

Military Resistance 12L9



[Banksy]

**Mexican Insurgents Take Over 43%
Of Local Governments In Guerrero:
“The Disappearance Of Current State
Powers And The Establishment Of
Autonomous Forms Of Government”**



17 December 14 By TeleSUR

Members of the National Popular Assembly in Guerrero have taken over 43 percent of all local governments in the state, according to news reports.

Recent takeovers and new forms of government are scarcely publicized, yet highly significant responses to the police attack on the students of the Raul Isidro Burgos teacher training school at Ayotzinapa last September 26, resulting in six deaths, 25 injuries and 43 forced disappearances.

After the massacre, massive protests prompted former Governor Angel Aguirre to resign and some arrests to be made, yet family, teacher and self-defense groups were not satisfied with such token gestures. They came to a decision that the total complicity of government officials, organized crime groups, police and military formations made it impossible to gain justice without making structural changes.

As part of their program of action, they decided that the indefinite takeover of all 81 town and city councils in the state of Guerrero would be a first step towards setting up autonomous governments.

One by one, they began to take over town halls, and have now gained control of 35. Further steps in the plan involve the disappearance of current state powers and the establishment of autonomous forms of government.

To date, Local People's Assemblies have been set up in San Luis Acatlan, Ayutla, Acapulco and Tlapa. These will be spaces in which social organizations, community authorities and residents will come together to make decisions by consensus.

At the same time, a Local People's Council has been established in Tecoanapa. Its task will be to administer the town according to the system of traditions and customs, in keeping with decisions reached in assemblies.

The Ayotzinapa students and family members have said that the only way to avoid future acts of state repression is for the people to be in control of their lives and build community based governments based on service, respect and reciprocity.

ACTION REPORTS

“I Love History,” He Said, And He Was Given A Copy Of “Soldiers In Revolt”

[Outreach To New York National Guard

From: Alan S, Military Resistance Organization
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Subject: Outreach to New York National Guard 12/12/14
Date: Dec 12, 2014

12/12/14:

Today at two of NYC's commuter terminals 10 Military Resistance newsletters, 6 DVDs of "Authority & Expectations," [<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tyfkLubnyBw>] 2 of "Sir! No Sir!," [http://www.sirnosir.com/the_film/storefront.htm] 12 Military Resistance intro cards, six questionnaires for troops asking their opinion of the Missouri National Guard deployment to Ferguson, MO in August, and one copy of "Soldiers in Revolt" were distributed to 10 troops, half known to me and half not.

General response ranged from polite turn-down to interested reaction.

These days more troops than ever patrol and at times never seen before.

One soldier explained the ISIS scare has produced this change. Which means most hours up to approximately 8pm or so you can find National Guard soldiers on patrol in any or all of the terminals.

This has not been the case since this type outreach began perhaps 7-8 years ago.

Occasionally there'll be a soldier more interested in the outreach than others and eager to get the handouts. One, today, when learning of the history of military resistance described in some of the material, was happy to take it.

"I love history," he said, and he was given a copy of "Soldiers in Revolt."

MORE:

ACTION REPORTS WANTED: FROM YOU!

An effective way to encourage others to support members of the armed forces organizing to resist the Imperial war is to report what you do.

If you've carried out organized contact with troops on active duty, at base gates, airports, or anywhere else, send a report in to Military Resistance for the Action Reports section.

Same for contact with National Guard and/or Reserve components.

They don't have to be long. Just clear, and direct action reports about what work was done and how.

If there were favorable responses, say so.

If there were unfavorable responses or problems, don't leave them out. Reporting what went wrong and/or got screwed up is especially important, so that others may learn from you what to expect, and how to avoid similar problems if possible.

If you are not planning or engaging in outreach to the troops, you have nothing to report.

NOTE WELL:

Do not make public any information that could compromise the work.

Identifying information – locations, personnel – will be omitted from the reports.

Whether you are serving in the armed forces or not, do not identify members of the armed forces organizing to stop the wars.

If accidentally included, that information will not be published.

The sole exception: occasions when a member of the armed services explicitly directs identifying information be published in reporting on the action.

MORE:

The Military Resistance Organization: Military Resistance Mission Statement:

1. The mission of Military Resistance is to bring together in one organization members of the armed forces and civilians in order to give aid and comfort to members of the armed forces who are organizing to end the war of empire in Afghanistan. The long term objective is to assist in eliminating all wars of empire by eliminating all empires.

2. Military Resistance does not advocate individual disobedience to orders or desertion from the armed forces. The most effective resistance is organized by members of the armed forces working together.

However, Military Resistance respects and will assist in the defense of troops who see individual desertion or refusal of orders as the only course of action open to them for reasons of conscience.

3. Military Resistance stands for the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. and other occupation troops from Afghanistan.

