

Military Resistance 9A14

**NOT ANOTHER DAY
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR
NOT ANOTHER LIFE**



The remains of Army Spc. Jose A. Delgado Arroyo of San Juan, Puerto Rico, upon arrival at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Jan. 5, 2011. Arroyo was killed by an insurgent attack in Iraq. AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)

**Dishonorable Filth In
Command:
Worthless Piece Of Shit In Charge Of
Quantico Brig Orders Bradley
Manning's Approved Visitors
Detained By Military Guards And Car
Towed:**

The Orders For Scheme To Delay Visitors' Release From Groundless Detention By Armed Guards Until Visiting Hours Were Over "Come From The Top"



www.bradleymanning

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

January 23, 2011 By: Michael Whitney, Firedoglake

At roughly 1:00 pm, upon driving onto the base at Quantico, David House and blogger Jane Hamsher were detained by military guards.

House, who is on the Quantico Brig's visitation list, has been visiting Bradley Manning in confinement since last September.

In December 2010, House came forward with testimony that he witnessed a deterioration in Manning's physical and mental state due to the conditions of Manning's solitary confinement.

House traveled to the Quantico brig to check up on Bradley's well-being after a week in which Manning's lawyer filed an Article 138 complaint over Manning's mistreatment at Quantico. House and Hamsher also planned to deliver a 42,000-signature strong petition calling for an end to the inhumane conditions that Manning is being held.

Upon arriving at the main entrance at Quantico, House and Hamsher were stopped and detained by military police who provided no explanation for detainment aside from a statement from one MP that his orders to detain had "come from the top."

Between 1:00 – 1:30 MPs took their IDs and made them sign a form that they could not deviate to the brig or else they would be considered trespassing.

At this time, one of the MPs asked for Hamsher's auto insurance card. MP Gunnery Sgt. Foster informed Hamsher that her car would be towed after declining to accept a digital copy of Hamsher's insurance card.

House and Hamsher offered to drive off the base but were denied, despite being detained only ten feet inside the base's perimeter.

The MPs then took the Social Security numbers, phone numbers and addresses of House and Hamsher.

Around 1:40 the tow truck arrived and MPs instructed House and Hamsher to leave their vehicle, informing them that their vehicle would be searched.

At 2:00 pm House observed military officers arriving and entering the MP outpost which oversaw their detainment.

House expressed concern that he would miss Manning's visiting hours but was told that he could neither exit nor move forward to the base.

No explanation for House and Hamsher's detainment was provided until 2:50 when they were informed they could leave the base.

They were detained for two hours up until Manning's visitation time period expired at 3:00 pm.

In past visits, Hamsher and House have had no problem driving onto the base to visit Manning.

This is the first time House has been denied access to Manning.

House and Hamsher's detainment comes on the heels of Amnesty International calling for an investigation into the conditions of Manning's confinement. The UN Special Rapporteur on Torture has also announced that the UN will be starting an investigation and Manning's attorney has filed an article 138 complaint citing inhumane and overly harsh conditions on part of the Brig.

Now House, Manning's primary visitor outside of his attorney, who has provided public testimony about Manning's deteriorating conditions as a result to his solitary confinement, has effectively been denied access to Manning.

“The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops.” Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Resistance Action

Jan 20 (Reuters) & Jan 23 (Reuters) & Jan 24 (Reuters)

BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb went off near the house of a brigadier general working for the cabinet, killing him and wounding an intelligence officer in the Ghazaliya district of western Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said.

BAQUBA - A bomber drove a car into a police headquarters, killing at least three and wounding around 30 in the city of Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) northeast of Baghdad, police said.

BAIJI - A roadside bomb went off near the convoy of Lieutenant Colonel Salah Mohammed, head of a police unit in Baiji, 180 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad, on Wednesday, and wounded two of his guards, police said.

TAZA - A roadside bomb wounded a leader of a government-backed militia and three of his guards as they were driving by in a pickup truck in Taza, 210 km (130 miles) north of Baghdad, the Joint Coordination Centre in Kirkuk said.

TIKRIT - The governor of Salahuddin province, Ahmed al-Jubouri, escaped unharmed from a roadside bomb attack in central Tikrit, 150 km (95 miles) north of Baghdad, police and provincial officials said. Five of his security guards were wounded.

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Traveling Soldier is the publication of the Military Resistance Organization.

Telling the truth - about the occupations or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance to Imperial wars inside the armed forces.

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.

If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Slain Alabama Marine Was 'Tough As Nails'



The remains of Cpl. Joseph C. Whitehead at Dover Air Force Base, Del. (Steve Ruark)

January 21, 2011 By Rhonda A. Pickett, The Associated Press

MOBILE -- Those who knew Cpl. Joseph C. Whitehead called him hardworking and loyal, a man with the mettle of a Marine.

