

## Military Resistance 14D11



**Obama Regime Sending 250 Additional Troops To Syria: “The Move Will Increase The Number Of American Military Personnel Operating On The Ground Inside Syria From 50 To About 300”**

**“The Initial Deployment He Approved Last Year Has Paved The Way For A Larger Military Role”**

# **“In 2014 Mr. Obama Said His Strategy For Countering Islamic State ‘Won’t Involve American Combat Troops Fighting On Foreign Soil’”**

April 24, 2016 By GORDON LUBOLD AND ADAM ENTOUS, Wall Street Journal  
[Excerpts]

WASHINGTON—The U.S. plans to send up to 250 additional military personnel to Syria to help local forces fighting Islamic State, significantly expanding the small American footprint in the war-ravaged country, according to U.S. officials.

President Barack Obama recently signed off on the new deployment, which he is expected to announce Monday. The move will increase the total number of American military personnel operating on the ground inside Syria from 50 to about 300, the U.S. officials said.

The president’s top military advisers and others persuaded Mr. Obama that additional U.S. personnel would allow the Pentagon to extend recent gains against Islamic State, according to a senior administration official.

While Mr. Obama has had long-standing reservations about sending Americans into harm’s way, there is pressure on the U.S. to do more to counter Islamic State, and his administration believes the initial deployment he approved last year has paved the way for a larger military role.

Like the roughly 50 American special operations forces already inside Syria, the new personnel won’t technically serve in combat roles, though they will be close to the front lines, increasing the dangers they could face, according to U.S. officials.

The 250 additional personnel, who will deploy into Syria in phases, will include special operations forces, as well as a number of service members who will provide support to those forces, including medical, intelligence and logistics personnel, according to officials.

U.S. officials declined to specify how many of the 250 new military personnel will be special operations forces.

**Mr. Obama has dismissed any large-scale military intervention in Syria, and in a 2014 address he said his strategy for countering Islamic State “won’t involve American combat troops fighting on foreign soil.”**

**But he sees the role of special operations forces differently because they can have a large impact though only a limited number of highly-trained personnel are at risk.**

After the deployment of the initial 50 service members was disclosed, Mr. Obama told CBS News last December, “You know, when I said, ‘No boots on the ground,’ I think the American people understood generally that we’re not going to do an Iraq-style invasion of Iraq or Syria with battalions that are moving across the desert.”

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## **POLICE WAR REPORTS**

**Asylum Seekers Remain In Jail  
Simply Because They Are Too  
Poor To Pay Their Bond:  
“Plaintiffs Were Found Eligible For  
Release, Which Means That They  
Pose No Danger To Their  
Communities”**

**“They Remain In Immigration Detention  
Facilities That Have Dismal Human  
Rights Records Simply Because They  
Can’t Afford To Pay Up”**

25 April 2016 By Sharita Gruberg, [TalkPoverty.org](http://TalkPoverty.org)

On April 6, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) filed a class action lawsuit against the federal government for detaining immigrants who remain in jail simply because they are too poor to pay their bond.

One of the plaintiffs in the case, Cesar Matias, is a gay Honduran seeking protection in the United States.

Since 2012, he’s been detained at the Santa Ana City Jail because he is unable to afford the \$3,000 bond a judge set for his release.

Xochitl Hernandez, the other plaintiff, is being held at a for-profit detention facility so notoriously dangerous that 29 members of Congress submitted a letter to the Department of Homeland Security requesting that women not be detained there.

Hernandez, a mother of five US citizen children (and grandmother of another four citizens), faces the prospect of remaining in detention for years until her case is resolved because her bond was set at \$60,000.

Both plaintiffs were found eligible for release, which means that they pose no danger to their communities. Any chance of flight risk would be mitigated by conditions placed on their release. Yet they remain in immigration detention facilities that have dismal human rights records simply because they can't afford to pay up.

Unfortunately, the cases of Matias and Hernandez aren't isolated incidents.

**The US immigration detention system holds some 34,000 people daily who are awaiting decisions in their immigration cases. Many of them are detained because they are unable to make bond.**

The ACLU estimates that there are at least 100 immigrants detained in Los Angeles alone just because they cannot afford to pay bond. At the Santa Ana City Jail, where Matias is being held, only three of 651 detained immigrants were bonded out in 2015.

**I've received reports from attorneys working across the country -- including in New Jersey, Texas, and Arizona -- about LGBT people detained due to bonds as high as \$100,000.**

Detention not only subjects immigrants to terrible conditions -- conditions that are particularly dangerous for LGBT individuals -- it can also carry devastating long-term consequences. The New York Immigrant Representation study found that detained immigrants who are represented by counsel have only an 18 percent chance of a successful case outcome, compared to a 74 percent success rate for immigrants who are represented but have not been detained.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has criticized cash bonds in the criminal justice system that result in the incarceration of people solely because they can't pay. Congressman Ted Lieu also introduced legislation to end money bail.

Yet immigration officials do not consider an immigrant's ability to pay when setting a cash bond either, and in contrast to the criminal justice system in which an individual typically must post 10 percent of the bond in order to be released, immigration detainees must pay the entire bond.

As attorney Michael Tan of the ACLU told me, "Ironically, at a time when the Department of Justice has argued that it's unconstitutional to lock up criminal defendants simply because they're poor, its officials are engaged in the same practice in the immigration system. But it's just as irrational -- and unlawful -- to lock up immigrants solely because they can't afford to make bail."

According to an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) spokesperson, bond amounts are determined by an individual's flight risk. ICE reviews each case and takes a

variety of factors into account to determine the level of flight risk -- including immigration history, criminal history, and community ties.

