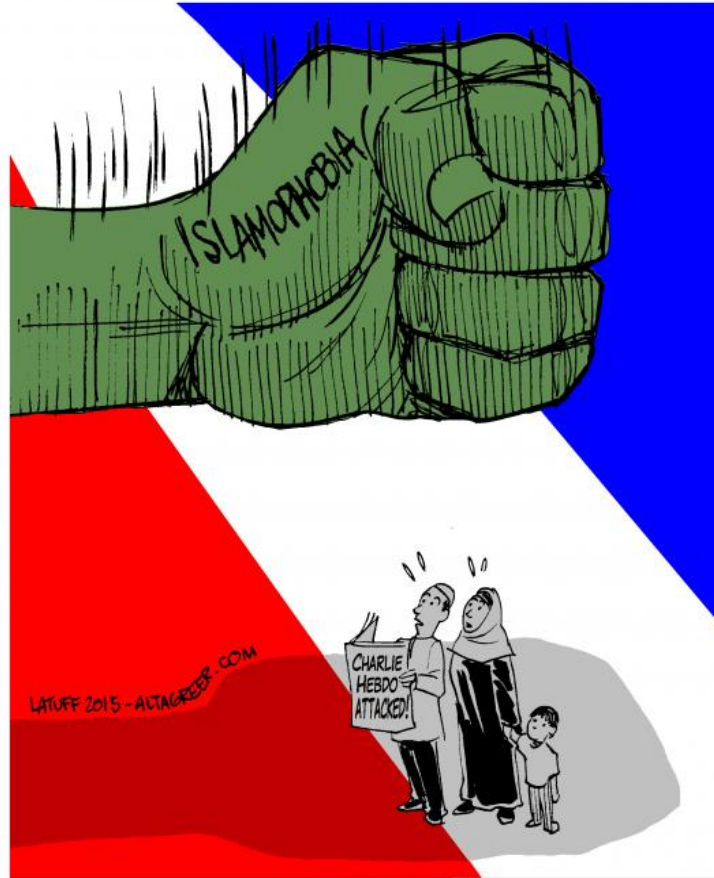


Military Resistance 13A12



**Many Who Say New York City
Police Manufactured Gun-
Possession Charges Against
Them Have Their Cases
Dismissed:**

**Officers Plant Guns, Fabricate
Circumstances Of Arrests, And
Pocket \$1000 Per Arrest Allowed
As Payment To Informers That
Don't Exist;
“The Guns Were Planted, With Police
Saying Officers Saw Suspects
Storing Guns In Plastic Bags Or
Handkerchiefs”
“Judges Had Called Some Of The Police
Version Of Events ‘Incredible,’ And The
Accounts Extremely Evasive”**



Jeffrey Herring, center, and his lawyers spoke with reporters after gun possession charges against him were dropped. Credit Anthony Lanzilote for The New York Times

One, Lt. Edward Babington, had testified along with other officers in a federal case including a gun charge, prompting District Judge Dora L. Irizarry to call the officers' testimony "just incredible, and I say 'incredible' as a matter of law," adding that she believed "these officers perjured themselves."

JAN. 15, 2015 By STEPHANIE CLIFFORD, New York Times

A Brooklyn man who said the police manufactured gun-possession charges against him had his case dismissed on Thursday, amid two investigations into the practices of a group of police officers in the 67th Precinct in East Flatbush.

The man, Jeffrey Herring, had maintained his innocence ever since his arrest on June 4, 2013, asserting that officers had planted the gun on him and fabricated the circumstances of his arrest.

The officers claimed that they got a tip from a confidential informer that Mr. Herring had a gun.

Prosecutors had been instructed to bring the informer to court on Thursday; the defense had challenged whether that informer even existed.

At the hearing, prosecutors offered no evidence or mention of that informer.

"Based upon information provided to us by defense counsel" and on the office's own investigation, said Paul Burns, an assistant district attorney, "we do not believe at this time that we can prove beyond a reasonable doubt the charges against Mr. Herring."

Justice Dineen Riviezzo of State Supreme Court dismissed and sealed the case, saying she was "glad to hear there's an ongoing investigation."

In researching the case, a lawyer for Mr. Herring, Debora Silberman of Brooklyn Defender Services, found others that mirrored it, involving the same group of police officers.

In the other cases, defendants also said the guns were planted, with the police saying that officers saw the suspects storing the guns in plastic bags or handkerchiefs.

