

## **Military Resistance 14G6**

### **“Once Seen, It Cannot Be Unseen”**



Ieshia Evans. Photo: Jonathan Bachman, Reuters

July 10, 2016 by Yoni Appelbaum, Atlantic Monthly [Excerpts]

It is a remarkable picture.

A single woman stands in the roadway, feet firmly planted. She poses no obvious threat. She is there to protest the excessive force which Baton Rouge police allegedly deploy against the city's black citizens. She stands in front of police headquarters, on Saturday. And she is being arrested by officers who look better prepared for a war than a peaceful protest.

There are images that are impossible to forget, searing themselves into our collective consciousness. One man staring down a column of tanks in Tiananmen Square. A high school student attacked by police dogs in Birmingham, Alabama.

This is such a photo.

Once seen, it cannot be unseen.

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## **MILITARY NEWS**

### **500 More For Endless War: “If Sent To Win, They Were Too Few; “If Sent To Die, Too They Were Too Many”**

July 11, 2016 By FELICIA SCHWARTZ, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON—The U.S. will send an additional 560 troops to Iraq as Iraqi forces eye a shift toward Mosul, the Islamic State extremist group’s last significant holding in the country, Defense Secretary Ash Carter said in Baghdad on Monday.

The deployment announced Monday will bring the number of U.S. military personnel on official assignment to Iraq to 4,647.

**Including support troops, military personnel assigned to the embassy, as well as those on temporary missions, the new assignments mean there will be more than 5,000 U.S. troops in Iraq.**

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### **“Veterans Diagnosed With TBI From 2007 To 2015 Were Denied Disability Benefits Because They Were Examined By A VA Health Provider Considered To Be Unqualified” “At The Minneapolis VA Only One Of The 21 Medical Professionals Who Conducted Initial TBI Exams Was A Qualified Specialist”**

July 13, 2016 by Patricia Kime, Military Times [Excerpts]

Veterans Affairs officials aren't saying how 24,000 veterans were diagnosed with traumatic brain injury by VA physicians considered unqualified to make such a determination, but on Wednesday, told Congress the department is working to resolve related disability claims problems.

Some veterans diagnosed with TBI from 2007 to 2015 were denied disability benefits because they were examined by a VA health provider considered to be unqualified under VA policy.

After a media investigation by KARE 11 in Minneapolis found that as many as 300 veterans at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center were denied benefits as a result, the department announced it would review all cases involving veterans with improper exams.

In June, VA announced it would send letters to more than 24,000 affected veterans offering new exams.

Dave McLenachen, deputy undersecretary for disability assistance at the Veterans Benefits Administration, told a House Veterans' Affairs panel Wednesday he was unable to "find a reason" why the exams were conducted in violation of VA policy at a number of VA facilities.

"I don't know if it was a lack of capacity, whether that was an issue at the particular time, or to the extent whether there were enough of those specific specialists available at the time. I don't know the answer to that question," McLenachen said.

The KARE 11 investigation found that at the Minneapolis VA only one of the 21 medical professionals who conducted initial TBI exams was a qualified specialist, defined as a psychologist, psychiatrist, neurosurgeon or neurologist.

Rep. Dina Titus, D-Nev., questioned whether sending a letter to an affected veteran was a sufficient response and she urged VA officials to conduct more outreach.

"Don't we need a public information campaign or work with the veterans service organization to ensure this is adequate?" Titus asked.

McLenachen said VA officials decided to send letters rather than simply reschedule exams because some veterans may have received a higher disability rating for TBI from their initial exam than they would have gotten from a specialist.

According to McLenachen, more than 14,000 affected veterans already are receiving disability compensation for service-connected TBI, "many at higher rates of evaluation."

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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**

**I say that when troops cannot be counted on to follow orders because they see the futility and immorality of them THAT is the real key to ending a war.**

**-- Al Jaccoma, Veterans For Peace**

# **Agent Orange Children 2016**

## **#13**



Photograph by Mike Hastie

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

#### 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](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



# Brexit:

**“A Working Class Reaction Not Only To Six Years Of Austerity But Also To A Long And Deep Seated Sense Of Injustice And Marginalization”**

**“Faced With What Are Viewed As Out Of Touch Elites Telling An Angry Electorate That They Must Vote To Remain, There Is Little Wonder That Many Working-Class People Opted To Vote Out”**



June 27th, 2016 by Tim Strangleman, The Labor and Working-Class History Association. [Excerpts] Strangleman is a Sociologist at the University of Kent and co-author of the textbook, *Work and Society: Sociological Approaches, Themes and Methods*. He is President of the Working-Class Studies Association.

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I woke up Friday morning to the news that my country decided that it no longer wants to be part of the European Union. With a large turnout of 72% of the eligible electorate, the

vote went 51.9% in favour of leaving against 48.1% for remaining – 17.4 million against 16.1 million, in case you wondered.

But what was behind this result, which seemed until the eve of poll to be heading towards remaining in the EU?

Class was one of the biggest factors. Let me explain.

Early analysis of the results shows that if you had a college degree or were young, you were more likely to vote to remain. Geographically, England and Wales voted for Brexit, except for London. Scotland, however, voted overwhelmingly to remain, opening up a very real prospect of another independence referendum and the disintegration of the UK.

Many places in England and Wales outside London, often but not exclusively Labour Party traditional heartlands, were amongst the strongest supporters of leaving.

This seems to have resulted from a cocktail of resentments against 'them', the 'elite', the 'establishment' or simply the 'experts'. This resentment has been simmering in these Labour heartlands for decades and predates the banking crash of 2008.

