

Military Resistance 1213



**Injured Guardsman's
Family Lives In Poverty:
"He Was Assured He'd Receive
Incapacitation Pay"
"It's Been 18 Months"
"In The Meantime, He's Lost His
Home And A Car And Is Relying On
His Wife's Parents To Feed His
Family"**

“I Want Everyone Who Is In This Position To Be Aware Of The Possibility That They Might Not Get Any Help From The Military,’ He Said”



Army National Guard Spc. Robert Quattrocchi and his now-wife, Monica, during a 2011 deployment to Afghanistan. Quattrocchi was injured while serving in theater and is awaiting back pay.

September 8, 2014 By Patricia Kime, Army Times [Excerpts]

Army National Guard Spc. Robert Quattrocchi, 31, spends much of his time these days helping wife Monica care for the couple's 4-month-old daughter in a rambling, uninsulated Georgia farmhouse that belongs to his in-laws.

It wasn't supposed to be like this.

Just over a year ago, the Quattrocchis owned a four-bedroom home in Cumming, Georgia, and Robert had plans to deploy with the 278th Military Police Company.

But during premobilization training in early 2013, Quattrocchi aggravated an injury he received in 2011 while serving in Afghanistan.

He was placed, he said, in a “dead man's profile” — barred from deploying or doing meaningful work with the company's rear party.

When he was told to go home to recover, he was assured he'd receive incapacitation pay shortly thereafter.

But it's been 18 months. And in the meantime, he's lost his home and a car and is relying on his wife's parents to feed his family.

“It’s been awful watching all this happen. It’s not just our life. My parents lives’ have been impacted and my daughter’s. We’ve exhausted every avenue of approach and have come up empty-handed,” Monica Quattrocchi, 23, said during an interview Aug.27.

Robert Quattrocchi’s financial and Guard career troubles began unknowingly when he left Fort Dix, New Jersey, after demobilizing in 2011.

The paperwork declaring that his original back injury had occurred in the line of duty was never filed.

And the process for receiving incapacitation pay hangs largely on the outcome of the investigation into whether an injury occurred during military duty.

Quattrocchi should have received another line-of-duty affirmation for his back when he reinjured it during the pre-mob workups. But investigations into his injuries appears to be ongoing.

The horizontal construction engineer has been able to receive medical treatment from the Veterans Affairs Department.

But he has had trouble landing a job in his original civilian profession — construction — or any other line of work for which he is qualified, mainly manual labor.

Monica, who recently gave birth to daughter Elizabeth, was in the National Guard as well and served alongside her future husband in Afghanistan.

But she had to leave service because the couple couldn’t afford the gas needed for Monica to get to drill.

Quattrocchi hasn’t filed for a medical evaluation board because it never occurred to him to do so. He always thought he’d recover and continue serving.

“I am really good at being a soldier. I take pride in it, too. If anything, I wanted to do it full time, not get out,” he said.

His contract is up in November and he wasn’t sure whether the National Guard could release him while he is in a “holding pattern.”

But now he’s worried.

“I’m not getting any feedback except that it’s time to turn in my issued stuff. ... I keep waiting to hear back from them. But I feel like they’re going to, for lack of a better word, screw us over — basically find loopholes, a way out of being responsible,” Quattrocchi said.

When Quattrocchi first was injured, he was treated by unit docs with pain medication and anti-inflammatories, mainly ibuprofen and tramadol. He later was diagnosed with degenerative discs and pinched nerves in his lumbar region and has received cortisone shots to treat the problems.

At the VA, he is under a physician's care, participating in physical therapy and receiving prolotherapy, a treatment designed to strengthen weak tendons and connective tissue.

He calls his unit every week and has asked multiple times that officials release his medical records to the VA. It hasn't happened. And the unit cannot tell him where his INCAP application is.

The brigade referred questions from Military Times to the Georgia National Guard.

A spokeswoman said she could not comment on the particulars of the Quattrocchi case, citing privacy laws, but said "it is the policy of the Defense Department to provide medical care to reserve component members for any injury or illness incurred or aggravated in the line of duty."

"In keeping with this policy, an injury reported to the chain of command prompts an initial line-of-duty report to ensure that service members can seek initial medical care without incurring out-of-pocket expenses," spokeswoman Ashlie Shrewsbury said.

But the medical care is not the issue; Robert Quattrocchi said the care he is receiving at VA is good.

The problem is not having any money. And being unable to get a job. And relying on the kindness of family, which includes sharing a roof with the parents in a home that has no air conditioning, no insulation and no heat.

"There's a fireplace in the living room but no heat in any of the other rooms. That's OK when it was just us. But I'm not sure what we're going to do this winter. We have those oil-filled radiators, but they are expensive to run," Monica Quattrocchi said.

The couple hope the situation gets ironed out soon. She is taking online college courses so she can improve her employment prospects, and Robert Quattrocchi is wondering what his next steps will be.

They likely include college — paid for by the Post-9/11 GI Bill — to study engineering.

In the meantime, though, Quattrocchi is contemplating starting the medical evaluation board process, albeit reluctantly.

"We have exhausted every avenue of approach that we have and come up empty-handed.

"I want everyone who is in this position to be aware of the possibility that they might not get any help from the military," he said.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Resistance Action

Sep 07 2014 By Ghanizada, Khaama Press

At least two Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers were martyred in the latest wave of violence, defense officials said Sunday.

Defense ministry spokesman, Gen. Zahir Azimi, said the two soldiers were martyred in the past 24 hours.

He did not disclose further information regarding the exact location and circumstances of the incident which led to the death of two soldiers.

