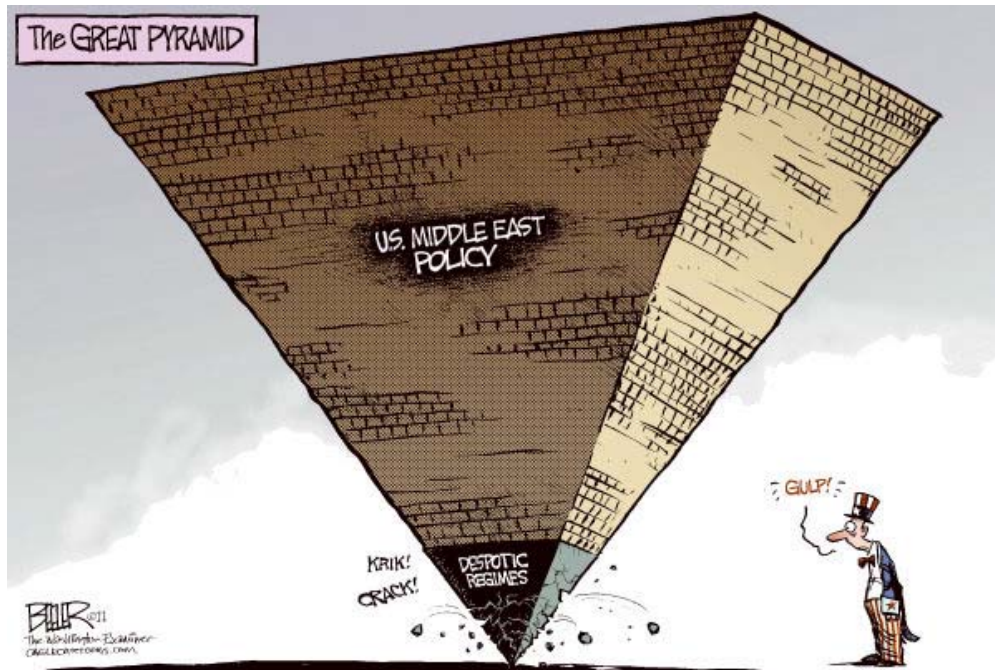


Military Resistance 9B11



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

Egypt: The Clock Is Running

[Comment: T]

The Egyptian February revolution has brought down the dictator.

The Egyptian people, long oppressed, have won a world-amazing political victory, and opened the way to wonderful possibilities.

But as yet there are only possibilities.

The material reality of the lives of the overwhelming majority of Egyptians who daily struggle to get enough to eat has not changed with the going of Mubarak.

One particularly murderous exploiter and a handful of his class allies have given up power, but the rest remain in their previous places, taking for themselves the wealth of Egyptian society.

They sacrifice a few of their associates to the revolution in a play for time to regroup and reorganize their forces.

The question opened now is which class will rule in Egypt, and that question will be decided in class warfare.

Preparation for a showdown in that war is beginning, hopefully on both sides.

Certainly those who consider the wealth of the society their private property are already preparing to insure their continued domination by armed force. This includes the members of the military general staff.

They are not all stupid, and some understand that if this revolution isn't put down, as soon as practicable, they risk losing everything.

The soldiers will decide the outcome.

The soldiers' choice will be whether to follow the orders of the generals, who will be defending their own personal wealth and privilege as well as that of their class allies, or to choose to defy their generals and go over to the Egyptian working class, and their allies.

Winning the soldiers from below requires careful organization within their ranks.

This is not work that can be postponed.

This work is best organized now, before an offensive against the Egyptian revolution is set in motion by its enemies.

MORE:

**Portugal 1975 -- A Revolution
Destroyed:
“The Far Left Had A Major Fault”
“The Revolutionary Left Had Neither
The Will Nor The Influence To Move
Rank-And-File Soldiers”
“This Is A Tragedy From Which We Must
All Learn”**

December 1985 By Chris Harman, Socialist Worker [UK] reprinted in February 11, 2011
Socialist Worker

Portugal was ruled by a full-fledged fascist regime for half a century, longer than anywhere else in Europe.

Opposition parties were banned. The only unions permitted were small, state-run craft associations. Armed police were used to break any strike. Working-class leaders were consigned to the jails of the PIDE secret police for 10 or 20 years.

The fascist state ruled not only over Portugal, but also over an immense empire in Africa. The colonies of Angola, Guinea Bissau and Mozambique provided abundant profits for Portugal's giant monopolies and jobs for its middle class.

On the morning of April 25, 1974, the citizens of Lisbon arose from their beds to find tanks patrolling the streets and normal radio broadcasts replaced by military music. Was the coup from the left or the right? The answer came when the radio broadcast a popular anti-fascist song.

People rushed out into the streets to fraternize with the soldiers, handing them red carnations.

Together, they tore down the emblems of the fascist regime, opened the prisons to free political prisoners and arrested known police informers.

The new government was headed by Gen. António de Spínola, an old reactionary who had fought as a volunteer in Hitler's armies during the Second World War. But his government members were made up from all the underground anti-fascist parties, including the Communists.

And it soon became clear that power in the armed forces lay not with him, but with 400 junior officers who had actually organized the coup--known as the Armed Forces Movement, or MFA.

The army had turned against fascism for one simple reason--it was losing the colonial war in Africa. But there were big differences on how to react to this.

Spínola put forward the line of the big Portuguese monopolies. Their aim was to replace direct Portuguese rule by indirect rule based upon "moderate," CIA-financed movements in the colonies, even if this meant continuing the war for the time being.

The junior officers wanted to end the war at all costs, and knew only one way to do so--to hand over power to the real liberation movements, like the MPLA (People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola) in Angola and Frelimo in Mozambique.

The divisions were soon increased by something else. Portugal had undergone considerable industrialization in the last decade of fascism. It was because big business wanted to prevent action by workers that Spínola took the Communists, by far the largest underground party, into his government.

