

Military Resistance 9J5

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



Pfc. Jordan Berghofer, 21, of Anderson, Ind., with the U.S. Army's 25th Infantry Division, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Battalion 27th Infantry Regiment based in Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, wipes sweat away after an indirect fire attack by insurgents Monday, Sept. 5, 2011 in the village of Asmar, Kunar province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/David Goldman)

**“I Did Not Know That Grown
People Could Not Curse In The
Military”**

**“I Was In Total Shock When The
Lieutenant Colonel Took My Rank”**

“I Talked To Trial Defense Services And They Explained To Me I Should Not Get My Rank Taken”

Forums
Army Times
October 3, 2011

I was an E-5 proudly serving in the Army, and while in the field I had a verbal altercation with an E-7 in which I used profanity (“When did cursing become a crime punishable by UCMJ?” militarytimes.com, Sept. 19).

He wrote me up for disrespect.

I did not curse him, I was cursing because of the situation he was putting me in.

How come I receive a field-grade Article 15?

I talked to Trial Defense Services and they explained to me I should not get my rank taken.

I did not know that grown people could not curse in the military.

Article 91 is way too broad and open; it should be more specific on what constitutes disrespect. I know that cursing someone out is disrespectful, but to just use profanity in an altercation should not be considered disrespect.

I did not fight it. I was in total shock when the lieutenant colonel took my rank.

— B.B. petite

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 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

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

SA Marine Killed In Afghanistan

October 7, 2011 Katrina Webber, KSAT 12 News Reporter

SAN ANTONIO -- One of the latest casualties of the war in Afghanistan was the son of the San Antonio Spurs' team physician.

U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Benjamin Schmidt, 24, was shot dead while patrolling in Afghanistan Thursday.

On Friday, Dr. David Schmidt called his son an "awesome human being" who was also a dedicated Marine.

He said he got the news about the death at his office, by way of a phone call from his wife, Theresa.

"She said there were two Marines at the door, and I knew it wasn't going to be good," Schmidt said.

An Alamo Heights High School graduate and former member of the football team, Benjamin Schmidt went on to attend school at Texas Christian University. But his father said he suddenly left and joined the Marine Corps in 2008.

"(He) came home and said, 'I want to join the Marines.' And I said, 'The hell you are!' And he goes, 'I already have,'" Schmidt said.

He said his son had a lifelong fascination with the military and military history.

'He went on to train as a sniper for the Marine corps. Ironically, it was a sniper who shot and killed him.

"He loved his job. He was proud to serve his country," Schmidt said.

Although his son was a dedicated to his military duties, he had plans to leave the Marines and become a history professor, Schmidt.

His mother is former San Antonio Express-News columnist, Becky Whetstone.

His father said the family is still working out details of his funeral. However, he said, his son requested that if anything ever happened to him, he be interred at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery.

U.S. Army Soldier From Lawndale Dies In Afghanistan



Koran Pulido Contreras, 21, of Lawndale.

09/09/2011 By Larry Altman Staff Writer, Daily Breeze

A U.S. Army soldier from Lawndale was killed in Kandahar, Afghanistan, when enemy forces attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device, government officials announced Friday.

Koran Pulido Contreras, 21, died Thursday while fighting with the 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, based in Fort Drum, N.Y.

"I am waiting for the body right now," Contreras' mother, Lilia Contreras, said Friday evening from Philadelphia, not far from where fallen soldiers are returned to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware.

The casket carrying the infantryman was expected to arrive about 8:30 p.m. Eastern time. Contreras and her husband, Marco, were there to meet it.

"He had friends everywhere," his mother said. "Now I miss him. I am so upset."

Contreras grew up in Lawndale, but spent a year in high school in Mexico before graduating from Leuzinger High School in 2007.

He worked as a server at Cafe Boogaloo and as a cook at Shark's Cove in Hermosa Beach, before deciding to join the Army, his mother said.

"He loved Hermosa Beach. He had a lot of friends," she said. "He liked skateboarding and the beach."

While serving in the military, Contreras spent a year in Iraq. He returned home, but was soon assigned to Afghanistan.

"I worried all the time," his mother said. "He is my son."

Contreras often wrote to and called his mother, telling her about his job and sometimes talking about what could happen to him.

"I never thought it was real," she said. "Now it's true. It's so terrible for me."

Contreras' 8-year-old brother, Anthony, looked up to him.

"Sometimes he's crying," the mother said. "Sometimes he's so sad."

Contreras told his mother he preferred serving in Afghanistan because of the landscape. It was green with rivers, she said.

Another soldier, Pfc. Douglas J. Jeffries Jr., 20, of Springville, Calif. died in the same attack.

