

## **Military Resistance 9A12**

**Tunisia:  
National Guard Members Join  
Demonstration Against The  
Government:  
“Please Don’t Storm The Office Of  
The Prime Minister” Cops Plead:  
“But Protesters Were Already Starting To  
Break The Barricades By Late  
Afternoon”**



National guard members and firemen join demonstration against the government  
[Reuters]

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Resistance Organization, and June V.I., who sent this in.]

22 Jan 2011 Aljazeera

Thousands of demonstrators, including police officers, lawyers and students, have taken to the streets of Tunisia's capital, Tunis, in another day of unrest in the North African country.

At least 2,000 police officers participated in Saturday's demonstrations, according to the Associated Press news agency.

They were joined by members of the national guard and fire departments.

Crowds gathered in front of the office of Mohamed Ghannouchi, the interim prime minister, and on Avenue Habib Bourguiba, the main street of Tunis.

At the prime minister's office, Al Jazeera's Hashem Ahelbarra reported, protesters broke through barricades but no violence occurred.

**He reported that the anti-riot squad pleaded with the crowd, saying: 'Do whatever you want to do but please don't storm the office of the prime minister. That is a red line.'**

**But protesters were already starting to break the barricades by late afternoon.**

Masoud Romdhani, a trade union activist who was at the demonstration, told Al Jazeera that the protests must continue in order to oust the Constitutional Democratic Rally (RCD), the former ruling party, entirely.

**Many Tunisians are angry over the inclusion of several prominent members of Ben Ali's cabinet in the new interim government.**

Romdhani said labour activists feel that "nothing is done" until the RCD is removed from the cabinet entirely.

**MORE:**

**“Slogans Like ‘Long Live The Revolution’ And ‘Death To The Dictatorship’ Were Spray-Painted On The Walls, And Demonstrators Hurling Insults At Top Cabinet Officials”**

# “Thousands Of Tunisians Have Gathered In Front Of The Country’s Interior Ministry, Demanding The Dissolution Of The New Interim Government”



Crowd demonstrates in front of the interior ministry, seeking the dissolution of the new interim government. [AJazeera.net](http://AJazeera.net)

[Thanks to Michael Letwin, New York City Labor Against The War & Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

January 21, 2011 [AJazeera.net](http://AJazeera.net) & By DAVID D. KIRKPATRICK, The New York Times [Excerpts]

TUNIS — The powerful Tunisian trade union squared off against the interim government on Friday as thousands of protesters demanding the complete eradication of the old ruling party stormed into the streets and gathered in front of the country’s interior ministry.

The demonstrations, the biggest since the huge protests a week ago that pushed out Tunisia’s dictator, Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali, demanded the breakup of the old ruling party’s continued domination of the interim government that replaced him.

Mouldi Jendoubi, the union’s second-ranking leader, said in an interview that his organization had helped turn out workers for this week’s continued wave of protests. “We want the resignation of the whole government to form a new government,” he said.

**But he acknowledged that Friday’s crowds were far bigger and more diverse than the trade union alone could muster.**

**Waves of marchers — students as well as workers, male and female, a few in Muslim scarves or beards — poured through the narrow corridors of the old city to surround the prime minister’s office, chanting that the people would rise up until the government collapsed.**

Slogans like “Long live the revolution” and “Death to the dictatorship” were spray-painted on the walls, and demonstrators hurled insults at top cabinet officials. “Coward,” they called the interior minister.

But the police and soldiers stood by without interfering, letting the crowd vent some of the anger pent up under 23 years of Mr. Ben Ali’s authoritarian rule.

Protesters marched down the Avenue Habib Bourguiba in Tunis, the country’s capital, on Friday morning, chanting anti-government slogans, Al Jazeera’s Yasmine Ryan reported.

Police blocked the protesters at the interior ministry and prepared water cannons, she said. Protesters soon dispersed, with many heading towards the headquarters of the main labour union, calling for a general strike.

Later in the day, some police officers joined protesters in a march towards the prime minister’s office, Al Jazeera’s Nazinine Moshiri said.

Many Tunisians are angry that several prominent members of Ben Ali’s government have been included in the transitional cabinet, which convened for the first time on Thursday.

After five resignations this week, the cabinet has appeared to hold together. The interim prime minister, Mohamed Ghannouchi, previously Mr. Ben Ali’s right-hand man, appears to hope he can outlast the protests.

The trade union, with about half a million members in a country of more than 10 million, has a history of political protests dating to the fight against the French colonial power here. Mr. Ben Ali’s government had co-opted the group, requiring loyalty from its top officials, and it initially only followed the youth-led protests that pushed Mr. Ben Ali from office, joining demands for more jobs and economic development.

But in recent weeks the union broke free of its government ties. Members leaped to the barricades to demand Mr. Ben Ali’s resignation, and they have stayed in the streets demanding the eradication of his party.

Now the union is the biggest institutional force still pushing for the breakup of the interim government. The small, legally recognized opposition parties are represented in the cabinet, and the outlawed Islamist movement here is only beginning to reconstitute itself.

Opposition leaders in the new government said they feared a collapse that could invite a military takeover.

But Mr. Jendoubi said he was not worried. “The Tunisian Army is from the people and for the people,” he said, noting that Mr. Ben Ali had risen through the bureaucracy and interior ministry rather than at the head of a military coup.