"He was an outstanding young man. Always tough as nails," Jeff Kelly, Whitehead's former high school football coach, said Wednesday. "You could work him hard in the weight room and on the field, and that stuff didn't seem to bother him."

"Since that's how he was when he was with us, I knew he made an outstanding soldier," Kelly said.

Whitehead, 22, a U.S. Marine from Axis, was killed Monday during combat in Afghanistan, U.S. Department of Defense officials announced Tuesday. His flag-draped casket arrived Wednesday in Dover, Del., and will be shipped to Alabama.

Whitehead was killed while conducting combat operations in the Helmand province of Afghanistan, officials said.

Helmand is a province in south-central Afghanistan, composed of generally flat and arid deserts and some farmland. It is about 400 to 450 miles southwest of Kabul.

According to the Department of Defense website, more than 1,100 U.S. military personnel have been killed in action in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

Whitehead "was doing a sweep for the infantry in the field" when "he set off an IED," an improvised explosive device, said his brother, Destin Goodhue.

Whitehead was assigned to the 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion, 2nd Marine Division II Marine Expeditionary Force, officials said. His unit was based out of Camp Lejeune, N.C.

“He was a young man that would never back down from hard work,” Kelly said. “He was a hard worker and had a certain playfulness about his personality that made folks want to be around him. He was a joy to coach.”

Kelly coached Whitehead between 2005 and 2007, when he was the head coach for the Satsuma High School Gators. Kelly is the newly hired coach at Saraland High School. On the football field, Whitehead was a defensive lineman but “played a lot of different things,” sometimes as a defensive back and sometimes switching to the offense, Kelly said.

“He was always jovial. Just a kind young man that always made you smile. I know he touched a lot of lives.”

Goodhue called his older brother a hero.

“He was my hero, my idol. He just paid the ultimate sacrifice,” Goodhue said. “I just want everybody to know he was my hero.”

Whitehead joined the Marines after graduating from Satsuma High School in 2007, family members said.

“He had been in Afghanistan for five weeks,” Goodhue said.

**“An Enemy That Knows The
Terrain, Can Find Support And
Shelter In Many Villages”**

**“The Metal Detectors Are Often
Useless: We Call Them
Confidence Boosters”**

**“The Loss Of Limbs Is So Common
That The Men Refer To ‘Amps,’
‘Double Amps’ And ‘Triple Amps’ To**

Describe Their Comrades' Conditions"

"All The Conventional Marine Corps Tactics Of Enveloping And Closing With The Enemy Are Impossible In This Environment. Your Only Choice Is To Fight From Current Location Due To Threat Of I.E.D.'S"

But the insurgents' bombs have been even worse than their bullets, and every move the Marines make now must come slowly, deliberately.

Clustered tightly on trails, each one taking care to step in the footprints of the man before him, the Marines squint at every bump in the dirt in case it hides an improvised explosive device.

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

January 17, 2011 By MICHAEL KAMBER, The New York Times [Excerpts]

PATROL BASE BARIOLAI, Afghanistan — If the battlegrounds of Afghanistan are the "tip of the spear," as Marines like to say, then the remote district of Sangin in Helmand Province may be its very point: the deadliest spot in the hardest-fought province for Marines leading the American offensive in Taliban territory.

Marines took over full responsibility for the area in September from badly bloodied British troops who had often kept to defensive positions.

The Americans have been more aggressive in their four months in Sangin, but this has resulted in heavy casualties: of at least 120 confirmed Marine deaths across the huge surrounding province since a new troop rotation in mid-April, 27 have been in this tiny corner.

That is in part because the Taliban fighters here are well trained and battle-hardened, and many American units face daily firefights.

But the insurgents' bombs have been even worse than their bullets, and every move the Marines make now must come slowly, deliberately.

Clustered tightly on trails, each one taking care to step in the footprints of the man before him, the Marines squint at every bump in the dirt in case it hides an improvised explosive device.

The way they have been forced to adapt highlights the intense challenges that Americans face as they try to root out an enemy that knows the terrain, can find support and shelter in many villages, and is patient enough to let booby traps do most of the fighting.

“One of our sergeants turned around, he planted his foot just outside the trail and lost both legs,” said First Lt. Daric Kleppe, an officer with the Third Battalion, Fifth Marines.

Standard procedure now is for the men to shuffle their feet in a small circle when they must turn — a profound and dangerous frustration for a Marine force whose fighting philosophy is based on quick maneuvering.

“All the conventional Marine Corps tactics of enveloping and closing with the enemy are impossible in this environment. Your only choice is to fight from current location due to threat of I.E.D.’s,” said Petty Officer Third Class Royce Burgess.

The Marines’ unit, Company I, has encountered as many as 15 improvised explosive devices in a day.

Four months into their seven-month tour here, one of the company’s platoons has had nearly a quarter of its men either wounded or killed.

