

Military Resistance 12C1

After two Wars... Sec. of Defense wants military cuts...



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in with caption. She writes: " They'll cut pay and bennies long before corporate profits."]

**“When The Riot Police Came
And Beat The Students In Late
November, A New Group, The
Afghan Veterans, Came To The
Maidan”**

**“These Men Of Middle Age,
Former Soldiers And Officers Of
The Red Army, Many Of Them**

Bearing The Scars Of Battlefield Wounds, Came To Protect ‘Their Children’”

**“After The Afghan Veterans Came Tens Of Thousands, Then Hundreds Of Thousands,” “Members Of All Political Parties, The Young And The Old, Christians, Muslims, And Jews”
“Now Not So Much In Favor Of Europe But In Defense Of Decency”**

Yet it is the Ukrainian regime rather than its opponents that resorts to anti-Semitism, instructing its riot police that the opposition is led by Jews. In other words, the Ukrainian government is telling itself that its opponents are Jews and us that its opponents are Nazis.

February 19, 2014 by Timothy Snyder, New York Review [Excerpts]. This article will appear in the coming March 20, 2014 issue of The New York Review

[Written before the revolutionary overthrow of the tyrant Yanukovych.]

The students were the first to protest against the regime of President Viktor Yanukovych on the Maidan, the central square in Kiev, last November.

These were the Ukrainians with the most to lose, the young people who unreflectively thought of themselves as Europeans and who wished for themselves a life, and a Ukrainian homeland, that were European.

Many of them were politically on the left, some of them radically so.

After years of negotiation and months of promises, their government, under President Yanukovych, had at the last moment failed to sign a major trade agreement with the European Union.

When the riot police came and beat the students in late November, a new group, the Afghan veterans, came to the Maidan.

These men of middle age, former soldiers and officers of the Red Army, many of them bearing the scars of battlefield wounds, came to protect “their children,” as they put it.

They didn’t mean their own sons and daughters: they meant the best of the youth, the pride and future of the country.

After the Afghan veterans came many others, tens of thousands, then hundreds of thousands, now not so much in favor of Europe but in defense of decency.

What does it mean to come to the Maidan?

The square is located close to some of the major buildings of government, and is now a traditional site of protest. Interestingly, the word maidan exists in Ukrainian but not in Russian, but even people speaking Russian use it because of its special implications.

In origin it is just the Arabic word for “square,” a public place.

But a maidan now means in Ukrainian what the Greek word agora means in English: not just a marketplace where people happen to meet, but a place where they deliberately meet, precisely in order to deliberate, to speak, and to create a political society. During the protests the word maidan has come to mean the act of public politics itself, so that for example people who use their cars to organize public actions and protect other protestors are called the *automaïdan*.

The protesters represent every group of Ukrainian citizens: Russian speakers and Ukrainian speakers (although most Ukrainians are bilingual), people from the cities and the countryside, people from all regions of the country, members of all political parties, the young and the old, Christians, Muslims, and Jews.

Every major Christian denomination is represented by believers and most of them by clergy.

The Crimean Tatars march in impressive numbers, and Jewish leaders have made a point of supporting the movement.

The diversity of the Maidan is impressive: the group that monitors hospitals so that the regime cannot kidnap the wounded is run by young feminists.

An important hotline that protesters call when they need help is staffed by LGBT activists.

“A Series Of Laws Passed Hastily And Without Following Normal Procedure Did Away With Freedom Of Speech And Assembly”

On January 16, the Ukrainian government, headed by President Yanukovych, tried to put an end to Ukrainian civil society.

A series of laws passed hastily and without following normal procedure did away with freedom of speech and assembly, and removed the few remaining checks on executive authority.

This was intended to turn Ukraine into a dictatorship and to make all participants in the Maidan, by then probably numbering in the low millions, into criminals.

The result was that the protests, until then entirely peaceful, became violent.

Yanukovych lost support, even in his political base in the southeast, near the Russian border.

After weeks of responding peacefully to arrests and beatings by the riot police, many Ukrainians had had enough.

A fraction of the protesters, some but by no means all representatives of the political right and far right, decided to take the fight to the police. Among them were members of the far-right party Svoboda and a new conglomeration of nationalists who call themselves the Right Sector (Pravyi Sektor). Young men, some of them from right-wing groups and others not, tried to take by force the public spaces claimed by the riot police.

Young Jewish men formed their own combat group, or sotnia, to take the fight to the authorities.

Although Yanukovych rescinded most of the dictatorship laws, lawless violence by the regime, which started in November, continued into February. Members of the opposition were shot and killed, or hosed down in freezing temperatures to die of hypothermia. Others were tortured and left in the woods to die.