They told workers to trust Spínola, and the Communists minister of labor framed a new anti-strike law.

But the workers were not to be held back in this way.

“There Was A Growing Tendency For Rank-And-File Soldiers To Organize Politically For Themselves, Joining Left-Wing Demonstrations And Siding With Workers To Industrial Disputes”

THE GIANT Lisnave shipyard began a wage of strikes that swept the country in the early summer of 1974. These workers faced opposition from all the government parties. Yet the workers succeeded in forcing massive improvements in pay and conditions and a general "cleaning out" of reactionary managers in industry and the media.

All this was too much for Spínola, big business and the Portuguese right. He tried to stop the revolution in its tracks in September with a fascist-style rally. But a mass mobilization of workers stopped it from taking place, and he was forced to resign.

In March 1975, he tried again, this time with a military coup.

But workers argued with soldiers who had been sent to seize the approaches to Lisbon and persuaded them to turn against their reactionary officers.

Instead of stopping the revolution, the actions of the right spurred it forward.

The banking unions closed down the banks until the government agreed to nationalize them--and with them some 60 percent of Portuguese industry. Workers occupied more than 300 factories.

The old generals lost their control over the armed forces to the junior officers of the MFA.

And there was a growing tendency for rank-and-file soldiers to organize politically for themselves, joining left-wing demonstrations and siding with workers to industrial disputes.

Foreign socialists who visited Lisbon in the summer of 1975 underwent an experience that they would not forget. Here was a city where the majority of the working class wanted socialism and where the old obstacles, in terms of the police, the army and even a well-organized capitalist class, seemed in complete disarray.

Yet other obstacles, just as dangerous, continued to exist.

Within the working-class movement, the two main parties were the recently reformed Socialist Party of Mário Soares and the Communist Party.

“Within The Armed Forces, They Began To Plot With The Old Right-Wing General To Oust The Junior Officers Who Had Overthrown Fascism”

The Socialist Party had gone along with the first popular mobilizations against the right. But its leaders took fright at the further development of the revolution. They were soon trying to whip up a lynch-mob atmosphere against the left.

In northern Portugal, they encouraged right-wing rioters who burned down the offices of unions and left-wing parties.

Within the armed forces, they began to plot with the old right-wing general to oust the junior officers who had overthrown fascism.

But the Socialist Party alone could not have saved Portuguese capitalism. It only had support from a minority of workers in the key Lisbon industrial belt, and in the unions.

The majority party of the workers at the time of the overthrow of fascism was the Communist Party.

If it had fought for socialist revolution by leading the wave of strikes and occupations that began in the early summer of 1974, it would have been unstoppable.

But it followed a different tack.

It denounced the strike wave, while attempting to get control of the existing state by secret plots with opportunist politicians and army officers. Its leaders believed this would enable them to establish an Eastern European-type society.

The high point of their success was the summer of 1975, when an officer thought too sympathetic to the party, Vasco Goncalves, formed a government. But this soon proved incapable of effectively ruling the country. It refused to unleash the revolutionary energy of the workers and it could not deal with a wave of sabotage and unrest in the rural areas of the north. Goncalves soon quietly abandoned power to those to the right of him.

A quite considerable minority of workers turned to genuinely revolutionary ideas. The small revolutionary parties mushroomed in size until they exercised considerable influence.

“The Army Officers Became More And More Impotent”

Yet the far left had a major fault.

Although they talked about the working class, they all acted as if some other social force could substitute itself for the class.

They devoted as much attention to courting left-wing army officers as to trying to win factory workers away from the Communist Party.

Time was running out for the left-wing officers.

They could dominate Portuguese politics while the old ruling class was demoralized and divided.

But once it began to get its act together--with a lot of help from Western governments and from the Socialist Party--the army officers became more and more impotent.

By November 1975, there were only two choices: either the working class took things into its own hands, or the old ruling class would stage a comeback.

The right struck on November 25.

The pretext was the occupation of TV stations by a group of left-wing soldiers.

Right-wing officers moved their troops quickly to disarm all the left-wing soldiers in the Lisbon area and to restore the power of the old generals.

They met very little resistance. It required only a couple thousand troops to disarm the much larger left-influenced forces in Lisbon.

The reason lay in the way the left had put its faith in maneuvering by army officers, rather than in mass workers' action.

The Communist Party, which only the day before had organized a successful two-hour general strike, refused to take action against the advance of the right. It seemed to think it would be able to plot its way to power regardless.

The left-wing officers were not ready to wage what might well be an armed confrontation against their fellow officers, and made no move.

The revolutionary left had neither the will nor the influence to move rank-and-file workers in the face of the Communist Party's opposition, or rank-and-file soldiers in the face of opposition from the left-wing officers.

The right wing was careful not to use its newfound control of the army and police to attack workers' conditions immediately. It knew that to do so might rekindle the fire of the revolution.

But the more the revolutionary years of 1974 and 1975 receded into the past, the more such gains were taken back by the employing classes. The fact that most of the time the Socialist Party was in the government did not make any difference,

A decade later, average wages were 10 percent lower than they were in 1973, the last year of fascism. Hundreds of thousands of workers have to wait six months or more for wages owing to them. Lisbon is once again a city noted for the large number of people begging in the streets.

Portugal showed the promise of a very different sort of future in 1974 and 1975. That did not materialize because there was not a powerful revolutionary socialist party to challenge the hold of the Communist and Socialist Parties.

This is a tragedy from which we must all learn.

MORE:

**“You Could See In His Eyes And
On The Face Of The Soldiers
The Tremendous Amount Of
Relief They Felt That They Did
Not Have To Fire On The
Protesters”**

**“For Two Weeks, They Faced The
Possibility Of Having To Fire On
Their Brothers And Sisters--
Something They Did Not Want To
Do”**

**“There Was Also More Fraternization
With Army Officers And Soldiers Who
Came Out Of Their Tanks”**

**“At The Presidential Palace, The Tanks
Turned Their Barrels Away From The
People”**

When the army didn't fire on people, protesters were further emboldened.

