

Military Resistance 9B18



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

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Afghanistan, Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the wars, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Phone: 888.711.2550

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

“We Want Revenge For Our Martyrs”



Iraqi Kurds protest to demand the ouster of the local government and better basic services in Sulaimaniya, 260 km (160 miles) northeast of Baghdad, February 19, 2011. People protested for political reforms in Iraq’s semi-autonomous Kurdistan region on Saturday. The sign reads: “We want revenge for our martyrs”. REUTERS/Stringer



Iraqi Kurds protest to demand the ouster of the local government and better basic services in Sulaimaniya. February 19, 2011. REUTERS/Stringer

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Insurgents In Afghanistan Kill French Soldier Near The Village Of Landakhel; Two More Wounded

20 Feb, 2011 By The Associated Press

PARIS - France's government says a French soldier has died in Afghanistan when insurgents fired an anti-tank weapon against an armoured vehicle he was travelling in east of the capital, Kabul.

The Defence Ministry said Sunday that two other soldiers were injured in the attack a day earlier near the village of Landakhel, in the Kapisa Valley, where French forces are engaged as part of a NATO mission.

France has lost 54 soldiers in Afghanistan in an international mission in the country since 2001. About 4,000 French troops are now in Afghanistan — most in Kapisa province and Kabul province's Surobi district.

Australian Soldier, Interpreter Killed By Coordinated Insurgent Attack Near Patrol Base Wali

February 20, 2011 Brisbane Times

An Australian soldier and Afghan interpreter have been killed in Afghanistan overnight.

Defence Force Chief Angus Houston said that the pair had been shot and despite immediate first aid, could not be saved.

The incident happened during an unpartnered patrol in an area to the south-east of patrol base Wali.

The Australian casualty is 21-year-old Sapper Jamie Ronald Larcombe, a South Australian from a Darwin regiment.

It's understood to be the second death from the same regiment in as many weeks.

Air Chief Marshal Houston said the deaths appear to have resulted from a coordinated insurgent attack employing machine gun and small arms fire.

He is the 23rd Australian soldier killed in Afghanistan and comes from the same 1st Combat Engineer Regiment, Mentoring Taskforce 2, as Corporal Richard Edward Atkinson, who was killed by a roadside bomb earlier this month.

‘A Life To Be Proud Of’

February 18, 2011 By TYREL LINKHORN, LimaOhio.com

HARROD — The photographs of Nathan B. Carse tell his story, but not the whole story.

They show him with arms draped around high school teammates, posing proudly at his college graduation, flashing a smile while standing on a beach, dancing with family.

But the whole story is that of a man who found his purpose, who had the guts to listen to his calling. In 2 Corinthians, Pastor Jonathon Hanover said, Paul tells us we write letters with the lives we live. “Nathan’s life may have been cut short,” Hanover said. “But his letter was a great one. Nathan lived a life to be proud of.”

After earning a master’s degree in environmental engineering at Louisiana State University, Carse stayed in Louisiana taking a job with a company that was reconstructing sewer systems and levees in the Gulf Coast state. It was a good, well-paying, safe job. But Carse wasn’t happy. Soon, he told his family he was about to make a drastic change, trading his uniform of Mustang blue for one of Army green and his college diplomas for boots and a rifle.

On Feb. 8, Spc. Carse, a combat engineer, was killed in action in southern Afghanistan.

Friday, hundreds of family members and friends gathered inside Crossroads Church of God to pay him their final respects.

“He died a hero. A true hero,” sister Kristin Purdy said. “I may not approve of this thing we call war, but I stand behind our men and women, our troops, with every ounce of my heart. They make sacrifices, which some people don’t think of, and that’s why I’m proud to be a hero’s baby sister.”

Carse, 32, had been in Afghanistan for about four months and had two months to go before his unit was to return home. The military said he died of injuries suffered when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device.

Friday, his family celebrated his life and shared their grief. They told of a man who loved his nephews, enjoyed the outdoors, commanded respect as well as he gave it, and was a skilled builder.

“He could fix anything,” Purdy said. “Last year he built a beautiful deck outside of the back of my mom’s house. He was always the handyman. He was the first person who taught me how to shoot a gun and the first person to teach me to throw a football.”

After an hour long service, Carse's flag-draped wooden coffin was loaded into the gray hearse that led a long line of cars from the church to Woodlawn Cemetery in Ada.

Roadside tributes lined the drive. A woman stood at the end of her driveway, flanked by fluttering American flags, her right hand covering her heart. A silver-haired man wearing a veteran's ballcap stood beside his parked sedan, holding still in a solitary salute in perfect attention. Many flags were flown at half-staff.