According to security officials, the Afghan army deaths stands at 4 service members daily on average which is mainly caused due to improvised explosive device (IED) attacks.

Provincial governor spokesman for Ghazni, Shafiq Nang said at least two policemen were killed along with 7 militants following an attack on a police check post in Ghazni city on Sunday morning.

Local officials in western Herat province said at least one policeman was killed and four others were injured in separate incidents in this province.

Security officials in Herat said a policeman was injured after gunmen riding motorcycle opened fire on a police check post late Saturday.

Another policeman was killed and three others were injured following improvised explosive device (IED) explosions in Chesht district, officials said.

In the meantime, officials in Logar province said at least two policemen were injured and 17 militants were killed following clashes between Afghan Local Police (ALP) forces and Taliban militants in Baraki Barak district.

Provincial governor spokesman, Din Mohammad Darwish said the incident took place late Saturday evening.

MILITARY NEWS

Putin Dictatorship Calls Soldiers' Mothers "Foreign Agents"

“Non-Governmental Organization Defends The Rights Of Soldiers, Recruits And Their Families” “The Term ‘Foreign Agent’ For Many Is Reminiscent Of Soviet-Era Spy Mania”



Activists protest against labeling the Soldiers' Mothers of St. Petersburg NGO as a 'foreign agent' at an anti-war rally on the Field of Mars on Aug. 30. The placard reads 'The Soldiers' Mothers are not foreign agents, but soldiers' mothers.' Sergey Chernov / SPT

September 3, 2014 By Sergey Chernov, The St. Petersburg Times [Russia]

Ella Polyakova, the chairwoman of the Soldiers' Mothers of St. Petersburg and a member of the Russian Presidential Council on Human Rights, believes that the recent listing of her organization as a "foreign agent" may be connected to her report about the alleged arrival of a large number of Russian troops injured in Ukraine to St. Petersburg, she told The St. Petersburg Times this week.

On Aug. 29, the Ministry of Justice included the non-governmental organization, which defends the rights of soldiers, recruits and their families, in its register of foreign agents, i.e. NGOs allegedly involved in political activities and receiving foreign funding. Introduced as a law in 2012, the term "foreign agent" for many is reminiscent of Soviet-era spy mania.

The organization was listed soon after Polyakova reported that a flight with about 100 Russian troops injured in Ukraine had arrived in St. Petersburg.

On Aug. 26, Polyakova told the Moscow-based liberal television channel Dozhd that the injured troops were reportedly taken to the Kirov Military Medical Academy in the city. In

an interview later that day with RBK, she said that she had received this information from journalists and was re-checking it with them.

Speaking to The St. Petersburg Times earlier this week, Polyakova said that only circumstantial evidence about the presence of the injured troops in St. Petersburg has since become available.

She referred to a story by the Fontanka.ru news service, which reported that about seven military ambulances with flashing lights and accompanied by military traffic police vehicles were seen in the city on Aug. 28. She also mentioned Aug. 29 media reports about a Russian paratrooper who was detained in Ukraine and, after being passed to the Russian side, was transported to a burn center in St. Petersburg.

The Ministry of Justice said on its website that it based its decision to label the organization as a foreign agent on a report from the St. Petersburg Prosecutor's Office. However, this decision was made despite a lawsuit by the NGO against the prosecutor's office for conducting a number of illegal raids on the organization that is still being heard in court in St. Petersburg.

According to Polyakova, what the prosecutor's office interpreted as "political activities" were simply anti-war statements made by the Soldiers' Mothers of St. Petersburg, as well as reporting on human rights abuses in the army.

"We said, 'No to war in Crimea' — we had posted the statement on our website. They have also made a very vague accusation of 'influencing the public opinion,'" Polyakova said.

"We made two reports about the violations of human rights in the army and handed them in to (Defense Minister Sergei) Shoigu, among others. This was seen as us allegedly influencing state policies.

"But our stance on this is the following; our state policy is not to wage war but to defend human life; the state policy is not to fight against neighbors but solve conflicts peacefully by the means of diplomacy. That's what we think state policies are and not a violation of Russian laws. We have no law which would say the opposite."

Polyakova also denied any foreign funding, saying that the organization was funded by two grants from the Russian government.

"We have one grant from the National Welfare Fund and the other is a presidential Civic Dignity grant," she said.

After the NGO was branded as a foreign agent, Polyakova said that the organization will have to put the term on its documents and be subject to closer attention from authorities.

"For instance, take when a soldier is being beaten in a certain military unit," Polyakova said.

"In such cases, we write letters to the Investigation Committee, to the Military Prosecutor's Office, to the commanders and ask them to ensure his safety. And now there should be a notice saying (the NGO) 'performs the functions of a

foreign agent,' which essentially means that it's written by spies. It also implies additional checks, increased attention, audits twice a year...there's a lot there."

According to Polyakova, her NGO is planning to file an inquiry with the Prosecutor's Office to find out the exact grounds of its inclusion in the foreign agents register and file a complaint with the court on the decision.

She said the Soldiers' Mothers of St. Petersburg would also support the initiative by Russian Ombudsman Vladimir Lukin, who proposed to amend the foreign agent law.

"For the time being, we have to abide by the law; what else we can do if the law is like this?" Polyakova asked.

The Soldiers' Mothers of St. Petersburg was formed in 1991 as a human rights organization to provide legal, social and psychological assistance to army recruits, soldiers and members of their families.

