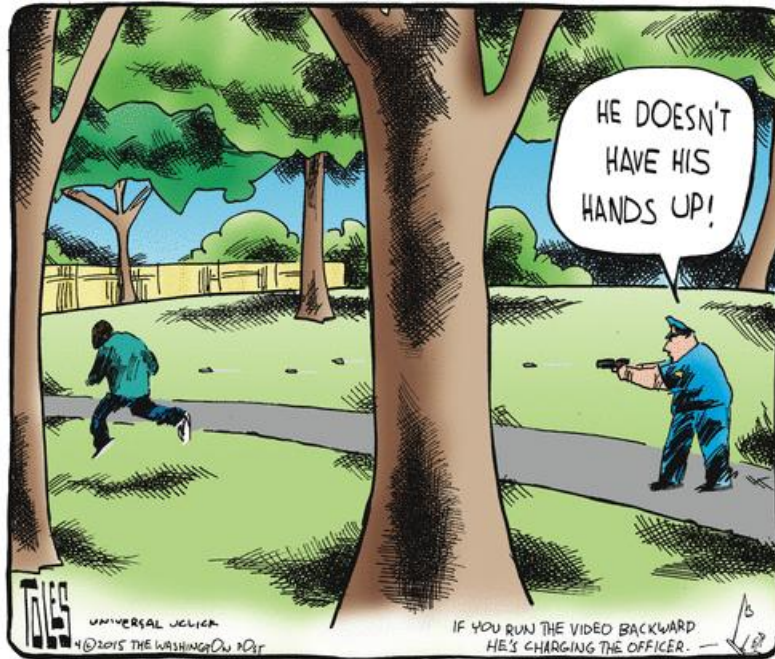


Military Resistance 13D6



MILITARY NEWS

Provincial Capital Of Anbar Province “Could Fall To The IS Militants Within Hours” “Unless Reinforcements Arrive Soon” “‘It’s Bad,’ Said A U.S. Defense Official”

Insurgents Advance “To Within 500 Yards Of Government Compound In The Center Of Ramadi”



Residents of Ramadi, 70 miles west of Baghdad, flee after Islamic State forces launch an offensive near the city on Wednesday. Photo: Associated Press

April 16, 2015 RFE/RL's Radio Free Iraq & Apr 17, 2015 Reuters & By Matt Bradley in Baghdad and Nour Malas in Dubai

Iraqi security forces fought Islamic State militants at the gates of the western city of Ramadi on Friday, and local authorities warned it was in danger of falling unless reinforcements arrived soon.

An Iraqi official in the Anbar Operations Command said Islamic State advanced to within 500 yards of a government compound in the center of Ramadi, the capital of the hotly contested province of Anbar that has been the focus of Iraqi government attacks for the past two weeks.

American officials said there hasn't been substantial change in Ramadi's status over the past 24 hours, but the city remained close to falling to Islamic State.

"It's bad," said a U.S. defense official. "The enemy is incrementally chipping away at (Iraqi Security Forces') defenses."

The reports came after the deputy head of the Anbar Provincial Council, Falih Essawi, warned that Ramadi could fall to the IS militants within hours.

Police sources and provincial council members said the militants were no more than half a kilometer from the center of the capital of Anbar province, and many residents were rushing to leave, waving white flags.

Government officials in Baghdad said more than 2,000 families had fled their homes in Ramadi.

"The situation in Anbar is critical," council member Sabah Karhout told Reuters. Two deputy governors of Anbar echoed his alarm and said the U.S.-led coalition was not conducting enough airstrikes to help save the city. **[Hey, quit whining; they launched SEVEN airstrikes; see next article below. T]**

A spokesman for the Defense Ministry played down the threat to Ramadi and said the army would soon launch a counter-offensive to reverse Islamic State advances in the area.

The Sunni Islamist militants have been making inroads near Ramadi since last week, when the government announced a new offensive to recapture Anbar, large parts of which Islamic State has held for the past year.

The IS militants launched an offensive at dawn on April 15 against Ramadi, capturing three villages and advancing to within 2 kilometers of the city's eastern edges.

The offensive is one of the most serious threats against Ramadi so far by IS militants, who are led by Sunni extremists.

MORE:

Pentagon Officials Played Down Warnings That Islamic State Forces Were Poised To Seize Ramadi:

**“Thousands Flee Their Homes”
Government Forces Run Away**

**“Shortly Before The Attacks,
Allowing Militants To Take Over
Without A Fight”**

**“Unable To Defend Themselves From
The Insurgents Because They Lacked
Adequate Weapons And Ammunition”**

April 15, 2015 By Matt Bradley in Baghdad and Julian E. Barnes in Washington, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

Islamic State launched a new offensive outside Baghdad, marking a resurgence just as the U.S. and Iraqi leaders were meeting in Washington to lay plans to retake the area from the extremist group.

