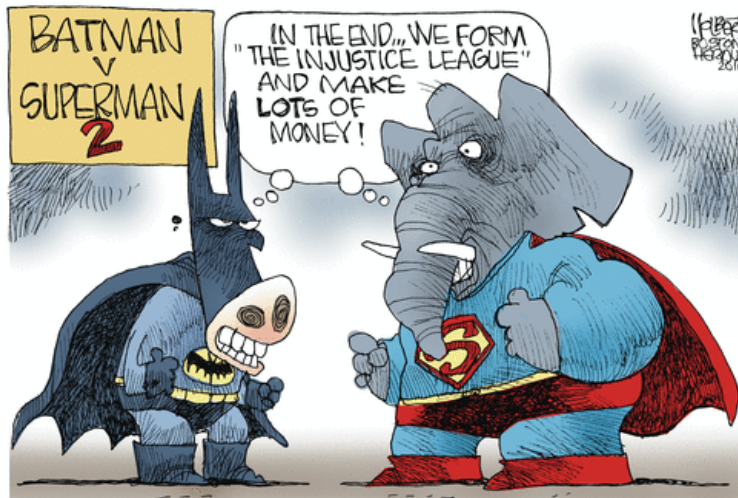


## Military Resistance 14D10



**Chicago Police Kept Prisoners  
Hidden Inside Homan Square;  
“Fewer Than 1% Of Those Held At  
Homan Square Had Access To An  
Attorney”**

**“Detaining And Interrogating  
Thousands Of People Without  
Providing Access To Attorneys And  
With Little Way For Their Loved Ones  
To Find Them”**

**“It Was Almost Impossible To Tell Who  
Was Being Held Inside”**



'Prior to 2016, the only electronic record that could determine with any certainty that an individual was at the Homan Square facility is via the Arrestee Movement records,' according to a letter from a senior officer in the CPD. Photograph: Marcus DiPaola/NurPhoto/Corbis

13 April 2016 by Spencer Ackerman, The Guardian [UK]

**For nearly two decades, when Chicago's police brought people under arrest to their detentions and interrogations warehouse, not even the vast majority of the police force knew where they were, according to an internal memo acquired by the Guardian.**

**Homan Square, a warehouse complex headquartering narcotics, vice and intelligence units for the Chicago police, has also served as a secretive facility for detaining and interrogating thousands of people without providing access to attorneys and with little way for their loved ones to find them.**

Records documenting the presence of someone at Homan Square, especially while they are there, have existed largely outside Chicago police's electronic records system.

Now, documents and evidence from senior officers have for the first time disclosed detailed official accounts of how police based at the unit were able to operate – and how it was almost impossible to tell who was being held inside.

Depositions of senior officers, memorandums for the current police chief and other internal police records portray Chicago police procedures and record-keeping that obscured visibility into Homan Square's apparatus of detentions, both to the public and even to police themselves.

The records and supporting testimony portray a complicated system of documentation that helps explain how Chicago police, particularly from the bureau of organized crime, could use their headquarters for incommunicado detentions and interrogations without attracting significant public notice.

Interrogations are the purpose of the incommunicado detentions, the police depositions indicate.

In practice, police leverage an arrestee's inability to notify relatives or lawyers about their whereabouts – a perilous position, from a civil rights perspective – to generate information about guns or drugs on Chicago's streets.

Over a year into the Guardian's ongoing exposé of what happened inside Homan Square, it appears that police have recently changed their logging procedures there.

"Prior to 2016, the only electronic record that could determine with any certainty that an individual was at the Homan Square facility is via the Arrestee Movement records in the Automated Arrest Application," Randolph Nichols, a senior officer in the Chicago police research department, wrote to acting superintendent John J Escalante in an 11 March memo about the Guardian's freedom of information lawsuit into Homan Square.

In a possible indication of changes to the logging system, Nichols told the Guardian in a September deposition that the police "actually just created a unit the other day for Homan Square arrest processing".

According to records the Guardian's lawsuit has compelled the police to disclose, the arrestee movement records, which detail police moving a detainee from a regular police station to Homan Square and back, are a small fraction of Homan Square arrests.

The digitized records show 275 arrests between 2004 and mid-2015 that, by Nichols' explanation, would have been accessible to police outside the warehouse – however unavailable to the public. Those 275 arrests represent less than 4% of the 7,351 arrests at Homan Square during that time period thus far disclosed.

Asked how a member of the public can find anyone held at Homan Square while police hold them there, a senior police official said in sworn deposition: "I don't know that you can contemporaneously."

Q. Finally, No. 18, the documentation of records made available contemporaneously to the public for individuals taken to Homan Square. So Joe's at Homan Square, how can you find out as a member of the public?

A. I don't know that you can contemporaneously.

Q. If Joe had been taken to a district, would you be able to find that out as a member of the public?

A. I don't believe so.

Chicago attorney Julia Bartmes comments: 'There is no accessible lobby or desk officer at Homan Square. I usually had to know the name of the officer that had picked up my client, and ask to speak to that officer to verify my client's location.' Photograph: Deposition of William Kilroy

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**Police contend that the Guardian's coverage of Homan Square overemphasizes the secrecy surrounding the warehouse's detentions and interrogations practices.**

**But in court, they also concede the secrecy, and argue for its necessity, on the grounds that a normal police station, vastly more open to the public, cannot accommodate undercover officers.**

### **"Fewer Than 1% Of Those Held At Homan Square Had Access To An Attorney"**

Police at Homan "might try to turn them into a confidential informant. So you want some privacy to do that. In a district facility, you don't have any privacy," Nichols said in deposition.

"Some districts do not have the facilities to keep covert our undercover officers," Lieutenant William Kilroy, a senior narcotics officer at the Homan Square-based bureau of organized crime, said in his November deposition.

**The impact is that the arrest and interrogation of more than 7,000 people was able to happen without a public notification of their whereabouts, at a warehouse empowered to take in arrests from around the city.**

**Fewer than 1% of those held at Homan Square had access to an attorney.**

At least 14 men in custody were punched, struck with nightsticks, slapped, Tasered or subjected to another form of physical violence at Homan Square, according to Chicago police records, which also show at least two people who were taken to the warehouse died there.

