

## Military Resistance 14B3



**Pentagon Scum Kicking Out Wounded Soldiers With Post Traumatic Stress And/Or Traumatic Brain Injuries From Combat:  
Accuses 22,000 Of Them Of “Misconduct”  
“They Fought For Their Country And Have Earned The Benefit Of The Doubt”**

# **“These Soldiers Will Not Receive ‘Crucial’ Retirement, Health Care And Other Benefits”**

February 3, 2016 By Michelle Tan, Army Times [Excerpts]

**A group of lawmakers wants the Army to stop discharging soldiers who have been diagnosed with mental health problems because of their service in Iraq or Afghanistan.**

**The move comes one month after the Army announced it would conduct a “thorough, multidisciplinary” review in response to a call from 12 senators to investigate reports that the service discharged for misconduct as many as 22,000 combat veterans who had been diagnosed with mental health problems.**

“It doesn’t make sense to continue these discharges while the practice is in the midst of multiple reviews,” Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., said in a statement.

**“Soldiers prevented from serving due to post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury should be treated like we treat those with physical injuries, not be discharged, cast aside and ignored. They fought for their country and have earned the benefit of the doubt.”**

Murphy was one of the 12 senators to initially call on the Army to investigate the reports regarding the 22,000 soldiers. The issue was first reported by National Public Radio.

Eric Fanning, who was then the acting Army secretary, directed the Army review.

In a Nov. 30 letter to Murphy, Fanning wrote that the Army strives to have a process that is “fair, objective and deliberate, and that ensures due process and the maintenance of good order and discipline within the ranks.”

**“The decision to separate a soldier from the Army for any reason is not an easy one, which is why we require a thorough review of the facts in each and every case,” Fanning wrote.**

**Since then, however, the Army has reportedly moved to separate at least one highly decorated combat soldier who was diagnosed with PTSD, according to a new NPR report.**

The news report was part of the reason the senators called for a moratorium on further discharges.

“I appreciate Acting Army Secretary Fanning’s responsiveness to my earlier letter, and I know his desire for a fair process is sincere,” Murphy said. “But after speaking to the Army today, I am convinced there should be a moratorium on discharges until the inspector general’s report is completed.”

Other lawmakers who have called for a moratorium include Sens. Jon Tester, D-Mont.; Ron Wyden, D-Ore.; and Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., according to the NPR report.

**NPR in October reported that the Army, since 2009, has separated 22,000 soldiers for misconduct after they returned from Iraq or Afghanistan and had been diagnosed with mental health problems such as PTSD and TBI.**

Murphy and 11 other senators called for an investigation in a Nov. 4 letter to senior Army leaders.

“We are concerned that it may be easier to discharge service members for minor misconduct — possibly related to mental health issues — than to evaluate them for conditions that may warrant a medical discharge,” the letter states.

**As a result, they said, many of these soldiers will not receive “crucial” retirement, health care and other benefits.**

**These actions also may discourage other service members from seeking the medical help they need, the lawmakers said.**

## **DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?**



U.S. soldier in Bejjia village Iraq, Feb. 4, 2008. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

**Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the email address if you wish and we'll send it regularly with your best wishes. Whether in Afghanistan or at a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to injustices, inside the armed services and at home. Send**

email requests to address up top or write to: Military Resistance, Box 126,  
2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657.

## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

# **Insurgents Kill Senior Afghan Army Commander: “Deteriorating Security Situation Across The Country” “Gen. Atamir Lost His Life Along With 25 Other Soldiers After A Group Of Militants Launched An Attack On An Army Camp In Greshk District”**

Feb 02 2016 By Khaama Press

A senior commander of the Afghan National Army (ANA) was martyred in an explosion in southern Helmand province of Afghanistan, the officials said Tuesday.

The incident took place late on Monday night in Greshk district of Helmand province, provincial governor spokesman Omar Zwak confirmed.

Gen. Atamir Agah was serving with the 3rd Brigade of 215 Maiwand Corps of the Afghan National Army, Zwak said, adding that three soldiers were also wounded.

**The district administrative chief Mohammad Sharif also confirmed that Gen. Atamir was martyred while he was on his way to Mosa Qala district when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device.**

**However, another source speaking on the condition of anonymity, said Gen. Atamir lost his life along with 25 other soldiers after a group of militants launched an attack on an army camp in Greshk district.**

The anti-government armed militant groups have not commented regarding the incident which comes amid deteriorating security situation across the country.

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# More Resistance Action

Feb 03 2016 By Khaama Press

Two bombs exploded a few hours apart from each other in Nangarhar and Khost province on Wednesday.

The first one which was a landmine exploded on a Ford Ranger vehicle leaving two people wounded in Behsood District of Nangarhar province.

Ataullah Khogyani, spokesperson for the governor of Nangarhar province said the Ford Ranger was on its way to the capital city Jalalabad when it struck landmine in Samarkhil area.

The victims are security guards of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA).

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## SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

### **Kenyan Troops Retreat From Somali Towns After Deadly Attack: Insurgents Kill 100 Occupation Troops**

Jan. 26, 2016 By ABDI GULED, AP

MOGADISHU, Somalia — Kenyan forces pulled out of two towns in southern Somalia on Tuesday and Islamic extremists quickly moved into one of them, residents said.

