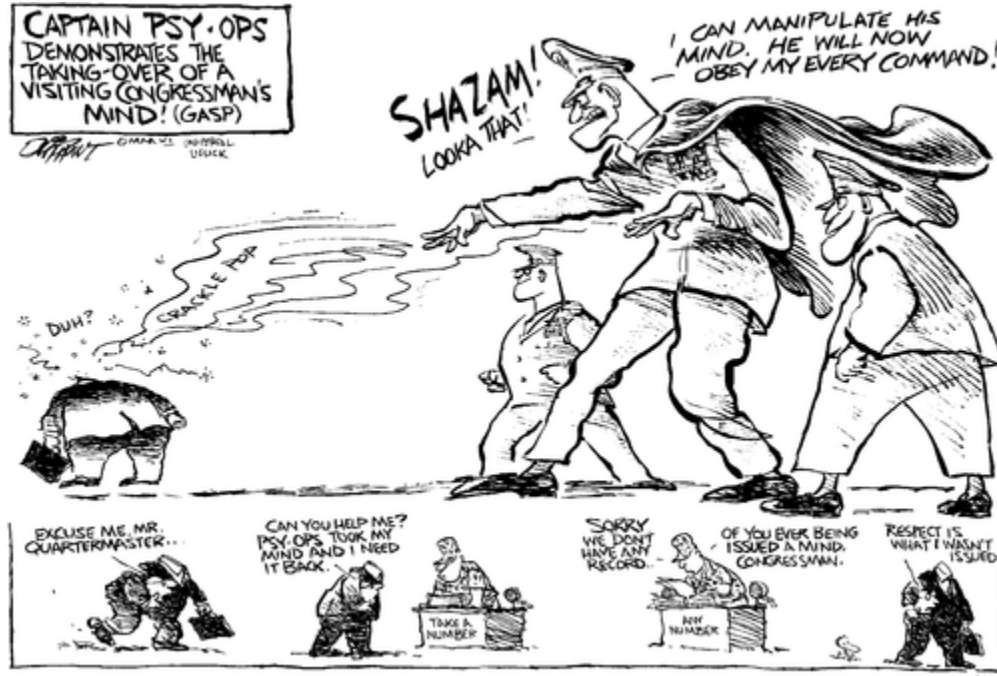


## Military Resistance 9C3



**General Betrayus  
Apologizes For  
Butchering Nine Afghan  
Kids:  
Father Says “I Don’t Care About  
The Apology”**

**“The Only Option I Have Is To Pick Up A Kalashnikov, RPG Or A Suicide Vest To Fight”**  
**“Hundreds Of People Chanting ‘Death To America’ Protested In The Afghan Capital”**  
**“Many Afghans Say Militant Attacks Would Not Happen If International Troops Were Not In Afghanistan”**

MARCH 3, 2011 By DION NISSENBAUM And HABIB KHAN TOTAKHIL, Wall St. Journal & 3.6.11 Hamid Shalizi and Jonathon Burch, Reuters [Excerpts]

KABUL—U.S. Gen. David Petraeus, the coalition’s commander in Afghanistan, issued a rare apology Wednesday for a helicopter strike that killed nine children, hours after Afghan President Hamid Karzai condemned the allies for launching what he called a “ruthless attack.”

It was Gen. Petraeus’s first such public apology since taking command in July. The issue of civilian casualties is highly sensitive in Afghanistan, and Tuesday’s deaths could rattle the already strained relationship between the U.S.-led coalition and Mr. Karzai.

“We are deeply sorry for this tragedy and apologize to the members of the Afghan government, the people of Afghanistan and, most importantly, the surviving family members of those killed by our actions,” Gen. Petraeus said in a statement. “These deaths should have never happened.”

Nine related boys ages 8 to 14 were killed while collecting firewood in a remote part of Kunar province, according to Afghan officials and family members.

“I don’t care about the apology,” Mohammed Bismil, the 20-year-old brother of two boys killed in the strike, said in a telephone interview. “The only option I have is to pick up a Kalashnikov, RPG or a suicide vest to fight.”

Afghan President Hamid Karzai told General David Petraeus, the commander of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan, on Sunday his apology for a foreign air strike that killed nine children last week was “not enough.” Skip related content

Hours before Karzai's statement, hundreds of people chanting "Death to America" protested in the Afghan capital against the recent spate of civilian deaths, in a sign of the simmering anti-Western feeling among many ordinary Afghans.

