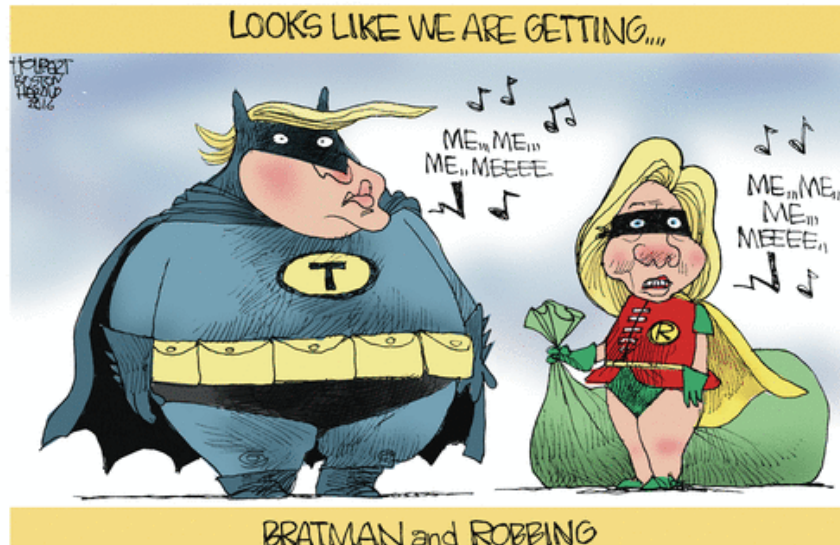


Military Resistance 14E4



**Military Times Editorial
Demands Obama Stop Lying
About Iraq Combat:
“Frustration With The White
House’s Refusal To Recognize
That U.S. Troops Deployed To
Help In The Fight Against The ISIS
Were On A ‘Combat’ Mission”
“Calling It A Training Mission Is Cold
Comfort To The Parents, Spouses**

And Children Of The Deployed Troops”

“The More The White House Insists These Troops Are Not Part Of A Combat Mission, The More Distrust It Breeds In The Ranks”



3/21/2016 - The remains of Staff Sgt. Louis F. Cardin of Temecula, Calif., March 21, 2016, at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Cardin, killed in Iraq, was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Camp Lejeune, N.C. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Class Zachary Cაცია)

But the administration is trying to have it both ways and appear to be keeping the U.S. out of war while steadily building up forces in the region, increasing the number of troops deployed to combat zones, dropping bombs on enemy forces and, when necessary, engaging them in direct action.

May 5, 2016 Military Times editorial

Last month, Gen. Joe Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, pinned Purple Hearts on four fellow Marines at a remote outpost in northern Iraq.

They and four others were wounded in an attack by the Islamic State group that killed their buddy, Staff Sgt. Louis Cardin.

Less than a week later, Dunford was seated before the Senate Armed Services Committee, serving as a lightning rod for lawmakers' frustration with the White House's

refusal to recognize that U.S. troops deployed to help in the fight against the ISIS were on a “combat” mission.

Dunford wouldn't answer for the White House, but he didn't mince words in expressing his view: Cardin “was killed in combat, senator,” he told the Republican from Alaska, Dan Sullivan.

So, too, was Master Sgt. Joshua Wheeler, a Special Forces soldier killed in Iraq last October as part of Operation Inherent Resolve.

Defense Secretary Ash Carter had his chairman's back, also telling lawmakers the U.S. troops were killed in combat.

“Why,” Sullivan asked during the back and forth, “can't we level with the American people” and say that U.S. troops in harm's way in the Middle East are in combat?

Why indeed.

Tragically, the danger facing American personnel in Iraq and Syria were made clear again on Tuesday, when Navy SEAL Charlie Keating was killed on a quick-reaction mission to aid U.S. military advisers under attack by large, coordinated ISIS force.

Carter has tried to defend the administration's position on troops deployed in the fight against ISIS, saying that although troops have been killed in combat, the mission was to train and equip local forces so they can repel the terrorist group without U.S. support.

That's a valid if extremely challenging strategy, one driven by numerous realities.

Not the least of those is the American public's weariness with sending its men and women into combat after more than a decade of war in Iraq and Afghanistan, which remain volatile despite great sacrifices of life and treasure.

But the administration is trying to have it both ways and appear to be keeping the U.S. out of war while steadily building up forces in the region, increasing the number of troops deployed to combat zones, dropping bombs on enemy forces and, when necessary, engaging them in direct action.

The U.S. now has 300 troops in Syria, where the fight against ISIS is intensifying. The Pentagon also is sending more troops to Iraq, boosting the total number there to more than 4,000.

The Pentagon has even created an Operation Inherent Resolve campaign medal for troops who have deployed as part of the mission to crush ISIS.

Where those fights are being waged, American forces are targets from the moment they arrive. That they are tasked to train local forces to defeat ISIS and other enemies makes U.S. forces all the more vulnerable.

