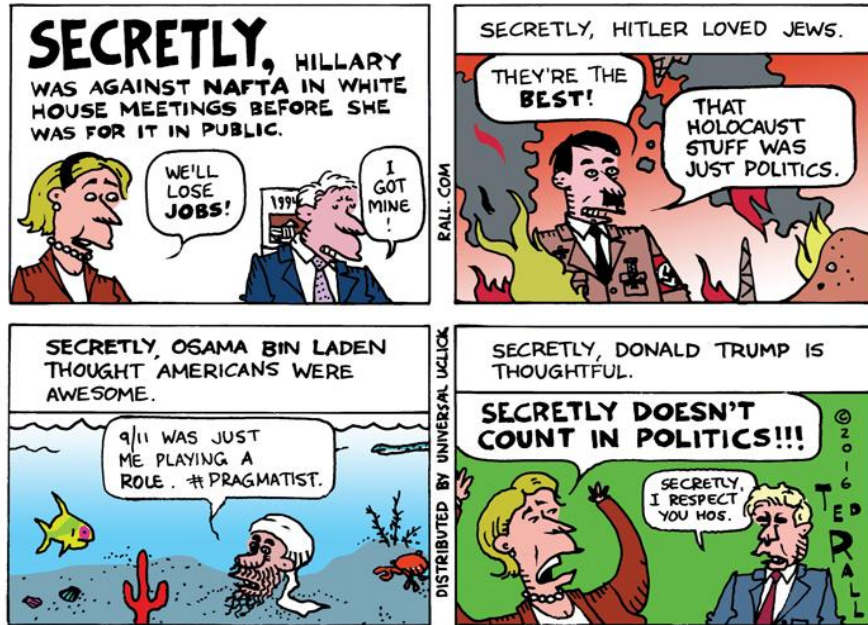


Military Resistance 14H6



**Taliban Special Forces Troops
Lead Helmand Assault:
“The Taliban Have Deployed A
Specialized ‘Red Unit’ Equipped With
Advanced Weaponry, Including Night
Vision Scopes, 82mm Rockets, Heavy
Machine Guns And U.S.-Made
Assault Rifles”
Stupid “U.S. Military Spokesman
Brigadier Charles Cleveland” Says**

Afghan Special Forces Commander Murad A Taliban Propagandist

"Either the government should get rid of the Taliban or let them come and govern," said one shopkeeper. "We have been burning in this fire for so many years and we don't know what could be worse than this."

Aug 14, 2016 By Hamid Shalizi, REUTERS [Excerpts]

CHAH-E-ANJIR, Afghanistan

Only a few days ago, this village of mud huts in southern Afghanistan was a battlefield.

Afghan security forces beat back attacks by encroaching Taliban fighters on Chah-e-Anjir, just 10 km (6 miles) from Helmand's provincial capital of Lashkar Gah, but schools remain shuttered and many residents who fled are too scared to return.

Helmand, a Taliban stronghold and the heartland of the lucrative illicit drug trade, is seen as a strategic target for the militants who would win a major psychological victory by capturing the provincial capital.

Soldiers at the sharp end of the latest offensive described a battle that pitted increasingly well-armed and disciplined Taliban militants against Afghan special forces backed by U.S. air strikes.

"The Taliban have heavily armed, uniformed units that are equipped with night vision and modern weapons," said Sayed Murad, a special forces commander.

Already said to be in control of or contesting the majority of Helmand's districts, Taliban fighters continue to attack all around Lashkar Gah.

Afghan reinforcements and U.S. air strikes were credited with preventing a rout of the city's defenders.

"Helmand is a strategic province for the Taliban and therefore they are determined to make a push," said deputy interior minister General Abdul Rahman Rahman.

Towards that goal, the Taliban have deployed a specialized "Red Unit" said to be equipped with advanced weaponry, including night vision scopes, 82mm rockets, heavy machine guns and U.S.-made assault rifles, special forces commander Murad said.

[OK, here it comes. You just read what Murad reports. Now here's Cleveland saying Murad's report is false and inflated propaganda designed to serve the Taliban by frightening Afghans supporting the regime. Does that make Murad a traitor? Or does that make Cleveland stupid beyond belief? T

U.S. military spokesman Brigadier Charles Cleveland said it was possible Afghan troops on the frontline had seen Taliban wielding night vision technology, but that the NATO-led coalition had "not seen any evidence" of such a capability.

"The Taliban consistently spread false information and inflate their own capabilities in an effort to intimidate Afghans," he said.

In downtown Lashkar Gah, most businesses were open as usual on Friday, but residents and the thousands of refugees displaced by the fighting spoke of lingering fear as Taliban forces remain active not far from the city.

"I fled my home and left everything behind," said Abdul Bari, a resident of Nad Ali district. "We are fed up with this situation and it is better to die one day instead of dying every day."

"We prefer to live under the current government, not the Taliban, but absolutely not under this current situation," said Abdul Khaliq.

Officials blame elements across the border in Pakistan for fuelling the conflict by supplying the Taliban fighters with better weapons.

"It is not the regular Taliban force with a pair of sandals and an AK-47," said one senior government official in Lashkar Gah.

"They are better trained and equipped."

The violence means Helmand will continue to be a pressure point for over-stretched government troops and their international backers.

Hundreds of international military advisers are stationed at bases in Helmand and U.S. warplanes conducted at least two dozen air strikes in the two weeks of most recent fighting.

Even if the lull in fighting around the provincial capital lasts, civilians doubt the government will be able to bring peace any time soon.

"Either the government should get rid of the Taliban or let them come and govern," said one shopkeeper. "We have been burning in this fire for so many years and we don't know what could be worse than this."

