

## **Military Resistance 10L15**



Tactical Painting [From Soldier X, Iraq 4.25.05]

# **Christmas Tree**

**From: Dennis Serdel**  
**To: Military Resistance**  
**Sent: December 22, 2010**  
**Subject: Christmas Tree by Dennis**

Written by Dennis Serdel, Military Resistance 2010; Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade; United Auto Workers GM Retiree

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### **Christmas Tree**

**Dead Solders hang from the Christmas tree,  
a cross on top blinks red white and blue  
blood dripping from the pine needles**

like a junkie government who can't get enough.  
Obama dressed as Old St. Nick throws  
more coffins as presents under the tree  
Congress doesn't argue about the cost of the war  
they just hang shiny purple hearts made  
of gold all over the tree and decorations  
of black hearses end to end that go around  
the tree and then hanging like bulbs are  
missing arms and missing legs and hanging  
like garland are gold and silver bars that  
the war profiteers steal in the early morning  
so all the children find is a funeral procession  
as they watch the dead Soldiers placed  
into coffins and witness the carnage under  
the tree and when they look up, all they  
can see is more dead Soldiers hanging from  
the tree and all they know is Christmas  
isn't supposed to be like this, as the War on  
the Workers is like the War overseas  
where the rich take everything and  
give back nothing, using a  
lying banner that says Peace On Earth,  
Goodwill Toward Men and Christ says  
nothing except follow your government  
and the priests and pastors and the leaders  
of the churches preach, let us not forget our  
fallen Soldiers on Christmas Day  
and the Soldiers overseas, so we can  
enjoy the freedom to live in poverty,  
but the children rise up in a choir of truth  
sing to their elders can't you see the dead  
Soldiers hanging from the Christmas tree  
can't you see the rich stealing the silver  
and gold like every day is Christmas  
for them as they keep the money  
and all we get is dead Soldiers each hanging  
from a cross and placed on a Christmas tree  
and our Mom and Dad's don't have a job  
all of this is so wrong  
makes you want to kill someone

written by Dennis Serdel for Military Resistance

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

# **Attacks With IEDs In Afghanistan “Will Top 16,000 For The Second Straight Year” “The 2012 Number Is Expected To Equal Or Slightly Exceed The 16,689 Reported There Last Year”**

November 23, 2012 By Seth Robson, Stars and Stripes [Excerpts]

ZABUL PROVINCE, Afghanistan —

Despite the U.S. military spending more than \$65 billion over the past six years fighting roadside bombs, officials at the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization predict attacks with the devices in Afghanistan will top 16,000 for the second straight year.

**But instead of IED attacks falling — there were just 3,014 in Afghanistan in 2007 — the 2012 number is expected to equal or slightly exceed the 16,689 reported there last year, even though there are now 33,000 fewer U.S. troops deployed in the country.**

The reason? The Taliban doesn't seem to have any shortage of cheap bomb-making materials, according to Al Sweetser, JIEDDO operations research systems analysis division chief.

A typical Taliban bomb contains little or no metal and is victim-operated, for example, by a soldier who steps on a spring or snags a trip wire. It might contain explosives derived from ammonium nitrate fertilizer or potassium chloride, used in match factories, he said.

“In June this year, we had the most (attacks with) IEDs of any month we have ever had in Afghanistan,” Sweetser said.

“The IED has proved to be a cheap, relatively easy-to-use tool against both civilians and advanced militaries,” Singer said. “And so it will continue to be copied. The IED is not disappearing; rather it is proliferating.”

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## **Three Polish Soldiers Wounded In Afghanistan**

22.12.2012 Polskie Radio S.A

Three Polish soldiers were injured on Saturday morning after coming under attack in the province of Ghazni, eastern Afghanistan.

The incident took place while the soldiers were on a routine patrol in the south western part of the province.

The ministry states that unidentified “rebels” opened fire on the soldiers, and the Poles then sought to defend themselves.

However, the three men were evacuated from the scene by helicopter, and taken to a hospital in the city of Ghazni, where they are being treated by Polish doctors.

The soldiers are due to be transported to a hospital within the US military base at Bagram, in the Parwan province.

The families of the injured have been informed of the situation.