**Resignation, despair, and political apathy have been present in many former industrial regions since the wholesale deindustrialisation of the British economy in the 1980s and 1990.**

The election of the Blair-led Labour administration of 1997 masked the anger felt in these areas as traditional labour supporters and their needs were often ignored, while traditional Labour supporters were used as voting fodder.

Over the thirteen years of Labour power, that support ebbed away, first as a simple decline in votes, but gradually turning into active hostility to the Labour party. Many embraced the UK Independence Party (UKIP).

**This opposition, so skillfully drawn on by the leave campaign, is in part a working class reaction not only to six years of austerity but also to a long and deep seated sense of injustice and marginalisation.**

**Most of the remain side, which was a cross party grouping, didn't seem to understand this before the referendum and, even more depressingly, doesn't seem to understand it fully now.**

**A stock characterisation of working-class people who intended to vote leave was to label them as unable understanding the issues, easily manipulated, or worse, racist 'little Englanders'.**

A number of commentators have understood the class resentment underlying the referendum. In his thoughtful video blogs preceding the vote, Guardian journalist John Harris travelled away from the 'Westminster village' to the more marginal, often overlooked parts of the UK.

What he observed was precisely this class demographic of voting intentions, people who were in effect members of what sociologist Guy Standing has called the precariat.

Fellow Guardian columnist Ian Jack wrote a similarly powerfully reflective piece linking the working-class vote with deindustrialisation.

Both Harris and Jack emphasize the point that for unskilled workers with only a secondary school education, three decades or more of neo-liberalism has left deep scars socially, politically, and culturally, with little hope or expectation that anything would change for the better.

**In a vox pop radio interview the day before the referendum, a person stopped for their views simply said, 'The working class is going to get screwed whether we stay or leave, so we might as well leave'.**

**This sense of 'them' versus 'us' was heightened by the long line of establishment figures from the world of politics, business, and finance who were trotted out to warn the voters that Brexit would mean Armageddon.**

Far from helping the remain side, these interventions from the likes of Christine Lagarde, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, Bank of England Governor Mark Carney, and even President Obama merely exaggerated the distance between working-class voters and those who wanted them to vote to remain.

Speaking after the official result was announced, UKIP leader Nigel Farage explicitly used the language of class in his celebratory speech, saying that this was a vote of 'Real people, ordinary people, decent people against the big merchant banks, big business and big politics'.

Many on the progressive left have seen this Brexit result coming and have linked it to a far wider set of issues than those of the immediate problems of the EU.

In a video blog two days before polling, Owen Jones linked the marginalisation and alienation felt by many working-class voters and support for populists like Donald Trump, Bernie Sanders, and other non-mainstream political movements in Europe.

What this all points to is a real rejection of the hegemony of what veteran left-winger Tariq Ali has called the 'extreme centre' that has promoted globalisation and neo-liberalism.

In the narrative of the extreme centre, there is no place for those left behind, damaged by the collapse of industries and forced to face the brunt of never ending austerity.

Faced with what are viewed as out of touch elites telling an angry electorate that they must vote to remain, there is little wonder that many working-class people opted to vote out.

It's hard to predict what will happen next, over the short, medium, and long term.

But one thing is clear: class will play a big role.

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## ANNIVERSARIES

***July 14, 1789:***  
***Magnificent Anniversary:***  
**“Revolutionaries And Mutinous Troops  
Stormed And Dismantled The Bastille”**



Carl Bunin Peace History

**Bastille Day in France: Parisian revolutionaries and mutinous troops stormed and dismantled the Bastille, a royal fortress converted to a state prison, that had come to symbolize the tyranny of the Bourbon monarchs.**

This dramatic action was proof that power no longer resided in the King as God's representative, but in the people, and signaled the beginning of the French Revolution and the First Republic.

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**July 16, 1877**  
**“One Hundred And Twenty-Five  
Years Ago, American Workers  
Exploded With Rage — And The**

# **Rulers Of The Nation Feared The Fury Of The ‘Terror’ From Within” “The New York World Told Its Readers That Pittsburgh Was ‘In The Hands Of Men Dominated By The Devilish Spirit Of Communism’”**



A contemporary artist's rendering of the clash in Baltimore between workers and the Maryland Sixth Regiment during the Great Railroad Strike of 1877. The governor had called out the troops on behalf of the railroad company.

Via Carl Bunin Peace history July 15-21

UE News:

One hundred and twenty-five years ago, American workers exploded with rage — and the rulers of the nation feared the fury of the “terror” from within.

A headline in the Chicago Times in 1877 expressed the capitalists' anxious outrage: “Terrors Reign, The Streets of Chicago Given Over to Howling Mobs of Thieves and Cutthroats.”

After three years, the nation still suffered through a major economic depression. A strike by railroad workers sparked a coast-to-coast conflagration, as workers driven by despair and desperation battled troops in the streets of major U.S. cities.

The foreign born were widely blamed for the unprecedented, collective expression of rage against economic hardship and injustice.

The ruling elite, badly shaken by the widespread protests, thought a revolution was underway. The New York Sun prescribed “a diet of lead for the hungry strikers.”

When the fires turned to cold ash and working-class families buried their dead, no one — neither labor nor capital — would be the same again.

**If there ever was such a thing, this was no ordinary strike. It was an explosion of “firsts.”**

**The Great Railroad Strike of 1877 was the first major strike in an industry that propelled America’s industrial revolution.**

**It was the first national strike, stretching from Atlantic to Pacific. In some cities, especially St. Louis, the struggle became one of the nation’s first general strikes.**

**This was the first major strike broken by the U.S. military. Probably in no other strike had so many working people met a violent death at the hands of the authorities.**

## **BORN OF DEPRESSION**

The Great Strike was a creature of one of the periodic economic downturns that have caused misery for working people throughout U.S. history.

