The Duffle Blog Makes Wall Street Journal Front Page:
WSJ Headline: “Satirical Website’s Fake News Dupes Readers; Tomahawks To Replace Bayonets?”
“Over The Past Year, The Duffel Blog Has Hoodwinked Radio Talk-Show Hosts, Politicians And Reporters Across The Country”
NEW YORK—

When Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell’s office got word that the Pentagon was offering veterans’ benefits to prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, staffers sprang into action.

The influential Kentucky lawmaker’s aides fired off a letter to the Pentagon, demanding answers. The senator got one, but probably not the response he was expecting.

The Defense Department doesn’t offer military benefits to dangerous detainees.

Mr. McConnell’s staff had been duped by the Duffel Blog, a year-old satirical website that is gaining a reputation as the military version of The Onion.

Mr. McConnell and his staff aren’t the only ones to be snookered.

Over the past year, the Duffel Blog has hoodwinked radio talk-show hosts, politicians and reporters across the country.

No, the U.S. Army is not going to replace bayonets with tomahawks.

No, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel is not going to start charging soldiers for access to military bases.

No, mail delays did not prevent delivery of thousands of military ballots that would have propelled Republican Mitt Romney into the White House.

The year-old Duffel Blog is the creation of Paul Szoldra, a 29-year-old Marine Corps veteran who started the website as a way to drive traffic to a serious site he had set up to help military veterans adjust to civilian life.

The first piece of satire profiled an Air Force officer who was so sick of being teased about serving in the "Chair Force" that he banned all chairs from his military base.

Mr. Szoldra’s humor caught on. His serious website fell apart. And the Duffel Blog took on a life of its own. The site’s Facebook page now has more than 46,000 followers, and Mr. Szoldra says a half-million people check out the Duffel Blog each month.

"The lads have a well-tuned sense of humor and convincingly imaginative ‘reporting’ that bode well for a country that could use some laughs," said Marine Gen. James "Mad Dog" Mattis, who just retired as head of U.S. Central Command. "I think the writers know that we need to stop taking ourselves so seriously."

Over the past year, Mr. Szoldra has enlisted help from a growing number of anonymous writers, including active duty military, who feed the Duffel Blog with a daily stream of fake news.

The fake news site has run stories about everything from a hipster antiwar activist who joined the army "to be ironic" to a Taliban proposal that the U.S. military offer a 24-hour "call ahead" policy before launching night raids in Afghanistan.
There have been articles about a soldier kicked out of Special Forces because he couldn’t grow a beard; a typo that led to the creation of an $180 million "gorilla warfare" program and a congressional study that concluded that the sword is, in fact, mightier than the pen.

The Duffel Blog has become an outlet for Mr. Szoldra and his writers to vent about their frustrations with military culture.

And it is proving to be cathartic for other veterans too.

"I’ve gotten messages from guys saying ‘I have PTSD and your website is the only thing that’s able to make me laugh,’ " he said. "It makes the site much more important to me and very important to them. I really don’t want to let them down."

The Duffel Blog is read by everyone from soldiers in Afghanistan to high-level officers at the Pentagon.

Gen. Joseph Dunford, the Marine officer who recently took over as head of the U.S.-led coalition in Afghanistan, said he got a "good laugh" out of a Duffel Blog story that touted his decision to take on the "haunted command" in Kabul that has proved to be a career killer for his predecessors.

Mr. Szoldra and his writers revel in the number of people who take their satire seriously. The group keeps a private, online "wall of shame" to document controversies they stir up. Snopes.com, the website committed to debunking urban legends, misinformation and Onion-style fake articles, has already created three entries on Duffel Blog stories to let readers know they aren't real.

One of the entries was on an article claiming an Army general’s profanity-laden graduation address sparked a deadly riot at Fort Benning, in Georgia.

The story was written by an active duty soldier in Afghanistan, who called it the crowning achievement of his fake news career.

After the piece was published last July, an officer at his base in Afghanistan passed around copies for people to read—not knowing that the author was among them.

"It was all I could do to not take a bow," the soldier, who writes under the name Army J, said in a phone interview.

Perhaps their biggest "get" so far has been Sen. McConnell.

Last fall, the senator’s office wrote to the Pentagon after a constituent raised concerns about the story claiming that Guantanamo Bay detainees were eligible for military benefits.

