



**Drill Instructor Slapped Him In The Face And Called Him A Terrorist: “Last Year He Called Another Muslim Recruit A Terrorist And Asked Him If He Had Carried Out The Sept. 11 Attacks”**

**“The Drill Instructor Woke Up The Other Recruit And Made Him Perform Exercises Before Spinning Him Around In A Clothes Dryer”**



Raheel Siddiqui, a 20-year-old Muslim recruit, jumped to his death at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island, S.C., in March.  
(Facebook)

September 8, 2016 by Tobias Salinger, NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

The suicide of a Muslim Marine Corps recruit amid widespread hazing could lead to punishment or charges against 20 officers and enlisted leaders, officials said Thursday.

Investigators said a drill instructor hit Raheel Siddiqui, a 20-year-old Pakistani-American, and called him a terrorist, Marine officials told the Wall Street Journal.

Three internal investigations revealed Siddiqui leapt from the balcony of a barracks building to his death in March at the Parris Island Recruit Depot after the drill instructor slapped him in the face.

The instructor made him run from one end of the barracks to the other March 18 after Siddiqui asked to go to the infirmary for a sore throat without following proper procedure, the investigation found. An autopsy ruled his death a suicide, but a lawyer for Siddiqui's family has said they "always suspected hazing of some sort."

Marine officials fired the three most senior Marines in charge of Siddiqui's unit and removed from duty each of the other commanders and senior enlisted leaders identified for possible charges or administrative punishment. Investigators alleged officials at the storied boot camp violated a range of policies, including those against hazing and verbal and physical abuse.

The Marines released a redacted investigative report by Maj. Gen. James Lukeman of the service's training and education command in Quantico, Virginia. A hearing slated for the next several weeks will decide if administrative or criminal proceedings move forward.

"When America's men and women commit to becoming Marines, we make a promise to them," Marine Commandant Gen. Bob Neller said in a statement. "We pledge to train them with firmness, fairness, dignity and compassion."

"We mourn the loss of Recruit Siddiqui, and we will take every step necessary to prevent tragic events like this from happening again," he added.

Siddiqui, a high school valedictorian from the suburbs of Detroit, had joined up hoping to make it into the FBI someday. Yet he threatened to kill himself within a week of his arrival on Parris Island as part of the 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, officials told the Journal.

He had no history of mental illness before he joined the unit known as "The Thumping Third" for its treatment of both recruits and drill instructors. Mental health staff at the boot camp found him "motivated to train" and released Siddiqui after he took back his suicide threat, according to the newspaper's sources.

Four days later, he fell to the floor, crying and, then appeared unresponsive during the running punishment at the barracks, the Marine officials said. The drill instructor ordered him to stand up and smacked him in the face at least three times in an action the investigation referred to as an assault strictly improper during boot camp.

The officials said Siddiqui then ran out of the barracks and jumped over the third-floor railing of the balcony. His body crashed into a steel railing on a stairwell below, and he was pronounced dead within hours, they told the Journal.

Siddiqui was not alone in suffering from the hazing abuses, according to the investigation. It also showed "recurrent physical and verbal abuse of recruits by drill instructors" and "hat hazing," the hazing of new drill instructors by senior drill instructors.

The Marines have taken immediate steps to ensure a "zero tolerance" policy against hazing and to review and change the Corps' handling of mental health issues, according to the report.

**A Marine official close to the investigation told the Journal the drill instructor who slapped Siddiqui was an "equal opportunity hazer."**

**Yet the Marine official said he had been suspended last year when he called another Muslim recruit a terrorist and asked him if he had carried out the Sept. 11 attacks.**

The drill instructor woke up the other recruit and made him perform exercises before spinning him around in a clothes dryer, officials said.

An investigation showed the drill instructor was drinking at the time.

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## **Gulf War Veteran Killed By Police: "Deputies Used A Taser On Him While Responding To A Call For Medical Help"**

**"He Was Friendly. He Was Nice. He Was  
Joking With Us All The Time. His Kids  
Loved Him. His Wife Loved Him Very  
Much"**

September 8, 2016 By: Aaron Mesmer, FOX 13 News

ST. PETERSBURG

The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office is investigating after a Navy veteran died when deputies used a Taser on him while responding to a call for medical help.

According to Don Degraw's family, he had been acting erratically after experiencing "seizure-like activity" Wednesday, so his wife called 911.

But deputies were called back less than two hours later.

"He became disoriented, confused and trouble following direction when deputies came," said Alecia Janczak, a family friend, reading from a statement written by Degraw's wife.

Investigators wrote that when deputies arrived a second time, "Donald was screaming in emotional distress. Deputies determined that Donald's erratic behavior met the Baker Act criteria and they attempted to take him into protective custody," but Degraw resisted.

According to the news release, deputies knew Degraw, 58, "had access to a loaded fire arm within his immediate reach," so they used a Taser on him and he became unresponsive.

He was rushed to the hospital but did not survive.

"We were heart-broken. We were in shock," Janczak said, adding Degraw, a Gulf War veteran, was a father of two and married for 30 years. "He was friendly. He was nice. He was joking with us all the time. His kids loved him. His wife loved him very much."

Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri said he won't comment on the case until after an autopsy comes back.

Degraw's friends just want to be there for his family.

"We're just going to love and support (his wife)] and her children and be there for her when she needs us," Janczak said.

