

## **Military Resistance 9B5**

# **The Touching: Friendly Hands Reach Out On Both Sides:**

## **An Anti-Dictatorship Revolutionary Argues To Convince Egyptian Soldiers Not To Remove Opposition Barricades**



An anti-dictatorship revolutionary argues to convince the soldiers not to remove opposition barricades next to the Egyptian Museum at an entrance to Tahrir square in Cairo, Egypt, Feb. 5, 2011. At the end of the day, the barricades were still standing. (AP Photo/Ben Curtis)

## The Soldiers Halted Their Tanks



Egyptian anti-government protesters keep army tanks from moving at Tahrir Square in Cairo February 5, 2011. The army brought the tanks in order to bring down the barricades but the soldiers stopped moving the tanks forward. (AFP/Patrick Baz)

**MORE:**

## GENERAL, YOUR TANK IS A POWERFUL VEHICLE

By Bertolt Brecht

It smashes down forests and crushes a hundred men.  
But it has one defect:  
It needs a driver.

General, your bomber is powerful.  
It flies faster than a storm and carries more than an elephant.  
But it has one defect:  
It needs a mechanic.

General, man is very useful.  
He can fly and he can kill.  
But he has one defect:  
He can think.

**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

**“Liberated Territory”**  
**“People In The New Group Were  
Welcomed With Cheers And  
Embraces And They, Too,  
Began Marching Behind The  
Women's Procession”**  
**“All Along The Main Path,  
Protesters Formed A Welcoming  
Committee, Praising Their  
Compatriots For Their Bravery”**  
**"Welcome," The Protesters Said, "To  
Liberated Territory"**  
**"The People Want The Fall Of The  
Regime!"**

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

February 4, 2011 By Hannah Allam, McClatchy Newspapers

CAIRO, Egypt — Dozens of Egyptian women spilled out of a mosque in the Dokki neighborhood Friday, only their eyes visible from black veils that flapped in the breeze.

Marching in formation, they set off for downtown Cairo, where they hoped to join hundreds of thousands of protesters in Tahrir Square who were calling for the removal of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

**When pro-Mubarak youths jeered at them from a balcony overhead, the women raised their voices louder.**

**"Go home!" the youths yelled at the women, who replied by chanting, "He's leaving! We're not leaving!"**

**The three dozen or so women, who had met for their regular Quranic study group, trekked about a mile toward a bridge on the Nile, their numbers swelling as people in nearby apartment buildings rushed down to join them.**

Two men carrying boxes of water bottles fell in step. So did an unveiled woman with a large bag of croissants and a white-coated doctor with a load of bandages and gauze.

Down a side street, another group of hundreds of marchers advanced, waving Egyptian flags.

The veiled women and their followers froze and braced for a showdown, thinking the other demonstrators were Mubarak supporters. That was until the other marchers got close enough for the women to make out their chant: "The people want the fall of the regime!"

"It's OK, it's OK; they're with us!" a man yelled. People in the new group were welcomed with cheers and embraces and they, too, began marching behind the women's procession.

As the women from the Dokki mosque headed toward the square, others from across the sprawling city also were under way, small streams that merged into a river of people.

Across the bridge, military tanks blocked a main road into the square and the women's impromptu parade disintegrated, as men and women were directed to separate search areas.

**"Get out your IDs!" an Egyptian soldier shouted.**

**"And get out your foreign agendas, too!" a man shouted in response, drawing laughter from both soldiers and protesters. He was referring to the assertion by government officials that shadowy external powers had infiltrated the demonstrations to serve foreign interests.**

State television Thursday went so far as to claim that Israeli and American intelligence had fomented the uprising. The protesters threw back the accusations in a chant

directed at the president: "Mubarak, you spy! Mubarak, you agent! You're a slave to Israel and America!"

After the soldiers' checkpoint, the women encountered a six-tier search system that protesters had set up for everyone entering the square at that point. The women, who numbered far fewer than men, zipped through easily. Women volunteers rummaged through purses and conducted full-body pat downs of all female protesters.

The men's lines stretched for at least a block, and they'd packed for the trenches. Some of them wore construction-style hard hats to protect against flying stones, and others carried boxes of supplies such as canned food, bread, water and juice.

**Nearer to the square, there were men who bore scars from Wednesday's fierce clashes: an arm in a sling, a bandaged head, black eyes, and torsos wrapped in bloodstained gauze. The injured were treated as heroes by many protesters, who greeted them with the Arabic equivalent of, "Thank God you made it."**

The veiled women, still chanting, finally made it through the search.

All along the main path, protesters formed a welcoming committee, praising their compatriots for their bravery. The women and other new arrivals flashed the peace sign and exchanged hugs and greetings with other protesters.

Calling "God is great!" the women edged their way into the mass of kindred spirits who'd reclaimed the square after fighting a bloody battle against government-allied mobs.

"Welcome," the protesters said, "to liberated territory."



Tahrir Square in Cairo February 1, 2011: Citizens react to a speech by the dictator Mubarak, who said on Tuesday he will not leave office. A mummy representing Mubarak hangs by the neck upper left. REUTERS/Dylan Martinez

MORE:

**“A Retired Egyptian Army General Told BBC The Military Was Losing Patience With Mubarak, And Would Open Fire At Regime Loyalists If There Were Fresh Attacks On Protesters”**

**“A Group Of Soldiers Appeared On The Bridge, And Cleared The Pro-Mubarak Crowd”**



**An Egyptian Army armored personnel carrier orders pro-Mubarak supporters, right, intent on provoking the situation, to leave, next to the Egyptian Museum at an entrance to Tahrir square in Cairo, Egypt Feb. 5, 2011. (AP Photo/Ben Curtis)**

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

3 February 2011 Peter Beaumont and Jack Shenker in Cairo, Guardian News and Media Limited [Excerpts]

The Egyptian army intervened this morning in a belated attempt to end the violence that flared overnight in central Cairo as supporters of President Hosni Mubarak attacked anti-government protesters.