The Kenyans' withdrawal came after an attack by Islamic extremists who killed scores of Kenyan peacekeepers recently, residents said Tuesday.

The town of El-Ade, where the January 15 attack happened, is "no man's land now" after Kenyan troops withdrew early Tuesday and headed toward the Kenyan border, said resident Ahmed Hassan. He said many residents started returning to their homes after the Kenyans left.

Residents of Badhadhe, another town in Somalia's Lower Jubba region, told The Associated Press that Kenyan forces stationed there had also withdrawn toward the border. Following the Kenyans' departure from Badhadhe, militants from the Islamic extremist group al-Shabab took over and started searching homes, according to resident Mohamed Ali.

Kenyan officials have not said how many troops were killed in the attack on Kenyan forces in El-Ade, but al-Shabab killed about 100 Kenyan soldiers. Al-Shabab seized armaments and military vehicles in that attack.

Kenyan military spokesman Col. David Obonyo did not respond to repeated calls for comment.

The withdrawal of the Kenyans will be seen as a blow to the country's efforts to create a buffer zone in Somalia's Lower Jubba region near the border.

Kenya first deployed troops to Somalia in 2011 to prevent Islamic extremists from crossing the border and launching attacks that threatened the country's crucial tourism sector.

Al-Shabab opposed the deployment, and vowed to launch more attacks inside Kenyan territory. To stem the attacks, Kenya has also considered building a high wall across the border.

Despite being pushed out of Somalia's major cities and towns, al-Shabab continues to launch deadly guerrilla attacks across the Horn of Africa country. The group frequently targets African Union troops, government officials and foreigners.

**MORE:**

## **Insurgents Retake Key Somalia Port City Of Merca:**

**“Al-Shabab Secured Control  
Without Fighting”**

**“African Union Forces Had Held The  
Port City For Three-And-A-Half  
Years”**

**“The Third Large Town In Southern  
Somalia To Fall To Shabaab In The Past  
Two Weeks After African Union Troops  
Pulled Out Without Warning”**

FEBRUARY 5, 2016 BY BILL ROGGIO AND CALEB WEISS, The Long War Journal & Jan. 26, 2016 BBC

Islamist militant group Al-Shabab has taken control of the port city Merca, residents say.

The loss is one of the biggest setbacks for the African Union [occupation] force in its decade-long battle against al-Shabab, analysts say.

Merca, some 70km (45 miles) south-west of Mogadishu, is now the biggest town under Al-Shabab control.

African Union forces who had held the port city for three-and-a-half years withdrew earlier on Friday morning.

The loss is one of the biggest setbacks for the African Union force in its decade-long battle against al-Shabab, analysts say.

The governor of Somalia's Lower Shabelle region Ibrahim Adam said that al-Shabab secured control without fighting.

"Amisom forces moved out at midday and the local administration and all other Somali security forces left a few minutes later - and then heavily armed al-Shabab militants entered the town," local resident Ibrahim Mumin said.

"They have been addressing residents at the district headquarters," he added.

Another resident, Mohamed Sabriye, told AP news agency that al-Shabab fighters had hoisted their flag over the city's police station and administrative headquarters.

The withdrawal from Merca comes three weeks after al-Shabab overran an African Union military base outside the southern Somali town of el-Ade, saying they had killed about 100 Kenyan soldiers.

Shabaab lost control of Marka in August 2012 after the Kenyan military invaded southern Somalia in response to Shabaab raids in northern Kenya. While Shabaab lost control of the major population centers in southern Somalia during the Kenyan and African Union offensive, the group maintained its military strength and retreated to rural areas of the country.

They have retaken control over the last month with a vengeance.

Today's African Union withdrawal from Marka is likely a response to Shabaab's mid-January assault on an ANISOM base in the town of El Ade.

Shabaab fighters from the Saleh al Nabhani Battalion killed scores of Kenyan troops and seized a large quantity of weapons, munitions, and vehicles during the rout. Shabaab claimed it killed more than 100 troops during the El Ade raid and the Kenyan military has been silent on its losses.

**Attacks of that magnitude have a demoralizing effect on African Union troops, and the militaries are unable to sustain such losses over time.**

**Marka is the third large town in southern Somalia to fall to Shabaab in the past two weeks after African Union troops pulled out without warning.**

**On January 26, Shabaab marched into the towns of El Ade and Badhadhe after Kenyan forces withdrew, leaving a security vacuum.**

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## **POLICE WAR REPORTS**

# **Raid Over Reefer Leaves West Virginia Man Dead: Last Month Also Saw Two Others Killed In The Drug War, One Unarmed**

February 2, 2016 By Phillip Smith, AlterNet

At least three people were killed by American police enforcing the war on drugs last month, including one young man who died in a late-night drug raid that netted a little more than a quarter pound of pot.

Two of the dead were killed in night-time drug raids. Both were allegedly armed, although in neither case is it asserted that they fired on police. In both cases, police have not mentioned—nor have local media asked—whether these were kick-the-door-down, SWAT-style no-knock raids.

In a country where firearm ownership is both cherished and widespread, surprise police assaults that could be mistaken for home invasions can well result in homeowners grabbing their weapons to protect themselves and their domiciles.

And then getting shot dead for doing so.

