

Military Resistance 13A10

NEW YORK COPS, ANNOYED AT BEING UNDERAPPRECIATED FOR STRANGLING BLACK GUYS, ARE WITHHOLDING THEIR "SERVICES" BY NOT WRITING TICKETS OR RANDOMLY FRISKING BLACK GUYS. WHAT PRECEDENTS WILL THIS "SLOWDOWN" LEAD TO?



AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Obama Regime Spends \$300 Million Yearly For Afghan National Police Pay Fraud:
“Little Assurance That Funds Going To Active Police Personnel Or That Amounts Paid Are Correct”
Report Cites “Inflated Police Rosters, Payments Being Made To More Police Personnel Than Are Authorized In

Particular Locations, And Police Personnel Receiving Inflated Salaries”

Jan. 12, 2015 by Pierre Bienaimé, Business Insider [Excerpts]

Washington is still spending more than \$300 million per year in salaries for the Afghan National Police (ANP), “with little assurance that these funds are going to active police personnel or that the amounts paid are correct,” according to an audit report by the inspector general responsible for overseeing Afghanistan's reconstruction.

Funds can be easily wasted or redirected in the ANP, which lacks proper bookkeeping.

Numbered identification cards are the ANP's “primary control mechanism to help protect against fraud and abuse, but they are not being used properly,” according to the report.

Afghanistan's national police force contains more than 150,000 personnel, but nearly twice that many ID cards are in circulation.

The ANP's human-resources data system doesn't have the ability to differentiate between active and inactive personnel, and despite the mismatch, some active employees don't even own a card.

The inconsistencies leave the police force open to corruption reminiscent of the “ghost soldiers” discovered in Iraq last year — the 50,000 names on the Iraqi military's payroll that drew salaries redirected to unscrupulous commanders.

Likewise, the inspector general's report cites “inflated police rosters, payments being made to more police personnel than are authorized in particular locations, and police personnel receiving inflated salaries.”

Twenty percent of ANP personnel are also at risk of having their salaries skimmed, the report found.

Payments are made in cash and are not supervised closely, making for “a process that lacks documentation and accountability.”

At the same time, the ANP is taking on an increasing security burden: 3,200 Afghan police officers were killed last year, accounting for the lion's share of security casualties.

This total surpasses the 2,224 American soldiers killed during the entirety of the war.

Policeman Kills Senior Government Officials In Helmand

Jan 12 2015 Khaama Press & TOLONews

A policeman opened fire on senior government officials in southern Helmand province of Afghanistan late on Monday afternoon.

The incident took place Monday evening in Nad Ali district, with reports the district governor and police chief were killed. Four more were wounded.

According to the local security officials, the incident took place in district governor's office and the assailant policeman was also killed in crossfire.

The district intelligence chief was also injured along with an Afghan army officer, the officials said.

In the meantime, the provincial governor spokesman Omar Zwak confirmed the incident but did not disclose further information regarding the casualties.

Police, Army and NDS officers were among the wounded people, according to security officials.

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Insurgent Bomb Kills Soldiers In Troop Convoy: “Troops Opened Fire After Blast, Killing Two Women Who Were Passing By”

January 11, 2015 Reuters

MOGADISHU—

A remote-controlled bomb hit a vehicle in a troop convoy in the southern Somali port city of Kismayu, killing at least three soldiers, police and residents said on Sunday.

Militant group al-Shabab claimed responsibility for the attack, which hit the convoy as it drove through Gulwade village in Kismayu late on Saturday.

“The bomb was targeted at our convoy. Three soldiers were killed,” said Ismail Hussein, a police officer in the city.

Local residents said troops in the convoy opened fire after the blast went off, killing two women who were passing by.

Sheikh Abdiasis Abu Musab, al-Shabab's spokesman for military operations, said the group was behind the bomb attack and that it killed four senior intelligence officers.

The group also attacked a police station in the port of Bosasso with grenades and guns on Saturday, said Bashir Ahmed, a police captain in the area in the semi-autonomous region of Puntland.

They repulsed the attackers, but a woman who was selling khat, a narcotic leaf, sustained injuries from the fighting, Ahmed said.

Abu Musab confirmed they had carried out the attack, saying that four policemen were injured.

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

Marxists know that democracy does *not* abolish class oppression.

It only makes the class struggle more direct, wider, more open and pronounced, and that is what we need.

The fuller the freedom of divorce, the clearer will women see that the source of their “domestic slavery” is capitalism, not lack of rights.

The more democratic the system of government, the clearer will the workers see that the root evil is capitalism, not lack of rights.

The fuller national equality (and it is *not* complete without freedom of secession), the clearer will the workers of the oppressed nations see that the cause of their oppression is capitalism, not lack of rights, etc.