**Hernandez was considered enough of a risk to warrant a \$60,000 bond determination, despite living in the US for the past 25 years and having children and grandchildren who are citizens.**

**According to the ACLU's complaint, the additional factor taken into account appears to be her criminal history, which consists of a decade-old shoplifting conviction for which she was sentenced to one day in jail.**

As for Matias, the complaint doesn't specify a determination of his flight risk; it simply states that the judge believed the \$3,000 bond set was "pretty generous." The judge who reviewed that determination two years later agreed the amount was "reasonable," despite Matias' continued inability to afford it.

While ICE has broad discretion in determining which factors to weigh in setting conditions for release, there is a statutory bond minimum of \$1,500.

**Moreover, officials are not required to consider whether alternative conditions of supervised release -- such as periodic reporting requirements or ankle bracelets -- can be utilized alone or in combination with lower bond amounts to ensure that individuals appear in court. These alternatives to detention cost an average of \$10.55 per day, compared to an average daily cost of \$158 to detain a person. In cases where bond is used, the very least ICE and DOJ should do is consider the ability of an individual to pay it.**

The government has now spent \$153,300 to keep Matias in detention. Until the DOJ and ICE make smart and humane reforms, these costs will continue to mount, and people like Cesar Matias and Xochitl Hernandez will languish in cells, solely because they are too poor to make bail.

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## **NYPD Is Running Cruel Blackmail Scam Against Immigrant-Owned Shops: “‘It Was Total Entrapment,’ Says One Storeowner”**

**“‘My Business Is Essentially Worthless,’ Cho Said. ‘What Did I Do To Deserve It?’”**  
**“Some Weren’t Even Aware Which Sale Had Led To Their Arrests”**



A store in NYC. (photo: Edwin Torres/ProPublica)



Police filed 34 nuisance abatement cases against businesses in the precinct covering, East Harlem, a largely Hispanic neighborhood in Manhattan. (Edwin Torres for ProPublica)



The precinct covering Wakefield, The Bronx, which is almost entirely black and Hispanic, saw the highest number of nuisance abatement actions against businesses. Most cite alcohol violations. (Edwin Torres for ProPublica)

24 April 16 By Sarah Ryley, ProPublica and the New York Daily News

**An undercover NYPD officer entered the spotless Super Laundromat & Dry Cleaners in Inwood, a largely Dominican neighborhood at the northernmost tip of Manhattan. He made his rounds through the store, hawking what he said were stolen gadgets — an iPhone, iPad Mini and iPad.**

**One man took the bait, agreeing to shell out \$200 for all three. He was arrested during the May 2013 sting, and the trouble seemed to end there.**

**But seven months later — the week before Christmas — cops arrived at the laundromat again. This time, they slapped a neon sticker on the front door declaring in block letters: “RESTRAINING ORDER.”**

**They presented the store’s owner, Sung Cho, with a daunting slew of legal papers, threatening to shutter the laundromat for a year and auction off everything inside. Their justification, the cops said: The store was being “used to facilitate criminal possession of stolen property.”**

Cho was shocked. The 54-year-old Korean immigrant said he had operated his shop for six years without a problem. He says he had even helped cops solve neighborhood crimes, giving them video footage of the sidewalk outside his store.

**To build its case, the NYPD cited the May 2013 arrest, along with one other undercover sale of an iPad months earlier for \$100 and tips that people inside the**

laundromat were buying stolen property. Cho said police never told him about the iPad sale or the tips.

**“It cannot be denied that this subject premises is a serious public nuisance,” the NYPD wrote in boilerplate language. “As such it should not be allowed to remain open even one more day.”**

**Cho was facing a nuisance abatement action, civil lawsuits intended to uproot persistent illegal activities by targeting the locations they stem from. Nuisance abatement became city law in the 1970s as a tool to clean up the sex industry in Times Square.**

**But today it’s being used quite differently — often ensnaring legal mom-and-pop shops that are almost exclusively located in minority neighborhoods, a Daily News and ProPublica investigation found.**

Owners interviewed for this story, all first- and second-generation immigrants, say they felt entrapped and then strong-armed into signing settlements with steep fines and onerous conditions. The stipulations often allow for sweeping surveillance, such as warrantless searches and unbridled police access to video cameras.

**They also permit the NYPD to automatically fine and padlock a store should another allegation arise — all without giving merchants the opportunity to defend themselves in court.**

An examination by the Daily News and ProPublica of 646 cases filed by the NYPD against businesses over an 18-month period beginning in 2013 found:

- Nine out of 10 nuisance abatement actions were against businesses located in neighborhoods where most of the residents are minorities.
- The majority of the cases, 58 percent, involve alcohol violations, often against bodegas or liquor stores accused of selling to underage buyers working for the police. A large share of the alcohol cases were concentrated in just a few police precincts. Other precincts in the city with equal or more underage alcohol sales were rarely hit.
- Merchants often endure a kind of double jeopardy. By law, the NYPD forwards every arrest or summons for alcohol violations to the State Liquor Authority, which can issue thousands of dollars in fines and revoke a business’ license to sell alcohol. The NYPD can then also bring nuisance abatement actions based on the same allegations, but only does so against some businesses.
- The police begin nearly every case with a secret application to a judge requesting an order closing the business while the case is being decided, and before the owner has had the opportunity to appear in court. Judges approved the closure requests 70 percent of the time.**
- By law, the first court date must come within three business days after the order has been served. But the NYPD frequently files its closure requests on Thursdays or Fridays, forcing shops to stay closed through the weekend and causing a greater loss of income.



**•NYPD lawyers justify these emergency orders by claiming the illegal activity at the location is ongoing and poses an immediate threat to the community.**

**But the Daily News and ProPublica found the NYPD didn't get around to filing cases until, on average, five months after the last offense cited.**

•Most cases resulted in settlements, 333 of which allow the NYPD to conduct warrantless searches. In 102 cases, the owner agreed to install cameras that the NYPD can access upon request. Another 127 settlements require storeowners to use electronic card readers that store customers' ID information, also available to the NYPD upon request.

