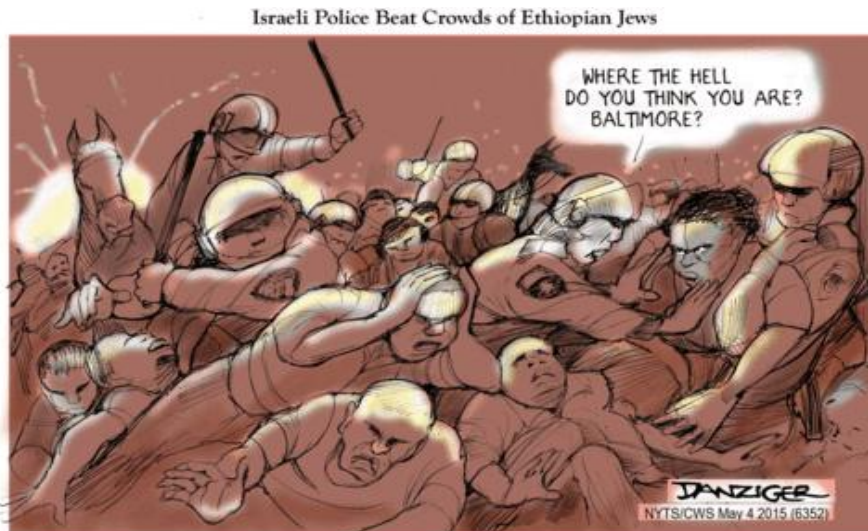


## **Military Resistance 13E5**



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "What goes around comes around."]

## **POLICE WAR REPORTS**

### **The Great Baltimore 'Teen Purge' Fraud:**

**"The Reader Is Left With The Impression  
That A Torrent Of Anarchist Black  
Youths Were About To Descended On  
Mondawmin Mall—Thus Justifying The  
Police's Martial Response"**

April 30, 2015 By Adam Johnson; FAIR

Early Monday afternoon, the Baltimore Sun (4/27/15) reported on a mass police presence that had descended on Baltimore's Mondawmin Mall.

The reason for this military-like occupation, pinning in high schoolers?

A flier advocating a “purge”—a term based on the 2013 dystopian film *The Purge*, supposedly signifying an outbreak of lawlessness—was, according to the Sun, “widely circulated” among the students.

Surely the police had to come down hard because “teens” on “social media” had planned on doing something that in the past had turned out to be a hoax.

Nevertheless, the Sun would do most of the PR heavy lifting, reporting on the “purge” as if it was an existential threat—pinning the incident entirely on this mysterious flier:

“The incident stemmed from a flier that circulated widely among city school students via social media about a “purge” to take place at 3 p.m., starting at Mondawmin Mall and ending downtown.” Baltimore Sun

The real-world, non-social media evidence of this purge?

“When 3 p.m. came, 75 to 100 students heading to Mondawmin Mall were greeted by dozens of police officers in riot gear. The mall is a transportation hub for students from several nearby schools.” Baltimore Sun

**So the students left class (at they always do at 3 p.m.) and headed to Mondawmin Mall (as they always do at 3 p.m.) and were met with hundreds of police in riot gear. That’s not what you’d call a smoking gun.**

As for the evidence of this “purge” spreading on social media? It’s murky at best.

**After getting vague responses from the Baltimore Sun reporters in question as to the actual, linked evidence that the flier had gone viral, I took to Twitter asking for evidence that evidence that the flier was spread by high school students before the Sun tweeted it out.**

**After a few hours and a lot of searching, all that came back were two tweets (one of which is now deleted)—neither of which were from high schoolers, and both of which were upset by the idea of a “purge,” not promoting it.**

Even if one assumes that the flier actually did go viral on other social media (which it may well have—it’s more difficult to search Instagram and Facebook), the social media activity we could observe was sharing the flier in disgust—not to promote the “purge” at all.

**The sharing of content is not, in itself, an indication of intent or support. (Indeed, if it were, we could assume CNN and other outlets that splash ISIS propaganda on their Twitter timelines are ISIS’s No. 1 fans.)**

So when the Baltimore Sun breathlessly observes that “the incident stemmed from a flier that circulated widely among city school students via social media about a ‘purge’ to take place at 3 p.m.,” it’s important to know whether the flier was being “circulated widely” by supporters or opponents.

This is why, when reporting on social media trends, providing actual social media screengrabs and links is entirely helpful.

**It's unclear, though, whether the Baltimore Sun had any links to the original social media activity that its report centered on.**

**Sun reporter Carrie Wells, who seems to be the first from the paper to tweet the photo after the Sun's story went live, told me she heard about the "purge" image because "a friend on Facebook said it was circulating around Instagram."**



"It's been widely circulating"..."got word of it"..."other reports":

**The murkiness and lack of identified primary source strips the story of context and, in doing so, creates a perception of actual danger that the proffered evidence doesn't substantiate.**

**Instead, our biases are allowed provide confirmation: Each time the story is told, assumptions about a certain class of high schooler (\*cough\* black \*cough\*) fill in the blanks, and the reader is ultimately left with the impression that a torrent of anarchist black youths were about to descended on Mondawmin Mall — thus justifying the police's martial response.**

But follow-up reports in Mother Jones and Gawker yesterday would further expose the "purge" fraud.

As Meg Gibson, a Baltimore City school teacher at Belmont Elementary School, said in a Facebook conversation with Gawker (4/28/15):

"I was at a stoplight in front of Frederick Douglass High School and directly across from Mondawmin Mall. It was exactly 3 p.m. The mall was on lockdown. There were police helicopters flying overhead. The riot police were already at the bus stop on the other side of the mall, turning buses that transport the students away, not allowing students to board.