-- V. I. Lenin, Collected Works, 4th English Edition; Vol. 23

**“Guns, Rifles And Munitions
Are Excellent Servants Of
Order, But They Have To Be Put
Into Action”**

**“For That Purpose People Are
Needed”**

**“And Even Though These People Are
Called Soldiers, They Differ From
Guns Because They Feel And Think,
Which Means They Are Not Reliable”**

**“The People Seize This Moment To Go
Among The Ranks Of The Soldiers And**

Convince Them, Face To Face, To Come Over To The People's Side"

A dictator enjoys no moral support; on the contrary, he runs into obstacles every minute; around him forms a network of contradictory influences and recommendations; orders are given and then withdrawn; confusion grows; and the government's demoralisation spreads and deepens at the same time as it feeds the self-confidence of the people

From: "After the Petersburg Uprising: What Next?" (Munich, 20 January 1905) by L. Trotsky [Excerpts]

As the soldiers file by on their way to the scene of 'military action', people will shower them from the windows with thousands of brief but fervent appeals; the troops will encounter passionate words from speakers on the barricades, who will take advantage of the slightest moment of indecision on the part of the military authorities; there will also be the powerful revolutionary propaganda of the crowd itself, whose enthusiasm will be transmitted to the soldiers through exclamations and appeals.

Moreover, the soldiers have already been affected by the prevailing revolutionary attitude; they are irritated and exhausted, and they loathe their role of executioner.

They tremble as they await the malicious command of their officer.

The officer orders them to open fire — but then he himself gets shot down, maybe as a result of a previously agreed plan, maybe just in a moment of bitter resentment.

Confusion breaks out among the troops.

The people seize this moment to go among the ranks of the soldiers and convince them, face to face, to come over to the people's side.

If the soldiers obey the officer's command and let loose a volley, the people respond by throwing dynamite at them from the house windows. The result, once again, will be disorder in the ranks, confusion among the soldiers, and an attempt by the revolutionaries — through appeals or by having the people mingle directly with the soldiers — to convince them to throw down their arms or bring them with them as they join up with the people.

If this fails in one instance, there must be no hesitation in using the same means of fear and persuasion again, even with the same units of troops.

Ultimately, the moral authority of military discipline, which restrains the soldiers from following their own thoughts and sympathies, will break down.

Such a combination of moral and physical action, inevitably leading to a partial victory of the people, depends more on organised and purposeful street

movements than on arming the masses in advance — and this, of course, is the main task of the revolutionary organisations.

By winning over small units of the army, we will win control of larger units and eventually of the whole army, because victory over one part will give the people weapons.

Both during the Great French Revolution and again in 1848, the army, as an army, was stronger than the people.

The revolutionary masses triumphed not because of the superiority of their military organisation or military technology, but because they were able to infect the national atmosphere that the army breathed with the germs of rebellious ideas.

Of course, it makes a difference for the to and fro of street battles whether the range of a gun is only a few hundred sazhen or several versts, whether it kills a single person or hits tens of people, but this is still only a secondary question of technology when compared to the fundamental question of revolution — the question of the soldiers' demoralization.

'Whose side is the army on?'

That is the question that decides everything, and it has nothing to do with what type of rifles or machine-guns may be used.

Guns, rifles and munitions are excellent servants of order, but they have to be put into action.

For that purpose people are needed.

And even though these people are called soldiers, they differ from guns because they feel and think, which means they are not reliable.

They hesitate, they are infected by the indecision of their commanders, and the result is disarray and panic in the highest ranks of the bureaucracy.

A dictator enjoys no moral support; on the contrary, he runs into obstacles every minute; around him forms a network of contradictory influences and recommendations; orders are given and then withdrawn; confusion grows; and the government's demoralisation spreads and deepens at the same time as it feeds the self-confidence of the people.

Lessons Unlearned: Vietnam Then, Afghanistan Now

They had never heard of General Gwynn and so did not realize that, in countering an insurgency, the military was fulfilling a police role and had to apply minimum, not maximum, force; nor would they have known of his warning that a lull in guerrilla action is usually a danger sign, not a “victory”.

Unlike the Western battlefield, a rising body count in an insurgency is a danger sign.

The oft-expressed American desire to persuade the Viet Cong “to stand and fight,” a desire inherited from the French, was another pathetic fallacy. These were professional guerrillas who would not stand and fight—except on their own terms.

From: WAR IN THE SHADOWS: THE GUERRILLA IN HISTORY, BY Robert B. Asprey; Captain, USMC, ret’d; William Morrow And Company; New York, 1994

Whatever the President said about guerrilla warfare, these officers, in general, secretly believed that military professionalism would prove more than a match in any battle with “irregulars.” Although, in time, some of the younger advisers would realize this error, the bulk remained convinced that professionalism—by which they meant adherence to Western military doctrines—would *win the war*.