During the first two weeks of February, the Yanukovych regime sought to restore some of the dictatorship laws through decrees, bureaucratic shortcuts, and new legislation.

On February 18, an announced parliamentary debate on constitutional reform was abruptly canceled. Instead, the government sent thousands of riot police against the protesters of Kiev. Hundreds of people were wounded by rubber bullets, tear gas, and truncheons. Dozens were killed.

“The Russian Media Continually Make The Claim That The Ukrainians Who Protest Are Nazis”

The protests in the Maidan, we are told again and again by Russian propaganda and by the Kremlin’s friends in Ukraine, mean the return of National Socialism to Europe.

The Russian foreign minister, in Munich, lectured the Germans about their support of people who salute Hitler. The Russian media continually make the claim that the Ukrainians who protest are Nazis.

Naturally, it is important to be attentive to the far right in Ukrainian politics and history. It is still a serious presence today, although less important than the far right in France, Austria, or the Netherlands.

Yet it is the Ukrainian regime rather than its opponents that resorts to anti-Semitism, instructing its riot police that the opposition is led by Jews.

In other words, the Ukrainian government is telling itself that its opponents are Jews and us that its opponents are Nazis.

“Propagandists In Moscow And Kiev Take Us For Fools—Which By Many Indications Is Quite Justified”

What does it mean when the wolf cries wolf?

Most obviously, propagandists in Moscow and Kiev take us for fools—which by many indications is quite justified.

More subtly, what this campaign does is attempt to reduce the social tensions in a complex country to a battle of symbols about the past. Ukraine is not a theater for the historical propaganda of others or a puzzle from which pieces can be removed. It is a major European country whose citizens have important cultural and economic ties with both the European Union and Russia.

If people in the West become caught up in the question of whether they are largely Nazis or not, then they may miss the central issues in the present crisis.

In fact, Ukrainians are in a struggle against both the concentration of wealth and the concentration of armed force in the hands of Viktor Yanukovich and his close allies.

The history of the Holocaust is part of our own public discourse, our agora, or maidan.

The current Russian attempt to manipulate the memory of the Holocaust is so blatant and cynical that those who are so foolish to fall for it will one day have to ask themselves just how, and in the service of what, they have been taken in.

MORE VETERANS ACTION:

**“Several Hundred Veterans Of
The Republika Srpska Army
Have Announced They Will
Gather In The Centre Of Banja
Luka”**

“Former Soldiers Said Their Own Humiliating Lives Contrasted Sharply With Those Of War Profiteers”

**“While They Enlarge Their Bank Accounts, Fleets Of Vehicles And Build Villas, They Make Welfare Cases Out Of Us And Our Children”
[Another Dictator Whines About A Conspiracy]**

27 Feb 14 by Elvira M. Jukic in Sarajevo; BIRN News

Republika Srpska President Milorad Dodik said planned protests by war veterans in Banja Luka were aimed at destabilizing the entity.

Dodik said that the protests announced for Friday were targeted against Republika Srpska and aimed to destabilize it.

Earlier, he said that the street protests in the Federation entity also aimed to destabilize Republika Srpska - even though the protesters' main issues were social injustice, failed privatization schemes and corrupt political elites.

Several hundred veterans of the Republika Srpska army have announced they will gather in the centre of Banja Luka to draw attention to their tough lives and demand the dismissal of the leadership of the entity's veterans' association.

Some of the former soldiers said their own humiliating lives contrasted sharply with those of war profiteers.

“We were the ones who created Republika Srpska and today we are watching them destroy it bit by bit,” one veteran told the media.

“While they enlarge their bank accounts, fleets of vehicles and build villas, they make welfare cases out of us and our children,” he added.

Some of the veterans who plan to protest on Friday gathered in a park in Banja Luka on Thursday. There, they said they expected at least 2,000 people on the streets, although many would probably fear to come out and complain.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Fort Bragg Soldier Dies From Wounds Received In Afghanistan



February 14, 2014 By Drew Brooks Staff writer, The Fayetteville Observer

The Department of Defense announced the death of Fort Bragg Spc. Christopher A. Landis on Thursday.

Landis, 27, of Independence, Ky., died of wounds he suffered when his dismounted patrol was attacked by a rocket-propelled grenade in Kapisa province, according to a news release. He died Monday at Bagram Airfield.

Landis was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group, according to officials.

He is survived by his parents, two brothers and a sister.

Independence is a city in northern Kentucky south of Cincinnati.

The mayor of the city, Donna Yeager, told the Cincinnati Enquirer that she would order flags at public buildings in the city to be flown at half-staff. "He gave his life to protect us and our freedom," Yeager told the newspaper. "We mourn for him and his family."

