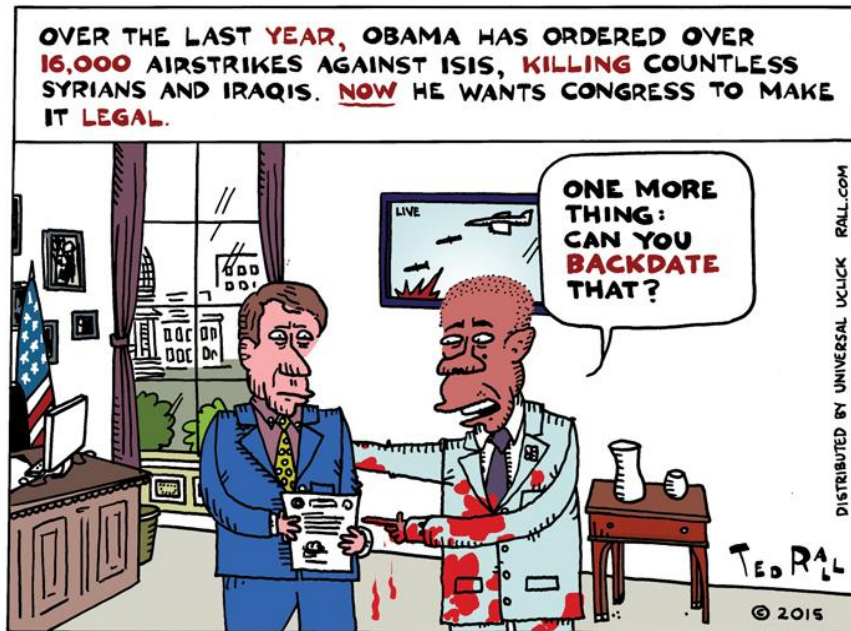


## Military Resistance 13B7



**ISIL Pushing Taliban  
Aside In Afghanistan:  
“Taliban Are Continuously  
Losing Their Men To ISIL”  
“Al-Baghdadi Claims That ISIL  
Have Gained More Achievements  
In 2014 & 2015 Compared To The  
Whole Taliban Campaigns In The  
Last Fourteen Years”**

# **“The Taliban Is Trying Their Last Hope For Gaining Power In Afghanistan”**

## **“The Group Is Already In The Edge Of Fall And Their Ticket For Peace Deal Will Soon Expires By Few More Push By The ISIL”**

**Comment: T**

It may be that a significant part of the appeal of the Islamic state formation to those who come from far and near to fight under their banner is their declared intention to shatter the borders flowing from the 1916 Skyes-Picot Agreement, which agreement created artificial nation states out of the remains of the Ottoman Empire, by and for the benefit of Imperial England, France, with the assent of feeble but hopeful Imperial Russia.

The Islamic State thus proceeds beyond the politics of the 20th century “Colonial Revolution,” limited to expelling the direct rule of whichever foreign power dominated, but which did not touch a hair of the old colonial physical state boundaries, in Africa or the Middle East.

Destroying that antique, externally imposed organization of territory is what they do.

Part of their popular appeal is a vision of a new, unitary power, opposed to the old powers and the United States, and treating the old national borders imposed from outside as enemy arrangements to be destroyed.

As has been so often noted, war is a continuation of politics by other means.

ISIL has already won the political war and therefor won the military conflict as well.

Clinging to the politics of the last century and the old colonial regime borders, there is little possibility that the U.S. and its antique allies can defeat ISIL militarily.

The new nation-state created by ISIL will survive. The question now is how far that new nation-state will hold its territory.

As usual, their religious mask hides a scramble for political and economic power

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28 February 2015 by Deedar R. Khudaidad, The Kabul Press.

*Deedar R. Khudaidad was born in Afghanistan and has Bachelor degree in Politics and International Relations from Edith Cowan University and currently pursuing his Masters in IR and National Security at Curtin University of Technology, both in Western Australia.*

*Deedar Khudaidad can be reached by email: khudaidad55@yahoo.com*

After setting the historical shrines of Logar province of Afghanistan on fire on Saturday February 21st, 2015, the ISIL militants also killed one civilian and replaced the Taliban's white flag with their own black flag in the Charkh district.

On the same day, the ISIL men entered locals' houses, broke their televisions and warn people not to watching television anymore (Tolonews).

**The ISIL affiliated group claimed the responsibility and asked Taliban militants in the Province to declare their allegiance to Al-Baghdadi, the Caliph of Islamic States of Iraq and the Levant.**

On Tuesday February 24th, 2015, another 30 men, all from Hazara ethnic minorities, were kidnapped in Zabul province by a group of masked men but no one yet claimed responsibility for it.

Although such incidents were normally claimed by the Taliban as they are the only powerful insurgent group in Logar and Zabul provinces; however, the recent burning of shrines were taken by ISIL group who receives commands directly from their own commander Sa'aad ul Emarati or Hafez Saeed Khan, nominated Governor of Khorosaan.

Since ISIL made significant contribution in international Jihad against the West, Al-Baghdadi claims that the ISIL have gained more achievements in 2014 & 2015 compared to the whole Taliban campaigns in the last fourteen years.

### **“The Taliban Are Continuously Losing Their Men To ISIL”**

**Being attracted by even radical group, The Taliban are continuously losing their men to ISIL.**

**In contrast, the ISIL is rapidly maximizing its man power, ammunitions and financial resources.**

**For example, since the announcement of the Khorosaan Province, covering modern day Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, Bangladesh, and part of neighboring central Asian countries, in January 2015, the ISIL had not only convinced commanders of Pakistani Taliban to declare their allegiance to Al-Baghdadi, the Group had also nominated the Pakistani Taliban commander Hafez Saeed Khan as the emir of the Khorosaan.**

Other well-known Taliban figures who had recently joint ISIL are Shahidullah Shahid, Sa'aad al Emarati, Sheikh Muhsin, Dolat Khan, Khalid Mansoor, Abdul Rauf Khadim and dozens/hundreds others.