Their deaths came three days shy of the 10th anniversary of the al-Qaida terrorist attacks against the United States in New York City and at the Pentagon near Washington, D.C. The attacks precipitated the war in Afghanistan.

San Bernardino Family Mourns Soldier Killed In Afghanistan

September 26, 2011 By Elex Michaelson, KABC

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (KABC) -- In San Bernardino, friends and family are mourning the death of 19-year-old Army Pfc. Carlos Aparicio, who was killed by Afghan insurgents in an improvised explosive device attack.

"He died for what he believed in, he died for us, all of us here," said Aparicio's mother, Connie.

Carlos Aparicio grew up in Fontana and his family says he always had a smile on his face.

He was a standout in wrestling and football in high school, but knew his purpose was to serve his country.

"He always achieved what he wanted to do, but when he told me he wanted to do this, as a mother, I would say 'No, no, no, no,'" Aparicio said. "He was always positive. As a parent, I was scared sometimes."

She said she has watched enough movies to know that when two soldiers showed up to her door, it couldn't be good.

"It was 6 o'clock in the morning, I looked through the door, what went through my mind was, I knew. I thought if I don't open the door it won't happen," but she opened the door, she said.

Aparicio leaves behind a fiancée and a family coming together in mourning.

Aparicio will receive the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. "The way we cope with it and believe in it, is he's a great soldier in God's Army and that's his purpose," his mother said.

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

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

**“A Bold, Resilient Foe”
Resistance Marks 10th Anniversary
Of U.S. War On Afghanistan:
“A Coordinated Barrage Of Rockets
Hits Four U.S. Outposts In Paktika”
“The Afghan Soldiers Did Not
Participate. Some Simply Sat And
Watched”**

The outpost at Margah was the hardest hit.

At least 22 107-millimeter rockets struck on or near the post, officers said; other official estimates put the number of rockets at several times that.

October 7, 2011 By C. J. CHIVERS, New York Times [Excerpts]

FORWARD OPERATING BASE TILLMAN, Afghanistan — The sun had been up less than a half-hour on the 10th anniversary of the start of the American-led war in Afghanistan when the first rocket struck.

Flying in from near the border with Pakistan, it shook this outpost with an explosion that hinted at the long day ahead.

Soon insurgents near the border were firing on four Afghan-American outposts simultaneously — a coordinated barrage and assault that included dozens of 107-millimeter rockets, and at one post, a truck bomber, American military officers said.

Only one American soldier was wounded in the insurgent attack, which the American regional command called the largest in Paktika Province since 2009.

His wounds were not life-threatening.

But the events on Friday demonstrated that as the war begins its second decade and the Pentagon plans to start sending tens of thousands of soldiers home after a buildup that since last year has made significant gains, the United States remains bedeviled by a bold, resilient foe.

And the relative weakness of Afghan soldiers and police officers living and working on the American-built bases was equally clear.

While the American soldiers organized and coordinated their part of the battle on the outpost here, the Afghan soldiers did not participate. Some simply sat and watched.

On Friday, the first rocket landed near Forward Operating Base Tillman shortly after 6 a.m., beginning the anniversary with a crunching roar.

It had been fired a few hundred yards from the border, on the Afghan side, soldiers said. It wounded no one.

But more rockets followed, including one that narrowly missed the base's entrance, and the Americans began to return artillery fire.

At about 9:35 a.m., another rocket hurtled toward the base.

"Incoming!" one of the soldiers shouted, as others flinched and waited for the blast. The rocket sailed overhead and struck an Afghan home.

"Hit the town," a soldier said, flatly, at his post in the operations room.

"Killing their own people," another answered.

Soon, Afghans emerged from the compound. No one had been hurt.

By that time, rockets were falling on three other bases as well — Forward Operating Base Orgun-E, Forward Operating Base Boris and Combat Outpost Margah, said Capt. William P. Hoffman, executive officer of Company C, Third Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment.

The company, originally a tank unit, is assigned to provisional infantry duties at Forward Operating Base Tillman as part of the Second Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, which

occupies and patrols from several outposts along the border routes trafficked by the Pakistan-based Haqqani insurgent network.

The outpost at Margah was the hardest hit.

At least 22 107-millimeter rockets struck on or near the post, officers said; other official estimates put the number of rockets at several times that.

And as the attack escalated, a man drove a vehicle toward the base's walls and the vehicles exploded. The base was also hit with small-arms fire, officers said.

More rockets, meanwhile, struck this base, prompting the soldiers to fire back with 105-millimeter howitzers.

