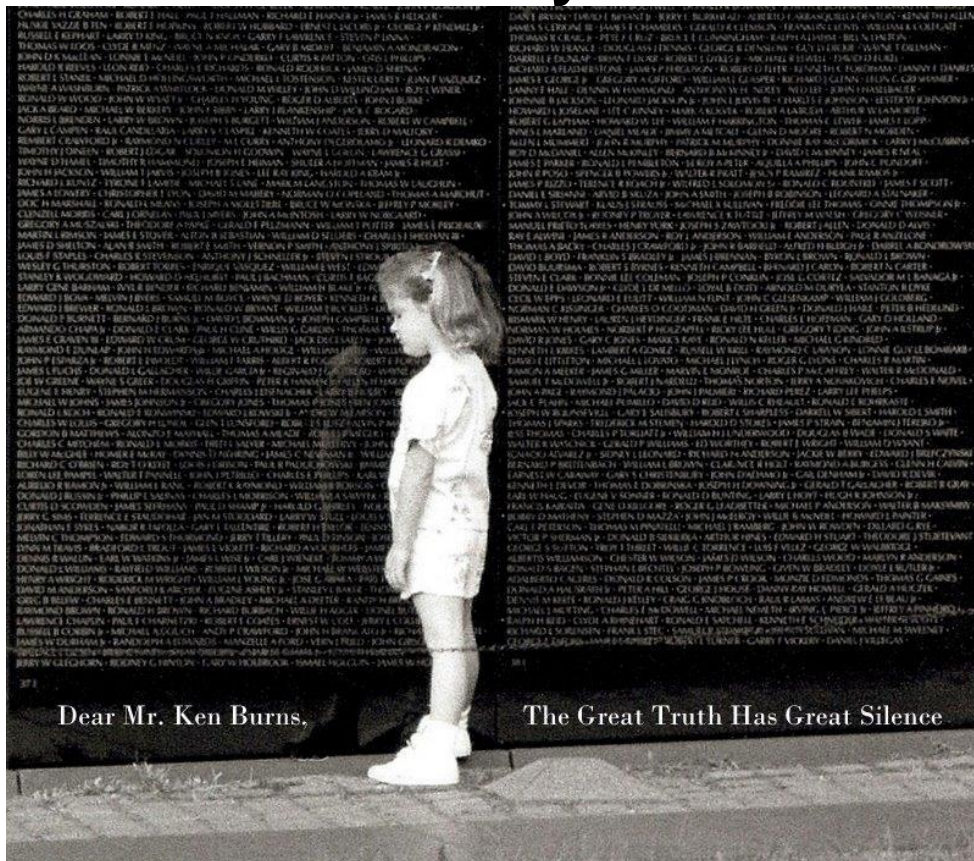


Photo By Mike Hastie: Vietnam Memorial, Washington, D.C. 1986

From: Mike Hastie
 To: Military Resistance Newsletter
 Sent: September 07, 2017
 Subject: There Are Many Truths??

*There isn't a single truth in war.
 There are many truths that can
 coexist.*
 Ken Burns;
 The Vietnam War

Photo and caption from the portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact hastiemike@earthlink.net)

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004

ANNIVERSARIES

The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising **April 19, 1943:** **In Memory Of Those Who Died** **Courageously Resisting An Imperial** **Army Of Occupation, Arms In Hand**



A resistance fighter with a homemade flame thrower during the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.
[citizenship.typepad]

Carl Bunin Peace History April 13-19

On the eve of Passover, the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising began when Nazi forces attempted to clear out the Jewish ghetto in Warsaw, Poland, to send them to concentration camps.

The destruction of the ghetto had been ordered in February by SS Chief Heinrich Himmler:

“An overall plan for the razing of the ghetto is to be submitted to me. In any case we must achieve the disappearance from sight of the living-space for 500,000 sub-humans (Untermenschen) that has existed up to now, but could never be suitable for Germans, and reduce the size of this city of millions — Warsaw — which has always been a center of corruption and revolt.”

From: Ushmm.org [Excerpt]:

In the summer of 1942, about 300,000 Jews were deported from Warsaw to Treblinka.

