

Military Resistance 14D2



“In An Exclusive Survey Of American Military Personnel, Donald Trump And Bernie Sanders Emerged As Active-Duty Service Members’ Top Choices To Become The Next Commander In Chief”

“Almost A Third Of Those Surveyed Do Not Affiliate With Either The Republican Or Democratic Parties”

“Sanders Was More Popular Than Trump Among That Group”

April 4, 2016 By Leo Shane and George R. Altman; Army Times

In an exclusive survey of American military personnel, Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders emerged as active-duty service members' top choices to become the next commander in chief.

The Republican front runner Trump was the most popular candidate in a Military Times subscriber poll that closed March 14, with 27 percent saying they would back the business mogul if the election were held tomorrow.

Sanders, the independent Vermont senator, was a close second at 22 percent, besting Trump among Navy and Air Force respondents.

From the Army Times article:

For Democratic Party candidates only: Army and Marine Corps:

Army:
Sanders 17.3%
Clinton 12.5%

Marine Corps:
Sanders 15.8%
Clinton 7%]

The data suggest that military personnel have not been dissuaded by political rivals who contend Trump and Sanders have weak foreign policy credentials and don't have recognized experts as national security advisers.

Nearly half of the service members surveyed also said they were unhappy with the discussion of national security issues in the presidential race so far.

Fewer than 5 percent were "very satisfied" with how the topic has been broached.

About half of the respondents in the survey were enlisted soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, in the pay grades of E-4 through E-7. Among officers, Trump still led the field but by a much smaller margin, with his 21 percent slightly outpacing Cruz at 18 percent, Sanders at 16 percent and Clinton at 15 percent.

Almost a third of those surveyed do not affiliate with either the Republican or Democratic parties. Sanders was more popular than Trump among that group, but one in seven of those individuals indicated they plan on backing a third-party candidate.

Trump also appears to be the most polarizing of all the candidates, with several dozen respondents, in a comments section of the poll, calling him dangerous for the military and the country.

Three individuals polled said they'd leave the service if he becomes commander-in-chief.

POLICE WAR REPORTS

Prosecutors Rarely Pay Price When They Withhold Evidence, Suborn Perjury Or Commit Other Forms Of Misconduct That Land Innocent People In Prison: “Only One Prosecutor Was Disciplined By Any Oversight Authorities”

March 29, 2016 by Joaquin Sapien, Pro Publica Inc.

The Innocence Project released a report Tuesday alleging that prosecutors across the country are almost never punished when they withhold evidence or commit other forms of misconduct that land innocent people in prison.

The Innocence Project, a nonprofit legal group that represents people seeking exonerations, examined records in Arizona, California, Texas, New York and Pennsylvania, and interviewed a wide assortment of defense lawyers, prosecutors and legal experts.

In each state, researchers examined court rulings from 2004 through 2008 in which judges found that prosecutors had committed violations such as mischaracterizing evidence or suborning perjury.

All told, the researchers discovered 660 findings of prosecutorial error or misconduct. In the overwhelming majority of cases, 527, judges upheld the convictions, finding that the prosecutorial lapse did not impact the fairness of the defendant's original trial. In 133 cases, convictions were thrown out.

Only one prosecutor was disciplined by any oversight authorities, the report asserts.

The report was issued on the anniversary of a controversial Supreme Court ruling for those trying to achieve justice in the wake of wrongful convictions.

In a 5–4 decision in the case known as *Connick v. Thompson*, the court tossed out a \$14-million dollar award by a Louisiana jury to John Thompson, a New Orleans man who served 18 years in prison for a murder and robbery he did not commit.

The majority ruled that while the trial prosecutors had withheld critical evidence of Thompson's likely innocence – blood samples from the crime scene – the Orleans Parish District Attorney's office could not be found civilly liable for what the justices essentially determined was the mistake of a handful of employees.

The decision hinged on a critical finding: that the District Attorney's office, and the legal profession in general, provides sufficient training and oversight for all prosecutors.

The Innocence Project study echoes a 2013 ProPublica examination focused on New York City prosecutors. In 2013, ProPublica used a similar methodology to analyze more than a decade's worth of state and federal court rulings.

We found more than two dozen instances in which judges explicitly concluded that city prosecutors had committed harmful misconduct.

Several of the wrongfully convicted people in these cases successfully sued New York City. In recent years, New York City and state have doled out tens of million dollars in settlements stemming from such lawsuits.

Former Brooklyn District Attorney Charles Hynes was voted out of office, in part because of wrongful convictions gained through misconduct on the part of his prosecutors or police detectives working with them.

But only one New York City prosecutor, ProPublica's analysis found, was formally disciplined: Claude Stuart, a former low-level Queens Assistant District Attorney, lost his license. He was involved in three separate conviction reversals.

Just as we found in New York, the Innocence Project's report found that appellate judges and others almost never report findings of misconduct to state panels and bar associations that are authorized to investigate them.

"In the handful of situations where an investigation is launched," the report found, "The committees generally failed to properly discipline the prosecutor who committed the misconduct."

The report concludes with several recommendations on how to improve accountability for prosecutors. It suggests, among other things, that judges ought to mandatorily report all findings of misconduct or error and that state legislatures pass laws requiring prosecutors to turn over all law enforcement material well before trial.