Occupied nations have the right to independence and the right to resist Imperial invasion and occupation by force of arms.

4. Efforts to increase democratic rights in every society, organization, movement, and within the armed forces itself will receive encouragement and support.

Members of the armed forces, whether those of the United States or any other nation, have the right and duty to act against dictatorships commanding their services, and to assist civilian movements against dictatorship.

This applies whether a political dictatorship is imposed by force of arms or a political dictatorship is imposed by those in command of the resources of society using their wealth to purchase the political leadership.

5. Military Resistance uses organizational democracy.

This means control of the organization by the membership, through elected delegates to any coordinating bodies that may be formed, whether at local, regional, or national levels.

Any member may run for any job in the organization. All persons elected are subject to immediate recall, by majority vote of the membership.

Coordinating bodies report their actions, decisions and votes to the membership who elected them, and may be overruled by a majority of the membership.

6. It is not necessary for Military Resistance to be in political agreement with other organizations in order to work together towards specific common objectives.

It is productive for organizations working together on common projects to discuss differences about the best way forward for the movement.

Debate is necessary to arrive at the best course of action.

Membership Requirements:

7. It is a condition of membership that each member prioritize and participate in organized action to reach out to active duty armed forces, Reserve and/or National Guard units.

8. Military Resistance or individual members may choose to support candidates for elective office who are for immediate withdrawal from Afghanistan, but do not support a candidate opposed to immediate, unconditional withdrawal.

9. Members may not be active duty or drilling reserve commissioned officers, or employed in any capacity by any police or intelligence agency, local, state, or national.

10. I understand and am in agreement with the above statement. I pledge to defend my brothers and sisters, and the democratic rights of the citizens of the United States, against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

----- (Signed)

(Date)

----- (Application taken by)

Military Resistance: Contact@militaryproject.org
Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657

MORE

You Can Take Action That Makes A Difference: Join The Military Resistance Organization: MILITARY RESISTANCE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name (please print): _____

Armed Forces? (Branch) _____

Veteran? Years: _____

Union: _____

Occupation: _____

Mailing address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone (Landline): _____

Phone (Cell): _____

\$ dues paid _____

(See next: Calendar year basis.)

Armed Forces Members	@	Dues waived
Civilians	@	\$25
Students/Unemployed	@	\$10
Civilian/Military Prisoners	@	Dues Waived

Comments:

NOTE: Civilian applicants will be interviewed, in person if possible, or by phone.

**Military Resistance: Contact@militaryproject.org
Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657**

MORE

“People Need Not Be Helpless Before The Power Of Illegitimate Authority”

**MILITARY RESISTANCE:
Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657
Contact@militaryproject.org**

[Based on a statement by David Cortright, Vietnam Veteran and armed forces resistance organizer.]

In the final analysis the stationing of American forces abroad serves not the national interest but the class interest of the corporate and political elite.

The maintenance of a massive, interventionist-oriented military establishment is based on the need to protect multinational investment and preserve regimes friendly to American capital.

Imperialism is at the heart of the national-security system and is the force fundamentally responsible for the counterrevolutionary, repressive aims of U.S. policy.

Only if we confront this reality and challenge it throughout society and within the ranks can we restore democratic control of the military.

Of course nothing can be accomplished without citizen involvement and active political struggle.

During the Vietnam era enlisted servicemen created massive pressures for change, despite severe repression, and significantly altered the course of the war and subsequent military policy.

To sustain and strengthen this challenge we must continue to build political opposition to interventionism and support those within the armed services, including national guard and reserves, who defy the goals and program of Empire.

The central lesson of the GI movement is that people need not be helpless before the power of illegitimate authority, that by getting together and acting upon their convictions people can change society and, in effect, make their own history.

The Military Project

Military Resistance: Contact@militaryproject.org
Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Insurgents Storm Afghanistan Bank In Lashkar Gah



Smoke rises at a branch of the Kabul Bank where Taliban militants detonated a suicide bomb in Lashkar Gah, capital city of Helmand province on Wednesday. ABDUL MALIK WATANYAR / AFP / Getty Images



Afghanistan's security forces carry a dead soldier during clashes between Afghanistan's forces and insurgents over a branch of Kabul Bank on Wednesday. Abdul Khaliq / The Associated Press

December 17, 2014 by Mirwais Khan, Associated Press & AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Afghan insurgents stormed a bank in the country's restive southern province of Helmand on Wednesday, killing at least 10 people including three policemen, authorities said.

"It was the government employees' payday and they had all come to get their salaries."

In the attack, in the provincial capital, Lashgar Gah, five bombers raided the city's branch of the New Kabul Bank.

One of the attackers blew himself up at the front entrance to allow the other four in, said Omer Zawaj, the spokesman for the provincial governor.

