

Military Resistance 9B4



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

“We Can’t Go Back Now”

**“If We Give Up, We Will Be
Destroyed, Tossed In Jail, Beaten
To Death, Left To Die By The
Government”**

**“This Struggle Has Become A Matter
Of Life Or Death”**

**Defeating Attack By Mubarak Regime
Forces, Revolutionaries Organize The
First Embryonic Bones Of A New
Government Power In Tahrir Square**

Tahrir Square becomes “a makeshift city with security checkpoints, doctors and communications officers, and an office where protesters have brought militant government supporters to face a de facto court staffed by opposition-friendly judges”

FEBRUARY 4, 2011 By CHARLES LEVINSON And MATT BRADLEY, The Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

CAIRO—Through the early hours Thursday morning on Cairo’s central Tahrir Square, antigovernment protesters manned barricades piled high with sheet metal, torn-down street signs and the charred wreckage of cars and police vehicles.

Saad Mohammed, a 26-year-old employee in the government statistics office, stood just behind the barricade, picking his way between neat rows of fist-size rocks, waiting to be hurled.

“They came to start a civil war,” Mr. Mohammed said, referring to pro-government forces who clashed brutally with anti-regime protesters Wednesday. “The people have split. Mubarak’s speech split the country into two parts.”

“We can’t go back now,” Mr. Mohammed added. “If we give up, we will be destroyed, tossed in jail, beaten to death, left to die by the government after this. This struggle has become a matter of life or death.”

Tahrir Square, a symbolic gathering point in 10 days of protests against the regime of President Hosni Mubarak, has now turned into a military state in miniature—a makeshift city with security checkpoints, doctors and communications officers, and an office where protesters have brought militant government supporters to face a de facto court staffed by opposition-friendly judges.

Hours spent in the square late Wednesday night and throughout Thursday revealed this burgeoning community in the one part of Cairo controlled by antiregime demonstrators. The square became bloody Wednesday, when supporters of President Mubarak surged at protesters with sticks, pipes, rocks and Molotov cocktails.

Throughout Thursday, protesters here hardened their defenses, taking in donated medical supplies and, on the perimeters, donning construction hardhats, girding for what promised to be one of the most pitched protests yet.

The community on Tahrir Square appeared to spring up almost overnight, after protesters on Wednesday repelled government supporters from the square and onto a nearby overpass.

From that position, near the Egyptian Museum, the pro-Mubarak forces heaved rocks and firebombs over the protesters’ barricades, and later reportedly fired shots.

But by late Thursday, the protesters had reseeded the overpass, regaining critical high ground ahead of Friday’s clashes.

Some in the tent city worked to build barriers Thursday.

Others swept trash into piles and mopped up pools of water that had collected in the square.

Hundreds of young men guarded the square's perimeter. Some frisked new arrivals and checked identification.

Consistent with Egypt's conservative sensibilities, women and men entered the square through separate, single-file lines.

By Thursday afternoon, several dozen protesters were wearing badges made of masking tape that specified their role in their hastily assembled administration.

Doctors with medical coats wore pieces of tape bearing their names and specialties.

Other badges read "Committee for the Peoples' Protection," "Gate Security" or "Emergency." One young man, who spoke English, wore a piece of tape that read "Broadcast," which he took to mean public relations, signaling the protesters' desire to reach out to journalists.

By late Thursday night the square had added a makeshift theater, a white sheet where news was beamed. Seeing images of their own street fights, protesters cheered.

The de facto city's organizers are two 30-somethings who characterize themselves as politically unaligned and unambitious. Ahmed Naguib, 34, fell into the job of helping run the nominally leaderless "Organizational Committee" that has carved out a sort of governance here.

"If you ask now, does anybody know Ahmed Naguib, perhaps two or three people down there would know me," he said.

Mr. Naguib, whose tortoise-shell glasses and longish hair lend him the bookish aspect of a classic student revolutionary, stumbled into the movement's leadership while working as a fixer for foreign media organizations.

His better-known partner is Adham Al Suweisi, a physician whose tenure dates all the way back to the uprising's initial protests 10 days ago—a lifetime longer than Mr. Naguib, who started his job Jan. 28.

Dr. Suweisi became unofficial governor of Tahrir after stepping up to help injured protesters, creating an ad hoc first-aid station that later turned into a triage hospital. As the protesters' presence in the square grew, Dr. Suweisi's writ expanded to include security and a significant role in bolstering the front-lines against pro-Mubarak forces.

“When they need more people, we just send them their way,” he said. “They’re all volunteers...and whenever we feel weak and threatened we say, ‘Please, we need 500 people to run this way immediately.’ “

Many of the foot soldiers defending the square tied sheets of cardboard to their heads with rags as protection against incoming rocks.

Many were bandaged, treated at the square’s makeshift field hospital, where young girls in surgical gloves stitched up wounds using water bottles filled with disinfectant and clamps.

Men formed a human chain shielding them from the crowds.

There were occasional bursts of live machine-gun fire from outside the square. After one such burst, a frantic group tore through the crowd dragging a wounded protester shot in the stomach and struggling to keep his eyes open.

These men on the front lines had been driven into a frenzy. Every few minutes, protesters surged through the crowds dragging captured supporters of the regime.

Each scene was similar: The captors dragged the bloodied captive through the square, fending off angry men trying to impose mob justice.

One member of the frenzied mob swung wildly at a prisoner screaming, “You killed my brother.”

But others shouted down the mob, “Stop, stop. Islam forbids this. It commands us to show mercy to prisoners.”

Prisoners were dragged to the offices of Safir Travel, a travel bureau that the Organizational Committee has transformed into its headquarters and a makeshift interrogation room.

