

## **Military Resistance 12C17**

March 2003: Another Imperial Disaster Begins



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in.]

# Red Ropes

From: Dennis Serdel  
To: Military Resistance Newsletter  
Sent: March 20, 2014  
Subject: Red Ropes

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

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### Red Ropes

The room has a Stage  
in the old High School  
the people are sitting  
in the worn out seating  
& those who talk  
have only 5 minutes  
at the mike  
Then a Sarge screams out

like a toxic jelly fish  
wrapped around orders  
for 3 teenage black girls  
who proudly march  
& then stop at attention  
in their clean camouflaged  
uniforms & boots  
& sly berets on heads &  
march around the stage  
& then they are gone  
like a female teenager  
in Vietnam  
who is bit by a venomous  
snake with no  
anti-venom medicine  
& because she is poor  
she dies

The power line up before the  
High School Teacher's Board  
First a Quaker like a poisonous  
spider blasts them  
for letting Junior ROTC  
& War into the School  
in the first place  
All War is wrong he says  
& you're Brainwashing these  
young naive teenagers  
Then a fat Vietnam veteran  
slips up to the mike  
like a toxic ocean snail  
with 6 pieces  
of medium size red rope  
He tells the Board  
that Soldiers in Afghanistan  
tie ropes around their  
thighs as he takes 2  
red ropes & ties them  
around his faded bluejeans  
then he takes 2 ropes  
& ties them around his calves  
finally he says they tie  
2 ropes around each  
of their arms so when  
they step on a land mine  
they hope they won't bleed out  
before medivac's & surgery  
then the Veteran walks back  
to his seat with the  
6 red ropes around him  
Finally a young man steps up  
to the mike like a mega

dragon lizard 11 feet long  
& he spits out his poison  
that the School has to pay  
for the uniforms boots  
& berets & part of Sarge's wages  
provide him a room  
with office supplies  
with a computer  
you just haven't received  
the bills yet  
Then a black women on the Board  
blurts out we thought  
the Army pays for all of that  
because we just had to  
buy a new frame for a school bus  
& bolt on the old body to it  
because we didn't have  
the money to buy a new bus  
the lizard then crawls back  
to his seat knowing  
they are dead  
A week later at the School Board  
Office the Board says they can  
Not afford JR ROTC

written by Dennis Serdel for Military Resistance

## **DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN MILITARY SERVICE?**

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly.

Whether at a base in the USA or stationed outside the Continental United States, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war and economic injustice, inside the armed services and at home.

Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657.

## AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

### Ten Policemen, Including The District Police Chief, Killed And 14 Police Wounded By Resistance Attack In Jalalabad



Security forces investigate at the site of the suicide car bomb attack in Jalalabad city yesterday



An Afghan army soldier stands next to a partly destroyed TV building which was hosting a television station after a multi-pronged attack on a police station in Jalalabad, the capital of eastern Nangarhar province, Afghanistan, March 20, 2014. Taliban insurgents staged the attack, using a bomber and armed insurgents to lay siege to the station. Two remotely detonated bombs also exploded nearby. (AP Photo/Rahmat Gul)

March 21, 2014 PENINSULA NEWSPAPER

JALALABAD: Seven Taliban suicide attackers stormed a police station in the centre of Jalalabad City in eastern Afghanistan yesterday, killing 10 policemen and a civilian in a major assault ahead of the presidential election. The attackers also died.

The target of the three-hour truck bomb and gun assault was a police station near the governor's house in the city, which has been the scene of repeated militant attacks in recent years.

"Ten policemen, including the district police chief, were killed and 14 police were wounded," deputy interior minister Mohammad Ayoub Salangi said.

The attack began when a mini-truck loaded with explosives was detonated at the police station's entrance, leaving debris littered across the surrounding streets as security forces cordoned off the scene.

About 20 people had been treated for injuries at the city's main hospital.

**The area of the attack includes the compound of the governor of Nangarhar province, of which Jalalabad is the capital, several other government buildings and the state-run television station.**

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## Taliban Attack "A Luxury Hotel Popular With Foreigners In Downtown Kabul"

March 20, 2014 By Carlo Dellaverson & Jamieson Lesko, NBC News & 22 March 2014 by Michael Edwards, ABC

Four militants with pistols smuggled in their socks launched an attack at a luxury hotel popular with foreigners in downtown Kabul Thursday, security sources said, in an apparent test by the Taliban to disrupt the coming presidential election.

A private security source told NBC News the attackers entered the Serena Hotel and shot at least nine people in the head, including five women and two children.

Among the nine people killed in the assault were five Afghans and four foreign nationals from Canada, New Zealand, Pakistan, India and Paraguay.

Fazul Ahad witnessed the initial attack. "You can see the Afghan security forces, including Afghan Special Forces and military ambulances near the Serena Hotel," he said.

During the attack, guests crouched in bathrooms with the lights turned off as they listened to gunfire and people running up and down the hallways.

“I never heard an explosion or anything. Only firearms and possible rocket-propelled grenades,” one senior United Nations official said in a text message from his darkened room.

One of the hotel’s main safe rooms, which was packed with guests and Afghan members of parliament, filled with smoke from a fire in the kitchen.

“It was hard to breathe. People started putting wet napkins on their faces,” one witness said.

Ministry of Interior officials and the Kabul police chief confirmed that an attack had taken place.

The Serena complex is a popular destination for foreign contractors and developers visiting the capital city, as well as prominent Afghans. It is less than a mile from the presidential palace.

A Taliban Spokesman told NBC News the “aim was to target” “a meeting going on between high ranking Afghan officials and a foreign delegation”

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid took responsibility for the attack in a statement to NBC News.

