

Military Resistance 9J1



Graphic: New Statesman

The Emperor Kills Two U.S. Citizens:

**Obama “Judge, Jury And
Executioner”**

**“Obama Administration Had
Compiled A Hit List Of American
Citizens Whom The President
Ordered Assassinated Without
Any Due Process”**

Obama Regime Defies The Most Important Amendment To The U.S. Constitution: “No Person Shall Be Deprived Of Life, Liberty, Or Property, Without Due Process Of Law”

[NOTE WELL: Associated Press 9.30.11 reports a second American, Samir Khan, was killed “by a joint CIA-U.S. military air strike on their convoy in Yemen early Friday.” T]

Sep 30, 2011 By Glenn Greenwald, Salon.com [Excerpts]

It was first reported in January of last year that the Obama administration had compiled a hit list of American citizens whom the President had ordered assassinated without any due process, and one of those Americans was Anwar al-Awlaki.

No effort was made to indict him for any crimes (despite a report last October that the Obama administration was “considering” indicting him).

When Awlaki’s father sought a court order barring Obama from killing his son, the DOJ argued, among other things, that such decisions were “state secrets” and thus beyond the scrutiny of the courts.

He was simply ordered killed by the President: his judge, jury and executioner.

What’s most striking about this is not that the U.S. Government has seized and exercised exactly the power the Fifth Amendment was designed to bar (“No person shall be deprived of life without due process of law”), and did so in a way that almost certainly violates core First Amendment protections (questions that will now never be decided in a court of law).

What amazes me most whenever I write about this topic is recalling how terribly upset so many Democrats pretended to be when Bush claimed the power merely to detain or even just eavesdrop on American citizens without due process.

Remember all that?

Yet now, here’s Obama claiming the power not to detain or eavesdrop on citizens without due process, but to kill them; marvel at how the hardest-core White House loyalists now celebrate this and uncritically accept the same justifying rationale used by Bush/Cheney (this is war! the President says he was a Terrorist!) without even a moment of acknowledgment of the profound inconsistency or the deeply troubling

implications of having a President -- even Barack Obama -- vested with the power to target U.S. citizens for murder with no due process.

So for you good progressives out there justifying this, I would ask this: how would the power to assassinate U.S. citizens without due process look to you in the hands of, say, Rick Perry or Michele Bachmann?

MORE:

“American Citizens Far From Any Battlefield Can Be Executed By Their Own Government Without Judicial Process”

September 30, 2011 By LAURA KASINOF, MARK MAZZETTI and ALAN COWELL, New York Times

“As we’ve seen today, this is a program under which American citizens far from any battlefield can be executed by their own government without judicial process, and on the basis of standards and evidence that are kept secret not just from the public but from the courts,” Jameel Jaffer, the A.C.L.U.’s deputy legal director, said in a statement.

MORE:

Amendment 5 U.S. Constitution: Trial and Punishment, Compensation for Takings; Ratified 12/15/1791

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

MORE:

**TRAITOR
ENEMY OF THE CONSTITUTION
BRING THE WAR HOME NOW**



August 8, 2011 (Photo by Alex Wong/Getty Images)

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IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Georgia Soldier Killed In Kirkuk

September 30, 2011 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 844-11 & AP

Spc. Adrian G. Mills, 23, of Newnan, Ga., died Sept. 29 in Kirkuk, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his unit was attacked by insurgents using indirect fire as he was preparing

to go out on an operation. He was assigned to the 272nd Military Police Company, 519th Military Police Battalion, Fort Polk, La.

Resistance Action: Police Bombed At Kirkuk Bank



A car bomb attack in Kirkuk, Iraq, Sept. 29, 2011 detonated near a bank where policemen were picking up their paychecks, killing and wounding scores of people, police said. (AP Photo/Emad Matti)

27 September, 2011 PakTribune & Sep 29, 2011 (Reuters) & 09/30/11 BNO News

KIRKUK, Iraq - A bomber killed three and wounded 76 in Iraq's Kirkuk city on Thursday after he blew up his car outside a bank where police were collecting their salaries.

