

## **Military Resistance 13B2**



### **Learning From *American Sniper*:**

**“If We Want To Build A Successful Antiwar Movement, We Have To Engage The Soldiers Fighting The Wars”**

**“American Sniper, If We Take It Seriously, Might Help Us Do Just That”**

**“Deep Down He Questions What He Has Been Taught By His Father And His Chain Of Command”**



Sahil Khan / Flickr

January 26, 2015 by Rory Fanning, Socialist Worker.

Rory Fanning, author of *Worth Fighting For: An Army Ranger's Journey Out of the Military and Across America*, examines the controversy surrounding the new movie *American Sniper*, in an article written for Jacobin.

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Clint Eastwood's *American Sniper*, a movie about Chris Kyle, the Navy Seal who claimed to have killed more than 250 people, has been nominated for six Oscars. It has broken box-office records. Warner Brothers is calling the film a cultural phenomenon.

As a war resister, I felt somewhat of a duty to run out and see the film so I could write a scathing review. I was expecting to only add to the string of antiwar reviews that have condemned *American Sniper* for misrepresenting the true Chris Kyle, ignoring history, perpetuating anti-Muslim stereotypes, denying the full range of experiences of American soldiers who have fought in Iraq, and inspiring reams of reactionary and racist responses to the film.

And *American Sniper* deserves every bit of criticism the left throws at it.

But the film's racism and enthusiastic support for American empire shouldn't blind us to its lessons about the sociological and ideological factors that have allowed the U.S. to stay at war for 14 years with at least the partial support of an all-volunteer military.

Many critical reviews of the movie have claimed the real Kyle was closer to a psychopath and a compulsive liar than the conflicted victim of PTSD the film depicts.

In *American Sniper*, however, Kyle is a product of a domineering father and America's genocidal past--as Eastwood reminds us with his regular references to cowboys and Westerns.

**But he is also a loving father, husband and mentor to wounded Marines.**

**To simply write off Kyle as a monster would be to ignore the people, institutions and history that helped create him.**

Indeed, if Eastwood portrayed Kyle as a psychopath, the Seal would be less interesting and less politically relevant.

While Kyle is rendered with more nuance than left critics have allowed, Iraqis are given no such courtesy. No Iraqi killed in *American Sniper* is portrayed as innocent. And there is no talk about the lies that put Kyle in the country in the first place, or that 70 percent of those killed in America's illegal war in Iraq have been civilians.

Of course, it would be inaccurate to have it otherwise.

To spend time dealing with the horror of civilian deaths or the lies of the Iraq war would be to ruminate on subjects that, as far as we can tell, hardly crossed Kyle's mind. As he says in his memoir, "I couldn't give a flying fuck about the Iraqis" and "If you see anyone from about 16 to 65 and they're male, shoot 'em. Kill every male you see."

The Kyle played by Bradley Cooper is similar to the one that comes through in his memoir. Cooper refers to Iraqis as "savages" throughout; Kyle sees the entire population of Iraq as the enemy.

It's a worldview that's ingrained in Kyle from a young age. In the early scenes of the film, Kyle's father is lecturing Chris and his younger brother--who has just been beaten up on the playground--at the dinner table. The father's comments, which could just as easily have been uttered by any of Kyle's drill sergeants, are worth quoting at length.

They are a window not just into Kyle, but the pathological mentality, that is partially responsible for keeping the US at war for a decade and a half with an all-volunteer military:

*"There are three types of people in this world: sheep, wolves, and sheepdogs. Some people prefer to think that evil doesn't exist in the world. If there were ever dark on their doorsteps, they wouldn't know how to protect themselves. Those are the sheep.*

*"Then you have predators who use violence to prey on the weak. They're wolves. Then there are those who are blessed with the gift of aggression with an overpowering need to protect the flock. These men are the rare breed who live to confront the wolf. They are the sheep dog.*

*"We are not raising any sheep in this family. (The father takes off his belt, throws it on the table, and moves toward Chris and his brother). I will whoop your ass if you turn into a wolf."*

For Kyle, the choice is hardly a choice at all: he must become an aggressive, wooly-eyed sheepdog if he wants to retain his father's love.

**"Deep Down He Questions What He Has Been Taught By His Father And His Chain Of Command"**

When the father pulls off his belt at the table, it foreshadows a scene near the end of the movie.

Kyle is on leave between his third and fourth tour. He is in the backyard and sees the family dog mock-fighting with his son. Kyle pulls off his own belt to attack the dog.

However, it's really the sheep dog--the symbolic representation of himself--that he tries to savage with the belt in the backyard. It is the sheep dog that poses the true threat to his family.