A small group of soldiers cleared about 1,000 pro-government loyalists from a flyover in Tahrir Square, where they had been throwing stones at anti-government protesters below.

The intervention came as a retired Egyptian army general told the BBC the military was losing patience with the embattled Mubarak, and would open fire at regime loyalists if there were fresh attacks on protesters.

The general, who said he had spoken with tank crews in Tahrir Square, said he believed the military would move very soon against the president, possibly as soon as tomorrow.

Pro-democracy protesters succeeded in holding Tahrir, their main rallying point throughout the 10-day uprising, but about 1,000 pro-Mubarak militants continued to mass on the flyover.

At about 9.50am local time, however, a group of soldiers appeared on the bridge, and cleared the pro-Mubarak crowd. One warning shot was fired, but most of the loyalists left after speaking with the soldiers.

An army tank was parked where the crowd had been and four other tanks took up position between the pro-Mubarak forces and the largest group of anti-government demonstrators at the north end of the square near the Egyptian museum.

"Where have you been, this government is killing us," appealed Wael Abdel Aziz, a pharmacist camped out in Tahrir. A second man, who would give his name only as Osama, added: "Mubarak decided to kill the Egyptian people. He is treating us like insects, trying to crush us."

**MORE:**

**“‘I’m Fighting For My Freedom,’ Noha Al-Ustaz Said As She Broke Bricks On The Curb”  
“For My Right To Express Myself. For An End To**

**Oppression. For An End To  
Injustice”**  
**“‘Go Forward,’ The Cries Rang  
Out, And She Did, Disappearing  
Into A Sea Of Men”**  
**“Words Like ‘Uprising’ And  
‘Revolution’ Only Hint At The Scale  
Of Events In Egypt”**  
**“Governments And Their Security  
Forces Are Afraid Of The People Now”**

**For decades, the Arab world has waited for a savior — be it Gamal Abdel-Nasser, the charismatic Egyptian president, or even, for a time, Saddam Hussein.**

**No one was waiting for a savior on Wednesday.**

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

February 2, 2011 By ANTHONY SHADID, New York Times [Excerpts]

CAIRO — The future of the Arab world, perched between revolt and the contempt of a crumbling order, was fought for in the streets of downtown Cairo on Wednesday.

Tens of thousands of protesters who have reimagined the very notion of citizenship in a tumultuous week of defiance proclaimed with sticks, home-made bombs and a shower of rocks that they would not surrender their revolution to the full brunt of an authoritarian government that answered their calls for change with violence.

The Arab world watched a moment that suggested it would never be the same again — and waited to see whether protest or crackdown would win the day.

Words like “uprising” and “revolution” only hint at the scale of events in Egypt, which have already reverberated across Yemen, Jordan, Syria and even Saudi Arabia, offering a new template for change in a region that long reeled from its own sense of stagnation.

“Every Egyptian understands now,” said Magdi al-Sayyid, one of the protesters.



**The protesters have spoken for themselves to a government that, like many across the Middle East, treated them as a nuisance.**

For years, pundits have predicted that Islamists would be the force that toppled governments across the Arab world.

But so far, they have been submerged in an outpouring of popular dissent that speaks to a unity of message, however fleeting — itself a sea change in the region's political landscape.

In the vast panorama of Tahrir Square on Wednesday, Egyptians were stationed at makeshift barricades, belying past dismissals of the power of the Arab street.

"The street is not afraid of governments anymore," said Shawki al-Qadi, an opposition lawmaker in Yemen, itself roiled by change.

"It is the opposite. Governments and their security forces are afraid of the people now.

"The new generation, the generation of the Internet, is fearless. They want their full rights, and they want life, a dignified life."

The power of Wednesday's stand was that it turned those abstractions into reality.

**The battle was waged by Mohammed Gamil, a dentist in a blue tie who ran toward the barricades of Tahrir Square.**

**It was joined by Fayeqa Hussein, a veiled mother of seven who filled a Styrofoam container with rocks.**

**Magdi Abdel-Rahman, a 60-year-old grandfather, kissed the ground before throwing himself against crowds mobilized by a state bent on driving them from the square.**

**And the charge was led by Yasser Hamdi, who said his 2-year-old daughter would live a life better than the one he endured. "Aren't you men?" he shouted. "Let's go!"**

**As the crowd pushed back the government's men, down a street of airline offices, banks and a bookstore called L'Orientaliste, Mr. Abdel-Rahman made the stakes clear.**

**"They want to take our revolution from us," he declared.**

The Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's largest opposition force, has entered the fray. In a poignant moment, its followers knelt in prayer at dusk, their faces lighted by the soft glow of burning fires a stone's throw away.

But Mr. Abdel-Rahman's description of the uprising as a revolution suggested that the events of the past week had overwhelmed even the Brotherhood, long considered the sole agent of change here.

