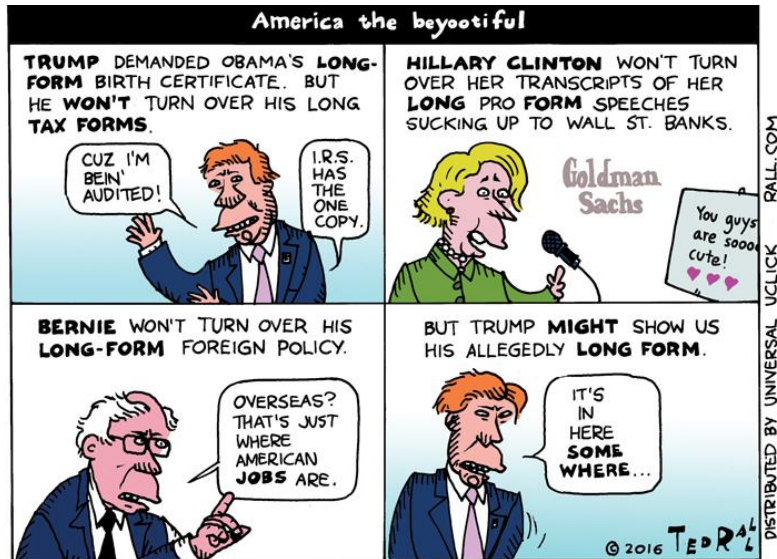


Military Resistance 14C2



Why I Bought 4 Syrian Children Off A Beirut Street:

“The Pedophiles Molest The Children For A Few Dollars Before Pulling Off And Disappearing Into The Traffic”



Mar 11, 2016 by Franklin Lamb, fplamb@gmail.com

Beirut

This observer confesses to having purchased four children near Ramlet el Baida beach recently from a stressed –out Syrian woman.

I am not sure if she was as she appeared to be or was from one of human trafficking gangs which operate widely these days in Lebanon as they market Syrian children or vulnerable adult women. The vendor woman claimed to have been the four children's neighbor in Aleppo and that they (two five year old twin girls, a boy about one year and a few months and his bigger brother eight years old-shown in the photo below on this observer's motorbike a few days after he bought them) lost their parents in the war.

She and they ended up in Lebanon but she explained to me that she was afraid to register with the UNHCR because she is an illegal and has no ID.

The woman told me that she could no longer take care of the shivering children, did not want to just leave them on the street and would give them all to me for \$ 1000 or I could pick and choose from the sibling for \$ 250 each.

Completely shocked, I started to get on my motorbike and said disgustingly "khalas!" and looked around for a police car.

I looked backed over my shoulder and saw that the children were very frightened, soaked from the rain, very cold and appeared hungry. Without thinking, I instantly offered the seller \$ 600 for all four brothers and sisters and she took it, saying she was going to Turkey and would try to get to Lebos Island, off Greece.

The lady gave me ten minutes to go to an ATM and get the \$ 600 cash. She demanded dollars not Lebanese currency. The children seemed to understand what was happening and their eyes fixated on me.

What was racing through my mind as I mounted my motorbike and searched for an ATM were the expressions on the faces of these angels as their 'caregiver' bargained their fate.

Also I was acutely mindful of statistics that are well known around here these days.

That nearly 14 million in Syria are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. More than half are children who are at risk of becoming ill from malnourishment or, abused and exploited. Most of us here know of many horror stories from all over Syria and the villages just an hour's drive from the Lebanon border, such as Madaya and Zabadani where children under vicious siege were forced to survive on animal feed and soup made of whatever weeds could be found.

We read the media reports that more than 20 died of starvation in during 2015 and a dozen reported cases of babies dying because their mothers were too ill and weak to produce milk for them or if there was a local clinic it lacked, baby formula or ran out of

infant IV's. In Moadamiyeh, just a few miles from the capital Damascus, three newborn babies died last month after medical staff ran out of IV bags

I thought about the scale of exploitation faced by Syrian refugee children in Lebanon, of the tens of thousands sleeping rough these frigid nights and the countless thousands who every day are easy prey for abuse. I thought about the fact that Refugee relief efforts in Lebanon are chronically underfunded and that even UN high commissioner for refugees (UNHCR) has been forced to cut aid from all but the neediest of refugees due to insufficient funds.

I thought of that recent Save the Children report of their survey showing that more than a third of the 126 residents they interviewed reported that their children often go without a single meal a day and a quarter have seen children in their towns dying because of lack of food.

I thought about the intense vicious anti-refugee harangues from Lebanese politicians that Syrian refugees pose a threat to the country's security and economic stability even though the menial jobs they do find are not likely to replace many in any Lebanese job holders. Many fear mongering Lebanese politicians even make The Donald appear somehow compassionate.

I thought about the Syrian children I see daily begging as they wander Beirut's streets selling chewing gum, flowers, or shining shoes. And I thought about the 11 and 12 year old girls, some of whom I have come to be acquainted with from my visits to the beach where I like to go to take a break and stare into the Mediterranean and just think about life and talk to those anti-social fiddler crabs who pop up from their homes along the beach, grab something and disappear quick.

These beautiful innocent children skip along or pace the Ramlet el Baida corniche waiting for cars with blackened windows to pull up.

And they do regularly.

“The Pedophiles Molest The Children For A Few Dollars Before Pulling Off And Disappearing Into The Traffic”

Then the pedophiles molest the children for a few dollars before pulling off and disappearing into the traffic. Sometimes keeping the children with them. This observer has given the local police photos of some of their license plates but one supervisor at the Hamra police station regretted that the cops are too overwhelmed with other matters to get very involved in these cases.

More than once I was given a shoulder shrug and upturned palms in reference to the case of a young girl “Leila” that I have reported more than once. One female police officer told me: *“Well, at least she is earning some money for her family.”*

This observer recently wrote some friends about the same “Leila” a twelve year old sweetheart who worked the Ramlet el Baida beach strip. Her friends on the strip have since reported to me that “Leila” never returned from “work” last week and they have no idea what has become of her.

