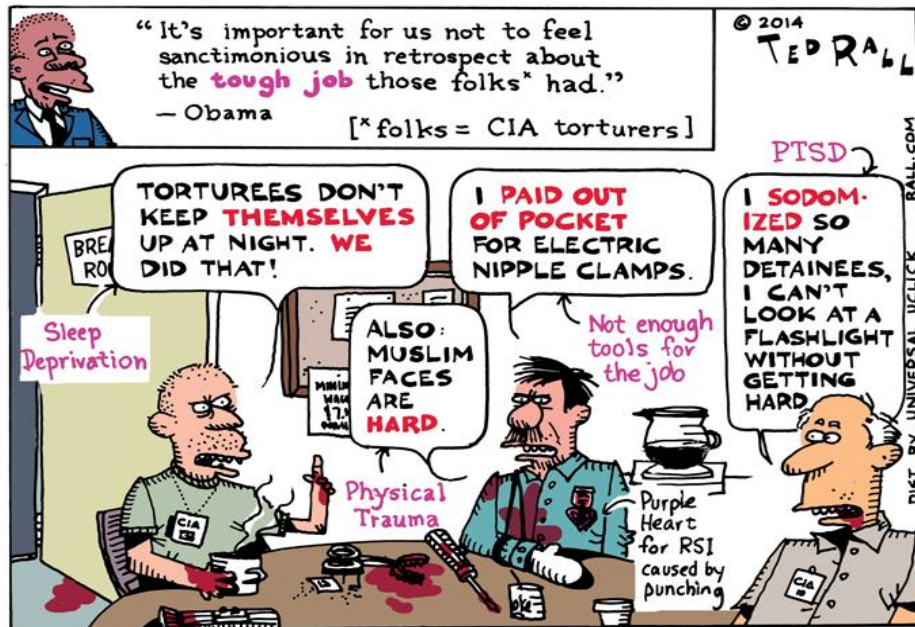


Military Resistance 13A13



Mortars, Rockets In Iraq “Not A Major Threat”? “Stupidest Statement Ever, DoD”

January 19, 2015 Army Times FORUMS

Readers respond to the Jan. 6 story online, “DoD official: Mortars, rockets in Iraq ‘not a major threat’”:

Stupidest statement ever, DOD.
— Aileen LS

Unless you’re on the receiving end.
— Andrew Carson

Idiots. I’ve been on the receiving end of that shit. It’s definitely not cool.
— Jeremy Finch

Who cares if its effective or not? Sure let’s wait until one attack kills 500 service members. That’s not how the 3000+ service members who served in Iraq and Afghanistan passed away.

It was one attack at a time.
Like.
This.
— Nil T. Clarno

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Resistance Action



[Graphic: flickr.com/photos]

18 January 2015 TOLONews.com

At least four Afghan Public Protection Force (APPF) soldiers were killed and 14 others were wounded as a result of bombing in southern Helmand, officials said.

The incident took place Sunday afternoon when a bomber detonated his explosives-laden car near APPF soldiers, said APPF commander Farid Khan.

APPF is a special police unit established in 2010 to protect foreign compounds and escort convoys in the highways.

01/24/15 Afghanistan Times:

Unknown armed men killed a police check-post commander on Saturday in the capital city of Helmand province, sources said.

Spokesman to the provincial police Col. Farid Ahmad Obaid told reporters that in charge of a police check-post in Lashkargah was killed in Safyan area at 12:00 noon. He said that after killing the check-post commander identified as SS Ahmad Shah, police cordoned off the area to search for the murderers, but the attackers had already been fled the crime scene.

01/24/15 KUNA:

At least two border police members were killed and two others wounded in a bomb attack in eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan on Saturday, said official.

The casualties occurred when a pick-up carrying the border police personnel came under attack, the spokesman for Nangarhar governor, Ahmad Zia Abdulzai told media.

Jan 22 2015 By Khaama Press

Two persons have been killed and 16 others wounded in an attack in Lashkar Gah, provincial capital of southern Helmand province.

Omar Zwak, spokesman for acting governor of Helmand says the attacker who was driving a corolla vehicle laden with explosives targeted a convoy of Afghan National Civil Order Police (ANCOP) in Lashkar Gah city around 02:30 PM Thursday.

He said the attack left one policeman killed and 16 others wounded in Lashkar Bazaar area of the city.

