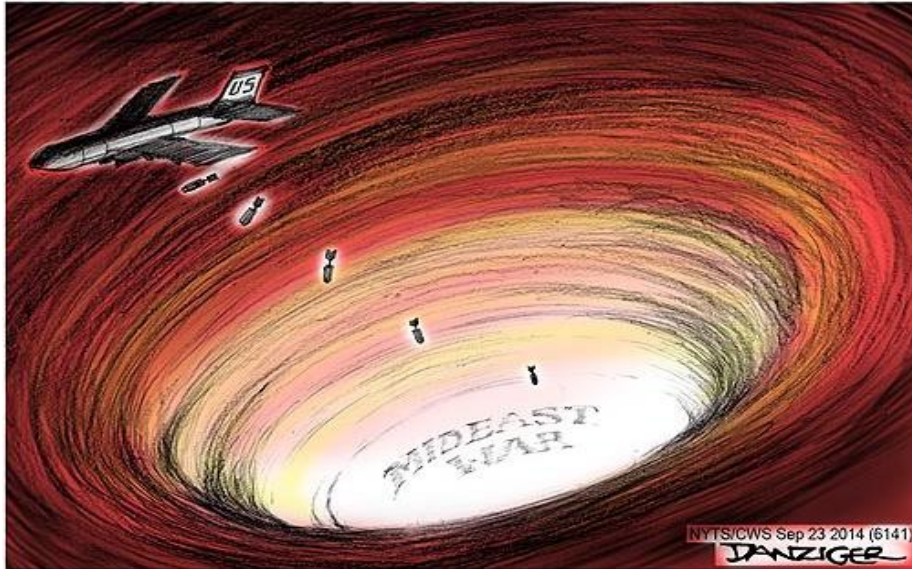


## **Military Resistance 12J1**



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "Déjà vu All over again."]

# **70% Of Troops Say No To Soldiers Going To Iraq:**

**“We’re Burned Out” “It’s Their  
Country, It’s Their Business”**

**“Many Simply Wonder Why  
Anyone Should Think The Long-  
Term Outcome Will Be Any  
Different This Time”**

**“‘It’s Kind Of Futile In The End —  
Regardless Of How Well We Do Our  
Job, The Iraqi Government Isn’t  
Going To Be Able To Hold Up,’  
Marine 2nd Lt. Christopher Fox Said”  
“A Lot Of People Have That ‘Sunken  
Cost’ Mentality — ‘Since We Put So  
Much Into It, We Can’t Pull Out Right  
Now. That Is Not A Good Argument For  
Anything”**

[Thanks to Ward Reilly, Veteran, for posting.]

Sep. 29, 2014 By Andrew Tilghman with Gina Harkins, David Larter, Stephen Losey, Hope Hodge Seck, Michelle Tan and Jeff Schogol, Army Times [Excerpts]

**As the tide of war rises again in the Middle East, the military’s rank and file are mostly opposed to expanding the new mission in Iraq and Syria to include sending a large number of U.S. ground troops into combat, according to a Military Times survey of active-duty members.**

The reader survey asked more than 2,200 active-duty troops this question: “In your opinion, do you think the U.S. military should send a substantial number of combat troops to Iraq to support the Iraqi security forces?”

Slightly more than 70 percent responded: “No.”

“It’s their country, it’s their business. I don’t think major ‘boots on the ground’ is the right answer,” said one Army infantry officer and prior-enlisted soldier who deployed to Iraq three times.

He responded to the survey and an interview request but, like several other service members in this story, asked not to be named because he is not authorized to discuss high-level military policy.

The Military Times survey was conducted online this summer and concluded in August just as President Obama was ramping up the air campaign against the Islamic State group.

**As the U.S. expands that air war into Syria and increases the number of U.S. boots on the ground in Iraq — topping more than 1,700 total — service members say their feelings about the crisis and the U.S. response to it have intensified.**

In barracks and staff offices, on smoke breaks and over after-hours beers, troops' conversations about Iraq have shifted abruptly from reflections on the past to questions about the future that are fraught with concerns about the wisdom and scope of new missions. Troops are raising new questions about why the U.S. withdrew from Iraq in 2011, what went wrong and why.

Many simply wonder why anyone should think the long-term outcome will be any different this time.

"It's kind of futile in the end — regardless of how well we do our job, the Iraqi government isn't going to be able to hold up," Marine 2nd Lt. Christopher Fox said.

And many share the views of one Navy hospital corpsman second class at Camp Pendleton, California, who said his multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan have taken a toll on him mentally, physically and personally.

"We're burned out," he said.

The dire headlines this summer about the near-collapse of the Iraqi army have fueled a new level of pessimism about the eight-year Iraq War that concluded almost three years ago.

**Only 30 percent of active-duty troops surveyed say the Iraq War was "very successful" or "somewhat successful."**

**That's down from about 64 percent who expressed positive views in a similarly worded question in 2011 as the war was winding down.**

"It's a kick in the rear because (the Iraqi extremists) are making a comeback and everything I did was for naught. ... Those are some of the thoughts that go through my head," said Marine Sgt. Darrell Priestley, 39, a combat engineer who deployed to Iraq in 2009.