The loss of limbs is so common that the men refer to “amps,” “double amps” and “triple amps” to describe their comrades’ conditions.

“This is probably the most dangerous place on earth,” said First Lt. Stephen Cooney, as he looked out over the landscape. “Or at least in Afghanistan.”

On patrol one day last week, members of the company’s First Platoon carefully made their way down the dirt paths of a village they knew only as “The Fish Tank,” a collection of mud-walled compounds just outside the perimeter of their rudimentary base in Sangin District.

They did not have to go far to find the bomb the Taliban had planted for them.

Thirty pounds of homemade explosive, enough to blow a man to pieces, lay buried along a footpath about 100 yards outside their base’s outer wire.

The enemy had crept up under cover of darkness, hidden behind the low mud walls that line the landscape. Only the diligence of Lance Cpl. Luis Garcia, who spotted a small irregularity in the dirt, saved lives.

Lance Cpl. Miguel Lizarraga, using a metal detector, found a second, partly assembled I.E.D. nearby.

An explosives disposal team was called in and quickly triggered the explosives. An enormous blast shook the ground and dirt showered down on the Marines and seven Afghan soldiers accompanying them as they took cover behind a nearby wall.

The explosive was designed to be triggered by a pressure plate made of wood and plastic foam, a very common design that makes the bomb nearly invisible to metal detectors.

“The batteries are the only thing you can find, and they bury them up to 10 feet off the trail, connecting them with low-metallic speaker wire,” Sgt. Aaron Beckett said.

“The metal detectors are often useless: we call them confidence boosters,” one officer said, with a grim laugh.

As the Marines passed into a populated area on their recent patrol, some of the villagers waved and smiled. Young children gathered around as the Marines, relaxing a bit, passed out candy. The children’s presence was a sure sign that no I.E.D.’s were nearby.

But just 50 yards up the path, three men in black head wrappings sat against a wall in the distance, watching the Marines with hateful eyes.

“Those guys are definitely shady,” Lieutenant Cooney said. “You can tell after a while which ones want us here.”

Minutes later, the Marines detected warning signs along their path: uneven earth and scatterings of hay.

Proceeding would very likely result in the wounding or death of a Marine. They attached an explosive charge to the wall of a compound and blasted a hole through, then took the shortcut back to their base.

As the men removed their sweat-stained gear and took long swallows of water, a few drops of rain began to fall.

“I hate it when it rains,” Cpl. David Hernandez said. “The dirt runs together. We can’t see where they’ve dug in the I.E.D.’s.”

“A ‘Tom And Jerry’ Cartoon Which Never Ends”

January 17, 2011 By Michael Prysner, Liberation [Excerpt]

For U.S. troops in Afghanistan, there is nothing but constant, heavy combat, with no end in sight.

At the heart of the fighting in Helmand province, where the Obama administration would like to claim “progress,” a U.S. military commander anonymously revealed the reality of combat there: A “Tom and Jerry’ cartoon which never ends.”

“The only difference,” he said, “is the cartoon does not claim lives, but here we lose men every day.” (TOLOnews.com, Jan 3)

UNREMITTING HELL ON EARTH; ALL HOME NOW



A U.S. soldier of 2nd Platoon Bravo Company 2-327 Infantry returns fire during a sudden attack by Taliban on Badel Combat Out Post in eastern Afghanistan near Pakistani border Dec. 29, 2010. (AP Photo/Rafiq Maqbool)

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

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

MILITARY NEWS

“What Logic Now Determines A Sergeant First Class Is Paid Less Than A First Lieutenant?”

“Or That A Major With 10 Years Gets More Than The Sergeant Major With 26 Years?”

“The Pay Tables Are Not Fair And Are Based On Bygone Times”

January 24, 2011 Army Times Editorial [Excerpt]

A first lieutenant with three years of service is paid more than a sergeant first class with 20 years of service.

The Army pays that lieutenant more than the multideployed platoon sergeant who has nursed him into the Army despite the fact that the NCO has shouldered responsibilities far above those that traditionally come with his paygrade.

Given that senior NCOs today typically are better educated than those of a generation ago and often assume the duties and responsibilities bestowed earlier only to officers, what logic now determines a sergeant first class is paid less than a first lieutenant?

Or that a major with 10 years gets more than the sergeant major with 26 years?

The Pentagon defends the pay system, a spokesperson saying “compensation for officers and enlisted members reflects differences in authority and responsibility for positions held by each group.”

Most enlisted soldiers and many officers who contacted Army Times don't buy that.

They believe the pay tables are not fair and are based on bygone times, when officers really were the only college-educated troops and when job responsibilities were pay-grade-specific, rather than compressed as they are today.

The Pentagon did push through several years of targeted raises from 1999 to 2005, bringing up pay levels specifically for midcareer troops. But an examination of compensation paid to today's senior NCOs indicates they still are not adequately paid for their training, education, skills and experience as compared to amounts given to officers far more green.

