

Military Resistance 9A8



A soldier embraces one of the protesters calling for the overthrow of Tunisian President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali as demonstrators march past soldiers in the streets of Tunis January 14, 2011.

**Read Our Future In Their
Present:
“We Are The Not The Police, We
Are The Army, We Do Not Shoot
Our People, We Are With The
People”**

**“We Need Your Help But We Will
Defend You”**

**“Don’t Trust The Police, Don’t Trust
Any Police, If You See Them Attack
Them”**

**“A Member Of The Tunisian Military Just
Told A Mob Of Stick Wielding Civilians
To Attack Any Policeman On Sight”**

January 15, 2011 Tunisia Scenario, Methalif.blogspot.com/ [Excerpts]

Today at around 2pm I went to downtown Sousse with some friends to see the damage.

The louage (bus) station was on fire. So was the Tunis train station. I’m not getting out of here anytime soon. Huge pillars of smoke are still rising into the sky.

On the way downtown our cab had to stop. the army and police were both outside the town liquor store arresting looters. The army was arguing with the police and eventually made them leave, then this happened...

**I wrote in the last page that, despite what I would have assumed, the Army is
LOVED by the average Tunisian and the police are generally hated and feared.**

Today showed why.

**In this video [link can’t be copied] he’s [a soldier’s] basically saying “we are not
the police, we do not shoot our own people like the police, we are the army, we
need your help but we will defend you” the people cheered and then the army
drove away.**

The only police that are still working are the elite, political police. They shoot people for the most minor infractions. Today my American friend saw some Tunisians stomping on a picture of the former president and cheering. All of a sudden police came up and began indiscriminately shooting into the crowd. He didn’t see anyone die but still.

The army sent young boys around to distribute leaflets today.

**They said if you want to defend your neighborhood put a white rag around your
arm and grab any weapon you can. The people are clearly for the army at this
point.**

As I write there are mobs of civilians (including, foolishly and implausibly, myself) wearing white armbands on every corner. Someone, almost definitely the former special police/secret service, has been driving around shooting at these groups of people and getting in gunfights with the army.

I'll write more and post pictures later, but people are shooting around my house and I want to check it out...

Coming back from downtown today (more on that in next post) on every corner we saw huge groups of men boys and even a few women holding every manner of blunt object.

They were all wearing white arm bands that showed that they were with the army and protecting their neighborhood.

I had already gotten some axe handles and given them to some friends, and my one friend invited me to stand on his corner with him and his boys.

His corner is a few blocks away from my house so I decided to go against my better judgement and go with him.

Walking to his corner was surreal. Every single corner had a collection of men, young boys and even a few women brandishing all sorts of weapons (except guns).

They had built barricades out of random trash to block traffic and were standing around them.

When i got to his corner i was introduced to all the guys standing there. To say I was completely out of place would be a gross understatement, but they were generally friendly with me.

Shortly after I got there learned some very disturbing news.

Men in unmarked cars had been driving around Sousse and shooting random people out of their cars. Since these men were killing seemingly random people and since they had guns it was assumed that they were probably former members of elite police/interior ministry units. These men are roughly comparable to the Republican Guard in Ba'athist Iraq and were the people who did the really dirty work of the Ben Ali regime.

I've been hearing stories about them since I got here, and they were responsible for truly horrible things. They have a lot to fear from a new regime, since they could easily be convicted of human rights violations.

Now the theory was they were murdering random people, to sow chaos and maybe bring about a return of the old regime.

My new friends and I stood around the barricade, axehandles in hand waiting for something to happen. I'm pretty sure we had all come there initially for the same reason, we didn't want looters taking any of our shit. But with this new information the stakes became much higher.

Finally at like 8 pm (as i'm writing it's 845) I got hungry. I also felt less brave now that my potential enemies were hardened, homicidal secret agents out for political revenge, not skinny teenagers trying to steal my laptop.

I decided to walk back to my house to make pasta. I was stirring the sauce when I heard loud, opposing gun fire come from the street where my friends were. If I had thought about it I would have stayed in the house, but i ran out to see what had happened.

My friends had not been shot at.

