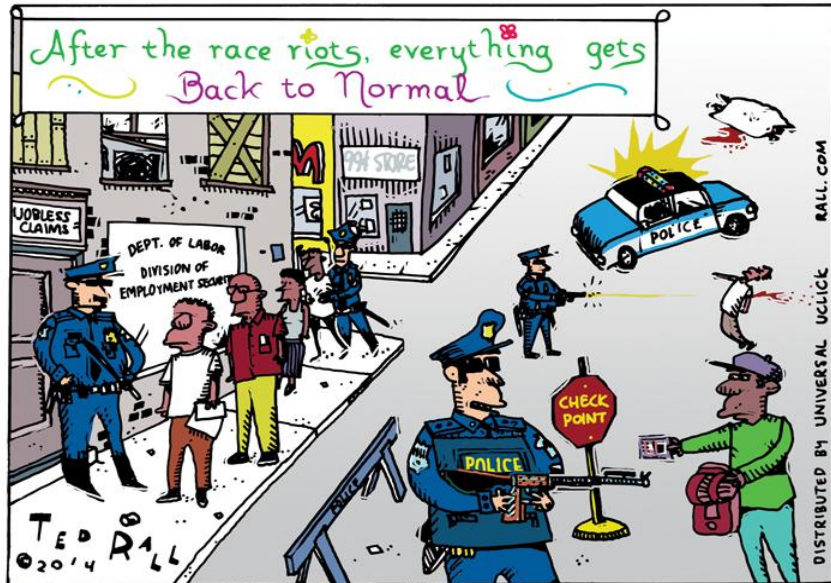


## Military Resistance 12K14



# **There Is A Bizarre Urge Among Young, Unarmed Black Men To Provoke Their Own Murder By ‘Reaching For Their Waistbands’” “If Police Accounts Are To Be Believed, This Compulsion Only Exists Among Young Black Men”**

November 28-30, 2014 by JOHN ESKOW, CounterPunch

If police accounts are to be believed, there is a bizarre urge among young, unarmed black men to provoke their own murder by “reaching for their waistbands” when cops are aiming service revolvers at them.

Just this week we heard Officer Darren Wilson claim that one of the reasons he killed Michael Brown was that the young man “reached for his waistband,” and – in what I guess was just an incredibly weird coincidence – we heard Cleveland

**police claim they killed a 12-year-old kid with a toy gun because he also “reached for his waistband.”**

But this odd compulsion is not a new one.

In 2011, fully half of all the young black men shot by LA cops were cut down because—again, if police accounts are to be believed — they too were “reaching for their waistbands.”

The epidemic also spread to Houston, where multiple police accounts cite the same excuse.

Oscar Grant, the young man killed by Oakland cops on a subway platform — and the subject of the movie “Fruitvale Station”—was shot for the exact same reason.

If police accounts are to be believed, this compulsion only exists among young black men.

I have been approached by angry or frustrated cops several times in my life — twice as an angry young protestor, eager to defy them — and have never felt even the slightest urge to reach for my waistband.

Maybe white skin contains a protein that protects against this terrible compulsion?

And exactly what is it that these dead young men were hoping to find in those waistbands?

Given the Cosby-condemned fashion of wearing saggy jeans, these kids have to reach pretty far down to reach their waistbands—a posture which would leave them completely defenseless against an armed cop.

What a powerful compulsion this must be!

I’ve spent a good amount of time on police ridearounds in New Orleans. If you want to see young black men, New Orleans at 3 AM is a good place to do so.

I remember one night as my cop hosts were rolling up slowly on a kid they suspected of a robbery: no shirt, Saints cap, saggy jeans exposing his boxer shorts. The kid sauntered on with an exaggerated cool: he knew the cops were watching him, and the cops knew that he knew. One of the cops poked my elbow, chuckled, and said: “Watch this. That kid’s gonna break.” “When?” I asked. “The second he reaches down to hitch up his drawers.” As I watched, another cop counted down: “Three seconds to drawa—hitchin’. Two...one...”

At just that second, the kid reached down, hitched up his drawas, and “broke”—took off sprinting down an alley. They pursued him for a while, then lost interest.

It was the only time I ever saw any gesture that was even vaguely waistband-related, and the kid only did it so that he could run without being tripped by his low-slung Levis.

Two weeks later, one of the cops in that squad car – a funny guy, a seemingly decent guy, you would've liked him – was briefly suspended, pending the investigation of an "incident" in which he shot and killed a young black man in the black man's own back yard.

The kid had reached for his waistband, if police accounts are to be believed.

My old squad-car host was cleared in a few days and returned to duty.

This has gone on far too long.

I am going to take my own mixed-race son to a neurologist today, if not sooner, to have him checked for traces of this horrible Waistband-Reaching Syndrome. I'm concerned that, one day, it could get him killed...

...if police accounts are to be believed.

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **DoD IDs Sergeant Major, Specialist Killed In Afghanistan**

November 28, 2014 By Michelle Tan, Staff writer; Army Times

The Defense Department on Wednesday identified two soldiers, including a command sergeant major, who were killed Monday in Afghanistan.