MORE:

**“A First Lieutenant With A Mere
Three Years In Service Is Paid
More Than A Sergeant First
Class With 20 Years In Service”**

“Of Course It’s Not Fair.

**“A Majority Of The NCOs Now Have
Just As Much Education And
Probably More Experience Than The
Officer Corps”**

**“At A Minimum We Deserve A Higher
Pay Than Majors”**

January 24, 2011 By Michael Hoffman, Army Times Editorial [Excerpts]

Noncommissioned officers serve as mentors and confidants to officers of every rank, yet the pay gap between them keeps growing and some soldiers say they want it stopped.

A command sergeant major with 20 years in uniform, for example, makes \$17,133 less per year in base pay than a major with 12 years of service. A captain can earn twice as much as a sergeant.

And, a first lieutenant with a mere three years in service is paid more than a sergeant first class with 20 years in service.

Fair?

“Of course it’s not fair. The NCO Corps, ‘the backbone of the Army,’ is responsible for all training, to include training officers. A majority of the NCOs now have just as much education and probably more experience than the officer corps,” wrote Sgt. R.J. Eugin, a recruiter.

Staff Sgt. Jacob Alexander with the 4th Infantry Division said increased pay should accompany increased education levels if the Army keeps requiring that senior NCOs earn degrees to be promoted.

Command Sgt. Maj. David Thompson with the 101st Sustainment Brigade said the pay structure needs to change. He commended former Sergeant Major of the Army Jack Tilley for his work to shrink the pay gap between officers and senior NCOs in the beginning of the decade.

“He made great efforts, but his target base pay for E-9s was not followed through. Command sergeants major serve under ... generals — at a minimum we deserve a higher pay than majors,” Thompson wrote in an e-mail.

A command sergeant major who asked not to be named said it can create awkward relationships when the senior NCO is asked to coach and mentor field-grade officers who have half the experience but get paid significantly more.

“The military basic pay table is reviewed annually as part of the process for recommending the amount of increase for military basic pay,” Eileen Lainez, a spokeswoman for the Defense Department, said in a statement. “Compensation for officers and enlisted members reflects differences in authority and responsibility for positions held by each group.”

The long-standing argument has been that officers receive higher pay partly because they almost always earn their commission with a college degree. But more NCOs than ever boast a college degree.

“I don’t believe it is fair at all. It has been said that the reason for officers’ higher pay is because of their advanced degrees and their level of responsibility,” Alexander wrote.

“More and more it is a requirement for senior enlisted leadership to have a graduate degree if not a postgraduate degree for advancement.”

Shitbags In Command Using Loophole “To Separate Injured Troops Without Having To Grant Them Medical Retirement And Its Associated Lifetime Benefits”

The big change takes aim at the practice of declaring an injured member simultaneously fit for military duty and nondeployable for the same medical condition.

January 24, 2011 Army Times

The Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2011 takes another shot at closing what veterans groups say is a loophole that the services have used to separate injured troops without having to grant them medical retirement and its associated lifetime benefits.

The big change takes aim at the practice of declaring an injured member simultaneously fit for military duty and nondeployable for the same medical condition.

That results in a Catch-22: Members declared fit for duty but nondeployable can be pushed out on involuntary administrative discharges — with no benefits.

The new law requires a second look by a Physical Evaluation Board if a member is found both fit for duty and nondeployable, and makes the defense secretary the final approving authority for conditions of separation or retirement.

In a report accompanying the bill, lawmakers said they are “disappointed” that the Defense Department “has not resolved the differing approaches of the services to this problem despite numerous complaints, inquiries, and expressions of concern about the inequitable treatment of military personnel with medical conditions.”

They said they expect the defense secretary to “issue uniform guidance to the services about how to proceed in the disposition of currently serving service members who fall into this category.”

Scum At Chase Bank Broke Law To Harass And Torment A Military Family: “‘They Were Harassing Us For Money That We Did Not Owe Them,’ Julia Rowles Says” “Her Husband Once Got A Collection Call At 3 A.M.”

January 19, 2011 by Tamara Keith, NPR [Excerpts]

The banking giant JPMorgan Chase is admitting it made some very big mistakes. As first reported by NBC News, the firm says it overcharged more than 4,000 active-duty military personnel on their home loans and foreclosed in error on 14 of them.

Julia Rowles and her husband, Marine Capt. Jonathan Rowles, have been fighting with Chase ever since Rowles was commissioned as an officer in 2006.

“They would say, 'We will take your house. We will report you to the credit agency. This is a bad situation that you don't want to be getting into. Pay us today.'

“They were harassing us for money that we did not owe them,” Julia Rowles says.

Her husband once got a collection call at 3 a.m.

