

Military Resistance 1615

Overheard in Afghanistan



AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

**Afghan Governor Says The Taliban Are 'Going To Win'
"People Don't Want To Join The Army Any More Because The Casualties Are Too High"
"Sometimes We Don't See Any Recruits For Weeks"**

A provincial governor in Afghanistan says the Taliban is “going to win” if the death toll among Afghan security forces — which the New York Times reports is double the average from two years ago — continues unabated.

“The Taliban don’t want peace, because they think they can win the war,” Baghlan Province Governor Abdul Hai Nimati told the Times. “If it goes on like this, they’re going to win.”

He added: “There is a risk that even this province will collapse if we don’t get support. Until now, we have no reserve. Every man we have is fighting without any rest for 10 days now, and getting no sleep, and they’re tired.”

The quote from Nimati is part of a larger analysis by the Times’ Rod Nordland, which examined the death toll among Afghan forces and why official reporting on it was classified secret in 2017. The Pentagon acknowledged that during that time Afghan casualties had “steadily increased.”

The Times’ analysis said roughly 200 to 400 Afghan forces were killed over a one-week period earlier this month. (It reported that the top American commander, Army Gen. Austin S. Miller, said in a recent meeting with diplomats that 400 Afghans had been killed, while inquiries to 23 Afghan district officials revealed there were 193 deaths among Afghan soldiers and police.)

On Sunday, Afghan Defense Minister Tariq Shad Bahrami said more than 500 Afghan National Army soldiers had been killed in action over the past month, according to Tolo News.

“Unfortunately, the army had 513 martyrs, 718 injured, and 43 taken as captives in the last month, but the enemies’ losses are four times higher,” he told Afghan senators.

Casualties have averaged 30 to 40 per day in recent months, senior Afghan officials told The Times.

The rising toll has affected morale in Afghan ranks, in addition to making recruiting much harder. The head of recruitment for one province told the Times daily recruits in his province was about half of what it was last year. Another from Helmand province said they usually see only two or three potential recruits per day.

“Sometimes we don’t see any recruits for weeks,” Abdul Qudous told the Times from Helmand. “People don’t want to join the army any more because the casualties are too high.”

Trump And His Top Advisors Aren't Publicly Admitting How Bad Things Are In Afghanistan:

“The Taliban Controls Or Contests Nearly Half Of All The Country's Districts”

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

Sep. 7, 2018 by John Haltiwanger, Business Insider [Excerpts]

Research shows the war has reached its deadliest point in years.

These deaths are another sign the war is not going well for the US as the Trump administration continues to avoid the subject or downplay the situation on the ground by pointing to signs of progress even as the death toll spikes higher.

President Donald Trump is reportedly so eager to find a way out that he's asking anyone around, including his 27-year-old personal assistant, for military advice.

"Nobody really wants to come to grips with this war - particularly within the Pentagon or this administration," said Anthony Cordesman, one of three influential defense experts who view the war as all but lost. "They're letting it slide out of visibility."

Last year, Trump announced a new strategy in Afghanistan, which involved increasing US troop presence by several thousand, ramping up the US bombing campaign against the Taliban, and increased focus on training and assisting local forces.

During a surprise visit to Kabul in July, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo claimed the strategy was working and suggested it was pushing the Taliban toward embracing a peace process.

But the numbers surrounding the conflict paint a different picture.

The Taliban controls or contests nearly half of all the country's districts and the Islamic State also has a foothold in the country.

There are currently around 15,000 US troops stationed in Afghanistan.

Their presence serves as a tenuous support system for a weak, corrupt Afghan government, which would undoubtedly fall if the US military suddenly pulled out.

Safety can't even be guaranteed in the capital, which is frequently the site of bombings and other deadly violence.

Meanwhile, recent research suggests the total number of battle deaths in Afghanistan, including civilians and combatants on both sides, will soon surpass 20,000 in 2018. Based on this data, the war is at its deadliest point in years.

Despite all of the evidence to the contrary, the Pentagon and Trump administration continue to reject the idea Afghanistan is America's "forever war" as the conflict nears its 17th anniversary.

But despite such assurances the US military and Trump administration still struggle to offer specifics on how long the US might remain in Afghanistan.

Army Gen. Austin Scott Miller, the new commander of US and NATO troops in Afghanistan, in June said he could not guarantee "any timeline or an end date" regarding America's role in the conflict.

Benjamin Hopkins, a professor in international affairs and history at George Washington University who specializes in Afghanistan, says policy-makers continue to look back to the devastating, humiliating conclusion to America's war in Vietnam as they seek to wrap up the conflict in Afghanistan.

"Since early into the Obama administration, there has been a consensus amongst the US government and more broadly the American political establishment to play down this war," Hopkins said.

"When, after all, was the last time Afghanistan made front page news? Yet it is the longest and, inflation adjusted, one of the most expensive wars in American history.

"And one we are losing, if we have not already lost," Hopkins added.

MORE:

U.S. Alters Tactics In Afghanistan As Casualties Among Local Forces Mount: "The Highest Number Of Fatalities We Have Had In A Single Month"

September 25, 2018 By PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN | STARS AND STRIPES

KABUL, Afghanistan — The U.S.-led coalition in Afghanistan is adjusting tactics to address mounting casualties among local security forces, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said this week.

Mattis said the international coalition — which focuses on training, advising and assisting Afghan forces — had begun providing more support in other areas. He didn't elaborate.

“The Afghan army has taken severe casualties over the past year and a half,” Mattis told reporters Monday at the Pentagon.