“They were waiting for the kids. As I sat at the intersection of Gwynns Falls, I saw several police cars arriving at the scene.

“I saw the armored police vehicle arrive. Those kids were set up, they were treated like criminals before the first brick was thrown.”

In a piece headlined “Eyewitnesses: The Baltimore Riots Didn’t Start the Way You Think,” Mother Jones (4/28/15) would provide further context, interviewing several of the parents and teachers that were there:

***“After Baltimore police and a crowd of teens clashed near the Mondawmin Mall in northwest Baltimore on Monday afternoon, news reports described the violence as a riot triggered by kids who had been itching for a fight all day. But in interviews with Mother Jones and other media outlets, teachers and parents maintain that police actions inflamed a tense-but-stable situation....”*** [Mother Jones]

Said one Douglass High School teacher:

*“When school was winding down, many students were leaving early with their parents or of their own accord.”*

*Those who didn’t depart early, she says, were stranded. Many of the students still at school at that point, she notes, wanted to get out of the area and avoid any Purge-like violence. Some were requesting rides home from teachers. But by now, it was difficult to leave the neighborhood. “I rode with another teacher home,” this teacher recalls, “and we had to route our travel around the police in riot gear blocking the road.... The majority of my students thought what was going to happen was stupid or were frightened at the idea. [Mother Jones]*

Had the Baltimore Sun sought out and published the actual social media sources, instead of cutting and pasting a screengrab from a friend on Facebook with “word” of a panic, they could have demonstrated whether the flier was being spread more in support or in disgust.

Alas, in rushing to justify the police crackdown and to prop up the “both sides” parity our corporate media pathologically seek, they made assumptions about a viral orgy of violence and pinned the mid-afternoon clash entirely on the students and a barely readable “purge” flier of unknown origin.

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## **Criminal Justice Student Assaulted And Tasered By Border Patrol, For No Reason:**

# **“Agents Said She Looked Nervous”**

## **“Cooke Was Thrown To The Ground”**

### **“The Subsequent Search Turned Up Nothing”**

May 8, 2015 By Matt Agorist, The Free Thought Project

Waddington, NY — A young woman travelling through a US Border Checkpoint in Waddington, New York Thursday was assaulted and arrested by border patrol for no reason.

Jess Cooke, 21, says she was driving through the checkpoint, when agents said she looked nervous. She was then routed over for a secondary inspection.

Knowing that the agents had no probable cause to search her vehicle, Cooke refused to consent to search. She was then told that she had to wait for a K-9 Unit to arrive before she could leave.

Being nervous is not probable cause nor reasonable suspicion for a search. While inconsistently answering questions may result in reasonable suspicion, it is unclear whether or not this happened prior to Cooke's detainment.

Because Cooke had committed no crime she demanded to be let go. However, these agents were set on violating her rights.

The conversation between Cooke and the agents quickly escalated and Cooke was thrown to the ground by the male agent as the female agent deployed the taser.

Cooke said the taser was continually deployed until she stopped screaming. After handcuffing her, agents then illegally opened her trunk and searched her entire vehicle, according to Cooke.

The subsequent search turned up nothing.

**“I was cuffed for over an hour after being out in the Border Patrol car and then brought to the U.S. Customs station in Ogdensburg. I sat there for a good 3-4 hours and got sent home due to they couldn't figure out what charges to put on me,” Cooke said in a written response to North Country Now.**

Cooke told North Country Now that she received scrapes and cuts on her legs, back and chest. She said her wrists are also marked from the handcuffs.

**Cooke holds a two-year degree in criminal justice and will graduate this Saturday for Law Enforcement Leadership from SUNY Canton.**

**She had plans to pursue a career in Border Patrol, but due to the recent assault and unlawful arrest, she's changed her mind, according to North Country Now.**

Cooke says she is waiting to hear about possible charges regarding the struggle.

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**Cop Boasts Of Falsifying  
Charges:  
“Would You Like To Be Part Of My  
Quota Tonight?”  
“The Young Man Then Asks The Cop,  
‘On What Grounds?’”  
“‘On What Grounds?’ Oh, I Don’t Know,  
I’ll Think Of Something. How About  
Aiding And Abetting Reckless Driving?”**

April 8, 2015 By Matt Agorist, The Free Thought Project

Kennewick, WA — A disturbing yet incredibly revealing video was uploaded to YouTube recently which shows an alleged Kennewick police officer admit to a slew of misdeeds.

The video starts out with the officer proclaiming how stopping these teenagers on the last day of the month, just helped him reach his quota.

“This is the last day of the month. I get every stat I need just off of you guys,” says the officer as he begins his rights violating confession.

**“So you guys gotta make quota, huh?” asks the detained teen.**

**“We don’t have a quota. We have expectations.**

**“And what that means is, you will make so many arrests a month, you should write so many tickets a month, and you should haul so many dumbasses to jail a month. If we’re gonna pay you \$100,000 a year, we should expect something back from you, shouldn’t we?” says the officer.**

When the man replies, ‘yes’ that he understands what the officer just said, the cop then asks, “Would you like to be part of my quota tonight?”

The young man then asks the cop, "On what grounds?"

To which the cop replies, "'On what grounds?' Oh, I don't know, I'll think of something. How about aiding and abetting reckless driving?"

The officer basically admits that he will simply make up any charges he wants, just to make an arrest.

"Fair enough," says the man, trying to prevent himself from being kidnapped by this officer for no reason.

"You better wipe that smile off your face brother, or I'll show ya," says the officer.

