

Military Resistance 9D9

**After The Murder Of His
Son, Poet Javier Sicilia's
Calls To The Nations'
Citizenry To Come Out
Into The Streets:**

**In Response, "Multitudes" Of
Mexicans March To Demand An
End To The Stupid, Deadly "War
On Drugs"**

**"50,000 People - The Largest
March In The History Of
Cuernavaca, Even Of The Entire
State Of Morelos - Go To The
Gates Of A Military Base And
Demand That The Soldiers Stay
Quarantined There"**

April 7, 2011 By Al Giordano, Narco News; The Field [Excerpts]

Yesterday, multitudes took to the streets in more than 40 Mexican cities - and in protests by Mexicans and their friends at consulates and embassies in Europe, North America and South America - to demand an end to the violence wrought by the US-imposed "war on drugs."

What? You haven't heard about this?

Or if you have heard something about it, did you know that it is the biggest news story in the Mexican media, on the front page of virtually every daily newspaper in the country?

A sea change has occurred in Mexican public opinion.

The people have turned definitively against the use of the Mexican Army to combat against drug traffickers.

The cry from every city square yesterday was for the Army to return to its barracks and go back to doing the job it was formed to do; protect Mexico from foreign invasion and provide human aid relief in case of natural disasters such as earthquakes and hurricanes.

Since President Felipe Calderón unleashed the Armed Forces, four years ago, to combat drug trafficking organizations, the violence between it and the competing narco organizations has led to a daily body count, widespread human rights abuses against civilians, and more than 40,000 deaths, so many of them of innocent civilians caught in the crossfire and used by all sides in the armed conflict that still has no winners, that never will have any winner.

A fast moving series of events that began on March 28 have converged to usher Mexico into its very own "Arab spring."

And it began just outside "the City of Eternal Spring," Cuernavaca, in the state of Morelos, about an hour south of Mexico City.

Narco News has been covering these events for the past week (sadly, we are so far the only English-language media to do so at each step of the story, even as it has huge consequences for United States drug policy not only in Mexico but throughout the world and at home).

On that date, in the town of Temixco, seven young men were assassinated. These were kids with jobs, who went to school, model kids, not criminals.

And one of those kids, Juan Francisco Silvia, was the son of a nationally respected journalist and poet, Javier Sicilia, of Cuernavaca.

In a week, the soft spoken, increasingly beloved, intellectual has become the national vessel through which millions of voices now demand: End the war on drugs.

We translated Javier's Open Letter to Mexico's Politicians and Criminals this week, **[see below]** and penned what is our third editorial in eleven years to provide you with context and background to understand the magnitude of what he has unearthed.

Yesterday we translated his statements calling for the legalization of drugs to restore peace and dignity to Mexico, and then we headed out to report the marches that this increasingly and deservedly beloved man called for to happen only days ago.

Last night, returning from the marches, ten reporters, photographers and video makers (all students or professors at the School of Authentic Journalism) met to compare notes. Everyone was so shaken - I mean that in the best possible way - by what we had seen and heard, and wanted to talk about it, to understand what exactly is happening here on the other side of the US border.

I was part of the team covering the demonstration in the capital, at which about 20,000 people came for the first ever demonstration against the war on drugs (there have been annual marijuana legalization marches in Mexico City for some time, but this was the first time a mass of people had convened to collapse the entire policy of the drug war, and the attendees were far more diverse).

Here are some observations: A good half of the crowd looked like they had never attended a demonstration before. Couples, young and old, with homemade signs, many of which were versions of a popular piece of artwork that Mexican political cartoonists have caused to "go viral" on the Internet. Practicing the Debordian art of détournement, people added their own messages to it.

Here is one example:



In Spanish, the plus sign ("+") translates as "mas," or "more." So to say "one plus one," you say "uno mas uno" (or "one, more one"). The original image - "No + (the red ink blot)" is immediately understood in Mexico as "No more blood."

Everyday people added their own specific demands to this design, on placards, tee shirts, stickers, Xeroxed and photoshopped copies on letter paper.

They called for no more deaths, injustice, impunity, corruption, police, and Calderón, among the related things they want no more of.

The rage personalized on Calderón was particularly interesting, since many of these people were of the "middle class" demographic that constitute his electoral base. It's certain that a good number of people who came to this march had voted for Calderón in 2006 for president, but here they were, yesterday, chanting, "Out Calderón!" and "Urgent! Urgent! He Must Resign, the President!"

Many mothers and grandmothers carried signs they had made asking questions like, "If the children killed were named Calderón would you still want this war?"

They marched next to businessmen in suits, Christian religious groups, punks with spiked hair, entire families with baby carriages, a few people walking their dogs, bicyclists, lesbians, gays, young office professionals with stylish printed placards, each of them unique, and small groups of three, four, five friends who told our reporters that they were not part of any organization or collective, but they had read about the march in the media or on Facebook and decided together to come out for it.

I have reported on marches throughout Mexico for fourteen years and this was the first time I had seen so many of these kinds of people at a protest; regular people, who had they been walking without their signs on any given day on any corner wouldn't necessarily draw one's attention due to their sheer and pleasant normalcy.

That was about half of the march's attendees.

The other half were sectors of society that had obviously marched for causes before.

I recognized many from the Zapatista Other Campaign and anti-electoral fraud protests of 2006.

