

Military Resistance 9J18

FIRST BLOOD



(AP Photo/Jay Finneburgh)

In this photo taken Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2011, 24-year-old Iraq War veteran Scott Olsen lays on the ground bleeding from a head wound after being shot in the head by a police projectile during an Occupy Wall Street protest in Oakland, Calif. Olsen suffered a fractured skull while marching with other protesters attempting to reestablish a presence in the area of the disbanded camp, said Dottie Guy, of the Iraq Veterans Against the War.

Olsen is a member of Iraq Veterans Against The War.



Occupy Wall Street protesters help 24-year-old Iraq War veteran Scott Olsen as he lays on the ground bleeding from a head wound inflicted by a police projectile Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2011, in Oakland, Calif. (AP Photo/Darryl Bush)



Occupy Oakland protester Scott Olsen, a former U.S. Marine and Iraq war veteran, is carried away after shot in the head by a police projectile during a demonstration in Oakland, California October 25, 2011. REUTERS/Jay Finneburgh

MORE:

Iraq War Veteran Scott Olsen “Has Regained Consciousness But ‘Cannot Talk’” “His Injury Is Believed To Have Damaged The Speech Centre Of His Brain”

28 October 2011 By Adam Gabbatt, Guardian News and Media Limited

Scott Olsen, the Iraq war veteran who was seriously injured by a police projectile during a protest in Oakland, has regained consciousness but “cannot talk”.

Olsen, 24, is communicating with friends and family at his bedside by writing notes, but his injury is believed to have damaged the speech centre of his brain, according to Keith Shannon, who served with Olsen in Iraq.

Olsen was injured by a police projectile. He was hit in the forehead in downtown Oakland on Tuesday evening, after marching with fellow demonstrators to protest the closure of an Occupy Oakland camp in the city.

“He cannot talk right now, and that is because the fracture is right on the speech center of his brain,” said Shannon. “However, they are expecting he will get that back.”

Shannon added that Olsen's “spelling is not near what it used to be”.

“The doctors expect that he will have a full recovery,” said Shannon, who is due to visit Olsen on Friday afternoon. “However, it is going to be a long road ahead for him.”

Olsen was “really happy” to see his family, Shannon added.

A spokesman for Highland General Hospital confirmed Olsen could not talk, but said he “understands everything” doctors and family are saying. His family flew to be at his bedside on Thursday. The spokesman said Olsen remained under observation to determine if he needs surgery. His condition is “fair”.

Video footage posted to YouTube shows Olsen lying motionless in front of a police line after having been hit.

A group of up to 10 protesters gather around him, but a police officer can be seen throwing a device close to the group which then explodes with a bright flash and loud bang, scattering the protesters.

The video then cuts to footage of protesters carrying Olsen away as he bleeds from the head.

Oakland Mayor Jean Quan, who was in Washington DC when the clashes occurred, has sought to distance herself from the police action.

MORE:

Send A Message Of Support And Solidarity To Scott Olsen:

Scott Olsen
c/o Highland Hospital
1411 E 31st St
Oakland, CA 94602

Donate To The Scott Olsen Support Fund Via Iraq Veterans Against The War:

https://org2.democracyinaction.org/o/5966/p/salsa/web/common/public/content?content_item_KEY=9491

OR:

Mail a check or money order to:

Iraq Veterans Against The War
P.O. Box 3565
New York, NY 10008-3565
Attn: **Scott Olsen Support Fund**

Iraq Veterans Against the War IVAW is a 501(c)(3) charity, and welcomes your tax-deductible contributions.



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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 and economic injustice, 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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Resistance Action

Oct 27 (KUNA) & Oct 29 (Reuters)

Two Iraqi traffic policemen were injured here on Thursday when an explosive device went off east of the capital. The police patrol was attacked in Al-Habebe district, in Al-Sadr city, causing material damage to the vehicle, the source told KUNA. Security forces cordoned off the scene, while the wounded policemen were transferred to Al-Kandi Hospital.

A traffic policeman was shot by insurgents in Al-Bayya' region south west of Baghdad.

Another three traffic policemen were injured in a bomb attack in Za'faraneya, southeast of Baghdad.

A group of insurgents killed an Iraqi policeman with a hand grenade while on his way back from work.