The soldiers died in Kabul from wounds suffered when the enemy attacked their vehicle with a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device.

Sgt. Maj. Wardell Turner, 48, was from Nanticoke, Maryland. He was assigned to Headquarters, U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Drum, New York.

Spc. Joseph Riley, 27, was from Grove City, Ohio. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

According to local media reports, Turner was assigned to a key training command in Afghanistan.

Turner served as the top enlisted for Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan in Kabul, which is primarily responsible for training Afghan National Security Forces. Earlier this year, CSTC-A lost Maj. Gen. Harold Greene, who was killed in a deadly insider attack Aug. 5 in Kabul. Greene was CSTC-A's deputy commander and

the first American general officer to be killed by hostile fire in combat since Sept. 11, 2001.

Turner graduated from Bennett High School in 1984 and was a member of the 1983 championship football team, according to the Daily Times newspaper in Salisbury, Maryland.

He attended Towson University on a football scholarship, graduating in 1989 with a bachelors degree in management, according to the paper.

Turner later earned a master's degree in criminal justice from Central Missouri State University in 2011.

Turner had served in several military police units since 1993, most recently in the 720th Military Police Battalion. He was promoted to sergeant major in July 2013, the Maryland paper reported.

Riley, who was an infantryman, joined the Army in June 2012, according to the 82nd Airborne. He arrived at Fort Bragg in October 2012 and was later assigned to 1st Battalion.

“Spc. Riley was a superb paratrooper who I will remember as having an infectious positive attitude,” said Lt. Col. Matthew Konz, Riley’s battalion commander, in a statement. “He was able to lift the spirits of those around him, even in the worst conditions. I am humbled to have had the opportunity to know and serve with him.”

Riley’s awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with campaign star, Combat Infantryman Badge

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## **In Grove City, A Soldier Killed In Afghanistan Is Mourned**



Spc. Joseph Riley was killed Monday in Afghanistan. (Photo: Army)

November 26, 2014 By Holly Zachariah, The Columbus Dispatch

Every now and then in a coach's career, a kid comes along who changes things.

They are born leaders and hard workers. They celebrate successes better than anyone and are the first to help others overcome disappointment. They are kind and decent, and they leave their stamp on everyone's heart.

For Scott McIntire, that kid was Joseph Riley.

"I was a coach for 37 years, and Joey ranks No. 1 on my list," McIntire said yesterday, choking out his words through tears. "You try to make peace with something like this but ... ." His voice trailed off. Then, "I just don't know how."

Riley, a 27-year-old Army specialist and a 2005 graduate and former football standout at Grove City High School, died Monday in eastern Afghanistan. The name of the base where he was stationed and his unit information were unavailable.

Neither the Army nor the Department of Defense has released details, but CBS News reported that a bomb attached to a bicycle exploded near a military convoy in Kabul. Riley and another U.S. soldier were killed. Six civilians also died, and still more were wounded.

The bombing came on the heels of a mass killing of civilians by a suicide bomber at a volleyball tournament on Sunday, another sign that as foreign troops continue their withdrawal from Afghanistan, Taliban violence is escalating.

No one has yet claimed responsibility for Monday's attack.

A total of 63 NATO troops have been killed this year, at least 46 of them Americans.

Riley's family in Grove City, which includes his parents, Rodney and Michelle, and two older siblings, were notified of his death on Monday, said Grove City Police Chief Steve Robinette, who is assisting the family.

Until a couple of years ago when he enlisted, Riley spent his summers on a Grove City work crew.

Robinette said the family was too shocked and saddened to talk yesterday, but through their church they released a statement last night asking for privacy so they can grieve: "We are so heartbroken by this news. We are proud of our son and the sacrifice he made. He loved the Army and felt strongly that freedom is worth the fight. He loved Grove City, and we have already felt comforted by the love and support of this community, our many friends, and our beloved church family. Please know that we will see him again because he trusted Christ to usher him into eternity in

McIntire said he wanted the world to know it lost a good one. He coached Riley, a two-way player and captain for the Grove City Greyhounds, and taught him in history class, too.

“It’s hard to put into words what a great family it is,” McIntire said. “And Joey? Some people are best described as old souls. That was him. Being nice and happy was just his nature.”

Coming into his freshman year at Grove City, Riley befriended one particular classmate, a soccer player who had decided to try his hand at football. And Bryan Mulvany has never forgotten the kindness Riley showed him that year. Or anytime after, for that matter.

The two became captains of the freshman squad, and their friendship only grew stronger. Mulvany said that whenever Riley came home, the two would run into each other around town. And just as he did with nearly everyone he met, Riley always greeted him the same: First came that signature smile, then a handshake, and finally a full-blown hug.

Mulvany said he’ll always be sad that the last time Riley was home, they were unable to get together and catch up over coffee as they had wanted to.

“Joey was the kind of friend that everyone hopes for in their life,” said Mulvany, who is now the head soccer coach at Grove City. “He had this ‘never let it get you down’ attitude, and it always made everyone around him smile.”

After high school, Riley went on to play football at Capital University. But after graduation, he couldn’t seem to settle in, McIntire said.