Calling it a training mission is cold comfort to the parents, spouses and children of the deployed troops.

They know what happened to Keating, Cardin and Wheeler.

They've seen the reports on how ISIS militants treat those captured. They know hostilities are growing and sense, rightly or wrongly, that a greater showdown may be in the offing and that U.S. forces very well may be in the middle of it.

The more the White House insists these troops are not part of a combat mission, the more distrust it breeds in the ranks and among the public.

It's viewed as the sort of condescending semantics Washington plays to deny the obvious. That can serve only to erode support for the mission.

Staff Sgt. Cardin's unit, Task Force Spartan of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit — about 100 to 200 troops — is staying behind in Iraq as the rest of their expeditionary unit, about 2,000 others, has returned home.

Task Force Spartan could be at its firebase outside Mosul for as long as four more months. It's entirely possible that ISIS fighters will again infiltrate the area in an attempt to kill or injure more Marines, and once again have to be fought off.

When U.S. and allied troops are on Islamic State turf with the mission of wiping it from existence, they are on a combat mission.

Calling it anything else is wrong.



***Why, I can smile, and murder whiles I smile,
And cry 'Content' to that which grieves my heart
And wet my cheeks with artificial tears,
And frame my face to all occasions.
-- Gloucester, "Henry VI"-Shakespeare***

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

2 Romanian Soldiers Killed, Another Wounded, In Insider Attack In Afghanistan: “The Romanian Troops Were Ambushed On A Base In Kandahar As They Were Training Afghan Forces”

May 7, 2016 by BILL ROGGIO. Bill Roggio is a Senior Fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and the Editor of The Long War Journal.

Two Romanian soldiers were killed and another was wounded today in an insider or “green-on-blue” attack, where Afghan security personnel turn their weapons on coalition forces. The Romanian troops were ambushed on a base in Kandahar as they were training Afghan forces. The assault is the first of its kind recorded in Afghanistan in more than a year.

Resolute Support, the NATO mission in Afghanistan, confirmed that two soldiers were killed today “when two individuals wearing Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) uniforms opened fire at an ANDSF compound in Southern Afghanistan,” according to a press release.

Coalition troops “returned fire and killed the shooters,” Resolute Support noted. The NATO mission did not disclose number of attackers who were killed or their affiliation or motivation, the location of the “incident,” or the slain soldier’s home country.

“We continue to train, advise and assist the ANDSF, and do not view this incident as representative of the positive relationship between our forces,” Resolute Support stated.

The Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed two of their soldiers were killed and another was wounded “following an incident that occurred today near the city of Kandahar, while executing a mission to train the Afghan police.”

Romania provided 588 of the 12,486 troops operating under Resolute Support, according to the NATO command.

It is unclear if today’s attack was carried out by the Taliban or an allied group, or disgruntled Afghan forces. Given that more than one member of the Afghan security forces was involved in the ambush, it was likely executed by the Taliban. The Taliban

has not released a statement claiming credit for today's attack, but has claimed similar incidents in the past and has promoted these kind of operations in its propaganda.

Today's insider attack is the first recorded in Afghanistan by The Long War Journal in more than a year. The last recorded attack was on April 8, 2015, when an Afghan soldier killed a US soldier and wounded two more in an attack at the governor's compound in Jalalabad, Nangarhar. The attacker was killed after US troops returned fire.

The Long War Journal has recorded 92 insider attacks in Afghanistan since Jan. 1, 2008; 150 Coalition soldiers and personnel have been killed and 187 more have been wounded in those attacks.

However, many insider attacks remain unreported. If an attack by Afghan personnel does not result in a death or injury, and it is not reported in the press, the Coalition will not release a statement on the incident.

The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), the predecessor of Resolute Support which was disbanded at the end of 2014, told The Long War Journal in March 2012 that "these statistics," the number of attacks that did not result in a casualty are "classified."

"(A)ttacks by ANSF on Coalition Forces ... either resulting in non-injury, injury or death ... these stats as a whole (the total number of attacks) are what is classified and not releasable," Lieutenant Colonel Jimmie Cummings, ISAF's former Press Desk Chief, told The Long War Journal. Cummings said that ISAF is "looking to declassify this number."

More than four years later, the number exact number of insider attacks in Afghanistan has not been declassified.

POLICE WAR REPORTS

**Dashcam Footage Shows
Chicago Police Beating
Reverend They Claimed Tried
To Run Them Over:
"The Clip Reveals The Officers'
Vehicle Caused The Collision"**

**“Beat Me Down To My Underwear,
Pulled My Skirt Off Me”
“They Beat Me With The Sticks And Hit
Me With Their Boots In My Head”**



Reverend Catherine Brown tells a reporter about her encounter with a CPD officer.
(photo: CBS Chicago)

03 May 16 By Tom McKay, Mic

Newly released video shows precisely what happened during a 2013 incident in which Chicago police officers claimed a local reverend hit them with a car, eventually charging her with attempted murder.