After the arrests, more similarities arose: The use of confidential informers was suddenly mentioned months into the proceedings, and the informers were never produced in court even after judges' and lawyers' requests.

Judges had called some of the police version of events "incredible," and the accounts "extremely evasive."

The Brooklyn district attorney, Kenneth P. Thompson, said, "We will investigate the arrest of Mr. Herring and other arrests by these officers because of the serious questions raised by this case."

After inquiries from The New York Times, the Police Department opened an Internal Affairs Bureau investigation into the officers' conduct.

As the charges were dismissed, Mr. Herring, 53, a rangy man dressed in gray slacks and a blue oxford, brought his hands up to his face, his eyes tearing up. If convicted of the top charge of gun possession, he could have faced up to 15 years in prison.

In 2013, Mr. Herring was arrested as he stood next to his bike outside his apartment on a sunny afternoon. He had just gone shopping, and had several plastic bags with him.

The police said Mr. Herring reached into a white plastic bag, removed a gun, put it in a black plastic bag and tossed that bag into the bushes as a plainclothes officer watched him.

Mr. Herring says he lives a quiet, nonviolent life, mostly taking care of his collie, Snowy. His last arrest, for drugs, was in 1997; he says he has been clean since then.

Eight months into the case, prosecutors gave defense lawyers papers showing that the police had requested a \$1,000 tip for a confidential informer in this case.

[The enemy combatants in blue had a business going. They set up an arrest, fake an informant, collect \$1000, fake a receipt, and pocket the money. Fifty arrests; the thieves have \$50,000 to divide up. T]

The informer had given a highly detailed description, according to the police paperwork, saying "one male black" matching Mr. Herring's approximate age, height, weight, skin color, hairstyle and outfit, standing where Mr. Herring was standing, "near a bike with several shopping bags," was carrying a firearm "believed to be a .380 caliber semiautomatic" that was "inside of a shopping bag."

Police officers arrived about 10 minutes after the call.

Mr. Herring "had conveniently not moved an inch, and then like clockwork, chose to display exactly what the supposed C.I. had described at exactly the right time," Ms. Silberman and another lawyer, Scott Hechinger, wrote in a filing.

The officers involved in Mr. Herring's case have had their conduct and methods questioned before.

One, Lt. Edward Babington, had testified along with other officers in a federal case including a gun charge, prompting District Judge Dora L. Irizarry to call the officers' testimony "just incredible, and I say 'incredible' as a matter of law," adding that she believed "these officers perjured themselves."

In another federal gun case, prosecutors said they considered Lieutenant Babington to have given inconsistent testimony.

Leaving court on Thursday, Mr. Herring said, "I dreamed of this day."

However, he said, he was still thinking about two other defendants accused of gun possession by these police officers; while Mr. Herring had been out on bail as he fought his case, others spent far more time in jail.


One man, Eugene Moore, could not afford bail.

He spent a year in jail until a hearing in which a judge said he did not find the testimony from a detective, Gregory Jean-Baptiste, "to be credible" and dismissed and sealed the case.

Another man, John Hooper, also spent almost a year in jail after his arrest. After a hearing in which a justice said he found it "incredible that they thought it was a gun," speaking of the officers, prosecutors offered Mr. Hooper time served and he accepted.

"I look at my journey, but they were incarcerated," Mr. Herring said.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



CHANGE WE CAN BEREAVE IN

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.

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

But out of this complicated web of material and psychic forces one conclusion emerges with irrefutable clarity: the more the soldiers in their mass are convinced that the rebels are really rebelling – that this is not a demonstration after which they will have to go back to the barracks and report, that this is a struggle to the death, that the people may win if they join them, and that this winning will not only guarantee impunity, but alleviate the lot of all – the more they realize this, the more willing they are to turn aside their bayonets, or go over with them to the people.

**And the highest determination never can, or will, remain unarmed.
-- Leon Trotsky; The History of the Russian Revolution**

The Excerpts Below May Be Useful In Understanding Current Events And Where Those Events Are Tending

Comment: T

The excerpts below may be useful in understanding current events and where those events are tending.

That said, one dimension not covered below may be worth considering.

Before people, especially classes, frame a clear program to fight for, it is human history that first the negation of things-as-they-are unfolds and reaches mass rage.

People tend to first puke up what they don't want before they formulate a program and plan of action to get what they do want.