The bomber drove his car into the bank premises, damaging nearby buildings and setting parked vehicles on fire in the city centre, local authorities said.

Black smoke billowed from the blast site as emergency workers helped the wounded into ambulances. One body lay in the street near the wreckage from the attack.

"The security measures around the bank were tight but the bomber stormed the bank by car and managed to blow himself up although security force opened fire and injured him," Hassan Turan, head of Kirkuk provincial council, told Reuters.

"The attack targeted the bank because it gives salaries to governmental offices," he said.

On Thursday, insurgents attacked an Interior Ministry vehicle in northeastern Baghdad, killing the driver and seriously wounding a police officer.

Senior Finance Ministry official Mohammed Ali al-Safi died Monday evening, hours after assailants opened fire on his car in western Baghdad, police and hospital officials said.

Officials said gunmen shot judge Munir Hadad in his hand during a drive-by shooting on a highway in central Baghdad in a failed assassination attempt. Hadad served as the spokesman for the Iraqi High Tribunal formed to prosecute former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and his aides.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

3 Leonard Wood Soldiers Killed In Afghanistan

Sep 30, 2011 Army Times [Excerpt]

Three Missouri-based soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan, the Defense Department announced on Friday.

First Lt. Ivan D. Lechowich, 27, of Valrico, Fla.; Spc. Steven E. Gutowski, 24, of Plymouth, Mass.; and Pfc. David A. Drake, 21, of Lumberton, Texas, were killed Wednesday.

They died in Ghazni province, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when their unit was attacked by an improvised explosive device.

They were assigned to the 5th Engineer Battalion, 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Gutowski's uncle, Bob Gutowski, said Friday that his nephew had survived two other explosions near his vehicle while in Afghanistan.

He had just been home in August for his sister's wedding. He described Gutowski as a "guy who loved life and always stood up for what's right."

Hundreds Say Farewell To Slain Indiana Soldier

September 21, 2011 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPENCER, Ind. — Hundreds of people walked slowly behind the horse-drawn carriage that carried the flag-draped casket of a soldier killed in Afghanistan to his funeral in his central Indiana hometown.

The funeral Tuesday for 19-year-old Army Pfc. Brett Wood at Owen Valley High School in Spencer came 11 days after he died from a bomb attack.

The Herald-Times reports Nikk Wood told mourners he became closer to his younger brother while they served in the Army together after enlisting during the summer of 2010. Wood also read “last word” messages his brother had written for family members and friends.

At the end of the service, Wood’s parents were given the folded flag from his casket and several military honors, including a Bronze Star, a Purple Heart and a Good Conduct Medal.

Fellow Soldier Recalls Weslaco Native Killed In Afghanistan



September 23, 2011 By Jared Taylor, The Monitor

McALLEN — The casket of Sgt. Rodolfo “Rudy” Rodriguez landed on U.S. soil early Friday morning at Dover Air Force Base, Del., with his immediate family by its side.

Funeral arrangements for the slain Weslaco soldier had not been set Friday evening, nor was it clear when his body would return to the Rio Grande Valley.

The U.S. Army sergeant died Wednesday after insurgents attacked his unit with a land mine in Kandahar province, Afghanistan.

He previously saw combat from Nov. 2006 to Oct. 2007 and from Dec. 2008 to Nov. 2009 as part of Operation Enduring Freedom in Iraq.

Mark Aguilar was one of the soldiers based out of Fort Bragg, N.C., who served alongside Rodriguez during tours in Sadr City and Samarra, Iraq.

“That was my boy, man,” said Aguilar, 24. “I just want everybody to know he was a good f---ing leader.”

That didn’t always mean things were constantly serious with the soldiers Rodriguez led, Aguilar said.

“He would joke around with them,” he said. “But when it came time to work, he would work. And he always made sure his guys were taken care of first.”