It doesn't stop there, this officer then exposes himself for the true power-tripping tyrant that he is.

**"Now, let me tell you what the difference between being a smart guy and a dumbass is. You sit there with that shit-eating grin on your face, let me see some id!" says the tyrant officer.**

The young man then replies as he's going to show the officer his ID, "It's cool I got a clean record."

That's when the officer becomes brutally honest about how he can abuse his power to ruin innocent lives.

The officer replies, "Yeah, but you know what? I'm the guy that can make that record look dirty."

At this point the officer then admits how the entire system is funded through this type of shakedown and extortion racket.

"You are a guy that's gonna end up giving the city a lot of money," says the officer.

The officer then proceeds to massively flex his authority as the teen isn't bowing down fast enough, screaming, "Shut up! Shut up!"

The teen filming then asks the officer for his name, to which the officer yells, "Be Quiet! Or you'll have my name on a police report and your ass will be on the way to juvi for aiding and abetting! Understand that?"

**To top it all off, the officer then attacks the teen's First Amendment right, by telling him that he did not give him permission to film.**

**"I didn't give you permission!" says the officer as he yanks the phone from the teen's hand.**

The video then ends. Let's make this officer, who makes \$100,000 a year to harass innocent people, internet famous. Share this article with your friends and family to show them what protecting and serving has become in the Land of the Free.

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## **MILITARY NEWS**

**A Loathsome Tyrant Totters:  
“What He Will Not Survive Is The  
Collapse Of The Syrian Economy”  
“As Shortages Of Food And Essential  
Goods Become More Serious, Prices  
Are Spiraling”  
“Oil And Gas Output Has Fallen More  
Than 95% — There Is No Prospect Of  
Recovery”**



May 7, 2015 By Scott Lucas, EA WorldView [Excerpts]

Since the start of the year, rebels have made substantial gains across Syria, especially in the northwest and the south.

They not only punished the Assad regime's attempt to cut off the opposition in Aleppo, Syria's largest city, but killed, wounded, or captured hundreds of Syrian troops and allied Hezbollah, Iranian, and Afghan fighters.



**A regime offensive south of Damascus was also checked.**

**In the last six weeks, rebels have taken the provincial capital of Idlib and the key city of Jisr al-Shughour in the northwest, threatening to cut off regime forces in Aleppo and Idlib Provinces from a base of Assad's power in Latakia in western Syria.**

**In the south, They have claimed the historic town of Busra al-Sham near Jordan and seized the regime's last crossing on the border.**

While the recent rebel victories have unveiled the regime's troubles, Assad has been losing this conflict for a long time.

The "Assad is winning" rested primarily on two advantages: the support of foreign forces — notably those of Lebanon's Hezbollah, Iraqi militias, and Iranian military advisors and commanders — and his air force.

However, in the longer-term, a military can only "win" if it has enough reliable soldiers and local support.

The Assad regime struggled to take control of all of Homs, let alone prevail in the divided Aleppo.

**It could not pacify important Damascus suburbs where leading rebel factions were based. It made little headway in the countryside, even near cities that it ruled.**

Once rebels were able to overcome problems of coordination, to check the threat of the Islamic State, and — perhaps most importantly — obtain decent weapons, they could turn the tide.

Factions — from the Free Syrian Army to the Islamic Front bloc to the Islamist group Jabhat al-Nusra — have overcome long-running disputes to establish effective commands and operations rooms.

Tens of thousands of fighters have been mobilized for offensives.

The Syrian air force can retaliate for losses of territory, doing so near Idlib and Jisr al-Shughour recently with barrel bombs and even the chemical weapons of chlorine canisters.

However, the bombing alone cannot reclaim that territory.

The Syrian military is having problems putting enough men on the battlefield — reports of forced conscription are mounting — and some of its best units are trapped south of Idlib.

Hezbollah, after suffering losses, is refusing to provide fighters for the north, and Iran also appears to be withdrawing from that front.

**What he will not survive is the collapse of the Syrian economy.**

The formula is that the President, playing up the threat of “terrorists” and assisted by the spectre of the Islamic State and the abuses of a faction such as Jabhat al-Nusra, can always rely on supporters from among his Alawite community and other groups who fear an “extremist” post-Assad Syria.

Thus, even as he loses much of the country, he will hold Damascus, cities such as Homs, and the power bases of Latakia and Tartous in the west.

That may well be true politically, but a President’s supporters have to eat and keep themselves warm.

As shortages of food and essential goods become more serious, prices are spiraling. The average monthly salary of a Damascus worker now buys only 15 kilograms (33 pounds) of bananas or 5 kilos (11 pounds) of beef, let alone pay a rent or mortgage or fuel costs.

The Syrian currency is weakening rapidly.

At 50:1 vs. the US dollar before the conflict, it is now over 300:1 on the unofficial market. Despite official denials, foreign reserves are draining away.

With more than \$200 billion lost by the end of 2014 and with production crippled — oil and gas output has fallen more than 95% — there is no prospect of recovery.

Assad has survived the crisis so far with Iran’s economic assistance, notably a \$3.6 billion line of credit extended in July 2013.

However, with the Iranians facing their own economic difficulties, six months of Syrian efforts have not persuaded Tehran to renew the line. This week, the Governor of Syria’s Central Bank said the money was coming — the Iranians said nothing.

It is natural to look for the quick, dramatic end to a conflict. So “Assad is falling” (2012) is replaced by “Assad is winning” (2013/14) by “Assad may be losing” (2015).

However, after the initial uprising was met by the regime’s armed forces, this became a civil war of attrition. The opposition and rebels have been far from certain victors: they have had to confront Assad’s barrel bombs and chemical weapons, the reluctance of international actors like the US, and their own internal divisions.