Two such captives were brought in at around 5 a.m. Thursday.

As they lay on the floor, bound and bleeding, their captor, a tall clean-cut spectacled man in his thirties, emptied the pockets of one and produced an ID card. It identified the prisoner as a member of the police.

The interrogator waved it in the prisoner’s face and shook him. “Why did you come here?” he shouted. “What do you want?”

A bearded older man in a suit and black loafers reclined quietly in a red chair. He is Farid Ismail, a pharmacist and Muslim Brotherhood lawmaker from 2005 until 2010. “This is the room where we try to organize and control what’s happening in the square,” Mr. Ismail said.

He pointed to a prisoner kneeling shirtless with his hands bound behind his back, crying out a string of barely intelligible admissions about his service in state security. “He’s one of the ones who was throwing Molotov cocktails at us from the bridge,” Mr. Ismail said.

After they were interrogated, the detainees were sent to the stairwell leading down to a locked gateway to Cairo's subway.

The steps serve as a makeshift detention center, where bound detainees are held before they can be turned over to the only visible government presence, the military.

It is unclear what the military does with the detainees.

Mr. Naguib said that he and Mr. Suweisi had decided to improvise the jail—to prevent the rabid crowd from tearing detainees limb from limb.

The anti-Mubarak protesters had captured more than 100 people by early Thursday morning, one of the volunteer prison guards said.

The guard, a father of two young boys, said he has seen his life turned upside down in the matter of hours and doesn't quite seem to know why.

"I came here to see a peaceful protest," he said. "And I don't know what the hell happened."

MORE:

“No Sleep — It Was A Fight All Night” “We Must Hold This Place”



Feb. 4, 2011: An Egyptian revolutionary keeps watch from the top of a building next to the Egyptian Museum near stones ready to be thrown towards Mubarak thugs who attack and kill demonstrators in Cairo's Tahrir Square. (AFP/Miguel Medina)

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

February 3, 2011 By Laura King, Los Angeles Times

Reporting from Cairo

The morning after in Tahrir Square resembled the aftermath of a hurricane: a desolate landscape of walking wounded, husks of wrecked vehicles and a scatter of random debris. Here, a rubber sandal, there a bloodied scarf, and on the periphery, a very small, very dirty kitten.

Anti-government protesters held their ground in the sprawling plaza through a violent night in which firebombs rained down and automatic weapons fire rattled.

As it grew light Thursday morning, some of the square's defenders collapsed into sleep on traffic medians or on mats spread on the filthy concrete. Underfoot was a carpet of stones. One man snored in another's lap.

Makeshift barricades, cobbled together from torn-up railings and sheets of metal, stretched across the access routes. Concrete chunks were heaped in piles, like weapons caches. The smell of smoke hung in the morning air.

"No sleep — it was a fight all night," said a hollow-eyed Ali Ahmed, a 44-year-old engineer. "We are only leaving now because our friends will come to cover for us. We must hold this place."

The protesters, in their 10th day of a battle to push President Hosni Mubarak from power, were unmoved either by the army's call for them to end their demonstrations or the longtime leader's assurances that he would not seek reelection in September. They said they expected the pro-Mubarak forces who stormed the plaza on Wednesday afternoon to return in a few hours.

A weary-looking young man and woman, Ahmed Said and Nashwa Shebil, perched on a concrete curb, sharing a single mug of steaming tea. Talking of the just-passed night, they finished one another's sentences like an old couple.

They smiled when asked about that: They had just met the day before.

"It was frightening, but we're not afraid," he said. "We want our country back," she said.

A trio of middle-aged men limped toward one of the square's exits, waiting to make their way out through a cordon manned by the protesters.

They made clear whom they blamed.

"Mubarak," said one, pointing to the bloody bandage wrapped around his head.

"Mubarak," said the second, pointing to his splinted arm.

"Mubarak," said the third, raising his trouser leg to show a bloody gash.

MORE:

“The Protesters Yesterday Turned One Of The Subway Stops (Sadat, To Name It) Into A Holding Station For Prisoners”

“Today, Friday, ‘What Is The Role Of The Army’ Is Already A Big Theme”

From: June VI [Greece]

To: Military Resistance

Subject: RE: Military Resistance 9A16: “Troops And Demonstrators” and the regime.

Date: Feb 4, 2011 4:33 AM

DAY of RETREAT---by Mubarak. Good pix.

BUT much to be learned about the Army in these last ten days. New word necessary: RITA changes from Resistance Inside the Army to Resistance of the Army (?)...whatever that will turn out to be.

Egyptian Army has a very special position both in the state apparatus AND in the eyes of the people--more than in any other country--worldwide. (Will give you my information when anyone has time for note-reading.)

An example: Wednesday when the pro Mubarak thugs were unleashed on central Cairo, the Army did not violate its promise, both implicit, individual (soldiers to civilians) NOT to fire on civilians and explicit, high ranking officer reiterated No Firing on the People--so the troops impartially let thugs into Tahrir Square, carrying machetes, clubs and knives, by leaving checkpoints unmanned, and watching while pro-mabarak thugs beat up pro-democracy people who had gotten separated from the others.

I am sure you are aware of this by now. Certainly the military was impartial: it let others rescue the pro-democracy guy being beaten, and did not stop the rescue.

For awhile, the military also stopped accepting “citizens arrested individuals” who had gotten caught separated from THEIR groups ..

The protesters yesterday turned one of the subway stops (Sadat, to name it) into a holding station for prisoners. (example of creative revolutionary assumption of power)

Today, Friday, “What is the role of the Army” is already a big theme.

Let's hope for a glorious day.