Poland is due to cease combat operations by the end of 2013, continuing only in a training capacity until the end of that year, when the Polish contingent is timetabled to leave Afghanistan.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE  
BLOODSHED**

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

**Taliban Claim Credit For Forcing  
French Withdrawal From  
Afghanistan:  
“When There Is A Direct Fight, We  
Know Exactly How To Trap Our  
Enemies In The Mountains, Just Like  
We Did With The Soviets”**

# **“We Have Informers Inside Bases Everywhere”**

November 23, 2012 Agence France-Presse

KABUL: A network of informers, exploitation of popular dissent and the ability to strike at vulnerable moments helped hasten the end of France’s combat mission in Afghanistan, according to a Taliban commander.

**French troops rolled out of Kapisa province on Tuesday, ending one of the largest NATO combat missions in Afghanistan two years early, 10 months to the day since Afghan soldier Abdul Sabor shot dead five French colleagues.**

**The Taliban regularly take credit for “green-on-blue” attacks, but while Sabor’s links to insurgents have never been confirmed, his actions left a profound impact on French troops on the ground and political will at home.**

France entered Kapisa province and its neighbouring Surobi district in Afghanistan’s northeast in 2007. Home to Taliban and Hezb-e-Islami fighters with a toxic hatred of “invaders,” they were in for a rough welcome.

“(The French) were not aware of the ground conditions. When there is a direct fight, we know exactly how to trap our enemies in the mountains, just like we did with the Soviets,” says Bilal, a Taliban commander in Kapisa.

In August 2008, shortly after arriving in Surobi, 10 soldiers were killed in an ambush.

At the time, it was the deadliest ground attack suffered by Nato in Afghanistan.

Seen as working for the Americans, whose invasion brought down the 1996-2001 Taliban regime, the French quickly lost any goodwill they once enjoyed among mujahedeen for charity work in the 1980s.

On top of the homemade bombs, ambushes and suicide attacks, the rebels claim to control a large network of informers, including Afghan soldiers working with NATO who support the uprising in secret.

“As soon as the French were moving in Kapisa or Surobi, we were aware of it,” said Bilal, who claims to have up to 200 men at his disposal.

**A Taliban exile speaking to the media in Pakistan confirmed the same thing. “We have informers inside bases everywhere,” Bilal added. If they wanted a bomber they called a specific number to inform central command.**

**The bomber would then arrive.**

**“Nobody knows where he comes from. It’s our master weapon,” said Bilal.**

**The rate of French fatalities quickly escalated.**

There were three in 2007, 11 in 2008 and 2009, 16 in 2010, 26 in 2011 and 10 so far in 2012, the majority in Kapisa.

The insurgents, whom the Afghan army estimates in Kapisa to number 250 in winter and 500 in summer, were on paper overwhelmed by the 2,500 French soldiers.

But in Paris, politicians worried about the bloodshed and started to discuss early retreat. Opponents thought it too risky to alienate their allies.

Others argued it made perfect financial sense against a backdrop of the euro crisis (the Afghan mission cost 500 million euros, or \$642 million) in 2012.

**After an attack killed five soldiers on July 13, 2011, the French were told to stop going deep into the countryside.**

**By autumn, Bilal says they “stayed in their bases and rarely went to towns.”**

Then Afghan police and soldiers stepped up attacks on their French colleagues, although it remains unclear how many were directly dispatched by the Taliban.

**“We sometimes identify soldiers who could potentially carry such attacks. We contact them through their family and convince them,” said Bilal.**

Shortly after Sabor shot five French colleagues out jogging on a military base, then-president Nicolas Sarkozy announced that French soldiers would withdraw in 2013, a year earlier than the deadline set by Nato. In May, his successor Francois Hollande brought the date forward to 2012.

The French army says it had “no suspicion” of an insurgent infiltration.

But some facts remain troubling.

Such as the who killed four French soldiers on June 9, apparently lying in wait and blowing himself up as soon as the French soldiers got out of a vehicle only moments after arriving in a village.

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## Resistance Action

December 23, 2012 by T. Suraya-Yarzada, BNA

Jalalabad –

A frontier policeman was martyred and two others wounded in explosion of a mine in Chaparhar district of Nangarhar province.

Edress Mohmand spokesman for Nangarhar frontier police commandment said to BNA, this explosion occurred in Dago area, Chaparhar district while the vehicle of frontier police was passing from the area.

In this explosion, a frontier policeman was martyred and two others were wounded.

**IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE  
END THE OCCUPATION**

## **MILITARY NEWS**

# **War Profiteer KBR Charged With Iraq Supply Fraud: “\$50 Million In Inflated Claims To Install Live-In Trailers For Troops”**

Nov 20, 2012 By Michael Tarm - The Associated Press [Excerpts]

**CHICAGO — The U.S. government has filed a civil lawsuit accusing a Houston-based global construction company and its Kuwaiti subcontractor of submitting nearly \$50 million in inflated claims to install live-in trailers for troops during the Iraq War.**

The lawsuit names KBR Inc. and First Kuwaiti Trading Co., alleging they overcharged for truck, driver and crane costs, and misrepresented delays in providing around 2,250 trailers meant to replace tents used by soldiers earlier in the invasion.

In one instance, the contractors allegedly claimed they paid \$23,000 to lease one crane per month when the actual price was about \$8,000, according to the lawsuit, which was filed this week in U.S. District Court in Rock Island, Ill., and first appeared in federal court records Tuesday.

KBR, once the engineering and construction arm of Halliburton, has faced lawsuits before related to its work in Iraq. One of the most prominent involved a soldier electrocuted in his barracks shower at an Army base. That case was eventually dismissed.

In the case involving the trailers, Jim Lewis, the U.S. Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, said “KBR and First Kuwaiti did not provide an honest accounting.”

Stuart Delery, a U.S. deputy assistant attorney general, said in a Department of Justice statement regarding the lawsuit that contractors “are not permitted to profit at the expense of the taxpayers at home who are supporting our men and women in uniform.”

Shortly after the Iraq War began in 2003, KBR subcontracted First Kuwaiti to deliver and install the trailers for about \$80 million, according to the lawsuit.

First Kuwaiti blamed a lack of military escorts for repeated delays and tacked on around \$49 million in charges, and KBR passed those extra charges on to the U.S. government knowing at least some of the costs were inflated, the lawsuit said.

**The suit cites an alleged 2004 letter from a KBR executive to First Kuwaiti that purports to prove the Texas company knew some of its subcontractor's calculations were exaggerated, calling them "absolute highway robbery."**

KBR employs more than 27,000 workers worldwide and remains a major defense contractor. Just last month, it was selected for a multibillion-dollar Army logistics project for work at the Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Ala., and in Afghanistan and Kuwait.

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## **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

**“Capitalism Therefore Remains Caught In A Structural Dilemma”**

**“The Large-Scale Destruction Of Capital Threatens A Much Deeper Slump, But Without It The Crisis Of Profitability Will Continue”**

**“The Ineffective Posturing Of The Western Economic And Political Elites Is Ultimately An Expression Of This Dilemma”**

28 June 12 by Alex Callinicos, International Socialism [Excerpts]

Nearly five years after it started, the global economic and financial crisis shows no signs of resolving itself.

On the contrary, in Europe it is taking a more virulent form, as the eurozone inches towards some kind of moment of truth. The slow motion catastrophe in Europe threatens to kill off the chronically weak recovery in the US. This is part of a global levelling down process, as the Chinese economy, which has since 2009 provided the main motor of revival, itself runs out of steam.

The Financial Times reported in mid-June:

“The FT/Brookings Tiger index (which is supposed to track the global economic recovery) showed world growth stalling after an initial rapid recovery from the 2008-09 economic crisis. Growth in the US was slowing, much of Europe is in recession, China's growth outlook has weakened, the reform processes in India have stalled and other large emerging economies have slowed dramatically.

“Prof (Eswar) Prasad (of Brookings) said: ‘The engines of world growth are running out of steam while the trailing wagons are going off the rails. Emerging market economies are facing sharp slowdowns in growth while many advanced economies slip into recession’”

One can analyse what's happening at three levels.

The first and most immediate centres on Greece.

Most commentators agree the success of New Democracy, the main party of the Greek right, in squeaking narrowly ahead of Syriza (the Coalition of the Radical Left) in the general election of 17 June has merely bought a little time. The economist Nouriel Roubini tweeted that night: “In 6-12 months ND-Pasok gov will fall as economy will fall into a depression. Then new elections will lead Syriza to win & Grexit to occur”

This takes us to the second level of analysis.

**The eurozone crisis is the specific European form taken by the bursting of the financial bubble that gripped advanced capitalism in the middle of the last decade. What this involved was a great surge in bank lending, which financed a series of speculative booms, often centred on the property market.**

A recent analysis by the Financial Times's Alphaville blog called “The Rise and Fall of European Banking” cites a Citibank study showing how European banks led the surge in cross-border lending (largely in this case within the European Union itself) in the last decade:

“Global bank assets increased c160 percent from 2002 to 2008. Over this period, EU banks' global assets increased c190 percent, with France leading the way (+250 percent). Several EU bank systems' global assets, including France, the UK, Sweden, Greece, Ireland, Denmark and Netherlands, increased over 200 percent over this period.”

