

## Military Resistance 9C18



**This Is What True Heroism In  
Uniform Looks Like:  
“When Torture Happens At Home,  
We Turn And Look The Other Way  
And Say They Deserve It”  
“Keeping In Mind That Innocent  
People Do Get Arrested, Every Other  
Soldier I Serve With Could Be  
Subjected To The Same Treatment”**

# **“I, Even If I Stand Alone, Demand That My Army And My President Take These Allegations More Seriously And Make Meaningful Changes To The Way We Are Treating A Still Legally Innocent Man”**

Letters To The Editor  
Army Times  
March 28, 2011

**I am incredibly disturbed after the president’s comments regarding the confinement of Army Pfc. Bradley Manning.**

**The whole thing is indicative of the military’s sadistic underbelly.**

**I reviewed the Army Regulation on its corrections system to see whether terms of his confinement are appropriate and are meeting our basic standards.**

**Sadly, much of what is happening seems to be within the letter of the law. I’m quite certain, however, that it is not within the spirit.**

**The Quantico, Va., detention facility assures us that Manning is under these reportedly extreme conditions for his own protection.**

**However, Army Regulation 190-47, The Army Corrections System, requires that solitary confinement be based upon “recommendations of the professional support staff or correctional treatment staff or medical authority.”**

**Manning has been detained at Quantico since July 2010 and reports indicate that his psychiatrist opposed solitary confinement.**

**By my reading, Pfc. Manning could be held under these exact same circumstances for the rest of his life. All it seems to require is the signature of the facility commander, which appears to trump the recommendation of mental health professionals.**

**Keeping in mind that innocent people do get arrested, every other soldier I serve with could be subjected to the same treatment.**

**Yet, I have not heard another service member offer the slightest opinion on the case, either for or against.**

**We say we fight for freedom.**

**We say we’re better than the dictators and terrorists in the countries we have invaded.**

But when torture happens at home, we turn and look the other way and say they deserve it.

I, even if I stand alone, demand that my Army and my president take these allegations more seriously and make meaningful changes to the way we are treating a still legally innocent man.

Staff Sgt. James Walker  
Fort Stewart, Ga.

MORE:

**“Military Officials Appeared To Defy The Recommendations Of Mental Health Professionals”**  
**“He’s Been Examined By Psychiatrists Who Said He’s Not Suicidal. ... They Are Making Medical Judgments In The Face Of Medical Evaluations To The Contrary’ Sharfstein Noted”**  
**“In My 40 Years Of Hospital Psychiatric Practice, I’ve Never Heard Of Something Like This”**

Mar 24 2011 By Marjorie Cohn, ACS Book Talk [Excerpts]

Army Pfc. Bradley Manning, who is facing court-martial for leaking military reports and diplomatic cables to WikiLeaks, is being held in solitary confinement in Quantico brig in Virginia.

Each night, he is forced to strip naked and sleep in a gown made of coarse material. He has been made to stand naked in the morning as other inmates walked by and looked.

As journalist Lance Tapley documents in his chapter on torture in the supermax prisons in *The United States and Torture*, solitary confinement can lead to hallucinations and suicide; it is considered to be torture.

Manning's forced nudity amounts to humiliating and degrading treatment, in violation of U.S. and international law.

Nevertheless, President Barack Obama defended Manning's treatment, saying, "I've actually asked the Pentagon whether or not the procedures . . . are appropriate. They assured me they are."

"In my 40 years of hospital psychiatric practice, I've never heard of something like this," said Dr. Steven Sharfstein, a former president of the American Psychiatric Association.

"In some very unusual circumstances, when people are intensely suicidal, you might put them in a hospital gown. ... But it's very, very unusual to be in that kind of suicide watch for this long a period of time."

**Sharfstein also was concerned that military officials appeared to defy the recommendations of mental health professionals.**

**"He's been examined by psychiatrists who said he's not suicidal. ... They are making medical judgments in the face of medical evaluations to the contrary," Sharfstein noted.**

After State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley criticized Manning's conditions of confinement, the White House forced him to resign.

Crowley had said the restrictions were "ridiculous, counterproductive and stupid."

It appears that Washington is more intent on sending a message to would-be whistleblowers than on upholding the laws that prohibit torture and abuse.



[www.bradleymanning](http://www.bradleymanning)

## **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

## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

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

March 23, 2010 Reuters

A foreign servicemember died following an improvised explosive device attack in southern Afghanistan today.

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### **A Family Grieves For Fallen Ohio Soldier**



Cpl. Donald R. Mickler Jr., 29, was killed Saturday, March 19, in Kandahar Province by “small arms fire by an individual from a military security group.” Credit: United States Army

March 22, 2011 By Denise Yost, NBC4i.com

TROTWOOD, Ohio –

New details are emerging about the shooting at a military base in Afghanistan that killed a Central Ohio soldier.

Donald Mickler Jr. loved being a soldier.

“He really decided to be a military person, by the time he was in the ninth grade,” said Roy Hollis, Mickler’s uncle.

But that dream ended Saturday when an Afghan fighter hired to protect soldiers shot six soldiers, two fatally, before dying in a hail of gunfire.

Mickler’s family said they’re not bitter.

“Whether you are a casualty of friendly fire, casualty is being out in the field, getting shot or an airplane crash, the end result is you still lost your life,” Hollis said.

Mickler, 29, spent the last 12 years in the military, fighting in both Afghanistan and Iraq.

“He was a fearless kid, a warrior in his soul,” Hollis said.

