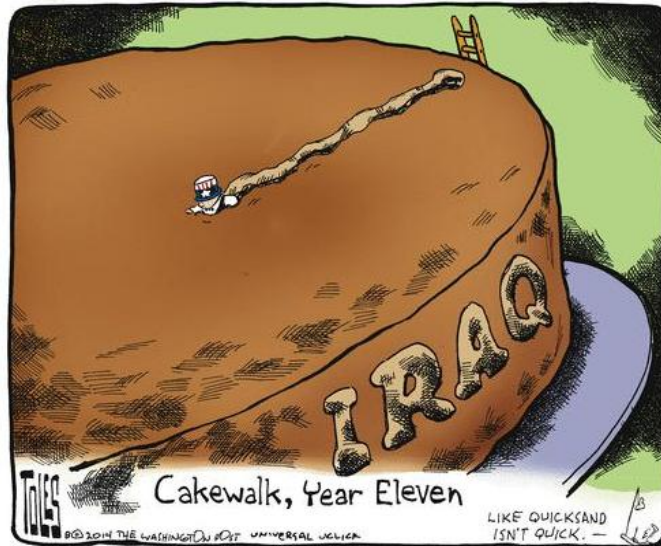


Military Resistance 12H5



AFGHANISTAN THEATER: “US Foreign Fighters Suffered 20 Combat Casualties Including A General Officer, During The Week Ending August 13 As The Total Rose To 40,734”

Aug 14, 2014 www.michaelmunk.com [Excerpts]

AFGHANISTAN THEATER:

US foreign fighters suffered 20 combat casualties including a general officer, during the week ending August 13 as the total rose to 40,734. The total includes 21,763 dead and wounded from what the Pentagon classifies as "hostile" causes and 18,971 dead or medically evacuated (as of Dec.3, 2012, when it stopped making the count public) from what it called "non-hostile" causes.

US media divert attention from the actual cost in American life and limb by reporting regularly only the total killed (6,831: 4,491 in Iraq, 2,340 in Afghanistan) but rarely mentioning those wounded in action (52,172: 32,242 in Iraq; 19,930 in Afghanistan).

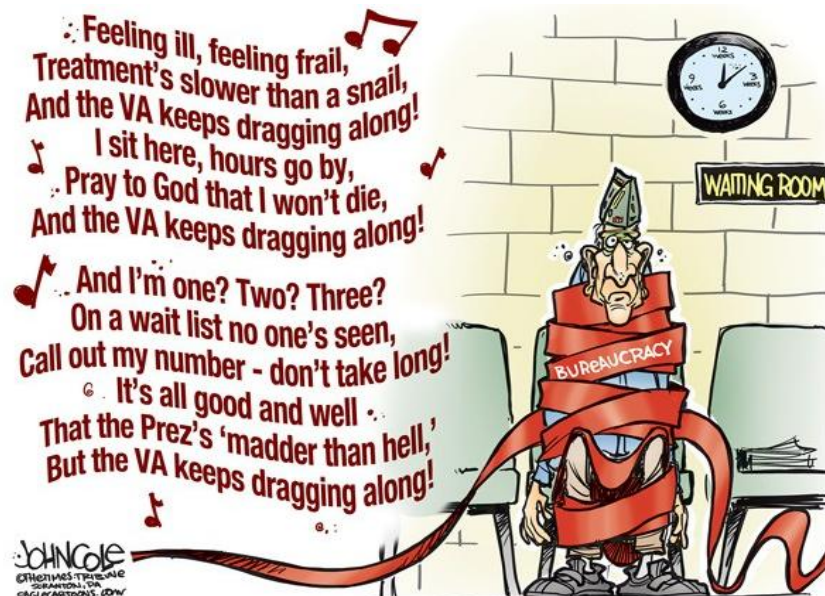
They ignore the 59,908 (44,607 in Iraq, 18,463 in AfPak as of Dec 3, 2012) military casualties injured and ill seriously enough to be medevac'd out of theater, even though the 6,831 total dead include 1,469 (962 in Iraq, 507 in Afghanistan) who died from those same "non hostile" causes of whom almost 25% (332) were suicides (as of Jan 9, 2013).

WIAs are usually updated on Wednesday at <http://www.defense.gov/news/casualty.pdf>

POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE BLOODSHED

THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE WAR

MILITARY NEWS



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "An excellent tune to parody."]

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FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.

“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.

“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

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

Frederick Douglass, 1852

The philosophers have only interpreted the world, in various ways; the point is to change it.

-- Karl Marx, "Theses on Feuerbach"

“We Can Fully Sympathize With Those Ukrainians Who Do Not Want To Live Under Today’s Increasingly Anti-Democratic Ukrainian Regime”

“We Can Fully Sympathize With Those Ukrainians Who Want To Protect Their State From Any Kind Of Russian Interference”

“This Is Not Our War, But Our People Are Fighting In It – On Both Sides – Besides A Minority Of Ultra-Right-Wing Thugs, Their Ideological And Military Leaders”

“The Only Chance To Break The Vicious Circuit In Ukraine Is For There To Be Radical Changes In Russia”

31 July 2014 by Kirill Medvedev, LeftEast

Kirill Medvedev is a Moscow-based poet, translator, and activist. He is the founder of the Arkady Kots band. The text was published in Russian on OpenLeft and translated by Maksim Hanukai.

The need for a “third way,” one that is different from the rabid support for one of the sides in the Ukrainian crisis, a way about which several of have written in the last few

months, is especially evident today, because it is the only chance to reconstitute the almost completely broken democratic opposition in Russia.