But this process has, since the 2008 crash, gone into reverse.

While US, British and Japanese banks have held on to their shares of global banking assets, those in continental Europe have seen their share fall.

This retreat reflects both the losses that these banks made when the bubble of the mid-2000s unravelled and also the losses they fear they may still make on their loans to the so-called “peripheral” eurozone economies.

**As we have repeatedly argued, the “rescues” of Greece, southern Ireland and Portugal have been all about saving the northern European banks that had lent so heavily to both public and private borrowers in these countries.**

The mechanism that has forced these countries into the arms of the troika has been financial markets forcing up the interest rates on government debt — swollen by the Great Recession and the costs of the initial bank bailouts — to unsustainable levels.

**But — as we have also argued — the price of the “rescues”, austerity programmes designed to slash public spending, has forced already weak economies into a vicious downward spiral in which contracting output makes it harder to meet the debt reduction targets demanded by the troika.**

One effect has been further to weaken shaky banking systems.

There is no sign of any willingness in Berlin and Frankfurt to offer more than cosmetic sweeteners to soften the savage austerity programme imposed on Greece.

Chancellor Angela Merkel’s strategy remains to use the pressures created by the eurozone crisis to force other member states into a fiscal union that would generalise and perpetuate the austerity regime that has been imposed on Greece, Ireland and Portugal as an emergency response to this crisis.

In fact, what she has in mind is nothing resembling a democratic political union based on the constituent power of the European people. Instead economic sovereignty is to be surrendered to a “Europe” consisting of unaccountable bodies such as the ECB and the European Council, in which the German state increasingly has the dominant say.

**Before we turn to the latter, potentially decisive factor, a word about the third dimension of the crisis, which concerns its fundamental causes.**

**Marx himself in volume three of Capital closely connects the tendency of the rate of profit to fall with the fluctuations of financial markets, whose bubbles serve to allow the process of capital accumulation temporarily to overcome its limits.**

He writes: “The so-called plethora of capital is always basically reducible to a plethora of that capital for which the fall in the profit rate is not outweighed by its mass”—in other words, falling profitability creates a situation where there is too much capital relative to the mass of surplus value extracted from workers.

The idea that crises represent a plethora of capital was developed by the so-called banking school of British political economists, early 19th century critics of the quantity theory of money that still forms a core assumption of neoliberal ideology. One of them, John Fullarton, argued that the origins of crises lie in the fact that “the amount of capital seeking productive investment accumulates in ordinary times with a rapidity greatly out of proportion to the increase of the means of advantageously employing it”. Hence the excess capital is splurged on increasingly speculative investment, leading to bubbles, panics and busts.

He concludes, in a passage quoted by Marx:

“From more recent events, indeed, one might almost be tempted to expect, that a periodical destruction of capital has become a necessary condition of any market rate of interest at all. And, considered in that point of view, these awful visitations, to which we are accustomed to look forward with so much disquiet and apprehension and which we are so anxious to avert, may be nothing more than the natural and necessary corrective of an overgrown and bloated opulence, the vis medicatrix (medical power) by which our social system, as at present constituted, is enabled to relieve itself from time to time of an ever-recurring plethora which menaces its existence, and to regain a sound and wholesome state.”

Fullarton’s diagnosis resembles the analysis developed by FA von Hayek during the Great Depression, which he argued was a result of overinvestment made possible by easy credit.

Hayek’s contemporary followers criticise the bank bailouts and fiscal stimuli because they have prevented the purge of unprofitable capital needed to restore the system to health.

**In other words, state intervention has prevented the large-scale destruction of capital that would overcome the problems of overaccumulation and profitability that produced the crisis in the first place.**

**Indeed, capitalists aren’t investing the extra profits they were able to squeeze out of workers at the height of the slump in 2008-9, thereby adding to these problems.**

**In March, the Financial Times’s Lex column reported: “Four years after the financial crisis, companies globally are awash with cash: \$1.7 trillion among US companies, € trillion in the eurozone, and £750 billion in the UK”.**

**The trouble with leaving the system to correct itself through the destruction of capital is, as Keynes pointed out during the 1930s, that the result can be, as it was then, deep and protracted slump.**

Paul Krugman has taken up Keynes’s banner, arguing that the US and the EU are caught in a new depression that austerity is making worse.

His criticisms of the “austerians” are highly effective, but Krugman presents overcoming the crisis as something as simple as flicking a light switch, through higher government borrowing and spending to stimulate effective demand.

