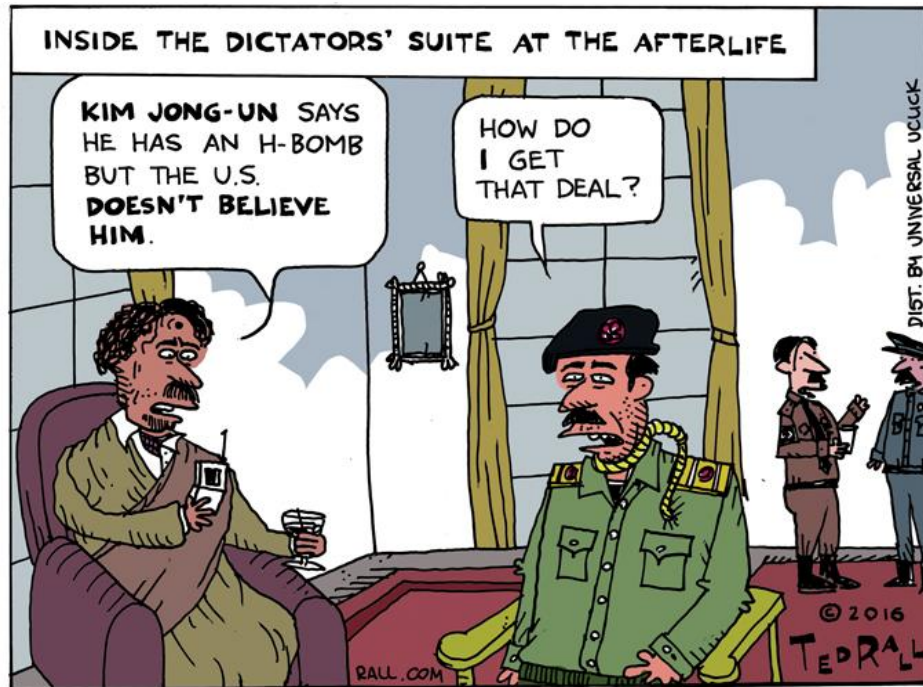


## Military Resistance 14A9



**“The Taliban Is Back, Its  
Fighters Showing A Battle  
Discipline And Initiative Far  
Superior To The Afghan  
Security Forces”**

**“Afghan And American Officials  
Have Begun To Voice Increasingly  
Grim Assessments Of The  
Resurgent Taliban”**

# **“Taliban Now Holds More Territory Than In Any Year Since 2001” Collaborator Troops “Continue To Absorb Enormous Casualties”**

**“They were running out of ammunition. And reinforcements they had requested never turned up. “I watched seven comrades killed in front of me,” recalled Hemat, who soon fled along with the remaining officer. Both then deserted.**

**“We were surrounded, but we didn’t get any help,” Hemat said.**

**“I will not shoot one bullet for the government again.”**

**Taliban snipers now have night-vision scopes on their rifles. And as they have overrun bases, the militants have seized an arsenal of U.S. weaponry provided to the Afghans.**

December 27, 2015 By Sudarsan Raghavan, Washington Post. Mohammad Sharif and Sayed Salahuddin in Kabul contributed to this report. [Excerpts]

MARJA, Afghanistan —

As the Afghan convoy entered the battered village, Taliban fighters opened fire. U.S.-trained Afghan policemen poured out of their Humvees and began wildly shooting their AK-47 rifles in every direction.

“The enemy is firing one bullet, and you are responding with dozens!” their commander, Col. Khalil Jawad, screamed into his radio in frustration. “Aim, then fire!”

A minute later, the militants melted away. On this day in early December in the southern province of Helmand, they had delivered their message:

The Taliban is back, its fighters showing a battle discipline and initiative far superior to the Afghan security forces trained and equipped by the United States.

**In private, top Afghan and American officials have begun to voice increasingly grim assessments of the resurgent Taliban threat, most notably in a previously undisclosed transcript of a late-October meeting of the Afghan National Security Council.**

“We have not met the people’s expectations. We haven’t delivered,” Abdullah Abdullah, the country’s chief executive, told the high-level gathering.

**“Our forces lack discipline. They lack rotation opportunities. We haven’t taken care of our own policemen and soldiers. They continue to absorb enormous casualties.”**

**With control of — or a significant presence in — roughly 30 percent of districts across the nation, according to Western and Afghan officials, the Taliban now holds more territory than in any year since 2001, when the puritanical Islamists were ousted from power after the 9/11 attacks.**

For now, the top American and Afghan priority is preventing Helmand, largely secured by U.S. Marines and British forces in 2012, from again falling to the insurgency.

### **“Breakdowns In Discipline In The Ranks”**

**As of last month, about 7,000 members of the Afghan security forces had been killed this year, with 12,000 injured, a 26 percent increase over the total number of dead and wounded in all of 2014, said a Western official with access to the most recent NATO statistics.**

**Attrition rates are soaring.**

**Deserters and injured Afghan soldiers say they are fighting a more sophisticated and well-armed insurgency than they have seen in years.**

As Afghan security forces struggle, U.S. Special Operations troops are increasingly being deployed into harm’s way to assist their Afghan counterparts.

Since Nov. 4, four members of the U.S.-led coalition have been wounded in Helmand, said U.S. Army Col. Michael Lawhorn, a military spokesman. Officially, U.S. military personnel have a mandate only “to train, advise and assist” Afghan forces.

In the confidential October meeting, Gen. John F. Campbell, the commander of U.S. and allied forces in Afghanistan, told his Afghan counterparts that he was as guilty as they were of “just putting our finger in the dike in Helmand.”

**But he was highly critical of Afghan security officials for “not managing” their forces in a way that ensured they got enough training, and for allowing “breakdowns in discipline” in the ranks.**

“The Taliban are not 10 feet tall,” he said. “You have much more equipment than they do. You’re better trained. It’s all about leadership and accountability.”

Campbell vowed “to fix Helmand.”

“I will use more of my SOF and enablers to buy you more space and time,” he said, referring to Special Operations forces.

A senior U.S. defense official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because of military rules, said Campbell’s comments represented “an attempt to encourage the Afghans to take action in Helmand province.”

Helmand was a key focus in a major American offensive launched in 2010, after President Obama dispatched a “surge” of 30,000 troops to Afghanistan. Marja was the first place Marines launched operations, and by the end of the surge, in late 2012, the Taliban had been subdued in much of its southern heartland.