### **“You Never See The White Bar Owner From The Meatpacking District In Here; It's Always Some Bodega Owner From Uptown”**

The city's public advocate, Letitia James, called the cases “a form of legal harassment and coercion.” James said she was troubled by how the NYPD's “selective enforcement” was focused on minority communities.

A state Supreme Court judge, who has presided over scores of such cases, said prosecuting the shop owners is a waste of city resources since the state already deals with alcohol offenses.

“You never see the white bar owner from the Meatpacking District in here; it's always some bodega owner from Uptown,” said the judge, who asked not to be named. “It's a complete double standard.”

The NYPD has embraced nuisance abatement actions as part of its controversial “broken windows” strategy of aggressively pursuing quality-of-life offenses in order to combat more serious crime.

After the Daily News and ProPublica's investigation earlier this year into nuisance abatement cases against residences, the de Blasio administration defended them as an important tool to keep neighborhoods safe, while offering some procedural reforms. The city's top lawyer, Zachary Carter, said in a statement after the investigation that the city would review its practices to ensure that residents who haven't been accused of a crime would not be locked out of their homes without first getting a court appearance. (The number of cases filed by the NYPD has since dropped significantly.)

But Carter said the use of the law against businesses is an entirely separate issue.

“The commercial nuisance abatement program, which has proven effective in closing down illegal clubs where violence occurs and illegal drugs such as K2 are sold, has enjoyed widespread support from affected communities and their elected representatives,” he said in the statement.

His spokesman added that the administration has been working to shorten the amount of time it takes to bring a case after the last violation.

Police building nuisance abatement cases in Inwood had been responding to complaints about unruly bars, bodegas that were selling kids cups of liquor, and thieves who hawk their wares, said Stephan Feldheim, the president of the 34th precinct's community council.

Cho's laundromat was just one of 67 businesses hit with nuisance abatement actions in the 34th during the 18-month period analyzed by the Daily News and ProPublica. The precinct ranked second citywide over that time.

**Once served with nuisance abatement actions, business owners are faced with a choice. They can fight the case and remain shut down until it's resolved, earning no income. Or they can agree to the NYPD's demands, sign a settlement, and reopen.**

As a result, cases tend to get resolved very quickly.

A judge denied the cops' request to close Cho's laundromat, but Cho was still left with an ominous-sounding restraining order.

**"They say that I facilitate these activities, prove me so. How did I facilitate these things?" Cho told the Daily News.**

**"In my view it was total entrapment."**

Still, Cho signed a deal a few days later to lift the order. It left him feeling as if a guillotine is forever hanging over his business.

He agreed to pay a \$2,000 fine, maintain cameras that the NYPD can access at any time, and to allow the police to conduct warrantless searches.

**"My Business Is Essentially Worthless," Cho Said. "What Did I Do To Deserve It?"**

**If anyone is even accused of breaking the law at his business again — whether a store employee or not — he faces escalating penalties: closures that would increase from 30 days to 60 days to 90 days to a full year with each alleged offense; fines climbing as high as \$15,000.**

**Perhaps most damaging of all, the terms continue in perpetuity, even if the business changes hands.**

**"My business is essentially worthless," Cho said. "What did I do to deserve it?"**

**The NYPD's nuisance abatement cases over alcohol violations largely targeted businesses concentrated in the heavily minority precincts covering East Harlem, and Inwood and Washington Heights, in Manhattan; Wakefield in the Bronx; and Flushing in Queens.**

**But state records show other precincts had an equal or greater number of alcohol cases forwarded to the state during the same time period. That includes precincts**

**in the East Village and Lower East Side in Manhattan, Bushwick in Brooklyn, and Elmhurst and Jackson Heights in Queens, all of which only saw a handful of nuisance abatement cases. Some precincts with few nuisance abatements have large minority populations; others are majority white.**



Two neighborhoods.  
Same problem, but different treatment.

The NYPD forwards every arrest or summons for alcohol violations at a business to the State Liquor Authority, which can issue thousands of dollars in fines and revoke alcohol licenses. The police can also file a nuisance abatement action against businesses over the same alleged offenses. From 2013 through the first half of 2014, East Harlem and the East Village had similar numbers of referrals to the state liquor authority: 54 and 59 respectively. But in East Harlem, a heavily Hispanic residential precinct, the NYPD filed 32 alcohol-related nuisance abatements. While, in East Village, a primarily white precinct dominated by bars and college students, the NYPD filed only five of them.

The NYPD often holds up unruly bars and clubs where drunken patrons resort to violence to settle their beefs as examples of its nuisance abatement efforts.

The NYPD had supported a 2007 amendment that would have added murders and felony assaults to the list of offenses that could lead to an action. But after opposition from the nightlife industry, the amendment failed. So the police say they turn to buy-and-busts to close these places. “We had an incident in the Bronx back in December where one of these clubs, there was a massive shooting where bystanders were injured and killed,” said NYPD Deputy Commissioner Lawrence Byrne at a press conference in February. “That’s a club we would close.”

However, most of the cases citing alcohol violations reviewed by the Daily News and ProPublica during the 18-month period do not mention violence or complaints of an unruly atmosphere.

In the 23rd Precinct in East Harlem, for instance — a largely Hispanic area — only one of the 32 cases citing alcohol violations mentions fights. The cases are almost entirely against bodegas and liquor stores.

**Many of the workers at these places told a similar tale — that somebody who looked of age came in when the store was busy, often hiding what they were buying, quickly tossing money at the cashier, then walking out.**

“It was like 3 o’clock, three schools had let out. It was crowded, it was crazy,” said Rosemary Fermin, 31, who was arrested in 2012 while working at her dad’s store, Tu Casa Deli Grocery. “He looked very old. I didn’t have time to ask for nothing.