**“Dignity” was a word often used Wednesday, and its emphasis underlined the breadth of a movement that is, so far, leaderless.**

**Neither the Brotherhood nor a handful of opposition leaders — men like Mohammed ElBaradei or Ayman Nour — have managed to articulate hopelessness, the humiliations at the hands of the police and the outrage at having too little money to marry, echoed in the streets of Palestinian camps in Jordan and in the urban misery of Baghdad’s Sadr City.**

For many, the Brotherhood itself is a vestige of an older order that has failed to deliver.

Months ago, despair at the prospect of change in the Arab world was commonplace.

**Protesters on Wednesday acted as though they were making a last stand at what they had won, in an uprising that is distinctly nationalist.**

**“He won’t go,” President Hosni Mubarak’s supporters chanted on the other side.**

**“He will go,” went the reply. “We’re not going to go.”**

The word “traitor” rang out Wednesday. The insult was directed at Mr. Mubarak, and it echoed the sentiment heard in so many parts of the Arab world these days — governments of an American-backed order in most of the region have lost their legitimacy, built on the idea that people would surrender their rights for the prospect of security and stability.

In the square on Wednesday, protesters offered an alternative, their empowerment standing as possibly the most remarkable legacy of a people who often lamented their apathy.

Everyone seemed joined in the moment, fists, batons and rocks banging any piece of metal to rally themselves.

A man stood on a tank turret, urging protesters forward.

Another cried as he shouted at Mr. Mubarak’s men. “Come here!” he said. “Here is where’s right.”

Men and women ferried rocks in bags, cartons and boxes to the barricades. Bassem Yusuf, a heart surgeon, heard news of the clashes on television and headed to the square at dusk, stitching wounds at a makeshift clinic run by volunteers.

“We’re not going to destroy our country,” said Mohammed Kamil, a 48-year-old, surging with the crowd. “We’re not going to let this dog make us do that.”

**From minute-by-minute coverage on Arabic channels to conversations from Iraq to Morocco, the Middle East watched breathlessly at a moment as compelling as any in the Arab world in a lifetime.**

**For the first time in a generation, Arabs seem to be looking again to Egypt for leadership, and that sense of destiny was voiced throughout the day.**

"I tell the Arab world to stand with us until we win our freedom," said Khaled Yusuf, a cleric from Al Azhar, a once esteemed institution of religious scholarship now beholden to the government. "Once we do, we're going to free the Arab world."

**For decades, the Arab world has waited for a savior — be it Gamal Abdel-Nasser, the charismatic Egyptian president, or even, for a time, Saddam Hussein.**

**No one was waiting for a savior on Wednesday.**

**Before nearly three decades of accumulated authority — the power of a state that can mobilize thousands to heed its whims — people had themselves.**

**"I'm fighting for my freedom," Noha al-Ustaz said as she broke bricks on the curb. "For my right to express myself. For an end to oppression. For an end to injustice."**

**"Go forward," the cries rang out, and she did, disappearing into a sea of men.**

**MORE:**

## **Saturday: "Some Activists Say The Military Could Be Looking To Stage A 'Soft Coup'"**

**"Waiting For The Pro-Democracy  
Protest Movement To Lose Steam"  
Top Military Commanders Run A Wide  
Variety Of Businesses With "Billions Of  
Dollars In Annual Revenue"**

05 Feb 2011 Al Jazeera and agencies

Demonstrators are standing their ground in Cairo a day after hundreds of thousands of people gathered to call for Hosni Mubarak, the Egyptian president, to quit.

The protests entered their twelfth day on Saturday, after the city's Tahrir Square, the focal point of protests in Egypt, saw demonstrators observe a "Day of Departure" on Friday.

About 10,000 pro-democracy protesters also gathered outside the main train station in Egypt's second city, Alexandria, Al Jazeera's correspondent there reported.

The leadership of the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) resigned en masse on Saturday, according to state television.

**Frank Wisner, who has acted as an envoy for Barack Obama, the US president, by carrying a message to Mubarak, has said the Egyptian president "must stay in office to steer" a process of gathering "national consensus around the preconditions" for the way forward.**

**PJ Crowley, the US state department's spokesman, has said, however, that Wisner was speaking as a private citizen, and that his views did not represent those of the US government.**

"The views he expressed today are his own. He did not coordinate his comments with the US government," Crowley said.

Saturday's protests in Cairo were calm, and protesters were seen lighting campfires across the square as night drew in.

One of Al Jazeera's correspondents in Cairo said there were about 10,000 people in Tahrir Square and queues of people trying to get in.

About 500 people joined the protesters from the port city of Suez.

**"The army is still securing the square, but their agenda appears to be isolating the protesters - keeping them safe, yes, but also minimising their impact on the surrounding areas," our correspondent said.**

At one point, General Hassan El-Rawani, the head of the army's central command, entered the square and appealed to protesters to leave.

They responded with chants of "We are not leaving, he (Mubarak) is leaving!"

Protest organisers have now called for a "Day of the Martyred" to be observed in honour of those who have died in the protests so far, while Copts in Egypt have called for Sunday prayers this week to be observed in Tahrir Square.

**Security in the square remains tight, with the military engaging in negotiations with protesters to dismantle some of the barricades that they had put up.**

**Another of our correspondents reported that soldiers had formed a line inside the square, around 100 metres beyond the museum barricade, and are separating the protesters inside the square from those manning the barricade.**

"If I had to guess, I'd say the plan is to limit the number of protesters who can get to the museum barricade and then disassemble it, so that the army can regain control of that entrance," he said.