On their way to the protests, some Tunisians stopped to enjoy the first fruits of their new government.

A crowd gathered outside a bookstore window to gawk at previously banned books, including Islamist tracts and a scathing biography of the former first lady, Leila Trabelsi. Cafe patrons listened, rapt, to news reports of the revolt from the pan-Arab network Al Jazeera, which had been banned from such public sites.

Tunisian state television mixed official announcements with talk shows with opposition leaders and angry person-on-the-street interviews.

At Friday Prayer services in Tunis mosques, where imams had previously preached only government-approved sermons and dutifully included prayers for the state, many hailed as a martyr the vegetable peddler whose suicide kicked off the protests.

**MORE:**

**“The Government Commands No Authority And The Initiative Is Still Firmly On The Streets”**

**“Workers’ Assemblies And Strikes Have Been Organised To Drive Out The Hated RCD Managers, CEOs And High Ranking Officials”**

**“The List Of Companies Where The Workers Have Taken Action Is Very Long”**

**At the Banque de Tunisie, its general director Alia Abdallah and all high ranking officers have been barred by the workers, organized by the UGTT, from entering their offices, in order to prevent the destruction of potentially incriminating documents. The workers have seized all sensitive documents and computers.**

21 January 2011 by Jorge Martín, Marxist.com [Excerpts]

While the “new” Tunisian government of “national unity” (in fact, stacked with Ben Ali ministers) had its first meeting on Thursday, January 20, and attempted to rush through a series of measures which would gain it some legitimacy, the revolution continues on the streets and in the workplaces with workers taking on anyone in authority who had links to the old Ben Ali regime.

Yesterday we reported that there had been demonstrations throughout the country of tens of thousands in every town and city, even the most remote.

Today there were even reports of a strike and demonstrations by police officers in Monastir, Bizerte and even parts of Tunis. Some were at work, directing traffic, but wearing red arm bands in protest.

Yesterday we reported how a Provisional Council had taken over the running of all affairs in Sidi Bou Ali.

We have now received a report that a similar development has taken place in the city of Siliana, in the North West where “the citizens have set up a local council for the protection of the revolution and the management of public affairs”.

Their founding statement says that “faced with the vacuum of power created by the flight of officials linked to the RCD”, they have decided to create a local and a regional council “to protect the revolution and to manage the running of the city and the governorate.”

**There are many reports of journalists in state owned newspapers, radio stations, TV channels, etc., which used to be nothing but disgusting mouthpieces of Ben Ali’s propaganda, getting organized and taking over the editorial line.**

This is the case at the state-owned La Presse. El-Heni, a journalist in the foreign desk explains:

**“We had an important meeting and decided to create two elected editorial committees to supervise the editorial line, and we told the boss that he would no longer have any editorial control...**

**“He is only here for finance and administration. He was clever enough to understand that.”**

**One of the La Presse journalists, who had been sacked for political reasons, has been reinstated as the head of the journalists’ union in the paper.**

In state owned companies, ministries and private companies owned or linked to the Trabelsi family, workers’ assemblies and strikes have been organised to drive out the hated RCD managers, CEOs and high ranking officials.

On Tuesday, January 18, UGTT workers at STAR, one of the country’s main insurance companies, went on strike and expelled the company’s CEO, Abdelkarim Merdassi, in protest at his links with the Trabelsi clan.

[V]ideo captured the extraordinary moment in which the workers physically expelled him from his office while singing the national anthem.

Similar movements developed at the oil distribution company SNDP, where the CEO Rafea Dkhul was also kicked out by the workers, who criticized his close links with the Trabelsi family.

Dkhul had given the Trabelsi clan concessions of a number of petrol stations worth millions of euro.

**At the Banque de Tunisie, its general director Alia Abdallah and all high ranking officers have been barred by the workers, organized by the UGTT, from entering their offices, in order to prevent the destruction of potentially incriminating documents. The workers have seized all sensitive documents and computers.**

Also expelled from their positions by the action of the workers and their trade unions are Moncef Bouden, from the Tax Office, Moncef Dakhli, CEO of the National Agricultural Bank and Montassar Ouaili, CEO of Tunisie Telecom.

The outgoing Minister of Sports, Abdelhamid Slama was prevented by the workers from entering his old ministry to pick up his things.

The list of companies where the workers have taken action is very long.

Today, the workers of the Tunis public transport went on strike also demanding the dismissal of the CEO of their company.

The Tunisian business press is full of articles complaining about the “lack of respect for the law” and asking “what is the Ministry of the Interior doing” about these actions on the part of the workers.

An opinion article on the business website Web Manager Centre implored “Let’s not put businessmen on their knees”. Another was entitled “Discipline – ‘comrades’.”

**The workers feel confident and are moving forward, not just against the bosses, but also against their own bureaucratic trade union leaders who until very recently were supporting the dictatorship of Ben Ali.**

An appeal is circulating for an extraordinary national congress of the UGTT to be convened in order to remove the current leadership.

The government commands no authority and the initiative is still firmly on the streets.