Landis enlisted in March 2011, serving as a cryptologic linguist, according to Army Special Forces Command.

After training at Fort Jackson, S.C., the Defense Language Institute at the Presidio of Monterey, Calif., and Goodfellow Air Force Base in Texas, he was assigned to Fort Bragg's 3rd Special Forces Group in August, according to officials. He deployed to Afghanistan with the unit shortly thereafter.

Landis' awards and decorations include the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with

Campaign Star, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Medal, the Combat Action Badge, and the Parachutist Badge.

Landis is the second Fort Bragg soldier to be killed in Afghanistan this year.

The other, Sgt. Daniel T. Lee, also was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group.

Lee, 28, of Crossville, Tenn., died Jan. 15 after being wounded during combat operations in Parwan province.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

Resistance Action

March 1, 2014 BNA

QUETTA (BNA) An Afghan government official and two other people were gunned down in separate incidents in Balochistan on Thursday.

Police sources said two unidentified men on a motorcycle opened fire on Sardar Mohammad, a customs officer in Afghanistan, in Roghani road area of Chaman. He received multiple bullets injuries and was rushed to a hospital, but died before getting any medical treatment. His body was handed over to Afghan officials after an autopsy.

According to sources, Sardar Mohammad was an important official and was considered a close associate of Afghan commander Abdul Raziq Khan, the in charge of Spin Buldak district, the first Afghan district after zero point at the Pak-Afghan border. At least 12 Afghan officials and Afghan Taliban commanders have been killed in Quetta and the border town of Chaman over the past one and a half years.

Pakistani official say that Afghan intelligence officials are usually involved in the killing of Afghan Taliban leaders in border areas and Quetta.

MILITARY NEWS

Afghan Veteran Fired And Denied Unemployment Benefits: He Took On A Thieving Vending Machine Owned By His Boss; Shithead Law Judge Says “McKevitt Demonstrated A Willful Disregard For His Employer’s Interests”

March 3 2014 by Clark Kauffman, Army Times

It’s a familiar tableau: an overpriced vending-machine candy bar dangles on a spiral hook, tantalizingly out of reach and refusing to drop.

For most of us, that mini-drama usually ends in defeat. But not for Robert McKevitt.

The Iowa National Guard staff sergeant was working the second shift at Polaris Industries’ warehouse in Milford, Iowa, when he decided to break for a snack last fall.

He says he deposited \$1 in a vending machine, selected a 90-cent Twix bar, and then watched as the candy bar crept forward in its slot, began its descent and was abruptly snagged by a spiral hook that held it suspended in midair.

“I was, like, ‘Oh, man,’ ” said McKevitt, 27. “So I put in another dollar, and then it wouldn’t do anything.”

At first, McKevitt’s frustration took the customary route: He banged the side of the machine. He tried rocking it back and forth. But when that didn’t work, McKevitt walked away and commandeered an 8,000-pound forklift, according to state unemployment compensation records.

He reportedly drove up to the vending machine, lifted it 2 feet off the concrete warehouse floor — then let it drop. He allegedly repeated the maneuver at least six times, by which time three candy bars had fallen into the chute for his retrieval.

When a supervisor confronted him, McKevitt allegedly explained he was simply trying to get the snack he had paid for.

He was fired five days later.

In a ruling that became public last month, a state administrative law judge denied his unemployment benefits claim, saying McKevitt demonstrated a willful disregard for his employer’s interests.

McKevitt, who served in Afghanistan in 2011 and is a member of 1st Battalion, 194th Field Artillery, didn't testify at his Dec. 16 unemployment benefits hearing.

But he told The Des Moines Register he never lifted and dropped the vending machine. He says after shaking the machine to retrieve the elusive Twix bar, he used his forklift to move it back in place against the wall. "That machine was trouble," he said. "They fired me, and now I hear they have all new vending machines there."

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

**A revolution is always distinguished by impoliteness, probably because the ruling classes did not take the trouble in good season to teach the people fine manners.
-- Leon Trotsky, History Of The Russian Revolution**

“Dead Politicians. Not Dead Soldiers”

"Veterans that see the light through the darkness have much to offer."
- Libya Truth Movement

"Wray is a powerful speaker making incredibly good points."
- Rogue Valley Peace Veterans

"... deeply moving. This close up of PTSD is something every American should see. Mr. Harris impresses me as an intelligent and thoughtful person going through hell yet willing to help others understand the evils of war."
- Veterans for Peace Chapter 1011

"... the most raw, intense, honest, brave, unsettling piece of creative work that I have, honestly, ever seen."
- Ground Zero Center for Non-violent Action



AUTHORITY & EXPECTATIONS

24 year old combat veteran Wray Harris speaks to the tragedy of Iraq and the wars that rage in the ones that make it back.

