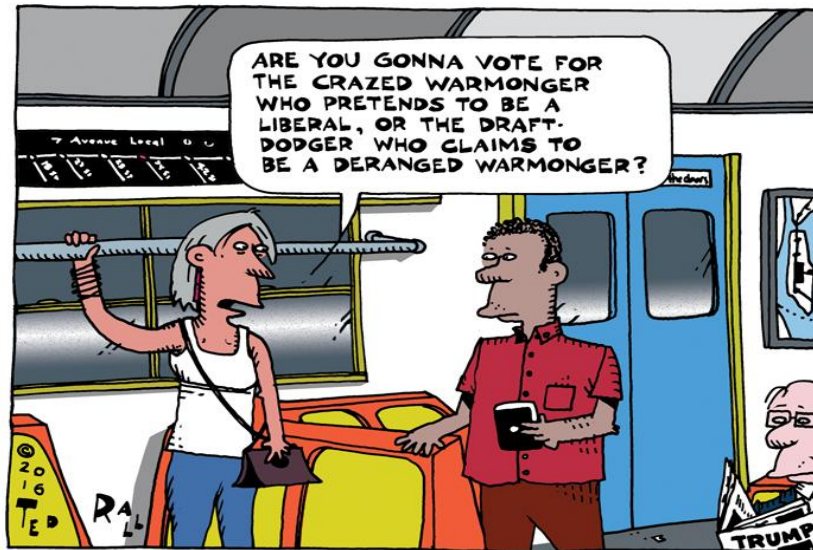


Military Resistance 14G4



**Man Killed By Police During
Traffic Stop In Front Of His
Girlfriend And A Child:
“He Was Trying To Get Out His ID
And His Wallet Out Of His Pocket
And He Let The Officer Know That
He Was — He Had A Firearm And
He Was Reaching For His Wallet”
“He’s Licensed To Carry”**

“The Officer Is Heard Saying ‘I Told Him Not To Reach For It!’ ‘You Told Him To Get His ID, Sir, His Driver’s License’”

07 July 16 By Phil Helsel, Shamar Walters and Alastair Jamieson, NBC News

Protests erupted in Minnesota overnight after a man was fatally shot by police during a traffic stop in front of his girlfriend and a child.

The aftermath of Philando Castile’s shooting in Falcon Heights was apparently captured in graphic detail on Facebook video.

Angry crowds gathered outside the governor’s mansion as news spread about the death. Castile, 32, was a kitchen supervisor for the St. Paul school district.

His was the second officer-involved shooting involving a black man to spark protests in just two days, following the death of Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The St. Anthony Police Department confirmed a man was fatally shot during a traffic stop Wednesday night, saying that a handgun was recovered from the scene and that the officer involved has been placed on paid administrative leave. The Justice Department said Thursday that it was aware of the incident and was “assessing the situation.”

A woman and her young child were in the car at the time but were unharmed, the department told NBC affiliate KARE11. Police did not identify the victim but his family named him as Philando Castile.

In a Facebook video that appears to show the aftermath of the shooting, a man is seen in a blood-soaked white T-shirt slumped in the driver’s seat of a car. The form of what appears to be an officer is at the window, pointing a gun inside.

“Oh my god, please don’t tell me that he’s gone. Please, officer, don’t tell me that you just did this to him,” the panicked woman, who identified herself as Castile’s girlfriend, can be heard saying.

“He’s licensed to carry. He was trying to get out his ID and his wallet out of his pocket and he let the officer know that he was — he had a firearm and he was reaching for his wallet,” the woman tells the camera.

Speaking to the bleeding man, the woman says: “Stay with me! We got pulled over for a busted tail-light in the back, and the police just ... he’s covered. They killed my boyfriend.”

The officer is heard saying “I told him not to reach for it!” to which the woman replies: “You told him to get his ID, sir, his driver’s license.”

“Oh my God, please don’t tell me he’s dead,” the woman says as the wounded man slumps motionless in the seat.

“My daughter just witnessed this,” the woman says.

The child is later seen in the video and tries to comfort her crying mother.

“It’s OK, mommy,” the girl says. “It’s OK. I’m right here with you.”

The contents of the video have not been independently confirmed by NBC News.

Interim St. Anthony police chief Sgt. Jon Mangseth said he did not have details on what prompted the traffic stop, telling a press conference that he was aware of the livestream but hadn’t seen the video. The officer involved has been with the police department for around five years, he added.

His police department serves Falcon Heights, a city of around 5,300 people between Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Castile had a concealed weapons permit to carry a firearm, his uncle Clarence Castile told NBC News.

“My nephew, he wasn’t trying to pull a weapon on those police,” Clarence Castile said. “He was reaching for ID.”

He said his nephew was one more victim in a string of “young black men being murdered” by police.

“My nephew was executed,” Clarence Castile said. “They are going to try and make my nephew out to be a bad guy and get away with murdering another young black man.”

“My nephew was nowhere near being a bum, he was a good young man,” he added. “He was a good kid who loved life.”

Castile’s mother, Valerie, told CNN that he died before she could reach the hospital where he was taken. “They didn’t let me see my son’s body at all,” she said early Thursday. “I have not identified my son’s body because they didn’t let me.”

She added that she had previously spoken to her son about what to do in situations where he’s confronted by police — and it was always to comply.

“‘Whatever they ask you to do, do it. Don’t say nothing,’“ she advised him, adding, “So what’s the difference in complying and you get killed anyway?”

