

Military Resistance 12K3



**Obama Plans To Double US Troop Levels In Iraq For War Against ISIS:
Troop Levels In Iraq To Soon Stand At About 3,000;
One Senior Administration Official Added “There Wasn’t A Definite Ceiling On The Number Of Troops That May End Up In The Country”**

Official Says “While The U.S. Never Publicly Details Its Rules Of Engagement, Armed Services Members ‘Always Have The Right To Defend Themselves’”

7 November 2014 by Spencer Ackerman in Washington and Tom McCarthy in New York, Guardian News and Media Limited & By Michael R. Crittenden, Jeffrey Sparshott and Felicia Schwartz, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

Barack Obama has authorized the doubling of US troop levels in Iraq for the war against Islamic State (Isis) militants, further straining his pledge against “boots on the ground”.

Obama ordered an additional 1,500 troops to Iraq on Friday to bolster the performance of Iraqi and Kurdish forces fighting Isis in ground combat. The training, the Pentagon said, is expected to last the better part of a year, raising questions about when the Iraqis will be able to wrest territory away from Isis.

But in a first move of its kind, U.S. forces will be positioned outside of bases in the protected cities of Baghdad and Erbil.

Although technically serving in noncombat roles, additional military personnel in Iraq may increase the possibility of conflict, a defense official said.

While the U.S. never publicly details its rules of engagement, armed services members “always have the right to defend themselves,” he said.

Returning US troops to Anbar places them close to Isis, which seeks to consolidate its hold on the province.

[Using these as bait for ISIS to an attack, and then calling for reinforcements? Don't be silly! T]

Less settled are the locations across Iraq of four or five sites where the other 870 US troops will train nine Iraqi army brigades and three Kurdish peshmerga brigades. Kirby said the US intended to train Sunni tribal fighters as well.

The new sites, to be finalized in the coming weeks, will be in northern, western and southern Iraq.

Troop levels in Iraq will soon stand at about 3,000.

One senior administration official added that he didn't foresee additional personnel requests “on the horizon” but added there wasn't a definite ceiling on the number of troops that may end up in the country.

“This is going to be a long-term campaign involving significant resources,” the official said.

To finance the expanded effort, the White House has asked Congress for an additional \$5.6bn, which will sustain operations like the air strikes and associated logistics. The money includes \$1.6bn as a “train and equip fund” for Iraqi and Kurdish units to enable them to “go on the offensive”, said budget director Shaun Donovan.

An additional \$3.4bn will be used “to support ongoing operations” including military advisers, intelligence collection and ammunition. The rest would go to the State Department to support diplomacy and to provide aid to neighboring countries including Lebanon and Jordan.

But the Pentagon said that none of the additional troops will arrive in Iraq unless and until Congress approves the funding package, separate from the current spending resolution that expires on 12 December.

The request for new troops is not part of President Barack Obama’s plan to seek a new authorization for the use of military force from Congress by the end of the year, officials said.

“This I think we would deal with as a separate topic from the AUMF itself. This funding is related to ongoing operations which we have the authorization to carry out. This is a separate legislative agenda item.”

Officials said the president discussed the need for a new AUMF in his meeting with congressional leaders Friday, which was joined by senior defense officials.

The additional troops will expand and deepen US support for Iraqi forces across the country. Approximately 630 of them will establish and staff two new operations planning centers where US troops will advise Iraqi brigades, atop the two already in existence since the summer in Baghdad and Erbil.

Kirby, the Pentagon spokesman, said the two centers would be placed in Baghdad and the western Anbar province.

There, they will help design an offensive that the senior US officer in charge of the anti-Isis war, General Lloyd Austin of Central Command, has said he does not expect to get underway for months.

Kirby did not know if any of the Iraqi brigades previously received US mentorship during the 2003-2011 Iraq occupation, but the US had rebuilt the Iraqi military from scratch, only to see entire divisions collapse against Isis.

The training the brigades will receive is reminiscent of the last round of US training: assistance with command and control; leadership; intelligence; logistics; and even basic maneuvering. Their US mentors will not accompany them on battlefield missions off base, and Kirby denied that any will call in airstrikes on behalf of Iraqi units.

Even if Congress rapidly approves the money, it will take nearly a year for the Iraqis to complete their latest US training.

Picking the training sites will take up to three months, Kirby said, with the training regimen lasting six to seven months.

Kirby said that Iraqi units will continue fighting throughout the training. But Austin has characterized retaking major cities like Mosul from Isis as potentially decisive for the current conflict, suggesting that the heaviest combat of the newest Iraq war may not come until well into 2015, once the training is complete.

“We want to make sure that when we take that on, that we have the adequate capability and we set the conditions right to -- to get things done,” Austin said on October 17.

Yet Kirby stopped short of saying that the Iraqi prime minister, Haider Abadi, has agreed to permit Sunni tribal fighters to receive US weapons and mentorship. Last week, General Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, advocated arming the tribes, and suggested it would be a condition of an expanded US training relationship with the Iraqi military.

US officials rejected the assertion that the additional troops represented mission creep.

“Even with these additional personnel, the mission is not changing,” a senior administration official said.