Demonstrators marched through the centre of Kabul, some carrying banners bearing pictures of blood-covered dead children they said were killed in air strikes by foreign forces.

"We will never forgive the blood shed by our innocent Afghans who were killed by NATO forces," said one protester Ahmad Baseer, a university student.

"The Kunar incident is not the first and it will not be the last time civilian casualties are caused by foreign troops."

**Dozens of women were also among the protesters, a rare occurrence in a country where women are largely banned from public life. Using loudspeakers, some of the women chanted: "We don't want Americans, we don't want the Taliban, we want peace."**

Many Afghans say militant attacks would not happen if international troops were not in Afghanistan.

"Killing civilians, whether it is the Taliban or foreign forces, is a crime," said protester Shahla Noori.

"Both the Taliban and Americans are responsible for the killings of thousands of civilians," she said.

## **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.**

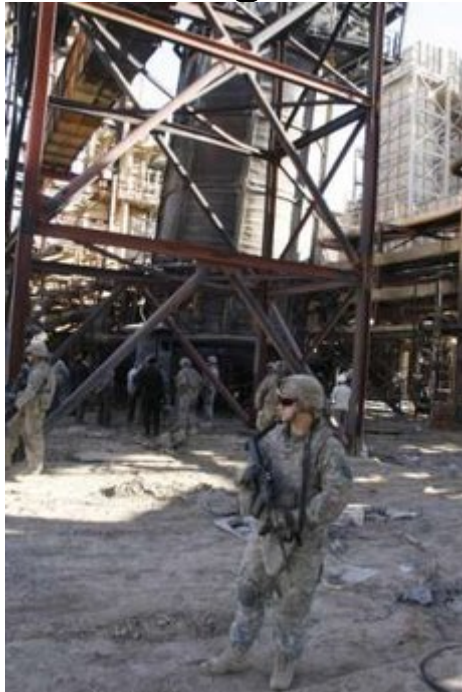
**Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces.**

**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/))**

## IRAQ WAR REPORTS

# **Obama's Lying Bullshit Reeks On: U.S. Combat Troops Who Are No Longer In Iraq Guarding Oil Refinery Bombed By Insurgents**



March 4, 2011: U.S. soldiers stand guard during a patrol inside Baiji oil refinery, 180 km (112 miles) north of Baghdad, March 4, 2011. Iraq's state-owned North Refineries Company said on Friday it had restarted partial operation of the unit bombed by insurgents at its Baiji refinery. REUTERS/Sabah al-Bazee

### **No Combat Troops In Iraq**

February 27, 2009 By PETER BAKER, New York Times [Excerpt]

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — President Obama declared the beginning of the end of one of the longest and most divisive wars in American history on Friday as he announced that he would withdraw combat forces from Iraq by August 2010 and all remaining troops by December 2011.

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

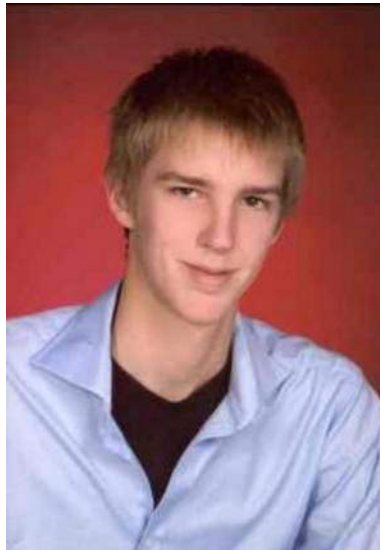
### **Foreign Occupation “Servicemember” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan: Nationality Not Announced**

March 5, 2010 Reuters

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

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### **Slain Bomb Specialist Was Monett Graduate**



Christopher Stark / Photo courtesy Stark family

Mar. 3, 2011 by Jess Rollins, News-Leader

A 22-year-old Monett man died Monday from injuries suffered in a blast from a roadside bomb in Afghanistan. The Department of Defense reported that Christopher Stark, 22, and another soldier were killed when their vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device in Wardak Province.

The family said Wednesday that Stark, deployed as a U.S. Army bomb technician, was en route to disable an IED when another bomb detonated. Mother Teresa Stark said her son left Dec. 1 for Afghanistan.