This ignores the much deeper problems in the accumulation process, and, in particular, as Roberts points out, that of profitability: “Even though corporate profits have recovered in the US from their trough in mid-2009, the rate of profit is still below the most recent peak of 2005 and the ‘neoliberal’ peak of 1997.

“So corporations continue to hoard their cash and business investment growth is too weak to restore jobs and incomes to pre-crisis levels”.

Capitalism therefore remains caught in a structural dilemma: the large-scale destruction of capital threatens a much deeper slump, but without it the crisis of profitability will continue.

The ineffective posturing of the Western economic and political elites is ultimately an expression of this dilemma. In the eurozone, currently the most dangerous arena of the crisis, there is absolutely no sign of any resolution.

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## Massive Debt In Preparation For Mayan Apocalypse Backfires On Fort Drum PFC



22 December 2012 by ArmyJ, The Duffle Blog

FORT DRUM, NY - Private First Class Martin Purdue, a soldier in the 10th Mountain Division, was horrified to wake up this morning and find that the world had not in fact ended last night, as predicted by the Mayans approximately 700 years ago.

Purdue initially become fascinated by the ancient prediction after seeing 2012, an apocalypse film released in 2009 starring John Cusack.

When Purdue returned to the barracks that night after the film ended, he immediately began surfing the internet and found myriad websites devoted to end-of-times conspiracies. He quickly became a fervent believer.

Year by year, as the predicted date grew closer, PFC Purdue realized that his insider knowledge about the impending catastrophe created a unique opportunity for him to exploit.

In November 2012, he took out a \$200,000 loan at 47% interest from Honest Mike's Loan and Liquor Emporium of Watertown, NY.

He also applied for nine separate military-friendly credit cards and proceeded to max them out on mass purchases of energy drinks, TapOut gear, WWE tickets, and a succession of high-priced call girls in the Syracuse area.

When interviewed about the purchases, Purdue explained his rationale:

“Who the hell cared about things like interest rates, payoff dates or safe sex? I mean, none of these idiots had any clue that the world was about to end. They went around their lives like December 2012 was just another month.”

By far the largest purchase made was a no-money-down offer on a neon green 2012 Mustang convertible with a gold-plated spoiler and platinum rims from Discount Don's Auto Palace in Carthage NY. The cost: \$65,297.

Unfortunately for Purdue, who spent the night of December 21st in a cocaine-induced frenzy with a hooker named Chastity, the world did not in fact end as the Mayans had predicted.

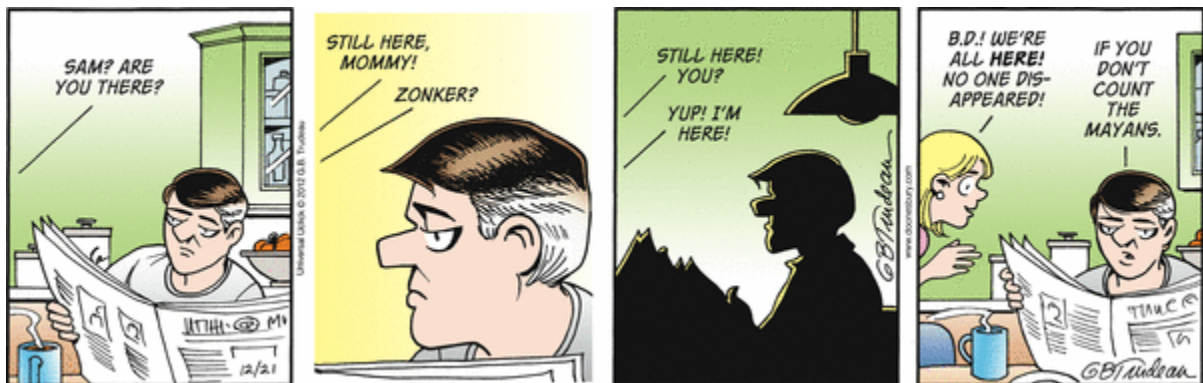
The young soldier awoke to a pounding headache, and learned that he had been robbed by his companion during the night. Chastity walked out with over \$6,000 in cash, as well as the keys to his new Mustang.

Particularly distressing to the young man was the fact that, a week prior, he had re-enlisted in the Army for another seven years in exchange for a \$15,000 bonus that he promptly squandered on a full-back tattoo of a bald eagle sodomizing a grizzly bear underneath the American flag, surrounded by the motto “Death Before Dishonor.”

