

Military Resistance 12K15

***Palestine, Black USA
All Night, All Day
Same Trouble, Same
Fight
All Day, All Night***

**Palestinian-American Protester
Reports St. Louis Police
Blackmailed Him “To Snitch On
My Friends”**

**“When Masri Refused, They
Threatened To Raise His Bond So
High He Would Be Stuck In Jail
For Months”**

**“Speaking Of The Police Response
That Night, Masri Said, ‘It Looked
Straight Out The West Bank’”**

“Two St. Louis Police Departments Have Received Training From The Israeli ‘Security’ Apparatus”



Bassem Masri livestreaming with his camera phone at a protest against the police killing of Michael Brown. Photo: Jessica Halliburton

10/15/2014 by Rania Khalek, ElectronicIntifada.net

A Palestinian-American activist says police in the city of St. Louis, Missouri, put pressure on him to inform on others taking part in protests against violence by that force earlier this week.

Bassem Masri, a 27-year-old self-described “pissed off citizen” from St. Louis, was arrested on Monday with around a dozen other demonstrators, including the hip-hop artist Tef Poe, while protesting at an area Walmart.

It was the third Walmart store that protesters shut down that evening in a series of actions demanding justice for Black lives cut short by police violence.

Walmart was targeted to bring attention to the police killing of John Crawford III, a 22-year-old Black man shot dead in August by a white police officer in an Ohio Walmart while talking on his cell phone and holding a toy gun. In September a grand jury decided against indicting the officers involved.

Every protester arrested at Walmart was released a few hours later, except for Masri, who was held until Tuesday night and charged with third degree assault for allegedly spitting at an officer at a protest last week. Masri has denied the charge.

Masri told The Electronic Intifada that during his jail stay, St. Louis City police pressured the Palestinian-American to become a collaborator against his fellow protesters in exchange for leniency.

After being held overnight at the Richmond Heights police station, police transferred Masri to the St. Louis Justice Center on Tuesday morning.

It was there, he says, that they tried to recruit him as a collaborator.

According to Masri, he was taken into an interrogation room and told to give an official statement about spitting at the officer.

"I just remained silent," he recounted. "Then they said that there was a video of me doing it, so I asked to see my lawyer. But they didn't even let me contact my lawyer. So I said, 'What are y'all really bringing me in here for? You got me here for a reason. So come out with it.'"

It was then that the officers told Masri that the third degree assault charge would be taken under advisement, or put on hold, in exchange for information about protesters.

"They wanted me to put names to faces on protesters and to let them know where we be going," recalled Masri. "It's like extortion. I have to snitch on my friends. If I don't snitch on my friends, they'll re-arrest me on the (third degree assault) charge."

Masri refused their offer and demanded he be taken back to his cell.

As this was taking place, the officers "tried to get me lost in the justice system" because "they didn't put a wristband on me," Masri said.

"The wristband identifies you in jail," explained Masri.

"If you're in the county or city jails, they have to put a wristband on you because there's so many prisoners. Otherwise they won't know who you are.

"When it comes time for you to get released, they ain't gonna release you unless you have a wrist band."

Had it not been for a sympathetic Black corrections officer who noticed Masri was missing a wristband and got him one, Masri might not have been released, he said.

Prior to his release around 9pm Tuesday night, Masri says, officers again tried to recruit him as a collaborator, offering to provide him with a weekly paycheck for his services.

When Masri again refused, they threatened to raise his bond so high he would be stuck in jail for months. Still, he refused and suggested that if that was their intention, they should go ahead and process him. Shortly thereafter, he was released.

Masri learned later that the officers were bluffing with empty threats given that his bond had already been posted by Missourians Organizing for Reform and Empowerment (MORE), a social justice organization that has been providing jail support to protesters arrested in St. Louis.

The alleged spitting incident took place on Wednesday, 8 October, the night Vonderrit Myers, 18, was gunned down by a white off-duty St. Louis City police officer in the Shaw neighborhood.

Police claimed that Myers was armed and fired first, prompting the officer to fire seventeen bullets in return, killing him.

Myers' friends and family have vehemently denied the police narrative, insisting the teen was armed with nothing more than a sandwich.

Masri has been livestreaming protests across St. Louis since the 9 August execution-style killing of Michael Brown, a Black teenager, at the hands of Darren Wilson, a white police officer, in the St. Louis County municipality of Ferguson.

"I use the livestream to protect us," explained Masri, especially in light of overwhelming police force directed at St. Louis protesters, who have been tear gassed, pepper sprayed and beaten with batons by seemingly endless lines of riot police.

Though he often curses and levels vulgar insults at police officers during protests, Masri said he never participates in the vandalism that police behavior sometimes provokes. Such vandalism, he argued, is nothing compared to the police violence directed at protesters and the Black community more generally.

