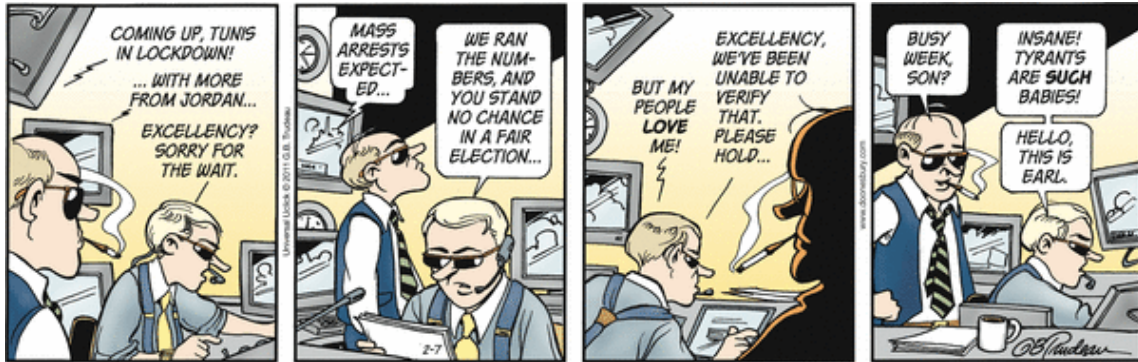


Military Resistance 9B10



[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

The Heavy Battalions Begin To Move:

“Labor Strikes And Worker Protests That Flared Across Egypt On Wednesday Affected Post Offices, Textile Factories And Even The Government’s Flagship Newspaper”

“More Than A Thousand Prepared For Another Nighttime Encampment Outside Parliament, A Symbolic Move That Showed The Movement’s Growing Confidence”

“Protests Spread To The Previously Quiet Southern Region Of Upper Egypt”



Striking museum workers outside the Supreme Council of Antiquities in Cairo on Wednesday. Ben Curtis, Associated Press

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

February 9, 2011 By KAREEM FAHIM, New York Times & Associated Press [Excerpts]

CAIRO —Labor strikes and worker protests that flared across Egypt on Wednesday affected post offices, textile factories and even the government’s flagship newspaper, as protesters recaptured the initiative in their battle for the resignation of President Hosni Mubarak.

Some 8,000 protesters, mainly farmers, set barricades of flaming palm trees in the southern province of Assiut, blocking the main highway and railway to Cairo to complain of bread shortages.

They then drove off the governor by pelting his van with stones.

Hundreds of the poor in the Suez Canal city of Port Said set fire to part of the governor’s headquarters in anger over lack of housing.

The farmers in Assiut voiced their support of the Tahrir movement, witnesses said, as did the Port Said protesters, who set up a tent camp in the city’s main Martyrs Square similar to the Cairo camp.

In Cairo, hundreds of state electricity workers stood in front of the South Cairo Electricity company, demanding the ouster of its director.

Strikes entered a second day in the city of Suez on Wednesday.

Some 5,000 workers at various state companies - including textile workers, medicine bottle manufacturers, sanitation workers and a firm involved in repairs for ships on the Suez Canal - held separate strikes and protests at their factories.

"We're not getting our rights," said Ahmed Tantawi, a Public Works employee in Suez. He said workers provide 24-hour service and are exposed to health risks but get only an extra \$1.50 a month in hardship compensation. He said there are employees who have worked their entire lives in the department and will retire with a salary equivalent to \$200 a month.

At the newspaper, Al Ahram, freelance reporters demanding better wages and more independence from the government snarled one of the state's most powerful propaganda tools and seemed to be forcing a change in its tone.

On Wednesday, the front page, which had sought for days to downplay the protests, called recent attacks by pro-Mubarak protesters on Tahrir Square an "offense to the whole nation."

By midday, hundreds of workers from the Health Ministry, adjacent to Parliament and a few hundred yards from the square, also took to the streets in a protest whose exact focus was not immediately clear, Interior Ministry officials said.

By nightfall, tens of thousands of protesters filled the square and more than a thousand prepared for another nighttime encampment outside Parliament, a symbolic move that showed the movement's growing confidence.

Government officials said the protests had spread to the previously quiet southern region of Upper Egypt.

There were unconfirmed reports that police fired live rounds on protesters on Tuesday in El Kharga, 375 miles southwest of Cairo, resulting in several deaths. The protesters are demanding the removal of a senior local police commander accused of abuse. Protesters responded by burning police stations and other government buildings on Wednesday, according to wire reports.

On Tuesday, the officials said, thousands protested in the province of Wadi El Jedid. One person died and 61 were injured, including seven from gunfire by the authorities, the officials said.

Television images also showed crowds gathering in Alexandria, Egypt's second-largest city.

