

Military Resistance 14A14



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "And off to war we go!"]

**Haitians Take Arms And
Go To The Streets To
Force Cancellation Of
Fake "Election" Backed
By Obama Regime:**

“Protesters Who Expected A Rigged Outcome Began To Block Roads And Burn Voting Centers”

“Gunshots Could Be Heard As Rocks Were Pelted At Buildings”

“Packs Of Protesters Threw Rocks In Pétionville, Home To The City’s Elite”

“Protesters In The Capital Marched In The Streets, Promising Stepped Up Violence And Vowing That ‘Guns Would Become Legal’ By Evening”



Protesters on Friday in the Pétionville area of Port-au-Prince. Credit Bahare Khodabande, European Pressphoto Agency



Haitian expresses his opinion of the would-be dictator backed by the Obama regime.
(Reuters)

JAN. 22, 2016 By FRANCES ROBLES, New York Times & January 23, 2016 IBTimes Co., Ltd [Excerpts]

PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti — A runoff election to choose the next president of Haiti was delayed on Friday, less than 48 hours before it was to take place, as protesters who expected a rigged outcome began to block roads and burn voting centers.

Haiti, the Western Hemisphere's poorest country, has been mired in an election-related political impasse since October, when 54 candidates ran for president in a race that opposition leaders and human rights groups said was mired in fraud.

The current president's handpicked successor, Jovenel Moïse, a banana exporter who was a virtual unknown in Haiti, officially came in first with 32.8 percent of the vote.

Jude Célestin, a former state construction company official who was ousted from the 2010 race after election fraud, came in second with 25 percent. Mr. Célestin has refused to campaign and was boycotting the second round.

Rights organizations said the October election had been deeply troubled, because more than 900,000 political party monitors were accredited to observe the voting, in a process that was poorly supervised and paved the way for people to cast multiple ballots.

The indelible ink to mark voters' thumbs took hours to appear, and party militants with the special accreditations took advantage of that window to vote over and over, the groups alleged. Party poll watchers cast more than half the nation's votes.

But the United States and the Organization of American States said their observers did not see widespread trickery, and a scientific quick count method showed the results of the race were accurate, despite the problems with the first round of voting.

The Obama administration has expressed concern that if a successor was not elected, the result would be an unconstitutional power vacuum.

American diplomats were criticized here for pressuring Haiti to push forward, despite the widespread belief that the electoral council had designed the electoral process to facilitate fraud.

The State Department did not respond on Friday afternoon to a request for comment on the runoff delay.

Sporadic bursts of violence continued in Port-au-Prince even after the announcement, as packs of protesters threw rocks in Pétionville, home to the city's elite.

Gunshots could be heard as rocks were pelted at buildings.

Protesters in the capital marched in the streets, promising stepped up violence and vowing that "guns would become legal" by evening. Many people demanded the president's resignation.

In Delmas 75, a Port-au-Prince neighborhood, one man proudly displayed bullets to the growing crowd, holding three in his mouth and two in his raised arms.

"They lost control of the streets," said Simon Desras, a former senator. "They were planning to organize an election for one candidate. Jovenel running against Mr. Jovenel."

One protester, who identified himself as John, said, "The country's problem is that the government wanted to move ahead with the elections and the people are against it. The elections cannot run with one candidate."

President of Haiti's electoral council Pierre Louis Opont said the vote has now been postponed, but did not specify when it would be held. Newly appointed senators in the country voted almost unanimously to push the election back, after the Catholic church, business leaders and election experts all warned against it.

MORE:

Tunisians Go To The Streets:

Unrest Spreading Over Lack Of Jobs And Income Inequality; “You Cannot Eat Freedom” “Violence In Kasserine, One Of The Poorest Cities In Tunisia, Has Since Spread To Eight More Towns And Cities”

22 January 2016 by Chris Stephen in Tunis, Guardian News and Media Limited

“We have the freedom, but you cannot eat freedom,” said one unemployed graduate, Saber Gharbi, “There is a big similarity between 2011 and now. The same people are in the street for the same reason.”

“It’s been four years I’ve been struggling. We’re not asking for much, but we’re fighting for our youth. We’ve struggled so much for them,” Leila Omri, the mother of an unemployed graduate in Kasserine, told Associated Press.

In the clashes on Friday, molotov cocktails were thrown at police while gangs of youths looted shops, warehouses and a bank in the capital’s Ettahamen and Sidi Hassan districts.

The prime minister, Habib Essid, cut short a visit to the World Economic Forum in Davos and was due to meet a delegation of protesters.

The country is already under a state of emergency, which was declared after a suicide bomber killed 12 members of the presidential guard in central Tunis in November.

Rioting against unemployment began last Sunday, when a young protester, Ridha Yahyoui, angry at being denied a government job, scaled a pylon in the southern town of Kasserine and was electrocuted.

Violence in Kasserine, one of the poorest cities in Tunisia, has since spread to eight more towns and cities. Riot police, troops and armoured cars have been deployed along the capital’s leafy Habib Bourguiba Avenue.

In Tunisia’s Arab spring revolution, the spark for dissent was also the death of a young protester, a market trader who set himself ablaze in the town of Sidi Bouzid. Within a month the dictator Ben Ali had fled and democracy was proclaimed.

But while Tunisia’s democracy has endured, even as the fellow Arab spring states Egypt, Libya and Syria have fallen into war or dictatorship, prosperity has not come with it.