None of that was supposed to happen.

Under a federal law called the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, most troops can get their mortgage interest rates reduced to 6 percent while on active duty, and foreclosures aren't allowed.

Rowles says her husband, who is now overseas, was granted the lower interest rate, but Chase didn't adjust its records.

“They kept still charging us 9 and 10 percent, and we were paying upwards to \$2,000 when we should have only been paying \$1,400,” she said.

This week Chase said it would send out \$2 million worth of refunds to 4,000 active-duty customers like the Rowles family who were overcharged.

It also admitted to wrongfully foreclosing on 14 homes, and said all but one of those cases had been resolved. Bank officials declined an interview request, but in a statement said: “While any customer mistake is regrettable, we feel particularly badly about the mistakes we made here.”

But attorney Dick Harpootlian in Columbia, S.C., isn't ready to accept the apology.

He's one of the lawyers representing the Rowles family in what he hopes will become a class-action lawsuit against Chase.

“I was a prosecutor for 12 years. Everybody that got caught taking money that wasn't theirs always said they were sorry, offered to give it back and call it even,” he said. “And that's just not what ought to happen in cases like this.”

GOT AN OPINION?

Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send to contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request identification published.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



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

“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.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

**Disgusting Moralistic Hypocrites
Lament The Sadistic Isolation Of
Bradley Manning, While Ignoring
104,000 Other Prisoners Treated
As Badly, Or Worse:**

“Where Is The Outrage – Even Among Progressives – For These Forgotten Souls?”

“Where, For That Matter, Is Some Acknowledgment Of Their Existence?”

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

The treatment of Bradley Manning, which has introduced many on the left to the torment of solitary confinement, may present an opportunity for them to measure their own tolerance for torture.

They might begin by asking themselves whether solitary confinement is wrong, and worthy of their attention and outrage, only when it is suffered by people whose actions they admire.

19 January 2011 James Ridgeway and Jean Casella, Guardian News [Excerpts]

For the past few weeks, progressive commentators have been burning with outrage over the prison conditions endured by accused WikiLeaks source, Private Bradley Manning.

For more than seven months, Manning has been held in 23-hour-a-day solitary confinement at a Marine brig in Quantico, Virginia, denied sunlight, exercise, possessions, and all but the most limited contact with family and friends.

The conditions of his detention are being discussed, lamented and protested throughout the left-leaning blogosphere, and few of those taking part in the conversation hesitate to describe Manning's situation as “torture”.

Bradley Manning's treatment undeniably deserves this attention. But while Manning's punishment is cruel, it is far from unusual.

According to available data, there are some 25,000 inmates in long-term isolation in America's supermax prisons, and as many as 80,000 more in solitary confinement in other facilities.

Where is the outrage – even among progressives – for these forgotten souls? Where, for that matter, is some acknowledgment of their existence?

To be fair, a few of the writers who champion Manning have mentioned in passing the widespread use of solitary confinement in the United States.

But more often, these writers – and their readers, if comments are any measure – have gone to some lengths to distinguish Bradley Manning from the masses of other prisoners being held in similar conditions.

Whether explicitly or implicitly, they depict Manning as exceptional – and therefore, as less deserving of his treatment and more worthy of our concern.

Frequently, writers and readers make the point that Manning is being subjected to these conditions while he is merely accused, rather than convicted, of a crime.

Perhaps they need to be introduced to the 15-year-old boy who, along with several dozen other juveniles, is in isolation in a jail in Harris County, Texas, while he awaits trial on a robbery charge.

He is one of hundreds – if not thousands – of prisoners being held in pre-trial solitary confinement, for one reason or another, on any given day in America. Most of them lack decent legal representation, or are simply too poor to make bail.

There is, rightly, concern over the damage being done to Manning's mental health by seven months in solitary.

Seldom mentioned is the fact that an estimated one third to one half of the residents of America's isolation units suffer from mental illness.

They include a 17-year-old inmate who, according to the ACLU, “was so traumatised by his deplorable treatment in the Montana state prison that he twice attempted to kill himself by biting through the skin on his wrist to puncture a vein.”

During his ten months in solitary confinement, the teenager was Taser-ed, pepper-sprayed, and stripped naked in view of other inmates; “his mental health treatment consisted of a prison staff member knocking on his door once a week and asking if he had any concerns.”

Finally, many have argued that the nature of Manning's alleged crimes renders him a heroic political prisoner, rather than a “common criminal” like most others.

Those who take this line might want to look into the Communications Management Units at two federal prisons, where, according to a lawsuit filed last year by the Center for Constitutional Rights, prisoners are placed in extreme isolation “for their constitutionally protected religious beliefs, unpopular political views, or in retaliation for challenging poor treatment or other rights violations in the federal prison system”.

All of these cases are “exceptional” – but only in that they earned the attention of some journalist or advocate.

