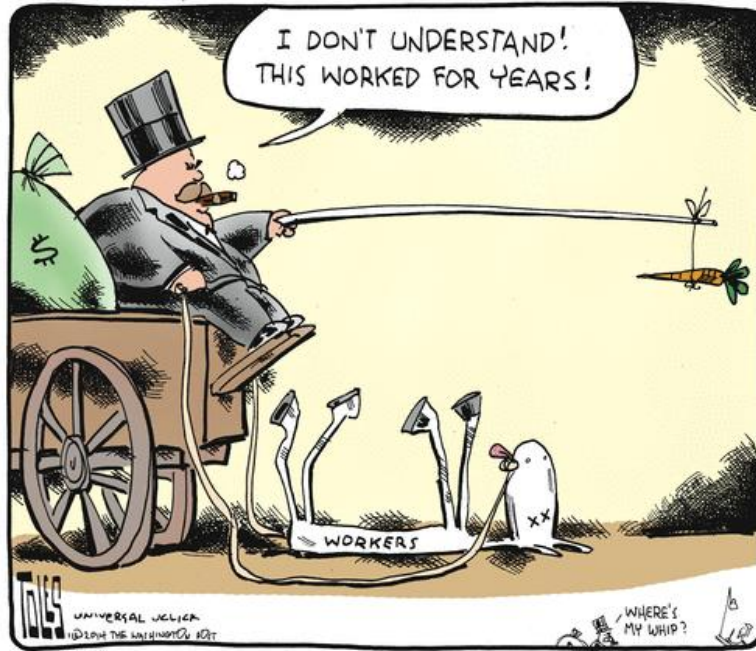


Military Resistance 12A21



Dual Power Emerging In The Ukraine:

“Many Protesters Who Occupied Local Administration And Council Buildings Declared Loyalty To The People’s Council, Set Up By The Opposition In Kiev”

“In Cities Across Ukraine, Crowds Stormed Local Government Buildings In Recent Days, Shouting, ‘Get The

Gang Out!' And 'Get The Criminal Out!'"

“When One Man Entered The Building To Ask Police Not To Assault Protesters, An Officer Wearing A Black Helmet Told Him: ‘We’re With The People.’ They Then Embraced”

In Revolt

Tens of thousands of Ukrainians have seized local administration buildings in regions across the country. Many have set up alternative local councils loyal to the opposition’s People’s Council in Kiev.



- Local government buildings held by antigovernment protesters
- Local government buildings besieged by mass antigovernment protests
- Antigovernment protests of at least several hundred
- No reports of large antigovernment protests

The Wall Street Journal

After the speeches Saturday night, protesters smashed windows and tossed Molotov cocktails in an attack on a convention center nearby where they said riot police were hiding out in preparation for an attack.

They eventually called a truce and allowed police, who were outnumbered, to leave.

Jan. 26, 2014 By James Marson, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts] Alan Cullison and Katya Gorchinskaya contributed to this article.

Tens of thousands of protesters across Ukraine besieged government facilities and dug in at local administrations buildings they are occupying in several regional capitals....

A defeat for Mr. Yanukovich could send a powerful signal within Russia, whose tough antiprotest laws and security tactics seem to have served as a model for his response to the demonstrations.

The Ukrainian president this month introduced laws mirroring Russian legislation that strictly curbs dissent, and authorities began a brutal crackdown on protesters that left three dead and hundreds injured.

But the crackdown and the laws triggered uprisings across Ukraine in recent days that appear to have thwarted Mr. Yanukovich's attempt to take a more authoritarian grip on this country of some 46 million.

The Kremlin, which has endorsed the crackdown and Mr. Yanukovich's labeling of protesters as radicals, must now be worried, said Steven Pifer, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington.

"It is hard to see how they can influence the situation now. It has gotten out of hand and they don't have any levers to pull," said Mr. Pifer, a former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine.

On Saturday, Mr. Yanukovich for the first time offered significant concessions, including appointing two opposition leaders to the government.

"No deal," read a post Sunday on the Twitter account of opposition leader Arseniy Yatsenyuk, who was offered the job of prime minister as part of the president's concessions.

"We're finishing what we started. The people decide our leaders, not you."

Protests evolved into a broader outcry against official corruption, police brutality and the president's authoritarian turn.

Protesters are also angered by the passing of laws this month that strictly curb dissent and mirror Russian legislation. Repealing them is a key demand.

"Mr. Yanukovych doesn't have the money or the strength" to institute a Russian-style authoritarian regime, said Andrew Wilson, senior fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations.

The uprisings in recent days started in Ukraine's west, where Mr. Yanukovych is most unpopular.

