

## Military Resistance 14F9



## Graduating Undocumented And Proud:

**“Two Texas High School Valedictorians Used The Occasion Of Their Graduation To Announce To The World Their Status As Undocumented Immigrants”**

**“Close Your Eyes And Picture Yourself In The Future Saying, ‘They Told Me I Couldn't, So I Did’”**



Mayte Lara (left) and Larissa Martinez

June 23, 2016 by Mike Corwin, Socialist Worker

Two Texas high school valedictorians used the occasion of their graduation to announce to the world their status as undocumented immigrants.

Their courageous declarations inspired many people in the fight for immigration justice-- but also spurred an ugly, racist backlash.

In early June, Mayte Lara, a 17-year-old graduate from Austin, posted to Twitter to declare her pride in being class valedictorian and receiving a full scholarship at the University of Texas.

She added, "Oh, and I'm undocumented."

On the very same day that Mayte posted her tweet, Larissa Martinez gave the valedictory speech at a graduation ceremony in McKinney, Texas, a suburb of Dallas (also the site of a notorious incident of police abuse of a Black teenager last summer).

At the ceremony, Larissa announced she wouldn't be giving the "traditional Hallmark" valedictorian speech and declared, "I am one of the 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the shadows of the United States."

Both students have temporary residence in the U.S. via Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), a program allowing undocumented people who migrated to the U.S. as children to request a deportation deferral. While DACA status allows for work and study, it must be renewed every two years, leaving the long-term fate of people like Larissa and Mayte uncertain.

In her speech, Larissa, who migrated to the U.S. as an 11-year-old and is bound for the Yale University in the fall, described her situation as someone "here without official

documentation because the U.S. immigration system is broken” and who suffers “dehumanizing accusations” from the media and politicians.

To cheers from the audience, Larissa pleaded for understanding for “people like me, who have become part of American society and way of life, and who yearn to make America great again--without the construction of wall built on hate and prejudice”--a none-too-subtle reference to the bigoted politics of Republican candidates Donald Trump.

As racism and immigrant-bashing has taken center stage in U.S. politics due to the Trumps of the world, Mayte and Larissa's brave declarations were warmly received by many of those living in the shadows of the U.S. immigration system and their supporters.

Student “DREAMers” in particular have been on the front lines of the fight for immigration justice, challenging President Barack Obama for his cruel policy of home raids and ramped up deportations. It's largely due to the DREAMers' determined activism that the Obama administration instituted the DACA program in 2012.

Mayte's tweet went super-viral, garnering 20,000 “likes,” a response she says she never expected. As the news about Larissa and Mayte spread, several more Texas students came out publicly as undocumented to discuss their struggles.

Austin school district officials have generally been supportive of Mayte. The district has co-sponsored clinics to assist students navigating the process of applying for DACA status, and last year, Superintendent Paul Cruz, along with other district officials and teachers, took photos holding signs that said, “I am an unafraid educator. I work with and for undocumented students.”

Sadly but predictably, Larissa and Mayte had to also endure a racist backlash. As Mayte's tweet went viral, it attracted the attention of Internet haters, who heaped a torrent of abuse on her and ultimately compelled her to deactivate her Twitter account. Some of the online bigots claimed to have reported Mayte to immigration authorities and reported her status to her employer. Others accused Mayte of “stealing” her place at the University of Texas (UT) this fall and her scholarship from a more deserving “legal citizen.”

UT officials responded by flatly pointing out that state law allows for a one-year tuition waiver to valedictorians of Texas public high schools, “without regard to their residency status.”

Mayte's declaration may become a touchstone in the ongoing fight in state politics over access to “in-state” tuition rates for undocumented students at Texas' public universities, where higher tuition rates for “out-of-state” students approximate those of a private college. Texas' last legislative session saw the introduction of a bill that would bar undocumented students from access to in-state tuition rates. While that bill stalled out, we may see in next year's legislative session the reintroduction of such proposals from conservative state leaders who have made immigrant-bashing a hallmark of their politics.

Weeks after Mayte graduated, she appeared in person at an Austin school board meeting along with a group of students and educators to support a proposed board

resolution that would establish that the school district is a safe place for undocumented students.

Mayte told the board, “I know many students that are in the position I'm in, and I don't want them to feel afraid...It's not fair for them to feel like there's no one out there to help.”

Despite the harassment she endured, Mayte told reporters, “If I could go back to that day knowing what I know now, would I not (post that tweet)? I think I'd still do it because the positives outweigh the negatives.”

All of this highlights the bravery and importance of the stand taken by these Texas students, and all the DREAMers who have been coming out to the world about their undocumented status and pressing for a permanent and fair resolution to the uncertainties they and their families face.

Larissa captured this spirit in the closing words of her graduation speech, saying simply, “In those moments when you need a reason to continue moving forward, close your eyes and picture yourself in the future saying, 'They told me I couldn't, so I did.'”

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## **SOMALIA WAR REPORTS**

### **Insurgent Attack On Mogadishu Hotel Kills Government Minister: “We Attacked The Hotel Which Was Frequented By The Apostate Government Members”**



Reuters

Jun 26, 2016 By Abdi Sheikh and Feisal Omar, Reuters [Excerpts]

MOGADISHU

Somalia's al Shabaab Islamist group launched a bomb attack on a hotel in the center of Mogadishu on Saturday before fighters stormed inside, police and the militant group said.