But perhaps most powerful is the report's introduction, a 2011 letter to then-Attorney General Eric Holder and two national prosecutor associations. It was written in response to the Connick ruling and signed by 19 people whose wrongful convictions were secured in part by prosecutorial misconduct.

"We, the undersigned and our families, have suffered profound harm at the hands of careless, overzealous and unethical prosecutors," the letter said. "Now that the wrongfully convicted have virtually no meaningful access to the courts to hold prosecutors liable for their misdeeds, we demand to know what you intend to do

to put a check on the otherwise unchecked and enormous power that prosecutors wield over the justice system.”

According to the Innocence Project, the Justice Department never responded to the letter.

“There Are Over 60 People Sitting In Jail In North Carolina Right Now Despite The Fact That They Have Been Declared Innocent In Court”

Justice Dept Knows Scores Of Prisoners Are Innocent, But Says ‘It Is Not Their Job’ To Set Them Free:

“The System Would Rather Keep Innocent People Locked Away Than Admit A Mistake”



May 11, 2015 by John Vibes, TheFreeThoughtProject

Elizabethtown, NC – There are over 60 people sitting in jail in North Carolina right now despite the fact that they have been declared innocent in court, according to a recent USA Today investigation.

Some of the prisoners are totally unaware of the legal status of their case and don't even know that they have been declared innocent, so many of them are not even fighting for their freedom.

The investigation found dozens of cases where men have been sent to jail for nonviolent gun possession offenses, yet it was not illegal for them to have a gun.

All of the cases in question result from a legal misunderstanding that has allowed police and prosecutors to throw people in jail for exercising their right to bear arms.

It is a federal crime for felons to possess firearms, and while all of the men arrested under these laws did have criminal records, they were not technically felons. This detail was specifically codified after the cases in question were decided, so as far as the court is concerned, the prisoners were still guilty of a crime.

USA today reports:

“Justice Department officials said it is not their job to notify prisoners that they might be incarcerated for something that they now concede is not a crime.

And although they have agreed in court filings that the men are innocent, they said they must still comply with federal laws that put strict limits on when and how people can challenge their convictions in court.”

The courts are now afraid to overturn the rulings because then they would be setting a precedent for other inmates to challenge their own imprisonment.

“We can’t be outcome driven. We’ve got to make sure we follow the law, and people should want us to do that. (We are) looking diligently for ways, within the confines of the law, to recommend relief for defendants who are legally innocent,” Anne Tompkins, the U.S. attorney in Charlotte told reporters.

However, many legal experts are saying that the government has a responsibility to overturn these rulings and inform the prisoners about the status of their cases.

“If someone is innocent, I would think that would change the government’s reaction, and it’s sad that it hasn’t. I have trouble figuring out how you rationalize this. These are innocent people. That has to matter at some point,” Debra Graves, an assistant federal public defender in Raleigh said.

Sadly the rusty cogs of the bureaucracy turn at such a rate that “justice” is a but a pipe dream for most. The system would rather keep innocent people locked away than admit a mistake.

Sheriff’s Deputies Fraudulently Revise Reports Of Their Beating Of A Defenseless Man:

**After They Saw Video Of Beating,
They Trashed Their Original
Reports And Wrote Different
Reports:
“Where There Are Serious Injuries
From The Force And The Initial
Report Completely Underreports That
Force, You Don’t Throw Away Those
Reports”
“They’re Evidence”**



A poster of Stanislav Petrov, 29, in a hospital bed is shown during a press conference, in Oakland, California, on Tuesday, March 29, 2016. Petrov was beaten in an alley on November 12, 2015 by Alameda County Sheriff’s Deputies.

MARCH 31, 2016 BY ELAHE IZADI, he Washington Post

New allegations in the case involving two Alameda County sheriff’s deputies filmed beating a defenseless man in a San Francisco alley are prompting questions about why the deputies were allowed to alter their original reports on the incident after they and their attorneys viewed the surveillance video.

An attorney representing the car-chase suspect who suffered broken bones and serious head injuries during the beating said he suspected the Sheriff's Office of trying to cover up wrongdoing by Deputies Paul Wieber and Luis Santamaria.

Sheriff Greg Ahern confirmed that Wieber and Santamaria had been allowed to resubmit their reports after viewing the video footage, which showed them striking Stanislav Petrov numerous times with their batons in a Mission District alley. But he denied that there was any malicious intent in the decision by the deputies' superiors to send the reports back for changes.

Santamaria and Wieber submitted their revised reports four days after the Nov. 12 incident.

Petrov, 29, had led the deputies on a 38-minute chase from Castro Valley after ramming two patrol cruisers in a stolen car. He ended up at the corner of Clinton Park and Stevenson Street in the Mission around 2 a.m. after he crashed the car and fled on foot.

The surveillance-camera footage shows the deputies knocking Petrov to the ground, punching him and clubbing him with their batons, even after he appeared to surrender with his hands on his head.

The San Francisco district attorney's office is investigating whether to file criminal charges against the deputies, who are on paid administrative leave.

In the revised incident reports, which were made public this month after being released to a civil rights watchdog group, the Center for Human Rights and Privacy, the two deputies said Petrov had posed a threat to their safety and had resisted their attempts to take him into custody.

At a news conference Tuesday, Ahern revealed that Santamaria and Wieber had submitted a "draft" version of their report to the lead investigator in the Sheriff's Office before the end of their shift Nov. 12.