The video, courtesy of CBS Chicago, paints a much different picture of what happened to Rev. Catherine Brown, who is black, after her run-in with Officers Jose López and Michelle Morsi-Murphy on May 13, 2013. The clip reveals it was the officers' vehicle that caused the collision. Officers involved can clearly be seen laughing, hitting her car with a metal rod, drawing and pointing firearms, hitting her and using pepper spray.

According to CBS Chicago, Brown said the beating was the result of a traffic dispute after the officers drove down an alleyway heading to her driveway.

In her account, the officers immediately escalated what should have been an innocuous traffic maneuver into a full-on screaming match involving firearms and profanity. Brown attempted to drive away, but the driver of the Chicago police vehicle rammed her.

“Beat me down to my underwear, pulled my skirt off me,” Brown told the station. “They beat me with the sticks and hit me with their boots in my head.”

The reverend was eventually charged with attempted murder after Morsi-Murphy said Brown's car had dragged her down the street, causing the officer to be hospitalized. The charges were later dropped, although Brown was convicted of a misdemeanor charge, reckless conduct.

ABC 7 reported Brown is suing the department.

In 2015, the Department of Justice began a major investigation of the Chicago Police Department over extensive allegations of excessive force and other misconduct. The probe seeks to discover whether the fatal police shooting of 17-year-old Chicago resident Laquan McDonald, which resulted in protests and a \$5 million settlement, is tied to “racial, ethnic or other disparities in officers' use of force, and its systems of accountability,” NBC 5 reported.

NC Police Enter A Home Because They Claimed To Smell Marijuana:

**“They Seized My Home And We
Lay Tased, Swollen, Bruised,
Cuffed And Helpless On The
Floor”**

**“One Arrested For Marijuana
Paraphernalia. Three Arrested For
Assaulting Two Police Officers Who
Burst Into The Home”**

**“What’s Missing From Those Charges?
Possession Of Marijuana”**

April 14, 2016 by Michael Allen, Opposing Views & Apr 13, 2016 by David Hudnall, Indy Week [Excerpts]

Police in Durham, North Carolina, **entered a home** April 8 because they allegedly smelled marijuana. The situation soon dissolved into chaos and was filmed by one of the residents, Vera McGriff (video below).

According to Indy Week, McGriff posted the video on Facebook (the posting has since been removed) along with a note that said the police came to her door and demanded to search the house.

McGriff allegedly refused because the officers lacked a search warrant, but then eight cops “bum-rushed” the home.

“We all sat in handcuffs for 4-5 hours while they waited for the search warrant,” McGriff reportedly wrote on Facebook.

“Everybody was (T)ased, one officer hit my son in the face with his Glock 9, we were choked, kicked, thrown down on the floor,” she added.

Three adults arrested for assaulting two of the police officers who burst into the home without a search warrant.

One of them arrested for marijuana paraphernalia.

See what’s missing from those charges?

Possession of marijuana.

Because apparently after bursting into their home and handcuffing the occupants for hours, based on their own claims of the smell of marijuana, no marijuana was found in the house.

It remains unclear who exactly was being served and protected in this case. As noted by Indy Week, the very same police unit that raided this home was recently found to disproportionately arrest minorities.

Today, McGriff released a statement about the incident.

“We were subject to the physical assault and terrorizing actions from a gang of police officers that included assaults with batons, an officer's gun, tasing and over four hours of handcuffed detainment,” McGriff says.

“All the while my elementary school aged children watched these vicious attacks.”

McGriff continues: “When they seized my home and we lay tased, swollen, bruised, cuffed and helpless on the floor, it felt like I was surrounded by an unruly gang that meant me and my family nothing but harm.

“The terror, by these officers, did not stop when my 11 year old son, recently home from the hospital, began to vomit and seize. Nor did they stop when my 10 year old daughter screamed and called out to her mommy in fear. They did not care about any of us as human beings.”

McGriff is demanding a thorough investigation of the incident “using a racial equity lens”; the disbanding of the HEAT unit, which a recent report found to engage in patterns of racial profiling; and the immediate termination of the five officers who “forced their way into my home and terrorized my family.”

MILITARY NEWS

West Point Leader Defends Black Female Cadets In Fist-Raising

Photo:

“Image Criticized In Recent Days For Allegedly Violating Defense

Department Policy Concerning Political Activities While In Uniform”

“Commenters Speculated The Image May Be Connected To The Black Lives Matter Movement”



Photo: Courtesy

May 6, 2016 by Tony Lombardo, Army Times

The controversial photo of 16 black female cadets raising their fists was just one of dozens of images the women took as part of a long-held West Point tradition, according to Brenda Sue Fulton, a 1980 West Point grad who chairs the U.S. Military Academy's Board of Visitors.