Don Stewart, a spokesman for Mr. McConnell, said the office is "hypervigilant about finding answers to the questions raised by his constituents."
"In this case," he said of the letter, first published earlier this year by Wired Magazine’s Danger Room, "that extra effort produced a humorous misunderstanding."

The Duffel Blog has its detractors.

Among the irate is Martin Sepulveda, a military veteran who unsuccessfully ran for Congress last year in Arizona.

When the Duffel Blog published a fake news story claiming that a real Arizona lawmaker had told the troops to "go fuck themselves," Mr. Sepulveda dispatched a tweet denouncing the politician.

When Mr. Sepulveda learned the story was fake, he turned his furor toward the Duffel Blog, calling it "malicious and cowardly."

"I don't think you want to say vile things that aren't true to get some reaction," he says.

The fake article created an even bigger problem for its target — Arizona State Sen. Linda Lopez. One person close to the senator called it a "PR nightmare."

"It took a lot of time to undo the damage that was done," said the Democrat close to Ms. Lopez, who declined to be interviewed. "The repercussions lasted for weeks and months."

Asked about that incident, Mr. Szoldra, who is currently covering real news as an intern in New York for the Business Insider website, said he shouldn't "be responsible for people believing everything they read" on his site.

"Incidents like this only illustrate a serious problem with our education system," he said. "Apparently, they aren't teaching skepticism or critical thinking in some parts of the country anymore."

Perhaps the biggest sign of the Duffel Blog’s growing stature came from Scott Dikkers, founding editor of The Onion, who reached out to Mr. Szoldra with praise for his work.

"The site reminds me of The Onion in its early days," Mr. Dikkers says. "They're clearly having fun doing it, which is part of what makes it successful."

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Two Foreign Occupation “Servicemembers” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan:
Two foreign servicemembers died following an insurgent attack in eastern Afghanistan today.

A soldier based at Georgia’s Fort Stewart died April 21 of injuries sustained when his vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan, the Pentagon announced Monday.

Pfc. Barrett L. Austin, 20, of Easley, S.C., died in Landstuhl, Germany, after the April 17 attack in Wardak province. He was assigned to the 4th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

“A Security Forces Were Dispatched To The Area And Engaged In Firefights With The Taliban But Quickly Retreated Because They Had No Support”
A Turkish transport helicopter with at least 11 civilians was forced to make an emergency landing in a Taliban-controlled area in eastern Afghanistan, and the insurgents took all the people on board hostage, including eight Turks and a Russian, officials say.

The civilian aircraft landed in strong winds and heavy rain on Sunday in a village named Dahra Mangal in the Azra district of Logar province, southeast of Kabul, District Governor Hamidullah Hamid told The Associated Press.

He said the helicopter came down in a gorge in the densely forested region, known for narrow gorges and rugged mountains, about 20km from the Pakistani border.

The Taliban fighters then captured everyone aboard the helicopter and took them away, Hamid said on Monday.

In a phone interview, Arsala Jamal, Logar’s provincial governor, identified the hostages as eight Turks, one Afghan translator and two foreign pilots of unknown nationality.

In Ankara, a spokesman at Turkey’s Foreign Ministry confirmed that eight Turks were aboard the helicopter but had no information on their condition or what had happened to them after the emergency landing.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity in keeping with ministry regulations.

Stepan Anikeyev, the Russian embassy’s press attach in Kabul, said in a phone interview that a Russian man was being held hostage.

He said the Russians knows he was one of the two pilots but that they don’t have details about his identity yet and that they’re in "constant touch" with local officials in Afghanistan.

Security forces were dispatched to the area where the helicopter came down and engaged in firefights with the Taliban but quickly retreated because they had no support, said Logar Deputy Police Chief Rais Khan Abdul Rahimzai.

"We brought the police back because there was no help from the (NATO) coalition or the Afghan army. The police were unable to secure the area, which is very rural, and we were worried," Rahimzai said.

He added that information they had from the region was that the hostages were taken by the Taliban to Hisarak district of neighbouring Nangarhar province.

Hamid said that repeated calls for the Afghan army or NATO help went unanswered, and that the police were unable to secure the area, which is located 15km from the district police compound in the town of Azra.

NATO confirmed that the Turkish helicopter went down on Sunday, but the International Security Assistance Force did not have any other details.
It did say there were "no ISAF" or "US personnel on board the Turkish helicopter", denying an earlier Taliban claim that they had detained Americans on the aircraft.