Once inside, other attackers fired at security forces, who arrived and surrounded the building, Zawaj said.

Helmand police spokesman, Fareed Obaid, said three police officers were among those killed.

"There are also 15 people wounded, including six members of the Afghan security forces," he said, adding that the rest of the insurgents were killed in the gunbattle.

Earlier, the head doctor at Lashkar Gah hospital said that more than 20 people with gunshot wounds had been admitted. "We've also had five bodies brought in," said Aslan Nawaz.

Also in Nangahar, in the capital Jalalabad early Wednesday, attackers attached explosives to police vehicles, killing a police officer and wounding four others when they detonated, Mashraqiwal said.

A Taliban spokesman claimed responsibility for the attack on Kabul Bank.

Resistance Action

Dec 18 2014 By Ghanizada, Khaama Press

A bomber attacked a vehicle of the security forces in Tangi Tara Khel area of Kabul city this morning, leaving at least one policeman dead and three others injured.

Sediq Sediqi, spokesman for the Ministry of Interior (MoI), said police forces were deployed in Tangi Tara Khel area to stop the entry of terrorists in the city when the incident took place.

Kabul police spokesman, Hashmat Stanikzai, said the bomber detonated his explosives after he was recognized by the security forces.

He said the bomber was looking to carry out an attack in a crowded in the area of Kabul city by using a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED).

According to Stanikzai, one policeman was martyred and three others were injured following the suicide attack.

Conflicting Loyalties Among Afghans At Mullah Omar's Mosque:

**“We Are Happy The Americans
Are Leaving Now”**

**“Every Village Has Someone Who
Can Be A Taliban Fighter”**

**“People Will Support The Taliban And I
Have No Problem With That”**



A boy helps a woman pump water into buckets in front of the mosque where Mullah Omar founded the Taliban movement 20 years ago in the village of Sangesar, southern Afghanistan on December 11, 2014. AFP / Roberto Schmidt



Afghan National Army soldiers keep watch near the remains of the house belonging to Mullah Omar close to the mosque where he founded the Taliban movement 20 years ago in the village of Sangesar, southern Afghanistan on December 11, 2014. Photo: AFP / Prakash Singh

12.19.14 AFP

At the mosque where Mullah Omar founded the Taliban movement 20 years ago, villagers are weighing up whether to side with the insurgents or the government...

The mud-brick village of Sangesar, west of Kandahar city, has been at the centre of the conflict since US air bombardments pummelled it in October 2001, weeks after the 9/11 attacks in New York and Washington.

Mullah Omar often stayed in Sangesar when he was a lowly jihad fighter battling against the Soviet occupation in the 1980s, and he lived there full-time in the early 1990s with his growing family.

He studied and preached at the small one-story mosque, emerging as a militia leader in the chaos of the civil war when many Afghans welcomed the Taliban as a stabilising force amid the savage misrule of competing warlords.

Bismillah, the current mullah at the mosque, which stands in a walled enclosure surrounded by gravestones, remembers Omar from his childhood.

"Mullah Omar was a fighter. He had allies among some warlords and then he took control of Kandahar city," he told AFP.

"We are happy the Americans are leaving now. That is a good thing," said Bismillah, 30, who became the mosque's mullah last year.

But he complains that the village has been left to the Afghan Local Police, who have a bad reputation for corruption and misconduct.

"They demand food and bribes, and they fight as part of the tribal conflict here. They even fight among themselves, killing each other," Bismillah said.

Sangesar has dwindled from 25 families to just six and Bismillah says they are waiting to see who gets the upper hand -- government or Taliban.

"Either way, what we want is more books and stationery for our school, and a loudspeaker for the mosque," he said.

By 1996, Mullah Omar had swept from Sangesar all the way to Kabul, enforcing the Taliban's version of Islamic Sharia law and sheltering the Al-Qaeda militants who masterminded the 9/11 attacks.

"You feel close to Omar in the village because many people have connections to that time and they tell stories, like how his men hanged rivals from tank barrels," said Bette Dam, a Dutch author writing a book on the Taliban's origins.

"It is one of the most important places in his life. The Taliban masterminds might not be there any more, but the movement is disparate, not centralised.

"Every village has someone who can be a Taliban fighter, motivated by exclusion, jihad, drug money or opposition to the US and the government."

For locals such as Samad Khan, a 33-year-old farmer, the fight for control of Sangesar, in Zhari district, is in the balance. He told AFP that without US money and weapons, the Afghan army would be easily overwhelmed by the Taliban.

"Fighting here is all personal. If there is an attack, then officials who belong to one tribe punish other tribes, saying they are Taliban. We will have to see who is strongest," he said.

