

## **Military Resistance 9A16**

**“Troops And Demonstrators Fraternized  
And Called For The President Himself To  
Resign”**



Protesters and soldiers in Cairo on Saturday. Protests have broken out in Suez, Cairo, Port Said and Alexandria and in 11 states in Egypt. Marco Longari/Getty Images

**“A Soldier Addressed A  
Crowd Through A  
Bullhorn Declaring That  
The Army Would Stand  
With The People”**

**“I Don’t Care What Happens,”  
The Soldier Said. “You Are The  
Ones Who Are Going To Make  
The Change”**

**“Army Tanks Expected To  
Disperse The Crowds In Central  
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**“Soldiers Invited Demonstrators To  
Climb Aboard And Have Their  
Photographs Taken With Them”**

**“Demonstrators Brought Tea To The  
Troops”**

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

**In the most striking instance, members of the army joined with a crowd of thousands of protesters in a pitched battle against Egyptian security police officers defending the Interior Ministry on Saturday afternoon.**

January 29, 2011 By DAVID D. KIRKPATRICK, KAREEM FAHIM and ETHAN BRONNER, New York Times & 27 & 28 Jan 2011 Al Jazeera [Excerpts]

CAIRO — Egypt was engulfed in a fifth day of protests on Saturday, but an attempt by President Hosni Mubarak to salvage his 30-year rule by firing his cabinet and calling out the army appeared to backfire as troops and demonstrators fraternized and called for the president himself to resign.

His grip on power was further challenged Saturday as the military that he had deployed to take back control of the streets showed few signs of suppressing the unrest, and in several cases the army took the side of the protesters in the capital and the northern port city of Alexandria.

In the most striking instance, members of the army joined with a crowd of thousands of protesters in a pitched battle against Egyptian security police officers defending the Interior Ministry on Saturday afternoon.

By midday Saturday, young civilians were trying to fill gaps left by the police, directing traffic and in some cases defending their neighborhoods with clubs and other makeshift weapons.

While some protesters clashed with police, army tanks expected to disperse the crowds in central Cairo and in the northern city of Alexandria instead became rest points and even, on occasion, part of the protests as anti-Mubarak graffiti were scrawled on them without interference from soldiers.

“Leave Hosni, you, your son and your corrupted party!” declared the graffiti on one tank as soldiers invited demonstrators to climb aboard and have their photographs taken with them.

“This is the revolution of all the people,” declared the side of a second tank in downtown Cairo.

Egyptian men all serve in the army, giving it a very different relationship to the people from that of the police.

The feared security police had largely withdrawn from central Cairo to take up positions around the presidential palace, with their places taken up by the army.

**In Ramses Square in central Cairo at midday, protesters commandeered a flatbed army truck.**

One protester was driving the truck around the square while a dozen others on the back were chanting for President Mubarak to leave office.

**Nearby, soldiers relaxed around their tanks and armored vehicles and chatted with protesters. There were no policemen in sight.**

**In another central Cairo square on Saturday a soldier in camouflage addressed a crowd through a bullhorn declaring that the army would stand with the people.**

**“I don’t care what happens,” the soldier said. “You are the ones who are going to make the change.” The crowd responded, “The army and the people will purify the country.”**

Workers at the Alexandria morgue said they had counted more than 20 bodies from the last 24 hours of violence.

**Meanwhile, protests had started up again in the city. But there too, the demonstrators and the soldiers showed sympathy for one another. Demonstrators brought tea to the troops and had their pictures taken with them. Protesters walked by armored carriers unmolested.**

On Friday, with much of the nation in open revolt, Mr. Mubarak had deployed the nation's military, instituted an overnight curfew and imposed a near-total blackout on communications to save his authoritarian government.

**Friday's protests were the largest and most diverse yet, including young and old, women with Louis Vuitton bags and men in galabeyas, factory workers and film stars.**

All came surging out of mosques after midday prayers headed for Tahrir Square, and their clashes with the police left clouds of tear gas wafting through empty streets.

Six Cairo police stations and several police cars were in flames, and stations in Suez and other cities were burning as well. Office equipment and police vehicles burned, and the police seemed to have retreated from Cairo's main streets.