"They authored their report and submitted it to the lead investigator, who was going to take the case and present it to the district attorney," Ahern said. "When the investigator reviewed the report, he found it lacked some of the documentation in regards to the injuries to Petrov.

"The deputies were not totally aware of all the injuries to Petrov, so they weren't documented at that time," Ahern said. "The investigator knew of those injuries, so he wanted further documentation in that regard and called them back in because of their days off.

"When they (Santamaria and Wieber) were called back in, they learned there was a video that got out to the media," the sheriff added.

"When they learned of the video, they contacted their representative, which is common in most serious critical events.

With the assistance of their representative, they altered their final version of that report."

Ahern said that practice was “very common.”

Sheriff’s Office spokesman Sgt. J.D. Nelson said Santamaria and Wieber had a right to have their attorneys present once the video was released — the San Francisco Public Defender’s Office made it public Nov. 13 — and the investigation evolved from one into a car chase into one of possible officer misconduct.

Nelson said he did not know whether the two deputies’ original reports still existed.

Michael Haddad, an attorney who has filed a claim against Alameda County on Petrov’s behalf, said Wednesday that he hadn’t been told about the changed reports and called the action questionable.

He said he had asked the Sheriff’s Office to produce the deputies’ original reports to see if there were any inconsistencies that could point to a cover-up.

New allegations emerged this week that another deputy in the Mission District alley stole a gold chain and money from Petrov and used them to bribe a homeless couple to keep quiet about the beating.

The Chronicle has learned that the deputy under investigation is Shawn Osborne, who has been placed on paid administrative leave.

Alison Berry Wilkinson, an attorney for Osborne, called the theft and bribery allegations “absolutely outrageous. Certainly none of that happened, by any stretch of the imagination.”

Haddad said the allegations were all the more reason to question the decision to offer Wieber and Santamaria the chance to revise their reports.

“This was not fixing typos and crossing t’s — this was creating a whole new document and new facts to justify their uses of force,” Haddad said. “They completed their original report. They turned it in, and then a supervisor told them to ‘do it again after you meet with your lawyers again and watch the video.’

“In a situation like this, where there are serious injuries from the force and the initial report completely underreports that force, you don’t throw away those reports. They’re evidence,” Haddad said. “You let the officer write a supplement, but the judicial system deserves to know what the officer’s first version was, just like any other suspect.”

Attorneys for Wieber and Santamaria did not immediately return calls for comment.

Roger Clark, a police procedures consultant and former lieutenant with the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, said officers are taught from the time they go through police academy that “you don’t change the original report — it’s an official document.”

He added that the deputies “are not allowed to change the evidence, and they’re certainly not allowed to do it with their lawyers with them. This report should be straightforward. These officers have been trained, tested and they know what is

required in the report. They cannot be excused for something like, ‘I forgot I used my baton.’”

San Francisco Public Defender Jeff Adachi said he found it odd that the revised reports did not explain possible contradictions between the deputies’ version of events and what was shown on the video.

“The first thing you should say is, ‘We reviewed the video and here is our explanation,’” Adachi said. “They make no attempt to explain what the video shows, and that should have been in the report. It’s like the video never existed.”

Investigators declined to comment on any possible criminal charges regarding filing a false police report. But Nelson reiterated the sheriff’s stance that he would punish any deputies found to have committed wrongdoing.

If reports were falsified, he added, “those people will have to answer for that, too.”

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

**One way to stop the next war is to continue to tell the truth about this one.
-- Kathy Kelly**

“These Silly Conspiracy Theories, Which See The U.S. Behind The Uprising In Syria, Are An Insult To The Syrian Revolutionaries On The Ground Fighting For Their Lives And The Liberation Of Their Country”

“It’s Insulting To Syrians To Assume That They’re Happy With Having Their Children Tortured To Death Until Some Clever White Man Comes And Whispers In Their Ear”

“It’s A Form Of Racism That Denies The Agency Of The Syrian Masses,

Dismissing Them As Puppets Of An Empire”

“When A Tyrant Starts Organizing Death Squads That Repress, Murder, Rape And Torture Protesters, Including Children, People Anywhere In The World Would Revolt”



Syrians in Aleppo raise their voices against the regime during a brief and partial ceasefire.

March 31, 2016 Robin Yassin-Kassab, the co-author with Leila Al-Shami of *Burning Country: Syria in Revolution and War*, interviewed by Ashley Smith; *Socialist Worker* [Excerpts] Yassin-Kassab and Al-Shami will be appearing across North America in April on a tour to promote their book.

Smith: What do you think of the claim that the Syrian revolution is a tool of American imperialism to get rid of Assad?

Yassin-Kassab: It’s frankly insulting to chalk this mass revolt up to some American conspiracy. When a tyrant starts organizing death squads that repress, murder, rape and torture protesters, including children, people anywhere in the world would revolt.

It's insulting to Syrians to assume that they're happy with having their children tortured to death until some clever white man comes and whispers in their ear. And, of course, if the Americans had truly wanted to get rid of Bashar al-Assad, they would have done so a long time ago.

Such conspiracy theorists don't concern themselves with the facts. They don't feel they have to talk to Syrians and ask them, "Why are you doing this? What are your motivations? What are your fears? What do you want?" They arrogantly believe they already know.

They already have a pre-packaged story from a decade ago about American imperialism invading and occupying Iraq.