Increasingly, the political clamor for Mr. Mubarak's ouster seemed to be complemented by strikes.

In the most potentially significant action, about 6,000 workers at five service companies owned by the Suez Canal Authority — a major component of the Egyptian economy — began a sit-in on Tuesday night. There was no immediate suggestion of disruptions to shipping in the canal, a vital international waterway leading from the Mediterranean to the Red Sea.

While state television has focused its coverage on episodes of violence that could spread fear among the wider Egyptian public and prompt calls for the restoration, Al Ahram's coverage was a distinct departure from its usual practice of avoiding reporting that might embarrass the government.

In the lobby of the newspaper on Wednesday, journalists were in open revolt against the newspaper's management and editorial policies.

Several said the editor of the English-language division heads to the square to join the protests every night, joined by many of the staff. Some called their own protest a microcosm of the Egyptian uprising, with young journalists leading demands for better working conditions and less biased coverage.

"We want a voice," said Sara Ramadan, 23, a sports reporter.

The paper described how "more than 500 media figures" issued a statement declaring "their rejection of official media coverage of the January 25 uprising and demanded that Minister of Information Anas El-Fikki step down."

Members of the Journalists Syndicate moved toward a no-confidence vote against their leader, Makram Mohamed Ahmed, a former Mubarak speech writer, the daily Al Masry Al Youm reported on its English-language Web site.

MORE:

Public Transportation Workers Strike And Call For Overthrowing Mubarak: "This Comes As Strikes Have Spread Literally Everywhere..."

February 9th, 2011 By Hossam el-Hamalawy, Arabawy.org

My sources has just confirmed this now...

The Cairo Public Transportation workers, who started a strike today in five Garages: Nasr Station, Fateh Station, Ter'a Station, Amiriya Station, Mezzalat Station, Sawwah Station, have issued a statement with a list of demands, calling for overthrowing Mubarak.

No public buses will roam Cairo tomorrow, except those buses that will bring the drivers to the central station in Nasr City's el-Gabal el-Ahmar, where the strikers have announced they will declare an independent union.

The strikers' statement has also called for abolishing the emergency law, removing NDP from the state institutions, dissolving the parliament, drafting new constitution, forming a

national unity govt and setting a national minimum wage of LE1200 and prosecuting corrupt officials...

This comes as strikes have spread literally everywhere...

It's happening people... It's happening... The working class has entered the arena with full force today. Mubarak's regime's fate will be sealed off SOON!

MORE:

**“20,000 Factory Workers Stayed
Away From Work On Wednesday”
Suleiman “Is Threatening To Impose
Martial Law, Which Means Everybody
In The Square Will Be Smashed”
“But What Would He Do With The Rest
Of The 70 Million Egyptians Who Will
Follow Us Afterward?”**

09 Feb 2011 Al Jazeera and agencies

Egyptian labour unions have gone on a nationwide strike, adding momentum to pro-democracy demonstrations in Cairo and other cities.

Al Jazeera correspondents, reporting from Egypt, said around 20,000 factory workers stayed away from work on Wednesday.

Omar Suleiman, the Egyptian vice president, warned on Tuesday that his government “can’t put up with continued protests” for a long time, saying the crisis must be ended as soon as possible.

Suleiman said there will be “no ending of the regime” and no immediate departure for Mubarak, the state news agency MENA reported from a meeting between the vice-president and independent newspapers.

Response to Suleiman’s statements was grim.

“He is threatening to impose martial law, which means everybody in the square will be smashed,” said Abdul-Rahman Samir, a spokesman for a coalition of the five main youth groups behind protests in Tahrir Square.

“But what would he do with the rest of the 70 million Egyptians who will follow us afterward.”

MORE:

“The Movement Is Spreading Like A Forest Fire”

“A Wave Of Strikes, Many Of Them Involving Sit-Ins And Factory Occupations”

‘Delegation After Delegation Of Workers Is Arriving On The Square To Express Their Solidarity With The Demonstrators’

“Among Their Demands: The Forming Of A Union And Support For The Revolution”

“Recent Reports Speak Of Large Groups Of Workers, Mainly In Cairo, Rebelling Against State-Appointed Managements And Setting Up ‘Revolutionary Committees’ To Run Factories And Other

Work Places, Including Egyptian State TV”

9 February, 2011 by Alan Woods, Marxist.com [Excerpts]

Recent reports speak of large groups of workers, mainly in Cairo, rebelling against state-appointed managements and setting up “Revolutionary Committees” to run factories and other work places, including Egyptian state TV and Egypt’s biggest weekly “Ros el-Yusuf.”

There is a wave of strikes, many of them involving different forms of sit-ins and factory occupations.

Among their demands: the forming of a union and support for the revolution.

The telecom workers in Cairo are on strike, and the strike seems to be spreading to other cities: Maadi, Opera, MisrElgedida, Ramsis, and Alexandria. The workers are protesting against corruption and low salaries.