Once he decided on the Army, though, he never looked back. Riley stopped by last Christmas to visit his old coach. McIntire said he seemed content and happy.

Riley showed a special concern for the people of Afghanistan and told McIntire in one of their last conversations that he was worried about what would happen to the locals after American troops left the country.

“I think that speaks so much to what kind of a man he had become. He needed to accomplish something big, to make a difference,” McIntire said. “And he had found it.”

Donations in Riley’s memory can be made to Memorial Baptist Church, 2435 Eakin Rd., Columbus, Ohio, 43204, to benefit the Baptist missions agency, ABWE, and the children of Nicaragua.

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## **Funeral Held For Green Beret Killed In Combat**

November 28, 2014 The Associated Press

BAY CITY, Mich. — Hundreds of people attended a funeral in Michigan on Wednesday for a 31-year-old Green Beret who was killed in combat in Afghanistan, while hundreds more lined the streets outside the church.

The Pentagon said that Sgt. 1st Class Michael A. Cathcart died of wounds received from small arms fire in Kunduz Province on Nov. 14. Cathcart was based at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Cathcart's funeral took place at All Saints Parish's St. Boniface Campus in Bay City. The Bay City Times reported that hundreds of people heeded the family's request to line the streets from the church to the cemetery where he was buried.

A giant flag flew near Washington Elementary School, and dozens of smaller flags were planted next to sidewalks along the route.

"It's very sad, but we have a special community who supports their soldiers," said Joann Davis, who took a bus to stand outside the church. "Just look down this street. It's absolutely beautiful."

Gov. Rick Snyder ordered U.S. flags in Michigan lowered Wednesday in Cathcart's honor. Cathcart was a Bay City Central High School graduate and enlisted in the Army in 2001. He served in combat in Iraq as well as Afghanistan.

Members of the Patriot Guard Riders, a motorcycle group that supports active and retired service members, surrounded the church building holding U.S. flags.

Democratic U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee, who attended the service, described Cathcart as "a peacemaker." "What I found most moving were that members of his unit were there — these are guys that are taking the same risk as Michael did to protect our country," Kildee said. "This soldier paid the ultimate sacrifice."



(Photo: Amanda Ray/The Bay City Times via AP)

## **POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE BLOODSHED**

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

# **Taliban Launch All-Out Assault On Camp Bastion Barely A Month After British Troops Pull Out, Killing Six Afghan Soldiers**

28 November 2014 By Associated Press and Ted Thornhill for Daily Mail Online  
[Excerpts]

Insurgents killed six Afghan soldiers in an assault on Camp Bastion that lasted more than 14 hours, a day after attacks on foreign targets in Kabul killed two British embassy employees.

Nearly 30 insurgents, including seven bombers, swarmed the camp in southern Helmand province in the early hours of Friday morning, said the deputy head of the Afghan National Army in the province, Ghulam Farooq Parwani.

British forces handed over Camp Bastion to the Afghan army in late October

The Taliban claimed responsibility for Friday's attack.

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## **More Resistance Action**

11/28/14, By Hafiz Ahmadi, DPA

Kabul – Four police officers were killed and dozens of civilians injured Friday in three separate attacks in Afghanistan, officials said.

A bomber detonated his explosives-laden truck near a police checkpoint in the Nawzad district, an incident in which four police officers were killed and five others were injured, said Omar Zwak, spokesman for the governor of Helmand province, where the incident took place.

Meanwhile, more than 30 worshippers were injured in an explosion inside a mosque in the eastern province of Nangarhar.



Taliban militants, who are usually accused of such attacks, condemned the bombing in the mosque, saying the “cunning enemy (referring to the Afghan government) had carried it out to create distance between mujahideen and the nation.”

**IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE  
END THE OCCUPATION**

## **MILITARY NEWS**

# **“Islamic State Fighters On Tuesday Penetrated To The Core Of Ramadi, The Provincial Capital Of Iraq’s Largest Province” “City On The Verge Of Falling” “The Governorate Building Has Been Nearly Cut Off”**

November 25, 2014 By Susannah George, McClatchy Foreign Staff

IRBIL Iraq — Islamic State fighters on Tuesday penetrated to the core of Ramadi, the provincial capital of Iraq’s largest province, prompting local security officials to warn that the city was on the verge of falling to the extremists.

Such a gain would be the Islamic State’s most significant victory in months.

Officials said that extremist fighters were only tens of yards away from entering the main government compound.

“The governorate building has been nearly cut off,” said a Baghdad security official in direct contact with the operations command for Anbar, the province where Ramadi lies.

**The official said that Islamic State forces had cut roads to the Iraqi Army’s 8th Division base to the west and the road to Habaniyya airbase to the east.**

The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to reporters.

Islamic State fighters launched their push to capture the long-contested town on Friday and have been battling government-aligned troops for control since.

Ramadi is one of the last pockets of government control in Anbar, the province that abuts Baghdad on the west and the scene of some of the bloodiest battles waged by American troops during the U.S. occupation of Iraq from 2003 to 2011.