Rodriguez died while serving his third tour of duty at war, most recently based in Fort Wainwright, Alaska, in the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

Aguilar does not know the exact circumstances of Rodriguez’s death. But if Rodriguez was checking for landmines, Aguilar was “sure he was the first one in.” “He would always make sure his guys were squared away,” Aguilar said.

That same attitude preceded Rodriguez’s days in the Army.

Former Weslaco High School varsity basketball coach Roy Swift recalls the “small and quick, but very tenacious” guard who locked down the team’s defense.

Rodriguez’s hard work and tenacity paid off his senior year in 2003, when area coaches named him District 32-5A defensive player of the year.

“He took a lot of pride in shutting those guys down,” Swift said.

Now a high school basketball coach in Aurora, Colo., Swift said he had not spoken to Rodriguez in years.

But he said he has no doubt Rodriguez’s selfless attitude he carried on the basketball court went with him to the battlefield and, ultimately, to an untimely grave. “For a young man to go out and have to endure those conditions, my hat goes off to him,” Swift said. “I’m very proud of that young man for what he’s done for this country. That’s the ultimate sacrifice. “His team was his country.”

And his teammates will never forget his character on and off the court, in battle or at home.

“There’s not much you could put down on him,” said Jason Hernandez, 30, who also played basketball at Weslaco High. “He was somebody you could count on.”

Surely, Rodriguez’s fellow soldiers counted on him plenty up until Wednesday’s tragedy. Aguilar said he tried to call his old Army buddy a few weeks ago, but only left him a voice mail to call whenever he’s safe. He assumed Rodriguez always would be.

"I figured ... he's going to come back fine," Aguilar said. "I took that for granted."

Five Australian Soldiers Wounded In Afghanistan

September 30, 2011 AAP

Five Australian soldiers have been wounded by insurgent bombs in two separate incidents in Afghanistan.

Defence says both explosions occurred in late September in the Karmisan and Mirabad Valleys of Afghanistan's Oruzgan Province.

In the first on September 23, three soldiers from the Mentoring Task Force were wounded when their Bushmaster armoured vehicle hit an improvised explosive device (IED) during a resupply mission with Afghan National Army (ANA) forces.

Group Captain Karen Leshinskas said the three diggers were given immediate first aid and were evacuated by helicopter to the medical facility in Tarin Kowt.

"The soldiers were assessed as being in a satisfactory condition and have since returned to restricted duties," she said in a statement on Friday.

In the second incident on September 25, two soldiers were wounded by an IED blast while on foot patrol with ANA soldiers.

Group Captain Leshinskas said the two soldiers received immediate first aid at the scene and were then transported back to Tarin Kowt.

"One soldier has been subsequently transferred to the Role Three Medical Facility at Kandahar for further assessment and the second soldier has been discharged from the medical facility at Tarin Kowt," she said.

"Both soldiers have been medically assessed as being in a satisfactory condition."

So far this year 34 Australian soldiers have been wounded in action.

Tri-State Soldier Wounded In Afghanistan: Pfc. Brett Bondurant Lost Both Legs

September 28, 2011 WLWT

GREENDALE, Ind. -- A southeast Indiana soldier has been critically injured in Afghanistan.

Pfc. Brett Bondurant, of Greendale, was wounded in an explosion near the town of Mushan east of Kandahar at 12:30 a.m. EDT.

Bondurant lost both of his legs -- one was amputated at the knee, the other at the hip -- and has broken hands. He was also badly burned in the blast, family members said.

Family members said Bondurant underwent surgery at a hospital in Kandahar and was in critical but stable condition. He will be transferred to a hospital in Germany once his condition stabilizes.

"He was going into a little village, is all we know; someone stepped on a pressure plate," said his mother, Janelle Bondurant Krabbe, who was awakened by a call at 8 a.m. from the military. "Lucky. He's lucky. We're happy he's alive."

Bondurant is a 2009 graduate of Lawrenceburg High School. His hometown of Greendale is lined with yellow ribbons Wednesday to show support for the wounded soldier.

