

Military Resistance 9L21



Quo Warranto?

**The New York Times Demands To Know By What Authority Obama Orders The Execution Of American Citizens Without Trial:
The Obama Regime Argues He, As Head Of The Executive Branch Of Government, May Authorize The Killing Of U.S. Citizens, While Keeping Secret The Claim Of Authority To Do So**

The New York Times sued the Department of Justice for “at least one legal memorandum” government lawyers are believed to have written detailing “the scope of the circumstances in which it is lawful for government officials to employ targeted killing as a policy tool.”

Times reporters Charlie Savage and Scott Shane particularly want to see what the Washington Post reported on Sept. 30 as “a ‘secret memorandum authorizing the legal targeting’ of Anwar al-Awlaki, an American citizen who had been killed earlier that day in Yemen.”

“Questions surrounding the legality of targeted killing – especially the extrajudicial use of lethal force away from any so-called ‘hot’ battlefield where United States forces are engaged in active combat – have generated extensive public debate since October 2001, when the Bush Administration first contemplated whether covert lethal force could be used against people deemed to be al-Qaeda operatives,” the federal complaint states.

“Most recently, the death of an American citizen, Anwar al-Awlaki, who was killed in a drone strike in Yemen in September, has kindled widespread interest in – and controversy over – the scope of the circumstances in which it is lawful for government officials to employ targeted killing as a policy tool.

“Given the questions surrounding the legality of the practice under both U.S. and international law, notable legal scholars, human rights activists, and current and former government officials have called for the government to disclose its legal analysis justifying the use of targeted lethal force, especially as it applies to American citizens.”

NYT claims, “Both before and after the death of al-Awlaki, NYT duly filed FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) requests seeking memoranda that detail the legal analysis behind the government’s use of targeted lethal force.

To date, DOJ has refused to release any such memoranda or any segregable portions, claiming them to be properly classified and privileged and in respect to certain memoranda has declined to say whether they in fact exist.”

The complaint adds: “Upon information and belief, there exists at least one legal memorandum detailing the legal analysis justifying the government’s use of targeted killing.”

A Feb. 11 Newsweek story about “targeted killing operations by the Central Intelligence Agency” quoted “an anonymous government official as saying such actions were ‘governed by legal guidance provided by the Department of Justice,’” the Times says.

Awlaki, born in the United States, was “perhaps the most prominent English-speaking advocate of violent jihad against the United States, with his message carried extensively over the Internet. His online lectures and sermons had been linked to more than a dozen terrorist investigations in the United States, Britain and Canada,” the Times reported on Oct. 10.

According to the FOIA complaint: “To date, the government has not offered a thorough and transparent legal analysis of the issue of targeted killing. Instead, several government officials have made statements broadly asserting the legality of such actions in a conclusory fashion. ...

“On February 3, 2010, Director of National Intelligence Dennis C. Blair testified to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence that ‘we take direct actions against terrorists in the intelligence community.

“If we think that direct action will involve killing an American citizen, we get specific permission to do that.’

“A number of senators, representatives, and government officials – including both supporters and opponents of the practice – have since urged the Department of Justice to make public its legal justification for the targeted killing of individuals.

“For example, on October 2, 2011, Jane Harman, a former United States representative and a former ranking member of the House Intelligence Committee, argued that ‘targeted killing of anyone should give us pause, and there has to be a legal framework around doing that. Reports say there is a lengthy memo that the Office of Legal Counsel and the Department of Justice has prepared making the case. I believe there is a good case. But I think the Justice Department should release that memo.’

“Similarly, on October 7, 2011, Senator Dianne Feinstein, chairwoman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, called on the administration to ‘make public its legal analysis on its counterterrorism authorities’ because ‘for transparency and to maintain public support of secret operations, it is important to explain the general framework for counterterrorism actions.’

“Senator Carl Levin, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, has said: ‘I would urge them to release the memo. I don’t see any reason why they shouldn’t.’

“Other officials have complained that much of the publicly available information on targeted killing results from off-the-record comments by government officials reported in the media. As a former United States representative and a former chairman of the House Select Committee on Intelligence, Peter Hoekstra, has noted: ‘The targeting of Americans – it is a very sensitive issue, but again there’s been more information in the public domain than what has been shared with this committee. There is no clarity. Where is the legal framework?’

“Former attorneys for the OLC have also recommended the release of memoranda detailing the legality of targeted killing.

“Jack Goldsmith, a former assistant attorney general who headed the OLC, has argued that ‘a legal analysis of the U.S. ability to target and kill enemy combatants (including U.S. citizens) outside Afghanistan can be disclosed without revealing means or methods of intelligence-gathering or jeopardizing technical covertness. The public legal explanation need not say anything about the means of fire (e.g. drones or something else), or particular countries, or which agencies of the U.S. government are involved, or the intelligence basis for the attacks ... A full legal analysis, as opposed to conclusory

explanations in government speeches and leaks, would permit a robust debate about targeted killings – especially of U.S. citizens – that is troubling to many people.’

“Only extremely limited legal analysis has been made available by government officials with knowledge of the program.