A bank panic on Sept. 18, 1873 disintegrated into depression. “Weekly the layoffs, wage cuts, strikes, evictions, breadlines and hunger increased,” wrote Richard Boyer and Herbert Morais in *Labor’s Untold Story*. The winter of 1873-74, especially in large cities, was one of great suffering for the tens of thousands of unemployed workers and their families who were starving or on the brink of starvation.

As the depression stretched into 1874, the unemployed demanded work and unions fought wage cuts. But the depression itself became a powerful weapon in smashing unions.

Millions suffered through months upon months of mounting misery. “By 1877 there were as many as three million unemployed [roughly 27 percent of the working population],” according to Boyer and Morais.

“Two-fifths of those employed were working no more than six to seven months a year and less than one-fifth was regularly working. And the wages of those employed had been cut by as much as 45 percent, often to little more than a dollar a day.” Newspapers reported cases of starvation and suicide.

## **FIXED ELECTION**

Political crisis seemed to mirror the economic mess.

Many Americans in 1877 believed their new president had reached the White House through fraud. Certainly Rutherford B. Hayes, a Republican, was not the man for whom a majority of voters had cast their ballots the previous year. Democrat Samuel Tilden overcame the Ohio governor in the popular vote but 20 disputed electoral votes from Florida and other states threw the election into House of Representatives.

**Thomas Scott of the Pennsylvania Railroad reached a deal with Hayes: in exchange for a federal bailout of his troubled investment in the Texas and Pacific Railroad, the millionaire industrialist would deliver Congressional votes to Hayes.**

**As a further inducement, the Republicans promised to end Reconstruction, a blatant betrayal of African Americans.**

**Southern Congressmen deserted Tilden, handing the election to Hayes.**

**President Hayes withdrew federal troops from the South, ending Reconstruction and its promise of political equality for former slaves. The troops would soon have other uses.**

## **PAY CUTS**

The Pennsylvania Railroad had already slashed wages by 10 percent when it cut wages by another 10 percent in June 1877. The following month that railroad company, the nation's largest, announced that the size of all eastbound trains from Pittsburgh would be doubled, without any increase in the size of crews. Angry railroad workers took control of switches and blocked the movement of trains.

Meanwhile, on July 13, the Baltimore & Ohio cut the wages of all workers making more than a dollar a day, also by 10 percent. The company also reduced the workweek to only two or three days, a further pay cut.

On July 16 firemen and brakemen refused to work. The company tried to bring on replacements — many experienced men were unemployed because of the depression — but the strikers assembled at Camden Junction, three miles from Baltimore, would not let trains run in any direction.

The word quickly spread to Martinsburg, W. Va., where workers abandoned their trains and prevented others from operating them.

**The railroad company appealed to the governor, who called out the militia. Militiamen and workers exchanged gunfire. The scabs ran off, the militia withdrew — and the strikers were left in control of their idled trains.**

The strike swiftly followed the rails to Wheeling and Parkersburg. As Harper's Weekly reported the following month, "Governor Matthews evoked the aid of the national government. President Hayes responded promptly."

**Federal troops armed with Springfield rifles and Gatling guns arrived in Martinsburg on July 19. The show of force got the trains running, releasing the 13 locomotives and 1,500 freight cars bottled up in Martinsburg.**

**But the strike was far from over.**

**“Indeed, it was barely begun,” reported Harper’s Weekly.**

“As fast as the strike was broken in one place it appeared in another,” wrote Boyer and Morais. The revolt against the powerful railroad companies spread into western Pennsylvania, Kentucky and Ohio.

Believing that strikers in Cumberland were stopping the eastbound trains from Martinsburg, Maryland’s governor ordered out the state militia.

**Thousands of the jobless and underpaid in Baltimore clearly saw whose interests the governor’s proclamation served.**

**Within a half hour of the call, “a crowd numbering at least 2,000 men, women, and children surrounded the (Maryland Sixth Regiment) armory and loudly expressed their feelings against the military and in favor of the strikers,” according to Harper’s Weekly.**

**The crowd added bricks and stones to the curses hurled against the armory. The police were powerless.**

**Once the troops emerged for their march to Camden Station, shots were fired — and shots were exchanged. The militia killed at least 10 and wounded many others, among them curious onlookers. The Fifth Regiment was also attacked, although no shots were fired.**

## **BATTLE IN PITTSBURGH**

Sympathy for the strikers was even stronger in Pittsburgh. Here, said Boyer and Morais, the strike against Tom Scott’s Pennsylvania Railroad “had the support even of businessmen, angry at the company because of extortionate freight rates.”

The police and local militia sided with the strikers, so the authorities had to appeal for troops from Philadelphia.

**When the militiamen arrived and marched out of the station, they were met with the cries of an angry crowd — and, according to Harper’s, “a shower of stones.” They emptied their rifles into the crowd, killing 20 men, women and children and wounding 29. “The sight presented after the soldiers ceased firing was sickening,” reported the New York Herald; the area “was actually dotted with the dead and dying.”**

A newspaper headline read: “Shot in Cold Blood by the Roughts of Philadelphia. The Lexington of the Labor Conflict at Hand. The Slaughter of Innocents.”

**As the news reached nearby rolling mills and manufacturing shops, workers came rushing to the scene.**

**Workers broke into a gun factory and seized rifles and small arms.**

Wrote Boyer and Morais, "Miners and steel workers came pouring in from the outskirts of the city and as night fell the immense crowd proved so menacing to the soldiers that they retreated into the roundhouse."