Now, the fresh concerns over Helmand arrive at the end of a year in which the Taliban and other insurgent groups, including the Islamic State, have steadily advanced, particularly in the north.

A Pakistani military operation has also flushed hundreds of well-trained foreign fighters into Afghanistan, bolstering the Taliban and the Islamic State.

Meanwhile, the government is grappling with its own problems.

**The economy is crippled; high unemployment and corruption remain entrenched, breeding public resentment.**

Political infighting, policy disputes and leadership woes have deepened inside the administration of President Ashraf Ghani, who shares power with Abdullah, the chief executive.

**The cabinet remains incomplete, with no defense minister as the security issues become more serious.**

The gains by the Taliban have come amid internal divisions and a leadership crisis triggered by the surprise announcement in the summer that its leader, Mohammad Omar, had been dead for more than two years. The contest for power and territory among Taliban factions, rather than weakening the movement, has spawned more uncertainty and violence.

The group’s infighting has blocked efforts by Ghani to bring the Taliban to peace talks. The insurgents’ new leader, Akhtar Mohammad Mansour, appears determined to prove his mettle and strengthen the Taliban’s bargaining position by escalating attacks, Western diplomats and analysts said. In September, the Taliban briefly seized Kunduz, the first city to fall since the demise of its regime, prompting the U.S. military to dispatch Special Operations troops and stage airstrikes to help the Afghan security forces retake control.

**Now, the insurgents are on the doorsteps of several provincial capitals, applying more pressure on urban areas than in any year of the conflict.**

The clashes in Helmand have reflected the Taliban strategy that led to the takeover of Kunduz — seizing surrounding districts before moving in on the provincial capital. Already, the Taliban are in the enclave of Ba-baji, within the borders of Helmand’s capital, Lashkar Gah.

Helmand, which lies along the Pakistani border, is the source of much of the country’s opium, providing lucrative funding for the insurgents, who also collect “taxes” from the marble mining business. The province is home to the Kajaki Dam, which provides

electricity to Helmand and to neighboring Kandahar, the cradle of the Taliban. In some districts, electricity bills are paid to the Taliban.

In the Afghan National Security Council meeting, Rahmatullah Nabil, the nation's intelligence chief, described the province as "the biggest recruiting tool for the Taliban" and its "primary source of revenue." Nabil resigned Dec. 10 to protest Ghani's peace overtures to Pakistan, which is viewed with suspicion by most Afghans for its backing of the Taliban.

### **"Soldiers And Police Officers Fled With Little Resistance Or Surrendered To The Insurgents"**

The 21-mile-long road from Lashkar Gah to Marja is peppered with craters from bombs planted by the Taliban. Stores are shuttered; villages are silent. The residents have fled.

A mile from a civil-order police base, built by U.S. Marines for \$17 million, a charred, mangled Humvee lies in the middle of the highway. A rocket-propelled grenade tore into it, and the Taliban later set it afire.

On a recent day, the base was as far as anyone could go, at least by road: Less than a mile ahead, the Taliban had buried more mines.

"They have destroyed bridges. They have burned our houses," Ghul Mawla Malang, a tribal elder who leads Marja's Afghan Local Police (ALP), a U.S.-funded pro-government militia, told top police commanders in a meeting at the base.

**A few minutes later, the Taliban fired a few rounds toward the base. The senior officials cut short their visit and left in their Humvees.**

**If there was one province in Afghanistan that the Taliban should have found impenetrable, it was Helmand.**

**The Afghan army has its entire 215th Corps based here, numbering more than 18,000 soldiers. There are also thousands of Afghan police officers. Yet a few hundred Taliban fighters managed to overrun parts of Marja and other districts. Soldiers and police officers fled with little resistance or surrendered to the insurgents.**

In Babaji, nine police officers including Abdul Qadim Hemat were unprepared last month when the Taliban fighters attacked their outpost. They were running out of ammunition.

And reinforcements they had requested never turned up.

"I watched seven comrades killed in front of me," recalled Hemat, who soon fled along with the remaining officer. Both then deserted.

"We were surrounded, but we didn't get any help," Hemat said. "I will not shoot one bullet for the government again."

In parts of Marja, villagers pine for U.S. troops — and the British forces who were once based here — to return.

“When they were here, Marja was as peaceful as this city,” said Ahmed Jan, who was bringing his 13-year-old nephew to a hospital in Lashkar Gah. A bullet had struck the boy in their village during fighting. “Now, the Taliban are like the government in my village. They drive police vehicles and Humvees, and they have raised their white flag over houses.”

**In an interview, Gen. Mohammed Moeen Faqir, the commander of the 215th Corps, said that “only half of a percent” of his force may have deserted and that new recruits were filling the void. He noted that the police and ALP forces in Helmand were also under his command and that “whenever they needed reinforcements, I sent them.”**

**But the confidential transcript of the minutes from the National Security Council meeting presents a grimmer picture.**

**The Afghan army’s chief of staff, Gen. Qadam Shah Shaheem, said that limited reinforcements and new recruits couldn’t make up for force attrition in Helmand, according to the transcript, which was provided to The Washington Post by an official concerned by the insecurity in Helmand.**

**Some 40 percent of Afghan army vehicles in Helmand are broken, Shaheem said.**

### **“As They Have Overrun Bases, The Militants Have Seized An Arsenal Of U.S. Weaponry Provided To The Afghans”**

He described a leadership crisis within the security forces, where “clashing personalities exist between the security pillars,” according to the transcript.

The morale of the security forces was low, said Nabil, the intelligence chief, and some soldiers had complained that they had not been home in two years. Junior commanders, he added, were “openly defying their superiors.” Gen. Mohammad Salem Ehsas, the top ALP commander, said that troops were tired and that there was poor coordination among the various security organs.

**Campbell said that only about half the troop positions in the 215th Corps were manned. Western and Afghan officials said that was largely because of desertions, high casualty rates and a lack of new recruits.**

“The blame game must stop now,” Campbell said. “If I hear one more policeman complain about the army or vice versa, I will pull my advisers immediately. It’s over. You’re Afghans first. Work together.”