**The Allegiance of Hafez Saeed Khan and other Taliban commanders to Al-Baghdadi mean that the Pakistani Taliban is no longer under the command of Mullah Omar and Al-Baghdadi's calling of Mullah Omar a "fool and illiterate warlord" was even disgraced Mullah Omar's religious credibility and political weight.**

Since its creation until the second half of 2014, or most probably until September of the same year, ISIL had never been seen in Afghanistan, perhaps not publicly.

However, according to the Times of India, the ISIL was shown their presence in Afghanistan when Hafeez Saeed Khan together with some other Taliban commanders declared their allegiance to Al-Baghdadi on July 2014.

**After few months on September 2014, the ISIL group in Peshawar of Pakistan distributed pamphlets and propaganda messages to Afghan refugees camps in nearby the city and called people to join them. Within few days, many commanders of hardliner insurgent groups, mainly Pakistani Taliban militants in the border provinces of Afghanistan and Pakistan became attracted in supporting ISIL.**

Among the Afghani members, Abdul Rahim Muslim Dost and Maulawi Abdul Qahar, who were backed by the Taliban in eastern provinces of Nuristan and Kunar, had extended their supports to ISIL.

**The ISIL soon began to expand their influences towards southern province of Afghanistan, mainly towards major provinces of Loya Paktia, Ghazni and Helmand.**

In the late September 2014, just few weeks after the release of ISIL's first propaganda message in Peshawar, the group killed about 100 people in Ajristan district of Ghazni province; among them 12 persons were women and children who were brutally beheaded. The Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid rejected claims for such mass killing; however, local inhabitants witnessing the scene considered Taliban militants, who were carrying the black flag of ISIL with them, responsible for such murders. According to local Afghan news, Wahdat news, the Taliban militants carrying ISIL's flag not only killed dozens of people in Ajristan, they had also blocked communication roads to other districts of Ghazni province including Jaghori, Qarabagh and Nahoor.

**By the late 2014, despite rapidly expansions of ISIL's operations in the Eastern and the Southern provinces, the Afghan National Directorate of Security continuously rejected the groups' presence in the country and denounced ISIL as the Haqqani's or the Taliban's militants.**

**When the ISIL men riding on horse with black ISIL's flags on hand maneuvered in front of the cameras got attentions of Afghan local TVs and newspapers, the group was already involved in hanging Taliban's militants in Nuristan and recruiting men in east, south and Northern provinces of Afghanistan.**

Around the country, the ISIL commanders recruited men from eastern provinces of Badakhshan, Nuristan and Nangarhar; South and Eastern provinces of Paktia, Logar, Ghazni, Helmand and Zabul; and Northern provinces of Jawzjan, Kunduz and Parwan.

## **ISIL “Expanding Their Presence In Almost All Major Provinces Of Afghanistan”**

By expanding their presence in almost all major provinces of Afghanistan, today the ISIL is not only considered a powerful rival against the Taliban, the group is also considered great threats to the stability and security of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and other neighboring countries.

The Afghan Security official claims that they are competent enough to control the situation. The Afghan National Directorate of Security considers the killing of ISIL's commander Abdul Rauf Khadim and his eight men on February 10th in Helmand as a victory.

However, the recent Logar incident which happened in 60km from Kabul reveals that the ISIL is capable of threatening Afghan people anywhere in the country.

Since nominated as the ISIL commander for Helmand, Abdul Rauf Khadim had been a key liaison between various insurgent groups in the country.

He had recruited about 300 men fighting with the Taliban, Afghan armies and NATO forces in Helmand province. Abdul Rauf Khadim was a member of Taliban and captured in 2001 by the Americans. In 2007 he was transferred from Guantanamo Bay prison to Afghanistan but released by the Karzai Administration in 2009. Soon after his release, Khadim joined Taliban and served as nominated governor of Helmand.

Joining ISIL, Abdul Rauf Khadim and his 45 men were disarmed by the Taliban in January 2015. However, he continued his operation in Helmand until he was killed by U.S. drone on February 10th, 2015.

**According to local Afghan Medias, like Abdul Rauf Khadim, dozens and hundreds other Taliban fighters are joining ISIL to make new align with a group that is notoriously growing in the country and region.**

Today, the Taliban is much fragmented in the rise of even more radical groups in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The Pakistani Taliban, known as the Tahrik e Taliban Pakistan (TTP), is no longer under the central command of Quetta Shura led by Mullah Mohammad Omar.

The ISIL, which is rapidly increasing its members, is now considered main rival to the Taliban and receives command from the Governor of Khorosaan or directly from Al-Baghdadi.

Other insurgent groups such as the Haqqani group, Al-Qaida, Hezb e Islami Hekmatyar, Islamic Party of Uzbekistan and others insurgent groups are all receiving commands from their own leaders.

**Amongst the various terrorists groups, the ISIL is not only much radical and well funded, the group had also proved capable of convincing loyal Taliban members**

such as TTP commander Hafeez Saeed Khan, TTP spokesperson Sheikh Maqbool (Shahidullah Shahid), founder of the radical Abtalul Islam Foundation Sheikh Abu Yazid Khorasani and dozens other Taliban and insurgent groups in Afghanistan and Pakistan to join them.

From 2001, the Taliban group by claiming Afghanistan under occupation had never agreed to enter into a peace talk with Afghanistan.

**But in the rise of ISIL in the country, recently, the Taliban had shown green light for a face-to-face discussion with the Ghani Administration.**

Though it seems Taliban changed their minds or perhaps received order from their main supporter Pakistan for peace deal; however, or perhaps I think, the Taliban is trying their last hope for gaining power in Afghanistan.

Otherwise, the Group is already in the edge of fall and their ticket for peace deal will soon expires by few more push by the ISIL in the coming year(s).

