

## **Military Resistance 9C14**



# **Libya: “Americans Overwhelmingly Do Not Support Military Intervention” “65% Oppose The U.S. Military Getting Involved”**

March 18, 2011 Politicalwire.com

As President Obama prepares to speak this afternoon on the situation in Libya, a quick look at recent polls show Americans overwhelmingly do not support military intervention.

A CNN/Opinion Research poll finds 74% believe the United States should “leave it to others” to resolve the situation in Libya.

A Pew Research survey finds 65% think the United States doesn’t have the responsibility to do something about the fighting in Libya.

A Fox News poll finds 65% oppose the U.S. military getting involved.

MORE:

## “Humanitarian Intervention” Simplified



[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

MORE:

## Love, Dad: [Just In Case You Missed It The First Time Or The Second Time]

From: Dennis Serdel  
To: GI Special  
Sent: March 03, 2009  
Subject: Love, Dad

By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50 Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan

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## Love, Dad

Son, we can't send you  
any packages  
like we have sent you before  
because the shop  
that I worked for for 27 years  
has just went bankrupt  
my pension money is gone  
didn't get severance pay  
after all those years  
and I would have to pay  
Cobra for health care but  
I don't have money for that  
they didn't even give me  
my vacation pay  
they gave me nothing  
nothing at all  
I took our savings and paid off  
our home but now all I get is  
unemployment checks  
and food stamps  
that will stop in months  
I don't know what I will do then,  
I'm old and nobody will hire me  
but even the young  
can't find any jobs  
Soon they will take our car  
turn off electricity  
and turn off the heat  
Son, I know you have troubles  
of your own in Iraq  
but I think you are fighting  
the wrong enemy over there  
I think all of you should come home  
fight the government  
the corporations  
and defend us from  
the bill collectors  
kill the white shirt bank criminals  
the oil company criminals  
kill all the Madoof's  
that have taken over our country  
because nothing works  
over here anymore.  
Love, Dad

## **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**



(Graphic: London Financial Times)

March 19 (Reuters) & March 20 (Reuters) & AFP

**BAGHDAD** - Insurgents in a speeding car wounded Major General Ahmed Obeidi, head of the 6th Iraqi Army Division, when they shot at his car in Palestine Street, northeastern Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said.

**JURF AL-SAKHAR** - Insurgents stormed a house on Friday and killed two brothers belonging to the government-backed Sunni Sahwa militia in Jurf al-Sakhar in western Mussayab, about 60 km (40 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

**BAGHDAD** - Insurgents in a speeding car wounded an engineer working for the Electricity Ministry when they shot at his car in northeastern Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said.

**BAGHDAD** - Insurgents in a speeding car killed Najib Jamal, the Oil Ministry's director for marketing, when they near shot at his car near Baghdad's eastern Zayouna district, an Interior Ministry source said.

**BAGHDAD** - A roadside bomb went off near a police patrol and wounded three policemen in Baghdad's central Karrada district, an Interior Ministry source said.

BAGHDAD - Three policemen were wounded by a roadside bomb near al-Tahariyat Square in central Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said.

Late Saturday, a bomb blast targetted an army patrol in northern Baghdad, killing two soldiers and wounding six soldiers.

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## **On The Eighth Anniversary Of The Invasion Of Iraq [3.19.03]**



Graphic: New Statesman

From: Displaced Films  
To: Military Resistance

**WAR IS PEACE**

**SILENCE IS HOPE**

**CHANGE IS ONLY SKIN DEEP**

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

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



[Click Sir! No Sir! banner above to visit the Webstore for Sir! No Sir!]

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## AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

### Cookville Soldier Killed In Afghanistan

Mar 03, 2011 By Jena Johnson (KLTV)

An East Texas soldier has been killed while supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

The Department of Defense announced Wednesday that Staff Sergeant Chauncy R. Mays, 25, of Cookville, died of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked the unit he was in with an improvised explosive device.

“It made me sick every time he had to leave, but I always thought he was coming back,” said Matthew Terrell, Chauncy’s best friend.

Matthew Terrell returned to Staff Sgt. Chauncy Mays childhood home when he learned of his best friend’s death. He says this is the place he feels closest to the fallen soldier.

“Every time he came in, we’d usually get together and me and him and his daddy would hang out and throw some horseshoes,” said Terrell. “He was always talking about going back what he could do to help somebody else. I never understood it, but it takes a different kind of person to do that and we’re all proud of him.”

Terrell says Chauncy had an undeniable love for his country, and for the military.

“I never met anybody that was enthused, probably won’t ever again about being in the army and help serve the country,” said Terrell.

The childhood friends made thousands of memories at this home. Terrell says none compare to the last time he saw his best friend and the joy in his eyes.

“When he showed me his little girl for the first time was a pretty good memory. He was proud of her,” said Terrell.

Terrell says this was supposed to be Chauncy’s final tour overseas, before returning to his family.

“That was his third tour, sure was. I think it was going to be his last. He was going to be teaching after that,” said Terrell.

Friends wrapped a yellow ribbon around a tree in Chauncy’s front yard to honor the contribution he made to our country. Terrell says he can’t be angry, because Chauncy died doing what he loved.

“That goes back to the heart, an enormous heart, brave,” said Terrell. “I’m a big fellow but it’s hard to describe what kind of heart it takes to do that. Special people...all of them...not just him...everybody over there.”

