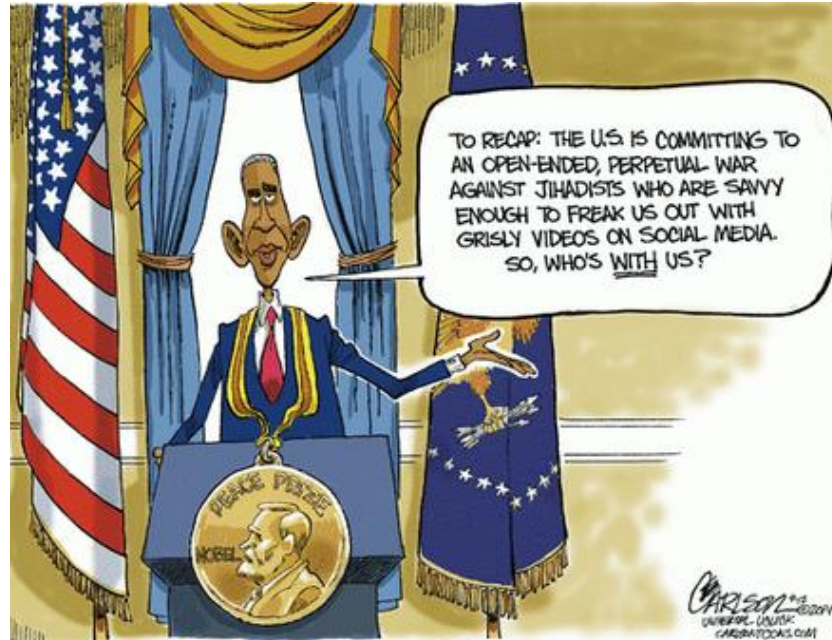


## **Military Resistance 13A16**



**Obama Regime Suddenly  
Orders Information About War  
On Afghanistan Kept Secret  
From Public:  
“It Raises Stark Questions About  
The State Of The Fight Against  
The Taliban”  
“Also Tried To Classify The Number  
Of American Troops In Afghanistan,**

# **A Figure Publicly Announced Last Year”**

## **“‘The Classification Of This Volume Of Data,’ The Inspector General Said In Its Report, ‘Is Unprecedented’”**

JAN. 29, 2015 By MATTHEW ROSENBERGJAN, New York Times [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON —

The United States has spent about \$65 billion to build Afghanistan’s army and police forces, and until this month the American-led coalition regularly shared details on how the money was being put to use and on the Afghan forces’ progress.

But as of this month, ask a question as seemingly straightforward as the number of Afghan soldiers and police officers in uniform, and the military coalition offers a singularly unrevealing answer:

The information is now considered classified.

The American outlay for weapons and gear for Afghan forces?

Classified.

The cost of teaching Afghan soldiers to read and write?

Even that is now a secret.

[T]he move to classify data about the Afghan forces removes one of the most crucial measures for assessing the accomplishments of the international coalition there.

And it raises stark questions about the state of the fight against the Taliban, coming after a year in which the Afghan forces took record-high casualties as they battled heavy militant offensives.

Through October, getting a sense of how the American-led project to build a viable Afghan military and police force was progressing could be readily gleaned from quarterly reports released by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, the American government’s watchdog for spending in Afghanistan.

The inspector general’s last report, released in October and covering a period through August, included data on the size of the army and the police force — just over 181,000 soldiers and 152,000 police officers at that point. The report found that each force was at about 97 percent of its targeted strength.

It broke down the Afghan military's manpower numbers by corps, and included data on attrition for the army and police, which sustained record casualties and struggled with desertion, a problem that has persisted for years. Between September and August, for instance, 36,000 soldiers were dropped from the army's rolls because they had been killed or disabled, or had deserted or concluded their commitment for reasons honorable and dishonorable.

None of that information will be publicly updated for the final quarter of last year in the inspector general's latest quarterly report to Congress, which was provided to The New York Times ahead of its release on Thursday.

Instead, the numbers will now be included in a classified appendix, viewable only by government officials with high-level security clearances.

"The classification of this volume of data," the inspector general said in its report, "is unprecedented."

Initially, the coalition also tried to classify the number of American troops in Afghanistan, a figure that was publicly announced last year by the Obama administration, said an American official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he was discussing classified material.

Though the coalition did not end up going that far, it did classify nearly every piece of data used by the inspector general to assess the Afghan security forces.

In a letter to the inspector general, Gen. John F. Campbell, the commander of coalition forces, said the information now had to be kept secret to protect the lives of American service members and their Afghan allies, arguing that the Taliban could use the data "to sharpen their attacks."

Some of the information could certainly be seen as demoralizing, such as the attrition rates within Afghan forces.

But the potential for embarrassment is not considered a legitimate rationale for classifying information, and both Republican and Democratic members of Congress have expressed skepticism about General Campbell's move.

"With few exceptions, the public's business ought to be public," said Senator Charles E. Grassley, Republican of Iowa, whose staff was briefed on the inspector general's report this week. "Suddenly classifying information that was public for years raises questions."

Senator Claire McCaskill, Democrat of Missouri, was more pointed: "I'm offended that this previously unclassified information is now being classified.

"Public access to this information is one of the most powerful tools we've got to ensure we're holding our government accountable, and these reports remain as vital as ever to oversight of taxpayer-financed Afghan infrastructure," she said.

For years, the inspector general's quarterly reports were among the few easily accessible sources for information about the state of Afghan forces, in addition to other major areas of American spending in Afghanistan.