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

**Hundreds Of Taliban Militants  
Storm Tarin Kot Provincial  
Capital In Southern Afghanistan  
On Thursday:  
“Afghan Forces Have Lost Overall  
Control Of The Whole City,’ Said  
The Official”**

# **“Provincial Officials Sought Shelter At The Local Airport”**

## **“A Journalist Who Was Stuck In His Office, Said, ‘The City Is Abandoned’”**

September 8, 2016 By Sultan Faizy and Shashank Bengali, LA Times & CBS/AP

Hundreds of Taliban militants stormed a provincial capital in southern Afghanistan on Thursday and were fighting on multiple fronts with government forces, officials said.

Afghan officials deployed reinforcements to Tarin Kot, a city with a population of about 72,000, in Uruzgan province, and Afghan and U.S.-led NATO warplanes were carrying out airstrikes in an attempt to deter the latest Taliban advance against a strategic city.

The provincial spokesman, Doost Mohammad Nayab, said that all checkpoints around the city have been overrun or destroyed and appealed to the government in Kabul for quick reinforcements.

One security official in Uruzgan said provincial officials had sought shelter at the local airport, home to an Afghan army brigade, in a sign that the battle was not going the government's way.

“Afghan forces have lost overall control of the whole city,” said the official, requesting anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak to the media.

**A Twitter account affiliated with the Taliban boasted that the city “was about to fall” and that its fighters were “combing the streets” of Tarin Kot. In a statement, the militant group called on Afghan security forces to stand down, saying it would “forgive and guarantee the life, property and honor of those who give up fighting.”**

**“We see them as our brothers,” the statement said.**

The police chief in Uruzgan, Mohammad Wais Samimi, said by phone from Tarin Kot: “Our forces have been trying to push back the Taliban as fighting is going on in three parts of the city.”

Afghan officials said the powerful police chief of neighboring Kandahar province, Gen. Abdul Razaq, had arrived in Uruzgan with his forces and would help lead “a clearing operation.”

A spokesman for U.S.-led coalition forces declined to comment on the operation as it was ongoing.

One of the areas under attack was Sarchakhlai, just a few hundred yards from the provincial police headquarters. Taliban fighters were separated from the headquarters only by a dry riverbed.

Samimi said the Taliban launched an assault on the outskirts of Tarin Kot five days ago and Afghan forces responded with airstrikes and ground operations.

The spokesman for the Afghan interior ministry, Sediq Sediqqi, said Afghan special forces soldiers were sent to Tarin Kot on Wednesday night.

In three days of fighting, 250 Taliban fighters had been killed or wounded, said Dost Mohammad Nayab, a spokesman for the provincial governor. Eleven Afghan soldiers and police were killed and 17 injured, he said.

It was not possible to confirm these figures.

No civilians had been killed, but several families had fled Tarin Kot for neighboring provinces, Nayab said.

Tarin Kot resident Ahmad Shah, a journalist who was stuck in his office, said, "The city is abandoned."

Uruzgan sits on the border of the southern province of Helmand, the hub of Afghanistan's poppy production. Taliban fighters control several districts in Helmand and in recent weeks have sought to erode the government's grip on the capital of that province, Lashkar Gah.

The Taliban offensive in Helmand in August prompted the U.S. military to launch airstrikes near Lashkar Gah and deploy more than 100 ground troops to advise Afghan forces.

**Meanwhile, in eastern Nangarhar province, Taliban militants are fighting pitched battles with security forces.**

**The Taliban are also believed to have captured much of Uruzgan province.**

### **YOUR INVITATION:**

**Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2472 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025 or email [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.**

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

# **“Hundreds Of Additional U.S. Troops Have Flowed Into Iraq During The Past Week”**

## **“The Size Of The U.S. Force In Iraq And Syria Now Tops 4,400, Up From About 3,900 Last Week”**

September 8, 2016 By: Andrew Tilghman, Military Times

Hundreds of additional U.S. troops have flowed into Iraq during the past week as American and Iraqi forces there begin final preparations to launch an invasion of Mosul this fall.

The size of the U.S. force in Iraq and Syria now tops 4,400, up from about 3,900 last week, defense officials said.

President Obama authorized several troop increases for Iraq earlier this year but those troops did not deploy immediately.

The latest uptick brings the current footprint closer to the legal cap of 4,647.

Air Force Col. John Dorrian, a top spokesman for U.S. forces in Iraq, declined to say what those troops are doing but said preparations are underway to potentially launch the Mosul invasion this fall.

“There's a tremendous amount of work going on to set conditions, including the logistics detail that would be required in order to go after Mosul. And then we continue to hammer the enemy with strikes, including both artillery and airstrikes,” Dorrian told reporters Thursday at a press briefing.

Intelligence estimates suggest between 3,000 and 4,500 Islamic State militants are prepared to defend Mosul. The Iraqis are planning to gather between eight and 12 brigades for the invasion.

Army Lt. Gen. Stephen Townsend, the commanding general in Iraq, told the Wall Street Journal this week that the invasion of Mosul will begin in October.

