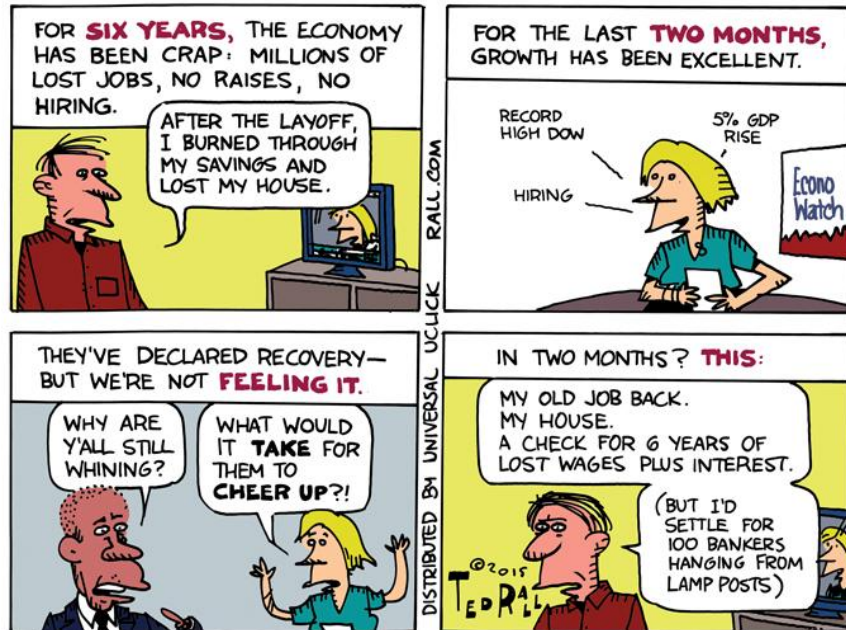


Military Resistance 13A3



Kabul Waits For The End:

“Almost Every Westerner I Once Knew Here Has Left The Country For Good, Their Missions Suspended Or Shut Down”

“The Atmosphere In The Capital Is Tense And Eerie”

“I Have Not Seen A Single Western Face On The Streets”

“Although A Few Officials Are Trying To Put Up A Good Front, There Is Little To Celebrate At The Moment”

December 31, 2014 By Pamela Constable, Washington Post [Excerpts]

KABUL — Many winters ago, I stood in a vast, empty intersection of central Kabul. The only sounds were the jingle of passing horse carts and the ticking spokes of old bicycles. There were no other Westerners on the streets, and all eyes were upon me. Despite being wrapped in many layers of modest clothing, I felt naked.

Much has changed in the Afghan capital since those haunted days under Taliban rule.

Bombed-out ruins have been replaced by multistory apartment buildings and ornate mansions. The populace has quintupled, and traffic jams are constant. Cellphone and computer shops with picture windows line the streets, and beauty parlor signs feature women with pouting lips and geisha makeup.

But this winter, even as a frequent foreign visitor to Kabul, dressed modestly and with my head covered, I feel naked once again.

Almost every Westerner I once knew here has left the country for good, their missions suspended or shut down, and several of my longtime Afghan acquaintances and colleagues have fled abroad and sought asylum.

The few old friends who remain stationed here, mostly professionals from international agencies, are either away for the holidays or shuttered inside guarded compounds, ordered by security consultants to avoid public places and unable to visit the projects they sponsor.

In the past two months, the militants have bombed or stormed foreign symbols and sanctuaries around the city — aid agencies, guesthouses, even a performance at a French cultural center, while warning that they will treat Western civic activities exactly as they would military enemies.

Among the targets were three compounds where I had once shared meals and laughter with friends — now long gone — who cared about Afghanistan and had no plans to leave.

Despite the superficial urban bustle, the atmosphere in the capital is tense and eerie.

In the past several weeks, I have not seen a single Western face on the streets.

Not in the brightly lit supermarkets where shelves are stocked with cornflakes, cat litter and blue cheese to accommodate foreign customers' quirks.

Not in the antique shops where international visitors once came to sip green tea and bargain over lapis lazuli earrings, brocaded nomad costumes and prayer rugs stitched with military scenes from the Afghan holy war against Soviet Russia.

And not in the capital's legendary bookstore specializing in English-language works — although the owner, in a true act of faith, is remodeling and expanding his cave-like quarters into a spacious modern emporium and cafe with WiFi.

For the first time since ATMs were installed here several years ago, there is no one in line to use them, and they are not constantly running out of dollars.

The once-thriving radio cab business is so dead that when I called for a taxi to ferry me to a U.N. office, the dispatcher was asleep and the driver said I was his first customer in days. I have not had the courage to drive by the Lebanese restaurant that was my cherished retreat for years, until it was destroyed in a Taliban siege last January that killed the owner and every patron inside.

I have spent other Christmases in Afghanistan, always a private occasion in a strict and insular Muslim society where converting to Christianity is both a capital crime and a sign of presumed mental derangement. But this holiday season seems especially desolate. There is no hint of festive cheer in the air, and even the snow, which usually blankets Kabul's drab gray streets by mid-December, has stayed away.