“For example, in a speech on March 10, 2010, Harold Koh, legal adviser of the United States Department of State, assured members of the American Society of International Law that ‘it is the considered view of this administration – and it has certainly been in my experience during my time as legal adviser – that U.S. targeting practices, including lethal operations conducted with the use of unmanned aerial vehicles, comply with all applicable law, including the laws of war.’

“On September 16, 2011, John O. Brennan, a senior adviser to President Obama on homeland security and counterterrorism, provided similar reassurance: ‘We will uphold the core values that define us as Americans, and that includes adhering to the rule of law. And when I say ‘all our actions,’ that includes covert actions, which we undertake under the authorities provided to us by Congress. President Obama has directed that all our actions – even when conducted out of public view – remain consistent with our laws and values.’

“Upon information and belief, there exists at least one official OLC memorandum that details the legal argument justifying targeted killing,” the complaint states. (Ellipsis and parentheses as in complaint.)

The Justice Department’s Office of Legal Counsel assists the attorney general as legal adviser to the president and all executive branch agencies.

The Justice Department refused to produce documents responsive to Shane’s and Savage’s FOIA requests, and appeals.

The Office of Legal Counsel wrote that it “neither confirms nor denies the existence of the documents described in your request,” according to the complaint.

The Times wants to see the memo.

Quo Warranto:

Quo warranto (Medieval Latin for “by what warrant?”) is a prerogative writ requiring the person to whom it is directed to show what authority they have for exercising some right or power (or “franchise”) they claim to hold.

In the United States today, quo warranto usually arises in a civil case as a plaintiff’s claim (and thus a “cause of action” instead of a writ) that some governmental or corporate official was not validly elected to that office or is wrongfully exercising powers beyond (or ultra vires) those authorized by statute or by the corporation’s charter.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

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AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

“So Far This Year, More Than 5,000 American Troops Have Been Wounded -- About One Third Of All Those Injured In Afghanistan Since 2001”

“The High Number Reflects Both The Continuing Intensity Of The Fighting, As Well As The Inability Of The U.S. Military To Defeat Roadside Bombs”

“Amputations Are At An All-Time High, As Are The Serious Medical Side Effects Of Severe Trauma”

“One Out Of Five Of The Wounded Evacuated From Afghanistan Last Year Suffered From What The Army Calls ‘Genitourinary’ Injuries”

12/20/11 David Wood, TheHuffingtonPost [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON -- Despite official assertions of progress in Afghanistan, American battle casualties remain stubbornly high, and the severity of the physical and psychological wounds suffered by young Americans is actually increasing.

So far this year, more than 5,000 American troops have been wounded -- about one third of all those injured in Afghanistan since 2001.

The U.S. battlefield death toll in Afghanistan has tapered off slightly, from 437 last year to 348 through Dec. 5 of this year. There were 5,241 soldiers wounded in battle last year, and 5,020 so far this year, according to Pentagon casualty data.

The high number of wounded reflects both the continuing intensity of the fighting, as well as the inability of the U.S. military to defeat roadside bombs and protect the troops against them.

Despite a \$22.4 billion Pentagon effort over the past six years, these improvised explosive devices remain the biggest single cause of American casualties, killing or wounding more than 34,000 in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001, according to Defense Department data.

In Afghanistan this year, IED attacks are up 7 percent over last year, according to the U.S.-led command in Kabul.

The damage they cause is unrelenting.

Among the 96,000 American troops fighting in Afghanistan, amputations are at an all-time high, as are the serious medical side effects of severe trauma.

The number of returning servicemen and women officially diagnosed with traumatic brain injury has leaped to an average of 647 new cases a month, up from a monthly average of 621 cases in 2010 and 482 a month in 2009, according to Defense Department data.

Over the past decade, the Defense Department has diagnosed 229,106 service members with traumatic brain injury.

Military surgeons this year recorded a monthly average of 19.6 cases of amputations, up from 16.3 per month in 2010 and 7.3 per month in 2009.

These injuries are mostly caused by IED detonations, which have also resulted in a sharp rise in genital wounds.

One out of five of the wounded evacuated from Afghanistan last year suffered from what the Army calls “genitourinary” injuries.

Military medical officials say the numbers are increasing, but a spokeswoman for the U.S. military medical center in Landstuhl, Germany, which handles most evacuees, said she could not provide fresher numbers.

The U.S. military also tracks two other indicators of severe injury, and both have risen significantly this year.

One is uncontrolled bone growth near the site of a wound, a painful condition called heterotopic ossification.

Among deployed troops, cases of heterotopic ossification have reached 10.8 cases a month, compared to 7.3 in 2010 and 5.3 in 2009, the Defense Department reported.

The other post-trauma condition is deep vein thrombosis. These cases rose from 18.8 in 2009 to 20.4 in 2010, to 20.5 per month this year.

A U.S. Army study released last summer detailed the increasing severity of battle wounds suffered by troops in Afghanistan.

The report said that the number and severity of these wounds, which include the traumatic amputation of two, three or all four limbs, exceeds anything experienced during the Iraq war.

The rising incidence of these severe wounds comes as Obama administration officials are lauding progress in Afghanistan.

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

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

Afghan Government Soldier Opens Fire On U.S. Troops: Three Killed, Five Wounded

December 25, 2011 Military-world.net & AP

An Afghan soldier has opened fire on American troops on Christmas eve, killing at least three of them and injuring five others in western Afghanistan, Press TV reports.