Now Terrell can only wait until his best friend is home, at his final resting place.

Staff Sergeant Mays’ family was in Greenville today making arrangements for their son’s final resting place. They say right now, bad weather is delaying his return to the United States.

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**Afghans Are Killing “Relief”  
Workers Who Serve The  
Occupation:  
“The So-Called P.R.T.’S Work From  
Heavily Guarded Military Compounds  
And Are Generally Escorted By  
Troops”  
They “Nearly Always Employ Armed  
Guards And Work In Fortified  
Compounds Or From Military Bases”**

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

December 13, 2010 By ROD NORDLAND, New York Times [Excerpts]

KABUL, Afghanistan — At least 100 relief workers in Afghanistan have been killed so far this year, far more than in any previous year, prompting a debate within humanitarian organizations about whether American military strategy is putting them and the Afghans they serve at unnecessary risk.

Most of the victims worked for aid contractors employed by NATO countries, with fewer victims among traditional nonprofit aid groups.

The difference in the body counts of the two groups is at the heart of a question troubling the aid community: Has American counterinsurgency strategy militarized the delivery of aid?

That doctrine calls for making civilian development aid a major adjunct to the military push.

To do that there are Provincial Reconstruction Teams in 33 of 34 provinces, staffed by civilians from coalition countries to deliver aid projects. The effort is enormous, dominated by the Americans; the United States Agency for International Development alone is spending \$4 billion this year, most of it through the teams.

**The so-called P.R.T.'s work from heavily guarded military compounds and are generally escorted by troops from the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force.**

Traditional aid workers worry that the P.R.T.'s and the development companies working for them are compromising their neutrality.

Oxfam and 28 other charitable groups signed a report last month, "Nowhere to Turn," that denounces the practice, saying it puts civilians at greater risk.

"In many instances, where P.R.T. projects have been implemented in insecure areas in an effort to win 'hearts and minds,' they put individuals and communities at risk," the Oxfam report said.

Michiel Hofman, the head of Doctors Without Borders in Afghanistan, said, "This assistance forces the beneficiaries to choose sides, and many people in the disputed areas do not want to choose sides."

A Dec. 1 report by Refugees International was highly critical.

"U.S.A.I.D.'s use of development contractors and frequent embeds with the military have dangerously blurred humanitarian principles by associating such programs with a party to the conflict," the group wrote.

**Among the contracted aid groups working for coalition government programs, which nearly always employ armed guards and work in fortified compounds or from military bases, the body count has been particularly severe.**

**Eighty aid contractors employed by the United States Agency for International Development were killed and 220 wounded from January through early November of this year. (In the same period, 410 American soldiers and Marines died.)**

The aid contractors were attacked on average 55 times a month — a sevenfold increase over 2009, Mr. Gast said.



**By contrast, 20 people employed by charitable and humanitarian groups, which refuse to use armed guards or work with the military, were killed during the first nine months of this year.**

The military and its supporters say the difference in body counts only reflects the fact that the aid contractors work in dangerous areas where many nongovernmental organizations are unwilling to operate.

Nongovernmental organizations vigorously disagree.

“We are in 26 provinces,” said Ashley Jackson of Oxfam, “and in Arghandab there are four N.G.O.’s working on health care and education.” Arghandab is one of the most dangerous areas in Kandahar, with a district-level team from the Provincial Reconstruction Team running more than 50 aid projects. “The P.R.T.’s’ presence makes it more dangerous to work there,” Ms. Jackson said.

NATO officials contend that insurgents do not distinguish between aid workers. “Insurgents have made clear both in their rhetoric and their actions that they target N.G.O.’s and aid workers,” said Mark Jacobson, the deputy senior civilian representative of NATO in Afghanistan.

But aid officials counter that the very difference in casualties between private contractors and charitable ones shows that the Taliban do make a distinction.

“It’s quite easy,” said Mr. Hofman of Doctors Without Borders. “We don’t use armed guards, we don’t have barbed wire on our gates, there’s a clear logo on our cars, and we are not associated with any program strengthening government. The government is just one of many warring parties.”

Doctors Without Borders has offices in Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand Province, where it runs a hospital. Those offices have never been attacked, while a private development company, International Relief and Development, just down the same street, has a fortified compound that has been attacked by insurgents. In Kunduz, his group has not been attacked, but the company DAI has been.

Many of the traditional aid groups are particularly critical of the United Nations, which they accuse of failing in its responsibility to make sure aid efforts are not militarized. The United Nations recognizes the Afghan government and is politically committed to it, but many of its agencies, including UNICEF and the World Food Program, are expected to deliver humanitarian aid.

The conflict inherent in those two roles is typified by Robert Watson, who is both the deputy special representative of the secretary general, a political role, and the head of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Kabul.

Mr. Watson agrees that the lines are often blurred. “It makes it difficult for us in the humanitarian community to demonstrate to those on the other side of the conflict that we strive to be neutral intermediaries,” he said.

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

**After Mass Murder Of Their Civilians By  
U.S. Government, Pakistan Government  
Will Refuse To Attend Meeting On Future  
Of Afghanistan**

03/18/2011 By Munir Ahmed, Associated Press [Excerpts]

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan pulled out of talks this month with the United States on the future of Afghanistan in protest of an especially deadly American missile attack, the government said Friday, in a sign of rising tensions between the two uneasy allies.