### **MORE:**

**“Hegel remarks somewhere that all great world-historic facts and personages appear, so to speak, twice. He forgot to add: the first time as tragedy, the second time as farce.” [K Marx, 18th Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte, Chapter 1.]**



## 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**

**They treasured up wrath for the time to come.**

**-- Edward, Earl of Clarendon, 1702, on the growing discontent below that led to the revolutionary overthrow and 1649 beheading of Charles I, King of England.**

## **Medevac Helicopter An Khe, Vietnam**



Photograph by Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie  
To: Military Resistance Newsletter  
Sent: May 13, 2016  
Subject: Medevac Helicopter An Khe, Vietnam

#### **Full Disclosure**

**This Medevac helicopter was in my unit in An Khe, Vietnam in 1970. The flight crew painted WHY on the nose of the helicopter, as in WHY in the hell are we in Vietnam.**

**Mike Hastie  
Army Medic Vietnam**

**Photo and caption from the portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact [hastiemike@earthlink.net](mailto:hastiemike@earthlink.net))**

**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**

# **Much Of The 21st Century Worldwide Tendency Towards Politics Disguised As Religion Expresses Rage Against Capitalism, Which Has Become A Religion Disguised As Economics: “During One Period Of History Hegemony Belongs To Religion, During Another To Politics, And So Forth”**

**Comment: T**

**In attempting to defend reactionary social systems, some argue that nothing happens without the “will” or “permission” of this or that supernatural being.**

**Many politicians will agree that the slaughter of Afghans by the U.S. Empire is done with the “will” or “permission” of God. Bush once said that God had spoken to him personally and commanded him to “strike” Saddam Hussein.**

**When Obama demands God bless America at the close this or that major public pronouncement, he is merely doing his job, as he protects and defends the Empire over which he presides, with the full backing, in that work, of the political layer of the capitalist elite who rule this nation.**

**Part of that job, as is true for various politicians in many other nations, is invoking the name of this or that supernatural entity said to be blessing the nation, seeking thereby to gain the favor of the reactionary and credulous to prop up the Imperial regime.**

**Viewing the world as a material reality and having no fear of or belief in assorted supernatural creatures that human have created in their own image would be a recommendation for political leadership, rather than a condemnation.**

**Religion has been and continues to be used by those in power to justify their greed for Empire, their murderous local dictatorships, and all forms of tyranny and oppression.**

**There are no world religions that have not been so used by wealthy and powerful oppressors.**

**If indeed nothing anywhere occurs without the “will” of some God, and if indeed such a being exists, he or she or it is a mass murdering monster.**

**It is one thing to believe in a supernatural being. That is one among many bedrock democratic rights guaranteed in any decent society.**

**It is quite another to defend evil by throwing down the “will of God” argument for everything that occurs, up to and including the rape-murders of small children, the oppression of women as a gender, the torture of Jews and Muslims by the Spanish Inquisition, and the current Imperial butchery loose in the world.**

**That is a political argument valuable only to tyrants and oppressors.**

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**Excerpt from: The Monist View Of History, By G.V. Plekhanov; 1895; St. Petersburg, Russia**

**Up to this point our propositions, of necessity, were very abstract.**

**But we already know that there is no abstract truth, truth is always concrete.**

We must give our propositions a more concrete shape.

**Those to whom the English aristocrats of the Restoration were “in contradiction” were extreme religious fanatics; in order “to do the opposite” to what they were doing, the reactionaries had to go as far as materialism.**

**In France of the eighteenth century things were exactly opposite: the defenders of the old order stood for religion, and it was the extreme revolutionaries who arrived at materialism.**

**The history of human thought is full of such examples, and all of them confirm one and the same thing: in order to understand the “state of minds” of each particular critical epoch, in order to explain why during this epoch precisely these, and not those, teachings gain the upper hand, we must as a preliminary study the “state of minds” in the preceding epoch, and discover what teachings and tendencies were then dominant.**

**Without this we shall not understand at all the intellectual condition of the epoch concerned, however well we get to know its economy.**

But even this must not be understood in abstract fashion, as the Russian “intelligentsia” is accustomed to understand everything.

The ideologists of one epoch never wage against their predecessors a struggle sur toute la ligne, on all questions of human knowledge and social relations.

The French Utopians of the nineteenth century were completely at one with the Encyclopaedists on a number of anthropological views; the English aristocrats of the Restoration were quite at one with the Puritans, whom they so hated, on a number of questions, such as civil law, etc.

The territory of psychology is sub-divided into provinces, the provinces into counties, the counties into rural districts and communities, and the communities represent unions of individuals (i.e., of individual questions).

When a “contradiction” arises, when struggle blazes up, its passion seizes, as a rule, only upon individual provinces – if not individual counties – and only its reflection falls upon the neighbouring areas.

First of all that province to which hegemony belonged in the preceding epoch is subjected to attack.

It is only gradually that the “miseries of war” spread to its nearest neighbours and most faithful allies of the province which has been attacked.

Therefore we must add that, in ascertaining the character of any particular critical epoch, it is necessary to discover not only the general features of the psychology of the previous organic period, but also the individual peculiarities of that psychology.

**During one period of history hegemony belongs to religion, during another to politics, and so forth.**

**This circumstance inevitably reflects itself in the character of the corresponding critical epochs, each of which, according to circumstances, either continues formally to recognize the old hegemony, introducing a new, opposite content into the dominating conceptions (as, for example, the first English Revolution), or else completely rejects them, and hegemony passes to new provinces of thought (as, for example, the French literature of the Enlightenment).**

If we remember that these disputes over the hegemony of individual psychological provinces also extend to their neighbours, and moreover extend to a different degree and in a different direction in each individual case, we shall understand to what an extent here, as everywhere, one cannot confine oneself to abstract proposition.

Let us consider the operation of this law.

**When a certain class is the enslaver of all in the eyes of the rest of the population, then the ideas which prevail in the ranks of that class naturally present themselves to the population also as ideas worthy only of slave-owners.**

**The social consciousness enters into “contradiction” to them: it is attracted by opposite ideas.**

But we have already said that this kind of struggle is never carried on all along the line: there always remain a certain number of ideas which are equally recognized both by the revolutionaries and by the defenders of the old order.