The mayor of Lviv, a major center of dissent, said the new laws wouldn't apply there.

Protests have even spread to regions east of Kiev that for years have been loyal to Mr. Yanukovych.

In cities across Ukraine, crowds stormed local government buildings in recent days, shouting, "Get the gang out!" and "Get the criminal out!" a reference to the two prison terms Mr. Yanukovych served in his youth for theft and assault.

Many protesters who occupied local administration and council buildings declared loyalty to the People's Council, set up by the opposition in Kiev.

The opposition and analysts credit the new fronts outside the capital as forcing Mr. Yanukovych, who for weeks has largely ignored the protests in the capital, to change tack.

"Yanukovych's mood was very different. He was not the same as two days ago," Oleh Tyahybok, a nationalist leader who heads one of the three main opposition parties, told the crowd on Kiev's central square after talks on Saturday.

The president's offer, which came in a three-hour meeting with the three main opposition leaders on Saturday, also includes a promise to consider rolling back constitutional changes that handed him more power, a potential amnesty for protesters if they clear the streets and possible release for protesters detained on the front lines in recent days.

The opposition said it wanted actions, not promises, as it didn't trust him to keep his word.

The mood on the square in Kiev was defiant on Sunday.

After the speeches Saturday night, protesters smashed windows and tossed Molotov cocktails in an attack on a convention center nearby where they said riot police were hiding out in preparation for an attack.

They eventually called a truce and allowed police, who were outnumbered, to leave. One group of activists occupied the Justice Ministry late Sunday.

The attack reflects a growing militancy among protesters. Hundreds of men armed with clubs and makeshift shields stand at barricades to defend the Kiev camp, which covers the square and several connected roads.

In the country's east on Sunday, thousands of protesters in Zaporizhya and Dnipropetrovsk surrounded city administration buildings.

In a sign of increasing unity across Ukraine, hard-core soccer fans known here as "Ultras" pledged to protect protesters from police in many cities.

In Volyn in the country's west, the city's governor, a presidential appointee, knelt briefly before hundreds of protesters asking them not to storm the building, according to video shared by protesters online.

When one man entered the building to ask police not to assault protesters, an officer wearing a black helmet told him: "We're with the people. We're Ukrainians." They then embraced. The governor later resigned.

In Poltava, the local police chief halted an attempt to storm the governor's offices by taking off his hat and singing the national anthem, local news agencies reported. Protesters seized the building later.

Some attacks on buildings were less peaceful. In Vinnytsia, protesters stormed the regional administration, spraying fire extinguishers and tossing wooden chairs at riot police.

MORE:

Ukrainian Regime Moves To Split Opposition Leadership With Limited Concessions



Activists build a barricade in central Kiev, Ukraine, on Sunday. Associated Press

Jan. 27, 2014 by James Marson, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

KIEV, Ukraine—President Viktor Yanukovich moved to ease the antigovernment protests sweeping Ukraine that are threatening his rule, agreeing to repeal antidissent laws and hold a vote of no confidence in the government.

But the concessions, announced by his justice minister after a fourth round of talks with opposition leaders on Monday, remain far short of protesters' main demand for snap presidential elections.

Thousands also protested on Sunday in some eastern regions where Mr. Yanukovich used to enjoy strong support. Riot police and men wielding sticks brutally dispersed crowds there.

But a permanent solution appears distant, as many protesters demand nothing less than Mr. Yanukovich's ouster.

Opposition leader Vitali Klitschko said after the meeting that Mr. Yanukovich was out of touch.

People around the president "assure him that everything's fine and that what's happening in society at the moment is made up by a small number of extremists," Mr. Klitschko said.

Protesters on Monday withdrew from the Justice Ministry, which they had seized in the capital hours earlier, as tensions between opposition factions deepened.

Common Cause, a civic organization outside the mainstream political opposition, has seized three ministries in recent days, saying it was upping the ante in response to last week's brutal crackdown on protesters by riot police, which left at least three protesters dead and hundreds injured.

Opposition parties talked group members out of the building on Monday, saying their action was causing unnecessary confrontation after the Justice Minister threatened to advise the president to break off talks and introduce a state of emergency.

The U.S. also criticized the seizing of the ministry.

The episode reflects the opposition's difficult task of trying to satisfy demands for tough action among protesters angry at the police crackdown while not provoking authorities in Kiev into a harsher response.

Activists from Common Cause, led by 32-year-old lawyer Oleksandr Danylyuk, late Sunday seized the Justice Ministry, around 200 yards from the main square where thousands of protesters have camped out for weeks.