In the key city of Suez, the workers have occupied the Suez Trust Textile plant. Around 1000 workers in the Lafarge cement factory in Suez are also on strike.

Among their demands: the forming of a union and support for the revolution.

The Tora cement workers have started a sit in to protest against their intolerable working conditions.

At the same time there is a movement to get rid of the old corrupt leaders of the unions (syndicates) who are agents of the ruling party and the bosses.

The employees at the Workers’ University in Nasr City are staging a sit in, and according to one report, there has been the kidnapping of the vice president of the official ETUF union, Mustapha Mungy, by employees of the Workers’ University, which is affiliated to the General Trade Union Federation “ETUF”.

In the course of a sit-in the workers detained him and demanded his removal and the opening of investigations into widespread corruption in the Workers’ University.

The official Al-Ahram news agency carried a report entitled: “Employees detain vice president of Egyptian workers union”, which reported: “The vice president of the Egyptian Workers Union, Mostafa Mongy, has been detained since Monday morning by employees demanding his immediate resignation.” (Ahram Online , Monday 7 Feb 2011)

The Center for Trade Union & Workers’ Services (CTUWS) presented a Communication to the Public Prosecutor demanding the issue of an order against Hussein Megawer, president of the ETUF, preventing him from travelling abroad and investigating the sources of his wealth.

On Tuesday 8th university professors staged a march in support of the revolution, joining the protesters in Tahrir.

Also at 12 noon, journalists will gather at their union HQ, in an emergency meeting to lobby for the impeachment of their state-backed union chief, Makram Mohamed Ahmed.

The journalists are also on the move.

They have attacked the state backed head of the syndicate shouting: “murderer, murderer!”

Journalists marched from their union HQ to Tahrir Square, denouncing the government.

Journalists have started collecting signatures to impeach the state backed press syndicate head. In all the state run newspapers journalists are in revolt against their pro-government editors.

The movement is spreading like a forest fire.

The railway technicians in Bani Suweif are on strike.

At least two military production factories in Welwyn are on strike. Public transport workers in three garages are on strike.

Thousands of oil workers are protesting in front of the oil ministry. Tomorrow more oil workers from the provinces will descend on Nasr City to join protests in front of the oil ministry, and the Ghazl Mahalla workers will also start a strike

Many of the strikes are economic, but others are political in character. An interview with Hossam El-Hamalawy on Sunday 6 stated:

“It’s been two days since the workers said that they wouldn’t return to work until the fall of the regime. There are four hotbeds of economic struggle: a (steel) mill in Suez, a fertilizer factory in Suez, a textile factory near Mansoura in Daqahlia (the Mansoura-España garment factory in the Nile Delta region) on strike they have fired their CEO and are self-managing their enterprise.

On Wednesday the three independent unions that exist in Egypt (Property Tax Collectors, Health Technicians and Pensioners’ Federation) demonstrated in front of the headquarters of the state backed Egyptian Federation of Trade Unions, in Galaa Street, calling for the prosecution of the federation chief on corruption charges, and demanding the lifting of all restrictions on establishing free unions.

The civil servants then marched to Tahrir Square in support of the revolution.

They are not the only ones.

Delegation after delegation of workers is arriving on the Square to express their solidarity with the demonstrators and discuss the future of the Revolution.

These reports are of tremendous importance.

They mean that the Revolution is entering the factories and workplaces.

It means that the Egyptian working class is beginning to participate in the Revolution under its own banner, fighting for its own class demands.

This is a decisive factor for the future of the Revolution.

The idea of a general strike is in the air.

The workers of Egypt are drawing the most advanced conclusions.

This is strikingly revealed in the statement of the Iron and steel workers in Helwan, who are calling for a major workers' rally next Friday to Tahrir Square.

They are advancing the following demands:

1. the immediate stepping down of Mubarak and all the figures of the regime and its symbols
2. the confiscation of wealth and property of all the regime's symbols and all those to be proven to be corrupt, on behalf of the interest of the masses
3. the immediate resignation of all workers from the trade unions controlled by or affiliated to the regime and declaring their independent unions now preparing their general conference to elect and form their syndicate
4. the acquisition of public sector companies that have been sold or closed and the declaration of nationalizing them on behalf of the people and the formation of a new administration to run it, involving workers and technicians
5. the formation of committees to supervise workers in all work sites and monitor the production and distribution of prices and wages
6. call for a constituent assembly of all classes of people and trends for the drafting of a new constitution and the election of people's councils without waiting for the negotiations with the former regime.

The poor people of Egypt do not fight for democracy in order to provide ministerial positions for careerists but as a means of solving their most pressing problems: the lack of jobs and houses, the high cost of living.

These economic and social problems are too deep to be solved by any bourgeois government.