The electrical workers union brought a contingent of hundreds, the teacher's union, groups of professors or students from the universities in the city, indigenous campesinos, alternative media makers numbered over 100 among the ones I recognized, and there were about as many reporters and cameras from official news organizations.

There were people peddling newspapers from every leftist "tendency" that exists: the marxist-leninists, the trotskyists, the anarchists, the maoists, even the stalinists.

There were people, pushed by NGOs, who had marched "for more security" in the past and had interpreted that as "more police and prisons." But here they were answering don Javier's call to march against the war on drugs!

The People's Front for Defense of the Land came from Atenco - I hugged Nacho del Valle, who was freed from prison almost a year ago - who had arrived with his neighbors at this march against violence with their machetes high in the air.

In other lands it might seem paradoxical the sight of machete swords at what others called a "march for peace" but it caused absolutely no concern or fright among other attendees.

In Mexico, it is well understood that people's self defense is a less violent alternative to corrupt police forces. And so they fit right in.

See, what has happened here is politically significant: those who have long had and voiced their grievances with "the evil government" of Calderón have intelligently latched on to the anti-war-on-drugs cause as their own, too, because they smartly perceive it as a "wedge issue" that encompasses the whole of national discontent and which could very possibly result in the toppling of an authoritarian president, "elected" only via well documented electoral fraud, with absolutely not a shred of moral authority among his own people.

In just one week, humble and dignified Javier Sicilia has collected the free-floating moral authority that nobody else could credibly assume in this Failed State named Mexico and supplanted the napoleonic Calderón as the moral leader of a nation.

A big reason that has happened is because, due to his columns over so many years, everybody knows that Sicilia dislikes political parties, has zero interest in running for political office, and serves as a kind of "anti-caudillo" figure at contrast with the strong swashbuckling machismo of so many previous political and revolutionary leaders that the public has grown uneasy with.

This is not to say that "the Sicilian" who now puts order to "the mafias" is any kind of pushover at all.

When he speaks of the need for criminals to return to their "codes of honor" and leave civilians alone, a guy named Giordano understands exactly what a guy named Sicilia is talking about: this is a man with guts and cunning, too, and one who knows his enemy, and his enemy's history.

Which brings us to what was actually an even more significant march yesterday, led by Sicilia in his city of Cuernavaca.

The photo up above, the front page of El Diario de Morelos, tells 50,000 words, all of them voiced by someone who came to the protest there. Greg Berger, who teaches cinema at the state university in Cuernavaca, and the Narco News Team were there, too, and are currently banging out a viral video for NNTV on what happened - and what is still happening - there.

“The Gates Of A Military Base”

In a country where the Armed Forces inspire fear among everyday citizens (so much so that it is routine for a bar or restaurant to have a sign indicating that it will not serve people in uniform), more so in the past four years than ever before, it is not every day that 50,000 people - the largest march in the history of Cuernavaca, even of the entire state of Morelos - go to the gates of a military base and demand that the soldiers stay quarantined there.

But that is exactly what happened.

On a normal day, you can pass by that base and there are multiple gunmen in uniform stationed at watchposts, watching you and everybody else pass by.

The military had the good sense to pull those troops back yesterday and there were few to be seen at all, according to our reporters.

Then Javier Sicilia climbed atop a microbus and addressed the Armed Forces directly, with a nonviolent army at his back.

There, he told them, "You have always been the custodians of peace for our nation. That's why we never want to see you again outside of your barracks."

That just isn't ever said.

Oh, wait. It just was, and for the multitude assembled, it was the reestablishment of the proper social order: that in a democracy, an army, if there is one, must be at service of the people.

Four years of Calderón having reversed that order - he converted the people into mere pieces on the Army's chess board, objects to be pushed around, stopped, searched, invaded, molested and assassinated - has brought the public to its absolute limit.

Cuernavaca is now the unlikely epicenter of something of revolutionary potential: the reestablishment of the proper order of things in which a people rule its own country. It has been a bloody battlefield for four years (before that it was a tranquil flowered city with a strong pull on tourists who now no longer come there due to Calderón's War) but now it is a new kind of battlefield: a struggle to reconquer the terrain of daily life for every citizen, every family, block by block for every neighborhood.

And nobody knows where this is going to go but I have an idea, and I will pose it with a question:

What happens when a neighborhood declares itself a military-free zone, and erects its own nonviolent checkpoints and barricades on traffic that enters it, with the goal of either keeping uniformed authorities out, or making them agree to the people's established rules before they enter?

Very soon, Calderón, as commander of the Armed Forces, may have to answer this question. Does he repeat his arrogant history and engage the people themselves as enemy combatants, this time under the attention of the national media? And if he does,

what will that spark in the next neighborhood over, in the city, in the state, in the entire country?

It is often said that the war on drugs has no clear enemy nor objectives.

Javier Sicilia and the people of Cuernavaca - as well as the tens of thousands from throughout Mexico who marched in solidarity and for the same demands with them - have just called the bluff of the drug war. They have said, We know who the enemy is. It is us! And now we accept that fact and will deal with it accordingly, our way.

Kind reader, I would like you to think about that. It is important that you understand what is underway in Mexico, and especially in Cuernavaca... oh, excuse me, I meant to say... Cuernavaca.