One of the government backed Al-Sahwa group members was killed yesterday in a booby-trapped car blast in Al-Amereya region west of Baghdad, while two persons accompanying him were injured.

SAMARRA - Insurgents threw a hand grenade at a military vehicle, killing one soldier on Wednesday in the city of Samarra, 100 km (60 miles) north of Baghdad, a hospital source said.

BAGHDAD - A sniper shot at a traffic police patrol, killing one policeman and wounding another in Baghdad's southern Saida district, police and health sources said.

BALAD - Insurgents opened fire on an Iraqi police checkpoint and killed one police officer and wounded three others in Balad, 80 km (50 miles) north of Baghdad, a police source in Salahuddin province said.

BAGHDAD - A sticky bomb wounded an off-duty policeman when it went off in Baghdad's southern Saida district, police and hospital sources said.

BAGHDAD - A bomb killed a Science and Technology Ministry employee when it exploded in Baghdad's southern Saida district, a police source said.

MOSUL - A bomb targeting a police patrol wounded three policemen in western Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, a police source said.

FALLUJA - Iraqi soldiers killed a car bomber in southern Falluja, 50 km (32 miles) west of Baghdad, a local police source said. The source said one soldier was wounded in the incident.

MOSUL - A child was wounded during clashes between gunmen and police officers in western Mosul, a police source said.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

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

October 28, 2011 Reuters

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

13 Americans Killed In Kabul By Resistance Attack On Armored Military Bus: “The Deadliest Attack On The Foreign Forces In Kabul Since The War Began”



U.S. troops at the wreckage of a military transport bus destroyed by insurgents in Kabul
October 29, 2011. REUTERS/Mohammad Ismail



US soldiers with bodies of the dead beside Rhino armored bus in Kabul, Afghanistan, Oct. 29, 2011. A car bomber struck a foreign military convoy on the outskirts of Kabul. (AP Photo/Ahmad Jamshid)...



Foreign troops carry one of the bodies from the site of an attack on a military transport bus in Kabul October 29, 2011. REUTERS/Omar Sobhani

October 29, 2011, Ocala.com & By AMIR SHAH, Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — At least 13 American soldiers and mercenaries were among more than 20 people killed when a Taliban bomber attacked an armored shuttle bus in Kabul on Saturday, a Western military official confirmed.

Five U.S. soldiers and eight U.S. civilian contractors working for the coalition died in the explosion.

It was the deadliest attack on the foreign forces in Kabul since the war began.

One witness, Noor Ahmad, said he saw a U.S. soldier choking inside the burned bus.

“The bottom half of his body was burned,” Ahmad said.

Coalition troops were seen carrying three black body bags from the burned wreckage and one charred body on a stretcher toward the waiting helicopters.

The attack on the bus, known as a Rhino because of its heavy armor, took place in front of the American University on a route often traveled by military trainers from foreign bases in downtown Kabul to the Kabul Military Training Center.

The Rhino was sandwiched between of a convoy of mine-resistant military vehicles traveling on the road, a major artery leading to the landmark Darulaman Palace, the bombed-out seat of former Afghan kings.

The explosion sparked a fireball and littered the street with shrapnel and twisted metal hulks. Heavy black smoke poured from burning wreckage at the site along the four-lane highway frequently used by foreign military trainers in the southwestern section of the city.

The Taliban said the bomber, Abdul Rahman, was driving a Toyota Land Cruiser SUV containing 1,540 pounds (700 kilograms) of explosives into the bus carrying foreign military trainers.

In Kabul, one eyewitness said he saw six dead American soldiers inside the bus, which was completely burned from the explosion, and the Kabul police chief confirmed that some Americans were killed in the attack.

Afghan authorities at the scene refused to give details on the incident, cordoning off a site on busy Darulman Road in the capital. At least two military medical-evacuation helicopters landed and took off again.

A spokesman for the Afghan Ministry of the Interior, Sediq Sediqi, said that the Afghan dead included a police officer

In Kabul, a witness at the scene of the bus attack, Ghulam Sakhi, 32, a taxi driver, said he saw the bodies of six badly burned U.S. soldiers in the wreckage of the bus. The bus had been blown onto its side and was completely charred.

