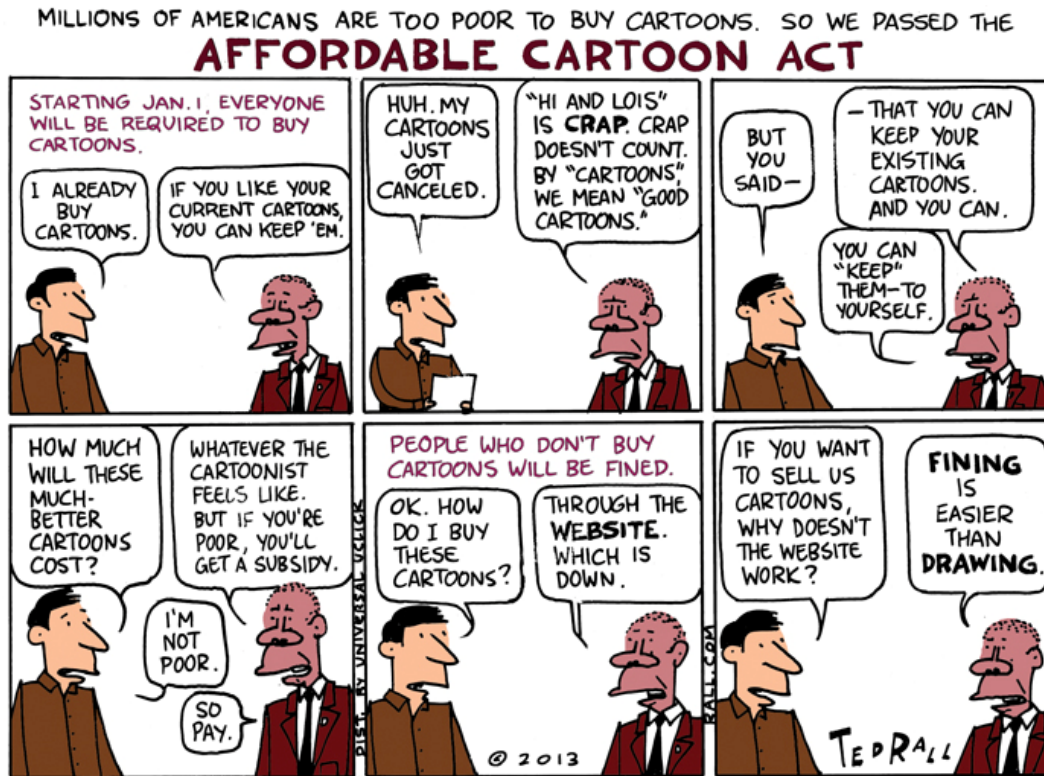


Military Resistance 12A12



Toll Of US Sailors Devastated By Fukushima Radiation Continues To Climb:

“Within A Day Of Fukushima One’s March 11, 2011, Melt-Down, American ‘First Responders’ Were Drenched In Radioactive Fallout”

1/11/2014 By Harvey Wasserman, OpEdNews [Excerpts]

Within a day of Fukushima One’s March 11, 2011, melt-down, American "first responders" were drenched in radioactive fallout.

In the midst of a driving snow storm, sailors reported a cloud of warm air with a metallic taste that poured over the Reagan.

Then-Prime Minister Naoto Kan, at the time a nuclear supporter, says "the first meltdown occurred five hours after the earthquake." The lawsuit charges that Tokyo Electric Power knew large quantities of radiation were pouring into the air and water, but said nothing to the Navy or the public.

Had the Navy known, says Bonner, it could have moved its ships out of harm's way.

But some sailors actually jumped into the ocean just offshore to pull victims to safety. Others worked 18-hour shifts in the open air through a four-day mission, re-fueling and repairing helicopters, loading them with vital supplies and much more. All were drinking and bathing in desalinated water that had been severely contaminated by radioactive fallout and runoff.

Then Reagan crew members were enveloped in a warm cloud. "Hey," joked sailor Lindsay Cooper at the time. "It's radioactive snow."

When it did leave the Fukushima area, the Reagan was so radioactive it was refused port entry in Japan, South Korea and Guam. It's currently docked in San Diego.

The Navy is not systematically monitoring the crew members' health problems. But Cooper now reports a damaged thyroid, disrupted menstrual cycle, wildly fluctuating body weight and more.

"It's ruined me," she says.

Similar complaints have surfaced among so many sailors from the Reagan and other U.S. ships that Bonner says he's being contacted by new litigants "on a daily basis," with the number exceeding 70.

Many are in their twenties, complaining of a terrible host of radiation-related diseases. They are legally barred from suing the U.S. military. Tepco denies that any of their health problems could be related to radiation from Fukushima. The company also says the U.S. has no jurisdiction in the case.

The suit was initially dismissed on jurisdictional grounds by federal Judge Janis S. Sammartino in San Diego. Sammartino was due to hear the re-filing Jan. 6, but allowed the litigants another month to accommodate additional sailors.

Bonner says Tepco should be subject to U.S. law because "they are doing business in America " Their second largest office outside of Tokyo is in Washington DC."

Like the lawsuit, the petitions ask that Tepco admit responsibility, and establish a fund for the first responders to be administered by the U.S. courts.

The melted cores from Units One, Two and Three are still unaccounted for. Progress in bringing down Unit Four's suspended fuel assemblies is murky at best. More than 11,000 "hot" rods are still scattered around a site where radiation levels remain high and some 300 tons of radioactive water still flow daily into the Pacific.

But with U.S. support, Japan has imposed a state secrets act severely restricting reliable news reporting from the Fukushima site.

So now we all live in the same kind of dark that enveloped the USS Reagan while its crew was immersed in their mission of mercy.

Petitions in the sailors' support are circulating worldwide

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

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

January 15, 2014 AP

A foreign servicemember has been shot and killed by insurgents in eastern Afghanistan. today.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED
THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WAR**

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Insurgent Ambush Leaves Six Security Officers Dead

January 15 2014 By ABDULKADIR KHALIF in Mogadishu, Africa Review

Six army and police officers were confirmed dead following an Al-Shabaab raid in Mahaday town, some 120 kilometres north of Mogadishu, reports say.