**With the help of five armored trucks and at least two fire trucks, more than a thousand riot police officers fought most of the day to hold the central Kasr al-Nil bridge. But, after hours of advances and retreats, by nightfall a crowd of at least twice as many protesters broke through.**

The Interior Ministry said nearly 900 were injured there and in the neighboring Giza area, with more than 400 hospitalized with critical injuries. State television said 13 were killed in Suez and 75 injured; a total of at least six were dead in Cairo and Giza.

"Egyptians right now are not afraid at all," said Walid Rachid, a student taking refuge from tear gas inside a Giza mosque.

"It may take time, but our goal will come, an end to this regime. I want to say to this regime: 30 years is more than enough. Our country is going down and down because of your policies."

**A bonfire of office furniture from the ruling party headquarters was burning nearby, and the carcasses of police vehicles were still smoldering. The police appeared to have retreated from large parts of the city.**

"This protest is not going to stop. They won't and can't trick the people again and give us some lame concessions. Hosni has to go," protester Mohamed Taha said after fleeing a police attack.

"I am 70 years old, I am going to die, but these people have to fight to live," he said.

"Leave, leave, Mubarak, Mubarak, the plane awaits you," people chanted.

Angry demonstrators in Egypt have torched a police post in the eastern city of Suez, where violence between police and protesters has ratcheted up amid a security crackdown.



Anti-government demonstrators appealing to a soldier to join the cause. AP Photo



"Soldiers invited demonstrators to climb aboard." Leftaris Pitarakis, Associated Press



Demonstrators join soldiers on top of armoured vehicles in Tahrir Square. AP Photo

**MORE:**

**ElShayyal Quoted A Military Officer  
As Saying That Troops Would ‘Not  
Fire A Single Bullet On Egyptians’”  
“Some Of The Soldiers Here Have Said  
That The Only Way For Peace To Come  
To The Streets Of Cairo Is For Mubarak  
To Step Down”**

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

29 Jan 2011 Al Jazeera and agencies & AP

Tens of thousands of people in the Egyptian capital Cairo have gathered on the streets, in continued protests demanding an end to Hosni Mubarak's 30-year presidency.

The demonstrations continue in defiance of an extended curfew on Saturday, where state television reported will be in place from 4pm to 8am local time.

**Al Jazeera's Ayman Mohyeldin, reporting from Cairo, said that soldiers deployed to central Cairo are not intervening in the protests.**

**"Some of the soldiers here have said that the only way for peace to come to the streets of Cairo is for Mubarak to step down," he said.**

Fears of looting have also risen, and the army on Saturday warned local residents to "protect their property and possessions".

**In the city of Alexandria, residents called on the army to protect them against looting, as well as organising their own committees in defence.**

The Egyptian cabinet meanwhile have formally resigned in response to the protests, and Ahmed Ezz, a businessman and senior figure in the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) also resigned from his post as chairman of the Planning and Budget Committee.

Protesters ransacked and burned one of his company's main offices in Mohandiseen, an area of Cairo. State media reported on Saturday that some protesters held up posters with a cross marked over the face of Ezz, who is chairman of Ezz Steel.

Political reshuffling is also said to be continuing within the government, as Omar Suleiman, the former head of Egyptian intelligence, has reportedly been sworn in as vice-president.

**In Suez, Al Jazeera's Jamal ElShayyal reported that 1,000-2,000 protesters had gathered, and that the military was not confronting them.**

**ElShayyal quoted a military officer as saying that troops would "not fire a single bullet on Egyptians".**

Egyptians jubilantly climbed atop army tanks and armored personnel carriers enforcing security in Cairo on Saturday.

They hugged and kissed the soldiers and posed for photographs with them. Some spray-painted the military vehicles with slogans demanding the ouster of President Hosni Mubarak.

In Tahrir Square in the center of the city, protesters hoisted an army officer waving an Egyptian flag on their shoulders and chanted "The people and the army are one hand together!"

**MORE:**

## **Army Protecting Egypt Protesters From Police (Video)**

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

January 29, 2011 By Dan Murphy, Staff writer, Christian Science Monitor

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Backchannels/2011/0129/Army-protecting-Egypt-protesters-from-police-video>

**MORE:**

## **The Battle Of Kasr Al-Nil Bridge: “The Protesters Finally Took The Bridge”**

**[And This Brilliantly Written News Story  
Describing The Unfolding Dynamics Of  
Revolution From Below Has No Equal  
For At Least The Past 100 Years]**



Security forces with water cannons and tear gas who tried to stop protesters heading to a central square were defeated and forced to retreat and abandon the Kasr al-Nil Bridge in Cairo. Peter Macdiarmid: Getty Images

January 28, 2011 By KAREEM FAHIM, The New York Times

CAIRO — The battle had gone on for hours on Friday, and the end of the bridge was in sight.