By midnight, Harper's said, some 20,000 surrounded the roundhouse, 5,000 of them armed.

Workers and soldiers exchanged gunfire throughout the night. The workers nearly succeeded in burning out the troops by sending a blazing oil car hurtling against a nearby building.

### **'A NIGHT OF TERROR'**

A Civil War veteran among the besieged troops told a New York Herald reporter that he had seen some "wild fighting" in that conflict, but "a night of terror such as last night I never experienced before and hope to God I never will again."

**The next morning the troops evacuated the roundhouse and fought their way out of town.**

Pittsburgh policemen were among those reportedly taking aim at the strikebreakers. The angry crowd then torched the railroad station, roundhouse, company offices and scores of railroad cars.

The New York World told its readers that Pittsburgh was "in the hands of men dominated by the devilish spirit of Communism."

Meanwhile, on July 21, President Hayes had issued a proclamation warning strikers and their sympathizers to disperse within 24 hours. The next day, Pennsylvania's governor had ordered every regiment in the state to report for duty. Clashes between troops and strikers in Reading added to the death toll among workers.

### **CHICAGO AND ST. LOUIS**

The strike continued to spread. Reported Harper's, "On the morning of the 25th the strike had reached its height, when hardly a road was running, from the Hudson to the Mississippi, and from Canada to Virginia."

The strike reached Chicago, as workers on the Michigan Central followed the example of the men on the other lines. General Sheridan's cavalry, newly recalled from the South, attacked a group of workers there, killing many and wounding many more.



The workers of the Missouri-Pacific Railroad joined the strike in St. Louis, where the Workingmen's Party coordinated a general strike. The Workingmen's Party had several thousand members.

**At one of its huge meetings, writes Marieke van Ophem, "a black man was the voice for those who worked on the steamboats and levees. He asked: 'Will you stand to us, regardless of color?' The crowd shouted in response: 'We will!'"**

**Not only did the trains cease running, but breweries, flour mills, foundries and other shops stopped operating as well.**

As a result of this working-class solidarity, bosses agreed to pay raises and shorter working hours without a reduction in wages.

Then the military arrived — the U.S. Army and state militia, as well as armed vigilantes in the service of the bosses.

Although there had been no violence, St. Louis came under martial law. Strike leaders were thrown in jail. Bosses canceled the wage increases and the eight-hour day.

### **'SHOT BACK TO WORK'**

Business leaders became better organized, rallying their political allies, who mobilized the might of the military. Tom Scott of the Pennsylvania Railroad had recommended giving strikers "a rifle diet for a few days and see how they like that kind of bread;" in the end, the government's ability to inflict violence on strikers and supporters got the trains rolling again. As one worker put it, "We were shot back to work." By early August the strike had collapsed everywhere.

It had been an unforgettable event, and many railroad workers seemed to have been justifiably proud. "Without any organization they had fought with bravery and skill and the country had been behind them," wrote Boyer and Morais. "The strike had been as solid as it was spontaneous. There had been few desertions and few scabs."

Some 100,000 workers had gone on strike, and countless unemployed workers in numerous cities had joined the strikers in protests against intolerable conditions. Farmers, who hated the railroad companies and their extortionate practices, fed the strikers.

More than half the freight on the nation's 75,000 miles of track stopped moving.

More than 100 had died and 1,000 had been jailed, although those imprisoned were not the ones directly responsible for the deaths.

The results of the Great Strike were mixed.

### **GUNS AND PROMISES**

Even as they agreed to some worker demands, bosses were determined to never again allow workers the upper hand.

“The railroads made some concessions, rescinded some wage cuts, but also strengthened their ‘Coal and Iron Police,’” writes van Ophem. “In several large cities, National Guard armories were constructed, with loopholes for guns.”

Working people learned that without strong unions and nationwide organization they could not defeat the alliance of capital and government.

Not all drew the same conclusions from this lesson. For some, the experience justified the development of a conservative business unionism that would not challenge the boss or promote social change.

For others, it meant organizing the all-inclusive Knights of Labor on a national basis and building labor parties that would reorient government.

America’s Industrial Revolution was underway, and with it, born in the blood of men and women who yearned for a better life, a modern labor movement.

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## **July 17, 1927: Dishonorable Anniversary: A Bloody Day In A 24 Year U.S. Occupation**

**After taking office on January 1, 1925, Solórzano requested that the United States delay the withdrawal of its troops from Nicaragua. Nicaragua and the United States agreed that United States troops would remain while United States military instructors helped build a national military force.**

Carl Bunin Peace History July 16-22

**In a significant early use of close air support, a U.S. Marine squadron of seven airplanes dive-bombed rebels and peasants surrounding Marines and Nicaraguan military (then under direct U.S. control) in Ocotal, Nicaragua, killing more than 100.**

**The rebels were opposed the presence of U.S. forces, essentially continuous since 1909.**

### **United States Occupation 1909-33:**

[Countrystudies.us/nicaragua/15](http://Countrystudies.us/nicaragua/15)

United States interest in Nicaragua, which had waned during the last half of the 1800s because of isolationist sentiment following the United States Civil War (1861-65), grew again during the final years of the Zelaya administration.

Angered by the United States choice of Panama for the site of a transisthmian canal, President Zelaya made concessions to Germany and Japan for a competing canal across Nicaragua.

Relations with the United States deteriorated, and civil war erupted in October 1909, when anti-Zelaya liberals joined with a group of conservatives under Juan Estrada to overthrow the government.

