

## **Military Resistance 9B22**

# **“Whole Sections Of The Army Have Defected To The Opposition”**



© Reuters  
24th February 2011 Libyan revolutionaries joined by a tank corps soldier on his tank in the eastern Libyan town of Shahat. Reuters via Daily Mail [Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

## **In Misrata, Revolutionaries Defeat Attack By Gadhafi Forces “By Using Tanks”**

# **“More Than 1,000 Troops Have Been Dispatched Ahead Of An Assault On Tripoli” Rebellion Spreads To West “Cutting Away At Col. Gadhafi’s Last Remaining Stronghold” “His Control Over Territory Outside The Capital Slipping”**

FEBRUARY 24, 2011 By CHARLES LEVINSON, ANGUS MCDOWALL and MARGARET COKER, Wall St. Journal [Excerpts]

Libya’s antiregime forces promised to mount an offensive Thursday against the capital, Tripoli, as leader Moammar Gadhafi accused his opponents of being under the sway of al Qaeda.

Speaking by telephone to state television, the increasingly isolated leader directed his 23-minute address to citizens of al-Zawiya, an industrial town just 30 miles west of Tripoli where gun battles raged Thursday.

“What is this farce? You in al-Zawiya turn to bin Laden?” he said. “He brainwashed your sons.”

**Though pro-regime forces have largely kept protesters off Tripoli’s streets, the violence flaring across towns in western Libya is cutting away at Col. Gadhafi’s last remaining stronghold, and suggested his control over territory outside the capital was slipping.**

**Until now, Libya’s rebellion has centered mainly in the east, where whole sections of the army have defected to the opposition.**

**But the fighting in al-Zawiya and other western coastal towns now pinions the longtime strongman between enemies on both sides.**

According to senior rebel officials in the eastern capital Benghazi, more than 1,000 troops have been dispatched ahead of an assault on Tripoli, hundreds of miles to the west.

Because army service is compulsory for at least six months in Libya, many people are familiar with how to use weapons.

Rebels believe Mr. Gadhafi is moving about the country, and they are searching for him, they said.

They might end up facing Mr. Gadhafi's most experienced units—the small but highly trained and well-equipped security battalions led by close allies, as well as brigades of mercenaries recruited from Chad and other African nations.

The eight security battalions responsible for ensuring state security in major cities are well-equipped militias directly commanded by Col. Gadhafi and his sons or close allies.

According to Jane's World Armies, about half the country's regular armed forces can be considered battle-ready because of degeneration due to a longstanding sanctions regime.

Jane's said the regular army is organized into six military regions, of which at least two are already known to be under rebel control.

Eastern Libya has long been starved of investment by Tripoli and is seen as a bastion of opposition to the Gadhafi regime, with its main tribe, the Warfla, being cut out of senior state positions.

Its main towns Benghazi, Tobruq and Baida have been under rebel sway since early this week.

**In Misrata, a coastal town 130 miles east of Tripoli, a battle raged Thursday for control of the airport.**

Special forces from Libya's Fifth Brigade fought antiregime protesters from the city who had taken control of the airport a day earlier, said a resident who participated in the battle. It was unclear how many troops were fighting on each side at the airport or who was commanding them.

Around noon, a local radio station broadcast calls for the men in the city to rush to the airport and help defend it against the government forces.

A resident who was present during the clashes said the special forces attacked the airport with heavy machine guns.

**The anti-regime group held off the attack in part using tanks they had commandeered from army units that had earlier fled the city, the resident said.**

At least four people fighting for the anti-government forces died and at least one government soldier had been killed as well, a doctor at one of Misurata's main clinics said.

**By nightfall Thursday, residents said, antiregime groups from the city were firmly in control of the installation and the city was free of central government control.**

The city's lawyers association had taken over organizing services for the city and was urging citizens, via local radio, to donate blood to hospitals and food and water for the needy.

**Opposition forces also increased control in the country's west as well on Thursday. The city of al-Zawiya — home to an important tribe of the same name and a 120,000-barrels-a-day refinery — is a staging post for one of Libya's biggest oil and gas pipelines.**

Fighting in the town was reported to have started Wednesday and continued throughout Thursday, with other violent clashes reported further to the west in Sabratah and Zawara.

"Al-Zawiya might be the only area outside Tripoli where Gadhafi could knock out oil and gas exports," said Charles Gurdon, managing director at Menas Consulting in London.

"The major tribe there declared against him, and while he can't hit the tribes in the east he potentially could punish the tribes attacking him now in the west."

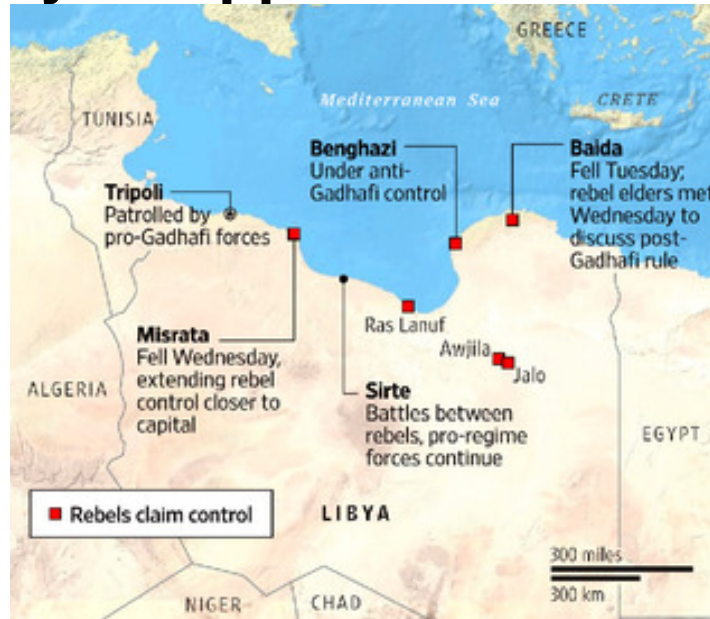


Residents with soldiers who have joined the revolution inside a military compound in Benghazi February 24, 2011. REUTERS/Suhaib Salem