We're left with the sense that Kyle is confused about who the good and bad guys truly are. And that deep down he questions what he has been taught by his father and his chain of command.

The structure of the film reinforces the portrayal of Kyle's personality type. Eastwood jumps between Kyle's four tours and scenes of courtship, sex, children, and family stateside.

In Kyle's life there is nothing but war and family, life and death.

*American Sniper* also conveys how racism is reinforced in war. The killing and dying scenes feel dangerously real, and there is hardly time to take a safe breath between them. The special effects and the unyielding script drive home the acute stress soldiers experience in battle.

Eastwood also does a masterful job showing us how a soldier's view of the world can be narrowed to the size of a rifle scope, of showing us how bonds between soldiers are formed: In combat, it seems the only people in the world are those standing to your left and right, keeping you alive.

For someone like Kyle, all he sees beyond his fellow soldiers are wolves. After combat, particularly if a soldier loses a buddy, the racism that is used as a killing and survival tool can be hard to discard.

**Towards the end of the movie, the mother of a fallen Seal is reading at her son's funeral the letter he wrote before he was killed in Iraq. It questions war and its glorification. The mom stumbles through the letter and is cut off by Marines playing Taps.**

The moment is easy to overlook, but it is disturbing for someone seeking broader political context.

Driving home from the funeral with his wife Taya, Kyle blames the letter for the Seal's death.

Kyle thus shows that he is incapable of reflecting on the words of one of his closest friends. To do so would imperil his very identity. It would mean questioning his simplistic and wooden worldview that keeps him hungry for more kills and a sheep-dog defender of America's wars. It would also mean becoming vulnerable in a combat zone.

**The scene also reminds us that there are soldiers who question war and that there aren't enough outlets that allow for a full accounting of these questions, and the few that exist are too often suppressed.**

**“Many American Teenagers Join The Military With Good Intentions. They Hope To Be Protectors Of Noble Values Like Freedom And Democracy”**

**Like I myself did, many American teenagers join the military with good intentions.**

They hope to be protectors of noble values like freedom and democracy. They seek a meaningful life. They desire the pro-military adulation regularly on display at airports, concerts, athletic events.

**These teenagers want to show that they are capable not just of serving their immediate self interests but their community as a whole.**

The majority of those who sign up for the military also come from alienated and exploited working-class families.

Families that feel the pressing weight of an unprecedented wealth divide and a political system that defends the interests of a few at the expense of the majority.

The stress of living under capitalism often causes families to fracture, whether from financial hardship or some type of physical or emotional abuse.

Under these circumstances, it becomes easy to blame the wrong people for such adversity.

The military capitalizes on this. Its disciplined structure can act as a substitute for what was lacking in a soldier's family and community. In the military the anger and frustration built up at home can be “legally” released onto the “enemy.”

Jeff Sparrow sums this up nicely in a recent piece on rage killings at CounterPunch:

**“War presents the traditional values of the left, albeit in an inverted fashion. In combat, soldiers find excitement, meaning, purpose and camaraderie--alongside, of course, brutality, hierarchy, destruction and cruelty. To put it another way, the appeal of violence constitutes an indictment of a peacetime order in which so many people cannot find much worth living for.”**

*American Sniper* can help antiwar activists understand what continues to drive many American teenagers to the military.

Yes, *American Sniper* is racist. Yes, it promotes an imperialist agenda. And yes, to distribute such a film in a country with a \$700 billion annual military budget and an unwavering commitment to war without end is reckless.

**But it is important to say more about the film than the obvious.**

We can start by asking why it is so successful and why it is appealing to large veteran organizations.

In doing so we might learn how to communicate better with the many teenagers looking to personally sacrifice so much for what they think will be a better world.

As Vietnam taught us, if we want to build a successful antiwar movement, we have to engage the soldiers fighting the wars.

*American Sniper*, if we take it seriously, might help us do just that.

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

OBAMA WANTS TO LEAVE 9,800 U.S. TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN AFTER 2014

WE'LL BE GONE AFTER 2014. JUST LIKE WE SAID! EXCEPT FOR A TEENSY, WEENSY LITTLE "CONTINGENCY FORCE" BECAUSE YOU NEVER KNOW! AND THEN, IN 2016, THEY'LL BE GONE TOO! EXCEPT FOR "SECURITY ASSISTANCE FORCES." HEY, GOT ANY BEER?

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## MILITARY NEWS

# **Physicians At VA Medical Center “Prescribed Opioids For Patients With Whom They Had No Direct Interaction, But This Is Not A Violation Of Law Or VA Policy” “Physicians Did Not Thoroughly Assess Patients Before Renewing Opioid Prescriptions”**

[Thanks to Anne W, who sent this in.]