Environment Minister Buri Mohamed Hamza was among at least 15 people killed at the hotel.

Others were wounded.

Gunfire had echoed round the seaside capital after the blast and ambulances raced to the scene. Police later said fighting had ended but they were searching the site for militants.

"We attacked the hotel which was frequented by the apostate government members," al Shabaab military operations spokesman Sheikh Abdiasis Abu Musab told Reuters. He said at least 20 guards and civilians were killed.

Al Shabaab frequently carries out attacks in the capital in its bid to topple the Western-backed government.

Police said the initial blast was caused by a bomber before fighters stormed into the Nasahablood hotel, leading to a heavy exchange of gunfire. Officers said some people had managed to escape through the rear of the building.

"The operation has now ended but we are still combing the building for any possible militants who are hiding," Major Ali Mohamed, a police officer, told Reuters.

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## **POLICE WAR REPORTS**

### **Jessica Williams, 29, Killed By SF Police:**

**“Williams Was Trying To Dislodge The  
Vehicle, By Shifting It Forward And In  
Reverse When The Sergeant Fired One  
Shot, Striking Her”**



A memorial of flowers, candles and other offerings at the scene where San Francisco police fatally shot a woman on Helena street near Elmira street in the Bayview neighborhood May 20, 2016 in San Francisco, Calif. According to a police witness, officers began pursuing a car that came up as stolen in their system and after the woman crashed the car into a parked vehicle, she was shot once while officers tried to remove her from the car and she died from the gunshot wound.

May 21, 2016 By Kevin Schultz, SF Gate

The woman who was shot and killed by a San Francisco police sergeant Thursday morning after she allegedly attempted to flee officers in a suspected stolen car was identified Friday by the medical examiner as Jessica Williams, 29.

Williams, who the medical examiner said was from the Bay Area, died at San Francisco General Hospital.

Police said there was no immediate indication that the woman was armed or had been driving the car toward officers when she was shot.

Williams was shot one time, and despite the on-scene officers' attempt to resuscitate her, she died Thursday at San Francisco General Hospital, the officials said.

Williams' family has been notified of her death, the medical examiner said.

Thursday's shooting was what many community members and city authorities called the last straw in excessive force from police, more specifically against people of color, igniting a chain of events that ended with Police Chief Greg Suhr's forced resignation later in the day.

Mayor Ed Lee, who for weeks had brushed off calls from critics of Suhr to fire him, asked for the chief's resignation during a lengthy meeting with him Thursday afternoon. Lee announced at a City Hall news conference about 5 p.m. Thursday that Suhr had tendered his resignation.

The officers involved in Thursday morning's shooting, a Bayview station sergeant and another officer, have not been identified by police officials. They were working a special enforcement project that seeks to recover stolen vehicles.

The officers tried to apprehend Williams after spotting her in a parked, stolen car about 9:45 a.m. at Elmira Street near Interstate 280, Suhr told reporters Thursday at the scene. But a witness said she sped away, making it only 100 feet before crashing into a parked utility truck.

The white sedan Williams was driving became wedged beneath the truck, police said. Williams was trying to dislodge the vehicle, by shifting it forward and in reverse, and was not complying with police orders, Suhr said, when the sergeant fired one shot, striking her.

Police removed Williams from the car and began cardiopulmonary resuscitation before paramedics arrived at the scene and took her to the hospital, Suhr said.

There was no immediate indication that she was armed, police at the scene said, but added that they planned to search the vehicle for weapons.

Police said the investigation into the shooting of Williams is still in its early stages.

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## **Video Shows LA Probation Officers Brutally Beating Teenager In Detention Center: “Officers Lunge In His Direction, Slam Him On A Concrete Cot, Pile On Top Of Him, And Beat Him” “A Supervisor Comes In To Watch”**

20 June 16 By Carimah Townes, ThinkProgress

As Los Angeles County reforms the largest juvenile justice system in the country, a new, damning video shows that the culture of abuse within that system remains intact. In surveillance footage leaked by whistleblowers inside a detention center, four probation officers are seen pummeling a teenager in a holding room.

The silent video, recorded at L.A. County's Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall in Sylmar, shows the teen exchanging words with several officers standing in the room. All of a sudden, three officers lunge in his direction, slam him on a concrete cot, pile on top of

him, and beat him. At one point, a fourth officer enters the room and joins in the beating, and moments later a supervisor comes in to watch.

Unidentified workers inside the facility sent the footage to WitnessLA, a local news source that refused to publish the video in full because the teenager is a minor. The news site published a series of screenshots online and included a detailed timeline of everything that occurred.

**According to editor Celeste Fremon, the teenager's shorts were pulled down to his knees by the time the officers exited the room. When he tried to stand up and walk, he fell over in pain.**

"There is still a culture of brutality against juveniles, and they are very upset about it," Fremon said of the whistleblowers in an interview with ABC 7.