New Year's is another hopeless cause.

In years past, there would have been various raucous New Year's Eve parties among the resident haraji, as all foreigners here are called, but this year? Fewer, more muted, and held under lock and key.

That's probably just as well, and not only because such gatherings would be a natural target for the Taliban. Although a few officials are trying to put up a good front, there is little to celebrate at the moment.

Perhaps the spring will bring signs of change, but for now it seems wise to remain circumspect, lie low and huddle under thick winter clothing as invisibly as possible.

MORE:

**“My Business Has Almost Collapsed”
“Property Prices Are Plummeting,
Businesses Are Shrinking, Inflation Is
Rising, And Investment In Critical**

Infrastructure Projects Has Come To A Grinding Halt”



Khan Mohammad Zazay says business is down amid increased Taliban attacks [Bilal Sarwary/Al Jazeera]

29 Dec 2014 by Bilal Sarwary, Al Jazeera [Excerpts]

Haji Sakhi bought a 75-square-metre two-bedroom house in the Soviet-era-built Macroryan apartment complex in northeast Kabul two years ago. He paid 6,800,000 Afghanis (\$120,000) for the home, which he says became a financial burden after his dry fruit wholesale business began to slow down.

Three months ago, Sakhi decided to sell the house and pay off some of his debt, but by then the property market in Kabul, like much of Afghanistan, was on a downward spiral.

“Since I was desperate for cash, I decided to sell the house at the same price at which I had bought it for. But there was no buyer. I then slashed the asking rate by 25 percent. Still, no one turned up,” Sakhi told Al Jazeera.

“Last week, I told real estate agents that I am willing to give up the house for even half of what I had paid. I am still waiting to hear from them. Buyers seem to have vanished from the property market.”

About 15km from Sakhi’s house, in the centre of Tanke Logar market, sits Khan Mohammad Zazay amid logs of cut wood, puffing hard on his hookah as he tries to stay warm in Kabul’s harsh winter.

“Last winter, I sold 58,000 Afghanis [\$1,000] worth of wood and coal every day. Now, I am struggling to make even one-tenth of that in a day.

“People are scared to step out of their houses because of the attacks,” says Zazay.

Two shops away, Haji Nizam sits with his head buried in the pages of ANIS Daily, a Dari-language newspaper published in Kabul. Through his big, thick glasses, Nizam is trying to get some idea of where the Afghan economy is heading.

“My business has almost collapsed,” says Nizam, an importer of electrical goods from China. “My business depends on the building and construction sector. But no one seems to be building houses or shopping malls anymore.”

Deteriorating security and disagreement within the government over fundamental issues has hit hard the already fragile Afghan economy.

Property prices are plummeting, businesses are shrinking, inflation is rising, and investment in critical infrastructure projects has come to a grinding halt.

MORE:

The Afghan War That Didn't Really End Yesterday Ended In Defeat:

“For American Soldiers And For The Afghan People The War That Began On Oct. 7, 2001 Will Go On”

“None Of The Claimed Long Term Objectives For The War, Either From The Bush Or Obama Administrations, Have Been Achieved”

“That's A Defeat By Any Measure”

December 29, 2014 By Dan Murphy, Staff writer; Christian Science Monitor [Excerpts]

News websites and broadcasts - and US and NATO press releases - were filled with discussion about the “formal” end of the Afghan war yesterday.

But any close reading of the facts will find that they were wrong.

Call it semi-formal, or business casual, whatever you like.

The reality remains the same: For American soldiers and for the Afghan people the war that began on Oct. 7, 2001 will go on.

While most of America's NATO allies that hadn't already washed their hands of combat will now do so, American fighting and dying will continue, with 11,000 US troops remaining in the country.

There will be talk of "advising," and "training" and "non-combat" presence. But for the most part that can be safely ignored.

Afghanistan is a dangerous place.

The US-installed government there is on shaky ground, and just advising Afghan troops is a dangerous job, given that a high-percentage of US military deaths in recent years have been caused by Afghan soldiers and police.

In August, Maj. Gen. Harold Greene was murdered by an Afghan soldier, becoming the highest ranking US officer killed overseas since Vietnam.

What has the war bought for the US, at a cost of \$1 trillion?

President Obama claimed yesterday that "we are safer, and our nation is more secure" thanks to the sacrifices of the Afghan war. There's no evidence to support that claim, and plenty to suggest the war has been a long, self-inflicted wound on the country.

Meanwhile, opium production in Afghanistan has soared despite \$7 billion flushed down the tubes by the US on opium eradication. Afghanistan can not by any stretch be called a democracy - vote buying and thuggery at the polls dominate elections. The country's government is entirely dependent on foreign aid, and has been gifted or burdened, depending on your perspective, with assets it cannot afford.