The Taliban regime fell in 2001 after the US-led invasion, but Mullah Omar -- who lost his right eye fighting the Soviets -- has never been found, despite years of searching and a \$10 million bounty.

“We have been waiting to see professionalism from the security forces for 13 years, but nothing has changed,” said Abdullah, a 27-year-old shopkeeper from the nearby village of Pashmul.

“People will support the Taliban and I have no problem with that. The Taliban were here for a long time and they can come back.”

US troops left Zhari district in August during a summer of vicious fighting between the Taliban, local tribes and the Afghan security forces. Witnesses said bodies were left rotting in the open around Sangesar as people were too scared to collect them.

Since then the Afghan army has regained control of the symbolic village in an effort to show that at least the Taliban’s birthplace is under nominal government authority as foreign forces end their war.

But news from neighbouring Maiwand district, where the Afghan army and police have been fighting the Taliban in recent weeks, could be an ominous sign.

“The security situation is really bad, with constant fighting between drug smugglers, the Taliban and security forces,” said Malik Din Mohammad, 54, a tribal elder from Maiwand.

“The government is not powerful enough to contain the situation.”

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 Nixon administration claimed and received great credit for withdrawing the Army from Vietnam, but it was the rebellion of low-ranking GIs that forced the government to abandon a hopeless suicidal policy.

-- David Cortright; Soldiers In Revolt

War Banks And Lobotomies

From: Dennis Serdel
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: December 13, 2013
Subject: War Banks and Lobotomies

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

war banks and lobotomies

**broken people broken lives
chopped up like hamburger hills
found in all the wars making bad decisions
trying to be like someone else living beyond the tears
in a world where wrong is right
& is taught that way in schools
full of twisted history where young minds are open
& mark a multiple answer on a test
with their best guess
because the broken people broken lives
of their elders are never heard as the young walk down
a land mined path full of lies
& not even given a chance to sort it out
all by themselves instead the rockets fly
bullets buzz by their ears**

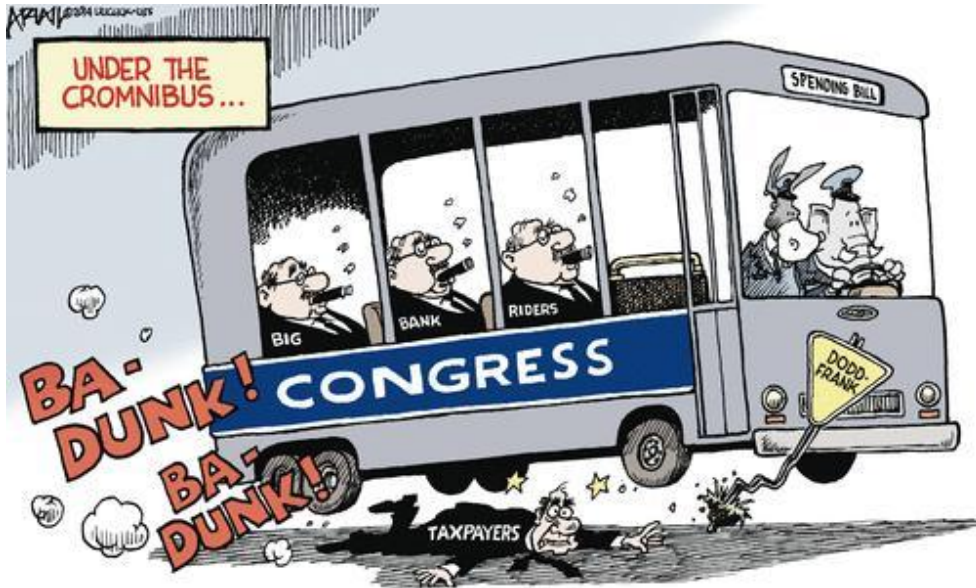
dust & filth is everywhere and
a small country is horrified
children's lives are broken
broken people everywhere
stunned by blood their parents dead
they are taken to an orphanage
& all the high talk on the news
is a political game with false truth on christmas day
where the people try to buy
items that move up their life's status
that the rich already have
& religion falls on the deaf ears of the elite
and they think it's funny when the people pray
and then run up their credit cards
while the truth lies under christmas trees because
materialism is what it's all about
because yachts, new cars & four castle homes
around the world can not fit under a christmas tree
the proletariat have to be content
with a \$800 laptop bought for \$200
waiting in the snow at 5am on black friday
for their youngest boy that will flip out many
of the kids at school in awe
but every day is Christmas for the rich
as they vault away money from wars
from the mortgages that take 30 years
to pay off private property that the bank's own
just in time to retire & die slowly from work
as the discontent bury their faces in the Bible
the paranormal & get rich gold tricks
buy 12 Lotto tickets
that act like lobotomies for the american people
while a stern Pakistani man can't stop the tear
rolling down slowly from his eye
to his beard as he stares at
the dead remains of his family