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Foreign Occupation “Servicemember” Killed In Kabul: Nationality Not Announced**

Feb. 26, 2015 AP

A foreign servicemember died as a result of an attack in Kabul today.

The NATO Senior Civilian Representative was not involved and is unharmed.

<p><b>POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE BLOODSHED</b></p> <p><b>THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE WAR</b></p>
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**“Graft Generating Disenchantment  
And Driving People Toward The  
Taliban”**

**“Afghan Interlocutors Told Her Again  
And Again That Poor Governance  
Was Actually Perpetuating The  
Conflict”**

**“A Corrupt System Inflamed The  
Feelings Of Injustice That Were Driving  
People Toward The Insurgency”  
[Book Review]**

***THIEVES OF STATE***  
***Why Corruption Threatens Global Security***  
**By Sarah Chayes**  
**262 pp. W. W. Norton & Company. \$26.95.**

FEB. 20, 2015 By GILES FODENFEB, The New York Times [Excerpts]

Across much of the world, populations suffer daily shakedowns by the police.

At roadblocks, market stalls and entrances to government buildings, thugs in uniform gather “like spear fishermen hunting trout in a narrows,” as Sarah Chayes writes. But that isn’t the half of it. Globally, the three most important desiderata of our age — security, resilience and poverty reduction — are consistently being hollowed out by structural theft on a much larger scale, operating across corporations, governments, military establishments and civil services.

**One key reason the United States and its allies have struggled to establish sustainable democracies in Afghanistan and Iraq is that the governments of those countries are mired in graft, caught in a mafia-like system in which money flows upward.**

Chayes’s “Thieves of State” makes a strong case that acute corruption causes not only social breakdown but also violent extremism. She calls this a “basic fact,” showing that where there is poor governance — specifically, no appeal to the rule of law and no protected right of property — people begin a search for spiritual purity that puts them on a path to radicalization.

In a limited sense, this is Chayes's own story too: A former reporter for NPR in Algeria and Afghanistan, she abandoned journalism to work for a nongovernmental organization in Kandahar, then was a social entrepreneur there on her own account, finally becoming an adviser on corruption to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff. She is now a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Her personal narrative is even more complicated than any summary might suggest. In 2001, Chayes helped found a charity "of unclear mission," run by President Hamid Karzai's Baltimore-based elder brother, Qayum, about whom she has this to say: "Not for years would I begin systematically comparing his seductively incisive words with his deeds. Welded to his brother's interests, he behaved in ways that contradicted his language so starkly that for a long time I had difficulty processing the inconsistency."

Elsewhere "those brothers" (there are six besides Hamid Karzai himself) are characterized as "self-serving," with the younger half brother Ahmed Wali singled out as someone "who stole land, imprisoned people for ransom, appointed key public officials, ran vast drug trafficking networks and private militias, and wielded ISAF like a weapon against people who stood up to him."

This, mind you, was also someone at whose house Chayes had dinner one night in 2003, in the course of which she watched C.I.A. officers "hand him a tinfoil-wrapped package of bills."

Her experience corroborates an Oct. 27, 2009, report in The New York Times, which stated that Ahmed Wali Karzai was on the C.I.A. payroll.

It also prompts one to wonder at Senator John Kerry's response at the time. "We should not condemn Ahmed Wali Karzai or damage our critical relations with his brother, President Karzai, on the basis of newspaper articles or rumors," he said.

Ahmed Wali Karzai was assassinated by a police official and longtime confidant on July 12, 2011. About six years before that, Chayes severed her own relationship with the Karzais. After leaving for a few months, she returned to Kandahar in May 2005 with a project that, on the surface, could never smell of corruption and intrigue.

Armed with an oil press and \$25,000 from Oprah Winfrey, she set up a cooperative producing scented soap and beauty products, taking advantage of Afghanistan's horticultural riches.

But she soon found that even this innocuous activity put her on the sharp end of corruption, as she tried to do simple things like deposit money in a bank without paying a bribe for the privilege of doing so. So she began, in an amateurish way, to develop ideas for limiting corruption in places like Afghanistan.

Very quickly, the amateur became professional. Chayes was soon called upon by NATO and ISAF to give expert briefings with a focus on anti-corruption measures. " 'Sally the Soap-Maker Gives an Ops Brief' was how I jokingly came to refer to my main presentation," she writes. This led to a job with ISAF, and then another as special assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, flitting between Washington and



Kabul as the United States laboriously and somewhat unwillingly developed an anti-corruption strategy for Afghanistan.

Any such strategy was bound to conflict with political and military exigencies, which presumably explains Kerry's response to the report in The Times.

But Chayes's Afghan interlocutors told her again and again that poor governance was actually what was perpetuating the conflict, with graft generating disenchantment and driving people toward the Taliban. "Western officials," she writes, "habitually flipped the sequence: First let's establish security, then we can worry about governance."

Ordinary Afghans, meanwhile, took Western inaction on corruption as approval.

Aid just added to the problem, in Chayes's view: "Development resources passed through a corrupt system not only reinforced that system by helping to fund it but also inflamed the feelings of injustice that were driving people toward the insurgency."

**Indeed, Chayes touches on how language itself becomes corrupt.**

**The standard terminology of military and diplomatic engagement (and much corporate rhetoric) is often evasive, with usage reflecting differences in value systems — as when assassination by drone is described as "targeted killing."**

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## **MILITARY NEWS**

**Enemy Combatants Kill Another  
Veteran:  
74-Year-Old Army Vet Dead In His  
Own Home At Night;  
They Broke Down His Back Door To  
Get In House;  
"Police Were Called To Check On The  
Man's Welfare"**

**“You kick the man’s door in. He’s disoriented and he’s in his own house, privacy of his own home; my first reaction would be to grab a gun, too,” Allen’s friend, Otis Thompson, told WSOC-TV.**

February 9, 2015 By Terrell Jermaine Starr, AlterNet & 02/08/2015 By Elisabeth Arriero, The Charlotte Observer

A 74-year-old Army veteran was shot and killed by a North Carolina police officer Saturday night, after police were called to check on the man's welfare, the Charlotte Observer reports.