Mattis stopped short of calling the casualty rate unsustainable when asked if it was.

“When people say something is unsustainable, it is better to look at what they have actually sustained, and it appears they’ve sustained it somehow,” he said.

Mattis’ comments came a day after Afghan Defense Minister Gen. Tariq Shah Bahrami told parliament’s upper house that the past month had been the deadliest ever for the Afghan army.

“Unfortunately, in the last month, 513 (Afghan National Army) soldiers were killed, 718 wounded and 43 captured; it was the highest number of fatalities we have had in a single month,” Bahrami said, according to Afghanistan’s TOLO News.

6 Ghazni Districts Fall To Full Taliban Control

Sep 25, 2018 By Saifullah Maftoon, Pajhwok

GHAZNI CITY: Taliban militants have been in full control of six districts in southern Ghazni province, provincial council members and residents say, but government disputed the claim.

Abdul Bari Shelgarai, a provincial council member, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the Taliban captured six districts after they attack the provincial capital about one and a half month back.

The militants launched coordinated attacks on Ghazni City, with the ensuing clashes lasting five days, in which hundreds of civilians, soldiers and insurgents were killed and wounded.

Shilgarai said Taliban currently fully controlled Khwaja Omari, Ajiristan, Jaghato, Rashidan and Nawa districts of the province.

Rahimullah, a resident of Ajiristan district, who is currently living in Ghazni city, told Pajhwok that their district was in the clutches of Taliban.

“Clashes to take control of our have been ongoing, many people were forced to leave homes after militants recently gained full control of the district, there are no government forces right now,” he said.

Rahmatullah, a resident of Ghazni city, said the Taliban gained full control of the mentioned districts after government forces were moved to Ghazni city.

“If the government does not retake these districts, Ghazni city would continue to be under security threats and is likely to fall,” he said.

Some others residents expressed similar views.

However, local officials said Taliban only controlled three districts of the province. Governor's spokesman, Mohammad Arif Noori, said the Taliban controlled only Ajiristan, Khwaja Omari and Nawa districts.

"We have the ability to recapture these districts, but we lack enough security personnel to keep them from falling again, the recruitment process for more forces is underway and operations to recapture these districts would be launched once the recruitment process completed," Noori said.

The Taliban confirmed capturing some districts of Ghazni during their attack on the city. However, the group's spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, did not provide the number and names of districts they control.

Nawa district of Ghazni has been with the Taliban over the past 16 years.

Taliban Captures District In Jawzjan: Threatening The Provincial Capital Of Sar-I-Pul City; An Estimated 50 Security Forces Have Been Surrounded; "The Taliban Is Less Than 2 Km From The City And The Capital Could Fall If Reinforcements Are Not Sent"

September 10, 2018 BY BILL ROGGIO, Long War Journal. Bill Roggio is a Senior Fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and the Editor of FDD's Long War Journal

The Taliban overran the Kham Ab district center in Jawzjan province in the last 24 hours, and is threatening the provincial capital of Sar-i-Pul, as the group continues to pressure Afghan forces in the north.

The chief of police for Kham Ab confirmed that the Taliban overran the government buildings and took control of the district.

During the assault, 10 security personnel were killed, seven were captured, and seven “uprising forces” or local militia defected to the Taliban, TOLONews reported.

An estimated 50 security forces have been surrounded.

In Sar-i-Pul, the Taliban is threatening the provincial capital of Sar-i-Pul City after launching a three-pronged assault from the outlying districts last night. The provincial governor said the Taliban is less than 2 km from the city and that the capital could fall if reinforcements are not sent, TOLONews reported.

The Taliban closed the main highway between Sar-i-Pul and has reportedly also overrun a military base.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid confirmed that his group’s fighters are battling outside of Sar-i-Pul City, and claimed that “tens of bases/CPs [checkpoints] overrun, dozens of gunmen killed/wounded (11 corpses left behind), 10 APCs/pickup trucks along with weapons/equipment seized.” Additionally, “Multiple CPs also overrun 5KM from provincial capital from direction of Sayyad [district].”

Sar-i-Pul is one of 10 provincial capitals under direct threat of being overrun by the Taliban. In May, the Afghan Ministry of Defense identified Farah City, Faizabad in Badakhshan, Ghazni City, Tarin Kot in Uruzgan, Kunduz City, Maimana in Faryab, and Pul-i-Khumri in Baghlan as being in danger of falling to the Taliban.

The Taliban briefly overran Farah and Ghazni Cities in May and August, respectively. Also, the Taliban have been active in Lashkar Gah in Helmand, while Afghan officials are warning that Gardez in Paktia is threatened.

The Taliban has capitalized on its control of remote areas to pressure these provincial capitals. Afghan forces are often outmatched in Afghanistan rural areas, and are forced to abandon bases and outposts or risk being overrun by Taliban forces.

The Taliban controls or contests at least 61 percent of Afghanistan’s 407 districts, according to an ongoing study by FDD’s Long War Journal.

Taliban Launch Deadly Attacks On Security Posts In Farah Province

Sep 17 2018 By Khaama Press

The Taliban militants launched deadly attacks on a number of security posts in western Farah province of Afghanistan, leaving several security personnel dead.

Provincial governor’s spokesman Mohammad Nasir Mehri confirmed the incident and said the militants launched attacks on security posts in Bala Bolik and Posht Rod districts.

Mehri further added that the attacks were launched late on Sunday night and as a result at least fifteen security personnel have lost their lives.