Troops intuitively understand that final decisions ultimately land on Obama's desk. And support for Obama within the military — never especially high — has dropped significantly since he took office, according to the Military Times survey.

In 2009, 35 percent of service members approved of the way Obama was "handling of his job as commander in chief." This year, that figure dropped below 15 percent.

"A lot of people have that 'sunken cost' mentality — 'Since we put so much into it, we can't pull out right now,'" [Fox, a junior officer and prior-enlisted Marine who deployed twice to Iraq] said. "That is not a good argument for anything."

## DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



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

## MILITARY NEWS

# Thousands Protested Against Russia's Involvement In Ukraine At Unauthorized Peace March In St. Petersburg:

**“Putin, Get Your Dirty Hands Off  
Ukraine”**

**“No To War Against A Brotherly  
People. War In Ukraine Is A Crime Of  
Putin’s Regime”**

**“Due To The Overwhelming Majority Of  
Anti-War Protesters, Violent Acts Were  
Few”**



An anti-war protester holds up a sign that reads “No to Russian Aggression in Ukraine!” during Sunday’s event. Photo: Julia Rubakova

September 24 By Sergey Chernov, The St. Petersburg Times

Thousands protested against Russia’s involvement in Ukraine at the unauthorized Peace March in St. Petersburg on Sunday. By the estimates of organizers, between 1,500 and 2,000 protesters were present at one given time, but a total of 5,000 overall made it to the rally, which lasted for nearly four hours.

City Hall refused to grant a permit for either the march or stationary rally that were initially planned as part of the all-Russian Peace March held throughout the country on Sunday, including in Moscow, where the authorized event drew between 25,000 and 50,000 by different estimates.

In St. Petersburg, the organizers were the parties and groups belonging to the Democratic St. Petersburg Coalition, including Yabloko and Solidarity, as well as RPR-Parnas, the December 5th Party and the Progress Party.

**The St. Petersburg authorities, however, told the organizers to move the rally to the remote Polyustrovo Park in the northeast of the city, an option they turned down, calling on people to come instead to the march's original starting point near Gorkovskaya Metro.**

Hundreds started to gather near Gorkovskaya Metro by 2 p.m., many wearing Ukraine's national colors of yellow and blue. Some brought yellow and blue flowers or balloons.

**Although the rally was not officially permitted, the police were few and did not intervene.**

People refrained people from bringing posters or chanting but one man briefly raised a placard saying "Putin, get your dirty hands off Ukraine" before quickly walking away. However, several people had slogans on their clothes or wore anti-war badges. Small groups of pro-Kremlin supporters were spotted but they stood aside and did not try to obstruct the rally.

Between 1,500 and 2,000 people walked about three kilometers to Kazan Cathedral with no incident, although opponents left a truck painted with pro-Kremlin slogans and picture of a Russian bear growling at a bald eagle. "Our country – our rules," the inscription said.

By the time of the arrival of marchers, there were already many people near Kazan Cathedral.

More placards were seen there, some reading "This war is our fault. Drop your weapons," "Forgive us, Ukraine," "Don't trust Putin," "No to war against Ukraine," "Shame on the lying and corrupt media. No to war against a brotherly people," "War in Ukraine is a crime of Putin's regime" and "Stop the aggressor."

Some held small Ukrainian flags or wore yellow-and-blue ribbons.

Pro-Kremlin activists wearing the St. George ribbons — which has been adopted as a symbol of the Russia-backed military insurgency in eastern Ukraine — came to Kazan Cathedral, occasionally raising flags of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic as well as anti-American and pro-Kremlin posters while arguing with the Peace March protesters. A few were dressed in Putin T-shirts.

**Pro-Kremlin anti-gay lawmaker Vitaly Milonov — who also wore a St. George ribbon — repeatedly entered the crowd with a bodyguard and an aide, attempting to provoke the protesters by such statements as "Homosexuals kill Russian children in Ukraine," with the crowd reacting by chanting "Pozor" (Shame) to his appearances.**

**Due to the overwhelming majority of anti-war protesters, violent acts were few.**

Pro-Kremlin men threw mayonnaise into the face of one anti-war protester and tore up the placard of another, with the police failing to react.



There was an attempt to throw eggs at the demonstrators as well. The police detained several people from both camps mostly for failing to follow their orders, but refrained from mass arrests.

“The main benefit of this march to me is that people overcome their solitude,” said musician Mikhail Borzykin of the rock band Televizor, who took part in the St. Petersburg rally.

**“Having come to such events, people realize at least that they haven’t gone insane – or gone insane alongside some 3,000 other people – and it lightens the soul of each of them, because we are being persuaded (by the pro-Kremlin media) that we don’t exist at all. This television myth is dispelled momentarily when you take to the street and talk to people who think the same.**

**“It was important that people were not scared to take part in the march despite the lack of permission, and we know that you can easily land in prison for several years for such things.**

**“But despite this, several thousand people were present, and this was very pleasant. On the whole, everything is not as bad as television tells us about ourselves.”**

#### **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.**

## **1,000 Show Up In Colorado Springs For Veterans Marijuana Giveaway:**

**“I Just Need Something To Take The Pain Away During The Day”**

**“It Doesn’t Make Sense That Our First Line Of Defense Is Toxic Medication”**



September 29, 2014 By Stephen Hobbs, Colorado Springs Gazette

A free cannabis giveaway at a Colorado Springs hotel Saturday attracted about a thousand people looking for an alternative medication for their physical and mental pain.