A relative, concerned about James Howard Allen’s condition after a recent surgery, called the Gastonia police to check on Allen.

When an officer arrived at Allen’s door at 10:20 p.m., there was no answer, so he left. At 11:08 p.m., Anson County officials checked local hospitals but Allen wasn’t in any of them. At 11:30 p.m., Gastonia cops asked for assistance from the local fire and EMS to check the house again.

**This time, they broke in, according to Reobert Helton, police department chief.**

“A decision was made to enter the house, concerned that he may be inside in need of emergency assistance,” Helton said.

Gastonia Officer Josh Lefevers entered the home through the back door with the help of the fire department, according to Helton. When officers entered the home, they allegedly found Allen holding a handgun.

“He was challenged to lower the gun down,” Helton said. “The gun was pointed in the direction of the officers, and a shot was fired that fatally wounded him.”

Allen’s sister, Mary Battle, told WSOC-TV that she learned about her brother’s death while watching the morning news as she was getting ready for church Sunday morning.

She said the Army vet underwent heart surgery last week.

“Maybe the police was frightened, maybe they were,” she said. “I don’t know, but he wouldn’t hurt a fly.”

Allen’s brother-in-law Robert Battle thinks the police could have avoided the whole thing, and that Allen was the one who was frightened.

**“He probably woke up, someone’s breaking in on me so when you’re by yourself you try to protect yourself,” Battle told WSOC-TV.**

Another friend agreed.

**“You kick the man’s door in. He’s disoriented and he’s in his own house, privacy of his own home; my first reaction would be to grab a gun, too,” Allen’s friend, Otis Thompson, told WSOC-TV.**

On Sunday, neighbors remembered Allen as a kind neighbor. Maxine Gibbie said Allen and her husband used to work together at the old Firestone Mill in Gastonia about three decades ago.

“He was a nice person,” she said. “I think everybody around here liked Mr. Allen. He never gave any reason to think he’d bother you or anything. He was a good person.”

**Gibbie described Allen as a “good neighbor” who even helped his next-door neighbor cut his bushes and do other yardwork, although in recent years it was harder for him to walk.**

“He could hardly get around. He had some health problems,” she said. “He was real feeble. I could tell that when he’d got up the steps.”

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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

**I say that when troops cannot be counted on to follow orders because they see the futility and immorality of them THAT is the real key to ending a war.  
-- Al Jaccoma, Veterans For Peace**

# **The Reality Of Retreat: Syriza’s Deal With Greece’s Creditors Hasn’t Bought More Time Or Avoided Austerity; It’s Demobilized Greek Workers**

2.26.15 by Stathis Kouvelakis, Jacobin.

Stathis Kouvelakis teaches political theory at King’s College London and serves on the central committee of Syriza.

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**In the last few days, there have been two sophisms circulating among those who refuse to look reality squarely in the face and recognize the retreat that Syriza has been forced to make, as well as its possible consequences.**

Or rather, two and a half.

And I say “forced” with good reason, because the new government has been trapped by its mistaken strategy (though I wouldn’t say it was a “betrayal” or “capitulation,” since these are moralizing terms that are of very little use for understanding political processes).

The first sophism: “Syriza has no mandate to quit the eurozone.”

If it had adopted such a position, it wouldn’t have won the elections. Putting it that way, we see how absurd this reasoning is.

**Yes, of course it had no mandate to quit the eurozone. But it certainly didn’t have a mandate to abandon the core of its program in order to hang onto the euro, either!**

**And, without doubt, if it had presented itself to the electorate saying, “here’s our program, but if we find that its implementation is incompatible with keeping the euro, then we’ll forget about it,” then it wouldn’t have achieved much success at the polls.**

**For good reason: keeping the euro at any cost is exactly the same fundamental argument as the pro-memorandum parties who’ve ruled Greece all these years put forward.**

And even if Syriza never fully clarified its position on the euro, it did always reject the logic of “the euro at any price.”

On that note, let’s remember that contrary to what most commentators think, Syriza’s programmatic texts do not rule out leaving the eurozone if forced to by the Europeans’ intransigence, or defaulting on the debt payments.

Though it is true that recently these texts seem to have been rather hidden away.

A second variant of this first sophism: Syriza had a dual mandate of breaking with austerity and staying in the euro.

This sounds more rational than the first version, but nonetheless it is still sophistry. It’s as if the two sides of this mandate were equally important and thus it would be politically legitimate, if we had to choose (and indeed we do have to choose — that’s precisely the problem), to sacrifice the break with austerity on the altar of keeping the euro. Without having even abandoned its mandate!

But then why not turn that reasoning around and say, “since I realize the two objectives are incompatible, I choose to stick to the break with austerity, since essentially that is the reason why Greeks voted for a party of the radical left?”

That is, to opt for the rupture and not stability within the existing framework.

We might at least think that this choice is more befitting of a radical left party that sets socialism as its strategic goal (even if that clearly wasn’t the agenda on which it won the elections).

The third sophism is the one promoted by Étienne Balibar and Sandro Mezzadra. Having sarcastically remarked on those on the “left wing of Syriza” who are crying “capitulation” (let’s ignore for now the fact that no one on the Syriza left has ever used these terms), from recent events Balibar and Mezzadra draw the conclusion that “we will not be able to build a politics of freedom and equality in Europe simply by asserting national sovereignty.”

According to them, the main thing is that Syriza has bought time, admittedly at the cost of making some concessions (with the obligatory reference to Lenin to prove the radicalism of what they’re arguing); and that it has allowed for other future political victories (they mention Spain) and the development of social movement mobilizations of a “transnational” bent (the likes of Blockupy).

