

## Military Resistance 1313



**“The Singularly Accountable Party For The Unfolding Syrian Catastrophe Is Bashar Al-Assad’s Regime”**

**“Industrial-Scale Torture, Rape, Ballistic Missiles, Chemical Weapons, And More Than 11,000 Barrel Bombs Designed To Indiscriminately And Collectively Terrorize Civilians”**

**“Syrians Are A Proud People. They Prefer--And Deserve--To Live In Their Own Towns Rather Than In Sterile Camps In A Foreign Land”**  
**“They Prefer--And Deserve--To See An End To The Regime That Has Been Killing Them For The Past Four Years”**

September 4 Planet Syria

*A Syrian friend wrote:*

As I navigate the outpouring of sympathy directed at Syrian refugees that my Facebook newsfeed has become, I cannot help but feel disappointed by the near-complete failure to mention the singularly accountable party for the unfolding Syrian catastrophe that is Bashar al-Assad's regime.

While I fully understand the appeal of making "non-political" statements, the Syrian Question is one that is anything but non-political. And as much as addressing the Mediterranean refugee crisis is pressing, it is far from being the most pressing.

**Marshal Bashar Assad, the Syrian dictator well into the fifth decade of his dynasty's reign of the Syrian "Republic," and the Commander-in-Chief of the Syrian Armed Forces, has used every last weapon at his disposal to oppress the Syrian people, including industrial-scale torture, rape, ballistic missiles, chemical weapons, and more than 11,000 barrel bombs designed to indiscriminately and collectively terrorize civilians.**

He has systematically and deliberately targeted bakery lines, hospitals, gas stations, schools and vegetable markets.

He has kidnapped and tortured to death artists, doctors, university professors and human rights activists.

He has killed SEVEN times more Syrians than ISIS.

The outcome is the death of 1/3 million Syrians and the massive displacement of the population. More than 10% of children joining Jordanian schools this September are Syrian and almost one third of the population of neighboring Lebanon is now made of Syrian refugees.

The total number of Syrians displaced, internally and externally, is more than 12 million people--that is more than the whole populations of Macedonia and Hungary COMBINED.

To reduce our tragedy to a suspended refugee crisis with no political context is first and foremost self-defeating, but is also morally dubious; prioritizing the plight of that fringe of Syrians getting in contact with the "civilized world" and leaving behind the vast majority of the remaining, "less fortunate", ones.

Syrians are a proud people.

They prefer--and deserve--to live in their own towns rather than in sterile camps in a foreign land.

They prefer--and deserve--to strive for a better future for their children, rather than to live on charitable subsidies.

They prefer--and deserve--to see an end to the regime that has been killing them for the past four years.

For Aylan Kurdi, his brother, and the 12,000 children over whose pointless murder presided Bashar Hafez al-Assad, let us not be non-political; let us not shy away from calling out the criminal lest we become partners in his crime.

MORE:

**“We, Socialists Of Turkey And Syria, Reject All Political And Military Intervention Of Foreign Powers To Syria; Whether It Is Claimed Against ISIS, Assad Or The PKK”**

**“The US And Its Allies Aren’t The Friends Of The People Of Syria, The Arab Spring Uprising Or The Kurds Fighting For National Rights”**

# “They Are The Friends Of Reactionary Regimes In The Region, Dictators And Israel”

We believe in the ordinary people from Beirut to Baghdad who have taken to the streets for freedom against sectarian divisions and their rulers.

For real change in the Middle East, we are working for unity of those struggling for freedom from Aleppo to Kobane, those who defeated the government at Gezi and those who overthrew Mubarak at Tahrir.

September 6th, 2015 Posted by John Passant, En Passant

*This is a joint statement by revolutionary socialists from Turkey & Syria in Turkish, Arabic, and English (the latter pasted here).*

No to AKP-US intervention, victory to the Syrian revolution! [AK Party: Justice and Development Party (Turkey), headed by the dictator Erdogan. T]

Joining the imperialist coalition against ISIS, the Turkish state has begun to bomb Syria following its compromise with the US to open up the Incirlik airbase in return for bombing the PKK in Kandil.

As part of this agreement of joint action between the Ak Party and the US, by giving air support to some groups in the region they are working towards forming an “ISIS-free zone” in northern Syria.

**We, socialists of Turkey and Syria, reject all political and military intervention of foreign powers to Syria; whether it is claimed against ISIS, Assad or the PKK.**

**For over a century the US leadership of western imperialism has turned the Middle East into a blood bath.**

**The US and its allies aren't the friends of the people of Syria, the Arab Spring uprising or the Kurds fighting for national rights.**

**They are the friends of reactionary regimes in the region, dictators and Israel.**

The Ak Party is one of the political actors that paved the way for turning the Syrian Revolution into a sectarian civil war by supporting sectarian reactionary forces against democratic movements by both Arabs and Kurds in Syria.

Everyone who wants to see the end of ISIS should follow the way of Arab revolutions.

Meanwhile, before the catastrophic situation of Syrian refugees throughout the region and Europe, it is important to remind that the reasons of the internal and external exodus of the Syrian people are the war and destructions led by the Assad regime firstly and

then the reactionary Takfiri fundamentalist forces as ISIS, Jabhat al Nusra, Ahrar Alsham and others, while reactionary Gulf petro-monarchies and Arab States have done nothing to welcome Syrian refugees on the opposite rejecting them despite their “rhetoric support”.

An AKP-US intervention in Syria will only exacerbate this dramatic situation in Syria.

**Therefore, we have no faith in the coalition of murderers.**

**We believe in the ordinary people from Beirut to Baghdad who have taken to the streets for freedom against sectarian divisions and their rulers.**

**For real change in the Middle East, we are working for unity of those struggling for freedom from Aleppo to Kobane, those who defeated the government at Gezi and those who overthrew Mubarak at Tahrir.**

While continuing to work together for this, we will do whatever we can to stop the Turkish and Syrian governments working in favour of the ruling classes.

No to Assad, Erdoğan, Obama and Baghdadi!  
Victory to the Syrian Revolution!  
Long live the unity of the international working class!