Written by Dennis Serdel for Military Resistance

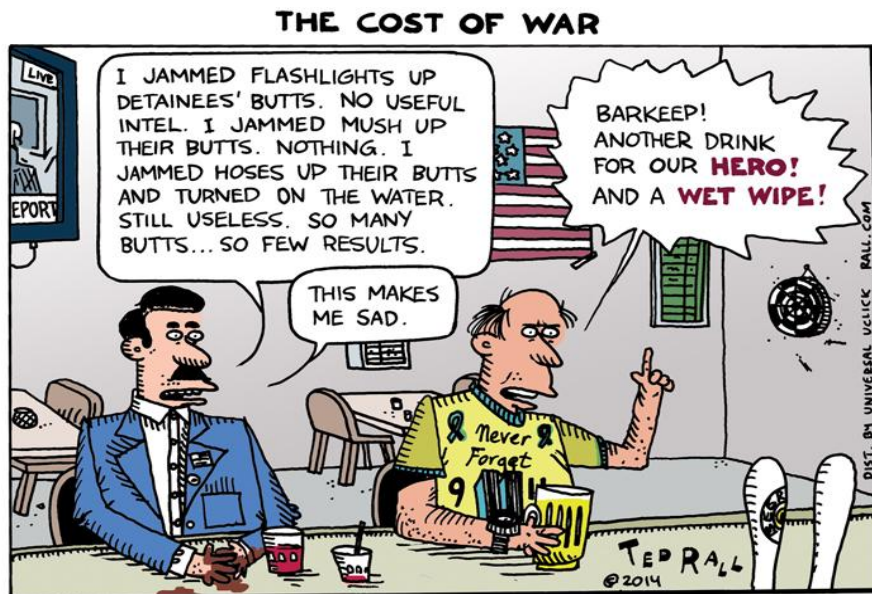
YOUR INVITATION:

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



DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



**“Johnson Stopped And Asked
Why They Were Shooting At
Him”**

**“When He Received No Answer,
He Turned And Continued
Running”**

“Police Shot Him As He Fled”

**“Since Mike Brown Was Murdered By
Darren Wilson In Ferguson, At Least
Three Other Young Black Men Have
Been Shot Dead By Chicago Police”**



Ronald Johnson (left) with his mother Dorothy Holmes (Justice for Ronnieman)

December 11, 2014 by Rachel Cohen, Socialist Worker

Ronald Johnson was known in his neighborhood as RonnieMan. He was also called “the dog man,” a name he got from caring for wounded or stray dogs that turned up near

his home in Washington Park. He was 25 years old and a father of five small children, ranging in ages from one to seven years old.

Shortly after midnight on October 12, his life was stolen by Chicago police.

Dorothy Holmes raised Ronald and his two sisters as a single parent with the help of her mother and other relatives. Now she is marching every chance she gets against police murder, along with helping to raise her grandchildren. "He was just a loving and caring person," Holmes says.

Ronald's children miss their father and have a lot of questions, being unable to understand why police would take their father away from them.

On the night in mid-October, Ronald had been with his cousin and other friends when he came across flashing police lights. He recognized a Chicago police presence in his neighborhood as a danger, so began to run. Plainclothes officers ran after him and opened fire.

Witnesses have told Dorothy Holmes that the officers didn't identify themselves, and that Johnson stopped and asked why they were shooting at him. When he received no answer, he turned and continued running. Police shot him as he fled - his death from multiple gunshot wounds has been ruled a homicide.

Police later claimed that Johnson "fit the description" of a suspect in a shooting earlier in the evening, and that a gun was found near Johnson's body.

But these claims are routine in Chicago police killings, and witnesses say Johnson was unarmed.

In fact, in the months since Mike Brown was murdered by Darren Wilson in Ferguson, Missouri, at least three other young Black men have been shot dead by Chicago police.

Fraternal Order of Police spokesperson Pat Camden claimed Roshad McIntosh, who was just 19 years old when he was killed on his back porch on August 24, had pointed a gun at police officers.

But witnesses saw him hold his hands up, unarmed and pleading for his life before he was killed.

Desean Pittman, the 17 year old murdered by CPD officers the same day as Roshad McIntosh, was also supposed to have been pointing a gun at officers when they fired on him.

Police returned to harass and mock Desean's family members, who had gathered for a vigil the following day, eventually arresting Desean's mother, Natasha Haul.

Police attempts to paint Ronald Johnson as a threat are only the beginning of the dubious claims they've made about the circumstances of his death.

Video taken right after the shooting shows officers place a white sheet over Johnson before eventually putting handcuffs on his hands and kicking him over.

