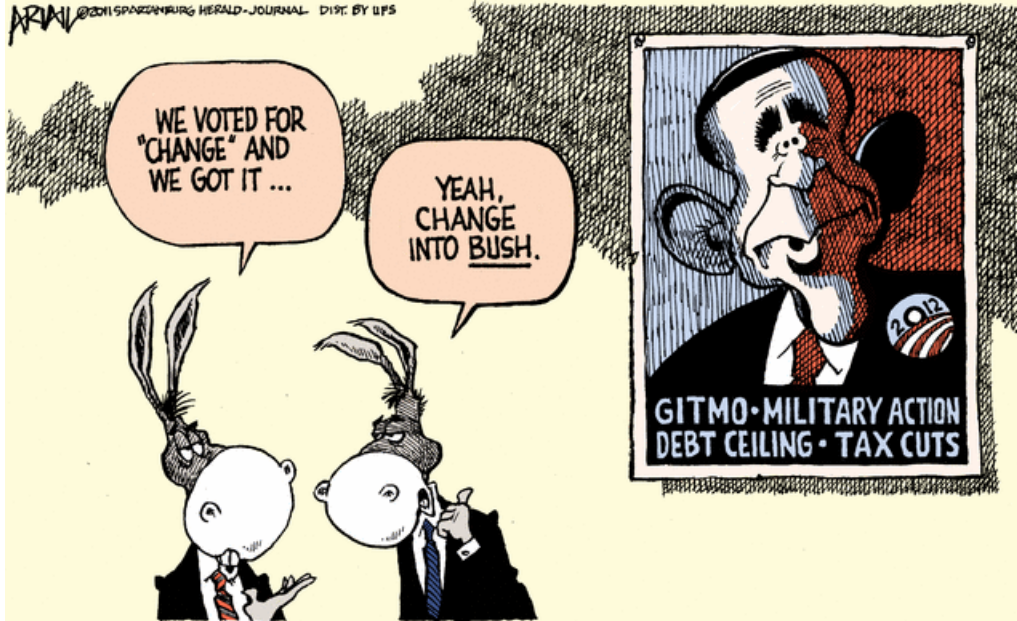


Military Resistance 9D21



**Jailhouse Rocked:
“Hundreds Of Insurgents
Escaped Through A Tunnel”
“It’s An Amazing Victory For The
Taliban”
“They Now Have Hundreds Of
Commanders Ready To Fight Again”
“My Family Members, Relatives And
Friends Used To Tell Me To Quit The
Fight And Start A Normal Life”**

“Now Everybody In My Family Hates The Government And Hates The Invaders”



The gate of the political block at the main prison in Kandahar, Afghanistan after prisoners escaped through a tunnel April 25, 2011. Taliban insurgents dug a more than 1,050-foot (320-meter) tunnel underground into the main jail in Kandahar city and whisked out more than 450 prisoners, most of whom were Taliban fighters, officials and the insurgents said Monday. (AP Photo/Allauddin Khan)

APRIL 26, 2011 By MARIA ABI-HABIB And HABIB KHAN TOTAKHIL, Wall St. Journal & NBC & By Molly Hennessy-Fiske, Los Angeles Times [Excerpts]

KABUL—The Taliban crowed Monday over the jailbreak of hundreds of militants from a high-security prison in Kandahar, an escape the government called a “disaster” and analysts described as a serious blow to attempts to stabilize southern Afghanistan.

The militants dug the tunnel from a house within shooting distance of the prison guard towers.

It was not immediately clear whether they lived in the house while they dug. They plotted the tunnel’s course around police checkpoints and major roads, the insurgent group said in a statement.

Afghan insurgents proudly claimed they helped dig the long, narrow tunnel used by at least 475 inmates to escape Sarposha prison in the southern city of Kandahar.

Some said they helped haul away the dirt during the last five months using pickup trucks, trailers and even donkey carts.

When they finally broke through the prison’s concrete floor about 11 p.m., the three sentinels were waiting — with keys to fellow prisoners’ cells.

Quietly, the guides unlocked cells and led hundreds of inmates to the tunnel without raising an alarm or disturbing their jailers.

An inmate who claimed to have helped organize the escape told the Associated Press on Monday that he used his connections to obtain copies of the cell keys in advance.

Mullah Asadullah Akhund, 30, claimed to have been among those awakened to join the escape.

Akhund told the Daily Beast by cellphone Monday that the senior Taliban commander in the prison woke him about 2 a.m.

Akhund said he joined a line of prisoners moving through the narrow tunnel by flashlight. At one point, a large truck passed overhead, shaking the ground, knocking dirt onto the prisoners and causing them to fear the tunnel would collapse, he said.

Akhund said he escaped in a pickup with 10 others and within 20 minutes was at a Taliban safe house, where they hired a truck to take them to a nearby town to celebrate, according to the Daily Beast.

“It was the greatest escape of my life,” he told the Daily Beast. “It was like a dream.”