The shooter, Shir Ahmad, was hired on March 9 by the Tundra Security Group to protect soldiers in a forward base in the Kandahar province. Ten days later, he opened fire as soldiers cleaned their weapons.

“We are trying to understand what is going on ourselves, but regardless of the final investigation that is shared with us, it is not going to change the outcome,” Hollis said.

NBC News reported that in the last two months, nine American soldiers were killed by rogue Afghan security force members either uniformed or hired by private security.

Relatives are still working on plans for Mickler’s funeral, but they are remembering his accomplishments until then.

“We know how hard he worked at life. We know how hard he worked at being a good father. It’s just part of Donald. He’s part of everyone,” Hollis said.

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## **Fallen Canyon Country Soldier Remembered As A ‘Good Kid’**

March 21, 2011 By Tammy Marashlian, Signal Assistant City Editor, The Signal

Fallen soldier Rudy A. Acosta, 19, of Canyon Country, was remembered Monday as a dedicated Christian, a fun-loving person and a man who wanted to honor God and his family.

"I think the military was really an extension of who Rudy was," said Senior Pastor Scott Basolo of Santa Clarita Baptist Church, where the Acosta family has attended for more than a decade. "He was a servant. He wasn't interested in personal gain."

Acosta, a combat medic, died Saturday in Kandahar province, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when he and Cpl. Donald R. Mickler Jr., 29, of Ohio, were allegedly shot with small-arms fire by an individual from a military security group, according to a statement from the Department of Defense.

They were assigned to the 4th Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, Vilseck, Germany.

The incident is under investigation, according to the statement.

The Acosta family was notified of their son's death Saturday afternoon, Basolo said.

Acosta's family spent the weekend and Monday in Delaware receiving their son's body.

After graduating from Santa Clarita Christian School in 2009, Acosta completed Army basic training on Aug. 11, 2009, and was deployed to Afghanistan on June 10. He served as a health care specialist.

"He believed he had a great opportunity to serve and contribute to his fellow man in the military," Basolo said.

Acosta came home during the holidays earlier this year, and attended Santa Clarita Baptist Church for a Sunday service. "He said he wanted all of us to continue to be fervent in prayer for the people of Afghanistan," Basolo recalled. "He asked that we pray for them."

On Sunday, Santa Clarita Baptist Church held a special service that included a slide show of Acosta and a sermon by Basolo.

Steve Dixon first met Acosta's father, Dante, 16 years ago through the local Rotary Club. He soon got to know the entire family when it joined Santa Clarita Baptist Church.

He remembered Acosta as a "good kid" who smiled a lot and was extremely determined. "He wanted to live a life that honored God and honored his parents," Dixon said.

During his years at Santa Clarita Christian, Basolo played on the volleyball and football teams.

Santa Clarita Christian held a special ceremony Monday, with students and staff, to talk about Acosta. Acosta's brother and sister attend Santa Clarita Christian.

“We can’t bring Rudy back, but we can serve the Acosta family with honor,” a letter from Principal Derek Swales reads. “Just as Rudy served our school, our city and our country!”

The school also recognized Acosta’s parents, Carolyn and Dante, who have been involved with Santa Clarita Christian for 13 years.

“The Acostas sent pictures to the (Santa Clarita Christian School) faculty of two caskets wrapped with the flag of the United States of America,” a letter from Principal Derek Swales reads. “Seeing our beautiful flag wrapped around his son’s casket was, in father Dante Acosta’s words, ‘brutal.’”

Garrick Moss got to know Rudy Acosta when Acosta was in seventh grade as part of the youth group.

“He just loves life and loves people,” said Moss, Santa Clarita Christian’s football and baseball coach and youth director at Santa Clarita Baptist. “He’s just a godly young man.”

As part of his military leave earlier this year, Acosta visited Santa Clarita Christian to speak to history classes about his experience, Moss said. “He genuinely had a love for God that showed through how he treated others,” Moss said.

Acosta was about six weeks away from finishing his tour, Moss said. He was hoping to come home before spending time in Germany.

“He was all excited about the chance to see Europe,” Moss said.

He eventually wanted to go into the medical field.

“I truly think of Rudy as a hero,” Moss said.

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

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

**Insurgents Capture 50 Off-Duty  
Afghan Policemen In Ambush:**



# The Withdrawal From The Pech Valley “Bears The Risk Of Becoming Propaganda Coups For The Taliban”

Mar 27 Reuters & March 28, 2011 Reuters & By RAY RIVERA and SANGAR RAHIMI, New York Times [Excerpts]

Taliban insurgents captured around 50 off-duty Afghan policemen in an ambush in a volatile province in northeastern Afghanistan, the militant group and provincial officials said on Sunday.

The policemen were captured by militants in the Chapa Dara district of remote northeastern Kunar province after returning from neighboring Nuristan province where they had traveled to collect their salaries, Nuristan governor Jamaluddin Badr said.

“The policemen were in civilian clothes and had no weapons with them,” Badr told Reuters from Nuristan.

In an email statement sent to media, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the group was holding 50 policemen.

The group was traveling in four vehicles in the Chapa Dara district in the western part of the province when they were stopped by militants on Saturday, said Gen. Khalilullah Ziayi, Kunar’s provincial police chief.

Zabiullah Mujahid, a Taliban spokesman, insisted in a statement that the captured men had documents, including recent police academy graduation certificates, showing they were police officers.

He said that militants had captured police officers in the region and around the country on several occasions and released them after they promised to no longer work for the government. “But this time,” the spokesman added, “the military council of the eastern zone will decide their fate.”