The 20-year-old is due to be married in January, and his family and fiancée hope he can be fitted with prosthetic legs in time to walk down the aisle.

"I'm kind of to the point where I've cried so much I don't think I can cry anymore," said fiancée London Grimes. "When I see people and they tell me they're sorry, it gets me emotional. I'm still shocked at the whole thing. I didn't think it could possibly happen to him."

A Facebook page has been set up for supporters to share their thoughts, words of encouragement and news about Bondurant.

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

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

Helicopter Downed By Small Arms Fire; Location Not Reported

Sep 30, 2011 The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A U.S. helicopter made a “precautionary” landing after hit by small arms fire in southern Afghanistan.

The CH-47 helicopter was conducting a medical evacuation and had one patient on board in Friday’s incident.

It says in a statement that shortly after the landing, another military helicopter arrived and took the patient, passengers and crew to a nearby military facility. The statement does not report any casualties suffered as a result of the helicopter incident.

The landing site has been secured and efforts are under way to recover the helicopter.

Resistance Action



Police vehicle destroyed by a bomb in Herat, western Afghanistan, Sept. 29, 2011. (AP Photo/Hoshang Hashimi)...

September 28, 2011 (AP) & September 29, 2011 Radio Free Europe/

Eight policemen were killed in an attack early Wednesday near a southern city that is seen as a pioneer in transition to Afghan control over security.

The pre-dawn attack targeted a police checkpoint near Lashkar Gah in Helmand province, where the insurgency has strongholds. Three police were wounded. Mullahkhail said another policeman who was part of the group manning the checkpoint was missing, and that authorities were investigating whether he might have been involved in the attack.

Reports from Afghanistan say three people, including at least one policewomen, have been killed by a remote-controlled mine that blew up the vehicle taking them to work at

an airport in the west of the country. Officials said 10 people were also wounded in the blast, including police officers, near the airport serving the city of Herat.

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

**“Monthly Average Of Armed
Clashes, Roadside Bombings And
Other Violence In Afghanistan Is
Running 39% Ahead Of Last Year”**

**“While The Number Of Attacks
Remained Steady, Insurgents
Conducted More Operations
Involving Multiple Bombers And
Gunmen”**

**“The Intensity Of The Nearly Decade-Old
War Is Growing”**

Sept. 29, 2011 by Deb Riechmann, Associated Press [Excerpts]

KABUL, Afghanistan - The monthly average of armed clashes, roadside bombings and other violence in Afghanistan is running 39 percent ahead of last year's figure, the U.N. reported Wednesday, with more complex suicide operations involving multiple bombers and gunmen.

The statistics show that the intensity of the nearly decade-old war is growing, not abating,

The Taliban's resilience raises questions about whether the Afghan government and its Western allies have a solid grip on security - and whether the Afghan forces can ever secure the nation by themselves.

“Armed clashes and improvised-explosive devices continued to constitute the majority of incidents,” U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in his report. “The south and

southeast of the country, particularly around the city of Kandahar, continued to be the focus of military activity and accounted for approximately two-thirds of the total security incidents.”

The figures include insurgent attacks as well as assaults by NATO and Afghan forces on Taliban figures and positions.

The militants, however, have opened new fronts in the north and west and have stepped up attacks in the east, including ones inside the heavily secured capital, Kabul.

According to the U.N. report, while the number of attacks remained steady, insurgents conducted more operations involving multiple bombers and gunmen.

It said that on average, three complex attacks have been carried out each month from January to August - a 50 percent increase compared with the same period last year.

Many of these attacks have taken place in Kabul.

ENOUGH OF THIS SHIT; ALL HOME NOW



U.S. Army soldiers from Alpha Company 2nd battalion 27th infantry (the Wolfhounds), Task Force NO FEAR at OP Mace in eastern Afghanistan Naray district, Kunar province near the border of Pakistan early August 27, 2011. REUTERS/Nikola Solic



Pfc. Edward Lanning, 21 of India, Calif., with the U.S. Army's Bravo Company of the 25th Infantry Division, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment based in Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, hikes up to an observation post from Combat Outpost Monti Sept. 4, 2011, in Kunar province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/David Goldman)...