Instead the mysterious assassins had murdered some people in the next town and got caught by the military coming into Khzema.

Soldiers rolled up and explained.

Basically they said that they had caught one of the assassins and indeed he was interior ministry.

The soldier then said that they were looking for the rest and that we should all watch our back.

then he said the most chilling thing.

“Don't trust the police, don't trust ANY police, if you see them attack them”

A member of the Tunisian military just told a mob of stick wielding civilians to attack any policeman on sight.

MORE:

Read Our Future In Their Present:

“When The Mass Demonstration Reached The Presidential Palace The People And The Soldiers Embraced”

“There Were Many Reports Of Fraternisation Between The Army And The People And In Some Cases Of The

Army Protecting The Demonstrations Against The Police Forces”

15th January 2011 By Alan Woods, Marxist.com [Excerpts]

The marvellous revolutionary movement of the Tunisian workers and youth is an inspiration and an example to the whole world. For more than one week

The mass uprising in Tunisia has ended in the overthrow of the hated dictator Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali after 23 years in power.

The uprising took almost everyone by surprise, including the government.

On January 6 The Economist said confidently: “Tunisia’s troubles are unlikely to unseat the 74-year-old president or even to jolt his model of autocracy”.

The North African nation had been seen as a haven of stability and relative prosperity, albeit one ruled with an iron fist. For foreign investors, Tunis has been a safe place to invest and a source of cheap labour.

The rising in the prices of food and other basic goods, rampant unemployment and the lack of freedom caused the riots to spread and become nation-wide.

In addition to the poor people who started the agitation, thousands of students and workers came onto the streets to demonstrate their hatred of the regime.

Once the masses begin to lose their fear, a dictatorial regime cannot save itself by repression alone.

A French-language website reports the existence of growing unrest in the armed forces and an open split between the police and the army: “One of the new and important developments early this week was the distancing of part of the army from the regime.

“On Monday, a dozen soldiers stood guard in the courthouse of Kasserine, both to prevent possible unrest inside and to protect the lawyers, as reported by several witnesses.

There were many reports of fraternisation between the Army and the people and in some cases of the Army protecting the demonstrations against the police forces.

This was the reason why the army was withdrawn from the streets of the capital and replaced by the police.

When the mass demonstration reached the presidential palace the people and the soldiers embraced.

The protests came to a head on Friday as thousands of people gathered outside the interior ministry, a symbol of the regime.

Many climbed onto its roof. Police responded with volleys of tear-gas grenades, but to no avail. The masses on the streets had acquired a sense of their power, and correctly interpreted the President's speech as a sign of weakness. Everywhere the slogan was raised: Ben Ali must go! Ben Ali had already promised to step down - in 2014.

But this calculation proved to be somewhat optimistic. The people on the streets demanded – and got – his immediate resignation.

MORE:

“People Coming Up To A Parked Tank To Shake The Hand Of The Soldier Sitting On It”

From: June V [Greece]
To: Military Resistance
Subject: RE: Tunisia and RITA soldiers
Date: Jan 16, 2011 1:38 PM

Too bad Max Watts is not here. He would have really dug the appreciation shown by many people in the streets of Tunis towards the soldiers.

You don't get Aljazeera in that boon town you live in, so I don't know if other news reports show this:

people coming up to a parked tank to shake the hand of the soldier sitting on it, a young man embracing one of the crowd control soldiers--the crowd is respecting a rope placed across a street, except for one or two who run out to embrace the soldier.

So Al-Jazz did a half hour feature on the role of the army, which only their Tunisian correspondent explained. The people feel very confident that the military is on their side, he said.

Obvious questions from the Al jazz woman in Doha: But the President was from the Army, what about the Algerian Army massacring thousands of people when a revolt was tried there, etc.?

He, Amine Ghalli, a young local, said for about the last two decades, the army has been kept out of things, the dirty work (“security”) has been carried out by the security force (400,00 as opposed to 150,000 military)--sound familiar? Quite a different army than in Algeria and Egypt.

Do you know if the Tunisian army are kids doing their service, although, as we know, enlisted soldiers in the US Army were the ones initiating most of the actions against their officers in Vietnam days. OK. Keep up the good work.