The Sunni radicals attacked four villages on Wednesday in the al-Sofiya region, a suburb of the Anbar provincial capital Ramadi about 60 miles west of Baghdad, according to provincial security officials.

Thousands of civilians fled their homes in Ramadi, fearing an Islamic State onslaught.

One week ago, Anbar officials declared the start of a military campaign to drive Islamic State forces from the sprawling, sparsely populated Sunni-majority province that borders the western edges of Baghdad.

The attacks coincided with Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi's visit to Washington to discuss security issues. Iraq's security forces still need more military support from the U.S., specifically tanks and heavy weaponry, the prime minister said Wednesday.

Pentagon officials played down warnings that Islamic State forces were poised to seize Ramadi.

In recent days, the U.S.-led military coalition has stepped up its airstrikes in Ramadi to support Iraqi forces, carrying out seven in and around the city in the past two days, U.S. officials said. [Wow! Seven!!]

Islamic State fighters attacked the villages of Albu Ghanim, Albu Sowda and Albu Mahal and partially captured the town of Sejariya after detonating several car bombs.

Government officials said Islamic State killed at least 20 people and 30 policemen were missing. Sabah Karhout, the head of Anbar's provincial council, estimated the death toll at more than 50.

Local Sunni tribal leaders blamed Baghdad for the bloodshed, saying government forces withdrew from the area shortly before the attacks, allowing militants to take over without a fight.

While some security officials denied the retreat, others confirmed it but couldn't explain the pullout.

The tribal leaders said their fighters were unable to defend themselves from the insurgents because they lacked adequate weapons and ammunition.

Sunni leaders and tribal sheiks have accused the government of stalling arms deliveries because of lingering suspicions that local tribes are aiding Islamic State. The government has promised to start delivering small arms to the tribes.

"We called on the government before to provide more weapons and ammunition but there was no response," said Sheik Rafie al-Fahdawi, the head of the Albu

Fahad tribe and a leader in an alliance of anti-Islamic State tribes called Al Fudhul. “The result was that innocent people were killed today.”

Deputy Prime Minister Saleh al-Mutlaq convened an emergency meeting of security officials and political leaders to discuss Anbar’s deteriorating security situation. He appealed to regional Arab governments and Shiite leaders to help arm Sunni tribes in the province, state media reported.

Terrain is another challenge: While Islamic State can retreat to Anbar’s vast deserts, Iraqi forces are confined to the cities and army bases along the Euphrates River basin, said Mr. Tamimi.

Those positions are further split by pockets of Islamic State territory, such as the cities and towns of Al Qaim, Ana, Rawa, Hit and Fallujah—all of which have been under Islamic State for months with the strong support of local residents.

Among those killed in Wednesday’s attack was Zamel Al Marawi, the leader in Albu Ghanim village for the U.S.-backed “Awakening” comprising tribal forces that fought against al Qaeda in Anbar in 2006 and 2007, according to local officials.

Mr. Marawi was among nine people killed by Islamic State fighters in the village, the officials said.

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.

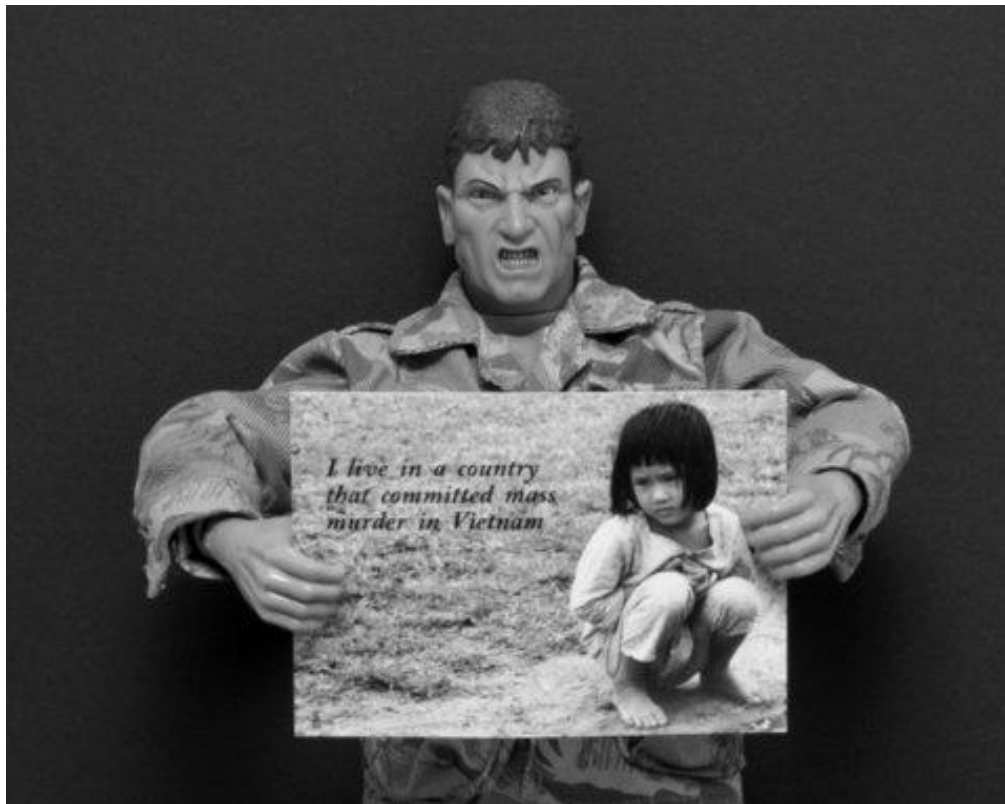
“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