General Zahid said the men were being forced to stay in a village in Kunar Province on the border of Nuristan. “We have started negotiations through tribal elders and other influential local elders to secure their release,” he said.

The United States military has begun pulling back most of its forces from the Pech River Valley in the province, a rugged patch of terrain once thought vital to the campaign against the Taliban and Al Qaeda.

American forces say the shift is in line with counterinsurgency doctrine to protect population centers.

**But the withdrawal from the Pech Valley, which followed the complete Afghan and American withdrawals from isolated outposts in nearby Nuristan Province and the**

**Korangal Valley in Kunar, bears the risk of becoming propaganda coups for the Taliban.**

Some analysts also worry it cedes ground for militant training camps from which attacks can be staged deeper into the country.

The Afghan National Army plans to move an entire corps from Kabul to the area over the next few months to fill the void left by the Americans, but questions remain about how well the poorly trained and meagerly equipped national forces will stand up to the insurgents.

**Sympathy for the government and foreign troops in the province has also been fragmented by high-profile cases of civilian casualties.**

**In two cases this month, NATO conceded killing 11 children in error.**

**In another case in February, Afghan officials say that an American-led military operation killed 65 people, including more than 30 children, in a remote area of the Ghaziabad district near the Pakistan border.**

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## **Resistance Action**

March 28, 2011 Reuters & By RAY RIVERA and SANGAR RAHIMI, New York Times  
[Excerpts]

Three bombers killed 20 people in an attack on a construction firm in a restive province in southeastern Afghanistan.

An Interior Ministry statement said the attackers forced their way into the firm's compound after killing a security guard and then detonated a truck packed with explosives. "As a result, 20 employees of the construction company were killed and 50 others were injured," the statement said.

In an emailed statement to media, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed the Islamist group had carried out the attack but said it had been on a military base.

The base was operated by the Zahir Construction Company and housed dozens of laborers, Mukhles Afghan, a spokesman for the provincial governor's office, said. The company was building a road between Barmal and the provincial capital, Sharana, in the eastern part of the province, he said.

American medevac units were assisting with the casualties.

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

## IRAQ WAR REPORTS

### **Demonstrators Rally In Central Baghdad's Tahrir Square "Against Corruption, Unemployment, The Lack Of Basic Services And The Treatment Of Prisoners"**



An Iraqi woman holds pictures of relatives held in jails during a demonstration calling for their release in Baghdad on Friday

March 25, 2011 From Mohammed Tawfeeq, CNN [Excerpts]

Baghdad, Iraq (CNN) -- Throngs of demonstrators protested in the rain Friday, rallying in central Baghdad's Tahrir Square against corruption, unemployment, the lack of basic services and the treatment of prisoners.

Several women also turned out at the square to call on the Iraqi government to release sons and husbands who are in the prison awaiting trial or investigation. Some were carrying photos of their loved ones.

"I demand Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki to release my son immediately," one elderly woman was heard shouting.

"He has been in prison for months, but faces no charges. Where are human rights organizations? Let them hear my voice."

“Many Iraqis live under very poor conditions inside their homes -- God knows what kind of conditions are inside Iraq’s prisons,” another woman said.

Meanwhile, in Najaf, Diwaniya, Kut and Hilla -- Shiite provinces south of Baghdad -- hundreds of demonstrators railed Friday against unemployment and corruption, police said.

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## **SOMALIA WAR REPORTS**

# **Insurgents Report Two Occupation Armored Vehicles Destroyed: “One Fell Into Big Hole That Shabab Dig It Before And Still Remains It”**

March 28, 2011 Mareeg

At least 7 people were killed and 11 others wounded after heavy fighting between Islamist militias of A-Shabab and Somali national army backed by the african union peacekeeping [translation: occupation] forces broke out in the north of Mogadishu, reports said.

The battle occurred in Bondhere district of north Mogadishu between warring groups in the capital this morning killing 7 people and injuring 11 others including civilians, sources said.

Al-shabab spokesman for military operations in Mogadishu, Sheikh A/asis Abuu Mus’ab claimed victory over the war today saying they forces had burned down an armed vehicle of the African union peacekeeping forces and another one fell into big hole that Shabab dig it before and still remains it.

Abuu Mus’ab told that they have reached Amisom great casualties adding that he would pay further details later.

Mohamed Abdulahi Arig, spokesman for Benadir regional administration of Somali transitional federal told reporters that the government soldiers removed Al-Shabab from many buildings in the north Mogadishu including former ministry building.

No one knows exact casualties that warring groups reached from today violence in the capital.

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## MILITARY NEWS

### HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?



The remains of Spc. Christopher Glenn Stark Friday, March 4, 2011 at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Stark, 22, of Monett, Mo., died Feb. 28, 2011 in Wardak province, Afghanistan of wounds sustained from an improvised explosive device. (AP Photo/Steve Ruark)

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## FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



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

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

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

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

**Frederick Douglass, 1852**

**Hope for change doesn’t cut it when you’re still losing buddies.  
-- J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War**

**One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.**

**Mike Hastie  
U.S. Army Medic  
Vietnam 1970-71  
December 13, 2004**

**It is a two class world and the wrong class is running it.  
-- Larry Christensen, Soldiers Of Solidarity & United Auto Workers**

**“What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.”  
-- Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787**

**“The Nixon administration claimed and received great credit for withdrawing the Army from Vietnam, but it was the rebellion of low-ranking GIs that forced the government to abandon a hopeless suicidal policy”  
-- David Cortright; Soldiers In Revolt**

**“The Attempt To Overthrow  
Gaddafi By ‘Global Effort’ Has  
Been Quite Cynical”**

**“It Is Not About Gaddafi’s Western  
Partners Suddenly Becoming  
Appalled At His Being Cruel To  
The Rebels”**

**“Obviously, Western Powers Wish To  
Keep Their Position In The Changing  
World”**

**“An Unstable Situation In Libya Is In The  
European And U.S. Hawks’ Opinion  
Better Than A Strong And Ambitious  
Gaddafi”**

The West would celebrate a glorious victory, should it succeed in deflecting the powerful impetus generated by today’s turmoil in the Middle East from solving the problems in this region and instead make use of it to overthrow the ruling regimes of Libya and Iran.