That was a criminal venture that made sectarianism in the region much worse, setting in place the conditions that gave rise to ISIS.

But it's absurd to impose that story on Syria and say the revolution is an American tool to get rid of a regime that they don't like.

It's also ridiculous to argue that the U.S. is attacking Syria because it's allied to Iran. Remember, Obama's crowning achievement in the Middle East has been the deal with the Iranians over their nuclear program.

In reality, Obama is not focused on toppling Assad at all.

He thinks ISIS is an immediate danger to the whole world, so he's bombing them in both Syria and Iraq.

He's actually ignoring the Shia jihadists who are on Assad's front lines, who also cut people's heads off and mutilate bodies and slaughter their opponents' children, and so on and so forth. Frankly, the imperial and regional powers are inching toward a grand coalition against ISIS that could include Assad.

These silly conspiracy theories, which see the U.S. behind the uprising in Syria, are an insult to the Syrian revolutionaries on the ground fighting for their lives and the liberation of their country.

It's orientalist nonsense. It's a form of racism that denies the agency of the Syrian masses, dismissing them as puppets of an empire.

Certainly Western governments have done a great deal wrong in the Middle East and continue to do so, but their main crime in Syria has not been trying to get rid of the regime. Their main crime in Syria has been appeasing the regime and its imperialist sponsors like Russia and Iran.

Their other crime has been stopping people who wanted to deliver weapons like anti-aircraft weapons, which revolutionary civilian communities in Syria need to defend themselves from this fascist and imperialist onslaught. The Americans have vetoed those weapons going in.

Not one anti-aircraft weapon has gone into Syria to the opposition because of the American veto.

Progressives must stop playing this silly game of geopolitical chess--supporting this "goody" state against this "baddy" state.

Instead, we should be doing an analysis of who is the oppressed class here and who is the oppressor. And we should be asking, where can we stand in solidarity with people who are struggling?

If the American state decides to invade and occupy another state for its own selfish reasons, then let's oppose that, absolutely. But that's not what's happening here. Here it's actually a Russian and Iranian occupation and invasion of Syria.

That doesn't mean that America is innocent.

It is one of chief villains supporting the counterrevolutionary regimes in Egypt and Bahrain and backing the Saudi bombing of Yemen.

In Syria, Russian and Iranian imperialism are backing counterrevolution. All imperialisms are nasty and we should not take sides with any one of them.

"However Many People You Kill, You Can't Snuff Out The Desire For Liberation"

What are the prospects for the revolution today?

It's very hard to know whether to be optimistic or pessimistic, and like most people closely connected to Syria, I tend to veer between the two emotions.

On the one hand, the situation is apocalyptically awful. Almost half a million people have died out of a pre-war population of 23 million--the vast majority killed by the Assad regime.

Twelve million people--a bit more than half the population--are homeless. The majority of those people are still in Syria. They're living in camps near the border fences. They're living in other people's houses or in destroyed buildings. Sometimes they're living on relatives' couches and floors. Sometimes they're just living under bushes.

Most Syrians at this stage don't have the money--about \$1,000--that it costs to get out of the country. You have to pay somebody to get you past checkpoints and to smuggle you over a border. And most of the borders are now closed. Those who do get out are suffering in terrible conditions in surrounding countries, and those lucky enough not to die in the Mediterranean and make it to Europe are now being scapegoated for ISIS's terrorist attacks.

This is an absolutely desperate situation.

The heritage of Syria is disappearing. Things like the minaret of the Umayyad Mosque in Aleppo, which survived Mongol invasions and earthquakes--it didn't survive Assad's

war. Palmyra, Tadmor, the amazing city in the desert that belonged to Queen Zenobia 2,000 years ago--beautiful ruins of which half have now been blown up by the Islamic State.

I will never be able to show those to my children.

That is an absolute tragedy for the Syrian people. But it has not turned out well for Assad either. His regime doesn't exist anymore in the way that it did in 2011. Now foreign states like Russia and Iran and local warlords make all the decisions that matter in Syria, even in the areas that Assad nominally controls.

Other foreign powers are angling to control Syria's future.

The U.S., Russia, Iran, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar, to name a few of the players, will be trying to hammer a deal out among themselves.

The Syrian people are not being consulted. And as I said, we're heading towards partition scenarios at the moment, which won't satisfy any Syrian. So it looks, in that sense, very depressing indeed.

On the other hand, I continue to be amazed and inspired by the ability of Syrians to come out to protest for democracy, freedom and dignity. The fact that those people not only survive in these destroyed Syrian cities, but also continue to struggle against the regime, the foreign powers and counterrevolutionary jihadism is a miracle.

There's still a hard core of activists and fighters and medical workers and artists and intellectuals who remain committed to the original aims of the revolution, which are non-sectarian, democratic and based on the desire for human freedom.

That proves that however many people you kill, you can't snuff out the desire for liberation.

Once Syrians started speaking and expressing themselves and demanding their rights, they were never going to stop. So in that sense, in the long term, I still have some optimism.

The Haschish [Poems Against Slavery]

by John Greenleaf Whittier, 1854

Of all that Orient lands can vaunt
Of marvels with our own competing,
The strangest is the Haschish plant,
And what will follow on its eating.

What pictures to the taster rise,
Of Dervish or of Almeh dances!
Of Eblis, or of Paradise,
Set all aglow with Houris glances !