The Economist writes:

“Some 40% of Egyptians still live on less than \$2 a day. In recent years, even as Egypt's overall economy has grown apace and more consumer goods have filled even lower-income households, the poor have won little relief from relentlessly rising food prices and

sharper competition for secure jobs. Such anxieties have found expression in a growing number of strikes and local protests across the country.”

The present movement cannot succeed unless it is taken to a new and higher level.

MORE:

“Tens Of Thousands Of Faculty Members And Workers From Cairo University Marched From The Giza Section Of The City To The Parliament And Cabinet Headquarters”

“As They Surrounded The Parliament And Cabinet Headquarters, They Blocked Prime Minister Ahmed Shariq’s Car From Reaching The Cabinet Building”

“Security Forces Pleaded With Them Repeatedly To Allow The Prime Minister’s Convoy Through, But The Protesters Refused, And The Prime Minister Had To Turn Around And Leave”

“In The South, Where Things Have Been Relatively Calm In The Last Few Days, Hundreds Of Thousands Took To The Streets”



Protesters gather outside the parliament building in Cairo on Tuesday

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

February 9, 2011 By Mostafa Omar, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

SocialistWorker.org contributor Mostafa Omar is in the region to report for <http://socialistworker.org/>.

He discussed the latest developments in the struggle on Tuesday with Sean Petty.

IN THE last few days before Tuesday, it seemed like Egypt’s democratic revolution might have reached a stalemate, at least in Cairo. Hundreds of thousands of people continued to occupy Tahrir Square, demanding the ouster of the regime.

But the government had shifted to a strategy of waiting out the protesters.

On Monday, for example, Hosni Mubarak’s Prime Minister Ahmed Shafiq went on Nile TV after a cabinet meeting and made sarcastic remarks about the protesters in Tahrir Square.

He said that they could make speeches and chant slogans for as long as they wanted, and that Tahrir could become like Hyde Park in London, where demonstrators can speak, and no one pays them any mind.

These remarks angered protesters, who found them quite condescending and dismissive.

But they also reflected the fact that the movement to get rid of Mubarak needed to answer the new strategy of the regime of stalling for time.

As Ahmed Shawki reported in his articles from Cairo, protesters have been discussing what can be done to increase the pressure on the regime. On Tuesday, we saw some of the answer.

First of all, the numbers of protesters in Tahrir Square exceeded the expectations of all the organizers who called for another day of millions against Mubarak. One of the speakers celebrated in the square was Wael Ghonim, the young Google executive who was released from detention by the regime and has since spoken passionately for the uprising.

Far from the demonstrators being satisfied by the government's offer of negotiations, this was one of the biggest mobilizations yet.

There were also reports of groups of workers participating in the demonstrations at Tahrir Square and organizing other actions.

For example, in the afternoon on Tuesday, tens of thousands of faculty members and workers from Cairo University marched from the Giza section of the city to the parliament and cabinet headquarters, which are located five minutes from Tahrir Square.

As they surrounded the parliament and cabinet headquarters, they blocked Prime Minister Ahmed Shariq's car from reaching the cabinet building.

Security forces pleaded with them repeatedly to allow the prime minister's convoy through, but the protesters refused, and the prime minister had to turn around and leave.

At the same time, on the other side of Tahrir Square, in midtown Cairo, hundreds of angry members of the journalists' syndicate chased the pro-government chairman out of the syndicate's headquarters, drowning him out with chants of "Regime agent out the door!"

And according to reports, a few minutes away from there, journalists and workers at the pro-government Rosa Al-Yousef prevented the newspaper's pro-Mubarek CEO from entering its headquarters.

There were also reports later on Tuesday of preparations for a mass march on the Maspero Building--the headquarters of the state-run radio and TV stations that have been airing the regime's lies, with the aim of surrounding it and eventually attempting to take it over.

The rest of the country also mobilized in massive numbers.

In Alexandria, the second-largest city in Egypt, protesters have been occupying not just one big square, but several major squares, from one end of the city to another for the past week.

Demonstrators have held huge mass marches that roam through the city, and plans are being made for a march on the presidential palace in that city.

On Tuesday, demonstrations were bigger than ever in the industrial Delta region in the north of Egypt, including the cities of Damansour, Tanta and Mansoura.

In the south, where things have been relatively calm in the last few days, hundreds of thousands took to the streets in Sohag, Bani Suwaif, Asyut, and Aswan. In the Sinai, there are big rallies in Arish near the Gaza border. El-Kharga, the oasis in the middle of the vast Western desert, is also seeing demonstrations.

SO THIS was the answer of demonstrators to the attempts by the regime to give minor concessions that they hoped would slow the momentum of the demonstrations.