When reports of mass murder in the killing center leaked back to the Warsaw ghetto, a surviving group of mostly young people formed an organization called the Z.O.B. (for the Polish name, Żydowska Organizacja Bojowa, which means Jewish Fighting Organization).

The Z.O.B., led by 23-year-old Mordecai Anielewicz, issued a proclamation calling for the Jewish people to resist going to the railroad cars.

In January 1943, Warsaw ghetto fighters fired upon German troops as they tried to round up another group of ghetto inhabitants for deportation.

Fighters used a small supply of weapons that had been smuggled into the ghetto.

After a few days, the troops retreated.

This small victory inspired the ghetto fighters to prepare for future resistance.

The Nazis began the final liquidation of the ghetto the eve of Passover, April 19, 1943.

The Warsaw ghetto uprising began after German troops and police entered the ghetto to deport its surviving inhabitants. Seven hundred and fifty fighters fought the heavily armed and well-trained Germans.

The ghetto fighters were able to hold out for nearly a month, but on May 16, 1943, the revolt ended.

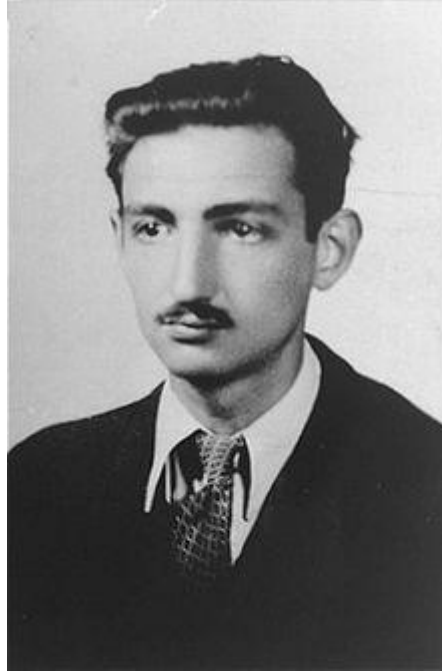
The Germans had slowly crushed the resistance.

Of the more than 56,000 Jews captured, about 7,000 were shot, and the remainder were deported to killing centers or concentration camps.

Resisters held off the Nazis for three weeks, using precious few and largely ineffectual weapons, but they were determined to go out fighting, decrease the number of Nazis, and hopefully serve to let the whole world know of the plight of the Jews.

MORE:

Marek Edelman



[Thanks to Alan Stolzer, Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

Wikipedia [Excerpts]

Marek Edelman (Yiddish: מאַרעק עדעלמאַן, born 1919 in Homel or 1922 in Warsaw – October 2, 2009 in Warsaw) was a Jewish-Polish political and social activist and cardiologist. Before his death in 2009, Edelman was the last surviving leader of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

Before World War II, he was a General Jewish Labour Bund activist. During the war he co-founded the Jewish Combat Organization (ŻOB).

He took part in the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, becoming its leader after the death of Mordechaj Anielewicz. He also took part in the city-wide 1944 Warsaw Uprising.

After the war, Edelman remained in Poland and became a noted cardiologist.

As a member of Solidarity, he took part in the Polish Round Table Talks of 1989.

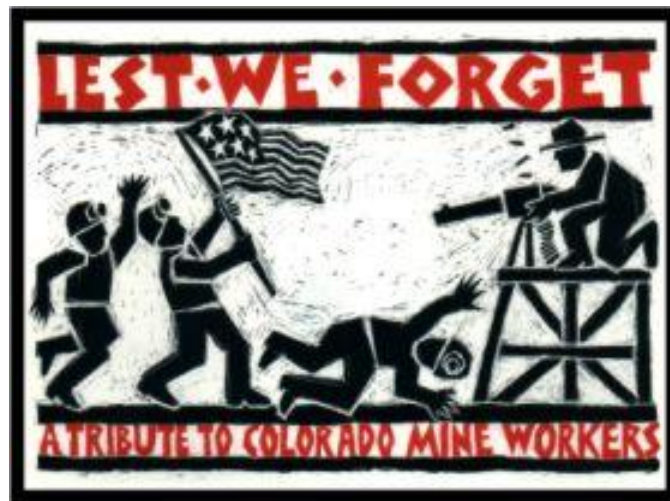
Following the peaceful transformations of 1989, he was a member of various centrist and liberal parties. He also wrote books documenting the history of wartime resistance against the Nazi German occupation of Poland.