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

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

**Attack In Somalia Targets Turkish
Government Convoy:
Six Dead As Car Bomb Attacks
Convoy Ahead Of Erdogan
Presidential Visit;
“The Attack Occurred At The Front Gate
Of A New Hotel Called SYL Near The
Presidential Compound”**



The car explosion in Mogadishu on Thursday. Photo: Reuters

Jan. 22, 2015 By Abdalle Ahmed Mumim in Mogadishu, Somalia, and Joe Parkinson in Istanbul [Excerpts]

A car bomber killed at least six people in Somalia's capital on Thursday, police said, in an attack apparently aimed at a Turkish government convoy in town ahead of a presidential visit.

The strike came the day before Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is set to arrive in the turbulent East African country.

Turkish officials said Mr. Erdogan was planning to visit several projects in the capital funded by Turkish aid, including a new airport, seaport and hospital.

The militant group al-Shabaab, which accuses Ankara of spreading secularism in Somalia, claimed responsibility for the attack. Ali Mohamud Rage, a spokesman for the group, said Turkish officials were specifically targeted.

A car loaded with explosives rammed a convoy transporting Turkish foreign ministry officials around 2:45 p.m. local time, said Somali police spokesman Col. Qasim Roble. He said five Somali policemen, one civilian and the attacker were killed. No Turkish nationals were among the fatalities, he said.

The attack occurred at the front gate of a new hotel called SYL near the presidential compound, home to number of Somali government ministers and where visiting foreign diplomats, including members of the Turkish delegation currently in Mogadishu, are staying. The Turkish president is scheduled to visit the hotel on Friday.

A Somali minister who was inside the hotel at the time of the attack said the explosion ripped through its front entrance.

“I am safe but I can see dead bodies, and the wall of the front gate of my hotel is totally down,” said Mohamed Muktar, the minister for fisheries and marine resources.

Thursday’s blast came hours after Turkish media reported that Mogadishu had been locked down ahead of the visit, with a key highway linking the airport to the city center sealed off.

A Turkish presidential official said they wouldn’t share any details of Mr. Erdogan’s program for security reasons.

Turkish Airlines was the first international airline to launch direct flights to Mogadishu while Turkish infrastructure companies have led the renovation of Mogadishu’s battle-scarred port. Hundreds of Turkish aid workers have been rebuilding one of Somalia’s biggest hospitals and undertaken development projects including the construction of schools.

MILITARY NEWS

THIS IS HOW OBAMA BRINGS THEM HOME: ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE



The remains of Sgt. Maj. Wardell B. Turner, Nov. 26, 2014 at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Turner, 48, of Nanticoke, Md., died Nov. 24, 2014 in Kabul, Afghanistan of wounds sustained when his vehicle was attacked with an improvised explosive device. (AP Photo/Steve Ruark)

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.”

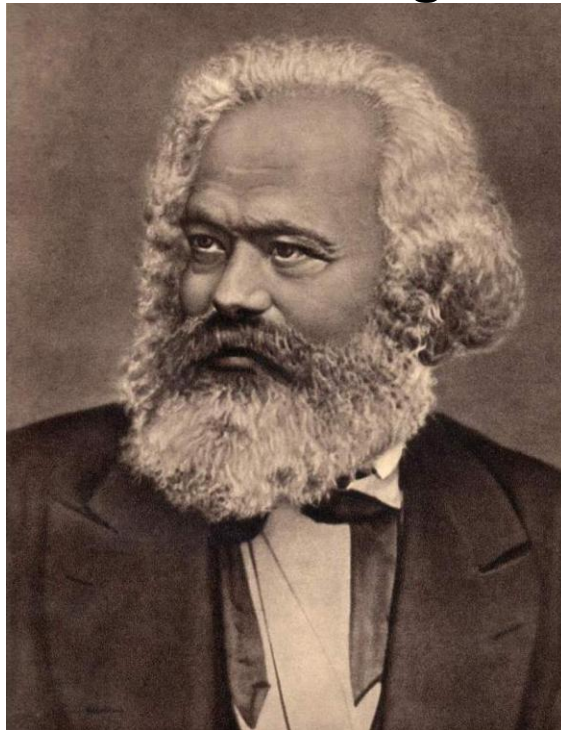
“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

“We have it in our power to begin the world over again.” -- Thomas Paine

**“At A Certain Stage Of Their
Development, The Material**

**Productive Forces Of Society
Come Into Conflict With The
Property Relations Within The
Framework Of Which They Have
Hitherto Operated”**
**“From Forms Of Development Of The
Productive Forces These Relations
Turn Into Their Fetters”**
**“At That Point An Era Of Social
Revolution Begins”**



[The Moor saw it coming.]