**The development of civilization and of industry in general has ever shown itself so active in the destruction of forests, that everything done by it for their preservation, compared to its destructive effect, appears infinitesimal.
-- Karl Marx; Capital: A Critique Of Political Economy; Volume II; The Process Of The Circulation Of Capital**

Full Disclosure



Photograph by: Mike Hastie, Army Medic Vietnam

From: Mike Hastie

To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: April 18, 2015
Subject: Full Disclosure

This image is dedicated to those who were born long after the Vietnam War ended, with the intention of being a buffer to the massive propaganda that they will be exposed to as their government tries desperately to bury the lies of the Vietnam War.

MH

Photo and caption from the portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)

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

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

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: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

ANNIVERSARIES

The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising
April 19, 1943:

In Memory Of Those Who Died Courageously Resisting An Imperial Army Of Occupation, Arms In Hand



A resistance fighter with a homemade flame thrower during the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.
[citizenship.typepad]

Carl Bunin Peace History April 13-19

On the eve of Passover, the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising began when Nazi forces attempted to clear out the Jewish ghetto in Warsaw, Poland, to send them to concentration camps.

The destruction of the ghetto had been ordered in February by SS Chief Heinrich Himmler:

“An overall plan for the razing of the ghetto is to be submitted to me. In any case we must achieve the disappearance from sight of the living-space for 500,000 sub-humans (Untermenschen) that has existed up to now, but could never be suitable for Germans, and reduce the size of this city of millions — Warsaw — which has always been a center of corruption and revolt.”

From: Ushmm.org [Excerpt]:

In the summer of 1942, about 300,000 Jews were deported from Warsaw to Treblinka.

When reports of mass murder in the killing center leaked back to the Warsaw ghetto, a surviving group of mostly young people formed an organization called the Z.O.B. (for the Polish name, Żydowska Organizacja Bojowa, which means Jewish Fighting Organization).

The Z.O.B., led by 23-year-old Mordecai Anielewicz, issued a proclamation calling for the Jewish people to resist going to the railroad cars.

In January 1943, Warsaw ghetto fighters fired upon German troops as they tried to round up another group of ghetto inhabitants for deportation. Fighters used a small supply of weapons that had been smuggled into the ghetto.

After a few days, the troops retreated.

This small victory inspired the ghetto fighters to prepare for future resistance.

The Nazis began the final liquidation of the ghetto the eve of Passover, April 19, 1943.

The Warsaw ghetto uprising began after German troops and police entered the ghetto to deport its surviving inhabitants. Seven hundred and fifty fighters fought the heavily armed and well-trained Germans.

The ghetto fighters were able to hold out for nearly a month, but on May 16, 1943, the revolt ended.

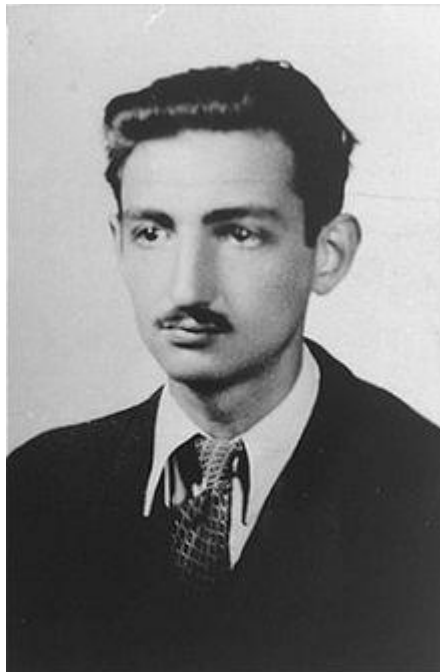
The Germans had slowly crushed the resistance.

Of the more than 56,000 Jews captured, about 7,000 were shot, and the remainder were deported to killing centers or concentration camps.

Resisters held off the Nazis for three weeks, using precious few and largely ineffectual weapons, but they were determined to go out fighting, decrease the number of Nazis, and hopefully serve to let the whole world know of the plight of the Jews.

MORE:

Marek Edelman



[Thanks to Alan Stolzer, Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

Wikipedia [Excerpts]

Marek Edelman (Yiddish: מאָרעק עדעלמאַן, born 1919 in Homel or 1922 in Warsaw – October 2, 2009 in Warsaw) was a Jewish-Polish political and social activist and cardiologist. Before his death in 2009, Edelman was the last surviving leader of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

Before World War II, he was a General Jewish Labour Bund activist. During the war he co-founded the Jewish Combat Organization (ŻOB).