Protesters gathered overnight near the scene of the shooting chanting “No Justice, No Peace” and “Prosecute the Police.”

A noisy crowd also formed outside the governor’s mansion in St. Paul, where police confirmed to KARE11 that Gov. Mark Dayton was in residence. Car horns honked constantly and protesters covered the railings in police tape.

Among the crowd was Minneapolis NAACP president Nekima Levy-Pounds, who called on Gov. Dayton to “wake up and make a statement” about the shooting. “This is completely unacceptable,” she told the crowd. “Enough is enough!”

She earlier told reporters that Castile was “an upstanding citizen according to all the reports we’ve heard,” adding: “We just have a number of questions about how something like this could happen once again.”

Castile’s shooting also sparked a massive outcry on social media, with many expressing dismay that two such incidents could happen in such a short time.

Outrage After Video Captures Baton Rouge Police Officer Fatally Shooting Black Man: “Sterling Was Shot And Killed While Pinned Down By The Officers”

**“Mr. Sterling Was Not Reaching For A
Weapon”**

**“He Saw Police Retrieve A Gun From
Sterling’s Pocket After The Shooting.**

**“His Hand Was Nowhere (Near) His
Pocket’ When He Was Shot”**

July 6 By Wesley Lowery, Travis M. Andrews and Michael E. Miller, The Washington Post. Mark Berman in Washington and Ashley Cusick in Baton Rouge contributed to this report.

Officials in Baton Rouge moved quickly on Wednesday to quell national outrage at what is the latest in a string of fatal police encounters captured on video — the shooting of Alton Sterling, a 37-year-old black man.

Sterling was shot and killed early Tuesday morning after police responded to a complaint about an armed man threatening people outside a convenience store. Cellphone video showing Sterling on the ground, underneath two officers, when he was killed, began

circulating online early Tuesday evening. By the end of the night, the outrage was rippling nationwide.

Baton Rouge police, the local district attorney, and Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards (D), who called the video “disturbing,” announced Wednesday morning that federal officials with the U.S. Attorney’s office and the Department of Justice would investigate Sterling’s death.

About an hour later, Baton Rouge Police Chief Carl Dabadie named both officers who had been involved in the shooting: Blane Salamoni, a four-year veteran from a prominent local law enforcement family, and Howie Lake, a three-year veteran of the department.

“We want to know what happened, we want to know the truth,” said Dabadie, who did not clarify which officer fired the fatal shots. “At this point, like you, I am demanding answers, like you all, my prayers are with this community and the family and loved ones of Mr. Sterling.”

President Obama was aware of the shooting, press secretary Josh Earnest said at his daily briefing. “Regardless of what this investigation finds, there is a family in Baton Rouge and there is a community that is grieving right now,” Earnest said. “And obviously our thoughts and prayers are with the family that’s lost a loved one.”

Questions abound as to the circumstances of Sterling’s death, which was the 505th fatal police shooting by an on-duty officer in 2016, according to a Washington Post database tracking such shootings. And, as has been the case after dozens of other fatal police shootings in recent years, the first versions of what happened are coming more from a video showing a fragment of the incident than from police.

“Sterling Was Shot And Killed While Pinned Down By The Officers”

Police said they responded about 12:35 a.m. Tuesday after receiving a 911 call about a man who was selling CDs and threatening people with a gun outside a Triple S Food Mart. The bystander video of the shooting shows Salamoni and Lake attempting to detain Sterling — who police say was armed with a gun — and tackling the man to the ground.

Sterling was shot and killed while pinned down by the officers.

“If you look at the video, it certainly speaks for itself,” said state Rep. Edmond Jordan, an attorney representing Sterling’s family, during a news conference Wednesday morning.

“Mr. Sterling was not reaching for a weapon. He looks like a man who is trying to get his head up, who is actually fighting for his life. A life that ended immediately thereafter, almost as if he knew what was about to happen.”

The cellphone video of the incident began with police standing a few feet from Sterling. A loud pop — like that of a stun gun — can be heard.

“Get on the ground!” a police officer yelled.

“Get on the ground!” the voice yelled again, followed by a second pop.

Sterling, a large man, remained on his feet.

A police officer tackled him over the hood of a silver car, then onto the ground.

Meanwhile, another restrained his left arm behind his back and knelt on it.

“He’s got a gun!” someone yelled.

“Gun! Gun!”

Both officers drew their pistols from their holsters. Then, the officers shouted something unintelligible, which seemed to include the phrase “going for the gun.”

Two noises that sounded like shots rang out immediately after.

Whoever filmed the video then dropped the cellphone.

“Oh, shit” someone said.

Three more shot-like sounds rang out.

“They shot him?”

“Yes.”

“Oh, my fucking goodness.”

Sterling was pronounced dead on the scene when an ambulance arrived at 12:46 a.m. East Baton Rouge Parish Coroner William “Beau” Clark said in an email that the initial autopsy reports concluded Sterling suffered multiple gunshot wounds to the chest and back.

The video of the shooting was captured by chance by members of Stop the Killing Inc, a local anti-violence activist group and documentary team that listens to police scanners and shows up at the scene of potentially violent confrontations to take video.

A second video that emerged later in Wednesday appeared to show one of the police officers removing a gun from Sterling’s pocket after he was shot.

Stop the Killing Inc. was founded by Arthur “Silky Slim” Reed, a former gang leader turned anti-violence activist, who said that two members of his organization drove to the scene of Sterling’s shooting after hearing police scanner traffic about a potentially violent disturbance. Reed declined to say which member of his team shot the video, or confirm if he himself was present for its recording, citing safety concerns.

