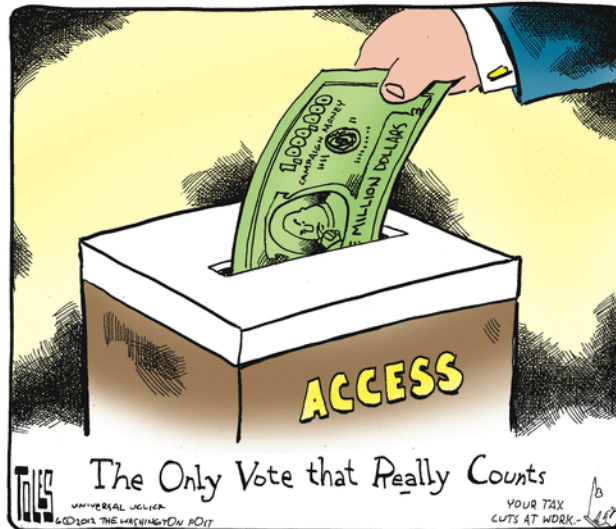


Military Resistance 10F5



“Tattoos Might Not Accent The Plush Halls Of The Nation’s Capitol, But They Certainly Haven’t Stopped Troops On The Ground From Paying Their Dues In Blood And Sweat”

“Soldiers With ‘Inappropriate’ Tattoos Have Spent More Than A Decade In Combat, Dying Or Losing Friends, Missing The Birth Of A Child, And Getting Divorced As A Result Of Multiple Deployments”

“Is The Jury Really Still Out On Whether These Soldiers With Tattoos Will Be Booted Or Punished For Having Something That Has Been Part Of Our Military Culture For Generations?”

5.21.12 Army Times

Here are excerpts from letters that soldiers sent to Army Times in response to the April 16 cover story “Tough new grooming rules”:

If our leaders have doubts about my commitment to the Army regarding my tattoos, they're free to review my service record, or tally up the anniversaries, birthdays and holidays I've spent apart from my family in the past nine years.

I'm sure my tattooed comrades in arms can bear similar testimony to themselves.

Tattoos might not accent the plush halls of the nation's Capitol, but they certainly haven't stopped troops on the ground from paying their dues in blood and sweat for the last century.

Staff Sgt. Wallace Miller
Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

The idea that the Army “may” grandfather sleeve and neck tattoos astounds me.

Soldiers with “inappropriate” tattoos have spent more than a decade in combat, dying or losing friends, missing the birth of a child, and getting divorced as a result of multiple deployments.

Is the jury really still out on whether these soldiers with tattoos will be booted or punished for having something that has been part of our military culture for generations?

I assume the holdup in the grandfathering determination is due to the closed-door discussions on the legality of such a rule. I can certainly get behind the “trim your sideburns” argument, but are you really going to ask some of your best soldiers to show up for work Monday without the tattoo they had last week?

Lt. Col. Bob Schaffer
Arlington, Va.

I've been in the Army long enough to see the uniform standards decline greatly since the start of these two wars. I'm glad to hear we're going to raise the bar again and hold soldiers to a higher standard.

On the other hand, I believe the sergeant major of the Army is taking it a bit too far when the uniform standards intrude on our personal lives.

Should we look respectable while off duty and off post? Yes.

But I don't think most Americans are going to get offended or think any less of the military if a man doesn't shave on his days off or puts earrings in while walking around the mall.

I think instead of making stricter regulations, we need to clarify the ones we have (i.e., female nail and hair standards) and then have leadership that has the backbone to enforce it.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 David Reeves
Fort Carson, Colo.

The call to return to the age of spit-shined boots, pressed uniforms and skin-tight haircuts has run rampant among Army leaders.

I take issue with those who wish to reinstate the prewar rituals that burdened our force — primarily junior ranking members — economically and professionally.

The post-9/11 Army has successfully transitioned from a looks-based force to a performance-based force. Shiny boots gave way to rugged, high-quality footwear that allowed for rapid movement in active combat operations.

Pressed uniforms were exchanged for tactical utility-based inner and outer wear that had pouches and packs for every mission.

The "faddish"-style sunglasses that once drew the ire of many senior leaders became standard issue and saved the vision of countless soldiers.

Gone were the days of appearance-based favoritism. Combat performance reigned supreme as the ultimate metric in gauging a soldier's performance. After nearly 18 years of active duty, I can say for certain that there is no hairstyle or grooming standard that will enhance your ability to destroy the enemy.

Conformity in uniform is good. Conforming to an off-duty standard is good, as well.

However, who decides what appropriate style is?

Are socks with sandals offensive?

Off-duty apparel should be addressed, but the authors of such doctrine must remain open to the styles of our youth, the most abundant resource in the Army. The fashion of today will be mocked tomorrow.

Setting broad guidelines is not altogether a bad idea. Our force, as indicated by the SMA, is in need of a tune-up. However, I would also point out that the military has always led the way in progression. Perhaps the high-and-tight should go the way of the spit-shined boot?