Yet the reality has always been that, unless the Syrian military could deliver a knockout blow, the rebels can put more men on the battlefield than the regime can.

The longer that the conflict grinds on, the greater that advantage. It will not produce a final military victory, but it will prevent Assad from declaring victory.

**And then the President will have to face his judgement beyond the battlefield: most of “his people” — the 50% of Syrians who have not yet been displaced, as well as those who have — not being able to maintain even a basic existence.**

In Assad's plea at the Martyrs Day ceremony this week, there was flicker of recognition of this reality, even as he tried to forestall it:

"When one is talking about a war as vicious as the one taking place in Syria, then this involves thousands of battles, and it's natural for this type of battles with the numbers and conditions involved in them to have them shift between attack and defense, wins and losses, and ups and downs, but the important thing is for faith in the inevitability of victory to remain unchanging."

## **MILITARY RESISTANCE BY EMAIL**

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Same address to unsubscribe.

## **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**

**Wars throughout history have been waged for conquest and plunder and it is the working class who fights all the battles, the working class who makes the supreme sacrifices, the working class who freely sheds their blood and furnishes their corpses, and it is they who have never yet had a voice - in either declaring war or making peace. It is the ruling class that invariably does both. They alone declare war.**

**They are continually talking about patriotic duty. It is not their patriotic duty but your patriotic duty that they are concerned about. Their patriotic duty never takes them to the firing line or chucks them into the trenches.**

**-- Eugene V. Debs**

**“Agreement Reached By Syriza Government With The Eurogroup Is An Extension Of Austerity”**

**“Abandonment Of Even The Minimum Promise To Give Justice To Workers’ Demands”**

**“The Mood For Action Is Clear In Workplaces And In The Organised Labour Movement”**

**“A Big Difference Between The Members Or Supporters Of Syriza Workplaces, Universities, And So On, And The ‘Official’ Internal Opposition”**



April 2015 By Costas Pittas, Socialist Review. [Excerpts] Costas Pittas is secretary of the civil servants' union in the Ministry of Development and a member of SEK and Antarsya.

The electoral victory of Syriza in Greece on 25 January created huge optimism. After five years of struggle — with strikes, occupations and demonstrations in the squares — the government of the austerity Memorandum collapsed and a left party came to office.

The Syriza ministers' first declarations boosted this optimism: redundant civil servants would get their jobs back, privatisation would stop and the immigrant detention camps would be closed.

**Two months later things look different.**

**The agreement reached by the Syriza government with the Eurogroup on 20 February is an extension of austerity and an abandonment of even the minimum promise to give justice to workers' demands.**

This creates disappointment among Syriza supporters.

But it is wrong to assume that what dominates is a mood of passive waiting.

The experience, confidence and radicalisation of the working class movement that created the electoral victory by the left are too strong to be dissipated quickly and easily.

**People voted for Syriza not because the party had a pro-euro line, but because they wanted back what was stolen from them in the past five years. This hope is still huge, in spite of the compromises. So the more pressure the Troika exert, the more people get angry.**

In the weeks that have followed the agreement with the Eurogroup, pressure from the Troika escalated. Newspapers and TV news in Europe are full of threats, blackmail and attacks on the Syriza government. The forces of austerity are in a rage because the message of the Greek elections is a left turn that can embrace other countries.

So they are doing their utmost to erase this message, pressurising the Syriza government to carry on with austerity. In discussions on the implementation of the measures agreed by the Troika the demand was even made for the government to stop paying salaries and pensions for one or two months!

On 14 March the finance minister Yanis Varoufakis told a business conference in Italy that “the government might have to suspend all its promises”.

**It is worth outlining the level of compromise by the Syriza government.**

In September Syriza leader Alexis Tsipras declared that the new left government would drop the memorandum straight away regardless of the outcome of negotiations; negotiate a “haircut” for most of the debt — with the remainder requiring growth clauses (meaning the government would only repay it if there was growth in the economy); and request a “grace period” to direct savings into growth.

In February the government began to negotiate on the following basis: that 70 percent of the Memorandum would be accepted as valid; that part of the debt should be reduced and replaced with bonds; that there should be an international conference for all the indebted countries; and that there should be a six-month moratorium with no austerity programme in order to implement at least some of its commitments.

**What came out of the negotiations were the following: instead of a moratorium, the government accepted a four-month extension of the Memorandum subject to relentless surveillance by the Troika; the government signed up to paying all its debts “in time” to its creditors; any discussion about a conference on debt was cut; and no unilateral action on any issue would be taken.**

Far from satisfying the Troika, this has only increased the pressure from German chancellor Angela Merkel and co. A second Eurogroup meeting has brought privatisation and “structural adjustment”.

### **“There Is No Relaxation Of Austerity”**

**All these compromises translate into concrete concessions.**

**In September Tsipras had promised that the first, basic, measures to deal with the humanitarian crisis would cost 2 billion Euros. The bill now brought to parliament speaks of measures costing 200 million Euros.**

**At the same time, to pay the installments of the debt to the IMF in March, the government took money from the reserves of the workers’ pension funds.**

The bill laid before parliament for the reopening of the ERT (the state broadcasting service) is far from what the workers and the trade union movement are asking for. The bill says that “ERT will reopen on a zero-basis”.

This means that it will treat all personnel with the same criteria — the big majority that occupied, demonstrated, kept broadcasting under workers’ control and in practice

supported the movement that pushed Syriza into office, will be treated as the same as the scabs who applied for work in the new state TV of the Memorandum governments.