MORE:

**“The Government Wants To Drown
The Country In Blood, Forgetting
That The Troops Consist Of Sons
Of The Oppressed People”
“We Demand An End To The War”
[Proclamation Of The Revolutionary
Council Of Sailors: The Battleship
Potemkin]**



The Potemkin (Russian: Князь Потёмкин Таврический, Knyaz' Potyomkin Tavricheski, 'Prince Potyomkin of Tauris') was a pre-dreadnought battleship (Bronenosets) of the Imperial Russian Navy's Black Sea Fleet. The ship was made famous by the Battleship Potemkin uprising, a rebellion of the crew against their oppressive officers in June 1905 (during the Russian Revolution of 1905) -- Wikipedia

June 27, 1905, Proletary Newspaper No. 7

**Proclamation Of The Revolutionary Sailors In Command Of The Battleship
Potemkin**

To all civilized citizens and to the working people!

The crimes of the autocratic government have exhausted all patience. The whole of Russia, burning with indignation, exclaims: Down with the chains of bondage!

The government wants to drown the country in blood, forgetting that the troops consist of sons of the oppressed people.

The crew of the Potemkin has taken the first decisive step. We refuse to go on acting as the people's hangman.

Our slogan is: freedom for the whole Russian people or death!

We demand an end to the war and the immediate convocation of a constituent assembly on the basis of universal suffrage.

That is the aim for which we shall fight to the end: victory or death!

All free men, all workers will be on our side in the struggle for liberty and peace.

Down with the autocracy! Long live the constituent assembly!"

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

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/>

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Resistance Action



A bombing that wounded bodyguards of an official in Baghdad, Iraq, Jan. 16, 2011. The blast wounded three bodyguards of the science and technology minister in Jadriyah district. The minister was not in the convoy. Another attack wounded municipal officials on a bus to work in north Baghdad Sunday. (AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Granger Soldier Killed In Combat

01/12/11 By The Associated Press

YAKIMA -- Funeral plans are under way for Robert J. Near, a 21-year-old Granger native who died last week while serving in Afghanistan.

Near's grandmother, Vera Near, said her grandson grew up in her Granger home from the age of 2. She declined to talk further Monday afternoon, instead referring calls to another relative who could not be reached for comment.

Near, an Army private first class, died Friday in Kandahar, according to the Department of Defense. The Nampa, Idaho, resident was assigned to the Army's 86th Signal Battalion, based in Fort Huachuca, Ariz. The circumstances of Near's death are under investigation, said Tanja Linton, a civilian spokeswoman for Fort Huachuca, on Monday night.

Family members told the Idaho Press-Tribune that they were informed by Army officials that his death was combat-related.

Near had family in Ontario, Ore., the Press-Tribune reported.

The 2007 Granger High School graduate had been deployed to Afghanistan in March and was due to return home within a few weeks, the paper reported.

Those who knew Near remembered him for his sense of humor and quick wit.

“He was a funny and a fun kid,” said Lisa Rosberg, principal at Granger Middle School. “He just always was looking for a way to make people laugh and get people’s attention.”

Michael Delaney, Near’s computer instructor at Centennial Job Corps in Nampa, said much the same, remembering him as an upbeat class clown who excelled at his studies.

“Many students in the program have emotional baggage because of their backgrounds,” Delaney said. “I never really saw that with Robert. I never saw him sulking in the corner.”

Before joining the military, Near completed 13 months of training at Job Corps, a federal program, earning certificates as a computer operator and in business technology.

Near left for the Army straight from the Nampa campus, Delaney said.

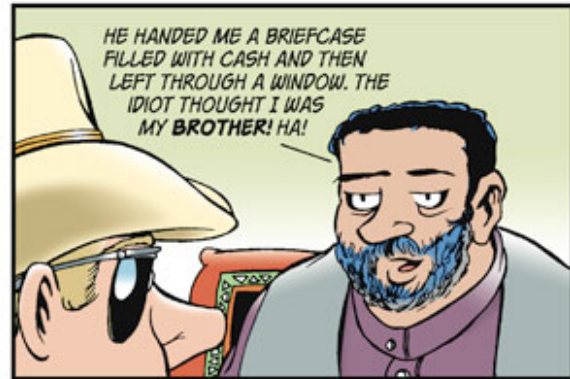
Delaney, a former military recruiter, encouraged Near to consider joining the military after Job Corps, partly to help pay for college. However, he said Near understood the risks of combat when he enlisted.