**“He just put the money on the counter and walked out.”**

**In a video from another undercover buy in 2015, a lanky man approached the counter at Maria Luna’s deli on Lexington Avenue during the afternoon rush. He quickly handed her a dollar while palming a can to obscure it, and walked out. Fermin was arrested minutes later.**

Now Luna and her husband said they fear police will come to close their business again.

The couple had three delis in the neighborhood that were all served with nuisance abatement actions around the same time in 2013. Luna said they closed one because they couldn’t bear the financial weight of the combined city and state penalties, along with the lawyers’ fees to fight them. At another store, they had to give up their license to sell beer. At the third, they padlock the beer coolers to protect themselves against another buy-and-run.

Others insisted the undercover used in many of the 2012 and 2013 operations — identified in court filings only by his birthdate, Dec. 5, 1992 — looked to be in his 30s. Some of the workers arrested described the undercover as “big” “burly” “with a beard” and “looked like a construction worker.”

“I’m a mother, I can judge age. I know he was older,” Juana Caballero, 45, a part owner of Mi Mexico Mini Market, insisted. She was arrested in one of the sting operations, in April 2013, and taken to the precinct stationhouse in handcuffs with at least seven other cashiers who all worked at businesses that later faced nuisance abatement actions.

### **“Some Weren’t Even Aware Which Sale Had Led To Their Arrests”**

**Some weren’t even aware which sale had led to their arrests.**

But months later, the businesses faced both penalties from the State Liquor Authority and nuisance abatement actions from the NYPD, over the same alleged sales, records show.

At least a third of the East Harlem businesses agreed in their NYPD settlements to install cameras that the police could access upon request, and half to use the electronic card readers.

No one had stories of the police regularly coming by to tap into their footage. For them, the settlement just meant if they were caught with broken cameras, they would be fined thousands of dollars and shut down for 30 days.

Robert Messner, who heads the NYPD's Civil Enforcement Unit, which handles the cases, said during an interview with the Daily News in December that his unit does not keep a database of the businesses required to maintain cameras. He said their purpose is to make neighborhoods safer and to help police solve crimes. "We want everybody to install cameras. We think that's the greatest," he said.

Byrne, the deputy commissioner for legal matters, added: "In the city, the detectives, they look at all the cameras. So they walk up and down the block, and they say, 'Mr. Deli Owner, do you have any cameras? Mr. Newsstand Owner, do you have any cameras? Mrs. Nail Parlor Lady, do you have any cameras? Can we look at your videos? Do you have any footage around 3 a.m. last night where four people got shot in the head in front of your store?'"

**Nearly all of the nuisance abatement cases filed against businesses in East Harlem's 23rd precinct were based on the work of Officer David Ross. He would go from storefront to storefront with an undercover minor, sometimes citing violations against more than 10 stores in a single day, court filings show.**

The nuisance abatement law only requires one allegation of an alcohol violation, but the NYPD's guide for officers states that three violations are necessary for a judge to "entertain the possibility of a closing order."

So when Ross built his cases, he had the underage auxiliary officer purchase alcohol at each location on three separate occasions. But he only made an arrest after the third purchase.

**A retired lieutenant who spoke to the Daily News said he'd never heard of a buy operation that didn't immediately lead to an arrest or summons.**

**"That would mean the purpose of those buys was to get a nuisance abatement," he said.**

Asked what had prompted such a high number of nuisance abatement cases in the 23rd Precinct — complaints of problems stemming from drunken minors, for example — Miguel Murphy, a community affairs detective who has worked in the precinct for 18 years, said he wasn't aware of any particular problem with the issue.

"It's something that mostly everywhere goes on," he said. "But has it spiked into a community problem, a frenzy? It hasn't been in this particular location, this particular precinct."

But storeowners said the enforcement has felt like a frenzy.

"A lot of storeowners are saying we should unionize and discuss this issue," Luna said. "They take you, arrested as if you had killed someone."

Then, they said, owners are left crippled under the financial strain of two sets of penalties — from the city and the state — and fearful the police might strike again.

After Caballero, one of the owners of the Mi Mexico store, was accused of selling beer to underage customers, her business paid an \$8,500 fine to the State Liquor Authority. Around the same time, the NYPD served the shop with a nuisance abatement action.

To settle the case, the owners agreed to pay another \$2,500 fine, to install cameras and a \$1,000 electronic card reader, and to allow the police to make warrantless searches. Caballero said the penalties and lawyer fees have depleted Mi Mexico's savings account.

The terms of Mi Mexico's stipulation with the police, signed in October 2013, last for three years and say the business will be automatically closed, without a hearing, for 30 days, the next time someone is accused of violating the law there.

In January, Mi Mexico's cook, Natividad Mateo, was arrested after an underage auxiliary police officer said Mateo sold him a beer without asking for identification.

**Mateo told the Daily News and ProPublica that the officer brought a bottle up to the counter, obscured by a bag of chips, and said it was a Malta, a non-alcoholic malt beverage. She said she charged him \$1.75, which is less than the cost of a beer.**

**She was arrested minutes later, put in a police van, and driven around, trailed by another van, as officers picked up other cashiers. She estimated police arrested 15 cashiers in all.**

Mateo pleaded "not guilty." But because the nuisance abatement law only requires allegations, not convictions, even if Mateo's case is dismissed, the NYPD can still shut Mi Mexico down for 30 days.

Juventino Sanchez, a relative of Caballero who also owns a stake in the business, said he fears police will come and shut them down over the most recent arrest.

"It doesn't make sense that we work hard, seven days a week, 15 hours a day, and then they just come and take the money," he said.

"This time I am not planning to pay. I will just close the store. And after that, if I close the store, I'm going to apply for welfare. I'm going to apply for everything. So they gonna pay me now, right? Because it doesn't make sense. I am working."