They had never heard of Major Callwell’s writings on small wars, so they would never have pondered his sage advice to regard the native as the professional, the newcomer as the amateur.

They had never studied Gallieni’s and Lyautey’s pacification campaigns. They had never heard of General Gwynn and so did not realize that, in countering an insurgency, the military was fulfilling a police role and had to apply minimum, not maximum, force; nor would they have known of his warning that a lull in guerrilla action is usually a danger sign, not a “victory”.

Lacking suitable background, the American command did not realize that Western-style warfare is quantitative and that insurgency warfare is qualitative. To fight the latter successfully is frequently to reverse normal standards of measurement, just as trick mirrors in an amusement park make a fat person thin and a thin person fat.

From the beginning, the American command erred by trying to use maximum, not minimum, force, and by designating the guerrilla the primary target rather than the population that supported him.

Dead guerrillas became “victories”—enough “victories” would “win” the war.

They did not understand that an insurgency is not “won”—except that it fades into relative quiescence.

Unlike the Western battlefield, a rising body count in an insurgency is a danger sign. So is the necessity for “surprise” encounters, no matter how successfully fought.

Progress is not made in an insurgency situation until local peasants are protected sufficiently and have sufficient reason to support government forces and supply necessary information on which to base operations.

The oft-expressed American desire to persuade the Viet Cong “to stand and fight,” a desire inherited from the French, was another pathetic fallacy. These were professional guerrillas who would not stand and fight—except on their own terms.

The Americans also failed to understand that qualitative warfare calls for careful target selection—that “saturation” of a battle area contains a number of built-in booby traps in an insurgency situation. The more units involved, the more-attenuated the lines of communication, thus the more targets available to the enemy.

Worse than this, saturation of a battle area invariably damaged the peasants’ crops and villages, frequently killing innocent people, thereby alienating the very persons the government needed to “win.”

Military commanders could not understand this. When General Harkins “. . . was asked about the political consequences when villages were hit with napalm, he replied that it ‘really puts the fear of God into the Viet Cong.’ ‘And that,’ he said, ‘is what counts.’”

“Impregably Armored By Good Intentions And Ignorance”

With a few splendid exceptions, American advisers did not understand very much. They came with confidence instead of caution; they taught before they learned. From Nolting on down, too many of them resembled Alden Pyle—Graham Greene’s Quiet American, “. . . who was impregably armored by his good intentions and his ignorance.”

The insurgencies of our time, not to mention those of history, might never have happened. The lessons they furnished weren’t so much lost— they were never learned. To accomplish the military goal in Vietnam, to win the war,” to achieve “victory,” the American military command sought to repair doctrinal deficiencies with machines.

It relied on technology as opposed to motivation, on helicopters and jeeps and trucks and armored personnel carriers, aircraft and ships as opposed to men.

It did precisely what the American military command in China had done nearly twenty years earlier. It attempted to remedy political, social, and economic deficiencies with metal.

The advisers were not at first discouraged because the new technology brought illusory success.

The South Vietnamese Government estimated that the Viet Cong began the year with about sixteen thousand hard-core guerrillas. They estimated that in 1962 they had killed about twenty thousand “guerrillas” (I use quotation marks because we shall never know how many innocents were included in the figure). Yet VC strength, they estimated, had increased to twenty thousand! “. . . At the same time,” Roger Hilsman later wrote, “captured documents, interrogation of prisoners, and other intelligence indicated that at the most only three to four thousand infiltrators had come down the Ho Chi Minh trail.” The other replacements came from hamlets and villages, and if some arrived under duress, a great many others came freely.

Despite ARVN “victories,” the Viet Cong retained control of major areas.

In summer of 1962, this writer flew several missions with U. S. Marine Corps helicopter squadrons operating out of Soc Trang, south of Saigon, the mission being to haul ARVN units to this or that threatened area. Fuel for these machines came from Saigon by tank truck, the Saigon trucker paying the Viet Cong a “toll” in order to pass to Soc Trang.

This meant that at any moment the Viet Cong could prevent marine helicopters from flying. This rarely if ever happened—should it not have occurred to MACV that the effort could scarcely have been hurting the Viet Cong if the choppers were allowed to keep flying?

The fallacy of the new approach was already becoming evident. Initial Viet Cong fright soon turned to bewilderment; analysis followed to produce countertactics. Night operations increased, since helicopters at first did not fly at night.

Assassinations and kidnappings greatly increased, the reasons being to enforce discipline, demonstrate determination, and gain recruits. By spring of 1962, the Viet Cong were beginning to fight back, and, by autumn, were not only pursuing active guerrilla tactics but were standing against ARVN units. Once again, Viet Cong countertactics were immensely aided by intelligence derived from peasant networks that, while on the defensive, were scarcely defunct.

Marines at Soc Trang and American field units elsewhere were living, to use Bernard Fall’s term, in a fishbowl, their every movement, their take-off and landing, their resupply, noted and reported by Viet Cong agents.