Preface To A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy, Karl Marx, 1859 [Excerpt]

In the social production of their existence, men inevitably enter into definite, necessary relations, which are independent of their will, namely relations of production

corresponding to a determinate stage of the development of their material forces of production.

The totality of these relations of production constitutes the economic structure of society, the real foundation, on which there arises a legal and political superstructure and to which there correspond definite forms of social consciousness.

The mode of production of material life conditions the social, political and intellectual life-process in general.

It is not the consciousness of men that determines their being, but on the contrary it is their social being that determines their consciousness.

At a certain stage of their development, the material productive forces of society come into conflict with the existing relations of production or – what is merely a legal expression for the same thing – with the property relations within the framework of which they have hitherto operated.

From forms of development of the productive forces these relations turn into their fetters.

At that point an era of social revolution begins.

With the change in the economic foundation, the whole immense superstructure is more slowly or more rapidly transformed.

In considering such transformations it is always necessary to distinguish between the material transformation of the economic conditions of production, which can be determined with the precision of natural science, and the legal, political, religious, artistic or philosophic – in short, ideological forms in which men become conscious of this conflict and fight it out.

Just as one does not judge an individual by what he thinks about himself, so one cannot judge such a period of transformation by its consciousness, but, on the contrary, this consciousness must be explained from the contradictions of material life, from the conflict existing between the social forces of production and the relations of production.

A social order never perishes before all the productive forces for which it is broadly sufficient have been developed, and new superior relations of production never replace older ones before the material conditions for their existence have matured within the womb of the old society.

Mankind thus inevitably sets itself only such tasks as can solve, since closer examination will always show that the task itself arises only when the material conditions for its solution are already present or at least in the process of formation.

I Don't Vaccinate My Child Because It's My Right To Decide What Eliminated Diseases Come Roaring Back



Jan 23, 2015 By Andrea Martin, The Onion

As a mother, I put my parenting decisions above all else. Nobody knows my son better than me, and the choices I make about how to care for him are no one's business but my own.

So, when other people tell me how they think I should be raising my child, I simply can't tolerate it.

Regardless of what anyone else thinks, I fully stand behind my choices as a mom, including my choice not to vaccinate my son, because it is my fundamental right as a parent to decide which eradicated diseases come roaring back.

The decision to cause a full-blown, multi-state pandemic of a virus that was effectively eliminated from the national population generations ago is my choice alone, and regardless of your personal convictions, that right should never be taken away from a child's parent. Never.

Say what you will about me, but I've read the information out there and weighed every option, so I am confident in my choice to revive a debilitating illness that was long ago declared dead and let it spread like wildfire from school to school, town to town, and state to state, until it reaches every corner of the country.

Leaving such a momentous decision to someone you haven't even met and who doesn't care about your child personally—now that's absurd!

Maybe I choose to bring back the mumps. Or maybe it's diphtheria. Or maybe it's some other potentially fatal disease that can easily pass among those too young or too medically unfit to be vaccinated themselves.

But whichever highly communicable and formerly wiped-out disease that I opt to resurrect with a vengeance, it is a highly personal decision that only I and my family have the liberty to make.

The bottom line is that I'm this child's mother, and I know what's best.

End of story.

Politicians, pharmaceutical companies—they don't know the specific circumstances that made me decide to breathe new life into a viral infection that scientists and the nation at large celebrated stamping out roughly a century ago.

It seems like all they care about is following unexamined old rules, injecting chemicals into our kids, preventing ghastly illnesses that used to ravage millions and have since been erased from storming back and wreaking mass havoc on a national scale, and making a buck.

Should we really be listening to them and not our own hearts?

I am by no means telling mothers and fathers out there what to do; I'm simply standing up for every parent's right to make his or her own decision.

You may choose to follow the government-recommended immunization schedule for your child, and that's your decision as a parent.

And I might choose to unleash rubella on thousands upon thousands of helpless people, and that's my decision as a parent.

It's simple: You don't tell me how to raise my kids to avoid reviving a horrific illness that hasn't been seen on our shores since our grandparents were children, and I won't tell you how to raise yours.

Look, I've done the research on these issues, I've read the statistics, and I've carefully considered the costs and benefits, and there's simply no question in my mind that inciting a nationwide health emergency by unleashing a disease that can kill 20 percent or more of its victims is the right one for my child.

