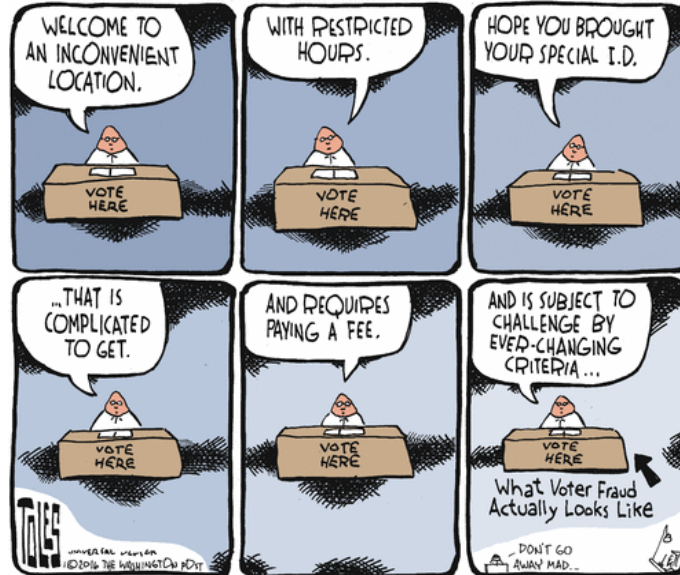


Military Resistance 14B1



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "Time to uphold and defend NOW!"]

Raffle Notice:

The raffle is over. Hugh thanks to all who participated. Blind drawing will begin Feb. 6, to be sure that all entries have been received from those of you who mailed in support by Jan. 28. Some come from outside the USA. The first winner will be contacted Feb. 7, and then on down the line. T

**Trump Vows To Increase Wounded Warriors By 2,000%:
"We'll Be Fighting Wars With Countries I've Never Even Heard"
"No One Is More Excited At The Much Needed Increase In Wounded Warriors Than The Wounded Warrior Project"**

January 28, 2016 by Jack S. McQuack, Duffle Blog. Intrepid reporters Addison Blu and Donnell contributed to this report.

DES MOINES, Iowa —

Republican Presidential candidate Donald Trump will skip the presidential debate on Thursday so he can instead hold a fundraiser to uphold his promise to increase wounded warriors by 2,000 percent.

“I support all veteran organizations that help wounded warriors,” Trump told members of the media.

“When I’m elected president, I promise that there will be more wounded warriors than ever before in history. We’ll be fighting wars with countries I’ve never even heard of before. It’ll be a bloodbath.”

It’s all part of Trump’s campaign to stimulate the economy and “make America great again,” and he says he is “looking at the bigger picture” and focusing on ways to help beleaguered sectors of the economy — with a priority on increasing the number of veterans to care for.

Trump went on to say that he will focus on nations harboring ISIS first, while moving onto “loser” countries later.

“Syria? Gone. ISIS? Gone. Anything that has to do with ISIS? Gone. Statues of ISIS in Egypt? Gone. Egypt? Gone. The Isis Collections wig company in New Jersey? Yep — gone.”

When asked about the impact to the VA and it’s already stretched resources, Trump says he has a plan for that too.

“I’d love to bring in my friend Dr. Jack Kevorkian,” he said.

With the news that protracted land battles in southwest Asia will not fall by the wayside under Trump’s strategy, no one is more excited at the much needed increase in wounded warriors than the non-profit Wounded Warrior Project.

“Quite frankly we were concerned that, with the number of wounded warriors decreasing, funds would dry up and leave us unable to fight our numerous lawsuits defending our brand,” CEO Steven Narduzzi said.

“But with Mr. Trump as our ally, we’ll be able support our bloated overhead structure and help veterans with injuries we’ve never imagined in our wildest dreams.”

“Well, 60% of them anyway,” he added.

Trump’s campaign manager Corey Lewandowski spoke to members of the media shortly after announcing Trump’s boycott of the debate, building on the momentum the move has generated.

“Veterans care is like foreign policy: You can definitely kill your way out of it,” campaign manager Corey Lewandowki told members of the media.

“And if Donald Trump is elected into office, you can be sure that lots of people — I don’t know who, or where, or how — will be killed.”

“*To make America great again!*” he said, raising his hands toward the crowd.

To promote maximum participation at the wounded warrior fundraiser, Trump’s campaign announced the first 500 veterans at the rally will be given Suzuki Hayabusa motorcycles, a handle of Crown Royal, and a pair of semi-automatic firearms.

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: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

**Afghan Businessman Convicted
In Billion Dollar Kabul Bank
Fraud Is Still Free To Make
Deals With Top Regime
Officials:
Serving 15-Year Sentence, But
Only At Night;
“The Message It Sends Is That If You
Have Stolen Enough Money, You Can
Get Away With It”**

“The Afghan Government’s Partnership With Mr. Frozi On Such A Major Project Amounted To A Public Joke”



Khalilullah Frozi, back left, the former head of Kabul Bank, in court in 2012. He is serving his 15-year sentence, but only at night. Credit Bryan Denton for The New York Times

NOV. 4, 2015 by MUJIB MASHAL, New York Times
[Late Report]

KABUL, Afghanistan —

In a big day for development here, a notable Afghan businessman stood with top government officials on Wednesday as he signed the contract for a new township: 8,800 homes across 33 acres of prime real estate in the heart of the capital, with an initial investment of at least \$95 million.

There was just one problem: The businessman, Khalilullah Frozi, is supposed to be serving a 15-year prison sentence for his role in defrauding Kabul Bank of nearly \$1 billion of depositors’ money.

The scheme brought Afghanistan’s biggest bank, where Mr. Frozi was listed as chief executive, near collapse in 2010, and it deeply shook trust in the Western-backed financial system here.