She spoke to him by phone just last week about the kind of work he was doing, and she remembers him chuckling. “He said, ‘Mom, this is what I do. It’s just another day at the office. I’m doing what I’m supposed to be doing. I love what I’m doing.’”

Teresa Stark said she didn’t always like her son’s career choice, but she supported his decision to join an explosive ordnance disposal unit.

“You want your kids to be doing what they want to do, and to be happy. We all have to pick our own deal.”

Some said Christopher Stark wanted to be a soldier since high school. Flags are flying at half-staff on the Monett High School campus today and have been since Tuesday, when news of the recent graduate’s death reached the school.

“He was a great young man,” said Junior ROTC instructor John Marbut. Marbut took his glasses off and rubbed glossy eyes as he spoke of Stark. “I was pretty close to him,” he said. Marbut said Stark was very involved with the JROTC program when it started about eight years ago.

Stark volunteered constantly, he said, wearing the uniform to sporting events, funerals and food drives. “He always knew what he wanted to do,” said Deann Crockett, Stark’s former science teacher.

The Department of Defense said Stark was a specialist in the 63rd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Battalion, 20th Support Command. Staff Sgt. Chauncy R. Mays, 25, of Cookville, Texas, also was killed in the attack.

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## **REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: ALL HOME NOW**



U.S. soldiers arrive at the site of a blast in Arghandab district of Kandahar province February 27, 2011. REUTERS/Ahmad Nadeem

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## **MILITARY NEWS**

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



The remains of Marine Sgt. Matthew DeYoung of San Pedro Calif., upon arrival at Dover Air Force Base, Del. on Feb. 19, 2011. Sgt. DeYoung was killed during combat in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)

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## **Tyrant Col. Relieved Of Command For “Arrogance, Deception And Threatening Behavior”**

**“The Command Climate Was ‘At Best  
Ineffective, And At Worst Toxic’”**

**“He Said That If We Are Disloyal ... Then  
He Was Going To Take An Ice Pick And  
Shove It In Our Left Eye”**

March 7, 2011 By Joe Gould, Army Times [Excerpts]

Life in the 172nd Infantry Brigade, by most accounts, was hell when Col. Frank Zachar was in charge.

Senior officers said Zachar threatened their careers and dressed them down when they could not follow his confusing guidance.

Before a one-star general arrived to investigate the withering command climate, Zachar gathered his command staff to bully them into silence, several subordinates said.

“He said that if we are disloyal ... then he was going to take an ice pick and shove it in our left eye,” read one lieutenant colonel’s sworn statement.

“He said this more than once and said it was exactly what he meant.”

A major on Zachar’s staff said Zachar asked him to be his “directed telescope” and gather intelligence on what subordinate leaders were saying about him.

Four of Zachar’s six battalion commanders and four of his five sergeants major felt he had a negative leadership style, according to an investigation into the command climate.

Zachar was relieved Jan. 3, after eight months in command, “due to a loss of confidence in his ability to command,” said Col. Bryan Hilferty, U.S. Army Europe spokesman.

Brig. Gen. Jimmie Jaye Wells, who conducted U.S. Army Europe’s investigation of the brigade, concluded in his report that Zachar “demonstrates arrogance, deception and threatening behavior,” and that the command climate was “at best ineffective, and at worst toxic.” Gen. Carter F. Ham, commander of U.S. Army Europe and the Seventh Army, ordered the 15-6 investigation to assess the command relationships within the 172nd.

Wells’ report, obtained by Army Times, had recommended Zachar be relieved. Zachar’s command sergeant major, Robert French, whom Wells does not criticize, was also reassigned.

**Significant portions of the report are redacted, including the names of subordinates, incidents involving spouses and training, and information about unit readiness and deployments.**

What survives the redactions is a blistering critique.

Zachar is described as manipulative, indecisive, insincere, obsessed with personal loyalty and disinterested in soldier training.

**Several subordinates said they had no confidence in his ability to lead them into combat. The unit, based in Grafenwoehr and Schweinfurt, Germany, is set to deploy to Afghanistan this summer.**

“I don’t have trust in his confidence to lead us through what looks like a tough upcoming deployment,” one command sergeant major said in a sworn statement contained in the report. “I don’t think he understands how it’s really going to be.”