US Air Force And ISIS Share Religious Fanaticism: Air Force Spurns Atheist Airman For Refusing Religious Oath; Serviceman At Creech Air Force Base In Nevada Denied Reenlistment For Refusing To Say 'So Help Me God'

September 5, 2014 by Philip J. Victor, Al Jazeera America

An airman stationed at Creech Air Force Base in Indian Springs, Nevada, was prohibited from reenlisting in the U.S. military last month for omitting the words "so help me God" from a service oath he was required to recite, and for refusing to sign the oath containing the same words on his enlistment form, according to the American Humanist Association (AHA).

In a letter of complaint sent to the Air Force's inspector general on Tuesday, Appignani Humanist Legal Center, the AHA's legal wing, said the airman – who is an atheist – "was told that his options were to say 'so help me God' or to leave the Air Force."

The AHA, which describes itself as "advocating values and equality for humanists, atheists, and freethinkers," characterized the ultimatum as a civil-rights violation and demanded the Air Force correct the matter.

“Requiring (redacted) to take an oath containing this religious affirmation violates his clearly established constitutional rights under the First Amendment. This letter demands that you immediately allow (redacted) to reenlist using a secular affirmation,” the letter stated.

“The Air Force cannot compel anyone to swear to God as a condition of enlistment,” AHA attorney Monica Miller told Al Jazeera. “Doing so violates the Establishment Clause and the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment.”

“Numerous cases affirm that atheists have the right to omit theistic language from enlistment or reenlistment contracts,” Miller added.

In its letter to the Air Force, the AHA threatened that “commanding officers may be sued in federal court” if the airman is barred from reciting a “secular oath” to reenlist.

However, in a statement sent to Al Jazeera on Friday, Air Force spokeswoman Rose Richeson said that the airman's “term of service expires in November 2014” and that “he has until this time to complete” Department of Defense Form 4, which contains the oath with the words “so help me God.”

Another spokeswoman, Air Force Capt. Brooke Brzozowska, said Friday that taking oath was a mandatory for all service members. “Reciting ‘so help me God’ in the reenlistment and commissioning oaths is a statutory requirement,” Brzozowska said.

That was not always the case. Until October 2013, Air Force Instruction 36-2606, under which the enlistment oath falls, stipulated that “Airmen may omit the words ‘so help me God,’ if desired for personal reasons,” Air Force Times reported.

On Oct. 30, 2013, the Air Force appears to have quietly done away with that option. “The relevant section of that AFI now only lists the active-duty oath of enlistment, without giving airmen any option to choose not to swear an oath to a deity,” the Air Force Times said.

Officials at the Air Force Public Affairs office contacted by Al Jazeera were unclear why the rule had changed, saying they were gathering information regarding the circumstances surrounding it.

Citing the Air Force, the Air Force Times reported that the option to omit the words “so help me God” could not be reconstituted without congressional approval.

“The Best Chief Of Staff Of The Army Odierno Can Come Up With As An Explanation For Why Everything Is A Mess In 2014 Is

The Iraqi's Messed Up His Good Work”

“Odierno Is Far From Alone In Absolving Himself Of Responsibility For All The Good He Failed To Do”

“Odierno, Like All Of Washington Vis-À-Vis Iraq, Seems To Believe He Is Exempt From History”



Chief of Staff of the Army

August 15, 2014 By: Peter Van Buren, firedoglake.com/

The very factors Odierno speaks today of almost as if he was an independent third party dispassionately looking back are the same ones he was responsible for resolving over his many years of command in Iraq.

General Ray Odierno lives in the third person regarding Iraq.

“Mistakes were made” for sure, but not by him, even when he was in charge. Somehow the mistakes happened temporally on his watch, but by someone, never named.

Certainly not by General Ray Odierno.

Continuing a media-led open sucking chest wound process of giving a platform to those who were responsible for the current disaster in Iraq to explain anew to us what happened in Iraq (short version: they didn't do it), the Aspen Security Forum featured a long, sad dirge by Odierno on Iraq.

One could presume Odierno knows something about Iraq; he spent a lot of time there in key positions of responsibility and built up quite a resume: From October 2001 to June 2004, General Odierno commanded the 4th Infantry Division, leading the division in combat.

He was Commanding General of the Multi-National Corps in during the famous Surge that was fantasized as ending the war.

Odierno was also Commander of United States Joint Forces Command, meaning he was in charge of every American service member in the country.

It was during this time that Odierno had personal responsibility for implementing General Petraeus' counter-insurgency doctrine, overseeing the 2010 Iraqi elections that gave Prime Minister Maliki his second term, and working hand-in-hand with the American embassy in Baghdad to ensure the training of the Iraqi police and army before the U.S. retreat from Iraq at the end of 2010.

Odierno is currently Chief of Staff of the Army. Tragically, Odierno's son, an Army captain, was struck by a rocket-propelled grenade in Baghdad in August 2004 and lost his left arm.

So it is with some sad amusement (think slowing down to gawk at a car wreck on the side of the road) to read Odierno's comments from the Aspen Security Forum.

The general was led through his comments by David Sanger of The New York Times. Sanger himself in 2003 was part of the Times' wholesale acceptance of the Bush White House's falsehoods on weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, so the two make quite a pair.

But no matter; that was in the hard air of then, this is now.

Here are some key points Odierno made at the 2014 Forum:

"The country was going in the right direction when the United States left in 2011, but Iraqi leaders overestimated the progress made by their military and government institutions."

"The problem in Iraq was not the training of the Iraqi security forces, although their ability to sustain their own training was 'disappointing.' The problem was a lack of confidence, trust and loyalty between troops and their leaders because of politicization of Iraq's military leadership."

"Leaders were changed out. Many of them weren't qualified. There was some sectarian nature to the changes that were made. Members of the Iraqi security forces were unwilling to fight for a government that they perceived as not standing up for all the

different peoples of Iraq, so when they were challenged, you saw them very quickly fade away.”