Spc. Jesse Barlow, 25, left, of Upton, Ky., and Spc. Justin Jacobs, 21, of Waxahachie, Texas, with the U.S. Army's Bravo Company of the 25th Infantry Division, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Battalion 27th Infantry Regiment based in Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, walk down a hilltop observation post each carrying a rocket launcher and ammo weighing 60 pounds as part of physical training Sept. 6, 2011 at Combat Outpost Monti in Kunar province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/David Goldman)



Pfc. Michael Cagle, 20, of San Carlos, Calif., with the U.S. Army's Bravo Company of the 25th Infantry Division, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Battalion 27th Infantry Regiment based in Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, fills sandbags Sept. 7, 2011 at Combat Outpost Monti in Kunar province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/David Goldman)...

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SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

“Government Told That Their Forces Rubbish Checkpoints Lying For Shabab In The Battled Area”

09/29/11 (Mareeg)

Gedo-

Officials of rebel group of Shabab and Somali transitional federal government have similarly claimed victory over a heavy fighting which occurred in the south of Garbaharey city in Gedo region, reports said.

Mohamed Abdi Kalil, chairman of Gedo region for Somali transitional federal government told that their forces rubbish checkpoints lying for Shabab in the battled area south Garbaharey city killing 6 and wounded 10 from opposing group of Shabab.

Kalil added they lost two soldiers dead and one injured only and their forces control the areas.

Spokesman of Ashabab for military operations called Sheikh A/asis Abuu Mus'ab said they have captured large weapons from what he called

Somalia's Al Shabaab Launches Offensive In South

Sep 30, 2011 Reuters

Early on Friday al Shabaab rebels entered Dhobley, near the Kenyan border, from three directions, attacking government troops and an allied militia known as the Raskamboni, a resident who fled the fighting said from Kenya.

"It was morning when al Shabaab attacked us from different directions ... I have seen 13 dead bodies mostly from the Raskamboni. We can say al Shabaab is now fully in the city, and the casualties may be more than that," officer Mohammed Wardhere told Reuters from the border.

A few hours later, residents said the Somali military regained control of the town.

"A more serious fight took place hours after government troops regrouped. However, al Shabaab is not far and fighting may restart at any time," resident Abdiqader Saciid said by telephone.

Al Shabaab said it lost six fighters and killed 40 government soldiers.

Yusuf Dhere, a resident of the Kenyan border town of Liboi, said he saw wounded Somali troops being brought into the hospital. "We are still collecting and transporting more wounded people from the border, where we can hear artillery."

Although they gave up most of the bases in Mogadishu, al Shabaab retain control in two city districts.

The failure of government and peacekeeping troops to seize the momentum, push them out completely and establish effective control has raised fears it is only a matter of time before the militants return in full force to the capital.

In the nearby southwestern region of Gedo, some parts of which are in the hands of the rebels, a clash between troops and militants killed 24 on Thursday, a government official said.

“Al Shabaab killed 10 of our soldiers in an ambush on Thursday. They hit us with artillery,” Mahmoud Ali Shire told Reuters from the border town of Dolow.

“The ambush turned into hand to hand fighting and we killed 14 fighters from al Shabaab,” he added.

An al Shabaab spokesman said five of their men had been wounded and said dozens of government troops were killed.

“We ambushed the government convoy. We seized and fought them seriously and we captured machineguns and small arms from them. We will continue fighting until we remove them from Gedo region,” Sheikh Abdiasis Abu Musab told Reuters.

ANNIVERSARIES

***The Jerry Rescue:* Most Honorable Anniversary: October 1, 1851**

**“A Group Of Men Forcibly Overpowered
The Guards With Clubs And Axes And
Freed Jerry A Second Time”**

Carl Bunin Peace History October 1-7

In the “Jerry Rescue,” citizens of Syracuse, New York, broke into the city’s police station and freed William Henry (called Jerry), a runaway slave working as a barrel-maker.