In the latest report, that information has been reduced to a few top-line spending figures, such as how much has been spent on the transportation for the army (\$11.5 billion) or the total spent on police training and operations (\$3.5 billion).

Where the inspector general once offered breakdowns of what that money had bought, its report now includes boilerplate saying that details “can be found in Appendix E of this report” — that is, the classified section of the report, which even many of the people who work in Congress cannot view, and is completely off limits to the general public.

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Three US Mercenaries Killed By Afghan Soldier In Afghan Air Force Hanger At Kabul International Airport**

30 January 2015 ABC Radio Australia & NBC News & Pajhwok.com/

Three American contractors and an Afghan national have been shot dead in an apparent “insider attack” at Kabul airport.

The shooting happened at close range in the Afghan air force hanger at Kabul's international airport. The assailant was immediately shot dead, said the Afghan security official, who works on the civilian side of the airport.

An Afghan air force official told Reuters an Afghan soldier killed the three contractors and wounded a fourth.

A US official speaking to AFP news agency on condition of anonymity said details of the shooting incident remained unclear.

They said victims were employed under a US defence department contract and died from gunshot wounds.

The Afghan air force official said an investigation had been opened.

“It is unclear yet why he shot these advisers and no one else was there to tell us the reason,” the Afghan air force official said.

The international force in Afghanistan confirmed the shooting took place on Thursday evening.

The airport in Kabul is heavily guarded, with one section devoted to commercial aircraft and another area set aside for a foreign military contingent.

Claiming credit for the attack, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid identified the assailant as Ihsanullah, a resident of Dawlat Shah district in eastern Laghman province.

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## Resistance Action



[Graphic: flickr.com/photos]

Jan 28 2015 By Zabihullah Moosakhail, Khaama Press

An Afghan policewoman was killed following an explosion in western Herat province of Afghanistan on Wednesday afternoon.

According to the local government officials, the incident took place on Herat-Islam Qala highway targeting a check post of the police forces.

The officials further added two policemen were also injured following the explosion.

The type of the explosion is not clear so far and the police forces have launched an investigation in connection to the incident, the officials said.

Herat is among the relatively peaceful provinces in western Afghanistan but the anti-government armed militant groups have recently stepped insurgency activities in a number of its districts during the recent years.

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30 January 2015 ABC Radio Australia

Taliban militants attacked a checkpoint operated by a group of armed villagers late on Wednesday evening killing 11, according to an official.

“The attack took place one month after a Taliban insurgent joined the villagers' militia,” deputy governor Mohammad Ali Ahmadi said.

Mr Ahmadi said the villagers had formed their own militia because there was no permanent security force in their area.

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

## **Largest U.S. Aid Contractor Suspended For Corruption: “IRD Was Awarded Projects Amounting More Than \$1 Billion In Afghanistan And Roughly \$85.57 Million In Iraq Between 2006 And 2014”**

Jan 27 2015 Khaama Press

The main U.S. foreign assistance agency – United States Agency for International Development (USAID) said Monday that it has suspended one of its largest nonprofit contractors in Afghanistan and Iraq.

A statement by USAID said the decision to halt contract awards to International Relief and Development (IRD) was taken after finding “serious misconduct” involved in funding.

“The agency’s review revealed serious misconduct in IRD’s performance, management, internal controls and present responsibility,” the statement by USAID said.

The statement further added “The agency is aware that the USAID Office of the Inspector General is conducting an investigation of IRD.”

“USAID has a zero tolerance policy for mismanagement of American taxpayer funds and will take every measure at our disposal to recover these funds,” the statement added.

According to statistics provided by USAID, IRD was awarded projects amounting more than \$1 billion in Afghanistan and roughly \$85.57 million in Iraq between 2006 and 2014.

In the meantime, IRD issued a statement following USAID’s decision stating that the organization was “cooperating fully” with USAID.

“We are working on a response to USAID that will directly address the agency’s concerns, and re-establish confidence that federal taxpayer funds are being prudently managed by IRD,” the organization’s CEO Roger Ervin said.

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## **MILITARY NEWS**

# **Syria Rebels Overrun Assad Dictatorships' Strategic Base In South:**

**“This Advance Will Help Us Cut Supply Routes Of The Regime Forces In The South From Their Supplies In The North”**

**The Base “Lies At The Heart Of A Heavily Fortified Zone Which Has Formed A Southern Line Of Defence Protecting Damascus”**

Jan 26, 2015 Reuters. Reporting by Suleiman Al-Khalidi; Editing by Crispian Balmer

Syrian insurgents including fighters from al Qaeda's Nusra Front, seized an important government army base in the southwestern Deraa province on Sunday, fighters who took part in the battle said.

The base, one of several used to pound rebel-held villages and towns in southern Syria and along the frontier with Jordan, lies at the heart of a heavily fortified zone which has formed a southern line of defence protecting the capital, Damascus.

The fighters said hundreds of insurgents armed with rocket launchers and anti-aircraft weapons had taken over the Brigade 82 base near the town of Sheikh Maskeen, close to the main north-south highway between Damascus and Jordan.

“This advance will help us cut supply routes of the regime forces in the south from their supplies in the north to be able to eventually take over Deraa city,” Colonel Saber Safar, a leader of the First Army, a major faction of Western-backed rebels in the “Southern Front” grouping, told Reuters by phone.