Also many things remain unclear, such as wages, work conditions, and whether all the radio and TV stations will reopen in cities and towns around Greece.

And, of course, one of the biggest problems is that ERT administrative structure is like any private TV station and the workers have nothing to do with the policy decisions.

The ERT workers' union has refused to accept this new bill.

**Restoring the minimum wage to 751 Euros (the first measure that Syriza promised it would immediately implement) is postponed to the end of 2016.**

**Conclusion: there is no relaxation of austerity.**

Quite the contrary, there is pressure on Syriza to demonstrate in the next three months that it can maintain tight budgetary discipline and open the doors to privatisation.

The left dynamic of the movement has not been exhausted since the elections; on the contrary it has strengthened. This is expressed by the fact that the Tsipras leadership has been under pressure from the left from the beginning.

During the Eurogroup negotiation thousands gathered in Syntagma Square opposite parliament.

Almost from the outset the mobilisation in the squares was characterised more by pressure on the government not to give way on its promises than by support for Syriza.

**When Varoufakis signed the agreement, it was the revolutionary left coalition Antarsya that organised the first protests against the compromise, followed by the KKE (Communist Party).**

Within Syriza itself disagreements opened up on the left of the Parliamentary Group around the Left Platform and in the central committee.

**There is a big difference between the members or supporters of Syriza in workplaces, universities, and so on, and the "official" internal opposition of the Left Platform.**

The difference is not ideological, although the Left Platform holds a very "left patriotic" attitude on many issues. The real difference is that the Left Platform avoids everything that might identify them with the political forces to the left of Syriza and to any left opposition to the government.

So it says a lot (though very modestly and carefully) but refuses to take action.

**A good example was the 21 March rallies against racism. The pressure from the Unity Movement Against Racism and the Fascist Threat (Keerfa) was too high for Syriza and the Left Platform to ignore.**

**But in Athens, on the same day, Syriza called people to another square, two hours earlier — though it only attracted some 500 people, while the Keerfa march saw tens of thousands.**

**On the other hand, as I write, in Patras in western Greece youth and workplace organisations of Syriza are organising with Antarsya, Keerfa and SEK (the Socialist Workers Party sister organisation in Greece and a part of Antarsya) and at a local level.**

**In my union executive the KKE, Syriza and Antarsya all supported the Keerfa rally.**

**In the teachers' union leadership Syriza members in the Left Platform voted in favour of Syriza's own rally, but many local branches of the union in Athens voted unanimously to support Keerfa's rally, with Syriza, KKE and Antarsya supporters voting together.**

By applying the united front strategy both from above and below, socialists can avoid condemning Syriza all the time (as the KKE does), and instead attempt to build joint action on every issue with Syriza members.

### **“The Mood For Action Is Clear In Workplaces And In The Organised Labour Movement”**

The mood for action is clear in workplaces and in the organised labour movement.

**The laid-off teachers decided they would protest and besiege parliament after a minister announced that their reinstatement “would take a long time”.**

University administrators decided on work stoppages and a demonstration. The public sector trade union confederation (ADEDY) and the municipal workers' union (POE OTA), not only demanded the immediate reinstatement of all those made redundant and a resolution of every problem created by the Memorandum — they also requested the immediate cancellation of the debt.

At the time of writing the leadership of ADEDY is under pressure from the unions within it to call a day of action throughout the public sector in the coming weeks.

**In the hospitals there have been workers' assemblies, some of which organised work stoppages and a demonstration outside the Ministry of Health on 11 March.**

**The dock workers' union threatened to go on strike if the privatisation of the port of Piraeus continued.**

**On 19 March Athens metro workers held a three-hour strike in order to have a general assembly about bad conditions on the trains. No metro train moved for three hours.**

This mood of assertiveness is not limited to the public sector, where trade unions are stronger.



**The first week of March saw strikes in the private mobile telephone companies (Wind, Vodafone, Forthnet) demanding new collective agreements and an end to employer tyranny.**

**Sailors on some ships carrying passengers to the Aegean islands went on strike because pay was months in arrears.**

**Protests against lay-offs have taken place in supermarkets, while struggles against factory closures, such as at Coca Cola, which began before the election, have continued.**

This dynamic is not limited to economic demands.

There are also the issues of racism and the fascist threat.

After the rebellion of the Amygdaleza immigrant camp in Athens, Syriza was forced to declare that it would close it down, but the rate of release of detainees is very slow and is subject to many conditions.

No promises have been made for the other camps. The minister of public order (a member of the centre-left DIMAR party) said he would keep the “fence of shame” on the north east border with Turkey and use special police patrols to restart the rounding up of immigrants in the centre of Athens.

A month before the murder trial of the leadership of the Nazi Golden Dawn (which starts on 20 April), the president of parliament and a leading member of Syriza said that the presence of the imprisoned Golden Dawn MPs in parliament was legitimate “because it is legal political party”.

All this has caused great anger, with people wondering what kind of fiscal discipline it is that forbids the racist measures taken by all previous governments being repealed and the fascists condemned.

After the elections the Keerfa organised protests outside the immigrant camps and in the centre of Athens. But the mood to escalate the confrontation with racism and the fascists can be seen by the massive support shown by workers and young people for the rallies organised by the anti fascist movement on 21 March in Athens and three other Greek cities.

**“The Debate About Cancelling The Debt And The Need For Unilateral Action Has Become Even More Open Within The Workplace And Has Often Arrived At The Dilemma Of Reform Or Revolution”**

The electoral victory of Syriza on 25 January dramatically changed the conditions for the labour movement and the left in Greece. The period is a big challenge. Syriza won the elections with a promise of hope. The challenge is whether this hope will continue. This perspective makes the need for a left working class opposition today greater than ever.