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

Resistance Action

Feb 2 (Reuters) & Feb 3 (Reuters) & Feb 4 (Reuters) & CNN

FALLUJA - Militants using silenced weapons killed a police officer at a security checkpoint in southern Falluja, 50 km (32 miles) west of Baghdad, police said.

TIKRIT - A bomb planted in front of the home of a police captain whose brother is a member of parliament seriously wounded the officer's 13-year-old son, in central Tikrit, 150 km (95 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb wounded three policemen in the Shaab district of northern Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said.

RABEA - Militants in a car killed a police captain inside his car and wounded a passenger in the northern town of Rabea, near the Syrian border, police said.

ABU GHRAIB - Nationalists opened fire at an Iraqi army checkpoint, killing two soldiers, in the district of Abu Ghraib, in western Baghdad, police said.

TAJI - Nationalists using silenced weapons killed an official of Iraq's National Intelligence Service in his car, and wounded two of his relatives, near the town of Taji, 20 km (12 miles) north of Baghdad, on Tuesday, an Interior Ministry source said.

MOSUL - Nationalists attacked and wounded an off-duty policeman near his home in southern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, late on Tuesday, police said.

RAMADI - Three bombs killed three policemen and wounded at least 12 in different areas in the Iraq's western city of Ramadi.

RAMADI - Police said five emergency police officers were killed when a bomber drove an explosive-laden vehicle and struck an emergency police patrol in central Ramadi on Thursday night.

The chief of an anti-terrorism squad was shot and killed Thursday night in central Tuz Khormato, a town north of Baghdad. The official, Captain Abbass Nuri, driving in his car with his family when attacked police said. Two of his children were killed and his father was critically wounded.

BAGHDAD - Two roadside bombs wounded four policemen in the Waziriya district of northern Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said.

BAGHDAD - Insurgents using silenced weapons killed an employee of a government bank in the Ghazaliya district of western Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said.

BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb wounded two policemen in the Mashtal district of eastern Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said.

BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb wounded a traffic police officer, in eastern Baghdad, police said.

NOT ANOTHER DAY NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR NOT ANOTHER LIFE



The remains of Army Sgt. Jose M. Cintron Rosado of Vega Alta, Puerto Rico, and Jose A. Delgado Arroyo of San Juan, Puerto Rico, upon arrival at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Jan. 5, 2011. Army Sgt. Jose M. Cintron Rosado and Army Spc. Jose A. Delgado Arroyo were killed in combat in Iraq.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Dumont Resident Killed In Afghanistan, Officials Say

February 4, 2011 BY MELISSA HAYES AND EVONNE COUTROS, The Record
STAFF WRITERS

DUMONT – Borough resident Ryan Gartner was killed this week while serving in Afghanistan, local officials said.

“Our hearts and prayers go out to Ryan and his family,” Mayor Matthew McHale said. “No one should have to suffer this loss, but he was a true patriot who served our country faithfully, loyally and compassionately.”

Gartner’s family, who could not be reached for comment, was travelling to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware, where Gartner’s body was expected to arrive Thursday, McHale said.

A spokeswoman for the Department of Defense said information on Gartner’s death, including his rank, age and branch of service, was not yet being released.

Public Works crews were removing snow banks from Walsh Drive Thursday afternoon, where Gartner’s father, stepmother and sister live. His mother lives in Texas.

Former classmates said Gartner attended Grant School, Honiss School, and Dumont High School.

He left Dumont High School before his scheduled 2005 graduation, but then enrolled in the New Jersey National Guard Challenge Youth Program at Fort Dix. He earned a GED and graduated from the program in 2004.

Gartner was serving his second tour of duty.

“We should be grateful for his service and commitment to our nation and respect, honor and commemorate the ultimate sacrifice he made,” McHale said. “Ryan embodies everything that Dumont was, is and will be.”

Australian Soldier Killed In Deh Rahwod; Another Seriously Wounded

Feb 3 AFP

An Australian soldier has been killed and another wounded by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan, the Defence Department said Thursday, upping the number of Australian troops killed in the conflict to 22.

"It's with deep and sincere regret that I must inform you that an Australian soldier... has been killed by an improvised explosive device (IED) in Afghanistan," acting chief of the defence force, Lieutenant General David Hurley told reporters in Canberra.

"A second soldier was seriously wounded in the incident."

Corporal Richard Edward Atkinson, 22, who was on his first deployment to Afghanistan, was killed on Wednesday while on patrol in Uruzgan's Deh Rahwod -- a region of southern Afghanistan at the heart of the Taliban-led insurgency.

Both men, members of the Darwin-based First Combat Engineer Regiment, were on a foot patrol with Afghan soldiers at the time of the incident.

Last year was the deadliest on record for the 1,550-strong Australian deployment in Afghanistan, with almost half of the country's total deaths since 2001.

Resistance Action



Feb. 4, 2011" A car bomb exploded outside a house owned by the police chief in the southern province of Kandahar. It's the second attack on him this week. (AP Photo/Allauddin Khan)

02 February 2011 TOLONews & 31 January 2011 TOLONews & Feb 4 By MIRWAIS KHAN, Associated Press

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – A car bomb struck outside the house of the police chief in southern Afghanistan’s largest city Friday, wounding at least two people. It was the second attack on him this week.

Chief Khan Mohammad Mujahid was inside the house but wasn’t hurt when the bomb went off.

The force of the blast blew through a compound wall surrounding the house, shattering windows and damaging parts of the building itself. It appeared to have destroyed a roof over the kitchen and a bathroom, and damaged cars parked nearby.

At least two women who were visiting the house were hurt, Mujahid said. A physician at Mirwais Hospital in Kandahar, Dr. Irsan Khan, said two other people were wounded as well.