Roger Martin, the executive director and co-founder of Operation Grow4Vets, which put on the event, said the group's goal is to bring cannabis to veterans with service-related conditions as an alternative to pain medications.

"It isn't going to hurt them as much as the prescription drugs," he said.

Martin, an Army veteran, said he struggled with prescription drug use to help with what he called "24-hour" pain and an inability to sleep.

"I just need something to take the pain away during the day," he said.

Martin said he discovered edible marijuana as a way to reduce pain and help him sleep more, and he wants other veterans to have the same chance to address ailments.

Matt Kahl, a former Army specialist who works for Operation Grow4Vets as a director of horticulture, said using marijuana saved his life and reduced his dependency on pain medication.

Kahl said he was injured when serving in Afghanistan when he was thrown from a vehicle, causing a traumatic brain injury and hurting his spine and back. As part of his recovery, Kahl started taking more than a dozen pain medications per month. After a suggestion from a friend, Kahl started using marijuana to help with the pain. Now, he said, he is off all but two of his medications.

"It doesn't make sense that our first line of defense is toxic medication," Kahl said.



He said marijuana use lessened his symptoms of hyper vigilance and pain, and he moved to Colorado,

“I would not be alive without this,” Kahl said.

People who came to the hotel Saturday were given a bag of items that included cannabis oil, an edible chocolate bar and seeds to grow plants.

Martin said some might have been disappointed because they were not handing out bags of marijuana, but that was not his group’s goal.

“We’re not about getting people high,” he said,

Martin said the organization plans to have at least three more events this year, including another in Colorado Springs. Operation Grow4Vets also sponsored an event last weekend in Denver, which Martin said attracted hundreds of people, but the event in Colorado Springs, he said, attracted about 1,000 people.

Adults 21 and older were allowed into the event, and a \$20 dollar donation for nonveterans was encouraged. Free products were available to people who sent in an RSVP by Thursday afternoon.

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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**

**What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.  
-- Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787**

## **U.S. Democracy In The Middle East**



Photo taken in An Khe, Vietnam 1970. Mike Hastie Army Medic Vietnam

From: Mike Hastie  
To: Military Resistance Newsletter  
Sent: September 21, 2014  
Subject: U.S. Democracy In The Middle East

**In memory of Jacob George (Iraq Veteran)**

These are the deep moral, betrayal wounds of awareness that altered the lives of countless American veterans who discovered the whole thing was a lie. So many took their own lives, or drifted out to sea because they could no longer cope with the truth. The following is my own list of names of Vietnam Veterans that I personally knew who did not die in Vietnam, but as a result of being there:

Bobby Drew  
Willie Hemphill  
Sean Daley  
Brian Wiltberger  
Jim Courier  
John Lowe

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

## Empires Go To Hell

From: Dennis Serdel  
To: Military Resistance  
Sent: September 29, 2010  
Subject: Empires Go To Hell by Dennis

Written by Dennis Serdel, Military Resistance 2010; Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour)  
Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade; United Auto Workers GM Retiree

\*\*\*\*\*

### Empires Go To Hell

the heat seeps through the helmet  
boils the sheet metal on all the desert  
camouflaged trucks and vehicles

the oversized rucksack pulls  
on the shoulders  
grinds away on the gut  
everybody is not fighting the war  
only a few considering  
all the Soldiers around the world  
this long war is taking its toll  
like sores eating the brain  
the body is beginning to ache  
the head the back the legs  
grind on but the pain pills  
only help but can't cure exhaustion  
they can't give back  
the days the months the years  
who can't count all the steps  
nobody can count the miles  
and waiting feel the minutes  
the hours the days then go on  
wasting a life for this battlefield  
that goes back to blood on the soil  
to every invasion by all sorts  
of empires in the past  
where only cemeteries  
and memorials remain  
the world must get rid of empires  
all they do is invade and rape  
small countries for any type  
of gold the little countries have  
but the empires may be  
brought down within  
and work against the empires  
of the world until there  
are no empires anymore.

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## **ANNIVERSARIES**

**The Jerry Rescue:  
Most Honorable Anniversary:  
October 1, 1851:**

# **“A Group Of Men Forcibly Overpowered The Guards With Clubs And Axes And Freed Jerry A Second Time”**

Carl Bunin Peace History October 1-7

**In the “Jerry Rescue,” citizens of Syracuse, New York, broke into the city’s police station and freed William Henry (called Jerry), a runaway slave working as a barrel-maker.**

The federal Fugitive Slave Law required “good citizens” to assist in the return of those who had fled “ownership” by another.