**MORE:**

## **Revolutionary Forces Capture Misrata: Gateway To Tripoli Falls Wednesday:**

# Gadhafi Government “Committees On Top Of Committees Reporting To Committees And Overseen By Thugs,’ Said Hafed Al-Ghwell, A Libyan Opposition Activist”



FEBRUARY 24, 2011 By ANGUS MCDOWALL in Dubai, MARGARET COKER in Cairo and CHARLES LEVINSON in Baida, Libya, Wall St. Journal [Excerpts]

Opponents of Col. Gadhafi’s regime said Wednesday they had gained control of the city of Misrata, which lies closer to Tripoli than any of the cities so far seized by antiregime forces.

In the eastern coastal city of Baida, where opposition forces overcame pro-Gadhafi fighters on Tuesday, sheiks, academics and businessmen met in a domed meeting hall to discuss how to oversee security, distribute food and fuel and recollect weapons spread widely amid the uprising.

“Everything is in chaos now,” said Hamdy Yaqoub, a professor of environmental science at Omar Mukhtar University, an elder at the meeting. “This revolution started on Facebook, as nothing, with some kids. No one really thought we’d have to come to work on Monday and figure out how to rebuild our country.”

In Tripoli, residents reached by phone described a city paralyzed by fear. Pro-Gadhafi groups have set up roadblocks around the capital, residents said Wednesday, adding

that groups of plainclothes security agents are stepping up their hunt for those considered disloyal to the regime.

One resident said his friend had gone into hiding after group of plainclothes security agents in a brown Toyota pickup truck arrived at his home to arrest him. The friend, this person said, had been making celebratory phone calls to friends and family.

Many who participated in antiregime demonstrations Sunday in Tripoli said they were scared to go back out on the streets. Some said they have received anonymous text messages saying they would be shot if they start another demonstration. Overnight Wednesday, residents said heavy gunfire could be heard in the upscale Ben Ashoura neighborhood, home to many diplomatic buildings.

The melting away of Mr. Gadhafi's government—at least a half-dozen have defected or quit in recent days—has added to the relative power of Libya's many tribes, which are spread across the country with each claiming the fealty of thousands of members.

Since seizing power in 1969, Col. Gadhafi has maintained his rule in part by dividing and conquering Libya's tribes, and by periodically overhauling the government to deprive potential political rivals a base. The resulting power structure is a hodgepodge of ineffective bureaucracies and competing organizations.

**“What he created was a system of chaos, committees on top of committees reporting to committees and overseen by thugs,” said Hafed al-Ghwell, a Libyan opposition activist.**

Above the technocrats and bloated rolls of civil servants sit “revolutionary committees” — part political commissars, part enforcers of the leader's law and order, according to political analysts. The committees, populated largely with Col. Gadhafi's clan members, are responsible for ensuring citizens' loyalty and promoting the leader's ideology.

The groups exist on local and regional levels and their members receive generous benefits, including housing and cars. They may carry weapons, and in ways hold more street-level power than military officers.

Col. Gadhafi's tribe, the Gadhafa, dominate parts of the armed forces. They have spent years destroying the base within the military that the rival Warfalla tribe once had, say Libyans with knowledge of the situation.

**MORE:**

**“Like Youth All Over Eastern Libya, Mr. Mortady's Sons Had Transformed Themselves From Peaceful Protesters Into Armed**

# **Pro-Democracy Rebels In A Period Of About 48 Hours”**

**“‘They Called Us Hypocrites And  
Traitors,’ Mr. Abdullah Said”**

**“‘One Kid Yelled At Me, ‘They Killed My  
Two Brothers. How Can You Forgive  
Them?’”**



Armed revolutionaries celebrate on army armored vehicles moving into position in the east Libyan city of Albayda Feb.24, 2011. (AP Photo/Xinhua, Nasser Nouri)

FEBRUARY 24, 2011 By CHARLES LEVINSON, Wall St. Journal [Excerpts]

BAIDA, Libya—A day after the last forces loyal to besieged Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi in the country’s east were defeated, this coastal town’s elders met to begin rebuilding.

Masouda al-Alamy, a distinguished professor of animal science at the city’s Omar Mukhtar University, called the meeting to order on Wednesday, her voice cracking with emotion. “Today, we meet and can speak freely for the first time,” she said. “For the first time we feel we are free.”

Around 200 locals, including tribal sheikhs, university professors and prominent businessmen, met in a town meeting hall with green plush seats. It was built in the time of the monarchy to house the Libyan parliament, but more recently it was the meeting place for the town’s Revolutionary Peoples’ Committee, the closest thing Libyans have had to representative government under Mr. Gadhafi.