Mujahid was the apparent target of an assassination attempt on Tuesday, when a bomb exploded near his convoy. No one was hurt in that blast.

At least two Afghan soldiers were killed on Tuesday in a bomb blast in southern Helmand province, local officials said. The incident happened yesterday in Lashkar Gah city in the capital of Helmand when their car struck a roadside bomb, said Afghan officials in the province on Wednesday. One other Afghan soldier was wounded in the incident, he added.

A bomb blast in Badghis province killed one Afghan policeman and a civilian on Sunday, local official said. The incident happened at 4:00 pm local time in the capital of Badghis province when a police car struck a roadside bomb, police officials said. Three other policemen were wounded in the incident, officials added.

Nearly 30 Afghan policemen were killed during the past week according to Ministry of Interior Affairs report.

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

**A Futile Day In A Futile War:
“The Taliban Had Left Before The
Soldiers Arrived”**

“A Collection Of Boys And Older Afghan Villagers Insisting They Did Not Know The Taliban”

February 3, 2011 By C.J. CHIVERS, The New York Times [Excerpts]

Late Tuesday morning, two American infantry platoons and an Afghan National Army team were driving along a dirt road through rural Ghazni Province, heading back to their company outpost after finishing an early-morning sweep of Ali Jan Kala, a village where the Taliban is strong. The American soldiers were riding in MATV armored vehicles and the Afghans were in an armored Humvee, picking their way along the road at modest speed.

The soldiers had spent the morning running through the open to reach compounds to search and driving along the edges of villages from which the Taliban fighters often fire rocket-propelled grenades at passing military vehicles. The operation now seemed all but over. The soldiers had left before breakfast. Lunch was a short drive away.

The village of Ali Jan Kala, which they had swept on foot, lies in a cluster of farming villages on the high steppe, elevation roughly 7,000 feet. Protected by villages to the north, an early warning system of spotters and signalers and a deep canal to the south and east that American vehicles cannot cross, it is difficult for American and Afghan soldiers to approach over land. It is, in military terms, a small safe haven for the Taliban, and only a few miles from two American bases. The soldiers of B Company have fought here before, and a variety of intelligence has shown them that the Taliban fighters often gather in Ali Jan Kala, apparently feeling secure.

Early Monday night, in a briefing for the soldiers readying for the sweep, the company had described the village in clear terms. If the Taliban were to have a forward operating base, said First Lt. Brady Hassell, who leads First Platoon, this would be it. The company's operational maps said it all. On them, Ali Jan Kala was given a nickname: Objective Smashmouth.

And so Tuesday morning's operation had initially been intense. The soldiers drove north from their outpost, looped south and approached the village from the fields. As they drew near the canal, a burst of tracer fire rose from the village, apparently as Taliban fighters signaled to each other that B Company was rushing. The trucks stopped at the edge of the canal, which was dry. With the turret gunners covering them, a mix of Afghan and American soldiers climbed out and ran across the open by bounds. They sprinted down the steep side of the canal, then up the opposite side and continued on, in the open the entire way. A few men would drop, peer down their rifle sights and cover the approach as others ran. Then the running soldiers would drop, and the others would stand and run past them.

Soon they were within the first buildings, breathing heavily in the thin air, without a shot fired.

The Taliban had left before the soldiers arrived.

Over the next two or three hours, the company searched a few compounds, a nearby gully and several pump houses, producing a common result: a shortage of young men, and a collection of boys and older Afghan villagers insisting they did not know the Taliban. One team found five military rifle rounds in a pump house out in the adjacent fields.

Captain Schwengler spoke with villagers who had gathered at a mosque. He urged them to help, noting that the Afghan and American soldiers had not entered many of the homes. And he warned the small crowd not to let the Taliban fighters shoot at the company as it turned and moved away, saying that if the company was fired upon, he would double back and search the entire village top-to-bottom.

“I want to respect you guys,” he said. “But you need to respect us and not allow the Taliban to shoot at us.”

With a light snow falling, the company collapsed, running back to its vehicles in small teams across the open again. A short while later, it rolled over the bomb that did not explode.

Now at the end of a year-long tour in Afghanistan, Captain Schwengler said that there is no explanation for this kind of luck. Twenty-five of his soldiers have been wounded in action in Ghazni Province, he said. It could have been much worse.

In November, he said, about two kilometers away, three MATVs rolled over a similar I.E.D. before the crew in the fourth vehicle noticed that the ground was smoking. The search found a dud much like the one the vehicles passed over on Tuesday.

Then he made a partial list of soldiers who had been hit by bullets in ways that did not do them permanent harm. One soldier was hit twice on the helmet, another was hit in a water bottle on his chest, a third was hit in the camera in a cargo pocket at his hip, and a fourth was hit on his first-aid kit. A fifth had a burst of bullets pass by him, tearing his pant legs but leaving only a burn mark on his calf, where the passing round had grazed him.

“If you talk about luck, we have been probably the luckiest company out here,” the captain said. Then he knocked on the wooden arm of the couch in his office. B Company still has a week left in Afghanistan. All of its platoons patrol each day.

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

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

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

**“The Events In Tunisia And
Egypt Show Us Our Own Future
As In A Mirror”**

“The System Is Breaking At Its Weakest Links”

“Maybe The Young People On The Streets Do Not Know Exactly What They Want. But They Know Precisely What They Do Not Want. And That Is Sufficient For Now”

“Everywhere The Working Class And The Youth Will Be Faced With The Same Alternative: Either We Accept The Systematic Destruction Of Our Living Standards And Rights – Or We Fight”



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

Whatever the outcome of today's protests, one thing is clear: the Egyptian Revolution has already begun.