“Last night in Bala Boluk an Afghan army soldier opened fire on foreign forces,” said Najibullah Najibi, spokesman for the Afghan army in western Afghanistan.

Local sources told Press TV that the attack took place on Saturday evening at a training base in Pusht-Rod district of the western province of Farah after a quarrel between Afghan army soldiers and US-led foreign troops.

An Afghan army soldier was killed and another was injured in the assault, the governor of Posht-Rod said.

Most of the foreign troops stationed in Pusht-Rod are from the US.

Blairstown Mourns U.S. Soldier Killed In Afghanistan; Remembered As Loving Father



U.S. Army Spc. Ronald H. Wildrick Jr., 30, of Blairstown, was killed Sunday in Kunar province, Afghanistan, after his unit was attacked with an improvised explosive device. Courtesy of the Wildrick family

December 14, 2011 By Steve Strunsky and Mark Mueller, Star-Ledger Staff

BLAIRSTOWN — Ron Wildrick joined the Army to carve out a better life for himself, to build a better career and make his two daughters proud of their father, a close friend since high school recalled today.

His daughters will be able to remember their father proudly, those who knew Wildrick say, though the rest of his dream was cut short.

Spc. Ronald H. Wildrick Jr., 30, died Sunday of wounds suffered when the Army said enemy forces attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan's Kunar province, in the rugged, violent region of northeastern Afghanistan that borders Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas.

Wildrick, who grew up in Byram Township and was a graduate of Lenape Valley Regional High School in Stanhope, was a specialist with the Army's 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, based at the Schofield Barracks in Hawaii.

His remains were flown home to the United States tonight, to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware. He is at least the 142nd service member with ties to New Jersey to die in Afghanistan or Iraq.

"It's just a very sad day for everybody," said Nicole DeRosa, a close friend of Wildrick's and fellow member of Lenape Valley Regional's Class of 2000.

Wildrick joined the Army about three years ago, after separating from his wife and moving in with a sister in Maryland, said DeRosa, 30, whose husband was also a close friend. Wildrick's wife, Stephanie Kasper, 25, and daughters Kaylee, 5, and Leah, 3, still live in Blairstown. Wildrick's father-in-law, Jeff Kasper, stayed with Kaylee last night, and Leah was with another family member, while their mother went to Delaware to claim her husband's remains.

"It's tough," Kasper said in a telephone interview. "Especially at this time of year, it's tough."

"He was a good kid," Kasper said of his son-in-law. "He's got two beautiful daughters, and I'm going to make sure I take care of them for the rest of their lives."

Wildrick's mother has lived in Australia since he was in high school, DeRosa said. In addition to his wife, two daughters and sister, Christie Berkey, Wildrick also leaves behind a brother, Joe. His father died several years ago.

DeRosa said Wildrick had been doing plumbing work while still living with his family in New Jersey, but he turned to the Army shortly after moving to Maryland in pursuit of more meaningful, and perhaps more lucrative, work.

At first, she said, the military was attractive to Wildrick for the training and experience it offered, but he soon found that he liked being a soldier and that he excelled at it.

His awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Army Service Ribbon and the Basic Parachutist Badge. His posthumous awards include a Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, NATO Medal and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

“He went in with the notion to better himself and to have a better life for his girls,” she said. “But after he got in it was more of a career thing.”

DeRosa said Wildrick was a popular, well-known figure in high school, known as Big Ron because of his long, lean frame.

“Everybody knew him well because he was well over 6 feet tall and he looked like a string bean,” she said. “Every single person he came across just loved him. I don’t think he ever had one single enemy in his life, ever, ever. He was just a really good guy.

“Ron was the type of person that there was never a dull moment. We could be sitting having a cup of coffee at Dunkin’ Donuts, and it would be etched in our memory forever.”

Collaborator Politician Blown Up

December 25, 2011 AP

KABUL, Afghanistan — A bomber blew himself up Sunday just after a funeral in northern Afghanistan, killing 19 people, including a member of the national parliament, the Interior Ministry said.

The attack came as mourners were leaving at the end of the funeral of a village elder in the town of Talaqan in northern Takhar province, a statement said, killing 19 and wounding 40. Among the dead was parliament member Abdul Mutaleb Baik.

Over the past year, the Taliban have repeatedly struck at officials and other prominent figures in an apparent effort to paralyze the government.

<p>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</p>

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

**Iraqis Order Cakes Inscribed
“Congratulations For The End Of
Occupation”
U.S. Empire Successful In Creating A
U.S. Style Government To Replace
Saddam:
“The Politicians Who Are Running This
Country Are Just A Group Of Thieves”**

Dec 18, 2011 By Sameer N. Yacoub - The Associated Press [Excerpt]

The last U.S. convoy rumbled out of Iraq across the border into Kuwait around sunrise under a shroud of secrecy to prevent attacks on the departing troops. When news reached a waking Iraqi public, there was joy at the end of a presence that many Iraqis resented as a foreign occupation.

In the northern city of Mosul, pastry shop owner Muhammad Adnan said he had a swell of orders for cakes — up to 110 from the usual 70 or so a day — as families threw parties at home.