**A group of black and white men created a chaotic diversion and managed to free Jerry but he was later re-arrested.**

**At his second hearing, a group of men, their skin color disguised with burnt cork, forcibly overpowered the guards with clubs and axes and freed Jerry a second time; he was then secretly taken over the border to Canada.**

\*\*\*\*\*

NYHistory.com

Among the more interesting events in Syracuse history is the story of the Jerry Rescue.

The event occurred on October 1, 1851, while the anti-slavery Liberty Party was holding its New York State Convention.

Leaders of the local Abolition movement, including Underground Railroad Stationmaster Jermain Loguen and others, had organized a local committee to thwart enforcement of the recently adopted Fugitive Slave Law.

The previous May, then Secretary of State Daniel Webster repeated his previous criticism of the Abolitionists and their promise to thwart the law. Webster proclaimed from a balcony facing Syracuse City Hall that the law “will be executed in all the great cities - here in Syracuse - in the midst of the next Anti-Slavery Convention, if the occasion shall arise.”

And so it did.

**Around noon on October 1, federal marshals from Rochester, Auburn, Syracuse, and Canandaigua, accompanied by the local police, arrested a man who called himself Jerry. also known as William Henry.**

Jerry was working as a barrel maker, and was arrested at his workplace. He was originally told the charge was theft until after he was in manacles. On being informed

that he was being arrested under the Fugitive Slave Law, he put up substantial resistance, but was subdued.

Word of the arrest quickly reached the Convention, then in session at a nearby church. There are reports that the wife of Commissioner Sabine, who would hear the case, had already leaked plans of the arrest.

By pre-arranged signal, church bells began ringing, and a crowd gathered at Sabine's office, where Jerry had been taken for arraignment.

An immediate effort to free the prisoner was unsuccessful, and though he escaped to the street in irons, he was rapidly recaptured.

The arraignment was put off until evening and relocated to a larger room. A large crowd gathered in the street, this time equipped for a more serious rescue attempt.

**With a battering ram the door was broken in and despite pistol shots out the window by one of the deputy marshals, it became clear that the crowd was too large and determined to be resisted.**

**The prisoner was surrendered, and one deputy marshal broke his arm jumping from a window to escape the crowd.**

**The injured prisoner was hidden in the city for several days in the home of a local butcher known for his anti-abolitionist sentiments, and later taken in a wagon to Oswego, where he crossed Lake Ontario into Canada.**

The following day, Gerrit Smith introduced the following resolution, adopted at the Liberty Party convention:

“WHEREAS, Daniel Webster, That base and infamous enemy of the human race, did in a speech of which he delivered himself, in Syracuse last Spring, exultingly and insultingly predict that fugitive slaves would yet be taken away from Syracuse and even from anti-slavery conventions in Syracuse, and whereas the attempt to fulfill this prediction was delayed until the first day of October, 1851, when the Liberty party of the State of New York were holding their annual convention in Syracuse; and whereas the attempt was defeated by the mighty uprising of 2,500 brave men, before whom the half-dozen kidnappers were ‘as tow’, therefore,

“Resolved, That we rejoice that the City of Syracuse- the anti-slavery city of Syracuse- the city of anti-slavery conventions, our beloved and glorious city of Syracuse- still remains undisgraced by the fulfillment of the satanic prediction of the satanic Daniel Webster.”

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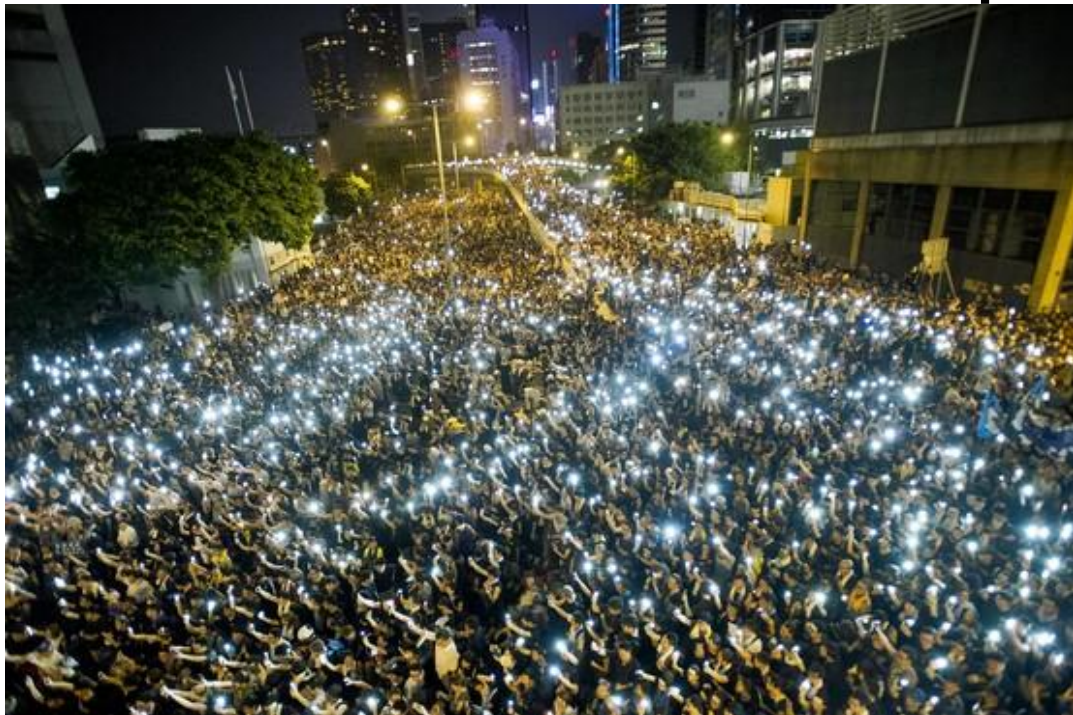
## **CLASS WAR REPORTS**