**The United States broke diplomatic relations with the Zelaya administration after two United States mercenaries serving with the rebels were captured and executed by government forces.**

**Soon thereafter, 400 United States marines landed on the Caribbean coast.**

Weakened and pressured by both domestic and external forces, Zelaya resigned on December 17, 1909. His minister of foreign affairs, José Madriz, was appointed president by the Nicaraguan Congress. A liberal from León, Madriz was unable to restore order under continuing pressure from conservatives and the United States forces, and he resigned on August 20, 1910.

Conservative Estrada, governor of Nicaragua's easternmost department, assumed power after Madriz's resignation. The United States agreed to support Estrada, provided that a Constituent Assembly was elected to write a constitution. After agreeing with this stipulation, a coalition conservative-liberal regime, headed by Estrada, was recognized by the United States on January 1, 1911.

Political differences between the two parties soon surfaced, however, and minister of war General Luis Mena forced Estrada to resign. Estrada's vice president, the conservative Adolfo Díaz, then became president. In mid-1912 Mena persuaded a Constituent Assembly to name him successor to Díaz when Díaz's term expired in 1913.

When the United States refused to recognize the Constituent Assembly's decision, Mena rebelled against the Díaz government. A force led by liberal Benjamín Zelaydón quickly came to the aid of Mena.

**Díaz, relying on what was becoming a time-honored tradition, requested assistance from the United States.**

**In August 1912, a force of 2,700 United States marines once landed again at the ports of Corinto and Bluefields. Mena fled the country, and Zelaydón was killed.**

**The United States kept a contingent force in Nicaragua almost continually from 1912 until 1933.**

**Although reduced to 100 in 1913, the contingent served as a reminder of the willingness of the United States to use force and its desire to keep conservative governments in power.**

Under United States supervision, national elections were held in 1913, but the liberals refused to participate in the electoral process, and Adolfo Díaz was reelected to a full term. Foreign investment decreased during this period because of the high levels of violence and political instability.

Nicaragua and the United States signed but never ratified the Castell-Knox Treaty in 1914, giving the United States the right to intervene in Nicaragua to protect United States interest.

A modified version, the Chamorro-Bryan Treaty omitting the intervention clause, was finally ratified by the United States Senate in 1916.

This treaty gave the United States exclusive rights to build an interoceanic canal across Nicaragua. Because the United States had already built the Panama Canal, however, the terms of the Chamorro-Bryan Treaty served the primary purpose of securing United States interests against potential foreign countries--mainly Germany or Japan--building another canal in Central America.

**The treaty also transformed Nicaragua into a near United States protectorate.**

**Collaboration with the United States allowed the conservatives to remain in power until 1925.**

The liberals boycotted the 1916 election, and conservative Emiliano Chamorro was elected with no opposition.

**The liberals did participate in the 1920 elections, but the backing of the United States and a fraudulent election assured the election of Emiliano Chamorro's uncle, Diego Manuel Chamorro.**

A moderate conservative, Carlos Solórzano, was elected president in open elections in 1924, with liberal Juan Bautista Sacasa as his vice president.

**After taking office on January 1, 1925, Solórzano requested that the United States delay the withdrawal of its troops from Nicaragua.**

**Nicaragua and the United States agreed that United States troops would remain while United States military instructors helped build a national military force.**

In June, Solórzano's government contracted with retired United States Army Major Calvin B. Carter to establish and train the National Guard. The United States marines left Nicaragua in August 1925. However, President Solórzano, who had already purged the liberals from his coalition government, was subsequently forced out of power in November 1925 by a conservative group who proclaimed General Emiliano Chamorro (who had also served as president from 1917 to 1921), as president in January 1926.

**Fearing a new round of conservative-liberal violence and worried that a revolution in Nicaragua might result in a leftist victory as happened a few years earlier in Mexico, the United States sent marines, who landed on the Caribbean coast in May 1926, ostensibly to protect United States citizens and property.**

United States authorities in Nicaragua mediated a peace agreement between the liberals and the conservatives in October 1926. Chamorro resigned, and the Nicaraguan Congress elected Adolfo Díaz as president (Díaz had previously served as president, 1911-16). Violence resumed, however, when former vice president Sacasa returned from exile to claim his rights to the presidency.

In April 1927, the United States sent Henry L. Stimson to mediate the civil war. Once in Nicaragua, Stimson began conversations with President Díaz as well as with leaders from both political parties. Stimson's meetings with General José María Moncada, the leader of the liberal rebels, led to a peaceful solution of the crisis. On May 20, 1927, Moncada agreed to a plan in which both sides--the government and Moncada's liberal forces--would disarm. In addition, a nonpartisan military force would be established under United States supervision. This accord was known as the Pact of Espino Negro.

**As part of the agreement, President Díaz would finish his term and United States forces would remain in Nicaragua to maintain order and supervise the 1928 elections.**

A truce between the government and the rebels remained in effect and included the disarmament of both liberal rebels and government troops. Sacasa, who refused to sign the agreement, left the country.

**United States forces took over the country's military functions, and strengthened the Nicaraguan National Guard.**

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## **Sandino Begins Nationalist Guerrilla War Against The U.S. Occupation**

A rebel liberal group under the leadership of Augusto César Sandino also refused to sign the Pact of Espino Negro.

An illegitimate son of a wealthy landowner and a mestizo servant, Sandino had left his father's home early in his youth and traveled to Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico.

During his three-year stay in Tampico, Mexico, Sandino had acquired a strong sense of Nicaraguan nationalism and pride in his mestizo heritage.

At the urging of his father, Sandino had returned to Nicaragua in 1926 and settled in the department of Nueva Segovia, where he worked at a gold mine owned by a United States company.

Sandino, who lectured the mine workers about social inequalities and the need to change the political system, soon organized his own army, consisting mostly of peasants and workers, and joined the liberals fighting against the conservative regime of Chamorro.