He said at least five security forces were martyred after the Taliban militants attacked their security posts in Posht Rod district.

According to Mehri, the Taliban militants also attacked the security posts on Farah-Farah Rod highway, leaving at least ten security personnel dead.

At least five Taliban militants were also killed during the clashes with the security forces, the provincial governor's spokesman added.

In the meantime, a member of the provincial council says at least 17 security personnel have lost their lives during the clashes.

Afghan Intelligence Forces Suffer Casualties In Parwan Insurgent Attack

Sep 15 2018 By Khaama Press

An explosion targeted the Afghan intelligence forces in northern Parwan province of Afghanistan, leaving at least eight of them dead or wounded.

Provincial spokesperson Wahida Shahkar confirmed the incident and said at least four personnel of the National Directorate of Security (NDS) lost their lives in the explosion.

She said the incident took place earlier today in the vicinity of Khalazai area of the province and as a result four NDS personnel also sustained injuries.

According to Shahkar the explosion was triggered by an improvised explosive device planted on a roadside.

Parwan has been among the relatively calm provinces in the North of Afghanistan but the security situation of the province has deteriorated during the recent years.

**IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE
RESIST THE OCCUPATION**

Taliban Videos Shows Fighters Occupying Base, Outposts In Afghan North: “These Attacks Have Had A Demoralizing Effect On Afghan Police And Military Units”

September 20th, 2018 BY BILL ROGGIO, Long War Journal. Bill Roggio is a Senior Fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and the Editor of FDD's Long War Journal

Yet again, the Taliban has promoted another propaganda video flaunting its fighters occupying a military base and several security outposts in broad daylight without fear of retribution or targeting by Afghan and Coalition air or ground power.

The latest Taliban video came from the district of Chimtal in Balkh province in northern Afghanistan and appears to have been shot last week.

Taliban fighters were shown milling around the bases without fear of reprisal. Some were communicating on their radios. The Taliban flag flew high over the bases.

In a statement released on Sept. 11 on Voice of Jihad, the Taliban claimed its fighters overran “15 posts and 1 base in (Chimtal) district” and killed 13 Afghan security personnel.

An Afghan official told TOLONews that at least four security outposts in Chimtal fell to the Taliban on Sept. 11 after Afghan soldiers were withdrawn from a base in the district.

The unnamed official also claimed the base was torched before the Afghan troops withdrew.

However, in the Taliban video, there was no evidence that the base was set aflame.

Ironically, the spokesman for Balkh’s police force “rejected the allegations and said no outpost had fallen to militants in (Chimtal) district,” TOLONews reported.

Taliban videos such as the one from Chimtal have become all too common over the past two years.

The Taliban has repeatedly demonstrated that it can mass its forces, attack and often defeat Afghan forces stationed at remote outposts and bases in Afghanistan’s rural areas.

Over time, these attacks have had a demoralizing effect on Afghan police and military units. In some cases, Afghan security forces surrender their bases without a fight, and in others, security personnel surrender to the Taliban after failing to receive reinforcement and resupply.

The Taliban currently contests or controls 61 percent of Afghanistan's districts according to a study by FDD's Long War Journal. The group has been able to make significant gains in Afghanistan over the past several years in part because it is not being made to pay the price for assembling and operating in the open, while Pakistan continues to provide safe haven and support to the Taliban's leadership and its fighters.

Uzbek Resistance Group Shows Spoils From Overrun Afghan Base



Two Katibat Imam al Bukhari militants posing with the captured weapons

September 20th, 2018 BY CALEB WEISS, Long War Journal [Excerpt]

Katibat Imam al Bukhari (KIB), an Uzbek jihadist group also known as the Imam Bukhari Jamaat, released photos earlier today of spoils taken from overrunning Afghan military posts in northern Afghanistan.

The group claims the operation was part of the Taliban's larger offensive taking place throughout Afghanistan.

The jihadist group did not specify where the operations took place, however, KIB is known to operate in Faryab and Jowzjan, where ethnic Uzbeks constitute a large portion of the population.

The photos show two KIB militants posing with captured small arms, including Kalashnikov variants, rocket-propelled grenade launchers and PK machine guns. The photo series is the second this month to show captured weapons after overrunning Afghan positions.

Taliban Reports Shooting Down Afghan Military Helicopter

September 15, 2018 BY BILL ROGGIO, Long War Journal. Bill Roggio is a Senior Fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and the Editor of FDD's Long War Journal

The Taliban claimed it shot down an Afghan military helicopter in the western province of Farah yesterday. Afghan officials denied the helicopter was shot – and instead claimed it crashed due to a mechanical failure.

Regardless, the Afghan military was unable to secure the crash site and recover the five soldiers on-board for at least 10 hours after the helicopter went down.

Afghan officials confirmed that the helicopter crashed at about 9 p.m. local time on Sept. 14 in the district of Khaki Safid in Farah, according to TOLONews. A spokesman for the governor of Farah province said that the helicopter “crashed due to a technical issue, not due to Taliban fire,” Reuters reported.

The Taliban issued a video of its soldiers walking around the crash site, and claimed the helicopter “was shot by Mujahideen resulting in the chopper catching fire before plunging onto the ground” at 8 p.m. on Sept. 14. The video showed the wreckage of the helicopter and the bodies of five Afghan soldiers who were in it.

The Taliban named three officers and two sergeants, and identified one of the officers as “Special Operations Commander Lieutenant General Toryali Farahi.”

