

## Military Resistance 13A9



**“The Number Of Soldiers In The Syrian Military Has Fallen By More Than Half”**

**The Tyrant Assad Imposes Harsh Recruitment Measures:**

**“They Show Just How Desperate The Regime Is”**

**“Soaring Casualties And Evasions Of Compulsory Military Service”**

**“Men Who Are Dragooned Into The Army Appear To Be Deserting In Larger Numbers”**

**“The people are turning on the regime here because they don’t want their children to die in this war.**

**“They don’t see the point of this war,” said Qusay, 22, a resident of the mostly Druze city of Suwayda and engineering student at Damascus University. He also asked that only his first name be used.**

**“If the regime tries to push us to serve, there will be a fight.”**

December 28, 2014 by Hugh Naylor, The Washington Post

BEIRUT —

The Syrian regime has intensified efforts to reverse substantial manpower losses to its military with large-scale mobilizations of reservists as well as sweeping arrest campaigns and new regulations to stop desertions and draft-dodging.

The measures have been imposed in recent months because of soaring casualties among forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad, as well as apparent increases in desertions and evasions of compulsory military service, analysts say.

Some speculate that the moves also could be part of stepped-up military efforts to win more ground from rebels in anticipation of possible peace talks, which Russia has attempted to restart to end nearly four years of conflict.

**But the regime’s measures have added to already simmering anger among its support base over battlefield deaths during the conflict.**

**The anger may be triggering a backlash that in turn could undermine Assad’s war aims, Syrians and analysts say.**

“These things have obviously angered core constituents, and they show just how desperate the regime is to come up with warm bodies to fill the ranks of the Syrian Arab Army,” said Andrew Tabler, a senior fellow and Syria expert at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

In October, the regime stepped up activations of reserve forces.

**Tens of thousands of reservists have been called up, and soldiers and militiamen have erected scores of checkpoints and increased raids on cafes and homes to apprehend those reservists who refuse to comply.**

Similar measures increasingly target those who avoid regular military service, a compulsory 18-month period for all men who are 18 and older.

In recent weeks, the regime also began upping threats to dismiss and fine state employees who fail to fulfill military obligations, according to Syrian news Web sites and activists. In addition, they say, new restrictions imposed this fall have made it all but impossible for men in their 20s to leave the country.

Since the start of the uprising in 2011, Syrian authorities have used arrests and intimidation to halt desertions, defections and evasion of military service — but not to the extent seen recently, Syrians and analysts say.

**Men who are dragooned into the army appear to be deserting in larger numbers, they say, and the government's crackdown is driving many of these men as well as more of the large number of draft-evaders to go into hiding or flee abroad.**

"I can't go back. All these things would make it certain that I'd be forced into the military," said Mustafa, 25, a Syrian from Damascus who fled to Lebanon in September because of the new measures. Citing safety concerns, he asked that only his first name be used.

Joseph, a 34-year-old Christian from Damascus, learned two weeks ago that his name was on a list of thousands of people who would soon be activated for reserve duty. Having completed his compulsory military service in 2009, he wants to flee Syria.

"Of course I don't want to return to the military," Joseph said by telephone from the capital. He also requested that only his first name be used.

**A report issued this month by the Institute for the Study of War says the number of soldiers in the Syrian military has fallen by more than half since the start of the conflict, from roughly 325,000 to 150,000, because of casualties, defections and desertions.**

**Combat fatalities alone have surpassed 44,000, according to the report, which used data from Syrian activists, monitoring groups and media reports.**

Christopher Kozak, a Syria analyst at the institute who wrote the report, said in an e-mail that reservist mobilizations and efforts to stop desertions appear to be partly related to the departure in recent months of pro-regime militiamen. Scores of these largely Shiite fighters, who come from Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan and Lebanon's Hezbollah movement, left for Iraq in the summer to counter an offensive by the Islamic State, the extremist Sunni group.

Iranian fighters in particular have been crucial in helping the Syrian regime restructure its forces. One such effort was the founding of the National Defense Force, a militia composed of paid volunteers. The foreign fighters helped the Assad regime win back strategic territory from rebels. Kozak wrote that these supplemental militias "are no longer sufficient to meet the regime's projected needs — spurring the regime to reinvigorate its conscription efforts" in the military.

Imad Salamey, a politics professor at the Lebanese American University, said that efforts to boost numbers in the military are partly driven by concern that Assad's allies, Iran and Russia, appear increasingly interested in a negotiated settlement to the Syrian civil war. In recent weeks, Russia, with Iranian backing, has engaged in diplomatic efforts to restart the Geneva peace talks that collapsed in February.