Consider the military, which has about 200,000 soldiers on the books. (How many soldiers actually show up to work is another matter; so-called ghost soldiers are as much a problem in Afghanistan as they are in Iraq).

The US has spent about \$11 billion annually on Afghan forces in recent years - equivalent to more than half of the country's GDP. That means that if and when foreign funding stops or is reduced, Afghanistan won't be able to pay for the army fighting the Taliban.

None of the claimed long term objectives for the war, either from the Bush or Obama administrations, have been achieved. That's a defeat by any measure.

US funding for Kabul is likely to go on for quite some time. But it is unlikely to be better and more wisely spent with less foreign oversight and involvement.

The rampant corruption that has bled billions over the past decade was never contained and the Afghan government is largely paralyzed.

The presidential election earlier this year almost led to civil war among the opponents of the Taliban, with heavy US pressure ending up in the inauguration of President Ashraf Ghani.

Yet three months since that crisis was averted, the country still doesn't have a cabinet. Why?

The US insisted that a special, yet ill-defined, job of "chief executive" be created for the runner-up in the presidential election, Abdullah Abdullah. Mr. Ghani and Mr. Abdullah have been squabbling over who will control choice positions in the government ever since, even as the population has grown frightened at the departure of foreign troops, the economy has teetered, and the Taliban have enjoyed a good year.

In honor of the end of a war that wasn't really the end of the war, the foreign involvement in the war was renamed yesterday.

No longer the International Security Assistance Force but:

Resolute Support ✓ @ResoluteSupport
NOTICE TO OUR FOLLOWERS:



Reflecting the launch of @NATO's new mission in #Afghanistan, @ISAFMedia is now officially @ResoluteSupport

MORE:

**“After 10 Years In Afghanistan I’m Still Not Sure What The Mission Is”
“The Chief Warrant Officer 2 Is No Longer The Eager, Untethered 25-Year-Old He Was”**

December 29, 2014 by Heath Druzin, Stars and Stripes [Excerpt]

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — I

n the rings beneath his steely eyes lies the toll of Army helicopter pilot Steven Martin's 10 years at war.

The chief warrant officer 2 is no longer the eager, untethered 25-year-old he was when preparing for his first deployment. Idealism has been replaced by pragmatism; the excitement of battle has given way to the imperative of making it home to his twin girls.

“I've changed dramatically. What once was a romantic, naive idea of going to war to defeat terrorists has disappeared,” the veteran of four Afghanistan deployments said in his unit's planning room at Bagram Air Field. “And now I know my responsibility is just to my brothers in arms and to my family.”

On his first deployment in Afghanistan, Martin, the helicopter pilot, served as a psychological operations soldier. He would sometimes find himself fighting his way through ambushes to deliver medical supplies and other humanitarian aid.

In that microcosm of the war, troops were killing and getting killed just to drop off a box in hopes of winning the ever elusive “hearts and minds.”

The results of such operations were murky.

Martin is proud of his service and his commitment to his fellow soldiers. What it all means, though, that’s for politicians thousands of miles from the dying to decide, he said.

“The idea that the war is over, mission accomplished? After 10 years in Afghanistan I’m still not sure what the mission is.”

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

**FYI: Military Resistance Website Visits:
Top Ten Sources Of Visits Ranked 1-10
December 2014**

- 1 China**
- 2 USA**
- 3 Lithuania**
- 4 Germany**
- 5 Ukraine**
- 6 “Unknown” [Source Masked]**
- 7 France**
- 8 Canada**
- 9 Russian Federation**
- 10 Romania**

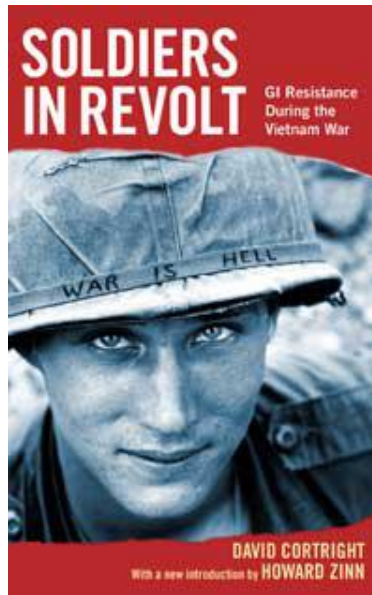
Readers from an additional 106 have also accessed, including Vietnam, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Afghanistan, Democratic Republic Of The Congo, Belarus, & Slovak Republic.