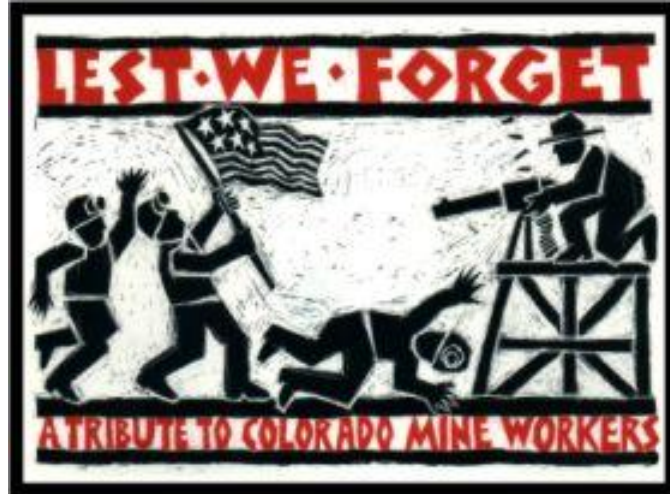
He took part in the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, becoming its leader after the death of Mordechaj Anielewicz. He also took part in the city-wide 1944 Warsaw Uprising.

After the war, Edelman remained in Poland and became a noted cardiologist.

As a member of Solidarity, he took part in the Polish Round Table Talks of 1989.

Following the peaceful transformations of 1989, he was a member of various centrist and liberal parties. He also wrote books documenting the history of wartime resistance against the Nazi German occupation of Poland.

The Ludlow Massacre
April 20, 1914:
Infamous Anniversary:
Soldiers Dishonor Their Uniforms
Slaughtering Women And Children
To Serve The Rich:
Some Honorable Soldiers Resist, But
The Colorado National Guard
Becomes Notorious All Over The
World As Foul, Cowardly Strike-
Breaking Scum



Eighty-two soldiers in a company on a troop train headed for Trinidad refused to go. The men declared they would not engage in the shooting of women and children.

Carl Bunin Peace History April 16-22 & PBS.org

A lot more than 2,000 miles separated the Rockefeller estate from Southern Colorado when on Monday April 20, 1914, the first shot was fired at Ludlow.

One of history's most dramatic confrontations between capital and labor — the Ludlow massacre — took place at the mines of the Rockefeller-owned Colorado Fuel and Iron Company (CF&I).

Troops from the Colorado state militia attacked strikers, killing 25 (half women and children), in Ludlow. Two women and eleven children who suffocated in a pit they had dug under their tent.

Having struck the Rockefeller-owned Colorado Fuel and Iron Company the previous September for improved conditions, better wages, and union recognition, the workers established a tent camp which was fired upon and ultimately torched during the 14-hour siege.

The Ludlow Massacre

[The following was excerpted from Howard Zinn's A PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES (pgs 346-349).]

"... shortly after Woodrow Wilson took office there began in Colorado one of the most bitter and violent struggles between workers and corporate capital in the history of the country.

This was the Colorado coal strike that began in September 1913 and culminated in the 'Ludlow Massacre' of April 1914.

Eleven thousand miners in southern Colorado ... worked for the Colorado Fuel & Iron Corporation, which was owned by the Rockefeller family.

Aroused by the murder of one of their organizers, they went on strike against low pay, dangerous conditions, and feudal domination of their lives in towns completely controlled by the mining companies.”

“When the strike began, the miners were immediately evicted from their shacks in the mining towns. Aided by the United Mine Workers Union, they set up tents in the nearby hills and carried on the strike, the picketing, from these tent colonies.

The gunmen hired by the Rockefeller interests -- the Baldwin- Felts Detective Agency -- using Gatling guns and rifles, raided the tent colonies.

The death list of miners grew, but they hung on, drove back an armored train in a gun battle, fought to keep out strikebreakers.

With the miners resisting, refusing to give in, the mines not able to operate, the Colorado governor (referred to by a Rockefeller mine manager as ‘our little cowboy governor’) called out the National Guard, with the Rockefellers supplying the Guard’s wages.

“The miners at first thought the Guard was sent to protect them, and greeted its arrival with flags and cheers.

They soon found out the Guard was there to destroy the strike.

The Guard brought strikebreakers in under cover of night, not telling them there was a strike.

Guardsmen beat miners, arrested them by the hundreds, rode down with their horses parades of women in the streets of Trinidad, the central town in the area.

And still the miners refused to give in.

When they lasted through the cold winter of 1913-1914, it became clear that extraordinary measures would be needed to break the strike.

“In April 1914, two National Guard companies were stationed in the hills overlooking the largest tent colony of strikers, the one at Ludlow, housing a thousand men, women, children.