Approximately one half of the Syrian women with children who have been forced to flee to Lebanon have lost their husbands and often their adult sons to the war. Most not having held jobs outside the home before are now forced, besides their role of working mother, into the additional roles of father, big sister, big brother, and best friend for her children. Manar, a Palestinian social worker in Shatila camp reports that “the mothers have become their children’s everything.”

Many Syria women who are able to find work are subjected to regular sexual harassment by employers and fellow male workers and sometimes deny to employers that there is no male in their household who would offer protection if she reported sexual abuse. Some less strong Syrian refugee women simply prostitute themselves for money and aid.

It is estimated by a social worker at Shatila camp that women can earn on average \$ 36 per day as a sex worker as compared to \$8-10 for a 12-14 hour manual labor work day.

A social worker with ABAAD, a Lebanese NGO that challenges men to stop violence against women, reports that many widowed Syrian women encourage their children to perform child labor or marry (sell) their teenage daughters off to collect their muqaddam, (dowry) that the groom is supposed, but often fails, to provide to the bride's parents.

Without legal status under Lebanese law, or without any legal papers due to Kafkaesque nearly impossible visa renewal requirements, many women describe to the few NGO’s here who may want to help them, repeated assaults against them that they have not reported to the authorities.

They do not report them due to lack of confidence that the police authorities would take action and the Syrian women fear reprisals by the abusers or arrest for not having a valid residency permit.

Meanwhile, while desperate Syrian refugees are being denied visas, this observer, a no-account American who has ample reason to daily hang his head in shame over his country’s dozen years wars in this region and the deaths of more than a million people his government has contributed to, and its deeply immoral policy toward Palestine, has no such problem.

He is able to show up at the local police station (General Security) near Burj al Barajneh Palestinian camp, (which also houses hundreds of Syrian refugees these days) as he did this week, apply for and receive, because he is American and not a Syrian, another three-year resident visa. And by paying a \$65 bribe he can get it the same day, rather than wait weeks or months. There is something very wrong with this picture.

I took the children to my flat and my friend from Addis Ababa, a lovely domestic worker, herself exploited, agreed stay at home and help care for them until we could get them some help, a proper home and the older boy “Khaled” in school. Over the next few hours and the next day I made several calls to get help for the children but other than promises to return calls and “try to find some organization to help” nothing came of my efforts for nearly one week. Most of the calls were never returned.

The children were well taken care of by my friend and me and they were soon cooking and eating American cuisine including baking fudge brownies, chocolate chip cookies, enjoying my country style home made Macaroni & Cheese, homemade banana pancakes with (fake) Aunt Jemima maple syrup from the local supermarket, and my chicken vegetable soup not to mention some very delicious Ethiopian food which they helped my friend make. They also became expert at playing 'hide & seek" and met some Syrian kids from the neighborhood. The effect of meeting fellow Syrians and hearing their accents brought the darlings sheer joy and they soon were chatting and playing like chipmunks.

This observer often receives emails asking his opinion of events in this region, posing various questions or even asking his 2-cents worth of advice about academic subjects a student somewhere might be engaged in or is contemplating.

To date I have never been asked about buying Syrian refugee children in Lebanon.

If and when this observer is asked, and if the facts were similar to those I happened across recently near Ramlet el Baida beach in Beirut, with the priceless four sibling beauties, for whom I am now deeply honored to be their 'American uncle', without doubt or fear of possible legal ramifications for encouraging what some may consider a felony of sorts, I would strongly urge good Samaritans to take the following steps.

To investigate as best they can on the scene and depending on how dire the situation appears to be, to immediately price bargain and 'buy' the children from the trafficker. I would counsel the Samaritan to discretely photograph the seller with their smart phone. In my case having only a \$10 used old Nokia 'dumb phone' which does for me all that I need done-its dials and answers calls -I gave the police only a physical description of the woman as I keep an eye out for her along the beach or when I am in Hamra.

All of us must do what we can to get these children from Syria a safe environment, a chance to play and to be children. Dear reader, if you happen to be in this area and come upon by chance a need such as I did, please make these angels feel protected and safe, make them warm, get them clean clothes, feed them, get them a medical examinations, contact authorities or NGO's buy them a doll to love. Knowing you may not get immediately assistance, inquire about schooling,

And most importantly find them a mother dear reader. And hopefully before long they will be in a loving home until the hell next door ends and, as their country's future, they can return home and rebuild it.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Afghan Troops Abandon More Territory To Taliban:

“A Shortage Of Troops And Police, Worn Down By Combat Losses And Desertions”

March 1, 2016 BY REUTERS

KABUL — Afghan forces have pulled back from strongpoints in the southern province of Uruzgan, continuing a withdrawal which began that month when they abandoned two districts in the neighboring province of Helmand to the Taliban, officials said Tuesday.

Provincial government spokesman Dost Mohammad Nayab said about 100 troops and police had been pulled from checkpoints in two areas in Shahidi Hassas district and sent to the neighbouring district of Deh Rawud.

The Afghan Taliban, seeking to topple the Western-backed government in Kabul and reimpose Islamic rule 15 years after they were ousted from power, said the move, which came after heavy fighting late Monday, had left the area around the village of Yakhdan under their control.

The decision to leave the posts follows months of heavy fighting with the Taliban, who have put government forces under heavy pressure across southern Afghanistan.

“We want to create a reserve battalion in Deh Rawud, and we may ask our soldiers and policemen from other districts also to leave their checkpoints,” Nayab said.

Nayab said the withdrawal was prompted by a shortage of troops and police, worn down by combat losses and desertions. He said troop numbers in the province were about 1,000 short of their assigned strength while police were hundreds short.

“Some of them have left the army and police, some have been killed or wounded and some have surrendered to the Taliban,” he said. “We have to control situation here until we receive enough forces.”