By the time prison officials discovered the escape Monday morning, Taliban officials said the inmates had been spirited away to “secure destinations.”

One of the escapees from Sarpoza prison described the inmates’ surprise when, shortly before midnight Sunday, armed militants appeared in the prison, going cell to cell urging everyone to follow them.

By 3 a.m., hundreds of insurgents, including some of the Taliban’s most dangerous commanders, had escaped through a tunnel to a house Afghan officials said was over half a mile away.

It wasn’t until 6 a.m., the Afghan Interior Ministry said, that guards noticed that the entire political-prisoners block was empty.

The escapees had by then been collected by a fleet of vehicles and dispersed throughout the region, the Taliban’s spiritual heartland.

The Taliban put the number of escapees at 541, including 106 Taliban commanders, while Afghan officials said a total of 475 prisoners had fled.

In a triumphant statement, the Taliban said they had placed a group of bombers near the prison to divert the guards’ attention during the escape.

“The most astonishing thing,” said Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid, was that “the need did not arise due to the inaction shown by the enemy.” A U.S. military official confirmed that explosive vests were found in the tunnel.

“It’s an amazing victory for the Taliban,” said Haroun Mir, a Kabul political analyst who has long opposed the Taliban.

“The Taliban was having trouble replacing their killed and captured commanders. They now have hundreds of commanders ready to fight again.”

Canada, which oversaw security in Kandahar until last year, has spent \$4 million to bolster Sarpoza’s defenses and train the wardens after the Taliban successfully stormed the facility in 2008, freeing some 900 inmates.

One of the escapees, a 24-year-old who said he had served the first three years of a 15-year sentence, said he stared in disbelief as armed Taliban knocked on his cell and told him to follow them Sunday night. “We asked where?” he recalled.

“They said that we will take you to home. We could not believe until we saw the tunnel.”

A large carpet in the cell looked to have been folded back to expose the hole.

Police told reporters the insurgents had used car jacks to break through the concrete floor, which was several centimeters thick.

The Taliban put The Wall Street Journal in touch by telephone with the escapee. His descriptions of the prison and the escape were consistent with those provided by Afghan officials.

The Taliban said they had relied on “informants” inside the prison during Monday’s operation. Kandahar’s Mayor Haidar Hamidi said there were “some corrupt police inside the prison...and they likely helped the prisoners to escape.”

While the most dangerous Taliban detainees are usually held at the U.S.-managed Parwan detention facility northeast of Kabul, the Sarpoza prison was packed with senior and midlevel commanders from across southern Afghanistan.

The escapees included several Taliban shadow governors and leading bomb makers, Afghan officials said.

Only three Taliban inmates inside the prison were in on the plan, according to the escapee and the Taliban officials.

The Sarpoza prison was guarded solely by the Afghan forces, but the U.S. Army maintains a platoon of infantry troops and a unit of military police at an adjoining compound, a U.S. official said. U.S. forces often patrol the area.

The 24-year-old escapee said that as the inmates were being gathered, four men among them—apparently government plants—began to scream to try to get the guards’ attention. They were quickly silenced and blindfolded, he said.

Ghulam Dostagir Mayar, the prison’s chief warden, said the cells were usually left unlocked at night so prisoners could use the common latrines. He said prison authorities hadn’t planted any spies among the inmates.

Kandahar Gov. Tooryalai Wesa said that residents should not be worried.

“The security situation in Kandahar will not get worse. I have confidence in my intelligence officers and our supporters,” Wesa said.

The escapee said he would redouble his efforts against U.S. and Afghan forces now that he is free.

“My family members, relatives and friends used to tell me to quit the fight and start a normal life,” the 24-year-old escapee said as he was celebrating his homecoming on Monday.

“Now everybody in my family hates the government and hates the invaders. We showed that with the help of Allah we will defeat you all.”

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

The Dictatorship Attacks A Mosul Demonstration Against Continuing The U.S. Occupation: One Dead, 21 Wounded “Gov. Atheel Al-Nujaifi Called For Acts Of Civil Disobedience Across The Province In Response To The Shootings”

April 26, 2011 From Mohammed Tawfeeq, CNN [Excerpts]

In an incident in the northern city of Mosul, at least one protester was killed and 21 were wounded after security forces opened fire on demonstrators, police said.

The incident occurred in the city's Bab al-Hadeed area, where throngs of people gathered in the latest demonstration after weeks of protests across the region.

The demonstrators were protesting the possibility of American troops staying in the country beyond the end of 2011.

Protesters also are demanding the release of those who have been detained for years without facing charges. They also called for an improvement of basic government services.

Tuesday's shooting reflects a second day of violence in the northern Iraqi city.

After the incident, local officials said provincial Gov. Atheel al-Nujaifi called for acts of civil disobedience across the province in response to the shootings.

"Nineveh governor has reacted to these attacks by ordering to shut down all government institutions in the province on Tuesday," said Nineveh provincial council member Lamyah Ahmed al-Dabbagh.