After the barrage, a fresh rumbling could be heard. It was thunder. Rain began to fall. "That's good," said Staff Sgt. Henry E. Pettigrew, 25, the artillery platoon's gunnery sergeant. "Now they won't fire anymore."

Rocket crews from the Taliban or the Haqqani network, Sergeant Pettigrew and other soldiers said, typically stop firing when it rains, perhaps because their makeshift launchers do not work as well when the soil is wet and slick.

After lunch, the sky briefly cleared, and the firing resumed. A rocket slammed to earth beside the base. Sirens wailed anew.

At the gun line, the soldiers in the howitzer platoon loaded their tubes again and returned fire with 18 rounds.

At that point, the platoon had fired more rounds than they had on any day since arriving in Afghanistan in the summer — 142 in all, half of them air-bursting, high-explosive rounds and half white phosphorus ("Willie Pete" to soldiers) with so-called point-detonating fuses, which cause the rounds to explode upon striking the ground.

White phosphorus is not forbidden in Afghanistan, though American and NATO rules restrict its use only to when its burning effects are deemed necessary and cannot be replicated by other munitions.

In this case, soldiers said, the white phosphorus rounds were intended to set fire to any Taliban rockets at the firing positions, causing them to explode and preventing them from being fired on the American outposts.

"Willie Pete is really effective at rockets sitting on pods," said, the artillery platoon sergeant.

The battle had settled into a duel that appeared familiar to both sides, facing each other near the border, exchanging long-range fire.

The insurgents would fire first, and the Americans would reply.

As the soldiers dealt with technical matters, politics was not far from their minds. One noncommissioned officer pulled aside a reporter and vented about the origins of the attacks.

“You know where it all comes from,” he said, and nodded toward a nearby ridge. “Pakistan.”

He swore, and went back to the business of making sure the return barrages landed within the Afghan side. He asked that his name be withheld.

The American military command in eastern Afghanistan declared the insurgent attack “a failure.”

It claimed that at least 25 insurgents had been killed, and that their deaths were verified by aircraft and a Predator drone watching the battle.

The death count could not be independently confirmed.

Fuel For Occupation Forces Blown Up, As Usual



An oil tanker that was set ablaze by a bomb blast in Jamrud, located in Pakistan’s Khyber region October 8, 2011. The bomb struck a truck carrying fuel for foreign forces in Afghanistan, in the northwestern Khyber region but caused no casualties. REUTERS/Shahid Shinwari

**IF YOU DON’T LIKE THE RESISTANCE
END THE OCCUPATIONS**

WELCOME TO OBAMAWORLD. HAVE A NICE DAY.



Sept. 5, 2011: U.S. Marines look for IEDs in Sangin district, Helmand province. Sangin has one of the highest concentrations of improvised explosive devices in the country, resulting in high numbers of Marine infantrymen losing limbs and vital organs. American troops who patrol on foot in bomb-laced areas know they might lose a leg, or two, if they step in the wrong place. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

**Cluster Fuck In Nangarhar:
“Achin Is Witness Daily To Absurd
Scenes Of Government Impotence”
“Weapons That Were Meant To Be
Trained On The Taliban Are Instead
Being Used In Internecine Warfare”**

OCTOBER 7, 2011 By MICHAEL M. PHILLIPS, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

ACHIN, Afghanistan—

In an area where the U.S. once tried to enlist tribal leaders in the war against the Taliban, clan fighting—some with weapons given by the U.S. to battle insurgents—is now undermining the effort.

The clash between two clans from the Shinwari tribe over a patch of desert land in Nangarhar province has tied down Afghan security forces for six months, slowing the campaign against insurgents and drug traffickers along this rugged section of the Pakistan border, U.S. and Afghan commanders say.

Achin is witness daily to absurd scenes of government impotence.

Clan fighters fire grenades and heavy machine guns at each other across the main road, lobbing rounds over the heads of 300 Afghan soldiers and police camped out in between.

Boys skip school when it is their turn to stand guard, watching for boys from the enemy clan.

The disputed land is 2,500 acres of parched desert scrub near the road, with no water or known mineral wealth.

The government claims it for its own, but forbids its troops from firing at either side in the clan conflict.

“If they take our land, we’ll kill them all,” Farook, an 18-year-old student from the Sepai clan, said of the rival Ali Sher Khel clan. “They’re our brothers, but they’re making trouble.”

The dispute highlights the difficulty the U.S. has had finding alternative partners to the Kabul government, which is seen by many Afghans as corrupt and incompetent.

Over 10 years of war, the U.S. has wooed village elders, flirted with warlords and created armed neighborhood-watch forces in its search for ways to make up for government shortcomings.

Last year, the Shinwari tribe seemed like a feasible partner.