Was that the case in these two deaths? We will likely never know. (The homeowners sometimes shoot and kill the invading police, too, but, unlike the police, they tend to get charged with murder.)

**The third case raises a different kind of issue. Here, the victim was fleeing from police and made the all-too-familiar move "toward his waist band." He also had something in his hand, but it wasn't a weapon. And now he's dead, too.**

**An unarmed man, running away from the police, is killed they were so quick to fear for their own lives.**



Here's are last month's drug war deaths:

On January 4, Beauregard Parish deputies doing a night-time drug raid shot and killed Eric John Senegal, 27. They also shot and killed a dog at the house.

The house was under investigation for drug activity and the deputies were serving a narcotics search warrant, according to State Police Troop D spokesman Sgt. James Anderson. Sheriff Ricky Moses later explained that the deputies "encountered an armed suspect who has been identified as Eric J. Senegal and an attacking dog which resulted in the deaths of both Mr. Senegal and the dog." The sheriff didn't say what kind of weapon Senegal had or whether the raid was a no-knock raid.

The search warrant for the raid said deputies were looking for marijuana, cocaine, and illegal pills. There hasn't been any word on whether they found anything. State police have opened an investigation at the sheriff's office's request.

A local television station's Facebook posting of a story about his death generated numerous and heated responses as the national debate over police use of force hit home for commenters.

On January 5, police in Ceres, California, shot and killed Albert Thompson, 28, after he fled from them at a small apartment complex. The officers were on patrol "because of prior illegal drug activity there," according a Ceres Police news release. When the police arrived, Thompson took off running, and the officers gave chase.

**Police said Thompson reached for something at his waist, and the officers fired, striking and killing him. Initial police reports said an "item" was found near Thompson's body. It was later revealed that the item was a hand torch.**

Thompson was a parolee-at-large wanted by the state Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

On January 16, West Virginia state troopers helping Elkins police execute a midnight drug search warrant shot and killed William Keith Waldron, 26, when he met them armed with a shotgun. Waldron "did wield a firearm and as a result officers did defend themselves by firing at the subject," prosecutors explained in the criminal case against one of the two other men in the home at the time of the raid.

Police have not said whether the raid, which included at least seven officers, was a no-knock raid. They found a little over a quarter-pound of weed, some plastic baggies, and a scale.

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**MILITARY NEWS**

# **Obama Regime Trying To Send More U.S. Troops Into Iraq**

## **Combat:**

**“The U.S. Could Send More  
Combat Advisers To Embed With  
Iraqi Forces At Brigade-Level  
Headquarters”**

**“So Far, The Iraqis Have Declined”  
“We Can't Inflict Help On Somebody, You  
Know?”**

February 3, 2016 By Andrew Tilghman, Military Times

The United States is willing to send more troops to Iraq — but do the Iraqis really want them?

Iraqi officials refuse to touch that question.

A spokesman for Iraq's embassy in Washington told Military Times that neither the ambassador nor his staff could provide “informed responses” to questions seeking clarity on Baghdad's willingness to host more U.S. troops.

“I can try to request clarification from Baghdad,” said Ali Al-Mawlawi, the spokesman, “but I can't guarantee that we'd get an on-the-record response.”

Al-Mawlawi did not respond to subsequent inquires.

The embassy's uncertainty highlights a fundamental shift in the U.S.-Iraqi relationship.

When the Islamic State group began to sweep across Iraq in 2014, the government in Baghdad very publicly urged the U.S. to provide air

Now the situation is reversed, as the U.S. is pushing the Iraqis to invade Mosul, an ISIS stronghold, and repeatedly offering to increase military support — even if it means more American boots on the ground.

But the Iraqis have balked.

Several factions within Baghdad's Shiite-led government are heavily influenced by neighboring Iran and oppose any expansion of the U.S. military mission there. That makes the question of more U.S. troops a political lightning rod for the Iraqis.

"The Iraqis want to keep it up in the air because they don't want to anger Tehran or D.C.," said Phillip Smyth, an adjunct fellow with the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

"The pressure coming out of Tehran is very publicly: 'Do not take their aid. Do not take their support,'" Smyth said. Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al Abadi "is walking a very, very thin tightrope. They are so powerful right now, there is not much you can do."

Washington's overtures have become more public.

At a media event on Tuesday, for instance, Defense Secretary Ash Carter made it a point to note: "We have 3,700 boots on the ground in Iraq today, and we're looking to do more. We're looking for opportunities to do more."

A day prior, the top American military commander in Iraq, Army Lt. Gen. Sean MacFarland, told the Pentagon press corps that he, too, is talking to the Iraqis about potentially sending more troops. "Yes," MacFarland said, "there is a good potential that we will need additional capabilities, additional forces to provide those capabilities. And we're looking at the right mix ... in consultation with the government of Iraq and our other partners."

U.S. military officials in Baghdad are keenly aware of the Iraqis' fractured politics. "War is, you know, an extension of politics and diplomacy. So we understand that there's going to be a political factor here," Army Col. Steve Warren, a U.S. Defense Department spokesman in Iraq, said Wednesday.

"That comes into our own calculations, even as we deliver advice. We have to be aware of the environment around us. And so we are," he said.

"We continue to work with the Iraqis to determine how we can best support their operations. But it's their operations that we're supporting. And so we're working with them within their constraints and limitations."