Pakistan's powerful army chief has already criticized Thursday's missile attack on a house close to the Afghan border in a rare personal statement.

Intelligence officials say about 36 people — most of them civilians — were killed.

The missile attack added to the heat on the government, which summoned U.S. Ambassador Cameron Munter to protest.

"It is evident that the fundamentals of our relations need to be revisited," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement that did not mention how many civilians were killed. "Pakistan should not be taken for granted nor treated as a client state."

The statement said Pakistan would not attend talks proposed by the United States in Brussels on March 26.

Pakistan had been scheduled to send its deputy foreign minister to the meeting, which was to include a delegation from

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**LIBYA WAR REPORTS**

**NJ Air National Guard Called Up For  
War On Libya:**

# How Long They Will Be Deployed “Is Absolutely Unknown At This Point”

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

3.20.11 By Brian Thompson, NBCNewYork.com [Excerpts]

The New Jersey Air National Guard has been deployed to Europe to support America’s role in the military action against the armed forces of Libya.

NBC New York has confirmed the deployment that began Saturday, the first day of the UN-sponsored action.

“They have been federalized and they are en route,” NJ Adjutant General Glenn Rieth, commander of the New Jersey National Guard, said Sunday.

U.S. and European forces fired missiles against Libya on Saturday after Western leaders decided that Moammar Gadhafi’s continued assault on his own people left the international community no choice. BBC News reported that a U.S. military official described the actions as “successful” and that more Western planes and bombers were used in raids early today.

The Air Guard’s 108th Refueling Wing consists of 8 KC-135 aerial refueling tankers based at McGuire Air Force Base in central New Jersey.

Rieth would not discuss how many of the huge tankers are part of the initial deployment, nor would he say how many airmen and women were activated.

Each plane requires multiple crew members and large numbers of ground support to maintain the aircraft.

However, they can expect to be busy in the skies over the Mediterranean Sea refueling fighter jets maintaining the No Fly Zone.

McGuire’s 108th is staffed by a total of 1,300 “citizen soldiers,” and while most live in New Jersey, many come from nearby New York and Pennsylvania.

Rieth said Saturday’s call-up was “the initial surge, to get them out the door.”

How long they will be deployed in England, Spain, Italy, Germany or Turkey “is absolutely unknown at this point,” Rieth said.

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## “The Real Reasons For The Assault On Libya Have Nothing To Do With

# **Saving The Libyan People From Qaddafi”**

## **“They Are About Oil Profits On The One Hand--And Reestablishing U.S. And European Influence In A Part Of The World That Has Experienced Two Revolutions--In Egypt And Tunisia”**

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

March 19, 2011 By Tom Arabia and Alan Maass, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

**In cheerleading the U.S.-led assault to “stop a massacre,” the American media never stopped for a moment to question Washington’s selective concern about violence and repression.**

**Even as the Security Council was passing a resolution that U.S. Ambassador to the UN Susan Rice insisted was “to protect innocent civilians,” the Washington-allied monarchy in the Gulf state of Bahrain was shooting down anti-government demonstrators. The most that U.S. diplomats could manage in this case was calls for “restraint” and “talks.”**

Also the very same day as the UN resolution was passed, U.S. military forces were directly responsible for 40 deaths in Pakistan, when missiles fired from American drone planes hit a community assembly or jirga, in the Nevi Adda Shega area of North Waziristan. These deaths come a few weeks after a NATO air attack killed nine Afghan boys in early March, and in the wake of at least 29 people killed in protests in U.S.-occupied Iraq in late February.

The other element missing from media coverage of the Libya attack is a three-letter word familiar from past U.S.-led wars in the Middle East: oil.

Libya exports about 1.5 million barrels of oil a day and possesses one of the largest oil reserves of any country in Africa.

Western oil companies have done a booming business with the dictator Qaddafi over the past decade, devoting huge investments to the country.

That was only possible because of the rehabilitation of the regime as an ally. Qaddafi has been the villain before for U.S. politicians--during the 1980s, when Ronald Reagan called him the “mad dog of the Middle East” and launched his own war on Libya. But in

between, the one-time villain became a friend. As Todd Chretien described in an article for Socialist Worker:

“While the Cold War was still on, the U.S. considered Libya an enemy, and Ronald Reagan targeted the country in the 1980s, including an attempt to assassinate Qaddafi by bombing one of his residences (which killed his 15-month-old daughter).

“But in the late 1990s, Qaddafi began to make peace with his former adversaries.

**“And after 9/11, Qaddafi offered Libyan support for the U.S. government’s “war on terror” under George W. Bush.**

“The regime restored diplomatic relations with the U.S., leading ExxonMobil, Chevron and other American corporations to rush into lucrative exploration and production deals.”

Before the threat of military intervention escalated, Guardian columnist Seamus Milne commented: “The same Western leaders who happily armed and did business with the Qaddafi regime until a fortnight ago have now slapped sanctions on the discarded autocrat and blithely referred him to the international criminal court the United States won’t recognize.”

Given this record of hypocrisy, neither the U.S. government nor its European allies--and not the Arab states like Qatar that are going along with the war on Libya either--can be trusted to have decent motives.

The real reasons for the assault on Libya have nothing to do with saving the Libyan people from Qaddafi.