The tribe, which belongs to the Pashtun people, the foundation of the insurgency, agreed with the U.S. to embrace the Afghan government en masse, in exchange for \$1 million in U.S. aid.

Afghan authorities, however, objected to being left out of the deal, and the pact collapsed—after the U.S. had already delivered weapons.

Today, the Americans worry the lack of security in Achin will spread, at a time when the U.S. is beginning to reduce its footprint in Nangarhar province as part of its troop drawdown.

“Right now if you’re a citizen in...Achin, your government doesn’t look very good,” said Lt. Col. Jerry Turner, commander of 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment.

The short-lived pact thrust the U.S. into a Hatfield-McCoy world it didn't anticipate. Sparring over the land broke out within a few months, but was suspended under a one-year cease-fire.

Fighting renewed this year, and weapons that were meant to be trained on the Taliban are instead being used in internecine warfare.

"It's not about good guys and bad guys," said Col. Turner. "I don't think we fully understand it, and I'm as versed in this as anyone."

The simplest explanation for the conflict is that the Shinwari population is growing, creating competition for land.

The Americans and some Afghans suspect clan chieftains, known as maliks, want to keep the dispute alive to distract the army and police from targeting their drug operations.

In the spring, the district is alive with pink and purple opium poppies; these days the same fields are thick with chest-high marijuana plants.

Likewise, the Taliban are apparently supplying weapons to both sides to tie down government forces, U.S. and Afghan officers say.

"They're keeping us busy over there so we can't conduct our regular security operations," said Col. Mohammed Kamaludin, commander of the Afghan army battalion in the area.

Casualty estimates vary. Col. Kamaludin said about 10 people have been killed or wounded this year, split evenly between the Sepai and Ali Sher Khel. The Ali Sher Khel say they have lost 20 dead and dozens wounded.

Though the U.S. military tries to maintain strict neutrality, the Ali Sher Khel accuse them of favoring the Sepai.

When Cavalry Capt. Adam McCombs passed through an Ali Sher Khel neighborhood recently, he was accosted by shopkeeper Mohamed Amin, who demanded that the U.S. supply his clan with a heavy machine gun for every one the coalition gave to the Sepai last year.

Capt. McCombs declined.

The Ali Sher Khel also complain the provincial governor and power broker, Gul Agha Shirzai, is biased against them, and his advisers have had to quell Ali Sher Khel rumors that he married the daughter of a Sepai malik. "He already has four wives; he can't marry a fifth," said the governor's political adviser.

The government, in a recent peace effort, managed to persuade the clans to allow civilian traffic to pass through no-man's land. Most schools reopened, although one headmaster says hundreds of students have switched to single-clan schools out of fear of violence.

Markets, once completely shut, are now about 90% closed.

Gov. Shirzai's political adviser, Abdul Ahad, said he is confident peace talks sponsored by President Hamid Karzai will soon secure a cease-fire. Once the fighting stops, he said, the government will divide the land between the two clans.

That seems far off for now.

"They're Afghans," sighed Army Maj. Mohamed Aizam, sitting in an abandoned gas station in no-man's land recently, as clan machine-gun rounds crisscrossed overhead.

"It's Pashtun honor. If they were arguing over 10 afghani, they'd spend 500 afghani fighting over it."

LIBYA WAR REPORTS

“Qadaffi Proposed, In Return For Money, To Use His Police To Hold Back Immigrants Who Tried To Seek Refuge In Europe”

“They Lived In Extremely Insecure Conditions, At The Mercy Of The Police And Armed Gangs”

“Today The New Regime – Put In Place With The Help Of The Imperialist Powers – Carries Out The Same Attacks’

The Spark; Issue no. 900 — September 19 - October 3, 2011

In Libya, black African immigrants have been the victims of a series of attacks, carried out by the militias of the new regime.

Black men and women are being attacked in the streets, in their homes and even in the hospitals.

According to witnesses, their attackers claim the Africans are all mercenaries in the pay of Qaddafi.

In reality, Libya employs around two million workers from sub-Saharan countries, as well as from Tunisia and Egypt. Primarily they work in construction, but also in repair work and other jobs.

These immigrant workers make up 30 per cent of the country's population.

Under Qaddafi they lived in extremely insecure conditions, at the mercy of the police and armed gangs.

In September 2000, racist riots killed about 100 immigrants. The victims served as scapegoats for discontent about increased unemployment.

Three years later, when Qaddafi began to renew relations with the big powers, immigrants became an object of negotiations.

Qaddafi proposed, in return for money, to use his police to hold back immigrants who tried to seek refuge in Europe.