MORE AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

The Taliban Is Sustaining Offensive Operations Throughout Afghanistan:

**“The Taliban Continues To Press
Afghan Forces In The Southern
Province Of Helmand And Has
Effectively Laid Siege To Its Capital,
Lashkar Gah”**

**“The Group Is Assaulting Districts In The
Afghan North”**

August 15th, 2016 BY BILL ROGGIO, The Long War Journal. Bill Roggio is a Senior Fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and the Editor of The Long War Journal. [Excerpt]

The Taliban is sustaining offensive operations throughout Afghanistan as Afghan security forces, backed by US airpower and special forces, continue to struggle with containing the jihadist group.

As the Taliban continues to press Afghan forces in the southern province of Helmand and has effectively laid siege to its capital, Lashkar Gah, the group is assaulting districts in the Afghan north.

One district in Baghlan has fell under Taliban control, and another in Nuristan has changed hands several several times

The Taliban claimed yesterday that Dahana-i-Ghuri district in Baghlan province fell “after a three-day long siege,” according to a statement released on Voice of Jihad. [see below]

In the same statement, the Taliban also claimed to seize “control of the district of Want Waygal and 11 combat posts” in Nuristan province.

A member of the provincial capital of Baghlan confirmed that Dahana-i-Ghuri is under Taliban control, Khaama Press reported. Afghan officials claimed to have repelled the Taliban attack, which was supported by “Arabs, and other foreign insurgents,” Pajhwok Afghan News reported. The “Arabs” and “other foreign insurgents” is likely a reference to al Qaeda and Taliban fighters from Pakistan. The Haqqani Network, which is closely allied to al Qaeda, operates in Jani Khel and Paktia.

In addition to the fighting in the north, the district of Jani Khel in Paktia province in eastern Afghanistan is “on the verge of collapse,” TOLONews reported.

“The clashes are still ongoing two kilometers from the center of Janikhel. If supporting troops are not sent into Janikhel as soon as possible, the district will fall into the hands of the Taliban,” the district governor told the Afghan news agency on Aug. 10.

In western Afghanistan, the Taliban laid siege to Pusht Rod district in Farah province, according to reports from Afghanistan.

To the south in Helmand, the Taliban took control of large areas of Nawa-I-Barakzayi district, which borders the provincial capital of Lashkar Gah, over the past week and assaulted the district center.

Heavy fighting has also been reported in Garmsir district to the south.

The Taliban briefly took control of the bazaar in Garmsir but were later repelled by Afghan forces, according to TOLONews.

Taliban Report Capture Of Dahana-E-Ghori District In North

August 14, 2016 Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

BAGHLAN – the Islamic Emirate’s Mujahideen succeeded in the takeover Dahana-e-Ghori district in Baghlan province after a three-day long siege, Al-Emarah News said on Sunday.

Mujahideen have seized a large number of the combat posts and 4 bases, leaving dozens of the enemy soldiers dead and wounded over the last three days.

Similarly, 33 puppets including soldiers of ANA, Arbakis and police have been taken prisoner through this period of time.

At least 12 pickup trucks and 1 armored personnel carrier were seized in the operation, while Mujahideen took from the enemy’s possession tens of light and heavy machine guns and rifles with a good deal of ammo.

The takeover of the district of Dahana-e-Ghori corresponds with Mujahideen seizing control of the district of Want Waygal and 11 combat posts.

Confirmed:

Taliban Take Dahana-E-Ghori In North Of Afghanistan

Aug 14 2016, By KHAAMA PRESS

The Taliban militants have taken control of Dahana-e-Ghori district in northern Baghlan province of Afghanistan earlier tonight.

A provincial council member speaking on the condition of anonymity confirmed the fall of the district.

The government security officials have not commented regarding the report so far.

The Taliban militants launched a coordinated attack on Dahana-e-Ghori district four days ago that led to heavy clashes in the area until the control of the district was fully taken earlier tonight.

Helmand Police Chief Blown Up By Roadside Bomb Explosion

Aug 14 2016 By Khaama Press

The provincial police chief of the southern Helmand province was targeted in an explosion earlier this evening, the security officials said.

Preliminary reports suggested the police chief of Helmand province Aqa Noor Kentoz sustained injuries in the attack.

However, Sediq Sediqi, spokesman for the Ministry of Interior, said at least three policemen were wounded in the explosion but the police chief was not harmed seriously.

He said the incident took place on the main highway of southern Helmand province after an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) went off.

The incident comes as the security situation in Helmand province has sharply deteriorated during the recent weeks.

The Taliban militants have launched numerous coordinated attacks on key districts of Helmand province and briefly captured Nawa district last week.

The Afghan forces were also forced to retreat from some areas of Garamsir district last week while reports from the districts close to the provincial capital of Lashkargah suggested that the militants have managed to get close to the strategic city.

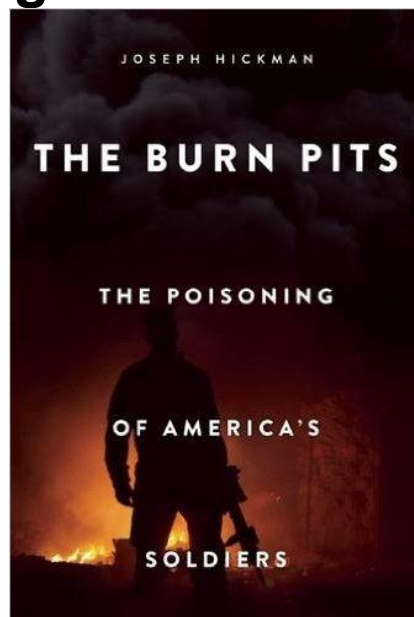
The growing violence in Helmand province comes amid rampant Taliban-led insurgency as the observers believe the group is attempting to establish safe havens in this province.