Without footage of the helicopter being shot down and crashing, it is impossible to verify the Taliban’s claim. However, in the past, the Afghan military has denied its helicopters were shot down, only to be proven wrong.

Perhaps more disturbing than the possibility that the Taliban shot down the helicopter is that the fact that the Afghan military was either unable or unwilling to secure the crash site and recover the bodies of its soldiers at least 10 hours after the helicopter went down.

The Afghan government said the helicopter went down at 9 p.m. on Sept. 14, and the Taliban was recording video of the crash site and the bodies of the pilots and passengers in daylight on Sept. 15. In the video, Taliban fighters casually walked around the crash site and clearly looted any weapons and other gear that could be salvaged.

FDD’s Long War Journal assesses Khaki Safid as being under Taliban control, and the Afghan military’s inability to secure the crash site for at least 10 hours after its helicopter went down supports that assessment. The district center fell to the Taliban in June 2015. In the summer of 2017, the US military destroyed a Taliban “explosive depot” during an airstrike in the district.

Over the past year, the Taliban has succeeded in destabilizing Farah province. Of Farah’s 11 districts, three are controlled by the Taliban and six more are contested. The

Taliban assaulted Farah City, the provincial capital, in May and briefly held large areas of the city.

Insurgents Fire Rockets On Ghazni City During President Ghani's Visit: "Rockets Landed Close To The Provincial Government Compound"

Sep 27 2018mBy KHAAMA PRESS

The provincial capital of Ghazni province came under rocket attack shortly after President Ghani arrived in Ghazni city to review the situation of the province.

The security officials confirmed the incident but added that no one was hurt in the attack.

The security sources are saying that three rockets were fired on Ghazni city during President Ghani's visit and two of the rockets landed close to the provincial government compound.

In the meantime, President Ghani's spokesman Haroon Chakhansuri says President Ghani normally continues to his trip meetings with the provincial officials.

No individual or group has so far claimed responsibility behind the attack.

The Office of the President, ARG Palace, in a statement said will review the security situation of Ghazni during his visit to the province, ARG Palace added.

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Insurgents Kill Many Bombing Government Headquarters

September 10th, 2018 BY CALEB WEISS, Long War Journal

Earlier today, Shabaab claimed credit for a deadly car bombing outside of the Hodon district's headquarters in Somalia's Mogadishu. At least six people were killed in the blast and another 16 were wounded.

In a statement released through its Shahada News Agency, Shabaab claimed that its operation killed over 20 people and wounded another 33. However, casualty numbers are routinely inflated by the jihadist group. Local officials have confirmed that at least six people were killed in the attack.

According to Reuters, the suicide bomber rammed his vehicle into the offices of the Hodon district before detonating his explosives. Garowe Online, a local news publication, reported that several nearby buildings also collapsed from the bombing, adding to the casualty toll. This comes only a week after Shabaab conducted a similar operation also in Mogadishu.

Last Sunday, a car bomb sped through a checkpoint outside the Hawlwadag district headquarters before detonating. Three people were killed in the bombing, while another 14 were wounded.

Shabaab has remained a persistent threat to the Somali government and neighboring countries despite efforts by both the African Union and the US to defeat it over the past decade.

Over the past several years, the group has launched attacks that have killed hundreds of African Union forces from Uganda, Burundi, Kenya, and Ethiopia.

These Shabaab assaults have forced African Union troops to withdraw from several cities and towns in southern Somalia.

A recent study by FDD's Long War Journal on 418 Shabaab attack claims in a six-month period between Oct. 2017 and April 2018, found that at least 30 percent of Shabaab attacks took place in or near Mogadishu. However, only 23 attacks were against the Somali government. Unfortunately as seen with today's bombing, it also retains the ability to strike in more heavily fortified areas within the capital.

POLICE WAR REPORTS

**‘The Person Who Is Supposed To
Decide Whether Officers Were
Justified In Killing Stephon Clark
Hides Behind A Fence’**

“Says She Is Afraid For Her Life Because Black People Are Outside Her Office Barbequing”

September 7, 2018 by Alex Moyle, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

It's been over 24 weeks — nearly half a year — since police in Sacramento, California, gunned down Stephon Clark in his grandmother's backyard, but there has been no indictment in his murder.

The release of bodycam video of the slaying last March was followed by weeks of remarkable mass protests, including the shutdown of two Sacramento Kings games and the Interstate 5 freeway.

Every week since, Black Lives Matter Sacramento has led community actions in front of the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office, barbequing, playing music, listing the names of the victims of police violence and demanding that the killer cops be charged.

The protests have continued despite police surveillance, harassment and occasional attacks and arrests.

In April, police attacked the protests in the parking lot of the DA's office, making two arrests.

Then, on August 22, rampaging police from the gang unit charged into the group, arresting two more protesters. Black Lives Matter activist Keyan Bliss sustained cuts and bruises when he was swarmed, shoved into a pole, tackled and pinned by some 10 arresting officers.

The citation listed the cause of the violent, dogpile arrest as a vehicle code violation — “pedestrian outside a crosswalk.”

A white protester arrested at the same time for the same conduct was escorted away by a single officer.

The police monitoring the protests have become increasingly aggressive since Black Lives Matter allies went to the pre-wedding party of Officer Terrence Mercadal, to ask him whether he planned his wedding before or after he killed Stephon Clark.