By 4 or 5 p.m., with large numbers of protesters also outside the state television building, the army was in no position to fire on people.

Before Mubarak stepped down, we talked to a young man in Tahrir Square and asked him who he wanted to replace Mubarak.

He said, "I want someone who is as poor as I am, who has eaten beans all his life"--the staple of the poor in Egypt--"so he will be able to understand the anger of the people."

February 11, 2011 By Mostafa Omar from Cairo, Socialist Worker

WHEN THE announcement came that Hosni Mubarak was no longer president, I was in midtown Cairo.

Suddenly, tens of thousands, then hundreds of thousands--probably, around Cairo as a whole, millions--of people poured into the streets to join those who were already demonstrating.

Around Tahrir Square, I estimate around 2 million people were celebrating the downfall of Mubarak. It was so crowded that it took an hour to walk about 50 or 75 feet.

The atmosphere was indescribable. There are fireworks everywhere in Tahrir Square. It looked like an Egyptian wedding--except multiplied by a million.

It's not just young people involved in this movement, as the media have claimed. It's all of Egypt--people of all ages dancing and singing, coming up with chants.

My companions and I talked to a number of people.

I asked many if they ever had thought such a thing could happen. Some said no--at least not in their lifetime. Others said they knew it would happen, such was the hatred for the Mubarak dictatorship.

While people are celebrating Mubarak's ouster, they are also watching the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, which has taken power. One man, a lawyer, said that perhaps people will go home tonight from Tahrir Square feeling victorious. But they will closely monitor what kind of steps the army will take in terms of constitutional and legislative change, he said.

When we asked what will happen if the army doesn't fulfill its promises, he said, "Tahrir Square is not going anywhere--we have already won once. It will be easier for us to regroup and remobilize. We can take it back at any minute."

Many others we spoke with also made it clear that the struggle won't end with Mubarak's ouster. There was a group of two accountants, two teachers and some university students from the Qalyubia governorate north of Cairo.

They had been camping in Tahrir Square for a week. They all said this was the happiest day of their life. One of the accountants said, "We will not leave until the dictator goes on trial."

There was also more fraternization with army officers and soldiers who came out of their tanks.

At first, the officers didn't want to let people on the tanks, but eventually they did.

One tank commander I saw, a first lieutenant, is a young man in his 20s. You could see in his eyes and on the face of the soldiers the tremendous amount of relief they felt that they did not have to fire on the protesters.

For two weeks, they faced the possibility of having to fire on their brothers and sisters--something they did not want to do.

This commander picked up the Egyptian flag and kissed it. I think he was showing that he was glad that he was serving the whole nation, and not one person or the regime.

“The Vast Majority Knows That It Isn’t About Bringing Down One Person-- That Mubarak Represented The Whole Social And Economic System”

THE CHANTS in Tahrir Square following news of Mubarak’s ouster were amazing to hear. They reflected both a sense of accomplishment and also the anticipation of more struggle to come.

Instead of "The people want to bring down the regime," the chant became "The people brought down the regime."

Instead of "The people want to bring down the president," it became "The people want the president’s money."

There were a lot of chants for the martyrs: "Martyrs, rest in peace, your blood was not spilled in vain." The big chant that many took up was "Freedom!"

There were also women’s contingents leading chants--reminding the ex-president’s wife how miserable and poor they were, and how much they struggled just to put food on the table.

They also chanted, "We want Egypt based on freedom and social justice."

So you can tell that people are not just concerned about free elections--there are wider and deeper questions on everyone’s mind that they see as linked to the democratic demands.

There is an internationalist feeling reflected in the chants as well. One of them went: "Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria." In other words, people know the importance of the January revolution in Tunisia in inspiring further action in Egypt, and they are keeping a close eye on developments in Yemen, Jordan, Algeria and other countries. On February 12, there is a national day of protest in Algiers in solidarity with the revolution in Egypt and Tunisia.

Many people spoke about the need to prosecute Mubarak and his family. One young woman, an administrative clerk, told us that the rest of the regime should be on trial.

Many believe that to obtain justice, a continued mass movement is necessary.

That's the perspective of pharmacist Mohamed Rashin, the father of five college-educated children. "I feel I have been in limbo between earth and sky," he said of the 18 days of struggle to oust the dictator. "I believe that we have the support of god, but I also believe in the power of the Egyptian people."

We talked to a middle-aged man who said, "The Egyptian people are giants."

He added: "I love the American people, but I hate the American government. We are against any U.S. or foreign intervention. We will stay in Tahrir Square, because this is not about Mubarak. We have other demands--for political freedom, the end of the emergency laws. Demands that have to be met."

From the victory chants, you can tell that in the back of their minds, people are still thinking about what happens next.

They say, "We brought down the regime," but what a lot of people really mean by that is: "We have broken part of the regime, so it's possible to go after the rest."

The vast majority knows that it isn't about bringing down one person--that Mubarak represented the whole social and economic system.

And while there's a massive celebration, many people are concerned about reports that the U.S. Sixth Fleet is on its way to Suez Canal. The sentiment is that we won't stay silent if there is any foreign intervention in Egyptian affairs.

“At The Presidential Palace, The Tanks Turned Their Barrels Away From The People”

IF THERE is widespread agreement in the revolutionary movement that the struggle must continue, there are differences on how far to go.

On the left, for example, the April 6 Youth Movement and the Revolutionary Socialists play a key role in leading chants. The chants aren't just propaganda--they are agitational, with obvious organizational consequences. Thousands of young people are rallying around the April 6 Youth Movement and the Youth Coalition for the Revolution of Anger.