Static Defense

The new technology did nothing to repair the existing gap between Vietnamese army units and peasants; indeed, helicopter delivery widened the intelligence gap by flying troops over villages and thus eliminating personal contact with the peasants—perhaps a good thing in the case of rapacious army units.

The new vehicles also proved expensive.

Helicopters and armored personnel carriers require large workshop and storage complexes, installations that in Vietnam demanded ground troops to provide security and nonetheless remained vulnerable to guerrilla attack, as did their lines of communication to major supply centers.

Troops so assigned inevitably assumed a static role, to the guerrilla's benefit.

Armor plate and motors did not erase poorly conceived plans. American and Vietnamese planners were trying to strike the enemy all over the place. All too often, these were random strikes, because the commands lacked proper intelligence on which to base specific and profitable operations.

Where good intelligence existed, Viet Cong intelligence frequently countered it. Helicopters and APCs are noisy, and a black-pajama-clad Viet Cong did not take long to ditch his weapon and either commence work in the field or hide along the reeded bank of a nearby canal.

By summer of 1962, frustrated American airmen had begun developing new tactics, for example "eagle flights," whereby helicopters landed a unit in a suspect area. If contact resulted, other, lingering helicopters immediately brought in reinforcements. The poverty of this tactic is too obvious for comment.

Recruiting for The Resistance, 1960's Style

Lansdale warned that the most urgent function is ". . . to protect and help the people":

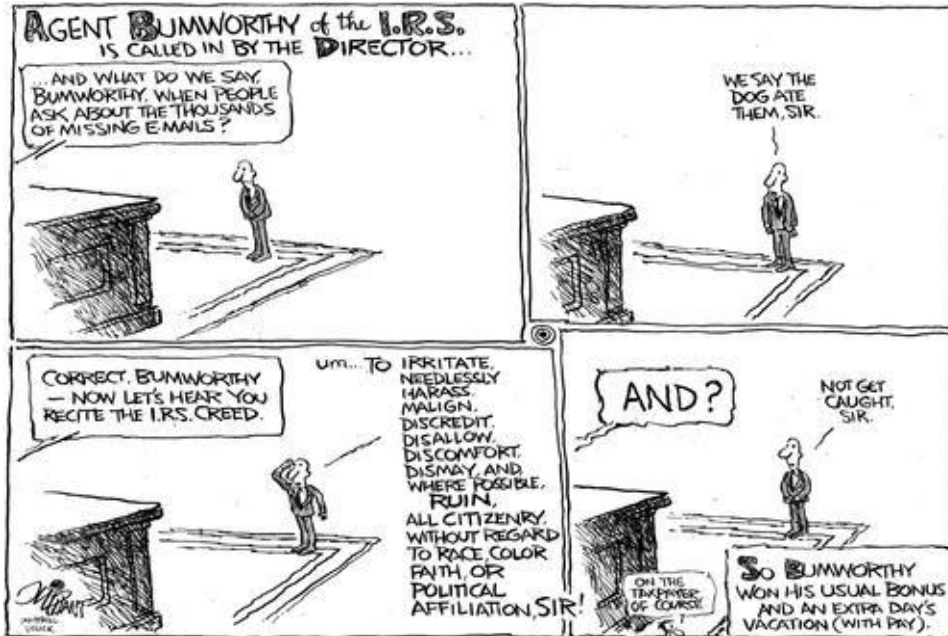
*"When the military opens fire at long range, whether by infantry weapons, artillery or air strike, on a reported Viet Cong concentration in a hamlet or village full of civilians, the Vietnamese officers who give those orders and the American advisers who let them "get away with it" are helping defeat the cause of freedom. **The civilian hatred of the military resulting from such actions is a powerful motive for joining the Viet Cong.**"*

On the following day, Ambassador Taylor joined the select group of officials to report on the Vietnam situation. His words could not have been more gloomy. A new civilian government in Saigon was proving no more effective than the former military government, either in the capital or in the provinces. The Viet Cong everywhere had advanced and were threatening to cut the country in half. Despite heavy casualties produced by an increasingly stronger professionally competent ARVN (!), the Viet Cong not only were making good their losses but were adopting new and improved tactics:

"The ability of the Viet-Cong continuously to rebuild their units and to make good their losses is one of the mysteries of this guerrilla war. ... (We find) no plausible explanation of the continued strength of the Viet-Cong if our data on Viet-Cong losses are even approximately correct.

“Not only do the Viet-Cong units have the recuperative powers of the phoenix, but they have an amazing ability to maintain morale. Only in rare cases have we found evidences of bad morale among Viet-Cong prisoners or recorded in captured Viet-Cong documents.”