There are approximately 1,200 kids and teenagers in L.A. County's monstrous juvenile justice system, which is made up of 16 juvenile halls and camps. Many of them live in deplorable conditions.

A scathing report released in March likened the main juvenile detention center to a "Third World country prison," where young people are surrounded by walls covered in urine and scum and don't have their own running water. A separate report concluded that youth in the system have little access to counseling and educational programming, even though juvenile detention is supposed to be rehabilitative in nature. Programs that are available are treated as privileges.

And countless juveniles have spent hours, days, and years in solitary confinement, which scientists and criminal justice experts consider a form of psychological torture, for minor infractions like sharing food. When they're locked away in isolated units for extended periods of times, juveniles are denied rehabilitative services altogether and experience a wide range of mental health problems.

But in light of these abuses, lawmakers are slowly trying to fix the system. In May, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors banned the use of solitary confinement. At the time, Supervisor Sheila Kuehl said, "We can't afford to treat these youngsters in this manner and expect that when they get out, they're going to be OK."

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**Piece Of Shit Who Planted A Bullet In  
A Murder Suspect's Backpack Gets  
No Jail Time:  
"Officers Who Are Caught Falsifying  
Statements, Tampering With Evidence Or**



# Committing Perjury Are Rarely Punished At All”



Kyle Baars. (photo: fox6now)

12 June 16 By Carimah Townes, ThinkProgress

During a sentencing hearing earlier this month, a Wisconsin police officer who confessed to planting evidence during a murder investigation faced one year of jail time and a second year of probation.

But after pleading with a judge to cut him some slack, the officer won't go to jail after all.

In April 2014, Kyle Baars of the Kenosha Police Department was one of several officers tasked with looking for evidence in a murder case. During a house search, Baars told a colleague that he found a backpack with one of the primary suspect's ID card, as well as a .22 caliber bullet.

Months later, Baars admitted to a detective that he'd planted both items.

The planted evidence was not used during the murder trial, although the suspect was later convicted. Baars resigned in 2015, and was charged with misconduct in a public office and obstruction. He was convicted in April following a guilty plea to misconduct. But instead of serving a year in jail and a year of probation, he convinced a judge to keep him out of jail because he freely admitted his wrongdoing.

“This was not uncovered,” he said. “I was not confronted with this. I was literally the first person to bring this to the attention of the appropriate people.” He also claimed that he testified with the understanding that he wouldn't be prosecuted, due to a deal he made with a district attorney, which prosecutors refuted. “To be honest I can't help but feel I've been penalized for trying to do the right thing.”

According to Baars' lawyer, the officer was worried the murder suspect would walk free, so he did what he could to prevent that from happening. “The fact of not having ever seen a murder victim before and being afraid that something like this, the people who did it go free,” Attorney Mark Richard argued at the sentencing hearing.

Judge Chad Kerkman, who presided over the case, told Baars that he was fully responsible.

“You're the person who put yourself in that seat right now,” he said. “People should be able to trust law enforcement and you violated that trust.”

Yet the judge ultimately took jail time off the table. Instead, he sentenced Baars to one year of probation and 80 hours of community service.

It's difficult to discern how common planting evidence is, as no government agencies regularly investigate and track the practice. But officers who are caught falsifying statements, tampering with evidence or committing perjury are rarely punished at all.

For instance, the Chicago Tribune discovered that Cook County cops who lied about crucial details, including where they were when a crime was committed, weren't pressed or disciplined by judges. A WNYC investigation found at least 120 officers with documented credibility issues, most of whom kept their jobs.

Recently, however, video footage has been the key to cracking down on police who lie.

In Chicago, Jason Van Dyke said Laquan McDonald was lunging with his knife, but dash cam footage proved otherwise. Officer Ray Tensing of the Cincinnati Police Department claimed he fired his gun because as he was being dragged by Sam Dubose's car. Body camera footage showed that the car was not moving when Tensing shot Dubose in the head. And in South Carolina, a witness recorded Walter Scott running away from Officer Michael Slager when he was shot in the back. Before video of the shooting was released, Slager said Scott was attempting to grab his taser.

All three officers were charged.

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**



**“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.**

**“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”**

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

**Frederick Douglass, 1852**

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

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

## **Agent Orange America's Trail of Tears**



Orphanage in Hanoi, Vietnam April 2016. Photo by Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie  
To: Military Resistance Newsletter  
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2016  
Subject: Agent Orange America's Trail of Tears

### **Agent Orange America's Trail of Tears**

**The U.S. Government called it: "Operation Ranch Hand."  
It had a Western swagger to it.  
Cowboys and Indians in Vietnam.  
70 million liters of Dioxin Death.  
The arrogance of power has no mercy.  
The U.S. even sprayed its own troops.  
The U.S. sprayed this child's ancestors.  
The War Crime Legacy has been passed down.  
He has an arm missing and a hand disfigured.  
And the Vietnamese will continue to suffer  
for generations to come.  
Poison food, cancer, mental illness, born  
with no eyes, no limbs, and contorted bodies.  
Operation Ranch Hand.  
An American swagger.  
Wrapping children in Small Pox blankets.  
The arrogance of power has no mercy.  
The arrogance of power has never stopped.**