Before the vice president's speech, we met Mohammad Abdel Aziz, one of the founders of the April 6 Youth Movement and a leader of the January 25 Youth Movement--the groups that helped to organize much of the activity in Tahrir Square, and one of the most radical.

As he said:

“It is very important that if we bring down Mubarak today, it will not be the end, but the beginning of the revolution. The regime is not just one person, but an entire ruling elite around Mubarak. Our revolution started as a youth revolution, but now it has developed into a people's revolution.”

One key focus of the next few days will be on working-class struggles.

The strikes were one of the two decisive factors in forcing Mubarak out.

In the previous 48 hours before Mubarak's resignation, a growing number of workers had gone on strike. By Friday, there was the expectation that the strikes would spread the next day, Saturday--a workday in Egypt. The country was becoming ungovernable--not just politically, but also economically.

The second crucial development was that on Friday, there were masses of people surrounding the presidential palace in Alexandria, and more and more people were pouring toward the presidential palace in Cairo, which was a no-go zone as far as the army was concerned.

When the army didn't fire on people, protesters were further emboldened.

By 4 or 5 p.m., with large numbers of protesters also outside the state television building, the army was in no position to fire on people.

And at the presidential palace, the tanks turned their barrels away from the people.

At this point, people want a role for the armed forces in ensuring that the remnants of the old regime will be dismantled and figuring out a transition. But they don't want a military dictatorship.

And the army is issuing statements that it will protect the freedoms of the people and the wealth of the country, a hint that the army will pursue those who are trying to smuggle money out of the country and pursue those who are corrupt--that was an announcement on state TV.

There will be mass pressure on the army to live up to those promises.

Before Mubarak stepped down, we talked to a young man in Tahrir Square and asked him who he wanted to replace Mubarak.

He said, "I want someone who is as poor as I am, who has eaten beans all his life"--the staple of the poor in Egypt--"so he will be able to understand the anger of the people."

You get the feeling from experiences like talking to him that this isn't just a movement for democracy.

It's a movement for social justice and the redistribution of wealth.

MORE:

“In A Typical Egyptian Family Of Five, You’re Just Above The Poverty Line (\$2 A Day Per Person)”



Above: Ghazl Shibin workers strike against foreign investors, March 10, 2009. Photo: Sarah Carr, The Solidarity Center via The Human Experience

February 10, 2011 Joel Beinin interviewed in The Human Experience [Excerpt]

Joel Beinin is the Donald J. McLachlan professor of history and professor of Middle Eastern history at Stanford University. His research and writing focuses on workers, peasants, and minorities in the modern Middle East and on Israel, Palestine, and the Arab-Israeli conflict. Between 2004 and 2009 Professor Beinin made multiple trips to Cairo, including two periods when he lived in Egypt. While there, he interviewed Egyptian workers and explored both the history and the current state of the labor movement.

Could you describe what life is like for the typical middle-class, urban worker in Cairo?

First of all, in Egypt, the word working class is not taboo.

Workers are called workers, and not middle class.

And working class is a term that everybody understands.

The typical monthly base salary for a textile worker is 400 Egyptian pounds a month. That's about \$70. You also get incentive pay, bonuses of various sorts and so on.

But if you put two salaries together in a typical Egyptian family of five, you're just above the poverty line (\$2 a day per person). According to the World Bank, 44 percent of the Egyptian people live under or just near the poverty line.

Most urban workers are barely able to feed their families and to provide education for their children because the Egyptian public school system simply does not work. Everybody has to hire tutors for their children. People are constantly over their eyeballs in debt.

The price of food has skyrocketed in the last five years, especially in the last several months.

And people just cannot make it.

Underlying all the political grievances that have come to light in the last week in a very sharp way are these economic problems, which have been going on for the last 20 years roughly.

MORE:

Striking Workers Took Center Stage And Mubarak Went Down: “By The Afternoon, The Strike Began To Spread To Different Factories Around The Region And Beyond”

February 10, 2011 By Mostafa Omar from Cairo, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]
Transcription by Matt Korn and Matthew Beamesderfer.

The strikes sweeping Egypt would have been unimaginable less than three weeks ago: postal workers in Cairo walking out and staging a mass protest to bring down the regime; a strike by state rail workers, who blocked the railroads; a massive walkout and protest by workers at the State Central Census Bureau; plus strikes by bus drivers and workers in the chemical, steel, cement, textile, tourism, petrochemical and telecommunications industries.

Workers also shut down an important service company on the Suez Canal, and even military production workers--who are under the discipline of the armed forces--walked off the job.

The Wall Street Journal grasped the importance of the strikes:

“Egypt’s labor movement has been the sleeping giant of the past two weeks’ protests, and its involvement could amount to a real fillip for the antigovernment demonstrations.

“The workers bring experience at protests and organization to the youth-led protest movement, whose efforts to extract major concessions from Egypt’s government was beginning to stall as it entered its third week.”

The struggle also intensified in several provincial towns. An Associated Press report gives the flavor of those actions:

“In one of the flashpoints of unrest Wednesday, some 8,000 protesters, mainly farmers, set barricades of flaming palm trees in the southern province of Assiut. They blocked 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 slum dwellers in the Suez Canal city of Port Said set fire to part of the governor’s headquarters in anger over lack of housing.”

The demonstrators in Tahrir also called on workers who began returning to their jobs all across the country over the weekend to begin striking and occupying factories--both public and private companies--and to walk out in mass demonstrations.

But the workers were already in action.

On the morning of February 9, workers at the important KOK Chemical Factory in Helwan, which is a historically militant industrial suburb of Cairo, began a strike, followed by petroleum workers at Petrol Trade.

By the afternoon, the strike began to spread to different factories around the region and beyond.

Two of the most important places are industrial centers in the Nile Delta--Kafr Zayat and Kafr al-Tawar. These are also historically militant textile industry towns that have given the regime a hard time for many years. Kafr al-Tawar is only half an hour outside of Alexandria, the country’s second-largest city.