"There is rising urgency in these countries for a settlement to the conflict and the regime senses this, so it's trying to win as much ground as possible to strengthen its negotiating position," he said.

Yezid Sayigh, a Syria expert and senior associate at the Carnegie Middle East Center in Beirut, said economic crises in Iran and Russia because of falling oil prices could affect their support for the Assad regime, which until now has prevented its collapse.

“The question for me really is whether Iran and Russia are going to push the regime harder to engage in diplomatic efforts,” he said.

**He added that a worsening problem for the regime is anger among its supporters over mounting casualties. Rare protests over the issue have been held by the minority Alawite population, which is the backbone of the Assad regime’s forces.**

**Other minority groups, such as Syria’s Druze community, also show signs of dissent. In their villages in southern Syria, most Druze families have refused to allow their sons to join the military.**

In an incident earlier this month, Druze villagers kidnapped regime intelligence officers in an attempt to free a man who was apprehended for refusing to serve in the military.

**“The people are turning on the regime here because they don’t want their children to die in this war. They don’t see the point of this war,” said Qusay, 22, a resident of the mostly Druze city of Suwayda and engineering student at Damascus University. He also asked that only his first name be used.**

**“If the regime tries to push us to serve, there will be a fight.”**

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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**

<p><b>All revolutions are surprises, and we cannot predict future struggles. -- Ian Birchall, Grim And Dim</b></p>
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## **Thanks For All The Vengeance**



January 9, 2015 by Dark Laughter, The Duffel Blog. Duffel Blog writers G-Had and Drew Ferrol contributed to this article.

***The following is an opinion article written by Muhammad, son of Abdullah, Prophet of God and Apostle of Islam (Peace be upon him).***

In the name of God the Beneficent, the Merciful,

I have a message to my brothers of the faith who shot up the French satirical newspaper in my name: Great job!

More than anyone else, you clearly understand the message revealed to me by God in the Holy Quran about the need for indiscriminate murder: the prayers, the fasting, the pilgrimage, the alms, and the slaughter. You guys nailed it!

It's so refreshing in this day and age to know that people truly understand the message of Islam. For a while I was worried about the lack of explicit instructions in the Quran to murder anyone who draws me. If people could draw pictures of me, some ignorant Muslims might start fanatically worshipping me as divine, and nobody wants that.

However, I see now that in God's infinite wisdom and judgment, explicit instructions were not necessary.

Nothing could be closer to the message I revealed, except of course burning down an embassy over a YouTube video making fun of me. It reminds me of when I received my revelation from the angel Gabriel, when he told me to put on my balaclava, slink into Mecca under cover of darkness, and deliver letters threatening Abu Sufyan's family.

What searing insight it must have taken to realize that beneath my message of surrendering pride, submitting to the will of God, and supporting society's poorest, there was a more fundamental message about the value of indiscriminate killing. This is clearly what I had in mind when I smashed the pagan idols of the Qurayshi merchants in Mecca and I'm glad someone finally understood.

I'm only telling you this because I know you need encouragement.

There were certainly times I questioned my own faith, even on the brink of my great triumphs, for instance when I was meditating on Mount Hira, staring into my heart of hearts to try to see God, which I totally believe is something any one of you would do even though it didn't involve running through a building pumping round after round into unarmed office workers.

You guys are definitely mujahideen of the highest caliber, no pun intended. Truly, God must have also spoken to you, to so dramatically transform a pizza delivery guy and failed rap musician into stone cold warriors for Islam. All it took was a rifle and a mask.

It's a good thing those western militaries are far from Syria, because there's no question in my mind that each one of you is the equal of Khalid ibn al-Walid and Ṣalāḥ ad-Dīn, the latter of whom you would have killed for being a Kurd.

I mean, if you guys had been at the Battle of Badr, I don't think there's any chance you would have looked at the numbers and renounced God over your shoulder while fleeing the opposite direction.

I'm also pleased that you perceived the statement I was trying to make about the value of slavery when I had Bilal make the call to prayer. Honestly, we were worried that it might be a bit high concept and misleading, but you seem to have grasped that some Muslims are more equal than others.

You know, kind of like when you hear the voice of God telling you it's OK to rape a little girl or a married woman, plunder a working man's livelihood, or behead someone offering alms to the poor, as long as it's for the greater good of the ummah.

When God revealed to me, “say to the disbelievers ‘To you, your beliefs, to me, mine’” I kinda knew he only meant disbelievers not drawing pictures of me.

He also said not to transgress limits, “for God loves not transgressors.”

But you guys never go over the top.

Speaking of which, how goes the plan to detonate a nuclear weapon in downtown Manhattan or unleash a plague of anthrax in London?