I spotted very few “proper” haircuts during five tours to Iraq and one to Afghanistan, all serving alongside Special Operations Forces.

There was no shortage of successful missions, nor was there a lack of discipline; quite the contrary. Maybe it is time to buckle down on our core fundamentals while, at the same time, evolving our standards to meet the future needs of this great and powerful force.

Sgt. 1st Class Will Stratton

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AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Foreign Occupation “Servicemember” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan: Nationality Not Announced

June 3, 2012 Reuters

A foreign servicemember died following an insurgent attack in southern Afghanistan today.

Bliss Soldiers Attacked By Militants, Killed

Jun 2, 2012 Army Times

Two Texas-based soldiers were killed earlier this week in Afghanistan, the Defense Department announced Saturday.

Spc. Kedith L. Jacobs, 21, of Denver and Pfc. Leroy Deronde III, 22, Jersey City, N.J., died Sunday in Chak-E Warkdak District, Afghanistan, when their unit was attacked by enemy forces.

They were assigned to the 125th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, out of Fort Bliss.

No further information was immediately available.

Lewis Staff Sgt. Killed By IED In Kandahar

A Washington state-based soldier was killed earlier this week in Afghanistan, the Defense Department said Saturday.

Staff Sgt. Alexander G. Povilaitis, 47, of Dawsonville, Ga., died Thursday in Kandahar province of wounds caused by an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to 14th Engineer Battalion, 555th Engineer Brigade, out of Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

According to unit records, Povilaitis entered the Army in February 1984, and he served three years as a single channel radio operator. He had a break in service until March 2008, when he enlisted in the Army Reserve.

On Sept. 23, 2008, he re-entered the active duty and reported to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., for more training. He deployed twice to Iraq from White Sands Missile Range, N.M., and then was transferred to Lewis-McChord in June 2011.

Povilaitis deployed with his new unit to Afghanistan in July 2011, his first deployment to Afghanistan.

He was awarded the Bronze Star and three Army Commendation Medals.

He was married and had three sons and a daughter.

Cpl. Keaton Coffey, Oregon Marine Killed Thursday In Afghanistan, Was To Be Married In July



Keaton Coffey's senior picture from 2007

May 26, 2012 By Nicole Dungca, The Oregonian

Cpl. Keaton G. Coffey was just weeks away from a new chapter of his life.

The gifts had been registered at Bed, Bath & Beyond, and the invitations had been sent: In July, the 22-year-old planned to marry Brittany Dygert, a local hair stylist whom he met through his mother.

But on May 24, the Marine was killed during his second tour of duty while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

He had been assigned to 1st Law Enforcement Battalion, 1st Marine Headquarters Group, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif. He was the 153rd service member with Oregon and Southwestern ties to die in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, according to a list compiled by The Oregonian.

Coffey was the only child of Grant and Inger Coffey, of Boring, and attended the nearby Damascus Christian School from kindergarten to his senior year. He graduated in 2007 and briefly attended George Fox University shortly before joining the Marines.

"He was one of the good ones," said history teacher Linda Urbanowski, who taught him from seventh through 12th grade.

Tim Oakley, the former principal of Damascus Christian School, described Coffey as "every parent's dream."

He was polite, respectful, kind and considerate, Oakley said. Coffey wasn't an "out front" leader, Oakley added, but was liked well enough to become student body president during his senior year.

Nobody was surprised by Coffey's move to join the Marines; his father, who has spent more than 35 years at Portland Fire & Rescue, helped the younger Coffey learn the importance of public service, they said.

"He had an attitude and a heart of service," said Bob Dennis, a family friend. "He put himself out for other people."

Throughout his deployment, the Coffeys often worried about their son's fate, and tried to keep in daily contact.

"We knew he was in a dangerous place and he had taken on a dangerous mission," said Urbanowski, his teacher. "We were just hoping that he'd be OK."

Many also noticed how much his service had done much for his confidence and sense of self. He seemed more of a leader, Urbanowski said.

During one of his leaves, Coffey had surprised Urbanowski at her classroom. She glanced up at the door and saw a young man in uniform.

"He looked different, with that Marine posture and that Marine haircut," Urbanowski recalled.

Occasionally, she learned more about his new life from e-mails and letters from him or his family. She learned about a tattoo he had gotten in honor of one of his best friends from training camp, who had died during his first tour.

"I know he grieved deeply," she said. "I was going to see him soon and he was going to show me that tattoo."

In recent months, conversations had turned to the wedding, which Urbanowski planned to attend. Coffey's mother raved about his future bride, and told Urbanowski how the young couple would eventually move to Camp Pendleton.

Eventually, Urbanowski said, Coffey wanted to follow in his father's footsteps and become a firefighter himself.

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

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WAR**

While U.S. Troops Die:

With The End In Sight For Hamid Karzai's Days As Afghanistan's President, Members Of His Family Are "Secretly Fighting Among Themselves For Control Of The Fortune They Have Amassed In The Last Decade"

"If You Are One Of The Afghan Oligarchs, Where You Put Your Money And Where You Live Is An Open Question Now"

"We Have An Illegitimate And Irresponsible Government Because Of Karzai And His Family"

June 3, 2012 By JAMES RISEN, New York Times [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON — With the end in sight for Hamid Karzai's days in office as Afghanistan's president, members of his family are trying to protect their status, weighing how to hold on to power while secretly fighting among themselves for control of the fortune they have amassed in the last decade.