The "Nineveh provincial council approved the governor's decision," al-Dabbagh said, threatening to take "different measures" if the attacks continued.

Tuesday's shooting means two protesters have been killed and 30 others wounded by Iraqi security forces in less than 24 hours, according to police and provincial council officials.

On Monday, one protester was killed and nine others were wounded when Iraqi security forces used live bullets to disperse hundreds of protesters who rallied in the city's al-Ahrar square.

A representative for the security forces could not be immediately reached for comment.

But authorities have often said that such gatherings offer opportunities for terrorist organizations, including al Qaeda.

Others said the gatherings are meant to be nonviolent.

"Since April 9, thousands of angry demonstrators have been rallying in Nineveh province and holding sit-ins," al-Dabbagh said.

"The protesters have been very peaceful, but the military operation command has received an order from (al-Maliki) to end the demonstrations."

On Friday, nearly 6,000 protesters flooded Mosul, defying a curfew imposed one day earlier by military authorities.

Resistance Action:

April 26 (Reuters) & From Mohammed Tawfeeq, CNN

KIRKUK - Six policemen were wounded when three roadside bombs went off in quick succession in northern Kirkuk, police said.

BAGHDAD – Insurgents using silenced weapons killed an official with the Baghdad governor's office on Monday near his house in the southwestern district of Amil, an Interior Ministry source said.

HAWIJA - A policeman was wounded when a roadside bomb went off in central Hawija, 210 km (130 miles) north of Baghdad, Kirkuk police operations room said.

Baghdad - Three people were killed in four consecutive blasts targeting a security official in northern Iraq, police sources said Wednesday. The four bombs went off Tuesday in western Kirkuk leaving three security personnel dead and 29 injured. The attack targeted the patrol of the deputy of the Kirkuk police chief, who escaped the attempt with his life.

In a deadly incident in Anbar province, eight Pakistanis were killed and seven others were wounded on Tuesday when their bus flipped over while driving on a highway, according to police officials in Ramadi. The bus carried pilgrims who were driving from Syria to Karbala, a holy city about 240 kilometers west of Baghdad.

When Iraqi police arrived, insurgents opened fire using small arms. During the ensuing clash, one police vehicle was set ablaze while another was taken by the attackers.

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?



The remains of Pfc. Antonio G. Stiggins at Dover Air Force Base, Del., April 25, 2011. Stiggins, 25, of Rio Rancho, N.M., died of wounds sustained April 22, 2011, in Numaniyah, Iraq when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device. (AP Photo/Steve Ruark)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Eight American Troops And A U.S. Contractor Killed By Afghan Military Pilot At Kabul Airport Command Center

4.27.11 AFP & AP

KABUL, Afghanistan -- Eight American troops and a U.S. contractor died Wednesday after an Afghan military pilot opened fire during a meeting at Kabul airport - the deadliest episode to date of an Afghan turning against his coalition partners, officials said.

The Afghan officer, who was a veteran military pilot, fired on the Americans after an argument, the Afghan Defense Ministry said.

All nine killed were American, according to a senior U.S. defense official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the information has not yet been made public.

The shooting occurred in an operations room of the Afghan Air Corps at Kabul airport.

"Suddenly, in the middle of the meeting, shooting started," said Afghan Air Corps spokesman Col. Bahader, who uses only one name.

"After the shooting started, we saw a number of Afghan army officers and soldiers running out of the building. Some were even throwing themselves out of the windows to get away."

Five Afghan soldiers were injured. At least one Afghan soldier was shot - in the wrist - but most of the soldiers suffered broken bones and cuts, Bahader said.

An Afghan pilot who spoke on condition of anonymity, identified the gunman as Ahmad Gul from Tarakhail district of Kabul province.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack. In a statement, Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said the shooter was impersonating an army officer and that others at the facility helped him gain access.

Monday's killings took place at NATO's Air Training Command Afghanistan centre, according to a spokesman for NATO's training mission in Afghanistan.

Waxahachie Grad Killed In Afghanistan

April 19, 2011 By Joann Livingston, Waxahachie Daily Light

Corsicana — The Waxahachie community is mourning the death of 2007 Waxahachie High School graduate Joel Ramirez, an Army corporal who lost his life Friday to an improvised explosive device in Ahmad Khan, Afghanistan.

Ramirez' parents, Feliciano "Chano" and Irma Ramirez, and his siblings were notified Saturday night of the loss and have since received word that his body is now stateside at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware.

"He's back to his country," Joel's younger brother, Daniel, said.

Funeral arrangements remain unclear, however, as the family has not yet been notified as to when he will be brought back to Waxahachie. A viewing is planned along with a Mass at St. Joseph Catholic Church.

As the family gathered at their home Monday, a steady stream of people came by to offer their condolences and to share memories of a bright, athletic, artistic young man who decided to enlist and go serve his country.

"Nobody really knows the reason he did it," said Daniel, who graduated from Waxahachie High School a year after Joel, in 2008. "All we know is he really did like it."