But Mr. Frozi, it seems, will be spending his days making money while he serves his sentence at night.

Five years after the banking scandal, the apparent unwillingness of the Afghan authorities to deal firmly with the perpetrators is perhaps one of the most glaring

examples of Western impotence in the fight to clean up a system that the United States, chiefly, built and paid for.

At the very least, the lenient treatment is likely to be a new source of frustration for international donors and the International Monetary Fund, which had made the prosecution of Mr. Frozi and his partners a precondition for continued aid to a government that has shown halting progress in tackling corruption.

“Clearly, this is very odd,” said a senior Western official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because he had been surprised by the development and had yet to gather full details. “The message it sends is that if you have stolen enough money, you can get away with it.”

President Ashraf Ghani took office last year on a pledge of curbing the endemic corruption within the Afghan government and righting the country’s troubled economy. Just a few months ago, he revived the Kabul Bank case, reopening many prosecutions and advocating harsher sentences for Mr. Frozi and his colleagues.

But now his government is teaming with Mr. Frozi, hoping for a badly needed investment influx as the economy suffers amid Taliban offensives and an exodus of Afghans fearful that their country is once again teetering.

The mixed message sent by Mr. Frozi’s re-emergence is another sign of trouble for Mr. Ghani, who is caught in a risky quandary over corruption: He alienated many powerful Afghan figures with a series of reform dictates early in his term, but still faces criticism for not doing enough.

Drago Kos, the chief international corruption watchdog in Afghanistan, resigned two weeks ago, saying he did not think the government was serious in its efforts.

“With the exception of some sporadic activities, in one year since the new president and the C.E.O. took positions, I could not see any systemic action against endemic corruption in the country,” said Mr. Kos, who was a member of the Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee.

“All we’ve needed was some good political will and support, which never came and in such circumstances, I did not see the point to go on.”

Anti-corruption campaigners said the Afghan government’s partnership with Mr. Frozi on such a major project amounted to a public joke.

“It sends a very negative political signal to the Afghan people and the world: that anyone can loot, but if they invest in Afghanistan, no one will question the legitimacy of the investment,” said Yama Torabi, a member of the anticorruption committee.

“It perpetuates the culture of impunity.”

At the ceremony opening for Mr. Frozi’s project, called Smart City, Mr. Ghani’s legal adviser, Abdul Ali Mohammadi, thanked the businessman for his investment. He acknowledged that the presence of Mr. Frozi “here and not in Pul-i-Charkhi prison” had raised many questions.

“The aim is not to keep Kabul Bank debtors imprisoned, but the aim is to return the government and the people’s money,” Mr. Mohammadi said, describing what he called his government’s “mechanism of encouragement.”

He added, “As long as these individuals remain imprisoned in jails, or on the run abroad, not only do they suffer but what they owe the people also remains.”

Still, efforts have lagged in reclaiming about \$988 million in embezzled funds in the Kabul Bank fraud case, with less than half recovered as of August.

In addition to his 15-year sentence, Mr. Frozi was ordered by the courts to pay back \$137 million. In a telephone interview on Wednesday, he said that his new venture was part of an agreement he had reached with the government.

Under the deal, he would serve his sentence at night, but would come to his office during the day to invest in projects that would eventually generate enough money to pay back what he owes.

In addition, he said, he had paid back 17 percent of his debt upfront, with the rest to be paid in installments over seven years.

His latest investment, he says, will allow him to pay his debts off much sooner, and make a large profit in the process.

“I will make \$300 million in profits in this project,” he said. “It will pay what I owe the government in 13 or 14 months, and the project will bring the government an additional \$75 million in taxes.”

He said that for more than a month now, “I work in office until 4 p.m., then go to the National Directorate of Security to serve my sentence.”

Kabul Bank was established in 2004 as the country’s first private bank. But, according to auditors, it was a veritable Ponzi scheme from the beginning.

It quickly turned into a piggy bank of sorts for the country’s elite, who borrowed freely from depositors’ money to invest in their own projects without repaying their loans.

While the founders were Mr. Frozi and Sherkhan Farnood, a money exchanger with a long trail of Interpol and Russian government warrants out for his arrest, the list of shareholders included a brother of former President Hamid Karzai and also a brother of his vice president, Muhammad Qasim Fahim.

One shareholder, a nephew of Mr. Fahim who had a 3 percent stake, was “probably 7 years old,” according to the minutes of a government meeting held after the bank ran into trouble.

But the shareholders were borrowers, too. Hundreds of millions of dollars in depositors’ money was given to them and transferred to Dubai for investment in real estate.

Customers' savings also went into purchasing an airline; the founding of a major liquid gas distribution company; the purchase of the country's oldest cement factory; the construction of a resplendent mall and residential complex in Kabul; and numerous other businesses.

The bank's popularity grew largely because of the enticements it offered to struggling Afghans in one of the world's poorest countries.

Each month, the bank held a televised lottery in which customers with as little as \$100 in their accounts were eligible to play. Apartments, cars, and large cash prizes were given away.

But it was later revealed that the hundreds of apartments given away were properties sold to the bank by Mr. Frozi and Mr. Farnood at prices three to four times their actual value, earning them substantial profits.

It was not immediately clear whether Mr. Farnood, who is also serving a 15-year sentence, had negotiated a similar deal with the government.

But Mr. Frozi's latest tactic has raised a host of questions.

Why, if he still has enough money to play with, has the government not been able to recover what he owes in full already?

Why has it not seized the property he intends to build on, which he still owns?

And why are the business partners in his new venture undeterred by his reputation?

The answer, many analysts say, lies in the connections Mr. Frozi accumulated during his time in charge of Kabul Bank, when he doled out cash to an influential elite and political strongmen, who remain in his thrall.