## **DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?**

**Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Afghanistan, Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the wars, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Phone: 888.711.2550**

# AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

## Loved Ones Remember Fallen Soldier

January 13, 2011 KHBS-TV

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. -- Olivia Yates said Sgt. Ethan Hardin was like a brother to her.

"I would let him know that his presence in my 24 years of life made all the difference, and I am so thankful for his sweet spirit," said Yates.

Yates and Hardin were a part of a close-knit group who knew each other since the day they were born.

Yates said the group is finding it hard to come to grips with knowing they'll never see him again.

"Your heart just sinks and it's like you can't breathe. And on this earth, I'll never be able to hug him again. I'll never be able to tell him how proud I am of him," said Yates.

The 25-year-old was killed Friday in an attack in Afghanistan.

Bryan Disney, Hardin's minister at Mission Boulevard Baptist Church in Fayetteville, said he screamed when he got the call.

"My wife is next to me, she said, 'What's the matter?' I said, 'Ethan had been killed,' and she began to cry," said Disney.

Tears that he said his entire congregation sheds daily since finding out about Hardin's death.

"Its very hard for us. We're a close-knit congregation. Everybody's like family together," said Disney.

Disney said the congregation will get through this, but the sorrow will never heal.

"They're supposed to be at our funeral. It's just upside down for us," said Disney.

**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT  
THE BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE  
WARS**



**Violence Against Women  
Skyrockets Under U.S.  
Occupation Government:  
“It Hands Important Positions To  
People Linked To Human Rights  
Abuses, Including Violence  
Towards Women”  
“With Every Passing Day, The  
Violence Against Women Spreads”  
“Afghan Human Rights Organisations  
Say That Violence Against Women Has  
Increased By 50% Over The Last Year”**

**“Over the past 10 years, conferences, workshops, on which hundreds of millions of dollars were spent, have not shown any positive impact on the lives of the women. The rights of women became a business, so there’s not much trust left.”**

19 Jan 11 Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR), By Mina Habeeb - Afghanistan [Excerpts]

They sit patiently in the lobby of the directorate of women’s rights at the women’s ministry, their sad, bruised faces testimony to the years of ill-treatment and beatings they have been forced to endure.

One of the women, Marina, 20, told this IWPR reporter that her family married her off when she was 14 to a drug-addict twice her age. As she related her story, a large tear appeared in her eye and dropped down her bony cheek. She said that soon after her marriage, her husband started beating her, suspicious that she was having an affair with her brother- and father-in-law.

“Every day and night, I am beaten and there is no one to support me. That is why I have turned to the directorate, to try to help me get a divorce from my husband,” she said.

But her hopes of getting help are fading, as she complains that she's been coming here on a daily basis and just gets passed from one office to another.

After the collapse of the Taleban, there was much talk about the need to improve women's rights and various organisations and institutions were set up with the task of doing so, most notably the women's affairs ministry.

But ten years on, there is not much to show for all these efforts, with violence against women still on an upward curve.

Over the last five years, efforts to safeguard women's rights have been strongly resisted by the male-dominated parliament.

Shin Karokhel, the representative of Ningrahar province in parliament, is highly critical of the discriminatory attitudes towards women among her male colleagues, "Whenever we tried to talk about women and their rights we would face harsh reactions from the male legislators. When there's such discrimination in the only legislative body in the country, where educated people come together, we cannot complain about the behaviour of ordinary people."

Mirwais Yassini, the deputy parliamentary speaker, agreed with Karokhel, saying, "It is very true that in the past five years, parliament has fallen short with regard to women in the country. I accept that with every passing day, the violence against women spreads ten-fold which has caused all of us to be worried. I promise that in the next parliament I will personally work on this issue."

Afghan human rights organisations say that violence against women has increased by 50 per cent over the last year.

Women's activists are angered by the government's attitude to the problem. They say that rather than doing anything, it hands important positions to people linked to human rights abuses, including violence towards women.

Selai Ghafar, the head of the NGO Humanitarian Assistance for the Women and Children of Afghanistan, which over the last year has helped 150 female victims of domestic violence, said, "In the government of Afghanistan, key posts have been given to those who have a record of discrimination and human rights violations."

**Ordinary women, meanwhile, say they are fed up with what they describe as the government's empty promises to protect them from abuse.**

**Nahid, 30, from Kabul, claims the authorities have spent a fortune on expensive initiatives aimed at tackling the problem, but there's little to show for it.**

**"Over the past 10 years, conferences, workshops, on which hundreds of millions of dollars were spent, have not shown any positive impact on the lives of the women. The rights of women became a business, so there's not much trust left. In ten years, we have not seen one person punished for violence against women or any law to stop it," she said.**

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**NO MISSION;  
POINTLESS WAR:  
ALL HOME NOW**



US soldiers patrol in Bangi village, Andar district in Ghazni province on January 6, 2011.  
(AFP/Shah Marai)

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**MILITARY NEWS**

**Stupid Sadistic Twisted Freak James  
Averhart, Quantico Brig Commander,  
Caught Tormenting Bradley Manning:  
He Placed Arrested Soldier On A Fake  
Suicide Watch, Defying Jail's Forensic  
Psychiatrist**

[Thanks to Michael Letwin, New York City Labor Against The War & Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

**Coombs responded that the forensic psychiatrist has consistently recommended - with the exception of one week in December - that there was “no medical reason” for Manning to be even on a prevention-of-injury watch, let alone a suicide watch.**

January 21, 2011 By Ellen Nakashima, Washington Post Staff Writer [Excerpts]

The lawyer for alleged government secrets leaker Bradley Manning is accusing military authorities of using punitive measures against Manning at the Marine Corps jail in Quantico, Va.