**The strongest attack, however, is made on the ideas which serve to express the most injurious sides of the dying order at the given time.**

**It is on those sides of ideology that the revolutionaries experience an irrepressible desire to “contradict” their predecessors.**

But in relation to other ideas, even though they did grow up on the basis of old social relations, they often remain quite indifferent, and sometimes by tradition continue to cling to them.

**The “state of minds” of any given age can be understood only in connection with the state of the minds of the previous epoch.**

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## **ANNIVERSARIES**

### **September 9-12, 1971: Heroic Anniversary; The Attica State Penitentiary Revolt**



Carl Bunin Peace History September 3-9

**The interracial revolt was led by blacks but featured cooperation between prisoners of different racial and ethnic backgrounds.**

It was finally brutally suppressed by the state five days later, upon orders from Gov. Nelson Rockefeller who refused to become directly involved.

**29 prisoners and 10 guards were shot and killed by attacking state troopers in the bloodiest prison confrontation in U.S. history.**

**The prisoners had been demanding improvements in their living and working conditions at the increasingly overcrowded facility.**

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PBS.org/ [Excerpts]

On the morning of Monday, September 13, 1971, Governor Nelson Rockefeller arrived at his Fifth Avenue apartment for a meeting with some of his advisors. It had been a tough weekend, but he had finally reached a decision. It was, he told them, “a matter of principle.”

The Attica State Penitentiary — the scene of an inmate uprising just five days earlier — was to be retaken by force.

Trouble was in the air in the summer of 1971. The Vietnam war, court-ordered busing of students to integrate schools racially, and student protests had shaken the country.

Prisons were seeing a surge in the pressure — both from within and from without prison walls -- to recognize the rights of inmates, fueled in part by racial unrest. In the imposing Attica State Penitentiary, a maximum-security facility 30 miles south of Buffalo, New York, the tension had been particularly palpable for months.

**Inmates, who were predominantly African American and Puerto Rican, were incensed at the deteriorating living conditions — among them the fact that they were only entitled to one shower a week and one roll of toilet paper a month.**

**Overcrowding had also become a source of resentment in a facility where the capacity limit had been exceeded by almost forty percent.**

It was this pent-up unrest that prompted one of the guards to forcefully suppress a scuffle between two prisoners on September 9, 1971. The two inmates were taken to isolation cells. Rumors circulated that they would be tortured.

Confrontations escalated between the prisoners and the guards.

More than one thousand strong, the inmates quickly took control of the prison and set fire to several of its buildings. By the time the state police was summoned and managed to recapture part of the facility that afternoon, the inmates had regrouped in one of the yards and were holding 40 hostages in a ring of wooden benches.

Their demands were soon made public: federal takeover of the prison, better conditions, amnesty .... and the removal of the prison’s superintendent.

**In their statement, they criticized the “unmitigated oppression wrought by the racist administrative network of this prison throughout the year,” and the “ruthless brutalization and disregard for the lives of the prisoners here and throughout the United States.”**

Those words had a troubling ring for Nelson Rockefeller, who in his last years as governor had toughened his stand on crime and political dissent.



He believed that the rebellion was led by revolutionaries, and that any sign of compromise would have a domino effect throughout the nation. Having sent one of his closest aides to the scene, he retreated to the Rockefeller estate in Pocantico Hills, just a few miles outside of New York City.

Four hundred miles upstate, things were quickly heating up. A group of observers had been trying in vain to come up with a compromise package.

**On Sunday, three days after the outbreak, they issued a statement, calling on Rockefeller to come to the prison to avert a “massacre... so we can spend time and not lives in an attempt to resolve the issues before us.”**

**The pressure on the governor to come to Attica was mounting, as the inmates and even the Commissioner of Correctional Services, Russell Oswald, urged him to address the situation in person.**

**“We must have Rockefeller,” said one of the inmates’ leaders. “We got to have Rockefeller here to save our lives and those of his hostages. ... I say his hostages because he created this situation.”**

**But Rockefeller wouldn’t budge.**

Saying that his physical presence on the site would not “contribute to a peaceful settlement,” he vowed to stand fast and rely on his aides on the scene, among them Robert Douglass.

“In life it’s not easy to face a hard decision, particularly when human lives are involved,” he told Commissioner Oswald, “But I think we have to look at these things not only in



terms of the immediate but in terms of the larger implication of what we are doing in our society.”

By Sunday night, hopes for a non-violent compromise solution were wearing thin, and on Monday morning Rockefeller, determined to appear firm, authorized the operation to reclaim the facility.

**It was 9:46am when a state police helicopter started dropping tear gas over the yard and walkways where the inmates were holding the hostages at knife-point.**

**Gunfire broke out, and within 6 minutes, 2,200 lethal missiles were discharged.**

**The use of shotguns, with their imprecise range, increased the bloodshed.**

**Ten hostages and twenty-nine inmates died — a horrific toll that was especially appalling after it was revealed that all the hostages had died from gunshot wounds inflicted by state troopers and guards.**

Rockefeller was also spared the sight of the capture’s grim aftermath.

**Once the prison was reclaimed, guards, enraged by the events, ordered the inmates to crawl naked into the yard, beating them with clubs as they passed through.**

One of the leaders, Frank Smith, was stripped naked and forced to lie on a table balancing a football under his chin for hours, threatened with being shot if he let it fall to the ground.