Warren noted several recent measures the U.S. and its coalition partners have taken, including the addition of small teams of U.S. special operations forces to target Islamic State leadership cells.

And Abadi recently requested more help for training Iraqi police forces, which can move in to secure the Sunni cities if the Iraqi army ousts the ISIS forces now in control. Italy has said its Carabinieri forces will deploy soon to provide that training.

**In December, Carter said that the U.S. was willing to deploy American pilots with Apache combat helicopters to Iraq to provide better close-air support. Carter also said the U.S. could send more combat advisers to embed with Iraqi forces at brigade-level headquarters.**

**So far, the Iraqis have declined.**

MacFarland has called today's mission in Iraq fundamentally different than those following the 2003 U.S. invasion in 2003. These days, the Americans need the Iraqis' explicit support.

"We can't inflict help on somebody, you know? They have to ask for it, they have to want it," the general said Monday.

**The nightmare scenario for the U.S. military is an outbreak of open hostility between American forces and the Iranian-backed Shiite militias. Militia attacks on U.S. forces were common following the 2003 U.S. invasion.**

So far the Iranians have urged their Iraqi allies to stand down. But that may not last.

"The Iranians will eventually turn up the flame on the Americans if they feel like they are threatened," Smyth said.

"It's less a question of 'if' they attack but 'when.'

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**



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

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

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

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

**Frederick Douglass, 1852**

**Neither of us (myself or Engels) cares a straw for popularity. A proof of this is, for example, that, because of aversion to any personality cult, I have never permitted the numerous expressions of appreciation from various countries with which I was pestered during the existence of the International to reach the realm of publicity, and have never answered them, except occasionally by a rebuke.**

**When Engels and I first joined the secret Communist Society we made it a condition that everything tending to encourage superstitious beliefs in authority was to be removed from the statutes.**

**-- Karl Marx**

**“The Government Wants To Drown  
The Country In Blood, Forgetting  
That The Troops Consist Of Sons  
Of The Oppressed People”  
“We Demand An End To The War”  
[Proclamation Of The Revolutionary  
Council Of Sailors: The Battleship  
Potemkin]**

The Potemkin (Russian: Князь Потёмкин Таврический, Knyaz' Potyomkin Tavricheski, 'Prince Potyomkin of Tauris') was a pre-dreadnought battleship (Bronenosets) of the Imperial Russian Navy's Black Sea Fleet. The ship was made famous by the Battleship Potemkin uprising, a rebellion of the crew against their oppressive officers in June 1905 (during the Russian Revolution of 1905) -- Wikipedia



June 27, 1905, Proletary Newspaper No. 7

### **Proclamation Of The Revolutionary Sailors In Command Of The Battleship Potemkin**

To all civilized citizens and to the working people!

The crimes of the autocratic government have exhausted all patience. The whole of Russia, burning with indignation, exclaims: Down with the chains of bondage!

The government wants to drown the country in blood, forgetting that the troops consist of sons of the oppressed people.

The crew of the Potemkin has taken the first decisive step. We refuse to go on acting as the people's hangman.

Our slogan is: freedom for the whole Russian people or death!

We demand an end to the war and the immediate convocation of a constituent assembly on the basis of universal suffrage.

That is the aim for which we shall fight to the end: victory or death!

All free men, all workers will be on our side in the struggle for liberty and peace.

Down with the autocracy! Long live the constituent assembly!"

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## **Building Links To The Troops 1907: “The Work Of The Socialist Youth Is Not In Vain”**

**“During The Strikes At Dunkirchen,  
Creusot, Loguivi, Monso-Le-Min The  
Soldiers Ordered Against The  
Strikers Declared Their Solidarity  
With The Workers”**

**“The Young Socialist Workers Are  
Working With All The Enthusiasm And  
Energy Of The Young To Have The Army  
Side With The People”**

**Anti-militarist literature is delivered to soldiers in the barracks and handed out to them in the streets; soldiers find it in coffee-houses and pubs, and everywhere else they go.**

October 8, 1907: Vperyod [Forward], Issue #16. By V.I. Ulyanov. [The writer used the pen name “Lenin” to keep the government from terrorizing his family.]

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It will be recalled that the International Socialist Congress in Stuttgart discussed the question of militarism and in connection with it the question of anti-militarist propaganda. The resolution adopted on the point says, in part, that the Congress regards it as a duty of the working classes to “help to have working class youth brought up in a spirit of international brotherhood and socialism and imbued with class consciousness”.

The Congress regards this as an earnest of the army ceasing to be a blind instrument in the hands of the ruling classes, which they use as they see fit and which they can direct against the people at any time.

It is very hard, sometimes almost impossible, to conduct propaganda among soldiers on active service. Life in the barracks, strict supervision and rare leave make contact with the outer world extremely difficult; military discipline and the absurd spit and polish cow the soldier.

Army commanders do everything they can to knock the “nonsense” out of the “brutes”, to purge them of every unconventional thought and every human emotion and to instill in them a sense of blind obedience and an unthinking wild hatred for “internal” and “external” enemies.... It is much harder to make an approach to the lone, ignorant and cowed soldier who is isolated from his fellow-men and whose head has been stuffed with the wildest views on every possible subject, than to draft-age young men living with their families and friends and closely bound up with them by common interest.