After the Eurogroup agreement the debate about cancelling the debt and the need for unilateral action has become even more open within the workplace and has often arrived at the dilemma of reform or revolution.

I work in the industry department of the Ministry of Development. In my union assembly the discussion started from how we can bring back sacked colleagues and went over to the cancellation of the debt and whether industry can be developed under workers' control or with compromises.

Left opposition does not mean constant condemnation of the compromises of Syriza.

There are three clear steps.

The first is a clear policy giving a perspective to the struggles of the working class and its hopes. Such a policy means the following immediate measures: debt relief and cessation of payments; rupture with the EU, the ECB, the euro and the IMF; nationalisation of the banks under workers' control; stopping privatisation and renationalising all the large state enterprises that have been privatised; prohibition of sackings; smashing racism and the fascists.

Second, a left opposition seeks cooperation in every economic and political battle with workers who have illusions about the role of the left government.

Common action with the thousands of militants who voted for Syriza is vital, and today many of them see Antarsya as the political force that can support them against the retreats and the compromises of the government.

Finally, in order to achieve this, a left opposition needs an independent organisation that can respond to the opportunities and challenges that are opening up. It must be able to take initiatives that support workers' struggles and highlight the demands of the anti-capitalist programme.

This is the role that Antarsya and SEK wish to play. This has nothing to do with political sectarianism.

It flows from the real need for clear answers and action against the Troika and austerity.

Left opposition doesn't mean just talking — it means activity to win back jobs, reopen public services, fight racism, and so on.

**It also means clear anti-capitalist politics raising the issue of workers' control — something which frequently arises in the high-level political debates taking place in workplaces across Greece.**

**The level of these debates are rising week by week.**

Through these steps we can ensure that the left government in Greece will not be the last, but can be continued.

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# NSA Overturns US Court Of Appeals' Decision That Mass Collection Of Telephone Metadata Is Illegal



May 9, 2015 by Joe Zieja, The Duffel Blog

WASHINGTON — In an unprecedented shift in legal proceedings, the NSA has overturned the US Court of Appeals' decision that the mass collection of telephone metadata is illegal, Duffel Blog has learned. This comes in the wake of nearly two years of legal debate, which began when whistleblower Edward Snowden really wanted to visit Moscow but couldn't afford the trip.

"This double-reversal is unique for two reasons," said Judge William Pauley, a Clinton appointee to the Southern District of New York who originally had voted in 2013 that the program was legal.

"First, this is a unique program with unique national security implications. And second, the NSA is not part of the judicial branch of the United States government. This makes it very unusual that they would weigh in on the matter, never mind deliver a legally-binding ruling."

The NSA's ruling was initially met by outrage, with several members of the ACLU protesting outside the White House. One spokesman, Carla Brown, was seen in front of local cameras delivering a scathing message.

"The brutality of our Big Brother government, has gone on long enough!" she shouted into multiple microphones. She continued to encourage the people to "rise up against tyranny," but was interrupted by a man in a suit who whispered something in her ear.

"Never mind," Brown said, after wiping sweat from her brow. "Forget everything I just said. I need to go erase my phone records. And my emails. Oh shit. Oh shit."

The NSA released its own statement yesterday, after which many of the arguments against the decision mysteriously began to disappear.

“You should not fear your benign overlords,” a new NSA spokesman whose name nobody could remember and who was also wearing swirly eyeglasses, said in a public statement.

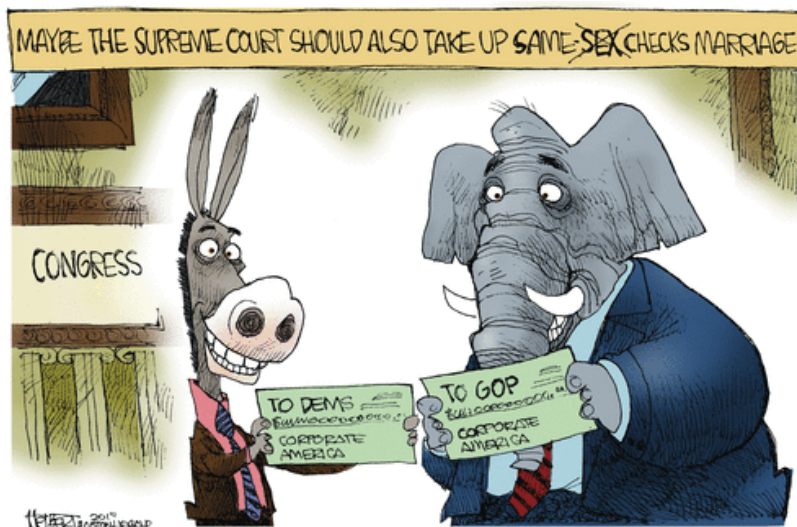
“The All Seeing Eye is your friend. Trust your friend. Believe in your friend.” Cameras then showed all the members of the press conference nodding in unison.

“As for district judge Vernon Broderick, who ruled against the program,” the unnamed spokesman continued, “we understand that you are entitled to your opinion and respect your expertise as a member of the United States legal system, but there is no real potential harm to the citizens’ privacy from the collection of phone metadata. We also understand that you may not want anyone to know that number (606) 245-2999 called number (508) 295-8581 at 7:08 PM on April 6th.”

CORRECTION: The editors of Duffel Blog regrettably reported all of this article in error. The NSA does not actually exist, and there is no proof that any of our phone numbers called any 900 numbers at any time. All hail the Eye.