I’ve got to admit, I was a bit worried when early Muslims used my simple message of a community guided by divine revelation to overrun and integrate the empires of both Persia and Byzantium. I mean, what were they trying to do, land on the moon a century early?

Fortunately, you came along and set things back on track, and that track runs straight backwards, just like I so obviously intended.

You know, back when I was converting the entire Arabian Peninsula to Islam, Umar asked me if there was a possibility that maybe some of the Arab tribes had just converted to Islam without really understanding what Islam was, perhaps because we seemed unbeatable and they just wanted to be on the winning side.

But I told him nah, they get it.

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**“Political Economy In Its Classical Period, Like The Bourgeoisie Itself In Its Parvenu Period, Adopted A Severely Critical Attitude To The Machinery Of The State”**  
**State Officials, Military People “Are Regarded By The Industrial Capitalists And The Working Class As Incidental Expenses Of Production, Which Are Therefore To Be Cut Down To The Most**

# Indispensable Minimum And Provided As Cheaply As Possible”

Theories Of Surplus Value, Karl Marx, 1863 [Excerpt]

The polemics against Adam Smith’s distinction between productive and unproductive labour were for the most part confined to the *dii minorum gentium* [minor gods] (among whom moreover Storch was the most important); they are not to be found in the work of any economist of significance—of anyone of whom it can be said that he made some discovery in political economy.

They are, however, the hobby-horse of the second-rate fellows and especially of the schoolmasterish compilers and writers of compendia, as well as of *dilettanti* with facile pens and vulgarisers in this field.

What particularly aroused these polemics against Adam Smith was the following circumstance.

The great mass of so-called “higher grade” workers—such as state officials, military people, artists, doctors, priests, judges, lawyers, etc.—some of whom are not only not productive but in essence destructive, but who know how to appropriate to themselves a very great part of the “material” wealth partly through the sale of their “immaterial” commodities and partly by forcibly imposing the latter on other people — found it not at all pleasant to be relegated *economically* to the same class as clowns and menial servants and to appear merely as people partaking in the consumption, parasites on the actual producers (or rather agents of production).

This was a peculiar profanation precisely of those functions which had hitherto been surrounded with a halo and had enjoyed superstitious veneration.

Political economy in its classical period, like the bourgeoisie itself in its parvenu period, adopted a severely critical attitude to the machinery of the State, etc.

At a later stage it realised and — as was shown too in practice — learnt from experience that the necessity for the inherited social combination of all these classes, which in part were totally unproductive, arose from its own organisation.

**In so far as those “unproductive labourers” do not produce entertainment, so that their purchase entirely depends on how the agent of production cares to spend his wages or his profit — in so far on the contrary as they are necessary or make themselves necessary because of physical infirmities (like doctors), or spiritual weakness (like parsons), or because of the conflict between private interests and national interests (like statesmen, all lawyers, police and soldiers) — they are regarded by Adam Smith, as by the industrial capitalists themselves and the working class, as incidental expenses of production, which are therefore to be cut down to the most indispensable minimum and provided as cheaply as possible.**

Bourgeois society reproduces in its own form everything against which it had fought in feudal or absolutist form.



**In the first place therefore it becomes a principal task for the sycophants of this society, and especially of the upper classes, to restore in theoretical terms even the purely parasitic section of these “unproductive labourers”, or to justify the exaggerated claims of the section which is indispensable.**

The *dependence* of the ideological, etc., classes on the *capitalists* was in fact proclaimed.

*Secondly*, however, a section of the agents of production (of material production itself) were declared by one group of economists or another to be “unproductive”.

For example, the landowner, by those among the economists who represented industrial capital (Ricardo).

Others (for example Carey) declared that the merchant in the true sense of the word was an “unproductive” laborer.

**Then even a third group came along who declared that the “capitalists” themselves were unproductive, or who at least sought to reduce their claims to material wealth to “wages”, that is, to the wages of a “productive laborer”.**

**Many intellectual workers seemed inclined to share the skepticism in regard to the capitalist.**

It was therefore time to make a compromise and to recognise the “productivity” of all classes not directly included among the agents of material production.

One good turn deserves another; and, as in the *Fable of the Bees*, it had to be established that even from the “productive”, economic standpoint, the bourgeois world with all its “unproductive labourers” is the best of all worlds.

This was all the more necessary because the “unproductive labourers” on their part were advancing critical observations in regard to the productivity of the classes who in general were “*fruges consumere nati*” [born only to eat]; or in regard to those agents of production, like landowners, who do nothing at all, etc.