**Manning, a 23-year-old Army private suspected of passing thousands of classified documents to the online site WikiLeaks, was placed on suicide watch for two days this week - against the recommendation of the jail’s forensic psychiatrist, attorney David E. Coombs said.**

**During this time, Manning was forced to stay in his cell around the clock, stripped to his underwear, the lawyer said. His prescription eyeglasses were taken from him, except for the hour of television he is allowed to watch or when he was reading, Coombs added.**

On Wednesday, Coombs filed a complaint with Marine Corps Base Quantico, alleging that the commander of the brig, or detention facility, abused his discretion by placing Manning on suicide watch.

Brig commander James Averhart had determined the 23-year-old was a suicide risk, Coombs said.

**But after the Army Staff Judge Advocate’s office urged him to reconsider the designation, Averhart removed the suicide watch Thursday and restored Manning to “prevention of injury” watch.**

Manning is also being held under maximum custody, which has its own set of rules.

A Quantico spokesman, First Lt. Scott Villiard, said that he did not know why Averhart recommended the suicide watch, but that the determination was “based on input from more than one person.” That included medical professionals, mental health professionals and the Marine guards who watch detainees, he said.

**Coombs responded that the forensic psychiatrist has consistently recommended - with the exception of one week in December - that there was “no medical reason” for Manning to be even on a prevention-of-injury watch, let alone a suicide watch.**

He said he pressed for a reason behind the status change this week, but was given none.

**“The fact that they won’t articulate any basis for it leaves you with no other conclusion than it must be punitive,” he said.**

Under prevention-of-injury watch, Manning may have no sheets or pillows, though he does have two blankets and a built-in pillow in his foam mattress, Coombs said. He is

not allowed personal items, and may have one book or magazine at any given time to read.

As a maximum-custody detainee, he is restricted to his cell for 23 hours, takes meals in his cell and is barred from exercising there.

David House, a Boston computer researcher who has regularly visited Manning, said in a blog posting last month that Manning told him that he had not been outside for recreation or exercise in four weeks.

Prior to last week, Manning was allowed only to walk in an empty room for his recreation time, Coombs said. He usually walked in figure-eights until his hour was over, he said.

**Villiard said Manning was placed in maximum custody because authorities determined that his escape “could pose risk to life, property or national security.”**

**Coombs said, “I find it just incredible to say now he’d be a flight risk. You’d have to go through no less than five locked doors, remote-access-controlled, to get outside. Even then you would be on Quantico base. He couldn’t escape from there if he wanted to.”**

Subject: Great Housing Opportunity on WS of Manhattan

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## **THIS IS HOW OBAMA BRINGS THEM HOME: ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE**



The casket of Pfc. Zachary Salmon, 21, is carried from St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Lawrenceburg, Ind., following his funeral service. Salmon was fatally shot by insurgents in Afghanistan on Jan. 12, 2011. (AP Photo/The Cincinnati Enquirer, Jeff Swinger)

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# **Pigs At The Trough: “From 2004 Through 2008, 80 Percent Of Retiring Three- And Four-Star Officers Went To Work As Consultants Or Defense Executives, According To The Globe Analysis” “The ‘Rent-A-General’ Business Is All But Irresistible”**

December 26, 2010 By Bryan Bender, Boston Globe Staff [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON — An hour after the official ceremony marking the end of his 35-year career in the Air Force, General Gregory “Speedy” Martin returned to his quarters to swap his dress uniform for golf attire. He was ready for his first tee time as a retired four-star general.

But almost as soon as he closed the door that day in 2005 his phone rang. It was an executive at Northrop Grumman, asking if he was interested in working for the manufacturer of the B-2 stealth bomber as a paid consultant. A few weeks later, Martin received another call. This time it was the Pentagon, asking him to join a top-secret Air Force panel studying the future of stealth aircraft technology.

Martin was understandably in demand, having been the general in charge of all Air Force weapons programs, including the B-2, for the previous four years.

He said yes to both offers.

**In almost any other realm it would seem a clear conflict of interest — pitting his duty to the US military against the interests of his employer — not to mention a revolving-door sprint from uniformed responsibilities to private paid advocacy.**

**But this is the Pentagon where, a Globe review has found, such apparent conflicts are a routine fact of life at the lucrative nexus between the defense procurement system, which spends hundreds of billions of dollars a year, and the industry that feasts on those riches.**

**And almost nothing is ever done about it.**

The Globe analyzed the career paths of 750 of the highest ranking generals and admirals who retired during the last two decades and found that, for most, moving into what many in Washington call the “rent-a-general” business is all but irresistible.

From 2004 through 2008, 80 percent of retiring three- and four-star officers went to work as consultants or defense executives, according to the Globe analysis.

And in many cases there is nothing subtle about what the generals have to sell — Martin's firm is called The Four Star Group, for example. The revolving-door culture of Capitol Hill — where former lawmakers and staffers commonly market their insider knowledge to lobbying firms — is now pervasive at the senior rungs of the military leadership.