A still untold number of people were arrested for petty offenses, interrogated at Homan Square, converted into informants and let go.

While most arrests concern guns and drugs, consistent with the narcotics, anti-gang and vice units operating out of the warehouse, others deal with less urgent crime priorities.

According to police documents, at least 11 people observed by investigators for the Recording Industry Association of America selling bootleg CDs and DVDs (including Jay Z albums and Marvel's Iron Man movie) were "taken to Homan Square for processing".

A woman was "transported to Homan Square for processing" after police observing a fencing location for stolen goods found her with "2 cans of Tasters Choice decaffeinated coffee with Walgreens anti-theft stickers".

“Very frequently”, someone arrested at Homan Square will not be subsequently charged with a crime, said Kilroy, the senior narcotics officer, adding: “They convert into a cooperating individual.”

Kilroy took issue with various aspects of the Guardian’s reporting on Homan Square. He said that officers “never” hold arrestees overnight at the warehouse, something numerous former detainees have described in Guardian interviews.

Kilroy described a substantial amount of routine procedure at Homan Square as part of a deposition for the ongoing transparency lawsuit concerning records from the warehouse. The lieutenant said that while arrest reports are filed electronically city-wide, many other records for people taken to Homan Square are separated from the electronic files accessible by police based outside the warehouse.

Homan Square-based police who fall under the umbrella of the bureau of organized crime do “not do electronic case reporting”, Kilroy testified. “Everybody outside the bureau does electronic case reporting. We do hard-copy paper case reporting.”

Explaining the distinction, Kilroy said the case reports, as well as related supplemental files, are documents that provide additional detail about an investigation, while an arrest report “centers on an arrestee”. The case reports exist physically, not digitally, “in a secure office inside secure filing cabinets inside Homan Square”.

Some 75% of Homan Square arrests thus far acknowledged by the Chicago police are narcotics arrests, which fall under the purview of the paper-centric bureau of organized crime.

Publicly available arrest reports for people known to have been held at Homan Square, viewed by the Guardian, do not always indicate their presence at the warehouse, despite the police’s March 2015 “factsheet” claiming: “Officers will create an Automated Arrest Report, which identifies the location of the arrestee.” The arrest report, in any case, is generated after someone is held at Homan Square, which does not perform bookings.

Kilroy continued: “Everyone who is brought up into Homan is logged in or should be logged in. I can’t say it’s 100%, but that’s what we require the officers, that once they secure them in one of the interview rooms, then they immediately proceed to the 24-hour desk where there’s a paper log and they write the name of the arrestee and the officer and what room they’ve been placed in.”

The paper logs do not necessarily distinguish between people under arrest and people acting as police informants, Kilroy said in sworn deposition. The Guardian is currently negotiating with police over disclosure of the paper logs – the only comprehensive record that can reveal the full extent of incommunicado detentions at the warehouse.

### **“Very Few People Under Arrest Have Any Way To Communicate With The Outside World”**

Kilroy indicated that police have developed less formal ways of letting worried relatives or confused attorneys know where their loved ones or clients are.

Homan Square police “notify the district of arrest that we that have taken this person into custody”, Kilroy said. But he was “not certain” if watch commanders at the stations record a local’s arrest at Homan Square on a watch log for reference when relatives or attorneys unable to find their loved ones or clients come calling.

Kilroy estimated that there have been “six or seven attorneys who have come to Homan Square over the past, I don’t know, five, 10 years. It’s been that infrequent.” Chicago police have disclosed 86 attorney visits over the past decade – nine of which occurred after the Guardian’s reporting on the warehouse began – and say, through their lawyers, that the tally is comprehensive. At least two arrestees who the disclosures say received lawyers have denied it to the Guardian.

Lawyers interviewed by the Guardian have said they have been turned away from Homan Square when they came seeking their clients.

Last year, attorney Cliff Nellis said that when he arrived at Homan Square seeking a client in 2014, police told him: “This isn’t a police station, we don’t hold people here.” Nellis and other attorneys say that frequently, after police turn them away at Homan Square, their clients materialize hours later at the nearby 11th district police station.

But Homan Square does not conduct detentions to punish crime or for pre-trial holding. Its holding cells and interview rooms – where interrogations occur – are “all the same thing”, Kilroy said.

When police take arrested people to Homan Square, “the officers will take that person out of the vehicle and then walk them through a series of doors to a stairway, a secure stairway that leads directly up to the interview rooms”, Kilroy said.

Nichols, the officer in the research division, explained police taking arrestees to Homan Square in the context of interrogations. “Sometimes, especially Homan Square and detectives, they want to interview people to try to get more information, to try to turn evidence on their co-conspirators or other people, get more information on gangs and things like that,” Nichols said in deposition.

Once inside, very few people under arrest have any way to communicate with the outside world. Only two people, both white, have ever told the Guardian they have been able to make phone calls while detained at Homan Square, and both were from personal cellphones.

“We don’t have facilities for them to make pay phone calls from our – we’re not set up as a booking facility. We’re just a temporary holding facility,” Kilroy said.

“We don’t have pay phones. On the rare occasion a person has been allowed to make a phone call on his or her personal cellphone number, but that is rare because it’s – if it’s part of an ongoing investigation we would never allow it. If the investigation was concluded, there was no risk to the conduct of a further investigation and a person says, listen, I just want to call my mom and let her know I’m OK, guys have done that, but it’s very difficult because we have very, very poor reception in that building. I lean back in my chair and my cellphone gets zero bars. I move forward and I can get a call.”

The US Department of Justice has opened an inquiry into the Chicago police department's "patterns and practices".

In January, the Cook County board of commissioners, which oversees the county containing Chicago, voted to recommend the department investigate Homan Square.