West Point officials are continuing to investigate the image, which has been criticized online in recent days for allegedly violating Defense Department policy concerning political activities while in uniform.

Fulton, back on April 27, had posted another image from the shoot via Twitter. This image is clearly not political and was even retweeted by Acting Army Secretary Patrick Murphy.

The women were posing for an "Old Corps photo," Fulton told Army Times, "a long-held tradition at the Academy."

"Different teams and groups get together on their own to mimic the high-collar, ultra-serious, photos of 19th century cadets," she explained of the tradition.

Fulton knows some of the women personally.

"When I spent time with these cadets and heard them tell their stories and laugh and joke with each other, there's no doubt in my mind how much they love West Point, they love the Army and they support each other."

But would Fulton, a former Army captain and long-time diversity advocate for the military, have tweeted the raised-fist photo?

"I would not have re-tweeted the raised-fist photo because I am well aware that our culture views a black fist very differently from a white fist," she said.

"I knew it was their expression of pride and unity, but I am old enough to know that it would be interpreted negatively by many white observers. Unfortunately, in their youth and exuberance, it appears they didn't stop to think that it might have any political context, or any meaning other than their own feeling of triumph."

She does not criticize academy officials for launching an inquiry.

"West Point is America's college. If there is a public uproar, however ill-motivated, the leaders feel their responsibility to the public is to get all the facts," she said.

Online commenters speculated the image may be connected to the Black Lives Matter movement, which also incorporates a raised fist in its messaging.

The popular military fitness blog *In the Arena* helped share this message, attributing information to anonymous sources. The cadets also have a legion of online defenders, who say the photo has been taken out of context and that criticisms have been hate-fueled and racially-charged.

Fulton, speaking as a West Point alum, said she was dismayed to read such negative comments online, especially the In the Arena post from former soldier John Burk, whose sharp criticism served as a lightning rod.

“I am sorry that someone with a blog chose to display this one photo out of context, and to call them racists,” said Fulton, who is the first female West Point grad to ever serve as chair of the academy’s Board of Visitors.

The women may have run afoul of West Point's Honor Code, or Department of Defense Directive 1344.10, Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces, said Greg Greiner, a military law expert and partner at the Tully Rinckey law firm.

Even if the intent was not to make a political statement — for example, if “group think” set in or the cadets were just “messaging around” — they could still be in trouble, Greiner explained.

“My experience with military justice and the way discipline is handled, is that intent doesn’t always matter 100 percent,” he said. “Sometimes the actions themselves are enough to bring discredit.”

Under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, cadets could face charges of conduct unbecoming an officer, Greiner said. It depends on how much leadership felt “good order and discipline” had been violated, if at all.

“Leaders have a duty to say to themselves, do we want to create a problem for these young female officers that they’re going to have for the rest of their careers?” he said.

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

All revolutions are surprises, and we cannot predict future struggles.
-- Ian Birchall; Grim And Dim

FYI: Military Resistance Website Visits: Top Ten Sources Of Visits Ranked 1-10 April 2016

- 1 Germany
- 2 USA
- 3 China
- 4 France
- 5 Ukraine
- 6 Russian Federation
- 7 South Korea
- 8 Romania
- 9 Sudan [!]
- 10 Great Britain

Readers from an additional 77 have also accessed, including Nigeria, Kazakhstan, Venezuela, Afghanistan, Norway, Greece, Malaysia & Thailand

Source: AWStats

RECEIVED FROM READERS

**[A Message From Greece]
We Won't Fight For Any Post:**

Proletarians Have No National Homeland: Our Homeland Is Our Class; “There Is Nothing For Us To Serve Or Sacrifice For That Bows To The Flag Of Any Nation”

From: Nick Prodromides
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Subject: Greece - Turkey
Date: May 7, 2016
Attachments: Our Homeland is our class

I attach an article from ADK-Greece about the current tensions between Turkey and Greece. It would be great if you could manage to forward it to your group.

We Won't Fight For Any Post Proletarians Have No National Homeland Our Homeland Is Our Class

Anti-War Internationalist Movement (Antipolemiki Diethnistiki Kinissi)

All of us have recently seen a serious tension arising in the Aegean Sea between Greece and Turkey. This is a dangerous competition between their representative bourgeois classes aiming in broader imperialistic goals for the Middle East and Africa.

Erdogan's Neo-Ottomanism comes in clashes with the strategic axis formed by the Greek State, Israel, Cyprus and Egypt.

Both bourgeois classes are unified in the role that is held for the “nation” of workers on each side: that of an expendable product. Series of important imperialistic interventions take place in the Eastern Mediterranean and transform into civil wars, concluding to devastating whole states and creating walking “rivers” of desperate refugees.

The Aegean Sea has been upgraded in the geostrategic schemes.

Its basic role as the key route of the imperialistic fleets, integrates with a gigantic energy planning referring to the triangle engulfed by Caucasus, North Africa and the Middle East.