Joel enlisted in the U.S. Army about a year-and-a-half ago, going through boot camp at Fort Benning, Ga., before transferring to Fort Drum, N.Y.

He had been deployed to Afghanistan about a month at the time of his death.

A machine gunner in the service, the family said Joel excelled in the military – as he had at school with his studies and soccer.

"He was first in his unit in accuracy. He was top of his class in physical fitness – he scored a 295 out of 300," Daniel said.

The close-knit family has numerous stories to relate of their beloved Joel, from childhood through adulthood.

"He was fast, he was very fast," Daniel said of his brother, who he fondly recalls being able to play three years of soccer together with at Waxahachie High School.

The three surviving siblings recounted at length their childhood escapades – how they would play soccer in the house while their parents were at work ("We broke so many things," the girls shared) and how Joel came up with imaginative games for them to play when they were bored.

They recalled how the two brothers discovered their dad was Santa Claus – and how Chano always seemed to figure out whatever it was that his and Irma's children had done.

"Every day, every moment of every day, we were together," Daniel said. "I was the wild one; he was the calm one. I'd get him into trouble; he'd keep me out of trouble.

"Right now, if this hadn't happened, what we would be doing is we would be together," he said. "He was fun, he had a good personality, he was a great guy to be around," Daniel said. "He made me laugh, he made everyone else laugh."

Yet another memory of Joel is how he was an animal lover, someone who always had a pet, whether rabbits, lizards, pigeons, fish or dogs.

“He loved animals, he always had animals,” Daniel said, segueing into still another memory, of how the two boys were tough on toys as children.

“I bought them Tonka trucks,” Chano said with a smile in saying his two boys met their match with those. “We couldn’t destroy them,” Daniel agreed.

Chano treasures a painting of an angel that Joel, an accomplished artist, gave him. The family recalls with a smile how Joel sketched a small drawing on an interior wall of a building at Fort Drum – and was subsequently ordered by his superior to enlarge and finish the piece because it was good.

The sadness comes when they note, however, that his last work, an idyllic scene at a beach, remains unfinished. Chano said his son had just recently requested he send him a sketchbook; however, Joel died before he could do so.

The family had been able to keep in touch with Joel in Afghanistan through calls, letters and, mostly, Facebook. With the time difference, they would send a message, awaiting a reply that would come later.

In the last voice message Joel left, “He said he was fine, happy, doing what he wanted to do. He missed us and he told us to keep writing him,” Daniel said, saying that was Friday and his brother said he would call back later – but the next call never came.

Chano said he’d repeatedly cautioned his son to beware of IEDs.

“I’d tell him, ‘Be careful. Be careful of the mines,’” he said.

Joel had urged his family not to worry, telling them as a machine gunner, he and his ammunition carrier were at the back when their group was on patrol. The mine-sweeping specialists were at the front, he had told them, saying also that the patrols had recently switched from day time to night time, which was safer.

The family hasn’t received many details of the incident; they believe at least one other person, possibly more, was injured. As of Tuesday morning, the U.S. Department of Defense had not posted an official release on its website.

The Ramirez family moved to Waxahachie in December 2001, in part because of a job opportunity for Chano as a truck driver at the time, but primarily because Irma wanted their children to have a superior education.

The family had spent the prior eight months in Mexico on their home place, moving there from California to care for Chano’s father before he passed away.

Daniel recalled how their family became even closer during those months. The ties to their relatives and the land, where they were raising cattle, had a lasting impact on all of them – and Joel had told his family that if something were to happen to him in the service that his wish was to be buried there.

For the family, a similar sense of community and belonging also extends to Waxahachie, where Chano and Irma work as support staff members at the high school and where their two daughters, Maria and Christie, are now freshmen at the ninth grade academy.

Daniel remarked that when he came in from out-of-town he was reminded of the lifelong friendships the family has developed in Waxahachie.

"I showed up to a parking lot of people and I could see my mom's all right, my dad's all right. I felt love from everybody," he said.

At the home, rosaries draped several of the framed photographs of Joel that were set out; as they move forward, the family will continue to draw on their faith.

As the eldest son, Joel was a pillar to the family and Daniel said it's for him to serve in that role now: to help protect his sisters, to be there for his mom to rely on, to be his father's right hand.

"It's going to be some big shoes to fill," he said. "It's a big blow, but the best fighters get back up. ... I will keep him proud."

Donations sought

Donations are being sought to help with expenses the family is facing, including the cost to bury Joel at the family home place in Mexico. It remains unclear as to what extent the military might contribute.

The Joel Ramirez Memorial Fund has been set up at Wells Fargo Bank to accept donations from the community.

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

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

**Guantánamo Secret Files Show
U.S. Often Held Innocent Afghans:
"Afghans Were The Largest Group
By Nationality Held At The**

Guantánamo Bay Detention Center, An Estimated 221 Men And Boys In All”

“Yet They Were Frequently Found To Have Had Nothing To Do With International Terrorism”

Afghans became crucial for understanding the lay of the land — and for many it cost them years of their lives in confinement. For at least three Afghan men, the reason listed for being at Guantánamo was a variation of “knowledge of routes between Afghanistan and Pakistan.”