**Both the *do-nothings* and their *parasites* had to be found a place in this best possible order of things.**

### **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.**

## CLASS WAR REPORTS

# **10 U.S. Cities Where People Don't Have Enough Food: “Hunger To The Friends, Relatives And Fellow Citizens Of Our Soldiers Who Have Sworn And Oath To Protect Us From All Enemies, Including Domestic Ones”**

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

[He writes:

["Why are US soldiers fighting for over 10 years 10,000 miles from home? There is a much closer, more relevant, fight right here in the US.

["Who is the enemy? Well, maybe leaders (elected non-representatives?) who brought hunger to America. Hunger to the friends, relatives and fellow citizens of our soldiers who have sworn and oath to protect us from all enemies, including domestic ones.

["And, is it correct what I read? Are US soldiers in dire economic condition because of cutbacks and unexpected and unfair releases from the military?

["The stories I have read indicate our military personnel and their families are not being treated very well.

["Can that be??? In the home of the free??? The home of the brave??? Hmmm.

["If it is true, seems like the soldiers and the people have a common problem from a common source.

["Come home! You are needed here not over there!!"]

["The Dennis Serdel poem, below, might go good with this article."]

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January 7, 2015 By Alex Henderson, AlterNet [Excerpts]

Hunger is a concept that is often connected with poor developing countries, but it has also become increasingly common in the United States.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 49.1 million households experienced food insecurity at some point in 2013. On December 11, the U.S. Conference of Mayors released its 32nd Annual Report on Hunger and Homelessness. The report covered 25 American cities: 71% said the number of requests for emergency food assistance had increased in the last year, while only 25% said that requests for emergency food assistance had decreased.

Here are 10 U.S. cities where an appalling number of Americans are going hungry.

### 1. Memphis

In 2010, a study by the Food Research Action Center declared Memphis to be the hunger capital of the U.S. and found that 26% of its residents had suffered from food insecurity at some point during the previous 12 months.

Four years later, Memphis had the worst hunger problem of the 25 cities examined in the U.S. Conference of Mayors' new report: 46% of the requests for emergency food assistance in Tennessee's largest city—almost half—were being unmet. Food pantries in Memphis are overwhelmed with requests, and according to the report, they are having a hard time “securing funds to purchase the food needed to meet the need.”

Unemployment, low wages and poverty were cited as the main causes of hunger in Memphis, where the official unemployment rate is 7.5% and 26.2% of its residents are living below the poverty line.

### 2. San Antonio

In the Conference of Mayors' report, there is both good news and bad news where San Antonio is concerned. The good news is that requests for emergency food assistance in San Antonio have “decreased over the past year by 18%.” But the bad news is that 38% of the requests for emergency food assistance are still going unmet in that Texas city, where the Conference said that the number of homeless families “increased by 19 percent” over the past year. The Conference found that 46% of the people requesting emergency food assistance there were employed.

### 3. San Francisco

San Francisco has long been one of the most expensive cities in the U.S. Extreme gentrification in the Northern California city has gone from bad to worse in recent years, making it even more difficult to stay afloat without at least an upper-middle-class income.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors reported that of the 25 cities analyzed, San Francisco is among the worst for hunger: 37% of the requests for emergency food assistance in San Francisco went unmet in the last year (compared to 15% in Denver or 10% in Charlotte, NC).

But in a city with such a high cost of living, the San Francisco/Marin Food Bank Pantry Program needs a lot more funding.

#### 4. Washington, DC

The U.S. capitol is a city with glaring income inequality, with 18.5% of Washington, DC's population living below the poverty line. Officials in DC, according to Conference of Mayors, estimate that requests for emergency food assistance "increased by 56 percent over the past year"—and 30% of those requests (almost one-third) went unmet.

The three top reasons cited for hunger in Washington, DC were poverty, high housing costs and high healthcare costs. The report also pointed out the link between poverty and a poor diet, noting that "the Washington metro area is seeing growing numbers of low-income individuals suffering from diet-related illnesses such as diabetes and hypertension."

#### 5. Des Moines

At 4.0%, Des Moines' official unemployment rate is below the national average. But unemployment figures never tell the whole story because they don't factor in long-term discouraged workers or things like wages and cost of living—and with 17.7% of Des Moines residents living below the poverty line, the working poor are plentiful in Iowa's largest city. The Conference of Mayors found that requests for emergency food assistance "increased by 20 percent over the past year," and three reasons cited were low wages, high housing costs and poverty. The Conference also found that 30% of Des Moines' emergency food requests were going unmet and predicted that in 2015, such requests will "increase substantially" while resources for food assistance will "decrease moderately."

#### 6. Boston

Boston is among the most expensive of the Northeastern Corridor cities, and the combination of poverty and a high cost of living can easily lead to hunger when food assistance is inadequate.