And in a little while I'll come back to this page and begin posting photos and reflections of yesterday's marches. But what you have just read, that is what makes this history.

And now for the updates...



5:13 p.m. The homemade sign in this placard at yesterday's march in Mexico City translates as: "Some fathers are poets. All children are poems."

Poets, writers (many journalists consider themselves one or the other or both), songwriters, screenwriters, really, artists of any sort, tend to identify with Javier Sicilia's tragic loss of a son.

The Mexican painter Francisco Toledo led yesterday's march in Oaxaca city, and today the actor Edward James Olmos showed up in Cuernavaca to add his voice to the struggle.

I ran into a poet friend of mine yesterday who has always told me he didn't like demonstrations or political organizations, but there he was.

He looked almost embarrassed to have done so but at the same time he could not turn away. We can safely expect that the entire artistic and creative class of Mexico is in this fight, in one way or another, already. And that will help greatly in its creativity beyond the "same old, same old" slogans, images, icons and tactics that have slowed down other worthy but in the end not very creative struggles...

More to come...

5:37 p.m. Oh my, it seems this report has "gone viral" on the Internet and its social networks. If you would like to see more of this kind of reporting - we call it authentic journalism - then check out another essay we posted today from one of the talents we are training this year, Namees Arnous, of Cairo: An Authentic Journalist Speaks from a Free Egypt: "Let Me Tell You a Story about Media and Revolution."

Namees, along with other Egyptians and 80 journalists from 40 countries, will be with us soon in Mexico at the School of Authentic Journalism at a ten-day course that charges no tuition. We are already learning plenty from our colleagues who toppled Mubarak and finding many applications for their tactics and strategies on this side of the lake! Feel free to help that along; this project does all that it does mostly on small contributions from readers like you. Listen to Namees and do what she says!

Anyway, now back to our regularly scheduled programming...

Friday, 11:35 a.m. A group of university students in Cuernavaca had already been studying the use of viral video in the Egyptian revolution when recent events hit their own city. In a collaboration with our creative friends, Los Detonadores, they started a Facebook page, Todos Somos Juan Francisco Sicilia ("We Are All Juan Francisco Sicilia") in memory and tribute to the poet's son, of their city and generation, whose assassination began this fast-moving chain of events.

It is modeled after a Facebook page in Egypt that they studied in sequence, from the page's first day of publication, named We Are All Kahled Said, through its growth to its present 100,000+ strong.

The Egyptian page served as a clearing house for "viral video conversations" in which people would borrow from each others' videos (adding new music or ideas) to make new ones. And it helped create a collective vision of what resistance and revolution in Egypt might look like, long in advance of the January 25 protests.

MORE:

**Javier Sicilia's Open Letter To
Mexico's Politicians And Criminals
Upon The Murder Of His Son:
"We Have Had It Up To Here With You,
Politicians Because The Only Thing That
Matters To You, Beyond An Impotent
Power That Only Serves To Administrate
Disgrace, Is Money, The Fomentation Of
Rivalry, Of Your Damn 'Competition,'
And Of Unmeasured Consumption
Which Are Other Names Of The
Violence"**

April 4, 2011 Translated from Proceso by Narco News

(Translator's Note: The term "we have had it up to here" really doesn't sufficiently capture the indignant depth of the original Spanish, "estamos hasta la madre," which literally translates as "we have had it up to the mother."

(But since that won't be well understood in English, I used "had it up to here" instead. As always, we welcome readers to suggest a better way to translate it.

(Additionally, I extend our maximum solidarity as journalists, poets and human beings to our colleague Javier Sicilia, his family, and the families and friends of the young men who were assassinated outside of Cuernavaca last weekend, and applaud his courage and selflessness at a moment when most people in such pain would, understandably, not have the strength to do the service he is doing for all the people of Mexico and the world. – Al Giordano)

The brutal assassination of my son, Juan Francisco, of Julio César Romero Jaime, of Luis Antonio Romero Jaime, and of Gabriel Anejo Escalera, is added to so many other boys and girls who have been assassinated just the same throughout the country, not only because of the war unleashed by the government of Calderón against organized crime, but also the rotting of the heart that has been wrought by the poorly labeled political class and the criminal class, which has broken its own codes of honor.

I do not wish, in this letter, to speak with you about the virtues of my son, which were immense, nor of those of the other boys that I saw flourish at his side, studying, playing, loving, growing, to serve, like so many other boys, this country that you all have shamed.

Speaking of that doesn't serve for anything more than to move what already moves the heart of the citizenry to indignation.

Neither do I wish to talk about the pain of my family and the families of each one of the boys who were destroyed. There are not words for this pain. Only poetry can come close to it, and you do not know about poetry.

What I do wish to say to you today from these mutilated lives, from the pain that has no name because it is fruit of something that does not belong in nature – the death of a child is always unnatural and that's why it has no name: I don't know if it is orphan or widow, but it is simply and painfully nothing – from these, I repeat, mutilated lives, from this suffering, from the indignation that these deaths have provoked, it is simply that we have had it up to here.

We have had it up to here with you, politicians – and when I say politicians I do not refer to any in particular, but, rather, a good part of you, including those who make up the political parties – because in your fight for power you have shamed the fabric of the nation.