Common Cause agreed to leave the Justice Ministry after the occupation threatened to derail opposition talks with Mr. Yanukovich, who on Saturday made his first significant concessions, including offering top government posts to two

opposition leaders. The opposition rejected these overtures, saying they didn't go far enough.

Oleksei Kaida, a lawmaker from the nationalist Svoboda party, oversaw Common Cause's withdrawal, along with around a dozen men in helmets and carrying clubs who guarded the entrance to the ministry until it was handed over to authorities. "Seizing a building has to have an aim," he said. "There's no aim here."

The Justice Ministry said freeing the building was "a positive step" for talks.

Undeterred, Mr. Danylyuk called for more government buildings to be blocked on Tuesday if the government didn't give ground.

The ministries are within the zone in central Kiev that demonstrators have gradually expanded since protests started in November.

After one opposition lawmaker on Monday called Common Cause "provocateurs," Mr. Danylyuk hit back in a Facebook post: "Our peaceful capture of ministries isn't a provocation, but your absurd 150 rallies without a plan of action that have led to our guys being killed and kidnapped in the street."

MORE:

**“The Ukrainian Parliament,
Passed A Series Of Laws
Directed At Limiting Freedom Of
Speech And Citizens’ Right To
Peaceful Protest”**

**“One Of The Approved Items Is
The Infamous Amendment To The
Criminal Code Which Bans So-
Called ‘Extremism’”**

**“In This Amendment ‘Inciting Social
Discord’ Is Defined As ‘Extremism’”**

“Therefore The Activities Of Left, Trade Union And Social Activists In Ukraine Can Be Criminalized To A Large Extent”

01/18/2014 Autonomous Workers Union – Kyiv, Hirinict

To the members of GUE/NGL faction in the European Parliament,

Dear comrades:

We, the members of leftist, trade union and human rights organizations in Ukraine, as well as individual activists, would like to draw your attention to the recent events in our country.

On Thursday, 16th of January 2014 without the discussion and contrary to its own regulations and to the Constitution of Ukraine, the Ukrainian parliament, passed a series of laws directed at limiting freedom of speech and citizens' right to peaceful protest.

One of the approved items is the infamous amendment to the Criminal Code which bans so-called “extremism”.

In this amendment “inciting social discord” is defined as “extremism”.

It is clear that any kind of drawing attention to social problems, to the blatant inequality that exists in Ukrainian society, can be qualified as “inciting social discord”, therefore the activities of left, trade union and social activists in Ukraine can be criminalized to a large extent.

The Communist Party of Ukraine (CPU) plays a particularly shameful part in these events. Not only did the Communist Party's faction unanimously voted for the repressive bills, but the CPU official website also features materials that condemn the recent protests as being inspired by foreign actors with the aim of destabilizing Ukraine. Spreading such opinion, the CPU in fact fulfills the task of the whitewashing of Yanukovich's regime.

It is true that open anti-communists do play a significant role on Maidan, but this anti-communism is caused mostly by the arrogant position of the Communist Party itself.

It is not the first time the CPU has tried to de-legitimize civil protests and adopted a conservative position.

In addition to this, in the country that suffered the catastrophic losses caused by hunger and repressions during the Stalinist regime, the CPU refuses to condemn the actions of the USSR's leaders or at least apologize for them, which makes socialist ideas less popular in Ukrainian society.

Yanukovich's regime has demonstrated its readiness for repressions. It is evident today that the CPU will use its international connections in order to justify this regime's actions.

That is why we believe that the left all around the world and especially in the European Union must terminate any relations with the Communist Party of Ukraine and condemn its actions.

We believe that the party that treats popular uprisings with open hatred, the party that speaks out against "inciting social discord", is not fit to be called communist or leftist and is "communist" in name only.

We ask you to bring this letter to the attention of the leadership of the parties which are members of your Union.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

5 Afghan Border Police Killed By Insider Attack

Jan. 27 (Xinhua)

HERAT, Afghanistan --

Five Afghan border policemen were killed in a so-called insider attack in Kushk-i- Kuhna district of western Afghanistan's Herat province over, sources said on Monday.

"According to initial reports, a member of Afghan Border Police (ABP) named Bismillah was involved in shooting incident in a border outpost in the district, northern of provincial capital of Herat city midnight, killing five cops," a provincial ABP senior official Juma Gul Adil told Xinhua.

The attacker reportedly fled and joined the Taliban insurgent group in the district bordering Turkmenistan, sources said.

More Resistance Action

Jan 26 2014 Khaama Press & DPA

A bomber targeted an air force bus in the Afghan capital Kabul. Two Army officers and were killed and 22 others wounded as a result.

"The bomber on foot blew himself up next to an Army staff bus in (the) eastern part of Kabul," the police confirmed.