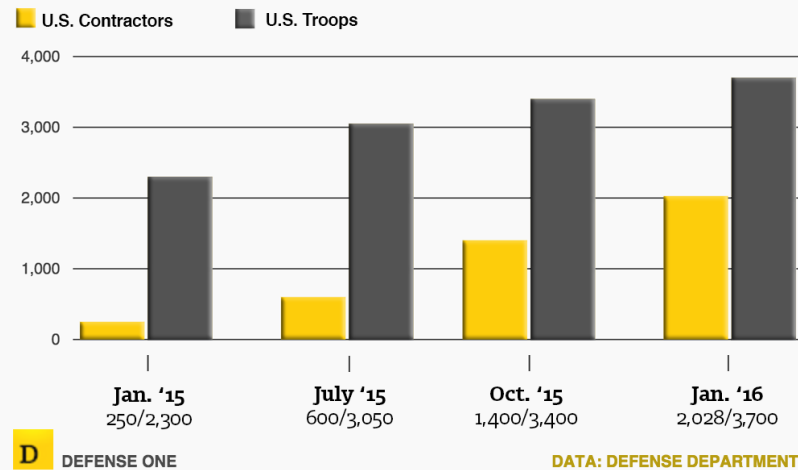
MILITARY NEWS

DoD Sending Increasing Numbers Of Mercenary Combatants To Fight In Iraq:

2,028 Military Contractors In Iraq Now, “Up From Just 250 One Year Earlier”

U.S. Contractors Flood Back Into Iraq

8-fold jump since January 2015



FEBRUARY 23, 2016 BY MARCUS WEISGERBER, Defense One

The number of private contractors working for the U.S. Defense Department in Iraq grew eight-fold over the past year, a rate that far outpaces the growing number of American troops training and advising Iraqi soldiers battling Islamic State militants.

The sharp increase, disclosed in a recent Pentagon report to Congress, underscores the military's reliance on civilians even for missions with relatively small troop presence.

“If you look at the size and the composition of the forces that have been deployed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, that's changed markedly in the past year,” said Rick Brennan, a senior political scientist at the RAND Corp. and a retired Army officer.

As of January, 2,028 contractors were in Iraq, up from just 250 one year earlier, according to the Pentagon's data. There are roughly 3,700 American troops there now, compared to 2,300 in January 2015.

That number of military contractors represents just a fraction of the contractors employed by the U.S. in Iraq.

In addition to the 2,028 Pentagon contractors, another 5,800 are employed by other agencies, including the State Department.

In the 1980s, the U.S. military decided to hire contractors to work in support roles that had historically been done by troops. That includes jobs like food services, maintaining housing units, water purification and “all those other things that go with maintaining

troops in the field for a long time,” Brennan said. The plus-up in Iraq is likely for contractors in those types of roles.

“What’s occurred then is as you deploy more forces to theater, you have to provide increased total number of contractors,” Brennan said.

During the Iraq War, there was a little bit more than one-to-one ratio of contractors to soldiers, he said. Now in Iraq, more than 30 percent (618) of the contractors are working in maintenance and logistics jobs. Nearly 20 percent (381) are translators and 13 percent (263) are in base support positions, according to the data.

Contractors are also working in security, transportation, construction, communication support, training, management and administrative roles.

Nearly 70 percent of the contractors are American citizens, 20 percent are third-country nationals and the remaining are local Iraqis.

The number of contractors the Pentagon can employ in Iraq is not capped, according to Col. Steve Warren, spokesman for Operation Inherent Resolve.

Many of the contractors in Iraq and neighboring countries are from well known warzone companies like KBR, DynCorp, and Fluor Corporation, the three firms hired by the Army’s Logistics Civil Augmentation Program, or LogCap. The Pentagon awards individual “task order” deals to these each time it needs to support troops overseas.

“It makes tailoring a unit much more responsive to the needs of the commander because you don’t have to try to rip people (with a trade specialty) from other installations,” Brennan said.

KBR, in a November presentation to investors, said its LogCap services work in Iraq “grew in the period with further growth possible.”

Besides the LogCap contractors, the Pentagon can award independent contracts, according to Andrew Hunter, a former Pentagon official who now director of the Defense-Industrial Initiatives Group at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, in Washington. In some instances, the Pentagon hires contractors already working for the government in order to speed up the process.

Even though U.S. troops withdrew fully from Iraq in 2011, many contractors stayed behind working at the American embassy or in logistical roles maintaining Iraq’s military equipment.

Congress ordered the Pentagon to provide detailed information about battlefield contractors following an incident in which private military contractors working for Blackwater USA killed 17 Iraqi civilians in Nisour Square in Baghdad in September 2007.

Not all contractors in the warzone are base guards, laundry workers or chefs.

The CIA and other intelligence agencies still use contractors like the former Blackwater or \$2.2 billion firm DynCorp and other for paramilitary services. The

number of those contractors, some who are closer to the battlefield than the military advisors, is classified and unknown to the public.

U.S. Central Command, which oversees military operations in the Middle East, has sent Congress regular updates about the number of contractors being employed in Iraq and Afghanistan since August 2008. In July 2008, just following the 2007 troop surge, there were 162,428 Pentagon-funded contractors in Iraq, according to the data.

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.

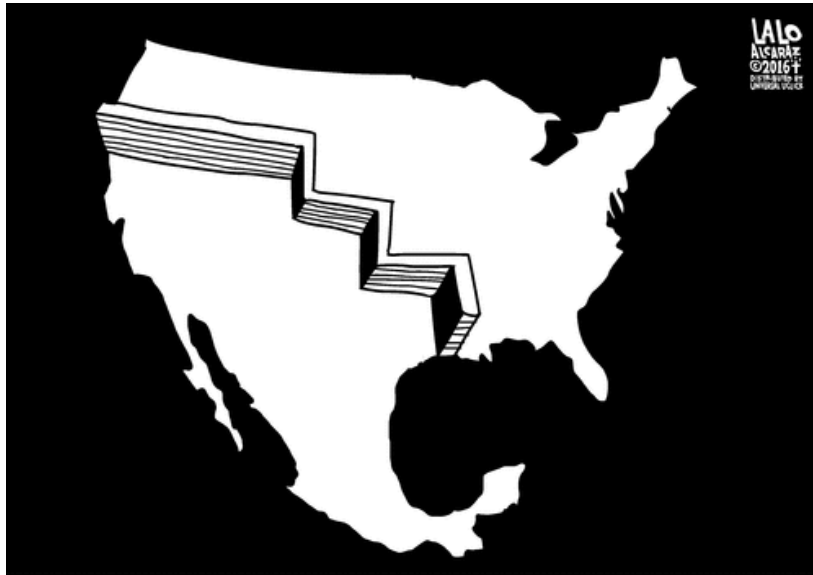
“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

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

Frederick Douglass, 1852

The Social-Democrats ideal should not be the trade union secretary, but the tribune of the people who is able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression no matter where it appears no matter what stratum or class of the people it affects; who is able to generalize all these manifestations and produce a single picture of police violence and capitalist exploitation; who is able to take advantage of every event, however small, in order to set forth before all his socialist convictions and his democratic demands, in order to clarify for all and everyone the world-historic significance of the struggle for the emancipation of the proletariat.”