**Soldiers and police officers on the front lines say they face an enemy that is well trained and equipped with heavy artillery and machine guns, rockets and mortars — and a seemingly endless supply of ammunition.**

**Taliban snipers now have night-vision scopes on their rifles. And as they have overrun bases, the militants have seized an arsenal of U.S. weaponry provided to the Afghans.**

**Nabil said the insurgents have night-vision goggles and have captured more than 45 Humvees in Helmand. They also have Russian-made ZSU anti-aircraft guns with night capability, an abundant supply of mortars and a communications network that is difficult to infiltrate.**

U.S. Special Operations troops arrived in early November at an empty school in Chanjar, a front line about 15 miles west of the provincial capital. The walls of the compound bore the impact of shells the size of baseballs. A group of soldiers and police officers was stationed there. Taliban militants were in houses less than 20 yards away.

**“The Americans told us that they wanted to push the Taliban back,” recalled Sgt. Abdul Mohamad. “They were here to give coordinates for an airstrike.”**

**But the Taliban fired a mortar, the men said, wounding one of the Americans. The Americans quickly left the area, in Nad Ali district, with their injured comrade.**

Lawhorn, the U.S. military spokesman, confirmed that a U.S. coalition member was injured in the district Nov. 4.

Brig. Gen. Wilson Shoffner, the U.S. military’s top spokesman, said in an interview that U.S. troops were adhering to their limited mandate of “train, advise and assist” and that their Afghan counterparts were taking the lead.

But Afghans, including senior military officials, no longer even pretend that they can fight the Taliban effectively on their own.

“When the foreigners were here, we had plenty of facilities and equipment,” said 1st Lt. Naseer Ahmad Sahel, 30, a civil-order police company commander who was wounded last month in a firefight in Marja. “There were 100 cameras overlooking Marja alone.”

Faqir, the commander of the 215th Corps, said, “We don’t have the air support that we should have.”

As the fighting intensifies, the stakes are growing higher for the United States in its longest war.

“I will not allow Helmand to fall,” Campbell told the Afghan officials in the recent meeting with the Afghan National Security Council.

“But I can’t make you fight. You’ve got to want it more than we do.”

**MORE:**

# **“If Fresh Troops Not Sent In, Collapse Of Gereshk District Will Definitely Lead To The Fall Of Helmand Province”**

## **“Troops Have Not Slept, Haven’t Received Any Equipment And Compared With The Enemy They Don’t Have Enough Weapons”**

15 January 2016 by Abdullah Achekzai, ToloNews

Heavy fighting between Afghan security forces and the Taliban is underway in Gereshk district in southern Helmand province.

Tribal elders in the province warned if fresh troops are not sent in, the collapse of the district will also lead to the fall of Helmand province.

They called on government to send in reinforcement troops so as not to let Gereshk district to fall to the Taliban.

A tribal elder from the district said that Gereshk was a strategic district and its fall could lead to the fall of Helmand province.

"It has been almost one week that security troops in the district have not slept, they haven't received any equipment and as compared with the enemy they don't have enough weapons," he added.

**He stressed that if government failed to send in fresh troops and take other necessary measures, then the fall of the district will definitely lead to the fall of Helmand province.**

Meanwhile, Gereshk district chief, Muhammad Sharif, said that if reinforcement troops are not deployed, they will not be able to ensure the security of the district.

"We urge leaders of security organizations to act on time and move forward, because it is still early. Send us more troops.

**“The security troops that are currently stationed in the district are on the defensive," he said adding, "although the national army has supported police forces in the district, it was not enough and more measures should be taken."**



Afghan soldiers, who are fighting on the frontline against the Taliban in Gereshk district, said due to lack of enough weapons they cannot move forward. They, however, claimed to have inflicted heavy casualties on insurgents.

The fighting has forced scores of families to leave their houses in the district. The displaced families seek humanitarian assistance.

**MORE:**

## **“Insurgent Activities Increased Considerably In The Last Year” “At Least 10,000 Security And Terrorist Incidents Recorded In 2015”**

13 January 2016 by Sayed Sharif Amiri, TOLONews.com [Excerpts]

An annual report by TOLONews reveals that insurgent activities increased considerably in the last year with at least 10,000 security and terrorist incidents recorded in 2015.

The report was compiled by TOLONews and based on its monthly reports as well as press statements issued by security agencies and relative government offices and assessments of reports by other media outlets in the country.

The report found 9,996 security and terrorist incidents occurred during last year.

According to the report, the ‘Azm’ operation – this last summer’s offensive - by the Taliban that started on 24 April 2015 added to the conflict and resulted in May becoming the most volatile month for Afghanistan during the year, with 1,026 security and terrorist incidents being reported.

In addition, the report reveals that militant activities dropped considerably in the last two months of 2015, but militants focused more on major cities such as the capital city, Kabul. Among such incidents, Kabul witnessed a heavy blast in Shah Shaheed area in August which left 15 dead and 400 wounded, the report adds.

As per the report, Helmand, Nangarhar and Faryab witnessed the most security incidents last year while Panjshir experienced only two such incidents during 2015.

**According to the report Afghanistan’s eastern and southern parts were not secure last year but militants drove their attention towards northern and northeastern parts.**

**MORE:**

# **Seven Security Forces Killed As Insurgents Attack Pakistani Consulate In Jalalabad**

## **“The Daesh Group Has Managed To Attract Disaffected Taliban Fighters”**

January 14, 2016 Agence France-Presse

KABUL: Daesh group on Wednesday claimed responsibility for a deadly gun and bomb siege targeting the Pakistani consulate in Afghanistan's Jalalabad city, in the first attack by the group on the Pakistani government.

Afghan officials said all three attackers and seven security forces were killed in the brazen assault in eastern Nangarhar province, where the group has made alarming inroads in recent months.

The four-hour siege near the consulate comes amid renewed international efforts to revive peace talks with the Taliban, locked in a tussle for supremacy with the Daesh group in Afghanistan.

In an Arabic statement released via Twitter, the Daesh group said two of its fighters blew themselves up at the scene by detonating explosive belts, while a third managed to escape unharmed.

“The attack lasted almost four hours during which the consulate building was destroyed and tens of its employees were killed together with a number of officers from the apostate Pakistani intelligence services,” the statement said.

The toll appeared to be exaggerated, with Islamabad saying officials at the consulate itself are safe and accounted for.

The brazen assault sent terrified young students in an adjacent school fleeing the area, which is also close to the Indian diplomatic mission.

