

Military Resistance 13E3



POLICE WAR REPORTS

**The Talk In Baltimore:
“I Hope The Sleeping Giant Has
Awakened”**

**“When We See The Economic
Disparities, It's Obvious That
Capitalism Does Not Work”**

“You Rage Against The Machine”

April 30, 2015 by Brian Jones, Socialist Worker [Excerpt]

New York City teacher Brian Jones traveled to Baltimore to join the marches against the police, and to interview Baltimore citizens for Socialist Worker newspaper.

Here is what two of the people he interviewed had to say:

Gary Nelson, a Baltimore native and a firefighter:

The real looters are sucking Mother Earth dry--clear-cutting forests, polluting the water, which is the commons, polluting the air with impunity.

Those are the real looters.

When people are taking toilet paper and Pampers and cases of water, that shows how poor they are--the destitute poor conditions in which they are living.

I hope the sleeping giant has awakened.

This is an opportunity for us to give a real, serious, consistent pushback against the prison-military-industrial complex.

When we see the economic disparities, it's obvious that capitalism does not work.

And I remind people regularly that we Black folks were a form of capital. We were property. And I'll be doggone if I'm ever going to go back to something like that.

When you're demonized, and you wonder why things are the way they are, and you've been marginalized your whole life, and then, when you first become aware, it's quite shocking.

You rage against the machine.

That's what these kids were doing--they were raging against the white supremacist, capitalist patriarchy--that's not my phrase, that's bell hooks' phrase.

Shawna Eaton held a sign nearby that read "Stop Lethal Force."

I felt so tired. Usually I just sit home, but I just couldn't sit home this time. I grew up in this neighborhood.

I have sons also, and you have to think it could be them.

I'm out here because of my children. I want to see them stop using lethal force.

Uprising By Jews Of Ethiopian Descent Against Police Beating Of Soldier Rocks Israel:

**“Israel Copies Everything From
The U.S.”**

**“They’ve Copied The Way The US
Treats Black People”**

**“There Were No Clear Leaders During
The Protest March, No Polished
Spokesman Holding Court With The
Press”**



Ethiopian - Israel protest in Tel Aviv. (photo credit: BEN HARTMAN)

Asked if the protests were inspired by recent anti-police brutality protests in the United States, he said: “Maybe, but Israel copies everything from the US.

“They’ve copied the way the US treats black people.”

05/03/2015 By BEN HARTMAN, The Jerusalem Post & By Shirly Seidler, Haaretz
[Excerpts]

Violence engulfed Rabin Square in central Tel Aviv on Sunday night, as an anti-police brutality protest by Israeli Jews of Ethiopian descent spun out of control, with protesters throwing rocks and bottles at police, who fired stun grenades and charged the square repeatedly on horseback.

For hours the protest had been peaceful.

The protesters – who numbered in the thousands and included a large contingent of non-Ethiopian Israelis – marched through central Tel Aviv and blocked both sides of the Ayalon freeway for over two hours during the afternoon rush hour.

After leaving the Ayalon they marched to Rabin Square, and the scene quickly changed.

Some witnesses said that when Public Security Minister Yitzhak Aharonovitch appeared, protesters surged toward city hall and riot police moved in. As the riot police gathered at the foot of the stairs, they were struck repeatedly by a volley of rocks, sticks, and plastic and glass bottles.

Soon a melee erupted, and on the lower deck below city hall, a phalanx of mounted officers came under a sustained volley of rocks and bottles and charged the crowd.

The protesters fell back and in a moment rallied, forcing the horses to gallop in the opposite direction as bottles and all types of projectiles – including at least one motorcycle helmet – soared at police both on foot and horseback.

At that moment police began firing stun grenades in rapid procession, the explosions echoing through the square, which took on a smoky haze.

Clashes continued, and by 11:30 p.m., police said, 26 officers had been injured. Magen David Adom paramedics said that by 11:30 p.m. they had treated 46 civilians and several police.

Later, police stated that 56 police officers were lightly wounded in the protest, and one was moderately wounded.

There were reports of officers using tear gas, but police would not confirm this, and most witnesses reported seeing only pepper spray used by policemen making an arrest.

Regardless, it was a violent scene the likes of which Tel Aviv has not seen in recent memory.

By late evening a number of vandalized police cars and motorcycles stood immobile next to the square, and a few protesters were seen trying to light trash canisters.

The protest was held just days after a similar one in Jerusalem ended with arrests and injured protesters and police.

Both were triggered by a video of an IDF soldier of Ethiopian ethnicity in uniform being beaten by a policeman and a police volunteer in Holon.

The protesters were mainly Israelis of Ethiopian ethnicity, but they came from all walks of life and sectors of Israeli society.

There were many familiar faces from left-wing protests in Tel Aviv and a number of MKs, such as Merav Michaeli (Labor) and Ilan Gilon (Meretz), but the vast majority were young Ethiopian Israelis from across the country, incensed about what they say is

rampant police brutality against their community and a prevalent racism they feel in their everyday lives.

One young Ethiopian Israeli man said, "I won't be using my Hebrew name today," but he is grateful for the videotaped beating of the Ethiopian Israeli soldier, for it finally forced the rest of Israeli society to see what is a fact of everyday life in his community.

Asked if the protests were inspired by recent anti-police brutality protests in the United States, he said: "Maybe, but Israel copies everything from the US.