Some asked him to ice the cakes with inscriptions of “congratulations for the end of occupation,” he said.

But the happiness was shot through with worries over the future.

“Nobody here wants occupation. This withdrawal marks a new stage in Iraq’s history,” said Karim al-Rubaie, a Shiite shopowner in the southern city of Basra.

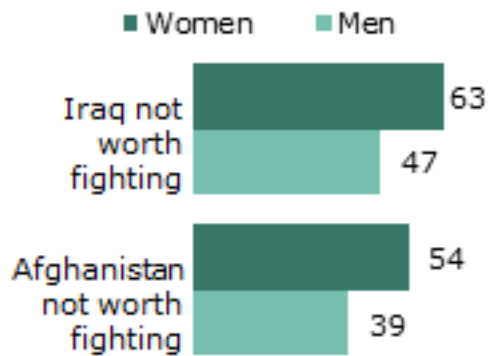
But, he said, “the politicians who are running this country are just a group of thieves.”

MILITARY NEWS

Huge Numbers Of Post 9/11 Veterans Say “Afghanistan Not Worth Fighting”

Majority Of Post 9/11 Veterans Say “Iraq Not Worth Fighting”

% of post-9/11 veterans saying ...



Question wording: "All in all, considering the costs to the United States versus the benefits to the United States, do you think the war in (Iraq/Afghanistan) has been worth fighting, or not?"

Note: Based on post-9/11 veterans who are women, n=135; men=577.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 28-Sept. 4, 2011.

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.

War Profiteers Sold \$7.5 Million In Defective Helicopter & Truck Parts: Charges Include Conspiracy To Commit Wire Fraud And Money Laundering

Dec 21, 2011 The Associated Press

EUGENE, Ore. — A southern Oregon family has pleaded not guilty to charges that it filled its U.S. military defense contracts with defective knockoffs rather than government-specified parts for Army helicopters and trucks — including a critical helicopter part.

The Eugene Register-Guard reports that a federal judge entered the plea on behalf of Harold Ray Bettencourt Jr., his ex-wife and three of the couple's adult children on Tuesday.

The family faces charges that include conspiracy to commit wire fraud and money laundering.

Two other longtime employees of Bettencourt's Coos Bay company, Kustom Products Inc., also were arraigned Tuesday in the case. All seven remain free.

According to a federal grand jury indictment, Bettencourt's firm collected more than \$7.5 million in government payments after selling "nonconforming, defective and counterfeit products" to the Department of Defense on at least 392 occasions.

Defective F-22 Jet Kills Air Force Pilot: Costliest Fighter Plane Ever A Useless Piece Of Shit; “Even Before The Fatal Alaska Crash, There Were Numerous Complaints From Pilots That The Jet's Oxygen Systems Weren't Feeding Them Enough Air”

“Barr Said The Air Force Blamed Haney Because The Brass Doesn’t Want More Criticism Of The F-22 Program”

December 19, 2011 By W.J. Hennigan, Los Angeles Times [Excerpts]

Capt. Jeff Haney was headed back to base in his F-22 Raptor fighter jet, ripping through the frigid Alaskan night beyond the speed of sound at more than 1,000 mph, when things started going terribly wrong.

Packed tight in cold-weather gear to protect him from the bitter temperatures, the Air Force pilot pulled back on the control stick at about 38,400 feet to gain altitude.

Then Haney saw his plane was beginning to fail him.

A caution light glowed green through his night vision goggles, alerting him that a section of the aircraft was overheating.

Almost instantly, the F-22’s onboard computers detected an air leak in the engine bay and began automatic shutdown of various systems — including the main oxygen supply.

Gasping for air, Haney set the throttles to idle and began lowering the plane to the snow-covered valley below. About 35 seconds later, Haney’s plane began to roll upside down. He couldn’t recover.

There amid the Talkeetna Mountains north of Anchorage, Haney, 31, crashed and died.

The crash was another grim episode for the controversial Lockheed Martin Corp.-made F-22 fighter jet that has been in service since 2005, yet never called into combat despite conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya.

The plane, the military’s most expensive fighter jet, has continued to experience equipment problems — notably with its oxygen systems.

New details from an Air Force report last week drew attention to the November 2010 crash and raised questions about the F-22 and the way the Air Force has dealt with the plane’s ongoing oxygen problems.

Even before the fatal Alaska crash, there were numerous complaints from pilots that the jet’s oxygen systems weren’t feeding them enough air — which caused wooziness in flight.

Because of this, the entire fleet of F-22s was grounded for nearly five months beginning in May.

But even after the grounding was lifted, investigators still had no answers as to why the malfunctions occurred.

And since mid-September when the order was lifted, the Air Force said, there have been 14 episodes in which pilots have experienced “physiological incidents” that may have been caused by a lack of oxygen.

Experts had hoped that a yearlong investigation into the Alaska crash would provide new insights into the problems with the oxygen system.

Instead, the Air Force concluded that Haney, one of its top pilots, was to blame because he was too distracted by his inability to breathe and should have engaged the F-22’s emergency oxygen system.

Last week’s report generated much debate over whether the Air Force turned Haney, an experienced and award-winning aviator, into a scapegoat to escape more criticism of the F-22.