Supporters of the Sacramento police retaliated by posting the name and Facebook profile of a woman they claim was seen in the video of the confrontation. The post went up at the virulently racist and misogynistic “SacPD Underground,” a Facebook hate group allegedly operated by Sacramento police officers. The city of Sacramento claims it is helpless to control the group, since the administrator is anonymous.

Meanwhile, District Attorney Ann Marie Schubert has responded to the community barbeques in front of her office by erecting a chain-link fence around the office and claiming that she fears for her life.

She has demanded that taxpayers buy her a new SUV for greater security than that offered by the car she is already provided.

It speaks volumes that the person who is supposed to decide whether officers were justified in killing Stephon Clark hides behind a fence and says she is afraid for her life because Black people are outside her office barbequing.

Schubert was re-elected in the wake of the Clark killing after a nasty campaign in which the District Attorney's office leaked the e-mails of her opponent — their own former employee, prosecutor Noah Phillips — and police groups flooded Schubert's campaign with donations.

While Schubert has stated that the investigation into Clark's slaying could take "well over a year," it's hard to imagine what there is left to investigate.

The body camera footage of the killing shows very clearly that officers Jared Robinet and Terrence Mercadal — both of whom are back at work for the Sacramento Police Department — opened fire on Clark immediately upon coming into contact with him.

This isn't the first time that Schubert has tried to delay a case. Mikel Laney McIntyre was killed by Sacramento sheriff's deputies in May 2017.

Deputies claim that McIntyre, who was having a mental health crisis, had thrown rocks at them, but it is undisputed that McIntyre was unarmed and trying to flee when deputies shot him.

In all, deputies fired a total of 29 bullets at McIntyre. One deputy — Gabriel Rodriguez — fired 19 shots at McIntyre while running across six lanes of freeway traffic at rush hour.

Even former Sacramento Police Chief Rick Braziel, who is now the Sacramento inspector general, has acknowledged that the "number of rounds fired at McIntyre were excessive, unnecessary and put the community at risk."

Sheriff Scott Jones dismissed Braziel's report as "political" and locked Braziel out of department facilities, ending any notion that the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department will be subject to oversight of any kind.

District Attorney Schubert has remained silent, prompting Mikel's mother Brigett McIntyre to file a federal civil rights lawsuit against Sacramento County, demanding to know why, more than a year later, no action has been taken in the killing of her son, when the District Attorney's office is supposed to conclude officer-involved investigations within 90 days of receiving all relevant materials.

"It's been over a year," she told the Sacramento Bee. "Why aren't they talking? Why aren't they saying anything?...How come they can't just tell me the truth?"

Protesters continue to list McIntyre's name along with Clark's and the other victims of racist police violence outside the DA's office.

Black lives Matter Sacramento has stayed in the streets and pursued protest and community organization as its primary means of trying to win change.

The importance of that approach was shown by the introduction of California State Assembly Bill 931, the Police Accountability and Community Protection Act, which would institute a higher standard for police use of force. It came about as a direct result of the protests against the killing of Stephon Clark.

AB 931 was first softened and then ultimately shelved for the year, but the fact that it cleared initial committee hearings — despite the full weight of California law enforcement groups attempting to kill it — is a significant achievement. Weeks of demonstrations outweighed the impact of years of lobbying, letters to legislators and other more “civil” means of affecting change.

The continuing necessity of such protests is shown by the ever-growing list of names of Black victims of police violence in Sacramento.

Brandon Smith died in police and probation custody on June 6 after stating that he felt like he was having a heart attack. Instead of an ambulance, Sacramento police officers hurled him into the back of a police wagon where he died en route to the Sacramento County jail.

On July 22, a police SUV traveling 27 miles per hour crashed into a 16-year-old child, throwing him into the air and causing serious injuries after he allegedly fled a citation for not having a reflector on his bike.

In addition to these shocking cases, the everyday harassment of African American residents of Sacramento for driving, walking or otherwise existing while Black has continued unabated, despite Police Chief Hahn’s and Mayor Steinberg’s assurances that the city would enter a new era of accountability and positive community relations.

The same day he was released from Sacramento County jail following his arrest and brutalization, Keyan Bliss was back at the protest barbeque at the DA’s office, working the grill.

“Their escalation isn’t going to defeat this group,” said Bliss. “I feel like we’re in the ‘then they fight you’ stage of this. They stepped up their attacks because they’re afraid of us — afraid of being held accountable. But each time they exert this unjust force against us we will come back louder and stronger.”

Black Lives Matter Sacramento’s Tanya Faison added:

“I think that the police aggression is a tactic to try to get us to not come out, or to be afraid, but we see it and it doesn’t work. After they arrested two people, we were out here much deeper the next day.

“We’re prepared for it if the DA stays silent until after her swearing-in next January. If they announce a non-indictment, I expect this town to turn up. I know that because of Stephon Clark’s connection to so many different communities in Sacramento, no matter when she decides to announce anything, this city is going to hear it. And we will respond.”

Riots, Lockdowns And Disease: Missouri Prison Inmates Living In Inhumane Conditions

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

September 04, 2018 BY THE KANSAS CITY STAR EDITORIAL BOARD

A Missouri statute allows members of the General Assembly to visit state-run prisons at any time. The law overrides a directive issued by Missouri Department of Corrections Director Anne Precythe to Ronda Pash, warden at Crossroads Correctional Center, to deny entry to the prison.

But the recent refusal to allow state Rep. Brandon Ellington, a Kansas City Democrat, to check on prisoners housed at the correctional facility in Cameron could be the least of the state's concerns if a class-action lawsuit determines prison officials are subjecting inmates to inhumane conditions.