They are about oil profits on the one hand--and reestablishing U.S. and European influence in a part of the world that has experienced two revolutions--in Egypt and Tunisia--since the start of the year.

This war won’t bring justice. It has to be opposed.

**MORE:**

**“The Autocratic Allies Of Barack Obama And The Other Interventionist Powers Continue To Kill And Repress Unarmed Civilians In Yemen And Bahrain Without The Slightest Negative Consequence”**

# **“To Oppose An Outside Military Invention Is Not The Same Thing As ‘Supporting’ Whomever The Intervention Is Aimed Against”**

March 19, 2011 By Chris Floyd, Empire Burlesque [Excerpts]

**Barack Obama has drawn his first blood from Libya, which now becomes the sixth (at least) Muslim nation in which he has launched deadly military actions, joining Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia.**

The West and its reliable dictators in the Arab world are now fully committed to one side in the Libyan civil war, and are actively seeking to bring to power an armed opposition group led by a man who was a chief agent of Gadafy's repression.

**Meanwhile, the autocratic allies of Barack Obama and the other interventionist powers continue to kill and repress unarmed civilians in Yemen and Bahrain without the slightest negative consequence, beyond a few hackneyed harrumphs served up briefly for public consumption by their string-pullers back in Washington.**

Western leaders have obviously been casting about for some way to put the brakes on the Arab Awakening before it sweeps away any more of their reliable client-dictators.

**Libya presents the perfect opportunity for them to muddy the waters, and try to turn the whole movement into the usual murky, bloody quagmire of global power politics.**

**In any case, it is hard to believe that a burning, yearning solicitude for the people of Libya is what is actually motivating our noble interventionists -- who haven't shown the slight crumb of concern for the Libyan populace until now.**

To oppose an outside military invention is not the same thing as “supporting” whomever the intervention is aimed against.

It is simply to look at the historical record and see what the fruits of these interventions actually are.

They are, invariably, a widening of the conflict, a vast increase in civilian suffering (even in interventions ostensibly launched specifically to prevent civilian suffering), years of widening, rippling instability, pervasive corruption by war profiteers, and a further militarizing of world society.

It is exacerbating an evil by contributing an equal or even greater evil to the mix.

This is especially true in this case, as at present, the Libyan opposition is being led by a breakaway faction of Gadafy's own thuggish regime. The leader of the opposition was,

until just a few weeks ago, an integral part of Gadafy's use of "brutality against his people."

If he and his clique are the ones who take power after an intervention, we will have merely exchanged one faction of Gadafy's regime for another.

But I doubt if this would bother our humanitarian interventionists; they have been making profitable deals with Gadafy for years.

They can go on making profitable deals with one of his former henchmen just as well.

**MORE:**

**“Although He Is Often Dismissed  
As Mad, Gaddafi Is A Master  
Strategist And This Intervention  
Plays Into His Hands”**

**“At The Moment He Has Little, If Any,  
Public Support”**

**“But He May Use This Intervention To  
Present Himself As The Victim Of Post-  
Colonialist Interference In Pursuit Of Oil”**

Finally, there is the worry that the Arab spring will be derailed by events in Libya. If uprising plus violent suppression equals western intervention, the long-suffering Arab subjects of the region's remaining autocrats might be coerced into sticking with the status quo.

18 March 2011 By Abdel al-Bari Atwan, The Guardian (UK) [Excerpts]

**First, what motives lie behind this intervention?**

**While the UN was voting to impose a no-fly zone in Libya, at least 40 civilians were killed in a US drone attack in Waziristan in Pakistan.**

**And as I write, al-Jazeera is broadcasting scenes of carnage from Sanaa, Yemen, where at least 40 protesters have been shot dead.**

**But there will be no UN no-fly zone to protect Pakistani civilians from US attacks, or to protect Yemenis.**

One cannot help but question the selective involvement of the west in the so-called “Arab spring” series of uprisings.

Abdel Rahman Halqem, the Libyan ambassador to the UN, has told me that Qatar and the UAE have agreed to foot most of the bill for the operation.

And what is the motive of these autocratic states: to protect the Libyan people, a grudge against Gaddafi, or to bind the US further into the region?

The third problem is that, although he is often dismissed as mad, Gaddafi is a master strategist and this intervention plays into his hands.

He quickly announced a ceasefire in response, which was claimed by some as an early victory for the UN resolution; in fact, it both deflates the UN initiative and allows Gaddafi to appear reasonable.

**Meanwhile, a ceasefire at this point suits Gaddafi: under its cover, the secret police can get to work. Similarly, Gaddafi accepted the earlier arms embargo: again, this apparent concession suited him. His regime has sophisticated weaponry, whereas the rebels have few arms.**

Gaddafi knows how to play the Arab street, too.

At the moment he has little, if any, public support; his influence is limited to his family and tribe.

But he may use this intervention to present himself as the victim of post-colonialist interference in pursuit of oil.

He is likely to pose the question that is echoing around the Arab world – why wasn’t there a no-fly zone over Gaza when the Israelis were bombarding it in 2008/9?

Finally, there is the worry that the Arab spring will be derailed by events in Libya. If uprising plus violent suppression equals western intervention, the long-suffering Arab subjects of the region’s remaining autocrats might be coerced into sticking with the status quo.