Source: AWStats

**“To Avoid An Embarrassing Public
Confrontation, The General Was
Forced To Sneak In The Back
Entrance Of His Hotel”**

**“Nearly One Hundred GIs Boldly
Gathered Across From The Reviewing
Stand Behind A Huge Banner Reading
‘GIs For Peace’”**

“The Response From Soldiers Forced To March In The Parade Proved Embarrassing To The Assembled Commanders: Hundreds Raised Clenched Fists In Solidarity With The Demonstrators”



[A quantity of stupid drivel has appeared in the past few years asserting that it was the civilian opposition to the Vietnam war that led the movement in the armed forces. As you will see below, the sweeping upsurge against the war revealed by troops in 1969-1970 gave heart and leadership to the anti-war movement among civilians, whose public demonstrations were growing every smaller. Sound familiar? T]

Perhaps just as importantly, the May 16 actions had great impact on the civilian community. The spectacle of simultaneous soldier demonstrations at twelve separate bases finally convinced people that sweeping changes were occurring within the Army and aroused renewed appreciation of the potential of GI resistance.

From: SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT, Anchor Press/Doubleday, Garden City, New York, 1975. Now available in paperback from Haymarket Books. [Excerpts]

On October 11 [1969] nearly one hundred Fort Bragg soldiers, mostly Vietnam veterans, marched in a Moratorium demonstration in Fayetteville. On October 15, protests occurred in San Antonio and Colorado Springs.

At Fort Sam Houston, approximately 150 soldiers signed a petition sponsored by the new paper *Your Military Left*, requesting facilities for a meeting on post. Their plea was rejected, though, and the Moratorium gathering was held instead in downtown San Antonio.

At Fort Carson, Vietnam veterans Tom Roberts and Curtis Stocker, editors of *Aboveground*, encountered a series of command restrictions aimed at preventing them from attending an evening demonstration in Colorado Springs. Despite the obstruction, later documented in an official Fort Carson memorandum leaked to the *New York Times*, the two managed to elude their would-be captors and joined seventy-five fellow soldiers for the anti-war observance in Acacia Park.

A few days later, on October 20, the ASU [American Servicemen's Union] chapter at Fort Lewis called a meeting at an on-post service club to discuss the war and the need for GI organizing; the gathering was broken up by MPs, however, resulting in the arrest of thirty-five GIs and three civilians.

As the country prepared for the second wave of Moratorium actions, in November, an extraordinary full-page ad appeared in the *New York Times* Sunday edition of November 9.

A statement calling for an end to the war and support for the planned November 15 mobilization in Washington, D.C., was signed by 1,366 active-duty servicemen. Included among the signees were 189 soldiers in Vietnam, 141 GIs at Fort Bliss, and people on over eighty additional bases and ships throughout the world.

The statement had a dramatic impact within the peace movement and was at least partly responsible for the success of the events on the following weekend.

The huge November 15 peace rally in Washington (attended by some 250,000 people) was led by a contingent of over two hundred GIs, many of them associated with the local GI paper, *Open Sights*.

The next day, fifty of the servicemen joined in a picket line at the Court of Military Appeals Building to protest the injustices of military law.

A simultaneous rally in Los Angeles on the fifteenth also was headed by active-duty servicemen, including fifty Marines from Camp Pendleton.

The November Moratorium also witnessed a series of important actions by one of the most dynamic new groups of the GI movement, Fort Bliss "GIs for Peace."

The organization was formally launched on August 17, 1969, when several hundred soldiers, many of them assigned to the Defense Language Institute (DLI), gathered in El Paso's McKelligan Canyon to proclaim the following purposes: to promote peace, secure constitutional rights for servicemen, combat racism, improve enlisted living conditions, and provide aid to the local chicano community.

Through *Gigline*, an unusually well-written and articulate GI paper, the activists quickly attracted widespread local support -- and as a result, encountered serious repression. Paul Nevins, a drafted Ph.D. student and the group's first chairman, was shipped out to

Germany; Gigline's first editor received abrupt orders to Vietnam; and three other leading organizers were suddenly transferred to different bases, just hours before a scheduled Moratorium protest. In all, ten soldiers received transfer orders in the organization's first five months of existence.

New members always rose to fill the vacuum, though, and the group's activities proved remarkably successful.

One of their first actions involved an anti-war protest at the traditional Veterans Day parade in El Paso.

As weapons and marching units filed by in the November 11 pageant, nearly one hundred GIs boldly gathered across from the reviewing stand behind a huge banner reading "GIs for Peace."

The response from soldiers forced to march in the parade proved embarrassing to the assembled commanders: hundreds flashed the "V" for peace sign or raised clenched fists in solidarity with the demonstrators.

On Moratorium day, the group urged students at DLI to boycott the noon meal and gather for a period meditation at a nearby chapel. Nearly a dozen plain-clothes men and officers showed up at the church to intimidate the protesters, but sixty soldiers braved the threats and carried out the prayer meeting as planned.

The neighboring enlisted mess hall, meanwhile, was three fourths empty - despite the rare attendance of a huge contingent of officers.

The anti-war upsurge culminated the following Saturday, when several hundred Fort Bliss soldiers marched at the head of a peace rally in downtown El Paso.

The third series of Moratorium protests, scheduled for December, produced two additional GI demonstrations, including one of the largest and most militant gatherings in the history of the GI movement.

At Fort Bragg, a growing GIs United Against the War sponsored another rally in Fayetteville, this time attended by two hundred soldiers and two hundred civilians.