For its part, the European Union, according to the human rights organization Amnesty International, "shut its eyes to the terrible balance sheet with respect to human rights."

In August 2008, a "friendship treaty" was signed between Qaddafi and the Italian government of Berlusconi, representing the old colonial power which had dominated Libya. Italian capitalists got access to a new market, while the dictator agreed to participate in the "struggle against terrorism and ... illegal immigration."

Joint naval patrols were organized in the Mediterranean. This obviously didn't make immigration to Europe stop, but moved it further east, in even more dangerous conditions.

Today the new regime – put in place with the help of the imperialist powers – carries out the same attacks.

The representatives of the imperialist world who pillaged Africa while sowing misery are at the origin of an incalculable number of tragedies – as much for those who remain in Libya as for those who risk their lives to cross the Saharan desert and then the Mediterranean.

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MILITARY NEWS

**NOT ANOTHER DAY
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR
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The remains of U.S. Army Spc. Robert E. Dyas are transferred into a hearse following a memorial service Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2011 in Nampa, Idaho. Dyas was killed in combat in Afghanistan on Sept. 21, 2011. (AP Photo/Idaho Press-Tribune, Charlie Litchfield)...

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A Greek Army Veteran Holds A Placard Reading: “I Want My Country Back - Betrayers” Thousands Of Striking Workers March Against Government Attacks On The Income Of Greek Workers



A Greek Army veteran stands at the entrance to the Defense Ministry, holding a placard reading: “I want my country back - betrayers”, during a protest in Athens against cuts in soldiers’ pensions Oct. 6, 2011. (AP Photo/Kostas Tsironis)



A Greek activist displays unarmed combat skills against a policeman during a rally against government attacks on the income of Greek workers in Athens October 5, 2011 in Athens' Syntagma (Constitution) square October 5, 2011. REUTERS/Yiorgos Karahalis



Protesters march to the parliament during a rally against government attacks on the income of Greek workers in Athens October 5, 2011. Thousands of striking workers marched against cuts. REUTERS/John Kolesidis



Sausage, the protesters mascot, barks at a group of riot policemen during a demonstration in Athens October 5, 2011. Sausage is an amiable ginger mongrel resident of Syntagma Square in central Athens, who doesn't mind if you show up for antigovernment action as long as he can join in. He has been snarling and barking at police during demonstrations for several years now, frequently leading the way at the front.

For the record: some people call him Kanellos -- Cinnamon. The Athens municipality, which has known him since 2006 as Dog Number 1842, prefers Loukanikos -- Sausage. Photo: REUTERS/Yannis Behrakis

MORE:

**Tens Of Thousands Of
Demonstrators March Through
The Greek Capital:
“It’s One Of The Biggest Protests In
Years”
Massive Strike “Shut Services Across
The Country Wednesday”**



Demonstrators clash with police during a protest rally in Athens marking Wednesday's general strike by Greek public-sector workers. AFP

OCTOBER 6, 2011 By ALKMAN GRANITSAS And STELIOS BOURAS, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

ATHENS—Tens of thousands of demonstrators marched through the Greek capital on Wednesday to protest austerity measures the government says it must take to secure badly needed aid from its international creditors.

Police estimate roughly 20,000 people took part, although organizers put the number at being much higher and included employees from a range of public-sector organizations most affected by the latest cutbacks.

“We have seen a very big turnout today, it’s one of the biggest protests in years,” said Stathis Anestis, spokesman for private-sector umbrella union GSEE. “The government policies are destroying the country and also Europe.”

The latest austerity measures foresee deep public-sector cuts, including a controversial plan to place some 30,000 employees in a special labor reserve at reduced pay for a year—widely seen as heralding mass layoffs. The government also plans to further slash civil-service salaries in an effort to reduce its wage costs by 20%.

The protests accompanied a nationwide public-sector strike that shut services across the country Wednesday. All central and local government operations, including schools, courts, museums and archaeological sites, were closed, while hospitals and ambulance services were operating with limited staff.

Transportation around the country was also disrupted, as air-traffic controllers walked off the job, forcing the cancellation of dozens of flights. Ferry services were halted and

public transportation in the capital was affected by a partial walkout by the city's bus, rail and trolley-bus workers.

The strike, called by Greece's two major umbrella unions, comes after weeks of almost daily protests over the cutbacks by groups including bus drivers and tax collectors.

The two unions have also called a nationwide general strike for Oct. 19.

In the center of Athens, many shops were shuttered amid fears of violence, while protesters held banners decrying the planned layoffs and chanting slogans vilifying Greece's foreign lenders.