On the morning of April 20, a machine gun attack began on the tents.

The miners fired back.

Their leader was lured up into the hills to discuss a truce, then shot to death by a company of National Guardsmen.

The women and children dug pits beneath the tents to escape the gunfire.

At dusk, the Guard moved down from the hills with torches, set fire to the tents, and the families fled into the hills; thirteen people were killed by gunfire.

“The following day, a telephone linesman going through the ruins of the Ludlow tent colony lifted an iron cot covering a pit in one of the tents and found the charred, twisted bodies of eleven children and two women.

This became known as the Ludlow Massacre.

“The news spread quickly over the country.

In Denver, the United Mine Workers issued a ‘Call to Arms’ -- ‘Gather together for defensive purposes all arms and ammunition legally available.’ Three hundred armed strikers marched from other tent colonies into the Ludlow area, cut telephone and telegraph wires, and prepared for battle.

Railroad workers refused to take soldiers from Trinidad to Ludlow.

At Colorado Springs, three hundred union miners walked off their jobs and headed for the Trinidad district, carrying revolvers, rifles, shotguns.

“In Trinidad itself, miners attended a funeral service for the twenty-six dead at Ludlow, then walked from the funeral to a nearby building, where arms were stacked for them.

They picked up rifles and moved into the hills, destroying mines, killing mine guards, exploding mine shafts.

The press reported that ‘the hills in every direction seem suddenly to be alive with men.’

“In Denver, eighty-two soldiers in a company on a troop train headed for Trinidad refused to go. The press reported: ‘The men declared they would not engage in the shooting of women and children.

They hissed the 350 men who did start and shouted imprecations at them.

“Five thousand people demonstrated in the rain on the lawn in front of the state capital at Denver asking that the National Guard officers at Ludlow be tried for murder, denouncing the governor as an accessory.

The Denver Cigar Makers Union voted to send five hundred armed men to Ludlow and Trinidad.

Women in the United Garment Workers Union in Denver announced four hundred of their members had volunteered as nurses to help the strikers.

“All over the country there were meetings, demonstrations.

Pickets marched in front of the Rockefeller office at 26 Broadway, New York City.

A minister protested in front of the church where Rockefeller sometimes gave sermons, and was clubbed by the police.

“The New York Times carried an editorial on the events in Colorado, which were not attracting international attention.

The Times emphasis was not on the atrocity that had occurred, but on the mistake in tactics that had been made.

Its editorial on the Ludlow Massacre began: ‘Somebody blundered ... ‘

Two days later, with the miners armed and in the hills of the mine district, the Times wrote: ‘With the deadliest weapons of civilization in the hands of savage-mined men, there can be no telling to what lengths the war in Colorado will go unless it is quelled by force ... The President should turn his attention from Mexico long enough to take stern measures in Colorado.’

“The governor of Colorado asked for federal troops to restore order, and Woodrow Wilson complied.

This accomplished, the strike petered out.

Congressional committees came in and took thousands of pages of testimony.

The union had not won recognition.

Sixty-six men, women, and children had been killed.

Not one militiaman or mine guard had been indicted for crime.

“The Times had referred to Mexico.

On the morning that the bodies were discovered in the tent pit at Ludlow, American warships were attacking Vera Cruz, a city on the coast of Mexico--bombarding it, occupying it, leaving a hundred Mexicans dead--because Mexico had arrested American sailors and refused to apologize to the United States with a twenty-one gun salute.

Could patriotic fervor and the military spirit cover up class struggle?

Unemployment, hard times, were growing in 1914.

Could guns divert attention and create some national consensus against an external enemy?

It surely was a coincidence--the bombardment of Vera Cruz, the attack on the Ludlow colony.

Or perhaps it was, as someone once described human history, ‘the natural selection of accidents.’

Perhaps the affair in Mexico was an instinctual response of the system for its own survival, to create a unity of fighting purpose among a people torn by internal conflict.

“The bombardment of Vera Cruz was a small incident.

But in four months the First World War would begin in Europe.



The aftermath of the Ludlow Massacre, 1914.

MILITARY RESISTANCE BY EMAIL

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CLASS WAR REPORTS

**New York Students Stand Against
Corporate Attack On Public
Education;
155,000 Students Refuse To Take
Standardized Tests “With Only Half
Of The State's Districts Talled”**

Revolt Against Cuomo Scheme To “Close More Neighborhood Schools And Target More Teachers For Firing”



Students of all ages protested throughout New York this week against standardized testing. (Photo: New York Daily News)

April 17, 2015 by Nadia Prupis, staff writer, Common Dreams

Tens of thousands of students in New York boycotted the annual state-mandated English Language Arts exams this week in a grassroots challenge to Governor Andrew Cuomo's controversial education agenda.

Organizers, including educational advocacy group United to Counter the Core, said at least 155,000 students opted out of the tests on Thursday, with only half of the state's districts tallied.

That figure is up from 112,763 on Wednesday—and up from 49,000 last year. Testing began on Tuesday.