Haney “most likely experienced a sense similar to suffocation,” the report said. “This was likely (Haney’s) first experience under such physiological duress.”

To save himself and the plane, Haney should have leaned over and with a gloved hand pulled a silver-dollar-size green ring that was under his seat by his left thigh to engage the emergency system, the report said.

It takes 40 pounds of pull to engage the emergency system.

That’s a tall order for a man who has gone nearly a minute without a breath of air, speeding faster than sound, while wearing bulky weather gear, said Michael Barr, a former Air Force fighter pilot and former accident investigation officer.

“It would’ve taken superhuman efforts on the pilot’s behalf to save that aircraft,” he said. “The initial cause of this accident was a malfunction with the aircraft — not the pilot.”

Barr said the Air Force blamed Haney because the brass doesn’t want more criticism of the F-22 program, which will cost an estimated \$77 billion and whose need was called into question even before its first test flight.

“They’ve taken all the heat they want to,” Barr said. “They paid a lot of money for an aircraft that doesn’t work.”

Whereas other warplanes in the U.S. arsenal have been used to pummel targets in Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya, the Air Force’s F-22s have sat idle — used only in test missions. Even so, F-22 pilots have experienced seven major crashes with two deaths, including Haney.

According to the Air Force, each of the sleek, diamond-winged aircraft cost \$143 million. Counting upgrades, research and development costs, the U.S. Government Accountability Office estimates that each F-22 cost U.S. taxpayers \$412 million.

Two decades ago, during the Cold War, the U.S. government planned to buy 648 of the fighters for \$139 million apiece to battle enemy fighter jets in dogfights. But the government's order was repeatedly slashed until 2009, when then-Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates ended the purchase at 188 planes — the last of which has rolled off Lockheed's assembly lines in Marietta, Ga. Lockheed would not comment for this article.

Previous oxygen systems in fighter jets used a separate bottle that fed air to pilots. In an F-22, the air intake system uses air from the jet engine's compressor section to supply oxygen for pilots.

Last week's report found that when the air intake system malfunctioned, the jet shut down multiple systems, including oxygen supply, to protect itself from further damage, as designed. Therefore, the oxygen system was not at fault, the Air Force said.

But the report did not say what caused Haney's F-22 to malfunction in the first place.

The accident investigation board "conducted a thorough investigation considering all possible causes of the mishap," Air Force spokesman Steffey said.

"Due to the extensive damage and limited evidence recovered, the cause of the bleed air leak could not be determined."

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

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**

Your Flag Decal Won’t Get You Into Heaven Anymore

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DgRVNjsuycQ&feature=related>

By John Prine [Veteran]

While digesting Reader’s Digest
In the back of a dirty book store,
A plastic flag, with gum on the back,
Fell out on the floor.

Well, I picked it up and I ran outside
Slapped it on my window shield,
And if I could see old Betsy Ross
I’d tell her how good I feel.

Chorus:
But your flag decal won’t get you
Into Heaven any more.
They’re already overcrowded
From your dirty little war.

Now Jesus don't like killin'
No matter what the reason's for,
And your flag decal won't get you
Into Heaven any more.

Well, I went to the bank this morning
And the cashier he said to me,
"If you join the Christmas club
We'll give you ten of them flags for free."
Well, I didn't mess around a bit
I took him up on what he said.
And I stuck them stickers all over my car
And one on my wife's forehead.

Repeat Chorus:

Well, I got my window shield so filled
With flags I couldn't see.
So, I ran the car upside a curb
And right into a tree.
By the time they got a doctor down
I was already dead.
And I'll never understand why the man
Standing in the Pearly Gates said...

"But your flag decal won't get you
Into Heaven any more.
We're already overcrowded
From your dirty little war.
Now Jesus don't like killin'
No matter what the reason's for,
And your flag decal won't get you
Into Heaven any more."

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ANNIVERSARIES

**December 26, 1971:
Honorable Anniversary:
Vietnam Veterans Against The War
Liberate The Statue Of Liberty**



Carl Bunin Peace History December 24-30

Two dozen members of Vietnam Veterans Against the War “liberated” the Statue of Liberty with a sit-in to protest resumed U.S. aerial bombings in Vietnam.

They flew an inverted U.S. flag from the crown as a signal of distress.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**“The Funeral Of Mustafa Tamimi,
Murdered By The Israeli Military At
A Demonstration At Nabi Saleh On
Friday, Ended With The Military
Shooting Endless Rounds Of The**

Teargas Canisters That Killed Mustafa”

**“Unarmed Mourners Who Only
Moments Before Had Been Grieving
Tears For Their Lost Son, Were Now
Being Attacked By The Israeli Army
With Round After Round Of Tear
Gas”**

**“Israeli Soldiers Were Savagely Beating
Anybody Within Their Vicinity, Kicking
Them Violently And Stamping On Their
Heads”**



Israeli soldiers attacking mourners (Photo: Holly Rigby)

December 13, 2011 by Holly Rigby, Mondoweiss [Excerpts]. Holly Rigby is a British volunteer working on the Right to Education campaign at Birzeit University, and an activist and writer with the International Solidarity Movement.