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**Resistance Action**

April 21, 2013 The Associated Press & RFE/RL

KABUL, Afghanistan -- Insurgents killed six police officers at a checkpoint.

The Taliban ambushed the checkpoint in the Dayak district of Ghazni province, killing six police officers, wounding one and leaving one missing, said Col. Mohammad Hussain, deputy provincial police chief.

The checkpoint was manned by Afghan local police, forces recruited at the village level that are nominally under the control of the Afghan Interior Ministry.

According to the AFP news agency, the militants were aided by one of the police officers, who led them into the post.

A second attack on Sunday hit Paktika province, which borders Ghazni. A suicide bomber detonated his explosives in a shopping bazaar around midday, killing three people and wounding five civilians and two police officers, said Mokhlis Afghan, the spokesman for the provincial governor.

Among the dead was Asanullah Sadat, who stepped down as the district’s governor two years ago.

Zabiullah Mujahid, a spokesman for Taliban, claimed responsibility for the bombing. In an email to reporters, he said the Taliban used the bomber to target Sadat because of his close relations with the Afghan government and the U.S.

In other violence, the Taliban cut a hand and foot off each of two villagers they accused of helping escort coalition convoys, a spokesman for the provincial chief in western Herat province said. Noor Khan Nekzad said the men were admitted to a hospital in Herat city on Sunday, two days after the amputations.

The Taliban have long killed government employees and those who help the coalition, considering them enemy collaborators, but rarely have they meted out punishment by cutting off limbs.

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**SOMALIA WAR REPORTS**
Insurgents Ambush Kenyan Occupation Troops

April 23, 2013 sh.M.Network

Reports from Dobley town in lower Juba region confirm that there was a heavy battle between Kenyan troops and Alshabab fighter's at the outskirts of the town.

The fighting started when Alshabab fighters launched an assault on a Kenyan convoy that departed from Dobley town heading to Hosingow town in the lower Juba region.

Eye witness who is at Dobley town has confirmed with Shabelle radio that heavy rockets and heavy bombardments are being exchanged between the two sides and the sound of gun fire is heard from nearby locations.

The fighting broke up when Alshabab militia launched propelled grenade attacks aiming at the Kenyan troops followed by a series of land mine explosions.

The eye witness said that he has seen causalities the Kenyan troops suffered.

He also informed us that the Kenyan fighter jets are helping the Kenyan troops who were caught unaware to break down the militia group. It is believed that the Kenyan war planes are bombarding alshabab bases at a nearby location.

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.

MILITARY RESISTANCE BY EMAIL

If you wish to receive Military Resistance immediately and directly, send request to contact@militaryproject.org. There is no subscription charge.
Celebration of Life service for US Army SSgt. Rex L. Schad at LifeChurch.tv in Edmond March 21, 2013. Schad was killed earlier this month while conducting a patrol with the Afghanistan National Police. He is a 2005 graduate of Edmond Memorial High School. Photo by Jim Beckel, The Oklahoman 3.23.13

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ANNIVERSARIES

April 24, 1917:
Anniversary Of A Noble Cause:
The Irish Take Arms To Fight A Foreign Imperial Occupation

The Easter Uprising began when between 1,000 and 1,500 members of the Irish Republican Brotherhood attempted to seize Dublin and issued the declaration of Irish independence from Britain.

Carl Bunin Peace History April 23-29

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By Constantine Fitzgibbon, Users.bigpond.net [Excerpt]

On Easter Monday, April 24, 1916, a force of Irishmen under arms estimated at between 1,000 and 1,500 men and women attempted to seize Dublin, with the ultimate intention of destroying British rule in Ireland and creating an entirely independent Irish Republic to include all 32 counties of Leinster, Munster, Ulster and Connaught.

Their leaders, Patrick Pearse, James Connolly and the others, knew that their chances of success were so slight as to be almost non-existent.
Yet they fought, and died.

Why?

The circumstances that led to the Irish rebellion of 1916 are of an intense complexity, historical, social, political and, perhaps above all, psychological. The Irish writer, Sean O’Faolain, has written of his country: “Most of our physical embodiments of the past are ruins, as most of our songs are songs of lament and defiance.

“The Easter Rising was a complete failure, which left large parts of Dublin in ruins; yet without it Ireland might never have been free of English rule.