“But military power isn’t enough to solve the problems in Iraq, or elsewhere in the Middle East for that matter. The lesson here is [that] you’ve got to stand up an institution. And that includes not just a military, but also a functioning government. Iraq will continue to disintegrate if the unity government doesn’t re-form... The good thing about this is they are in the process of forming a new government. They just had an election. The hope is that the government that would come out would be one that clearly supports a unity government as we go forward. Will that solve the problem?” My guess is not completely. But that’s the first step.”

Odierno has rehearsed his lines– from 2010.

Here’s what he claimed after the 2010 elections in Iraq: “Iraqi security forces performed superbly... I think it was very much a success for the Iraqi people yesterday.”

He said earlier that same year “Iraq presents a solid opportunity to help in stabilizing the Middle East.”

The Washington Post, never a stranger to hagiography, said on Odierno’s departure from Iraq: “He leaves behind a war not yet won, not yet lost and not yet over. The gap has narrowed in one notable way: Iraq’s security forces, trained, equipped and to a large extent designed by the U.S. military, are increasingly professional and competent.”

The very factors Odierno speaks today of almost as if he was an independent third party dispassionately looking back are the same ones he was responsible for resolving over his many years of command in Iraq.

Odierno watched as the United States poured \$25 billion into training the gleefully third world standard Iraqi Army he now says was not properly trained.

He was handmaiden to the 2010 elections that saw the Iranians broker a Maliki victory and the installation of a Shia-based non-representative government.

He oversaw the military reconstruction efforts over years of the Occupation that failed (alongside the State Department’s efforts) to create the very institutions whose absence he now decries.

Despite all this, the best Odierno can come up with as an explanation for why everything is a mess in 2014 is the Iraqi’s messed up his good work.

But if Maliki is anything more than a talisman for the whole mess of post-2003 Iraq, he was certainly America’s choice (twice) for the role, and it is unfair to simply fob current events off on him, or assume things will turn around when he is sent off-stage like a modern day Ngo Dinh Diem.

Same for “the Iraqis,” whoever they are in this context, who have been designated as a group the responsible party for failing to reassemble the broken country the U.S. created, uninvited, and then left for them.

Odierno is far from alone in absolving himself of responsibility for all the good he failed to do.


The big difference is that Odierno likely knows better.

While in Iraq, I met Odierno several times. He traveled tirelessly and spoke to everyone. Addressing small groups of his field officers, the general was often more considered in his remarks, and more aware of the nuanced ground truth, than in his photo-op statements.

Yet for all his McNamara of 1965-like public optimism during the war, Odierno does not now seem able to rise to the McNamara of 1995 in admitting his shortcomings, and those of his war. In not doing so— as McNamara did when he remained silent over Vietnam for so long— he blocks the lessons of the past from informing the present.

Odierno, like all of Washington vis-à-vis Iraq, seems to believe he is exempt from history.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



CHANGE WE CAN BEREAVE IN

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the email address if you wish and we'll send it regularly with your best wishes. Whether in Afghanistan or at 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 injustices, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657.

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If you wish to receive Military Resistance immediately and directly, send request to contact@militaryproject.org. There is no subscription charge. Same address to unsubscribe.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.

“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.

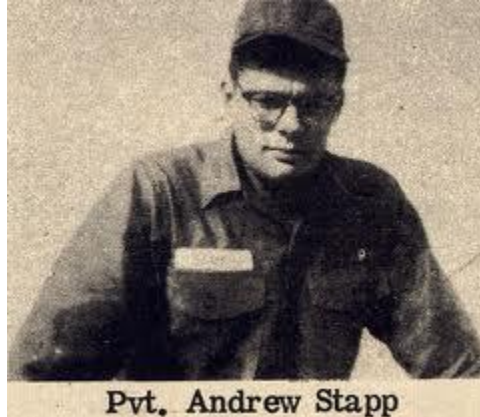
“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

“We have it in our power to begin the world over again.” -- Thomas Paine

In Memoriam: Andrew Stapp



From: R Capron
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Subject: Andy Stapp died
Date: Sep 7, 2014

Thought there might be some in the military resistance community who would want to know that Andy Stapp, founding member and head of the American Servicemen's Union, passed away on September 2.

I had recently read Andy's book, *Up Against the Brass*, and spent a couple of hours talking with him by phone.

We were hoping to put together a comprehensive history of the movement, so that this important chapter in the story of military resistance would not be lost. He was excited about the prospect.

Andy had also served as an organizer for YAWF back in the 70's, and recently worked as a teacher at the Hudson School.

He was a true hero of soldiers' rights and a stalwart of the struggle against imperialist war.

Soldiers In Revolt: 1917
“‘Our Staff Printing Plant,’ Says The
Soldier, Pereiko, ‘Performed A Great
Service For The Revolution’”

“The Bourgeois Press, Although’ Supplied To The Front Free Of Cost In Millions Of Copies, Hardly Found A Reader”

Trotsky, Leon; The History of the Russian Revolution; Volume Two

How was it that with this weak apparatus and this negligible circulation of the party press, the ideas and slogans of Bolshevism were able to take possession of the people?

The explanation is very simple: those slogans which correspond to the keen demands of a class and an epoch create thousands of channels for themselves.

A red-hot revolutionary medium is a high conductor of ideas. The Bolshevik papers were read aloud, were read all to pieces. The most important articles were learned by heart, recited, copied, and wherever possible reprinted.

“Our staff printing plant,” says the soldier, Pereiko, “performed a great service for the revolution.

“How many individual articles from Pravda were reprinted by us, and how many small brochures, very close and comprehensible to the soldiers! And all these were swiftly distributed along the front with the help of air mails, bicycles and motorcycles ...”