Because in middle of this badly proposed, badly made, badly led war, of this war that has put the country in a state of emergency, you have been incapable – due to your cruelties, your fights, your miserable screaming, your struggle for power – of creating the consensus that the nation needs to find the unity without which this country will not be able to escape.

We have had it up to here because the corruption of the judicial institutions generates the complicity with crime and the impunity to commit it, because in the middle of that corruption that demonstrates the failure of the State, each citizen of this country has been reduced to what the philosopher Giorgio Agamben called, using a Greek word, "zoe": an unprotected life, the life of an animal, of a being that can be violated, kidnapped, molested and assassinated with impunity.

We have had it up to here because you only have imagination for violence, for weapons, for insults and, with that, a profound scorn for education, culture, and opportunities for honorable work, which is what good nations do.

We have had it up to here because your short imagination is permitting that our kids, our children, are not only assassinated, but, later, criminalized, made falsely guilty to satisfy that imagination.

We have had it up to here because others of our children, due to the absence of a good government plan, do not have opportunities to educate themselves, to find dignified work and spit out onto the sidelines become possible recruits for organized crime and violence.

We have had it up to here because the citizenry has lost confidence in its governors, its police, its Army, and is afraid and in pain.

We have had it up to here because the only thing that matters to you, beyond an impotent power that only serves to administrate disgrace, is money, the fomentation of rivalry, of your damn “competition,” and of unmeasured consumption which are other names of the violence.

As for you, the criminals, we have had it up to here with your violence, with your loss of honor, your cruelty and senselessness.

In days of old you had codes of honor.

You were not so cruel in your paybacks and you did not touch the citizens nor their families.

Now you do not distinguish. Your violence already can't be named because, like the pain and suffering that you provoke, it has no name nor sense.

You have lost even the dignity to kill.

You have become cowards like the miserable Nazi sonderkommandos who kill children, boys, girls, women men and elders without any human sense.

We have had it up to here because your violence has become inhuman – not animal, as animals do not do what you do – but subhuman, demonic, imbecilic.

We have had it up to here because in your taste for power and enrichment you humiliate our children and destroy them, producing fear and fright.

It is you, “señores” politicians, and you, “señores” criminals – in quotes because this epithet is given only to honorable people – are with your omissions, your fights and your actions, making the nation vile.

The death of my son Juan Francisco has lifted up solidarity and a cry of indignation – that my family and I appreciate from the depth of our hearts – from the citizenry, and from the media.

That indignation comes back anew to put in our ears the phrase that Martí directed at those who govern: “If you can't, then resign.”

Putting this back in our ears – after the thousands of anonymous and not anonymous cadavers that we have at our backs, which is to say, of so many innocents assassinated and debased – this phrase must be accompanied by large citizen mobilizations that obligate you, at these moments of national emergency, to unite to create an agenda that unites the nation and believes in a state of real governability.

The citizen networks of the state of Morelos are calling for a national march on Wednesday, April 6, that will leave at 5 p.m. from the monument of the Dove of Peace to the Government Palace, demanding justice and peace.

If the citizenry does not unite in this and constantly reproduce it in all cities, in all towns and regions of the country, if we are not capable of obligating you, “señores” politicians,

to govern with justice and dignity, and you, “señores” criminals, to retake your codes of honor and limit your savagery, the spiral this violence has generated will bring us on a path of horror without return.

If you, “señores” politicians do not govern well and do not take seriously that we live in a state of national emergency that requires your unity, and you, “señores” criminals, do not limit your actions, you will end up winning and having power but you will govern and reign over a mountain of ossuaries and of beings that are beaten and destroyed in their souls, a dream that none of us envy.

There is no life, Albert Camus wrote, without persuasion and without peace, and the history of Mexico today only knows intimidation, suffering, distrust and the fear that one day another son or daughter of another family will be debased and massacred. You only know what you are asking us, that death, as is already happening today, becomes an affair of statistics and administration and which we should all get used to it.

Because we do not want this, next Wednesday we will go out into the street: because we do not want one more child, one more son, assassinated, the citizen networks of Morelos are calling for national citizen unity that we must maintain alive to break the fear and isolation that the incapacity of you, “señores” politicians, and the cruelty of you, “señores” criminals, want us to put in our bodies and souls.

I remember, in this sense, some verses by Bertholt Brecht, when the horror of Nazism, which is to say, the horror of the installation of crime in the daily life of a nation, appeared: “One day they came for the blacks, and I said nothing. Another day they came for the Jews, and I said nothing. One day they came for me (or for a son of mine) and I had nothing to say.”