A FILM BY **KEN LORI**

"... superlative... No bullshit. Nothing else like it out there. Limitless respect to Wray Harris and the producer for a magnificent accomplishment."
- Traveling Soldier

DEAD POLITICIANS. NOT DEAD SOLDIERS.
<https://www.facebook.com/AuthorityExpectations>

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



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

Bosnia:

“The Plenum Is A Roar Of Enraged People”

“That Rage Never Found A Public Outlet Before”

“The Workers Set Everything In Motion”

“The Left All Over The World Has Lost Touch With Such Indignation”

I believe that the Left has often wasted the opportunity to align itself with this feeling that I would call indignation.

The Left all over the world has lost touch with such indignation, and I really think that is an incredibly important aspect both for the plenums and everything that's happening in BiH right now, but also for me personally, because here and now I am learning what politics is.

I was surprised by that moment when all those people realised that they have the same problem, that they could publicly speak about it and that they could put it on the political agenda.

February 27, 2014·by Amila Bosnae; via <http://bhprotestfiles.wordpress.com/>

This interview originally appeared in the magazine Slobodna Bosna, issue 902, 20.2.2014

Belgian anthropologist Stef Jansen who has been researching and visiting Bosnia and Herzegovina for over a decade speaks to Slobodna Bosna about the protests, their strengths, possible outcomes, citizens' demands and the awakening of the Left.

Stef Jansen is an anthropologist from Belgium who, over the past fifteen years, has been spending the better part of his time in the Balkans, conducting research and, amongst other things, working with returnees.

The wave of protests found him in Sarajevo.

Every day he's on the streets with the protesters and in the plenums. Even though he knows the situation in this country very well, he says the force of the protests had taken him by surprise. **[No shit. When mass revolutionary movements explode, they tend to take everybody by surprise, including self-described revolutionaries. T]**

Jansen: 'It's not surprising that people are disappointed, enraged, angry at the political class, the injustice and the inequality. That discourse has been there for as long as I can remember, and I've been coming here for years. You could find it in the kitchen, in the pub, in the workplace... I think the hardest thing in BiH is to find someone who's satisfied.

"But that rage never found a public outlet before.'

How do you see the protests in Bosnia-Herzegovina? Do you believe them to be different from all the previous ones in our country?

It's very important to stress that this wave of discontent started in the smaller towns of BiH, the industrial towns where the workers set everything in motion, or people on some contract without salaries, incomes, various benefits to which they are legally entitled.

They set this in motion.

The rage existed, the protests and the strikes etc. have always existed.

Every month over the last few years you could see protests in Sarajevo, tent cities in front of the parliaments, farmers, workers... But they were always standalone protests. One company, one group asking for something which is their right, but something specific for that group.

Eventually, most of society stopped paying any attention to these protests because they had no results.

This time, protestors joined forces.

In other words, it wasn't that the workers from one company wanted one thing, the pensioners another, the farmers another still.

It was a wondrous moment, and I don't know where that moment came from.

I was surprised by that moment when all those people realised that they have the same problem, that they could publicly speak about it and that they could put it on the political agenda.

How do you see the plenums that are taking place across BiH? What, if anything, can we gain from them?

The plenums represent an enormous potential, but we can't expect them to solve all problems nor ask it of them. It's completely unfair to expect that from the plenums.

It's possible that the political classes might come and say that the plenums aren't solving all these enormous problems in the country. To this, we should reply: Why didn't you solve them then, with the enormous public structures, budgets and state institutions that exist for that exact purpose?

The plenum is a roar of enraged people who are just reminding the political class that they exist and that they have problems they want solved.

The plenums are important because they show that people have the courage to step onto the podium, take the microphone or make written demands—of which there are by now over 2,000 here in Sarajevo alone—and that makes them feel that their voice matters.

This is the first time that people here have somewhere to direct their demands and that they don't remain within four walls.

Some would go so far as to say that the plenums are actually the birth of the Left in BiH. Does that mean that we're dealing with a new political alternative?

This whole thing definitely 'smells like' the Left, but I don't think that's unique for BiH.

Right now, you'd be pressed to find a clear public expression of a political alternative anywhere in the world.

But yes, this is something you could call leftist politics, not because I believe that people in the plenums in BiH are socialists, communists or any other type of leftists, but the form of it, the organisation and the stating of priorities are all things that mesh with certain leftist political alternatives and theories.

Here, we don't have to talk theories; we see things carried out in practice.

If you had to choose one image to explain to an outsider what is happening here these days, an image that describes what you see here every day and what you yourself participate in, what would that image be?