For Boston, the Mayors Conference reported that requests for emergency food assistance "decreased by 1.7 percent" in the past year but that among those still requesting food assistance, 36% of the requests went unmet. And the report cited the high cost of health care, housing and utilities as three major causes of hunger in that city. Roughly 21.2% of Boston residents live below the poverty line, and clearly, many of them have become food-insecure as a result of having too many expenses and not enough income.

To make matters worse, the Greater Boston Food Bank has reported that even Bostonians who make too much to qualify for food stamps might be struggling to eat because they spend so much of their income on housing and utilities.

#### 7. Santa Barbara

Sun Belt cities tend to attract the homeless and the working poor because of their milder climates: being homeless is brutal under any circumstances, but it is especially harsh in places where sub-freezing temperatures, snow and ice are the norm during the winter months. One of the Sun Belt cities with an abundance of hunger and homelessness is

Santa Barbara, California, where requests for emergency food assistance “increased by 8%” this past year and 30% of those requests went unmet.

The three main reasons cited for hunger in Santa Barbara were unemployment, low wages and high housing costs, although the Mayors Conference report said that most of the Santa Barbara residents seeking emergency food assistance were the working poor rather than the unemployed: roughly 70% of them had jobs.

#### 8. Salt Lake City

Salt Lake City is a perfect example of a place where one finds lower-than-average unemployment but widespread poverty: Utah’s largest city has an official unemployment rate of 3.3%—definitely below the national average—but the fact that 19.4% of its residents are living below the poverty line points to an abundance of low-paying jobs.

Among the people requesting emergency food assistance in Salt Lake City in the past year, the Mayors Conference reported that 74 percent were employed. The Conference found that such requests “increased by 16 percent over the past year” and that around one-fifth of that need was going unmet. Three reasons cited for food insecurity in Salt Lake City were low wages, high housing costs and poverty.

#### 9. Philadelphia

Although Philadelphia is doing relatively well in some respects (from nightlife and the arts to jobs in healthcare and higher education), the East Coast’s second largest city still has a great deal of poverty and economic deprivation. Gentrification in historically low-income sections of the city does nothing to help the poor out of poverty; it simply chases them out of those neighborhoods and contributes to homelessness.

The Conference of Mayors’ report found that among the homeless, 49% of requests for shelter in Philly were going unmet—and among the city’s hungry, 20% of requests for food assistance were going unmet.

In other words, one in five hungry Philadelphians isn’t receiving food assistance when it is needed. The Conference also found that in Philly, many of the people seeking emergency food assistance were the working poor: 60 percent of them were employed. Nonetheless, unemployment was cited as one of the leading causes of hunger in Philly along with “low wages” and “poverty.”

Philabundance, one of the organizations fighting hunger in that city, has said its anti-hunger efforts become more difficult every time members of Congress vote to decrease food stamp benefits.

#### 10. Norfolk

The Conference of Mayors reported that in Norfolk, there has been a 3% increase in “the number of homeless individuals” and a 3% increase in the number of people requesting emergency food assistance—and Norfolk officials estimated that about 30% of those requests are being unmet. Food pantries in Norfolk clearly don’t have the resources to help everyone in that city suffering from food insecurity. Norfolk officials expect the

number of residents seeking food assistance to “increase moderately” in 2015, and many of them will no doubt be the working poor.

The Conference of Mayors estimated that 51% of people seeking food assistance in Norfolk are employed and cited “low wages” (along with “inadequate benefits” and high healthcare costs) as one of the main causes of hunger in that city.

**MORE:**

## **Love, Dad**

By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50 Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan

### **Love, Dad**

**Son, we can't send you  
any packages  
like we have sent you before  
because the shop  
that I worked for for 27 years  
has just went bankrupt  
my pension money is gone  
didn't get severance pay  
after all those years  
and I would have to pay  
Cobra for health care but  
I don't have money for that  
they didn't even give me  
my vacation pay  
they gave me nothing  
nothing at all  
I took our savings and paid off  
our home but now all I get is  
unemployment checks  
and food stamps  
that will stop in months  
I don't know what I will do then,  
I'm old and nobody will hire me  
but even the young  
can't find any jobs  
Soon they will take our car  
turn off electricity  
and turn off the heat  
Son, I know you have troubles  
of your own in Iraq  
but I think you are fighting  
the wrong enemy over there**

I think all of you should come home  
fight the government  
the corporations  
and defend us from  
the bill collectors  
kill the white shirt bank criminals  
the oil company criminals

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**“Wave Of Public Protests  
Against The Regressive Social  
Policies Of The Ukraine  
Government Rising In Ukraine”**

**“Taxes Are To Increase, The  
Pension Age Is To Rise To 65, And  
Students Will See Costly Tuition  
Fees Imposed For The First Time  
In Modern Ukraine”**

**“The Government And The People  
Again On Opposite Sides Of The  
Barricades”**

**“It Looks Like Our Authorities Have  
Failed To Learn Anything From The  
Maidan”**

Dec. 29, 2014 By Roger Annis, New Cold War.org [Excerpts]

A wave of public protests against the regressive social policies of the Ukraine government is rising in Ukraine. The Christmas season has been punctuated by protest across the country.