Residents said that fighters allied to the extremist Islamist group had staged a surprise raid on Somali government army units on Tuesday night before retreating.

Two of the police officers were found in the district's police station, beheaded, according to residents interviewed by Kulmiye, an independent media outlet in Mogadishu.

The clashes also spread to Burane settlement, some five kilometres west of Mahaday town.

Other reports said that the group had destroyed two government vehicles and made off with another two, while also looting supplies from army stores.

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

The past year – every single day of it – has had its consequences. In the obscure depths of society, an imperceptible molecular process has been occurring irreversibly, like the flow of time, a process of accumulating discontent, bitterness, and revolutionary energy.

-- Leon Trotsky, “Up To The Ninth Of January”

For The Love of Sanctions Is The Root of All Evil



From: Mike Hastie

To: Military Resistance Newsletter

Subject: For The Love of Sanctions Is The Root of All Evil

Mike Hastie

Army Medic Vietnam

January 14, 2014

Photo and caption from the portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at:

hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)

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

Lessons Unlearned: Vietnam Then, Afghanistan Now

They had never heard of General Gwynn and so did not realize that, in countering an insurgency, the military was fulfilling a police role and had to apply minimum, not maximum, force; nor would they have known of his warning that a lull in guerrilla action is usually a danger sign, not a “victory”.

Unlike the Western battlefield, a rising body count in an insurgency is a danger sign.

The oft-expressed American desire to persuade the Viet Cong “to stand and fight,” a desire inherited from the French, was another pathetic fallacy. These were professional guerrillas who would not stand and fight—except on their own terms.

From: **WAR IN THE SHADOWS: THE GUERRILLA IN HISTORY**, BY Robert B. Asprey; Captain, USMC, ret'd; William Morrow And Company; New York, 1994

Whatever the President said about guerrilla warfare, these officers, in general, secretly believed that military professionalism would prove more than a match in any battle with “irregulars.” Although, in time, some of the younger advisers would realize this error, the bulk remained convinced that professionalism—by which they meant adherence to Western military doctrines—would *win the war*.

They had never heard of Major Callwell’s writings on small wars, so they would never have pondered his sage advice to regard the native as the professional, the newcomer as the amateur.

They had never studied Gallieni’s and Lyautey’s pacification campaigns. They had never heard of General Gwynn and so did not realize that, in countering an insurgency, the military was fulfilling a police role and had to apply minimum, not maximum, force; nor would they have known of his warning that a lull in guerrilla action is usually a danger sign, not a “victory”.

Lacking suitable background, the American command did not realize that Western-style warfare is quantitative and that insurgency warfare is qualitative. To fight the latter successfully is frequently to reverse normal standards of measurement, just as trick mirrors in an amusement park make a fat person thin and a thin person fat.

From the beginning, the American command erred by trying to use maximum, not minimum, force, and by designating the guerrilla the primary target rather than the population that supported him.

Dead guerrillas became “victories”—enough “victories” would “win” the war.

They did not understand that an insurgency is not “won”—except that it fades into relative quiescence.

Unlike the Western battlefield, a rising body count in an insurgency is a danger sign. So is the necessity for “surprise” encounters, no matter how successfully fought.

Progress is not made in an insurgency situation until local peasants are protected sufficiently and have sufficient reason to support government forces and supply necessary information on which to base operations.

The oft-expressed American desire to persuade the Viet Cong “to stand and fight,” a desire inherited from the French, was another pathetic fallacy. These were professional guerrillas who would not stand and fight—except on their own terms.

The Americans also failed to understand that qualitative warfare calls for careful target selection—that “saturation” of a battle area contains a number of built-in booby traps in an insurgency situation. The more units involved, the more-attenuated the lines of communication, thus the more targets available to the enemy.

Worse than this, saturation of a battle area invariably damaged the peasants’ crops and villages, frequently killing innocent people, thereby alienating the very persons the government needed to “win.”

Military commanders could not understand this. When General Harkins “. . . was asked about the political consequences when villages were hit with napalm, he replied that it ‘really puts the fear of God into the Viet Cong.’ ‘And that,’ he said, ‘is what counts.’”

“Impregably Armored By Good Intentions And Ignorance”

With a few splendid exceptions, American advisers did not understand very much. They came with confidence instead of caution; they taught before they learned. From Nolting on down, too many of them resembled Alden Pyle—Graham Greene’s Quiet American, “. . . who was impregably armored by his good intentions and his ignorance.”

The insurgencies of our time, not to mention those of history, might never have happened. The lessons they furnished weren’t so much lost— they were never learned. To accomplish the military goal in Vietnam, to win the war,” to achieve “victory,” the American military command sought to repair doctrinal deficiencies with machines.

It relied on technology as opposed to motivation, on helicopters and jeeps and trucks and armored personnel carriers, aircraft and ships as opposed to men.

It did precisely what the American military command in China had done nearly twenty years earlier. It attempted to remedy political, social, and economic deficiencies with metal.

The advisers were not at first discouraged because the new technology brought illusory success.

The South Vietnamese Government estimated that the Viet Cong began the year with about sixteen thousand hard-core guerrillas. They estimated that in 1962 they had killed about twenty thousand “guerrillas” (I use quotation marks because we shall never know how many innocents were included in the figure). Yet VC strength, they estimated, had increased to twenty thousand! “. . . At the same time,” Roger Hilsman later wrote, “captured documents, interrogation of prisoners, and other intelligence indicated that at the most only three to four thousand infiltrators had come down the Ho Chi Minh trail.” The other replacements came from hamlets and villages, and if some arrived under duress, a great many others came freely.

Despite ARVN “victories,” the Viet Cong retained control of major areas.

In summer of 1962, this writer flew several missions with U. S. Marine Corps helicopter squadrons operating out of Soc Trang, south of Saigon, the mission being to haul ARVN units to this or that threatened area. Fuel for these machines came from Saigon by tank truck, the Saigon trucker paying the Viet Cong a “toll” in order to pass to Soc Trang.