“This is first attack claimed by Daesh against the state of Pakistan,” Muhammad Amir Rana, a Pakistani security analyst, said.

“This is a highly symbolic attack as the Pakistani consulate is a high-profile installation in Jalalabad.”

Islamabad has officially denied that the Daesh organisation is operating in Pakistan, but authorities have expressed fears the group could find recruits among the country's myriad of militant groups.

Afghan president Ashraf Ghani phoned Pakistan's leader Nawaz Sharif on Wednesday to assure him of greater security for Islamabad's diplomats in Afghanistan following the attack, according to a statement from the prime minister's office.

The Jalalabad attack bore chilling similarities to a similar deadly siege last week near the Indian consulate in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif. No group has claimed that attack so far.

Nangarhar faces an emerging threat from loyalists of the Daesh group, which controls territory across Syria and Iraq and is making gradual inroads in Afghanistan, challenging the Taliban on their own turf.

The Daesh group has managed to attract disaffected Taliban fighters increasingly lured by the group's signature brutality that has made them notorious.

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## **ACTION REPORTS**

# **“I Told Him We Outreach To Soldiers Because, Among Other Things, ‘We Don’t Want To See Troops Chewed Up For A Bunch Of Politicians’” “He Said ‘You’re Right’” [Outreach To New York National Guard 1.8.2016]**

From: Alan S  
To: Military Resistance Newsletter  
Sent: January 11, 2016  
Subject: Outreach to New York National Guard 1.8.2016

I approached 8 soldiers today patrolling one of New York City's commuter terminals. I distributed 8 Military Resistance intro cards, 3 MR newsletters (all I had), 4 DVDs of "Authority & Expectations" and 4 of "Sir! No Sir!" plus 1 copy of "Soldiers in Revolt."

Often, if troops recognize me since I'd given them material previously, I ask what they thought of the material they received. I got a response from one who said "it was OK" and another said he liked it.

Most times soldiers are reluctant to go into detail so they keep their answers short and tend to look away while in conversation. Many say they can't accept material but seem to welcome the attention.

On the other hand there are some who are more open and say what they think.

The last soldier I spoke to was more curious than the others over why I was there. After I told him we outreach to soldiers because, among other things, "we don't want to see troops chewed up for a bunch of politicians," he said "you're right."

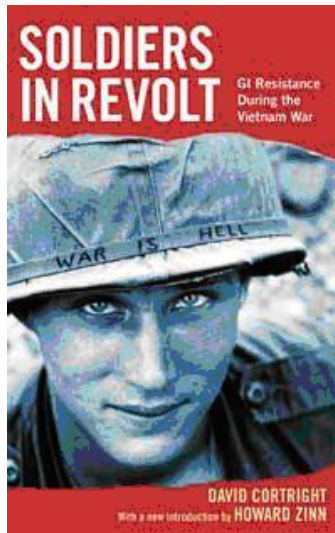
**Authority & Expectations:** An Iraq Veteran Against The War condemns the war and their government:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tyfkLubnyBw>

**Sir No Sir:** Military Resistance Vietnam Days

[http://www.sirnosir.com/the\\_film/storefront.htm](http://www.sirnosir.com/the_film/storefront.htm)

**Soldiers In Revolt:** A Vietnam veteran describes the strategy and tactics used by troops to stop an imperial war.



Free to active duty. Civilians: \$16 including postage.  
Buy one for a friend/relative in the service.

Requests from active duty or orders from civilians to: Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576  
Broadway. New York, N.Y. 10025-5657

**MORE:**

## **ACTION REPORTS WANTED: FROM YOU!**

**An effective way to encourage others to support members of the armed forces organizing to resist the Imperial war is to report what you do.**

If you've carried out organized contact with troops on active duty, at base gates, airports, or anywhere else, send a report in to Military Resistance for the Action Reports section.

Same for contact with National Guard and/or Reserve components.

They don't have to be long. Just clear, and direct action reports about what work was done and how.

If there were favorable responses, say so.

If there were unfavorable responses or problems, don't leave them out. Reporting what went wrong and/or got screwed up is especially important, so that others may learn from you what to expect, and how to avoid similar problems if possible.

If you are not planning or engaging in outreach to the troops, you have nothing to report.

**NOTE WELL:**

Do not make public any information that could compromise the work.

Identifying information – locations, personnel – will be omitted from the reports.

Whether you are serving in the armed forces or not, do not identify members of the armed forces organizing to stop the wars.

If accidentally included, that information will not be published.

The sole exception: occasions when a member of the armed services explicitly directs identifying information be published in reporting on the action.

**MORE:**

## **Military Initiative**

### **Organizing Committee Mission Statement:**

*July 4, 1776*

*Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.*

*But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.*

**1. Members of the armed forces have the right and duty to defend civilians from dictatorships and to aid civilian movements against dictatorships.**

**This applies whether dictatorship is imposed by force of arms or is imposed when those in command of the resources of society use their wealth for buying politicians to control the government.**

**The armed forces are not for use by politicians or corporations to attack movements fighting for improvement in the lives of working class citizens, or to attack the rights and liberties of Americans written in the Bill of Rights of the Constitution**

**2. The armed forces are not for use in wars of Empire.**

**Military Initiative is for immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Afghanistan and Iraq.**

**Members of the armed forces organizing to defeat wars of empire will receive encouragement and support.**

**The long term objective is to assist in eliminating wars of empire by eliminating all empires.**

**Nations attacked by Empires have the right to independence and to resist invasion.**

**3. Efforts to increase democratic rights in every society, organization, movement, and within the armed forces itself will be encouraged and supported.**

**This applies to the armed forces of every nation. There is no national government at this time organized by, for, and under the control of its citizens.**

**4. Military Initiative does not advocate individual disobedience to orders or desertion from the armed forces because members of the armed forces working together is most effective.**

**That said, Military Initiative will assist in the defense of troops who see individual desertion or refusal of orders as the only course of action open to them for reasons of conscience.**

**5. Military Initiative practices organizational democracy.**

**This means control of the organization by the membership, through elected delegates to any coordinating bodies that may be formed, whether at local, regional, or national levels. Anyone elected is subject to recall, by majority vote of the membership.**

**Any coordinating bodies will report their decisions and votes to the membership, and may be overruled by a majority of the membership.**

**6. It is unnecessary for Military Initiative to be in complete political agreement with other organizations to work together toward a common objective.**