People need to respect that and move on.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

**Albanian Miners Continue
Underground Sit-Down Strike:
“The Entire Union Of 2,800 Former
Miners Was Prepared To Go Down
In The Mines And Join The Strike”**

“Schoolchildren Also Came To Trepca With Their Teacher” “The Pupils Brought Flowers And Recited A Poem”

22 Jan 15 by Una Hajdari, BIRN

Around 725 Kosovo Albanian miners in the middle and southern chain of the Trepca mining complex on Thursday decided to continue their strike, announced at 4 pm, around six hours after starting a meeting on Thursday.

They said the strike would continue and they would soon send their full list of requests to the Prime Minister, Isa Mustafa.

The meeting was held to discuss a letter that the miners had received from Mustafa and in which he laid out the reasons for the government’s decision on Monday to postpone a vote on the transformation of Trepca.

The letter reportedly said that the government would “not do anything to damage the interests of Trepca and Kosovo.

“We are taking all the legal measures to solve the status of Trepca once and for all,” the Prime Minister’s letter added.

The strike started early Tuesday following the decision of the government to back out of a deal to transform the mines.

“The miners want the government and parliament... to ratify the law transforming the Trepca complex into a public enterprise in which case the government of Kosovo is the owner,” Musa Mustafa, spokesperson for the Trepca miners, told Balkan Insight.

The health of some striking miners has started to deteriorate, since a large number have been on strike for three days in a row now on the 8th “horizon” or level, which is 750 meters underground.

Some report difficulties in breathing and high blood pressure. Specialist doctors are down with the miners and monitoring their condition.

The mayor of south Mitrovica, the municipality in which the Stan Terg mines lie, also joined them at one point.

“The situation is becoming more difficult. For a mayor to see his citizens in such a state is difficult,” Agim Bahtiri said.

“I appeal to the institutions of Kosovo to take the situation very seriously and find a solution for Trepca,” the mayor continued.

Various people have come to show their support for the strike, including former miners.

“We will support any decision made by the miners who are down there,” said Enver Peci, from the union of retired miners.

He said that the entire union of 2,800 former miners was prepared to go down in the mines and join the strike, but had been unable to do so as yet.

A group of schoolchildren also came to Trepca with their teacher. “We consider Trepca our biggest treasure and wealth,” said the teacher, Hateme Bellipoja, who was leading the group of fourth-graders from the local Aziz Sylejmani junior school.

The pupils brought flowers and recited a poem, which included the verse: “In the past, others wanted to abuse you. Who would have thought that the day would come when our own government would do this?”

Some chanted “Trepca is ours!”, reflecting the fact that many of their family members worked in Trepca in the past.

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK

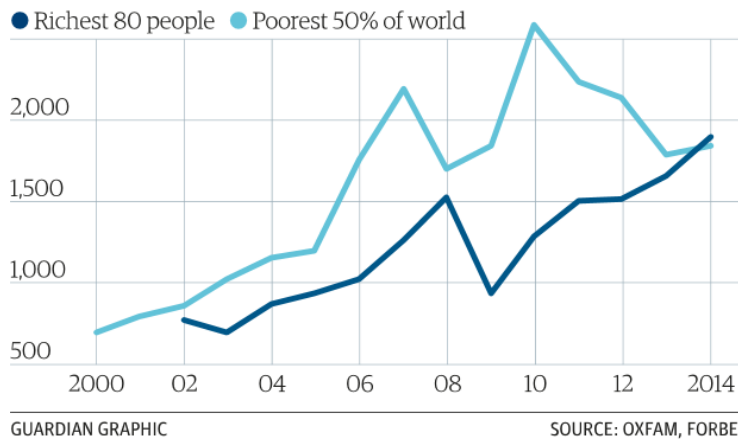


“The Share Of The World’s Wealth Owned By The Best-Off 1% Has

Increased From 44% In 2009 To 48% In 2014, While The Least Well-Off 80% Currently Own Just 5.5%’
“We See A Concentration Of Wealth Capturing Power And Leaving Ordinary People Voiceless And Their Interests Uncared For”
“The Wealth Of The Richest 80 Doubled In Cash Terms Between 2009 And 2014”

Wealth of the richest 80 people

Combined wealth in current \$bn



[Thanks to Sandy Kelson, Veteran & Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

19 January 2015 by Larry Elliott, economics editor, and Ed Pilkington, Guardian News and Media Limited & By PATRICIA COHEN, The New York Times Company [Excepts]

Billionaires and politicians gathering in Switzerland this week will come under pressure to tackle rising inequality after a study found that – on current trends – by next year, 1% of the world’s population will own more wealth than the other 99%.