The Kabul police chief, Gen. Mohammad Ayoub Salangi, said that American soldiers initially prevented Afghan authorities from going to the scene of the attack, so he did not know how many were killed, although he said he did see both wounded and dead being evacuated by helicopter.

MORE:

Canadian Soldier Among Foreign Troops Killed In Kabul

10/29/2011 Showwei Chu, CityNews.ca

A Canadian soldier was among foreign troops killed in a bombing in the Afghan capital of Kabul on Saturday, the military confirms.

Defence department spokesman Lt.-Col. Christian Lemay told CityNews that a male soldier was one of the victims in an armoured bus that was bombed midday Saturday.

The rest were American soldiers, a U.S. official told The Associated Press.

Afghan Soldier Turns His Weapon On Enemies: Kills Three Australian Soldiers At Shah Wali Kot; Seven More Wounded

October 30, 2011 AAP & Ocala.com

A rogue Afghan soldier has opened fire and killed three Australian army trainers and wounded seven others in the volatile south of Afghanistan.

An Afghan National Army officer was also shot and wounded.

The Australian Defence Force is yet to comment on the incident. The ABC says the shooting occurred during morning parade at 8.30am (1500 AEDT) at Shah Wali Kot in Kandahar province.

The alliance force says two Australian diggers were killed and the third later died of his injuries after an individual wearing an Afghan National Army uniform turned his weapon on Afghan and coalition forces. It says the shooter was also killed.

The attack on the Australians took place in the Nish District of Kandahar Province, at a forward operating base used by Australian troops to train the Afghan National Army.

Gen. Abdul Hameed, the commander of the Afghan National Army's 205th Corps, said an Afghan Army trainee opened fire on his Australian trainers, killing three of them as well as an Afghan interpreter.

At least nine others were wounded, General Hameed said, seven of them Australians.

“We don’t know the cause of this shooting yet, and we are investigating,” he said. “The soldier was not new, the first phase of his training was completed and he was in the second phase of his training.”

In May this year, a 25-year-old Australian soldier was shot dead by a rogue soldier at the Patrol Base Marshal in the Chora Valley.

A total of 32 Australian soldiers have now been killed in a decade of involvement in Afghanistan.

Fallen Phoenix GI Remembered For Humor, Compassion



Michael Elm

Oct. 20, 2011 by Amy B Wang, The Arizona Republic

Compassionate and analytical. Uproariously funny. Humble. Unique.

That was how friends and family remembered Spc. Michael Elm, 25, a soldier from Phoenix who died Friday in Afghanistan after suffering injuries from an improvised explosive device.

Elm was born and raised in the Valley, graduating in 2004 from Greenway High School in north Phoenix. There, classmates say, he was a born leader with a natural desire to help those around him.

A list of his activities reads almost like a yearbook index: government, speech and debate, DECA, soccer, drama, improv

“He seemed to have an endless stream of energy to be able to commit to the things he cared about,” said Kevin Tyers, a childhood friend. “I don't know how he did it all.”

He was the type of person, classmates said, who could get away with wearing outlandish suspenders while simultaneously holding your ear in a political debate.

Indeed, among rows of staid headshots, Elm's senior photo shows a grinning young man with a mop of curly, brown hair, wearing an elaborate red-plaid suit - with matching tie - borrowed from a high-school theater production.

Elm decided to join the Army several years after high school, something of a surprise to his friends.

Growing up, Elm had never been allowed to have even toy guns in the house; he pretended to shoot with sticks instead. Yet he was adamant once he'd made his decision.

“He said, 'I think it's good for me to do,' but he also wanted to be a part of something and help people,” close friend Katie Holly said of Elm's decision to enlist.

He graduated from basic training as the honor cadet, first in his class, which he purposely kept a secret from his parents until they saw his accomplishment announced on stage at the ceremony.

He had wanted to surprise his mother, said Debbie Samson, an aunt.

His first deployment was full of poignant and humorous moments. If he was anxious, he didn't show it. He kept in touch with friends regularly through Facebook.

Throughout his first months in Afghanistan with the 1st Infantry Division, Elm continuously updated an online photo album depicting a stuffed toy lobster named Red going through the trials of war.

“Red, feeling anxious and excited simultaneously, awaits the day when he will ship off to war and travel to Afghanistan to defeat our enemies abroad,” the caption to one picture read. “Red is very brave, considering he has no spine.”