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## **DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK**



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## **OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

**A Typical Day Of Abuse, Humiliation  
And World-Class Stupidity By**

# Regime Goons At Ben Gurion Airport: Two French Music Teachers Thrown Out As “Too Dangerous” For The Racist Occupiers



By: Philomène Constant et Bastien Anthoine, Angers, France, le 22 Avril 2015-via Mondoweiss 4.30.15

This account appeared 4.22.15 on the site of AURDIP, Association des Universitaires pour Respect du Droit International en Palestine. It was translated from the French by Michael Harris

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We are two students, both studying musicology at the Université Paris 8 and in the CRR 93 at Aubervilliers and the CRD at Gennevilliers (translator’s note: all located in the suburbs north of Paris).

After taking our baccalauréat exams at the end of high school, we left in September 2013 to spend a year living in Palestine. We gave and attended music classes (violin and flute) at the Edward Said National Conservatory in Ramallah and helped to create a music school in Jericho.

This year we had decided to go back during our recent Easter break to see our friends again and to return to the places where we had spent time the previous year.

On Sunday April 19, we arrived at 2:30 AM at Ben Gurion airport in Tel Aviv. At the customs desk we stated the purpose of our visit; but when the officer heard the word

“Ramallah” we were sent straight to a small room where other people were waiting for us.

We were immediately asked to write our telephone numbers and e-mail addresses.

After an hour’s wait, a security officer came to pick up Philomène, telling her to take her luggage. In this first interrogation, the security officer asked her the reason for her visit, whether or not she had previously been to Israel, and why.

After a few minutes, he began to get angry and called her a “liar” because it seemed to him impossible that a 20-year old would come to Palestine for a year for the sole purpose of playing and studying music. He asked her whether or not she had a Palestinian cell phone.

She said no because she was afraid of placing her contacts in a bad position. The man stood up and pounded the desk with his fists, saying “You’re a liar, I don’t believe you!” He then brought Philomène back to the waiting room and asked Bastien to follow him. The same script; he warned him that his friend is a liar and that he had better not tell any lies. Bastien told him the truth but the officer didn’t believe him, and a dialogue of the deaf ensued.

Then he ordered him to bring our Palestinian SIM cards and our camera. Having made Bastien translate all the messages on the cell phone and watch him look at our Paris photos to be sure we weren’t activists, he told him to return to the waiting room.

Two hours later, and after having seen many people leave with a visa, the same officer called to Philomène to follow him. He asked the same questions but this time, he says he is convinced that she has taken part in demonstrations. She insists she hasn’t.

He continued until she broke down and started crying. Then it was Bastien’s turn, he was also accused of taking part in demonstrations, and advised to stop lying.

He went to his Facebook account and asked whether or not he know a “Marie Ballanger.” Bastien said no, then the officer got angry and said that she was one of his Facebook friends and that she had been refused entry last December. Bastien understood then that he had meant “Bérenghère,” a friend who had indeed been refused entry recently.

At that point he said that he did know her and was immediately insulted because he hadn’t reacted right away. He was then sent back into the waiting room.

By then it was 8 AM, there are only five of us in the small room. We are trembling, we want to throw up, we can’t eat the dry sandwich Israeli security had brought us.

Next to us a Russian woman passed out; a security officer stuffed a suitcase under her feet and waited for her to come to, alone; 15 minutes later, a man came to take care of her. We also saw someone from Chad who, after having handed over all the money he was carrying, was handcuffed and sent away somewhere.

A fifty-year-old man, exhausted, was crying in a corner. The wait was growing unbearable, inhuman, we need to walk to feel better. Outside the room we see young

people of our age who are also dealing with security, laughing, calling out, using the phone, talking about shopping... completely oblivious.

The officer finally came back to talk to Bastien. He refuses to believe him when he denies having taken part in demonstrations; he asks why he is so nervous, why he is trembling; doesn't that prove he's lying?

He pretends not to understand that we have already spent 5 1/2 hours there after a day-long plane trip, and at a certain point a normal person can't take any more. The officer insists that Bastien, being pro-Palestinian, can't have spent a year in Palestine without having gone to Bil'in, a village known for its resistance. Having never demonstrated, Bastien continued to insist that he hadn't been there. When Philomène's turn came, he asked her exactly the same questions. She gave the same answers.

We returned to the waiting room, not knowing what to think; would we get a visa after all? Would we be denied entry?

We fought off sleep and numbness. At 9 AM an Israeli immigration officer came to look for us. He explained that we are too dangerous for their "democracy" and that, although we are students and musicians, they don't believe us and they are going to bring us to a detention center while we waited for the return flight at 4 PM.

From that moment on we are treated like terrorists. We even need to be accompanied to the bathroom.

They bring us to the immigration office to take our fingerprints and a photo in order to "telephone our relatives," according to them.

Philomène offers to play the violin because they don't believe us. The officer answers coldly that he doesn't like music.

Next they bring us to the search room, where for the space of an hour we are treated as objects. All our bags are opened, all our clothing and other items are checked, then we are strip searched in a dressing room. Total humiliation.

They disassemble Bastien's suitcase and keep it and put all his things in a box. We now have fluorescent stickers on all our bags. Another wait.

We ask when we can use the telephone, we are told "in a few minutes," which is what we have been hearing all night.

Finally at 10:30 AM, we leave the terminal in an armored car that drives us, with the Russian woman, to the detention center.

At the center, our jailers put our things in a room and tell us to take our money and our cigarettes if we want to smoke. Our cell phones are forbidden, but we can finally contact our relatives, eight hours after our arrival.