Reed said his group didn’t immediately release the video because it wanted to see how transparent police would be about the shooting.

“You want to see what the police are going to say and how transparent they’re going to be,” said Reed, 43, who has spent most of his life in Baton Rouge. “You know that you’re holding a chess piece, the most important part is to move that piece at the right time.”

But when police did not immediately release body and dash camera footage, and then after activists heard that officers have allegedly seized security camera footage from the convenience store that captured the shooting, Reed and others decided to publish the video. They began posting it to Facebook and Instagram around 5 p.m. on Tuesday. Soon it had gone viral.

“We’re forcefully seeking justice,” Reed said. “This is a civil rights movement, and this is the continuation of same struggle that black people have been going through for so many years.”

Police departments nationwide have grappled with how to quell public distrust after police shootings. Protests have erupted in dozens of major U.S. cities — from Cleveland to Minneapolis to New York — in response to police shootings during the past two years.

An investigation by The Post earlier this year found that 1 in 5 officers involved in fatal police shootings in 2015 were never named publicly.

District Attorney Hillar Moore said that Baton Rouge police had interviewed both officers about the shooting before handing the case over to federal officials. Attorneys for both officers could not be reached for comment.

“The officers feel they were completely justified,” Moore said during a news conference.

Sterling’s family members were heartbroken by the video, and said they were outraged at what they said was a deadly instance of racial profiling.

Sandra Sterling, an aunt who said she raised Alton as her own son after his mother died, compared Tuesday’s killing to the fatal police-involved shooting of a white 6-year-old in November in Marksville, La., after which two Louisiana officers were arrested and charged with murder.

“All I want is justice for my child,” Sterling told The Post over the phone Tuesday night, her voice shredded by shouting and grief. “I want the same treatment y’all are giving that person in Marksville that killed that little white baby. I want that same kind of justice.”

“I don’t think they would have did that to a white person,” added Neco Sterling, one of Alton’s cousins.

“‘His Hand Was Nowhere (Near) His Pocket’ When He Was Shot”

Abdullah Muflahi, the shop’s owner, told various local media outlets that police shot Sterling with a stun gun — as the video suggested — but that the man remained standing. Police then tackled him and pinned him down. yelled “gun,” then one fired four to six shots into Sterling.

Police “were really aggressive with him from the start,” Muflahi told the Advocate, adding that he saw police retrieve a gun from Sterling’s pocket after the shooting. “His hand was nowhere (near) his pocket” when he was shot.

After the shooting, Muflahi said, the officers began cursing and both seemed to be “freaking out.”

Finally, the store owner said he heard one of the officers say, “Just leave him.”

A crowd began gathering outside the Triple S Food Mart about 4:30 p.m. Tuesday — swelling to more than 200 people at one point — and didn’t dissipate until well after 2 a.m. Wednesday. Protestors gathered again Wednesday afternoon in preparation for an evening vigil outside the store. Among them was Regina Adams, 53, who described herself as an aunt to Sterling.

They weren’t blood relatives, she said, but he had lived and spent time in her household since he was 13 or 14 years old. “He’d say, ‘I’m your son, because you don’t have one.’ If you met him, you would fall in love with him.”

Adams brought coolers with soda and packs of water bottles to give to protesters and reporters in the store parking lot.

She is set up in front of the makeshift vigil that has been created for Sterling. “I’ve got some cold drinks, love bug,” she says as a protestor passes by.

“When he was little, I used to tell always him to go home,” she says with a laugh. “I wish I could tell him to go home now.”

On a table in front of the convenience store sat a wreath of flowers, a stuffed dog and several burned CDs. Above it hung a sign stating “RIP Big Alton.”

At a news conference Wednesday morning, the local NAACP president called for the police chief to resign.

“What I’m calling for today is that the chief law enforcement officer to fire the police chief,” said Michael McClanahan, the Baton Rouge NAACP president. “He must step down. We cannot have anybody who allows this type of action to take place.”

“This must be answered for,” he added. “It should not take national attention for us to get an answer about a man being murdered by police officers.”

Sandra Sterling said the viral video of her nephew’s killing was excruciating to watch.

“That video is everywhere now,” she said. “It hurts me to see it. I can see the picture, but I don’t want to hear the sound. The sound gets me. It gives me an anxiety attack when I hear the sound.”

At the same time, however, she said she was glad the video emerged.

Before it was posted online, police and news media “twisted” the story to make Alton “seem like the bad guy,” she said.

“They had already prosecuted him,” she said. “Now their attitude has changed.”

Sterling said she learned of her nephew’s death minutes after it happened, when a neighbor who witnessed the shooting called her. She raced to the convenience store, where she could see a pair of legs sticking out from behind a car.

“Is that my son?” she asked police officers. “Is he dead?”

When the officers refused to answer, she pressed closer in an attempt to see whether it was Alton.

“They said, ‘Get back,’ or they were going to Tase me,” she told The Post. “They pulled their Tasers out.”

She then backed away and went around to the other side of the building to get a better look. By then, however, police had moved Alton’s body, she said.

“It was terrible,” she said. “I didn’t know if he was dead.”

Eventually, another officer arrived and told her that the body was her nephew’s.

She described him as a “generous” giant. At 6-foot-4 and more than 300 pounds, Alton had only recently gotten out of jail and was living in Living Waters Outreach Ministry, a Christian transitional living center. Though he was struggling to get his life back on track, he still “gave away more CDs than he sold.”