CLASS WAR REPORTS



**Cops Break Woman's Ribs For
“Disrespect”
“She Had To Plead No Contest To A
Charge Of Disorderly Conduct-Vulgar
Language So That She Could Go To
The Hospital”**

“Two Sons, William And Danny Wallace, Were Also Arrested And Charged With Disorderly Conduct-Vulgar Language”

January 5, 2015 By David Edwards, Raw Story & Jan. 3, 2015 By Jessica Priest, Victoria Advocate Publishing Co.,

A Texas woman has filed a lawsuit against three police officers in Victoria, claiming that they brutally beat her and broke her ribs without a good reason.

Mary Frances Jones told the Victoria Advocate that the three police officers woke her up early in the morning on Dec. 22, 2013 over reports that a truck that she had purchased the day before had been seen driving in a local creek.

Jones said that she had been unaware at the time that her sons borrowed the truck while she was sleeping.

After officers claimed that she was lying about owning the truck, Jones said she tried to go back inside her home, and that's when they forced her to the ground.

“One of them had his foot on my arm, and the other kicked me and broke my ribs,” she recalled.

“They hurt me. They hurt me bad, and they know they did.”

According to Jones, she had to plead no contest to a charge of disorderly conduct-vulgar language so that she could go to the hospital.

Her fiance, 50-year-old Mathew Milberger and two sons, William and Danny Wallace, were also arrested and charged with disorderly conduct-vulgar language.

A police report filed by Officer D. Stone accused Jones and her family of yelling, “F*ck the police, f*ck yall, and various other profanities.”

The report noted that Jones' son was shocked with a Taser, but it did not mention that she suffered broken ribs, black eyes and other injuries.

Jones said the broken ribs eventually resulted in pneumonia, which left her on a ventilator.

Medical records will support Jones had two black eyes for two months and was put on a ventilator after she was diagnosed with pneumonia due to her broken ribs. She's visited the hospital about six times since her arrest, Jones said.

Attorney Christopher J. Gale, who filed the lawsuit on behalf of Jones, said that police had made her pay for showing “disrespect.”

“I think the police, while they’re trained in the concepts of law enforcement, they are not trained in regards to the application of them,” Gale explained.

“When you express your opinion in any form or fashion with any kind of words and walk away from them, that’s a sign of disrespect.”

“It’s completely and utterly constitutional to walk away from somebody,” he added.

“They’re just going to make you pay the price. That’s concerning. This is not a police state.”

The lawsuit accuses the officers of false arrest and imprisonment.

And it asserts that Jones’ constitutional rights were violated because officers went beyond the “reasonableness” standard set by the Fourth Amendment.

Jones is seeking \$1 million in damages.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



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

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

**Russian Criminals Imprison A
Union Leader Who Refused To
Be A Management Dog:
“In The Wake Of An Active
Campaign By The Trade Union,
Including Mass Rallies And Public
Protests By Port Workers, A Mere
Two Weeks Later Charges Were
Filed For ‘Misuse’ Of Funds”
“We Will Keep Fighting For This Until
We Have Won’
“The Trade Union Does Not Abandon Its
Members. Together We Are Strong!”**



Leonid Tikhonov

On December 15, 2014, Nakhodka City Court handed down a guilty verdict against Leonid Tikhonov, chair of the Dockers' Union of Russia (DUR) local branch at Vostochny Port JSC in the Russian Far East.

The trade union leader was sentenced to three years and six months in a medium security prison.

Moreover, in future Tikhonov will be barred from engaging in trade union activities for three years.

Tikhonov was accused of embezzlement.

But the trade union is certain the prosecution and harsh sentence were port management's revenge against Tikhonov and the entire local for acting too aggressively to prevent them from capitalizing on the deteriorating labor conditions of dockworkers.

The case has been much discussed in the media.

But we can draw our own conclusion about who is in the right here. We only have to examine the facts in the case.

Criminal charges against Tikhonov were filed on June 22, 2012. He was accused of misappropriating 359,571 rubles (approx. 8,600 euros at the time) from Vostochny Port JSC, money allocated to the trade union for purchasing New Year's gifts.

None other than Anatoly Lazarev, managing director of Vostochny Port JSC, filed the charges against Tikhonov.

However, neither the trade union committee nor trade union members employed at Vostochny Port complained about the allegedly misappropriated funds.

On the contrary, they came to the defense of their chair.

The trade union submitted to the court a written decision by the Vostochny Port JSC trade union committee to allocate funds as New Year's gifts in the amount of five hundred rubles per member and the subsequent transfer of the money to shop stewards for presenting to union members employed at Vostochny Port JSC.

That is, the money was allocated for gifts.

Perhaps Tikhonov had violated the trade union committee's decision?

The trade union submitted to the court affidavits given by members of the DUR local at Vostochny Port JSC. Around ninety-five per cent of the local's members testified. They confirmed they had received gifts in December 2011.