Witnesses say Johnson died on the scene, but officers initially stated he had only one bullet wound and died at the hospital. When family members visited the scene of Johnson's death, the amount of blood left behind strengthened their suspicions that he had died where he fell.

Police didn't notify Holmes of Johnson's death until late the following morning, and she wasn't able to identify his body until the day after that.

She's been told there is no police report, and her lawyer guesses it could be months before the cops even share the medical examiner's autopsy report.

But during sleepless nights, she's searched the Internet for any news she can find, and she believes the officer who shot her son is named George Hernandez. "I don't know if he's still out there working," Holmes worries.

Family members who helped prepare Johnson's body for his funeral found multiple wounds that suggested he was shot in the back of the head and neck as well as in the palm of his hand.

Holmes has filed a civil lawsuit on five counts, but feels frustrated by advice to focus on a settlement.

"I want to see this officer convicted, not for manslaughter, not for reckless behavior, but the way my son would be treated if he had murdered someone--I want the officer treated that same way," she says.

Cook County prosecutors have just announced criminal charges against Dante Servin, the officer who shot and killed 22-year-old Rekia Boyd during a barbecue in Douglas Park in March 2012, following a civil suit in which Boyd's family was awarded penalties for Rekia's wrongful death.

Though the charges are minimal--involuntary manslaughter, reckless discharge of a firearm and reckless conduct--Servin is the first Chicago police officer to face any criminal charges for a fatal shooting in more than 15 years.

Holmes plans to join other activists in court when Servin's trial begins in January.

In the meantime, marching with other family members of victims of police terror brings her some small comfort, and she is determined to get Ronald Johnson's name out there. On Friday, December 12, she will join a candlelight vigil at 53rd and King Drive at 5 p.m., where she hopes as many people as possible can stand with her and her family.

The following Sunday would have been Johnson's 26th birthday.

No Chokeholds In Chile:

They Use Eye-Gouge Holds



A student is attacked during a demonstration near the Ministry of Education at Santiago, December 18, 2014. Students were protesting on Thursday against the increase in tariffs at their universities. (REUTERS/Ivan Alvarado)

**The Mother-In-Law Of Ibragim
Todashev Won't Stop Denouncing
The Killing Of Her Son-In-Law By
FBI Agent Who Was "Questioning"
Him:
A Suspicious, Nearly Forgotten Part
Of The Tsarnaev Boston Bombing
Case:
[See Next News Story About It]**

Dec 18, 2014 by Sky News US Team, Sky News

Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev has attended a brief court hearing ahead of his upcoming federal trial.

Tsarnaev, who was making his first public appearance since his arraignment in July 2013, showed up on Thursday sporting a scruffy beard.

Security was tight outside the federal court in Boston as US marshals escorted the 21-year-old into the packed courtroom.

As Tsarnaev left the courtroom, a woman identified as the mother-in-law of Ibragim Todashev, who was shot dead by police investigating links to Tsarnaev's brother, shouted to him in Russian.

"We prayed for you. Be strong, my son. We know you are innocent," Elena Teyer later told reporters she said to Tsarnaev.

As officers escorted her out of the courtroom, Ms Teyer yelled in English: "Stop killing innocent people. Stop killing innocent boys."

Outside the court, she told reporters she travelled from Savannah, Georgia, to Boston specifically for the hearing.

"You know how hard it is when you have no one near you who is going to support you," Ms Teyer said.

Ibragim Todashev was shot dead in May 2013 by an FBI agent who was questioning him about his relationship with Tsarnaev's older brother and alleged bombing accomplice, Tamerlan Tsarnaev.

The agent, who said Todashev lunged at him with a knife, was later cleared in the shooting.

MORE:

**Agent Who Killed Ibragim
Todashev During Grilling Had
Brutal, Corrupt History:
"Bruise And Bloody Contusion Noted
By Orlando Coroner On Todashev's
Left Cheek, Right On The Outside Of
The Eye Socket"**

“He Was Shot In The Back Multiple Times While In The Foyer Attempting To Flee The Apartment”

She says further evidence that there was a plan to kill her son-in-law was that the Bureau arranged for the arrest by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE), on a bogus charge of visa violation, of Todashev’s live-in girlfriend, visiting Russian college student Tatiana Gruzdeva a few days prior to the killing, and that a second agent physically removed a witness from the area outside the apartment half an hour before the killing of Todashev.

15 May 2014 by Dave Lindorff, Nation Of Change

Dave Lindorff is an investigative reporter, a columnist for CounterPunch, and a contributor to Businessweek, The Nation, Extra! and Salon.com.