Here again we are swimming in the waters of sophistry — of a pseudo-naivety that would be confusing if it did not make total sense coming from two ardent defenders of the European project (a “nice version” of it, of course). After all, the rhythms of the political forces to which they refer are not in synchrony.

From now until summer, the Greek government faces a series of more than pressing deadlines; and it’s hard to see how a successful demonstration in Frankfurt, or even the possibility of Podemos winning the Spanish elections at the end of the year, could change the situation in Syriza’s favor.

The gaps among these different forces’ temporal rhythms are one of the reasons why the national context is of such strategic importance to the actors in the political struggle: it is the terrain where the power relations among classes are condensed in decisive fashion.

**Balibar and Mezzadra also gravely underestimate the demobilizing effect that will inevitably follow — both within Greece and at the European level — from the perception that Greece and the Syriza government have been forced to kowtow to the EU’s austerity diktats.**

**And this is what everyone is ultimately going to think, whatever the short-sighted defenders of the Greek government do to try and dress it up differently.**

Already in Greece, the climate of mobilization and rediscovered confidence that we saw in the first weeks after the election now seems long in the past.

Of course, the mobilizations may well resume, but this time they will be directed against the government’s decisions, and in any case they won’t appear “on demand.”

Making any political choice conditional on the emergence of social movements is more than risky. It is a way of saying that it is a decision that will have to be changed if the mobilizations do not take place or if they are insufficiently powerful.

**In reality, we have to take the opposite line of march.**

**We have to assume that we have already made the decision to break with austerity: it’s this that stimulates mobilization, which will then enjoy (or acquire) its own autonomy.**

**Moreover, that is exactly what happened in Greece during the government’s “confrontation” with the European Union between February 5 and 20, when tens of thousands of people took to the street in a largely spontaneous manner, outside of any party framework.**

**Besides, the argument that “we have won some time” is in this case an illusion, since during these four months of supposed respite, Syriza will in fact be forced to operate within the existing framework.**

**And this will strengthen this framework: Syriza will have to implement a good part of what the troika (now restyled “the institutions”) demands, while putting off the application of the key measures of its own program — precisely the policies that**

**would have allowed it to make a difference and cement the social alliance that brought it to power.**

Indeed there is a very major risk that the time that Syriza has “won” will prove to have been wasted time, undermining Syriza’s base while allowing its enemies (particularly those on the far right) to regroup and present themselves as the only partisans of a real systemic break.

We should also note that, despite the disgust that Europeanism addicts like Balibar and Mezzadra feel at any mention of “the national,” the very political successes to which they refer, from Syriza to Podemos, not only took place within a national context — changing the relations of force precisely insofar as they allow radical left political movements to access the nation state’s levers of power — but were also, in part, only possible thanks to these parties’ insistence on national sovereignty: in a democratic, popular, non-nationalist sense, open to the outside world.

National-popular discourse and references to patriotism abound — Tsipras and Iglesias are perfectly willing to use these terms — as do national flags (Greek and Spanish Republican ones, not to mention the flags of the nationalities within the Spanish State) among the crowds and the “autonomous” movements (as Mezzadra and Balibar call them) filling these countries’ streets and town squares.

More than anything else, this shows that in the particular case of the dominated countries on the periphery of Europe like Spain and Greece, reference to the national is a terrain of struggle that progressive forces have managed to hegemonize, thus making it one of the most powerful factors driving their success.

And this is the basis on which we can build a real internationalism, not the empty talk — entirely disconnected from the concrete realities of political struggle — about a supposedly already-existing and unmediated “European” or “transnational” terrain.

**One last point, to conclude: there is a degree of truth in the first two sophisms, when they talk about Syriza’s mandate to leave the Eurozone. It is indeed true that there has been a contradiction in the party’s dominant approach to this question, a contradiction that has now burst into full view.**

**The idea of breaking with austerity and Greece’s debt burden within the existing European framework could not have been more clearly refuted in reality.**

In such a situation, it is vital that we speak frankly and honestly.

The first thing to do is to admit the failure, and thus the need for us to discuss once again the best strategy for Syriza to keep its promises and get Greece out of its current rut.

**At the same time, this will send a message of struggle to all those people — and there are a lot of them — who were counting on the “hope offered by Greece” and rightly refuse to accept that they are beaten.**

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# Shutting Down The Department Of Homeland Security Would Be A Good Idea:

## “A Largely Incompetent And Corrupt Spy Machine”

## “Congress Should Not Just Threaten To Pull DHS Funding, They Should Abolish It Entirely”



What has the DHS done for you lately, apart from cost you money and violate your privacy? Photograph: Larry Downing/Reuters

25 February 2015 by Trevor Timm, The Guardian [Excerpts]

Republicans in Congress are now embroiled in a petty dispute with Democrats over funding for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) because they don't like President Obama's new immigration policy.

While Republicans are again holding a federal agency hostage for a ridiculous reason, they've managed to stumble across a good idea in the process: Congress should not just threaten to pull DHS funding, they should abolish it entirely.

DHS is a behemoth and a bureaucratic nightmare that is projected to cost Americans \$38.2bn this year.

This conglomeration of over 20 government agencies, under one umbrella of dysfunction and secrecy, was mashed together by George W. Bush after 9/11 to form a largely incompetent and corrupt spy machine.



Examples of its awfulness abound.

Consider the DHS' so-called "fusion centers", which are little more than spying hubs that vacuum up information from federal and local authorities and store it for indefinite amounts of time.

A scathing Senate report on the centers, which have cost the DHS at least \$1.4 billion dollars, concluded that they produce "predominantly useless information" - one employee was quoted as calling it "a bunch of crap" - and that they also "(run) afoul of departmental guidelines meant to guard against civil liberties" and are "possibly in violation of the Privacy Act".

While they've spied on many people who were engaged in purely First Amendment protected activities, they're not known to have stopped a terrorist attack.