“The leaders, alive, had very few supporters even among the Irish patriots; dead, they became and have remained their country’s heroes.

It was a great historical paradox, and one that to this day the British have perhaps never understood.

Had they understood it, it is conceivable that the British might still have an empire, since the overthrow of British rule in Ireland marked the beginning of the overthrow of British imperial might in Asia, in Africa, and elsewhere.

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“We Declare The Right Of The People Of Ireland To The Ownership Of Ireland”

“The Long Usurpation Of That Right By A Foreign People And Government Has Not Extinguished The Right”

[Stephen-stratford.co.uk]

[Text Of The Declaration Made After The Occupation Of Dublin’s General Post Office During The 1916 Easter Uprising]

POBLACHT NA H EIREANN.

THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE IRISH REPUBLIC

TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND
IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN:

In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.

Having organised and trained her manhood through her secret revolutionary organisation, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and through her open military organisations, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army, having patiently perfected her discipline, having resolutely waited for the right moment to reveal itself, she now seizes that moment, and, supported by her exiled children in America and by gallant allies in Europe, but relying in the first on her own strength, she strikes in full confidence of victory.

We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible.

The long usurpation of that right by a foreign people and government has not extinguished the right, nor can it ever be extinguished except by the destruction of the Irish people.

In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty; six times during the last three hundred years they have asserted it to arms.

Standing on that fundamental right and again asserting it in arms in the face of the world, we hereby proclaim the Irish Republic as a Sovereign Independent State, and we pledge our lives and the lives of our comrades-in-arms to the cause of its freedom, of its welfare, and of its exaltation among the nations.

The Irish Republic is entitled to, and hereby claims, the allegiance of every Irishman and Irishwoman. The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens, and declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and all of its parts, cherishing all of the children of the nation equally and oblivious of the differences carefully fostered by an alien government, which have divided a minority from the majority in the past.

Until our arms have brought the opportune moment for the establishment of a permanent National, representative of the whole people of Ireland and elected by the suffrages of all her men and women, the Provisional Government, hereby constituted, will administer the civil and military affairs of the Republic in trust for the people.

We place the cause of the Irish Republic under the protection of the Most High God.

Whose blessing we invoke upon our arms, and we pray that no one who serves that cause will dishonour it by cowardice, in humanity, or rapine.

In this supreme hour the Irish nation must, by its valour and discipline and by the readiness of its children to sacrifice themselves for the common good, prove itself worthy of the august destiny to which it is called.
Signed on Behalf of the Provisional Government.

Thomas J. Clarke, Sean Mac Diarmada, Thomas MacDonagh, P. H. Pearse, Eamonn Ceannt, James Connolly, Joseph Plunkett

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“If These Men Must Die, Would It Not Be Better To Die In Their Own Country Fighting For Freedom For Their Class, And For The Abolition Of War, Than To Go Forth To Strange Countries And Die Slaughtering And Slaughtered By Their Brothers That Tyrants And Profiteers Might Live?”

By Ted Grant, Unknown source, April 1966; http://www.marxists.org/ [Excerpts]

On 17th April 1916 the Irish Citizen Army, together with the Irish Volunteers, rose up in arms against the might of the British Empire to strike a blow for Irish freedom and for the setting up of an Irish Republic. Their blow for freedom was to reverberate round the world, and preceded the first Russian Revolution by almost a year.

The background to the rebellion was the centuries of national oppression suffered by the Irish people in the interests of British landlordism and capitalism. In this they had the support of the Irish landlords and capitalists, of the Catholic hierarchy, who were linked by ties of interest to the Imperialists, and joined with them in fear of the Irish workers and peasants.

It is impossible to understand the Easter Rising without understanding the ideas of its leader, James Connolly, who considered himself a Marxist and based himself on the ideas of Internationalism and the class struggle. Like MacLean in Britain, Lenin and Trotsky, Liebknecht and Luxemburg and other Internationalists, Connolly regarded with horror the betrayal by the leaders of the Labour movement in all countries in supporting the Imperialist War.
Dealing with the betrayal of the Second International, Connolly declared in his paper The Workers Republic: “If these men must die, would it not be better to die in their own country fighting for freedom for their class, and for the abolition of war, than to go forth to strange countries and die slaughtering and slaughtered by their brothers that tyrants and profiteers might live?”

Protesting against the support by the British TUC of the war, Connolly wrote: “Time was when the unanimous voice of that Congress declared that the working class had no enemy except the capitalist class – that of its own country at the head of the list!”