During one of the plenums, a lady got up and told us how some nights, when she can't sleep, she looks out her window and sees people going through the rubbish looking for food.

I think that her story is very important and powerful because she clearly does not talk about what she personally lacks.

She doesn't talk about human rights, not her own, not those of the people she saw. Instead, she demonstrates something that I believe to be the most important thing in all of this, and that is that there is an indignation, the feeling that no matter how well I personally may be doing, I don't feel good when I see what kind of a world I live in, a world where people look for food in the rubbish.

That image is universal and would work anywhere.

This indignation is very important, not only from a humanitarian or civic perspective, but also from a political one.

I believe that the Left has often wasted the opportunity to align itself with this feeling that I would call indignation.

The Left all over the world has lost touch with such indignation, and I really think that is an incredibly important aspect both for the plenums and everything that's happening in BiH right now, but also for me personally, because here and now I am learning what politics is.

ANNIVERSARIES

March 2, 1955: A Heroine Strikes A Blow For Liberation

Carl Bunin Peace History February 28-March 6

Nine months before Rosa Parks made headlines, teenager Claudette Colvin was arrested in Montgomery, Alabama, for refusing to give up her bus seat to a white person.

She was active in the Youth Council of the local NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People).

Though the Montgomery Bus Boycott was begun after Ms. Parks's arrest, Clovin's legal case became part of the basis for a federal court challenge to Alabama's segregation laws.

Colvin became one of four plaintiffs in *Browder v. Gayle*, in which the Supreme Court ultimately struck down the law under which she was arrested for merely sitting down in a bus seat.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Six Injured After Zionist Mob Attacks Palestinian High School Near Occupied Nablus: “The Violence Comes A Day After Settlers Hurlled Rocks At Schoolchildren In The Village And Beat Up A 50-Year-Old Man”

20/02/2014 Ma'an

NABLUS (Ma'an) -- Six Palestinians were injured in clashes after Israeli settlers attacked a high school south of Nablus on Thursday, according to a Palestinian Authority official.

Ghassan Daghlis, a PA official who monitors settlement activity in the northern West Bank, said that clashes broke out after Israeli settlers attacked Burin High School.

The attack led to the subsequent intervention of dozens of villagers and Israeli forces, who fired tear gas during the clashes.

Daghlal added that dozens of Palestinians suffered from excessive tear gas inhalation, including Mohammad Thawqan, Diya Rayyan, Imad Najjar, Asim Mohammad Najjar, Walid Salim, and Ibrahim Theeb.

The injured were subsequently taken to Rafidia governmental hospital for treatment.

An Israeli army spokeswoman said that "100 Palestinians ... began hurling rocks at soldiers" while they were engaged in "routine activity" in the area.

She added that soldiers used "riot dispersal" means against the protesters.

Also on Thursday afternoon, a fire bomb was thrown towards a car belonging to a settler in the area. As a result, a large number of Israeli forces arrived on scene and closed the main road temporarily.

An Israeli army spokeswoman said that a "molotov cocktail" had been thrown "at an Israeli school bus" passing by on the road.

The violence comes a day after settlers hurled rocks at schoolchildren in the village and beat up a 50-year-old man in a similar attack on the village.

Burin is a frequent site of settler violence and Palestinian clashes with Israeli forces as it is located beside the notoriously violent Israeli settlement of Yitzhar.

Settlers frequently attack a number of local villages and prevent farmers from reaching their lands, according to UNOCHA, in addition to attacks on local olive trees themselves.

In 2013, there were 399 incidents of settler violence against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

In the last week alone, hundreds of olive trees across the West Bank have been chopped in a number of incidents targeting Palestinian farmers' livelihoods.

Over 90 percent of investigations into settler violence by Israeli police fail to lead to an indictment.

More than 500,000 Israeli settlers live in settlements across the West Bank and East Jerusalem, in contravention of international law.

“A Group Of Israeli Settlers Hurling Stones At Palestinian Schoolchildren In Nablus”

19/02/2014

NABLUS (Ma'an) -- A group of Israeli settlers hurled stones at Palestinian schoolchildren in Nablus on Wednesday, locals said.

Witnesses told Ma'an that the settlers stormed the village of Burin and threw stones at pupils at a local school.

Israeli forces arrived in the area following the incident and clashed with Palestinian villagers, firing tear gas canisters and rubber-coated steel bullets.