In the cemetery's southeast corner, Carse was laid to rest not far from a 72-year-old memorial honoring the area's men and women who served in times of war.

It was fitting for Carse, the son of a Green Beret who wanted to follow in the footsteps of his father and grandfathers to serve in the military, to be among his brothers-in-arms. "He knew the risk, but he loved his country and chose to serve it in times of war," Brig. Gen. John S. Regan said. Carse's intelligence and training could have marked him for officer candidate school. He declined, said Regan, the commanding officer at Carse's stateside base in New Mexico.

"An officer of the highest caliber, he had that potential," Regan said. "But he chose to do it his way. He wanted to first see what a soldier's life was like."

The service had the traditional rites of taps and a sharp 21-gun salute. A bagpiper played "Amazing Grace." Throughout the service, many remarked on what Nathan was: a son, a brother, an uncle, a nephew, a grandson, a teacher, a friend. "Nathan was all that and he was much more," Regan said. "In the bottom of his soul, he was a patriot who loved his country."

Resistance Action;



The remains of the branch of Kabul Bank attacked by Taliban fighters Feb. 19 in Jalalabad as government security personnel were receiving their pay. The death toll from the hours long battle attack has risen to 35, officials said Sunday, with more than 70 others injured. (AP Photo)

02/18/2011 By Anja Niedringhaus and Deb Riechmann, Associated Press & Feb. 20, 2011 Reuters

A roadside bomb killed three Afghan policemen and wounded two others in the Shinwar district of the eastern province of Nangarhar, according to Ahmad Zia Abdulzai, a spokesman for the provincial governor.

An explosion in western Herat province February 20, 2011 killed a policeman, and wounded one other person. A mine planted in a road by insurgents caused the blast in Shindand district, the governor of the district said.

Going For A New Record Kill! “15 Men, 20 Women And 29 Children Or Young Adults” Butchered By Occupation Attacks In Kunar In Only Four Days



A boy, injured during a U.S. air strike, on a hospital bed in Afghanistan's eastern Kunar province February 20, 2011. REUTERS/Stringer

Feb 20, 2011 By RAHIM FAIEZ — Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — NATO dispatched a team of investigators to a remote area of northeast Afghanistan on Sunday to look into claims that coalition forces killed 64 civilians there in recent air and ground strikes.

Gen. Khalilullah Ziayi, police chief of Kunar province, said 15 men, 20 women and 29 children or young adults were killed during operations in Ghazi Abad district in the past four days. Kunar provincial governor, Fazlullah Wahidi, also said that 64 civilians were killed.

REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: ALL HOME NOW



U.S. Marines from the First Battalion Eighth Marines Alpha Company negotiate a muddy slope during a patrol through the town of Kunjak in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province February 19, 2011. REUTERS/Finbarr O'Reilly

Leadership Means Thinking Ahead



2.19.2011 The Bunion: Afghan bank staff at Da Afghanistan Bank in Kabul [\[http://www.centralbank.gov.af\]](http://www.centralbank.gov.af) reassure Afghan President Karzai that the \$128 Billion dollars he has received from opium sales or stolen from U.S. funds supplied to his government are being packed for removal from the country to a safer undisclosed location. Meanwhile, the Department of Defense in Washington DC denied rumors that between \$8 and \$10 billion have been diverted from Da Afghanistan Bank to joint accounts in Switzerland controlled by General David Petraeus and Jake "Greasy Thumb" Guzik, of Chicago. (Photo: AFP/Liu Jin)

MILITARY NEWS

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



The remains of Marine Sgt. Matthew DeYoung of San Pedro Calif., upon arrival at Dover Air Force Base, Del. on Feb. 19, 2011. Sgt. DeYoung was killed during combat in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)

Don't Ask Don't Tell

Forums
Army Times
Feb. 17, 2011

It takes three months to tell people not to be a bigot toward someone who is different ("Pentagon to outline training for post-DADT life," MilitaryTimes.com, Jan. 27)?

Really?

Three months to tell people to do pretty much what they have been doing for the last 17 years, which is not caring if they find out someone they work with or work for is gay?

Seriously, how tough will it be for people who already don't care about others' sexual orientation to be "trained" to not care about someone's sexual orientation?

Just tell people that any derogatory bigoted speech will not be tolerated.

— WILDJOKER5

MORE:

Don't Ask Don't Tell



U.S. Marines from the First Battalion Eighth Marines wrestle at their outpost at Kunjak in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province, February 19, 2011. REUTERS/Finbarr O'Reilly

March 4 Is Final Day To Claim 'Stop Loss' Pay: "Spread The Word To Others Who Have Served, And Beneficiaries, To Make Sure No One Is Left Out Before The March 4 Deadline"

2.18.11 By Terri Moon Cronk, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18, 2011 – People whose military service was involuntarily extended or whose retirement was suspended between Sept. 11, 2001, and Sept. 30, 2009, have until March 4 to file for retroactive payments of \$500 for each month of their extended service under the "Stop Loss" policy.