Shortly after Officer Ross completed the stings that led to the dozens of nuisance abatements in 2013 and 2014, he was promoted to detective, according to court records and his colleague, Detective Murphy. The Daily News was unable to reach Ross for comment.

At the 47th Precinct in the Bronx, which is 91 percent black and Hispanic, storeowners described similar tactics. Police brought 69 nuisance abatement actions over the 18-month period examined by the Daily News and ProPublica, nearly all of which cite alcohol violations.

Jose Castillo, who owned Castillo Grocery, said the undercover auxiliary police officer who came into his store was wearing a hoodie and a hat so you could barely see his

face. He said the man grabbed a beer, threw money on the counter, and left before he even had a chance to speak to him.

“It was always the same guy, and you’ll never find out if the guy was a really a minor. They never prove it,” Castillo said.

Sewnarin Jaipersaue, 45, a Guyanese immigrant who owns Oasis Restaurant and Bar, said their bartender was arrested on her first day on the job.

“The police told us later that they sent in a couple,” Jaipersaue recalled. “She was of age, he wasn’t. She bought a drink and gave it to (him).” Records show the police got a closing order on his bar in July 2013, even though it was already closed because the state had declined to renew its liquor license two months earlier.

The area’s city councilman, Andy King, said underage drinking has not been a huge problem in his district, but that stores selling to minors should be punished.

“If it was their child, would they be selling their child something that they know is going to destroy brain cells and can cripple their development?” he asked.

King added that if business owners feel police are targeting them, it’s their responsibility to be especially vigilant.

“If they walk out of the store, then you can call and say you was just robbed. ‘I did not take their money.’ Now it’s on record,” he said. “‘Someone put money on my counter, took a bottle of beer, and walked out of the store, and I didn’t get a chance to card them. I got it on record.’ You gotta protect your business.”

**Police Commissioner Bill Bratton has recently voiced support for how his department has handled nuisance abatement actions. But two decades ago, he offered a different perspective.**

**In a 1995 white paper on Broken Windows policing, Bratton praised the nuisance abatement law as “probably the most powerful civil tool available to police,” but also wrote that he didn’t think it was appropriate to use against legitimate businesses.**

Bratton wrote that a similar statute — the Padlock Law — is preferable in these cases because it has much stricter requirements and notice is given to the business owner.

Unlike nuisance abatement, which does not even require an arrest to bring an action, the Padlock Law requires police to make three arrests, one of which leads to a conviction, at a location within a year-long period. The landlord and business owner are given notice that they are at risk of being padlocked throughout the process. The police can only get an order closing the business after an administrative hearing at which all parties have the chance to argue their case.

**While Bratton noted these requirements present a “major weakness” in the Padlock Law, he said police wouldn’t want to shut down a legitimate business that could interfere with the neighborhood’s access to services like groceries.**

“With the padlock action in progress, the police could exert pressure on the store operators to abandon their illegal activity or risk losing their legitimate business,” he wrote.

Bratton also wrote that the State Liquor Authority is best suited to address alcohol violations — even when police have responded to violent incidents at the location.

In 1985, the first year after the Padlock Law was enacted, the New York Times reported that police had successfully used it to root out illegal gambling, narcotics and prostitution at more than 700 locations. That was before the NYPD got permission to initiate nuisance abatement cases in the early 1990s.

When asked about the Padlock Law in December, Messner said the last case filed under it was “15 years ago maybe.”

He said the padlock law “was a creaky old law” that cost a lot of police resources and often resulted in protracted litigation.

“This thing,” Messner said, referring to the nuisance abatement law, “is simple and elegant.”

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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**

**People do not make revolutions eagerly any more than they do war. There is this difference, however, that in war compulsion plays the decisive role, in revolution there is no compulsion except that of circumstances.**

**A revolution takes place only when there is no other way out. And the insurrection, which rises above a revolution like a peak in the mountain chain of its events, can be no more evoked at will than the revolution as a whole. The masses advance and retreat several times before they make up their minds to the final assault.**

**-- Leon Trotsky; The History of the Russian Revolution**

## **Remembering**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ao8cGLIMtvq>**

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

### **April 28, 2004: The Truth Comes Out**



Carl Bunin Peace History April 23-29

The first photos of the Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse scandal were shown on CBS's "60 Minutes II."

The photos had been taken by U.S. military personnel responsible for detaining and interrogating Iraqi prisoners arrested following the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

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## **April 30, 1975: An Imperial War Ends In Defeat: After 100 Years Of Colonial Occupation, A Nation Wins Its' Fight For Independence**



Last helicopter out of Saigon 4/30/75



U.S. Soldiers Pin: Vietnam Days

The U.S. presence ended in Vietnam as U.S. Marines and Air Force helicopters, flying from carriers off-shore, begin a massive airlift, Operation Frequent Wind.

In all, 682 flights went out-- 360 at night. 5,000 people were evacuated by helicopter from the military compound near Saigon's Tan Son Nhut airport; about 2500 from the U.S. Embassy (1000 Americans total, the rest Vietnamese).

That morning, two U.S. Marines, Darwin Judge and Charles McMahon Jr., Marine security guards, were killed in a rocket attack at the airport.

They were the last Americans to die in the Vietnam War. At dawn, the last Marines of the force guarding the U.S. embassy lifted off.

The war in Vietnam ended as the government in Saigon announced its unconditional surrender to the North Vietnamese. Vietnam was reunited after 21 years of U.S. domination and 100 years of French colonial rule.

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## **RECEIVED FROM READERS**

### **“It’s Like Military AND “Civilian” Bosses Are Engaged In Screwing Workers Over, Sometimes Literally”**

From: Romi E

To: “AmeriConscience@yahoogroups.com”

Subject: Re: (AmeriConscience)] Military Resistance 14D9: “We Built This Company”

Date: Apr 23, 2016 11:57 PM

I can't help but think that somehow there is a connection between the articles about the poor treatment of workers at Verizon, and the awful treatment of workers in the army (i.e. sexual assault).