“He thought the benefits were higher than the risks,” Delaney said.

Smith Funeral Home in Sunnyside is handling funeral arrangements. A date has not been set.

Near is the 13th soldier or Marine with ties to the Yakima Valley or Goldendale area to die in the wars in Afghanistan or Iraq.

**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED
ON TO HALT THE BLOODSHED
THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO
STOP THE WARS**



UNREMITTING HELL ON EARTH; ALL HOME NOW



U.S. soldiers of Bravo Company 2-327 Infantry take cover after Taliban attacked during a patrol in Chowkay district near Pakistani border in Kunar province, eastern Afghanistan, Dec 28, 2010. (AP Photo/Rafiq Maqbool)



U.S. soldiers of Bravo Company 2-327 Infantry take positions during a sudden attack by Taliban on Badel Combat Out Post in eastern Afghanistan near Pakistan border on Dec 29, 2010. (AP Photo/Rafiq Maqbool)

MILITARY NEWS

**Poisoned By Marine Corps At
Camp Lejeune:
“Marines Who Lived On Base
Complain The Military Did Nothing
About The Known Information At The
Time, And Didn’t Let Anyone Who
Lived Or Work There Know There
May Be A Problem”**

“I Think, At That Time, They Were All Being Poisoned”



Photo by Angeeneh Adamian, BN9

14 Jan 2011 Tanya Arja, FOX 13 News reporter & January 15, 2011 By Angeeneh Adamian, Reporter, Bay News 9

TAMPA --

Water contamination out of state is affecting thousands of people in Florida, who came together Saturday to push for answers from the government.

They came from all over the state, some in bad health, others who have lost children all because they say they have one thing in common -- they were stationed at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina.

Bruce Furtado is one of 14,000 people in Florida exposed to water contamination on the base from 1957 to 1987.

It is believed that chemicals leaked from a nearby dry cleaner may have reached ground water supplies.

Furtado has leukemia and is concerned his daughters who grew up on the base will suffer the same fate.

“My daughter born at camp Lejeune in 1983. She is susceptible to the same thing I have been diagnosed with,” he said.

Furtado and 200 others came to an informational meeting to learn how the contaminated water at the base may have contributed to their health problems on Saturday.

Former drill sergeant Jerry Ensminger led the meeting. He attributed the death of his daughter to the contamination.

Ensminger presented facts on what may have happened more than 70 years ago, which were facts fellow marines had never heard.

“A lot of folks like these people in there don't know what to believe. We are trying to take their own documents and show them so they know what the truth is,” Ensminger said.

He travels the country giving these presentations in hopes those who have been affected speak out and get answers from the movement.

“We were always told the Marine Corps would back you. You are part of a team, a brotherhood. It is obvious that has not been happening,” Furtado said.

He says no amount of money will bring his health back. He wants the country he protected to now protect him as he heads to treatment for his leukemia.

In 2009 the U.S. federal government launched an investigation into the allegations of water contamination and the Marine Corp's failure to act.

David Bedworth takes medication, hoping to ward off any seizures. He knows bright lights and loud noises can trigger them.

For 23 years, he was active duty military, a proud member of the U.S. Marines. He got out and went to work for the federal government.

Years later, a routine blood test showed elevated PSA levels, which are used to detect prostate cancer. A biopsy led to surgery in 2005.

“As I was recovering from the surgery, I was having, what I now know, were seizures,” he recalled.

He thought it was effects from the prostate cancer. But found out, he was dealing with another cancer -- brain cancer.

A golf-ball-sized tumor was found on his right frontal lobe.

“I asked my doctor, what are the odds of being diagnosed with two primary cancers at the same time? He said, literally, millions to one,” Bedworth continued.