“When Alton ate, everybody ate,” she said.

Sandra’s son, Elliott Sterling, said his cousin Alton was well known in Baton Rouge for being a silver-tongued salesman. On holidays such as the Fourth of July, Alton stayed outside the Triple S hawking his CDs and DVDs until 2 or 3 in the morning.

“He was really good at selling those CDs,” Elliott Sterling recalled. “If somebody asked for blues or country music, he’d know it all. He couldn’t make it in a regular job, but he could make it selling CDs. He could converse with everybody.”

He said Alton had four boys who, like him, will now grow up without a father.

“He had a hard life. He didn’t have no mama, no daddy,” Elliott said. “He wasn’t stable at all. He lived day to day based on what he made.”

He and his mother both doubted that Alton tried to pull a weapon on police, as the officers appear to shout in the video.

Elliott said his cousin had been robbed at least once outside the convenience store and could have been carrying a gun “for protection,” but would never have pulled it on officers.

“He had his hands up when the officer tackled him,” Elliott said. “Even if he did have a gun (in his pocket), he couldn’t get it out with them holding him down like that.” Sandra

Sterling, a bail bond recovery agent in Baton Rouge, went further. "Alton never had a gun. I know my child," she claimed. "My take is that when they moved him, when they pulled him up so the public could no longer see him, that gun was put in his pocket."

Baton Rouge police have not said whether a gun was found on Sterling.

At a news conference Wednesday morning, the local NAACP president called for the police chief to resign.

"What I'm calling for today is that the chief law enforcement officer to fire the police chief," said Michael McClanahan, the Baton Rouge NAACP president. "He must step down. We cannot have anybody who allows this type of action to take place."

"This must be answered for," he added.

"It should not take national attention for us to get an answer about a man being murdered by police officers."

"You're not going to go against your people," Sandra Sterling said, arguing that Baton Rouge Police should not investigate its own officers for the shooting.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

First Hand Report On Afghanistan, A War With No End:

**"To Sum It Up, The War Is Not
Going Well"**

**NPR Reporters Assured Road Is OK
Ambushed By Taliban; Journalist
And Interpreter Killed:**

**"One Local Official Said The Surge In
Taliban Attacks On Police Checkpoints**

In Helmand Could Threaten The Provincial Capital Itself, Lashkar Gah”



Afghan, US and Romanian soldiers on a berm at the Tarnak Training Range, where they are learning to use artillery. (photo: David Gilkey/NPR)



07 July 16 By Tom Bowman, NPR [Excerpts]

The Afghan army commander said the treacherous road to Marjah, in Afghanistan’s southern province of Helmand, was now safe. His forces had driven out the Taliban a few days earlier, he added.

“The road is open, so no problem,” said Lt. Gen. Moeen Faqir. “Of course I hope you go there and find the reality and reflect it.”

Photojournalist David Gilkey and I traveled to Afghanistan many times. In our trip to eastern Afghanistan last year, we found an Afghan army willing to fight, but it was taking heavy casualties and still in need of considerable help.

We wanted to find out what, if anything, was changing in a war America has largely forgotten since most U.S. forces left at the end of 2014.

What my colleagues and I encountered was both a horrifying personal tragedy and a microcosm of the larger war in Afghanistan.

To sum it up, the war is not going well.

The Taliban are still strong in parts of the south and east. And the Afghan army, while improving, still needs a lot of help from the Americans. One of the top U.S. trainers, Col. John Kline, said if the American troops stopped advising the Afghans in Helmand, it would be a struggle for them to do the job.

That's quite different from the rosy forecast painted in the early years of this "war of necessity" launched while smoke was still rising from the shattered World Trade Center towers.

Back then, American leaders said Afghanistan could become a stable, peaceful place where violence was curtailed, opium was no longer the leading crop, and girls, not just boys, would go to school. Instead, the combat remains intense, the poppy business still finances the Taliban, and in some parts of the country going to school is risky business.

Helmand province has always been a Taliban stronghold. We felt this was the best place to get a real sense of how the war is playing out today.

With assurances from the Afghan commander, we headed out in three armored Afghan Humvees for a drive with his forces from Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand province, to Marjah, an area long considered one of the most dangerous parts of the country.

The road was clogged with traffic, including cars and trucks, donkey carts and motorcycles. Then it opened up as it ran into the countryside, but the road also brought the signs of war, including destroyed trucks and pits created by improvised explosive devices.

Suddenly, a gunshot. Then machine gun fire from the left.

Rounds fired from mud huts off in the distance began to hit our convoy. A soldier mounted on the .50-caliber machine gun in the lead vehicle returned fire. Mortars dropped in nearby. The Taliban attacked with rocket-propelled grenades and other weapons.

The three vehicles in our convoy became separated and lost sight of each other. No one was physically hurt in the lead vehicle, which was carrying a one-star army general, NPR producer Monika Evstatieva and me.

But in another Humvee, Gilkey, Afghan journalist and interpreter Zabihullah Tamanna and an Afghan soldier were killed. Other Afghan soldiers were injured.

This terrible moment in Helmand province reflects the current state of the Afghan war.

Time and again, the Afghans, with American help, push insurgents out. Then the insurgents come back.

Then the Americans increase their help for the Afghan government forces.

U.S. and Afghan commanders give generally upbeat assessments, but it's clear the Taliban remain a potent force. They are able to conduct deadly hit-and-run attacks throughout the country and even took a large city, Kunduz, for several days last fall.