He said “our mujahadeen managed to get into the Serena Hotel from the back door.”

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## **MILITARY NEWS**

**Even George W. Bush Says  
Drop The ‘D’ In PTSD:  
Sen. Richard Blumenthal Says “Many  
Employers Discriminate Against  
Veterans For Fear They May Have A  
Psychiatric Disorder”**

# **“Calling It A Disorder Gives It A Stigma That Is Completely Unjustified”**

Mar. 18, 2014 By Patricia Kime, Staff Writer; Army Times [Excerpts]

**Former President George W. Bush has joined the chorus of voices calling for dropping the “D” from “PTSD.”**

In a rare public appearance last month to announce the kickoff of his institute’s Military Service Initiative, Bush said that along with pressing for jobs and educational opportunities for veterans, the initiative aims to remove the stigma of having post-traumatic stress disorder or getting treatment for it.

One thing that would help, Bush believes, is lopping off the term “disorder.”

**“As most doctors will tell you, post-traumatic stress is not a disorder.**

“Post-traumatic stress, or PTS, is an injury that can result from the experience of war. And like other injuries, PTS is treatable,” Bush said during the Empowering Our Nation’s Warriors Summit in Dallas.

**In pushing for the change, Bush joins retired Army Gen. Pete Chiarelli and veterans’ groups lobbying the medical community to consider PTSD an injury rather than a psychological disorder.**

When he served as Army vice chief of staff, Chiarelli pressed for the change within the ranks and also called on the American Psychiatric Association, which publishes the diagnostic manual used to determine psychological conditions, to do the same.

**Chiarelli, who favors “post-traumatic stress,” or the term used by the Canadian military, “operational stress injury,” believes those are more accurate than “disorder.”**

“Are you telling me that a woman who has been violently sexually assaulted has a disorder if she later has issues with male relationships or other problems? It’s ridiculous.”

**[C]hiarelli said researchers need only talk to affected troops and veterans to see that the negative associations of having a psychological disorder keep some from seeking treatment.**

**“If you are a 19-, 20-, 21-year-old kid, you don’t want to be told you have a disorder. I hear from former troops that they are looking for a job and don’t want people to know, or are worried they’ll lose their (security) clearance,” Chiarelli said.**

**Former Army infantry Capt. Adrian Bonenberg sought treatment for PTSD after two tours in Afghanistan. Now earning his master’s degree at Columbia**

**University, Bonenberg said he favors “injury” over “disorder,” even though the current nomenclature didn’t deter him from getting help.**

“Having trouble processing trauma is a very human, understandable reaction,” he said.

**“The people who had no difficulty seeing horrible things, having to touch the body parts of people (they} knew and considered friends, ... those are the ones with disorders.**

**“Most of the guys I know who saw heavy combat, the things we saw and did weighs heavily on us,” he said. “It’s not an internal disorder. It is an injury, as old as war itself.”**

In changing the diagnostic manual in late 2012, the APA Board of Trustees altered the requirements for PTSD to make the diagnosis more appropriate for combat-related PTSD, to include dropping a stipulation that patients experience “fear, helplessness or horror” in reaction to a traumatic event.

**But the board still decided not to drop the “D.”**

Nearly two years later, Bush and others continue to disagree.

**At a March 12 hearing on the Veterans Affairs Department’s proposed fiscal 2015 budget, Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., said many employers discriminate against veterans for fear they may have a psychiatric disorder.**

“Calling it a disorder gives it a stigma that is completely unjustified,” Blumenthal said.

**Bush said the Military Service Initiative, supported by Chiarelli, former Joint Chiefs Chairman retired Marine Gen. Peter Pace and others, will continue to advocate for dropping the “D” — if not to convince the medical profession, then at least to change the perceptions of employers.**

**“Veterans receiving treatment for post-traumatic stress are not damaged goods,” Bush said.**

**“Employers would not hesitate to hire an employee getting treated for a medical condition like diabetes. ... They should not hesitate to hire veterans getting treated for post-traumatic stress.”**

### **YOUR INVITATION:**

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

## 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.”**

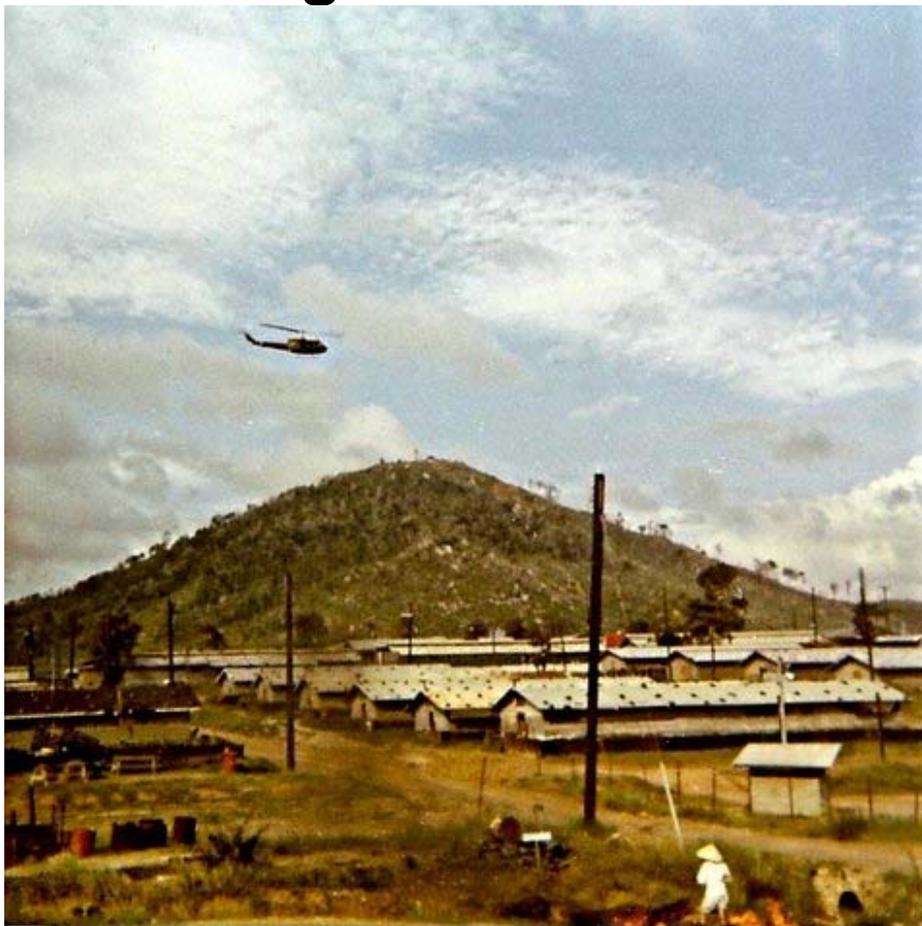
**“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose.”**