On a massive scale, world-wide, huge numbers of very angry people are expressing with crystal clarity what they do not want.

They do not want the economic system, capitalism-as-it-is.

Most do yet understand that capitalism cannot be reformed, cannot be anything other than what it is now: society organized to benefit and politically governed by the class of capitalists class for themselves.

That understanding will come; is coming now, more every day.

Episodic movements from below, now in one place, now another, all over the world, are what comes first, the negation of things-as-they-are that has preceded every great mass movement forward in human history.

That is happening now.

Negation in mass consciousness of the cruelty, stupidity, and incompetence of 2015 capitalism is at the same time the birth of a defiant, new, worldwide, urban, working class movement from below.

The worldwide tectonic earthshaking that began in Tunisia in 2011 has sometimes paused, and will pause again, and be defeated, and be defeated again, but in continues growing and moving forward, everywhere.

Nothing on this world-wide scale of working class resistance from below has been seen before.

The excerpts below are about how and why material reality is the basis for and drives our resistance forward.

“[P]roletarian revolutions, like those of the nineteenth century, constantly criticize themselves, constantly interrupt themselves in their own course, return to the apparently accomplished, in order to begin anew; they deride with cruel thoroughness the half-measures, weaknesses, and paltriness of their first attempts, seem to throw down their opponents only so the latter may draw new strength from the earth and rise before them again more gigantic than ever, recoil constantly from the indefinite colossalness of their own goals – until a situation is created which makes all turning back impossible ...”

-- The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte. Karl Marx 1852

“The Expropriators Are Expropriated” [The Negation Of Negation]

Excerpts from: Capital; K. Marx; based on the 4th edition. Chicago: Charles H. Kerr and Co., 1906; Frederick Engels, Ernest Untermann, eds.; Samuel Moore, Edward Aveling, trans. 1867

HISTORICAL TENDENCY OF CAPITALIST ACCUMULATION:

Part VIII, Chapter XXXII.1

What does the primitive accumulation of capital, i.e., its historical genesis, resolve itself into?

In so far as it is not immediate transformation of slaves and serfs into wage-labourers, and therefore a mere change of form, it only means the expropriation of the immediate producers, i.e., the dissolution of private property based on the labour of its owner.

Private property, as the antithesis to social, collective property, exists only where the means of labour and the external conditions of labour belong to private individuals. But according as these private individuals are labourers or not labourers, private property has a different character.

The numberless shades, that it at first sight presents, correspond to the intermediate stages lying between these two extremes.

The private property of the laborer in his means of production is the foundation of petty industry, whether agricultural, manufacturing or both; petty industry, again, is an essential condition for the development of social production and of the free individuality of the laborer himself.

Of course, this petty mode of production exists also under slavery, serfdom, and other states of dependence.

But it flourishes, it lets loose its whole energy, it attains its adequate classical form, only where the laborer is the private owner of his own means of labour set in

action by himself: the peasant of the land which he cultivates, the artisan of the tool which he handles as a virtuoso.

This mode of production pre-supposes parceling of the soil, and scattering of the other means of production.

As it excludes the concentration of these means of production, so also it excludes co-operation, division of labour within each separate process of production, the control over, and the productive application of the forces of Nature by society, and the free development of the social productive powers.

It is compatible only with a system of production, and a society, moving within narrow and more or less primitive bounds.

To perpetuate it would be, as Pecqueur rightly says, "to decree universal mediocrity."

At a certain stage of development it brings forth the material agencies for its own dissolution.

“This Fearful And Painful Expropriation Of The Mass Of The People Forms The Prelude To The History Of Capital”

From that moment new forces and new passions spring up in the bosom of society; but the old social organization fetters them and keeps them down.

It must be annihilated; it is annihilated.

Its annihilation, the transformation of the individualized and scattered means of production into socially concentrated ones, of the pigmy property of the many into the huge property of the few, the expropriation of the great mass of the people from the soil, from the means of subsistence, and from the means of labour, this fearful and painful expropriation of the mass of the people forms the prelude to the history of capital.

The expropriation of the immediate producers was accomplished with merciless Vandalism, and under the stimulus of passions the most infamous, the most sordid, the pettiest, the most meanly odious.

Self-earned private property, that is based, so to say, on the fusing together of the isolated, independent laboring-individual with the conditions of his labour, is supplanted by capitalistic private property, which rests on exploitation of the nominally free labour of others, i.e., on wages-labour.