One small group of demonstrators pasted self-styled "Wanted" posters along the protest route with images of Prime Minister George Papandreou, charging him with selling out Greece and bringing ridicule on the population. The posters offered "a free life" as reward for his arrest.

Others carried black flags to symbolize national mourning.

"This is the first time I have joined a demonstration, but enough is enough," said Fotini Grivas, a 50-year-old public employee.

"These policies can be overturned if the people demand it."

MORE:

**The New Round Of Resistance
Has Already Started:
Hundreds Of High Schools Are
Occupied Right Now, All Over The
Country, "With Students
Demanding Their Most Basic
Rights: Books And Teachers"
"Most People Can't Afford To Pay
Any More Taxes"**

“A ‘Can’t Pay-Won’t Pay’ Movement Of Civil Disobedience Is Emerging”



Greek workers march in Athens during the one-day strike on October 5 (Athens Indymedia)

October 6, 2011 By Panos Petrou, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

The new round of resistance has already started.

Public transport workers are organizing a series of 24-hour and 48-hour strikes. Doctors are also taking strike action.

Public organizations that are about to close or be merged, or that have been ordered to reduce staff, are organizing coordinated actions, including work stoppages, demonstrations, etc. Workers employed by municipalities are also participating.

Another front in the struggle is education. A law imposing new measures and cutbacks at public universities was passed during the summer, so students have organized occupations from the first day of the academic season.

In the last month, some 300 universities were occupied.

This movement has declined recently under pressure from a media propaganda campaign; claims from the Ministry of Education that the whole semester will be lost; the inactivity of leaders of the university teachers union, despite the will of the rank and file to join students in struggle; and the failure of the youth wing of the Communist Party to support the occupations.

But with the support of other forces of the radical left, the struggle, is continuing in universities.

And at the same time, a wave of high-school occupations has started all over the country. Hundreds of high schools are occupied right now, with students demanding their most basic rights: Books and teachers.

A new battle is opening up right now around the issue of new tax hikes, which have provoked widespread anger.

Most people can't afford to pay any more taxes, and a "can't pay-won't pay" movement of civil disobedience is emerging.

All the parties and organizations of the left support this new movement, although there is a lack of common action, which is a serious obstacle.

Neighborhood assemblies and local committees of struggle that were formed during the rise of the squares movement are now reactivating around the issue of taxes to organize the refusal to pay in a collective way.

Several unions are organizing members to refuse to pay, which is very important at a time when there is a lack of trust toward trade unionism among many ordinary workers.

All of these organizations are gathering the papers sent to individuals by the Tax Office and returning them together.

Demonstrations where people burn tax papers and rally outside tax offices are organized.

The battle is reminiscent of the anti-Poll Tax movement in Britain in the early 1990s--and it is important to remember that this movement not only got rid of the tax, but drove Margaret Thatcher out of power.

The government's fear of such action can be seen in its threat to cut electricity to anyone who refuses to pay the new hike.

In another important example of how useful workers organization can be, the union for electricity workers has responded by saying it will fight alongside non-payers and do what it can to defend them.

Faced with this pressure, the leaders of the major union confederations, which are aligned politically with the ruling PASOK party, have been forced to move. There will be a 24-hour joint strike of state workers and workers at public enterprises on October 5 and a general strike on October 19.

These strikes are important as a first step in escalating the struggle. But they are far less than what is needed to fight this assault.

The mood of resistance is present, and all these struggles are ongoing.

But the fluid situation underlines the need for the organized, conscious intervention of the radical left.

Many people have learned the hard way that sporadic 24-hour general strikes won't stop the attack.

Greece has seen many of them in the past year and a half, but they didn't win. And faced with the real pressure of job insecurity and drastically reduced wages, many workers are asking whether it's worth it to sacrifice their wage.

Organized activists must intervene on this question with the demand for escalating and ongoing strikes that really are "worth it."

There is also a growing understanding that strikes by specific sectors can't win by themselves. Whether this conclusion will be interpreted as the idea that strikes can't win or will underline the need for coordinated walkouts and solidarity actions is also an open debate the left must speak two.

The last round of protest ended with the PASOK government on the brink of collapse. But in the end, it survived and voted through a new austerity package. This opens up another crucial debate. The question of "what else can we do?" is widespread--one of the reasons that the squares movement has ebbed is because people can't see an answer.

It is up to activists of the left to explain that "spontaneous actions" are not enough--that actions like the occupation of Syntagma Square are very useful, but if they don't lead to a wave of struggle in workplaces and in neighborhoods, where bitter and far more important battles are waged, they won't succeed.

Likewise, strike actions like the 48-hour general strike last June can't be left in the hands of union leaders if we want them to be successful and effective.