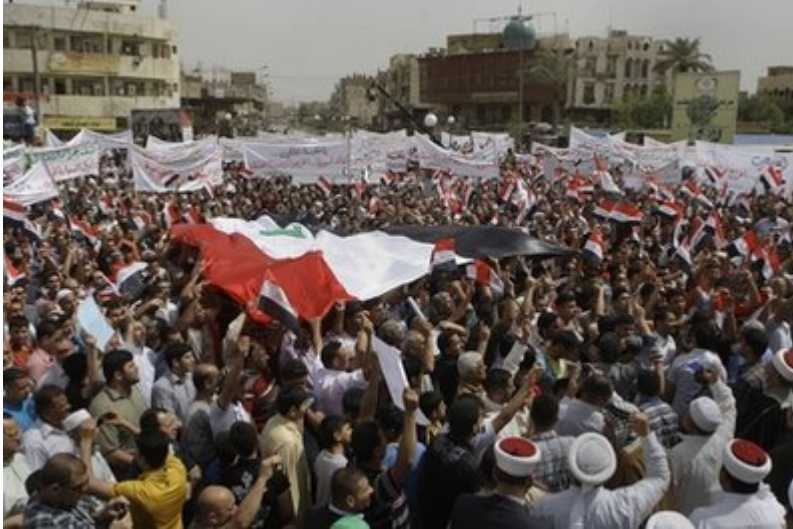
Today, after so many crimes supported, when the destroyed body of my son and his friends has brought the citizenry to mobilize anew, and in the media we must speak with our bodies, with our walk, with our cry of indignation, so that those verses of Brecht are not made a reality in our country.

Additionally, I opine that we must return dignity to this nation.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

“Down With The Occupation”
“People Want To Drive Out The
Occupier”
“Thousands Of Demonstrators”

[Get The Message?]



The Azamiyah neighborhood of Baghdad, Iraq, April 8, 2011: Thousands of demonstrators turned out in one of the city's largest neighborhoods to protest the U.S. military presence in Iraq. Wording on flag partially seen reads 'God is Great' and banners in Arabic reads, 'People want to drive out the occupier' and 'Free the detainees' and 'Down with the occupation.' (AP Photo/Khalid Mohammed)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Slain Soldier's Father Speaks About Son's Death

Mar 30, 2011 WSAW Staff

The father of a Howard soldier killed in the line of duty says his son died doing what he loved.

Ron Ross always ended phone calls with his son, Justin, the same way by saying, "I love you son, I'm proud of you." But, Ron had no idea when the two hung up last Wednesday those words would be the last.

"When two guys in dress uniform get out of their vehicle in your driveway and your son's overseas, they don't need to say anything else," Ron said.

Ron and Debbie's son, 22-year-old Corporal Justin Ross, was shot and killed Saturday in Afghanistan.

"Justin came into himself in the army, came into who he really is," Ron said.

The Ross' say Justin always wanted to be a soldier. When he turned 17, Justin enlisted in the army reserve. When Justin was deployed last August Ron, a local pastor, said the family tried to stay strong.

"It's the kind of thing you don't let yourself think," he said. "Fear was always chased off by a bigger value but you'd lay in bed at night and think about it and pray for him."

Ron said Justin was happy, and recently started working route clearance missions on foot.

"He loved it, he said it's so remote, it's turning spring. He said 'I'm out of the vehicle, I'm out in the country, I'm experiencing Afghani's,'" said Ron.

The grieving parents say it helps sharing their son's story, urging families to make the most of time together.

"The message that Justin would want out and the message we would want out is to not leave things undone between people that you know because you don't know when this time will come," Ron said.

Funeral services will be held at the First Assembly of God Church in Green Bay later this week. His parents say Corporal Ross will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Get The Message?



Afghani protestors hold a banner with images of their compatriots killed by foreign forces, during a protest in Kabul, Afghanistan, April 7, 2011. They demand Americans should withdraw from Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Kamran Jebreili)

FUTILE EXERCISE: ALL HOME NOW!



A U.S. Army sapper uses a mine detector to check the road in advance of a dismounted patrol near Combat Outpost Terra Nova in the Arghandab Valley north of Kandahar April 8, 2011. REUTERS/Bob Strong

MILITARY NEWS

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



The remains of Staff Sgt. Chauncy Ryan Mays, March 4, 2011 at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Mays, 25, of Cookville, Texas, died Feb. 28, 2011 in Wardak province, Afghanistan of wounds sustained when enemy forces attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device. (AP Photo/Steve Ruark)

British Sailor Turns Gun On Officers “After A Row Broke Out In The Control Room” One Killed, One Wounded

08 Apr 2011 By Thomas Harding, Gordon Rayner and Victoria Ward, Telegraph Media Group Limited

One Royal Navy officer was shot dead and another critically injured after a rating guarding Britain's flagship nuclear submarine "went crazy" and turned his gun on them.

Able seaman Ryan Donovan, who was held at the scene on suspicion of murder is understood to have opened fire with an SA80 assault rifle at 12.12pm after a row broke out in the control room of HMS Astute, which was berthed in Southampton.

Sources said the rating, 22, had just collected the rifle from the submarine's weapons store as he came on guard duty, and was due to take up his sentry position on the gangplank when the row started. He fired several rounds before he was overpowered.

The dead officer was named by sources as Lt-Cdr Ian Molyneux, the vessel's weapons engineering officer. Lieutenant Commander Chris Hodge was said to be in a critical condition on Friday night.

It also emerged that several VIP guests, including the city's mayor, were on board at the time, and a party of schoolchildren was standing on the dockside waiting to board the vessel when the shooting happened.

Astute, which has been plagued by bad luck since it was launched by the Duchess of Cornwall in 2007, was on a five-day public relations visit to Southampton. The £1billion vessel carries Spearfish torpedoes and Tomahawk cruise missiles.

Neither of the victims was in the gunman's direct chain of command and the motive for the attack remained unclear. It is believed to be the first time a submariner has been murdered by a colleague on board a Royal Navy vessel.