“The mission continues to be one of training, advising and equipping Iraqis, and Iraqis are the ones who are fighting on the ground, fighting in combat. So we are keeping the limiting factor on the mission. We are adding personnel to better carry out the mission and again to support the Iraqis as they move forward with their campaign plan.”

Kirby said coalition partners will send “over 700” of their own troops to join the training and equipping of the Iraqi and Kurdish brigades. Thus far, the US has only named Denmark as a contributing nation, though earlier this week, the UK government announced it would also deploy troops to train the Iraqis.

US military officials have described their strategy as “Iraq first”, intended to push Isis out of Iraq, a task they expect to take months, if not years. Their complementary effort in adjoining Syria to train a proxy ground force, which has not yet begun, is often described as an adjunct, to prevent Isis from resupplying its war campaign in Iraq and re-establishing the border that Isis erased.

That strategy saw setbacks in the past week with the Albu Nimr tribal executions and deep losses sustained by Syrian rebel groups whom the US sought to cultivate as partners. Yet the administration and the Pentagon insist that judging the incipient effort as a failure is premature.

Representative Buck McKeon of California, the retiring chairman of the House armed services committee, said the new funding request is “welcome” but added that he remains “concerned that the president’s strategy to defeat (Isis) is insufficient”.



*Why, I can smile, and murder whiles I smile,
And cry 'Content' to that which grieves my heart
And wet my cheeks with artificial tears,
And frame my face to all occasions.
-- Gloucester, "Henry VI"-Shakespeare*

MORE:

**Military Times Poll Finds Troops
Fed Up With Politicians:
“I Just Feel Like All Politics Goes
Back To Money”
“Growing Frustration With
Gridlocked Congressional Politics,
Mirroring Low Approval Ratings For
National Lawmakers In Recent Polls”
“The Loss Of Faith In Lawmakers Comes
At A Time When Troops Are Less And**

Less Likely To Identify With Either Major Political Party”

Even support for the tea party was spotty, with just 13 percent of readers saying they back nearly all tea party candidates and 34 percent saying they never back the conservative offshoot.

Nov. 4, 2014 By Leo Shane III, Military Times [Excerpts]

Army Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Pettigrew feels like he should vote in the midterm elections on Nov. 4.

But he’s completely dissatisfied with the options on the ballot.

“I just feel like all politics goes back to money,” the 32-year-old soldier said. “It seems like all the debate now is completely disconnected from reality. They don’t really seem to care about how their decisions impact us.”

He’s not alone in that opinion.

Results of the most recent annual Military Times Poll of more than 2,200 active-duty troops show growing frustration with gridlocked congressional politics, mirroring low approval ratings for national lawmakers in recent polls.

But unlike many dissatisfied voters who decry the disconnect in Washington politics, most Military Times readers say decisions made by congressional lawmakers have a direct impact on their readiness and morale.

That makes rhetoric on pay raises, training policies and budget cuts even more personal for service members like Pettigrew, a 13-year veteran stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

“Congress is responsible for keeping us at reasonable pay and funding levels so we can do our job,” he said. “But from their comments, I don’t know if they have any regard for the things we do every day.”

And a Navy master-at-arms stationed in Europe who also asked to remain anonymous said his sailors often don’t have the spare parts readily available to repair the harbor security vessels they man.

Both blamed congressional infighting for the shortfalls.

The loss of faith in lawmakers comes at a time when troops are less and less likely to identify with either major political party.

In the last nine years of the Military Times Poll, the percentage of respondents who consider themselves Republicans has slowly dropped, from nearly half of those surveyed in the late 2000s to just 32 percent this year. Increasingly, readers are more likely to describe themselves as libertarian (7 percent) or independent (28 percent).

Likewise, readers who described themselves as “very conservative” have remained steady over the years, but the “conservative” respondents have dwindled as well — down to 29 percent from a high of 41 percent in 2011.

Marine Corps Lt. Col. Amy McGrath, a political science instructor at the Naval Academy, said she thinks the political infighting doesn't affect most troops' ability to do their jobs. But it does weigh on their minds, especially her students.

“They don't have a framework of reference because they haven't seen it yet,” she said. “I spent a year on Capitol Hill as a congressional fellow. ... The fact that they can't come together, it's all politics. It's not one side wanting to cut.”

Pettigrew said the October 2013 government shutdown and preceding shutdown threats caused major concern among his fellow soldiers, especially with rumors of paycheck delays rampant. That only increased his dissatisfaction with the state of national politics.

President Obama gets similar low support from Military Times Poll respondents, with 55 percent disapproving of his performance as commander in chief.

Even support for the tea party was spotty, with just 13 percent of readers saying they back nearly all tea party candidates and 34 percent saying they never back the conservative offshoot.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

**“Hundreds Of Millions Of Dollars
In Missing Weapons Systems,
Vehicles, Electronics And
Communications Gear In
Afghanistan”**

**“There Is A Risk That Missing
Property Will Not Be Recovered”**

**“No One Was Held Financially
Responsible For The Property Losses Or**

Accountable For Missing Reporting Deadlines”

11/04/2014 Bloomberg [Excerpts]

The U.S. Army has been slow to investigate hundreds of millions of dollars in missing weapons systems, vehicles, electronics and communications gear in Afghanistan, according to the Pentagon’s inspector general.