The interesting thing is that in these strikes, the demands were to raise wages, but also the removal of the government-appointed CEOs of the companies--in many cases, of course, these CEOs are members of the National Democratic Party, the ruling party of the Mubarak regime.

Some analysts suggested the strikes were organized around sectional demands. But it turns out that by the end of the day, many of the striking workers had issued statements supporting the political demands of the revolution coming from Tahrir Square and from Alexandria.

So the strikes are political as well as economic.

Many of these workers who had returned to their jobs in the past days had participated in the demonstrations of the last two-and-a-half weeks, but as individuals.

By the time they returned to the factories, they were radicalized enough to formulate their own economic demands. But they also support the political demands coming out of Tahrir Square.

The government anticipated the workers' struggles and tried to head them off by promising to raise all wages and pensions by 15 percent starting April 1, which was actually a slap in the face.

The vast majority of workers and protesters met that with a laugh--too little, too late.

So it's no longer about wage increases.

The workers' movement is much more political now, and it senses that we can win more than just wage increases and pension increases. The feeling is that there is a possibility of changing the whole political system.

Many of the protesters pointed out that the strikes don't actually represent the first entrance of the working class into the revolution. Rather, the working-class strike movement of the last few years has actually paved the ground for the revolution that broke out on January 25. Students and the young people were inspired by the wave of strikes of the last five years, and workers have participated in all the demonstrations and the occupations.

But now, they're showing their power as an organized working class, not just as individuals who are part of the mass protests.

So we have mass street protests continuing, coupled with the beginning of the organized working class flexing its muscle to weaken the regime even further. That is taking the revolutionary movement to a new level.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

**Anti-Government Protests Grow Larger
In Baghdad:**

**“Maliki, Like Saddam He Do Not Care
About Orphans”**

**“From Cairo To Baghdad, No For
Corruption”**



Anti-government protesters surround Iraqi army soldiers while protesters chant anti-government slogans during a demonstration in Baghdad, Iraq, Feb. 11, 2011. In at least four morning demonstrations across Baghdad, protesters painted a picture of their homeland that they said has fewer services and more corruption than in Egypt. (AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)



Anti-government forces march in Baghdad, Iraq, Feb. 11, 2011. Banners condemn government corruption and police torture, and demand better public services. Sign at right in Arabic reads, 'We want clean water, we want electricity'. (AP Photo/Karim Kadim)



A protester on the ground talks about the people's grievances with an Iraqi soldier after they were prevented from entering the heavily guarded Green Zone during a demonstration against the lack of basic services in Baghdad, Iraq, Feb. 11, 2011. (AP Photo/Khalid Mohammed)



Iraqi army soldiers escort protesters as they chant anti-government slogans during a demonstration against the lack of basic services in Baghdad, Iraq Feb. 11, 2011. The banners in Arabic read, 'From Cairo to Baghdad, no for corruption' and 'Maliki, like Saddam he do not care about orphans.' (AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)



Nora Ahmed holds a picture of her slain father Ahmed Ghafil during a demonstration against the government in Baghdad, Iraq, Feb. 11, 2011. Ghafil's family says the Ahmed Ghafil was killed when government agents broke into his house in the Abu al-Maalif area of southwestern Baghdad twelve days ago. (AP Photo/Khalid Mohammed)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Privates Lewis Hendry And Conrad Lewis Killed In Nad 'Ali District

Feb 11 Ministry of Defence

It is with great sadness that the Ministry of Defence must confirm that Private Lewis Hendry, from 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment, and Private Conrad Lewis, from 4th Battalion The Parachute Regiment, were killed in Afghanistan on Wednesday 9 February 2011.

The soldiers were deployed on an operation to reassure the local population and provide security in the Nad 'Ali District of Helmand province. **[Well, so much for that.]**

Both soldiers were based at Checkpoint Qudrat in the northern part of the Nad 'Ali District.

On 9 February 2011, Privates Hendry and Lewis deployed as part of a foot patrol to reassure the local population and gather census information in a small village north of the Nahr-e Bughra Canal.

Their patrol came under fire and, during the ensuing firefight, both Private Lewis Hendry and Private Conrad Lewis received serious gunshot wounds.

Despite receiving immediate medical attention at the scene, and extraction by helicopter, the soldiers sadly died of their wounds.

MORE:

Northern Ireland Soldier Wounded In Nad 'Ali Attack

10 February 2011 4NI

There's an NI link emerging today from news of further casualties in Afghanistan.

While two soldiers from The Parachute Regiment have been killed in a shoot-out, there are local reports that a third soldier - who comes from Newtownabbey in Co Antrim - is seriously ill with stomach wounds sustained in the same tragic incident.

The MoD said next of kin have been informed - but asked for a period of grace before further details are released - including confirmation that the young NI soldier was undergoing emergency surgery for stomach wounds last night.

White Sands-Based Soldier Dies In Afghanistan

Feb 10, 2011 Army Times

A New Mexico-based soldier was killed Tuesday in Afghanistan, according to the Defense Department.

Spc. Nathan B. Carse, 32, of Harrod, Ohio, died when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 2nd Engineer Battalion, 176th Engineer Brigade, out of White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

His sister, Kristin Purdy, told The Lima (Ohio) News her brother earned a master's degree in engineering and was working in that field in Louisiana last year when he told the family he wanted to take his life in a "different route." Carse's father had served as a Green Beret, she said.

Three Hour Resistance Attack On Kandahar Police Headquarters' Kills 21: Complex Attack Wounds 49



Police headquarters building under insurgent attack in Kandahar city February 12, 2011.
REUTERS/Ahmad Nadeem

February 12, 2011 By MIRWAIS KHAN and ADAM SCHRECK, The Associated Press
[Excerpts]

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan -- Taliban insurgents wearing explosive vests attacked on the provincial police base headquarters in Kandahar on Saturday, unleashing an arsenal of car bombs, automatic rifle fire and rocket-propelled grenades.