Somewhere past the green armored cars and through the smoke was Liberation Square. For miles the protesters had marched peacefully, shouting at balconies for their neighbors to join them.

But water cannons and tear gas halted the march, for a time. Atef Badr, 28, turned to the retreating protesters with tears stirred by the moment, not the gas. "I'm begging you," he screamed. "All of you in the back, come forward!"

A few tear gas canisters got caught in the wind and drifted away toward the river: an opportunity.

The protesters surged forward, chanting, "Overthrow Mubarak!" They gained ground and then lost it, when the dull metal gas canisters started falling again.

So it went all Friday afternoon on the Kasr al-Nil Bridge, as thousands of protesters tried again and again to get past the riot police, who were just as determined to keep them at bay: first with gas and water cannons, and then by beating them with truncheons.

The long struggle for the bridge set the tone for the momentous events throughout the country on Friday.

Egyptians slowly shed their fear of President Hosni Mubarak's police state and confronted its power, a few halting steps at a time.

The protesters came from every social class and included even wealthy Egyptians, who are often dismissed as apolitical, or too comfortable to mobilize.

For some of them in the crowd on Friday, the brutality of the security forces was a revelation.

"Dogs!" they yelled at the riot police, as they saw bloodied protesters dragged away. "These people are Egyptians!"

The protests started around noon, miles from the bridge, with prayer at the Mustafa Mahmoud Mosque west of downtown and a sermon praising the protesters. Anticipating the clashes, a police officer adjusted his riot helmet. A restaurant shuttered its doors.

Everyone seemed nervous. Nasser al-Sherif, 24, looked for his friends, who were late. It was his first protest in Egypt. "I'm just here to say no," he said. "Once things get rough and violent, I might leave."

Ibrahim al-Missiri, 36, looked at the crowd, which included two famous actors. "This is the class that never spoke out before," he said. "I want the right to vote."

The prayer ended, and the protesters, herded by a ring of riot police officers, started walking away down a side street and then stopped, turning back for their first confrontation of the day.

The police let them pass.

On a broad avenue, hundreds swelled to thousands. Three young men, old school friends, marched among them. Two of them worked at a call center for the Expedia Web site, earning a little more than \$400 a month. They had all been intending to leave Egypt. The protests were changing their minds.

"We've had enough time stolen," said Ali Bilal, 23. "We want to take control of the situation."

Friends pushed a man in a wheelchair.

A fruit vendor begged off calls to join the protests, pointing out that he would have to leave his donkey. On a balcony, an elderly woman looked at the crowd and threw her hands in the air. On other balconies, there was applause.

"Peaceful," the marchers shouted. At the foot of the bridge, the security services were waiting, with other plans.

When the first tear gas canisters landed, Ziad Ali wondered whether the march would go on. "I'm 35; he's been the president since I was 5," he said of Mr. Mubarak. "I hope we can make it this time."

At key moments young men inspired the marchers. A man with a red scarf wrapped around his face stood on a statue near the foot of the bridge, defiantly, as the tear gas clouds swirled around him.

Another man yelled into a bullhorn, telling protesters it was fine to fall back but not to retreat. A third managed to climb on top of one of the four green personnel carriers blocking the bridge, as the riot police fell back. The crowd cheered and advanced, as the first hurdle fell.

Abandoned by their comrades, the officers still in the transport trucks, no longer fearsome, sobbed as the protesters occupied the bridge for the first time.

A local police chief was carried off the bridge bleeding from the head, joined by many people wounded by the falling canisters. When the bursts from the tear gas launchers quickened, the protesters retreated, until the young men at the front told them to come back.

The nearby 6 October Bridge filled with people, and the marchers on Kasr al-Nil cheered. The plan was to march to Tahrir, or Liberation, Square in downtown Cairo, to link up with other groups of protesters. In the distance, a building burned.

"This is the first time I've seen collective action," said Omar Barazi, 44, pondering the future. "I think there will be chaos and losses."