**Frederick Douglass, 1852**

**But out of this complicated web of material and psychic forces one conclusion emerges with irrefutable clarity: the more the soldiers in their mass are convinced that the rebels are really rebelling – that this is not a demonstration after which they will have to go back to the barracks and report, that this is a struggle to the death, that the people may win if they join them, and that this winning will not only guarantee impunity, but alleviate the lot of all – the more they realize this, the more willing they are to turn aside their bayonets, or go over with them to the people.**

**And the highest determination never can, or will, remain unarmed.  
-- Leon Trotsky; The History of the Russian Revolution**

# Burning Shit In Vietnam



Photograph by Mike Hastie: An Khe, Vietnam

From: Mike Hastie  
To: Military Resistance Newsletter  
Sent: March 19, 2014  
Subject: Burning Shit In Vietnam

## Burning Shit In Vietnam

**Everything about the Vietnam War was about burning shit, and so many other things.**

**Zippo Lighter and Napalm Democracy.**

**And now, the U.S. Government is on a massive campaign to burn the truth about the Vietnam War.**

**And, the reason the U.S. Government is doing this is so they can have other wars that are about the same shit.**

**It's a slow time-released capsule of lies that will make Americans believe the Vietnam War was a justifiable war for honorable causes... "Peace With Honor," as madman Nixon so often said.**

**It was the bull shit belief in the "Domino Theory."**

**It was the wholesale propaganda lie at the time that if the U.S. didn't stop Communism in Vietnam, all of Southeast Asia would fall to Communism.**

**It reminds me of the charging Merrill Lynch bull near Wall Street, the human crematorium of corporate murder.**

**I think S H I T should stand for:**

**Silence History In Time.**

**You gotta do this so the U.S. Government can have its dirty overt and covert wars in Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Palestine, Somalia, Libya, Egypt, Pakistan, Syria, Ukraine, and God only knows how many other wars in Africa, South America, etc...**

**Since the end of World War II, the U.S. has bombed 28 countries.**

**The United States Government has become the cancer of the world.**

**It has become the outer space surveillance " Big Brother " of the world.**

**I included in this piece of writing a photograph I took in An Khe, Vietnam. It shows a poor Vietnamese peasant burning American shit with diesel on a U.S. military base.**

**That is what we did to the Vietnamese people.**

**They became slaves in their own country, while the U.S. Government burned their villages to the ground every single day.**

**The truth is always in the details.**

**And the shit details were all part of these unfathomable atrocities.**

**Mike Hastie**

**Army Medic Vietnam**

**March 18, 2014**

**"I'm not particularly interested in figures, but in Washington there is a memorial to the US deaths in the Vietnam War, and it is 150 yards long. If the same memorial was built for the Vietnamese that were killed it would be nine miles long."**

**-- Philip Jones Griffiths**

**Vietnam Combat Photographer**

**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](mailto: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**

## **STUCK ON STUPID**

# **Super-Stupid Turkish Dictator Tries, Fails To Close Down Twitter: Twitter Use Breaks New Record In Country As Turks Defy Purge Of Social Media Platform By Ankara Regime; “Almost 2.5m Tweets – 17,000 Tweets A Minute – Have Been Posted From Turkey Since The Twitter Ban Went Into Effect”**

21 March 2014 by Constanze Letsch in Istanbul, The Guardian [Excerpts]

**Turkish users of Twitter, including the country’s president, have flouted a block on the social media platform by using text messaging services or disguising the location of their computers to continue posting messages on the site.**

**In what many Twitter users in Turkey called a “digital coup”, Telecom regulators enforced four court orders to restrict access to Twitter on Thursday night, just hours after the prime minister, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, vowed to “eradicate” the microblogging platform in an election speech.**

**The hashtag #Twitterisblockedinturkey quickly rose to the top trending term globally.**

**According to social media agency We Are Social the number of tweets sent from Turkey went up 138% following the ban.**

**Shortly after the Twitter ban came into effect about midnight, the microblogging company tweeted instructions to users in Turkey on how to circumvent it using text messaging services in Turkish and English.**

**Turkish tweeters were quick to share other methods of tiptoeing around the ban, using “virtual private networks” (VPNs) – which allow internet users to connect to the web undetected – or changing the domain name settings on computers and mobile devices to conceal their geographic whereabouts.**

**Some large Turkish news websites also published step-by-step instructions on how to change domain name system (DNS) settings.**

**On Friday, Turkey woke up to lively birdsong: according to the alternative online news site Zete.com, almost 2.5m tweets – 17,000 tweets a minute – have been posted from Turkey since the Twitter ban went into effect, setting records for Twitter use in the country.**

“Boss, my bird is still tweeting... @RT\_Erdogan,” posted @Fakir\_Bey. “And yours?”