**Organizations working together on common objectives need to discuss differences about the best way forward.**

**7. The mission of Military Initiative is to bring together in one organization members of the armed forces and civilians who are dedicated to these objectives.**

**In order to be prepared to defend and extend human rights and economic justice, we will meet together to organize wherever we may be, engaging in such activities as may be necessary, reasonable and effective.**

## **Membership Requirements:**

**8. Civilian member participate in organized action to reach out to and work with active duty armed forces.**

**9. Military Initiative or individual members may choose to support candidates for elective office who are for immediate withdrawal from Afghanistan and Iraq, but do not support candidates opposed to immediate, unconditional withdrawal.**

**10. Members may not be active duty or drilling reserve commissioned officers, or employed in any capacity by any police or intelligence agency, local, state, or national.**

**11. I understand and am in agreement with this mission.**

**I oppose bigotry against people because of their race, religion, national origin, gender, or sexual orientation.**

**I pledge to defend my brothers and sisters, and the democratic rights of the citizens of the United States, against all enemies, foreign and domestic.**

-----**(Signed**

**(Date)**

----- (Application taken by)

Military Initiative: Contact@militaryproject.org  
Box 126, 2576 Broadway,  
New York, N.Y. 10025-5657

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**You Can Take Action That Makes  
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Join The Military Initiative:  
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APPLICATION**

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Armed Forces? (Branch) \_\_\_\_\_

Veteran? Years: \_\_\_\_\_

Union: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Landline): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Cell): \_\_\_\_\_

\$ dues paid \_\_\_\_\_  
(See next: Calendar year basis.)

Armed Forces Members	@	Dues waived
Civilians	@	\$25
Students/Unemployed	@	\$10
Civilian/Military Prisoners	@	Dues Waived

Comments:

NOTE: Civilian applicants will be interviewed, in person if possible, or by phone.



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**MORE**

# **“People Need Not Be Helpless Before The Power Of Illegitimate Authority”**

*[Based on a statement by David Cortright, Vietnam Veteran and armed forces resistance organizer.]*

**In the final analysis the stationing of American forces abroad serves not the national interest but the class interest of the corporate and political elite.**

**The maintenance of a massive, interventionist-oriented military establishment is based on the need to protect multinational investment and preserve regimes friendly to American capital.**

**Imperialism is at the heart of the national-security system and is the force fundamentally responsible for the counterrevolutionary, repressive aims of U.S. policy.**

**Only if we confront this reality and challenge it throughout society and within the ranks can we restore democratic control of the military.**

**Of course nothing can be accomplished without citizen involvement and active political struggle.**

**During the Vietnam era enlisted servicemen created massive pressures for change, despite severe repression, and significantly altered the course of the war and subsequent military policy.**

**To sustain and strengthen this challenge we must continue to build political opposition to interventionism and support those within the armed services, including national guard and reserves, who defy the goals and program of Empire.**

**The central lesson of the GI movement is that people need not be helpless before the power of illegitimate authority, that by getting together and acting upon their convictions people can change society and, in effect, make their own history.**

**Military Initiative**

**Military Initiative: [Contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:Contact@militaryproject.org)  
Box 126, 2576 Broadway,**

## **MORE AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

# **U.S. Spent Half Billion On Mining In Afghanistan, “Yet Another Project In Danger Of Failing”**

**“There Has Been At Least \$17 Billion In Questionable Spending”**  
**“Many Of The Mines Operate Illegally, With Some Profit Going To The Insurgency”**  
**“The Project Was Hampered By Corruption”**

Jan. 14, 2016 by Megan McCloskey, ProPublica

The United States has spent nearly half a billion dollars and five years developing Afghanistan’s oil, gas and minerals industries — and has little to show for it, a government watchdog reported today.

The project’s failings are the result of poorly planned programs, inadequate infrastructure and a challenging partnership with the Afghan government, the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction wrote in its newest damning assessment of U.S. efforts in the war-torn country.

The finding comes after some 200 SIGAR reports have detailed inefficient, unsuccessful or downright wasteful reconstruction projects.

A recent ProPublica analysis of the reports found that there has been at least \$17 billion in questionable spending.



The Karkar Valley coal mines in Puli Khumri, Afghanistan. (Benjamin Lowy/Getty)

The United States Agency for International Development and a Pentagon task force were in charge of developing a so-called “extractive” industry in Afghanistan — basically a system for getting precious resources out of the ground and to the commercial market.

SIGAR called out both USAID and the Defense Department last year for their failures to coordinate and to ascertain the ability of Afghans to sustain the project, which unsurprisingly is not promising.

**In fact, when international aid stopped supporting the Afghan office responsible for oversight of the petroleum and natural gas industries, two-thirds of the staff were fired.**

Exploiting these resources, which are estimated to be worth as much as \$1 trillion, is pivotal to Afghanistan’s economic future. SIGAR noted that the Afghan government has shown progress under USAID’s tutelage in regulating and developing the commercial export of the resources.

But the report said the project was still hampered by corruption, structural problems and a lack of infrastructure for the mining industry, such as reliable roads. Many of the mines operate illegally, with some profit going to the insurgency, SIGAR said.

When it came to individual extractive projects, there was little progress made, the IG found.

The controversial Pentagon task force in charge of much of the effort, the Task Force for Business Stability Operations, spent \$215 million on 11 extractive programs, but “after

operating in Afghanistan for 5 years, TFBSO left with nearly all of its extractive projects incomplete,” SIGAR found.

Three of the programs technically met objectives, but one of those is of questionable value at best.

**The task force built a gas station for an outrageously inflated cost and in the end it didn’t have any customers.**

So while the objective to create the station was achieved, SIGAR doubted it was a worthwhile venture.

**The task force, made up of mostly civilian business experts and designed to develop the Afghan economy, has come under fire from SIGAR and Congress for demanding unusual and expensive accommodations in the country, allegedly punishing a whistleblower, and lacking overall accountability.**

The Senate is holding a hearing on the task force next week.

In today’s report, SIGAR highlighted that the task force spent \$46.5 million to try to convince companies to agree to develop the resources, but not one ended up signing a contract.

About \$122 million worth of task force programs had mixed results, SIGAR said.