Mubarak's newly appointed vice president Omar Suleiman held a dialogue with so-called leaders of the protest movement and opposition parties. Also in the past few days, the regime fired several people in the ruling National Democratic Party, getting rid of a number of hated figures, including Mubarak's own son, Gamal.

The attorney general was instructed to begin investigations into long-known cases of government corruption, and various former ministers and businessmen were forbidden from leaving the country.

Of course, the biggest example of corruption is at the top.

Recent reports on the net worth of the Mubarak family put the total at \$70 billion--a mind-shattering amount. Everyone knew the family was enormously rich, but no one guessed that outrageous sum.

The protesters are livid and demanding that, one way or another, Mubarak and his family be put on trial and the money returned to Egypt.

But believe it or not, Mubarak's wealth is only a drop in the bucket compared to the untold billions stolen by hundreds of businessmen who benefited from his regime.

None of the moves to placate the protest movement have succeeded. In fact, the intransigence of the government and the too-little-too-late attempts at reform only further infuriated millions of people.

There's also anger about the opportunistic attempts by unrepresentative opposition figures to put themselves in the spotlight.

On Tuesday, you could see the renewed confidence of the protesters that the momentum is on their side.

Protesters in Tahrir and those blockading the parliament building called for the prime minister's resignation.

They also reject Omar Suleiman and are calling for the head of the Constitutional Court, considered a relatively independent figure, to assume the presidency immediately and lead a transition.

All this represents a further political and organizational step forward for the revolution in Egypt.

We can expect events to move even faster in the days ahead.

MORE:

“State Television Suggested That Protesters Had Received Free Fast Food”

“‘Where Is My Kentucky Fried Chicken?’ Has Become A Rallying Cry In The Square”

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

February 7, 2011 By ANTHONY SHADID, The New York Times [Excerpts]

In past years the government has managed to at least make its version of events the dominant narrative, but in the outpouring of dissent here that is no longer the case.

Fighting still flared in the Sinai Peninsula, where Bedouins, long treated as second-class citizens, have fought Egyptian security forces for weeks.

One activist catalogued in a small notebook the rumors that he had heard about the square when he went beyond the concertina wire: that the protesters had tables piled with free hashish and marijuana; that Islamists had separated the men and women; and that demonstrators were paid by foreigners (50 euros and a meal, goes the story).

His favorite was that protesters were distributing poisoned flowers that could kill if touched.

State television has also suggested that protesters had received free fast food.

“Where is my Kentucky Fried Chicken?” has become a rallying cry in the square.

MORE:

Parliament “Closed Until The Downfall Of The Regime”

Feb 08 2011 by Anthony Alessandrini, Jadaliyya.com [Excerpt]

As I write this, protests continue in front of the Parliament building, with the possibility of a sit-in there; one tweet, from an Al-Jazeera producer, reported that a protester had “climbed on the front gate of parliament to put up a sign saying ‘closed until the downfall of the regime.’”

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Obama’s Lying Bullshit Reeks On: U.S. Combat Troops Who Are No Longer In Iraq Patrol In Kirkuk



U.S. soldiers patrol near the site of a bomb attack in Kirkuk, some 250 km (150 miles) north of Baghdad February 9, 2011. REUTERS/Ako Rasheed

No Combat Troops In Iraq

February 27, 2009 By PETER BAKER, New York Times [Excerpt]

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — President Obama declared the beginning of the end of one of the longest and most divisive wars in American history on Friday as he announced that he would withdraw combat forces from Iraq by August 2010 and all remaining troops by December 2011.

Resistance Action



In this image from TV showing the moment that a bomb detonates on a street in Kirkuk, Iraq, Feb. 9, 2011, as security forces and emergency vehicles pass along the main road on their way to attend the scene of another explosion. The bomb exploded while news cameraman Emad Matti filmed street scenes and the blast knocked him off his feet, but he was unhurt in the explosion. (AP Photo / Emad Matti, APTN)

February 9, 2011 From Mohammed Tawfeeq, CNN & Reuters

At least seven people were killed and 68 others were wounded after three car bomb explosions Wednesday in Iraq's oil-rich northern city of Kirkuk, said Jamal Taher, police chief. One of bombings occurred outside a building in central Kirkuk used by Kurdish security forces. Another explosion occurred near an Iraqi federal police patrol in central Kirkuk. And another car bomb targeted a police patrol in south Kirkuk, Taher said.

TAL AFAR - A roadside bomb killed two Iraqi soldiers and wounded two others when it exploded near their patrol in Tal Afar, 420 km (260 miles) northwest of Baghdad, police said.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Ohio Sgt. Killed In Kandahar



U.S. Army Sgt. Patrick Ryan Carroll of Norwalk, Ohio, 25, died Feb. 7, 2011, of wounds sustained following a bomber attack in Kandahar City, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/HO, U.S. Army)

Two Foreign Occupation “Servicemembers” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan: Nationality Not Announced

February 9, 2010 Reuters

Two foreign servicemembers died following an insurgent attack in southern Afghanistan today.