But it was not just critics of the government who took to Twitter after the site was closed.

The mayor of Ankara, Melih Gökçek, famous for his extensive and rather bullish use of the micro-blogging site, was the first politician from Erdogan’s ruling AK party to breach the ban. “I am able to tweet because my DNS settings allow it. That will probably be banned tomorrow as well. I hope that all those who are cursing and using fake accounts will have learnt their lesson,” he tweeted, as usual all in capitals.

**The first cabinet member to post a tweet after the ban came into effect was the deputy prime minister, Bülent Arınç, who informed his 1.34 million followers of an election rally in the city of Manisa.**

**His message was retweeted more than 1,000 times in the first hour, causing much ridicule:**

**“Oh dear, be careful, Twitter has been banned by the “national will”,” replied Ayse Cavdar, an academic and journalist. “Don’t show up here. Otherwise the “national will” will close you down, too.”**

Meanwhile, the deputy prime minister, Ali Babacan, said he expected the ban to be temporary. “I don’t think this will last too long. A mutual solution needs to be found,” Babacan told a local TV channel on Friday.

**In a rare act of defiance, the Turkish president, Abdullah Gül, openly criticised the ban – via his Twitter account.**

“The shutdown of an entire social platform is unacceptable,” he tweeted.

**“Besides, as I have said many times before, it is technically impossible to close down communication technologies like Twitter entirely. I hope this measure will not last long.”**

Later on Friday afternoon several Twitter users in Turkey reported that they were able to access the site again while Turkey’s Telecommunications Authority (TIB) denied that the ban had been removed.

Turkey’s main opposition Republican People’s party (CHP) also announced that it would challenge the blocking of Twitter in court, citing a violation of personal freedoms. The local bar association filed a separate criminal complaint against the ban.

Social media played a big role during last summer's anti-government protest, prompting Erdogan to call Twitter "a menace to society".

**Twitter has also been used to disseminate a series of apparently incriminating audio recordings suggesting massive corruption inside the Turkish government.**

Many expect more explosive revelations to be made via Twitter in the week running up to local elections on 30 March. Two weeks ago Erdogan threatened to ban Facebook and Twitter, accusing social media users of abusing these platforms for a "smear campaign" against his government.

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## **CLASS WAR REPORTS**

# **Bosnia: Report From The 11th Session Of The Tuzla Plenum Of Citizens, 15 March 2014: "The Initial Demands Are Being Considered By All Plenums Active In The FBiH, And They Have Already Been Adopted By Plenums In Zenica, Mostar, And Bugojno"**

**Comment: T**

Tuzla is an industrial city where a mass meeting of 10,000 industrial workers launched the Bosnian revolution last month.

The plenums are organizations that grew out of the revolutionary movement. Citizens assemble to formulate and vote on demands and advance organization from below.

As the article notes, plenums from different Bosnian cities are beginning to coordinate their demands on the Bosnian government.

The plenums exist side by side with the old government.

One or the other will eventually hold all power, and the other cease to exist.

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March 20, 2014 Bhprotestfiles.wordpress.com/

This report was published on the Tuzla Canton Plenum Facebook page on 16 March 2014: <https://www.facebook.com/plenumTK/posts/1478493809032794>

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## **Report From The 11th Session Of The Tuzla Plenum Of Citizens, 15 March 2014:**

### **Press Release From The 11th Public Working Session Of The Plenum Of Citizens Of Tuzla Canton**

**The 11th public working session of the Plenum of Citizens of Tuzla Canton was held on Saturday 15 March 2014; about 500 citizens participated.**

Suggestions for the agenda and session moderators, which were submitted at the preparatory meeting of the coordinators of all of the Plenum working groups, were adopted by an overwhelming majority of votes.

**The first item on the agenda was interplenum cooperation and work on the demands for the parliament and governing bodies of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH).**

Vedad Pašić introduced the item and invited all those interested to get involved in the work of the newly formed Plenum of Citizens of Tuzla Canton Team for Interplenum Cooperation by sending an e-mail to [interplenum@plenumtk.org](mailto:interplenum@plenumtk.org).

The Plenum was informed that the OSCE agreed to act as an independent observer in all future negotiations of the Plenum and its working groups with top officials of the Tuzla Canton government.

Then followed a presentation about the initiative of the Plenum of Citizens of Sarajevo to define demands to be made of the governing bodies of the FBiH.

**The initial demands are being considered by all plenums active in the FBiH, and they have already been adopted by plenums in Zenica, Mostar, and Bugojno.**

(Translator's note: These demands also appear on the Sarajevo Plenum site at <http://plenumsa.org/zahtjevi-plenuma-gradana-i-gradanki-sarajeva-prema-institucijama-federacije-bosne-i-hercegovine/>)

The demands adopted by these plenums are as follows:

**Resignation of the Government of the Federation.**

**Permanent suspension of criminal procedures against all participants in the demonstrations in the FBiH from 5 February onwards.**

**Temporary suspension of all privatization procedures, including the sale of public property. An audit of privatizations completed to date and the processing of those responsible.**

Eliminating benefits in institutions and organs of public administration at all levels, including the benefit of receiving a salary after leaving public office (i.e., “golden parachute”) and compensation for being separated from one’s family and for accommodations when working in a location other than the place of residence.