-- V. I. Lenin; What Is To Be Done



MEXICO BUILT THE TRUMP WALL FOR FREE

Red Ropes

From: Dennis Serdel
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: March 20, 2014
Subject: Red Ropes

Written by Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade; United Auto Workers GM Retiree

Red Ropes

The room has a Stage
in the old High School
the people are sitting

in the worn out seating
& those who talk
have only 5 minutes
at the mike
Then a Sarge screams out
like a toxic jelly fish
wrapped around orders
for 3 teenage black girls
who proudly march
& then stop at attention
in their clean camouflaged
uniforms & boots
& sly berets on heads &
march around the stage
& then they are gone
like a female teenager
in Vietnam
who is bit by a venomous
snake with no
anti-venom medicine
& because she is poor
she dies
The power line up before the
High School Teacher's Board
First a Quaker like a poisonous
spider blasts them
for letting Junior ROTC
& War into the School
in the first place
All War is wrong he says
& you're Brainwashing these
young naive teenagers
Then a fat Vietnam veteran
slips up to the mike
like a toxic ocean snail
with 6 pieces
of medium size red rope
He tells the Board
that Soldiers in Afghanistan
tie ropes around their
thighs as he takes 2
red ropes & ties them
around his faded bluejeans
then he takes 2 ropes
& ties them around his calves
finally he says they tie
2 ropes around each
of their arms so when
they step on a land mine
they hope they won't bleed out
before medivac's & surgery

then the Veteran walks back
to his seat with the
6 red ropes around him
Finally a young man steps up
to the mike like a mega
dragon lizard 11 feet long
& he spits out his poison
that the School has to pay
for the uniforms boots
& berets & part of Sarge's wages
provide him a room
with office supplies
with a computer
you just haven't received
the bills yet
Then a black women on the Board
blurts out we thought
the Army pays for all of that
because we just had to
buy a new frame for a school bus
& bolt on the old body to it
because we didn't have
the money to buy a new bus
the lizard then crawls back
to his seat knowing
they are dead
A week later at the School Board
Office the Board says they can
Not afford JR ROTC

written by Dennis Serdel for Military Resistance

**“Nowhere Do ‘Politicians’ Form A
More Separate And Powerful Section
Of The Nation Than Precisely In
North America”**

**“We Find Here Two Great Gangs Of
Political Speculators, Who Alternately
Take Possession Of The State Power**

And Exploit It By The Most Corrupt Means And For The Most Corrupt Ends”

Excerpts from Introduction to The Civil War In France, by Friedrich Engels, March 18, 1891:

From the very outset the Commune [the revolutionary government set up by French workers and soldiers in Paris, 1871] was compelled to recognize that the working class, once come to power, could not go on managing with the old state machine; that in order not to lose again its only just conquered supremacy this working class must, on the one hand, do away with all the old repressive machinery previously used against it itself and, on the other, safeguard itself against its own deputies and officials, by declaring them all, without exception, subject to recall at any moment.

What had been the characteristic attribute of the former state?

Society had created its own organs to look after its common interests, originally through simple division of labor.

But these organs, at whose head was the state power, had in the course of time, in pursuance of their own special interests, transformed themselves from the servants of society into the masters of society.

This can be seen, for example, not only in the hereditary monarchy, but equally so in the democratic republic.

Nowhere do “politicians” form a more separate and powerful section of the nation than precisely in North America.

There each of the two major parties which alternately succeed each other in power is itself in turn controlled by people who make a business of politics, who speculate on seats in the legislative assemblies of the Union as well as of the separate states, or who make a living by carrying on agitation for their party and on its victory are rewarded with positions.

It is well known how the Americans have been trying for thirty years to shake off this yoke, which has become intolerable, and how in spite of it all they continue to sink ever deeper in this swamp of corruption.

It is precisely in America that we see best how there takes place this process of the state power making itself independent in relation to society, whose mere instrument it was originally intended to be. Here there exists no dynasty, no nobility, no standing army, beyond the few men keeping watch on the Indians, no bureaucracy with permanent posts or the right to pensions.

And nevertheless we find here two great gangs of political speculators, who alternately take possession of the state power and exploit it by the most corrupt means and for the

most corrupt ends — and the nation is powerless against these two great cartels of politicians, who are ostensibly its servants, but in reality dominate and plunder it.

Against this transformation of the state and the organs of the state from servants of society into masters of society — an inevitable transformation in all previous states — the Commune made use of two infallible means.

In the first place, it filled all posts — administrative, judicial, and educational — by election on the basis of universal suffrage of all concerned, subject to the right of recall at any time by the same electors.

And, in the second place, all officials, high or low, were paid only the wages received by other workers.

In this way an effective barrier to place-hunting and careerism was set up, even apart from the binding mandates to delegates to representative bodies which were also added in profusion.

A Slice Of Our History [Not Their History]

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9ZNqpb_NkM

ANNIVERSARIES

**International Women’s Day:
“The First International Women’s Day
Was Celebrated 102 Years Ago By
Revolutionaries In Russia”**

**“Let A Joyous Sense Of Serving The
Common Class Cause And Of Fighting
Simultaneously For Their Own Female
Emancipation Inspire Women Workers**

To Join In The Celebration Of Women's Day"



A March 8, 1917 demonstration led by Alexandra Kollontai and other organizers.

March.8.1913 by Alexandra Kollantai. Pravda, via Jacobin.

The first International Women's Day was celebrated 102 years ago by revolutionaries in Russia.

Alexandra Kollontai was a Russian revolutionary.