Those sceptics and intellectual snobs who constantly harp on the alleged "low level of consciousness" of the masses now have their answer.

Those western "experts" who talked contemptuously of the Egyptians as "apathetic" and "passive" and "indifferent to politics" must now eat their words.

The masses, whether in Egypt, Iran, Britain or the USA, can only learn from experience. In a revolution, they learn much faster.

The Egyptian workers and youth have learnt more in a few days of struggle than in thirty years of "normal" existence.

Only a few months ago the President and his ruling clique imagined they had everything under control. They were so confident that they were already grooming the youngest son of Mubarak, Gamal, to occupy his father's post.

A former investment banker, Gamal was educated at the elite American University in Cairo, and worked for the Bank of America. He was heavily involved in the economic "liberalization" of Egypt, which delighted the rich while the poor suffered.

This information is sufficient to make clear his political allegiances. Last year posters were plastered across Cairo calling for Gamal to stand for president in elections scheduled for later this year.

The protesters showed their attitude towards the chosen son, chanting "Gamal, tell your father Egyptians hate you" and tearing up his picture.

With lightening speed everything has turned into its opposite.

On the streets of Cairo and other Egyptian cities people are not just talking of revolution. They are carrying out a revolution. That is now an indisputable fact.

The question is posed of who or what is to replace Mubarak's regime?

But this question is not uppermost in the minds of the protestors.

Maybe the young people on the streets do not know exactly what they want. But they know precisely what they do not want. And that is sufficient for now.

The immediate task is to carry out the overthrow of Mubarak and his rotten regime.

That will open the flood gates and allow the revolutionary people to push their way through.

They are daily discovering their strength on the streets, the importance of organization and mass mobilization. That is already a tremendous conquest.

Despite attempts by the media to play up the role of the Muslim Brotherhood, it is abundantly clear that the Islamist element has been largely absent from these protests, which have taken place under the banner of revolutionary democracy.

Now the masses have had a taste of their own power, they will not be satisfied with half-measures.

They know that what they have achieved they have conquered with their own hands.

Mohamed ElBaradei, an opposition leader and Nobel prize-winning former UN official, flew back to Egypt last night but no one believes – except perhaps the Americans – that he can become a focus for the protest movements that have sprung up across the country without the aid of any bourgeois “leader”.

Today the foreign television cameras made a feeble attempt to highlight ElBaradei’s participation on the demonstration. But all they achieved was to show pictures of a bewildered old man who scarcely seemed to know where he was or what he was doing.

The struggle for complete democracy will permit the construction of genuine trade unions and workers’ parties. But it will also pose the question of economic democracy and the fight against inequality.

Democracy would be an empty phrase if it refused to lay hands on the obscene wealth of the ruling elite.

In 1916 Lenin wrote these lines:

“Whoever expects a pure social revolution will never live to see it. Such a person pays lip service to revolution without understanding what revolution is....

“The socialist revolution in Europe cannot be anything other than an outburst of mass struggle on the part of all and sundry oppressed and discontented elements.

“Inevitably, sections of the petty bourgeoisie and of the backward workers will participate in it—without such participation, mass struggle is impossible, without it no revolution is possible—and just as inevitably will they bring into the movement their prejudices, their reactionary fantasies, their weaknesses and errors.

“But objectively they will attack capital, and the class-conscious vanguard of the revolution, the advanced proletariat, expressing this objective truth of a variegated and discordant, motley and outwardly fragmented, mass struggle, will be able to unite and direct it, capture power, seize the banks, expropriate the trusts which all hate (though for different reasons!), and introduce other dictatorial measures which in their totality will amount to the overthrow of the bourgeoisie and the victory of socialism, which, however, will by no means immediately purge itself of petty bourgeois slag.” (Lenin, *The Irish Rebellion of 1916*)

These lines could have been written yesterday.

The whole world situation has changed decisively and the events in Egypt show this in a very dramatic way.

Nowhere is the international character of the revolution clearer than in North Africa and the Middle East.

The Tunisian events were of course inspiring. People could now see with their own eyes that even the most powerful security apparatus could not prevent the overthrow of a hated dictator.

People on the streets of Cairo even imitated the French slogan of the Tunisian protesters: "Dégage, Mubarak".

Tunisia showed what was possible. But it would be entirely false to assume that this was the only, or even the main, cause.

The conditions for a revolutionary explosion had already matured in all these countries. All that was required was a single spark to ignite the powder keg.

Tunisia provided it.

The revolutionary uprising has already reached other Arab states such as Yemen.

As in Tunisia, the people of Egypt, Algeria, Jordan, and Yemen were living in poverty under dictatorial ruling elites which lived a luxurious life by plundering the nation.

These movements have striking similarities to the mass movements that led to the overthrow of the regimes in Eastern Europe.

Again, on paper these governments had a powerful state apparatus, big armies, police, and secret police.

But that did not save them.

Everywhere, including the United States, the system is in crisis. Everywhere the ruling class is trying to place the full burden of the crisis of its system on the shoulders of the poorest layers of society.

In Tunisia and Egypt the system is breaking at its weakest links.

They will tell us that such things cannot happen here, that the situation is different and so on and so forth.

Yes, the situation is different, but only in degree.

Everywhere the working class and the youth will be faced with the same alternative: either we accept the systematic destruction of our living standards and rights – or we fight.

The argument "it cannot happen here" is without any scientific or rational basis.

The same thing was said of Tunisia only a couple of months ago, when that country was considered to be the most stable in North Africa.

And the same argument was repeated in relation to Egypt even after Ben Ali was overthrown.