[FOOTNOTE TO THE ABOVE: CLASS BASIS OF THE TEA PARTY]

The advance of industry, whose involuntary promoter is the bourgeoisie, replaces the isolation of the labourers, due to competition, by their revolutionary combination, due to association.

The development of Modern Industry, therefore, cuts from under its feet, the very foundation on which the bourgeoisie produces and appropriates products.

What the bourgeoisie therefore, produces, above all, are its own grave-diggers.

Its fall and the victory of the proletariat are equally inevitable....

Of all the classes, that stand face to face with the bourgeoisie today, the proletariat alone is a really revolutionary class.

The other classes perish and disappear in the face of Modern Industry, the proletariat is its special and essential product....

The lower middle-classes, the small manufacturers, the shop keepers, the artisan, the peasant, all these fight against the bourgeoisie, to save from extinction their existence as fractions of the middle-class...they are reactionary, for they try to roll back the wheel of history.

-- Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, "Manifest der Kommunistischen Partei," London, 1847, pp. 911.

“The Expropriators Are Expropriated”

Part VIII, Chapter XXXII.2

As soon as this process of transformation has sufficiently decomposed the old society from top to bottom, as soon as the labourers are turned into proletarians, their means of labour into capital, as soon as the capitalist mode of production stands on its own feet, then the further socialization of labour and further transformation of the land and other means of production into socially exploited and, therefore, common means of production, as well as the further expropriation of private proprietors, takes a new form.

That which is now to be expropriated is no longer the laborer working for himself, but the capitalist exploiting many labourers.

This expropriation is accomplished by the action of the immanent laws of capitalistic production itself, by the centralization of capital.

One capitalist always kills many.

Hand in hand with this centralization, or this expropriation of many capitalists by few, develop, on an ever extending scale, the co-operative form of the labour-process, the conscious technical application of science, the methodical cultivation of the soil, the transformation of the instruments of labour into instruments of labour only usable in common, the economizing of all means of production by their use as the means of production of combined, socialized labour, the entanglement of all peoples in the net of the world-market, and this, the international character of the capitalistic régime.

Along with the constantly diminishing number of the magnates of capital, who usurp and monopolize all advantages of this process of transformation, grows the mass of misery, oppression, slavery, degradation, exploitation; but with this too grows the revolt of the working-class, a class always increasing in numbers, and disciplined, united, organised by the very mechanism of the process of capitalist production itself.

The monopoly of capital becomes a fetter upon the mode of production, which has sprung up and flourished along with, and under it.

Centralization of the means of production and socialization of labour at last reach a point where they become incompatible with their capitalist integument.

This integument is burst asunder.

The knell of capitalist private property sounds.

The expropriators are expropriated.

“The Negation Of Negation”

Part VIII, Chapter XXXII.3

The capitalist mode of appropriation, the result of the capitalist mode of production, produces capitalist private property.

This is the first negation of individual private property, as founded on the labour of the proprietor.

But capitalist production begets, with the inexorability of a law of Nature, its own negation.

It is the negation of negation.

This does not re-establish private property for the producer, but gives him individual property based on the acquisitions of the capitalist era: i.e., on co-operation and the possession in common of the land and of the means of production.

Part VIII, Chapter XXXII.4

The transformation of scattered private property, arising from individual labour, into capitalist private property is, naturally, a process, incomparably more protracted, violent, and difficult, than the transformation of capitalistic private property, already practically resting on socialized production, into socialized property.

In the former case, we had the expropriation of the mass of the people by a few usurpers; in the latter, we have the expropriation of a few usurpers by the mass of the people.

Summing Up:

[P]roletarian revolutions, like those of the nineteenth century, constantly criticize themselves, constantly interrupt themselves in their own course, return to the apparently accomplished, in order to begin anew; they deride with cruel thoroughness the half-measures, weaknesses, and paltriness of their first attempts, seem to throw down their opponents only so the latter may draw new strength from the earth and rise before them again more gigantic than ever, recoil constantly from the indefinite colossalness of their own goals – until a situation is created which makes all turning back impossible ...