**The DHS has also turned into a piggy bank for local police forces, handing out millions and millions of dollars in military gear to police that they can barely account for, along with high-tech spying equipment used for mass surveillance of innocent citizens.**

For example, they have a program to hand out funds for local police to buy surveillance drones and give grants to cops for controversial Stingray surveillance devices, which are fake cell phone towers that allow the police to spy on entire neighborhoods at once.

They also have their own Predator drones program (without the missiles like in Pakistan and Yemen) that they fly along the US border as well.

**A government report released in January derided DHS's Predator drones as almost entirely ineffective and a giant waste of money.**

The report didn't even cover the alarming privacy concerns of having sophisticated spying machines constantly flying over large parts of the country.

Some of the harshest criticism of the DHS has come from within the agency. The Office of Intelligence and Analysis has been mocked by its own current and former employees for churning out "intelligence spam" and producing "almost nothing you can't find on Google."

**Secrecy is often the DHS' response to inefficiency.**

The Office of Intelligence and Analysis keeps its budget classified, likely in an attempt to hide its uselessness.

**An inspector general report found that the TSA - a sub-agency of DHS that apparently has never caught a terrorist but routinely violates innocent people's privacy - often arbitrarily holds back information that makes the agency look bad from the public.**

The DHS is also supposed to protect us from cyber threats, yet they can't even protect themselves from embarrassing hacks. (The Government Accountability Office wrote a

report saying the DHS apparently doesn't even know how to secure its buildings from being hacked, let alone the rest of the government.)

Another Senate report released in January criticized DHS's cyber capabilities on almost every level, calling DHS "lousy" and concluding that they do not have the ability to protect the government from attacks by nation-states.

There are so many incidents of gigantic amounts of waste at DHS that it is almost hard to keep track.

In response to Republican threats, Democrats are in the midst of running a cringe-worthy "Don't shut down our security" campaign. But why not recognize this as a blessing in disguise?

Thanks to this contrived ultimatum, Congress can go a step further and do what should have been done a long time ago: dismantle this wasteful, invasive, secretive agency once and for all.

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## **CLASS WAR REPORTS**

**Shot Three Times By Police,  
Man Dies Two Days Later In  
Hospital:  
Why Was Kevin Davis's Family  
Barred From Seeing Him?  
Family Says "He Was Isolated To  
Stop Him Disclosing Full Details Of  
The Shooting"  
"Davis Told A Medic That An Officer  
Simply Arrived At His Home "And Began  
Shooting"**

**Despite being instantly paralysed by one of Pitt's bullets, Davis was handcuffed to his bed to prevent a possible escape.**

**"From the time I found out he had been shot, I was calling Grady, I was calling DeKalb County, and I couldn't get anybody to give me a straight answer or let me see him," said his sister. "They just gave me the runaround."**

**Police in Georgia are to review why a man who was fatally shot by an officer at his home was handcuffed to his hospital bed for the last two days of his life and barred from visits by his family, who allege that he was isolated to stop him disclosing full details of the shooting.**

Kevin Davis was detained at Grady hospital in Atlanta after being shot three times by a DeKalb County police officer, who was responding to a 911 call made by Davis and his girlfriend when she was stabbed by another man at their apartment in the suburb of Decatur.

**His sister, Delisa, spent his final hours begging police to allow her to see him, but they refused until he died.**

**"They denied us access to him because they didn't want him telling us what really happened that night," she told the Guardian.**

**In his last known remarks, Davis told a medic that an officer simply arrived at his home "and began shooting".**

Davis had been arrested and charged with aggravated assault against the police officer, Joseph Pitts, because he allegedly ignored an order to drop a revolver he was holding.

**Davis's girlfriend, April Edwards, said he grabbed the unloaded gun and approached their front door after their dog was shot and they feared that her attacker may have returned with a gun.**

Pitts shot Davis in disputed circumstances.

Police have said that Davis approached Pitts, who was in the corridor outside the apartment, shouting: "You shot my dog."

Pitts had shot the three-legged pitbull dead, later alleging it "charged" at him after he opened the door to Davis's apartment. Police also said Pitts ordered Davis twice to "put down the gun".

But according to hospital files obtained by the Guardian, after arriving by ambulance Davis told an emergency room medic in his last known remarks "that police came to his house after there was an altercation with his girlfriend and began shooting".

His family's attorneys said witnesses did not hear Davis say anything to the officer, and that the 44-year-old did not even make it past the threshold to his apartment.

They said neighbours recalled hearing shots fired almost instantly after an order to drop the revolver.

Hospital officials confirmed that relatives were able to visit patients in custody if the law enforcement agency involved granted permission.

**The DeKalb County sheriff's office, which was responsible for Davis during his stay in hospital, said it granted permission "in the most grave situations", yet Davis's family was refused access even as he deteriorated fatally.**

Despite being instantly paralysed by one of Pitt's bullets, Davis was handcuffed to his bed to prevent a possible escape.

"From the time I found out he had been shot, I was calling Grady, I was calling DeKalb County, and I couldn't get anybody to give me a straight answer or let me see him," said his sister. "They just gave me the runaround."

Police have not said how many times he was shot. His sister said she was told by doctors that they had found three bullets in his body – one lodged in his spine, one in his stomach and another in an arm. Medical reports from the hospital detail five separate wounds.

**Delisa Davis said that when she was told that her brother had "expired" on 31 December, a detective told her: "I guess you can go to Grady now."**

**She said: "It was just so callous, like they weren't dealing with humans."**

Davis's case has only come to light in recent days after his family belatedly recruited attorneys.

The DeKalb County sheriff, Jeffrey Mann, said in a statement that his department "routinely restrain arrestees, generally with handcuffs" in the interests of "the safety of the public and inmates" in their custody.