“We were a hopeless people, an immoral country forgotten to the world, and in three days all that has changed,” said Abdullah Mortady, an architect. “For 42 years we didn’t speak. For 42 years this whole country was only for one man and his sons.”

Top items on the agenda at the meeting included forming committees to take charge of security, food and fuel distribution, reopening schools, and collecting weapons pillaged during the protests.

**Another key challenge facing these elders: how to rein in the revolutionary zeal of the region’s youth, charged with emotion after days of violent battle culminating in a historic victory.**

**Mr. Mortady came home on the first night of the uprising to find his 16- and 19-year-old sons gone. His worried wife told him they were in the streets protesting. When they returned home well after midnight, they were both armed with guns from pillaged police stations.**

“I was very scared, but now I’m quite proud,” Mr. Mortady said.

Like youth all over eastern Libya, Mr. Mortady’s sons had transformed themselves from peaceful protesters into armed pro-democracy rebels in a period of about 48 hours.

The elders stepped in quickly to take responsibility for the hundreds of pro-Gadhafi soldiers captured by the young pro-democracy fighters in recent days.

Masoud Abdullah, a professor of management science at the local university, and his older cousin, a prominent tribal leader in the area, were among those who called an urgent meeting to decide what they were going to do after the first batch of prisoners were taken Saturday morning.

“The young people wanted to kill them, and we said no way,” Mr. Abdullah said.

**Outside that meeting, angry youth had heckled their elders.**

**“They called us hypocrites and traitors,” Mr. Abdullah said. “One kid yelled at me, ‘They killed my two brothers. How can you forgive them?’ “**

**On Wednesday morning, the pro-democracy fighters’ anger was still evident.**

**At Baida’s airport, the site of some of the fiercest fighting of the uprising in eastern Libya, 30-year-old ambulance driver Tareq Tajori pointed to dried bloodstains on the asphalt outside the terminal.**

**“That was my friend,” he said. “They shot him. Now they need to be shot.”**

The prisoners taken during the uprising, which in Baida number around 300, are being held in secret locations around the town to keep them out of the hands of youths seeking revenge.



On Wednesday, a group of Western journalists was taken to one of those locations, an elementary school on the town's outskirts.

The three-car convoy, trying to shake a car driven by unknown youngsters, wound in and out of side roads, made U-turns, split up and rejoined. "We are very worried," said Ahmed Jabreel, a Libyan diplomat until recently posted to the United Nations in New York, who is now on the side of the pro-democracy rebels in Baida.

At the school, a few young men with heavy machine guns and ammunition slung around their necks stood sentry.

## **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**

**“A Wave Of Sometimes Violent  
Unrest Has Shaken Kurdistan,  
Posing A Rare Challenge To The  
Political Powers”**

**“A Long-Festering Anger With  
Government Corruption”**

**“Everyone Is Angry. Everyone From The  
Taxi Driver To The Shopkeeper To  
Intellectuals And Students”**



Ayman Oghanna for The New York Times

February 23, 2011 By JACK HEALY and NAMO ABDULLA, The New York Times  
[Excerpts]

SULAIMANIYA, Iraq — This is a place that calls itself “the other Iraq,” a haven of social and economic stability that largely escaped the bloodshed and chaos that have ravaged the rest of the nation.

But over the past week a wave of sometimes violent unrest has shaken Kurdistan, posing a rare challenge to the political powers that have led Iraq’s mountainous north for decades, during and after Saddam Hussein.

**Thousands of people — many of them university students — have been filling the central square here to wave Kurdish flags and voice the calls for change that echo those ringing across northern Africa and the Middle East.**

The protests here, reflecting a long-festering anger with government corruption and partisan politics, have grown larger in recent days, and have support from this eclectic city’s legions of poets, writers, artists and unions.

“Everyone is angry,” said Asos Hardi, manager of Awena, one of the few newspapers not tied to one of the region’s political or religious parties. “Everyone from the taxi driver to the shopkeeper to intellectuals and students.”

On Wednesday, a police officer in Kurdistan was shot and killed in a confrontation with protesters in Halabja, near the Iranian border, according to health officials there. It was the first government fatality since the clashes began last week.

Three protesters have also been killed and scores have been wounded, and demonstrators say dozens of people have been detained.

Attacks on a privately owned television station and the offices of an opposition political party have stoked fears that Kurdish leaders, backed by armed supporters and security forces, are using the upheaval to attack their opponents and tear the scabs off old animosities lingering from a civil war in the 1990s.

In Kurdistan, the catalyst for the popular anger came last Thursday, when hundreds marched to the local offices of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, which is led by Massoud Barzani, the president of the semiautonomous region.

After protesters pelted the building with rocks, security guards opened fire, killing a 14-year-old.

**For 30 years, the region has been largely dominated for by two groups: Mr. Barzani's K.D.P. and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, led by Iraq's president, Jalal Talabani.**

**The parties, which control the regional government, hold sway over the local armed forces and the economy and provide subsidized food, money and work for thousands and thousands of Kurds.**

**"There is basically no private sector," said Denise Natali, the Minerva fellow at the National Defense University and the author of "The Kurdish Quasi-State." "The distinction between state and society is undeveloped. Here, you have a relationship of dependency, like one between a big daddy and child."**

In Sulaimaniya's packed central square, protesters said they wanted a larger voice in government.

While the throngs in the square chanted "Peace! Peace!" and picked up litter and danced together, the scene had darker moments.