**The Libyan people face a long period of violent upheaval whatever happens.**

**But it is only through their own steadfastness and struggle that they will finally win the peaceful and democratic state they long for.**

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## **MILITARY NEWS**

### **HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA’S WARS?**





The Williston Fire Department salutes the procession with the body of Marine Cpl. Ian Muller from Danville as it heads to St. Johnsbury, March 17, 2011 in Williston, Vt. Muller was killed in Afghanistan. (AP Photo)



The casket of Cpl. Ian Muller March 17, 2011 in South Burlington, Vt. (AP Photo)

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## AWOL

March 19, 2011 By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than 100 anti-war protesters, including the man who leaked the Pentagon Papers, were arrested outside the White House in demonstrations marking the eighth anniversary of the U.S.-led war in Iraq.

The protesters, some shouting anti-war slogans and singing “We Shall Not Be Moved,” were arrested Saturday after ignoring orders to move away from the gates of the White House.

There was little talk at the D.C. protest of the U.S. missile strikes against Moammar Gadhafi's forces in Libya on Saturday.

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Special Issue: Egypt, Tunisia, Libya  
Soldiers in Revolt 2011**

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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/>

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**OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

**Hamas And The Palestinian  
Authority:  
Two Sides Of The Same Slimy Piece  
Of Shit:**

# **Hamas And Palestinian Authority Regimes Order Police To Attack Organizers And Protesters At Unity Demonstrations In The West Bank And Gaza**

March 19, 2011 Human Rights Watch [Excerpts]

**Hamas police violently dispersed several peaceful demonstrations in Gaza beginning March 15, 2011, including sealing off access to public squares and universities and beating trapped demonstrators.**

**Coordinated protests were also held on March 15 in the West Bank, where men in civilian clothes beat protesters, and the Palestinian Authority police briefly detained two protesters.**

In Gaza, youth organizers had called for protests against the Palestinian political division between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority, which is led by the rival Fatah movement, at Gaza City's Unknown Soldier Square on March 15.

Prime Minister Ismail Haniya's office stated on March 14 that it "supports the efforts by the young people and the factions that aim to end the division."

However, Hamas authorities had refused the unity protesters a permit while granting a permit to a pro-Hamas group, according to news reports.

Shortly after the unity protesters arrived at the square at 9 a.m., pro-Hamas demonstrators confronted them. The unity protesters relocated to al-Katiba square, where Hamas authorities told them they could stay until 7 p.m.

"The (pro-unity) organizers had planned to set up tents and stalls - they wanted to make it another Tahrir," one protester who asked to be identified only as "Heba" told Human Rights Watch, referring to the site of anti-government protests in Cairo.

"There were university students, mothers, fathers, kids, all kinds of people.

**"Then at 7 p.m., plainclothes and uniformed police besieged the square and started to beat everyone, with clubs and other things. Someone hit me with a chair."**

She said that plainclothes police insulted women protesters, using derogatory sexual language.

**Salah abd el 'Ati, a researcher for the Independent Commission for Human Rights, the official Palestinian rights ombudsman, told Human Rights Watch that police beat him while he was monitoring the protests.**

**“At 7 p.m. the police came in from all four entrances to the square, closing them off so people couldn’t escape, and started beating people,” he said.**

**“There were already security officers in plainclothes in the crowd who began beating people when the police came in. Five people attacked me, three in civilian clothes and two in uniform. They were hitting my head with batons, and when I protected my head with my arms they beat my arms and by back.”**

**Abd el ‘Ati said he saw police and other security forces using electro-shock devices against protesters, and that they fired guns in the air and drove motorcycles through the crowd.**

**A freelance journalist, “Samoud,” told Human Rights Watch that an unknown assailant stabbed her in the back with a knife as she tried to flee. “It felt like a sharp sting in the upper left-hand side of my back,” she said.**

**“I was trying to escape when I overheard an officer say ‘Don’t let her leave, I want her in the Jawazat (police station).’”**

Police arrested her, confiscated her cell phone and took her to the police station, where she was placed in an interrogation room.

“I didn’t see other detainees there but I heard someone yelling, ‘Don’t beat me! Give me back my camera.’”

**When she asked police to let her seek medical care, they brought in another detainee, gave her a bottle of iodine, and told her to treat the wound.**

**“She said the cut was deep and demanded that I get real help since she had no medical training,” Samoud said.**

**More than an hour later, after Samoud and the other detainee repeatedly asked for an ambulance, police summoned a nurse, who eventually convinced the police to let Samoud go to al-Shifa hospital.**

Samoud told Human Rights Watch that police detectives at al-Shifa told doctors to register her under a false name, “Sausan Badr,” possibly to avoid creating medical records that could be used as evidence of her assault.

She and her brother, who joined her at the hospital, demanded that she be registered under her own name. “The detectives said OK, but then said that the medical file had to say that I was also under arrest,” she said. After she had been treated and she and her brother were temporarily left alone, they fled the hospital.