-- The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte. Karl Marx 1852

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CLASS WAR REPORTS

Police Gave 12-Year-Old No Aid After Shooting Him In Cleveland:

**“Then, About A Minute And A Half
After One Officer Had Shot Tamir,
The Other Officer Tackled The
Boy’s 14-Year-Old Sister As She
Tried To Reach Her Brother”**

**“He Pushed Her To The Ground
Back-First, Tumbling On Top Of Her
In The Process”**

“The Girl Was Handcuffed And Put In The Back Of The Police Cruiser, A Few Feet From Her Brother”



(Lisa DeJong/The Plain Dealer)

The police said Tamir was told to raise his hands but instead reached to his waistband for the gun, though the previously released surveillance video showed that the shooting happened so fast, it was hard to know whether the officer issued any warnings or whether Tamir could have understood them if he did.

January 8, 2015 By RICHARD A. OPPEL Jr., New York Times [Excerpts]

The two Cleveland police officers involved in the fatal shooting of Tamir Rice, a 12-year-old boy who was carrying a pellet gun, stood by without rendering medical aid as the boy lay wounded next to their patrol car, a newly released extended surveillance video shows.

Then, about a minute and a half after one officer had shot Tamir, the other officer tackled the boy's 14-year-old sister as she tried to reach her brother.

Tamir was shot Nov. 22 after someone called 911 to report "a guy" who had been pointing a "probably fake" pistol outside a community recreation center on Cleveland's west side.

The video, obtained by the Northeast Ohio Media Group, provided fresh detail about a shooting that roiled Cleveland and quickly became the latest shooting to be absorbed into a broader national narrative about police violence in African-American communities.

The surveillance tape also seemed to clarify an issue in the shooting investigation: that the officers provided no immediate medical assistance to Tamir, who was not pronounced dead until more than nine hours later at a Cleveland hospital.

An autopsy by the Cuyahoga County medical examiner later found that Tamir died from a gunshot wound to the abdomen.

In addition, it confirmed the account that Tamir's mother, Samaria Rice, gave in the weeks after the shooting, that the police had tackled and detained her daughter as she rushed out of the recreation center, trying to reach her brother's side.

After the second Cleveland officer, Frank Garmback, subdued Tamir's sister — he pushed her to the ground back-first, tumbling on top of her in the process — the girl was handcuffed and put in the back of the police cruiser, a few feet from her brother.

The officers stood by without tending to Tamir, the extended video showed.

It was not until four minutes after the shooting, the video showed, that Tamir received medical assistance when another man was seen bent down next to him.

According to Benjamin Crump, the Rice family's lawyer, the man who provided the first medical assistance was an F.B.I. agent who was in the neighborhood.

Paramedics arrived eight minutes after the shooting, and Tamir was taken away on a stretcher about five minutes later, the video shows.

A shorter surveillance video released earlier showed Tamir being shot by a rookie Cleveland officer, Timothy Loehmann, seconds after the police cruiser arrived and skidded to a stop next to the boy at a gazebo outside the recreation center. The black pistol that Tamir had, which looked like a real handgun, was an imitation. His mother later said it had been given to Tamir to play with by a friend that afternoon.

The police said Tamir was told to raise his hands but instead reached to his waistband for the gun, though the previously released surveillance video showed that the shooting happened so fast, it was hard to know whether the officer issued any warnings or whether Tamir could have understood them if he did.

[SUICIDE BY WAISTBAND! SEE STORY BELOW FOR MORE NEWS OF THIS HORRIBLE EPIDEMIC. T]

The killing, which occurred two weeks before a Justice Department report concluded that the Cleveland police had a pattern of "unreasonable and unnecessary use of force," angered many residents of the city, which has a black majority. On Thursday, the city's media relations director, Dan Williams, said the extended video was released once it

was clear that it would not interfere with the investigation. “My intent was to get it out so the public could see all of the tape,” Mr. Williams said.

In an interview, Mr. Crump called the events on the video “outrageous and inhumane.”

“How inhumane to put her in handcuffs and sit her in the car about four feet from where her brother lay dying,” Mr. Crump said of Tamir’s sister, “and she has to watch that. And they rendered no aid to this kid.”

Family members thought it was important, Mr. Crump said, for “people see this video as they continue to fight for justice and see whether the grand jury will hold the police officer accountable.”

Mr. Crump said an audio recording from a phone of someone at the recreation center indicated Tamir was alive when the officers were detaining his sister.

The recording, he said, reveals that a teenager had tried to calm Tamir’s sister as she rushed to the shooting, saying: “He’s not dead. He’s still moving.”