Feb 2, 2015 Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) conducted an inspection in response to allegations that physicians at the Chillicothe, OH, VA Medical Center (VAMC) prescribed opioid medications for patients they had never evaluated.

In addition, patients were alleged to be at risk because no prescriber was monitoring them for adverse reactions, pain relief, or opioid abuse. OIG did not substantiate that physicians improperly prescribed opioid medications for patients whom they had not seen or examined.

**OIG did substantiate that physicians prescribed opioids for patients with whom they had no direct interaction, but this is not a violation of law or VA policy.**

OIG substantiated that physicians did not consistently document medication effectiveness prior to renewing prescriptions for patients at increased risk for adverse medication effects or diversion.

OIG also found that physicians were not consistently documenting use of the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System, a state prescription drug monitoring program. OIG did find that urine drug screens were routinely performed. According to Veterans Health Administration (VHA) policy, patients on chronic opioid therapy are to be evaluated every 1 to 6 months.

Although renewing opioid prescriptions without examining patients is not a violation of law or VA policy, a minimum review of patient information is required.

OIG's review of 88 patients for whom opioids were prescribed in 2013 and 2014, and who were at increased risk for complications or abuse of opioids, revealed that physicians did not thoroughly assess patients before renewing opioid prescriptions.

OIG recommended that the Facility Director ensure that patients receiving recurrent prescriptions for high potency and/or large quantities of opioid medications are routinely identified and provided appropriate follow-up care, and prescribing physicians review the prescription history reports contained in the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System for patients who are prescribed opioids.

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## **“A Doctor Dubbed The Candy Man” “Houlihan Had Been Given The Nickname ‘Candy Man’ By Some Vets For His Supposedly Easy And Widespread Distribution Of Painkillers”**

[Thanks to Anne W, who sent this in.]

February 2, 2015 by Benjamin Krause, DisabledVeterans.org [Excerpt]

The State of Wisconsin is taking on VA for the agency's failure to hold its own medical staff accountable. If a doctor is licensed in the state, the state has the authority to revoke the license for problems like those alleged at the Tomah VA.

Reporter Daniel Bice wrote: The state has opened an investigation of a doctor dubbed the “Candy Man” and two other individuals tied to the death of a patient at the Tomah VA Medical Center.

An official confirmed that the state Department of Safety and Professional Services is investigating David Houlihan, chief of staff at the troubled Tomah facility.

**Houlihan had been given the nickname “Candy Man” by some vets for his supposedly easy and widespread distribution of painkillers. He wrote at least some of the prescriptions for a 35-year-old Marine Corps vet who died at the medical center in August.**

A nurse and pharmacist who worked with Houlihan are also under investigation by the state.

State officials have the authority to issue reprimands or suspend or strip the state licenses of medical professionals in Wisconsin. The state could also refer the matter for criminal prosecution.

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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**

**The Social-Democrats ideal should not be the trade union secretary, but the tribune of the people who is able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression no matter where it appears no matter what stratum or class of the people it affects; who is able to generalize all these manifestations and produce a single picture of police violence and capitalist exploitation; who is able to take advantage of every event, however small, in order to set forth before all his socialist convictions and his democratic demands, in order to clarify for all and everyone the world-historic significance of the struggle for the emancipation of the proletariat.”**

**-- V. I. Lenin; What Is To Be Done**

**“How Will Members Of The Armed Forces Know That The Revolutionary Movement Is So Determined To Win That It Makes Sense To Refuse Orders To Attack It And Instead To Defend It?”**

**“The More The Soldiers Are Convinced That The Rebels Are Really Rebelling, The More Willing They Are To Turn Aside Their Bayonets, Or Go Over With Them To The People”**

[Excerpt from: The History of the Russian Revolution By Leon Trotsky, Volume One: The Overthrow of Tzarism: February 23-27, 1917]

**“THE LEADERS OF THE WORKERS FUMED, LOOKED FOR FIREARMS, DEMANDED THEM FROM THE PARTY.  
“AND THE ANSWER WAS: THE SOLDIERS HAVE THE FIREARMS, GO GET THEM”**

The Vyborg section [revolutionaries] staged a meeting near the barracks of the Moscow regiment. The enterprise proved a failure.

Is it difficult for some officer or sergeant major to work the handle of a machine gun? The workers were scattered by cruel fire.

A similar attempt was made at the barracks of Reserve regiment. And there too: officers with machine gun interfered between the workers and soldiers.

The leaders of the workers fumed, looked for firearms, demanded them from the party.

And the answer was: “The soldiers have the firearms, go get them.”

Either the machine gun will wipe out the insurrection, or the insurrection will capture the machine gun.

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

In other words, the revolutionaries can create a break in the soldiers' mood only if they themselves are actually ready to seize the victory at any price whatever, even the price of blood.