25 March, 2011 Gumer Isayev interviewed, Gazeta.ru [Excerpts]

Gumer Isayev, Middle East expert and faculty professor at St. Petersburg State University, talks to Gazeta.ru about causes behind the conflict in Libya, Jamahiriya, the Green Book, and Russia’s stand in regard to the Libyan conflict.

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The attempt to overthrow Gaddafi by “global effort” has been quite cynical.

Libya’s business partners, including Italy, France and other European countries, which until recently were signing multi million dollar contracts with Gaddafi now

**all of a sudden claimed his regime to be illegitimate and openly took the rebels' side.**

It's no secret that Gaddafi has ceased to be a thorn the West's side over the last decade as he gave up a number of notorious projects related to development of weapons of mass destruction, let the U.S. oil companies in on the Libyan market, paid compensation for the Lockerbie bombing, and started liberalizing the domestic economy.

Nevertheless, the colonel didn't entirely "mend his ways": the Americans got hold only of a small share of Libya's oil reserves; the Lockerbie bombing, though paid for, was never admitted guilt for, and the project to privatize the state oil production company also fell through.

Gaddafi was actively promoting the idea of African unity and a single currency pegged to gold, and he heavily criticized the West's policies in Asia and Africa. Removal of sanctions in 2003 stimulated economic growth and turned Libya in a rapidly developing economy capable of making Gaddafi's dream come true i.e. turning Libya into the leading power of the region.

Therefore it is not about Gaddafi's Western partners suddenly becoming appalled at his being cruel to the rebels.

Western powers simply took advantage of the situation, i.e. a temporary weakness of the Libyan leader, to back up the uprising.

An unstable situation in Libya is in the European and U.S. hawks' opinion better than a strong and ambitious Gaddafi.

That is why the desperate West started to stir up the almost gone fire of the civil war. And whereas for the United States, this war would be across the ocean, Europe might harvest some big problems ensuing from it in the very near future.

And this tells us that in fact European leaders followed their U.S. counterparts.

*Q: How do you explain the fact it wasn't the U.S. but France who was the first to bomb Libya? Is it simply part of the West's overall campaign against Gaddafi's regime, or maybe France has its own interests and accounts to square?*

A: The United States is already running two wars, in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The incumbent president, Barack Obama, came to power surfing a wave of anti-war sentiment in American society. He positioned himself as a man to dramatically change U.S. foreign policy and withdraw the troops from Iraq. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in anticipation of his achievements.

**Therefore Obama hardly stands a chance of convincing the voters that the United States must get involved in yet another war.**

**According to recent polls, the majority of Americans do not support the idea of the U.S. intervening with Libya's affairs in any way.**



## **Voters won't forgive their president any more losses.**

It was no coincidence that as soon as a report of an F-15 fighter aircraft being shot down was released, Robert Gates hurried to make a statement that the active phase of the operation is nearing its end. The U.S. fear getting involved in a war for the same reason Germany had to give up aggression. They fear the public reaction. But that seems to be of no concern to Sarkozy who was never hiding the special nature of his relations with the United States.

## **While the U.S. is biding in the shade, Sarkozy is willing to do the dirty work and take the risks as he has nothing to lose.**

The French president's ratings are quite low, and he badly needs a "little glorious victory."

Neither is Sarkozy concerned with the fact that destabilizing Libya will send off new waves of illegal immigrants straight to France. "After us, the deluge" – this famous French by-word aptly characterizes the president's demeanor.

Under current circumstances, it would be appropriate to recall the events of 1956 when the U.K., France, and Israel attacked Egypt attempting to win back the Suez Canal nationalized by Gamal Abdel Nasser Hussein. The initiative belonged to Israel while France and the U.K. played peace-makers while breaking into Egypt's territory.

The United States stayed out of this, not wishing to mar their reputation with the Arab world.

*Q: The fact that the Libyan conflict has been broken into by the Western powers means that it's altogether a different story than that in Tunisia or Egypt. Can we say that Libya is going through what Afghanistan and Iraq did? Can we draw parallels between Muammar Gaddafi and, for instance, Saddam Hussein?*

A: The recipe for intervening with internal affairs of countries in disfavor is basically the same.

The parallels with Iraq are obvious.

Aggression was preceded by a media attack whose goal was to justify the necessity to overthrow the ruling regime.

In case of Iraq, Hussein's regime was accused of secretly developing weapons of mass destruction, and the media unrolled a massive misinformation campaign. It only takes to recall Colin Powell flashing photographs of Iraq's alleged secret WMD facilities and mobile laboratories to media cameras.

In case of Libya, the focus was made on "bloodthirstiness" of the regime, and the story of dealing cruelly with peaceful protesters circled the world.

The global community was thus prepared for the news of air strikes and bombings.

As soon as it became clear that insurgents have lost the battle, the UN Security Council was called up to pass Resolution 1973 whose ample wordings in their essence granted freedom to the anti-Libyan coalition and resulted in the country being bombed.