The deadline ends the second extension for eligible people to apply to receive the retroactive pay.

“This is a timely payment for services already rendered,” said Lernes “Bear” Hebert, the Defense Department’s director of officer and enlisted personnel management. “It’s a no-strings-attached program -- one where they fill out a simple form and attach a few documents (to show) their service.”

Each service branch will work with potential applicants to determine eligibility, he added.

The program also applies to beneficiaries who lost loved ones in the ultimate sacrifice during their service, Hebert said.

Applying through the Internet or by mail is easy, and usually takes less than 30 minutes, Hebert said, adding that once eligibility is established, the money “just shows up in your bank account.”

“There’s nothing more to it,” he said. “You probably won’t hear from the military again unless you initiate contact.”

Applications sent via computer or postmarked by March 4 for delivery by mail will have met the deadline, Hebert said.

An estimated 145,000 people are eligible for the special pay, Defense Department officials said, noting that 77,000 claims have been paid.

Other applications are being processed, and officials strongly recommend that all potential applicants apply before the March 4 deadline, even those who received a bonus for voluntarily re-enlisting and those who think they’re not eligible because they extended their service.

Hebert asks service members to spread the word to others who have served, and beneficiaries, to make sure no one is left out before the March 4 deadline.

“We don’t want people to wake up March 5 and decide that’s the day they plan to apply,” he said

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Let Them Eat Falafel: On Israel’s So-Called “Easing” Of Its Siege On Gaza;

**“Gaza Needs Much More From Israel
Than Just Better Tasting Falafel”
“We Miss The Flavors Of Freedom And
Independent Security”**



Raouf Abu Eisifan at his falafel stand in Rafah, Gaza. (Photo M. Omer)

To date no credible reason or evidence has been given — perhaps because none exists—to support Israel’s assertion that such spices as coriander and cilantro, or French fries or notebooks, threaten the security of the Jewish state.

Chimes is another of Abu Eisifan’s customers: “You see, this is what Israel wants—to turn our case into one of coriander leaves and loaves of bread so that our national rights and underpants can wait forever.”

By Mohammed Omer, The Washington Report on Middle East Affairs January/February 2011

Award-winning journalist Mohammed Omer reports on the Gaza Strip, and maintains the Web site Gaza on the Ground. He can be reached at <gazanews@yahoo.com>.

“Falafel for two shekels,” Uncle Raouf says to a young girl in the southern Gaza Strip city of Rafah.

Removing the falafel from the deep fryer, he counts out the pieces for the girl, then moves on to the next customer.

Everyone standing in line seems to agree that falafel tastes better now than it did a few months ago.

The reason?

Israel has slowly been allowing delicious fresh coriander back into Gaza through the crossings it controls.

It’s a development one might not read about in mainstream media stories about Gaza, but the people who live under siege there notice the improvement.

Raouf Abu Eisifan, a 40-year-old father of three who owns a falafel stand in Rafah, explains the difference. “For three years we had to use processed coriander,” he says. “Now, at last, we have fresh coriander to flavor the falafel.”

Earlier in 2010, the Israeli Defense Ministry refused to reveal why Israel bans the import of such simple items as coriander, cilantro, sage, jam, chocolate, French fries, dried fruit, fabrics, notebooks, flowerpots and toys — apparently due to the “security reasons” bogeyman — while at the same time allows cinnamon, plastic buckets and combs to enter Gaza.

Many Gazans believe that Israeli commercial interests determine which items are permitted into Gaza.

As the result of a lawsuit filed by the Israeli human rights group Gisha, Israel finally released three documents outlining its policy for which goods it allows to enter Gaza.

Since the release of the documents, and its deadly May 31 attack on the Mavi Marmara, Israel has been under pressure to ease restrictions on Palestinians in Gaza. That is why Abu Eisifan can now buy a kilo of fresh coriander for his falafels for half the price of the tasteless processed type, which used to cost 30 shekels.

“I never knew why they wouldn’t allow coriander in,” he laughs, noting that falafel “can’t be a major security threat. Indeed, it’s just the simple food of the underdog in Gaza who can’t afford meat.”

It’s certainly an improvement over the coriander smuggled through Egypt, which was stale by the time it reached his falafel stand.

At other times the scarcity of cooking oil forced him to use industrial gas canisters to prepare his falafel, affecting the flavor.