**The extent of the chaos was not acknowledged by Governor Rockefeller, who said that the state troopers had done “a superb job.”**

One year later, an investigative commission would reach a very different conclusion.

**Its report stated that the operation had been ill-conceived, poorly executed and probably unnecessary, and stressed the fact that Rockefeller should have gone to Attica, “because his responsibilities as the State’s chief executive made it appropriate that he be present at the scene of the critical decision involving great risk of loss of life.”**

In spite of the public outrage, Nelson Rockefeller’s hard-line stance in the Attica crisis made him more palatable to the conservatives who were now in control of the Republican Party.

He never publicly regretted the way he handled the situation, saying only that he wished he had been more aware of the “tremendous need that existed” at the Attica facility.

Yet the impact of the Attica crisis would be long lasting.

**In August 2000, almost thirty years after the prisoners’ revolt, the state of New York paid up to \$8 million to the 1,280 men harassed during the attack, after their lawyers filed a class-action lawsuit against prison and state officials in 1974.**

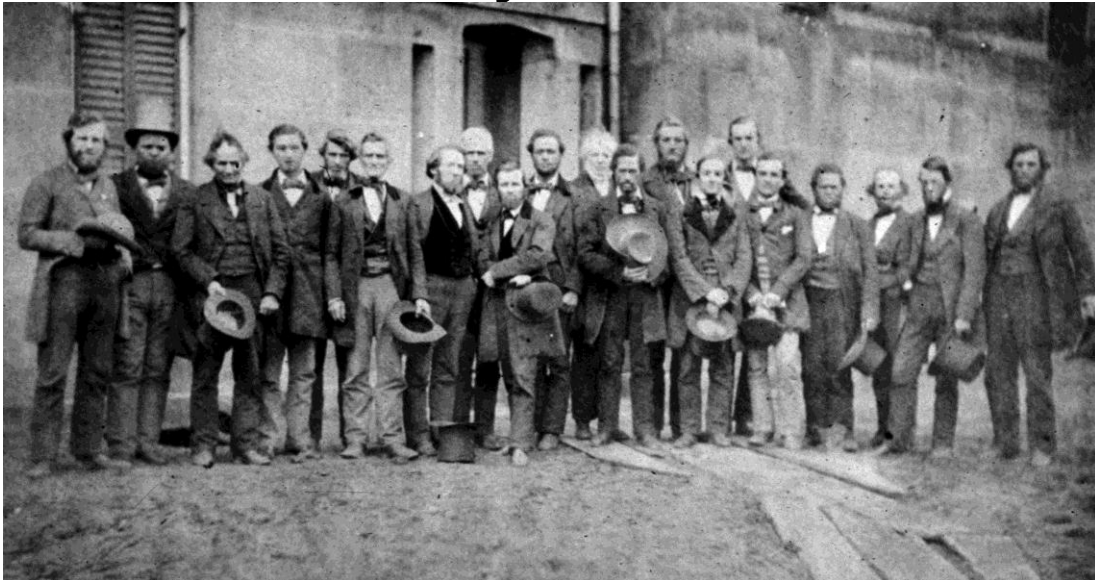
The verdict, however, had little echo within the walls of the Attica Correctional Facility, where overcrowding is still a problem.

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**THE DISHONORED DEAD:  
2973 DEAD AT THE WORLD  
TRADE CENTER SEPTEMBER 11,  
2001:  
4792 BETRAYED U.S. TROOPS DEAD  
IN IRAQ, A NATION THAT HAD  
NOTHING WHATEVER TO DO WITH  
9/11:  
NEVER FORGET**



**September 13, 1858:  
Truly Heroic Action:  
Armed Abolitionists Rescue  
Captured Ex-Slave:  
“The Group Wanted To Proceed  
Nonviolently, But When The Kentuckians  
Refused To Surrender Price, The  
Response Was ‘We Will Have Him  
Anyhow’”**



These were twenty of the thirty-seven citizens from Oberlin and Wellington who were charged with breaking the law by helping John Price escape from slave catchers in the fall of 1858. The Oberlin-Wellington Rescue and subsequent trial caught the eye of the nation as escalating tensions over slavery raised the prospect of civil war. (Courtesy of Oberlin College Archives)

**“I must take upon myself the responsibility of self-protection; when I come to be claimed by some perjured wretch as his slave, I shall never be taken into slavery.”**

Carl Bunin Peace History September 8-14

A group of the citizens of Oberlin, Ohio, stopped Kentucky slavecatchers from kidnapping John Price, a black man.

Shakespeare Boynton, son of a wealthy landowner had lured Price with the promise of work. Oberlinians, black and white, from town and from the local College, pursued the kidnappers to nearby Wellington at word of his abduction.

**The group, led by Charles Langston, James M. Fitch, bookseller and superintendent of the Oberlin Sunday School, and John Watson, a grocer, wanted to proceed nonviolently, but when the Kentuckians refused to surrender Price, the response was “we will have him anyhow.”**

They rushed the door guards of the Inn and theology student Richard Winsor took Price to safety, hidden for a time in the home of Oberlin College President James Fairchild, later helped across the Canadian border to freedom.

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Oberlinheritage.org

## **Oberlin And Anti-Slavery**

Oberlin was a uniquely tolerant community in the early nineteenth century.

Founded in 1833, Oberlin College pioneered co-education and in 1835 broke new ground by admitting students regardless of their race. Many residents were abolitionists and over two hundred people joined together to form the Oberlin Anti-Slavery Society in 1835.