One brother, Qayum Karzai, is mulling a run for the presidency when his brother steps down in 2014.

Other brothers have been battling over the crown jewel in the family empire — the largest private residential development in Afghanistan. The conflict over the project, known as Aino Mena, has provoked accusations of theft and extortion, even reports of an assassination plot.

"It's family," Qayum Karzai said. "They get upset, and over time they get over it. I hope they get over it."

One Karzai brother is also said to have imprisoned a longtime Karzai aide in an effort to make him disclose the whereabouts of money and assets that relatives suspect were hidden by Ahmed Wali Karzai, another of President Karzai's brothers and the political boss of southern Afghanistan who was assassinated last year.

He was often accused of benefiting from the Afghan opium trade and an array of corrupt deals, though he denied such claims.

"If you are one of the Afghan oligarchs, where you put your money and where you live is an open question now," Seth Jones, an analyst at the RAND Corporation, said. "That means you are thinking about moving your money and finding a backup option about where to live."

The president's family — many of whom are American citizens who returned to Afghanistan after an American-led coalition toppled the Taliban in 2001 and brought Mr. Karzai to power — are among those who have prospered the most, by the accounts of many Afghan businessmen and government insiders.

Several political observers in Kabul said any candidacy by Qayum Karzai, a longtime Maryland resident who has served in the Afghan Parliament, would be a long shot because of the nation's fatigue with Hamid Karzai and widespread resentment over the rampant corruption that has tainted his government.

Even some of the Karzai family's own business partners are among the critics.

"We have an illegitimate and irresponsible government because of Karzai and his family," said Abdullah Nadi, an Afghan-American developer from Virginia who is a partner in the Aino Mena housing development, but who is trying to get out of the venture.

While exploiting their opportunities in Afghanistan, the extended Karzai family has for years simmered with tensions, jealousies, business rivalries, blood feuds and even accusations of murder.

With the often-fractious family, it can be difficult to discern the truth, but everyone agrees that the conflict over control of its empire can be traced back to the death in July 2011 of Ahmed Wali Karzai, who had risen from working as a waiter in Chicago to become one of the most powerful men in Afghanistan, serving as the chairman of the Kandahar Provincial Council.

His murder, by an Afghan thought to be a loyal supporter, left a power vacuum in Kandahar — and in the Karzai family. President Karzai appointed another brother, Shah Wali Karzai, to take on their slain brother's role as head of the Populzai, the Karzai's family tribe.

No one expected much from him. Quiet and reserved, he was largely overshadowed by Ahmed Wali Karzai, and even lived in his more powerful brother's compound in Kandahar.

But Shah Wali Karzai has been transformed in the past year. In addition to his role as tribal chief, he serves as project manager of Aino Mena, the sprawling residential development on the outskirts of Kandahar being developed by AFCO, a corporation owned by another brother, Mahmoud Karzai, and his four partners.

They have built 3,000 homes, with plans for a total of 14,700. The developers are building on 10,000 acres, land that Afghan military officials have claimed was illegally seized from the Ministry of Defense.

Emboldened after Ahmed Wali Karzai's death, Shah Wali Karzai appeared no longer satisfied to serve just as an employee at Aino Mena. At some point in the past few months, he created his own corporation in Kandahar and then secretly moved all of the cash from the housing development's bank accounts to those of his new business.

According to several AFCO partners, Shah Wali Karzai had transferred about \$55 million.

"He simply opened another company, and put the money in that company," Mahmoud Karzai said in an interview.

Mr. Nadi, one of the partners in Aino Mena, accused Shah Wali Karzai of forging his signature on documents to make it appear as if he had approved the creation of Shah Wali Karzai's company as the new corporate parent of Aino Mena.

"I had no clue what the hell was going on," Mr. Nadi said in an interview.

When Mahmoud Karzai discovered what his brother had done, he demanded that Shah Wali return the money. But Shah Wali refused, and instead insisted that he be made a partner in Aino Mena. Mahmoud and his partners refused, and the two sides settled into a bitter stalemate.

Shah Wali Karzai does not deny transferring the money to his corporation.

But he justified his actions by saying that he is protecting the money for the sake of the people of Kandahar. He has told others in Kandahar that if he had not taken the money, Mahmoud Karzai could have moved it to secret bank accounts in Dubai. Aino Mena would then have risked failure just like Kabul Bank, another of Mahmoud Karzai's business ventures, he argued.

Mahmoud Karzai was a key figure in the scandal surrounding the near-collapse of the bank, which was Afghanistan's largest, in 2010. It lost about \$900 million in insider deals, much of which is believed to have ended up in secret bank accounts in Dubai.