At the same time the bourgeois press, although’ supplied to the front free of cost in millions of copies, hardly found a reader. The heavy bales remained unopened.

This boycott of the “patriotic” press at times assumed a demonstrative form.

Representatives of the 18th Siberian division passed a resolution asking the bourgeois parties to stop sending literature, inasmuch as it was “fruitlessly used to boil the hot water for tea.”

The Bolshevik press was very differently employed. Hence the coefficient of its useful – or if you prefer, harmful – effectiveness was incomparably higher.

Copies Of Military Resistance Newsletter Free On Request

If you have some good use in mind for a package of Military Resistance newsletters, email CONTACT@MILITARYPROJECT.ORG with a mailing address, an indication of how many you need, and how they will be used.

Tubal Cain



By Charles Mackay

TUBAL CAIN

Old Tubal Cain was a man of might
In the days when the Earth was young;
By the fierce red light of his furnace bright
The strokes of his hammer rung;
And he lifted high his brawny hand
On the iron glowing clear,
Till the sparks rushed out in scarlet showers
And he fashioned the sword and spear.
And he sang "Hurra for the handiwork!
Hurra for the spear and sword!
Hurra for the hand that shall wield them well,
For he shall be king and lord!"

To Tubal Cain came many a one,
As he wrought by his roaring fire;
And each one prayed for a strong steel blade
As the crown of his desire.
And he made them weapons sharp and strong,
Till they shouted loud for glee,
And gave him gifts of pearl and gold,
And spoils of the forest free;
And they said, "Hurra for Tubal Cain,
Who hath given us strength anew!
Hurra for the smith, hurra for the fire,
And hurra for the metal true!"

But a sudden change came o'er his heart
Ere the setting of the sun,
And Tubal Cain was filled with pain for
The Evil he had done;
He saw that men, with rage and hate,

Made war upon their kind,
That the land was red with the blood they shed,
In their lust for carnage blind.
And he said, "Alas! that ever I made,
Or the skill of mine should plan,
The spear and the sword for men whose joy
Is to slay their fellow-man."

And for many a day old Tubal Cain
Sat brooding o'er his woe;
And his hand forebore to smite the ore,
And his furnace smoldered low.
But he rose at last with a cheerful face,
And a bright courageous eye,
And bared his strong right hand for work
While the quick flames mounted high!
And he sang, "Hurra for my handicraft!"
And the red sparks lit the air;
"Not alone for the blade was the bright steel made!"
And he fashioned the first ploughshare.

And men, taught wisdom from the past,
In friendship joined their hands;
Hung the sword in the hall, the spear on the wall,
And ploughed the willing lands;
And sang, "Hurra for Tubal Cain!
Our staunch good friend is he;
And for the ploughshare and the plough
To him our praise shall be;
But while oppression lifts its head,
Or a tyrant would be lord
Though we may thank him for the plough
We'll not forget the sword!"

Pentagon Welcomes Afghanistan As Newest F-35 Program Partner



Photo Credit: Dvids

July 21, 2014 by Dick Scuttlebutt, The Duffle Blog

KABUL, Afghanistan –

Defense officials announced Afghanistan would be the newest partner nation to receive the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, sources confirmed today.

“This is a truly momentous day,” said Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, commander of all NATO forces in Afghanistan. “Afghanistan’s collaboration in the F-35 program shows that the country is ready to take a leading role in defense of the free world.”

When asked how the deeply impoverished country would help pay for the trillion dollar program Gen. Sher Mohammad Karimi, Chief of Staff of the Afghanistan Army, said that the Afghans have already worked out an agreement with the U.S.

“With the retirement of President Karzai approaching,” Karimi said, “The \$200 billion in American aid we expect to receive can now be used to pay for the project instead of padding the pockets of the Karzai family, or paying for other useless services such as education for girls.”

The Afghan government is expected to receive the F-35A (conventional aircraft) and F-35B (short take off and vertical landing, or STOVL) variants.

“We will only accept delivery of the B models once we are sure its short take off and landing features work properly. We’re not gullible idiots like the aviation generals in the U.S. Marine Corps,” added Karimi, in reference to the current problems experienced by the F-35B.

Sales of the carrier based ‘C’ model have also been discussed.

“We recognize that Afghanistan currently does not have any need for carrier based airplanes. But we intend to change that in the next few years. We have already begun transferring three of our 11 Nimitz-Class carriers to the newly established Afghan Navy,” said Gen. Dunford.

Afghanistan has already received four F-35As. In true Afghan style, the military has taken to using the \$125 million plane for unconventional purposes. On a cool, brisk May morning, the exhaust nozzles of the planes were hooked up to no less than 25 apartment buildings, providing essential heat to hundreds of Afghan soldiers.

“Without the F-35s, my soldiers would freeze to death,” said Sgt. Maj. Abdullah Ramatullah. “Sure, we have problems with carbon monoxide poisoning and the foul smell of unburnt jet fuel, but those are merely nuisances.”

“In retrospect, it’s pretty damn intelligent,” remarked Command Chief Master Sgt. Gustav Schroeder, a technical advisor to the Afghan military.

“Before receiving the planes, the Afghans used to just take apart their RPGs and burn the explosives inside for warmth. Apart from the lack of Oxygen and CO poisoning, this is much safer. Besides, air is just a crutch, you don’t need it at this high an altitude.”

He continued: “When you realize we’ve spent hundreds of billions of dollars building a plane for which we still have no use for, and in three days the Afghans found some utility in the systems, it makes you think that we have a lot to learn from them.”