The scarcity of other ingredients had an impact on prices as well: when the cost of pepper and cumin rose, Abu Eisifan had to charge more for his falafels.

This only added to the distress of many Gaza families for whom falafel and beans have become the basic food over the course of Israel's punitive four-year siege.

It's what they eat twice a day, for breakfast and dinner.

As he stands by his hot fryer, however, Abu Eisifan insists that the ability to buy fresh coriander is not enough.

Jamal Abu Hassan, 35, who has stopped at Abu Eisifan's stand for a falafel sandwich on his way to work, agrees. "The taste is better now," he acknowledges, "but I will not thank Israel for something which is a basic right.

Gaza needs much more from Israel than just better tasting falafel." Pausing, he continues: "We miss the flavors of freedom and independent security."

Israel first imposed its siege on Gaza in February 2006, after Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank alike elected a Hamas government in free and fair parliamentary elections.

The Israeli ban on all but 10 basic items from entering Gaza began in September 2007, when then-Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's security cabinet declared the Gaza Strip a "hostile entity."

Three months earlier, U.S.-trained fighters affiliated with Hamas' rival, Fatah, reportedly attempted to overthrow the democratically elected Hamas government in Gaza.

Many Palestinians, including Fatah strongman Mohammed Dahlan, were forced to flee Gaza for the West Bank, where Ramallah-based President Mahmoud Abbas proceeded to dissolve the Unity Palestinian government. When Abbas' term expired in January 2009, he was reappointed by the PLO Central Council and remains in office today.

To Abu Eisifan, who for 17 years worked for an Israeli elevator company, the label of "hostile entity" is a tragic joke.

"We lived and worked together in the past," he explains. He believes the Israeli policy is meant to serve as a distraction from the real issues of Jerusalem, settlements and Palestinian refugees.

Israel's 2007 decision expanded to 81 the number of items allowed to enter the Gaza Strip, according to the BBC.

The ban was denounced by human rights groups worldwide as illegal under international law and as constituting collective punishment, a crime against humanity under the 4th Geneva Conventions. Since then, several United Nations and NGO reports, in addition to the documents released this past August in response to the Gisha lawsuit, confirm that the intent of the restrictions is indeed collective punishment.

To date no credible reason or evidence has been given — perhaps because none exists—to support Israel's assertion that such spices as coriander and cilantro, or French fries or notebooks, threaten the security of the Jewish state.

“What security are you talking about?” scoffs Abu Eisifan.

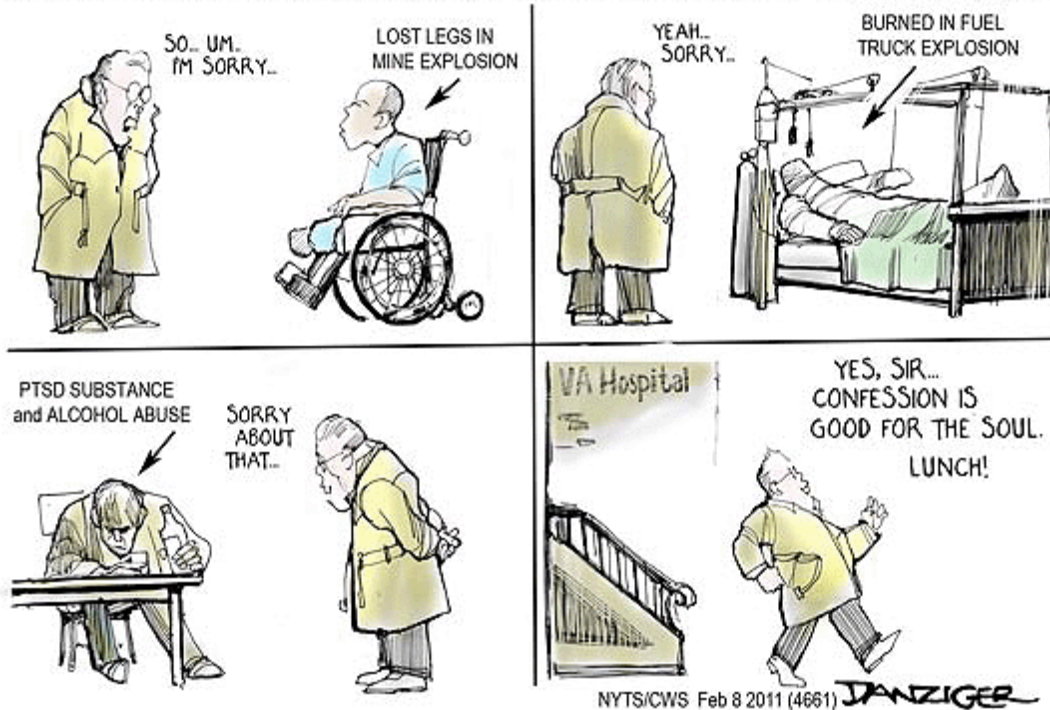
“Israel is the fourth most powerful military state in the world, with nuclear weapons—and they are concerned about fighting civilians who can’t even find underpants to buy in the market?”