The federal Fugitive Slave Law required “good citizens” to assist in the return of those who had fled “ownership” by another.

A group of black and white men created a chaotic diversion and managed to free Jerry but he was later re-arrested.

At his second hearing, a group of men, their skin color disguised with burnt cork, forcibly overpowered the guards with clubs and axes and freed Jerry a second time; he was then secretly taken over the border to Canada.

NYHistory.com

Among the more interesting events in Syracuse history is the story of the Jerry Rescue.

The event occurred on October 1, 1851, while the anti-slavery Liberty Party was holding its New York State Convention.

Leaders of the local Abolition movement, including Underground Railroad Stationmaster Jermain Loguen and others, had organized a local committee to thwart enforcement of the recently adopted Fugitive Slave Law.

The previous May, then Secretary of State Daniel Webster repeated his previous criticism of the Abolitionists and their promise to thwart the law. Webster proclaimed from a balcony facing Syracuse City Hall that the law "will be executed in all the great cities - here in Syracuse - in the midst of the next Anti-Slavery Convention, if the occasion shall arise."

And so it did.

Around noon on October 1, federal marshals from Rochester, Auburn, Syracuse, and Canandaigua, accompanied by the local police, arrested a man who called himself Jerry. also known as William Henry.

Jerry was working as a barrel maker, and was arrested at his workplace. He was originally told the charge was theft until after he was in manacles. On being informed that he was being arrested under the Fugitive Slave Law, he put up substantial resistance, but was subdued.

Word of the arrest quickly reached the Convention, then in session at a nearby church. There are reports that the wife of Commissioner Sabine, who would hear the case, had already leaked plans of the arrest.

By pre-arranged signal, church bells began ringing, and a crowd gathered at Sabine's office, where Jerry had been taken for arraignment.

An immediate effort to free the prisoner was unsuccessful, and though he escaped to the street in irons, he was rapidly recaptured.

The arraignment was put off until evening and relocated to a larger room. A large crowd gathered in the street, this time equipped for a more serious rescue attempt.

With a battering ram the door was broken in and despite pistol shots out the window by one of the deputy marshals, it became clear that the crowd was too large and determined to be resisted.

The prisoner was surrendered, and one deputy marshal broke his arm jumping from a window to escape the crowd.

The injured prisoner was hidden in the city for several days in the home of a local butcher know for his anti-abolitionist sentiments, and later taken in a wagon to Oswego, where he crossed Lake Ontario into Canada.

The following day, Gerrit Smith introduced the following resolution, adopted at the Liberty Party convention:

“WHEREAS, Daniel Webster, That base and infamous enemy of the human race, did in a speech of which he delivered himself, in Syracuse last Spring, exultingly and insultingly predict that fugitive slaves would yet be taken away from Syracuse and even from anti-slavery conventions in Syracuse, and whereas the attempt to fulfill this prediction was delayed until the first day of October, 1851, when the Liberty party of the State of New York were holding their annual convention in Syracuse; and whereas the attempt was defeated by the mighty uprising of 2,500 brave men, before whom the half-dozen kidnapers were ‘as tow’, therefore,

“Resolved, That we rejoice that the City of Syracuse- the anti-slavery city of Syracuse- the city of anti-slavery conventions, our beloved and glorious city of Syracuse- still remains undisgraced by the fulfillment of the satanic prediction of the satanic Daniel Webster.”

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Welcome To The Occupied USA: Observations Of A Jailed Journalist: “Multiple Videos From Sept. 24 Show Police Arresting People Holding Cameras And Audio Equipment”



MetroFocus Web Editor John Farley, kneeling, was arrested while reporting on the Occupy Wall Street protest. Farley was working on a story about citizen journalism at the time. Photo: MetroFocus/Sam Lewis.

September 27, 2011 By John Farley, thirteen.org/metrofocus

On Sept. 24, while working on a story about citizen journalism for my employer, I found myself arrested, along with many other people.