Officer Loehmann, 26, who fired the fatal shot, had quit a suburban police force after his supervisors determined two years ago that he had had a “dangerous loss of composure” during firearms training and was emotionally unprepared to cope with stresses of the job.

The Cleveland police acknowledged that they had never reviewed the previous police personnel file of Officer Loehmann.

Both officers have been placed on restricted duty.

MORE:

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

November 28-30, 2014 by JOHN ESKOW, CounterPunch

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

Just this week we heard Officer Darren Wilson claim that one of the reasons he killed Michael Brown was that the young man “reached for his waistband,” and – in what I guess was just an incredibly weird coincidence – we heard Cleveland police claim they killed a 12-year-old kid with a toy gun because he also “reached for his waistband.”

But this odd compulsion is not a new one.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

What a powerful compulsion this must be!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This has gone on far too long.

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

...if police accounts are to be believed.

MILITARY RESISTANCE BY EMAIL

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**“Government And Employers
Face Growing Labour Unrest”
“Ukrainian Workers Are Already
The Poorest Paid In All Europe”
“Ten Thousand Workers Gathered
Outside The Cabinet Of Ministers In
Kyiv On 23 December”**

“The Novovolynsk Miners Have Blocked The Interstate Highway Again On 13 January”



Transcarpathian teachers at Kyiv demonstration on 23 December. Banner reads “Teachers’ work deserves more respect from the state”.



Kyiv passenger transport workers striking to get their wages paid

January 16, 2015 by jmbojcun, Observerukraine.net/ [Excerpts]

The government and the employers now face growing labour unrest.

The most common cause of labour disputes throughout 2014 was the widespread practice of employers to withhold wages from their workers for months on end.

While wage arrears continue to grow, protests over this and other issues are now taking to the streets and starting to focus on a broader problem: the coalition government's austerity programme.

Workers' protests picked up noticeably in mid-December when the Verkhovna Rada (parliament) made public the 2015 state budget bill.

It contains far reaching cuts in health, education and social security and threatens workers' legal rights.

The 2015 budget was denounced by the two trades union centrals – the Federation of Trade Unions and the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions, by five oblast (provincial) trades union councils (Transcarpathia, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Mykolayiv and Vynnytsia), by Kyiv city trades union council, and by many local meetings of miners, teachers, industrial and public service workers.

Four demonstrations were mounted in the last two weeks of the year.

One thousand teachers and other public sectors workers rallied in Ivano-Frankivsk on 18 December.

Over ten thousand workers gathered outside the Cabinet of Ministers in Kyiv on 23 December in a demonstration called by the Federation of Trade Unions.



The Chernihiv contingent at the Kyiv trade union demonstration on 23 December

In Novovolynsk hundreds of coal miners held a one day strike on 24 December, demonstrated in the town and blocked the interstate highway.

And on 25 December workers at the state gunpowder plant Zirka protested in Kyiv outside the Cabinet building demanding increased security for their workplace and an end to state managers' efforts to bankrupt the plant and sell its equipment off for scrap.

Meanwhile, Kyiv tram drivers struck twice in December to secure payment of their wages, in arrears since October. They won only part of their back pay.

There are many such still unresolved disputes over wage arrears across the country – they are concentrated in the most profitable private enterprises and in public sector occupations.

They demonstrate the extent to which workers' contractual and legal rights are routinely ignored.

The rise in protests comes against the backdrop of a deepening economic crisis and haemorrhaging public finances.

The incomes of the tiny middle class, the workers, pensioners and students were decimated in 2014 by inflation (23.9%, the highest since 2000), wage cuts, wage arrears, and a currency devaluation of 50%.

The real level of unemployment is far higher than the official figures contend (9%), and would be even higher were it not for the ongoing war, which consumes its own share of working age people. Then there are over 850,000 internally displaced people in the country, many destitute and dependent on relatives and neighbours for their survival.

The 2015 state budget bill (No. 1000) was adopted by the Rada at the very end of last year, then subjected to changes behind the scenes and published finally on 12 January.

This is not a strategy to save people from further immiseration, but to balance the books while fighting a costly war and repaying a mountain of foreign debt.

Kyiv labour lawyer Vitaliy Dudin has identified a wide range of measures in the state budget bill that will fall heavily on the most vulnerable people.

The minimum monthly wage will be frozen at the 2014 level of 1218 UAH (65 Euros) until 1 December 2015 when a handsome 160 UAH will be added to it.