Revolutionary Socialist Workers Party (DSIP) of Turkey  
Revolutionary Left Current of Syria

**MORE:**

**“Why, Then, Do Some Arab States Seek To Rehabilitate Assad At The Moment That He Is Beginning To Lose Ground?”**

**“Although Many Of These States View With Concern The Iranian Expansion In The Region, Their Greater Concern Emanates From The Prospects Of Victory For The Syrian Revolution”**

# **“They Now Believe That Rehabilitating The Assad Government Is The Only Means Left For Defeating The Arab Revolution In Syria”**

14 August 2015 by Basheer Nafi, Middle East Eye. Basheer Nafi is a senior research fellow at Al Jazeera Centre for Studies

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The Syrian crisis is witnessing a growing political dynamism that is not solely American and Russian, but also Arab. It is even distinctively Arab.

The mufti of the Assad government arrives in Algeria; Foreign Minister Walid al-Muaallim, who is rarely allowed to travel abroad, is visiting the Omani capital Muscat to meet the Omani foreign minister; then there is the meeting that took place between General Ali Mamluk, who is one of the main security aides to President Assad, and Saudi Deputy Crown Prince and Defence Minister, Prince Muhammad bin Salman.

The meeting between Mamluk and Salman was the most unexpected and surprising of all; reports about it prevailed over all other Syrian developments this week.

These Arab moves followed the Essebsi government's reopening of the Tunisian representative office in Damascus. The Tunisian announcement was clearly a step towards the resumption of political relations between the two countries.

There are those who see these Arab moves on the Syrian crisis as part of a much wider international dynamism, spearheaded by Washington and Moscow with the aim of exploring new avenues for political resolution. These people point to the recent Tehran Declaration about a new Iranian initiative on Syria, which seems to reflect a growing realisation in Russia and Iran that the fate of Assad's government has been sealed and that it has become necessary now to search for a safe alternative that is capable of securing the interests of both Tehran and Moscow in Syria.

They also note the statements made by Turkish President Erdogan, where he said he noticed some change in the Russian stance toward Syria; and the statements made by US President Obama, in which he said he could see a light at the end of the Syrian tunnel.

Equally significant, from the point of view of the optimists, was the Doha meeting between the foreign ministers of the United States and Russia, which indicates an imminent agreement between Washington and Moscow on a political solution for the Syrian crisis.

Such a reading may or may not be accurate, considering that neither Iran nor Russia, who have provided fundamental support for Assad's government, have yet to show any substantive change in their stance on the crisis.

Nor have they decided to accept Syria without Assad and the ruling class surrounding him. However, whether such a reading reflects reality or not, there are indications that the new Arab moves on Syria possess a specific logic of their own, irrespective of whether an international or regional perspective for resolving the crisis exists.

Arab sources close to the developments of the Syrian crisis have confirmed that Egypt, the UAE, Jordan and Oman have agreed between themselves to restore relations with Damascus with the aim of rehabilitating Assad's government.

It would seem that the faint and ineffective Arab reactions to the Tunisian decision to restore relations with Assad had encouraged these states to expedite their steps toward rapprochement with Damascus.

This group of Arab states is receiving support from Russia; yet, this group of Arab states does not wish to make its move towards Damascus before seeking the support, or at least the non-objection, of Saudi Arabia.

It seems that the meeting between Mamluk and Bin Salman, which was arranged by Egypt, the UAE and Russia, took place within the context of the endeavour to change the Saudi position vis-a-vis Assad and his government.

What is astonishing is that the renewed Arab dynamism toward Damascus is coming at a time when the noose is tightened around the neck of the Syrian government and the Iranian expansionist project in the region.

During the past few months, Syrian revolutionaries made major advances along the northern and southern fronts, especially within the provinces of Idlib and Daraa.

At the moment when Mamluk was meeting Bin Salman, two groups of Syrian revolutionary forces were marching toward the countrysides of both Latakia and Hama in the north, and into the province of Suwaida in the south, as well as toward al-Mazza airport in the Damascus countryside.

Perhaps the recent speech by Assad, in which he admitted for the first time that his troops had retreated from important positions in order to be able to keep other ones, is the most significant indication of the government's inability to face the rapid transformations on the battlefield.

No one is saying that this protracted conflict over Syria is about to be resolved militarily. Yet, it is clear that the balance of power is shifting in favour of the Syrian people and their revolution.

Such transformation is paralleled by a tangible decline of the Iranian project in Yemen and a complicated crisis for the Iranian situation in Iraq.

Since the start of the Syrian revolution, the Assad government tied its destiny, to a large extent, to the fate of its allies in Iran. It is no wonder then that government losses parallel a decline in the Iranian project for regional expansion.

**Why, then, do some Arab states seek to rehabilitate Assad at the moment when there are increasing signs that he is beginning to lose ground?**

**The group of states that endeavour to rehabilitate the Assad government are known to be either counter-revolutionary coup-states, such as Egypt, or non-coup states, such as Tunisia, or states that represent main forces within the counter-revolutionary movement in the Arab world, such as the UAE and Jordan, or states that are very close to Iran, such as Oman.**

**This group of Arab states has no sympathy whatsoever for the Syrian people and their revolution. They do not care in the least whether a political solution for the Syrian crisis is reached or not.**

Although many of these states view with concern the Iranian expansion in the region, their greater concern emanates from the prospects of victory for the Syrian revolution.

What they dread most is the transformation of Syria into a free, democratic country in which the government expresses the will and choice of the people.

**Just as the Arab counter-revolutionary states worked for the abortion of the process of transformation toward freedom and democracy in Egypt, Tunisia and Libya in the summer of 2013, and just as they are exploiting their participation in the Yemeni war for aborting the process of transformation in Yemen, they now believe that rehabilitating the Assad government is the only means left for defeating the Arab revolution in Syria.**

**The Saudi position will, undoubtedly, have a major role in effecting the success or failure of the project of saving the Assad government.**

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## **POLICE WAR REPORTS**

**“U.S. Cops Are Already By Far  
The Most Lethally Aggressive  
And Demonstrably Racist In The  
Developed World”**



**“In The Black Community The  
Cops’ Job Is Not To Protect The  
Residents”**

**“It Is To Contain, Control And  
Terrorize The Population”**

**“Those Who Try To Portray Cops As  
Victims Of ‘Dangerous National Rhetoric’  
Are Simply Attempting To Silence The  
Real Victims Of Police Terror”**



09/01/2015 by Glen Ford, Black Agenda Report

Harris County, Texas, Sheriff Ron Hickman claims that one of his deputies, Darren Goforth, was shot to death “because he wore a uniform.”