**Limiting the maximum salaries of elected officials, executive officers and their advisers to an amount equal to two times the average salary in the FBiH.**

**Eliminating monthly compensation for serving as a member of a board of directors, commission, or other management body of a public company that has been founded by an institution of the government of the FBiH from the federal budget.**

**Introduction of progressive tax rates so that taxpayers would pay taxes at different rates depending on amount of income received or profits realized.**

**Launching an initiative in the Parliament of BiH for changing the law on value added tax (VAT), the goal being to introduce different VAT rates, starting with a zero-tax rate for basic grocery items.**

**Immediate harmonization of pensions with the rise in average salary in the FBiH, except where it would result in a lowering of pensions, and joining work tenure for those who have met the conditions for receiving a pension.**

**Temporary suspension of the borrowing of money from international and domestic banks and resources for the purpose of granting credit to fund public spending in the territory of the FBiH.**

It was announced that the Plenum of Citizens of Tuzla Canton will consider these demands at the next session in order to join this interplenum initiative.

The second item on the agenda was a public debate about the candidate for chief executive of the Tuzla Canton Government.

Lejla Brkić, coordinator of the Legal Team of the Plenum of Citizens of Tuzla Canton, introduced the item, reminding attendees that two of the demands submitted by the Plenum regarding nominating the candidate have not been met.

These are the demand to organize a public debate about the candidates for chief executive and the demand to broadcast the debate on RTV TK (Radio-Television Tuzla Canton) as a public service.

After the introduction, she turned the floor over to Bahrija Umihanić, candidate for chief executive of the Tuzla Canton Government, who briefly introduced himself to the Plenum

and presented an overview of his plan of action for the coming period. Among other things, the candidate invited citizens to participate in the election of the new government and announced that the list of all candidates would be published on Monday 17 March 2014.

**Dozens of citizens actively participated in the discussion, addressing the Plenum and the candidate, posing questions, commenting and giving suggestions, and expressing dissatisfaction with the process of selecting the candidate and with the fact that the Assembly of the Tuzla Canton did not meet the demands of the Plenum.**

No (new) demands were introduced at the 11th public working session of the Plenum of Citizens of Tuzla Canton.

All citizens of the Tuzla Canton are invited to get involved in the work of the Plenum and to support and help with the organization of public working sessions by volunteering.

The 12th public working session of the Plenum of Citizens of Tuzla Canton will be held on Friday 21 March at the Ismet Mujezinović Studio at 6 pm.

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## **No, Ukraine Is Not Being Run By Fascists:**

**“The Accusations Of Fascism Are A Little Rich Coming From Putin And Yanukovych”**

**“It Was Yanukovych’s Regime ‘Rather Than Its Opponents That Resorts To Anti-Semitism, Instructing Its Riot Police That The Opposition Is Led By Jews’”**

March 7, 2014 By Peter Weber, THE WEEK [Excerpts]

Russia and its deposed Ukrainian ally, former President Viktor Yanukovych, have a special word for the protesters and opposition members of parliament that ousted him: fascists.

But evoking the specter of Adolf Hitler is not particularly helpful in determining what Putin means exactly and whether there’s any truth to his claim.

There have been entire books written on the subject, but some common characteristics of fascist governments include extreme, quasi-religious nationalism; a highly autocratic leader; control of the media and fierce suppression of dissent; a focus on race; an expansionist or nostalgically imperialist foreign policy; cronyism; and an emphasis on military strength and might.

Do the interim leaders of Ukraine fit that bill?

Most members of the coalition government — such as acting President Oleksandr Turchynov, Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, Justice Minister Pavlo Petrenko, and Interior Minister Arsen Avakov — are from the Batkivshchyna (Fatherland) Party, headed by former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. The Batkivshchyna Party has a populist, pro-Europe bent, mixing support for freer markets with a call for greater assistance for the poor.

Tymoshenko is an early frontrunner in the May 25 presidential race, along with millionaire businessman/politician Petro Poroshenko and former heavyweight boxing champion Vitali Klitschko.

Klitschko, considered a political outsider, is a member of the Verkhovna Rada (parliament) but not part of the coalition government. He heads up the center-right Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reform (UDAR — or “Punch” in Ukrainian), which holds 40 seats in parliament. UDAR is also pro-Europe, virulently anti-corruption, and favors more expansive welfare policies.

None of these people can be called fascists.

If you use a looser definition of fascist — say, a group with extreme right-wing, authoritarian, or intolerant views or practice — then there are actually elements of fascism in the interim government. Yatsenyuk’s cabinet includes members of the ultra-nationalist Svoboda (Freedom) Party and the even-further-right Pravy Sektor (Right Sector), some of them in relatively high positions.

Svoboda has fascist roots, starting as the Social-National Party of Ukraine in the early 1990s. It kept that name until 2004, at which point party leader Oleh Tyahnybok was still giving speeches urging Ukrainians to fight the “Muscovite-Jewish mafia.” The Wolfsangel, popular with neo-Nazis, was the party’s logo until 2003. But the party has slowly been moderating over the years, especially since Tyahnybok took over in 2004.

By distancing itself from anti-semitism, moderating its more radical platforms, and focusing on corruption, Svoboda won 10 percent of the vote for parliament in the 2012 election. Svoboda formed an opposition coalition with Batkivshchyna and UDAR, and that coalition held when the Maidan protests started in November 2013. By January, Tyahnybok was one of the protest’s three leaders, along with Batkivshchyna’s Yatsenyuk and Klitschko.

The ouster of Yanukovich provided an unexpected path to power for Svoboda, whose members now head the defense, agriculture, and environment ministries; party ideological chief Oleksandr Sych is deputy prime minister. Dmytro Yarosh, the head of Pravy Sektor, is deputy secretary for national security.