Fifteen of the people killed were Afghan police officers, said Zalmay Ayubi, spokesman for provincial governor of Kandahar.

Interior Ministry spokesman Zemer Bashary in Kabul said 21 people were killed, including three Afghan soldiers, two civilians and one intelligence agent, and that 49 people were wounded.

Both officials said five bombers also died. Ayubi said a sixth attacker was taken into custody.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi told The Associated Press the group was behind the attack.

He said the Taliban deployed six bombers armed with hand-held weapons to various parts of the city, including a team of three to the site near the police headquarters.

Insurgents struck around noon, detonating explosives near the police headquarters in central Kandahar. The compound is close to the governor's office.

Initial reports indicated a car bomb exploded outside the headquarters, and two bombers then tried to storm inside but blew themselves up outside the perimeter wall, according to NATO officials in Kandahar.

Other attackers occupied a multistory building across the street from the police compound. From there, they opened fired. Ahmad Wali Karzai, head of the provincial council, said the five to six story building includes a wedding hall and shops.

He said two or three militants disguised in police uniforms entered the building and began firing rocket-propelled grenades at the police headquarters.

"I was going to my shop just behind the police headquarters when the first blast occurred. I stopped, and after a minute or two, guns started firing," said witness Abdul Kadeer Ahmed. "We could see that people at the wedding hall were firing toward the police headquarters."

He said police were firing "everywhere."

Residents shuttered shops and took cover as the fighting raged. Helicopters hovered over the city and police deployed extra forces on the streets and around government buildings.

Associated Press reporters near the fighting said explosions and gunfire rocked the neighborhood for more than three hours.

More Resistance Action: Chahar Dara District Chief Blown Up

February 10, 2011 Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A bomber blew himself up inside a district chief's office in Afghanistan's northern Kunduz province Thursday, killing the official and two other people.

The bomber was able to enter the office of Chahar Dara district chief Abdul Wahid Omarkhail by pretending to be looking for work, said provincial government spokesman Mabobullah Sayedi. The blast killed the chief along with a bodyguard and a village elder who was visiting at the time.

Five others were wounded in the explosion, said Sayedi and the district chief of police, Gulam Mohyuddin.

Only last month, Omarkhail told The Associated Press he narrowly missed being hurt when a roadside bomb exploded near his car.

In northern Afghanistan, a roadside bomb exploded and killed the director of criminal investigations in Chimtal district of Balkh Province. Provincial police spokesman Sher Jan Durani said yesterday that four bodyguards were also wounded when the bomb hit the vehicle carrying the official, Noor Ahmad.

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Insurgents Attack Government Military Bases

9 February 2011 Shabelle Media Network & GAROWE ONLINE Feb 11, 2011

Mogadishu — Fierce battle between Somali army backed African Union peacekeepers [translation: U.S. government-backed occupation troops] and Al shabaab fighters broke out in Mogadishu after the sunset, killing 3 persons and wounding more than 15 others, witnesses and medics said.

The fighting erupted after more Al shabaab fighters waged hit and run attacks on several military bases in Hodan and Holwadadag districts of Benadir region where Somali government military forces and AMISOM [translation: U.S. government-backed occupation troops] troops are based.

Locals and witnesses said the two warring sides have exchanged heavy artillery barrages and shoulder launched missiles as it could be heard in many parts of Mogadishu neighborhoods.

Ali Muse Sheikh, the coordinator of Mogadishu ambulance service told Shabelle Media Network that they had take to the hospitals in Mogadishu more than 15 people who were collected in deferent neighborhoods of Benedir region.

Separately, two explosions in Wadajir and Dharkinley districts killed at least 1 person and wounded 20 civilians. The target of the explosions of Somali government soldiers, witnesses added.

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

***February 11, 1937:
A Victory For Our Side***

“They Faced Tear Gas Attacks, Heat Shutoffs, And Battled With Police And Company Security Guards. Michigan Governor Frank Murphy Sent In The National Guard”



Michigan National Guard confronting union supporters outside GM plants in Flint, 1937

Carl Bunin Peace History February 11-17

February 11, 1937:

Forty-eight thousand General Motors workers won a 44-day sit-down strike in Flint, Michigan.

Walter P. Reuther Library:

The Great Flint Sitdown: On February 11, 1937, several hundred members of the United Automobile Workers Union (UAW) emerged from three General Motors (GM) factories in Flint, Michigan to the sounds of cheering crowd.

These workers had just completed a 44-day sitdown strike. Less than two years old, the UAW had won its first major victory.

Auto factories were tough places to work during the early years of the industry. The pace of work was controlled by the ever-increasing speed of the assembly line and the foreman held the power to hire or fire workers at will. Many jobs were physically demanding, machines had few safety devices, and industrial accidents were common. On August 26, 1935, auto workers organized the UAW to bargain for better wages and working conditions.

The Flint Sitdown began on December 30, 1936 when UAW leaders decided to call a strike against GM. The goal of the strike was simple: GM recognition of the UAW.

For over six weeks members of the UAW stopped production and refused to leave the plants they occupied. They slept on unfinished car seats, eating food their families and friends slipped through factory windows.

They faced tear gas attacks, heat shutoffs, and battled with police and company security guards. Michigan Governor Frank Murphy sent in the National Guard.

Faced with an enormous loss of production, GM conceded to the strikers' demands and signed a one-page document, agreeing to bargain with the UAW. This was one of the key events in American labor history.



The Flint Sitdown Strikers win February 11, 1937

February 13, 1968: The Anniversary Of Five Honorable Soldiers Who Stood Up

Carl Bunin Peace History February 11-17

Five soldiers were arrested at a pray-in for peace in Vietnam at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Two were court-martialed for refusing to stop praying. The pray-in was repeated a year later.