Even more, the Aegean Sea is growing into a killing zone for refugees, intercepting and beefing up the “security” of fortress-Europe. This is the place, where EU is piling up massive forces of military and police units, sovereign and international, so it can erect a fierce “wall”. This is anything but the place and time NATO confirms its defense and security doctrines developed during the past two decades.

From this point of view, the recent incidents in the Aegean are just a sequel to the escalations in Turkey’s “domestic” affairs. This not only applies to the Kurdish issue but also to the effort of the Erdogan regime to elevate Turkey to the status of leading regional power through the riots that shake the country, due to fierce inequality and heavy suppression.

On the other hand the same incidents in Greece appear as an attempt to export the Greek crisis as regional aggressiveness of the local capitalists. The Greek ruling class claims its piece from the loot, offering troops, military bases and logistics for every campaign conducted in the region with the ultimate goal being: “Reassuring the terms and means needed for the next round of capitalistic growth”, while the governments, one after the other, face destabilization when they come to apply the barbaric austerity measures that they have agreed with the Troika.

This is a two way battle, domestic and at the same time regional.

These two plans come to an inevitable confrontation due to their uppermost goals and means.

They both attempt to mold the appropriate coalitions in a harsh geopolitical and social environment where local and regional uprisings transform into devastating civil wars and finally mingle with the type of proxy wars conducted between universal and regional imperialistic blocks and state-forces (USA, EU, Russia - Saudi Arabia, Israel, Iran).

This brutal race obviously contains in its rivalry all the Greek-Turkish disputes around the division of the Aegean (borders, reef rights, EEZ etc). These issues have fueled the conflict and been the number one topic of secret diplomacy for years. Nobody oversees the fact that it is of equal importance to clearly determine the timing, the terms and the nature of the expected compromise.

Greece and Turkey cooperate in full harmony under the NATO or Frontex command, waging the war against refugees and immigrants, in every international military drill and at each imperialistic “peacekeeping” operation. And surely they seek for a “mutually beneficial” agreement, an agreement “among gentlemen” for their national disputes.

Be sure for this, such agreements are signed with the blood and the corpses of both the peoples of the “combatants”.

The peoples which will be called to execute the service of the police force, the mercenary, become the cannon fodder for the ruling elites’ interest. In other

words, the strongest unity of the two states is their unity against the real enemy, the “public enemy”: the working people.

The single sided nationalistic projection of the “Turkish aggression” by the mass media and the SYRIZA-ANEL government (as if the Greece-Cyprus-Egypt-Israel Axis doesn't project the exact same goals) aims to obscure the imperialistic context of the Greek aggressiveness for the control of the Aegean Sea and the Southeast Mediterranean.

The quarrels abroad, the military adventurism of both Turkey and Greece in Southeast Europe build up to higher level of social warfare which is conducted in their domestic regions. The project of the “threats to national security” or “to the rights of the nation” is nothing else but the effort to integrate the assault against the local working classes to the strategic plans of the ruling classes.

In Greece this sums up to the Memorandums, the slaughter of the new pension system, the robbery of the tax system reform, the brutality against refugees, the obliteration of the workers' rights in the name of production regroupment.

In Turkey the equivalent sums up to cruel exploitation of local and foreign working force in the industrial complex, the savage civil war, against both the Kurds and the left. It's the only way to achieve broad social alignments needed to enforce strict national discipline (this means: class truce) either in the name of fear or in the name of nationalism. But always under the banner of state goals.

We know our enemies: From Tsipras and Kammenos to Erdogan and Davutoglu, the civil parties in total, the interests they represent.

They all scream for national unity and the silence of class conflict, while serving the terms of capitalistic profit through Parliamentary Totalitarianism.

The nationalistic ensemble appears on stage. It consists of the big fish reporters, the pro - memorandum parties and their clowns and promoters.

All of them are anxious “not to give an inch of land” while they privatize and sell out public wealth, devastating any remnants of welfare and infrastructure left.

The “buyers” are well known: the hot shots of the local entrepreneurial jet set, the same that gained profits from the “Imia Crisis”, the Stock Market scandals and the Arms deals in the Balkan and Middle East wars. In the meantime investigations reveal the cruel numbers: The mass amount of the funds from the bailout packages headed to the old debts (86.9 billion euros), interest payoffs (52.3 billion euros) and the salvation of domestic banks (37.3 billion euros).

What has remained from all this? Just 9.7 billion euros (5%) to the national budget and just a fraction for social needs.

For us it's crystal clear. There is NO kind of national interest.

There is nothing for us to serve or sacrifice for that bows to the flag of any nation.

We won't fight for THEIR interests. We won't enroll in their armies, we won't work for their wars at any post.

Our present and future is bounded only to the fate of an independent international workers' movement. The common struggle of the working class against the ruling class, the state oppression and their military aggression.