Zachar was nicknamed “shit finger,” one lieutenant colonel said in a sworn statement, because “everything he touched turned to crap.”

“I just don’t believe he is a good person,” a lieutenant colonel said of Zachar in a sworn statement.

“He is a poor commander because he can’t sync his staff on a single purpose. He can’t articulate, or listen to anything but what he wants to hear. He is a bad commander and a bad person.”

“Too many times, the 14 of us are looking at each other and wondering what he means,” read a command sergeant major’s state-ment. “We don’t know what the hell we’re supposed to do because he changes from day to day what his focus is.”

“I have lost trust, lost faith and confidence in his ability to command,” reads another subordinate’s sworn statement. “He likes to operate in a threatening environment and has threatened my professional future repeatedly.”

**Reached by Army Times, Zachar countered that a close look at the report shows “I did nothing wrong.”**

“There were some people from the very beginning who were trying to twist everything I said,” he said in a Feb. 24 telephone interview from Washington, D.C.

“They had some grievances with me, and they were not going to let them go, and it split the command. The more I tried to undo what they were saying, the more leverage I gave to them. When I talk about loyalty, that can be turned around to, ‘Don’t talk to anybody.’ Not true, it’s ‘Talk to me first.’”

“The Army did a great job in its investigation, and to work through this to take care of our soldiers, but I really don’t think there’s any value in dragging anyone’s name through the mud — that’s to include me and Sgt. Maj. French,” Zachar said.

“I don’t think that anyone will understand what happened in the command, and the perfect storm.”

**Zachar defended his ice pick comment, saying, “In the context of that, if you’re going to attack me, I’m going to have to attack back.”**

“In a couple of group forums, I said, ‘Hey, everybody, be loyal,’” he said. “I told them if they have an issue, tell me about it, and that’s all about being loyal.”

Zachar, a married father of three, is a veteran of Operation Desert Shield/Storm, Operation Joint Guardian in Kosovo, and he served in Afghanistan and Iraq, according to an official biography.

Zachar said he had wanted, even before he was reassigned, to relinquish command. Now he said he wants to continue to serve, and his reassignment is not yet complete.

“My forward momentum within the Army is done,” he said. “No question about that.”

Wells' investigation cited issues that appeared soon after Zachar assumed command in May 2010.

Subordinates described a fractured relationship between Zachar and French, both professionally and socially. Much of French's own statement is redacted, but he characterized Zachar's style as "leadership by intimidation."

Zachar conceded his relationship with French was "not working," but declined to elaborate.

He said he attempted to have French removed, and told his staff in September, "Command Sgt. Maj. French and I are no longer collaborating, so if you say something to him, it may not get to me."

French had asked his superiors to be reassigned and was told to "hang in there." In the months after the IG's investigation, Zachar gave French several counselings.

"I signed the counselings and my focus was to get away," he said. "I did not care where I would be reassigned; I knew I could no longer work with or under Col. Z."

Zachar initially said the Schweinfurt battalions would be consolidated with Grafenwoehr, then — after the brigade learned its deployment would be accelerated — Zachar told the brigade the consolidation effort would cease. A few weeks later, he said the effort was back on, creating "significant emotional drama within the Schweinfurt battalions," Wells said.

Angst within the brigade came to a head at a staff ride to Normandy in late September. A battalion that had prepared two weeks for troop movements during the trip was told at the last minute that its movement was canceled.

"What should have been an easy effort to build a team on the (brigade) staff ride to Normandy was a dismal failure," one officer said.

On the trip, one of Zachar's subordinates asked the others who felt marginalized, and all hands went up.

**After the U.S. Army Europe Inspector General's office investigated the command climate, French said Zachar told him that he had a "mole" in the IG's office, that he was being cleared of wrongdoing, and that he knew who was speaking against him.**

**"I'm free and clear," French said Zachar told him. "Nothing can stop us now, CSM."**

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## Military Rape:

# **“The Victim Is Always The One Who Gets Blamed, And That Is Not Right” “That’s What Usually Happens In The Military”**

March 7, 2011  
Army Times  
Forums

I know from experience (“Lawsuit says military tolerates rape, assault,” MilitaryTimes.com, Feb. 17).

I was never once assaulted or raped as a civilian. Not even at college.