Maidan, the loudest and most relentless mobilization in post-Soviet space, was, without doubt, a chance for a unique democratic breakthrough, capable of serving as an example to Western Europe, the CIS countries, and many others.

Anti-Maidan, the tumult in South-East Ukraine, was, without doubt, a chance for a “circuit break,” an occasion to imagine the development of Western Europe outside of that course (of de-industrialization, privatization, neoliberalization) guaranteed to it by the heads of the European Union and the IMF.

It appears that both chances have been lost.

Revolution is made by an active minority, but its fate depends on that minority's ability to attract a majority to its cause, to convince it that there is a commonality of interests.

Maidan proved unable to convey to the South-East, even before its victory, a clear message: we are one nation, we have common interests, there will be room in the new Ukraine for different cultural-historical traditions and economic-political orientations. Instead, there was, at best, confidence that the residents of the South-East will accept anything the revolutionaries will achieve in Kiev, at worst – the most abhorrent social racism and chauvinism, which in the end became the ideological basis for the anti-terrorist operation (ATO).

The republics that came into being in South-East Ukraine are, without doubt, the result of a foreign policy adventure on the part of the Russian regime, which, risking and wavering, tried to turn to its advantage the entirely justified discontent of a huge part of the population in the South-East with the new Kiev establishment and its politics.

Many on the Left (myself included) hoped that the people of Donbas (like those of Maidan) could formulate and realize their own social and democratic program: this could have either brought the two movements closer together, bringing to the fore the progressive elements of both; or it could have made the question of the territorial integrity of Ukraine (and Russia, and that of any other country in a similar situation) insignificant.

Besides problems of self-organization, of political initiative, which really do exist in South-East Ukraine (as they do in Russia and in many other places), it is also important that the aggrieved people of Donbas didn't have any well-defined political goals from the start.

Therefore, it is entirely logical that at the head of the mobilization appeared a small cadre of people, primarily from Russia, with either military or administrative experience, with some (let it be uncertain and unstable) support from Moscow and a very specific political motive – the restoration and expansion of “the Russian World.”

Yes, the rudimentary Soviet anti-fascism and egalitarianism that reside in the majority of people of Donbas are not, to put it mildly, the worst of values now diffused in post-Soviet space.

But it is impossible to seriously take as signs of left-wing or democratic politics government-implemented ideas about nationalization, the “anti-fascism” of right-wing historical re-enactors and former members of the RNU (Russian National Unity Party), their anti-Western, anti-European rhetoric, which plays on the unambiguously reactionary sentiments of the masses.

And there is nothing left-wing about anti-oligarchic declarations as such, which can easily be part of a Right-Left, even a National-Socialist program.

And there can be no comparison with either the Cuban or the Bolivarian revolutions as long as we refuse to speak of Russia as a local imperialist, dispatching its cadres to neighboring republics with the following ideas:

“The borders of the Russian World are significantly wider than the borders of the Russian Federation. I am fulfilling a historical mission in the name of the Russian nation, the Russian super-ethnos, bound together by Orthodox Christianity. In the Ukraine, as in the Caucasus, I fight against separatists, this time Ukrainian, not Chechen. Because there is such a thing as Russia, great Russia, the Russian Empire. And now the Ukrainian separatists in Kiev are fighting against the Russian Empire” (Aleksandr Borodai).

It is perfectly clear that the majority of residents of Donbas do not live in the fantasy-world of historical re-enactment, but in a world with their own everyday problems, problems of life and work, their own interests, which differ from the interests of the visiting fighters and commanders, no matter what hopes might have been placed on them in the beginning.

And this is just as clear: even if a left-wing, radical-democratic agenda would suddenly begin to break through from the bottom, it would immediately be either appropriated or simply crushed, with support from Moscow, by the builders of the “Russian World.”

Therefore, the only chance to break the vicious circuit in Ukraine is for there to be radical changes in Russia.

Changes that would come to pass not under the banner of a struggle for the “Russian World” against juvenile justice, Eurosodom and the like, but under the banner of radical democratic and social changes inside the country, a re-orientation of the economy from the maintenance of an army of bureaucrats, policemen, FSB-men, and heaps of big businessmen, to the social sphere, science, industry.

Of course, it is hard to imagine such changes taking place today.

The events in Ukraine have, on the one hand, almost completely demoralized and divided the Russian opposition, divided its flanks from within (the Left flank most of all); on the other hand, they have presented a new problem for the regime: What is to be done with those sentiments that were persistently fired up by Russian propaganda, with the leaders and fighters of the South-East, who have gained authority in the context of the “anti-fascist” hysteria in the mass media?

And it is obvious that there is nothing left to do but to co-opt, in some way and measure, their leaders and the sentiments that stand behind, to bring them to power.

Here we approach the subject of fascism.

While the phrase “Kiev junta,” planted by the Russian propagandists, does nothing to help shed light on the situation, distinct elements of fascism are evident in post-Revolutionary Ukraine. These are, first of all, military forces financed by oligarchs, comprised of fighters motivated by ultra-nationalist ideas, recruited largely from far-right organizations.

Attempts on the part of the regime (which may not itself be “fascist”) to support and make use of such structures all too often lead to the loss of control or to the surrender of it as the only means of survival.

Historically, the intrigue of relations between bourgeois power and fascism consists precisely in this, which is why there is no point in calling the Poroshenko regime or the Putin regime in themselves “fascist” for the purpose of immediate propaganda gains.

In one way or another, the question of fascism in Ukraine must be discussed responsibly, including in the context of the pan-European situation with the far Right.