Chimes is another of Abu Eisifan’s customers: “You see, this is what Israel wants—to turn our case into one of coriander leaves and loaves of bread so that our national rights and underpants can wait forever.”

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Rumsfeld’s Book Admits He May Have Made Some “Misstatements” Justifying Iraq War



CLASS WAR REPORTS

Emad Hajjaj's Latest Cartoon: The Terrified Domino.



Egypt is Not Tunisia.....

Yemen is Not Egypt....

Bahrain is Not Yemen....

Libya is Not Bahrain.....

Algeria is Not Libya.....

Syria is Not.....

February 18, 2011 Posted by Tony; Palestinian Pundit Blogspot. He writes:
"Notice that Emad did not mention Jordan in his cartoon, because.....he lives in Jordan!"
[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

Mass Murders By The Dictator Gaddafi Fail To Stop Revolutionary Movement:

**“Most Of Benghazi Is Said To Be
Controlled By Anti-Government
Protesters”**

**“Protesters Drove A Tank From A
Nearby Army Base”**

**“The Libyans Won’t Fire On Their Own
People So (Gaddafi) Has Drafted In
Overseas African Militia”**



Smoke billows from the internal security headquarters in Libya’s second city of Benghazi
February 20, 2011. REUTERS/Youtube via Reuters TV

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

20 February 2011 BBC & Guardian UK & Al Jazeera & CNN & Feb 19, 2011 By Teresa
Cotsirilos, Peter Finocchiaro, Salon.com [Excerpts]

Details have emerged of huge casualty figures in the Libyan city of Benghazi, where
troops have launched a brutal crackdown on protesters.

More than 200 people are known to have died, doctors say, with 900 injured.

The army has now pulled back, according to our contact's father, but the crowd is being fired on by foreign militia, believed to be from Chad and Sudan. Helicopter gunships have been used to fire on the protesters.

"The Libyans won't fire on their own people so (Gaddafi) has drafted in overseas African militia. They have not heard of these people before." There are rumours that protesters on the route from Tripoli have been blocking the roads to stop the militia from reaching Benghazi, but these are not confirmed.

The most bloody attacks were reported over the weekend, as funeral marches were said to have come under machine-gun and heavy weapons fire. One doctor, speaking amid the sound of fresh gunfire on Sunday, told the BBC that "a real massacre" had happened.

Benghazi, the country's second city, has been a leading focus of protests against four decades of rule by Col Muammar Gaddafi.

In a rare public admission of the unrest in Benghazi, Libyan state TV said on Sunday that an "armed people's base" in the city had come under attack and had its walls breached.

Anti-government protesters appear to have set fire to a security building and there are pictures of some making off with weapons - including an artillery round.

That news emerged as anti-Gaddafi activists on Twitter reported that a barracks in Benghazi had "fallen".

Thousands of mourners, some carrying coffins above their heads, crowded into Benghazi streets Sunday in a funeral procession honoring those killed Saturday.

The clashes occurred as the procession passed by the Alfadeel Abu Omar military camp, where one man told CNN uniformed troops opened fire on the mourners.

The clashes escalated after the incident, centered around the military camp. Protesters packed at least one car with explosives Sunday and sent it crashing into a compound wall at the camp, eyewitnesses said.

Security forces then fired on the protesters as they attempted to breach the camp.

On the camp's southern side, meanwhile, protesters drove a tank from a nearby army base in another attempt to break in, witnesses said. They have also obtained other weapons, the protester said.

The protester who described the Benghazi fighting said the military camp is significant because it houses Gadhafi's eastern palace.

"It's a symbol of his dominance here," he said. "And it's the last symbol, basically."

Protests have also reportedly broken out in other cities, including Bayda, Derna, Tobruk and Misrata.

The unrest in Libya has largely been centred in the eastern cities of Benghazi, Bayda and Tobruk.

But Al Jazeera has received reports that the protests have also begun to spread to the west of the country.

Witnesses said thousands of people took part in peaceful protests in the western city of Misrata. They were demonstrating against state brutality, rather than calling for a change in government.

Mohamed Abdulmalek, the chairman of Libya Watch - a human rights group that monitors abuse in the country - said the delay of protests in the west was due to the heavy presence of security forces there, "not because the people did not want to go out".