Ahead of this week’s annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in the ski resort of Davos, the anti-poverty charity Oxfam said it would use its high-profile role at the gathering to demand urgent action to narrow the gap between rich and poor.

The charity's research, published on Monday, shows that the share of the world's wealth owned by the best-off 1% has increased from 44% in 2009 to 48% in 2014, while the least well-off 80% currently own just 5.5%.

Oxfam added that on current trends the richest 1% would own more than 50% of the world's wealth by 2016.



CNN

Winnie Byanyima, executive director of Oxfam International and one of the six co-chairs at this year's WEF, said the increased concentration of wealth seen since the deep recession of 2008-09 was dangerous and needed to be reversed.

In an interview with the Guardian, Byanyima said: "We want to bring a message from the people in the poorest countries in the world to the forum of the most powerful business and political leaders.

"The message is that rising inequality is dangerous. It's bad for growth and it's bad for governance. We see a concentration of wealth capturing power and leaving ordinary people voiceless and their interests uncared for."

Oxfam made headlines at Davos last year with a study showing that the 85 richest people on the planet have the same wealth as the poorest 50% (3.5 billion people).

Today the 80 wealthiest people in the world altogether own \$1.9 trillion, the report found, nearly the same amount shared by the 3.5 billion people who occupy the bottom half of the world's income scale. (

Byanyima said: "Do we really want to live in a world where the 1% own more than the rest of us combined?"

The scale of global inequality is quite simply staggering and despite the issues shooting up the global agenda, the gap between the richest and the rest is widening fast.”

Oxfam said the wealth of the richest 80 doubled in cash terms between 2009 and 2014, and that there was an increasing tendency for wealth to be inherited and to be used as a lobbying tool by the rich to further their own interests.

It noted that more than a third of the 1,645 billionaires listed by Forbes inherited some or all of their riches, while 20% have interests in the financial and insurance sectors, a group which saw their cash wealth increase by 11% in the 12 months to March 2014.

These sectors spent \$550m lobbying policymakers in Washington and Brussels during 2013.

During the 2012 US election cycle alone, the financial sector provided \$571m in campaign contributions.

Winnie Byanyima, the charity’s executive director, noted in a statement that more than a billion people lived on less than \$1.25 a day.

Investors with interests in finance, insurance and health saw the biggest windfalls, Oxfam said.

Using data from Forbes magazine’s list of billionaires, it said those listed as having interests in the pharmaceutical and health care industries saw their net worth jump by 47 percent.

The charity credited those individuals’ rapidly growing fortunes in part to multimillion-dollar lobbying campaigns to protect and enhance their interests.

MORE:

Richest One Per Cent Disappointed to Possess Only Half of World’s Wealth

20 January 15 By Andy Borowitz, The Borowitz Report

A new Oxfam report indicating that the wealthiest one per cent possesses about half of the world’s wealth has left the richest people in the world “reeling with disappointment,” a leading billionaire said on Tuesday.

Speaking to reporters in Davos, Switzerland, where he is attending the World Economic Forum, the hedge-fund owner Harland Dorrinson said, “I think I speak for a lot of my fellow billionaires when I say I thought we were doing a good deal better than that.”

Calling the Oxfam findings “sobering,” he said that he hoped they would serve “as a wake-up call to billionaires everywhere that it’s time to up our game.”

“Quite frankly, a lot of us thought that by buying politicians, rewriting tax laws, and hiding money overseas, we were getting it done,” said Dorrinson, who owns the hedge fund Garrote Capital. “If, at the end of the day, all we control is a measly half of the world’s wealth, clearly we need to do more—much more.”

In Davos, Dorrinson is huddling with other billionaires in the hopes of setting an ambitious goal for the top one per cent: to own the other half of the world’s wealth by 2025.

While he considers this target “doable,” Dorrinson said that he does not underestimate the challenge of wresting the other half from the “vise-like grip” of the approximately seven billion people who comprise the bottom ninety-nine per cent.

“Getting that other half is not going to be a walk in the park,” he said. “But ten years from now, when Oxfam says that the top one per cent owns everything in the world, it’ll all have been worth it.”

Economy In Crisis, Venezuela’s Maduro Tells Citizens “God Will Provide”

“Higher Than 64 Percent Inflation And Dwindling Foreign Reserves”

“Maduro’s Approval Ratings Are In The Low 20s”

Comment: T

Venezuelan material reality is that the relations of production are a variant of capitalism, despite nonsense to the contrary propagated by mildly radical commentators eternally looking for some hero to worship.