However, since I’ve been in the Army in the last almost seven years I’ve been sexually assaulted.

Did I report it? No.

That was my bad, but you know why I and others, including men, don’t report it?

Because there is a problem in the leadership on how they investigate and punish.

I saw someone else report an alleged sexual assault, and what happened to her? They told her to just “suck it up” basically and moved her.

They didn’t move the offender, they moved her.

That’s what usually happens in the military and usually in general.

The victim is always the one who gets blamed, and that is not right.

— candycane3482

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

## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



"THAT'S THEM! THEY CAUSED THE MESS WE'RE IN!  
THE ONES ON THE LEFT!"

## CLASS WAR REPORTS



ONCE AGAIN, THE SURGE IS WORKING! THEY ARE PANICKING, IN DISARRAY! WE ARE CRUSHING THEM AND TAKING BACK CONTROL!

YAHOO!!

OIL COMPANIES  
NEWS  
GAS PRICES SURGE  
PUBLIC

**A Wonderful Liberation Day In  
Egypt:  
Amazing And Heartwarming  
Photographs To Show Your Kids  
Around The Dinner Table  
Someday!  
Egyptians Storm And Capture Secret  
Police Building In Cairo “In Search Of  
Political Prisoners As Well As  
Documents”  
And Soldiers Don’t Try Very Hard To  
Stop Them**



Egyptians outside the state security agency building in Nasr City in Cairo prepare to storm the building March 5, 2011. Protesters on Saturday stormed the state security building in search of political prisoners as well as retrieve documents which they believe the government might destroy to conceal proof of rights abuses, according to local media. REUTERS/Mohamed Abd El-Ghany



Egyptian soldiers seen here didn't block angry protesters who stormed the state security building headquarters in Cairo's northern Nasr City neighborhood, Egypt, March 5, 2011. Egyptians are turning their anger toward his internal secret police apparatus, storming the agency's main headquarters and other offices Saturday and seizing documents to keep them from being destroyed to hide evidence of human rights abuses. (AP Photo/Ahmed Ali)



Egyptian soldiers atop an armored vehicle look on at the entrance of the state security headquarters as revolutionaries storm the building in Cairo's northern Nasr City neighborhood, Egypt, March 5, 2011. (AP Photo/Ahmed Ali)



A man kicks open a door to a room inside the state security agency building in Nasr City in Cairo March 5, 2011. REUTERS/Mohamed Abd El-Ghany



Egyptian revolutionaries use a metal bar to break into the offices of the state security building headquarters in Cairo's northern Nasr City neighborhood, Egypt, March 5, 2011. (AP Photo/Ahmed Ali)



Egyptian revolutionaries check the content of a secret police office after breaking into the state security building headquarters in Cairo's northern Nasr City neighborhood, Egypt, March 5, 2011. (AP Photo/Ahmed Ali)



Egyptians search an office in the state security agency building in Nasr City in Cairo March 5, 2011. REUTERS/Mohamed Abd El-Ghany





Searching the cabinets in an office of the state police agency building in Nasr City in Cairo March 5, 2011. REUTERS/Mohamed Abd El-Ghany



An Egyptian wearing the national flag shows a hard drive and another electronic device after protesters stormed the offices of the state security building headquarters in Cairo's northern Nasr City neighborhood, Egypt, March 5, 2011. (AP Photo/Ahmed Ali)



An Egyptian revolutionary holds up handcuffs found in an office of the state security agency building in Nasr City in Cairo March 5, 2011. REUTERS/Mohamed Abd El-Ghany



A weapon found in an office in the state security agency building is confiscated in Nasr City in Cairo March 5, 2011. REUTERS/Mohamed Abd El-Ghany



An Egyptian revolutionary armed with a shotgun taken from an office of the state security police building in Nasr City in Cairo March 5, 2011. REUTERS/Mohamed Abd El-Ghany



Members of a search party take away with documents from the government secret police agency building in Nasr City in Cairo March 5, 2011. REUTERS/Mohamed Abd El-Ghany



### **Meanwhile, In Alexandria.....**

March 4, 2011: Egyptian military police hold documents and files kept on the population after revolutionaries stormed the security police headquarters in Alexandria, Egypt. (AP Photo/Ahmed Mohammed)

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## **Libya: A Revolutionary Army Organizes And Advances**