"The security presence in Tripoli, for example, was so intense that people gathered individually in the beginning," Abdulmalek said from the United Kingdom.

"The Libyan regime anticipated this, so the squares in Tripoli were occupied by security forces and therefore people were not allowed to gather."

"But eventually, the pressure on the capital started from outside Tripoli and now you see the people revolting. We have no doubt that the east and the west will unite."



Feb. 19, 2011: Demonstrators protesting against the Libyan government have set fire to local government committee buildings and destroyed statues representing "The Green Book" in which the country's dictator Moamer Kadhafi, laid down his principles. (AFP/YouTube)

BBC Middle East correspondent Jon Leyne says the unrest in Libya is the most serious challenge yet to Col Gaddafi.

Reports are difficult to verify as the Libyan authorities have imposed severe media restrictions.

Libyan activists opposed to Col Gaddafi, as well as Libyans operating from outside the country, are using social networks Twitter and Facebook and video-sharing site

YouTube to share information and images of the protests. Activists say they are reluctant to provide specific details of new protest locations in case security forces decide to attack their rallies.

Reports are beginning to emerge of protests in the capital, Tripoli, but information is scarce and difficult to confirm.

One woman, Sara Radwan, told the BBC the situation in the city was “very tense and very scary”.

“Tripoli is very important, it’s got people from all over Libya. Everybody’s watching and waiting. Gaddafi makes us sick. This is a war,” she said.

The doctor in Benghazi, known as Braikah, described to the BBC how casualties had been brought to the city’s Jala hospital - most of them with gunshot wounds.

“Ninety per cent of these gunshot wounds mainly in the head, the neck, the chest, mainly in the heart,” she said.

She said the Jala hospital mortuary had 208 bodies and another hospital had 12.

Another doctor told the Associated Press news agency of similar numbers of bodies, but said they had been taken to the morgue since the violence began earlier in the week.

As Brayka spoke to the BBC she said new gunfire was audible within Benghazi, alleging that security forces were firing on crowds of people attempting to bury some of those killed in recent days.

The violence escalated on Saturday, when a funeral procession for victims of previous clashes made its way past a major security compound. Witnesses said troops used machine-guns, mortars, large-calibre weapons, and even a missile, against the mourners.

Opposition supporters said the attack was unprovoked, although security sources suggested some protesters threw firebombs at the compound.

Some described scenes of chaos as army snipers shot from the roofs of buildings and demonstrators fought back against troops on the ground.

The doctor told the BBC that some Benghazi residents had been shot outside their homes by neighbourhood militias and bodies had been dumped on the street.

Most of Benghazi is said to be controlled by anti-government protesters.

Prisons have been attacked by the families of inmates, and there have been multiple reports of mass breakouts, and of guards shooting prisoners. (The Telegraph)

Last night, Reuters reported that anti-government protesters have seized control of the city of Al-Bayda, after they were joined by members of the local police. (Reuters)

Bahrain: “Very Soon” King Hamad Will Fall



An anti-government protestor holds a poster with pictures of fallen Arab leaders and Bahrain’s King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa with the words “Very soon” written over his picture at Pearl roundabout in Manama February 19, 2011. REUTERS/Caren Firouz

MORE:

“You Don’t Kill People And Then Say Let’s Talk”



Bahraini anti-government protesters at the Pearl roundabout soon after the military and police pulled out in Manama, Bahrain, Feb. 19, 2011. (AP Photo/Hassan Ammar)

MORE:

“Go Out Hamad” “They Pressed Their Demand That The King, Sheikh Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, Should Step Down”



A message addressed to King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa near Pearl Square in Manama February 20, 2011. REUTERS/Caren Firouz



An anti-government banner displaying Bahrain's Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman al-Khalifa and other ministers at Pearl Square in Manama February 20, 2011. REUTERS/Caren Firouz

20 February 2011 Al Jazeera & By Robert Fisk in Bahrain, Independent.co.uk [Excerpts]

A landmark junction in the heart of Bahrain's capital, Manama, continues to be occupied by opposition protesters, hundreds of whom spent the night there after another day of anti-government demonstrations in the tiny Gulf state.

Some woke early on Sunday morning in the Pearl Roundabout area and staged a noisy protest, chanting "Get out Hamad" as they pressed their demand that the king, Sheikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, should step down.

A small tent village has sprung up complete with stalls selling hot milk, scrambled eggs and tomatoes - catering to the hundreds who decided to stay overnight in the public square.

The protesters reclaimed on Saturday the junction that they had previously used as a focal point for pro-reform protests, but which was then violently taken back by security forces.

The calls against Sheikh Hamad and his inner circle are a recent escalation in Bahrain's political uprising, which began with calls to weaken the Sunni monarchy's power and address discrimination against the country's Shia Muslim majority.