The Ludlow Massacre **April 20, 1914:**

Infamous Anniversary: Soldiers Dishonor Their Uniforms Slaughtering Women And Children To Serve The Rich: Some Honorable Soldiers Resist, But The Colorado National Guard Becomes Notorious All Over The World As Foul, Cowardly Strike- Breaking Scum

Eighty-two soldiers in a company on a troop train headed for Trinidad refused to go. The men declared they would not engage in the shooting of women and children.

Carl Bunin Peace History April 16-22 & PBS.org



A lot more than 2,000 miles separated the Rockefeller estate from Southern Colorado when on Monday April 20, 1914, the first shot was fired at Ludlow.

One of history's most dramatic confrontations between capital and labor — the Ludlow massacre — took place at the mines of the Rockefeller-owned Colorado Fuel and Iron Company (CF&I).

Troops from the Colorado state militia attacked strikers, killing 25 (half women and children), in Ludlow. Two women and eleven children who suffocated in a pit they had dug under their tent.

Having struck the Rockefeller-owned Colorado Fuel and Iron Company the previous September for improved conditions, better wages, and union recognition, the workers established a tent camp which was fired upon and ultimately torched during the 14-hour siege.

The Ludlow Massacre

[The following was excerpted from Howard Zinn's A PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES (pgs 346-349).]

"... shortly after Woodrow Wilson took office there began in Colorado one of the most bitter and violent struggles between workers and corporate capital in the history of the country.

This was the Colorado coal strike that began in September 1913 and culminated in the 'Ludlow Massacre' of April 1914.

Eleven thousand miners in southern Colorado ... worked for the Colorado Fuel & Iron Corporation, which was owned by the Rockefeller family.

Aroused by the murder of one of their organizers, they went on strike against low pay, dangerous conditions, and feudal domination of their lives in towns completely controlled by the mining companies."

"When the strike began, the miners were immediately evicted from their shacks in the mining towns. Aided by the United Mine Workers Union, they set up tents in the nearby hills and carried on the strike, the picketing, from these tent colonies.

The gunmen hired by the Rockefeller interests -- the Baldwin- Felts Detective Agency -- using Gatling guns and rifles, raided the tent colonies.

The death list of miners grew, but they hung on, drove back an armored train in a gun battle, fought to keep out strikebreakers.

With the miners resisting, refusing to give in, the mines not able to operate, the Colorado governor (referred to by a Rockefeller mine manager as 'our little cowboy governor') called out the National Guard, with the Rockefellers supplying the Guard's wages.

"The miners at first thought the Guard was sent to protect them, and greeted its arrival with flags and cheers.

They soon found out the Guard was there to destroy the strike.

The Guard brought strikebreakers in under cover of night, not telling them there was a strike.

Guardsmen beat miners, arrested them by the hundreds, rode down with their horses parades of women in the streets of Trinidad, the central town in the area.

And still the miners refused to give in.

When they lasted through the cold winter of 1913-1914, it became clear that extraordinary measures would be needed to break the strike.

“In April 1914, two National Guard companies were stationed in the hills overlooking the largest tent colony of strikers, the one at Ludlow, housing a thousand men, women, children.

On the morning of April 20, a machine gun attack began on the tents.

The miners fired back.

Their leader was lured up into the hills to discuss a truce, then shot to death by a company of National Guardsmen.

The women and children dug pits beneath the tents to escape the gunfire.

At dusk, the Guard moved down from the hills with torches, set fire to the tents, and the families fled into the hills; thirteen people were killed by gunfire.

“The following day, a telephone linesman going through the ruins of the Ludlow tent colony lifted an iron cot covering a pit in one of the tents and found the charred, twisted bodies of eleven children and two women.