# **Hong Kong Confederation Of Trade Unions “Strongly Condemns The Police Crackdown Of People’s Protest By Hong Kong Government”**

**“Workers Have Been Demanding A  
Fair Election System To Rectify The  
Longstanding Problem Of The  
Business-Leaning Government”**

**“Workers And Students Must Unite To  
Force The Totalitarian Government To  
Hand State Power Back To The People”**



Demonstrators hold up their cellphones in a display of solidarity during a protest outside the Hong Kong government’s headquarters on Monday. Agence France-Presse/Getty Images

September 28th, 2014 Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions

Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions (HKCTU) strongly condemns the police for their violent attack on unarmed students and people.

We strongly condemn the government for suppressing the freedom of speech and the freedom of assembly in Hong Kong.

HKCTU calls for all workers in Hong Kong to strike tomorrow, in protest of the ruling of the National People's Congress, as well as the brutal suppression of peaceful protest by the Hong Kong government.

Workers and students must unite to force the totalitarian government to hand state power back to the people.

Since the peaceful assembly outside the Government Headquarter on September 26th, thousands of people join and support the assembly.

The ever growing number of people maintained peace and order.

Yet, the police attacked the protestors heavily with pepper spray, baton and riot squads armed with shields and helmets, while people who only had towels and umbrellas to protect themselves.

In face of several rounds of suppression, protestors only raised their hands up without fighting back. In the evening of September 28th, the police furthered their attack with several rounds of tear gas. Many peaceful protestors were injured.

**Workers must stand up against the unjust government and violent suppression. Workers must stand up, as the totalitarian government has to back down when all workers protest in solidarity. To defend democracy and justice, we cannot let the students fight the suppression alone.**

HKCTU hereby announces and calls all workers to participate in a general strike tomorrow.

We demand:

- 1) Police must release the arrested protestors immediately. They must guarantee the basic human rights of the arrested protestors during retention.
- 2) The government and police must stop suppressing the peaceful assembly and apologize to the people.
- 3) National People's Congress must withdraw the 'fake universal suffrage'.

The Hong Kong government must restart the consultation of political reform.

Workers have been demanding a fair election system to rectify the longstanding problem of the business-leaning government. However, the 'fake universal suffrage' framework proposed by NPC is merely 'old wine in a new bottle'.

4) Chief Executive Leung Chun Ying must step down to bear the responsibility of violent suppression of protest.

Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions  
September 28th, 2014.

**MORE:**

## **“The Swire Beverages (Coca-Cola) Union And The HKCTU Unions Of School Teachers And Dockers Are Striking And Will Be Joined By Other Member Unions”**

September 30th, 2014 Posted by John, En Passant [Excerpts]

The Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions (HKCTU) – the only independent union in China – has called for workers to strike in support of the democracy movement as mass civil disobedience actions come under heavy police attack.

The Swire Beverages (Coca-Cola) union and the HKCTU unions of school teachers and dockers are striking and will be joined by other member unions.

Tensions have been building in Hong Kong since the August 31 government announcement that candidates for the position of Chief Executive would have to be vetted and approved by a pro-business, pro-Beijing committee.

The protests, originally organized by the students' federation and the Occupy Central coalition, have drawn increasing numbers of supporters.

The HKCTU has been the backbone of the democracy movement, before and following Hong Kong's return to Chinese rule. Their courageous action deserves the support of trade unions everywhere.

**MORE:**

## **“The Handover Of HK's Sovereignty To China Has Changed Nothing Of**

# **The Colonial System Of Favoring The Rich”**

## **“Despite The Social Movement Fighting For An Improved Pension System And For The Regulating Of Work Hours, The Government Continues To Turn A Deaf Ear”**

24 September 2014 China Labour Net

**Today, the 24th September 2014, 25 Hong Kong social groups and unions, including the Confederation of Trade Unions, held a press conference to release its statement of support for universal suffrage and economic betterment, in the midst of a one week long student class boycott.**

The statement criticizes the political reform package presented by the China’s People’s Congress and the Hong Kong government for favoring the rich and the proposed method of choosing the Chief Executive as a fake election.

It also criticizes the economic policy of laissez-faire for only favoring the business sector, resulting in an un-regulated labor market and the lack of social security.

The handover of HK’s sovereignty to China has changed nothing of the colonial system of favoring the rich. This is why, despite the social movement fighting for an improved pension system and for the regulating of work hours, the government continues to turn a deaf ear.