Bedworth did some research and found articles about well water contamination at Camp Lejeune, in North Carolina. He was there from 1986-1988, and one of his duties was to oversee a dining hall where they used tap water every day.

“We were drinking it, showering in it, using it for cooking,” he said, adding, “this was an extremely polluted area, as I now know.”

In 1982, it was discovered there was contamination in the wells. Levels of TCE, PCE, and benzene -- known carcinogens.

But Marines who lived on base complain the military did nothing about the known information at the time, and didn't let anyone who lived or work there know there may be a problem.

The dining hall Bedworth worked at was in an area called Hadnot Point. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry report contamination in that area.

Bedworth thinks of the Marines who ate in that dining hall.

“I think, at that time, they were all being poisoned,” he offered. “And it’s so sad to think they’ve gone on with their lives, maybe died. And I unwittingly had a role in that.”

NOT ANOTHER DAY NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR NOT ANOTHER LIFE



The remains of Army Sgt. Jose M. Cintron Rosado, right, of Vega Alta, Puerto Rico, and Jose A. Delgado Arroyo of San Juan, Puerto Rico at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Jan. 5, 2011. Rosado and Arroyo were killed by insurgents in Iraq. (AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Frederic Douglas Rejects That Lame, Stupid “Lower The Rhetoric” Bullshit



“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

**Welcome To The Occupied USA:
The Traitor Obama’s Agents Seize
Cell Phones And Laptops Belonging
To U.S. Citizens Without A Warrant;
If You Refuse To Give Up Your
Password, They Can Condemn A U.S.
Citizen To Exile Outside The USA**

A FOIA request from the ACLU revealed that in the 18-month period beginning October 1, 2008, more than 6,600 people -- roughly half of whom are American citizens -- were subjected to electronic device searches at the border by DHS, all without a search warrant.

Jan 15, 2011 By Glenn Greenwald, Salon.com [Excerpts]

For those who regularly write and read about civil liberties abuses, it's sometimes easy to lose perspective of just how extreme and outrageous certain erosions are. One becomes inured to them, and even severe incursions start to seem ordinary.

Such was the case, at least for me, with Homeland Security's practice of detaining American citizens upon their re-entry into the country, and as part of that detention, literally seizing their electronic products -- laptops, cellphones, Blackberries and the like -- copying and storing the data, and keeping that property for months on end, sometimes never returning it.

Worse, all of this is done not only without a warrant, probable cause or any oversight, but even without reasonable suspicion that the person is involved in any crime.

It's completely standard-less, arbitrary, and unconstrained.

There's no law authorizing this power nor any judicial or Congressional body overseeing or regulating what DHS is doing. And the citizens to whom this is done have no recourse -- not even to have their property returned to them.

Seizing someone's laptop, digging through it, recording it all, storing the data somewhere, and then distributing it to various agencies is about the most invasive, privacy-destroying measure imaginable.

A laptop and its equivalents reveal whom you talk to, what you say, what you read, what you write, what you view, what you think, and virtually everything else about your life. It can -- and often does -- contain not only the most private and intimate information about you, but also information which the government is legally barred from accessing (attorney/client or clergy/penitent communications, private medical and psychiatric information and the like).

But these border seizures result in all of that being limitlessly invaded.

What kind of society allows government agents -- without any cause -- to seize all of that whenever they want, without limits on whom they can do this to, what they access, how they can use it: even without anyone knowing what they're doing?

This Homeland Security conduct has finally received some long-overdue attention over the past several months as a result of people associated with WikiLeaks or Bradley Manning being subjected to it.

In July, Jacob Appelbaum, a WikiLeaks volunteer, was detained for hours at Newark Airport, had his laptop and cellphones seized (the cellphones still have not been

returned), and was told that the same thing would happen to him every time he tried to re-enter the country; last week, it indeed occurred again when he arrived in Seattle after a trip to Iceland, only this time he was afraid to travel with a laptop or cellphone and they were thus unable to seize them (they did seize his memory sticks, onto which he had saved a copy of the Bill of Rights).

The same thing happened to 23-year-old American David House after he visited Bradley Manning in the Quantico brig and worked for Manning's legal defense fund: in November, House returned to the U.S. from a vacation in Mexico with his girlfriend and her family, was detained, and had his laptop and memory sticks seized (they were returned only after he retained the ACLU of Massachusetts to demand their return).