Mr. Ghani's coalition government depends on many of the same players, and could do little more now than to reach a compromise with Mr. Frozi, the analysts say.

Mr. Frozi's enduring influence ensured him luxury even in jail, from where he was reportedly released regularly to watch his soccer team, Ferozi F.C.

On a daily basis, Mr. Frozi posted photographs and poems on his Facebook page from his cell, which was specially furnished with cushions and maroon Persian rugs, its walls painted a pale yellow.

Among the images is one of him with his children lounging on the cushions during family visit day.

There is even a photograph of Mr. Frozi in the prison yard, hanging out with Taliban prisoners.

“In Pul-i-Charkhi prison, with the political opponents of the National Unity Government,” the caption reads, in reference to Mr. Ghani’s coalition that he just signed a partnership with.

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

Ask for work. If they do not give you work, ask for bread. If they do not give you work or bread, then take bread.”

– Emma Goldman

Holiday In Falluja: “I Was In Falluja During The Last Two Days Of The Final Assault” [A Soldier Reporting 2004]

GI SPECIAL 2#C27 11.21.04

From: [Soldier, Iraq]
To: GI Special
Sent: Friday, November 19, 2004 2:03 PM
Subject: Holiday in Falluja

These are ugly times for the US military in Iraq. It seems everywhere you turn, more and more troops are being killed and maimed in vicious encounters with determined rebel fighters.

The insurgency is mounting incredibly in such places as Baghdad, Mosul, and Baquba; using more advanced techniques and weaponry associated with a well-organized guerilla campaign. Even in the massively destroyed city of Falluja rebel forces are starting to reappear with a callous determination to win or die trying. Many critics and political pundits are starting to realize that this war is, in many aspects, un-winnable.

And why should anyone think that a complete victory is possible? Conventionally, our US forces win territory here or there, killing a plethora of civilians as well as insurgents with each new boundary conquered. However, such as the recent case in Falluja, the rebel fighters have returned like a swarm of angry hornets attacking with a vicious frenzy.

I was in Falluja during the last two days of the final assault.

My mission was much different from that of the brave and weary infantry and marines involved in the major fighting.

I was on an escort mission, accompanied by a squad whose task it was to protect a high brass figure in the combat zone.

This particularly arrogant officer went to the last battle in the same spirits of an impartial spectator checking out the fourth quarter of a high school football game.

Once we got to the marine occupied Camp Falluja and saw artillery being fired into town, the man suddenly became desperate to play an active role in the battle that would render Falluja to ashes. It was already rumored that all he really wanted was his trigger time, perhaps to prove that he is the toughest cowboy west of the Euphrates.

Guys like him are a dime a dozen in the army: a career soldier who spent the first twenty years of his service patrolling the Berlin Wall or guarding the DMZ between North and South Korea. This sort of brass may have been lucky to serve in the first Gulf War, but in all actuality spent very little time shooting rag heads.

For these trigger-happy tough guys, the last two decades of cold war hostilities built into a war frenzy of stark emptiness, fizzling out almost completely with the Clinton administration.

But this is the New War, a never ending, action packed “Red Scare” in which the communist threat of yesteryear was simply replaced with the white knuckled tension of today’s “War on Terrorism”.

The younger soldiers who grew up in relatively peaceful times interpret the mentality of the careerists as one of making up for lost opportunities. To the elder generation of trigger pullers, this is the real deal; the chance to use all the cool toys and high speed training that has been stored away since the ‘70s for something tangibly useful...and its about goddamn time.

However, upon reaching the front lines, a safety standard was in effect stating that the urban combat was extremely intense. The lightest armored vehicles allowed in sector were Bradley tanks.

Taking a glance at our armored humvees, this commander insisted that our section would be fine. Even though the armored humvees are very stout and nearly impenetrable against small arm fire, they usually don’t hold up well against rocket attacks and roadside bombs like a heavily armored tank will. The reports from within the war zone indicated heavy rocket attacks, with an armed insurgent waiting on every corner for a soft target such as trucks.

In the end, the overzealous officer was urged not to infiltrate into sector with only three trucks, for it would be a death wish during those dangerous twilight hours. It was suggested that in the morning, after the air strikes were complete, he could move in and “inspect the damage”.

Even as the sun was setting over the hazy orange horizon, artillery was pounding away at the remaining twelve percent of the already devastated Falluja.

Many units were pulled out for the evening in preparation of a full-scale air strike that was scheduled to last for up to twelve hours.

Our squad was sitting on top of our parked humvees, manning the crew served machine guns and scanning the urban landscape for enemy activity. This was supposed to be a secured forward operating area, right on the edge of the combat zone. However, with no barbed wire perimeter set up and only a few scattered tanks serving as protection, one was under the assumption that if someone missed a minor detail while on guard, some serious shit could go down.

One soldier informed me that only two nights prior an insurgent was caught sneaking around the bullet-ridden houses to our immediate west. He was armed with a rocket-propelled grenade, and was laying low on his advance towards the perimeter. One of

the tanks spotted him through its night vision and hastily shot him into three pieces. Indeed, though it was safe enough to smoke a cigarette and relax, one had to remain diligently aware of his surroundings if he planned on making it through the night.

As the evening wore on and the artillery continued, a new gruesome roar filled the sky.

The fighter jets were right on time and made their grand appearance with a series of massive air strikes. Between the pernicious bombs and fierce artillery, the sky seemed as though it were on fire for several minutes at a time. First you would see a blaze of light in the horizon, like lightning hitting a dynamite warehouse, and then hear the massive explosion that would turn your stomach, rattle your eyeballs, and compress itself deep within your lungs. Although these massive bombs were being dropped no further than five kilometers away, it felt like it was happening right in front of your face.