The coalition demands genuine universal suffrage and the implementation of laws on the regulation of work hours and an improved pension system. The statement also demands regular consultation between the government and the civil groups on all social policies.

**MORE:**

## **Chinese Dictatorship Frightened Uprising Will Spread**

Sept. 29, 2014 By James T. Areddy, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

SHANGHAI—Massive democracy rallies in Hong Kong have offered Chinese President Xi Jinping stark choices between concession and crackdown, either of which poses problems for his government—and his own political standing.

Throughout the weekend and into Monday, protesters, mostly students, confronted police and halted business activity in parts of Hong Kong. Crowds thinned in the early morning hours Tuesday but were expected to grow again during the day.

Police fired tear gas and pepper spray to disperse the thousands of students gathered outside government headquarters on Sunday, but the protesters regrouped and re-emerged in greater numbers, choking off roadways in the heart of the city.

**The leadership is always concerned that protests in one part of China, if left unchallenged, might encourage people in other parts to rise up.**

**Beijing appeared on high alert to ensure copycat action doesn't appear elsewhere in the country, such as the restive regions of Tibet and Xinjiang.**

**News from Hong Kong was heavily censored in mainland China's press and on social media; the photo-sharing app Instagram experienced outages Monday, according to several Internet-tracking organizations.**

In watching the events unfold in Hong Kong, China's top leaders fear any "contagion effect" that encourages the disgruntled elsewhere in China to press for greater rights or which suggests national sovereignty is being undermined by "foreign hostile forces" that challenge Communist [translation: crony-capitalist] Party rule, said Dingding Chen, an assistant professor of government and public administration

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## **DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK**



# **Chinese Regime Body Searches 10,000 Potentially Subversive Pigeons:**

**“Workers Checked The Wings,  
Legs And Anus Of Each Pigeon  
Ahead Of Time To Ensure They  
Were ‘Not Carrying Suspicious  
Material’”**

**Critic Of Dictatorship Says “They  
Have To Go Through The Pains And  
Insults Of The Rude Anal Check And  
Yet They Must Appear Peaceful And  
Happy On The Screen Of The State  
Broadcaster”**

**“The Liberty And Dignity Of Citizens Are  
Increasingly Vulnerable, And Can Be  
Expropriated At Any Time, Like With The  
Pigeons”**

OCT. 1, 2014 By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIJING — The 10,000 pigeons released in a ceremony Wednesday for China's National Day underwent unusual scrutiny, each having its feathers and anus checked for dangerous materials, state-run media reports said, reflecting government jitters over possible attacks.



The symbols of peace were released at sunrise in Beijing's symbolic heart of Tiananmen Square in a ceremony for the Oct. 1 holiday to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

Beijing domestic security police officer Guo Chunwei was quoted in the Jinghua Times as saying workers checked the wings, legs and anus of each pigeon ahead of time to ensure they were "not carrying suspicious material."

The entire process was videotaped, and the birds were then loaded into sealed vehicles for the trip to Tiananmen Square, the newspaper said.

A similar report appeared in the Beijing News, and the People's Daily tweeted about it in English: "10,000 pigeons go through anal security check for suspicious objects Tue, ready to be released on National Day on Wed."

The reports — which did not say what the suspicious materials might be — drew amused and derisive responses from some Chinese readers, and many news sites, including the Beijing News website, later deleted the reports. However, the Jinghua Times report and the People's Daily tweet were still visible as of midday Wednesday.

Members of the Chinese public responded with sarcasm because they see in the pigeon body searches their own plight in what they consider an oppressive society with tight surveillance, censorship and judicial injustice, independent columnist Zhang Ping said in an editorial that was circulated on social media under his pen name, Changping.

"The liberty and dignity of citizens are increasingly vulnerable, and can be expropriated at any time, like with the pigeons," Zhang wrote.

"They have to go through the pains and insults of the rude anal check and yet they must appear peaceful and happy on the screen of the state broadcaster."

Beijing authorities also are sending police helicopters to monitor highway checkpoints, ring roads within the city, major intersections and areas with heavy traffic, including popular tourist spots such as the Great Wall and the Summer Palace, the Beijing News said. Additionally, the capital has mobilized 850,000 citizen volunteers to help keep a lookout in the city of about 20 million people, the newspaper said.

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## **OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

# **Zionist Settlers Grab 23 Palestinian Apartments In Occupied Jerusalem**

30 September 14 by Saed Bannoura - IMEMC News

A large group of extremist Israeli settlers, with members of the right-wing fundamentalist settlement group “Elad”, broke into 23 Palestinian apartments in three buildings of Silwan town, in occupied Jerusalem, and seized them.

**The Wadi Hilweh Information Center, in Silwan, said that the attack started around 1:30 am, when dozens of settlers and soldiers invaded the town, and illegally took over 22 empty apartments, and one inhabited apartment after violently forcing the family out.**

The Center added that dozens of soldiers and settlers were deployed in Wadi and Beidoun neighborhoods in Silwan, before breaking into the buildings.

The apartments belong to members of the families of Beidoun, al-Karaky, Abu Sbeih, Zawahra, al-’Abbassi, al-Khayyat, Qara’in and al-Yamani.