Taliban insurgents claimed responsibility for the suicide bombing, saying that 27 officers had been killed.

At least two Afghan police officers were killed following an explosion in eastern Khost province of Afghanistan on Sunday.

A spokesman for the provincial security commandment, Habibullah, said the incident took place in Karwan Sara area of Khost province on Sunday morning.

Mr. Habibullah further added that a remote controlled improvised explosive device (IED), which was planted in a police vehicle was detonated, which left two police officers dead.

He also added that two other police officers were also injured following the explosion.



The wreckage of a bus hit by an attack in Kabul on Jan 26, 2014. A Taliban bomber targeted a Ministry of Defence bus, officials said, confirming three people in the vehicle and one female bystander had died. -- PHOTO: REUTERS

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Al-Shabaab Insurgents Carry Out Daring Daylight Attack Today In Mogadishu's Huriwaa District:

“This Is The First Time Al-Shabaab Carry Out An Attack During Broad Day Light In This Area”

January 26, 2014 by: Mursal; Harar24

Mogadishu – At least five soldiers are believed to have been killed after Al-Shabaab militants staged an attack in the SOS area of Mogadishu’s Huriwaa district today.

The attack occurred around 11 am today at a check point set up recently between the SOS area & the “Ex-Control” area and lasted for a few minutes before the militants escaped.

One local resident said: “This is the first time Al-Shabaab carry out an attack during broad day light in this area even though they have been carrying out nightly raids, but today’s attack was unusual. It’s reminiscent to when Al-Shabaab would attack Ethiopians during the day in Mogadishu”.

The Huriwaa district is one of the most attacked areas in Mogadishu by Al-Shabaab, and it’s residents are often accused of being “Al-Shabaab sympathizers”, although residents dismiss such claims they are often arrested and interrogated by authorities.

Several eyewitnesses claim that the militants arrived in a car, carried out the attack and then used the same car as a getaway car.

“I heard the tires screech and suddenly around six armed men came out the vehicle and began opening fire on the checkpoint. After a few minutes of exchanging fire they escaped with their vehicle” said one of the eyewitnesses. “I later on saw two dead soldiers being carried away” she further commented.

The attack comes after Al-Shabaab militants attacked a police station situated in the Hodan district of Mogadishu. Both today and last night’s attacks come amidst of wave of attacks perpetrated by Al-Shabaab inside Mogadishu after the leadership of the group threatened to bolster their attacks inside the capital city.

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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**

Letter From A Freedman To His Old Master

[Thanks to Scot Peden for posting.]

From: THE FREEDMEN'S BOOK, By L. MARIA CHILD; BOSTON: TICKNOR AND FIELDS; 1865.

Dayton, Ohio, August 7, 1865.

To my old Master, Colonel P. H. Anderson, Big Spring, Tennessee.

Sir: I got your letter, and was glad to find that you had not forgotten Jourdon, and that you wanted me to come back and live with you again, promising to do better for me than anybody else can.

I have often felt uneasy about you. I thought the Yankees would have hung you long before this, for harboring Rebs they found at your house.

I suppose they never heard about your going to Colonel Martin's to kill the Union soldier that was left by his company in their stable.

Although you shot at me twice before I left you, I did not want to hear of your being hurt, and am glad you are still living.

It would do me good to go back to the dear old home again, and see Miss Mary and Miss Martha and Allen, Esther, Green, and Lee. Give my love to them all, and tell them I hope we will meet in the better world, if not in this. I would have gone back to see you all when I was working in the Nashville Hospital, but one of the neighbors told me that Henry intended to shoot me if he ever got a chance.

I want to know particularly what the good chance is you propose to give me.

I am doing tolerably well here. I get twenty-five dollars a month, with victuals and clothing; have a comfortable home for Mandy,—the folks call her Mrs. Anderson,—and the children—Milly, Jane, and Grundy—go to school and are learning well.

The teacher says Grundy has a head for a preacher. They go to Sunday school, and Mandy and me attend church regularly. We are kindly treated. Sometimes we overhear others saying, "Them colored people were slaves" down in Tennessee. The children feel hurt when they hear such remarks; but I tell them it was no disgrace in Tennessee to belong to Colonel Anderson. Many darkeys would have been proud, as I used to be, to call you master.

Now if you will write and say what wages you will give me, I will be better able to decide whether it would be to my advantage to move back again.

As to my freedom, which you say I can have, there is nothing to be gained on that score, as I got my free papers in 1864 from the Provost-Marshal-General of the Department of Nashville.

Mandy says she would be afraid to go back without some proof that you were disposed to treat us justly and kindly; and we have concluded to test your sincerity by asking you to send us our wages for the time we served you.