“He was always in the middle of creating fun,” Samson said. “His sergeant sent us a letter and said if a practical joke was going to be played on somebody or if there was something humorous happening, Michael was involved somehow.”

Elm had expressed an interest in staying in the military, but his friends said there was no doubt he would have been successful and true to himself in anything he did. “He had a strong, deep respect for democracy, the way that that can enhance the lives of citizens,” Tyers said. “Mike died so that we could all live in a better world . . . that we could all treat each other better, be a little nicer. That's what Mike wanted.”

California Sgt. Killed In Afghanistan



10.29.11: U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Kristoffer B. Domeij, 29, of Santa Ana, Calif., was killed in a bomb explosion last week in Afghanistan. He was on his 14th combat deployment, including four tours in Iraq and 10 in Afghanistan. According to an Army spokeswoman, Domeij is the Army Ranger with the most deployments killed in action. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)...

Widow Grieves For Palm Bay Soldier Killed In Afghanistan

Oct. 16, 2011 Floridatoday.com

PALM BAY -- During his Army basic-training graduation ceremony in May 2010, Jerry Sancho surprised his longtime girlfriend, RaiAnne Bocco, by dropping to one knee and proposing behind the bleachers at Fort Benning, Ga.

Seven days later, the couple married in the backyard of RaiAnne's parents' house in Palm Bay. Jerry's grandfather, Eddie, an ordained minister, performed the ceremony.

Jerry, 23, an avid comic-book fan and budding artist, was deployed overseas on April 9 as a "mortarman."

The 2007 Palm Bay High graduate was killed Thursday in Afghanistan when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device, the Department of Defense announced.

RaiAnne, 21, learned of her husband's death the next day while working at the Palm Bay Kmart. By the time her father picked her up and drove her home, an Army chaplain was already waiting at the house.

"I was devastated," she recalled Sunday night, sitting at a computer looking at photographs of Jerry. And then she bowed her head and cried, unable to speak further.

Jerry died in the Kandahar province, according to the Department of Defense. He was assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 71st Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y.

Sancho's awards and decorations include the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the NATO Medal and the Combat Action Badge, various media outlets reported Sunday.

He had planned to return to Palm Bay next month on leave.

"I have a hole in my chest. He wasn't just my son-in-law. He was my son," said Sharon Bocco, RaiAnne's mother. "He's been living here since he was 17 years old."

The Fort Drum public affairs office could not be reached for comment Sunday. A message seeking information was left for Department of Defense public affairs officials.

Jerry enjoyed video games and playing bass guitar. RaiAnne said they started dating March 11, 2006, after engaging in a friendly neighborhood "dirt fight" with family and friends — and he was so shy that he asked her out by writing her a note.

She still has the note.

On her Facebook page, RaiAnne posted a farewell message Saturday night:

"Jerry I miss you. I love you so much baby. I don't know what I'm gonna do without you, but I know you're watching over me," she wrote.

"I love you and was proud to be your wife."

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

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

Five Foreign Troops Wounded As US-Run Civilian-Military Base In Kandahar Attacked



US soldiers during an attack on US Kandahar PRT base, Kandahar on October 27. (AFP Photo/Jangir)...

October 27, 2011 Agence France-Presse & 28 October 2011 BBC

Attackers struck a US-run civilian-military base in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar Thursday, where explosions and gunfire could be heard.

The attack lasted more than 15 hours, a spokesman said.

The Taliban said they were behind the attack which included rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire.

Four militants and an Afghan interpreter working for foreign military were killed.

Five foreign soldiers, two Afghan security guards and three civilians were wounded in the attack.

Reports said the Taliban launched an assault from a compound across from the camp on Thursday afternoon local time.

Five explosions had been heard during the attack on the Kandahar PRT (provincial reconstruction team) from different directions," said the city's police spokesman Ghorzang, who like many Afghans goes by only one name.

It was not immediately clear if they were caused by the attackers, or by the PRT guards to defend the base.

The road leading to the base had been blocked, but one witness who owns a nearby shop said he had also heard sporadic gunfire.

The armed men took position in a building near the PRT base.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.