This became known as the Ludlow Massacre.

“The news spread quickly over the country.

In Denver, the United Mine Workers issued a ‘Call to Arms’ -- ‘Gather together for defensive purposes all arms and ammunition legally available.’ Three hundred armed strikers marched from other tent colonies into the Ludlow area, cut telephone and telegraph wires, and prepared for battle.

Railroad workers refused to take soldiers from Trinidad to Ludlow.

At Colorado Springs, three hundred union miners walked off their jobs and headed for the Trinidad district, carrying revolvers, rifles, shotguns.

“In Trinidad itself, miners attended a funeral service for the twenty-six dead at Ludlow, then walked from the funeral to a nearby building, where arms were stacked for them.

They picked up rifles and moved into the hills, destroying mines, killing mine guards, exploding mine shafts.

The press reported that ‘the hills in every direction seem suddenly to be alive with men.’

“In Denver, eighty-two soldiers in a company on a troop train headed for Trinidad refused to go. The press reported: ‘The men declared they would not engage in the shooting of women and children.

They hissed the 350 men who did start and shouted imprecations at them.

“Five thousand people demonstrated in the rain on the lawn in front of the state capital at Denver asking that the National Guard officers at Ludlow be tried for murder, denouncing the governor as an accessory.

The Denver Cigar Makers Union voted to send five hundred armed men to Ludlow and Trinidad.

Women in the United Garment Workers Union in Denver announced four hundred of their members had volunteered as nurses to help the strikers.

“All over the country there were meetings, demonstrations.

Pickets marched in front of the Rockefeller office at 26 Broadway, New York City.

A minister protested in front of the church where Rockefeller sometimes gave sermons, and was clubbed by the police.

“The New York Times carried an editorial on the events in Colorado, which were not attracting international attention.

The Times emphasis was not on the atrocity that had occurred, but on the mistake in tactics that had been made.

Its editorial on the Ludlow Massacre began: ‘Somebody blundered ... ‘

Two days later, with the miners armed and in the hills of the mine district, the Times wrote: ‘With the deadliest weapons of civilization in the hands of savage-mined men, there can be no telling to what lengths the war in Colorado will go unless it is quelled by force ... The President should turn his attention from Mexico long enough to take stern measures in Colorado.’

“The governor of Colorado asked for federal troops to restore order, and Woodrow Wilson complied.

This accomplished, the strike petered out.

Congressional committees came in and took thousands of pages of testimony.

The union had not won recognition.

Sixty-six men, women, and children had been killed.

Not one militiaman or mine guard had been indicted for crime.

“The Times had referred to Mexico.

On the morning that the bodies were discovered in the tent pit at Ludlow, American warships were attacking Vera Cruz, a city on the coast of Mexico--bombarding it, occupying it, leaving a hundred Mexicans dead--because Mexico had arrested American sailors and refused to apologize to the United States with a twenty-one gun salute.

Could patriotic fervor and the military spirit cover up class struggle?

Unemployment, hard times, were growing in 1914.

Could guns divert attention and create some national consensus against an external enemy?

It surely was a coincidence--the bombardment of Vera Cruz, the attack on the Ludlow colony.

Or perhaps it was, as someone once described human history, ‘the natural selection of accidents.’

Perhaps the affair in Mexico was an instinctual response of the system for its own survival, to create a unity of fighting purpose among a people torn by internal conflict.

“The bombardment of Vera Cruz was a small incident.

But in four months the First World War would begin in Europe.



The aftermath of the Ludlow Massacre, 1914.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

For Third Week, Zionist Forces Fire Live Ammunition On Unarmed Protesters In Gaza

13 April 18 By teleSUR

As Friday protests resumed near the border fence between Gaza and Israel, occupation forces opened fire injuring at least 30 more Palestinians and killing two.

Mohammed Hamada Hijila, 36, was killed in an airstrike in East of Shujaya, and Abdullah Al-Shehri, 28 years old, was killed by Israeli sniper fire at the eastern border. According to the Gaza Strip's Health Ministry, 112 Palestinians have been wounded by Israeli army fire or treated for tear gas inhalation.