This meant that at any moment the Viet Cong could prevent marine helicopters from flying. This rarely if ever happened—should it not have occurred to MACV that the effort could scarcely have been hurting the Viet Cong if the choppers were allowed to keep flying?

The fallacy of the new approach was already becoming evident. Initial Viet Cong fright soon turned to bewilderment; analysis followed to produce countertactics. Night operations increased, since helicopters at first did not fly at night.

Assassinations and kidnappings greatly increased, the reasons being to enforce discipline, demonstrate determination, and gain recruits. By spring of 1962, the Viet Cong were beginning to fight back, and, by autumn, were not only pursuing active guerrilla tactics but were standing against ARVN units. Once again, Viet Cong countertactics were immensely aided by intelligence derived from peasant networks that, while on the defensive, were scarcely defunct.

Marines at Soc Trang and American field units elsewhere were living, to use Bernard Fall’s term, in a fishbowl, their every movement, their take-off and landing, their resupply, noted and reported by Viet Cong agents.

Static Defense

The new technology did nothing to repair the existing gap between Vietnamese army units and peasants; indeed, helicopter delivery widened the intelligence gap by flying troops over villages and thus eliminating personal contact with the peasants—perhaps a good thing in the case of rapacious army units.

The new vehicles also proved expensive.

Helicopters and armored personnel carriers require large workshop and storage complexes, installations that in Vietnam demanded ground troops to provide security and nonetheless remained vulnerable to guerrilla attack, as did their lines of communication to major supply centers.

Troops so assigned inevitably assumed a static role, to the guerrilla's benefit.

Armor plate and motors did not erase poorly conceived plans. American and Vietnamese planners were trying to strike the enemy all over the place. All too often, these were random strikes, because the commands lacked proper intelligence on which to base specific and profitable operations.

Where good intelligence existed, Viet Cong intelligence frequently countered it. Helicopters and APCs are noisy, and a black-pajama-clad Viet Cong did not take long to ditch his weapon and either commence work in the field or hide along the reeded bank of a nearby canal.

By summer of 1962, frustrated American airmen had begun developing new tactics, for example "eagle flights," whereby helicopters landed a unit in a suspect area. If contact resulted, other, lingering helicopters immediately brought in reinforcements. The poverty of this tactic is too obvious for comment.

Reporters Who Feed The Lies Rewarded

The conflict between Saigon and the field—between wishes and facts—had already produced a chilling corollary: extreme intolerance, on the part of both the Saigon regime and the American mission, of journalists who questioned the validity of allied performance.

In March 1962, Mme. Nhu had begun persuading President Diem to expel three troublemakers, the veteran news correspondents Homer Bigart of the *New York Times*, François Sully of *Newsweek*, and James Robinson of NBC, each of whom was increasingly harassed by the Saigon government, as were other correspondents who, in Joseph Buttinger's words, were ". . . accused of being part of an international Communist- inspired conspiracy to slander the regime."

"The U.S. mission was anything but forceful in defending these correspondents against abuse and ill-treatment, and almost apologetic in explaining that these men were merely trying to live up to the American concept of a free press. Ambassador Frederick E.

Nolting, Jr., and General Paul Harkins in particular were incensed by the American newsmen's attacks on the regime. . . . They, as well as their superiors in Washington, spoke repeatedly of the "slanted" or even "irresponsible" press reporting out of Saigon, convinced not only that the correspondents who criticized the regime did harm to U.S.-South Vietnamese relations, but also that they were wrong."

Reporters who wrote favorable accounts, among them Marguerite Higgins, Joseph Alsop, and Richard Tregaskis, received comforting little pats for their part in what was rapidly becoming the great deception. The Administration was running scared.

Recruiting for The Resistance, 1960's Style

Lansdale warned that the most urgent function is " . . . to protect and help the people":

*"When the military opens fire at long range, whether by infantry weapons, artillery or air strike, on a reported Viet Cong concentration in a hamlet or village full of civilians, the Vietnamese officers who give those orders and the American advisers who let them "get away with it" are helping defeat the cause of freedom. **The civilian hatred of the military resulting from such actions is a powerful motive for joining the Viet Cong.**"*

On the following day, Ambassador Taylor joined the select group of officials to report on the Vietnam situation. His words could not have been more gloomy. A new civilian government in Saigon was proving no more effective than the former military government, either in the capital or in the provinces. The Viet Cong everywhere had advanced and were threatening to cut the country in half. Despite heavy casualties produced by an increasingly stronger professionally competent ARVN (!), the Viet Cong not only were making good their losses but were adopting new and improved tactics:

"The ability of the Viet-Cong continuously to rebuild their units and to make good their losses is one of the mysteries of this guerrilla war. ... (We find) no plausible explanation of the continued strength of the Viet-Cong if our data on Viet-Cong losses are even approximately correct.

"Not only do the Viet-Cong units have the recuperative powers of the phoenix, but they have an amazing ability to maintain morale. Only in rare cases have we found evidences of bad morale among Viet-Cong prisoners or recorded in captured Viet-Cong documents."

Soldier Who Said He'd Fight Afghanistan War So 'Son Wouldn't Have To' Feels Like An Asshole Right Now

January 13, 2014 By Paul, Duffel Blog

KABUL — A Command Sergeant Major serving in Kabul who reportedly said he'd fight the war "so his son wouldn't have to" in 2001 sort of feels like an asshole right now, after his son joined the Army a year ago and serves with a unit just a few miles away, sources confirmed today.

"When I said that, I thought we were going to, you know, come in, bomb the shit out of them, shoot a few guys, and split," said Sgt. Maj. Ted Stevens while noting previous U.S. engagements without a prolonged troop presence such as Vietnam and Korea.

Brad Stevens, a private first class now serving with 2nd Infantry Division, barely remembers the events of Sept. 11, when he was just seven years old.

"I remember my mom and dad just staring at the television screen, and smoke, but I didn't really know what he meant when he said we needed to 'bomb them back to the stone age,'" Brad told reporters.