The Center said the ownership of some of the apartments might have been leaked to the settlers through suspicious underground deals.

“The attack itself is illegitimate, carried out by Elad group, known for its agenda aiming at getting rid of the Palestinians from occupied Jerusalem,” Wadi Hilweh said. “The group is known for its illegal practices, and underground deals.”

It demanded the Palestinian Authority and all national and Islamic institutions to uncover and prosecute any person who acts on granting ownership of Palestinian buildings to fanatic settler-led groups.

The Center further said that the settlers fired rounds of live ammunition, following clashes in one of the occupied homes, after the locals kicked them out.

It added that there are currently 29 settlement outposts in Silwan, including 26 in Wadi Hilweh, and that the Elad group illegally occupied the first Palestinian home in 1987 before it conducted an extensive take over campaign in 1991.

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## **Pro-Palestine Protesters Again Thwart Israeli Cargo Ship In Oakland: “No Cargo Was Unloaded After Members Of The International Longshore And Warehouse Union Refused To Work On The Ship”**

29 September 14 By Ed Pilkington, Guardian UK & The Free Palestine Movement  
[Excerpts]

Protesters demonstrating against the recent Israeli military operation in Gaza have launched a fresh picket at the Port of Oakland in California, preventing an Israeli-owned container ship from unloading its cargo.

A picket of about 200 pro-Palestinian demonstrators campaigning under the title “Block the Boat” assembled on Saturday alongside the Zim Shanghai, a massive, 300-meter commercial vessel.

Waving signs saying “DON’T WORK ZIM” and chanting “Send the ship back to sea until Palestine is free”, demonstrators from around the San Francisco Bay Area and as far away as Sacramento set up picket lines at the port of Oakland, California that were 100% effective in preventing the giant Zim Shanghai container ship from unloading and loading its cargo.

The ship was essentially untouched from the time it docked at 5:16 a.m. on Saturday, September 27, 2014 and left just after midnight on the same day.

**No cargo was unloaded after members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union refused to work on the ship, citing safety fears due to the crowd of protesters and police. The effort was in many ways a model of cooperation between Palestine solidarity activists and the membership of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10 and other members of the labor community.**

Although neither community is unanimous in its views, attitudes or approaches to such matters, they reached out to each other and listened. A significant number belong to both communities and acted as a bridge. Despite some mistakes, good will went a long way in overcoming obstacles.

One of the protest organizers, Steve Zeltzer, said: “I think it was a big victory today for those who are opposed to the policies of Israel in Gaza.”

The successful action to frustrate the unloading of the Zim Shanghai follows similar protests last month in ports along the coast of California and in Florida. The Zim Shanghai’s sister ship, the Zim Piraeus, was blockaded for four days and prevented from unloading at the same port in Oakland. In the end, the vessel had to make its way to Los Angeles with its cargo still on board. Further protests were staged in Seattle, Tacoma and Long Beach ports in California, and Tampa in Florida.

The frustrated shipments all belonged to the Zim Integrated Shipping Services, Israel’s largest cargo-shipping business and one of the biggest in the world. According to the company’s website, it has an annual turnover of almost \$4bn and delivers to 180 ports around the world.

The picketers said they were protesting against Israel’s 50-day military intervention in Gaza this summer, which is said to have caused almost \$8bn in damages and killed more than 2,000 Palestinians.

According to marine trackers, by Sunday afternoon the Zim Shanghai had left Oakland with its cargo still on board and, like the Zim Piraeus last month, was making its way to Los Angeles.

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

<http://www.maannews.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



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# Vietnam GI: Reprints Available

# Vietnam GI

January, 1969

Free to Servicemen

## "... he threw his rifle at his Commanding Officer..."



### WHEN HAWKS RETIRE

All of us who've had our "first" trips to Sunny Nam and South Korea shouldn't feel guilty about accepting such "gifts" from the Government. Lots of hawk politicians are taking Government trips too. Of course, their trips are a little bit different.

Take Senator Edward V. Long (D-La.), the Senate Judiciary Committee highest ranking entrepreneur in January was speeded up by graft scandals. The good Senator decided that as a last sacrifice to his country he would give himself TDY to Europe. The cruise was to "get firsthand information on foreign aid and military assistance programs." Doubtless, that's why he took his wife along.

Of special interest was his visit to

Switzerland, which neither gets US aid nor wants any. It doesn't really make any difference, since as soon as Senator Long returned from his "fact-finding mission" he retired from the Senate, thus depriving our Congress of all his "facts" (mostly on nightclubs and ritz hotels).

Going to and from Europe Long traveled on Senate funds, but while on TDY there, he economized by using US military aircraft, cars and chauffeurs to get around. The Pentagon ordered the red carpet rolled out around the world. Nothing too good for a retiring hawk politician. As the saying goes, in America we're all equal — only some are more equal than others!

As we go to press we learn that the government has finally agreed on the shape of the table and seating arrangements for the Paris talks. Now that everyone is seated and comfortable, maybe we can expect further "breakthroughs."

The grim fact is that while the government honores are living in Paris, thousands of our buddies are still dying in Nam. In fact, since they began talking last May, 3,000 GIs have been killed in action.