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## **Pennsylvania Cop Threatens Child On School Bus: "Smile In My Face One More Time And I'll Be Dragging Your Ass Off This Bus And Back To That Fucking Police Car"**



North Braddock goon

April 17, 2016 By Bethania Palma Markus, Raw Story

A police officer outside the city of Pittsburgh was caught on tape berating a school child on a bus for smiling at him, according to a video posted to Facebook.

The video was posted on April 13 but the caption doesn't give much in the way of details. It says the officer works for the North Braddock Police Department. He walks over to a child seated on a school bus and leans over threateningly.

"Smile in my face one more time and I'll be dragging your ass off this bus and back to that fucking police car," the officer says. "Don't smile one more time."

The video doesn't show the child he was talking to, but the other children on the bus seem to be elementary school-age.

The video has so far been shared 186,341 times

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# Stupid, Cruel Reasons For Arresting Children: Criminal Burping, Drawing While Bored, Standing While Black, Throwing Nuts

May 21, 2015 By Aaron Cantú, AlterNet

At this point, it's hard to be surprised by the extreme punitiveness of America's criminal justice system.

One thing that can still shock, though, is how police manhandle actual children.

Not only is treatment of children severe (police in Arizona recently mulled over the possibility of charging an 8-year-old as an adult), but our system is undiscerning; we can, and do, arrest kids for virtually anything, including completely normal childhood misbehavior.

In fact, many youth, particularly people of color from low-income households, come into contact with their first handcuffs in school.

Here are some of the stranger examples of this depressingly American practice.

## **1. Hustling ibuprofen. In 2010, an 11-year-old girl in Georgia was arrested for carrying ibuprofen to school.**

Her mother, who had given her the medication for menstrual cramps, was also arrested for giving the meds to her daughter. Georgia law classifies ibuprofen as a dangerous drug if it's over 200 milligrams; the girl's pills were 800. But it's possible her principal was just looking for an excuse to arrest her, considering he found the bottle while searching her purse for a knife.

## **2. Criminal burping. Albuquerque police aren't known for their cool-headedness, and predictably overreacted—along with school staff—when one 13-year-old “audibly burped” in gym class.**

Police transported the boy to a juvenile detention center without notifying his parents, where he was given a risk assessment test on which he scored a 2 (with 10 being the highest on the scale). In a separate incident at the school, another student was forced to strip naked in front of five administrators when they discovered he was carrying \$200 in cash and suspected him of selling cannabis.

## **3. Drawing while bored.**

**Desks in school are a perfect canvas to doodle your way out of boredom. But one 12-year-old in a New York City middle school ended up in cuffs after writing**



**provocative things on her desk like, “Lex was here,” “I love my friends Abby and Faith,” and a smiley face.**

The girl was taken to a police station and held for several hours until she was released. She had to perform eight hours of community service and write an essay on what she learned from the experience.

4. DARE-ing to question. Drug education in many schools has not changed much since the Reagan era, which is to say, it’s still ineffective and roundly mocked by 10-year-olds.

One kid in Kansas, however, found out that there are real consequences for questioning his school’s anti-pot wisdom.

**During a drug lecture in class, the 11-year-old son of cannabis activist Shona Banda took issue with some of the points made by the counselors, who called the police on him. After they arrested and detained him, they raided Banda’s home. She now fears she may lose custody of her son.**

**5. Kicking a trashcan. The Center for Public Integrity recently investigated the case of Kayleb Moon-Robinson, an autistic sixth-grader who was convicted of felony assault on a police officer after the cop tried wrestling him into submission.**

Kayleb had been asked to stay in class while his classmates filed out of the room—punishment for an earlier infraction he committed, kicking a trashcan. The Center’s investigation also found that the definition of “disorderly conduct” is loose enough that police officers in Virginia are filing a record number of complaints.

In another egregious case, a 12-year-old girl was charged with “obstruction of justice” when she clenched her fist at a school resource officer who had just intervened in a fight.

6. “Hacking.” After eighth-grader Domanik Green figured out his teacher’s computer password (the teacher’s last name), Green changed the teacher’s computer desktop background to two men kissing.

**To the school, this was a malicious “hack into his school’s secure computer network,” and Green was charged with “an offense against a computer system and unauthorized access, a felony,” according to the Tampa Bay Times.**

**7. Standing while black. Three high school athletes in Rochester, NY were waiting for a bus when a cop arrested them for essentially standing while black.**

The officer later described in a report how the students criminally “Block pedestrian traffic while standing on a public sidewalk prevent free passage of citizens walking by and attempting to enter and exit a store.”

**When their coach, who had arranged for a bus to pick them up, arrived to mediate the situation, he was nearly arrested as well, and several more officers were called to needlessly escalate the situation.**

**8. Candy assault. A seventh-grader in Florida was charged with misdemeanor battery when he struck his friend in the head...with a Tootsie Roll.**

The charge was dismissed, but an arrest for “criminal battery” will stay on his record forever.

The anecdote was reported as part of an NPR project that revealed many counties in Florida classify upwards of 100% of classroom arrests as misdemeanors.

**These arrests can be prompted by infractions as vague as “disorderly conduct,” which includes talking back to a teacher and being disrespectful.**

**9. Spitting. A Google search of students arrested for spitting yields thousands of results. In one particularly bizarre case out of Chula Vista, CA, a 12-year-old was expelled and charged with battery after his spit found its way from a school bus window to the sunroof of the car driving behind the school bus.**

When the spit landed inside the car, the driver was so upset he followed the bus and pressed criminal charges against the boy. The acting police captain of the Chula Vista police department later agreed that the offense was indeed battery. “I don’t think it’s excessive,” he told UT San Diego.

**10. Throwing nuts. School arrests were common enough in Mississippi for the ACLU to issue a report about the practice in the state.**

The report found that in 2000, five students were charged with felony assault after they threw peanuts at each other on a bus and one accidentally struck the driver.

The report also notes that farting and untucking one’s shirt resulted in “automatic incarceration” for students who were on juvenile probation.

Arrestable flatulence does not only occur in Mississippi: A 13-year-old was arrested for passing gas a few years ago in Florida.