"(Police and their supporters) get mad because I curse. This is St. Louis. We curse. When I'm mad this is what I do," he told me.

Masri livestreamed the protest that erupted in the immediate aftermath of Myers' death. That night, protesters tore through yellow police tape and advanced on the twenty or so officers in the neighborhood, taunting them until the officers withdrew.

One of Masri's many trolls posted a clip from his livestream that night. Masri said that the spitting charge stemmed from that clip.

In the video, Masri is heard cursing at the officers, who are seen backing out of the neighborhood.

Around the two-minute mark, Masri is heard saying "tfooh," an Arabic expression of disgust that mimics a spitting sound without actually spitting.

"I said 'tfooh,' that's it. The officer didn't even react," argues Masri.

He explained that "people were bashing police car windows" but "they weren't hurting nobody and I wasn't involved in none of it. I was just livestreaming."

"The police were flashing their lights in my eyes, so I put the camera in their eyes," said Masri.

The next night, police came out in massive force against a few dozen protesters marching for justice for Vonderrit Myers. This writer watched first-hand as squads of riot police indiscriminately showered nonviolent protesters with mace (hand-held aerosols of tear gas) and slammed people with riot shields, some of which was caught on video.

Speaking of the police response that night, Masri said, “It looked straight out the West Bank.”

“The only thing that was missing was the ‘shoot to cripple,’” he said, referring to the way Israeli soldiers fire live bullets at the legs of West Bank protesters, often leaving them with permanent disabilities in an effort to deter another intifada, or uprising.

“That’s probably the next step (in St. Louis),” Masri added, only half in jest given revelations that at least two St. Louis police departments have received training from the Israeli “security” apparatus.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS



Insurgents Storm Occupation Workers Compound In Kabul, Afghanistan: Three Killed

11.29.14 NBC News & Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Insurgents stormed a compound housing a foreign NGO in the Afghan capital on Saturday, exchanging fire with security forces before leaving three hostages dead. Six other hostages were rescued after the afternoon attack, police spokesman Hashmat Stanekzai said.

One witness, Samir Noorzai, said Europeans who worked as consultants for the Afghan government lived there.

The bloodshed began around 4 p.m. local time, when a grenade was lobbed at the gate of the foreign compound, after which the militants stormed the building in the upscale neighborhood of Karte Seh, police told NBC News. The men were carrying machine guns, grenades and wearing explosive vests.

In the course of the siege, another bomb exploded inside the building, injuring a member of the Afghan special forces, said Kabul's police chief, Gen. Mohammad Zahir Zahir.

Some of the hostages were rescued once Afghan security forces arrived, but three — two foreigners and one Afghan staffer — were killed, police said. The nationalities of the foreigners weren't immediately known, but the NGO is described as run by South Africans.

A Taliban spokesman said in a statement that it was targeting "a secret Christian missionary and foreign invaders' intelligence center."

Omid Haqbin, 26, who lives a few streets away from the guesthouse, said he heard three initial blasts and then persistent shooting and sounds of sirens. "It is very scary — just like war," the web developer told NBC News by telephone as firing was heard in the background. "Oh my God, this is not good — I haven't heard this much firing in my whole life."

Shopkeepers closed their stores and security forces in armored cars flooded the street outside his home, Haqbin said.

Insurgent Attack On Military Base "Enters Its Third Day"

11.29.14 Associated Press & By Ali M. Latifi, Los Angeles Times & By Zainullah Setanikza, Pajhwok [Excerpts]

Taliban attacks killed at least 11 Afghan soldiers in southern Helmand province, including one on a base once held by foreign forces, said Omar Zwak, spokesman for the provincial governor.

The Camp Bastion is located between Nad Ali and Washer districts.

At least five members of the Afghan National Army have been killed as a Taliban raid on a military base in the southern province of Helmand entered its third day, officials said Saturday.

The attack on Camp Shorab in Helmand, known as Camp Bastion before the U.S.-British base was handed over to Afghan forces last month, began Thursday evening when dozens of Taliban-allied fighters, including bombers, stormed the compound.

A military official, wishing anonymity, said the fight was still underway.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousaf Ahmadi, asserting responsibility for the attack, said that the assailants were equipped with light and heavy weapons.

He claimed a number of aircraft and tanks were destroyed.

In an interview with local media, Gen. Mohammad Zahir, Kabul's police chief, said the commander of his critical response unit was injured in fighting around the site.

Camp Bastion also once held Camp Leatherneck, a U.S. Marine base in the volatile southern province.

Zwak said the Bastion attack killed at least six Afghan soldiers and wounded 10 Afghan soldiers.

An assault there Friday killed five soldiers and wounded seven.

The other attack, a bombing targeting a military base in the province's Sangin district, killed five soldiers and wounded eight, he said.