In fact, the private sector still controls two-thirds of Venezuela’s economy - the same as when Mr. Chavez was elected in 1998, according to estimates by the Central Bank.

To be sure there are divisions within the ruling class of capitalists.

There are old, decrepit pre-Chavez sections of the local ruling class who still, for the most part, preserve their wealth and profits, although not happy with the regime, and pinched by it, fearing the reality of their diminishing share of national income, and of a regime willing to both make deals with them, and use state power to trim their holdings and political position.

There are newly enriched sections of the ruling class, some in business partnership with regime personnel, amassing new wealth through regime favors. Some are in government, some private capitalists, some both. They feed on corruption.

There are the governmental capitalists proper, parasites emerging from the local petty bourgeoisie, who enrich themselves and their families from their commanding positions in the state, and who administer, in particular, the oil industry: state capitalists in the true sense of the term.

The effect is, as in all capitalist class formations: bitter competition, waste, inefficiency, greed, thieving and the determination of those on top to stay on top of the society and command what they regard as their personal share of national wealth, come what may: the entitled ones.

All of these sections of the ruling class agree, more or less, on a nationalist capitalism, attempting to diminish the amount siphoned off by the U.S. Empire, and thereby increase their own takings of the society's wealth.

The chaos produced is further complicated by movements from below, which demand more for the working class and the unemployed poor, and continually press the government to make good on the abstract socialist rhetoric it employs.

The governmental capitalists, in particular, are walking a difficult tightrope, fearful of working class movement from below threatening to overwhelm their state, as more sections of the working class, who have no control over the economy or the industries in which they work, see through the lie that there is "socialism" in Venezuela.

The regime has had to expend some state capital more or less continuously in successful hope so far of reducing popular rage by satisfying some of the demand for better lives, but merely compounding the crisis in economic relations becoming so obvious now.

While Chavez lived, and was perceived as a populist hero, especially as an opponent of the truly evil U.S. Empire, the crisis of Venezuelan capitalism described below could be kicked down the road.

Not any more.

Capitalism worldwide is in crisis.

Venezuela is no exception.

January 22, 2015 By Girish Gupta, Correspondent, Christian Science Monitor [Excerpts]

Caracas — At a pharmacy in Caracas Thursday morning, hundreds of people stood in line hoping to get their hands on diapers and other essentials inside. Queuing up has become routine for many here, as Venezuela has struggled to pay for the import of most of its goods.

But the morning after a much-anticipated speech by Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro, which had citizens hoping to hear concrete plans for a way out of the nation's economic tailspin, many fear tougher times are on the horizon.

"We have confidence in God but not so much Maduro. He's to blame for all this," says Marvelis Bazque, a housewife standing in line.

She's referencing a line from the president's speech Wednesday night, where he assured Venezuelans that despite a big drop in the price of oil, which the nation greatly relies on, "God will provide."

The Venezuelan economy is in tatters with higher than 64 percent inflation and dwindling foreign reserves.

Protests like those that paralyzed the country last February are beginning to sprout up again.

Maduro's decision to essentially maintain business as usual – in his speech last night he accused opposition politicians of planning a coup and avoided an explicit devaluation of the currency – signaled to Venezuelans and the world that he's not willing to face the country's ailing economy head on.

Oil sales account for 96 percent of Venezuela's foreign income, a figure that has gone up from around 80 percent since former President Hugo Chávez came to power in 1999.

With little diversification of the economy, Venezuela has suffered more than any other country from the major fall in global oil prices the past few months.

Maria Corina Machado, a hardline critic of the government, wrote on Twitter: "Maduro has confessed he has no idea what to do ... God isn't responsible for this horror, nor the solution."

Traditional government supporters have become increasingly angered by the economic and political situation here, and Maduro's approval ratings are in the low 20s.

Inflation last year topped 64 percent and the country's economy contracted by 2.8 percent.

Back in line at the pharmacy, Maureen Garban, who sells cakes for a living, says the struggle to find sugar has put her livelihood at risk.

"Maduro is waiting for a miracle but it's not going to happen," she said.

Enacting major pragmatic policy changes is tough for Maduro, who does not have the same political capital as his predecessor.

Reforms introduced last night include a slight revamp of the complex exchange rate system. Currently, the country offers three official exchange rates with the US dollar.

The strongest rate, 6.3 bolivars per greenback is severely overvalued; a black market exists on which the dollar sells for 30 times that figure.