The revolt is in response to what parents, students, and activists say is a political takeover of educational standards—seen at the national level as well—that pushes a focus on standardized exams and a Common Core curriculum, developed by a secretive for-profit company, that compromises learning for test preparation.

In late March, Cuomo approved a budget that included many divisive revisions to the state education agenda, including teacher evaluations based partly on test scores, which critics say take too long, are too vague to be accurate, and fail to measure real learning.

Investigative journalist Juan Gonzalez explained the concerns over the increased focus on testing in his column for the New York Daily News:

“The politicians created a test that says all schools are failing, not just the ones in the big cities, then declare a crisis, so they can close more neighborhood schools, launch more charter schools, and target more teachers for firing.

“Meanwhile, the private company that fashioned this new test, Pearson, insists on total secrecy over its content.”

As Democracy Now! reports, in January, as Cuomo held town hall meetings with parents in New York who voiced a number of frustrations over the proposed curriculum, special education teacher Jia Lee testified before U.S. Congress about the growing number of parents opting their children out of the yearly exams.

"In New York state, at least, these tests have changed from year to year," Lee said during her testimony.

"When parents and educators have voiced concerns, they've been accused of coddling. I want to challenge that assumption.

"The great crime is that the focus on testing has taken valuable resources and time away from programming, social studies, arts and physical education, special education services and ELL (English language learners) programs," Lee said.

Toni Smith-Thompson, a New York parent whose child opted out of the tests this week, spoke with Democracy Now! on Friday, explaining why this year's protest reached its unprecedented size.

"(W)ith the addition of these high stakes attached to the teacher evaluations, really just took it over the top," Smith-Thompson said.

"Kids started talking about, 'If I fail, my teacher will get fired.' And kids should not be put in that position."

Once Smith-Thompson and other parents in her district "had the information about what was in the tests, the length of the tests, like eight hours—plus, you know, for most schools, months of test prep—it was a no-brainer," she continued.

Cindy Rubino, a parent in Lakeland whose children also boycotted the tests, told USA Today that she was "thrilled" with the turnout.

"I do believe this is a historic day in New York state, as we try to regain local control over the education of our kids," Rubino said. "These refusals are meant to protest a system that is currently failing our children and educators."

A new round of testing, focused on math, is set to begin next Tuesday.

Fight For \$15 Swells Into Largest Protest By Low-Wage Workers In US History: Some 60,000 Workers Join In The Demonstrations

15 April 2015 Steven Greenhouse and Jana Kasperkevic in New York, Guardian News and Media Limited

Workers in Atlanta, Boston, New York, Los Angeles and more than 200 cities across the US walked out on their jobs or joined marches and protests on Wednesday during the largest protest by low-wage workers in US history.

Some 60,000 workers took part in the Fight for \$15 demonstrations, according to the organisers. The protests are calling for a minimum wage of \$15 an hour in the US, more than twice the current federal minimum of \$7.25.

By late afternoon on the east coast no arrests had been reported, a marked contrast to last May's action when more than 100 people were arrested during a protest outside McDonald's Chicago headquarters.

The demonstrations were the latest in a series of strikes that began with fast-food workers in New York in November 2012.

The movement has since attracted groups outside the restaurant industry: Wednesday's protesters included home-care assistants, Walmart workers, child-care aides, airport workers, adjunct professors and other low-wage workers.

It also sparked international support, with people protesting against low wages in Brazil, New Zealand and the UK.

The Service Employees International Union (SEIU), one of the largest US unions and representing janitors, security guards, hospital aides and nursing home workers, has bankrolled the campaign, pumping in more than \$25m according to documents filed with the US Department of Labor.

Speaking at a protest in San Francisco, Karen Joubert, a nurse, Fight for \$15 organizer and a vice-president of representation with the northern California chapter of SEIU, said: "When you pay someone a decent wage, it helps him to get better healthcare and take care of his family.

"Many of our members who work at fast-food restaurants are not college students. They've worked there for 12, 15 years. They are working three jobs so that they can raise a family. We want to see them get better wages."



Marchers with FightFor15 banner in New York. (photo: Andy Katz/Demotix/Corbis)

Some cities including Seattle and New York have moved to increase their local rates, and big corporations including McDonald's and Walmart have announced hikes in their hourly rates.

But a national increase still faces stiff opposition.

The International Franchise Association, the world's largest organization representing franchise owners, called the Fight for \$15 protests "a multimillion-dollar public relations campaign designed to mislead the public and policymakers".

MORE:

**Americans Spending \$153 Billion A Year For Welfare Payments To Pay For McDonald's, Wal-Mart's And Other Corporation's Profits:
"American Taxpayers Are Subsidizing People Who Work Because Businesses Do Not Pay A Living Wage"**

April 15 By Ken Jacobs, Washington Post [Excerpts]

The low wages paid by businesses, including some of the largest and most profitable companies in the U.S. – like McDonald's and Wal-Mart – are costing taxpayers nearly \$153 billion a year.