**“The Foreigners Have Been Here For
The Last 13 Years And Nothing Has
Changed”
“Khogyani Is Still Unsafe And Our Lives
Are No Better”**

11.29.14 by Ali M. Latifi, Los Angeles Times, [Excerpts]

Abdul-Rahim Saraf, a resident of the Khogyani district in the eastern province of Nangarhar, said he has noticed a marked change in the security situation since Ashraf Ghani took office as the new president in September.

Residents in the neighboring Kabul and Laghman provinces have cited a delay in the announcement of a new Cabinet as a leading factor in the increased unrest, but Saraf said he does not agree.

“It seems like the Taliban are out to show their strength to the new administration,” the 40-year-old worker for a non-governmental organization told The Times.

Saraf said he believes that the recent parliamentary approval of a bilateral security agreement with the United States and a status of forces agreement with NATO are not inconsequential to the uptick in violence.

The Taliban called the signing of the agreement an affront to the “dignity, honor, Islamic values and the uncompromising spirit of freedom” of the Afghan nation.

Former President Hamid Karzai made headlines last year when he refused to sign the security agreement with the U.S.

Saraf said he, like many residents of Khogyani, was against the signing of the contracts, which allow the U.S. and NATO to keep residual forces in Afghanistan beyond a December troop-withdrawal deadline.

“The foreigners have been here for the last 13 years and nothing has changed, Khogyani is still unsafe and our lives are no better, so I don’t see what the reason for signing it was,” he said.

MILITARY NEWS

Wounded Soldiers Report Mistreatment In Army’s Warrior Transition Units:

“Denton Native Was Named 2010 Soldier Of The Year By Army Times”

**“Those In Charge Of Transition Unit
Showed Him And Others Disrespect”**

**“Words Like ‘Harass,’ ‘Belittle,’ ‘Treated
Unfairly’ And ‘Insulting’ Come Up
Frequently**



Filip, left, helps save the life of a cook wounded by a mortar attack at Combat Outpost Lowell in Afghanistan in 2008. The combat-hardened medic, who spent a year at the remote outpost in northeast Afghanistan, said that while in the Warrior Transition Unit, he felt caught between his chain of command and the medical staff treating him. “We never knew who was in charge.” (Tyler Hicks/The New York Times)

November 22, 2014 By David Tarrant, Scott Friedman (NBC 5) and Eva Parks (NBC 5)
[Excerpts]

KILLEEN — At a shop that sells vacation packages to soldiers in the Killeen Mall, there’s a shrine to Zackary Filip. Newspaper clippings, congratulatory letters from congressional leaders and a large poster of Filip in his Army combat uniform cover a wall.

The Denton native was named 2010 Soldier of the Year by Army Times for his actions while in near-constant combat in Afghanistan and just afterward during the Fort Hood massacre.

Filip, a combat-hardened medic, saved the life of a civilian police officer and treated many other victims of the Fort Hood attack that killed 13 and wounded 32 others five years ago.

By the age of 24, with a Bronze Star and the Army Commendation Medal with the V device for valor, Filip looked forward to a long, successful military career.

But the Army he served with such distinction wasn't there for him when he most needed its help, he says.

When he began suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, he entered a special program — a Warrior Transition Unit — for soldiers in need of ongoing outpatient treatment. He expected to find the kind of care he needed to heal.

Instead, he once again felt under attack.

Entrusted to guide him through the greatest crisis of his life, those in charge of the Warrior Transition Unit, or WTU, showed him and others disrespect, belittling and treating some unfairly and at times disregarding their physical abilities and mental health.

“WTU made everything a lot worse — especially mentally. And I thought it was going to be great,” said Filip, who spent two years in the Fort Hood WTU until his discharge in September 2013.

“Hundreds Of Current Or Former Soldiers Based In Texas Have Registered Complaints Over The Past Five Years About The Army’s WTUS”

Filip is one of hundreds of current or former soldiers based in Texas who have registered complaints over the past five years about the Army's WTUs, set up to support soldiers wounded on combat deployments, as well as those who become seriously ill or are injured in noncombat situations.

The complaints appear in hundreds of pages of documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act by The Dallas Morning News and broadcast partner KXAS-TV (NBC5).

The documents focus on three WTUs based in Texas: Fort Hood in Killeen, Fort Bliss in El Paso and Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio.

Some soldiers expressed satisfaction with their experience in the WTUs, but many others said they were frustrated and angry over their treatment.

Words like “harass,” “belittle,” “treated unfairly” and “insulting” come up frequently over the five-year period covered by the documents.

The complaints included those made by soldiers to the Army Medical Command's ombudsman program as well as during town hall meetings and "sensing sessions" held within the WTUs.

Soldiers also complained of being required to show up for early morning formations, pull night shifts or drive when heavily medicated.

The WTUs were created in the wake of a 2007 scandal over substandard conditions at the old Walter Reed Army Medical Center. The units were set up at military posts across the country to help soldiers focus solely on getting the medical care they needed and either move back to active duty or obtain a discharge from military service.