The Army field support brigade in Afghanistan responsible for managing gear being shipped out of the country failed to report “in a timely manner” 156,000 pieces of unaccounted gear valued at as much as \$419.5 million, according to a report labeled “For Official Use Only” that reviewed major lost- property reports from fiscal 2013.

The items that need to be tracked include “thousands of pieces of highly sensitive equipment, including encryption devices, radios and weapons,” according to the report.

The report citing lax oversight underscored the logistics challenge as U.S. troops withdraw from Afghanistan. The Pentagon has estimated that it may spend \$7 billion on the effort, including shipping out equipment that’s supposed to be returned to the U.S. for refurbishment or reissued to other American units worldwide.

The Army alone had an inventory of about \$27 billion in military hardware in Afghanistan.

Yet with the closing of 309 bases since 2010, “only a fraction of the items” from previous reviews of unaccounted property has been recovered, according to the audit dated Oct. 30. The primary storage yards for “redistribution” are at Bagram and Kandahar.

“Due to the significant delays in reporting inventory losses” the Army’s Rock Island, Illinois-based Sustainment Command, which oversees the effort, “does not have accurate accountability and visibility of its property” at the yards, said Michael Roark, assistant inspector general for contract management, who signed the report. The command must have “total equipment accountability” in order “to properly execute the drawdown,” he said.

“There is a risk that missing property will not be recovered” and “no one was held financially responsible for the property losses or accountable for missing reporting deadlines,” the report found.

The audit disclosed that from 2006 to 2010 the Army lost track of 174,247 pieces of equipment.

After lost-property reports were completed, 23 percent eventually were found, leaving 133,557 lost items valued at \$238.4 million.

Major General Darrell Williams, who heads the Army’s 1st Sustainment Command, said in a six-page letter included in the report that his organization “is aware of the issues

developed over an extended period of time” and “continues to actively work with strategic commands to improve property management.”

Among the lessons learned during the audit was the need to “employ more experienced personnel to fill positions such as property book officers.” and “responsible officers to manage the massive property requirements in theater,” Williams wrote.

Now For The Good News

11.4.14 Foreign Policy [Excerpt]

Insurgent attacks have reached the highest levels since 2011, the Afghan army has sustained heavy combat losses and is experiencing high attrition rates, and opium poppy cultivation has more than doubled from its pre-1999 levels when the Taliban ruled the country.

These trends potentially undermine the Afghan state's legitimacy at a time when the nation is experiencing budget shortfalls, the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, or SIGAR, said in a quarterly report sent to Congress last week.

Resistance Action

Nov 07 2014 By Khaama Press

At least 11 civilians who were killed by Taliban militants in southeastern Paktia province have been identified as government employees.

Taliban militants claimed responsibility behind the murder of the men and said eight policemen and an intelligence operative were killed by the group's fighters.

According to local government officials, the individuals were on their way in Zurmat district when they were captured by Taliban and were shot dead.

The provincial police chief Zalmay Orya Khel said the dead bodies of the slain individuals were found on Thursday morning from Mamozai area.

A statement released by the Palace said a delegation led by Ministry of Interior has been appointed to investigate the incident.

Nov 04 2014 By Khaama Press

A group of Taliban militants launched coordinated attack on government compound in Shindand district of western Herat province late on Tuesday.

The militants are said to be equipped with heavy weapons, including rocket launchers with reports suggesting the government compound has been hit by rockets.

In the meantime, a local security official said the gun battle started around 6:30 pm local time and continued for at least one hour.

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

MILITARY NEWS

Iraqi Forces “Months Away” From Offensive Against ISIS: “Main Military Divisions In Anbar – The Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, 10th And 12th – Have Been Badly Damaged”

24 October 2014 Reuters

Iraqi forces are months away from being able to start waging any kind of sustained ground offensive against Isis and any similar effort in Syria will take longer, officials at the US military's Central Command said on Thursday.

The officials, briefing a group of reporters, said the priority in Iraq was halting the Isis advance but acknowledged Iraq's western Anbar province was contested, despite US-led air strikes.

Iraq's main military divisions in Anbar – the seventh, eighth, ninth, 10th and 12th – have been badly damaged. At least 6,000 Iraqi soldiers were killed through June and double that number have deserted, say medical and diplomatic sources.

Asked about whether US military advisers in Iraq might head to Anbar, the first official acknowledged discussions were under way broadly about efforts to enable the Iraqis “as far forward as we can” but did not disclose details.

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

People do not make revolutions eagerly any more than they do war. There is this difference, however, that in war compulsion plays the decisive role, in revolution there is no compulsion except that of circumstances.

A revolution takes place only when there is no other way out. And the insurrection, which rises above a revolution like a peak in the mountain chain of its events, can be no more evoked at will than the revolution as a whole. The masses advance and retreat several times before they make up their minds to the final assault.