The Taliban continue to have a deep reservoir of resources, financed in large part by the opium trade, which allows the group to remain well-stocked with weaponry. Despite repeated efforts by the U.S. to greatly reduce or eliminate the opium, any progress has proved temporary.

The Americans are no longer in position to prevent the country's opium production, which has been at or near record levels in recent years.

One local official said the surge in Taliban attacks on police checkpoints in Helmand could threaten the provincial capital itself, Lashkar Gah.

**War With No End, Part 2:
“A 14-Year War That Mr. Obama
Pledged To End On His Watch But
Now Seems Likely To Grind On
Indefinitely”
“We Are Engaged In What Appears To
Be An Endless War, With No Strategy
About How To End The Conflict And
Disengage Our Troops From The
Region”**

07 July 16 By MARK LANDLER, The New York Times & July 6, 2016 By CAROL E. LEE and FELICIA SCHWARTZ, Wall Street Journal & Leo Shane III, Military Times
[Excerpts]

WASHINGTON — President Obama said Wednesday that he planned to leave 8,400 American troops in Afghanistan until the end of his term, further slowing the drawdown in a 14-year war that Mr. Obama pledged to end on his watch but now seems likely to grind on indefinitely.

The president announced Wednesday that he was shelving his plan to reduce the number of U.S. troops from its current 9,800 to 5,500 by the time he leaves office in January, instead ordering a troop level of 8,400 into next year. It marked the second time in a year that he has ratcheted back his withdrawal timetable, after deciding last fall to scrap plans to reduce U.S. forces to an “embassy presence,” or roughly 1,000 troops.

The number represents a slight decline from the 9,800 troops currently deployed.

U.S. taxpayers are spending more than \$4 billion annually to support the Afghan military, whose many challenges have been detailed and documented by the special inspector general for Afghanistan reconstruction, John Spoko.

His most recent report to Congress indicates “neither the United States nor its Afghan allies know how many Afghan soldiers and police actually exist, how many are in fact available for duty, or, by extension, the true nature of their operational capabilities.”

“Today, the longest war in American history just got longer,” Rep. Jim McGovern (D., Mass.) said. “We are engaged in what appears to be an endless war, with no strategy about how to end the conflict and disengage our troops from the region.”

“The security situation in Afghanistan remains precarious,” Mr. Obama said from the Roosevelt Room of the White House. “Even as they improve, Afghan security forces are still not as strong as they need to be.” Those troops, he said, had not been able to quell a string of attacks and bombings, including in the capital, Kabul.

The president recently loosened the rules of engagement for American troops to give them the ability to fight the Taliban directly, and more flexibility to carry out airstrikes or wage ground combat.

But it also underscores the fact that American hopes of building an Afghan force capable of securing the entire country had fallen short.

“We have to deal with the realities of the world as it is,” said Mr. Obama, who was flanked by Defense Secretary Ashton B. Carter and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr.

“It is going to continue to take time to build up military capacity that we sometimes take for granted. Given the enormous challenges they face, the Afghan people will need the partnership of the world, led by the United States, for many years to come.”

The president made the decision, which was very closely held, after a lengthy internal debate, and based on a recommendation from the American commander in Afghanistan, Gen. John W. Nicholson Jr.

“It’s an important and timely shift,” said Daniel F. Feldman, who was Mr. Obama’s special representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan. “I welcome it as a demonstration, not only of the administration’s flexibility in best advancing our national security interests in Afghanistan, but of the long-term commitment we’ve said we’ve had to Afghanistan, but which was being questioned there.” Mr. Feldman was among more than a dozen former military commanders and diplomats who had urged Mr. Obama last month in a letter not to cut troop levels.

“We can’t forget what’s at stake in Afghanistan,” Mr. Obama said. “This is where Al Qaeda is trying to regroup. This is where ISIL continues to try to expand its presence,” he said, using the administration’s preferred acronym for the Islamic State.

But he acknowledged the frustration people might feel at the inability of the United States to draw this war to a close.

“When we first sent our forces into Afghanistan 14 years ago,” he said, “few Americans imagined we’d be there — in any capacity — this long.”

“The Taliban Stronger Than Ever” “The Taliban Feeds Off Of This Military Occupation” “As Long As There Are Foreign Military Bases, There Is No Sovereignty Or Independence”

July 6, 2016 By Sarah Lazare, AlterNet [Excerpt]

All accounts suggest that the nearly 15-year occupation of Afghanistan has left the Taliban stronger than ever. A report released by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction in January also concluded that the Taliban controls the most territory since the U.S. military invaded in 2001. Then in April, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) concluded that “the first quarter civilian casualty data for 2016 showed continued record numbers of civilian casualties.”

“I believe the military occupation has worsened long-term freedom for Afghanistan because the Taliban feeds off of this military occupation, especially with the number of civilian casualties caused by foreign troops as well the permanent environmental damage to the country,” Laila, cofounder of Afghans United for Justice, told AlterNet. (Laila requested that her last name be withheld due to online privacy concerns.)

Laila added that “foreign military presence in any country is a loss of its sovereignty. I don’t feel that Afghanistan is an independent nation currently due to foreign military

occupation and invasion. As long as there are foreign military bases, there is no sovereignty or independence.”