Joblessness now stands at 15%, higher than the 12% at the time of the revolution. The International Labour Organisation reports that among young people the figure is double the national average, at 32%, rising to 40% in rural areas.

The World Bank says economic reform has been frustrated by the inability of successive governments to grapple with byzantine laws enacted to benefit the elite of the Ben Ali regime.

“Tunisia has become a more, not less, unequal society in the past decade,” the World Bank said in a recent report.

“Its richer coast is at odds with its poorer interior. Its largest coastal cities – Tunis, Sfax and Sousse – account for a whopping 85% of its GDP and most of its industries and services.”

The economy was also hit hard by terrorist attacks last year at the capital’s Bardo museum and a beach resort in Sousse. There have been mass hotel closures and fears for the jobs of 400,000 Tunisians employed by the tourism industry.

Away from the coastal cities, a climate of hopeless and despair has taken root among the young.

“Politically, Tunisia has done well, the political transition has succeeded, but the economic side has been a disaster,” said Michael Willis, an Oxford University professor.

“You still have the old corrupt structures of the Ben Ali regime in place. I think this (protest) has been coming for a while.”

Compounding the economic misery has been falling demand from Europe, which accounts for nearly three-quarters of Tunisia’s exports.

Meanwhile, the country is dealing with the fallout from civil war in neighbouring Libya. And domestic politics are also fraught, with the ruling Nidaa Tounes (Call of Tunisia) party split in a leadership crisis over the enhanced role of President Beji Caïd Essebsi’s son Hafedh, who party rebels complain is being groomed as his father’s successor.

Western powers have promised more support, with the United States quadrupling security aid and the European Union promising more assistance. The country’s profile was boosted last month when the Nobel peace prize was awarded to a quartet of civic organisations praised for preserving democracy during a political crisis two years ago.

MORE:

Moldovans Go To The Streets In “A Rejection Of The Current Governing Class”

“Anger Over A \$1 Billion Corruption Scandal And The Influence Of An Oligarch” “Thousands Of People In The Capital Chisinau Again Took To The Streets On Friday” “Demonstrators Breaking Into Parliament”

"We all decided to come together in unison against this criminal regime."

"We have abandoned party flags and party symbols. We have only one demand: to return democracy to the country."

1.22.15 By Anatol Golya, AFP

Chisinau - Anger over a \$1 billion corruption scandal and the influence of an oligarch, with the competing pull of Europe and Russia in the background, has left ex-Soviet Moldova locked in a complex political crisis with no end in sight.

Thousands of people in the capital Chisinau again took to the streets on Friday calling for early elections after a new government -- the third in less than a year -- was approved on Wednesday despite demonstrators breaking into parliament and opposition lawmakers trying to halt the vote.

The rallies are the latest eruption in months of political turmoil which has dogged the impoverished nation of 3.5 million. It was triggered by a \$1-billion (910-million-euro) corruption scam that led to the arrest of a former premier in October.

"The country has been de facto ungoverned over the past year and corruption has increased," analyst Nicu Popescu from the European Union Institute for Security Studies told AFP.

"This has led to significant frustration and a rejection of the current governing class from both pro-European segments of the population and from eurosceptic segments."

Wedged between Ukraine and Romania, Moldova is often seen in terms of a tug-of-war between Moscow and the West, especially after it inked an historic EU association agreement in 2014 despite bitter opposition from former master Russia.

But the current protests have seen both nominally pro-Western and pro-Russian forces from the right and left temporarily put aside their differences to challenge a ruling elite they accuse of using pro-European rhetoric to cover up rampant corruption.

"We all decided to come together in unison against this criminal regime," pro-EU opposition leader Andrei Nastase told protestors on Friday.

"We have abandoned party flags and party symbols. We have only one demand: to return democracy to the country."

Around 78 percent of Moldova's population is ethnic Romanian, while Ukrainians and Russians account for around 14 percent.

The starting point for protesters was the one billion dollars -- a sizeable chunk of Moldova's gross domestic product -- that went missing from the banking system in 2014.

Former prime minister Vlad Filat was arrested in October over allegations he was involved in the scam, but outrage continues over a failure to fully investigate the theft.

"The stolen billion was the worst possible confirmation of what people suspected might be going on in terms of lack of integrity among the political class," analyst Popescu said.

Now, the protesters are focusing their wrath on the figure of oligarch Vlad Plahotniuc, an energy and banking tycoon who is seen as the grey cardinal of Moldovan politics and the man pulling the strings of the new government under Pavel Filip.

"The best thing that the new government of Filip could do is to resign," said Chisinau-based economist Elena Gorelova.

"The appointment of the new government has just meant a deepening of the political crisis in Moldova.

"And this isn't just a crisis between different political groups, it is a standoff between the people and the authorities."

MORE:

**“Markets Reeling Around The
Globe”
“Years Of Disappointing
Progress” And “Continuing**

Failure Of Large Western Economies To Break Out Of A Multiyear Slump”

Wall Street Journal Quote A Sure Sign It’s Time To Panic: “It’s Like You Woke Up Jan. 2 And All Of A Sudden Everyone Decided The World Is Falling Apart. We Reject That”

Jan. 22, 2016 By Dan Strumpf and Ben Eisen, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

A volatile start to the year—the Dow had fallen more than 550 points at one point on Wednesday, before paring losses to close the day off 249 points—had sent markets reeling around the globe amid concerns about whether an economic slowdown in China would spill over to the U.S.

On Friday, the Dow Jones Industrial Average climbed 1.3%, to 16093.51, up 0.7% on the week. A 9% rise in U.S. crude prices pushed oil back above \$30 a barrel.