Several thousand people rallied against austerity policies in front of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) in Kyiv on Dec. 23.

Deputies inside were debating a proposed state budget that will radically slash social and economic spending in Ukraine.

Other protests occurred in the days following, including by hundreds of people on Dec. 28.



People protest against the proposed budget outside the Ukrainian parliament building on Dec. 28. The poster reads "Let us fill in the budget". Kyiv Post. Photo: Anastasia Vlasova

**Cuts to government services will see hundreds of thousands of jobs lost. More job losses will result from plans for privatizations of state-owned enterprises.**

**Taxes are to increase, the pension age is to rise to 65, and students will see costly tuition fees imposed for the first time in modern Ukraine.**

Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk wants to quadruple the price of natural gas to consumers. Last spring, the government decided on a price increase schedule of 40 per cent in 2015 and 20 per cent in each of the two years after that.

The protest on Dec. 23 drew civil servants, teachers, doctors and students.

“Protesters demanded the government stop cutting social benefits, subsidies, and price controls on utility rates.

The state budget is expected to be slashed by 10 percent and gas prices are to become three times more expensive. Most of the cuts are to be made in the social sector, with 10 percent of the country’s public workers expected to lose their jobs.”



RIA Novosti's correspondent reported that during the course of the day's demonstration, other movements joined the protest, including representatives from Ukrainian trade unions and supporters of the Svoboda Party.

Tamara Zamyatina comments in the TASS news agency on Dec. 26 that the right-wing government installed in Kyiv earlier this year and confirmed since then by restrictive electoral exercises to the presidency and Rada is acting like its predecessor. It is disregarding the social demands of the population even though it was protests in late 2013/early 2014 that propelled the incumbent rulers to power.

**Zamyatina cites Viktor Medvedchuk, the leader of the Ukrainian Choice public movement, who wrote recently, "It looks like our authorities have failed to learn anything from the Maidan."**

**"The government and the people are again on the opposite sides of the barricades," he said.**

Vitaly Yahno, a coordinator of the Dec. 23 protest, told UNN, "First of all, they want to pass a budget with which the majority of people gathered here today are dissatisfied, and they want to extend the powers of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine."

**People are concerned about road and other public safety when electricity service is suddenly cut unannounced.**

**As well, electricity authorities have been installing household meters that automatically cut service at two kw per day unless a customer has prepaid for a higher amount.**

**MORE:**

**“Workers Blocked Major Highway Linking Kharkiv To Kiev, Chernovtsy To Ivano-Frankovsk”**

**“Workers Joined In Protests By Farmers And Unionized Workers At Distilleries”**

**“Coal Miners At The Novovolyns'kyi Mine Went On Strike On Dec. 24,**

# Demanding That Past-Due Wages Be Paid”



Striking miners at Novovolyns'kyi coal mine in Volyn region block a road on Dec 27, 2014

Dec. 29, 2014 By Roger Annis, New Cold War.org [Excerpts]

Workers at the state-owned spirit (beverage) alcohol producer 'Ukraspirit' are mobilizing to oppose privatization plans.

**On Dec. 23, they blocked major highway routes linking Kharkiv to Kiev, Chernovtsy to Ivano-Frankovsk, and others. The main slogan is 'No to privatization.'**

**The workers were joined in their protests by farmers and by unionized workers at distilleries.**

In several southern regions of Ukraine, people are protesting rolling cuts to electricity service.

In the Volhynia region in western Ukraine, coal miners at the Novovolyns'kyi mine went on strike on Dec. 24, demanding that past-due wages be paid and that necessary investments be made to keep their mines producing. Three days later, they blocked a road in the region to press their demands.

The Special Monitoring Mission for Ukraine of the Organisation for Security and Economic Cooperation in Europe reports the following in its latest bulletin:

“On 29 December, the SMM observed a protest of miners from Chervonohrad (80km north of Lviv), who claimed they had not been paid since November and demanded support from the Lviv regional administration.

“Approximately 60 men from seven Chervonohrad coal mines gathered in front of the regional administration building. The SMM observed representatives of the regional authorities inviting trade union delegates into the building. The SMM observed seven police officers present during the protest, which ended peacefully.”