The following article was published in *Pravda* one week before the first celebration of the "Day of International Solidarity among the Female Proletariat" on March 8, 1913.

In St Petersburg this day was marked by a call for a campaign against women workers' lack of economic and political rights and for the unity of the working class, led by the self-emancipation of women workers.

This article was transcribed by Sally Ryan for marxists.org.

What is "Women's Day"? Is it really necessary?

Is it not a concession to the women of the bourgeois class, to the feminists and suffragettes?

Is it not harmful to the unity of the workers' movement?

Such questions can still be heard in Russia, though they are no longer heard abroad. Life itself has already supplied a clear and eloquent answer.

“Women’s Day” is a link in the long, solid chain of the women’s proletarian movement. The organized army of working women grows with every year.

Twenty years ago the trade unions contained only small groups of working women scattered here and there among the ranks of the workers’ party... Now English trade unions have over 292,000 women members; in Germany around 200,000 are in the trade union movement, and 150,000 in the workers’ party; and in Austria there are 47,000 in the trade unions and almost 20,000 in the party.

Everywhere — in Italy, Hungary, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and Switzerland — the women of the working class are organizing themselves.

The women’s socialist army has almost a million members. A powerful force! A force that the powers of this world must reckon with when it is a question of the cost of living, maternity insurance, child labor, and legislation to protect female labor.

There was a time when working men thought that they alone must bear on their shoulders the brunt of the struggle against capital, that they alone must deal with the “old world” without the help of their womenfolk.

However, as working-class women entered the ranks of those who sell their labor, forced onto the labor market by need, by the fact that husband or father is unemployed, working men became aware that to leave women behind in the ranks of the “non-class-conscious” was to damage their cause and hold it back.

The greater the number of conscious fighters, the greater the chances of success.

What level of consciousness is possessed by a woman who sits by the stove, who has no rights in society, the state or the family? She has no “ideas” of her own! Everything is done as ordered by the father or husband...

The backwardness and lack of rights suffered by women, their subjection and indifference, are of no benefit to the working class, and indeed are directly harmful to it.

But how is the woman worker to be drawn into the movement, how is she to be awoken?

Social-Democracy abroad did not find the correct solution immediately.

Workers’ organizations were open to women workers, but only a few entered. Why?

Because the working class at first did not realize that the woman worker is the most legally and socially deprived member of that class, that she has been browbeaten, intimidated, persecuted down the centuries, and that in order to stimulate her mind and heart, a special approach is needed, words understandable to her as a woman.

The workers did not immediately appreciate that in this world of lack of rights and exploitation, the woman is oppressed not only as a seller of her labor, but also as a mother, as a woman...

However, when the workers' socialist party understood this, it boldly took up the defense of women on both counts as a hired worker and as a woman, a mother.

Socialists in every country began to demand special protection for female labor, insurance for mother and child, political rights for women, and the defense of women's interests.

The more clearly the workers' party perceived this second objective vis-à-vis women workers, the more willingly women joined the party, the more they appreciated that the party is their true champion, that the working class is struggling also for their urgent and exclusively female needs.

Working women themselves, organized and conscious, have done a great deal to elucidate this objective. Now the main burden of the work to attract more working women into the socialist movement lies with the women.

The parties in every country have their own special women's committees, secretariats, and bureaus. These women's committees conduct work among the still largely non-politically conscious female population, arouse the consciousness of working women, and organize them.

They also examine those questions and demands that affect women most closely: protection and provision for expectant and nursing mothers, the legislative regulation of female labor, the campaign against prostitution and infant mortality, the demand for political rights for women, the improvement of housing, the campaign against the rising cost of living, etc.

Thus, as members of the party, women workers are fighting for the common class cause, while at the same time outlining and putting forward those needs and demands that most nearly affect themselves as women, housewives, and mothers.

The party supports these demands and fights for them... The requirements of working women are part and parcel of the common workers' cause!

On "Women's Day" the organized demonstrate against their lack of rights.

But, some will say, why this *singling out* of women workers? Why special "Women's Days," special leaflets for working women, meetings and conferences of working-class women?

Is this not, in the final analysis, a concession to the feminists and bourgeois suffragettes?

Only those who do not understand the radical difference between the movement of socialist women and bourgeois suffragettes can think this way.

What is the aim of the feminists?

Their aim is to achieve the same advantages, the same power, the same rights within capitalist society as those possessed now by their husbands, fathers, and brothers.

What is the aim of the women workers? Their aim is to abolish all privileges deriving from birth or wealth. For the woman worker it is a matter of indifference who is the “master,” a man or a woman. Together with the whole of her class, she can ease her position as a worker.

Feminists demand equal rights always and everywhere. Women workers reply: we demand rights for every citizen, man and woman, but we are not prepared to forget that we are not only workers and citizens, but also mothers! And as mothers, as women who give birth to the future, we demand special concern for ourselves and our children, special protection from the state and society.

The feminists are striving to acquire political rights. However, here too our paths separate.

For bourgeois women, political rights are simply a means allowing them to make their way more conveniently and more securely in a world founded on the exploitation of the working people.

For women workers, political rights are a step along the rocky and difficult path that leads to the desired kingdom of labor.

The paths pursued by women workers and bourgeois suffragettes have long since separated. There is too great a difference between the objectives that life has put before them.

There is too great a contradiction between the interests of the woman worker and the lady proprietress, between the servant and her mistress... There are not and cannot be any points of contact, conciliation, or convergence between them. Therefore working men should not fear separate Women’s Days, nor special conferences of women workers, nor their special press.

Every special, distinct form of work among the women of the working class is simply a means of arousing the consciousness of the woman worker and drawing her into the ranks of those fighting for a better future... Women’s Days and the slow, meticulous work undertaken to arouse the self-consciousness of the woman worker are serving the cause not of the division but of the unification of the working class.

Let a joyous sense of serving the common class cause and of fighting simultaneously for their own female emancipation inspire women workers to join in the celebration of Women’s Day.

Happy Anniversary:

March 1912

Women Warriors Win Bread And Roses



IWW organizer Elizabeth Gurley Flynn addresses a strike rally

Carl Bunin Peace History March 12-18

The Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) won the Lawrence, Massachusetts, "Bread & Roses" textile strike after 32,000 workers (mostly young female immigrants who spoke twenty-five different languages) stayed out for nine weeks.