**The rebel gain is the latest advance in the south, where President Bashar al-Assad's forces have been on the defensive, losing control of large areas of**

**countryside as well as parts of the border along with Israel near the Golan Heights, according to regional military experts and diplomats.**

**Fighters said the capture of the base had helped them to overrun most of the nearby town of Sheikh Maskeen, which they have attacked several times in last few months, but failed to seize.**

**The town is one of the main army supply routes to the city of Deraa, along the border with Jordan that was mainly in government hands.**

The south is the last major stronghold of the mainstream, anti-Assad opposition, who have been weakened elsewhere by the expansion of the ultra-hardline Islamic State group in the east and north, and gains by the Nusra Front in the northwest.

However, Nusra is fighting in the south alongside the Western-backed groups, who have proved more united there than in other parts of Syria.

**In a separate development on Sunday, Islamist fighters struck the Syrian capital with at least 38 rockets, killing seven people, a monitoring group said, in one of heaviest attacks on Damascus in over a year.**

The Saudi-backed Islam Army had warned earlier that it would hit back against an air strike last week in the eastern Ghouta region near Damascus, in which more than 40 people were killed.

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## **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**

**One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.**

**Mike Hastie  
U.S. Army Medic  
Vietnam 1970-71  
December 13, 2004**

## **If You Are One Of *Those* People, Can You Answer These Questions *Honestly*?**

[Thanks to Sgt. X, who sent this in.]

What do you think caused your heterosexuality?

When and how did you decide you were heterosexual?

Is it possible that heterosexuality is just a phase you may grow out of?

Is it possible that your heterosexuality stems from a neurotic fear of others of the same sex?

If you’ve never slept with a person of the same sex, is it possible that all you need is a good same-sex lover?

To whom have you disclosed your heterosexual tendencies? Why do heterosexuals feel compelled to seduce others into their lifestyle?

Why do you insist on flaunting your heterosexuality? Why can’t you just be who you are and keep quiet about it?

A disproportionate majority of child molesters are heterosexual. Do you consider it safe to expose your children to 'heterosexual teachers'?

With all the social support marriage receives, the divorce rate is still 50 percent. Why are there so few stable relationships among heterosexuals?

Why do heterosexuals place so much emphasis on sex?

Considering the menace of hunger and overpopulation, can the human race survive if everyone were heterosexual like yourself?

There seem to be very few happy heterosexuals. Techniques have been developed which might enable you to change. Have you considered aversion therapy?

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**“The Government Wants To Drown  
The Country In Blood, Forgetting  
That The Troops Consist Of Sons  
Of The Oppressed People”  
“We Demand An End To The War”  
[Proclamation Of The Revolutionary  
Council Of Sailors: The Battleship  
Potemkin]**



The Potemkin (Russian: Князь Потёмкин Таврический, Knyaz' Potyomkin Tavricheski, 'Prince Potyomkin of Tauris') was a pre-dreadnought battleship (Bronenosets) of the

Imperial Russian Navy's Black Sea Fleet. The ship was made famous by the Battleship Potemkin uprising, a rebellion of the crew against their oppressive officers in June 1905 (during the Russian Revolution of 1905) -- Wikipedia

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June 27, 1905, Proletary Newspaper No. 7

### **Proclamation Of The Revolutionary Sailors In Command Of The Battleship Potemkin**

To all civilized citizens and to the working people!

The crimes of the autocratic government have exhausted all patience.

The whole of Russia, burning with indignation, exclaims: Down with the chains of bondage!

The government wants to drown the country in blood, forgetting that the troops consist of sons of the oppressed people.

The crew of the Potemkin has taken the first decisive step. We refuse to go on acting as the people's hangman.

Our slogan is: freedom for the whole Russian people or death!

We demand an end to the war and the immediate convocation of a constituent assembly on the basis of universal suffrage.

That is the aim for which we shall fight to the end: victory or death!

All free men, all workers will be on our side in the struggle for liberty and peace.

Down with the autocracy! Long live the constituent assembly!"

## **YOUR INVITATION:**

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

## ANNIVERSARIES

### **January 30, 1972: Shameful Anniversary; Bloody Sunday: An Occupation Massacre**



Carl Bunin Peace History Jan 28 - Feb 3

In Bogside, Derry, British Occupied Ireland, near the Rossville flats, 13 unarmed and peaceful civil rights demonstrators were shot dead by British Army paratroopers from the British Army's 1st Parachute Regiment in an event that became known as "Bloody Sunday."

The protesters, all Catholics, had been marching in protest of the British policy of internment without trial of suspected Irish nationalists. Internment without trial was introduced by the British government on August 9, 1971.

British authorities had ordered the march banned, and sent troops to confront the demonstrators when it went ahead.

The soldiers fired indiscriminately into the crowd of protesters, killing 13 and wounding seventeen. One wounded man later died from illness attributed to that shooting.

By the end of the year 323 civilians and 144 military and paramilitary personnel would be dead.

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## January 31, 1876: Odious Betrayal



Sitting Bull: One of several chiefs who refused to comply.

Carl Bunin Peace History Jan 28 - Feb 3

The U.S. government ordered that all Native Americans must move to reservations by this date or be declared hostile.

**Most Sioux did not even hear of the ultimatum until after the deadline.**

**Major General Philip Sheridan considered the notification exercise a waste of time.**

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## January 31, 1968: Resistance Anniversary: The Tet Offensive

Peace History: Carl Bunin

The Tet (the lunar new year) Offensive began as North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces launched surprise attacks against major cities, provincial and district capitals in South Vietnam.