That moment came quickly. Police officers watched the assault from boats. Hundreds of riot officers stormed the bridge, throwing benches and a police hut into the Nile and beating anyone who did not run. By late afternoon, they had retaken Kasr al-Nil and penned in a group of protesters next to a park.

Officers fired tear gas toward an opera house as the young men ran away, and for the protesters, everything seemed to be lost.

Nadine Sherif walked among badly wounded comrades, despondent. “I hope he gets the message,” she said of Mr. Mubarak. “He’s not wanted.”

A few officers lit cigarettes, relaxed and chatted with the protesters, thinking they were done.

They were not.

Night fell, and the protesters finally took the bridge.



The dictator Mubarak’s party’s headquarters in Cairo burns early Saturday. No efforts were made to put out the fire. Scott Nelson for The New York Times

**MORE:**

## **First Demonstration Against The Dictatorship In Saudi Arabia: Memorable Words From Reuters: “Friday’s Protest Had Been Unexpected”**

January 29, 2011 Reuters

Saudi authorities detained hundreds of demonstrators on Friday in Jeddah who gathered to protest against poor infrastructure after deadly floods swept through Saudi Arabia's second biggest city, police and witnesses said.

Some Jeddah streets remained submerged on Friday, and electricity was still out in low-lying parts of the city two days after torrential rains caused flooding that killed at least four people and swept away cars.

**The protest came after mass messages sent over BlackBerry smart phones called for popular action in response to the flood, an unusual move in the Arab state at a time of spreading anti-government unrest across the Arab world.**

Protesters gathered for about 15 minutes after Friday prayers on a main Jeddah shopping street and shouted 'God is Greatest' before authorities broke up the protest and detained participants, a witness who works in a nearby shop told Reuters.

One police officer said around 30 protesters were detained and police were pursuing others who fled to a nearby building. Another officer put the number held at around 50.

About 12 police cars surrounded the building where protesters were hiding, and 30 more blocked off the street near where the protest happened.

A mass message sent via BlackBerry Messenger on Thursday urged Jeddah residents to join a demonstration on Saturday over the floods, while another urged all government and private sector employees to hold a general strike next week.

But Friday's protest had been unexpected.

The call for action in the top oil exporter, where public protest is not tolerated, comes as open defiance of authoritarian rulers spreads, with protests in Egypt and Yemen inspired by unrest which toppled Tunisia's president this month.

**MORE:**

**“Let The Government In Baghdad Be Informed That The World Has Become A Small Village And That What Took Place In Tunisia Has Reached A Small Town In Kirkuk (Province) And Can Spread To Every City In Iraq”**

# **“The People Of Altun Kopri (Town) Strongly Protested The Lack Of Electricity And Threatened To Burn Down The Governorate Building”**

January 26, 2011 Posted by Sahar IIS, Inside Iraq [Excerpt]

**Officials in Kirkuk decided to cut the electricity supply to the national grid to protest the lack of power in the oil rich city for more than 20 hours every day.**

Abdulrahman Mustafa, Governor of Kirkuk said, “Kirkuk has cut the electricity that is generated in the province from the national grid, and has decided to supply Kirkuk province alone until the Ministry of Electricity responds to our needs”.

Supply to the national grid was cut in the presence of the commanders of police and Peshmerga after the first decision of its kind agreed between the residents of this multi-ethnic city.

**It was approved by the representatives of the Turkoman, Arab and Kurd groups, Monday 17th January.**

Hasan Torhan, Turkoman member of the provincial council, said in a joint press conference, that all the members were agreed on this issue:

**“We might have political differences, but we unite to provide services for our province.**

**“What prompted us to make this decision is the stance of the people of Altun Kopri (town) who strongly protested the lack of electricity and threatened to burn down the governorate building if they do not get their fair share of electricity.**

“Let the government in Baghdad be informed that the world has become a small village and that what took place in Tunisia has reached a small town in Kirkuk (province) and can spread to every city in Iraq.

**“We used to get four hours of electricity in a day, and now we have almost 14.**

## **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

## IRAQ WAR REPORTS

### **Rogue Iraqi Kills Ill. Soldier, Sgt. Michael Bartley, During Exercise**



Jan. 17, 2011 By Len Wells, Evansville Courier & Press

FAIRFIELD, Ill. — A Wayne County, Ill., Army sergeant was one of two soldiers killed Saturday in a training exercise in the northern Iraq city of Mosul.