**Consolidated control of Anbar would open up Islamic State supply routes to Syria and would position the group for an advance on the Iraqi capital.**

**Local security forces and tribesmen initially succeeded in resisting the Islamic State's newest advance, but commanders on the ground say a lack of continuous air support and reinforcements has made it impossible to hold that territory.**

Ahmed Mishan al Dulaimi, a Ramadi police lieutenant, said that coalition airstrikes had been critical to stopping the Islamic State's initial assault but that the strikes had stopped. "We were told (the aircraft) were occupied" with other fronts.

"If the coalition doesn't continue targeting the nests of Daash, everything that we're doing now will just be in vain," he said, using an Arabic term for the Islamic State.

**"The momentum is against ISIS now," he said, referring to the Islamic State by a common acronym.**

That was not the view from inside Ramadi, however.

"Daash has a lot of support from the rest of the areas it controls," said Dulaimi, the Ramadi police lieutenant.

"Military reinforcements are long overdue."

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# **Legislation Introduced "To Make It Easier For Veterans To Get Medical Marijuana In States Where That Is Legal"**

## **"Medical Marijuana Could Keep Veterans From Becoming**

# **Addicted To Potentially Harmful Medications”**

## **“VA Now Prohibits Medical Providers From Prescribing Medical Marijuana”**

### **“Antiquated Drug Laws Must Catch Up With The Real Suffering Of So Many Veterans”**

November 25, 2014 By Patricia Kime, Staff writer; Army Times [Excerpts]

House lawmakers have introduced legislation that would make it easier for veterans to get medical marijuana in states where that is legal.

The Veterans Equal Access bill, sponsored by Reps. Dana Rohrabacher, R-Calif., and Earl Blumenaur, D-Ore., would allow Veterans Affairs Department doctors and health care providers to complete the paperwork needed to participate in state medical marijuana programs.

**VA now prohibits medical providers from writing prescriptions for medical marijuana.**

**Rohrabacher said he finds it “unconscionable” that the department’s doctors “cannot offer a full range of treatments ... which in many cases has been shown to have worked.”**

“Our antiquated drug laws must catch up with the real suffering of so many of our veterans,” Rohrabacher said. “This is now a moral cause and a matter of supreme urgency.”

Twenty-three states, the District of Columbia and Guam allow medical marijuana, but post-traumatic stress disorder is a qualifying condition in just seven of those, with Arizona set to become No. 8, starting Jan. 1.

A recent Veterans Health Administration study of 60,000 post-9/11 veterans found that roughly one in six meet the criteria for PTSD, with 16 percent of those who deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan screening positive and 11 percent of nondeployers having symptoms.

**With some studies indicating that troops with physical pain and mental health issues often abuse opiates — one study of an Army infantry unit after an Afghanistan deployment indicated that 40 percent took the drugs and had not had serious pain in the month before they responded to a survey — the lawmakers**

**said medical marijuana could keep veterans from becoming addicted to potentially harmful medications.**

**“We should be allowing these wounded warriors access to the medicine that will help them survive and thrive, including medical marijuana, not treating them like criminals and forcing them into the shadows. It’s shameful,” Blumenauer said.**

There has been no research in the U.S. on the effectiveness of medical marijuana on relieving PTSD symptoms in veterans.

**A study was approved last year by federal regulators but that work has been put on hold while the lead researcher, Dr. Susan Sisley, and her sponsor, the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies, find a location to conduct it.**

**Sisley had planned to perform the research at the University of Arizona in Tucson but her contract was terminated by the school in August.**

The state of Colorado may host at least half the study. The state Medical Marijuana Scientific Advisory Council on Monday recommended that Colorado provide a \$2 million grant to support the research.

The Colorado Board of Health will consider the recommendation on Dec. 17.

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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

Rise like Lions after slumber  
In unvanquishable number,  
Shake your chains to earth like dew  
Which in sleep had fallen on you-  
Ye are many — they are few

-- Percy Bysshe Shelley, 1819, on the occasion of a mass murder of British workers by the Imperial government at Peterloo.

**Maidan “Had Its Roots In The  
Shared Rage At The Crisis And  
Hatred For The Oligarchs  
Common To Both East And  
West”**

**“Opposition To Our Own  
Imperialists Does Not Rest On  
Having To Disguise The Role Of  
Rivals”**

**Russia “Has Its Own Imperialist  
Interests Both In Its Own Region And**

# **In Other Parts Of The World Including The Middle East”**

## **“It Is Not The Business Of Socialists To Help One Robber Rob Another: Socialists Must Take Advantage Of The Struggle Between The Robbers To Overthrow Them All”**

10 October 14 by Rob Ferguson, International Socialism [Excerpts]

By the end of 2013 the Ukrainian ruling class were desperate.

The central bank had two months of foreign reserves left and Ukraine was judged twice as likely to default as Greece.

The ruling class desperately needed a bailout from either the EU and IMF or Russia. Either would come at a heavy price; both would offer nothing but continuing misery for Ukraine's workers. After some hesitation Yanukovych turned to Russia, refusing to sign the Association Agreement that had been negotiated with the EU.

This triggered a reaction that had its roots in the shared rage at the crisis and hatred for the oligarchs common to both east and west.