The attack had been anticipated but, nonetheless, half of the ARVN troops (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) were on leave because of the holiday.

There were attacks in Saigon (the South's capital) on the Independence Palace (the residence of the president), the radio station, the ARVN's joint General Staff Compound, Tan Son Nhut airfield, and the United States embassy, causing considerable damage

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## **January 31, 1945: Anniversary Of A Murder; The Execution Of Private Eddy Slovik**



Pvt. Eddie Slovik

Carl Bunin Peace History Jan 28 - Feb 3

Private Eddie Slovik became the first American soldier since the Civil War to be executed for desertion.

**Supreme Allied Commander Dwight D. Eisenhower ordered Slovik's execution be carried out, he said, to avoid further desertions in the late stages of the war.**

\*\*\*\*\*

[Excerpt from the article by Joe Allen; Death Row At The “Castle”: Inside The U.S. Military’s Judicial System; the International Socialist Review. Joe Allen is a member of Teamsters Local 705 in Chicago and the International Socialist Organization.]

**Alvin “Tommy” Bridges, a military policeman during the war and a future police chief, recounted his very bitter memories of “military justice” to Studs Terkel in the Good War: “They shot some of those same guys up there that were—if you’d go to a municipal court, they’d dismiss the case. Depending a lot upon the commanding officer.”**

Near the end of his narrative, Bridges makes clear the extent of summary “justice” and who was responsible:

**“Eisenhower says that’s the only guy (Eddie Slovik) that was ever executed for it (desertion). That’s what burns me up, when a gross of them that I know were executed for probably more minor things than what Slovik was. They said he was the only one. We had to make a show of it. The son-of-a-bitches.”**

Eddie Slovik was a Polish working-class kid from Detroit who had a minor criminal record and spent some years in a youth reformatory.

His draft classification was originally 4-F (unfit for military service) and therefore not eligible to be drafted. He married and got a decent paying job in the auto industry, whereupon he was reclassified 1-A.

The army was then drafting anybody it could get its hands on in preparation for the invasion of Europe. It was also clear that Slovik couldn’t kill a living thing and was terrified of combat. In his “confession” after he deserted he said, “I’ll run away again if I have to go their.” (He misspelled “there,” and by “there” he meant going into combat).

**Over 40,000 other deserters tried by lesser courts-martial were punished by confinement to disciplinary centers or dishonorably discharged. Another 2,864 were tried by general courts-martial.**

**Most were sentenced to long terms in prisons (many left prison soon after the war was over), but forty-nine were sentenced to death. All the sentences for desertion were commuted except Slovik’s.**

Slovik’s story is recounted in William Bradford Huie’s book The Execution of Private Slovik.

Why Slovik?

It seems likely that the reason Slovik was singled out was because he deserted at the time of stiffening German resistance in late 1944, when the Allied forces came dangerously close to collapsing on the Western front.

Yet, curiously, the army never publicized his execution beyond his company, never told his wife, and buried him in a secret cemetery.

It would be nearly a decade after Slovik's death before Huie began investigating the strange circumstances surrounding it.

Despite the efforts of many people, Slovik's wife never received the paltry \$10,000 plus interest she asked for in GI life insurance. Slovik's remains were finally returned to the U.S. in 1987, to be buried beside the grave of his deceased wife.

**While many people believe that Slovik was the only American soldier executed during the war, that is not true.**

**Many were executed on charges other than desertion, and African American soldiers once again bore the brunt of these executions.**

**DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?**



**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.**



## CLASS WAR REPORTS

# **Montana Officer, Grant Morrison, Shoots And Kills His Second Unarmed Man For “Reaching For His Waistband”**

**“After Shooting Him Three Times,  
Morrison Continues To Yell  
Commands To Ramirez On What He  
Wants Ramirez To Do”**

**“Morrison Has Shot Two Nonviolent,  
Unarmed Civilians, So Far, In A Fit Of  
Fear”**

January 10, 2015 By Shaun King, Daily Kos & January 7, 2015 By MATTHEW BROWN, AP [Excerpts]

When an officer pulls over a car for a moving violation, they have no idea if the passengers in that car are going to be school teachers, Girl Scouts, or some dudes making a drug run.

With that said, Grant Morrison, a police officer in Montana, clearly has an unacceptable and unreasonable level of fear when he pulls people over.

Two times, in the past two years, Morrison has pulled over unarmed, nonviolent citizens and, in a fit of fear, shot them both—the most recent resulting in a brutal and unnecessary death.

If what he did isn't wrong, we have a problem.

Tragically, Morrison shoots and kills 38-year-old Richard Ramirez after a rather routine traffic stop.

**The five-year police veteran said he became convinced that Ramirez had a gun after the man reached for his waistband during their 30-second encounter last April in a high-crime area of Montana's most populous city.**

**[For more about these deadly waistbands, see below again. And again. And again. T]**

“I knew in that moment, which later was determined to be untrue, but I knew in that moment that he was reaching for a gun,” Morrison said.

On January 7, according to Yahoo News, Morrison was cleared of any wrongdoing.

After shooting him three times at close range, Morrison continues to yell commands to Ramirez on what he wants Ramirez to do, as if his body wasn't just destroyed by three bullets. Ramirez dies soon thereafter.

This, though, was not the first time Morrison shot and killed an unarmed, nonviolent person during a traffic stop.

In 2013, Morrison shot and killed James Shaw after a routine traffic stop. Shaw is first hit with a taser then immediately shot and killed by Morrison.