At first, it was impossible not to flinch with each unexpected boom, but after scores of intense explosions, your senses became aware and complacent towards them.

At times the jets would scream menacingly low over the city and open fire with smaller missiles meant for extreme accuracy. This is what Top Gun, in all its glory and silver screen acclaim, seemed to be lacking in the movie's high budget sound effects.

These air-deployed missiles make a banshee-like squeal, sort of like a bottle rocket fueled with plutonium, and then suddenly would become inaudible. Seconds later, the colossal explosion would rip the sky open and hammer devastatingly into the ground, sending flames and debris pummeling into the air. And as always, the artillery—some rounds were high explosive, some were illumination rounds, some were reported as being white phosphorus (the modern day napalm).

Occasionally, on the outskirts of the isolated impact area, you could hear tanks firing machine guns and blazing their cannons. It was amazing that anything could survive this deadly onslaught. Suddenly a transmission came over the radio approving the request for "bunker-busters". Apparently, there were a handful of insurgent compounds that were impenetrable by artillery. At the time, I was unaware when these bunker-busters were deployed, but I was told later that the incredibly massive explosions were a direct result of these "final solution" type missiles.

I continued to watch the final assault on Falluja throughout the night from atop my humvee.

It was interesting to scan the vast skies above with night vision goggles. Circling continuously overhead throughout the battle was an array of attack helicopters. The most devastating were the Cobras and Apaches with their chain gun missile launchers.

Through the night vision I could see them hovering around the carnage, scanning the ground with an infrared spotlight that seemed to reach for miles. Once a target was identified, a rapid series of hollow blasts would echo through the skies, and from the ground came a "rat-a-tatting" of explosions, like a daisy chain of supercharged black cats during a Fourth of July barbeque. More artillery, more tanks, more machine gun fire, ominous death-dealing fighter planes terminating whole city blocks at a time...this wasn't a war, it was a massacre!

As I look back on the air strikes that lasted well into the next morning, I cannot help but to be both amazed by our modern technology and disgusted by its means.

It occurred to me many times during the siege that while the Falluja resistance was boldly fighting us with archaic weapons from the Cold War, we were soaring far above their heads dropping Thor's fury with a destructive power and precision that may as well been nuclear. It was like the Iraqis were bringing a knife to a tank fight.

And yet, the resistance toiled on, many fighting until their deaths.

What determination!

Some soldiers call them stupid for even thinking they have a chance in hell to defeat the strongest military in the world, but I call them brave.

It's not about fighting to win an immediate victory. And what is a conventional victory in a non-conventional war?

It seems overwhelmingly obvious that this is no longer within the United States hands.

We reduced Falluja to rubble. We claimed victory and told the world we held Falluja under total and complete control. Our military claimed very little civilian casualties and listed thousands of insurgents dead.

CNN and Fox News harped and cheered on the television that the Battle of Falluja would go down in history as a complete success, and a testament to the United States' supremacy on the modern battlefield.

However, after the dust settled and generals sat in cozy offices smoking their victory cigars, the front lines in Falluja exploded again with indomitable mortar, rocket, and small arm attacks on US and coalition forces.

Recent reports indicate that many insurgents have resurfaced in the devastated city of Falluja. We had already claimed the situation under control, and were starting to turn our attention to the other problem city of Mosul. Suddenly we were backtracking our attention to Falluja.

Did the Department of Defense and the national press lie to the public and claim another preemptive victory?

Not necessarily so. Conventionally we won the battle, how could anyone argue that? We destroyed an entire city and killed thousands of its occupants. **But the main issue that both the military and public forget to analyze is that this war, beyond any shadow of a doubt, is completely guerrilla.**

Sometimes I wonder if the West Point graduated officers have ever studied the intricate simplicity and effectiveness of guerrilla warfare.

During the course of this war, I have occasionally asked a random lieutenant or a captain if he at any time has even browsed through Che Guevara's *Guerrilla Warfare*. Almost half of them admit that they have not. This I find to be amazing! Here we have

many years of guerrilla warfare ahead of us and our military's leadership seems dangerously unaware of what it all means!

Anyone can tell you that a guerrilla fighter is one who uses hit and run techniques to attempt a breakdown of a stronger conventional force.

However, what is more important to a guerrilla campaign are the political forces that drive it. Throughout history, many guerrilla armies have been successful; our own country and its fight for independence cannot be excluded.

We should have learned a lesson in guerrilla fighting with the Vietnam War only thirty years ago, but history has a funny way of repeating itself. The Vietnam War was a perfect example of how quick, deadly assaults on conventional troops over a long period of time can lead to an unpopular public view of the war, thus ending it.

Che Guevara stressed in his book *Guerrilla Warfare* that the most important factor in a guerrilla campaign is popular support. With that, victory is almost completely assured.

The Iraqis already have many of the main ingredients of a successful insurrection. Not only do they have a seemingly endless supply of munitions and weapons, they have the advantage to blend into their environment, whether that environment is a crowded market place or a thickly vegetated palm grove.

The Iraqi insurgent has utilized these advantages to the fullest, but his most important and relevant advantage is the popular support from his own countrymen.

What our military and government needs to realize is that every mistake we make is an advantage to the Iraqi insurrection. Every time an innocent man, woman or child is murdered in a military act, deliberate or not, the insurgent grows stronger.

Even if an innocent civilian is slain at the hands of his/her own freedom fighter, that fighter is still viewed as a warrior of the people, while the occupying force will ultimately be blamed as the responsible perpetrator.

Everything about this war is political...every ambush, every bombing, every death. When a coalition worker or soldier is abducted and executed, this only adds encouragement and justice to the dissident fervor of the Iraq public, while angering and demoralizing the occupier.