MILITARY NEWS

The Burn Pits -- The Poisoning Of American's Soldiers [Book Review]

**“A Department Of Defense That
Doesn't Look After Its Own Invites
Even More Contempt Than
Ambitiously Corrupt Or Twisted
Individuals”**

**“It Begs History For Exile To The Darkest
Pages Of Posterity”**



From: Alan Stolzer, Military Initiatives Organizing Committee
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Subject: Book Review: The Burn Pits
Date: Aug 19, 2016

Joseph Hickman and Jesse Ventura; Skyhorse Publishing 2016; \$13.49

Certain commanders throughout U.S. military history have been known to betray their troops, leading them into hopeless compromise for personal advancement (George Armstrong Custer wanted to be president).

But what if government outdoes its renegades?

In Iraq and Afghanistan, bureaucratic disregard of its own volunteer force, many intent on avenging 9/11, is worse by far.

A Department of Defense that doesn't look after its own invites even more contempt than ambitiously corrupt or twisted individuals; it begs history for exile to the darkest pages of posterity.

We now have a detailed record of such deceit in "The Burn Pits – The Poisoning of American Soldiers" by Joseph Hickman, former Marine and Army sergeant, who, over a period of years, documented the lack of care the U.S. Government, including the VA, showed Iraq and Afghanistan War veterans, not to mention civilians, exposing them to toxic waste from open air burn pits on 200 bases provided by contractors such as Kellogg, Brown & Root/Halliburton.

The reckless placement of these hellholes (without incinerator facilities) loaded to their poisoned lips with materials ranging from untold amounts of assorted medical refuse, plastics, metals plus human waste and body parts made living nightmare for thousands.

Through more than a thousand interviews with victims of this neglect, 16 chapters through 137 pages, Hickman more than challenges official denial in a series of portraits of veterans sacrificed to government refusal to accept blame for what amounts to more than criminal oversight.

Reading this book stirs feelings ranging from unprovoked sympathy to red-hot contempt; the value being it does what hypocritical agency never does – tells the truth, no matter how revealing that may be.

Hickman's style is uncomplicated and straightforward exposing this lurid history with relentless dedication that leaves no contaminated stone unturned. The price of denial doesn't end in "knitted brows" or tongue clicking hand wringing, but detailed expose that anyone in uniform or otherwise should be aware of. It's a call to action.

Further documentation of the number, location and size of the pits, their release of staggering amounts of said toxic waste and noxious fumes leave no doubt of culpability and cries for redress that should follow.

A leading player in this horror story is former Vice-President, Dick Cheney, who as chairman and CEO of Halliburton from 1995-2000 continued receiving \$400,000 in deferred compensation from his “former” employer while serving as George W. Bush’s recruit as Vice-Presidential running mate.

Some time later a severance package of \$36 million was soaked up by Cheney romping into polluted sunset weighed down by chemically stained saddle bags.

When KBR was pursued by Hickman for disclosure of its role in the pits, it refused to interview instead referring the author to the military knowing full well, by law, it can’t be sued.

Ironically, some cancers and other disease/disabilities can also be traced to WMDs, yes WMDs!, which had been supplied to Saddam Hussein by U.S. and Western nations years before for his war with Iran. Stockpiles of mustard and nerve gas plus “thousands” of chemical weapons were uncovered (some by bombing), sickening many who found them. The actual number of victims in this case remains “classified.”

The litany of horrors seems never ending.

Many, including Vice-President Joseph Biden’s son, Beau, an Army major, succumbed to exposure to the impossibly thick smoke damaging lungs and covering everything that did or didn’t move.

Further, Hickman reports how the VA was delinquent in treatment provision, refusing disability benefits to 90% involved according to a quoted study. It’s more than reasonable to believe some could have been saved by prompt medical attention instead of death pronouncement certified by contractor’s refuse.

And the legacy proceeds to this day: Birth defects, high rates of cancer, leukemia and lung disease are found in areas of Iraq and Afghanistan and if any U.S. Military was downwind from the hot spots, those troops can carry the same chemically imposed plague that a former or present “enemy” continues to suffer – irrespective of age. It’s known that significant amounts of Titanium, Lead and Mercury cause deformation in infants irrespective of geography.

The book acts as a lantern shining light in devilishly conceived darkness, reminding troops to serve Constitutional vows and remain, at least, suspicious of privately invited “investments” in our future.

Where does this leave us? More conflict causing new coverups? Further sacrifice while endangered from behind or in front? These are hardly desirable choices.

“The Burn Pits” can only provoke serious thought.

An educated military should be aware of the present debacle carrying the book’s title. One can’t help thinking what the future might bring.

Using Prison Slave Labor, War Profiteer Sold Defective Combat Helmets To Pentagon: “The Company Instructed Inmates To Forge Documents To Make It Appear Helmets Had Passed Inspection” “The Pentagon Had Paid Armorsource, An Ohio-Based Private Military Contractor, More Than \$30 Million To Build More Than 126,000 Helmets”

08/17/16 By Tim Devaney, The Hill

A government investigation found "endemic manufacturing problems" at a company that led to the sale of millions of dollars' worth of defective combat helmets.

The Justice Department's inspector general on Wednesday released a scathing report on practices at Federal Prison Industries, a government-operated group that employed inmates to manufacture nearly 150,000 military helmets.

The helmets produced contained serious "deformities," according to the report, including "ballistic failures," "blisters" and "expired paint." They were also manufactured with "unauthorized methods."

"A surprise inspection by the (inspector general's office) and military personnel uncovered inmates ... openly using improvised tools on the helmets, which damaged the helmets' ballistic material, and created the potential for the tools' use as weapons in the prison," the report found.

The inspector general also discovered "testing and quality control" problems, as FPI "pre-selected helmets for inspection," violating the terms of a Defense Department contract that called for random testing.

The report also alleges the company instructed inmates to forge documents to make it appear helmets had passed inspection.

But the inspector general's office said it found no information of any soldiers who had been killed or injured as a result of the defective helmets.

The military recalled the helmets in 2010 and production stopped at that time, according to a report from CNN.

FPI had two contracts to manufacture military helmets.