This will make us forget and forgive old scores, and rely on your justice and friendship in the future.

I served you faithfully for thirty-two years, and Mandy twenty years.

At twenty-five dollars a month for me, and two dollars a week for Mandy, our earnings would amount to eleven thousand six hundred and eighty dollars.

Add to this the interest for the time our wages have been kept back, and deduct what you paid for our clothing, and three doctor's visits to me, and pulling a tooth for Mandy, and the balance will show what we are in justice entitled to.

Please send the money by Adams's Express, in care of V. Winters, Esq., Dayton, Ohio.

If you fail to pay us for faithful labors in the past, we can have little faith in your promises in the future.

We trust the good Maker has opened your eyes to the wrongs which you and your fathers have done to me and my fathers, in making us toil for you for generations without recompense.

Here I draw my wages every Saturday night; but in Tennessee there was never any pay-day for the negroes any more than for the horses and cows.

Surely there will be a day of reckoning for those who defraud the laborer of his hire.

In answering this letter, please state if there would be any safety for my Milly and Jane, who are now grown up, and both good-looking girls.

You know how it was with poor Matilda and Catherine.

I would rather stay here and starve — and die, if it come to that — than have my girls brought to shame by the violence and wickedness of their young masters.

You will also please state if there has been any schools opened for the colored children in your neighborhood.

The great desire of my life now is to give my children an education, and have them form virtuous habits.

Say howdy to George Carter, and thank him for taking the pistol from you when you were shooting at me.

From your old servant,
Jourdon Anderson.

General Mattis Crosses Potomac With 100,000 Troops; President, Senate Flee City



December 24, 2013 By Dick Scuttlebutt, Duffel Blog

WASHINGTON — In an unprecedented turn in American history, retired Marine Gen. James Mattis, several years after being dismissed by the President and exiled to his estate in the countryside, marched on the national capitol early Tuesday morning with an army over one hundred thousand strong.

This number includes at least ten infantry legions, several aviation and artillery legions, and multiple cavalry cohorts.

“I come in peace, by myself, in order to hand-deliver a Memorandum of Concern to the Commander in Chief and the Senate,” said Mattis in a press conference. “I am moving on foot at a leisurely pace, with no ill will. If these American citizens choose to take a stroll with me, then who am I to turn down their companionship?”

The contents of the so-called memorandum are unknown, but are rumored by Mattis’ close advisors to contain paragraphs addressing unconstitutional acts by the administration and the Senate.

Alarmed by the amassing of troops sympathetic to Mattis over the last week at Fort Myer, the Senate, the President, and various generals attempted to recall various combat divisions to Washington to defend the city. These included the 101st Airborne, 82nd Airborne, 10th Mountain, and 3rd Infantry Divisions, in addition to the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force.

“We even attempted to contact NAVSURFLANT and SUBLANT,” confided one Senate aide as he packed his Datsun to flee northward. “All we got was laughter and then static.”

The summoned units all either ignored their movement orders, or by the next morning had joined forces with Mattis’ ad-hoc command. Mattis was apparently done waiting, and crossed the Potomac on landing craft, escorted by an honor guard from MARSOC.

After setting fire to the National Archives and sabotaging key infrastructure, the cabinet and most members of the Senate fled north toward New York and Boston in cars, vans and whatever other vehicles they could commandeer.

The President has not been seen since early yesterday morning, but sources inside the State Department confirm that he is on a scheduled goodwill trip to Egypt, which was kept from the press for safety reasons. His travel schedule has not been released to pool reporters.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Zionist Occupation Troops Kill Palestinian Youth In North Gaza, As Usual



MEMO Photographer: Mohammed Asad

24 January 2014 The Middle East Monitor

Israeli forces killed 20 year old Bilal Samir today Friday in the Jabaliya area, north of the Gaza Strip. The victim was part of a peaceful demonstration by young men in the buffer zone imposed by the Israeli occupation forces.

The soldiers regularly open fire on farmers along the border.

Seven other young men were wounded, three by live bullets. They were all transported to the Kamal Udwan hospital in Gaza.

Hundreds of residents attended the funeral of the deceased after his family had paid their last respects.

One Of Israel's Last Remaining Jews Dies:

**“Not An Hour, Not A Day, Not A
Minute Goes By Without The Cold-
Hearted Trampling Of Human
Rights In Israel”**

**“Land Is Stolen, Refugees Are Round
Up And Thrown Into Prison, And All
In The Name Of What?”**

“Jewish Survival?”

January 24, 2014 by Jerry Haber, Magnes Zionist

Today I woke up to the news that Shulamit Aloni had passed away.