There was also a distinct note of anger with America when Shia men and women found – amid the debris of the protesters' camp destroyed by the police early on Thursday – dozens of tear-gas and baton rounds imported from the United States. One rubber-bullet cartridge – and Bahrainis have died from these weapons – carried its manufacturer's identity and military codes: "NonLethal Technologies, Homer City, PA 15748 USA, www.nonlethaltechnologies.com, Solid Rubber Baton, MP-4-R3."

Many of the protesters who "re-took" the central square yesterday were still asking how Bahraini troops could have shot at their own citizens on Friday.

However, it is now clear that many soldiers in the "Bahraini" army are not Bahrainis at all but Pakistanis, many of whom had trained in their own country's army – and who had no hesitation at all in shooting at their own fellow Pakistanis as well as at the Taliban in the massive offensives against the Taliban over the past three years.

Speaking Urdu, Pushtu – even Baluch – these men also make up a core unit of the Emirates army.

Thousands March Against The King-Dictator In Morocco:

**“The People Reject A Constitution
Made For Slaves!”**

**“Parliamentary Elections Said By
Critics To Be A Fig Leaf For An
Undemocratic System”**

**“A Gap Between Rich And Poor
Described By One Commentator As
‘Obscene’”**



Moroccans in Rabat demand march against the dictatorship. A sign in French says “Dictator, Go Away.” Photograph: Abdelhak Senna/AFP/Getty Images

20 February 2011 By John Sudworth, BBC & 20 February 2011 Al Jazeera [Excerpts]

Thousands of people have marched in Moroccan cities to demand that King Mohammed VI give up some of his powers.

The demonstrators shouted slogans calling for economic opportunity, educational reform, better health services and help in coping with rising living costs during the march on central Hassan II Avenue in Rabat on Sunday.

In the capital, Rabat, police allowed protesters to approach parliament, chanting slogans like “The people reject a constitution made for slaves!” and “Down with autocracy!”

A separate protest is under way in the country’s biggest city, Casablanca, and another was planned in Marrakesh.

Sunday's rallies in Morocco are organised by groups including one calling itself the February 20 Movement for Change.

More than 23,000 people have expressed their backing for its Facebook site.

The protesters have not called for the removal of King Mohammed, but for a new constitution curbing his powers.



Street fighting in Marrakech in one of a string of nationwide protests that brought thousands to the streets across Morocco on Sunday Feb. 20, 2011 in an effort to push for greater democracy and constitutional reform. (AP Photo / Tarik Najmaoui)

Moroccan Finance Minister Salaheddine Mezouar had urged people not to march, warning that any "slip may, in the space of few weeks, cost us what we have achieved over the last 10 years".

Former BBC Morocco correspondent Richard Hamilton says regular protests are allowed, the economy is growing and the government has promised to double food subsidies.

But beneath the surface real problems are lurking, he adds - with a huge young population, many of them poor or unemployed; a gap between rich and poor described by one commentator as "obscene"; and parliamentary elections said by critics to be a fig leaf for an undemocratic system.

King Mohammed is a member of the Alaouite dynasty that has been ruling Morocco for some 350 years, claiming a direct line of descent from the Prophet Muhammad. [Except for the 44 years until 1956 that the French and Spanish governments ruled Morocco, and these fake piss-pot kings kissed Imperial ass. T]

It is regarded as almost sacrilegious to question his role as king, our correspondent says. [And there you have a classic instance of the blind stupidity

of the racist mind that still thinks of people in nations like Morocco as primitive little children who worship a King.]

30,000 March Against The Regime In Tunisia: “We Don’t Want The Friends Of Ben Ali!”

2.20.2011 Guardian UK

Tunisian security forces fired into the air on Sunday as tens of thousands of demonstrators gathered downtown to call for the replacement of the interim government, a Reuters witness said.

It was the second straight day of mass protests in the North African country’s capital despite a government ban on rallies after a popular uprising last month forced President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali to flee.

Following weeks of relative calm, as many as 30,000 marchers gathered in front of the prime minister’s building shouting slogans such as “Leave!” and “We don’t want the friends of Ben Ali!”. Security forces fired into the air.

More than a month after Ben Ali’s departure, some Tunisians have complained the caretaker government charged with setting elections to replace him has failed to provide security amid a surge in crime and worries over political violence.

Iran: “‘Large Scale’ Protests Have Been Taking Place In Various Cities And They’re Continuing To Grow In Size”

20 February 2011 By D. Parvaz, Al Jazeera [Excerpts]

There are reports of renewed anti-government protests in Iran, with demonstrators taking to the streets in several cities across the country.