One serving officer described the incident as "bizarre" since submariners are chosen for being stable and mature characters who can remain calm despite spending months at sea "in a small metal tube".

Southampton council said the city's mayor, Carol Cunio, was on board, together with Royston Smith, the council leader, and its chief executive, Alistair Neill.

Astute, the Navy's newest submarine and the most sophisticated hunter-killer vessel in the world, is guarded by its own crew when it is in port. They are usually issued with sidearms at the head of the gangplank as they come on duty.

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

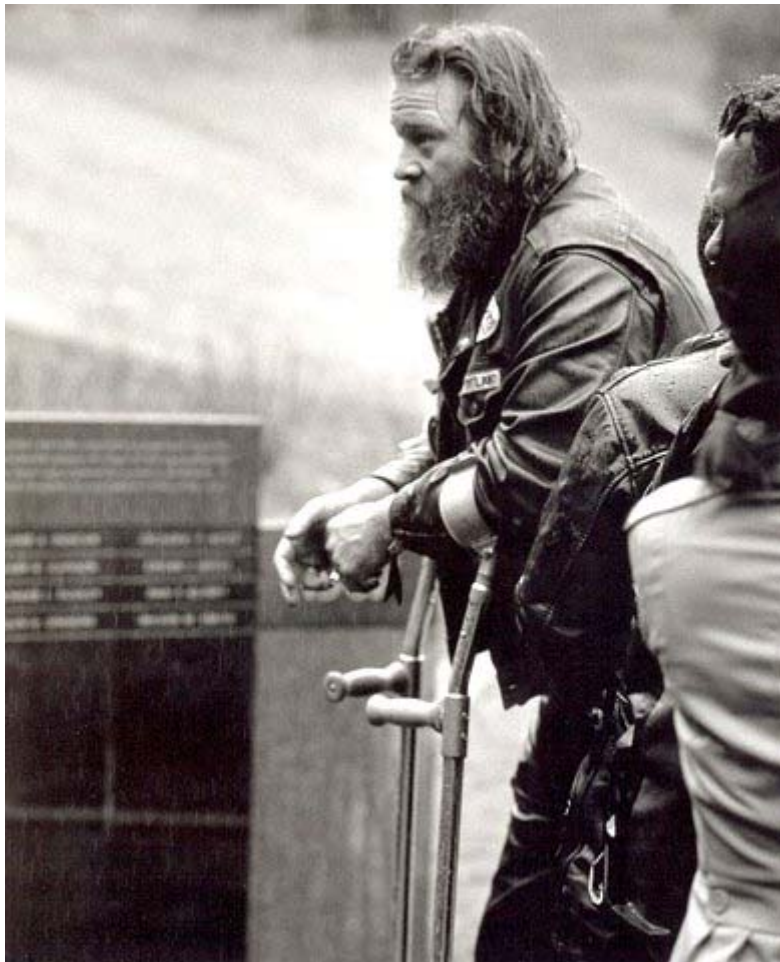
<p>Hope for change doesn’t cut it when you’re still losing buddies. -- J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War</p>

“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

I say that when troops cannot be counted on to follow orders because they see the futility and immorality of them THAT is the real key to ending a war.
-- Al Jaccoma, Veterans For Peace

“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

Suicide Secrets



From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance

Sent: April 07, 2011
Subject: a picture for you

Suicide Secrets

**I just found out that an Iraq veteran,
who was an Army medic living in the
Seattle area, killed himself, his wife,
and his five-year-old son two days ago.
He blew up his family, because he was
a walking emotional IED.
His name was David Stewart.
His wife's name was Kristy Sampels.
His son's name was Jordan Stewart.
All of them wasted for the lie of freedom.
I did not serve in Vietnam for the cause of freedom,
I served Big Business in America for the cause of profit.
PTSD is so complicated.
It has many twists and turns.
Failed marriages and relationships are powerful losses.
Betrayal in war can so often be transferred to betrayal
in intimate relationships.
For so many vets it's a time bomb.
Everything a vet experiences runs through his or her
own prison of post-traumatic stress.
David Stewart's story needs to be told over and over again,
until the American people feel this pain.
If this story is not told, there will continue to be countless
suicides among veterans all across this country.
Already 18 veterans commit suicide everyday.
Three of my best friends did not die in Vietnam,
but as a result of being there.
The last one hung himself in a motel room three years ago.
We vets carry a lot of secrets,
and those secrets can eventually become suicide secrets.
War is about madness.
War is about murder.
War is about betrayal,
the kind of betrayal that becomes the lethal dose that
ends it all.
Ends it all for the veteran,
and ends it all for those who never knew the power
of the secrets that veterans carry home.**

**Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71**

April 7, 2011

" War is cruelty, and the more cruel
it is, the sooner it is over."

William Tecumseh Sherman

As a Vietnam veteran, so often,
that cruelty never stops when
you come home.

Mike Hastie

Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: (hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)

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

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Traveling Soldier is the publication of the Military Resistance Organization.