Connolly stood for national freedom as a step towards the Irish Socialist Republic. But while the Stalinists and reformists today – 50 years after 1916 still mumble in politically incoherent terms about the need for the “national revolution against imperialism”, Connolly was particularly clear about the class question that was at the basis of the Irish question.

Without being in direct contact with Lenin and Trotsky he had a similar position. “The cause of Labour is the cause of Ireland, and the cause of Ireland is the cause of Labour”, he wrote. “They cannot be dis severed. Ireland seeks freedom. Labour seeks that an Ireland free should be the sole mistress of her own destiny, supreme owner of all material things within and upon her soil”.

Connolly had no illusions in the capitalists of any country, least of all Ireland.

On International capitalism he wrote: “If, then, we see a small section of the possessing class prepared to launch into war, to shed oceans of blood and spend millions of treasure, in order to maintain intact a small portion of their privileges, how can we expect the entire propertied class to abstain from using the same weapons, and to submit peacefully when called upon to yield up forever all their privileges?”

And on the Irish capitalists, “Therefore the stronger I am in my affection for national tradition, literature, language, and sympathies, the more firmly rooted I am in my opposition to that capitalist class which in its soulless lust for power and gold would bray the nations as in a mortar”.

And again, “We are out for Ireland for the Irish. But who are the Irish? Not the rack-renting, slum-owning landlord; not the sweating, profit grinding capitalist; not the sleek and oily lawyer; not the prostitute pressmen – the hired liars of the enemy.

“No these are the Irish upon whom the future depends. Not these, but the Irish working class, the only sure foundation upon which a free nation can be reared.”

Writing on the need for an Irish insurrection to expel British imperialism he wrote in relation to the World War: “Starting thus, Ireland may yet set the torch to a European conflagration that will not burn out until the last throne and the last capitalist bond and debenture will be shrivelled on the funeral pyre of the last War lord.”
As an answer to the demand for conscription which had been imposed in Britain and which was supported by the Irish capitalists for Ireland too, where the employers were exerting pressure to force Irish workers to volunteer, Connolly wrote: “We want and must have economic conscription in Ireland for Ireland.

Not the conscription of men by hunger to compel them to fight for the power that denies them the right to govern their own country, but the conscription by an Irish nation of all the resources of the nation – its land, its railways, its canals, its workshops, its docks, its mines, its mountains, its rivers and streams, its factories and machinery, its horses, its cattle, and its men and women, all co-operating together under one common direction that gather under one common direction that Ireland may live and bear upon her fruitful bosom the greatest number of the freest people she has ever known.”

He looked at the employers who were opposing conscription too from a critical class point of view: “if here and there we find an occasional employer who fought us in 1913 (the Great Dublin lock-out in which the employers tried to break union organisation, but were defeated in this object by the solidarity of the Irish workers and their British comrades too) agreeing with our national policy in 1915 it is not because he has become converted, or is ashamed of the unjust use of his powers, but simply that he does not see in economic conscription the profit he fancied he saw in denying to his followers the right to organise in their own way in 1913.”

Answering objections to the firm working class point of view which he expounded he declared: “Do we find fault with the employer for following his own interests? We do not. But neither are we under any illusion as to his motives. In the same manner we take our stand with our own class, nakedly upon our class interests, but believing that these interests are the highest interests of the race.”

It is in this light that the uprising of 1916 must be viewed.

As a consequence of the struggles of the past Connolly who was the General Secretary of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union had organised the Citizens Army for the purpose of defence against capitalist and police attack and for preparing for struggle against British imperialism.

The Citizens Army was almost purely working class in composition: dockers, transport workers, building workers, printers and other sections of the Dublin workers being its rank and file. It was with this force and in alliance with the more middle class Irish volunteers that Connolly prepared for the uprising.

He had no illusions about its immediate success. According to William O’Brien, on the day of the insurrection Connolly said to him: “We are going out to be slaughtered.”

He said “Is there no chance of success?” and Connolly replied “None whatsoever.”

Connolly understood that the tradition and the example created would be immortal and would lay the basis for future freedom and a future Irish Socialist Republic. In that lay his greatness.
What a difference from the craven traitors of the German Socialist and Communist and Trade Union leaders who despite having three million armed workers supporting them, and with the sympathy and support of the overwhelming majority of the German working class (ready to fight and die, capitulated to Hitler without firing a shot.