However, the protests could never develop into a national movement as long as their demands were hitched to the EU and the West. The seeds of division had already been sown. The nature of the demands meant that the student-led protests of early autumn were reaching a limit beyond which they were unlikely to generalise further.

Arguably, by the end of November the protests were on the wane. But on 30 November Yanukovych and his supporters made a fateful decision.

In two years Yanukovych had seen his support slump from 42 to 14 percent; he feared the protest movement might just be sufficient to dislodge him.

Memories of the “Orange Revolution” of 2004 and the precedent set by the “Revolution on Granite” of 1990 had more than a symbolic resonance for Ukraine's rulers.

Yanukovych decided to sweep the protesters from the square in an action that he hoped would bring the protest to a rapid end. He sent in the notorious interior ministry troops: the “Berkut” (Golden Eagles) to disband the students violently.

The Berkut had their roots in the Soviet OMON formed at the end of the 1980s to take on the miners and the independence movements.

They were paid double the wages of the ordinary police and had a deeply anti-Semitic culture. They went on a violent rampage not only clearing protesters from the square but pursuing them through the streets with clubs and laying siege to St Michael's Monastery where many took sanctuary.

Demonstrations of tens of thousands were transformed into demonstrations of hundreds of thousands and more.

By early December up to half a million demonstrated.

**“This Process Has Been Depicted By A Section Of The Left As A Putsch From Beginning To End. This Is Dangerous Nonsense”**

The motivation of the demonstrators is instructive.

In a poll conducted among 1,037 demonstrators in and around Maidan square on 7-8 December, 70 percent said they came to protest against the police brutality of 30 November; 53.5 percent in favour of the EU Association Agreement; 50 percent “to change life in Ukraine”; 40 percent “to change the power in the country”.

Only 17 percent protested for fear that Ukraine would enter Russia's Customs Union or against the possibility of a turn back towards Russia.

A negligible 5.4 percent said they answered the calls of opposition leaders.

As David Cadier observes: “The protests, while initially prompted by the rejection of the Association Agreement, grew considerably bigger and more determined after the police had repressed them; they became less about allegiance to either the EU or Russia than they were about denouncing a corrupt and inefficient political executive”.

Once at the square the demands of the political opposition came more to the fore.

**But nonetheless when asked to choose which three political demands they most supported, signing the EU agreement came fourth with less than half the protesters including it as a demand. First, by a significant margin, was the release of those arrested on the Maidan and an end to repression; second, the dismissal of the government; third, the resignation of Yanukovych and early presidential elections.**

Confrontations and demonstrations continued through the winter.

**Then on 16 January the government passed a series of anti-protest laws, soon called “the dictatorship laws”, that included ten-year jail terms for blockading government buildings, one-year jail terms for slandering government officials or “group violations of public order”, amnesty from prosecution for the Berkut and law enforcement officials who had committed crimes against protesters, and a host of other measures.**

This triggered a further wave of mass protest against which the Berkut launched its most vicious and murderous onslaught.

Over 100 protesters were killed. The fascists and ultra-right were able to present themselves both as victims and as the most determined defence against the Berkut and came to the fore in many of the confrontations that ensued.

The government strategy backfired disastrously.

Yanukovych fled and the ruling Party of the Regions all but collapsed as the oligarchs and deputies cut loose. The beneficiaries were the pro-Western oligarchs and politicians who brought the fascists of Svoboda and the Right Sector on board, appointing them to key ministerial posts.

This process has been depicted by a section of the left as a putsch from beginning to end. This is dangerous nonsense, and at best confuses outcome with intention.

It ignores the role of the Berkut and the slaughter of demonstrators in much the same way as some pro-regime supporters ignore the massacre of anti-Kiev activists in Odessa by a pro-Kiev mob and the Right Sector.

**But it was not Svoboda, the Right Sector or the pro-Western politicians who turned the early demonstrations into mass protests - it was the turn to deadly force by Yanukovych and his supporters, a decision that led to his downfall, leaving a vacuum that the pro-EU, pro-Western politicians stepped into.**

### **“There Appears To Be A High Level Of Popular Support For Putin’s Warmongering In Eastern Ukraine. This Is Deceptive”**

**On the face of things there appears to be a high level of popular support for Putin’s warmongering in eastern Ukraine. However, this is deceptive on a number of counts.**

**It is true that when polled over 50 percent of Russians said Russia should give support to the separatist leadership and the fighters in Donetsk and Luhansk, with 20 percent opposed and 20 percent unsure.**

**However, while 40 percent supported sending troops, 45 percent were opposed. (Another indication of the potential opposition to Putin is the anger among families and relatives at the secrecy and intimidation surrounding the scores of deaths of Russian soldiers in Ukraine while “on holiday”).**

**The first point to make is that such views in current circumstances, with a deluge of government controlled media propaganda and a weakly organised anti-war movement, are incredibly impressive.**

**However, even more significant are the views among youth.**



**Another poll shows the percentage of 18 to 30 year olds opposed to giving *any* support to the separatists exactly matching those in favour, at 41 percent.**

The ousting of Yanukovych and the collapse of the Party of the Regions had massive consequences.