But the promise of a caring and supportive place to heal, as conceived by Pentagon planners and outlined in policy directives, falls short of reality, according to soldiers recently discharged from the WTU program, family members and medical experts.

In his experience, Filip said, a drill sergeant-type culture exists within the WTUs that makes recovery harder, not easier, especially for soldiers dealing with mental health conditions such as PTSD.

Squad leaders and platoon sergeants treat WTU soldiers more like recruits needing to get into shape, he said.

They threaten soldiers with discipline, up to and including losing rank and pay, for failing to show up to formation, even when it seems medically unreasonable to do so, he said.

"This Guy Had A Boot On His Leg And Crutches. To Just Yell And Demean Him In Front Of Everybody Is Just Ridiculous"

Filip understood that he had to be accountable for his whereabouts every day. But he didn't understand why his WTU supervisors could be intimidating for no good reason.

"This guy had a boot on his leg and crutches," Filip said. "And this (noncommissioned officer) was getting onto him about walking past some trash and not picking it up. Yelling at a soldier who's obviously injured.

"To just yell and demean him in front of everybody is just ridiculous."

A recurring theme in the documents is that the WTUs can be a major source of distress where there is constant friction between military requirements and medical needs.

"This is getting to the point where it is more stressful here than it is in a combat situation," wrote a soldier in the Fort Bliss WTU. "I am sick of the hostility and the negative environment put on by the WTU. We are adults and needed to be treated as such." Full complaint

“They expect people that are heavily medicated at night to always make first formation, which entails that soldiers drive while sedated,” wrote another Fort Bliss soldier.

“When people are late because of the medicine that they have to take, they get punished.

“This is wrong. These cadre need to change their mindset and learn how to really work with these wounded warriors.” Full complaint

In May, a soldier in the Fort Hood WTU said his medical profile required him to take medication at 9 p.m. and have eight hours of restful sleep. But the soldier said he was given guard duty at times from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m.

At a town hall meeting for Fort Hood’s WTU soldiers in August 2011, one soldier said: It “feels that it is a mass punishment to have three formations a day.” The soldier said he was suicidal in the past, and part of the reason was mandatory requirements that overwhelmed him.

In an interview, Michael “Mikey” Howard, a former Fort Hood soldier diagnosed with PTSD after two deployments to Iraq, said his problems with formations began even before he entered the WTU.

He was yelled at and punished for bolting from a routine formation, because he felt overwhelmed when surrounded by other soldiers. “And it freaked me out,” Howard said.

At the Fort Hood WTU, it was not just actions that hurt, but words like “dirtbag” and other slang terms for malingerers used by some of the staff.

“It was just demeaning for no reason,” Filip said. “I mean I got it — yes — I know I might not be the soldier that I used to be physically and mentally. But you don’t have to add fuel to that fire.”

Since 2010, more than a third of the more than 3,200 reports made against the Army’s chain of command came from soldiers assigned to a WTU, according to statistics released by the San Antonio-based Army Medical Command, which oversees all of the Army’s medical programs and facilities.

One day, after Filip received an epidural injection to help with severe back pain, he was told by the Army doctor to stay home and rest his back for three days.

But his military commanders told him he had to show up for a formation the next day.

Filip said his squad leader told him that the WTU’s lieutenant colonel outranked the major who gave Filip the back injection.

When Filip balked, “they made me live in the barracks for a month,” he said, “and this is when my (fiancée) was pregnant.”

The incident was one of many where Filip felt caught between his chain of command and the medical staff treating him.

“Who do you fall under? Do you fall under the Army? Do you fall under the medical corps? We never knew who was in charge.”

But one expert said that kind of one-size-fits-all approach is not suited to dealing with many of the soldiers in the Army’s care.

“The nature of modern warfare is to survive serious wounds but come back with psychiatric injuries — they don’t die,” said Dr. Stephen M. Stahl, a world-renowned psychiatrist hired to improve Fort Hood’s WTU program five years ago.

“I think there is the idea that PTSD is a slacker, it’s faking, it’s exaggerating and that it’s not real,” Stahl said. “If it is real, it might be a weakness you brought into the Army ... not actually a product of psychological trauma from a war experience.”

That kind of mentality can undermine a soldier going through medical treatment, Stahl said. “It tends to make them doubt themselves. It also makes them doubt their medical care.”

Treating soldiers with mental health issues as slackers who need to “man up,” Stahl said, “is really not compatible with the individual nature of their problems. If you have a headache, you’re not even necessarily going to want to do pushups.”

“Are you lazy or a slacker when that happens? Chances are that the nature of your post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury is to give you headaches, and you may need to rest instead,” he said.

“That rest is not slacking.”