We only settle for the overthrow of both the government of Greece and Turkey. In the age of Totalitarian Capitalism we can already see the rise of an age of riots. This controversial era gives birth to a new hope: The hope of social struggle in Kobane and France, in the uprisings of the underdogs from the Greek December 2008 to the Arab Spring till the workers' struggles spanning from the regional to the metropolitan.

Now is the time, it is more necessary than ever before. We must become the everlasting threat to overthrow this system. A time for an anti-war movement to appear with one and ultimate goal, emerging from the finest moments of workers' class struggle: Inverting the imperialistic war to open class warfare.

We just have to do the self-evident.

That which several struggling people have done before us. They refused to go to war against their fellow brother workers.

They demanded their lives back, back from the ever stealing governments of the bourgeoisies and the oppressors.

Our guns are aiming the other way round. Against EU, NATO and against the capitalism as a whole.

We shall rest only when this system becomes just a distant memory in the age of social liberation.

**Anti-War Internationalist Movement
(Antipolemiki Diethnistiki Kinissi)**

CLASS WAR REPORTS

**Foreign Workers In Saudi Arabia
Burn Buses After Massive Layoffs;
Workers Set At Least Seven On Fire
To Protest Binladen Construction**

Group Firing Of At Least 70,000 After Six Months Of No Pay; Employer “Cancelled Their Work Visas And Told Them They Need To Leave The Country Immediately”



Buses are believed to have been torched by workers from construction company Saudi Binladin Group in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, May 1, 2016. | Photo: Reuters

2 May 2016 by teleSUR

Foreign workers at one of Saudi Arabia's largest construction companies, Binladin group, set fire to at least seven buses in protest of being fired from their work after not being paid for more than six months, local media reported Sunday.

The incident took place in front of the Binlادين's offices in the city of Mecca, according to a report by the local Okaz newspaper.

The report said the workers were protesting at the offices and then set seven companies transport buses on fire. The fire was contained and no injuries were reported. The incident was captured in a video available on YouTube.

The news came after the Binlادين group laid off more than 70,000 workers, cancelled their work visas and told them they need to leave the country immediately.

Media reports also said that the company plans to fire Saudi citizens in supervisory, administrative, engineering and management jobs.

The laid off workers have said they had not received any salaries for over six months.

The company has been feeling the impact of the country's economic crisis in the country amid low oil prices. In March, unpaid workers also protested in front of the company's offices in the capital Riyadh.

Foreign workers make up to 30 percent of Saudi Arabia's population, according to government estimates. More than 2.5 million of those foreign workers are from India and Pakistan, who tend occupy low paying jobs in construction and cleaning services.

Most of those workers have limited rights and the employer have full control over hiring, salaries, vacations and contracts. Those workers could never gain the right for permanent residency or citizenship even after working in the country for decades.

Also, employers tend to keep the workers passports in order to have full control over their visas and travels.

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.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**Heroic Occupation Army
Attacks Palestinian Stone
Quarries In Beit Fajjar To Aid
Grabbing Their Land:
“The Forces Shut Down
Operations In The Quarries,
Assault Workers And Confiscate
Expensive Equipment Without**

Which The Quarries Cannot Function”

**“They Started Kicking Me And Hitting Me With The Butts Of Their Rifles”
Owners Have To Repeatedly Pay Fines
Amounting To Tens Of Thousands Of
Shekels To Cover The Costs Of Moving
And Storing The Equipment In Zionist
Settlements**



Israeli military vehicles in a Palestinian quarry in Beit Fajar. Photo: Said Derya, March 20

21 Apr 2016 B'Tselem

On the morning of Monday, 21 March 2016, Israeli Civil Administration and military forces came to the area of Beit Fajar, a Palestinian town that lies between Bethlehem and Hebron, and raided four Palestinian owned quarries.

The raid was the second in the area that month, only a week after the previous one on Monday, 14 March.

The forces shut down operations in the quarries, assaulted workers and confiscated expensive equipment without which the quarries cannot function.

In their testimony to B'Tselem field researcher Manal al-J'abri, the owners of two of the raided quarries related that since 2008, such raids take place twice a year, on average.

However, they claimed that Israeli forces have stepped up activity to stop operations in the quarries in recent months.

The forces have repeatedly confiscated crucial equipment, including tractors, buggers, air compressors, control computers, and various work tools. This appears to be part of an Israeli policy to wear the owners down until they shut down the quarries.

Every such raid and confiscation of equipment entails direct and indirect financial losses.

To regain the seized equipment, the Palestinian owners have to repeatedly pay fines amounting to tens of thousands of shekels to cover the costs of moving and storing the equipment in areas controlled by settlements.

They also have to pay a lawyer to liaise with the Civil Administration.

The testimonies given to B'Tselem indicate that after every raid, the owners are forced to wait anywhere between a month and an entire year until the equipment is returned to them.

During that time, the quarries operate partially, significantly below their financial potential.