**Dozens of retired generals employed by defense firms maintain Pentagon advisory roles, giving them unparalleled levels of influence and access to inside information on Department of Defense procurement plans.**

The feeder system from some commands to certain defense firms is so powerful that successive generations of commanders have been hired by the same firms or into the same field.

**For example, the last seven generals and admirals who worked as Department of Defense gatekeepers for international arms sales are now helping military contractors sell weapons and defense technology overseas.**

**When a general-turned-businessman arrives at the Pentagon, he is often treated with extraordinary deference — as if still in uniform — which can greatly increase his effectiveness as a rainmaker for industry.**

The military even has name for it — the “bobblehead effect.”

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**Vietnam Veterans Of America  
Founder Bobby Muller Condemns  
Choice Of Bigoted Fanatic To Lead  
Air Force Academy Prayer  
Breakfast:  
Lt. Col. John Bryan, Air Force  
Academy Publicity Man, Caught In  
Stupid Lie When He Claims  
Attendance Is Voluntary:**

# **“My USAFA Boss And Even His Boss Left It Very Clear That If We Didn’t Go To This ‘Patriotic Christian’ Event We’d Be ‘Letting Him Down’”**

**I saw in the news that the Academy is trying to downplay this whole mess which the MRFF brought to the public by saying that it’s ‘voluntary’ to go to it and that this USMC Lt. is a just ‘motivational speaker’ and that ‘nobody will be taking names.’ LIES!”**

Jan 21, 2011 By Chris Rodda, Talk to Action [Excerpts]

The background:

The speaker scheduled to appear at the U.S. Air Force Academy’s National Prayer Luncheon on February 10 is former Marine Lt. Clebe McClary.

Why?

As stated on McClary’s website, “Clebe is what he likes to call a complete Marine. To him USMC will always mean U.S. Marine for Christ.”

**Other statements from McClary make it clear that, to him, only born again Christians are “real” Christians.**

**McClary’s message not only excludes members of all non-Christian religions, but many Christians as well, making him a completely inappropriate choice for an Air Force Academy event that should be inclusive of members of all faiths**

Former Marine and Vietnam veteran Bobby Muller, the founder of Vietnam Veterans of America, had the following to say about the Air Force Academy’s choice of Lt. McClary to speak at the Prayer Luncheon:

**“As a former Marine lieutenant who, like Lt. Clebe McClary, was severely wounded while leading a mission in Vietnam, I am appalled by my fellow Marine’s statement that a “complete” Marine is one who likes to think that U.S.M.C. stands for “U.S. Marine for Christ.”**

**I am even more appalled that the United States Air Force Academy has invited someone with such a religiously divisive and sectarian message to speak at its upcoming National Prayer Luncheon, an event that should be inclusive of Airmen of all faiths.**

“Lt. McClary lost an eye and an arm; I lost the ability to walk.



“Countless other Marines, of all religions and no religion, have also suffered life-changing and permanent injuries in the service of our country.

**Lt. McClary dishonorably, not to mention illegally, appears in the uniform of a Marine before both military and civilian audiences, not with the message of “Once a Marine, Always a Marine,” but a message of “Once a Marine, now `a member of the Lord’s Army.’”**

“Proselytizing and Christian supremacy have no place in the United States military, and I urge the Air Force Academy to reconsider its choice of Lt. McClary as the speaker for its Prayer Luncheon, and to replace him with a speaker who can deliver a message that is inclusive of members of all faiths.”

“Bobby Muller

“- Advisory Board member, Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF)  
- Founder and President for nine years of Vietnam Veterans of America, the only congressionally chartered veterans organization in the nation for Vietnam veterans  
- Nobel Peace Prize (1997), Co-Founder of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL)”

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The Air Force Academy is, of course, denying that Lt. McClary is anything other than an entirely appropriate and inclusive inspirational speaker. According to the Colorado Springs Gazette:

**An academy spokesman, Lt. Col. John Bryan, defended the choice of McClary and said the planned prayer gathering is optional and inclusive of a broad spectrum of religious views.**

**“Nobody is being forced or coerced to go to this luncheon,” Bryan said.**

**Well, according to a USAF officer on staff at the Air Force Academy, speaking on behalf of himself and about a dozen officers there, Lt. Col. Bryan is lying.**

The officer who wrote the following to MRFF founder and president Mikey Weinstein is one of many current and former military personnel who have heard Lt. McClary speak on previous occasions, and can say from first hand experience that this speaker is most certainly not “inclusive of a broad spectrum of religious views,” as Lt. Col. Bryan claims.

### **Subject: Lies, Lies and More Lies**

“Mr. Weinstein and MRFF, you do not know me but I am one of your clients anyway. I am one of your clients because I and many others here cannot breathe. We cannot breath one word of protest against the “serious committed Christian” bias that exists here at the Air Force Academy everywhere.

“I have run this e-mail message by another dozen or so officers here at USAFA to make sure that I can speak for them as well. And I can.

One word or even one tiny action against 'them' and you and your career are labeled as an 'outsider.'

Lt. Gen. Mike Gould says he wants us all to have "fanatical institutional pride" in the Air Force Academy.