"It looked like there might've been some altercation there; protesters were hopping over the barricades to the outside.

"They've now formed their own human chain, facing outward, along the exterior of the barricade."

Friday's "Day of Departure" commenced after afternoon prayers, and saw huge numbers also gather in the cities of Alexandria, Mahalla and Giza.

Protests continued into the night, in defiance of a curfew that has not been observed since it was first announced last week.

The newly relaxed curfew now runs from 7pm to 6am local time, according to state television.

One protester in Cairo told Al Jazeera that demonstrations will continue until Mubarak steps down.

"It's either death, or freedom," he said.

**Ahmed Shafiq, Egypt's new prime minister, however, said on Friday that Mubarak would not be handing over powers to Omar Suleiman, the vice-president, before the September elections.**

In statements carried by the official MENA news agency, Shafiq "ruled out" an early exit for Mubarak.

"We need President Mubarak to stay for legislative reasons," he said.

On Friday, Al Jazeera's offices in Cairo were attacked by "gangs of thugs", according to a statement from the network. The office was burned, along with the equipment inside it.

**Security forces also earlier broke into the headquarters of the Muslim Brotherhood's website and arrested 12 journalists there, Al Masry Al Youm, the country's largest independent newspaper, and the Associated Press reported on Friday.**

**Human Rights Watch, an international rights organisation, said in a statement on Friday that of more than 30 people arrested on Thursday, international activists had been released, but that Egyptian nationals remained in custody.**

Amnesty International, the international human rights group, meanwhile, has said that two of its employees have been missing since last Thursday.

The military has been a central pillar of the Egyptian state since 1952, when the "Free Officers" movement overthrew the monarchy. All four of Egypt's post-revolutionary presidents were former military officers, and more than half of the country's 29 governors have military backgrounds as well.

**The military runs a wide variety of businesses – hotels, construction firms, factories – a portfolio which gives it control of a double-digit percentage of**

**Egypt's economy. That means billions of dollars in annual revenue, an economic base that has propelled some senior members of the army into the ranks of the Egyptian elite.**

**It is a deeply entrenched interest, in other words, a source of wealth for some officers and employment for hundreds of thousands of Egyptians. The arrangement lasted for decades because the country's political leadership is so closely linked to the armed forces.**

"The military has been a primary beneficiary of this political order and have not had to intervene overtly in politics until now because the system worked relatively well under a brother officer," said Steven Cook, an expert on Egypt at the US-based Council on Foreign Relations.

Some activists say the military could be looking to stage a "soft coup" – consolidating its power behind the scenes, maintaining a tense calm downtown, and waiting for the pro-democracy protest movement to lose steam.

"They're just playing for time," said Mohammed Hassan in Tahrir Square on Friday, watching the crowd of soldiers lined up outside.

**MORE:**

**“Most Of The Protesters Fear That  
If They Leave The Square They  
Will Immediately Be Arrested,  
Along With Their Families”  
“Already, There Are Dark Reports Of  
Demonstrators Who Dared To Return  
Home And Disappeared”  
The Army Chief Of Staff Visits Tahrir  
Square**

5 February 2011 By Robert Fisk, Independent.co.uk [Excerpts]

There was more sniping into Tahrir Square during the night – an engineer, a lawyer and another young man were killed – and plain-clothes police were again discovered in the square.

There were further minor stone-throwing battles during the day, despite the vastly increased military presence, and most of the protesters fear that if they leave the square they will immediately be arrested, along with their families, by Mubarak's cruel state security apparatus.

Already, there are dark reports of demonstrators who dared to return home and disappeared.

The Egyptian writer Mohamed Fadel Fahmy, who is involved in the committee discussions, is fearful for himself. "We're safe as long as we have the square," he said to me yesterday, urging me to publish his name as a symbol of the freedom he demands.

"If we lose the square, Mubarak will arrest all the opposition groups – and there will be police rule as never before. That's why we are fighting for our lives."

The state security police now have long lists of names of protesters who have given television interviews or been quoted in newspapers, Facebook postings and tweets.

[Y]esterday morning, to the shock of all of us standing on the western side of the square, a convoy of 4x4s with blackened windows suddenly emerged from the gardens of the neighbouring Egyptian Museum, slithered to a halt in front of us and was immediately surrounded by a praetorian guard of red-bereted soldiers and massive – truly gigantic – security guards in shades and holding rifles with telescopic sights.

Then, from the middle vehicle emerged the diminutive, bespectacled figure of Field Marshal Mohamed Hussein Tantawi, the chief of staff of the Egyptian army and a lifelong friend of Mubarak, wearing a soft green military kepi and general's cross-swords insignia on his shoulders.

Here was a visitor to take the breath away, waving briefly to the protesters who crowded the military cordon to witness this extraordinary arrival.

The crowd roared. "The Egyptian army is our army," they shouted in unison. "But Mubarak is not ours."

It was a message for Tantawi to take back to his friend Mubarak, but his visit was itself a powerful political symbol.

**MORE:**

## **A Regime General Kisses Heads, Pinches Cheeks, Winks, And Knocks Down Some Tahrir Square Barricades Quickly Put Back:**

# **“He Wants To Tear Down These Barricades, So That The Tanks Can Come Through!”**

## **“The Military Tightened Its Cordon Around The Protesters”**

February 5, 2011 By KAREEM FAHIM, MARK LANDLER and ANTHONY SHADID, New York Times [Excerpts]

CAIRO — The United States and leading European nations on Saturday threw their weight behind Egypt’s vice president, Omar Suleiman, backing his attempt to defuse a popular uprising without immediately removing President Hosni Mubarak from power.