**The society was dedicated to “the immediate emancipation of the whole colored race within the United States:**

“The emancipation of the slave from the oppression of the master, the emancipation of the free colored man from the oppression of public sentiment, and the elevation of both to an intellectual, moral, and political equality with the whites.”

Over the next generation, Oberlinians supported the antislavery cause by helping fugitive slaves escape to freedom on the Underground Railroad.

After the federal government passed the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, Oberlin abolitionists grew increasingly concerned about the threat posed by slave catchers hired to recover slaves who had “stolen” themselves from their masters.

Under the 1850 Act, federal marshals received rewards for the arrest and return of alleged fugitive slaves, and anyone caught helping a freedom seeker could be jailed and fined. Antislavery activists throughout the nation denounced the law as immoral and Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote Uncle Tom’s Cabin to rally public opinion against the measure.

Most Oberlin residents were proud of the town’s reputation as a major station on the Underground Railroad and were more ready than ever to safeguard the escaped men, women, and children seeking aid in their community.

John Price was a young man who had escaped from his Kentucky slave owner in the mid-1850s.

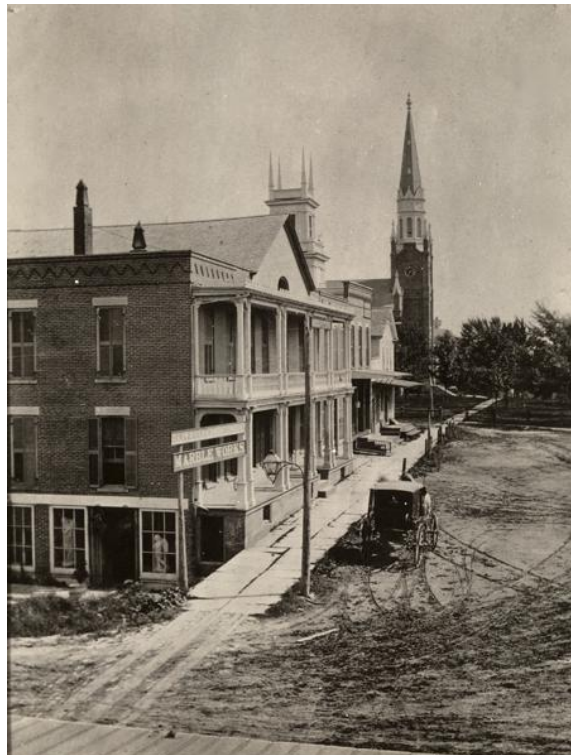
He had been living and working in Oberlin for about two years when, in the fall of 1858, slavecatchers Anderson Jennings and Richard Mitchell conspired to kidnap Price and bring him back to his Kentucky master. With the help of a few locals (not everyone in Oberlin was an abolitionist), on September 13, 1858 the slave catchers lured Price out of Oberlin with the promise of work.

Armed with weapons and a warrant, Mitchell, federal marshal Jacob Lowe, and his assistant Samuel Davis forced Price into their carriage. They then drove him eight miles south to Wellington, Ohio to catch the 5:13 p.m. southbound train.

News of John Price's kidnapping spread quickly in downtown Oberlin as townspeople, students, and professors rallied together in response.

"They have carried off one of our men in broad daylight, and are an hour on their way already!" shouted one outraged citizen.

### **The Kidnapping Of John Price And The Oberlin-Wellington Rescue**



Side view of Wadsworth's Hotel in Wellington, Ohio (Courtesy of Oberlin College Archives)

**White and black Oberlinians hurried the eight miles to Wellington in wagons, buggies, carriages, and some even on foot to rescue Price from slavery.**

When John H. Scott went to his neighbor, Mrs. Oliver P. Ryder, to borrow a horse she told him, "If necessary, spare not the life of my beast, but rescue the boy."

John Watson, a black store owner in Oberlin, arrived in Wellington first.

Soon between 200 and 500 men crowded the streets around the Wadsworth Hotel where the slavecatchers held Price. The crowd began to shout back and forth with the captors, disputing the legality of the capture and demanding to hear from Price himself.

**Many in the crowd were determined to free Price, whatever the law or consequences.**

Charles Langston, a black school teacher, moved through the crowd trying to calm the armed protesters.

When the southbound train arrived, the situation grew urgent and the crowd began to force their way into the hotel.

In the confusion that followed, Price escaped with the help of men who had been trying to negotiate with the captors. Energized by the success of the rescue, Oberlin residents paraded back from Wellington, "shouting, singing, rejoicing in the glad results."

Price first hid in the home of James Fitch, but then moved because Fitch was a known agent of the Underground Railroad. Fitch and Professor James Monroe approached Oberlin College professor James Fairchild, who was known as a more conservative, law-abiding citizen. Fairchild disapproved of slavery and agreed to house Price until he was able to continue north.

As the rescuers had hoped, no one came to search Fairchild's home. With the help of others, John Price probably made his way into Canada. Unfortunately, the story of his life after the rescue is lost to us today.

### **The Trial Of The Rescuers**

Jubilant spirits in Oberlin dimmed when thirty-seven of the Rescuers, both black and white, were charged with breaking federal law. Twenty-five of the men were from Oberlin and twelve were from Wellington.

Ever defiant and trusting in the right of a "higher law," many of the accused and their wives attended a "Felon's Feast" on January 11, 1859. Sixty-four guests dined while the Oberlin String Band played. The night was filled with speeches, toasts, spirited criticism of slavery, and a few jokes as well.