Morrison says he shot Shaw because he had a “crazed look on his face.”

**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 draw—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.

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## **Teachers Strike In Macedonia: Evaluation Of Their Work That Includes Fines Unacceptable; “Teachers To Come To Work But Not To Carry Out Their Daily Assignments”**

29 Jan 15 by Goran Rizaov [Excerpts]

The European Trade Union Committee for Education, ETUCEE, said it supported a strike by teachers in Macedonia over a new system of evaluation of their work that includes fines – but urged all sides to continue talks.

Backed by ETUCEE's President Martin Romer's visit on January 27, the teachers union said it will continue its strike despite government pressure to call it off and the introduction of substitute teachers in some affected schools.

The independent teachers union in Macedonia, SONK, on Tuesday said it would continue its strike until the government abandoned its new system of evaluating teachers and scrapped the planned fines. About 90 per cent of teachers in Macedonia are members of SONK.

Under the latest change to the education law, a teacher may be fined by up €50 of their €300-400 euro a month in salary “if their evaluations of students are not similar to those of the external evaluators”, the ETUCEE stated.

The monthly penalty may also be imposed over several months and, if repeated, the teacher in question risked being fired.

Romer said Macedonia's pattern of teacher evaluation, using penalties and fines was unacceptable, adding that on an international level there is no evidence that such penalties work.

“An evaluation system based on penalties will never create loyal representatives and a way to circumvent it will be always sought,” he said in Skopje on Tuesday. “Such a system is also not objective and there is a possibility for subjective evaluation of teachers,” he added.

Bringing in substitute teachers was also “not appropriate” because the right to strike was a legitimate one, he continued.

The strike began on January 20 at the start of the second semester in elementary and high schools in Macedonia. In its strike call, SONK advised teachers to come to work but not to carry out their daily assignments.

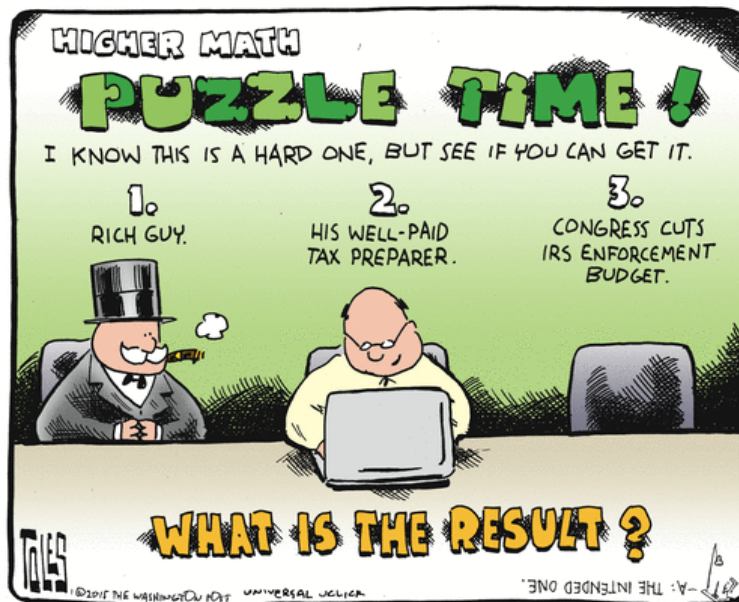
There are contradictory statements about the success of the general strike. SONK president Nedelkov claims that the strike has been successful in almost 100 per cent of the schools in the country.

At the same time, in some parts of the country, schools are said to be working normally because substitute teachers were brought in to replace strikers. According to media reports, the strike is more successful in the western than in the eastern part of the country. SONK has around 30,000 members in all levels of education.

SONK chief Nedelkov claims that pressure is being exerted on the strikers, involving use of threats to lower salaries as well as fines.

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## DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



## OCCUPATION PALESTINE

# **Zionist Regime Officially Approves Killing Unarmed Palestinians: “On 9 December, The Military Commander In The West Bank, Brig. Gen. Tamir Yadai, Confirmed That The Military Had Adopted A Policy Of Firing Live Ammunition”**

18 Jan 2015 Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories

Recent months have seen a dramatic rise in Israeli security forces' use of live 0.22 inch caliber bullets (Ruger rifle bullets, also known by the nickname Two-Two) in clashes with Palestinians in the West Bank.

The firing of this ammunition is an almost weekly occurrence in the West Bank in sites of protests and clashes.

Most of those injured have been young Palestinians, including minors. Yet, in the last two months, one Palestinian woman, at least three photographers, and a foreign national who was taking part in a demonstration were also hit by these bullets. B'Tselem does not have the full data on the number of people wounded this type of ammunition.

Two-Twos are live ammunition whose impact is less severe than that of “ordinary” bullets (5.56 mm caliber), yet even so they can be lethal and inflict serious injuries. Two-Twos are fired with a 10/22 Ruger rifle, which is often equipped with an integral suppressor, or from a specially converted M4 rifle (“a shortened M16”).

Use of this weapon has elicited controversy even within the Israeli military: in 2001, the head of the security department in the Operations Directorate wrote that the Ruger cannot be considered a non-lethal weapon and may be used only in circumstances that justify live fire.