The following is an eyewitness account of Mustafa Tamimi's funeral procession on Sunday. It is from a longer post on Holly Rigby's blog Carbonating Change:

This has been one of the darkest and most disturbing days I have ever had to experience.

The funeral of Mustafa Tamimi, murdered by the Israeli military at a demonstration at Nabi Saleh on Friday, ended with the military shooting endless rounds of the teargas canisters that killed Mustafa at unarmed mourners, beating and arresting people with impunity as they walked across Nabi Saleh village after the funeral.

Around 200 people marched through the streets of Ramallah this morning carrying Mustafa's body, wrapped in a Palestinian flag with a kuffiyeh to cover his head.

As his body was laid in the ambulance, we got into a service to follow it to the village. On the way there, I called an activist friend of mine to let her know where we were going, and she warned me to be careful.

I assured her that there was surely no way that the military would be able to unashamedly devastate the funeral of a young man with violence.

I now realize just how naive that was, and how deeply I underestimated the savagery of the Israeli army.

By the time we arrived in the village of Nabi Saleh, there were more than 2000 people who had joined the funeral procession, the men carrying his body above their heads with cries of 'Allahu Akbar' ('God is Great') and the chilling howls of the village women calling Mustafa's name echoing through the tiny village streets.

We saw Mustafa's sister walking distraught but defiant, with tears wracking her face, and his father being held by both arms by men around him, almost unable to walk, crippled by his grief.

This was the death of a martyr for the Palestinian struggle, and the devastating effects of his death could be seen in every face I turned to.

His body was carried through the streets to his home for a final goodbye, to the mosque where the funeral prayers were spoken, and then eventually to the grave overlooking the beautiful Palestinian valleys on the outskirts of the village.

My flatmate wanted to say some prayers for Mustafa so we walked back towards the mosque, but when we returned to the cemetery I was surprised to see the mourners had dispersed, when suddenly I recognised the acrid smell of tear gas fill my nose and my stomach turned as I realised what was taking place.

As I sprinted down the rocky terrain towards the entrance of the village, I saw elderly women and children running back up the other way, their faces blotchy and red with burning tears, doubled over and retching as they tried to move away from where the army was firing.

Unarmed mourners who only moments before had been grieving tears for their lost son, were now being attacked by the Israeli army with round after round of tear gas and being sprayed with skunk water, a foul smelling liquid unlike any waste sewage you have ever smelt.

As I moved closer to the protesters, I asked what had happened and they explained that the ten Israeli army jeeps I could see in the distance had arrived during the funeral, and were placed there to taunt and goad this grieving village. In the distance I could see the young men throwing stones at the army vehicles, a symbolic gesture expressing their deep anger against the death of their brother and against this cruel and twisted occupation.

Suddenly, I heard a loud crack and all around me the silver tear gas canisters that had killed Mustafa were being shot directly at where I was standing with other activists from ISM, and we ran up the road through clouds of billowing tear gas smoke, desperately trying to avoid the path of these silver bullet-like objects.

We were called up the road by a Palestinian from the village and he pointed down the hill to the east of the village where another unit of Israeli soldiers were standing languidly at the bottom – waiting, goading, intimidating – knowing that the Palestinians would not stand by as another group of soldiers occupied their land on this day.

We ran down the rocky slope where at the bottom the women who earlier had been sobbing and lamenting the death of Mustafa were now screaming into the faces of these soldiers, holding his picture to their faces and demanding to know which one of them had killed their brother.

As I stood taking photographs of this painful scene, time suddenly collapsed into itself when I saw one of the soldiers smirk and tear the poster of Mustafa from a woman's hands and rip it into pieces at the same moment a sound bomb exploded next to me, quickly followed by a tear gas canister that had been thrown and detonated at my feet.

My face, my head, my mouth, my whole body was suddenly filled with tear gas and I ran away blindly as my face scorched from the gas and I felt like my head was going to explode on itself. I couldn't breathe nor see nor think of anything apart from the burning that filled my lungs and head, and in the panic and confusion I ran as fast as I could from the canister.

But no demonstration I have attended here could have prepared me for the scene that was unfolding when I finally managed to regain my balance and ran back up the road to where the soldiers and Palestinians had gathered.

Israeli soldiers were savagely beating anybody within their vicinity, three or four soldiers at a time grabbing men and throwing them to the floor, kicking them violently and stamping on their heads.

As I stood back from the scene taking photographs, a soldier suddenly lunged towards us entirely unprovoked and threw one of the ISM activists I was with against the barrier of the road, doubling him over it as his body crashed to the ground. I screamed in his face "WHAT THE FUCK ARE YOU DOING YOU ANIMALS," and he shoved me out the

way and turned back to the group of soldiers that had amassed to join in the violent spree.

As they tried to arrest more and more people the group of strong and defiant Palestinian women we were with threw their bodies over the men they were trying to drag away, and the soldiers began dragging these women by their hijabs, their clothes, wringing the necks of the men who were under this pile of women and trying to pull them from underneath.

Covering and protecting the bodies of those trying to be arrested, the women were screaming so loudly for the soldiers to stop and this sound pierced my heart more deeply than any sound bomb could ever have done.

After arresting three and beating many more, the group was forced to retreat back up the hill we had come from, running from the soldiers as they fired round after round of tear gas after us.