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Mass Protests In Egypt Against Worsening Living Conditions And Power Outages: “The Revolution Of The Poor Is Coming” “The Coup Is The Real Terrorism” “Down With Military Rule”

06 September 2014 Middle East Monitor

The Anti-Coup Pro-Legitimacy Alliance staged massive nationwide protests on Friday in Egypt against the decline in living conditions in the country and the continued power outages.

Security forces fired tear gas to disperse the protests, titled: “Revolution until victory.”

Most of the chants were against the electricity crisis, price hikes and declining level of public services.

In Al-Menya governorate, the Alliance organised marches in Dalga, Deir Mowas and Samalout towns, in which they condemned the worsening living conditions of citizens since the coup and the routine power outage.

In Cairo, Morsi-supporters staged rallies in Naser City, Ain Shams, Matareya, Mohandeseen, Maadi and Helwan, condemning the repeated electricity cuts and calling for the departure of the current authorities over their failures in resolving the country's most pressing problems.

Security forces fired tear gas on a protest in Ain Shams (eastern Cairo) to prevent protesters from advancing, and heavily cordoned the streets of the neighborhood.

In Giza governorate, the Alliance and other opposition groups organised 13 rallies in protest against military rule and the economic crisis in the country. The marches went out from Ousseem, Om Dinar, Mohandeseen, Embaba, Nahya, Feissal, Haram, Omraneya, Al-Moneib, 6 October, Sheikh Zayed, Hawamdeya, and al-Saff.

Similarly, in Alexandria, protesters marched the city in protest against the electricity crisis and the performance of the current government.

Protesters chanted: "Where is Light, Where is Light... They cut water and light," "the revolution of the poor is coming," among others. They also flashed the Rabaa (four finger) signs and waved pictures of the victims of Rabaa and Nahda massacres, and the pictures of political prisoners.

In Beni Sweif, protesters chanted against the police and army and called for the release of political detainees. They also condemned the repression of protesters by police, and called for an end to military rule and the reinstatement of Morsi as the legitimate president.

In many places, protesters waved the picture of former Minister of Supply Bassem Ouda, currently facing a death sentence, who they labelled: "the champion of the poor."

In Suez, the Alliance organised a rally in the Arbayeen Square, in which protesters accused the government of failing to provide basic services to citizens, such as electricity.

In Gharbeya, Dakahliya, Sharqeya and Beheira governorates, the Alliance organised protests against military rule and the coup, chanting: "The coup is the real terrorism," and "down with military rule."

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



OCCUPATION PALESTINE



**Zionist Occupation Regime Grabs
Nearly 1,000 Acres Of Palestinian
Land In The West Bank:
“The Latest And Largest In A Series
Of Land Grabs Near The Israeli
Settlement Of Gvaot”
“Netanyahu Said In A Press Conference
That He Would Never Accept Palestinian
Sovereignty In The West Bank”**

September 1, 2014 by Renee Lewis, Al Jazeera America [Excerpts]

Israel on Sunday confiscated nearly 1,000 acres of privately owned Palestinian land near an Israeli settlement south of Bethlehem in the West Bank — a move described by Israeli rights group Peace Now as “unprecedented in its scope since the 1980s.”

Settlements built on Palestinian land occupied by Israel, including East Jerusalem, are deemed illegal by the United Nations. Israel's refusal to halt their construction and expansion has at times arrested the peace process and increased resentment and distrust among Palestinians.

In a statement published on its website, Peace Now condemned the latest land confiscation and said it further damaged the chance of achieving a lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians based on a two-state solution.

"Peace Now views this declaration as proof that Prime Minister Netanyahu does not aspire for a new 'Diplomatic Horizon' but rather, he continues to put obstacles to the two state vision and promote a one state solution," the group said.

Later on Sunday, a U.S. State Department official characterized the land confiscation as "counterproductive" and urged Israel to "reverse" its decision.

British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond echoed that call on Monday, saying the move had the potential to reignite violence between the two parties.

"This is a particularly ill-judged decision that comes at a time when the priority must be to build on the cease-fire in Gaza. It will do serious damage to Israel's standing in the international community," Hammond said.

Sunday's confiscation of Palestinian territory is the latest and largest in a series of land grabs near the Israeli settlement of Gvaot, said Peace Now. Some 243 acres in the area were declared state land last April.

Palestinian landowners in the villages of Surif, Husan, Al-Jabaa, and the city of Bethlehem were given 45 days to submit formal objections to the announced confiscation in Israeli courts, Palestinian news website Maan reported. If the landowners do not contest the order, the additional territories seized will also be declared Israeli state-owned land.

In the past, Palestinians have complained that their objections were largely ignored or denied by Israeli authorities that seek to create facts on the ground to bolster claims on Palestinian territories in a future peace settlement.

"The intention of appropriating the land is to create territorial continuity between the Green Line and settlements of Beitar Illit, Kfar Etzion, and Gvaot," Haaretz reported. "The announcement is the latest in a series of plans designed to attach the Etzion settlement bloc to Jerusalem and its environs."

The Green Line refers to the internationally recognized border between Israel and the West Bank, territory Israel captured and occupied in 1967. Critics of Israeli land confiscations say they reveal that the current Israeli government is not interested in returning territory to Palestinians in order to realize a two-state solution as the parties envisioned it in 1993.

In July, Netanyahu said in a press conference that he would never accept Palestinian sovereignty in the West Bank for security reasons. "I think the Israeli

people understand now what I always say: There cannot be a situation, under any agreement, in which we relinquish security control of the territory west of the river Jordan,” he said.

Nabil Abu Rudeineh, spokesman for Abbas, said Sunday that the latest land grab would “lead to more instability” and “inflame the situation after the war in Gaza,” Haaretz reported.