My arrest gave me a unique vantage point on the risks and rewards of citizen journalists, those non-professionals who capture stories (usually without pay) using videos and images via portable technology like a cell phone camera. Anyone, even a passerby or a police officer can be a citizen journalist. That's its power.

Here's what happened.

My colleague Sam Lewis and I had previously covered Occupy Wall Street, an ongoing demonstration against economic inequality, on the first day it began, Sept.17.

Throughout that day we noticed many protesters using their mobile devices to document their own experience, sometimes for themselves or their own blogs, sometimes to share with bona fide media organizations. So, midday this past Saturday, Sept. 24, we headed to Union Square, where the Occupy Wall Street protesters had marched that morning from Lower Manhattan.

When we first arrived on the scene, protesters were marching along the sidewalk in unison, chanting.

There was no sense of chaos. Many held video and audio recording devices, including camera phones.

However, the stream of protesters did disrupt traffic. Pedestrians wove in and out of the mass of protesters, some on their way to do Saturday errands, others who joined in for a block or two, chanting with the masses.

Sam and I were on the sidewalk observing the action. She was taking photographs, while I was juggling my reporter's notebook and the audio recorder we'd brought along to interview protesters about how they were using media throughout the day.

As more people spilled into the street, police started to demand that protesters stay on the sidewalk.

But as people seemed to be retreating from harm's way, police began pushing the protesters.

I saw police use large nets to corral people en masse.

I watched as police pepper sprayed several young women in the face. (An NYPD spokesperson confirmed the use of pepper spray to MetroFocus.) I saw senior citizens and teenagers get arrested.

I saw about 20 or 30 police officers tackle people and prod them roughly with police batons.

With nearly every arrest, the demonstrators called out for "cameras, cameras" — urging others to document the events — and chanted in unison "The whole world is watching! The whole world is watching!"

When I saw the young women get pepper sprayed, I ran over to interview them.

While holding a microphone and wearing a badge identifying myself as an employee of "WNET – New York Public Media," I found myself suddenly roped into one of the large nets. I was thrown against a wall and handcuffed with hard plastic zip-tie restraints.

I sat on the sidewalk with about 50 others. I yelled over and over "I'm press! I'm with WNET MetroFocus! Please do not arrest me."

I did not possess the press credentials that NYPD allocates to journalists. (As MetroFocus is less than three months old, neither I nor my journalist colleagues have yet met the NYPD's qualifications.) So even though I work as a professional journalist, the NYPD lumped me in with everybody else.

Lumped me in indeed. I was in police custody for nine hours, eight of which I spent in a jail cell at the 1st Precinct.

An NYPD spokesperson told MetroFocus on Monday that 87 people have been arrested in total since the Occupy Wall Street protests began last weekend; however, the Daily News reported that at least 80 people were arrested on Sept. 24 alone, mostly on charges of disorderly conduct and obstructing traffic. The NYPD would not comment further on my arrest.

Before we were all jailed, they took away everybody's possessions, including our notebooks, pens, cameras, recording devices and mobile phones. We were separated by gender.

My cellmates were about 35 other men.

Most of them were protesters, with at least two bystanders who were snatched up while snapping souvenir photos in the afternoon mayhem. Most had spent quite a bit of time documenting the events of the day, including their arrests, with whatever media tools they had at their disposal.

My cellmate JRL, who preferred to be identified only by his initials, is a 23-year-old Brooklynite. He identified himself as a citizen journalist who streams live footage through Twitter. "We like the terminology 'grassroots media,' where people in the march were literally marching with laptops and webcams so that they could live broadcast. I think it's an immediate, never before possible edge," said JRL. He was arrested while carrying his Canon 7D camera.

Multiple videos from Sept. 24 show police arresting people holding cameras and audio equipment.

An NYPD spokesperson told ABC News that the police were not targeting camera operators.