Last year, a federal grand jury in New York began a criminal investigation into Mahmoud Karzai's business activities in Afghanistan, pursuing accusations of tax evasion, racketeering and extortion. No charges have been brought against Mahmoud Karzai, who is a United States citizen.

"The money belongs to the people of Kandahar," Shah Wali Karzai said in a statement in response to questions about transferring the housing development funds. "They paid much of that money for the infrastructure at Aino Mena."

He added, “When I became project manager, they owed money to the bank and local contractors, and all the money was paid off as I turned around that company from an almost bankrupt one to a successful one.”

Mahmoud Karzai said he and his partners have filed complaints with the Afghan attorney general, accusing Shah Wali Karzai of stealing their money and using extortion to gain a partnership stake in Aino Mena. The attorney general has refused to move against Shah Wali Karzai, apparently unwilling to get involved in what he sees as a family battle.

Qayum Karzai said he attempted to negotiate a settlement, but has backed off. “Tempers were flaring up,” he said in an interview. “I tried to mediate, but I failed.”

In the midst of the conflict, Afghan security officials uncovered a plot to kill Mahmoud Karzai.

About two months ago, the National Directorate of Security, the Afghan domestic intelligence agency, identified at least three Afghans, including two former employees of the Aino Mena development, who had been involved in a plot to kill Mahmoud Karzai and possibly others. One man was arrested and later released. The two former Aino Mena employees implicated in the plot had both been fired by Mahmoud Karzai.

Afghan security officials have not accused Shah Wali Karzai of any involvement in the scheme. He denies any involvement in it, and Mahmoud Karzai said in an interview, “I refuse to believe that my brother had anything to do with it.”

Family members said that Shah Wali Karzai had also been trying to unlock the secrets of his dead brother’s fortune.

After Ahmed Wali Karzai was killed, his most trusted aide, Zamarai — like many Afghans, he uses only one name — moved to Dubai. Reports of his lavish lifestyle there fed suspicions within the family that Zamarai had access to riches hidden by Ahmed Wali Karzai, perhaps through accounts and properties that had been placed in Zamarai’s name.

When Zamarai returned recently to Kandahar — some family members claim he was lured back by Aziz Karzai, Afghanistan’s ambassador to Russia and President Karzai’s uncle, an account the envoy flatly denies — he was detained by security personnel working for Shah Wali Karzai, according to relatives.

Mahmoud Karzai says he believes that Zamarai knows the whereabouts of “one or two million dollars.”

Others familiar with the matter say that Shah Wali Karzai suspects that Zamarai knows about hundreds of millions of dollars more hidden in Dubai and elsewhere, including assets in Afghan businesses and real estate.

Zamarai is being held at Sarposa Prison in Kandahar, where he is guarded by Shah Wali Karzai’s security personnel rather than the regular prison guards, according to several people familiar with the matter but who asked not to be identified for fear of retribution from the Karzai family.

He has not been charged with any crime.

When asked through Gerald Posner, a Karzai family lawyer, about Zamarai and whether he is holding him, Shah Wali Karzai declined to comment.

UNREMITTING HELL ON EARTH; ALL HOME NOW



U.S. Army soldiers from Alpha troop, 4-73 Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division carry an injured comrade to a helicopter during a firefight with Taliban during a mission in the Maiwand district of Kandahar province, April 9, 2012. REUTERS/Baz Ratner

Troops Invited:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

**“The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops.”
Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War**

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



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

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

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

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

Frederick Douglass, 1852

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

**Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004**

**Recovery For The Rich,
Depression For The Poor:
“While Profits Are Up Everywhere,
Total Labour Compensation Has
Risen In Every Leading Economy
Except Four: The US, Greece, Ireland
And Spain”
“A Decline In Real Wages Comes On Top
Of Stagnation Of Wages In The Three
Previous Decades”**

June 3, 2012 By Barry Sheppard, San Francisco

[Barry Sheppard was a long-time leader of the US Socialist Workers Party and the Fourth International. He recounts his experience in the SWP in a two-volume book, The Party -- the Socialist Workers Party 1960-1988, available from Resistance Books.]

Workers in the United States know they are losing ground in the current Depression, as they are watching the rich going in the opposite direction.

A decline in real wages comes on top of stagnation of wages in the three previous decades.

A new report issued by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) says: “The recent recovery in the United States appears unusual from a historical perspective ... with a much stronger rebound in profits relative to labor income.

“One explanation is that workers’ fear of long-term unemployment has led to more subdued wages relative the labor productivity growth during the recent recovery.”

How can we be speaking of a “Depression” and a “recovery” happening at the same time in the US (and world) capitalist economy?

New York Times columnist Paul Krugman compares the situation with the Great Depression of the 1930s. After the initial crash, there was a period of recovery which led to another downturn around 1937. But the whole decade was marked by stagnation and high unemployment.

This is the kind of period we are in now.

The IMF report found Americans are lagging far behind their counterparts in Europe. Only workers in two advanced economies in Europe have fared worse during the recent recovery: Spain and Greece.

The IMF also says that while profits are up everywhere, total labour compensation has risen in every leading economy except four: the US, Greece, Ireland and Spain.