In some departments, gifts had taken the form of baskets containing sweets and alcoholic beverages. In others, the five hundred rubles were given in cash to each member.

Each shop steward had decided how exactly to distribute the money, as gifts or cash. Only fifteen of all the members surveyed did not confirm receiving gifts that year: some recalled they had not received them, while others could not remember the events because they had happened too long ago. It thus transpires that the allocated funds had indeed been spent on gifts.

The court, however, decided not to admit these documents and affidavits as evidence.

On the other hand, the fact that criminal charges were filed after a representative of port management made a complaint cannot but raise questions.

The fact is that the money that Tikhonov was accused of embezzling did not belong to Vostochny Port JSC.

Vostochny Port JSC had allocated the funds to the DUR local at the port, as stipulated by the collective bargaining agreement between the trade union and the port. The money is allocated for funding cultural, sporting, and recreational activities.

The local must submit a report on how the money is spent, but as soon as it is credited to the trade union's account, under Russian law the money belongs to the trade union local.

The DUR has a special independent audit commission for checking the financial activities of its local branches. It had audited Tikhonov and concluded he had not allowed funds to be misused.

Thus, the trade union did not consider itself a victim. And under Russian law only the person or organization to which the funds in question belonged can be recognized as the injured party in embezzlement cases.

Vostochny Port management is completely irrelevant in this instance.

The lack of a proper injured party eliminates the possibility of criminal prosecution. But charges were filed, and precisely at the insistence of port management.

Why did this happen?

Criminal charges were filed against Tikhonov in the wake of an active campaign by the trade union, including mass rallies and public protests by port workers, in June 2012.

On June 2, 2012, port workers held a rally demanding a rise in base pay and salaries for all grades of workers at the port, because freight turnover and shareholder dividends had been increasing there for quite a long time.

The trade union also sought an end to the practice of transferring dockers to fixed-term employment contracts (more than a thousand such contracts were signed at the port annually) and recruiting an ever-increasing amount of workers through subcontractors.

Fixed-term contracts and casualization mean that dockers lose supplemental pay and additional holidays, earn less money, and are stripped of benefits.

However, this means additional income for shareholders, and additional bonuses for port managers.

A mere two weeks later, on June 19, 2012, authorities searched the trade union's offices at Vostochny Port and seized financial records. And on June 22, 2012, as we recall, charges were filed for the "misuse" of funds on New Year's gifts.

Isn't it curious that port management showed its concern over the New Year's gifts—purchased with money not belonging to it and without any complaints by those who received the gifts—in June 2012, right after the trade union rally?

The Dockers' Union of Russia has no doubt that Leonid Tikhonov is innocent.

The trade union's members, dockers at the ports of Vostochny, Nakhodka, and Vladivostok, also have no doubt of his innocence. They all came to support Tikhonov at the court hearings.

"Leonid Tikhonov is innocent.

The charges against him are farfetched and amount to nothing more than persecution for trade union activities." This is the position of the fraternal trade unions of the Confederation of Labor of Russia (KTR) and dockworkers' unions in other countries affiliated with the International Transport Workers' Federation.

"We are shocked by Leonid Tikhonov's sentence and imprisonment," says the DUR's executive committee. "Our lawyers are currently seeking a review of this harsh decision and the release of the trade union leader. We will appeal the verdict, of course."

The trade union is also preparing a complaint to the International Labor Organization.

Leonid Tikhonov's colleagues and comrades have not wavered in their support of him.

We hope to secure Leonid's release and restore his good name.

We will keep fighting for this until we have won. The trade union does not abandon its members.

Together we are strong!

About Leonid Tikhonov

Leonid Tikhonov
unionrights.ru

Leonid Tikhonov is chair of the Dockers' Union of Russia (DUR) local branch at Vostochny Port in Primorsky Krai.

Tikhonov was born on March 25, 1963, in the city of Sarapul in Udmurtia, where he grew up.

At the age of sixteen, he went to work as an equipment tuner at the local radio equipment factory.

In September 1983, Tikhonov arrived in the Soviet Far East, where he enrolled in Vocational School No. 30, in Vrangal, near Nakhodka. The school then trained specialists for the entire region.

A year later, Tikhonov was drafted into the army. He served with a radar unit in Chukotka.

After the army, in 1986, he returned to Nakhodka and continued working as an equipment operator at Vostochny Port.

In March 1988, Tikhonov was married. His wife, Svetlana, works as an electronic engineer at the Ship Traffic Control Center in Nakhodka Bay. They have a daughter, who was born in December 1988.

Tikhonov founded the Vostochny Youth Residential Complex and chaired the Vrangal Youth Residential Complex Council.

Tikhonov worked for fifteen years as an equipment operator at Universal Handling Terminal No. 1 in Vostochny Port.