The Pentagon had paid ArmorSource, an Ohio-based private military contractor, more than \$30 million to build more than 126,000 helmets. ArmorSource later subcontracted with Federal Prison Industries (FPI).

FPI was also hired directly by the Defense Department to build another 23,000 helmets, but it was never paid for these helmets after they were “quarantined.”

The FPI manufacturing facility where these helmets were built was shut down and ArmorSource agreed to pay a \$3 million settlement for what the inspector general called a lack of oversight.

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

**Therefore, in order for the proletariat’s political strike, once transformed into demonstration by the entire people, to become the starting point for a victorious revolution, a sympathetic attitude must be widespread throughout the army.
-- Leon Trotsky, “Up To The Ninth Of January,” 1905**

Please Help Restore The Mural At My Lai



From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: August 07, 2016
Subject: The Mural at My Lai

Please Help Restore the Mural at My Lai

During a recent trip back to Vietnam with Brian Willson, Becky Luening and Sandy Kelson (March 28-April 22, 2016), I spent two days at the My Lai Massacre site in Quang Ngai. The very large mosaic-tile mural in the photo (with Sandy and Brian), depicts some of the 504 Vietnamese civilians murdered by American soldiers on March 16, 1968, in the last moments of their lives.

While examining the mural up close, we noticed the artwork had badly deteriorated from years of severe hot and wet weather that causes such

damage. I had a private conversation with the co-director of the museum. She had worked at the memorial site for 16 years. I told her I was a Vietnam veteran, and a member of Veterans For Peace, and that millions of Americans who were adamantly against the war, consider the My Lai Massacre site extremely important. I said to her that as far as I was concerned, the My Lai Massacre site is sacred ground, and one of the most important memorials in the world. After I said this, she broke down and cried. It was a very powerful moment for both of us. I felt a deep emotional connection to her, and a loving empathy that was so important in healing my soul.

When I got back to my home in Portland, Oregon, I corresponded with her via email, and offered to raise the funds needed to restore the mural. She eventually replied that it would cost \$4,200 to complete the restoration. Our goal is to raise this money soon so that the mural may be completely repaired by the 50th anniversary of the massacre on March 16, 2018. Some of us plan on returning to Vietnam for this important event.

To contribute to this project, please make checks out to VFP Chapter 72, and mail to:

VFP Chapter 72
c/o Bob Projansky
3036 SE Taylor St.
Portland, OR. 97214

Please feel free to forward this information. With sincere appreciation for keeping a profound historical memory alive.

Mike Hastie
Army Medic Vietnam
509-869-7787

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)

**“We Also Must Have An
Independent Critique Of Jill
Stein And The Green Party
From Our Own Perspective, And**

Not From The Neoliberal War Hawk Perspective”

“The Only Way Out Of The Immiseration Of Class Inequality, Racist Violence And Gendered Oppression Is Mass Organizing, Resistance And Revolt Among Working People”

“Her Propaganda Is Entirely Focused On The Various Keynesian Measures That She Will Supposedly Pass As President”

“It Would Be Great If Stein Or Anybody Else Wanted To Run A Campaign Like Debs, A Propaganda Campaign Whose Sole Purpose Was To Encourage People To Revolt”

The problem is, everybody loves Eugene Debs but nobody wants to be Eugene Debs.

They are embarrassed to say that working people have to revolt, that they should not trust leaders including themselves, that the poorest and most oppressed of our society have the most power to transform it, much more so than self-promoting candidates, bureaucrats and academics.

As we approach November, the attacks on Jill Stein will only increase from Hillary Clinton's most enthusiastic supporters.

These people are horrified by the possibility—however unlikely—that Donald Trump will become the next President of the United States, but they do not seem to be so horrified at the prospect of Hillary Clinton becoming President.

They will largely be aware of Clinton's support for the war in Iraq, her role as an architect of various brutal interventions as the Secretary of State in the Obama administration, her support for her husband's policies of expanding mass incarceration, and her support for mass deportations.

Yes, they will be aware of all of these. But they can put it all aside.

Donald Trump, on the other hand, is so bad because he rubs it in your face. That is abominable.

Supporting Clinton, on the other hand, gives liberals a nice warm feeling. Sure, she has problems, they will say, but don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good. Then, in the next breath, they will declare that Jill Stein is the worst person who has ever walked this planet, because her very existence challenges the narrative of nice, warm-feeling liberalism in support of Hillary Clinton.

This is a problem for those of us on the radical and revolutionary spectrum of US politics, because we have to be clear about the utterly bankrupt attacks from Clinton's defenders, but we also must have an independent critique of Jill Stein and the Green Party from our own perspective, and not from the neoliberal war hawk perspective.

First, what does Stein have to offer?

She regularly critiques inequality and racism and war, and that is useful. But what does she offer herself?

The problem is, her answer to most questions is: "This is what I would do as President."

Burdened by student debt? I will cancel it! The President can appoint a Federal Reserve chair who will do that. Can't afford healthcare? I will pass single-payer healthcare! Don't have a job? We are calling for 20 million jobs!

That a person in Stein's position can say that she will do these things is utterly ridiculous.

Try telling poor people that Jill Stein is going to create 20 million jobs and give them free healthcare. While you are at it, you might as well promise them a monorail.

They will laugh in your face like the charlatan that you are.

She will do no such thing. Ever.

She should not promise to do such things.

The only way out of the immiseration of class inequality, racist violence and gendered oppression is mass organizing, resistance and revolt among working people.

Which I am sure that Stein supports, but her propaganda is entirely focused on the various Keynesian measures that she will supposedly pass as President.

Stein may want to hold up the legacy of Eugene Debs, but she seems hardly interested in doing so in a meaningful way.

Instead of telling working people what he would do as President, Debs was committed, over and over again, to telling people what they must do to challenge the capitalist system.

“I would not be a Moses to lead you into the Promised Land,” Debs famously said, “because if I could lead you into it, someone else could lead you out of it.”