The British occupying troops suppressed the insurrection and then savagely executed its leaders, including the leader of the insurrection James Connolly, who was already badly wounded.

Connolly was murdered, but in the last analysis, British imperialism really suffered defeat.

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April 24, 1971: Magnificent Anniversary

Peace History April 23-29

500,000 demonstrated against the Vietnam War in Washington, D.C. It was the largest-ever demonstration opposing U.S. war in Southeast Asia. 150,000 marched at a simultaneous rally in San Francisco.

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April 25, 1974: Portugal Most Honorable Anniversary
Soldiers Rise Up To Overthrow A Dictator

A peaceful uprising by army and civilians, known as the carnation revolution (Revolução dos Cravos), ended 48 years of fascism in Portugal.

The regime killed four before giving into the popular resistance.

25 April 2004 By Manny Thain, Socialist World.net [Excerpts]

It started at 12.25 am on Thursday 25 April 1974 when the rebel song, Grandola Vila Morena, played on the radio.

By early evening the end of dictatorship was announced.

The Movimento das Forças Armadas (MFA), radical mid-ranking officers, had executed the plan devised by Captain Otelo de Carvalho. Troops secured Lisbon and the second city, Porto. Key installations were taken, ministers arrested.

The news of the regime’s downfall spread like wildfire.

People flooded the streets.

MFA vehicles were mobbed by adoring crowds.
Thousands of school students marched, shouting “Down with fascism”.

Red carnations, the symbol of the revolution, blossomed in rifle barrels and festooned the streets in this festival of freedom.

The ex-dictator, Marcello Caetano, cowered in National Guard barracks.

He was the successor to the fascist regime consolidated in the early 1930s by António Salazar. Paramilitary groups terrorised left-wing and industrial militants. Independent trade unions and the right to strike were illegal.

The secret police had a massive network of agents and informers.

Torture was systemic.

But it was the armed African liberation struggles - especially Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique - begun in the early 1960s, which drove the final nails into the coffin of the fascist regime.

Many mid-ranked officers had been influenced by the Marxism they read in counter-insurgency training.

Radicalisation continued in Africa with the brutal repression meted out to the people fighting for their freedom. A policy of fast-tracking new officers fuelled the anger.

The MFA set up a ‘junta of national salvation’ to rule until a provisional government was formed. Elections were promised within a year. It announced freedom of association and expression, and an amnesty for political prisoners.

Having suffered at the hands of bosses and landowners linked to the regime, workers drove them out of the factories and off the land. The editor of the daily, Diário de Notícias, was forced out on 7 June after print workers seized the presses, publishing a front-page article exposing his fascist connections.

Homeless people occupied empty properties. Shipyard and underground workers went on strike for a 50% pay rise. Car workers won a 40-hour week. Bakery and textile workers struck. Train and tram conductors refused to collect fares.

General António de Spínola was made acting president. The son of a friend of Salazar, Spínola had impeccable fascist credentials. He had, however, called for the easing of direct colonial rule, which gave him a certain amount of support.

Spínola made one more pathetic bid for power, on 11 March 1975.

But the paratroopers he mobilised mutinied.

The fact that six members of the Espírito Santo banking family were implicated in the coup fiasco fuelled further outrage.
“7,000 Palestinians Marched To The Destroyed Arab Village Of Khubeiza”
“The Biggest Congregation Of Palestinians For The March Of Return To Date”
“They Organise This Every Year, And Every Year It Gets Bigger”

The festival ended with a resounding and moving performance of “Mawatani” or “My Homeland,” the Palestinian National Anthem, in which the 7,000-strong crowd rose to their feet and recited the lyrics in proud unison.
April 22, 2013 By Felix Black, The Palestine Monitor

In what was the biggest congregation of Palestinians for the March of Return to date, approximately 7,000 Palestinians marched to the destroyed Arab village of Khubeiza during Israel’s “Independence Day” on Tuesday, April 16.

The march has occurred every year since 1998, with each event taking place at a different location in Palestinian 1948 territories.

It is aimed at not only to educate and bring together generations of Palestinians, but to also show to the world that the Israeli Independence Day coincides with anniversaries of the destruction of Arab villages during the Nakba, in which 750,000 Palestinians were ethnically cleansed prior to the formation of the state of Israel. The march is deliberately organised to take place on Israeli Independence Day, which changes dates due to differences between the Hebrew and Gregorian calendars.