On that day, sources confirmed then-Sgt. Ted Stevens said he would fight this war against terrorists so that "you wouldn't have to" as he pointed to his young son.

"It's silly talking about how many years we will have to spend in the mountains of Afghanistan when we could pave the whole country and put parking stripes on it and still be home by Christmas," Stevens later told a reporter, shortly after landing on the ground in Afghanistan in October 2001.

After routing the Taliban and capturing a number of key terrorist leaders in Operation Enduring Freedom, Stevens, along with the rest of the U.S. military, packed his bags and redeployed in support of Operation Enduring Clusterfuck, a controversial new war plan which shifted U.S. efforts in Afghanistan around mid-2002.

The plan, devised by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, involved setting up bases in remote areas of Afghanistan so thousands of soldiers could receive combat action badges after mortar attacks, in addition to allowing an untold number of Marines to locate, close with, and destroy the enemy by building bridges across canals using corrupt Afghan contractors.

Shortly after that plan went forward, Rumsfeld also launched the controversial Operation What The Fuck Are We Even Doing Here? after the U.S. invasion of Iraq in March 2003.

That plan was later followed by Operation Surge Troops Into Afghanistan Because Fuck It, I Need To Act Like I'm Sort Of Doing Something Here by President Obama in 2009.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Zionist Occupation Soldiers Attack Palestinian Boys' School In Urif

12th January 2014 International Solidarity Movement, Nablus Team; Urif, Occupied Palestine

At around 9:00am on Sunday 12th January 2014, students at the boys' school in Urif, in Nablus district, were assaulted by Israeli soldiers firing tear gas grenades within the school grounds.

Eleven soldiers from the nearby illegal settlement of Yizhar entered the grounds firing tear gas near the entrance to the school. Several boys resisted the attack by throwing stones.

Four of the soldiers then tried to enter a classroom but were prevented from doing so by a teacher.

Several hours after the attack, the soldiers remain stationed on a hillside just 200m from the school.

This is the second time in two weeks that the village of Urif has been attacked.

The last attack, however, which took place on 6th January, involved six settlers from the illegal settlement Yizhar trying to damage an electricity box attached to the town's water reservoir.

The incursion led to clashes in which Palestinian boys threw stones to repel the settlers.

More Typical Warm, Wonderful Days In Occupied Palestine

January 13, 2014 WAFA & January 10, 2014 by Saed Bannoura - IMEMC & Agencies

HEBRON – Israeli settlers from the settlement outposts of Ma'on and Abigail Monday chopped down olive trees in an area east of Yatta, located to the south of Hebron, according to a local activist.

Rateb Jbour, of the national committee against the wall and settlements, said settlers chopped down over 50 olive trees in an area of Yatta that recently witnessed several attacks by settlers in order to force the Palestinians who live there out of it for the purpose of settlement expansion.

Jerusalem – January 9 2014, Eyewitnesses said that **a settler child, approximately 12 years of age, sprayed the face of a Palestinian girl with chlorine** and fled the scene.

The child suffered minor injuries and was locally treated, without the need to be moved to a hospital or a medical center.

The Israeli Police said it is searching for the assailant in an attempt to question him and “identify the motives of this attack”. The police received an official complaint from the Palestinian girl.

Israeli soldiers violently attacked a 17-year old Palestinian identified as Aseel Jaber, as she was walking near the Ibrahimi Mosque, in the southern West Bank city of Hebron. Jaber suffered various cuts and bruises.

Also in Hebron, **Israeli soldiers invaded Halhoul town, north of the city, and kidnapped one resident after violently breaking into his home and searching it.**

Local sources said that the soldiers kidnapped Ibrahim Yousef Zama’ra, taking him to an unknown destination.

Earlier on Thursday, **a number of Israeli settlers infiltrated the Palestinian village of Sinjil**, near the central West Bank city of Ramallah, and wrote racist graffiti on walls of a local home in the village.

Palestinians Sentenced To 12 And 20 Years In Prison For Throwing Stones At Occupiers

14 January 2014 ALRAY

Hebron - An Israeli military court has issued Sunday tough sentences against two brothers from Halhoul, north of al-Khalil, for allegedly stone-throwing.

Ofer military court sentenced the two brothers Iyad and Hassan Bajes Albou for 12 and 20 years on charges of throwing stones at a settler’s car.

Iyad Albou, a father of 4 children, was detained on October 2011, while Hassan, 32, was arrested a few days after his brother’s arrest.

Their family said that they did not expect the court’s harsh sentence, calling on international human rights organizations to appeal against the oppressive judgment of the court.

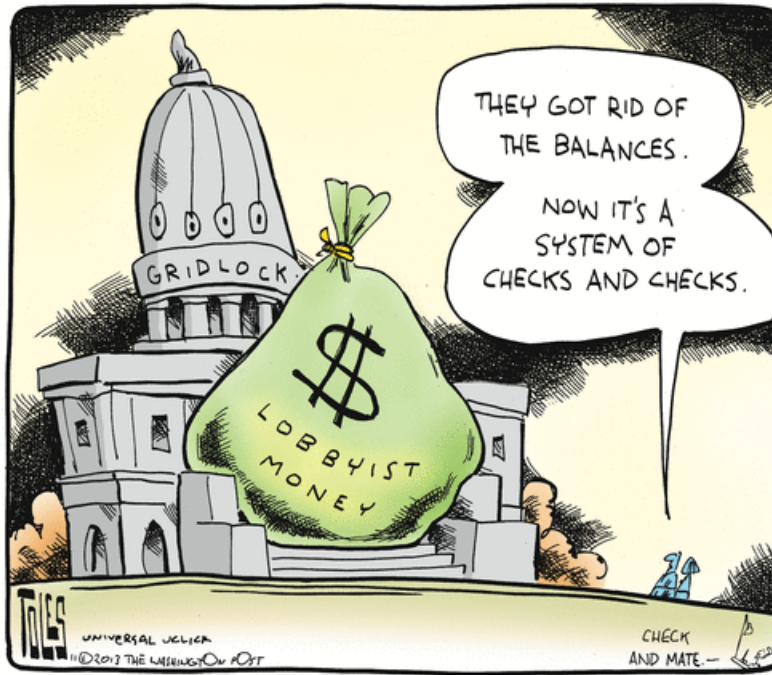
Media spokesman for Palestinian Prisoners Center, the researcher Riad alAshqar condemned the court verdict and consider it as a retaliatory and deterrent action.