Ukrainian workers are already the poorest paid in all Europe.

Will workers renew the resistance they mounted in December to the government's current plans? Undoubtedly some workers are more determined than others to do so: the miners and teachers, for example. We will soon see if and how strong the resistance will return.

Labour movement activists are pointing to 15 February, when the government will review its implementation of the budget bill, as the target date for their next mobilisation.

But some resistance has already reappeared – the Novovolynsk miners have blocked the interstate highway again on 13 January and sent a delegation to Kyiv to press their case with the government.

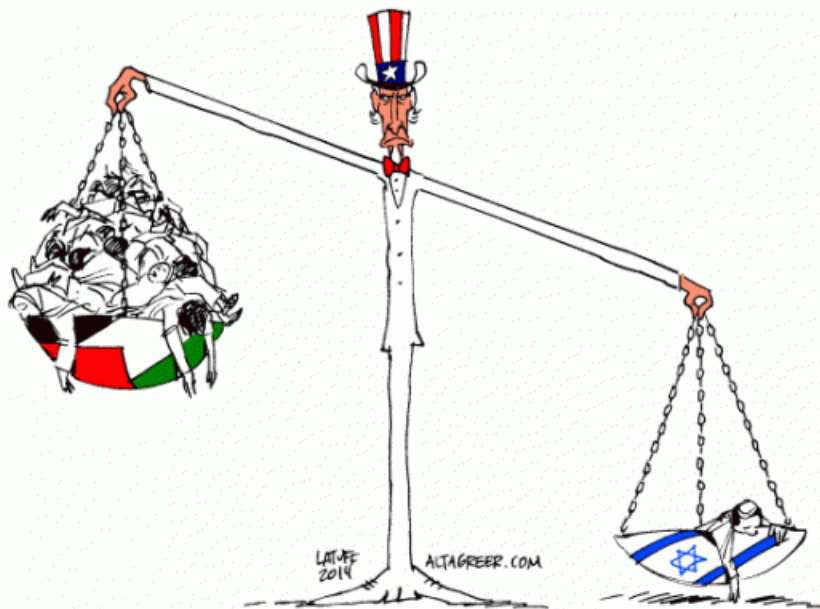
The leaders of their labour central, the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions, has already announced on 19 December that they are preparing for a strike if the

government refuses to engage in serious negotiations over wage arrears and the future of the coal mining industry.

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



OCCUPATION PALESTINE



Zionist Settler Shoots Unarmed Palestinian In Village South Of Hebron

01/12/2015 Ma'an

HEBRON (Ma'an) -- A Palestinian youth was injured Saturday when an Israeli settler shot him while he was in the Palestinian village of al-Rihiya south of Hebron.

Locals told Ma'an that Ibrahim Issa Suleiman al-Tubassi was injured after an Israeli from the nearby Jewish-only settlement of Beit Haggay opened fire.

Al-Tubassi was taken to the Hebron Governmental Hospital for treatment.

Medical sources said the youth was struck in the thigh.

An Israeli military spokeswoman did not return calls seeking comment.

Beit Haggay is located on a major road south of Hebron, and is built on land confiscated from a number of neighboring Palestinian farming villages.

Zionist Settler Mob Attacks Palestinian Emergency Rescue Team: “Brandish Knives And Guns At The Rescue Workers”

January 9, 2015 Falastin News Staff

A horde of Israeli fanatic Jewish settlers afternoon Thursday attacked an emergency rescue team in Yatta town, south of the West Bank city of al-Khalil.

Coordinator for the anti-settlement committee Rateb Jabour said Jewish settlers attacked a rescue team providing assistance for a Palestinian civilian who broke his leg in Shaab al-Batam area in al-Khalil as a result of the harsh rainy weather.

The settlers brandished knives and guns at the rescue workers and forced them to leave the area, Jabour added.

The Israeli vandals reportedly came from the Susya and Ma'on illegal settlements built on annexed Palestinian land east of Yatta town.

Occupation Regime Bans Call To Prayer At Palestinian Mosque 52 Times In December: “It Bothered Jewish Settlers”

01/05/2015 Ma'an

HEBRON -- Israeli authorities banned the Muslim call to prayer through the speakers of the Ibrahimi Mosque 52 times in December, saying it bothered Jewish settlers, the Palestinian Ministry of Endowment said Sunday.