**Mike Hastie  
Army Medic Vietnam  
June 20, 2016**

**Photo and caption from the portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact [hastiemike@earthlink.net](mailto:hastiemike@earthlink.net))**

**One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.**

**Mike Hastie  
U.S. Army Medic  
Vietnam 1970-71  
December 13, 2004**

## **England Arise 2:**

# **“The EU Organizes A Section Of The International Ruling Class, Not The Working Class”**

**“It Is Sometimes Claimed That The  
Internationalist Position Is To Remain  
Within The EU Because It Is An  
International Organization”**

**“So Too Are NATO, The IMF And The  
World Bank”**

June 20, 2016 by Neil Davidson, Socialist Worker [Excerpt]

Socialists have to tell the truth about the EU--that it is an un-reformable machine for deepening and extending neoliberalism--and we have to tell it now, not at a more convenient time which may never arrive.

And then we have to draw the necessary conclusions.

A British departure from the EU would not cause a fatal crisis for British capitalism--there is no need for us to resort to the same exaggerations as our enemies--but it would cause it a number of problems and open up a political situation in which the left could intervene.

Above all, it would intensify the crisis of the Tory Party, which is potentially facing its greatest division since Irish Home Rule in the 1880s, or even the repeal of the Corn Laws in the 1840s.

Left Remainers always seem to assume that, after a vote to Leave, the Tories--elected by 25 percent of those eligible to vote, having presided over a referendum outcome opposed by most of the capitalist class they are supposed to represent, and now engaged in open civil war--will be in power until the end of time, or at least until 2020. But the Scottish Indyref, Corbyn's victory and the Bernie Sanders' campaign have all shown us the volatility of contemporary politics, and the speed with which situations can be transformed in quite unexpected ways, providing the left has not disarmed itself first.

But what would the attitude of the EU be to a Corbyn-led Labour Government or a newly independent Scottish Government which wanted to carry out the kind of serious reforms--renationalization of key services, increased taxes on wealth, repeal of the anti-trade union laws, a massive public house building program--which would be necessary after 40 years of neoliberal capitalism?

To ask the question is to answer it: any course of radical action is simply incompatible with membership of the EU and adherence to its “rules.”

It is sometimes claimed that the internationalist position is to remain within the EU because it is an international organization. It is--but then again, so too are NATO, the IMF and the World Bank.

The EU organizes a section of the international ruling class, not the working class.

As Trotsky once wrote in another context, a brake cannot be used as an accelerator. There are no EU-wide political parties or trade unions or movements.

In any case, solidarity across borders does not depend on constitutions or institutions, but on the willingness of workers to support each other, even if in separate countries. The struggle against neoliberal capitalism is unlikely to begin simultaneously across the whole of the EU, or to be confined within its boundaries.

What we are likely to see is an uneven series of movements of different intensities, within different nation-states which, if victorious, could form new alliance and ultimately a United Socialist States of Europe. But that will involve destroying the EU and replacing it with institutions that represent our interests and not those of our ruling classes.

**MORE:**

## **Stupids Still Don't Get It: Kinzer Does**

June 25, 2016 by Stephen Kinzer, Boston Globe

The EU has not listened to its constituents.

Like other self-absorbed ruling classes, including those in the United States, it is now paying for its arrogance.

**MORE:**

## **“Whoever Expects A ‘Pure’ Social Revolution Will Never Live To See It”**

**Comment: T**

**The mixture of revolutionary and reactionary formations described below applies as well to uprisings from below in general, including the recent vote to repudiate the executive committee of European national ruling classes called the European Union.**

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July 1916 by V. I. Lenin. [Excerpts]

Published in October 1916 in Sbornik Sotsial-Demokrata No. 1. Signed: N. Lenin.  
Published according to the Sbornik text.

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**To imagine that social revolution is conceivable without revolts by small nations in the colonies and in Europe, without revolutionary outbursts by a section of the petty bourgeoisie with all its prejudices, without a movement of the politically non-conscious proletarian and semi-proletarian masses against oppression by the landowners, the church, and the monarchy, against national oppression, etc.--to imagine all this is to repudiate social revolution.**

**So one army lines up in one place and says, "We are for socialism", and another, somewhere else and says, "We are for imperialism", and that will be the social revolution?**

**Whoever expects a "pure" social revolution will never live to see it.**

Such a person pays lip-service to revolution without understanding what revolution is.

The Russian Revolution of 1905 was a bourgeois-democratic revolution.

It consisted of a series of battles in which all the discontented classes, groups and elements of the population participated.

**Among these there were masses imbued with the crudest prejudices, with the vaguest and most fantastic aims of struggle; there were small groups which accepted Japanese money, there were speculators and adventurers, etc.**

**But objectively, the mass movement was breaking the back of tsarism and paving the way for democracy; for this reason the class-conscious workers led it.**

The socialist revolution in Europe cannot be anything other than an outburst of mass struggle on the part of all and sundry oppressed and discontented elements.