-- Leon Trotsky; The History of the Russian Revolution

**“One Of The Main Elements Of
Military Hypnosis Is The Faith
Energetically Promoted Among
The Soldiers That They Are
Invincible, Mighty, And Superior
To All The Rest Of The World”**

**“The War Has Killed That Faith
Everywhere”**

**“In Recent Years, There Have Been
Numerous Alarming Symptoms: The
Army Is Grumbling, Discontented,
And In A State Of Ferment”**

**“There Is Obviously Discontentment In
The Ranks And A Vague Feeling Of
Sympathy For The ‘Rebels’”**

From “Up To The Ninth Of January,” 1905; By L. Trotsky [Excerpts]

The exact moment when maneuvers turn into a battle will depend on the numbers and revolutionary solidarity of the masses who have taken to the streets, on the thickening atmosphere of universal sympathy and support that these masses are breathing, and on the attitude of the troops that the government will send against the people.

These three elements of success must govern our preparatory work.

The revolutionary proletarian masses are already at hand. Across the whole of Russia, we must be able to summon these masses into the streets and unite them with a single slogan.

There is hatred for tsarism in every stratum and class of society, which means there is also sympathy for the liberation struggle. We must focus this sympathy on the proletariat as the only revolutionary force whose appearance at the head of the popular masses can secure the future of Russia.

Finally, the attitude of the army is less and less able to inspire the government with confidence.

In recent years, there have been numerous alarming symptoms: the army is grumbling, discontented, and in a state of ferment.

When the masses move decisively, we must do everything possible to ensure that the army does not see its own fate linked to that of the autocracy.

A successful political strike by the proletariat imperatively requires that it be transformed into a revolutionary popular demonstration.

The second important condition is the attitude of the army.

There is obviously discontentment in the ranks and a vague feeling of sympathy for the 'rebels'.

There is also no doubt that only a small part of this sympathy is directly due to our agitation among the troops.

Most of it results from the practice of using the army in clashes with the protesting masses.

All of the correspondents who have described battles between tsarist forces and the unarmed people emphasise that the great majority of soldiers resent the role of executioner.

The great mass of ordinary soldiers fire into the air.

All one can say in that regard is that anything else would simply be unnatural.

At the time of the general strike in Kiev, the Bessarabsky regiment was ordered to march on Podol.

The regimental commander replied that he could not guarantee the mood of his troops.

Then an order went out to the Kherson regiment, but there too not a single half-company of troops would comply with the orders coming from their officers.

In that respect, Kiev was no exception.

Correspondents report that during the 1903 general strike in Odessa, soldiers frequently did not rise to the occasion. For example, in one case, they were posted to guard a doorway through which demonstrators had been driven, but

they simply took it upon themselves to look the other way when those under arrest fled through adjoining doorways.

As a result, between 100 and 150 people escaped.

Workers were seen chatting peaceably with the soldiers, and there were cases where they disarmed them with no particular resistance.

That is how things stood in 1903.

Then came the year of warfare.

It is obviously impossible to say with any numerical precision how the past year has affected the consciousness of the army, but there is no doubt that its impact has been colossal.

One of the main elements of military hypnosis is the faith energetically promoted among the soldiers that they are invincible, mighty, and superior to all the rest of the world.

The war has killed that faith everywhere.

Writer Comments In 1891 On The 2014 U.S. Congressional Elections

March 18, 1891 Friedrich Engels, Introduction to The Civil War In France [Excerpts]

Nowhere do 'politicians' form a more separate and powerful section of the nation than precisely in North America.

There, each of the two major parties which alternately succeed each other in power is itself in turn controlled by people who make a business of politics, who speculate on seats in the legislative assemblies of the Union as well as of the separate states, or who make a living by carrying on agitation for their party and on its victory are rewarded with positions.

It is well known how the Americans have been trying for thirty years to shake off this yoke, which has become intolerable, and how in spite of it all they continue to sink ever deeper in this swamp of corruption.

It is precisely in America that we see best how there takes place this process of the state power making itself independent in relation to society, whose mere instrument it was originally intended to be.

[We] find here two great gangs of political speculators, who alternately take possession of the state power and exploit it by the most corrupt means and for the most corrupt ends--and the nation is powerless against these two great cartels of politicians, who are ostensibly its servants, but in reality dominate and plunder it.

Opinion: We Need To Hit ISIS With Everything We Have, Starting With Tow® And Javelin Missiles: “Won’t Somebody Think Of The Children?”



Raytheon's Javelin missile system will help jihadists to their eternal reward (Photo Credit: US Army)

October 24, 2014 by Jay, The Duffle Blog

The following is an op-ed article written by James Mason, a spokesman for the Raytheon Company, a technology and innovation leader specializing in defense, security, and civil markets throughout the world.

You have no doubt seen the horrific videos members of ISIS, or so-called “Islamic State” in Iraq and Syria have posted. They are a demon’s resume of crimes against men, women and children. I’ll forego going into detail as much of their litany of horrors has been shared extensively in other venues.

The question we must face is, are we going to sit back and allow these crimes to go unpunished? Are we going to help secure a better future for the people of Iraq and Syria?

Are we going to pave a way to a better world by hitting the enemy — and only the enemy — with Raytheon-built, precision munitions? For the obvious benefit of mankind, of course.

Our TVs show a nightly procession of ISIS terrorists utilizing American-made vehicles and weapons to oppress the good people of Syria and Iraq.

Given the state of repair on some vehicles, their new, neglectful owners seem determined to park these vehicles in a tow zone.