Peace Now echoed the sentiment, saying, “By declaring another 4,000 dunams (990 acres) as state land, the Israeli government stabs President Abbas and the moderate Palestinian forces in the back, proving again that violent delivers Israeli concessions while nonviolence results in settlement expansion.”

Israel has announced nearly 1,500 new settlement homes since mid-June, Maan reported, which could house more than 6,000 new settlers in the West Bank. Israeli settlement activity increased dramatically in April during the last round of failed peace negotiations.

**I Don't Want Condemnations
I Don't Want UN Conferences
I Don't Want Foreign Aid
I Want My Khaled Back**



Khaled Sahnoud

16 August 2014 by Mohammed Matar, The Electronic Intifada. Mohammed Matar is a twenty-year-old Palestinian studying English literature at The Islamic University of Gaza.

Wait!

The UN is calling for a conference.

Hello?

Hello.

“How are you, my friend?” I asked.

“I’m alright. How about you?” Khaled replied.

“Good, we’ve evacuated our house, you know how dangerous the situation is there. Yesterday, they showered us with their US missiles. I couldn’t sleep because of the explosions,” I said.

“May God help you and your family, my friend,” Khaled said.

“Say, Khaled, what do you think of what happened to the Shujaiya neighborhood?” I asked.

That’s genocide.

“I know, may God help those innocent people. Oh, right: tell me about your place. Is it safe there? No damage? You can come here to the UN school to live for a while. I know they are inappropriate for humans to live in, but at least it’s safe here.”

A UN school has been targeted by an Israeli warplane a few minutes ago.

“Hhhh. Don’t you worry. We’re safe, we’re in the safest place,” Khaled said.

Paradise?

“But I heard that the troops are invading the east area of Khan Younis,” I said.

“No, they are still far away. We’re safe. Don’t worry.”

“Ok, do you want anything? Don’t hesitate,” I said.

“That’s so kind of you, Mohammed. No thanks,” Khaled replied.

“Aha, I should go. Keep me posted,” I said.

“Sure, thanks for calling, man,” Khaled said.

“C’mon! You’re my closest friend! It’s my duty to check on you. Don’t say that. Most importantly, take good care of yourself,” I said.

Bye.

Two days later, I heard the news that Khaled was targeted by an Israeli drone while he was riding his motorcycle.

Khaled Sahmoud was a twenty-year-old student. He was studying mechanical engineering at the Islamic University of Gaza.

Is riding a motorcycle a growing threat?!

Israel will continue its assaults against Palestinians as long as the US continues its support for this systematic injustice program under the observation of a lopsided “international community.”

Palestinians in Gaza are going to continue suffering as long as Israel insists on the what-is-mine-is-mine-and-what-is-yours-is-negotiable principle.

I don’t want condemnations.

I don’t want UN conferences.

I don’t want foreign aid.

“I want my Khaled back,” I say.

**“An Impressive Achievement For The
Movement For Boycotts, Divestment
And Sanctions (BDS) Against Israel”**

**“Block The Boat Was Not Only
Successful In Keeping The Zim Piraeus
From Unloading The Aforementioned
Cargo But Due Specifically To This
Action A Number Of Companies Are Now
Either Putting A Hold On All Products
Using Zim Vessels”**

2014-09-04 By Roqayah Chamseddine, Al-Akhbar English. Roqayah Chamseddine is a Sydney based Lebanese-American journalist and commentator.

There is no question as to how immensely successful the Block the Boat protest at the Port of Oakland, led by Arab Resource and Organizing Center (AROC) and arranged with the help of countless organizations, was.

Unless you are a supporter of Israel or a journalist at the Oakland Tribune.

Thousands of protesters, including an estimated 5,000 who marched on the Port of Oakland on August 16, prevented the Zim Piraeus from unloading by keeping workers from crossing their picket line to enter the port for a historic four days, making it “the longest blockade of an Israeli ship” according to AROC.

The Oakland Tribune, Haaretz, and a number of other outlets, reported that the Israeli-owned Zim Piraeus unloaded its cargo after “delays” but after speaking to a number of distributors whose cargo was being transported by Zim Piraeus I found this to be unmistakably false and misleading.

According to a document from PIERS, a database of US international trade which provides maritime logistics, at least 23 companies are clearly listed as having goods aboard Zim Piraeus – ranging from cucumber pickles and sparkling wine to ceramic tiles and solar swimming pool heaters – with some goods originating in Israel.

Though building materials and agricultural produce were listed by PIERS it should be noted that Zim Integrated Shipping Services imports ammunition “manufactured by Israel Manufacturing Industries by Federal Cartridge (Federal Premium Ammunition)” which makes defense ammunition used by U.S. law enforcement and has a weapons contract with the Department of Homeland Security.

Federal Premium Ammunition is a subsidiary of Alliant Techsystems, which produces Bushmaster autocannons used by U.S. forces and NATO, the AGM-88 High-speed Anti-Radiation Missile (an air-to-surface missile), Hellfire missile upgrades, and provides other weapons services to the US military and allies.

The import report for Zim shows that the ammunitions originated in Israel, at the Port of Haifa and arrived at the Port of Savannah in Georgia.

Zim’s first ship, the Kedmah, was purchased in 1947, before the creation of the State of Israel, and would carry thousands of immigrants to Palestine. In 1948 Zim ships would carry arms and ammunition used to carry out the Nakba, and according to a video published online by Zim Integrated Shipping Services “Zim would play this crucial role every time Israel faced conflict.”