It's like military AND “civilian” bosses are engaged in screwing workers over, sometimes literally.

**REPLY: T**

Exactly right. It has been often noted that if one wishes to see most clearly the material class relations of oppression and subordination in any society with all the pretenses stripped away,, look at the prisons and the army.

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## CLASS WAR REPORTS

# Thousands Of Macedonians Demonstrating Against Corrupt Regime Paintball Foreign Ministry Building:

**“Protesters Chanted ‘Jail For  
Gruevski’, ‘No Justice, No Peace’”**

**“The Government Formerly Led By  
Nikola Gruevski Responsible For Illegal  
Wiretapping Of Over 20,000 People,  
Among Other Crimes”**



Macedonians took to the streets of Skopje last week in protest against their autocratic and corrupt regime. Photo: BETA

**On the twelfth night of anti-government protests, dubbed the “Colorful Revolution”, thousands of protestors wearing vibrant clothes threw paint balls on the Foreign Ministry building in the Macedonian capital of Skopje.**

The Foreign Ministry building, recently built during the controversial government-funded Skopje 2014 revamp project, is seen as a symbol of former Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski’s waste and policy failures.

The anti-government rally was organized by the civil movement “Protestiram” (“I Protest”) and supported by the opposition Social Democrats, SDSM.

Demonstrators throughout the capital are protesting President Gjorgje Ivanov’s decision to end criminal investigations against top politicians, largely from Gruevski’s ruling VMRO DPMNE party.

They are also demanding the postponement of the June 5 elections, a date on which VMRO DPNNE insists.

Protesters chanted “Jail for Gruevski”, “No Justice, No Peace”, “Support the SJO”, (the Special Prosecution).

Members of the Association of WW2 Veterans also joined the protestors today.

The protest started in front of the Special Prosecution building where demonstrators expressed support for the institution’s task of investigating high-level crime. After passing in front of the parliament and the Foreign Ministry, the rally ended in front of the government headquarters.

Earlier today, police arrested “Levica” party leaders Zdravko Savevski and Blagoja Kunovski and the recently-formed leftist party accused the VMRO DPNNE- led government of attempted intimidation. Several hours after their arrest, the pair received eight days pretrial home detention. They are charged with participating in crowd violence during previous protests.

A serious accident was avoided when wind toppled scaffolding just a few meters away from the crowd. The scaffolding was being used to remove paint from a previous protest off the façade of the government building. No one was injured.

The crisis in Macedonia revolves around opposition claims that the government formerly led by Nikola Gruevski was responsible for the illegal wiretapping of over 20,000 people, among other crimes.

Gruevski, who took power in 2006 and resigned as Prime Minister earlier this year under the terms of an EU accord reached last summer, claims that unnamed foreign intelligence services “fabricated” the wiretapping tapes and gave them to the opposition to destabilize the country.

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**DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK**

**“Campaign’s Populist Tone  
Offends America’s Top  
Corporation Executives”  
“Concerns Are Mounting That  
Antibusiness Rhetoric May  
Solidify Even After The November  
Election”  
“The Center Has Collapsed”  
“Charles Koch Saying It Was Possible  
He Would Support Mrs. Clinton”**

April 24, 2016 By NICK TIMIRAOS And TED MANN, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

**Chief executives at big American companies are increasingly frustrated by the populist tone of the presidential campaign, and concerns are mounting in boardrooms and corner offices that antibusiness rhetoric may solidify even after the November election.**

Some business groups had looked to a Republican administration next January that might peel back some Obama administration regulations. But that hope now is in doubt, and such groups are instead focused on key Senate and House races.

While some observers believe candidates may soften their stances once elected, executives worry that for now, the rhetoric of the election discussion could weigh on consumer confidence, thwart any immigration overhaul and derail a sweeping 12-nation trade pact, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, that the U.S. struck last year and that many businesses support.

“The precipitousness of the political debate is a little scary right now,” said Jim McNerney, who served as chief executive of Boeing Co. until last year and as chairman until February, at a recent industry conference.

Rhetoric from Republican candidates has grown more populist and less friendly to big business than at any time in decades, while the Democratic race is being influenced by the rise of liberal Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

The GOP “has been captured by a large number of people who basically do not like big,” said Judd Gregg, a Republican former U.S. senator and governor of New Hampshire, who sits on the board of Honeywell International Inc.

Some of these instincts gave rise to the tea-party movement in 2009 and sent dozens of more conservative lawmakers to Washington the following year, fueling gridlock on Capitol Hill. They flared in the 2012 GOP primary contest but receded with the nomination of former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, a private-equity executive.

Now, the race for the nomination is led by Donald Trump, who has opposed Chamber of Commerce positions on trade, immigration and corporate mergers, and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, who last year cheered the campaign to shutter an export-financing agency and was one of five GOP senators to vote against trade legislation.

Some observers don’t believe Mr. Trump, as a businessman himself, would pursue a broadly antibusiness agenda once in office. But his policy of threatening stiff tariffs against America’s largest trading partners “is a very dangerous discussion,” said Mr. McNerney. “The last time we did that was at the beginning of the Great Depression in the 1930s, alright?”

On the Democratic side, Mrs. Clinton might appear to be the most business friendly option given her résumé, her close relations to some corporate donors and her message of delivering pragmatic results.

But Mr. Sanders has pulled her away from centrist positions on financial regulation and trade.

His army of idealistic supporters energized a nomination fight that has been far closer than anyone expected. Together with voices like Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D., Mass.), they could galvanize the progressive wing in policy battles next year.

“The center has collapsed,” said one technology CEO. “Sanders and Trump will go away, but their supporters won’t.”