The political ascendance of far-right nationalists is largely attributable to their key, often belated role in the anti-Yanukovich protest. If Tyahnybok was one of the Maidan protest's leaders, Pravy Sektor earned respect for providing much of the muscle that kept the riot police at bay or even took the fight to the security forces.

In all, according to an AntiFascist Union Ukraine member, about 30 percent of the Maidan protesters were Pravy Sektor members, neo-Nazis, and other hard-core nationalists. But that's not too surprising: If you drew a Venn diagram of Ukrainian far-right nationalists and people who oppose Russia and Yanukovich, there would be almost total overlap.

But you can't say that these right-wing nationalists — even if they are fascists — are in charge in Ukraine. None of them have near the support to win the presidency, and Svoboda is ultimately unlikely to wield much more influence in Ukraine than the National Front in France or the British National Party in the U.K.

There are racist, anti-Semitic, violent, thuggish, neo-Nazi, white supremacist, and other unsavory elements in Svoboda and Pravy Sektor.

But the accusations of fascism are a little rich coming from Putin and Yanukovich.

“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,” said Timothy Snyder in The New York Review of Books, right before Yanukovich's fall from power. But some of Putin's top advisers promote a form of “National Bolshevism” that looks an awful lot like fascism, Snyder added.

**And it was Yanukovich's regime “rather than its opponents that resorts to anti-Semitism, instructing its riot police that the opposition is led by Jews.”**

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## **OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

### **Zionist Settlers Kill Palestinian Olive Trees, As Usual**

19/03/2014 Ma'an

NABLUS -- Israeli settlers on Tuesday uprooted 50 big olive trees in Ein Yabus village south of Nablus.

A Palestinian official who monitors settler activity in the northern West Bank told Ma'an that settlers from the nearby Yitzhar settlement uprooted 50 fruit trees in al-Sauma'a area north of the village.

The trees belong to Fawzi Hassan Mohammad Hassan, he added.

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# Zionist Settlers Attack Palestinian Shepherds Grazing On Palestinian Owned Land, As Usual

March 17, 2014, Operation Dove via Uruknet

At-Tuwani, Occupied Palestine

At-Tuwani – On Sunday March 16, during the Jewish holiday of Purim, Israeli settlers attacked Palestinians and Internationals on Palestinian fields near Mitzpe Yair illegal outpost.

In the morning, four Palestinian shepherds from the village of Qawawis were grazing their flocks south of the Israeli outpost of Mitzpe Yair, when a settler arrived armed with an iron pipe to threaten them shouting.

At 9:18 am two Internationals arrived together with two further Palestinian shepherds. The armed Israeli settler then left when he saw that they were filming the scene.

**At 9:28 am eight settlers arrived from the illegal outpost – one was still armed with the iron pipe – and four of them violently chased away the flocks, pushing them toward the valley underlying the outpost. Palestinian shepherds followed the settlers in order not to lose their flocks accompanied by Internationals.**

**The Palestinians immediately called the Israeli police.**

At 9:48 am the settlers came back to the outpost. In the meantime, an additional Internationals and two Palestinian members of the South Hebron Hills Popular Committee arrived at the scene.

At 10:00 am one of the settlers tried to chase away one of the newly-arrived Palestinians, a member of the Israeli human rights organization B'Tselem.

As this happened, an Israeli policeman and three Israeli soldiers arrived by foot. At 10:20 am, as the policeman began interrogating the attendants, a further three settlers arrived.

Those interrogated were the Palestinian shepherd Nail Abuaram (who filmed everything with a B'Tselem camera) and one International.

At 10:45 am, the policeman lead Abuaram and one of the Internationals to Kiryat Arba police station to give testimony of the harassments. They arrived at the station at noon.

The International was asked for the camera footage of the incident, interrogated and finally released at around 2:50 pm.

Abuaram was interrogated alone for a couple of hours and was threatened of arrest until he accepted to sign a paper stating that he will not get closer than 450 meters to the area where the harassment took place for a period of 15 days.

He was later released around 6:00 pm after signing the paper. The Israeli police forced the settler who attacked the Palestinians with an iron pipe to stay 200 meters far from the spot where the harassment took place for a period of 15 days.

Palestinian communities of the South Hebron Hills area are strongly involved in using nonviolence as a way to resist the Israeli occupation.

Operation Dove has maintained an international presence in At-Tuwani and the South Hebron Hills since 2004.

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## **Zionist Settlers Attack Palestinians In Occupied Hebron, As Usual: “The Attack Comes Days After Settlers Erected A Banner Nearby Reading ‘Palestine Never Existed! (And Never Will)’”**



03/9/2014 Ma'an

HEBRON -- Israeli settlers on Saturday attacked Palestinian residents and international activists near Shuhada Street in the center of the flashpoint southern West Bank City of Hebron, a local activist said.

Activist Imad Atrash said that a group of Jewish settlers from the Ramat Yishai outpost in the Tel Rumeida neighborhood of central Hebron attacked the Abu Shamsieh and Sidr families, as well as foreign activists from the International Solidarity Movement.

**The attack comes days after settlers erected a banner nearby reading “Palestine never existed! (and never will).”**

Atrash said that after the banner was erected, “residents asked solidarity activists to protect them from the daily settler attacks” they were facing.

**Hebron is a frequent site of clashes due to the presence of 500 Israeli settlers in the Old City, many of whom have illegally occupied Palestinian houses and forcibly removed the original inhabitants.**

**They are protected by thousands of Israeli forces.**

A 1997 agreement split Hebron into areas of Palestinian and Israeli control.