A tear gas bomb exploded directly at the feet of one of the protesters, and inhaling the thick plumes of smoke, he began suffocating and collapsed on the ground. As people gathered around him trying to help him, the soldiers who were watching what was happening started firing tear gas directly at the group that was helping the unconscious man, and they were forced to drag his body up the hill to escape.

We spent the next twenty minutes dodging tear gas as we made our way back up the hill, until eventually things began to calm so we made our way back to where the protest had begun originally, and the violence there too had dissipated.

As we sat in the service on the way back to Ramallah, I came to understand what the word 'shell shocked' really means.

Knowing that this level of violence is what the Palestinian people have experienced for 64 years, almost powerless against the brutal, mechanised force of a murdering Israeli army, serves to only more deeply cement my hatred for the Israeli military and the terrible things they inflict on the wonderful people I have spent the last three months with.

As one of my flatmates said, the Israeli military has no respect for the living, so why would we think they would have even an ounce of respect for the dead?

This is an account of a terrible scene that should only reinforce how destructive and cruel this occupation really is.

Those who try to explain or justify the behaviour of the Israeli army are as complicit in these actions as the soldiers perpetrating these terrible crimes.

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to: www.rafahtoday.org The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."]

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Omaha Regime Seeks To Imprison Citizen For Advising Jurors Of Their Legal Right To Vote Not Guilty:

“Federal Prosecutors In New York Get Their Way, Telling The Truth To Potential Jurors Could Result In A Six-Month Prison Sentence”

“The First Amendment Exists To Protect Speech Like This — Honest Information That The Government Prefers Citizens Not Know”

December 20, 2011 By PAUL BUTLER, New York Times [Excerpts]. Paul Butler, a former federal prosecutor, is a professor of law at George Washington University and the author of "Let's Get Free: A Hip-Hop Theory of Justice."

If you are ever on a jury in a marijuana case, I recommend that you vote "not guilty" — even if you think the defendant actually smoked pot, or sold it to another consenting adult.

As a juror, you have this power under the Bill of Rights; if you exercise it, you become part of a proud tradition of American jurors who helped make our laws fairer.

The information I have just provided — about a constitutional doctrine called "jury nullification" — is absolutely true.

But if federal prosecutors in New York get their way, telling the truth to potential jurors could result in a six-month prison sentence.

Earlier this year, prosecutors charged Julian P. Heicklen, a retired chemistry professor, with jury tampering because he stood outside the federal courthouse in Manhattan providing information about jury nullification to passers-by.

Given that I have been recommending nullification for nonviolent drug cases since 1995 — in such forums as The Yale Law Journal, "60 Minutes" and YouTube — I guess I, too, have committed a crime.

The prosecutors who charged Mr. Heicklen said that "advocacy of jury nullification, directed as it is to jurors, would be both criminal and without constitutional protections no matter where it occurred."

The prosecutors in this case are wrong.

The First Amendment exists to protect speech like this — honest information that the government prefers citizens not know.

Laws against jury tampering are intended to deter people from threatening or intimidating jurors. To contort these laws to justify punishing Mr. Heicklen, whose court-appointed counsel describe him as "a shabby old man distributing his silly leaflets from the sidewalk outside a courthouse," is not only unconstitutional but unpatriotic.

Jury nullification is not new; its proponents have included John Hancock and John Adams.

The doctrine is premised on the idea that ordinary citizens, not government officials, should have the final say as to whether a person should be punished.

As Adams put it, it is each juror's "duty" to vote based on his or her "own best understanding, judgment and conscience, though in direct opposition to the direction of the court."

In 1895, the Supreme Court ruled that jurors had no right, during trials, to be told about nullification. The court did not say that jurors didn't have the power, or that they couldn't be told about it, but only that judges were not required to instruct them on it during a trial. Since then, it's been up to scholars like me, and activists like Mr. Heicklen, to get the word out.

Nullification has been credited with helping to end alcohol prohibition and laws that criminalized gay sex.

Last year, Montana prosecutors were forced to offer a defendant in a marijuana case a favorable plea bargain after so many potential jurors said they would nullify that the judge didn't think he could find enough jurors to hear the case. (Prosecutors now say they will remember the actions of those jurors when they consider whether to charge other people with marijuana crimes.)

There have been unfortunate instances of nullification. Racist juries in the South, for example, refused to convict people who committed violent acts against civil-rights activists, and nullification has been used in cases involving the use of excessive force by the police.

But nullification is like any other democratic power; some people may try to misuse it, but that does not mean it should be taken away from everyone else.

How one feels about jury nullification ultimately depends on how much confidence one has in the jury system.

Based on my experience, I trust jurors a lot. I first became interested in nullification when I prosecuted low-level drug crimes in Washington in 1990. Jurors here, who were predominantly African-American, nullified regularly because they were concerned about racially selective enforcement of the law.

Across the country, crime has fallen, but incarceration rates remain at near record levels.

Last year, the New York City police made 50,000 arrests just for marijuana possession. Because prosecutors have discretion over whether to charge a suspect, and for what offense, they have more power than judges over the outcome of a case.

They tend to throw the book at defendants, to compel them to plead guilty in return for less harsh sentences.