Charles Koch, the industrial magnate who with his brother presides over a network of conservative donors, became the latest to voice concern on Sunday, saying in an ABC interview he wasn’t sure he would back either Messrs. Trump or Cruz and that it was possible he would support Mrs. Clinton instead.

In the current cycle, the Koch network of donors has said it is ready to spend hundreds of millions of dollars influencing 2016 races and on other politically oriented activities. So far, two political nonprofits backed by Mr. Koch and his brother have spent more than \$3 million in the Ohio Senate race, according to the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics.

Anger over the bailouts of 2008 and an economy that has produced little shared growth has made the business establishment an obvious target for voters’ frustration. But business leaders say calls to sharply curb trade and immigration would do little to address underlying economic inequities.

These corporate chiefs fault Democrats for ignoring tax treatment that puts U.S. firms at a disadvantage and chide Republicans for neglecting investments in education, infrastructure and workforce training that could help workers who have been left behind in a globalized economy.

“Everyone understands that people say a lot of things in campaigns, but the worry is they’re going to box themselves into making policy mistakes should they get elected,” said Tony Fratto, an official in the George W. Bush administration who now advises communications strategy for firms like Citigroup Inc. and General Electric Co.

**Shortfalls for Social Security and Medicare, for example, will require some combination of benefit reductions, tax increases or more government borrowing.**

Ignoring the issue now “will make for very difficult and bad politics,” said James Dimon, chief executive of J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. in a shareholder letter this month. “This is a tragedy that we can see coming. Early action would be relatively painless.”

While more CEOs are speaking up, many say they remain reluctant to do so because it could put a target on their back.

Mr. Trump’s campaign, for example, lashed out at Facebook Inc. founder Mark Zuckerberg earlier this month after the technology executive spoke out against “fearful voices calling for building walls.”

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## **OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

**The Regime That Hates  
Democratic Rights #1:  
Heroic Zionist Occupation Forces  
Raid Jerusalem-Based Palestinian  
News Outlet:  
“Israeli Officers Pulled Guns On Al-  
Quds Employees During The Raid,  
Shouting Obscenities At Journalists”**



# “Palestinian Media Outlets Have Been Frequently Targeted By The Israeli Authorities”



April 19, 2016 Ma'an

JERUSALEM -- Israeli police searched the main offices of Jerusalem-based Palestinian news outlet al-Quds late Monday, holding employees at gunpoint and harassing reporters during the search, local sources said.

Sources told Ma'an that Israeli police raided the newspaper's main building and print shop in the Atarot industrial area in northern Jerusalem before checking surveillance cameras, in a search for West Bank ID-holders who had allegedly entered Israel illegally.

Al-Quds newspapers' employees denied that anyone was present in the building who had entered the area illegally, sources said.

Witnesses said that two Israeli officers pulled guns on al-Quds employees during the raid, shouting obscenities at journalists in the office.

An Israeli police spokesperson had no information on the search.

Palestinian media outlets have been frequently targeted by the Israeli authorities since unrest hit the occupied Palestinian territory over the past six months, with a number of outlets shut down for alleged "incitement against Israel."

Following Israel's raid and closure of a slew of news offices late last year, a high-ranking PA official said the move was part of Israel's policy to "oppress the voice of Palestinian rights."

The Israeli authorities last month stepped up efforts to crackdown on Palestinians entering Israel illegally from the occupied West Bank following a number of attacks

carried out in occupied East Jerusalem and Israel by Palestinians from West Bank areas.

Critics said the crackdown disproportionately punished Palestinians who work in Israel, despite the fact that at the time the campaign was launched, only two attacks had been carried out by Palestinians working in Israel -- both of whom had permits.

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# **The Regime That Hates Democratic Rights #2: Israel Puts Poet Under House Arrest; “Resist, My People, Resist Them’ Was Read Aloud By An Israeli Police Officer” “Tatour Has Been Charged With Incitement To Violence Based On The Contents Of That Poem” After Spending Three Months In Prison, She Says “It Is Ironic, But Not Surprising, That I Was Sent To Jail For Protesting The Killing Of My People Whereas Actual Israeli Killers Roam Free”**

22 April 2016 by Budour Youssef Hassan, The Electronic Intifada

Dareen Tatour has long dreamed of seeing her poems translated from Arabic into other languages — so that they reach people across the world.

**One of her poems has indeed been translated recently, but not in the way she had hoped.**

**A Hebrew version of “Resist, my people, resist them” was read aloud by an Israeli police officer at a Nazareth court hearing on 13 April.**

**Tatour has been charged with incitement to violence based on the contents of that poem, the Arabic original of which is available on YouTube.**

**Although the poem urges resistance to Israel, it does not call for specific acts of violence. Rather, it draws attention to violent attacks on Palestinians by Israelis.**

The incidents include the arson attack that killed the 18-month-old baby Ali Dawabsha and his parents in Duma, a village in the occupied West Bank, last year; the killing of 18-year-old Hadil Hashlamoun by Israeli soldiers in Hebron, also last year; and the kidnapping and murder of 16-year-old Muhammad Abu Khudair in Jerusalem during 2014.



Dareen Tatour

**Tatour was arrested in October last. After spending three months in prison, she was placed under house arrest in January. She is confined to an apartment in a suburb of Tel Aviv.**

“It is ironic, but not surprising, that I was sent to jail for protesting the killing of my people whereas actual Israeli killers roam free,” Tatour told The Electronic Intifada.

**While many Palestinians have been recently charged with incitement to violence because of statements they’ve made on the Internet, particularly on Facebook, Tatour’s case is unusual because she is being prosecuted over a poem.**

**“My case, and many others, prove yet again that Israel’s democracy is a farce,” she said. “If it is democratic, it’s only democratic towards Jews.”**

Tatour has been writing poetry since she was 7. She is also a photographer, and has toured villages in present-day Israel that were depopulated of their original Palestinian inhabitants during the Nakba, the forced displacement of Palestinians by Zionist troops in 1948.