Our own media will prove to be our downfall as well. Every time an atrocity is revealed through our news outlets, our grasp on this once secular nation slips away. **As America grows increasingly disturbed by the images of carnage and violent death of her own sons in arms, its government loses the justification to continue the bloody debacle.**

Since all these traits are the conventional power's unavoidable mistakes, the guerrilla campaign will surely succeed.

In Iraq's case, complete destruction of the United States military is impossible, but through perseverance the insurgency will drive us out. This will prove to be the inevitable outcome of the war.

We lost many soldiers in the final battle for Falluja, and many more were seriously wounded. It seems unfair that even after the devastation we wreaked on this city just to contain it, many more troops will die in vain to keep it that way.

I saw the look in the eyes of a reconnaissance scout while I talked to him after the battle. His stories of gore and violent death were unnerving. The sacrifices that he and his whole platoon had made were infinite. They fought everyday with little or no sleep, very few breaks, and no hot meals.

For obvious reasons, they never could manage to find time to email their mothers to let them know that everything turned out ok.

Some of the members of his platoon will never get the chance to reassure their mothers, because now those soldiers are dead.

The look in his eyes as he told some of the stories were deep and weary, even perturbed. He described in accurate detail how some enemy combatants were blown to pieces by army issued bazookas, some had their heads shot off by a 50 caliber bullet, others were run over by tanks as they stood defiantly in the narrow streets firing an AK-47.

The soldier told me how one of his favorite sergeants died right in front of him. He was taking cover behind an alley wall and as he emerged to fire his M4 rifle, he was shot through the abdomen with a rocket-propelled grenade.

The grenade itself exploded and sent shrapnel into the narrator's leg. He showed me where a chunk of burned flesh was torn from his left thigh.

He ended his conversation saying that he was just a dumb kid from California who never thought joining the army would send him straight to hell. He told me he was tired as fuck and wanted a shower. Then he slowly walked away, cradling a rifle under his arm.

hEkLe

Falluja, Iraq

p.s. -pass this on to all your friends, especially your republican friends. thanx.

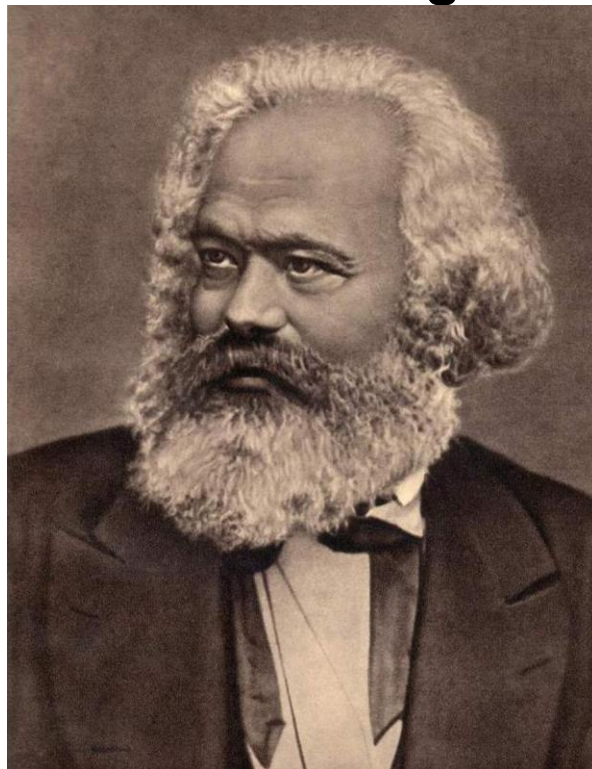
MILITARY RESISTANCE BY EMAIL

If you wish to receive Military Resistance immediately and directly, send request to contact@militaryproject.org. There is no subscription charge. Same address to unsubscribe.

**“At A Certain Stage Of Their
Development, The Material
Productive Forces Of Society
Come Into Conflict With The
Property Relations Within The
Framework Of Which They Have
Hitherto Operated”**

**“From Forms Of Development Of The
Productive Forces These Relations
Turn Into Their Fetters”**

**“At That Point An Era Of Social
Revolution Begins”**



[The Moor saw it coming.]



[He also knew what it would take to fix it.]

Preface To A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy, Karl Marx, 1859 [Excerpt]

In the social production of their existence, men inevitably enter into definite, necessary relations, which are independent of their will, namely relations of production corresponding to a determinate stage of the development of their material forces of production.

The totality of these relations of production constitutes the economic structure of society, the real foundation, on which there arises a legal and political superstructure and to which there correspond definite forms of social consciousness.

The mode of production of material life conditions the social, political and intellectual life-process in general.

It is not the consciousness of men that determines their being, but on the contrary it is their social being that determines their consciousness.

At a certain stage of their development, the material productive forces of society come into conflict with the existing relations of production or – what is merely a legal expression for the same thing – with the property relations within the framework of which they have hitherto operated.

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

At that point an era of social revolution begins.

With the change in the economic foundation, the whole immense superstructure is more slowly or more rapidly transformed.