**Inevitably, sections of the petty bourgeoisie and of the backward workers will participate in it—without such participation, mass struggle is impossible, without it no revolution is possible—and just as inevitably will they bring into the movement their prejudices, their reactionary fantasies, their weaknesses and errors.**

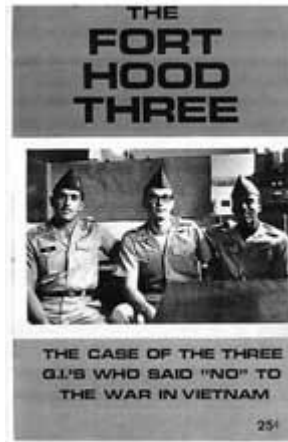
### **YOUR INVITATION:**

**Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2472 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025 or email**

[contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

## ANNIVERSARIES

# June 30, 1966: Three Fort Hood Soldiers Refuse Vietnam War Deployment “Large Numbers Of Men In The Service Either Do Not Understand This War Or Are Against It”



Carl Bunin Peace History June 28 - July 4

The first GIs—known as the Fort Hood Three, U.S. Army Privates James Johnson, Dennis Mora and David Samas—refused to be sent to Vietnam.

All were members of the 142<sup>nd</sup> Signal Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Division stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. The three were from working-class families, and had denounced the war as “immoral, illegal and unjust.” They were arrested, court-martialed and imprisoned.

The Pentagon reported 503,926 “incidents of desertion” between 1966 and 1971.

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From NIU.EDU



## JOINT STATEMENT BY FORT HOOD THREE

*The following statement was read to over 40 cameramen, reporters, and antiwar fighters at a press conference in New York on June 30th. The statement was prepared jointly and read by Pvt. Dennis Mora.*

We are Pfc. James Johnson, Pvt. David Samas, and Pvt. Dennis Mora, three soldiers formerly stationed at Fort Hood, Texas in the same company of the 142 Signal Battalion, 2nd Armored Division. We have received orders to report on the 13th of July at Oakland Army Terminal in California for final processing and shipment to Vietnam.

We have decided to take a stand against this war, which we consider immoral, illegal and unjust. We are initiating today, through our attorneys, Stanley Faulkner of New York and Mrs. Selma Samols of Washington, D.C. an action in the courts to enjoin the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Army from sending us to Vietnam. We intend to report as ordered to the Oakland Army Terminal, but under no circumstances will we board ship for Vietnam.

We are prepared to face Court Martial if necessary.

We represent in our backgrounds a cross section of the Army and of America. James Johnson is a Negro, David Samas is of Lithuanian and Italian parents, Dennis Mora is a Puerto Rican. We speak as American soldiers.

**We have been in the army long enough to know that we are not the only G.I.'s who feel as we do. Large numbers of men in the service either do not understand this war or are against it.**

When we entered the army Vietnam was for us only a newspaper box score of G.I.'s and Viet Cong killed or wounded. We were all against it in one way or another, but we were willing to "go along with the program," believing that we would not be sent to Vietnam.

We were told from the very first day of our induction that we were headed for Vietnam. During basic training it was repeated often by sergeants and officers, and soon it became another meaningless threat that was used to make us take our training seriously.

But later on Vietnam became a fact of life when some one you knew wondered how he could break the news to his girl, wife, or family that he was being sent there.

After he solved that problem, he had to find a reason that would satisfy him. The reasons were many-"Somebody's got to do it," "When your number's up, your number's up ... .. The pay is good," and "You've got to stop them someplace" were phrases heard in the barracks and mess hall, and used by soldiers to encourage each other to accept the war as their own. Besides, what could be done about it anyway? Orders are orders.

As we saw more and more of this, the war became the one thing we talked about most and the one point we all agreed upon. No one wanted to go and more than that, there was no reason for anyone to go.

The Viet Cong obviously had the moral and physical support of most of the peasantry who were fighting for their independence. We were told that you couldn't tell them apart- that they looked like any other skinny peasant.

Our man or our men in Saigon has and have always been brutal dictators, since Diem first violated the 1954 Geneva promise of free elections in 1956.

The Buddhist and military revolt in all the major cities proves that the people of the cities also want an end to Ky and U.S. support for him. The Saigon Army has become the advisor to American G.I.'s who have to take over the fighting.

**No one used the word "winning" anymore because in Vietnam it has no meaning.**

**Our officers just talk about five and ten more years of war with at least ½ million of our boys thrown into the grinder.**

We have been told that many times we may face a Vietnamese woman or child and that we will have to kill them. We will never go there-to do that for Ky.

We know that Negroes and Puerto Ricans are being drafted and end up in the worst of the fighting all out of proportion to their numbers in the population; and we have first hand knowledge that these are the ones who have been deprived of decent education and jobs at home.

The three of us, while stationed together, talked a lot and found we thought alike on one over-riding issue-the war in Vietnam must be stopped. It was all talk and we had no intentions of getting into trouble by making waves at that stage.

Once back in Texas we were told that we were on levy to Vietnam. All we had discussed and thought about now was real. It was time for us to quit talking and decide. Go to Vietnam and ignore the truth or stand and fight for what we know is right. We have made our decision. We will not be a part of this unjust, immoral, and illegal war.

We want no part of a war of extermination. We oppose the criminal waste of American lives and resources.

We refuse to go to Vietnam!!