"They've copied the way the US treats black people."

Getanet, an Ethiopian Israeli father of three from Ariel, said the situation has worsened in Israel since he immigrated in 1984. He said something has changed, but couldn't put his finger on it.

He also said the message he wants to get across is one of solidarity, that racism affects all segments of Israeli society, not just Ethiopian Israelis.

"We need to see this solidarity. I stand during the siren on Holocaust Remembrance Day. I can identify with others' suffering. The rest of Israel needs to stand with us," he said, adding that he fears how racism in Israel will affect his children's future.

Zehava Avera, a young woman from Netanya, said: "We're here because this cop has to be put in jail. We're tired of being abandoned and we don't want to see one more soldier hurt like this."

She also said she fears for her children and her grandchildren.

Before the night turned to violence, solidarity seemed to be a major theme of the protest march, which began outside the Azrieli towers around 3:30 p.m., before blocking the Hashalom junction and then the Ayalon freeway for more than two hours.

Israeli social justice protesters joined in the anti-police brutality chants, with young Ethiopian Israelis as well as teenagers from youth groups, pre-IDF military academies and young people wearing T-shirts of political parties.

Young non-Ethiopian Israelis played drums and one played Bob Marley on an acoustic guitar, and throughout the march Israelis leaned out of apartment and office windows to cheer support.

There were also at least two train conductors who honked their horns as they passed the protesters blocking the freeway.

Among the crowd on the freeway were two Haredi men who were stuck in traffic on the way from Jerusalem. One of them, Shlomi, said he understands the protesters and that "my heart's with them, it's not right what they go through."

Minutes later, he and his friend were joined by several Ethiopian Israeli men as they formed a minyan to recite the Mincha afternoon prayers on the side of the Ayalon freeway, facing east toward the gridlocked traffic and Jerusalem.

Charlie Biton, one of the early leaders of the Israeli Black Panther movement, which fought against anti-Sephardi and Mizrahi discrimination in the '70s, also came to give his support.

Standing outside Azrieli, he said that he thinks the Ethiopians of Israel “have it twice as hard as we did. They have to keep going. We were also disorganized at first.”

There were no clear leaders during the protest march, no polished spokesman holding court with the press, and the whole march seemed to evolve organically, moving from one junction to another, the protesters saying their only plan was to keep going.

Police were prepared for the worst though, and early Sunday afternoon Tel Aviv police said hundreds of officers were to be deployed from across the district to patrol the protest, including Border Police and riot police units. Earlier in the afternoon, dozens of police cruisers and vans clogged Rabin Square, part of what police said was preparations for the protest.

**“Members Of The Baltimore PD
“Begin The Process Of Sharing
‘Lessons Learned’ In Israel With
Their Law Enforcement
Colleagues In The United States”
“They’ll Tell Us, ‘Move, We Gotta Go
Here, You Gotta Move Off There.’ We
Ain’t Doing Nothing!””
“The Mayor Of Baltimore Was Right To
Blame Outsiders For Causing Trouble”**

April 28, 2015 By Max Blumenthal, AlterNet [Excerpts]

On Monday, the country watched as a band of outside agitators descended on the streets of Baltimore, attacked locals with blunt force, intimidated innocent bystanders, and even threw rocks at native residents.

Every day, these gun-toting rogues come from as far as New Jersey and Pennsylvania to intimidate the good people of Baltimore, forcing communities to cower under the threat of violence.

The agitators are known for their menacing dark blue garb, hostile behavior and gangland-style codes of secrecy and silence.

Though many of these ruffians have attempted to conceal their identities from their victims, they can be easily spotted by the badges that signify membership in the widely feared Baltimore Police Department.

According to data posted on the city of Baltimore's OpenBaltimore website in 2012, over 70 percent of Baltimore Police Department officers live outside city limits, with at least 10 percent living over state lines, in places as far away as New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

By contrast, almost all of those arrested in ongoing protests sparked by the police killing of the unarmed Baltimorean Freddie Gray reside firmly within the city.

These facts were apparently lost on Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake when she blamed "outside forces" for all the looting of local businesses and attacks on cops.

Similarly, the Baltimore Police Department claimed that "outside agitators continue to be the instigators behind acts of violence and destruction," even as it conceded in the same statement that "the vast majority of arrests reflect local residency."

No evidence of outside agitation was produced by the mayor or the police, and none was demanded by much of the media covering the ongoing troubles.

The Gilmore Homes area where Freddie Gray was violently apprehended and later killed by Baltimore police officers is one of the city's most heavily policed areas.

Eddie Conway, a local civil rights activist who served 43 years in prison after a dubious conviction for killing two cops, explained in an interview with Democracy Now! that Gilmore Homes is "a 'broken windows' police area in which people and residents in that area are arrested for sitting on their own steps.

They are loitering in their own community, on their own steps, and they're harassed constantly."

"(Cops) won't let us go nowhere," one young Gilmore Homes resident complained to The Real News, "They'll tell us, 'Move, we gotta go here, you gotta move off there.' We ain't doing nothing!"

When Paul Jay relocated The Real News operations to Baltimore in 2013 and initiated a series of roundtable discussions with local cops, he learned about the hostile racial attitudes white officers were importing into the city. "I've talked to some black cops in Baltimore and one of them told me that in the locker room," Jay said, "and when they're getting ready to go on their shift, some of the white cops joke...'Time to go back to work in the zoo.'"