A Libyan rebel soldier who is part of the forces against Moammar Gadhafi carries a machine gun at a forward position near the village of Bin Jawwad, west of the recently captured oil town of Ras Lanuf, eastern Libya, March 5, 2011. (AP Photo/Kevin Frayer)



A Libyan rebel soldier who is part of the forces against Moammar Gadhafi holds a rocket propelled grenade launcher at a forward position in the village of Bin Jawwad, west of the recently captured oil town of Ras Lanuf, eastern Libya, March 5, 2011. (AP Photo/Kevin Frayer)



A Libyan rebel fighter mans a check point in the stronghold oil town of Ras Lanuf. Rebels pushed towards Tripoli. (AFP/Marco Longari)



Rebels gather near a tank used by Libyan army soldier defectors in the centre of the city of Zawiyah, 30 miles west of the capital Tripoli, March 5, 2011. REUTERS/Ahmed Jadallah



Rebel soldiers opposing Moamer Kadhafi organize themselves at Ras Lanuf before advancing westward into the north central town of Benjawad. Kadhafi's forces were accused of a "massacre" during a heavy assault Saturday on a key town, as rebels pushed towards Tripoli and the opposition declared itself Libya's sole representative. (AFP/Roberto Schmidt)

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## **“Tens Of Thousands” Demand Yemeni Dictator Get Out**



A demonstration demanding the resignation of Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, in Sanaa, Yemen, March 5, 2011. Tens of thousands are continuing with protests in several key cities across Yemen, pressing on with demands that the country's president step down. The government has suspended classes at the universities in the capital Sanaa and the southern port city of Aden, which have been the focal points for daily demonstrations — inspired by the uprisings in Egypt and Tunisia — against President Ali Abdullah Saleh. (AP Photo/Muhammed Muheisen)

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**In Yemen, A Huge Demonstration  
Masses To Demand Dictator Get  
Out:  
President-For-Life Saleh Goes Crazy  
As A Shit-House Rat:  
He Says “That There Is An ‘Operations  
Room In Tel Aviv With The Aim Of**

# Destabilizing The Arab World” And “The White House Ran The Operations Room”



Antigovernment protesters rally in San'a, Yemen, Tuesday. Muhammed Muheisen/Associated Press

**U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has called on Mr. Saleh to pursue political and economic change, but has also reaffirmed U.S. military and developmental support—underscoring Washington’s need for a cooperative leader in San’a.**

MARCH 1, 2011 By OLIVER HOLMES, Wall St. Journal [Excerpts]

SAN'A, Yemen—Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh accused the U.S. of conspiring to foment Arab unrest, as about 10,000 protesters, joined by a controversial cleric, called for his resignation.

Mr. Saleh told an audience of around 500 students and academics at San'a University that he would “reveal a secret” that there is an “operations room in Tel Aviv with the aim of destabilizing the Arab world.” He said the White House ran the operations room.

**The comments were unexpected from a man the U.S. has viewed as a counterterrorism ally, and whose government has received millions of dollars in military aid.**

Antigovernment demonstrations have grown steadily for over a month, and turnout grew in the wake of violence by government loyalists and riot police.

On Monday, Mr. Saleh offered to form a unity government, but the opposition coalition rejected the proposal outright and said they would join the protesters for demonstrations.

**Tens of thousands of antigovernment protesters demonstrated around the country Tuesday.**

Outside San'a University, thousands of protesters, many with their faces painted with the red, white and black of the Yemeni flag, chanted, “We want the president to flee.”

Sheikh Abdel Majeed Zindani, an Islamic scholar, politician and spiritual leader who the U.S. has labeled a “specially designated global terrorist,” led antigovernment demonstrators in the noon prayer, and then told them he was joining their cause.



“No matter how long it takes, no matter how many lives, the regime will fall,” he told the crowd from a podium outside the university.

The address worried some students that Mr. Zindani would try to hijack the demonstrations to further his own political agenda. Mr. Zindani is linked to Islah, Yemen’s main opposition party.

Mr. Saleh’s comments were unusual for the Yemeni president, though there are large portions of the Yemeni population who share the view that there is a U.S.-Israeli conspiracy against them.

Mr. Saleh has been a close ally to the U.S. since the USS Cole, a Navy destroyer, was bombed in 2000 by al Qaeda while it was harbored in the Yemeni port of Aden, killing 17 American sailors and injuring 39.