**MORE:**

## **Ukrainians Continue Protests Against State Budget 2015 Proposals In Kyiv Dec. 28, 2014**



Ukrainians protest against state budget 2015 proposals in Kyiv, Ukraine, Dec. 28, 2014  
(UNIAN Photo)

Dec. 28, 2014 THE UKRAINE TODAY DAILY NEWSLETTER

On Sunday (Dec.28) morning around 500 demonstrators took to the streets outside parliament.

Some of the activists protesting austerity measures for 2015 have attempted to enter the parliament which resulted in scuffles with the police.

**Ukraine's government is under significant pressure from its financial backers at the International Monetary Fund and European Union to finalize its budget before the new year, but was forced to postpone a second reading of its USD 34 billion budget bill planned for Dec. 28 in the face of fierce criticism.**

Civil servants including teachers and doctors protested earlier this week over the plans, saying they feared losing their jobs and benefits.

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



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

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

## DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



"IF WE CAN JUST PUSH THIS HOT, LOCKED CAR BACK OVER THE BORDER, THEY WON'T BE OUR PROBLEM."

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# OCCUPATION PALESTINE

## Zionism



Comment: T

Zionism is not a religion.

Zionism has nothing to do with religion.

Zionism is a racist political tendency, combining the most vicious expansionist nationalism with force of arms.

Neo-Nazis would like the world to think that all Jews are Zionist.

That is a despicable lie.

Zionists would like the world to think that all Jews are Zionists.

That is another despicable lie.

There have always been, and are to this day, political tendencies among Jews all over the world that have fought Zionism implacably, and still fight Zionism for the evil it is: nothing but a reactionary, odious, bloodthirsty politics that says a bunch of people can walk into Palestine, slaughter the people living there, reduce the survivors to objects of scorn and abuse, and stuff them in huge open air concentration camps, where they may be killed more conveniently.

Zionism, like fascism, or any other form of expansionist militarized nationalism, has nothing whatever progressive or redeeming about it.

It is no more possible to defend the politics of Zionism than to defend the slaveholders in the United States who formed a regime founded on similar principles of structured inequality: The Confederate States Of America.

As finally occurred in South Africa, where a regime founded on similar murderous racist tyranny eventually was destroyed by mass resistance, it may be hoped that one day, the area comprised now by every inch of Israel, including every inch of the occupied territories, will form one political entity, with one person, one vote, and where all, regardless of their background, have equal rights, including the right of the Palestinians to return to their homes.

In order for that to happen, the Zionist regime must be destroyed, and Zionism cease to be embodied in a government that proclaims that those who are not Zionists are inferiors, just as for change to come to South Africa, the racist regime that ruled there had to be destroyed.

Nothing less will end the bloodshed, just as nothing less could end the bloodshed in South Africa generated by a regime openly proclaiming that the Master Race should rule, and all other bow down before it.

The Obama regime has the same bloodthirsty nationalism at the heart of their politics as do the Zionists. The slaughter of Afghans is merely a current instance. That bloodthirsty nationalism has a long history. Not only Vietnam and Hiroshima, but long before that.

So do many other expansionist predatory Imperial or wanna be Imperial states. And the people who use their power and wealth to control governments and order their armed forces to butcher others in order to expand their wealth are filth, and nothing but filth, and that is a mild term for their status.

How fortunate that hundreds of millions of our species all over the world are resisting them for what they are: the enemies of the vast majority of us who have no interest whatever in Imperial conquest, large, as with the U.S., or smaller, as with Israel.

Change for the better has come and will come when people below have had enough, and organize to fight back against the torment and death inflicted by the predators who use their money to control the power in the society, and decide who lives and who dies.

The essential difference is not one between different peoples or religions. The essential difference is class.

It is impossible to be too hard, not merely on the temporary Obama regime, but the whole Imperial class that sustains the U.S. Empires' bloody wars of conquest, as much Democrat as Republican let us not forget, just as it is impossible to be too hard on the Zionist movement, which is the political expression of a virulent, murderous nationalism no less intent on the slaughter and domination of those it chooses to plunder.

They are brothers in blood.

We must be sisters and brothers to everyone in class-based resistance, everywhere in the world. That's what solidarity is.