His message to working people was, you have to go out and fight for the world that you want to live in and create it yourself, and it will take great sacrifice and struggle, sacrifice which Debs was more willing than most to make himself, spending many years in prison for his political organizing.

It would be great if Stein or anybody else wanted to run a campaign like Debs, a propaganda campaign whose sole purpose was to encourage people to revolt.

Sadly, nobody wants to.

The problem is not just that there is no great labor leader today like Debs, who led an illegal railroad strike that was crushed by the military and later helped form the IWW.

No, there are no labor leaders like that today, but that should not stop anybody from running a campaign with his message, right?

The problem is, everybody loves Eugene Debs but nobody wants to be Eugene Debs.

They are embarrassed to say that working people have to revolt, that they should not trust leaders including themselves, that the poorest and most oppressed of our society have the most power to transform it, much more so than self-promoting candidates, bureaucrats and academics.

No, you don't say these things among polite company:

“While there is a lower class, I am in it; and while there is a criminal element, I am of it; and while there is a soul in prison, I am not free.”

No, the Left today feels much more comfortable explaining how a modest tax increase on the richest one percent could pay for single-payer healthcare and a Green Jobs program, and if we could just convince enough college students and

adjunct lecturers to organize for this then maybe some broad left-wing formation could develop that might be powerful enough to fight for it.

But that gets us to the other problem with Jill Stein.

It is not the case that everybody involved in political organizing in the US is simply looking for a warm fuzzy feeling when they go home at night.

“Stein’s Comments About How To ‘Avoid Escalations Like Milwaukee’ Suggest How Out Of Touch She Is For Those Whom Escalation Is A Strategy For Survival”

Rather, there are hundreds and thousands in cities like Ferguson and Baltimore and Anaheim and Salinas and Milwaukee and Oakland who have risen up against police violence.

They are not looking for a good feeling, rather they are looking to protect their lives from state forces that want to kill them.

They are not revolting out of inspiration over a Keynesian economic program or a promise to cancel their student loans, rather they are risking their lives and their livelihoods to construct a different world because they cannot survive in the one that they have been born into.

They have nothing to lose but their chains.

Many of these people are now sitting in prison for years, charged with looting and arson and battery on an officer.

They, too, do not want to be Eugene Debs, they simply did what they had to do to survive in a society that wants to destroy them.

Imagine Stein or her supporters talking to the young man whose brother was killed by the Milwaukee police, who says of the riots that “this is what you get” when the cops keep killing Black people. Or the people chanting “Black power” while a gas station burns down. Or the many people throwing bottles at police who are occupying their neighborhood.

Yes, it is perfectly reasonable that a small tax increase will grant universal healthcare and could launch a jobs program, but maybe these perfectly reasonable solutions mean little to the people most consistently passed over by government programs.

On the other hand, Stein’s comments about how to “avoid escalations like Milwaukee” suggest how out of touch she is for those whom escalation is a strategy for survival.

These young people, with their record of sacrifice and courage, ought to be the leaders. They are the basis for future challenges against the current neoliberal

order, not the Green Party, no matter how anti-capitalist its official program may become.

“On The Defeat Of One’s Own Government”

“A Revolutionary Class In A Reactionary War Cannot But Wish For The Defeat Of Its Government”

July 26, 1915: On The Defeat of One’s Own Government in the Imperialist War, By Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov: Sotsial-Demokrat No. 43 [Excerpts]

A revolutionary class in a reactionary war cannot but “wish for the defeat of its government.”

This is an axiom. It is disputed only by the conscious partisans or the helpless satellites of the social-chauvinists.

[T]o the latter belong Trotsky and Bukvoyed; in Germany, Kautsky. To wish Russia’s defeat, Trotsky says, is “an uncalled-for and unjustifiable political concession to the methodology of social-patriotism which substitutes for the revolutionary struggle against the war and the conditions that cause war, an orientation along the lines of the lesser evil, an orientation which, under given conditions, is perfectly arbitrary” (Nashe Slovo, No. 105.) This is an example of the inflated phraseology with which Trotsky always justifies opportunism.

“A revolutionary struggle against the war” is an empty and meaningless exclamation, the like of which the heroes of the Second International are past masters in making, unless it means revolutionary actions against one’s own government in times of war.

A little reasoning suffices to make this clear.

When we say revolutionary actions in war time against one’s own government, we indisputably mean not only the wish for its defeat, but practical actions leading towards such defeat.

In using phrases to avoid the issue, Trotsky has lost his way amidst very simple surroundings. It seems to him that to wish Russia’s defeat means to wish Germany’s victory. (Bukvoyed and Semkovsky express more directly this “thought,” or rather, thoughtlessness, which they have in common with Trotsky.) In this Trotsky also repeats the “methodology of social-patriotism”!

To help people that do not know how to think, the Berne resolution (Sotsial-Demokrat, No. 40) made it clear that in all imperialist countries the proletariat must now wish the defeat of its government.

Revolution in war time is civil war.

Transformation of war between governments into civil war is, on the one hand, facilitated by military reverses (“defeats”) of the governments; on the other hand, it is impossible to strive in practice towards such a transformation without at the same time working towards military defeat.

The “slogan” of defeat is so vehemently repudiated by the chauvinists for the very reason that this slogan alone means a consistent appeal to revolutionary action against one’s own government in war time.

Without such action, millions of the most revolutionary phrases concerning “war against war and conditions, etc.” are not worth a penny.

The tsarist government was perfectly right when it asserted that the propaganda of the Russian Social-Democratic Labor Fraction was the only example in the International of not only parliamentary opposition but of real revolutionary propaganda in the masses against their government, that this propaganda weakened the military power of Russia and aided its defeat.

This is a fact. It is not clever to hide from it.

The opponents of the defeat slogan are simply afraid of themselves when they do not wish to realize the most obvious fact of the inseparable connection between revolutionary propaganda against the government and actions leading to its defeat.