The poppy visions of Cathay,
The heavy beer-trance of the Suabian;
The wizard lights and demon play
Of nights Walpurgis and Arabian!

The Mollah and the Christian dog
Change place in mad metempsychosis;
The Muezzin climbs the synagogue,
The Rabbi shakes his beard at Moses.

The Arab by his desert well
Sits choosing from some Caliph's daughters,
And hears his single camel's bell
Sound welcome to his regal quarters.

The Koran's reader makes complaint
Of Shitan dancing on and off it;
The robber offers alms, the saint
Drinks Tokay and blasphemes the Prophet.

Such scenes that Eastern plant awakes;
But we have one ordained to beat it,
The Haschish of the West, which makes
Or fools or knaves of all who eat it.

The preacher eats, and straight appears
His Bible in a new translation;
Its angels negro overseers,
And Heaven itself a snug plantation !

The man of peace, about whose dreams
The sweet millennial angels cluster,
Tastes the mad weed, and plots and schemes,
A raving Cuban filibuster!

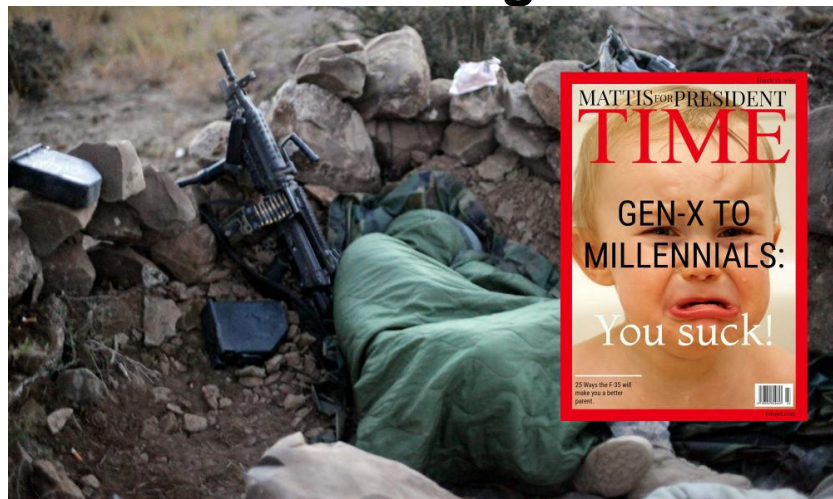
The noisiest Democrat, with ease
It turns to Slavery's parish beadle;
The shrewdest statesman eats and sees
Due southward point the polar needle.

The Judge partakes, and sits erelong
Upon his bench a railing blackguard;
Decides off-hand that right is wrong,
And reads the ten commandments backward.

O potent plant! so rare a taste

Has never Turk or Gentoo gotten'
The hempen Haschish of the East
Is powerless to our Western Cotton.

**“Since The Start Of The Global War
On Terror, 100 Percent Of The
Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen,
And Coast Guardsmen Have Served
On A Completely Voluntary Basis”
“That Would Make Millennials The First
Generation In American History To
Volunteer En Masse For What Is So Far A
Never-Ending War”**



April 3, 2016 by Bert Brrrrt, Duffle Blog

WASHINGTON — Amidst a dizzying array of highly divisive issues in the 2016 presidential election, Americans have found an issue on which there is overwhelming agreement: those born in the Millennial generation remain “lazy pieces of shit looking for handouts,” despite a combined total of 28 years of continuous war in Iraq and Afghanistan being fought on the ground almost exclusively by volunteer Millennials.

The consensus that all Millennials are “weak, useless kids with art degrees” has emerged in the wake of a Gallup poll showing that well over half of Millennials approve of “some form of socialism.”

“These Millennials are out of control,” said local father Brian Hardy. “I don’t care that the overwhelming majority of the 2.5 million American veterans of these wars were born after 1980. First they voted for Obummer, twice, and now these geriatric Communists. The man and the lesbian.”

“I mean, no way I was gonna volunteer for Vietnam when I was their age, but that was totally different,” Hardy said, “at least we eventually left that shithole.”

Many Americans of the “Gen X” and “Baby Boomer” generations fondly recall their early 20’s, attending college without crippling debt or easily finding a job in the most robust economy in human history, made possible by the blood and sacrifice of their parents and grandparents of the “Greatest Generation.”

But despite lingering effects of the 2008 Great Recession, spiraling tuition costs, and a hemorrhaging of manufacturing jobs overseas making comparisons with previous generations difficult, Rick Thomas, a middle aged American, remains unconvinced, arguing the younger generation are simply “lazy-ass dipshits addicted to iPhones and Bieber.”

Since the start of the Global War on Terror, 100 percent of the soldiers, sailors, Marines, airmen, and Coast Guardsmen have served on a completely voluntary basis, reportedly including hundreds of thousands of Millennials.

That would make Millennials the first generation in American history to volunteer en masse for what is so far a never-ending war.

“Yeah? Well they still fucking text a lot,” Thomas said.

ANNIVERSARIES

April 6, 1712: Honorable Anniversary: Courageous Slaves Rise Up Against Their Masters; “Death Was Preferable To Life In Bondage”

Carl Bunin Peace History April 6-12

Slavenorth.com & Pbs.org [Excerpts]

In 1712, some slaves in New York City rose up in a crude rebellion that could have been much more deadly, had it been better planned.