Even so, the 7.6% drop in the Dow this year and a 13% decline in crude oil has left many investors unsettled. The sharp declines are part of a fundamental reassessment of global growth prospects, they said, reflecting years of disappointing progress and the limits of central-bank stimulus.

One view that is gaining credence: After years of predicting that economies racked by the 2008 bust would catch up with large postcrisis gains in financial markets, investors now are being forced to account for the economic turmoil in China, high debt and slowing growth in many emerging markets, and the continuing failure of large Western economies to break out of a multiyear slump.

“I think what’s happening here is a new equilibrium needs to be achieved,” said Ashwin Alankar, global head of asset allocation at Janus Capital Group Inc., the Denver mutual-fund firm with \$185 billion in assets.

Mr. Alankar, who helps manage \$1 billion at Janus, said the portfolios he oversees have been cutting their holdings of stocks, bonds and commodities in recent months, and boosting their holdings of cash.

He said he expects further declines in stocks and is particularly unnerved by the selloff in financial shares, which he said has preceded deep downdrafts in the

past. The KBW Nasdaq Bank Index of large U.S. commercial lenders is down 15% this year.

To be sure, the reassessment view isn't universally held.

Some analysts warn of a coming recession, despite broad expectations for continued growth around the world and generally sanguine U.S. economic data. Others play down the declines, saying they are driven by global market turbulence that likely will bear little impact on U.S. markets for the rest of 2016.

But many analysts said the January downdraft is primarily a belated recognition of the persistent failure of global growth to lift off.

Six months ago, the International Monetary Fund projected the global economy would expand 3.8% in 2016. After two downgrades, that projection now stands at 3.4%.

All told, the IMF has cut its full-year global growth forecasts nine times since January 2014. The group, which issues a growth outlook every quarter, expects the global economy will have expanded by 3.1% in 2015. A year ago, it projected a growth pace of 3.5%. Two years ago, the forecast stood at 3.9%.

Global growth isn't the only sore point.

Analysts expect profits for S&P 500 companies to fall 4.7% in the fourth quarter, which would mark the third consecutive period of declining company profits, the longest stretch of falling earnings since the depths of the financial crisis in 2009, according to FactSet.

Driving those declines: sharp drops in the prices of crude oil and energy-related companies and a 20% appreciation in the broad value of the U.S. dollar over the past year, which has punished the profits of U.S. multinational firms.

"Oil has gone down more and the dollar has gone up more and, therefore, earnings are under pressure," said Bob Doll, a portfolio manager at Nuveen Asset Management, which manages about \$130 billion.

Even so, valuations remain high by historical standards. At the end of last year, stocks in the S&P 500 traded at 18 times the past 12 months of earnings, according to FactSet. That figure has fallen to 16.2 this week, but that is still above the average price/earnings ratio over the past 10 years for the index of 15.7.

Still, many corporate executives said the volatility doesn't correspond with the strength of the U.S. economy.

"It's like you woke up Jan. 2 and all of a sudden everyone decided the world is falling apart," said Kelly King, the chief executive of BB&T Corp., one of the largest U.S. regional banks.

"We reject that."

Some investors remain skeptical.

Scott Migliori, chief investment officer for U.S. equities at Allianz Global Investors, which manages \$477 billion, said he is worried by the slowdown in the U.S. manufacturing sector.

Factory activity last year fell to its lowest level since 2009, according to the Institute of Supply Management.

Even more resilient areas of the U.S. economy, like housing and retail spending, have shown signs of slowing recently. Home building and retail sales both declined in December. Retail sales rose by the slowest pace since the end of the recession in 2009.

“It’s a bit of the contagion concern,” Mr. Migliori said.

Oil prices being lower are in general a positive for consumers...but you’re starting to see knock-on effects.”

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Seven Die In Kabul By Insurgent Car Bomb Targeting Occupation Regime TV Network Staff: “The Media Outlets That Are Serving The Interests Of The Invaders Should Take A Lesson From This”

Jan. 20, 2016 By Ehsanullah Amiri in Kabul and Margherita Stancati in Dubai, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

Seven people were killed by a Taliban car bomb in Kabul targeting staff of one of Afghanistan’s largest television networks on Wednesday, the latest in a wave of attacks that are shaking the country.

The blast reverberated across the city, striking along a major road close to the Russian Embassy, security officials said. It exploded next to a bus that was carrying staff of Tolo TV, a leading commercial station, and Tolo News, its sister news channel, said Tolo News head Lotfullah Najafizada.

“We condemn these terrorist attacks that kill innocent Afghans. We await for an update from security and government officials on the details of the attack,” Tolo TV said in a statement.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack on Tolo staff.

The group’s spokesman, Zabiullah Mujahid, in a text message said that it wouldn’t be the last attack on Tolo if the news channel fails to apologize to the movement for “spreading propaganda against the Islamic Emirate and encouraging immorality.”

He added: “The media outlets that are serving the interests of the invaders should take a lesson from this.”

The Taliban in October threatened several Afghan news channels, saying their anti-Taliban stance makes them legitimate targets.

Wednesday’s car bomb is the latest in a series of attacks on Afghan cities this week.

A bomber blew himself up on Sunday at the house of a prominent tribal elder in Jalalabad, killing 13 people and injuring 14.

Later in the day, a Taliban rocket landed in Kabul’s fortified diplomatic quarter, hitting the outer perimeter of Italy’s government-run aid agency and injuring two guards.