American officials said Mr. Suleiman had promised them an “orderly transition” that would include constitutional reform and outreach to opposition groups.

“That takes some time,” Secretary of State Hilary Rodham Clinton said, speaking at a Munich security conference. “There are certain things that have to be done in order to prepare.”

“America doesn’t understand,” said Ibrahim Mustafa, 42, who was waiting to enter Tahrir Square. “The people know it is supporting an illegitimate regime.”

**Protesters also said that Western worries about security and orderly transitions sounded remarkably like Mr. Mubarak’s age-old excuses for postponing change. And they said they had waited long enough.**

“We don’t want Omar Suleiman to take Mubarak’s place. We are not O.K. with this regime at all,” said Omar el-Shawy, a young online activist. “We want a president who is a civilian.”

**In Tahrir Square, meanwhile, the military tightened its cordon around the protesters by reinforcing security checks at all the entrances.**

**An army officer, Brig. Gen. Hassan al-Rawaini, negotiated with protesters outside a barricade near the Egyptian Museum, urging them to bring down the fortifications, allow traffic to return and move their protest to the heart of Tahrir Square.**

**In contrast to the pitched clashes of just days ago, General Rawaini offered a microphone to protesters so that they could air their complaints. He tried to reason, kissing some on the head and pinching others’ cheeks.**

**Occasionally, he winked.**



Eventually, he and his soldiers moved past the makeshift barricade, knocking part of it down, though protesters quickly put back up the sheets of corrugated tin, barrels, metal rebar and parts of fences.

He then toured an area strewn with rocks from the clashes and incinerated vehicles that served as barricades.

Some protesters thought he was preparing for the army to enter and began forming human chains across the streets.

“He wants to tear down these barricades, so that the tanks can come through!” shouted Sayyid Eid, a 20-year-old protester, as he tried to block his way.

**MORE:**

## **While Mubarak Regime Holds On In Cairo, Another Shoe Is Dropping: “Enormous Anti-Mubarak Demonstrations Have Also Been Reported In Major Cities Across The Country”**

February 5, 2011 IPS/Inter Press Service [Excerpts]

The popular uprising, now in its 12th consecutive day, shows no sign of letting up. Police and armed thugs have attacked anti-government demonstrators with rocks, swords, teargas and, at times, live ammunition. UN officials estimate that over 300 Egyptians have been killed, and thousands injured in clashes since the uprising began Jan. 25.

Yet Friday’s turnout of anti-regime protesters in Cairo’s Tahrir Square may have exceeded the record crowds during last Tuesday’s ‘March of the Million’.

Enormous anti-Mubarak demonstrations have also been reported in major cities across the country.

**MORE:**

## **How Mubarak’s Assassins Organized The Attack On The Citizens At Tahrir Square:**

# [The Story Behind The Story]

February 04, 2011 By Esam Al-Amin, "Counterpunch" [Excerpts]

**“There are decades when nothing happens; and there are weeks when decades happen.”**

**--V. I. Lenin (1870-1924)**

**“Victory is accomplished through the perseverance of the last hour.”**

**--Prophet Muhammad (570-632 AD)**

According to the CIA's declassified documents and records, senior CIA operative, Kermit Roosevelt, paid \$100,000 to mobsters in Tehran, in early August 1953, to hire the most feared thugs to stage pro-Shah riots.

Other CIA-paid men were brought weeks later, on August 19, into Tehran in buses and trucks to take over the streets, topple the democratically elected Iranian government, and restore Shah Reza Pahlavi to his throne.

**This lesson was not lost on the minds of a small clique of officials who were meeting in desperation in the afternoon of Monday, Jan. 31, 2011, in Cairo.**

**According to several sources including former intelligence officer Col. Omar Afifi, one of these officials was the new Interior minister, Police Gen. Mahmoud Wagdy, who as the former head of the prison system, is also a torture expert.**

**He asked Hosni Mubarak, the embattled president to give him a week to take care of the demonstrators who have been occupying major squares around the country for about a week.**

Not only he had to rapidly reconstitute his security forces, which were dispersed and dejected in the aftermath of the massive demonstrations engulfing the country, but he also had to come up with a quick plan to prevent the total collapse of the regime.

The meeting included many security officials including Brig. Gen. Ismail Al-Shaer, Cairo's security chief, as well as other security officers. In addition, leaders of the National Democratic Party (NDP)- the ruling party- including its Secretary General and head of the Consultative Assembly (upper house of Parliament), Safwat El-Sherif, as well as Parliament Speaker, Fathi Sorour, were briefed and given their assignments. Similarly, the retained Minister of Information, Anas Al-Feky, was fully apprised of the plan.

By the end of the meeting each was given certain tasks to regain the initiative from the street; to end or neutralize the revolution; and to defuse the most serious crisis the regime has ever faced in an effort to ease the tremendous domestic and international pressures being exerted on their president.

They knew that eyes around the world would be focused on the massive demonstrations called for by the youth leading the popular revolution while promising million-strong marches on Tuesday, Feb. 1.

**True to their promise the pro-democracy groups drew a remarkable eight million people (ten percent of the population) throughout Egypt on that day.**

**People from every age, class, and walk of life assembled and marched in every province and city by the hundreds of thousands: two million in Tahrir Square in Cairo, one million in Martyrs Square in Alexandria, 750 thousand in downtown Mansoura, and a quarter million in Suez, just to name a few.**

It was an impressive show of strength. This time, they demanded not only the immediate removal of Mubarak but also the ouster of the whole regime.