Due to the curtailed operations, the quarry owners cannot meet commitments made to related businesses such as stone-working factories, stonemasons, freight trucks and water providers, causing them substantial losses in turn.

Since the last raid, most quarries remain shut down, for fear the military will confiscate equipment. Some have resumed low level operations.

“All The Way Back There, They Hit Me In The Back With Their Rifle Butts”

Khalil Abu Hussein, resident of Hebron and excavator operator at the Beit Fajjar quarries, described what happened on 21 March 2016* to B'Tselem field researcher Manal al-J'abri:*

“At about 7:00 A.M., I was working at the Abu Sneina family's quarry in the area of Khillet Haja in the village of Beit Fajjar, driving an excavator. Suddenly, while I was driving, soldiers shattered the windows of my vehicle.

“There were about eight soldiers there. I turned the engine off and cut the cable to immobilize the vehicle completely, in case it got confiscated.

“That made the soldiers angry. Three of them dragged me out of the driver's seat and threw me down on the ground.

They started kicking me and hitting me with the butts of their rifles. I lay with my face down and the soldiers hit me in my back and hips.

“After that, they told me to turn the excavator on. I told them I couldn’t do that anymore, so they went back to beating me.

“Then four soldiers led me to an excavator in another quarry. All the workers there had run off when they heard the army was entering the quarries.

“The soldiers ordered me to turn the excavator on there, and I refused. They started hitting me again with their rifles and threw me to the ground. Later they took me back to the first excavator, the one I had been driving. All the way back there, they hit me in the back with their rifle butts.

“When we got back to the first excavator, the soldiers told me to turn it on. I tried but it didn’t work. While I was trying to turn it on, two soldiers slapped me in the face. In the end, I told them I couldn’t do it.

Then a Civil Administration officer came and put me in a Civil Administration jeep with my hands cuffed in front of me. He took me to another quarry, where he ordered me to turn a bulldozer on.

“I told him I didn’t know how to operate it, and then the two soldiers slapped me again. The beating and moving between the quarries lasted about an hour. Every time the soldiers wanted me to turn one of the excavators on, they untied my hands, and cuffed them again afterwards.

“*The testimony was given on 23 March 2016”

Beit Fajjar is one of the major stone quarrying centers in the West Bank.

The repeated interruptions of quarry operations in the area, including assaults against workers and confiscation of crucial, expensive equipment, greatly damage the town’s economy and the livelihood of its 13,500 residents.

Forty quarries operate in the area, providing raw materials to some 150 local stonework factories – which employ some 80% of the Beit Fajjar workforce – and some 70% of the concrete, brick, and tar factories in Hebron.

The owner of one stonework factory in Beit Fajjar told B’Tselem that the last quarry raid created a dearth of raw material for which he had paid in advance. This puts him at risk of breaching contracts signed with Gulf States and with Jordan, which may cost him hundreds of thousands of shekels in fines.

Although the area constitutes a single economic unit – where materials are extracted in the quarries and then processed in factories – it is artificially divided into Area B, which is supposedly under Palestinian civilian control and contains most of the stonework factories, and Area C, in which Israel retains full control over all civilian matters pertaining to land, including planning, building, infrastructure and development, in which most of the quarries are located.

To justify this direct harm to the quarries, Israeli authorities note that they are located in Area C, contrary to rules and regulations dictated by Israel. This has created a situation in which, although the land in which the quarries lie is privately owned by Palestinians, the quarries come under the planning system of the Israeli Civil Administration, which has the authority to issue, renew or cancel permits to operate the quarries.

In practice, Israel refuses to issue permits to the Palestinian quarries in Beit Fajjar; since 2012, it has also refused renew permits given to some of the quarries in the 1990s.

In contrast, Israel continues to issue new permits for the operation of 11 quarries in the West Bank that are owned by Israelis and were formed in the 1970s on land currently classified as Area C.

According to state estimates, 94% of the material extracted from the Israeli-owned quarries is transferred into Israel, in flagrant contravention of international humanitarian law, according to which the resources of an occupied territory must be used for the benefit of the local population, unless it is urgently needed for military purposes.

In fact, Israel has controlled the entire West Bank for almost fifty years, exploiting the artificial division into areas A, B and C for its own needs – economic and otherwise. The crackdown on Palestinian quarries in Beit Fajjar is part of an Israeli policy to concentrate Palestinian activity in enclaves throughout the West Bank and de-facto annex the rest of the land to Israel proper.

“Recently, There Have Been A Lot More Raids And Assaults On The Quarries. My Quarries Were Raided Five Times Lately”

Ibrahim Thawabtah, a resident of Beit Fajjar who manages quarries in the area, related the ongoing damage to his business in a testimony he gave to B’Tselem field researcher Manal al-J’abri*:

“I run five quarries in the area of Khillet Haja in Beit Fajjar. Two are in Area B and three in Area C. Twenty-five laborers work in the quarries. About twice a year, the Civil Administration and military raid the quarries in the area and confiscate equipment on the grounds that we’re in Area C.