And the highest determination never can, or will, remain unarmed.

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## Guess Who's Back



Pro-democracy protesters hold up yellow umbrellas, symbols of the Occupy Central movement, during a march in the streets to demand universal suffrage in Hong Kong February 1, 2015. Several thousand pro-democracy protesters returned to the streets of Hong Kong on Sunday in the first large-scale rally since protests rocked the global financial hub late last year. (REUTERS/Tyrone Siu)

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# CLASS WAR REPORTS



## The Regime Of Cowards Murdered Shaimaa:



January 25, 2015 The Revolutionary Socialists [Egypt]

Statement by the Revolutionary Socialists

The regime trembles every time the anniversary of its great defeat in January 2011 approaches, when the Egyptian masses overthrew Mubarak and gave the thugs of the Interior Ministry a lesson they will never forget.

No matter how often they try to deceive us and deceive the masses with their lying claims that January 2011 was a conspiracy, we see the revolution reflected in their fear as they mobilise hundreds of thousands of the Interior Ministry's thugs to prevent any mass movement on the anniversary, even if it was just a peaceful march with flowers.

The Interior Ministry attacked just such a march by comrades from the Popular Socialist Alliance with bullets and birdshot, murdering the young poet, our comrade Shaimaa El Sabbagh, a courageous daughter of Alexandria, who had long defended the rights of the workers.

Like all the revolutionaries she dreamed of bread, freedom and social justice. She dreamed of a future in a homeland of human dignity for her six-year-old son, Bilal. Sisi's regime denied Shaimaa and her comrades even this dream.

As we mourn comrade Shaimaa, who has suffered the fate of thousands of other martyrs of the revolution, we offer our condolences not only to the Popular Socialist Alliance but to all revolutionaries.

We affirm that January is a revolution, in spite of all efforts to crush it by brute force and defame it with media lies, which have reached an unprecedented scale of blood-drenched brutality under the leadership of the mad general, and we call on all those who believe in the revolution to unite their ranks in the face of this repressive authoritarian regime, which is leading this country into the abyss.

The Revolutionary Socialists  
24 January 2015

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## **OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

# **Zionist Settler's And Occupation Forces Terrorize Palestinian School Kids, As Usual:**

# **“Fired Tear Gas And Sound Bombs Into School Under Israeli Police Protection”**

## **Also “Stormed Under Heavy Tear Gas Bombs The Nearby Girls’ Elementary School”**

15 Jan PIC

Approximately ten Israeli settlers stormed Wednesday a secondary school in Tur neighborhood in occupied Jerusalem and fired tear gas and sound bombs into it under Israeli police protection.

Head of the follow-up committee in Tur neighborhood Mufid Abu Ghannam confirmed that ten Jewish settlers stormed the school Wednesday afternoon while the students were leaving their classes.

The students panicked at the attack and started shouting and screaming, forcing the settlers and soldiers to withdraw from the school amid heavy fire of tear gas bombs.

Israeli forces, in their turn, fired heavy volleys of live bullets into the air to scare the students, he added.

Beit Orot settlers have twice tried to break into the school on previous days; however the local residents confronted them and forced them to withdraw, Abu Ghannam pointed out

Meanwhile, Israeli forces stormed under heavy tear gas bombs the nearby girls’ elementary school under the pretext of looking for a wanted person.

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## **Injuries As Israeli Forces Attack Palestinian March To The North Of Surif Town; Settlers Uproot Olive Trees Near Ramallah**

January 18, 2015 by IMEMC News & Agencies

Several Palestinians were injured, Saturday, while dozens of others suffocated from tear gas inhalation as Israeli forces dispersed a peaceful march to the north of Surif town, north of Hebron, according to local activists and Wafa correspondence.

Israeli forces attacked and attempted to crush a peaceful march that was organized by the Popular Committee Against the Wall and Settlements in the southern West Bank, brutally assaulting participants with the butts of their rifles, spraying them with pepper spray, and firing tear gas canisters and stun grenades at them.

Several Palestinians were injured, while dozens others suffocated as a result of excessive tear gas inhalation.

The march was organized in protest of the ongoing closure of the road linking Surif with al-Jab'a village to the southwest of Bethlehem.

Coordinator of the Popular Committee against the Wall and Settlement in Hebron, Rateb al-Jabour, said that the march was intended to protest the ongoing closure and siege imposed on Palestinian communities in these areas, especially in communities located adjacent to illegal settlements, as well as the seizure of 2,000 dunums of land belonging to Surif for the benefit of settlement expansion.

Several activists were briefly detained by soldiers, including Ahmad al-Hih and Loai Ghnaimat.