Highly distrusted by Moncada, Sandino set up hit-and-run operations against conservative forces independently of Moncada's liberal army.

**After the United States mediated the agreement between liberal forces and the conservative regime, Sandino, calling Moncada a traitor and denouncing United States intervention, reorganized his forces as the Army for the Defense of Nicaraguan Sovereignty (Ejército Defensor de la Soberanía de Nicaragua-EDSN).**

**Sandino then staged an independent guerrilla campaign against the government and United States forces.**

**Although Sandino's original intentions were to restore constitutional government under Sacasa, after the Pact of Espino Negro agreement his objective became the defense of Nicaraguan sovereignty against the United States.**

**Receiving his main support from the rural population, Sandino resumed his battle against United States troops.**

**At the height of his guerrilla campaign, Sandino claimed to have some 3,000 soldiers in his army, although official figures estimated the number at only 300.**

**Sandino's guerrilla war caused significant damage in the Caribbean coast and mining regions.**

After debating whether to continue direct fighting against Sandino's forces, the United States opted to develop the nonpartisan Nicaraguan National Guard to contain internal violence. The National Guard would soon become the most important power in Nicaraguan politics.

The late 1920s and early 1930s saw the growing power of Anastasio "Tacho" Somoza García, a leader who would create a dynasty that ruled Nicaragua for four and a half decades.

Moncada won the 1928 presidential elections in one of the most honest elections ever held in Nicaragua. For the 1932 elections, the liberals nominated Juan Bautista Sacasa and the conservatives, Adolfo Díaz. Sacasa won the elections and was installed as president on January 2, 1933.

**In the United States, popular opposition to the Nicaraguan intervention rose as United States casualty lists grew.**

**Anxious to withdraw from Nicaraguan politics, the United States turned over command of the National Guard to the Nicaraguan government, and United States marines left the country soon thereafter.**

President Sacasa, under pressure from General Moncada, appointed Somoza García as chief director of the National Guard. Somoza García, a close friend of Moncada and nephew of President Sacasa, had supported the liberal revolt in 1926.

**Somoza García also enjoyed support from the United States government because of his participation at the 1927 peace conference as one of Stimson's interpreters.**



**Having attended school in Philadelphia and been trained by United States marines, Somoza García, who was fluent in English, had developed friends with military, economic, and political influence in the United States.**

After United States troops left Nicaragua in January 1933, the Sacasa government and the National Guard still were threatened by Sandino's EDSN.

True to his promise to stop fighting after United States marines had left the country, Sandino agreed to discussions with Sacasa. In February 1934, these negotiations began.

**During their meetings, Sacasa offered Sandino a general amnesty as well as land and safeguards for him and his guerrilla forces. However, Sandino, who regarded the National Guard as unconstitutional because of its ties to the United States military, insisted on the guard's dissolution.**

**His attitude made him very unpopular with Somoza Garcia and his guards.**

**Without consulting the president, Somoza Garcia gave orders for Sandino's assassination, hoping that this action would help him win the loyalty of senior guard officers. On February 21, 1934, while leaving the presidential palace after a dinner with President Sacasa, Sandino and two of his generals were arrested by National Guard officers acting under Somoza Garcia's instructions.**

**They were then taken to the airfield, executed, and buried in unmarked graves.**

Despite Sacasa's strong disapproval of Somoza García's action, the Nicaraguan president was too weak to contain the National Guard director.

After Sandino's execution, the National Guard launched a ruthless campaign against Sandino's supporters. In less than a month, Sandino's army was totally destroyed.

President Sacasa's popularity decreased as a result of his poor leadership and accusations of fraud in the 1934 congressional elections. Somoza García benefited from Sacasa's diminishing power, while at the same time he brought together the National Guard and the Liberal Party (Partido Liberal-PL) in order to win the presidential elections in 1936. Somoza García also cultivated support from former presidents Moncada and Chamorro while consolidating control within the Liberal Party.

Early in 1936, Somoza García openly confronted President Sacasa by using military force to displace local government officials loyal to the president and replacing them with close associates.

Somoza García's increasing military confrontation led to Sacasa's resignation on June 6, 1936. The Congress appointed Carlos Brenes Jarquín, a Somoza García associate, as interim president and postponed presidential elections until December. In November, Somoza García officially resigned as chief director of the National Guard, thus complying with constitutional requirements for eligibility to run for the presidency. The Liberal Nationalist Party (Partido Liberal Nacionalista--PLN) was established with support from a faction of the Conservative Party to support Somoza García's candidacy.

**Somoza García was elected president in the December election by the remarkable margin of 107,201 votes to 108.**

**On January 1, 1937, Somoza García resumed control of the National Guard, combining the roles of president and chief director of the military.**

**Thus, Somoza García established a military dictatorship, in the shadows of democratic laws, that would last more than four decades.**

**MORE:**

## **July 17, 1979: Honor Restored: 22 Years Later To The Day, Sandinistas Overthrow The Traitors So Beloved By The U.S. Empire**

Carl Bunin Peace History July 16-22

**Fighters of the Sandinista National Liberation Front overthrew the U.S.-supported dictatorial regime of Anastasio Somoza in the Central American republic of Nicaragua and forced him to flee the country.**

**The notorious and feared U.S.-trained National Guard crumbled and its surviving commanders negotiated a surrender, despite their superiority in armaments.**

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### **THE SANDINISTAS TAKE POWER**

[Countrystudies.us/nicaragua/15.htm](http://Countrystudies.us/nicaragua/15.htm) [Excerpts]

The new government inherited a country in ruins, with a stagnant economy and a debt of about US\$1.6 billion.