**On March 16, students at Gaza City’s al-Azhar University planned to walk to the Unknown Soldier Square to protest, students told Human Rights Watch.**

**But plainclothes police officers trapped them in the university’s science building and randomly beat students inside, they said. Female students from al-Quds Open University who went to join the students at al-Azhar were beaten as well.**

**Later that morning, plain clothes security officials also attacked students demonstrating at al-Quds.**

**An al-Azhar student, “Haneen,” said that before police arrived, members of the university’s pro-Hamas student group (al-Qutle al-Islamiyya, the “Islamic bloc,”) “took off their belts and started beating the demonstrators.**

**Then around 30 police in civilian clothes came in, armed. They prevented us from leaving for an hour and a half while they talked to the university administration, and beat people with clubs and sprayed and soaked us using water hoses from the university.**

**All the time they were insulting the girls. The men were also spitting at us.”**

Students initially refused a police offer to leave the university if they pledged not to continue to demonstrate outside, but agreed after the university administration “asked that we comply for our own safety and that of the university,” Haneen said.

**“We went outside and the police there also insulted us, especially for demonstrating in the same place as men, which they said was against morality.”**

**“Heba,” the protester who described how she was beaten on March 15, said that plainclothes police beat her again at al-Azhar the following day and insulted women protesters.**

“I called my father to come get me out, but police refused to allow him to enter the university and threatened to beat him,” she said.

A student at al-Quds, “Mahmoud,” told Human Rights Watch what happened there. After the students returned from al-Azhar, about 150 male and female students began to demonstrate and chant, “We want an end to the division,” Mahmoud said.

**“Then a large number of men in civilian clothes came, with guns and clubs. They beat us and I saw them hit a student who was pregnant, who fell on the ground. They even pursued students who took refuge inside the university mosque.”**

**Mahmoud said he fled the university but was followed by a van marked “medical services.” “The men grabbed me and took me in the van, drove me to an alleyway, and then threw me on the pavement, where one of them stood on my chest, another on my legs, and a third one beat my knee with his club until my knee broke,” Mahmoud said.**

“Then they drove me to my home and forced me out. My father took me to al-Shifa hospital, but he left me in the car for a minute and went in and asked a doctor for advice, and the doctor said that Hamas would take all my information and to go to a private clinic instead, so that’s what we did.”

Mahmoud said he had knee surgery and would need another operation in six months.

**Protest organizers in Gaza coordinated with organizers of the demonstration in the West Bank on March 15.**

**“Palestinian Authority Security Forces Assaulted Them During A Peaceful Demonstration In Ramallah’s Al-Manara Square”**

**The West Bank organizers told Human Rights Watch that Palestinian Authority security forces assaulted them during a peaceful demonstration in Ramallah’s al-Manara square.**

At around 6:30 p.m., plainclothes members of the General Intelligence Services assaulted and arrested Farj Harb, one of the organizers, and another demonstrator, Fadi Quran. A brief video by Quran shows him apparently being assaulted by several men in civilian clothes. Quran said that he and Harb were later released.

**At 11 p.m., protesters trying to erect a tent were attacked by about 15 men in civilian clothes who confiscated the tent poles and canvas.**

**Human Rights Watch observed as the men turned over the confiscated items to uniformed police in a nearby street, and as men in civilian clothes detained, beat, and dragged two of the protesters toward the police station.**

A foreign freelance photographer, Lazar Simeonov, told Human Rights Watch that men in civilian clothes assaulted him and tried to confiscate his camera as he was taking pictures of the protesters being dragged toward the police station.

Simeonov later went to the police station to complain, where he saw one of the two men being detained. Men in civilian clothes also assaulted another man, who loudly identified himself as a cameraman for Palestine TV. Human Rights Watch later saw men in civilian clothes block him when he tried to walk to the police station to file a complaint.

**[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.”]**

**MORE:**

## **Hamas Pigs Threatened To Kill Gaza Journalist If She Wrote Anything On Facebook Or Her Blog About The Pro-Unity Protests**

**[Unlike the Palestinian Authority tyrants that control little pieces of the West Bank of occupied Palestine, who merely cooperate with Israel in murdering their own people resisting the Zionist occupation, but are not reported to threaten to kill reporters and their children, recently at least. T]**

20/03/2011 By George Hale, Ma'an [Excerpts]

BETHLEHEM (Ma'an) -- A Palestinian journalist in the Gaza Strip said Saturday that she received threats of violence from Hamas authorities over her participation in demonstrations.

**The journalist told Ma'an that Hamas police threatened her and her son if she wrote anything on Facebook or her blog about the pro-unity protests that have been dispersed violently throughout Gaza in recent days.**

**She said authorities sent the head of her family a text message saying, "We will kill her the next time she blogs against us or uses Facebook to organize anything ... If you won't do it, we'll do it for you."**

**The journalist, who requested anonymity due to fear of reprisal, said she was detained and that while in jail, police referenced her son by name and indirectly threatened to take action against him over her work.**

"I deactivated my Facebook account and can't write anything on my blog" due to the threats against her, she told Ma'an by phone from Gaza, adding that Hamas security was following her.

Other journalists told Ma'an that authorities were taking unprecedented measures against press in the wake of the demonstrations. Cameras and recording equipment have been confiscated and data erased.

She added: "This is the first time I'm afraid to use my name."

For a week, tens of thousands of Palestinians have protested across the occupied territories to demand that Hamas and its rival Fatah, which dominates the Palestinian Authority, end their bitter enmity.

On Saturday, about 100 reporters held an impromptu demonstration in front of a Hamas building in Gaza City protesting their treatment hours earlier at a protest that was violently dispersed.

"They even attacked the media's demonstration," a Palestinian journalist said.

The journalists were protesting an apparent policy of intimidation against the press in Gaza.