On top of all the similarities with the situation in Iraq, one more thing might get similar – the end result. Libya may cease to exist de facto, the way Iraq did. And both Libya and Iraq would degrade into “black holes.”

*Q: In 1977 Libya was announced to be a Jamahiriya, the latter being a term for a social order other than a monarchy or a republic, and in school geography lessons teachers often speak of the Novgorod assembly (‘veche’) and Jamahiriya as the ultimate forms of democracy which implement direct popular rule. Was Libyan Jamahiriya truly a unique regime, or the 2011 Libyan uprising only proves that in fact there was no democracy in the country?*

A: The ideas of the Third International Theory which resulted in the formation of the “state of the masses,” or Jamahiriya, may seem to be yet another social utopia passionately promoted into life by Colonel Gaddafi.

In his Green Book which outlines key provisions of the Third International Theory, Gaddafi brought together in a paradoxical and unpredictable manner Islam, Pan-Arabism, and some Anarchism concepts, such as by Bakunin and Kropotkin.

I personally think that Gaddafi tried to use direct public rule to overcome tribalism which was very strong in Libyan society and stood in the way of its modernization.

An attempt to create a “state of the masses” was in fact an attempt to reform the Libyan society divided by tribal conflicts and steer it to a new level of development.

If we want to talk about democracy, it would be appropriate to compare Gaddafi’s regime to African and Asian regimes rather than to Western democracies, as the former quite often combine some attributes of a democratic society with quite authoritarian leaders in power.

If we, however, talk about Libya’s social and economic system which prescribes just distribution of proceeds from oil sales among all citizens, it doesn’t look bad at all next to many of Libya’s “democratic” neighbours.

No matter what we say about democracy’s universal values, imposing them by force is unacceptable, in particular when it goes hand in hand with abusing the existing political traditions which are centuries old.

*Q: What is your forecast for the situation in Libya?*

A: Leaders of the anti-Libyan coalition have gone too far to back down.

On the other hand, it’s unlikely that Gaddafi’s regime can be overthrown by air strikes alone.

The hopes that insurgents would do the dirty job are failing despite active external support, bombings, and NATO troops already on Libya’s territory.

Libya's East is now attempting to set up some governing bodies with the help from the West, but it hasn't gone far beyond some loud statements which is only indicative of poor organization of the insurgents, poor leadership, and absence of political goals except just one – to overthrow Gaddafi.

At best, the insurgents might be able to win back a few towns in the East and set up an insurgency state there with the support from the West. Things in the way of a military land campaign are disagreements among anti-Libyan powers, fear of assured casualties, and public opinion in Europe and the United States.

Besides, aggression from outside has inspired increased support of Libyans for their leader.

It is true that the most adamant opponents of the regime continue to fight, but those who used to waver, and even those who once supported the uprising, realize now that the changes they hoped for might turn into a bloody anarchy and a replay of Iraq's scenario.

*Q: This year has been marked by public turmoil in many Arab countries. First, Tunisia, then Egypt, now Libya, and the Libyan conflict is drawing in more states. Your colleague Igor Alekseev in his interview to Gazeta.ru made a suggestion that the events in Egypt signified the end of the "concept of the third world." Would you agree with this opinion?*

A: Indeed, considering the large scale of the turmoil in the Arab world, we may say that these processes bear signs of a new paradigm evolving in global politics.

Obviously, Western powers wish to keep their position in the changing world.

The United States is trying to curb the social protest by feeding the Arab world with a new "democratization" concept which, as it turns out, requires overthrowing "dictatorships."

The Arab world had a similar experience after World War II when the system of colonies built up by Britain and France collapsed. Yet, with the help of the U.S. policymakers, Middle East had been fully managed by the end of 20th century.

Only a handful of states remained there which didn't fit the prescribed patterns and tried to maintain an active political stand – Iraq, Iran, and Libya. Iraq has been done away with, Libya is being done away with right now as we are watching, and Iran has long since been waiting for its turn.

Iran and Libya are a particular threat since they have been promoting a different way of development and tried to pursue alternative projects.

The West would celebrate a glorious victory, should it succeed in deflecting the powerful impetus generated by today's turmoil in the Middle East from solving the problems in this region and instead make use of it to overthrow the ruling regimes of Libya and Iran.

Disrupting the situation in the Middle East may once again weaken this region and impede its further development.

## **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.**

# **Obamaville's**

[From GI SPECIAL 7D2: 4.4.09]

From: Dennis Serdel  
To: GI Special  
Sent: March 29, 2009  
Subject: Obamaville's

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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## **Obamaville's**