There have also been clashes between protesters and security forces, posts on social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter said on Sunday. There were also reports of one protester being shot dead in Tehran, a story denied by government official in state media.

Protesters have apparently thronged Tehran's Vali-Asr and Enghelab squares. Similar demonstrations are being reported in Shiraz and Isfahan.

A page on Facebook used to organise the protests also carried a post saying that security forces were beating protesters with batons and chains in the northern city of Rasht.

Citing witnesses inside the country, sources tell Al Jazeera that plainclothes security forces were rounding up and taking away groups of protesters near Sharif University in Tehran, near Azadi Square.

The page also quoted witnesses as saying that tear gas had been used against protesters in Tehran, and the BBC Persian website said gunshots had been heard in the Abbas Abad area, west of Vali-Asr street.

The International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran said that eyewitnesses it has spoken to confirm the use of live ammunition and tear gas by security forces in Iran. An article posted on the group's site also said that "large scale" protests have been taking place in various cities and that they're continuing to grow in size.

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.

RECEIVED:

Omar Barghouti, Leading Spokesperson Of The Boycott, Divestment, Sanction (BDS) Campaign Against Israel, Kept From Entering U.S. For Book Release Tour

'Visa Delays Effectively Canceling Series Of Events On BDS Movement'

'Numerous Foreign Scholars And Experts Have Been Subject To Visa Delays And Denials — A Process The American Civil Liberties Union Describes As "Ideological Exclusion"'

February 18 2011 MuzzleWatch

CHICAGO, IL — Effectively canceling a planned speaking tour, the U.S. consulate in Jerusalem has inexplicably delayed the granting of a visa for Omar Barghouti, founding member of the Palestinian Civil Society Boycott, Divestment, Sanction (BDS) campaign, due to tour the United States this April for the release of his new book, Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions: The Global Struggle for Palestinian Rights.

Nobel Peace Laureate, Archbishop Desmond Tutu called the book “lucid and morally compelling... perfectly timed to make a major contribution to this urgently needed global campaign for justice, freedom and peace.” Former President of the UN General Assembly, Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann called it “timely and responsibly written by a man who understands that creative nonviolence is the only way out of the dire situation in Palestine.”“

In recent years, numerous foreign scholars and experts have been subject to visa delays and denials that have prohibited them from speaking and teaching in the U.S.—a process the American Civil Liberties Union describes as “Ideological Exclusion,” which they say violates Americans’ First Amendment right to hear constitutionally protected speech by denying foreign scholars, artists, politicians and others entry to the United States.

Foreign nationals who have recently been denied visas include Fulbright scholar Marixa Lasso; Iraqi doctor Riyadh Lafta, who disputed the official Iraqi civilian death numbers in the respected British medical journal The Lancet; respected South African scholar and vocal Iraq War critic Dr. Adam Habib, and Oxford’s Tariq Ramadan, who have both recently received visas to speak in the United States after many years of delays and denials.

For the release of Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions, Barghouti has standing invitations for events in New York City, Harvard, Yale, Brown, Brandeis University, Washington DC, and Philadelphia.

Barghouti studied, lived and worked in the United States for 11 years before permanently relocating to Jerusalem. He attended Columbia University, receiving both Bachelors and Masters degrees from the school. His U.S. born child, whom he needs a visa to visit, currently attends college in Indiana.

Between 2005-2010, Barghouti visited the U.S. extensively without incident, on a 5 year visa, which only recently expired.

Barghouti’s publisher, Anthony Arrove of Haymarket Books, stated that “It’s essential authors be able to travel to promote their books and ideas, and as publishers we believe the free exchange of ideas is vital to a democratic culture. We find it frustrating that Omar’s visa is being delayed and potentially denied for political reasons and hope the Consulate will grant his visa immediately.”

Barghouti tour sponsors are calling on supporters to contact the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem and the Department of State to ask them to fulfill the promise from the Obama Administration of “promoting the global marketplace of ideas” and grant Barghouti’s visa immediately.

U.S. Consulate:
Consul General Daniel Rubinstein
U.S. Consulate General, Jerusalem
18 Agron Road, Jerusalem 94190
Tel.: +972.2.622.7230, Fax: +972.2.625.9270
jerusalemvisa@state.gov
UsConGenJerusalem@state.gov

Department of State:
Visa Services
Public Inquiries Division

202-663-1225
usvisa@state.gov

Omar Barghouti is available for interview.

To arrange, contact Sarah Macaraeg at sarah@haymarketbooks.org, 312-315-8476.

Barghouti is the author of *Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions: The Global Struggle for Palestinian Rights*, releasing from Haymarket Books April 1, 2011.

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.

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

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