We go out to breathe some fresh air, always accompanied, in a closed courtyard. Then they bring us to a cell, in which we will stay until our flight. Here we are locked up, with

no notion of time in a dirty place, covered with fleas and less afraid than feeling a sense of absurdity that makes us laugh slightly.

Three and a half hours later we leave.

At 3 PM we finally leave the prison and return to the armored car that drives us directly to the runway where our plane is waiting for us. Another inconvenience: we learn that our flight is to Brussels; if we want to go to Paris, we have to wait another eight hours at the airport.

We board the plane; our jailers give our passports to the flight attendants who help us in, looking sorry. Five hours later (and 17 hours after our landing) our passports are returned to us when we arrive in Brussels, where the Belgian border police is waiting for us.

They bring us to an office to check whether we are dangerous for their country. We are not.

We decide not to fly back to Paris; we prefer to return to France on our own the following day.

Every year, at Ben Gurion airport, numerous visitors from a variety of origins are treated similarly.

Their most elementary human rights are flouted: violation of intimacy, psychological torture, dehumanization, racism, theft, trauma. Few of them present a real danger to Israel.

In this way, Israel interferes with the smooth development of a great number of humanitarian, cultural, and other projects. At present, nothing is done about this.

What happens at that border is unknown to all. Our states have the power to stop these abuses. We have the obligation to inform as many people as possible so that one day, human rights will be respected at that border.

We hope that this testimony can serve to help change this unfortunate reality.

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**Shot By Zionists, Gaza Child  
Unable To Walk:  
They Didn't Mean To Do It;  
They Were Shooting At Unarmed  
Palestinian Farmers Instead;**



# “An M16 Bullet Was Removed From Fadi’s Spine During Surgery”

7 May 2015 Rami Almeghari, The Electronic Intifada

Maghazi refugee camp

Fourteen-year-old Fadi Abu Mandi is unable to walk because of Israel’s routine violence against Palestinians in Gaza.

On Friday, 24 April, Fadi had been asked to study for school exams by his father Akram in their home in the Maghazi refugee camp. Fadi had just returned from watching a soccer match in Nuseirat, another camp.

Suddenly, the boy felt a pain in his back. He could not move, so Akram rushed him to hospital. Fadi was struck by a bullet fired on Palestinian farmers by Israeli soldiers.

The bullet appears to have entered his family’s home through a corner that was not roofed. Fadi had been sitting in that corner, his father told The Electronic Intifada. Initially, Fadi was brought to al-Aqsa Hospital, which is close to Maghazi. After three hours there, he was transferred to al-Shifa Hospital, the largest in Gaza. He remained there until the following Monday, when he was moved to Ramallah in the occupied West Bank.

Fadi has been operated on in Musallam Specialty Hospital in Ramallah. He has lost most of the mobility in his left leg and is expected to require a considerable amount of physiotherapy.

Speaking to The Electronic Intifada by phone, Fadi said he missed his family and friends and was very sad that he would probably not be taking his final school exams for this year. “I hope that the Israeli siege is lifted so that we can start feeling safe inside our own homes,” he added.

Akram stated that an M16 bullet was removed from Fadi’s spine during surgery. “The bullet caused a small hole into Fadi’s spine yet doctors said he will start recovering in a few weeks,” Akram added.

M16 bullets are widely used in the Israeli military’s rifles.

**Soldiers frequently fire towards Palestinians who venture close to the boundary between Gaza and present-day Israel.**

This is despite commitments given by Israel following its 51-day attack on Gaza last summer that it would enlarge the “buffer zone” beside the boundary so that Palestinian farmers would be able to access their land.

The bullets used by Israel can travel long distances, inflicting serious injuries on or even killing those they hit. Fadi was about 2.5 kilometers from the boundary when he was shot.

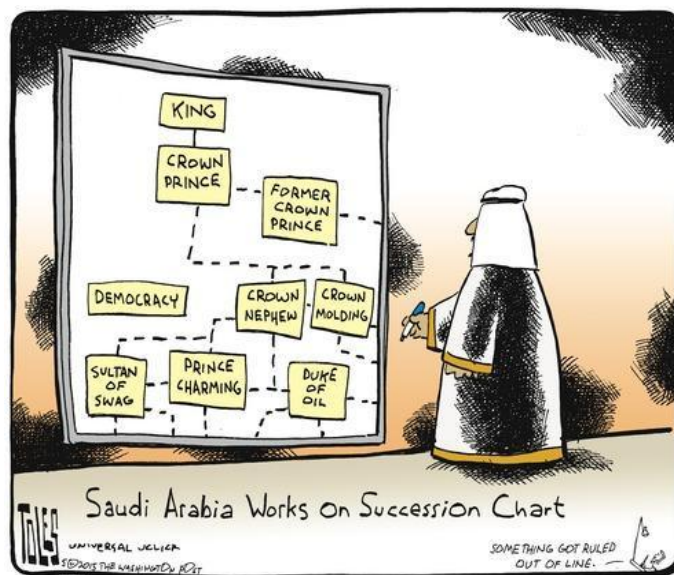
“It was totally unexpected,” said Fayza, Fadi’s mother. “I was doing my regular household chores when Akram screamed and came out of the room, carrying Fadi between his arms and moving towards the front door. “God must punish those who shot and wounded my child.”

Fathi Abu Daher, who is also 14 years old, said: “My friend and neighbor Fadi is such a lovely person. He does not make anyone angry. He likes to help others, especially old people. I feel so sorry that he is now lying in a hospital bed because of that stray bullet.

“We, the children of Gaza, are the same as children anywhere else in the world. Why are the Israelis attacking us, even inside our homes?”

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



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