That strongest rate is to be maintained for essentials such as food and medicine, though importers say they are not receiving money at this rate regardless. The two other rates are to be merged and a new third rate introduced, which will allow private brokers to trade in hard currency.

“You don’t see an official exchange rate devaluation but you see a major adjustment in the average exchange rate,” says Efrain Velazquez, a Caracas-based economic consultant. He expects 2015’s average to be even weaker, meaning that importers are paying more to bring goods in, and so prices are going to go up.

Maduro also announced that the country’s gas prices, the lowest in the world at just a few cents per tank, were a “distortion.”

He said the time had come to raise them, which would be a small start to recovering some of the lost income due to the fall in international oil prices. However, no concrete announcements were made.

Last time the government here tried to increase gas prices, in 1989, thousands took to the streets to protest.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE



Stupid Zionist Cruelty Rolls On:

“Bulldozers On Sunday Morning Demolished Two Shade Structures Built To Protect Visitors From Sunlight And Rains At Palestinian Cemetery”

12 Jan 2015 palestinasummer.tumblr.com/

Israeli municipal bulldozers on Sunday morning demolished shade structures built a few weeks ago in Taso cemetery by the elected Islamic council in Yaffa (Jaffa) city.

According to the website Yaffa 48, Israeli municipal workers and bulldozers stormed the cemetery at dawn and removed two shade structures built to protect visitors from sunlight and rains at the pretext of unlicensed construction.

The Islamic council warned that the demolition of the shade structures in the cemetery would offend the feelings of Muslims in the city.

"Desecrating Taso cemetery and its sanctity is considered a very serious action, and the municipality flouted the feelings of Muslims when it sent its bulldozers to demolish the shades in the cemetery," the council stated.

Consequently, the Islamic council in the city held an emergency meeting on Sunday evening and decided to organize events and rallies during the current week to protest the demolition of structures in the cemetery.

In a statement released following the meeting, the council strongly condemned the Israeli action as "a barbaric act that can only be done by thugs," pointing out that the Tel Aviv municipal authorities broke the locks of the cemetery's main gate at dawn before carrying out the demolition.

It said that it would start on Monday to build three shade structures in the cemetery instead of the razed ones after it had received generous donations from Palestinian citizens in the city.

More Palestinian Teenagers Shot By Israeli Military

January 12, 2015 by International Solidarity Movement, Nablus Team

On Saturday, January 10th, Palestinian youths went out to play in the snow on Al-Sabeh Mountain in east Burin. A group of Israeli settlers approached the village as if to attack it, and clashes erupted between them and the youth.

Israeli soldiers arrived on the scene and protected the attacking settlers. They shot two Palestinian youths, Mohammed Zacharia (15) and Abbas Jamal (18).



Mohammed Zacharia, 15

Abbas Jamal's father Jamal Asous, director of the Nur Shams refugee camp through UNRWA, spoke with ISM. He said that Zacharia's brother, 18, has also been wounded in clashes with settlers twice and now might face three years in an Israeli prison.

He also showed where Jamal was injured in his other leg in 2013 and had to have surgery – a large scar remains to testify of the ordeal.

Having injuries in both legs is disastrous for Jamal, given he is studying to be a land surveyor.

Violent attacks on Palestinians have become far too common throughout the West Bank. In the past few weeks, Israeli soldiers have shot several shepherds in Aqraba and fired volumes of tear gas at young schoolchildren in Hebron; settlers also attacked a 12-year-old in Nablus.

As Asous conveyed in the hospital, children should be able to play, study and go about their lives freely without the constant threat of violence. It is their right.

Demonstrators Throw Shoes, Eggs At Canadian Foreign Minister In Ramallah:

“Mr. Baird Going Out Of His Way To Legitimize The Banality And Brutality Of A 50-Year-Old Israeli Occupation”

18/01/2015 Ma'an

RAMALLAH -- Protestors threw shoes and eggs at Canadian Foreign Minister John Baird outside the Palestinian Foreign Ministry on Sunday, amid a growing war of words between him and top PLO official Saeb Erekat.

Dozens of Palestinians attacked the foreign minister's vehicle as it exited the foreign ministry, located in al-Bireh near Ramallah, after he finished a meeting with his Palestinian counterpart Riyad al-Maliki.

The protest was organized by the youth department of the Fatah movement to express opposition to the pro-Israeli political positions expressed by successive Canadian governments in recent years.