Inmates' complaints about health and sanitary conditions, food service, reduced visitation times, recreation time out of cells and other concerns have largely been ignored.

A riot broke out in May at Crossroads. The prison has been on some level of lockdown since.

Although prison officials say many services are slowly returning to Crossroads, inmates insist in dozens of letters to Ellington that basic necessities remain unavailable.

"If people aren't concerned about inmates, they should at least be concerned about their tax dollars," Ellington said.

Henry Service and Arimeta Dupree, two Kansas City attorneys, plan to file a class-action lawsuit on behalf of inmates in Missouri claiming inhumane treatment and constitutional violations, among other things.

If the state won't allow access to prisons, then maybe a lawsuit will get their attention, Service said.

"We, as a society, have to decide what we want to be," he said.

Dupree said the U.S. and Missouri constitutions, as well as state statutes protect inmates from being subjected to such treatment.

"Prisoners or not, this is a human rights issue," she said.

Dupree makes a valid point. It's illegal to deprive inmates of nutritious meals and expose them to diseases such as MRSA, a dangerous bacterial infection, as some prisoners have claimed. "We do not lock people up in disease-ridden environments," Service said.

Ellington was denied entry last week to the prison to meet with inmates about their concerns, which also include a lack of access to the prison's law library.

He filed a formal complaint with the governor's officer over the denial, telling The Star that the department's reasoning for preventing the visit was suspect.

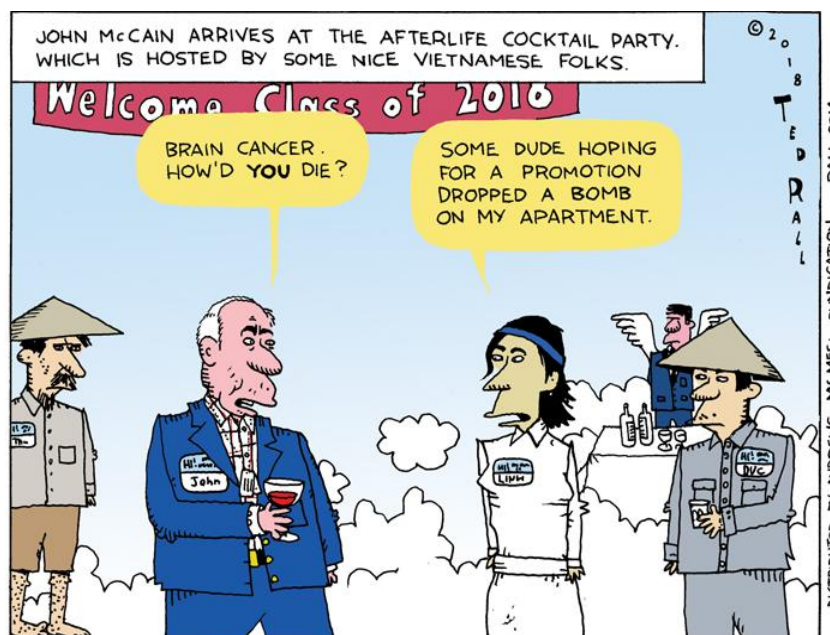
"Now, not only do I have concerns about taxpayer dollars . . . (and) about the people who are confined to this facility, I now have concerns about the warden breaking state statute and state law," Ellington said.

Inmates are human beings. They deserve basic protections. As Ellington points out, not everyone in a correctional facility is a lifelong criminal. And all prisoners have rights.

Taxpayers in Missouri need to know if prison officials are subjecting inmates to cruel and unusual punishment. More transparency and accountability are the only way to reassure the public that state officials are upholding the law.

That starts with Precythe, Pash and other wardens across the state. They simply cannot be in charge of correctional facilities if they don't follow the law.

MILITARY NEWS



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

They treasured up wrath for the time to come.

-- Edward, Earl of Clarendon, on the growing discontent emerging from below that led to the revolutionary overthrow of the English feudal oligarchy and beheading of Charles I, King of England.

On War

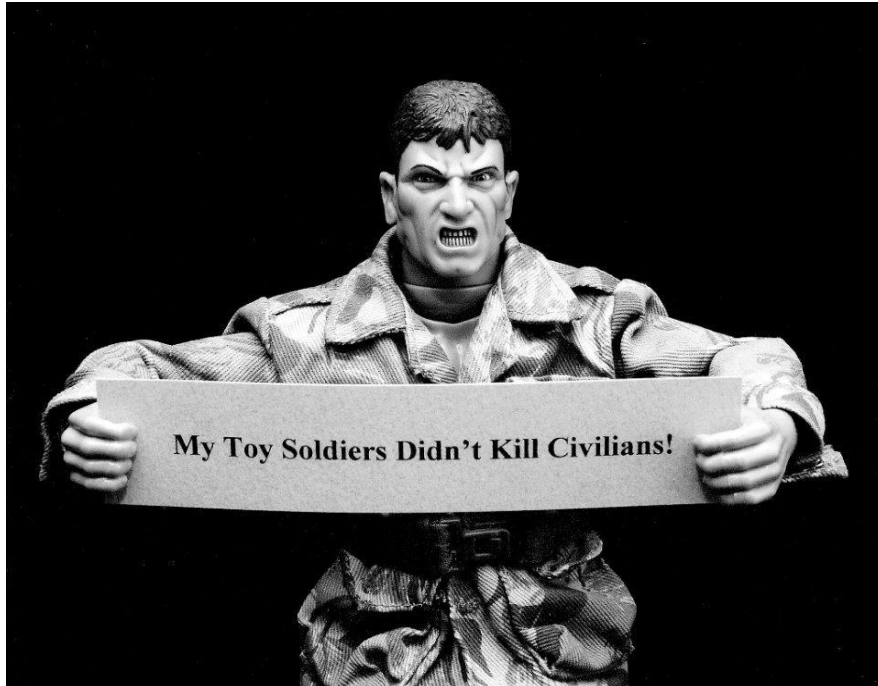


Photo by Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: September 05, 2018
Subject: On War

On War

The American people want to be lied to by their government, so their core belief system stays in tact.
Lies keep fantasies alive.
It's a great pain killer.