Pentagon Airlifted Nine Cashmere Goats To Afghanistan As Part Of A Failed \$6 Million Project Aimed At Boosting Cashmere Industry: “It Remains Unclear Whether Or Not The Goats Were Eaten”

Jan. 21, 2016 By Bryan Schatz, Mother Jones

The Pentagon airlifted Italian goats to Afghanistan as part of a failed \$6 million project aimed at boosting the country’s cashmere industry.

That’s one of the latest findings from John Sopko, the special inspector general for Afghanistan reconstruction, who testified at a Senate hearing yesterday on the Defense Department’s efforts to boost the Afghan economy at a cost of more than \$600 million. SIGAR, Sopko said, “has not been able to find credible evidence showing that TFBSO’s

(Task Force for Business and Stability Operations) activities in Afghanistan produced the intended economic growth or stabilization outcomes that justified its creation."

The Pentagon's cashmere project entailed importing nine rare blond male goats from Italy, building a farm, and setting up a laboratory to certify their wool.

It's possible the program created as many as 350 jobs. But according to Sopko, the Pentagon failed to track its spending, and the project's status is unknown.

It remains unclear whether or not the goats were eaten.



Food for thought? A baby goat in Herat, Afghanistan. Massoud Hossaini/AP

Sopko has detailed other examples of waste and unchecked spending in Afghanistan, including \$150 million for private security and rented villas for the Pentagon's business task force, a \$47 million "Silicon Valley-type start-up incubator" that "did nothing," according to the contractor implementing the project, and a \$7.5 million project to increase the sales of hand-knotted Afghan carpets.

The Pentagon's business task force "claims to have created nearly 10,000 carpet weaving jobs through this program," Sopko's prepared testimony notes, "however our initial analysis has left us questioning the veracity of this figure."

Sopko's reports have been leaving lawmakers dumbfounded.

At yesterday's hearing, Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) lambasted a \$43 million natural gas station that could have been built for \$500,000, calling it "dumb on its face." She noted that the average Afghan earns less annually than it costs to convert a car to run on natural gas.

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Insurgents Storm Beachside Restaurant In Somali Capital: “Up To 20 People May Have Been Killed”

22 Jan 2016 Al Jazeera staff

Up to 20 people were killed when al-Shabab bombers and gunmen attacked a seafront hotel and restaurant in the heart of the Somali capital.

A car packed with explosives rammed into the Beach View Hotel on Lido beach in Mogadishu on Thursday evening, after which several al-Shabab fighters opened fire at the hotel, witnesses told Al Jazeera.

"After the blast, I saw at least four armed men run into the hotel, shooting everyone inside and around the hotel," Mustafa Elmi, a beach visitor, told DPA news agency.

"I managed to escape with minor wounds, but there were people who were shot dead on the spot," he added.

At least six people - and eight attackers - were killed, the intelligence agency told Al Jazeera.

Other reports, citing police and officials, said up to 20 people may have been killed in total.

Locals said the death toll was likely to rise because some families had earlier collected bodies for burial.

A second explosion hit the nearby Lido Seafood restaurant, where several insurgents were reportedly holed up.

"The lights at Lido Seafood have just been switched off. Heavy gunfire is now ongoing," Abdirizak Mohamud, a freelance journalist at the scene, told Al Jazeera.

"More and more security forces are now going into the restaurant. They have pulled out three injured people so far," Mohamud added.

The Lido beach area is home to several restaurants, which are usually full on Thursday nights - the start of the weekend in Somalia.

Government spokesman Abdisalam Aato told Al Jazeera that the situation was now under control.

"Our security forces are in control of the restaurant. They have rescued many civilians and are now cleaning the place," Aato said.

Al-Shabab claimed responsibility for the attack in a phone call to Al Jazeera. The spokesman said the attack was ongoing.

Somalia's nearly decade-long battle with al-Shabab has claimed thousands of lives.

Last week, the group attacked Kenyan forces at an African Union military base in the southern Somali village of El-Ade.

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

They treasured up wrath for the time to come.

-- Edward, Earl of Clarendon, 1702, on the growing discontent below that led to the revolutionary overthrow and 1649 beheading of Charles I, King of England.

In Memoriam

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5a1rZrnUIRg&list=PLIna-50p3WXtpiYU_viT4KFgczCoHnl7k

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4tcXblWojdM>

**“I Was In Vietnam When The
Protests Started”
“Our Younger Kids Would Mutiny--
That You Don’t Hear Much About”
“Then They Started Fraggin’ Us”**



Vietnam Veterans Against The War Operation Dewey Canyon III April 1971.
Vietnam Veterans throw their medals over the fence at the White House: "Here's my merit badges for murder...from the country I betrayed by enlisting in the Army." — "I'd like to say just one thing for the people of Vietnam. I'm sorry. I hope that someday I can return to Vietnam and help rebuild that country we tore apart." Photo: vvaw.org

[Excerpts from War Is Not A Game; by Nan Levinson; Rutgers Press; 2014]

In his twenty-five years with the navy, he rose through the enlisted ranks, got his commission as a lieutenant, and was decorated for combat service in Vietnam, where he took men and supplies upriver in I Corps.

"I was in Vietnam when the protests started. Our younger kids would mutiny--that you don't hear much about.

"We had an officer on deck pistol-whipped to death on Christmas Eve.

"We disarmed all of our corps once because of the uprisings we had with the black soldiers. We were having racial revolution.