Marchers demanded the removal of the metal gate that has been installed for the last fourteen years by Israeli forces between Surif and al-Jab'a.

In related news, Israeli settlers uprooted olive trees from Palestinian-owned land located between the Ramallah villages of al- Mughayyir and Turmus-Ayya, on Saturday.

Local sources told Wafa that settlers uprooted around 20 fruitful olive trees belonging to Rakid al-Nasaan.

OCHA Protection of Civilians report covering the period between 16– 22 December 2014, reported an average of six incidents of Israeli attacks against Palestinians, resulting in Palestinian casualties or damage to property since the beginning of 2014.

“In 2013, the report of the United Nations International Fact-Finding Mission on Settlements highlighted the failure of the Israeli authorities to enforce the law by investigating such incidents and taking measures against their perpetrators. The Fact-Finding Mission came to the 'clear conclusion that there is institutionalized discrimination against the Palestinian people when it comes to addressing violence,” stated al-Haq, an independent Palestinian non-governmental human rights organization.

B'Tselem, the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, stressed that “As the occupying force, Israel must protect the Palestinians in the West Bank. However, the Israeli authorities neglect to fulfill this responsibility and do not do enough to prevent Israeli civilians from attacking Palestinians, their property and their lands. The undeclared policy of the Israeli authorities in response to these attacks is lenient and conciliatory. Perpetrators are rarely tried, and many cases are not investigated at all or are closed with no operative conclusions.”

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# **Heroic Zionist Forces Attack Palestinian Amusement Park: “A Large Military Force Invaded The Park”**

January 19, 2015 by IMEMC & Agencies

Israeli soldiers invaded, Monday, Barta'a village, southwest of Jenin city in the northern part of the occupied West Bank, and handed a demolition order of an amusement park, run by the Barta'a Cooperative Society.

Photojournalist Baha' Qabaha, said a large military force, accompanied by personnel of the Israeli Planning and Construction Committee, invaded the park, and ordered a halt on ongoing constructions in preparation for completely removing the park.

Qabaha said is the third warrant issued by the Israeli military against the public area and its amusement park, adding that the village and its public facilities are subject to frequent Israeli violations, including the destruction of homes and property, in addition to repeated invasion and arrests.

**The village lost hundreds of Dunams of farmlands for Israel's military and settlement activities, while the army has a permanent roadblock on the road that leads to the villagers' lands and orchards.**

Extremist Israeli settlers also carry out frequent attacks against Palestinian lands and orchards in the area.

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# **Occupation Troops Began Firing Tear Gas “As Soon As The Palestinian Villagers Walked Down Into Their Olive Groves” “When Someone Is Active In Demonstrations, In Expressing**



# **Resistance, Israeli Soldiers Shoot To Incapacitate Them”**

## **“Israeli Forces Engage In Night Raids To Terrorise The Palestinian Families Of Ni’lin”**



Photo by ISM

19th January 2015 International Solidarity Movement, Ramallah team

Ni’lin, Occupied Palestine

The soldiers surrounding Ni’lin did not wait; they began firing tear gas as soon as the villagers walked down into their olive groves.

Those who had braved the cold, rainy weather to attend Ni’lin’s weekly Friday demonstration were forced to retreat, running choking from the clouds of tear gas launched at them from the hillsides. From the road overlooking Ni’lin’s fields, the tear gas looked like a layer of fog blanketing the olive groves.

“They were either straight at us or at the ambulance,” said one ISM activist as the group moved away from a tear gas canister which had landed directly behind them, on the street bordering the olive groves behind and to the side of the protest.

The soldiers fired indiscriminately, launching dozens of tear gas rounds at unarmed protesters and activists attempting to film the incident.

**Ni'lin residents, from the Palestinian paramedics to young boys participating in the demonstration, have been forced to grow accustomed to running, to tear gas, to the violence of the Israeli Zionist forces enforcing the occupation of their land.**

The Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists present agreed that last week's protest was comparatively quiet.

This one week, unlike many other weeks at Ni'lin, no one was shot, no one needed to go to the hospital, and no one was arrested.

**Over the last few weeks, however, the village has endured a campaign of violence and arrests by Israeli forces, who engage in night raids to terrorise the Palestinian families of Ni'lin.**

Saeed Amireh, Ni'lin activist, and long-time spokesperson for the plight of his village, spoke with ISM volunteers about the recent situation. Ten people were arrested in Ni'lin in the last two weeks alone, he reported, in night raids occurring nearly every other day. Twenty-five have been arrested since November 4th.

Saeed explained that under interrogation by Israeli forces in Muskubiya (the Russian Compound) prison in Jerusalem, a prisoner from Ni'lin had signed a paper implicating thirty-six people in the village.