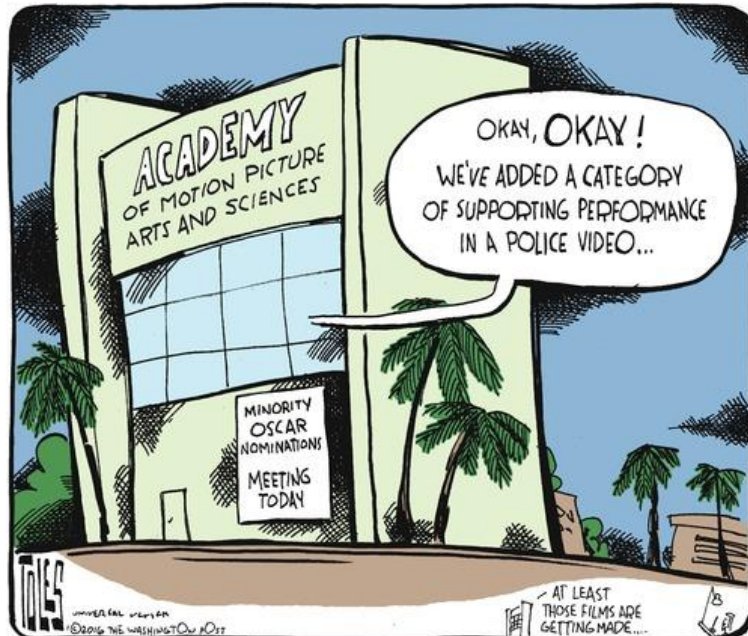
In considering such transformations it is always necessary to distinguish between the material transformation of the economic conditions of production, which can be determined with the precision of natural science, and the legal, political, religious, artistic or philosophic – in short, ideological forms in which men become conscious of this conflict and fight it out.

Just as one does not judge an individual by what he thinks about himself, so one cannot judge such a period of transformation by its consciousness, but, on the contrary, this consciousness must be explained from the contradictions of material life, from the conflict existing between the social forces of production and the relations of production.

A social order never perishes before all the productive forces for which it is broadly sufficient have been developed, and new superior relations of production never replace older ones before the material conditions for their existence have matured within the womb of the old society.

Mankind thus inevitably sets itself only such tasks as can solve, since closer examination will always show that the task itself arises only when the material conditions for its solution are already present or at least in the process of formation.

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



Panic Now And Avoid The Rush Later #1: “Troubling Trends In The Bond Market” “More Companies Have Ultralow Credit Ratings” Probability Of Corporate Bond Defaults Up 36%

Jan 26, 2016 By Mike Cherney, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

U.S. stocks, commodities and corporate debt are rallying Tuesday, but ratings firms are reminding investors there are some troubling trends in the bond market: more companies have ultralow credit ratings, more bonds are trading at low dollar prices and more firms are expected to default.

More companies have very low ratings

A tally from Moody’s Investors Service MCO +2.31%, which tracks how many companies have “probability-of-default” ratings of B3 with a negative outlook or lower, hit 248 firms as of Jan. 1, which the ratings firm says is the highest in six years.

The reading is 36% higher than the previous year.

A B3 rating is considered junk territory, and is six notches below the lowest investment-grade rating.

Much of the increase came from oil and natural gas companies, which makes up the biggest of roughly two dozen sectors on the list, Moody’s says. Of the 174 companies that were added last year, more than a third were oil and gas firms. As it stands now, about 25% of companies on the list are oil and gas firms, more than the 9% historical average for this sector.

Aside from energy firms, retailers like Bon-Ton Stores Inc. BONT +9.68% and Charming Charlie LLC were also recently put on the list. But despite the additions, the list remains 43 companies shy of its all-time high during the financial crisis.

MORE BONDS ARE TRADING AT DISTRESSED LEVELS

A distress ratio calculated by Standard & Poor's, which measures the amount of junk debt trading with very high yields relative to the broader market, increased to 29.6% as of Jan. 15.

The last time the ratio was higher was in July 2009, when it hit 35.6%, according to S&P.

S&P also attributes the spike to oil and gas firms, which accounted for 156 of the 524 bonds considered to be trading at distressed levels. The metals-and-mining sector, which has also been hit hard by the commodities slump, came in second with 65.

DEFAULTS WILL RISE

Fitch Ratings expects the trailing 12-month U.S. junk-bond default rate to hit 4.5% at the end of 2016, up from 3.4% at the end of 2015, which was the highest rate since 2009.

In all, 74 issuers defaulted on \$48 billion worth of bonds in 2015, Fitch said.

"The higher rate is anticipated primarily from continuing fallout from low commodity prices challenging the energy and metals/mining sectors and company-specific issues bleeding into other sectors," Fitch said in a report Tuesday.

MORE:

Panic Now And Avoid The Rush Later #2:

**"The World's Central Banks Can't
Save Us"**

**"If Central Banks Double Down On Their
Policies, It Could Cause A Loss Of
Confidence In Central Bankers, Paper
Money In General, Or One Or More
Currencies, And Lead To A Collapse In
Bonds And Stock Prices"**

Jan. 22, 2016 By Dennis K. Berman, Wall Street Journal

The world's central banks can't save us anymore.

That was the message from some of the world's most prominent investors at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, on Friday.

Their mood here was irritated, bordering on affronted, with what they say has been central-bank intervention that has gone on too long. From this anecdotal sampling, at least, that has created growing distortions in nearly all asset prices—from stocks to bonds to real estate.

Each was resistant to putting on fresh positions and expected asset prices to head downward. In short, they say, the only winning move is not to play the game.

“The trade now is to hold as much cash as possible,” said Nikhil Srinivasan, chief investment officer for Generali, a European insurer with \$480 billion in assets.

From Mr. Srinivasan's view, there isn't an existential worry about financial assets. It's just that they are priced too high.

He said the central banks in the U.S. and Europe have done all that is possible, bringing rates to historic lows, and in Europe weakening the Euro to help sustain exports. Markets need to “stop expecting miracles,” he said, “now it's time for the fiscal side to do its job.”

The sentiment was the same for Axel Weber, the chairman of UBS AG. He said in a panel at Davos that:

“There may be no limit to what the ECB is willing to do but there is a very clear limit to what QE can and will achieve,” he said, referring to the European Central Bank. “The problem is that monetary policy has largely run its course.”