Russia's strategy had been to keep Ukraine, if not firmly within the Russian sphere, at least out of the Western alliance. This was now in jeopardy. The West threw its support behind Kiev, turning a blind eye to the absolutely reactionary character of the regime and the role of Svoboda and the Right Sector.

This continued through the massacre of anti-Kiev Russian nationalists in Odessa on 2 May. Over 3,000 have been killed and a million displaced in eastern Ukraine as a result of the so-called "Anti-Terrorist Operation".

**Disaffection within the ranks of the Ukrainian military and their families, and the dilapidated state of the Ukrainian armed forces has forced Kiev to rely on using the Nazis of the Right Sector and other militia formations.**

**Kiev is now detested in the east, particularly in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, including by many who were previously divided in their loyalties.**

The divisions between workers in Ukraine now run very deep.

**Nonetheless, it is a mistake to see the movement in the east as anti-fascist or any less reactionary than its stronger counterpart in the west.**

### **Russia "Has Its Own Imperialist Interests Both In Its Own Region And In Other Parts Of The World Including The Middle East"**

Russia occupies a vast territory and has its own imperialist interests both in its own region and in other parts of the world including the Middle East.

It is a contender, albeit a weak one, in the imperialist world system.

Russia is part of a world system of competing capitals and seeks to compete with rival powers in order to dominate and oppress its own workers and people and those of its "near abroad" in particular.

Russia is still the world's second nuclear power.

**The danger, as in the Cold War, is a descent into "campism", in which one imperialism is seen as a more or less welcome "counterweight" to the other.**

Here socialists and anti-war activists can be trapped into a position of justifying the ventures of "the least bad" of the rival powers.

Such is the position some have taken over both the annexation of Crimea and the separatists in east Ukraine. The danger here is that the anti-imperialist principle so essential to building a mass anti-war movement can become discredited.

**Opposition to our own imperialists does not rest on having to disguise the role of its rivals.**

**Above all, it is only by insisting that we face an imperialist war that it makes sense to argue, *in every country*, that the main enemy is at home.**

**The aim for socialists is not only to oppose war but to turn the war between nations into a civil war between classes; to unite the workers of every country against the international “gang of robbers”.**

While we can speculate as to the outcome of the current ceasefire, what is clear is that economic crisis and imperialist rivalry have deeply divided Ukraine.

**Nonetheless, the objective *potential* for a united response by workers in the east and west continues to exist.**

**This will depend upon whether a movement and force on the left begins to emerge that challenges not only the oligarchs but the rival imperialisms and the rival national chauvinisms they have fuelled.**

To side with one chauvinism or another in Ukraine or paint one side or another in fake socialist colouring or to argue that one imperialist camp is defensive is to defy the lessons drawn by revolutionaries in the First World War.

**“It Is Not The Business Of Socialists To Help One Robber Rob Another:  
Socialists Must Take Advantage Of The Struggle Between The Robbers To  
Overthrow Them All”**

**It is true that socialists in Ukraine, in Russia and here in the West face different concrete tasks.**

**However, these tasks are informed by two common principles: first, recognition that this is an imperialist conflict; second, that socialists strive to forge the international unity of the working class across every national and ethnic divide.**

**It is from these principles that uncompromising opposition to our own rulers’ rivalry in Ukraine flows, while at the same time making no concession to their imperialist rivals or their proxies.**

**This is as true in London as it is in Moscow, Kiev or Donetsk.**

In his pamphlet “Socialism and War”, Lenin argues:

“From the standpoint of bourgeois justice...Germany would be absolutely right as against England and France, for she has been ‘done out’ of colonies, her enemies are oppressing an immeasurably far larger number of nations than she is, and the Slavs who are oppressed by her ally Austria undoubtedly enjoy far more freedom than those in

tsarist Russia, that real 'prison of nations'. But Germany is fighting not for the liberation, but for the oppression of nations."

**Lenin goes on to argue that it is not the business of socialists to help one robber rob another: "Socialists must take advantage of the struggle between the robbers to overthrow them all.**

**"To be able to do this, the Socialists must first of all tell the people the truth, namely, that this war is in a treble sense a war between slave-owners to fortify slavery".**

The lessons learnt in forging a united international workers' movement in the teeth of war, crisis and national chauvinism on the monumental scale that existed in the First World War needs to be relearnt. The long decades of low levels of class struggle and the rise and fall of the movements have exacted a political price on the left, leading many to turn to other social forces to bring change.

**Ultimately this leads to the danger of compromise with the existing system itself.**

Nowhere is this task more urgent than over the question of Ukraine. In their mad rush for profit, for wealth, the two gigantic imperialist powers are threatening the existence of world civilisation, are threatening humanity with the terrible suffering of atomic war.

The interests of the working class, of humanity, demand that neither of the imperialist world powers be supported, but that both be struggled against.

The battle-cry of the real, genuine socialists today must be: "Neither Washington nor Moscow, but International Socialism".

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## **Marine Corps Announces Plan To Develop, Cancel New Amphibious Vehicle**



Photo Credit: US Marine Corps

November 24, 2014 by Drew Ferrol, The Duffle Blog

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Marine Corps announced its plan to spend billions of dollars to research, develop, and build a new amphibious vehicle that will be canceled just before implementation, sources confirmed Thursday.