The more significant action, however, came on December 14 in Oceanside, California.

In the largest Moratorium demonstration in the country on that day, an estimated one thousand servicepeople joined a crowd of four thousand in a march and rally near Camp Pendleton.

The event united black, white, and chicano GIs behind a strongly anti-imperialist and anti-racist program and marked the founding of an important new GI organization, Movement for a Democratic Military (MDM).

Operating out of the "Green Machine" coffeehouse in Vista, Camp Pendleton Marines launched the paper Attitude Check and established MDM as an openly revolutionary organization.

Their program called for the right to collective bargaining, constitutional rights for all servicepeople, abolition of the court-martial system and its replacement with a jury and court of peers, the end of officer privileges, the elimination of racism, freedom for all political prisoners, and an immediate pullout from Vietnam.

During a visit to the area in February 1970, Marine Commandant General Leonard Chapman labeled MDM "a serious threat to the defense of this country."

Because of internal disputes, however, Pendleton MDM faltered, and by the summer of 1970 split into factions, with a new paper, All Ready on the Left, replacing Attitude Check.

Despite these difficulties at Camp Pendleton, the idea of MDM proved attractive to other radical servicemen. During the first half of 1970, the group's program and name were adopted at six other locations: San Diego, Long Beach Naval Station, El Taro MCAS, Fort Ord, Fort Carson, and Great Lakes Naval Training Center.

As GI organizing flourished, the factionalism that hindered MDM became evident at other bases, with several separate organizations often existing on one post at the same time.

No such divisiveness hindered soldier 'organizing at Fort Bliss.

By adopting a broad, non-partisan approach, GIs for Peace successfully united a large number of servicemen and, despite a lack of civilian aid, carried on an extensive program of anti-war activity.

One particularly effective demonstration occurred during a January 1970 visit to El Paso by Army Chief of Staff William Westmoreland. When the former Vietnam commander arrived in the city on the fifteenth to deliver an address, he was greeted by a picket line of eighty local soldiers.

To avoid an embarrassing public confrontation, the general was forced to sneak in the back entrance of his hotel.

The largest GIs for Peace gathering, indeed one of the largest in the history of the GI movement, was a March 15 rally in El Paso's McKelligan Canyon. Approximately two thousand people, including more than eight hundred servicemen, came together for a festival of political speeches and rock music, in a massive display of local anti-war sentiment.

At Fort Devens, about twenty GIs join several hundred civilians for the first rally ever attempted at this base. The paper Morning Report appears for the first time.

Seventy-five soldiers and five hundred civilians gather for an anti-war march and rally outside Fort Meade.

The first anti-war demonstration in the history of Anniston, Alabama, draws fifty Fort McClellan service people and two hundred civilians.

At Fort Benning, one hundred GIs and some three hundred civilians attend a “people’s tribunal” on American war crimes.”

In Fayetteville, North Carolina, Rennie Davis, Jane Fonda, and Mark Lane address a crowd of 750 Fort Bragg soldiers and three thousand civilians in the largest Armed Forces Day rally in the country.

At Fort Hood, over seven hundred soldiers march through the streets of Killeen and rally in a nearby park.

At Fort Bliss, GIs’ for Peace and local students, demonstrate against the war at the local University of Texas campus.

The first anti-Vietnam protest in Manhattan, Kansas, attracts over one thousand people, including four hundred soldiers from Fort Riley.

An MDM-sponsored rally in Colorado Springs draws thirty Fort Carson GIs and several hundred civilians.

Tom Hayden raps to approximately two hundred Marines and several thousand civilians in a rally near Camp Pendleton.

Fort Ord MDM sponsors a march and rally of more than three thousand people. Extra work assignments and riot duty mobilizations limit the GI contingent to only one hundred.

A festival and series of workshops near Fort Lewis draw sixty soldiers and two hundred civilians.

The events of Armed Forces Day not only demonstrated widespread anti-war sentiment within the ranks but sparked continuing political activity at many bases.

Several groups made their initial appearance during the time, and a number of others experienced an increase in active-duty involvement.

Perhaps just as importantly, the May 16 actions had great impact on the civilian community.

The spectacle of simultaneous soldier demonstrations at twelve separate bases finally convinced people that sweeping changes were occurring within the Army and aroused renewed appreciation of the potential of GI resistance.

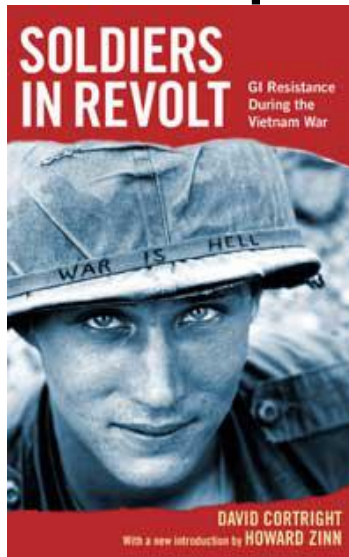
As Abbie Hoffman quipped to the crowd at Fort Meade: “Behind every GI haircut lies a Samson.”