The Defense Department declined SIGAR’s request to comment on its findings. In its response, USAID said it has helped Afghanistan “enact investor-friendly extractive legislation, improve the ability to market, negotiate and regulate contracts, and generate geological data to identify areas of interest to attract investors.” Any conclusions and criticisms, USAID told SIGAR, “need to be substantially tempered by the reality that mining is a long-term endeavor.”

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## **SOMALIA WAR REPORTS**

**Shabaab Insurgents Overrun  
African Union Base In Southern  
Somalia:  
Kill 60 Occupation Troops;**

# Capture “Over 30 Vehicles And ‘Large Quantities Of Weapons, Ammunition, And Military Gear’”

January 15, 2016 by Caleb Weiss, The Long War Journal & BBC

Shabaab, Al Qaeda’s branch in East Africa, reported today that its forces have overrun an African Union base in the southern Somali town of Al Ade.

The attack has reportedly left over 60 Kenyan troops dead.

In a statement released on its Shahada News website and translated by the SITE Intelligence Group, the jihadist group said that “fighters from the Shabaab al Mujahideen Movement mounted a broad attack on Friday morning, on a military base of Kenyan forces in the area of ‘Ayl ‘Adi (Al Ade),” which lies 360 miles south of the capital, Mogadishu. Additionally, it said that the operation, which was carried out by its “Saleh al Nabhani Battalion,” began with a suicide bombing followed by an assault team breaching the perimeter of the base.

The fighting lasted for more than an hour before leaving “nearly 100 soldiers from the Kenyan forces” died, according to Shabaab. However, the BBC has reported that just over 60 Kenyan troops were killed.

Additionally, Kenya has denied that the base was an African Union base, saying it was a “Somali base that was stormed and Kenyan troops counter-attacked,” the BBC reported. The two bases neighbor each other in Al Ade.

In addition to killing over 60 soldiers, the jihadist group also claims to have taken over 30 vehicles and “large quantities of weapons, ammunition, and military gear.” Shabaab ends its statement by saying that “this attack on the ‘Ayl ‘Adi base is considered the largest attack incurred by the Kenyan forces since their entry into Somalia.”

An el-Ade resident told the BBC by phone that he had heard a loud explosion at about 05:30 local time (02:30 GMT), followed by heavy gunfire.

**"We then saw an al-Shabab fighter in the town. We also saw Kenyan soldiers who were fleeing from the camp.**

**"At the moment the camp is in the hands of al-Shabab. We can see military cars burning and dead soldiers all over the place. There are no civilian casualties but most people have fled the town."**

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**MILITARY NEWS**

## HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WAR?



The coffin with Staff Sergeant Louis Bonacasa's remains is carried from the hangar at Gabreski Air National Guard base. New York Post 1.1.16

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE  
BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE  
WAR**

**23 Soldiers Refusing To Take Part In  
Kurdish Massacre Resign From  
Turkish Army:  
“A Remarkable Number Of Turkish Army  
Members Do Not Want To Participate In  
The Operations In Kurdish Towns”**

[Thanks to Ben Chitty, VetPax, for posting.]

13th January 2016 ANF

Şırnak

23 soldiers including 12 specialist sergeants have resigned from the Turkish army due to the escalated onslaught and psychological warfare committed against the Kurdish population in North Kurdistan (E/SE Turkey). The names of these soldiers, hidden by the Turkish, have been revealed.

While the Justice and Development Party (AKP) government's perception operation and genocidal onslaught in Şırnak and its Silopi and Cizre districts remains inconclusive, popular resistance in the areas of self-rule is continuing.

Earlier this month, an official document was revealed detailing the background of the massacre committed by Turkish state forces against the civilian population in North Kurdistan. The six-point "classified" document by Land Forces Command was seen to be openly instructing Turkish forces in Kurdish towns to use arms against civilians, encouraging troops to use arms, and asking military officers not to fear prosecution.

According to reports by reliable sources, a remarkable number of Turkish army members do not want to participate in the operations in Kurdish towns.

As part of this objection, 23 specialist sergeants and high-ranking officers are reported to have resigned from the Turkish military recently. These were affiliated to Çakırsöğüt Gendarmerie Regimental Command in Şırnak where dozens of temporary village guards also quit recently, refusing to take part in the aggression on Kurdish civilians.

12 Specialist Sargeants have left Şırnak

According to reports, soldiers have resigned because of challenging warfare conditions in towns and the targeting of civilians in the ongoing operations.

Yakup Girgin, Necmi Şekerci, Cesim Erhan, Yakup Bilici, Onur Küçükil, Mehmet Akış, Emre Gönenç, Oğuz Boz, Hamdi Algül, Ali Değirmi, Serkan Susan and Ertuğrul Kılıç have recently submitted their resignation with a refusal to participate in the offensives.

It is reported that public opinion is not being provided with information regarding Turkish army members killed or resigned from duty during the course of the operations in Şırnak's Cizre and Silopi districts.

### **YOUR INVITATION:**

**Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or email [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.**

## FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



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

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

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

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

**Frederick Douglass, 1852**

**If our colleges and universities do not breed men who riot, who rebel, who attack life with all the youthful vision and vigor, then there is something wrong with our colleges. The more riots that come out of our college campuses, the better the world for tomorrow.**

**-- William Allen White**



# Ten Thousand People March To The Graves Of Rosa Luxemburg And Karl Liebknecht In Berlin



January 14, 2016 by Daphna Whitmore, Redline

Last Sunday ten thousand people marched to the graves of Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht in Berlin.

Since the late 1920s Luxemburg and Liebknecht have been commemorated on the second Sunday of January to mark their deaths on 15 January 1919. In the former East Germany it was an official state event but since the country's unification in 1990 the tradition has continued without state support.

Rosa Luxemburg was born in Poland in 1871 but lived most of her adult life in Germany.

She was an outstanding revolutionary who foresaw World War 1 looming as early as 1900.

A leading figure in the left wing of the German Social Democratic Party Rosa was an early critic of the party's move away from revolutionary politics. She was imprisoned many times from 1904 to 1906 for leading campaigns against German imperialism and militarism.

When the Social Democratic Party, in government in 1914, voted in favour of participating in the war she left the party as did Karl Liebknecht and Clara Zetkin. Rosa famously declared Social Democracy a stinking corpse.

She continued organising anti-war demonstrations and was imprisoned for two years in 1916.