**On Tuesday, two Kurdish politicians who tried to speak were chased through the streets. A Kurdish author who had supported Mr. Barzani (a popular target of scorn among the demonstrators) was booed and roughed up.**

Many said they believed that the government would listen to their voices and make real reforms. But others had grimmer visions for the future.

"The region is going through radical change," said Rebin Hardi, a Kurdish author with ties to the opposition.

"I hope a political solution can be found. If not, there will be more violence. There could be a civil war."

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## Resistance Action

Feb 23 (Reuters) & Feb 24 (Reuters) & AP

A bomber trying to assassinate the deputy governor of Anbar province killed 11 people Thursday, said the Chairman of the Anbar Provincial Council, Jasim al-Halbusi. He said the man wearing an explosives vest blew himself up near a convoy carrying the deputy governor outside of a sports stadium in Ramadi. Al-Halbusi said seven policemen and a bodyguard were among those killed in the attack. The deputy governor was slightly injured, al-Halbusi said.

MOSUL - A roadside bomb targeting an Iraqi army patrol exploded, killing a soldier and wounding two others, in eastern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

MOSUL - A bomb blew up and wounded two soldiers late on Tuesday in western Mosul, police said.

RAMADI - Two roadside bombs went off separately and wounded two soldiers late on Tuesday in central Ramadi, 100 km (60 miles) west of Baghdad, police said.

SHIRQAT - A police officer was wounded while trying to defuse a roadside bomb late on Tuesday in Shirqat, 300 km (190 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

TAL AFAR - A sticky bomb attached to the car of an officer at the Interior Ministry killed him in the town of Tal Afar, about 420 km (260 miles) northwest of Baghdad, police said.

BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb targeting an Iraqi police patrol wounded two policemen and one civilian in Baghdad's northwestern Hurriya district, an Interior Ministry source said.

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

## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Fuel Supply Trucks For Occupation Troops Blown Up As Usual**

February 24, 2011 Associated Press

Militant forces in southwestern Pakistan attacked and set alight two oil tankers that were traveling to Afghanistan to supply foreign troops, local administrator Abdul Aziz said.

The tankers were attacked as they were heading to the border town of Chaman in southwestern Baluchistan province.

Islamist militants in Pakistan frequently attack trucks carrying supplies for U.S. and NATO troops.

The supplies typically arrive in Pakistan's port city of Karachi and travel overland to Afghanistan.

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## More Resistance Action

February 24, 2011 By AMIR SHAH, The Associated Press [Excerpts]

KABUL, Afghanistan -- A bomber blew himself up Thursday in southern Afghanistan, killing one Afghan intelligence service officer and wounding more than two dozen other people.

In Thursday's violence, intelligence officers acting on suspicions stopped a car in the Spin Boldak district of Kandahar province, said Lutfullah Mashal, a spokesman for the Afghan intelligence service in Kabul.

Intelligence officers killed one bomber in the car, Mashal said. Another bomber, who had been shot, got out of the car, fell to the ground and acted as if he was dead, he said.

When the intelligence officers walked toward him, he detonated his vest full of explosives, Mashal said.

The provincial governor's office reported that two Afghan border policemen and six intelligence officers were wounded.

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## Foreign Troops Kill Kids For Hunting Birds While Afghan

Feb 24, 2011 DPA

Kabul - The NATO-led security force in Afghanistan said it would investigate an allegation that fire from one of its helicopters killed five civilians Thursday, including two children, after mistaking them for militants.

**The pre-dawn strike happened as the civilians were climbing a mountain to hunt birds in the Ala Sai district of the north-eastern province of Kapisa, said Mullah Mohammad Omari, the district chief.**

'Three of the men were carrying hunting guns, and the NATO helicopter mistook them for militants,' Omari said.

The dead included a father, his 12-year-old son and 13-year-old nephew, Omari said.

'The government has banned hunting in this area because of the presence of enemies, but these families are very poor,' he said.

'They don't have meat for months, so I can't really blame them.'

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**THE UNDOUBTED SUCCESS OF THE U.S. MILITARY EFFORT MAY BE SEEN HERE, SHOWING THE VAST QUANTITIES OF AFGHANISTAN THAT HAVE BEEN LIBERATED, AND WILL FORM THE BASIS FOR A NEW, FREE, DEMOCRATIC AFGHAN SOCIETY**



U.S. Marines from the First Battalion Eighth Marines Alpha Company patrol a remote eastern corner of Musa Qala district in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province February 22, 2011. REUTERS/Finbarr O'Reilly

**Comment: T**

It's good to see Finbarr O'Reilly back with the combat Marines. He sees with fresh eyes and his photographs show it. They will be in the future what Matthew Brady's Civil War photographs are today: eternal and unique.

**“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**

## **MILITARY NEWS**

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



A soldier from the 10th Mountain Division says goodbye to family members before boarding a flight to Afghanistan at Fort Drum, New York, October 26, 2010  
REUTERS/Lucas Jackson

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

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

**“I Have Been In Uniform For  
Almost 30 Years”**

# **“It Is Astonishing To See A Nation That Once Was So Committed To Liberty And Truly Assisting The World, Turn Into A Narcissistic Empire”**

## **“This War Has Bankrupted The U.S. And Caused Untold Suffering Among U.S. Forces And Women”**

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

February 20, 2011 By William J. Astore, Tomgram [Excerpts]

William J. Astore is a retired lieutenant colonel (USAF) and professor of history.