As of this morning, PFC Purdue could not be reached for additional comment. His First Sergeant, Steven Brooks, said that the soldier was currently at the hospital being treated for gonorrhea and syphilis, and would also be referred to the post Judge Advocate General for failing a urinalysis.

However, he will still be deploying with his unit to Afghanistan next month.

### MORE:



# OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**“For All My Gnostic, Agnostic, Christian, Pagan, Muslim And Jewish Friends...”**


From: Frank Scott  
Subject: O Little Town of Bethlehem  
Date: Dec 23, 2012 9:14 PM

for all my gnostic, agnostic, christian, pagan, muslim and jewish friends...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bjQDI95tOcU>

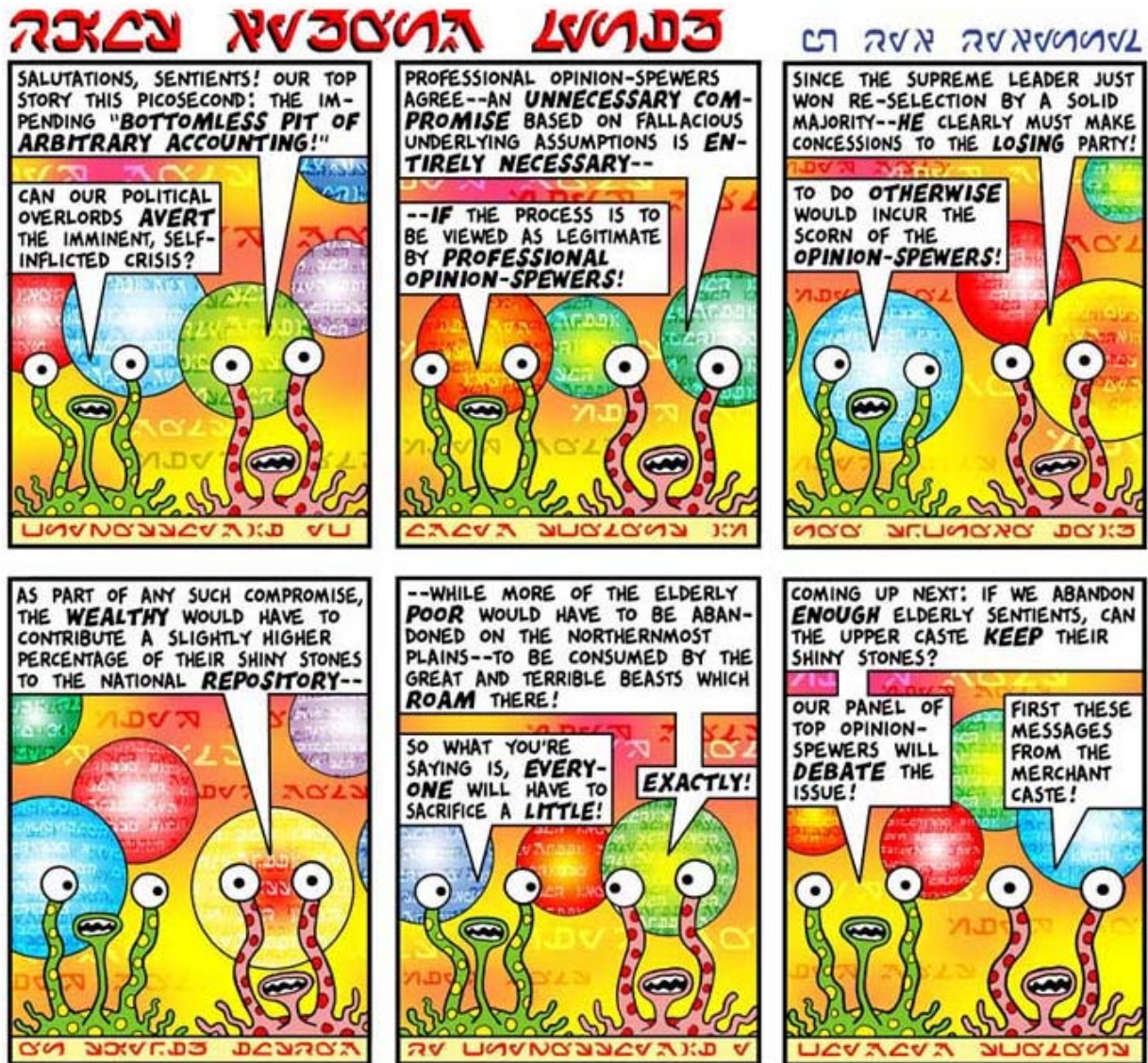
Frank Scott writes political commentary and satire which appears online at the blog  
Legalienate: <http://legalienate.blogspot.com>

**DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?**



Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the email address if you wish and we'll send it regularly with your best wishes. Whether in Afghanistan or at a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657.

# DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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## CLASS WAR REPORTS



**“Thousands Of People In Several Argentine Cities Ransacked Supermarkets For A Second Day”**

**“In The Central City Rosario, Two People Were Killed During The Incidents And 137 People Arrested”**

**“A General Strike Last Month To Press Home Demands For Lower Taxes And Better Salaries For Workers”**



People take cover from tear gas as some flee with goods taken from a store in the Patagonian city of San Carlos de Bariloche on Thursday. Reuters

December 21, 2012 By KEN PARKS, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

BUENOS AIRES—Thousands of people in several Argentine cities ransacked supermarkets for a second day in the latest challenge to President Cristina Kirchner, who is struggling to revive a weak economy and maintain her control over the ruling Peronist Party.

What started with a raid Thursday afternoon of a supermarket in the Patagonian resort town of Bariloche quickly spread to other parts of the country, with thousands attacking supermarkets and shops in the cities of Rosario, Campana and Zárate.

In the central city Rosario, two people were killed during the incidents and 137 people arrested.

The violence puts Mrs. Kirchner in a difficult position as the poor are core constituents of her populist Peronist Party.

With the economy struggling to expand even by 2% this year, and private-sector forecasts for inflation well above 20%, the Kirchner administration has its hands full trying to revive growth and contain union demands for wage hikes.

Argentine activists who represent the poor traditionally block access to supermarkets in the month of December to demand free food and other items.

The government deployed 400 federal agents Thursday night at the request of Río Negro Province's governor to help restore order in Bariloche after inhabitants of a

shantytown looted at least one supermarket and attacked several other supermarkets and shops.

Local media showed footage of dozens of men, women and children hauling away televisions, refrigerators and food.

Television channel TN showed footage Friday of police firing rubber bullets and tear gas at a stone-throwing mob that tried to loot a Carrefour supermarket on the outskirts of the capital Buenos Aires.

Hugo Moyano, a powerful Peronist union boss and former Kirchner ally, held a general strike last month to press home his demands for lower taxes and better salaries for workers.

It was the first major labor action against Mrs. Kirchner's government since farmers went on strike in 2008 to protest grain export taxes.

Mrs. Kirchner's cabinet chief Juan Manuel Abal Medina accused Mr. Moyano's truckers union and other "union bosses" of organizing the latest looting this week.

Mr. Moyano hit back, saying the administration was using the violence as a smoke screen to hide wage cuts, tax hikes and its inability to address the country's problems.

"I think the president is unbalanced. The problems have overwhelmed her. We see it in the reality our society is living. She doesn't provide any solutions to legitimate demands," he said.

Argentine media reported the bands of looters were well organized and in many cases used vehicles to haul away stolen goods.

Hugo Filippini, the manager of a supermarket looted in Campana, said unknown individuals started planning the attack using Facebook.

TN Channel reported that businesses in Bariloche and Zárate, a city near the capital Buenos Aires, remained shut Friday morning out of fear they could be targeted by looters.

"We don't know if we are going to open today....It was a very bad year with a lot of public insecurity and to top it off we were waiting for this time of year to do more business and look at us now: closed," said a shopkeeper in the city of Zárate from behind the safety of the metal curtain protecting her business.

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## **Assad Regime Slaughters Syrian Civilians Waiting In Line To Buy Bread:**

**“There Is No Way To Really Know  
Yet How Many People Were Killed”  
“When I Got There, I Could See Piles  
Of Bodies All Over The Ground”  
“There Were Women And Children”**



An illustration of Syrian President Bashar Assad riddled with bullets on a wall of an infantry college in the countryside in Aleppo, Dec. 21. (Reuters/Ahmed Jadallah)

24/12/2012 By Erika Solomon, Reuters

Dozens of people were killed and many more wounded in an air strike that hit a Syrian bakery where a large crowd was queuing for bread on Sunday, activists said.

If confirmed, it would be one of the deadliest air strikes of Syria's civil war.

“There is no way to really know yet how many people were killed. When I got there, I could see piles of bodies all over the ground. There were women and children,” said Samer al-Hamawi, an activist in the town of Halfaya. “There are also dozens of wounded people.”