We must discuss the relationship between the conduct of the pro-Kiev soldiers/fighters and ultra-nationalist ideology. But it must also be clear that racist hatred, torture, violence against peaceful residents are no less criminal if they take place under the Russian, Imperial or Soviet flag.

And if we believe that a humanitarian catastrophe is taking place in South-East Ukraine, then we must demand the end of the anti-terrorist operation and the beginning of reconciliation under international control, not military support for our “brothers” coming from the right-wing, authoritarian Russian regime.

And, of course, we must discuss the question of fascism even more seriously in connection with Russia, for both the subsequent logic of events in the Donetsk People’s Republic and the example of, say, Ihor Kolomoyskyi, with his private battalions, give momentum to the formation of similar elements of classical fascism in our own country.

It has been said more than once that, in the near term, regardless of how this whole Donbas story will end, we will likely see both the rise to power of several “heroes of the DPR” and the formation, from the ranks of militia returning to Russia, of some type of paramilitary structure under the patronage of patriotically inclined big businessmen and groups of the elite. Iconic DPR-men and their newly-recruited associates may very easily be employed in various political and economic conflicts and repressions, serve as examples of the regime’s “national-patriotic” character, be brought to the forefront in the event of crisis, and in the event of extreme danger – appointed to the highest posts.

Naturally, and in parallel to this, “anti-liberalism” will be strengthened, without, however, deviation from the general neoliberal economic course, but only in the guise of refining the figure of the liberal “national traitor” as a bogeyman for members of any kind of opposition.

It appears that some on the Left are quite ready to lend a hand in this effort: some simply out of hatred for “liberals,” others wishing to find a small, but stable place for themselves in the new situation. They will be poured into the same anti-Western, “anti-liberal” sauce as the trash-conservative agenda. Let us look, for example, at the account of the “Yalta Conference of Resistance” on the site rabkor.ru:

“The struggle with the new Kiev regime is in effect a struggle against the EU, not in the form of challenging merely the politics of destroying the family and heterosexual relations, but in the form of challenging the entire anti-social neoliberal economic politics of the Western elites,” emphasized in his report the Head of the Centre for Economic Research (IGSO) Vasily Koltashov.

All those who are not satisfied with this dolled-up consensus, all those who want truly democratic, truly progressive social changes in Russia, who still hope that our country can become not just a petty regional predator, but an example of democracy, justice and education for all, need a new opposition. But for it to become possible, it is necessary, however difficult it may appear, to set aside differences of opinion with respect to Ukraine.

Of course, it is impossible to set aside differences of opinion with those who, all these months, have had their teeth sunk into their computers, supporting the anti-terrorist operation in their attacks on the “Colorados” (the pro-Russian insurgents) just as it is impossible to set aside differences of opinion with those who have hysterically called for a campaign on Kiev and Lviv in order to eradicate “Banderovism” and “Ukraino-fascism.”

However, we can fully sympathize with those Ukrainians who do not want to live under today’s increasingly anti-democratic Ukrainian regime, and we can fully sympathize with those Ukrainians who want to protect their State from any kind of Russian interference.

This is not our war, but our people are fighting in it – on both sides – besides a minority of ultra-right-wing thugs, their ideological and military leaders, patrons, and instigators on official TV.

A great number of people from the most diverse social strata are fully capable of understanding and sharing this position, they are capable of conveying it to the majority.

We need a program of radical change that is oriented toward the majority, a program that brings together democratic and social demands, a program that proceeds from the fact that the exchange of one group of businessmen for another, more “democratic” one, does not lead to anything good, a program that is oriented simultaneously toward de-centralization and toward the unity of the country, for the Ukrainian example has once again shown everyone what results from the dream of “cozy national governments” under historical and cultural conditions that are unsuitable for them.

We must orient ourselves toward trade unions, which every day fight for labor rights, without which no democratic changes are possible.

We must orient ourselves toward the intelligentsia and toward everyone who cannot and who does not want to “hit the road,” but who wants to work in their own country under normal conditions.

We must orient ourselves toward the youth, which sooner or later will begin to rebel against idiotic conservative interdictions.

Such people are fully capable of constituting a real majority in defiance of today’s – in fact, ephemeral – ideological “for Putin, for Stalin, for the Russian World.”

And we must demand judgment upon those who with singular cynicism manipulated the psyches of millions of TV watchers all these months, demand free access to central TV channels for different political forces (besides those that promulgate ethnic and religious division), social movements, and trade unions.

Our enemy is in the Kremlin!

MORE:

“On The Defeat Of One’s Own Government”

“A Revolutionary Class In A Reactionary War Cannot But Wish For The Defeat Of Its Government”

July 26, 1915: On The Defeat of One’s Own Government in the Imperialist War, By Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov: Sotsial-Demokrat No. 43 [Excerpts]

A revolutionary class in a reactionary war cannot but “wish for the defeat of its government.”

This is an axiom. It is disputed only by the conscious partisans or the helpless satellites of the social-chauvinists.

[T]o the latter belong Trotsky and Bukvoved; in Germany, Kautsky. To wish Russia’s defeat, Trotsky says, is “an uncalled-for and unjustifiable political concession to the methodology of social-patriotism which substitutes for the revolutionary struggle against the war and the conditions that cause war, an orientation along the lines of the lesser evil, an orientation which, under given conditions, is perfectly arbitrary” (Nashe Slovo, No. 105.) This is an example of the inflated phraseology with which Trotsky always justifies opportunism.

“A revolutionary struggle against the war” is an empty and meaningless exclamation, the like of which the heroes of the Second International are past masters in making, unless it means revolutionary actions against one’s own government in times of war.

A little reasoning suffices to make this clear.