**Zionist Forces Wounded 12
Palestinian Civilians, Including 2
Children And A Journalist:
They Opened Fire On Dozens Of
Civilians Protesting Against Them
From Inside Free Palesinian
Territory:
“Occupation Troops Fired Live
Ammunition, Rubber-Coated Metal
Bullets And Tear Gas Canisters At A
Group Of Boys And Young Men”
“Israeli Forces Frequently Shoot At
Farmers And Other Civilians Inside The
Gaza Strip”**

2.21.14 Ma'an & February 23, 2014 The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

In an excessive use of force, Israeli forces wounded 12 Palestinian civilians, including 2 children and a journalist, when they opened fire at dozens of civilians protesting against them on Friday afternoon, 21 February 2014, east of Jabalia, in the northern Gaza Strip.

Dozens of others suffered from excessive tear gas inhalation as Israeli forces violently dispersed the group, which was protesting against the confiscation of lands near the border by Israeli authorities.

Israeli forces frequently shoot at farmers and other civilians inside the Gaza Strip if they approach large swathes of land near the border that the Israeli military has deemed off-limits to Palestinians.

The "security buffer zone" extends between 500 meters and 1500 meters into the Strip, effectively turning local farms into no-go zones.

According to UNOCHA, 17 percent of Gaza's total land area and 35 percent of its agricultural land were within the buffer zone as of 2010, directly affecting the lives and livelihoods of more than 100,000 Gazans.

Spokesman for the Gaza Strip Ministry of Health Ashraf al-Qidra told Ma'an that 13 people were injured, including a 12-year-old child who was seriously injured.

According to investigations conducted by the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR), at approximately 13:00 on Friday, 21 February 2014, Israeli forces stationed along the border fence, east of al-Shuhada' cemetery, east of Jabalia, in the northern Gaza Strip, fired live ammunition, rubber-coated metal bullets and tear gas canisters at a group of boys and young men.

The group of civilians was protesting at Israeli forces and attempting to throw stones at the Israeli forces near the fence. The clashes lasted until 18:00, in which 12 civilians, including 2 children and a journalist were wounded. Six of whom, including a child, sustained wounds by live ammunition and 2 others sustained wounds by rubber-coated metal bullets.

One of the wounded was Khaled Atef Hassan al-Sabbah (20), from al-Shati' refugee camp, a photojournalist for many news agencies including Anatolia news agency and the Tunisian al-Mashreq news agency.

Al-Sabbah was filming 400 meters away from the clashes when he sustained a bullet wound to the right leg. He had fractures as a result.

The 4 others were hit by gas canisters, including a 15-year-old boy who was hit by a gas canister to the head which caused fractures in his skull. The boy's injury was serious.

Nine of the wounded were taken to Martyr Kamal Odwan hospital in Beit Lahia by PRCS ambulances, while the 3 others were taken to Shifa hospital in Gaza City. Medical sources described their wounds as moderate.

(PCHR keeps the names of the wounded)

PCHR severely condemns these crimes, which once again prove the use of excessive force by Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians. PCHR calls upon the international community to take immediate and effective actions and reiterates its call for the High Contracting Parties to the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention to fulfill their obligations under Article 1; to respect and to ensure respect for the Convention in all circumstances. PCHR also calls upon the international community to fulfill their obligation under Article 146 to prosecute persons alleged to commit grave breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

These grave breaches constitute war crimes under Article 147 of the same Convention and Protocol (I) Additional to the Geneva Conventions.

Occupation Forces Kill A Palestinian Aggregate Collector, Wound Another “Palestinian Civilians Were Collecting Aggregate Near Malaka Intersection”

16/2014 The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, via Uruknet

On Thursday 13 February 2014, Israeli forces killed a Palestinian aggregate collector and wounded another, east of al-Zaitoun neighborhood, east of Gaza City. In an excessive use of force Israeli forces opened fire at a group of aggregate collectors.

According to investigations conducted by the Palestinian Centre of Human Rights (PCHR), at approximately 14:30 on Thursday 13 February 2014, Israeli forces positioned at the eastern borders between the Gaza Strip and Israel opened fire at a group of Palestinian civilians, who were collecting aggregate near Malaka intersection, east of al-Zaitoun neighborhood, east of Gaza City.

As a result, Ibrahim Suleiman Mansour (36), from al-Shuja'iyah neighborhood, east of the city, sustained a bullet wound to the head while Rafiq Baker al-Herokli (21) sustained a bullet wound to the right leg. The two wounded were taken to Shifa hospital in Gaza City for medical treatment.

Doctors failed to save the life of Mansour and he died few minutes after his arrival at the hospital.

Al-Herokli's wound was described as moderate.

As a result of the Israeli illegal closure which causes high rates of unemployment, hundreds of Palestinian workers are forced to collect aggregate from the destroyed houses' rubble which are then to be sold, treated and reused in construction works. Israeli soldiers often fire at these workers.

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

<http://www.palestinemonitor.org/list.php?id=ej898ra7yff0ukmf16>

The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves “Israeli.”]