Consider the following confession from an Army lieutenant colonel:

“I have been in uniform for almost 30 years -- obviously I love my country. But it is astonishing to see a nation that once was so committed to liberty and truly assisting the world, turn into a narcissistic empire fighting out of insecurity, as opposed to increasing security. (Whatever happened to walk softly and carry a big stick?)”

Consider this passage from an Army national guardsman, a non-commissioned officer who answered his country's call and deployed to Iraq:

“I am... on my second tour of Iraq. My unit... has been plagued by suicides and psychiatric problems. Our guards-men even prior to deployment come from compromised social and economic environments, leaving them very susceptible (to military recruiters).

“Many of our soldiers are almost forced into volunteering for multiple tours due to the lack of economic opportunity and the cold fact that there is no other way to support their families...

“I have seen blatant corruption among the contractors (in Iraq) and even cases of outright human trafficking and forced prostitution among female third country nationals... My hope is that the U.S. can withdraw from this senseless war...

“This war has bankrupted the U.S. and caused untold suffering among U.S. Forces and women.”

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## FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



**“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose.”**

**“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.**

**“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.**

**“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”**

**Frederick Douglass, 1852**

**Hope for change doesn’t cut it when you’re still losing buddies.**

**-- J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War**

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

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

# **“It Is Almost Unthinkable That The Generals Of The Supreme Military Council Will Willingly Allow More Than Cosmetic Changes In The Political Economy Of Egypt” “The Generals May Well Prefer A New Round Of Neoliberal Witchcraft”**

**If demonstrations continue to the point that the Supreme Military Council feels it can no longer tolerate them, then the soldiers who will be ordered to put them down (indeed, in some accounts were already ordered to put them down early in the revolution and refused to do so) with deadly force, are not the generals who were part of the Mubarak-era corruption, but conscripts.**

Feb 23 2011 by Walter Armbrust, Jadaliyya.com [Excerpts]

It is the army that now rules the country, albeit as a transitional power, or so most Egyptians hope.

**No representatives of the upper echelons of the Egyptian military appear on the various lists of old-regime allies who need to be called to account.**

For example, the headline of the February 17th print edition of Ahrar, the press organ of the Liberal Socialist Party, was emblazoned with the headline “Financial Reserves of the Corrupt Total 700 Billion Pounds (about \$118 billion) in 18 Countries.”

But the article did not say a single word about the place of the military in this epic theft.

The military were nonetheless part of the crony capitalism of the Mubarak era.

After relatively short careers in the military high-ranking officers are rewarded with such perks as highly remunerative positions on the management boards of housing projects and shopping malls. Some of these are essentially public-sector companies transferred to the military sector when IMF-mandated structural adjustment programs required reductions in the civilian public sector.

But the generals also receive plumbs from the private sector.

Military spending itself was also lucrative because it included both a state budget and contracts with American companies that provided hardware and technical expertise. The United States provided much of the financing for this spending under rules that required a great deal of the money to be recycled to American corporations, but all such deals required middlemen.

Who better to act as an intermediary for American foreign aid contracts than men from the very same military designated as the recipient of the services paid for by this aid?

In this respect the Egyptian military-industrial complex was again stealing a page from the American playbook; indeed, to the extent that the Egyptian military benefited from American foreign aid, Egypt was part of the American military-industrial complex, which is famous for its revolving-door system of recycling retired military men as lobbyists and employees of defense contractors.

Consequently it is almost unthinkable that the generals of the Supreme Military Council will willingly allow more than cosmetic changes in the political economy of Egypt.

But they could be compelled to do so unwillingly.

The army is a blunt force, not well suited for controlling crowds of demonstrators.

The latest statement of the Supreme Military Council reiterated both the legitimacy of the pro-democracy movements demands, and the requirement that demonstrations cease so that the country can get back to work. If demonstrations continue to the point that the Supreme Military Council feels it can no longer tolerate them, then the soldiers who will be ordered to put them down (indeed, in some accounts were already ordered to put them down early in the revolution and refused to do so) with deadly force, are not the generals who were part of the Mubarak-era corruption, but conscripts.

**Pro-democracy demonstrators and their sympathizers often repeated the slogans “the army and the people are one hand,” and “the army is from us.”**

**They had the conscripts in mind, and many were unaware of how stark differences were between the interests of the soldiers and the generals.**

Between the conscripts and the generals is a middle-level professional officer corps whose loyalties have been the subject of much speculation.

The generals, for their part, want to maintain their privileges, but not to rule directly. Protracted direct rule leaves the officers of the Supreme Military Council vulnerable to challenges from other officers who were left on the outside.

**Also, direct rule would make it impossible to hide that the elite officers are not in fact part of the “single hand” composed of the people and the (conscript) army. They are instead logically in the same camp as Ahmad ‘Izz, Safwat al-Sharif, Gamal Mubarak, and Habib al-’Adly — precisely the names on those lists making the rounds of regime members and cronies who should face judgment.**

Ultimately the intense speculation about how much money the Mubarak regime stole, and how much the people can expect to pump back into the nation, is a red herring. If the figure turns out to be \$50 billion or \$500 billion it will not matter if Egypt remains a neoliberal state dedicated (nominally) to free-market fundamentalism for the poor, while creating new privatized assets that can be recycled to political insiders for the rich.