The change in the relative share of total income going to labour has fallen sharply in the US since the trough of the downturn. It has risen slightly in Europe as a whole.

Should workers in the US be looking to Europe for guidance? That's not the way it looks from here, peering across the Atlantic.

What we see is a Europe in deep economic turmoil and trouble, with some countries, including Britain, already teetering on a new downturn, high unemployment, and "austerity" for workers.

We can be envious of the fact that many European workers still have a higher social wage, government benefits won in struggle in the past, than US workers have. But the austerity drive in Europe is attacking those benefits.

And, in much of Europe the electoral system, while geared to maintaining capitalist rule, is more democratic than in the US. The voice of working class resistance to the capitalist offensive can peek through, even if it is muffled.

Or not so muffled, as in the case of the anti-austerity Coalition of the Radical Left (SYRIZA) in Greece which came second in the May 6 elections and is polling way ahead for the June 17 follow-up election.

In the US, we are in the midst of an electoral farce to beat all electoral farces.

The Democrats and Republicans are really two wings of a single capitalist party, whose major "difference" is over how much to cut the social wage and how fast, and how much to privatise everything from jails, education and even the postal system.

The grotesque spectacle of billions of dollars being spent on vacuous advertisements for the candidates of both parties makes the 2012 elections not only farce but buffoonery.

One thing we can identify with in Europe is mass mobilisations against the capitalist offensive. The Occupy movement is part of that.

The situation for US workers is even worse than it appears in the IMF report. The IMF includes in the workers' share of national income wages, salaries, interest, capital gains and stock compensation and compares this to business profits.

Workers do get some interest on their savings, some stock income and capital gains, but the bulk of these incomes go to the rich. The salaries of the top officers of JPMorgan

Chase are not exactly in the same category as the salaries of the bank tellers they lord over.

The IMF also doesn't include cuts to the social wage.

The attack on the social wage in the US is picking up steam.

One example is unemployment benefits. A recent article in the NYT said: "Hundreds of thousands of out-of-work Americans are receiving their final unemployment cheques sooner than they expected, even though Congress renewed extended benefits until the end of the year.

"The cheques are stopping for the people who have the most difficulty finding work: the long-term unemployed. More than five million people have been out of work for longer than half a year.

"Federal benefit extensions, which supplemented state funds for payments up to 99 weeks, were intended to tide over the unemployed until the job market improved.

"In February, when the program was set to expire, Congress renewed it, but also phased in a reduction in the number of weeks of extended aid and effectively made it more difficult for states to qualify for the maximum aid."

As a result, hundreds of thousands of long-term unemployed won't even get their cheques through the end of the year when the program expires.

MORE:

"In The Production Process More Labour Is Absorbed Than Is Bought"

"What Capital As Capital (Hence The Capitalist As Capitalist) Wants To Produce Is Neither An Immediate Use Value For Self-Consumption, Nor A Commodity To Be Turned First Into Money And Then Into A Use Value"

“Its Aim Is The Accumulation, The Expansion Of Value, Its Increase; That Is To Say, The Maintenance Of The Old Value And The Creation Of Surplus Value”

From Karl Marx, Theories Of Surplus Value; International Publishers; New York, 1952

In the actual production process labour is in reality transformed into capital, but this transformation is made possible by the original exchange between money and labour power.

Through this *direct* transformation of labour into *materialized* labour belonging not to the worker but to the capitalist, the money is first transformed into capital, including that part of it which has taken the form of means of production, of the conditions necessary for labour.

Up to this point the money is only in its nature capital, whether it exists in its own form or in the form of commodities (products of labour) of such a type as can serve as means of production of a commodity.

This definite relation to labour first transforms money and commodities into capital, and that labour is productive labour which, through this, its relation to the means of production — to which corresponds a definite relation in the actual production process — transforms money or commodities into capital; that is to say, maintains and increases in its value the *materialized* labour which confronts labour power as something independent.

Productive labour is only an abbreviated way of expressing the whole relationship and the form and manner in which labour power figures in the capitalist production process. But it is of the greatest importance to distinguish it from other kinds of labour, since this distinction expresses precisely the distinct form of that labour on which is based the whole capitalist mode of production and capital itself.

Productive labour is therefore — in the system of capitalist production — that which produces *surplus value* for its employer, or which transforms the objective conditions of labour into capital and their owner into a capitalist; and therefore labour which produces its own product as capital.

When therefore we speak of *productive labour*, we speak of socially determined labour, labour which implies a quite precise relation between the buyer and the seller of the labour.

But although the money which is in the hands of the buyer of labour power — or the supply of means of production and means of subsistence for the worker which he possesses in the form of commodities — first becomes capital through the process of

production, it is only in the process transformed into capital, and therefore these things are not capital before they enter into this process, but are only destined to be capital — nevertheless they are *in themselves* capital.

They are in themselves capital because of the independent form in which they confront labour power and labour power confronts them; a relationship which the exchange with labour power and the subsequent process of the actual transformation of labour into capital conditions and consolidates.