Just a few weeks were sufficient to expose the hollowness of those words. Such is the speed of events in our epoch.

Sooner or later the same question will be posed in every country in Europe, in Japan, in Canada, in the United States.

Revolutionary developments are on the order of the day.

The process will advance at a greater or lesser speed according to local conditions.

But no country can consider itself immune from the general process.

The events in Tunisia and Egypt show us our own future as in a mirror.

MORE:

“Basing Ourselves On The Democracy Already Achieved, And Exposing Its Incompleteness Under Capitalism, We Demand The Overthrow Of Capitalism”

V. I. Lenin, “The Revolutionary Proletariat and the Right of Nations to Self-Determination,” in Paul Le Blanc, ed., *Revolution, Democracy, Socialism, Selected Writings* (London: Pluto Press, 2006), 233–34

The proletariat cannot be victorious except through democracy, i.e., by giving full effect to democracy and by linking with each step of its struggle democratic demands formulated in the most resolute terms. . . .

We must combine the revolutionary struggle against capitalism with a revolutionary program and tactics on all democratic demands: a republic, a militia, the popular election of officials, equal rights for women, the self-determination of nations, etc.

While capitalism exists, these demands — all of them — can only be accomplished as an exception, and even then in an incomplete and distorted form.

Basing ourselves on the democracy already achieved, and exposing its incompleteness under capitalism, we demand the overthrow of capitalism, the expropriation of the bourgeoisie, as a necessary basis both for the abolition of the poverty of the masses and for the complete and all-round institution of all democratic reforms.

Some of these reforms will be started before the overthrow of the bourgeoisie, others in the course of that overthrow, and still others after it.

The social revolution is not a single battle, but a period covering a series of battles over all sorts of problems of economic and democratic reform, which are consummated only by the expropriation of the bourgeoisie.

It is for the sake of this final aim that we must formulate every one of our democratic demands in a consistently revolutionary way.

It is quite conceivable that the workers of some particular country will overthrow the bourgeoisie before even a single fundamental democratic reform has been fully achieved.

It is, however, quite inconceivable that the proletariat, as a historical class, will be able to defeat the bourgeoisie, unless it is prepared for that by being educated in the spirit of the most consistent and resolutely revolutionary democracy.

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.

**The Making Of Egypt's Revolution:
"Looking At The Calendar, Israa' And
Her Colleagues Picked The Next
Egyptian Holiday, Which Was
Ironically 'Police Day' Falling On
Tuesday, January 25"
"Within A Few Days They Called On All
Social Media Sites For Massive Protests**

And An Uprising Against The Mubarak Regime”



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

February 1, 2011 By ESAM AL-AMIN, CounterPunch [Excerpts]

Freedom lies behind a door, closed shut
It can only be knocked down with a bleeding fist
-- Egyptian Poet-Laureate Ahmad Shawqi (1869-1932)

On April 21, 2008, an assistant high school principal placed an advertisement in Al-Ahram, the largest daily newspaper in Egypt, pleading disparately with President Hosni Mubarak and his wife to intervene and release her daughter from prison.

It turned out that her 27 year-old daughter, Israa' Abd el-Fattah, was arrested 10 days earlier because of her role in placing a page on Facebook encouraging Egyptians to support a strike in the industrial city of al-Mahalla that had taken place on April 6.

In her spare time, she and two of her colleagues created the Facebook page. Within days of posting it, over 70,000 people supported their call. After the security forces cracked down against the huge riots in al-Mahalla on April 6, Abd el-Fattah was arrested.

What was odd about this arrest was that although thousands of people have been arrested over the past three decades, it was the first time that a warrant was issued against a female under the notorious emergency laws imposed in the country since 1981.

To get out of prison she had to apologize and express regret for her actions. But the experience made her more determined than ever to be politically active.

On that day, the “April 6 Youth” movement was created.

For the next two and a half years it maintained its presence and created one of the most popular political forums on several social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr.

When the president of Tunisia, Zein al-Abideen Ben Ali, was deposed on January 14, following a four week popular uprising, the April 6 movement, like millions of youth across the Arab World, was inspired, energized, and called for action.

Looking at the calendar, Israa’ and her colleagues picked the next Egyptian holiday, which was ironically “Police Day” falling on Tuesday, January 25. Within a few days they called on all social media sites for massive protests and an uprising against the Mubarak regime.

They called for marches to start from all major squares, mosques and churches in Cairo and Alexandria while asking others to help plan in other Egyptian cities. They insisted that the protests would be peaceful and that no one should bring weapons of any type.

They had four demands: that the government develops programs to address poverty and unemployment; that it would end the state of emergency and uphold judicial independence; the resignation of the interior minister whose ministry was notorious for torture and abuse of human rights; and for political reforms including the limitation of presidential terms to two, the dissolution of the parliament, and for new elections to be held after the massive elections fraud of last November.

Within a few days, over ninety thousand youth signed up and charted a comprehensive protest throughout Egypt. Initially, neither the government nor the opposition took them seriously.

In a show of force, the government assembled over two hundred thousand of its security forces surrounding the protesters throughout the country.

On the other hand, hundreds of thousands of protesters marched representing broad cross sections of society, men and women, young and old, educated and illiterate, and declared that their demonstrations were peaceful but that they were determined to press their demands.

When they could not control the crowds the police beat back the protesters using water canons, tear gas and rubber bullets.

By the end of the day there were over a dozen casualties and hundreds of injuries. This not only outraged the demonstrators, but also ignited the whole country.

Most of the protesters refused to go home and escalated the confrontation declaring an open demonstration in Liberation Square in downtown Cairo and throughout the country.

The government continued its crackdown calling for curfews in Cairo, Alexandria, and Suez from 6 PM to 6 AM.