Goforth was gunned down while filling up his tank at a Houston gas station. Shannon Miles, the 30 year-old Black man charged in the killing, has a history of mental illness.

**Of course, a Black person doesn’t have to be crazy to want to harm a cop.**

**But, cop-killing in the United States is actually quite rare, when compared to the huge number of civilian lives snuffed out by folks that wear “the uniform.”**

**If there is some kind of war with the cops, as Sheriff Hickman deceptively infers, then it's a very one-sided conflict.**

We will never know the full historical extent of police mayhem and murder, since U.S. authorities have never compelled local police departments to keep records of who they kill, and why. Withholding information is part of police impunity from punishment – or even criticism – in this country.

But, the cops are keen to keep track of their own casualties “in the line of duty” – which, it turns out, are at historically low levels.

An FBI study of police fatalities shows that an average of 64 police officers per year were feloniously killed between 1980 and 2014. Only 27 cops were killed in 2013, the lowest death toll for the whole 35-year period.

The next year, 2014, cop killings went up, with 51 officers dead. But, that's still way below the average of 64 a year.

This year, the number of felonious police deaths from all causes is on track to be about the same as in 2014.

**So, the statistics tell us that there has been no rash of attacks on cops. Those who try to portray cops as victims of what Sheriff Hickman calls “dangerous national rhetoric” are simply attempting to silence the real victims of police terror.**

Thanks to a process begun by the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement's 2012 “Operation Ghetto Storm” study of extrajudicial police killings of Black people, the civilized world is aghast at the bloodthirstiness of U.S. police.

As the Guardian newspaper reported earlier this summer, U.S. police kill more people in days than other countries kill in years.

For the first time, the names and pictures of the fallen are posted for planetary observation, so that the rest of the species can know how the U.S. government really feels about human rights. The figures are not yet in on the civilian body count for August, but July was the deadliest month this year for people who found themselves on the other side of police guns, tasers, chokeholds, and batons.

Civilians are also killing each other in large numbers, with homicides up in many cities.

The cops want you to believe that's because officers are being less aggressive in fear of being charged with brutality.

That's insane.

**First of all, U.S. cops are already by far the most lethally aggressive and demonstrably racist in the developed world, which is why one out of every eight prison inmates on the planet is an African American, and why the U.S. stands alone in police violence against civilians.**

Secondly, in the Black community, the cops' job is not to protect the residents. It is to contain, control and terrorize the population. Sheriff Hickman wants to get on with the business of police terror, because that's all he's good at.

For Black Agenda Radio, I'm Glen Ford. On the web, go to [BlackAgendaReport.com](http://BlackAgendaReport.com).

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## **3 California Deputies Arrested For Beating An Inmate To Death: “Michael James Pipkin Tyree, 31, Died Of Multiple Blunt Force Injuries, ‘Visceral Lacerations’ And Internal Bleeding” “Tyree, Naked And Covered In Feces And Vomit, Was Declared Dead By Responding Paramedics”**



The three Sheriff's deputies arrested for beating a man to death in his jail cell. The deputies are being charged with murder, conspiracy and assault under the color of authority.

04 September 15 By Associated Press & September 5, 2015 by Andrew Emett, NationofChange

Three Northern California jail guards have been arrested after an inmate under their watch was found dead of multiple blunt trauma, authorities said.

Santa Clara County sheriff's spokesman Sgt. James Jensen said Thursday that the deputies — Rafael Rodriguez, 27, Jereh Lubrin, 28, and Matthew Farris, 27 — remain in custody without bail.

Medical Examiner Dr. Joseph O'Hara said that Michael James Pipkin Tyree, 31, died of multiple blunt force injuries, "visceral lacerations" and internal bleeding.

Santa Clara County Sheriff Laurie Smith, her voice breaking and eyes tearing up, apologized Thursday to Tyree's family and said "the disappointment and disgust I feel cannot be overstated." She was flanked by 18 uniformed officers, and at least another dozen members of her agency in plain clothes attended a news conference.

She said the three officers, who she called "accused murderers," were treated as anyone else as they were handcuffed, booked and locked in protective custody in the same jail where Tyree was killed. They've since been transferred to an unnamed facility for their own protection, she said.

Exactly what happened leading up to Tyree's death remains murky.

Witnesses have recently come forward asserting that the deputies entered the victim's cell and viciously beat him to death as he begged for mercy.

Although he had already served his five-day sentence, the victim remained in police custody for two weeks while waiting for a bed to open up at a nearby mental health hospital.

Last Thursday, Tyree and other inmates in his jail wing were securely locked in their cells when the beating apparently took place.

Held on misdemeanor drug and theft charges, Tyree was sentenced to five days at Santa Clara County Jail. While waiting to be transferred to Momentum Crisis Residential, a 24-hour adult treatment program, Tyree was kept in a wing of Santa Clara County Jail that houses inmates in protective custody or who have special needs.

**On the evening of August 26, inmates witnessed three guards enter Tyree's cell to conduct a routine search.**

**Locked up directly across the hall from Tyree, Juan Perez watched deputies Matthew Farris, Jereh Lubrin, and Rafael Rodriguez through the bottom window of his cell. Perez and several other inmates heard the guards assaulting Tyree for roughly 20 minutes as he screamed in agony and begged for mercy.**

Smith refused to provide details but said the three officers were conducting a routine clothing search and left the wing.

She said about an hour later one officer re-entered the cell and issued a "man down" call. Tyree, naked and covered in feces and vomit, was declared dead by responding paramedics.

Smith said she apologized directly to two of Tyree's sisters earlier Thursday, and repeated her "profound sorrow" over his death.

Smith said the day after Tyree was declared dead, the guards — who had begun working their regular shift — were removed from duty, stripped of their weapons, uniforms and peace officer status. It took several more days for them to be arrested.