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## **CLASS WAR REPORTS**

# **Mexican Regime Unleashes Killer Assault On Protesters In Oaxaca:**

**“The Police Assault Included Tear  
Gas, Rubber Bullets And Live  
Ammunition Fired Indiscriminately  
Into The Crowd”**

**“Police Denied The Injured Access  
To The Local Hospital--As A Result,  
Five More People Are Dead From The  
Initial Confrontation”**

**The Repression On Sunday Was  
Followed By A Courageous March Of  
Tens Of Thousands To The Zócalo In  
Oaxaca City**



Federal police unleashed a deadly assault on protesters in Oaxaca

June 23, 2016 Socialist Worker

**Writing from Oaxaca, Afsaneh Moradian and Rene Gonzalez Pizarro, a member of the teachers' union and former delegate to its General Assembly, report on the state violence and the background to the struggle.**

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Oaxaca, Mexico, is once again making international headlines as frightening video spreads of police violence against public school teachers, parents and community members protesting the government's education reform schemes and heavy-handed repression against dissent.

On Sunday, June 19, federal police cracked down on a blockade concentrated just outside of the town of Nochixtlan on the only highway that enters Oaxaca directly from Mexico City. After a three-day standoff, the police broke through a barricade of cars, tires, stones and tree trunks, with hundreds of protesters standing with it.

The police assault included tear gas, rubber bullets and live ammunition fired indiscriminately into the crowd.

Three people were killed instantly and as many as 100 were injured. Police denied the injured access to the local hospital--as a result, five more people are dead from the initial confrontation.

Seven people disappeared, and 23 were arrested and placed in federal prison facilities, possibly to be transported to prisons in other states, as is the government's common practice.

Community members reacted to the shootings by holding two federal police officers hostage for three days.

**In response to the brutality, communities further along the highway in Oaxaca immediately began mobilizing to stop police from entering Oaxaca City and reaching the teachers' protest encampment in the city center, or zócalo.**

Viewing the killings as an act of war, people burned tires and cars, and physically confronted the police over a 3.5-mile stretch of the highway in a total of 10 skirmishes by that Sunday evening. One more protester was killed in these clashes.

**This savage repression is being reported by the media as limited to Oaxacan teachers and the police, but the movement has grown far beyond the teachers' union.**

The resistance throughout Sunday was largely a community effort, with teachers being joined by parents and other community members from neighboring towns as well. Of the nine confirmed deaths, only one was a teacher, and a majority of those arrested were community members.

**The repression on Sunday was followed by a march of tens of thousands to the zócalo in Oaxaca City.**

Professors and students at the largest public university walked out to join the demonstration. Smaller marches have also been held in various neighborhoods of the city to mourn the deaths of protesters and denounce the government.

**On Wednesday, the blockade resumed in Nochixtlan. Meanwhile, there were marches for health care workers, joined by teachers and NGOs around Mexico, including Oaxaca and Mexico City.**

There is wide support for teachers and opposition to the federal government's education "reform" law they have been protesting, which not only clears the way for public school privatization but is clearly directed at breaking the power of the teachers' union.

But the anger runs much deeper, including other recent proposals and enacted laws to privatize Mexico's oil production facilities and the country's public health care system.

There is also deep suspicion of the federal police--and therefore opposition to the government summoning them in the first place.

### **“Police Are Sent To Gas And Kill Teachers And Community Members To Clear The Way For Commerce”**

The latest phase of the Oaxaca teachers' struggle began in mid-May with an all-out three-day strike. The majority of teachers were forced by law to return to work, but those at schools with community support were able to stay out longer and participate in nonviolent direct actions.

The protests intensified after the top two elected leaders of the teachers' union in Oaxaca--Section 22 of the Mexican National Education Workers Union (SNTE)--were arrested.

One action was to set up a checkpoint outside of Oaxaca City and deny passage to tractor-trailer trucks bringing products to large stores, many of which are transnational retailers such as Home Depot, Office Depot and Walmart. After a week of trucks being stopped, the federal police were called in to clear the way.

Meanwhile, in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, in southeastern Oaxaca, several more blockades were set up--the largest blocked an oil refinery and stopped all gasoline from being distributed throughout the state for one day. Federal police moved against the Isthmus blockades on June 17 and 18, using tear gas and rubber bullets. Several people were injured, and many more were inspired to join the blockades in support of teachers.

There is deep bitterness in Oaxaca against the mobilization of the federal police. The police have never once been mobilized against a single narco-trafficker, nor called in to search for the missing 43 students of Ayotzinapa, and nothing has been done regarding the 25,000 people who were disappeared in 2015 alone.

Instead, police are sent to gas and kill teachers and community members to clear the way for commerce.

Teachers in many states have been protesting the education reform law since it was passed under newly inaugurated President Enrique Peña Nieto in 2013.

Since 2015, more than 2,000 teachers have been fired for refusing to take the new standardized teacher evaluation, the results of which can initiate a process to fire tenured teachers.

The protests have included teachers who are not members of the National Coordinating Council of Education Workers (CNTE), the dissident formation within the national teachers' union. That shows how widespread the discontent is: that teachers are involved who previously went along with the national union SNTE, with its pro-government positions, in states such as Jalisco, Monterrey and Estado de Mexico.