Most prisoners held in solitary confinement are, by design, silent and silenced.

Most of their stories – tens of thousands of them – are never told at all.

Since solitary confinement is now used as a disciplinary measure of first resort in prisons and jails throughout the country, it is anything but exceptional.

Inmates are placed in isolation for months or years not only for fighting with other inmates or guards, but for being “disruptive” or disobeying orders, or for having contraband (which can be a joint, a cellphone, or too many postage stamps).

In many prisons, juveniles and rape victims are isolated “for their own protection” in conditions identical to those used for punishment.

In fact, if solitary confinement is “torture” – or at the very least, cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment – then it shouldn't matter what a prisoner has done to end up there.

The treatment of Bradley Manning, which has introduced many on the left to the torment of solitary confinement, may present an opportunity for them to measure their own tolerance for torture.

They might begin by asking themselves whether solitary confinement is wrong, and worthy of their attention and outrage, only when it is suffered by people whose actions they admire.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

“The Leadership Of Palestinian Authority Exposed By The Publication Of Their Official Secret Documents As A Pack Of Traitors Collaborating With The Zionist State:

“Not One Of The Villains On The Palestinian Side Can Survive It”

“How The U.S. And Britain Covertly Facilitated And Even Implemented Israeli Military Expansion – While Creating An Oligarchy To Manage It” Documents Expose “The Extent Of Undemocratic, Authoritarian, Colonial And, Frankly, Terrifying Coercion The U.S., Britain And Other Western Governments Have Been Imposing Upon Palestinians”

The claim they were acting in good faith is absolutely shattered by the publication of these documents today, and the information to be revealed over this coming week.

Whatever one's political leanings, no one, not the Americans, the British, the UN, and especially not these Palestinian officials, can claim that the whole racket is anything other than a brutal process of subjugating an entire people.

23 January 2011 Karma Nabulsi, Guardian News [Excerpts]

It's over.

Given the shocking nature, extent and detail of these ghastly revelations from behind the closed doors of the Middle East peace process, the seemingly endless and ugly game is now, finally, over.

Not one of the villains on the Palestinian side can survive it.

With any luck the sheer horror of this account of how the US and Britain covertly facilitated and even implemented Israeli military expansion – while creating an oligarchy to manage it – might overcome the entrenched interests and venality that have kept the peace process going.

A small group of men who have polluted the Palestinian public sphere with their private activities are now exposed.

For us Palestinians, these detailed accounts of the secretly negotiated surrender of every one of our core rights under international law (of return for millions of

Palestinian refugees, on annexing Arab Jerusalem, on settlements) are not a surprise.

It is something that we all knew – in spite of official protests to the contrary – because we feel their destructive effects every day.

The same is true of the outrageous role of the US and Britain in creating a security bantustan, and the ruin of our civic and political space.

We already knew, because we feel its fatal effects.

For the overwhelming majority of Palestinians, official Palestinian policy over these past decades has been the antithesis of a legitimate, or representative, or even coherent strategy to obtain our long-denied freedom.

The release into the public domain of these documents is such a landmark because it destroys the final traces of credibility of the peace process.

Everything to do with it relied upon a single axiom: that each new initiative or set of negotiations with the Israelis, every policy or programme (even the creation of undemocratic institutions under military occupation), could be presented as carried out in good faith under harsh conditions: necessary for peace, and in the service of our national cause.

Officials from all sides played a double game vis-à-vis the Palestinians.

It is now on record that they have betrayed, lied and cheated us of basic rights, while simultaneously claiming they deserved the trust of the Palestinian people.

This claim of representative capacity – and worse, the assertion they were representing the interests of Palestinians in their struggle for freedom – had become increasingly thin over the last decade and a half.

The claim they were acting in good faith is absolutely shattered by the publication of these documents today, and the information to be revealed over this coming week.

Whatever one's political leanings, no one, not the Americans, the British, the UN, and especially not these Palestinian officials, can claim that the whole racket is anything other than a brutal process of subjugating an entire people.

Why has this gone on for so long and at such high cost? And why haven't the Palestinians been able to create the democratic representation so urgently needed to advance their cause? Israel, along with those who share its worldview, would assert that the problem lies with the Palestinians themselves, being part of an Arab political culture that can only breed either authoritarian governments or terrorists.

Yet what these documents reveal is the extent of undemocratic, authoritarian, colonial and, frankly, terrifying coercion the US, Britain and other western governments have been imposing upon Palestinians through this unaccountable leadership.

The unconstrained power of America, the global superpower that has (now on record and in sickening detail) taken one party's side in this conflict, can be seen on every page.

Everyone is implicated, from the president to the secretary of state, from the military generals who have created the security forces to implement these policies to the embassy staff involved in the daily execution of them.