04.26.11 By Tom Lasseter, McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON — Naqibullah was about 14 years old when U.S. troops detained him in December of 2002 at a suspected militant’s compound in eastern Afghanistan.

The weapon he held in his hands hadn’t been fired, the troops concluded, and he appeared to have been left behind with a group of cooks and errand boys when a local warlord, tipped to the raid, had fled.

A secret U.S. intelligence assessment written in 2003 concluded that Naqibullah had been kidnapped and forcibly conscripted by a warring tribe affiliated with the Taliban. The boy told interrogators that during his abduction he’d been held at gunpoint by 11 men and raped.

Nonetheless, Naqibullah was held at Guantanamo for a full year.

Afghans were the largest group by nationality held at the Guantánamo Bay detention center, an estimated 221 men and boys in all.

Yet they were frequently found to have had nothing to do with international terrorism, according to more than 750 secret intelligence assessments that were written at Guantánamo between 2002 and 2009. The assessments were obtained by WikiLeaks and passed to McClatchy.

In at least 44 cases, U.S. military intelligence officials concluded that detainees had no connection to militant activity at all, a McClatchy examination of the assessments, which cover both former and current detainees, found.

The number might be even higher, but couldn’t be determined from the information in some assessments, which often were just one or two pages long for Afghans who were released in 2002 and 2003.

Still, it's clear from the U.S. military's own assessments that beyond a core of senior Taliban and extremist commanders, the Afghans were in large part a jumble of conscripts, insurgents, criminals and, at times, innocent bystanders.

Just 45 were classified as presenting a high threat level, and only 28 were judged to be of high intelligence value.

At least 203 have now been released.

The records contain no single explanation for why so many Afghans with few links to terrorism came to be held at the prison camps in Cuba, a facility that the George W. Bush administration said was intended to house only the most serious of terrorist suspects.

Anecdotes from the documents suggest that many of the Afghan captives were picked up by mistake.

Others were passed along to U.S. troops by Afghan warlords and local militias who gave false information about them in return for bounty payments or to set up a local rival.

There was also a desire by U.S. intelligence analysts, particularly in the scramble after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, to cast as wide a net as possible. They were looking to piece together everything from which dirt paths were used to cross between Afghanistan to Pakistan, to the relationship between the Taliban and al Qaeda.

Afghans became crucial for understanding the lay of the land — and for many it cost them years of their lives in confinement.

For at least three Afghan men, the reason listed for being at Guantánamo was a variation of “knowledge of routes between Afghanistan and Pakistan.”

The assessments for at least four others listed as the reason for holding them at Guantánamo their knowledge of the Taliban conscription process — meaning they'd been forced to join the organization.

“I think many of them were used to get what I call associated intelligence — if they knew somebody who knew somebody who knew somebody,” said Emile Nakhleh, the former director of the CIA's Political Islam Strategic Analysis Program who visited the prison to assess detainees there in 2002.

“They were the living dots of Google Earth in Afghanistan; we were trying to connect the dots.”

The documents, however, undermine Guantánamo's carefully cultivated image as a place where each detainee had been vetted before being sent halfway around the world on a journey for which they were blindfolded, deafened with soundproof headphones and kept in diapers.

Among those held, according to the assessments:

Haji Faiz Mohammed, a 70-year-old man with senile dementia from Afghanistan's Helmand Province who was detained by U.S. forces during a raid near a mosque where he'd been sleeping.

A 2002 memorandum for the commander of U.S. Southern Command, barely more than a page long, said that "There is no reason on the record for detainee being transferred to Guantánamo Bay." Mohammed was shipped home later that year.

Sharbat, the only name by which he is identified in the records, was arrested by Afghan soldiers after a roadside bomb exploded. His Guantánamo interrogators determined he was an illiterate shepherd who probably was not connected to the explosion.

Three interrogation teams at the U.S. detention center at Bagram Airfield also had recommended that he be released. Instead, Sharbat was sent to Guantánamo in November 2003 and held there until February 2006.

Abdul Salaam's file summarized his case by saying that while he'd initially been accused of being a money launderer for militant groups, "after reviewing all of the available documentation, nothing has been found to support this claim. It is highly probable detainee's statements that he and his family are honest business people ... and have never transferred any money for or on behalf of the Taliban or Al Qaeda are truthful."

He was held at Guantánamo from October 2002 to February 2006.

Khudai Dad may have been a farmer or he may have had a leadership position in the Taliban. It was hard to assess which was true because the schizophrenic was hospitalized at Guantánamo for "acute symptoms of psychosis" after reporting anxiety problems in November 2002 and then referred to the interrogation team for a final session in January 2003.