When we say revolutionary actions in war time against one's own government, we indisputably mean not only the wish for its defeat, but practical actions leading towards such defeat.

In using phrases to avoid the issue, Trotsky has lost his way amidst very simple surroundings. It seems to him that to wish Russia's defeat means to wish Germany's victory. (Bukvoyed and Semkovsky express more directly this "thought," or rather, thoughtlessness, which they have in common with Trotsky.) In this Trotsky also repeats the "methodology of social-patriotism"!

To help people that do not know how to think, the Berne resolution (Sotsial-Demokrat, No. 40) made it clear that in all imperialist countries the proletariat must now wish the defeat of its government.

Revolution in war time is civil war.

Transformation of war between governments into civil war is, on the one hand, facilitated by military reverses ("defeats") of the governments; on the other hand, it is impossible to strive in practice towards such a transformation without at the same time working towards military defeat.

The "slogan" of defeat is so vehemently repudiated by the chauvinists for the very reason that this slogan alone means a consistent appeal to revolutionary action against one's own government in war time.

Without such action, millions of the most revolutionary phrases concerning "war against war and conditions, etc." are not worth a penny.

The tsarist government was perfectly right when it asserted that the propaganda of the Russian Social-Democratic Labor Fraction was the only example in the International of not only parliamentary opposition but of real revolutionary propaganda in the masses against their government, that this propaganda weakened the military power of Russia and aided its defeat.

This is a fact. It is not clever to hide from it.

The opponents of the defeat slogan are simply afraid of themselves when they do not wish to realize the most obvious fact of the inseparable connection between revolutionary propaganda against the government and actions leading to its defeat.

An understanding concerning revolutionary actions within even one single country, not to speak of a number of countries, can be realized only by the force of the example of earnest revolutionary actions, by their being launched, by their development.

It is impossible, however, to launch them without wishing the government defeat, and without contributing to such a defeat.

The change from imperialist war to civil war cannot be “made,” as it is impossible to “make” a revolution - it grows out of the multiplicity of diverse phenomena, phases, traits, characteristics, consequences of the imperialist war.

Such growth is impossible without a series of military reverses and defeats of those governments which receive blows from their own oppressed classes.

The only policy of a real, not verbal, breaking of “civil peace,” of accepting the class struggle, is for the proletariat to take advantage of the difficulties of the government and its bourgeoisie with the aim of overthrowing them.

This, however, cannot be achieved, it cannot be striven at, without wishing the defeat of one’s own government, without contributing to such a defeat.

When, before the war, the Italian Social-Democrats raised the question of a mass strike, the bourgeoisie replied, undoubtedly correctly from its standpoint, that this would be high treason, and that they would be dealt with as traitors.

This is true, and it is also true that fraternization in the trenches is high treason.

A proletarian cannot help deal his government a class blow; he cannot reach out (in practice) a hand to his brother, the proletarian of the “foreign” country which is at war with us, without committing “high treason,” without contributing to the defeat, the dismemberment of “his” imperialist “great” power.

Let us look at the question from one more angle.

The war cannot but call forth among the masses the most stormy feelings which destroy the usual sluggishness of mass psychology. Without adjustment to these new stormy feelings, revolutionary tactics are impossible.

What are the main currents of these stormy feelings?

(1) Horror and despair. Hence the growth of religious feelings. Once more the churches are full, the reactionaries rejoice. “Wherever there are sufferings, there is religion,” says the arch-reactionary, Barres.

He is right, too.

(2) Hatred for the “enemy,” a feeling carefully fanned by the bourgeoisie (more than by the priests) and of economic and political value only to the bourgeoisie.

(3) Hatred for one’s own government and one’s bourgeoisie - a feeling of all class-conscious workers who understand, on the one hand, that war is “a continuation of politics” on the part of imperialism, which they meet by “continuing” their hatred for their class enemy; on the other hand, that “war against war” is a silly phrase if it does not mean revolution against their own government.

It is impossible to arouse hatred against one’s own government and one’s bourgeoisie without wishing their defeat, and it is impossible to be non-

hypocritical opponent of “civil” (class) “peace” without arousing hatred towards one’s own government and bourgeoisie!!!

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: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

**“Chinese And Russian Officials
Warning Of Potential
Humanitarian Crisis In The
Restive American Province Of
Missouri”**

**“We Can And Should Support
Moderate Forces Who Can Bring
Stability To America”**

**“China Arming Moderate Factions In
Missouri, In Hopes Of Overpowering
Rogue Regime Forces And
Preventing Extremism From Taking
Root”**

**“Kremlin Planners Preparing For
Possible Military Intervention Should**

Political Instability Spread To The Nearby Oil-Producing Region Of Texas”

August 15, 2014 by Max Fisher, Vox Media, Inc.

FERGUSON — Chinese and Russian officials are warning of a potential humanitarian crisis in the restive American province of Missouri, where ancient communal tensions have boiled over into full-blown violence.

"We must use all means at our disposal to end the violence and restore calm to the region," Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said in comments to an emergency United Nations Security Council session on the America crisis.

The crisis began a week ago in Ferguson, a remote Missouri village that has been a hotbed of sectarian tension.

State security forces shot and killed an unarmed man, which regional analysts say has angered the local population by surfacing deep-seated sectarian grievances.

Regime security forces cracked down brutally on largely peaceful protests, worsening the crisis.

America has been roiled by political instability and protests in recent years, which analysts warn can create fertile ground for extremists.

Missouri, far-removed from the glistening capital city of Washington, is ostensibly ruled by a charismatic but troubled official named Jay Nixon, who has appeared unable to successfully intervene and has resisted efforts at mediation from central government officials.