GIs United [military band] members participated in various peace demonstrations in the New York area. One of the group’s most unusual and daring activities occurred at a civilian-sponsored demonstration on October 31.

Led by Sp/4 Verne Windham, ten Fort Hamilton GIs marched up the streets of New York at the head of thousands of demonstrators -- undoubtedly the movement’s first anti-war Army band.

MORE:

**FREE TO ACTIVE DUTY:
A Vietnam Soldier Wrote The History Of
How An Armed Forces Rebellion
Stopped An Imperial War**



SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT

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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.

“The Interest Payment On State Debts Is Always A Heavy Burden On The Tax-Paying Population But It Can Be A Means Of Enriching The Capitalist Class”

“Anyone Who Wishes To Inspire The Masses To The Political Struggle

Must Show Them How Closely Linked It Is To Their Economic Interests” “These Must Never Be Allowed To Fade Into The Background If The Struggle For Political Liberty Is Not To Be Blocked”

Excerpts from Karl Kautsky's '*The Driving Forces Of The Russian Revolution And Its Prospects*' 1906'

There is no country in the world, not even the richest, where the yield from taxation is enough to cover the large expenditure that militarism from time to time requires and that is colossal in time of war but still considerable in periods of armament, rearmament and the like.

In such instances state debts have for a long time been the tried and tested way of immediately producing the resources for these large expenditures.

The interest payment on state debts is always a heavy burden on the tax-paying population but it can be a means of enriching the capitalist class of a country when it is the state's creditor.

The state then expropriates the working classes, in order to enrich the capitalist class, multiplies its wealth and simultaneously increases the number of proletarians at its disposal.

But every political struggle is basically a class struggle and thus also an economic struggle.

Political interests are a result of economic interests; it is to protect these, and not to realize abstract political ideas, that the masses are in revolt.

Anyone who wishes to inspire the masses to the political struggle must show them how closely linked it is to their economic interests.

These must never be allowed to fade into the background if the struggle for political liberty is not to be blocked.

The alliance between the proletariat and other classes in the revolutionary struggle must rest above all else on a *common economic interest*, if it is to be both lasting and victorious.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

“Put The Phone Down” NY Policeman Threatens Driver Videotaping Traffic Stop: “I’ll Find A Way For The DA’s Office To Arrest You”

December 26, 2014 By Tom Boggioni, Raw Story [Excerpts]

A New York State Trooper, annoyed that a motorist was recording their interactions, threatened to “find a way to arrest” him during a recent traffic stop.

In the video recorded by John Houghtaling, the trooper — identified as Officer Rosenblatt — walks up to the car and immediately holds his hand up to block the view of his face from the camera.

“Put the phone down,” The trooper tells Houghtaling, who asks the officer “why?” adding, “Am I not allowed to record, officer?”

After asking the trooper for his badge number, Houghtaling asks, “Am I being detained?”

The officer claims he stopped the car for a traffic violation and requests Houghtaling’s license and registration, before once again complaining about being filmed and threatening Houghtaling.

“How about if I see you post this on Youtube, I’ll find a way for the D.A.s office to arrest you,” asks the trooper.

“Is it illegal to record police officers?” Houghtaling replies.

“When I tell you to put the phone down and you disregard what I’m telling you, yes, it is,” said Rosenblatt.

“So am I being detained for recording?”

“Put the phone down.”

“Is it illegal to record officers,” Houghtaling asks.

“Give me your license and registration,” the trooper replies.

When asked why he has been pulled over, the trooper explains “your exhaust is extremely loud, that’s why you’re being stopped.”

The officer then becomes belligerent, sarcastically saying, "Have you got an answer for that?" before again insisting Houghtaling stop filming with his phone.

The troopers then asks, "What is your issue with always videotaping?" to which Houghtaling replies, "Am I legally obligated to answer that?"

"You're obligated because I asked, you, that's why" an angry Rosenblatt replies before stalking off.

Police Shot 8-Year-Old Native Girl With Taser: "Everyone Should Be Appalled At The Way Our Children Are Being Treated Nowadays" "They Are Treating Our Children Like They Are Hardened Criminals"



"Thrown against a wall"

August 9, 2014 By Mark Morgenstein, CNN & 8/19/14 by Vincent Schilling, Indian Country Today Media Network

In October 2013, An 8 year old Rosebud Sioux girl was shot by a stun gun when Pierre Police arrived on scene and were not able to obtain a paring knife the young girl was holding. In the days that followed, the family of the little girl reported she was suffering from trauma, while the Pierre Police Chief Bob Granpre said the actions of the Police were justified.

Since the incident, family members have secured the use of Dana Hanna and Patrick Duffy as attorneys in the South Dakota area and the tribe has spoken out against the incident. The Pierre police after releasing initial findings will no longer offer comment on the matter after inquiries by ICTMN.