[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.”]

Military Resistance In PDF Format?

If you prefer PDF to Word format, email: contact@militaryproject.org

CLASS WAR REPORTS



**Five Hundred Armed Self-Defense Guards Seize Power In Mexican City Sunday:
They “Now Control A Wide Swath Of Territory In Michoacán State”
Citizens’ Militia Now Poised To Capture Drug Cartel’s Headquarters At Apatzingán, “A City Of 100,000, Which The Militia Has Encircled”**



The vigilantes' takeover marks an effort to make gains against organized-crime groups that Mexico's security forces have failed to defeat. AP

Jan. 12, 2014 By Nicholas Casey, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

MEXICO CITY—Hundreds of armed vigilantes stormed a town in rural Mexico on Sunday morning, forcing out most of its local government, witnesses said, and declaring they were close to ousting a powerful drug cartel that has menaced the region.

The takeover occurred in the southern Mexican town of Nueva Italia and was led by one of the area's self-defense groups: armed squads of vigilantes that are making fast gains in some areas against organized-crime groups that Mexico's security forces have failed to defeat.

The groups now control a wide swath of territory in Michoacán state they seized from the powerful Knights Templar drug cartel, which has terrorized citizens with kidnappings and killings.

With the takeover of Nueva Italia, the group says it is now poised to move into the cartel's headquarters at Apatzingán, a city of 100,000 which the militia has encircled, and possibly force the cartel out of the region.

"They can now break the infrastructure of a major cartel and execute a military plan the government doesn't have," says Alberto Islas, a Mexico City-based security analyst.

Francisco Castellanos, a local journalist who witnessed the takeover Sunday morning, said a group of roughly 70 pickup trucks arrived into the town at around 10:15 a.m. and let out more than 500 armed men.

They set up loudspeakers at throughout town and said: "Do not be scared, we are the self-defense groups, we will do you no harm," Mr. Castellanos said.

The group then marched into the Nueva Italia's main plaza and declared control of the town, Mr. Castellanos said. Many of the town's officials left.

A group of Mexican military, which haven't been interfering with the takeovers of cartel-claimed territory and have tacitly supported the militias, according to people in the area, allowed the squad to begin fighting alleged drug cartel members in the area.

Neither the military nor town officials could be reached for comment Sunday.

A cellphone video provided by a witness showed a clash, presumably between the militia and the drug cartel, as the town's shops quickly closed and citizens took cover. Automatic rifle shots could be heard along with screams in heavy fire.

A militia leader who identified himself as Comandante Tilán described the fight by phone, saying cartel members were stationed in the town plaza and retreated to homes where they fought the vigilantes.

But after a sustained firefight which injured one vigilante, the cartel retreated into armored vehicles and fled the town. "Everything is quiet here now," he said.

The government said Sunday it would convene an emergency meeting of top officials to decide how to respond to the situation. State Gov. Fausto Vallejo said in a statement that security forces would put the Templars cartel down with a firm hand. "We will go after them," he pledged.

Yet the gains of the self-defense groups show that, at least in Michoacán, it is the militias that have struck the sharpest blows against the drug cartels, and not the government or security forces.

The state, which lies only a few hours drive from Mexico City, once hosted crowds of foreign visitors in its colonial capital Morelia and in forests where Monarch butterflies gather during their annual migration. Today it has become one of Mexico's bloodiest terrains, particularly around the Tierra Caliente region, a rich agricultural area where the law is scarce.

The vigilantes' main target, the Knights Templar cartel, has increased its fortunes in recent years by demanding extortion money from local businesses and kidnapping residents for ransom, say townspeople and analysts.

Many avocado growers, lime farmers and cattlemen say they pay heavy extortion payments for so-called protection to the Templars. It was in this environment that the self-defense groups began to emerge in Michoacán, as well as neighboring Guerrero state, where private citizens took up arms.

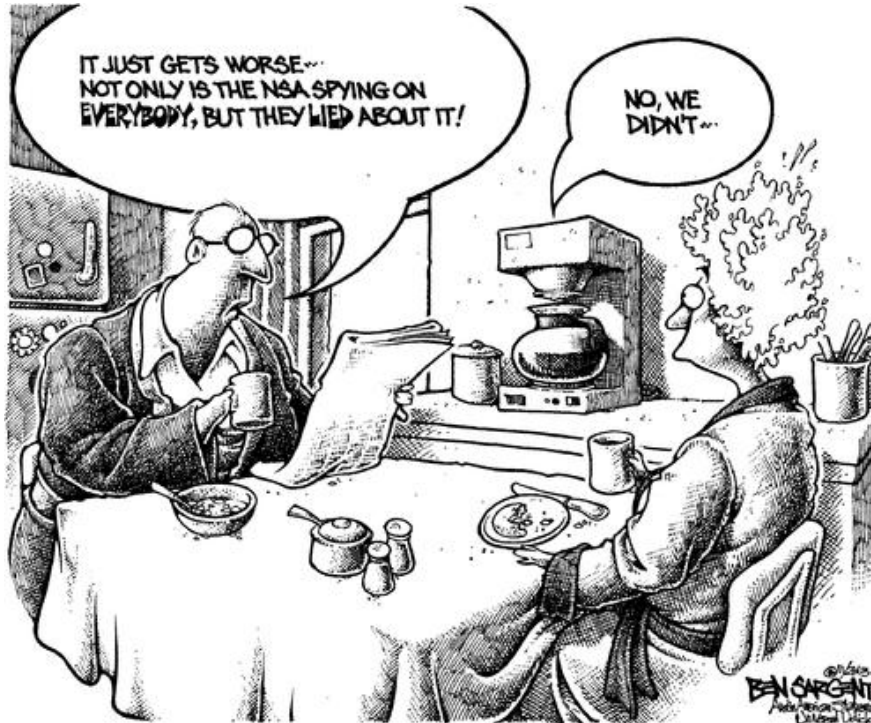
Mr. Islas, the security analyst, says the biggest test for the vigilante group will arrive in the coming weeks as it decides whether to lead an assault on the cartel's stronghold in Apatzingán, which the cartel is less likely to relinquish than Nueva Italia.