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# **Forcing The Innocent To Plead Guilty: “Innocent People In Prison Pleading Guilty To Crimes They Didn’t Commit”**

# **“Should You Take A Plea And Do A Couple Of Years In Prison” “Or Should You Try Your Luck At Trial, Knowing That Almost No Defendant Wins In Court?”**



Amaury Villalobos and William Vasquez reacted after their exonerations in a 1980 Brooklyn arson case. From left, Adele Bernhard, a lawyer, with Mr. Villalobos; Rita Dave, a lawyer, with Mr. Vasquez; and the widow of Raymond Mora, a third defendant who was cleared, Janet Mora, and their daughter, Eileen Mora. (Photo: Pearl Gabel/NYT)

19 April 16 by John Kiriakou, Reader Supported News

A record 149 people had their criminal convictions overturned in 2015 after courts found they had been wrongly charged, according to a recent study.

Nearly 4 in 10 of those exonerated had been convicted of murder, and the average newly-released prisoner had served more than 14 years in prison.

Most of the exonerations came in only two states, Texas and New York. The National Registry of Exonerations, a project of the University of Michigan Law School, found that there have been 1,733 exonerations since 1989, with the total doubling since 2011.

More than two-thirds of last year's exonerees were minorities. Five had been sentenced to death.

There is a reason why most of the exonerations have come from two locales. District attorneys in Brooklyn, New York, and Harris County, Texas, have begun long-term reviews of questionable convictions, actions that are being watched by prosecutors and defense attorneys across the country. With 156 death row exonerations since 1973, according to the Death Penalty Information Center, this is a problem that must be addressed.

**The National Registry of Exonerations report stated further that 42 of those exonerated in 2015 had pleaded guilty, a glaring indication that the current system of seeking plea bargains simply isn't just.**

Indeed, Propublica found that 98.2 percent of all federal cases end in conviction, with nearly all of those a result of plea deals.

Why would an innocent person take a plea?

Really, there is no alternative.

First, the government uses a technique called "charge stacking." Have you committed an actual crime? Be prepared for multiple charges, including a lot of "throwaway charges," like obstruction of justice or making a false statement.

In addition, the government will likely levy multiple charges against you for the same crime.

The point is not necessarily to convict you on everything, although prosecutors are perfectly happy to do that. The point is that prosecutors will eventually offer you a deal.

Take a plea to one count and the others will be dismissed. It's a negotiating ploy. But for the accused, the question is this:

**Even if you are innocent, should you take a plea and do a couple of years in prison or should you try your luck at trial, knowing that almost no defendant wins in court?**

**Almost everybody takes the deal.**

After I blew the whistle on the CIA's torture program, the Justice Department charged me with violating the Intelligence Identities Protection Act. I had confirmed the name of a former CIA colleague to a reporter who wanted to interview him for a book. The name was never made public, but I shouldn't have done it. Still, I had no criminal intent and there was no harm to the national security.

But that didn't matter. The government added three espionage charges, as well as a charge of making a false statement. They threatened additional charges of making a false statement and obstruction of justice. Of course, I hadn't committed espionage. Nor had I made any false statements. But that didn't matter. Why risk a trial when you can just force a defendant to take a plea?

In the end, I took a plea to the initial charge. Everything else was dismissed. I was sentenced to 30 months in a federal prison.

If I had gone to trial and had been found guilty, I was looking at 45 years. Realistically, I would have been sentenced to 18-24 years. Either way, I would have likely died in prison.

That happens every day in America. So it should be no surprise that innocent people are in prison as a result of pleading guilty to crimes they didn't commit. The work of the

Brooklyn and Harris County district attorneys should be lauded. But innocent men and women shouldn't have to rely on the isolated prosecutor with a conscience for justice. Justice should mean justice.

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## **Another Murder By Police In New Orleans:**

**“The Cops Have Claimed That  
They Shot And Killed Harris  
Because He Reversed His Car  
Toward Them”**

**“Video Footage From A Nearby  
Building Shows That The Vehicle  
Reversed About Two Feet”**

**“The Car Was 60 Feet From The  
Officers”**



Standing up in New Orleans to demand justice for Eric Harris (Daniel Werst | SW)

Some 50 people marched through downtown New Orleans on March 29 to demand justice for Eric Harris, a Black man murdered by police on February 8, the day before Mardi Gras.

This was the latest in a series of protests about this killing led by a committee of activists involved in Take 'Em Down NOLA, the campaign to force the removal of Confederate statues in the city, especially members of the Black Youth Project organization, together with Harris' family members.

Harris' relatives have bluntly demanded that the two cops who shot and killed Eric be arrested and charged with murder, and this was the loud demand of everyone marching on March 29.

Eric Harris was 22 years old when he was killed, and the father of a young child with his partner Tyshara Blouin.

On February 8, he was accused of threatening his ex-girlfriend at Oakwood Mall in Jefferson Parish, across the river from New Orleans.

When he was approached by an officer from the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office (JPSO), Harris and Blouin drove away, starting a car chase into central New Orleans. The chase ended when Harris crashed the car and came to a halt.

After the collision, two Jefferson Parish cops, Kenneth Bonura and Henry DeJean, opened fire into the driver's side of the car. Both Blouin and a witness in the area who heard the shooting estimated that the police fired approximately 20 shots. Four of those bullets and two more bullet fragments hit Harris, killing him.

**Since the shooting, the cops have claimed that they shot and killed Harris because he reversed his car toward them, threatening their lives. However, video footage from a nearby building shows that the vehicle reversed about two feet, immediately stopped and then moved back where it had been.**

### **“The Car Was 60 Feet From The Officers”**

**Following the shooting, JPSO head Newell Normand told the media that the two deputies started firing upon seeing the car's reverse lights come on. By Normand's own account, the car was 60 feet from the officers.**

The car was damaged from the crash and flanked by police with drawn guns. The JPSO reported finding a handgun in Harris' car, but admit that it was never pointed at police.

Tyshara Blouin has said from the beginning that her partner never reversed the car. Blouin, the only non-police witness directly at the scene, said that Harris didn't touch the gearshift, that he was stunned from the crash, and that he barely had time to ask if she was hurt before he was killed.