As it was, it was among the most serious slave resistances in American history, and sparked a vicious backlash by the authorities.

The stage was set for an uprising.

First, the city had a large population of black slaves -- the result of many years of trade with the West Indies. Secondly, communication and meeting among enslaved persons was relatively easy, since the New York City's inhabitants lived in a small area on the southern tip of Manhattan.

Thirdly, living in such a densely populated area also meant that slaves worked in close proximity to free men, a far cry from the situation on the plantations to the south.

The revolt was led by African-born slaves, who decided death was preferable to life in bondage.

They managed to collect a cache of muskets and other weapons and hide it in an orchard on the edge of town.

On the night of April 6, twenty-four of the conspirators gathered, armed themselves, and set fire to a nearby building. They then hid among trees, and when white citizens rushed up to put out the blaze, the slaves opened fire on them, killing five and wounding six.

The surviving citizens sounded the alarm. Every able-bodied man was pressed into service, and appeals were made to governors of surrounding colonies. The militia pinned down the rebels in the woods of northern Manhattan. The leaders of the uprising committed suicide, and the rest, starving, surrendered.

The death toll in the 1712 uprising doesn't seem high, but in a New York county that, at that time probably numbered some 4,800 whites, it was shocking.

In considering the psychological impact on the survivors, imagine some sort of attack on modern New York, with its 8 million people, that would leave casualties of 10,000 dead.

A special court convened by the governor made short work of the rebels. Of the twenty-seven slaves brought to trial for complicity in the plot, twenty-one were convicted and put to death.

Since the law authorized any degree of punishment in such cases, some unlucky slaves were executed with all the refinements of calculated barbarity.

New Yorkers were treated to a round of grisly spectacles as Negroes were burned alive, racked and broken on the wheel, and gibbeted alive in chains.

In his report of the affair to England, Governor Hunter praised the judges for inventing 'the most exemplary punishments that could be possibly thought of.' “[

White New Yorkers had been apprehensive before the revolt of April 6; now they were spurred into action.

Strict laws were soon enacted, and more would come, over the next thirty years. No longer could more than three black slaves meet. A master could punish his slaves as he saw fit (even for no reason at all), as long as the slave did not lose his or her life or limb. Any slave handling a firearm would receive twenty lashes. Anyone caught gambling would be whipped in public.

Involvement in a conspiracy to kill would result in execution, as would a rape. There was even a law that discouraged masters from freeing a slave:

The master could free a slave, but only after posting a bond of 200 (pounds). This money would be paid to the freed slave if that slave couldn't support himself or herself.

These laws would, in the end, prove to be futile. In 1741, New York would see another uprising.

April 6, 1968: Anniversary Of A Murder By The Cowards In Blue



Bobby Hutton

Carl Bunin Peace History April 6-12

Bobby Hutton, the 17-year-old first member of the Black Panther Party was gunned down by officers of the Oakland Police Department.

Police opened fire on a car of Black Panthers returning from a meeting. The Panthers escaped their vehicle and ran into a house. Police attacked the house with tear gas and gunfire.

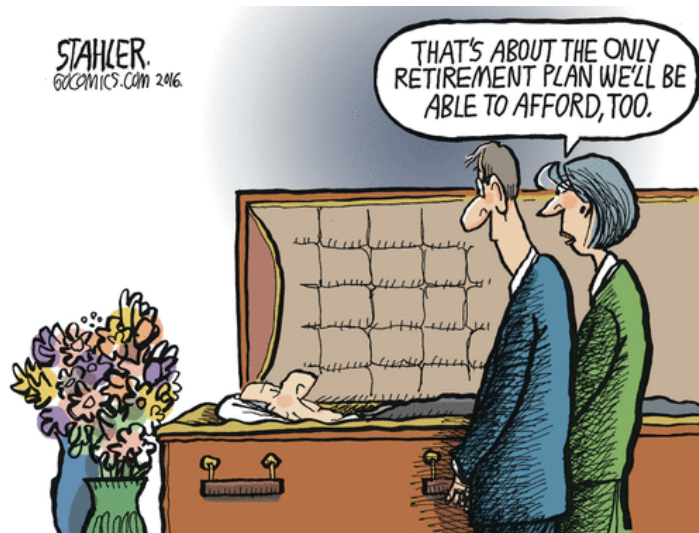
After the building was on fire, the Panthers tried to surrender.

Hutton came out of the house with his hands in the air.

But a police officer shouted, "He's got a gun." This prompted further police gunfire that left Hutton dead and Panthers co-founder Eldridge Cleaver wounded.

Police later admitted that Hutton was unarmed.

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**Heroic Zionist Forces Go To War
Against Palestinian Children's
Playground:
"The Land Was Used As A Dump
Before They Cleaned Up The Area Six
Years Ago, Building Stone Walls And
Planting Trees"**

Israel “Deliberately Isolating Jerusalem From Its Palestinian Environs And Indigenous People And Transforming It Into An Exclusively Jewish City”



MARCH 29, 2016 Ma'an

JERUSALEM -- The Israeli authorities on Tuesday leveled a privately-owned playground and uprooted several trees in the latest demolition to take place in the occupied East Jerusalem neighborhood of Silwan, locals said.

Silwan resident Khalid al-Zeir told Ma'an that armed Israeli forces escorted excavators and inspectors from the Jerusalem municipality at dawn onto a playground he built in the al-Abbasiyya area of the neighborhood.