While the Baltimore Police Department recruits its manpower outside city limits, its leadership is regularly junketed to training tours in Israel, the occupying power whose hyper-militarized settlers act as some of the Middle East's most aggressive outside agitators.

In September 2009, members of the Baltimore PD "toured (Israel) and met with their Israeli counterparts to exchange information relating to best practices and recent advancements in security and counterterrorism," according to the trip's sponsor, Project Interchange.

A separate Israel tour organized by the neoconservative Jewish Institute for National Security saw members of the Baltimore PD "begin the process of sharing 'lessons learned' in Israel with their law enforcement colleagues in the United States."

Back in Maryland, the rate of citizens killed by police officers is skyrocketing.

A report by the ACLU has found that 109 people died after encounters with Maryland police between 2010 and 2014, that almost 70 percent of those who died were black, and that over 40 percent of them were unarmed.

In Baltimore alone, the city was forced to pay \$5.7 million in lawsuits by suspects who accused police officers of beating them brutally and without cause.

Even after the National Guard vacates the streets of Baltimore and the state of emergency is lifted, vast swaths of the city will remain under occupation.

Outside agitators have caused enough trouble in Baltimore. It's time to send them back where they came from.

**“There Are No Politicians Here
And No Distinguished Members Of
The Community, As They Like To
Say,”**

**“It's A Pressure Cooker That
Exploded”**

**“There Are Hundreds Of Young
Ethiopians The Police Open Case Files**

Against For No Reason, And That Ruins Their Lives”

By Shirly Seidler, Haaretz [Excerpts]

Around 20 young members of Israel’s Ethiopian community initiated the protests, but refused to take the credit and saying that they don’t want to be labeled as leaders.

“There are no politicians here and no distinguished members of the community, as they like to say,” said Misganaw Fanta, one of the organizers. “We’re part of a community that has experienced and is experiencing these things, that’s hurting and wants to cry out, to go out to the streets together and to protest against the way we are treated.”

“There’s no single leader behind the demonstration, it’s an entire community that is coming out to demonstrate,” added [one of the organizers, Inbal] Bogale.

She and Fanta say the trigger for the protest was the video that was made public last week, showing police officers beating an Ethiopian-Israeli man, a young man serving in the Israel Defense Forces and in uniform, but it was preceded by years of frustration.

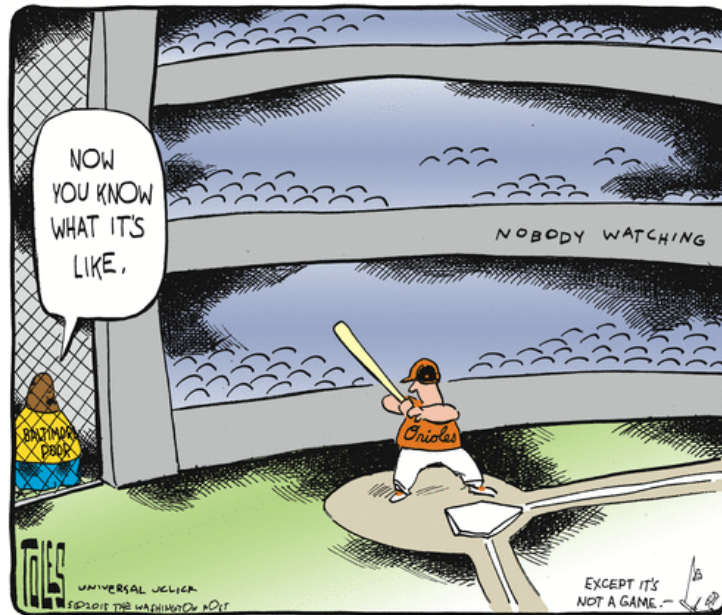
“It’s a pressure cooker that exploded. There are hundreds of young Ethiopians the police open case files against for no reason, and that ruins their lives. They’re good guys who want to get ahead, to study, to contribute to the state, but they can’t be combat soldiers, they don’t study, they’re called criminals,” explained Fanta.

Bogale said the promise by national police commissioner Yohanan Danino to reexamine such case files exposes the community’s lack of trust in the police. “From our perspective, the video with the soldier was the last straw” and Danino’s statement after Thursday’s demonstration in Jerusalem “shows that he has no confidence in his officers,” Bogale said, adding that the measure was insufficient.

Fanta said that removing the police officer who beat up the soldier in the video would not satisfy the community. “You have to recognize that they committed a crime and should be punished, not only dismissed.”

My 49 Hours In A Baltimore Cell – For Being A Reporter: “They Are Violating Your Rights. And Everyone Here Knows It”

“Hundreds Confined In Squalid, Overcrowded Cells With Inedible Food And Rights Ignored”



2 May 2015 by Shawn Carrié, Guardian News and Media Limited [Excerpts]

The last time that riots hit the streets of Baltimore was in 1968, following the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.

As the 2015 uprising continues, fueled by the anger at Freddie Gray's death in police custody, the state has been taking extraordinary measures to attempt to restore order.

For some, this comes at the expense of our constitutional rights. I was one of them.

As a working member of the press, I was arrested on 27 April, just as Baltimore began to erupt, and detained for 49 hours before being released without charge.