Elliott Management chief Paul Singer, who runs a \$26 billion hedge fund, said, “If central banks double down on their policies of QE, ZIRP and NIRP, it could cause a loss of confidence in central bankers, paper money in general, or one or more currencies, and lead to a collapse in bonds and stock prices.”

Added one other CEO of a major global financial firm: “The sickness is not inflation, it's the mispricing of assets.”

The realization that Western economies will be growing slowly—and there was little that the central banks may do to aid—put financial executives here in something of a stupor.

The Netherlands, for instance, is experiencing negative interest rates.

“We have limited opportunities to lend on the other side” of customer deposits because of those negative yields, said Ralph Hamers, the chairman of Dutch bank ING NV.

“The only thing we can do is extend credit we would normally not do, and that leads to an accident waiting to happen.”

For Mr. Hamers and others, a shift in sentiment seemed to be taking hold.

Annual growth of the old order—3% to 4% for the U.S. and other Western economies, is far away.

Absent structural changes led by governments, there was little reason to be cheered.

“There may be a paradigm shift we have to accept with demographics in Europe: It’s not that bad to have zero-percent inflation. We were preoccupied with 2% inflation, but just because it’s been that way for 40 to 50 years doesn’t mean it has to remain that way,” Mr. Hamers said.

For him, “we call it the new abnormal and we better get used to it.”

The same thought came from the financial-company CEO who asked not to be named. “We plan our future with the Japanese environment in mind. That is our base scenario.”

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: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**Occupiers Attack Palestinian
Family, As Usual:
“Settlers Have Already Shot And
Killed A Dog And A Horse
Belonging To The Family”**

“The Family Is Living Under Constant Threat And Can’t Even Go To The Toilet In The Night”

“The Family Called Israeli Police Who Didn’t Arrive On The Scene Until Three Hours Later”



Zionists meet to plan attack on Daraghmah family



Stones thrown at the Palestinian family’s door. Photo credit: ISM



The Zionist attacks have left several scars on 15-year-old Mu'min. Photo credit: ISM

24 January 2016 International Solidarity Movement

Lubban ash-Sharqiya, occupied Palestine

On Thursday night, 21st of January, Illegal settlers attacked a Palestinian home in the outskirts of Lubban ash-Sharqiya village.

The Israeli settlers threw stones, destroyed surveillance cameras and the Palestinian family also suspects that the settlers poisoned their water tanks.

Since there isn't any surveillance on the farm, the family now fears for further attacks.

The family was asleep late Thursday night when settlers from the nearby Ma'ale Levona settlement entered the farm, climbed up on the roof of the house and started throwing stones towards the main door.

During the attack settlers screamed humiliating words to the family and dared them to go outside. The only thing the family could do was to stay inside, hoping that the settlers wouldn't try to break in.

The morning after the family noticed that the lids to the 3 water tanks located on the roof were opened, so they now fear about poisoned water.

The settlers also destroyed all 5 surveillance cameras on the farm. The Palestinians assume that the action must have been well planned, since the settlers were capable of locating all the cameras within a short amount of time.

The surveillance cameras had been donated to the family from European NGOs, in order to protect them against a large number of settler attacks.

Additionally all windows of the family house are covered with metal bars. Every night the family closes both windows and doors thoroughly with rigid metal doors to keep attackers out. The family is living under constant threat and can't even go to the toilet in the night, since it is located outside of the main building and it's too risky for them to go out.

While settlers attacked the house the family called Israeli police who didn't arrive on the scene until three hours later.

What increases the family's vulnerability is that there is no authority that will protect them from the illegal settlers.

Since the house is located in Area C, the roughly 60% of the West Bank that is under complete Israeli control, Palestinian police are not allowed to support the house and Israeli authorities clearly show that they have no interest in protecting Palestinian lives or Palestinian property.

The farm is located in the outskirts of Lubban ash-Sharqiya village, next to the road leading towards Ma'ale Levona settlement. The house is surrounded by five settlements, of which Eli, Shilo and Ma'ale Levona are the closest.

The illegality of these Israeli colonies have been confirmed by the International Court of Justice and the United Nations Security Council.

In the past, the family has suffered a lot from the settler attacks.

It is not uncommon that settlers are both violent and heavily armed.

The threatening of family members has come so far, that medical treatment was required.

At the age of 9, the youngest brother sustained cut wounds on his stomach after being attacked and thrown on the ground.

They live under constant threat of further violence.

Settlers have already shot and killed a dog and a horse belonging to the family. A cow succumbed two days after a settler attacked and the family believes that the cow was poisoned.

Also a car belonging to the family has been destroyed, along with other property.

Zionists Use Violence To Take Over Two Palestinian Houses Near The Ibrahimi Mosque In Hebron:

“The Settlers Started Throwing Stones At The Palestinians In The Area Around The Two Houses, And Broke Multiple Doors And Windows Of Surrounding Houses”

“Israeli Forces Entered Multiple Houses And Stormed Through Palestinian Families Living Rooms And Bedrooms Before Taking Over Their Rooftops”



The two occupied houses with Israeli flags on the roof

21st January 2016, International Solidarity Movement

On 21st January 2016 Israeli settlers from the illegal settlements in occupied al-Khalil (Hebron) gathered in Shuhada Street.

From here the settlers went into the Old City of Al-Khalil, where they broke into two houses on al-Sahla Street near the Ibrahimi mosque at around 2.30 pm today.

Backed by more than 50 soldiers and policemen, the settlers could freely break down the doors and enter the houses, that they claim they bought legally, but the houses have not yet been signed over to them.

During the occupation of the two houses the settlers started throwing stones at the Palestinians in the area around the two houses, and broke multiple doors and windows of surrounding houses.

Shop owners in the whole area were forced by the Israeli Forces to close down their shops, and the whole area was closed off for everyone else than settlers and Israeli Forces, leaving many Palestinians unable to go to their houses.