The curfews for the following days kept getting longer until the government called for a general curfew from 3 PM to 8 AM. But each time the people simply ignored it and increased their demands, calling for total regime change and the ouster of Mubarak.

An Uprising Turns Into A Revolution

By Thursday, the organizers called for “A Day of Rage” after Friday’s congregational prayers. The next round of protests included participation by all opposition groups, the largest of which was the Muslim Brotherhood (MB). Immediately hundreds of their leaders were rounded up and detained. As millions of people across Egypt took to the street, all 350,000 security forces and police were mobilized, advancing on the protesters and turning Egyptian streets and neighborhoods into battlegrounds. By the end of the day dozens more were killed and thousands injured.

Afterwards, security forces evacuated from all the cities. Chaos and confusion ensued. Police stations and buildings belonging to the ruling party were torched.

After a four-day absence, at midnight on Friday, the 82-year old Egyptian president addressed his nation of 85 million by blaming his government, describing it as “inept,” and promising to appoint a new cabinet.

People immediately dismissed the superficial gestures and demanded an end to Mubarak’s 30-year rule.

Although by Friday the authorities had completely cut mobile phone and Internet services, the genie was already out of the bottle.

When asked by the French news service AFP, Abd el-Fattah, who has been camping with her colleagues since Tuesday in Liberation Square, said, after the government disrupted the internet, “We’ve already announced the meeting places. So we’ve done it, we no longer need means of communication.”

She continued, “We want the regime to go. We’ve been asking for reforms for 30 years and the regime has never answered or paid attention to our demands.” She then added, “It won’t just be tomorrow, but the day after and the day after that as well. We won’t stop, we won’t go home.”

Amidst the chant “the People demand the fall of the regime,” Abd el-Fattah talked to Al-Jazeera TV, which has been covering the unfolding events non-stop since it began four days earlier, and called for all opposition parties to form a transitional government. But by Saturday the regime interrupted all satellite channels including Al-Jazeera. Egyptians were now totally cut off from all means of information and communications.

By Sunday afternoon a provisional parliament, made up of the major opposition parties including the MB, the liberal Wafd, and the April 6 and Kefaya movements, met at Liberation Square and appointed a 10-member committee, headed by Dr. Elbaradei.

Their mandate was to negotiate with the regime the departure of the embattled president. The April 6 youth was disappointed since they had hoped for a formation of a transitional government rather than a committee that would initiate negotiations with the despised regime.

Despite the massive demonstrations, the total paralysis of the country, and the increasingly hardened will of the Egyptian people, President Mubarak remained arrogant, stubborn, and unmoved by his people's rage towards his regime. He also was emboldened as he received support from other authoritarians such as the King of Saudi Arabia, and the leaders of Libya and the Palestinian Authority.

As the events unfolded the regime seemed confounded and shaken.

Initially, the official news agencies in Egypt blamed some members of the ruling party and low-ranking officials. For instance the party demanded and received the resignation of Ahmad Ezz, the right-hand man of Jamal Mubarak, the president's son and undeclared heir apparent.

Ezz was a corrupt billionaire businessman who quickly rose through the party ranks and oversaw the latest fraudulent parliamentary elections where the party won 97 per cent of the seats. Just a few weeks ago, he was praised by ruling party officials for orchestrating the overwhelming victory despite more than 1500 judicial orders that overturned much of the election results, but were ignored by the government. Ezz and his family immediately left the country in his private jet.

Likewise, both of Mubarak's sons and their families left to London in their private jets. The head of the Cairo International Airport also announced that 19 private jets owned by the richest families in the country left to Dubai on Saturday.

One of these corrupt billionaires was Hussein Salem, a former intelligence officer and a close confidant of the president. Dubai airport officials declared that they seized over \$300 million in cash from him.

Salem was the head of a private energy company that teamed up with an Israeli conglomerate to secure a long-term contract to sell natural gas to Israel. In June 2008 Les Afriques reported that Egypt was subsidizing Israel with hundreds of millions of dollars every year in energy purchase.

By January 2010, the Israeli newspaper Haaretz exposed the secret and reported that Israel was in fact receiving natural gas from Egypt at a 70 per cent discount. The scandal was swept aside by the former Egyptian prime minister who refused to divulge to the parliament the terms of the contract. Subsequently when the government was sued, a judge ruled against it and invalidated the contract, which the government totally ignored.

The strategic relationship between Egypt and the U.S. was bipartisan.

When President Barak Obama was asked by the BBC during his celebrated visit to Egypt in June 2009, whether he regarded President Mubarak as an authoritarian ruler, Obama answered with an emphatic "No."

Then he spelled out the strategic value of Mubarak when he said, "He has been a stalwart ally in many respects to the United States. He has sustained peace with Israel which is a very difficult thing to do in that region."

This perceived security for Israel was key in the West's continued support of the Egyptian regime.

When Vice President Joe Biden was asked to comment about the turmoil in Egypt by Jim Lehrer of PBS, he shamelessly declared on January 27, that Mubarak was not a dictator.

Presenting the Israeli viewpoint, Biden said, "Look, Mubarak has been an ally of ours in a number of things and he's been very responsible on-- relative to geopolitical interests in the region: Middle East peace efforts, the actions Egypt has taken relative to normalizing the relationship with Israel. I would not refer to him as a dictator."

On the same day, while Egypt's security forces were killing, beating and gassing the Egyptian people by the thousands, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton offered this flimsy reaction: "Our assessment is that the Egyptian government is stable and is looking for ways to respond to the legitimate needs and interests of the Egyptian people."