But this is happening to far more than people associated with WikiLeaks.

As a result of writing about this, I've spoken with several writers, filmmakers, and activists who are critics of the government and who have been subjected to similar seizures -- some every time they re-enter the country.

In September, the ACLU filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of these suspicionless searches; one of the plaintiffs on whose behalf they sued is Pascal Abidor, a 26-year-old dual French-American citizen who had his laptop seized at the border when returning to the U.S. last year:

Abidor was traveling from Montreal to New York on an Amtrak train in May when he had his laptop searched and confiscated by Custom and Border Patrol officers.

Abidor, an Islamic Studies Ph.D. student, was questioned, handcuffed, taken off the train and kept in a holding cell for several hours before being released without charge. When his laptop was returned 11 days later, there was evidence that many of his personal files, including research, photos and chats with his girlfriend, had been searched.

A FOIA request from the ACLU revealed that in the 18-month period beginning October 1, 2008, more than 6,600 people -- roughly half of whom are American citizens -- were subjected to electronic device searches at the border by DHS, all without a search warrant.

In a July, 2008 Senate hearing, then-Sen. Russ Feingold hosted the Association of Corporate Travel Executives, which vehemently opposes this practice, and Feingold said this:

“Over the last two years, reports have surfaced that customs agents have been asking U.S. citizens to turn over their cell phones or give them the passwords to their laptops.

“The travelers have been given a choice between complying with the request or being kept out of their own country.

“They have been forced to wait for hours while customs agents reviewed and sometimes copied the contents of the electronic devices. In some cases, the laptops or cell phones were confiscated and returned weeks or even months later, with no explanation.”

Back then, this was painted as yet another Bush/Cheney assault on civil liberties, so one frequently heard denunciations like this from leading Democrats such as Sen. Pat Leahy: "It may surprise many Americans that their basic constitutional rights do not exist at our ports of entry even to protect private information contained on a computer. It concerns me, and I believe that actions taken under the cover of these decisions have the potential to turn the Constitution on its head."

But now that this practice has continued -- and seemingly expanded -- under the Obama presidency, few in Congress seem to care.

THE TRAITOR OBAMA: UNFIT FOR COMMAND: UNWORTHY OF OBEDIENCE: ENEMY OF THE CONSTITUTION AND THE BILL OF RIGHTS



HERE IS THE DOMESTIC ENEMY BRING THE WAR HOME NOW

*Why, I can smile, and murder whiles I smile,
And cry 'Content' to that which grieves my heart
And wet my cheeks with artificial tears,
And frame my face to all occasions.*

-- Gloucester, "Henry VI"-Shakespeare

“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

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

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.

**“Things Will Not Be The Same
Any Longer”**

**“Revolution Is Coming, By Any
Means”**

**“Ordinary People Celebrated,
Marveled, Gossiped And Wondered:
Will It Happen Here? What Can We
Do?”**

**“For The First Time In The History Of A
Part Of The World Long Calcified By
Autocratic Rule, A Dictator Had Been
Forced From Office By A Popular Revolt,
And It Was All Broadcast Live On
Television”**

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

Almost no government in the region is immune from the combustible combination of grievances that sparked the uprising in Tunisia. Inflation, joblessness and the hopelessness of living in a country where opportunity is the preserve of a tiny ruling elite are steadily fueling frustrations from Algiers to Amman, from Tripoli to Sanaa and Damascus.

January 15, 2011 By Liz Sly and Leila Fadel, Washington Post Foreign Service
[Excerpts]

BAGHDAD - Moments after Tunisian president Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali was ejected from his palace, tweets began flying across a region that was at once enthralled and appalled by the specter of an Arab leader being overthrown by his own people.

"Today Ben Ali, tomorrow Hosni Mubarak," gloated one tweeter, referring to Egypt's long-serving president. "Come on Mubarak, take a hint and follow the lead," urged another.

And prominent Egyptian blogger Hossam el-Hamalawy observed: "Revolutions are like dominos."