The excavators leveled his land and demolished a number of structures across the playground, including a single room used for storage, a poultry pen, walls, and fences, al-Zeir said, adding that a number of trees were also cut down.

Al-Zeir told Ma'an Israeli soldiers involved in the demolition hurled stones at him and attacked his acquaintance when the two attempted to access the area.

Al-Zeir said he was notified by Israel's Nature and National Parks Authority that his playground was built on a "historically important archaeological area" where construction or changes to the landscape are prohibited.

Jawad Siyam of the Silwan-based Wadi Hilweh Information Center confirmed the demolition of al-Zeir's property, and told Ma'an several trees and saplings belonging to the Simrin family -- also in Silwan -- were uprooted by Israeli forces without prior notice.

The Simrin family told the center the land was used as a dump before they cleaned up the area six years ago, building stone walls and planting trees.

Siyam told Ma'an that much of Silwan was shut off completely by Israeli forces during the demolitions.

Palestinians living in East Jerusalem are under constant threat of demolition or displacement due to policies carried out by consecutive Israeli governments to establish a Jewish majority in the occupied Palestinian-majority city.

Palestinians' ability to build homes or expand existing structures legally has been severely limited by the Jerusalem municipality, and more than 3,000 Palestinian structures have been demolished since 1967, according to the PLO Negotiations Affairs Department.

The Wadi Hilweh center in February said the Israeli authorities were escalating demolitions in Silwan in particular, and at least four demolitions have been carried out in the neighborhood this month.

Meanwhile, the Israeli National Council for Planning and Building approved last week a massive building project planned by Israeli settlement organization Elad in Silwan.

The project, known as Kedem, is part of the ongoing City of David settlement enterprise championed by Elad, a group that since the 1980s has worked towards its self-professed aim to replace Jerusalem's indigenous Palestinian population with Jewish communities.

PLO Executive Committee member Hanan Ashrawi said the approval was a clear sign that Israel was "deliberately isolating Jerusalem from its Palestinian environs and indigenous people and transforming it into an exclusively Jewish city."

The Palestinian Teachers' Strike: "Rights Are Taken, And Are Not Granted Or Bestowed By The Government As A Kindness Or Gift" "The Gap Between The People, The Leadership And The Factions Has Widened"

24 March 2016 by Dr Hani Al-Masri, The Middle East Monitor, Translated from Masarat

Palestinian teachers have suspended their month-long strike after the PA president and government decided to respond to some of their demands.

The majority of teachers joined the action, despite the fact that their union abandoned them from the beginning and the Palestinian Authority was very stubborn and rejected what was being asked for.

Moreover, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was late in offering support to the teachers, and actually incited people against them; indeed, most of the factions failed this test, especially Fatah, despite the fact that most of the strikers and the leaders of the action were Fatah members and supporters.

The strike demonstrated how to gain community support and see it grow, as a protest held on 5 March included a large number of students and their parents from various social backgrounds.

Thus the action could escalate from a teachers' strike to a popular protest against the PA's stubbornness and denial of teachers' rights, even after admitting that their demands were legitimate.

What has the strike action achieved? Dignity for the teachers, and this is more important than achieving their other demands. However, the teachers are now capable of getting everything that has been asked for if they learn from the strike's lessons.

The first is that rights are taken, and are not granted or bestowed by the government as a kindness or gift.

In order for demands to be met, we must believe that only we ourselves can achieve exactly what we want; this requires us to be armed with the representation embodied by thousands of teachers and then resort to the community for further support, because any individual sector or group can be broken eventually.

We must also be prepared to endure the pressure, threats and accusations — possibly even the involvement of the security agencies and arrest — set against the strike by conservative members of society; Fatah, the media and intellectuals will be incited to oppose the action.

In this case, the teachers' strike will be portrayed as a conspiracy or coup in favour of Hamas, Israel or Mohamed Dahlan, or even as a means to distract people from the occupation and the intifada that has been ongoing for over six months.

The worst thing that the PA did was refuse dialogue with the teachers' representatives, who led the protest in an impressively-organised and peaceful manner. The PA refused on the grounds that they do not legally represent the teachers, even though the authority knows that it stripped the teachers' union of any legitimacy to the extent that shortly after the strike began the union backed away, putting itself at the disposal of the Fatah-controlled grassroots organisation commission, which is affiliated with the PLO. The PA should have negotiated with those leading the strike, as there is no law against it happening.

The authority in Ramallah also argued that the teachers did not follow the laws regulating strikes.

However, it must be pointed out that strikes are a right guaranteed by the Basic Law and that regulations are there to ensure organised actions; they are not there to restrict strikes. Those sections of Palestinian law that restrict strikes must be changed in line with the Basic Law; there is a need to sign up to international agreements which compel signatories, without any reservations, to amend any clause in their laws that violate human and basic civil rights.

The second lesson is that the teachers' strike is similar to the intifada wave, the BDS movement and the popular resistance; it is a popular movement without a leadership.

Some factions participate in these movements, but they do not lead them. As for the PLO, it is paralysed, disabled and absent; this suits the interests of the PA. The latter is limited by and committed to political, security and economic obligations to the Israelis and does not have the will or courage to abandon them. This is despite the fact that the PA has been threatening to do so for many years and acted against these obligations during the second intifada.