Everywhere anti-militarist propaganda among young workers has yielded excellent results. That is of tremendous importance. The worker who goes into the army a class-conscious Social-Democrat is a poor support for the powers that be.

There are young socialist workers' leagues in all European countries. In some, for instance, Belgium, Austria and Sweden, these leagues are large-scale organisations carrying on responsible party work. Of course, the main aim of the youth leagues is self-education and the working out of distinct and integrated socialist outlook. But the youth leagues also carry on practical work. They struggle for an improvement in the condition of apprentices and try to protect them from unlimited exploitation by their employers.

The young socialist workers' leagues devote even more time and attention to anti-militarist propaganda.

For that purpose, they try to establish close ties with young soldiers.

This is done in the following way. Before the young worker has joined the army, he is a member of a league and pays membership dues. When he becomes a soldier, the league continues to maintain constant contacts with him, regularly sending him small cash aids ("soldier's sous" as they call them in France), which, however small, are of substantial importance to the soldier.

For his part, he undertakes to provide the league with regular information about everything that goes on in his barracks and to write about his impressions. Thus, even after he joins the army, the soldier does not break off his ties with the organisation of which he was a member.

An effort is always made to drive the soldier as far away from home as possible for his service. This is done with the intention of preventing the soldier from being tied with the local population by any interest, and to make him feel alien to it.

It is then easier to make him carry out orders: to shoot at a crowd. Young workers' leagues try to bridge this alienation between the soldier and the local population.

Youth leagues are connected with each other. When he arrives in a new town, the soldier, a former member of a youth league at home, - is met by the local league as a welcome visitor, and he is at once brought into the circle of local interests and helped in every possible way.

He ceases to be a newcomer and a stranger. He is also aware that if any misfortune befalls him he will receive help and support. This awareness adds to his courage, he gains assurance in his behaviour in the barracks, and is bolder in standing up for his rights and his human dignity.

Their close ties with young soldiers enable the youth leagues to carry on extensive anti-militarist propaganda among the soldiers.

This is done mainly with the aid of anti-militarist literature, which the youth leagues publish and circulate in great quantities, especially in France, Belgium and also in Switzerland, Sweden, etc.



This literature is highly diverse: postcards with anti-militarist pictures, anti-militarist army songs (many of these songs are very popular among the soldiers), "soldier's catechism" (in France it was circulated in more than 100,000 copies), all sorts of pamphlets, leaflets, appeals; weekly, fortnightly and monthly newspapers and magazines for soldiers, some of them illustrated.

*Barracks, Recruit, Young Soldier, Pju pju* (a pet name for the young recruit), and *Forward* are very widely circulated. For example, in Belgium the newspapers *Recruit* and *Barracks* have a printing of 60,000 copies each. Especially many magazines are published at the time of the draft.

**Special issues of soldiers' newspapers are mailed to the homes of all recruits.**

**Anti-militarist literature is delivered to soldiers in the barracks and handed out to them in the streets; soldiers find it in coffee-houses and pubs, and everywhere else they go.**

Recruits receive special attention. They are given a ceremonial send-off.

During the recruitment, processions are staged in the towns. In Austria, for instance, recruits walk through the town dressed in mourning and to the strains of funeral marches. In front of them rolls a decorated red carriage.

All the walls are plastered with red posters which say in large letters: "You will not shoot at the people!"

Evening parties with ardent anti-militarist speeches are held in honour of the recruits. In short, everything is done to awaken the recruit's consciousness, to ensure him against the evil influence of the ideas and emotions which will be instilled into him in the barracks by fair means and foul.

The work of the socialist youth is not in vain. In Belgium, there are almost 15 soldiers' unions in the army, which are mostly affiliated with the Social-Democratic Labour Party and are closely allied with each other. In some regiments, two-thirds of the soldiers are organised.

In France, the anti-militarist mood has become massive. During the strikes at Dunkirchen, Creusot, Loguivi, Monso-le-Min the soldiers ordered against the strikers declared their solidarity with the workers....

As time goes on, there are more and more Social-Democrats in the army and the troops become increasingly less reliable.

When the bourgeoisie has to confront the organised working class, whom will the army back?

The young socialist workers are working with all the enthusiasm and energy of the young to have the army side with the people.

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## ANNIVERSARIES

### ***February 11, 1937: A Victory For Our Side***

**“They Faced Tear Gas Attacks, Heat Shutoffs, And Battled With Police And Company Security Guards. Michigan Governor Frank Murphy Sent In The National Guard”**



Michigan National Guard confronting union supporters outside GM plants in Flint, 1937

Carl Bunin Peace History February 11-17

February 11, 1937:

**Forty-eight thousand General Motors workers won a 44-day sit-down strike in Flint, Michigan.**

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Walter P. Reuther Library:

The Great Flint Sitdown: On February 11, 1937, several hundred members of the United Automobile Workers Union (UAW) emerged from three General Motors (GM) factories in Flint, Michigan to the sounds of cheering crowd.

These workers had just completed a 44-day sitdown strike. Less than two years old, the UAW had won its first major victory.

Auto factories were tough places to work during the early years of the industry. The pace of work was controlled by the ever-increasing speed of the assembly line and the foreman held the power to hire or fire workers at will.