As well as capturing images of these villages, she has set out to tell stories about the people who lived in them.

Tatour’s photographs have been displayed in a number of exhibitions. She also directed a short documentary about the ethnically cleansed village of Damoun.

### **“Tatour Never Imagined She Would Be Dragged Into A Police Car At Dawn”**

The Latest Invasion, her first collection of poems, was published in 2010.

Despite being politically active — she’s associated with the Balad party and has attended many demonstrations both as a photographer and a participant — Tatour never imagined she would be dragged into a police car at dawn.

That is what happened on 10 October last year, while she was at home in Reineh, near Nazareth.

“I was asleep,” she said. “Then I suddenly heard my mother shouting, ‘they have come to take you.’”

The arrest took place at the height of an uprising against the Israeli occupation in Jerusalem and other areas of the West Bank. Israel responded with increased repressive measures against Palestinians.

Tactics that Israel usually reserves for Palestinians in the West Bank were deployed against Palestinian citizens of Israel.

**They included administrative detention — imprisonment without charge or trial.**

In Afula, a city in present-day Israel, police shot a Palestinian woman named Israa Abed less than a week before Tatour’s arrest. Although the Israeli authorities claimed that Abed was trying to stab a bus driver, video proved that she posed no threat when she was hit. Abed was shot repeatedly while she had her hands in the air.

The indictment mentions Tatour’s Facebook post protesting the shooting of Abed.

**“Arresting her (Tatour) without a warrant contradicts even Israel’s own laws,” said Abed Fahoum, her lawyer. “But it did not end there.”**

**Police searched her phone and logged into her Facebook account without a search warrant and without telling her that she has the right to object to the searches, the lawyer said.**

**“Poetry Has Become My Key To Freedom And I Will Hang On To That Key Until The End.**

Fahoum described her case as “a blatant manifestation of the selective justice and the double standards of the Israeli legal system.”

“It is almost exclusively Palestinians who are arrested and prosecuted for Facebook posts and incitement to violence, while Israelis can scream ‘death to the Arabs’ in the heart of Tel Aviv and get away with it,” Fahoum said, referring to the thousands who rallied this week in support of a soldier caught on video executing a wounded Palestinian.

**“I’ve never seen the prosecution as obstinate as it has been in Dareen’s case,” Fahoum said. “I believe that they aim to use her to intimidate and silence all Palestinians.”**

Tatour was interrogated on five separate occasions within a month. Her three months in jail were stressful. But they were also life-changing.

When she was brought to Hasharon jail, she met many Palestinian political prisoners.

“I have always demanded the freedom of these women and suddenly I found myself living with them, learning from their mental strength and sharing our pain and defiance,” she said.

There are strict conditions attached to Tatour’s house arrest.

She is banned not just from her hometown of Reineh but from the entire northern district of Israel. The apartment in which she has been confined has been rented by her brother and his fiancée in Kiryat Ono, a suburb of Tel Aviv, for her to stay in.

**Even visiting the doctor requires a police permit, which can be rejected. This is particularly cruel: Tatour broke her foot while in jail and still needs treatment.**

**She also must be accompanied by at least one guard at all times.**

**An electronic device has been attached to her ankle so that her movements can be monitored.**

“I feel like I’m imprisoning two more people with me, my brother and his fiancée,” Tatour said. “Their lives were also put on hold.”

She is also banned from connecting to the Internet and communicating with certain people.

Tatour regards this house arrest as a form of exile.

“I’ve read of many people who talked about being exiled in their own land but now I can totally identify,” Tatour said.

**“I’m forced away from my home, from my family, from my friends. I’m even prevented from watching most Arab TV channels. It’s actually both a physical and virtual exile.”**

But if Israel has aimed to silence Tatour and make an example out of her, she says that it has made her much stronger. She was deeply worried about the effects her ordeal would have on her parents. But she has taken courage from how they have consistently supported her.

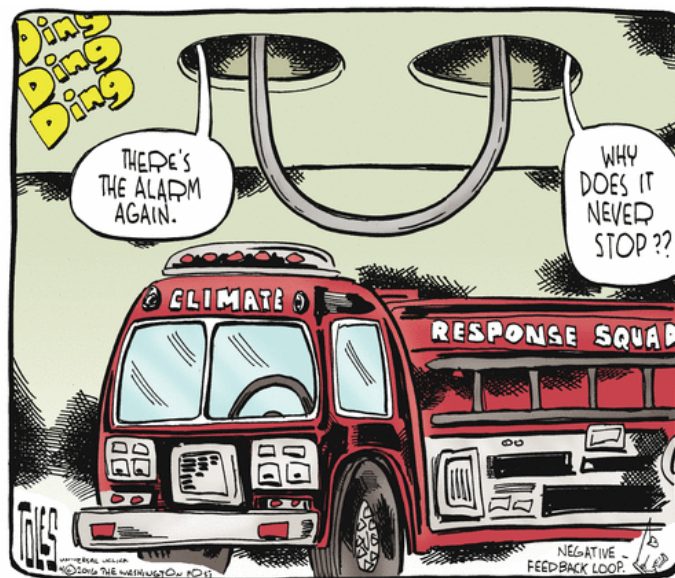
Denied a social life and the intimacy of family and village, Tatour’s commitment to writing has strengthened.

She is about to finish writing a collection of poems that reflect on her experience in jail, about the prisoners she met, her love for Palestine, and her determination to keep using poetry as a form of protest and expression.

**“They sent me to jail for writing a poem,” she said. “But poetry has become my key to freedom and I will hang on to that key until the end.”**

To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to:  
<http://www.palestinechronicle.com/>  
The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves “Israeli.”

## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**



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