Iowan Serving On Active Duty Killed In Afghanistan

February 4, 2011 Daily News

Spc. Shawn A. Muhr, 26 — a Coon Rapids native serving on active duty in the U.S. Army — was killed Saturday in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, according to a news release from the Iowa National Guard.

Muhr, the driver of a Heavy Equipment Transporter System (HET), was part of a convoy when his vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device.

He was assigned to the 546th Transportation Company, 264th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 82nd Sustainment Brigade, Fort Bragg, N.C. Also killed in the attack was Spc. Joshua Campbell, 22, of Bennett, Colo.

Muhr graduated from Coon Rapids-Bayard High School in 2003, where he wrestled and played football. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 2005, completed basic and advanced individual training and was stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C. Muhr was serving his first tour in Afghanistan after having served earlier in Iraq, as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Muhr is survived by his wife, Winifred V. Olchawa, and step-son, Devin M. Olchawa; his father, David Muhr, and brother, Aaron Muhr, both of Coon Rapids; sisters Dee Scheuermann of Mount Carmel, Vennessa Warneka of Carroll and Erica Muhr-Burris of Scranton; and many nieces and nephews.

The family of Spc. Shawn Muhr issued the following statement:

“Shawn will be in our hearts forever. He was a loving son, brother and uncle. There are no words to describe the void in our lives. He was a gentle person with an adventurous spirit. We will forever love and miss him. We are asking for privacy at this time so we can grieve as a family.”

Funeral arrangements are pending. Johnson-Woodhouse Funeral Home in Coon Rapids is handling the details. Additional information will be forthcoming regarding funeral and graveside services.

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

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

**“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

Resistance Action: Getting The Message?



Feb. 4, 2011: A message posted by the Taliban outside a mosque in Kandahar, south of Kabul, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Allauddin Khan)

Feb. 7, 2011 (CBS/AP)

Insurgents killed the acting chief of Khost province's Bak district on his way to work. The official, identified as Sayed Mohammad, was shot by four men wearing Afghan national army uniforms as he was driving from his home to the office at about 9 in the morning, provincial officials said.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack. Zabihullah Mujahid, a spokesman for the group, said Mohammad was targeted because of his collaboration with foreign troops.

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

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.

MILITARY NEWS

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



The remains of Cpl. Lucas T. Pyeatt Monday, Feb. 7, 2011 at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Pyeatt, 24, of West Chester, Ohio, was killed in combat Feb. 5, 2011 in Helmand province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Steve Ruark)

**War Profiteers That Sold Faulty
Grenades To Army Got \$415
Million From DoD:
“The Defective Grenades Might
Explode Prematurely -- Or Not At
All”**

“The Allegations Against DSE, Inc. Come As Malfunctioning Grenades Have Hurt Servicemen”

“The Company Provided Defective Fuzes But Claimed They Passed Quality Tests”

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

February 4, 2011 By Alan M. Cohn, Scripps Howard News Service [Excerpts]

TAMPA, Fla. -- A major supplier to the U.S. military provided defective grenades to the Army, according to a company whistleblower.

The U.S. Department of Defense was warned about potentially-malfunctioning grenades by a project manager at a subsidiary of Tampa, Fla.-based DSE, Inc., according to an investigation by WFTS-TV, ABC Action News in Tampa, Fla.

John King, the former quality manager at the Orlando, Fla.-based subsidiary DSE Fuzing, claims he was fired in 2008 after refusing to approve grenade fuzes that he judged to be unacceptable, WFTS found. King said he feared that the defective grenades might explode prematurely -- or not at all.

King, who has since filed a whistleblower lawsuit against parent company DSE, Inc., said he repeatedly warned superiors about quality problems, WFTS found.

In one 2008 memo, King wrote to superiors that a random sample of critical fuze parts showed that 36 out of 192 -- nearly 19 percent -- were defective, WFTS found.

Military standards call for no allowable defects for this part, called a “detent.”

“They were incapable of making products that weren’t defective,” King told WFTS, emphasizing the high defect rate.

In reaction to King’s accusations, the government conducted an audit of DSE, Inc, according to a U.S. Department of Justice response to King’s lawsuit, filed in federal court on Sept. 14, 2009. The Justice response is vague; it does not specify which federal agency or military branch conducted the audit.

However, the Justice document claims the audit “appears to confirm at least some” of King’s allegations that the company provided defective fuzes but claimed they passed quality tests, WFTS found.

DSE, Inc. continues to receive military contracts for grenades, WFTS found. In February 2010, DSE, Inc netted a \$22.4 million contract for 40 mm grenades from the U.S. Army’s Rock Island Arsenal.