**It's abundantly clear to teachers and many parents that the reform will do nothing to improve education, but is meant to attack tenure and implement more standardized testing for students and teachers.**

In a country where many schools in the south of the country don't have proper facilities such as floors or running water, and where children are distracted by hunger, this law does nothing to improve the conditions of learning.

For years now, public education has ceased to be free--the financial responsibility for supplying materials and maintaining schools, including paying the electricity bill in some cases, falls on parents.

Oaxaca was one of four states where teachers went on strike on May 15--educators in Chiapas, Michoacán and Guerrero also closed their schools. The education reform law has a provision that any teacher who misses more than three consecutive days of work is automatically fired.

After four days of the strike, Secretary of Education Aurelio Nuño Mayer announced that more than 4,000 teachers across the four states had lost their jobs.

Blockades were immediately set up in the state of Chiapas to confront police in an effort to stop the termination notices from being distributed. Police attacked the blockades with tear gas, leaving several teachers injured.

Chiapas has seen an outpouring of support for the teachers, with every gas station hanging a banner that reads "Dialogue Now."

### **“Close To 1 Million Doctors And Nurses Marched Through Mexico City's Zócalo On June 17”**

In Mexico City, Nuño has refused to speak with representatives of the CNTE. Teachers from all over Mexico have been camped out in Mexico City as part of a rotating protest encampment that began in 2013 when the law was being considered.

After the crackdown in Oaxaca this past Sunday, there is greater support now for the encampment and urgent demands for a meeting with the government to discuss the education law.

University students, academics, intellectuals and artists marched in support of teachers and publicly backed them.

There are also plans to unite the teachers' struggle with that of health care workers, who are currently protesting a proposed law aimed at privatization in the public health care system. Close to 1 million doctors and nurses marched through Mexico City's zócalo on June 17.

Education Secretary Nuño, Secretary of the Interior Miguel Ángel Osorio Chong and President Peña Nieto are responsible for the deaths and police repression in Oaxaca and beyond. They are the ones refusing to meet with the teachers' union to discuss how the education law will be implemented--though Chong reportedly bowed to international pressure and agreed to meet leaders from Section 22 in Oaxaca.

However, Nuño has refused to agree to even a dialogue, much less negotiation. His response to the repression in Oaxaca came 50 hours later on June 21, when he said, "Education reform is a process that will continue and will not be delayed."

**President Peña Nieto offered his condolences to the grieving families, but his words ring hollow since he is implicated in the order given to the federal police to shoot to kill.**

International solidarity is urgent, not only to pressure the government into talks with the teachers' union, but to hold these government leaders responsible for the nine deaths, the many injuries, the arrests and repression.

**The resistance will continue.**

**As one teacher in Oaxaca said in an interview: "As long as we have the support of communities and parents, we must continue protesting against education reform and the other structural reforms they want to implement with the cost of the blood of many Mexicans."**

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## **OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

# **Palestinian Astrophysicist Charged With Incitement In Military Court:**

**“Too Dangerous” With 4682  
Facebook Friends;  
“Over 150 Palestinians Have Been  
Arrested And Accused Of “Incitement”  
For Posting On Social Media, Most  
Commonly For Posts In Support Of  
Palestinian Resistance”**



June 14, 2016 Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network

Palestinian astrophysicist Imad Barghouthi faced a second hearing yesterday, 13 June in Israeli military court. Barghouthi, 54, is a professor of space plasma physics at Al-Quds University; he was arrested on 24 April as he traveled from Nabi Saleh to his home in Beit Rima.

Barghouthi, whose work is internationally renowned and who has received the support of scientists and academics around the world, was ordered to three months in administrative detention, imprisonment without charge or trial.

Originally, his administrative detention order was decreased to two months, and then his release ordered after a month of imprisonment, following his lawyer, Jawad Boulos, presenting the statements and petitions of hundreds of international scientists supporting Barghouthi's case.

Most recently, the University and College Union, a UK union representing over 100,000 academic workers, researchers and others, passed a resolution at its Congress calling for Barghouthi's release and pledging to write Israeli and British officials, and distribute a Samidoun alert on the case.

However, instead of releasing Barghouthi, the Israeli military prosecution charged the professor with “incitement” for his writings on Facebook.



Over 150 Palestinians have been arrested and accused of “incitement” for posting on social media, most commonly for posts in support of Palestinian resistance or with praise or mourning for Palestinians killed by Israeli occupation forces.

**At the military court hearing yesterday, the military judge rejected a plea to release Barghouthi to house arrest – where he would be kept from his own home and denied access to the internet; instead, he was ordered imprisoned until the end of the process, arguing that he was “too dangerous” to be released.**

**The military indictment lists numerous counts – all of which are Facebook posts, and labels Barghouthi an “influential public figure,” because he has 4962 Facebook “friends” and 1684 Facebook “followers.”**

The military trial itself – where this indictment will be read and Barghouthi asked for a reply – will begin on 12 July.

Take action! It is critically important for people around the world to make their voices heard and demand the release of Imad Barghouthi and his fellow Palestinian prisoners.