"They painted those kids coming back (from Vietnam) as druggies and everything else. I had two hundred kids, they were all college, they were magnificent.

"Then they started fraggin' us. You couldn't walk the ships to get to our carriers."

Flaherty responded by staying drunk a good half of the time.

"The Government Had To Ditch Plans To Send Soldiers From Fort Bragg"

"So Many Of The Active-Duty Soldiers Assigned To That Task Refused Orders To Evict Their Brothers"

The government had to ditch plans to send soldiers from Fort Bragg to remove the veterans from the National Mall

He cites a story, corroborated by several historians, which made its way through the encampment during Dewey Canyon III.

The government had to ditch plans to send soldiers from Fort Bragg to remove the veterans from the National Mall because so many of the active-duty soldiers assigned to that task refused orders to evict their brothers.

A group of them showed up on the Mall to assure the vets that trucks from the base weren't going anywhere because they had poured sand into their gas tanks.

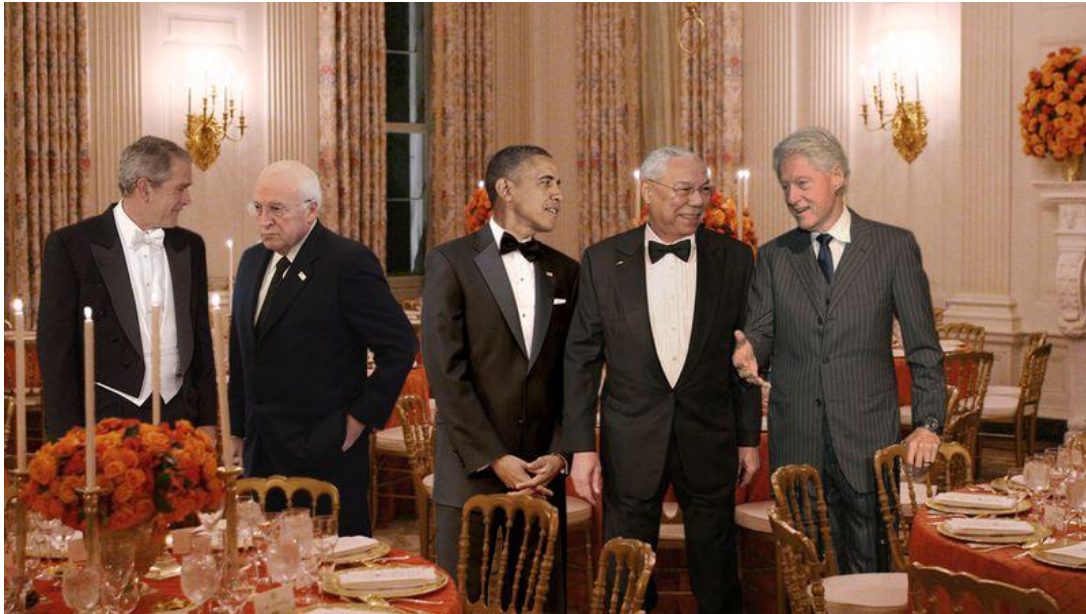
"There were some very significant things going on in the military," Warfield continues. "That was more important than whether VVAW was bad or not. The military does not succeed unless it has fighting spirit" particularly if it's up against a powerful foe.

"The American military in Vietnam lost its fighting spirit."

Pentagon Holds Lavish Black-Tie Gala To Celebrate 25 Years Of Bombing Iraq

“Hundreds Of Thousands Of Bombs Later, Here We Are”

“And It’s All Thanks To The Dedication And Resolve Of The People In This Room”



Attendees at the Iraq Bombing Silver Anniversary Event discuss their favorite Iraqi villages to destroy.

January 21, 2016 The Onion

WASHINGTON—

Bringing together the many civilian leaders and military strategists who helped them reach such a historic milestone, Pentagon officials held a lavish black-tie gala Sunday at which, sources said, they commemorated 25 years of the United States bombing Iraq.

Hundreds of active-duty and retired military officers, high-ranking members of the past four presidential administrations, and executives from top defense contractors reportedly gathered in the grand ballroom of D.C.’s Fairmont Hotel to dine, mingle, and celebrate a

quarter century spent routinely dropping thousands of tons of explosive ordnance across the Middle Eastern nation—from the Jan. 17, 1991 onset of airstrikes in the Gulf War to the current bombardment of suspected ISIS targets.

“I’ll never forget that morning 25 years ago when our first strike force of stealth bombers flew in and just unloaded on Baghdad,” said the evening’s keynote speaker, Dick Cheney, who served as defense secretary during the Gulf War, vice president during the Iraq War, and, in the intervening years, CEO of the oil field services company Halliburton.

“And then we started letting them have it with our Tomahawk cruise missiles, too. If you’d told me back then we’d still be pounding some of those very same targets today, I wouldn’t have believed you.”

“But hundreds of thousands of bombs later, here we are!” Cheney added to thunderous applause.

“And it’s all thanks to the dedication and resolve of the people in this room.”

Leading the gala’s impressive guest list were Presidents George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama, who according to reports spent much of the evening exchanging stories—some old, some new—of their respective experiences demolishing Fallujah, Mosul, Anbar Province, the Sunni Triangle, and countless other locations.

The former commanders-in-chief reportedly shared the head table with a delegation from the neoconservative think tank Project for the New American Century and members of the Saudi royal family, whom Cheney praised as “staunch allies through this whole thing.”