If one seeks clues to how deeply the January 25th Revolution will restructure Egypt, it would be better to look at such issues as what sort of advice the interim government of generals solicits in fulfilling its mandate to re-make Egyptian government.

**One of the things that make the Egyptian and Tunisian revolutions potentially important on a global scale is that they took place in states that were already neoliberalized. The complete failure of neoliberalism to deliver “human well-being” to a large majority of Egyptians was one of the prime causes of the revolution, at least in the sense of helping to prime millions of people who were not connected to social media to enter the streets on the side of the pro-democracy activists.**

New York Times ran an article on February 17th casting the military as a regressive force opposed to privatization and seeking a return to Nasserist statism. The article pits the ostensibly “good side” of the Mubarak regime (privatization programs) against “bad old Arab nationalist statism,” completely ignoring the fact that while the system of military privilege may preserve some public-sector resources transferred from the civilian economy under pressure of IMF structural adjustment programs, the empire of the generals is hardly limited to a ring-fenced quasi-underground public sector.

Officers were also rewarded with private-sector perks; civilian political/business empires mixed public and private roles to the point that what was government and what was private were indistinguishable; both the military and civilians raked in rents from foreign aid.

The generals may well prefer a new round of neoliberal witchcraft.

More privatization will simply free up assets and rents that only the politically connected (including the generals) can acquire.

**Fixing a failed neoliberal state by more stringent applications of neoliberalism could be the surest way for them to preserve their privileges.**

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**“Conditions Of Prolonged And Unsuccessful War Could Only Hasten And Sharpen The Process Of Revolutionary Disintegration Of The Army”**

# **“That Miserable And Criminal Offensive Of The Democrats Did The Rest”**

## **“The Soldiers Were Now Saying, To The Last Man ‘Enough Of Bloodshed!’”**

### **Comment: T**

In February 1917, Russian workers and soldiers rose in revolution to overthrow a feudal government that had dragged them into an Imperial War, World War I, where Russians died, at home and in the Army, for the glory and greed of the Czar, Emperor of Russia.

**Having gotten rid of him, they thought the new government, led by the liberal Prime Minister Kerensky, would stop the war.**

**Instead, his government kept Russia in the war.**

**Gee, does that sound familiar?**

But the soldiers, who had hoped for such much from the new government, increasingly felt abused and betrayed.

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[Excerpt from: The History of the Russian Revolution, By Leon Trotsky, Chapter 19, The Offensive.

**The soldiers did not want to fight.**

**The rear troops, to whom the weakened units turned for replacements after occupying the enemy trenches, answered: “What did you advance for anyway? Who told you to?”**

**“It’s time to end the war, not attack.”**

The commander of the 1st Siberian Corps, considered one of the best commanders, reported how at nightfall the soldiers began to abandon the unattacked first line in crowds and whole companies. “I understood that we, the officers, were powerless to alter the elemental psychology of the soldier masses, and I sobbed bitterly and long.”

One of the companies refused even to toss a leaflet to the enemy announcing the capture of Galich, until a soldier could be found who could translate the German text into Russian.

In that it expressed the utter lack of confidence of the soldier mass in its ruling staff, both the old one and the new February one.

A century of taunts and violence had burst to the surface like a volcano.

The soldiers felt themselves again deceived.

The offensive had not led to peace but war.

The soldiers did not want war. And they were right.

**Patriots hiding in the rear were branding the soldiers as slackers and baiting them.**

**But the soldiers were right.**

**They were guided by a true national instinct, refracted through the consciousness of men oppressed, deceived, tortured, raised up by a revolutionary hope and again thrown back into the bloody mash.**

The soldiers were right.

A prolongation of the war could give the Russian people nothing but new victims, humiliation, disasters – nothing but an increase of domestic and foreign slavery.

The patriotic press of 1917 – not only the Kadet but also the socialist press – was tireless in contrasting the Russian soldiers, cowards and deserters, with the heroic battalions of the great French revolution.

This testifies not only to a failure to understand the dialectic of a revolutionary process, but also to a crude ignorance of history.

The remarkable warriors of the French revolution and empire frequently began their careers as breakers of discipline, disorganisers – ...

The future Marshal Davout spent many months of 1789-90 as Lieutenant d'Avout destroying the "normal" discipline in the garrison of Hesdin, driving out the commanding staff. Throughout France up to the middle of 1790 a complete disintegration of the whole army was taking place.

The soldiers of the Vincennes regiment compelled their officers to eat with them.

The fleet drove out their officers.

Twenty regiments did various deeds of violence upon their officers. At Nancy three regiments locked their highest officers in prison.

Beginning with 1790 the leaders of the French revolution never tire of repeating on the subject of soldier excesses: "The executive power is, guilty, because it has not removed officers hostile to the revolution."

It is remarkable that both Mirabeau and Robespierre spoke in favour of dismissing the entire old corps of officers. The former was trying the more quickly to establish a firm

discipline, the latter wanted to disarm the counter-revolution. But both understood that the old army could not survive.

To be sure, the Russian revolution, in contrast with the French, took place in a time of war. But you cannot infer from this an exception ....

**On the contrary, conditions of prolonged and unsuccessful war could only hasten and sharpen the process of revolutionary disintegration of the army.**

**That miserable and criminal offensive of the democrats did the rest.**

The soldiers were now saying, to the last man “Enough of bloodshed! What good are land and freedom if we are not here?”