A flurry of legal maneuvering, coupled with the fog of a state of emergency, meant that I and several others were deprived of our constitutional protections under the first, fourth, sixth, and eighth amendments.

My journey started after Freddie Gray's funeral, when I heard reports of a riot breaking out at Mondawmin Mall. I arrived in the middle of a melee. Unmasked people were running straight up to the police lines, brazenly pitching bricks from as little as 10 feet away. Clouds of teargas filled the air. I didn't witness a single arrest – I only heard a captain shout out: "Just remember their faces."

A line of riot police then charged against a throng of rioters – I followed them, camera in hand, trying to capture the tumultuous scene. I was hit directly in the forehead with a plastic “less lethal” projectile that explodes with an irritant powder on impact.

I stumbled over to the sidewalk. Everything went black for a moment, and the next thing I saw were faces staring down at me as I lay on the grass.

Stunned, I got up and tried to continue reporting.

Within a few minutes, the intersection cleared, and the riot squad stood at bay. A few television cameras remained, and I joined them to try to snap some photos of the police line. An officer from behind the line came up to me and told me that I needed to move. I reached in my jacket to show my press pass, and asked the armor-clad giant which way I should go. He started to say, “I don’t know, but you can’t stay here ...” and was interrupted by a captain barking: “Him! He goes!”

Before I could say another word, I was thrown to the ground and put in handcuffs.

I was brought over behind the police lines to sit behind an armored vehicle, where I would remain with my arresting officer for about two hours. I tried to make small talk with him to buy some leniency, telling him I was just a reporter. He asked me where I’m from; I said New York City. He then became much more convivial, chatting about Washington Heights, where he was from, saying that he’d much rather be at home eating dinner with his family.

I heard him say to another cop: “I don’t even know why they told me to lock this guy up. He’s a reporter.” But reporter or not, I was now under arrest and on my way to Central Booking.

The Baltimore city jail is a squalid, gray and soulless place.

Hundreds of prisoners streamed in and were herded by the eights and nines into cells built for twos and fours. The cell that would be my home for the next 48 hours was 8 feet wide by 10 feet long, with a barely concealed toilet occupying about a quarter of the room.

Cells marked “single” had as many as five people, and those marked “group” had up to nine prisoners crammed inside.

In jail, the corrections officers (COs) are god and master, savior and executioner.

All requests for basic necessities like water, toilet paper, food, or medical attention were brusquely denied.

Every eight hours when “food” arrived, it was a uniform regimen of one elementary school milk carton and four slices of laundered bread-matter with one slice of either a yellowish cheese substance, or processed bologna. It was utterly inedible.

Hours passed by with no marker other than the irregular flow of prisoners called to be given their charge papers. Most were handed charges of rioting, burglary, arson or disorderly conduct.

Two 19-year-old brothers in my cell were charged with disorderly conduct and slapped with a \$150,000 bail citing a long description of a group of three to 10 black males running.

One of them said that he had thought about joining in the looting of a clothing store, but decided against it and went home. The document didn't cite any stolen property on their persons when police arrested them a block away from their house.

My name was never called to be given charges.

In jail, your constitutional rights are worth about as much as the food they feed you.

Asking to see a lawyer when it took four hours to get water was like asking for caviar.

When I cited the fourth and sixth amendment protecting due process, and Maryland state law banning detainment beyond 24 hours without a charge and statement of probable cause, the COs told us that the state of emergency meant that "24 hours is out the window".

We pleaded to talk to someone, anyone. When I asked one of the higher-ups, a lieutenant, what he was doing to ensure that the law was being followed, he told me bluntly: "They are violating your rights. And everyone here knows it."

Some time on Wednesday, lawyers arrived. One of them looked at me and saw the bruise on my forehead, stopped, and asked: "Are you the reporter?"

She introduced herself as Katie D'Adamo, and told me she was with the Maryland office of the public defender. I told her I'd been in there for at least 36 hours, and hadn't been told what I was being charged with, nor seen a lawyer. I explained my story with scant privacy through the door of the cell while she filled out a habeas corpus petition addressed to Warden Carolyn Scruggs and told me it would be filed in the circuit court demanding our immediate release. Orion did one, too. Then they left.

The next few hours were quiet. Then the hallways steadily started picking up with activity. Lieutenant Barney said he was going to stay past the end of his shift at 3pm to make sure everyone who hadn't received charges since Monday was released.

Eventually I was given a bag with my name on it, containing my jacket, wallet, and camera equipment. There were riot police with shields lining the hallway as they led us single-file down a long hallway. At the end of the corridor a sergeant pressed a button, and a bright door opened.

She said: "Get out."

“Riots Work, So Why Do So Many Voices Continue To Insist That They Don’t?”

“Without Insurgency In The Streets, No Charges Would Ever Have Been Brought In The Murder Of Freddie Gray”

“The Only ‘Credible Threat’ That Matters To Police And Political Elites Is Posed When Communities Take To The Streets”

Baltimore And Ferguson Are Places “Where People Decided They Had Had Enough, And Took Over The Streets To Transmit That Message In No Uncertain Terms”

May 4, 2015 by George Ciccariello-Maher, Salon Media Group, Inc.

When Oscar Grant was shot by transit cop Johannes Mehserle in Oakland in the early hours of January 1, 2009, a week passed with no institutional response, while videos of Grant’s murder spread on YouTube like a prairie fire.