Those names now comprise a list of people wanted by the Israeli authorities – people who, if they have not already been arrested, must live in constant fear of being taken from their homes and subjected to the harsh procedures of Israel's apartheid justice system.

**Saeed spoke of the conditions suffered by Palestinians arrested by Israeli forces and taken to Israeli prisons: months of solitary confinement inside tiny cells, torture, harsh treatment from other prisoners and entrapment by Israeli spies within the prisons.**

**All are strategies employed by interrogators attempting to trap people into admitting to things they never did.**

**In attempts to finally be released, prisoners will often sign lists of names of other villagers, who the Israeli military will then arrest and subject to the same treatment.**

**Over forty people from the village are currently imprisoned.**

One ISM volunteer asked what people did to be put on a list of those wanted by Israeli authorities. "They go and join in the protests" Saeed replied.

**Even if a Palestinian is doing nothing at all violent, he explained, "They accuse you of joining illegal protests."**

In yet another absurdity of the occupation, The Israelis authorities order the village to take permits from them in order to be allowed to protest against the illegal confiscation of their land.

**When someone is active in demonstrations, in expressing resistance, Israeli soldiers shoot to incapacitate them, explained one of the Palestinian Red Crescent paramedics.**

**He himself had to undergo a year of physical therapy after Israeli forces shot him in the leg.**

Resistance is a long and proud tradition in Ni'lin, which participated in both the first and second Intifadas, as well as playing a major role in the more recent Palestinian popular nonviolent resistance against the Israeli Apartheid wall. He said the latest Israeli military incursions are an attempt to demoralise and divide people in the village, to keep them from resisting.

The village has already endured a high toll from participating in nonviolent popular resistance against annexation of their land by the Apartheid wall and by the five Israeli Zionist settlements surrounding Ni'lin. Five people were killed between 2008 and 2009, and many more have been injured and permanently disabled by Israeli military violence.

**Though both the wall and the settlements are illegal under international law, it is the people of Ni'lin whose homes are assaulted and whose expressions of their legal right to protest are criminalized.**

Saeed reported that the weekly demonstrations have recently been subjected to more brutality.

In the last months he has seen little international and no media presence in Ni'lin, giving the army free reign to come closer to the village (often into the village itself) and use more violence against the nonviolent protesters.

Israeli forces have spared no one in their campaign of repression. One Palestinian journalist, who endured both the rain and the tear gas in order to document last Friday's action, spoke of his experience filming soldiers at a previous demonstration.

**A soldier had threatened him, he recalled, saying that if he did not stop filming, "I will break your hand, and I will break your camera."**

Saeed spoke of the occupation's enormous social and economic toll.

"You can't plan anything," he told the ISM activists, as they stood with him watching the Israeli soldiers shoot round after round of tear gas into Ni'lin's olive trees. Studying, exams, work, family life – all are tremendously impacted by the occupation.

Saeed's brother is engaged to be married, but his future, like that of all those attempting to continue with their lives in Ni'lin, is uncertain.

**Saeed's brother is on the list of people currently targeted by Israeli authorities. "He is going to get married in two weeks, if he is not arrested."**