### **An Evil Plan Devised**

As the fierce determination of the Egyptian people to remove their autocratic president became apparent, governments around the world began pressuring Mubarak to step down and be replaced by his newly appointed Vice President, the former head of intelligence, Gen. Omar Suleiman.

President Barak Obama, for example, dispatched over the last weekend former U.S. Ambassador, Frank Wisner, a close friend to Mubarak to deliver such warning.

Western governments have been alarmed by the deterioration of the situation in Egypt and were trying to give their preferred candidate, Gen. Suleiman, the upper hand before events favor another candidate that might be less amenable to Israel and the West, and therefore shift the strategic balance of powers in the region.

On Saturday Jan. 29, The National Security Council advised the president to ask Mubarak in no uncertain terms to immediately step down. However, Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel and King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, whom the president consulted, strenuously objected and pleaded for time to allow Mubarak to stay in power at least until he finishes his term in September.

**Meanwhile, the last touches of a crude plan to abort the protests and attack the demonstrators were being finalized in the Interior Ministry.**

In the mean time, the leaders of the NPD met with the committee of forty, which is a committee of corrupt oligarchs and tycoons, who have taken over major sections of Egypt's economy in the last decade and are close associates to Jamal Mubarak, the president's son.

The committee included Ahmad Ezz, Ibrahim Kamel, Mohamad Abu el-Enein, Magdy Ashour and others.

**Each businessman pledged to recruit as many people from their businesses and industries as well as mobsters and hoodlums known as Baltagies – people who are paid to fight and cause chaos and terror.**

Abu el-Enein and Kamel pledged to finance the whole operation.

**Meanwhile, the Interior Minister reconstituted some of the most notorious officers of his secret police to join the counter-revolutionary demonstrators slated for Wednesday, with a specific plan of attack the pro-democracy protesters.**

About a dozen security officers, who were to supervise the plan in the field, also recruited former dangerous ex-prisoners who escaped the prison last Saturday, promising them money and presidential pardons against their convictions.

This plan was to be executed in Cairo, Alexandria, Suez, Port Said, Damansour, Assiut, among other cities across Egypt.

By Tuesday evening, Mubarak gave a speech in response to the massive demonstrations of the day. He pledged not to seek a sixth term, while attacking the demonstrators and accusing them of being infiltrated, in an indirect reference to the Muslim Brotherhood. Nevertheless, he pledged to complete his term and that he would not leave under pressure.

He ended his 10 minute address by giving his nation a grave warning that the situation was extremely dangerous, and that the country would face either "stability or chaos," presenting himself as the embodiment of the former.

Leaders of the pro-democracy demonstrators immediately rejected his characterization and insisted that he leave power.

**Shortly after the besieged president's address to his nation around midnight on Tuesday, the baltagies were unleashed on the pro-democracy demonstrators in Alexandria and Port Said beating and clubbing them in a rehearsal for what was to come the following day at Tahrir Square.**

Tahrir or Liberation Square has been the center of action in Cairo throughout the protests. It's the largest square in the country located in downtown Cairo where millions of demonstrators have been gathering since Jan. 25.

Eight separate entrances lead to it including the ones from the American Embassy and the famous Egyptian museum.

**Around 2 PM on Wednesday Feb. 2, the execution of the plan of attack ensued in earnest.**

**Over three thousand baltagies attacked from two entrances with thousands of rocks and stones thrown at the tens of thousands of peaceful demonstrators gathered in the square, while most attackers had shields to defend themselves against the returning rocks.**

While a few were armed with guns, all baltagies were armed with clubs, machetes, razors, knives or other sharp objects.

After about an hour of throwing stones, the second stage of the attacks proceeded as dozens of horses and camels came charging at the demonstrators in a scene reminiscent of the battles of the middle ages.

**The pro-democracy people fought back by their bare hands, knocking them from their rides and throwing their bodies at them. They subsequently apprehended over three hundred and fifty baltagies, turning them over to nearby army units.**

**They confiscated their IDs which showed that most assailants were either NDP members or from the secret police. Others confessed that they were ex-cons who were paid \$10 to beat up the demonstrators. The camel and horse riders confessed to have been paid \$70 each.**

The third stage of the attack came about three hours later when dozens of assailants climbed the roofs in nearby buildings and threw hundreds of Molotov cocktails at the pro-democracy protesters below, who immediately rushed to extinguish the fires. They eventually had to put out two fires at the Egyptian museum as well.

By midnight the thugs started using tear gas and live bullets from a bridge above the protesters killing five people and injuring over three dozens, ten seriously.

Interestingly, one hour before the planned assault the army announced to the demonstrators on national TV that the government “got the message” and then implored the protesters to end the demonstrations and “go home.”

But when the protesters begged the army units to interfere during the brutal attacks that persisted for 16 hours, the army declared that it was neutral and partially withdrew from some entrances despite its promise to protect the peaceful and unarmed demonstrators.

By morning, the Tahrir Square resembled a battleground with at least 10 persons killed and over 2,500 injured people, 900 of which required transport to nearby hospitals as admitted by the Health ministry. Most of the injured suffered face and head wounds including concussions, burns and cuts because of the use of rocks, iron bars, shanks, razors, and Molotov cocktails.