“A group of our men have attacked Kandahar PRT base, as well as an NDS (Afghan intelligence) office nearby. Our men are very well armed” said spokesman Yusuf Ahmadi.

The Taliban militia, which is leading a 10-year insurgency against US-led NATO troops, has increasingly carried out coordinated attacks on high-profile Western and government targets.

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Militants Ambush Kenyan Invasion Troops

28/10/2011 (Mareeg)

MOGADISHU – The Al shabaab fighters, opposed by the U.S. government, have claimed victory over fighting with Kenyan military in southern Somalia.

Sheikh Abdi-aziz Abu Mus'ab, a spokesperson for Al shabaab told the local press that they have battled with Kenyan forces just outside of Dhobley in Lower Jubba region.

The fighting started after Al shabaab fighters ambushed Kenyan military in Lower Jubba region, according to Al shabaab spokesman.

He said they killed a number of Kenyans and burnt down five of the military wagons during the combat. Three of the burnt down wagons were dragged back by Kenyan forces, the official added.

The Al shabaab movement has vowed they will keep on their struggle against what they called Kenyan invasion in Somalia.

For his part, Abdinasir Sayrar, a spokesperson for Rasmkaboni group, speaking to local radio has denied the claims made by Al shabaab.

Kenya has not released any comments about the fighting on Thursday so far.

MILITARY NEWS

**NOT ANOTHER DAY
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR
NOT ANOTHER LIFE**



The remains of Marine Lance Cpl. Jason N. Barfield at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Oct. 26, 2011. Barfield, 22, of Ashford, Ala., died Oct. 24, 2011 in combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Steve Ruark)...

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 email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

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

**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.**

Oakland Free Fire Zone



Photo by Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: Thursday, October 27, 2011
Subject: Oakland Free Fire Zone

Oakland Free Fire Zone

Scott Olsen 24:
Iraq veteran with 2 tours,
was shot in the head by the
Oakland Police in a free fire zone.
First Amendment free speech zones have
become free fire zones,
where peace and freedom are now shot.
It's happening,
right now,
we are all being shot with fear and brutality.
Massive nonviolent resistance is the last lifeboat.
right now...

Mike Hastie
Army Medic Vietnam
October 27, 2011

The truth was obscure, too profound and
too pure--to live it you have to explode.
Bob Dylan

Photo and caption by 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

Manipulating Men

From: Lesley Docksey [UK]
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Subject: Manipulating Men
Date: Oct 27, 2011

I thought this poem, which I wrote last night, might appeal to your readers and your socialist principles!

With best wishes to you and Military Resistance

Lesley Docksey (Abolish War)

Manipulating Men

In all the ages of man
There are those who say 'We can!'
And all the while
Men of guile
Make sure the shit hits the fan.

In all the ages of war
There are those who shout 'No more!'
And all the while
Men of guile
Wade round in entrails and gore.

Through all the ages we cry

As we watch the innocents die,
And all the while
Men of guile
Tell lie after lie after lie.

When all that is left is a grave
And no more children to save,
Then men of guile
Will smile and smile
And call our sacrifice 'brave'.

When all that's left is a list
Of lost in battle sorely missed,
Then with a smile
Those men of guile
Still make money hand over fist.

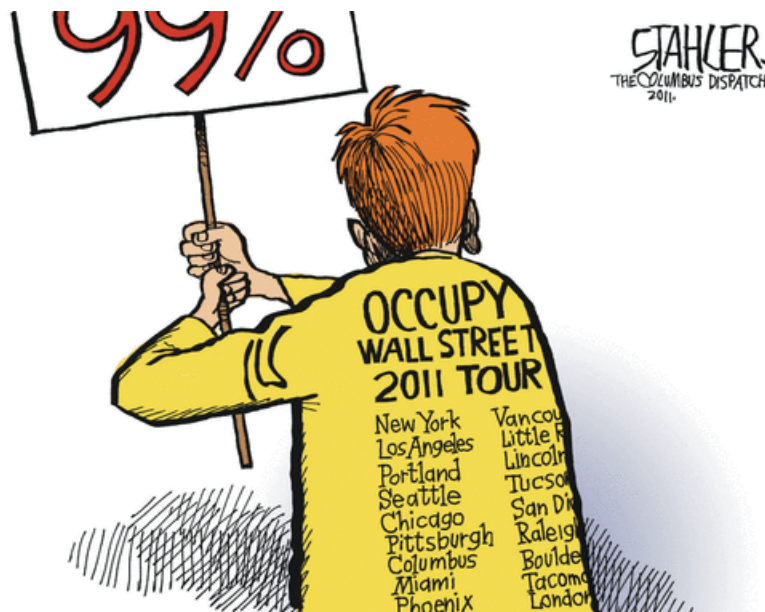
But when we replace bloody war
With peace from shore to shore,
Then no more smiles
For men of guile
Because of something called Law.