The town had less to cheer about in the following months as the lengthy trials began and the Rescuers were remanded to jail for their refusal to post bond. They had little chance of escaping legal punishment with a Cleveland-based jury entirely formed of Democrats who opposed abolition.

Their lawyers used the trial to speak about the horrors of slavery and to persuade people to support the Republican cause. Two of the defendants sold 5,000 copies of their newspaper "The Rescuer" from inside the jail.



John Scott was an Oberlin harness and trunk maker and one of twelve black men who were charged with breaking the law by participating in the Rescue. (Courtesy of Oberlin College Archives)

Rescuers Simeon Bushnell and Charles Langston were eventually convicted of violating the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850.

**Bushnell's sentiments likely matched those of his fellow prisoners when he wrote, "They may do their worst, & when I am again out, I will rescue the first slave I get a chance to rescue."**

On May 24, 1859 thousands of people crowded into Cleveland's Public Square to support the Rescuers. Court costs continued to mount and the legal tangle intensified when the Rescuers' supporters arranged for the arrest of the slave catchers on kidnapping charges in Lorain County. A deal was finally negotiated and the Rescuers were released on July 6, 1859, eighty-three days after being imprisoned.

Most Oberlin residents were proud of their participation in the Rescue and the continued reputation of the community as a safe haven for all men and women, regardless of color. So strong was their belief in a "higher law" that many were surprised when Bushnell and Langston were found guilty. They saw the trial as a sham and moral outrage, and large numbers of their fellow Northerners agreed.



However, others in the North as well as the South felt the arrests and trial had been justified. By harboring fugitive slaves, Oberlin residents had been breaking the law for years.

What would happen if everyone began disobeying the laws of the state or nation because they followed a “higher law”? While Oberlin residents saw themselves as unwaveringly in the right, many outsiders thought they were arrogant idealists who were pushing the nation towards war.

**For the black men and women living in Oberlin, free and fugitive, abstract debates over the law mattered less than the immediate necessity of ensuring their own safety and the safety of their families and friends.**

Yet they also recognized that fundamental principles were at stake. After being tried and found guilty, Charles Langston gave a speech to the court that eloquently expressed his belief in universal human rights:

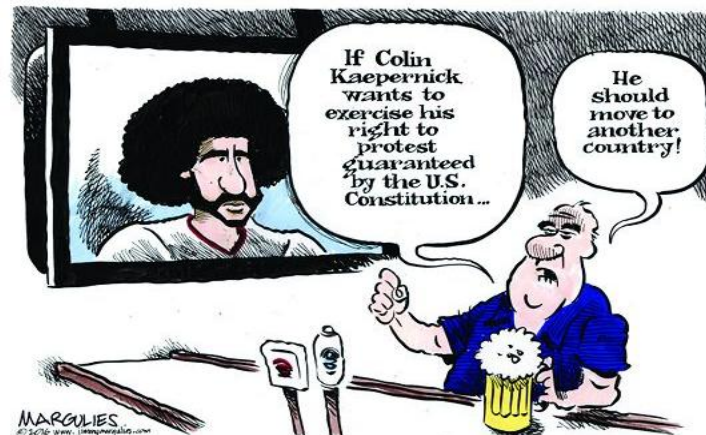
**“I must take upon myself the responsibility of self-protection; when I come to be claimed by some perjured wretch as his slave, I shall never be taken into slavery.**

**“And as in that trying hour I would have others do to me, as I would call upon my friends to help me, as I would call upon you, your Honor, to help me, as I would call upon you (the prosecuting and defense attorneys) to help me, and upon you and upon you, so help me God! I stand here to say that I will do all I can for any man thus seized and held!**

**“ . . . We have all a common humanity, and you all would do that; your manhood would require it, and no matter what the laws might be, you would honor yourself for doing it, while your friends and your children to all generations would honor you for doing it, and every good and honest man would say you had done right!”**

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## CLASS WAR REPORTS



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "Just stay home."]



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## **OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

**Zionist Filth Poison Palestinian Farms With Sewage Water:  
“Systematic Violation To Pressure Them To Abandon Their Lands So It Can Be Taken Under Israeli Absentee Laws”**

**“Daily Harassments They Face Include Physical Attacks From The Settlers, Burning Of Their Crops, Preventing Them Access To Their Land And Now Flooding The Fields With Sewage Water”**

30 August 2016 Joint Advocacy Initiative; A joint program of East Jerusalem YMCA and YWCA of Palestine

On the early morning of August 20, 2016 the Israeli settlers from Bitar Eliet settlement opened the sewage water on the fields of the Palestinian farmers in Hussan village which is located west of Bethlehem. More than 40 dunums (1 dunum = 1000 m<sup>2</sup>) of cultivated lands was affected by the sewage water damage.

These fields were owned by 12 families from Hussan.

Wadi Qudis is a valley about 500 dunums located in the middle of Bitar Elit Settlement because the settlement was built on the lands of Hussan village in the late 80s.

**Until this moment the farmers of the village are able to reach their lands and cultivate them despite all the daily harassments they face which include physical attacks from the settlers, burning of their crops, preventing them access to their land and now flooding the fields with sewage water.**

Access to their fields has always been limited.



The farmers can reach their fields only using donkeys and horses because they must cross the main gate of the settlement every day.

Only family members who have their names on the land' ownership documents can cross and work in their fields, other members and Palestinians are not allowed.