Well, that 'fanatical pride' is not considered proper unless it includes the right kind of 'fanatical Christianity.'

"What kind is that? Just the kind that is handed out by USMC Lt. McClary.

"I've heard him speak before and I know what he says and what he does to his audience. It made me sick then and will again when he speaks on Feb. 10 at the Falcon Club here at USAFA. Unless MRFF and your allies stop it from happening.

**"If anyone of us beg to differ we're going to be hurt by the system here which is the people who are the 'Christian' Christians.**

"If that happens it's all over. I am also an Air Force Academy graduate and pilot.

**"I am married with kids and my wife and I are Protestants but try to keep it very on the down low because we know we'd be judged poorly for not being 'energetic Christians' as my boss likes to say. "Like the time my boss asked me if Jesus was in control of my life or if I felt that I was the one in control and then gave me some literature from Focus on the Family as a 'gift.'**

"It is also been made very clear that we are expected to support USAFA by personally attending this 'National Prayer Luncheon.'

**"I saw in the news that the Academy is trying to downplay this whole mess which the MRFF brought to the public by saying that it's 'voluntary' to go to it and that this USMC Lt. is a just 'motivational speaker' and that 'nobody will be taking names.' LIES!"**

**"My USAFA boss and even his boss left it very clear that if we didn't go to this 'patriotic Christian' event we'd be 'letting him down.'**

"Seriously, 'patriotic Christian' event?"

"That says it all.

**"Believe me please MRFF when I say that the names of the absent will very certainly be remembered.**

**"Am I going? In a word, hell yes. I have kids and need my job.**

"I have been afraid to say anything to them for a very long time now. I've gotten good at hiding my hatred of it all. I'm used to it now.

**“The feeling I have of being down for not standing up to the ‘energetic Christians’ here is not as bad now as the feeling I would have of having my Air Force career derailed by a bad performance eval.**

“You do not need to tell me what that makes me. I know what that makes me and I’m not proud of it. Thank you MRFF for fighting for those of us who have lost the will to fight. And in doing so lost a lot of our own dignity.”

**(Name, Rank, USAF Academy Staff position withheld)**

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In addition to the issues raised above, Lt. McClary also regularly violates Titles 10 and 18 of U.S. Code by appearing at his speaking engagements, both military and civilian, in a Marine uniform, something that, apparently, not a single military attendee at any of his numerous appearances on military bases has informed him is illegal.

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## **OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

### **Zionist-Allied Palestinian Politicians Forbid Demonstrating Solidarity With Tunisian**

#### **Revolution:**

**“They Were Scared Of The Slightest  
Spark Leading To An Uprising  
Against Israel Or People Demanding  
Accountability From The Palestinian  
Authority”**

**“‘A Significant Number Of Detainees Are  
Tortured During Interrogation’ By  
Palestinian Police Officers”**

[Thanks to Michael Letwin, New York City Labor Against The War & Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

January 20, 2011 By ROBERT MACKEY, New York Times [Excerpts]

The Palestinian Authority refused to grant permission for a rally to celebrate the overthrow of Tunisia's authoritarian president on Wednesday in Ramallah, the administrative capital of the West Bank.

The French newspaper Le Monde reported that a few dozen Palestinians who defied the ban arrived in the square in Ramallah where the rally was to take place only to find that they were outnumbered by members of the ruling Fatah party, who chose the same time and place to stage a demonstration in support of Palestinians held in Israeli jails.

A correspondent for Le Monde, Benjamin Barthe, observed that a police cordon around the square and "the presence among the demonstrators of many mukhabarat (secret police) officers left little doubt about the Palestinian Authority's intention to prevent any expression of solidarity with the 'jasmine revolution' " in Tunisia, which led the president, Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali, to flee into exile.

Omar Barghouti, a leading Palestinian human rights activist who was present at the thwarted celebration, told the French newspaper: "It's unbelievable. ... The police are in the process of confirming the charge that the Palestinian Authority is on the side of Ben Ali and that it also fears the people and the street."

Shawan Jabarin, the director of al-Haq, a Palestinian human rights group, told Le Monde that it was the president's office that had banned the demonstration and "all use of the Tunisian flag."

He added that his contacts in the Palestinian government indicated that "they were scared of the slightest spark leading to an uprising against Israel or people demanding accountability from the Palestinian Authority."

**In addition to historic ties and sympathy for the trials of a personal friend, the Palestinian president might have good reason to fear the example set on the streets of Tunis.**

**As Hussein Agha and Robert Malley pointed out in The New York Review of Books this week, the Palestinian Authority, which controls local affairs in about 40 percent of the West Bank, is "a government that rules by decree, with little democratic legitimacy — Parliament has not met in years and elections are long overdue."**