Then people rebelled, rioted, and took over the streets of Oakland twice—on January 7 and January 14—and just like that, and with the threat of another rebellion hanging heavily in the air, the mayor and the governor leaned on the Alameda County district attorney to bring charges.

When Mike Brown was gunned down by Darren Wilson in Ferguson, Missouri on August 9, 2014, the community exploded in massive and sustained resistance on the streets.

Aside from galvanizing public opinion and sparking a national movement against white supremacist policing, this street insurgency first forced the replacement of Ferguson PD by the St. Louis County Sheriff, and later by the state Highway Patrol, as well as prompting both a federal investigation and a grand jury considering—but ultimately rejecting—Wilson’s indictment for murder.

And when Freddie Gray died on April 19, 2015, after a week in a coma provoked by Baltimore City Police, we all know what happened next: in a wave of resistance rivaling Ferguson in the national attention it garnered, Black youth across Baltimore responded as directly as possible to those terrorizing their communities, in some cases chasing the “forces of order” out with bricks.

After nearly a week of resistance—including the occupation of Baltimore by heavily-armed National Guard—Maryland state’s attorney Marilyn Mosby stepped into the fray, announcing charges against six officers and admitting that her hand had been forced by the streets: “To the people of Baltimore and the demonstrators across America: I heard your call for ‘No justice, no peace.’”

Riots work.

But despite the obviousness of the point, an entire chorus of media, police, and self-appointed community leaders continue to try to convince us otherwise, hammering into our heads a narrative of a nonviolence that has never worked on its own, based on a mythical understanding of the Civil Rights Movement.

In their zealotry, however, scripted motives can slip out, as with Wolf Blitzer’s bullying of Ferguson organizer DeRay McKesson on live television. Blitzer insisted no fewer than five times that McKesson denounce the rebellions, only to show his hand with the words—astounding from a so-called “journalist”—“I just want to hear you say...”

While the mainstream media—and CNN in particular—has sought to uphold a narrative of nonviolence, it simultaneously carried water for a brutal Baltimore City Police Department, which is after all the only force in question guilty of taking a human life (indeed many).

Via twitter, the Baltimore City PD disseminated a counterinsurgency narrative that the media unhesitatingly parroted: first that the riots were sparked by “outsiders,” and when that narrative fell unsurprisingly flat, that those involved were—in the quickly-retracted words of Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake—“thugs.”

(Bear in mind that BCPD Commissioner Anthony Batts is an outside agitator if ever there was one, who not long ago imposed racist and unconstitutional gang injunctions and curfews in Oakland, as well as apparently being a repeat domestic abuser.)

Perhaps most revealing was the police response to a citywide truce between the Bloods, Crips, and Black Guerrilla Family.

What would seem to be an unambiguously good thing was quickly denounced by BCPD in a misleading (read: mendacious) statement declaring the truce a

“credible threat” and suggesting that gang members had teamed up to “take-out” police.

This last phrase, which appears in quotation marks in the police statement, was never attributed to an actual source, and for a very simple reason: because it was a fabrication that gang members immediately denounced.

This was not a poor decision by Baltimore Police, but instead a well-worn strategy: the LAPD said exactly the same thing when Bloods and Crips declared a truce in 1992, and then they did everything they could to “sabotage and undermine the truce.”

Riots work, so why do so many well-meaning voices continue to insist that they don’t?

“The Argument That They Harm Communities Makes Intuitive Sense, But Doesn’t Hold Up To Serious Scrutiny”

The argument that they harm communities makes intuitive sense, but doesn’t hold up to serious scrutiny: the Maryland Insurance Commission has estimated the uninsured losses from the riots to be a paltry \$1 million.

Meanwhile, foreclosures from the recession cost Baltimore \$1.5 billion (with a B) from 2008-2010, and \$13.6 million in tax revenue in 2010 alone. And as many are quick to point out, the city has paid out more than \$5.7 million to settle police abuse lawsuits since 2011. The police—not to mention capitalism—have done far more to damage Baltimore than any riot could.

Some insist that riots only provide a ready-made image to the media that emphasizes the “negative” over the “positive” (meaning the “violent” over the “peaceful”).

But this view has little to say about whether so-called “peaceful” protests are effective in bringing attention to police murder, offering instead a moral imperative: the media should cover peaceful marches, the system should respond.

But they don’t, and it doesn’t, and if so-called peaceful tactics don’t bring change, then they lose their status as a “positive” alternative, and even become complicit in continued systemic violence.

Tragic facts are facts nonetheless: we aren’t talking about Baltimore—and we weren’t talking about Ferguson—simply because Freddie Gray and Mike Brown were killed there.

In a system built upon the death of Black bodies, such death is not newsworthy. #Baltimore and #Ferguson are trending hashtags because they are places where people decided they had had enough, and took over the streets to transmit that message in no uncertain terms.

While riots can undeniably win concrete concessions, it is this demonstration effect that matters most, despite being more long-term and difficult to measure, making Ferguson a catalyst for militant resistance nationwide.

No matter how much we try to convince ourselves that history moves forward gradually in that inevitable tendency we like to call “progress,” the reality has always been more erratic and jarring, combative and conflictive, driven by just this sort of militancy against all odds.

Writing in *The Atlantic*, Ta-Nehisi Coates recently called the bluff of the preachers of nonviolence in a stunning fashion, insisting that: “When nonviolence begins halfway through the war with the aggressor calling time out, it exposes itself as a ruse.