Eight months later, Guantánamo personnel judged him ready for a polygraph examination. It didn't last long. Dad began having hallucinations in the middle of questioning and the polygrapher "determined he was mentally unfit." His March 2004 report didn't note how long he'd been at Guantánamo at that point, but Dad wasn't released until February 2006.

There are lingering questions, too, about whether those identified in the assessments as a serious threat really belonged at Guantánamo. As the post-invasion period began in Afghanistan, militia commanders — some of them with connections to the Taliban and other insurgent groups — began to jockey for power and to place their men in Afghan security units.

By all accounts, those men funneled false information about their enemies to U.S. forces.

While the assessments about Afghan detainees did not often record those details, Guantánamo in one instance appears to have housed both a man handed over by a local security commander in eastern Afghanistan, Hafizullah Shabaz Khaul, and

then the commander himself, Abdullah Mujahid. They were sent home on the same day in December 2007.

FUTILE EXERCISE: ALL HOME NOW!



A U.S. soldier in front of a house from inside which a tunnel was dug and used by Taliban inmates to escape from the Kandahar's main jail April 25, 2011. REUTERS/Ahmd Nadeem



U.S. soldiers walk through a poppy field during a patrol near the village of Sami Kalache in the Arghandab Valley north of Kandahar April 15, 2011. REUTERS/Bob Strong

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

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Government Troops Kill Each Other And Civilians Over Plunder, As Usual

Apr 26, 2011 GAROWE ONLINE

Clashes between Somali government military killed five people including civilians and wounded six others in Mogadishu the restive capital of Somalia on Monday.

A businessman in KM4 told Garowe Online “the clashes broke out after government military forces in KM4 area disagreed with money they took from local public vehicles,”

Three government military forces and two civilians have been killed in the fighting.

“Mogadishu Emergency ambulance service collected the dead bodies and injured civilians to the local hospitals in the capital,” A woman who sells grocery at KM4 area told Garowe Online.

MILITARY NEWS

Syria:

“Members Of The Army’s Fourth Division Opened Fire On People And Continued To Shoot At The Injured, At Times Clashing With Other Soldiers”

“On Monday, There Were Some Reports Of Army Defections”

APRIL 26, 2011 By NOUR MALAS, Wall St. Journal [Excerpts]

BEIRUT—Syria's government escalated its crackdown on protesters Monday, sending tanks and armored vehicles into the southern city of Deraa, and raiding homes and deploying snipers in suburbs surrounding the capital and other hot spots, according to witness and activist accounts posted online.

The latest military assault killed at least 35 people, many of them in Deraa where the uprising has been most intense, and in the northwestern town of Jableh.

The government also deployed members of an elite unit headed by President Bashar al-Assad's brother Maher—the army's fourth division—and parts of the country were cut off from electricity and telephone service.

Close to 400 people have been killed by Syrian forces since the uprising began more than a month ago, Amnesty International said on Monday.

Mr. Assad has faced growing protests over the past month, with the largest yet on Friday when tens of thousands demonstrated across the country. The unrest continued on Saturday and Sunday in some areas, including Deraa, which saw protests on Monday even after the crackdown.

Some cracks are emerging. In Deraa, two parliamentarians and the province's top cleric resigned on Saturday.

On Monday, there were some reports of army defections.

One video posted on YouTube early Monday shows repeated shooting in Deraa from a tank surrounded by army men. The person filming the footage zooms in on what he says is a building for state-owned broadcaster Syrian TV and says, "This is Deraa," as shots and gunfire go off in the background. "So that Syrian TV doesn't say this is Afghanistan or Iraq."

A resident of Deraa, calling in to Al-Jazeera television, said members of the army's fourth division [an elite unit headed by President Bashar al-Assad's brother Maher] opened fire on people and continued to shoot at the injured, at times clashing with other soldiers.

MORE:

“Reports Of Mutiny In The Ranks, Pitting One Army Division Against Another”

“A Few Defections From The Ranks Of The 5th Division Mushrooming Into A Full-Fledged Mutiny” “Troops From These Units Standing Up To And Halting The Advance Of Units From The 4th Division Trying To Reach Al-Omary Mosque In Central Deraa”

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

27 Apr 2011 By Ammar Abdulhamid, Al Jazeera

Ammar Abdulhamid is a prominent Syrian human rights activist, author, dissident and founder of The Tharwa Foundation, a non-profit organisation promoting democracy and development in Syria and the broader Southwest Asia/North Africa region.

He is the author of the Syrian Revolution Digest.

*****UPDATE*****

Something is surely happening in Deraa city, something that, in common parlance, is often referred to as a “massacre”.

To be specific: a massacre of unarmed civilians by security forces and soldiers working for the Assads: Syria’s ruling crime family.

The inhabitants of Deraa have told horrifying stories of streets strewn with the bodies of the dead that residents are unable to retrieve for fear of meeting the same fate.

They also spoke of living in complete darkness and destitution as basic services, including water and electricity, having been cut off by the invading Assad armies, who continue to lay siege to the city preventing the arrival of much needed food and medical supplies.