Before the attacks started that afternoon, the Minister of Information had also executed his part of the plan. He called on all ministry employees to demonstrate on behalf of Mubarak in an upscale neighborhood in Cairo.

He then asked the Egyptian state TV to broadcast live- for the first time in nine days of continuous demonstrations- the ensuing confrontation between the protesters and the government-sponsored thugs, in order to show the Egyptian people what chaos would bring to the country as Mubarak had warned them in his address just the previous night.

The battle plan was for the baltagies to block seven entrances of the Tahrir Square, leaving only the American Embassy entrance open for the thugs to push back the demonstrators in order for them to come so close to the Embassy that its guards surrounding it would have to shoot at them and thus instigate a confrontation with the Americans.

**But the heroic steadfastness of the demonstrators lead by the youth was phenomenal as they not only withstood their ground but also chased them away every time they were pushed.**

**By the next morning the assault fizzled and the whole world condemned the Mubarak regime for such wickedness, cruelty, and total disregard of human life.**

By that afternoon every major Western country has called for Mubarak to step down including the U.S., the European Union, the U.K., France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Norway and many others.

**On the other hand, by daybreak, hundreds of thousands of Egyptians joined their fellow pro-democracy activists in order to show support and solidarity.**

In an attempt to contain the damage about what happened in Tahrir Square on Wednesday, Prime Minister Ahmad Shafiq offered his apology to the people. He also denied his government's involvement, calling for a prompt investigation and swift punishment for those who were responsible.

He also appealed to the nation to allow President Mubarak to complete his term until the upcoming presidential elections in September.

Ahmad Maher, 29, the national coordinator of the "April 6 Youth" movement, the primary group that called for and organized the uprising, immediately rejected the offer by Suleiman, calling it a trick to abort the revolution.

He insisted on the main demand of removing Mubarak from power before any negotiations could take place.

All other opposition groups, including the popular Muslim Brotherhood, followed suit.

As Omar Suleiman is promoted to become the new President of Egypt, this appointment will be hailed by Western governments and media as a great victory by the pro-democracy forces and as the expression of the will of the Egyptian people. Political and economic reforms will then be promised to the people, in an effort that allows great leeway in internal reforms but keep foreign policy intact.

However, this move will undoubtedly divide the country. The leaders of the revolution, namely the youth, who have led the demonstrations for the past two weeks and sacrificed blood for it, would continue to press for total and clean break from the previous regime. They will also be supported by popular and grass-roots movements such as the Muslim Brotherhood.

On the other hand, other opposition movements, which have little or no popular support but were largely created by the Mubarak regime as a décor to portray a democratic image, will accept Suleiman and embrace the new arrangements in order to have a seat at the table and get a piece of the pie. The Egyptian public will likely be split as well.

**With the monopoly of the government over the state media and other means of government information control, the new regime may bet on getting a slack from the public while it consolidates its power.**

**Alternatively, the youth movement, which started its march towards freedom and democracy using social media and independent means of communications, while**

spearheading the most robust and forceful democracy movement in the whole region, may actually have the last word.

---

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **“Assassinations Have So Far Claimed More Than 2,000 Lives Among The Country’s Security Forces”**

January 14th By Fatih Abdulsalam, Azzaman reports [Excerpt]

The last two years saw an upsurge in insecurity due to an unprecedented hike in assassinations whether in Baghdad or other major Iraqi cities.

These assassinations, which have so far claimed more than 2,000 lives among the country’s security forces, are carried out in two major ways.

In the first, the assassins rely on silencer guns which are either imported or produced locally. In the second, the assassins rely on stick explosive charges most of which are imported.

The problem with these assassinations is two-fold. First, the assassins select their victims very carefully and make sure they have a role to play in the country’s armed forces and security ranks. Second, they have turned into an unstoppable contagious disease.

---

## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

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

February 5, 2010 Reuters

Two foreign servicemember died following separate improvised explosive device attacks in southern Afghanistan today.

---

## **UNREMITTING HELL ON EARTH; ALL HOME NOW**



U.S. Marines carry a colleague wounded by an improvised explosive device (IED) to a waiting medevac helicopter from the United States Army's Charlie Company 1-214 Aviation Regiment in southern Helmand Province, Afghanistan, Jan. 26, 2011. (AP Photo/Kevin Frayer)

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

## **SOMALIA WAR REPORTS**

**“Islamist Militias Of Al-Shabab Took An  
Ambush Attack To The Military Bases Of  
T.F.G. Forces”**

2.5.11 Mareeg



Mogadishu (Mareeg)-fighting has broken out in the capital Mogadishu about 5:00 o'clock, local time between Islamist militias of Shabab and T.F.G. [U.S.-backed government] forces backed by the African union peacekeeping [translation: occupation] forces, residents said.

The battle occurred in Hodan district, south the capital between warring groups in Mogadishu killing 2 people and injuring 3 others of all villains being in their homes, resident said.

The war came as Islamist militias of Al-shabab took an ambush attack to the military bases of T.F.G. forces and Amisom in Hodan villages and then exchanged fires including shells that could be heard in many parts of the capital, sources said.

No one knows the casualties reached to warring sides as though it occurred early in the dawn break this morning and usually both sides don't comment on their casualties.