They currently are on unpaid administrative leave, Smith said.

Attorney Paula Canny, representing Tyree's family, commended the sheriff for an "extraordinary" response. "This could have been dragged out," Canny said.

Canny urged community members to think about "how we, as a system, treat mentally ill people" and said she hopes the district attorney will bring the officers to justice.

Raj Jayadev, director of local civil rights organization Silicon Valley De-Bug which works to support families of people in the criminal justice system, said he hopes there are investigations into other abuse complaints at the county jail.

His organization has heard frequent claims, he said, but filing complaints is challenging because it can put inmates at additional risk.

He said he's hopefully Smith was sincere in her commitment to fully investigate.

Attempts to reach relatives of the deputies were unsuccessful Thursday.

Tyree was homeless and awaiting to be transferred to a mental-health facility when he died. He was serving a 5-day sentence on a petty theft charge.

A former girlfriend told the San Jose Mercury news that Tyree had hoped for a life of peace and tried, although unsuccessfully, to keep his bipolar disorder in check.

Lindsay Solomon, who dated Tyree when she was a teenager in Coral Springs, Florida, told the paper he could get "very agitated and agitate someone else. I could see it escalating."

"But if you're a police officer, or a guard, you should have better judgment than that," she told the newspaper.

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## **Florida Deputy Stops Black Man On Bike: "He Thought The Way Stephens Rode His Bike Was Suspicious"**

# **“He Thought The Way Stephens Got Off His Bike Was Suspicious” Cop Shoots Him 4 Seconds Later Leaving Him Paralyzed From The Waist Down**

April 25, 2015 Pat Beall and Lawrence Mower, Palm Beach Post

On the last morning of the last day Dontrell Stephens could still walk, the 20-year-old was bicycling across Haverhill Road, talking to a friend on a cellphone.

A truck slowed as he rode against traffic.

Palm Beach County Sheriff’s deputy Adams Lin was watching schoolchildren waiting for a bus.

Later, he would say he followed Stephens to give him a traffic ticket for not bicycling properly. But he also would acknowledge he was suspicious of Stephens, whom he had not seen in the neighborhood before that morning, according to court records.

He intended to stop him, ask for identification and find out where he had come from and where he was going. He considered frisking him.

But Lin, who is of Asian descent, denied racially profiling Stephens, who is black, and wore his hair in long dreadlocks.

When Stephens turned down a side road, Lin followed, stepping on the gas, turning on the siren and then the lights.

**He thought the way Stephens rode his bike was suspicious. He thought the way Stephens got off his bike was suspicious.**

**And four seconds after Lin got out of his patrol car, he shot Stephens four times, leaving him paralyzed from the waist down.**

Lin said he opened fire because Stephens was reaching in his back waistband, possibly for a gun.

There was no gun.

**[For more about black males committing suicide by “reaching in their waistbands” for guns they do not have, see next article below. T]**

**An internal investigation and the State Attorney’s Office have both cleared Lin of the September 2013 use of force. It was a good shoot, they ruled.**

But the Stephens shooting illustrates key findings identified in a joint year-long Palm Beach Post/WPTV NewsChannel 5 investigation analyzing every officer-involved shooting in Palm Beach County and the Treasure Coast since 2000: In roughly one of every four shootings, Palm Beach County deputies fired at unarmed suspects.

The Department of Justice has criticized jurisdictions where the percentage of shootings at unarmed suspects was sharply lower.

**Deputies disproportionately shot at young black men, a third of whom were unarmed. Non-deadly force options, such as Tasers or batons, were seldom used prior to shooting. PBSO rarely found fault with a deputy's decision to shoot, sometimes basing its decisions on cursory or incomplete investigations.**

**All of those issues figured prominently in the Stephens shooting.**

Because Stephens is suing, Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw can't discuss the case. In a recent interview with The Post, though, Bradshaw acknowledged policies and procedures regarding shootings can always be improved as new "best practices" are adopted.

But Bradshaw said he believes PBSO has a firm grasp on its use of lethal force.

**And he emphasized another belief that he also voiced in the wake of the Stephens shooting: Do what the deputy says and no will be injured.**

**Just what Lin told Stephens to do, though, remains up in the air.**

The crucial seconds before the shooting when Lin and Stephens speak to one another can't be heard on the recording from the patrol car's dashboard-mounted camera.

The gunshots can.

In September 2013, Stephens had no job. He had recently served a few months in jail on a drug charge. But he also had no shortage of friends and a cousin who had offered to let him stay on her couch.

He had a little brother whom he played ball with, and whose shoes he was wearing when he hopped on a borrowed bike to get an energy drink at a corner store.

Nearby, Lin was sitting in his patrol car at Haverhill, watching schoolchildren waiting for a bus.

He had worked hard to get there. PBSO's Community Policing Deputy of the Year in 2010-11, Lin had applied at several law enforcement departments in South Florida before PBSO hired him in 2004 and, after a 2007 tour in Afghanistan, welcomed him back.

Stephens said later he had probably seen the deputy before he started biking across Haverhill, holding up a cracked black flip phone while talking to a friend.

Lin saw a truck slow to avoid hitting him.

That alone warranted a citation, Lin said later. But the deputy also said he was suspicious because he caught a glimpse of Stephens' face — enough to convince him Stephens was a stranger to the neighborhood.

Stephens turned down a side street toward his friend's house.

Lin turned in after him. Believing Stephens was running away from him, he "chirped" his siren, turned on his lights and hit the gas.

When Stephens then biked between a mailbox and a fence toward his friend's house, a shortcut Lin could not easily follow in his patrol car, the deputy considered that further evidence of Stephens' intent to flee.

The dashcam video shows that Stephens looks back, then continues about 20 more feet to his friend's house, where he gets off the bike. Lin is now even more convinced that Stephens is about to take off on foot, not because he got off the bike, but because he put both feet over the same side to do so.

"The manner he stopped and got off his bicycle was consistent with someone who had run from me in the past," Lin said in a deposition: a "rolling run" where someone jumped off with both feet on one side and just kept going.