Sgt. Michael Bartley, 23, of Barnhill, Ill., died when an Iraqi soldier, who apparently smuggled live ammunition into a training exercise, opened fire. A U.S. military official said the shooter was immediately killed by American forces who were running the morning drill at a training center in Mosul.

The official said the exercise was not meant to include live ammunition. An Iraqi Army official said the shooting appeared to have been planned.

Bartley was a 2007 graduate of Fairfield Community High School and the only child of Rebecca Isles of Fairfield.

"I talked to him on Friday," Isles said. "He told me he was doing fine and was in the middle of a big training exercise, getting ready for a general's visit."

Members of the New Beginnings Church in Fairfield gathered Saturday night at the home of Bartley's grandmother, Delta Lewis, to offer the family prayers and comfort.

Isles said her son enlisted in the Army not long after high school and recently had re-enlisted. He was on his second tour of duty in Iraq when he was killed Saturday. Bartley was a member of a U.S. Army Cavalry unit.

Army officials notified Isles of the death on Saturday evening. She was to meet with military officials Sunday afternoon to begin making funeral arrangements.

"They are going to fly me to Washington, D.C., so I can be there when his remains arrive home," Isles said.

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Three German Soldiers Wounded By Roadside Bombing In Chardarah**

Jan 29, 2011 DPA

Kunduz, Afghanistan - Three German soldiers were injured when their military vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb in northern Afghanistan on Saturday, an Afghan official said.

The bomb exploded in Chardarah district Kunduz province, district governor Abdul Wahid Omerkhil told the German Press Agency dpa.

'The area of blast is cordoned off by the German troops and no one else is allowed inside,' he said.

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### **Five Foreigners Including Two Americans Killed In Attack On Kabul Supermarket In Area "Favored By Foreigners And Wealthy Afghans"**

1.29.2011 AP & AFP & Gulf Today

A US official says initial reports indicate that two American citizens died in a bombing inside a Western-style grocery store in the Afghan capital.

Eight people, including five foreigners, died in Friday's bombing in Kabul.

Six members of a prominent Afghan family were killed.

Kabul police spokesman Hasmatullah Stanikzai confirmed the explosion took place in the Finest supermarket in Kabul, a grocery store frequented by foreigners and close to embassies in the capital.

"Three female foreigners were killed in the attack and also three male employees of the supermarket were injured," Stanikzai said, though he could not confirm the nationalities of the dead.

The explosion ignited a fire inside the store and mounds of canned goods and other merchandise were strewn across the floor of the smoke-filled building, making it difficult for police officers to walk inside the building.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told reporters that its rebels were responsible for the attack, claiming it targeted private security contractors.

"Some employees and the head of Blackwater, a private security firm, who were shopping in a supermarket in Kabul have been attacked by one of our men," Mujahid said.

A large plume of gray smoke was seen above the store, which is situated in the heavily guarded Wazir Akbar Khan district, an area favored by foreigners and wealthy Afghans.

In a statement issued on Saturday, President Hamid Karzai expressed his deep sadness over the deaths of Dr. Massoud Yama, a young doctor at a military hospital, his wife, Hamida Barmaki, a political science professor at Kabul University, and their four children. She was an activist and served on the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission.

Yama's mother and Barmaki's mother-in-law is former Afghan senator Maboba Hoqiqmal, who currently is Karzai's legal affairs adviser.

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## **More Resistance Action: Bomber Kills Kandahar Deputy Governor**

1.27.2011 TOLONews & 1.29.2011 AP & AFP

KABUL, Afghanistan -- A bomber riding a motorcycle packed with explosives rammed into a car carrying the deputy governor of Afghanistan's southern Kandahar province on Saturday, killing him and wounding three of his bodyguards, the Interior Ministry said.

The attacker struck as the official, Abdul Latif Ashna, was being driven to work in the provincial capital, said a ministry spokesman, Zemer Bashary.



In a text message to reporters, Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef said the bomber killed the deputy governor as well as three of his body guards and his driver.

“One of our jihadists... blew up his motorcycle near the vehicle of Abdul Latif Ashna... killing the deputy governor and wounding his driver and four of his bodyguards. There were no civilian victims,” he told AFP.

A policeman at the scene, Abdel Ahmad, confirmed that a bomber on a motorcycle blew himself up as Ashna left his residence.

Ashna, a trained engineer, had been deputy governor since April 2010. He previously worked for UN Habitat, the UN programme to improve the urban environment, before teaching at Kandahar University.