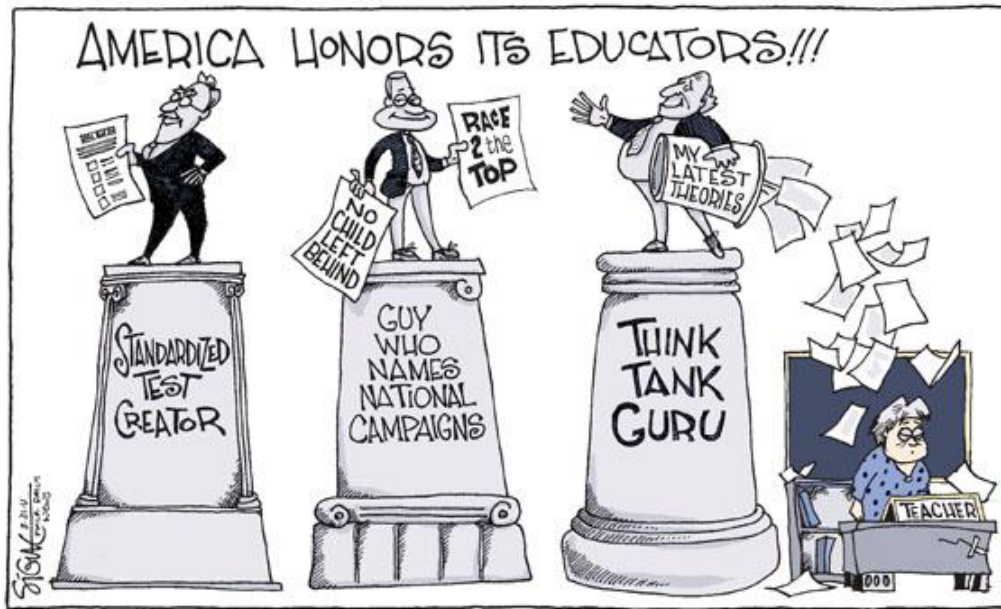
**Soldiers are fighting for the Obamaville's  
in Phoenix, Seattle, Portland, Nashville,  
Fresno, St. Petersburg and other towns  
on the outskirts in tents after their homes  
were foreclosed, no running water,  
electricity, plumbing, like you humping  
the desert, back home where the shacks are built  
of old wood, scrap metal, cardboard  
like the Iraqis live when their home  
is blown up to bricks and dust  
into an Obamaville while we have empty houses  
that people can Not live in and you,  
our brave Soldiers will be coming home  
to homelessness and Billionaires, Millionaires  
who have robbed Americans but they  
already have money but they want power  
like Hitler's, Mussolini's, Pinochet's, Franco's  
Stalin's so high in the sky that they  
think they are gods and as long as they have**

**Blackwaters and American Soldiers to prop  
them up, this will be how it will be  
cities bombed by AIG's, furniture  
and personal belongings kicked out  
of their homes  
by the Bank Of America because  
the bailed out Banks, Insurance and Mortgage  
Companies have taken over the Treasury  
and the Federal Reserve but Congress  
can Not stop them as they gang rape  
the American Dream  
like a giant dark Enron whose Shareholders  
are the Taxpayers brought on  
by decades of De-regulations that  
allowed these Bail-looter to cook the books  
with weasel language to make money  
out of air because the Democrats  
tired of running for office with just  
Union money and Special interests  
deleted the rest of FDR's regulations  
and took the Bailouters big money  
to compete on election day  
and they won but with strings  
so Obama says hey, how many Billions do  
you need because a Revolution just  
took place as the Bail-looters just say hey,  
do you want a world money meltdown,  
pension money gone, more Workers  
with lost jobs, GM and Companies  
going down as Congress and Obama  
fight over Mexican Workers, Bailout bonuses  
but say No, because their deal  
with the Bail-Looter's Mafia  
comes with a gun pointed at their heads  
as the government folds it's hand  
and says you Win as another Obamaville  
family pitches their tent  
while the Rich Bankers Bail Out Rich Bankers  
using the Taxpayer Credit Card  
forming Megamonsters with Trillions  
of paper money by secret weasel language  
that Americans can Not understand  
created that way on purpose  
to keep the people Slaves  
that aids the Bailouters  
as Obama blows up houses**

in Afghanistan and Pakistan  
producing more Obamavilles  
and enemies  
along the way.

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## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



## CLASS WAR REPORTS

**Syria:**  
**Protests Centered In Daraa Explode**  
**Into Nationwide Unrest;**  
**Dictatorship Releases “Hundreds Of**  
**Political Prisoners In An Attempt To**  
**Appease Demonstrators Furious About**

# The Violent Government Crackdown On Dissent”

**One Latakia resident reached by telephone said 10,000 to 15,000 antigovernment protesters from the city and surrounding villages, some armed with knives, machetes and clubs, had taken to the streets. “The demonstrations have been peaceful,” the resident said, “but after the violence yesterday protesters brought weapons.”**

3/26/2011 msnbc.com news services & Michael Slackman and Liam Stack, The New York Times Company [Excerpts]

DAMASCUS, Syria— Protesters set fire to offices of the ruling party in southern and western Syria on Saturday, burning tires and attacking cars and shops in a religiously mixed city on the Mediterranean coast, according to accounts by government officials, activists and witnesses.

Presidential advisor Bouthaina Shaaban told reporters that demonstrators attacked a police station and offices of the Baath party in the town of Tafas, north of the city of Daraa, epicenter of more than a week of anti-government protests.

In the coastal city of Latakia, dozens of people protested before attacking the Baath offices, said Ammar Qurabi, an exile in Egypt who heads Syria’s National Organization for Human Rights.

At least two people were killed by Syrian forces, Reuters reported.

A Syrian activist in touch with protesters in Latakia said hundreds had been demonstrating there since Friday evening, burning tires and shouting “Freedom!”

Ammar Qurabi, the chairman of the National Association for Human Rights, said two witnesses reported seeing Syrian Special Forces open fire into a crowd.

**One Latakia resident reached by telephone said 10,000 to 15,000 antigovernment protesters from the city and surrounding villages, some armed with knives, machetes and clubs, had taken to the streets. “The demonstrations have been peaceful,” the resident said, “but after the violence yesterday protesters brought weapons.”**

More than a week of protests centered in Daraa exploded into nationwide unrest Friday when tens of thousands of protesters marched in cities, town and villages around the country, posing the greatest threat in decades to the Baath party’s iron-fisted rule.