CLASS WAR REPORTS

**Over 10,000 Burkinabe Citizens
Rallied In The Nation's Capital,
And Other Cities To Protest The
Concentration Of Political Power
In One Man:**

**“President Blaise Compaore Has
Ruled Burkina Faso Since 1987”**

**“Compaore’s Cronies In Power Have
Usurped The Nation’s Resource
Wealth At The Public’s Expense”**

**“Is Doubtful That The United States Or
France Will Side With The Burkinabe
Protestors Demanding That Compaore
Relinquish Power’**

February 26th, 2014 By Sam Badger and Giorgio Cafiero, PopularResistance.Org
[Excerpts]

Sustained anti-government rallies in Thailand, Ukraine, and Venezuela have captured the attention of millions.

But large pro-democracy demonstrations in Burkina Faso last month largely escaped the Western media’s radar.

Since January, tensions have flared between the West African country’s authoritarian government and the impoverished masses yearning for democratic reforms.

Depending on how developments unfold, the protests in Burkina Faso could serve as a catalyst for further uprisings in the region.

On January 18, over 10,000 Burkinabe citizens rallied in the nation's capital, Ouagadougou, and other cities to protest the concentration of political power in one man — President Blaise Compaore, who has ruled Burkina Faso since 1987.



Pro-democracy demonstration in Burkina Faso

While Compaore claims democratic legitimacy, the opposition demands his departure from power, maintaining that Compaore's past electoral victories were fraudulent and rigged.

The demonstrators, led by opposition leader Zephirin Diabre, have taken to the streets to protest Compaore's plans to revise Article 37 of the country's constitution.

This provision, incorporated in 2000, limits the president to two five-year terms. After winning presidential elections in 2005 and 2010, Compaore's final term is set to end in 2015. Although Compaore has issued no official statement concerning his intention to seek another term, his critics contend that he is laying the groundwork for a constitutional amendment to extend his rule beyond 2015.

Calling January 18 a "historic day," Diabre declared that the thousands of protesters were "taking a stand in this free and republican protest to send Compaore into retirement in 2015."

Compaore's failure to improve living standards for average Burkinabes also factors into popular resentment of the government.

Despite being rich with gold reserves, Burkina Faso remains one of the world's poorest countries. Nearly half of the 18 million citizens who inhabit this landlocked nation live below the poverty line, and GDP per capita hovers around a paltry \$1,400.

Fewer than 30 percent of adults are literate and the nation's infant mortality rates rank ninth globally. Recurring floods and droughts in recent years have exacerbated all of these dismal conditions.

The perception that Compaore's cronies in power have usurped the nation's resource wealth at the public's expense has further fueled the opposition's determination to end his presidency.

Burkina Faso has remained a steadfast U.S. ally in the “war on terrorism” and is lauded by the State Department as a cooperative partner in the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership (TSCTP), a U.S.-led initiative in North and West Africa designed to confront al-Qaeda.

Given the potential for Islamist extremists — such as al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Boko Haram, and the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO) — to exploit any power vacuum that could emerge in a post-Compaore era, it is doubtful that the United States or France will side with the Burkinabe protestors demanding that Compaore relinquish power.

At the beginning of the year, 75 politicians from Compaore's Democracy and Progress Party published a letter that announced their resignation, citing that democracy had “disappeared” from the ruling party.

The president's former allies formed a new party, the Movement of People for Progress, which claims to represent the will of the demonstrators who took to the streets and used non-violent measures to demand an end to Compaore's presidency.

**The Bosses Wanted This
Toothless Union In Their Auto
Plant To “Stabilize” Their
Workers;
How Bad?
“VW Officials In Germany Have
Threatened To Build No More VW
Plants In The States Unless The
Workers Vote To Admit The Union”**

[Highly Intelligent Workers Said Fuck That Shit]

February 25, 2014 by NOEL IGNATIEV, CounterPunch [Excerpts]

By now everybody who pays attention to this sort of thing is aware that the United Auto Workers Union lost an election at the Volkswagen plant in Chattanooga, Tennessee in which it sought to become the bargaining agent for the workers there.

The result is being lamented across the “Left,” with gloomy predictions for what it portends for other car manufacturing plants in the south, particularly Nissan in Canton, Mississippi, where the UAW is engaged in a similar effort.

One inconvenient fact that most Leftists have preferred not to discuss is that, unlike in 1936 when union activists faced spies, gun thugs injunctions and police, and got the union only by occupying the Chevy plant in Flint, Michigan for six weeks, VW wanted the union and its collateral “works councils” (not to be confused with a workers’ council), an arrangement that had stabilized and made their unionized, higher-paid workers in Germany more productive.