Lesley Docksey
27/10/11

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



CLASS WAR REPORTS



Regime Cancels “Sewing Machine Tax” Tax After Anti-Government Protests Rock Huzhou, China:

“Zhejiang Industry Long Depended On Cheap Labor From The Interior, But Now Face Rising Demand For Wage Increases”

“Demonstrations Are Illegal In China But Increasingly Common Over Livelihood Issues Like Inflation,

Pollution And Real Estate In Urban Areas”

“In Shanghai, Buyers Of Apartments In A Different Development Destroyed A Real-Estate Sales Office”



A car damaged during a protest in Zhili town, Huzhou city, Zhejiang province October 27, 2011. Hundreds of people have clashed with police and smashed government property in China's eastern Zhejiang province after a dispute between tax authorities and a local shop owner snowballed into protests, a government-run news site said.
REUTERS/Carlos Barria

OCTOBER 29, 2011 By JAMES T. AREDDY, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]. Yang Jie contributed to this article

SHANGHAI—The government of an eastern Chinese town that specializes in making children's wear said Friday it will retract a tax that sparked riots this week, an effort to quell local discontent that had prompted authorities to fill the town's streets with police.

A dispute over levies that mostly affected migrant workers at small workshops sparked violence this week in the Zhejiang province township of Zhili, 80 miles west of Shanghai in the city of Huzhou.

For a second straight night Friday, officials were telling residents to stay home, as teams of riot police and paramilitary personnel patrolled the streets.

Domestic media reported 28 people were detained after Wednesday's mayhem, in which more than 30 cars were damaged, some of them burned. A handful of people were injured. No deaths were reported.

In its brief statement, the government said a tax on children's wear processors had been suspended but offered no details. I

t said a tax-bureau official, who it identified only as Xu Rongquan, was suspended and under investigation.

Calls to various government offices Friday were unsuccessful.

According to people interviewed by telephone in Zhili, the disturbance followed aggressive collection of new charges for the use of machines used to make children's wear, the town's mainstay product.

The tax was targeted at small, independent workshops that often aren't licensed and are manned mostly by migrant laborers who earn money per piece produced.

They said workshop managers were being charged between 300 yuan (about \$48) and 600 yuan for each machine used, in what Chinese discussing the matter online called the "sewing-machine tax."

It amounts to about twice as much as was collected in the past.

An unidentified man who apparently objected to the payment rallied others to join this week's protest, locals said.

Demonstrations are illegal in China but increasingly common over livelihood issues like inflation, pollution and real estate in urban areas.

On Saturday, a group of Shanghai homeowners said it plans a peaceful march to draw attention to allegedly deceitful advertisements by a property developer that caused them to pay too much.

Earlier this month in Shanghai, buyers of apartments in a different development destroyed a real-estate sales office.

China's economy is slowing and the Zhili government's pullback on tax levies reflects a strategy Beijing is increasingly likely to take to soften pain of the deceleration, according to analysts.

The influence on China of a weak global economy is clearly being seen in Zhejiang province, home to nearly 50 million people and by some measures the country's wealthiest region.

Nearly 12% of China's total exports came from the province in August.

But Zhejiang factory owners say their already-thin margins are disappearing.

Zhejiang industry long depended on cheap labor from the interior, but now face rising demand for wage increases.

China's currency has increased 30% versus the dollar since mid-2005, an increase factory owners have trouble passing on to buyers.

Regulators are also policing the environment better—including along the environmentally damaged southern rim of the giant lake Taihu, where the children's-wear cluster Zhili sits—which means increased costs for factories.