“The events are developing and succeeding each other rapidly all over Syria,” Abdel Majid Manjouni, assistant chairman of the Socialist Democratic Arab Union Party in the northern Syrian city of Aleppo, said in a telephone interview.

**“They are going from city to city, and the ruling party is not being successful in its attempt to block the protests or the demands for democratic change in the country.”**

Troops and soldiers opened fire in at least six places, killing some 15 protesters, according to witnesses, activists and footage posted on social networking sites.

**Exact numbers of the dead are hard to determine, as the official government news service denied the authorities’ culpability in new reports blaming criminal gangs.**

**By nightfall, government officials were blaming a sectarian clash for the crisis, which was quickly dismissed by protest supporters, who said the goal was freedom for all Syrians and an end to authoritarian rule.**

A resident of Latakia who spoke to The Associated Press from home reported hearing gunfire Saturday evening, but could not say where it was coming from. Shaaban said that an “armed group” had occupied the roofs of some buildings in Latakia, and claimed the group was shooting randomly at citizens.

Activists called online for a popular peaceful uprising Saturday in all Syrian provinces, urging people to take part in funerals “and not return home.”

By early Saturday afternoon, President Bashar Assad had pulled back police and soldiers from Daraa and released hundreds of political prisoners in an attempt to appease demonstrators furious about the violent government crackdown on dissent.

A resident told The Associated Press by telephone that security forces had withdrawn to the outskirts of Daraa, where protests demanding the release of youths arrested for spraying anti-government graffiti have spiraled into daily confrontations with security forces, who have repeatedly opened fire.

The Daraa resident said more than 1,000 people were holding a silent sit-in the al-Omari mosque, the epicenter of the protests.

**Protesters used the mosque as a refuge and ad hoc medical center until they were driven out in a government assault on Wednesday. They retook the mosque during clashes with government forces on Friday, witnesses said.**

The clashes erupted after protesters attacked a statue of late President Hafez Assad in Daraa’s main square, witnesses said. The Daraa resident said the statue had been knocked down, a giant picture of President Bashar Assad, the late leader’s son, had been torn apart.

A video posted on the main Facebook page used by Syrian pro-democracy activists showed a crowd of young men in Daraa climbing onto the base and trying to shake it from its perch, then rushing toward a nearby building, some throwing what appear to be stones. Suddenly, automatic weapons fire breaks out and the video ends.

A resident told The Associated Press that he saw two bodies and many wounded people brought to Daraa’s main hospital after the shooting.



A human rights activist said authorities had released 260 political prisoners. Abdul-Karim Rihawi, who heads the Syrian Human Rights League, said most of those released on Saturday were Islamists and 14 Kurdish detainees were also let free. Most had been imprisoned at Saidnaya, a prison in a Damascus suburb that houses political detainees. He said no further details were immediately available and there was no official confirmation.

Rihawi called the move a “positive step” and urged authorities to release all political detainees.

An activist in Damascus said a funeral had been held in the village of Sanamein for seven people shot when demonstrators tried to march a short distance to Daraa to support the protesters there.

The activist said people in Sanamein said mourners shouted slogans in support of the Daraa uprising but there was no violence.

The state-run news agency said an armed group attacked an officers’ club in the central city of Homs on Friday, killing one person and wounding others.

Videos posted on social networking sites Friday night showed protesters in Homs tearing down a large poster of Hafez Assad over the entrance to the Officers Club.

**Mr. [Ammar] Qurabi, the chairman of the human rights group [National Association For Human Rights], said that more than two dozen protesters were killed Friday, including 20 in the tiny southern village of Sanamayn, 4 in Latakia, 3 in Homs and 3 in the greater Damascus area.**

**“The protest in Sanamayn was very, very, very big,” Mr. Qurabi said in a phone call from Cairo, where he is attending a conference. “They killed them in the streets because there is not even really a square for the people to protest in.”**

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**“The Egyptian Government Has  
Approved A Law Criminalizing  
Strikes And Protest Marches In The  
Country”**

**“Imprisonment Of One Year And A Fine  
Of Up To \$84,000 Dollars For Anyone  
Who Incites, Promotes Or Participates In**

# A Protest Or Strike That ‘Disrupts Private Or Public Work’”

March 24, 2011 By Jijo Jacob, International Business Times [Excerpts]

In a weird twist in the tale, the Egyptian government has approved a law criminalizing strikes and protest marches in the country, raising questions from various quarters whether this was the outcome expected by millions of Egyptians who passionately fought for the ouster of Hosni Mubarak’s oppressive regime.

According to media reports, the new law passed by the military cabinet stipulates imprisonment of one year and a fine of up to 500,000 Egyptian pounds (\$84,000 dollars for anyone who incites, promotes or participates in a protest or strike that “disrupts private or public work’.

**In a turn of events that looks like the Egyptian people are back to square one - the army-led government has not lifted the emergency but stressed that the new law curbing protests will be in effect till the emergency lasts.**

Egyptians who risked their lives trying to depose a ruler who ran a police state and never lifted emergency for more than three decades, are fuming under the bizarre policy of the new dispensation.

Rights groups have complained in recent weeks about the detention and torture of activists by the military rulers who replaced the Mubarak regime.

There are also reports that the country’s media is still under gag orders.

In effect, the long-entrenched military rule in Egypt hasn’t changed. The popular anger abated after the ouster of Mubarak, but people on the street are unhappy with the continued rule by proxy by Mubarak’s generals.