They have from the outset the *definite social relationship* to the workers which makes them into capital and gives them command over labour.

They are therefore presupposed to be capital in relation to labour.

Productive labour, consequently, can be so described when it is directly exchanged with money as *capital*, or, what is only a shorter way of saying this, labour which is directly exchanged with capital — that is to say, with money which in itself is capital, which is destined to function as capital or confronts labour power as capital.

The expression: labour which is directly exchanged with capital, implies that the labour is exchanged with money as capital, and thereby transforms it into capital.

The significance of the direct exchange will be seen more clearly in a moment.

Productive labour is therefore labour which reproduces for the worker only the previously determined value of his labour power, but as a value-creating activity increases the value of the capital, or which confronts the worker himself with the values it creates as capital.

In the exchange between capital and labour, as we saw in examining the production process, two essentially different though interdependent aspects have to be distinguished.

First: The first exchange between capital and labour is a formal process, in which capital figures as money and labour power as commodity.

The sale of the labour power takes place conventionally or legally in this first process, although the labour is paid for only after it has been applied, at the end of the day, the week, etc.

This in no way alters the transaction in which the labour power is sold.

What in this transaction is directly sold is not a commodity in which labour has already been realised, but the use of the labour power itself, and therefore in fact the labour itself, as the use of the labour power is its activity, labour.

It is therefore not an exchange of labour mediated through an exchange of commodities.

When A sells boots to B, both exchange labour, one labour realised in boots, the other labour realised in money.

But in the case we are dealing with, on one side materialized labour in its general social form, that is, as money, is exchanged against labour that as yet exists only as a power, and what is bought and sold is the use of this power, that is, the labour itself; although the value of the commodity sold is not the value of the labour (a meaningless expression) but the value of the labour power.

A direct exchange therefore takes place between materialized labour and labour power, which *de facto* resolves itself into living labour; that is, between materialized labour and actual labour.

The wage — the value of the labour power— appears, as explained above, in the form of direct purchase price, the price of the labour.

In this first phase the relation between worker and capitalist is that of seller and buyer of a commodity. The capitalist pays the value of the labour power, that is, the value of the commodity which he buys.

A the same time, however, the labour power is only bought because the labour which it can perform, and undertakes to perform, is greater than the labour required for the reproduction of the labour power, and therefore expresses itself in a value greater than the value of the labour power.

Secondly: The second phase of the *exchange* between capital and labour has in fact nothing to do with the first, and strictly speaking is not an exchange at all.

In the first phase there is an exchange of money and commodity — of equivalents — and worker and capitalist confront each other simply as owners of commodities.

Equivalents are exchanged (that is to say, it makes no difference to the transaction when they are exchanged and whether the price of the labour is above or below the value of the labour power or is equal to it, The transaction can therefore take place in accordance with the general law of the exchange of commodities).

In the second phase no exchange at all takes place.

The owner of money has ceased to be a buyer of commodities, and the worker a seller of commodities.

The owner of money functions now as a capitalist. He consumes the commodity which he has bought, and the worker supplies it, since the use of his labour power is his labour itself.

Through the earlier transaction the labour itself has become part of materialized wealth.

The worker performs it, but it belongs to the capital and is only just a function of the latter. It is performed therefore directly under the control and direction of the capital, and the product in which it is materialized is the new form in which the capital appears) or in which rather it realises itself *actu* as capital.

In this process, therefore, the labour materializes itself directly, is transformed directly into capital, after having already been formally incorporated in capital through the first transaction.

And indeed more labour is here transformed into capital than capital was earlier expended in the purchase of labour power.

In this process a part of unpaid labour is appropriated, and only through this is the money transformed into capital.

But although in this phase no exchange in fact takes place, the result, disregarding the intermediary stages, is that in the process — taking both phases together — a definite quantity of materialized labour has exchanged for a greater quantity of living labour.

This finds expression in the result of the process, in the fact that the labour materialized in its product is greater than the labour materialized in the labour power, and is consequently greater than the materialized labour paid to the worker; or that in the actual process the capitalist receives back not only the part of the capital which he expended in wages, but a surplus value which costs him nothing.

The *direct* exchange of labour against capital here signifies (1) the direct transformation of the labour into capital, into a material constituent of capital in the production process; (2) the exchange of a definite quantity of materialized labour against the same quantity of living labour plus an additional quantity of living labour which is appropriated without an equivalent in exchange.

The statement that productive labour is labour which is directly exchanged with capital embraces all these phases, and is only a derivative formula signifying that it is labour which transforms money into capital, which is exchanged with the means of production as capital, and whose relation to them therefore is not at all a relation to simple means of production, nor in its relation to the means of production is it labour in general, without a specific social character.

This statement covers (1) the relation of money and labour power to each other as commodities, the purchase and sale between the owner of money and the owner of labour power; (2) the direct subsumption of labour under capital; (3) the real transformation of labour into capital in the production process, or what is the same thing, the creation of surplus value for capital.

Two kinds of exchange between labour and capital take place.