“Recently, there have been a lot more raids and assaults on the quarries. My quarries were raided five times lately.

“Every raid forces us to shut down operations, because the equipment and excavator are confiscated. When that happens in one quarry, the others stop working for fear that their equipment will be confiscated, too. The entire economy in the area freezes and about 200 laborers, who support hundreds of family members, are stuck without work.

“A lot of other factories in the area, such as brick factories, stonemasons, wood workshops, and other businesses such as freight trucks, water providers and others cannot operate because of the situation and sustain heavy losses. The quarries in Khillet Haja have been closed for two weeks now, since the raid on 14 March. We tried several times to get permits for the quarries, but all our requests were denied with a variety of excuses.”

*The testimony was given on 27 March 2016.

Protest To Free Sami Janazrah And Stop G4S: 13 May, New York City; “Support The Palestinian People, The Palestinian Prisoners, The Palestinian Resistance, And The Liberation Of Palestine, From The River To The Sea”



May 7, 2016 by samidoun via Joe Catron

**Friday, 13 May
4:00 pm
G4S Office - 19 W. 44th St
New York City**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/526171634238766/>

On Friday, Palestinian political prisoner Sami Janazrah will reach the 72nd day of a hunger strike to protest his “administrative detention,” military internment by Israeli occupation forces without charge or trial.

Janazrah, age 43, is a father of three from al-Fawwar refugee camp near Hebron and one of 700 “administrative detainees” out of 7,000 Palestinian political prisoners held by Israel.

G4S, the world’s largest security company and second-biggest private employer, equips Israeli prisons and detention centers where Palestinian political prisoners are held and tortured, as well as the occupation forces and infrastructure that routinely massacre Palestinians while holding millions under military rule.

Join us to answer a united appeal by Palestinian prisoners for escalated boycotts of G4S.

Demand G4S immediately end its contracts with Israeli prisons and detention centers, occupation and security forces and checkpoints, and that Israel release administrative detainees and all Palestinian political prisoners.

Support the Palestinian people, the Palestinian prisoners, the Palestinian Resistance, and the liberation of Palestine, from the river to the sea.

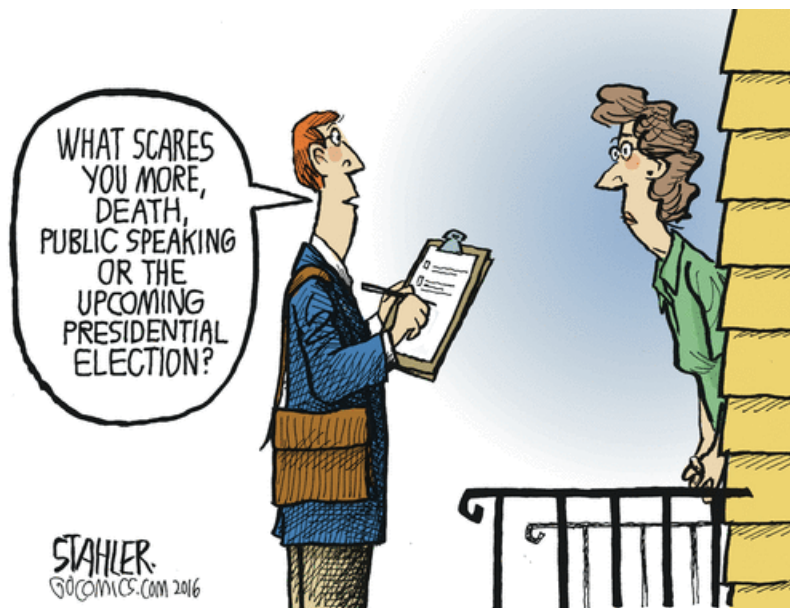
To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to:

<http://www.maannews.net/eng/Default.aspx> and

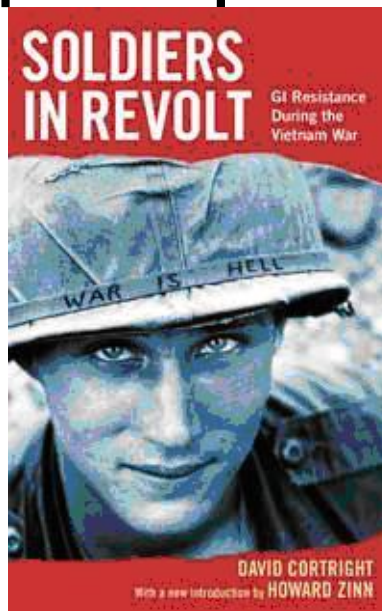
<http://www.palestinemonitor.org/list.php?id=ej898ra7yff0ukmf16>

The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves “Israeli.”

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



**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 In PDF Format?

If you prefer PDF to Word format, email: contact@militaryproject.org

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> .

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.