Aloni was of a generation that was brought up with the notion that to be a Jew was to be a moral human being.

Judaism was encapsulated for her in the ethical humanism of the prophets, in the social justice of the Hebrews. She truly felt that the Bible preached this justice not only to Jews but to all people. “Man is beloved for he is born in the image of God,” and that image is one of justice and mercy.

She was a Zionist, to be sure, and she loved the Jewish people. But because she loved them, she chastised and castigated them when they failed to live up to their own standards.

She realized, of course, that much of Biblical morality was unacceptable, but she felt, as do I, that there were fundamentals of Biblical morality that can and should be extended beyond what the Bible intended.

She occasionally called upon the rabbinic interpretation, but she was of a generation that lived and breathed the Bible, whole sections of which she knew by heart. She was able to pass that on to her own children, but her generation was not as fortunate.

Aloni lived long enough to see the creation of the amoral Jew as an ideal, the proud Jewish nationalist who saw morality as a luxury that a besieged people like the Jews could little afford.

She cried out repeatedly against this trend. Like many of her generation, she saw the rise of religious fundamentalism and ultra-nationalism as a threat to what had been the redeeming features of a society that she felt had much to repent for. She did not go into politics to make money and taste the high life, as so many of the Israel's recent leaders have done.

Not a suggestion of corruption was ever associated with her.

Where is the Judaism of my youth? Not an hour, not a day, not a minute goes by without the cold-hearted trampling of human rights in Israel.

Land is stolen, refugees are round up and thrown into prison, and all in the name of what? Jewish survival?

Hello, are there any Jews left?

Well, yes there is the surviving remnant, and the list is not short.

They are the human rights activists harassed on the West Bank, the citizenship teachers hauled up before committees after rightwing students complain that they are being political, the defenders of Africa refugees rights, the educators of Jewish values.

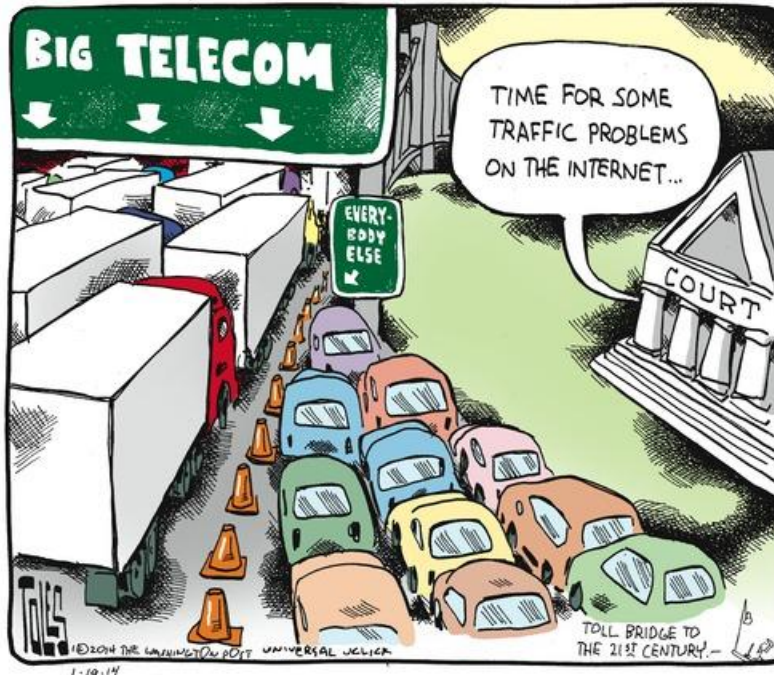
Real Jewish values. The children of Aloni.

We are left orphaned by the passing of a hero of Israel.

May the memory of this tzadeket/righteous person be for a blessing.

[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."]

CLASS WAR REPORTS



**49 Killed In Protests On Third Anniversary Of Egyptian Revolution:
Supporters Of Mohamed Morsi, As Well As Activists Opposed To Authoritarianism Of Morsi And General Sisi, Take Part In Protests;
“Fierce Clashes Raged In Several Neighbourhoods Across The**

Country, With Armoured Police Vehicles Charging At Protesters In Downtown Cairo”

“1,079 People Arrested”

He said: "It's been seven months now and the killing and the massacres continue. And all this will turn a patient person into an impatient one. People feel they're going to be killed – and you can't calm those people down."

Many expect tensions to rise further in the coming days.

"God willing we will get our revenge," screamed a shaking Naget Mostafa on Sunday evening, as the corpse of her dead brother, Abdallah, was carried out of the Zeinhom morgue.