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

<p>It is a two class world and the wrong class is running it. -- Larry Christensen, Soldiers Of Solidarity & United Auto Workers</p>

Agent Orange Children Vietnam 2016 #11



Photograph by Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: Friday, May 13, 2016
Subject: Agent Orange Children Vietnam 2016 #11

Full Disclosure

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)

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

Don't Give Racists The Credit For The Leave Vote: "The EU Is Not A Guarantor Of Migrants' Rights Or A Bulwark Against Racism" "The Next President Of The EU Is The Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico, Who Said He Doesn't Want Muslims In His Country"

28 Jun 2016 by Tomáš Tengely-Evans, Socialist Worker [England]

The official Remain and Leave campaigns and the right wing media ramped up racism against migrants and dragged the debate to the right.

But the majority of working class people are not racists—including working class people who voted Leave in large numbers.

Many who supported Remain, including left wingers and liberals, argue the result was fueled by racism over immigration.

But the idea that Leave was a racist vote by the "white working class" doesn't add up.

The three towns outside of London where the "White British" population is not a majority produced Leave votes.

So in Luton 45 percent of the population is "White British"—it voted Leave by 56.5 percent on a 66.2 percent turnout.

Similarly in Slough 34.52 percent of the population is "White British"—people there also voted Leave by 54 percent on a 62.1 percent turnout.

Meanwhile in Leicester 45 percent of the population is "White British" and 48.9 percent voted for Leave on a 65 percent turnout.

People in London backed Remain more strongly, but Leave still had strong support among many working class people in the capital.

In Newham people voted Leave by 47 percent on a 59.2 percent turnout. The east London borough is one of the poorest and most multicultural in London, with only 17 percent of the population being “White British”.

That’s not to deny that racism is a real problem or that immigration was an important issue for many people, particularly Leave supporters.

But a rightward shift is not inevitable and polling shows a contradictory picture.

For instance, a poll by Lord Ashcroft showed that 81 percent of people who thought multiculturalism was a “force for ill” voted Leave. But only 14 percent of people who voted Leave thought multiculturalism was a force for ill.

Many working class people voted Leave to give the establishment a kicking, while many also accept some reactionary ideas around immigration. That’s partly because there wasn’t anyone high profile putting an anti-racist argument on immigration to them.

One Ipsos Mori poll found that, when asked in the abstract, 42 percent of people said immigration had a negative impact on Britain.

But some 51 percent of the total, and 47 percent of Remain supporters, said immigration had no impact on them personally.

Those saying immigration had no impact on them personally was even higher among Leave supporters at 52 percent.

This resilience is significant considering the racist assault from the right wing media—and it shows racist ideas are not fixed.

But challenging them means uniting working class people against the Tories and racist scapegoating—not abandoning large numbers of workers to the racists.

Many racists will feel more confident because of the Leave vote. The racist Ukip party’s leader Nigel Farage, and those even further to the right, wrongly think that the majority of people now support them.

There have been reports of racist harassment in the aftermath of the result.

The Metropolitan Police said that racist graffiti was left on the Polish Social and Cultural Centre in Hammersmith, west London, last Sunday.

The Cambridge News reported that laminated cards reading “Leave the EU—no more Polish vermin” were being distributed.

Every anti-racist must stand in solidarity with migrants against such attacks.

Jacek Szymanski, a Polish worker in north London, told Socialist Worker, “Many migrants are scared, but that’s because they’re not given the full picture.

“The official Remain and Leave campaigns were racist, but I don’t think the 17 million people who voted Leave are all racists and xenophobes.”

Racism against migrants, which produced these attacks, was built through years of scapegoating by the Tories and Labour.

Labour produced a mug during the last election pledging “controls on immigration”. During the EU campaign Remain supporters, including Labour shadow cabinet members, came out against the free movement of labour.

A Remain vote would have allowed through David Cameron’s racist EU deal, which would have restricted migrants’ right to claim benefits.

As Jacek said, “His plan was for migrants not to be able to have benefits—how is that not racist?”

Now Remain-supporting Unite union general secretary Len McCluskey and leftist journalist Paul Mason have joined calls to restrict EU immigration. This is not the way to combat the right.

Adrian Williams, a British Filipino in London, told Socialist Worker, “I voted Leave because the EU is not working in the interests of people in Britain.

“The Leave vote is bigger than immigration and it’s bigger than racism.”

The EU is not a guarantor of migrants’ rights or a bulwark against racism. Adrian added, “The next president of the EU is the Slovak prime minister Robert Fico, who said he doesn’t want Muslims in his country.”

Leaving the EU doesn’t mean migrants will be deported. Adrian said, “The NHS is filled with Filipino workers who are from outside the European Union.”

Jacek said, “More attacks on our rights would have come no matter what the result—what happens now depends on whether we fight back together.”

MORE:

**“We Know You Didn’t Mean It”
“These Were The Heartfelt Words Of
Most Of The Leaders Of The Barely
United Kingdom”
“Don’t Throw Away All The Good Times
We Had Together, Just Because We May
Have Enjoyed Them More Than You Did”**

June 27, 2016 Rooters agency via News From Somewhere

LONDON (Rooters agency)

“We know you didn’t mean it.”

These were the heartfelt words of most of the leaders of the Barely United Kingdom (BUK) after last week’s referendum approved leaving the European Union.

Announcing his intention to resign, Prime Minister Dandy Camelot declared: “The will of the British people is an instruction that must be delivered.”

Most people initially took that remark to mean that Parliament should do what was necessary to implement the decision the majority had voted for. However, many other politicians, newspaper columnists and influential people quickly declared that the will of the British people was not all that clear.

The media were soon filled with news from the people who know things that tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands or millions of Leave voters were already regretting the fit of pique that caused them to vote so foolishly.