**MORE:**

**“A Jew to Zionist Fighters, 1988”  
Do You Really Want To Be The New  
Gestapo?  
The New Wehrmacht?  
The New SA And SS?**



[Thanks to JM, who sent this in. She writes:]

**Something very different: a poem.**

**Have you heard of Erich Fried who is often referred to as the greatest modern, Jewish, poet?**

**He was born in Vienna in 1921 and escaped to England, with his mother, after his father was tortured to death by the Gestapo, in 1938.**

**Because of his experiences with racism and Fascism he became involved in the Palestinian cause.**

**He was a leader in the fight against both Fascism and Zionism.**

**I'm sending a copy of his best poem, in my opinion. It was first published in 1988 just before he died.**

**Please take the time to read it. I think it's wonderful.**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **A Jew to Zionist Fighters, 1988**

**What do you actually want?  
Do you really want to outdo  
those who trod you down  
a generation ago  
into your own blood  
and into your own excrement  
Do you want to pass on the old torture  
to others now  
in all its bloody and dirty detail  
with all the brutal delight of torturers  
as suffered by your fathers?  
Do you really want to be the new Gestapo  
the new Wehrmacht  
the new SA and SS  
and turn the Palestinians  
into the new Jews?  
Well then I too want,  
having fifty years ago  
myself been tormented for being a Jewboy  
by your tormentors,  
to be a new Jew with these new Jews  
you are making of the Palestinians  
And I want to help lead them as a free people  
into their own land of Palestine  
from whence you have driven them or in which you plague them  
you apprentices of the Swastika  
you fools and changelings of history  
whose Star of David on your flags  
turns ever quicker  
into that damned symbol with its four feet  
that you just do not want to see  
but whose path you are following today**

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

**<http://www.maannews.net/eng/Default.aspx> and  
<http://www.palestinemonitor.org/list.php?id=ej898ra7yff0ukmf16>**

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



# DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Congressman Flopschnoogel Realizes Anyone in Washington DC Can Now Carry a Loaded Gun and that Congress is at 12 Per Cent Approval



## **Texas Enemy Combatant Tasers 76-Year-Old Man With Expired Inspection “After The Suspect Had Already Been Forced To The Ground”**



Victoria Police Officer Nathaniel Robinson arrests Pete Vasquez (screen grab)

14 Dec 2014 by David Edwards, Raw Story

A Texas police officer was placed on administrative leave on Friday after he reportedly used a Taser on a 76-year-old man after the suspect had already been forced to the ground.

The Victoria Advocate reported that 76-year-old Pete Vasquez was driving a work-owned vehicle back to his place of business on Thursday when 23-year-old Officer Nathaniel Robinson pulled him over for an expired inspection.

**Vasquez said that he explained that the car belonged to a car lot, and that the dealer tags made it exempt from having an inspection.**

**But dashcam video obtained by the paper shows Robinson using force to arrest Vasquez for what should have been a Class C misdemeanor.**

In the video, Vasquez pulls his arm away from Robinson, and the officer slams him into the hood of the patrol car. The two men disappear from camera range as Robinson places Vasquez in a hold, and then forces him to the ground.

According to police, Robinson shocked Vasquez with a Taser twice while he was on the ground.

“He just acted like a pit bull, and that was it,” Vasquez recalled. “For a while, I thought he was going to pull his gun and shoot me.”

Vasquez was placed in the patrol car, and then transported to Citizens Medical Center for treatment, where he spent the next two hours in police custody. He was eventually released without being charged or cited.

Chief J.J. Craig offered a personal apology to Vasquez on Friday.

“Public trust is extremely important to us,” Craig explained. “Sometimes that means you have to take a real hard look at some of the actions that occur within the department.”

“You want to make sure you give the right kind of person a badge and a gun,” he added.

Larry Urich, who works as a sales manager at the car lot, told the Advocate that the officer should be both fired from the force and prosecuted for assault.

“I told the officer, ‘What in the hell are you doing?’ This gentleman is 76 years old,” Urich said.

“The cop told me to stand back, but I didn’t shut up. I told him he was a goddamned Nazi Stormtrooper.”

For his part, Vasquez said that he felt like his “rights were violated.”

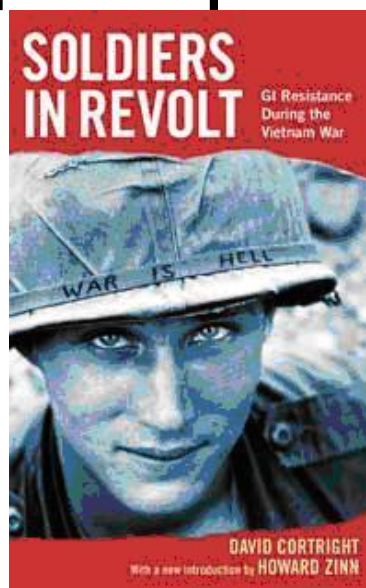
“The police department is supposed to train their police officers to be more conscientious and use common sense,” he observed. “I don’t think he had any.”

Robinson could be charged with aggravated assault, injury to the elderly and official oppression if the department determines he violated the law.

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## **FREE TO ACTIVE DUTY: A Vietnam Veteran Describes The Strategy And Tactics Used By Troops To Stop An Imperial War**



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