It also shows this policy is an absolute failure, bringing ruination upon the Palestinians and increasing belligerency from the completely unfettered, aggressive and erratic Israel, currently practising a form of apartheid towards the Palestinians it rules through force.

This uneven balance of power can only be successfully addressed in the same way every national liberation movement has addressed it in the past: through the unassailable strength of a popular mandate. Ho Chi Minh sitting down with the French, or Nelson Mandela negotiating with the apartheid regime embodied this popular legitimacy, and indeed drew their principles and negotiating positions from it.

The Palestinian leadership's weak and incompetent posturing is the opposite of dignified and honourable national representation, and proves useless to boot.

Its behaviour has nearly erased the record of the contribution made by tens of thousands of ordinary Palestinian citizens who, through the sheer force of their devotion to public life, fought for principles and created real and democratic self-representation under the worst of conditions.

It is our most valuable freedom, and one well worth fighting for: the release of these devastating documents paves the way for its restoration.

MORE:

“The Palestinian Leaders, Who Are Weak, Craven And Eager To Shower Their Counterparts With Compliments”

“The Israelis, Who Are Polite In Word But Contemptuous In Deed”

“The Americans, Whose Neutrality Consists Of Bullying The Weak And Holding The Hand Of The Strong”

23 January 2011 Editorial, The Guardian [Excerpts]

Gerald Kaufman once described Labour's 1983 manifesto as the longest suicide note in history.

If ever a set of documents merits this epithet, it is surely the one we publish today.

Written by Palestinian officials, obtained by al-Jazeera and shared with the Guardian, the papers are the confidential record of 10 years of efforts to seek a peace agreement with Israel.

It is hard to tell who appears worst: the Palestinian leaders, who are weak, craven and eager to shower their counterparts with compliments; the Israelis, who are polite in word but contemptuous in deed; or the Americans, whose neutrality consists of bullying the weak and holding the hand of the strong.

Together they conspire to build a puppet state in Palestine, at best authoritarian, at worst a surrogate for an occupying force.

To obtain even this form of bondage, the Palestinians have to flog the family silver. Saeb Erekat, the PLO chief negotiator, is reduced at one point to pleading for a fig leaf: “What good am I if I'm the joke of my wife, if I'm so weak,” he told Barack Obama's Middle East envoy George Mitchell.

Palestinian concessions roll on.

The Israeli settlements around East Jerusalem? Sold, two years ago in a map which allows Israel to annex all of the settlements bar one, Har Homa.

Mr Erekat called it the biggest Yerushalayim (he used the Hebrew word for Jerusalem) in history.

Israel's former foreign minister Tzipi Livni acknowledges the pain involved, but refuses the offer. Israel banks the concession anyway. They are building in occupied Gilo today as if there is no tomorrow.

Haram al-Sharif, the third holiest site in the Muslim world? That, too, is up for grabs. Mr Erekat said he was prepared to consider “creative ways” to solve the problem of Haram al-Sharif or the Temple Mount.

The surrender of land Palestinians have lived on for centuries prompts more demands.

Not only does Israel want all of East Jerusalem, Har Homa, and the settlement blocs of Ariel and Ma'ale Adumim which carve strategic swathes out of the West Bank. Not only does it insist on a demilitarised state.

It also wants Palestinian leaders to sign away their future. When Mr Erekat asked Ms Livni: "Short of your jet fighters in my sky and your army on my territory, can I choose where I secure external defence?"

She replied: "No. In order to create your state you have to agree in advance with Israel – you have to choose not to have the right of choice afterwards. These are the basic pillars."

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



**Tunisia Yesterday:
In Revolutionary Times, Events Last
Week Are Already The Distant Past:**

“On Monday, The Protesters In The Streets Appeared More Working Class”

“The People, Who Bled And Died For Us And Our Children, Need To Decide!”

January 17, 2011 By DAVID D. KIRKPATRICK, The New York Times [Excerpts]

Around folding tables in a run-down office a few flights up from the throngs in the streets, Ahmed Najib Chebbi, leader of the largest and most credible legal opposition party, the Progressive Democratic Party, tried to sell his members on the unity government.

Like other opposition leaders, Mr. Chebbi had received a relatively minor post, secretary of regional economic development.

As he urged patience, an angry party veteran wearing a suit and tie shouted Mr. Chebbi down.

“The people, who bled and died for us and our children, need to decide!” the man said, accusing Mr. Chebbi of settling too cheaply for a partnership with a prime minister whom he accused of complicity in murder under Mr. Ben Ali.

“How can the murderer be our leader today?” Several around the room cried, while Mr. Chebbi sat solemnly resting his chin in his hand.

In the streets, the Tunisian revolution continued to evolve.

It began in the hard-pressed provinces with demands for more jobs, especially for Tunisia’s soaring number of young college graduates, nearly a third of whom are estimated to be unemployed or seriously underemployed. It spread to the workers, small business owners and the coastal professional class as a revolt mainly against the flagrant corruption associated with Mr. Ben Ali’s family.