Many jobs were physically demanding, machines had few safety devices, and industrial accidents were common. On August 26, 1935, auto workers organized the UAW to bargain for better wages and working conditions.

The Flint Sitdown began on December 30, 1936 when UAW leaders decided to call a strike against GM. The goal of the strike was simple: GM recognition of the UAW.

For over six weeks members of the UAW stopped production and refused to leave the plants they occupied. They slept on unfinished car seats, eating food their families and friends slipped through factory windows.

They faced tear gas attacks, heat shutoffs, and battled with police and company security guards. Michigan Governor Frank Murphy sent in the National Guard.

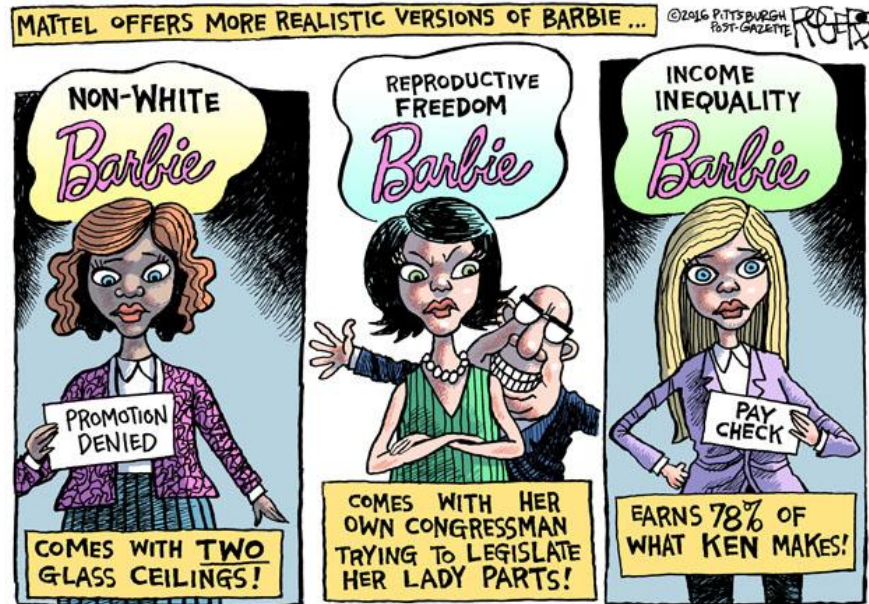
Faced with an enormous loss of production, GM conceded to the strikers' demands and signed a one-page document, agreeing to bargain with the UAW. This was one of the key events in American labor history.



The Flint Sitdown Strikers win February 11, 1937

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## DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



**“This Past Month’s Declines In Oil  
‘Are Less A Sign That Things Are  
About To Get A Lot Better, And  
More A Sign That Things Are In  
Danger Of Getting A Lot Worse”**

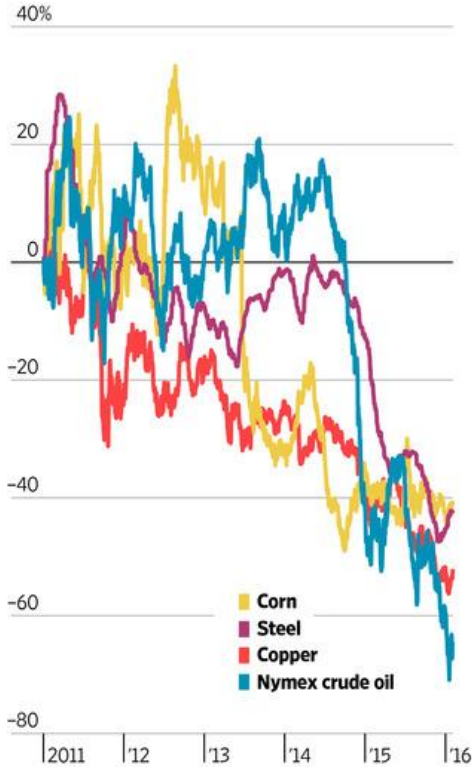
**“The Severity Of Any Industrial  
Slowdown Could Boost Credit  
Defaults And Tighten Financial  
Conditions”**

**“Economic Gauges Already Indicate An  
Industrial Recession”**

## Running on Fumes

While the long slide in energy prices has helped Americans' pocketbooks, the slump could indicate deeper problems in the global economy.

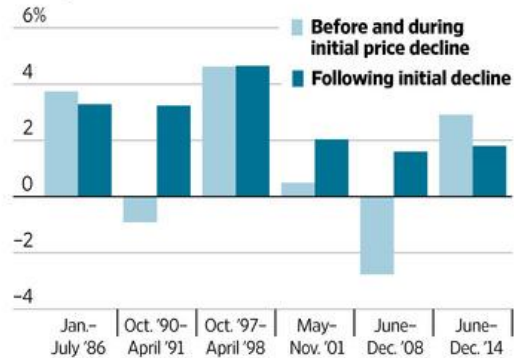
### Change in commodity prices



### Change in inflation-adjusted regular gasoline prices, months after initial decline



### U.S. economic growth before and after a decline in oil prices of at least 30%



Sources: FactSet (corn and copper); WSJ Market Data Group (crude oil); Energy Information Administration (gasoline price); Commerce Department (GDP)

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Feb. 4, 2016 By Nick Timiraos, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

With oil hovering at \$30 a barrel and gasoline below \$2 a gallon, the pleasure of lower fuel prices is turning painful for more of the U.S. economy.