They were striking for better pay, a 54-hour workweek and safer working conditions: the equipment was dangerous and the air quality caused lung disease in nearly one-third of the workers before the age of twenty-five.

"Bread and Roses," by James Oppenheimer

**As we go marching, marching, in the beauty of the day,
A million darkened kitchens, a thousand mill lots gray
Are touched with all the radiance that a sudden sun discloses
For the people hear us singing: bread and roses, bread and roses.**

**As we go marching, marching, we battle, too, for men,
For they are women's children and we march with them again.
Our lives shall not be sweated from birth until life closes;
Hearts starve as well bodies; give us bread but give us roses.**

**As we go marching, marching, unnumbered women dead
Go crying through our singing their ancient call for bread.**

**Small art and love and beauty their drudging spirits knew;
Yes, it is bread we fight for, but we fight for roses, too.**

**As we go marching, marching, we bring the greater days;
The rising of the women means the rising of the race.
No more the drudge and idler, 10 that toil where one reposes,
But a sharing of life's glories: bread and roses, bread and roses.**



Bread & Roses victory parade

January 18, 2002 By ELIZABETH SCHULTE, Socialist Worker

JAMES OPPENHEIMER wrote the song "Bread and Roses" for striking textile workers in Lawrence, Mass.

He took the title from the banners of strikers, who demanded not just decent treatment at work, but the right to dignity and a better quality of life.

The textile bosses in Lawrence had hired women and children because they thought they could pay poverty wages and never face resistance. And they employed immigrants--who spoke more than 25 different languages--with the aim of keeping workers from uniting and fighting back.

But the bosses were wrong on both counts. More than 20,000 Lawrence workers struck against a 30-cent pay cut in January 1912.

Many workers were lured to Lawrence by advertisements in their home cities--throughout the Balkans and the Mediterranean--showing happy textile workers carrying bags of money home from their jobs. Instead, the new immigrants were greeted with miserable labor at poverty wages.

The strike came as a surprise to bosses, considering that the workers were largely unorganized. Because of its craft orientation and its policy of ignoring immigrant and women workers, the American Federation of Labor (AFL) had few locals in the textile industry.

AFL leaders actually opposed the Lawrence strike and by the end of the struggle had sided with the bosses -- denouncing strikers as anarchists and saboteurs. In contrast, the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), or Wobblies, saw the Lawrence battle as a key struggle in their strategy of organizing all workers into "One Big Union."

ALTHOUGH THE IWW had been organizing in Lawrence since 1905, at times working with the more conservative AFL unions, they accelerated their campaign when one of the largest mills, Atlantic Cotton, struck against speedups in 1911. The Wobblies sent in some of their best organizers--J.P. Thompson, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Big Bill Haywood, Arturo Giovannitti and Joe Ettor, whose ability to speak six languages was a tremendous asset.

But the backbone of the struggle was the workers of Lawrence themselves. In January 1912, Massachusetts passed labor reform legislation that limited women and children from working more than 54 hours a week. In Lawrence, the typical workweek was 56 hours. But because the law didn't have a provision preserving the two hours' pay, bosses instead decided to use the measure to cut wages.

Local 20, the Italian branch of the IWW, called a meeting on January 10 to discuss what action to take on payday. Some 1,000 workers showed up and voted to call workers on strike as soon as they received the checks.

On January 12, strikers poured out of the mills, some of them forming flying squads to go into factories to bring out other workers. Mill owners ordered their goons to attack workers, hosing them down with freezing water in the subzero January weather. But workers resisted, going into the factories and smashing machinery and windows.

The governor used this as an excuse to call out the National Guard, which joined police on the streets in intimidating workers.

In the course of the struggle, Lawrence workers devised several new and effective strike tactics. One was the mass picket. Instead of small picket lines, Lawrence strikers organized all their forces to block workplaces.

In the face of thousands of workers surrounding a factory, neither the bosses' scabs nor the police could do a thing. And as they marched, sang and chanted in the thousands, workers built solidarity and a sense of their own power. Building solidarity among the different immigrant groups--the largest were Italians, Poles, Russians, Syrians and Lithuanians--was critical to the strike's victory.

Questions in the struggle were debated and decisions made in weekly mass meetings attended by thousands of strikers. After each meeting, workers sang the workers' anthem from the Paris Commune, "The Internationale."

Day-to-day decisions were made by a strike committee, which was made up of elected representatives from each of the different language groups.

THE ROLE of women -- wives of strikers and strikers themselves -- was key to the strike's success, and the IWW did everything it could to foster their participation. The

Wobblies organized special meetings for women and encouraged them to take on leadership positions.

“The women worked in the mills for lower pay and in addition had all the housework and the care of the children,” wrote Elizabeth Gurley Flynn. “The old-world attitude of man as the ‘lord and master’ was strong. We resolutely set out to combat these notions.

“The women wanted to picket. We knew that to leave them at home alone, isolated from the strike activity, prey to worry...was dangerous for the strike.”

Women proved to be some of the fiercest fighters.

On one occasion, a group of Italian women found a police officer alone on a bridge. They had taken his gun, club and badge and were in the process of removing his pants before throwing him into the water when he was rescued by the cavalry.

“The IWW has been accused of putting the women in the front,” wrote Flynn. “The truth is, the IWW does not keep them in the back, and they go to the front.”

So it is no surprise that several women were elected strike committee delegates.

Concrete provisions were made to provide for workers’ families. Strikers ran six commissaries and 11 soup kitchens.

And when the Lawrence schools taught strikers’ children that their parents were “un-American” for striking, the IWW’s Haywood organized meetings for the kids.

When the growing threat of violence from police and company goons made strikers fear for their children’s safety, the workers devised a brilliant plan. Strike supporters in other parts of the country--mostly from New York City--were called on to house and care for the children for the strike’s duration. When supporters gathered to meet the Lawrence children at Grand Central Station, it became a huge labor rally.