"Still, (the self-defense groups) are proving they have the know-how to do this kind of thing," he says.

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.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Obamacare -- Expensive, Low-Quality Health Insurance:

**The Affordable Care Act “Was
Written By The Medical Industry –
Those Same Big Corporations
That Profit From The Existing
Health Care System In The U.S.”**

**“The Only Thing This Reform
Extends Is What We Already Have – A
Health Care System Run By Private
Interests, For Their Own Profit”**

**“Enrollment Is So Low, Precisely
Because The Available Private Plans Are
So Expensive”**

This so-called health care “reform” is a continuation of what we had before – people, and all of us as a society – are paying more and more for health care, and getting less and less care.

Jan 6, 2014 The Spark Newspaper

The following comes from the text of a public presentation given in Los Angeles in November.

The health care reform, known as the Affordable Care Act, was the politicians’ promise to millions of Americans that they could now have adequate health insurance.

Nearly 50 million people in the U.S. are today without health insurance.

Eight million more are uninsured some period of time every year. And many are underinsured, people who have insurance but still spend a significant percentage of their income on health care –another 30 million.

Together, the uninsured and underinsured made up nearly half the U.S. adult population in 2012.

For those who can’t afford available insurance plans, the ACA promised subsidies for people and families whose income fell between 138% and 400% of the Federal Poverty

Level. For those below 138%, Medicaid, the federal aid program for the poor, would be expanded.

That was the promise.

On October 1, health exchanges in 16 states and D.C., and the federal exchange that serves the remaining 34 states, opened. Millions of people logged into the exchanges' websites to choose from among the insurance plans offered by private insurance companies.

The result was ... total chaos.

The websites, especially the federal website, kept crashing, and even when the websites worked, people who tried to pick up a plan and enroll didn't fully know their options.

The glitches and technical problems of the websites are symptoms of the real problem, not the cause.

There are 150 private insurance companies competing for each cent of premium from each applicant.

They are all trying to figure out how much to charge each applicant, checking age, residence, health care history, previous insurance, etc., etc.

Plus the computer systems of nine different government agencies are checking whether an applicant qualifies for a subsidy and how much.

So they ended up with a monstrosity of a website.

But the insurance companies made the chaos even worse – by cancelling existing policies right and left, to be able to sell these customers more expensive policies, using the new law as an excuse.

The number of cancelled policies reached millions – estimated at five million total.

Expensive, Low-Quality Health Insurance

By the end of 2013, four million of the eight million people eligible to do so had enrolled in Medicaid, while only two million enrolled through the federal and state sites for private insurance.

The enrollment is so low, precisely because the available private plans are so expensive!

Just to give some numbers, a family of two 41-year-old adults and an under-18 dependent, living in Glendale, California and making \$51,900 a year, qualifies for a federal subsidy.

But the cheapest bronze plan will cost this family about \$200 a month AFTER the federal subsidy (the plan costs \$476 a month without subsidy – and remember it's a bronze 60/40!).

So this family will have to pay \$2,400 a year, for a plan that dumps 40% of medical costs on the insured, has a \$5,000 annual deductible for medical expenses and drugs, and a \$60 co-pay for a primary care visit!

Glendale is not alone.

Now by law, everybody has to buy health insurance from a private company.

The ACA puts the responsibility of buying health insurance on the individual. The subsidies work to provide the medical industry with customers who can't afford medicine's outrageous prices.

But if you don't buy insurance? (Which many people probably will opt for because, even after the subsidy, the less expensive plans are worth practically nothing.)

You'll pay a fine, to be added to your taxes at the end of the year. In 2014, the fine is \$95 or 2.5% of the person's income, whichever is higher. And it will go up every year after that.

Note that this "individual mandate" takes the "responsibility" of providing health coverage from the shoulders of employers – a "responsibility" which they have been shedding more and more anyway.

So the medical industry has been losing customers in recent years, and in a big way.

In the three years between 2007 and 2010 alone, insurance companies lost 10 million customers in employer-sponsored plans, that is, one out of every six they had in 2007. That trend has been continuing – companies have been eliminating jobs, hours (full-time to part-time and on-call) and benefits to cut their own costs.

No surprise that the ACA was written by the medical industry – those same big corporations that profit from the existing health care system in the U.S. The only thing this reform extends is what we already have – a health care system run by private interests, for their own profit.

The subsidy is nothing but another government handout to big corporations that are already enormously profitable – a huge handout, as a matter of fact.

According to the New York Times, just the subsidies, paid directly to insurers from the U.S. Treasury, are expected to total more than one TRILLION dollars over 10 years!

Expanding Medicaid amounts to another big subsidy for companies that have a low-wage work force, such as Walmart and McDonald's, who will now be able to push even more of their workers into Medicaid, shifting costs onto taxpayers and increasing their profits.

Scrambling to Defend a Bad Law

Yes, the available insurance plans are all expensive, ACA supporters say, but at least insurance companies now have to provide essential health benefits, such as maternity, mental health, prescription drugs.

In fact, even with these minimum coverage requirements, the Obama administration admits that the least expensive plans are not worth buying. To people who qualify for the federal subsidy, the administration recommends to spend some money out of their pockets and buy a “silver” plan instead of a “bronze” that doesn’t really cover anything else but those “essentials,” saddled with high deductibles and co-pays.

OK, ACA supporters say, but now insurance companies don’t have a right to reject people with pre-existing conditions, as they have been doing.

Yes, but these people will still depend on the insurance companies. And those insurance companies are already undermining the care their new customers will get, even before the customers buy the policies. They severely restrict provider networks. People will not get the care they need, whether insurance companies call the way their body functions a “pre-existing condition” or not.