Mike Hastie
Viet Nam Veteran
September 5, 2018

The truth was obscure, too profound and too pure. To live it you have to explode.
Bob Dylan

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

RECEIVED FROM READERS



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "I hope it doesn't come to this."]

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN MILITARY SERVICE?

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly.

Whether at a base in the USA or stationed outside the Continental United States, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war and economic injustice, inside the armed services and at home.

Send email requests to address up top or write to: Military Resistance Newsletter, P.O. Box 2604, N.Y., N.Y. 10108

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



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

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**Palestinian Prisoner Beaten To
Death By Zionists:
“A Long List Of Similar Crimes
And Executions, Carried Out By
The Soldiers Against Palestinian
Detainees”**

**“Soldiers Beat Him On The Head,
Then Smashed His Head Several
Times Against The Wall Until He Fell
Down”**

**“Mohammad Is The Third Palestinian
Detainee To Be Killed By The Army This
Year”**



September 18, 2018 IMEMC News

The Palestinian Prisoners' Society (PPS) has reported that Israeli soldiers killed, on Tuesday at dawn, a young Palestinian man after abducting him from his home, and repeatedly assaulting him.

The PPS said undercover Israeli soldiers abducted Mohammad Zaghloul al-Khatib, 24, from his home in Beit Rima town, northwest of Ramallah, in central West Bank.

It quoted his brother stating that nearly 30 Israeli soldiers invaded the family home to abduct Mohammad, before continuously and repeatedly assaulting him in his home until he fell unconscious.

He added that the soldiers then took him brother to an unknown destination, and the family was later contacted by an Israeli intelligence officer, asking them whether Mohammad had any “preexisting conditions,” and they assured the officer that their son was completely healthy.

His mother said that the soldiers beat him on the head, then smashed his head several times against the wall until he fell down, unconscious.

They handcuffed his prone body, then left the scene, with him unconscious and handcuffed with no medical attention.

On Tuesday morning, the Palestinian District Coordination Office was contacted by its Israeli counterpart, informing them that Mohammad was dead, without setting a date for transferring his corpse back to his family.

The family said the soldiers resorted to the excessive use of force against Mohammad, continuously beating him up while abducting him, and accused the military of executing their son.

They stated that the soldiers started beating Mohammad up immediately after breaking into his room, and continued to assault him until he lost consciousness before the soldiers carried him and left the building.

The Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association held Israel responsible for his death.

In a detailed statement Addameer said: "At around 4 in the morning, Israeli special forces entered the house. Following their arrival, a larger number of regular soldiers arrived as back up. After removing the door to the house, the soldiers attacked the individual's mother and brought the members of the family into one part of the house. This included the mother, the father and three sons.

"The soldiers took Mohammad into a separate room, where he was beaten into an unconscious state. He was taken away from the house while in such a state, and taken to an unknown location. After two hours, his family was informed of their son's death. It was added that the dead had been shot in the leg two years ago during clashes in the village."

Mohammad was previously shot by the Israeli military two years ago, in the leg.

Addameer stated that, "Killing this young man, who posed no threat to the soldiers, violates international law". The group added, "This lethal, excessive use of force is an extrajudicial assassination". The group called on the United Nations to form a committee to investigate this and other crimes by the Israeli military.

The PPS held Israel fully responsible for killing Mohammad, and added that this crime is added "to a long list of similar crimes and executions, carried out by the soldiers against Palestinian detainees."

It added that the army has killed 217 Palestinian political prisoners, since Israel occupied the rest of Palestine in 1967.

The PPS stated that the silence of the international human rights organizations is granting Israel a green light to continue its crimes against the Palestinian people, especially since Israel continues to violate the basic rights of the Palestinians with impunity.

The PPS also said that approximately %95 of the Palestinians who are abducted and imprisoned by the Israeli army have been subjected to various forms of torture, during their arrest, and during interrogation.

Furthermore, the PPS stated that Mohammad is the third Palestinian detainee to be killed by the army this tear, as the soldiers killed Yassin Saradeeh, 33, who was shot and beaten repeatedly while lying on the ground, on February 22nd, in addition to Aziz 'Oweisat, 53, who died on May 20, at an Israeli hospital from serious complications after he was assaulted by several soldiers in the prison, when they claimed he attacked an officer with a sharp object.

Six Palestinians Killed In 24 Hours Shows Zionists 'Utter Disregard For Right To Life', Says Amnesty International

"One After Being Beaten During The Process Of Arrest"

September 20, 2018 The Middle East Monitor

Amnesty International yesterday responded to Israeli forces' killing of six Palestinians within a 24-hour period by accusing Israeli authorities of demonstrating an "utter disregard for right to life".