That's exactly what they'll get when they meet the tube-launched, optically-tracked, wire-guided (TOW® weapon system, with the multimission TOW 2A, TOW 2B Aero and TOW Bunker Buster missiles. TOW® is the premier long-range, heavy assault, precision anti-armor, anti-fortification and anti-amphibious landing weapon system used throughout the world today.

The ISIS propagandists, in their magazine, "Dabiq," make mention of goods acquired "under the shadow of the spear," a reference to the Koran and a cute euphemism for looted items stolen from enemy soldiers.

They won't think it's so cute when they find themselves under the shadow of the Javelin, the world's most versatile and lethal one-man-portable, anti-tank, guided munition and surveillance weapon system. Javelin has been adopted by international armed forces around the world. It is currently fielded with the U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps, but it has also been approved for foreign military sales to 12 nations.

The snakes in ISIS should come to fear the retribution that will come from the United States military and her allies.

You will recall seeing that they captured an airfield in eastern Syria recently, along with numerous intact aircraft. If they happen to get one of these Russki rust buckets in the air, they'll find themselves face-to-face with a snake of our own, the AIM-9 Sidewinder.

It is the most advanced infrared-tracking, short-range air-to-air missile in the world. Sidewinder is configured for easy installation on a wide range of modern aircraft, including the F-15, F-16, F/A-18 and F-4 fighters, A-4, A-6 and AV-8B attack aircraft, and the AH-1 helicopter. Allied aircraft configured for Sidewinders include the Tornado, the JA-37 Viggen and the Sea Harrier.

It is imperative that Congress authorize our president to act in whatever manner he sees fit to execute this war against ISIS, using whatever means and weapons designed, built and tested in the good old US of A by us, the good folks at Raytheon.

Won't somebody think of the children?

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Demonstrations Against Government Attack On Working Class Incomes Ends In Violent Clashes With Police: “100,000 Workers Gathered To Protest”

**“They Are Not Looking For Money Where
It Is, I Mean People With A Lot Of Money”**



Tens of thousands gathered to protest in Brussels against new austerity measures proposed by the new center-right government of Charles Michel. REUTERS/ Yves Herman

06 November 2014 by Kashmira Gander, Independent.co.uk [Excerpts]

Violent clashes marred trade union-led demonstration in the Belgian capital of Brussels today, where some 100,000 workers gathered to protest.

The trade unions object to government policies that promise to raise the pension age from 65 to 67, freeze the automatic link between wages and inflation, and cut public services in a way that would affect the entire population.

Violence later broke out, with police firing tear gas and using water canon against the crowd to break up incidents.



Simon van Dorpe, AFP

Philippe Dubois, a protester who came from the industrial rust belt of Liege, told reporters: “They are not looking for money where it is, I mean people with a lot of money.”

The event launched a month-long campaign by trade unions against the pro-business governing coalition, which will culminate in a nationwide strike on 15 December.

Trade union leader Rudy De Leeuw vowed to continue the protests in the coming weeks, as government-led talks with employers and unions commenced on Thursday.

Belgium has a long postwar tradition of collective bargaining between employers and workers, and successive coalition governments representing a full scale of public opinion often have been able to contain social disagreements.

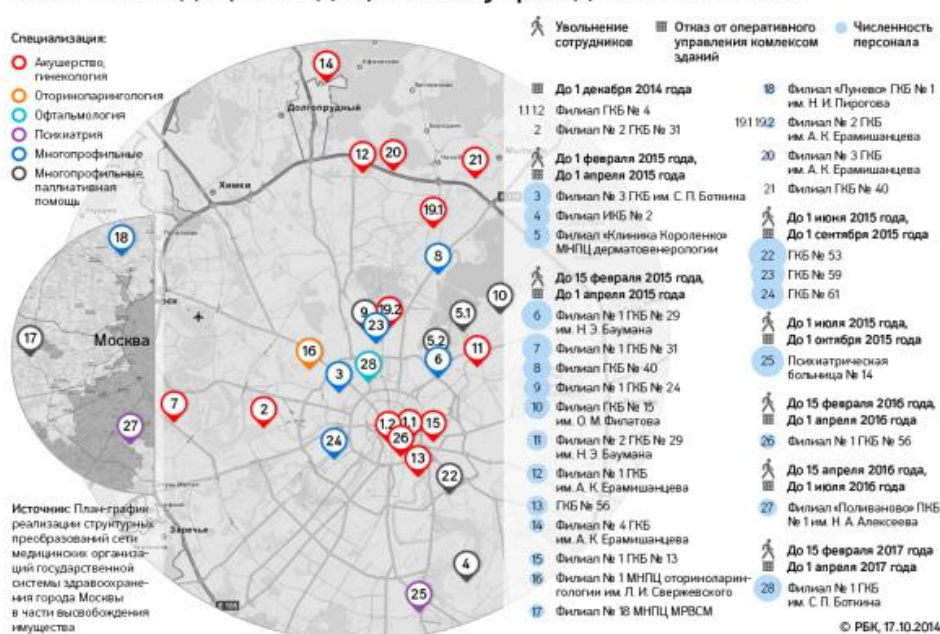
But the current coalition, made up of three pro-business parties and the centrist Christian Democrats, is the first in decades that has been able to set such a clear pro-business agenda.