When an uprising began in January 1919 in Berlin, Rosa was at the forefront. The SDP leader Ebert ordered the Freikorps, a mercenary armed force, to put down the revolution and Luxemburg and Liebknecht were arrested, tortured and shot.

That Luxemburg and Liebknecht remain celebrated figures in Europe suggests these two revolutionaries are symbols of hope for a different world.

Rosa Luxemburg's writings are available here:

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/luxemburg/index.htm>

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**“One Of The Main Elements Of  
Military Hypnosis Is The Faith  
Energetically Promoted Among  
The Soldiers That They Are  
Invincible, Mighty, And Superior  
To All The Rest Of The World”**

**“The War Has Killed That Faith  
Everywhere”**

**“In Recent Years, There Have Been  
Numerous Alarming Symptoms: The  
Army Is Grumbling, Discontented,  
And In A State Of Ferment”**

**“There Is Obviously Discontentment In  
The Ranks And A Vague Feeling Of  
Sympathy For The ‘Rebels’”**

From “Up To The Ninth Of January,” 1905; By L. Trotsky [Excerpts]

The exact moment when maneuvers turn into a battle will depend on the numbers and revolutionary solidarity of the masses who have taken to the streets, on the thickening

atmosphere of universal sympathy and support that these masses are breathing, and on the attitude of the troops that the government will send against the people.

These three elements of success must govern our preparatory work.

The revolutionary proletarian masses are already at hand. Across the whole of Russia, we must be able to summon these masses into the streets and unite them with a single slogan.

There is hatred for tsarism in every stratum and class of society, which means there is also sympathy for the liberation struggle. We must focus this sympathy on the proletariat as the only revolutionary force whose appearance at the head of the popular masses can secure the future of Russia.

**Finally, the attitude of the army is less and less able to inspire the government with confidence.**

**In recent years, there have been numerous alarming symptoms: the army is grumbling, discontented, and in a state of ferment.**

**When the masses move decisively, we must do everything possible to ensure that the army does not see its own fate linked to that of the autocracy.**

A successful political strike by the proletariat imperatively requires that it be transformed into a revolutionary popular demonstration.

**The second important condition is the attitude of the army. There is obviously discontentment in the ranks and a vague feeling of sympathy for the 'rebels'.**

There is also no doubt that only a small part of this sympathy is directly due to our agitation among the troops.

Most of it results from the practice of using the army in clashes with the protesting masses.

**All of the correspondents who have described battles between tsarist forces and the unarmed people emphasise that the great majority of soldiers resent the role of executioner.**

**The great mass of ordinary soldiers fire into the air.**

**All one can say in that regard is that anything else would simply be unnatural.**

At the time of the general strike in Kiev, the Bessarabsky regiment was ordered to march on Podol.

**The regimental commander replied that he could not guarantee the mood of his troops.**

**Then an order went out to the Kherson regiment, but there too not a single half-company of troops would comply with the orders coming from their officers.**

In that respect, Kiev was no exception.

Correspondents report that during the 1903 general strike in Odessa, soldiers frequently did not rise to the occasion. For example, in one case, they were posted to guard a doorway through which demonstrators had been driven, but they simply took it upon themselves to look the other way when those under arrest fled through adjoining doorways.

As a result, between 100 and 150 people escaped. Workers were seen chatting peaceably with the soldiers, and there were cases where they disarmed them with no particular resistance.

That is how things stood in 1903. Then came the year of warfare.

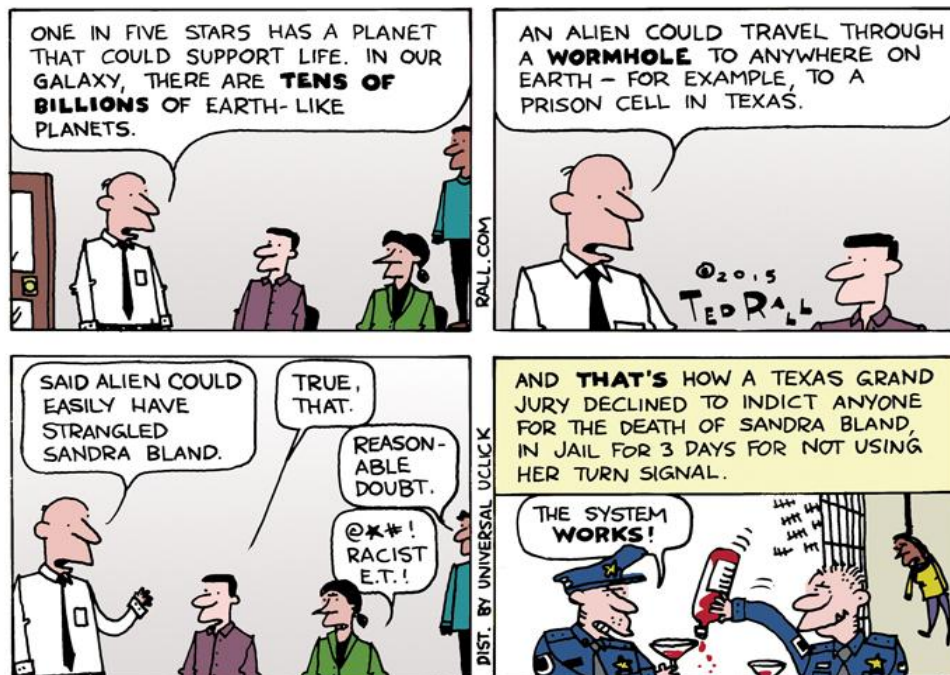
It is obviously impossible to say with any numerical precision how the past year has affected the consciousness of the army, but there is no doubt that its impact has been colossal.

One of the main elements of military hypnosis is the faith energetically promoted among the soldiers that they are invincible, mighty, and superior to all the rest of the world.

The war has killed that faith everywhere.

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## CLASS WAR REPORTS



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## **DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK**

# **Venezuela: Reality Trumps Mythical Bullshit About Socialism; A “Mafia-Like Accumulation Of Capital” “The Joint Collaboration Of Corrupt Venezuelan Capitalists And A Section Of The State Bureaucracy”**

January 13, 2016 By Richard Fidler, Life on the Left [Excerpts]

While oil income from royalties and taxes has until recently brought extraordinary state revenues, also extraordinary are the amounts that are effectively embezzled through the joint collaboration of corrupt Venezuelan capitalists and a section of the state bureaucracy, often linked together through interlocking directorships in banks, insurance companies, firms that contract with the state, and even family members located abroad, using a variety of techniques: import fraud, speculative maneuvers with sovereign debt certificates, negotiation in marginal markets of currencies and debt certificates of the state oil corporation PDVSA, etc.