(With exquisite irony, VW officials in Germany have threatened to build no more VW plants in the States unless the workers vote to admit the union.)

No surprise, since UAW officials “consistently maintain that the union’s combative past is behind it and now say the cooperative ‘works council model is in line with the UAW’s successful partnerships with the domestic automakers and its vision of the 21st century union.’

“Those partnerships led the UAW to become an early adopter of the two-tier wage model, at the Big Three in 2007, and to give up pensions for new hires in that contract” (Jane Slaughter, Labor Notes Feb. 11, 2014).

Of all the dogmas that infect radicals, the most widespread and pernicious is the dogma of the backwardness of the workers.

Working-class people always have good reasons for what they do, including voting not to affiliate with the UAW.

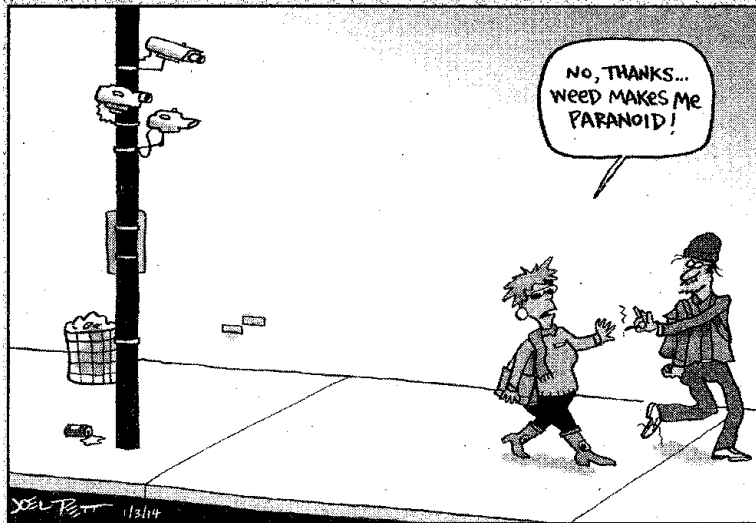
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DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Church Officials Blame Mother For Pedophile Priest Molesting Her Two Sons

February 27, 2014 By Jodie Gummow, AlterNet

Talk about a major abdication of responsibility. A Minnesota mother says that Catholic Church officials are blaming her for the sexual abuse her sons endured at the hands of their priest, Raw Story reported.

In 2012, Rev. Curtis Wehmeyer, a former pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish in St. Paul, pleaded guilty to abusing the boys aged 12 and 14 as well as possessing pornography.

Wehmeyer had lured the boys into his home in a white camper and given them drugs and alcohol. He instructed the boys to touch themselves as well as touching the boys on multiple occasions.

Their mother, who has remained anonymous to protect her children, said she never suspected her boys were abused, although they did begin to struggle and school and got into fights.

The family subsequently sued the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis for the abuse. Earlier this month, Archdiocese lawyers said in court that she should not have allowed her children to spend time alone with Wehmeyer.

“She was aware of the time (her son) spent with Mr. Wehmeyer, and she knew that such interaction was contrary to established Archdiocese policy,” the Archdiocese said in its filing.

The mother slammed the allegations as preposterous and said her life has since become a war zone.

She says the church has since cut her hours at work and won't let her use vacation time as well as reneged on its offer to pay for the family's therapy.

More disturbingly, following the incident, the mother learned Wehmeyer had abused some of her other children which means six of her nine children have now been abused by the priest or another sibling.

It was reported that archdiocese officials knew about Wehmeyer's "risky sexual behavior" when he was appointed pastor.

“It's bloodcurdling to me they had the opportunity to stop this man dead in his tracks before he harmed any of my children,” the mother said.

“It nauseates me to go to Mass and hear in the prayers of the faithful they say, 'Let's pray for the victims and their families,' when I've got a lien on my taxes because they won't pay my son's bill.”

Arizona Governor Vetoes Anti-Gay Bill: “Let's Focus on Discriminating Against Mexicans”



Photograph by Ross D. Franklin/AP

February 27, 2014 by by Andy Borowitz, The Borowitz Report

PHOENIX — Arizona Governor Jan Brewer vetoed a controversial anti-gay bill last night, telling reporters, “Let’s focus on discriminating against Mexicans.”

Governor Brewer said that while “the intentions behind this bill were obviously excellent,” she was worried that the bill “would distract us from our main mission of harassing, tormenting, and otherwise making life miserable for Mexicans.”

Although Governor Brewer said that she could foresee a time when Arizona might “branch out into discriminating against gays,” the decision to veto the anti-gay bill in the name of anti-immigrant pride was not difficult: “Arizona needs to stick to what it does best.”



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