“It was clearly not a rational decision, but one made in anger,” said a spokesman for the newly formed Group of the Misunderstood. “That was obvious from the way you slammed the door on your way out.”

“We know we haven’t always handled things perfectly,” the spokesman added, “but we always meant well. If we sometimes raised our voices, it was because we were fearful for your welfare – that your headstrong ways would prevent you following our example and improving your situation.

“But we were trying to look after you. That’s why our guidance was never physical – not often, anyway.

“Don’t throw away all the good times we had together, just because we may have enjoyed them more than you did.

“Please come back. We’ll give you another chance.”

CLASS WAR REPORTS

12 People Were Killed By Police Between June 19 And 26, 2016

While Participating In The Current Rebellion In The State Of Oaxaca:

**“They Came In At Close Range, To
Kill, To Kill Our Compañeros”**

**“The Government Doesn’t Care
About The People, It Only Cares
About Plundering And Privatizing
Everything”**

**“The Struggle Is Not Just A Teachers
Struggle But Belongs To The Peoples
Who For Their Part Are Also Fighting For
Life, Territory And Autonomy”**



July 3, 2016 By Simón Sedillo and Niñx Salvaje; SubVersiones. Translated by Scott Campbell. Photos by Radio Jenpoj and Estereo Comunal Yeelatoo. [Excerpts]

In Oaxaca, 12 people were killed by police between June 19 and 26, 2016, while participating in the current rebellion happening in the state.

One of those killed was a teacher, the rest were part of the people.

Despite the violent repression, a multitude of blockades remain in place throughout the state, be they temporary or permanent.

In addition, thousands of men and women, children, young people, elders and entire communities have rallied in support of the teachers, in repudiation of the repression and against the structural reforms and neoliberal policies that threaten communities.

In this context, one thing is clear: the struggle in Oaxaca is not just a teachers struggle but belongs to the peoples who for their part are also fighting for life, territory and autonomy.

In Oaxaca, the peoples' resistance does not begin nor end with the teachers: it began centuries ago and the road ahead is long.

The first reason leading people to express their discontent is the blatant violence used by the government to repress the people. A compañera who is a member of the collective Oaxacan Voices Building Autonomy and Freedom (VOCAL) shares her concern with us:

“Ten years ago was very tough and today the repression is more intense. In 2006, the compañeros who died, who were killed by the government, accumulated over time, not all of the sudden.

“Here we see they came in at close range, to kill, to kill our compañeros. It is a heavy lesson, to know that they are killing the right to life, the right to protest, the right to organize, and faced with this, there is no other option but to organize.”

Given that, the demand of the people is clear: the immediate withdrawal of repressive forces from the state. Along those lines, the community of Guelatao declares in a statement:

“We demand the withdrawal of the federal police and gendarmerie in order to ensure security and peace for our peoples. In Oaxaca, we don't need them, we reject them”

The second reason for discontent is without a doubt the imposition by the federal government of the “Educational Reform” as well as all the structural reforms intended to privatize not only education but several other sectors, such as agriculture, health care, and energy.

“The only thing the so-called educational reform is causing is death and a deep contempt for indigenous communities and peoples, for rural and urban communities, as well as for all marginalized social sectors,” denounce the communities of the Ayuujk people.

“It is up to all of us as citizens and people to contribute to this struggle that is not a teachers’ struggle, but belongs to the people of Mexico....The peoples in Oaxaca continue organizing because they know that this is a project of death and extermination coming from capitalism itself, and that there are 12 different reform packages. The government doesn’t care about the people, it only cares about plundering and privatizing everything,” the compañera from VOCAL tells us.

The communities of the Ayuujk people clarify: “As indigenous communities we want to live with education, justice, peace, health care, and food being inalienable expressions of our fundamental rights and not as products to be bought and sold.”

Moreover, in many parts of the Oaxacan territory, resistance is not limited to rejection of these reforms, but as direct organizing against megaprojects trying to be imposed in the area.

“Maybe We Are Intransigent Fools, But We Are Still The Heart Of Mexico”

The politicians, together with the corporate media and their followers can make their condescending statements, deploring the fact that “the people are allowing themselves be manipulated by the teachers who are taking advantage of their ignorance.”

The people, on the other hand, know quite well the unresolved reasons to join the struggle.

The compañera from VOCAL shares:

“The peoples are well aware of what they want, we don’t need theories or experts to come and tell us how it should be. (We have to) see that the demands are not just against these reforms that are privatizing things, but that they are also in defense of life and territory, and so that in our territory they leave us alone to be as we are.

“Maybe we are intransigent fools, but we are still the heart of Mexico.”

In fact, in their statement, the communities of the Sierra Juárez issued a call to the Oaxaca teachers, encouraging them to assume their responsibilities in the realm of education. In particular, they stressed the need to build educational alternatives that respect and strengthen the identities of the peoples of Oaxaca, instead of imposing content that denies and disregards their ancestral cultures.

“We also call on the Oaxacan teachers to resist with responsible proposals, to build educational alternatives and resistance from inside the classrooms.

“Do not forget that in the recent past, teachers were used to manufacture a single national culture that Indians had to integrate into, which after sixty years of this policy has resulted in half the population that considers itself indigenous and that represents 66% of the total population of Oaxaca do not speak their original languages, nor do the textbooks include the knowledge built up by our ancient cultures. We will no longer allow for this supposed modernity to distort us, in this sense, teachers have the great task of rescuing and strengthening our identities.”