What happened next happened fast, and mostly out of sight: Lin runs from his car. The deputy is out of range of the dashcam and can't be seen. Stephens walks toward the deputy, then also disappears from the dashcam video. There is no audible recording of either.

Three seconds pass.

The audio suddenly snaps with the sound of pops. Stephens abruptly moves back into view, almost as though he is turning to run.

He isn't running. He's falling.

In his right hand, he is clutching the cellphone.

Lin walks over to him and orders him to roll over on his stomach. He maintains a shooting stance a few feet from the wounded man, until backup arrives.

"He was hiding behind the car," a clearly shaken Lin said at the scene. "I'm just giving him commands, I'm taking cover behind this car as I'm giving him commands, all of a sudden his left hand goes like this.

"He starts backing away from me and as soon as he backs away I'm like, 'Get on the ground. Get on the ground.'

"And I'm like 'Oh, shit.' And I just threw three rounds."

It is the description of events Lin will tell and retell.



**He said Stephens had nothing in either hand, reached toward his back waistband and, Lin thought, raised what looked like a gun, "a dark black object," in his left hand.**

**Stephens did have something in one of his hands, but it was not a gun, not in his left hand and it had been visible all along:**

**It was his broken cellphone, seen on video as he crossed the road, as he approached his friend's house and in his right hand as he approached the deputy, arms at his side.**

Lin later would say he was shocked to see the phone when he reviewed the video recording.

Without specifically discussing the Lin case, Bradshaw points out that video doesn't always accurately reflect everything that is going on. Dashcams are OK, he said, "but they're not the whole ballgame."

Still, it's a crucial point. The shooting could be ruled justified whether Stephens had a gun or not, as long as Lin had good reason to believe he was about to be shot or killed.

**Courts have ruled that reaching for a gun — or even what appears to be a gun — after being commanded to stop moving can give an officer a valid reason to use lethal force.**

**But no one can hear what Lin commanded or what Stephens said.**

**And if Stephens had nothing in his left hand and an identifiable cellphone in his right, as the video indicates, the rationale for shooting him is weakened.**

Written reports clearing Lin by PBSO and the Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office don't address those discrepancies, and neither questions whether the armed pursuit of a bicyclist who had impeded one vehicle was appropriate.

**Although Stephens never touched Lin, PBSO initially wrote up Stephens for criminally assaulting the deputy who shot him.**

**That charge was later changed to refusing to obey a lawful order.**

Stephens' suit against PBSO and Lin is pending.

Lin was cleared to return to duty four days after the shooting. He remains with PBSO and has taught community policing and officer safety.

And though he regrets Stephens' injuries, the deputy said in a deposition that he would take the same shot again.

"What he (Stephens) did to me that day is what his choice was," Lin said. "He decided to reach with his left hand and pointed at me like it was a gun."

"I saw a black object. I'm not going to wait for a muzzle flash to show in my face. I'm not going to be behind the eight ball."

**MORE:**

## **There Is A Bizarre Urge Among Young, Unarmed Black Men To Provoke Their Own Murder By 'Reaching For Their Waistbands'" "If Police Accounts Are To Be Believed, This Compulsion Only Exists Among Young Black Men"**

November 28-30, 2014 by JOHN ESKOW, CounterPunch

If police accounts are to be believed, there is a bizarre urge among young, unarmed black men to provoke their own murder by "reaching for their waistbands" when cops are aiming service revolvers at them.

**Just this week we heard Officer Darren Wilson claim that one of the reasons he killed Michael Brown was that the young man "reached for his waistband," and – in what I guess was just an incredibly weird coincidence – we heard Cleveland police claim they killed a 12-year-old kid with a toy gun because he also "reached for his waistband."**

But this odd compulsion is not a new one.

In 2011, fully half of all the young black men shot by LA cops were cut down because—again, if police accounts are to be believed – they too were "reaching for their waistbands."

The epidemic also spread to Houston, where multiple police accounts cite the same excuse.

Oscar Grant, the young man killed by Oakland cops on a subway platform – and the subject of the movie "Fruitvale Station"—was shot for the exact same reason.

If police accounts are to be believed, this compulsion only exists among young black men.

I have been approached by angry or frustrated cops several times in my life – twice as an angry young protestor, eager to defy them – and have never felt even the slightest urge to reach for my waistband.

Maybe white skin contains a protein that protects against this terrible compulsion?

And exactly what is it that these dead young men were hoping to find in those waistbands?

Given the Cosby-condemned fashion of wearing saggy jeans, these kids have to reach pretty far down to reach their waistbands--a posture which would leave them completely defenseless against an armed cop.

What a powerful compulsion this must be!

I've spent a good amount of time on police ridearounds in New Orleans. If you want to see young black men, New Orleans at 3 AM is a good place to do so.

I remember one night as my cop hosts were rolling up slowly on a kid they suspected of a robbery: no shirt, Saints cap, saggy jeans exposing his boxer shorts. The kid sauntered on with an exaggerated cool: he knew the cops were watching him, and the cops knew that he knew. One of the cops poked my elbow, chuckled, and said: "Watch this. That kid's gonna break." "When?" I asked. "The second he reaches down to hitch up his drawers." As I watched, another cop counted down: "Three seconds to draw--hitchin'. Two...one..."

At just that second, the kid reached down, hitched up his drawas, and "broke"--took off sprinting down an alley. They pursued him for a while, then lost interest.

It was the only time I ever saw any gesture that was even vaguely waistband-related, and the kid only did it so that he could run without being tripped by his low-slung Levis.

Two weeks later, one of the cops in that squad car -- a funny guy, a seemingly decent guy, you would've liked him -- was briefly suspended, pending the investigation of an "incident" in which he shot and killed a young black man in the black man's own back yard.

The kid had reached for his waistband, if police accounts are to be believed.

My old squad-car host was cleared in a few days and returned to duty.

This has gone on far too long.

I am going to take my own mixed-race son to a neurologist today, if not sooner, to have him checked for traces of this horrible Waistband-Reaching Syndrome. I'm concerned that, one day, it could get him killed...

...if police accounts are to be believed.