He also headed the provincial branch of the ministry of rural development.

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Three policemen were killed in a bomb blast on Wednesday evening in southern Helmand province, local officials said. The incident happened in Nawa district of Helmand when an Afghan police car was struck by a roadside bomb explosion, police officials told TOLONews.

**IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE  
END THE OCCUPATIONS**

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

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

**THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO COMPREHENSIBLE  
REASON TO BE IN THIS EXTREMELY HIGH RISK  
LOCATION AT THIS TIME, EXCEPT THAT THE  
PACK OF TRAITORS THAT RUN THE  
GOVERNMENT IN D.C. WANT YOU THERE TO  
DEFEND THEIR IMPERIAL DREAMS:**

**That is not a good enough reason.**



U.S. Marines carry a colleague wounded by an improvised explosive device (IED) to a waiting medevac helicopter from the United States Army's Task Force Shadow 'Dust Off', Charlie Company 1-214 Aviation Regiment in southern Helmand Province, Afghanistan, Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2011. (AP Photo/Kevin Frayer)

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## **MILITARY NEWS**

### **HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?**



The casket of Marine Lance Corp. Maung P. Htaik at Arlington National Cemetery Jan. 18, 2011. Htaik, of Hagerstown, Md., died Jan. 1 in Helmand province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

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## 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**

**Hope for change doesn’t cut it when you’re still losing buddies.  
-- J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War**

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

**“What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.”**

**-- Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787**

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

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

**The Social-Democrats ideal should not be the trade union secretary, but the tribune of the people who is able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression no matter where it appears no matter what stratum or class of the people it affects; who is able to generalize all these manifestations and produce a single picture of police violence and capitalist exploitation; who is able to take advantage of every event, however small, in order to set forth before all his socialist convictions and his democratic demands, in order to clarify for all and everyone the world-historic significance of the struggle for the emancipation of the proletariat.”**

**-- V. I. Lenin; What Is To Be Done**

**A revolution is always distinguished by impoliteness, probably because the ruling classes did not take the trouble in good season to teach the people fine manners.**

**-- Leon Trotsky, History Of The Russian Revolution**

**“The Nixon administration claimed and received great credit for withdrawing the Army from Vietnam, but it was the rebellion of low-ranking GIs that forced the government to abandon a hopeless suicidal policy”**

**-- David Cortright; Soldiers In Revolt**

**It is a two class world and the wrong class is running it.**

**-- Larry Christensen, Soldiers Of Solidarity & United Auto Workers**

**Rise like Lions after slumber  
In unvanquishable number,  
Shake your chains to earth like dew  
Which in sleep had fallen on you-  
Ye are many — they are few**

**-- Percy Bysshe Shelley, 1819, on the occasion of a mass murder of British workers by the Imperial government at Peterloo.**

# **From Zangiabad To Guantánamo: “My Life With The Taliban” “Afghanistan Has The Right To Resist Invasion” We Have The Right To Save Our Honour” [Book Review]**

Abdul Salam Zaeef Ed. and trans. by Alex Strick van Linschoten and Felix Kuehn  
My Life with the Taliban  
Columbia University Press, 2010  
360 pages • \$30

Review by Brooke Horvath, International Socialist Review, Issue 73, September–October 2010

Perhaps the principal virtue of Abdul Salam Zaeef’s *My Life with the Taliban* is that, like the novels of Atiq Rahimi and Khaled Hosseini, it does much to correct those propagandistic caricatures of Afghans skulking in the Western imagination—and this despite mullah Zaeef’s decision to say little about either his private life (a wife and son are barely mentioned) or his thoughts on his faith’s stance on certain controversial issues.

He is, for instance, silent on the Taliban’s treatment of women (despite proudly writing that his mother was educated), and of the decision to destroy the Buddhist statues in Bamiyan, he remarks curtly that it was “a case of bad timing.”

His focus is, rather, on the Taliban’s *raison d’être*, a story that may not send readers off to join the cause but should make many more sympathetic to the movement’s intentions, decisions, bad press, and worse luck.

Born in 1968 in the village of Zangiabad, Zaeef enjoyed a typical childhood despite the death of his mother soon after his birth and the death of his father seven years later. Shortly after the Soviet invasion, Zaeef fled to Pakistan with his uncle’s family, but the call to jihad proved irresistible, and, at age fifteen, Zaeef ran off to fight.