Still, the eyewitnesses we have managed to talk to tell of brave stories of people defying army tanks with stones, and smuggling food and water from the nearby Palestinian refugee camps.

The Palestinians may not have Syrian citizenship, but have been living here since 1948. In fact, most have been born here, and to them Deraa residents are brothers, and the idea of taking a neutral stance vis-à-vis current developments seems unconscionable.

But the fog of war overlaying the city is also giving birth to addicting reports of mutiny in the ranks, pitting one army division against another.

The reports tell of a few defections from the ranks of the 5th Division mushrooming into a full-fledged mutiny, when few high-ranking officers decided that defecting is not enough and that they had a duty to protect the city and its unarmed residents from the vicious assault of pro-Assad troops making up the 4th Division and lead by none other than Maher Al-Assad, the brother of the titular president.

The reports do not stop here, but go on to tell of the capture or at least trapping of Maher al-Assad, and one Rustom Ghazali, the acting chief of political security assigned to deal with the protests in Deraa.

Al Jazeera even aired eyewitness testimony confirming some aspects of this, while the Syrian opposition channel, Barada TV, seemed to endorse the reports as factual. Facebook chat groups are naturally abuzz at this stage.

Considering the volatility of the current situation and the fact that these kind of reports are not exactly unusual in these circumstances, one is tempted to dismiss them in their entirety.

But it must be borne in mind that the reports of the mutiny itself have been around for about 48 hours now.

The fact that the protest movement is banking on splitting the army, if not completely winning it over to their side, and the fact that this report is allowed to be circulated unchallenged for so long lends it some credibility.

Other than the massacres perpetrated by Assad thugs, there are some strange goings-ons in Deraa that seem to warrant further investigations.

Be that as it may, the show of force in Deraa, and another one in the Damascene suburb of Douma, albeit on a somewhat smaller scale, did not prevent protesters from keeping up the daily routine of showing solidarity, defying odds and snipers, and demanding an end to the Assad rule.

The Ramleh neighborhood in Lattakia has witnessed such a protest, but according to eyewitness reports, it was quickly and violently put down by security forces and Shabiha gangs.

The situation somewhat was more peaceful in other parts of Syria, including the Damascene suburbs of Tal and Zabadani, other towns and cities in Deraa Province, including Jassem and Ankhel, as well as the cities of Banyas, Amoudeh and Homs.

It is as though protesters throughout Syria are telling the Assads to take their security forces, unofficial militias and loyal army divisions and shove them where the sun does not shine, pardon my Syrian.

*****END OF UPDATE*****

In the early morning of April 25, the city of Deraa was invaded from all four corners by units affiliated with the 4th Division, which falls under the direct leadership of Maher al-Assad, and the 5th Division, led by Muhammad Saleh al-Rifai, with reinforcement from the 132 Battalion.

Shortly thereafter, reports began trickling, then pouring, speaking of a mutiny in the units affiliated with the 5th Division and troops from these units standing up to and halting the advance of units from the 4th Division trying to reach Al-Omary Mosque in central Deraa.

At first, many of us thought this might be a reference to a few more defections, as had transpired two weeks ago, but the reports continued to come from different sources and eyewitnesses that we managed to reach all through the day, leading us to believe that there might indeed be something worth monitoring here.

If such a mutiny has indeed taken place so early in the game, then Assad's military gambit seems to be backfiring, a development that could spark a wider division within the army in the next few hours and days, with all different sorts of implications for the protest movement, depending on how this internal conflict plays out.

If, on the other hand, the reports turn out to be nothing more than exaggerations and wishful thinking, then the protest movement will still have a way to go before producing a significant impact on the structure and power base of the regime, and the challenge will be to persist peacefully all the way through despite the mounting violence on part of the Assads.

It is important to note at this stage, however, the sheer falsehood of the regime allegations of widespread violence on part of the protesters and Salafist designs.

The videos we have clearly show protesters facing tanks with stones not guns.

Had Salafists really been present in the city and planning to establish an independent Islamic emirate, why did not they do so in three weeks of peace they had, and do they disappear all of a sudden, with their alleged caches of weapons, each time the army and security forces show up?

One potential answer is that the regime is dealing here with Salafist infiltrators trained by an undead Harry Houdini, or armed with Klingon cloaking devices.

The other answer, and pardon me for finding it more likely, is that the regime officials are lying just like their counterparts in Libya, Yemen, Tunisia and Egypt.

Be that as it may, despite the violent crackdown in Deraa and the reported two dozen deaths there, not to mention, and the incursions by security forces into the coastal city of Jableh and the suburbs of Mouaddamiyyah, Douma and Barzeh in Damascus, the fatalities that were reported there, and the hundreds of arrests, protesters still managed to organize sizeable demonstrations in Homs, Darayyah and Al-Tal, etc.

The protesters are a very determined lot, and might just prove to be a tougher nut to crack than the regime.