The sheriff's deputies cannot seriously claim that they were in danger. These two officers murdered Eric Harris. Only racism and a system of impunity could shield cops who fired 20 bullets for the "crime" of being in a vehicle that rolled two feet after crashing.

Since the killing, JPSO has entirely supported Bonura and DeJean. A spokesman for the department crowed to local reporters that neither officer would even be put on desk duty because the department did not suspect them of doing anything wrong.

This attitude is unsurprising. The department does not use any cameras, either body-mounted or in its cars, to record officers' actions. Last year, the city of New Orleans forced its cops to wear body cameras.

In response, Sheriff Normand said that he didn't want cameras because they would lead to "Monday morning quarterbacking."

**One week after Harris was killed, amid media coverage and protests, JPSO arrested Tyshara Blouin, and charged her with being an accessory to Harris' actions and with drug possession.**

**She was the key witness to the fatal shooting and had publicly accused the deputies of lying about killing her partner in self-defense.**

**Many believe that her arrest was intended to intimidate--or, failing that, smear her.**

New Orleans police are under federal monitoring through a so-called consent decree that created new rules for use of force after a long history of police shootings of unarmed people. The rules mandate that NOPD cannot fire at a person simply to stop a moving car. This essentially stops police from claiming that they fired because a car was being used as a weapon.

A number of cases in which police have shot drivers on this pretext show that the claim is so difficult to substantiate that it can be used as a convenient excuse.

Because Jefferson Parish has more permissive rules than NOPD, and because its force is widely seen as particularly abusive, protesters are questioning why the sheriff's deputies were able to operate freely inside New Orleans.

In the latest demonstration against this police murder, protesters gathered at the huge downtown column, capped with a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee.

The city's anti-racist movement has been applying pressure to get all of these monuments to white supremacy and slavery removed. Last December, the City Council voted 6-1 to remove four of the most prominent, but due to a string of lawsuits, threats to companies that might remove the statues, and inaction by the city, they are still in place.

The Lee statue has been a rallying point for several demonstrations since the beginning of the Black Lives Matter movement. At the start of this protest, organizers tied up banners against racism and police violence all around the base of the column.

Several of these banners were created by a group of female prison inmates who were taking part in a celebration of Black History Month. This celebration was encouraged by the prison administration--until these women painted banners focusing on police violence against Black people, including one about Laquan McDonald, a 17-year-old killed last year by a Chicago cop.

The main speaker at the start of the march was from the Black Youth Project, who commented that the New Orleans action was part of the same struggle as in Chicago against prosecutor Anita Alvarez and Mayor Rahm Emanuel. The speaker also gave an update on the long series of hearings and bureaucratic decisions about whether the city would remove the Confederate statues, and stated that we shouldn't be surprised when elites defend racist symbols and obstruct popular demands.

From the Lee statue, the demonstration set off toward the downtown federal building. The chants were simple: "What do we want? Justice! Justice for who? Eric Harris! When do we want it? Now!"

Almost immediately, the marchers passed through the filming location of the TV show NCIS. As the march went through, it shut down activity on the set. The protest then stopped at a park where there is another racist statue honoring John McDonogh, the slave owner who donated funds to create a municipal school system shortly before the Civil War--intended, of course, for white children only.

Finally, the demonstration arrived at the federal building and rallied briefly outside. Organizers spoke, demanding that the federal prosecutor in New Orleans intervene to bring charges against the two cops who killed Harris. Organizers have also questioned NOPD officials at hearings on the shooting. It is clear that the so-called investigation of the killing by NOPD and federal officials cannot be expected to focus on the facts.

This march brought people together who see this killing as one more brutal event in a system that constantly targets Black people. It connected the fight against monuments symbolizing slavery to the nationwide Black Lives Matter movement.

The movement needs to focus on reaching out to the many New Orleanians who agree with our demands and can be drawn into action. Only a much larger force of people refusing to accept police violence can achieve justice for Eric Harris.

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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.**

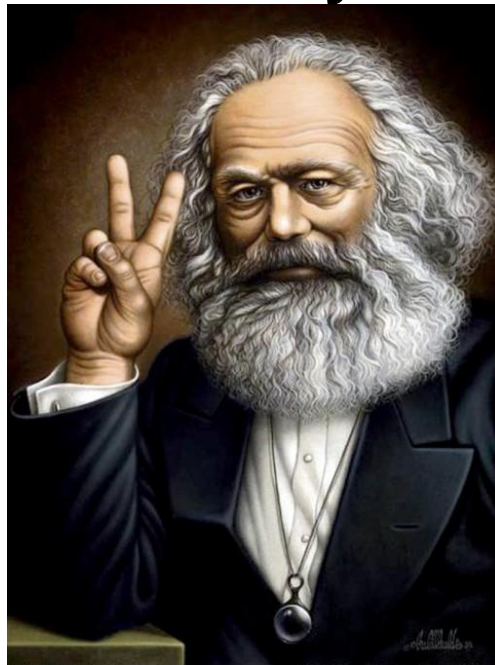
**“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”**

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

**Frederick Douglass, 1852**

**Nothing has more revolutionary effect, and nothing undermines more the foundations of all state power, than the continuation of that wretched and brainless régime, which has the strength merely to cling to its positions but no longer the slightest power to rule or to steer the state ship on a definite course.  
-- Karl Kautsky; The Consequences of the Japanese Victory and Social Democracy**

## **Marx Myth**



**Comment: T**

**From time to time, a myth is recirculated that Marx had nothing whatever to say about the material reality of socialist society.**

**Below are a couple examples where that is discussed.**

**There are many more, especially in Volume I of Capital.**

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Karl Marx:  
From: Capital; A Critique Of Political Economy,  
Volume II: The Process Of The Circulation Of Capital  
Translated: Ernest Untermann

On the basis of capitalist production, it must be ascertained, on what scale those operations which withdraw labor and means of production from it for a long time without furnishing in return any useful product, can be carried on without injuring those lines of production which do not only withdraw continually, or at several intervals, labor-power and means of production from it, but also supply it with means of subsistence and of production.