It was during this period that he fell in with the Taliban, a group distinct from other resistance fighters because of their religious convictions, sober conduct, and acknowledged role as dispensers of sharia justice in settling disputes among the other mujahideen.

Zaeef saw combat, was wounded, and returned to Pakistan at one point for weapons training with the Inter-Services Intelligence agency. The brotherhood, selflessness, and justness of their cause prompt Zaeef to write, "It is hard to believe, maybe, but we were happy. From time to time we danced...such was our elation."

The departure of the Soviets in 1989 allowed Zaeef to return home and take up duties as imam in a Kandahar mosque.

It was not long, however, before many of the former jihadists began vying for dominance, grabbing whatever there was to grab, and "squeezing the life out of their own people for the sake of money and power."

This civil strife swamped morals and threatened everyone (at least all good Muslims): "Life had become unbearable. Stealing and looting were unavoidable. Homosexuality and adultery were everywhere. People acted without any thought of morality."

It is in this context that, in 1994, Zaeef and a small group of others revived the Taliban, whose rise to power is meticulously detailed and, in the service of which, Zaeef held several positions, including administrative deputy defense minister, deputy minister of mines and industries, and eventually ambassador to Pakistan.

Relations with Pakistan were, as Zaeef relates, always dicey for the Taliban and became more so in the wake of 9/11, the search for Osama bin Laden, and the U.S. invasion; indeed, in a book filled with criticism — of the West, the United Nations, the British, and, of course, America — Pakistan is repeatedly and harshly taken to task for betraying fellow Muslims: "I find it difficult to understand how (Pakistanis) could abandon their honour and self-respect; how they could turn against the word of the Holy Qur'an and its customs of bravery and hospitality; how they could ignore international laws and even the humblest notions of brotherhood and sympathy."

As for Osama bin Laden, the *casus belli*, Zaeef carefully explains why the Taliban did not rush to turn him over to the United States (they wanted proof of guilt and a sharia trial in Afghanistan or some other Islamic country). Zaeef sees bin Laden as a convenient excuse to justify the war, which he sees as part of America's "wider agenda" of world dominance, greed, and distaste for Islam.

Not long after Operation Enduring Freedom commenced, Zaeef was arrested by the Pakistanis and turned over to the United States.

After incarceration in Kandahar and at Bagram airbase, Zaeef was transferred to Guantánamo, where he was held from 2002 until his release without charge in 2006.

Zaeef describes the now-familiar practices of torture and abuse from the inside, leading to the indictment of all Americans for "allowing their government and leaders to break international and even national laws" and to a defense of Afghans' response to America's plans for its future.

"Afghanistan has the right to resist invasion. We have the right to save our honour," Zaeef insists.

The denigration of “Afghan culture and its Islamic values,” coupled with a misguided belief that political problems require military solutions, will lead America down “the same path as the Soviet Union,” Zaeef concludes: “If America does not wake up from its trance of self-proclaimed omnipotence, Afghanistan will be its demise.”

It is difficult to dismiss this last prediction, which — like many other observations offered throughout *My Life with the Taliban* — comes across not as the emotionalism of a zealot but as a reasonable conclusion drawn by an intelligent man who has played prominent roles in the last forty turbulent years of Afghan history.

Can we trust Zaeef?

Well, the editors have supplied forty pages of notes, many of which corroborate the author’s facts (additionally, the editors have contributed an introduction, character and reading lists, maps, a chronology, and glossary). Trustworthiness is further enhanced by Zaeef’s refusal to sensationalize Afghanistan’s predicament; there are no gripping battle scenes, no pornographic descriptions of death and torture. The prose is dry, freighted with often tedious factual details that historians will nonetheless welcome.

Has Afghanistan become “a superpower laboratory for the development of influence and alliances”?

Is America “now known all over the world as a breaker of laws, a violator of human rights, and a provoker of hatred”?

These are, alas, rhetorical questions, but an understanding of why the answer to both is yes will be helped immensely by attending seriously to what mullah Zaeef has to say.