In 1998, he was elected deputy chair of the Vostochny Port JSC trade union committee of the Dockers' Union of Russia. He has been chair of this same local since 2003.

During his tenure, he received a law degree so as to defend the interests of workers more intelligently.

Tikhonov's hobbies include sports and camping. He took first place in his weight category at the European Powerlifting Championship in 2012 and the World Championships in 2013. He has also won a number of other prizes.

His friends, colleagues, and trade union comrades know Tikhonov as an open and communicative but also infinitely principled, resilient, courageous man, intolerant of injustice and always ready to come to the rescue.

Military Resistance In PDF Format?

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Kosovo Protests Attack Electricity Price Hikes: “Similar Protests Last Year Were Successful In Removing The Managing Director Of KEDS”



Protesters in front of the offices of the Kosovo Electricity Distribution and Supply Photo by Una Hajdari

12 Jan 15 by Una Hajdari, BIRN

Students from the University of Pristina gathered in front of the offices of Kosovo's electricity distributor, KEDS, on Monday in a show of discontent over rising consumer bills.

Tensions peaked between the protesters and the police when three students were arrested.

The students vowed to continue protesting until their demands – lower electricity prices and increased transparency – were met.

Some 200 people joined the protest led by the Student Political Club and supported by locals and civil society organisations.

It was organised in response “to the difficult economic situation in Kosovo, especially the large increases in electricity prices,” said Fitim Salihu, one of the heads of the club.

Krenare Loxhaj, 21, a political science student at the state university, said that the price hikes hit students the most.

"I live in a rent-controlled apartment with other students, and we haven't been able to pay the high bills. We usually pay 30 euro during the winter months, whereas now it's gone up to 70 – and we pay for central heating separately," Loxhaj said.

Another group affected by the price hike are pensioners, said 72-year-old Nazmi Sopi.

"Of course we support the protests. My pension and social welfare for a month amounts to 140 euro, and some pay that much for electricity bills. My bill last month was 70 euro – up from 25," Sopi said.

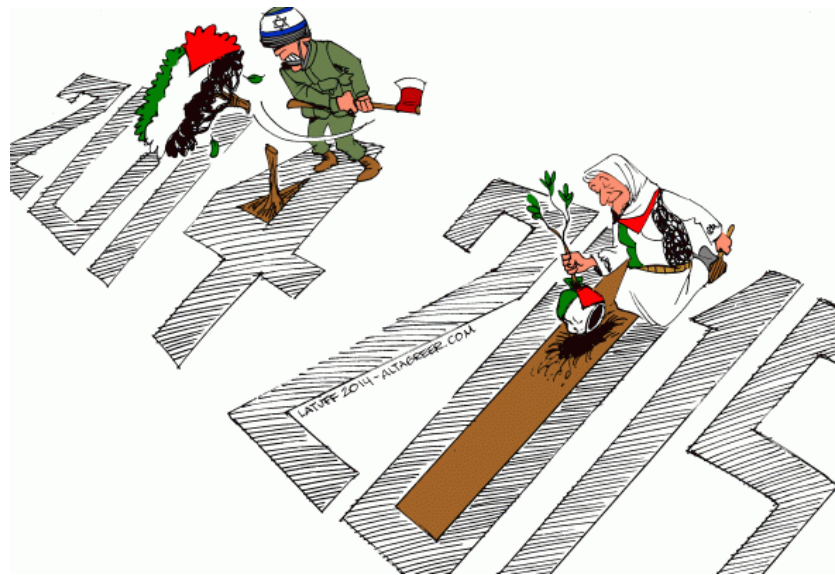
The protest was also supported by the Federation of Health Unions, the United Union for Science, Education and Culture, the Kosovo Police Union and the Independent Administration Union.

Similar protests were organised last year, and were successful in removing the managing director of KEDS.

The current unemployment rate in Kosovo is estimated to be 30 per cent, with a poverty rate of 29.7 per cent.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Heroic Zionist Settler Mobs Declare War On Palestinian Olive Trees



1. Zionist Settler Mob Chops Down 45 Palestinian Olive Trees South Of Hebron

01/10/2015 Ma'an & by IMEMC & Agencies

HEBRON -- Israelis from the Jewish-only settlement on Friday raided Palestinian land and chopped down 45 olive trees outside of Yatta, south of Hebron in the southern West Bank.

The extremists came from the Yair illegal colony.

Coordinator of a local popular committee, Rateb al-Jubour, said that the settlers raided lands belonging to local farmers in the area of Shaab al-Butm, chopping down dozens of olive trees at least three decades old.

He identified the farmers whose lands were raided during the attack as Jibril and Khaled Muhammad Abu Arram.

He said the attacks are part of Israel's illegal policies that aim at forcing the Palestinians out of their homes and lands so that Israel can build and expand its illegal colonies in occupied Palestine.