An understanding concerning revolutionary actions within even one single country, not to speak of a number of countries, can be realized only by the force of the example of earnest revolutionary actions, by their being launched, by their development.

It is impossible, however, to launch them without wishing the government defeat, and without contributing to such a defeat.

The change from imperialist war to civil war cannot be “made,” as it is impossible to “make” a revolution - it grows out of the multiplicity of diverse phenomena, phases, traits, characteristics, consequences of the imperialist war.

Such growth is impossible without a series of military reverses and defeats of those governments which receive blows from their own oppressed classes.

The only policy of a real, not verbal, breaking of “civil peace,” of accepting the class struggle, is for the proletariat to take advantage of the difficulties of the government and its bourgeoisie with the aim of overthrowing them.

This, however, cannot be achieved, it cannot be striven at, without wishing the defeat of one’s own government, without contributing to such a defeat.

When, before the war, the Italian Social-Democrats raised the question of a mass strike, the bourgeoisie replied, undoubtedly correctly from its standpoint, that this would be high treason, and that they would be dealt with as traitors.

This is true, and it is also true that fraternization in the trenches is high treason.

A proletarian cannot help deal his government a class blow; he cannot reach out (in practice) a hand to his brother, the proletarian of the “foreign” country which is at war with us, without committing “high treason,” without contributing to the defeat, the dismemberment of “his” imperialist “great” power.

Let us look at the question from one more angle.

The war cannot but call forth among the masses the most stormy feelings which destroy the usual sluggishness of mass psychology. Without adjustment to these new stormy feelings, revolutionary tactics are impossible.

What are the main currents of these stormy feelings?

(1) Horror and despair. Hence the growth of religious feelings. Once more the churches are full, the reactionaries rejoice. “Wherever there are sufferings, there is religion,” says the arch-reactionary, Barres.

He is right, too.

(2) Hatred for the “enemy,” a feeling carefully fanned by the bourgeoisie (more than by the priests) and of economic and political value only to the bourgeoisie.

(3) Hatred for one’s own government and one’s bourgeoisie - a feeling of all class-conscious workers who understand, on the one hand, that war is “a continuation of politics” on the part of imperialism, which they meet by “continuing” their hatred for their class enemy; on the other hand, that “war against war” is a silly phrase if it does not mean revolution against their own government.

It is impossible to arouse hatred against one’s own government and one’s bourgeoisie without wishing their defeat, and it is impossible to be non-hypocritical opponent of “civil” (class) “peace” without arousing hatred towards one’s own government and bourgeoisie!!!

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: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

RECEIVED FROM READERS

Afghanistan In The Shadows

From: Kathy Kelly
To: Thomas F Barton
Sent: Thursday, August 11, 2016 10:56 AM
Subject: Re: Military Resistance 14H3: The Dwindling Of Lashkar Gah

Dear Thomas,

It's been some time since I thanked you for your reports and analyses.

I'm deeply troubled and saddened by the violence afflicting people in Afghanistan. Your updates help give us a glimpse of what people endure there.

Thank you for your abiding call to action.

Sincerely,

Kathy Kelly
Voices for Creative Nonviolence

REPLY: T

Thank you for your encouragement.

What a horror.

The hiding is going on full blast. Nothing from Clinton, a mumble once from Trump, nothing from the Green Stein: there is no Afghanistan.

You have done more than anybody I know of to help keep the reality alive.

Respect,

T

Psalm 31:17 Let me not be ashamed , O LORD; for I have called upon thee: let the wicked be ashamed , and let them be silent in the grave. [King James Translation]

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

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Venezuela:

“Today, In Crisis And Disarray, The Country Could Not Look Less Like A Socialist Society”

“Popular Measures Enacted During The Most Prosperous Years Of The Revolution Were Never Socialist, But Rather Attempts To Fix Capitalism And Avoid A Full Confrontation With The Ruling Class”

August 8, 2016 by Eva María in an article published by Jacobin, based on her presentation at the ISO Socialism 2016 conference in Chicago. [Excerpts]

In Venezuela, Chávez and his allies developed a new socialist theory that inspired millions of people to believe that a new road toward socialist revolution was open.

But today, in crisis and disarray, the country could not look less like a socialist society.

Some on the left blame Nicolás Maduro--Chávez's successor--and his government for betraying the revolution through corruption and mismanagement of funds. But the problem began with Chávez's leadership and the idea that socialism could be a state-led enterprise.

Two years after his announcement to the World Social Forum, Chávez called for the formation of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV) to unite all the forces committed to advancing the Bolivarian Revolution. Socialists who supported the president, but remained critical of the bureaucracy already forming around him, were put in a bind: they either joined a top-down party that had the support of millions of workers or entered the political margins.

In the end, most socialist formations agreed to participate, and in no time, the PSUV's ranks swelled.

The party, however, did not rely on its members' active participation no matter how much Chávez liked to say it did. Instead, a bureaucratic structure, where criticism, open debates, and rank-and-file power were more often the exception than the rule, took over.

The party formalized the bureaucratic layer of nominal Chavistas who were put in charge of different state sectors. In no time, this new caste engaged in corrupt behavior while continuing to deploy socialist rhetoric.

The government's ideas of funding and supporting popular power didn't work in practice.

With Maduro's government, this bureaucratic layer seems to have consolidated even more power through clientelistic relationships to some of the very social programs that were designed to build power from below.

The wealth provided by high oil prices during the golden decade could mask this unsustainability, but the dramatic drop in oil prices worldwide has brought the deeper problems in Venezuela's project to light.

Contrary to what the corporate media says, however, socialism did not cause the crisis, but the opposite: the popular measures enacted during the most prosperous years of the revolution were never socialist, but rather attempts to fix capitalism and avoid a full confrontation with the ruling class.

The dual fixed exchange rate--meant to subsidize food production and distribution in the country--demonstrates this.