He received a Project Censored award in 2004. Dave is also a founding member of the online newspaper ThisCantBeHappening! at www.thiscantbehappening.net

Almost a year after an FBI agent shot and killed, under suspicious circumstances, a crucial witness in the Boston Marathon bombing case during a botched midnight interrogation in an Orlando apartment, serious questions are being raised about the FBI agent who fired seven shots into Chechen immigrant Ibragim Todashev last May 22.

Two investigations, one by the FBI itself and one by the Florida Attorney General’s office, exonerated the FBI in the shooting death, claiming the agent, never identified, had been acting in self-defense, when Todashev allegedly ran at him with a raised broom handle.

Now, an examination of information in incautiously censored documents provided by the FBI to Florida investigators looking into the killing have made it possible to identify the agent, 41-year-old Aaron McFarlane, who joined the Bureau in 2008 after retiring on a \$52,000 lifetime annual disability pension from a short stint as an officer in the Oakland Police Department.

Aside from the question of why someone who passed through the rigorous training program the FBI runs for its recruits at Quantico, VA would also qualify for a lucrative pension, it turns out that McFarlane also has a pretty checkered past at Oakland’s Police Department -- a police department that has such an extraordinary record of corruption and brutality, that since 2012 it has been operated under the supervision of a federal court “compliance director,” whose job is to see that officers don’t brutalize residents or violate their civil rights.

McFarlane did more than that as an Oakland cop.

A report May 5 written by journalist reports that during his four years with the Oakland Police, he was the subject of two police brutality lawsuits and four internal affairs investigations.

The paper found also that McFarlane, as a defense witness in a corruption trial, pleaded the Fifth Amendment against self-incrimination in refusing to answer questions from the prosecutor in that case, which involved officers.

The trial in question was the biggest corruption scandal in Oakland's history.

Filed in 2000, the case involved four police officers who called themselves the "Riders," who were accused of beating and kidnapping people, making false arrests, planting evidence and falsifying police reports.

The case ended up being short-circuited with no convictions under a settlement that had the city of Oakland paying damages of \$10.9 million to some 119 victims of Oakland Police officer's abuse and deceit, and with the whole department going into receivership.

According to a May 14 article in the Boston Globe, the court transcript shows that when prosecutor David Hollister tried to ask McFarlane on the witness stand about a police report he had filed which appeared to have been falsified in order to "drum up a reason to arrest a man," McFarlane pleaded the Fifth.

Hollister told the Globe that the report in question "at first blush certainly appears to be criminal. I think on its face, Officer McFarlane should probably have some concerns about whether or not he violated Section 118.1 of the Penal Code in filing a false police report."

Hollister also questioned McFarlane about another arrest he had made the same night of a man who suffered an unexplained head injury while being transported to jail.

McFarlane said he "did not know" how the man in his charge was injured.

The city of Oakland also paid two settlements, for \$22,500 and \$10,000, in brutality cases brought against McFarlane and a fellow officer by two men who claimed they had been badly beaten by the two officers.

McFarlane's record of apparent brutal behavior as a cop in Oakland is relevant to the Todashev case because it could explain why Todashev, who had agreed to talk with McFarlane in Todashev's apartment, but later, according to Agent McFarlane, jumped up, ran to the front of the apartment, and then allegedly returned from the foyer brandishing a broomstick.

Unmentioned in the FBI's story line of what happened, which was accepted at face value in the investigation conducted by the Orlando Florida State's Attorney Jeffrey Ashton, was a bruise and a bloody contusion noted by the Orlando coroner on Todashev's left cheek, right on the outside of the eye socket.

The coroner said that injury was evidence of a "hard blow" to the head.

Was McFarlane, in that midnight interview, resorting to the behavior that got him in trouble in the Oakland Police Department?

As I wrote earlier, the pattern of bullets that McFarlane fired at Todashev -- three to the upper middle of his back, one to the chest, two to the upper left arm and one into the top of the head, slightly to the rear of the crown, suggest not that he was shot in defense while charging at McFarlane and a Boston State Trooper also in the room, but that he was shot in the back multiple times while in the foyer attempting to flee the apartment -- perhaps from a brutal beating.

As a police detective I showed the coroner's report to pointed out, the bullets to the raised arm suggest that Todashev, hit three times in the back, may have realized he could not escape, and that he had turned, raising his left arm either defensively (he was a skilled martial arts expert and was right-handed), or along with his other arm in a sign of surrender.

The last two shots had to have been the one to the chest, which blew out his aorta and would have been instantly fatal, and the shot to the head, which went straight through the center of the brain lodging in the cerebellum area -- also a shot that would have been instantly fatal.

Neither Ashton nor the FBI are commenting on the Globe's article.

Ashton never did actually interview McFarlane or the other FBI agent who, inexplicably and in violation of FBI procedure, was not even in the apartment, but was outside during the entire interrogation, keeping a friend of Todashev's from witnessing anything that was going on with his friend.