Ze'ev Shind, a key Mossad activist who would become managing director of Zim Israel Navigation Co., president of the American-Israel Shipping Co., and Director-General of Israel's Ministry of Communications and Ministry of Defense was the organizers and principal figures organizing immigration to Palestine, according to The Canadian Jewish Chronicle. The role of Zim in the ethnic cleansing of Palestine is well documented, even by Zim sources.

Esteson Co., a direct food and beverage importer and distributor in California, posted on their Facebook page that their “garlic is now rotting on its way to Russia to be offloaded unto (sic) another vessel,” and when contacted for comment it was mentioned that a container of Zeos beer never arrived due to the Port action.

All in all, Esteson Co. has not received any of their products as of September 3.

Good Stuff Distributors, located in San Francisco, California, told Al-Akhbar English that not only did they not receive their shipment of Zadona cucumber pickles as of September 3 they do not know where the cargo is and are still waiting to hear from Zadona as to where the items are.

A spokesperson for Good Stuff Distributors informed Al-Akhbar English that not only were they unaware of Zim’s ties to Israel they have made it clear to Zadona, of Sinokrot Food Company, that they are to “find another vessel” as Good Stuff Distributors will no longer be using Zim.

Alfa Omega Co., which has trading partners in France, Spain and Greece, disclosed to Al-Akhbar English that their business was “greatly affected”, as they did not receive any of their products, including olives.

The spokesperson was clearly unhappy, stating that the targeting of Zim by the Block the Boat protesters, specifically, is the reason that they will now look for another vessel to use for their products, despite having worked with Zim “for years”.

The sales and marketing manager at Carmichael International Service, a customs broker and freight forwarder with laminated glass aboard Zim Piraeus, told Al-Akhbar English that customers did not receive their products as of September 3, but it was due to “delays” and “port congestion,” which is undoubtedly a brazen spin on what transpired at the Port of Oakland.

When examining the vessel schedule for the Zim Piraeus, dating back to July and after August 20, we find that there are no analogous delays as there was in Oakland as the vessels usually left the same day or a day after, unlike at the Port of Oakland where the “delay” was at least four days long.

Cynara Worldwide Sourcing Inc., located in Fresno, California, said that all products on the Zim Piraeus were not only never unloaded but that they were sent to Shanghai and they wouldn’t receive them until at least the end of the month.

As a result of Block the Boat, the spokesperson told Al-Akhbar English that they have put an immediate halt to “everything on Zim” and will now be looking for other vessels they can use.

The most curious case in regards to Block the Boat is that of American Metals and Chemicals, located in Hollywood, Florida.

A representative told Al-Akhbar English that they did not receive their shipment of alkyl sulfonic acid, and that the cargo was diverted to Russia. When asked who they were contacted by the representative stated that a letter was delivered from an attorney’s

office, though they could not find the letter at the time of the phonecall so as to disclose which office.

The letter stated, in part, that their shipment was “turned away because of the strike” at the Port of Oakland.

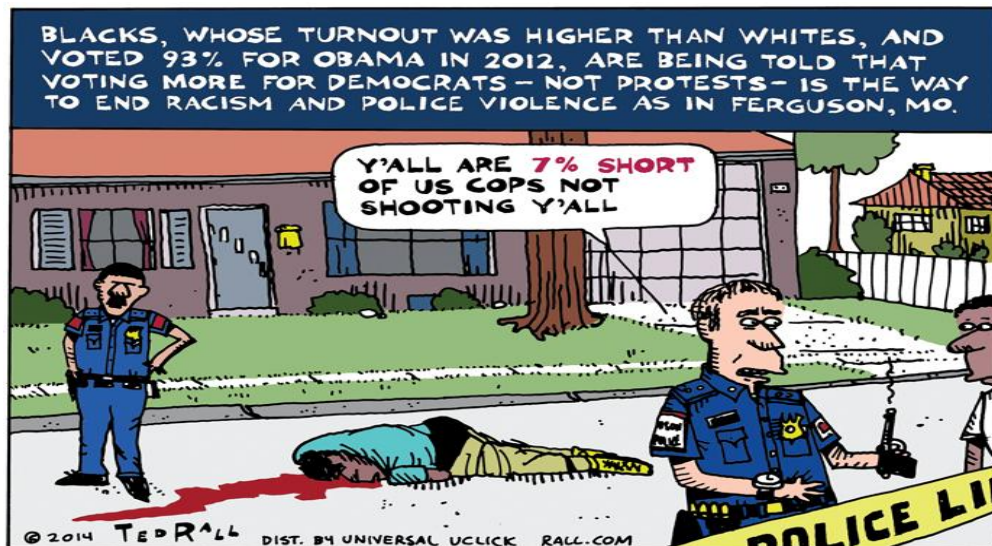
There was also a follow up telephone call from the same office, letting them know that their products were being diverted.

The remaining consignees listed as having cargo delivered to the Port of Oakland by the Zim Piraeus during the Block the Boat campaign were contacted by Al-Akhbar English but did not immediately return calls for comment on the whereabouts of their goods – based on what was revealed by the 6 companies that did supply information it is not difficult to assume that they faced comparable circumstances.

Regardless, Block the Boat was not only successful in keeping the Zim Piraeus from unloading the aforementioned cargo but due specifically to this action a number of companies are now either putting a hold on all products using Zim vessels or reconsidering using Zim, which is not only contrary to what the media has reported but an impressive achievement for the movement for boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against Israel.

To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, check out:
<http://www.palestinechronicle.com/>
The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves “Israeli.”

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Military Resistance www.militaryproject.org

*This is how Obama brings the troops home,
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE.*



*Military Resistance is a near-daily news bulletin for service members
www.militaryproject.org*

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