## **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/>**

**And join with Iraq Veterans Against the War to end the occupations and bring all troops home now! ([www.ivaw.org/](http://www.ivaw.org/))**

# January 30, 1972: Shameful Anniversary; Bloody Sunday: An Occupation Massacre



Carl Bunin Peace History Jan 28 - Feb 3

In Bogside, Derry, British Occupied Ireland, near the Rossville flats, 13 unarmed and peaceful civil rights demonstrators were shot dead by British Army paratroopers from the British Army's 1st Parachute Regiment in an event that became known as "Bloody Sunday."

The protesters, all Catholics, had been marching in protest of the British policy of internment without trial of suspected Irish nationalists. Internment without trial was introduced by the British government on August 9, 1971.

British authorities had ordered the march banned, and sent troops to confront the demonstrators when it went ahead.

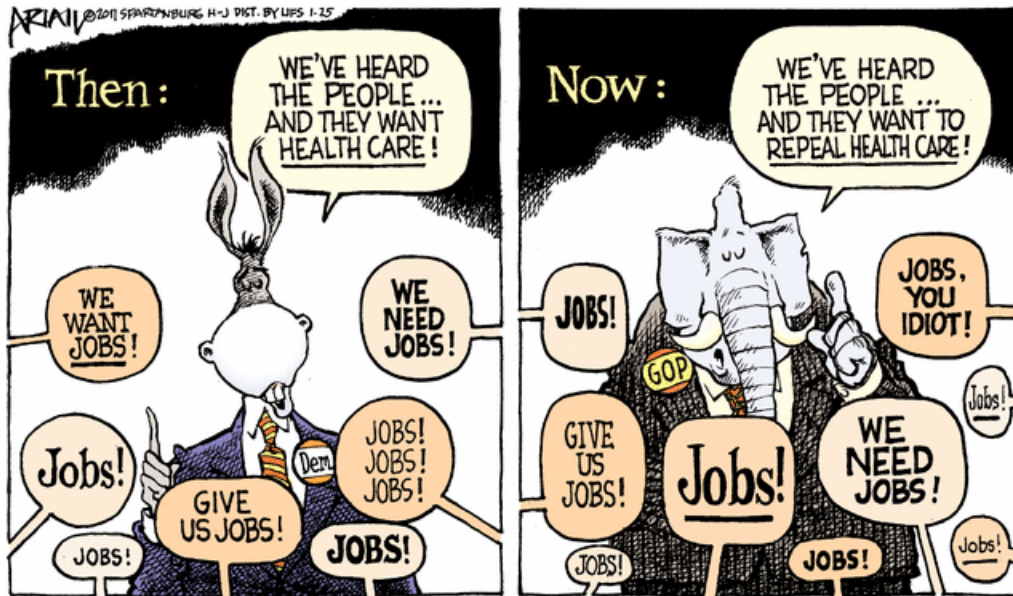
The soldiers fired indiscriminately into the crowd of protesters, killing 13 and wounding seventeen. One wounded man later died from illness attributed to that shooting.



By the end of the year 323 civilians and 144 military and paramilitary personnel would be dead.

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## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**



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## **A Win For Our Side: Jury Refuses To Convict Man Who Defied Obama's Police State Airport Scum**

01/21/2011 Charlie Pabst, KOB.com

An Albuquerque jury handed down a not guilty verdict for the Seattle man who refused to show his ID to TSA officers at the Sunport.

Phil Mocek was arrested in late 2009 after he wouldn't show his ID, and then used a camera to videotape an altercation with TSA officers.

He was facing several charges, including failure to obey an officer and concealing his identity, but the jury found him not guilty on all four counts.

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## CLASS WAR REPORTS

# “Social Security’s Age Of Retirement Is Rising Faster Than Life Expectancy For Most Workers”

January 10 - 24, 2011 Spark

To justify cutting Social Security, the bi-partisan “Deficit Commission” claimed it’s necessary to raise the age of retirement because people are living longer.

Yes, people in the United States are living longer – ON AVERAGE!

But what they failed to say is who is living longer, and by how much?

The answer is different based on how much money one makes.

Life expectancy of men retiring at age 65 went up by six years since 1977 for those in the top half based on income, but only by 1.3 years for those in the bottom half, which includes most workers.

The age of retirement for receiving full Social Security benefits was already raised to age 66 for everyone born after 1955 and goes up to 67 for anyone born after 1960.

So Social Security’s age of retirement is rising faster than life expectancy for most workers.

If the politicians want to make rich people work longer, let them go ahead. But hands off workers’ retirement money!

### **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](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.**

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# Vietnam GI: Reprints Available



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