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**MILITARY NEWS**

# **VA Lost 10,000 Health Applications: “Employees Incorrectly Marked Unprocessed Applications As Completed And May Have Deleted As Many As 10,000 Applications” Whistleblower “Who Still Works At VA But Says He Has Been Assigned A Lesser Job In A Secluded Office Since Raising The Issue With Congress And The Media”**

September 2, 2015 By Patricia Kime, Staff writer; Army Times [Excerpts]

The Veterans Affairs Department’s system for tracking veterans’ applications for health care is so unreliable that it’s impossible for VA officials to know how many former troops still want care — or even if they are still alive, according to a new report.

Investigating allegations made by a whistleblower in July that nearly a third of 847,882 veterans listed in the Veterans Health Administration enrollment system died while waiting for care, the VA Inspector General confirmed with the Social Security Administration that 307,000 former troops on the list are in fact deceased.

But investigators also found that the VA system cannot discern how many records in the system are associated with actual applications for health care, and more than half the records did not contain an associated date of application.

Investigators also found that employees incorrectly marked unprocessed applications as completed and may have deleted as many as 10,000 applications during the past five years

The system also shows a backlog of waiting patients. According to the IG report, 11,000 applications and 28,000 related transactions, some as old as September 2012, have not been processed.

The IG said the database, which includes the names of all VA patients as well as applicants whose military service needed to be confirmed, is inadequate for its intended task — to track progress of applications for medical care at VA.

"Enrollment program data were generally unreliable for monitoring, reporting on the status of health care enrollments and making decisions regarding overall processing timeliness, in spite of the costs to collect the data and maintain the enrollment system," inspectors wrote in the report, "Review of Alleged Mismanagement at the Health Eligibility Center."

For whistleblower and VA employee Scott Davis, the new IG report vindicates his decision to come forward with the issue.

Davis, who still works at VA but says he has been assigned a lesser job in a secluded office since raising the issue with Congress and the media, said Wednesday that he plans to send VA senior leaders and Congress his own set of recommendations.

They include bringing in an outside board to examine the databases and oversee improvements, and for VA to reinvigorate its commitment to help veteran patients and hold employees accountable.

"I'm hoping they'll take a look at my recommendations," Davis said. "Ultimately, my goal was to help. I didn't do this, as some people have accused, to make the VA look bad. I did it to fix the problem."

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**



**“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.**

**“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.**

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

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

**Frederick Douglass, 1852**

**It would be a fundamental mistake to suppose that the struggle for democracy can divert the proletariat from the socialist revolution, or obscure, or overshadow it, etc. On the contrary, just as socialism cannot be victorious unless it introduces complete democracy, so the proletariat will be unable to prepare for victory over the bourgeoisie unless it wages a many-sided, consistent, and revolutionary struggle for democracy.”**

**-- V. I. Lenin, Collected Works, 4th English Edition; Vol. 22**

**“Then Begins The Epoch Of Social  
Revolution”**

**[Took Long Enough To Get Here]**

“At a certain stage of their development, the material productive forces of society come in conflict with the existing relations of production, or – what is but a legal expression for the same thing – with the property relations within which they have been at work hitherto.

“From forms of development of the productive forces these relations turn into their fetters.

“Then begins an epoch of social revolution.”

-- K. Marx and F. Engels, Selected Works, Vol. I.

**MORE:**

## **“Requirements To Become The Liberating Class Par Excellence”**

“No class in civil society can play this part unless it calls forth a phase of enthusiasm in its own ranks and those of the masses: a phase when it fraternizes and intermingles with society in general, is identified with society, is felt and recognized to be the universal representative of society, and when its own demands and rights are really the demands and rights of society itself, and it is in truth the social head and the social heart.

“Only in the name of society and its rights in general can a particular class vindicate its general domination. “The position of liberator cannot be taken by storm, simply through revolutionary energy and intellectual self-confidence.

“If the emancipation of a particular class is to be identified with the revolution of a people, if one social class is to be treated as the whole social order, then, on the other hand, all the deficiencies of society must be concentrated in another class; a definite class must be the universal stumbling-block, the embodiment of universal fetters ...

“If one class is to be the liberating class par excellence, then another class must contrariwise be the obvious subjugator.

“The general negative significance of the French aristocracy and clergy determined the general positive significance of the bourgeoisie, the class immediately confronting and opposing them.”

-- Karl Marx; Contribution to the Critique of the Hegelian Philosophy of Right (Deutsch-Französische Jahrbücher, 1844).

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## CLASS WAR REPORTS

# **Que Viva Trumpismo! “16,000 People Have Been Deported Or Fled From Venezuela” “Aug. 19 President Nicolás Maduro Abruptly Ordered The Country’s Normally Porous Western Border Closed And Colombian Citizens Out”**

Sept. 4, 2015 By Sara Schaefer Muñoz, Wall Street Journal

CÚCUTA, Colombia—For her son Jurgen’s 10th birthday, Julien Quiseno planned to make him a small cake and invite a few relatives to celebrate in her cinder-block home on the edge of San Antonio de Táchira, Venezuela.

But two weeks ago, Venezuelan soldiers showed up at her house, escorted her away, and deported her for being Colombian and residing in Venezuela without residency papers.

Now in a temporary shelter in this border town, she missed Jurgen’s birthday on Thursday. The boy, his two brothers and Ms. Quiseno’s mother, who are all Venezuelan citizens, remain on the other side.

“It’s been so bad, so hard,” said Ms. Quiseno, a 31-year-old single mother with serious, dark eyes and a long, straight ponytail. “But there will be other years, other birthdays. I just have to wait.”

**Ms. Quiseno is one of more than 16,000 people the United Nations says have been deported or fled from Venezuela since Aug. 19, when President Nicolás Maduro abruptly ordered the country’s normally porous western border closed and Colombian citizens out.**

Mr. Maduro, whose ruling socialist party faces a tough election battle in December, blames illegal Colombian immigrants for rampant crime and the food shortages that plague Venezuela.