Ashton instead had to rely on written answers about what happened provided by the FBI from the two men.

Hassan Shibly, a lawyer and executive director of the Council on Islamic American Relations (CAIR) Florida office, said he has sent a letter today to the US Department of Justice, the FBI and the Florida State's Attorney's office, demanding to know "whether the extensive history of substantial allegations of police corruption, misconduct, abuse, and civil rights violations made against the FBI agent who shot and killed" Todashev were known to them, as well as "why the state and federal investigations failed to mention" that McFarlane "had a history of settlements and allegations against him regarding misconduct under color of law."

Clearly if McFarlane resorted to the Fifth Amendment to avoid testifying under oath about apparent falsification of evidence against a suspect he had arrested, and had been the subject of brutality suit settlements as a cop, it would raise grave questions about the integrity of his account of what happened late on May 21 in Todashev's apartment, when he was being interrogated by McFarlane.

As Shibly writes in his letter (a copy of which was provided to TCBH!):

"How do we know that the officer and FBI agent did not engage in misconduct that ultimately led to the killing of Ibragim Todashev?"

“How credible and thorough are the DOJ and State Attorney’s investigations-which relied heavily on testimony given by individuals who may have engaged in police misconduct, civil rights abuses, and evidence falsification-particularly when the DOJ and State Attorney’s investigations make no mention of the questionable history of the officer and agent involved?”

Shibly also asks the FBI to explain whether it simply did not know about McFarlane’s Fifth Amendment plea in a corruption case and about his violent history in the Oakland Police Department, in which case “how can the public trust that the FBI is doing a competent job when hiring agents on whom the liberty and security of our nation depends?”

Alternatively, he asks, if the FBI did know McFarlane’s history and didn’t see a problem with hiring him, he asks, “How then can the public trust the liberty and security of our nation to an agency that allows individuals with questionable backgrounds into sensitive positions.”

It’s a good question. In a real democracy, there would be a Senate investigation into this case.

The FBI has been scrupulously avoiding releasing the names of the two agents who were involved in tailing Todashev, and in harassing and deporting his friends. For a year the Bureau has been saying it was keeping the names secret, even from Florida state investigators, “to protect their security.” Now it is clear why the names were being withheld: McFarlane’s prior record as a cop in Oakland.

Todashev’s death in FBI custody must be honestly and aggressively investigated by some independent authority.

Certainly his elimination, after even the FBI acknowledged that he was the closest friend of the elder brother suspected of having masterminded the Boston bombing, Tamerlan Tsarnaev, has to be seen as a serious blow to any genuine investigation of that incident.

But there is a darker possibility: that Todashev was being pursued and pressured, and was ultimately killed by the FBI, because he had information about the elder Tsarnaev’s relationship with the FBI--information that at a minimum could have embarrassed the Bureau, or that might even have shown the FBI to have been involved in some kind of “sting” operation gone wrong in Boston.

The FBI, after all, has had undercover agents or informants involved in some 40 purported “terror” plots that it has “disrupted” since September 11, 2001.

Was the Boston bombing supposed to have been another?

Shibly notes that CAIR, which is conducting its own investigation of the Todashev shooting, discovered McFarlane’s identity, and knew about his checkered history of brutality and possible corruption as an Oakland cop, for some time, but he says the organization “but did not publicly release any such information to avoid jeopardizing any possible government investigations.”

A public release of the results of an investigation of the shooting by a private investigator hired by CAIR and Todashev's family in Russia is due soon, he added.

Elena Teyer, Todashev's mother-in-law, believes that McFarlane, a relatively inexperienced FBI agent who was dispatched from the Boston office to follow and question Todashev in Florida, was selected for the job precisely because of his police record of brutality and corruption, which she says meant he was "on the hook in order to save his job" at the FBI.

She says further evidence that there was a plan to kill her son-in-law was that the Bureau arranged for the arrest by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE), on a bogus charge of visa violation, of Todashev's live-in girlfriend, visiting Russian college student Tatiana Gruzdeva a few days prior to the killing, and that a second agent physically removed a witness from the area outside the apartment half an hour before the killing of Todashev.

That witness, a Green Card-holding legal Chechen immigrant named Husain Taramov, was barred by the US from returning to the US after he returned to Russia for Todashev's funeral.

(With both Taramov and Gruzdeva, who was deported to Russia last fall, both removed permanently from the US, there were no witnesses for Ashton or the Justice Department to interview about the shooting except the agent who fired the shots and the Boston State Trooper who had been with him.)

Teyer, a Russian immigrant, US citizen, and retired veteran of the US Army, suggests the FBI wanted Todashev killed because he knew too much about Tsarnaev and his relationship with the "corrupted FBI."



DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



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