The problem isn't just the layoffs and investment cutbacks in the oil patch, two effects that have been expected since crude oil began sliding in 2014.

Worries about energy-related bankruptcies and loan defaults also are helping to tighten financial conditions, weighing on a broader swath of the economy.

But the fallout could grow harder to contain if the oil-price declines are instead a symptom of broader weaknesses in the global economy, including soft demand and an oversupply of raw material, productive capacity and labor.

The bottom line: Even if cheap gas is still good for consumers, the forces behind it could be more corrosive than initially imagined. This past month's declines in oil "are less a sign that things are about to get a lot better, and more a sign that things are in danger of getting a lot worse," said HSBC senior economist Stephen King.

But the overall boost was weaker than expected, suggesting high household debt levels along with rising housing, health-care and college-education costs have American consumers refraining from bigger purchases.

One nagging concern: The severity of any industrial slowdown could boost credit defaults and tighten financial conditions.

In the five years ended 2013, the face value of high-yield bonds in the energy sector grew 181%, compared with 69% for the rest of the market, according to Guggenheim Partners.

Banks also ramped up business lending through the expansion while pulling back from such staples as home mortgages. Commercial and industrial loans and leases held by U.S. banks rose 58% in the five-year period ended last September, versus an increase of 21% for all loans and a 2% decline in residential mortgages.

Rising debt costs for oil and gas companies last month pushed a ratio of corporate distress maintained by Standard & Poor's to its highest level since July 2009, when the last recession ended.

If a lending slowdown "were to broaden out beyond just energy and mining, that would be a concern," Mr. Rosenberg said.

**Some investors also see underappreciated risks emanating from emerging markets, where declining demand for oil highlights broader deflationary forces.**

**Already, prices of corn and soybeans have fallen below their cost of production, and steel prices are down 30% over the past year.**

Many initially viewed these forces as transitory, but cratering global demand raises the risk the U.S. can't forever outrun them.

The culprit: an oversupply of labor and capital in emerging markets that amassed big debts to build new production facilities over the past five years.

This oversupply abroad helps explain why U.S. wage growth has been so weak despite a headline unemployment rate that has reached 5%, said Daniel Alpert, managing director at Westwood Capital, an investment-banking firm.

Higher wages in the U.S. simply drive jobs to lower-cost countries that have an oversupply of workers.

**Economic gauges already indicate an industrial recession. The Federal Reserve reported this month that its index of industrial production had fallen 1.8% over the year ended December, a drop that has always been accompanied by a recession since the 1970s.**

But others worry shifts in the global economy have made the U.S. is less insulated today, which means models from the Fed and others may overemphasize domestic activity and inadequately capture cross-border spillovers.

Oversupply from China and other emerging markets has challenged domestic manufacturers for years.

Producers either can't afford to cut capacity or believe they're the lower-cost producer that can survive the coming shakeout.

"What we've all learned and seen first-hand is that producers for valid reasons—they have enormous fixed costs—are very, very reluctant to close capacity," said Bill Hutton, president of Titan Steel, a steel distributor in Baltimore.

The recent financial-market volatility suggests more investors "have finally figured this out," said Mr. Hutton.

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## **OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

# **Occupation Regime Orders Destruction Of Bedouin Homes: "The Bedouin Families Have Been Living There For Nearly 30 Years"**

January 30, 2016 by IMEMC News & Agencies

Israeli authorities notified Palestinian Bedouin families, on Thursday, of the planned demolition of their houses, giving them a deadline of February 1st to evacuate the structures.

The structures are situated between the occupied West Bank cities of Nablus and Ramallah, according to Al Ray.

Suleiman El-Zawahra, a Palestinian citizen, said that the families were told evacuate the structures, stressing that the demolition process targets more than 30 facilities which are used for housing and ranching.

In an interview with Quds Press Service, El-Zawahra noted that the structures belong to a number of Palestinian Bedouin families, and are inhabited by around 80 individuals.

He explained that Israeli authorities have declared the region a "closed military zone" which means building and residing there are prohibited. He stressed that the Bedouin families have been living there for nearly 30 years.

El-Zawahra explained that the families were told to evacuate the area years ago, but filed a petition against the decision. The court recently rejected the appeal.

He pointed out that the families do not have any alternative accommodation.

Israeli authorities continue to demolish many Palestinian Bedouin villages in the West Bank and East Jerusalem in order to expand Israeli settlements.

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## Zionist Forces Confiscate Palestinian Vehicles, Equipment In Jordan Valley



Jan. 30, 2016 Ma'an

TUBAS (Ma'an) -- Israeli forces late Friday confiscated trucks and equipment being used to build a new agricultural road in the Palestinian village of Khirbet al-Dir in the northern Jordan Valley.

The head of a local council in the occupied West Bank village, al-Maleh Arif Daraghmah, told Ma'an that military forces had seized the equipment, without citing a reason for its removal.

Daraghmah added that days before, Israeli forces had ruined dozens of acres of agricultural land and roads while carrying out military drills in the area.

A spokesperson for Israel's Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) told Ma'an: "Yesterday evening, two trucks, JCB and an excavator, were confiscated as they were used for illegal road building adjacent to Mehoula in Area C."