As a whole, the ACA makes us all pay a very steep price for health care.

Precarious Coverage

People who qualify for the federal subsidy will find their subsidy status will change as they move in and out of jobs. Many will actually have to pay the credit back, and pay more in premiums too. A study published in Health Affairs magazine in September estimated that 38%, or more than one in three, of families that qualify for federal premium subsidies will have to repay some portion of the subsidy, with a median repayment of \$857.

People who supposedly qualify for the expanded Medicaid, if they live in the 25 states that did NOT expand Medicaid, won’t have any coverage. Even where Medicaid is available to people, there is the problem of eligibility.

Eligibility will change by the month. Another study in Health Affairs found that in over a year 50% of people will be tossed in and out of Medicaid because their eligibility will change.

The people who newly qualify for Medicaid will be entering a system hit by big budget cuts in recent years. Medicaid recipients have already been paying higher co-pays and premiums. Medi-Cal, California’s program, underwent some severe cuts in recent years. In 2011, Governor Jerry Brown cut Medi-Cal reimbursements across the board to providers – a move that needed, and got, the approval of the Obama administration. As a result, only 57% of California physicians accept new Medi-Cal patients.

And this cut, made and approved by Democrats, followed the cuts made about five years ago by the then-governor, the Republican Schwarzenegger, which restricted different

types of care for Medi-Cal patients, such as vision and dental, and imposed higher co-pays and premiums too.

Finally, if you have employer-sponsored health insurance – things will change for you also, in the same direction they have been changing already. Companies, and also the public sector, have been eliminating benefits aggressively in recent years.

This “reform” gives employers incentives to dump more workers from health benefits. IBM and Time Warner are already pushing retirees to private exchanges. Trader Joe’s and Home Depot are shifting part-time workers to ACA exchanges, while Walgreens is moving all of its employees – all 160,000 of them – to a private exchange next year.

The ACA is providing the companies with a justification for reducing benefits: the so-called “Cadillac tax.”

This ACA, which has nothing to say about controlling the cost of insurance plans on the exchanges, claims to deal with the cost issue with a 40% tax on “Cadillac” (sometimes also called “gold-plated”) insurance plans.

Now, what exactly constitutes a Cadillac plan? Is this the kind of plan that millionaires and corporate executives have, as the name suggests? Well no, a Cadillac plan can easily be the plan that a retired worker has, because the ACA defines Cadillac status by the amount of premiums – and insurance companies charge high premiums if you are older.

This tax doesn’t go into effect until 2018; but 2018 is already here, because insurance companies are already using the Cadillac tax as an excuse to increase deductibles and other out-of-pocket costs (as a way to reduce premiums, they say). Of course, companies have been doing all these things already, for years.

Workers Pay More, Health Companies Profit More

This so-called health care “reform” is a continuation of what we had before – people, and all of us as a society – are paying more and more for health care, and getting less and less care.

Workers who have coverage have been paying more and more for it. Last year alone, workers’ share of the cost of a family policy jumped an average of 14%, an increase of about \$500 a year – while the cost of a policy increased just 3%.

From 2000 to 2011, U.S. health care spending increased from \$1.6 trillion to \$2.7 trillion, amounting to 17.9% of the U.S. GDP in 2011.

And for all this spending, the amount of health care the U.S. population gets is declining.

A 2012 survey found that a total of 80 million Americans did not get care that year because of the cost; 75 million had difficulty paying medical bills; and, over two years, 4 million went bankrupt as a result.


So if all this money we are paying is not going to health care – where is it going? To profits, of course – and for the entire capitalist class. Insurance companies – that's finance, that is, Wall Street. And as in every sector of the industry, big medical corporations are intertwined – the big shareholders in the big companies are the same big capitalists.

The capital class seeks to profit off of sickness, like it does off of everything else. But access to medical care is literally a question of life or death.

Like food, air, or water, people need health care to live, and human beings deserve the right to these things without going through capitalist middle-men.

When the working class starts to move and deal with the problems this sick capitalist system has created, making sure everyone has the right to medical care will be high on the list.

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Terrorism Charges Faced By Oklahoma Fossil Fuel Protesters Who “Dropped Glitter At An Oil And Gas Company’s Office In Oklahoma” Glitter “Began Drifting Towards The Floor”



Two environmental protesters are under investigation on terror charges in Oklahoma after unfurling this Hunger Games tribute banner in the lobby of the offices housing oil and gas company Devon Energy on 13 December 2013. Photograph: gptarsandsresistance.org

10 January 2014 by Suzanne Goldenberg, The Guardian

The terror charges facing two environmental protesters who unfurled a banner and dropped glitter at an oil and gas company’s office in Oklahoma are "outrageous" and "egregious", according to the lawyer representing them.

The authorities have already collected about 100 reports, including witness statements, surveillance video and other evidence to support the charges of terrorism hoax against the two protesters, Oklahoma city police told the Guardian.

The charge, which carries a maximum penalty of 10 years, has yet to be confirmed by the Oklahoma city district attorney.

If the charges do go ahead, it would be the first such use of Oklahoma's "terrorism hoax" statute in recent memory.

But the application of anti-terror statutes to a peaceful protest by barely a dozen activists has already caused outrage. Police concede there were no injuries in the protest.

"I have seen some pretty egregious stuff in my day, but these kind of charges are just outrageous and they are certainly the most egregious that I have seen," said Douglas Parr, lawyer for the two activists. "There is just no way the facts justify filing those charges."

Moriah Stephenson, 27, a waitress and graduate student, and Stefan Warner, 26, a youth pastor turned full-time organizer for the Great Plains Tar Sands Resistance, were part of a small group of about a dozen activists at the glass office tower housing Devon Energy on 13 December.

Devon, which is based in Oklahoma, is a leading player in oil and natural gas drilling and also has interests in Alberta's tar sands and the Keystone XL pipeline.

As the protest got under way, Stephenson and Warner broke off from the group, and made their way to the second floor overlooking the large public atrium.