“When nonviolence is preached by the representatives of the state, while the state doles out heaps of violence to its citizens, it reveals itself to be a con.”

By admitting that she was responding to the upsurge in the streets of Baltimore, Marilyn Mosby said what is normally left unsaid, and made perfectly clear what is supposed to remain hidden: that the only “credible threat” that matters to police and political elites is the threat posed when communities take to the streets.

For having admitted this, Mosby is paying the price both in the media and in attacks from the Fraternal Order of Police, for whom any scrutiny of police is too much (she is also, arguably, providing fodder for a judge to ultimately toss out some of the charges as “politically motivated”).

But to lionize a state’s attorney under such circumstances is to make a serious mistake, and if street rebellions can lead to partial victories, we need to remember that these victories are just that: partial.

Reminders of this abound. After all, all six of the officers charged are out on bail, while 18-year-old Allen Bullock is still being held for allegedly smashing a cop car.

That Bullock’s bail is higher even that of the BCPD officer charged with “depraved heart” murder tells us all we need to know about just how much #BlackLivesMatter.

And let’s not forget that, as crowds celebrated Mosby’s announcement in the streets of Baltimore, they were brutalized and arrested en masse under a curfew that has only now been lifted.

Every concession is at the same time a containment strategy.

In the end, Johannes Mehserle served less than a year for murdering Oscar Grant.

Darren Wilson, George Zimmerman, and so many others walk free.

And there is little reason to expect the second-degree murder charge to hold up in Baltimore, just as—as absurd as it sounds—there is no guarantee that Michael Slager will be convicted for murdering Walter Scott in cold blood.

But without the threat of insurgency in the streets, no charges would ever have been brought in the murder of Freddie Gray—and if in the euphoria of celebrating the arrests,

we forget that they measure not the justice of the system but our own power in the streets, then all is lost.

Macedonians Protest Killing Of Man Beaten To Death By Police



A woman lifts her hands up in front of the police during a protest in front of the Government building in Skopje Macedonia, on Tuesday, May 5, 2015. Macedonia's opposition leader has accused the country's prime minister of attempting to cover up the 2011 death of a 22-year-old who was beaten by police during post-election celebrations. More than 1,000 people gathered later Tuesday in front of the government building to protest the murder of the young conservative supporter. (AP Photo/Boris Grdanoski)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

**“Mind-Boggling Inefficiency,
Waste And Corruption”
“\$1.5 Million—Just To Build Parts Of
A Wall, A Water Well And A Column
To Support A Guard Tower”**

“Part Of A \$12-Million Slaughterhouse Construction Project That Was Then Discontinued”



Did US taxpayers foot the bill for this unfinished slaughterhouse? Photo credit: Special IG for Afghanistan Reconstruction / Flickr

April 28, 2015 by Klaus Marre, whowhatwhy.org/ [Excerpts]

Forget Nigerian email scams.

A new get-rich-quick game targets that quintessential aggregation of easy marks: US taxpayers.

An Afghan contractor managed to get paid more than \$1.5 million—just to build parts of a wall, a water well and a column to support a guard tower.

All of this was part of a \$12-million slaughterhouse construction project that was then... discontinued.

This fiasco was revealed in a new report from the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), an outfit that regularly cranks out reports about mind-boggling inefficiency, waste and corruption—reports that are largely ignored.

The slaughterhouse turned out to be unnecessary because an expected increase in Afghan National Army troop strength never materialized, and an existing facility could handle the demand.

The facility would have butchered common sense in any case. In its recommendation to terminate the project, the Combined Security Transition Command–Afghanistan (CSTC–A) noted that the planned slaughterhouse would have included refrigerated storage. The problem is that “the Afghans do not typically refrigerate meat, instead preferring fresh meat.”

Even if the Afghans had wanted refrigeration, the recommendation noted they “have demonstrated an inability to successfully maintain refrigerating equipment in the long term.”

Putting a positive spin on the mess was clearly a priority.

“Cancelling the construction of the slaughterhouse potentially saves the Coalition Forces approximately \$10.5 million in new construction costs and potentially saves GIRoA (Afghan government) approximately \$264,000 per year in sustainment costs,” CSTC-A stated.

“Let’s make sure your report recognizes the savings here while attempting to find fault with the requirement,” US Army Major General Todd Semonite stated in a handwritten note to SIGAR.

“Looking forward to your continued partnership as we both work to ensure fiscal discipline.”

In any case, the whole thing was not, in a manner of speaking, Kosher: “When the slaughterhouse was first put out for bid it called for modern equipment that would not be considered halal and would not be used.” Halal refers to dietary regulations in accordance with Islamic law, in this case meat that has been butchered appropriately.

So the proposed slaughterhouse turned out to:

Not be needed in the first place;

Feature refrigeration capacities the Afghans had no use for; and

Include modern equipment that would not have allowed the meat to be prepared in a way that is considered halal, meaning that it would not have been prepared in accordance with Islamic law.

All this begs a larger question about such waste and incompetence, which, according to SIGAR, seems more the norm than the exception: Why do we continue tossing billions after billions down a sinkhole? Because the people in charge think no one is looking?

And the story doesn’t end there.

The contractor is requesting an *additional* payment of \$4.23 million for work already completed. A decision on that request is pending.