**The valley used to be one of the most fertile lands in the area because it has more than 10 springs. The farmers used to depend on those springs for watering their trees. Currently most of the springs do not have enough water because of the ongoing settlement expansion and new restricted bypass roads.**

The farmers are worried that they will not have enough water for their fields.

**During the last 4 months, the Israeli settlers have opened the sewage water on the lands twice. The main crops are olive trees, grapes and figs.**

Mohammad Hamamra is one of the clients of the Olive Tree Campaign, where in 2013 he received 60 sponsored olive trees to be planted in this high risk area. This last dumping of toxic sewage water has affected his trees and he is worried he will not be able to harvest his fruits or olives this season.

Mohammad and the other farmers who own lands in this valley informed the JAI about this systematic violation to put pressure on them to abandon their lands so it can be taken under Israeli absentee laws.

The farmers told us they will try and restore the trees they can despite the probable loss for this harvest season.

**Some of the farmers reported this attack on their trees to The Israeli police, but the police did nothing while the sewage flooding lasted for one week.**

The sewage water reached 40 cm height.

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## **Heroic Occupation Forces Confiscate Palestinian Road Paving Equipment In Occupied Hebron: “Israeli Authorities Have Demolished More Palestinian Homes In The West Bank In The First Six Months Of 2016 As They Did In All Of 2015”**



Sept. 3, 2016 Ma'an

HEBRON -- Israeli forces Wednesday confiscated paving equipment and machines in the area of Wad al-Rakhim in the village of Sussiya in the occupied West Bank district of Hebron.

**The head of the Sussiya local council, Jihad al-Nawajaa, told Ma'an that Israeli forces confiscated the equipment used for paving the roads, claiming the vehicles entered an area where vehicles were prohibited.**

Al-Nawajaa said the vehicles entered the area by mistake, adding that he was assaulted by Israeli forces during the incident.

Al-Nawajaa added that similar equipment was confiscated from the al-Litwana area in the south of Hebron.

All of the roads in the area are paved through the financial support of international funds, al-Nawajaa added.

A spokesperson for COGAT, the Israeli agency responsible for implementing Israeli policies in the occupied territory, told Ma'an that "two pieces of illegal paving equipment were caught without approval from authorities in Area C," adding that the road to be paved led to structures deemed "illegal" by Israel, and rejecting "any claims that state that the activities in Area C were performed by accident."

**Meanwhile, some 40 percent of Sussiya is under threat of imminent demolition, as the Israeli Supreme Court awaits a decision from ultra-right Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman to determine the fate of the village, expected to be made in October.**

In Area C, Palestinian building and land management are prohibited unless through a permit given by the Israeli Civil Administration, which is under the purview of the Israeli Ministry of Defense.

**According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Israel only granted 33 building permits out of 2,020 applications submitted by Palestinians between 2010 and 2014.**

The refusal to grant permits by Israeli authorities has forced many Palestinians to build without permission, at the risk of seeing their homes or structures demolished.

**Israeli authorities have demolished more Palestinian homes in the West Bank in the first six months of 2016 as they did in all of 2015, Israeli human rights group B'Tselem revealed in a report released recently, in a worrying confirmation of Israel's ongoing crackdown on Palestinian communities in Area C of the West Bank.**

**A total of 168 homes were destroyed during the first half of 2016 for lacking hard to obtain Israeli-issued building permits, leaving 740 Palestinians homeless, compared to all of 2015, when 125 homes were demolished, leaving 496 Palestinians without a home.**

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# **Zionists Gas Palestinian School-Children Going Home After 2nd Day Of School:**

## **“Some Children Escaped The Clouds Coughing When Choking On The Gas”**



Children running away from the tear gas shot by Israeli Forces

August 29, 2016 International Solidarity Movement, al-Khalil team

Hebron, occupied Palestine

On 29th August 2016 Israeli forces at Salaymeh checkpoint in occupied al-Khalil (Hebron), fired rounds of tear gas as school-children attempted to make their way home through the highly militarised checkpoint.

The Salaymeh checkpoint, for many school-children, is one of the unavoidable checkpoints on the daily way to school and back home. At the highly militarised structures, the children attending schools and kindergartens in the area, are subject to bag-searches, harassment, questioning and detention by the Israeli forces.

**On Monday, the second day of school after the 3-month summer holidays, as children were starting to pour out of the schools around noon, Israeli forces threw a stun grenade towards a group of children.**

**Instead, it landed right in front of a girl quietly making her way towards the checkpoint on her way home.**

**Scared by the stun grenade flying towards her and the loud boom of the explosion she ran away in the opposite direction in tears.**

In the meantime, at the checkpoint, children were repeatedly yelled at 'to wait' as Israeli forces refused to open the gate for them to go through the checkpoint in order to reach the other side

. Israeli forces were heard yelling at children several times, and ordered a few boys to show them their hands in order to 'prove' stone-throwing if they are having dirty hands.

**Just a little later, Israeli forces fired rounds of tear gas in the direction of the schools, thus collectively punishing not only all the school-children, but the whole neighborhood.**

**As the tear gas canisters spread their supposedly 'less-lethal' gas and covered the area with the poisonous gas, some children escaped the clouds crying with their eyes red from the gas and coughing when choking on the gas.**

This kind of excessive force and collective punishment by the Israeli forces, is just one aspect of the Israeli military occupation these school-children are forced to endure on a daily basis.

**To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to:**

**<http://www.maannews.net/eng/Default.aspx> and  
<http://www.palestinemonitor.org/list.php?id=ej898ra7yff0ukmf16>**

**The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."**





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