The first expresses simply the buying of the labour power and hence *actu* of the labour and hence of its product; the second, the direct transformation of living labour into capital, or its materialization as the embodiment of capital.

The result of the capitalist production process is neither a mere product (use value), nor a commodity, that is, a use value which has a definite exchange value.

Its result, its product, is the creation of surplus value for capital, and hence the actual transformation of money or commodity into capital.

Before the production process they were capital only in intention, in themselves, in their destiny.

In the production process more labour is absorbed than is bought.

This absorption, the appropriation of another's unpaid labour, which is consummated in the production process, is the direct aim of the capitalist production process; for what capital as capital (hence the capitalist as capitalist) wants to produce is neither an immediate use value for self-consumption, nor a commodity to be turned first into money and then into a use value.

Its aim is *the accumulation, the expansion of value, its increase*; that is to say, the maintenance of the old value and the creation of surplus value.

And it achieves this *specific product* of the capitalist production process only in exchange with labour, which is therefore called *productive labour*.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

How Bashar Al-Assad Is “Helping” The Palestinian Cause: “If The Freedom Of Palestine Was Dependent On The Slaughtering Of Syrian Children, I Would Tell You As A Palestinian That I Don’t Want To Be Free”

June 3, 2012 By Sami Kishawi, By Sami Kishawi, Smpalestine.com

There exists this shameful idea that Bashar Al-Assad stands for the Palestinian people, that his brutal response to Syrian demonstrators is part of his action plan to maintain power and to challenge Israel's military might in the region.

Unfortunately, this idea has permeated so many spheres of discussion that we see people attempting to minimize Al-Assad's crimes by attributing them to a higher purpose.

“He is doing the lesser of two evils,” I’ve heard, but he isn’t.

Al-Assad’s brutal crackdown on the civilian population of Syria is so disturbing that I wonder how anyone can faithfully believe he is helping the Palestinian cause, or any cause for that matter.

Freedom and security, or whatever Al-Assad claims he is punishing the Syrian people for, is not worth the limb of a child or the torture of a mother as she stares at her husband’s lifeless body buried beneath the rubble of a home in Homs.

A woman by the name of Jumana Jaber was filmed giving the following message during a solidarity demonstration for Syria in New York last week. It really couldn’t be said any better.

“The horrible things happening in Syria, even Israel didn’t do to us in Palestine.

“Anybody who says that the Assad regime is with Palestine and that the atrocities happening are in our favor is wrong, and if the freedom of Palestine was dependent on the slaughtering of Syrian children, I would tell you as a Palestinian that I don’t want to be free.” (Translated from Arabic)

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



CLASS WAR REPORTS

“100,000 Students And Supporters Took To The Streets In Santiago, Chile, In The Second Major Demonstration Of The New Year” “We Will Keep On Being Rebels, Because The Student Movement Is Not Going To Settle For A Few Excesses Having Been Corrected. We Want To Fix All Of Them”

May 18, 2012 by Andrew Gavin Marshall, Media Co-op [Excerpts]

[May 16 ... roughly 100,000 students and supporters took to the streets in Santiago, Chile, in the second major demonstration of the new year, bringing a resurgence to the student movement that began one year ago, in May of 2011.

The students were mobilized by the Student Confederation of Chile (CONFECH), a confederation of all the student unions from public universities (as well as some private ones), and the oldest individual union, the Student Federation of the University of Chile (FECH).

These unions collectively rallied the students against the most expensive educational system among the OECD nations, a largely privatized system of education brought in by Chile's former military dictator, Augusto Pinochet, who came to power in 1973 with CIA support.

Gabriel Boric, the 26-year old student leader of the FECH and spokesperson for CONFECH declared, “We are more than 100,000 people. We are giving again a clear sign to the government that the student movement, after a year, stands up on its feet and will not rest. We are still in the fight.”

Boric added, “We will keep on being rebels, because the student movement is not going to settle for a few excesses having been corrected. We want to fix all of them.”

The Chilean government has submitted three different proposals to the students in the past year, all of which did not satisfy the student movement as they were mere

concessions which did not address the main issue of an unfair social, political, and economic system, demanding a free, quality public education system for all Chileans. Boric stated, "This government has been unable to respond to the students' basic requests."

The protests of May 16, 2012 turned violent with clashes between students and riot police, leading to the arrest of 70 students in Santiago.

This was the second major student demonstration of this year, following roughly 40 demonstrations across the country in 2011. The riot police responded to the student protest with tear gas and water cannons.

On March 15, Santiago was host to the first major student demonstration of the year in which several thousand students took to the streets, and clashes erupted with riot police, leading to 50 arrests.

The Chilean government has consistently attempted to both repress - through state violence - and undermine - through minor legislative concessions - the student movement which has identified the necessity of change in the social, political, and economic system itself.

Despite a year of protests, the former student leader of FECH, 24-year old Camilla Vallejo, who led the student movement until she was replaced by Boric in student elections in November of 2011, commented on the student movement: "In concrete terms, you could say we have accomplished little or nothing... But in broad strokes, the student movement has made a break in Chilean society. There's a before and after 2011, and we're talking about issues that were taboo in Chile for the first time."