The good news is that the previous struggles have left important legacies behind. Militant methods like occupations are now part of the working class "arsenal." The brutal repression we faced at Syntagma may have scared some people, but it also turned many people who demonstrated there for the first time in their lives into militant activists.

Student occupations may be fewer than at the beginning of the term, but we are clearly witnessing a revival of militancy after a few years of relative passivity.

Thousands of students are willing to attend general assemblies, discuss politics and tactics, and organize their struggle.

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.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



D.C. Police Give Thumbs-Up To Violence Against Women

The Spark; Issue no. 900 — September 19 - October 3, 2011

Five women were recently assaulted on the street in Washington, D.C.

Two men aggressively came on to two of the women as they walked to the Columbia Heights Metro Station at night.

When a third woman let the men know none of the women were interested and to leave them alone, saying "She is my girlfriend," the man went ballistic.

Yelling "you fucking dyke bitches, I will kick that bitch's ass," he attacked the woman.

When the other women came to her defense, at least one other man jumped in to attack them. Police were called by a bystander. They grabbed one of the men.

But they refused to take a report from the women or even listen to their story.

No wonder the man taunted and laughed at the women he had just assaulted – he had just been given a get-out-of-jail free card.

When the women loudly protested, the police threatened to arrest them for disorderly conduct.

So why the disinterest on the part of the cops? Was it their prejudice against lesbians, or just against women who don't obey the social role women are expected to play?

Whatever the reason, the police, by their inaction condoned the violence used against these five women.

**“The Assassinations Of Women
Must Be Stopped!”**

**“The Turkish Prime Minister And The
President Recently Exhibited Their
Spouses Wearing Veils, Docile And
Smiling At The Side Of Their
Husbands”**

**“Enough Of These Ideas And
Reactionary Practices”**

The Spark; Issue no. 900 — September 19 - October 3, 2011

The following article is from the August 2011 issue of Class Struggle (Sinif Mucadelesi), the newspaper published by the revolutionary workers' group of that name active in Turkey.

In the Hatay region of Turkey, a young woman of 21 left her husband, expecting to find refuge for herself and her daughter at her father's.

Instead, she was murdered by her father, brothers, and uncles.

She had supposedly sullied the family's honor by preferring to marry the man of her choice rather than a cousin. She paid for it with her life!

In another region, a woman who wanted a divorce was beaten and strangled by her husband, who also poured acid on her face.

In the capital Ankara, two women were killed by their husbands while their children watched. Four other women were also massacred this way.

Women are thus murdered by their own relatives.

If we believe the polls, the “average” Turk is “satisfied,” feeling the “family” upheld.

But such a family order needs to disappear – immediately!

Deadly violence against women in the family is linked to the persistence of old, reactionary ideas.

This society of poverty and inequality supports such rubbish – with consequences for all human relations.

When the man is considered the sole master in the family, wrong is always attributed to women.

Added to this are the reactionary religious ideas encouraged by politicians.

Allied to religious institutions, the politicians defend the view that men challenged by women must defend their honor; that men should decide when and whom a woman can marry and prohibit a woman from having any other sexual relations.

In the family, the last word must remain with men – this is what is taught in conferences organized by associations, private schools and city governments.

Both the Turkish prime minister and the president recently exhibited their spouses wearing veils, docile and smiling at the side of their husbands.

The clear message is that they are the man’s property and his slave.

In theory, the Turkish Constitution and civil code were updated in 2008 to improve the rights of women.

But women face exactly the same attitudes from the officials supposed to enforce these codes that they face from their husbands.

Police often send a woman back to her violent husband with remarks like, “He’s your husband, make peace with him.”

The majority of police think like the violent husbands, considering them always right.

In these circumstances the prime minister declared, “Women aren’t the equal of men, they are only equal in rights.” This could encourage all those who despise women.