Resistance Action: Militants Wipe Out Army Post In Northeastern Badakhshan



[Graphic: flickr.com/photos]

May 05, 2015 Kuwait Times

KABUL: A Taliban bomber struck a government bus in Kabul yesterday, killing one and wounding 15 others, officials said.

The bus was carrying employees of the attorney general's office to work in downtown Kabul when the attacker detonated his vest, as the militants press on with their annual spring offensive.

Taliban claimed responsibility for yesterday's attack on their Twitter account, claiming that 40 people were killed or wounded.

Scores of shuttle buses take government and military personnel to work every morning in the capital, and they have often been targeted by insurgents despite efforts by security forces to provide better protection.

May 04 2015 By Zabihullah Moosakhail, Khaama Press

Militants have reportedly attacked a security check post in northeastern Badakhshan province, leaving a number of soldiers martyred and missing. Abdullah Naji, head of the provincial council of Badakhshan province says that the attack took place in Wardoj District last night.

He said 17 soldiers have embraced martyrdom and 20 others are missing following the attack.

Though, it comes about three weeks after a deadly Taliban attack in Wardoj's neighboring Jurm District. 33 soldiers embraced martyrdom wounded and went missing during when Taliban militants attacked their check posts in Dahan Aab Khastak area of Jarom District on April 13.

Also, the deadly attack happens in a serious after Taliban announced their spring offensive on April 24.

Military Resistance In PDF Format?

If you prefer PDF to Word format, email: contact@militaryproject.org

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

**What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.
-- Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787**

Strike!

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

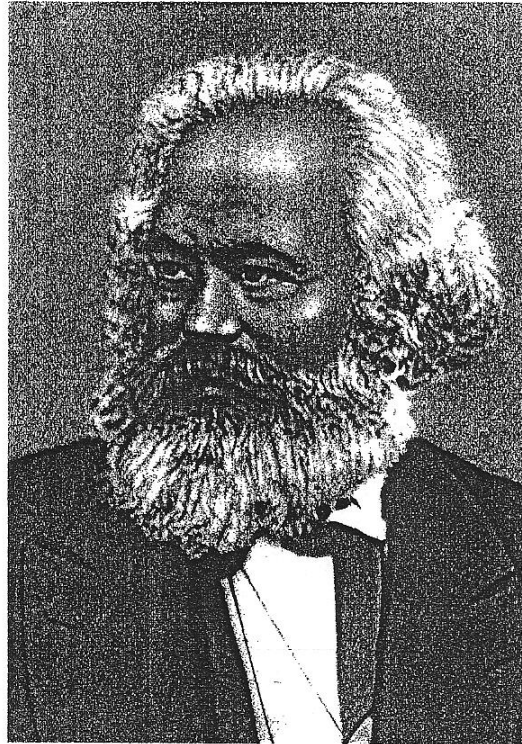
Congress is not preparing to defend the people of the United States. It is planning to protect the capital of American speculators and investors.... Incidentally this preparation will benefit the manufacturers of munitions and war machines....

Strike against war, for without you no battles can be fought! Strike against manufacturing shrapnel and gas bombs and all other tools of murder! Strike against preparedness that means death and misery to millions of human beings! Be not dumb, obedient slaves in an army of destruction! Be heroes in an army of construction!

-Helen Keller at Carnegie Hall, January 5, 1916

ANNIVERSARIES

May 5, 1818: Happy Birthday



“The Moor”

Carl Bunin Peace history April 29 - May 5

Political philosopher, social scientist, historian and revolutionary Karl Marx was born in Trier, Germany.

His ideas, laid out in the Communist Manifesto and Das Kapital, and in many other publications, considered the state, class divisions, the nature of industrial capitalism, and culture and religion as oppressive forces.

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Seven-Year-Old Palestinian Boy Arrested In Occupied Jerusalem: Interrogated For 8 Hours, Released At 3 AM

30 Apr Ma'an

BETHLEHEM — Undercover Israeli operatives detained and interrogated a 7-year-old Palestinian boy and his twelve-year-old brother in occupied East Jerusalem Tuesday, only a day after two 15-year-olds from the same family were taken.

The boy and his older brother, from the Zaatari family in the occupied East Jerusalem neighborhood of Wadi al-Joz, were detained by Israeli operatives dressed as Palestinian locals while walking in the street Tuesday evening, the boys' grandfather told Ma'an.

The Zaatari family has had four children detained this week, Ihab Ahmed Zaatari, 7, and Muhammad Mahdi Zaatari 12, detained on Tuesday just one day after Alaa Magdy Zaatari and Mehdi Barakat Zaatari, both 15, were detained Monday.

An Israeli police spokesperson did not immediately return Ma'an's request for information on the incident, but told Israeli media the children were detained after throwing rocks at a bus.

The 7-year-old was reportedly interrogated for nearly eight hours.

Family member Mehdi Zaatari denied Israeli police claims that they were throwing rocks, telling Ma'an that the plainclothes officers came out of nowhere while the children were in the street in an area where nothing was happening.

"I was just meters from where they were arrested," he told Ma'an. "But I wasn't able to reach the area because it was such a quick arrest. 10 officers attacked the two boys and prevented them from moving before violently forcing them into a 'special' car."

"We went to the Salah al-Din Street city police station, stayed there from 7:30 until 10:30 PM in front of the police station waiting for him to come. The whole time we tried to inquire about the place of their detention to no avail, he told Ma'an.