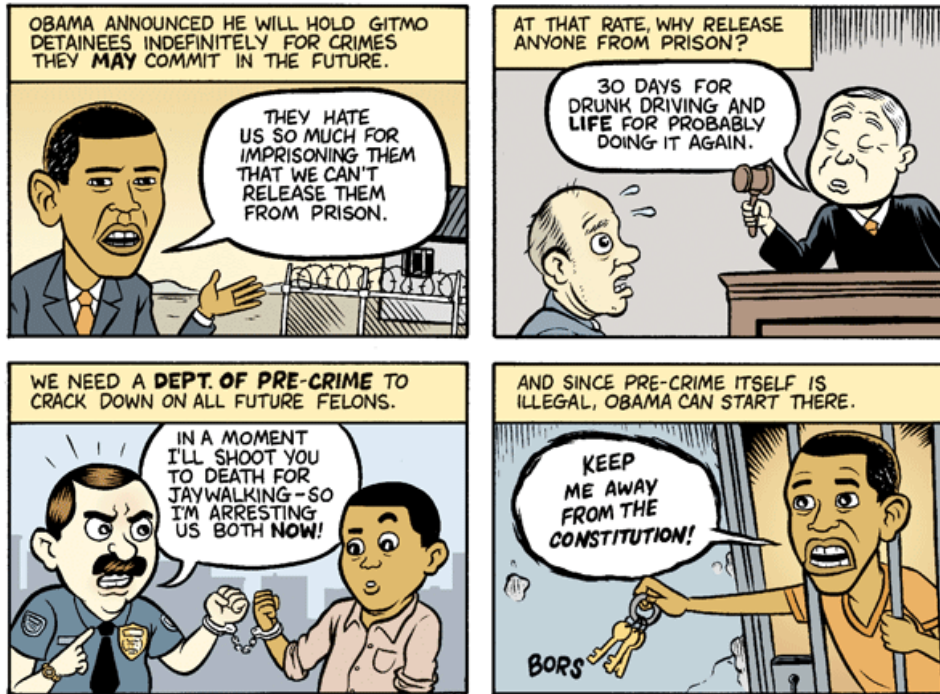
Telling the truth - about the occupations or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance to Imperial wars inside the armed forces.

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/>

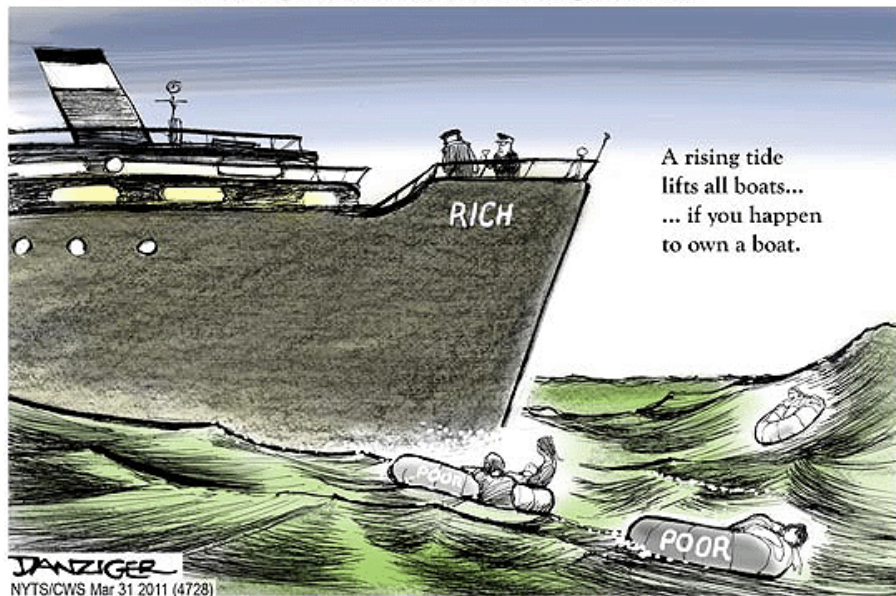
And join with Iraq Veterans Against the War to end the occupations and bring all troops home now! (www.ivaw.org/)

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



CLASS WAR REPORTS

In US, Gap Between Rich and Poor Larger than Ever



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

Syria: “Minor Political Concessions, Promises Of Reforms, And A Crackdown On Activists, Failed To Prevent Demonstrations Yesterday In Damascus, Douma, Deraa, Homs, Hasika, Qamishli And Baniyas” “Demonstrations Also Expanded Yesterday In Areas With Kurdish Majority Populations”

Apr 9, 2011 Phil Sands, The National [Excerpts]

Efforts throughout the week by Syria's government to deter public dissent with a flurry of minor political concessions, promises of reforms, and a crackdown on activists, failed to prevent demonstrations yesterday in Damascus, Douma, Deraa, Homs, Hasika, Qamishli and Baniyas, among other places.

In Deraa, which has become the epicentre for protesters demanding increased freedoms and major political changes, security forces clashed with thousands of residents after midday prayers, according to witnesses.

Rights groups believe up to 27 people were fatally shot, with dozens of civilians wounded, when security units opened fire on crowds using live ammunition and tear gas.

Protesters threw stones at riot police and smashed a statue of Baceel al Assad, the brother of president Bashar al Assad, witnesses reported.

More than 55 civilians have been shot and killed by security forces in Deraa since the first protest there four Fridays ago, civil rights activists say. As many as 140 people have been killed nationwide since then, according to human rights monitors

In the run-up to yesterday, a series of announcements were made to try to tamp down protests in Deraa, including the appointment of a new governor and the creation of the investigations committee. Those steps have been dismissed as insufficient by residents, some of whom are now calling for regime change.