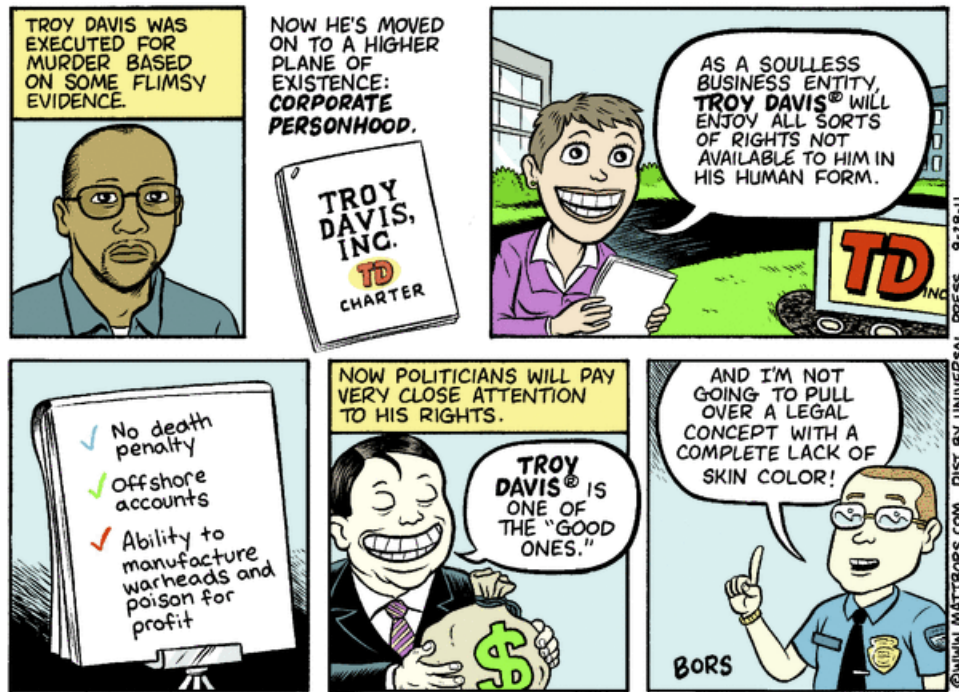
Enough of these ideas and reactionary practices.

The assassinations of women must be stopped!

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CLASS WAR REPORTS



Organized Labor And Thousands Of Workers Crowded The Streets Of Lower Manhattan To March In The Largest And Most Diverse Demonstration To Date Of The Occupy Wall Street Movement: “It Was His First Protest”

“I Had Never Seen One Before That Was For Me”



Members of District Council 37 march as part of the Occupy Wall Street protest (Morgan Shortell)

October 6, 2011 By Danny Lucia, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

FOR MORE than a year, politicians and the press have pitted private-sector workers against those in the public sector, young people against their elders receiving Social Security, native-born against immigrants, and on and on.

But yesterday, over 20,000 people from all walks of life--workers, students and the unemployed--marched through downtown Manhattan with the response that has struck a nerve across the country: “We are the 99 percent!”

The demonstration, originally called by a coalition of New York City unions and community organizations, was the largest and most diverse action to date for the Occupy Wall Street movement.

“You can see such a great cross section of society,” said investigative journalist and Blackwater author Jeremy Scahill.

“From students to steelworkers to plumbers to transit workers to independent journalists--some elected officials, though not enough--all coming out together shows that momentum is starting to shift to the side of the people.”

There was a palpable sense of excitement among many of the protesters, particularly those who have struggled through difficult years in the labor movement.

“I’ve been waiting for this movement for a long time,” said Mike Hellstrom, principal officer of Laborers Local 1108. “This is the kind of movement needed in America today. The Occupy Wall Street movement has proven in the short term that it’s sustainable, it’s not a flash in the pan. The labor movement can bring these issues back to centerstage again.”

From the front of the rally, Bob Master of the Communications Workers of America told the crowd: "Look around you. This is what democracy looks like. Occupy Wall Street captures the spirit of our time. This is Madison. This is Cairo. This is Tunisia. Occupy Wall Street has started a movement that we are all part of around the world."

This protest was very different from most labor demonstrations.

For one thing, workers from different unions were intermingled throughout the crowd, indicating that most of them had come to the protest on their own rather than being mobilized by their unions.

(The exception was the hundreds of members of National Nurses United who came from as far away as Chicago, Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia.)

And though most labor protests end promptly with people rushing home, nobody wanted to leave when this march reached the Occupy Wall Street encampment.

Hundreds of union members hung around the encampment, listening to filmmaker Michael Moore address the crowd near Broadway, checking out the books donated to the "people's library" near Liberty Street, or heading down towards Church Street for the drum circle.

But union members only made up a portion of the crowd. Several thousand students from New York University, Columbia and the New School formed a feeder march from Washington Square Park.

And there were many unemployed folks and nonunion workers--people like Nelson, who came straight from his job at nonunion FedEx, still wearing his uniform.

"They're always trying to pile more work on us," he said. "You do 40 stops, and they want 50. You do 50, they want 60."

When Nelson marched with Occupy Wall Street earlier this week, it was his first protest. "I had never seen one before that was for me."

MORE:

**The past year – every single day of it – has had its consequences. In the obscure depths of society, an imperceptible molecular process has been occurring irreversibly, like the flow of time, a process of accumulating discontent, bitterness, and revolutionary energy.
-- Leon Trotsky, "Up To The Ninth Of January"**

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