An estimated 50,000 Nicaraguans were dead, 120,000 were exiles in neighboring countries, and 600,000 were homeless. Food and fuel supplies were exhausted, and international relief organizations were trying to deal with disease caused by lack of health supplies.

Yet the attitude of the vast majority of Nicaraguans toward the revolution was decidedly hopeful. Most Nicaraguans saw the Sandinista victory as an opportunity to create a system free of the political, social, and economic inequalities of the almost universally hated Somoza regime.

One of the immediate goals of the new government was reconstruction of the national economy.

The junta appointed individuals from the private sector to head the government's economic team. They were responsible for renegotiating the foreign debt and channeling foreign economic aid through the state-owned International Reconstruction Fund (Fondo Internacional de Reconstrucción--FIR). The new government received bilateral and multinational financial assistance and also rescheduled the national foreign debt on advantageous terms.

Pledging food for the poor, the junta made restructuring the economy its highest priority. At first the economy experienced positive growth, largely because of renewed inflow of foreign aid and reconstruction after the war.

**The new government enacted the Agrarian Reform Law, beginning with the nationalization of all rural properties owned by the Somoza family or people associated with the Somozas, a total of 2,000 farms representing more than 20 percent of Nicaragua's cultivable land.**

These farms became state property under the new Ministry of Agrarian Reform. Large agroexport farms not owned by the Somozas generally were not affected by the agrarian reform. Financial institutions, all in bankruptcy from the massive capital flight during the war, were also nationalized.

The second goal of the Sandinistas was a change in the old government's pattern of repression and brutality toward the general populace.

**Many of the Sandinista leaders were victims of torture themselves, and the new minister of interior, Tomás Borge Martínez, tried to keep human rights violations low.**

**Most prisoners accused of injustices under the Somoza regime were given a trial, and the Ministry of Interior forbade cruelty to prisoners. In their first two years in power, Amnesty International and other human rights groups found the human rights situation in Nicaragua greatly improved.**

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## **RECEIVED FROM READERS**

**“The Elite Plutocracy That Rules This Country Not Only Doesn't Care About Black Lives But They Do Not Care About Your White Ass Either”**

From: Sanford  
To: Military Resistance Newsletter  
Sent: July 13, 2016  
Subject: Preparing for Repression. Black Lives Do Not Matter and Neither Does Your White Ass.

In the 70's the jobs of Americans, including white Americans, were shipped overseas, maybe millions of them, with the assistance of the US Congress, so corporations could oppress near slave labor and pollute the environment with abandon.

Americans, mostly white men, lost their jobs, pensions, health insurance, savings and even their dignity. Most now live in poverty without hope. These people have resorted to drugs to self-medicate, heroin mostly. Alcohol is abused, too. Wives and children are physically assaulted. Divorces and suicides have increased.

Children of these workers, even university educated ones, cannot get a secure well-paying job. They can't afford to leave their parents homes to start their own lives.

A new hit occurred with the 2008 crash where the rich, who caused the crash in pursuit of ill-gotten gains, got vastly richer and the remaining middle class took another hard hit. The government of these white workers has abandoned them.

The elite plutocracy that rules this country not only doesn't care about Black lives but they do not care about your white ass either.

Sooner or later the white people will have to rise up and the government will begin to treat these white people the same way they treat the Blacks. Be prepared to get shot during traffic stops.

The below essay is about the oppression of all of us.

If we want to protect ourselves we must unite in solidarity, white and black, straight and gay, etc.

We cannot be divided any more as we have been to the economic benefit of the elite who like us being at one another's' throats. If voting could make change, it would be illegal so don't look to Trump or Clinton no matter what they promise.

Our only hope is in ourselves, together in the streets demanding justice.

### [After Dallas: Preparing for Repression](#)

William C. Anderson, Truthout: Now that the shooting in Dallas has shocked the nation, activists and those who resist oppression and the state's attempts at social control should be prepared for the coming repression. We should expect "security" and "safety" to be used as justifications for mass surveillance and encroachment on our communities.

### [Read the Article](#)

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## CLASS WAR REPORTS



### **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.

## OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**Zionist Settlers Attack In Nablus  
And Hebron; Injuries As  
Palestinian Cars Stoned:  
“Minimum Prison Sentence Of Three  
Years For People Who Throw Rocks  
At Israeli Troops, Civilians Or  
Vehicles”**

## “Israeli Settlers Are Not Subjected To This Law”



July 3, 2016 IMEMC News & Agencies

A number of Palestinians sustained injuries in extremist settler attacks against their cars, to the west and south of both Nablus and Hebron.

Ghassan Daghlas, official in charge of settlement affairs, said that Israeli settlers threw stones against Palestinians' cars, and a number of Palestinians hospitalized in Rafidia hospital in minor injuries.

Local sources reported that armed settlers closed a number of roads in southern Nablus and attacked the Palestinians' cars.

Meanwhile, in Hebron, dozens of Israeli settlers threw stones towards Palestinians' cars on road-60, according to Al Ray Palestinian Media Agency.

Eyewitness Ata Jaber said that dozens of settlers gathered near Kharsina petrol station of Kiryat Arba settlement, throwing stones towards every Palestinian car passes in the street.

Local sources also reported that Israeli settlers gathered at Beit Ainun settlement, to the east of Hebron, and attacked Palestinian passerby under Israeli police protection.