Elsewhere in Syria, protesters continued to demand the release of thousands of political prisoners and for an end to draconian emergency laws that have long been used to suppress opposition to the ruling Baath party.

Demonstrations also expanded yesterday in areas with Kurdish majority populations.

Until last week, Syria's powerful and politically well-organised Kurdish minority had not joined in protests. On Thursday, the government scrambled to keep it that way, offering some 100,000 stateless Kurds citizenship - a basic civil right they have been refused for decades.

That measure did nothing to stop more than 3,000 Kurds in Qamishli, Hasika and Amuda from taking to the streets, however, with Kurdish political leaders saying nothing short of democracy is now acceptable.

Activists said joint Kurdish and Arab protesters chanted slogans in support of those killed in Deraa - now a symbol of defiance against the government.

The Kurd and Arab demonstrators also called for greater freedom and urged national unity between Syria's different sects and ethnic groups.

Like Deraa, the Damascus suburb of Douma, 15 kilometres north of the capital, saw renewed protests yesterday but unlike last Friday when at least eight demonstrators were shot dead there, security forces yesterday appeared to have pulled back and allowed this latest anti-government rally to proceed.

Violence in Douma appeared to have spread south to nearby Harasta, an area on the outskirts of the capital, while protests also took place in Homs, 160km north of Damascus.

The Reuters news agency also said some 2,000 people took part in an anti-government demonstration in Hama, which was broken up by security forces using water cannon and smoke grenades. If confirmed, it would be the first rally in Hama since the wave of protests began in Syria.

Hama, a conservative Islamic city, was razed by the Syrian army in 1982, with thousands of residents killed, in response to a campaign of assassination by the Muslim Brotherhood.

While government efforts to bring a complete end to protests failed, its moves to prevent the Sunni majority from taking part in the uprising en masse continued to hold - although the outbreak in Sunni stronghold Hama will surely concern officials.

Last week the authorities made a series of concessions to the country's government-affiliated Sunni clerics who, in turn, have urged their followers to give the authorities more time to push through promised political reforms.

That has helped to ensure that demonstrations remain comparatively isolated and limited in scale, with major cities such as Damascus and Aleppo remaining quiet in comparison to outlying areas like Deraa.

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: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

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Yemen:

“Tens Of Thousands Of Demonstrators Poured Into The Yemeni Capital, Sanaa, Chanting Slogans Against President Ali Abdullah Saleh”

“Hundreds Of Thousands Of People Protesting In 13 Other Yemeni Provinces Friday Also Demanded That Saleh Leave Office”



Yemeni anti-dictatorship protesters call for the ouster of President Ali Abdullah Saleh in the flashpoint city of Ta'ez (Taiz), 255km south of Sanaa. (AFP)

April 08, 2011 AHMED AL-HAJ, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS [Excerpts]

SANAA, Yemen - Yemen's president rejected a mediation offer by Gulf nations that called on him to resign.

Demonstrations around the country demanded his ouster and turned bloody in a southern city where three people were shot dead.

The violence in Taiz took place during a burial procession. Witnesses said police fired tear gas and bullets and beat protesters carrying the coffins of several people killed during a demonstration last week. Three men were fatally shot, at least 10 others were seriously injured and hundreds of others suffered breathing problems, said Dr. Sadek al-Shuga, who was running a makeshift field hospital nearby.

Security forces surrounded the Taiz protesters and the clashes continued after dark Friday, said Taiz activist Bushra al-Maqtari.

By evening, tens of thousands of demonstrators also poured into the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, chanting slogans against President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

More than 120 people have been killed since Yemen's protests calling for the removal of Saleh began on Feb. 11, inspired by popular uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt.

Hundreds of thousands of people protesting in 13 other Yemeni provinces Friday also demanded that Saleh leave office after more than 30 years in power in this impoverished country on the Arabian Peninsula. Yemen's central government is weak, relies on the support of the powerful tribes and is widely seen as riddled with corruption.

The only significant pro-government rally was in Sanaa, where police and army units were deployed to prevent clashes between the crowd and an even larger rival demonstration against Saleh's rule.

Hammoud al-Hetar, who resigned as Yemen's religious endowments and guidance minister last month, told Saleh opponents gathered in Sanaa before noon prayers that the youth revolution is peaceful with the aim to "establish a civil state that respects human rights, observes equal citizens' rights."

Al-Hetar disputed the government's contention that Yemen's branch of al-Qaida would control the country if the president stepped down. He claimed the terrorist group's presence in the country "is less than 10 per cent of what the government media used to portray it."

"The threats against al-Qaida have been exaggerated by the government media because the officials want to get money in the name of fighting terrorism," he said.

Al-Hetar said that the coming government "rejects terrorism and extremism and will strongly fight it while establishing better relations with all the countries and respect international law

Times Square Rally For Workers' Rights



Demonstrators fill New York's Times Square April 9, 2011 to rally for workers' rights. The rally was called to support the rights of all workers to organize and engage in collective bargaining in a climate where those rights are under attack. (AP Photo/New York City Central Labor Council, Jim Grossman)

Military Resistance www.militaryproject.org

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



*Military Resistance is a near-daily news bulletin for service members
www.militaryproject.org*

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

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

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