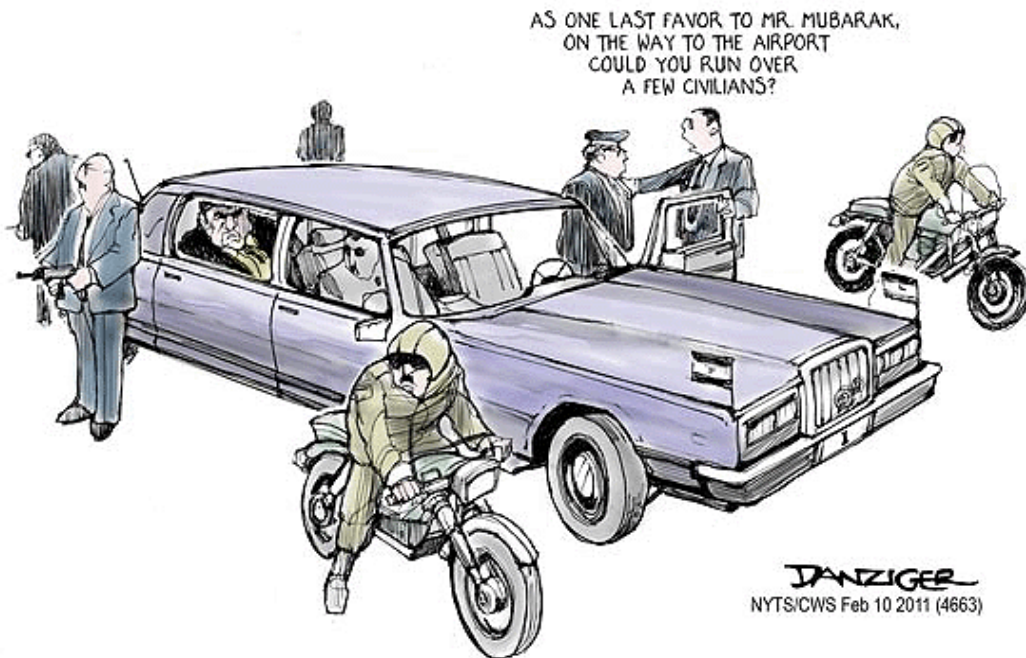
Military Resistance Available In PDF Format
If you prefer PDF to Word format, email contact@militaryproject.org

“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

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Mubarak Leaves



Thousands Of Algerians “Evaded Massed Police” To Demonstrate Against Algerian Dictator: At First Hostile, Neighborhood Young Men Change Sides To Support Anti-Government Activists And “Challenge The Police State”



Demonstrators scuffle with police trying to contain them during a demonstration in Algiers. Up to 2,000 demonstrators evaded massed police Saturday to rally in a central Algiers square, pressing for the demise of President Abdelaziz Bouteflika following the ouster of leaders in Egypt and Tunisia. (AFP/Farouk Batiche)



(Reuters)

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

2.12.11 Daily Mail & By Karima Bennoune, Guardian News and Media Limited & BBC [Excerpts]

Thousands of riot police arrested hundreds of demonstrators in the Algerian capital today as they tried to stop a banned pro-democracy rally a day after Egypt's authoritarian leader was toppled.

The protesters gathered at Algiers' 1 May Square on Saturday morning.

Armed police blocked off streets in Algiers and set up security barricades at strategic points along the march route and outside the city to try to stop busloads of demonstrators from reaching the capital.

Armed police were also posted near newspaper headquarters.

Organisers of the march estimated some 10,000 people had flooded Algiers, where they skirmished with riot police attempting to block off streets and disperse the crowd.

Protesters chanted slogans including 'No to the police state' and 'Bouteflika out,' a reference to President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, who has been in power since 1999.

Under the headline "Mubarak pushed from power," a cartoon in La Liberte showed the score Egypt-1, Algeria-0 and a fan waving an Algerian flag saying 'we've got to tie the score'.

The government says it refused permission for the rally for public order reasons, not because it is trying to stifle dissent.

On Friday, the authorities stopped people from gathering to celebrate the fall of Mr Mubarak.

The goal of the National Coordination Committee for Change and Democracy, the organisers of what was supposed to have been a march to Martyr's Square, was to call for an end to the 19-year state of emergency, for democratic freedoms, and for a change in Algeria's political system.

Invigorated by Cairo's great event, this Saturday in Algiers they chanted slogans like "Djazair Horra Dimocratia" ("A free and democratic Algeria"), "système dégage" ("government out") and indeed, "Yesterday Egypt, today Algeria".

Thousands of police in full riot gear painted the square blue in their uniforms, attempting to occupy the space and prevent the demonstration, yet the protestors remained, for hours risking arrest and beatings, shouting slogans and singing effervescently.

A large group of young men, with the obvious cooperation of the police, entered the scene violently, chanting in favour of President Bouteflika (in power since 1999) and attempting to provoke fights with the protestors. (This was so reminiscent of Cairo, that for a moment, one half-expected a charge of men riding camels like in Tahrir Square.)

At one point, these youths rushed the bench where I stood taking photographs with journalists, and we all toppled to the ground.

Later, the pro-government provocateurs started throwing large stones.

The single most moving part of the day was the women's demonstration.

A group of about 50 of the many women present – a few young women in hijab, many other young women in jeans, older, seasoned feminist activists wearing khaffiyehs and dresses – took up position next to the bus station at 1st of May Square holding a large Algerian flag.

One of these women, prominent psychologist Cherifa Bouatta, told me on Friday as we watched the celebration in Cairo:

"I have been waiting for this for years. This is the beginning. From the years of terrorism (the 1990s) and what came after, everything seemed lost. Our hopes for a just society were dying. But now the possibilities are fantastic."

On Saturday in 1st of May Square, she and the other women explored those possibilities. They occupied the street; they called for profound political change; they ululated (what Algerians call "pousser les youyous"; a high-pitched glottal chanting); they sang "Kassaman", the national anthem, and "listiqlal" (independence), a song of the anti-colonial movement that freed the country from French rule in 1962 at the cost of a million martyrs.