The factions are either opposed to the strike, do not care about them, try to utilise them against internal rivals, or do not have enough power to influence its course. Hence, we have witnessed a shift in civil society, the parliamentary blocs and a large number of writers, prisoners, etc., who have turned into mediators between the two sides.

This is how the conflict between we Palestinians and the Israeli occupation has, since the Oslo Accords, turned into a conflict between two parties amongst ourselves who possess the same rights.

Intercession in matters of right and wrong is not acceptable, even if it is under the pretext of the PA's claim that its budget cannot bear the demands of the teachers and they should lower their sights.

This all suggests that the gap between the people, the leadership and the factions has widened and that we must change, renew and reform our policy and performance by means of the current structures and institutions, which is difficult; or that new groups and leadership must emerge. This has started to happen but it still needs time before it is too late. Nature hates a vacuum and it can be filled by new parties and players.

The third thing that we can conclude from the teachers' strike is that keeping to a solution produced by the PA is impossible, as it really should not continue to exist.

The authority was created around the delusion that an independent state was imminent, after passing through the transitional period, the election of a new US president, or the formation of an Israeli government committed to peace.

It has to be either a tool to serve the occupation or its constitution, role and commitments must change. Although this cannot be done immediately, it must be done gradually in accordance with a clear and announced plan whereby we know, from the beginning, where and how it will end. We must also be completely committed to its implementation.

Among the changes that must be made are fundamental changes to the PA's budget. It requires a comprehensive reconsideration in order to serve the strategy of perseverance and confronting the occupation.

The budget must be shared responsibly to meet the needs, priorities and general interests of the people, starting with their health, education and domestic production. There must also be a boycott of Israel, not just the settlements, so that the burden of the occupation is distributed more equitably across Palestinian society.

As long as the budget remains based on past calculations, including a veritable army of employees, many of whom have no real job or do nothing useful, the PA will continue to use "shortage of resources" as an excuse. If and when the budget philosophy changes, the situation will be different; the security agencies, for example (which serve the interests of the occupation), will not receive a third of the budget.

Finally, there is an old-new lesson based on the impossibility of separating the national struggle from the democratic, social and economic struggle. The Palestinian people cannot fight a long battle while suffering from the pressures of life under occupation without national resources being distributed fairly by honest, elected and accountable institutions which combat corruption, poor management and nepotism.

We cannot have two societies and nations; the fact is that the occupation is ultimately against all Palestinians.

We can't have one section of society making sacrifices and suffering bloodshed, arrests, house demolitions and trouble at checkpoints, while another lives under completely different conditions, armed with VIP cards to get past checkpoints, investments with or without partners in Israel, and guarantees that they are buoyed by the Israeli economy, as per the Paris Convention.

The new authority must respond to the interests of the people and serve the national programme as well as be an organ of the PLO, which itself needs to rebuild its institutions on national and democratic foundations, and a true partnership that includes everyone and all factions.

If establishing such an authority is difficult or impossible, then the current PA should be dissolved, with the Israelis left to bear the full cost and responsibility of their occupation. However, we must work quickly to build an alternative so that the failure does not lead to chaos or dual authorities, which we see at the moment, with one in each of the isolated ghettos established by Israel since its occupation in 1967.

<p>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."</p>

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



AND OF THE CANDIDATES WHOM YOU HAVE REFERRED TO AS "SLIMY WEASELS," WHICH DO YOU FIND TO BE THE LEAST OFFENSIVE?

Military Resistance www.militaryproject.org

*This is how Obama brings the troops home,
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE.*



*Military Resistance is a near-daily news bulletin for service members
www.militaryproject.org*

Military Resistance Looks Even Better Printed Out

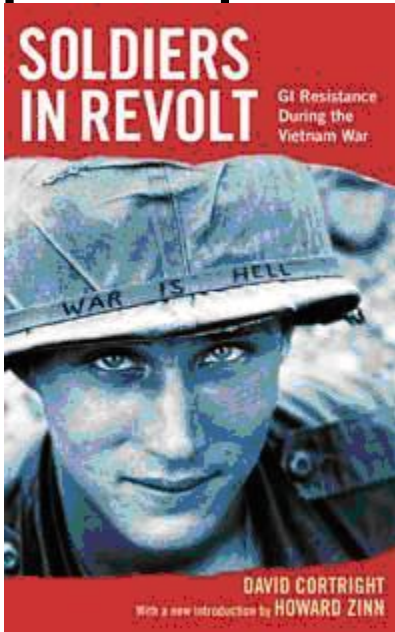
Military Resistance/GI Special are archived at website

<http://www.militaryproject.org> .

YOUR INVITATION:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

**FREE TO ACTIVE DUTY:
A Vietnam Veteran Describes The
Strategy And Tactics Used By Troops To
Stop An Imperial War**



SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT

**[CIVILIANS: \$16 INCLUDING POSTAGE
BUY ONE FOR A FRIEND/RELATIVE IN THE SERVICE.
CHECKS, MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO: THE MILITARY
PROJECT]**

**Requests from active duty or
orders from civilians to:
Military Resistance
Box 126
2576 Broadway
New York, N.Y.
10025-5657**

Military Resistance distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **Military Resistance has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is Military Resistance endorsed or sponsored by the originators. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research,**

education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice. Go to: law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

If printed out, a copy of this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.