**Thousands Of Muscovites
Protest Hospital Closures And
Layoffs:
Around 6,000 People Rally Against
“Collapse Of Medicine” In
Moscow;
“They Screwed Up With Ukraine, Now
They’ve Moved To Medicine”
“Many Of The Attendees Were Health
Care Workers Who Had Either Been
Fired Or Threatened With Layoffs”**



Protester at Sunday’s rally: “They screwed up with Ukraine, now they’ve moved to medicine. Let’s say a firm no to closures and layoffs. The people who busted the budget should be fired.” Photo courtesy of RBC

План ликвидации медицинских учреждений в Москве



Plan for eliminating medical facilities in Moscow. Courtesy of RBC

November 2, 2014 by Farida Rustamova and Artyom Filipenok, rbc.ru

A rally against health care reform in Moscow brought together six times more protesters than originally announced, uniting medical and educational trade unions and people from entire spectrum of the political opposition.

They protested against the city government's plans to close twenty-eight medical facilities in the near future. The protesters demanded the resignation of Moscow vice-mayor Leonid Pechatnikov and the top managers of the capital city's health department. According to organizers, another protest, this time nationwide, has been planned for late November.

The Stop the Collapse of Moscow Medicine rally took place on Sunday [November 2, 2014] on Suvorov Square in Moscow.

According to rally organizer Alla Frolova (leader of the civic movement Together for Decent Medicine) around six thousand people came out for the rally, despite the fact the announced number had been one thousand.

"We are grateful to the doctors who were not afraid of being laid off and came. Seventy percent of the speakers were doctors, and many people wanted to speak at the open mike we announced at the end of the rally," Frolova commented.

She told RBC that the trade union Action planned to hold a nationwide protest against medical care reform on November 29, and Together for Decent Medicine would support it.

The speakers included representatives of Yabloko, the December 5th Party, and the CPRF, and Andrei Nechayev, leaders of the Civic Initiative party and former economics minister.

The rally was also attended by activists from independent trade unions (Confederation of Labor of Russia, Action, Paramedic.ru, a trade union of ambulance workers, the trade union Teacher, and opponents of reforms at the Russian Academy of Sciences) and opposition movements, from far-rightists (the National Democratic Party) to anarchists.

The rally was attended by people of all ages, but the attendees were mainly middle-aged and elderly. Several protesters wore uniforms of doctors and orderlies.

The slogan on the placards borne by protesters called for “bureaucrats to get a conscience shot,” “demolish old Soviet residential buildings, not maternity hospitals,” and so on.

Many of the attendees were health care workers who had either been fired or threatened with layoffs. All the protesters with whom RBC spoke wished to remain anonymous, for fear of losing their job and not finding a new one.

Psychiatrist Alexander still works at Psychiatric Hospital No. 14, but the hospital is among those slated for closure by 2017.

“We have slowly been cut back. Over the past two years, half of our 1,100 beds have been slashed. My salary has not been cut yet, but it has been kept afloat by layoffs of coworkers,” he said.

According to Alexander, the elimination of clinics will primarily affect the most disadvantaged people.

He warned of a possible increase in the number of offenses and suicides committed by patients, who will be left to fend for themselves at inpatient facilities.

“Western Europe already went through this in the seventies, when psychiatric hospitals there were closed. Later, they had to bring them all back,” said the psychiatrist.

The doctors, nurses, trade unionists, and party activists who gathered at Suvorov Square in Moscow demanded an end to layoffs of doctors and wage cuts, and a moratorium on the reorganization of medical facilities.

Another demand was the dismissal of all the top managers of the Moscow health department involved in reorganizing the Moscow health care system.

During the rally, doctors even promised to organize a Doctor at Hand protest rally where attendees would be able to get free medical advice. Organizers said that doctors who had been planning to attend the rally had been threatened with dismissal.

Marina, a nephrologist, received a layoff notice on Friday.

“I, a highly qualified nephrologist, will be unemployed as of January 1 of next year due to a downsizing of beds. Ten of sixty beds are left in our department at Izmailovo

Municipal Children's Hospital, which has been merged with the Morozovskaya Hospital. Since April, only a third of our five hundred employees are left. I have come here in the hope that we will be heard, because as these reforms continue it will only get worse," said the fired doctor.

Elena, a nurse in anesthetics, expects to be fired after the New Year.

"Our hospital, Gynecological Hospital No. 5, was merged with Municipal Clinical Hospital No. 57: now we are Medical Diagnostic Unit No. 3. In the past two years, eighty beds have been slashed at our hospital. The remaining one hundred and ten beds will be cut to sixty, meaning only one of five wards will be left," she said.

Despite the fact she has worked twenty-one years, she is the first to face redundancy, she says. Her salary is now 22,000 rubles a month (approx. 400 euros at the time of publication). Over the past two years, it has been cut by forty percent.

"Who is now going to provide qualified gynecological assistance to women in our place? We are told that we aren't wanted," said Elena.

Ekaterina came to the rally instead of her relatives, who were threatened with dismissal if they went.