**[NOTE: The Wall Street Journal labels the Venezuelan regime “socialist” in order to smear socialist politics. The Maduro regime presides over a mix of private and state capitalism. Socialist economic relations are complete social ownership of the means of production, with democratic control of those means of production**



**by an elected working class government after the old capitalist state is destroyed. The notion that there is anything of the kind in Venezuela is silly. The present government of Venezuela is an oil-based kleptocracy, in the toilet now with the violent drop in oil prices. T.]**

Hers is one of the many tens of thousands of lives thrown into turmoil along this normally bustling frontier. Families have been pulled apart. Uprooted Colombians are pouring back into their homeland seeking food and shelter, many of them hauling appliances, furniture and other precious possessions across the Táchira River that separates the two countries.

The communities along this 1,378-mile-long border have for decades been home to families of both nationalities, with the metropolitan area around Cúcuta and San Antonio comprising three million people, many of them cross-border commuters.

The thousands of people who made a living from goods flowing back and forth over the border—both legal and illegal, from currency dealers to resellers of subsidized Venezuelan gasoline—have seen their activities grind to a halt.

“I’ve done this my whole life,” said 42-year-old Oscar Medina, who works with his father exchanging money from a black pouch at a bridge between the two countries. On Thursday, there was no traffic and barbed-wire barriers had been flung across the once-clogged thoroughfare.

“Now what job can we get?” he asked.

In a nearby parking lot on the Colombian side, five tractor-trailers with Venezuelan license plates sat abandoned. They were fully loaded with tons of Colombian coal intended for export overseas through a Venezuelan port. Their drivers, who live on the Venezuelan side, haven’t been able to return, said the parking lot administrator, Javier Niño.

**On one bridge over the border river, several hundred Venezuelan citizens waited Thursday in the hot sun, hoping to go home. Many had been visiting relatives in Colombia but found the border closed when they tried to go back.**

**“Imagine getting home and you are not allowed in,” fumed 49-year-old Mari González, dragging her suitcase across the bridge when she and the others were at last allowed across by Venezuelan authorities. “What a huge lack of respect.”**

On Friday, Venezuela’s government permitted what Colombian authorities called “a humanitarian corridor” so schoolchildren who live in Venezuela but study in Colombia could attend classes. The day before, Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos said in a televised speech he would be open to meeting with Mr. Maduro, as long as that and other conditions were met.

Mr. Santos also requested that Venezuela permit trucks to enter and retrieve the belongings of those Colombians forced to leave Venezuela. “Colombians need their fundamental rights respected,” he said.

Mr. Santos has been on the diplomatic offensive, inviting the ambassadors of more than a dozen countries this week to see the troubled border. On Saturday the secretary general of the Organization of American States, Luis Almagro, was scheduled to visit the area.

The Santos government, meanwhile, has moved quickly to address the influx of Colombians. This hot, wind-swept region already suffers from higher-than-average unemployment. Government officials have set up shelters in schools and gymnasiums with tents, meals and medical assistance for more than 3,300 people, according to police figures.

The border shutdown has underscored how much this bustling city relied on contraband. Because Venezuela heavily subsidizes gasoline and food, many families here have long made a living buying those cheap products in Venezuela and reselling them here. Venezuela's currency, which has plunged on the black market against the Colombian peso, has made profit margins even larger for contraband dealers.

On the Venezuelan side, meanwhile, people have come to depend on medicine, cellphones and motorcycle parts from Colombia, all of which are in short supply in Venezuela.

With the border closed, those goods aren't getting through and black-market prices are climbing. This week, many of the usually busy roadside stands in Colombia that sell Venezuelan gasoline were unattended, leaving empty canisters that usually hold the fuel blowing around in the hot wind.

Colombian Interior Minister Juan Fernando Cristo estimated that some 5,000 families live from selling contraband gasoline. On Friday, he announced a working group to help such citizens receive professional training and find other forms of employment.

Others, like Carlos Guitierrez, had a legitimate job, but now can't get to work. Mr. Guitierrez lives here in Cúcuta but worked at a small shoe factory in Venezuela. On Thursday, he was lurking among some low trees on the banks of the river, seeing if he could sneak across and get to his job. He explained that he was out of money.

But Venezuelan soldiers lined the bank on the other side.

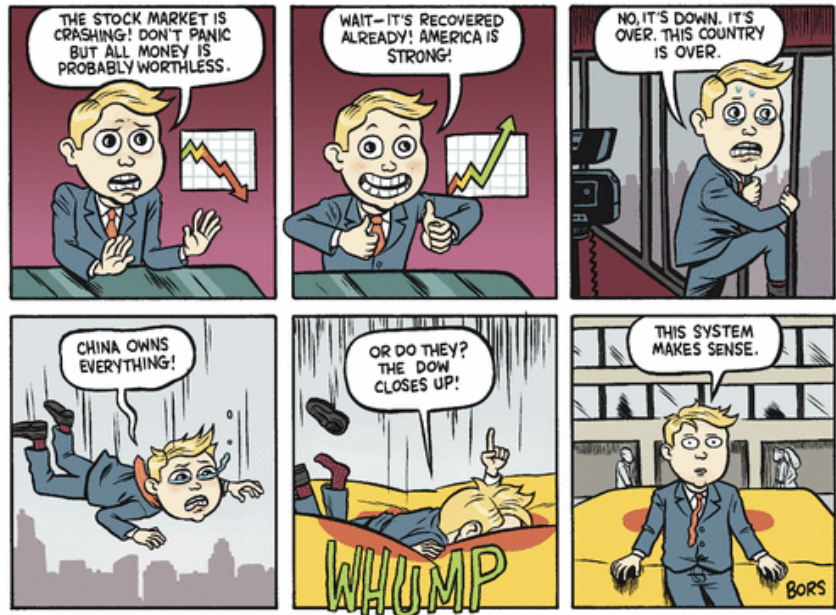
"This fight between the countries isn't going anywhere," he said. "I really hope they come up with a solution soon. It has totally messed up everything."

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## DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



## OCCUPATION PALESTINE

# Heroic Zionist Occupiers Shoot 11 Year-Old Palestinian Child Inside Free Gaza

September 04, 2015 by IMEMC News & Agencies

Israeli forces shot and injured a Palestinian child near the shores of the Beit Lahiya village in the northern Gaza Strip, medics said.