**Reporters for a Japanese TV station said plainclothes police ransacked their offices in Gaza City on Saturday. They left with footage of officers attacking demonstrators in Gaza City.**

**In another incident, journalist Manal Hasan was beaten by security forces in Khan Younis.**

**The Palestinian Journalists Syndicate said Hamas authorities broke into the offices of the Mayadeen media company and attacked Khalid Al-Ashqar, a cameraman for The Associated Press.**

**A Reuters office was also ransacked, and reporters were told not to take footage of protests. Reuters journalists told Ma'an that police detained two photographers when they refused to hand over their cameras.**

During a news conference aired on Hamas' Al-Aqsa TV, a Reuters correspondent asked why the British news agency's office came under attack.

Hamas spokesman Fawzi Barhoum did not comment. A separate news conference scheduled for 3 p.m. was subsequently called off.

The treatment of journalists in Gaza has drawn criticism from the Foreign Press Association, which accused Hamas of a "disturbing pattern of harassment and intimidation" against the media. "Unfortunately, our past appeals for press freedom have repeatedly been ignored by Hamas," an FPA statement said Tuesday.

"We again demand that Hamas allow journalists to do their work and respect the basic right of freedom of the press. Continued harassment will affect coverage of the story."

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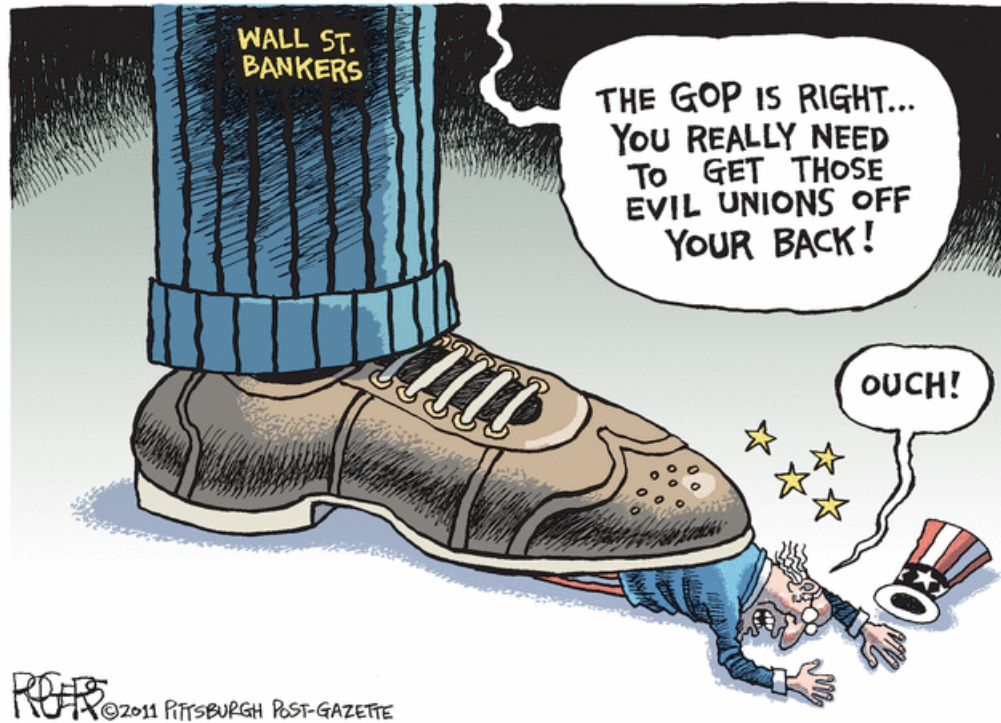
## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**



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## **CLASS WAR REPORTS**





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## Protests Erupt In Syria In The Most Serious Case Of Unrest In Decades

18 Mar 2011 Al Jazeera

Protests have erupted in at least three towns across Syria in the most serious case of unrest in decades for a country that has been ruled with strict emergency laws for almost half a century.

Witnesses reported that at least three people had been killed by security forces in the southern city of Deraa on Friday, where anti-government demonstrators had gathered after midday prayers.

The three were reportedly among several thousand people in the city who chanted "God, Syria, Freedom" while accusing president Bashar al-Assad's family of corruption.

Witnesses said security forces were reinforced with troops who landed in the city's football stadium in helicopters.

"The confrontations are ongoing. They are heavy," a witness told the Reuters news agency.

Hundreds of protesters were reported to have been injured.

The violence came after a 200-strong protest in the capital Damascus was forcefully broken up by baton-wielding plain-clothes Syrian police, witnesses said.

A video on the Facebook group The Syrian Revolution 2011, which earlier called for protests to mark Friday as a “day of dignity”, showed a man being dragged out of the Omayyed mosque in central Damascus.

Other videos which appeared online purportedly show water cannon being used on crowds of protesters in the coastal town of Banyas, and several thousand men gathering in the city of Homs.

**MORE:**

## **Thousands Gathering In Syria's Southern City Of Daraa Call For Revolution**

19 Mar 2011 Al Jazeera

Thousands of people gathering in Syria's southern city of Daraa to mourn the deaths of two people killed by security forces have called for “revolution” in the country.

Police sealed off the city and fired tear gas to disperse the crowds who had turned out for the funerals of Wissam Ayyash and Mahmoud al-Jawabra, two of five people killed when security forces opened fire on protesters a day earlier.