"My relatives work in Moscow's oldest eye clinic, on Mamonovsky Alley. In December, the clinic will turn a hundred and ninety years old. Now it is Branch No. 1 of the Botkin Hospital. This clinic is being vacated. It is on the timetable of hospitals slated for downsizing, and by 2017 there will not be any doctors or patients there," said Ekaterina.

Not everyone could make it to the rally. As an ob-gyn doctor from Medical Unit No. 33 who identified himself as Dmitry told RBC, a shift prevented him from going to Suvorov Square. According to him, layoffs have also been made in his unit, which is attached to Hospital No. 40.

"Many of my colleagues no longer believe the situation can change," he said, expressing hope that the rally would have some impact.

In a number of Moscow hospitals, Sunday had been declared "Health Day," which, people in the crowd claimed, had been done specially to prevent doctors from taking part in the rally.

Rain TV reported this, in particular, citing a source in Clinical Diagnostic Center No. 1.

In the resolution adopted by the rally, protesters demanded an immediate halt to "pseudo-reforms to health care in Moscow."

Organizers were also interested in the fate of the real estate vacated after the closure of the health care facilities. There were also demands for the immediate resignations of Moscow vice-mayor Leonid Pechatnikov and the top managers of the Moscow city health department, who had been "discredited by their involvement in the destruction of Moscow's health care system."

As Frolova told RBC, rally organizers had invited Pechatnikov and health department chief Alexei Khripun, but the vice-mayor's office only promised to pass the invitation on to him, while Khripun was represented at the rally by an aide, who "remained incognito."

Protesters called for a public debate on the present state and future of the Moscow health care system involving members of the medical community, the Pirogov Doctors Movement, Together for Decent Medicine, and other public organizations. They demanded that all discussions be public, and the proceedings be published in the media.

"The demands in this resolution will be sent to municipal and federal authorities," the conclusion of the resolution states.

Cuts to medical institutions in Moscow have been underway since late last years.

According to the working version of the timetable for closing Moscow clinics and maternity hospitals, employees at twenty-eight facilities, including fifteen hospitals, will be fired and their premises vacated.

Employees have already been laid off at several hospitals listed in the timetable. The bulk of the closures will take place by April of next year.

"We did not want to publish (the timetable) because we were crying softly in our offices. But since it has already gone public, we can now all cry together," said Pechatnikov, commenting on the document.

Meanwhile...

Moscow, October 16, 2014, Interfax.

On Thursday, Admiral Vladimir Komoyedov told Interfax that, according to the draft budget, a record sum of 3,286,800,000,000 rubles (approx. sixty billion euros) which amounts to 4.2% of GDP, would be spent on the national defense in 2015.

This exceeds 2014 spending by 812,160,000,000 rubles.

In 2016, the government plans to spend 3,113,240,000,000 rubles on defense; in 2017, 3,237,820,000,000 rubles.

YOUR INVITATION:

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

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Zionist Occupation Forces Wound 2 Unarmed Palestinian Workers, As Usual: They Were “Collecting Gravel And Scrap Metal” Inside Free Palestine Territory

September 29, 2014 The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights via Uruknet

Two Palestinian workers have been wounded when Israeli forces stationed along the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel opened fire at a group of workers who were collecting gravel and iron parts near the border.

The Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR) condemns Israeli volitions against Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip. PCHR is deeply concerned over the continuous

Israeli attack on workers' livelihoods, especially in the light of the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip.

According to investigations conducted by PCHR, at approximately 11:00 on Monday, 29 September 2014, Israeli forces stationed on watchtowers north of Um al-Nasser village opened fire at a group of workers who were collecting gravel near the border.

As a result, Jalal Fawzi 'Odetallah Abu Jarad (14), from Um al-Nasser village, sustained a bullet wound to his left leg. Abu Jarad was transferred to Kamal 'Edwan Hospital and his wound was described as moderate.

In another attack, at approximately 11:30 on Sunday, 28 September 2014, Israeli forces stationed at the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel, north of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, opened fire at a group of workers who were collecting gravel and iron parts near the border.

As a result, Rajab Muhammad Rajab Ma'rouf (22), from Beit Lahia, sustained a bullet wound to his right thigh. He was transferred to Kamal 'Edwan Hospital for treatment and his wound was described as moderate.

It is worth noting that Israeli forces stationed on watchtowers at the border, north of Beit Lahia in the Northern Gaza Strip, wounded two workers collecting gravel and iron parts near the border on 19 September 2014.

The wounded workers were identified as: 'Atta Musa 'Atta al-Hassoumi (20), who sustained a bullet wound to his right leg; and Ahmed As'ad 'Ayish (26), who sustained a bullet wound to his right leg.

Later, they were transferred to Kamal 'Edwan Hospital for treatment. Medical sources described al-Hassoumi's wound as serious due to the laceration of leg bones and veins.

Consequently, he was transferred to al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. On Saturday, 20 September 2014, al-Hassoumi was moved to al-Maqased Hospital in Jerusalem for treatment. Al-Sous' wound was described as minor.