On Saturday, a day after Tunisia's president was forced into exile by massive street demonstrations, the Middle East was still reeling, with calls for copycat protests reverberating across the Internet, in cafes and on street corners as far afield as Jordan and Yemen.

For the first time in the history of a part of the world long calcified by autocratic rule, a dictator had been forced from office by a popular revolt, and it was all broadcast live on television

Leaders braced for the fallout. Elites analyzed the potential for the revolution to spread.

Ordinary people celebrated, marveled, gossiped and wondered: Will it happen here? What can we do? And, perhaps most important, who will be next?

Only one certainty stood out: The turmoil in tiny Tunisia, long ignored as a sleepy outpost of relative stability on the fringe of a volatile region, will have profound ramifications for the rest of the Arab world.

"Things will not be the same any longer," predicted Labib Kamhawi, a political analyst in the Jordanian capital of Amman. "2011 will witness drastic change, and it is long overdue."

The rumblings are already there. Jordan, Algeria and Libya have all seen violent protests in recent weeks, spurred by rising prices, unemployment and anger at official corruption - much the same issues that precipitated the snowballing street protests in Tunisia a month ago.

As the ousted Ben Ali flew into exile in Saudi Arabia on Saturday, the Saudi government issued a statement that seemed designed to forestall unwelcome comparisons between the new guest and the ruling Saudi monarchy.

“The government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia announces that it stands fully behind the Tunisian people,” it said.

Almost no government in the region is immune from the combustible combination of grievances that sparked the uprising in Tunisia.

Inflation, joblessness and the hopelessness of living in a country where opportunity is the preserve of a tiny ruling elite are steadily fueling frustrations from Algiers to Amman, from Tripoli to Sanaa and Damascus.

“We could go through the list of Arab leaders looking in the mirror right now and very few would not be on the list,” said Robert Malley, who heads the Middle East and North Africa program at the International Crisis Group.

Perhaps nowhere do the lessons of Tunisia resonate more loudly than in nearby Egypt, where Mubarak has been president since 1981, six years longer than his toppled Tunisian counterpart. Egypt, like Tunisia, is grappling with the challenges of a rapidly growing population, limited job opportunities and deep resentment of the entrenched privileges of a ruling clique.

In a possible foreshadowing of what may lie ahead, police broke up an attempted demonstration outside the Tunisian Embassy in Cairo on Saturday night and blocked all but a few dozen protesters from reaching the site of another planned protest.

“It is our turn,” chanted a small crowd of about 70 activists who managed to break through the police cordon. “Revolution is coming, by any means.”

“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

**“My Ambush Squad, And Our Pro-Black Panther Troops Captured 2 Of The 3 Tanks, In The Middle Of Philly’s Broad Street”
[1969]**



January 07, 2011 GI Café Kaiserslautern via War Reilly, Veterans For Peace

From Bill Perry:

“On the leading / “point” Tank, that’s me, in the Huey P Newton white sweatshirt, with RED STAR backing Huey’s mug, and I led an impromptu rally featuring “FREE BOBBY SEALE” chants, until about 50 of Frank Rizzo’s Police showed up.

Army Reservists respected us Viet Nam combat Vets, and they tipped off me & my anti-war Vets with great INTEL about a movement of 3 Tanks, from an Army Armory to the Naval Shipyard.

My ambush squad, and our Pro-Black Panther troops captured 2 of the 3 Tanks, in the middle of Philly’s Broad Street, a 7 Lane major artery that bisects Temple University’s campus.

The Chicago 8 Trial had begun, 2 weeks earlier (September, 1969) and Black Panther Bobby Seale wasn’t allowed to defend himself, after his Lawyer had emergency surgery. Judge Julius Hoffman BOUND, GAGGED, and CHAINED Bobby Seale, and the timing of the early October movement of the Tanks dove tailed perfectly with the spectacle of a Black man denied his rights, as the whole world watched! The U.S. Governments’ Legal system blew it!