Complicating matters, President Obama is himself a member of the minority sect protesting in Ferguson, which is ruled overwhelmingly by members of America's majority "white people" sect.

Analysts who study the opaque American political system, in which all provinces are granted semi-autonomous self-rule, warned that Nixon may seize the opportunity to move against weakened municipal rulers in Ferguson.

Missouri's provincial legislature, a traditional "shura council," is dominated by the opposition faction. Though fears of a military coup remain low, it is still unknown how Nixon's allies within the capital will respond should the crisis continue.

Now, international leaders say they fear the crisis could spread.

"The only lasting solution is reconciliation among American communities and stronger Missouri security forces," Chinese President Xi Jinping said in a speech from his vacation home in Hainan.

"However, we can and should support moderate forces who can bring stability to America. So we will continue to pursue a broader strategy that empowers Americans to confront this crisis."

Xi's comments were widely taken as an indication that China would begin arming moderate factions in Missouri, in the hopes of overpowering rogue regime forces and preventing extremism from taking root.

An unknown number of Kurdish peshmerga military "advisers" have traveled to the region to help provide security. Gun sales have been spiking in the US since the crisis began.

Analysts warn the violence could spread toward oil-producing regions such as Oklahoma or even disrupt the flow of American beer supplies, some of the largest in the world, and could provide a fertile breeding ground for extremists. Though al-Qaeda is not known to have yet established a foothold in Missouri, its leaders have previously hinted at assets there.

Though Missouri is infamous abroad for its simmering sectarian tensions and brutal regime crackdowns, foreign visitors here are greeted warmly and with hospitality.

A lawless expanse of dogwood trees and beer breweries, Missouri is located in a central United States region that Americans refer to, curiously, as the "MidWest" though it is nearer to the country's east.

It is known among Americans as the home of Mark Twain, a provincial writer from the country's small but cherished literary culture, and as the originator of Budweiser, a traditional American alcoholic beverage.

Budweiser itself is now owned by a Belgian firm, in a sign of how globalization is transforming even this remote area of the United States. Analysts say some American communities have struggled as globalization has pulled jobs into more developed countries, worsening instability here.

Locals here eat a regional delicacy known as barbecue, made from the rib bones of pigs, and subsist on traditional crafts such as agriculture and aerospace engineering. The regional center of commerce is known locally as Saint Louis, named for a 13th century French king, a legacy of Missouri's history as a remote and violent corner of the French Empire.

Though Ferguson's streets remained quiet on Friday, a palpable sense of tension and uncertainty hung in the air.

A Chinese Embassy official here declined to comment but urged all parties to exhibit restraint and respect for the rule of law.

In Moscow, Kremlin planners were said to be preparing for a possible military intervention should political instability spread to the nearby oil-producing region of Texas.

After Reaching Baghdad, ISIS Militants Declare 'Mission Accomplished'



June 20, 2014 by Dirk Diggler, the Duffle Blog

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Following a series of startling victories, militants from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS) have captured most of Baghdad, after seizing Mosul and Tikrit last week.

In a rare public appearance, ISIS commander Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi took the opportunity to declare that “major combat operations have ended.”

“In the battle of Iraq, the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham and our allies have prevailed,” Baghdadi said, sipping from a Green Beans coffee cup and motioning to a nebulous PowerPoint slide, before adding: “We anticipate the removal of all of ISIS forces. We have a plan for what we call ‘Phase IV.’”

Baghdadi’s press conference was filled with pageantry, as the commander and numerous militants stood on top of Humvees and held American-made weapons, also displaying a massive banner of “Mission Accomplished” the group had stolen.

Still, some have voiced concerns over the possibility of the displacement of millions of Iraqis, and the potential for increased sectarian conflict among Sunni tribes, Shia militias, and Kurdish Peshmerga forces.

Baghdadi dismissed such criticism, labeling cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, the commander of a Baghdad-based Shia militia, as one of a handful of “dead-enders” who simply “hadn’t gotten the message.” The ISIS leader also scoffed at concerns over widespread looting, including more than \$400 million in hard currency from a Mosul bank.

“Stuff happens!” Baghdadi said. “Freedom is untidy, and free people are free to make mistakes!”

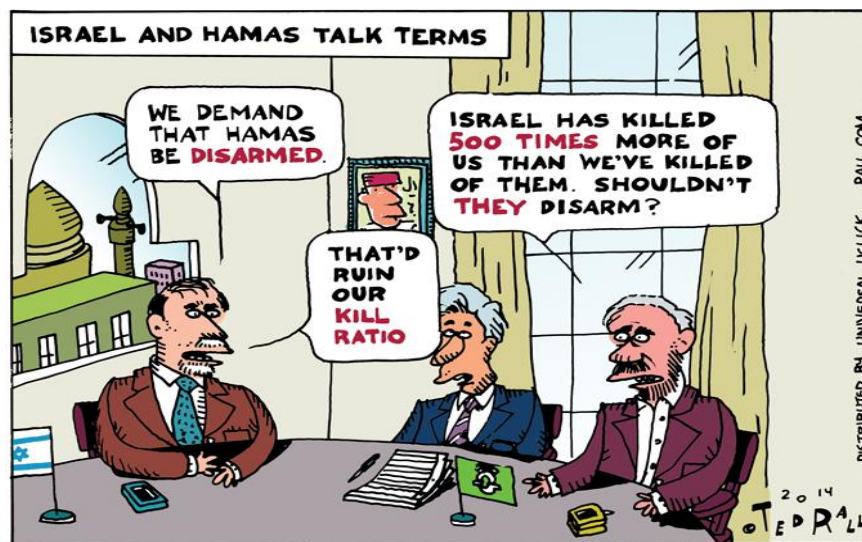
Baghdadi would not comment further on ongoing operations, but he did close his appearance with praise for the 30,000 Iraqi troops who formed a “coalition of the unwilling” by running away when facing just 800 ISIS fighters.