In one of a series of in-depth exposés of this process, which it describes as a “mafia-like accumulation of capital,” the left pro-Chavista tendency Marea Socialista has documented net capital flight by the “Boliburgesía” (the new “Bolivarian” bourgeoisie) of almost \$260 billion (US) between 1998 and 2013 alone.

This, it notes, is equivalent to 25 times the cost of Brazil’s World Cup expenditures, 10 times the fall in state income caused by the anti-Chávez oil industry shutdown in 2002-03, the construction of 6 million new homes under the government’s current housing mission, or 37 times the difference between subsidized gasoline sales prices and the cost of production.

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## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

### **House Socialists, Field Socialists And Bernie:**

**“Bernie Fails To Identify Important Institutions As Being Controlled By And Serving The Interests Of The 1%”**

**“Congress, The Democratic And Republican Parties, The National Media, The Police And The Military Are All Captives Of The 1%”**

**Like All House Socialists, He Thinks Capitalism Can Be Fixed Or Tamed With Reforms**

JANUARY 12, 2016 by BRUCE LESNICK, CounterPunch [Excerpts]

I wholeheartedly support the populist programs that Bernie Sanders advocates—from single-payer healthcare, to free college tuition, to taxing the rich and more.

But borrowing from Malcolm X, Bernie is a house socialist and I'm a field socialist.

**Bernie doesn't want to replace or overthrow capitalism. Like all house socialists, he thinks capitalism can be fixed or tamed with reforms.**

**By contrast, we field socialists understand that the essence of capitalism—private ownership of major industry, resources, banks, and the exploitation of labor by appropriating surplus value (profit)—is antithetical to democracy.**

In fact, for all of Bernie's talk about “democratic socialism”, he and other house socialists turn a blind eye to the lack of economic democracy that is the very hallmark of the capitalist system.

Because Bernie is in favor of tweaking capitalism but opposed to dismantling it, he ignores the systemic lack of democracy in the workplace and the economy—the very aspects that most affects people’s lives.

Bernie rightly denounces the unequal distribution of wealth, where the top 1% owns more than the rest combined.

**But like all house socialists, Bernie fails to identify important institutions as being controlled by and serving the interests of the 1%. Congress, the Democratic and Republican parties, the national media, the police and the military are all captives of the 1%.**

**In a class-divided society, all important institutions are wielded as tools of the dominant class.**

Field socialists understand that these institutions answer only to the needs of the 1%, even though much effort is made by official propagandists to convince us that they serve us all.

Bernie and other house socialists aid the 1% in the criminal charade of pretending that government institutions, the police and the military exist and operate independent of the class divisions in our society.

**This is why it’s no surprise that Bernie and other like-minded house socialists are military hawks.**

They see the US army as “our” army rather than a weapon of the 1%.

This is why Bernie has voted for nearly every war appropriations bill.

This is why Bernie supports drones and US military involvement in the Middle East; why he supported military action in Afghanistan, Libya, Yemen and elsewhere. This is why Bernie supported sanctions against Iraq in the 1990s that caused the deaths of more than half a million children and he supported US military action in Kosovo in 1999.

**This is why Bernie refuses to denounce the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestine but supports billions in military aid for Israel, Saudi Arabia and other brutal US client states that serve to extend the reach and protect the interests of the 1% overseas.**

Field socialists oppose imperial war-making, understanding that the individuals and institutions of the 1% that exploit us here at home cannot be trusted to defend our interests abroad.

In contrast to the hawkish house socialists, field socialists demand: “All US Troops Out Now!” “Dismantle All US Military Bases Abroad!” “Not One Bomb, Not One Bullet for the Wars of the One Percent!” “Money for Jobs, Not for War.

Because house socialists like Bernie limit their critique to reforms of the existing system, they are unable to propose concrete, workable solutions for the big problems we face.

Take climate change, for example. Sure, house socialists say we must do more. But they emphasize tweaking economic incentives in the hope of persuading energy monopolies to change their behavior. House socialists support keeping the energy industry in the hands of private, profit-mad corporations. But gentle persuasion hasn't changed corporate behavior up to now and we shouldn't expect it to succeed in the future. As long as there are profits to be made by disregarding rules and incentives, corporations will do so.

No incentives and no amount of persuasion can induce a leopard to change its spots; you have to replace the leopard.

Few Americans realize that there are different kinds of socialists.

Since house socialists are less of a threat to the powers-that-be, they tend to get a wider hearing than field socialists. In many European countries, house socialist parties have mass followings. House socialists have served as prime ministers in France, Sweden, Portugal, Norway, Luxemburg and elsewhere. Yet, capitalism hums merrily along in Europe as in most of the rest of the world.

If electing house socialists to high office made a crucial difference to addressing global injustice, climate change or endless war, we would have seen it by now.

Unfortunately, there's no field socialist to vote for in the upcoming presidential election. Nor do we in the US yet have a mass labor party—rooted in the working class and linked to fighting trade unions—which could serve as a real alternative to the parties of the 1%.

Given this void, it's not surprising that those fed up with the status quo might put their hopes in Bernie Sanders, a house socialist seeking to be the leader of a big-business party.

But beware: while a vote for the house socialist candidate of a capitalist party might make some people feel good, no one should expect it to change much.

**MORE:**

## **Malcolm X: The House Negro and the Field Negro Speech**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7kf7fujM4ag>**

**Comment: T**

**This is a link to the brilliant, world-famous Malcom X speech on the subject.**

**Beware.**



**There are some fraudulent versions floating around with the heart and the fire most carefully removed to make Malcom X “respectable.” Trash put out by trash.**

**Unfortunately, in the article above, Lesnick’s link, now removed, refers the reader to a written, boring, cut-to-pieces version: an “edited” fraud by omission.**

**Anybody listening to this one would use that one for toilet paper.**

**One example from the original carefully removed from the fraud:**

**"Our religion teaches us to be intelligent, be peaceful, obey the law, respect everyone, but if someone puts his hand on you send him to the cemetery."**

**At 6 minutes 30 seconds into the speech, he discusses Mr. Barack Obama.**

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