In some jurisdictions, like Washington, prosecutors have responded to jurors who are fed up with their draconian tactics by lobbying lawmakers to take away the right to a jury trial in drug cases. That is precisely the kind of power grab that the Constitution's framers were so concerned about.

In October, the Supreme Court justice Antonin Scalia, asked at a Senate hearing about the role of juries in checking governmental power, seemed open to the notion that jurors "can ignore the law" if the law "is producing a terrible result."

He added: "I'm a big fan of the jury." I'm a big fan, too. I would respectfully suggest that if the prosecutors in New York bring fair cases, they won't have to worry about jury nullification. Dropping the case against Mr. Heicklen would let citizens know that they are as committed to justice, and to free speech, as they are to locking people up.

CLASS WAR REPORTS



“The Opposition Brought Tens Of Thousands Of People Out Onto The Streets Of Moscow For The Second Time In Two Weeks”

“If Those Two Swindlers And Thieves Continue The Usurpation Of Power - They Have Stolen It From The People - Then The

People Will Come And Take It Back”

““They Do Not Understand,’ One Person Close To Policy Makers Said Of Putin And Medvedev”

“One Is Weak And The Other Does Not Want To Listen, Though People Have Tried To Explain The Seriousness Of The Situation”



Demonstration against Russian government in Moscow December 24, 2011. Credit: Reuters/Denis Sinyakov

Dec 26, 2011 By Guy Faulconbridge, Reuters [Excerpts]

Vladimir Putin is looking increasingly out of touch in Russia after the opposition brought tens of thousands of people out onto the streets of Moscow for the second time in two weeks to demand a parliamentary election be re-run.

But the looming New Year holiday in Russia means there is likely to be a pause in the biggest opposition protests since he rose to power 12 years ago and he will hope they will now at least temporarily lose momentum.

The protesters say they are tired of his domination of Russia after eight years as president and now four as prime minister, and suspect the December 4 election, won by his United Russia party, was rigged.

First Putin dismissed the protesters as chattering monkeys financed from abroad, then he backed President Dmitry Medvedev's proposal for gradual political reform and later the 59-year-old leader had a former KGB spy appointed as Kremlin chief of staff.

The gulf between Putin and many of his people has convinced many that he has lost his popular touch and is refusing to take the protests as seriously as many of his closest allies do as he prepares to reclaim the presidency in an election in March.

"They do not understand," one person close to policy makers said of Putin and Medvedev.

"One is weak and the other does not want to listen, though people have tried to explain the seriousness of the situation."

Opponents say Putin's inner circle is a small group of former KGB spies, businessmen and Kremlin officials who have little empathy with the Internet-savvy generation of younger, urban Russians who have come out onto the streets this month.

But Putin's portrayal of the protesters as pawns financed by a foreign power has also contrasted with the conclusions drawn by some of the other men at his court.

Kremlin deputy chief of staff Vladislav Surkov, who helped Putin craft his tightly controlled political system, warned on Friday that some enemies wanted to provoke a revolution but that the protesters were among the best people in society.

"The best part of our society, or rather the most productive part, is demanding respect," Surkov, one of Putin's most powerful advisers on domestic policy, told Izvestia. "You cannot simply swipe away their opinions in an arrogant way."

An even closer Putin ally, former Finance Minister Alexei Kudrin, joined Saturday's protest in Moscow, warning that Russia needed much more serious political reforms to ensure a stable development.

"I came today because I do not believe the elections were fair and I believe we need to hold an investigation and punish those responsible up to and including criminal responsibility," Kudrin, 51, told Reuters at the protest.

Tens of thousands protested in cities across Russia on December 10.

On Saturday, organizers said they had gathered 120,000 in Moscow though the police put the number at 30,000.

The truth may lie somewhere in between: Russia's Navaya Gazeta opposition newspaper said its reporters counted more than 102,000 while estimates from state news agency RIA put the crowd at about 56,000.

Putin is counting on the support of the many millions in the provinces who regard him as the man who restored order to Russia after the chaos of the decade that followed the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

In a televised question and answer session with the Russian people, Putin used a reference to the chattering monkeys known as "Bandar Log" in Rudyard Kipling's Jungle Book to describe the protesters and said he thought the white ribbons which are the symbol of the election protests were condoms.

But Alexei Navalny, the most prominent leader of the divided opposition groups which refuse to negotiate with the Kremlin, turned Putin's comments back against the authorities.

"Hi all of you Bandar Logs and Internet hamsters: You were called Bandar Log but you came here today. But where is the chap who called us that?" Navalny, 35, told tens of thousands of people at the protest in Moscow's Sakharov Avenue.

Navalny's satire may excite the crowds and the thousands who read his blogs but there is still no leader of the fragmented opposition. As if to illustrate that, dozens of different leaders addressed the crowd in Moscow.

United or not, Navalny warned that there were enough people at the protest to take the Kremlin by force, though he quickly added that this was not the plan.

"If the authorities continue to cheat the people and if those two swindlers and thieves continue the usurpation of power - they have stolen it from the people - then the people will come and take it back because it is theirs by rights," he told Reuters.

So does he plan a revolution?

"It is not a revolution," he said. "The revolution, the illegal takeover of power, was implemented by Putin and Medvedev. Here there will be a legal return of power to the people."

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