The strikers forced the mill bosses to settle in March--and won most of their demands. They got pay increases on a sliding scale, with the lowest-paid workers getting 25 percent raises; time and a quarter for overtime; and a guarantee that no striker would be discriminated against.

The victory encouraged a wave of strikes in several New England cities. For example, as soon as Wobblies arrived in Lowell, Mass., mill owners offered workers a 5 percent raise.

The history of this amazing struggle--especially its spirit of solidarity among men and women and between different immigrant groups--remains an inspiration today.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

**Egypt Is Set To Explode:
“A Combination Of Human Rights
Abuses, Security Failure, And
Economic Failures Have Each
Contributed To Increasing
Pressure”
“Arrogance Begets Implosion And
That Begets Revolt”
“The Egyptian Police Have Shown They
Will Run And Abandon The Street”**

March 7, 2016 by Amr Khalifa, Daily News Egypt

Egypt is set to explode.

When and how is dependent on who pulls the trigger and why.

Those who had the opportunity to peruse the previous article came to quickly understand that Egypt has galloped to a 3, on a danger scale of 1-5, in 2.5 years of de jure Al-Sisi rule. A combination of human rights abuses, security failure, and economic failures have each contributed to increasing pressure on a regime that history may judge as, potentially, the most brutal in modern Egyptian history.

Even though Nasser, Sadat, Mubarak and Morsi were anything but lovers of democracy Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi has managed to make those who preceded him look like Gandhi.

By heading, with speed and certitude, towards Maximum Threat Level, Al-Sisi poses a mortal danger to the Egyptian nation state.

If you have come here looking for specifics – in terms of day, week, or month – of the onslaught you have come to the wrong place. The best we can hope to achieve in this ongoing discussion of a murky Egyptian domestic scene is to strip down a more linear diagram of the protagonists, causes and where they will lead us.

As Al-Sisi gallops towards Threat Level 4, desperation has become the dominant currency.

Egypt awoke Sunday to a flood of news that provided a political snapshot of the confused cabal at the helm of the Egyptian political apparatus.

Still dazed by daily accusations of security forces torturing and killing Italian graduate researcher Giulio Regeni, Minister of Interior Magdy Abdel Ghaffar had no problem spinning up a fantastic tale which in an attempt to distract from the Regeni murder.

While claiming Regeni's arrest was a rumour regurgitated by Western media to stain Egypt's reputation, he simultaneously levelled outlandish accusations in the direction of Turkey, the Muslim Brotherhood, and Hamas.

A tripartite of enemies, real and imagined, plugged into an all-too-convenient theatre of the absurd, narrated by the man installed as Al-Sisi's domestic enforcer.

"Orders were issued by the escaped ministry of health spokesperson (during the Morsi era) who heads up terror elements within the Muslim Brotherhood to execute operations. Simultaneously Hamas was ordered to carry out the operation (Hisham Barakat assassination)... elements were trained in explosives and assisted by tribal (Bedouin) elements to enter Egypt via Sinai".

Credit must be given for imagination – however, one must stop and ask what this story says about Egypt's power bloc?

This "look at the birdie" manoeuvre has long been the modus operandi of Egypt's security apparatuses towards those whom they protect.

Stop to think: what if this was an accurate retelling? Wouldn't this imply that the army has not only lost control of Egyptian borders, thereby endangering Egypt domestically and uncovering an Egypt incapable of fulfilling the Camp David accord?

We are left with a troubling binary: The rulers are either stupid or they are desperate, each avenue darker than the other. Hisham Barakat's 'killers' were supposedly "eliminated" in a gun battle in Maadi Gardens, as they prepared for another attack, utilising a car with diplomatic licence plates last week. So who are the young men on this video admitting to the assassination? Someone is lying.

The leadership, sadly, has started believing its own untruths. Despite nearly daily proclamations of Egyptian military control over Sinai, news of the killing of three people – two military personnel and an ambulance driver – in a two-stage attack on Sunday discredits such claims.

Militants ambushed and killed three on board. Receiving little coverage, since it is part of a daily barrage in an out of control Sinai, the attack nonetheless exposed strategically flexible militants and a flat-footed military.

A day earlier, five bullet-riddled bodies were found in a mass grave some hundreds of metres away from a well-known army base in Sheikh Zuweid.

State-controlled Cairo press simply said five unidentified bodies found killed. But local journalists reported that “a hummer disposed of the bodies in plain sight, and among the murdered were a child and a deaf and mute victim”. An endless tit-for-tat. As the situation deteriorates in Sinai and bombs explode near Cairo, next to the Oman Consulate, in an IS-conducted attack, desperation grows, and the danger metre points, evermore, to Threat Level 4.

“Arrogance Begets Implosion And That Begets Revolt”

But, again and again, the deep state continues to undermine itself with fairy tales.

“There are no enforced disappearances in Egypt”, claimed Minister of Interior Magdy Abdel Ghaffar on Sunday, only 24 hours after the publication of a seminal, deftly researched article strongly linking the National Security Apparatus, which falls under the interior ministry’s umbrella, to both enforced disappearances and systematic torture.

To deny the charge when one of the nation’s most revered human rights organisation, the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR), in its 2015 year-end report, reflects that disappearances could vault to three per day is laughable.

When 90 families per month cannot locate sons and daughters but the minister has the gall to call enforced disappearances a falsehood, we have an issue.

Arrogance begets implosion and that begets revolt.

National implosion is where Threat Level 5 lurks, behind the foggy political reality, ready to attack. An economic time bomb has the potential to produce a faceoff, the likes of which the Middle East has yet to see.

Whereas lack of security, massive human rights violations, lacking political direction, police impunity, and nearly 60,000 political prisoners continue to drive Egypt to the threshold of danger, the rise of the value of the dollar to EGP 9.75 may push it over.

Traditionally, when you hurt people’s pockets, they will hurt you.

Few factors have struck the economy like the sudden rise of the dollar against the Egyptian pound.

In mere weeks, it has zoomed from slightly under EGP 9 to EGP 9.75. This sort of rise in the parallel markets will likely force the government’s hand in devaluing the dollar.

Devaluation is closely linked to price rises and subsidy removal. Just remember the bread riots of 1977.