To make food accessible to all, the minister of economy drafted a plan to provide preferential dollars to businesses that imported these essential goods and sold them at a subsidized rate in the supermarkets.

From the beginning, long-established local capitalists worked with the new bureaucracy to take advantage of the system.

Some outright stole the money, never importing the goods they declared. Others did import the promised goods, but then smuggled them through Colombia to get a better price or sold them directly on the black market, where the gains were much higher.

This profit-seeking logic is how every capitalist system operates, but this case is especially galling because the ones in charge of funding "the socialism of the twenty-first century" were the ones actively engaging in price-gouging.

This situation, when combined with the low price of oil and right-wing tactics to sabotage any progressive measures, gave rise to a crisis that--as always--hit the poorest majority the hardest.

Across the continent, popular, left-wing governments are all receding.

Brazil's Dilma Rousseff has just been impeached on corruption charges, and her Workers' Party hasn't been able to mobilize its base to defend her or her predecessor.

Kirchner's party did not put forward an electable candidate, giving the latest round of elections to conservative Macri. Evo Morales lost in Bolivia for the first time--this time around a referendum that would have granted him permission to seek a fourth term.

This turn to the right, however, does not constitute a vote for conservatism.

It is a protest vote against the left-wing parties' inability to respond to the crisis in any way that could actually resolve it.

These parties' hesitance to go all the way against capitalism as a system has stalled the process and made this progressive cycle solely dependent on the dictates of the market.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**Apartheid Israel's War On
Palestinians' Water:
"Palestinian Towns And Villages
In The West Bank Struggle To Find
Adequate Water Resources For
Their Parched Communities"
"Jewish-Only Settlements Right Next
Door Live Well Hydrated On
Occupied Land Using Appropriated
Water Sources"
"Water Becomes A Weapon Israel Uses
To Enforce Collective Punishment On
The Palestinian People"**

July 28, 2016 by Sumaya Awad, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

London is known the world over for its rainy weather, so most people would be shocked to find out that Ramallah, one of the largest cities in the West Bank, actually receives more annual rainfall.

So why during the month of June did Palestinians face some of the harshest water shortages in decades?

The answer is as simple as it is outrageous.

Since 1967, when it first occupied the West Bank, Israel has seized control of almost all the major water resources there. Annual quotas on the Palestinian consumption of water are strictly enforced, and attempts by Palestinians to develop their own water infrastructure have been thwarted by the Israeli military.

In 2011 alone, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) destroyed 89 water structures. The only source of underground water in the West Bank is the Mountain Aquifer, of which Israel controls 80 percent. Palestinians are also not permitted to draw water from the Jordan River.

The destruction of Palestinians buildings--whether homes, outdoor bathrooms, cisterns or other rainwater gathering structures--is often justified by the Israeli army on grounds that they are "weak infrastructure."

The other usual pretext for demolition is the lack of building permits--permits that the Israeli government makes near impossible for Palestinians to obtain.



Villagers in a-Duqaiqah in the West Bank pay four times the average rate to get water from a water truck (Nasser Nawaj'ah | B'Tselem)

So while Palestinian towns and villages in the West Bank struggle to find adequate water resources for their parched communities, Jewish-only settlements right next door live well hydrated on occupied land using appropriated water sources.

To quantify this, Palestinians consume 70 liters of water per capita per day on average, according to a report from Amnesty International. In some areas, the figure is as low as 20 liters per day, well below the 100 liters per capita recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO).

By contrast, Israelis consume up to 300 liters per capita per day.

Such staggering inequality in water consumption is not only indicative of the discrimination in resource distribution, but of the apartheid laws on which the Israeli state is built.

Lush gardens, swimming pools and green lawns sit only a couple miles from completely dry villages, where Palestinians receive water once a week, or once every few weeks, if at all. Put more vividly, 450,000 Israeli settlers use more water than the 2.3 million Palestinians living in the West Bank combined. As a result, Palestinians are forced to spend as much as a quarter of their income on water tanks from private businesses.

Aside from the daily incursions, house demolitions and raids that Palestinians in the West Bank endure, the restrictions on the mobility of people and goods make it difficult for Palestinians to develop water sanitation infrastructure of their own or to use naturally built water infrastructure, such as caves.

Consider the Palestinian town of Susya, for example, in the West Bank not far from Hebron, which used to use water cisterns and caves to gather rainwater to use for irrigation. In 1999 and 2000, Israeli troops raided the village, attempted to expel its inhabitants, sealed off the caves and destroyed the cisterns. These demolitions are part of the Israeli plan to terrorize inhabitants and force them to move elsewhere, allowing Israeli forces to use the land for more illegal settlements.

The system of permits designed by the Israeli state to restrict access to water, sanitation and infrastructure is an added obstacle to the creation and maintenance of any sustainable water systems.

While the village of Susya fights a daily battle to obtain barrels of water from nearby cities, often enduring hour-long waits at checkpoints and spending large sums of money on poor quality water, the nearby settlement Shadmot Mechola, according to the Amnesty International report, advertises on its website "breathtaking tours of Amaryllis bulbs hot houses, tours of dairy farms, vineyards and orchards, (and) tours of farms in the Jordan Valley who specialize in crops of vegetables, fruits, flowers and spices for export in hot dry climate."

The site fails, of course, to note that these crops grow on occupied land fed by water stolen from Palestinian villages while Palestinians only a few miles away struggle to get by on approximately five gallons of water a week.

“Water, Then, Becomes A Weapon Israel Uses To Enforce Collective Punishment On The Palestinian People”

During the month of June--which was also the month of Ramadan this year, during which Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset--the national Israeli water company Mekorot restricted water distribution to certain areas of the West Bank. Residents in these areas were forced to live on less than half their normal water allocations.