Rami Abdelrahman, of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, also said the death toll was still very unclear:

**“From looking at the videos, I expect the death toll to be around or above 50, and not higher than 100. But for now I am keeping my estimate at dozens killed, until we have more information.”**

**Halfaya, in the central province of Hama, had been seized by rebels last week in a push to seize new territory in their 21-month-old revolt against President Bashar Assad,**

Another activist said residents picking through the bodies were still determining which were wounded and which were dead.

Hamawi, who spoke via Skype, uploaded a video of the scene that showed dozens of dust-coated bodies lined up near a pile of rubble beside a concrete building with blackened walls.

Screams could be heard in the video as some men rushed to the scene on motorcycles and other residents limped away. Dozens of dead bodies could be seen.

Activists said more than a thousand people had been lined up at the bakery in Halfaya. Shortages of fuel and flour have made bread production erratic across Syria, and bread lines are often hours long.

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## **“Morsi Is Not, As He Claims, Trying To ‘Protect The Revolution’, But Wants To Protect The Interests Of An Entrenched Elite”**

### **“Small Wonder, Then, That The Factory-Dense City Of Mahalla Declared Itself An Independent State, In Protest At Morsi’s Anti-Union Laws”**

20 December 2012 by Rachel Shabi, The Guardian [Excerpts]

Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood and its supporters have tried to frame the current crisis in religious terms, casting opposition to their speedily drafted constitution as the petulance of an anti-Islamist, liberal elite.

Media analysis has often replicated this theme: in one corner stands Brotherhood-propelled President Mohamed Morsi who has the supposed blessings of a religious population. And in the other corner, the “secular” opposition, banging on about small details of a constitution that isn’t that bad.

**Meanwhile, the proposed constitution reveals more of the Brotherhood’s conservative economics.**

**It has a clause that pegs wages to productivity.**

**It stipulates that only “peaceful” strikes (whatever that means) are allowed.**

**It keeps military interests intact and invisible to public scrutiny – in a country where the army is thought to own anything from 10% to 45% of the national economy (nobody knows for sure because it's all so secret).**

It is all more evidence that Morsi is not, as he claims, trying to “protect the revolution”, but wants to protect the interests of an entrenched elite at the expense of everyone else. Indeed, this year a Bloomberg report referred to the wealthy, controlling echelons of this Islamist group as the “Brothers of the 1%”.

Small wonder, then, that the factory-dense city of Mahalla declared itself an independent state, in protest at Morsi's anti-union laws.

Since he came to power there has been a wave of strikes; not just factory stoppages but also health worker strikes and consumer protests at eroding public services.

And Egypt's rapidly growing independent unions have been mobilising nationally against the constitution, using its trampling of social justices as the hook.

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## **RECEIVED:**

### **“Bales And Lanza-Child Killers”**

From: lastmarx@comcast.net  
To: Military Resistance Newsletter  
Sent: December 21, 2012  
Subject: Bales and Lanza-child killers

On December 14, Adam Lanza killed 20 children (and seven adults) with an AR-15. On March 11, Robert Bales killed nine children (and seven adults) with a M-16 and M-9.

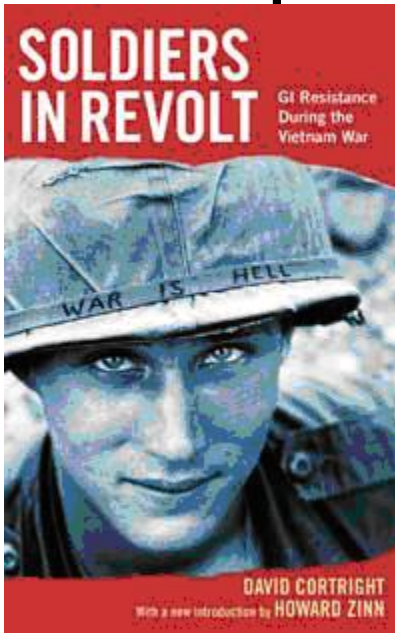
Lanza killed himself to avoid living to confront the horror of his crime. Sgt. Bales tried to cover his up, then explained he was angry that people living nearby supported the Resistance to the US occupation of their country.

Now he lawyers up to claim insanity to avoid the consequences of his crime before a court-martial at Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

#### **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](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.**

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PROJECT]**

**Requests from active duty or  
orders from civilians to:  
Military Resistance  
Box 126  
2576 Broadway  
New York, N.Y.  
10025-5657**

**“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**

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