Most importantly, they refused to cede to the police.

The pro-Boutef youth repeatedly confronted them, and even began shouting in favour of an Islamic state at one point as a confused riposte to the women.

The most surreal moment came as I watched the unyielding female activists attacked by a group of young policewomen in pants and boots – their own career paths only imaginable thanks to the hard work of some of the very women activists they hit and shoved.

A young policewoman, the age of one of the students I teach, slapped me for taking a picture as this occurred.

The women protesters' only "crime" had been to stand peacefully on the sidewalk of their own capital city singing the national anthem and calling for democracy.

Reportedly, as many as 350 were arrested during the day.

Many were roughed up, including the prominent, 90-year-old lawyer Ali Yahia Abdennour, who is the honorary president of the Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights (LADDH).

Cherifa Khaddar, the redoubtable human rights activist and president of Djazairouna, an association of the victims of the fundamentalist terrorism of the 1990s, whose brother and sister were brutally murdered in 1996 by the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), was arrested twice.

I watched in horror as policewomen manhandled her – unfortunately, not an oxymoron.

Just before she was arrested the first time, Khaddar was attacked by a group of the young pro-government "protesters", some of whom attempted to pull her clothes off while another attempted to simulate sex with her.

A policewoman dragged her away from this melee, only to help a group of male cops throw her to the ground and arrest her, rather than the perpetrators.

Later on, at the police station, she found herself in a cell with 20 other women.

Together, they continued the protest, chanting and singing: "My brothers do not forget our martyrs. They are calling you from their tombs. Listen to their voices, you free ones."

The police became enraged and attacked the women in the cell, dragging one away by her hair." Khaddar was later released.

The situation is fluid.

As the protest waned, the square was taken over by a large group of mostly young male protesters, many from the surrounding neighbourhood.

Some of them had previously chanted pro-government slogans and insulted the women demonstrators, but now took up anti-government slogans themselves, talked supportively with the freed Khaddar and challenged the police alone.

Hundreds of riot police then brought out their guns, marched in formation and shut down the square altogether. It looked like a scene out of the Costa Gavras film "Z".

Algerian writer and journalist Mustapha Benfodil said that this demonstration's goal was to turn 1st of May Square into an Algerian Tahrir Square, and that what occurred on Saturday was a very important step in that direction. But he noted that much work remains to be done to that end.

Clearly, the wall of fear needs to be broken down here – perhaps a harder task than elsewhere, given the terrible violence of the 1990s that killed as many as 200,000 people and terrorised the entire society. The opposition needs to be united and organised. Additionally, activists need to build critical links with broader segments of the society to achieve the political change so clearly needed in the country and which the police overreaction only underscored – change that Tunisia and Egypt have proven to be entirely possible.

For now, perhaps it is more accurate to say, "Yesterday Egypt, tomorrow Algeria ..."

MORE:

Strikes And Protests By Unemployed Youth And Workers Spreading In Algeria:

“One Does Not Have To Be A Great Specialist To Observe That The Regime Has No Popular Legitimacy”

10 February 2011 By Alex Lantier, World Socialist Web Site [Excerpts]

A national strike by health workers continued yesterday against the military regime of Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, as protests by unemployed youth and workers spread throughout the country.

Yesterday, nurses and paramedics continued an indefinite national strike begun the day before. The striking health care workers are providing only a minimum level of basic and emergency services. The regime has declined to negotiate with the smaller Algerian Paramedics Union (SAP), preferring to deal with the official UGTA (General Union of Algerian Workers).

The paramedics have little confidence in negotiations with state authorities, however. One sign at a demonstration outside the Burn Clinic in Algiers read, “Stop hemorrhaging promises.”

According to media reports, the overwhelming majority of the 100,000 workers in the health care sector are participating in the strike. They are demanding pay increases, the integration of their training program into the university system, and the reinstatement of union delegates who have been fired.

SAP spokesman Lounes Ghachi explained: “Hospital directors have been told to stop the strike with threats and intimidation, but they have not managed to dent the determination of the paramedics.”

Yesterday, laid off temp workers at the state-run ENAD chemical plant in Sour-EI-Ghozlane protested outside company headquarters, demanding their jobs back.

The layoffs took place beginning last March. According to interviews in Liberté, the workers are threatening to commit suicide if their demands are not met.

The plant manager told Liberté that he refused to rehire the workers. “I never promised to take them back,” he said.

Unemployed youth are also blockading the National Route (RN) highways that connect a number of Algeria’s cities. Youth in Naciria and Bordj-Menaïel

(Boumerdès) blockaded RN 12 yesterday demanding jobs and payment of a monthly unemployment allowance of 12,000 DA, or roughly €120.

In previous days, there have been reports of violent police clashes with unemployed youth demanding jobs on RN12 near Naciria, on the RN3 between Skikda and Constantine, and with 200 youth on the Algiers-Tizi Ouzou road.

Workers at the “la Vallée” milk plant in Tazmalt have also closed the Bejaïa-Algiers road, demanding the reinstatement of 40 workers sacked when orders for powdered milk fell.

The main fear of both the regime and the official opposition is the mass entry of the working class into revolutionary struggle against the regime, as has occurred in Egypt.

In an interview with the leading daily El Watan, lawyer and human rights activist Mokrane Aït Larbi wrote: “One does not have to be a great specialist to observe that the regime has no popular legitimacy and that the opposition is weak and compromised, that is to say nonexistent.”

Police Ordered To Attack Demonstrators Against Dictator In Yemen



In Sanaa, Yemen, Feb. 12, 2011, Yemeni police with clubs beat anti-government protesters who were celebrating the resignation of Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak and demanding the ouster of their own president. (AP Photo/Hani Mohammed)

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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.

POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT THE BLOODSHED

THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE WARS

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