Also present were Iraq War architects Condoleezza Rice, Paul Wolfowitz, Doug Feith, and Richard Perle, who admitted to reporters they felt overwhelmed by nostalgia throughout the event as they reconnected with old faces and shared laughs over the discredited intelligence that served as the basis for military action.

Reportedly seated nearby were journalists Judith Miller and Bill Keller, who received a special commendation for their work covering the run-up to the 2003 invasion for The New York Times, drawing one of the largest standing ovations of the night.

Representatives from Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Northrup Grumman, and other weapons manufacturers were honored as well, and thanked for donating the gala’s elaborate ice sculptures that depicted a vintage Raytheon-designed Patriot missile from Operation Desert Storm, a 2003-era cluster bomb now banned by most countries, and a modern MQ-9 Reaper UAV armed with Hellfire missiles and 500-pound munitions.

“This is a truly magnificent night—I just wish Gen. (Norman) Schwarzkopf were here to see it,” said retired Gen. Raymond T. Odierno during a portion of the evening’s ceremonies that paid tribute to all the commanders of U.S. forces in Iraq over the years.

“Twenty-five years ago, I was only a major, still in my 30s, and I really looked up to that guy. I never thought I’d get a chance to do what he did, but a couple decades later,

there I was, ordering some of the very same bombing runs that he had. I modeled my entire career after his and feel privileged to have followed so closely in his footsteps.”

“It’s especially important that we take a moment tonight to honor our legacy in Iraq so that today’s troops can fully appreciate the rich history of our military campaigns there,” continued Odierno, “as most of them weren’t born yet when we started bombing the place.”

According to attendees, the gala featured an elaborate multimedia presentation titled A Generation Of Commitment, which began with a montage of night-vision targeting footage from Desert Storm interspersed with reports from up-and-coming CNN correspondent Wolf Blitzer.

A segment called “The Clinton Years: A Retrospective” showed F-16 fighter jets enforcing no-fly zones, and then rolled highlights from Operation Desert Fox while Outkast’s 2000 recording “B.O.B (Bombs Over Baghdad)” played in the background.

The presentation’s survey of Operation Iraqi Freedom included video of then–Secretary of State Colin Powell assuring the U.N. that Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction, a May 2003 clip of a flight suit–clad George W. Bush landing on an aircraft carrier adorned with a “Mission Accomplished” banner, and a July 2003 clip of Bush saying “Bring ‘em on” in response to questions about the rapidly growing Iraqi insurgency.

The final segment, “Drones: The Game-Changer,” showed images taken just last week of airmen in a small computer room in Nevada bombing Iraq using joysticks and real-time video feeds.

“Sure, we’ve been through some hard times, especially those dark days in 2012 and 2013 when we pretty much stopped bombing Iraq entirely,” former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said in his closing remarks to the group, raising a glass of champagne as the room followed suit.

“But we started right up again, like we always do, and we’ve seen thousands of new airstrikes since. Our enemy may change, but from Saddam to the Islamic State—and through all the I-don’t-know-how-many insurgencies in between—our mission has remained the same. We’ve stayed true to our roots and kept the tradition of bombing Iraq alive.”

Added Rumsfeld, “Here’s to 25 more years!”

RECEIVED FROM READERS

The Hottest Year On Record:

“With Climate Change Burning Us, The Blind Self-Interest Of Those Who Rule Puts Us All In The Same Boat. And Leads Us To The Same Conclusions”

From: Niko L [Australia]
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: January 22, 2016
Subject: you got me drinkin and typin on that goddam brumaire [14A12]

Great comment in #14A12 (copy pasted below).

I wrote a letter to the Ed in the Newcastle [Australia] Herald (they're pretty gutsy for a regional paper, but they published then pulled my last op-ed off twice- evolving story). I derived the letter entirely from you: in 218 words:

[The Letter by Niko L]

The Herald's headlines (Jan 21, 2016 “The hottest year on record”) presages a different heat.

It's the heat of mass rage against things as they are.

When we've had a gutful of what we don't want, that's when we start to think about what we do want.

And its not cheap air-con.

With climate change burning us, the blind self-interest of those who rule puts us all in the same boat. and leads us to the same conclusions .

In our homes, of people without work, without prospects, in our homes threatened by debt, where our kids have no future, in our homes, sooner or later, we will have to agree. To let business-as-usual go on, will not lead us to a better future.

Behind the Herald's headlines of record heat lies the shoddy story of who profit without conscience from a system that leaves others to pay.

How can we reform something that lead us to this? How can we reform something that even now, profits from us as we totter on the brink of a never before imagined catastrophe?

Today we still have to bear their palaver.

But it is what we will have to choose do tomorrow, that will herald the future.

[End letter to the Newcastle Herald

**Comment from Military Resistance 14A12 referenced above.
[Excerpt]**

Before people, especially classes, frame a clear program to fight for, it is human history that first the negation of things-as-they-are unfolds and reaches mass rage.

People tend to first puke up what they don't want before they formulate a program and plan of action to get what they do want.

On a massive scale, world-wide, huge numbers of very angry people are expressing with crystal clarity what they do not want.

They do not want the economic system, capitalism-as-it-is.

Most do yet understand that capitalism cannot be reformed, cannot be anything other than what it is now: society organized to benefit and politically governed by the class of capitalists, a class for themselves.

That understanding will come; is coming now, more every day.

Episodic movements from below, now in one place, now another, all over the world, are what comes first, the negation of things-as-they-are that has preceded every great mass movement forward in human history.

That is happening now.