Talks or no talks, the only solution is to get the hell out of Nam, immediately. Stop talking and start shipping us home.

The next issue of VGI will discuss the Paris talks in greater detail. By that

Below is an interview with a Marine who didn't like the war and figured out why. This guy is a Platoon SGT with five years in the Green Machine, and over a year in Nam, mostly in long range recon with Charlie Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, VCF spoke to him while he was on leave awaiting his second Nam tour. Since he doesn't ETS until 1973 we've left out his name.

VGI: How do you feel about the war when you went over there. Did your feelings change?

A: When I first went over there, I thought it would be a great thing in pay, and a great new experience of being in war. I really thought it was going to be something different. But then I got put on some of those patrols and I got to see the people and got to talk to the people. That was the big thing that finally changed me. I finally saw that it wasn't worth while, and that they actually don't want our help because it actually isn't help.

VGI: Did you have any contact with the Vietnamese, with the people?

A: There was a place called Ben Son and for a while I was stationed down at the bridge there. This is where I lived, ate, slept, drank, everything. There were houses right next to my bunker, we had an address for OPs and we gave everybody else addresses. We explained to the people what the addresses were and they got all shook up about the whole thing, wow, they got addresses too.

VGI: What was it like, being down?

A: We lived with them, we shared our food with them. They used to really go for the little treats in the coconut packs, the nuts and the coconut capsules and everything, and in fact they'd bring back bananas. There was this one girl, her name was—I can't think of her name now—I had her picture but I lost it. This one girl, she really stands out in my mind because she used to come over and bring us beer every day and in turn, all she expected from us was the empty boxes of coconuts, that's all she wanted, the empty boxes. But then we started putting little things in the empty boxes and told her we wanted her to have them.

VGI: What would she want with the empty boxes?

A: I don't know, the Vietnamese people, they could take an empty box of nothing and make something out of it. She made me a sashet which she had made out of a c-ration tin. She had decorated it out with a nail and a hammer. It had little beads on it and I wore it all the time. I actually got to feel naked after I lost it.

But yet, later on, during the Tet holidays, the Viet Cong came in and burned out half of the village, and the marines naturally went in pursuit. In order to stop them, the VC took this shit and they cut off her breasts. She was brought up to the hospital and lost the tits.

VGI: Did the brass give you any stank about being with the Vietnamese?

A: The incident when I almost got into trouble was, there was a convoy of about 12 to 14 trucks. I think it was. We had a whole bunch of plywood on it and we took this plywood over to a village chief in Ben Son, he was one of

the aides. We dropped off something like 14 sheets of plywood. Naturally, when we got back, there was one truckload of plywood missing, and they asked where it was. They later found out that I had given it to this village chief, not for my own good relations with him, but because there was times when we didn't get resupplied at our observation point, and they brought us food, so we gave them something else in return.

### interview

VGI: What are some of the things you saw and did that led you into deciding in the middle of Nam not to fight anymore?

A: Well, I saw times when COL Bill Fisher when he would tell his men to dismantle their personal-carrying flame-throwers, take them out on a company sleep and put them back together once they got out. He went into a village and told them, "Are there any Viet Cong here?" The village chief naturally said "No" because he knew that if he said yes, he didn't know what'd happen to him. Then COL Fisher said, "Well, if there is any Viet Cong in this village, we'll show you what's going to happen." He got one of his flunkies run up to the house, he didn't check to see if there was anybody in it or not. Later we found out there was a woman in there who was real ugly, she couldn't move or anything. She was burned to death. It was terrible. And seeing guys being carried in on ponies. A full-grown man weighed about two pounds after he was brought in as a rack of raw flesh or something like that.

VGI: Did you see any other incidents like this?

A: There was this little village just out of Ben Son where we brought our rice and got our rice. It's not pretty, it's really true, it was just this small village, maybe 15 or 17 houses. It was a "gray to white" village, all and on there'd be Viet Cong watching the area. No homesites at all, they'd just go in there to be resupplied. Yet one day, they found out that VC were coming into that village and they called "Pull", "Pull" came over and loaded the whole village down. I think maybe three people lived out of the whole thing. One was a little baby about two years old whose mother and father was gone.

One of the guys sort of adopted this kid, this little two year old. He took this kid real close. When we went to R and R we brought him back toys and trucks and things like that. It was really touching, because they don't get too many trucks over there. We'd round up a few dump trucks and stuff like that from Hong Kong. They were really surprised to see the new toys. I mean, the toys they play with, old coconut cans and stuff like that go thing toys. They're a fascinating people. If you just have an opportunity to see them, to get to know them, they're really great.

VGI: How do you think they feel about us?

A: This one incident—I know of the letter one north Vietnamese who was down south wrote to his brother up north who was intent on coming down

Continued on page 8

Edited by Vietnam Veteran Jeff Sharlet from 1968 until his death, this newspaper rocked the world, attracting attention even from Time Magazine, and extremely hostile attention from the chain of command.

The pages and pages of letters in the paper from troops in Vietnam condemning the war are lost to history, but you can find them here.

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