**MORE:**

## **Egypt: The Clock Is Running [In Case You Missed It The First Time]**

[Comment: T]

2.13.11 Military Resistance 9B11

**The Egyptian February revolution has brought down the dictator.**

**The Egyptian people, long oppressed, have won a world-amazing political victory, and opened the way to wonderful possibilities.**

**But as yet there are only possibilities.**

The material reality of the lives of the overwhelming majority of Egyptians who daily struggle to get enough to eat has not changed with the going of Mubarak.

One particularly murderous exploiter and a handful of his class allies have given up power, but the rest remain in their previous places, taking for themselves the wealth of Egyptian society.

They sacrifice a few of their associates to the revolution in a play for time to regroup and reorganize their forces.

The question opened now is which class will rule in Egypt, and that question will be decided in class warfare.

Preparation for a showdown in that war is beginning, hopefully on both sides.

Certainly those who consider the wealth of the society their private property are already preparing to insure their continued domination by armed force. This includes the members of the military general staff.

They are not all stupid, and some understand that if this revolution isn't put down, as soon as practicable, they risk losing everything.

The soldiers will decide the outcome.

The soldiers' choice will be whether to follow the orders of the generals, who will be defending their own personal wealth and privilege as well as that of their class allies, or to choose to defy their generals and go over to the Egyptian working class, and their allies.

Winning the soldiers from below requires careful organization within their ranks.

This is not work that can be postponed.

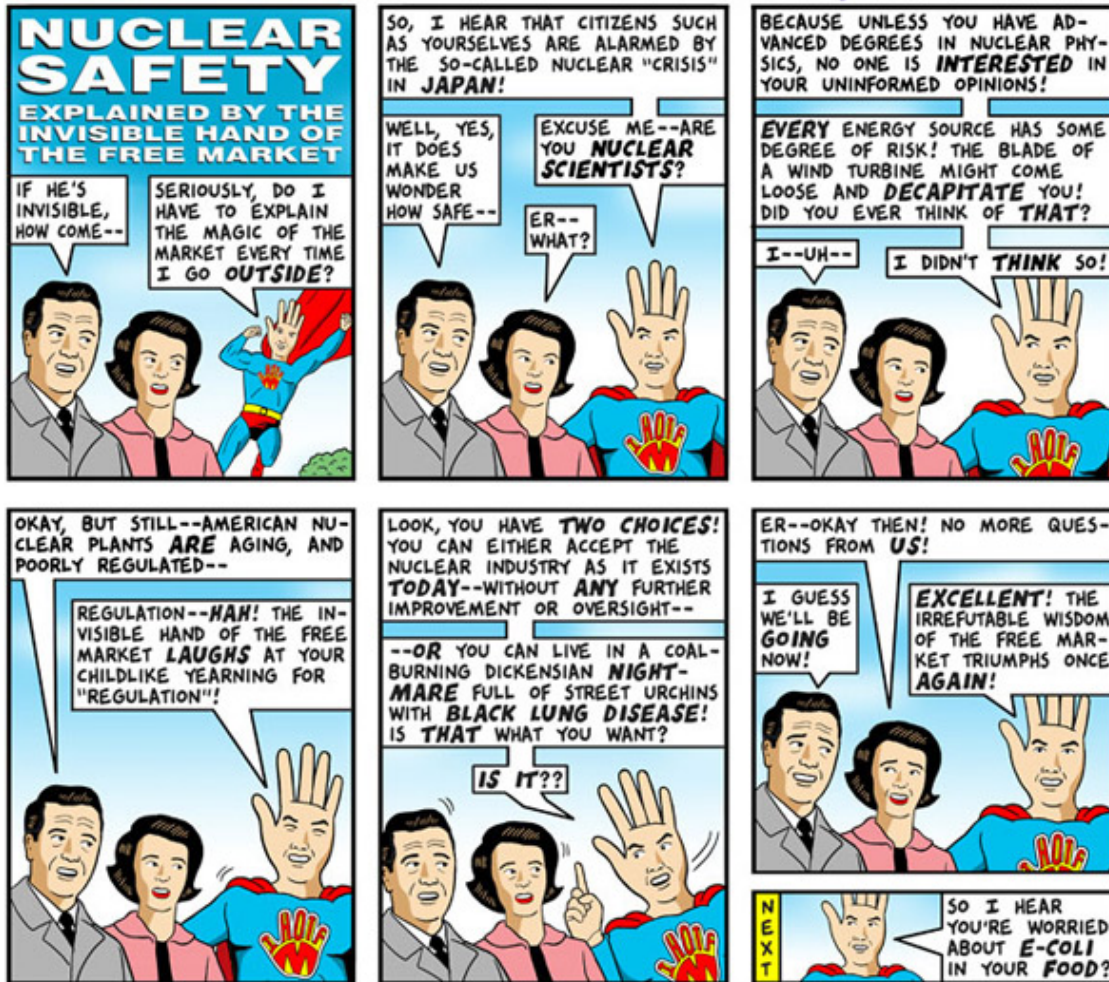
This work is best organized now, before an offensive against the Egyptian revolution is set in motion by its enemies.

## **MILITARY RESISTANCE NEWSLETTER BY MAIL FREE FOR ACTIVE DUTY TROOPS**

IF YOU WISH TO HAVE A SELECTION OF MILITARY RESISTANCE NEWSLETTERS  
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CONTACT@MILITARYPROJECT.ORG OR DROP A LINE TO: BOX 126, 2576  
BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10025-5657 USA.

# THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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

## GOT AN OPINION?

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

"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

## 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/))



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