Roughly a month after the student protests began in Chile, the Education Minister Joaquin Lavin resigned in July of 2011. He was replaced with Felipe Bulnes, who in turn resigned in December of 2011, in the midst of the persistent student movement. Bulnes had attempted to calm student protests by granting increased access to credit and "improved supervision of universities."

Bulnes was then replaced with Harald Beyer. Just as Bulnes resigned, following revelations that he had strong ties to a private university in Santiago (and thus, a personal interest in defending the privatized education system), the Agriculture Minister Jose Antonio Galilea also resigned. In late March of 2012, Chile's Energy Minister Rodrigo Alvarez resigned following two months of protests in the southern region of Aysen over increased fuel prices.

[I]n May of 2011 ... the Chilean government announced the approval of the HidroAysen project, to be Chile's largest power generator, drawing protests from hundreds of people. The project "involves five dams and a 1,900 kilometer (1,180 mile) transmission line to feed the central grid that supplies Santiago and surrounding cities as well as copper mines owned by Codelco and Anglo American Plc."

The project provoked increased anger from residents of the region, as well as conservationists and other activists. Opponents of the project filed legal injunctions and an appeals court suspended the HidroAysen project in June of 2011. It was at this time that the student movement in Chile began to emerge rapidly. In October, a local appeals

court rejected the seven lawsuits against the project and gave the green light to resume work.

In December, a legal appeal against the project was taken to Chile's Supreme Court. In April of 2012, the Supreme Court rejected the seven appeals against the project. This sparked major protests over the court's decision, met with riot police repression. The increased demand for energy comes from the rapidly growing Chilean mining industry, of which Canadian mining companies are the largest foreign investment source.

Protests erupted in the southern Chilean region of Aysen in February of 2012, where the cost of living is significantly higher than in the north (due to the remoteness of the Patagonian region) and thus, the costs of fuel, food, health care and education were greater than elsewhere. Protesters fought almost nightly battles with riot police, even setting up barricades and throwing rocks at police, who used water cannons and tear gas on the protesters.

One protester even lost an eye during the confrontations, reportedly by being shot by the police. Supporters took to the streets in Santiago in solidarity with those struggling in Aysen, also clashing with police. In March, the protesters lifted roadblocks to hold negotiations with the government and the more than thirty social organizations participating in the protests. It was after the negotiations that Energy Minister Alvarez resigned, stating that he was excluded from the talks. In late March, the government announced plans to create better conditions in the Aysen region.

In April of 2012, Chile was experiencing protests against a thermoelectric plant and mining, largely participated in by Chileans of indigenous descent, and students took back to the streets in Santiago in the tens of thousands.

On April 25, tens of thousands of Chilean students took to the streets in Santiago, protesting the government's education "reform" proposal, which was grossly inadequate.

Solidarity, solidarité, solidaridad!

Philadelphia Government Makes It A Crime To Keep Feeding Homeless In City Parks: “The Outreach And Worship Center Chosen 300 Ministries Plans To Ignore It — And Is Encouraging Others To Do”

“They Accused Mayor Nutter Of Trying To Hide Philadelphia’s Homeless”



Kelsey Mitchell cuts bread for the evening meal

June 01, 2012 By Dara McBride and INQUIRER STAFF WRITER, Philly.com

When the ban against serving food to the homeless in city parks goes into effect Friday, the outreach and worship center Chosen 300 Ministries plans to ignore it — and is encouraging others to do the same by offering to pay the first 10 fines received for mass food distribution on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

“I encourage every church, every organization, every individual that has been serving on the Parkway to continue serving on the Parkway, despite this law that is going into effect,” Altressa Boatwright, operations manager for Chosen 300, said during a City Council hearing on the ban Thursday afternoon.

Chosen 300 has established a fund to provide for those who may be fined for serving, she said.

More than 50 people turned out for the hearing organized by Councilwoman Jannie L. Blackwell. A total of 25 people, including representatives from 13 groups as well as several community members — some homeless — spoke against the ban during the nearly three-hour hearing.

They accused Mayor Nutter of trying to hide Philadelphia’s homeless, echoing previous complaints that the ban is discriminatory and unconstitutional.

Nutter spokesman Mark McDonald said that the regulation still will go into effect on Friday and that if people were found distributing food in city parks to the homeless, they would receive at least two warnings before being fined \$150.

He said Nutter was unavailable to attend the hearing but had been working with public health and park officials. No administration officials testified Thursday.

City officials and supporters of the ban say moving food distribution indoors is more dignified and healthy.

Four members of a mayoral task force assembled to regulate outdoor feeding testified at the hearing; all said there were not enough organized resources, including indoor sites, to feed the homeless if volunteers stopped handing out meals in public parks.

David Shivel, who volunteers to hand out doughnuts and coffee, said he was willing to go to jail for feeding the homeless.

He said city officials need to recognize they cannot feed the homeless without the help of charities and volunteers.

“You need us,” Shivel said. “You may not know that, but you need us.”

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