The Israeli military-controlled H2 zone includes the ancient Old City, home of the revered Ibrahim Mosque -- also split into a synagogue referred to as the Tomb of the Patriarchs -- and the once thriving Shuhada Street, now just shuttered shops fronts and closed homes.

**Since Israeli forces shut down the street in 1994, over 40 percent of the area’s Palestinian homes had been abandoned and three-quarters of commercial establishments had shut down to the severe difficulties they faced as a result of the street closure and checkpoints, according to a 2007 report by Israeli human rights group B’Tselem.**

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## **Occupation Regime Cancels Visits By Palestinians To Relatives In Occupation Prisons: “Relatives Of These Residents Are Allowed To Visit Them Only Once Every Two Or Three Months”**

March 17, 2014 B’Tselem [Excerpt]

Today, the military cancelled family visits to residents of Gaza imprisoned in Israel. Usually, relatives of these residents are allowed to visit them only once every two or three months.

On Wednesday, 12 March 2014, the IDF Spokesperson announced that Kerem Shalom Crossing would be closed, and activity at Erez Crossing restricted to cases that the military defines as humanitarian, following rocket fire from Gaza to communities in southern Israel.

The IDF Spokesperson stated that “a decision to open Kerem Shalom Crossing and restore activity at Erez Crossing to full capacity will be made based on evaluations of the situation and on security considerations.”

It is Israel’s duty to protect its borders and residents; however, that does not justify inflicting such harm on all residents of the Gaza Strip who are not involved in the hostilities.

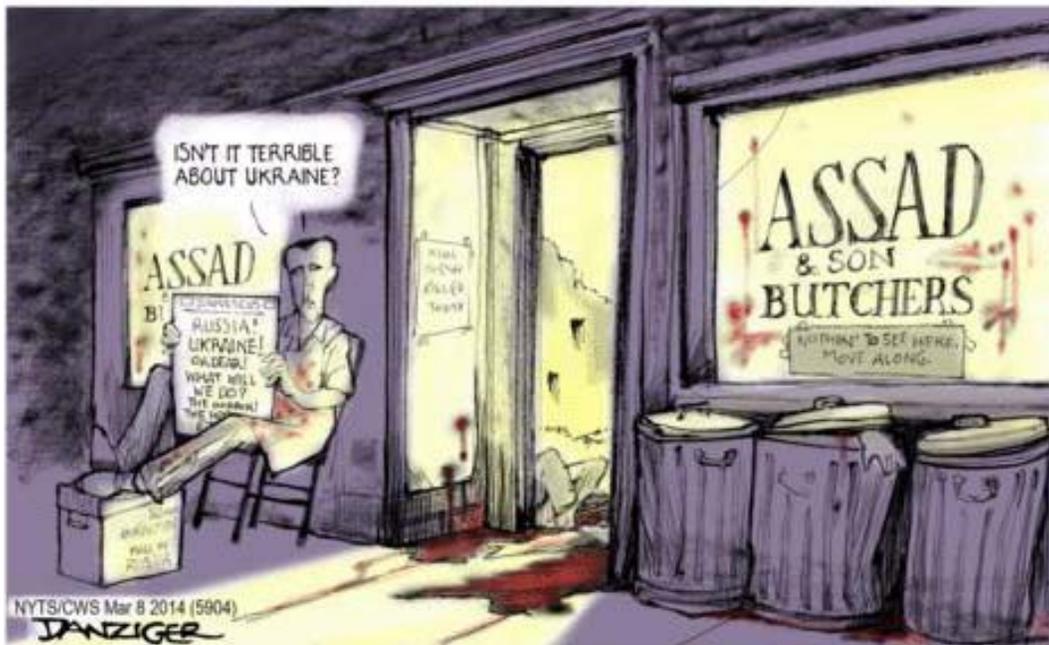
To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to:

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

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

## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

Following the News in Syria



## **Lawsuit Challenges The DC Dictatorships' "No Fly List"**

# **“Four Of The Plaintiffs Are US Military Veterans, Who Were Never Told Why They Are On The List Or Given A Reasonable Opportunity To Get Off It”**

**“Steven Washburn, An Air Force Veteran And New Mexico Resident, Was Prevented For Years From Being With His Wife”**

**FBI Agents Told Marine Veteran Abe Mashal’s “That He Would Be Removed From The No Fly List If He Agreed To Become An Informant”**

March 14, 2014 By: Kevin Gosztola, Firedoglake [Excerpts]

A new report from the American Civil Liberties Union highlights the “massive watchlisting system” in the United States, which “risks stigmatizing hundreds of thousands of people, including American citizens, as “known or suspected terrorists.”

The report outlines what is known about a system based on “secret standards and secret evidence, without a meaningful process to challenge error and clear” the names of individuals placed on the lists.

More can be said about what is not known than what is known.

Hugh Handeyside, a staff attorney with the ACLU National Security Project who helped write the ACLU’s report on terrorist watchlists, said, “When it comes to two of the most prominent watchlists, the No Fly List and the Selectee List, we don’t know the standards that are used for placing people on those lists. So the standards are secret in addition to the evidence itself (the evidence used to put people on the lists).”

Specifically, the report explains that it is known “additional derogatory requirements” are necessary for a person to be placed on a list, but, beyond that, what is required to be

included in the Terrorist Screening Database (TSDB), from which information flows to watchlists, is unknown.

**The government refuses to disclose information related to this process.**

“How the various nominating agencies interpret the standard(s) for nomination, how widely those interpretations vary across the intelligence community, or whether any agency has issued guidance elaborating on the standard(s),” is also considered a “state secret.”