The most recent action taken by the Canadian government that has outraged the Palestinian public was a vote against a bid at the United Nations Security Council seeking to end the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories by 2017.

In recent weeks, foreign minister Baird has also demanded top PLO official Erekat apologize for likening Israel to the Islamic State group in statements made in early January.

"There is no difference between the terrorism practiced by the group led by (IS leader) Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and Israel's terrorism," he said at the time.

"Ending settlement activities is a prerequisite for eliminating terrorism."

Baird condemned the statements, saying that they undermined efforts to fight the IS group that has spread through Iraq and Syria in recent years.

Erekat, however, on Friday responded to demands for the apology in a strongly-worded opinion piece entitled, "It is John Baird who needs to apologize to the Palestinian people" published in The Globe and Mail, a top Canadian newspaper.

"After spending the past few years listening to Mr. Baird going out of his way to legitimize the banality and brutality of a 50-year-old Israeli occupation, I tell Mr. Baird: enough," he said in the piece.

"If there is anyone that has to apologize, it is Mr. Baird himself. He should first apologize to his own citizenry, many of whom are God-loving Jews, Christians and Muslims who would never condone nor cheer for an Israeli government that stretches support to Israeli settlers who attack churches and mosques."

He also reiterated his perceived similarities between Israel and the IS group, based on their disregard for human life and religion.

"Those who actively burn mosques and churches in Palestine, and campaign to destroy the Al Aqsa Mosque, are no less terrorists than those who kicked the Christians out of Mosul."

"But Canada, instead of supporting the application of international law, has decided to encourage Israel to continue with its crimes.

"As I stated in a letter to Mr. Baird after his meeting in Occupied East Jerusalem: 'Canada's actions are tantamount to complicity in ongoing Israeli violations of the international laws of war.'"

Heroic Occupation Soldiers Attack Palestinian Bakery Workers in Nablus

January 18, 2015 by IMEMC News & Agencies

Three Palestinians required medical treatment, Sunday morning, after being assaulted by Israeli soldiers while working at a bakery in the center of Nablus.

Palestinian security sources told Ma'an News Agency that Israeli military forces entered the city center in the area of Shuhada Square, early Sunday, where they carried out a number of raids on stores in the Anabtawi building.

They entered the Palestine Bakery and, during the raid, physically assaulted three workers.

Nayif Muhammad Ali al-Shami, his brother Jihad al-Shami, and Muhammad Ali Ramadan were taken to al-Watani Hospital in Nablus, as a result of the incident, and were later discharged after receiving treatment.

Security sources said that, during the Nablus raid, clashes also took place between Palestinian youth and soldiers, in the streets.

Zionist Mob Uproots Palestinian Farmlands Near Bethlehem

January 15, 2015 by Saed Bannoura, IMEMC & Agencies

A group of extremist Israeli settlers, accompanied by three bulldozers, invaded Palestinian lands, south of the West Bank city of Bethlehem, and started bulldozing and uprooting them.

Coordinator of the Popular Committee against the Wall and Settlements, south of Bethlehem, Hasan Breijiyya, told the Wafa Palestinian News Agency that the settlers drove three bulldozers into Khamat an-Nahla area, close to the Efrat illegal colony, and starting bulldozing nearly 30 Dunams of farmlands.

The lands belong to resident Mohammad Yahia 'Ayyash; it has been repeatedly invaded, and bulldozed, by the Israeli fanatics.

Breijiyya said the bulldozing and uprooting in the area aims at paving a new road that would lead to an illegal settlement outpost the settlers intend to establish.

He added that, in 2013, a group of armed Israeli extremists, invaded the area and installed a tent, meant to be the foundation of the new illegal outpost.

**To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, check out:
<http://www.palestinechronicle.com/>
The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."**

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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Six Weeks' Paid Leave Opposed by People With Thirty-Three Weeks' Paid Leave



Wounded Times Blog

23 January 15 By Andy Borowitz, The Borowitz Report

President Obama's proposal to give workers six weeks of paid leave is meeting strong opposition from a group of people who annually receive thirty-three weeks of paid leave.

Members of the group heard the President's proposal on Tuesday night, one of the few nights of the year when they are required to report to their workplace.

The opponents of paid leave, who show up for work a hundred and thirty-seven days per year and receive paid leave for the other two hundred and twenty-eight, were baffled by other moments in the President's speech.

For example, they were confused by Obama's challenge to try to survive on a full-time job that pays fifteen thousand dollars, since they all currently hold a part-time job that pays a hundred and seventy-four thousand dollars.

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