**Previously, the Israeli Knesset passed an amendment to civil law, establishing minimum prison sentence of three years for people who throw rocks at Israeli troops, civilians or vehicles. However, Israeli settlers are not subjected to this law.**

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# **10-Year Old Palestinian Girl Arrested On Settler Children Accusation: “The Rock The Settler Boy Accused Her Of Throwing At Them Is So Big, That The 10-Year Old Girl Would Not Even Been Able To Lift It Up”**

5th July 2016 International Solidarity Movement, al-Khalil team

Hebron, occupied Palestine

**Israeli forces on Monday 4th July arrested a 10-year old Palestinian girl near the Ibrahimi mosque in occupied al-Khalil (Hebron), as a group of settler children arbitrarily accused her of throwing an enormous rock at them.**

A large group of settler children were playing near the Ibrahimi mosque, again and again harassing a family living next to a checkpoint manned by heavily-armed Israeli forces.

When a boy accused one of the Palestinian children of throwing a rock at them, all the settler children and large numbers of Israeli forces gathered at the house. A group of soldiers then entered the house with the settler boy, and eventually came out with the 10-year old girl, crying.

They then walked her off to the police station, despite her young age.

**Even under Israeli military law, that applies on all Palestinians in the West Bank, the arrest of Palestinian children is prohibited under the age of 12.**

Under the Israeli civil law which applies even on settlers living in illegal settlements, in contrast, arrests of children are legal only from the age of 14.

Despite the girl being only 10-years old – a fact that was repeatedly told to the soldiers – the girl was taken to the police station.

The girls mother was prevented by the Israeli forces to reach the police station, which is located on part of a street where Palestinians are not even allowed to walk. Luckily, the girl was accompanied by her aunt, but denied the presence of her mother.

**The settlers in the meantime kept harassing the Palestinian family, throwing small stones at the family, sitting on the stairs outside their house, waiting and hoping for the release of the girl.**

As the house is located directly opposite one of the many checkpoints, this happened in plain view of the Israeli forces, who in the beginning entirely ignored the events and

intervened only when realizing that people started filming and taking photos. After about half an hour, she was released, and Israeli forces explained to her family, that they were just being 'nice' as they were sure she threw the rock.

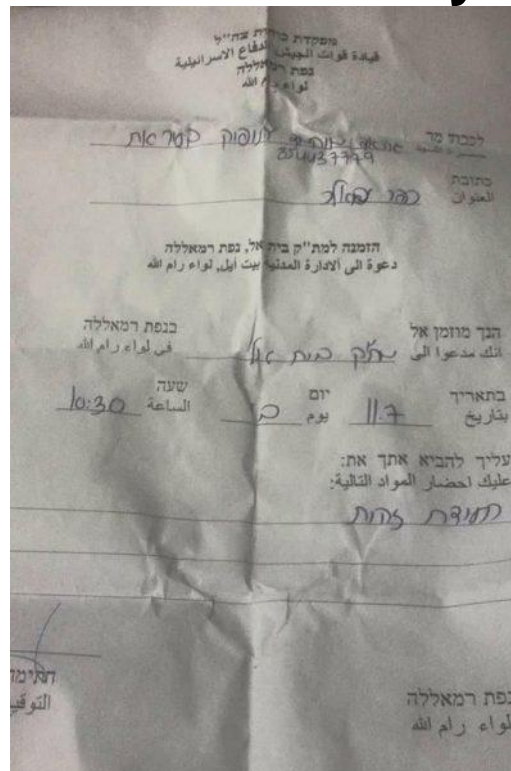
The rock the settler boy accused her of throwing at them is so big, that the 10-year old girl would not even been able to lift it up.

This illustrates how Israeli settlers, even small children, have complete impunity for their actions, and Israeli forces act upon their every word and wish – even if acting illegally under the Israeli law.

This comes at a time where Israeli forces are enacting severe restrictions on Palestinians in the area around the Ibrahim Mosque.

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## Zionist Occupation Forces Issue Notice For Palestinian Newborn Baby, Dead For 22 Years, To Report For Interrogation: Scum Refuse To Give Death Certificate Back To Family



Delivered at 4:00 in the morning, the Israeli document demands that the deceased member of the Be'rat family report for interrogation

12th July 2016 International Solidarity Movement, al-Quds team

Kufr Malik, occupied Palestine

**On July 9th at 4:00 in the morning, the Be'rat family awoke to find Israeli soldiers pounding on the door of their home in Kufr Malik, demanding that Jihad, the son of Mohammed Tawfik and Nadia Mustafa, report for interrogation.**

**Jihad, however, passed away twenty two years ago, before reaching the age of fifteen days.**

Israeli forces demanded that everyone in the house show some form of identification, including the children, and continued to ask for Jihad.

After explaining the situation to the soldiers, Jihad's mother was asked to present her son's death certificate as proof. "They pulled open my heart and made me remember my son," Nadia said of the experience.

The soldiers did not return the death certificate.

The children, though quite used to Israeli incursions into the village, were also traumatized by the event.

This particular event serves as an example of the Israeli military's arbitrary and indiscriminate methods in their selection and targeting of "suspects." The case also highlights the absolute lack of legal rights those living under Occupation have, as Palestinians are always considered guilty until proven innocent, and accusations are filed regardless of whether or not one is already dead or imprisoned.

**According to the Palestinian prisoners rights group Adameer, there are currently at least seven thousand political prisoners in Israeli jails.**

**Over 400 of these prisoners are children.**

Of those arrested, few are immediately notified of the crime they are being accused of committing, and many are never informed of the specific allegations.

**Israel's policy of administrative detention allows Occupation forces to arrest Palestinians without charge and hold them for an infinitely renewable period of six months. Over seven hundred Palestinians are currently being held without charge in administrative detention.**

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

# DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

STAHLER, 2016  
GOCMICS.COM



## **Military Resistance** [www.militaryproject.org](http://www.militaryproject.org)

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BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE.*



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