Rose Stenstrom, the grandmother of the little girl and a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribal council, says she was upset that her little granddaughter was a delightful and talkative little girl who some media outlets made out to be a monster.

“My granddaughter is really just a friendly little girl,” says Stenstrom. “She talks a lot. Because she likes to talk, you could change her mind really easy. I have been around her, she is not anywhere near what people describe her as. They made her out to be a little monster and she is not.”

Stenstrom also said the response to the original situation was not handled with any sort of professionalism.

“Four police officers responded to this...To a little girl who stands maybe only 4 feet tall. All you have to do is grab her arm and correct the situation. I feel that these guys must not have been in their right minds. At that age, children are very easily talked into changing their minds. I find it ridiculous because I just don't see how this could happen.”

According to a lawsuit filed by the girl's mother, “The force of the electricity shot through her body, lifted her, and threw her against a wall. After the officers had stunned (the girl) into high voltage submission, they pulled the fish-hook like Taser darts from her chest, gave her emergency medical attention, bandaged the holes left by the razor-sharp hooks, and called the ambulance.”

“In one of the articles, the police chief stated that their office was justified in what they did. They have batons and handguns, the police chief named off a number of things they could have used; this is someone who has no brains.

“One of the people involved in this entire situation was an instructor of the police training facility.”

“Which makes me think, Oh my God were these guys just practicing?” remarked Senstrom.

Cyril Scott, President of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe also told ICTMN, the Pierre Police acted in a way that was unprofessional and the family is appropriate in filing a lawsuit.

“The family has a lawsuit against the police and it is a sad day when a Native American child is shocked in our state capital in the middle of Indian country at that. Not only the

Rosebud Sioux tribe, not only the family... But everyone should be appalled at the way our children are being treated nowadays,” said Scott.

“We tell our children not to do violence and to not be a part of violence, but if they get into trouble they are subjected to this violence. They are treating our children like they are hardened criminals nowadays.”

“On behalf of the Rosebud Sioux tribe, I say our position is we should not treat Native American children or any children of any race in this manner. We hold our Native American children on the highest pedestal, as any parent or any family should do.”

“This little girl was eight years old. It was a little girl you could just put your arms around her. I hope the man that did this to her thinks about it every day.

“I wonder how he would feel if someone tased his daughter,” he said.

According to the family attorney’s the acts committed by the police were atrocious and the proper steps to file suit and seek damages are currently in the works.

According to Hannah, both he and Duffy will be investigating the backgrounds of all the police officers involved, the training or lack thereof provided to law enforcement officers in the Pierre and the use of Tasers. Hanna and Duffy have also contacted and contracted an expert on the use of Tasers.

“We will particularly be investigating with regard to the use of Tasers on children, which simply should not happen,” says Hanna.

“Tasers are not meant to be lethal weapons, but they are lethal weapons they have killed people from time to time. Our investigation and our expert lead us to the conclusion that Tasers should never be used on children,” says Hanna.

“If you look at the facts, there were other ways to stop this. Rule number one is reaching out to grab her hand and I haven’t even been to cop school.

“These are trained professional law enforcement officers and there were four of them within close proximity to that girl. Not one of them thought to reach out and grab her, or talk her down... They came in there and dealt with her like she was a 30-year-old street thug. “Drop the knife or else!”

“No Indian cop in S.D. would ever shoot an Indian girl with a Taser gun, Draw your own conclusion on that statement,” Hanna said.

“One distracts her, another grabs the girl’s arm. That’s what they should have done,” Hanna said.

“She had a kitchen paring knife, but hadn’t cut. She was a kid throwing a tantrum. They should have made an attempt to grab the kid, not use a weapon to throw her into a wall. A Taser’s not meant to kill, but it does kill. Many people have died after being hit by a Taser by cops.

“It never should be used on a little child. She certainly wasn’t presenting a danger to officers.”

Duffy agrees with his fellow attorney that the Pierre Police acted unprofessional.

“It is absolutely barbaric that four adult police officers would surround a 71-pound eight-year-old little Indian girl and shoot her in the chest with 50,000 volts of electricity,” he said.

“I have 7 sons and 9 grandkids. I might have tried to talk to her for a minute or two. I don’t need a baton. Depending on what her response was, I probably would have reached out like an adult and grabbed her arm and said ‘that is enough of that.’

“The problem with the police response in this case and everything they have said has been designed for justification. If the only choice is between tasing and pistol whipping her, yes I guess it would make sense, but we have a lot more choices as adults,” he said. “They did not use any of these adult responses.”

“What is it really going to honestly do for the rest of her life as she has to interact with authority figures and law enforcement?” Duffy said.

“What’s it going to be like first time she looks in the rear view mirror and law enforcement gives her a speeding ticket? She won’t shake that.”

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Zionist Mob Attacks Palestinian, As Usual

1-1-2015 PIC

AL-KHALIL, -- A horde of Israeli settlers from the so-called David settlement, built east of Bethlehem city, on Wednesday evening violently attacked the Palestinian mayor of Jannatah municipality.