Under capitalist production, the laborers in lines with short working periods will always withdraw products only for a short time without giving any products in return; while lines of business with long working periods withdraw products for a long time without any returns.

This circumstance, then, is due to the material conditions of the respective labor process, not to its social form.

**In the case of socialized production, the money-capital is eliminated. Society distributes labor-power and means of production to the different lines of occupation.**

**The producers may eventually receive paper checks, by means of which they withdraw from the social supply of means of consumption a share corresponding to their labor-time.**

**These checks are not money. They do not circulate.**

We see, then, that, so far as the need of money-capital is due to the length of the working period, it is determined by two things: First, that money is the general form in which every individual capital (apart from credit) must make its entry in order to transform itself into productive capital; this follows from the nature of capitalist production, or of commodity production in general.

Second: The magnitude of the required money advance is due to the fact that labor-power and means of production must continually be withdrawn from society for a long time without any return of products convertible into money.

The first requirement, namely that capital must be advanced in the form of money, is not suspended by the form of this money itself, regardless of whether it is metal-money, credit-money, token-money, etc.

The second circumstance is in no way affected by the money-medium or the form of production by means of which labor, means of subsistence, and means of production are withdrawn, without the return of some equivalent into the circulation.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **From: The Turn-Over Of Variable Capital**

**If we assumed that society were not capitalistic, but communistic, then the money-capital would be entirely eliminated, and with it the disguises which it carries into the transactions.**

**The question is then simply reduced to the problem that society must calculate beforehand how much labor, means of production, and means of subsistence it can utilize without injury for such lines of activity as, for instance, the building of railroads, which do not furnish any means of production or subsistence, or any useful thing, for a long time, a year or more, while they require labor, and means of production and subsistence out of the annual social production.**

But in capitalist society, where social intelligence does not act until after the fact, great disturbances will and must occur under these circumstances.

On the one hand there is a pressure on the money-market, while on the other an easy money-market creates just such enterprises in mass, that bring about the very circumstances by which, a pressure is later on exerted on the market.

A pressure is; exerted on the money-market, since an advance of money-capital for long terms is always required on a large scale.

And this is so quite apart from the fact that industrialists and merchants invest the money-capital needed for the carrying on of their business in railroad speculation, etc., and reimburse themselves by borrowing in the money-market.

On the other hand, there is a pressure on the available productive capital of society. \

Since elements of productive capital are continually withdrawn from the market and only an equivalent in money is thrown on the market in their place, the demand of cash payers for products increases without supplying any elements for purchase.

Hence a rise in prices, of means of production and of subsistence.

To make matters worse, swindling operations are always carried on at this time, involving a transfer of great capitals.

A band of speculators, contractors, engineers, lawyers, etc., enrich themselves. They create a strong demand for consumption on the market, wages rising at the same time.

So far as means of subsistence are concerned, it is true that agriculture is thus-stimulated.

But as these means of subsistence cannot be suddenly increased within the year, their importation increases, as does the importation of exotic food stuffs, such as coffee, sugar, wine, and articles of luxury.

Hence we then have a surplus importation and speculation in this line of imports.

Furthermore, in those lines of business which production may be rapidly increased, such as manufacture proper, mining, etc., the rise in prices causes a sudden expansion, which is soon followed by a collapse.

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## **“GI Activists Should Remain On Base And Work Directly With People At Their Jobs And In The Barracks”**

[By activists with the paper *Fight Back* in Germany, 1973. Excerpts]

### **Radicals Must Join The Army.**

The role of radicals who purposely join the services to organize has been important throughout the GI movement and remains so today. Within the *Fight Back* group, in the GI Alliance in Tacoma, and at numerous other projects, former civilian activists, some of whom gave up deferments to join, have been a vital force in sustaining GI dissent.

The presence of even a few hundred committed activists could have great impact on the level of servicemen's dissent.

### **Civilian Support Is Crucial:**

As we have seen throughout the history of the GI movement, such support has been a crucial ingredient of successful organizing. Civilian activists are most needed as political workers and counselors at local projects.

Peace organizations should adopt programs for training civilians in military counseling and supporting them during a tour of duty working directly with servicemen at major bases.

### **A Newspaper Or Newsletter Is Necessary:**

Nearly every servicemen's organization has coalesced around a newspaper as the best means available for communicating with other GIs.

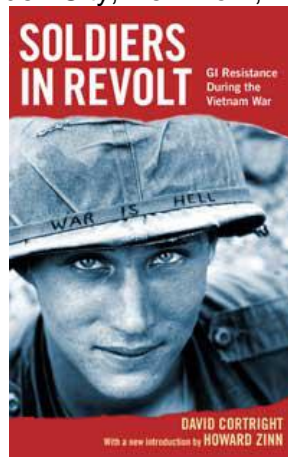
An important variation of this is unit newsletters, pioneered at Fort Lewis, to expose abuses within individual units and mobilize political pressure at the local level. Unit

newsletters appearing on a biweekly basis could then be supplemented by a monthly or bimonthly base-wide newspaper.

**This should be part of a general shift in the locus of GI action away from off-base coffeehouses, back to the barracks. Off-base locations are still needed for printing and counseling activities by civilian staffers, but GI activists should remain on base and work directly with people at their jobs and in the barracks**

Regardless of what form it takes, though, citizen action must continue. Continued work is necessary to establish democratic control over the institutions of war and to secure independence and dignity for people in the ranks.

[Excerpt from: SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT, Anchor Press/Doubleday, Garden City, New York, 1975.]



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## DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



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## **OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

### **Zionists Refuse to Release World's Youngest Prisoner**



Ali Alqam, 11

Apr 6 2016 PalestineChronicle.com

An Israeli court yesterday refused to release the world's youngest prisoner, an 11-year-old Palestinian, describing him as a "terrorist", Quds Press reported. The magistrates' court ruled that Ali Alqam should be sent to a Ministry of Welfare supervised residence until his next birthday in under a year's time.