**The FBI’s Terrorist Screening Center (TSC), which is the “hub of the system” of watchlists, will not disclose how it interprets the term “terrorism.” The Government Accountability Office has acknowledged “agencies utilizing watch list records recognize various definitions of the term.”**

**And how personnel are trained at agencies on when to nominate individuals for watchlists is secret too.**

Worse, individuals who know they are on the list have no meaningful way to contest their placement.

They also do not get to know if they were on the list or not.

**When a person writes a letter complaining about their placement to the Department of Homeland Security Traveler Redress Inquiry Program (DHS TRIP), the response never reveals if the individual “is, or ever was, on a watchlist, or any reasons for the individual’s status.”**

**It will only state, “We have conducted a review of any applicable records in consultation with other federal agencies as appropriate, and it has been determined that no corrections or changes are warranted at this time.”**

The ACLU has brought a lawsuit challenging the No Fly List in Oregon. It was filed on behalf of “10 US citizens and permanent residents who cannot fly to or from the US or over American airspace because they are on the government’s secretive No Fly List.”

Four of the plaintiffs are US military veterans, who were never told “why they are on the list or given a reasonable opportunity to get off it.”

The court decided in August 2013 that there were constitutional rights implicated by aspects of the watchlisting system and, on March 17, there will be oral argument over whether the process violates the Fifth Amendment, which guarantees citizens the right of due process.

Multiple cases have been brought against the No Fly List.

Often, in these cases, litigation is subject to closed proceedings and sealed filings.

It prevents the public from bearing witness to how attorneys are fighting to protect constitutional rights in face of gross government secrecy.

But the case of Rahinah Ibrahim recently showed that challenges to watchlists can take place without posing threats to “national security,” as the government likes to claim.

In the ACLU report, Ibrahim’s case, which was decided on January 14, is briefly described:

**“Rahinah Ibrahim, a Stanford PhD student and Malaysian citizen, was prevented from boarding a flight in San Francisco, handcuffed (despite being wheelchair-bound at the time), and held in a detention cell for hours in January 2005 based on what turned out to be a bureaucratic error by the FBI that placed her on the No Fly List.**

**“The government fought to avoid correcting the error for years, even invoking the state secrets privilege in an unsuccessful effort to prevent judicial scrutiny. She was permitted to leave the country, but to this day, she has been barred from returning, even though the government admits that she should not have been placed on the No Fly List.”**

Handeyside said the significance is that, while the outcome was specific to what happened to Ibrahim and did not involve a remedy to protect all citizens’ rights, a federal judge did rule that “redress procedures are inadequate and do not meet constitutional muster.”

**While unmentioned in the ACLU’s report, another ruling occurred on January 22.**

**US District Judge Anthony Trenga allowed a lawsuit by Gulet Mohamed, a young Somali American, to go to trial.**

**The judge found that putting a citizen on the No Fly List “labels an American citizen a disloyal American” and placement can be “life-defining and life-restricting across a broad range of constitutionally protected activities and aspirations.”**

**It “transforms a person into a second-class citizen, or worse.”**

Here are some other examples of Americans who found out they were on the No Fly List, as noted in the ACLU’s report:

**“Marine veteran Abe Mashal’s inclusion on the No Fly List made it impossible for him to work for clients of his specialized dog training business who lived beyond driving distance, resulting in the loss of significant business income. FBI agents told Mashal that he would be removed from the No Fly List if he agreed to become an informant.**

**“Steven Washburn, an Air Force veteran and New Mexico resident, was prevented for years from being with his wife—a Spanish citizen who was unable to secure a visa to travel to the United States—because of his status on the No Fly List.**

**“In April 2012, inclusion on the No Fly List prevented Air Force veteran Saadiq Long from flying from Qatar to his childhood home in Oklahoma to visit his mother, whose health had been deteriorating due to congestive heart failure.**

“Kevin Iraniha, an Iranian-American peace activist, was barred from flying home to San Diego from Costa Rica, where he was studying at the UN-accredited University for Peace. Iraniha and his father, both of whom were told they had been placed on the No Fly list, endured hours of interrogation on their religion, Iraniha’s travel to Muslim countries, and his views on Palestine and U.S. foreign policy.

**A person who finds out they are on the No Fly List has to live as if they are a suspected terrorist.**

**They can’t take commercial flights.**

**They may face a long-term investigation that includes detention, interrogations and intrusive surveillance.**

If on the Selectee List, they will be subjected to additional screenings and asked questions every time they try to board flights.

**Leaving the United States is risky because they may not be allowed to reenter.**

The FBI may be involved in investigating them.

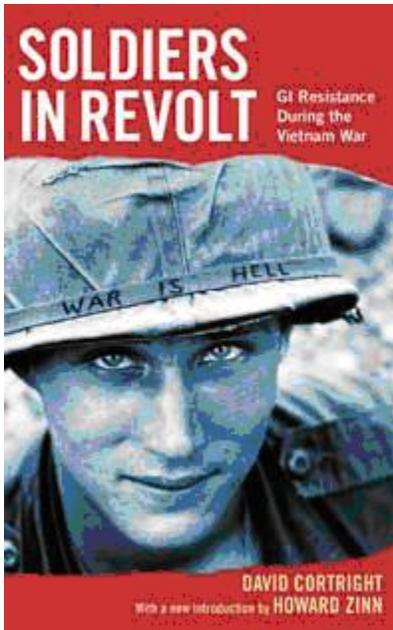
**It may become difficult to get a job, pursue education and/or maintain relationships with family or friends.**

**And, abroad, a person can be subjected to becoming FBI informants or else their name won’t be taken off the No Fly List.**

### **YOUR INVITATION:**

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

**FREE TO ACTIVE DUTY:  
A Vietnam Veteran Describes The  
Strategy And Tactics Used By Troops To  
Stop An Imperial War**



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