"We had no news of the children for three hours." "After they were brought to the police station they prevented us from entering (and seeing them), despite the fact that Israeli and international laws require the presence of the mother or father during interrogation of their children.

"When the lawyer arrived he was also prevented from entering. He demanded the interrogation not take place at that late of an hour, but they refused (to delay the interrogation)."

Zaatari told Ma'an that his seven-year-old son was released around 3 AM and his 12-year-old son around 7 AM. Both were deprived of food and water during the interrogation, he told Ma'an.

The Occupation Assaults And Arrests The Boy Majd Ramadi: Police "Severely Beat Him And Injured Him With Wounds In His Mouth"

(SILWANIC) 28 Apr — Jerusalem

The Magistrate judge extended on Tuesday the arrest of the 16-year old Majd Ramada for 24 hours to continue interrogating him on charges of throwing a Molotov cocktail at the occupation soldiers in the neighborhood of Wad Al-Joz in Jerusalem.

Wadi Hilweh Information Center's lawyer explained that the occupation police arrested the child Ramadi on Monday night and assaulted and severely beat him and injured him with wounds in his mouth.

He was transferred to the hospital where he underwent a surgery to stitch the wounds inside and outside his mouth; he also suffered wounds and bruises in his back due to being dragged on the ground and also suffered bruises in his eye.

The lawyer explained that the child was presented to court on Tuesday and signs of fatigue were obvious due to being beaten during detention.

Occupiers Shoot Unarmed Palestinians

30 Apr Ma'an

RAMALLAH -- Three Palestinian teenagers were shot and injured with live rounds on Friday when Israeli forces opened fire on them during clashes in al-Jalazun refugee camp north of Ramallah.

They were taken to hospital for treatment with light to moderate injuries.

Several others were injured with rubber-coated steel bullets.

Al-Jalazun camp is the site of frequent clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinian youths. In April, Israeli forces injured 12 Palestinian youths in the camp, three with live fire and a further nine with rubber-coated steel bullets.

Two weeks before that, thousands of Palestinians attended the funeral in al-Jalazun of a young man who succumbed to his wounds after being shot by Israeli forces during a protest near Ramallah.

At the time, the head of a popular committee in the refugee camp, Mahmoud Mubarak, said that the camp was being "systematically and unnaturally" attacked by Israel, and that there were nearly daily clashes and injuries taking place.

Zionists Machine Gun Unarmed Palestinian Fishermen, As Usual

5.1.15 PIC

GAZA -- The Israeli occupation navy on Friday opened heavy machinegun fire at Palestinian fishing vessels off the Gaza coast, just a few hours before a Palestinian youth was kidnapped by the Israeli army near the border fence.

Media sources said the Israeli occupation warships unleashed spates of machinegun fire on a fleet of Fishing vessels off the Gaza waters, resulting in remarkable material damage. No injuries have been reported so far.

The same sources said there were no identifiable reasons for the random fire shooting as the fishermen were sailing within less than four nautical miles.

The attack represents another episode in the series of Israeli violations of the Cairo-brokered truce accord signed in the wake of last-summer's Israeli offensive on the besieged coastal enclave. Ever since, the Israeli occupation has reportedly been marring the lives of Gaza's fishermen, who put out to sea to earn a living for their starved children.

In a separate incident, earlier overnight on Thursday, the Israeli occupation army claimed responsibility for the abduction of a Palestinian youngster as he tried to infiltrate into an Israeli-controlled Kibbutz in the region of Eshkol, to the south of Gaza. The Israeli soldiers dragged the detainee to the Shabak detention center, pending further investigation.

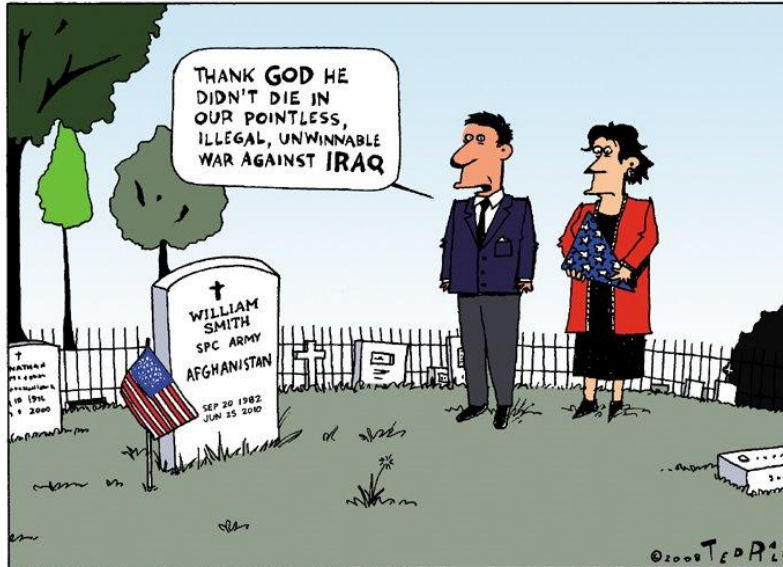
Infiltrations into Israeli-run areas have been on the rise due to the high unemployment and poverty rates rocking the blockaded coastal enclave.

**To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to: <http://www.palestinechronicle.com/>
The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."**

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



CHANGE WE CAN BEREAVE IN

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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.

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