Mr. Saleh also criticized U.S. Ambassador Gerald M. Feierstein, who he said was spending time with the opposition and giving them “instructions.”

**Mr. Saleh has ruled Yemen for over three decades.**

With 35% unemployment and prevalent corruption, discontent has been festering in the republic for years.

**Mr. Saleh sought support from tribal and military leaders over the weekend, but lost some key allies because some protesters have been killed—27, according to Amnesty International—by government supporters or security forces.**

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has called on Mr. Saleh to pursue political and economic change, but has also reaffirmed U.S. military and developmental support—underscoring Washington’s need for a cooperative leader in Sana’a.

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## **Tunisia: “Civil Servants And Factory Workers Have Been Protesting Almost Daily In Tunisia’s Capital, Tunis, And Other Cities”**

MARCH 3, 2011 By JOE PARKINSON, Wall St. Journal [Excerpts]

In Tunisia, where the second prime minister in a month was sworn in last week, continuing political paralysis has hit the critical tourism industry.

Civil servants and factory workers have been protesting almost daily in Tunisia's capital, Tunis, and other cities, seeking pay raises or better work conditions.

In a Wednesday note accompanying a credit-rating downgrade, ratings agency Fitch said the overthrow of the former regime has "raised expectations," but it stressed that any new government "will face similar economic challenges, most significantly, high youth unemployment."

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## **Algeria: "A Protest Thursday Showed How Social Grievances Can Rapidly Escalate Into Political Demands Outside The Control Of Opposition Parties"**



Police surround opposition protesters attempting to join a protest in Algiers Saturday. The oil-rich country, like much of North Africa, has faced unrest in recent months over political reforms, jobs and food prices. Photo: Benoit Faucon/The Wall Street Journal

MARCH 5, 2011 By BENOIT FAUCON, The Wall St. Journal [Excerpts]

ALGIERS—Algeria's main opposition party held its first rally in seven years here Friday, as thousands of members shouted antigovernment slogans and demanded deeper political reforms.

But in the face of a tough government stance toward political demonstrations in the capital, Algiers, analysts say the greater threat to the Algerian government comes from spreading social protests that are mostly disconnected from the main opposition parties.

Oil workers have staged sit-ins demanding higher wages, students have held rallies seeking better opportunities, and other groups have protested over joblessness and poor housing.

At the Socialist Forces Front rally in Algiers on Friday, thousands of party stalwarts shouted antigovernment slogans in the party's first mass gathering since 2004, which

went ahead after the authorities eased conditions for holding political gatherings in public places. The rally took place in a cinema. Samir Meftah, the venue's manager, estimated 3,000 people attended.

**Though it now allows rallies in public places such as cinemas, the government has maintained a ban on political marches in the capital.**

Recent attempts to organize marches in Algiers have been met by a heavy police presence.

The government was shaken after a rise in food prices in January led to riots throughout the country, leaving at least five people dead. It responded with a cut in duties, helping to lower food prices.

Since then, it has responded to a key opposition demand by lifting the 19-year state of emergency, which allowed detention without trial for suspected terrorists.

Yet, a protest Thursday showed how social grievances can rapidly escalate into political demands outside the control of opposition parties.

Hundreds of students were joining a sit-in Thursday morning by students in front of Algiers' ministry of higher education protesting against a recent change they say would result in their future diplomas losing value on the job market.

But the shouting soon grew political. "Bouteflika out," they cried.

## **DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?**

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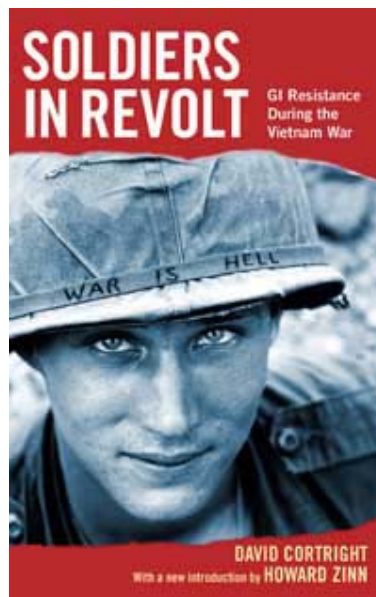
**Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email to [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication.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

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

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



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