The international human rights group warned that "several of these incidents appear to involve deliberate and wilful killing of unarmed civilians and may amount to war crimes", and also renewed its call for an arms embargo to be imposed on Israel.

"Between 10pm on Monday 17 September and 8pm on Tuesday 18 September," Amnesty stated, "Israeli forces killed four Palestinian men in the Gaza Strip using live ammunition.

Within the same period, two more died as a result of the actions of Israeli forces in the West Bank, one after being beaten during the process of arrest and another shot dead in a busy street in East Jerusalem."

The NGO stated:

"The deaths of six Palestinians within just 24 hours is a horrific demonstration of the unnecessary or excessive force deployed by Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT)."

“It is the fact that such crimes are rarely, if ever, punished that allows unlawful killings and other violations of the right to life to continue in shameless disregard of international law,” said Saleh Higazi, deputy director for the Middle East and North Africa at Amnesty International.

“These incidents are not new in the OPT and are likely to continue unless this cycle of impunity is broken,” he added.

In the context of Israel’s ongoing violent repression of Great March of Return protests in the occupied Gaza Strip, Amnesty International said it “has not documented any instances where protesters posed an imminent threat to the lives of Israeli soldiers and snipers, who have been located behind the fence, protected by military equipment, sand hills, drones and military vehicles.”

“Israel has a duty to immediately launch an independent, thorough and transparent investigation into each of these incidents and all other incidents which may involve the use of unnecessary or excessive force, torture and other ill-treatment against Palestinian civilians,” Higazi said.

“We call on the Israeli authorities to hold those found responsible for these grave violations to account through fair trials. Until this happens we will not see an end to Israeli forces’ random and apparently senseless killing and violence.”

The Amnesty official also urged the international community to “take concrete steps to stop the delivery and trade of arms and military equipment to Israel”, adding that “a failure to do so fuels serious human rights violations against millions of men, women and children suffering the consequences of 50 years of military occupation, including 11 years of blockade in the Gaza Strip”.

Israeli Soldiers Kill Another Palestinian In Gaza: “The Soldiers Also Shot Twenty Palestinians With Live Rounds”

September 24, 2018 IMEMC News

The Palestinian Health Ministry has reported that Israeli soldiers killed, on Sunday evening, a young Palestinian man, and injured at least 20 others, including one medic, along the eastern part of the besieged Gaza Strip.

Dr. Ashraf al-Qedra, the spokesperson of the Health Ministry in Gaza, said the soldiers shot Emad Daoud Eshteiwi, 21, with a live round in the head, east of Gaza city, and moderately injured a medic in the leg.



He added that the soldiers also shot twenty Palestinians with live rounds, along the perimeter fence, in the eastern parts of the coastal region, especially east of the al-Boreij refugee camp, in central Gaza, as the army shot at least 14 Palestinians.

The Palestinians were shot during the ongoing Great Return March processions in the besieged Gaza Strip, while many burnt tires in an attempt to block the sniper vision of the Israeli soldiers, stationed hundreds of meters away, across the perimeter fence.

In addition, Israeli drones fired missiles at protesters near the fence, east of Gaza city, causing several injuries.

Palestinians Fight Back; Stop Zionist Attempt To Grab More Of Their Land

2018/09/20 WAFA

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, September 20, 2018

Jewish settlers attempted on Thursday to seize a plot of land owned by a Palestinian family in Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood of East Jerusalem but were stopped by the neighbors and forced to leave the area.

Residents said Arie King, who spearheads settlement activity and takeover of Palestinian homes and property in East Jerusalem's Palestinian neighborhoods, led a group of settlers in leveling a plot of land owned by Abdul Razzak al-Sheikh for settlement purposes.

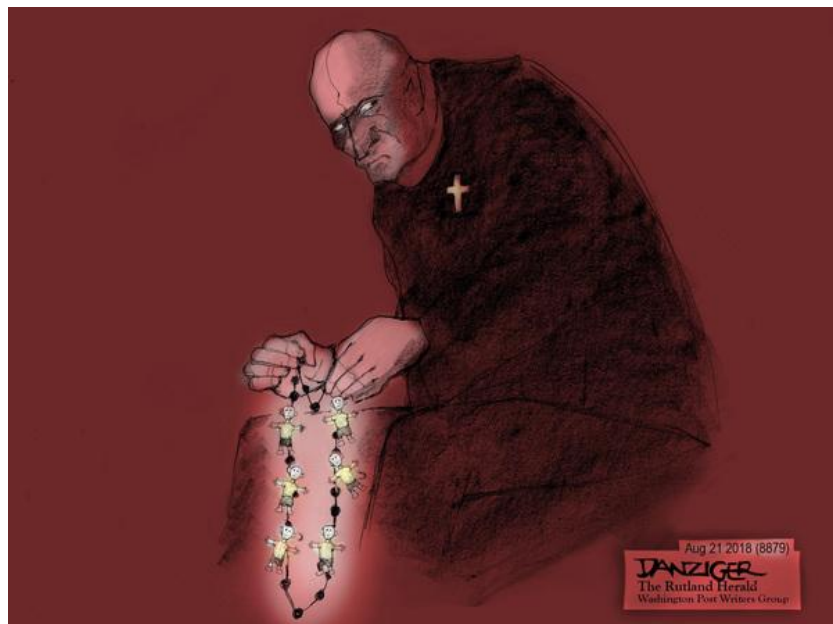
The residents quickly intervened and prevented the settlers from proceeding with their work on the land.

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



Military Resistance www.militaryproject.org

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BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE.



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