26 January 2014 by Patrick Kingsley in Cairo, Guardian News and Media Limited
[Excerpts]

Standing in the forecourt of Cairo's Zeinhom mortuary, waiting to pick up the corpse of his friend, Amr Hussein could scarcely believe he was there.

"I thought we were done with this," said Hussein, 23. "I thought the revolution would be the start of a new era."

Hussein's classmate, Mohamed Yehia, was shot dead by police on Saturday, the third anniversary of the Egyptian uprising – a day that was meant to be a celebration.

But for many it was instead one of protest and mourning, with officials confirming on Sunday that 49 people had been killed in nationwide protests against the regime installed last July by the army chief Abdel Fatah al-Sisi.

Fierce clashes raged in several neighbourhoods across the country, with armoured police vehicles charging at protesters in downtown Cairo.

Supporters of Egypt's ousted Islamist president, Mohamed Morsi, as well as activists opposed to the authoritarianism of both Morsi and Sisi, took part – and 1,079 people were arrested.

"This is not the Egypt that we are looking for," said Ayman Abdelmeguid, a spokesman for the 6 April group, the secular youth movement that organised many of the first protests against Hosni Mubarak in 2011.

Later in the day, the interim president, Adly Mansour, portrayed the situation as business as usual.

Mansour said: "We are adamant – state and people – to eradicate terrorism and implement the roadmap for the future. My confidence in the Egyptian state and its institutions is unequivocal and unshakeable."

Many Egyptians agree. Hundreds of thousands filled Tahrir Square on Saturday to back General Sisi's security establishment, with several seen kissing policemen as they entered the square. Inside, there was a strong belief that a strong security state is Egypt's only solution to the three years of political and economic chaos that followed the 2011 uprising. "The police are our brothers, our people, our sons," said a 45-year-old trader, Khaled Nasredeem.

For the activists whose protests against police brutality in Tahrir Square three years ago sparked the Egyptian uprising, the sentiment was galling.

Abdelmeguid said: "It's quite frustrating to see such a gathering in Tahrir Square. But we still believe that people will see the truth eventually and they fight again for their freedom and dignity."

As usual in a polarised Egypt, there were competing narratives. A police spokesman said five policemen had been injured across Cairo, compared with 247 civilians.

Another local man, who identified himself as sympathetic to Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood, denied that protesters had used weapons in Mataria. "They were shot at by snipers, and the cars were damaged by thugs who were protected by the police," said Abdel Moneim.

Moneim added that protesters' anger was understandable given many of their friends had been shot dead since General Sisi ousted Morsi last July.

He said: "It's been seven months now and the killing and the massacres continue. And all this will turn a patient person into an impatient one. People feel they're going to be killed – and you can't calm those people down."

Many expect tensions to rise further in the coming days.

"God willing we will get our revenge," screamed a shaking Naget Mostafa on Sunday evening, as the corpse of her dead brother, Abdallah, was carried out of the Zeinhom morgue.

YOU'RE 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



In December 2013 A Middle School With A Zero Tolerance Weapons Policy Suspended Two Fifth Grade Boys:

“One For Pretending To Use A Book As A ‘Gun’ And The Other For Responding With A Wholly Imaginary Bow And Arrow?”

“Now The School District Has Acted To Remedy A Mistake That It Has Not Admitted, And For Which None Of

The School Authorities Apparently Face Any Accountability”

27 January 14 by William Boardman, Reader Supported News.

William M. Boardman has over 40 years experience in theatre, radio, TV, print journalism, and non-fiction, including 20 years in the Vermont judiciary. He has received honors from Writers Guild of America, Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Vermont Life magazine, and an Emmy Award nomination from the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

Remember that flurry of news reports in December 2013 about a middle school with a zero tolerance weapons policy suspending two fifth grade boys, one for pretending to use a book as a "gun" and the other for responding with a wholly imaginary bow and arrow?

It really happened.

And now the school district has acted to remedy a mistake that it has not admitted, and for which none of the school authorities apparently face any accountability.

The initial incident lasted a few seconds in mid-October, in the South Eastern School District of York, Pennsylvania, where the schools' motto is "Providing Progressive Education to Strengthen the Global Community."

The two boys' by-play created no "disruption" that the teacher noticed, but when a girl in the class told the teacher what the boys had done, the teacher decided to take action. She took both boys into the hall to lecture them about the disruption that she hadn't witnessed.

Had the incident ended there, it would have amounted to little more than the sort of trivial classroom injustice most students experience or witness, and there would have been no news coverage.

But the teacher carried on.

She reported the boys to the principal and she emailed their parents. In her email to Beverly Jones, the mother of the child who used an imaginary bow and arrow, the teacher said she was alerting her to the seriousness of the violation because the children were using "firearms" in their horseplay.