Israeli website Ynet News reported the court saying that "this is the first time Israeli security faces a terrorist of this young age," noting that police is unable to arrest or interrogate him because he is below the age of criminal liability, which is 12 in Israel.

According to the website, his parents would be able to visit him in the supervised residence.

"In a year, the magistrate court will hold another hearing on whether or not he needs to stay at the supervised residence, taking into account the evaluations of Ministry of Welfare officials," Ynet News reported.

A hearing is due to be held on 18 April regarding Muawiya Alqam, 14, his lawyer Yousef Al-Haddad said. He added that Muawiya did not plan to kill anyone but rather to “beat” them.

Muawiya has refused to stay in the supervised residence opting to stay in prison and is now in Megiddo Prison. He said authorities are trying to take revenge on the families of these Palestinian child prisoners.

Muawiya and Ali Alqam, residents of the Shuafat refugee camp, were arrested in October last year after they allegedly stabbed an Israeli security guard on Jerusalem’s light rail. Police shot and wounded 11-year-old Ali.

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## **Stupid Occupation Regime Imprisons Palestinian Circus Performer Without Trial: “His Life Was Dedicated To The Circus And ‘Making Children Happy’” “He Hasn’t Been Charged With A Crime And The Authorities Refuse To Give A Reason For His Detention”**



(Photo: Amnesty International UK Twitter feed)



Apr 8 2016 MAAN

Human rights groups have in recent weeks put a spotlight on the case of a 23-year-old Palestinian circus performer and trainer who has been held in an Israeli prison since last December without trial or charge.

Calling for the release of Muhammad Faisal Abu Sakha, Amnesty International said: “He hasn’t been charged with a crime and the authorities refuse to give a reason for his detention.”

Abu Sakha was working as a circus performer and teacher at the Palestinian Circus School in Birzeit — where he specialized in working with children with learning difficulties — when he was detained on Dec. 14.

He was apprehended at an Israeli checkpoint while travelling from his parents’ home to the circus school. He was initially held in Megiddo prison in northern Israel before later being transferred to Ketziot prison in the Negev.

At the end of December, the circus performer was sentenced by an Israeli military court to six months in administrative detention — internment without trial or charge — and late last month, an appeal by his lawyers against the sentence was dismissed.

**Amnesty has condemned Israel’s military courts for suggesting Abu Sakha posed a “security threat,” while at the same time withholding all alleged evidence against him.**

**“Muhammad Faisal Abu Sakha and his lawyers were in the impossible position of trying to challenge his detention without having access to the necessary information for his defense,” the group said in a statement.**

Palestinian prisoners’ rights group Addameer has also condemned Israel for what it said “amounts to arbitrary detention.”

According to Addameer, Abu Sakha has been a circus performer and trainer since 2011, taking part in performances across Europe and the US, as well as numerous tours in Palestine.

According to Amnesty, the Palestinian Circus School itself has rejected Israel’s claims that Abu Sakha was a security threat, saying his life was dedicated to the circus and “making children happy.”

Abu Sakha asked his family to thank all those campaigning on his behalf, but according to Amnesty, he reiterated his greater concern for Palestinian children in Israeli custody, particularly those with mental and physical disabilities.

As of February this year, Israel was holding 7,000 Palestinian political detainees, including 406 children and 670 administrative detainees, according to Addameer.

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**Zionists Demand Bedouin Pay  
For Their Village's Demolition  
By Zionists:  
Occupation Regime "Requires The  
Residents To Pay A Penalty Of  
50,000 Shekels (Around \$13,000)  
For Each Day They Spent In The  
Village Starting In 2014"  
"This Means That The Israeli  
Government Is Asking For An  
Amount Of 40 Million Shekels  
(Around \$10.5 Million)"  
"It's Another Tool The Government Of  
Israel Is Using To Put Pressure On The  
Citizens To Force Them Out Of Their  
Land"**

**It is a land that Israel has never stopped seizing control of — whether the lands of 1948 or the West Bank — to the point that Palestinians now only own 15% of the total historical surface of Palestine.**

April 17, 2016 by Ahmad Melhem, Al-Monitor

RAMALLAH, West Bank —

The Bedouin al-Araqib village (status unrecognized by Israel) in the Negev (Naqab) region is facing an ongoing demolition campaign that started on the morning of June 27, 2010, when the whole village was flattened to the ground.

Since then, demolition work has been recurring each time the inhabitants set up new tents, with Israel claiming lack of permits. The latest incident took place April 5 and was the 96th to date.

Before the demolition campaign started in 2010, Araqib had a population of 400. The number is now down to 22 families (80 people) after some inhabitants were forced to leave the village.

**Following the destruction of their houses, the people of Araqib now live in tents or trailers, suffering from a complete lack of health care and educational services, as well as an acute shortage of electricity and water, to a point where they rely on generators and solar panels to generate electricity and pay a high price to transport water via tankers.**

In an interview with Al-Monitor, Aziz Touri, a member of the Araqib defense committee, said, "The village is experiencing harsh living conditions amid the absence of the (minimum) standards of living, as Israeli authorities have demolished the residents' houses and destroyed their crops and livestock.

However, the people have survived and are continuing their peaceful fight to claim their rights, gain official recognition for their status and acquire the ownership of the land they live in."

**In parallel with the ongoing demolition campaign, Israeli authorities have instituted legal proceedings against the residents of Araqib before Israeli courts, demanding that they bear the cost of demolition, in a bid to force them to leave the village.**

Touri said, "There are now two financial lawsuits filed before the Israeli courts against the residents of Araqib. Israel is requesting the residents pay 2 million shekels (around \$529,000) in compensation for the costs paid by Israel to police officers and workers manning the bulldozers in the first eight demolitions of the village. The court is expected to issue its ruling in the upcoming months."

**"The second lawsuit is even more barbaric; it requires the residents to pay a penalty of 50,000 shekels (around \$13,000) for each day they spent in the village starting in 2014 until today.**

This means that the Israeli government is asking for an amount of 40 million shekels (around \$10.5 million), allegedly for disrespecting Israeli courts and not abiding by its decision to evacuate the village. The residents are basically accused of illicitly taking over the state's land and building houses without a permit," Touri added.