Negation in mass consciousness of the cruelty, stupidity, and incompetence of 2016 capitalism is at the same time the birth of a defiant, new, worldwide, urban, working class movement from below.

The worldwide tectonic earthshaking that began in Tunisia in 2011 has sometimes paused, and will pause again, and be defeated, and be defeated again, but in continues growing and moving forward, everywhere.

Nothing on this world-wide scale of working class resistance from below has been seen before.

The excerpts below are about how and why material reality is the basis for and drives our resistance forward.

“[P]roletarian revolutions, like those of the nineteenth century, constantly criticize themselves, constantly interrupt themselves in their own course, return to the apparently accomplished, in order to begin anew; they deride with cruel thoroughness the half-measures, weaknesses, and paltriness of their first attempts, seem to throw down their opponents only so the latter may draw new strength from the earth and rise before them

again more gigantic than ever, recoil constantly from the indefinite colossalness of their own goals – until a situation is created which makes all turning back impossible ...”

-- The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte. Karl Marx 1852

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DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK

**Richest 62 People As Wealthy
As Half Of World’s Population:
“1% Of People Own More Wealth
Than The Other 99% Combined”**

**“The Wealth Of The Poorest 50%
Dropped By 41% Between 2010 And
2015, Despite An Increase In The
Global Population 400m”**

**“The Poorest Half Of The World
Population Owns No More Than A Small
Group Of The Global Super-Rich So Few,
You Could Fit Them All On A Single
Coach”**

18 January 2016 Larry Elliott; Economics editor, The Guardian

The vast and growing gap between rich and poor has been laid bare in a new Oxfam report showing that the 62 richest billionaires own as much wealth as the poorer half of the world's population.

Timed to coincide with this week's gathering of many of the super-rich at the annual World Economic Forum in Davos, the report calls for urgent action to deal with a trend showing that 1% of people own more wealth than the other 99% combined.

Oxfam said that the wealth of the poorest 50% dropped by 41% between 2010 and 2015, despite an increase in the global population of 400m.

In the same period, the wealth of the richest 62 people increased by \$500bn (£350bn) to \$1.76tn.

Mark Goldring, the Oxfam GB chief executive, said: "It is simply unacceptable that the poorest half of the world population owns no more than a small group of the global super-rich – so few, you could fit them all on a single coach.

"World leaders' concern about the escalating inequality crisis has so far not translated into concrete action to ensure that those at the bottom get their fair share of economic growth. In a world where one in nine people go to bed hungry every night, we cannot afford to carry on giving the richest an ever bigger slice of the cake."

Leading figures from Pope Francis to Christine Lagarde, the managing director of the International Monetary Fund, have called for action to reverse the trend in inequality, but Oxfam said words had not been translated into action.

Its prediction that the richest 1% would own the same wealth as the poorest 50% by 2016 had come true a year earlier than expected.

The World Economic Forum in Davos comes amid fears that the turmoil in financial markets since the turn of the year may herald the start of a new phase to the global crisis that began eight years ago – this time originating in the less-developed emerging countries.

Oxfam said a three-pronged approach was needed: a crackdown on tax dodging; higher investment in public services; and higher wages for the low paid. It said a priority should be to close down tax havens, increasingly used by rich individuals and companies to avoid paying tax and which had deprived governments of the resources needed to tackle poverty and inequality.

Three years ago, David Cameron told the WEF that the UK would spearhead a global effort to end aggressive tax avoidance in the UK and in poor countries, but Oxfam said promised measures to increase transparency in British Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, such as the Cayman Islands and British Virgin Islands, had not been implemented.

Goldring said: "We need to end the era of tax havens which has allowed rich individuals and multinational companies to avoid their responsibilities to society by hiding ever increasing amounts of money offshore.

“Tackling the veil of secrecy surrounding the UK’s network of tax havens would be a big step towards ending extreme inequality. Three years after he made his promise to make tax dodgers ‘wake up and smell the coffee’, it is time for David Cameron to deliver.”

Oxfam cited estimates that rich individuals have placed a total of \$7.6tn in offshore accounts, adding that if tax were paid on the income that this wealth generates, an extra \$190bn would be available to governments every year.

The charity said as much as 30% of all African financial wealth was thought to be held offshore. The estimated loss of \$14bn in tax revenues would be enough to pay for healthcare for mothers and children that could save 4 million children’s lives a year and employ enough teachers to get every African child into school.

Oxfam said it intended to challenge the executives of multi-national corporations in Davos on their tax policies.

It said nine out of 10 WEF corporate partners had a presence in at least one tax haven and it was estimated that tax dodging by multinational corporations costs developing countries at least \$100bn every year.

Corporate investment in tax havens almost quadrupled between 2000 and 2014.

The Equality Trust, which campaigns against inequality in the UK, said Britain’s 100 richest families had increased their wealth by at least £57bn since 2010, a period in which average incomes declined.

Duncan Exley, the trust’s director, said: “Inequality, both globally but also in the UK, is now at staggering levels. We know that such a vast gap between the richest and the rest of us is bad for our economy and society. We now need our politicians to wake up and address this dangerous concentration of wealth and power in the hands of so few.”

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**13 Year-Old Palestinian Teen
Could Face Prison Sentence’ Of 20
Years:
The Case Of Ahmed Manasra Is An
Example Of What Palestinian**

Children Experience Under Israeli Occupation; “Most Likely A 13-Year-Old Does Not Understand What Is Political Or Revolutionary Violence, But He Knows Well What It Means To Live Under A Brutal Military Occupation”



Ahmed Manasra, aged 13. [Getty]

17 Jan 2016 by Ylenia Gostoli, Al Jazeera

Occupied West Bank –

The trial of Ahmed Manasra, a 13-year-old Palestinian boy, charged by an Israeli court with two counts of attempted murder, is expected to resume today in a Jerusalem court. Manasra could face the maximum sentence of up to 20 years in prison, his lawyers said.