**In view of the large number of people hit and even killed by 0.22 bullets early in the second intifada, use of this ammunition was suspended from 2001 to 2008. In the time since use of this ammunition was renewed, B'Tselem has documented the deaths of at least two people from these bullets; however, the real number may be higher, as it is difficult to establish whether a person was killed by these bullets or “ordinary” live ammunition, which is very similar in caliber.**

In recent weeks, B'Tselem has documented the use of 0.22 bullets in clashes in various locations in the northern West Bank. In these instances shots were fired contrary to the strict open-fire regulations that, as a rule, prohibit live fire against stone-throwers.

The only exception to this rule cited in the regulations is immediate, mortal danger.

**Moreover, in several cases, the soldiers intentionally engaged with stone-throwers in order to fire 0.22 bullets at them.**

**In one instance, which was documented, the soldiers initiated action to provoke Palestinian youths into throwing stones, so that they could respond with 0.22 fire.**

In one documented case, soldiers took action designed to provoke youths to throw stones, ultimately enabling the soldiers to respond with gunfire, wounding the youths.

In another case, a sniper armed with a Ruger rifle waited for a procession of demonstrators even before any stone was thrown.

The most striking of these incidents occurred in the village of a-Nabi Saleh on 5 December 2014.

At the end of the weekly demonstration, a handful of village youths threw stones at soldiers.

The military had stationed a sniper armed with a Ruger rifle together with a captain in an open area some distance from the village homes.

**The youths withdrew to a distance some 140 meters away, beyond the effective range of 0.22 bullets, thereby essentially ending the confrontation. Yet, about half an hour later, the captain and sniper walked some 200 meters into the built-up part of the village, for no apparent reason other than provoking the youths into renewing the stone-throwing, as indeed then transpired.**

The sniper responded by shooting at a Palestinian youth, who was hit in the thigh. The youth, whose injury was termed light, was taken to hospital in Ramallah. At no point were the troops in mortal danger and in any case, the confrontation was intentionally renewed by the soldiers' who entered the village, apparently on orders from above.

**On 9 December, the military commander in the West Bank, Brig. Gen. Tamir Yadai, confirmed that the military had adopted a policy of firing live ammunition at stone-throwers.**

He stated this in a meeting with settlers from Halamish, who claimed that the decline in security on West Bank roads demonstrates that the military had abandoned them and was compromising their safety.

**Israeli internet news site NRG published a recording of the meeting, in which Yadai is heard saying (in Hebrew): "I'm won't say we changed the open-fire regulations, but we've taken a slightly (pause)] tougher approach with people around here. In places where we used to fire tear-gas or rubber (-coated metal bullets), we now fire Ruger bullets and sometimes live bullets.**

“If I remember the figures correctly, we’re at around 25 people hit here in the last three weeks. That’s a relatively high figure on any scale.”

**Yadai's statement crowd control weapons had been replaced by live fire raises serious concerns that live ammunition is being fired without appropriate justification.**

Live fire was already permitted, and indeed used, in cases of mortal danger.

**It is also extremely worrying to hear the commander of the military forces in the West Bank boasting of a “relatively high figure” of people injured by live bullets, which are supposed to be used only in self-defense in cases of mortal danger, when there is no appropriate alternative, and are certainly not meant to be used for deterrence or punitively.**

**In July 2009, following repeated warnings by B’Tselem that 0.22 bullets were being used unlawfully to disperse protests and may lead to the death of demonstrators, the previous MAG – Maj. General Avihai Mendelblit – wrote to B’Tselem that “the Ruger and similar means are not classified by the IDF as means for dispersing demonstrations or public disturbances. The rules for use of these means in Judea and Samaria are stringent, and comparable to the rules for opening fire with ‘live’ ammunition.”**

Earlier that year, in March 2009, Major Yehoshua Gurtler of the MAG Corps wrote to B’Tselem that “the IDF does not consider this means (the Ruger rifle) a substitute for the use of means for dispersing disturbances of the peace (such as stun grenades, rubber bullets, etc.”

These answers, given to B’Tselem four and a half years ago, were not an accurate reflection of reality in the field even at the time they were given.

For years, B’Tselem has been cautioning against the Israeli military’s use of 0.22 bullets, and has repeatedly shown that statements made on the matter by the IDF Spokesperson and by military and Border Police officers contradict those made by the MAG Corps.

**The practical message conveyed by the military to soldiers in the field is that 0.22 bullets are not lethal ammunition, but rather another crowd control measure.**

**This message is not only unlawful but puts people’s lives in danger. As a senior officer told Israeli daily Haaretz in 2001: “The mistake was that the Ruger came to be seen as a means of dispersing demonstrations, in contrast to its original purpose as a weapon in every respect.”**

B’Tselem calls upon the military to stop all live fire of both 0.22 inch and 5.56 mm caliber bullets at stone-throwers or at unarmed civilians during law enforcement actions. Soldiers must strictly adhere to open-fire regulations, which permit live fire only in situations of mortal danger. Security forces have at their disposal less lethal measures for dealing with stone-throwers. The military must ensure that its troops are suitably



equipped with crowd control measures and use them only within the boundaries of safety instructions, as such weapons can also be lethal if used improperly.

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## Zionist Occupation Troops Shoot Palestinian Youth In Jenin Raid



(MaanImages)

16/01/2015 Ma'an

JENIN –

Israeli troops shot and injured a young Palestinian man during a raid on Jenin refugee camp in the northern West Bank at early Thursday morning.

Palestinian security sources and locals told Ma'an that fierce clashes broke out between the Israeli soldiers and local youths when the soldiers stormed the camp and detained four young men.

During the clashes, an Israeli soldier shot and injured 23-year-old Ahmad Jarbou who works at Jenin public hospital.