I don't know precisely why I was arrested, though I have been charged with disorderly conduct. But what I realized is that in a sudden burst of urban chaos, how can the police distinguish between passersby and protesters who may be committing civil disobedience or any other type of punishable offense? Or between citizen journalists and professional journalists?

The arrest of my cell mate, Sam Queary, 24, adds another dimension to the issue: that of the inadvertent, spontaneous citizen journalist. Queary happened to be at work at Grey Dog Cafe near Union Square when the protesters marched by.

"I heard a commotion and went outside to find cops macing women and arresting people and hitting people with nightsticks, so I started taking pictures," said Queary.

“I followed a young, black male as he was being accosted by five cops. As I tried to take a picture I was pushed away. I asked why I was pushed away and then the next thing you know I was being judo flipped.”

I also met Rosa A., 33, in the police van while we were being transported to the 1st Precinct for processing.

She had been shopping at the Barnes and Noble on Union Square when she saw the protesters outside. As many New Yorkers do when they see something unusual, she snapped a picture. And she was arrested.

“I’ve never been arrested,” said Rosa A., in visible pain from the plastic handcuffs. “I was just there looking at magazines.”

She laughed, lightening the mood in the police van. Even our arresting officer, in the van with us, chuckled.

Between when the Occupy Wall Street protests began on Sept. 17 and this weekend’s wave of media coverage stemming from the arrests, the protesters have complained about being largely ignored by traditional media, including the major national and even metropolitan newspapers, the cable TV news channels and the local network news stations.

Meanwhile, argue the protesters, similarly sized Tea Party demonstrations in recent years have received considerable coverage. The general consensus among the Occupy Wall Street protesters was that it was important to document constantly what is happening, and to present their own story when other media hasn’t.

The protesters have also claimed that the media coverage they did receive painted them in an unflattering light and hasn’t accurately represented them. Saturday’s New York Times article characterized the protesters as uninformed, mostly white hippies and trust-funded anti-capitalists.

As a result, the protesters I spoke with were quite media savvy and conscious of their need to represent themselves in an attempt to legitimize their cause, which they’ve been doing on their website, on Twitter and on Youtube. In fact, they have an entire media team assembled at Zuccotti Park in Lower Manhattan, where about a dozen laptops are being powered by a portable generator, and citizen journalists are constantly uploading new footage.

The Occupy Wall Street demonstrators have been criticized, including in the aforementioned New York Times piece, as unorganized and lacking in any concrete goals, other than to raise awareness about economic corruption.

But as we all sat in a jail, I noticed an interesting thing happen.

People began to talk very seriously about organizing in a more cohesive way than they have been.

Jailhouse rookies, who had never been arrested or involved in radical political activities, listened attentively as experienced activists spoke about the need to set clear demands in order to rally broader public support for specific outcomes.

I don't know what's going to happen to Occupy Wall Street as a movement. Maybe it will fizzle out, maybe it will grow. I do know that whatever happens will be documented. And I know that there's a history of activist movements being bolstered when leaders and followers alike are jailed together.

My cellmate Daniel Gross, a protester who volunteers as an organizer with the Industrial Workers of the World Union, helped create the first union for Starbucks employees.

"I think the NYPD is really going to try to spin what happened today," Gross told the group, as he handed out his contact information. "I think that we should organize our own press conference."

Around 10:30 p.m. the police began letting us leave our cell in groups of two. Before leaving, many traded contact information through smuggled business cards and contraband pens.

The still-jailed cheered the newly free.

Another Success For The Obama Regime



Protesters rally against the United States attacks on villages inside Pakistan in Lahore, Pakistan Sept. 28, 2011. (AP Photo/K.M.Chaudary)...

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CLASS WAR REPORTS



This Is What Serious Protest Looks Like

Sept. 30, 2011 Wall Street Journal

ATHENS—Greek officials concluded the first round of meetings with visiting international inspectors in Athens on Thursday, describing the talks as “positive” after discussions between the two abruptly ended about a month ago.

But the inspectors faced scores of protesters who blocked them from entering the finance ministry, forcing a move to a building nearby.

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