After the settlers had entered the two houses that have been uninhabited for an unspecified amount of time, they put up several Israeli flags on the roofs and harassed the Palestinian families in the area by yelling and throwing stones at them.

The Israeli forces entered multiple houses and stormed through Palestinian families living rooms and bedrooms before taking over their rooftops and using these as an easy way to shoot teargas and sound grenades into the Palestinian market in the Old City of Hebron.

Just in the half hour between 3.45 and 4.15, 14 tear gas canisters were shot at residents in the Old City, but Israeli forces were continuously showering the Old City most of the afternoon. At least one person suffered from excessive teargas inhalation and had to be taken to hospital for treatment.

At 7.30 pm the settlers and soldier were still in al-Sahla Street playing music and celebrating their newest house-takeover in Hebron.

Two Danish human rights defenders entered the area and were verbally attacked by a settler who came at them aggressively and yelled: "You killed my father and my grandfather. You are Nazis. This is my land." Soldiers intervened and stopped the man from physically attacking the two young women.

Palestinians and internationals are still not allowed to be in the area even though there is no official order claiming this.

All checkpoints leading into the area around the Ibrahimi mosque and al-Sahla Street are closed by Israeli Forces.

At one point they detained more than 15 Palestinian men on their way home from work, because they lived in the 'closed area'.

This kind of restriction of movement is a clear violation of Palestinians freedom of movement.

Many families in the Old City of Hebron are now living in houses that have roofs still occupied by Israeli forces, leaving the families completely in the dark about what is going to happen next.

A human rights activist explained: "The family which we are staying with have had up to ten soldiers on their roof for more than four hours. They stormed in and ran through the house, while the kids were playing and ran up to the roof to monitor the neighbourhood. The mother of the family is pregnant and lives in the house with her husband and four young kids and they do not know what to expect from the soldiers."

This is just a small example of the impunity of Israeli settlers violently taking over Palestinian homes and how Israeli forces' actions are determined by settlers and their every wish.

Settlers are now celebrating their illegal deeds in al-Sahla Street playing loud music and harassing the families in the whole area.

“A Jew to Zionist Fighters” Do You Really Want To Be The New Gestapo? The New Wehrmacht? The New SA And SS?

[Thanks to JM, who sent this in. She writes:]

Something very different: a poem.

Have you heard of Erich Fried who is often referred to as the greatest modern, Jewish, poet?

He was born in Vienna in 1921 and escaped to England, with his mother, after his father was tortured to death by the Gestapo, in 1938.

Because of his experiences with racism and Fascism he became involved in the Palestinian cause.

He was a leader in the fight against both Fascism and Zionism.

I'm sending a copy of his best poem, in my opinion. It was first published in 1988 just before he died.

Please take the time to read it. I think it's wonderful.

A Jew to Zionist Fighters, 1988

What do you actually want?

Do you really want to outdo
those who trod you down
a generation ago
into your own blood
and into your own excrement
Do you want to pass on the old torture
to others now
in all its bloody and dirty detail
with all the brutal delight of torturers
as suffered by your fathers?
Do you really want to be the new Gestapo
the new Wehrmacht
the new SA and SS
and turn the Palestinians
into the new Jews?
Well then I too want,
having fifty years ago
myself been tormented for being a Jewboy
by your tormentors,
to be a new Jew with these new Jews
you are making of the Palestinians
And I want to help lead them as a free people
into their own land of Palestine
from whence you have driven them or in which you plague them
you apprentices of the Swastika
you fools and changelings of history
whose Star of David on your flags
turns ever quicker
into that damned symbol with its four feet
that you just do not want to see
but whose path you are following today

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

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

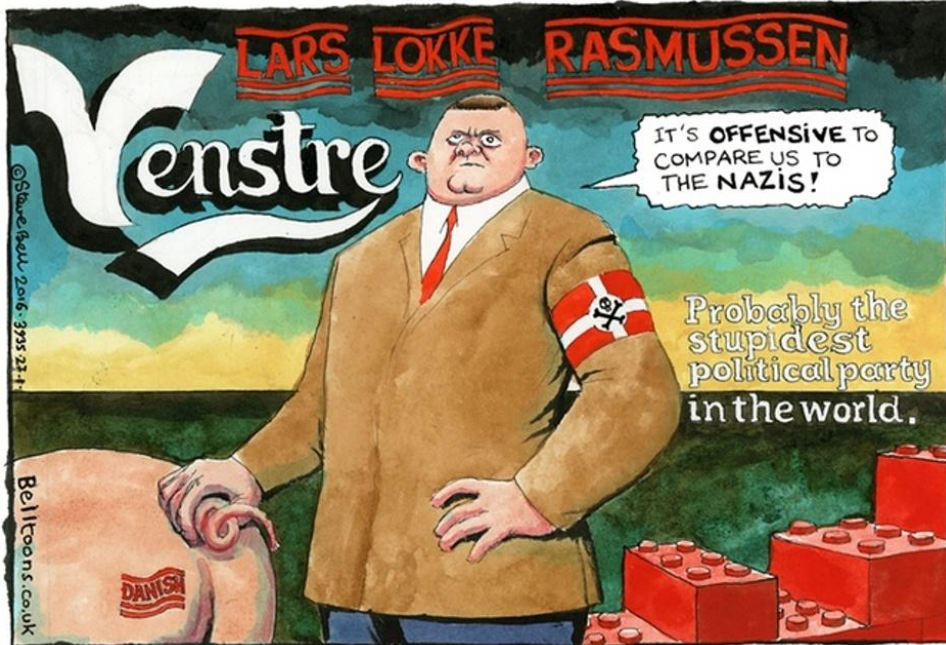
The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."

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DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

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