When enlightened pacifists try to abolish war by rationalistic arguments they are merely ridiculous, but when the armed masses themselves bring weapons of reason into action against a war, that means that the war is about over.

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**“Big Business Doesn’t Need Money.  
It’s Not For Lack Of Capital It Doesn’t  
Create Jobs”  
“It Is More Profitable For Them To  
Squeeze More Work Out Of Fewer  
Workers”**

February 7 - 21, 2011 The Spark

“We are poised for progress,” declared Obama in the 2011 “State of the Union” address.

“Two years after the worst recession most of us have ever known, the stock market has come roaring back. Corporate profits are up. The economy is growing again.... We have broken the back of this recession.”

But, there’s only one problem – unemployment.

Obama blames the lack of jobs on technology, which, he says, has made many production and clerical jobs obsolete, and he blames global production, which throws American workers into competition with other workers for jobs.

So Obama proposed more tax breaks and subsidies for corporations to get them to engage in “innovative” research – and create jobs.

He proposed to cut all corporate income tax rates, to give them more capital so they can “compete” – and create jobs.

Big business doesn't need money. It's not for lack of capital it doesn't create jobs. The 50 biggest U.S. industrial corporations today have one trillion dollars in reserve, NOT being invested.

It is more profitable for them to squeeze more work out of fewer workers. That's what they have been doing for years.

The Gross Domestic Product is growing again. Manufacturing production increased again. But the number of people working declined.

**Jobs are not obsolete – they are being crunched together, one person doing the work of two, or even three.**

**It's not technology or globalization that stole the jobs – it's capitalists, the class that Democrats and Republicans both front for.**

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## **February 25, 1968: Anniversary Of Memorable Bullshit: A General Cuts His Throat With His Tongue**



Vietnam commander Gen. William Westmoreland meeting with Pres. Lyndon Johnson

Carl Bunin Peace History Feb 25-March 2

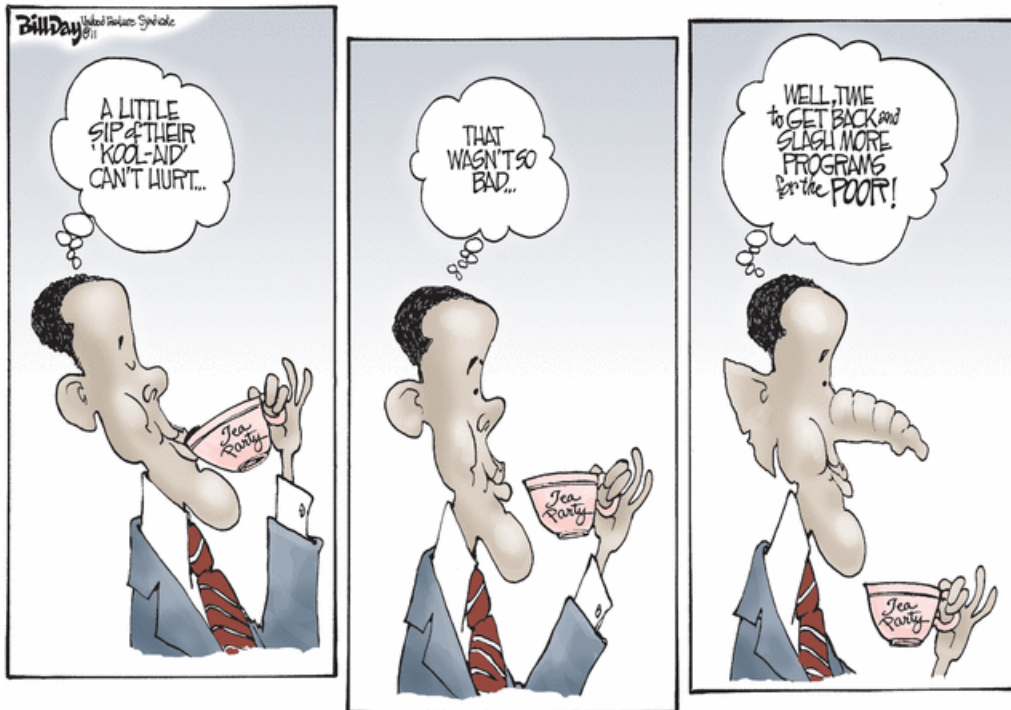
Discussing the war capacity of North Vietnam, a country that had been fighting for its independence for 23 years and had just staged the massive, successful Tet Offensive, U.S. General William C. Westmoreland stated, “I do not believe Hanoi can hold up under a long war.”

He was replaced as commander in Vietnam less than four months later.

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## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



### **NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER**

Traveling Soldier is the publication of the Military Resistance Organization.

Telling the truth - about the occupations or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance to Imperial wars inside the armed forces.

Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces.

If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>

## CLASS WAR REPORTS

# No Justice, No Pasta! Seattle Activists Act Against Wage-Stealing Boss



Pickers confront a wage-stealing employer at Bella Napoli restaurant in Seattle (Jorge Torres | SW)

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

January 17, 2011 By Jorge Torres, Socialist Worker. Becky Davis and Ryan Worswick contributed to this article.

All it took was 15 picketers, five chants and 30 minutes to make Bella Napoli Italian Restaurant owner, Ciro D'onofrio, turn off the lights, lock the doors and go home--three hours ahead of schedule on a January 14.