“Filip Said The Time Spent In The WTU Has Left Him Angry And Sad. And That Kind Of Pain Is Way Worse Than Anything Physical”

Filip wanted to stay in the Army. “I didn’t want to get out. I wanted to be with my guys. I wanted to soldier on, and it took me a while to accept there was nothing I could do about it; this is out of my hands.”

Assigned to the WTU, he approached his new mission with an open mind. “Either I’m going to get fixed and go back and serve, or they’re going to help me transition into the civilian life again.”

The first week he was in the WTU, he saw a squad leader confronting a soldier who looked “sad, frustrated and scared,” Filip said.

The squad leader was telling the soldier that he couldn’t have PTSD because nothing happened in Iraq the year he was there, Filip said. “And I was just like ‘Bam!’ I lost it.”

He told the squad leader she had no right to question the soldier’s diagnosis, “unless you’re there with somebody, attached to their hip 24-7,” he said.

“Everybody’s different. And for her to take that away from that soldier and degrade him like that, it was just ridiculous,” he said.

Before going into the WTU, Filip had built up a rapport with an off-post psychologist who had helped him acknowledge that he had PTSD. “He taught me it wasn’t the plague,” he said.

Filip said the WTU told him to stop seeing that psychologist and start seeing a psychiatrist on post. All she did was write him prescriptions, he said. “That’s a lot of what we got over there.” At one time he was taking as many as 15 medications.

“You get in trouble if you don’t take your meds. You get tested,” he said.

He said he was forced to come in for early morning formations even though his medical profile showed he had insomnia, for which he was prescribed sedatives to help him sleep.

He was required to get 10 hours of sleep and restricted from using alcohol or driving during that time. Yet his supervisors threatened him with a loss of rank if he missed early formation, he said.

One morning, on his way to formation, he fell asleep at a stoplight. He woke up only after a police officer knocked on his window, he said.

Some of the WTU leaders were kind, compassionate and helpful, but “they were few and far between,” Filip said.

He said he saw soldiers on crutches or in wheelchairs picking up trash. WTU soldiers also had to mow and edge lawns. “It was demeaning,” he said. “I’m not above picking trash up. But you’re not helping to fix me up and send me back (to the Army) or transition me to civilian life.”

Filip’s lowest point came one night when he got into an argument with neighbors outside his home in Killeen that ended in his arrest on two counts of attempted assault.

He remained in jail for a month, his pay cut off. Finally, a friend bailed him out in March 2013. He received only one visit from his squad leader and first sergeant, he said.

A visitor log released by the Coryell County Jail confirmed his account. The log shows that Filip received a visit from his squad leader and first sergeant, who signed in to see him the day after his arrest. The records show no other official visits from his unit.

Recalling his state of mind in jail, Filip said: “I don’t know what’s going on. I don’t have access to my meds. I mean, I’m losing it.”

His WTU supervisors reassured him on their visit, he said. “They told me everything was going to be OK.”

Filip’s fiancée went to the WTU to plead for help on his behalf. But his squad leader refused to see her, Filip said. “She had a door slammed in her face.”

“The people that know my medical situation the best were my squad leader, my unit. And they just left me there — they didn’t help me at all,” he said.

The case against him was dismissed, records show, but “that one month — it screwed up a lot of things.”

A soldier’s record of accomplishment in the Army didn’t seem to matter inside the WTU, Filip said. “I’ve seen people that deserve to get more recognition, more accolades than me, get even worse treatment,” he said.

For someone who enlisted as a young man and saw the Army as his family, Filip said his final experience in the military — the time spent in the WTU — has left him angry and sad.

“It hurts, it really does,” said Filip, who lives in Copperas Cove with his fiancée and 1-year-old daughter. “And that kind of pain is way worse than anything physical.”

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



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

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

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

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

Frederick Douglass, 1852

The Social-Democrats ideal should not be the trade union secretary, but the tribune of the people who is able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression no matter where it appears no matter what stratum or class of the people it affects; who is able to generalize all these manifestations and produce a single picture of police violence and capitalist exploitation; who is able to take advantage of every event, however small, in order to set forth before all his socialist convictions and his democratic demands, in order to clarify for all and everyone the world-historic significance of the struggle for the emancipation of the proletariat.”

-- V. I. Lenin; What Is To Be Done

“Officials’ Fear Of Such Protest Speaks Volumes, And It Isn’t Restricted To Ferguson”

“The U.S. Working Class Is Suffering Lowered Living Standards--And That Is Driving Disgust With Congress, The Two Parties And Official Politics In General”

November 21, 2014 by Khury Petersen-Smith, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

IN 1820, Thomas Jefferson used a vivid metaphor about slavery that still has relevance today. The slave owner and former president wrote in a letter to John Holmes, "We have the wolf by the ear, and we can neither hold him, nor safely let him go. Justice is in one scale, and self-preservation in the other."