The village of Khubeiza, located 40 kilometers southeast of Haifa, was destroyed by the Jewish Haganah units using dynamite in 1948.

The residents, some 350 people, fled to refugee camps in Jenin or Jordan, whilst some tried to re-settle within the newly established Israeli state.

The march crossed the old village remains, spanning two large fields.

It ended with an hour-long gathering in which food was handed out, Palestinian literature sold, and stalls providing arts-and-crafts opportunities for children, just as guest speakers talked at length about the implementation of UN resolution 194 and the right of return for Palestinian refugees.

During the course of the event, groups of young men on horseback challenged one another to take part in races across the village’s land, often brandishing the Palestinian flag as they competed.

At the end of the rally, music burst out of the speakers and the 1,000-strong group of young men and women at the front of the rally began several impromptu circles of dabke dancing and loud singing.

“Who says the youth are apathetic to their situation and Palestinian national unity in general,” remarked Yossi Schwartz, a Jewish-Palestinian activist from Jerusalem.

“The evidence in front of us right now shows the complete contrary.”

There were certainly grounds for optimism given the passionate rally-like response from the crowd as the speeches were being made.

There was also a significant amount of anti-PA and anti-Mahmoud Abbas rhetoric coming from the speakers, and chanting from the crowd.

Unlike in the West Bank, there was an obvious free nature to express such political views publically, mainly due to the lack of preying authorities.
There was a tremendous amount of unity in general at the march, albeit with the exception of half a dozen Syrian flags being waved in support of the Assad regime, much to the annoyance of the organisers and condemnation of many of the crowd members.

The festival ended with a resounding and moving performance of “Mawatani” or “My Homeland,” the Palestinian National Anthem, in which the 7,000-strong crowd rose to their feet and recited the lyrics in proud unison.

The event was organised by the High Follow-Up Committee for Arab Citizens of Israel and the Association for the Defence of the Rights of the Displaced Persons.

According to Palestinian lawyer Meissa Irshaid, who works for the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel, “They organise this every year, and every year it gets bigger. Firstly more people start to hear more about it, and secondly, it then becomes tradition. It is an educational march, for families, the old and the young.”

The cross-generational ethos of the march, and the subsequent festival, portrayed a microcosm of Palestinian life.

Grandfathers and grandmothers re-told the stories of the Nakba, the children listened, the young men and women danced to traditional songs, and the parents smoked nargilah and drank coffee whilst watching the whole scene unfold.

It was clear that the importance of the march was not to bring unwanted attention from Israeli authorities, but to bring everyone together and ground national memories to form new memories, and thus continue the struggle against the occupying forces.

A group of roughly 50 Jewish-Israeli counter-demonstrators had set up a picnic area on the entrance to the site, accompanied by a small police attaché, but the two groups never crossed paths directly and there were no signs of aggression. It was more of a symbolic retort.

If a similar Palestinian event had taken place in the West Bank, albeit unlikely given the organisational and logistical constraints, tear gas, plastic-coated lead bullets and possibly live ammunition from the Israeli soldiers stationed there would undoubtedly have met it.

At the same time as the march, nearly 1,000,000 Jewish-Israelis took part in the celebration of the 65th anniversary of the Independence of Israel by pouring into national Parks and inner city public spaces. One in every five cars had an Israeli flag positioned somewhere on the chassis, and numerous houses had been draped with the blue and white national colours.

Counter-demonstrations took part in Jerusalem and at one point a Palestinian flag was hoisted on the ramparts of Damascus Gate, only to be swiftly removed by the Israeli authorities.

The Right of Return March will not be given international media recognition, despite the tragedy it represents. Israeli Independence Day has already been given the spotlight from world media, who often skate nervously around the discussion of the Nakba, if at
all, and the current cultural and political genocide of Palestinians in Palestine 1948, the West Bank, Gaza, and the diaspora communities across the globe.

The march represents everything that nobody else wishes to discuss, and it will continue for many years to come, hopefully growing every time.

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

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**DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

![Cartoon: Two figures, one labeled "Congress," the other "Big Money." The Congress figure is sitting on the Constitution, saying, "...it's a separation of powers issue they missed." The Big Money figure is saying, "Money is speech. That's louder than words."

[Thanks to David McReynolds for posting.]

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