Shaher Eshtieh, the mayor of Salfit, which is one of the villages affected by the water crisis, told Aljazeera:

“We’ve never seen anything like this; we are in full crisis mode, working around the clock to help our people, but we are doing this on our own...We’ve continuously reached out to the Palestinian government, the prime minister even, but they’ve been no help, and the Israelis are denying there is a problem.

“For the past three days, my house has had a bit of water, just enough for drinking and cooking--not cleaning or anything--but before that, we were without any water at all for more than a week...It would be hard to live without water under normal circumstances, but during Ramadan we are all fasting and it’s so hot, this is miserable.”

Other areas in the West Bank had to wait 40 days before receiving half their weekly quota from Mekorot.

When crises like these hit, Palestinians are forced to buy water from private companies. Given the conditions of rampant unemployment and poverty in Palestinian communities due to years of economic strangulation by Israel’s occupation, many residents simply don’t have the extra money to purchase water from private companies.

If forced to buy water for high prices in order to feed cattle and avoid the myriad of illnesses that result from poor hydration or contaminated water, many residents find themselves in debt.

Israeli control of Palestinian water allocations is in line with its ongoing occupation of Palestinian land. The Israeli apartheid state flourishes and expands in part because of its appropriation of water resources, land and coastal territory.

As the water crisis in the West Bank has become more dire, so has the situation in Gaza, the largest open-air prison in the world today.

Ever since Israel’s blockade of Gaza began in 2007, the Mediterranean Sea has been deemed off limits to Gaza’s residents. This leaves the coastal aquifer as Gaza’s main water source. Ninety-six percent of the water provided by the aquifer, however, is deemed unfit for human consumption.

According to Abeer Abu Shawish: “The over-extraction of this aquifer and the intrusion of seawater, coupled with the infiltration of agricultural fertilizers and untreated sewage, have all resulted in levels of chloride and nitrates up to three times the World Health Organization’s (WHO) recommended standards.”

According to the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA), 45 percent of the water processed in desalination plants is also contaminated. The PWA itself is billions of dollars in debt because it’s had to resort to buying water tanks from large businesses, more often than not Israeli businesses, in order to supply water to local residents.

Left with choosing between spending exorbitant amounts of money on water tanks from private businesses or consuming contaminated water, most of 1.8 million residents in Gaza choose the latter.

Most of Gaza's water-related infrastructure was destroyed during Israel's brutal assault of 2012, which took the lives of more than 1,000 Palestinians.

Though many attempts to rebuild the water infrastructure have been launched both by Gaza's residents and international aid organizations, most have been halted due to lack of equipment. Restrictions on material goods entering the strip have curtailed any real effort to rebuild cities after the 2008, 2012 and 2014 wars on Gaza.

Most equipment and materials required to rebuild infrastructure are labeled as "dual-use items" and are thus forbidden from entering Gaza.

Dual-use items are items with both civilian and military uses.

Such restrictions are nothing new in Israel's war against the Palestinians. In 2009, items such as chocolate, toys and, of all things, coriander were prohibited from entering Gaza because they were deemed "luxury items."

Water, then, becomes a weapon Israel uses to enforce collective punishment on the Palestinian people.

The struggle against Israel's control of water and its restrictions on permits and equipment to build safe water infrastructure are directly linked to the ongoing project of Israeli usurpation of Palestinian land and its oppression of millions of Palestinians, both within Israel proper and in the West Bank and Gaza.

An end to Israeli occupation and apartheid is part and parcel of demanding an end to these horrific methods of punishment. As the struggle for water continues in Palestine, activists in the U.S. should seek to link the struggle for life's most fundamental liquid in Palestine and the U.S.

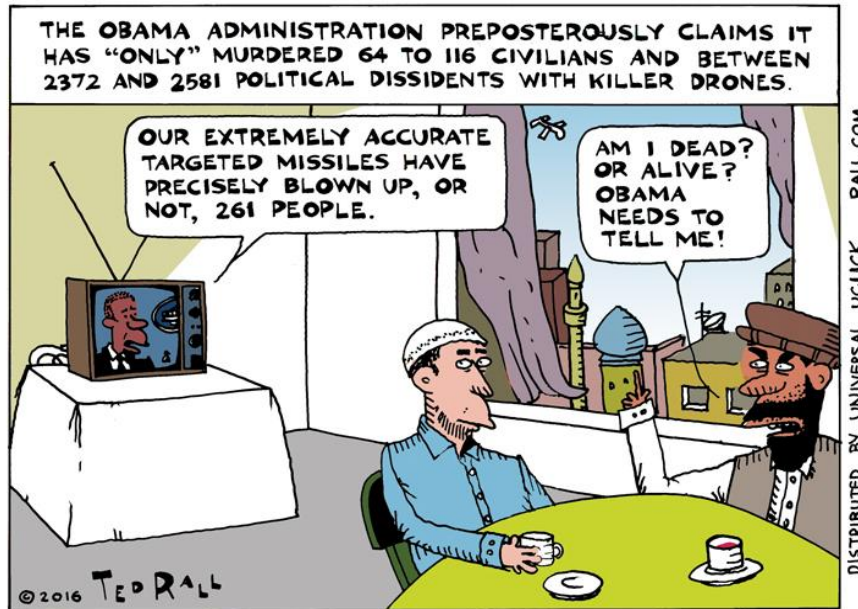
One of the most direct ways to do so is to forge links between the movement for boycott, divestment and sanction (BDS) to secure basic Palestinian rights with those communities in the U.S. fighting for access to the same life-essential resource of water.

The BDS campaign, launched in 2005 in response to a call by the Palestinian civil society, is growing stronger with new campaigns being launched on college campuses across the country. The most recent pushback by state legislatures across the U.S. has proven that the BDS campaign is a real threat to Apartheid Israel.

It is also direct proof of the fact that activism works and that mobilizing students and organizing campaigns has a very real effect on political outcomes. Come September, as new BDS campaigns are launched and old ones continue, it is crucial to help build these campaigns and show support and solidarity with these ongoing efforts.

**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



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