The ministry said in a statement that the prohibition of the Muslim call to prayer was an "assault on heavenly religions and on the freedom of worship."

"This is an ongoing policy by the Israeli occupation authorities seeking to impose restrictions on Muslims and prevent them from performing prayers at the noble mosque," the statement said.

The statement added that in addition to restrictions on the call to prayer, Israeli forces regularly impose tough military restrictions at the entrances of the Ibrahimi Mosque.

In October, Israeli authorities prohibited the call to prayer 61 times.

The Ibrahimi Mosque, believed to be the burial place of the prophet Abraham, is located in central Hebron, a frequent site of tensions due to the presence of 500 Israeli settlers in the Old City.

A 1997 agreement split Hebron into areas of Palestinian and Israeli control.

The Israeli military-controlled H2 zone includes the ancient Old City, home of the revered Ibrahimi Mosque -- also split into a synagogue referred to by Jews as the Cave of the Patriarchs -- and the once thriving Shuhada street, now just shuttered shops fronts and closed homes.

More than 500,000 Israeli settlers live in settlements across the West Bank and East Jerusalem, in contravention of international law.

Zionist Settler Mob Attacks Palestinian Shepherds And Farmers:

Also “Attacked American Consular Officials”

January 3, 2015 The Times of Israel

Three Palestinians were reportedly injured Saturday during clashes with Israeli settlers and IDF troops near the West Bank town of Nablus.

Palestinian media reported that they were shot with live ammunition, which could not be independently confirmed.

The incident began when a group of settlers were said to have attacked a number of Palestinian shepherds and farmers outside the village of Aqraba, Palestinian news agency Ma'an reported.

IDF troops arrived at the scene and broke up the confrontation using riot dispersal means, according to the report.

Settlers have often been accused of vandalism against Palestinian farmers in the West Bank — particularly of slow-growing olive trees.

Palestinians say some settler groups use violence and intimidation to discourage them from working their lands.

On Friday, Israeli police said settlers attacked American consular officials during a visit the officials made to the West Bank to investigate claims of damage to Palestinian agricultural property.

Several settlers hurled rocks at personnel from Jerusalem's US Consulate near an illegal West Bank outpost.

Consulate staff were touring near the Adei Ad outpost, northeast of Ramallah, along with a number of Palestinians from the nearby village of Turmus Ayya. According to Ynet News, villagers said thousands of olive tree saplings in their lands had been uprooted by local settlers in recent days. A number of villagers with US citizenship invited consulate staff to view the damage up close.

When the American visitors arrived and exited their vehicles, a number of settlers pelted them with rocks. The consulate staff promptly left the scene, ending the incident without anyone being hurt. The rocks caused some light damage to consulate cars.

Ghouls Feast On The Dead: Paris Victims' Families Charged Nearly \$13,000 For Jerusalem Funerals



Masses turn out for Paris attack victims' funeral in Jerusalem. (photo credit: ISRAEL POLICE)

01/14/2015 Jerusalem Post

JERUSALEM — Israel's burial association charged each of the families of the Paris kosher supermarket victims nearly \$13,000 for their Jerusalem burial plots and funerals.

The charges were levied by the Chevra Kadisha, part of the Religious Services Ministry, after the families refused to bury the men in multi-story tombs, which would have been free, Ynet reported late Tuesday.

Some \$10,000 was to cover the costs of the burial plots, and another \$3,000 was to help absorb the funeral costs. The French Jewish community reportedly will handle the latter.

The men were buried in the Har HaMenuchot cemetery in Givat Shaul, Jerusalem's largest burial ground. The families initially had been offered burials in the historic Mount of Olives cemetery but declined because of security considerations, Ynet reported.

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

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

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

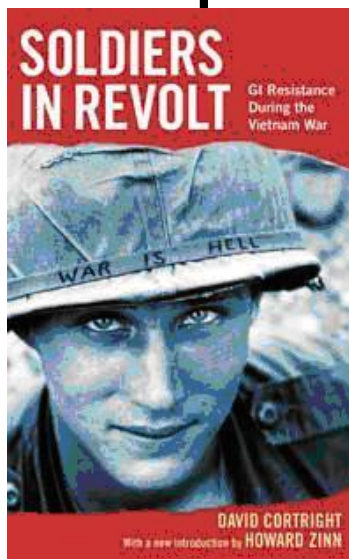
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DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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