After King was fired, he raised these concerns with the Pentagon.

Over the last half decade DSE, Inc. has received more than \$415 million in U.S. Army contracts -- just for 40 mm grenades, according to King's lawsuit.

The allegations against DSE, Inc. come as malfunctioning grenades have hurt servicemen.

A 40 mm grenade -- the same type that DSE, Inc. makes -- exploded prematurely during a March 2009 live-fire training exercise in Quantico, Va., injuring five U.S. Marines, the WFTS investigation found.

Military investigators concluded that the incident, in which the grenade exploded 65 feet or less from where it was launched, was caused by a defective fuze, according to an investigative report by the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command and obtained under the Freedom of Information Act by WFTS.

The Army report did not pinpoint which grenade exploded early, but the WFTS investigation found that 55 percent of the 40 mm grenades used that day were provided by DSE, Inc.

There is no record that the grenade that injured the Marines in March 2009 was made by DSE, Inc. while King was employed there.

In an unrelated incident in September 2010, a DSE Fuzing production line employee was seriously injured when a detonator inside a fuze unexpectedly exploded, according to a U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration report, which WFTS obtained. DSE was fined nearly \$6,000.

In December 2010, the Pentagon's Defense Contract Management Agency issued a so-called "Level II" corrective action request to DSE, Inc, for failing to adequately oversee its fuze production, WFTS found.

As of January, the corrective action request has not been resolved, according to Jackie Noble, DCMA spokeswoman.

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/)

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

**“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**

A Revolution Cannot Stand Still.

9 February, 2011 by Alan Woods, Marxist.com [Excerpts]

A Revolution cannot stand still.

It must constantly advance, striking blows against the enemy, capturing one position after another until the old order is utterly overthrown.

Marx pointed out that the Paris Commune failed because it did not march on Versailles. This gave time for the counterrevolutionary forces to regroup and prepare a decisive counteroffensive against revolutionary Paris.

At several moments during the past two weeks power was in the streets. But having won power in the streets, the leaders of the movement did not know what to do with it.

The idea that all that is necessary is to gather a large number of people in Tahrir Square was fatally flawed.

Firstly, it leaves the question of state power out of account. But this is the central question that decides all other questions.

Secondly, it is a passive strategy, whereas what is required is an active and offensive strategy.

Suleiman is playing for time because time is not necessarily on the side of the Revolution.

An Al Jazeera report summed up the situation thus:

“He’s hiding a dagger behind his back.”

These words express the real situation very well.

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

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Hungry Gazans Feed Egyptian Troops

Feb 9, 2011 5:09 PM

TO: Distinguished Recipients

FM: Mohammed Omer

Transmitted below is my piece published on Inter Press Service News Agency.

Feb 9, 2011 By Mohammed Omer, IPS

“Whatever you offer on Saturday you will receive on Sunday,” Suleiman says. “I am ready to help with what I have, for all the work they do.”

Egyptian troops have run short of essential supplies, caught up in clashes involving Bedouin groups. Serious clashes have erupted between riot police and Bedouin groups over the past two weeks.

Supplies sent for Egyptian troops have not got through to them. The troops have appealed to people living in El-Arish town on the Egyptian side for help.

And for troops on the Gaza border, help has come from Gazans – themselves on small rations as a result of the Israeli blockade.

“We heard the Egyptian soldiers calling out to us, saying they had run out of food,” a policeman in Gaza told IPS. Gazans are now “sharing their limited food with Egyptian soldiers.”

Many people can be seen crossing the ‘Philadelphia Corridor’ that separates Egypt from the Gaza Strip, carrying food and essential supplies. They find enough gaps in the fence and wall built before the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza in 2005.

Some of the supplies being offered to Egyptian troops have earlier come in from the Egyptian side to Gaza through the underground tunnels.

“We overcome our Gazan hurdles under the ground, and when Egyptians need us we will overcome their hurdles above the ground,” Wael Al-Nasri who owns a tunnel tells IPS.

Most tunnels have a shared ownership between Egyptian and Gazan partners. The tunnels are now beginning to see a movement in the opposite direction. Al-Nasri says he recently sent bags of flour back to his partner on the Egyptian side. In the face of clashes, it isn’t just the Egyptian army that is running short of food.

“They have always been there for us these past five years during the Israeli siege of Gaza,” says Al-Nasri. “They help us to stand tall, so we help them.”

Al-Nasri picked up the bags from a shop owned by Mohammed Qishta, to whom he had sold them earlier. Qishta parted with them readily. He has relatives on the Egyptian side, and says there is a scarcity on that side because of “new road blocks set up by violent thugs and armed groups.” Many other dealers are sending goods back to Egypt through the tunnels, he says.