Dubbed the Amphibious Combat Vehicle (ACV), the new project is slated to be finished in 2020 and canceled in 2018.

The ACV is meant to replace the current Amphibious Assault Vehicle (AAV), known among Marines as Amtraks or “Floating Coffins,” which have been used for more than 40 years to take troops from ship to the bottom of the sea floor.

“We are really excited about the chance to upgrade our amphibious capabilities,” Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus said in a statement. “The ACV will be a great addition to our fleet so we’ll be sure to scrap it. In fact, the House Armed Services Committee has already asked me to waste as many tax dollars as possible before we cancel this project.”

“There is no reason we should replace the AAV,” Mabus added. “It’s like the Osprey, perfectly safe except for all the deaths.”

While saying that the ACV would be a grand addition to the Marine Corps arsenal, Commandant Gen. Joseph Dunford told reporters the program would likely be canceled soon after glaring flaws are revealed.

“The current plans say the ACV is will resist gunfire instead of bursting into flames,” Dunford said. “Also, it doesn’t direct the engine exhaust directly into the troop compartment. It doesn’t even have a switch that will flood the troop compartment, sink the vehicle, and drown everyone in seconds. A vehicle this good is unacceptable.”

Sources confirmed numerous vendors such as Lockheed Martin, BAE Systems, and General Dynamics are bidding on the ACV contract and are excited to make billions without doing anything.

One source said the companies were ready to start the cost overruns as soon as possible.

## **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.**

## CLASS WAR REPORTS

# “Cops Hassled Protestors About Walmart’s ‘Private Property’” “We Said Bullshit”



NY organizer, Audry Sasson, at bullhorn. In back of her is a very engaged pastor holding the RWDSU sign.



11/28 by Marty Goodman, socialistactionnews@googlegroups.com

Walmart worker solidarity rally in Bergen, NJ today for the third year. Two full buses from NYC departed from SEIU 1199.

Cops hassled protestors about Walmart's "private property."

We said bullshit and entered the lot on the other side (but did not however go to the doors or even close as in the past).

Modest union support, even UFT bureaucrat, President Randi Weingarten, showed and spoke.

About a half dozen members of the American Postal Workers Union came in solidarity and brought their banner. The APWU is fighting Walmart's union-busting privatization of postal services in all 2,000 locations.

Occuevolve (OWS) was also there.

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## **DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK**



**Ukrainian Oligarchs' Regime  
Cuts Off Veterans' Benefits,  
Social Security Payments, And  
Funds For Hospitals:  
Starvation Tactics Used To Punish  
People Living In Separatist Areas;  
Separatist Military Dictators Don't  
Help Either:  
"I Am A Disabled Veteran And I Haven't  
Received My Pension For Three Months"**



A woman stands at an ATM that doesn't work outside a Ukrainian bank in Donetsk, eastern Ukraine. Almost all ATMs have stopped working and the remainder are expected to stop operating over the next two weeks. (AP Photo/Balint Szlanko)

Nov. 25, 2014

By PETER LEONARD and BALINT SZLANKO, AP [Excerpts]

DONETSK, Ukraine —

For hours, small crowds in Donetsk huddle hopefully in the cold around cash machines that never get filled, as artillery rumbles in the distance.

Money is running short in the rebel heartland since the government announced this month that it will suspend banking services as it piles on the pressure. Almost all ATMs have stopped working and the remainder are expected to stop operating over the next two weeks.

**The move is part of Ukraine's plan to suffocate its separatist foe, now that its costly military campaign has foundered.**

Authorities say they are also withdrawing all state services from rebel areas, although hospital and school workers in the rebel stronghold of Donetsk say it has been a while since they last saw funding anyhow.

**Yet if the government of President Petro Poroshenko hopes to turn people in eastern Ukraine against the separatist leadership, evidence on the ground suggests the strategy may only be hardening their resolve.**

**"What Poroshenko is saying to us is: 'You are no longer Ukrainians. You won't get pensions, you won't get social payments. When you croak, then we'll stop this war against you,'" said Donetsk retiree Georgy Sharov. "But I don't want to go to Ukraine and beg for their mercy."**

The lines have typically formed in front of cash machines belonging to state savings bank Oshchadbank, which handles pensions and social support payments.

"Even they don't always have money," said Donetsk resident Sergei Smotovskiy, standing outside a branch of the bank. "The worst thing is that not only can you not get social payments. You can't even withdraw money that you earned, your salary."

Even though cash machines don't work, account-holders wait from early morning until lunchtime in the hope that bank workers will top them up, but the doors to the banks often remain firmly shut.

Despite the unremitting fighting taking place across Donetsk and Luhansk, the two regions affected by the armed separatist conflict, large supermarkets are still reasonably stocked.

Supplies come from other parts of Ukraine and customers often use bank cards to pay for shopping.

Ukraine's government is now about to block bank cards, cutting off another means of sustenance.