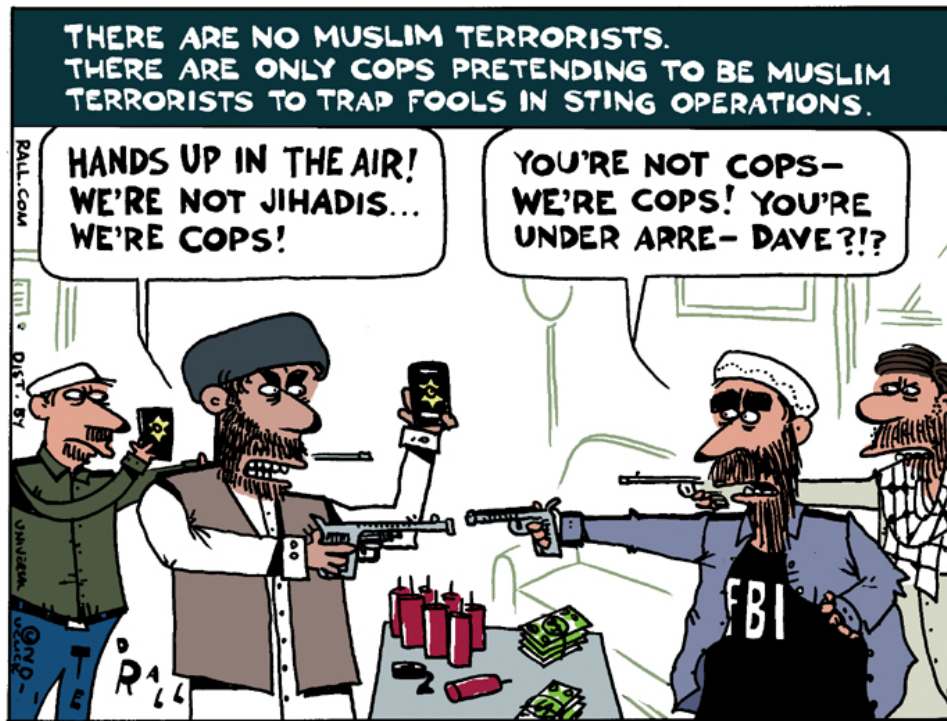
**Last month, Tobias Buck reported for The Financial Times from Jerusalem, "There is evidence that a significant number of detainees are tortured during interrogation" by Palestinian police officers.**

Mr. Jabarin, whose human rights group is based in Ramallah, told The Times, "I feel real concern that we are reaching the level of a police state." Mr. Buck added:

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by foreign terrorists, go to: [www.rafahtoday.org](http://www.rafahtoday.org) The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves “Israeli.”]

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## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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## British Police Infiltrating Political Groups “Cleared To Have Sex With Activists”

“‘It’s Amazing How Women Don’t Like  
You Going To Bed With Someone Else,’  
Said The Officer”

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

22 January 2011 Mark Townsend and Tony Thompson, Guardian News and Media Limited [Excerpts]

Mark Kennedy had sexual relationships with several women while serving as an undercover policeman and infiltrating a ring of environmental activists.

Undercover police officers routinely adopted a tactic of “promiscuity” with the blessing of senior commanders, according to a former agent who worked in a secretive unit of the Metropolitan police for four years.

The former undercover policeman claims that sexual relationships with activists were sanctioned for both men and women officers infiltrating anarchist, leftwing and environmental groups.

Sex was a tool to help officers blend in, the officer claimed, and was widely used as a technique to glean intelligence.

**His comments contradict claims last week from the Association of Chief Police Officers that operatives were absolutely forbidden to sleep with activists.**

The one stipulation, according to the officer from the Special Demonstration Squad (SDS), a secret unit formed to prevent violent disorder on the streets of London, was that falling in love was considered highly unprofessional because it might compromise an investigation.

He said undercover officers, particularly those infiltrating environmental and leftwing groups, viewed having sex with a large number of partners “as part of the job”.

“Everybody knew it was a very promiscuous lifestyle,” said the former officer, who first revealed his life as an undercover agent to the Observer last year. “You cannot not be promiscuous in those groups. Otherwise you’ll stand out straightaway.”

The claims follow the unmasking of undercover PC Mark Kennedy, who had sexual relationships with several women during the seven years he spent infiltrating a ring of environmental activists. Another two covert officers have been named in the past fortnight who also had sex with the protesters they were sent to spy on, fuelling allegations that senior officers had authorised sleeping around as a legitimate means of gathering intelligence.

Mounting anger among women protesters will see female activists converge on Scotland Yard tomorrow to demand that the Met disclose the true extent of undercover policing. The demonstration is also, according to organisers, designed to express “solidarity with all the women who have been exploited by men they thought they could trust”.

The former SDS officer claims a lack of guidelines meant sex was an ideal way to maintain cover. He admitted sleeping with at least two of his female targets as a way of obtaining intelligence.

“When you are on an undercover unit you were not given a set of instructions saying you could or couldn’t do the following. They didn’t say to you that you couldn’t go out and

drink because technically you're a police officer, that you shouldn't go out and get involved in violent confrontations, you shouldn't take recreational drugs.

"As regards being with women in very, very, very promiscuous groups such as the eco-wing, environmental movement, leftwing, or the Animal Liberation Front – it's an extremely promiscuous lifestyle and you cannot not be promiscuous in there.

"Among fellow undercover officers, there is not really any kudos in the fact that you are shagging other people while deployed. Basically it's just regarded as part of the job.

"The best way of stopping any liaison getting too heavy was to shag somebody else. It's amazing how women don't like you going to bed with someone else," said the officer, whose undercover deployment infiltrating anti-racist groups lasted from 1993 to 1997.