But maintaining a system that kept an entire section of the population at the very bottom of society had a price. The price was obvious for Black people, but there was a price for the Jeffersons of the world, too: constant fear of the "wolf's" revolt.

Fast forward to 2014.

Officials’ fear of such protest speaks volumes, and it isn’t restricted to Ferguson.

The FBI issued a bulletin to local police departments across the country warning that protests of the grand jury decision will likely involve "threats and attacks against law enforcement and critical infrastructure."

To see the continued power of Black protest, look no further than Ferguson itself. Before the marches in response to the murder of Mike Brown, Ferguson was a small suburb that most of us outside of the St. Louis area had never heard of. The steadfast resistance of Ferguson's residents--and the panicked response of the local and state police forces -- catapulted this small town into national consciousness, opening a new conversation about racism in the U.S.

While Ferguson's rebellion was unique, the conditions that gave rise to it are not. The fuel for Ferguson-style defiance -- in the form of poverty, high unemployment, and police harassment and violence -- exists in every urban Black neighborhood in the country.

Considering those scenarios reveals why the federal government and city governments nationwide are so afraid.

They want to crush this in Missouri before it spreads. [Too late; this was written 7 days and a political lifetime ago. T]

This especially makes sense when one considers that it is not just Black America that is ripe for protest.

Why is the federal government so terrified of protest against racism that it would put all local police departments on alert? From the slave revolts to the civil rights movement, Black protest has a way of inspiring and mobilizing broader revolts of the oppressed and exploited, and raising fundamental questions about the nature of U.S. society at the same time.

The U.S. working class is suffering lowered living standards--and that is driving disgust with Congress, the two parties and official politics in general.

In declaring a state of emergency in Missouri, Jay Nixon is acting on behalf of the entire U.S. ruling class.

From their perspective, the example set in Ferguson cannot be allowed to stand.

After all, people as far away as Palestine and Hong Kong have already stood with Ferguson and proclaimed the struggle there as one with their own.

This gets to what is especially chilling for the people who work to maintain the status quo.

Perhaps the only thing scarier for the U.S. ruling elite than Black revolt is solidarity with it. **[No. Solidarity with *others* is never enough. What the ruling elite fears most is the whole diverse working class moving *together for themselves* against their common enemy. T]**

The heroism of Ferguson's rebels and the work of activists across the country is laying the groundwork for a deeper revolt against racism and oppression. [The heroism of Ferguson's rebels and the work of activists across the country *is* the groundwork for a deeper revolt against racism and oppression

More:

"They treasured up wrath for the time to come."
-- Edward, Earl of Clarendon, 1702, on the growing discontent below that led to the revolutionary overthrow and 1649 beheading of Charles I, King of England.



CLASS WAR REPORTS





OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**Zionist Settlers Attack Palestinian
In The West Bank, As Usual:
“The Latest Of These Attacks Has
Been Against A House Belonging To
A Palestinian Woman”**

**“They Broke The Balcony’s Window,
Spilled An Incendiary Substance Inside
And Set Fire To The Balcony’s Contents
After Throwing A Tear Gas Canister And
A Sound Bomb Inside”**

November 26, 2014 by Palestinian Centre For Human Rights

The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) condemns the Israeli settlers' ongoing and escalated attacks on Palestinian civilians in the West Bank.

The latest of these attacks has been against a house belonging to a Palestinian woman in Kherbet Abu Falah village, northeast of Ramallah, and throwing a tear gas canister and a sound bomb into the house balcony, due to which the balcony contents caught fire.

PCHR believes the Israeli forces' cover-up of settlers' attacks and even support and protection for them encourage settlers to continue their systematic attacks against the Palestinian civilians.

PCHR believes further that such crimes come in the context of the continuing incitement by the Israeli government against the Palestinian people.

As a result, settlers have been pushed towards more extremism and hatred against Palestinians. PCHR condemns these attacks, the Israeli government's silence and even support for them.

Moreover, PCHR calls upon the international community to immediately take an action to protect the Palestinian civilians in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt).

According to investigations conducted by PCHR, in the early morning on Sunday, 23 November 2014, a group of settlers sneaked into Kherbet Abu Falah village, northeast of Ramallah.

They headed towards a house belonging to Huda Abdul Ghani Abdul Rahim Hamayel (54) and tried to raid it.

They broke the balcony's window, spilled an incendiary substance inside and set fire to the balcony's contents after throwing a tear gas canister and a sound bomb inside.

The armchairs, chairs, curtains and other furniture pieces in the balcony caught fire.

The settlers wrote on the house walls in Hebrew "Death to Arabs, avenging the blood of religious Jews". They also drew David Star, pointing to the Jews who were killed by a Palestinian from Jerusalem in occupied Jerusalem inside a synagogue 5 days before this attack.