Beverly Jones was not amused. She knew her son Johnny to be a good student with no behavior problems.

When Principal Jon Horton called her to say he was suspending the boys for a day, but was doing them a favor by making it an in-school suspension in his office, Beverly Jones took issue with the school's response.

She wanted to know how her son could violate a weapons policy when he had no weapon, and when no one had even accused him of having a weapon.

When the Principal Horton and District Superintendent Rona Kaufmann effectively stonewalled Beverly Jones, she went for legal help to the Rutherford Institute in Charlottesville, Virginia, which bills itself as "dedicated to the defense of civil liberties and human rights" and provides pro bono legal services to people like the Joneses.

Founding attorney John Whitehead acted on the Jones's behalf on December 4, writing a letter to school authorities and issuing a press release about the case with the letter attached.

With the story of a ten-year-old punished for an imaginary weapon getting local news coverage and play on the Internet - almost all of it making the school look ridiculous - school attorneys were soon in touch with Whitehead looking for a settlement.

On January 16, the Rutherford Institute issued another press release with the headline: "VICTORY: School Officials to Lift Suspension from 10-Year-Old Who Shot Imaginary Arrow at Pennsylvania Elementary School" over a story that reported in part:

"School officials at South Eastern School District agreed to remove the suspension of Johnny Jones, a fifth grader at South Eastern Middle School, after a face-to-face meeting with his mother arranged by attorneys on both sides. In coming to Jones' defense, Rutherford Institute attorneys asked that the District immediately rescind the suspension from Jones' permanent school record, asserting that the disciplinary action was unsupported by district policy and was a wholly unreasonable and disproportionate response to the action of the child."

As victories go, it was pretty limited, with no payment to the wronged child, no admission of fault by the school, in fact with no written agreement whatsoever between the parties. In response to an inquiry, the Institute explained briefly:

"Nothing in writing, but they have assured Beverly Jones that the record is clean and she is satisfied."

Superintendent Kauffmann did not respond to inquiries.

It remains unclear what this means for the other boy, since his parents never registered an objection to the school's draconian decision-making process, which lacked anything like reasonable due process of justice.

There is no indication that the school has any plans to make any amends to the two boys who served wrongful suspensions.

Nor is there any indication that the school will be taking any steps to change either its no tolerance policy on weapons or its irrational application of that policy in practice.

According to one report, "the district says it has no zero-tolerance policies." While the policy itself does not use the phrase "zero tolerance," and while it is not a model of clarity, it says nothing to lead the reader to believe that the policy promotes any tolerance.

Victory? The school has no reason not to behave mindlessly again

"The Rutherford Institute has been called on to intervene in hundreds of cases like this involving young people who were suspended, expelled, and even arrested for conduct, no matter how minor or non-threatening the so-called infraction may have been. We are gratified that the District recognized that allowing the suspension to remain on this student's record was a senseless targeting of imaginary horseplay," the press release quoted Whitehead as saying.

As president of The Rutherford Institute, Whitehead said the organization handles "anything dealing with freedom issues," such as free speech, illegal police searches, or protestor cases, among others.

In 2013, Whitehead published his book, "A Government of Wolves: The Emerging American Police State," in which he argues that "we in the emerging American police state find ourselves reliving the same set of circumstances over and over again - egregious surveillance, strip searches, police shootings of unarmed citizens, government spying, the criminalization of lawful activities, warmongering, etc." against which he calls for a second American revolution.

And yet Whitehead in the Johnny Jones case hasn't required the authorities to put anything in writing, or even to admit fault.

Instead he has settled for the mother's acceptance of the school's oral reassurance that Johnny Jones's suspension record has been expunged and will remain expunged, even though Whitehead himself has doubts that any digital expungement can be made without leaving a trace.

This is a strange ending to a case about which Whitehead wrote in December that: "the zero tolerance/censorship regime which dominates American public education can easily translate into a disaster for civil society at large in the coming years. We've chosen to terminate natural childhood development in favor of strict adherence to authority and muting unique, interesting, and valid viewpoints in favor of maintaining the status quo. Worse than this, however, is the fact that we're setting ourselves up for the complete destruction of our democratic society and our democratic institutions in favor of an authoritarian bureaucratic apparatus.... What it will eventually amount to is the termination of freedom in the United States."

Johnny Jones was the victim of an authoritarian bureaucratic apparatus and it's anyone's guess what he's learned from experience.

But it could be that even outspoken critics have a hard time holding anyone in that bureaucratic apparatus personally accountable for anything.

No self-respecting police state would allow that.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



U.S. soldier in Bejjia village Iraq, Feb. 4, 2008. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

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