Not a single U.S. government official or member of Congress condemned the Egyptian government for killing and attacking its own citizens.

When Neda Agha-Sultan was killed in Tehran in June 2009, many Western governments immediately issued world-wide condemnations blaming the Iranian government. But not so for the hundreds of Egyptians gunned down by their own government in broad daylight.

Regretting the loss of life without denouncing the culprits is a disguised attempt to cover for the crimes and protect the perpetrators.

As the Egyptian people showed determination and resilience while the embattled regime intensified its brutality, the administration tried to backtrack. President Obama offered a stark warning to Mubarak when he said on Friday evening, "Suppressing ideas never succeeds in making them go away."

Take A Stand: Either With The People Or With The Regime

The following day the President convened his National Security Council and spoke to several world leaders. He gave a statement imploring Mubarak to open the political process and engage the opposition. Britain, France, Germany, and the European Union also called for political openness as well as restraint against the demonstrators.

In an interview with CNN on Sunday January 30, Secretary Clinton, sensing the weakness of the Egyptian regime, gave implicit support to the guarded approach in handling the popular revolution when she said "What we're trying to do is to help clear the air so that those who remain in power, starting with President Mubarak, with his new vice president, with the new prime minister, will begin a process of reaching out, of

creating a dialogue that will bring in peaceful activists and representatives of civil society to, you know, plan a way forward that will meet the legitimate grievances of the Egyptian people.”

Yet all these mixed statements were not lost on the millions of protesters.

In denouncing these ambivalent stands they chanted “No to Mubarak, No to Suleiman... No to the agents of al-Amrikan (the Americans).”

So what happened over the weekend for the administration’s turnabout?

The answer to this double standard seems to be the influence of Israel and its supporters in Congress, where the new Republican Speaker John Boehner and other Republican leaders supported the administration’s ambivalent policy of not abandoning the Egyptian dictator.

It was reported on the Cairo streets that when a speech writer of President Mubarak rushed into his office and said “Mr. President; this is your farewell speech to the nation.” Mubarak remarked, “Why? Are the people leaving the country?”

This Egyptian joke captures the essence of the stalemate in the streets. Mubarak insists on staying in power regardless of any consequence, counting on his security apparatus, the army, and the implicit backing of the West.

Meanwhile, the decisive moment seems to have arrived. The protesters called for a
Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of people have flocked to Liberation Square. Politicians and party leaders, Imams and priests, judges and lawyers, former military officers and veterans, labor and farmers, professionals and the unemployed, taxi drivers and garbage collectors, young and old, women and men, families with their children, as well as prominent actors, artists, poets, movie directors, journalists, and authors have declared their support and participation in this massive march.

Egypt had never seen such unanimity in its modern history.

What A Reversal Of Fortunes!

For most of the past sixty years, the U.S. has perceived the Middle East, and the Muslim world at large, from the dual prisms of Israel and oil.

It has provided Israel with massive military aid, economic assistance, political cover and diplomatic shelter that not only denied the Palestinians their legitimate rights, but also prolonged their suffering and misery.

Furthermore, in securing its short-term interests of oil and military bases, successive U.S. administrations have favored dictatorships and repressive regimes in the name of stability at the expense of the right of self-determination to the people of the area.

Thirty-two years ago the U.S. lost Iran and has ever since been in a contentious relationship with it for its refusal to admit its role in maintaining the regime of the Shah.

It is doubtful whether the U.S. government has learned that lesson and whether it would be willing now to clearly and completely side with the people or respect their will to be free and independent.

In his farewell address of 1796, George Washington warned his countrymen and women against the “passionate attachment” to a foreign country and advised them that “against the insidious wiles of foreign influence . . . the jealousy of a free people ought to be constantly awake, since history and experience prove that foreign influence is one of the most baneful foes of republican government.”

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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

Obama Says He Will Resend Message To Mubarak, This Time In All Caps

February 3, 2011 (The Borowitz Report) [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON – Concerned that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak did not receive his message to begin a peaceful transition to democratic reforms, President Barack Obama said today that he would resend the message “but this time in all caps.”

Mr. Obama said that while he hoped sending a capitalized version of the message would be effective, “we have a variety of other options at our disposal, including resending it in bold.”

In the days since it became clear that Mr. Mubarak did not receive the White House’s initial message, Mr. Obama has been huddling with advisors to discuss a range of more drastic options, including changing the message’s font altogether.

“We are fully prepared to go to a stronger font if that will help make our point to Mubarak,” said one aide who spoke on condition of anonymity. “Right now every font is on the table except Comic Sans.”

RECEIVED:

Reader Disagrees With “Hint”

[This letter refers to the graphic below the letter, from issue 9B3. T]

From: Judith Karpova
To: Military Resistance
Subject: Military Resistance 9B3: Good Advice From A Soldier
Date: Feb 3, 2011 1:17 PM

Just a comment, the anti-Vietnam war movement in England was brought to a halt by the suggestion that ball bearings or marbles be used on horses the police rode. There’s a very strong animal rights movement there and in many countries, including here in the US; people don’t want to see animals injured because of who is riding them.

I agree with this. It is very brutalizing to hurt an animal, they are like children, they are innocent creatures. I would rather be injured by a deluded policeman than injure his/her horse. I ask you to think about retracting that “Hint.”

Best, and thanks for the amazing coverage of Egypt, the best I’ve seen.

[Graphic referenced:]



[Hint: Try ball bearings or marbles under their feet: horses stop in fear and/or go down. Same for camels.]

Cairo: Feb. 2, 2011: Man takes down one of Mubarak's police beating the protesters.
Getty Images

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Traveling Soldier is the publication of the Military Resistance Organization.

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

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

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

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

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