Meanwhile, more than 300 fanatic settlers on Wednesday night flocked to the Gush Etzion settlement bloc, north of al-Khalil city, calling for taking revenge for an alleged settler's murder.

Occupation Forces Attack Unarmed Palestinian Fishermen, As Usual

1-1-2015 PIC

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM -- The Israeli occupation army on Wednesday said it arrested three Palestinians from Gaza after they breached the border fence and three fishermen off the coast of Rafah area.

The army radio claimed that an Israeli military patrol spotted three Gazan young men on the Israeli side of the border fence and arrested them, adding that they were taken to the Shin Bet for interrogation.

In another incident, the Israeli navy kidnapped three Palestinian fishermen after chasing their boats off Rafah shore.

The Palestinian coastal police in Rafah told the Palestinian information center (PIC) that Israeli gunboats chased some fishing boats near the coast and opened fire at them before detaining three fishermen identified as Mohamed Basal, Mohamed Nahhal and Iyad Nahhal.

No police information if the Israeli shooting caused injuries to the detained fishermen.

Fishermen and their boats are exposed to almost daily gunfire attacks, harassment or detention by the Israeli navy, although they work within the allowed fishing zone.

Palestinian Activists Dressed In Santa Claus Outfits Spray Graffiti On Separation Wall In Bethlehem: “Demandng An End To The Israeli Occupation And Freedom For Palestinians”



01/02/2015 Ma'an

BETHLEHEM -- Palestinian activists dressed in Santa Claus outfits on Thursday sprayed graffiti demanding an end to the Israeli occupation and freedom for Palestinians on the Israeli separation wall in the southern West Bank town of Bethlehem.

Activists handed out candy to passing vehicles in celebration of Christmas and the New Year as others wrote slogans on the eight-meter high concrete wall that cuts Bethlehem off from neighboring Jerusalem.

One of the youths involved in the activity said the aim was to pass on good wishes to those celebrating Christmas in Bethlehem and hopes for a new year full of happiness for Palestinian children.

The activity took place at a major intersection in Bethlehem where the Israeli wall reaches into the heart of the city to cut off the tomb of Biblical matriarch Rachel from the city around it.

Once a shared Jewish, Christian, and Muslim place of worship, the annexation of the area by Israel's wall has also meant that non-Jews are no longer allowed to enter it.

Instead, they are confronted by the wall's watchtowers on every side, while access is only allowed from the Israeli side through a checkpoint forbidden to non-Jews.

Local activist Mazen al-Azza told Ma'an that the activists hoped to draw attention to the "danger" the wall represents for Bethlehem, particularly at Christmas since international attention is focused on the city and tens of thousands of foreign tourists pass through.

Al-Azza added that the activist was a message to the whole world that there should be no ambiguity regarding the Palestinian cause in the face of the Israeli occupation.

Israel began building the separation wall in 2002, and the route has been the target of regular demonstrations by border towns whose land is cut off by its path.

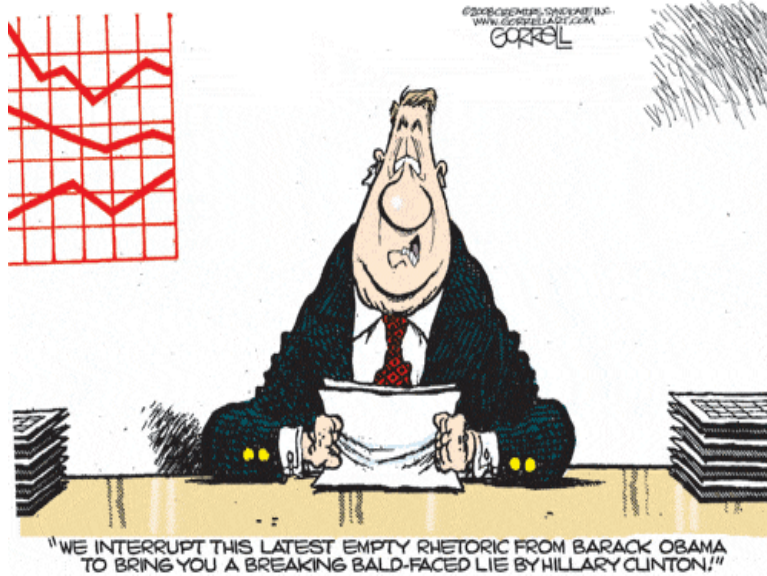
Israel has regularly confiscated large plots of Palestinian land in order to build the wall. When the 435-mile barrier is complete, 85 percent of it will have been built inside the occupied West Bank.

In 2004 the International Court of Justice ruled that the separation wall was illegal and "tantamount to annexation."

The wall also prevents Palestinians from moving freely in the West Bank between Palestinian villages, towns, and cities, increasingly trapping them in small pockets of Palestinian control.

**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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