**"It is also our practice not to allow inmate visitation except in the most grave situations, and then with the confirmation of that condition by the medical professionals at the facility," said Mann.**

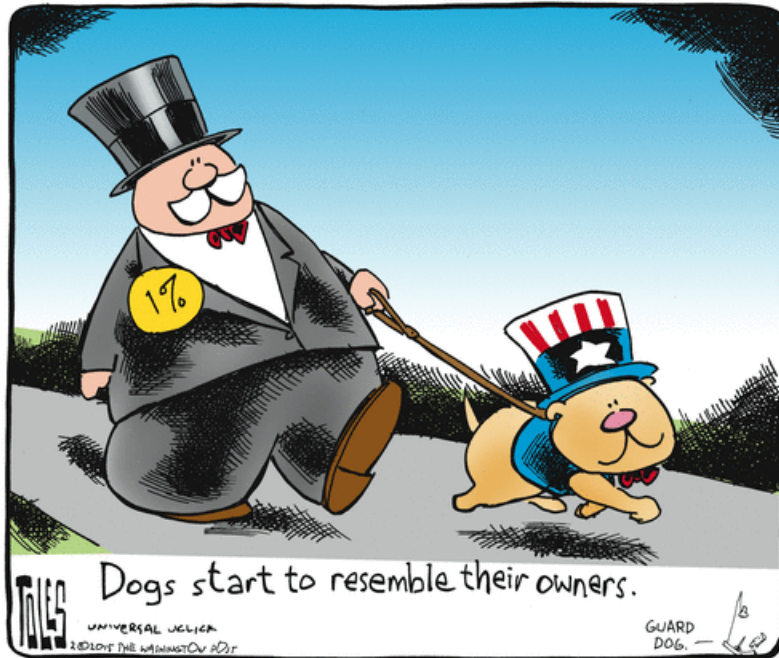
"Tragically, Mr Davis succumbed to his wounds while being treated at Grady Hospital. In the interest of transparency, however, we will review the circumstances regarding his condition and any visitation requests."

Denise Simpson, a spokeswoman for Grady hospital, said she could not discuss specific detention methods used on patients in custody "as procedures may vary based on patient conditions, medical treatments required, etc".

"Grady policy requires that anyone wishing to visit a custody patient contact the appropriate law enforcement agency and obtain approval from that agency," said Simpson. "That agency then notifies our staff if visitation is approved."

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## DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



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## OCCUPATION PALESTINE

### **Zionist Settlers Spray Racist Graffiti On Palestinian Town School: “Death To Arabs”**

February 26, 2015 WAFA

NABLUS – Israeli settlers Thursday sprayed racist graffiti on the walls of a school in ‘Urif village to the south of Nablus, said a local source.

Secretary of the Local Village Council Adel Amer told WAFA that a group of settlers from the nearby illegal Israeli settlement of Yizhar sprayed anti-Arab graffiti in Hebrew on the secondary School. “Death to Arabs” was scrawled on the school walls.

Palestinian local media outlets reported that the perpetrators were allegedly affiliated to the Hilltop Youth, a group of notoriously hardliner Israeli nationalists who often live in illegal outposts in the occupied West Bank.

The group has been known to target Palestinians and their property in so-called 'price-tag' attacks.

Ghassan Daghlas, who monitors settler activities in northern West Bank, was quoted as accusing the Israeli government of "giving free rein to extremist settlers to carry out attacks against Palestinians in an attempt to win their votes in the upcoming Knesset elections."

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## **Occupation Forces Trash Palestinian Homes; Arrest Palestinians In Many Places, As Usual**

RAMALLAH, February 26, 2015 (WAFA) – Israeli forces Thursday detained at least 10 Palestinians, including a minor, and summoned another from West Bank districts, said the Palestinian Prisoner Club.

Israeli forces early Thursday raided Deir Abu Mash'al, a village to the northwest of Ramallah, where they detained at least five Palestinians after breaking into their houses.

The detainees were identified as Mahmoud and Ibrahim Taha, Bara' and Yusef 'Atta and Muhammad Barghouthi.

Meanwhile in Qalqilya district, forces raided 'Azzun village to the west of the city, where they detained two Palestinians. The detainees were identified by the PPC as Tha'er Abu Haniyeh, 19, and Mahmoud Salim, 19.

They also raided the city, where they detained another Palestinian identified as 'Ali Nazzal, 21.

In the meantime in Jenin district, soldiers stationed at al-Jalama checkpoint detained a Palestinian student while heading to join his peers in a school-sponsored trip. The student was identified as Muhammad Fayyad, 16.

Forces also raided al-Yamun town to the west of the city, where they proceeded to detain Talal Abu Tul after breaking and wrecking havoc into his family's house.

They also raided several other houses and a bakery, tampering with their content and interrogating the owners.

Israeli soldiers raided a house that belongs to the family of Nour al-Ja'bari, an ex-detainee, and handed his father a notice summoning him to appear before intelligence. Owners of the other houses were identified as Kamel al-Ja'bari, Abu al-'Abd Abu al-Hayja, Abu 'Ala al-Najjar and Abu 'Aouni Fraihat.

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# Zionist Settlers Set Fire To Greek Orthodox Monastery: Write “Mary Is A Cow” On Wall

February 26, 2015 WAFA

JERUSALEM –

Suspected Jewish settlers torched early Thursday a monastery in Jerusalem and sprayed anti-Christian graffiti in Hebrew on its walls, said WAFA correspondent. Settlers torched a room of the Greek Orthodox Church monastery of Sion, which houses the patriarchal seminary, and sprayed graffiti offending to Jesus Christ on the walls.

**Fires were set to the school room and a toilet facility used by priests and seminarians inside the monastery building, causing extensive material damage. No casualties were reported in the attack.**

This is not the first time Christian religious sites were targeted by Jewish settlers. In April 2014, settlers Jewish settlers sprayed anti-Christian graffiti on the walls of Deir Rafat Catholic convent in West Jerusalem and slashed the tires of vehicles parked nearby.

They scrawled slogans reading “Mary is a cow”, “price tag’ in Hebrew.