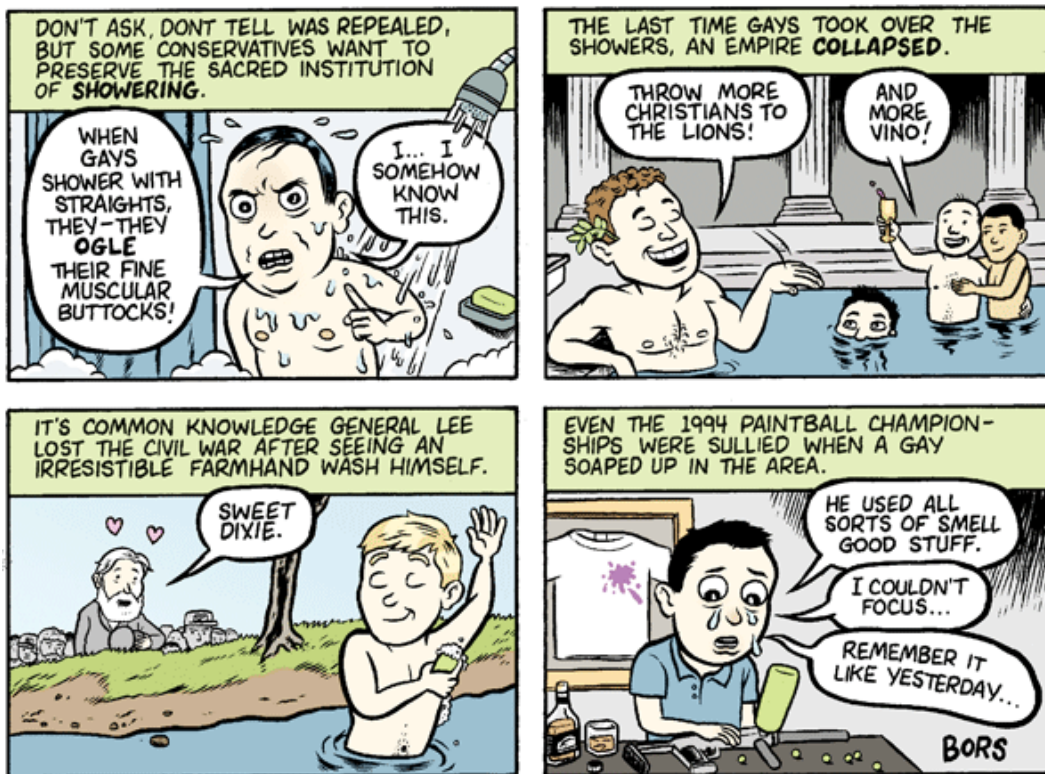
If you’re too young to remember this stuff, listen to: (Graham Nash’s song, “Chicago”, which opened with: “So your brother’s bound and gagged, and they’ve chained him to a

chair”). Ultimately, Judge Julius Hoffman severed Bobby Seale from the case, sentencing him to four years in prison for contempt of court, one of the longest sentences ever handed down for that offense in American history.

The Chicago 8 was then hyped as the Chicago 7, as the pro-war media tried to protect what little was left of America’s Judicial Reputation

ALL 7 of the white boys beat the charges on appeal (Abbie Hoffman, Jerry Rubin, Dave Dellinger, Tom Hayden, Rennie Davis, John Froines, Lee Weiner) Unfortunately for Bobby, “Contempt” charges can’t be appealed, so Bobby was the ONLY one of the 8 who did ANY time!

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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“Where Can I Find A Tunisian Flag?” “The Question Flooded Egyptian Blogs” “It Is Egypt’s Pharaoh’s Turn”

15 January 2011 by: Emad Mekay, Inter Press Service [Excerpt]

Cairo - “Where can I find a Tunisian flag?”

The question flooded Egyptian blogs, tweeter and Facebook pages minutes after news that popular protests had forced out long-time Tunisian dictator Zine el Abidine Ben Ali.

Egypt is feeling the ripple effect from Tunisia already.

“The rationale for revolt is the same. The people are the same. The general atmosphere is the same,” says Abdelmonem Amer, editor of the Islamist- leaning Arab News.

“Tunisia’s tyrant ran away. It is Egypt’s Pharaoh’s turn. Today, it is Tunisia and tomorrow it is Egypt.”



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