Settler outposts in the south Hebron hills have an adverse effect on local Palestinian communities through a combination of physical violence and restrictions on movement.

Located in Area C of the West Bank which is under full Israeli military control, Palestinians in the south Hebron hills suffer from extreme electricity and water shortages and face violent intimidation from the Israeli army and radical settlers.

Less than 1 percent of Area C has been planned for Palestinian development, while some 135 settlements and over 100 outposts for Jews have been built in the same area.

MORE:

2. Zionist Settler Mob Chops Down 300 Olive Trees South Of Hebron

01/10/2015 Ma'an

HEBRON -- Israeli settlers on Friday night carried out the second attack of the day on Palestinian farmers south of Hebron and chopped down about 300 olive trees.

Coordinator of a local popular committee against Israeli settlements and the separation wall, Ratib al-Jubour, told Ma'an that the settlers who carried out the attack came from the nearby Jewish-only settlement of Susiya.

He said that they came at night and used the cover of the storm sweeping across the region to carry out the attack.

He added the attackers chopped down about 300 olive trees, each of which had been planted between three and seven years ago. He said that the trees belong to the Shatat, Dawood, and Halabi families.

Earlier on Friday, settlers chopped down 45 olive trees in the Shaab al-Butm area on the outskirts of Yatta south of Hebron.

Since 1967, approximately 800,000 olive trees have been uprooted in the occupied West Bank, according to a joint report by the Palestinian Authority and the Applied Research Institute Jerusalem.

The olive industry supports the livelihoods of roughly 80,000 families in the occupied West Bank.

Settler violence against Palestinians and their property in the occupied West Bank is systematic and ignored by Israeli authorities, who rarely intervene in the violent attacks or prosecute the perpetrators.

As of mid-December, there had been 320 incidents of settler violence against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank in 2014, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

MORE:

3. Zionist Settler Mob Chops Down 170 Olive Trees In Yasouf Town; “The Destroyed Trees With Huge Trunks Are Known To Be At Least Hundreds Of Years Old”

1.12.2015 Ma'an & PIC

NABLUS (Ma'an) -- Israeli settlers tore down more than 170 olive trees in the village of Yasuf south of Nablus on Sunday, the third such attack in the West Bank in three days.

Ghassan Daghlis, a Palestinian official who monitors settlement-related activities in the northern West Bank, told Ma'an that settlers from the illegal Tappuah settlement in the northern West Bank completely chopped down more than 170 ancient olive trees in the village.

The attack took place in private Palestinian groves located nearby the settlement's perimeter fence.

The destroyed trees were reportedly “Roman,” a term used in Arabic to describe olive trees with huge trunks that are known to be at least hundreds of years old.

The attack came only two days after settlers south of Hebron carried out two different operations that destroyed around 345 olive trees belonging to Palestinian farmers.

The first attack occurred Friday in the daytime in the Shaab al-Butm area near Yatta.

The second took place under the cover of night during a winter storm close to the notoriously violent Jewish-only settlement of Susiya, also on Friday.

Attacks on olive trees are a key way that Palestinians are forced out of their homes and their lands confiscated for settlement construction, as the loss of a year's crop can signal destitution for many.

The olive industry supports the livelihoods of roughly 80,000 families in the occupied West Bank.

Since 1967, approximately 800,000 olive trees have been uprooted in the occupied West Bank, according to a joint report by the Palestinian Authority and the Applied Research Institute Jerusalem.

There were at least 329 incidents of settler violence against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank in 2014, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Heroic Zionist Settler Opens Fire At A Palestinian Youth And A Group Of Traders In Jerusalem's Old City Bazar Market

1-11-2015 PIC & by IMEMC & Agencies

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM - An Israeli settler Saturday opened fire at a Palestinian youth and a group of traders in Jerusalem's Old City Bazar market moments before the Israeli occupation soldiers kidnapped the youngster.

Local sources said that the Israeli assailant lives in one of the illegal colonial outposts in the Old City, and that he started walking provocatively in the market and verbally assaulted the traders, while carrying his government-issued automatic rifle.

The settler further assaulted the Palestinian youngster Anwar Mouna, 24, locals said, adding that a brawl ensued.

By-standers at the scene further documented heavy shooting of gunfire at the youngster and a group of Palestinian traders, moments before the Israeli occupation forces (IOF) abruptly stormed the market and kidnapped the young man.

The soldiers also installed sudden roadblocks, on Saturday evening, blocking most Gates of the Old City of Jerusalem, especially Bab al-Amoud (Damascus Gate), Bab al-Asbat (Gate of the Tribes) and Bab al-Khalil (Hebron Gate), and prevented the Palestinian from entering or leaving the area for more than 30 minutes.

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

<http://www.maannews.net/eng/Default.aspx> and

<http://www.palestinemonitor.org/list.php?id=ej898ra7yff0ukmf16>

The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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