This is the third consecutive Friday in which Palestinians protest near the fence as part of the Great March of Return. Today's march has been named "protest to burn the Israeli flag and hoist the Palestinian flag."

During the two previous Friday demonstrations, Israeli snipers killed at least 30 unarmed Palestinians in Gaza, including journalist Yasser Murtaja who was wearing a vest identifying him as "PRESS."

Despite international condemnation, including warnings by the United Nations Human Rights Council against the use of lethal force against civilians, who do not pose an immediate threat to life or severe injury, Israeli authorities and politicians have praised the army's actions and vowed to continue repressing protesters to "protect" their border.

No Israeli soldiers or civilians have been wounded or killed during the protests in Gaza.

Criticism of Israeli use of live arms has come from within the country as well.

On Thursday a group of former Israeli soldiers, members of the sniper teams, wrote in an open letter "we are filled with shame and sorrow... Instructing snipers to shoot to kill unarmed demonstrators who pose no danger to human life is another product of the occupation and military rule over millions of Palestinian people, as well as of our country's callous leadership, and derailed moral path."

The March of return has mobilized tens of thousands demanding their right to return to the towns and cities from which they were expelled following the creation of the state of Israel.

Refugees have a universally recognized right to return to their places of origin, but Israel has denied this right to the over five million Palestinians who are currently living as refugees in Gaza, the West Bank and countries around the world after fleeing from cities like Jaffa in the context of violence.

Israel has been open about their fear that letting refugees return to current-day Israel would mean the end of the Jewish character of the state because they would lose Jewish people's demographic dominance.

Over half of the 2 million people who live in Gaza are refugees.

The AFP has reported one man, 36-year-old Sumaya Abu Awad, saying "I have no fear of dying because there is no life in Gaza."

Gaza has often been called the largest open-air prison because of the decade-long blockade imposed by Israel and enforced both by Israel and Egypt. Report by the U.N. have revealed that Gaza will be uninhabitable by 2020 due to the destruction of infrastructure in Israel's periodic bombings of the Strip and the blockade, which has severely limited Gazans ability to rebuild. Furthermore, the Gaza Strip has been progressively running out of fresh water and electricity.

Protests are set to continue every Friday until May 15, which marks the 70th year of the Palestinian Nakba, or catastrophe, when over 700,000 Palestinians were expelled or fled from their lands.

The United States has announced they will move their embassy from Tel Aviv to the occupied city of Jerusalem on May 14, in a move analysts believe will only heighten tensions.

The IDF Proved That If They Really Want, They Can Avoid Killing Demonstrators

14/04/18 Gush Shalom

Even if Trump's audiovisual show in the skies of Damascus somewhat overshadowed yesterday's events on the Gaza border, it is important to emphasize what happened there (and what did not happen ...).

Yesterday it turned out that if the IDF really wants to, it could face for an entire day more than 10,000 unarmed demonstrators and kill "only" one of them. (And it is reasonable to assume that even this one killing could have been averted.)

What was the difference between this last Friday and the two previous Fridays, during which IDF snipers killed a total of 32 unarmed Palestinian demonstrators?

The Palestinians were the same Palestinians, the demonstrations were the same kind of demonstrations, the soldiers were the same soldiers, the snipers were the same snipers, the commanders were the same commanders.

So what did change since last Friday?

Only one thing: this time the commanders gave clear orders to avoid killings, and the snipers obeyed these orders.

Just as these snipers had obeyed the manifestly illegal orders they got before.

That's all the difference.

It also means that anyone and everyone who dared to raise a voice of protest - far too few inside Israel, many more outside - had a part in saving lives. Literally.

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

Palestine - Sacramento

By Eric Garcia
Chicago IL



Thanks to Sandy Kelson, Military Initiatives, who sent this in.

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: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

Military Resistance Looks Even Better Printed Out
Military Resistance/GI Special are archived at website
<http://www.militaryproject.org> .

Military Resistance distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **Military Resistance has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is Military Resistance endorsed or sponsored by the originators. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research, education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice.** Go to: law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.



If printed out, a copy of this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.