The Jordan Valley -- occupied with the rest of the West Bank in 1967 -- is in Area C, under full Israeli military and administrative control, and residents of the area face a constant threat of destruction of structures and property.

Threats of displacement for the thousands of Bedouins living in the area have reportedly increased dramatically since 2012, notably the use of Israeli military training exercises as a means of forcible displacement.

Rights groups argue that Israel aims to fully annex the strategic area of land and is unlikely to return the occupied area to Palestinians.

Israeli media reported earlier this week that the Israeli government announced that it may revoke the closed military zone status of a number of land plots in the Jordan Valley, supposedly returning the land to their original Palestinian owners after decades of confiscation.

The news came several days after COGAT announced that plans to declare 1,500 dunams (370 acres) of land in the Jordan Valley as "state land" were in their "final stages." The move will be the largest declaration of "state land" by Israel since August 2014.

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## **5 Palestinian Teens Sentenced To 15 Years In Israeli Prison For Throwing Stones: “‘Confessions’ Signed After Torture”**

January 29, 2016 Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network

The Hares Boys – five Palestinian teenagers accused of throwing stones at a settler road – were sentenced to 15 years each in Israeli occupation prisons on 28 January, following a plea agreement that ended their military trials, which stretched on for years.

Muhammad Suleiman, Tamer Souf, Ammar Souf, Ali Shamlawi, and Muhammad Kleib were sentenced by the Israeli military court, after their families paid fines of 30,000 shekels each.

**The Free the Hares Boys campaign noted that the funds to pay the fines were raised with the support of people around the world who contributed to support the boys’ families. If they were unable to pay the fines, an even longer prison sentence would be imposed.**

The boys – aged 16 and 17 when detained on 15 March 2013 – were accused of throwing stones at a settler-only road near their village by Israeli occupation forces, who raided their village and targeted young boys in mass arrests.



Two settler vehicles had a car accident and a young girl passenger in one of the cars was seriously injured, and died two years later from pneumonia.

As the Free the Hares Boys campaign noted in 2013, “If the boys are convicted, this case would set a legal precedent which would allow the Israeli military to convict any Palestinian child or youngster for attempted murder in cases of stone-throwing.”

The Free the Hares Boys Campaign posted a response to their sentencing on Thursday:

It is now official: the five youth from Hares village will be kept locked up in a Zionist occupation prison for 15 years. They are to see freedom and hug their mothers again in 2028.

**All this without any real evidence of their supposed guilt, except for “confessions” signed after torture when these boys were only 16, taken away in the middle of the night without access to a lawyer, beaten and abused by armed men in uniform.**

**All this after almost 3 years going back and forth between Zionist prison and military court, where sessions are conducted in Hebrew which none of the boys speak, and where the three individuals in judge chairs are military personnel. Of that same military that has been occupying Palestine for decades.**

All this after almost 3 years of protests, demonstrations, letter-writing, petition-signing, and other forms of solidarity from good people around the globe who believe in justice.

Mohammed Kleib, Mohammed Suleiman, Ali Shamlawi, Tamer Souf, and Ammar Souf. Five beautiful boys who loved to play football and were getting ready for their school-leaving exams.

These boys' lives have been taken away from them. Five tragedies, five families that lost their sons to the zionist system that seeks to destroy Palestine and the Palestinians. Boy by boy, mother by mother, family by family.

Thank you all. Thank you for believing in justice. Thank you for fighting for it. Thank you for standing up to zionist crimes.

Perhaps justice still has a chance.

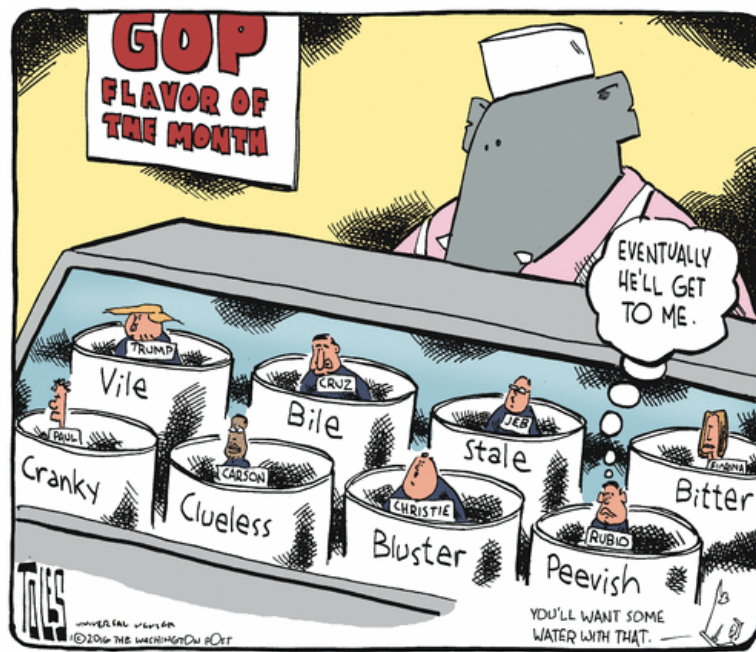
And remember – no one of us is truly free, until all are.

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

<http://www.palestinechronicle.com/>

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

## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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