**Hard-pressed recipients of state benefits have for months turned expectantly to the rebel government for cash.**

**Crowds of pensioners and single mothers assemble daily before the separatist headquarters.**



**When anybody in the crowd becomes especially vocal, one of the gunmen guarding the building rushes to bundle them away, accusing them of being “provocateurs.”**

The brunt of the rage, however, is still directed at the Ukrainian government.

**“Ukraine says Donetsk is Ukrainian territory, and yet they came here with tanks and weapons instead of paying pensions properly,” said Donetsk retiree Anatoly Visly.**

**“I am a disabled veteran and I haven’t received my pension for three months.”**

Many pensioners have re-registered in towns outside rebel zones, meaning payments have still accrued to their accounts.

The challenge for those people will now become making the monthly trip to banks in government-controlled areas, which can be costly and difficult, especially for the most infirm.

**Prospects for the rebels to set up a welfare system any time soon are bleak.**

Anna Kharzhevskaya, an official with the rebel social affairs and labor ministry, said separatist authorities have only a crude notion of how many people are eligible for social payments.

Ukraine’s government has been blocking access to state records and is trying to spirit away hard copies of databases still in rebel-held areas, Kharzhevskaya said.

Separatist authorities say militiamen are under instructions to stop any unsanctioned removals of government records by Ukrainian authorities.

Without a properly functioning tax system in place, there is no immediately obvious and transparent way for money to be raised.

As a result, Kharzhevskaya said she could not estimate when her department would begin paying regular pensions.

Things are even grimmer in the Luhansk region. Separatist command there is divided fractiously among the self-styled Luhansk People’s Republic and an assortment of armed Cossack leaders.

One Cossack commander, Pavel Dryomov, had to admit to rebel media that he had overextended himself in promising 500 hryvnia one-off payments (\$35) to pensioners — grossly miscalculating the number of people who needed to be paid. “We had no idea of that figure,” he said in a video interview.

**If hospitals are still working, it is in large part down to the sheer determination of the staff.**

**Viktoria Lubintseva, director of Donetsk central hospital, said the government had stopped providing funding since the start of November, well before Poroshenko announced the cutoff of state support.**

“Medicine is usually bought by the patients as we need different kinds of medicines to do operations,” Lubintseva said.

“Staff is working voluntarily because they sincerely want to help people, as their conscience dictates.”

As state support and cash supplies dwindle, reliance is growing on outside aid. Some of it is coming from Russia, but there are also substantial supplies being provided by the charitable fund of billionaire Rinat Akhmetov, whose wealth is built on eastern Ukraine’s vast industrial resources.

Despite such help, many in eastern Ukraine plan to leave: “It is impossible to live here,” Smotovsky said as he waited in vain outside the bank.

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## **OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

# **Heroic Zionist Settlers Beat Woman Picking Olives With Her Children Near Salfit**

10/12/2014 Ma’an

SALFIT –

A large group of Israeli settlers on Saturday morning violently beat a young Palestinian woman while she was picking olives from trees in an orchard in the village of Yasuf in the Salfit district in the central West Bank, a Palestinian official said.

The assault is the third such attack on Palestinian olive pickers in three days, creating concern about unchecked settler violence as the olive harvest kicks off across the West Bank.

Ghassan Daghlas, a Palestinian Authority official who monitors settlement-related activities in the northern West Bank, told Ma’an that 25-year-old Alaa Fathi Atiyani and her children were picking olives in a field in the al-Masamic area outside of Yasuf village at the time of the alleged assault.

He said that ten settlers arrived from the nearby Kfar Tappuah settlement and assaulted Atiyani, beating her “brutally.”

Daghlas said Atiyani sustained serious bruises all over her body as a result of the attack.

Daghlas added that Israeli troops arrived later and claimed to have arrested the assailants.

An Israeli military spokeswoman said that “clashes” took place “between settlers and Palestinians” in the area and Israeli police arrested four people.

**The assault is the third such attack on Palestinian olive pickers in three days, including the second on the village of Yasuf.**

**On Friday, settlers from Kfar Tappuah attacked the village and burned down several olive trees belonging to a villager.**

None of the assailants were reportedly detained by Israeli authorities after that assault.

Because the attacks occur outside of the village, they largely fall in Area C, which is under complete Israeli military control and thus beyond the purview of Palestinian security forces, who rarely intervene.

Villagers are thus subject to the whims of Israeli authorities, who rarely intervene in the violent attacks or prosecute the perpetrators.

Arrests, meanwhile, are largely symbolic, and assailants are rarely charged.

The spate of attacks come as the 2014 olive harvest, a major source of income for Palestinian farmers, begins across the northern West Bank, and just weeks before harvesting begins across the south.

Attacks on the fall harvest are a key way that Palestinians are forced out of their homes and their lands confiscated for settlement construction, as the loss of a year’s crop can signal destitution for farmers with no other way to support themselves.

According to a 2012 report on Israeli settler violence released by the Palestine Center, a Washington-based nonprofit, every year the olive harvest period sees the highest peak in attacks on Palestinian civilians and property.

Over 7,500 olive trees were damaged or destroyed by settlers between January and mid-October in 2012, according to OCHA.

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

**To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, check out:  
<http://www.palestinechronicle.com/>  
The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves “Israeli.”**

## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**



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



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

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