But on Monday, the protesters in the streets appeared more working class, including some hardened, veteran dissenters abused by Mr. Ben Ali’s government.

Off the streets, some Tunisian professionals who last week had railed against Mr. Ben Ali’s government said they were excited by the new government’s prudent first steps.

But the demonstrators sang the national anthem and talked broadly of new “freedom” and the complete elimination of Mr. Ben Ali’s party.

But Hissin Mraïhi, a 38-year-old man armed with only a golf club, said he was undaunted as he prepared to stand watch Sunday night.

“We are going to get freedom and we are going to get democracy,” he said. “And we are going to continue to fight for it and to express ourselves.”

MORE:

**Tunisia Now:
“Today It Was Soldiers Guarding The
Presidency And Finance Ministry
Who Lifted Barriers And Coils Of
Barbed Wire To Allow People To
Enter The Presidential Compound:
“The People Want This Government To
Fall”**



The crowd of protesters, who reached government buildings on Sunday [AFP]

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

23 January 2011 Peter Beaumont in Tunis, The Guardian Ltd. & Al Jazeera and agencies [Excerpts]

Protesters from Tunisia's impoverished rural south and centre demonstrated outside the president's office today to demand the removal from government positions of former allies of the deposed President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali.

The demonstrators swelled a crowd of several thousand who soldiers allowed into the courtyard outside the office of the interim prime minister, Mohamed Ghannouchi.

Many had travelled to the capital by car, truck and motorcycle in a "freedom caravan" from Sidi Bouzid, the central city where a young market trader's self-immolation sparked the nationwide revolt.

Demonstrators said they would not let the legacy of Mohamed Bouazizi, who set himself alight in protest at poverty and oppression, end with Ben Ali's flight to Saudi Arabia and the establishment of a government dominated by his lieutenants.

"Bouazizi gave his life for his country", read one banner. Several demonstrators said they intended to camp outside the presidency until he quit. "The people want this government to fall," they chanted.

The daily demonstrations have created an increasingly tense stalemate between former Ben Ali loyalists in the government – who control key ministries – protesters, and an army whose role in the revolution remains uncertain.

Indeed today it was soldiers guarding the presidency and finance ministry who lifted barriers and coils of barbed wire to allow people to enter the presidential compound.

Al Jazeera's Ayman Mohyeldin said that the fact that protesters - who in previous days have been joined by police officers and members of the national guard - have now defied a curfew and poured into the capital from the countryside is quite significant.

"It shows you that it's not an isolated, handful of people that are leading these protests," he said, reporting from Tunis.

"It's people from all different walks of life, from all different parts of the country."

Arab Politicians “Shocked” And “Definitely Terrified” By Events In Tunisia

January 19, 2011 By MICHAEL SLACKMAN and MONA EL NAGGAR, The New York Times [Excerpts]

CAIRO — Arab leaders, meeting for the first time since the public revolt in Tunisia toppled its autocratic president, heard one of their own, a consummate insider, warn that “the Arab soul is broken by poverty, unemployment and general recession.”

Hisham Kassem, an Egyptian newspaper publisher and longtime human rights advocate, said of the Arab leaders, "They are definitely scared, but it's typical how they always try to use these summits in order to secure their regimes as opposed to develop their countries." Mr. Kassem added, "It is definitely a wake-up call, and they're definitely terrified and they're finally grasping."

"I think Arab leadership is shocked and is trying to come to grips with what has happened," said Mr. Ghabra, from Kuwait. "Authoritarianism is the mode by which Arab regimes have dealt with the Arab people. Today, as a result of the Tunisian rebellion, the wall of fear in the Arab populations has been broken and has been penetrated for the first time in decades."

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Is Your Boss Or Commanding Officer A Worthless Shithead? Enjoy Some Insurance Company Workers Literally Throwing Their Boss And His "Management Team" Out The Door [Tunisia Of Course]

http://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3D5T7wHHHaIT0%26feature%3Dplayer_embedded%23!&h=81229

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

Huge Majority Says Don't Cut Medicare Or Social Security: Cut War Spending And Make Rich Pay More Instead

January 20, 2011 By JACKIE CALMES and DALIA SUSSMAN, The New York Times [Excerpts]

Nearly two-thirds of Americans choose higher payroll taxes for Medicare and Social Security over reduced benefits in either program. And asked to choose among cuts to Medicare, Social Security or the nation's third-largest spending program — the military — a majority by a large margin said cut the Pentagon.

If Medicare benefits have to be reduced, the most popular option is raising premiums on affluent beneficiaries.

Similarly, if Social Security benefits must be changed to make the program more financially sound, a broad majority prefers the burden fall on the wealthy.

Troops Invited:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email to contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

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