"The allegation against him (Manasra) is not that he stabbed anybody, but that he had the intention to kill," said Lea Tsemel, Manasra's lawyer. "We will have to prove he did not have that intention, but rather to cause pain and frighten," Tsemel told Al Jazeera.

Israel's Jerusalem District Court indicted Manasra on charges of attempted murder on October 30, following an attack on two Israelis on October 12 at the illegal Pisgat Ze'ev settlement. The two Israelis survived their wounds. Israeli Police shot dead Hassan

Manasra, Ahmed's cousin who accompanied him at the time, and a passing car ran over Manasra.

A video of Ahmed, gasping and reaching his hand out for help, a terrified expression on his face, went viral and sparked outrage. In the video, someone is heard shouting and cursing him in Arabic with an Israeli accent: "Die, son of a whore, die!" Other bystanders cursed him and shouted "Die!" in Hebrew.

He was admitted into the Hadassah hospital in Jerusalem and was recovering from a broken skull.

Manasra is currently being held in a closed treatment facility in northern Israel, with the court rejecting the family's request that he be placed under house arrest.

As his birthday approaches later this month, so is the likelihood that he will be sentenced once he turns 14.

According to Israeli law, children under 14 cannot be sentenced to jail.

Last November, however, in a preliminary vote, the Israeli Knesset approved a bill that would allow Palestinian minors under 14 who are facing terrorism charges to receive prison sentences, which they would start serving upon turning 14.

If passed, the law would only affect children who are citizens of Israel, as Israeli military law already allows for children from the occupied West Bank and Gaza to be placed in security prisons from the age of 12.

The bill is part of Israel's crackdown on Palestinian opposition to Israel's colonial policies. An outbreak of mass demonstrations took place across Israel and the occupied territories by Palestinians in protest at the raids by Jewish extremist groups into the al-Aqsa Mosque compound and the continued settlement expansion.

In 2015, Israeli soldiers or settlers shot and killed 179 Palestinians, including unarmed protesters, bystanders and alleged attackers.

Since October 1, lone Palestinian assailants have killed 23 Israelis, including soldiers. Israel has also used the developments in the past several months to impose severe restrictions on Palestinians living in occupied East Jerusalem.

Human rights organisations, including B'Tselem and Amnesty International, have accused Israel of shooting to kill in cases where the suspect no longer posed any danger, and of extrajudicial executions.

Manasra's interrogation was also caught on camera. Last November, in a widely shared video, released ahead of the trial, Israeli policemen appear to be verbally abusing Manasra, who is from Jerusalem, pressuring him to confess to attempting to "murder Jews" and "aiding an enemy at the time of war".

Several Israeli police officers are seen screaming at Manasra, telling him that he had committed crimes and that he must confess. Manasra, visibly traumatised, is seen

crying, hitting his own head, and repeating "I do not remember" before breaking down in tears.

Human rights watchdogs have often denounced Israel's ill-treatment and torture of Palestinian children during arrest and interrogation.

Palestinian children in Israeli custody more than doubled as a result of the unrest, and a new juvenile section was opened at Givot prison.

According to prisoner support group Addameer, at least 876 Palestinians, including 133 children, have been arrested since October 1 across the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem and Israel.

Other figures, collected by the Wadi Hilweh Information Center in Silwan, say that at least 60 children were arrested in Jerusalem during the first two weeks of the unrest last October.

"Interrogations can be even more severe than what the video shows, involving tying in painful positions, kicking and slapping, and sleep deprivation," Sahar Francis, director of prisoners' rights group Addameer, told Al Jazeera.

Manasra's family believes it was precisely videos such as these that are partly to blame for what happened.

"Young people see what happens at the al-Aqsa Mosque, how (Israeli forces) beat Palestinians, ladies - they see Palestinians being killed, like what happened to the Dawabsheh family," Khaled Manasra, Ahmed's uncle and Hassan's father, told Al Jazeera. "In their minds, they think they can stop it.

"Later, Ahmed told us that they had been talking about the price tag attacks in our own neighbourhood, where settlers damaged cars and sprayed graffiti against Arabs," the boy's uncle said.

Still, Khaled Manasra struggles to understand what happened. "They were regular kids, going to school and playing video games and doing parkour," he said, adding they had never been arrested before.

"I don't think Ahmed understands the gravity of what is going on. When he was at the hospital, he told his lawyer, 'Enough now, I'm tired. Take me home.'"

Alaa Tartir, programme director at the Palestinian think-tank al-Shabaka, which examines the role of political parties in the recent uprising, holds the traditional Palestinian political parties responsible for 'educating' and spreading awareness about the political situation among young Palestinians.

"At some point in the struggle, it was the responsibility of the Palestinian political parties to 'educate' those children and offer them the political knowledge and awareness needed," said Tartir.

"Most likely a 13-year-old child does not understand what is political or revolutionary violence, but he knows well what it means to live under a brutal military occupation."

He would witness injustice and oppression on a daily basis, feel angry and humiliated, watch clips of others who are tortured by the occupying forces, and consequently struggle with painful images that get entrenched in his psychology."

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



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "Defending freedom."]

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