At press time, Baghdadi had donned a reflective belt and left to visit ISIS fighters at nearby Camp Victory for salsa night.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

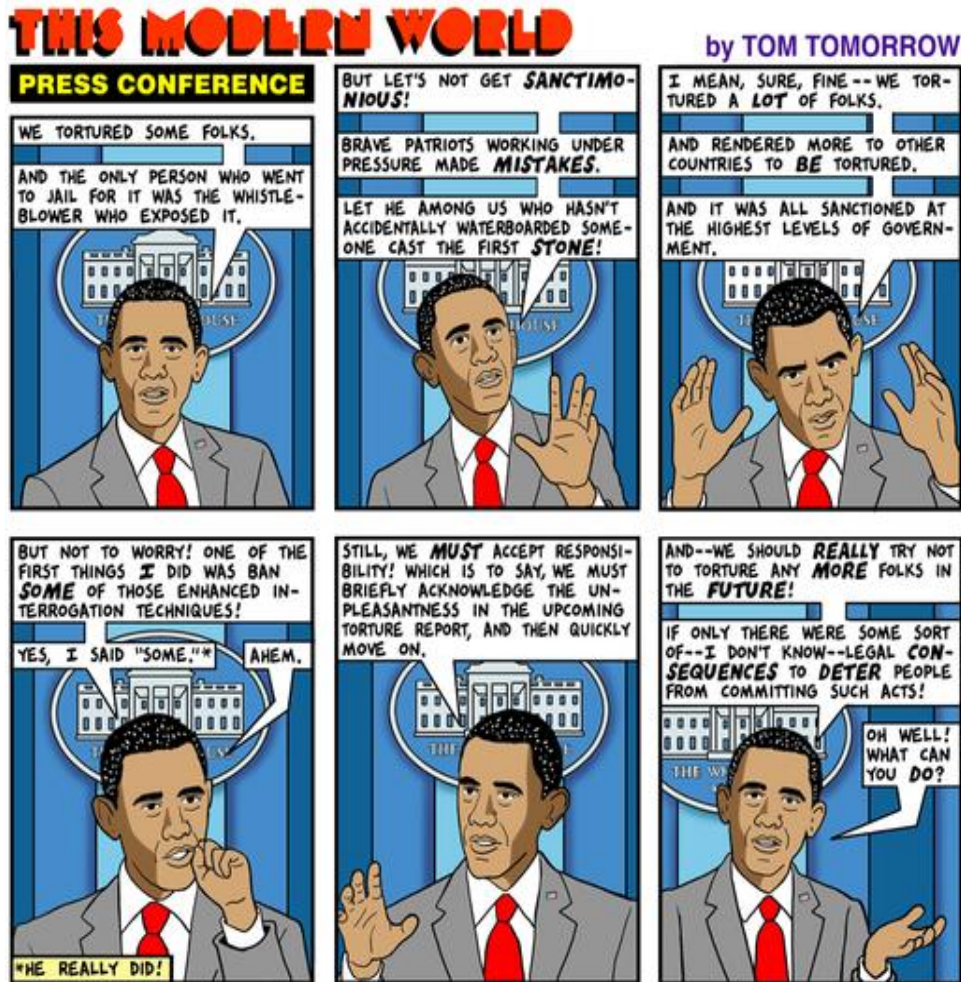


OCCUPATION PALESTINE



To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to:
<http://www.maannnews.net/eng/Default.aspx> and
<http://www.palestinemonitor.org/list.php?id=ej898ra7yff0ukmf16>
The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



No, It's Not Just Ferguson
Missouri:

“Body-Armored Police Storm The Manhattanville And General Grant Public Housing Complexes, Along With Surrounding Buildings In West Harlem”

“The Judge Made It Absolutely Clear To The District Attorney That These Charges Are Bogus”

“They’ll Come Up With All Sorts Of Lies. That’s How The System Works”

June 24, 2014 Interview: Nikole Gellineau, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

In the early morning hours of June 4, dozens of body-armored police stormed the Manhattanville and General Grant public housing complexes, along with other surrounding buildings located in West Harlem. Police helicopters hovered overhead while media crews were on hand to document the largest "gang bust" in New York City history

At a press conference later that day, newly re-appointed Police Commissioner William Bratton claimed those arrested were "terrorizing the children and other families in the developments."

Bratton and Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. defended the military-style invasion in the name of ending what they claim is a never-ending cycle of violence that has created a war zone between the two housing complexes.

The June 4 raids were years in the making. They involved what has been celebrated as a new technique to scour postings on social media sites like Facebook and Twitter and analyze hundreds of hours of video surveillance to create "complex conspiracy cases." Indictments charged 103 individuals, including 40 people swept into jail in the raids.

While the mainstream media continued to celebrate the NYPD's newly returned top cop and his latest "achievement,"] community leaders are organizing to fight against this latest attack on their lives and rights.

Nikole Gellineau, the mother of two of the young men taken into custody in the June 4 raids, talked to Marilena Marchetti--and gave voice to those not represented in the media's accounting of the June 4 raid.

You've lived in Harlem for a long time, and you have a very different version of the story than Bratton and Vance are telling. Before you go into detail, can you describe your roots here?

I'm 43 years old, and I've been living in Harlem over 35 years.