The compañera from VOCAL emphasizes:

The peoples of Oaxaca have surpassed the organizing done not only by the teachers but also in the city, by the organizations referred to as “of the masses,” by the political parties that today want to lead this struggle but who from the comfort of their congressional seats voted in favor of educational reform.

On Saturday, June 25, municipal and agrarian authorities from multiple communities gathered in their first “General Assembly of Authorities of the Peoples of Oaxaca,” in order “to discuss and agree on next steps to achieve an end to the repression and a solution to the serious conflict occurring in the state of Oaxaca and in the country due to the imposition of the educational reform and the structural reforms affecting education, health care, territory, biodiversity, the right to water, to maintain our internal administrative systems and our culture and identity, life and dignity.”

On Saturday, July 2, the assembly met again in Asunción Nochixtlán.

In its statement, it declared – among many other things: “Today we consider it necessary to advance the construction of a common agenda that unifies the peoples with the teachers, not only to be in solidarity with one another but so that the needs and demands of the peoples are included and that it be a struggle of mutual support, as the peoples have given prisoners, survivors of torture, and dead to the teachers and popular struggles; but where we also demand of our compañero teachers that they move forward on restructuring their ranks and rebuilding as a movement to strengthen the peoples movement.”

That gives another connotation to the struggle as it shows us that the people in the communities are organizing, yes, they have the title of municipal authorities, but they have a much louder voice than anyone here in the city that says they represent a mass organization, that says that they represent a small collective, because they have a moral authority that comes not from the ballot box but from the power of a community assembly that says they are to be the moral authority.

Undoubtedly, the teachers struggle remains an important one in the state of Oaxaca and in the country.

However, it is also necessary not to forget that the resistance is not limited to the compañero teachers.

That thousands of men and women, from a multitude of peoples and communities, are also struggling daily to build a different path, just and dignified.

The government can lie and threaten repression, but to expect to contain this rebellion is another matter.

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DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK

**“While The 1% Power Ahead
And Continue To Reclaim
Income Lost During The
Recession, A Full Recovery For
The Bottom 99% Remains
Elusive”**

**“Those Families Have Recovered
Only About 60% Of Their Income
Losses Due To That Severe
Economic Downturn”**

**“The Top 1% Of Families Saw Their
Income Grow By 37% Between 2009
To 2015, From \$990,000 To \$1.36m”**

**“The Incomes Of The Other 99%,
However, Grew By Just 7.6% During That
Time – From \$45,300 In 2009 To \$48,800
In 2015”**

07 July 16 By Jana Kasperkevic, Guardian UK [Excerpts]

In 2015, the income of the 99% grew by just 3.9% – ‘the best real income growth in 17 years’ – while the rich saw growth was twice that at 7.7%

The top 1% of Americans are finally recovering from the great recession. A new analysis of IRS data revealed that the average income of the top 1% of income earners grew by 7.7% in 2015, reaching \$1.36m.

Report author Emmanuel Saez, an economics professor at the University of California-Berkeley, calculated earlier this year that the top 1% had an average income of \$1.26m in 2014. And though the world's wealthiest were able to raise that income to \$1.36m within one year, they are still not making as much as they were just before the 2008 recession.

Saez revealed that in 2015, the rich were also taking home larger chunk of the US income. "The share of income going to the top 10% of income earners – those making on average about \$300,000 a year – increased to 50.5% in 2015 from 50.0% in 2014, the highest ever except for 2012," Saez wrote.

"The share of income going to the top 1% of families – those earning on average about \$1.4m a year – increased to 22% in 2015 from 21.4% in 2014."

According to him, while the 1% power ahead and continue to reclaim income lost during the recession, a full recovery for the bottom 99% remains elusive.

"Six years after the end of the Great Recession, those families have recovered only about 60% of their income losses due to that severe economic downturn," he said.

It should not come as a shock that to many Americans talk of economic recovery rings hollow. The top 1% of families saw their income grow by 37% between 2009 to 2015, from \$990,000 to \$1.36m. The incomes of the other 99%, however, grew by just 7.6% during that time – from \$45,300 in 2009 to \$48,800 in 2015.

In 2015, the income of the 99% grew by just 3.9%. After factoring in inflation, Saez calls it: "the best real income growth in 17 years". And the rich? At 7.7%, their growth was twice that.

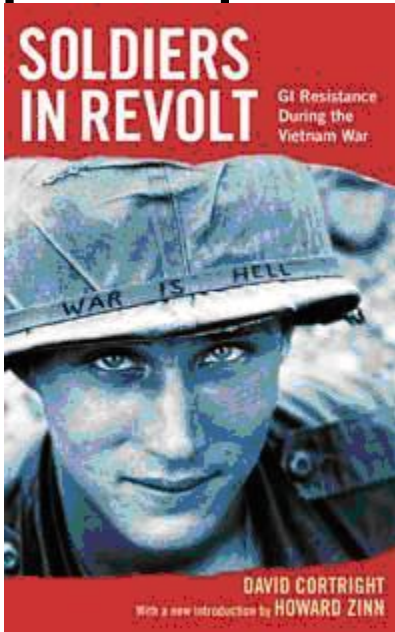
Economy remains a top concern for US voters, according to a recent Gallup survey of 1,530 adults. More than 90% of them said that economy was extremely important to them and 89% of them said the same of jobs and employment.

The uneven recovery is one of the reasons that experts say this presidential election cycle has seen the rise of Donald Trump and a contentious race for the Democratic nomination.

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