Touri continued, "The demolition policy along with the (Israeli) authorities' lawsuits against the residents of Araqib aim to undermine our fight and will and pressure us into abandoning our village. However, all these measures won't break us."

Khaled Sawalha, the lawyer in charge of defending the village in court, told Al-Monitor, "The main lawsuits the court of Beersheba is examining since 2011 are the government's lawsuit requesting the residents of Araqib to pay 2 million shekels in compensation for the costs of their houses' demolition and the lawsuit filed on counts of

contempt of court decisions, which is related to the (Israeli) government's claim for compensation to be paid by the residents of Araqib who refused to leave the village."

Sawalha also explained, "The only thing the residents of Araqib can do is resist the Israeli decisions and refuse to relinquish their rights or bargain with them. Every Friday, the court in Beersheba holds a hearing to examine the two lawsuits filed against Araqib. In the future, we will bring the case before the Israeli supreme court."

When asked about his defendants' confidence in the integrity of Israeli courts and their ability to render a just decision in the case of Araqib, Sawalha responded, "Israeli courts have never been fair and just when it comes to Arab lands. We don't really expect much from the court, but addressing it is a necessary procedure."

He added, "Since the inception of Israel, there have been some laws in force that contradict international laws, such as the Absentees' Property Law through which Israel was able to take over the refugees' money and property. I am talking about the refugees who had been displaced in 1948."

The Araqib case is merely another example of the unrecognized villages in the Negev region (75 villages). Israel is planning to relocate the people in order to establish Jewish communities. This is part of the Praver Plan presented by Ehud Praver, the former Israeli head of policy planning in the prime minister's office, in 2011.

Arab Knesset member Massoud Ghanayem told Al-Monitor, "Araqib is a miniature model of the battle Israel has been waging against Palestinians in the Negev region for years. It aims to Judaize the region and take control of it in order to implement the Praver Plan."

Ghanayem added, "The confrontation in Negev will take time and patience. It's a struggle that requires popular, legal and political efforts. Indeed, we began by addressing the European Union and the UN human rights organizations with the issue in an attempt to face the Israeli aggression."

**Concerning the Israeli lawsuits requiring the people of Araqib to pay large penalties, Talab Saneh, the member of the High Follow-Up Committee for Arab Citizens of Israel, told Al-Monitor, "It's another tool the government of Israel is using to put pressure on the citizens to force them out of their land. This is why we are trying to provide the inhabitants of unrecognized villages with the necessary means of survival through aid, donations and help with building houses."**

"The committee is also exploring the possibility of establishing a national fund that relies on donations (individual, social, local and international) to compensate and support the population affected by the demolition campaign in Araqib and other unrecognized villages in a bid to reinforce their resilience in the face of government settlement projects," said Saneh.

The Araqib case is just another chapter of a bigger story headlined "Palestinian land." It is a land that Israel has never stopped seizing control of — whether the lands of 1948 or the West Bank — to the point that Palestinians now only own 15% of the total historical surface of Palestine.

To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to:  
<http://www.maannews.net/eng/Default.aspx> and  
<http://www.palestinemonitor.org/list.php?id=ej898ra7yff0ukmf16>  
 The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."

## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

### THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

**STILL MORE PRIMARY PHENOMENA**  
 AN ONGOING SERIES THAT WON'T BE OVER ANY TIME SOON

**CAMPAIGN TRAIL KABUKI**  
 BERNIE THINKS SUBWAY RIDERS STILL USE **TOKENS!**

HILLARY HAD TROUBLE WITH A **METROCARD!** HOW WILL VOTERS **REACT** TO THESE STUNNING GAFFES?

Action McNews Network

**TRIAL BY FOLLOWERS**  
 I SAW AN **EXTREMELY UNPLEASANT** TWEET FROM A RANDOM "BERNIE BRO" THE OTHER DAY!

WELL, **THAT** PRETTY MUCH DISCREDITS THE **ENTIRE SANDERS CAMPAIGN!**

**CLEAR-EYED REALISTS**  
 WE HAVE TO BE **PRAGMATIC!** WE CAN FIGHT ENDLESS WARS--

--OR WE CAN FUND EDUCATION AND HEALTH CARE!

OKAY THEN-- ENDLESS WAR IT **IS!**

**AN INCOMPREHENSIBLE MYSTERY**  
 WHY OH **WHY** DOES ANYONE CARE THAT BIG BANKS PAID HILLARY ENORMOUS SUMS OF MONEY FOR SOME **SPEECHES?**

SHE WAS A **PRIVATE CITIZEN!** WHO MIGHT HAPPEN TO BE PRESIDENT SOMEDAY.

**ALL-KNOWING EXPERTS**  
 THE MATH IS ENTIRELY CLEAR! THE OUTCOME OF THIS CONTEST IS A FOREGONE CONCLUSION!

I DON'T KNOW WHY WE EVEN BOTHER **HAVING ELECTIONS!**

**DELICATE SENSIBILITIES**  
 I AM **APPALLED** BY THE DREADFUL INCIVILITY OF THE CANDIDATE I DO NOT SUPPORT!

WHAT IS THIS WORLD **COMING** TO, WHEN POLITICAL RIVALS ARE SOMEWHAT COMBATIVE?

**RESISTANCE IS FUTILE**  
 A REPUBLICAN CONGRESS WILL **NEVER** WORK WITH BERNIE.

UM--OR HILLARY!

BUT **HER** UNREALIZED GOALS WILL BE **MUCH** MORE SENSIBLE!

**THE SHOCKING TWIST ENDING**  
 AS IT TURNS OUT, WE ARE TRAPPED IN A TIME LOOP--DOOMED TO REPEAT THIS ELECTION CYCLE FOR ALL **ETERNITY!**

ALSO THIS VOTER GUIDE IS REALLY A COOKBOOK.

TO SERVE AN INFORMED ELECTORATE

TOM TOMORROW © 2016

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