Two years later the SDS became the National Public Order Intelligence Unit, the secretive organisation that employed Kennedy and whose activities are the subject of three investigations.

**The former SDS officer, who has now left the Met, said one stipulation by senior commanders was that undercover officers should be married, so that they had something to return to.**

**He said the move was introduced when a spy never returned after five years undercover.**

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## **Thousands Of Jordanians March Against Royal Dictatorship And "Economic Hardship" Friday, Demanding The Government Get Out:**

**"The Opposition Groups Are  
Calling For Reforms To Allow  
Jordanians To Elect Their Prime  
Minister" Instead Of Being  
Appointed By A King:**

# **“The Jordanian People Are On Fire. The Government Is Cutting Its People Like A Saw. Down, Down Rifai”**

[Thanks to Michael Letwin, New York City Labor Against The War & Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

January 21, 2011 By DALE GAVLAK, The Associated Press [Excerpts]

AMMAN, Jordan -- Thousands of Jordanians calling for their government to step down marched in several cities Friday in an outpouring of anger over economic hardship and a lack of democratic reforms in the constitutional monarchy.

Spurred on by the example of the popular uprising in Tunisia, Jordanians have staged growing protests in the past week. The opposition movements that organized Friday's demonstrations vowed to keep up the pressure until Prime Minister Samir Rifai and his government resign.

Wary of the outcry, particularly over rising prices, Jordan's government has taken some steps to try to defuse the situation, including by announcing \$125 million in subsidies on basic goods and fuel. The prime minister also announced a surprise pay increase for civil servants.

**Protesters scoffed at the measures.**

**“They lie to the people. They reduce some things and increase others more,” said Muslim Brotherhood demonstrator Suhair Asaaf, an electrical mechanic.**

He was among more than 5,000 people demonstrating Friday in the capital, Amman, its suburb Zarqa and in the northern town of Irbid. The organizers of what was dubbed a “Day of Rage” represented a broad swath of Jordan's opposition, including the powerful Muslim Brotherhood, left-wing groups and trade unions.

Crowds chanted: “The Jordanian people are on fire. The government is cutting its people like a saw. Down, down Rifai.”

The opposition groups are calling for reforms to allow Jordanians to elect their prime minister and the rest of the Cabinet rather than having them appointed by King Abdullah II.

Abdullah, a key U.S. ally, ascended to the throne in 1999 vowing to transform his desert Arab kingdom into a model democracy in the Muslim world.

Leftist Mohammad Safi called the government's limited reforms “window-dressing” to try to calm the people.

“This whole system of government must change. And we'll continue the protests until that happens,” he said.



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# **“In 2009, 50 Million People In The U.S. Under Age 65 Lacked Health Insurance”**

## **“Most Of These Individuals Come From Working Families And Have Low Incomes”**

## **“The Majority Of The Uninsured (81%) Are Native Or Naturalized U.S. Citizens”**

December 2010 The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured [Excerpts]

In 2009, 50 million people in the U.S. under age 65 lacked health insurance.

Most of these individuals come from working families and have low incomes.

The recent recession has contributed to significant declines in employer-sponsored coverage. Adults make up more than their share of the uninsured because they are less likely than children to be eligible for Medicaid- especially young adults whose low incomes make it more difficult to afford coverage. A high unemployment rate and increases in the number of individuals living below poverty put employer-sponsored coverage out of reach for many individuals.

More than three-quarters of the uninsured are in working families - sixty-one percent are from families with one or more full-time workers and 16% are from families with part-time workers.

Workers usually enroll in employer-sponsored health insurance if they are eligible. However, it has become increasingly difficult for many workers to afford coverage. The average annual total cost of employer-sponsored family coverage is \$13,770 in 2010, and the share of the premium paid by workers increased to 30% this year.

The vast majority of the uninsured are in low- or moderate-income families. Individuals below poverty are at the highest risk of being uninsured, and this group comprises 40% of all the uninsured (the poverty level for a family of four was \$22,050 in 2010).

More than half (63%) of nonelderly uninsured adults have no education beyond high school, making them less able to get higher-skilled jobs that are more likely to provide health coverage. Those with less education are also more likely to be uninsured for longer periods of time.

**Minorities are much more likely to be uninsured than whites.**

About one third of Hispanics are uninsured compared to 14% of whites. The uninsured rate among African-Americans (23%) is also much higher than that of whites. Because racial and ethnic minority groups are more likely to come from low- income families, Medicaid is an important source of health insurance for them.

However, its limited reach leaves large numbers of minorities uninsured.

**The majority of the uninsured (81%) are native or naturalized U.S. citizens.**

Although non-citizens (legal and undocumented) are about three times more likely to be uninsured than citizens they are not the primary cause of the uninsured problem. Non-citizens have less access to employer coverage because they are more likely to have low-wage jobs and work for firms that do not offer coverage.

**The uninsured tend to be in worse health than the privately insured.**

Uninsured adults are more than twice as likely to report being in fair or poor health as those with private insurance. Almost half of all uninsured nonelderly adults have a chronic condition.

**Those with such conditions and others who are not in good health and who do not have access to employer- sponsored coverage may find non-group coverage to be unavailable or unaffordable.**

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**Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces.**

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