They had no intention of getting arrested, Stephenson said. She had to study for finals. "Our plan was to do something safe," she said.

They quickly unfurled their banner, a red sheet with a gold mockingjay symbol and the words "The odds are never in our favor" – references from the Hunger Games books and films.

But to the protesters' dismay the glitter came unstuck, and began drifting towards the floor.

After a few uneventful minutes, Stephenson and Warner took down the banner and left the building – apologising to the janitor who came hurrying over with a broom.

A few people, clutching coffee cups, wandered around in the lobby below, according to Stephenson. But she did not detect much of a response to the banner. There wasn't even that much mess, she said. The pair had used just four small tubes of glitter on their two banners.

"A lot of people when they heard about it they imagined buckets of glitter being dumped on people running and screaming, and chaos and panic," Stephenson said. "It wasn't chaos and panic at all. It was a pretty boring protest until the police showed up and decided to make a big deal of everything."

But that was not how it was seen by either Devon Energy or the Oklahoma city police. According to the arrest report, a Devon security representative notified police of the protest and "an unknown black powdery substance".

"They seemed to be staging some type of protest," the report said. "There was fear the substance spilled out could have possibly been a hazardous material."

Captain Dexter Nelson, an Oklahoma city police spokesman, went even further, saying the glitter had set off a panic.

He said residents still carried the psychological scars of the 1995 Oklahoma city bombing, when 169 people were killed and hundreds more injured.

"From the totality of the incident when they unveiled the banners and this black powder went flying through the air, all of the people who saw it deemed that it had to be something dangerous or toxic and went into a panic," Nelson said. "From what I was told people were running around and thinking that it was something dangerous."

Nelson also said the protesters were covered in faeces – a claim the protesters and Parr denied.

"At least one of the individuals had faeces on their clothing and they were dressed alike," Nelson said. "They looked like homeless people. They looked like some of our regular downtown transient."

He went on: "There was at least one individual that I saw she had it on her pants and her shoes," he said.

Parr, who was at the tower that morning, was outraged. "Any comment that either one of those people was covered in faeces is an absolute, unmitigated lie," he said.

In addition to terrorism hoax, Stephenson was charged with disorderly conduct, causing panic, and trespass. Warner was also charged with trespassing and disorderly conduct.

Two other protesters who had locked themselves to the doors of the building were also arrested. Cory Matthis and Caroline McNally face trespassing charges.

The final decision on a "terrorism hoax" prosecution now rests with the Oklahoma city district attorney, David Prater. He said he was still awaiting the full police report.

For Stephenson and Warner, however, the episode was evidence of a pro-industry bias in the heart of America's oil and natural gas boom.

"It sends a message to other activists that the price of dissent is very high," said Stephenson.

Warner said: "It's just a reminder of the consolidation of power between the state and private industry."

Prater rejected both arguments. "The information that some company or coalition of companies has trained law enforcement or in some way convinced law enforcement to use terror statues to go after peaceful protesters that is just not factual," he said. "That is not true in our jurisdiction. We are not under any influence at all from anyone."

Police Send Bomb Squad To Teen's House After He Doodles A Superhero With Flaming Glove: "The Kid Was Then Sent To A Juvenile Detention Center For 16 Days"

"Upon Release He Was Placed On House Arrest And Had To Wear An Ankle Bracelet For 5 Months"

January 13, 2014 Courthouse News

New Jersey high school officials and police sent a bomb squad to a disabled student's home and arrested him after seeing his doodles of a superhero glove with a flame coming out of it, the boy's parents claim in court.

The parents, K.J. and T.J., sued the Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School District Board of Education, the school superintendent, principal, other administrators and teacher, that Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office, the Galloway Police Department, et al., in Federal Court.

Their son, K.J. Jr., has Asperger's syndrome and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, the parents say in the 36-page lawsuit.

He is, however, "a very gifted child in the areas of chemistry and engineering and likes to do experiments, fix things, build, create, and draw," according to the complaint.

"K.J. expresses himself through his drawings," his parents say. "He doodles at school and that helps him concentrate and focus in class. His IEPs (individual education plans - required by law for students with disabilities) note that he doodles and draws in class."

The fiasco described in this lawsuit began on Dec. 17, 2102 - three days after the massacre at a Newtown, Conn. elementary school.

On Dec. 17, K.J.'s parents say, his geometry teacher, a defendant, "notice a drawing of a spaceman that K.J. was sketching during class."

Late the next day, "K.J. was humiliated when he was called out of class by a school resource officer and the vice principal ... who also served as the director of special education, and K.J. was taken to the vice principal's office," the complaint states.

K.J. parents claim the vice principal "manipulated" their son into showing him the superhero sketch, "coerce(ing)" the boy into believe that he "was genuinely interested in his artwork."

The superhero glove with a flame coming out of it was "an updated version of a drawing" he had been doodling with for two years. What's more, he did it at home, not at school, his parents say.

"Based solely on this coerced review of K.J.'s drawings in his sketchbook," he was held in the office and the vice principal, defendant Michael McGhee, called police the family says.

Sent to the family home along with police were the Fire Department, emergency medical workers and a bomb squad.

The school also summoned bomb-sniffing dogs to go through the campus "causing panic in school and among the community," the complaint states.

Police who searched the family home found "household items such as wires, thermite chemical and some switches , many of which were part of K.J.'s science and engineering homework," according to the lawsuit.

The kid was then sent to a juvenile detention center for 16 days, where he was strip searched and cavity searched.

Upon release he was placed on house arrest and had to wear an ankle bracelet for 5 months. He was cleared of criminal charges at or before trial. The school tried to expel him, and still refuses to let him return to class.

The school district also "harassed, intimidated, bullied, retaliated against, and cyber-bullied K.J.," his parents say in the lawsuit.

The family seeks actual damages, statutory damages and punitive damages on 12 counts, including malicious prosecution, intentional infliction of emotional distress, denial of education, discrimination, constitutional violations, deprivation of freedom, harassment, state and federal civil rights violations, and defamation.

Defendants include school superintendent Steve Ciccariello, Cedar Creek High School principal James Reina, and a host of others.

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