In a 2008 study, three Zhejiang University professors estimated that 40% of the Zhili economy depended directly on the children's-wear industry and that activity among its around 10,000 small enterprises accounted for just over one-fifth of Chinese production in the sector.

It concluded the factory owners couldn't easily relocate to cheaper regions.

“Although Zhili's children's-wear industry as a whole is large, there are few big enterprises, and most of enterprises are home-based workshops,” the report said.

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**Five Hundred Union Members March
In Solidarity With Austin, Texas
Occupy Movement:
“Ironworkers, Sheet Metal Workers,
Electricians, Telecom Workers, And
Transit Workers Marched Alongside
Teachers, State And Local Government
Workers, And EMS Technicians”**

October 27, 2011 By William Rogers, The Rag Blog

William Rogers is a member of the Texas State Employees Union/CWA Local 6186.

AUSTIN -- Five hundred union members marched through downtown Austin, Sunday, October 23, chanting, "What do we want? Union jobs," and "They got bailed out, we got sold out," during the Occupy Austin Labor Solidarity March.

Ironworkers, sheet metal workers, electricians, telecom workers, and transit workers marched alongside teachers, state and local government workers, and EMS technicians.

Postal workers carried signs reading, "Save Our Postal Service, Save Saturday Deliveries" in reference to the United States Postal Service's proposal to cut mail delivery services and lay off thousands of postal workers.

Teamsters carried signs reading "Stop the War on Workers."

Phil Bunker, vice president of Teamsters Local 657 explained to me how the war on workers is affecting local Teamsters who work for Yellow Freight, a regional trucking company. Recently, the company threatened to file bankruptcy unless the union agreed to reopen and renegotiate the contract. When the union reluctantly agreed, the company reduced wages by 15 percent, stopped making contributions to the workers' pension fund, and reduced their health care benefit. "The members are very demoralized now," Bunker said.

But on Sunday, those in the march were anything but demoralized as the spirited group marched past City Hall, where members of the Occupy Austin movement have set up camp to protest national and local economic and political policies that serve the interests of the richest 1 percent and ignore the interests of the rest of us.

The march ended up at a skyscraper on Congress Avenue that houses Wells Fargo Bank, a bank that received a \$43.7 billion bailout from the U.S. government, and since then has recorded \$24.6 billion in profits and paid bonuses and compensation totaling \$27 billion, including a \$14.3 million bonus to CEO John Stumpf. At the same time, the bank has denied 175,336 homeowners facing foreclosure a mortgage modification that would enable them to keep their homes and it pays its bank tellers an average of \$22,000 a year.

Pointing to the building where Wells Fargo and other financial companies have their offices, a young electrician belonging to IBEW Local 520 told the crowd, "Labor built this building, but those who own it don't want to treat labor fairly. When we fight to protect our wages and health care benefits, they call us greedy."

Occupy Austin labor coordinator Snehal Shingavi, an assistant professor at the University of Texas, said that the most important idea that the labor movement has contributed to the Occupy movement and to the long struggle for social and economic justice is the idea of solidarity. "An injury to one is an injury to all' has been the cornerstone of the labor movement; that's where our power lies and that's how we can win this fight."

Other speakers at the rally talked about how workers are paying the price for the economic recession caused by the reckless speculation of banks like Wells Fargo.

“The Austin Independent School District eliminated 1,100 jobs of teachers and other education workers,” said Ken Zarifis, co-president of Education Austin, the union representing Austin’s public school employees. The job cuts were caused by cuts to state education funding, the result of declining revenue due to the recession.

“The state has severely reduced services to the people most affected by the recession,” said Jim Branson, lead organizer for the Texas State Employees Union, CWA Local 6186.

“It could have raised taxes on the state’s wealthiest to help those in need, but instead chose to cut these services.

“The wealthy are wealthy because of the wealth created by workers. When those workers fall on hard times, it’s only fair for the rich to share the wealth with those who created it.”

The mood of the marchers was exuberant and angry. They were angry about the economic mess created by a system that puts profit ahead of people’s needs, but they were also happy about the opportunity that the Occupy movement has given them to express their anger and frustration and to build a movement for real change, equality, and social justice.

“Thank you for this,” said a middle-aged IBEW member as he waved to the young people at the Occupy Austin encampment outside City Hall.

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