Mazen Darwish, a prominent Syrian rights activist, said police had sealed the city with people being allowed out but unable to enter and other activists reported dozens of arrests.

The latest crackdown follows protests on Friday where, inspired by the revolts sweeping through the Arab world, demonstrators had called for political freedoms and an end to corruption in Syria.

Three to four thousand people leaving the city's Omari mosque after midday prayers chanted “God, Syria, Freedom” and slogans accusing the president's family of corruption, residents said.

But in the most violent response in years to protests against Syria's ruling elite, five people were killed when security forces opened fire on the protest.

Smaller protests also took place in the central city of Homs and the coastal town of Baniyas, home to one of Syria's two oil refineries, activists said.

A crowd briefly chanted slogans for freedom inside the Umayyad Mosque in Old Damascus before security forces closed in.

The Syrian security forces, which stepped up arrests of dissidents since the Arab uprisings began in January, have a history of crushing dissent.

In 1982, Hafez al-Assad, the father of current President Bashar al-Assad, sent troops to put down a rebellion in the city of Hama, killing thousands.

Human Rights Watch, the New York-based rights group, has said Syria's authorities were among the worst violators of human rights in 2010, jailing lawyers, torturing opponents and using violence to repress ethnic Kurds.

In 2004, Kurds in eastern Syria, many of whom are not allowed Syrian citizenship, mounted violent demonstrations that spread in Kurdish regions across Syria, resulting in 30 deaths.

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## **Civilians Massacred By Yemen Dictators' Presidential Guard: "Saleh Declared A 30-Day State Of Emergency That Gives Wider Powers To Security Forces"**

### **"It Was Not Clear If Saleh Had The Military Power To Enforce Such An Order"**

**Protesters said they had caught at least seven snipers who they said had fired on the crowds. "We arrested some snipers and we found in their possession ID cards from the presidential guard and the special guard, and we will distribute pictures of these at the appropriate time," activist Mohammad al-Sharaby said.**

March 19, 2011 The Daily Star & Al Jazeera

SANAA: Government agents on rooftops shot dead at least 52 protesters at an anti-government rally in Sanaa after Muslim prayers Friday, enraging the opposition and prompting President Ali Abdullah Saleh to declare a state of emergency.

**Medical sources and witnesses told Reuters that Yemeni security forces and plainclothes snipers, who protesters said were government security men, had opened fire on the crowds.**

**The Interior Ministry put the death toll at 25, but doctors said 52 people, including three children, had died and at least 300 had been wounded.**

Saleh declared a 30-day state of emergency that gives wider powers to security forces and bars citizens from bearing arms in public. A curfew was being discussed.

**It was not clear if Saleh had the military power to enforce such an order, with Yemen deeply divided and racked by weeks of civil disturbance in which over 70 people have been killed.**

Witnesses said security forces at first fired into the air Friday to prevent anti-government protesters from marching out of the Sanaa University camp, which has become the focal point of the protest movement.

After the initial gunfire, the shooting continued from other directions and the toll mounted. A news photographer was among the dead, the U.S.-based Committee to Protect Journalists said.

After the deaths, Yemen's opposition said there was no way they could negotiate with Saleh's government.

"There is no longer any possibility of mutual understanding with this regime and he (Saleh) has no choice but to surrender authority to the people," said Yassin Noman, rotating president of Yemen's umbrella opposition group.

Parliamentary opposition spokesman Mohammad al-Sabri accused the regime of a "massacre" and said "these killings will not help keep Ali Abdullah Saleh in power."

Protesters said they had caught at least seven snipers who they said had fired on the crowds. "We arrested some snipers and we found in their possession ID cards from the presidential guard and the special guard, and we will distribute pictures of these at the appropriate time," activist Mohammad al-Sharaby said.

Many of the casualties were taken to a makeshift hospital at the university. "We cannot take care of the wounded anymore, there are so many of them. We don't have enough supplies," said doctor Wassim al-Qersh.

Doctors said most of the wounded had been shot in the head, neck or chest.

**Anti-government demonstrations were also held in other cities including Taiz, Ibb, Hodeidah, Aden, and Amran following Muslim midday prayers on Friday.**

**Police have stormed a protest camp in southern Yemen where thousands are calling for the ouster of Ali Abdullah Saleh, the country's longtime president.**

Protesters say police fired tear gas and live rounds in the southern port city of Aden, wounding three anti-government protesters.

**After the shootings, Tourism Minister Nabil Hasan al-Faqih became the first Cabinet member to defect, resigning his post and quitting the ruling party.**

**The head of the party's foreign affairs committee also left, as did a former ambassador to Russia.**

**A member of the ruling party's central committee, Jalal Faqira, who heads the political science department at Sanaa University, also quit the party along with 50 other professors.**

Two more prominent members of Yemen's ruling party resigned on Saturday in protest against the killing of the anti-government protesters a day before.

"I find myself compelled to submit my resignation ... after the heinous massacre in Sanaa yesterday," Nasr Taha Mustafa, head of the state news agency and a leading ruling party member, said. While, Mohamed Saleh Qara'a, another party member, told Reuters he had quit because of the "completely unacceptable" violence.

Some 40 percent of the population live on \$2 a day or less in Yemen, and a third face chronic hunger.

### **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.**



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

# THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE WARS

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