The Seattle Solidarity Network has been employing diverse tactics in their latest fight to win back 60 hours of unpaid wages for Becky Davis.

Becky started working for D'onofrio temporarily in September 2010 while her job at a bowling alley was put on hold when the building was being remodeled. But problems at Bella Napoli began to mount immediately.

D'onofrio was abusive and habitually yelled at her and her coworkers, often in front of customers.

Like most working people, Becky couldn't choose her preferred employer. She hated working there, but needed the money, so she stayed. When asked when D'onofrio would pay her, he told her that he liked to pay everybody at the end of the month.

One month and one week came and went without pay. Becky confronted D'onofrio about her paycheck and was accused of stealing money and a bottle of wine. Robbed of \$487, she went to the Seattle Solidarity Network.

Seattle Solidarity Network (known as SeaSol) is an all-volunteer network of working people who defend each other against abuses by bosses and landlords through collective direct action and mutual support.

Formed a little over three years ago, the group has taken on fights small and large around issues such as unpaid wages, stolen tips, unfair rent increases and unreturned deposits. Being neither an official union nor a social service, the only condition for receiving support from SeaSol is that you in turn support others with their own disputes.

It's partly this model, and simple word of mouth, that has increased SeaSol's popularity and allowed its members to win 17 of the past 20 fights they have taken up. SeaSol-inspired solidarity networks are sprouting up across the country in Boston; Portland, Ore.; Pensacola, Fla.; New York; Providence, R.I.; Santa Cruz, Calif.; and Glasgow, Scotland.

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After meeting with SeaSol, Becky and the group decided to give D'onofrio one chance to pay up. They made calls to SeaSol supporters and rounded up 32 people who packed out the restaurant to support Becky as she handed him a letter informing him that he had 14 days to pay her or actions would escalate.

Over the past two-and-a-half months, a series of actions have been called against Bella Napoli--from weekend flyering and pickets outside the restaurant averaging 30 people; to postering runs of the surrounding neighborhood asking for a boycott of Bella Napoli; to holiday cards sent to neighbors in his condo informing them that there is a thieving restaurant owner in their midst.

SeaSol's attempts to impact D'onofrio's business and reputation have been met with physical retaliation and intimidation (see the "Boss Tantrum" video online).

**D'onofrio has poured steaming hot water on picketers, spit on others, flicked a lit cigarette at the chest of another, hit one SeaSolers's head between the door and door-jam of the restaurant, thrown the sharp edge of a picket sign at the head of a picketer, kicked a picketer's cup of coffee into the street and kicked another picketer in the leg.**

**And yet the picket line has only gotten bigger, with 50 people coming out on the night of D'onofrio's pre-Christmas dinner event.**

**Only one dinner group came in to eat that night.**

As Ciro D'onofrio sat dejectedly in his empty restaurant, his closed sign up and the door locked, watching the spirited picketers get honks of support from passing cars, he spent the following 10 minutes contemplating his next move.

Chants of "Work for Ciro, get paid zero!" and "No justice, no pasta! We're gonna make it cost ya!" rang out on the street.

He and his lawyer had received a "cease and desist" letter in the mail from SeaSol earlier in the day, citing his previous acts of physical assault, harassment and

intimidation. With the pouring rain coming down, the chant, "It's cold, but we're bold, and you're the one that's gonna fold!" must have been the tipping point that sent him packing.

In Becky's words:

"The day we delivered my demand letter was one of the happiest days of my life, I felt so supported and strong. Ciro is breaking down week by week. Already, he has paid Labor and Industries a portion of my wages, although he still refuses to pay the entire amount.

"His business dwindles, while our numbers and dedication grow. With our strength and persistence, we'll continue to show bosses like Ciro that they can't get away with abusing their workers and show others that there is power in numbers and support out there if you have a similar situation. Solidarity forever!"

Crooked landlords and cheating bosses beware.

We can take you down with a little solidarity.

**Military Resistance Available In PDF Format**

If you prefer PDF to Word format, email [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org)

## **“Corporations – Especially The Larger Ones – Have Avoided Taxes As Effectively As They Have Controlled Government Expenditures To Benefit Them”**

21 February 2011 By Richard D. Wolff, Truthout [Excerpts]

Might government bias favoring corporations be deserved, a reward for taxes they pay? No: corporations – especially the larger ones – have avoided taxes as effectively as they have controlled government expenditures to benefit them.

**Compare income taxes received by the federal government from individuals and from corporations (their profits are treated as their income). The table below (in millions of dollars) is based on statistics from the Office of Management and the Budget in the White House:**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Individual Income Taxes</u>	<u>Total Corporate Income Taxes</u>
1943	6,505	9,557
1948	19,319	9,678
1968	68,726	28,665
1988	401,181	94,508
2008	1,145,747	304,346

By the 1980s, individual income taxes regularly yielded four times more than taxes on corporations' profits.

Corporations repeated at the state and local levels what they accomplished federally.

According to the US Census Bureau, corporations paid taxes on their profits to states and localities totaling \$ 24.7 billion in 1988 while individuals then paid income taxes of \$ 90.0 billion.

However, by 2009, while corporate tax payments had roughly doubled (to \$ 49.1 billion), individual income taxes had more than tripled (to \$290.0 billion).

If corporations paid taxes proportionate to the benefits they get from government and/or to what individuals pay, most US citizens would finally get the tax relief they so desperately seek.

### **Troops Invited:**

**Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email to [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.**

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