The Palestinian government in Gaza is trying to restrict the outflow of essential goods such as flour and oil, says Qishta. If the flow of Egyptian goods through Sinai on the other side of Gaza comes to a halt, Gaza itself will be hit.

Some tunnel traders are reporting a surge in the demand for light weapons in the face of the worsening security situation on the Egyptian side. Few are prepared to talk about this openly. But this has continued in the past, and many cases have been reported of Egyptian authorities confiscating arms being smuggled through these tunnels.

There seems no indication at present of light weapons being sent to the Egyptian side. But the market price for some weapons is said to have risen. "A Kalashnikov used to cost 400-500 Jordanian dinars (560-700 dollars) before the unrest," says Al-Nasri. "The price has now doubled. In the lack of security many families who trade through tunnels on the Egyptian side need extra weapons.

Clashes are meanwhile continuing.

Firing is heard every now and then in the Sinai area. There have been reports of heavy bombing as well, and of an attempt to blow up a gas pipeline that supplies Israel. There is little detail because media are unable to reach most of Sinai area from Cairo to the West, or from Gaza in the east.

[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."]

CLASS WAR REPORTS

“In Iran We Continue To See Rising Struggles, Especially In The Form Of Strikes”

“This Was Accompanied By The Detention Of Several Trade Unionists And Warnings Sent To Others Against Union Organising Activities”

February 8, 2011 Posted by Fesenjoon, Revolutionaryfesenjan.blogspot.com

This month, we have seen the courageous people of the Arab world rising up and fighting for a democratic system of government.

Also in Iran we continue to see rising struggles, especially in the form of strikes. They come at a time of severe cuts to subsidies to food and fuel, and are sure to continue as the pinch is felt more severely.

In early January, 3500 workers went on strike at the Barez tyre factory in Kerman province.

Their demands were for permanent contracts instead of the current month-by-month ones; for their full 70 hour overtime compensation rather than the current 40 hour one recognised by the management; for two days off per week rather than the current one day per two weeks; and for the increase in production bonuses, which have been reduced since October. The same workers also went on a four day strike in September, which was ended after assurances from the Kerman Labour Office. But citing the incoming subsidies, the management refused to satisfy the workers' demands, resulting in the renewed industrial action in January.

January has also seen the workers at the Alborz tyre factory, in Eslamshahr, go on strike after they only received 50% of their back pay, which still includes four months' worth of salaries and a New Year bonus from last year.

Similarly to the Barez workers, the 1500 employees at the Alborz factory went on strike just recently, in October.

The strikes come at a time of economic turmoil, when thousands of industrial workers have been made redundant from recent closures.

In recent weeks, Shahriar Iran Mayeh, Kohgilouyeh Motor Cycle, Khoramdareh Iron Works and China, and Ilam Zarinbaft have all seen closures to factories. With such a lack of job security, it is no wonder why the workers at the Barez tyre factory have called for permanent contracts.

This trend might continue as the subsidies for 16 basic goods and services, including fuel, electricity, water, wheat, bread, rice, milk and sugar, are gradually being phased out over a five year period. Already, petrol has risen from 40 US cents per litre to 70 cents, and diesel has risen from 1.6 cents per litre to 35; wheat flour could previously be bought for well under 1 cent per kilo, but now sells at 28 or 30 cents; the price of water has risen from an average of under 1 cent per cubic metre to between 25 and 37 cents.

Moreover, the government has anticipated the reaction we have seen to the policy, which it sees as a threat.

This has been evident since even before the cuts were made, such as when a communiqué was issued by the Supreme National Security Council on 5 October, sent to all newspapers and news agencies, warning against any coverage of labour activity.

This was accompanied by the detention of several trade unionists and warnings sent to others against union organising activities. Additionally, once the plans had been put into effect in late December, the police presence on the streets was heavily increased.

As yet, there has been little industrial action in the country's main industries, particularly oil, although there was a recent strike at the Abadan oil refinery.

We should not rule out the possibility that industrial action will increase as the impact of the recent cuts is fully felt.

Such economic contingencies can serve as a catalyst to the revolution, as was the case in the development of the 1905 Russian Revolution, when “individual coalescing wage struggles which, in the general temper of the revolutionary situation and under the influence of the social democratic agitation, rapidly became political demonstrations; the economic factor and the scattered condition of trade unionism were the starting point, all-embracing class and political action the result” (Rosa Luxemburg, The Mass Strike, 1906).

We see a similar situation in Iran: trade unions are few and small, strikes are focused on local industrial issues, and yet there is unified discontent directed towards the government.



Military Resistance Looks Even Better Printed Out

Military Resistance/GI Special are archived at website

<http://www.militaryproject.org> .

The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:

<http://williambowles.info/wordpress/category/military-resistance/> ;

news@uruknet.info; http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi_special/;

<http://www.albasrah.net/pages/mod.php?header=res1&mod=gis&rep=gis>

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