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

Confinement Conditions For Manning At Fort Leavenworth Detailed



www.bradleymanning

May 2, 2011 By Andrew Tilghman, Army Times [Excerpts]

The soldier accused of “aiding the enemy” by giving thousands of classified documents to the website WikiLeaks was moved to a medium-security prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., where his quality of life will be improved, military officials said. Pfc. Bradley Manning’s transfer comes after 10 months in the maximum-security brig at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.

Manning will be able to watch television, visit the library and relax in open brig lounges with the eight other pretrial inmates at Leavenworth’s Joint Regional Correctional Facility. “He’s got more space, more ability to interact with the other prisoners,” Army Undersecretary Joseph Westphal told reporters April 19.

Manning will get three hours of recreation each day. His single cell will have some natural light along with a chair, writing space and storage locker, officials said.

The facility marks a big improvement over the brig at Quantico, where he was confined to his cell for 23 hours a day and guards occasionally confiscated his clothes, allowing him to wear only a suicide-proof smock at night.

Getting It Right [In Yemen Anyhow]



An anti-government protester appeals to an army soldier at a barrier blocking a demonstration demanding the ouster of Yemen's dictator Ali Abdullah Saleh in the southern city of Taiz April 26, 2011. REUTERS/Khaled Abdullah

“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

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

The Social-Democrats ideal should not be the trade union secretary, but the tribune of the people who is able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression no matter where it appears no matter what stratum or class of the people it affects; who is able to generalize all these manifestations and produce a single picture of police violence and capitalist exploitation; who is able to take advantage of every event, however small, in order to set forth before all his socialist convictions and his democratic demands, in order to clarify for all and everyone the world-historic significance of the struggle for the emancipation of the proletariat.”

-- V. I. Lenin; What Is To Be Done

“The philosophers have only interpreted the world, in various ways; the point is to change it.”

-- Karl Marx, "Theses on Feuerbach"

"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

Rise like Lions after slumber
In unvanquishable number,
Shake your chains to earth like dew
Which in sleep had fallen on you-
Ye are many — they are few
-- Percy Bysshe Shelley, 1819, on the occasion of a mass murder of British workers by the Imperial government at Peterloo.

April 28, 2004: The Truth Comes Out



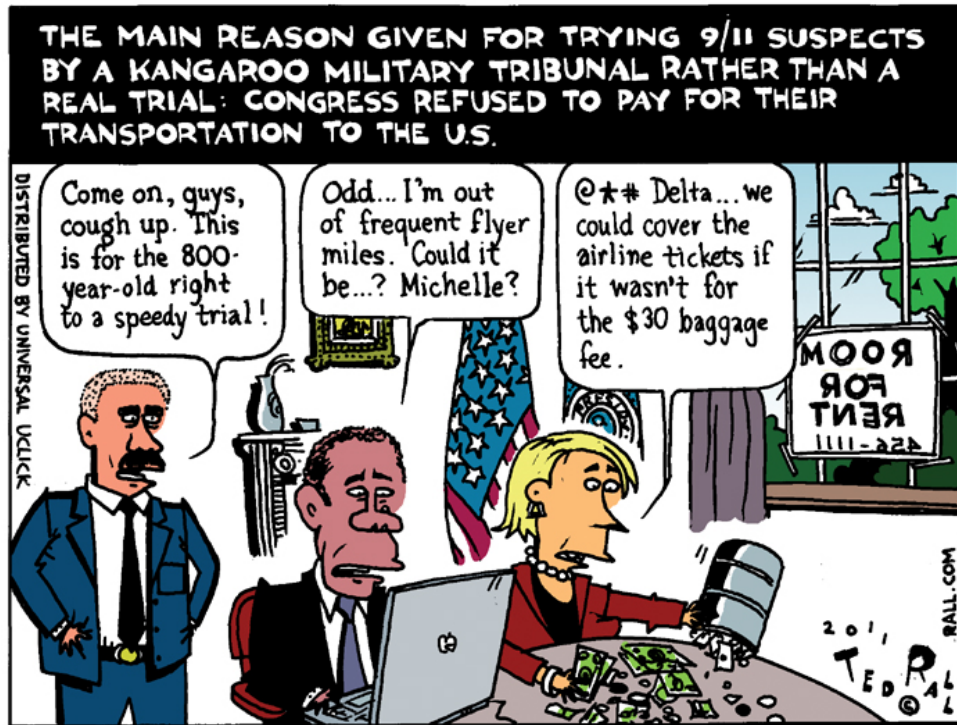
Carl Bunin Peace History April 23-29

The first photos of the Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse scandal were shown on CBS's "60 Minutes II."

The photos had been taken by U.S. military personnel responsible for detaining and interrogating Iraqi prisoners arrested following the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

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DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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/)

CLASS WAR REPORTS



Military Resistance www.militaryproject.org

*This is how Obama brings the troops home,
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE.*



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news@uruknet.info; http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/;

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