Medics told Ma'an News Agency that Bilal Abu Amro, aged 11, was shot in the thigh while he was with his father, a fisherman.

He was taken to Kamal Adwan hospital for treatment.

An Israeli army spokesperson told Ma'an they were unaware of the incident.

Palestinian fishermen making a living off of the shores of the besieged Gaza Strip face daily risks, including routine harassment from Israeli naval forces, confiscation of boats and materials, detention, and potentially death.

**At least three Palestinian fishermen have been shot dead by Israeli forces since September. Israeli forces often allege that fishermen deviate from the designated fishing zone and pose a security threat.**

The exact limits of the zone set by Israeli authorities are often ambiguous, and authorities have not abided by the fishing zone agreed upon in last summer's ceasefire agreement, rights groups say.

The attacks come despite Israeli promises at the end of last summer's ceasefire to ease restrictions on Palestinian access to both the sea and the border region near the "security buffer zone".

On July 31, Mohammad Hamid al-Masri, 17, was shot by Israeli forces and died instantly north of Beit Lahiya near the border fence.

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## **Heroic Zionist Occupiers Order Destruction Of Palestinian Football Field: “Anyone Who Chose To Object To The Order Would Be Fined And Forced To Pay Demolition And Removal Fees”**

Aug. 21, 2015 Ma'an

JERUSALEM -- An Israeli court has ruled to demolish a football field and its facilities in occupied East Jerusalem, a local committee said Thursday.

The owners of the property, located in the Palestinian neighborhood of Silwan, received a demolition order in the mail over 70 days after the court had passed the ruling at the beginning of June, the Wadi Hilweh Information Center said.

The "demolition and removal" order had allowed for an appeal to be lodged within 30 days of the ruling.

The ruling includes the demolition of a 1.5 dunam sports field as well as a neighboring warehouse and animal shed.

**Silwan committee member Ahmad Qaraeen said the ruling required that anyone who chose to object to the order would be fined and forced to pay demolition and removal fees.**

**He added that Israeli authorities are aware that the owners of the land -- the heirs to Atallah Siyam -- regularly allowed the area to be used by Mada Creative center for activities.**

**Qareen said that the Israeli municipality attempted to confiscate the land in 2007 and turn it into a parking lot, but that the move was appealed in court and the land owners built a football field on the property in 2009 after receiving approval from the central court.**

**In 2012, the Israeli Nature and Parks Authority demolished several of the family's facilities under the pretense of "removing trash," he added.**

Silwan is one of many Palestinian neighborhoods in occupied East Jerusalem that is seeing an influx of Israeli settlers at the cost of the demolition of Palestinian homes and eviction of Palestinian families.

Israeli authorities have carried out around 370 demolitions of Palestinian property in occupied East Jerusalem and the West Bank since the start of 2015, displacing an estimated 432 residents, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

**Thousands of Palestinian residents are at risk of losing their homes, as members of the current right-wing Israeli government continue to champion longstanding policies to obtain a Jewish majority in East Jerusalem.**

East Jerusalem was occupied by Israel in 1967 in a move never recognized by the international community, and four decades of Israeli policy in the area have neglected the Palestinian community while fostering the growth of Jewish settlement.

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## **Settlers Grab Large Building In East Jerusalem: "Aim Is To Expel Palestinians From Their Land In East Jerusalem And The West Bank, And Take Over That Land For Jewish-Only Settlements"**

September 01, 2015 by Celine Hagbard - IMEMC News

Early Tuesday morning, the Israeli military accompanied a large group of Israeli settlers as they moved into a formerly Palestinian-owned building in the Silwan neighborhood in East Jerusalem. The arrival of the soldiers and settlers in the neighborhood led to clashes with stone-throwing youth, who were attacked by the soldiers.

The settlers broke into the main door of the building with the assistance of the soldiers.

They then moved themselves and their belongings into the building, to take over the property as part of the colonization effort currently underway in East Jerusalem.

According to the Wadi Hilweh Information Center in Silwan, the settlers claim to be part of the Ateret Cohanim organization, which is an extreme right colonial-settler organization whose aim is to expel Palestinians from their land in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, and then take over that land for Jewish-only settlements.

The property occupied by the settlers on Tuesday is directly adjacent to one that was taken over by around 60 settlers 4 days ago.

In that case, according to the Wadi Hilweh Information Center, the Palestinian owner allegedly made a secret deal for an undisclosed sum of money to sell the property to the right-wing group.

That building was owned by a member of the Sarhan family, Jamal Sarhan. The takeover of that building last Thursday created the biggest settlement outpost in the Middle Neighborhood after Bet Yonatan. It is located in a strategic place and overlooks Al-Aqsa Mosque and the town of Silwan and is in the middle of a densely populated residential neighborhood.

The Sarhan family has been a major target of Ateret Cohanim over the past several years, as the family owns a large section of property in what's known as the 'Middle Neighborhood'. The properties consist of around 35 residential buildings housing some 300 Palestinians.

Earlier this month, the Ateret Cohanim organization handed eviction notices to the Palestinian owners, claiming that they had obtained a judgment in their favor in the Israeli court system. They threatened the owners, saying they must settle out of court by selling their property to Ateret Cohanim, or face being forcibly evicted by the military.

According to Wadi Hilweh Information Center, the houses of the Sarhan family fall within the plan of "Ateret Cohanim" to seize 5200 square meters from the neighborhood of "Middle Neighborhood" in the area of Batn Al-Hawa.

The center also mentioned that the settlers' attempt to seize land in Batn Al-Hawa started 8 years ago using a variety of tactics. Over the past 8 years, dozens of families have been handed eviction notices.

The Wadi Hilweh Information Center added that among the methods used by Ateret Cohanim to seize property in Batn Al-Hawa is to claim that the residents changed the building or added to the already existing property which makes them lose the "protected tenant" classification.

Following the takeover of the property Tuesday morning, local youth clashed with the invading soldiers, throwing stones at the soldiers, as the soldiers attacked the youth with concussion grenades and tear gas.

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

<http://www.maannews.net/eng/Default.aspx> and  
<http://www.palestinemonitor.org/list.php?id=ej898ra7yff0ukmf16>

The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."

## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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