PCHR is concerned over the continuous Israeli attacks against Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip and:

1. Calls upon the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to fulfill their obligations under Article 1 of the Convention to respect and ensure respect for the Convention in all circumstances, and their obligations under Article 146 of the Convention to search for and prosecute those suspected of perpetrating grave breaches of the Convention; and,
 2. Calls for securing Palestinian civilians' access to their houses and property and protecting their rights to life, security, safety and work.
-

Foreign Military Occupation Forces Demolish Palestinian Homes In Silwan: Bulldozers “Proceeded To Knock Down The Walls Of The Building Without Allowing The Family To Remove Property” “The Demolition Came Without Any Prior Notice”

11/4/2014 Ma'an

JERUSALEM -- Israeli forces raided the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Silwan early Tuesday and demolished two two-story buildings, residents told Ma'an.

One building belonged to former Palestinian prisoner Khalil Abu Rajab, who told Ma'an Israeli troops and intelligence officers escorted bulldozers to the Wadi Yasoul area and proceeded to knock down the walls of the building without allowing the family to remove property.

Abu Rajab's family lived on the first floor of the building; the second floor was still being furnished. Construction on the building had only been completed five months before.

He said the demolition came without any prior notice, and that his lawyer had been trying to obtain the proper license for the building, but had not yet been successful.

Another building destroyed Tuesday belonged to Isam Ishaq Abu Sbeih, who told Ma'an he had moved into the ground floor of the house only a week ago.

Israeli forces demolished the home under the pretext that Abu Sbeih lacked the proper construction permits from the Jerusalem municipality.

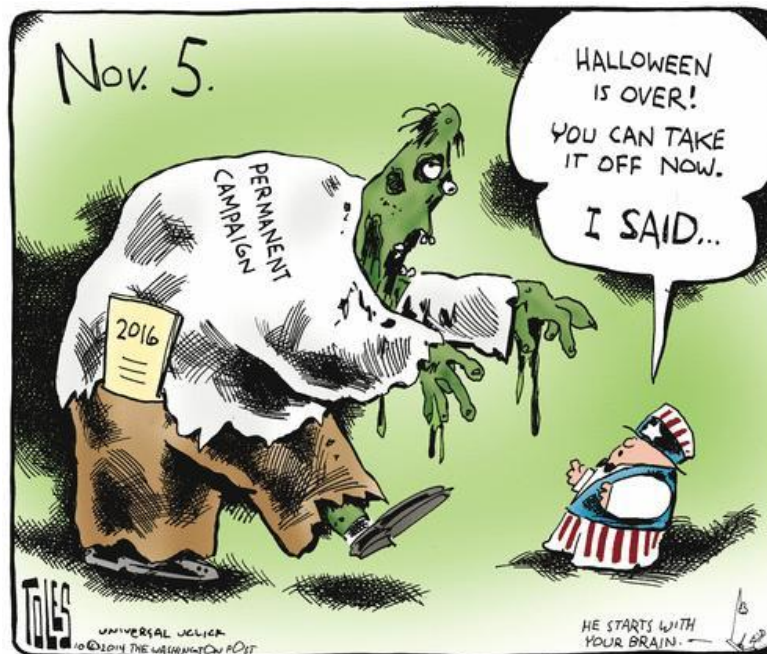
The house measured 155 square meters, and Israeli forces demolished it without prior notice, he said.

Abu Sbeih used to live on the fifth floor of a residential building, but decided to build a new house where he could live on the ground floor given that one of his children is physically disabled.

Also Tuesday, Israeli municipality workers forced the family of Muhammad Jaabis, who was shot dead in August by an Israeli security guard in West Jerusalem, to demolish two animal barns they owned in the Jabal al-Mukabbir neighborhood, locals said.

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



**Congressional Seats Sell For Record
Four Billion Dollars:
“With All Of The Uncertainty In The
World Today, The United States
Congress Is Considered A Very Safe
Place For The Rich To Invest Their
Money”**

November 4, 2014 By Andy Borowitz, The Borowitz Report

WASHINGTON — Congressional seats are on pace to fetch a whopping four billion dollars on Tuesday night, a record-smashing sales figure that has exceeded the expectations of even the most optimistic insiders.

The seats, which include four hundred and thirty-five in the House of Representatives and thirty-six in the Senate, have attracted buyers from a broad spectrum of industries, including investment banking, energy, pharmaceutical, and gun.

“With all of the uncertainty in the world today, the United States Congress is considered a very safe place for the rich to invest their money,” said Charles Michollot, of the auction house Sotheby’s.

“Congressional seats are like Manhattan real estate—they aren’t making any more of them.”

But Anton Pickardin, of the rival auction house Christie’s, sounds more skeptical.

“I hate to be a wet blanket, but these sales figures lack rhyme and reason,” Pickardin said. “When someone is willing to pay millions of dollars for a pre-owned Mitch McConnell, you know that people have lost their minds.”

But Sotheby’s Michollot remains confident that, even at these hefty prices, congressional seats are a wise investment. “When these seats go up for sale again, in 2016, four billion dollars is going to look like a bargain,” he said.



Military Resistance www.militaryproject.org

*This is how Obama brings the troops home,
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE.*

*Military Resistance is a near-daily news bulletin for service members
www.militaryproject.org*

The image is a promotional graphic for 'Military Resistance'. It features a central photograph of soldiers in camouflage uniforms carrying a wounded comrade on a stretcher. The text is arranged around the photo, with the organization's name and website at the top, a slogan in the middle, and a description of the bulletin at the bottom.

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