Young Palestinians hurled stones and empty bottles at the invading soldiers who fired tear-gas canisters, stun grenades and rubber-coated bullets as well as live ammunition.

The sources added that Israeli soldiers detained Alaa Addin Abd al-Hafith, 20, Yahya Bassam al-Saadi in his 20s, Ahmad Said al-Saadi, 37, and Raed Ahmad Tawalbah in his 20s. Qasim Ragheb al-Saadi was detained and released a few hours later.

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# Heroic Occupation Regime Goes To War With Palestinian Strawberries



Gaza merchants had no way of transporting the strawberries to Israel in the first place. Gaza strawberries. Photo by Mohammed Azaiza

January 13, 2015 Gisha.org

January 13, 2015. The Palestinian agricultural coordinator in Gaza told Gisha that last week that Israel decided to prohibit the sale of strawberries from Gaza in the West Bank, after strawberry cartons from Gaza were found in Israeli markets..

The coordinator said that Israel made the decision to prohibit the sale of Gaza strawberries in the West Bank in response to protests from Israeli farmers, despite the fact that Gaza merchants had no way of transporting the strawberries to Israel in the first place and had no hand in the matter..

In November 2014, Israel began allowing the sale of agricultural and other goods from Gaza in the West Bank.

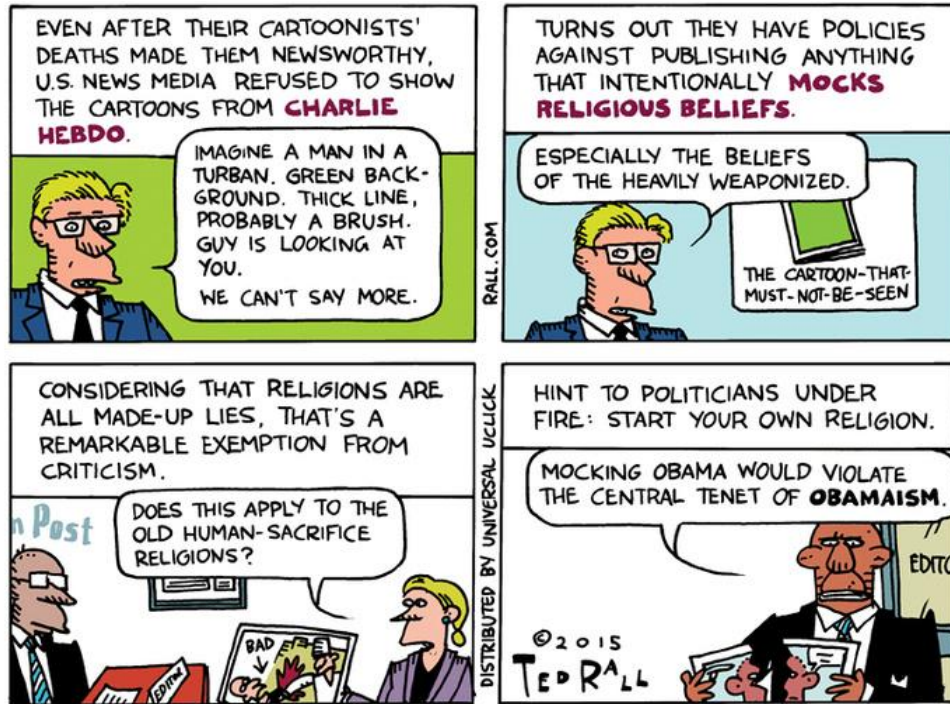
In November, one truck carrying 4.5 tons of strawberries departed Gaza for the West Bank. In December, 21 trucks left Gaza for the West Bank, carrying 75.8 tons of strawberries. Twenty-eight more truckloads of strawberries left Gaza that month, with shipments destined for Europe and Russia as part of a humanitarian project subsidized by the Dutch government..

Gisha supports making the West Bank and Israeli markets accessible to Gaza's manufacturing sector and Gaza traders, in order to give the Palestinian economy, especially in the Gaza Strip, a chance at recovery.

When challenges arise regarding to where the goods are routed, they must be dealt with in a professional manner rather than by completely banning the shipment of goods, which punishes individuals who are not responsible for the situation.

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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# Vietnam GI: Reprints Available

# Vietnam GI

January, 1969

Free to Servicemen

## "... he threw his rifle at his Commanding Officer..."



### WHEN HAWKS RETIRE

All of us who've had our "free" trips to South Vietnam and South Korea shouldn't feel guilty about accepting such "gifts" from the Government. Lots of hawk politicians are taking Government trips too. Of course, their trips are a little bit different.

Take Senator Edward V. Long (D-Mo.), the Senate Judiciary Committee highest ranking entrepreneur in January was speeded up by graft marauder. The good Senator decided that as a last sacrifice to his country he would give himself TDY to Europe. The reason was to "get forward information on foreign aid and military assistance programs." Doubtless, that's why he took his wife along.

Of special interest was his visit to

Switzerland, which neither gets US aid nor wants any. It doesn't really make any difference, since as soon as Senator Long returned from his "fact-finding mission" he retired from the Senate, thus depriving our Congress of all his "facts" (mostly on nightclubs and night bars).

Going to and from Europe Long traveled on Senate funds, but while on TDY there, he economized by using US military aircraft, cars and chauffeurs to get around. The Pentagon ordered the red carpet rolled out around the world. Nothing too good for a retiring hawk politician. As the saying goes, in America we're all equal — only some are more equal than others.