I'm very active in my community. I've owned businesses that have employed other community residents. I've sat on Community Education Councils (CECs) and PTAs all the years my children were in school. There isn't one block you can walk on and say my name where they won't tell you, "Oh Nikki, who does hair?" That's what I'm mostly known for.

The community understands two things about Nikole: she's serious about her business, and she's dead serious when it comes to these kids out here. Not just my two kids--the whole community of kids.

I'm devastated right now because I personally know every last one of the children in this recent indictment.

Every last one of them has been to my house at one point or another. They've come to barbecues, or we went to their birthday parties or graduations. All those kids were school bound, had jobs or were starting college. My oldest was in college in Greensboro, North Carolina, when the incidents were starting.

Did they have arrest records? Absolutely--for silly stuff.

How do you charge children for "loitering" in their own building?

How do you claim kids to be in gangs when they literally grew up together, and half of them are related to each other? I'm out here not to fight for one child, but to fight for a neighborhood of children. Unfortunately, both my children were pulled into these new charges.

Can you describe what happened the day of the raid?

I'm naturally up early. I have two pets. Anytime between 5:30 and 6 a.m. is their morning walk.

I'm in my kitchen, doing things that I normally do, making my coffee, and I hear them coming down the hallway, slamming down my neighbor's door. They're a married, elderly couple. The woman is on dialysis. We've been neighbors 30 years-plus.

Out of concern, I opened my door to see who was trying to bang down her door. It was the warrant squad--about 20 men. Bratton was there, too. I cursed him out. They forced me and my boyfriend to lay on the ground of my apartment. They threatened to shoot my dogs.

Finally, one officer had enough sense to passively remove my dogs from the room.

Then they commenced to trash my house and tell me at the end of it how they were looking for my youngest son. They already knew he wasn't there because they had him in custody a month prior--for being lazy and jumping a turnstile at the subway station.

You said you looked out your window, and the whole block was lined with unmarked cars.

The mayor was even outside in his bulletproof vest!

De Blasio was outside? Are you kidding me?

Yes, if I wasn't so angry that day, I would have taken pictures. But the mayor has no control of NYPD.

And let's make this clear--I don't have a problem going on record to say that 1 Police Plaza has been our number one gang since they formed. Period.

Why were the police looking for your son?

Technically, he's part of the 103 indicted defendants in this upcoming case of mass incarceration.

He's indicted for "conspiracy."

He had a private conversation with his brother, my oldest son, on Facebook. He was explaining to my oldest son how he just got jumped by gang members in the back of our housing development, at a community center he's been attending since he was a child.

He explained to my oldest son that they came over here and beat him up. So my oldest son was advising him to take it easy and go back to Queens, where he's been living. He said, "I know you went over there to see mommy, but please go back to Queens, because I don't want to have to kill one of them."

That's not what's in the indictment. In the indictment, all they have is my youngest son saying, "I got jumped," and my oldest son's response: "I'ma kill 'em." That wasn't the conversation. They edited it.

What you're saying sounds like a conspiracy on behalf of the police.

Absolutely! We're talking about two children who are related! They're allowed to talk amongst themselves about whatever. They didn't conspire to do anything to anybody. They didn't say let's plan to go out and shoot--none of that happened in

that conversation. Now they've shipped my oldest son to Rikers Island, and he has to appear in court on Monday, June 23 over that conversation--and they're going to charge him with conspiracy, too, with a sentence of 25 years to life.

Nothing happened over any of these "conspiracy" charges that these kids are facing. Everything they talked about was over events that already happened. How is that conspiracy?

During the first day in court, the judge made it absolutely clear to the district attorney that these charges are bogus.

He said that because they already went to the grand jury and indicted them, he has to charge them and set bails according to what they're charged with.

But, he said, "You know better than me that if these kids pursue these cases and take it to trial, you have no chance."

The judge said they didn't even leave warrants in half of the homes they raided. The district attorney said, "Oh, we're trying to get the rest of them together."

What do you think these raids are really about?

They're about a few things. We're talking about a neighborhood that's been gentrifying since as early as the 1970s. We're talking about a neighborhood that the wealthy are trying to come in and take. We have landmarks and beautiful brownstones--who wouldn't want to live in Harlem? After September 11, when all those folks in the lower Manhattan area wanted to migrate further uptown, Harlem became a bigger target.

They said: Let's buy up all the buildings and jack the rents up so high they can't afford to live here. Let's not pour our resources into the low-income housing developments. Let's not give them resources they need for their kids to go to school, graduate, come back and be productive enough to stay here. Let's not do that.

And this is continuing despite the fact that New York City just elected the "tale of two cities" mayor, who says he recognizes inequality and wants to do something to fix it.

I call that the icing on the cake. This whole thing is about how to break down the New York City public housing system.

Never, back in the day, did you hear that Grant and Manhattanville were going to start a fight--never. We always got along.

If things were as bad as they're making them out to be, we would have left already. There are kids who've been fighting for a couple of years now--we have two kids dead. The police are using these murders to figure out how to implement gang laws in New York.

Los Angeles was the first place where they implemented gang laws. Once the Bloods and the Crips started to form in New York, the police were putting them in jail on assault charges for one to three years. But with gang assault charges, you get five to 10 years. See the difference?

New York is attempting to implement gang laws, but they want to use gang laws to go after neighborhood children. That's wrong.

What do you plan to do now?

Unfortunately, I already have the experience with my oldest son and the court system, and how the gang charges work--conspiracy, assault, weapons and things of that nature--so I'm really familiar with the verbiage.