During 2012, settlers set fire to the door of a Catholic monastery in Latrun and scrawled “Jesus is monkey” on a nearby wall. “Price tag” attacks are carried by Israeli settlers mostly against Palestinians, Christians and Muslims alike, and occasionally against the Israeli forces installations.

The attacks involve the vandalism, destruction and targeting of Palestinian property, including mosques, churches and houses, vehicles and olive orchards across the occupied West Bank. The attacks started in retaliation to Israeli government moves to dismantle ‘unauthorized’ settlement outposts and perpetrators are rarely caught.

There is nothing such as ‘authorized’ and ‘unauthorized’ settlements in the West Bank. All settlements are in violation of Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which establishes that the occupying power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies.

The Security Council, the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council and the International Court of Justice have all confirmed that the construction and expansion of Israeli settlements and other settlement-related activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory are illegal under international law.

Saeb Erekat condemned the attack on the Christian seminary as well as the torching of a mosque in Bethlehem. "During the last 48 hours, a Mosque near Bethlehem and a Christian seminary in Occupied East Jerusalem were set on fire by Israeli terrorists."

Erekat said, "These terrorists have been incited for and protected by a government that claims exclusivity over this land and that justifies its illegal occupation and colonization based on distorted religious claims. He described the attacks as "a direct consequence of the calls for recognition of Israel as a 'Jewish State' and Jerusalem as the 'eternal and undivided capital of the Jewish people.'

Erekat held the Israeli government accountable for the attacks which proved not to be the first of their kind committed by settlers against vulnerable and peaceful residents.

The attacks aim at terrorizing Palestinians in order to empty the land, he said. "We will not tolerate any attacks on our Christian and Muslim religious holy sites, including any graffiti attacking Jesus or Prophet Mohammad." Once again, Erekat called upon the international community to hold Israel accountable for its attacks against Palestinians and end the selective treatment of Israel as a state above the law.

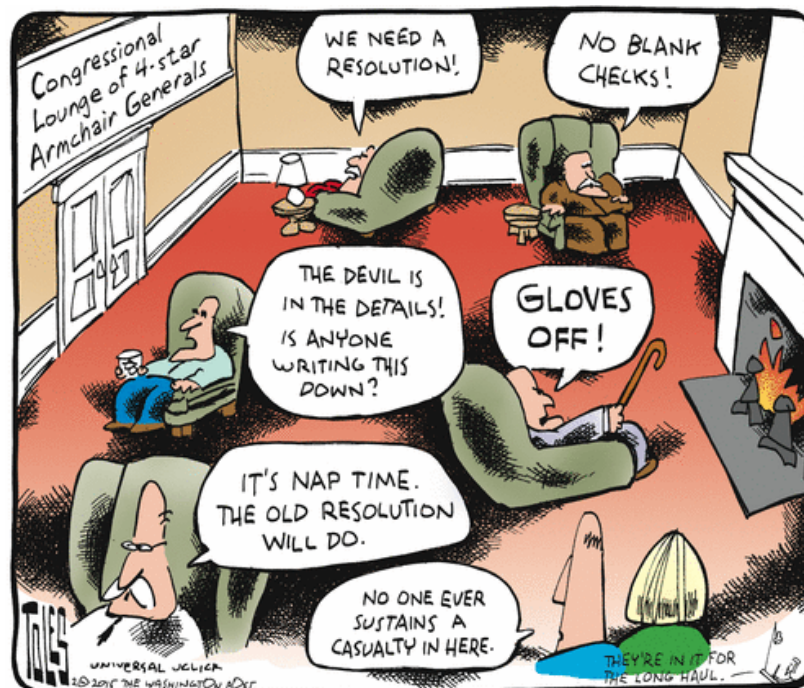
To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to:

<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."

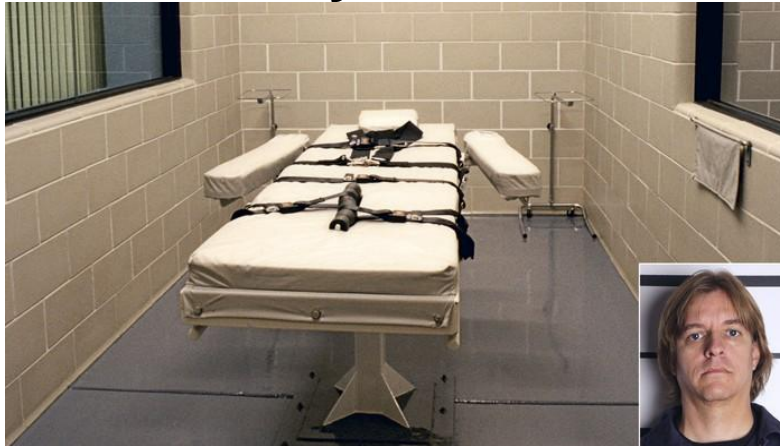
## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK





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## Death Row Inmate Dies Of Natural Causes 3 Days Into Execution



Feb 24, 2015 The Onion

MCALESTER, OK

Calling it an “unfortunate incident,” Oklahoma Department of Corrections officials confirmed that convicted murderer and death row inmate Harrison Garber, 57, died of natural causes three days into his lethal injection Tuesday.

“Approximately 55 hours into the execution process, Mr. Garber began having seizures and showing signs of severe distress, ultimately succumbing to the effects of a stroke,” said warden Timothy Richards, adding that medical personnel rushed to revive the man so they could proceed with the execution, but it was already too late.

“A preliminary report by the coroner indicates a sudden arterial embolism in the brain—an unforeseen turn of events that was certainly not the chemically induced cardiac arrest by which we eventually expected him to die.”

Richards then vowed immediate reforms, declaring that all future death row inmates would have to pass a physical examination to ensure they were not at risk of passing away on the execution table while waiting for the unproven cocktail of chemicals inside them to take effect.

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