As we go to press we learn that the government has finally agreed on the shape of the table and seating arrangements for the Paris talks. Now that everything is settled and comfortable, maybe we can expect further "breakthroughs."

The grim fact is that while the government honours are giving in Paris, thousands of our buddies are still dying in Nam. In fact, since they began talking last May 7,000 GIs have been killed in action.

Talks or no talks, the only solution is to get the hell out of Nam, immediately. Stop talking and start shipping us home.

The next issue of VGI will discuss the Paris talks in greater detail. By that

Below is an interview with a Marine who didn't like the war and figured out why. This guy is a Platoon SGT with five years in the Green Machine, and over a year in Nam, mostly in long range recon with Charlie Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion. VGI speaks to him while he was on leave awaiting his second Nam tour. Since he doesn't ETS until 1972 we've left out his name.

VGI: How did you feel about the war when you went over there. Did your feelings change?

A: When I first went over there, I thought it would be a great thing to do, and a great new experience of being in war. I really thought it was going to be something different, but then I got put on some of those patrols and I got to see the people and got to talk to the people. This was the big thing that finally changed me. I finally saw that it wasn't worth while, and that they actually don't want our help because it actually isn't help.

VGI: Did you have any contact with the Vietnamese, with the people?

A: There was a place called Ben Son and for a while I was stationed down at the bridge there. This is where I lived, ate, slept, drank, everything. There were houses right next to my bunker, we had an address for ones and we gave everybody the addresses. We explained to the people what the addresses were and they got all shook up about the whole thing, well, they got addresses too.

VGI: What was it like, living there?

A: We lived with them, we shared our food with them. They used to really go for the little treats on the cation packs, the gum and the cation cigarettes and everything, and in turn they'd bring back bananas. There was this one girl, her name was—I can't think of her name now—I had her picture but I lost it. This one girl, she really stood out in my mind because she used to come over and bring us beer every day and in turn, all she expected from us was the empty boxes of cations, that's all she wanted, the empty boxes. But then we started putting little things in the empty boxes and told her we wanted her to have them.

VGI: What would she want with the empty boxes?

A: I don't know, the Vietnamese people, they could take an empty box of nothing and make something out of it. She made me a soapbox which she had made out of a cation tin. She had pounded it out with a nail and a hammer. It had a little handle on it and I used it all the time. I actually got to feel naked after I lost it.

But yet, later on, during the Tet holidays, the Viet Cong came in and burned out half of the village, and the women naturally went in pursuit. In order to stop them, the VC took this girl and they cut off her breasts. She was brought up to the hospital and lost the girl.

VGI: Did the brass give you any stink about being with the Vietnamese?

A: The incident when I almost got into trouble was, there was a convoy of about 12 to 14 trucks. I think it was. We had a whole bunch of plywood on it and we took this plywood over to a village chief in Ben Son. He was one of

the stinks. We dropped off something like 14 sheets of plywood. Naturally, when we got back, there was one truckload of plywood missing, and they asked where it was. They later found out that I had given it to this village chief, not for my own good relations with him, but because there was food when we didn't get resupplied at our observation point, and they brought us food. So we gave them something in return.

### interview

VGI: What are some of the things you saw and did that led you into deciding in the middle of Nam not to fight anymore?

A: Well, I saw times when COL Bill Fisher when he would tell his men to dismantle their personal-owning family-owning, take them out on a company deep and put them back together once they got out. He went into a village and told them, "Are there any Viet Cong here?" The village chief naturally said "No" because he knew that if he said yes, he didn't know what'd happen to him. Then COL Fisher said, "Well, if there are any Viet Cong in this village, we'll show you what's going to happen." He got one of his staff men up to the house, he didn't check to see if there was anybody in it or not. Later we found out there was a woman in there who was real sick, she couldn't move or anything. She was bound to death, it was terrible. And seeing guys being carried in in ponchos. A full-grown man weighed about two pounds after he was brought in as a sack of raw flesh or something like that.

VGI: Did you see any other incidents like this?

A: There was this little village just out of Ben Son where we brought our food and got our rice. It's not good, it's really rice, it was just this small village, maybe 15 or 17 houses. It was a "gray to white" village, off and on there'd be Viet Cong raiding the area. No homes at all, they'd just go in there to be resupplied. Yet one day, they found out that VC were coming into that village and they called "Puff", "Puff" came over and leveled the whole village down. I think maybe three people lived out of the whole thing. One was a little baby about two years old whose mother and father was gone.

One of the guys out of school this kid, this little two year old. He took the kid real close. When we went on K and R we brought him back toys and trucks and things like that. It was really something, because they don't get too many trucks over there. We'd round up a few dumpy trucks and stuff like that from Hong Kong. They were really surprised to see the new toys. I mean, the toys they play with, old cowboy cars and stuff like that are their toys. They're a fascinating people. If you just have an opportunity to see them, to get to know them. They're really great.

VGI: How do you think they feel about us?

A: This one incident—I know of the letter one north Vietnamese who was down south wrote to his brother in north who was intent on coming down

Continued on page 8

Edited by Vietnam Veteran Jeff Sharlet from 1968 until his death, this newspaper rocked the world, attracting attention even from Time Magazine, and extremely hostile attention from the chain of command.

The pages and pages of letters in the paper from troops in Vietnam condemning the war are lost to history, but you can find them here.

Military Resistance has copied complete sets of Vietnam GI. The originals were a bit rough, but every page is there. Over 100 pages, full 11x17 size.

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