And I have my own experience studying at John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

My first action is publicly coming out with the facts, because right now, the court doesn't have the facts. All they have is the district attorney's story. The only way we're going to be able to introduce the facts is through the defendants' attorneys.

The second way we can do it is to write the judge. Between now and October, we have to make sure the defendants' lawyers know the whole story from beginning to end, and start writing the judge. That's what I did with my oldest son. I wrote the judge consistently. I had his friends write their stories. I had his teachers write how the Crips were coming to his school and trying to induct him in a gang. I had our borough president at the time write a letter, and his college in Greensboro.

Immediately after the raids took, place grassroots organizations held emergency meetings, and a June 13 press conference and rally against the raids and mass incarceration brought out at least 200 people. Are more actions like this going to help?

Absolutely. It's going to force the city to answer questions and admit the truth. They don't have to admit the truth, but once we expose it, how can they respond to that? They can't! Facts are facts are facts.

They'll come up with all sorts of lies. That's how the system works: Let's throw out six charges, and see which one sticks. Let's gather up all these people, pressure them with so much time in prison, and see who snitches on who. This has been going on for years. That's how they work--that's how they do things.

How does it feel to be living here and knowing that at any given moment, your door could be busted down, and your world could be flipped upside down?

This is going to sound so weird, but I'm still comfortable. I'm okay. I've been here too long not to be.

There's not a corner of Harlem I don't know. There's not a restaurant, a pub, a bar, an event I haven't attended.

My name is all around the Harlem state office building. I went into business for myself, so I attend meetings and sit on boards. We're thriving. Harlem is better than ever, even with the gentrification. The whites moving in aren't ruining us.

I'm not a child who was raised to fear things. I was raised to always meet my fears head on, so I can move past them.

My fear right now is having to live with my children doing 15 years. That's a fear for me. I'm looking forward to being a grandparent in the next five years. That can't happen if my kids are in jail.

Baltimore Man Charged With Robbery Despite Being In Jail At Time Of The Crime: Prosecutor Still Insists On Trial And Judge Agrees

August 13, 2014 By Ian Duncan, The Baltimore Sun

After a woman picked out a photo of Tyree Threatt and said he was the man who robbed her off Reisterstown Road a month and a half ago, Baltimore detectives quickly got a warrant for his arrest, and they hauled him down to Central Booking over the past weekend, where he was held in lieu of \$75,000 bail.

There was just one problem: Records show that the 21-year-old Baltimore man was jailed in another case at the time of the robbery.

A public defender who represented Threatt this week says he laid out jail records before a judge Monday showing that his client had what might have been the best possible alibi.

But prosecutors said the issue should be sorted out at trial, according to the public defenders office, and the judge declined to release Threatt (he did get \$25,000 shaved off his bail).

"All I could do is present the information to the court," said Nicholas Cooksley, the public defender.

But after The Baltimore Sun asked prosecutors and the Police Department about the case, the charges against Threatt were dropped Wednesday.

The unusual case began June 27, when the woman was robbed on a street just off Reisterstown Road in the city's Lucille Park neighborhood. She told police that her assailant was wearing a hooded black sweatshirt, but she could see his face and dreadlocks poking out of the hood.

In the woman's account, the man told her: "Drop the pocketbook, I have a gun." She complied. He told her: "Walk away and don't look back."

Police got their apparent break a few weeks later when a detective saw a man who matched the description given by the woman in the area where the robbery happened, they said in court documents. A patrol officer identified the man as Threatt, and the victim subsequently picked him out in a photo array, according to the documents.

Two days after that, a court commissioner signed a warrant for Threatt on a raft of charges, including armed robbery and using a firearm in a violent crime, each of which carries a maximum 20-year prison sentence. Threatt was arrested over the weekend, according to court records.

But once he got to jail, the lawyer appointed to represent Threatt at his initial bail hearing and the public defender's office began investigating the case. That's when they pulled the jail records.

On June 27, Threatt was being held on charges that included second-degree assault and false imprisonment. Prosecutors dropped those charges that day, but jail records indicate that he wasn't freed until the early hours of June 28.

Prosecutors did not respond to requests for comment about the case.

Before the robbery charges were dismissed Wednesday, Lt. Sarah Connolly, a police spokeswoman, said officers were investigating and would seek to have the case dropped if he had indeed been incarcerated at the time of the robbery.

Garland Sanderson, the attorney who handled Threatt's initial appearance in front of a court commissioner, said the case shows the value of having lawyers involved in cases from the very beginning. Sanderson represented Threatt under a program launched in July after the state's top court ruled that defendants have a right to legal representation when their bail is first set.

Still, Sanderson said the responsibility for Threatt's incarceration lies with the authorities. "Our system of justice depends on police and state's attorneys fully investigating cases before someone is put in jail," he said, "rather than an innocent person having to prove their innocence from a jail cell."

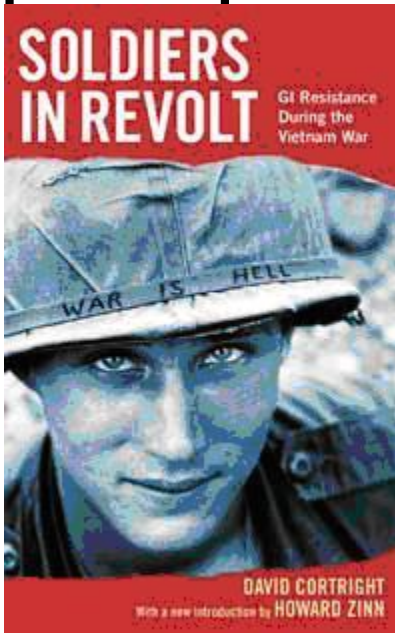
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