It should be noted that it is the first time that settlers use tear gas canisters and sound bombs in their attacks against Palestinian civilians and their property in the oPt.

Hamayel stated to a PCHR fieldworker:

"I was with my 3 daughters aged 11-27 in our house in al-Sha'ab neighborhood in the north of Kherbet Abu Falah, northeast of Ramallah. At approximately 03:30 on Sunday, 23 November 2014, we woke up to a strange movement behind the house from the western side. I thought there were thieves or Israeli soldiers around.

I immediately switched the lights on and then heard as if someone was climbing the outer stairs. In the meanwhile, I heard something had hit the balcony's door and broken the balcony's window.

I noticed someone was attempting to open the inner steel door. I tried to know who those people were, but nobody answered. My daughters and I started screaming and calling neighbors and relatives for help.

A minute later, I heard people talking in Hebrew and then throwing a sound bomb inside the balcony, due to which, we heard an explosion and were frightened.

Moreover, they threw a gas canister and then a Molotov cocktail and ran away to the mountain area towards "Adi Add" settlement outpost, which is 3 kilometers away from us.

The armchairs, chairs, curtains and other furniture pieces in the balcony caught fire. In the meantime, neighbors arrived to extinguish fire.

Forty minutes later, a Palestinian civil defense vehicle arrived and extinguished fire. We got out of the house and noticed writings in Hebrew and David Star on the walls. The writings stated "Death to Arabs, avenging the blood of the religious Jews".

At approximately 07:00, Israeli forces and police came and photographed the house. They took my statement regarding what had happened and seized some items used by the settlers in the balcony.

At approximately 11:00, the Israeli police and liaison officers came again and asked me to go to the police station in "Beit Eil" at 13:00 to file a complaint".

PCHR, which has been warning against the Israeli settlers' attacks on Palestinian civilians and their property, strongly condemns such attacks and the government's silence towards them. Therefore, PCHR:

1. Calls upon Israeli forces to stop offering protection to settlers and covering up their crimes against Palestinian civilians and their property, which encourage them to continue their attacks. PCHR calls also upon the Israeli government to prosecute the criminals and bring them to justice;
2. Calls upon the international community to exert pressure on the Israeli government in order to fulfill its obligations under international law to put an end to settlement activities in the oPt; and
3. Reminds the international community that settlement activities constitute a war crime according to international law.

Therefore, the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, individually and collectively, are legally and morally responsible for fulfilling their obligations and ensuring Israel's respect to and application of the Convention in the oPt according to article 1 of the Convention.

For more information please call PCHR office in Gaza, Gaza Strip, on +972 8 2824776 - 2825893

PCHR, 29 Omer El Mukhtar St., El Remal, PO Box 1328 Gaza, Gaza Strip.

E-mail: pchr@pchrgaza.org, Webpage <http://www.pchrgaza.org>

Demented Zionists Attack Pittsburgh Restaurant For Using Pro-Palestinian Take-Out Food Wrappers: “A Death Threat Temporarily Closed The Conflict Kitchen On November 8” “The Take-Out Eatery Reopened On November 12 After An Outpouring Of Support From The Community”



Conflict Kitchen in Pittsburgh. Photo: Brandon Shea)

November 25, 2014 by Josh Cascone and Alex Wood, Socialist Worker

After a death threat temporarily closed the Conflict Kitchen on November 8, the take-out eatery/art project reopened on November 12 after an outpouring of support from the community.

The Conflict Kitchen came under fire from pro-Israel groups after it began serving Palestinian food on October 6 at its outdoor restaurant, which is located in a public space nestled between Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Pittsburgh and a number of cultural institutions.

The restaurant's aim is "to expand the engagement the public has with the culture, politics, and issues at stake within the focus region," according to the Conflict Kitchen's website.

"Our current Palestinian version introduces our customers to the food, culture and politics of Palestine. Developed in collaboration with Palestinians in Palestine and Pittsburgh, our food comes packaged in wrappers that include interviews with Palestinians on subjects ranging from culture to politics."

Two days after the death threat forced the Conflict Kitchen to close, Students for Justice in Palestine at the University of Pittsburgh mobilized more than 200 people from Pitt, Carnegie Mellon University and local residents, including some pro-Palestinian residents of the Jewish community in Pittsburgh, to demonstrate in support of the restaurant. Many posted letters of solidarity on the restaurant's storefront.

Since the Conflict Kitchen began featuring food from U.S. conflict zones, it has served cuisine from Afghanistan, Iran, North Korea and Venezuela.

But it was the decision to serve Palestinian food that has sparked the most controversy since Carnegie Mellon University art professor Jon Rubin and artist Dawn Weleski began the project in 2010.

Much of the criticism has focused on the Conflict Kitchen's food wrappers, which are printed with personal stories of Palestinians, living in Palestine and in the U.S.