After decades of wage cuts and health benefit rollbacks, more than half of all state and federal spending on public assistance programs goes to working families who need food stamps, Medicaid, or other support to meet basic needs.

Let that sink in — American taxpayers are subsidizing people who work — most of them full-time (in some case more than full-time) because businesses do not pay a living wage.

Workers like Terrence Wise, a 35-year-old father who works part-time at McDonald's and Burger King in Kansas City, Mo., and his fiancée Myosha Johnson, a home care worker, are among millions of families in the U.S. who work an average of 38 hours per week but still rely on public assistance.

Wise is paid \$8.50 an hour at his McDonald's job and \$9 an hour at Burger King. Johnson is paid just above \$10 an hour, even after a decade in her field. Wise and Johnson together rely on \$240 a month in food stamps to feed their three kids, a cost borne by taxpayers.

The problem of low wages and the accompanying public cost extends far beyond the fast-food industry.



Protesters lobby for higher wages for fast food workers. (Andrew Burton/Getty Images)

Forty-eight percent of home care workers rely on public assistance. In child care, it's 46 percent. Among part-time college faculty—some of the most highly educated workers in the country—it's 25 percent.

Ebony Hughes is paid \$7.50 an hour as a home care worker in Durham, N.C., and has a second job at a local KFC. While the home care industry has the fastest growing

number of jobs in America, these workers are some of the lowest paid in the country – earning, on average, \$13,000 a year.

To get enough hours to pay the bills, Hughes works from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. But she and her daughter still rely on public assistance to make ends meet.

UC Berkeley's Center for Labor Research and Education, which I chair, has analyzed state spending for Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and federal spending for those programs as well as food stamps and the Earned Income Tax Credit.

We found that, on average, 52 percent of state public assistance spending supports working families (defined as working for at least 26 weeks a year and 10 hours a week) – with costs as high as \$3.7 billion in California, \$3.3 billion in New York, and \$2 billion in Texas.

When 73 percent of people who benefit from major public assistance programs live in a working family, our economy isn't operating the way it should – and could – be.

Public assistance programs provide a vital support system for American families.

But when Americans like Wise, Johnson and Hughes are working as hard as they can and are still paid too little to get by without public support, we need action to raise wages. On Tax Day it is a good time to take a hard look at the high public cost of low wages in the United States.

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



SYRIZA's Parliamentary Spokesman Thanasis Petrakos Says That "University Asylum Is Non- Negotiable." Prime Minister Allende Ooops Tsipras Shows Fear Of Hard Right; Orders Arrests

April 17, 2015 <http://www.ekathimerini.com/>

A police operation on Friday to eject 14 protesters from Athens University's central campus after a 19-day sit-in deepened fissures between the hard core and moderate elements of the leftist-led government.

At issue is universities' right to asylum from police intervention, abolished by the previous administration and currently being reinstated by SYRIZA.

The issue has been a bone of contention in the government since the start of the protest, with Alternate Minister for Citizens' Protection Yiannis Panousis calling for police action and Interior Minister Nikos Voutsis staunchly upholding university asylum.

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras eventually gave the green light.

Differences were also apparent after the operation, with SYRIZA's parliamentary spokesman Thanasis Petrakos saying that "university asylum is non-negotiable."

SYRIZA MEP Dimitris Papadimoulis defended the decision as "serving democracy and supporting public education," while Labor Ministry Panos Skourletis said the crackdown was justified due to the small number of protesters.

The harshest criticism, however, came from SYRIZA's youth wing, which condemned the action as a "concession to pressure from the terror-hysteria of the conservative bloc and pro-establishment media."

Meanwhile, police sources told Kathimerini that among the 14 people arrested in yesterday's operation, at least five are known to the authorities for prior crimes.

Most notable is a 37-year-old who was convicted and later released on bail for his involvement in the 2008 kidnapping of a Thessaloniki businessman. He was rearrested after violating his parole in October but was not imprisoned.

New Bolivian Mining Law “Criminalizes Protest Against Mining Operations” South American Fake Leftist Politicians “Silencing Or Manipulating Opponents As They Increase The Rate Of Extraction” “Hundreds Of Indigenous Leaders And Activists Charged With Doing The Same Things As Those Who Brought Correa To Power”

April 13, 2015 By Don Fitz, AlterNet [Excerpts]

No one denies that there are good reasons for removing minerals from the Earth. Mining is the starting point of complex economic systems. It allows societies to produce goods that are needed for survival.

Unfortunately, if the international price of an extracted commodity falls, a country focusing on extraction will have a difficult choice.

In order to obtain the same return it will have to either lower wages or intensify the rate of mineral exploitation. Poor countries may not be as free from international financial institutions as is often implied.

Raul Zibechi documents that in June 2014, “Ecuador delivered half of its gold reserves to Goldman Sachs collateral for a loan of \$400 million dollars, thus a return to foreign financing, with no risk to the lender...”