1. Protest at the Israeli consulate or embassy in your area. Bring posters and flyers about the imprisonment of Palestinians, including academics like Imad Barghouthi, and hold a protest, or join a protest with this important information. Hold a community event or discussion, or include this issue in your next event about Palestine and social justice. Please email us at [samidoun@samidoun.net](mailto:samidoun@samidoun.net) to inform us of your action – we will publicize and share news with the prisoners.
2. Contact political officials in your country – members of Parliament or Congress, or the Ministry/Department of Foreign Affairs or State – and demand that they cut aid and relations with Israel on the basis of its apartheid practices, its practice of colonialism, and its numerous violations of Palestinian rights including the systematic practice of administrative detention and the injustice of military trials. Demand they pressure Israel to free Palestinian prisoners and end administrative detention. In the United States, call the Israel/Palestine Bureau at the State Department at 202-647-3930 and the White House – 202-456-1111. Demand action on Barghouthi’s case and an end to aid to Israel. In the UK, call UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Philip Hammond, MP, +44 20 7008 1500. In Canada, call Foreign Minister Stephane Dion: 613-996-5789.
3. Boycott, Divest and Sanction. Hold Israel accountable for its violations of international law. Don’t buy Israeli goods, and campaign to end investments in corporations that profit from the occupation. G4S, a global security corporation, is heavily involved in providing services to Israeli prisons that jail Palestinian political prisoners – there is a global call to boycott it. Palestinian political prisoners have issued a specific call urging action on G4S. Learn more about BDS at [bdsmovement.net](http://bdsmovement.net).

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## Oops, Sorry About That:

**Palestinian Boy Coming Home  
From The Swimming Pool  
'Mistakenly' Killed By Occupation  
Troops After British Man Injured In  
Rock Throwing Attack:  
“Mahmoud And Several Of His  
Cousins Were Returning Home From  
A Late-Night Swim In The Village Of  
Beit Sira When They Were Shot”  
“It Is The Start Of Summer And He Was  
Just Out For A Swim And He Was Killed”**



Mahmoud Rafaat Badran

21 June 2016 By Raf Sanchez, Jerusalem; Telegraph Media Group Limited

A Palestinian teen coming home from the swimming pool was killed by Israeli troops on Tuesday as they chased another group of youths who threw rocks at cars and injured a British tourist and his Belgian wife.

A group of young Palestinians hurled stones and Molotov cocktails at cars driving on an Israeli motorway in the occupied West Bank in the early hours of Tuesday morning, according to the Israeli military.

The British man and his Belgian wife were both lightly injured in the attack and were treated and released at a Jerusalem hospital.

Israeli forces pursuing the rock throwers then opened fire on a Palestinian car driving nearby, killing 15-year-old Mahmoud Rafaat Badran and wounding four other Palestinian teenagers.

The Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) said after the shooting that it appeared none of them was involved in the rock throwing.

“From the initial inquiry it appears that uninvolved bystanders were mistakenly hit during the pursuit. The IDF is investigating the circumstances,” a spokesman said.

Mahmoud and several of his cousins were returning home from a late-night swim in the village of Beit Sira when they were shot, according to his family.

During Ramadan it is common for Palestinian teenagers to be out until the early hours of the morning.

“It is the start of summer and he was just out for a swim and he was killed,” said Ahmad Shami, a cousin of Mahmoud’s. “He was a very, very nice kid.”

Elders in his village, Beit Ur al-Tahta, are in contact with Israeli authorities to get his body released so a funeral can be held.

Saeb Erekat, a senior Palestinian official, said Mahmoud had been “murdered” in a statement condemning the shooting. “We condemn in the strongest terms this brutal attack,” Mr Erekat said.

Two of his brothers were wounded in the shooting along with two other Palestinian teenagers.

The rock throwing attack took place at 2am on Route 443, a major Israeli motorway that runs partly through the occupied West Bank and close to several Palestinian villages.

Avshalom Aharoni, a 31-year-old Israeli filmmaker, told The Telegraph he was driving east towards Jerusalem when he saw two masked people on the side of the road with rocks in their hand.

As he drew nearer he saw that there were rocks in the middle of the road and a large oil smear, apparently laid deliberately by the attackers.

“If I stopped they were going to throw rocks at me but if I drove on my car might get stuck on the rocks in the road. I only had a few seconds to think,” he said.

Mr Aharoni decided to push down the accelerator and drive between the rocks but a stone thrown at his car still hit his door.

He pulled over to the side of the road along with several other damaged cars and was waiting there when he heard gunfire in the distance.

The British man and his wife, who have not been identified, were taken to the Shaare Zedek hospital in Jerusalem along with another Israeli man.

“They were brought in at about 2.30am and treated for very light injuries from stones thrown at their car,” a hospital spokeswoman said.

The man was released soon after but the woman was kept overnight for observation.

Route 443 is an Israeli-built motorway that runs from near Jerusalem to Ben Gurion airport but runs partially through the occupied West Bank before entering Israel.

Palestinians are able to drive on the West Bank segments of the road but must pass through Israeli military checkpoints first.

**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.”**



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