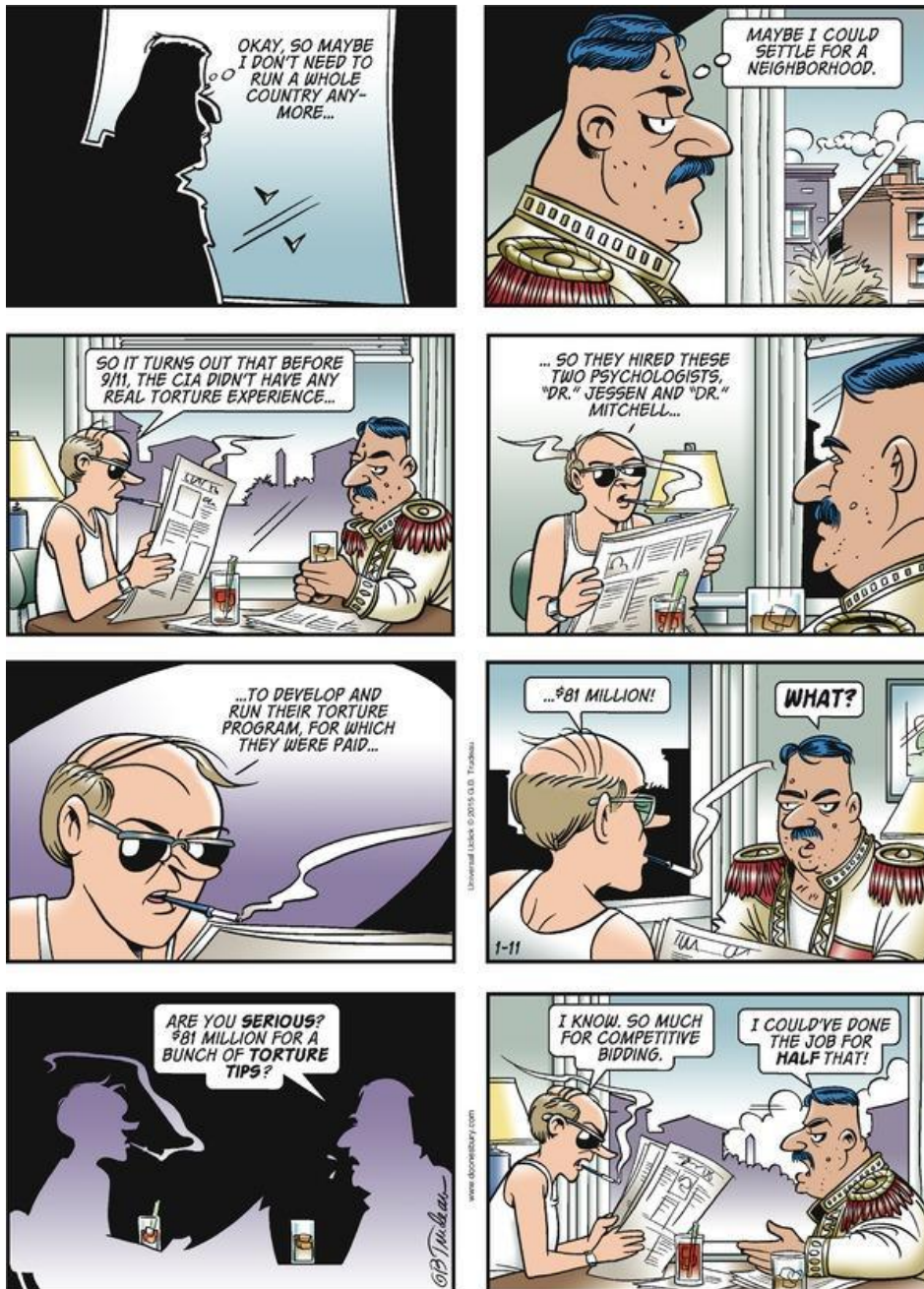
To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to:

<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



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# **Yale University Cop Stops Black Male Student Saturday Evening At Gunpoint And Tells Him “To Get On The Ground”**

## **“My Son Will Always Carry The Memory Of The Day He Left His College Library And An Officer Trained A Gun On Him”**

January 26, 2015 By Scott Jaschik, InsideHigherEd.com/

The debate over racial profiling -- already a hot topic on many college campuses -- gained renewed attention this weekend when Yale University police briefly detained a black male student Saturday evening. Black students and faculty members at many campuses charge that racial profiling is a fact of life for them, but this student's experience immediately attracted wide attention. His father is a New York Times columnist who has written about racial profiling and whose Twitter feed attracts many eyeballs.

Charles M. Blow, posted several tweets about the incident, saying that his son was held at gunpoint, and that the incident left the father angry. “He was let go when they realized he was a college student and not a criminal (he was leaving the library!) He's shaken, but I'm fuming!,” wrote Blow. Many of his 122,000 followers quickly spread the word about the incident.

Blow wrote that the incident reinforced his view of the importance of drawing attention to the issue of racial profiling. “Recent events reinforce what many have been saying for years: have a convo w your children abt what to do when interacting with authorities,” he wrote.

Blow's column in The New York Times this morning offers more details on the incident. He said he understood the need for police, at Yale and elsewhere, to look for people who match descriptions of various suspects.

But he questioned why his son was stopped on campus at gunpoint and told to get on the ground.

“Why was a gun drawn first? Why was he not immediately told why he was being detained? Why not ask for ID first?” Blow wrote.

**“What if my son had panicked under the stress, having never had a gun pointed at him before, and made what the officer considered a 'suspicious' movement? Had**

**I come close to losing him? Triggers cannot be unpulled. Bullets cannot be called back.”**

The column closes this way: “The dean of Yale College and the campus police chief have apologized and promised an internal investigation, and I appreciate that. But the scars cannot be unmade. My son will always carry the memory of the day he left his college library and an officer trained a gun on him.”

Yale officials acknowledged to Inside Higher Ed that a student was briefly detained and then released Saturday night. A spokeswoman declined to confirm that the student was Tahj Blow, the son of Charles Blow, or that he was held at gunpoint.

A spokeswoman said that Yale's police department would review what happened, and she described the events that led to a student being detained.