Extractivism denial can take the form of trivializing efforts to challenge it. People across the globe are unfurling an incredible variety of tactics to oppose oil drilling, fracking, logging, land grabs, GMO monocultures, mining of coal, gold, uranium and many other types of extraction.

Some progressive extractivists heap scorn on genuine concerns.

In a radio speech, Ecuador’s Rafael Correa emphasized “we will not let that childish left, with its feathers, its ponchos, destabilize the process of change.”

Many of the “pink tide” governments have been charged with silencing or manipulating opponents as they increase the rate of extraction.

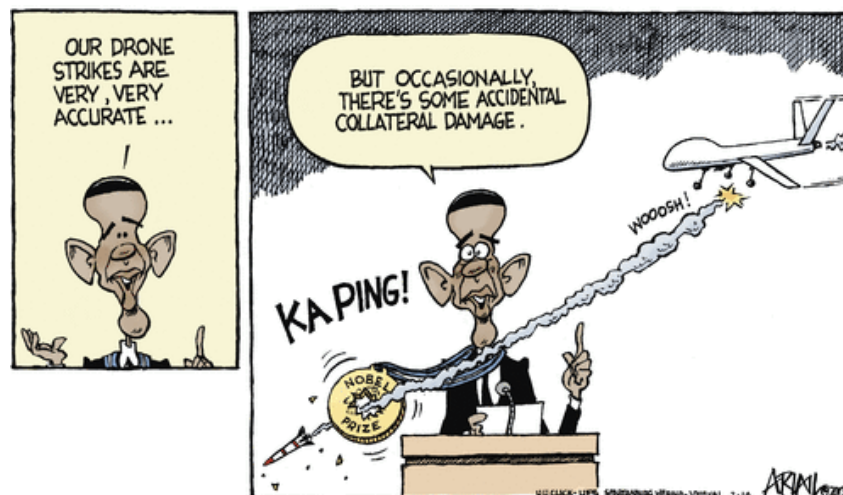
In particular, Rafael Correa is accused of centralizing power by dividing social movements. In Ecuador, there are hundreds of indigenous leaders and activists charged with doing the same things as those who brought Correa to power.

Ben Dangl believes that there is a serious undermining of grassroots power in Bolivia. “A new Mining Law passed by the MAS-controlled congress ... criminalizes protest against mining operations, and gives the mining industry the right to use public water for its water-intensive and toxic operations, while disregarding the rights of rural and farming communities to that same water.”

The government in Venezuela is admirably critical of US pressure, but not so much of its own oil extraction. When the United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP20) planned to meet in Lima, Peru in December, 2014 to adopt a toothless approach to climate change, the Venezuelan government invited 200 representatives to an alternative conference.

Its method of reaching decisions was criticized as being top-down and ignoring views that could embarrass Venezuelan extractionism.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Hillary Clinton Officially Begins Nineteen Months Of Looking Concerned



Photograph by Michael B. Thomas/AFP/Getty

4.14.15 By Andy Borowitz, The Borowitz Report

LE CLAIRE, IOWA – With a stop in Iowa on Tuesday, the Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton officially embarked on a nineteen-month marathon of looking concerned.

Sitting with patrons at Jones Street Java House, in Le Claire, the former Secretary of State listened intently, sipped from a cup of coffee, and nodded her head at appropriate junctures, flawlessly reënacting a brief scene from her first campaign video.

After about twenty minutes of virtually nonstop displays of empathy, a Clinton aide said, “we decided to shut it down.”

“Hillary is staring down nineteen months of sipping coffee and nodding her head,” the aide continued. “We want to make sure she paces herself.” After her Iowa visit, Clinton is scheduled to bring her looks of concern to New Hampshire, South Carolina, and other early primary states.

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Americans Favor Fifteen Dollars An Hour For Congress

17 April 15 By Andy Borowitz, The Borowitz Report

Americans took to the streets in large numbers on Thursday to show their support for a fifteen-dollar-an-hour wage for members of Congress.

In major cities across the nation, fast-food workers and other service employees held signs, shouted chants, and gave impassioned speeches to demonstrate their conviction that Congress deserves a maximum hourly wage of fifteen dollars.

"Members of Congress are people, just like you and me," Tracy Klugian, a McDonald's employee who took part in the Washington protest, said.

"They should be paid what they deserve."

Assuming that they continue to take off approximately two hundred and forty days a year, members of Congress earning the proposed maximum would see their average annual income adjusted from a hundred and seventy-four thousand dollars to thirteen thousand five hundred dollars, a salary that many marchers called "fair and equitable."

"I know what members of Congress will say: 'I can't live on that,'" Harland Dorrinson, a protester in Chicago, said. "Well, if they want to earn more, they should go out and acquire some skills."

While organizers of the marches proclaimed today's protests a success, in some cities the demonstrations met some opposition from counter-protesters, who argued that fifteen dollars was too much.



DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



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