---

## **MILITARY NEWS**

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

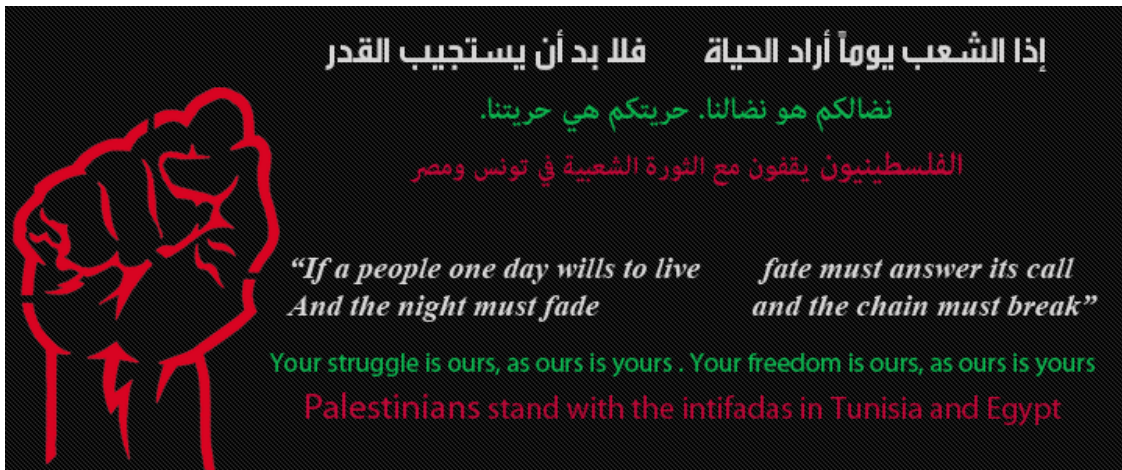


The remains of Cpl. Jacob A. Tate, Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2011, at Dover Air Force Base, Del., Tate, 21, of Columbus, Ohio, died Jan. 2, 2011, in combat operations, Helmand province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Steve Ruark)

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

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

## OCCUPATION PALESTINE



إذا الشعب يوماً أراد الحياة فلا بد أن يستجيب القدر  
نضالكم هو نضالنا. حريتكم هي حريتنا.  
الفلسطينيون يقفون مع الثورة الشعبية في تونس ومصر

*“If a people one day wills to live fate must answer its call  
And the night must fade and the chain must break”*

Your struggle is ours, as ours is yours. Your freedom is ours, as ours is yours  
Palestinians stand with the intifadas in Tunisia and Egypt

The Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel  
[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

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

## **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.

## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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

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

Traveling Soldier is the publication of the Military Resistance Organization.

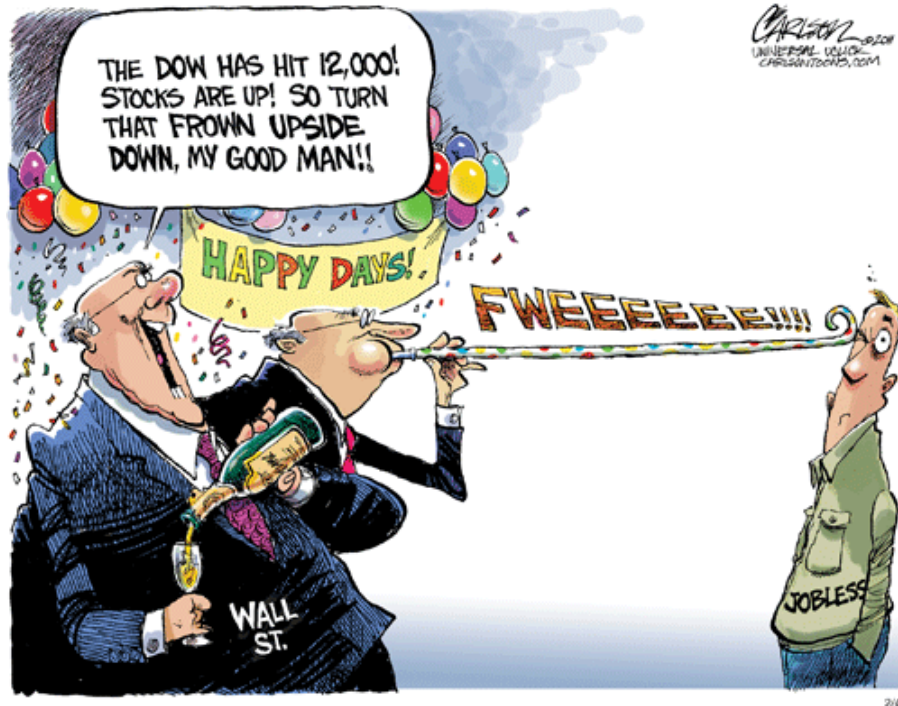
Telling the truth - about the occupations or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance to Imperial wars inside the armed forces.

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/](http://www.ivaw.org/))

# CLASS WAR REPORTS



**Military Resistance** [www.militaryproject.org](http://www.militaryproject.org)  
*This is how Obama brings the troops home,  
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE.*



Military Resistance is a near-daily news bulletin for service members  
[www.militaryproject.org](http://www.militaryproject.org)

**“The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops.”**

**Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War**

## **Military Resistance Looks Even Better Printed Out**

Military Resistance/GI Special are archived at website

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

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

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

[news@uruknet.info](mailto:news@uruknet.info); [http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi\\_special/](http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/);

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

Military Resistance distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **Military Resistance has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is Military Resistance endorsed or sponsored by the originators. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research, education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice.** Go to: [www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml](http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml) for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

---

**If printed out, a copy of this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.**