Rationally, no one can expect investors to flock to Egypt if bombs are going off consistently. With the hotchpotch of economic issues discussed here, the billion dollar question becomes: what will be the trigger?

The possible sparks for uprisings, revolutions and or civil wars are infinite. Revolution, at its most basic level, is an emotionally explosive and chaotic entity; accordingly, virtually unpredictable. But facts are facts:

Uncertainty about reigns of governance with an economy in shambles.

Freedom of speech under constant attack by a counter-revolutionary regime.

Numbers of disappeared political prisoners and torture victims are mushrooming.

A politicised judiciary and a parliament of 'Yes Men'.

Speeches showing a president coming apart at the seams (think Gaddafi 2.0).

Terrorist attacks have tripled since the commencement of Al-Sisi's presidency

For increasing numbers of Egyptians, the situation, as it stands, is untenable. Not all, but many analysts, both within and without, are coming to the conclusion that Al-Sisi's tenure will not reach its constitutional conclusion.

But those analyses presuppose Al-Sisi's survival for the medium term. This, I strongly believe, is optimistic.

Aforementioned pressures, coupled with decreasing Gulf support, multiple power struggles, and popular support decreasing daily, suggest that a singular event can tip the scales in favour of confrontation.

But this time, there is no way of telling whether this will be a revolution, an economic uprising that burns all in its path, or even worse: an armed uprising that divides the nation.

Initially, Al-Sisi worried about two camps: the Islamists and the 25 January revolutionaries.

That has all changed. Increasingly, intellectuals, journalists, and many of those outside Al-Sisi's core support group can be counted in the ranks of dissidents. Should these camps organise, or the economic buzzsaw galvanise alliances across classes powered by lower classes and youth unemployment, and if economic goliaths join ranks with important military cadres, or the Mubarakists turn the screws, Threat Level 5 will become the next deadly reality.

When push comes to shove, the Egyptian police have shown they will run and abandon the street, as they did on 28 January.

But Al-Sisi is no Mubarak.

The desperation he exhibits makes him combustible.

During his most recent speech, he made no secret of his blood-stained outlook. "By God I will obliterate from the face of the earth" those who threaten Egyptian stability.

Juxtapose this sentiment with a faceoff with dissidents, and there is a little doubt Al-Sisi would call the army to the streets to defend power at any cost.

From his first days of his de facto rule, stretching back to Rabaa in 2013, Al-Sisi has waged a war against opponents without fearing the consequences.

His political strategy has lacked strategy. With anger rising, along with arms in Sinai, the Western Desert, and an active arms market in the south of the country, there is no shortage of kindling to ignite Al-Sisi's failing presidency.

I have shied away for months from spelling out this descent into the Egyptian inferno due to cognitive dissidence. But we may be two summers away from Egypt returning to the front pages for all the wrong reasons.

Al-Sisi has brought the impossibly destructive closer to political reality.

2,000 Boston Public School Students Strike To Protest Budget Cuts: “Pretty Much Every Student In My Class Walked Out. I Don’t Think There’s Anyone Left”



Ryan Breslin/Boston.com,

March 8, 2016 by Allison Pohle and Kristi Palma, Boston.com

Daphne Partridge spent Monday morning debating whether to walk out of her class at Boston Teachers Union School.

The blond sixth grader worried she might be suspended for abruptly standing up and leaving, but, more than that, she worried about what would happen if she didn't walk out.

As she stood cheering and shouting on the Common with more than 2,000 other students from across the school system, Partridge knew she'd made the right choice.

"At our school we're worried about language programs being taken away, but now that we're here we see the ways all the other schools are affected," she said.

"It's crazy how many kids are here. But it makes me feel like I have a voice."

The students marched through downtown Boston after walking out of class to protest planned budget cuts, carrying signs and chanting, "What do we want? Education!," as shoppers and onlookers walking down Newbury Street pulled out their cell phones to record the demonstration.

Students made their way in large throngs toward Boston Common, the State House, and Faneuil Hall, on foot and by bus, despite warnings from the school district that they would be marked absent if they left class.

"Pretty much every student in my class walked out. I don't think there's anyone left," said Harry Saunders, a senior at Snowden International School. "But I'm surprised how many people are here."

Protest organizers posted a letter on Twitter prior to the walkout stating that budget cuts next year will prohibit students from learning "at full capacity" and "make it impossible to get into the college of your dreams."

The city's public schools are facing the deficit due to rising expenses and a decline in state and federal aid. The exact amount of the deficit, however, has yet to be determined. The initial budget shortfall was estimated at about \$50 million, though the mayor's office has said the total figure will be lower when the school committee votes on the final budget March 23.

This isn't the first public protest regarding the budget cuts. During February vacation week, several hundred parents, teachers, and students held a rally in downtown Boston. Many parents also protested outside of Mayor Marty Walsh's "State of the City" address in January.

But this was the first student-organized demonstration.

City Councilor Tito Jackson marched with the students, and encouraged them to walk inside the State House to voice their opinions.

"I'm so encouraged by the massive turnout and voices of our young people," he said. "They should be holding lawmakers accountable. They should demand that they have enough teachers who will encourage them to stay in their classrooms. They shouldn't

lose their JV programs, which keep some kids involved and are a lifeline for them. And they shouldn't lose funding to charter schools."

Jackson abruptly broke away from the rally to go address two students who were fighting on the Common. After the tussle, the crowd diminished, but several hundred students marched to Faneuil Hall, where Walsh and Gov. Charlie Baker held a press conference for a "Forbes Under 30" event.

Once the students realized Baker and Walsh were no longer inside, they slowly began to walk away. Some students went back to the State House, where they testified before the Joint Committee on Education regarding funding.

About two dozen students remained in front of Faneuil Hall, including Nathan Metz-Lerman, a junior at Boston Latin Academy. "We have to continue fighting," he said into a megaphone. "We're not just gonna let our education be destroyed. Who wants to do a chant?"

The remaining students cheered.

"They say cut back, we say fight back," he said. "Cut back." "Fight back," the crowd answered.

Then, as more students dispersed to go home to do homework, Metz-Lerman led the crowd in one last cheer.

"I believe," he yelled, then paused. "That we. Will win."

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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