She said that students in one of Yale's residential colleges -- which has experienced burglaries in the last week -- reported an individual had been entering rooms under false pretenses.

**Students described the suspect as a tall African-American male, college-aged and wearing a black jacket.**

**That description was sent to campus police, the spokeswoman said, and was the reason the student was detained.**

After the student was released, a suspect was arrested.

Other Incidents

There have been numerous incidents in the last year in which alleged racial profiling by campus police or police of college towns has been an issue:

In December, essays by two Vassar College professors that, among other things, discussed the way they were treated by local police, attracted wide attention. The headline on one of the essays -- “My Vassar College Faculty ID Makes Everything OK” -- highlighted the author's assertion that black people are treated as suspect until they can demonstrate a connection to the college.

In June, a black professor at Arizona State University was arrested by campus police in an incident prompted by jaywalking, which the professor's supporters said would never have led to the questioning of white faculty member.

Video showing the campus police body-slammng the professor attracted widespread anger and concern. The professor is now suing Arizona State, which is moving to fire the police officer in the incident.

**In July, the University of California at Los Angeles agreed to pay \$500,000 to settle complaints of use of excessive force and racial profiling against a black judge during a traffic stop.**



The UCLA Black Alumni Association will receive \$350,000 of the payment, to be used for scholarships. UCLA also agreed to hold a one-day forum on police-community relations. The case was detailed in an article in The Los Angeles Times.

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# **Seattle Cop Pepper-Sprays Teacher Directly In Face For Phoning While Walking: He Was “Was Making Arrangements By Cell Phone With His Mother To Attend His Son’s Second Birthday Party”**

## **“Hagopian Had Finished Giving A Powerful Speech About How Black Lives Matter When He Was Sprayed”**



January 29, 2015 By Travis Gettys, Raw Story & by Ansel Herz, The Stranger

**A high school teacher and activist sued the city of Seattle after a police officer sprayed chemical irritant directly into his face as he left a peaceful rally on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.**

**Jesse Hagopian, who spoke at the event about how black lives matter, was making arrangements by cell phone with his mother to attend his son's second birthday party when he passed a Seattle police officer screaming at passersby.**

Video of the Jan. 19 incident shows the officer and some others standing at a police barricade as she orders a small, peaceful crowd – most of whom were walking past the police – to disperse.

**Hagopian said officers set up a barricade with their bicycles to prevent protesters from marching, and he said some participants walked through the line – but he did not.**

**“Stand back, stand back,” the officer screams as she holds a canister of pepper spray.**

**Suddenly, as Hagopian walks past talking on his cell phone, the officer blasts pepper spray – which the video shows hits him and an unidentified woman directly in the face.**

Hagopian and the woman immediately duck for cover and the crowd scatters.

“I felt the piercing pain shoot through my eye, my ear drum and my nostril, all over my cheek and face,” said Hagopian, whose eye was swollen shut afterward. “I yelled out. My mom was in distress as she heard me yell.”

The officer continues to spray the chemical irritant in a sweeping motion toward the crowd, and she again orders the crowd to stand back when some witnesses ask what happened.

Video of the incident was uploaded to YouTube on Wednesday, the same day Hagopian's attorney filed a lawsuit against the city.

A spokesman for the police department said he had not seen the video and was unable to comment.

Hagopian will file a tort claim this afternoon against the City of Seattle and the Seattle Police Department, according to his lawyer, former Seattle NAACP President James Bible, over the way he was pepper sprayed during demonstrations on Martin Luther King Day this year.

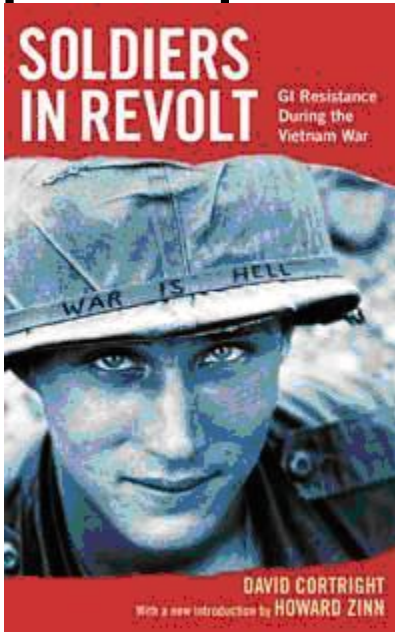
**“Jesse Hagopian had finished giving a powerful speech about how black lives matter when he was sprayed with pepper spray by a Seattle Police Officer,” Bible writes in a press release.**

“He was on the phone with his mother and (making) plans to be at his two year old child's birthday party when he was sprayed. It is notable that this irrational police action occurred while he was several feet onto a Seattle sidewalk.”

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