These personal stories cover a wide variety of cultural and social facets of Palestinian life, such as the importance of olive trees to the region, the institution of marriage and the inner workings of life under Israeli occupation.

The testimonies also speak to the corruption of the Palestinian Authority, the threat of Israeli settlements and the dangers of traveling as a Palestinian through their own land.

The food wrapper even describes the nonviolent protest movement against Israel's apartheid wall in the West Bank:

"We have protests at the wall every Friday in Bil'in. We film them and upload them to YouTube. At one protest, Israeli soldiers aimed tear gas canisters directly at protesters only a few meters away. When they shot our friend Bassim, it made a big hole in his chest and killed him. The canister was made in Western Pennsylvania; you can see that printed on the side."

Pro-Israel critics predictably condemned the Conflict Kitchen's decision to serve Palestinian food wrappers as "biased" and "anti-Israel."

Some also insulted the intelligence of the Conflict Kitchen organizers and plain common sense by suggesting that the Conflict Kitchen had stepped outside its purview with its Palestinian cooking.

"Conflict Kitchen's focus on countries in conflict is honorable, but Palestine is not in conflict with the U.S.," said Gregg Roman, director of the Community Relations Council at the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh. "The restaurant is stirring up conflict for the sake of trying to be relevant."

But as the food wrappers themselves make clear, the U.S. is deeply complicit with Israel's occupation of Palestine--from the use of munitions and teargas made in America to the billions of dollars the U.S. provides to Israel annually. During the last Israeli massacre in Gaza, the United States, voting unanimously in the U.S. Senate, sent Israel a care package worth \$576 million dollars in military aid.

According to PressTV:

"(T)he United States will provide an additional \$225 million to Tel Aviv to improve its Iron Dome anti-missile system. The money would be in addition to the \$351 million that's already under discussion for Iron Dome in fiscal 2015. It would bring total funding to \$576 million, compared with the \$176 million requested by the Pentagon for the year that begins on October 1.

In fact, it's the mainstream media's coverage of the Conflict Kitchen and its project that has only covered the debate from one point of view.

After publishing numerous articles and letters to the editor criticizing Conflict Kitchen's choice of Palestinian cuisine and literature, the Conflict Kitchen had to use its own website to publicize an interview that the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's Melissa McCart conducted but did not include in her article profiling the new cuisine.

According to the Conflict Kitchen's website:

"Post-Gazette writer Melissa McCart approached Conflict Kitchen with a set of questions which were to be included in this article, published November 6, 2014. Unfortunately, Ms. McCart neglected to include any of Conflict Kitchen's answers.

"Additionally, we specifically requested that Ms. McCart include the viewpoints of local Palestinians in this article, as well as her initial article on Conflict Kitchen's Palestinian version. In both cases, she interviewed and did not include these very important voices."

The Heinz Endowments, a funder of the Conflict Kitchen's focus on the cuisines of other "enemy countries" and its 2013 move to the University of Pittsburgh campus, also joined the pro-Israel critics. "I want to be especially clear that its current program on Palestine was not funded by the endowments," wrote Grant Oliphant, president of the Heinz Endowments, in the Post-Gazette. "And we would not fund such a program, precisely because it appears to be terribly at odds with the mission of promoting understanding."

While Heinz Endowments has pledged not to withdraw funds from other Conflict Kitchen projects, their official statements in the media demonstrate the pro-Israel slant that characterizes the coverage--especially in contrast to the absence of pro-Palestine

voices. Such bias encourages reactionary comments and responses, putting innocent people in the crosshairs of potentially hateful violence.

The struggle for justice in Palestine is continuing to build in Pittsburgh.

The Conflict Kitchen's reopening represents a victory for the local Palestine solidarity struggle and was only possible due to the hard work of local activists speaking out against the injustice of U.S. government support for Israel's occupation of Palestine.

As Dr. Martin Luther King once said, the United States is "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today."

Justice must therefore begin with Palestinian solidarity and opposition to U.S. aid for occupation and apartheid.

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."

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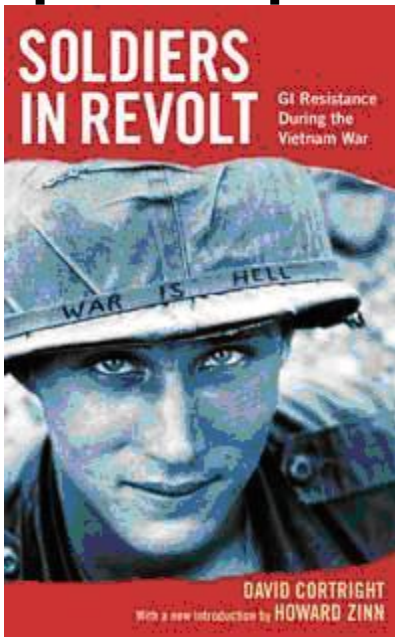
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